ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF "DAWATAGOLLA FOREST PLANTATION" TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS MULTIPLE-USE FORESTRY

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ABSTRACT

Since 1940, the historical perspective of forest management shows that the management of forests was carried out with the prime objective of obtaining timber. With the increasing trend for demands of timber, forest plantations help to bridge the gap between supply and demand. Therefore, the policy makers concentrated to involve rural community through social forestry introducing fast growing and commonly grown tree species. After 1994, the concept of multiple-use of forestry becomes the center point of the forest management with the introduction of National Forest Policy (1995).

It was decided to select Dawatagolla Forest Plantation (DFP) as a study area. It is situated at Alawwa in Kurunegala District with the extent of 30 hectares (ha) containing mainly Jack (Artocarpus integrifolia) and Mahogony (Swietenia macrophylla) divided in to Jak Working Circle (JWC) and Timber Working circle (TWC).

The present study was designed with the objectives of identification of the current management issues in the forest DFP, analysing the Present Management Plan (PMP, 1998) with present forest situation to identify the compatibility and provision of suggestions and recommendations through the multiple use forest management strategies towards the sustainability.

The study was carried out through tree mensuration, questionnaire survey, informal and formal interviews and discussions with homegardeners. The sampling for forest survey was based on stratified random sampling and the social survey was based on systematic sampling method. Fieldwork was carried out with the assistance of forest Filed Officers. The secondary data also were used for the study.

Results obtained from the survey indicated that the necessity of the appropriate multi-use of management practices to the DFP towards sustainability. The tree mensuration study revealed that the 96 % of the trees to be removed to implement multiple-use management practices. Therefore, the consistent approach was made and selective
system of management was recommended. Several indigenous and exotic species provide multiple benefits to the surrounding inhabitants were found through the observations. Furthermore, it was identified by the discussions and the interviews that the publics are willing to participate to make this forest multi-use. This forest is to be managed to sustain itself forever in multiple-use of manner with the public participation.
CONTENTS

List of figures i
List of tables ii
Abbreviations iii
Abstract iv - v

CHAPTER 1 Introduction 1 - 2
1.1 Objectives of the study 2

CHAPTER 2 Review of literature 3 - 14
2.1 The forest cover 3 - 4
2.2 Historical background 4
2.3 Statistical background 4 - 6
2.4 Policy, legislation and institutional framework 6 - 8
2.5 Plantation forestry 8 - 10
2.6 Medicinal plants 10 - 11
2.7 Forest management 11 - 13
2.8 The concept of sustainable development 13 - 14

CHAPTER 3 Review of the existing management plan 15 - 21
3.1 Background 15
3.2 Design of plan 15
3.3 Past management systems 15 - 17
3.5 Existing PMP Vs. present study 19 - 21

CHAPTER 4 Methods and materials 22 - 30
4.1 The study area 22 - 24
4.2 Sampling 24 - 28
4.3 Questionnaire survey 28 - 29
4.4 Observations and discussions 29 - 30
4.5 Secondary data 30
CHAPTER 5  Analysis of data and results  31 - 55
5.1 Analysis of preliminary data  31 - 54
5.2 Summary of the analysis  54 - 55

CHAPTER 6  Discussions  56 - 62
6.1 Current management issues  56
6.2 The forest policy and existing present management plan  56 - 57
6.3 Proposed management system  58 - 59
6.4 Relevance of multiple-use forestry  59 - 60
6.5 Preliminary survey  60 - 62

CHAPTER 7  Conclusion and recommendations  63 - 65
7.1 Conclusion  63
7.2 Recommendations  64 - 65

REFERENCES
Annex  4.1 a Sketch map of DFP  71
Annex  4.1 b Grid system  72
Annex  4.1 c Random table  73
Annex  4.2 Structure of the questionnaire  74 - 78
Annex  5.1 a-f Analysis of raw data  79 - 84
Annex  5.2 Year 2000 felling in the TWC  85