IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessment 2014 **(archived)**
Finalised on 14 August 2014

Please note: this is an archived Conservation Outlook Assessment for Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex. To access the most up-to-date Conservation Outlook Assessment for this site, please visit https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org.

Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex

SITE INFORMATION

Country:
Thailand
Inscribed in: 2005
Criteria:
(x)

Site description:
The Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex spans 230 km between Ta Phraya National Park on the Cambodian border in the east, and Khao Yai National Park in the west. The site is home to more than 800 species of fauna, including 112 mammal species (among them two species of gibbon), 392 bird species and 200 reptile and amphibian species. It is internationally important for the conservation of globally threatened and endangered mammal, bird and reptile species, among them 19 that are vulnerable, four that are endangered, and one that is critically endangered. The area contains substantial and important tropical forest ecosystems, which can provide a viable habitat for the long-term survival of these species. © UNESCO

SUMMARY

2014 Conservation Outlook

Critical

Sufficient threats remain to indicate that a greater level of protection and management control is urgently required in important areas of the property. Unless there is immediate and decisive management action and intervention, the property will continue to be threatened. These threats include the issues of illegal logging, land use and encroachment, ineffective management and wildlife corridors. Enforcement of speed limits on the sections of Highway 304 and other roads that run within the boundaries of the property appear to be ineffective. Similar concerns remain if there is expansion or re-opening of other roads throughout the property. Construction of the Huay Samong Dam continues despite concerns about its impacts. Whilst mitigation activities have been implemented in collaboration between DNP and RID, concerns remain in regards to the management of the area post construction, plans for the introduction of fish species and the impact of flooding on areas of the property. Large areas found within the current boundaries of the property have suffered heavily from encroachment into forested areas and subsequent land use change. The impact of resort developments within the boundaries and the encroachment into forest areas has not improved and continues to impact the integrity of the property. Threats to the integrity of the property remain considerable and given the limited progress in regards to a number of the threats, the emergence of new and significant threats and the continued inability to effectively address these issues the conservation outlook for this property can be assessed as critical.

Current state and trend of VALUES

Critical
Trend: Data Deficient

The 2014 IUCN mission affirms a number of issues highlighted as threats to the OUV of the property in previous SOC reports, monitoring mission reports and decisions made by the World Heritage Committee. While progress has been

made on a number of these threats, a lack of updated monitoring results makes it difficult to measure the impacts of measures taken on the biodiversity values for which the property was inscribed.

Overall THREATS

Very High Threat

There are four major areas of threats to the integrity of the site:
impacts from the upgrade of Highway 304, both outside and within the site, without the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures; construction and impacts of the Huay Samong Dam without the commitment of appropriate resources to ensure mitigation, enforcement and anti-encroachment actions are sustainable; continued encroachment with no close monitoring resulting in confusion as to the magnitude of the problem; growing tourism use.
Some progress has been made in regards to a number of the threats however sufficient threats remain to indicate that a greater level of protection and management control is urgently required in important areas of the property. Unless there is immediate and decisive management action and intervention, the property will continue to be threatened.

Overall PROTECTION and MANAGEMENT

Serious Concern

As with the management of external threats to the property concerns exist with the capacity to deal with internal issues. These include impacts from upgrading works on Highway 304 in terms of traffic volumes, enforcement of speed limits and provision for wildlife movement; encroachment and illegal logging. Levels of encroachment appear to be increasing since the inscription of the property and illegal logging has also increased dramatically. Overall, only a relatively small number of threats have been addressed by any concrete action; namely the extent of cattle grazing and implementation of activities to mitigate impacts during construction of the Hua Samong Dam. Levels of funding, staff and capacity are insufficient to keep pace with mounting threats to the property.

FULL ASSESSMENT

Description of values

Values

World Heritage values

▶ **Significant natural habitats for a diversity of fauna species, including threatened and endangered species**
Criterion:(x)

The Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex includes five protected areas covering 615,500 ha. The property contains more than 800 fauna species, including 112 species of mammals, 392 species of birds and 200 species of reptiles and amphibians. It is internationally important for the conservation of globally threatened and endangered mammal, bird and reptile species including one Critically Endangered, four Endangered and 19 Vulnerable species. The area protects the last substantial area of the globally important tropical forest ecosystem of the Central Indochina biogeographic province in northeast Thailand, and thus provides a viable area for the long-term survival of endangered, globally important species, including tiger, elephant, leopard cat and banteng. The unique range overlap of two species of gibbon, including the vulnerable Pileated Gibbon, add to the global value of the complex. (IUCN Evaluation, 2005; SoOUV, 2013; IUCN Mission, 2014).

▶ **Conservation of migratory bird species**
Criterion:(x)

The complex plays an important role for the conservation of migratory species including the Near-Threatened Spot-billed Pelican (Pelecanus philippensis) and Endangered Greater Adjutant (Leptoptilos dubius). (IUCN

Evaluation, 2005; SoOUV, 2013)

Other important biodiversity values

► Important watershed area

The Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex acts as a critically important watershed for Thailand due to its high annual rainfall. The rainfall drains into and feeds five of the country’s major rivers: Nakhon Nayok River, Prachin Buri River, Lamta Khong river, Muak Lek River, and Mun River. (SOUV, 2013)

Assessment information

Threats

Current Threats

Very High Threat

Only a relatively small number of threats have been addressed by any concrete action which is resulting in mitigation; namely the extent of cattle grazing and implementation of activities to mitigate impacts during construction of the Huay Samong Dam. There are concerns that the State Party has failed to make progress in terms of addressing the majority of the issues raised previously by the Committee and IUCN/UNESCO Missions. Of particularly serious concern are enforcement of regulations in regards to land use change, encroachment and boundary issues; poaching and the dramatic escalation of illegal loggingand the impact of road upgrading.

► Roads/ Railroads

High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

Expansion works on Highway 304 have been undertaken to upgrade access

from two to four lanes. This road is a busy highway that separates Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks. The recommendation to construct effective wildlife corridors essential to maintaining the integrity of the site has not yet been carried out. (IUCN SOC,2012; IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011; IUCN Mission, 2014).
Construction of effective wildlife corridors would have a net positive benefit on wildlife movement such as the movement of tigers between Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks as these parks are currently separated by the existing road corridor (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).
At the time of the monitoring mission in January, 2014 the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the section of Highway 304 from km 26 to 29 had been approved while the EIA for the section from km 42 to 57 was awaiting approval (scheduled for early 2014) (IUCN Mission, 2014; IUCN SOC, 2014).

► Dams/ Water Management or Use

High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

The Thai Cabinet approved the EIA for the construction of the Huay Samong Dam in October 2009. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011)
The State Party has made efforts to mitigate the impact on the property from the construction of the Huay Samong Dam. It is essential that there is continuation of these efforts during and post construction. Concerns pertain to the impact of increased access following inundation, introduction of non-native fish species, increased human occupation associated with construction and potential impacts on remaining populations of Siamese Crocodile. Cooperation between relevant authorities specifically the Royal Irrigation Department (RID) and DNP needs to continue with a view to improving enforcement of mitigation actions both during and after construction. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2014)

► Commercial hunting

Very High Threat
Inside site

Poaching of wildlife is a chronic issue in some areas where it is reported as widespread and frequent (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014). Poorly

equipped and resourced staff are unable to combat poaching resulting in the depletion of some large mammals and bird species from the areas east of Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks. (IUCN SOC 2012; IUCN Stakeholder Consultation,2014)

► Logging/ Wood Harvesting

Very High Threat
Inside site

The property is home to significant populations of Siamese Rosewood (Dalbergia cochinchinensis). It is a hardwood timber species highly sought after and commanding significant prices ($95,000 per m3 in China) (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014). Illegal logging of rosewood occurs in all parks. The domestic laws and penalties relating to its collection are inadequate (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).
Poaching of Agarwood (Aquilaria spp) is rampant inside national parks in the Forest Complex. The majority of Agarwood in the parks, especially Khao Yai National Park, has been depleted.(IUCN SOC, 2012)
Rosewood is classified as Vulnerable by IUCN and was recently listed under Appendix II under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Rosewood poaching has occurred previously in the property but at fairly low levels. Poaching operations have become increasingly sophisticated and violent confrontations occur. The rate at which poaching has increased in the last 12 months has outpaced the ability of park officials to respond and address this issue (IUCN Mission, 2014)

► Tourism/ visitors/ recreation

Very High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

At the time of inscription it was noted that the impact from tourism pressure was great and needed to be addressed by developing and implementing a ‘whole of complex’ tourism strategy. (IUCN Evaluation, 2005)
The number of tourist visits to the site doubled from 700,000 in 2001 to 1.4 million in 2006. These high visitor levels should be managed through appropriate visitor use planning, based on a careful assessment of the site’s capacity. The State Party reported that a Tourism Management Plan was in place, however this plan is considered inadequate in identifying, avoiding

and mitigating the potential negative impacts of tourism on the site's OUV. (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2011). The property therefore continues to lack an up to date, long-term tourism management plan that addresses the issue of increasing tourism and its related impacts. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2014)
Large-scale encroachment has significantly increased since inscription, along the northern boundary of TLNP. The local community has made efforts to prevent this from being designated as a National Park as they claim ownership. (IUCN SOC, 2011)
Encroachment remains a major threat to the integrity of the property and it is important that the State Party build a long-term plan that adequately and urgently addresses the situation. An assessment of land use changes and encroachment into the property since inscription is urgently needed. This should include location, magnitude, previous land use and their evolution since the inscription of the property, using satellite imagery analysis. This mapping should also differentiate between land use in regards to agriculture, settlements and resort development. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2014)

► Livestock Farming / Grazing

Low Threat
Inside site

Grazing of domestic cattle in the Khonburi and Soeng Sang area has decreased from 10,000 down to 2000 head of cattle. (IUCN SOC Consultation, 2012). The State Party report numbers have further fallen to 253 (SP Report, 2014). Significant steps have been made to reduce the number of illegal settlements and cattle numbers, however, priority efforts need to continue to reduce illegal grazing. The State Party has made efforts to engage with illegal settlements that are grazing herds within the property. Ongoing efforts are needed to manage this threat through increased communication and dialogue with the district agriculture department and through supporting small family groups to secure land outside the property.(IUCN Mission, 2014)

Potential Threats

Data Deficient

Despite commendable efforts to address large scale encroachment the potential remains for this threat to grow. Protracted processes to resolve land

tenure and rights issues hampered by poor information on boundaries is compounding the potential for the property's values to be seriously eroded. Aside from the threats posed by existing developments such as the widening of Highway 304 and the construction of the Huay Samong Dam, are reports of potential additional threats linked to roads and dams. Any additional road reopening or upgrading works would likely have serious adverse impacts on the property's integrity. Reports of new dam development proposals such those within the Klang Dong area of Ta Phraya National Park would similarly have negative impact on the property's intactness and ecological function.

► Dams/ Water Management or Use

Data Deficient
Inside site

IUCN has received information that a dam in the Klang Dong area of Ta Phraya National Park is under consideration, which, if approved, would inundate important wildlife habitats in the property (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014; IUCN SOC, 2014)

► Roads/ Railroads

Data Deficient
Inside site
Outside site

Concerns exist over suggestions of the reopening of roads currently closed and the upgrading of other roads (Route 3462 and Highway 348). Such potential activities would open up access and bisect an area of high biodiversity and have significant impacts on the property. DNP has indicated that approval for this re-opening would not be granted. However, it remains an issue of concern and requires further clarification from the State Party (IUCN Mission, 2014).

Protection and management

Assessing Protection and Management

► Education and interpretation programs

Mostly Effective

Whist there are limited education and interpretative programs of an ad hoc nature in place, there is a need for more programs to be developed and implemented, particularly within local communities. (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011)

▶ Relationships with local people

Some Concern

Varies from poor to good but with no involvement in site management (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011)

▶ Legal framework and enforcement

Mostly Effective

The four National Parks included in the complex were declared under the National Parks Act B.E 2504 (1961) and the Wildlife Sanctuary under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (1992). Other relevant laws and regulations in regards to National Park and Reserved Area Management in Thailand, are in place. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011). Thailand has relatively strong protected area legislation.

▶ Integration into regional and national planning systems

Serious Concern

Responsibility for the management of all national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in Thailand currently sits with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE). This department was established in 2002 and as such the overall institutional framework for management of the property has not significantly changed since inscription of the property in 2005. Each of the five protected areas comprising the property is managed by a Superintendent. Over time rresponsibility for coordination of management has moved within individual offices of the Department. (IUCN Mission, 2014).
A wide range of other government agencies are involved in development activities such as transport infrastructure, irrigation, dams and rural development. Furthermore illegal poaching and logging operations which are impacting the property have wider national and regional implications and

also involve multiple agencies. All of this highlights the importance of collaborative management approaches and harmonized objectives. (IUCN Evaluation, 2005; IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011; IUCN Mission 2014)
Recent approval of changes to the administrative structure within DNP has led to the formation of an official World Heritage Facilitation Division that will now hold primary responsibility for coordinating responses and for implementation of the Management Plan for the property. (IUCN Mission, 2014). It is hoped this will assist in institutional coordination.

► Management system

Some Concern

A revised management plan for the property has been prepared to update the site’s original 2006 plan, however, this plan has not yet been translated into English. Despite the updated plan, details regarding the resources available to ensure long-term management effectiveness remain unclear. It is also unclear how new management structures will be established and relate to the property as a whole.
The State Party has published a Tourism Management Plan in 2011 as an annex to its report. (SP Report, 2011) however the updated management plan lacks any mention of the negative impacts of increased tourism and the subsequent potential threats to the site’s OUV (IUCN SOC, 2012).

► Management effectiveness

Serious Concern

At the time of the previous monitoring mission it was reported that there was an ongoing need for an updated and revised management plan for the complex, that involves all relevant ministries and agencies (e.g. forestry, highways, agriculture, irrigation, tourism) and stakeholders at both national and local levels (province and district authorities, NGOs, local communities, private sector) and includes development of long term management policies. (IUCN SOC, 2012; IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011). No significant improvement in management of the property was obvious since the previous 2011 monitoring mission with a lack of resources and coordination with local authorities consistently highlighted as an issue for the property (IUCN Mission, 2014).

► Implementation of Committee decisions and recommendations

Serious Concern

The State Party has made progress in terms of addressing a number of the issues raised by the Committee, including the extent of cattle grazing; efforts to combat encroachment; measures to mitigate the impacts of the Huay Samong Dam and efforts to halt the illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood. Nevertheless efforts to address these complex issues have not been totally effective as the escalation of threats has outpaced the capacity of management to address them. In addition a number of new potential emerging threats from further road upgrading and dam construction have arisen.
Of note is the severe and escalating threat of illegal logging and the continued pressure from encroachment, including resort developments, both of which represent a clear ascertained danger to the OUV of the property.

► Boundaries

Serious Concern

From the time of the site’s inscription in 2005 the boundaries of the site needed to be refined due to issues of encroachment and inappropriate areas being included within the property. Although a commitment to a boundary adjustment was made by the State Party in 2007 it has still not been addressed. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011)
There continues to be a need for the State Party to consider a detailed zoning plan for the property to ensure core areas of habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection. Additionally is the need to legally designate an appropriate buffer zone around the property to provide an added layer of protection against inappropriate developments. A clear demarcation of the new boundaries in the field is also recommended. (IUCN Mission, 2014)

► Sustainable finance

Some Concern

Approximately 50% of funding is obtained from the government at a National level with the remaining 50% coming equally from tourists and commercial operators within the site. (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011). Levels of funding,

staff and capacity are considered to be inadequate to keep pace with mounting threats to the property (IUCN Mission, 2014; IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).

▶ Staff training and development

Some Concern

Whilst all staff are full-time and paid, only 15% are permanent with the remaining 85% being seasonally employed. According to the State Party the staffing resources are inadequate. (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011). This view is supported by the 2014 Mission and various stakeholder reports (IUCN Mission, 2014; IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).

▶ Sustainable use

Some Concern

The site remains under heavy pressure from encroachment and neighbouring land use practices in particular from tourism in Khao Yai. Cattle grazing has been significantly reduced but still continues within the boundaries of the site. Park staff, in conjunction with local communities and settlements, have made positive steps towards removal of all domestic cattle. (IUCN/UNESCO Mission, 2011; SP Report, 2014)

▶ Tourism and interpretation

Mostly Effective

The visitor centre interpretative programs are deemed to be adequate but there is a lack of further programs, guides, and information booths within the site. (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011)

▶ Monitoring

Serious Concern

Monitoring programmes are similarly hampered by lack of resources. The conservation status of various other species is under threat from poaching and ineffective law enforcement. Several NGOs work in close partnership with DNP to undertake training and improve capacity (IUCN Mission, 2014, IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).

► Research

Serious Concern

There appears to be little or no planned program of research at the site directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of OUV. (UNESCO Periodic Report, 2011)

Overall assessment of protection and management

Serious Concern

As with the management of external threats to the property concerns exist with the capacity to deal with internal issues. These include impacts from upgrading works on Highway 304 in terms of traffic volumes, enforcement of speed limits and provision for wildlife movement; encroachment and illegal logging. Levels of encroachment appear to be increasing since the inscription of the property and illegal logging has also increased dramatically. Overall, only a relatively small number of threats have been addressed by any concrete action; namely the extent of cattle grazing and implementation of activities to mitigate impacts during construction of the Hua Samong Dam. Levels of funding, staff and capacity are insufficient to keep pace with mounting threats to the property.

► Assessment of the effectiveness of protection and management in addressing threats outside the site

Serious Concern

Previous State Party Reports, IUCN/UNESCO Missions and various stakeholder consultations reinforce concerns regarding the effectiveness of management in addressing threats which emanate from outside of the site. These include development infrastructure such as dams and road transport upgrades; poaching and illegal logging pressure which emanates from external drivers of demand; and the aspirations of tourism operators to capitalize on the WH site as a valuable tourism asset. Of particular concern is the rapidly growing poaching of Siamese Rosewood - camera traps have detected a nearly 10 fold increase in activity within one year (IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014) and the inability of management to control this. Similarly encroachment pressure, including resort development, continues to increase

and, whilst management responses have been unprecedented, efforts are failing to stem external forces which drive this (IUCN SOC, 2014; IUCN Mission, 2014; IUCN Stakeholder Consultation, 2014).
Current impacts could be potentially compounded by reports of possible new dam developments and road reopenings/upgradings.

State and trend of values

Assessing the current state and trend of values

World Heritage values

▶ **Significant natural habitats for a diversity of fauna species, including threatened and endangered species**
Critical
Trend:Data Deficient

Data is variable on the status of key species within the property such as Indochinese Tiger, Asian Elephant, Banteng, Siamese Crocodile and a range of other IUCN Red Listed species. In the wider context of declining habitats within SE Asia it is clear that the importance of this over 600,000 ha forest complex is more important than ever for a wide range of rare and endangered species. Issues of encroachment, road construction, illegal logging and poaching impact on the site’s value as significant habitat for the more than 800 faunal species present and its globally important tropical forest ecosystem. Despite commendable efforts by the State Party it is evident that the conditions of integrity and current status of management remain of concern as is the apparent lack of tangible progress made by the State Party in addressing the majority of issues. Whilst efforts have been wide ranging only those directed at reducing illegal grazing and mitigating the impacts from the Huay Samong Dam have been effective (IUCN Mission, 2014). Controls related to the upgrading for Highway 304 appear not to be effective and measures to enhance wildlife connectivity are yet to be implemented. Serious impacts arising from the escalating threat of illegal logging and continued pressure from large scale encroachment pose the greatest threat to the site’s values (IUCN SOC, 2014)

► Conservation of migratory bird species

Data Deficient
Trend:Data Deficient

The justification noted above more than likely applies also to the values of the property for migratory species as much as resident populations. That said, there is scant data available on the specific conservation status of key migratory bird species.

Other important biodiversity values

► Important watershed area

The Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex acts as a critically important watershed for Thailand due to its high annual rainfall. The rainfall drains into and feeds five of the country’s major rivers: Nakhon Nayok River, Prachin Buri River, Lamta Khong river, Muak Lek River, and Mun River. (SOUV, 2013)

Summary of the Values

► Assessment of the current state and trend of World Heritage values

Critical

Trend: Data Deficient

The 2014 IUCN mission affirms a number of issues highlighted as threats to the OUV of the property in previous SOC reports, monitoring mission reports and decisions made by the World Heritage Committee. While progress has been made on a number of these threats, a lack of updated monitoring results makes it difficult to measure the impacts of measures taken on the biodiversity values for which the property was inscribed.

► Assessment of the current state and trend of other important biodiversity values

Data Deficient

Trend: Data Deficient

Important watershed area. The site includes the catchment for five of Thailand’s major rivers. Specific data has not been sourced to assess the

baselines and trends in water quantity and quality emanating from the site. However it is likely that threats such as large scale encroachment, road construction, tourist resort development, dam construction and human occupation will impact upon hydrological patterns and processes.

Additional information

Key conservation issues

▶ Illegal Logging

Regional

Illegal logging of Rosewood within the site is alarmingly on the increase. Illegal logging operations are armed and becoming increasingly sophisticated and violent. Site managers are unable to keep pace with this threat.

▶ Land encroachment

Local

Local communities encroaching on land within the site and the construction of illegal structures. Large scale encroachment including for tourism resort development. Unclear land tenure and rights with complex and protracted resolution processes.

▶ Wildlife poaching

Regional

Evidence indicates that poaching of wildlife in the Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex is widespread and frequent. Flagship species are targeted as well as prey species for large carnivores.

▶ Expansion works of Highway 304

Local

Highway 304 runs through the joint boundary of Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks in two sections. This expansion provides a threat to wildlife with no suitable wildlife corridors in place due to increased traffic at unregulated

speeds. Impacts from secondary road access. Threat of additional road opening and widening projects.

▶ Huay Samong Dam

National

Cabinet approval for EIA for the construction of the Huay Samong Dam occurred in October 2009. Site preparation works underway with the likelihood of impact on the site through increased access for poachers, flooding of forest areas and further encroachment/impact associated with dam construction. Threat of additional dams which could impact on the property.

▶ Cattle Grazing

Local

Cattle grazing by local communities continues within the site. Of greater concern is the release of cattle for long term grazing, by commercial agricultural companies. However, recent efforts have reduced the extent of cattle grazing within the site.

Benefits

Understanding Benefits

▶ Outdoor recreation and tourism

The waterfalls and creeks within the property, together with the variety of flora and fauna and dramatic forested landscapes, attract millions of visitors every year for recreation and education purposes. (SOUV, 2013)

▶ Water provision (importance for water quantity and quality)

The Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, with its high annual rainfall, acts as a critically important watershed for Thailand, draining into and feeding five of the country’s major rivers: Nakhon Nayok river, Prachin Buri river, Lamta Khong river, Muak Lek river, and Mun river. (SOUV, 2013)

Summary of benefits

The property coincides with an area of heavy rainfall and acts as a critically important watershed for the entire country. Significant opportunities exist to quantify this ecosystem service value and argue for the protection of the site's OUV as a contribution to watershed quality. The value of a healthy functioning natural system of this extent is critical to supporting human activities and should be factored into national decision-making regarding conservation and development.
The importance of this site for Thailand's substantial tourism industry should be promoted to ensure that this is well managed and sustainable and that benefits flow back to local people.

Projects

Compilation of active conservation projects

№	Organization/ individuals	Project duration	Brief description of Active Projects
1	DNP, GIZ, UFZ		"Enhancing the economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service in Thailand / South-East Asia (ECO-BEST)". Project supporting updating of the site management plan.
2	Freeland Foundation		Various cooperative projects with DNP and others including: • Enforcement Capacity Building (in partnership with DNP) • Park-based Monitoring Capacity Building (in partnership with DNP) • Wildlife Monitoring (in partnership with DNP) • Conservation-based Community Development

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