

ESTIMATION OF RECREATION VALUE OF AMBULUWAWA RELIGIOUS AND BIODIVERSITY COMPLEX

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Abstract

Ambuluwawa Religious and Bio Diversity Complex is located near the Gampola town and due to its recreation, historical, educational and other values it is considered as a very important area. Up to now, no any Valuation studies of the site have been conducted and therefore an economic study was carried out in the Ambuluwawa Religious and Bio Diversity Complex. This thesis uses Travel Cost Method (TCM) to find recreation value of Ambuluwawa Religious and Bio Diversity Complex. Every year 75000 to 125000 of people visit this complex from various parts of the island. This is one of the famous single mountains in the central region.

A survey was conducted at the site to determine zones of origin, visitation rates, travel costs, and various socio economic characteristics.

The surrounding areas were divided to concentric zones of increasing distances. All the required data and information collected from the questionnaire survey has been compiled. The reasons for coming to the complex was identified and noted. The data were used to regress visitation rates, and the total travel cost of each zone.

The problems identified during the survey and the suggested Recommendations have been listed.

Demand curve was constructed to estimate the consumer surplus from the site. Estimated minimum total cost experienced by the visitors at the current entrance fee (Rs. 25.00) was Rs. 2,220,350.00 When this amount was subtracted from the total consumer surplus (total welfare) of Rs. 16,567,287.50 the estimated consumer surplus is Rs. 14,346,937.50 per year.

These results can be used to demonstrate the contribution of the complex to the economy and get the funds from government and other funding sources to develop infrastructure facilities of the complex.