
LIVELIHOOD CHARACTERISTICS AND FACTORS AFFECTING INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS IN DRANGPHOK VILLAGE YOKDON NATIONAL PARK

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Livelihood development of buffer zone community in national parks has always been a concerning issue. The main aim of this research, which focused on households in Drangphok village in Yokdon national park, was to propose suitable solutions for local conditions in reducing pressures on resources, increasing income, and balancing between conservation and sustainable development of National Park's resources in general. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods were applied with the participation of 80 local families. Our results from analyzing livelihood characteristics have disclosed a few typical features of human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital, and financial capital in the studied area. Firstly, the main production activity was agroforestry dominated by extensive farming, which means heavily reliant on natural resources and indigenous experiences. Secondly, we ranked the main factors affecting the household income at the study site using the multivariate regression model. In the order from highest effect to lowest effect, the results were: (1) paddy rice, (2) animal husbandry (3) cash crop, (4) non-timber forest products, (5) cashew, (6) size of cultivated land. Based on the above results of analyzing livelihood characteristics and the factors affecting the mixed-income of local households, we propose four groups of solutions to contribute towards the livelihood development and income improvement for local communities in Drangphok village of Yokdon national park. They are: (1) Improving the quality of livelihood capital, (2) Developing animal husbandry, (3) Perfecting the land use planning and (4) Implementing effective agricultural support policies.

Keywords: Buffer zone, family, impact factor, livelihood development, mixed income.

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