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**EKKACHAI KHRUEIN-TA : CULTURE OF KAREN COMMUNITY ON
FOREST RESOURCE CONSERVATION. THESIS ADVISOR : TIPPAN NAVAWONGS,
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The purpose of this research was to study the culture of a Karen community and factors associated with forest conservation. The research also focused on the community's typical ways of living which affected forest conservation. The target group was the Karen community in Mae-Moh district, Lampang province.

The results revealed that the forest conservation practices of this Karen community were based on the community culture which was related to habitat and folklore of that society. This community had permanent habitats which promoted strong relationships and loyalty to each other and their land. There were internal and external factors linked to the conservation practices. Occupation, the relative system, and the traditional beliefs of these people were basic factors of the inhabitants which encouraged conservation of the forest. Other factors included access to information, rules, and law. The set up of the hilltribe development unit and the law which disallowed settlers in the conserved forest were also associated with their participation to conserve forest. The forest conservation included setting rules for cutting trees, fire protection, utilizing forest guards, reforestation and decreasing shifting cultivation practices.

In conclusion, the cooperations of both government and private sectors, together with the individual awareness on forest conservation will, in the long run, maintain the abundance of the forest. It will also ensure that this natural resource will be handed down to future generations.