

SURVIVING TOGETHER PROGRAM

Improving Front-Line Protection | Developing Wildlife Monitoring Systems
 Strengthening Protected Area Management | Empowering Local Communities



Southeast Asia is home to an estimated 20% of the world's plant, animal, and marine species, representing a globally important stronghold for threatened and endangered species. But for how much longer? This remarkable biodiversity is now under threat from a variety of forces, such as climate change poaching, illegal logging, and encroachment.



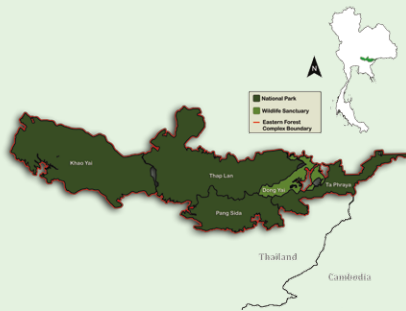
Limited resources, capacity and monitoring systems are among the many challenges facing the front-line rangers tasked with defending Southeast Asia's protected areas. Well-organized and dangerous poaching gangs exploit these weaknesses, and, as forests deteriorate, locals become trapped in a vicious cycle of over-exploitation and diminishing economic opportunities that has a disastrous effect on the eco-systems, wildlife and, ultimately, human welfare.

ABOUT

Since the program began in 1999, Surviving Together has developed a comprehensive approach to conserving protected areas and their biodiversity, bringing together local rangers and reformed poachers as unlikely allies. Through these collaborative efforts, the program addresses the root causes of environmental degradation and bolsters protection on the front lines of conservation, where it is needed most. Surviving Together also educates teachers and children to ensure the lessons learned will continue to reap positive benefits from healthy eco-systems for decades to come.

WHERE WE WORK

In Thailand, the focal site for Surviving Together is the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai (DPKY) Forest Complex, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005. The site comprises five protected areas, covering more than 6,000 square kilometers across six provinces. This area is a refuge for a number of threatened species, such as the Indochinese tiger, clouded leopard, Asian elephant, pangolin, and Malayan sunbear.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Surviving Together gives local communities, too often marginalized, a voice in how to best manage and protect the precious natural world in their backyards. It also unites them with park officials, previously perceived as the enemy, in a spirit of cooperation. Its a strategy that is a win-win for both biodiversity and local communities. The result is a sustainable park protection system that can be adapted to almost any terrestrial or marine protected area around the world. Proving its versatility, the program has already operated in Thailand, Myanmar, and Cambodia.



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Activities



Ranger Support

Providing basic and advanced park protection skills for enforcement rangers and developing capacity among team leaders to expand training activities through 'PROTECT' (Protected-area Operational and Tactical Enforcement Conservation Training).



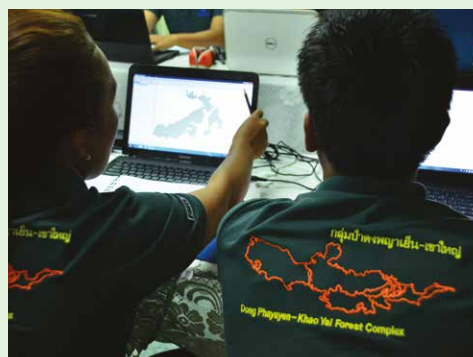
Alternative Livelihoods

Reducing poaching by offering vocational training to poachers willing to lay down their guns and snares to take up new business opportunities. The program also generates income for impoverished locals through eco-friendly means that regenerate nature.



Community Education and Outreach

Empowering local communities to help manage and protect the natural world. At the same time, the program develops the awareness of local youth as future guardians of these ecosystems.



Protected Area Monitoring Systems (SMART)

Reducing poaching and improving responses to emerging threats can be achieved through a greater understanding of wildlife and poaching trends. Systems such as SMART help managers analyze patrol data to more effectively develop adaptive protection strategies. This informed decision-making ultimately improves protection for species and ecosystems.



Wildlife Monitoring

Understanding species under threat is instrumental for their protection. Surviving Together works closely with protected areas to provide tools, training, and expertise in wildlife surveys. This lifts the veil on even the most secretive species and enables park managers to focus protection on the most critical wildlife habitat in their protected area.



Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

As wilderness areas shrink and human populations grow, people and wildlife are increasingly coming into conflict. Surviving Together empowers local communities and protected area officers to work together to monitor and mitigate conflict along protected area boundaries. This improves awareness and tolerance for wildlife while addressing the root causes of conflict.



"When I see the green of the forest and the white and black of the mushrooms, I feel proud. I now have more time with my family. My daughters and husband help with the business. I am happy we no longer destroy nature."

Nuan Muangchan
Former poacher on Surviving Together's alternative livelihood program