

Abstract

Title Forestry Management in the Cultural Dimension : A Case Study of Community Forest in Ubon Rachathani Province

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Budget Year 2545

A study of “**Forestry Management in the Cultural Dimension : A Case Study of Community Forest in Ubon Rachathani Province**” purposively selected three community forests, (1) Srisuk forest, Tambon Nong-Lao, Kheangnai district, (2) Dong-Poo-Loan forest, Tambon Na-Lean, Srimuangmai district, and (3) Tong-Mong forest, Tambon Huay-Yang, Khong-Jiam district. The research objectives were (1) finding the dominant cultural factors for conserving and rehabilitating the community forests, (2) applying the dominant cultural factors in other areas, and (3) applying the rules and regulations in the ways of life of the community forest.

The research methods consisted of documentary studies and field studies at the three community forests. Five assistant researchers stayed in the goal areas for three months in order to observing and interviewing the formal and informal of community leaders, the community seniority leaders, the community forests committees, the assistant Tambon officers, the officers of the Office of Provincial Forest of Ubon Rachathani, and the officers of the Office of Regional Forest. The researcher participated in depth interview with the key community forest leaders for three times in each areas.

The research findings :

The dominant cultural factors for conserving and rehabilitating the community forests were the peasant cultures such as housing in the cluster areas, depending on each others, relationship as the relatives, respecting each others as relatives, respecting the senior persons in the communities, committing with the forest in the past, showing the filial devotion to the valuable things, obedience on the formal and informal leaders, accepting the bureaucracy, good relationship with the government offices, respecting the super natural in the community forest, fearing the harmful from the

community forest, fearing the scold, fearing the punishment, simplifying in their ways of life, feeling of belonging, far siting, highly esteem the promoting government officers, and the supporting from the externals. These factors were motivated the spirit of the community forests and their capacities, the unity, valuing the community forest, respecting the community forests leaders, respecting the rules and regulations, and participating with the unity for sustainable community forests management.

On the other hand, the cross-cultural communities which consisted of the lacking unity, the new immigrated communities, weakening leaders, and the opposites of the dominated factors, trended the powerless community for sustainable community forests management.

The recommendations were (1) all organizations concerning with community forests management should accept and concentrate on community cultures in managing community forests. Because the existing of the community forests at the present was the cultural dimension factor, not the regulation dimension or the governing dimension; (2) the community forests management should accept and protect the community rights in order to confiding the ways of the community doing and the enforcement of community rules and regulations. If there were the contradictory between the government regulations and the community rules and regulations, the authorities should adjust them with the conformity; (3) promoting and developing academic techniques for increasing the community capacities in presenting the community needs; and (4) the government organizations and the other externals should practise their roles as the counselors and help the communities when the burdens surplus their capacities.