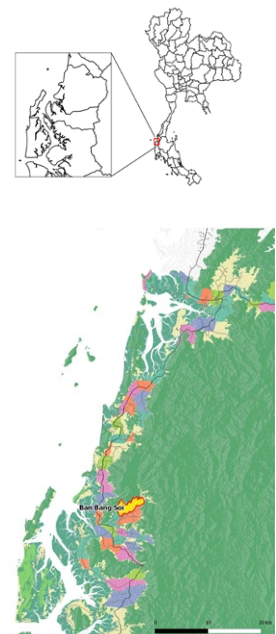
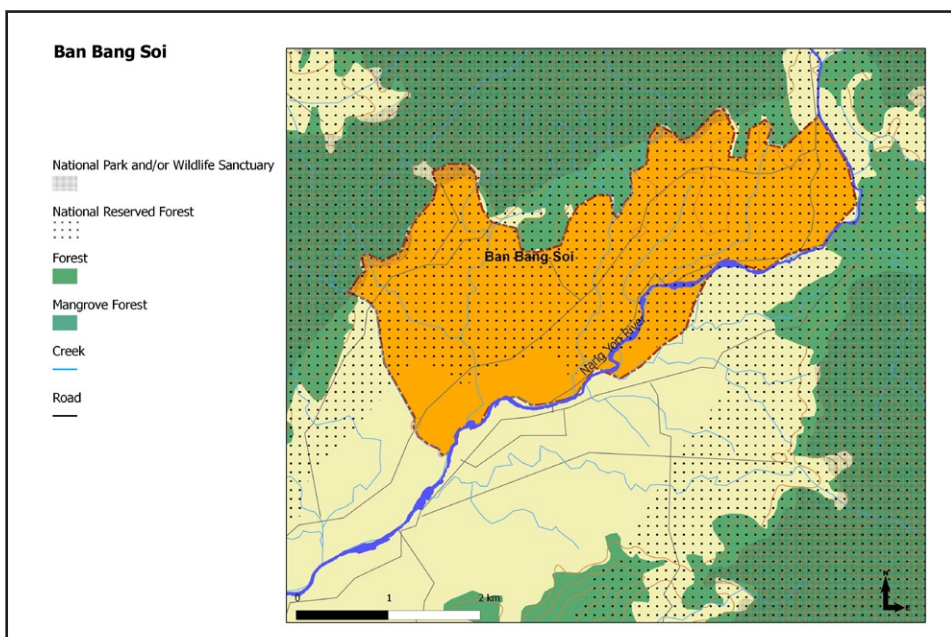


# Ban Bang Soi

## Protecting the water lily in Nang Yon River

March 2010



The community of Ban Bang Soi started doing river conservation projects on the Nang Yon River in 2007, along a stretch of river from the watershed to the Tesaban (city district of Kuraburi). This runs through the communities of: Ban Bang Soi (220 households); Ban Klang (130 households); the Kuraburi Tesaban to Ban Thung Ma Deur. These villages use the river for irrigation of agriculture (mainly Ban Bang Soi, Ban Klang), for household use (this is all the Tesaban uses it for), and fishing.

Ban Bang Soi decided to start doing conservation activities because they saw several worrying practices: people encroaching into the protected area at the top of the watershed; dredging of the river and mining of river rocks and sediment for building roads; and a sharp decline of big fish in the river. They noticed a particularly sharp decline (80%) in fish after the river was dredged last year. The effects of

**Map 1. shows the village of Ban Bang Soi, the Nang Yon River, as well as protected areas under the National Park Act 1961, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 1992, and National Reserved Forest Act 1964.**

dredging have caused the deep pools where fish would congregate in the dry season to vanish.

Ban Bang Soi villagers actively participate in river conservation and they have established several project groups. These include a Soil and Water Conservation Group, and several Youth Groups to Monitor River and Water Quality, Conserve Water Lily, and Organic Agriculture.

Other nearby villages that use the river also get involved in river conservation activities, for example the last plantation

activity drew 60 people. The project activities occur at different villages, and so the 'host village' always receives the biggest turnout. When there is a Ban Bang Soi activity, 100% of the Ban Bang Soi village participate.

When there is a project meeting of these groups (once or twice per month), people from all three villages that use the river attend. It is the responsibility of the leaders of each village who attend the meeting to report to their village on its outcomes.

Ban Bang Soi has completed a very comprehensive management plan, stakeholder analysis and monitoring plan for the river, which is documented. Ongoing management activities include planting grass along the river's edge to stabilise the soil and running a nursery for water lily rehabilitation. Monitoring activities include fish species assessments (carried out in January and October 2009), and water quality assessments.

Ban Bang Soi Village holds a village meeting once a month, when approximately 30-40 people from Ban Bang Soi attend. There is a Ban Bang Soi Information Centre, which is used to share information about the environment. It is run by the Youth Group, and there are maps, and can receive presentations from the youth. It is open to anyone from the four villages using the river.

There are future plans for the village's conservation work: to continue measuring water quality and erosion measurements, promote more sustainable agricultural practices, monitor bird and water lily populations, and perhaps start rafting as an ecotourism venture.

### Commonly-observed practices in the community

There are no 'community rules' as such, but there are certain practices that communities who are part of the conservation group generally abide by. These are:

- 1. Water lily cannot be collected.**
- 2. Native riparian vegetation should not be cut, allowing at least 10 metres between agriculture and the river.**
- 3. Fish cannot be drugged, but all other types of equipment can be used.**
- 4. Fish can be caught either for household consumption, or for sale.**

There are no special conservation 'zones' along the river, although there are signs up around several water lily populations, asking people not to pull up the water lily from those sites.



Ban Bang Soi Youth Group.  
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Using maps to manage the river. © IUCN/ KatieMILLER