

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Mangrove Forest Conservation Policy :The Case Study
of Eastern Area

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The purpose of this thesis is to study Mangrove Forest Preservation policy focusing on Eastern provinces. The research is conducted through documentation analysis and interviews with those who are involved with Mangrove Forest affairs in the Eastern region of Thailand which include five provinces : Trad, Chantaburi, Rayong, Choburi and Shashengsao.

The findings of the study are as follow :

1. Mangrove forest has received significant consideration by the government. There are 23 Mangrove Forest Preservation Policies as decreed by the cabinet since 1966-1967, emphasizing the eliminating the invation of mangrove forest and tried to reserve them. Moreover, each successive government had set up guidelines for managing mangrove forest as include in National Social and Economic Plan of 1987-2001, the aim is to share to 1 million rai of mangrove forest in Thailand. The consideration of

1997 also place the emphasis on people's participation in preserving forest and natural resources.

2. The main obstacles to the government policies in the Eastern Region is the lack of clarity of the policies. This had led to a failure in the implementation of the policy since rules and regulations are not strict and Penalties are not severe enough. Lack of government officials and budget also contributed to the failure.

Local Politician, with the fear of losing votes by people who invaded mangrove forest, had attempted to interfere with the government. This, in fact reflected the lack of cooperation between the people and government.

3. The mangrove forest preservation policies have effects on the lives of residents in the province mentioned. Their occupations along the mangrove area i.e. plantation and animal raising were badly affected. The government should step in to take responsibility for the problem in order to prevent other problems from arising and to prevent illegal invasion of the mangrove forest.

Mangrove Forest Preservation Policies are beneficial to the people. The involved people should strongly participate in preserving the forest in order to prevent extinction of the mangrove forest.