

Development of Mangrove Ecotourism on the Economic Aspects of Coastal Communities in the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency

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ABSTRACT

Background: The development of coastal communities has benefits that can improve community welfare in the economic aspect. Coastal communities need special attention, especially regarding sustainable programs so that they can be felt for future generations. In particular, the people of the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency, have potential that needs to be developed in order to fulfill the welfare of the community and maintain the stability of the welfare of the local community. The phenomenon that occurs is that using natural resources that are managed sustainably will have a positive economic growth impact on the people of Arar Island. Method: This research uses a qualitative approach, a type of research whose findings are not obtained by statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. A qualitative approach was chosen because it can be used to uncover and understand something behind unknown phenomena. Results: Based on the results of qualitative analysis, it shows that coastal communities in the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency, are mostly categorized as having moderate economic conditions. Thus, the development of this area does not have an impact on changes in the local community's economy. Conclusion: Management of the Mangrove Tourism Area in the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency does not show a positive impact on the economic conditions of the community. This is because the management carried out so far has not been optimal and is temporal in nature and has not been fully supported by the Regency government.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The development of coastal areas cannot be separated from the utilization of coastal natural resources. The more coastal development activities there are, the more coastal natural resources will be utilized, thus having an impact on the environmental sustainability of coastal areas. Therefore, in developing coastal areas we must pay

attention to ecological, socio-economic and institutional aspects, so that the potential of coastal natural resources can be utilized sustainably and guarantee the economy of coastal communities.

Development includes abilities that are determined by what can be done with what one has to improve the quality of life. The word development is synonymous with the desire to improve conditions accompanied by the ability to make it happen (1). So it can be concluded that development is a process of changing limited potential so that it creates new potential to improve the welfare of life in an area (Sobarna et al., 2021).

One area that has considerable potential for developing a region is the coastal and marine areas. Coastal areas have a variety of natural resources, both renewable resources and non-renewable resources. Apart from that, this region also has excellent accessibility for various economic activities, such as transportation, ports, industry, organizations and tourism. However, development of coastal areas must pay attention to the balance between the level of development and environmental carrying capacity as well as the balance of development between regions. Regional development must be an effort to grow the regional and local economy, so that regions can grow and develop independently by utilizing local resources. This regional development strategy that relies on local resources is known as the concept of local economic development (3)

Socio-culturally, coastal communities also have very strategic value if they are built with a combination of maritime, sea, beach culture and are oriented towards improving the welfare of their residents. However, if you look at the existing paradigm, it turns out that coastal communities are always a group of people who live in various disadvantages, for example, poor access to education, high levels of equality, slum areas, and insufficient income (Mira Sari et al., 2022).

Arar Island has an area surrounded by mangrove forests, white sand and the ocean. The main livelihoods of the lowlands consist of fishermen, local seaweed farming communities, and some are factory workers and farmers. The fish caught by fishermen are usually consumed by themselves, sold to village residents, and some are sold to factories. Coconut and breadfruit plants provide additional income for local residents. As an archipelago, Arar Island is a separate island in Sorong Regency. Arar Village is a very interesting island which has a sea that is suitable for cultivating seaweed if used properly (Mugu et al., 2023; Triyanti et al., 2020).

The development of coastal communities has benefits that can improve community welfare in the economic aspect. Coastal communities need special attention, especially regarding sustainable programs so that they can be felt for future generations. In particular, the people of the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency, have potential that needs to be developed in order to fulfill the welfare of the community and maintain the stability of the welfare of the local community (Tebaiy et al., 2022).

The phenomenon that occurs is that using natural resources that are managed sustainably will have a positive economic growth impact on the people of Arar Island. However, in reality, the condition of the people living on Arar Island, living with small incomes, low levels of education, and low levels of welfare is due to the lack of utilization and innovation in efforts to improve the economy of coastal communities. Therefore, the aim of this research is to determine the impact of mangrove ecotourism development on the economic aspects of the coastal communities of the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach, a type of research whose findings are not obtained by statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. A qualitative approach was chosen because it can be used to uncover and understand something behind unknown phenomena. Through a qualitative approach with a case study type, this research focuses intensively on one particular object and studies it as a case. Case study data can be obtained from all parties concerned, in other words, this study was collected from various sources (Munzir, Andriyan, & Hidayat, 2023; Munzir, Andriyan, Ramadani, et al., 2023).

The research location was in the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency, by selecting the general condition of the village, geographical and demographic conditions of the Arar Islands, Sorong Regency. Determining informants was based on the criteria required in the research, namely elements of the Sorong Regency Government, Village Government and local community.

This research uses data collection techniques with a combination of interviews, Focus Group Discussions, document studies, and observations. Data processing and analysis begins at any time with simultaneous data collection, which begins with a data clarification process, followed by theoretical abstraction of information and facts in the field to produce basic statements and then draw conclusions.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

When presenting results in a table or figure, do not repeat all those contents in the text. Present only the summary of the text. Describe only new and important aspects of the study. Do not repeat all information from results section or any section above. Present limitations of the study. Write the issues that are new or unsolved, for future research. This section consists of the information on What/How the presented data were produced, no

raw data should be present in the article. The produced data are presented in tables, or figures with an explanation of what is the result/findings from the work.

Based on the results of the analysis, it shows that the economic condition of coastal communities in the Selamat Village area (88,07% of total respondents) is categorized as moderate as in Figure 1. Optimal and sustainable management and utilization of coastal resources must take into account the ecological and economic aspects of the community. Mangrove ecosystem management for ecotourism development is a utilization model that takes into account aspects of ecological and economic sustainability of the community. From the economic aspect of the community, the development of mangrove ecotourism in the Selamat Village area has not shown sustainability. This can be seen from the economic benefits provided by the process of developing the mangrove ecosystem area into an ecotourism area as in Figure 1 below.

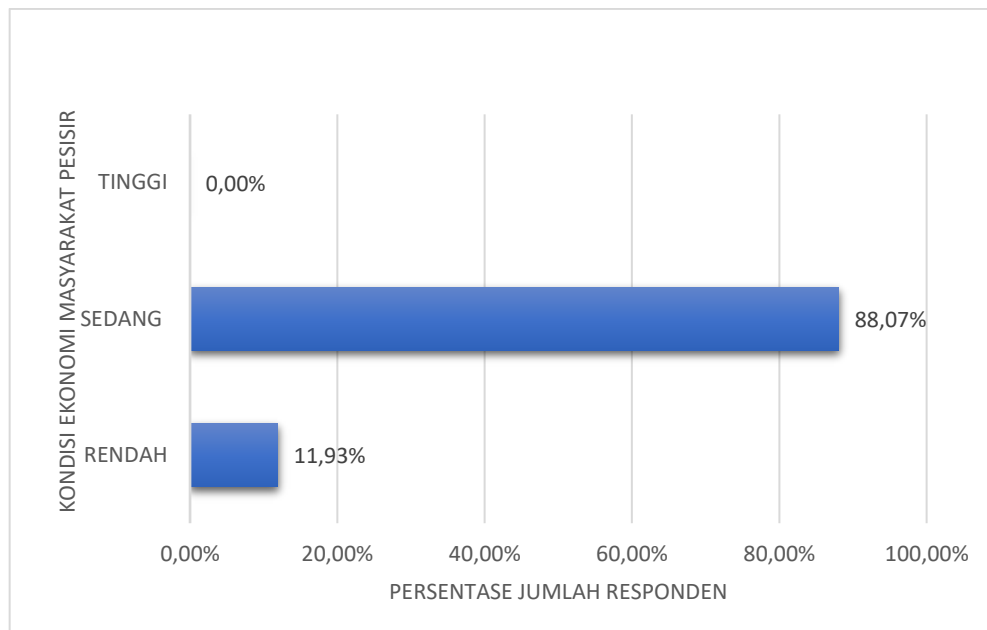


Figure 1. Economic Conditions of the Arar Islands Coastal Communities, Sorong Regency

Based on the results of field observations, it shows that the implementation of community-based mangrove ecosystem management in the Arar Islands Sorong Regency has currently not been successful as can be seen from the programs being implemented. This is proven by government and private programs which are still temporary and do not provide added value for public and environmental awareness. Mentoring and training activities carried out through executive programs do not demonstrate the independence of coastal communities in continuing management programs initiated by the state and the private sector, each activity can only run at the planning stage at the start of the program. The evaluation, monitoring and program sustainability stages cannot yet be managed independently by the community.

The results of the researcher's interviews with several selected informants were Mr. Nurdin Rumaour as Head of Arar Village. He explained that "Mangrove development in Arar Village has not been fully managed properly. This is due to lack of attention from the district government and also the community. As for the impact on the community's economy, I don't think it will have an impact, because the economy of the Arar Islands is not only in the mangrove tourism sector but also in the management of fishermen's products which are sold directly to the Petrogas Company or managed as home businesses in BUMDes. "So, mangrove tourism is only an addition to improving the economy of the Arar village community, but is not the main income for coastal communities in improving their economy."

The development of mangrove ecotourism based on the sustainability of the local community economy is very dependent on the participation of local communities (10,11). Community involvement and participation greatly determines the success of developing a mangrove ecosystem area for ecotourism activities (12). Support local communities for tourism activities are needed to ensure the commercial, socio-cultural, physiological, political and industrial economic sustainability values. The role of communities in influencing tourism development activities through collaboration with the government is very important (13,14).

According to (15) in general, community participation is low because members are less involved in management activities which include aspects of planning, determining area boundaries, implementing activities and monitoring and evaluation. Based on the research results of (16) shows that the perception and level of

participation of the village community in the development of mangrove ecotourism is categorized as still low so that the development of this area does not have a direct impact on changes in economic conditions and the level of welfare of the local community.

Apart from that, (17,18) that in general the ability to develop mangrove ecotourism areas on a multi-level basis has not shown good synergy, so that the management of mangrove ecosystem areas for ecotourism development is not sustainable and does not have a social, economic and cultural impact on local communities. Looking at the objective conditions of the community and other people around it, it is currently not possible to carry out the development of pure community mangrove ecotourism, so the impact of developing mangrove ecotourism in the Arar Islands area does not have a significant impact. impact changes in the region. economic conditions of coastal communities.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Mangrove ecosystem management for ecotourism development in the Arkkylä area does not show a significant impact on the economic conditions of the community. This is because the management carried out so far has not been optimal and is temporary, and has not been fully supported by the village government, so that the social and economic impacts of the existence of Selamat di Desa mangrove ecosystem ecotourism are not significantly related. . to the economic conditions of society.

In the sustainable use of mangrove ecosystem areas, the community must be made a key player in the development of ecotourism so that they can implement sustainability which can improve the welfare of local communities. Therefore, the local government together with other stakeholders must have a clear reference for deciding on a plan to develop the mangrove ecotourism area in Panggang village, West Lombok, so that the existing potential can be utilized optimally and sustainably to improve community welfare. -creating society and reducing conflicts of interest between communities.

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