

Thesis Title A Study of Carrying Capacities for Tourists of Coastal
 Tourism : A Case Study of Ko Phangan Suratthani Province
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ABSTRACT

This is a study regarding the carrying capacity of tourists of coastal tourism. The results of this study are to be used for figuring the limitation of tourism, which will be subsequent in decreasing the impact on the environment and preventing the loss of the ecosystem equilibrium. The destination characteristics of tourists, the questionnaire responses and the attitude and suggestions on tourism development of tourists, bungalow owners, local people, and leaders of community are included in the study. Each factor is shown as a percentage, min-max, mean and S.D. The study concludes with beach hierarchy and problems of electricity service, water supply, drainage system, and solid waste treatment within the studied area.

The results show that the beaches on Ko Phangan carried maximum number of tourists about 7,443 persons in April 1986. The maximum carrying capacity for public beach was about 73,510 persons, for resort (deluxe) was about 19,593 persons and for resort (medium standard) was about 39,197 persons. The higher potential beaches were Haad Rin (east), Haad Thong Naay Paan-Yai and Haad Thong-Sala. The sea water quality was within standard for tourist activities. The majority of the tourists commented that the natural resources on Ko Phangan should be conserved without being developed or changed.