

## WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN COMMENTS TO ICOMOS

### THE PHU PHRABAT HISTORICAL PARK (THAILAND)

IUCN provides the following comments to ICOMOS based on a review of the nomination by the IUCN World Heritage Panel and the views of two external desk reviewers. The serial nominated property consists of two associated cultural heritage sites, the Phu Phrabat Historical Park which covers 575.98 ha with a buffer zone of 568.08 ha, and the Sīma Cultural Site at Wat Phra Phuthabat Buaban covering 9.98 ha with a buffer zone of 30.72 ha. The total area of the nominated property is 585.96 ha with a buffer zone of 598.80 ha. The property is nominated under criteria (iii) and (v).

At 360 metres above sea level, the nominated property is embedded in a mixed and deciduous dipterocarp forest along a steep slope. Outside the forest, there are agricultural lands and residential areas. The Phu Phrabat Historical Park is situated in the Pha Khuea Nam National Reserved Forest on the Phu Pan Mountain Range whilst the Sīma Cultural Site at Wat Phra Phuthabat Buaban is located approximately eight kilometres further to the south. Both nominated component parts and their buffer zones are protected under the Act of National Reserved Forest of 1964.

IUCN notes that although this property is nominated as a cultural landscape, the nomination dossier contains only limited information on its nature conservation values and on how the interactions of people and nature over time have created the nominated cultural landscape. The nominated property appears to overlap with one of the three components of Nam Yung Nam Som National Park (IUCN Protected Area Category II). Many important and threatened species have in the past been reported to be present in the national park, especially plant species such as *Hopea sp.*, *Dipterocarpus sp.*, the Critically Endangered Tamalan, *Dalbergia oliveri*, the Endangered *Azelia xylocarpa* and Burma Padauk, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, as well as the Near-threatened *Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*. The Vulnerable Asiatic Black Bear, *Ursus thibetanus*, and Sambar, *Rusa unicolor*, have also been reported and as threatened by poaching.

In contrast, the nomination dossier contends there are no threats to the nominated property. As a result, the conservation plans included in the dossier are mostly limited to cleaning, rubbish collecting, weed removal and tree pruning in the vicinity of the monuments. Maps indicate that some of this area is managed for forest conservation, but the management regime is not laid out. Consequently, IUCN recommends that a comprehensive conservation plan should be developed that would include the entire nominated property and its natural values. IUCN recommends that ICOMOS invites the State Party to provide further information on any threats to the natural values of the nominated property, the status of biodiversity, including threatened species both within the nominated area and the surrounding landscape. IUCN would be happy to provide further input on any questions from ICOMOS regarding these matters.