Suphunnee Saringkhan 2550: Management of Conservation Forest under 72 Phunsa Maharat Thongpapum Forest Project as Buffer Zone of Thongpapum National Park. Master of Science (Resource Management), Major Field: Resource Management Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Penporn Janekarnkij, Ph.D. 116 pages.

The objectives of the study are to (1) analyze the socio-economic status of the communities, existing resource uses from the conservation forest, and their opinion regarding the forest management as buffer zone; (2) analyze the potential management of the conservation forest under 72 Phunsa Maharat Thongpapum Forest project as buffer zone that are acceptable from concerned parties, and (3) analyze the economic viability of the forest management as buffer zone. The participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) method is applied for the proposed management pattern and cost benefit analysis (CBA) method is applied for its economic viability.

Results show that at present the community collects non-timber forest products mainly for consumption while some are sold for income earning. The forest utilization may not be sustained as there is no reforestation and rehabilitation. Being the conservation forest under 72 Phunsa Maharat Thongpapum Forest project, the area is source of knowledge in conducting researches in biological diversity. This helps the community to gain knowledge and understanding in the significance of biological diversity and forest resource conservation. The community agrees with the proposed concept to manage this conservation forest as the "buffer zone". The management program under four main projects with different activities is proposed with full participation and collaboration of the community for the buffer zone management. In assessing the economic viability of this management program it is found that the present value of net benefit is at 1,100,237.10 Baht with the benefit cost ratio at 1.12. Thus, the program is economically feasible for being the buffer zone that will benefit the communities and the national park in the future.

Penporn Janek 4 / 06 / 07

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