



PHOTO: USAID WILDLIFE ASIA

# USAID WILDLIFE ASIA WORKSHOP FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS ON REDUCING DEMAND FOR WILDLIFE PRODUCTS TRAINING REPORT

Samut Prakarn Province, Thailand October 21, 2020

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## **USAID WILDLIFE ASIA**

# WORKSHOP FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS ON REDUCING DEMAND FOR WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

Samut Prakarn Province, Thailand October 21, 2020

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#### I. BACKGROUND

The workshop was a collaboration between the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB), USAID Wildlife Asia, WildAid Thailand, the Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), FHI360 and the Sekhiyadhamma network and Wat Chak Daeng. The day-long workshop was held at Wat Chak Daeng, Samut Prakhan Province, Thailand. This event was the first time that Buddhist spiritual leaders were brought together to learn about how monks and nuns can be key influencers in Thailand's national effort to end the killing of animals and using wildlife products (skin, teeth, ivory, meat, etc.) in the belief that these products bring good luck and protection.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity and commitment of monks and nuns from key temples in Bangkok and northern Thailand. The objectives were as follows:

- I. Echo key messages of the two spiritual beliefs campaigns implemented by USAID Wildlife Asia and respond to questions from people visiting temples and others with whom they come in contact;
- 2. Provide information regarding the negative impact of consuming endangered species based on findings from USAID Wildlife Asia's Thailand 2018 Consumer Research and other relevant research studies;
- 3. Develop messages aligned with USAID Wildlife Asia's campaigns that will be relevant in their particular temple and contexts, and
- 4. Speak authoritatively and explain why the use of amulets derived from ivory, tiger, and other endangered species are not in line with Buddhist teachings.

#### III. PARTICIPANTS

The participants were 20 Buddhist monks and 10 nuns from the Sekhiyadhamma and Wat Chak Daeng networks. These monks and nuns will be the key influencers to promote the message to stop using wildlife products and stop killing wildlife. Participants also included representatives from each of the coordinating organizations and presenters from DNP, USAID Wildlife Asia, and WildAid Thailand, totaling approximately 40 persons. A representative from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) provided opening remarks.

(List of participants is in Annex 1).

#### IV. AGENDA AND METHODOLOGY

#### **TRAINING TOPICS**

The training covered the following topics:

- Update by the DNP on how Thailand is tackling the illegal trade of wildlife products such as ivory and tiger parts
- Introduction to USAID Wildlife Asia's activities and campaign regarding spiritual beliefs pertaining to wildlife products
- Campaign in collaboration with WildAid "A Good Life is Free of Killing"
- Discussion of the role of Buddhist spiritual leaders monks and nuns in disrupting illegal wildlife trade and consumption in Thailand
- Adapting messages to reduce demand for ivory and tiger products based on spiritual beliefs
- Small group discussions and presentations

#### TRAINING METHODOLOGY

The workshop methodology included group presentations, showing videos, and small group discussions with presentations as described below:

- Five presentations followed by question-and-answer sessions
- Showing short videos within the presentations
- Five small group discussions or breakout sessions with action planning and group presentations
- Wrap-up and closing

The presentations were delivered in Thai with some PowerPoint content in English. Please refer to Annex 2 for the full agenda.

USAID Ecosystems Management and Trade Specialist Saroj Srisai welcomed coordinators, monks, and nuns in attendance. Saroj said that the USAID-supported campaign's focus in Thailand is to reduce the demand for wildlife products, specifically ivory and tiger amulets, as one way to reduce wildlife trafficking. Thailand is considered a primary hub for the trafficking of wildlife products. Driving the consumption of wildlife products in Thailand is the Thai people's belief that wildlife products have spiritual powers.

Further opening remarks were made by Phra Maha Pranom Dhammalangkaro, Abbot of Wat Chak Daeng and host of the workshop. The Venerable Abbot shared his insights and broad perspective about living in harmony with nature. He said power comes from meditation and not the belief that power comes from ivory or an amulet.

The Venerable Abbot said: "True power is from the heart or the spirit. This is why wildlife products are not needed. Good energy comes from the right thoughts. When wildlife is killed, lives are taken and policies are broken." He urged everyone not to kill in order to experience metta (compassion), love, and kindness.

The Venerable Abbot concluded by talking about plastic waste and how killing still takes place when animals consume it and die on land and in the oceans and rivers. "Animals are killed intentionally and unintentionally, directly and indirectly. We eventually see the consequences of trash. This is why Wat Chak Daeng has an extensive waste management system and teaches the youth how to recycle trash. If these two types of killing can be reduced, then wildlife will flourish. We need to have compassion for the natural world in order to live in harmony with it."



Phra Maha Pranom Dhammalangkaro, Abbot of Wat Chak Daeng, delivers his opening remarks USAID Wildlife Asia

**Session I** - Update on how Thailand is tackling the illegal trade of wildlife products such as ivory and tiger parts by Sadudee Punpugdee, Director, Ivory Sub-Control Division (CITES), DNP.

**Session 2** - Introduction of USAID Wildlife Asia, Spiritual Beliefs re Wildlife Products and Spiritual Beliefs campaigns - "No Ivory, No Tiger Amulets" by Chinnapat Chin, USAID Wildlife Asia.

**Session 3** - Campaign in collaboration with WildAid – "A Good Life is Free of Killing" by Nuthatai Chotechuang, Thailand Representative, WildAid.

The WildAid campaign called "A Good Life is Free of Killing" focused on ending wildlife trade and illegal poaching in China, Vietnam, and Thailand; specifically, it aimed to reduce the demand for ivory and animal meat in Thailand. The campaign directly addressed the perceived beliefs that ivory protects people from evil and gives a good life. The campaign casts doubt on the power of ivory and tiger parts to bring good luck and fortune. The messages were delivered by a respected Buddhist monk, Venerable Phramedhivajirodom (V. Vajiramedhi), and prominent celebrities including the actor Bhin Banloerit (also known for his charity and rescue volunteer work) and the actress Daraneenute Pasutanavin.

**Session 4** - Discussion on the role of Buddhist monks in disrupting the illegal wildlife trade and consumption in Thailand by the Venerable Win Siriwattano and Dr. Surin Onprom.

The session included the following topics:

- Relationship between monks and wildlife, the role of monks
- Role of monks in campaigns against the use of wildlife parts

- Buddhist principles regarding the use of wildlife parts
- "Jataka Sutra" (Buddhist holy scripture teaching) on the virtues of wildlife
- Case studies of temples and wildlife conservation in Thailand
- O&A

Session 5 - Adapting messages to reduce demand for ivory and tiger based on spiritual beliefs by Chinnapat Chin, USAID Wildlife Asia.

- Recap of Spiritual Beliefs campaign messages Wisdom, Purity, Compassion. It makes no sense to think that wearing amulets carries the essence of the Buddha or that they are auspicious. One should instead be compassionate to animals and the environment.
- Use channels to reach the target audiences though touchpoints in daily life. Consider where the target audiences live, how they travel or commute, where they work, what they do in their free time, where they worship, what they read, and who they listen to.

Session 6 - Small group discussions and presentations moderated by Dr. Surin Onprom and Wansiri Rongrongmuang. Dr. Surin asked the small groups to brainstorm their key message, their target group, and the channels to use. Five small groups were asked to examine the following areas during the breakout sessions:

- The role of the monks and nuns in wildlife conservation and avoiding the use of wildlife parts
- Agencies involved in supporting monks and nuns in conservation efforts to end the trade of wildlife parts
- Integrate messages in teachings for monks and nuns

#### V. TRAINING RESULTS AND OUTPUTS

#### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

The five small group discussions were very productive as monks and nuns sat together to discuss and examine the issue and approaches that can be used to reduce the use of wildlife products - and consequently, killing wild animals - within their communities.



The participants broke into small discussion groups, Photo: INEB

Presentations given by monks and nuns from the groups are summarized below:

#### **GROUP I**

- The group discussed the monk's and nuns' role in linking the Buddha's teachings and principles, and based on this, the group developed a plan of action.
- Approaches included: campaigns, education, incorporating messages into preaching, connecting with community leaders, and working with youth.
- Monks and nuns can be a central point for providing information to the temple and the broader community.
- Key words can be used in campaigns to be displayed at the temples, and printed on cloth materials and plates.

#### **GROUP 2**

- The group discussed the monk's and nuns' role to be a good example to others both inside the temple and in the community.
- The group identified the need to share new values about the value of life and wildlife, especially related to the first Buddhist precept that prohibits killing, which applies to both humans and animals.
- The group felt there was a need to work with the villagers and the community surrounding the temple including dialogue sessions and in other exchanges with the community.
- The monks and nuns can post the agreements made with the community, especially the temples located near forests.
- Conduct a novice camp where these issues can be introduced.
- Key messages will be disseminated using social media, Facebook, and YouTube.

#### **GROUP 3**

- The group discussed campaigns focusing on reforestation as well as protecting streams and rivers.
- The monks and nuns will raise awareness and teach about ending the sale of amulets made from wildlife products.
- The monks and nuns will conduct campaigns during Buddhist ceremony events.
- The monks and nuns will declare safe zones where animals cannot be killed; references were made to cases where this is already happening.
- The monks and nuns will link Buddhist principles to protecting wildlife/animals.
- The monks and nuns will conduct activities where youth and participants can have real experiences in the forest.
- Other approaches suggested including a music campaign, making comic books, composing poetry against consumption of wildlife products, etc.
- Create key words as a motto.
- Work with business corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs on this campaign.

#### **GROUP 4**

- The monks and nuns can help to coordinate and facilitate groups.
- The monks and nuns will campaign and raise awareness with new information: e.g., decorating your body with wildlife products does not help.
- The monks and nuns will link the issue of wildlife conservation with broader conservation issues.
- The monks and nuns will connect with community leaders who should be doing more to give ongoing attention to these issues.
- Activities need to be ongoing, not just a one-time event.
- The monks and nuns will collaborate with government authorities, youth, housewives, etc. This will enable them to reach more people and widen their circle of influence.
- The monks and nuns will make a community constitution.
- The campaign can be both online and offline.

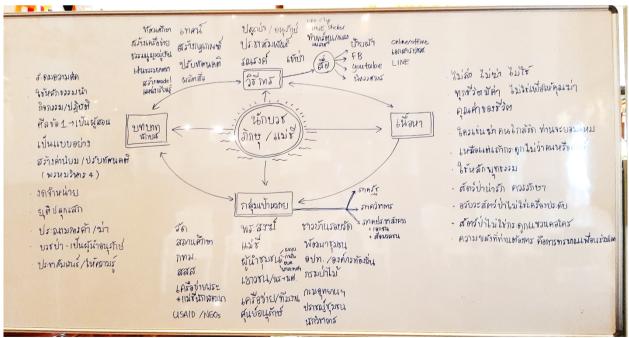
#### **GROUP 5**

- The monks and nuns will build awareness by starting with a small group; individuals cannot work alone.
- The monks and nuns will diversify campaigns and raise awareness through activities such as a peace walk to protect wildlife, building a model as a learning center or exhibit, etc.
- The monks and nuns will raise awareness about the law and penalties, legal status, and consequences of use of wildlife products.
- The monks and nuns will collaborate with the government, civil society, national parks department, local sub-district authorities, soldiers in certain areas, businesses, and academics. The monks and nuns can help the public make linkages with these groups.
- Consider developing a protected community forest highlighting the interdependence with nature.
- Key words will be used through online and offline videos. Online media is the most effective.
  The monks and nuns should simplify the teachings for example, they can use the USAID
  campaign videos shown during the workshop.

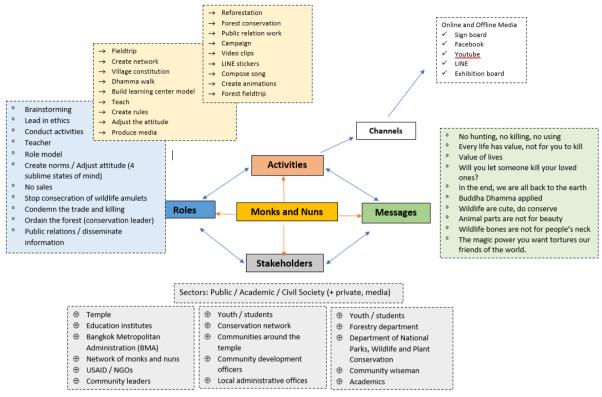


Group output presentation - Wansiri Rongrongmuang, INEB

Workshop facilitator Wansiri Rongrongmuang summarized the small groups' presentations in a diagram that showed the monks and nuns' roles, linking to the Buddhist teachings and principles, and their target groups of public, academic, and private sectors, as well as civil society. The content of the campaign aims to raise awareness and change behavior. The groups suggested several options for activities and what can be done through campaigns, conservation camps, comic books, as well as online and offline media.



Summary of group discussion output following the presentation - Wansiri Rongrongmuang, INEB



English translation of group discussion output - Wansiri Rongrongmuang, INEB

#### VI. NEXT STEPS

In closing, the Venerable Phra Win asked for feedback about how to improve this situation. One participant asked how to address the conflict between humans and wild animals, especially elephants eating and destroying plants on farmland. Another participant asked about the livelihoods that depend on hunting wildlife. Ending the use of wildlife products and killing of wildlife is linked to the larger issue of how to peacefully coexist with all of nature. Some suggestions were:

- To establish a resource center for the monks and nuns;
- Separate the issues into local, national, regional, and international;
- Move forward as a network with a deeper understanding of the issue in order to have a long-term impact;
- Link to existing networks, e.g., community forestry groups and form solidarity with them.
- Recognize that a long-term commitment is needed in order to bring about changes in thinking about the false belief in the power of ivory and tiger products;
- Present these issues and the summaries of the small group discussions to the sangha (religious council) in 16 provinces of northern Thailand, and
- Work on other related issues (e.g., protecting peacocks) as a team.

The group acknowledged that the first meeting with Buddhist spiritual leaders was a good beginning for getting the spiritual leaders on board the social and behavior change campaign to address the

spiritual beliefs that are key drivers of consumption of wildlife products. The INEB leadership and USAID Wildlife Asia will meet to discuss how the latter can support some of the above steps moving forward.

## **ANNEXES**

Annex I: Participants

Annex 2: Workshop Agenda (English)

## **ANNEX I: PARTICIPANT LIST - 5 PAGES**

#### ใบลงทะเบียน

การอบรมเชิงปฏิบัติการสำหรับพระสงฆ์และแม่ชี โครงการรณรงค์ "ชีวิตดีต้องไร้ฆ่า" ระหวางวันที่ 21 ตุลาคม 2563 เวลา 08.00 - 17.00 น. ณ วัดจากแดง บางกระเจ้า จังหวัดสมุทรปราการ Registration

Workshop Module for Training of Monks and Nuns by INEB October 21, 2020 at Wat Chak Daeng, Bang Krchao

ลำดับ	ชื่อ- สกุล	องคกร / ที่อยู่	เบอร์โทรศัพท์ / E-mail	ลายเซ็นผู้เข้ารวม / Signature	
ที / No.	Name - Last name	Address / Organization	Telephone / E-Mail	21-Oct-63	
1	พระครูโสภณปริยัติ	วัดพระสิงห์ วรมหาวิหาร ตำบลพระสิงห์ 083 -324 7984			
	Ven. Sophon Pariyad	อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดเชียงใหม่		Sur	
		Phasingha Temple, Phasingha Subdistrict,			
		Muang District, Chiang-Mai Province			
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	Ven. Uddhatana Panyarangsri	อ.สันปาตอง จังหวัดเชียงใหม่ 50120		yasys 1000	
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4	พระครูสินนั้นทกิจ	วัดโปงคำ 20 บ้านโปงคำ ตำบลดูพงษ์	081 -750 1484		
,	Ven. Sinnatakit	อำเภอสันติสุข จังหวัดนาน			
X		Pongkam Temple, 20 Ban Pongkam, Dupong			
		Subdistrict, Santisuk District, Nan Province			
5	พระครูสุจินั้นั้นทธรรม	วัดหนองป่าคำ 71 หมู่ 10 ตำบลศรีสะเกษ	081-0254313	Mario	
	Ven. Suchinnantadhamma	อำเภอนาน้อย จังหวัดน่าน 55150	4		
		Nongpakam Temple, 71 Moo 10, Srisaket Subdistrict	1		
		Nanoi District, Nan Province 55150			

6	พระครูอาชวพิมล (ชินพันธ์ ทินนา)	วัดแม่กาโทกหวาก. ต. แม่กา	086-9101939	
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		Muang District, Phayao Province 56000		
7	พระสัมฤทธิ์ จิตตุสว์โร (ยอดยา)	วัดพระธาตุจอมไคร้ ต.หวยลาน	099 - 8876474	2 2 2 2 2 2
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	Ven. Mahayannaphong	Nong Kwang Temple, Moo 10, Srivichai Subbdistrict,		
		Lee District, Lampoon Province	4	
9	เจ้าอธิการอารักษ์ญาณธมุโม	วัดพระพุทธบาทดอยถ้ำ ต.แม่ลาน อ.ลี้ จ.ลำพูน	061 -798 5969	2
	Ven. Arrak Yannadhammo	Phabuddabat Doitam Temple, Mae Lan Subdistrict,	ar ,	( and
3		Mae Lee District, Lampoon Province		
10	พระสาธิต ธีรปุญโญ	ที่พักสงฆ์สถาบันธรรมาภิวัฒน์ 64 ม. 2 บ้านสบเติ้น	089 - 932 5523	
	Ven. Sadhit Dherapanyo	ต.สบป้าด อ.แม่เมาะ จ.ลำปาง		
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		District, Pae Province		<i>F</i>
12	พระมหาสุชาติ พลวโร	ที่พักสงฆ์อาศรมบ้านนาจิ้ว ม.1 .แม่ถูคอ	080 -033 6865	~ (
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		Weang Chiangrung District, Chiang-Rai Province 57210			
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X	Ven. Santi Dhammasangsri	Pasangdhamma Temple, Pangan Island,			
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27	พระอนุวิทย์ หน่อทอง (โฆสิตมนตี)	วัดแม่ใส 23 หมู่ 2 ต.แม่ใส อ.เมือง จ.พะเยา			
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28	พระมหานภันต์ สตุติภทุโท	344 Jakkapadhiphong Rd, Khwaeng Ban Bat,			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1	Ven. Mahanaphan Sattipatho	Khet Pom Prap Sattru Phai, Bangkok 10100			
29	พระสังคม ธนปญโญ	ศูนย์ปฏิบัติธรรมมาบเอื้อง 114/1 ม.1 ต.หนองบอนแดง	089-574-2528	. /	
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30	พระมหาไพรวัลย์ วรวณุโณ Ven. Mahapaiwan Warawanno	วัดสร้องทอง 319 ถ. ประชาราษฎร์สาย1 แขวง บางชื่อ เขตบางชื่อ กรุงเทพมหานคร 10800 Sot Thong Temple, Pracharat 1 Rd, Khwaeng Bangsue Bangsue District, Bangkok, 10800		free of	
31	พระอนุวิทธ์ โฆสิตมนุต	วัดแม่งกัโทกหลาด ข.พะเยา	,	MZZONYW	
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## **ANNEX 2: WORKSHOP AGENDA (ENGLISH)**

## **Workshop for Spiritual Leaders** on Reducing Demand for Wildlife Products October 21, 2020 Wat Chak Daeng, Bang Krachao

Time	Session	Resource Person
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	INEB
09:00 - 09:05	Introduction and welcome	Ven. Win Siriwattano
09:05 – 09:10	Opening remarks	Saroj Srisai, Ecosystems Management and Trade Specialist, USAID RDMA
09:10 - 09:15	Opening remarks	Phra Maha Pranom Dhammalangkaro, Abbot of Wat Chak Daeng
09:15 - 09:20	Group Photo	front of the Buddha statue
09:20 – 09:40	Thailand update on tackling illegal trade of wildlife products such as ivory and tiger parts	Sadudee Punpugdee, Director, Ivory Sub-Control Division (CITES), Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)
09:40 - 10:20	Introduction of USAID Wildlife Asia Activity, Spiritual Beliefs re Wildlife Products and Spiritual Beliefs campaigns  No Ivory, No Tiger Amulets	Chinnapat Chin, USAID Wildlife Asia
10:20 - 10:30	Campaign in collaboration with WildAid	Nuthatai Chotechuang, Thailand
	A Good Life is Free of Killing	Representative, WildAid
10:30 - 10:45	Q & A and Discussion on campaigns presented	USAID Wildlife Asia and WildAid
10:45 –12:00	Lunch Break	
12:00 – 13:00	<ul> <li>Discussion on role of Buddhist monks in disrupting illegal wildlife trade and consumption in Thailand</li> <li>Relationship between monks and wildlife, the role of monks</li> <li>Role of monks in campaign against use of wildlife parts</li> <li>Buddhist principals regarding use of wildlife parts</li> <li>"Jataka Sutra" (Buddhist holy scripture teaching) on the virtues of wildlife</li> <li>Case studies of temples and wildlife conservation in Thailand</li> <li>Q &amp; A</li> </ul>	Ven. Win Siriwattano and Dr. Surin Onprom
13:00 – 13:30	Adapting messages to reduce demand for ivory and tiger based on spiritual beliefs:  Recap of spiritual beliefs campaign messages Channels to reach target audience	Chinnapat Chin, USAID Wildlife Asia
13:30 – 14:50	<ul> <li>Breakout session for group discussion and presentation:</li> <li>The role of the monks in wildlife conservation and avoiding the use of wildlife parts</li> <li>Agencies involved in supporting monks in conservation efforts to end trade of wildlife parts</li> <li>Integration of messaging in teachings for monks and nuns</li> </ul>	Dr. Surin Onprom & Wansiri Rongrongmuang
14:50 – 15:00	Closing	USAID Wildlife Asia Ven. Win Siriwattano