

# Resilient Urban Centres and Surrounds (RUCaS)

## MISSION SUMMARY REPORT – THAILAND (15–19 MAY 2023)

### Background

RUCaS aims to improve the value generated by investment in urban infrastructure by better integrating conventional large 'grey' infrastructure (e.g., levee banks, pipelines, treatment plants, roads, railways) with nature-based solutions (e.g., wetlands, mangroves, catchment protection, green walls, multifunctional parks and transport corridors). RUCaS program outputs will include case studies demonstrating application in different urban contexts and scales, as well as training in the tools and principles applied, and strategies to upscale NbS.

RUCaS mission 3 was undertaken to Thailand to advance collaboration arrangements with government, civil society and multilateral agencies. Ground truthing case study sites with local stakeholders was a core focus.

### Purpose

This Thai mission had 4 objectives:

- Confirm On Nut as the first case study for Thailand
- Define the RUCaS activities for the case study
- Support the first meeting of the Thai Steering Committee
- Promote NbS and the RUCaS program with the international development sector.

### Activities

The mission was an opportunity to explore the current issues and pressure points affecting urban development in Thai cities, especially increased vulnerabilities created by extreme weather events (exacerbated by climate change) and wider catchment level developments. The site visit informed our understanding of the case study and allowed us to gather perspectives from local stakeholders.

- Site visit to On Nut Urban Forest – Our team was pleased to join Bangkok's Deputy Governor Professor Wisanu Subsompon, Australian Ambassador for Climate Change Kristin Tilley and project stakeholders – Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), PTT Global Chemical and Kasetsart University – on a tour of the future On Nut forest park site. Plans for the site include the urban forest, and a wetland and open water to store treated water for irrigation and detain water during flooding events. The Thai Steering Committee approved the plans for the site.
- Thai Steering Committee meeting – The committee met for the first time in May. It is chaired by Dr Purin Saiyastipanich (Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)). Members include BMA, the Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR), the National Economics and Social Development Council (NESDC), Ministry of the Interior, the State Railways of Thailand (SRT), the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT), the Provincial Administration Organization Council of Thailand (PAOC) and the Australian Embassy in Thailand.
- Meeting with Urban Action Group – Our team met with the Urban Action team to discuss progress on the Makassar case study and other collaboration opportunities following earlier

exchanges and developments including reviewing conceptual designs. We also introduced the team to the On Nut landfill forest park project.

- United Nations ESCAP 79<sup>th</sup> Commission Session – Ben Furmage (RUCaS Program Lead) presented at the Australian Government supported side event – From Vulnerability to Resilience: Approaches to Climate Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific – discussing the importance of place-based solutions, sustainable funding, upscaling and the RUCaS program.



*On Nut Urban Forest Park*



*Meeting with Urban Action Group*



*Thai RUCaS Steering Committee meeting*



*UN ESCAP 79<sup>th</sup> Commission Session*

## Next steps in Thailand

The mission consolidated valuable relationships with stakeholders and deepened our knowledge and understanding of the case study site. The immediate next steps are summarised below:

| Action  | Timing              |
|---|---------------------|
| RUCaS team and Steering Committee work together to establish working groups to support practical and appropriate delivery of the case studies | End of July 2023    |
| RUCaS team to prepare On Nut case study preliminary document for Regional Conference  | End of August 2023  |
| Regional Conference (online)  | 14–15 November 2023 |
| Training and capacity building  | November 2023       |