

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : The Role of Natural Resources and Environmental
Conservation Network in Political Communication: A Case
Study of Mae Reak Mini - Watershed, Mae Chaem District,
Chiangmai Province

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This thesis has a goal in studying Mae Reak Natural Resources and Watershed Conservation Network's political communication and the network's applications of communication means to influence Thailand's policy makers in their political decisions regarding to natural resources conservation and management within Mae Reak Mini - Watershed.

The main finding of this thesis is that the Network is unable to use any political communication means to influence political decisions and/or policy making at Ta Pha Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO), Mae Chaem District, Chiangmai Province, which is the lowest administrative branch of Thailand's government.

This thesis suggests that in order to realize Thailand's 1997 Constitution's concept of democratic state that allows local people's participation in natural

resources management in its areas, the Thai government and its people must have legislation that supports the concepts that are stated in the constitution. In the case of natural resources management, the government must 1) pass the community forest act and; 2) pass related legislation with specific articles that delegate political communication power to the local people, communities, and TAOs. This shall be achieved by giving them the authority to pass the rules and regulations on local natural resources usage and conservation, including the authority in collecting occurring fees in natural resources management, conservation, and usage.