



A Community-Based Alliance for Climate Change Mitigation: the Mae Fah Luang Reforestation Model



Nam Pak Village, Nan Province in 2013



Nam Pak Village, Nan Province in 2017

Nan Province, in the Northern region of Thailand and part of the watershed that contributes most water to the Central hub of the country, has **lost 76 acres of forest per day** in the past decade. The main reason for such loss is **forest encroachment for agricultural usage**.

The Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage recognizes that deforestation stems from the communities residing in and around the forest being **poor and lacking opportunities**. The Foundation's Nan Reforestation Project applies the late King Bhumibol and Princess Srinagarindra's principles believing that **"If people survive, nature will thrive"**. The Project addresses deforestation through a **people-centred and evidence-based approach**— starting with GIS mapping of existing land usage by the community; developing irrigation systems, improving soil conditions, and providing high quality agricultural inputs to increase productivity; as well as introducing livelihood alternatives such as livestock and value-adding activities to increase income for the community. These initiatives to enhance productivity and income allow the community to be **better off with less land usage**. Following from that, the Project discussed and acquired consensus from the community on a **land zoning model** which is able to **balance between social, economic, and environmental well-being**, allocating:

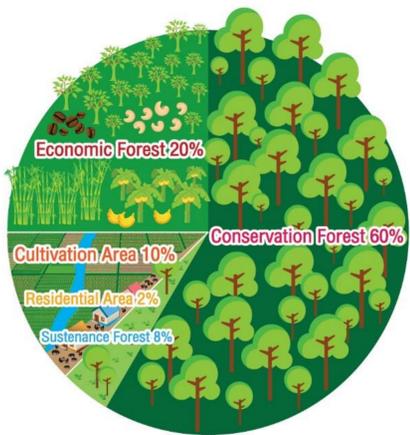
- 60% as **conservation forest** to maintain water source and biodiversity
- 20% as **economic forest** to ensure long-term, viable income for each household
- 8% as **sustenance forest** for community members' day-to-day usage
- 12% as **individual household cultivation and residential area**

The effort to reforest 88% of the area was carried out by the community themselves and sustained through community-based regulations and the recognition that forest maintenance will directly benefit their livelihood.

The outcomes of the Project covering a total area of approximately 100,000 acres include:

- STOPPING FOREST DEGRADATION within 41% of the Project area that would otherwise be depleted at the rate of 1.36% or 690 acres a year
- INCREASING FOREST AREA by 42% of the Project area
- DECREASING BUSHFIRE-DAMAGED AREAS by 99%
- CARBON SINK of 237,000 tons per year ready to be traded in 2021
- HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND FORESTS

Land Use



Map Showing Land Usage in 14 Villages of Upper Nan Watershed, Nan Province, Thailand

