



Thailand Programme

An Overview

History of IUCN in Thailand

Thailand began its relationship with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in 1948 as one of 14 countries that established the Union. Over the next 20 years, IUCN supported the Royal Thai Government to develop a network of protected areas, and to formulate management regimes for these areas. This included the establishment of Khao Yai in 1962, Thailand's oldest and most famous National Park. In the 1980s, IUCN assisted Thailand in the development of a watershed classification system. In the late 1990s, IUCN provided information and discussion on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Thailand and a review of the Thai Forest Master Plan.

IUCN's Asia Regional Office has been based in Bangkok since the early 1990s, and a dedicated Thailand Programme was established in 2001.



Local livelihoods near Khao Yai National Park © Josephine Green

What's at Stake

Thailand is endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resources, which are important in supporting both rural livelihoods and national development.

Over the past four decades, Thailand's rapid economic growth has given rise to a series of environmental challenges, including:

- Air and water pollution;
- Loss of biodiversity, deforestation;
- Watershed degradation and soil erosion;
- Conversion of wetlands and loss of coastal habitats including mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs.

In order to mitigate the threats to agricultural production, and food, energy, and water security, as well as human health and quality of life, IUCN aims to ensure that the use of natural resources, urbanization and infrastructure development adequately take into account ecological functions and ecosystem services and the growing impacts of climate change.

About IUCN

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries.

IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

Four features summarize how IUCN operates as a Union:

1. IUCN generates and disseminates credible and trusted knowledge on conservation and sustainable development
2. IUCN convenes and builds partnerships for action across governments and civil society
3. IUCN bridges local, regional and global policy and action
4. IUCN develops standards, influences practices and builds capacity for conservation and sustainable development.



Community meeting in Chiang Mai © Dr Chamniern Vorratnchaiphan

Our Work in Action



Feeding cage-farmed fish, Surat Thani, MFF Thailand
© Siriporn SRIARAM

IUCN Thailand's projects directly address the environmental stresses the country faces today. Here are a few of the projects we are currently working on:

Mangroves for the Future

The thousands of kilometres of Thailand's coastline provide food and livelihoods to people in many communities and play host to an array of diverse ecosystems and wildlife. Recent economic development, however, has depleted these ecosystems, creating vulnerabilities to natural disasters and decreasing biodiversity. The Mangroves for the Future (MFF) programme aims to promote sustainable coastal development through participatory and inclusive decision making and by facilitating strategic investments in coastal ecosystems. MFF also works with communities to

promote principles of Integrated Coastal Management and to build natural resilience to disasters.

Supporting World Heritage

Thailand's Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage Site faces pressures from encroachment, illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, and infrastructure development. IUCN Thailand is working with different stakeholders to find solutions in an integrated, participatory manner. IUCN also works with local communities to promote the importance of conserving forests and develop innovative solutions for securing and enforcing the protection of the World Heritage Site.



Rice farmers in Chiang Rai © Josephine Green

Climate Change

Under the USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) project, IUCN Thailand is implementing ecosystem and community-based climate adaptation and resilience building initiatives in Chiang Rai and Sakon Nakhon Provinces. The USAID Mekong ARCC project supports adaptation initiatives that develop the capacity of local communities, while assisting them to combine their knowledge with climate science information.

Join us today!

Learn more about the IUCN Thailand Programme and how to become a member via our website www.iucn.org/thailand.

IUCN Thailand Members

IUCN Thailand has one state member, administered by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). www.dnp.go.th

IUCN Thailand also has eight Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) members including:

- FREELAND Foundation www.freeland.org
- Good Governance for Social Development and the Environment Institute (GSEI) www.gsei.or.th
- International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) www.inebnetwork.org
- Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation (MKMTF) www.maikhaomarineturtlefoundation.org
- Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC, The Center for People and Forests) www.recoftc.org
- Seub Nakhasathien Foundation (SNF) www.seub.or.th
- Thai Conservation of Forest Foundation (Thai Rak Pa) www.thairakpa.org
- Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) www.thaispca.org



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