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The Thao Cham's role is closely linked with the Pu Ta forest spirits of protection, they symbolize all sacred institutions in the community, spirits of the place, other ordinary celestial beings (Thawada), the city pillars, Mahesak, and village pillars.

The Thao Cham are elders, elected from the wisest and most congenial, caring for the well-being of nature, with knowledge of united community bonds, they encompass the aspects to keep homeostasis between village life, the forest and the spirits who protect both.