

Abstract

The development strategy of the National Eco-Tourism in 2005 – 2006 and Thailand Tourism Policy had affected tourism development in the Northern part of Thailand, especially Tak Province, which was the only existing Western forest area and had more natural protected areas than other provinces. The development was performed without direction and unplanned operation concerning for natural environment. Therefore it leads to the studies that to make Tak province's natural protected areas more eco-tourism efficient. This quantitative research was focused on architectural design and management strategy. The objectives of this research was to study the physical characteristics and management plan of the studied areas. This research focused on the intensive used zone of natural protected areas; Taksinmaharat National Park and Umphang Wildlife Sanctuary in Tak province. Research instruments were physical survey, open-ended questionnaires, and structured interview. Data such as physical details, methods of management, problems of areas, and public participation were analyzed by content analysis and statistical analysis.

The research results revealed two guidelines for enhancing eco-tourism potential in natural protected areas: 1) the management guideline emphasizing on taking action within inhabitants, authorities and tourist under the management structure, and stresses on a coordination and eco-tourism management. 2) the architectural design accentuating on zoning, positioning, creating uniqueness and eco-tourism management under restraints of the area. However, two guidelines should be used together under ecological management process; which are cooperative planning, master-plan restructuring, building repositioning, entrance renovating, and cultural activity creating under safety principle.