

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

Amarayil Sreeraman, Binilkumar; National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE),
Mumbai

asbinilkumar@nitie.ac.in

Authors: Binilkumar Amarayil Sreeraman - National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai,
India; Gyanendra Singh Konthoujam - National Institute of Technology (NIT), Mizoram, India

**Title: Preferences of Stakeholders over Sustainable Conservation of a Wetland
Ecosystem: A Case of Loktak Lake in Manipur India**



The present study deals with an assessment of the stakeholder preferences over the attribute-wise improved conservation of Loktak Lake and to analyze the heterogeneity over the preferences over the improved conservation of the wetland attributes. Loktak Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in Manipur, which is in the North-Eastern part of India. Loktak Lake is sometimes termed as ‘lifeline’ of the state of Manipur, as it supports in maintaining the livelihood and the socio-cultural life of the people. One of the distinct characteristics of the Loktak Lake is the presence of floating islands locally known as ‘phumdis’. These are a heterogeneous mass of soil, vegetation and organic matter at different stages of decomposition. Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is the only floating national park in the world, is located in the Southern portion of Loktak Lake. Keibul Lamjao National Park is the natural habitat of the most endangered mammal, the brow-antlered deer (*Cervus eldi eldi*) popularly known as Sangai. Fish is the primary food of the people of Manipur. The lake has traditionally been open water capture fishery. Free access to the fisheries resources of the Loktak Lake has led to indiscriminate fishing without considering the limited regenerative capacity of the fish stock. The study employs choice modeling method to capture both social and economic value on various attributes/benefits of the wetlands to understand the preferences of stakeholders over the sustainable conservation as well as to capture their preference heterogeneity. The results reveal that there exists heterogeneity across stakeholder preferences. The conflict between ecological attributes and livelihood options evidenced in the study.