



PROMOTING HUMAN-ELEPHANT CO-EXISTENCE THROUGH AGROFORESTRY IN THAILAND

Project Snapshot

Lead Organisation (Sponsor) and local partners Zoological Society of London and EcoExist

Sector

Agroforestry

Country / Region
Thailand / Kanchanaburi

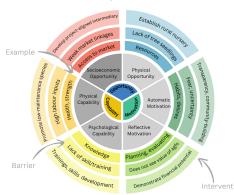
Project maturity

Technical and commercial design: In development, costed.

Implementation: Pilot stage, training ongoing.

Business setup: Developing co-operative SPV structure and capacity pre-financing.

Barriers and targeted interventions





Overview: This project addresses human-

elephant conflict in southern Thailand while

improving income and land security for

smallholders. The team is developing an

investible business model with local

stakeholders, enabling farmers to transition

from elephant-attracting cash crops (e.g.,

cassava, sugar cane, banana) to agroforestry

systems featuring less-palatable crops (e.g.,

coffee, marigold, chilli). This shift reduces

crop consumption by elephants, lowers input

costs, enhances soil health, boosts carbon

sequestration, and delivers ecosystem

services like water regulation and biodiversity.

ZSL aims to identify the most suitable

agroforestry model and create an investment

proposition to scale this approach across

Current status: Working with local partners,

ZSL have confirmed the geographical scope

of the project and the 30-50 farms to include

in the expanded pilot phase. Both the

financial model and legal structure have been

developed, capturing not only farm level

income and cost estimates, but processing

2.000 hectares.





Impact Measurement: Success will be measured by net reductions in human-elephant conflict incidents and damage, changes to the incomes of participating smallholder farmers, the rate of job creation in processing, input supplies, and marketing, enhanced land security for smallholder farmers through improved lease arrangements, increased carbon sequestration in the landscapes, and improved access to financing for biodiversity conservation and restorations.

Successes or innovative features:

- Use of farmer co-operative structure to align farm-level agroforestry with processing and marketing, providing equitable routes to market
- Importance of strong connections with local partners to secure buy-in and engagement to the project by local farms
- Focus on high-integrity NbS, that confers triple benefits through carbon sequestration, improving community livelihoods and reducing the killing of an endangered species
- Enablement of additional funding: the foundations established during the Accelerator support phase helped secure funding for its next phase through UK PACT.

"Growing and selling elephant-friendly forest crops that can generate more revenue than monocropping while reducing conflict"

Scalability replication and potential: ZSL aims to develop demonstration farms agroclimatic zones to recruit more farmers and scale up to other farms similar challenges. Moving forward, a local agroforestry specialist to been hired demonstration oversee help establish training, to cooperative, and ensure community engagement and technical expertise.



Contact ZSL's SBF Team sbf.advisory@zsl.org

Save paper, view online:



Revenue sources: National market - coffee and other agro-forestry crop sales.

Sponsor estimated capital cost – current phase: [USD XX from financial model]

Planned Financial instrument: Agri-loans from Thai financial institutions, and prospectively an outcome bond.

Scalability: The agroforestry practices, cooperative legal structure and contracts once demonstrated can be replicated and applied in other HWC contexts.



and marketing functions via a co-operative.

Support provided by the NbS Accelerator:

"We received invaluable guidance from the

incubator's experts, who have brought a wealth of experience in project management and business development from the industry." Dr Gopalasamy Reuben Clements, Sustainable Finance Specialist, ZSL





