

Management of Conservation Area and Development of Leuser Kedah Forest Ecowisata, Village Penosan Sepakat, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency

Rayani Fitri¹, M Ali S², Abdullah Abdullah³

¹Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia
abdullah[at]unsyiah.ac.id

^{2,3}Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Abstract: *Background:* This study aims to analyze the potential that includes the ecological, economic and social criteria of the community in Leuser Kedah Forest, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency. Data collection was carried out from April 6 to May 05, 2020 *Materials and Methods:* The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. Ecological criteria data analysis includes a diversity of flora and fauna species. Economic criteria and social criteria were analyzed using percentages. *Conclusion:* The results showed that the types of flora and fauna were very diverse, unique and distinctive. As much as 73% of the people work as farmers, more than 1% of the people who work as repairmen. The percentage of people's point of view that obtained knowledge is 89%, the percentage of community participation for the statement of knowledge was 88%, and the percentage of community culture for the statement of knowledge was 93%. the per capita income of the community is still low, the level of habitat use for tourism is high, and most of the people are as farmers. The social criteria include community views, community participation and community culture.

Keywords: Conservation Areas, Ecotourism, Leuser Forest

1. Introduction

Administratively, the Gunung Leuser National Park (TNGL) is one of the national parks located in Aceh Province and North Sumatra Province with a total area of 825,279.49 hectares. One of the development targets of this area is ecotourism. Ecotourism is a combination of eco (environment) and tourism if it means ecotourism is a tour that pays attention to environmental aspects (Rochana, 2011). Currently, ecotourism is an approach to realizing sustainable regional development and promoting conservation. The development of ecotourism affects the community in ecological, social and economic aspects (Hijriati and Mardiana, 2014). This is also known as conservation or what is known as preservation or protection is often associated with environmental problems such as natural resource conservation, forest conservation, environmental conservation, water conservation, energy conservation, soil conservation and so on. This is because nature as a place for us to live and make a living is very important to preserve and nature is also very often threatened by sustainability due to the actions of irresponsible people.

Only want to take advantage regardless of the impact it has on conservation (Schlossberg, 2015). This is because nature as a place for us to live and make a living is very important to preserve and nature is also very often threatened by sustainability due to the actions of irresponsible people. Only want to take advantage regardless of the impact it has on conservation (Schlossberg, 2015). This is because nature as a place for us to live and make a living is very important to preserve and nature is also very often threatened by

sustainability due to the actions of irresponsible people. Only want to take advantage regardless of the impact it has on conservation (Schlossberg, 2015). Conservation itself implies the existence of efforts to utilize natural and biological resources, but also efforts to prevent depletion of natural resources so that natural resources remain available. The problem of degradation of natural resources caused by various socio-economic activities is a major challenge (Assefa, 2020). Without the prevention of depletion of natural resources, gradually, but surely the living natural resources will run out one day (Rahmadi, 2012).

One of the conservation villages in Aceh is the village of Penosan Sepakat (Kedah). Penosan Sepakat (Kedah) Village, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency, was opened as an ecotourism area in 2000, which was developed by a local community tour guide. The number of visits carried out in 2000 with the number of domestic tourists and foreign tourists more than a thousand people. The high number of tourist arrivals is influenced by nature. natural sustainability is also very often threatened because of people who are not responsible for profits regardless of the impact it causes (Schlossberg, 2015). Ecotourism can bring economic, socio-cultural and environmental benefits to the government (Lata, 2016). The use of ecotourism is in line with the shift in the interest of tourists who only come for tours without any education and conservation elements to the opposite (Agussalim, 2014).

Panorama of the Berkail River has caves and rare plants, tree cover affects environmental conditions (Ali, 2020). So that it can be an attraction that characterizes the Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism. The existence of wild animals is an

Volume 10 Issue 1, January 2021

www.ijsr.net

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

attraction in Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism, butitis not always visible. The developmentof Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism needs to be carried out with planning for the short, medium and long term to determine strategies and policies that are by the conditions in Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism (Wahyu etal., 2019). Planning the Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism landscape needs to consider geographical conditions, Sustainable business practices are a practical means to minimize the environment and business (Lanier, 2014). Analysis of geographic conditions will be carried out using maps based on the wishes of the community which are adjusted to the prevailing regulations. The strategy used in the developmentof Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism must be analyzed which takes into account internal and external factors. The influence of modernization and globalization has caused rural nuances to start todiminish (Nofiarli, 2018). The belief that ecotourism activities can increase people's income apart from livelihoods (Setiawan, 2017). The influence of modernization and globalization has caused rural nuances to start to diminish (Nofiarli, 2018). The belief that ecotourism activities can increase people's income apart from livelihoods (Setiawan, 2017). The influence of modernization and globalization has caused rural nuances to start to diminish (Nofiarli, 2018). The belief that ecotourism activities can increase people's income apart from livelihoods (Setiawan, 2017).

2. Material and Methods

This research was conducted in March-April 2020. The research was conducted in PenosanSepakat Village, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency (Figure 1). The location of the Leuser Kedah Forest has an area of 45,000

hectares, but researchers only took the location of forests in the PenosanSepakat Village area, namely the Leuser Kedah Forest covering an area of ± 35 hectares.

Sampling

The determination of the sample in this study was determined by using a *purposive sampling* technique. PenosanSepakat Village consists of 160 families, the respondents as the research sample consisted of 30 people of PenosanSepakat Village, 1 person of PenosanSepakat Village Head, 5 members of the LPBK (Conservation Center Training Institute) management, 50 tourists/visitors, while from the local government, namely the GunungLeuser National Park Center for 4 people, 4 people from the Travel Bureau and 6 people from the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), then it can be seen in the following table:

Table 1: Number and Origin of Respondents Used in Research

Respondent Origin	Number of Respondents
PenosanSepakat Village Community	30
PenosanSepakat Village Head	1
LPBK (Conservation Center Training Institute)	5
Tourists / Visitors	50
GunungLeuser National Park Center	4
Travel Agency / Tour Guide	4
Non-governmental organization	6
total	100

Sampling area is in the area of the village penosansepakat which has a location bordering the area of GunungLeuser Forest Park and sampling area that can be found in fig1 below:

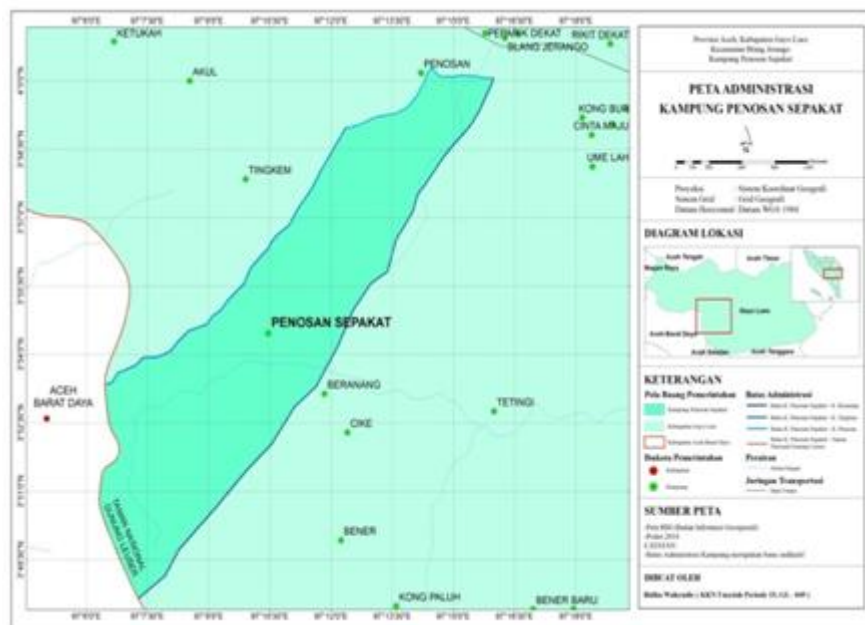


Figure 1: Location Map of Leuser Kedah Forest Ecotourism

Data analysis

The data has been taken and then collected, then analyzed using the Content Analysis method which describes each content of the Leuser Kedah Forest area and the perspective and participation of the ecotourism community in the Leuser

Kedah forest using the percentage formula. The data calculation is done by analyzing the observation sheet with the following equation:

$$P = \frac{S}{N} \times 100\% \text{ (Arikunto, 2006)}$$

Information:

P = Percentage

S = Total score obtained

N = Number of statements

Collecting data on ecological criteria, economic criteria and social criteria, then carried out a SWOT analysis (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats).

3. Result

The results of observations made on community activities in Penosan Sepakat Village, totalling 1287 people, have different ages, levels of education and types of livelihoods. The people who have livelihoods consist of 353 people, with 260 workings as farmers, 15 traders, 25 civilservants, 10 drivers, 20 craftsmen, 5 workshops, 18 breeders. The percentages for the types of livelihoods of the Penosan Sepakat Village community are:

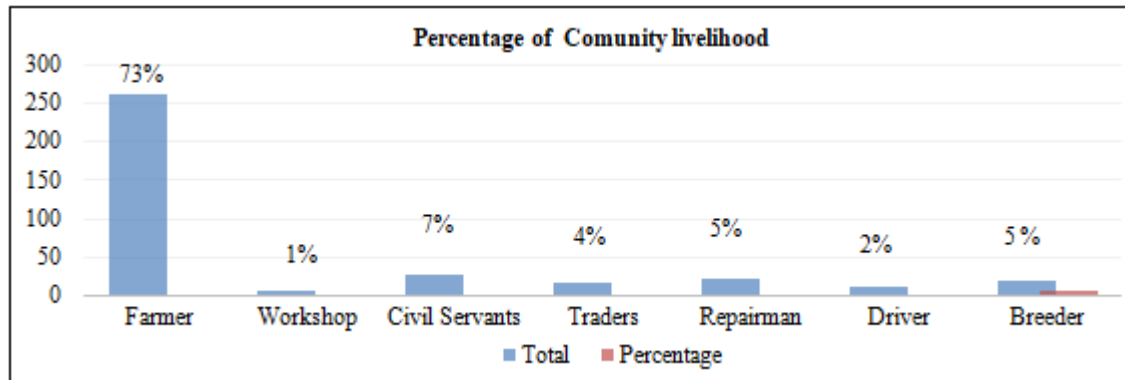


Figure 2: Percentage of people work in the border of LeuserForrest

4. Discussion

The potential community activities in PenosanSepakat Village

The community's point of view for the statement of knowledge of the community in the PenosanSepakat Village area, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency are included in the high category with the percentage obtained is = 89%. Ecotourism, which has only been seen as a form of nature travel and/or back to nature, has influenced people's understanding (Nasution, 2018). Community participation in the statement of community knowledge around the Leuser forest area of PenosanSepakat Village, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency is carried out because it can be used as a guide for future development.

The community indicated that their level of knowledge of the area's future development goals was very good. Understandably, most communities want additional activities carried out to reflect conservation activities. The rational economy will change the economy following the objectives that aim to maximize personal utility or business interests so that it affects the statement of knowledge (Yang, 2011). The statement of knowledge in the form of community participation in the PenosanSepakat Village area, BlangJerango District, Gayo Lues Regency is in the high category with the percentage obtained is P = 88%. The community is optimistic that ecotourism will have a moderate biological and physical impact on the protection of plant and animal species in various forms of natural habitats, so they are very involved (Vishwanatha, 2014). The local culture has superior advantages and has a high potential value for the potential of ecotourism. The people of the PenosanSepakat Village area are always good at responding to the importance of maintaining culture for an area. To inform clearly and correctly about traditional knowledge

based on the preservation of the area and culture as well as the values contained in the daily life of the community and always maintain cultural activities for the continuity of area maintenance. knowledge in the form of community culture in the PenosanSepakat Village area, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency is in the high category with the percentage obtained is P = 93%. Another reason for the negative answer is the financial situation of their business, having low returns under certain conditions (Postica, 2014).

5. Conclusion

The conclusion of this study is the economic criteria for the livelihoods of the community around the Leuser forest area, PenosanSepakat Village, Blangjerango District, most of the people work as farmers and still have below-average income. The level of use of the Leuser Kedah forest area as a tourism area is in the high category (80%), the percentage of people's point of view obtained by knowledge is 89%, the percentage of community participation for the statement of knowledge is 88%, and the percentage of community culture for the statement of knowledge is 93% and the need for activities -activity capable of growing the level of the community's economy. In social criteria, the community's perspective on the potential of the Leuser forest area in PenosanSepakat Village as a conservation area and a tourist spot is in the high category. Community participation is in the high category. The cultural indigo of the people of the PenosanSepakat Village Area, Blangjerango District, Gayo Lues Regency is in the high category.

References

- [1] Ali, M. S., Zulfikar, Saputri, M., & Frias, J. C. (2020). Bioturbation of *Thalassinaanomala* and microhabitat in mangrove ecosystem at Sungai ReuleungLeupung

- Aceh Besar. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1460(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-6596/1460/1/012063>
- [2] Arikunto, S. (2006). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Jakarta: RinekaCipta.
- [3] Asution, R. H. E. N., Venzora, R. I. A., & Utut, D. A. N. T. (2018). The Analysis of Ecotourism Laws and Policies in Indonesia. *Media Konservasi*, 23(1), 9–17. <https://doi.org/10.29243/medkon.23.1.9-17>
- [4] Butarbutar, R., & Soemarno, S. (2013). Environmental Effects Of Ecotourism In Indonesia. *Journal of Indonesian Tourism and Development Studies*, 1(3), 97–107. <https://doi.org/10.21776/ub.jitode.2013.001.03.01>
- [5] Hijriati, E., & Mardiana, R. (2015). Pengaruh Ekowisata Berbasis Masyarakat Terhadap Perubahan Kondisi Ekologi, Sosial Dan Ekonomi Di Kampung Batusuhunan, Sukabumi. *Sodality: Jurnal Sosiologi Pedesaan*, 2(3). <https://doi.org/10.22500/sodality.v2i3.9422>
- [6] Lanier, P. (2014). The positive impacts of ecotourism in protected areas. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment*, 187, 199–209. <https://doi.org/10.2495/ST140161>
- [7] Lata Tripathi, K. (2016). Tourism to Ecotourism: a Tour. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 3(6), 27–30. <https://doi.org/10.14445/23942703/ijhss-v3i6p107>
- [8] Nasution, R. H. E. N., Venzora, R. I. A., & Utut, D. A. N. T. (2018). The Analysis of Ecotourism Laws and Policies in Indonesia. *Media Konservasi*, 23(1), 9–17. <https://doi.org/10.29243/medkon.23.1.9-17>
- [9] Nofiarli, N. (2018). The Development of Ecotourism Model at Natural Attractions of Tete Batu Village in East Lombok. *Sumatra Journal of Disaster, Geography and Geography Education*, 2(1), 184. <https://doi.org/10.24036/sjdgge.v2i1.118>
- [10] Nugroho, I., Negara, P. D., & Yuniar, H. R. (2018). the Planning and the Development of the Ecotourism and Tourism Village in Indonesia: a Policy Review. *Journal of Socioeconomics and Development*, 1(1), 43–51. <https://doi.org/10.31328/jsed.v1i1.532>
- [11] Postica, D., & Cardoso, A. (2014). Current Development Level of Ecotourism and Eco-Touristic Products in Moldova. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 5(7), 83–94. http://ijbssnet.com/journals/Vol_5_No_7_June_2014/9.pdf
- [12] Review, H., Assefa, B., & Meseret, F. (2020). *Ecotourism Development As a Tool for Sustainable Environmental Conservation and Its Implication To Community Livelihood: the Case of the Sheka Biosphere*. 7(2), 20–30.
- [13] Rusita, R., Elly, L., Rustiati, R., Winarno, G. D., Dewi, B. S., & Windarni, C. (2016). Kajian Potensi Hutan Mangrove Di Lampung Mangrove Center (Lmc) Untuk Pengembangan Ekowisata Berbasis Masyarakat. *Jurnal Hutan Pulau-Pulau Kecil*, 1(2), 84. <https://doi.org/10.30598/jhppk.2016.1.2.84>
- [14] Schlossberg, S., & King, D. I. (2015). Measuring the effectiveness of conservation programs for shrubland birds. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 4, 658–665. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2015.11.003>
- [15] SETIAWAN, W., HARIANTO, S. P., & QURNIATI, R. (2017). Ecotourism development to preserve mangrove conservation effort: A Case study in Margasari Village, District of East Lampung, Indonesia. *Ocean Life*, 1(1), 14–19. <https://doi.org/10.13057/oceanlife/o010103>
- [16] Vishwanatha, S., & Chandrashekara, B. (2014). A Study on the Environmental Impacts of Ecotourism in Kodagu District, Karnataka. *American Journal of Research Communication*, 2(4), 256–265.
- [17] Wahyu, A., Lubis, S., & Rujiman, R. (2019). Development of Kedah Natural Tourism Object in the Development of Leuser Ecowisata Area in Gayo Lues Regency. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute (BIRCI-Journal): Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(3), 406–417. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v2i3.442>
- [18] Yang, J., & Huang, F. (2011). Research on the management of ecotourism based on economic models. *Energy Procedia*, 5, 1563–1567. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egypro.2011.03.267>