



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***POTENTIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES AT HUTAN SIMPAN
ROTAN TUNGGAL, RAUB PAHANG***

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FACULTY OF FORESTRY

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**Potential Outdoor Recreation Activities at Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal,
Raub Pahang**



By

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**A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreation Science in the**

Faculty of Forestry

Universiti Putra Malaysia

2016

DEDICATION

I dedicated this study to my parents
Zulkarnain bin Taib & Mazrina bt Mohd Long,
my supervisor, Dr Mohd Hafizal Ismail,
all my friends, Batch Barbet and my close mate,
Siti Aisyah bt Mohamad Zulzurin
for giving me strength and supports.

ABSTRACT

Recreation opportunities are favorable environment and social circumstances that can satisfy the various recreation preferences of recreationist. Recreation opportunity can exist without demand. This study was conducted at Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub Pahang to identify the various recreation opportunities that is suitable to plan and manage this forest reserve as an ecotourism destination. Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal was chosen as the study site because of its unique features and forest characteristics. The study was conducted by performing a reconnaissance survey through on – site inventory survey and interviewed the ranger and officer at District Forestry Department. The main activity that already exists in this forest is hiking to the top of the forest reserve. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the other recreational recourses that can be suggested as recreation activities. Six planning zones were identified, and Outdoor Recreation Resources Inventory was carried out for each planning zone. The Outdoor Recreation Resources Inventory consists of five elements, namely the topography and physical characteristic, flora and vegetation, fauna and the local climate condition of the area. The Outdoor Recreation Resources Inventory data was summarized and presented into maps to highlight the potential recreation resources in Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal. Four recreation activities were proposed, according to the resources identified namely camping, nature walk, education on forest ecology and bird watching. The information gathered in this study can be used as a guide for the Forestry Department in developing Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal as an ecotourism destination.

ABSTRAK

Peluang rekreasi melalui persekitaran alam semulajadi yang boleh memenuhi pelbagai kehendak para pengguna rekreasi. Ianya boleh wujud tanpa permintaan. Kajian ini dijalankan di Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub Pahang untuk mengenalpasti peluang-peluang rekreasi yang ada. Tujuannya adalah untuk mencadangkan rangka perancangan pengurusan sebagai sebuah destinasi ekopelancongan. Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal telah dipilih sebagai tempat kajian berdasarkan sifat-sifat unik yang terdapat di hutan simpan ini. Kajian ini telah dimulakan dengan membuat survei inventori di tapak kajian dan menemuramah ranger dan pegawai Jabatan Perhutanan Daerah mengenai tempat rekreasi yang sesuai. Aktiviti utama yang sedia ada di hutan simpan ini adalah aktiviti merintis hutan ke puncak tertinggi hutan simpan ini. Oleh itu, kajian ini ingin mengenalpasti sumber rekreasi lain untuk dicadangkan sebagai aktiviti rekreasi. Enam zon telah dipilih untuk dikaji dan inventori sumber rekreasi telah dijalankan di setiap zon yang dipilih. Borang Penilaian Sumber Rekreasi digunakan untuk menganalisis empat elemen iaitu, ciri-ciri topografi dan fizikal, flora, fauna dan keadaan cuaca setempat. Data inventori telah diringkaskan dan dinyatakan ke dalam peta untuk menunjukkan sumber rekreasi yang wujud. Empat aktiviti rekreasi telah dicadangkan mengikut sumber yang telah dikenalpasti iaitu aktiviti perkhemahan, penghayatan alam, pembelajaran tentang ekologi hutan dan memburung. Maklumat yang didapati dari kajian ini boleh digunakan sebagai panduan untuk Jabatan Perhutanan membangunkan Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal sebagai sebuah destinasi ekopelancongan.

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Alhamdulillah. In the name of Allah, all Praise is for Allah for giving me the strength, patience and guidance in completing this project. Firstly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my beloved parents, Zulkarnain Taib and Mazrina Mohd Long who helped me a lot in finalizing this project within the limited time frame. Thank you also for gave me support and encouragement throughout the whole project.

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all that has helped me in one way or another during the course of this project.

APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled “**Potential Outdoor Recreation Activities at Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub Pahang**” by Mohamad Ikhwan Afifi bin Zulkarnain has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreation Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HDF	Hill Dipterocarp Forest
HSRT	Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JPSM	Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia
ORRI	Outdoor Recreation Resources Inventory
OS	Open Space
RF	Recreational Facilities
WWII	World War Two
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Recreation opportunity is defined as favorable environmental and social circumstance that can satisfy visitors in various recreation preferences. Recreation opportunity exists independent of demand; they exist whether or not people choose to take advantage of them (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1970).

The above means that there are already a lot of recreational opportunities in Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, irrelevant of whether people are using them or not. This study is conducted to find out the recreation opportunities at Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub Pahang. Recreation opportunities can be viewed as the supply of resources for providing recreational activities. The recreation activities are needed to turn HSRT into attractive recreation destination.

Usually in a planning process, the first step is to identify the needs of the user's population that will visit Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal and the next step is to provide them with various resources settings (Jubenville, 1976). However, this study will be slightly different as it only focuses on the resources. Thus, Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal will be a pull factor to attract people to visit the area because of the attractive resources availability.

According to Jubenville (1976), the selection of appropriate resources setting are depending on visitor needs and reflects considerations for location and access, physical characteristic of the site, basic design considerations in proper planning for the anticipated recreational behavior, and then finally good administration and maintenance of the site after development. This study concentrates on the physical characteristic of the site. However, the other factors stated above are taken into consideration throughout the study.

Supply assessment and analysis is therefore a continuing process and is necessary if a given site or area is to be attractive and usable (Jubenville, 1976). Supply is very important for a given site to be able to attract the people there. As stated by Jubenville (1976), a given opportunity is not an opportunity to the visitor unless they are aware of it. As follows, this study intended to bring awareness to the people about the various recreation opportunities found in Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub.

Malaysia is very fortunate to have rich forest resources. There are about 60% of total land area in Malaysia is covered with forest. The forest has been used in many ways, such as for ecotourism, recreation, medicine, wildlife reserves and water catchment areas. The forest can be classified according to the use as accorded by the law and the jurisdiction of relevant institutions. Three main classification of the forest are Permanent Forest Reserve (PRF), Forest on State Land (FOSL), and Protected Area (PA).

In peninsular Malaysia, the total Protected Areas is about 4.93 million hectares (JPSM, 2014 Annual Report). Protected Areas come in the form of wildlife reserve, national park, and nature reserve. Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal is a nature forest reserve. The accepted World Conservation Union (IUCN) definition of Protected Area as:

“An area of land or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and natural and associated cultural resources and managed through legal or other effective means”.

In Peninsular Malaysia, the main purpose of the creation of Protected Area could be a combination of the following:

- Preservation of wild fauna and flora
- Recreation and ecotourism
- Protection of specific natural features
- Scientific research
- Wilderness protection
- Maintenance of environmental services
- Sustainable use of resources from natural ecosystem

(Elagupilly, 1997)

As stated above, Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal is classified under the Protected Area as a nature reserve. Through this study, recreation

opportunities were identified to meet one of the main purposes of a Protected Area, which is stated above as Recreation or Ecotourism.

1.2 Problem Statement

Tourism has long been considered as “clean industry”, without any negative effects on the environment (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, 1997). At the same time, this industry is able to contribute to a growing awareness of the value of nature (Urry, 1992). Development of tourism is one of the ways to make nature reserves economically viable and to provide employment and income for the local population (UNEP 1996, 2000; Weaver 2001). The ecological value, protected areas, especially those found in the tropics and in less-developed countries are part of the world’s greatest ecotourism attractions (Krüger, 2005).

According to Ceballos-Lascurain (1987), ecotourism is:

“Travelling to relatively undisturbed uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objectives of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestation (both past and present) found in the areas”.

Ecotourism has become an important economic activity in natural areas around the world. Ecotourism represents a small segment of nature-tourism. Nature-tourism is the travel to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural

areas and constitutes about 0.15 of all tourism (WWF, 1995). It provides opportunities for visitors to experience powerful manifestations of nature and culture, and to learn about the importance of biodiversity conservation and local cultures. At the same time, communities living in rural and remote areas ecotourism will generate income for conservation and economic benefits (Kiper, 2013).

Industrialized countries are characterized by high and increasing demand for nature-based vacations, with protected areas representing first-rate attractions (Gosling, 1999). Tourism could therefore be a means of redistributing economic resources, mitigating the socio-economic situation both at local and national scale and contributing to biodiversity conservation (Budowski, 1976; Western & Henry, 1979; Boo, 1990; WWF, 1995).

Malaysia is among 12 countries in the world which was declared as a mega diverse country (Jabatan Alam Sekitar, 2006). Mega diverse country is the country that have majority of species of flora and fauna found on earth. According to Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia Annual Report in 2014, 4.93 million hectares of Peninsular Malaysia was gazetted as a permanent forest reserves. In Pahang, 2.07 million hectares from 3.6 million hectares of Pahang is a forest area and this area is almost equal to the entire state of Perak, which is an area of 2.1 million hectares (Ahya, 2014). It proves that, Pahang is an area that is rich in their natural resources and biodiversity.

One of the forest reserves in Pahang is Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal which is located in Raub district. Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal, Raub Pahang is a forest that is rich in biodiversity (Mokhtar, 2016). In 17th July 1999, Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal was launched as the Hutan Arboretum by the Sultan of Pahang. Arboretum is a place or botanical garden where woody, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes or aesthetical value. For example, the species planted here were *Neobalanocarpus heimii*, *Shorea leprosula*, *Durio zibethinus*, *Agathis borneensis* and *Swietenia macrophylla*. This indicates that this place has a rich biodiversity since there are many tree species.

Based on the previous research, preliminary observation and interview with officer at Jabatan Hutan Daerah Raub, the forest was once developed in year 1999 with basic campground facilities for example camping site, toilet and also an information centre. However, it does not sustain until today because these facilities are not well maintained. It is a waste if the facilities that had already been developed are not properly managed. It is believed that these facilities does not sustain due to lack of professional knowledge and ability in managing natural resources and also lack of fund allocated to maintain the area.

With the development of this area into ecotourism destination, it gives opportunity to Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal to grab tourists and local attention into ecotourism (Kiper, 2013). Furthermore, this place also has a vast potential

of biodiversity and species richness. The development concept will help to improve the awareness on nature conservation in local and cultural level (Kahveci, 2003).

Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the welfare of the local people (Lindberg & Hawkins, 1993). It can provide benefit not only to visitors, but to all those involved, including the local community in various aspects such as economic, social and growth. For example, the community can involve as guides, selling crafts and foods, accommodation, and taking part in cultural performances. In addition, ecotourism also brings a better standard of living through improved facilities such as new roads, electricity, and internet access.

Other than that, biodiversity in this forest reserve can also be protected from external and internal threats. Scace, Grifone & Usher (1992) describe that, ecotourism is an enlightening nature travel experience that contributes to conservation of the ecosystem. While Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism 2001 stated that ecotourism is a sustainable tourism that contributes actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. So, in order to utilize this forest reserve to serve the community and national ecotourism plan, we need to transform Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal into ecotourism destination.

1.3 Objectives

The general objective of this study is to identify the available recreation opportunities in Hutan Simpan Rotan Tunggal. Therefore, in order to achieve the general objective stated above, two specific objectives of this study are listed below:

1. To determine appropriate recreation activities that suit with the recreation resources.
2. To identify the type of facilities or utilities needed for the recreation activities suggested.

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