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Implementation of the eco-tourism destination concept in community forest use: Case study at the tourism object of Gunung Dago, Parung Panjang, Bogor

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the implementation of the ecotourism concept in forest utilization in the Mount Dago Tourism Area, Parung Panjang. The ecotourism concept is a sustainable approach to natural resource management that integrates nature conservation efforts, local economic development, and active participation of local communities. By implementing an ecotourism approach in forest utilization, it is hoped that balanced social, economic, and environmental benefits can be achieved. The method for conducting research uses a qualitative study approach. Collecting data sources were collected through participatory observation, interviews with various relevant stakeholders, and analysis of forest management and tourism documents. The research sample consisted of forest managers, local community members, tourism entrepreneurs, and visitors involved in this study. The results of this research provide an understanding of implementing the ecotourism concept in forest use in the Mount Dago Natural Tourism Area. These findings can be used as a basis for developing and piloting other natural tourism destinations to apply the concept of sustainable forest management with an ecotourism approach. This research also provides insight to relevant stakeholders, including forest managers, local communities, and tourism entrepreneurs, about the benefits of tourist destinations implementing the eco-tourism concept.

Keywords: Ecotourism, Tourism, Mount Dago, Forest

1. Introduction

According to Yoeti (Sari, 2015), tourism potential refers to all the elements in a DTW (tourist destination area), which aims to attract people to come and visit that place. The prospect of a tourist destination consists of several aspects, including the possibility of natural tourism, such as beaches, forests, mountains, etc. Apart from that, there is also cultural potential, such as customs, handicrafts, art, and historical heritage in the form of buildings and monuments. Furthermore, there is also human potential, where humans, as part of tourist destinations, can become an attraction through dance performances, art performances, and local cultural performances. Interestingly, the beauty of the natural landscape and the diversity of local arts and culture are the main attraction elements for tourists visiting Indonesia.

Ecotourism can become a tourism sector supporting the national economy. Apart from that, regional governments can also utilize the ecotourism sector to increase local revenue. Apart from creating jobs, this sector is also a good source of foreign exchange earnings and encourages investment development (Yuningsih, 2005). Ecotourism, or ecotourism, refers to three main aspects: economics, ecology, and culture (In, 2002). Other experts also describe ecotourism as a form of tourism responsible for preserving natural areas, providing economic benefits, and maintaining the community's cultural integrity. Ecotourism is closely related to conservation principles (Nugroho et al., 2018).

According to Ibrahim in Buckley (2019), there are four connection elements between tourism and environmental factors. First, natural environmental components are the basis for tourism performance or products. Second, tourism management plays a role in reducing the impact of environmental damage. Third, tourism contributes to ecological preservation, both directly and indirectly. Fourth, tourists' attitude towards preserving the environment is also

essential.

There are several main things in the ecotourism concept, including maintaining the sustainability of nature, providing economic benefits, and ensuring community participation in the environment. Based on Permendagri (2009) No. 33 of 2009 concerning Guidelines for Ecotourism Development in Regions, regional governments have been motivated to develop ecotourism as part of Indonesian tourism activities. The regulation explains that ecotourism is the potential of natural resources, the environment, and the uniqueness of nature and culture. It is now a leading regional sector that still needs to be optimal in its development.

According to Rudiato (2014), ecotourism is an advanced form of natural resource-based tourism that focuses on education and learning related to nature, with management that can minimize negative impacts, is non-consumptive, and is oriented at the local level and control. In 2017, President Joko Widodo issued a Decree (SK) on Utilization Permits from Social Forestry Forests as a concrete step for the government to realize community-based forest management. This community forest management agenda has been ongoing since 1995 and was finally realized through the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No.83/MEN.LHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/2016 concerning Social Forestry and P39/MEN, LHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/ 2017 concerning Social Forestry in the Perhutani Region. The Social Forestry Program consists of six schemes, namely: (1) village forest, (2) community forest, (3) community plantation forest, (4) partnership forest, (5) customary forest.

Since it was launched by President Joko Widodo in 2015, the government has set a target that by the end of 2019, 12.7 million hectares of forest will be managed by communities. Then, the target was extended until the end of 2024. As of September 2020, an area of 4.2 million hectares had been achieved. To support this acceleration program, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Ministry of LHK) has formulated a Social Forestry Index, which measures the contribution and role of provincial governments in implementing the acceleration program. Based on this index, five provinces have been designated pilots in achieving the expected goals.

Siti Nurbaya Bakar, as Minister of Environment and Forestry, in the national dialogue on Advanced Indonesia in Tasikmalaya on 13 Oct 2018, conveyed the importance of community welfare and forest preservation. This indicates that we must protect the natural environment because we borrow it from future generations. Therefore, we must inherit nature that is at least as good as its current condition, even better.

Perhutani supports environmental sustainability and socio-cultural systems in the context of the national economy. One of the focuses is to empower communities around forest areas so that they can feel the benefits of the existence of these forests. Per regulation No. 72 of 2010, the main objective of Perum Perhutani is to carry out businesses aimed at public use by providing goods or services related to forest management and quality forest products at affordable prices to the community. Sustainable forest management principles and good corporate governance are also the basis for implementing Perum Perhutani activities (Octavianti & Mulyana, 2017).

To manage forests and forest products, PT. Perhutani establishes partnerships with the community to develop forest areas into tourist destinations that maintain environmental sustainability. People are invited to feel an emotional connection (Belonging) with the forest around where they live. This aims to enable them to be involved in forest management and security to prevent looting and illegal logging which can cause damage to the forest.

For example, in 2013, the Bogor Regency Government provided financial assistance from wood cutting production amounting to 104,622,007 rupiah to 12 LMDHs throughout Bogor Regency. This program was published on the Bogor Regency Government website in 2015. It is hoped that LMDH will be able to respond well to this collaboration program and develop various ideas and creative ideas to assist the government in better management of forest

resources through partnerships with the community, PT. Perhutani and the government hope to achieve sustainable forest management and improve the welfare of communities around the forest.

Forest-based community empowerment involves four main aspects: economic, ecological, social, and tourism. Many experts have discussed this topic of empowerment. The word "power" in empowerment refers to power or strength, and the prefix "ber" indicates having power or strength. Thus, empowerment can be interpreted as an effort to give an object ability or strength. In (KBBI), the term empowerment comes from the English "empowerment". According to Merriam-Webster and the Oxford English Dictionary, "empowerment" has two meanings, namely "to give the ability or make it possible to" and "to give someone power or authority." Thus, forest-based community empowerment refers to efforts to provide the community with the ability, strength, and authority to involve themselves in various forest-related activities.

This scheme or concept is being implemented at Mount Dago Nature Tourism in Parung Panjang, Bogor Regency. Mount Dago is located in Dago, Parung Panjang, Bogor, West Java. This tourist object or destination is still relatively new in Bogor because it was only inaugurated around 2019. The Mount Dago, the natural tourist area, is located in the community forest (Hkm) managed by Perhutani. Previously, this area was former land used by PT Gamidana for mining activities. After mining activities stopped, this land became neglected and only grew with wild trees. Developing it into a tourist attraction now involves various stages, including licensing, site planning, cutting down illegal trees, and improving access to the upper area of Mount Dago Nature Tourism.

Then, this community forest is managed jointly by Perum Perhutani and involves the Village and Forest Community Institution (LMDH) as the technical implementation operator of the tourist attraction. The area covers 14 hectares, and the tourist attraction management well maintains the ecosystem. One of the other attractions of the tourist attraction in Parung Panjang is the existence of traditional village attractions that can be visited. This makes this tourist destination unique because it also carries the concept of local cultural tourism.

The Eco-Tourism concept is the main basis for developing this tourist destination, where the use of the forest given to LMDH becomes an opportunity to develop tourism in Parung Panjang and has the potential to improve the welfare of the surrounding community. So, the author conducted more in-depth research. The aim is to evaluate the implementation of the Eco-Tourism concept in the use of community forests managed jointly between Perum Perhutani and the Forest Village Community Institution (LMDH). Apart from that, this research also aims to understand the contribution of the Eco-Tourism concept in attracting tourists to Mount Dago Tourism. Thus, this research will provide a better understanding of the application of Eco-Tourism in the context of managing natural tourist destinations and its impact on the surrounding community's economy.

2. Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which involves investigating social phenomena and human problems with in-depth methods. The goal is to build knowledge through understanding and discovery. In qualitative research, the researcher is the main instrument, and the participant selection technique used is purposive sampling. The research stages include determining the research location, determining the research focus, determining the source of information, determining data collection techniques, and determining data analysis methods. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis was done through data reduction, presentation, and conclusions

and verification. To ensure the validity of the data, the criteria of credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability are used.

This qualitative research uses an in-depth descriptive approach to understand social phenomena and human problems. This method involves researchers as the main instrument and uses purposive sampling techniques for selecting participants. The stages include determining the research location, focus, information sources, data collection techniques, and data analysis. The data collection techniques used were observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis involves data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions and verification. To ensure the validity of the data, criteria such as credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability are used.

3. Results and Discussion

The Forest Village Community Institution or abbreviated as (LMDH) is located in the Gunung Dago Nature Tourism area, Dago, Parung Panjang, Bogor. This organization was founded in response to residents' concerns about the condition of abandoned and unproductive land due to inactive mining activities. The impact is that ex-mining land becomes infertile, and various negative actions such as theft of motorbikes, livestock, and illegal mining become widespread.

LMDH was founded in 2018 and initially had around 40 members. LMDH members comprise the surrounding community, especially from the RT 01 environment and the Dago Village community in general. The member acceptance process goes through a relaxed selection. However, several particular criteria must be met, such as being active, diligent, and contributing to every facility development activity. The work backgrounds of the LMDH member community are diverse, including MSMEs, private employees, farmers, etc. The way the LMDH organization works is by volunteering and working together.

Vision and mission

The Gunung Dago Forest Village Community Institution has a vision & mission, namely, "The forest is sustainable, and the community is prosperous." So, as a partner of Perum Perhutani, LMDH is tasked with protecting forests from threats such as damage, forest fires, and looting. The formation of the LMDH also aims to protect the forest itself so that the function of the woods does not change position, damage, looting, and avoid accusations of camouflage or untrue facts, such as people like to steal in the forest, the truth of which cannot be proven but is sometimes used as an excuse by unscrupulous individuals. -individuals who have personal or group interests when their harvest decreases. LMDH also has a secretarial office near the newly built swimming pool. The office is made of bamboo, which gives a beautiful and excellent impression.

Table 1

Organizational Structure of Community Institutions in Gunung Dago Forest Village

Organizational Structure	Name
Protector (Head of Village)	Mr Muhdom
Mentor	H. Mahfud Syarifudin
Chairman of LMDH	Mr Rustam
Deputy Chair of LMDH	Mr H. Tarmin
Secretary	Mr. Mukhtar Hidayat
Treasurer	Mirna's mother

History of Mount Dago Natural Tourism

Collaboration between Perum Perhutani, creator of the CBFM concept, and the local Forest Village Community Institution (LMDH) resulted in Mount Dago natural tourism.

Initially, Mount Dago was a former barren land resulting from mining activities carried out by PT Gamidana. There are only wild plants growing there. However, Dago Village has abundant natural resource potential and outstanding natural beauty. Therefore, through several stages, the Mount Dago natural tourist attraction was formed as we know it today. Previously, this area was fertile land and a source of life for the local population. However, due to greedy human behavior, this land was converted into a mining area by PT Gamidana from 1985 to 1997. As a result, animals disappeared, and large trees became bare. In 1997, PT Wasco also conducted mining activities on the slopes of Mount Dago, together with other small miners.

In his leadership as head of Dago Village in 2003, Mr. H. Mahfud Syarifudin succeeded in stopping mining activities, according to his explanation. This action aims to make Dago Village beautiful again, as well as to save the forest and improve the welfare of communities around the forest. In 2014, Mr. H. Mahfud Syarifudin and the local community planned the development of a tourist village and submitted it to Perum Perhutani. After going through the process, 2017 Perum Perhutani approved the plan, and the first clearing was carried out to facilitate access to the peak. It will take around 5 years for the Mount Dago land to return to green, considering that it was previously a former mine carried out by PT Gamidana, causing the ground to become barren.

In the development and maintenance of Mount Dago Nature Tourism, two groups are working together. First, community groups around the forest who are members of LMDH Wana Cendana. They play an active role in developing tourism and preserving forests. The second group consists of employees or officers who work at Mount Dago Nature Tourism. The task of the tourism officers is to maintain and care for the tourist area. In total, 20 people serve as tourist officers, working to maintain the cleanliness, safety, and comfort of visitors at Mount Dago Nature Tourism.

Implementation of PHBM as the basis of the Ecotourism concept

PHBM (Community Based Forest Management) aims to direct the management of Forest Resources (SDH) by considering economic, ecological, and social aspects in a balanced and professional manner. The main objective is to increase the role and responsibility of Perum Perhutani, the community, and related parties in maintaining the sustainability of the function and benefits of forest resources through appropriate management. This PHBM approach integrates economic interests, nature conservation, and social welfare in managing owned forest resources.

The implementation of PHBM in the field of forest management combines and matches the concept of tourism so that the economy can grow along with forest utilization. The tourism concept implemented in this case refers to using natural resources and sustainability or is called the Ecotourism concept. According to the statement provided by the LMDH chairman, the Joint Community Forest Management Program (PHBM) aims to improve the community's welfare, especially those living around the forest. Collaboration between Wana Cendana Forest Village Community Organization (LMDH) members and tourism officers is central to implementing this PHBM program. At Mount Dago Nature Tourism, two groups are active, namely members of the LMDH Wana Cendana and tourism officers. They have duties and responsibilities in managing tourism and maintaining the security and preservation of forests.

The collaboration between LMDH members and tourism officers aims to keep the forest sustainable while providing benefits to the community. Through PHBM, forests are used as a source of income from the sustainable tourism sector for local communities, without forgetting the primary function of forests. Thus, the PHBM program plays a role in maintaining a balance between community welfare, tourist satisfaction, and environmental preservation at Mount Dago Nature Tourism.

PHBM program activities have ecological impacts that tend to be positive. This program

aims to restore the productivity of tourist areas which were previously barren mining areas. Thus, the PHBM program can produce positive changes by returning green open spaces.

The Forest Village Community Institution (LMDH) also provides security for the forest, protecting the forest from acts of damage and theft by irresponsible individuals. The PHBM program can create a more protected and sustainable environment through community participation in forest management.

Thus, this PHBM program has the potential to positively impact the environment, such as increasing greenness, returning land productivity by turning it into a tourist spot, and forest sustainability through protection carried out by LMDH. In implementing Community-Based Forest Management (PHBM), there are several programs carried out, including:

- 1) **Forest Monitoring and Protection:** This program monitors forest conditions periodically and protects forests from illegal activities, including logging and hunting. Through patrol and monitoring activities, PHBM seeks to preserve forests.
- 2) **Tree Planting and Maintenance:** This program involves planting new trees and maintaining existing trees in the forest. In this way, PHBM contributes to increasing biodiversity and maintaining the balance of the forest ecosystem.
- 3) **Community Empowerment:** This program aims to empower local communities in forest management. Communities are involved in making decisions related to forest management, involvement in tree planting activities, and benefiting from forest products fairly and sustainably.
- 4) **Environmental Education and Awareness for Tourists:** This program educates the public and tourists about preserving forests and biodiversity. Through outreach activities, seminars, and campaigns, PHBM seeks to increase public awareness of the importance of protecting forests as a valuable heritage for future generations.
- 5) **Ecotourism Development:** This program aims to develop ecotourism potential in the forest. By sustainably utilizing existing natural resources, PHBM seeks to create tourism economic opportunities for local communities through environmentally friendly natural tourism activities.

Through this series of programs, the implementation of PHBM in forest management seeks to achieve sustainability goals, namely maintaining a balance between forest conservation, community welfare, and sustainable development.

Table 2

Research Informants

No	Informant's Name	Position	Information
1.	Mr Rustam	Chairman of LMDH	Information on the formation of LMDH, tourism management, collaboration with Perum Perhutani, and implementation of the ecotourism concept
2.	Mr. Rifky Hidayatullah Akmal	Digital Marketing	Information on tourism marketing system management
3.	Mr. H. Mahfud Sarifudin	Mentor	Stages of LMDH formation, history, and management
4.	Mr Eki	Tourism Administration	Tourist administration management
5.	Mr Lukman	Member	Carrying out tourism management duties
6.	Mr Akam	Tourism Employees	Carrying out tourism management duties

Source: Data processed by researchers

From the end of December 2018 to January 2019, the inauguration and opening of Mount Dago Tourism was carried out. Since 2019 until now, there has been significant development in this place. You can see increased facilities and rides available at tourist attractions. Some of the facilities that have been added to Mount Dago Tourism include accommodation, parking

area, toilets, places of worship, photo spots, canteen and also a multi-purpose building. Apart from that, various rides have also been realized, such as children's play area/Playground, archery sports field, vegetable garden (hydroponics), camping area, flower garden, traditional village, photo spot, ATV play area, Flying Fox, children's play area, canteen, mini rickshaw, and LMDH office.

This development shows LMDH's commitment to developing Mount Dago Nature Tourism towards implementing the Eco-Tourism concept. The Eco Tourism concept has been explained to facilitate tourists who come and keep nature and the tourist environment beautiful and sustainable.

Concept of Eco-tourism Activities

Nature Based Tourism

Nature-based tourism is a form of tourism that focuses on natural experiences and the natural environment. In this type of tourism, tourists visit destinations that are rich in natural beauty, such as national parks, forests, mountains, beaches, and other ecosystems. The main goal of nature-based tourism is to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of nature while increasing awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. The following are Nature-based tourism activities at Mount Dago Nature Tourism.

- a) Nature Exploration: Tourists who come can carry out tourist activities through travel and exploration into existing natural areas such as forests. These activities include hiking, trekking, or safaris to understand biodiversity and ecosystems.
- b) Natural Animal Observation: Tourists can also observe natural animals in their natural habitat through photography safaris and bird watching. This activity is carried out by prioritizing ethics without disturbing wildlife or destroying their habitat.
- c) Agroecotourism Trip: At Mount Dago Tourism, tourists can visit organic farms, hydroponic vegetable gardens, milking goats, or fruit gardens that apply the principles of sustainable agriculture. Visitors can learn environmentally friendly cultivation processes and understand the importance of sustainability in food production.

Environmental Educational Tourism

Environmental educational tourism is a form of tourism that integrates education with an understanding of the natural environment. This type of tourism mainly aims to allow tourists to learn and understand aspects of the environment, biodiversity, and relevant environmental issues. The following are forms of Environmental Educational Tourism tourism activities in Mount Dago natural tourism.

- a) Cultural Ecotourism: When they come to Mount Dago natural tourism, tourists will be involved in local cultural activities such as visiting traditional villages, homestays with traditional house nuances, and participating in traditional events. These activities aim to maintain and recognize cultural heritage and benefit the local community economically.
- b) Environmental Education: Environmental education is carried out in collaboration with Matana University in Community Service activities. Tourists can get environmental education or research facilities that teach about nature protection, species conservation, or sustainable practices. Tourists can gain new knowledge and increase awareness about environmental issues.

Conservations Supporting Tourism

In tourism supporting conservation, tourists play an active role in supporting and contributing to environmental conservation efforts. For example, they can choose destinations with sound environmental policies, follow environmentally friendly principles during travel, support conservation efforts through participation in sustainable activities, and donate funds for conservation programs. The following is an example of conservation activities at Mount Dago natural tourism.

- a) Tour Volunteers: Apart from tourism education, tourists can take part in conservation activities such as tree planting, ecosystem restoration, or taking part in the process of milking goats. This allows them to contribute directly to nature conservation and provides a satisfying experience. Besides these activities, tourists also get environmentally friendly ride facilities, such as flying foxes, natural scenery photo spots, hanging bicycles, sky swings, etc. Gunung Dago nature tourism also provides a variety of facilities to meet visitors' needs. The following are some examples of public facilities found:
- b) Information boards and maps: Information boards at the entrance or visitor center provide information about the area, including hiking routes and essential points. Maps are also often offered to help visitors orient themselves.
- c) Visitor center: The visitor center functions as an information center where visitors can get more information about the place. The visitor center has exhibits, a gift shop, and a rest area.
- d) Parking area: Mount Dago Nature Tourism provides a parking area for visitors by car or motorbike. Parking here is charged 5000 for cars and 2000 Rupiah for motorbikes. This fee is one form of improving the welfare of the local community.
- e) Public toilet: Public toilets or bathroom facilities are available in natural tourism areas for visitor convenience.
- f) Hiking and trekking trails: Mount Dago natural tourism has well-maintained hiking and trekking trails. Some trails have signposts, stairs, or guardrails to ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience.
- g) Picnic place: Mount Dago nature tourism has an area designated as a picnic spot. There are picnic tables, chairs, and some equipment needed for tourists on a picnic.
- h) Camping area: Mount Dago natural tourism provides a camping area for visitors who want to spend more time in nature. This area has campsites, campfire sites, and basic facilities such as toilets and clean water.
- i) Sports facilities: There are sports facilities such as a swimming pool and jogging track area for tourists who want to do sports activities.
- j) Places to eat and stalls: Mount Dago natural tourism offers food and drink stalls in the form of MSME businesses owned by residents. Visitors can enjoy these food stalls. The food sold is varied and affordable.
- k) Lodging facilities: Mount Dago nature tourism also has accommodation facilities for tourists to rent. This accommodation has a bamboo house concept with a traditional and environmentally friendly impression. So, tourists can feel the sensation of ecotourism.

4. Conclusion

In 1997, PT Wasco and residents carried out mining activities at the foot of Mount Dago, which caused damage to the environment. However, the village head at that time, Mr. H. Mahfud Syarifudin, succeeded in stopping mining activities in 2003 to restore the beauty of Dago Village, protecting the forest and improving the welfare of the surrounding community. After successfully stopping mining in 2014, Mr. H. Mahfud Syarifudin and the local community planned the development of a tourist village on Mount Dago and submitted it to Perum Perhutani. In 2017, the tourism village development plan was approved by Perum Perhutani, and cooperation between the surrounding community and officers in maintaining Mount Dago Nature Tourism was implemented through the concept of Community Based Forest Management (PHBM), which adopted the concept of ecotourism to utilize natural resources optimally. In CBFM and ecotourism, it is essential to empower communities through strategies and programs that increase their participation, increase capacity, and strengthen partnerships with the government and private sector. LMDH needs to increase conservation and tourism

education activities to support ecotourism programs. This will help educate the public and tourists about the importance of tourism awareness and support for the sustainability of tourist attractions. For further research, it is recommended to develop research by examining the natural tourist attraction of Mount Dago from the perspective of the penta helix concept, which involves five parties, namely academics, business, government, community, and non-governmental organizations, to maintain the sustainability and benefits of forest resources.

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