

Darakorn Jiamvijak 2008: Local Strategy Formulation for Forest Resource Management in Namsan Watershed, Loei Province. Doctor of Philosophy (Forestry), Major Field: Forestry, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wicha Niyom, Ph.D. 130 pages.

The combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques by applying Participatory Action Research (PAR) were applied to study local strategy formulation for forest resources management in Namsan watershed, Loei Province. The objectives were (1) to survey and study the status, potential, need of local community, and readiness of Local Administration Organization (LAO) in the study area; (2) to formulate local strategy for the forest resource management and the cooperation process between local administration, community, and related agencies and (3) to propose and suggest the policy in forest resource management by the Local Administration Organization that can lead to action implementation. The research methodologies composed of study from secondary data, on site survey, 192 interviews with target group, arrangement of focus group, appointment of task force, formulating local strategy, arrangement of workshop and conduct pilot implementation project.

The finding of the research indicated that Namsan watershed had potential as forest resource and tourist attraction. However, the result of interviews noticed that the deteriorated forest takes up to 51% and local community still lack of participation in planning and strategy formulation process. Furthermore, the community required more promotion in income distribution by encouraging plantation of flower, garden tree, and mushroom. According to the survey, 85.9% wanted to establish an organization to manage natural resources and environment in Namsan watershed. The working group, which consists of representatives from all stakeholders, had formulated 5 local strategies, 9 plans, and 31 projects in Namsan watershed. The researcher played the role as facilitator who provided support in research, information and coordination in the area.

As a result of this research, a recommendation was forward the implementation of this new formation to apply the natural resources and environmental management, Tambol Administration Organization (TAO) together with local people and researcher. Thus, the best practice should come from an establishment of an incorporative mechanic/organization to manage the natural resources and environment in Namsan watershed effectively. This included the concept of technical/education/training supply to strengthen the local community in extensive way, included the economics, social and environmental dimensions. Hence, this guideline should also be able to apply in the other watershed area.

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