

CHAPTER 5

Conclusion and Recommendations

This chapter entails a summary of the quintessential findings of this study. Per the objectives, the design criteria for accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is generated. Furthermore, the researcher provides perspectives and recommendations for future study.

5.1 Restatement of the problems and research objectives

Ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is famous for its natural and cultural attractions. These kinds of place always demand ecotourism while mass tourism increases the density of people in tourist area and degrades the quality of surrounding environment and increases pollution without considering the requirements and needs of the local people. So, ecotourism should be adopted to protect the environment, local cultural identity and to increase social awareness. This research focus on accommodation which is a critical part of ecotourism. Per the data total number of tourist travelling in Thailand is increasing from 2005 to 2015 but tourist in Doi Suthep-Pui is decreasing from 1,956,274 in 2005 to 285,915 in 2015. Number is decreased in the rate of 70% in 10 years. So, the main investigation was to find how and why visitor population is dropping and what the problems were. From the methodologies researcher pointed out the number of tourist are not decreasing but the provided data is incorrect. As the policy makers explained, from 2005 to 2009 they used to count everyone who entered the national park but from 2010 they chosen only four places to count number of tourist entering to national park namely Monthathan Waterfall, Mae Sa Waterfall, Tad Mok Waterfall and Mok Fa Waterfall. They changed the data collection style because they found it unnecessary to count everyone entering national park because national park also includes two villages, temples where a lot of people travel every day. This was the main reason in decreasing the number of tourist in data only but in a reality, it is increasing.

The major purpose of the study was to develop design criteria and analyzing the problem of ecotourism in Doi Suthep Pui National Park. For determining design criteria researcher performed field survey, questionnaires and interviews in a sequential order. Field survey gave an information about local architecture in Doi-Suthep Pui National Park.

Another investigation was does it consist of culture and society integration. Answer is no, the local architecture is not quite integrated with accommodation. Being a national park Doi Suthep-Pui focuses on nature preservation and tries to involve local people but still failing to serve.

The local people residing are not interested in developing relationship with tourists and national park authorities. Government is planning varieties of activities that involves tourists and locals to focus on ecotourism. They are planning to develop homestay tourism inside village in national park, which will play vital role in enhancing ecotourism of Doi Suthep-Pui National Park.

The main objectives of this study were

- i. To analyze site history, formation, architecture, factors affecting ecotourism and its problem on accommodation
- ii. To study the sustainable development of accommodation for ecotourism and natural conservation
- iii. To develop design criteria for accommodation for ecotourism and natural conservation

This present study had been based on and limited to the tourism area of Doi Suthep Pui National Park of Chiang Mai Province. The study was a case study so, the conclusions drawn from this study were mere indicative rather than conclusive. The questionnaires were taken during the low season (March-April) 2016 due to the limitation on research timing.

Initially, researcher thought 90 percent of Doi Suthep- Pui National Park was protected area, restrictedly use for nature as there are national reserved forests, thus built environment (village, resort, campground, tourist center) was not allowed throughout the park. From the methodologies researcher found that Doi Suthep-Pui has specific zoning system and built environment is only allowed in service zone of the national park.

5.2 Discussion of significant findings

This section involved a summary of the critical findings of this study. The findings were discussed based on the objectives of study.

Objective 1: To analyze site history, formation, architecture, factors affecting ecotourism and its problem on accommodation

Doi Suthep-Pui National Park was established in 1981 and covers 261.1 square km. it is the mainly famous for natural and cultural attractions. The cold climate and Doi Pui Mountain with varieties of wildlife and plants are the natural attractions, whereas Phra That Doi Suthep Temple and Bhubing Palace are the cultural attractions. Doi Suthep-Pui National Park also includes two hill tribe Hmong villages. The dominant architectural style in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is local vernacular style. Houses are mostly one storied made of wood and bamboo with thatch roof, whereas accommodations in national park adopted contemporary style. Modern structures and materials can be seen but roof is inspired from Thai Lanna style. For doors and windows mainly woods are used. The number if increasing population of tourist and waste generated by them is a main problem for accommodation. The total capacity of accommodation is fixed and there are no any plans for new accommodation inside national park so tourist is bound to return nearest cities. Even the quality of accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is not good and old with only minimum services. Tourist willing to stay at national park have not much choice so national park is planning to encourage villagers to establish homestay inside Hmong villages for accommodation. So, in conclusion it can be said that number of tourist in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is increasing but the capacity and quality of accommodation inside national park remained the same. Accommodation is an important part of ecotourism so it should strictly follow principle of ecotourism. Being located inside national park or protected area they also must strictly follow the rules and regulations of national park. Accommodations can be built only in fixed area of national park (services zone), which are separated by national park during establishment. Regarding Doi Suthep-Pui National Park the case is also the same. Existing accommodations are not going to extend and new are not allowed to build. The accommodation only allowed in future are homestays in village.

Objective 2: To study the sustainable development of accommodation for ecotourism and natural conservation

Accommodation is an important part of ecotourism industry. There are four places for accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park. Doi Pui campsite, National Park accommodation and Monthathan Waterfall campsite and accommodation are managed by national park itself. Most of houses in three accommodation are contemporary structures (Prefabricated structures masonry, glass fibers, reinforced concrete, rigid tents, inflatable structures, tourism cottages colonies, inns, guest houses, homes). Khun Chang Khian Homestay is vernacular building types (indigenous structures like grass huts, mud structures, caves, elevated halls, house boats, reed platforms and buildings, yurts, tree platforms, ice houses, teepees, cliff dwellings, stick houses) and managed by local owner. three of the accommodation are located inside jungle and homestay is located inside village. All of them are small scale and merged with the nature. Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is a protected area. Ecotourism activities such as observing flora, fauna and landscapes, visiting historical sites, hiking, trekking, photography, night safari, day trips, local activities, bicycle riding, biking, enjoying waterfalls, camping and tasting local cuisine are found on the national park. All the activities have impacts on accommodation. Accommodation should be able to give services required by ecotourism activities. Services such as camping ground, fixed tents, flexible tents, restaurants, lodging, vehicle parking, information counters, health centers, picnic arrangement, electricity, solar panels, toilets, drinking water, fireplace, trash cans, sewer, recreational spaces, educational spaces and meeting halls. Most of the services are provided by Doi Suthep-Pui National Park. During the establishment of accommodation, they only thought to increase target population but now the situation is different. Number of visitors are increasing and all of them could not accommodated by only four sites with limited capacity. The development of new accommodation is necessary but being a national park it should follow strict policy. The policy of national park is to stop an increasing population and renovating existing accommodation for the natural conservation. New place for accommodation is not allowed but it allows to develop the quality of existing one. National park planning to develop more homestay tourism rather than existing accommodation.

Objective 3: To develop design criteria for accommodation for ecotourism and natural conservation

The main objective of this research is to develop design guidelines for an existing as well as upcoming accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park based on ecotourism and natural conservation. To get findings researcher conducted quantitative as well as qualitative data analysis methods. From that methods researcher extracted accommodation design guidelines. These guidelines cover every aspect of accommodation as far as possible. From interview, some of the critical findings are derived, that says there is not policy of creating new accommodation inside Doi Suthep-Pui National Park because it is protected area and cannot built more buildings in service zone. So now the derived criteria can be used to develop accommodation in buffer zones of the national park. National park allows homestay inside national park so the same criteria applies for homestay too. The design criteria mainly focus on construction, conservation and management of accommodation. In a conclusion, it can be said that accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park or buffer zone should be designed in traditional and vernacular architecture style regarding to village using local materials. It should be small scale development, low rise buildings and flow of space directly connected to nature.

Accommodation should provide sufficient information to tourist on cultural aspects and should collaborate with local community to educate local people about ecotourism. It should avoid air conditioning and other electric devices that use too much electricity, should conserve existing energy sources and use renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, small hydro and biogas for energy. Vehicles such as electric cars, electric bikes and electric buses for public transportation should be used. Accommodation should use materials that must be natural, renewable, sustainably harvested materials and should be local such as woods, bamboo, pines and thatch. Rain water should be stored and grey water should be reused: for gardens and toilets. Water saving (low-flow) faucets, showerheads & toilets should be used. Solid and liquid waste should be separated in trash cans and should be reduced, reused, and recycled. Accommodation should focus on marketing and follow online booking systems. It can be said that these are the general design criteria for accommodation for ecotourism and natural conservation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park derived from the research.

5.3 Recommendations for Homestay

As it is concluded that there are no policies to create new accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park so the design criteria for accommodation are applied for renovation of existing accommodation and accommodation that are going to be established on buffer zone. Homestay are allowed inside national park and the national park wanting to develop policies for homestay tourism so recommendation is only provided for homestay. Remembering, homestay is a form of tourism that allows visitors to rent rooms from local families. It is sometimes used by people who wish to improve their language skills and become familiar with the local lifestyle. The significant findings of this research resulted in the following recommendations for homestay in Doi Suthep Pui National Park.

- i. Homestay in Thailand are mostly student, cultural, volunteer type and specifically Bed and Breakfast type of homestay but in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park homestay should be termed as cultural and leisure homestay so, homestay is suggested to be designed specifically for leisure and recreational facilities.
- ii. It is highly recommended to follow all specified criteria determined by Homestay Standard in Thailand for accommodation, food, safety, host hospitality, tour program, natural resources and management, culture, extra income for community involvement and homestay operation.
- iii. Here are the architectural and design recommendations for constructing and renovating homestay at Doi Suthep-Pui National Park.

- i. The House

The structure of the house should be in good, stable and safe condition such as roof, walls, doors, floor, etc. The design and building materials should reflect the vernacular architecture and local identity of Doi Suthep-Pui National Park. Bedrooms could be provided separately from house or inside the house. The bedroom should have basic amenities and furniture. Toilet and bathroom should be near and easily accessible from bedrooms. Bathroom should be provided with proper sitting and squatting fixtures.



Figure 5.1 Vernacular Style of Homestay in Chiang Mai (Homestay 2016)

ii. Design Elements

Most of the homestay are renovated and some are new designed but in the case of Doi Suthep-Pui National Park new homestay are not allowed to build so only options is renovation of the existing house or making new after demolishing old. Safety and comfort of the guest should be the priority. The design of building should be vernacular and local style with the help of local materials. The homestay should be low rise and small scale from 1-20 bedrooms. Bed rooms and bathroom should be of proper size.

The climate in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park is almost same throughout the year. Natural ventilation should be adopted with ceiling fans. Vents on the doors and roof should be provided for better air flow. Homestay allows tourists to experience the local food and culture so kitchen is not necessary. But for services coffee shop, bar or small restaurant could be added. The food served should be local cuisine from their farm or locally available.

If the homestay is Bed and Breakfast, then breakfast is necessary so it should be provided from local food. In case of Doi Suthep-Pui National Park local people are engaged in farming activities like vegetables and coffee so homestay should allow visitor to taste the food, vegetables and coffee. Homestay should allow tourist to participate in farming activities and coffee plantation.



Figure 5.2 Architectural style of house in DSPNP (Taken on 18-11-2015 by Pradip)

iii. Site Selection

The best location or site for homestay in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park are the two villages namely Doi Pui village and Khun Chang Khian Village. Both villages are the home of hill tribe Hmong people. They have their own lifestyle and way of living, clothes and rituals. The homestay should be able to respect and display the culture of these people.



Figure 5.3 Doi Pui Hmong Village (Taken on 18-11-2015 by Pradip)

iv. Local building materials

The use of local materials in homestay is the most. In Doi Suthep-Pui National Park local materials such as wood and bamboo are abundant. The building should be in a vernacular style so the best materials will be timber with thatch roofs.

For roofing the local clay tiles also could be used. For the structure, timber should be chosen and for flooring stone and local tiles could be used. Door and window should be made of timber and color should be natural material color.



Figure 5.4 Materials used in Doi Pui Village (Taken on 18-11-2015 by Pradip)

v. Restaurant and common areas

Restaurants are not compulsory for homestay but should be required for the Bed and Breakfast type of homestay. Restaurants should be located centrally, easily accessible and near common areas such as reception and lobby. The dining area should be located to capture a good view as much as possible such as mountains, gardens or waterfalls.

The solid and liquid waste from the kitchen should be properly managed. Common areas such as green lawns and gardens should be provided if possible. The barbecue space and cultural areas can also be termed as common areas used for recreational activities.



Figure 5.5 Barbeque space in Khun Chang Khian (Taken on 18-11-2015 by Pradip)

vi. Landscape and gardening

Garden and landscaping are also the important part of homestay which will add flavor of living. The existing plants and flower should be conserved and gardening should be done with the help of local flowers and vegetables.



Figure 5.6 Flowers for gardening in DSPNP (Taken on 18-11-2015 by Pradip)

vii. Interior decoration

The interior should reflect the lifestyle of local Hmong people and their traditions. For interior materials, such as bamboo woven net in wooden frame should be used. The furniture and fixture should be simple and locally made. Color should be natural and should be decorated with wood and rattan. The flooring should be stone or local tiles on the ground floor and wooden or bamboo on the first floor. The homestay should not dependent fully on electricity. Energy from solar should be used for electricity and heating. The lightings and other appliances should be power saving.



Figure 5.7 Interior decoration style in Homestay (Homestay, 2016)

5.4 Recommendations for Further Study

Finally, Doi Suthep-Pui is protected area so it is recommended to follow the rules and regulations defined by national park. National parks are established for the protection and conservation of natural environment and wildlife so the accommodation must not have negative impacts on ecology. Ecotourism should be adopted in natural park to develop sustainable tourism. The guidelines explained in chapter 4 can be used to overcome the adverse effects of mass tourism and those guidelines can be used by architect, planners, policy makers, eco tourist and local people to develop ecotourism.

This research explains criteria for designing accommodation in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park and recommends architectural guidelines for homestay in Doi Suthep-Pui National Park. From the result, the upcoming accommodation should consider the maximum carrying capacity, which is 700 people per night but allowance of homestay in villages will increase carrying capacity. Now for the further research carrying capacity could be the topic. Per the policy of national park, old accommodation is going to be renovated so, it is suggested to study further about conservation of the buildings and sites.



ลิขสิทธิ์มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่
Copyright© by Chiang Mai University
All rights reserved