



The Impacts on the Way of Mahout Group Life in Surin Province from Problem Resolution Policy on the Domesticated Elephant Community of Thailand Government

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Abstract

This study was conducted by documentary research during the period 2003-2017. The purpose of this research is to analyze the Impacts on the way of mahout group life in Surin Province from Problem Resolution Policy on the Domesticated Elephant Community of Thailand Government. The results are as follows:

1) The allocation of public space was mainly allocated to elephants rather than other occupations. It causes resistance such as economic crops. Non-elephant feeding and rarely cooperate to manage elephants to be effective as they should. As a result, the image of the elephants was viewed as an exploitative group in the community.

2) Capitalism plays a role in the way elephants and mahouts are used to change the way elephants change their lives. Capitalist groups focus more on profit than on the local culture.

3) The direction or approach to solving problems of elephants was determined by people outside the community. Make certain that some people in the community do not accept the management approach of government agencies that may not be consistent with the way people live and the elephant.

4) Legal constraints make the elephant farmer unable to find income. It should be said that the transport of elephants requires a permit, which requires permission from the authorities. Trade in products made from elephants requires permission and registration.

Keywords: Domesticated Elephant community, impact on way of life



บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษาเรื่องผลกระทบต่อวิถีชีวิตของคนเลี้ยงช้างในจังหวัดสุรินทร์จากนโยบายการแก้ไขปัญหาช้างในชุมชนช้างเลี้ยงของรัฐบาลไทย เป็นการศึกษาโดยใช้วิธีการวิจัยเอกสาร (Documentary Research) ในช่วงระหว่าง พ.ศ. 2546-2560 โดยมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อวิเคราะห์ผลกระทบที่เกิดจากการดำเนินนโยบายการแก้ไขปัญหาช้างในชุมชนช้างเลี้ยงของรัฐบาลไทยที่ส่งผลกระทบต่อวิถีชีวิตของคนเลี้ยงช้างในชุมชนช้างเลี้ยงจังหวัดสุรินทร์ ผลการวิจัยมีดังนี้

1) การจัดสรรพื้นที่สาธารณะให้กับประชากรตามลักษณะอาชีพของคนในชุมชนยังไม่สมดุลงเท่าที่ควร ทั้งนี้ การจัดสรรพื้นที่สาธารณะส่วนใหญ่ถูกจัดสรรให้กับกลุ่มคนเลี้ยงช้างมากกว่ากลุ่มอาชีพอื่น จนทำให้เกิดการต่อต้าน อาทิ การปลูกพืชเศรษฐกิจ การเลี้ยงสัตว์ประเภทอื่นที่ไม่ใช่ช้าง และไม่คอยให้ความร่วมมือในการบริหารจัดการช้างให้เกิดประสิทธิภาพเท่าที่ควร ส่งผลให้ภาพลักษณ์ของกลุ่มคนเลี้ยงช้างถูกมองว่าเป็นกลุ่มที่เอาเปรียบคนในชุมชน

2) ระบบนายทุนเข้ามามีบทบาทต่อวิถีของช้างและความอยู่ดีของช้าง กล่าวคือ ทำให้วิถีชีวิตของคนเลี้ยงช้างเปลี่ยนแปลงไปจากที่เคยเป็นอยู่ ทั้งนี้กลุ่มนายทุนมุ่งเน้นผลกำไรมากกว่าการคำนึงถึงวิถีวัฒนธรรมของคนในท้องถิ่น

3) ทิศทางหรือแนวทางการแก้ไขปัญหาช้างเลี้ยงที่ผ่านมาถูกกำหนดจากคนภายนอกชุมชน ทำให้แนวทางหรือข้อเสนอบางอย่างคนในชุมชนไม่ให้การยอมรับแนวทางการบริหารจัดการของหน่วยงานภาครัฐที่อาจไม่สอดคล้องกับวิถีชีวิตการเป็นอยู่ของคนและช้าง

4) ข้อจำกัดทางด้านกฎหมายทำให้ผู้เลี้ยงช้างไม่สามารถไปหารายได้ ได้อย่างที่ควรจะเป็น กล่าวคือ การขนย้ายช้างต้องขอใบอนุญาตซึ่งต้องขออนุญาตจากทางการก่อน การค้าผลิตภัณฑ์ที่ผลิตจากช้าง ต้องมีการขออนุญาตและต้องมีการขึ้นทะเบียน เป็นต้น

คำสำคัญ: ชุมชนช้างเผือก ผลกระทบต่อวิถีชีวิต



1. Introduction

Thailand is entering a stage of economic development. In order to develop the economy in Thailand, the areas that elephants used to live or find their food are changed to be a farmland. The modern technology in the country has reduced the demand for elephant labor gradually, so the mahouts need to adjust the way of life by selling elephants or taking the elephants to stray in various tourist attractions for money. In addition, the domesticated elephants are facing the problem of being hunted and killed for their ivory or baby elephants. Domesticated elephants are considered animals that are placed in a non-natural environment. They are restricted to their habitat which they should naturally live in herds. They are restricted to feeding ground and risk eating plants with chemical contamination that can cause health problems. They are also restricted to natural reproduction. The elephants are abused and the mahouts use drug to control them. The elephants are facing the previous problems in the aspects of security and they are reduced the value as a symbol of Thailand

The government has played a role in managing the elephant problem by using the "law" as a tool to solve the problem. The elephant in Thailand is divided into two types. The elephant is a wild elephant which is protected by the law on the conservation and protection of wildlife. The domesticate elephant, which has its owner or possessor. And whether or not it was registered under the law on vehicles. This means that elephants derived from the reproduction of elephants

Later in 2003, the Thai government set the national elephant policy. The policy covers the care and resolution of wild elephants and domesticates elephants. Accurate academic effective reducing duplication and preserving cultural traditions between people and elephants. Although policy implementation to address the problem is on-going. The elephant problem is still in Thai society.

At present, the mahouts taking elephants to stray in various tourist attractions and big cities for money is still growing and increasing. Most of the domesticates elephants come from Surin Province. These groups are increasingly opposed by the people of the city. These have reflected that the government's policy. In order to solve the problem, the elephants have not reached their goals and the policy of solving these problems has affected the way of life of the elephants and the people in the domesticates elephants community.

Based on the above data, the researcher is interested in analysing the impacts on the way of mahout group life in Surin province. The results of the research were used as an approach for setting up a policy to solve the domesticates elephant problem in Surin province. The study area is Surin province because it is the most domesticates elephant area in the Northeast.

2. Method

The study was based on documentary research. The analysis of the document between 2003 and 1960 as follows;

1. Report on the results of the public participation promotion project in public administration a case study of the mahout groups. (Surin Province, 2014)
2. National Master Plan for the Conservation of Elephant (National Elephant Policy, 2003-2012)
3. Research Report on Conservation and Management of Elephants in Thailand (Munthana Srikrajang, 2009)
4. Research Report on the Problem Solving of Elephants and Wild Elephants in Thailand (Pensak Jasuchinda et al., 2004).
5. Research Report on Strategic Planning of the Thai Elephant Conservation Center (Terdpatt Pattanastangkul, 2007)

6. Research Report on Development of Elephant Village Tourist Sites in the Northeastern Region (Samapon Klayvichien et al., 2007)
7. Public Policy (Thunyawat Rattanasak, 2003)
8. Documentation of the Study Center Project (Surin Province, 2009)
9. Research Report on Problem Resolution Policy on the Domesticate Elephant Community of Thailand Government. (Siripong Thongchan, 2017)

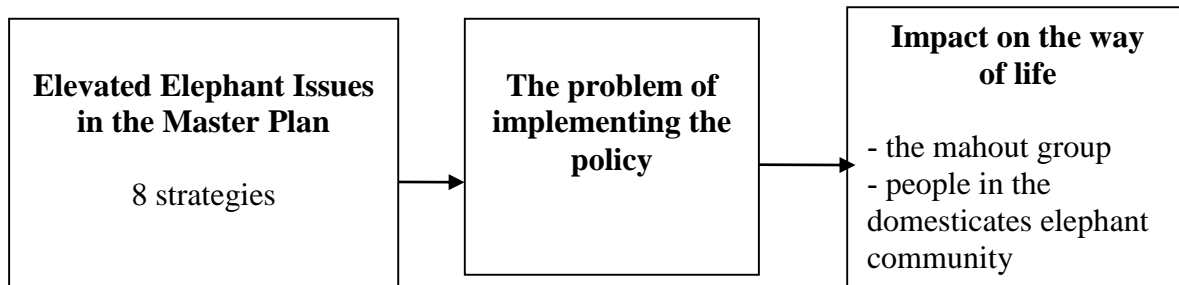


Figure 1: Conceptual framework for data analysis.

The analysis of data uses content analysis. Normally, the content analysis is done according to the content of the document (Manifest content) in the document. Step 1: Define document selection criteria. Criteria for document selection include: 1) truthfulness, 2) credibility, 3) representation, and 4) meaningful description of the criteria. The following is available (Scott, 1990) Research Report Relevant master plans and public policy books are key concepts in data analysis. The analysis was conducted during the period of 2003 - 2016.

Step 2: analysis based on the concept of research, consisting of three parts: the problem solving elephant in the master plan, the problem of implementing the policy and the impact on the way of life of stakeholders.

Step 3: data analysis is a link analysis descriptive lecture references to all information in the document.



Figure 2: The analysis of data

3. Results

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation which is an agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, has been working on the National Master Plan for the Conservation of Elephant.

National Elephant Conservation Foundation There are 8 strategies for elephants: 1) Establishment of the National Elephant Policy Commission. 2) Establishment of an elephant

business standard. 3) Complete forest for elephants. 4) Elephant community. 6) Elephant Assisted Living 7) Thai Elephant Rehabilitation and Enhancement 8) under each strategy, various measures have been implemented. And identify the main unit. Responsible agency The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is not the only agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. For example, the Forest Department, the Department of Livestock Development, the Ministry of Defense, the National Police Office, the Department of Local Administration, local educational institutions, local administrative organizations.

However, the Thai government set the national elephant policy. The policy covers the care and resolution of wild elephants and domesticates elephants. Accurate academic effective reducing duplication and preserving cultural traditions between people and elephants. Although policy implementation to address the problem is on-going. The elephant problem is still in Thai society. At present, the mahouts taking elephants to stray in various tourist attractions and big cities for money is still growing and increasing. Most of the domesticates elephants come from Surin Province. These groups are increasingly opposed by the people of the city.

These have reflected that the government's policy. In order to solve the problem, the elephants have not reached their goals and the policy of solving these problems has affected the way of life of the elephants and the people in the domesticates elephants community.



Picture 1: The domesticates elephants community

The problem of elephants is often perceived as specific problems and affected only by certain groups. When reflecting on the needs of the stakeholders, it is often reflected in local organization, such as provincial administrative organizations. The problem will be solved locally, with some constraints, such as budget. The government is trying to solve the domesticates elephant problem in a more concrete way by addressing the elephant problem as a national agenda. This policy brings the essence of the policy to solve the problem of domesticates elephants in the northeastern. Next topic A study on the policy of solving the domesticates elephant problem in northeastern, the Thai government has adopted the concept of public policy as a guideline for education.

Understanding the situation or problems of public policy implementation in Thailand, It may be necessary to understand these processes and structures thoroughly, as it affects the success and failure of implementing policies. The past in the overall, it can be said that the study of the implementation of public policy focuses on some or more issues, rather than the modeling of public policy, so that there is no definitive theoretical framework or the model that is complete. To explain the problems that may occur in the policy implementation process. About implementing

public policy through 5 main obstacles: 1) Organizational competencies, 2) Controlling issues, 3) Cooperation and anti-change issues, 4) Power and relationship problems. 5) The issue of support and engagement of organizations or individuals.

The problem with implementing of the policy relates to various factors, it affects the success or failure of the. Is there a problem in implementing it?, how can it be explained in a single way? In addition to understanding the concepts and procedures, as well as the structure of the Thai government administration and the changing context surrounding government administration is not the only state that has a role in implementing the policy.

This is just a partial reflection of the problem of public policy implementation. From the viewpoint of the public policy, it is certain that the Thai government must adapt to such problems in order to respond and develop. Otherwise, the implementation of public policy in Thailand is still tainted with the problem that cannot be used.

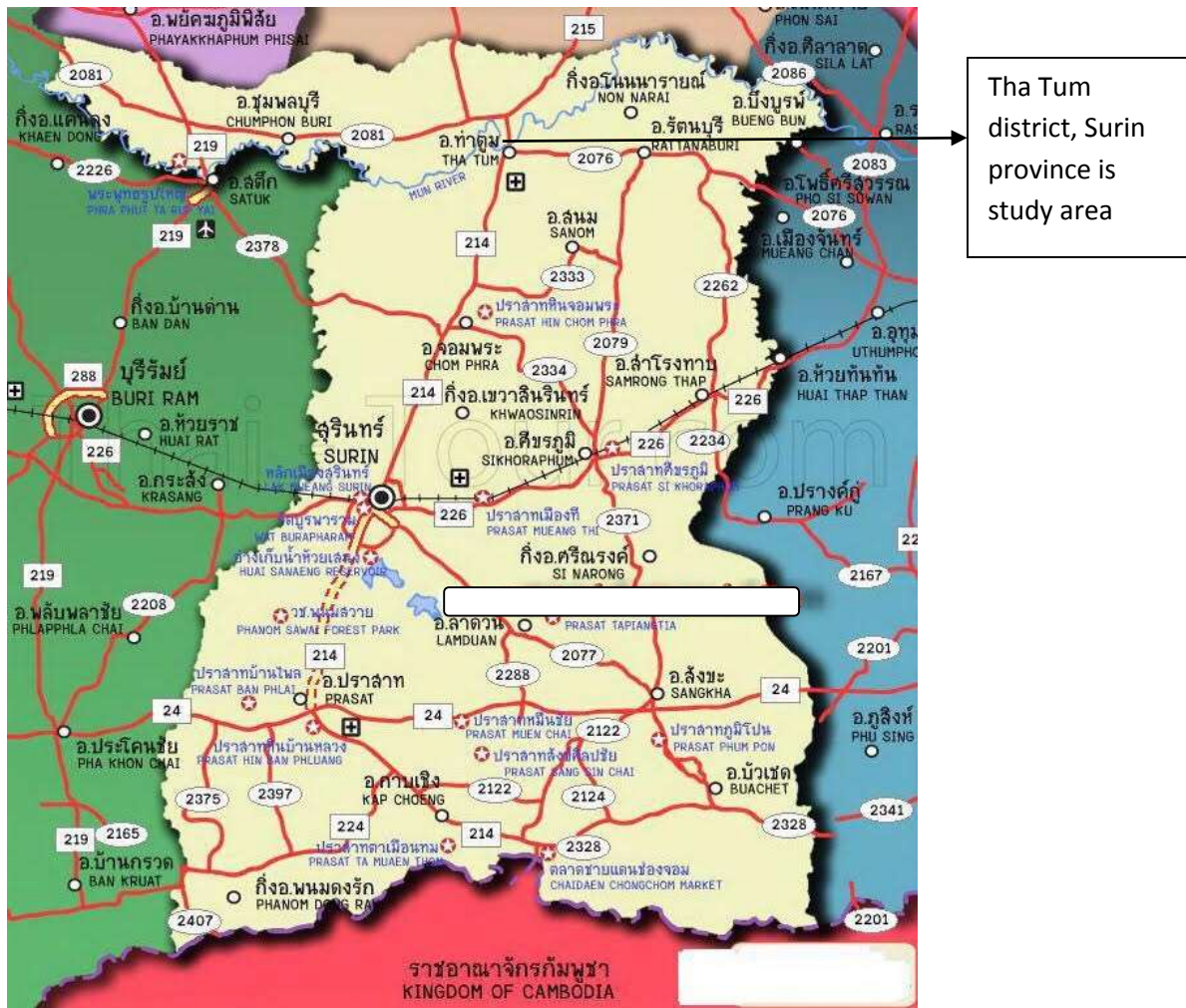
Based on the assessment of domesticates elephants in Thailand, especially in Surin province. There are 152 elephants; the most of them are from the ancestors. And these elephants are experiencing health problems, the lack of water and food is cursed or a tool of capitalism. The way mahout and elephants changed from the past. Based on the review and analysis of the data, the impact of the state's policy on both the mahout and elephants is as follows.

In the past, the mahout group to catch wild elephants to practice. It is regarded as a major occupation and income for the mahout group in Surin province, after the government to stop policy for catch the wild elephant to practice and labor in 1961. Thus causing problems, especially in terms of income to the elephant owners and families. However, the government has a policy to promote tourism, elephants in Surin province can earn money by displaying elephant talent. The elephant has changed roles as an actor and can make money for the owner in a new way.



Picture 2: The mahout Group in Surin Province

The state's tourism policy effects to the simple lifestyle of the community become a tourist community both in and out of the country. Ta Klang village, which is a tourist center in support of tourists, has resulted in the flow of popular ideology that has sprung into Baan Ta Klang community now. It is worrying that the future of this community. Because the inheritance they must maintain as before.



Picture 3: Map of Study area

The Impacts on the way of mahout group life in Surin Province from Problem Resolution Policy on the Domesticated Elephant Community of Thailand Government. The results are as follows:

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2) Capitalism plays a role in the way elephants and mahouts are used to change the way elephants change their lives. Capitalist groups focus more on profit than on the local culture.



3) The direction or approach to solving problems of elephants was determined by people outside the community. Make certain that some people in the community do not accept the management approach of government agencies that may not be consistent with the way people live and the elephant.

4) Legal constraints make the elephant farmer unable to find income. It should be said that the transport of elephants requires a permit, which requires permission from the authorities. Trade in products made from elephants requires permission and registration.

Later on, the Thai elephant conservation movement was very active, with many government agencies and private organizations supporting them. The mahout groups have jobs and income. The elephant show is held every Saturday at the "Elephant Study Centre". This community has become known to tourists. On the part of the people in the community, hope that the projects will make their lives better. Always participate in participating projects, such as elephant show in the annual event of the Surin province. As a result, elephant owners who bring elephants into the show do not have the proper income, not just the cost of bringing elephants to work. This caused dissatisfaction among elephants and agencies involved in the project.

However, the elephant conservation worker is past. There are also conflicts in the network. Both in concept and work, government agencies often focus on the conservation of elephants to promote tourism while NGOs are dedicated to the conservation of elephants, there is no harmonious co-ordination. Those who are directly affected are the mahout group and people in the domesticated elephant's community.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The stakeholders understand very well about the policy of solving the elephant problem, but the mean to get involved is still a bit. Government agencies are the main guidelines and solve problems through the activities or projects of the agency itself. Most people have received support from government agencies to take care of existing elephants.

However, there is also the view that solving the problems of elephants is not appropriate or not enough to meet the needs or is not consistent with current problems.

In addition, it was found that the people involved in solving the problems of elephants were at a moderate level. The stakeholders should be involved with the government and private sector to solve the problem of elephants as much as possible. This will lead to solving problems of elephants for maximum efficiency. The problem of lack of a tourism management master plan for tourism management in the area should participant with the stakeholder, the implementation of the policy to solve the elephant problem has not been as clear as it should be.

Dunn (1994; Thunyawat Rattanasak, 2003) proposed that the formulation of policies (Agenda Setting) is caused by problems in society or public issues that have a negative impact on society and the impact on other social issues.

There are many issues that cannot solve the problem simultaneously, so the policy should select the issue that the stakeholders see as important and should solve urgent. The results of this study, researchers can choose public issues about elephants raising issues that should lead to urgent solutions, such as problem solving or support to solve problems is not the point. Some approaches are not acceptable in the community also called anti-management approaches that may not be consistent with the well-being of people and elephants. The problem solving of elephants outside agencies is lack of integration. Such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Sub-district Administration Organization, Provincial Administration Organization, None-organization and Educational institutions provide to solve of elephants problem. (Everyone is supportive). The lack



of systematic integration; observed from the activities are not integrated. Each unit does not work together and systematically.

Suggestions for resolving these problems are as follows: 1) Promote the establishment of community groups to be the center for consultation; It also creates a career in the community that will lead to the participation of people in the community to manage themselves. 2) Promote self-reliance of people in the community; this is a great way to make a living and arts and Culture include the economy. 3) Create the attitude to the people in the community to realize that the community is their own. 4) Provide support to any activities; the community should have heard the public opinion and should be most involved in the area and 5) Management problems should be integrated management to sustainable.

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