

The Potential of Natural Source for The Development of Sport Tourism in Bone Bolango Regency

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Abstract. Taken place in Tomini Bay area, Bone Bolango has adequate tourism potential, including beaches, art, and cultural tourism through the quality of its attractions is very diverse and it is relatively unknown by outsiders. The natural attractions possessed include Olele Marine Park, Botutonuo Beach, Nani Wartabone Nature Reserve, Lombongo Waterfall, and the Botubarani Village Whale Shark Tourism. Furthermore, other unique features of Bone Bolango's natural tourism include: 1) being surrounded by mountains that are still very natural, 2) winding roads and also roads with steep inclines, 3) stretches of white sand, 4) clarity of the water, 5) presence of traders selling their goods, 6) information boards leading to the area, 7) safety information boards. The purpose of this study is to analyze the physical potential of Bone Bolango's natural resources, as well as its advantages and unique features. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with observation and interview techniques. The results show that Bone Bolango Regency has excellent natural physical potential, and the natural advantages of Bone Bolango Regency have the potential to be developed for sports tourism, and the unique natural attractions of Bone Bolango Regency include the Whale Shark Tourism as an attraction for sports tourism markets.

Keywords: Potential; Natural Resource; Sport Tourism

INTRODUCTION

The development and progress of science and technology have greatly influenced the development and progress of a certain region. To promote the conditions of a region and efforts to develop natural resources, sport tourism has become an important instrument.

Sport tourism has become a top priority due to its significant benefits in attracting foreign tourists and promoting tourism in all regions throughout Indonesia. The potential of sport tourism in Indonesia has many competitive advantages and offers various attractive tourist destinations, particularly due to its conducive tropical climate for outdoor activities and diverse natural resources that support various types of sports activities.

Muhammad, et al. (2019) stated that there are 7 criteria for natural potential that can be developed as natural destinations throughout Indonesia, 1) geographical location, 2) climate and weather, 3) topography and land form, 4) rock material, 5) water, 6) vegetation, and 7) fauna.

The development of sports tourism will help the country to develop the sport itself, namely attracting people to participate in sports activities can also create prospective athletes in various sports (Soedjatmiko, 2015).

The abundance of natural resources can be a challenge in itself. As such, young people as the driving force behind sports tourism must be able

to manage it well in order to be enjoyed by tourists. Melo and Sobry (2017) explained various ways in which governments can increase tourist visits to their country, one of which is through sports tourism.

Sports tourism combines several components including natural resources and local wisdom, giving it its own distinct characteristics and appeal to both local and foreign tourists. For example, the sport of triathlon is highly suitable for the natural resources of Bone Bolango Regency, with its unique uphill and winding tracks and stunning ocean views that add high value to its attraction as a sports tourism destination. In addition, the presence of whale sharks, which have become a highly popular attraction in Bone Bolango Regency, further enhances its appeal to tourists, making it a destination that can be visited repeatedly.

The potential of the natural resources in Bone Bolango Regency is very promising due

1. being surrounded by mountains that are still very natural,
2. winding roads and also roads with steep inclines,
3. stretches of white sand,
4. clarity of the water,
5. presence of traders selling their goods,
6. information boards leading to the area,
7. safety information boards, and many more.

The other certain characteristic in Bone Bolango Regency includes the Whale Shark

Tourism which has become the pre-eminent of the local community as well as foreigners. Hence, this tourism spot is a selling point in order to promote Bolango Regency with its very promising natural potential through sports tourism activities.

The potential and distinctiveness of the natural resources in Bone Bolango regency are suitable to be accompanied by sporting activities such as Triathlon in Botubarani, to the presence of the whale shark tourism destination which has become a unique attraction in attracting both local and foreign tourists. This will affect the income of the surrounding community, although information regarding the well-being of the community in terms of their livelihoods is not yet clear. According to Widowati (2012), tourism destinations that do not provide good ontributions to the well-being of the community are due to suboptimal management.

The natural characteristic that is currently owned by Bone Bolango Regency is Kurinei beach in Botubarani in which the natural conditions are so very natural and very suitable to become a sports tourism center, as it is complemented with which is in line with the nature of the sport, as well as snorkeling activities due to the presence of whale sharks, both of which are highly marketable and serve as promotional tools. In promoting sports tourism with the unique natural features of Bone Bolango, it is expected that the government plays a role in prioritizing sports tourism to support the local economy and to increase the Regional Original Income.

General impact analysis on the economy was also conducted. The results of the analysis indicate that the role of the government has been studied at the provincial, district, and even village levels. The development of tourism, particularly in sports tourism, significantly affects the national and regional economy. The role of the government, particularly related departments, has a significant impact on the development of sports and sports tourism in the region.

METHOD

This study is a qualitative research that is descriptive-analytical based on field research. A qualitative phenomenological approach was applied to describe the situation or events that occurred based on the facts obtained from the research site and to analyze the data in order to gain a deep understanding and to reveal various

qualitative information through careful and meaningful description-analysis of the potential of natural resources in Bone Bolango Regency for the development of sports tourism.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Bone Bolango regency is considered as one of the regions in Gorontalo Province that boasts two main tourist attractions, natural and marine tourism, in addition to other tourist destinations. The natural attractions in the area include Olele Marine Park, Botutonuo Beach, Nani Wartabone Nature Reserve, Lombongo Waterfall, and the Whale Shark Tourism in Botubarani Village.

Based on observation and interviews, the unique characteristics of Bone Bolango's natural tourism include: 1) being surrounded by mountains that are still very natural, 2) winding roads and also roads with steep inclines, 3) stretches of white sand, 4) clarity of the water, 5) presence of traders selling their goods, 6) information boards leading to the area, 7) safety information boards.



Figure 1. Botubarani Whale Shark Tourism



Figure 2. Bonbol Cliff Tourism



Figure 3. Sea Park Tourism



Figure 4. Rafting Tour



Figure 5. Arang Louno Hill

There is still a lot of potential for natural tourism in Bone Bolango Regency to be used as a sports tourism spot and as a promotional event for various other activities.

Table 1. The mapping of the region's potential for sports tourism based on the topography of the natural environment in Bone Bolango Regency

No	Topology	Tourism Spots	Sport Tourism	Developed and Undeveloped Sport Tourism Spot	
				Developed	Undeveloped
1	Lowland	Benteng Ulanta	1. Fun Bike Area	√	
			2. Roller Skate Area		√
		Botubarani	1. Triathlon	√	
			2. Beach Volleyball	√	
			Snorkeling	√	
			Diving		
			5. Whale Shark	√	
2	Plateau	Arang Lonuo Hill	6. Bright Gate		√
			7. Rowing Boat		√
			1. Paragliding	√	
			2. Rock Climbing		√
			3. Slackline		√
			4. Parkour		√
			5. Zorbing		√
		Tangga Bali Hill	1. Slackline		√
3	Preserved Forest	Pattuku Waterfall	1. Ponduwoma Rafting	√	
			2. Paragliding		√
			3. Mountaineering		√

Nowadays, the management of tourist attractions located in residential areas involves the local community. The community forms business groups to generate income that is used

the welfare of the surrounding community. The management of the tourist destination by the community is expected to bring new opportunities for the local community to obtain

better income and to improve their well-being. This is in line with Harrison's statement in Sero (2012) that tourism brings various new opportunities to the community. However, the success of community-based tourism development depends on the community's for ability to effectively manage tourism activities and to maximize the benefits of tourism for the community. Failure to do so may result in the escalating marginal among the development of tourism in the region.

CONCLUSION

The potential of Kabupaten Bone Bolango for sports tourism is promising and deserves attention from the government and the community. The natural advantages of Kabupaten Bone Bolango as a tourist attraction and scenic beauty have the potential be developed as sports tourism. The distinctive nature of Kabupaten Bone Bolango has its own distinctive characteristics, as seen from its unique geographical location, which includes highland and lowland areas. In addition to the unique geographical location of Kabupaten Bone Bolango, its distinctive to natural features such as beaches, rivers, mountains, and hills also add to its appeal. However, the support of the

Kabupaten Bone Bolango government for the development of sports tourism is not yet optimal, as seen from the inadequate facilities, infrastructure, and security in the tourist areas.

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