

KORGALZHYN STATE NATURE RESERVE: MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND
ITS PROBLEMS

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To my beloved mother and all mothers in the world

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive qualitative study is looking at the management of Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve (KSNR) in Kazakhstan. The objective was to identify the problems in the management system and to suggest some recommendation for the stakeholders for the sake of the KSNR's functions, both recreational and ecological reserve. Interview and document reviews were conducted to collect the necessary data. Comparative analysis has been employed to analyze the primary and secondary data. It was found that KSNR management system consist of three subsystems namely service management, resource management, and visitor management; each of them has its own problems, where integrated solutions are needed due to their interrelationships. Service management subsystem was facing some problems with funding and budgetary, human resources, public relations, natural and non-natural disasters, and infrastructural problems. Resource management subsystem has to deal with some problems around infrastructure, environmental control, and abusive behaviors from irresponsible parties. Visitor management subsystem needs to solve some problems with infrastructure and visitor-relationships. This study concluded some integrated solutions to be recommended to the management of KSNR. It was recommended to refer to the other nature reserves management in other countries where the governments allocated more percentage of the funding, other suggestions in term of financial difficulty was to attract more concerning NGOs and individuals to be actively involved in rightful usages of the park. Solving funding problems would likely to solve human resource problems, where KSNR should be able to involve more expert personnel and reorganize the structure of the roster, as well as provide adequate infrastructures to solve problems around disasters control. It is also recommended to put more priority to formally and informally educate school-students to be aware about KSNR, where the awareness would lead to higher interest of rightful usages and further studies in related useful area. Aside of infrastructural reorganization and development, it is necessary for KSNR management to develop good mutual relationships with other institutions and society nearby KSNR in order to obtain more participation in reserving the ecological and recreational opportunities in KSNR. For the future researchers, it is recommended to perform more in-depth qualitative studies on each management subsystem and/or thorough quantitative studies on several management factors existed.

ABSTRAK

Kajian diskriptif kualitatif ini untuk melihat pengurusan Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve (KSNR) di Kazakhstan. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti masalah dalam sistem pengurusan dan mencadangkan beberapa cadangan kepada pemegang taruh dalam kedua-dua fungsi rekreasi dan simpanan ekologi KSNR. Temubual dan semakan dokumen dilakukan untuk mendapatkan data-data yang berkaitan. Analisa perbandingan dijalankan untuk menganalisis data prima dan skunder. Didapati system pengurusan KSNR terdiri daripada tiga substistem iaitu pengurusan perkhidmatan, pengurusan sumber dan pengurusan pelawat yang mana mempunyai masalah tersendiri yang mana penyelesaian bersepadu diperlukan bergantung kepada hubungan subsistem tersebut. Subsistem pengurusan perkhidmatan berhadapan beberapa masalah seperti pembiayaan dan bajet, sumber manusia, hubungan awam, bencana semulajadi dan bukan semulajadi serta masalah infrastruktur. Subsistem pengurusan sumber berhadapan beberapa masalah merangkumi infrastruktur, kawalan persekitaran dan sikap buruk pihak yang tidak bertanggungjawab. Subsistem pengurusan pelawat perlu menyelesaikan beberapa masalah yang melibatkan infrastruktur dan perhubungan pelawat. Kajian ini menyimpulkan beberapa penyelesaian bersepadu untuk dicadangkan kepada pengurusan KSNR. Dicadangkan merujuk kepada pengurusan simpanan kebangsaan negara lain yang mana kerajaannya memperuntukkan dana yang lebih dan cadangan yang lain dalam konteks masalah kewangan untuk menarik lebih perhatian dari NGO dan individu untuk terlibat aktif dalam penggunaan yang sebenar. Menyelesaikan masalah pembiayaan seperti menyelesaikan masalah sumber manusia yang mana KSNR sepatutnya boleh melibatkan ramai pakar dan mengenalpasti struktur jadual dan juga menyediakan infrastruktur secukupnya untuk menyelesaikan masalah berkaitan masalah kawalan bencana. Dicadangkan juga untuk meletakkan lebih kepentingan dalam mendidik pelajar sekolah secara formal dan tidak formal kesedaran terhadap KSNR, dimana kesedaran akan memacu lebih minat pengguna yang betul dan kajian lanjutan dalam bidang yang berguna. Selain penstrukturan semula dan pembangunan infrastruktur adalah lebih baik untuk pengurusan KSNR membangunkan hubungan baik dengan institusi dan pertubuhan yang lain dalam memastikan mencapai lebih penyertaan dalam memelihara ekologi dan peluang rekreasi di KSNR. Untuk kajian lanjutan, dicadangkan supaya melaksanakan lebih perinci kajian kualitatif untuk setiap subsistem atau melalui kajian kuantitatif terhadap beberapa faktor-faktor yang sedia ada.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

IBA	-	Important Bird Areas
IUCN	-	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
KSNR	-	Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve
LAC	-	Limits of Acceptable Change
RCC	-	Recreational Carrying Capacity
RO	-	Recreational Opportunity
ROS	-	Recreational Opportunity Spectrum
RUP	-	Recreational Use Pattern
WWF	-	World Wide Fund For Nature

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the problem

The country of Kazakhstan has been independent for 18 years and went through many changes. Its result is the stable and economically prospering society, which means that an effective policy management is very important for the future success of the country. In some scales, the country can be considered successful in the area of policy, economy, culture, science, and many other things. Today, Kazakhstan is well known to be associated with its early age, stability, and international consents.

For one decade and a half, the primary goals on maintenance of prosperity of the republic have been defined and solved. However, still there are many problems needed to be solved. One of the problems is the poor management of natural reserve areas.

At the very moment of independence, many of the people had no time to consider about the reserves. All of the reserves became technically ownerless and abused. The reserve management was failed to play its role to protect the nature. A proper management system is needed in order to maintain the functions of reserve areas for the sake of the future generation; thereby, this current study is going to investigate about the existing management system and find some way to enhance the management system to a better level. This study will focus on the management

process of the biggest nature reserves in Kazakhstan, i.e., the Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve (KSNR). The location of KSNR is very close to the capital city of Astana, where the industrial development expanded out and threatening the function of the reserve.

Many researchers have conducted their studies in KSNR. Most of them focused on nature issues, such as monitoring soil, air, and water conditions or the conditions of flora and fauna. The author indicated that there were less research done in management of KSNR.

1.2 Problem Statement

During first decade of Kazakhstan independence, KSNR contributed to the people who benefited from its resources, and its role as nature reserve is gradually decreasing. This happened due to the inappropriate management, which has failed to maintain its function as a nature reserve which should preserve nature. There were uncontrolled visitors to the highly protected sites where few or any people are allowed to enter, violations of the conservation and reserve norms, unlimited hunting and fishery, resource extraction.

IUCN recognizes that many approaches to establishing and managing protected areas are valid and can make substantive contributions to conservation strategies. This does not mean that they are all equally useful in every situation: skill in selecting and combining different management approaches within and between protected areas is often the key to developing an effective functioning protected area system. Some situations will need strict protection; others can function with, or do better with, less restrictive management approaches or zoning of different management strategies within a single protected area. However, the current KSNR management model employs three management sub-systems such as service, resource, and visitor management. All sub-systems are interrelated and significantly influenced on each other and on the function of the reserve.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to identify and solve problems in management process of KSNR in order to improve its function as nature reserve.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To investigate and to analyze current management process in KSNR;
2. To provide some recommendations for better decision-making in term of the reserve, in term of solving the existing problems.

1.5 Study Area

The study area is Government Establishment, Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan. It is located in geographical coordinates 50°10' - 50°43' NL and 68°38'-69°41' EL. Administratively, it is located in the territory of Korgalzhyn and Egindykolsky areas of Akmolinsk, and Nurin area of the Karaganda (Figure 1.1).

The state reserve total area makes 258963 hectares, including the 147600 ha of waters. Round territory on prohibited zone border 2 kilometres security zone by a total area of 94421 hectares is established. All territory on prohibited zone border is located in Akmolinsk province (southeast, western, north - east parts in Korgalzhyn area, northern and northwest part in Egindykol district). The site of territory of the southern and southwest parts of a two-kilometre security zone is located in Nurin area of the Karaganda province.

The structure of state reserve territory includes steppes and all water-marsh grounds located in a downstream of river Nury, including completely extensive is

bitter-salty Lake of Tengiz. The western part of territory of state reserve borders on the land of the state ground fund, presented by steppes.



Figure 1.1: Map of Kazakhstan with study area

Source: www.graphicmaps.com (2009)

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study is investigating the management of KSNR in order to define the gap between the theories of protected area management and the management of KSNR. Documentary analysis was done in order to obtain the theories of protected area management, and structured interview was done to the head of KSNR management in order to obtain information about the current management process in KSNR. As similar study has never been done to KSNR before, it is necessary to limit the management aspects into 3 subsystems namely service, resource, and visitor subsystem.

1.7 Methodology

This research utilized the qualitative research methodology employing secondary and primary data. The secondary data were collected from a documentary research about the previous surveys of scientists around the area from December 2002 to March 2007. The author collected the primary data by employing an interview in August 2009. Three aspects of this case study – resource management, service management, and visitor management were analysed by using explorative, data explanative, and data comparative with descriptive analysis method. Research findings categorized and displayed in the three tables. Those three tables supported with detailed explanation and description.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This study is important because it aimed to identify and solve management problems in KSNR. Whenever the management of KSNR successfully play its role, the nature reservation is supported, and biological varieties are protected for the sake of the future generations.

This current study would apply new principles of management, which have shown the efficiency in practice in foreign countries. Due to the lack of previous studies in the area, this current study could be considered as a novel study in solving problems of KSNR. Most of the previous studies were done around the ecological, environmental, and zoological issues. None of the previous studies has done in term of management process.

The practical importance of the project is valuable for the stakeholders and the government of Kazakhstan; results of this research might help the managers and stakeholders to develop and organize an effective management in order to contribute to environmental reservation more successfully.

1.9 Organization of the report

This study provides 6 chapters, which are chapter I: Introduction, chapter II: Literature Review, chapter III: Methodology, chapter IV: Findings and Discussion, chapter V: Conclusions, and chapter VI: Recommendations.

- Chapter I (Introduction) describes what study is all about. It includes the main points such as background of the study , purpose of the study, objectives of the study, brief explanation about the study area, scope of the study, and significance of the study.
- Chapter II, (Literature Review) provides the nature of the study, theoretical base, and gives information, which has been published on a study area or information related to one's particular area of study. The aim of this chapter is to show a critical thorough look at literature that exists in the area is studied.
- Chapter III, (Study Area) describes the related details of the studied area (KSNR), including its related management systems and features.
- Chapter IV (Methodology) brings out the methods used in collecting the data for study, where the procedures and instruments used in the study are described and elaborated.
- Chapter V (Findings and Discussions) would explain the analyses, discuss the findings, and interprets the results of research based on the research questions of the study.
- Chapter VI (Conclusion and Recommendation) would sum up the main points of the study; clearly relate to the objectives and results of this study are. Some suggestion to the stakeholders of the KSNR and the future researchers would be presented in this chapter as well.