

Collaborative Management in the Highlands of Northern Thailand

Prawit Nikornuaychai (CMLN Thailand coordinator)

About Thailand...

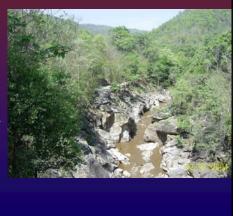
- * Land area: 513,000 km²
- ❖ Population: 63 million
- ❖ IP Population: 1.2 million
- Main IP groups: Karen, Hmong, Lisu, Lahu,
- * Mian, Akha, Lawa



Table 1: Thailand's Forest Cover %						
Year Total	1900 75	1961 53	1985 29	1990 27.3	1995 25.6	1999 25.1
North-ea st		43	14		12.6	12.4
Central		53	26		23	22.6
South		42	22		17.6	17

Government policy

- 1. To stop destruction of forests by traditional IP culture (swidden farming),
- 2. To stop all opium-related activities in the mountain areas,
- 3. Protection of the border regions and prevention of communist activity in the mountainous areas (promotion of national security).



Government Policy Implementation

- ❖ 1. Resettlement and regrouping of IPs.
- ❖ 2. Declaration of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ❖ 3. Promotion of modern agricultural methods.



People's Movement

- ❖ 1. Draft Community Forest Act
- ❖ 2. New Constitution of 1997
- 3. Mapping and modeling of local natural resources
- 4. Ordination of 50 million trees
- ❖ 5. Support from the King



Failure to Solve Problems

- ❖ 1. Government does not recognize people-forest co-existence.
- ❖ 2. That environmental organizations agree with government and mobilize lowland Thats.
- ❖ 3. Government disinformation on highland IPs.
- ❖ 4. Conflict between lowland Thais and highland IPs.

Pathway to a solution

- ❖ 1. Clear demarcation of village lands
- ❖ 2. Land use regulations agreed on by all parties
- ❖ 3. Open and clear negotiations inclusive of all stakeholders
- ❖ 4. Drawing up tripartite agreements
- ❖ 5. Submit agreements as a basis for community land use titles



- ❖ 1. Participatory Action Research, e.g. water problem, chemical pollution, and so on.
- ❖ 2. Village-level Forums and Stakeholder Forums
- ❖ 3. Joint activities between stakeholders, e.g. establishment of fire-breaks, rituals related to natural resource conservation, and so on.
- ❖ 4. Dissemination of real information through bulletins and forums.

