



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PLANNING AT BIRO TATA NEGARA  
FOREST, KUNDASANG***

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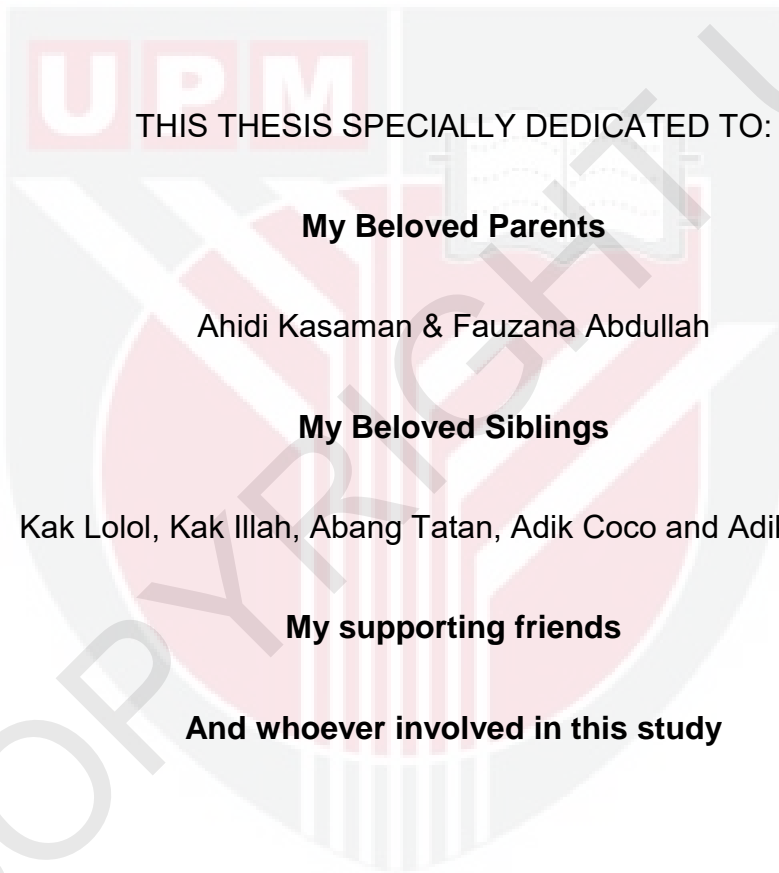
**INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PLANNING AT BIRO TATA NEGARA FOREST,  
KUNDASANG**



**By**

**MOHD. IQBAL SYRAZI BIN AHIDI**

**A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for  
the Degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreation Science in the Faculty of  
Forestry, University Putra Malaysia.**



THIS THESIS SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO:

**My Beloved Parents**

Ahidi Kasaman & Fauzana Abdullah

**My Beloved Siblings**

Kak Lolol, Kak Illah, Abang Tatan, Adik Coco and Adik Wawa

**My supporting friends**

**And whoever involved in this study**

## ABSTRACT

There are many elements of natural resources with high potential to be used as an element of interpretation along the interpretive trail in Biro Tata Negara Forest areas. This study was conducted to plan the development of interpretive trails that will be used as outdoor recreational activities for visitors to BTN. The planning to establish an interpretive trail is that the benefits can be provided for visitors such as general knowledge and information, satisfaction and authentic experience. An inventory of interpretive trails was conducted using the sampling point's method of the trail route to locate and identify all natural resources or elements of interpretive involving five categories: biophysical characteristics, water resources, flora, fauna and scenery / weather conditions. Next, all information about elements that have been identified will be analyzed and subsequently developed an interpretation trail complete with themed stations in BTN Forest areas. The results of the inventory of recreational resources show that there are seven stations along with the appropriate theme. The purpose of the theme of each station is to get the attention on the visitors and at the same time create awareness with information and knowledge about nature. Next, the positive results will come out such as the awareness, conservation and preservation about our forest.

## ABSTRAK

Terdapat banyak unsur-unsur sumber alam semula jadi yang berpotensi besar untuk dijadikan elemen tafsiran di sepanjang rentis hutan Biro Tata Negara, Kundasang. Kajian ini dijalankan bagi merancang pembangunan rentis tafsiran yang akan di gunakan sebagai salah satu aktiviti rekreasi luar kepada pelawat BTN. Perancangan bagi mewujudkan sebuah rentis tafsiran inia adalah agar manfaat dapat diberikan kepada para pelawat seperti ilmu pengetahuan, kepuasan dan pengalaman rekreasi yang asli. Inventori sumber rentis interpretasi telah dijalankan menggunakan kaedah persampelan titik di sepanjang laluan rentis untuk mencari dan mengenal pasti semua sumber-sumber atau unsur-unsur yang menarik yang melibatkan 5 kategori iaitu ciri biofizikal, sumber air, flora, fauna dan pemandangan/keadaan cuaca. Seterusnya, segala maklumat mengenai elemen yang telah dikenalpasti akan di analisis dan seterusnya dibangunkan sebuah rentis tafsiran yang lengkap dengan stesen bertema di kawasan hutan BTN. Hasil keputusan daripada inventori sumber rekreasi menunjukkan bahawa terdapat tujuh stesen berserta tema yang sesuai. Tujuan tema pada setiap stesen adalah untuk menarik perhatian para pelawat dan dalam masa yang sama memberikan kesedaran dengan informasi dan ilmu pengetahuan mengenai alam semula jadi. Seterusnya, dengan kesedaran tersebut memberikan hasil yang positif terhadap alam sekitar.

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## APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled “**Interpretive Trail Planning at Biro Tata Negara in Kundasang**” by Mohd. Iqbal Syrazi bin Ahidi has been examined and approved as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreation Sciences in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BTN	Biro Tata Negara
RRIF	Recreation Resources Inventory Form
M	Mean Score
NPS	National Park Services



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Forest means an area of land greater than 0.5 hectare where the trees are grown on an area of more than 10% canopy cover. Plus, the land is not under use for agriculture or other land. (FAO, 1998; FRA 2000). Forests are an important part of the ecosystem on Earth. Forests represent one-third of all the land on Earth, it is also important to provide solid organic infrastructure and provide many benefits to the ecosystem on Earth regardless of human, flora or fauna and affect climate change, the biggest source of oxygen, and thousands more benefits. Vast forests are important for life itself. They absorb carbon dioxide (climate-changing gases in the atmosphere principal) and produce oxygen, the main soil and prevent erosion, control the flow of water, protect the watersheds, modify the climate and cool down the air, also provide habitat for millions of species of plants and animals.

Forest conservation is emphasized on the protecting the natural resources and at the same time, protecting the habitat for the flora and fauna. Conservation is one way to preserve natural resources for same one period of time to ensure that future generations can enjoy it. Forest conservation contains two key elements: conservation and public use - establishment of guidelines for the maintenance and preservation of areas of natural - cultural interest with a clear content related to social benefits.

Robert W. Douglas (1975) stated in his book "Forest Recreation" that recreation is an activity that relate with fun and enjoyable. Recreation also

can be done in a various way during the leisure time. Fitness will be restored when a person is engaged with recreation activity. Other than that, initiative and perspective of life also increase when people do any type of recreation activity.

In the forests, there are trails where it is used by users such as hikers, campers or cross-country skiers for recreational activities. What fear the people is that when the user does not have high responsibility to the nature trail; the effect will be faced by the next user. In addition, the effects of low or no restoration/good care of the trail that will also add to the damage on the trail. Not only that the trail cannot be passed comfortably, but it is also become a swamp for mosquitoes. Are we aware that the trail is an important medium for us because without it, the recreational activities will be spoiled and will not cease to exist.

Basically the trails in natural areas like forests and mountains are at our surroundings, are aim to inform the user about the ecosystems where the trail are located in. It brings a meaning where it raises the awareness among visitors when there are communications between people, natural and cultural values. In the book "The Trail Planning Guide" written by (Katrin Gebhard et. al, 2008) explained generally about an interpretive trail. Interpretive trails are designed to change the visitor's attitude\* during their visit to the natural areas by explaining the complex interdependencies of natural resources, pointing out environmental impacts of human activities and raising the appreciation of nature by the visitors.

The BTN trail before was used by the visitors to do some recreational activities like jungle tracking and night walk (Sharizan, pers. comm, Dec 2015). Based on the high natural resources there, Mr. Sharizan told that this is high opportunities to develop interpretive trail and provide the visitors with authentic experience and general knowledge about this place.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Interpretive trail is also a part of the recreation activities that had been giving recreational experience other than connecting from one area to another area. However, interpretation trail provide more positive effects for consumers in terms of recreational experience and it should provide authentic experience to the users. On the trail, there are many natural elements that attract users to enjoy the environment rather than thinking of to reach the destination, either they realize it or not.

Where often mentioned all over the world, namely Kundasang is a very popular tourist area due to the foot of Mount Kinabalu and one area that has been the placement of local people who are very successful. This is because managed to attract millions of tourists each year in the state of Sabah in general and specifically in Kundasang.

Biro Tata Negara Forest is a new outdoor area created in Kundasang. According to the authorities, (Sharizan, pers. comm, Dec 2015) interpretation trail activities or events has not been established yet in the Kundasang. He expressed that such activities can enhance authentic recreation experience

to enthusiasts and recreational activities at the same time sharing of natural resources that have the features and functionality of its own with the public.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The general objective for the study is to suggest a plan of interpretive trail at Biro Tata Negara Forest, Kundasang. It is hoped that the result from this study will pave the way for real construction of interpretive trail where there is currently none (Sharizan, pers comm, Dec 2015).

In order to achieve the general objective, specific objectives of the study were outlined as:

1. To determine interpretive resources based on Recreation Resource Inventory Form at the Biro Tata Negara Forest, Kundasang.
2. To propose the interpretive trail stations at Biro Tata Negara Forest, Kundasang.
3. To proposed the interpretive theme for the interpretive trail at Biro Tata Negara Forest, Kundasang.



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