

# **Environmental Management and Resource Exploitation during Late Pleistocene - early Holocene Human Adaptation: A Case Study of from Khao Thalu Area, Peninsular Thailand**

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**This paper aims** to apply methodologies of geology or earth science methodology to study archaeological data relating to the prehistoric sites in KhaoThalu Area, Sawee district, southern Thailand. This information will highlight 2 aspects ; first, to evaluate environment management through land use and resources exploitation during late Pleistocene – early Holocene periods (12,000 – 5,000 BP.). Second, to study the relationship between the stratigraphy, sedimentology and archaeological data.

KhaoThalu Area is located on a good setting and landscape which observed climatic fluctuation regionally is perfect for habitation. The satellite images and topographic maps shows that the area is located on the middle of the trans-peninsula route (La Un - KhaoThalu - Thung Tako).This route is quite short distances for human in the past can be used as a route for travel between the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

KhaoThalu Area, which has recently been surveyed and excavated by the Study of Relationship between the Tripod pottery in Thailand and Southeast Asia Project. Archaeological site around KhaoThalu Area have been surveyed between 2009 – 2010 and three excavation test pits carried out at KhaoKlang, KhaoJura and Khao Kob archaeological sites. The geoarchaeological data shows that the sites were continuously occupied since prehistoric period between 12,000 – 5,000 BP. Archaeological evidence include many stone tools, fauna remains, mollusk, human skeletons. The spatial distribution of this site was function as contemporary camp, workshop and burial site.

Finally, the research on geoarchaeology is at a beginning stage in this area. A long term systematic geoarchaeological or archaeological research are required to answer many questions and comparison of geoarchaeological data in the Late Pleistocene to Holocene across Thailand and Southeast Asia.

*Keywords:* Environmental Management, Resource Exploitation, Khao Thalu,  
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