**SDM Project:** Supporting and Promoting the Karen Indigenous Socio-ecological Production System in Northern Thailand (January 2014 - February 2015)

**Supported:** The Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES)

**Collaboration:** Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples (IKAP)  
Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture Association in Thailand (IMPECT)  
And Forest People Program (FPP)

Present by Nutdanai Trakansuphakon
The Wisdom of the Karen in Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Local wisdom:
“Live with the water, care for the river, live with trees, care for the forest”

“One Gibbon die, seven forest become sorrowful and one horn bill die, seven Bayan trees become regretful”
What is Rotational Farming (RF)?

A knowledge intensive practice that strongly relies on underutilized crops

Sustainable and culturally rich

BUT

misunderstood and criminalized as cause of deforestation and environmental degradation and climate change.
SEPLs major activities mechanism

1. Capacity building (leaders, organizations) Strengthening and revival of traditional occupations (e.g. rotational farming) and farmer-to-farmer exchange of indigenous seeds varieties
Activity 2. Community Research and Participatory Mapping, submission of Community Maps and Action Plan to be approved as part of the TAO (Local Administration unit) Development and NRM plan (s)
Activity 3. Collection and categorizing of indigenous knowledge for inter-generational transmission of indigenous knowledge
Activity 4. Campaigning for the promotion of Mae Umphai Community recognize as a sustainable RF model village e.g. declare as “Special Cultural Zone”
Communicate Rotational Farming to people in social network.
Campiang: #saverotationalfarming
Conduct Booth for Announcement
Brand Communities

HOSTBEEHIVE
by Hin Lad Nai

100% PURE Wild Honey

facebook HOSTBEEHIVE
Major achievement

- RF Farmers confident to keep going the practice of RF, RF land used areas is in its capacity to protect and to be taken into consideration for future recognition of communal land titles.
- Complete community based GIS mapping on RF & NRM are recognize and incorporation of community plans into Local government plan.
- Community members as well as outsiders recognise and respect the customary regulations related to RF, & women as knowledge holders on seed and plants.
- New and innovative sources of environmentally friendly productive activities for generate additional income, including more products from mixed cropping, have been identified and prioritised.
- The project was rooted in a local reality and implemented by a local community in collaboration with supportive indigenous organisations included young people are more aware of the importance and transmission of indigenous knowledge and practice.
- The project generated good cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the project and developed good relationship with local and central government and academia involved them in the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
Knowledge generation (knowledge needs), ongoing efforts and challenges

• Going deeper into traditional knowledge and the rotational farming system illustrated how sophisticated the system is and how smart the elders were in developing the system.
• Collaboration with different agencies and stakeholders is sometimes difficult and complex but it pays off in the long term.
• Interplay between modern technology like mapping and local knowledge may sometimes be complex but it is very fruitful and enriching. And multiple evidence (based both on TK and scientific research) can generate more solid knowledge generation on practice of ecological management.
• The interplay between productivity of forest and agricultural sites imply a challenge for people as they need to find a balance on how to have rich forest for consumption, income and conservation.
#SAVEROTATIONALFARMING

Thank You