

Narumol Suman 2014: Local People Behaviors Concerning Natural Resource Utilization in Khao Sib Ha Chan National Park, Chanthaburi Province. Master of Science (Parks, Recreation, and Tourism), Major Field: Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Department of Conservation. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Noppawan Tanakanjana Phongkhieo, Ph.D. 139 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study the socio-economic characteristics of local people around Khao Sib Ha Chan National Park, Chanthaburi Province, to study behaviors in utilizing natural resources of the local people, to analyze factors influencing sustainable natural resource utilization behaviors and to predict the behaviors for the future. The local people were surveyed by designed questionnaire and 274 households participated in the survey. The survey data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics, correlation and multiple regression analyses.

It was found that the average score of local peoples' intention to sustainable use natural resources was 3.93 from the highest score of 5.00 (SD=0.53) while the actual utilization behavior score was 4.32 (SD=3.08) from the total score of 8 positive items and 9 negative items. Regression analysis found 2 independent variables significantly influenced the intention to perform behaviors in utilizing natural resources and accounted for 22.8% of variances in the intention ($F=6.942$; $p\text{-value}=0.000$; $R^2=0.228$). These include benefits from national park ($Beta=0.330$; $t=-5.624$; $p\text{-value}=0.000$) and attitude toward natural resource conservation ($Beta=0.319$; $t=4.935$; $p\text{-value}=0.000$) Another multiple regression analysis found 4 independent variables significantly influenced actual behaviors in utilizing natural resources and accounted for 19.4% of variances in the behaviors ($F=5.674$; $p\text{-value}=0.000$; $R^2=0.194$). These include attitude toward natural resource conservation ($Beta=0.273$; $t=4.059$; $p\text{-value}=0.000$), value toward natural resources ($Beta=0.194$; $t=3.172$; $p\text{-value}=0.002$), benefits from national park ($Beta=-0.149$; $t=-2.442$; $p\text{-value}=0.015$) and social group participation ($Beta=0.140$; $t=2.213$; $p\text{-value}=0.028$). Correlation analysis found no significant relationship between behavior intention and actual behavior in utilizing natural resources of local people. The prediction equation resulted that sustainable resource utilization behaviors of local people are likely to increase from a current score of 4.32 to the score of 9.31 for the future.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature