

THAILAND NATIONAL PERIODIC REPORT

SECTION I

Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party

I.1. Introduction

- a. State Party

Thailand

- b. Year of ratification of the convention

1987

- c. Organization or entity responsible for the preparation of the report

Royal Forest Department

(present name : **National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department**)

61 Phaholyothin Rd., Chatuchak,

Bangkok, 10900, Thailand

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- d. Date of the report

January 2003

- e. Signature on behalf of state party

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I.2. Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

a. National inventories

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b. Tentative list

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c. Nominations

There are two main Acts in Natural Heritage protection and management :

- 1) Natural Forest Reserved Act B.E. 2507 (AD. 1964) covers all 129 National Parks in Thailand, which consist of 105 National Parks and 24 Marine National Parks.
- 2) Wild Animals reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (AD. 1992) covers all Wildlife Protection in Thailand, including 53 Wildlife sanctuaries with 6 others to be added to the registration list.

I.3. Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

a. General policy development

There are no specific policies on giving cultural and natural heritage a life in the community in relation to World Heritage, but the outcomes of much of the work of and funding by the government are consistent with the objective. For example, a significant amount of funds provided to the agencies involved for the property management is for the purposes of protecting the heritage, of constructing a World Heritage Center, and capacity building and of producing interpretative materials.

Nevertheless, the present Thai constitution has included the right and duty of people/community to look after and help managing the natural resources in his/her community.

Besides, the Royal Forest Department has established a project name Western Forest Complex Ecosystem Management that one of the objectives is to support the local participation by creating the sense of belonging toward the natural resources management

b. Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation

Status of services for protection, conservation and presentation can be explained through the following headlines.

Property management agencies

The Thung Yai - Huai Kha Khaeng World Heritage properties are managed and controlled under the auspices of the Royal Forest Department. Detail of this agency is included in the Section II (site-specific).

Royal Forest Department

The Royal Forest Department is responsible for the overall national overview, coordination, and implementation of the properties under the Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act B. E. 2535 (A. D. 1992). The World Heritage has presently staffed on site by 16 officers including 40 permanent employers or rangers and 495 temporary employers (see details in Table 3 of Section II.4 Management).

Note that the Royal Forest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative is under the reform, the address and name of agency will be later notified.

Financial Statistic

The total amount of budget for the World Heritage in the last 5 years (1997 to 2002) ranges from US\$ million 0.8 – 1.53 annually (see details in Table 2 of Section II.4 Management).

c. Scientific and technical studies and research

A substantial body of scientific, technical and research work has been conducted on both sites of the World Heritage property. Such works are presented or referred to in Section II.4 (site-specific).

Areas where improvement would be desirable

Although there are numbers of over 140 research works in the area, more attention should be given at least the two areas as follows:-

1. Increase the number of quantity and quality researchers,
2. Applied research works that could support the implementation

d. Measures for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation

Implementation of the Natural World Heritage Convention in Thailand occurs by means of following mechanisms:

National legislation

There is no specific legislation that implements the World Heritage Convention in Thailand. However, the main legislation that provides protection for the sanctuaries as the World Heritage properties are, for examples the Forest Act B.E. 2484 (A.D.1941) Natural Forest Reserved Act B.E. 2507 (A.D. 1964) and Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (A.D.1992).

The National legislation is accessible at <http://www.forest.go.th>

Management Plans

Most of the sanctuaries have management plans, some of which are in force under the legislation. As well as the World Heritage property, there was a master plan for the site, yet it has been expired for one year. Site management is now operated using the operational plan of the sanctuaries as the framework.

Agreements

The Royal Forest Department in collaborative with DANIDA have launched a project name "Western Forest Complex Ecosystem Management (WEFCOM)". This project is to consider the World Heritage and surrounding protected areas as a large ecosystem (see details in Section II.4 Management).

Other institutions like WWF and DANIDA have arranged a program on Environmental Education for Forest Complex Protection, which is now terminated.

Local community involvement in the conservation and protection of World Heritage

Local communities have been involved in World Heritage and surrounding protected areas through means of local network. Such local networks called “Provincial Conservation Fora (PCF)” were formed. The members of the fora are from local conservation groups, educational institutes, representatives of villagers, and WEFKOM protected area superintendents. The committees have opportunities to provide for public inputs and to comment on proposed plan and activities.

Involvement of NGOs in the conservation and protection of World Heritage

Non-Government Organizations are particularly active in relation to World Heritage matters, primarily in the areas of environmental education and capacity building. Meanwhile, the government actively assists NGOs by seeking their involvement, along with that of other specific-interest groups.

Policy and legal reform

In 1992, there was an amendment on the Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2503 (A.D. 1960). The amendment of the Act is to accommodate with the present issues and fulfill the requirement from the CITES convention where the RTG had ratified.

Scientific and technical measures taken for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the heritage

Refer to the scientific studies and research in Section II property-specific chapters, the rapid assessment for area management zones is a new initiative. The use of Geographic Information System for property monitoring will increasingly support information for further management.

Financial measures taken for identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the heritage

Refer to the Section I.3.b.- status of services for protection, conservation and presentation and Section II property-specific chapters, financial measures are detailed.

Presentation

The managing agency for the World Heritage property has produced published materials such brochures, maps and other interpretive materials specific to the World Heritage. These materials are referred to the Section II.

e. Training

Training of personnel for the management of World Heritage property is conducted by the property management agency, which in most cases is the Royal Forest Department. Training courses for the World Heritage and the surrounding protected areas are conducted for the rangers and the officers to increase their capacities. The detailed courses are displayed in Section II. Not only training courses for the authorities concerned, there are also separate training courses on conservation for separate target groups such as school children, school teachers, monks, villager headmen, Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO) representatives. The youth has been focused on capacity building. There are training courses on Training for the Trainers in order to spread out the knowledge on nature conservation and protection.

The establishment or development of national/regional centers for training and education in the protection, conservation, and presentation of the heritage

There are two donated buildings being used for the training and nature education in the World Heritage property. One is located at the Huai Mae Dee Ranger Station and one at the headquarter of Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. The year of 2002 the Royal Forest Department is going to set up a nature education center in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. This center will soon play a major role in promoting the values of the World Heritage.

Steps that the State has taken to encourage scientific research as a support to training and educational activities.

The Royal Thai Government supports research and scientific studies by which:

1. Establishment the Khao Nang Ram Research Center in the World Heritage property,
2. Given numbers of permits to staffs and others to conduct their research works,
3. To support the nature education activities by proposed an establishment of the Nature Interpretation Center, by appointing staffs for interpretation works and arranged for the nature interpretation programmes.

I.4. International co-operation and fund raising

The co-operation with other States for identification, protection, conservation, and presentation of the heritage located on their territories.

1. The Royal Thai Government, by the Royal Forest Department, in collaboration with the Government of Denmark has established the WEFKOM project. The project considers the World Heritage and surrounding protected areas as a large ecosystem. The project focuses on 3 approaches as follows:
 1. Adaptive management based on scientific information and ecological monitoring.
 2. Management based on management zones of the forest complex that is now under the zoning process.
 3. Establishment of the provincial conservation forum in each province to participate in management and conservation of the forest complex that comprises the World Heritage and the less of the protected areas

2. Hosting the 2nd Workshop on the World Heritage Managers for South east Asia, Australia and West Pacific in 1998 at the Huai Kha Khaeng Country Home Resort, Uthai Thani province, Thailand, and studied tour to Huai Kha Khang Wildlife Sanctuary.

National, public and private foundations or associations have been established for, and the state has given assistance to, raising funds and donations for the protection of the heritage.

Seub Nakhasathien Foundation has been established in order to support the staffs who work in World Heritage property. The government by the RFD' staff are appointed to join the committee of the Foundation which given assistance to certain activities as well as in given comments on the following:

1. Provide welfare for the staffs' families who have lost their lives in the conservation mission, including scholarships for the successors,
2. Support the communication equipment,
3. Establish the awareness campaign and interpretative materials.

I.5. Education, information and awareness building

The Royal Thai Government takes steps to increase the awareness of decision-makers, and the general public about the protection and conservation of the natural resources in general, including the World Heritage values in specific. These activities have been engaged through numerous means as following examples:

1. Establish the information unit at Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, including the mobile educational unit,
2. The Royal Forest Department is constructing a Nature Interpretative Center at the Huai Kha Khaeng site for awareness building,
3. The government designated December 9th each year to celebrate “the World Heritage Day” and promote the values of Thung Yai – Huai Kha Kheang World Heritage Site. The Uthai Thani provincial office in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department have arranged the celebration including exhibits, music, talks, art and photo contests
4. More details on this item are described in Section II.4.

There are no formal educational courses that officially incorporated into the national education system, however, informal environmental studies in primary and secondary schools have often been mentioned concerning the values of the World Heritage.

I.6. Conclusions and recommended action

a. Main conclusions

Thailand has ratified the Convention in 1987. Then, in 1991, Thung yai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary has been listed in the World Heritage List.

Thung Yai - Huai Kha Khaeng World Heritage property is managed and controlled under the auspices of the Royal Forest Department. The Department is responsible for overall national overview, coordination, and implementation of the properties under the Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act B. E. 2535 (A. D. 1992). The Act has given a high degree of protection to the Heritage and maintained the authenticity/integrity of the Heritage. There is no legislation specific for World Heritage property in Thailand.

The Royal Thai Government supports such activities concerning protection, conservation and presentation to fulfill the convention requirement. To fulfill the requirement, staff and financial support have been arranged. The government takes steps to increase the awareness of decision-makers, and the general public about the protection and conservation of the natural resources in general, including the World Heritage values in specific through media and campaigns.

The Royal Forest Department has initiated the management ecologically sound. With the collaboration with the Government of Denmark, they launched a project called the Western Forest Complex Ecosystem Management (WEFCOM) to promote public participation and science-based ecosystem management. The project area encompasses the World Heritage and the surrounding protected areas being naturally connected as a whole ecosystem.

b. Proposed future action (s)

There are amounts of work that are performed and need the consistent of work such as the awareness programmes, the patrolling of the areas, and so on. More attention may also be given to the following areas:-

1. Ecosystem management approach,
2. Local networking strengthening,
3. Long term monitoring system,
4. Cooperate with Myanmar for the trans-boundary protected areas,
5. Research works focus on the wildlife population, especially the key species and the wildlife habitat.

c. Responsible implementing agency (ies)

The World Heritage comprises two wildlife sanctuaries that are Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary, and Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. The Royal Forest Department is the agency taking full authority of looking after the area. The address of agency implementing of the World Heritage property is below.

Director General
Royal Forest Department
61 Paholyotin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand.
Tel/Fax (66-2) 561-4835

Be note that by 1st October 2002, the agency implementing of the World Heritage property will be under the Department of Parks, Wildlife and Vegetation (be revised).

d. Needs for International assistance

International cooperation can be assisted in the areas as follows:-

- Long Term Monitoring System Set up
- Expert on Nature Education.
- Programmes for the managers and researchers involving the World Heritage conservation to exchange their experiences with other world heritages, as well as to improve capacity of the area management and cooperation.

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Superintendent of Thung Yai Naraesuaen Wildlife Sanctuary	

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