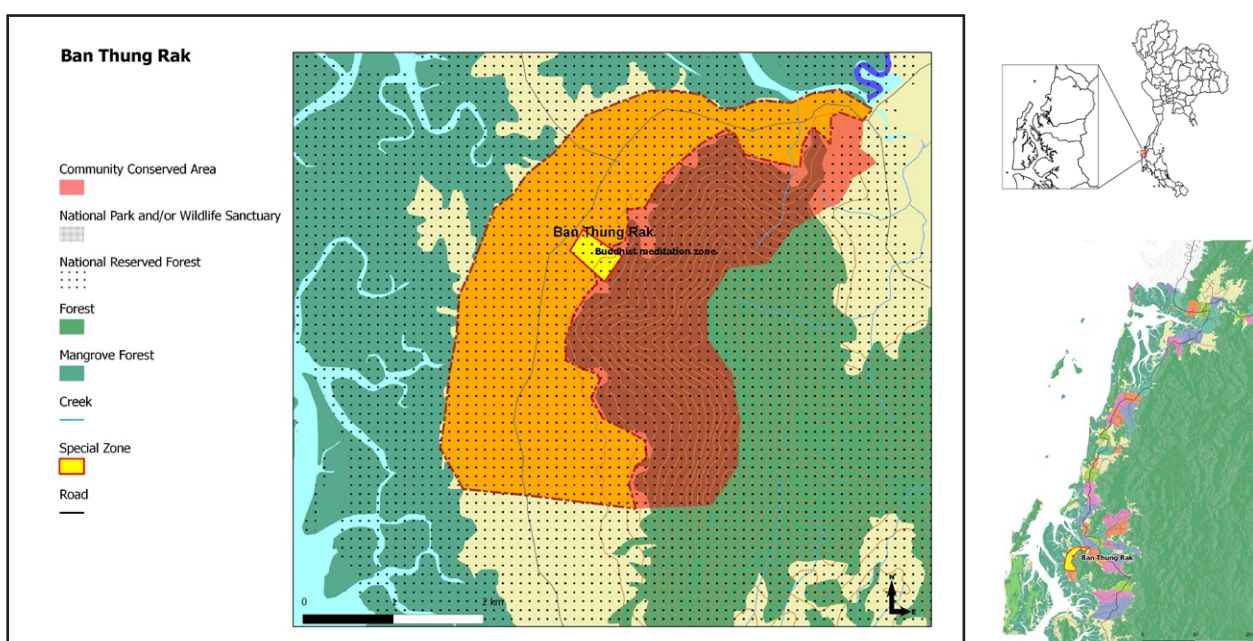


# Ban Thung Rak

## Conserving community forests in the Kuraburi watershed

March 2010



The community of Ban Thung Rak has been managing forest area in the Khao Mae Nang Khao (KMK) mountain forest complex since 1994. KMK is located in a National Forest Reserve. There are many resources in the forest including: langur monkeys, hornbills; Rafflesia kerrii flower; Khao Dam black and white wood; bee hives; and fruits and vegetables like Look Niang leaf. The village also depends on water for household use from forest streams.

The villagers of Ban Thung Rak decided to protect this area because they saw that many people were cutting down the trees. There was growing pressure on the resources because after the tsunami many new people moved into the still relatively pristine Thung Rak area.

In 2006, six of the eight villages that surround the Mae Nang Khao mountain came together to form the KMK Network: Ban Thung Rak (450 households); Ban Bang Tip (280

**Map 1. shows the community conserved area, the special Buddhist meditation zone around the temple, as well as protected areas under the National Park Act 1961, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 1992, and National Reserved Forest Act 1964.**

households); Ban Baeng Daet (220 households); Ban Bang Ku Rot; Ban Hua Suan) (170 households); and Ban Nai Tui (200 households).

The KMK Network cooperates on conservation activities such as forest planting days on mother's and father's day, and youth camps. About 70% of Ban Thung Rak villagers actively participate in these management activities.

In 2008 Ban Thung Rak completed a survey of forest species, looking at the biodiversity and density of the forest

## COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS IN RANONG AND PHANG NGA PROVINCES, SOUTHERN THAILAND



Rafflesia kerrii flower. © IUCN

cover. They will repeat this in 2010, this time looking at species that can be an attraction of ecotourism nature trails. They plan to make three new nature trails: a general forest trail; a waterfall trail; and a Rafflesia kerrii flower trail. They will translate the local and scientific names in to English for this purpose.

The Ban Thung Rak has a Village Committee that manages the forest. It has 13-15 people, and they work closely with Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Mangrove Unit # 9 to manage the forest. The Village Committee holds meetings once a month, when usually about 30 people from Ban Thung Rak attend.

They also have a speaker system placed throughout the forest. It is used for religious teachings, to make general village announcements, as well as for compliance and enforcement of community rules (see rules below).

### Community Rules

Ban Thung Rak have have developed community rules that apply to the forest:

- 1. It is prohibited to hunt animals (hornbill, gibbons, monkeys, mouse deer, wild pigs).**
- 2. It is prohibited to cut timber, not even for household use.**
- 3. Small plants can be cut for household use.**
- 4. Bee hives can be collected once a year, in the dry season. There is no limit to how many beehives are collected.**
- 5. There is a special zone around the temple (a 'forgiveness area') of about 100rai where nothing can be collected at all.**

It is the responsibility of all villagers to ensure the rules are not broken. If a villager sees someone breaking the rules, they report it to Kh. Likit, a Ban Thung Rak villager who is a leader of the KMK Network. He will approach them and firstly ask if it is for personal use. If it isn't, the first time he gives a warning, the second time he will report it to the police.

Most violations of the rules are by people from outside the eight villages surrounding the mountain. The rule most commonly broken is cutting of trees, often to establish oil palm and rubber crops.

In the last six months they have caught three people cutting down trees, and one hunting. In one of these cases, a villager saw them and quickly reported them. The speaker system was used to issue a warning to the offenders and the villagers surrounded the forest access roads to catch the offenders. They haven't been back since.



Using maps and GIS to manage the forest.  
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