

The background features several green leaves of different shapes and sizes, some with detailed vein patterns, and solid green circles. A large, light green abstract shape is on the left side.

Thailand REDD+ Implementation status: A report from the field

by

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Outline

- Background
- Profile of the Sites
- Benefits of the forest
- Government and NGOs Support
- Implementation of the climate change fund policies
- Conclusion and Discussion



Background

Forest status of Thailand

53.3%
Forest cover
in 1962

30.5%
Forest cover
in 1982

25.3%
Forest cover
in 1988

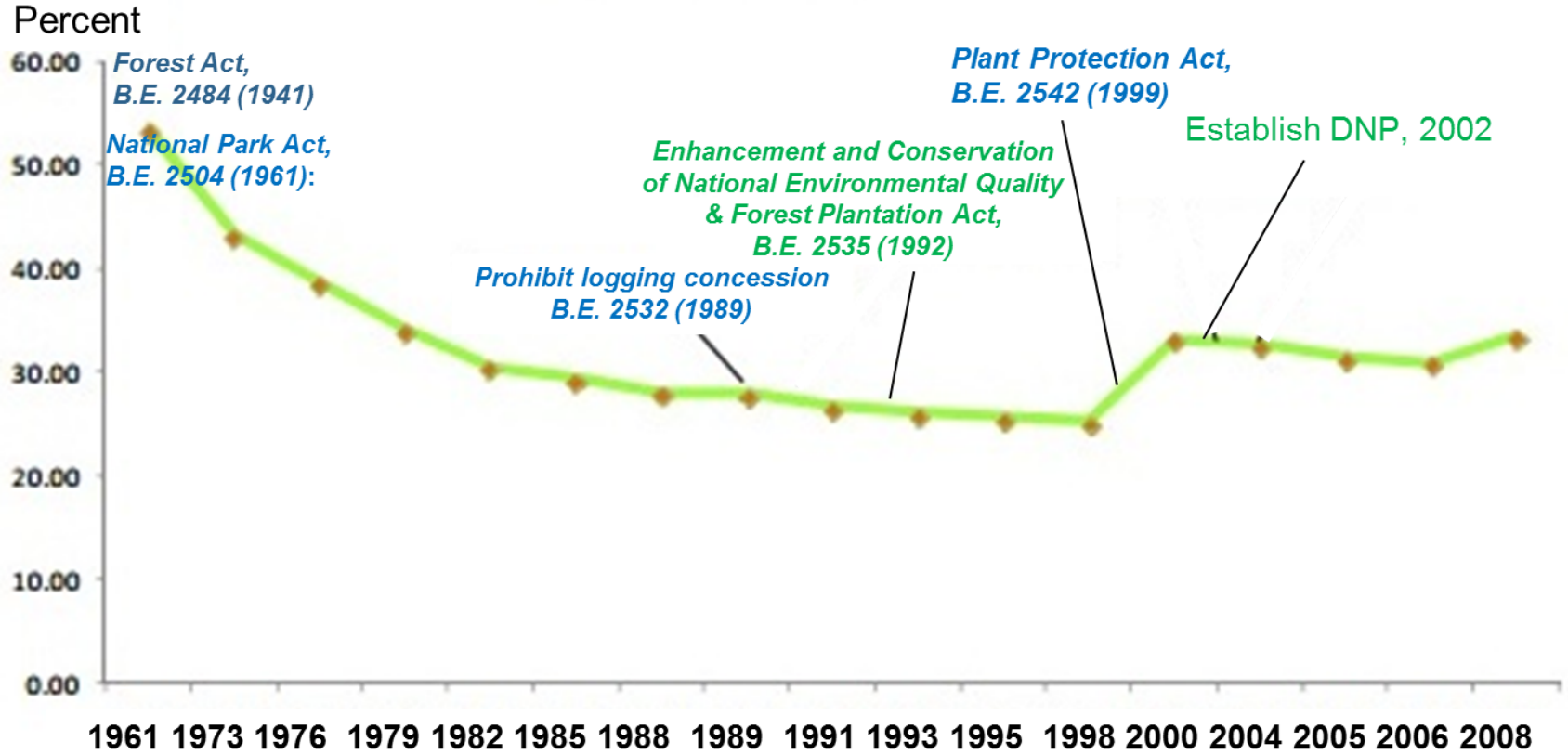
34.4%
Forest cover
in 2008

33.4%
Forest cover
in 2010

31.5%
Forest cover
in 2014

Source: Royal Forest Department (RFD), 2015

Percentage of Forest cover in Thailand



Source: RFD, 2010

The national structure for REDD-plus

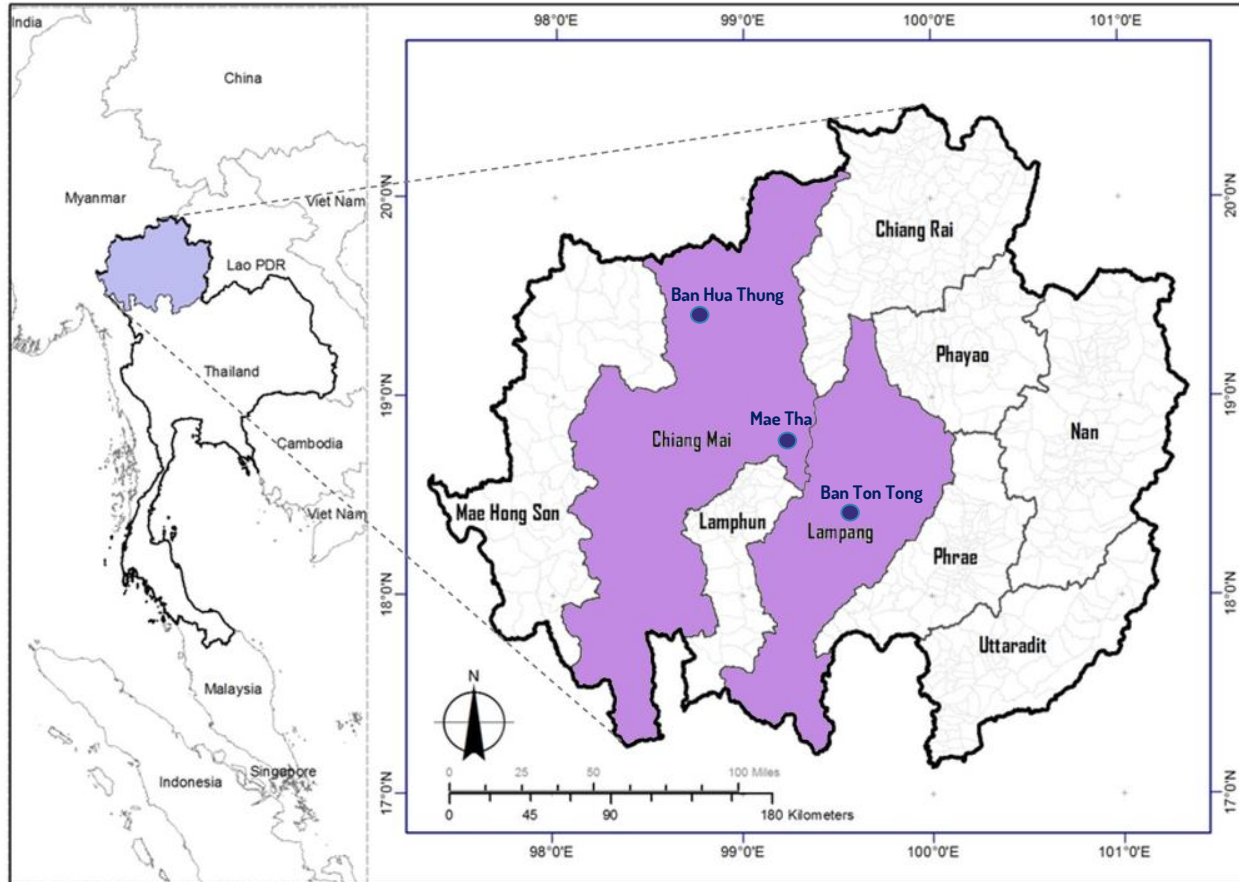
Planning and status

- Thailand established the national structure for REDD+ working group under Climate Change committee National experience with REDD-plus
- Department of national Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) will be the focal point which involves many agencies
- This National REDD+ working groups (WG) responsibilities for cooperation between all stakeholder, capacity building, pilot project.

The background is a solid light green color. It features several decorative elements: a large light green circle in the top left, a smaller light green circle in the top center, a medium green circle in the bottom left, and a bright green circle in the bottom center. A large, dark green, teardrop-shaped leaf with a detailed fern frond pattern is positioned on the left side, partially overlapping the circles.

1. Profile of the Sites

Study Site



Sites: Northern Thailand

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
Thailand	Mae Tha Community Forest, Mae On District, Chiang Mai Province	Ban Ton Tong Community Forest, Mueang District, Lampang Province	Ban Hua Thung Community Forest, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province
Type of the project	An afforestation/ reforestation project implemented to overcome challenges put forward by the logging concessions	Reforestation project funded by Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Limited. (REGHPL)	Reforestation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An economic forest earlier rented by the military for cattle rearing project • The regenerated forest after teak concessions in 1950s
Land ownership	Community managing the forest without management rights; ongoing conflicts with national park for 35 years	Community managing the forest without management rights; (Some parts of community forest have land right)	Community managing the forest without management rights ; (Rent the land out-site the forest to grow bamboo)

1. Mae Tha Community Forest Mae On District, Chiang Mai Province

The tensions between the community and government has also aggravated after the initiation of carbon mitigation awareness project.

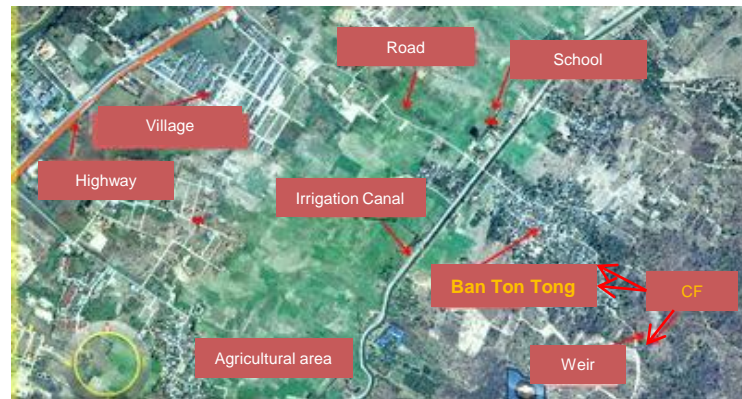
- REDD+ implementation cannot be undertaken in any forest with community access.
- The forest area could only implement REDD+ into buffer zone around protected areas.



2. Ban Ton Tong Community forest Mueang District, Lampang Province

A buffer zone that is connected to the Chae Son National Park

- The buffer zone is approximately 432 ha, Community use purposes is approximately 240 ha
- The buffer zone is divided into national park (DNP), RFD-conservation forest, community forest and economic private plantations
- The area under national forest is not available for community while this community forest does not have land rights



3. Ban Hua Thung Chiang Doe District, Chiang Mai Province

This community forest is located at the foothills of Doi Chiang Dao

- Teak concessions (70 years ago) and deforestation was at the highest. This was the time the community realized water scarcity to be the highest. The community decided to protect forests to protect the clean water
- The forest then rented by the military for cattle rearing project. After the military lease was over, community took it over for agro-forestry purposes.
- The forest is basically for conservation, food and livelihood; therefore their produce not for sale.

The major factor of deforestation and forest degradation is forest fire. In the neighboring forest few indigenous people practice traditional shifting cultivation. To begin the process, small clearings are cut and further burned down.





Benefits of the forest

1. MaeTha Community Forest

- **Open grazing** : A large number of dairy cattle
- **Food and livelihood**
- **Water**

- Other demographic factors like migration has shaped the socio-economic situation of the study site.
- Most people after retiring from their “city” jobs tend to return to the area more.



2. Ban Ton Tong Community Forest

- The sacred forest have acted as the reservoir of local biodiversity that preserves unique flora and fauna
- The trees, predominantly bamboos, were planted adjacent to the dykes to accelerate flood retention with multiple benefits to the community:
 - Maintaining a friendly atmosphere
 - Satisfied many basic needs like bamboo shoots



The newly reforested forest is sacredly worshiped and communities believe that this has played an integral role in conservation.



3. Ban Hua Thung Community Forest

- Eco-tourism : Home stay and tourism are the major source of income in this community. Eco-tourism is being profitable in the area, the migration rate is below 5%, and those who migrate move to Phayao and Chiang Mai provinces.
- Food and herb : Local people play important role in conservation through preservation through community rules and allocating forest as sacred forest.
- Bamboo: the forest area also has community owned bamboo plantations.





Government and NGOs Support



Government organizations (GSI) and non-governmental organizations (GS2)

1. Mae Tha Community

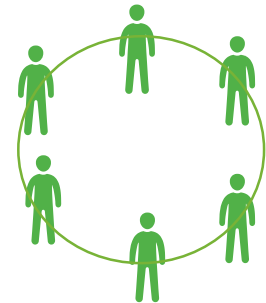
- NGO: To provide preliminary understanding on carbon emission and carbon measurement (to support the Universities)
- RFD: To help them with carbon mitigation project. However, RFD couldn't comfort as RFD has access only to the economic forest. To support the community in constructing a fire line.
- DNP: For REDD+ related programs to be implemented in the area and consultation for research, methodology and technique

2. Ban Ton Tong Community

- The Royal Thai Project: to manage forest through a biodiversity project and to support in maintaining dykes
- Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Limited (REGHPL): To support of reforestation project.
- RFD: To provide technical support to the community, while the equipment for fire control were managed by the community themselves.

3. Ban Hua Thung Community

- RFD: To train them in terms of nursery management, forest conservation, carbon and soil mapping and fire-line construction
: Consultation for research, methodology and technique





Implementation of the climate change fund policies



Implementation of the climate change fund policies



- Funds and trust fund: How does it make sure that it will bring the end result to the community level?
- Policies, regulation on carbon right' and benefit sharing
- Beneficiaries: Who own carbon and carbon credit?
- Specific activity: How do community forests can engage in what specific activities in REDD+ in the future?
- Voluntary carbon market: How do we clear legal framework and investment guiding for community in to voluntary carbon market?

Conclusion and Discussion

➤ In implementing REDD+ in Thailand should concern :

1. Land tenure /land right in forest areas, which in many cases remains unclear. The vast majority of forests are state controlled.
2. Policy and law to support REDD+
3. Transparency of benefit sharing
4. Awareness for REDD+ stakeholders

➤ Thailand should identify the following areas for assistance

1. A mechanism to allow local communities to receive income for forest conservation / community participation
2. A mechanism for transparency, access to information, trust building
3. An integrated REDD+ system and scoping the potential to create a national level REDD+ committee
4. Proposals for a National REDD+ strategy and subsequent development of related activities
5. A roadmap for establishing reference emission levels
6. Collaboration : Chairing data base between university or research community and the government organizations

Thanks!

Toyota Foundation

