tamarind paste. They have also created 200 litre coal-burning drums to make the production processes more efficient and reduce costs.

Rawe swamp is a large body of natural water, which is primarily used for agricultural work and aquaculture (prawn-raising). The area is being developed for tourism because it is on the major route to the Sai Tong National Park. The area around the swamp is suitable for tourist accommodation due to the shady atmosphere created by many trees. Additionally, in the hot season, many migratory birds flock to the swamp. The local government has received funding for its project of "developing the people, developing work and developing the community". This began as part of a 2009 project of 84 districts across Thailand to care for local forests using self-sufficient methods.

In the past the Nong Bua Rawe area was extremely fertile, especially in terms of forests. However, as the local communities developed, the area and the resources were affected. The changes in the community can be described in three distinct periods. Pre-1974, the area was thick rainforest and communities were concentrated on the mountainsides and near water sources. Lifestyle was basic and locals worked in agriculture. From 1975 to 1986, urban society was developed. Roads were constructed and communications networks were improved. Locals relocated nearer to urban centres because their products sold better. However, during this period, there was deforestation and an increased use of chemicals in farming. Additionally, farmers started borrowing money from the banks, causing many locals to be in debt. Electricity, piped water, radio signals and telephone networks also made lives more convenient. From 1987 to 2009 there was further development according to principles of self-sufficiency. This included the digging of canals and construction of roads. Cooperative networks were established to educate locals in suitable, self-sufficient lifestyles and government welfare schemes were established (Phrakru Suwimon Pawanakun, personal communication, 2015).

The residents living near Ampan Swamp (Figure 2) continue to suffer from a lack of sufficient water for consumption and agriculture. There are also seasonal problems of both drought and flooding, as well as low water quality. There is insufficient water storage during the rainy season to ensure adequate water levels in the dry season. The biggest problems are felt in the urban areas, industrial zones and residential developments. A number of water sources are located within a national park and are consequently inaccessible. There is a lack of people with the