

Restoring Thailand's Kaeng Lawa Wetlands: The Role of Inverse Cost-Benefit and Tolerable Windows Analysis

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2022 Environmental Performance Index Weightings



and the state of the



Kaeng Lawa

Kaeng Lawa National Wetland

Total catchment area: 94,620 ha Total wetland eco-system: 5,000 ha Current wetland boundaries: 1,120 ha





Chi River and Nong Kong Kaew Swamp Watersheds Showing agricultural and urban build-up

Wat Pa Non Samnak

🖓 หนองหัวข่าง (บ. หนองหัวข้าง)

Kaeng Lawa

ดะวันรอนคาเฟ







Monkey Greek dredging project โครงการขุดลอกแก้มลิงแก่งละว้า







"Without an effective development and management plan, these activities may disturb the wetland's ecosystems and biological components, especially bird species...The increasing number of subsistence and small-scale fishers using the wetland, as well as illegal fishing and use of destructive fishing gears, are leading to over-fishing and depletion of fish populations. There are also increasing numbers of people collecting other wetland products, such as typha and lotus." (ICEM, 2013)



Isaan Bio-Economic Zone 640 ha



Methods





Restoration as Benefit/Cost Ratio Maximization



Restoration as Benefit/Cost Ratio Maximization



Restoration as Benefit/Cost Ratio Maximization



Inverse CBA When Benefits are Uncertain



Tolerable Windows



Wetland Benefit Estimates











Natural Capital Accounting



GEF/UNDP Natural Capital Accounting Project for Policy Decision-Making for Sustainable Development

- > Integration of natural capital accounting in public/private sector policy and decision-making
- Pilot project in Krabi Province, 2023-2027
- > National framework for natural capital accounting established in 2027

Costs of Replication

Replication is very cheap in countries with plentiful land
\$500 to \$20,000 per hectare (2024\$) in U.S.
No estimates for Thailand



Research Transfer

Study Site	Total Benefits (\$2024)	Environment Benefits (\$2024)	Reference
Global alluvial marshes and swamps	\$38,400 ha/yr	\$23,000 ha/yr	Davidson et. al. (2019)
168 global inland wetlands	\$16,800 ha/yr	\$10,000 ha/yr	Russi et. al. (2013)
35 coastal China wetlands	\$26,000 to \$45,000 ha/yr	\$15,600 to \$21,000 ha/yr	Li et. al. (2020)
Merbil wetland, India	\$62,000 ha/yr	\$37,000 ha/yr	Lahon et. al (2023)
SUMMARY	\$27,000 ha/yr est. (Range of \$16,800 to \$62,000)	\$17,000 ha/yr est. (Range of \$10,000 to \$37,000)	

Application

Costs of Kaeng Lawa

\$106/ha/yr federal wetlands budget \$106/ha/yr local matching costs

\$34/ha/yr land opportunity costs

\$246/ha/yr

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Inverse CBA and Tolerable Windows

Implied Benefits = 10 x Costs (Bias the results in favor of the status quo)

Current Costs for Kaeng Lawa = \$246/ha/year

Then Implied Benefits = 10 x Total Costs = \$2,460/ha/year

But the minimum value of TB estimates is \$16,800/ha/year

So we are badly underinvested (outside the tolerable window)

The Underinvestment Trap



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Increased Investment x 50 for Spending Effectiveness and Efficiency







Monitoring Public campaigns Benchmarking Land regulation Ramsar listing Harvesting laws

Governance structures Local conservation corps Market-based tools Investment offset trusts

Green budgeting Private investment Set aside payments for reclamation



Beyond Analysis





UN Wetlands Conventions



<u>Thailand, Ministry of Natural</u> <u>Resources and Environment,</u> <u>Department of Water Resources</u>





Khon Kaen PAO, Office of Natural Resources and Environment



COLA/KKU



Ban Phai TAO



Muang Pia TAO



Khok Samran and other TAOs

Thank You!



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