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**A STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF CAMERON HIGHLANDS**

By

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Dedicated to

My beloved Father and Mother, my family members and
all my friends.

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Abstract

Cameron Highlands, located in the mountain area of tropical forest of Peninsular Malaysia, is a popular tourist destination and is also suitable for tea and vegetable farming. It has also been developed for hydroelectric power generation. Development activities have recently been intensified creating enormous stress to the environment.

This thesis investigates the sustainability of the development in Cameron Highlands. It adopts a holistic approach based on the Pressure-State-Response framework. The methodology adopted is mainly library research, with supplementary environmental data processing and calculation.

The pressure of the development of agriculture, tourism and hydropower generation on the environment is analyzed. Then, the state and the changes in environmental quality for the last 4 decades are quantified and examined. Finally, the sustainability and the societal response towards the increasing pressure and deteriorating environmental state are also discussed.

This dissertation concludes that the development pressure due to agriculture and tourism is intense and causes tremendous environmental degradation at a pace that is unsustainable. The deteriorated environment had resulted in the severe sedimentation of Ringlet Reservoir, reduction in hydroelectric generation, increasing incidents of landslides, increasing agriculture input and cost, deteriorating visual aesthetic affecting tourism development.

Long-term and short-term strategies and responses to the management of the catchment with interdisciplinary considerations and collective participation of the relevant agencies as well as the local communities are recommended.

Abstrak

Cameron Highlands yang terletak di kawasan pergunungan hutan tropika Banjaran Titiwangsa di Semenanjung Malaysia adalah sebuah kawasan pelancongan yang menarik dan juga tempat yang sesuai bagi penanaman teh, bunga and sayur-sayuran. Ia juga dibangunkan sebagai sebuah kawasan tadahan air untuk penjanaan kuasa hidroelektrik. Tetapi, kegiatan pembangunan yang semakin ketara telah mengakibatkan tekanan kepada alam sekitar.

Tesis ini bertujuan menyelidik kemampuan pembangunan di Cameron Highlands. Ia mengambil pendekatan secara menyeluruh mengikut menggunakan corak Tekanan-Keadaan-Tindakbalas. Kaedah utama yang digunakan ialah kajian perpustakaan berserta dengan menganalisis data.

Tekanan akibat daripada pembangunan kegiatan pertanian, pelancongan dan hidroelektrik telah dianalisis. Kemudian, keadaan dan perubahan kualiti alam sekitar untuk 4 dekad ditentukan dan diperiksa dengan teliti. Seterusnya, tesis ini juga membincangkan kemampuan pembangunan dan tindakbalas masyarakat di Cameron Highlands.

Tesis ini menyimpulkan bahawa tekanan pembangunan daripada sektor pertanian dan pelancongan adalah terlalu tinggi dan telah menyebabkan kemerosotan kualiti alam sekitar yang berterusan dengan kadar yang tidak mampat. Kemerosotan kualiti alam sekitar telah menyebabkan hakisan tanah yang teruk, pengurangan penjanaan kuasa elektrik, kekerapan kejadian tanah runtuh, peningkatan kos pertanian dan kemerosotan aktiviti pelancongan.

Cadangan-cadangan jangka masa pendek dan panjang juga diberi untuk pengurusan pembangunan mampat dengan cara interdisiplin dan penglibatan pelbagai agensi serta penduduk tempatan.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF PLATES

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgement	iii
Abstracts	v
Table of Contents.....	vii
List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xiv
List of Plates.....	xvi

Chapter 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background.....	1-1
1.2 Research Statement.....	1-2
1.2.1 Objectives.....	1-2
1.2.2 Significance.....	1-3
1.2.3 Delimitation.....	1-3
1.3 Contents of Dissertation.....	1-6

Chapter 2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Historical Development of Basic Concepts of Sustainable Development.....	2-1
2.2 Sustainable Mountain Development	2-5
2.2.1 Mountain Ecosystem	2-5
2.2.2 Development and Problems in Mountain Areas	2-7
2.2.3 Sustainable Mountain Development and Its Indicators	2-8
2.3 Perspectives on Sustainable Mountain Development in Malaysia	2-11
2.3.1 National Commitment to Sustainable Development	2-11
2.3.2 Legislation Pertaining to Sustainable Mountain Development.....	2-13

2.4	Literature Reviews on Studies of the Cameron Highlands.....	2-17
2.4.1	The Development and Environment in Cameron Highlands.....	2-18
2.4.2	The Agriculture Development.....	2-18
2.4.3	The Tourism Development and Environmental Impacts.....	2-20
2.4.4	The Degradation of Environmental Quality.....	2-20
2.4.5	Overall Observation from the Literature Reviews.....	2-22

Chapter 3.0 Methodology

3.1	Basic Methodology	3-1
3.2	Review on General Characteristics of Cameron Highlands.....	3-3
3.3	Assessment of Major Anthropogenic Activities and Its Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts of Cameron Highlands.....	3-3
3.4	Analyses of Environmental Quality Changes.....	3-5
3.5	Discussions on the Sustainable Development.....	3-6

Chapter 4.0 Description of Cameron Highlands

4.1	Historical Development of Cameron Highlands.....	4-1
4.2	Physical Characteristics of Cameron Highlands	4-3
4.2.1	Climate	4-4
4.2.2	Relief and Drainage	4-9
4.3	Socioeconomic Characteristics of Cameron Highlands	4-13
4.3.1	Administrative District	4-13
4.3.2	Population in Cameron Highlands	4-14
4.3.3	Economic Activities and Employment in Cameron Highlands....	4-17
4.3.4	Other Socioeconomic Indictors.....	4-19

ε

Chapter 5.0 Major Anthropogenic Activities and Its Economic, Social and Environmental Impacts

5.1	Introduction.....	5-1
5.2	Agriculture	5-1
5.2.1	Background.....	5-1
5.2.2	Economics Impacts of Agricultural Activities.....	5-4
5.2.3	Social Impacts of Agricultural Activities.....	5-8
5.2.4	Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Activities.....	5-10
5.2.4.1	Watershed Scale Analysis.....	5-11
5.2.4.2	Field Scale Analysis.....	5-14
5.2.5	Discussions on Agricultural Activities.....	5-22
5.3	Tourism.....	5-24
5.3.1	Introduction.....	5-24
5.3.2	Economic Impacts of Tourism.....	5-25
5.3.3	Social Impacts of Tourism.....	5-28
5.3.4	Environmental Impacts of Tourism.....	5-32
5.3.5	Discussions on Tourism.....	5-35
5.4	Hydroelectric Power Generation	5-37
5.4.1	Brief Description of the Hydroelectric Scheme	5-37
5.4.2	Economic Impacts of the Hydroelectric Scheme.....	5-40
5.4.3	Social Impacts of the Hydroelectric Scheme.....	5-42
5.4.4	Environmental Impacts of the Hydroelectric Scheme.....	5-43
5.4.5	Discussions on the Hydroelectric Scheme.....	5-44

Chapter 6.0 Assessment of Environmental Quality

Changes

6.1	Deforestation	6-1
6.1.1	Deforestation in General.....	6-1
6.1.2	Forest Area Changes in the Hydroelectric Catchment.....	6-4
6.1.3	Discussions on Deforestation.....	6-7

6.2	Surface Temperature Variability	6-8
6.2.1	Introduction to Temperature Changes.....	6-8
6.2.2	Analysis of Temperature Variability.....	6-8
6.2.3	Discussions on Surface Temperature Variability.....	6-13
6.3	Rainfall Variability	6-17
6.3.1	Introduction.....	6-17
6.3.2	Analysis of Rainfall Variability.....	6-17
6.3.3	Discussions on Rainfall Variability.....	6-23
6.4	Streamflow Variability	6-24
6.4.1	Introduction.....	6-24
6.4.2	Analysis of Streamflow Variability.....	6-25
6.4.3	Discussions on Streamflow Variability.....	6-30
6.5	Water Quality Changes.....	6-31
6.5.1	Introduction.....	6-31
6.5.2	Reported Water Quality.....	6-32
6.5.3	Discussions on Water Quality.....	6-35
6.6	Soil Erosion.....	6-36
6.6.1	Introduction.....	6-36
6.6.2	Reported Soil Erosion Rate.....	6-37
6.6.3	Quantification of Total Sediment Yield.....	6-39
6.6.3.1	Quantification of Excavated Sediment.....	6-42
6.6.3.2	Quantification of Deposited Sediment in Ringlet Reservoir.....	6-43
6.6.4	Discussions on Soil Erosion.....	6-44
6.6.5	Soil Erosion Yield Rate.....	6-44
6.6.6	Impacts of Soil Erosion on the Hydroelectric Generation.....	6-47
6.6.6.1	Loss of Flood Prevention Function of Ringlet Reservoir....	6-50
6.6.6.2	Land Degradation and Ecosystem Stress.....	6-55

Chapter 7.0 Discussions and Conclusions

7.1	Sustainability of the Hydroelectric Catchment	7-1
7.1.1	Development Pressures.	7-1
7.1.2	Environmental Quality Changes.....	7-8
7.1.3	Sustainability of Cameron Highlands.....	7-14
7.2	Societal Responses on the Environmental Changes.....	7-15
7.3	Management of the Hydroelectric Catchment.....	7-16
7.3.1	Management Needs.....	7-16
7.3.2	Recommended Mitigation Measures.....	7-18
7.3.3	Management Strategies.....	7-19
7.3.4	Further Studies.....	7-20
7.4	Conclusions.....	7-21
	References.....	R1
	Plates.....	P1
	Appendix A.....	A1
	Appendix B.....	B1
	Appendix C.....	C1

List of Figures

Figure Number	Title	Page
Fig. 2.2.1	Pressure-State-Response Framework	2-10
Fig. 3.1.1	Schematic Diagram of the Steps of the Analysis	3-2
Fig. 4.1.1	The Location, Settlements and Road Networks of Cameron Highlands	4-2
Fig. 4.2.1	The Relation of Rainfall to Configuration in Northern Malaya	4-7
Fig. 4.2.2	Mean Monthly Rainfall and Coefficient of Variability (in %) in Bertam Basin from the Year 1948 to 1997	4-8
Fig. 4.2.3	Mean Monthly Rainfall and Coefficient of Variability (in %) in Upper Telom Basin from the Year 1954 to 1997	4-8
Fig. 4.2.4	Typical Relative Humidity and Temperature (Average Hourly Values) in Cameron Highlands	4-9
Fig. 4.2.5	The Boundary and River System of the Hydroelectric Catchment of Cameron Highlands.	4-12
Fig. 4.3.1	Population Trend in Cameron Highlands for the Year 1931 to 2020	4-16
Fig. 5.2.1	Land use for Market Gardening in 1947 to 1997	5-12
Fig. 6.1.1	Land Use Changes in the Telom Hydroelectric Catchment for 1947 to 1997	6-6
Fig. 6.2.1	Absolute and Mean Annual Temperature in Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands.	6-10
Fig. 6.2.2	Monthly Mean Temperature, Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands.	6-11
Fig. 6.2.3	Monthly Mean Temperature, Habu, Cameron Highlands.	6-12
Fig. 6.2.4	Variation of Monthly Mean Temperature Anomalies for Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands during 1974-1999.	6-14
Fig. 6.2.5	Variation of Monthly Mean Temperature Anomalies for Habu, Cameron Highlands during 1964-1999.	6-15

Figure Number	Title	Page
Fig. 6.3.1	Annual Areal Rainfall for Bertam Catchment during 1948-1997.	6-19
Fig. 6.3.2	Annual Areal Rainfall Anomalies for Telom Catchment during 1954-1997.	6-20
Fig. 6.3.3	Annual Areal Rainfall Anomalies for Bertam Catchment during 1948-1997.	6-21
Fig. 6.3.4	Annual Areal Rainfall Anomalies for Telom Catchment during 1954-1997.	6-22
Fig. 6.4.1	Streamflow of Bertam at Robinson Falls for 1949-1997.	6-26
Fig. 6.4.2	Streamflow of Telom at Miles 49 for 1949-1997.	6-27
Fig. 6.4.3	Variation of Annual Streamflow Anomalies for Bertam Catchment at Robinson Falls during 1949-1997.	6-28
Fig. 6.4.4	Variation of Annual Streamflow Anomalies for Telom Catchment at miles 49 during 1954-1997.	6-29
Fig. 6.6.1	Schematic Drawing of Possible Eroded Soil Transportation Path.	6-40
Fig. 6.6.2	Annual Sediment Deposition in Ringlet Reservoir.	6-43
Fig. 6.6.3	Total Sediment Deposit in Ringlet Reservoir	6-49
Fig. 6.6.4	Volume of Inflow to Ringlet Reservoir at Various Rainfalls.	6-54

List of Tables

Table Number	Title	Page
Table 4.2.1	The Morphological Characteristics of Upper Telom River and Bertam River	4-11
Table 4.3.1	Population Trend in Cameron Highlands	4-15
Table 4.3.2	Population Projection for the Years 1995 to 2020.	4-15
Table 4.3.3	Summary for Population in Cameron Highlands	4-16
Table 4.3.4	Distribution of Population by Mukim	4-17
Table 4.3.5	Ethnic Group Composition in Cameron Highlands (1991).	4-17
Table 4.3.6	Five-Year Inter-State Migration (1986-1991)	4-17
Table 4.3.7	Job Projection for Cameron Highlands District	4-19
Table 4.3.8	Ratio of Student per Teacher in Cameron Highlands in 1995 and 1996	4-20
Table 4.3.9	Basic Amenity Facilities in Living Quarters in Cameron Highlands	4-20
Table 5.2.1	Estimated Values of Vegetable Production in Cameron Highlands	5-6
Table 5.2.2	The Average Price of Cabbages and Tomatoes at Ipoh Wholesale Market	5-7
Table 5.2.3	Distribution of Market Gardening by Terrain Classes	5-13
Table 5.2.4	Land use for Tea Cultivation in 1947 to 1997	5-14
Table 5.3.1	Projection of Commercially Available Accommodation in the Year 2005.	5-26
Table 5.3.2	Estimate of Land Use Requirement for Hotel	5-26
Table 5.3.3	Number of Tourist Arrived in Cameron Highlands for 1990 to 1994 and the Projection for 1995 to 2020	5-27
Table 5.3.4	Comparison of Estimated and Recorded Tourist Arrival in Cameron Highlands	5-27
Table 5.3.5	Average Occupancy Rate, Average Length of Stay and Tourist Receipts in Cameron Highlands for 1992 to 1999.	5-28

Table Number	Title	Page
Table 5.3.6	Priority Projects in Cameron Highlands	5-31
Table 5.3.7	Frameworks for Assessing Impacts of Tourism and Environmental Stress	5-33
Table 6.1.1	Deforestation in the Hydroelectric Catchment from 1947 to 1997.	6-4
Table 6.5.1	Water Quality Index for Bertam River.	6-33
Table 6.5.2	Water Quality Status of Selected Rivers in Cameron Highlands	6-34
Table 6.6.1	Simulated Soil Loss (m ³ /yr) from Different Land Use Types.	6-38
Table 6.6.2	Simulated Total Soil Loss Rate of the Hydroelectric Catchment.	6-38
Table 6.6.3	Soil Erosion Rate of Market Gardening.	6-39
Table 6.6.4	Minimum Soil Erosion Yield Rate in the Hydroelectric Catchment.	6-45
Table 6.6.5	Comparison of Calculated and Measured Soil Erosion Yield Rate for the Hydroelectric Catchment .	6-46
Table 6.6.6	Operating Levels of Ringlet Reservoir.	6-49
Table 6.6.7	Assessment of Spillage at Sultan Abu Bakar Dam.	6-51

List of Plates

Plate Number	Title	Page
Plate A-1	A watershed scale perspective	P1
Plate A-2	A field scale perspective	P1
Plate B-1	Farming activities on steep hill slope-I	P2
Plate B-2	Farming activities on steep hill slope-II	P2
Plate C-1	Land cleared by heavy machinery	P3
Plate C-2	Land cleared by heavy machinery on steep hill slope	P3
Plate C-3	Leveling of hill and the exposure of bare soil	P4
Plate C-4	Land cleared for cultivation	P4
Plate C-5	A large piece of land cleared for cultivation	P5
Plate C-6	The same location after experienced severe erosion.	P5
Plate D-1	Construction activities on steep hill slope	P6
Plate D-2	Highway construction and the exposure of bare soil.	P6
Plate E-1	Heavily silted dry river bed of Telom	P7
Plate F-1	Deforestation at hill slope	P7
Plate F-2	The entire hill was deforested	P8
Plate G-1	Landslide in Cameron Highlands-I	P8
Plate G-2	Landslide in Cameron Highlands-II	P9
Plate H-1	Heavily silted Telom River at the Telom Intake	P9
Plate I-1	Ringlet Reservoir is filled with sediment.	P10
Plate I-2	Excavation at the Habu Weir.	P10

2