



Strengthening Livelihoods, Protected Areas and Resilience in Transboundary Landscapes: Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site



Background

The Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site in Thailand (also called the Eastern Forest Complex) encompasses some of the most pristine forests and wildlife habitats in Thailand and is globally important for its biodiversity, as it supports over 800 species of fauna and important tropical forest ecosystems. However, in recent years, the four National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary that form this World Heritage Site have come under increasing pressure from illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, poaching, infrastructure development, and encroachment.

The scale of these activities, in particular illegal logging of Rosewood, has reached unprecedented levels, posing an immediate danger to the integrity and long-term survival of the forest complex. The geographical location of the site, being adjacent to the border with Cambodia, presents a set of challenges and opportunities that makes it an ideal testing ground for innovative approaches to protected area management.

With funding support from the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, IUCN is undertaking a project to strengthen the management of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site, bring

illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood under control and engage the community in the conservation of the forest complex and the wider watershed.

The project is contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 11 by scaling up successful approaches to protected area management and biodiversity conservation in and around the World Heritage Site and its transboundary area.

The project, in collaboration with park authorities, local communities and governments, is implementing innovative actions in the following three main areas:

- 1 Testing and scaling up successful approaches of community livelihood development and buffer zone management,
- 2 Fostering transboundary collaboration with Cambodia, and
- 3 Addressing illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood.

Through these actions, the project aims to strengthen community livelihoods while increasing the resilience of the protected areas in this transboundary landscape.

Addressing illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood

IUCN is supporting the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and Freeland Foundation, both IUCN Members in Thailand, to combat the illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood by strengthening the capacity of the ranger force in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site. In 2015 Freeland has formed and trained a new rapid response unit to

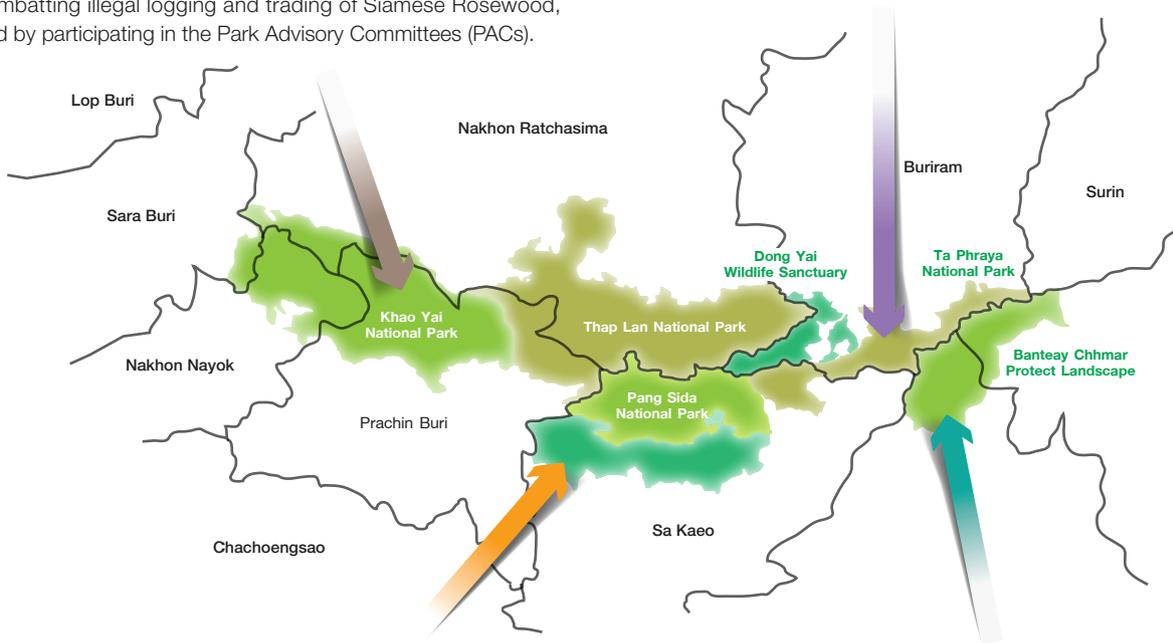


operate across all five protected areas, an important step in combating the increased threat from poachers. IUCN also supports DNP in organizing annual World Ranger Day celebrations and international dialogues on

combating illegal logging and trading of Siamese Rosewood, and by participating in the Park Advisory Committees (PACs).

Community Forestry and Transboundary Reforestation at Ta Phraya National Park

IUCN is working with local community, provincial and district officers, park managers and forestry officers from Thailand and Cambodia to restore a 384 rai (61.4 hectare) site adjacent to the Ta Phraya National Park near the Thai-Cambodian border, which had been partly cleared for agriculture. The area will be registered and managed as a community forest, and the restored forest will act as a buffer to reduce the impacts of resource use on the World Heritage Site and the watercourses that flow into important watersheds in Thailand and Cambodia.



Family forests at Pang Sida National Park

IUCN has helped the Ba Kamint community near Pang Sida National Park set up a plant nursery and a family forestry operation on their farm and community land to improve self-sufficiency and generate new sources of income.



These initiatives are important to reduce pressure on the use of resources by communities living near protected areas by restoring trees on farmland and creating alternative opportunities for

supplying food, fuel for cooking, medicinal plants and building materials. Ba Kamint will be used as a demonstration site for other communities nearby.

Transboundary collaboration with Cambodia

The project is also engaging communities and local authorities of the Banteay Chhmar Protected Landscape in Cambodia in transboundary forest restoration and conservation, and has organized site visits to Ba Kamint and Pang Sida National Park for Cambodian participants. In August 2015 more than 350 people from Thailand and Cambodia attended an event to plant 2,000 saplings of mixed species on a site 20 km east of the Thai border. It is hoped that increased collaboration between Thai and Cambodian officials and the community will help address threats, such as illegal logging, poaching and encroachment, to the important values of the World Heritage Site and the wider watershed.

