



Biodiversity Conservation in Thailand

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Introduction

Thailand, with total land area of 513,115 sq.km., is situated in a hot and humid climatic zone which supports a variety of tropical ecosystems.

≈ 15,000 species of plant which account for 8% of estimated total number of plant species found in the world.

≈ 1,721 species of terrestrial vertebrate including mammals (294) , birds (915), reptiles (325) and amphibians (141) .

More than 2,000 marine fish species.

Over 3,000 species of mushroom and fungi.





Way of life and cultural:

Traditional and believe, ceremony, cerebation, Thai culture that transfer to young generation.

Socioeconomic and country development

Agricultural products, forests products, and processed or dried aquatic animals were served as primary GDP of Thailand.

Biodiversity conservation activities implemented in Thailand

- + National Policy, Strategies and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, 1998–2002".**
- + The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand**
- + Thailand National Forest Policy**
- + Thai Forestry Sector Master Plan**
- + The National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP)**
- + National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (2015-2021)**

+ Management Responsibilities under the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department

+ International Conventions



+ Biodiversity Conservation Projects



WEFCOM

+ Other Biodiversity Conservation Activities

- The 15th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME)**
- Bilateral Meeting on cooperation in wildlife enforcement**

Assessment

- + Currently, the biodiversity of Thailand is in the 16th rank of the world (including only amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals, and vascular plants).
- + In 1961, Thailand has 53.33 percent of forest area of the country. However, in 2013, the remaining forest area was 163,360 square kilometers (102.1 million rai) or about 31.57 percent of the total land area.
- + Biodiversity in Thailand is destroyed from many reasons. The causes of the reduction of biodiversity are usually over-exploitation, illegal trading of animal and plant species, disturbance to natural habitat, loss of habitat and environmental pollution.
- + It can be pointed out that, the most serious threat to the biodiversity is human disturbance.

Other reasons are:

- Increasing of population (0.45% per year) along with the urban growth.
- Government policies for more demand on water, food, residence, and medicine.
- The trade competition (both domestic and international) also destroyed biodiversity which is the basic resource for life.
- Demand on agricultural land, deforestation, encroachment of forest area for agriculture and other purposes.

Lesson Learned

- The prospect of biodiversity in Thailand is very much a crisis. The present conservation efforts have not been able to hold back the alarming rate of biodiversity loss.
- People in Thailand is descending from agricultural society, till now most of Thai still achieve their life based on agriculture and fisheries. This is indicating that Thailand has to contribute financial resources and human resources to prolong the basement of tradition and biodiversity resources for sustainable condition.

- Thai society does not have enough information on the loss of biodiversity and, hence, is unaware of the problem or does not fully provide obvious signs of the problem to the youth.
- Lack of proper amount of training programs on biodiversity conservation for local authorities in the area.
- Lesson learned from the ITTO Project “Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos .” can be used as a model for other potential trans-boundary conservation areas in participating countries and in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

What we have learned from the project are:

- **How to Improve the protection of trans-boundary habitats of the protected wide-ranging wildlife species, with improving ecosystem management through the production of a series of wildlife distribution maps that were jointly initiated.**
- **How to develop institutional information sharing between the three countries as a basis for formulating sustainable management strategies to protect wildlife populations and reduce barriers of migratory wildlife movements along the tri-national borders.**
- **How to improve local community livelihoods on the basis of the outcomes of planned Sustainable Livelihood Assessments conducted in Thailand with an expansion of the effective Integrated Conservation and Development Program (ICDP), including nature-based tourism and other income-generating opportunities.**

Conclusion

- The loss of biodiversity in Thailand will continue over a certain period of time in the future.
- The rate of the loss will not slow down even though, a significant amount of mitigation activities have been implemented by private and public agencies/organizations.
- Even Thailand had shifted main income from agricultural base into industrial and service industrial base country, but the biodiversity still strongly effected to Thai tradition and way of life.
- The continuous loss of biodiversity in Thailand at such an alarming rate is mainly caused by the lack of social awareness and consciousness in preserving natural resources.

The Way Forward

- Increase social awareness and consciousness in preserving natural resources for the coming generations.
- Sufficient support factors for the conservation and sustainable utilization of the biodiversity.
- Biodiversity related institutions should propose and integrate plans and policies on the conservation of biodiversity into the policies and plans for utilization of natural resources of the country.

- **Study the impacts of climate change to biodiversity, especially in vulnerable ecosystems.**
- **Promotion and encouraging urban and local communities to protect their biodiversity.**
- **Effectively implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (2015-2021)**

- **Institutional based activities to conserve forests, marine ecosystems and fresh–water environments need to continue their efforts to conserve biodiversity.**
- **Continue the international cooperation on Biodiversity Conservation Projects**

An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring terraced hills. The hills are covered in a mix of vibrant red soil and patches of green vegetation. A winding dirt road or path is visible, snaking through the terraces. The overall scene is hilly and mountainous, with the text 'Thank you' overlaid in the center.

Thank you