

CHAPTER 4

PROJECT OPTIONS

4.1 PROJECT OPTIONS

4.1.1 Built Option

The project site will be re-established as forest plantation after the clearing activities take place. In the present situation, the forest condition is a secondary forest. It will take a several decades to return to a climax forest.

The development of forest plantation will provide multiple returns. Furthermore, the development of managed forest plantation will give the benefit of shorten timber extraction cycle within 3 to 30 years (Hashim *et al.* 2015) compared to natural growth that will takes more than hundred years to achieve climax succession (Clements, 1916; Miyaki, 1999) which is mature timber tree that available to be harvested.

The development of forest plantation produces a large volume of timber within a relatively short rotation, hence the development of this forest plantation will enhance state economy through wood based industry for domestic consumption as well as export markets. These plantation activities also will provide the employment opportunities for the local people.

The development of forest plantation will relieve the pressure on harvesting of natural forest, consequently the natural forests can be returned to their climax conditions while serving for other intangible and environmental benefits, including wildlife habitats, watershed protection, landscape integrity, buffer against atmospheric calamities and climate change mitigation (Hashim *et al.* 2015).

Thus, the project site has the potential to stimulate regional economic impacts. Environmental considerations can be infused into the project development and

management to avert and minimize adverse impacts. Developing the forest land is a step towards prosperity and the development will benefit the people in the surrounding areas over the long term.

4.1.2 No Project Option

A “No Project” option will cause the project site to remain as a secondary forest. It will take more than 100 years for the forest to transform into a climatic forest. This slow forest growth will result in slow profit to the state. There is possibility of encroachment into the state land for illegal development. This potentially can result in more damages to environment since it is not properly managed.

Developing the area from a no activity area to forest plantation would enhance efforts of the State to increase the value of the land. In addition, the local community will be able to participate in the economic development and to benefit from the increased employment and business opportunities. The project proponent will take into consideration measures to mitigate any adverse impacts during development.