Pang-Ma-O Village

Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province



Pang-Ma-O village has 168 inhabitants (65 households) and is located in the upper sub-watershed area. The area around the village contains healthy forest ecosystems, used for agro-forestry and as community forest. The land in the lower parts of the sub-watershed has largely been converted for more intensive agricultural production.

Bu Phram Subdistrict Prachin Buri Province

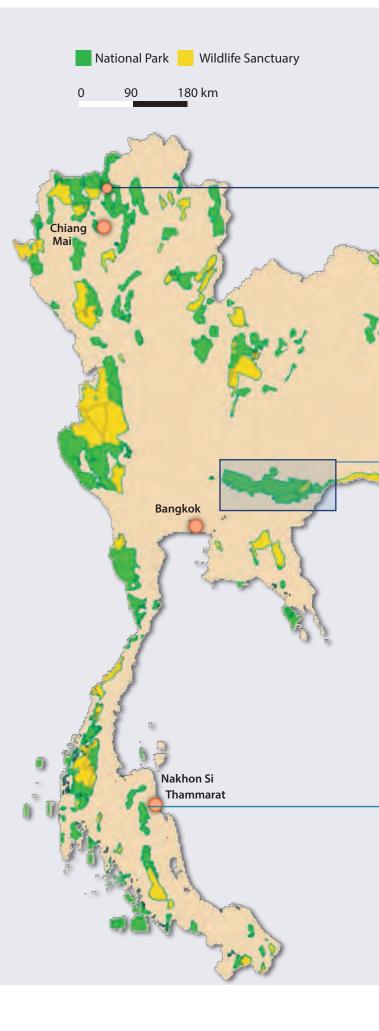


Bu Phram subdistrict is located along Highway 304 between Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks. Both national parks are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai (DPKY) Forest Complex, which covers 615,500 hectares and overall comprises five protected areas.

Klong-Thadee Riverbasin Nakhon Si Thammarat Province



Klong-Thadee river is 63 km long and originates from Khao Luang National Park. It runs down to Khiriwong village (upper watershed), passing several districts and the city of Nakhon Si Thammarat before reaching the Gulf of Thailand.





Enhancing benefits from agro-forestry in Pang-Ma-O village

In Pang-Ma-O village in the upper Ping watershed (Chang Mai province), intact highland forest ecosystems are threatened by the falling price of tea produced by local traditional agro-forestry, the building of resorts and private mansions, and the difficulties of maintaining community forest management. Investment in poor quality fruit seedlings has put the villagers in debt, which creates

pressure to convert or sell forest land. The project initially pursued the idea of a 'debt-for-nature swap' scheme, through which the Bank of Agriculture and Cooperatives (BAAC) would relieve the debt or otherwise support agro-forestry or conservation measures. Various instruments were identified as promising by which beneficiaries of ecosystem services could support forest conservation measures. By mid-2015,

- BAAC implemented the national 'tree bank' scheme which was part of the official CSR policy. It now gives financial support to the farmers' group for establishing a registered 'Tree Bank Fund', setting up a nursery, maintaining local trees in agro-forestry, and planting more trees;
- The collective action of Pang-Ma-O Tree Bank Fund opened up wider economic activities for the group. The farmers are now well-known producers of quality Arabica coffee and Assam tea. They also grow seedlings from coffee and tea plants that are rare in the mountain region. Nearby communities in Chiang Mai and from other provinces in the North order the seedlings in large quantities;
- Studies had begun to assess (1) whether certification of agro-forestry and organic tea and coffee can create additional benefits based on ecosystem maintenance; and (2) how ecosystem services beneficiaries (downstream agriculture, the tap water authority, the tourism industry and wealthy owners of newly-built residential houses) could support community forest management.





Improving the wildlife corridor between Thap Lan and Khao Yai National Parks

In Bu Phram subdistrict (Na Dee district, Prachin Buri province) the main objective was to ensure connectivity of the Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai (DPKY) Forest Complex (UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site). This would be achieved by improving the ecological condition of the land along Highway 304, which separates Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks. Due to the unclear land tenure situation and the lack of trust and collaboration be

tween park management and local communities, the project identified the need for a co-management agreement, within which more specific instruments and benefit-sharing schemes could be developed. These include the promotion of wildlife watching and eco-tourism activities; markets for handicrafts made from native Lan palm leaves; certification schemes for organic agricultural products; financial and other support for farmers who restore grassland and let native tree species grow back; and corporate sponsorship schemes from downstream industries. By mid-2015,

- Thap Lan NP and Bu Phram Sub-district Administration Organization (SAO) agreed to sign a co-management agreement based on the 19th Article of the National Park Act of 1961. Its overall goal is to develop the Bu Phram region as a community-based wildlife tourism destination;
- the Thap Lan NP Park Advisory Committee (PAC) officially endorsed the establishment of the Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration Fund and it will serve temporarily as the Fund's administration body. Funds will be used to compensate for individual commitments to restore currently cultivated land, under individual agreements with the NP. The PAC will monitor the actions;
- income for the Fund was still in negotiation, but expected to come from Thai and international wildlife lovers, Lan palm handicrafts enterprises and other service providers (buses, restaurants, hotels, shops, etc.) who benefit from eco-tourism in Bu Phram. Contributors will receive wildlife conservation stickers and annual certificates showing that they have financially supported wildlife conservation;
- six farmers owning a total of 48 rai (7.68 acres) agreed to stop tapioca cultivation and return the land to nature for a compensation of THB 800-1,200 per rai per year for 5 years.





PES for water regulation in Klong-Thadee river basin (Nakhon Si Thammarat province)

In the Klon-Thadee river basin in Nakhon Si Thammarat (NST) Province, increasing monoculture plantations (e.g. rubber) and forest degradation in the upper watershed means a higher frequency of extreme flooding and drought events. This causes significant negative impacts downstream on river-adjacent communities, farmers, and in particular the city of Nakhon Si Thammarat. The project initiated dialogue be

tween stakeholders upstream, midstream, and downstream and facilitated discussion of a mechanism by which downstream water users would contribute to more sustainable land use in the upper watershed. By mid-2015,

- the Klong-Thadee sub-river basin committee was formed, comprising 51 representatives of different stakeholder groups, and has initiated discussion on
 restoration measures. The list of members and their functions, including monitoring the effectiveness of the PES scheme, are waiting for endorsement by
 the NST governor;
- the Association of Nakhon Si Thammarat Environmental Conservation (ANEC) was officially registered. Its mission is to promote environmental conservation in the province and to develop and administer the Payment for Ecosystem Services Fund;
- NST Municipality agreed to add a voluntary ecological fee to water bills, though this has yet to be approved by NST Municipal Chapter. In 2015-18, the fee is 1 Thai Baht (THB) per 1 cubic meter of tap water per month;
- 45 farmers owning a total of 438 rai (70 hectares) agreed to contribute to ecological restoration on their land. Community-based procedures for defining the
 amount of payments to individual farmers has been tested and accepted (to be reviewed annually). Payments are currently expected to be between THB
 200–1400 per rai per year.