



Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) in Thailand

Factsheet

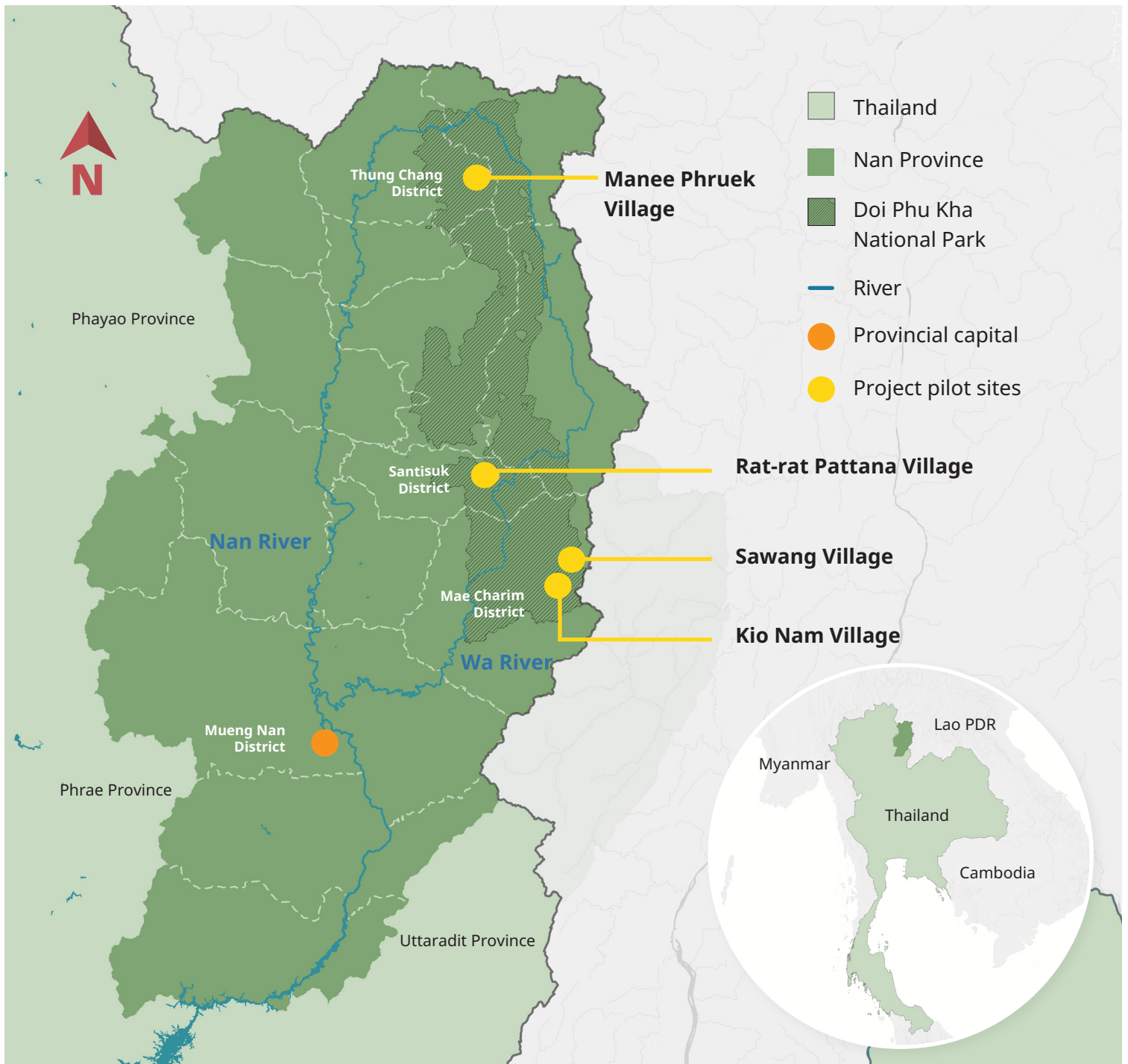
The Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) project, supported by the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, is a critical initiative in the face of the escalating climate crisis. The project is significant for Thailand as it aligns with the Global Goals and the Thai Government's commitment to reducing average PM 2.5 levels by 40% and burning by 50% through joint responsibilities of all sectors.

CBFiM leverages RECOFTC's expertise in community forestry to involve community members, local authorities and stakeholders throughout the integrated fire management process, including the preparation (review, readiness and risk reduction), response and recovery phases.

Nan Province was selected as the project site due to its high number of hotspots and significant impact from fires and PM 2.5 pollution. The project targets four communities in the Doi Phu Kha National Park area, which

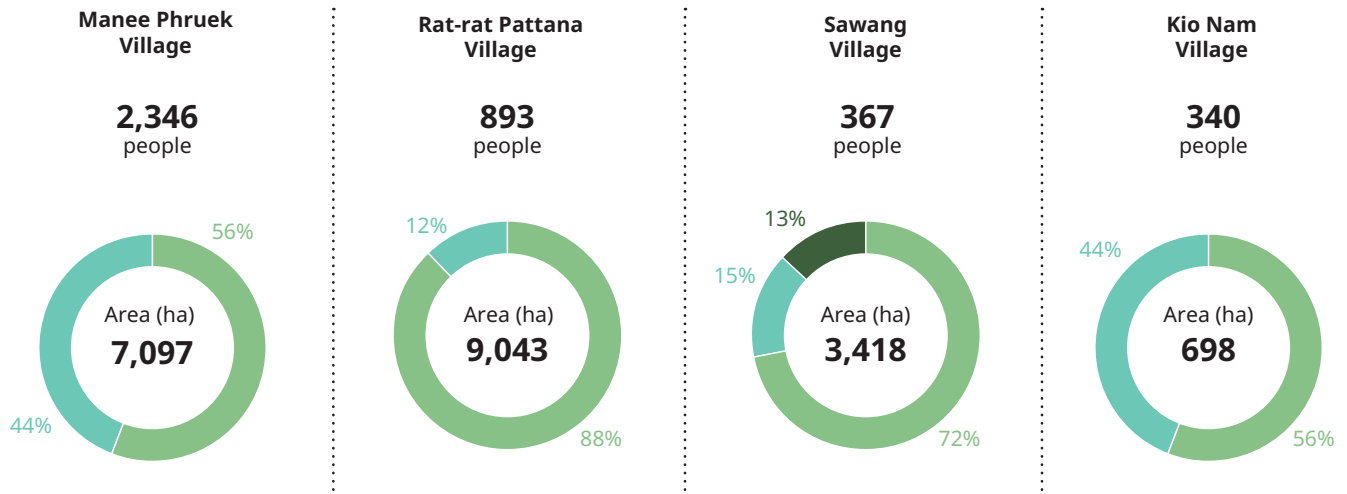
have experienced severe fires in recent years. These communities – the Manee Phruet and Kio Nam Hmong Villages, the Rat-rat Pattana Lua (Thin) village and the transboundary haze-threatened Sawang Village near the Thailand-Laos border – are ideal for demonstrating fire management plans and best practices across varied geographic, land use and socio-economic contexts.

Effective and sustainable fire management hinges on understanding community needs and challenges and fostering close coordination between communities and government entities throughout the fire management cycle. Empowering locals to play a pivotal role and leveraging local knowledge and community-appropriate technology is crucial. The project aims to document lessons learned and facilitate knowledge sharing to enhance awareness among communities, stakeholders and society at large, contributing to climate mitigation efforts in Thailand.



Project pilot sites

■ Forested area
 ■ Agricultural land
 ■ Community forest



PM 2.5 air pollution in Thailand

- Addressing air pollution, especially the PM 2.5 issue, has become a critical national agenda in Thailand.
- PM 2.5 has significant health implications, which include a surge in hospital admissions for respiratory issues. It also leads to extensive environmental degradation and economic damage, notably affecting the tourism sector.
- The primary sources of PM 2.5 in the north are fires in forest landscapes and agricultural areas, often ignited inadvertently for purposes such as gathering, hunting and land preparation.

Integrated Fire Management Framework

The framework consists of 5Rs: Research, Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery. It also includes problem analysis, adaptive management feedback and expansion of the approach to multiple levels – local, national and regional

Activities, support and recommendations for community-based fire management

The CBFiM project conducted situational analysis and capacity development needs assessment workshops in four target communities in September 2023. Data for the assessment was compiled using stakeholder consultations, desk review of relevant literature, focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

In response to the identified needs and challenges, we have collaborated with community members and local authorities to develop community-based fire management plans. The following key activities, support and recommendations are proposed within the integrated fire management framework.

1. Capacity development in safety in fire control and suppression

2. Fire prevention and management equipment support and training

3. CBFiM technology consultation support and training

4. Cross-learning among target communities

5. National-level forum and reflection: Developing recommendations for mainstreaming CBFiM



Recommendations

1. Preparation (Review, risk reduction and readiness)

- Provide appropriate equipment like leaf blower, fire beater and rake as well as share knowledge on readiness and risk reduction techniques such as building fire lines.
- Develop community-based fire management plans and collaborative plans among neighboring villages and stakeholders.
- Offer training on applying technology for fire risk assessment.

2. Response

- Implement fire management plans in collaboration with stakeholders from all sectors, ensuring clear role and responsibility distribution.
- Ensure the safety and privacy of individuals reporting fire incidents and identifying causes of incidents.
- Conduct training on risk assessment, safe and proper firefighting techniques, first aid

and the application of technology in fire management planning.

- Utilize technology, such as drones, for fire risk assessment and response.
- Develop better infrastructures such as roads to transport people and equipment for timely firefighting and phone and internet connection to report fire cases as early as possible.
- Raise awareness for forest and agricultural fires among target communities and neighboring communities, including law and regulation matters.

3. Recovery

- Provide compensation funds for loss of agricultural products and assets, as well as for health care and insurance.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing on diverse fire management tailored to different forest landscapes.

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