



STUDY OF INDONESIAN MARINE TOURISM POTENTIAL BASED ON GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a tropical country with the potential of extraordinary and abundant natural resources so that it provides enormous opportunities for tourism potential, especially marine tourism. Based on the geographical location, Indonesia has a very strategic position, in addition to geographical factors, Indonesia also has strategic value based on natural factors found in Indonesia, which consists of tropical forests owned by Indonesia, which are the largest tropical forests in the world, not inferior to water conditions which are very rich in minerals. Coastal ecosystems, among others, consist of 20% of the world's coral reefs, 20% of the world's mangrove forests, and 3 million hectares of seagrass beds spread across Indonesia. The potential of marine tourism in Indonesia cannot be separated from Indonesia's own coastal resources such as the potential of coral reef ecosystems and mangrove forest ecosystems which are currently becoming a hot topic in the field of marine tourism.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a tropical country with extraordinary and abundant natural resource potential. The form of an archipelagic country with its natural scenery, diverse local cultural potential, as well as the diversity of flora and fauna that are almost scattered throughout the region, provide its own value so as to provide opportunities for tourism potential. In addition, Indonesia's location, which is between two continents and two oceans, places Indonesia in a strategic position in terms of international travel routes and tourism marketing. The wealth of the Indonesian tourism industry must be managed properly and optimally to increase national and regional income, improve the community's economy, and increase the country's foreign exchange.

Indonesia has a geographical location adjacent to two continents and two oceans, namely the Asian continent and the Australian continent as well as the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean which consists of the South China Sea and the Southeast Asian Sea. Based on the geographical location, Indonesia has a very strategic position, in addition to geographical factors, Indonesia also has strategic value based on natural factors found in Indonesia, which consists of tropical forests owned by Indonesia, which are the largest tropical forests in the world, not inferior to water conditions which are very rich in minerals. Coastal ecosystems, among others, consist of 20% of the world's coral reefs, 20% of the world's mangrove forests, and 3 million hectares of seagrass beds spread across Indonesia. The Indonesian sea is also rich in food sources for marine life because currents flow from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian

Ocean.

Geographical location of Indonesia

Based on its geographical location, the Indonesian archipelago is between the continents of Asia and the continent of Australia, as well as between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Thus, the territory of Indonesia is in a cross position, which has an important meaning in relation to climate and economy.

Indonesia's geographical location affects various cultures and civilizations in Indonesia, Indonesia's cultural diversity is also one of the potential cultural wealth. and naturally influenced by monsoons. In October-April the wind blows from Asia to Australia which brings a lot of water vapor from the Pacific Ocean causing the rainy season. In April-October the wind blows from Australia to Asia which brings a little water vapor from the Indian Ocean, causing the dry season.

Geographical elements of an area have different potentials and characteristics. Cool mountainous landscapes, sloping white sand beaches, forests of various rare plants, clear lakes, etc. are potential areas that can be developed for tourism. Other geographical factors such as location, morphological conditions, and population will also affect the possibility of developing a tourist attraction.

Coral-reef tourism potential

Indonesia is a country whose 3/4 is the sea, the area of Indonesia's oceans is also related to the wealth of its marine biological resources. One of Indonesia's potential marine biological resources is coral reef ecosystems, Indonesia is right in the center of the "coral triangle", a coral reef area with the highest marine biodiversity in the world. The area of Indonesia's coral reefs reaches 39,583 km² or about 45.7% of the total 86,503 km². The reef area in the Coral Triangle area with the highest peak species diversity is estimated to include 590 species of rock coral and 2,200 species of reef fish^[8].

Coral reef ecosystems have an important role in marine and coastal ecosystems, the ecological functions of coral reefs include breaking waves and protecting beaches from abrasion, gathering and breeding places for fish and other marine biota which are a source of protein and a source of medicinal ingredients. In addition to functioning from an ecological perspective, coral reefs also have potential in the tourism sector. In Manuputty's research (2008) it was reported that coral reefs also have a function as an underwater recreation area with an attractive underwater beauty panorama that is different from on land, therefore coral reef ecosystems have a high economic value^[7].

Coral reef ecosystems can be used as marine tourism objects because coral reef ecosystems are rich in species diversity and their inhabitants are caused by the varied habitats of coral reef ecosystems^[14]. In Indonesia, there are many diving points that can be used as tourism destinations as an example of the results of research related to the economic value of coral reefs in the Thousand Islands, for example, the calculation of the total economic value of coral reefs for tourism is 35,278,327.11 Euros per year. year or 8,023 Euro per hectare per year^[11].

Mangrove tourism potential

The world's mangrove area based on the World Atlas of Mangroves is 16.53 million hectares, 33.5% or 5.54 million hectares are in ASEAN. Data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in 2015, states that Indonesia's mangrove area is 3.49 million hectares,

or 19% of the world's total, aka 63% ASEAN^[16]. Based on data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia's mangrove area in 2015 was 3.49 million hectares, consisting of 2.17 million hectares in forest areas and 1.32 million hectares outside the area. Of the 3.49 million hectares, 1.67 million hectares of mangroves are still in good condition and 1.82 million hectares are in critical condition^[16].

The existence of mangrove forests has an important role in supporting the social and economic development of coastal communities. Mangroves have multiple functions, including ecological, social, economic and educational functions, as well as research. Also, mitigation and adaptation functions. The ecological functions of mangroves include preventing seawater intrusion, binding sediment and protecting coastlines from abrasion and tsunamis, absorbing pollutants, recycling nutrients, spawning grounds for various marine biota, breeding grounds for various types of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Mangroves are also a source of germplasm, natural biofilters, and have the ability to store high carbon.

From an economic point of view, mangrove forests are a source of high economic value forest products, such as wood, food sources, cosmetic ingredients, dyes and leather tanners, as well as animal and bee feed sources. In addition, as a place for spawning various types of fish and shrimp, which can increase fish catches and aquaculture for fishermen and farmers. The function of education and research, the mangrove ecosystem is a place for learning and various research. Currently, there is widespread use of mangroves as ecotourism. Mangroves are capable of storing three billion carbons. The amount of carbon stored in the world, one third in Indonesia^[16].

The potential and attractiveness of mangrove tourism objects in Indonesia is quite high considering that the environmental services offered by this ecosystem are very numerous while the activities that can be carried out include photography (photography), swimming (swimming), bird watching (bird watching), canoeing (canoeing), along the mangrove forest (mangrove walk), and fishing (fishing)^[15].

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