

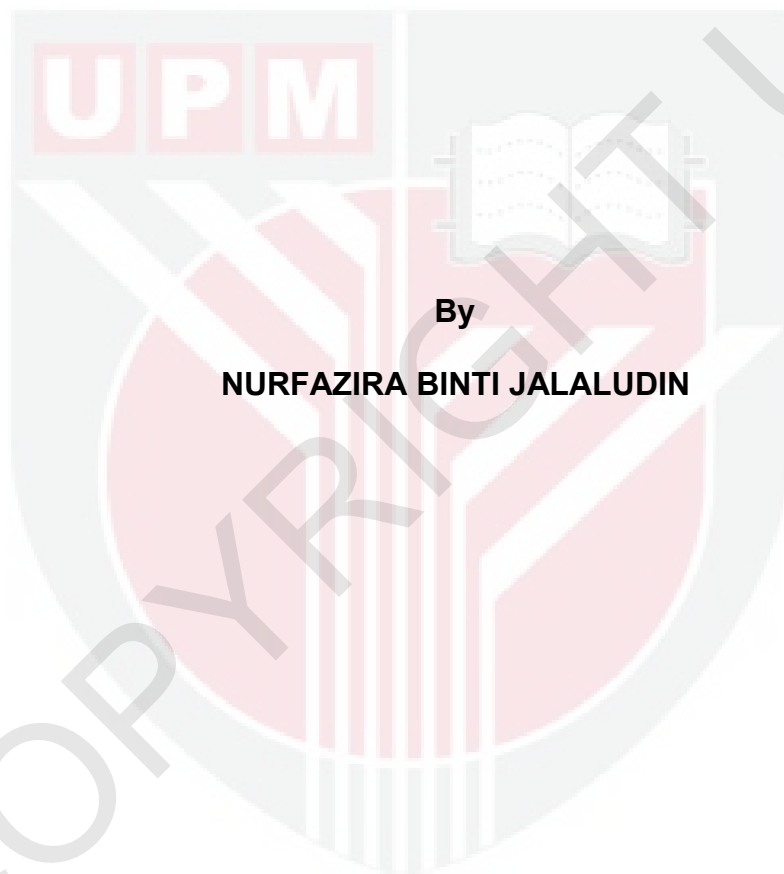


***HIKERS AWARENESS ON THE TRESPASSING IMPACTS  
AT HUTAN SIMPAN AYER HITAM***

**NURFAZIRA BINTI JALALUDIN**

**FH 2019 90**

**HIKERS AWARENESS ON THE TRESPASSING IMPACTS  
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**By**

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**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**

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## DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate my final year project especially to my parents Jalaludin Bin Husin and Fatimah Binti Saad, also to my family members and my friends who are always my main supporters.

I also dedicate this dissertation to the Sultan Idris Shah Forestry Education Center (SISFEC) management team as well as the hiker community of Wawasan trail which helps me throughout the process.

Not to forget, this project dedicated to my supervisor, Dr Azita Binti Zawawi who have excellently supervised me in finishing this project also to all my lecturers and UPM staff for all their support and guidance.



## ABSTRACT

Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam (HSAH) is a forest reserve that should be protected from any form of activities. However, the issue of trespassing for recreation activities had left a major impact on the forest environment such as trampling impact, pollution to the river, and wildlife disturbance (noise). The first objective of this study is to identify the awareness of the Wawasan trail hikers on trespassing impacts at HSAH. The second objective is to know the hikers' understandings on the importance of HSAH as a forest reserve. The overall results indicated that hikers are well aware of the trespassing impacts at HSAH and do understand the importance of HSAH. The irony was the hikers' years of hiking experiences not affecting their awareness of trespassing impacts. People are trespassing into HSAH because its location in the area of high-density population and it is a habit for the regulars to trespass although they are aware.

## ABSTRAK

Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam (HSAH) adalah hutan simpan yang harus dilindungi dari sebarang bentuk kegiatan. Walau bagaimanapun, isu pencerobohan aktiviti rekreasi telah memberi kesan besar kepada persekitaran hutan seperti kesan pijakan kepada tanah, pencemaran sungai, dan gangguan hidupan liar (bunyi bising). Objektif pertama kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti kesedaran tentang pendaki di denai Wawasan terhadap kesan pencerobohan di HSAH. Objektif kedua adalah untuk mengetahui pemahaman pejalan kaki tentang kepentingan HSAH sebagai rizab hutan. Keputusan keseluruhan menunjukkan bahawa para pendaki menyedari tentang kesan pencerobohan di HSAH dan memahami kepentingan HSAH. Ironinya adalah pengalaman pengembaraan pendaki tidak memberi kesan kepada kesedaran mereka terhadap kesan pencerobohan. Orang ramai terus mencerobohi hutan simpan kerana lokasinya berdekatan kawasan berkepadatan tinggi penduduk dan ialah menjadi satu tabiat bagi penceroboh mencerobohi walaupun mereka mempunyai kesedaran.

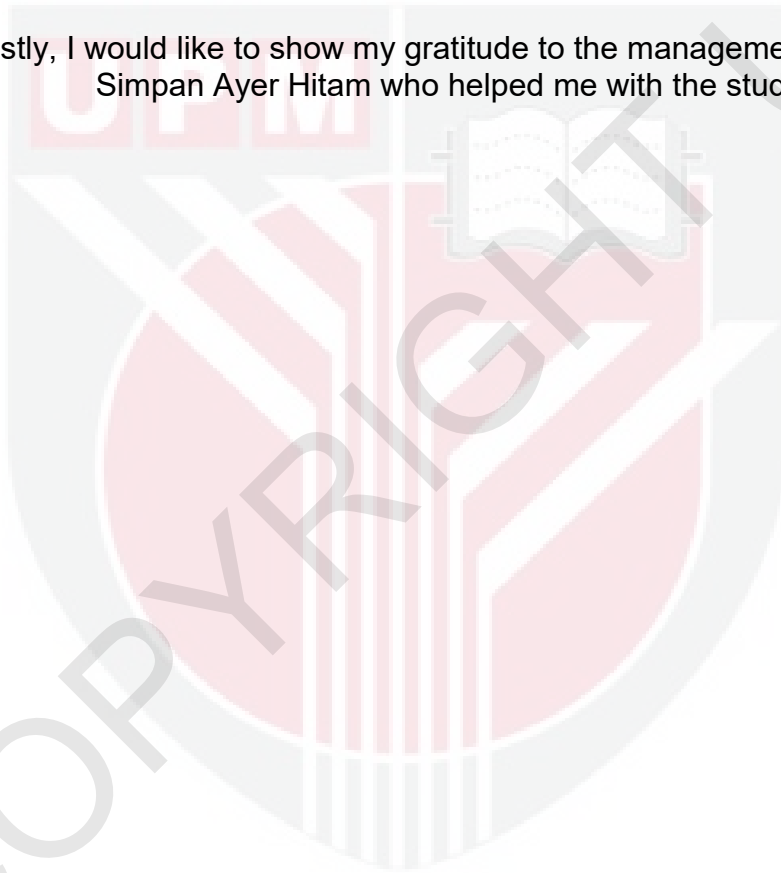
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I also want to thank all my family members and friends who always share their knowledge with me.

Lastly, I would like to show my gratitude to the management of Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam who helped me with the study.



## APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled “**Hikers Awareness on the Trespassing Impacts at Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam**” by Nurfazira Binti Jalaludin has been examined and approved as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Parks and Recreation Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HSAH	Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

People nowadays doing recreational activities in nature site to have relationships and bonding with the environment. Recreational activities such as trekking in mountains, hills, and forests are trending. Hikers are willing to hike to the summit in order to take the opportunity to see the beauty of the natural scenery, improve their overall health through climbing activities and this satisfying the hikers. The relationships between human and nature provide a great deal to each other. People who were doing recreation activity in a natural setting might improve their health and this gives benefits to those participating in that activity (Godbey, 2009). Moreover, higher positive emotions were experienced by the people in a forest setting which providing further evidence of the beneficial effects of forests on the well-being of people who live in urban areas (Park et al. , 2011)

Recognizing the fact of the importance of recreation in a natural setting, Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam (HSAH) management with full responsibility allowed the public to enjoy doing recreational activities in the designated trail covers 2.8 km length forest reserve which it is located adjacent to human settlements. This legal trail commonly called as Bukit Wawasan or Wawasan trail by the nearby community. This study was conducted in HSAH, Puchong

which is located amid the rapid development of the Klang Valley Selangor. HSAH is the only lowland dipterocarp forest in Puchong that still exist in perfect condition. With an area of 1182.07 hectares, the virgin forest area is under the responsibility of UPM to conduct activities in relation to education, research and development in the field of forestry. Unfortunately, many are not aware that HSAH is not a recreational forest thus many hikers off-limit of Wawasan trail and trespassed into this forest reserve. The trespassing activities itself leads to many impacts towards the environment of the forest reserve.

Generally, this study was aimed to determine the awareness of hikers on trespassing impact at HSAH as well as their understanding on the importance of forest reserve due to the hikers' lacks of a proper understanding on the impact of trespassing to its environment and the other relevant issues arose. Hence, it is a challenge for the management team to do conservation and sustainability development work for the forest reserve. Cooperation and participation from the public are vital in taking care of this forest reserve together since they are the main user of the Wawasan trail.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Dean of Faculty of Forestry UPM, Professor. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Hussin said UPM wanted to make the HSAH a world-renowned educational and research center. Nevertheless, it faces several cases in order to conserve this forest reserve in a sustainable manner and it is alarming the fears that it can affect the role and function of this forest that has been classified as education and research forest (Utusan Online, 2015).

Public trespassing is one of the biggest challenges faced by UPM in managing the HSAH. The enforcement officers are often encountered by the public entering the forest illegally for recreational purposes. According to Mohd, Yaman and Jamaludin (1999) since many surrounding forested areas are shrinking, people are looking into whatever remains of the natural area as their outlet for outdoor recreation. Furthermore, this trespassing frequently happened due to its proximity to population settlements besides people are craving for its splendid natural attractions such as rapids and beautiful waterfalls. The other factors are that this forest is rich in natural resources, especially high-value wood and herbs. Trespassing occurs in HSAH as the public are not aware of the forest reserve status and its important functions.

In fact that the hikers encroached into this forest reserve via Wawasan trail and hiked into the prohibited areas of HSAH without permission especially its waterfall area. The reality also is that many incidents happened in the forest such a lost and missing hiker. Trespasser also was littering and made an open fire which leads to various pollution. These deeds incorrectly passed by the law which was stated in the National Forestry Act 1984 and undermines the HSAH status as a forest reserve as well as declining its quality to serve the ecosystem.

It is clearly stated that trespassing activities contributed to various impact on the forest environment and awareness is needed to save the forest. Therefore, this study was conducted to acknowledge the hikers' awareness and understanding of the trespassing impacts and the importance of forest reserve stated respectively



Figure 1.1 : Trespasser at the HSAH Waterfall Area



### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to identify and understand the hikers' awareness of trespassing impacts in HSAH. The specific objectives are:

- i. To identify the awareness of the Wawasan trail hikers on trespassing impacts at HSAH.
- ii. To understand the hikers' understandings on the importance of HSAH as a forest reserve.

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