



## **Additional and Updated Information**

**Supplementary to Thailand's Additional Information  
dated 28 January B.E. 2563 (2020)  
pursuant to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 43 COM 8B.5  
on the Nomination of Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)  
as a Natural World Heritage Site**

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**Supplementary to Thailand’s Additional Information dated 28 January B.E. 2563 (2020)**  
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**as a Natural World Heritage Site**

**1. Rights and livelihood protection and traditional way of life preservation for the local communities**

**1.1 Progress on land tenure identification and allocation for local communities in Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC)**

- Land tenure surveys in the KKFC conservation zone in accordance with the National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019) and the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019) have been implemented. This action demonstrates the implementation of the Royal Thai Government’s long-term strategy to strike a balance between conservation, sustainable utilization of natural resources and rights of local communities across the country in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

- The land tenure survey and land parcel identification for the communities of Ban Pong Luek – Bang Kloi in Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP), one of the national parks comprised as KKFC, was completed in conformity with Article 64 of the National Park Act. This Article stipulates that land allocation shall be part of the conservation management zone under the Act, in which the Department of Natural Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), as the competent authority, shall develop a joint conservation management project with the aim to assist the communities to be able to reside and make a living in the allocated land plots. The concerned local communities and related stakeholders were actively involved and well informed throughout the process. The survey result and map was given to the local communities including the Karen communities on 16 December 2019. Details of the latest status are as follows:

- Ban Bang Kloi : As of January 2021, the community covers 136 households with 832 residents. There are 97 residents verified to be in possession of land parcels numbering 143 land plots, with a total area of 627 Rai, 3 Ngan and 93 square Wa (approximately 100.4772 hectares). These land plots have been identified as a conservation management zone under Article 64 of the National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019).

- Ban Pong Luek : As of January 2021, the community covers 106 households with 520 residents. There are 122 residents verified to be in possession of land parcels numbering 160 land plots, with a total area of 1,320 Rai, 0 Ngan and 93 square Wa (approximately 211.2372 hectares). These land plots have been identified as a conservation management zone under Article 64 of the National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019).

- At present, the DNP is holding public hearings to gather views for the enactment of the Royal Decree in conformity with Article 64 and 65 of the National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019). The Royal Decree aims to ensure rights of local communities in the KKFC as well as improving their well-being in a sustainable manner. Although the process has been delayed due to restrictions imposed by public health measures to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, significant developments have been made.

### **1.2 Measures to assist members of local communities who have not yet been allocated land parcels and those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic**

- The Royal Thai Government is fully conscious of the public health as well as economic impacts and social disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable households. The DNP has strictly implemented preventive measures in line with the World Health Organization (WHO)'s public health and social measures in national parks across the country including the KKFC.

- As a result of an effective implementation of the national park management plan jointly developed by the Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP) and the local communities, coupled with various channels of the Government's information dissemination, the local communities have been well informed of the situation and the Government's preventive measures to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Amidst the resurgence of the local COVID-19 outbreak, the KKNP received a letter from the local communities in Ban Pong Luek-Bang Kloi on 24 December B.E. 2563 (2020) calling for a temporary closure of tourism activities and preventive health measures in the communities. The KKNP issued a notice dated 26 December B.E. 2563 (2020) to suspend tourism activities in Pong Luek-Bang Kloi as per the communities' request. To date, despite no reported cases of COVID-19 infection among the local communities in the KKFC, the DNP continues to closely monitor the situation and rigorously follow public health measures.

- Notwithstanding restrictions imposed by COVID-19, the DNP continues to attach great importance to job creation for the local communities in the KKFC, particularly the Karen community, in order to mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic and to encourage them to be more involved with sustainable use of natural resources and environmental conservation. Currently, there are 41 individuals from the Karen communities working at the KKNP as forest protection staff and administrative staff. Of these numbers, 18 individuals are government employees, 11 individuals are freelancers, 11 individuals are contracted staff, and one person is working as temporary staff.

### **1.3 Measures to enhance the promotion of the local communities' culture and traditional way of life in a sustainable manner**

- The Royal Thai Government continues to attach great importance to the preservation and promotion of the local communities' culture and traditional way of life. A budget has been allocated to promote the quality of life of the local communities in the KKFC since 2011. The DNP and its core agencies have been working closely with at least 22 government agencies including the Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation (Pid Thong Lang Phra Foundation), Huay Mae Phriang Subdistrict Administrative Office, Kaeng Krachan District Office of Community Development at Phetchaburi Province, Chulalongkorn University, Phetchaburi Provincial Agricultural Extension Office, Kaeng Krachan District Agricultural Extension Office, Phetchaburi Inland Fisheries Research and Development Center, Phetchaburi Land Development Station and Phetchaburi Public Health Office on the implementation of 88 development projects to promote quality of life. These projects cover six major areas, namely, agriculture and livestock, infrastructure, social and culture, education, public health, and career development to build stronger and more resilient local communities while preserving the culture and traditional way of life. Moreover, these projects are in line with the preservation and conservation of the KKFC's natural resources, biological diversity and ecosystems to ensure a balance and sustainable use of natural resources as enshrined in the World Heritage Convention.

- As a consequence of the Government's community development projects, household incomes of the local communities in the KKFC have shown an increase of over 15 percent.

## **2. Community participation in the conservation and management of natural resources**

### **2.1 Development of approaches to encourage community participation in sustainable natural resources conservation and management in the KKFC**

- The DNP has revised guidelines and regulations on the appointment of the Protected Area Committees (PACs) in order to increase the number of representatives from the local communities in the PACs. This action demonstrates the Royal Thai Government's robust efforts to enhance community-based natural resources management and participatory conservation of natural resources and environment in the KKFC to address conservation values while ensuring the needs of and benefits to the local communities. It is also in line with the provisions on civic participation in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017), the National Park Act B.E. 2562 (2019) and the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019).

- At present, four PACs have been set up for the management of the KKFC. Each PAC consists of 25 members namely:

- Kaeng Krachan National Park PAC, which comprises two Karen representatives from Ban Pong Luek and Ban Bang Kloi and other stakeholders including Phetchaburi Media Association, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Thailand including representative from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Thailand;

- Kui Buri National Park PAC, which comprises four representatives from the local communities and other stakeholders;

- Chalerm Phrakiat Thai Prachan National Park PAC, which comprises ten representatives from the local communities, representative from the Karen Network for Culture and Environment (KNCE) and other stakeholders; and

- Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary PAC, which comprises seven representatives from local communities, representatives from media outlets and other stakeholders

- Consideration is being given to further increasing the proportion of local community representatives in the PACs.

### **2.2 Organization of a series of community consultations to strengthen mutual understanding and support on the inscription of the KKFC as a Natural World Heritage Site**

- To enhance public awareness and local communities' free, prior and informed consent on the inscription of the KKFC as a Natural **World Heritage Site**, the DNP and concerned authorities have organized series of public hearings and opinion surveys concerning the nomination to the local communities in the KKFC and relevant stakeholders as well as to gather their views since 2015. Moreover, during 2017-2018, the KKNP and IUCN Thailand jointly conducted a project to strengthen the local communities' engagement in participatory management processes, shared governance and benefit sharing as well as to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the KKFC.

- During December 2019-January 2020, the DNP had assigned national parks and wildlife sanctuary staff to visit each household in the KKFC in order to inform and foster the local communities' understanding on the World Heritage inscription as well as its benefits and disadvantages. All activities were conducted in local communities' dialects with professional translators to ensure that all stakeholders received accurate information. Additionally, the DNP officials also held meetings with the local communities on a monthly basis. Participants in each meeting consisted of a village headman, village headman assistants, community residents, National Park Superintendent, and National Park staffs. The results of the series of community consultations revealed that 2,105 individuals from 42 villages out of a total of 55 villages in the KKFC expressed their consent and support for the nomination of the KKFC to be inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

- While COVID-19 has restricted community gatherings, as part of the Government's continued efforts to promote the free, prior and informed consent of the local communities, additional outreach activities have been conducted during 2020. In particular, during the field visit to the KKFC for the representatives of the embassies of WHC Member States and the IUCN Regional Office in Bangkok during 4-6 November 2020, the participants had the opportunity to share views with local community members including the Karen regarding the inscription.

- Furthermore, the DNP has included the KKFC as one of proposed areas of implementation under the 6<sup>th</sup> Operational Phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme in Thailand funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The community-based initiative aims to promote balance between human needs and environmental imperatives by strengthening and developing local communities' adaptive responses and socio ecological resilience of local communities within Thailand's four regions. The programme will be implemented under a three-year framework (September 2020-September 2022) and will serve as an effective channel to encourage local communities' participation in the protected areas management of the KKFC as well as to foster understanding between the local communities and government authorities on issues of mutual concern including protected area encroachment, human-wildlife conflicts, poverty and employment.

### **3. Recent significant developments**

#### **3.1 Establishment of a working group to resolve land disputes and explore alternatives for sustainable livelihoods of the Karen communities in Ban Bang Kloi, Phetchaburi Province**

- A subcommittee on the resolution of land issues under the MNRE issued the Order no. 1/2564, dated 3 February B.E. 2564 (2021) setting up an ad-hoc working group to resolve land disputes and explore alternatives for sustainable livelihoods of the Karen communities in Ban Bang Kloi, Phetchaburi Province. The working group, chaired by the MNRE Deputy Permanent Secretary, consists of representatives from all stakeholders including core government agencies under the MNRE, provincial government agencies, academia, civil society and in particular, representatives from Bang Kloi village. The working group has the mandate to conduct an investigation and gather relevant data in relation to the migration of Ban Bang Kloi residents. The findings will help government agencies to explore alternatives and mitigation measures to ensure sustainable livelihood of the Karen communities in the KKFC.

- On 5 February 2021, the working group convened its first meeting to lay the ground work for its 3-month implementation plan including a comprehensive fact-finding survey. An inter-agency survey team is expected to submit its report to the working group every 15 days.

#### **3.2 Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between government representatives, civil society, and Karen communities in Ban Bang Kloi to jointly explore alternatives to resolve land disputes and explore alternatives for sustainable livelihoods of Karen communities in Ban Bang Kloi, Phetchaburi Province**

- On 16 February 2021, H.E. Mr. Varawut Silpaarcha, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and H.E. Capt. Thamanat Prompow, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr. Jatuporn Buruspat, Permanent-Secretary of the MNRE, Mr. Thanya Netithammakun, Director-General of the DNP, co-signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with representatives of civil society and Karen community to jointly explore alternatives to resolve land disputes and explore alternatives for the sustainable livelihoods of the Karen community in Ban Bang Kloi, Phetchaburi Province while preserving the natural resources and the environment in the KKFC. The MOU is an important milestone to promote constructive collaboration among all

stakeholders and will serve as a mechanism to foster closer partnership between government agencies, civil society and the local communities in identifying mutually agreeable approaches for land tenure allocation and preservation of culture and traditional way of life of local communities in the KKFC.

### **3.3 Discovery of freshwater crocodiles or Siamese crocodiles in the KKNP**

- In January 2021, the KKNP captured pictures of a freshwater crocodile or Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*), a species listed in CITES Appendix 1 and the IUCN Red List for conservation status as a Critically Endangered species. The pictures were taken at the head of Phetchaburi River, north of Ban Pong Luek - Bang Kloi, which confirm the existence of this species in its natural habitat after being unseen for a long period of time. Later, KKNP officials also confirm that there is more than one freshwater crocodile apart from the specimen that appears in the pictures taken by the camera traps. This is another testimony of the Royal Thai Government's success in preservation of the KKFC's rich biodiversity and natural habitats suitable for wildlife species.

### **3.4 Development of a sustainable tourism strategic plan for the KKFC**

- The DNP is developing a sustainable tourism strategic plan for the KKFC in line with the UNESCO Sustainable Tourism Toolkit and Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT). The local communities have also been invited to take part in the development of the tourism strategic plan which will serve as a framework for sustainable tourism management in the KKFC. The plan will also strengthen the role of local communities in the management and conservation of the KKFC and is expected to be completed within the year 2021.

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