### Holistic land use and livelihoods system of Indigenous Peoples – Way for climate change adaptation

#### TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' KNOWLEDGE AS A VIABLE WAY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

8 November 15:00-16:30 Room Arabian Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, AIPP



### Map of Thailand



Huay Hin Lad Nai village M.7, Baan Pong subdistrict,

Wiang Papao district,

- Chiangrai province

## Brief overview of Huay Hin Lad Nai Community



- belong to the Pgakeuyaw (Karen)
  people
- There are 20 households, 35 families, 107 people and 5 clans.
- Community was first established in mid 1900s
  - Community was moved several times until it finally settled down in the current location in 1966.
- Community forest area was granted by the government to logging company in 1986 (12,800 ha.)
- only about 10% of the big trees were left in their village forests.

- Destruction of the forests caused:
  - water springs dried up;
  - impact to aquatic life;
  - disappearance of various kind of animals;
  - caused dryness and wild fire every summer.
- Community was also blamed for destroying forest as they practiced the rotational farming.



• In addition, the government also planned to relocate community out of the forest.

- With this, the Huay Hin Lad Nai community <u>resolved to continue to stay</u> <u>and prove to the government and the</u> <u>general public that human and nature</u> <u>can co-exist based on their worldview.</u>
- Such prove is also part of their <u>resolve</u> <u>to revive their culture and re-</u> <u>strengthen themselves</u>.
- It was also the most important means to renew their symbiotic relationship with the forests.



## Cultural revival and worldview of community

- In the worldview of the community, everything starts from the forest and ends with the forests.
- "No forest, No life".
  - This refers to inter-dependency between human being and nature



• The community also refers to the forest as a habitat for flora and fauna; as a means for soil conservation, and the source to maintain healthy air and weather in the area. Most importantly, forest is the dwelling place for different types of spirits, including their own spirits and of their ancestors.

• Therefore, if all the forest is destroyed, not only the resources will disappear, but all the spirits will also be gone; and this will mark the end of all life.

# Holistic land use and livelihood system of the community

 Guided by their beliefs and worldview, <u>community has</u> <u>classified their land use into different categories.</u>

 Their land use practices and livelihood system strongly supports one another and are, therefore, interlinked and inseparable.

#### Land types and their uses

SI. **Total area** Land use type Percentage Settlement area 14.08 rai (5.57 acre) 00.14% 1. 04.97 rai (1.97 acre) 00.05% 2. Cemetery area 49.98 rai (19.77 acre) 3. Wet-paddy field area 00.49% Shifting cultivation area 786.77 rai (311.06 acre) 7.65% 4. Mix farm area 788.58 rai (311.78 acre) 7.67% 5. 8,635.75 rai (3414.31 acre) 84.00% 6. Community forest 10,280.13 rai (4064.46 acre) TOTAL 100%



#### Livelihoods

 The main source of subsistence and and cash income of Huay Hin Lad Nai community is through both self-sufficient and commercial farming.

#### **Rice cultivation**

- The cultivation of rice determines <u>the life and work</u> of the people throughout the year.
- <u>Shifting cultivation</u> is more reliable under unpredictable climatic conditions and is valued higher by the community for rice and vegetables. And the total land cultivated per year ranges from 31.63 39.54 acres.
- The yield in the <u>wet-paddy field</u> is higher so it is a major contributor to food security and **the control of expansion of agricultural land**. The total land cultivated per year is 20 acres.
- Therefore, they feel that it is <u>crucial to maintain both the system</u> of farming for sustainability.







#### The total area of the mix farm land in the village is 311.78 acres.



### Income from mix farm

#### **Cash income in 2015 from Mix farmland**

Product	Annual income in THB	Annual income in USD
Wild tea	414,000.00	11828.60
Seasoned food, herbs and macadamia	56,000.00	1600.00
Honey and mushroom	246,000.00	7028.60
Bamboo shoot	350,000.00	10,000.00
Honey soap	Not available	
Bamboo worm	Not available	
TOTAL	1066000.00	30457.14

#### Mix farming helps them address three crucial issues and concerns:

- Able to farm for cash income <u>without</u> creating ecological pressure
- Able to resolve their dilemma of <u>controlling opening up</u> <u>new forest area</u> for commercial farming as well as solving the problem of demand for labour
- Enhancing resiliency, livelihood diversification and food security of the community

#### Summary of community livelihood practices

 92% of the food comes from household production and natural resources.

• only 8% of the food comes from markets outside the community.

#### Conclusion

- Huay Hin Lad Nai community has a complex system of land use.
- Each type of land is used in different ways and is a source of different types of food and other important resources.
- The way they use resources reflects their intricate knowledge of the different ecosystems within the village territory.
- And the way they manage their land and avoid land pressure and degradation demonstrate their holistic approach to land-use practices.

#### Article 7 para 5 of Paris Agreement

 Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, **knowledge of** indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.