

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS

Based on this study, the TEV of the Kuala Selangor mangrove forest was estimated to be in the region of USD61,357/ha/yr (RM153,392/ha/yr). This value is considered high. However, it must be noted that the estimation did not consider other usage components of the TEV such as carbon sequestration and filtration services. Therefore, this TEV should not be considered as the entire value. The TEV of mangrove forests from different regions may vary due to differences in the physical, chemical and biological properties of the mangroves. This will, in turn, influence the level of productivity and functions of the mangrove forest itself, such as coastal protection and nutrient retention.

The local coastal community in Kuala Selangor is dominated by the Malays and Chinese. Although the education level is generally low, the number of people receiving primary and secondary education is still higher compared to the national fisherman. The average monthly income is also relatively much higher than the average west coast of Peninsular and the national fisherman's income.

Based on the survey conducted, majority of the respondents (90 %) was already aware of mangroves since their childhood and primary school age. The awareness on mangroves was also depicted by the perception study where, close to 90 % of the

respondents from the local coastal community objected to development that will destroy mangroves in their area.

Majority of the local community felt very strongly for the conservation of the remaining strip of mangroves in Kuala Selangor. This was shown in the high percentage of WTP to manage the forests properly (about 85 %). The tendency for all groups of respondents to place a higher WTP to bequest value, followed by option and existence values also showed that, the mangroves are regarded as a valuable piece of natural resource to be inherited by the future generations. Therefore, judging by this indication, it is imperative that the current and future planning of the coastal area of Kuala Selangor should take into account the value of the mangrove forest to its stakeholders.

In valuing natural resources such as mangrove forest, using TEV alone will not really reflect the actual or practical value of the forest. In more practical terms, a cost-benefit analysis should be undertaken to view the value of the resources in terms of a period of time where opportunity costs are considered. There is also a tendency to study the management options of certain natural resources. Using this approach, different management options can be appraised and therefore will provide a more reliable result. This way, more justice could be done to the mangrove forest. However, TEV as a valuation methodology, will be used to provide the basic data on the value of components in the natural resources.