

Ecotourism and The Financial Problems Found in Indonesia's Aketajawe Lolobata National Park

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I. INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism in national parks generates benefits for both visitors and stakeholders through delivery of both environmental and cultural services¹⁾. However, many national parks in Indonesia now face financial problems, including the provisioning of ecotourism facilities²⁾. While Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for infrastructure development have been widely applied in various sectors, in Indonesia, the tourism sector is one of only 19 sectors' encouraging positive impacts on the economy by applying PPP³⁾.

This paper (1) examines the existing condition of ecotourism in Aketajawe Lolobata National Park (ALNP) and (2) reviews current government efforts to support PPP implementation.

II. STUDY AREA

Figure 1 shows the map of ALNP, formally established by an Indonesian forestry ministerial decree in 2004. ALNP is located in the Halmahera Islands, North Maluku Province, and consists of two areas, Aketajawe and Lolobata, and has an area totaling 167,300 hectares (Ha).

The two areas are classified into 5 zones: The core (red), wilderness (yellow), utilization (green), traditional (brown), and rehabilitation (blue). Ecotourism activity areas in the utilization zone cover 2,703.5 Ha in Aketajawe and 7,979.4 Ha in Lolobata.

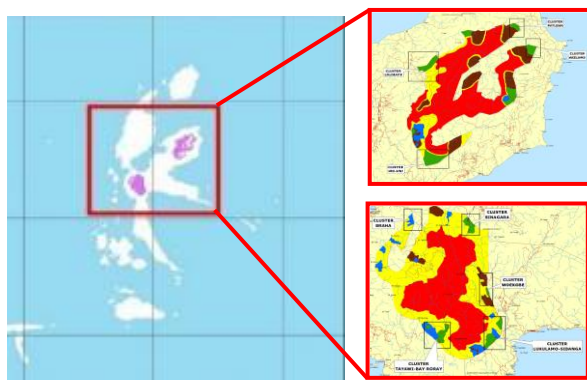


Figure 1. ALNP area and ecotourism destination clusters

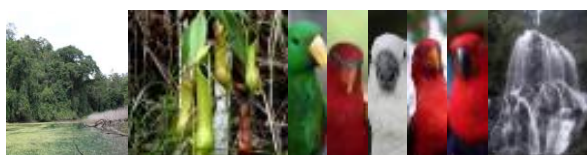


Figure 2. Ecotourism attractions located in ALNP

III. RESULTS

3.1 Existing Ecotourism Conditions in ALNP

Indonesian NP areas are managed by the zoning system and function as protected areas, the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem, areas of research, science, education, support of local culture, local community empowerment, and tourism and recreation⁴⁾.

In ALNP, there are 9 clusters potential ecotourism destinations with prominent attractions, as shown in **Figure 2** and **Table 1**. After considering accessibility, the number of visitors, and local government and community support, two clusters, Tayawi-Bay Roray and Binagara, are prioritized for development⁵⁾.

Although some simple facilities have been built in ALNP, including tree houses for bird watching, wooden bridges, information boards and trekking paths, the ecotourism activities are not as advanced in comparison with other national parks. However, visitors have increased over time as shown in **Figure 3**.

Table 2 shows that the total costs for ecotourism facilities in Tayawi Bay-Roray and Binagara's cluster are estimated at USD \$298,495,297 and USD \$89,518,365 respectively. **Figure 4** shows the budgets from 2014 to 2016, which are very low when compared to the facility costs. There is a major financial gap between the costs and the financial capacity of ALNP. The PPP scheme is expected to fill this gap.

Table 1. Ecotourism destination clusters and their attractions in ALNP

Cluster	Ecotourism Attractions	Accessibility	Visitors	Local Support
Aketajawe				
1. Woekobe	Flora - Fauna, Swamp, Karst Ecosystem, Cave, Parrot Habitat, Indigenous Settlement	Moderate	Low	Moderate
2. Lukulamo - Sidanga	Flora - Fauna, River, Karst Ecosystem, Cave	Moderate	Low	Moderate
3. Tayawi - Bay Roray	Flora - Fauna, River, Waterfall, Landscape, "Burung Bidadari" Habitat, "Tobelo Dalam" Settlement, Dam, Agrotourism	High	High	High
4. Braha	Flora - Fauna, Karst Ecosystem, Lake	Moderate	Low	Moderate
5. Binagara	Flora - Fauna, Karst Ecosystem, Cave, "Burung Bidadari" Habitat, Dam, Agrotourism	High	High	High
Lolobata				
6. Uni - Uni	Flora - Fauna, Cockatoo Habitat, Waterfall	Moderate	Low	High
7. Akelamo	Flora - Fauna, River, "Tobelo Dalam" Settlement	Moderate	Low	Moderate
8. Patlean	Flora - Fauna, Landscape, Endemic Birds Habitat, Waterfall	High	Low	Moderate
9. Lolobata	Flora - Fauna, Lake, Deer Habitat	Low	Low	Moderate

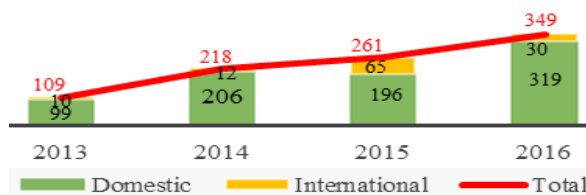


Figure 3. The number of tourists' visiting ALNP

Table 2. ALNP Plan for ecotourism facilities and estimation of cost (in IDR 1,000,000)

Type of Facility	Tayawi-Bay Roray		Binagara	
	Quantity	Cost Estimation	Quantity	Cost Estimation
Gate	1 Unit	150	1 Unit	150
Ticket counter	1 Unit	118	1 Unit	118
Guardhouse	1 Unit	118	1 Unit	118
Main road	1000 Metres	1,125	200 Metres	225,000
Birdwatching path	2500 Metres	2,081,250	700 Metres	582,750
Butterfly watching path	300 Metres	832,500	300 Metres	249,750
Bridge	7 Unit	450	7 Unit	1,050
Shelters	8 Unit	310	8 Unit	828
Gazebo	10 Unit	551.25	10 Unit	1,102
Tree House	1 Unit	1,732.500	1 Unit	1,732
Observation Tower	2 Unit	234	2 Unit	156
Canopy Trail	1 Unit	1,000	1 Unit	500
Research Station	1 Unit	435	1 Unit	435
Skyline	1 Unit	3,000	1 Unit	150,000
Parrot Sanctuary	1 Unit	150	-	0
Total in IDR1,000,000		4,046,849.25		1,213,690
Total in USD		298,495,297		89,518,365

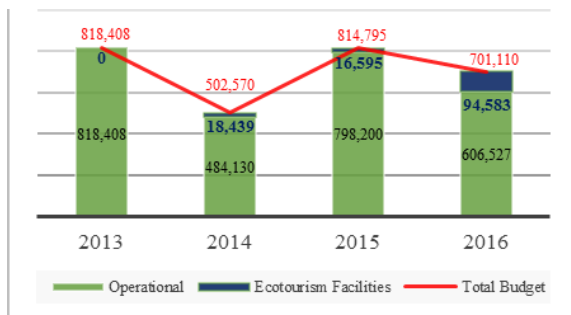


Figure 4. ALNP financial capacity (in USD)

3.2 PPP for provision of ecotourism facilities in National Parks

Table 3 shows the levels of regulation that are the legal basis for PPP implementation: Indonesian Law, Government Regulation, Presidential Regulation, Ministerial Regulation and Regional Regulation. Indonesian private parties have opportunities to join the tourism industry according to several legal regulations and specifically for providing ecotourism facilities in national parks. Moreover, the existence of these regulations will create a conducive climate very appropriate to enable and encourage PPP⁶⁾.

Table 4 shows the 9 Indonesian national parks that are applying PPP to provide ecotourism facilities, wherein 14 concession contracts agree with the concession area of 1,373 hectares and a concession period of 30, 35, and 55 years⁷⁾. Gunung Merbabu National Park (GMNP) has certain similarities to ALNP, including the year of establishment in 2004 and the concept of ecotourism development that involves community participation. After 12 management years using GMNP, Kopeng Alam Semesta, Ltd., invested USD \$975,684 in 2016 to provide some ecotourism facilities within the 55-year concession period.

Table 3. Prevailing regulations' supporting PPP implementation of ecotourism facilities in ALNP

Regulatory Hierarchy	Regulatory Details
1. Indonesian Law	- Law No. 10/2009
2. Government Regulation	- GR No.36/2010 - GR No.12/2014
3. Presidential Regulation	- PR No. 38/2015
4. Ministerial regulation	- Ministry of National Development Planning Regulation No. 4/2015 - Head of Government Procurement of Goods and Services Agency Regulation No. 19/2015 - Ministry of Forestry Regulation No.P.44/MENLHK/SETJEN/ KUM.1/6/2017
5. Regional Regulation	- RR of North Maluku Province No. 6/2011

Table 4. PPP for providing ecotourism facilities

National Park	Private Party(ies) Involved	Concession Period (years)	Concession Area (Ha)
1. Alas Purwo	3	30	12
2. Bali Barat	3	35 ; 30	663.5
3. Bromo Tengger Semeru	1	30	0.855
4. Bukit Barisan Selatan	1	30	100
5. Komodo	2	55	448.51
6. Kerinci Seblat	1	55	42.375
7. Ujung Kulon	1	55	64.93
8. Gunung Merbabu	1	55	37.1
9. Bunaken	1	55	3.745
Total	14		1,373

IV. SUMMARY

1. ALNP budget is insufficient for constructing ecotourism facilities in ALNP.
2. Indonesian National Park has been supported by both policy and regulations in PPP for the provision of ecotourism facilities.
3. There may be more opportunity to apply PPP in ALNP, but ALNP needs to make more effort to learn how to derive profitable investment from private parties.

V. REFERENCES

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