

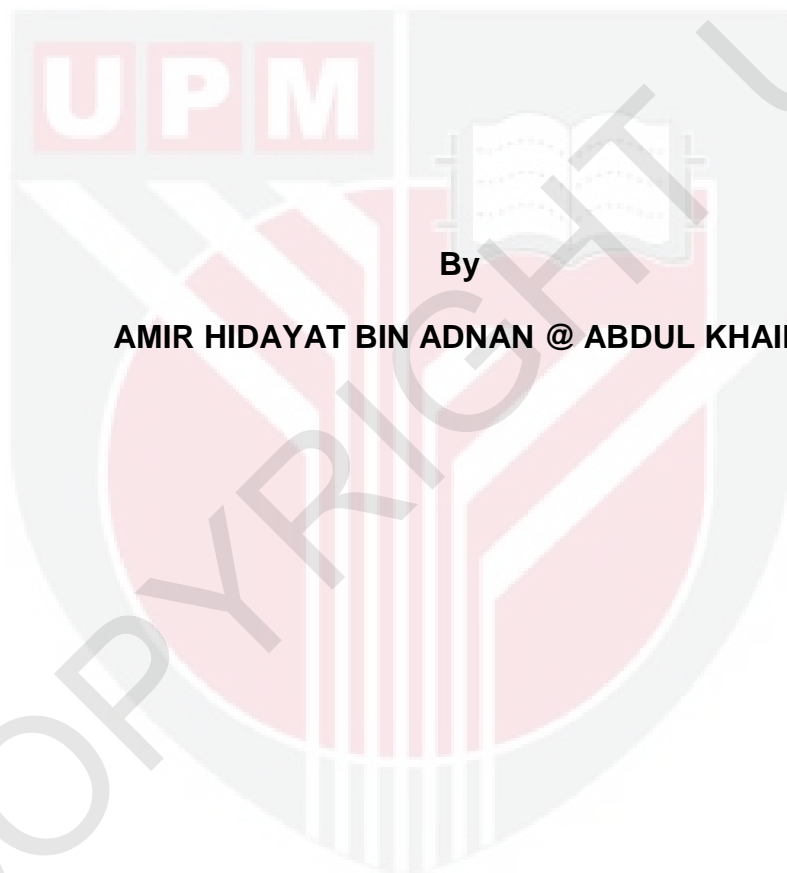


***HIKERS PERCEPTION TOWARDS HIKING PERMIT APPLICATION
PROCESS AT CAMERON HIGHLANDS***

AMIR HIDAYAT BIN ADNAN @ ABDUL KHAIR

FH 2019 114

**HIKERS PERCEPTION TOWARDS HIKING PERMIT APPLICATION
PROCESS AT CAMERON HIGHLANDS.**



By

AMIR HIDAYAT BIN ADNAN @ ABDUL KHAIR

**A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
the Degree of Bachelor Park and Recreation Science in the
Faculty of Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

2019

DEDICATION

Special dedicated to:

My beloved parents, Adnan @ Abdul Khair and Ainiah binti Arshad,

My lecturers and friends,

Thank you for your concern, understanding and supporting.



ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Cameron Highlands because the Cameron Highlands Forest Department (CHFD) introduced an online permit application system. CHFD is Malaysia's first forest department that using this system. The main purpose of this study is to assess the perception of hikers on this newly introduced system. In addition, this study also wanted to know the problems encountered by hikers during the permit application process as well as suggestions from climbers to improve existing systems. The questionnaire was used to obtain the data and 145 respondents were selected based on the criteria set out in this study. All data were analyzed by Descriptive Analysis. The hiker's perceptions were measured using the Likert Scale. Based on the results of the study, the majority of respondents said that current online system applicable but improvement need to be considered in term of time effective and cost effective.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini telah dijalankan di Cameron Highlands kerana Pejabat Hutan Daerah Cameron Highlands (PHDCH) memperkenalkan sistem permohonan permit atas talian. PHDCH merupakan pejabat hutan pertama di Malaysia yang menggunakan sistem ini. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk menilai pandangan para pendaki terhadap sistem yang baru diperkenalkan ini. Selain itu, kajian ini juga ingin mengetahui masalah yang dihadapi oleh para pendaki semasa dalam proses permohonan permit dan juga cadangan daripada pendaki untuk menambah baik sistem sedia ada. Kaedah soal selidik telah digunakan untuk mendapatkan data dan seramai 145 orang responden telah dipilih berdasarkan kriteria yang telah ditentukan dalam kajian ini. Semua data dianalisis dengan Analisis Diskriptif. Tahap pandangan pendaki diukur menggunakan Skala Likert. Berdasarkan keputusan kajian, majoriti responden mengatakan sistem terkini boleh digunapakai tetapi perlu dinaiktaraf daripada segi keberkesanan tempoh masa permohonan dan sistem pembayaran permit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah S.W.T., the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. All praises to Allah S.W.T for giving me a strength and opportunity, patience and guidance in completing this project.

In completing this project, I had to take the help and guideline of some respected person, who deserves my greatest gratitude. The completion of this project give me much pleasure and a sense of achievement. I would like to show my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Azita Ahmad Zawawi for her assistance and advices. I would also like to express my appreciation to my examiners Dr. Shazali Johari, Prof Madya Dr. Manohar Mariapan and Dr Evelyn Lim Ai Lin for their comments and recommendations during the presentation and during examine this project.

My full special love and thanks to my parents who never miss to give their support, advises and prayer to me along this journey and also Miss Sharipah Shahira which supporting me from the beginning until I finished this study. Last but not least, thank you so much to my friends and my team member for giving me support and good advises to keep strong and finish the project. I really appreciate and thank you to all of the people related or whose names were not being mentioned in final year research project success.

APPROVAL SHEET

I certified that this research project entitled “**Hikers Perception Towards Hiking Permit Application Process at Cameron Highlands**” by Amir Hidayat bin Adnan @ Abdul Khair has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Park and Recreation Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Dr. Azita binti Ahmad Zawawi
Faculty of Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Supervisor)

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria bin Hussin
Dean
Faculty of Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia

© Date: June 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
APPROVAL SHEET	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xi
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Study Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	6
1.3 Objectives of Study	7
1.4 Justification	8
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Nature-Based Tourism	11
2.2 Mountaineering	12
2.3 Hiking Permit	15
3 METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Study Area	16
3.2 Data Collection	19
3.3 Sample Size	20
3.4 Data Analysis	22
4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION	
4.1 Hikers Perception Towards the Effectiveness of Latest Hiking Permit Application Process.	23
4.2 Issues During the Process of Applying Permits	26
4.3 Recommendation to Improve the Process of Applying Permits	28
4.4 Respondent's Socio Demographic Background	30
4.4.1 Age	31
4.4.2 Religion	32
4.4.3 Race	33
4.4.4 Level of Education	34
4.4.5 Marital Status	35
4.4.6 Occupation	36
4.4.7 Experiences in Mountaineering	37
4.4.8 Hiking Pattern	38

4.4.9	Frequency of Mountain Climbing around Cameron Highlands	39
4.4.10	Frequency of Applying Permits for Hiking	40
4.4.11	Distribution of Mountain That Have Been Climbed among Respondents	41
4.4.12	Probability to Apply Permits	42
5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	
5.1	Conclusion	43
5.2	Implication of Study	44
5.3	Limitations and Recommendations	45
	REFERENCES	46
	APPENDIX	48

LIST OF TABLE

Table		Page
4.1	Descriptive analysis of hiker's perception towards the hiking permit application process	25
4.2	Descriptive analysis of hiker's problem during the process of applying permits.	28
4.3	Recommendation to Improve the Process of Applying Permits	29
4.4	Distribution of Respondents by Religion	33
4.5	Distribution of Respondents by Race	34
4.6	Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education	34
4.7	Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status	35
4.8	Distribution of Respondents by Occupation	36
4.9	Distribution of Respondents by Experiences Period in Mountaineering	37
4.10	Distribution of Respondents by Hiking Pattern	38
4.11	Distribution of Respondents by Frequency of Mountaineering around Cameron Highlands	39
4.12	Distribution of Respondents by Frequency of Applying Permits	40
4.13	Distribution of Respondents by Probability to Apply Permits	42

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure		Page
1.1	Mossy Forest trail to Mount Irau	3
1.2	Permit application letter	4
1.3	Hiking permit that have been approve by JPSM	5
1.4	Flow chart of past permit application system	9
1.5	Flow chart of latest permit application system	10
3.1	Cameron Highlands location in Peninsular Malaysia	17
3.2	Mountains around Cameron Highlands District	18
4.1	Percentage of Recommendation to Improve the Process of Applying Permits	30
4.2	Distribution of Respondents by Age	32
4.3	Distribution of Mountain That Have Been Climbed among Respondents	41

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

JPSM	Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia
CHFD	Cameron Highlands Forest Department
CH	Cameron Highlands
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
HSK	Hutan Simpan Kekal
PHDCH	Pejabat Hutan Daerah Cameron Highlands
PCT	Pacific Trail Crest



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Study Background

Nowadays, many people from all ages like to do something that related to the nature to fulfil their leisure time. They usually spend their times doing the nature-based activities. Nature tourism is defined as a significant and growing market for many countries and addresses the demand of tourists for nature experiences during their holidays (Laarman & Durst, 1987). During a mapping expedition in 1885, Korosh Kabir, a colonial government surveyor, discovered a beautiful mountain plateau and called it Cameron Highland. During the colonial era, the British grew tea on the rich fertile slopes of the mountains, a practice that the locals continue today. Since then, mountain exploration has become a trend. Many walkers eventually realized the importance of walking, in particular health benefits.

People are attracted to come to Cameron Highlands for spending their leisure time because of the surrounding temperature that differ from other places in Malaysia. The temperature ranges from 14 degrees Celsius to 28 degrees Celsius which is one of the place at Malaysia that have that kind of temperature.

Malaysia's mountainous regions offer spectacular attractions such as wildlife, rivers, waterfalls, mousses, rock sand, caves. Such attractions have distinguished the mountains of Malaysia from the rest of the world (Jamal, 2015). Although Malaysia is covered by more than 300 mountains and forest area for tourism and mountaineering, only a few mountains have become popular spots among hikers, the rest remained unexplored (Ahmad, 2011)

Mount Tahan (Pahang), Mount Korbu (Perak), Mount Yong Belar (Perak), Mount Gayong (Perak), Mount Chamah (Kelantan), Mount Yong Yap (Perak), and Mount Ulu Sepat (Perak-Kelantan border) which is the seventh highest peak in Peninsular Malaysia are among the most popular mountains in Malaysia that have become frequent tourist destinations. From seven of them, 4 peaks can be accessed via Cameron Highlands which are Mount Korbu, Yong Belar, Yong Yap, and Mount Gayong. These mountains offer challenging paths and are suitable for more experienced and competent hikers who have the endurance to walk uphill, cross stream sand safely and balance a heavy pack between hips and shoulders (Morin, 2005). Famous mountains in Cameron Highlands were Mount Irau, Mount Siku, Mount Brinchang, Mount Berembun and many more.



Figure 1.1: Mossy Forest trail to Mount Irau

According to National Forestry Act of 1984, section 34; use permits may, subject to any contrary direction by the State Authority and to the provisions of any rules, be issued or renewed on behalf of the State Authority by the Director of the carrying out of any of the following activities such as research, education or training, recreation, use of water except the construction or operation of hydroelectric dams, cultivation of vegetables, establishment of conversion plants and establishment of logging infrastructures. So, any recreation activities conducted within the forest reserve area requires entrance permits.

SILVER OUTDOOR SPORTS**PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

No 2, LALUAN HULU BERCHAM 12, BANDAR BARU PUTRA, 31400 IPOH, PERAK.
Tel: +601111344317 | Email: hidayatadnan198@gmail.com

TO : Mr./Mrs. Pegawai Hutan Daerah,
Pejabat Hutan Jajahan Kelantan Selatan,
18300 Gua Musang, Kelantan
phiks@kelantan.gov.my
FAX. +60 9 912 1521
TEL. +60 9 912 1225

REF. DATE June 26, 2018
JOB NO **sos14160718**
TERMS G.Yong Belar, G.
Gayong, G. Korbu
EVENT DATE 14,15,16 Julai 2018
VENUE Lojing, KTN
NO OF PAX 8

PERMOHONAN MEMASUKI HUTAN SIMPAN BAGI TUJUAN PENDAKIAN GUNUNG

Merujuk pada perkara diatas dimaklumkan bahawa pihak kami akan mengadakan Program Ekspedisi Pendakian Gunung Yong Belar hingga ke Gunung Korbu berhampiran tempat tuan/puan yang terletak didalam Hutan Rizab Sungai Berok, Nenggiri, Ulu Kelantan.

Sehubungan dengan itu kami memohon PERMIT memasuki Hutan Simpanan Kekal selaras dengan Akta Perhutanan Negara 1984(Akta 313) Bahagian IV, Bab 4, Seksyen 33 dan 34. Tarikh aktiviti, jumlah peserta dan tempat seperti dinyatakan dalam perkara diatas.

Nama peserta adalah seperti dilampiran belakang. Segala kerjasama dari pihak tuan/puan dalam menjayakan ekspedisi ini sangat kami hargai. Sekian, terima kasih.

"NO ONE LEFT BEHIND"

PREPARED BY

Hidayat

AMIR HIDAYAT BIN ADNAN



PREPARED BY

NOTE

Figure 1.2: Permit Application Letter

SALINAN ASAL
(Halter 05/20)

KERAJAAN NEGERI KELANTAN

AKTA PERHUTANAN NEGARA 1984

BORANG 6

(Seksyen 47(3))

PERMIT MASUK NO. : **PHS DS - 240 - 18**

PERMIT MEMASUKI HUTAN SIMPAN KEKAL

Encik/Syarikat*	SILVER OUTDOOR SPORTS
K.P.P.N. No.	dan pengkhidmat serta ejennya yang dinamakan berikut ini :

Sebagaimana Lampiran berkembar

Adalah dibenarkan memasuki/melalui mana-mana bahagian Hutan Simpan

Hutan Simpan (HS) LOJING

Yang ditunjukkan dengan Rujukan : *Surat kelulusan:PHJKS.24/5/J.4*
Bertarikh : 28.06.2018 Maksud berikut:-

Kebenaran memasuki Hutan Simpan (HS) LOJING PERMOHONAN PERMIT MEMASUKI HUTAN SIMPAN KEKAL LOJING BAGI AKTIVITI MENDAKI GUNUNG YONG BELAR.

dan dengan tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat berikut :-

"SEKSYEN 81, AKTA PERHUTANAN NEGARA 1984"
TIDAK BOLEH MELAKUKAN SEBARANG AKTIVITI-AKTIVITI LAIN SEPERTI MENEBAH, MEMBAWA KELUAR ATAU APA SAHAJA DALAM HUTAN SIMPAN MELAINKAN TUJUAN DI ATAS.

Permit ini adalah sah dari : 14.07.2018
hingga : 16.07.2018

Fee RM : 40.00
No. Resit : R 00000323
Tarikh : 28.06.2018
No.Rujukan : PHJKS.24/5/J.4



CHE AMIRUL AMIN BIN CHE HASHIM
 Pen. Pegawai Hutan Jajahan I
 Kelantan Selatan
 Negeri Kelantan Musang.

Figure 1.3: Hiking Permit That Have Been Approved by JPSM

1.2 Problem Statement

This study was conducted in order to identify the perception among hikers towards the effectiveness of hiking permit application system at Cameron Highlands, Pahang.

People are attracted by the surrounding temperature that differs from the other place in Malaysia to come to Cameron Highlands to spend their leisure time. Moreover, there are more than 20 mountain peaks that are more than 1500 meters high, accessible via Cameron Highlands.

There are several cases happen here such as lost in mountain trail, accident or injury during climbing and many more. Some of the victims did not have the hiking permits or permit to enter the forest reserve area. This will bring a problem to the authorities to carry out the search and rescue (SAR). The hikers didn't apply the hiking permit because of the way to apply the permit which is too complicated. Normally it takes one or two weeks to be completed, depends on which forest department that you dealing. Moreover, the payment system still using the postal order which is we need to buy it from the post office first. This make the process more complicated.

More specific research needed to assist the authorities to upgrade the permit application system because it looks not relevant to be used in this technology era as said by Saiful (personal communication, November 3, 2018). We are living in the era which is payment can be done using internet and now we are still using money order to make the payment for hiking permit. Muzafar (personal communication, November 2, 2018) said that we as the hikers ourselves sometimes didn't apply the hiking permit because of the process is too complicated thus lead to illegal trespassing problem. Some of the trips were planned last minute, due to last minute free time or holiday and we can't get the permits on the day that we need. All of this problem should be overcome immediately because the rate of trespassers was increased.

1.3 Objective

The general objective of this study is to identify hiker's perception towards the effectiveness of hiking permit system application in Cameron Highlands.

- a) To study the perception of hikers towards permit application process in Cameron Highlands.
- b) To identify the problems among hikers in applying hiking permit.
- c) To recommended efficient and suitable method of permit application suggested by the hikers.

1.4 Justification

This study has been conducted to determine the hikers' perception towards hiking permit application process in Cameron Highlands in order to help the forestry department to understand the applicant's perception. The information obtained from this study can be used as guideline for the authorities to make improvement in managing the permit application system.

CHFD was the first forestry department that introduced the online application system in Malaysia. As pioneer with limited guideline from others, a study on perception of user towards the new application system is very important to be a guideline for them to improve the system.

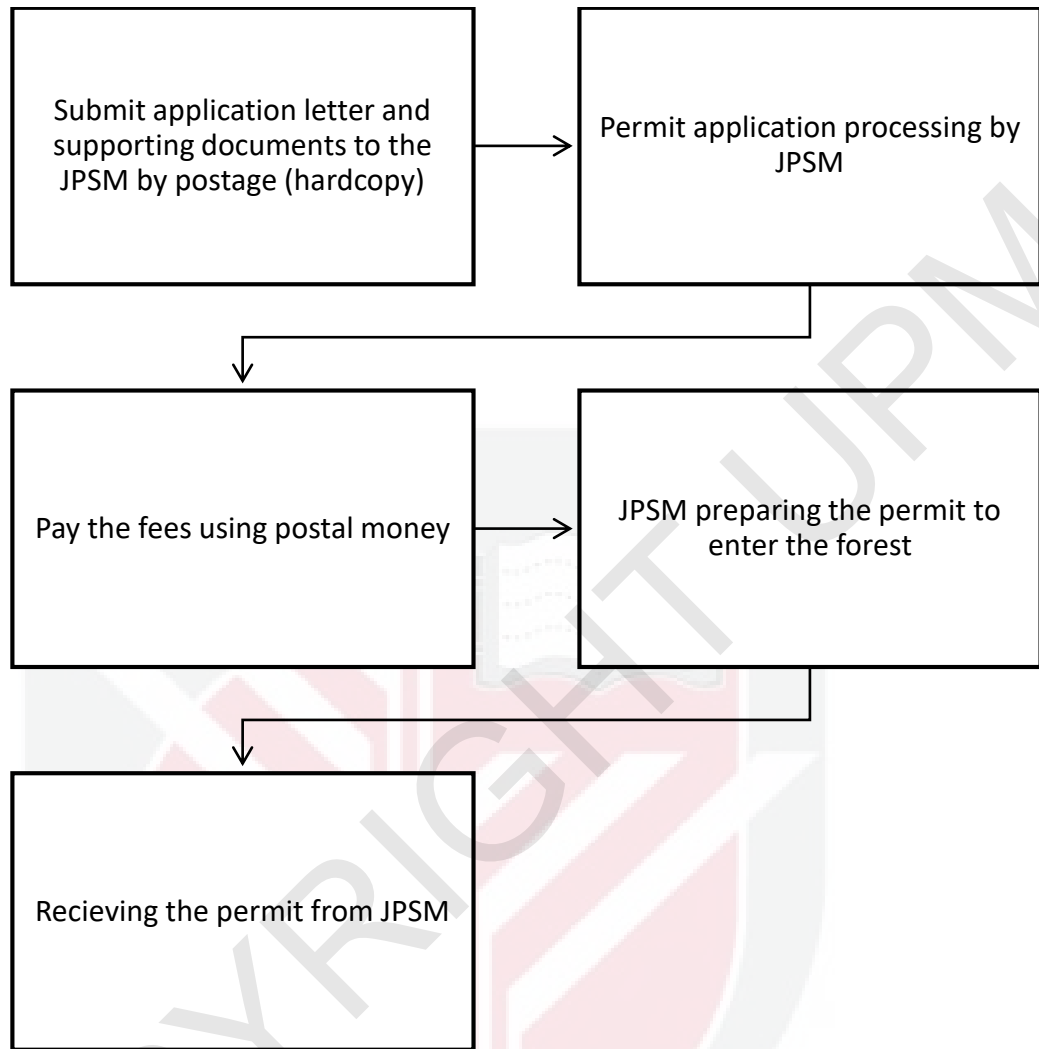


Figure 1.4: Flow Chart of Previous Permit Application System

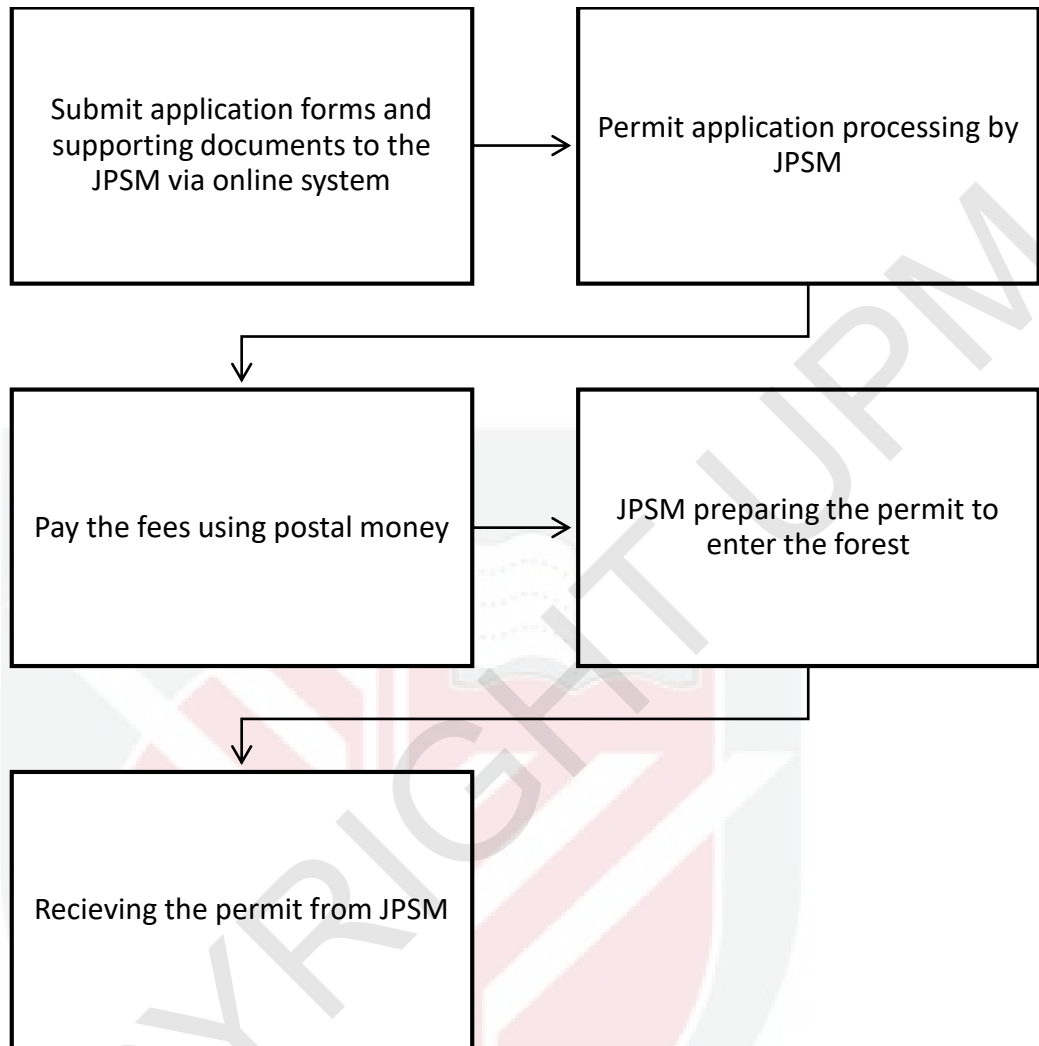


Figure 1.5: Flow Chart of Current Permit Application System

Referring to Figure 1.4 and 1.5, there is minor change in the application system which is in latest system application forms and supporting documents were sent to JPSM using online system. This changes can save time for climbing permit application process compared to the old system and more user friendly.

References

Ahmad, H. F. (2011). Taman Negara Aset Pelancongan. *Utusan Online*. Retrieved from: <http://www.utusan.com.my>

Cool Hiking Gear (n.d.) A Simple Tip to Help Keep a Large Hiking Group Together. Retrieved from <https://coolhikinggear.com/a-simple-tip-to-help-keep-a-large-hiking-group-together>

Ahmad, N. (2014). *What is the use of "Neutral" in a Likert scale?* Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/post/What_is_the_use_of_Neutral_in_a_likert_scale

Sinar Harian Online (2019, April 07) Mohon permit dahulu sebelum daki gunung. Retrieved from <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/22293/EDISI/Utara/Mohon-permit-dahulu-sebelum-daki-gunung>

Bolduc, V. (1973). Backpacking: A Pilot Study of Hikers. *Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station*, 13: 7-8.

Brown, O. (2019). *Why Hiking Alone Is Dangerous*. Retrieved from <https://stopreset.org/why-hiking-alone-is-dangerous/>

Google. (2019). (Google Maps location of Cameron Highlands in Peninsular Malaysia). Retrieved from <https://www.google.com.my/maps/place/Cameron+Highlands,+Pahang/@4.2095742,101.8205066,7.79z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x31ca5082fa7f0d47:0x655625f6e1faf2f4!8m2!3d4.4721201!4d101.3801441?hl=en>

Google. (2019). (Google Maps list of Mountain Around Cameron Highlands). Retrieved from <https://www.google.com.my/maps/search/mountain+around+cameron+highlands/@4.4701657,101.4007932,12z/data=!3m1!4b1?hl=en>

Keisinger, C.D., & Smith, G.A. (2015). Mountaineering. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/sports/mountaineering>

Khan, S. (2016, October 17). *Stunning Peaks: 5 Best mountains to climb in Malaysia*. Retrieved from <https://www.mariefranceasia.com/my/travel-my/destination-accomplished-my/asia-my/best-mountains-malaysia-214664.html>

Laarman, J. G., Durst, P.B., Dutrow, G. F. McKean, C., McDill, M., (1987). Nature Travel in the tropics, *Journal of Forestry*, 85(5): 43-46.

Lyngnes, S., & Prebensen, N. K. (2014). Sustainable and Attractive Motorised Nature-Based Experiences: Challenges and Opportunities. *Advances in Hospitality and Leisure*, 151-171

Mac. (2016). *The Annual Pacific Crest Trail Thru-Hiker Survey 2016*. Retrieved from <https://www.halfwayanywhere.com/trails/pacific-crest-trail/pacific-crest-trail-thru-hiker-survey-2016/>

Monsuwé T. P., Benedict G.C. D, Ko de Ruyter, (2004) "What drives consumers to shop online? A literature review", *International Journal of Service Industry Management*, 15(1): 102-121.

Mustapha, K. (2018). *11 fitness trends that have endured*. Retrieved from <https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/health/2018/01/330155/11-fitness-trends-have-endured>

Rodgers, G. (2018). *Trekking in the Cameron Highlands*. Retrieved from <https://www.tripsavvy.com/trekking-in-the-cameron-highlands-1629533>

Samuel, T. (2017, December 21). When it is an offence to enter a forest BRetrieved from <https://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/letters/2017/12/21/when-it-is-an-offence-to-enter-a-forest-reserve/>

Schneider, I. E., & Budruk, M. (1999). Displacement as a Response to the Federal Recreation Fee Program. *Journal of Park & Recreation Administration*, 17(3): 76–84.

Sedghi, S. (2016, April 12). *Time Travel: The History of Mountaineering*. Retrieved from <https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2016/04/time-travel-the-history-of-mountaineering.html>

Yamin. (2014). Malaysian Mountains. Retrieved from <https://www.malaysia-wildlife-and-nature.com/malaysian-mountains.html>

Yusop, M. Z., (2018). Masuk hutan simpan kekal tanpa permit boleh dikenakan tindakan. *Bernama Online*. Retrieved from <http://www.bernama.com/state-news/beritabm.php?id=1668409>

Zikmund, W. G. (2003). Sample Designs and Sampling Procedures. *Business Research Methods*, 7: 368-400.