

WHV – Dong Phrayayen through the lens of youth

Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, Thailand

Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2005)

PROJECT DATES

14 July - 23 July 2025

THE SITE - The Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex spans 230 km between Ta Phraya National Park on the Cambodian border in the east, and Khao Yai National Park in the west. The site is home to more than 800 species of fauna, including 112 mammal species (among them two species of gibbon), 392 bird species and 200 reptile and amphibian species. It is internationally important for the conservation of globally threatened and endangered mammal, bird and reptile species, among them 19 that are vulnerable, four that are endangered, and one that is critically endangered. The area contains substantial and important tropical forest ecosystems, which can provide a viable habitat for the long-term survival of these species.

OBJECTIVES - Implemented for the second time, the project is organised by the campaign's recurring partner Volunteer Spirit Association, which was awarded the WHITRAP Global Award for World Heritage Education Innovative Case for its 2023 World Heritage Volunteers project in Chiang Mai. It focuses on building targeted educational activities with the primary schools in the Dong Phrayayen area to promote youth understanding and engagement for heritage preservation.

ACTIVITIES - This project emphasizes hands-on activities aimed at producing creative content that not only raises awareness about the importance of preserving heritage sites but also inspires local communities to recognize and value their cultural heritage. Volunteers will take part in media training workshops based on the VSA methodology, where they will develop skills in storytelling, photography, video production, sketching, painting, infographics, vlogging, and other creative techniques. Drawing inspiration from the World Heritage site itself, participants will create engaging content that reflects the site's cultural richness. To extend this awareness beyond the project team, interactive educational sessions will be organized in small primary schools, each reaching between 40 and 150 students. Volunteers will divide into two groups to work with students from Primary 1 to Primary 6, delivering lessons on the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) program and presenting the "Dong Phrayayen Through the Lens" project, a collection of works created by the volunteers themselves. Beyond educational outreach, the project also includes a strong community engagement component. Volunteers will take part in renovation and manual activities tailored to the needs of the local community, further supporting efforts to preserve and enhance the value of the heritage site.

PARTNERS - Khaoyai National Park; Khaoyai Foundation; Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Dan Khun Tod District office, Nakorn Ratchasima Province office.

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