

Thailand's Annual International Training Course (AITC) 2017

Forest-based Eco-tourism Management in Thailand: “Harmonizing Local People and Forests in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”

I Course Title: Forest-based Eco-tourism Management in Thailand: “Harmonizing Local People and Forests in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”

II Duration: 4-21 March 2017 (18 days)

III Closing date for application: 23 January 2017

IV Rationale

Ecotourism is a purposeful travel to natural areas, to understand the culture and natural history of the environment, avoiding to alter the integrity of the ecosystem, while producing economic opportunities that make the conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people. Community-based ecotourism (CBET) concept implies that the community has substantial control and involvement in the ecotourism project, and that the majority of benefits remain in the community. The community tourism industry is the collection of business that creates and sells a variety of goods and services to visitors. The development of these industries related to forest areas is a growing phenomenon as communities respond to the opportunity of tourism in and around forest areas.

Community-based tourism typically has broadly defined goals. First, it should be socially sustainable, meaning that the tourism activities are developed and operated, for the most part, by local community members, and certainly with their consent and support. The reasonable share of the revenues is enjoyed by the community in one way or another. Finally, community-based tourism implies respect and concern for the natural and cultural heritage. Ecotourism can be a tool for forest conservation when local people and tourists have conservation awareness. Activities to promote ecotourism are linked with forest conservation such as tree plantation, birding survey, building small checked dam. Local people, when they realize that tourism can bring benefit and help

community development, in turn, they appreciate the value of forest conservation.

Particularly, community-based ecotourism has become popular as a means of supporting biodiversity conservation all over developing countries. It is based on the idea that ecotourism can generate economic benefits to local people and therefore increase local appreciation of nature conservation.

An enterprise-based approach to conservation has been proposed as a strategy for financial and operational self-sufficiency or sustainability of community-based ecotourism. The sustainability is expected to come from three sources: (i) an ongoing conservation incentive in the form of income dependent on biodiversity; (ii) reinvestment of some of the income to maintain the business and protect the biodiversity asset base; and (iii) once a basis has been established, the entry of the private sector to provide the capital for further development and expansion.

Along with other countries within Asia-Pacific region, Thailand has been endeavoring to promote effective ecotourism policies and has become a popular destination for ecotourism. In particular, under the responsibility of the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand, RFD has been compiling lessons learnt and best practices regarding ecotourism as a tool for sustainable forest management of the country. RFD has also gained the experienced in promoting forest-based eco-tourism management program within the areas under the responsibility of RFD itself as well as to coordinate with other organizations such as Forest Industry Organization (FIO), Biodiversity-based ECONOMY Development Office (BEDO) including local communities and educational institutions.

Case study could be seen in many places across Thailand as best practices for eco-tourism management in national down to community level. This coordinated works have been progressing and bringing to the expansion of many related projects across the country. Those workforces have gained experienced and distributed their knowledge to public through research publications and training programmes so far. As a consequence, sharing and learning of such experiences and knowledge from those professional agencies would be helpful and effectiveness for works in promoting forestry-based eco-tourism and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of those participants who would join this training course in the future.

V Course Objectives

This two-week training programme features an intensive weeklong lecture, workshop and study visits. The programme will be coordinated by the International Forestry Cooperation Office of RFD and the lectures will also be taught by specialists in related topics from RFD itself and other related agencies. The lecture will be consisted of multidisciplinary regarding to forestry and community-based promotion and management. In particular, the main objectives of this training course are to:

- to illustrate the current status of forestry and community-based promotion and management including base practices and models in Thailand,
- to figure the economic, social and environmental impact from communities and other stakeholders involving in forestry and community-based promotion and management including their implications on such efforts through various programmes participatory under RFD and related agencies in Thailand,
- to explain the future scenarios for ensuring overcome challenges and threats and implement well-balanced policies for ecotourism by using Thailand's best practice as model cases,
- to provide an opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, and recommend future plans to enhance eco-tourism management and promotion from both Thailand and participants of the training course regarding to identification of future options, particularly drawing upon successes and failures and the emerging approaches for future collaboration of both countries in the future.

VI Expected outcome

- Enhanced understanding on policies and practices of ecotourism and forest-based tourism through the observation of best practices in Thailand
- Sharing relevant knowledge and experience among participants from different countries
- Proposal of collaboration and networking among participants regarding to forest-based eco-tourism. Number of contacting list will be recorded

VII Course Contents

The Training course and study visit attempt to provide a broad perspective of forest-based eco-tourism management and promotion of Thailand under management of RFD and related agencies in order to enhance understanding and preparedness of current matters on such issue which will specifically focusing on the following:

- Plenary session with key-note presentation
- Inter-sessional field excursion to model site for forest-based ecotourism in collective sites in Thailand.
- Technical discussion session and presentation of each participant

1. Course Outline. In particular, the structure of this Training course and study visit is designed to provide the maximum learning opportunity to the participants based on lecture, group work, discussions and study visit as listed below.

- (i) Concept of eco-tourism management
- (ii) Technique of eco-tourism promotion
- (iii) Building capacity of community and stakeholders in eco-tourism management
- (iv) Traditional forest conservation methods and forest related cultural heritage
- (v) Ecosystem rehabilitation and landscaping of degraded environment for eco-tourism purpose

2. Study/field trips will be conducted during the second week of the training course in order to visit best performance and practices of forestry-based eco-tourism management and promotion in selected site across the country. Those collective models and sites will be carefully selected to suit the course objective and interest of participants.

In general, the programme is primarily comprised of the following components:

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| - interaction with experts in both lecture room and field | 80% |
| - group work | 10% |
| - Wrap-up and feedback from participants | 10% |

3. **Advance assignment.** Participants of the training course will be asked to prepare a country report regarding to eco-tourism management and promotion within the country where the participant comes from (format of the report will be attached). Moreover, a 15-minute presentation will be made by each participant. Related documents, articles and reports will be sent to each participant in further in order to make each participant ready before the training course commenced.

VIII Number of Participants: 20 persons

IX Qualifications

Candidates must possess qualifications as specified in “Guideline for Thailand’s Annual International Training Course Programme” No. 2 “Qualifications” as well as following qualifications.

- have substantial experience in addressing issues related to eco-tourism management and promotion in forestry sector and other related fields,
- able to actively participate in the debates , discussions and field trips; and
- able to provide a detailed case study/ participant report outlining the different aspects of eco-tourism management and promotion in their countries.

The Training course and study visit is designed for policy makers, planners and managers, specifically dealing with eco-tourism management and promotion in forestry sector as well as other related field.

X Venue

The Training course and study visit will mainly be held at the Royal Forest Department meeting rooms in Bangkok for lecture session while study visit will be based on the sites. Accommodations and meals will be arranged at the hotels in both Bangkok and study visit sites.

XI Evaluation

Participants are required to attend all activities organized during the course as attendance in all sessions is obligatory. TICA reserves the rights to revoke its fellowship

offer or take appropriate action deemed appropriate in case a participant is in attendance of less than 90 percent of the training hours.

Successful of the training course will be measured from attendance. Moreover, pre and post evaluation forms will be distributed to each participant for filling up the form to illustrate perception, background understanding on related topics, comment, recommendation, and so on. Completed evaluation forms will be analyzed and included within the report after the training course end.

XII Training Institution:

International Forestry Cooperation Office
Royal Forest Department
Bangkok, Thailand

XIII Contact

For more information, please contact;
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