Apichart Jai-aree 2012: Development of Multi-party Participatory Process for Sustainable Community Forest Management: A Case Study of Ban Pu-Tei, Changwat Kanchanaburi. Doctor of Philosophy (Human and Community Resource Development), Major Field: Human and Community Resource Development, Department of Human and Community Resource Development. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Pongpan Traimongkolkul, Ph.D. 517 pages.

The major objective of this research was to delineate a model of multi-party participatory process for sustainable community forest management in accordance with the success factors. Participatory action research was conducted in three stages, namely: 1) analysis of community potential for community forest management, 2) status assessment of community forest ecology and utility dependence on the forest, and 3) impact study of the mobilizing process on participatory community forest management. Ban Pu-Tei Community in Changwat Kanchanaburi was selected as the study site. The study involved 180 community member participants and 45 external participants from various local organizations. Data were obtained and analyzed with mixed qualitative-quantitative methods. In addition, the lesson learned was reflected through a community forum.

It was revealed that Ban Pu-Tei community has fundamental potential for participatory community forest management in six dimensions, namely: 1) local resource richness, 2) local wisdom, 3) local culture and community way of life, 4) group cohesion, 5) family relationship, and 6) local leadership. The community forest assessment revealed a high diversity of plant families with considerably stable distribution. The community depended on the forest in several ways, with herbal plants being commonly utilized. There was also indirect use of the forest which had close link to economic and social aspects of community life. Regarding the implementation of participatory process for mobilizing community forest management, the evidence indicated that the process contributed to greater knowledge, understanding, and awareness of community forest conservation among community members at all levels. It was found that the learning process encouraged the community to discover problems in community forest management, leading to systematic solution planning and addressing. Appropriate community forest management was thus created, blending the local wisdom and culture with the modernized knowledge supported by external party. In addition, community researchers were created through the participatory research process.

Based on the lesson learned, an exemplary model of multi-party participatory process for sustainable community forest management was delineated, comprising three main stages, namely: 1) the development of individual and community potential, 2) the strengthening of community potential, and 3) the mobilization of sustainable development based on community potential and readiness. External parties take action as academic, financial, and policy supporters on the basis of "individual and community respect", and "the recognition of community as the forest's owner". Key factors for the success and sustainability of this model included local leaders' potential and roles, community strength, community members' supportive characteristics, and external supports as well as recognition. This model from Ban Pu-Tei community can be applied in the western region communities with similar context, particularly in the area prone to development effects. For successful application, the indentified key factors should be taken into consideration.

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