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Title: **The Eco-Monks, Forest Dignity and Reforestation in Buddhist Asia**

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Forests have a longstanding association with Buddhism. Similar to indigenous communities (Grim: *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology*, 2001) Buddhists have a deep veneration for the forest. In the last two decades, a small number of Buddhist monks in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos have confronted the environmental crisis and deforestation through public discourses, civic engagement, writings and institutional action. In response to widespread deforestation, illegal logging and ecological destruction, these socially engaged monks, which I call “Eco-Warrior-Monks,” involved in a Buddhist ecology movement. Applying the moral doctrine of Buddhism as the basis of the ecological action and environmental ethic, they initiated several forest conservation projects that aimed to protect forests and provide forest resources that benefit the local people’s livelihoods. Through these ecological activities and in consultant with provincial authorities, government officials and international NGOs, they saved millions of acres of land, forest, and tress. Along with the policy makers, scientists and economics, they believe that spiritual community or the monks have an essential role to play in the global environmental problems of the new millennium. In this paper, I will share how Buddhists, especially “Eco-Warrior-Monks” in Southeast Asia put their practice of Buddhism into environmental action for restoring forest dignity and their key activities for the protection of the forest, wildlife and biodiversity.