

PROBLEMS WITH PERSPECTIVE: THE VARIATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDER WATER MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES IN NORTHERN THAILAND AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MODEL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION OUTCOMES

Rachel A. Dunn

ABSTRACT

Ecologically sensitive areas with indigenous populations in Northern Thailand have become focal points of conflict over water management. Mathematical models are being used to explore the environmental impacts of activities within these areas. However, the possible divergence of priorities regarding water management issues within a single local context and the influence of these differences on potential model outcomes has not been accounted for. Therefore, the research objective of this study was to determine the extent of the differences between conservation priorities within a local context and explore the impacts of this diversity on water management model development strategies. The results indicate both distinct differences and complex inter-relationships between water management priorities. This is significant as it causes an extreme divergence in possible model recommendation outcomes and helps explain why modeling projects may fail to initiate policy uptake, facilitate dialogue between stakeholders and access local knowledge.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Stakeholder Priorities, Thailand