

Thesis Title	The Participation of Sub-district Council Committees in Forestry Conservation (A Case Study in The Lower North-Eastern Part of Thailand)
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#### ABSTRACT

Thailand has been rapidly changing in economics, technology and population. For example, the increase in income, the development of the extensive transit system and the increasing cultivation of land. These changes have had impacts on the environment, particularly in soil, water, air, and living conditions of Thailand's population. The advancements have been depleting Thailand's natural resources, and contributing to the fast deforestation each year.

Therefore, there should be some criteria for the conservation of national forest resources. In the past years the plan for preserving forest has not been very effective. This arises from the lack of participation by the people, and their lack of knowledge of conservation. These problems have motivated to study "The Participation of Sub-District Council Committees in Forestry Conservation". The objective of this study is to aid in developing guidelines for forest conservation.

In this study, data were collected by using questionnaires. The area surveyed was in the Lower North-Eastern area of Thailand. The sample were 408 sub-district council committee members. They were natives to the region and played a role in forest conservation.

The analysis of this study showed that the sub-district council committee members had medium level participation in forest conservation. The contributing factors which had effects on the support in participation of in forest preservation were as follow : the status of sub-district council committee members, information about forest conservation by mass media, the economic status of sub-district council committee members, and the method of obtaining firewood.

In contrast the lack of forest preservation occurred for several reasons. The main problem was that most sub-district council committee members did not have the time for active participation in the program. In addition, members that tried to participate in the

program found that there was a constant lack of finances, seedlings, other officials and support of people. Also, another major problem was from forest poachers cutting wood in reserved area.

It is concluded that the sub-district council committee members are interested in high level participation. In order for this to be achieved, education by mass media is needed. In addition, the project should originate from the sub-district council committee members. They need to play an active role in the planning implementation and evaluation of the forest conservation project. To increase forest preservation all the above information needs to be used to develop guidelines. Support is needed not only from sub-district council committee members but the entire nation. Participation of the public is needed to stop destroying and start preserving.