



FACTSHEET

KAENG KRACHAN FOREST COMPLEX (KKFC)
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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BACKGROUND

WWF Thailand works to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable coexistence between people and wildlife in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC), which comprises four key protected areas and is home to endangered species such as the Indochinese tiger and Asian elephant.



THE INTEGRATED CONSERVATION APPROACH FOCUSES ON:



1 Strengthening protection through SMART patrols, ranger training, and equipment support.



2 Monitoring tiger and prey populations using camera traps and field surveys to inform conservation management.



3 Reducing human-elephant conflict through habitat restoration, grassland management, and salt lick construction to keep elephants within forest habitats.



4 Promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration through strategic planning and conservation networks.



5 Supporting community-based ecotourism to create sustainable livelihoods while encouraging wildlife conservation.

Together, these efforts provide a practical and sustainable model for protecting biodiversity while reducing human-wildlife conflict in one of Thailand's most important forest landscapes.



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WHAT WE DO

SMART Patrol & Law Enforcement

- **14 patrol** teams deployed across Kuiburi National Park and Mae Nam Pha Chi Wildlife Sanctuary
- **4,890.68 km** of patrols conducted
- Patrol coverage:
 - 🌿 Kuiburi National Park – **69.94%**
 - 🌿 Mae Nam Pha Chi Wildlife Sanctuary – **80.78%**
- Threats detected:
 - 🌿 **Kuiburi National Park:** 80% poaching, 20% non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection
 - 🌿 **Mae Nam Pha Chi Wildlife Sanctuary:** 55% NTFP collection, 35% poaching, 10% illegal logging
- Support provided:
 - 🌿 SMART Mobile, GPS and map-reading training
 - 🌿 Field equipment and food rations
 - 🌿 Monthly patrol planning meetings
- SMART patrol expansion initiated in Chaloem Phrakiat Thai Prachan National Park



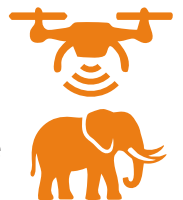
Tiger Monitoring Highlights

- Camera trap surveys in KKFC confirmed **four individual tigers**:
 - 🌿 2 males
 - 🌿 2 females
- Three resident tigers identified:
 - 🌿 KKT-002M
 - 🌿 KKT-003F
 - 🌿 KKT-004F
- One transient male recorded:
 - 🌿 KKT-006M
- A major milestone was the recording of **tigress KKT-004F with three cubs** in July 2024.
- Key prey species recorded include sambar, gaur, wild boar, and red muntjac.
- Occupancy and abundance analyses are scheduled for FY26 Q1–Q2.



Human–Elephant Conflict Mitigation

- **2,225** elephant incursions into farmland recorded
- Crop damage reduced to **3.24%**, down from **5.31%** in FY2024
- **29** automated camera traps installed
- **5** rapid response teams deployed
- Thermal drones used to improve night-time elephant monitoring

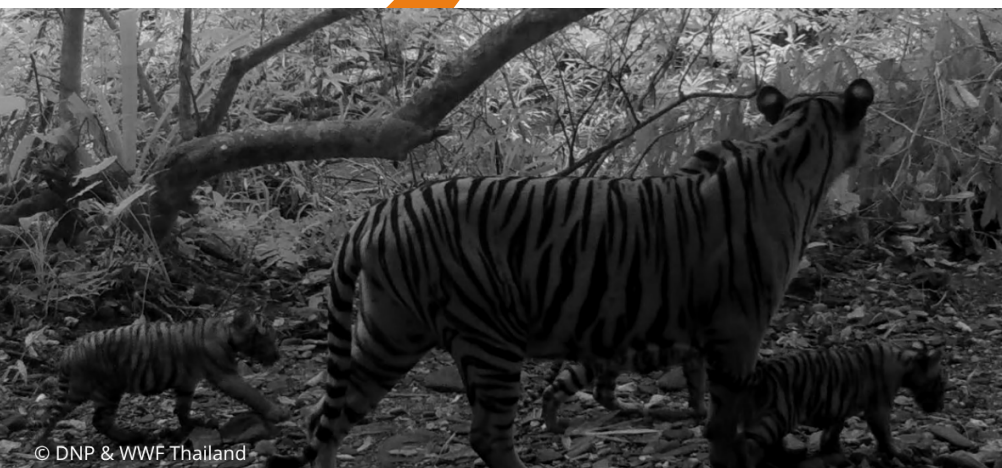


Habitat Improvement

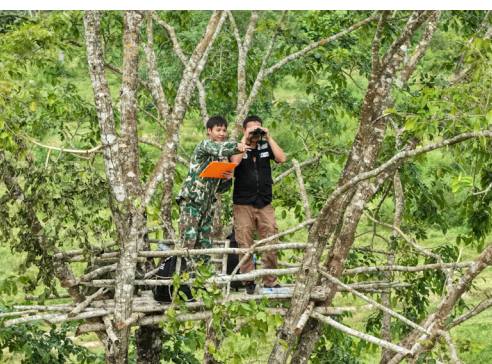
- **16 hectares** of grassland restored in Kaeng Krachan National Park
- Camera trap surveys recorded **23 mammal species**
- Most frequently recorded:
 - 🌿 Gaur (RAI: 50.17)
 - 🌿 Asian elephant (RAI: 24.44)
- Less frequently recorded:
 - 🌿 Red muntjac (RAI: 6.96)
 - 🌿 Wild boar (RAI: 1.51)

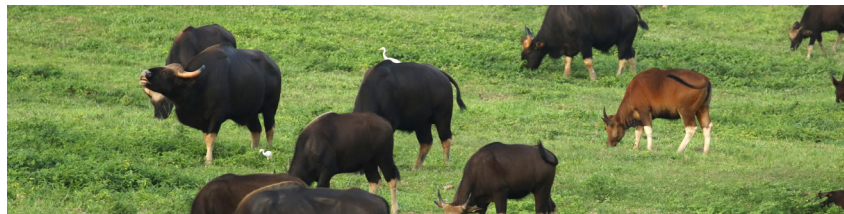
Community Engagement

- **60** local guides trained in wildlife behaviour and ecotourism interpretation
- Grassland restoration activities engaged:
 - 🌿 **100 participants** (February 2025)
 - 🌿 **150 participants** during Thai Elephant Day (March 2025)
- **2** artificial salt licks constructed
- Monthly coordination meetings held with the Kuiburi Ecotourism Club and park authorities
- Community outreach activities promoted awareness and human–elephant coexistence



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CHALLENGES

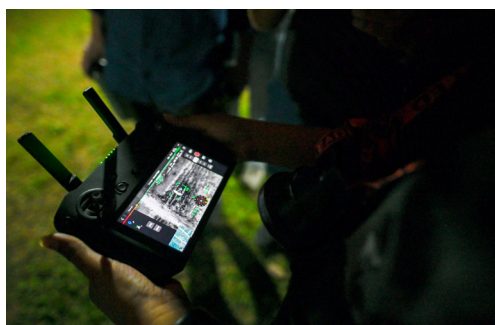
Kuiburi National Park has become a national model for reducing human–elephant conflict, particularly through the successful implementation of its Early Warning System, which has significantly reduced elephant incursions into farmland. The project has also facilitated knowledge exchange with protected area managers across Thailand.

However, several challenges remain. Human and elephant fatalities still occur due to the complex nature of human–wildlife interactions. Seasonal conditions continue to affect field operations, with flooding during the rainy season and drought, water shortages, and forest fires during the dry season limiting access for wildlife surveys and conservation activities.



Prolonged drought has also required SMART patrol teams to prioritise forest fire prevention over wildlife protection, reducing patrol coverage in remote areas. In addition, staffing shortages continue to constrain conservation efforts.

Despite these challenges, WWF Thailand remains committed to strengthening wildlife protection, reducing human–elephant conflict, and ensuring the long-term safety of both wildlife and local communities.



NEXT STEPS

WWF Thailand will continue strengthening conservation efforts in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex through the following priorities:

- Tiger and prey monitoring: Conduct systematic camera trap surveys in priority areas, including Kaeng Krachan National Park, to assess tiger and prey populations and their distribution.



- Elephant population survey: Apply an integrated survey approach in Kuiburi National Park using direct observations, camera traps, and drones to improve population estimates and management.



- AI-powered research and surveillance: Pilot artificial intelligence to support wildlife research and enhance the Early Warning System for real-time elephant monitoring and conflict prevention.



- Salt lick and habitat assessment: Analyse the nutrient composition of natural and artificial salt licks and monitor wildlife use of restored grasslands to evaluate habitat improvement outcomes.



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