

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING OF BATUR GEOPARK **I Gede Wiramatika¹, Dewa Ayu Suryawati²**

^{1*} Akademi Komunitas Manajemen Perhotelan Indonesia, l. Kubu Gn., Dalung, Kec. Kuta Utara, Mangupura Badung, Bali 80361, Indonesia

² Akademi Komunitas Manajemen Perhotelan Indonesia, l. Kubu Gn., Dalung, Kec. Kuta Utara, Mangupura Badung, Bali 80361, Indonesia

*Corresponding author's email: Wiramatika93@gmail.com

Abstract

Batur as a tourism area recognized by UNESCO with its very unique location. Batur as one part of the Batur Global Geopark is a model of sustainable tourism planning and development in supporting the preservation of culture, natural environment, local communities, economy, and standard of living. Good planning and development will be able to produce a good strategy in developing existing tourism resources. This study aims to further examine the participation of local communities in the management of Batur Village as a tourist destination in Kintamani, regarding local community participation in the development of the Batur Geopark tourist area, obstacles faced by local communities in the development of the Batur Geopark tourist area, and efforts made by the Government in the development of the Batur Geopark tourist area. This research method is quantitative and qualitative, data collected through interviews, questionnaires, observations, literature studies, documentation studies. The method of determining informants uses key informants whose data comes from people who are considered to know the research object such as, tourism industry entrepreneurs, community leaders, and the community then the data is analyzed using qualitative descriptive data analysis techniques. The presentation of data analysis in this study is done qualitatively through verbal delivery with descriptive interpretative techniques. The results of this study indicate that community participation starting from the planning, implementation, and supervision stages plays a very active role in the development of the Batur Geopark tourism area, and obstacles are still found in the development of the Batur Geopark tourism area in the ongoing mining activities on the slopes of Mount Batur which are not in accordance with the Conservation concept included in the development of the Batur Geopark.

Keywords: community participation, sustainable tourism, batur global geopark



1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism has become an integral part of local culture and a vital part of their daily lives. Tourism has proven to bring economic benefits, creating business opportunities and jobs, and its sustainability depends heavily on the sustainability of tourism resources. Tourism planning and development are crucial for achieving sustainable tourism. Cultural shifts and environmental damage resulting from tourism development and the construction of tourism facilities are also important.

Sustainable tourism development, natural resource management, and the environment are directed towards maintaining balance and environmental sustainability. This will maximize the benefits for the development and well-being of future generations. Existing tourism development policies have prioritized economic benefits, resulting in the neglect of environmental preservation and the marginalization of local populations. These sustainable development ideas were then adopted and incorporated into the concept of sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism can be viewed as tourism that maintains its viability in an area indefinitely.

Sustainable tourism development is seen as an alternative development paradigm that attempts to bridge the gap between developmentalism and environmentalism. Sustainable development requires the integration of economic and ecological processes through paradigm shifts and policy formulations based on partnerships and participation in development behaviors that sustainably manage resources.

As part of the Batur Global Geopark, a sustainable tourism planning and development model is essential to maintain the preservation of culture, the community environment, the economy, and the way of life. Good planning and development will result in a sound strategy for developing existing tourism resources. In the local context of Batur, a sustainable tourism planning model is essential for protecting the natural environment, social, cultural, and economic development within the community. A sustainable tourism planning model will help meet the needs of community members. Sustainable tourism development must also be able to create quality jobs.

Batur Village is a village that is part of the Batur Global Geopark. Batur Global Geopark is a world cultural heritage that is a member of the Global Geopark Network (GGN) network, due to the beauty of the Batur caldera natural area, geological and archaeological sites, and the existence of the culture of its people. Geopark is a concept of preserving nature and community culture with three main objectives, namely education, conservation, and sustainable development. With these three objectives, Batur Global Geopark can become one of the efforts to be a tool to improve the standard of living and the economy in the welfare of the community.

Community participation in every stage of tourism development at a destination is considered a key prerequisite for its success. Batur's designation as a member of the Global Geopark Network has not significantly impacted local income and living standards. Therefore, community-based tourism can be considered a solution to increase local participation and involvement. Understanding local desires and needs and listening to their aspirations in the planning and development of community-based tourism in Batur Village is fundamental, as the community is the driving force and a key aspect of tourism.

2. RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY

The methods used in this research are quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative is data in the form of numbers that can be classified, while qualitative is a systematic, actual and accurate description of existing facts. After all the data is collected, the researcher will draw conclusions from the entire data, which will later be used as research conclusions. This research was conducted in the Batur Geopark Tourism Area, namely in several villages included in the geopark, Kintamani, Bangli Regency, located in the middle of the island of Bali and is one of the regencies rich in local traditions and culture. According to its type, data can be divided into two, namely: (a) Qualitative Data and (b) Quantitative Data. Based on its source, data can be divided into two, namely: (a) Primary Data and (b) Secondary Data. This research instrument used to collect data is in the form of an interview guide and

an observation guide. The interview guide contains interview guidelines to obtain in-depth data from the community, managers, government and tourists and provides an opportunity for tourists and the community to answer freely according to their understanding, so that varied data and answers are obtained. In accordance with the type of data needed in this research, the data collection of this research adheres to the principle of "Human Instrument" namely the researcher is the main research instrument. However, in its implementation, the research will also use several instruments (aids) and data collection techniques, namely: (a) Interviews, Interviews which in this research are carried out in stages to people who are considered to have in-depth knowledge and related experience related to the research object raised by using key informants; (b) Observation or observation is the most important data collection technique in this research to carry out the process of observing and recording objects, phenomena or events that occur directly to obtain information that exists at the research location and understand the characteristics of objects and local communities in obtaining actual data; (c) Literature study, namely data collection taken from books, literature, brochures that are relevant to the research as well as the results of previous research that are still related to this research; (d) Documentation study, namely data collection techniques by taking photographs at the research location and taking photographs of activities and activities carried out during the research. Data analysis is the process of organizing and sorting into patterns. In this study, the data was analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis with data categorized into descriptive units.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Batur Geopark tourist area

Geological heritage is the foundation of Geopark development. Geological heritage is derived from a variety of distinctive, unique, and impressive geological diversity, but it is non-renewable and therefore needs to be protected. The geopark development pattern implements these protection efforts along with educational efforts based on the existing geological diversity and its environment, and local economic growth through geotourism and other tourism. The Batur Caldera is located in the northeastern part of the island of Bali, approximately 70 km from the city of Denpasar. Administratively, the Batur Geopark/Earth Park area is located in Kintamani District, Bangli Regency, Bali Province.

The geological diversity of the Batur Caldera area is inseparable from the geological history of Bali itself. Structures, processes, and a vast span of time have shaped the Batur Caldera area in Bali as we see it today. The geological heritage within the Batur area's diverse geology serves as the foundation for the development of the area, which implements the Batur Geopark concept.

The entire panorama of the Buni Park area, largely comprised of the Batur Caldera, can be seen from a single, easily accessible vantage point: Penelokan. This is one of the unique features of the Batur Caldera area, making it a significant geological heritage asset in terms of the region's landscape, which has subsequently been recognized as a world geopark. The bluish crescent lake, illuminated by the morning sun, blends with the bluish green hues, reflecting the peaceful aura of Lake Batur. The majestic Mount Batur, flanked by steep cliffs from older volcanoes, completes the beauty of the world's most beautiful caldera landscape. This active volcanic region is rich in both macro and micro landforms. In addition to producing lava and pyroclastic flows, the area is also characterized by active volcanic activity during Mount Batur's evolution.

Naturally, over a period of millions of years or longer, in a diverse and unique geological environment, various biodiversity and their habitats emerged and developed. Within the Batur Caldera Earth Park, there is quite a large biodiversity, both within the Penelohan Nature Tourism Park (TWA) area, as well as other habitats there. Biodiversity includes diverse flora and fauna, two of which are found only (endemic) or originating from the Batur Caldera area, namely the Taru Menyan tree and the Kintamani Dog. In addition, there are Kintamani Oranges and Kintamani Arabica Coffee. Meanwhile, the Batur Geopark which covers an area of 100 square kilometers and consists of Mount Batur and Lake Batur presents the results and processes of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity around the Batur Geopark, namely Trunyan Village, Ulun Danu Batur Temple and Dalem Balingkang Temple, and activities in the villages included in the Batur Geopark.

3.2 Community participation in the development of the Batur Geopark tourism area

Local Community Participation in the Development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area The Batur Geopark tourism area boasts a variety of attractions, both natural and man-made, each with its own unique characteristics. The main attractions of the Batur Geopark include the Mount and Lake Batur Caldera, Penelohan Trunyan, and the Kintamani area. These areas are already very popular among domestic tourists. Kintamani, as part of the Geopark, contributes to the continued growth of the tourism sector in the region. A development approach that emphasizes the presence and involvement of local communities needs to be incorporated into the tourism sector development process. This approach must be able to evaluate and develop understanding and enhance community capabilities related to tourism, while simultaneously bringing about comprehensive changes in all practices and thinking regarding development.

The participation of local residents in Kintamani in the development of the Batur Geopark tourist attraction plays a very important role and demonstrates a high level of involvement. Given the high level of community participation, guidance, understanding of Geoparks, and training related to the tourism industry are necessary. Kintamani's recognition as part of the Global Geopark Network cannot be separated from the active contribution of the community who support local involvement in the conservation of the Kintamani area until it can achieve the goal of being designated as a Batur Geopark tourist area. **Some** forms of community participation in Kintamani include:

a. Community participation in the planning stage

The Batur Caldera tourist area is one of the tourist areas being developed into a Geopark. The Batur Geopark tourist area in its development planning involved community leaders from 15 villages, Batur and its surroundings, Songan, Kedisan, Buahon, Abang, Suter, Sukawana, and Pinggan gathered together to decide on the desire. At that meeting, a decision was made to form a foundation called the Bintang Danu Foundation. The development of the Batur Geopark tourist area began with the Bintang Danu Foundation which was well managed from 1990 to 2010 by the community through collaboration in tourism management. In 2008, the Kintamani tourist area was proposed to become a Geopark area which was approved in 2012 by UNESCO, with its unique cultural heritage, and the community at that time agreed to the development of the area into a Geopark Area. In the decision-making process, socialization was carried out in villages included in the Batur Geopark area zone by presenting community leaders. Activities carried out in gathering community aspirations or ideas through LWG (Local Working Group) whose participants consist of people from villages within the core zone of the Batur Geopark area.

b. Community participation in the implementation stage

Batur Geopark is a UNESCO-recognized tourism destination due to its unique geological heritage. Batur is characterized by its beautiful caldera, shaped like a trough, beneath which are the beauty of Mount Batur, Lake Batur, Bukit Abang, and the unique cultures of the villages along the shores of Lake Batur, such as the Trunyan Village, whose uniqueness cannot be found elsewhere. Although it exists, it is not as beautiful as the Batur Geopark. In terms of tourism products, the community will be encouraged to develop geoproducts such as shallots and tilapia fish, sourced from the community and farmers. In the arts context, traditional arts and festivals related to local culture will be further promoted, utilizing theater venues and open stages in the estuary of Lake Batur, the Penelokan Pavilion, and the Kedisan Pier. For tourism attractions in the Batur Geopark Area, such as climbing Mount Batur, climbing Bukit Abang, Toya Bungkah Hot Springs, Lake Batur, Trunyan, Jeep Sunrise Point, Sukawana Sport Sunrise, educational tours of the Batur Geopark Museum, Black Lava ATV. In addition to developing tourism products and tourist attractions, the community also contributes greatly to preserving nature, culture, behavior in providing services to visiting tourists. With the branding of the Batur Geopark which has a unique caldera, it encourages local industries to continue to grow until now, starting from Restaurants, Coffee Shops, Hotels, Glamping which are owned by local people and absorb local people into workers in the tourism sector. From the development of the Batur Geopark Area, many benefits are provided for the local community both in terms of economy, social and community life becomes more secure with the presence of tourist visits.

a. Community participation in the monitoring and evaluation stage

In the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area, of course, there are stages that must be carried out so that tourism development can be carried out properly and correctly. In addition to the planning and implementation stages, the Supervision stage is also very necessary in the management of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area which involves the contribution of the local community to implement it. At the supervision and evaluation stage, the participation of the local community, community leaders, tourism actors, and stakeholders is very much involved so that the development of the Batur Geopark can be carried out properly. Activities carried out in the supervision process that involve the community by conducting communication and socialization in absorbing input from the community starting from deficiencies, the direction of development. Supervision and evaluation are carried out in determining the direction of the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area which has often been carried out involving the local community, in addition to the local community, supervision is also carried out by the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) of the Kintamani Resort which every day monitors activities carried out by the community in maintaining the sustainability of the forest and the environment which is a conservation area to be in accordance with the vision of the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area.

1.1 Obstacles in Developing the Batur Geopark Tourism Area

The Batur Geopark tourist area has been developed since 2012. The area offers a variety of tourism potential. The Batur Geopark tourist destination is widely known both domestically and internationally. However, the development of this tourist area is still not fully optimal, due to several obstacles faced by the government, management, and the community. To overcome these current obstacles, the involvement of the government and all stakeholders is necessary. All stakeholders, including the government, management, local communities, and stakeholders, need to come together to resolve any issues or obstacles related to the development of the Batur Geopark tourist area.

The Mount Batur area is included in the Gunung Batur – Bukit Payang Natural Tourism Park (TWA) conservation area and borders the Panelokan TWA. As a conservation area designated for tourist forests and limited production forest areas, this area faces several issues such as mining and sand extraction activities (type C excavation) carried out by local residents, as well as the use of Mount Batur for climbing activities as a tourist attraction for the Batur Geopark. Although located outside the Gunung Batur – Bukit Payang TWA conservation area, sand mining and excavation activities in Songan A and B Villages attracted attention in the process of designating the Batur Caldera area as part of the Global Geopark Network (GGN) in 2012. This is because it is indicated that continued stone mining and sand excavation can threaten the sustainability of geological sites in the Batur Geopark area and contradict the conservation objectives of the area itself as a Geopark. These C excavation activities have a negative impact on the environment around Mount Batur; excavation scars on the hillsides around the mountain reduce the beauty of the Mount Batur landscape and increase the risk of landslides due to high rainfall. This is caused by the remains of excavations and sand dredging which generally form depressions and cliffs, which produce water puddles and weaken the soil structure, thus potentially posing a danger to residential areas around the excavation site.

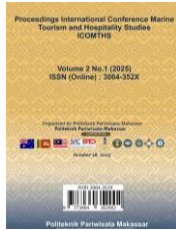
4. CONCLUSION

The participation of local communities in Kintamani in the development of the Batur Geopark tourist destination has a very significant role and shows a high level of involvement. By seeing the high participation of residents, it is important to provide guidance and understanding about Geoparks, as well as training related to the tourism sector itself. Kintamani, which has been recognized as part of the Global Geopark Network, cannot be separated from the active contribution of the community who support the participation of local residents in preserving the Kintamani area so that it can achieve the goal of establishing the Batur Geopark tourist area. In the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area, there are three stages carried out starting from planning, implementation, and supervision. The planning stage is the initial stage in developing the Batur Geopark Tourism Area which began with the formation of the Bintang Danu Foundation which involved communities in 15 villages included in the core zone and in 2008 the Kintamani Area was proposed to become a Geopark which in 2012 was approved and designated as a geological area recognized by UNESCO, by involving the community in making every decision. In the implementation of the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area, community involvement can be seen in terms of developing tourism products that are characteristic and the development of tourist attractions that can be done by tourists when visiting until the community plays an active role in the world of tourism starting from working in the tourism sector and developing businesses in the tourism sector in supporting the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area. To support the planning and implementation stages, supervision is also carried out involving the community through communication activities, outreach to the community. Supervision is also carried out by the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) in preserving forests and the environment in the Batur Geopark Tourism Area. In the development of the Batur Geopark Tourism Area, obstacles are still encountered such as the process of sand and stone mining in the Batur caldera which is still carried out today by the local community.

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