



***LOCAL COMMUNITIES' AWARENESS AND USE OF URBAN FORESTS IN  
SELANGOR***

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**LOCAL COMMUNITIES' AWARENESS AND USE OF URBAN  
FORESTS IN SELANGOR**



**By**

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## **DEDICATION**

I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE MY THESIS TO MY BELOVED PARENTS

**A MANAN BIN ABDUL RAHMAN AND KHOTIJAH BT CHE MUDA**

TO MY BELOVED SIBLINGS

**NUR IZZATI, AHMAD MARWAN, ABDUL RAUF, NUR HAFIZAH, AHMAD  
HAMBALI, AHMAD HANAFI, AHMAD MALIKI AND ABDUL KHALIQ**

FRIENDS

**ALL OF MY FRIENDS ESPECIALLY MY CLASSMATES**

SUPERVISOR

**DR. NORZANALIA BINTI SAADUN**

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine local communities' awareness and use of urban forest. In addition, local communities' awareness towards the existence of urban forest were compared with their demographic background. This study found that more than half (58%) of the respondents were not aware about the existence of nearby forest. However, 42% of respondents who were aware about the forest, knew about the function of forest that is for research, education and extension (61.5%). The study also found that only 69 respondents have been to that forest. Urban forests were mostly used for exercise and enjoy peace and quietness (19%) respectively. Most respondents (25%) spent more than 2 hours in the forest, came during weekend (73.9%) and with friends (78%), most preferred forest features was nature scenery (54%), while the least preferred forest features was group of none (32%). There was a significant difference ( $P = 0.031$ ) between awareness and education level. Results from this study can be beneficial to forest managers, conservators, city planners and policy makers as to provide guidance on planning the urban forest.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan untuk mengkaji kesedaran komuniti tempatan dan penggunaan hutan bandar. Di samping itu, kesedaran komuniti tempatan terhadap kewujudan hutan bandar dibandingkan dengan latar belakang demografi mereka. Kajian ini mendapati bahawa lebih daripada separuh (58%) daripada responden tidak menyedari akan kewujudan hutan yang berdekatan. Walau bagaimanapun, 42% daripada responden yang sedar akan kewujudan hutan tersebut, mengetahui tentang fungsi hutan berkenaan adalah untuk penyelidikan, pendidikan dan lanjutan (61.5%). Kajian ini juga mendapati bahawa hanya 69 responden telah pergi ke hutan tersebut. Hutan bandar kebiasaannya digunakan untuk senaman dan menikmati kedamaian dan ketenangan (19%). Kebanyakan responden (25%) meluangkan masa lebih daripada 2 jam di dalam hutan, datang pada hujung minggu (73.9%) dan bersama kawan-kawan (78%), ciri-ciri hutan yang paling digemari adalah pemandangan alam semula jadi (54%), manakala ciri-ciri hutan yang kurang digemari adalah bagi kumpulan tiada (32%). Terdapat perbezaan yang ketara ( $P = 0.031$ ) di antara kesedaran dan tahap pendidikan. Hasil daripada kajian ini dapat memberi manfaat kepada pengurus hutan, konservator, perancang bandar dan pembuat dasar untuk menyediakan panduan mengenai perancangan hutan bandar.

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## APPROVAL SHEET

I certify this research project report entitled “**Local Communities’ Awareness and Use of Urban Forests in Selangor**” by Nur Hafzhan binti A Manan has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Wood Science and Technology in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHFR	Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve
BFR	Bangi Forest Reserve
UKM	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
IBM	International Business Machine
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance

km	Kilometre
m	Metre

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Urban forest is a forest like that has ecosystems and not managed as intensively. This forest is often located near residential areas and easily accessible from home (Hauru et al., 2015). According to Tyrväinen et al. (2005), urban forests provide various social benefits such as recreation opportunities, physical and mental health. Apart from social benefits, urban forest provide ecological benefits such as biotopes for flora and fauna, air pollution control and economic benefits including increased property values and market priced for non-timber forest products (Tyrväinen et al., 2005). Urban forest will increase the aesthetic values among urban citizens, provide opportunity for people to socialize and close with nature (Noralizawati et al., 2015). According to Noralizawati et al. (2015), the aesthetic values are influencing the visiting performance in urban forest.

There are various activities that can be done in urban forest and the most common is recreational activities which includes cycling, jogging and picnicking (Tyrväinen et al., 2005). Other activity include collecting forest resource such as picking berries and mushrooms (Tyrväinen et al., 2005). Urban forest also offered experience for enjoying natural beauty and observing nature (Hauru et al., 2015). While people enjoy to do activities in the urban forests, these forest, however, are vulnerable to area loss and fragmentation due to natural disturbances, urbanization and intensive human disturbances (Gong et al., 2013).

Selangor has about 250, 860 hectares of forested land that consists of 250, 129 hectares of permanent reserved forest, 11, 381 hectares of forest plantation and 731 hectares of state land forest (JPSM, 2016). The population in Selangor is about 6.30 million in 2016 which means Selangor is one of the most urbanize areas in Malaysia (JPSM, 2016). The urbanization level in Selangor had exceed 90% in 2010, it might due to the influenced by development patterns and economic growth (Hassan & Nair 2014). Forest fragmentation is refer to the reduction area from large forest into the sub-division of forest, used for other purposes such as industrial estates, housing and other commercial areas (Abdullah & Nakagoshi, 2007).

Awareness of the existence nearby forest is very important to retain the benefits provided and with standing to the fragmented, urban people go to the forest and gain the opportunity to create a pleasant environment for different outdoor activities (Tyrväinen, 2005). However, some people have less awareness and never go to the forest due to restriction (Salleh, 1999 & Mohd et al., 1999).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

People visit nearby forests to do various activities and purposes such as physical exercising, enjoying natural beauty and observing nature (Hauru et al., 2015). Use of urban forest can vary depending on various factors including socio-economic/demographic background, population segments, distance, size, presence of facilities and season (Dwyer 1988, Lo & Jim 2010, Shipperjin et al., 2010). There are numerous study that has been conducted to examine types of activities that visitor do in urban forest. Such study especially local people that live within fragmented urban forest has been scarce (Giulio et al., 2009), especially in Malaysia.

## **1.3 Justification of Study**

There has been limited study on local people awareness towards the existence of nearby use pattern. This study gathers information on local people awareness and uses of nearby urban forest. Results would be beneficial to forest managers, conservators, city planners and policy makers as to provide guidance on planning the urban forest.

## **1.4 Objectives**

The specific objectives of this study are:

- i. To identify local communities' awareness toward the existence of nearby urban forest.
- ii. To identify local communities' use and frequency of visit to the nearby urban forest.
- iii. To compare local communities' awareness with demographic background

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