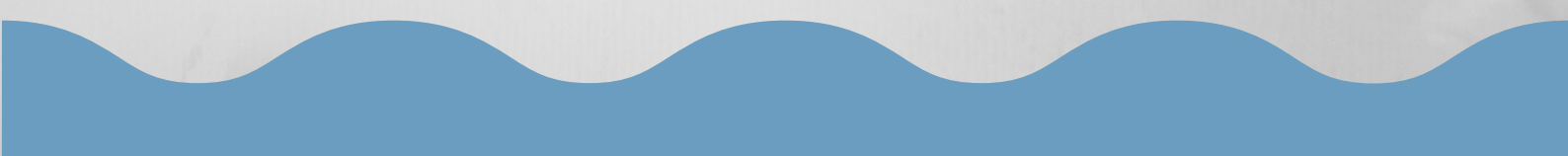




BOON NAM

75 years old

LIVES IN A LOW-LYING AREA





BACKGROUND

I live a few hundred metres southeast of the Ping River. The radio station warnings came too late for us and the flood rose suddenly. My family and I were wading through chest-deep waters to reach higher ground. We found refuge at a platform under a highway, along with 70 other people. The waters took seven days to subside. Clearing mud from the house was also a big challenge. We lost our family albums, and the furniture passed on to us by my parents. Although starting over was hard, I am relieved that we made it out alive.

CONCERNS

Hopefully we won't have another flood like the one in 2011. I am old now, my body is failing me. I had a stroke after we cleaned and rebuilt our home. If a big flood comes again, I might not be able to take care of my family like I did before.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

When we were young, we were happy every time the Ping flooded as it was good time to go fishing. Being cautious of the river is new to me. There are organisations in my neighbourhood that provide aid to older people during disasters. It might be worth looking into that.

STATUS QUO

Unplanned urban growth continues in Chiang Mai as more roads and concrete buildings are constructed within and around the city. The surrounding nature is continuously being destroyed. Together with climate change, the city now experiences bigger and higher floods, and longer and more intense dry seasons. Weather has also become more unpredictable.

AS BOON NAM, NOW IMAGINE

You hear the warning system go off. You are the only man in the neighbourhood. Your neighbours are asking you to help them carry their belongings upstairs. Your family is still securing some valuables. What will you do? How do you feel?

You and your family are at home, caught in a flood that is rapidly rising. It will be reaching hip-level soon. What would you do? How do you feel?

You watch the fast flowing flood waters rise above the door of your house as you move towards higher ground. What are you most worried about? Who are you thinking of?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

We can take actions to reduce flooding, impacts of climate change and urbanisation by employing nature-based solutions (NBS). These employ a combination of non-structural (e.g. urban planning, reforestation), soft structural (e.g. constructed wetlands), and hard structural measures (e.g. dykes and dams). NBS prioritises non- and soft-structural measures before adapting hard-structural approaches.

By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS BOON NAM, NOW IMAGINE

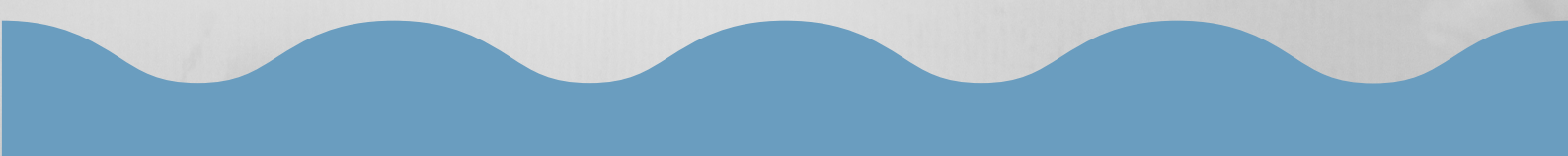
With nature-based solutions, flooding has not occurred since 2011, but Chiang Mai has become hotter each year because of climate change. Would you be concerned? How would you reason this?



CHANTARA

63 years old

HOUSE IS ONLY 1-STOREY





BACKGROUND

I live in a one storey house inherited from my parents. When the water reached our neighbourhood, I was alone at home with my cat, Khao. I struggled to get out of the house as the water quickly rose to hip level. I saw a family passing by and I cried for help. We headed to an auditorium where twenty other people were waiting out the flood. It took me two days to clean the mud. I lost all my most treasured belongings that year, including the jewellery my mother gave me for my wedding.

CONCERNS

I want to be able to keep all my belongings with me but they may be washed away if I am unable to secure them.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

I could have saved my belongings if I had a two storey house, so I used my savings and some money that my son sent from Bangkok to build a second level. Now I use the first floor to store old things and I live upstairs. However, going up and down the stairs is difficult because of a limp on my right leg.

STATUS QUO

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AS CHANTARA, NOW IMAGINE

You and your family are at home, caught in the flood which is rapidly rising towards your hip level. What would you do? How do you feel?

What belongings would you secure?

You watch the fast flowing flood waters rise above the door of your house as you move towards higher ground. What are you most worried about? Who are you thinking of?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS CHANTARA, NOW IMAGINE

With nature-based solutions, flooding has not occurred since 2011, but Chiang Mai has become hotter each year because of climate change. Would you be concerned? How would you reason this?



ANONG

46 years old

CAFÉ OWNER



BACKGROUND

I own a small café on the ground floor of the building where I live. I live upstairs with my sister and two nephews. I was listening to the radio when the flood came. When it was at my ankle level, my staff and I moved valuables upstairs. However we could not carry the fridge. The flash flood arrived so fast, we had very little time. I lost the plates, utensils and tablecloths from the cafe, as well as a replica of a Lanna painting given by my friend.

CONCERNS

My business and property are always badly affected by floods and I don't know how long I can afford to replace assets.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

After the flood, my neighbours started to raise the floor of their house and suggested I did the same. But I don't think this is necessary as it's expensive. A flood like that doesn't happen very often. We will just move things up again if another flood comes.

STATUS QUO

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AS ANONG, NOW IMAGINE

Soon after hearing the flash flood warnings over the radio, your cafe was quickly inundated by water. The water level rose rapidly. What do you save first?

Your cafe is covered in 20 cm of mud after the flood receded. The electronics that you were unable to save no longer work. Which appliance would you first re-invest on?

Food and water prices have rose exponentially over the past years as water scarcity becomes a problem due to climate change. Flood severity has also increased. What would you do to ensure that your business continues to survive?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS ANONG, NOW IMAGINE

With nature-based solutions, flooding has not occurred since 2011, but Chiang Mai has become hotter each year because of climate change. How do you think the change in temperature would affect your business?

The high electric bill has led to cutting costs by removing air-conditioning in your cafe. This is however, affecting business. What changes can you make to minimise your energy costs, while keeping your customers comfortable?



NAM PA

22 years old

UNDERGRADUATE



BACKGROUND

I am finishing college in the city and I cannot wait to start my life as an entrepreneur. Generations of my family have stayed in the hills to farm rice, as many of the Karen tribe have. I learnt how to farm and rotate crop plots to retain nutrients in the soil without the use of fertilizer.

CONCERNS

Trees need to be cleared in my village to make way for rice plantation. Rice is both our food and livelihood, but the income is so little compared to the land, effort, resources needed to grow it.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

Recently, coffee farming was introduced into our village. This is a great idea because we don't need to clear more land and we can potentially earn more from coffee. I'd like to set up a sustainable coffee business in our village, and explore roasting methods.

STATUS QUO

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AS NAM PA, NOW IMAGINE

Together with extensive deforestation in areas near your village, some streams have show signs of drying up during the dry seasons. How does your village react? What possible problems do you foresee?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS NAM PA, NOW IMAGINE

A social innovator is encouraging coffee farmers in your village to move up the value chain by becoming coffee roasters, not just farmers. The investor is young, passionate and energetic. She has many great ideas but lacks experience. You have new entrepreneurial skills from your degree, and the village would like your advice. Will you encourage this investment?



KAYE

26 years old

**ADMIN ASSISTANT FROM THE
HMONG COMMUNITY**



BACKGROUND

I am an administrative staff working at an educational institution in northern Chiang Mai. I came from a Hmong Village at the top of the mountains, far away from Chiang Mai city. I remember growing up and relying on the Mae Nam Muay river for irrigation, cooking and washing. My father used to tell me “the streams will disappear if the forests disappear”. I learnt of the consequences of clearing our forest. On the other hand, I also know that our agricultural practices are influenced by politics. As a Hmong and a city dweller, I understand that flooding in Chiang Mai has multiple causes contributed by both the hill tribes and the city dwellers.

CONCERNS

I worry about the city dwellers' perception of the hill tribes, especially when severe floods happen.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

I aim to help the Hmong community and city people understand each other better and introduce sustainable agricultural practices to my village.

STATUS QUO

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AS KAYE, NOW IMAGINE

The worsening flood situation downstream has resulted in more tension between your community and people living in the city. How can you help in this situation? What do you feel?

Together with extensive deforestation in areas near your village, some waterfalls show signs of drying up. How does your village react? What possible problems do you foresee?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS KAYE, NOW IMAGINE

Through your father's university contacts, you learnt that while flooding in the city intensifies during the monsoon season, the river that your village depends on will continue to dry up during the dry season. You have an Instagram account for your photography hobby that has 10,000 followers. How can you use this platform to spread awareness about the river drying up in your village?



SOM CHAI

53 years old

**OFFICIAL WORKING AT
DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER
PREVENTION & MITIGATION**



BACKGROUND

I used to think that floods were fun, till I learnt that they can cause people to fall sick, especially if they play in these waters. Having worked in different districts around Chiang Mai, I have witnessed the vulnerable elderly face more difficulty during floods. They usually live in houses with only one level built on the ground. During the 2011 flood, many of them lost their belongings during the flood. In my current job, I try my best to educate people about the risk of floods and to plan for future flood events.

CONCERNS

Flooding used to be a seasonal thing that we could easily prepare for. I worry that the people might lose faith in us if we were to send out too many false alarms for evacuation. Evacuations will be harder to carry out if this happens.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

After the 2011 flood, various governmental departments learnt to coordinate better to deal with large scale damage. I am involved in projects where I advise the planning department about land-use and building types that can improve flood resilience. I live on a stilted house in a less flood-prone area in Chiang Mai, but I also make sure to educate others on the dangers of playing in flood waters. I would like the government to get to people in the shortest amount of time. However, I understand the need for citizens to be prepared for natural disasters.

STATUS QUO

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AS SOM CHAI, NOW IMAGINE

In the past few years, flood warnings have been issued when no flooding had actually occurred. The people have lost faith in these warnings. However, the Royal Irrigation Department and Thai Meteorological Department have advised that a big flood is about to hit Chiang Mai. What do you do? How do you feel?

Many people are unprepared for the flood that has arrived and are in need for help. What do you do? Who do you help first?

The flood receded, and the damage was beyond any historical record in Chiang Mai. How do you plan to use this event as a lesson to educate your people?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS SOM CHAI, NOW IMAGINE

People no longer seriously regard warnings for possible meteorological events. What would you do to address this problem? How do you plan to educate and prepare your citizens about climate change?



TUK TUK

10 years old

**MALE SHIH-TZU LIVING WITH A
COUPLE OF AVERAGE INCOME**



BACKGROUND

I'm my human's darling. I've been with my human since I was a puppy. In 2011, a severe flood occurred. I climbed up the chair but floodwater touched me. I was alone and scared. The water continued to rise. I paddled hard to the stairs and climbed to my human's room on the second floor. I was worried about my humans, so I went to find them after the water subsided. Thankfully, they were safe.

CONCERNS

I am scared of flooding. I worry for my owners when floods happen and I feel sad when they get hurt. I don't like it when the flood water spoils my snacks. I can't go out to play when it floods.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

I make sure that my owners are safe. I take my snacks to my owner's room (on the second level).

STATUS QUO

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AS TUK TUK, NOW IMAGINE

You are caught in a rapidly rising flood at home. Where will you go?

You see your owner wade through the water to secure their belongings before quickly leaving the house. They have left you behind. What would you do? How do you feel?

You followed your owners through the flood to an evacuation centre. However, the centre only has supplies for humans. What supplies would you ask for from your human?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS TUK TUK, NOW IMAGINE

The government built a park near your house. Your owners have been bringing you out for walks at this park. There are many plants and animals that you have not seen before. What do you see? Who do you meet? What are they doing?



PING RIVER

3,500+ years old

THE LIFE STREAM OF CHIANG
MAI



BACKGROUND

For thousands of years I flowed freely, nourishing the humans who lived along my banks and far beyond. I provide fish to catch and water for their crops. In the past, humans understood me better, giving me room to expand whenever the monsoon rains merge with my flowing waters. These were times for celebration too. In exchange for giving me room to flow, I gave humans more fish to catch. For a long time, humans and I made each other happy.

CONCERNS

People started to crowd around me. They built roads and houses along my riverbanks, and dams to control my flow. But I am made of water and I will always find ways to move. I am sad about the destruction I leave in my wake during heavy rains, but it is not my nature to respond kindly to attempts to control me. I am a kind river, but I am also capable of anger when tested.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

Now, my relationship with humans has changed. Instead of living in harmony as we did in the past, it seems like we are now each other's problems. Eventually, humans needed more space to live and started crowding around my banks. They also built roads, dams, and walls that limit my flow, but complain when I flood their city. When will they learn their lesson? It's in my nature to keep flowing.

STATUS QUO

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AS PING RIVER, NOW IMAGINE

Some of your tributaries (streams feeding into the main river) have dried up over the dry season, and others are shrinking. Who is the most affected?

It is raining heavily. Water is running off quickly from the roads into you. You start to overflow. What do you see? What is the affected? Who is affected?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS PING RIVER, NOW IMAGINE

The water levels at some tributaries have returned to its healthy original state as some forests are being restored. Who does this affect?

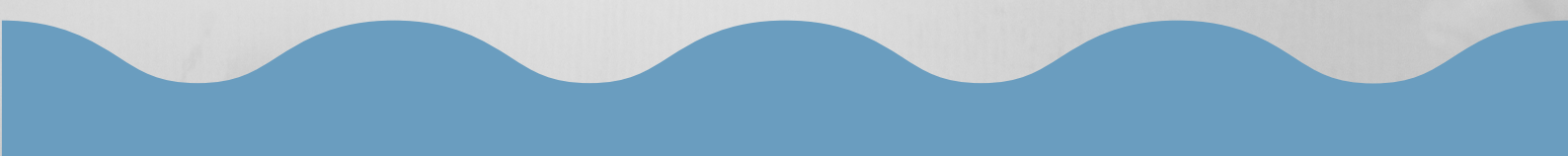
What impact does this have on the city?



PROF. ARINYA

47 years old

**PROFESSOR OF URBAN
STUDIES**





BACKGROUND

As a kid, I remember that flooding was fun. We were always prepared. It was a time when friends and families got together to enjoy the waters and help each other during and after the event. However, once the dam and flood walls were built, flooding patterns have changed. Together with the rapid urbanisation of Chiang Mai, more people are unprepared. When the flood hits, like it did in 2011 there will be a lot of damage.

CONCERNS

Flooding does not cause a lot of anxiety in Chiang Mai as it is not a frequent threat. Haze problems and other issues caused by urbanisation, such as increasing traffic congestion, and urban poverty pose bigger problems to the locals here.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

As a professor, my role is to teach the next generation about flood management practices. The current situation relies heavily on engineering. The system may not be strong enough to provide adequate protection in the face of climate change. I would like to see more integrated approaches to flood management, which include city-wide policies to promote more green spaces, and park areas to retain the water. Also, the restoration of the city's original water system – the moat, Mae Kha canal, and the reservoir northeast of the city – would help to manage the natural rise and fall of the water levels. I think there is a lot more we can do in terms of urban development to manage our flood issue.

STATUS QUO

Unplanned urban growth continues in Chiang Mai as more roads and concrete buildings are constructed within and around the city. The surrounding nature is continuously being destroyed. Together with climate change, the city now experiences bigger and higher floods, and longer and more intense dry seasons. Weather has also become more unpredictable.

AS PROF. ARINYA, NOW IMAGINE

The city is surprised by intense flooding events after 15 flood-free years. The flooding is believed to be caused by decrease in porous land area and inadequate infrastructure (e.g. drainage systems) to deal with increase rainfall during the wet season. Various stakeholders, including the government and international investors, are now asking you for advice. What would you say or suggest? How do you feel?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS PROF. ARINYA, NOW IMAGINE

Flooding has not occurred since 2011 but extreme heat has become more common over the years due to climate change. Water scarcity is also becoming a big problem during the dry season. What do you think can be done by 1) the people of Chiang Mai, 2) the municipality, and 3) hilltribes to reduce the impact of the problem?



HOUSE

20 years old

CONCRETE HOUSE WITH
GALVANISED IRON SHEETS
ROOFING



BACKGROUND

I'm a concrete house with galvanised iron sheets for roofing, and I've been on this street for nearly two decades. I survived plenty of floods, but 2011 was the worst! After the metre-high flood washed over me, I was covered in river silt that was just as high. It took about three days for my owners to clean me up. I'm worried about the acid damage I might suffer if more flooding is to happen. It will eventually corrode my concrete and affect my foundations.

CONCERNS

Will I be able to keep my family dry in times of floods? And how long can my foundation stand when I've been soaked to the core?

MITIGATION STRATEGY

It would really help for my owners to raise my plinth to a meter high. I'll be safe from most floods that way, and it will help me keep them safe too. With their children still in college and bills to pay, however, it doesn't seem like I'll be a priority anytime soon.

STATUS QUO

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AS HOUSE, NOW IMAGINE

You are tired of frequently being flooded by 1-metre floods. Your owner has limited budget and can only spend for one of two choices: raises the plinth of the first floor or, build a second floor. Which would you choose and why?

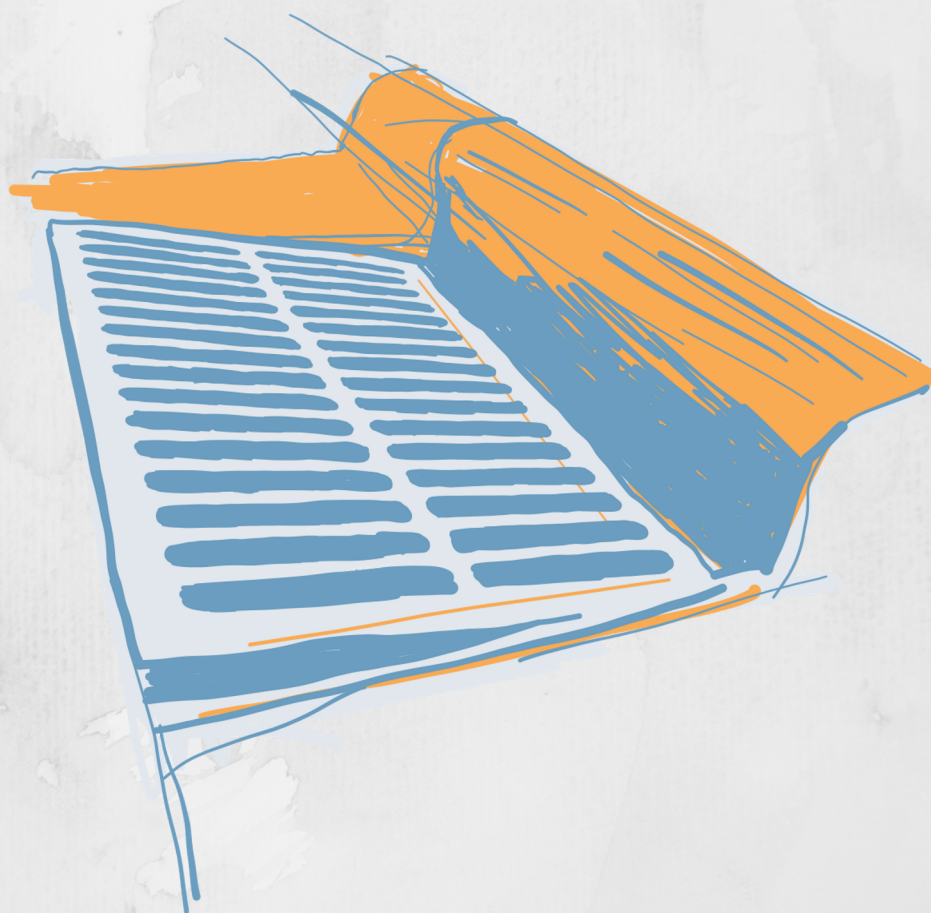
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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS HOUSE, NOW IMAGINE

Climate change has made weather patterns more unpredictable and flooding may happen in the future. In addition, temperatures have been rising over the years and it can get unbearably stuffy in the house. Given the limited budget that your owners have, would you rather they raise your plinth level, or install cooling systems? Why?



DRAIN

35 years old

DRAINAGE SYSTEM



BACKGROUND

Humans built me to keep their neighbourhoods safe by providing an outlet for floodwater, especially during the rainy season. At first, I managed to keep the city safe from flooding. Recently, I don't think I've done my job very well. My parts need to be maintained and replaced regularly. But humans have forgotten to do this and the silt inside me has just kept building up over time. They built concrete covers over me, and throw trash into the slats of my drains, and all of this limits my ability to drain water.

CONCERNS

I'm worried that there will come a time when I'll be completely clogged, and I won't be able to do my job of helping to minimise flood in the city.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

I could be a better flood management strategy, if only I was maintained more regularly.

STATUS QUO

Unplanned urban growth continues in Chiang Mai as more roads and concrete buildings are constructed within and around the city. The surrounding nature is continuously being destroyed. Together with climate change, the city now experiences bigger and higher floods, and longer and more intense dry seasons. Weather has also become more unpredictable.

AS DRAIN, NOW IMAGINE

Humans keep clogging your drains with dried leaves and garbage. You have only one choice between asking the government to impose stiff fines and penalties on humans who litter, or convincing community leaders to hold sustainable garbage disposal awareness programs. Which would you choose?

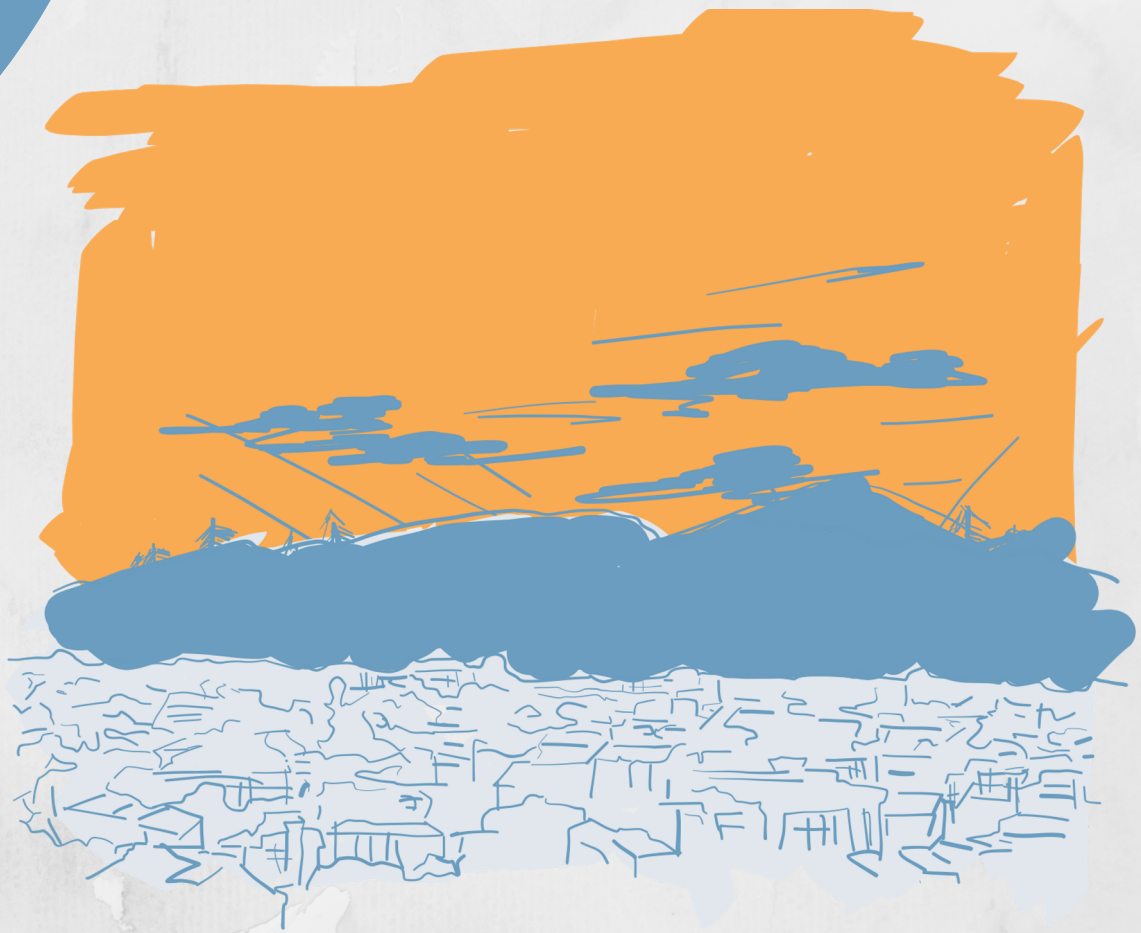
WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS DRAIN, NOW IMAGINE

Humans have been diligent about maintaining your system and flooding has not occurred since 2011. With climate change, however, water scarcity has become a problem during the dry season. What do you think the government should do to cope with this problem? This can be through policy making and building infrastructures/facilities. What should the government, media, and educational institutions do to educate the public about climate change and the problem of water scarcity?



DOI SUTHEP

Millions of
years old

SACRED MOUNTAIN IN
CHIANG MAI



BACKGROUND

I'm Doi Suthep, one of the sacred mountains of Thailand. I'm just 15km from the Chiang Mai city center. I have a great view of the city, but so many tourists are visiting me and littering on me with all sorts of garbage. The annual pilgrimage leaves more than 30 tons of garbage in its wake, and so with all that trash, who'll keep me clean? Untreated waste water now flows into my Huai Rap Sadet waterfall.

CONCERNS

The flow of rainwater slows down as it flows through the forest canopy. Some of the water is also stored in my body when it seeps into the soil. In areas where people clear my forests, water flows down quickly. As I am a holy mountain, many Thais respect my forests. My brothers, however, are not as lucky. I see their forests being cleared quickly and I am worried. I am also worried about the people of Chiang Mai because flash floods can happen more often now.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

I pray that people will understand the consequences of their actions.

STATUS QUO

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AS DOI SUTHEP, NOW IMAGINE

You witness deforestation happening at record rates in the mountains around you. Water pollution has also worsened due to the increase in human traffic. Keeping in mind that you are a holy mountain, and given that you have the power to address the people, what will you tell them?

WITH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

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By employing a combination of solutions, flooding and impacts of climate change can be reduced in Chiang Mai.

AS DOI SUTHEP, NOW IMAGINE

People tend to become complacent when the situation appears to be under control for some period of time. What can be done for people to continue to prioritise climate change and flooding issues and take actions to mitigate the consequences?