

Thesis Title

Role of the Non-Governmental Organizations in People's
Participation on the Forest Resources Conservation : A
Case Study of the Dhamanat Foundation, Chom Thong
District, Chiang Mai.

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were to examine a principle of the Dhamanat Foundation and its role on forest resources conservation and to investigate forest resources conflict between lowland farmers and the hilltribes (Hmong). This study also aimed to identify the factors influencing people participation in forest conservation and related problems. Interview schedule and questionnaires were used to collect data from personnels of the Dhamanat Foundation, local leaders, and concerned government officials. Descriptive statistical techniques were employed to analyze the data.

It was found that a principle of the Dhamanat Foundation is based on Bhuddhism. The important roles of the Dhamanat Foundation include initiating people organization.

introducing an appropriate forest resources management to the villagers, campaign for forest conservation, and financial support for forest conservation activities..

Involvement of the Dhamanat Foundation helped the villagers organize thier , groups to put pressure on the hilltribe to keep away from the watershed forest. It also helped increase more attention in forest resources problems among government officials. The consequences from watershed degradation were the most important factors influencing people participation in forest conservation. However, a potential of the villagers in managing forest resources by thier own was still low. The problem in implementation of the Dhamanat Foundation originated from concerned government agencies, the villagers and its internal affairs.

Some suggestions derived from this study. First, the villagers should have more participation in problem solving. Second, the government should facilitate the role of the Non-Governmental Organizations in forest resources management. Third, the Non-Governmental Organizations should take effort in coordinating with government agencies. Forth, the villagers nēed to take part in every activity concerning forest resources conservation. Fifth, the government should promulgate a community forest law to legalize community forest. Sixth, the government should review hilltribe policy in the way which is congruent with environmental conservation. Finally, more research about the role of the Non- Governmental Organizations in forest conservation is needed.