

Sayamol Charoenratana 2010: Rural Community Potential in Natural Resource Management on the Changing Livelihood of Communities in Kanchanaburi Province. Doctor of Philosophy (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduated Program. Thesis Advisor: Professor Nipon Tangtham, Ph.D. 219 pages.

Purposes of this study are 1) to study community background and natural resources management, 2) to determine community capacity, classify and compare the capitals in each site and 3) to analyze community natural management patterns for sustainable livelihood. Three rural villages in the Western of Thailand, Baan Huai Saphan in Phanom Thuan district, Baan Chong Kab in Sai Yok district and Baan Mae Kra Bung in Si Sawat district were selected as a target group for this study. The check lists, questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus groups were conducted with participants in the study sites. Five assets interview questionnaires on 20% of population in each community, 228 questionnaires composed of a) human and cultural capital, b) natural capital, c) financial capital, d) social and management capital, and e) physical capital were also used.

It was found that each community was different in each context. Human capital and cultural capital were found to be essential assets and high score in all communities, consisting of leadership, participation and natural resource management traditions. Out of the 3 study villages, "tradition asset" is more vital in the Karen ethnic village than the other two. Community network and kinship in social and management capital supplied community potential with high score in Baan Huai Saphan and Baan Chong Kab. In terms of natural capital, each area was resourceful with forests and forest products. The high score is in Baan Huai Saphan and Ban Mae Kra Bung. In financial capital, the villagers made a living at subsistent level and almost households had debts. All community areas were plentiful with physical capital, except Ban Mae Kra Bung lack of electricity. Three indicators for sustainable natural resource management can be identified, i.e., 1) natural resource and environmental 2) economic and 3) social and culture.

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