



THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION



AIT
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From individual facet to climate injustice: A cross-perspective regarding land utilization among northern highland residents in Thailand

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What is happening in the Thai Northern Highlands?

- Targeted: forest-dependent communities like Karen ethnic communities, who are residing inside conserved areas, are at risk of losing control over their land possession and community rights.
- With the introduction and implementation of the recent royal decrees on forest conservation, eligible residents are permitted to continue living in designated forest areas for 20 years and are restricted to use only 20 Rai (1,600 square meters) per household, excluding time extension.
- Natural Conservation vs Human Rights Crisis

Research Gap

Lack of qualitative evidence identifying how much northern highland people have been directly affected by policies and facets



(Thairath, 2025)



(Imnvoices, 2024)

Research Question

How do differing perspectives between ethnic groups, public discourse, and government authorities shape perceptions of land utilization and climate injustice in Northern Thailand?



(Imnvoices, 2024)

Research Objective

To investigate the claim-making process of local highlands and how it interferes with other stakeholders' perspectives

Methodology

Study Scope

This study focuses on how natural conservation agendas intersect with the human rights of northern highland communities in Thailand, and how public opinion shapes awareness and support for climate policies.

Analytical Technique

Desk review with theoretical content analysis from:

- Academic research literature
- Media reports (social movements and advocacy)
- Government policy documents

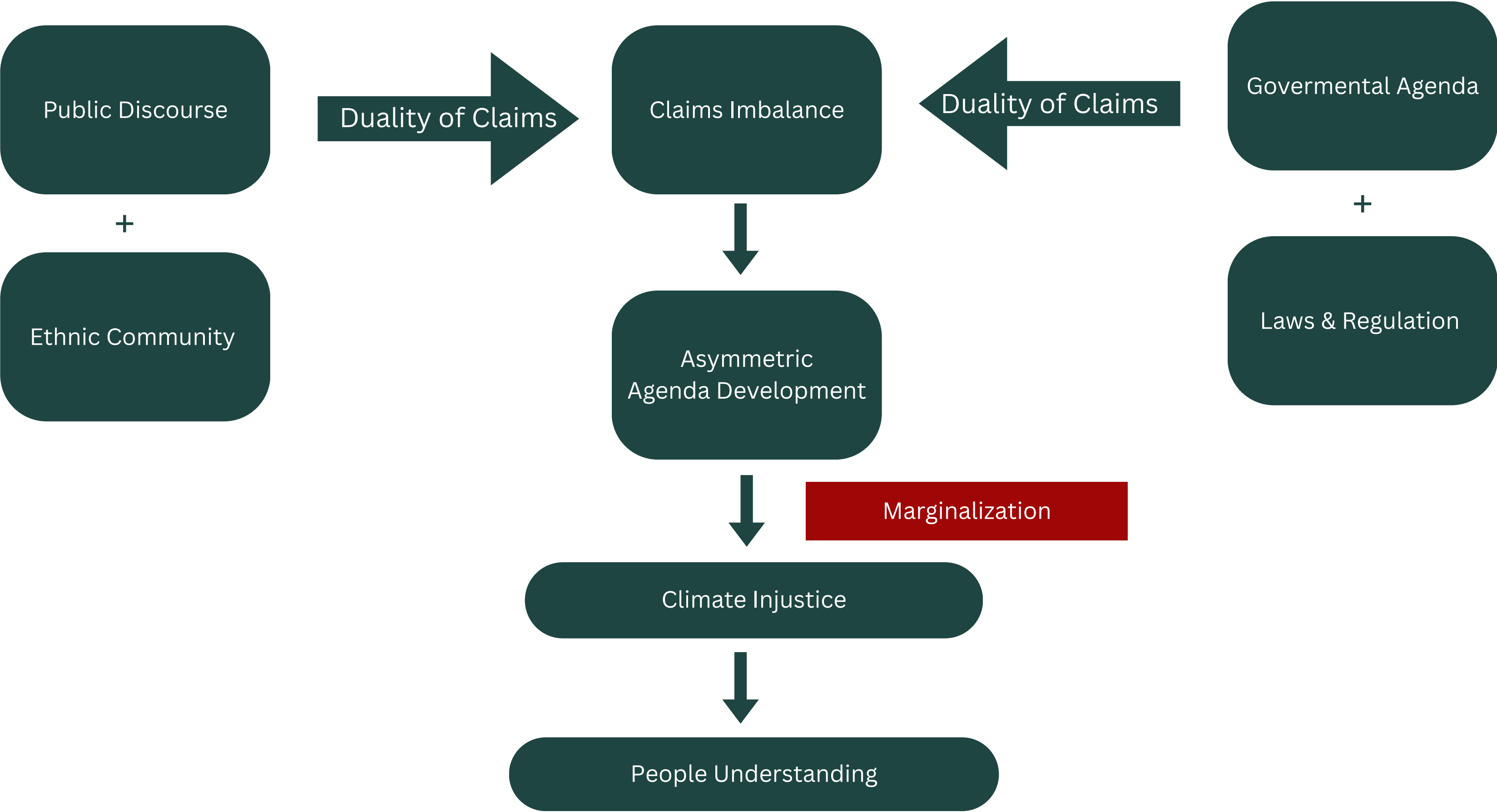
Data Collection

The Year from 2024-2025

Theoretical Considerations: The Theory of Claim (Drover & Kerans, 1935)



Conceptual Framework



Research Key Findings

Unseen Group Identity

Expanding protected areas can harm the rights and interests of indigenous and local communities, leading to conflict and hindering conservation efforts, thereby preventing biodiversity gains.

(Tauli-Corpuz et al., 2020)

Conservation is most effective and socially beneficial when Indigenous peoples and local communities hold meaningful decision-making power and their tenure institutions are recognized, whereas externally controlled interventions often produce weaker ecological outcomes and harmful social impacts.

(Dawson et al., 2021)

Unclear Definition of Sustainability

Protected areas should embrace local knowledge and institutions for effective conservation, rather than separating Indigenous Peoples and local communities from nature, resulting in conflicts and injustices.

(Dawson et al., 2021)

Limited Media Attention

Indigenous communities' problems and needs receive little attention in mainstream media, which often prioritizes urban-focused issues, while overlooking land-use conflicts and the lived experiences of local communities.

Conclusion

- Forest-dependent groups living within conservation zones face risks of losing land tenure and community rights.
- A more sustainable approach to natural conservation is to involve local communities directly in the decision-making process.



An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a variety of green trees. A semi-transparent dark green horizontal band is centered across the image, containing the text "Thank You for your attention" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Thank You for your attention