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To my mom and father...

*To sis and bro...Thanks for being in my life
& I love u*

To all friends

Mas, Aishah, Hara, Fad, Ude, Pae & Zurina

Thanks...you're the best

Ainsoque...with love

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**ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES CONCERNING
THE IMPORTANCE AND CONSERVATION OF MANGROVE FORESTS: A
CASE STUDY OF KUALA MUDA, KEDAH**

BY

NUR SUHAINA BINTI ZAKARIA

**Research report submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
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**Department of Marine Science
Faculty of Science and Technology
KOLEJ INIVERSITI SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA
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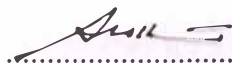
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MALAYSIA**

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Adalah ini diakui dan disahkan bahawa laporan penyelidikan bertajuk :

ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONSERVATION OF MANGROVE FORESTS: A CASE STUDY OF KUALA MUDA, KEDAH oleh NUR SUHAINA ZAKARIA No.matrik UK 7745 telah diperiksa dan semua pembetulan yang disarankan telah dilakukan. Laporan ini dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Sains Samudera sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada keperluan memperolehi Ijazah SARJANA MUDA SAINS (BIOLOGI MARIN), Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi, Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia.

Disahkan oleh:


.....

Penyelia utama

Nama : **PROF. MADYA EN. SULONG IBRAHIM**

Cop Rasmi : **PROF. MADYA SULONG BIN IBRAHIM**
Fellow
Institut Oseanografi
Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia
Mengabang Telipot
21030 Kuala Terengganu.

Tarikh: 25/4/06


.....

Penyelia kedua

Nama : **CIK JARINA MOHD JANI**

Cop Rasmi : **JARINA MOHD JANI**
Pensyarah
Institut Oseanografi
Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia
21030 Kuala Terengganu. Terengganu.

Tarikh: 25/4/06

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS

Abbreviation	Word
%	Percentage
Kg	Kampong
km	Kilometer
m	meter
\leq	Less than
\geq	More than

ABSTRACT

Raising public awareness and attitude on particular issues has been recommended as an effective way to achieve sustainable development. This research tries to assess the local communities' awareness and attitude concerning the importance and conservation of mangrove forests. The field survey was conducted at Kuala Muda, Kedah using a set of questionnaire. From the results obtained, it showed that high percentage (51%) of the respondents know about the term of "Hutan paya laut". A majority of the respondents showed a high appreciation towards the roles that played by mangrove ecosystem. The study has also shown that those who believed that the community should take part in conservation said that the improvement for the environment is their main reason for such participation. 63% of the respondents show a high degree of awareness. 83% of respondents know about the importance of mangrove forests as a natural barrier against wave and 46% of them know about it before tsunami disaster. Government should formulate proper management policy by involving local people who have a stake in the conservation and management of mangrove forests at their area. Effort should be made at grassroots level, to educate local people about the economic and ecological value and functions played by mangrove forests.

ABSTRAK

Peningkatan kesedaran dan sikap masyarakat tempatan pada sesuatu isu telah diperakui sebagai suatu jalan yang efektif untuk mencapai pembangunan yang mapan. Kajian ini mencuba untuk menilai kesedaran dan sikap masyarakat tempatan terhadap kepentingan dan pemuliharaan hutan paya laut. Kaji selidik lapangan telah dijalankan di Kuala Muda, Kedah dengan menggunakan set soalan. Daripada keputusan yang diperolehi menunjukkan peratusan yang tinggi (51%) daripada responden yang tahu mengenai hutan paya laut. Majoriti responden menunjukkan penghargaan yang tinggi terhadap peranan yang dimainkan oleh ekosistem hutan paya laut. Kajian juga menunjukkan sesiapa yang percaya bahawa masyarakat tempatan harus terlibat dalam pengurusan dan pemuliharaan hutan paya laut adalah kerana untuk kebaikan alam sekitar. 63% responden menunjukkan tahap kesedaran yang tinggi terhadap kepentingan hutan paya laut. 83% responden tahu mengenai hutan paya laut sebagai penghalang semulajadi ombak dan 46% daripadanya tahu sebelum kejadian tsunami. Kerajaan harus membentuk polisi pengurusan yang lebih baik dengan melibatkan penduduk tempatan yang mempunyai kuasa dalam pengurusan dan pemuliharaan hutan paya laut di kawasan mereka. Usaha harus dibuat pada peringkat bawah lagi, untuk mengajar penduduk tempatan mengenai nilai ekonomi dan ekologi serta fungsi yang dimainkan oleh hutan paya laut.