

Kanit Seesomonn 2010: Participatory Watershed Management Process: A Case Study of Huai Mae Di Noi Watershed, Ban Rai District, Uthai Thani Province. Doctor of Philosophy (Forestry), Major Field: Forestry, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Pearmsak Makarabhirom, D.Agr. 111 pages.

The study on participatory watershed management process was conducted in Huai Mae Di Noi, one of the highest value watershed of the western Thailand. The objectives of this study were 1) to analyse status and problems occurred in the watershed, 2) to analyse alternatives to watershed management and 3) to establish watershed management process through people's participation. Participatory Action Research (PAR) was employed to collect and analyse data and information gathered through a cycle of conceptualizing, planning, acting, concluding lesson learned, and suggestion for the new learning cycle. Huai Mae Di Noi was a rich forest watershed, with an area of 95,000 rai, of which 10% of its area was under agriculture. The watershed consisted of 5 Karen communities with total population of 246 households or 1,213 persons.

The study revealed that there were 29 positive indicators. The dominant cases were the abundance of natural forest resources and the community living in harmony with the forest. The negative indicators were 27 cases, with strong cases on inappropriate land holding and introduction of inappropriate culture from outside. There were 46 groups of community member organized and participated in the watershed management processes. The most effective approach to tackle watershed problems was the participatory processes through deep dialogues with individuals and groups and help them organizing informal community groups to manage forest and natural resources in a participatory way. The watershed management policy should incorporate the watershed analysis, community organization, plan and action with full participation of local communities.