

Executive Summary

The report on State of Conservation of Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex is prepared in accordance with the World Heritage Committee's Decision adopted at the Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Fuzhou, the People's Republic of China, in 2021.

The first part of the report addresses the revision of boundaries of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) based on the Agreed Minutes of the Thailand-Myanmar Technical Meeting regarding the Nomination of the KKFC for the Inscription on the World Heritage List, Bangkok, Thailand, on 25-26 April 2019. The first part also outlines the protection and protected area management plan, legal mechanisms, forest complex conservation, local communities' engagement and livelihood development.

For the management of the property, Thailand has developed measures, management plan and legal instruments, for instance measures stipulated in secondary laws, Sections 64 and 65 of the National Park Act, B.E. 2562 (2019), and Sections 57 and 121 of the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019). The implementation of such measures serve as a tool to strike the balance between the residential demands for land use and resources utilization, and the Government's efforts on the conservation of forest complex and ecosystem. The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), as the main agency responsible for the management of the protected areas in Thailand, has developed the Park Policy, the National Park Management Plans, and the Wildlife Sanctuary and Non-hunting Area Conservation and Protection Plans, in order to provide management guidelines to all protected areas in the country. The DNP plans to develop the KKFC Management Plan to provide guidelines on the forest complex conservation in complying with the World Heritage Site's guideline in the fiscal year 2023. In this regard, in the fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the SMART Patrols have been carried out for 6,526 times or equivalent to the distance of 160,823 kilometers.

For the consultations with the local communities on their livelihoods and their active engagement in management of the property, Thailand has carried out an inventory of residential areas and/or farmlands according to Section 64 of the National Park Act and Section 121 of the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act. In addition, a number of livelihood development projects have also been carried out by agencies concerned. In 2021 to 2022, many projects were organized, such as the development of Karen's livelihood and traditional way of life in the KKFC and bio-cultural tourism activity at Ban Pong Luek-Bang Kloi.

To further promote the participation of local communities, communities' representatives and stakeholders are encouraged to take part in the Protected Area Committee (PAC) of the National Parks and Wildlife sanctuary which would lead to enhance collective efforts on the conservation, development, and sustainable utilization of forest resources. The PACs have provided useful observations and recommendations on the management of protected areas, potential solutions to address land use concerned along the boundary of the protected areas, job creations for ethnic groups, and guidelines on the management of tourism destinations in the KKFC.

In this regard, according to the World Heritage Committee's Decision, 44 COM 8B.7, adopted at the Extended 44th Session of the Committee meeting, Thailand has always attached importance to enhance consultation with the Advisory Bodies and, in order to prepare for a regular review of the general state of conservation, invited the IUCN to Bangkok to have a dialogue with the DNP, as well as to visit the World Heritage Property, the KKFC, in Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, and Prachuap Khiri Khan Provinces on 21-28 November 2022.

The second part of the report presents the outcome of the implemented measures to address challenges of Ban Bang Kloi residents in the Kaeng Krachan National Park. The Order of the Office of Prime Minister No. 67/2564 dated 16 March 2021 set up the inter-agency committee to explore appropriate measures to resolve land rights issues and enhance quality of life of the local communities, including the Karens, in Ban Bang Kloi, Petchaburi Province.

The committee has later set up working groups to develop action plans to further improve the Karens' quality of life in various dimensions.

The second part also provides information on multidisciplinary research projects conducted in the KKFC, such as researches on ecology and microbiology, as well as the publication on the discovery of 11 newly found species on the planet in which 2 new species are found in the KKFC. The DNP has also worked with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Thailand and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Thailand on academic collaboration.

On 27 January 2022, the DNP celebrated the first anniversary of the inscription of the KKFC to the World Heritage List to raise awareness on the forest conservation and the importance of the inscription of the KKFC to the List bringing the sense of pride and prestige to Thailand.