

THE ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY SERVICES OF BENGKULU PROVINCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAKE DUSUNBAR NATURAL TOURISM PARK

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ABSTRACT

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The role of the government in preserving the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park is crucial through the issuance of regulations, legal protection, funding, supervision, public education, and international cooperation to create sustainability and fairness and involve community participation. The park's management includes providing infrastructure, empowering the local community, and ensuring the safety and security of visitors. As a result, Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park in Bengkulu City can be promoted as an iconic destination, a source of Regional Original Revenue, and recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

INTRODUCTION

The government has an essential role in developing and preserving Natural Tourism Parks, covering various interrelated aspects, such as establishment, legal protection, sustainable management, funding, supervision, public education, and international cooperation, as well as involving community participation. Administration of this park includes providing infrastructure, community empowerment, and efforts to maintain the security and safety of visitors. Thus, the Lake Dusun Besar Natural Tourism Park in Bengkulu City can be used as a city icon, a source of Regional Original Income, and recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The government's role in managing the Lake Dusun Besar Natural Tourism Park in Bengkulu City is regulated in the Regional Regulation Bengkulu City Number 4 of 2021, which includes conservation areas such as Nature Reserve Areas and Nature Conservation Areas. The Nature Conservation Area consists of the Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park. At the same time, the Nature Conservation Area includes the Panjang Beach and Baai Island Nature Tourism Parks and the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park.

The 89-hectare Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park is set to protect and preserve Dendam Lake as part of its valuable natural heritage. Minister of Forestry Decree Number 602/Kpts-II/1992 also recognizes and covers the lake. Management of this park also involves community participation and the application of environmental laws.

In conservation efforts, the government's role as a regulator is crucial through the issuance of regulations, including rules for ticket fees and parking fees, as well as a prohibition on carrying sharp weapons and illegal drugs in the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park. This aims to

optimize revenue, ensure fairness for visitors, support sustainable park preservation, and maintain visitor safety.

The government is also responsible for increasing public education and awareness about the importance of nature conservation and the benefits of nature tourism parks. Through environmental education programs and awareness campaigns, the public can better understand the importance of maintaining ecosystem balance, preserving biodiversity, and utilizing natural resources wisely to achieve sustainable development. The government must actively participate in international cooperation in dealing with environmental issues that transcend national boundaries. International collaboration is crucial in overcoming complex nature conservation challenges and involves various parties from various countries.

In managing and preserving the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park, the Bengkulu City Environment and Forestry Service facilitates infrastructure to improve the visitor experience. They also empower the community by involving them in planning and implementing development, training, and outreach programs regarding environmental conservation. To achieve sustainable tourism development, the aim is to create a symbiotic, mutualistic relationship between tourism managers and local communities.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses qualitative research methods, which produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and behavior that can be interpreted. The research basis used is a case study, which views the research object as an integrated unit studied intensively, in detail, and comprehensively. The type of research used is descriptive qualitative research, namely examining objects to reveal contextual phenomena through data collection. This research

focuses on elements as objects of study that are interrelated and described. The reason for using descriptive qualitative research is because of the complexity of the problem, which requires further exploration, as well as the researcher's desire to obtain more complete, in-depth, credible, and meaningful data about the research problem. The research site is the central place supporting research to get valid data to produce authentic, accurate, and factual discussions. The place where the study will be carried out is the Bengkulu Province BKSDA Office. The object of this research is the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Reserve in Bengkulu City. This research will analyze natural resource management and related problems, such as decreasing habitat degradation, illegal logging, and lack of public awareness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lake Dusun Besar Tourist Park has the potential for diverse tourist attractions, including the potential for art, history, and culture, as well as the life of its people. Among the various tourist activities in the Natural Tourism Park, what attracts attention is the natural tourism and community culture, which is still maintained. The government is trying to make the Lake Dusun Besar Natural Tourism Park an icon of Bengkulu, which can increase Regional Original Income. The development of this Natural Tourism Park aims to become one of the favorite destinations for the people of Bengkulu City.

Tourism has an essential role in the economy and development of a country or region. Currently, tourism is considered an economic engine that can make positive economic and social contributions to local communities. Tourism management must be taken seriously and involve various related parties. Promotion is essential to introduce tourism potential and attractions so that potential tourists better know them and can encourage tourist visits. It is necessary to pay attention to sustainable management and tourism sustainability aspects in managing tourism. Tourism can exploit scarce resources and needs to be developed with a sustainable life cycle.

Stakeholder involvement is vital in formulating sustainable tourism development strategies. Various inputs and opinions from multiple stakeholder groups must be considered to achieve quality and sustainable tourism development. Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park has the potential to be developed into a tourist destination because of its pristine natural beauty and harmonious interaction between tourists and residents. This tourism potential needs to be used to create the area as a sustainable tourist attraction.

a. As a Facilitator

Planning is one of the functions in managing the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park; it acts as a facilitator by creating an environment that supports development and facilitates various community interests. They provide infrastructure such as footpaths, bridges, rest areas, and environmentally friendly toilets to enhance the visitor experience.

It also empowers the community by involving them in planning and implementing infrastructure development. In addition, it holds training and outreach programs on environmental conservation, as well as conservation activities such as tree planting and monitoring biodiversity. The aim is to increase public awareness about

preserving the ecosystem and natural beauty around Lake Dusun Besar.

This government service aims to maintain the sustainability and success of the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park and provide economic benefits for the local community through exchanging goods or information that occurs due to tourists visiting.

The conclusion from the interview above is that the Environment and Forestry Service of Bengkulu Province has a significant role in managing the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park in Bengkulu City. They are actively involved in building and maintaining the facilities and infrastructure in the tourist park by paying attention to environmental preservation and sustainability aspects. Collaborates with a team of experts and other related parties to design and build various types of infrastructure aimed at improving the visitor experience and maintaining the sustainability of the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park. The infrastructure that has been built includes footpaths, bridges, rest areas, information boards, environmentally friendly toilets, recycling bins, signs, and so on.

Apart from that, it also prioritizes community empowerment in managing this tourist park. They involve the community in planning and implementing the construction of infrastructure and training and education programs to increase public awareness about the importance of preserving the environment around Lake Dusun Besar.

Community empowerment is also carried out through conservation activities such as tree planting, environmental cleaning, and monitoring biodiversity. Active community participation seeks to create a symbiotic relationship of mutualism between tourism managers and local communities, where tourism managers provide economic benefits to the community by exchanging goods or information that occurs because of tourists who visit.

Apart from its role in developing infrastructure and empowering the community, the government also has a duty as a facilitator in creating an environment that supports the implementation of development and facilitates various community interests. They assist with training, education, and improving skills and funds or capital through financial assistance. With the cooperation between the government and the community and the efforts made in managing this tourist attraction, it is hoped that the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park can continue to develop and provide benefits for visitors and the local community.

b. As a Regulator

The government's role as a regulator is to establish rules that balance the implementation of development. In the case of the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park, the government sets rules for levying tickets for visitors to ensure optimal income, fairness for visitors, and sustainability of the tourist park. The government also sets parking levy regulations to support the management of tourist parks and ensure fair rates. Furthermore, the government has also established rules prohibiting carrying sharp weapons and illegal drugs to maintain visitors' safety and comfort and protect the integrity of the natural tourism environment. Tourist park managers work closely with security forces to ensure compliance with these rules and take firm action if violations occur. These regulations aim to support the sustainable preservation of the Lake Dusun Besar Nature

Tourism Park and provide visitors with a safe and enjoyable experience.

In the context of managing the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park in Bengkulu City, the government's role as a regulator is crucial in creating sustainability and justice through the issuance of regulations that regulate various aspects, including ticket/visitor ticket fees, parking fees, and the prohibition on carrying sharp weapons. And illegal drugs. Through this regulation, the government seeks to create a clear direction to regulate and balance development activities, considering aspects of environmental preservation, fairness for visitors, and compliance with relevant government policies. Periodic evaluations are carried out to ensure the effectiveness of the levy system, involving revenue analysis, tariff fairness, community participation, and visitor feedback to increase revenue, ensure fairness, and adjust the levy system to support the sustainable preservation of tourist parks. Apart from that, the government also regulates the prohibition of carrying sharp weapons and illegal drugs as a preventive measure to maintain the security, comfort, and integrity of the natural environment in the tourist park area and collaborates with security forces and management staff to carry out supervision, inspections, and appropriate actions. Comply with violations of these rules to ensure the safety of visitors and the sustainability of the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park as a safe, sustainable, and attractive tourist destination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research regarding the role of the government, in this case, the Environment and Forestry Service, in developing tourism at the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park in Bengkulu City, it can be concluded as follows:

1. As a regulator

The government is essential in regulating various Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park management activities through applicable policies, regulations, and monitoring mechanisms. The government is also committed to providing ongoing support and assistance through training programs and improving skills for managers and local communities. This program aims to create a sustainable tourism environment for current and future generations.

With support and assistance from the government, the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park managers can better understand the importance of nature conservation, sustainability, and maintaining the authenticity and uniqueness of the tourism potential of this area. Through training and improving skills, managers will be empowered to manage tourist parks more professionally, implement environmentally friendly practices, and preserve existing natural resources.

Apart from the benefits for managers, this program also positively impacts the local community. By increasing skills and knowledge regarding tourism potential and the importance of conservation, local communities will be more involved in preserving the surrounding environment and have the opportunity to be directly involved in the tourism industry. This can create jobs, improve community welfare, and strengthen their sense of belonging to their region.

Overall, the government's efforts to support and empower local managers and communities to achieve a safe and sustainable tourism environment in the Danau Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park is a positive step in managing tourism potential responsibly and sustainably. With good cooperation between the government, managers, and local communities, it is hoped that the Lake Dusun Besar Nature Tourism Park will continue to be a leading tourist destination that everyone can enjoy without sacrificing environmental sustainability and natural preservation.

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