



Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation

**Local Communities Participation in Biodiversity Conservation: A Study
of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Taraba State, Nigeria**

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Local Communities Participation in Biodiversity Conservation: A Study of
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DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Except where due acknowledgements have been made, the work is that of the author alone. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in the candidature of any other degree.

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ABSTRACT

Globally, biodiversity conservation is receiving attention to stem the rapid loss of wildlife and habitat. The creation of National Parks is to curtail and eliminate all forms of human interferences and their activities, which are inimical to the existence of wildlife and their habitats. Although Gashaka Gumti National Park is to preserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and livelihood, the impact is below expectation. The present study has demonstrated that community participation and tourism development in the park cannot be overlooked in an attempt to capitalize on the strengths, minimize the weakness, maximize opportunity, and minimize threats in the effort to conserve wildlife and their habitats in Gashaka Gumti National Park. The application of Binary logistic regression on a sample of 188 households is used to identify significant factors that are likely to encourage local community participation and support of tourism development. Based on the fitted model for maximizing opportunity, Enter Model identified community conservative initiative to be significant while the Forward selection model found Support Tourism Development and Community Participation significant. Moreover, the Backwards selection method found Support for Tourism Development, Helping to Local Community; Tourism Bring Job opportunities, and Community Conservation initiatives are the key factors. However, based on Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC), the backward stepwise selection method offered the best model fitting with log-likelihood statistic (232.997). Based on the prediction of the likelihood of maximizing or capitalizing the strength, The Enter method and the Backward Selection method found that Community Support for Tourism Development; Worsen Livelihood; Community Participates in park management policy, and Tourism development are key contributors, but the Forward Stepwise method found that Tourism Development to be insignificant. Overall, The Enter method produced the best model

fitting for the outcome of maximizing strengths per the Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) value (216.370) measured by log-likelihood statistic and the number of significant independent variables in the model. Meanwhile, the Likelihood of Minimizing Weakness based on the three binary logistic methods showed that the Promotion of local products and Support for community-based conservation is crucial, with Enter selection method offering the best model fitting given the Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) value (228.557). Similarly, the Enter method produced the best model fitting for minimizing threats to Gashaka Gumti National Park as Tourism Development Worsen Community Cultural Heritage is significant in the model based on the Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) values (231.667). The result of community participation in park management allows park managers to link local community involvement and tourism development activities to achieve conservation goals through participatory natural resources management. This understanding promotes equitable allocation of responsibilities and benefits from tourism development. Thus, it can be concluded that the inclusion of the local community in the management of Gashaka Gumti National Park could enhance the status of the park more than the protectionist and pure conservation approach.

Keywords: Biodiversity, local community, tourism development, Gashaka Gumti National Park

Penyertaan Komuniti Tempatan dalam Pemuliharaan Kepelbagaian Biologi: Kajian Taman Negara Gashaka Gumti, Taraba, Nigeria

ABSTRAK

Di peringkat global, pemuliharaan kepelbagaian biologi mendapat perhatian untuk mengatasi kehilangan hidupan liar dan habitat yang pantas. Kewujudan taman negara adalah untuk mengurangkan dan membentung segala bentuk gangguan manusia dan kegiatannya, yang tidak selaras dengan kewujudan hidupan liar dan habitatnya. Walaupun Taman Negara Gashaka Gumti adalah untuk memelihara, melindungi dan meningkatkan kepelbagaian biologi dan mata pencarian, namun impaknya masih di dalam jangkaan. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa penyertaan masyarakat dan pembangunan pelancongan di taman tidak dapat dipinggirkan dalam usaha untuk memanfaatkan kekuatan, meminimumkan kelemahan, memaksimumkan peluang dan meminimumkan ancaman dalam usaha melestarikan hidupan liar dan habitatnya di Taman Negara Gashaka Gumti. Aplikasi regresi logistik berganda dengan sampel 188 isi rumah telah digunakan untuk mengenal pasti faktor penting yang mendorong penyertaan masyarakat setempat dan menyokong pembangunan pelancongan. Berdasarkan model yang sesuai untuk memaksimumkan peluang, Model Kemasukan mengenalpasti inisiatif konservatif komuniti menjadi signifikan sementara Model Pemilihan Ke Depan mendapati pembangunan pelancongan menyokong dan penyertaan masyarakat signifikan. Tambahan lagi, Kaedah Pemilihan Ke Belakang mendapati sokongan untuk pembangunan pelancongan, membantu masyarakat setempat; pelancongan membawa peluang pekerjaan dan inisiatif pemuliharaan masyarakat adalah faktor-faktor utama. Walau bagaimanapun, berdasarkan Kriteria Maklumat Akaike (AIC), Kaedah Pemilihan Langkah Demi Langkah Ke Belakang menawarkan model sesuai yang terbaik dengan statistik kemungkinan log (232.997).

Berdasarkan ramalan kemungkinan memaksimumkan atau memanfaatkan kekuatan, Kaedah Kemasukan dan Kaedah Pemilihan Ke Belakang mendapati bahawa pembangunan pelancongan sokongan komuniti; kemerosotan mata pencarian; penyertaan komuniti dalam dasar pengurusan taman dan pembangunan pelancongan merupakan penyumbang utama, tetapi Kaedah Secara Bertahap Ke Depan mendapati bahawa pembangunan pelancongan adalah tidak signifikan. Secara keseluruhan, Kaedah Kemasukan menghasilkan model sesuai yang paling baik untuk hasil memaksimumkan kekuatan mengikut nilai Kriteria Maklumat Akaike (AIC) (216.370) yang diukur dengan statistik kemungkinan log dan bilangan pemboleh-pemboleh ubah bebas yang signifikan dalam model. Sementara itu, kemungkinan meminimumkan kelemahan berdasarkan tiga kaedah logistik berganda menunjukkan bahawa promosi produk tempatan dan sokongan untuk pemuliharaan berasaskan komuniti adalah sangat penting, dengan Kaedah Pemilihan Kemasukan menawarkan model sesuai terbaik dengan nilai Kriteria Maklumat Akaike (AIC) (228.557). Begitu juga, Kaedah Kemasukan menghasilkan model sesuai yang terbaik untuk meminimumkan ancaman Taman Negara Gashaka Gumti kerana pembangunan pelancongan memburukkan lagi warisan budaya masyarakat yang signifikan dalam model berdasarkan nilai-nilai Kriteria Maklumat Akaike (AIC) (231.667). Hasil penyertaan masyarakat dalam pengurusan taman membolehkan pengurus taman menghubungkan penglibatan komuniti setempat dan aktiviti pembangunan pelancongan untuk mencapai tujuan pemuliharaan melalui pengurusan sumber semula jadi yang partisipatif. Pemahaman ini mendorong pembahagian tanggungjawab dan faedah yang setara daripada pembangunan pelancongan. Oleh itu, dapat disimpulkan bahawa kemasukan masyarakat tempatan dalam pengurusan Taman Negara Gashaka

Gumti dapat meningkatkan status taman daripada pendekatan perlindungan dan pemuliharaan murni.

Kata kunci: *Kepelbagaian biologi, komuniti tempatan, pembangunan pelancongan,*

Taman Negara Gashaka Gumti

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