



The clearing-house mechanism (CHM) has been created pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation. The Thailand clearing-house mechanism provides an information service to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity

Many regional institutions have effectively and consistently promoted the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These include Chiang Mai University's Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Walailak University's Science and Technology Education Park, Prince of Songkhla University's Faculty of Science, Khon Kaen University's Applied Taxonomic Research Center, Faculty of Science, and Burapha University's Faculty of Science. These academic institutions have all been lauded as Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity. They have also helped to develop the Thailand Clearing-House Mechanism and have become the CHM network.

Experts/Researchers

A national network of experts, including more than 1,000 experts from 50 different fields related to biological diversity, is responsible for carrying out studies and providing opinions and recommendations that lead to successful implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

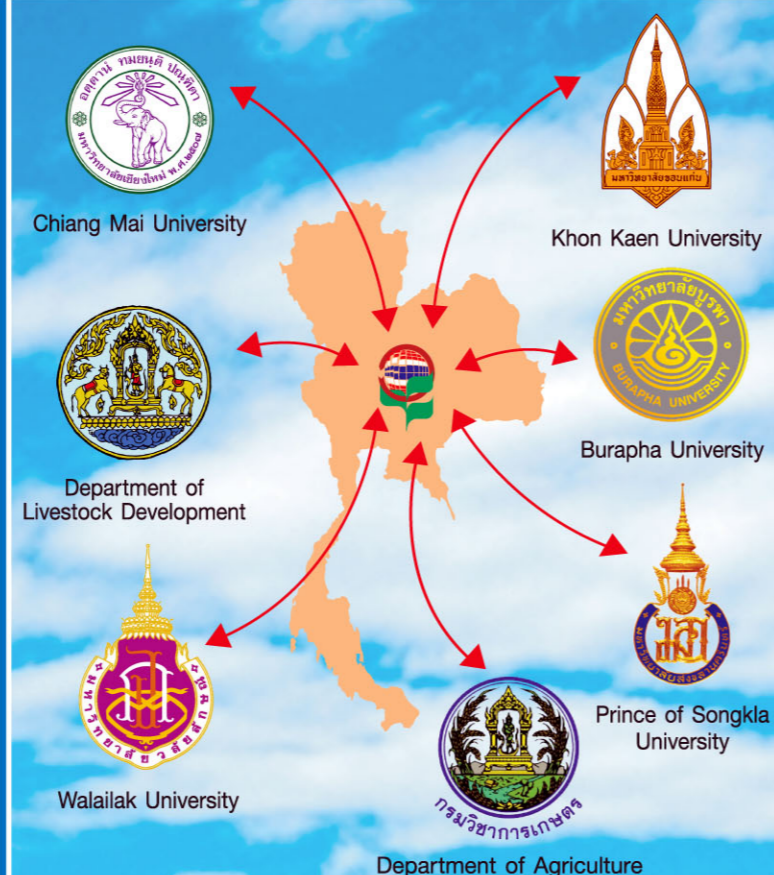
Partners

Government, business and the private sector, NGOs, academic institutions, local organizations, and various communities, provide an important and powerful base for the conservation and restoration of the country's biodiversity. By working closely with these relevant sectors and their supports can help to ensure integrated implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Business and Biodiversity

It is recognized that successfully halting the loss of biodiversity cannot be achieved by governments alone. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have addressed the need for business involvement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In 2009 the ONEP organized a private sector competition to honor and emulate business entities that have made outstanding contributions to sustainable biodiversity conservation. PTT Plc. and Charoen Pokphand Group received certificates for their excellent efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, while Toyota Motor Thailand, Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Plc., Siam Forestry and the Metropolitan Electricity Authority were awarded for outstanding performance in protecting forest ecosystem, supporting public participation, and restoring natural environments, respectively. TOT Plc. was awarded a consolation prize for education programs and raising public awareness. In 2011, a guideline on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with business and the private sector participation was also developed as a tool to facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into their work.

<http://chm-thai.onep.go.th>



THAILAND Clearing-House Mechanism

Biological Diversity Division
Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
60/1 Soi Phibun Wattana 7, Rama VI Road, Bangkok 10400 THAILAND
Telephone: (66) 2265 6639 Facsimile: (66) 2265 6638
e-mail: chm_thai@onep.go.th
<http://chm-thai.onep.go.th>

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Complete Strategy, Well-Defined Responsibilities

National Policy, Strategies, and Action Plan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity The five year national plan provides direction for the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that is consistent with the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its targets. It is now in its fourth version (2013-2017). Together with the Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016), the plan's key mission is to enable Thailand to achieve its targets to halt the loss of biodiversity.

National Committee The implementation of Thailand's Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable use is under the supervision and direction of a committee, a sub-committee, and a working group, which also make recommendations as necessary. Established under a regulation passed by the Prime Minister's Office on the Conservation and Utilization of Biological Diversity (2nd Edition), B.E. 2548, the National Biodiversity Conservation and Utilization Committee is chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. The committee oversees the work of four sub-committees on (i) the Convention on Biological Diversity, (ii) the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, (iii) multilateral advisory on protected areas, and (iv) the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity by the business sector.

National Focal Point The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) under the MONRE is the national focal point for the (i) Convention on Biological Diversity, (ii) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and (iii) Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. It coordinates and supports implementation commitments, monitors and evaluates the implementation in order to develop policies, measures, and plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It has established a mechanism for the exchange of related information and establishes biodiversity information network that can be accessed through <http://chm-thai.onep.go.th>. The information on biosafety information center can be accessed through <http://bch-thai.onep.go.th>. It also compiles national reports on biological diversity and provides secretariat services to the National Biodiversity Conservation and Utilization Committee and its relevant sub-committees.

Widespread, Up-to-Date Information

To ensure achievement of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use throughout the country, provincial biodiversity websites have been set up. Each website (i) provides information on varieties of ecosystems, threats, traditional knowledge, biodiversity important areas (BIA), and relevant organizations and agencies; (ii) presents research studies and reports, projects, and activities; (iii) lists experts and researchers; and (iv) provides links to other relevant websites.

Bio Brief A one-page, A4-size document summarizes various biodiversity related issues in Thailand and other countries.

E-Newsletter This provides information on developments and operations related to biodiversity in Thailand and around the world, including researches, academic articles, tips, new publications, meetings, and other topics that are useful to the public.



Regular Reporting

Thailand's implementation under the Convention on Biological Diversity are highlighted in published summary reports that are submitted to the Convention's Secretariat once every four years. Previous reports were published and submitted in 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010. Each report (i) details the status of various activities, policies, measures, and plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Thailand, (ii) summarizes the results of implementation in protected areas, restoration of biological diversity, conservation of diversity of species and genetic characteristics, (iii) explains the accessibility and sharing of genetic resources, biosafety, mechanism for information dissemination, research, capacity building, participation by various sectors, and biological diversity related issues, and (iv) defines the future direction of implementation.



Checklist of Species

The Checklist of Species, which has been compiled since 1995, comprises more than 20 volumes. It provides the common names of almost 30,000 species, as well as their scientific names, habitats and areas where they are found. The checklist provides baseline of data for the formulation of appropriate biodiversity conservation plans and activities.

Thailand Red Data The Red List of threatened species provides information about the status of vascular plants and vertebrates in Thailand (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish species). While some species and their habitats in the Red List are protected by existing laws and legislation on natural resources and the environment, other species are not. These show the need for relevant measures and mechanisms including formulation of the Species and Habitat Act.

Biodiversity Hotspot Some 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world have been identified. Thailand is located in one of the hotspots of the Indo-Burma region. Special tracking to survey, evaluate and monitor activities that threatened biodiversity are ongoing in order to update information associated with them, including the status of biodiversity. These will support planning and the formulation of measures to preserve and conserve species and their habitats.

Coping with Invasive Alien Species

Preventive Measures, Control, and Eradication of Alien Species There are currently approximately more than 3,500 species of alien species in Thailand, with some species have well established and distributed in natural or semi-natural ecosystem or habitat and became invasive species threaten other organisms, ecosystems and biodiversity, and caused significant economic loss. The important invasive alien species in Thailand include Giant Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pigra*), Janitor Fish (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.), Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia* (Hemsl) A.Gray), and Golden Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*). The measures on the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species, and the list of alien species to be protected, controlled and eradicated in Thailand was developed, and approval from the Cabinet on 28 April 2009. The ability of identify alien species and understand their behavior will help in their effective prevention, control, and eradication.

Monitoring and Implementation

The global ecosystem consists of mountains, forests, inland water, dry and sub-humid, agricultural areas, marine and coastal, and islands. It is necessary to monitor these ecosystems and their components, as well as to evaluate the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Thailand places high priority on biodiversity and ecosystems. It is important to monitor the implementation of programs on the characteristic of ecosystems and their components as well as the conservation, protection, utilization of biodiversity, prevention of threats to biodiversity and achievements.



Basis for Protection and Prevention

Important Plant Areas (IPAs) IPAs are natural or semi-natural sites that exhibit exceptional botanical richness and/or support an outstanding assemblage of rare, threatened and/or endemic plant species and/or vegetation of high botanical value. IPAs provide a means to identify and protect the most important sites for wild plants and habitats, and to assess how many of them are already protected under the existing system, and how many need more protection. IPAs provide a framework for all relevant agencies to achieve Target 5 in the CBD global strategy for plant conservation (GSPC). Initially 102 IPAs have been identified in Thailand.

Plants in Culture and Customs It is important to prevent the depletion of plant diversity, respect and promote good practices associated with traditional knowledge to support livelihoods, ensure food security, reduce poverty, and ensure better health. Thailand has over 200 plant species, such as coconuts and bananas, that are commonly used in traditional Thai cultural practices and customs.