

Thesis Tittle                      An Analytical Study of the Roles  
   of Buddhist Monks in Forest  
   Conservation : A case study of  
   Phra Phongsak Techathammo at  
   Wat Phalad, Chiangmai and Phra  
   Somnuk Natho at Wat Palukmailai,  
   Nakornpathom

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to study the Roles and the Monk's Activities in Forest Conservation as well as the problem and obstacle they faced in doing so. Moreover, an emphasis is also placed on the study of people is attitudes the Monks' Activities.

This research is devided into 2 parts ; the documentary and field studies. The result lies as follows :

1. Documentary Study : The focus is on Tripitaka (only Sutta and Vinaya) including commentaries, and various kinds of laws concerned forest conservation, rules and regulations on Forestry, land and environment as well.

In short, in Tripitaka and commentaries, they stress that a forest is essential for all parties concerned. Historically, forest played an important role in the development of Buddhism : the birth place of the Lord Buddha, the place where Dhamma was fully developed, for example, the doctrine of the Dependent Origination (Paticcasamuppada) Moreover, the forest is ideal for everybody who needs to purify one's mind. As far as the acts are concerned, they have stipulated that people who want to make use of the forest must firstly be permitted by the ministry concerned. If monks desire to have the Forest Conservation, they could do likewise.

In case of the field study, the researcher found that the two monks used Buddhist teachings and practices to cultivate understanding for the people to realize the importance of forest conservation. It is interesting to note that Phra Phongsak Techathammo operated the Forest Conservation outside his temple supported both money and wages by the Dhammanatt Foundation. Hence, His project could be enlarged and covered a bigger area whereas Phra Somnuk Natto has occasionally been donated by the people. It has, therefore, rendered limited result. The findings also indicate that Phra Phongsak Techathammo placed emphasis on the Dependent Origination (Paticcasamuppada) whereas Phra Somnuk Natto emphasized holy abidings or sublime states of mind (Brahmavihara) as a means for forest conservation.