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Abstract

This study was conducted to investigate 1) People's participation in the management of environment for tourism, and 2) factors influencing people's participation in the management of environment for tourism. A total of 298 samples residing in Than Thong waterfall Arboretum and adjacent villages in SangKhom District, Nongkhai Province, were systematically selected for this study. Research data were gathered by direct interviewing using specially-deviced questionnaires. The obtained data were subsequently processed using SPSS for windows computer package.

The results indicated that people's participation in the management of environment for tourism was at low level (75.84%). As the main focus of this study was placed upon four separated activities in the management including social activity (forest resource, soil and water), conservation (forest resource, soil and water), development (forest resource, soil, water and garbage management) and utilization management, the results showed that the activities participated at the highest and lowest levels by the people were conservation and development activities respectively. Based on various steps of participation which included problem identification, decision-making, action-taking, benefit utilization and evaluation, the results indicated that benefit utilization was participated by the people at the highest level. It was also found that the people participated in evaluation at the lowest level. The set of factors positively correlated to people's participation included social support, benefit gained from tourism, community rank, attitudes towards environmental management for tourism and environmentalism.

It was revealed by Multiple Regression Analysis that the factors which influenced people's participation could be listed out in priority as follows: 1) social support. 2) the benefit gained from tourism, 3) community rank, and 4) attitudes towards environmental management for tourism. In addition, the results also indicated correlation between people's environmentalism and people's participation although people's environmentalism did not show influence upon people's participation. According to the results, all the variables used in this study could predict people's participation for tourism with the accuracy of 57.90%