

## **Mangroves Forest Produce (MFP): importance and contribution to the local communities at Banggi Island Malaysia using free listing technique**

### **Abstract**

Mangrove is an important source of many goods and services to humankind. The direct and indirect benefits contributed are also identified as ecosystem services of the mangrove forest. The aims of this study are to document the Mangrove Forest Produce (MFP) that used by the communities in Banggi Island, Malaysia. A total of hundred (100) respondents from 4 villages namely Kg. Perpaduan, Kg. Singgahmata, Kg. Sabur and Kg. Batu Putih was selected. Household convenience sampling method with semi-structured questionnaire by using free listing technique was employed in this survey. The main ethnic groups involved in the study are identified as Bajau's, Dusun and Ubian. Their average income is RM500 per month, which is under the poverty line of the state of Sabah. Based on the acquired data from free listing technique, the utilization of MFP can be divided into eight categories and ranked at highly important to the less important based on the communities' knowledge of judgment. The most important categories confined to fuelwood and marine products, followed by construction materials, medicinal and domestic uses, and fishing equipment. The less substantial fall under the categories of food or drinks, decoration, and handicraft. Out of the total respondents, 51% of them enter the mangrove forest when they need the products. The level of communities' dependency on MFPs at Banggi Island was fair with the frequency of 54 percent are low dependent, while the others were moderate to highly reliant on the MFP. Most of the respondents agree that mangrove forest is highly appreciated for its ecological function of ecosystem services, and therefore should be protected.