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| Thesis Title | Non-State Market-Driven System of Environmental Governance: A Case Study of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Thung Jaw Upper Watershed, Ban Hua Lao, Tambon Pa Pae, Amphoe Mae Taeng, Changwat Chiang Mai |
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ABSTRACT

This research project was set to analyze the Non-State Market-Driven (NSMD) System of Environmental Governance through the pilot project of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Thung Jaw Upper Watershed, Ban Hua Lao, Tambon Pa Pae, Amphoe Mae Taeng, Changwat Chiang Mai as a case study. Operation of the project was initiated by the Biodiversity- Based Economy Development Office (BEDO) who acted as a mediator between the providers of ecosystem services or the sellers and the beneficiary or the buyers. The research aimed to examine investigate the changing access and distribution of water and forest in Thung Jaw Upper Watershed including a changing relation between villagers and environment in terms of use and conservation of water and forest in the area; territorialization of forest and land as a result of the inducement of the PES mechanism. Samples of research were divided into 2 different groups including Hua Lao Karen villagers and key informants who are BEDO representatives and the village leaders.

It was found that Hua Lao villagers have traditionally conserved natural resources under the resource access control rules based on knowledge, belief, culture and norm. After market system was implemented, the natural resources believed to be owned by the supernatural tended to become a commodity for sale. Although the villagers shared the common goal of conservation of forest ecosystem with the new form of conservation introduced from outside, the new method was totally different from the traditional practice. For instance, Hua Lao villagers viewed that forests have grown naturally while the PES project insisted on tree planting. The PES operation also caused concern

over an inequality among the villagers, especially when it selectively employed a certain group of local villagers in the operation of project activities. Moreover, dominant power relation of the state actors over local people has prohibited the free market transaction in negotiation of payment for ecosystem services. Rules of PES also constrained the local rights of villagers in access to forest resources. This problem has widely emerged in many cases of PES practice in developing countries, particularly the tendency of widening inequality. Thus, inducement of economic concept and measure needs to take into account the social, cultural and traditional contexts including the needs of local community in order to achieve sustainable conservation.