THESIS TITLE : THE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT BY LOCAL

ORGANIZATIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THE VILLAGES

IN HUAI SAI SUB-WATERSHED, CHANGWAT KHON KAEN.

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ABSTRACT

The research objectives are   1) to analyze the communities
within the Huai Sai sub-watershed, 2) to analyze the patterns and
process of community forest management by local organizations at
the village level, and the socio-economic factors related to the
management, and 3) the villagers'opinion, percieved problems and
recommendation regarding the community forest management. The
study sites cover 16 villages in Huai Sai sub-watershed area,
Phu Pha Maan and Chum Phae district, Khon Kaen province.The sites
used to be target villages under the Thailand Upland Social
Forestry Project (TUSFP). Data was collected from secondary

sources during the two-year implementation of the TUSFP. Qualitative data were collected by semi-structured interview from the formal groups such as the village the village committee, the sub-district council the local experts and local senior citizen. Questionnaires were also used to identify the villagers'opinions, participation in, and utilization of the community forests.

The research found that there are two types of communities within the Huai Sai sub-watershed. The first type includes the villages within the boundary of the reserved forest. Villagers in these area are cash crop farmers who have no right over their land. The second type includes villages outside the reserved forest.Villagers in these area are rice farmers who have land ownership. The research also found three forms of community forest management implemented by local organization. Firstly, the indigenous knowledge-based community forest management made use of traditional belief and ritual systems. This covered the community forest management by the water user and the temple manager groups. The second type was the village development-induced community forest management. Community forests of this type were introduced and promoted by outside agencies. Social groups were formed, resulting in communal awareness of forest problems. Thirdly, the law-enforced community forest management was caused by limitation of existing forest laws, for example, the declaration of conservation area caused local cooperation in developing community forest area. Regarding the process of community forest management, it was found that community forest development was motivated by religious faith, and created

cooperation among the monks, temple managers and village committees. The key factors were appropriate organization of the committees responsible for the community forests, their significance and coordination among concerned groups.

The study found that related socio-economic factors were topography and evolution of the community, production system, social relationship, and community forest land tenure.

Regarding the villagers' opinion toward community forest management, the villagers thought their community forest management was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 1.5). The use of community forests at the household level was negatively evaluated ($\bar{x}$ = 0.7) while that at the village and sub-district level was moderately rated. The villagers percieved that their community forest management would be positive. In addition, their participation in community forest management was found to be moderate.

The problems of community forest management were unidentifiable forest boundary, unclear land ownership, illegal encroachment and log cutting, forest fire, inadequate budget and irresponsibility of the forest committee. Therefore the local organizations must maintain coordination with concerned agencies, so that cadastral survey and entitlement of rights over the forest can be possible. Another suggestion was for the communities to build up their common understanding.