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## TRAINING REPORT

### STUDY TOUR - COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING IN PROTECTED AREAS CONDUCTED IN THAILAND

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COMMUNITY FORESTRY TRAINING CENTER FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, THAILAND

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**Report**  
**Study Tour for Afghanistan Delegates on**  
**Community Benefit Sharing in Protected Area**  
**22 to 28 November 2009**

**1. Background**

Band-e-Amir, the first national park established in 2008, is a series of six lakes in central Bamyan Province. With support from USAID and its implementing partner the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a local institution has been formed to manage the park and helped to prepare a park management plan. Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) is a community-government partnership institution that WCS helped set up. It functions as a bridge between the government and local people from more than 13 villages lying within the park area. Experience around the world has demonstrated that involving people living in and around protected areas and national parks result in good management practices.

As a follow-up activity and in support of the previous actions on Revenue Sharing Workshop that was held in Dubai in August 2009, a third activity was planned. This is to facilitate a learning activity for the community about benefit sharing in protected areas through a Study Tour. ECODIT under the Biodiversity Support Program for the National Environmental Protection Agency (BSP/NEPA) launched a study tour for relevant key actors involved in the management of the Afghanistan's first National Park – Band-e-Amir...

ECODIT organized the Study Tour jointly with RECOFTC and the Community Based Tourism Institute (CBT-I), to explore approaches and learn from the experiences of community participation and benefit sharing mechanism in protected area.

**2. Objectives**

The study tour was aimed to provide opportunity for BAPAC members to explore opportunities for community participation in Protected Area Management and existing benefit sharing models in Thailand.

**3. Program Overview**

Within a five-day program, participants had the opportunities to explore the concepts of people participation in National Park management and benefit sharing mechanisms. The Study Tour was designed in a way that participants had a chance to listen to resource persons, exposure to the two (20 National Parks, as well as interact with various communities living within the national parks.

Lectures and presentation came from the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University; Dr. Datchanee Emphandu – on the situation of National Park Management in Thailand; the Office of National Park Wildlife and Plants Conservation where the participants met the Director General and heard a presentation on the community involvement and benefit sharing in national parks. , Doi Inthanon National Park, whose presentation showed the rich biodiversity of the said Park, how management of the park is being done, stressing on the fact that successful management was not only done with the implementation of the law, but also asking the communities to participate in the governments program for protection of national parks. An orientation on how the Doi Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary is being managed was given by the Park Supervisor. A presentation and exchange between Mae Na Sub-district Administrative Organization was held, then Interaction with the community representatives from Ban Mae Klang Luang, Ban Hua Tung, was also done where active exchanges of ideas was realized. And lastly an input on community based tourism was made by the Marketing Officer of CBT-I. Please see the program schedule in Annex 1.

#### **4. Participants**

The study tour program was organized for 10 participants from BAPAC members, NEPA, WCS, and BSP/ECODIT staff. Please see the list of participants in Annex 2.

#### **5. Key lesson learned**

At the end of the program, participants reflect what they have learned from the study tour and field visit.

##### **a. Benefits from People Participation in Protected Area Management**

Participants identified key benefits that local people and government have gained from allowing people participation in protected area management. They have found that both local people and government have gained significant benefits.

##### **Benefits for local people are**

- Incomes and opportunity for employments
- Changing from opium cultivation into permanent farming
- Making people both local and outsiders understand each other better
- Creating opportunities for experience exchange
- Reducing conflict between government and local people
- Improving local livelihoods
- Ensuring local people health
- Accessing to resources i.e. land, food, water, timber, fuel wood for household consumption
- Accessing to opportunities for the development of facilities and infrastructures
- Receiving opportunities for capacity building program
- Gaining recognition from government on conservation practices but yet legally recognized
- Ensuring land security especially for those who live inside of the protected area

##### **Benefits for Government...**

- Incomes from tax, royalty, fees
- Reducing conflict between local people and government and gaining better relationship
- Under good cooperation with local people, it will reduce illegal cases
- Gaining supports from local people to natural resource protection and conservation
- Becoming more secured while working in the field
- Increasing biodiversity and natural resources
- Saving budget and using less number of personnel

##### **b. Forms of people participation in protected area management**

Participants reflected what they have experienced from the field visit by identifying different forms of people participation. Local people have been involved in natural resource conservation and management through;

- People volunteer i.e. making fire line, conducting fire protection, planting trees on special occasions

- Formation of People council or committee as an advisory committee for park management
- Participating in meeting or forum on natural resource conservation
- Being government labors in the national park or wildlife sanctuary
- Using religious leaders in extending conservation values and concepts
- Using local rules and regulations to support environmental and NR conservation and management
- Enhancing local school curriculum by developing and integrating environmental topics as part of the subject and media material
- Developing learning center for youth, and other people
- Developing projects for natural resource conservation. These projects are Check Dam construction, conservation campaign, sign-board, forest fore protection and so on.
- Forming network for watershed management, tourism management, and network of nature lovers

Each of these forms has both advantages and disadvantages

Examples of advantages and disadvantages

*People volunteer*

Advantages

1. willingness from local people
2. save government budget and resources
3. create ownership among local people

Disadvantages

1. not reliable
2. not good quality
3. people loose their opportunity for living

*People council or committee*

Advantages

1. Reduce conflict
2. become more unity
3. council plays bridging role between local people and government

Disadvantages

1. It could happen that the government dominates agenda
2. The council may not represent local people
3. The elite capture may mis-use power in the council

### **c. Lessons from the Interaction and Field Visit**

Participants were asked to share critical lessons: **What have we learned from the field visit?**

Below are the key lessons, participants shared at the end of the study tour program.

*We learned....*

- How to work with local people
- That cooperation between people and government will lead to good results
- We have to treat our tourists not as customers but guests
- Local people have potential to do their work. Check dam is a good example of people initiative.

- There are a number of classification among rangers
- To ensure sustainable resource management, local people must take more responsibilities
- We must use local approaches not only using law enforcement in sustainable natural resource management
- Ensure honest , trust, and equity among stakeholders will lead to positive results
- There are different ways to develop resource ownership
- Through fair benefit sharing, people can work together
- An important success for CBT is good local guide
- We can build good relationship between government and people through exchange views and information
- Group work is much more effective than individual
- Using zonation for resource management is one of alternatives for resource management
- In responding to people’s needs, we need to prioritize them
- Project must be developed upon people’s needs
- People can do if they are motivated... such King of Thailand is the collective motivation for local people
- We can turn problems to opportunities
- Decentralization is an important factor for us but it requires capacity building for government and local people at all levels
- Strategic plan for NRM must be developed with local people
- Using local knowledge and beliefs in natural conservation is a powerful approach for NRM

## 6. Action Plans

Participants prepared their own action plans indicating how to use the lessons learned from the study tour into their working context.

Work plan for 6-months Onward

Agency/Org	What	Why	How	W/ & Whom	When
National Environmental Protection Agency - NEPA	1. Prepare a presentation and a report about the study tour.	To share the gains, experiences and knowledge from the study tour with NEPA Officials and Staff	Inviting and Gathering NEPA officials and Staff	NEPA Officials and Staff	Within the first month after travel.
	2. Commence	For better and	During	NEPA	Continuing

	the development of strategies for implementation, plans and policies based and with considerations of the learning's from the Study Tour	coherent legal documents	consultations and meetings in this regard	Officials, Staff and Tourism Agency	effort
	3. Advising and consulting based on the learning from the study tour	Practicing the result oriented practice on study tour.	Continuous discussion.	NEPA Officials and Staff	As needed
	4. To assist BAPAC realized their learning's of the study tour	Realization of Government assistance and partnership with local management board.	Open consultation and active participation in meetings and other venues for discussions.	NEPA Official and Staff	As needed
	5. Prepare a lecture about ECO-Tourism	To establish coordination between organizations implementing Band-e-Amir management plan on tourism.	Establishing social and public or local organization like women's group, youth and local gender.	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, NEPA, District Councils, Tourism Department	The second three months
	6. Create a sense of ownership with the people	Share experience with the tourism department	Encourage the development ECO tourism strategy	Department of tourism	Continuing
		To create more benefits and attract tourist Better conservation of natural resources	To implement natural management plan	All stakeholders	

World Conservation Society	Facilitate contracting agreements for local communities	Adopting the best option on revenue sharing as identified by representatives of the government of Afghanistan.	Working with ECODIT and their legal consultant on the drafting of a contract between government and the BAPAC	Assist in registering community people with BAPAC as a social organization.	Within six months
BAPAC	Prevent wood collection within the protected area and transfer to outside	To protect and reserve natural resources	To prevent cutting of plants	People representative, BAPAC, and Government.	6 mos.

### Annex 1: Study Tour Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Overnight</b>
Sun 22 Nov 09	Arrival of delegates from Afghanistan Pick-up arrangement	RECOFTC Dormitory Tel: +662 9405700
Mon 23 Nov 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program orientation</li> <li>• Presentation on National Park Management in Thailand</li> <li>• Courtesy call for the Director General of the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plants Conservation</li> <li>• Presentation on community involvement and benefit sharing in National Park</li> </ul> Travel to Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai Province <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinner at Doi Inthanon National Park</li> </ul>	Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai Province Travel by air TG
Tue 24 Nov 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on community involvement in Doi Inthanon National Park Management with Park Manager</li> <li>• Community perception in Park Benefit Sharing with community representatives</li> <li>• Community Fund for Development with representatives from Sub-district Administrative Organization and Mae Klang Lung Village</li> </ul> Travel back to Chiang Mai	Hotel in Chiang Mai
Wed 25 Nov 09	Travel to Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community involvement in Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary Management with Wildlife Sanctuary Manager</li> <li>• Community Fund for Development with Local Government Organization with Sub-district Administrative Organization</li> <li>• Community perception in Benefit Sharing with representatives of local people</li> </ul>	Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary, Chiang Mai Province
Thu 26 Nov 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community based tourism development program with CBTI</li> </ul> Travel back to Bangkok	Travel by TG RECOFTC
Fri 27 Nov 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program reflection for key learning points</li> <li>• Action points for Afghanistan</li> <li>• Wrap-up and closing</li> </ul>	RECOFTC
Sat 28 Nov	Departure of delegates	

## **Annex 2: List of Delegates from Afghanistan**

1. Mr. Yamin Najibullah – NEPA
2. Mr. Akbar Haqbin Mohammad – NEPA
3. Mr. Shah Mosa Abdullah – BAPAC
4. Mr. Mohd Hasan Esmahil – BAPAC
5. Mr. Ahmad Sayd – BAPAC
6. Mr. Mohammad Ewaz – BAPAC
7. Mr. Fazel Mohammad – BAPAC
8. Mr. Ayub Alavi Mohammad – WCS
9. Mr. Khajamir Jamil – BSP/NEPA
10. Ms. Macleofe Pablo Bernardino – BSP/NEPA

### **Annex 3: Note for the Field**

#### **THAILAND**

##### **Location:**

Southeastern Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, southeast of Burma.

##### **Geography:**

Thailand's total area is 514,000 sq km, making it slightly more than twice the size of Wyoming. Its climate is tropical, with two distinct seasons: a rainy, warm, cloudy southwest monsoon (mid-May to September), and a dry, cool northeast monsoon (November to mid-March). The southern isthmus is always hot and humid. The terrain is noted for its central plain, Khorat Plateau in the east, and mountains elsewhere. Its highest point is Doi Inthanon with a height of 2,576 m. Thailand's natural resources consist mainly of tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, fluorite, and arable land.

##### **Population:**

More than 65,000,000 people live in Thailand. Life expectancy is 72.55 years. Birth rate is 13.73 births per 1,000. Literacy rate is 92.6%.

##### **Languages:**

Thai is spoken widely, followed by English (a secondary language of the elites); the rest of the country speak the numerous ethnic and regional dialects

##### **Ethnic Groups:**

Thai, Chinese

##### **Religion:**

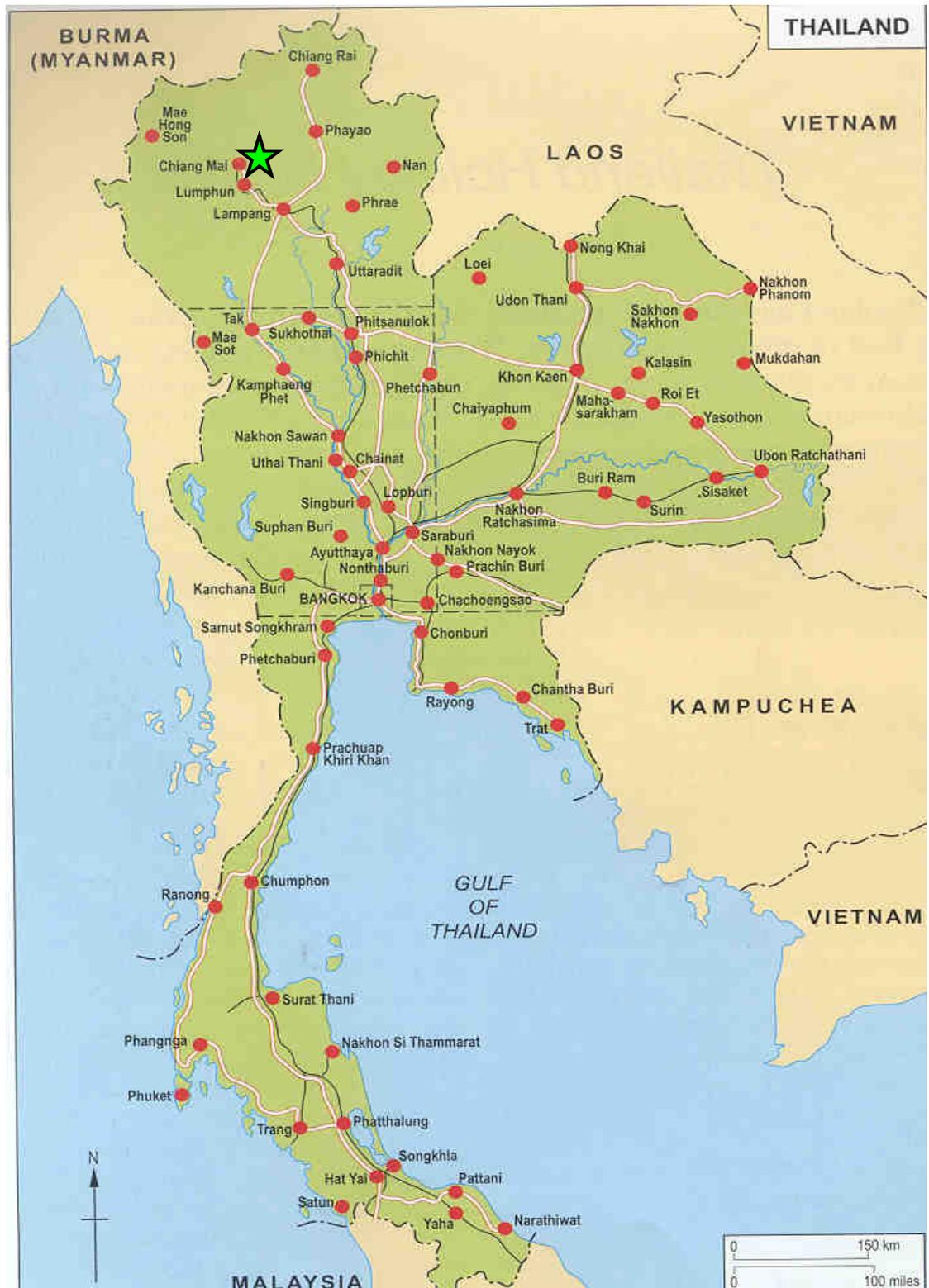
Buddhism (practiced by more than 90% of the population), Islam, Christianity

##### **Political History:**

A unified Thai kingdom was established in the mid-14th century. Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been taken over by a European power. A bloodless revolution in 1932 led to a constitutional monarchy. In alliance with Japan during World War II, Thailand became a US ally following the conflict. Thailand is currently facing separatist violence in its southern ethnic Malay-Muslim provinces.

##### **Economic Overview:**

With a well-developed infrastructure, a free-enterprise economy, and pro-investment policies, Thailand appears to have fully recovered from the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. The country was one of East Asia's best performers from 2002-04. Boosted by increased consumption and strong export growth, the Thai economy grew 6.9% in 2003 and 6.1% in 2004 despite a sluggish global economy. Bangkok has pursued preferential trade agreements with a variety of partners in an effort to boost exports and to maintain high growth.



## DOI INTHANON NATIONAL PARK

Doi Inthanon National Park established in 1972, covers the areas of Sanpatong District, Chomthong District, Mae Chaem District, Mae Wang District, and Toi Lor Sub-district of Chiang Mai Province within an approximate area of 482 square kilometers or 301,500 rai. The National Park consists of high mountains, including Doi Inthanon, which is the highest mountaintop in Thailand and the source of many rivers such as Ping River, where the Bhumipol Dam is situated and generating the electrical power. The National Park has beautiful natural scenery such as waterfalls, particularly Mae Ya Waterfall, which is one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Thailand.

## **Topography**

The geographical features of the National Park consists of high mountains, including Doi Inthanon, which is the highest mountaintop in Thailand (2,565 meters above the sea level), followed by Doi Huamodluang (2,330 meters above the sea level). Doi Inthanon is the source of many rivers including Mae Klang, Mae Pakong, Mae Pon, Mae Hoi, Mae Ya, Mae Chaem, Mae Khan, and being part of Ping River, where the Bhumipol Dam is situated and generating the electrical power.

## **Climate**

Since the National Park is located at 2,565 meters above the sea level, it has cold weather and high humidity throughout the year, particularly on the top of the National Park. In winter, the temperature at the National Park is below 0,ac. And in summer, despite hot weather in central Chiang Mai and nearby districts, it is still freezing on the top of Doi Inthanon and tourists should be prepared with thick clothes.

## **Flora and Fauna**

In general, the National Park contains alternate areas of vast lands and forests since tribesmen opened up wasteland for cultivation. (It can be seen from both sides to the top of Doi Inthanon that the mountains are all reclaimed unlike other national parks).

Doi Inthanon National Park has varieties of forests, including virgin forests, pinery, timber forests, and mixed forests. Economic plants available in the National Park include teak, Malabar Ironwood, pine, timber, Dipterocarpus Intricatus (Hiang), ebony, Xylia Xylocarpa (redwood plants), Leguminosae (Pradoo), Terminalia Arjuna (Rokfa), Afzelia Bijuga (Maka), Black Wood, Michelia Alba, Lagerstroemia (Tabaek), etc. Moreover, there are varieties of beautiful wild flowers such as Fah-mui, Chang Daeng, Rongtao Naree (wild orchids), and wild roses. Meanwhile, moss, Kao Tok Ruesi, and Osmunda can be found everywhere.

The number of wild animals in the National Park is decreasing since tribesmen hunt them and forests are reclaimed for dwellings, as a result, some species of large animals become extinct. At present, some surviving animals include goral, deer, tigers, wild boars, bears, wild rabbits, and wild fowls.

## **MAE KLANG LUANG VILLAGE**

Mae Klang Luang is located inside the boundaries of Doi Intanon National Park, making opportunities to expand the community very limited. Community involvement in tourism creates additional income for the villagers, reducing pressure to expand their fields and increase crop production. This helps to protect the forest. Through Community based tourism, the people of Mae Klang Luang have also developed new skills which have improved their quality of life. For example, community members have become better communicators. They have increased National Park authorities' trust and understanding of how they use traditional practices to manage resources sustainably. This has lead to better cooperation between villagers and park authorities. The community has contributed to plant and wildlife conservation by educating tourist to understand the nature more.

## **DOI CHIANG DAO WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary located in the north of Chiang Mai Province, comprises a limestone mountain outpost of the eastern Upper Tenasserim range, rising precipitously above the broad, flat, alluvial valley of the Mae Ping river. The topography of the site is steep, with a number of cliffs, rising to three peaks (one being the third highest mountain in Thailand), which form a horseshoe-shaped valley. On higher ridges and peaks, where extreme erosion has occurred, barren limestone is a common feature. Surface water is limited

and only found below 910 m asl; drainage courses flow from west to east, to the Mae Ping and the Mae Teang rivers. The site contains some of the most intact lowland and hill forest in the northern region. Dry evergreen forest is found between 350 and 600 m asl, as a narrow belt along the foothills and on the gentle slopes. This merges into mixed deciduous forest and a narrow belt of bamboo between 500 and 900 m asl. Teak *Tectona grandis* is found in association with a number of other species from 700 to 850 m asl. Hill evergreen forest and lower mountain evergreen forest occupy steep, narrow valleys between 1,100 and 1,900 m asl, where humidity is highest. Open hill evergreen forest occupies exposed limestone ridges, summits and slopes, with herbaceous species and ferns in rock crevices, as well as many epiphytic orchids and temperate zone genera. There are extensive areas of secondary grassland. The massif is the southernmost extension of the sub-alpine vegetation associated with the eastern Himalayas and south-western China. The area is the habitat of valuable animals such as goral, wild boar, barking deer, banteng, guar, porcupine, langur, palm civet, squirrel, chipmunk, many kinds of bird and reptile. And the amphibians found near river are many kinds of frog, toad.

### **Climate**

The temperature is quite hot in summer and cold in winter with the lowest temperature about 7.5 degrees Celsius, and the highest temperature about 26.7 degrees Celsius. There is heavy rain in rainy season approximately 1,838.5 mm. of rain all the year round with the heaviest rain in August.

The area has not been suffered by the weather except some time in winter which has heavily windy rain come with hail in which can destroy the local orchard and cause wild water blowing down heavily. The wild water is too much so that can damage the communication in the area and the nearby area.

### **Conservation:**

The main threats to biodiversity at the site are land encroachment, by both permanent and shifting agriculture, hunting, and firewood collection. In addition, tourism is being developed in an unsustainable manner, resulting in excessive litter build-up and orchid collection. Accidental fires resulting from campfires are also an increasing threat to natural habitats. Moreover, a cable car development is proposed for the site.

### **HUA TUNG VILLAGE**

Local people have worked together to establish a community forest around the buffer zone area with the Doi Chiang Dao Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand's third highest peak and a haven for rare plant species. The villages are located approximately 85 km's from Chiang Mai city. In this area, villagers are allowed to collect wild foods, but do not cut the trees. The area is protected by a combination of community regulations and 'forest ordination' by Buddhist monks. Local guides are trained to advise guests how to avoid disturbing and harming local habitats and ecosystems. By hiring the locally registered forest guides and porters, tourists help to create more jobs and increase income for the local villagers. Opportunities presented by tourism also lead to good relations between local community members and the forest authorities.

## **WHAT TO PREPARE AND WHAT TO BRING**

We all will be traveling to the north of Thailand around the beginning of winter season. The weather will be around 15 to 20 Degree Celsius and perhaps colder early morning. It is recommended all participants should have light jacket. During the visit accommodation, meals and facilities will be provided as basic standards. However we encourage you to prepare yourself for living in a tropical forestry setting.

### Suggestion for packing

- Mosquito repellent
- Light sweater
- Torch and batteries
- Walking boots
- Sun hat
- Sun block
- Trousers
- Long sleeved jumper
- Camera film or digital memory
- A pair of binoculars for bird watching if you have one
- Personal medicine
- Personal necessities