

**THE ROLE OF TAMBON ADMINISTRATIVE
ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
AND INDIVIDUALS IN NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

By

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Fulfillment of The Requirements for The Degree of
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ABSTRACT

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Due to economic development, environmental problems in Thailand are at present very serious. . To solve and prevent such problems it is vitally necessary for not only the government but also the people and local organizations to have more participation in solving them. Therefore, the three objectives of this dissertation were : 1) to study the role of the parties concerned in natural resources and environmental conservation, 2) to identify the factors affecting their role, and 3) to reveal some problems and obstacles of natural resources and environmental conservation.

The secondary data were collected from publications of many organizations relevant to natural resources and environmental conservation in different regions in Thailand. The primary data were gathered from tambon administrative organizations (TAOs), community organizations (COs) and individuals in Chiang Mai and Lamphun provinces by using 3 separate questionnaires. Each questionnaire consists of 5 parts: 1) general characteristics of the units of analysis; 2) supplementary factors of the units of analysis; 3) the role in natural resources and environmental conservation; 4) problems and obstacles of natural resources and environmental conservation; and 5) suggestion on natural resources and environmental conservation. These questionnaires had the reliability between .722 to .880 when Chronbach α was used to test their reliability. They were distributed to 32 tambon administrative organization chairmen, 128 community organization leaders and 349 individuals, or the total 509 samples. The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics and multivariate analyses, such as multiple regression, heirarchical regression and analysis of variance.

In this study, the five areas of natural resources and environmental conservation examined were extension, development, maintenance, examination and protection. The role in each area was measured by the number of relevant practices concerning soil, water, forest, solid wastes, noise and air.

The principal role of TAOs and COs in natural resources and environmental conservation was measured from the frequency of disseminating environmental information by means of the community news broadcasting tower, publications, community cleaning and tree-growing. For individuals, the principal role was measured by the frequency of joining the activities held by TAOs, COs, non governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations, such as the Community Development Department and Forestry Department. Some of their important roles were cleaning the area around their houses, not throwing garbage in a water source, growing trees and using renewable materials.

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Mr. Phahol Sakkatat
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