

# Bung Chawak Zoo

## **First & Second Visits: 7th June 2016/25th Feb 2017**

The overall upkeep of the zoo was good but in keeping with standard Thai welfare laws. The big cat enclosures were bigger than most, averaging at about 10x20 metres - some larger and some significantly smaller. However, enrichment items were placed about and, for the most part, the enclosures were not overcrowded. The enclosures lacked any form of natural vegetation, though it is made of an earthy, rather dusty substrate. The tigers appeared hot and stressed, salivating and foaming at the jaws due to a lack of water.

There were a number of lions and tigers being kept together, presumably in an attempt to breed more ligers. At the time of the second visit (25th Feb 17), a tigress was being moved into an area with a lion, presumably to have another litter. There was no evidence of any tiger cubs, but there were two small lion cubs in a small area where they could be bottle-fed.

Sadly, the overall feel of the place was of a forgotten zoo. It seemed run down--a small surprise as it was a mere 30 baht entrance fee. How this covers any costs is unclear. Some sections were unused and nothing had been upgraded for a while.

## **Third Visit: 14th April 2018**

This visit showed improvements in the welfare standards. All the enclosures had water provided and were less crowded. There were no cubs and no mixed species co-habiting. Enrichment of various types was noted in all enclosures, including hanging ropes with plastic tubs/bottles, tyres and roped wrapped around tree stumps. There were some tigers unseen--notably a very cross-eyed white male--however, reports from the DNP said that tigers had been sick here and it is possible that some have died since the last visit.

#### **Fourth Visit: 2019**

There was not much change from the 2018 visit in terms of the tigers being more spread out and non mixed species interactions.

However, enrichment was a little lacking, appearing to have gone downhill since the last year. Once again there was no water (as had been the case in 2016 and 2017). There was still a lot of pacing observed in the tigers.

Body conditions of the tigers in general remains poor as many are overweight.

