

Pirote Naimee 2007: Crocodile Cultivators' Opinions Toward the Wildlife Trade Policy. Master of Science (Forest Resource Administration), Major Field: Forest Resource Administration, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Ronglarp Sukmasuang, Ph.D. 99 pages.

The study of crocodile cultivator's opinion of Thailand toward the wildlife trade policy was proceeded by using 2006 crocodile cultivation database that was registered by Department of Fisheries. The study also used the questionnaires to investigate the opinions. The objectives were to determine some socio-economic characteristics of those crocodile cultivators. The several opinion levels toward wildlife trade policy were investigated and the comparisons between opinion levels that used as independent variable and wildlife trade policy that used as dependent variable were tested. The significant difference was determined at 0.05 levels.

The results from 186 sample sizes that collected from 639 of the total showed that most of the crocodile cultivators were male that had age ranged of 36 – 45 years old. Most of them had only high school educational level and also had less than 5 years in the field of crocodile cultivation experience. The main objective of crocodile cultivation that collected from the sample was to grow the animal. Most of the samples showed that there had no animal husbandry or veterinary medicine consultancy in their farms. The results also found that most of the farm managers had little background of wildlife trade policy information.

Nevertheless the result showed that the opinions of the farm owners toward the wildlife trade policy were in the positive way with 3.69 score levels out of 5.0. Several factors that affected to the farm owner's opinion were educational levels and their information background about the wildlife trade policy of the country. Recommendations on the next education and the way to improve the law and policy to support the crocodile farm in Thailand were proposed in this study.

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