

Adisak Phusitwongsanuyut 2012: Local People Acceptance towards the Designation of Namtok Khlong Kaeo National Park, Trat Province. Master of Science (Forest Resource and Environmental Administration), Major Field: Forest Resource and Environmental Administration, Faculty of Forestry. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor San Kaitpraneet, Ph.D. 208 pages.

Objectives of the study were to determine socio-economic characteristics of the local people, acceptance level and factors affecting the local people acceptance towards the designation of the Namtok Khlong Kaeo National Park, Trat province. The data was gathered by using designed questionnaires to interview 400 household heads or household representatives living around the National Park. Statistical analysis included percentage, mean, standard deviation, maximum value, minimum value, t-test and F-test at the 0.05 statistical significance level through statistical software package.

The results showed that the respondents were male and female in similar proportions with the values of 50.5 and 49.5 percent, respectively, the average age was 41.10 years. The most respondents graduated on high school level. The average number of household members was 5.69 people. They domiciled in Bo Rai district. The average settlement period was 40.41 years. The main occupation was agriculture. The average land holding was 7.40 rai. The average annual household income was 196,920 baht. The most respondent was social group member (88.7 percent). They participated in determining Khlong Kaeo border line of the national park (79 percent). They had knowledges of participation and forest resource conservation at high level. They mostly benefited from the national park tourism (84.8 percent). Local people acceptance towards the designation of the national park was at high level with mean score of 3.84. Regarding to local people acceptance, factors affecting the acceptance were age, education level, domicile, settlement period, main occupation, size of land holding, land holding characteristics, land location, annual household income, being social group member, training, knowledge about participation, receiving benefit from tourism and receiving news information.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature