

DETERMINING THE LATENT VALUE OF BORIKIRI MANGROVE FOREST IN RIVERS STATE

Azumaduri, C. N & Akujuru, V. A

*Research Scholar, Department of Estate Management, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Rivers State University, Port
Harcourt, Nigeria*

ABSTRACT

Mangroves which are considered an important natural resources occupy coastal and estuarine areas in many tropical places like Rivers state, provides goods and services for both direct use and indirect use. Borikiri mangrove forests therefore are no doubt a source of livelihood for the surrounding communities. However, Borikiri mangrove forests are fast becoming ecological martyrs - victims of public empathy and indifference. The clearing , destruction and reclamation of the mangrove forests in the area as a result of anthropogenic activities has become so common in recent times. This study was therefore initiated to determine the latent value of the mangrove forest being indiscriminately destroyed and reclaimed in Borikiri. Thus, the value of what is being destroyed in the Borikiri mangrove forest. In carrying out the study, the researcher used primary sources of data collection in gathering data, which includes the use of questionnaire. The researcher also conducted interviews randomly with community leaders and some selected mangrove users. In addition to this, field visits and personal observations were made by the researcher which also formed part of the data used for the study. The study revealed that the estimated monthly value per hectare of Borikiri mangrove forest is N3,929,875.00, and an estimated annual value of N53,071,500 Per hectare, This is despite the fact that those direct and indirect uses of the mangrove forest (e.g charcoal, firewood, sea food, materials for construction, tourism and recreational potentials, coastline protection etc.) that have contributed significantly and are primary to community livelihood have been highly depleted thus, reducing the value of mangrove forest in the area. The study therefore concluded that Borikiri mangrove forests are better conserved and protected than destroyed and reclaimed. It recommended that there is need to always carry out an analysis of costs and benefits of development projects proposed in mangrove areas. Also policy makers and planners should begin a campaign and enlightenment of the local people on the dangers and consequences of over exploitation and encourage them to strengthen their traditional resource management practice.

KEYWORDS: Latent Value, Valuation, Mangrove Forest

Article History

Received: 19 Sep 2019 | Revised: 05 Dec 2019 | Accepted: 27 Dec 2019
