

ENVIRONMENT

Nature resort to close for rehabilitation

POST REPORTERS

CHIANG MAI: The popular Angkhang Nature Resort will be demolished as a part to rehabilitate the ecosystem in Fang district.

Kampanat Ruddit, privy councillor and chairman of the board of the Royal Project Foundation, presided over the handover of the resort to the Royal Agricultural Station Angkhang (Rasa). Once demolished, the resort's grounds will be incorporated as a part of the station to be rehabilitated.

Gen Kampanat said several agencies, such as the Third Army Region, the Royal Forest Department (RFD), the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and the Treasury Department, will jointly survey the area to map out a rehabilitation plan.

The army will contribute soldiers and heavy machinery to demolish the resort, which is expected to take about two months to complete.

It was also reported yesterday that the RFD has launched a special operation to seize protected nature reserves on Doi Angkhang — that lie within the boundaries of Mae Fang National Park — which have been illegally turned into privately run resorts and tourist attractions.

Rasa was established 50 years ago as a royal initiative of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and was intended to be a research centre for the development and cultivation of new strains of fruit and other crops, while at the same time provide jobs for local highland residents.