



October 2024 - December 2024

NEWS UPDATE NPA THAILAND



Group photo: field visit by NPA Secretary General

Visit from NPA Secretary General

On 28th of November 2024, the Norwegian People's Aid Thailand had the privilege of welcoming Secretary General (SG) Raymond Johansen to the Kraban Krabai field in Si Sa Ket's Phanom Dong Rak Wildlife Sanctuary.



Photo: NPA SG Raymond Johansen

During his visit, Johansen observed NPA Thailand's ongoing survey and clearance operations, alongside key partners including the Suranaree Task Force, the Rangers, the Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC), and Humanitarian Mine Action Unit 3 (HMAU 3). The visit underscored the collective effort in mine action and was a proud moment for the Thailand team.



Photo: field supervisor, programme manager and SG



KEY UPDATES



- We welcomed Secretary General Raymond Johansen to our field operations during his visit to Southeast Asia for the 5th Review Conference in Cambodia.
- NPA visited the Military Dog Centre (MDC) in Pak Chong District to explore the possibility of collaborating on training Thai mine detection dog handlers.
- NPA Thailand Participated in the 5th Mine Ban Treaty Review Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia, together with colleagues from NPA Head Office and other country programmes.
- Q4 management meeting brought together all NPA Thailand staff to review 2024's programme implementation and discuss improvements for Q1 2025.
- We look forward to welcoming new and experienced operational manager, Ulric Eriksson in Q1 2025. He will be staying in Si Sa Ket province overseeing the operations.
- Continued capacity development, including crucial recruitment plans, training visits, and stakeholder meetings.
- Operational highlights, new strategic summary, plans moving forward and more!



Photo: NPA head office and country programme representatives alongside NPA SG Raymond Johansen and Norwegian State Secretary Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik.

The 5th Mine Ban Treaty Review Conference

From the 23rd - 29th of November, NPA Thailand joined colleagues from Head Office and other country programmes, including Cambodia, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe, in Siem Reap, Cambodia for the 5th Review Conference on the Mine Ban Treaty. The conference aimed at bringing together state parties, civil society and international partners together, to assess progress, reaffirm commitments, address challenges, and set a forward-looking plan towards a world free from landmines.

In the lead up to the conference the USA's announcement to support Ukraine with landmines drew global attention and set the tone for the discussions in Siem Reap. This development underscored the urgency and relevance of the issue at hand, reminding all participants of the ongoing challenges in achieving a mine free world.

Several discussions underscored the importance of protecting the treaty's original humanitarian focus. Participants voiced concerns that progress has slowed, with no new States Parties since 2017 and persistent challenges in clearing large contaminated areas. This highlighted the need for renewed commitment and practical measures to ensure the treaty does not drift into becoming merely another forum for debate, but rather remains a driver for tangible, life-saving results on the ground.



Photo: Memory Mutepfa from NPA Zimbabwe holding a motivational speech during the conference



Photo: thousands participated in the walk for a mine free world at Angkor Wat in Siem Reap

The issue of completing clearance obligations under Article 5 remains a significant challenge. Even countries with relatively low levels of contamination struggle to fully meet their commitments and often need deadline extensions. Ensuring sustained support, cooperation, and resources is essential to help these states finalize their obligations and maintain the treaty's momentum toward a mine-free future.

Q4 Management Meeting

The NPA Thailand Management Meeting (MGM) for Q4 2024 was held during the first week of December, organized by senior management with the participation of the entire NPA team, including HMAU staff for the first time this year.



Photo: field based and Bangkok staff, including HMAU, gathered during Q4 meeting

The meeting aimed to review the programme's implementation in 2024, identify areas for further improvement, and adjust plans for Q1 2025 accordingly.

Open communication was a key theme at the Q4 meeting, where everyone contributed. Additionally, management staff led refresher training on the NPA Code of Conduct, Environmental Protection, and Gender Equity.

An election for a staff representative was held, and four candidates volunteered. This role ensures the team's perspectives are heard and considered. After a democratic vote, Watcharin, one of our manual deminers, was selected. He expressed his gratitude and said he is ready to represent everyone when needed.

Overall, the Q4 meeting was successful, providing a clear path forward that incorporated everyone's suggestions.



Photo: new staff representative Watcharin Tahante



Military Dog Centre Evaluation

On the 15th of November representatives from NPA visited the Thailand Military Dog Centre (MDC), better known in the country as the War Dog Centre, in Pak Chong District. The purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities for collaboration with the MDC, focusing on transitioning to training Thai handlers following recent restrictions on using Cambodian MDD handlers.

MDC Pak Chong is a key facility of the Veterinary and Remount Department of the Royal Thai Army, focusing on training military working dogs for tasks such as patrols, narcotics detection, and explosive searches. MDD training began in 2000–2001, and the centre currently has 18 mine detection dogs, 10 of them being operational, consisting of German Shepherds and Malinois.

SEA HR, Finance and Logistics Workshop

In early November, senior management from NPA Head Office organized a Finance, Logistics, and HR workshop in Bangkok, bringing together staff from regional country programmes and even Peru. Participants shared best practices, engaged in productive discussions, and benefited from direct dialogue with Head Office, making the workshop highly effective. Additionally, NPA Thailand welcomed several visiting representatives to our operational field, offering them first-hand insight into our on-the-ground activities.



Capacity Development



Photo: Le Xuan Hoang from NPA Ukraine with our Information Officer and TMAC staff

Information Management Manager Le Xuan Hoang from NPA Ukraine spent time at our Bangkok office to share his technical expertise in information management with our Information Officer and TMAC staff. This collaboration was immensely valuable in improving TMAC's data management capabilities.

Our young Mechanic, Sonthaya Saisangjai, has worked at NPA Thailand for (years) years. His proven reliability, consistent dedication, and good work ethic have earned him a well-deserved promotion to Senior Mechanic. Looking ahead, we plan to welcome a new mechanic, and Sonthaya will take the lead in mentoring and guiding this new team member.



Photo: Zinmar from NPA Syria with our Finance Officer

We also welcomed the Finance Manager from NPA Syria, who emphasized that strong financial management is everyone's responsibility. She also conducted refresher sessions with our Finance Officer, providing valuable insights that we are eager to implement in Q1 2025.



Photo: New Senior Mechanic Sonthaya Saisangjai

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Completion of Key Task Areas

Significant progress made in KBKB fields, with operations successfully completed in KBKB 7 (109,389 m²) and KBKB 8 (107,446 m²).



Efficiency Updates

Improved use of the Bearcat machine and other support equipment resulted in greater operational output this quarter.



Safety and Environmental Focus

Enhanced measures were introduced to align fieldwork with environmental sensitivity requirements.

TOTAL PRODUCTIVITY 31,018 m²

PRODUCTIVITY (MDD) 0 m²

TARGETED INVESTIGATION

0 m²

SYSTEMATIC INVESTIGATION

2,930 m²

CLEARANCE

11,155 m²

VERIFICATION

6,170 m²

AVERAGE PRODUCTIVITY (MANUAL DETECTOR)

11.01 m²

per hour per deminer

PRODUCTIVITY (MANUAL DETECTOR)

20,255 m²

AVERAGE PRODUCTIVITY (MACHINE)

134.54 m²

per hour per deminer

PRODUCTIVITY (MACHINE)

10,763 m²

FLAIL MACHINE

0 m²

TILLER MACHINE

10,763 m²

Highlights

In Pictures Q4



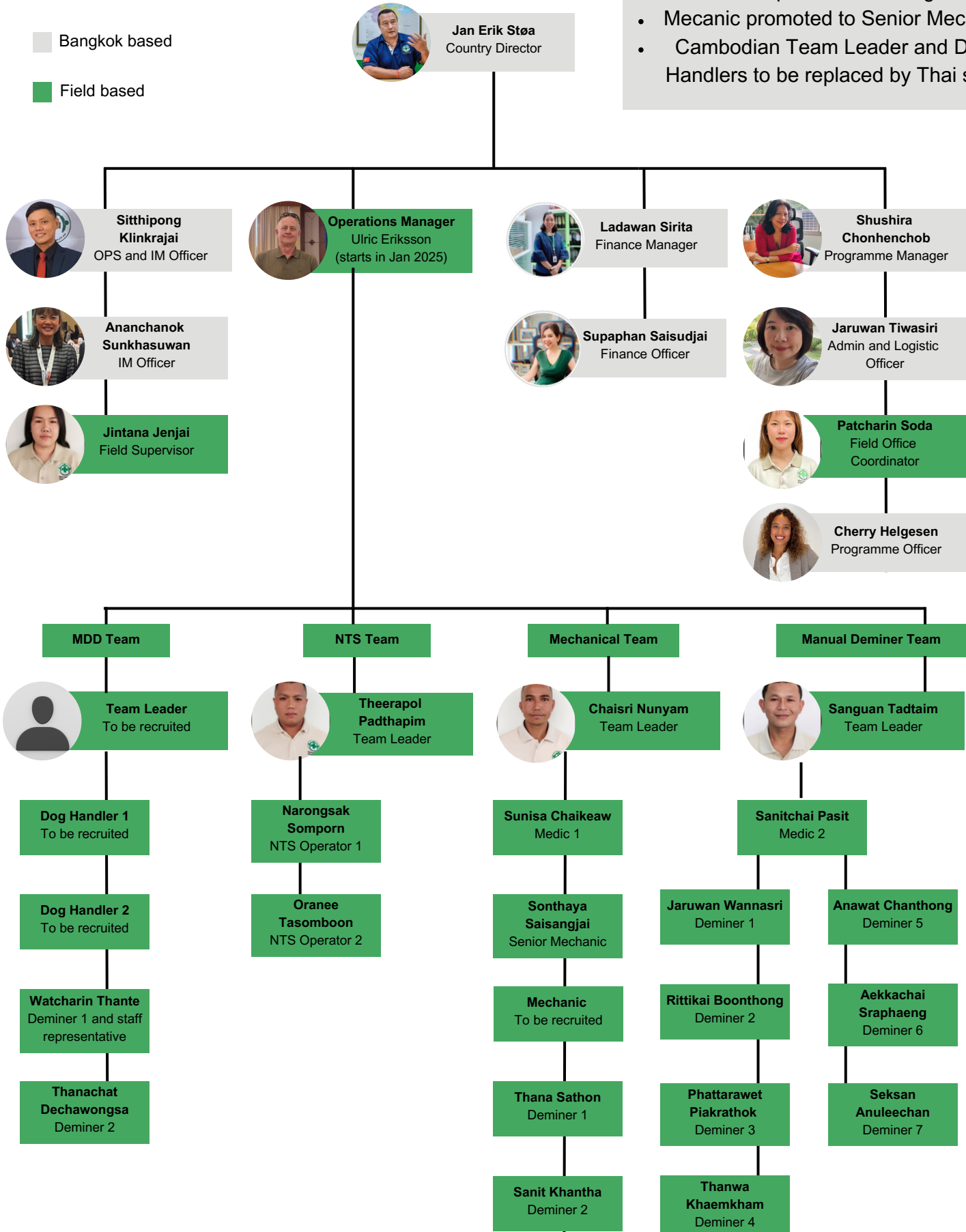
ORGANISATION CHART NPA THAILAND

Org. chart updates since Q3:

- New Operational Manager
- Mecanic promoted to Senior Mecanic
- Cambodian Team Leader and Dog Handlers to be replaced by Thai staff

■ Bangkok based

■ Field based



Looking Forward

- **Staff Expansion:** Plans to recruit additional personnel to support growing operational demands.
- **Dog Centre Developments:** Continued enhancements to the dog training program and facilities.
- **Environmental Policies:** Implementation of new policies to ensure environmentally responsible operations.
- **New Machines:** Arrival of advanced equipment provided by USDoD expected to boost efficiency in Q1 of 2025.
- **Strategy Documents:** A strategic summary for 2025-2030 was presented during the 5th Review Conference in Siem Reap, while an updated overall strategy will be ready in Q2.
- **From February 3rd to 6th:** NPA Thailand plans to host a joint donor visit to the operational field in Si Sa Ket.



Scan for a mobile friendly strategy:



Strategic Summary 2025-2030

NPA Thailand has posted their Strategic Summary for the period of 2025-2030. A full strategy will be posted in June 2025.

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We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to welcoming you back in 2025 with even greater achievements.



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