



Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos

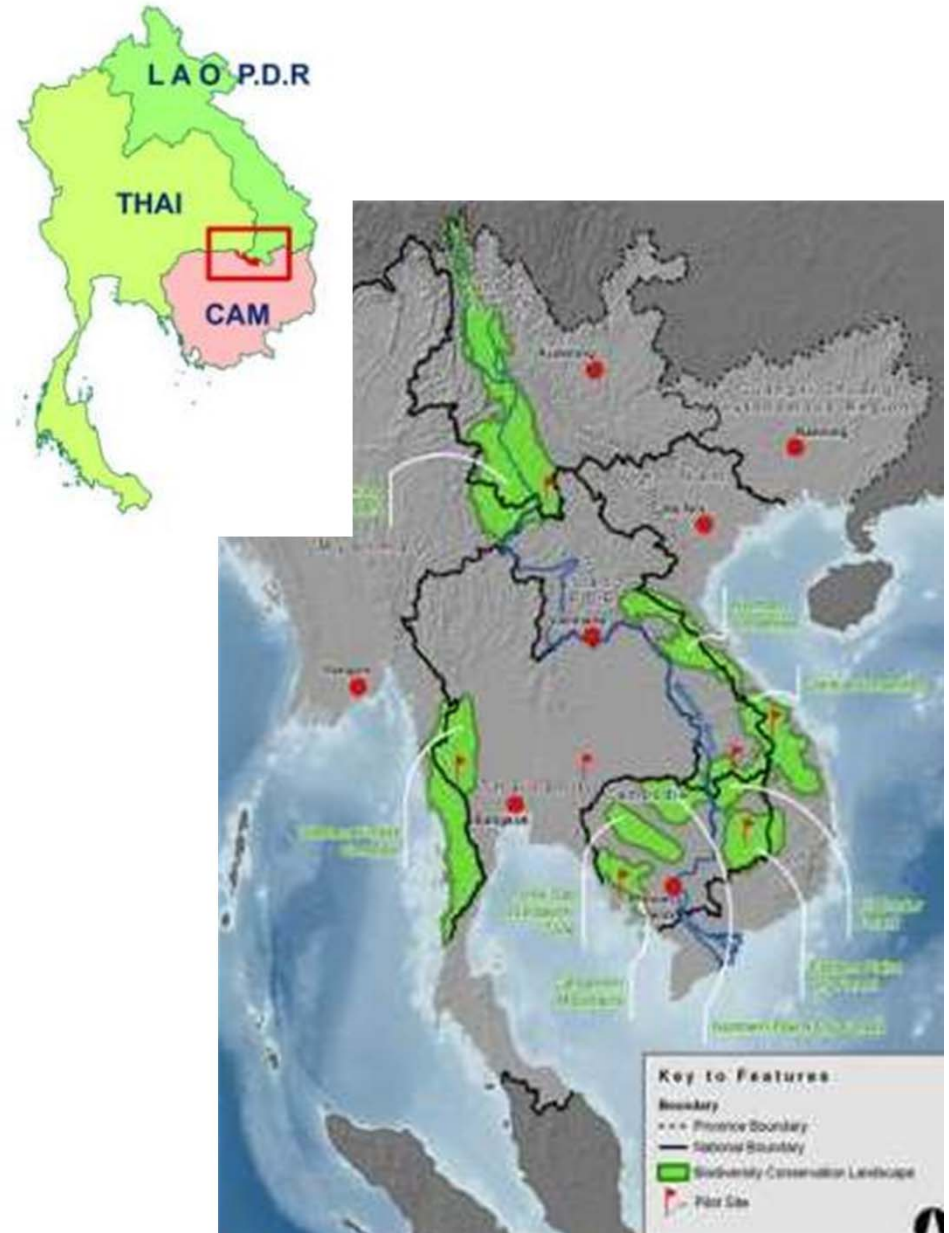
Regional Conference on “Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests of the Greater Mekong Sub-region”

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 23-25 March 2016



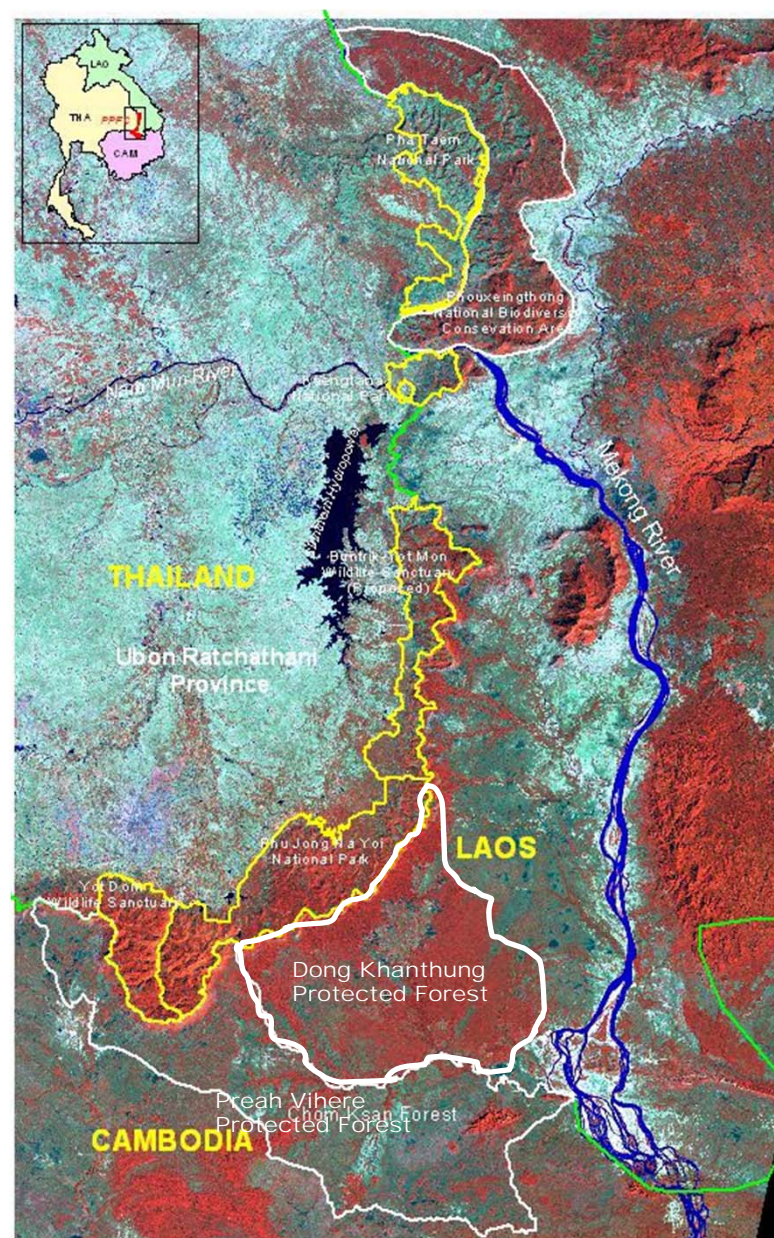
The Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex

- The largest remaining extensive intact block of a unique landscape of global importance for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- One of the most important of the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.
- The last refuge for populations of more than 50 wildlife species on the IUCN Red List, including ten which are listed as Critically Endangered.

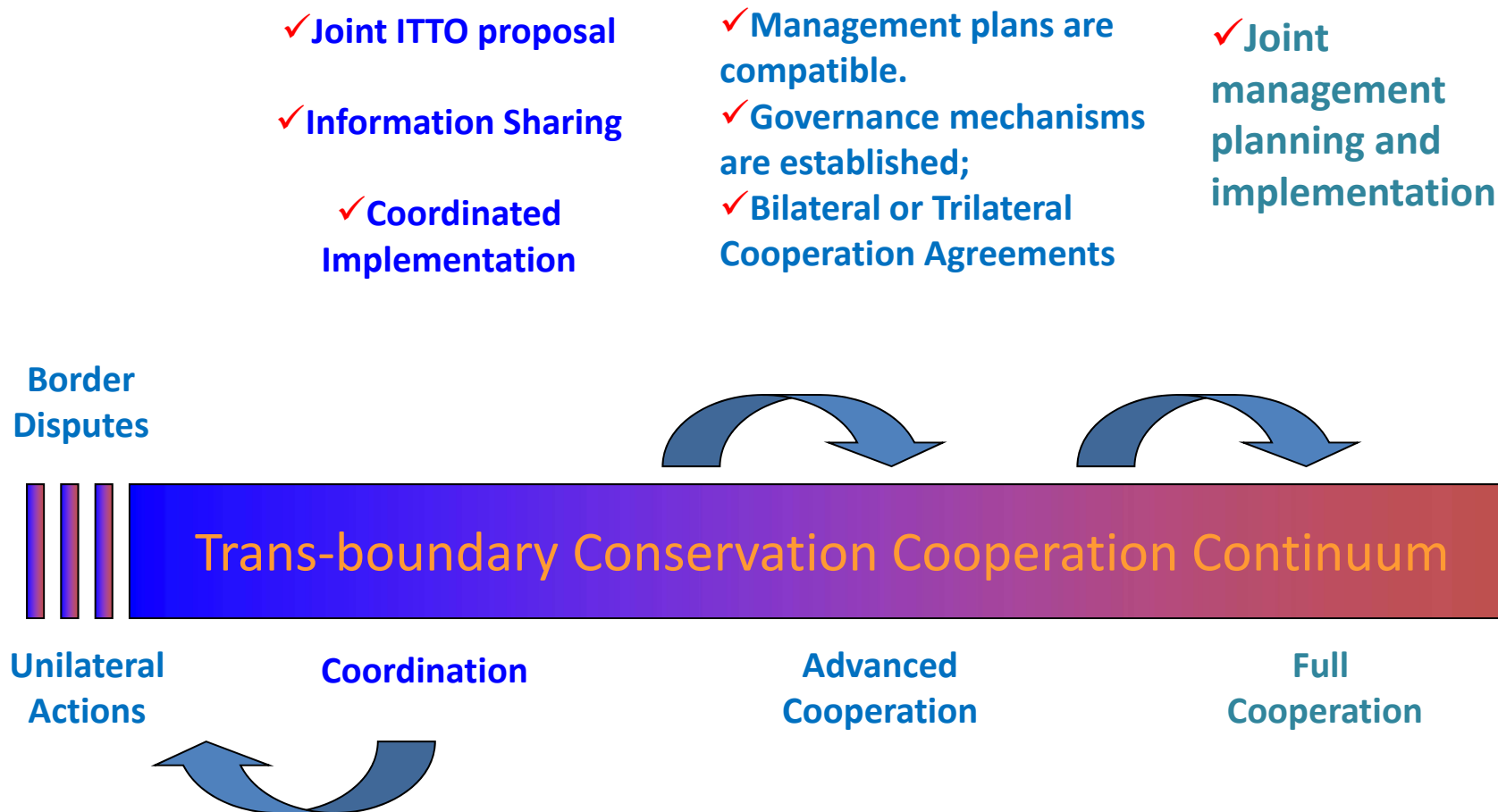


The Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex

Name	Area (sq. km)
Pha Taem NP	353
Kaeng Tana NP	84
Phu Jong-Na Yoi NP	697
Yot Dom WS	235
Buntrarik-Yot Mon WS	365
Sub-total	1,734
Phou Xieng Thong NBCA	1,200
Dong Khanthung Protected Forest	1,700
Sub-total	2,900
Preah Vihear Protected Forest	1,900
Total	6,534



Cooperation Continuum in the Emerald Triangle



Issue	Initial Phase III Constraints and Means of Resolution
I	<p>Lack of official commitment and participation of Lao PDR (Lao PDR is not an ITTO member).</p> <p>“Soft cooperation” by expansion of existing MOU between Kasetsart University and Champasack University.</p>
II	<p>Disparities of conservation efforts and socio-economic conditions.</p> <p>Establish Common Vision as a collaborative management framework and improve livelihoods.</p>
III	<p>Unequal human capacities in management and science.</p> <p>Joint wildlife monitoring research & on-the-job training.</p>



'Common Vision'



“By 2025, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand will have established a **common cooperative framework** for the **conservation and sustainable management** of the ETFC of the GMS in order to strengthen the protection of the **trans-boundary habitats of wide-ranging wildlife species** and will endeavor to **maintain the viability and ecological integrity** of the forest ecosystems and increase its land use and climate change adaptation capability to transform the ETFC into an **international symbol of TBCAs**.”

Objectives and Outputs

Development Objective: To contribute to the conservation of trans-boundary biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

Specific Objective: To strengthen the protection of trans-boundary habitats of protected wide-ranging wildlife species in the Emerald Triangle.

Output 1 :	Output 2:	Output 3 :
Management plans incorporating research results on wide-ranging species and ecological processes, which are compatible between countries, are established and implemented.	Capacity of multi-stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and monitoring is strengthened.	Local communities are empowered to implement activities linking livelihoods improvement to reduced dependence on resources of protected areas

Achievements

Output 1: Management plans incorporating research results on wide-ranging species and ecological processes, which are compatible between countries, are established and implemented.

- Technical staff from the three trans-boundary countries have participated in joint research activities on land uses and distributions of wide-ranging landscape wildlife species.
- On the basis of the results of that, as well as other research, GIS distribution maps of landscape wildlife species were produced and strategies were developed to facilitate wildlife movements across the Emerald Triangle.
- Updated and revised management plans were produced for the Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex in Thailand and the Preah Vihear Protected Forest in Cambodia.

TECHNICAL & PSC MEETINGS



Cooperation Agreement

On the Implementation of Wildlife Research in the Emerald Triangle Area in Lao PDR

We, undersigned endorse this agreement to undertake the joint Wildlife Research in the Dong Khanthung Protected Area in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR in a framework of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation area (TBCA) in cooperation with Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand.

We shall share relevant information that can contribute to effectively conserve trans-boundary biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR in a framework of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation area (TBCA).

We shall be responsible for providing the information on wildlife habitats and conduct wildlife research and training, additional information, and data required to complete the requirements of the joint Wildlife Research in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests in Lao PDR.

We agree to deploy the necessary personnel to provide the information on wildlife habitats and conduct of joint Wildlife Research in accordance with the funds committed for the purpose, and shall assist in the reporting requirements by providing data and information as needed.



Name : Naris Bhumpakphan, Ph.D.

Title : Associate Prof.

On behalf of the Faculty of Forestry,

Kasetsart University of Thailand

Dated: 16 Sep, 2013

Place : Champasak Univ.



Name :

Title : Vice-Rector

On behalf of the Champasak University

of Lao PDR

Dated: 16/9/2013

Place : _____

Meeting to discuss cooperation on
wildlife research in Lao PDR

16 September 2013 at Champasack
University, Lao PDR



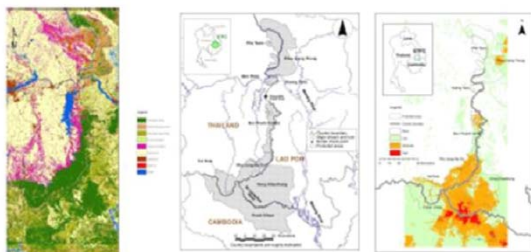


International Tropical Timber Organization
ITTO



The Royal Forest Department
RFD

LAND USE CHANGE AND WILDLIFE DISTRIBUTION MODELING IN THE EMERALD TRIANGLE FOREST COMPLEX



Yongyut TRISURAT
FACULTY OF FORESTRY
KASETSART UNIVERSITY
THAILAND
2015

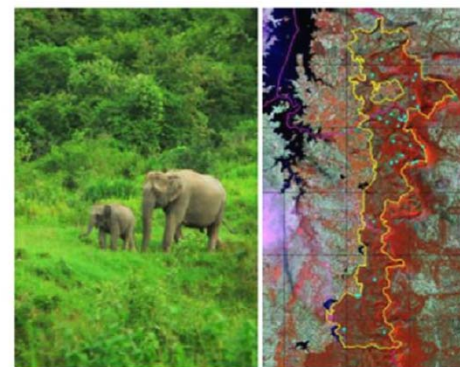


International Tropical Timber Organization
ITTO



The Royal Forest Department
RFD

WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN THE EMERALD TRIANGLE PROTECTED FOREST COMPLEX BETWEEN THAILAND & LAO PDR

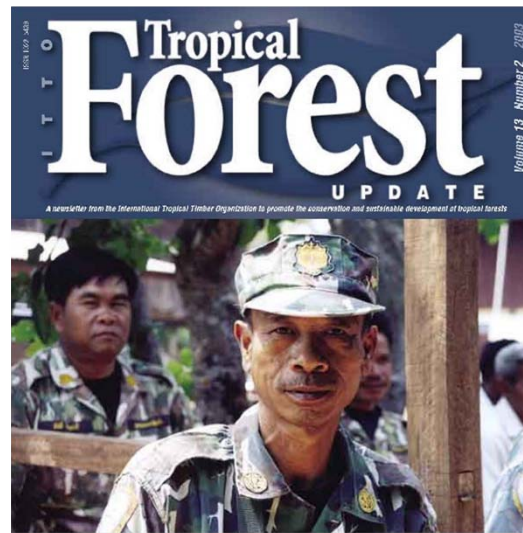
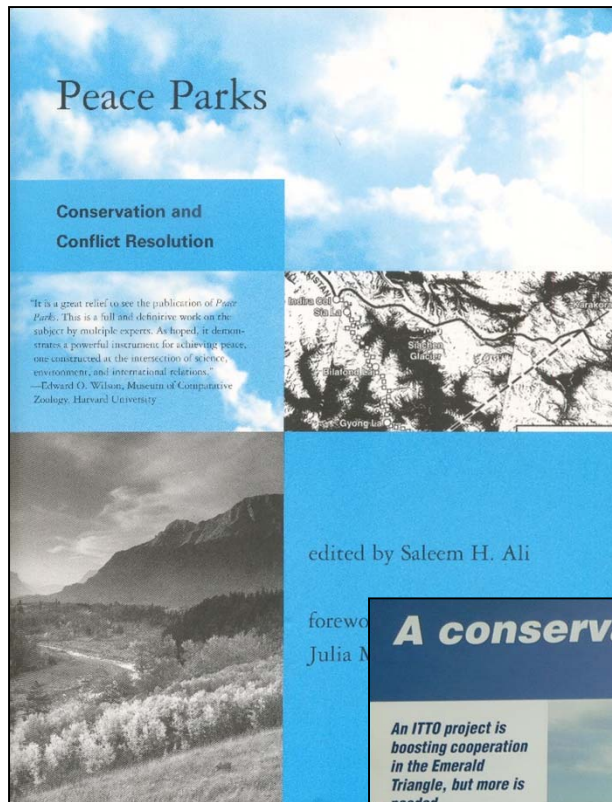


Naris BHUMPAKPHAN

FACULTY OF FORESTRY
KASETSART UNIVERSITY
THAILAND

February 2015

Technical Reports and Articles



Borderline decisions

The ITTO's imaginary lines that divide up people of the world's nations have caused no small amount of trouble. Transboundary borders are the focus of a special issue of the journal, 'Borderline decisions'.

A conservation jewel

An ITTO project is boosting cooperation in the Emerald Triangle, but more is needed

by Suchat Kalyawongsa¹ and Sothea Hort²

¹ Royal Forest Department
Bangkok, Thailand

² Forestry Administration
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Green and hot: The Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex, shared by Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. Photo: E. Mueller/ITTO

Application of Geo-informatics to Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation across Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia

Yongyut Trisurat

Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand

ABSTRACT

The objective of this paper was to elaborate the application of Geo-informatics for trans-boundary biodiversity conservation across Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia under the Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex (PPFC) Project Phase I (2001-2004). This involved monitoring land use/land cover change, mapping distributions of selected wildlife species, and defining management zones. The results predict that forest cover in the PPFC landscape will continue to decline in the future, while agricultural area, especially in the buffer zone, will significantly increase. In addition, protected areas in the south of the complex and areas across the national borders contain relatively high to high suitability for landscape species while protected areas in the northern part provide relatively low suitability due to intensive human pressures. However, further clearing of forest could jeopardize the viability of rare large mammal species. Furthermore, ecological management zones were developed to provide a framework for trans-boundary biodiversity conservation in the adjoining protected forests and reducing the conflict of resource uses by local residents in the buffer zone. The outputs of Geo-informatics applications were providing valuable inputs to formulate long-term management plan of the PPFC and the formulation of the Project Phase II.

KEYWORDS

Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex; Geo-informatics; Biodiversity conservation; E



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Applied Geography 26 (2006) 200–215



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The Journal of

Transboundary biodiversity conservation of the Pha Taem Protected Forest Complex: A bioregional approach

Yongyut Trisurat^a

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Abstract

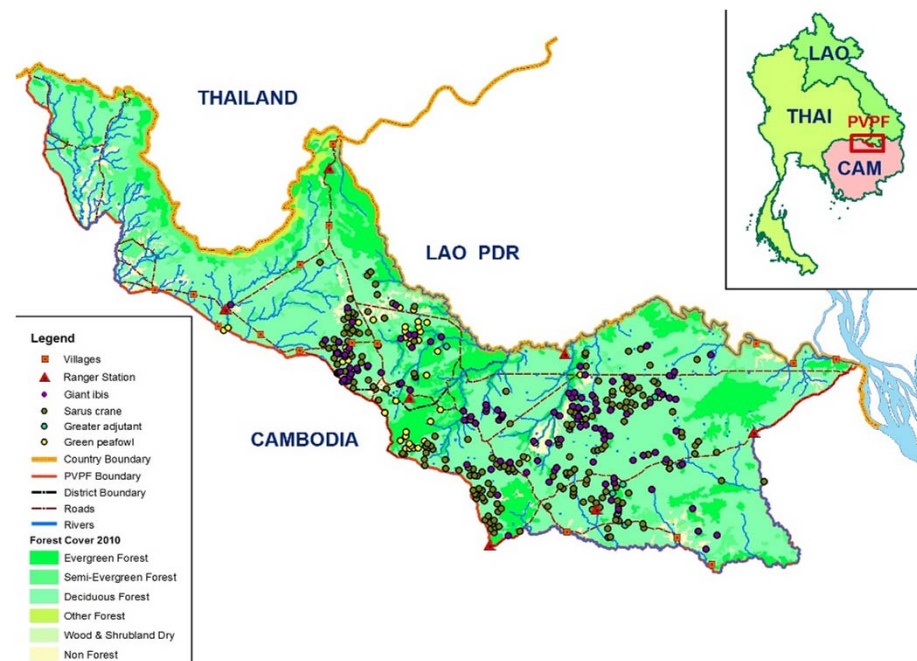
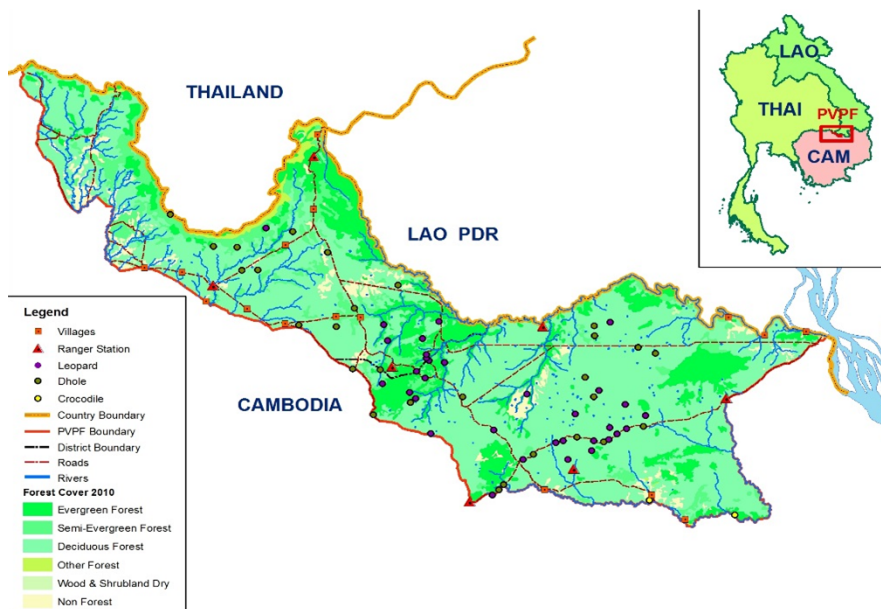
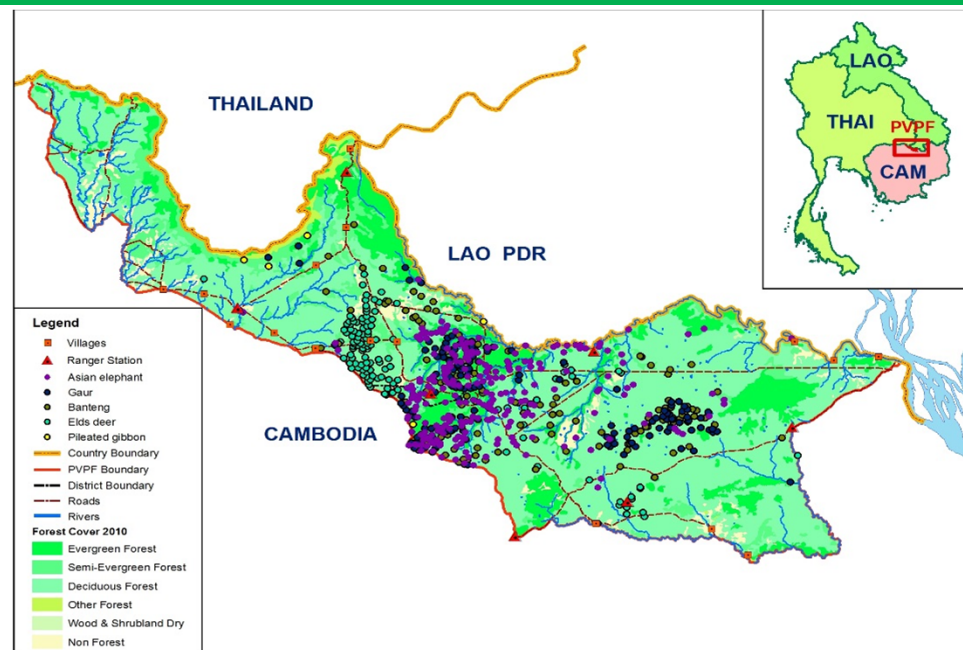
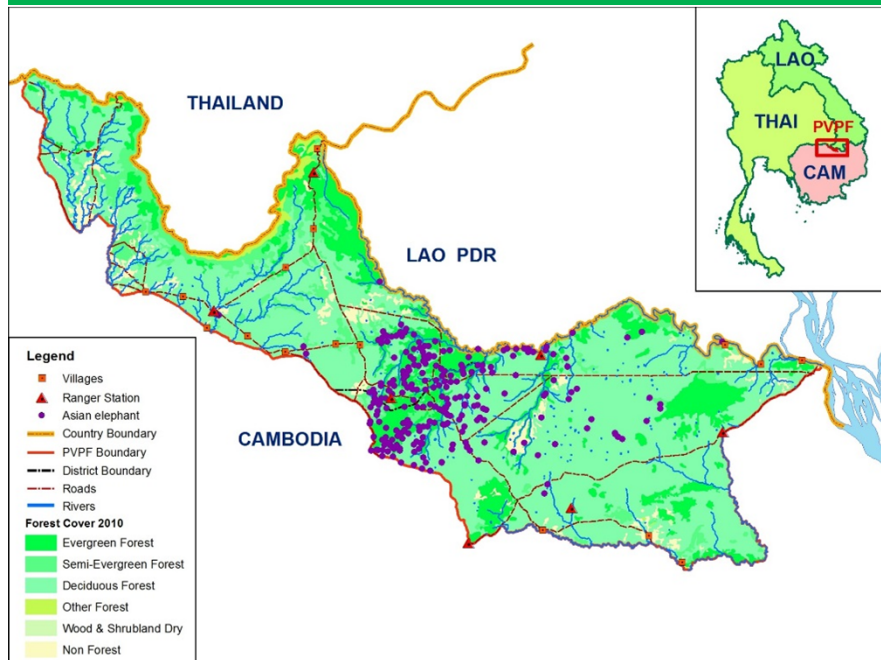
With the financial assistance from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) has initiated a strategy for cooperation in transboundary biodiversity conservation with Cambodia and Laos, the Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex (PPFC) in northeastern region was chosen as a pilot project because of the increasing pressure on biodiversity from illegal trade in plants and wildlife across the tri-national borders. The PPFC covers five protected areas in Thailand and adjoins the Phouaeng-Nong National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NCHA) in Laos and the Cambodia's Protected Forest for Conservation of Genetic Resources of Plants and Wildlife. Two important outputs derived from the project phase I (2001–2004) were a long-term management plan in a framework of transboundary biodiversity conservation and initiative cooperation between the three countries. Cooperation is achieved at a certain level and Laos is reluctant to recognize the Phouaeng-Nong NCHA for inclusion in the project's second phase. In addition, forest cover in buffer zone has been threatened for agricultural practices. This ecological management area using bioregional approach was developed to provide a framework for transboundary biodiversity conservation in the adjoining protected forests and reducing the conflict of resource uses by local residents in the buffer zone.

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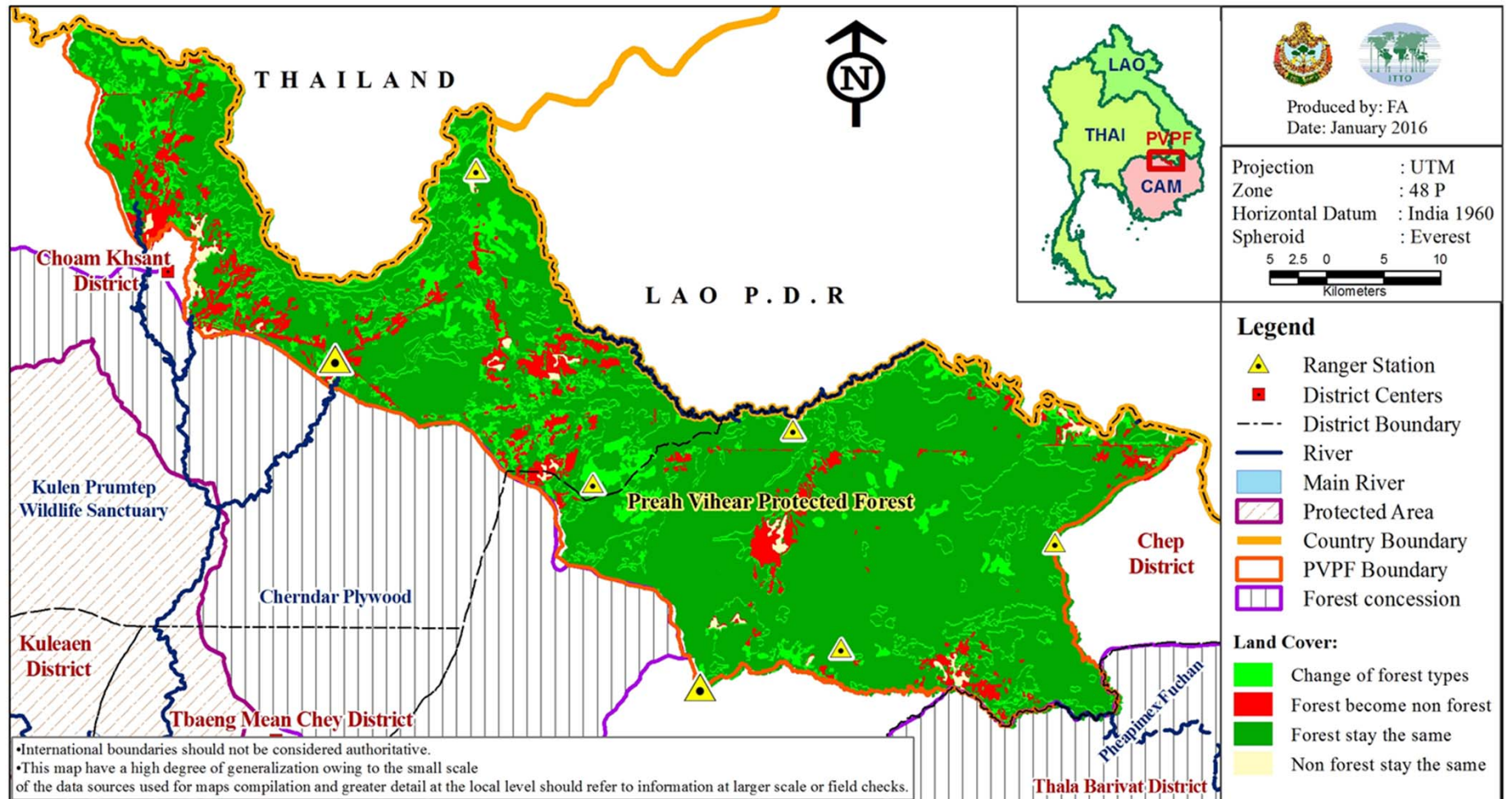
Keywords: Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex; Transboundary biodiversity conservation; Ecological management zones; Geographic Information Systems (GIS); Bioregional approach

Trisurat, Y. 2007.
Chapter 8,
pp: 141-162

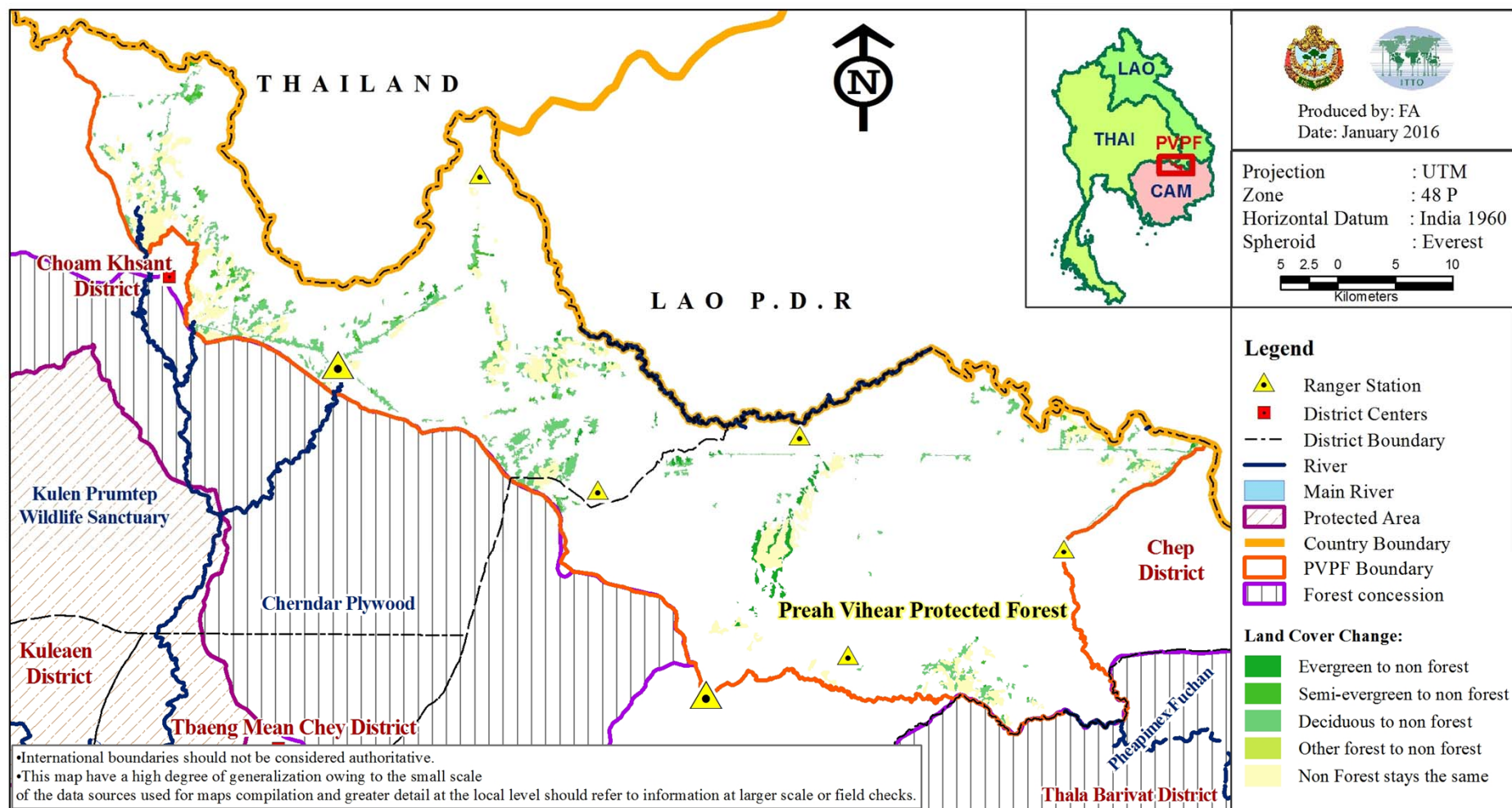
Wildlife Distribution Patterns

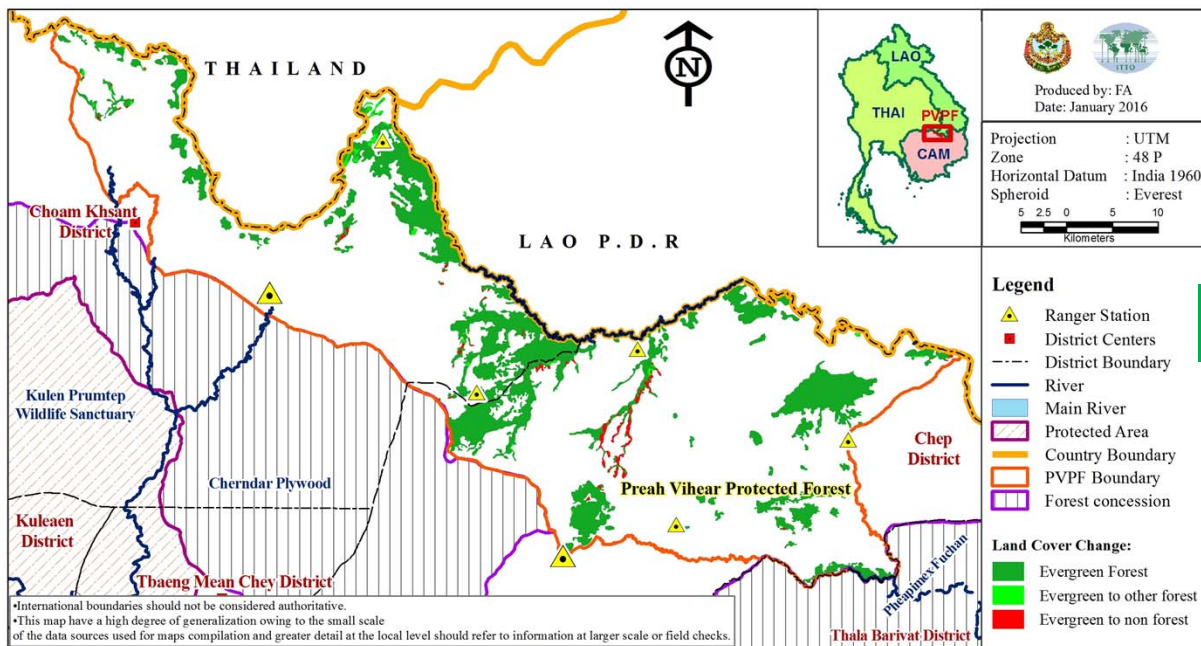


Change in Forest Cover 2002-2014

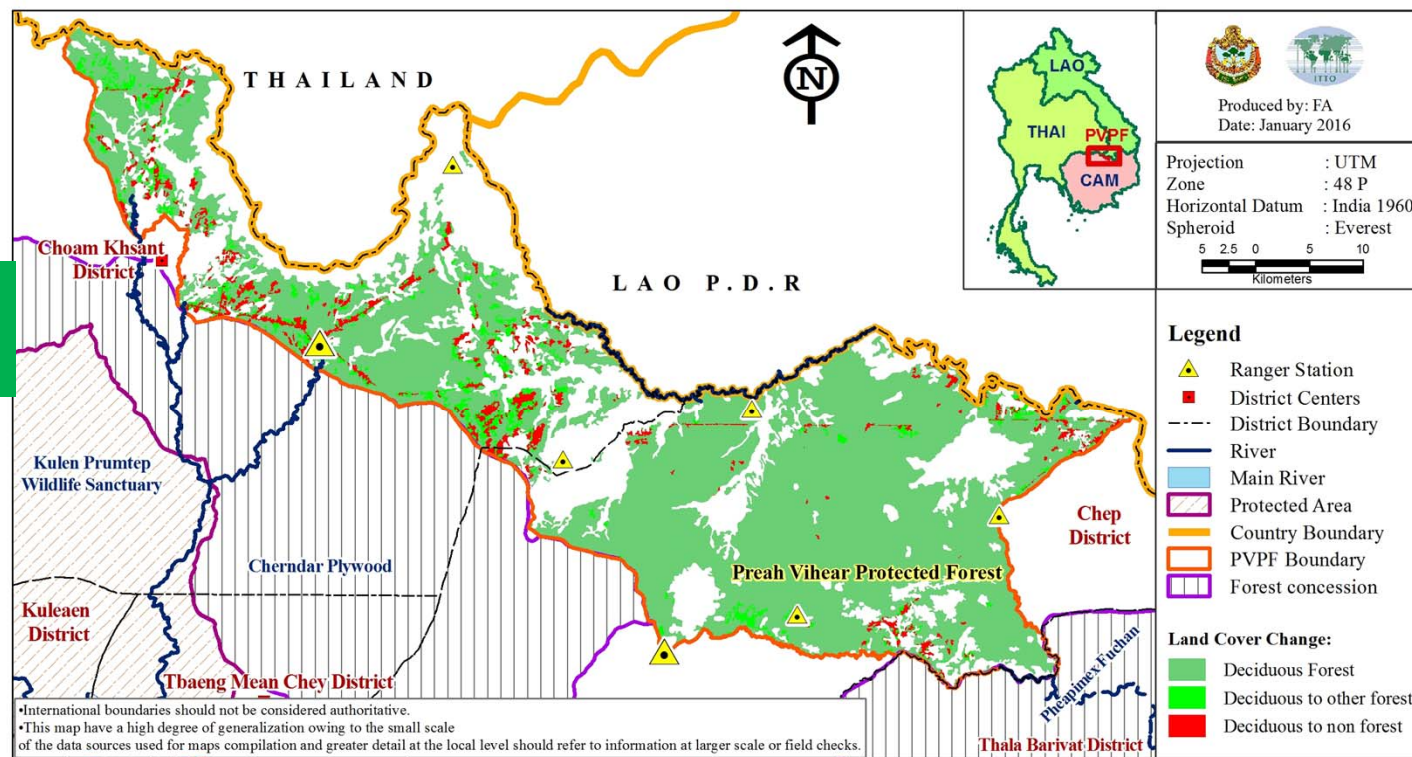


Change of Forest to Non Forest 2002-2014





Change in Evergreen Forest Cover



Change in Deciduous Forest Cover

Establishment of Compatible Management Plans

Strategies and Activities

- **Natural Resource Conservation and Management.**
 - Reduce incidences of illegal forest- and wildlife-related crimes.
 - Strengthen conservation and sustainable forest resources and wildlife management.
 - Maintain the ecological integrity of forests in and around the PVPF and improve the quality of wildlife habitats.
- **Recreation and Nature-based Tourism Management.**
 - Promote the effective management of nature-based resources and activities.
 - Expand nature-based tourism markets.
 - Strengthen interpretive programs and services.
- **Integrated Community Livelihood Development and Engagement.**
 - Reduce dependency on natural resources.
 - Enhance local community participation in management.
 - Raise awareness.
- **Trans-boundary Protected Forests and Protected Areas Collaborative Management.**
 - Strengthen trans-boundary collaborative management.
 - Expand trans-border exchanges in support of environmental and natural resources conservation.
- **Institutional and Human Resource Development.**
 - Strengthen institutions.
 - Develop human resources.
 - Increase internal cooperation.
- **Research and Monitoring.**
 - Evaluate management implications of research results.
 - Expand research on selected landscape wildlife species and plant communities..
 - Broaden research on land and natural resources of the PVPF.
 - Increase understanding of local communities.

Achievements

Output 2: Capacity of multi-stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and monitoring is strengthened.

- Law enforcement patrols to reduce incidences of illegal forest activities are regularly conducted in cooperation with military and local, regional, and national authorities, and local communities, to strengthen governance across the trans-boundary protected area.
- Training programs are organized for management and technical, as well as support, staff of the several trans-boundary protected areas on subjects that include GIS mapping, land-use planning, forest management planning, and other related matters to improve resource management practices throughout the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.
- Training on a wide range of other subjects is provided to other groups of stakeholders, as well, to increase understanding of biodiversity conservation and strengthen support for conservation activities in each of the trans-boundary protected areas.

The use of drones to collect information on forest clearance and encroachment.



Confiscated evidence maintained to support forest law enforcement.



Patrolling activities to suppress forest and wildlife offenses.



Confiscation of meat from illegal wildlife traders.



Confiscation of wildlife at An Ses international checkpoint between Thailand and Cambodia.



Confiscated evidence awaiting presentation in court cases.



Evidence from illegal forestland clearance and logging.



Confiscated rosewood and other luxury wood.



Cross-border Collaboration

- The Royal Forest Department of Thailand and the Forestry Administration of Cambodia signed an MOU to support mutual collaboration in implementing project activities.
- Periodic exchange visits and meetings are organized between The Governors of Preah Vihear Province (Cambodia) and Ubon Rachathani Province (Thailand).
- There are dialogues on a broad range of issues to facilitate Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation and improve coordination of cross-border Law Enforcement actions.
- Joint Training on Forest Land Use Scenarios and Wildlife Surveys is used to strengthen the extent of cooperation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

The First Bilateral meeting on cooperation on wildlife law enforcement between Cambodia and Thailand organized on 18-19 December 2014 in Ubon Ratchathani province, Thailand.



Training on GIS and land use planning mapping for Preah Vihear Forestry Administration Cantonment officers.



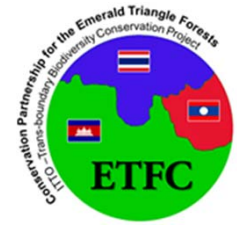
Delegates from Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR planting rosewood at the project headquarters of the Preah Vihear Forestry Administration Cantonment, 14 March 2014.



Capacity Building on GIS applications.



Wildlife Training and Survey



Classroom training and field practices for technical staff of the three countries.



CAPACITY BUILDING – GIS & MAPS



INTRODUCTION OF GIS, MAP READING AND GPS (28-29 Nov. 2013).

GIS MODELING FOR FOREST LAND USE (10-15 MARCH 2014 @ CAMBODIA).

SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MODELING (AUG. 2014 @ UBON RATCHATHANI).



GIS Training Workshop



**Technical Meeting on
“Biodiversity Conservation in Southern Lao PDR”
with support and cooperation of Kasetsart University, Thailand,
and Champasack University, Lao PDR
12 December 2013**



Training Workshop on “Wildlife and Landscape Ecology”
Jointly Organized by Champasack University and Kasetsart University
with support of Royal Thailand Forest Department and ITTO Project PD 577/10 Rev.1 (F)
13-15 December 2013
at Arawan Riverside Hotel and Dong Khanthung Protected Forest in Champasak, Lao PDR



Joint Training Workshop on GIS Modeling for Forest Land Use Planning



Wildlife Training Workshop

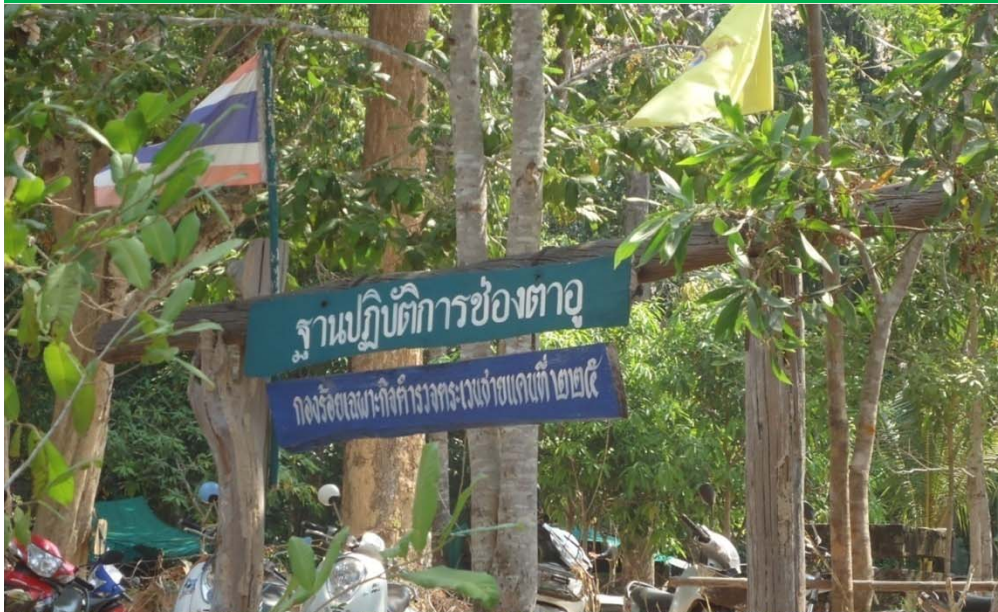


Training Workshop on Conservation





Updating Information and Organizing Training for Forest Protection



Meeting of Stakeholders



Achievements

Output 3: Local communities are empowered to implement activities linking livelihoods improvement to reduced dependence on resources of protected areas.

- Sustainable livelihood assessments were conducted to determine promising ICDP project interventions and to design supportive capacity-strengthening programs and organize training workshops.
- Nurseries and tissue culture labs, as well as wells and ponds, were established to provide commercial tree and fruit tree seedlings to improve agricultural practices, provide stable sources of water in the dry season, and support the commercialization of wild orchids in local communities.
- There is a wide range of livelihood enhancement activities that was introduced that extends to the establishment of rice banks and cow banks, the introduction and expansion of agroforestry practices, the manufacture of bamboo handicrafts, and the promotion of community nature-based tourism to increase local incomes.
- Several exchange visits have been organized to share experiences and introduce villagers to more productive agricultural practices.
- The establishment of on-going awareness raising activities and other forms of communication with local villagers.

ITTO Project PD 577/10 Rev. 1 (F)

Proposed fund provide to villages

Pha Taem Nation Park

1. Ban Huai Mark.....Food Bank-Agro forestry
2. Ban Tha Long – School.....Tissue Culture Lab Materials
3. Ban Na Pho Klang.....Nursery

Kaeng Tana National Park

1. Ban Nong Chad.....Food Bank - Agro forestry

Buntriak Yotmon Wildlife Sanctuary

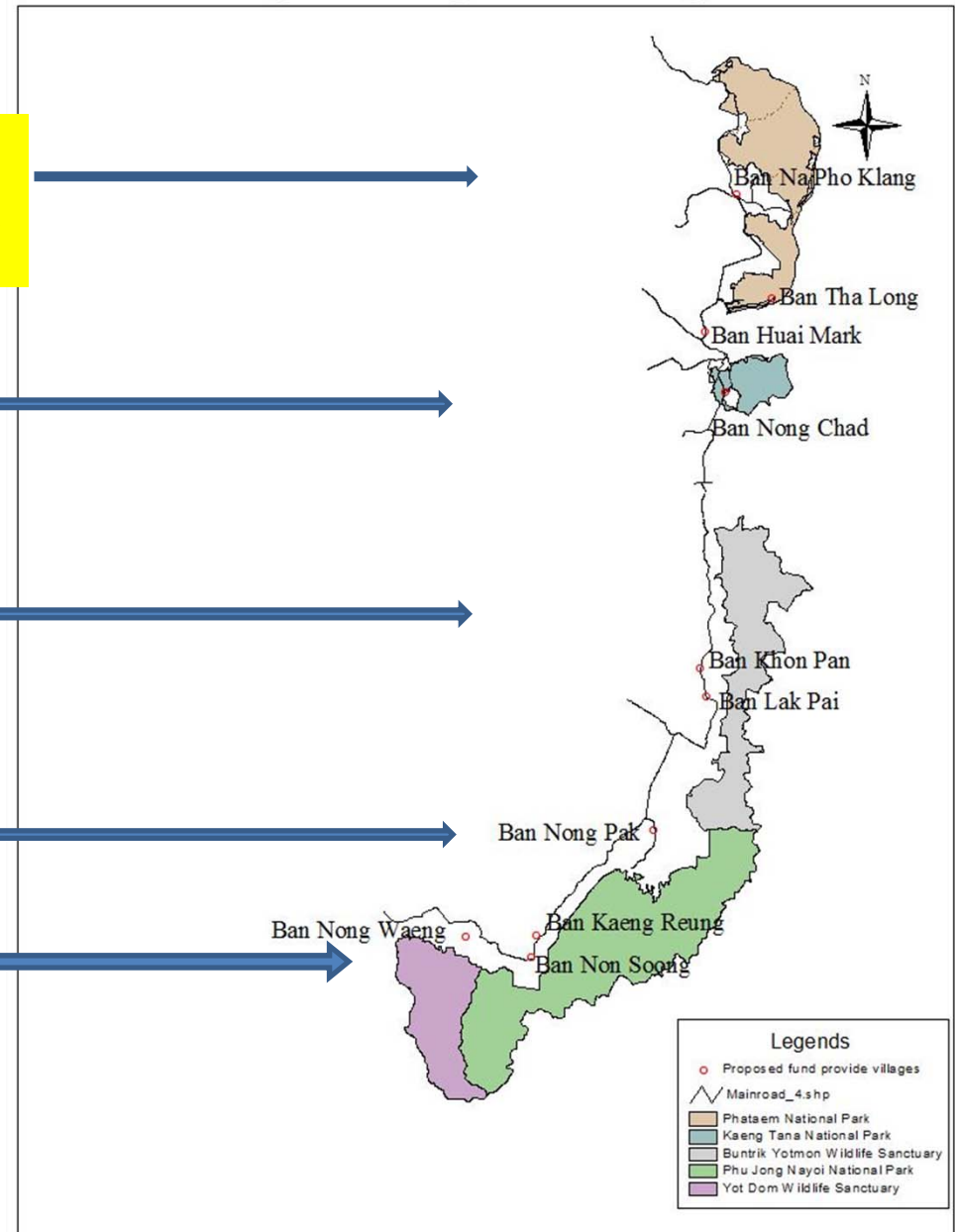
1. Ban Lak Pai.....Handicraft
2. Ban Khon Pan.....Handicraft

Phu Jong Na Yoi National Park

1. Ban None Soong.....Ecotour
2. Ban Nong Pak.....Nursery
3. Ban Kang Reung.....Nursery

Yot Dom Wildlife Sanctuary

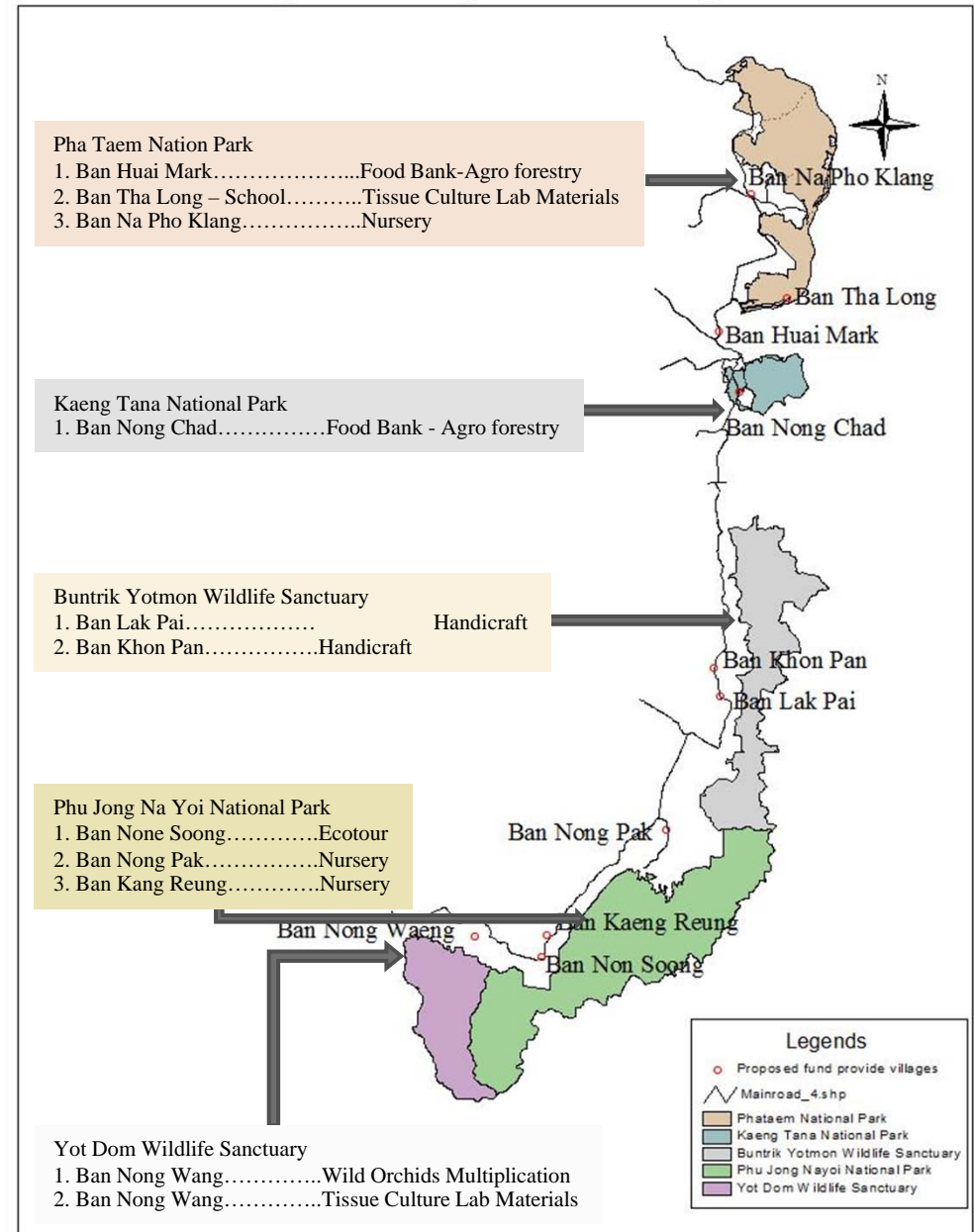
1. Ban Nong Wang.....Wild Orchids Multiplication
2. Ban Nong Wang.....Tissue Culture Lab Materials



THE EMERALD TRIANGLE PROTECTED FORESTS COMPLEX (PHASE III)
ITTO PROJECT PD 577/10 REV.1 (F)

Proposed fund provide to villages

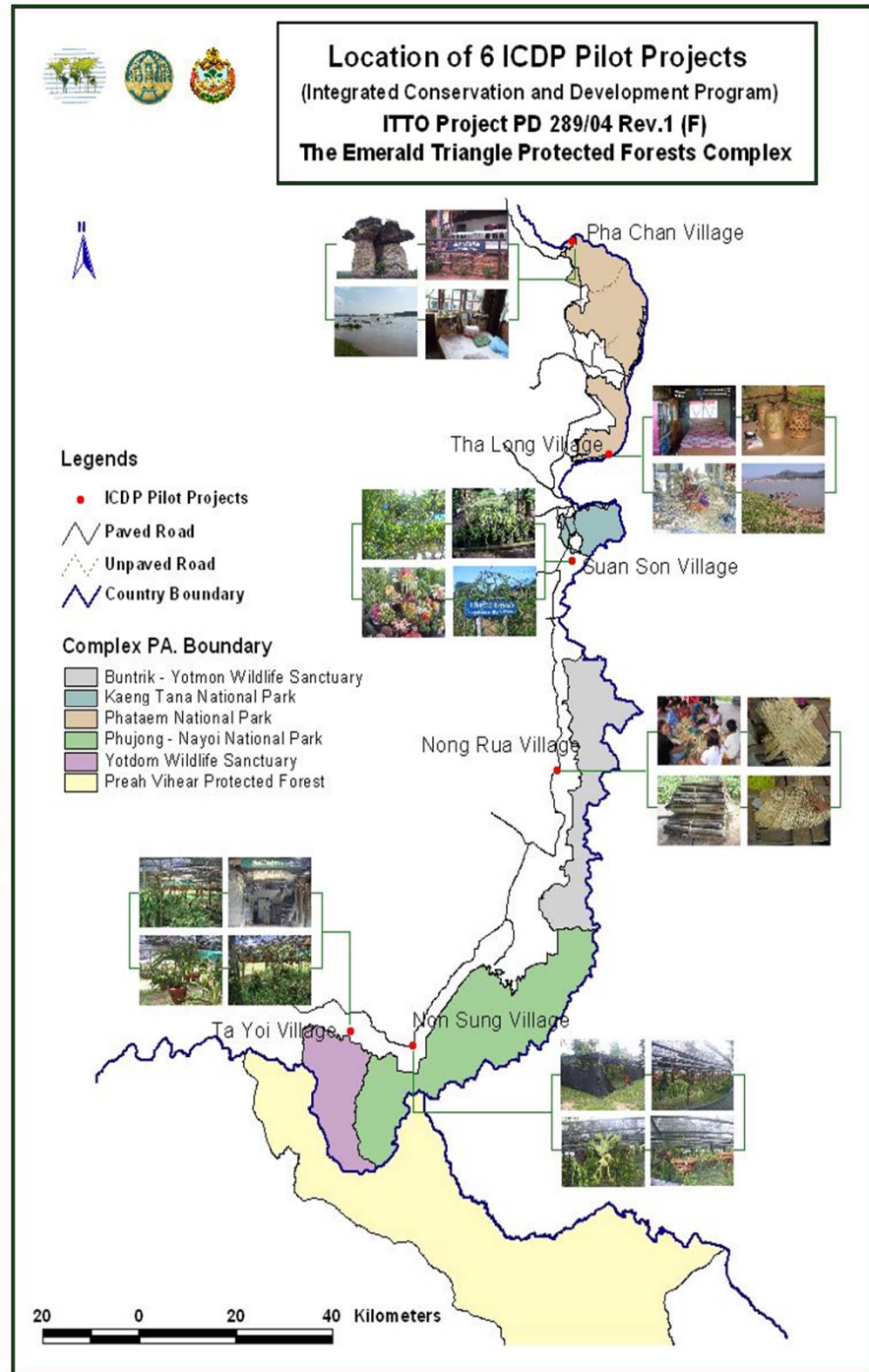
No	Villages	TOTAL USD
6 ICDPs		
1	Ban Huai Mark – Food bank – Agro Forestry	1,500
2	Ban Nong Chad – Food bank – Agro Forestry	1,500
3	Ban Lak Pai – Bamboo Handicraft	1,500
4	Ban Khon Pan -Bamboo Handicraft	1,500
5	Ban None Soong – Ecotour	1,500
6	Ban Nong Waeng – Wild Orchid multiplication	1,500
3 Nurseries		
1	Ban Na Po Klang	24,559.38
2	Ban Nong Pak	23,962.50
3	Ban Kang Reung	22,550.00
2 Tissue Culture Lab Materials		
1	Ban Tha Long (School)	27,968.75
2	Ban Nong Waeng	27,937.50
TOTAL		135,978.13



6 Pilot villages selected

6 local communities fully supported and participated in the ICDP/CLDP as planned, other communities showed their interest and expected to join the program in the next phases.

Activities were planned after community forums and implemented after receiving support funds.



Establishment of Nurseries



Nurseries



Tissue Culture Labs



Establishment of ICDPs



ICDP Project Community Meeting



Raising Community Awareness



Raising Awareness & Livelihood Improvement



Food Bank
& Nursery



Painting Competition
& Home Stay



Bamboo Plants
& Handicrafts

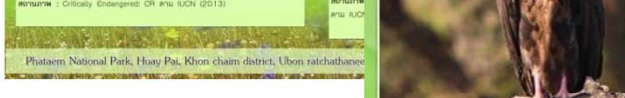
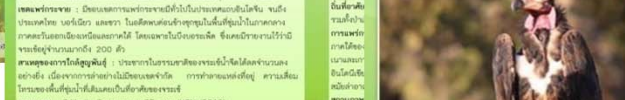
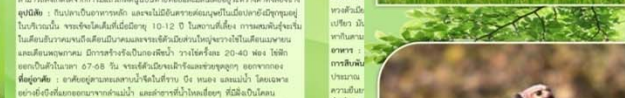


สัตว์ป่าที่สำคัญ
โครงการจัดการผืนป่าอนุรักษ์



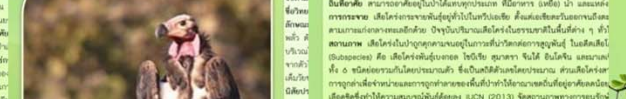
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to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation
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สัตว์ป่าที่สำคัญในพื้นที่
โครงการจัดการผืนป่าอนุรักษ์



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สัตว์ป่าที่สำคัญ
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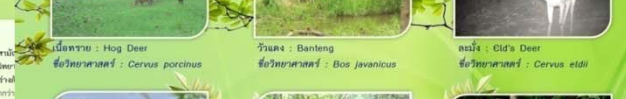
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สัตว์ป่าที่สำคัญในพื้นที่
โครงการจัดการผืนป่าอนุรักษ์สามเหลี่ยมมรกต



Phaetaem National Park, Huay Pai, Khon chain district, Ubon ratchasene

Phaetaem National Park, Huay Pai, Khon chain district, Ubon ratchasene

Phaetaem National Park, Huay Pai, Khon chain district, Ubon

Phaetaem National Park, Huay Pai, Khon chain district, Ubon

Phaetaem National Park, Huay Pai, Khon chain district, Ubon ratchasene Province, Thailand 34220 Tel. +66 81 4829169





Establishment of home gardens by local communities



Exchange visits of local communities to introduce more productive agricultural practices and the manufacture of souvenirs and furniture from NTFPs



Rice Banks



Establishment of community rice banks



Monitoring of rice banks



Rice Banks



Increasing stocks of rice banks



Equipping rice banks with solar panels

Cow Banks



Monitoring community cow banks



Community Wells and Ponds



Provision of study materials and tree seedlings to local primary schools to raise awareness of forest conservation.



Training Workshop on Bamboo





Sustainability

Sustainability at the Institutional and Political Level

- The development and endorsement of a Common Vision that projects the desired outcomes associated with the long-term sustainable management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.
- The continuation of periodic ‘Bilateral’ meetings organized through the Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and the Forestry Administration in Cambodia to increase cooperation, especially with regard to the organization of trans-boundary wildlife law enforcement activities.
- The selective provision of infrastructure, including the construction of a Forest Ranger Patrolling Station in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest to ensure the long-term safety and security of Law Enforcement Teams and provide an effective coordination point for the long-term planning and coordination of law enforcement patrolling activities.

Sustainability at the Technical and Managerial Level

- The continued sharing of research results with resource managers and university researchers throughout the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex that has been institutionalized through the signing of the ‘Letter of Cooperation’ between universities in the three countries.
- The establishment of research programs and facilities to provide information that will contribute to increasing the coordination of forest resource planning and management activities throughout the trans-boundary protected area.

Sustainability

Sustainability at the Local Community Level

- The establishment of numerous livelihood enhancement activities, including rice banks, cow banks, sustainable agroforestry practices, the manufacture of bamboo and other NTFP handicrafts, nature-based tourism, and the multiplication of wild orchids, each of which was provided with initial capital to support continued expansion and long-term increases in local incomes.
- The establishment of plant nurseries to produce and distribute seedlings of native commercial trees and fruit trees to local communities to plant in garden and agroforestry plots to increase agricultural productivity and the construction of community ponds to provide reliable sources of water in the dry season.
- The continuation of awareness raising activities and other means of maintaining communication with local villagers.

Sustainability at the Financial Resources Level

- The procurement of substantial capital equipment to support natural resources conservation and management initiatives throughout the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.
- The supplementary development of programs funded through the government and the private sector to support on-going project activities.

Letter of Cooperation

Letter of Cooperation

On the Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation Research in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex between Cambodia-Lao PDR-Thailand

Common Vision: "By 2025, Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR will have established a common cooperative framework for the conservation and sustainable management of the Trans-boundary Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex of the Greater Mekong Sub-region in order to strengthen the protection of the trans-boundary habitats of wide ranging wildlife species and will endeavor to maintain the viability and ecological integrity of the forest ecosystems and increase its land use and climate changes adaptation capability to transform the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex into an international symbol of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation."

We, the undersigned of the Faculty of Forestry of Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, Faculty of Forestry of Kasetsart University in Thailand and Champasack University in Lao PDR, endorse this agreement to undertake joint Biodiversity, Land Use Research, in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR in a framework of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation area.

We agree to share relevant information that will contribute to the effective conservation of trans-boundary biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.

We shall be responsible for providing the information on wildlife habitats and the conduct of wildlife research and training, and other information and data required to complete the requirements of joint Wildlife Research in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests.

We agree to deploy the necessary personnel to provide the information on wildlife habitats and conduct of the joint Wildlife Research in accordance with the funds committed for that purpose under the ITTO Trans-boundary biodiversity conservation project and shall assist in providing data and information as required.

Name: <u>V. Van Manin</u>	Name: <u>Dr. Phon Savanh Thephasoulithone</u>
Title: <u>Dean of the faculty of</u>	Title: <u>Vice Rector</u>
On behalf of the Faculty of Forestry,	On behalf of Champasack University, Lao PDR
Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia	
Dated: <u>24/07/2015</u>	Dated: <u>24/7/2015</u>
Place: <u>Phnom Penh Hotel</u>	Place: <u>Phnom Penh</u>

Name: N. Bham

Title: Assoc. Prof.

On behalf of the Faculty of Forestry,

Kasetsart University, Thailand

Dated: 24 July 2015

Place: Phnom Penh

Lessons Learned

- Each country involved in a trans-boundary conservation initiative should participate in, and agree to, the development of a shared vision.
- The nature and extent of problems, constraints, and progress varies irregularly across countries.
- Technical cooperation generally precedes political cooperation and much of the early emphasis on activities should be directed to expanding technical cooperation between participating countries.
- The political support of every participating country is essential to the ultimate success of trans-boundary conservation.
- The participation of stakeholders and, in particular, local communities, is a necessary component of ensuring the longevity of on-going activities.
- The capacities and capabilities of stakeholders, especially government authorities and local communities, should be understood prior to developing training programs and organizing conferences and workshops.
- Efforts to raise the awareness of local communities, government officials, and others of the importance of conservation in trans-boundary conservation initiatives should be an on-going process.
- The initial establishment of IDCP initiatives in protected areas should be extended to communities connected to reserve areas outside protected areas to maximize the reductions in dependence on forest resources.
- It is essential that the compatible management plans that are produced are shared with other relevant government agencies and departments to expand outreach and increase political support for the effective implementation of those plans.