

Nantawan Suwansatit 2011: Impacts of Special Use Zone Policy on Management of Erawan National Park. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Vipak Jintana, Ph.D. 114 pages.

In order to solve the problem on illegal land tenure in forest areas, the government declared a cabinet resolution on 30th June 1998 to abate expelling people from the forest. A so-called special use zone was classified for the areas occupied by people and their cultivated lands. Participatory land demarcation was applied for approval of land occupation. In responsible to the policy, the Erawan National Park has been implemented a pilot project on participatory development for sustainable national park management since 2004. The project provided an opportunity for local people to have more participation in resources management within the national park. The ID cards were issued to allow them entering the specific area under the joint establishment of state-public regulation. Local people were hired as temporary workers in the national park, various community development activities were organised. The results revealed that the policy impacted both pros and cons on the local people livelihood and natural resource management. Due to the limitation of land for cultivation whereas the household members increased, labor force aged from 20-40 years old moved out to find new jobs. However, the policy has enhanced a better relationship between the officers and the local people. It brought about a reduction of criminal cases concerning the forest acts. For further development of the special use zone, the respondents requested that the national park should continuously implement as such the development project to promote people participation. The occupied areas with already approved should be issued a community title deed. The ownership of land and natural resource will carry a great many responsibilities of the community. Thus, changing land tenure by selling land right will be reduced. Necessarily, the special use zone management required proper studies. It should not be in the fragile area. Moreover, proper measures should be established and implemented to assure a sustainable land use and natural resource management within the area.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature