

Sukanya Rojanachan 2011: Soundscape Perception of Visitors to Khao Yai National Park. Master of Science (Park, Recreation, and Tourism), Major Field: Park, Recreation, and Tourism, Department of Conservation. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Noppawan Tanakanjana Phongkhieo, Ph.D. 112 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study soundscape perception of visitors to Khao Yai National Park and their recreation experiences, to investigate factors correlate to soundscape perception and the relationship between soundscape perception and quality experience of those visitors. Questionnaire was used to collect data from 400 park visitors. The survey data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, paired-sample t-test and correlation analysis.

The study result found that the average scores of soundscape perception, for both natural and man-made soundscape, were moderate. The most desired recreation experience was experience in being with nature and the least desired experience was experience in meeting new people. Paired-sample t-test found 3 pairs of desired and actual recreation experiences were significantly different. These included the experiences in being with nature ( $t=2.550$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.011$ ), the experiences in solitude and being isolated ( $t=5.651$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.000$ ), and the experiences in escaping from noise and crowd ( $t=5.118$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.000$ ). The average scores of desired experiences were higher than actual experiences in all 3 pairs. Correlation analyses found 9 variables significantly correlated to soundscape perception. The 9 variables were visiting duration ( $r=-0.137$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.003$ ), experience in natural beauty ( $r=0.134$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.004$ ), experience in being with nature ( $r=0.126$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.006$ ), experience in nature learning ( $r=0.141$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.002$ ), experience in escaping from noise and crowd ( $r=0.105$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.018$ ), experience in meeting new people ( $r=0.134$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.004$ ), experience in adventure and skill testing ( $r=0.166$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.000$ ), experience in diverse recreation participation ( $r=0.146$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.002$ ), and experience in visiting new area ( $r=0.141$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.002$ ). Finally, it was found that natural soundscape perception significantly correlated with quality recreation experience ( $r=0.084$ ;  $P\text{-value}=0.046$ ).

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Thesis Advisor's signature