Sunisa Daeng-am 2012: The Application of Local Wisdom for Forest Resource Conservation: A Case Study of Thai Karen at Tanaosi Sub-district, Suan Phueng District, Ratchaburi Province. Master of Science (Forest Resource Management), Major Field: Forest Resource Management, Department of Forest Management. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Nittaya Mianmit, Ph.D. 89 pages.

The objective of this research was to determine the application of local wisdom for forest resource conservation of Thai Karen residing at Tanaosi sub-district, Suan Phueng district, Ratchaburi province. The using data was collected by employing the designed questionnaire interviewed 353 respondents which were the representative of the sampled Thai Karen households. Descriptive Analysis and Relationship Analysis were employed for the data analysis.

The study found that the average age of respondents was 42 years, most of them (44.48%) completed primary education. The average resettled period was about 28 years, engaged in non-agricultural occupations (84.14%). The average annual household income was 66,100 baht. The average size of land holding per household was 11 rais. About 60.34 percent of total studied household no having there own farm land, thus they just occupied only their own residential area. The utilization of forest resources visualized that most of them was used for consumption such as bamboo shoot and mushroom. The percentage of households collecting bamboo shoot and mushroom were 58.36 and 54.39 percent respectively. The respondents having a very good comprehension about forest resource conservation. Furthermore, 66.01 percent of them having comprehension about local wisdom and 49.36 percent of this obtained knowledge from their grandparents, The respondent adopted the local wisdom for their various activities namely forest resource conservation. The most of them applied the local wisdom for tree ceremonial such as tree worship and tree ordination.

Chi-square is the statistical analysis method employed for testing the hypothesis, with the given significance level of 0.05. Furthermore, factors relating to the application of the local wisdom for forest resource conservation were age, household income, size of land holding, resettled period, land use pattern, forest resource utilization, comprehension about forest resource conservation and local wisdom.

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