

Thesis title: Sustainable Management of Coastal Resources: A Case Study of Salakkork Village, Moo 4, Koh Chang Tai Sub-District, Koh Chang District, Trad Province
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Abstract

The objectives of this research were (1) to study the conditions and status of coastal resources management in Salakkork Village, Moo 4, Koh Chang Tai Sub-District, Koh Chang District, Trad Province; (2) to study coastal resource management problems in the study area, the causes of those problems, and ways to solve them; and (3) to form recommendations for the sustainable development and conservation of coastal resources in the study area.

This was a qualitative research. The 30 key informants consisted of 5 knowledgeable elders, 5 local tour club members, 1 Fisheries Department official, 14 local fishermen, 4 community leaders, and 1 Tambol Administrative Organization official. Data were collected by documentary research, in-depth interviews, and observation. Data were analyzed by descriptive analysis.

The results showed that (1) In the past, the condition of the aquatic animal populations in the area was rather good, and the mangroves grew inconsistently. In the past, the people managed the resources by planting additional mangroves. At present, the plants are fully grown and the populations of aquatic animals are increasing, especially marine catfish. The present management of coastal resources is based on local knowledge and a local tourism club has been set up. In the past, the area that floodwaters reach was all original, undisturbed mangrove forest. Now, it is a mix of natural mangroves and plants that were planted in reforestation efforts. Based on geophysical characteristics and tidal influence, there are 3 types of land: 1. tidal areas; 2. areas that are under water sometimes; and 3. higher ground within the mangrove forest. (2) The major problems with coastal resources management were, firstly, rubbish and waste water, caused mainly by the government announcement allowing tourism development on Koh Chang, which led to construction of tourism facilities and services. The way of solving the problem is to set up a "trash bank" and to teach the local people about waste management, including the use of beneficial microorganisms to treat waste water. The major ecological problem was caused by changes in aquaculture. The approach to solving it is to introduce higher quality aquaculture management systems. As for the problem of mangrove destruction, the cause was people cutting wood to make charcoal. The solution is to campaign to persuade people to stop cutting mangrove trees and to encourage replanting. Lastly, the problem of encroachment on mangroves was caused by tourism and aquaculture development. The proposed solutions are to employ GPS to keep track of the forest area borders, to plant trees as buffer zones, and to enlist the local tourism club to manage the coastal resources. (3) Recommendations for the conservation of coastal resources emphasized raising awareness among younger generations about the importance of conservation, working together to manage the resources, and enforcing a ban on fishing during the egg-laying season. Recommendations for sustainable development emphasized development of human resources and utilization of the local tourism club to manage the resources.

Keywords: Management, Coastal resources, Sustainable management