UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

ECONOMIC VALUES OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ATTRIBUTES IN BAKO NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

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FEP 2014 14
ECONOMIC VALUES OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ATTRIBUTES IN BAKO NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

By

THALANY KAMRI

Thesis Submitted of the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

May 2014
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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

ECONOMIC VALUES OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ATTRIBUTES IN BAKO NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

By

THALANY KAMRI

May 2014

Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Alias Radam, PhD
Faculty: Economics and Management

Existing for 55 years to date, the key attributes of Bako NP are seen to be under threat. These deficiencies are due to low levels of finance for its conservation and management purposes. An ideal national park should have its objective of generating enough income to cover its operating expenses and a surplus to invest in both conservation and management. The policy options to increase park revenue would remain unclear with lack of information on demand parameters. This study illustrates the estimation of economic values of national park attributes. The techniques applied for the estimation of use value in national parks are contingent valuation method and choice experiment. A total of 564 respondents were randomly selected amongst foreign and local visitors at Bako NP.

The CVM elicits visitors’ willingness to pay for the improvement of conservation and management in the park. The logit model is defined according to dichotomous choice method to obtain the willingness to pay for the proposed entrance fee bid. A total of 80.5% of the respondents among foreign visitors agreed to contribute for national park conservation. However, only 43% of the respondents among local visitors are willing to contribute for the same purpose. Foreign visitors are willing to pay 1.58 times higher than the current entrance fee. Their willingness to pay is RM51.76. On the other hand, local visitors have a slight increase in their willingness to pay as compare to their current charges which is only RM18.80.

In CE, two blocks of estimation were analysed that are conservation and management. For conservation, a total of 70.5% of respondents selected one of the options above the status quo level of conservation fee. The results show that visitors are mostly concern for the issue of decreasing in the population of rare species. Visitors are willing to pay to improve the level from continuous to slow down the decreasing rate. For the case of
management, a total of 64.3% of the respondents selected one of the options above the current situation of entrance fee. The results show that visitors are most concerned for protection level of the park. Visitors are willing to pay to improve the level from moderate to high level of protection.

The consumer surplus is estimated to be approximately RM31.76 for foreign visitors and RM8.80 for local visitors, representing the extra benefits that visitors gain from the park. The value of Bako NP is calculated by multiplying the number of foreign (32344) and local visitors (13112) by the willingness to pay for visiting Bako NP. The result shows that the estimated total economic value of Bako NP for 2013 is RM1.9 million.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

NILAI-NILAI EKONOMI BAGI CIRI-CIRI KONSERVASI DAN PENGURUSAN DI TAMAN NEGARA BAKO, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Mei 2014

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Fakulti: Ekonomi dan Pengurusan


Dari segi choice experiment, dua blok penilaian telah dianalisa iaitu konservasi dan pengurusan. Bagi blok konservasi, sebanyak 70.5% responden telah memilih salah satu alternatif yang lebih tinggi dari yuran konservasi pada keadaan semasa (status quo). Kajian menunjukkan para pelawat amat perihatin dengan isu populasi spesies yang berkurangan. Para pelawat sedia membayar untuk mempertingkatkan kadar daripada berterusan kepada kurang berterusan. Bagi blok pengurusan pula, sejumlah 64.3% responden memilih salah satu alternatif yang lebih tinggi dari yuran masuk pada keadaan semasa (status quo). Kajian menunjukkan para pelawat amat mengambil berat tentang kadar kawalan keselamatan. Para pelawat sedia membayar untuk mempertingkatkan kadar daripada sederhana kepada peringkat yang lebih tinggi.

Anggaran lebihan pengguna adalah sebanyak RM31.76 untuk pelawat asing dan RM8.80 untuk pelawat tempatan yang menggambarkan nilai faedah yang dapat dinikmati oleh pelawat apabila berada di taman. Taman Negara Bako dinilai dengan mendarab bilangan pelawat asing (32344) dan pelawat tempatan (13112) dengan kesediaan membayar untuk melawat Taman Negara Bako. Hasil kajian menunjukkan anggaran jumlah nilai ekonomi Taman Negara Bako pada tahun 2013 ialah sebanyak RM1.9 juta.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, thanks to Allah for this never ending blessing.

I am most grateful for the opportunities and experiences provided to me while studying in the Faculty of Economics and Management, University Putra Malaysia. I am grateful for the experiences gained and friendships made from associating with so many outstanding faculty members and other graduate students.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alias Radam, Chairman of my supervisory committee, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zaiton Samdin and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khairil Wahidin Awang, members of the supervisory committee. Their continuous encouragement, guidance, advice and understanding, support and patience have been the most valuable in completing this study.

My deepest gratitude to my parents and brothers for being patient and supportive. Without their encouragement and understanding it would have been impossible for me to finish this work.

I would also like to thank the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and the Universiti Teknologi MARA for their financial support.

Finally, thank you to all my friends who have been giving me invaluable help and support during the ups and downs of my student life.

To all of them, my eternal gratitude. May Allah reward you immensely.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 5 May 2014 to conduct the final examination of Thalany Kamri on her thesis entitled “Economic Values of Conservation and Management Attributes in Bako National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the students be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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