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# **PROCEEDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**



**Improving the State Foreign Exchange  
through Strengthening Local Resources  
For Development Ecotourism of Indonesia**

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Improving the State Foreign Exchange through Strengthening Local Resources  
For Development Ecotourism of Indonesia

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## ECOTOURISM AS A TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION

By :

Siti RudiYanti and Frida Purwanti

Fac. of Fisheries and Marine Science, UNDIP

### Abstrak

Ekowisata adalah fenomena baru dalam perkembangan pariwisata dunia dimana wisatawan mencari lokasi wisata yang masih alami yang pada umumnya ditemukan di kawasan konservasi. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) adalah kawasan konservasi laut yang memiliki ekosistem asli, digunakan untuk tujuan penelitian, ilmu pengetahuan, pendidikan, kegiatan-kegiatan yang mendukung perikanan berkelanjutan, wisata bahari dan rekreasi. Salah satu MPA di Jawa Tengah adalah Taman Nasional Karimunjawa yang telah ditetapkan sebagai destinasi utama pengembangan ekowisata bahari Jawa Tengah. Tulisan ini mengkaji efektivitas ekowisata sebagai alat konservasi di Karimunjawa. Penelitian ini dilakukan di Karimunjawa dengan pendekatan kualitatif dengan cara wawancara terhadap wisatawan, pemandu wisata, penduduk lokal dan petugas pemerintahan daerah serta melakukan diskusi kelompok dengan pihak terkait. Dari hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengembangan ekowisata di Taman Nasional Karimunjawa belum memenuhi prinsip dasar ekowisata dimana pengembangan wisata masih terkonsentrasi di luar zonasi pariwisata, interpretasi lingkungan yang dapat meningkatkan pengetahuan masyarakat akan nilai penting sumberdaya belum berkembang, distribusi manfaat ekonomi belum dirasakan oleh sebagian masyarakat, dan kurang partisipasi masyarakat. Untuk itu agar tujuan konservasi dapat tercapai maka perlu dikenalkan prinsip dasar ekowisata kepada semua pelaku wisata dengan dukungan dari semua pihak terkait sehingga pemanfaatan sumberdaya untuk ekowisata dapat berkelanjutan.

Kata kunci : ekowisata, konservasi

### Abstract

Ecotourism is a new phenomenon in the world tourism development in which tourists looking for a pristine area that are mostly found in conservation areas. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is a marine conservation area that has a specific ecosystem and used for the purposes of research, science, education, activities that support sustainable fisheries, marine tourism and

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recreation. One of the MPA in Central Java is Karimunjawa National Park that have been appointed as the main marine exotourism in Central Java. This paper want to examine the effectiveness of ecotourism as a tool for conservation in Karimunjawa. The study is conducted in Karimunjawa using qualitative approach by interviewing tourists, tours guides, local people and local government officers; and also conducting focus group discussion with relevant parties. From the study showed that ecotourism development in Karimunjawa has not meet the basic principles of ecotourism in which tourism development mostly done outside of the tourism zone, environmental interpretation that can enhance communities' sight on the value of natural resources has not developed yet, distribution of economic benefits not been accepted by most people, and less community participation. Therefore in order to achieved the goals of conservation, it is necessary to introduce the basic principles of ecotourism to the entire tourist' actors with the support of all parties concerned so that resources utilization for ecotourism can be sustained.

Keywords: ecotourism, conservation

## INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a nature-based industry that will have impacts on the environment. In order to achieve successful and sustainable tourism, tourism development and conservation of natural resources have to go hand in hand. Ecotourism is a new phenomenon in the world tourism development in which tourists looking for a pristine area for the purpose of studying, admiring and enjoying the natural resources pristine. Ecotourism stands out for its promise to boost conservation goals and improve the livelihoods of local peoples. Conservation is about to preserve, conserve and use the natural resources carefully to ensure sustainable supply for the present and future generations.

Indonesia as a mega-biodiversity country has opportunity to be developed as an ecotourism destination. Considering the increased environmental damage, the government has set conservation areas to protect biodiversity of natural resources and ecosystems. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is a marine conservation area that has a native ecosystem and used for the purposes of research, science, education, activities that support sustainable fisheries, marine tourism and recreation. The Indonesian government has realized the importance of conservation and ecotourism benefits, so that the MPA has become a major destination for tourism development. MPA has become a popular tool for conservation, marine and fisheries management,

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- while the practices of ecotourism to minimize environmental impact and provide economic benefits to local residents and conservation efforts.

Karimunjawa National Park as the only marine conservation area in Central Java has been managed for the multi purpose of the resources by applying zonation. One of the zone is tourism zone, in which all tourism activities take place.

This study want to know the effectiveness of ecotourism as a tool for conservation in Karimunjawa by examining zoning utilization for tourism activities.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study is conducted in Karimunjawa in using qualitative approach by interviewing tourists, tours guides, local people and local government officers; and also conducting focus group discussion with relevant parties.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Karimunjawa National Park consist of 22 islands in which five islands are inhabited by local people who has the main occupation as fishermen. Considering biodiversity of the Karimunjawa' natural resources such as coral reefs, turtles and fish' spawning grounds as well as the former usage, the park has been rezoned in 2005 and be divided into seven zones, there are core zone, conservation zone, tourism zone, rehabilitation zone, marine culture zone, traditional fishing zone and settlement zone. At the moment new zone still waiting legalized officially.

Most of the tourism zone is a utilized as a diving spot. Figure 1. indicates the frequency of tourist visits to the island during the month of research. It show that more tourists doing their activities at conservation zone compared to tourism zone. If this kind of tourism activities continue to develop, it would interrupt conservation goals in accordance with the provisions of zoning usage. It seems that tour operator fail to maintain the conservation value of the site since they only want to take profit immediately from tourist who looking for a better diving spot without giving environmental interpretation of the resources' values.

During the study revealed that conditions in some zones is already not too good to be offered for ecotourism, thus the tour operator try to present a better conditions even there is in core zone. This indicates that provisions of zoning for tourism is less effective. The majority of tourist activity is precisely in the conservation zone. As a result of ecosystems and resources there are



supposed to be protected will be uninterrupted, long-term damage to ecosystems is increasingly widespread.

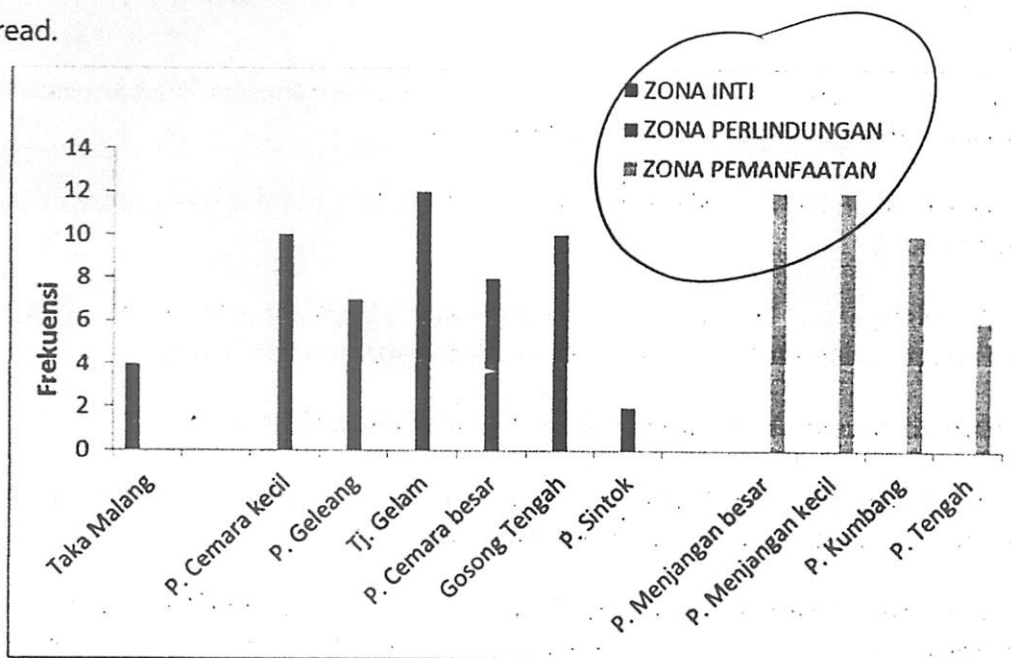


Figure 1. Tourism number based on the islands visited, August 2011

The study showed that ecotourism development in Karimunjawa has not meet the basic principles of ecotourism in which tourism development mostly done outside of the tourism zone, environmental interpretation that can enhance communities' sight on the value of natural resources has not developed yet, distribution of economic benefits not been accepted by most people, and less community participation. Therefore in order to achieved the goals of conservation, it is necessary to introduce the basic principles of ecotourism to the entire tourist' actors with the support of all parties concerned so that resources utilization for ecotourism can be sustained.



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