

### Abstract

This study aims to gather the local knowledge on forest resources management and to create awareness and understanding of sustainable forest resources utilization and restoration of communities located in the area of Wat Chan Royal Project Development Center. Three villages as following; Ban Wat Chan, Ban Jam Noi and Ban Den, Ban Chan sub-district, Kalayaniwattana district, Chiangmai province are the study site. Participatory action research methodology was applied and employed with data generation techniques including archival reviews, in-depth interviews, observations and group meetings.

All three villages are Karen ethnic group and almost of them dependent on forest resources. They still have knowledge, wisdom, beliefs in forest management and the regulation for forest conservation and utilization. Thus, forest resources management is based on the Karen culture. The majority of stakeholders are forest users group, community leaders, government officers such as RFD staffs, FIO staffs, administrative official staffs, and NGOs. Factors and conditions for the development of participation on sustainable forest resources utilization and restoration are as following; strong belief, cultural, and knowledge related to sustainable forest resources utilization and management; the rules and regulations are clear and enforceable; data base of land use and forest management; and including support from various agencies. Guidelines for working with stakeholders separated into 2 groups, namely the target communities and supporting agencies. The guidelines for working with target communities as following; (1) transfer the knowledge of forest management related to the research project on forestry, (2) formulate the research project with the local communities related to forest restoration and sustainable utilization, (3) setting the platform for learning and exchange experience, (4) develop the action plan for forest management with the local people and (5) develop the learning center for forest restoration and sustainable utilization. The guidelines for working with supporting agencies as following; (1) supporting the basic information and academic knowledge for forest management and (2) coordinating and participating in activities of other agencies who work related to forest restoration and sustainable utilization.