

Abstract

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PARTICIPATION DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY IN BAN SILALANG, PUA DISTRICT, NAN PROVINCE, THAILAND

BY

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The objectives of this research were to 1) to find out general information about Ban Silalang people and their participation in community forest management; 2) to improve their participation in community forest management; and 3) to evaluate their improvements in participation in forest management.

General information, as well as information about participation in community forest management, was first obtained by interviewing 40 samples of Ban Silalang people and then questionnaires were distributed, both before and after participation improvements, to 131 family leaders to collect data concerning their participation in decision making, working, benefit sharing, and evaluation. The collected data was analyzed, examined for objective compatibility, prioritized, related in importance, and presented in a descriptive form. The statistics used in data analysis were frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and

t-test. The information obtained by interviews and the data collected by means of questionnaires and observations were analyzed, interpreted, summarized and discussed together to create greater reliability.

The survey of the people's participation revealed that their past participation was at a high level; they have helped in forest protection since 1975. In terms of management, a watershed maintenance committee and a forest patrol sub-committee were appointed. The latter consisted of 3 people from each village, patrolling once a month or more if necessary. They helped in fire extinguishing and building fire lines, conducting an annual ceremony for spirits, not cutting trees without permission, fixing the boundary of community forest which covers the area of 10,125 rais. Their decision making participation was found to be at a moderate level; working, a low level; benefit sharing, a low level; and evaluation, a moderate level.

The pre- and post- participation improvement study in community forest management (A-1) revealed that the forest has been destroyed by shifting cultivation. The headmen of tambons, in cooperation with Tambon Councils, set up regulations forbidding forest trespassing and cutting down trees for cultivation along the backwater during the first 5 years, resulting in forest rehabilitation. The present problem and requirement (A-2) is forest conservation and restoration and the future problem is tomorrow community forest or community forest 2000 (A-3), which includes four projects i.e. fast-growing tree planting, forest fire prevention, deserted forest replanting, and tambon nursery building. To solve the problems (I) the four projects (I-1), as well as the procedures and prioritization, were agreed upon by the people.

Pre- and post- evaluation of Silalang people's participation in community forest management revealed that they were non-significantly different in their participation in decision making, working, benefit sharing, and evaluation. The application of strategies of change to influence the people's thinking caused Ban Silalang people to have greater participation; this indicated that improvements

of knowledge and skills in decision making, working, benefit sharing, evaluation, and planning affect improvements in the people's participation in community forest management.

From the results of this research, it is recommended by the researcher that governmental sectors, especially the Royal Forest Department, private sectors and community development agencies should encourage local people to participate in all steps of development; governmental and non-governmental organizations should provide financial support; and decentralized administration should be delegated to local administrative organizations to carry out community forest management.