

Somporn Khongtanakrittakorn 2007: Effectiveness of Participation Promotion Projects for Sustainable Management of National Park: A Case Study of Erawan National Park, Kanchanaburi Province. Master of Science (Resource Management), Major Field: Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Prapinwadee Sirisupluxana, Ph.D. 186 pages.

The objectives of this study were to study the opinions of the staff on the participation promotion project, the participation of staff and people in the project administration and activities, problems and obstacles, and to assess the effectiveness of the project operation for sustainable management of Erawan national park in Kanchanaburi Province. Primary data were collected from 13 staff of the project and 240 household heads or representatives using questionnaires. Statistical methods such as percentages, means, standard deviations, maximum, minimum, Likert's scale and t - test were applied to analyze the data.

The study revealed that project staff strongly agreed with the project operation. The problems and obstacles of the project operation were inadequate budgets and the delay of the budget disposal. Participation of the project staff in the project administration and activities was at high level while that of the people was at a medium level. This was mainly due to the inappropriate date and time of dissemination of information for public relations and improper activities and unsuitable activity process. In addition, it was found that participation in the project administration and activities of people inside and outside of the Erawan national park were not different.

The operational results, according to the objectives of the participation promotion project, were that there was a high level of over all effective. It was also found that the project was highly effective in meeting its combined objectives of solving landless problems and conserving the natural resources. The people could stay within the forest while natural resource conservation was maintained under the agreement between the communities and the government. The objective of the incremental effectiveness of the national park management by including the people to participate in solving the natural resource and living problems had moderate effectiveness. Therefore, in order to increase the level of effectiveness in project operation and to make the project more effective and efficient, the people in the national park area should receive the permanent incomes and occupation promotion, gain settlement of occupational funds and find strategies to make the people participate more in the resource conservation.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature