

Environmental Challenges in the Development of Ecotourism in Indonesia

Martika Dini Syaputri^{1*}

^{1*} Universitas Katolik Darma Cendika, Jalan Dr. Ir. H. Soekarno No. 201, Surabaya, Jawa Timur,
Indonesia
dini@ukdc.ac.id

Abstract. Indonesia has great potential in the tourism sector, with its natural beauty serving as an attraction for both local and international tourists. This beautiful natural potential is an asset in the development of ecotourism. The tourism sector can boost national revenue and drive growth in other sectors, especially in the creative industries, trade, and services. The existence of the Tourism Law and its derivative regulations supports ecotourism development. Ecotourism is an environmentally-friendly type of tourism that prioritizes conservation and sustainable development. Ecotourism development needs to consider three aspects—social, economic, and environmental equitably and fairly. However, the current development of ecotourism villages often focuses more on economic growth, neglecting sociocultural and environmental aspects. Through normative juridical research, this study will examine tourism regulations in supporting ecotourism and analyze environmental challenges related to ecotourism development in Indonesia. This study aims to understand the government's efforts in supporting the local economy while simultaneously protecting the sustainable environment. Additionally, this research seeks to identify the challenges in ecotourism development and provide recommendations to the government so that tourism development aligns with the concept of ecotourism. In developing ecotourism, it can improve environmental quality and avoid causing environmental problems.

Keywords: Ecotourism, Environment, Sustainable Development.

1. Introduction

Tourism has become an important sector for improving the economy of developing countries like Indonesia. The tourism sector is capable of increasing national revenue and driving growth in other sectors, particularly in creative industries, trade, and services. In 2022, the tourism sector contributed 4.3 percent to the GDP, amounting to IDR 842,303.16 billion, with foreign exchange earnings of USD 4,260 million. In 2021, the tourism workforce absorbed 21.26 million people (Indonesian Parliamentary Secretariat Expertise Agency, 2023). It is therefore no surprise that Indonesia is aggressively promoting tourism to attract both international and local tourists to engage in tourism activities. The government even encourages each region to develop tourist attractions that can provide economic benefits to the area itself. Indonesia's favorable geographic location and natural resources that can be utilized for tourism are additional factors that support the tourism industry.

In addition to having positive impacts on improving the economy, tourism also has negative effects, such as the loss of biodiversity, droughts during the dry season, and the occurrence of erosion, landslides, and floods (Siregar, 2019). These impacts indirectly affect the welfare of local communities. Other negative impacts include the loss of comfort for residents, adverse effects on local cultures, and the emergence of other social problems (Siregar, 2019). The high number of tourist visits can create discomfort for local communities, as it leads to population congestion, and the authenticity of local culture in tourist areas may fade as it adjusts to the needs of tourists, which in turn influences the values held by local communities in their daily lives. This shows that tourism focused solely on economic growth can harm the environment and lead to the loss of biodiversity.

A study by Dian Yuli et al. (Rhama & Reindrawati, 2023) identified ten threats to sustainable tourism in Indonesia, including the loss of biodiversity, invasive species, outward invasions, infrastructure development, behavioral changes, climate change, water scarcity, forest fires, diseases, and poaching. Therefore, an appropriate tourism concept is needed to ensure that tourism goals are achieved without harming other interests, especially environmental concerns. Ecotourism emerged as a concept designed to address the conflicts between tourism and environmental issues that have arisen recently. According to its definition, ecotourism is environmentally responsible tourism that emphasizes the responsibility of tourism towards the environment. Another definition explains that ecotourism encourages conservation and sustainable development.

Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that ecotourism is a part of conservation activities that also benefits the environment and the welfare of local communities. Therefore, tourism must be developed through sustainable tourism, which considers the economic, social, and environmental impacts both in the present and future, in order to support the needs of tourists, business actors, and local communities (Sulistiyadi, 2017). In this sense, the

meaning of ecotourism already encompasses sustainable development. In efforts to develop sustainable ecotourism, four pillars are required: sustainable management (tourism business), long-term sustainable economy (socio-economic), cultural sustainability that must always be developed and preserved, and environmental aspects. Thus, sustainable ecotourism will become a popular activity for tourists. In addition to providing benefits to reduce stress, tourists will also observe tourism protocols related to health, safety, comfort, and environmental preservation.

The development of ecotourism in Indonesia is regulated under Government Regulation No. 50 of 2011 on the National Tourism Development Master Plan (RIPPARNAS). This regulation outlines the vision, mission, objectives, targets, and directions for national tourism development from 2010 to 2025. In addition, there is the Regulation of the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy No. 9 of 2021 on Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Destinations, which regulates the development of sustainable tourism destinations in Indonesia. The ministerial regulation is designed to create tourist destinations that are not only attractive to visitors but also consider the sustainability of environmental, social, and economic aspects. Key aspects of sustainable tourism include: a) the management of tourism on a sustainable basis; b) community involvement; and c) environmentally friendly infrastructure development.

In the context of ecotourism legislation by the Ministry of Home Affairs, it can be concluded that (Nasution et al., 2018): 1) the government has not fully understood the essence of the ecotourism concept, resulting in ambiguity in the formulation of regulations; 2) there is a tendency to develop ecotourism with a political approach; 3) the lack of objectivity in the Ministry of Home Affairs in developing regulations related to ecotourism, particularly in aquatic areas, where interventions from various business institutions seem to overshadow the essence of justice. However, the development of ecotourism in Indonesia has not proceeded as intended. Problems arising from the development of ecotourism include (Hakim, 2004): a) the absence of a common understanding of ecotourism among various stakeholders; b) ecotourism, in practice, is often just used as a slogan and a promotional tool, with its principles not being correctly implemented; c) weak development of ecotourism by the government; d) overlapping regulations on ecotourism; e) limited involvement of local communities and stakeholders in ecotourism development; f) business actors' limited understanding of the ecotourism concept; and g) uncontrolled tourism development.

Based on the above background, this article will discuss: a) How do tourism regulations support the development of ecotourism in Indonesia? b) What environmental challenges exist in the development of ecotourism in Indonesia? The results of the research will provide insights into government efforts to support the local economy while also addressing environmental concerns. Additionally, this research aims to identify the challenges in the development of ecotourism in Indonesia so that ecotourism development can improve environmental quality without causing further environmental issues.

2. Methodology

This research was conducted using a normative juridical method by examining the applicable legal norms based on existing laws and regulations (Atikah, 2022). The study will address the topic by analyzing primary legal data obtained from statutes and secondary data from relevant literature, including books and journals related to the topic of discussion. The approach used is both a statutory and conceptual approach. Data collection was carried out through a literature study, reviewing relevant literature related to the ongoing research. The collected data was then examined and analyzed to help find answers to the proposed research questions.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Regulations on Tourism in Supporting the Development of Ecotourism in Indonesia

Indonesia has many destinations that can be developed to support tourism and increase national revenue. As a rule-of-law country, tourism aspects cannot be separated from government regulations. Regulations concerning ecotourism are crucial for Indonesia, as they serve as guidelines and a form of supervision to ensure that the implementation of tourism in Indonesia runs properly. In principle, there are numerous regulations regarding the development of ecotourism in Indonesia; however, for the purpose of this research, only three regulations on the development of ecotourism will be discussed, namely: a) Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism; b) Government Regulation No. 50 of 2011 on the National Tourism Development Master Plan (RIPPARNA); and c) Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Regulation No. 14 of 2021 on Ecotourism Development Guidelines.

a. Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism

One of the principles in the Tourism Law is sustainability, which is regulated in Article 2. This principle implies that tourism activities should not focus solely on economic profit, but also must preserve the environment and local culture, in line with the definition of sustainable ecotourism. Ecotourism, as a form of environmentally friendly

tourism, must prioritize the preservation of nature and the sustainability of ecosystems in tourist destinations. However, there is also an emphasis that the implementation of tourism should aim to increase national income, expand and equalize business opportunities and employment, promote regional development, and introduce and optimize the tourism attractions and destinations in Indonesia. Based on this, there seems to be a discrepancy between the principles and the objectives of the Tourism Law itself, as the tourism goals appear to lean towards economic motives alone.

The definition of tourism business is an activity that provides goods and/or services to meet the needs of tourists and the implementation of tourism. This definition seems to neglect environmental conservation and the disregard for local culture. Business actors are expected to align with the desires of tourists, which is why it is not surprising that many natural destinations have undergone physical changes. For example, paths being paved with concrete on hiking trails, changes to the structures of buildings in tourist villages, and so on. This shows that the pillars of sustainable ecotourism are not being properly implemented.

The Tourism Law also regulates the obligations and prohibitions that must be followed by the government, tourists, and tourism businesses, as follows:

1. Obligations of the Government and Local Governments:

- a. Providing tourism information, legal protection, as well as security and safety to tourists;
- b. Creating a conducive climate for the development of the tourism business, which includes providing equal opportunities for business, facilitating, and ensuring legal certainty;
- c. Maintaining, developing, and preserving national assets that serve as tourist attractions and potential assets that have not yet been explored;
- d. Supervising and controlling tourism activities to prevent and address the negative impacts on the wider community.

2. Obligations of Tourists:

- a. Respecting and honoring religious norms, customs, culture, and values in the local community;
- b. Maintaining and preserving the environment;
- c. Participating in maintaining order and security in the environment; and
- d. Taking part in preventing actions that violate decency and illegal activities.

3. Obligations of Tourism Business Actors:

- a. Respecting and honoring religious norms, customs, culture, and values in the local community;
- b. Providing accurate and responsible information;
- c. Providing non-discriminatory services;
- d. Ensuring comfort, hospitality, security, and safety for tourists;
- e. Providing insurance protection for high-risk tourism businesses;
- f. Developing partnerships with local micro, small, and cooperative businesses that are mutually beneficial;
- g. Prioritizing the use of local products, domestic products, and providing opportunities for local labor;
- h. Enhancing the competence of the workforce through training and education;
- i. Actively participating in the development of infrastructure and community empowerment programs;
- j. Taking part in preventing actions that violate decency and illegal activities within the business environment;
- k. Maintaining a healthy, clean, and beautiful environment;
- l. Preserving the environmental and cultural heritage;
- m. Upholding the image of the nation and Indonesia through responsible tourism business practices; and
- n. Implementing business standards and competency standards in accordance with legal regulations.

Based on the obligations of the relevant parties involved in tourism development, the orientation seems to focus on national income and increasing the number of tourists, thus neglecting environmental preservation. Therefore, a revision of the Tourism Law is expected to shift the focus from increasing the number of tourists to attracting quality tourists—those who possess knowledge and concern for the environment. In this way, the tourism sector can have a positive impact on the economy while also ensuring environmental sustainability that meets the needs of current and future generations.

b. Government Regulation No. 50 of 2011 on the National Tourism Development Master Plan (RIPPARNAS) for 2010–2025

This regulation was drafted as a technical implementation of the Tourism Law. The RIPPARNAS serves as an operational reference for tourism development for tourism stakeholders and actors in the economic, social, and cultural sectors, both at the central and regional levels, whether directly or indirectly involved in national tourism development. The other objectives of this master plan include:

1. Providing appropriate development directions for tourism potential in terms of products, markets, spatial planning, human resources, management, and others, so that tourism can grow and develop positively and sustainably, benefiting regional development and community welfare.

2. Regulating the roles of related stakeholders across sectors, actors, and regions to promote synergistic and integrated tourism development.

Based on these objectives, it is evident that the focus of tourism development leans toward economic growth while potentially sidelining environmental concerns. It is undeniable that tourism significantly contributes to national economic development as a tool for increasing state revenue. However, the government, tourism actors, and local communities should adopt a more prudent approach toward environmental considerations. The Local Government Law has delineated governmental affairs, with tourism being one of the discretionary government functions. Tourism is one of the national development agendas through regional development (Rifan & Fikriya, 2020). Hence, this master plan is based on regional tourism potential that can support national tourism development. Referring to the RIPPARNAS 2010–2025 strategy, regions with tourism potential have the right and authority to develop this sector. In line with the principles of regional development based on autonomy, this condition can positively impact regional economic health to improve community welfare. However, regions should also pay attention to sustainable ecotourism components.

National tourism development according to the RIPPARNAS PP includes: a) tourism destinations; b) tourism marketing; c) the tourism industry; and d) tourism institutions. Tourism destinations must meet certain criteria, such as having tourist attractions and supporting infrastructure. To increase visitor numbers and promote tourism to both domestic and international tourists, planned and sustainable tourism marketing is necessary, taking into account aspects such as market segmentation and promotional technology. Tourism development also relies on the tourism industry, which includes supporting facilities and tourism-related products. Additionally, tourism institutions play a significant role in national tourism development, encompassing structures, roles, and coordination among institutions involved in managing and developing the tourism sector, such as relevant ministries, local governments, tourism promotion agencies, private sectors, and the community.

c. Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Regulation No. 9 of 2021 on Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Destinations

This regulation replaces Regulation No. 14 of 2016 on Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Destinations. The change was made to align with international standards and to strengthen the traditions and local wisdom of Indonesia's multicultural society in managing natural and cultural environmental attractions. The guidelines outlined in Regulation 9/2021 serve as a reference for the central government, regional governments, and other stakeholders in developing sustainable tourism destinations. According to this regulation, sustainable tourism is defined based on four key criteria for sustainable destinations:

1. Sustainable management, which includes management structures and frameworks, stakeholder engagement, and management of pressures and changes.
2. Social and economic sustainability, which includes providing local economic benefits, enhancing welfare, and having positive social impacts.
3. Cultural sustainability, which includes protecting cultural heritage and facilitating visits to cultural sites.
4. Environmental sustainability, which includes conserving natural heritage, resource management, and waste and emission management.
5. Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is elaborated as follows:

a. Conservation of Natural Heritage. This includes four criteria:

1. Protection of sensitive environments, characterized by systems for monitoring, measuring, and responding to the impacts of tourism on natural environments, conserving ecosystems, habitats, and species, and preventing the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.
2. Visitor management at natural sites, characterized by systems for managing visitors at and around natural sites, considering their characteristics, capacity, and sensitivity. Efforts are made to optimize visitor movements and minimize adverse impacts. Guidelines for visitor behavior at sensitive sites should be provided to visitors, tour operators, and guides before and during visits.
3. Interaction with wildlife, characterized by systems ensuring compliance with local, national, and international regulations and standards for wildlife interaction, taking into account cumulative impacts.
4. Species exploitation and animal welfare, characterized by systems ensuring compliance with legal and ethical standards at local, national, and international levels, aiming to ensure animal welfare and the conservation of species (animals, plants, and all living organisms).

b. Resource Management. This includes three criteria:

1. Energy conservation, characterized by targets to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency, and promote the use of renewable energy. Destinations encourage tourism operators to measure, monitor, reduce, and publicly report their contributions to these targets.

2. Water service management, characterized by efforts to encourage tourism operators to measure, monitor, publicly report, and manage water usage. Water risks at destinations are assessed and documented. In high-risk cases, the goal is to collaboratively ensure that water use for tourism does not conflict with local community and ecosystem needs.
 3. Water quality, characterized by systems for monitoring water quality for drinking, recreation, and ecological purposes using standardized benchmarks. Monitoring results are publicly accessible, and destinations have systems to address water quality issues promptly.
- c. Waste and Emissions Management. This includes five criteria:
1. Wastewater, characterized by clear guidelines for placement, maintenance, and testing of septic tanks and wastewater treatment systems. Destinations ensure proper waste management and safe disposal or recycling without negative impacts on local communities and the environment.
 2. Solid waste, characterized by systems for measuring and reporting waste production and setting reduction targets. Destinations ensure effective waste separation and recycling systems. Initiatives are taken to minimize single-use items, particularly plastics, and manage leftover waste sustainably.
 3. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation, characterized by targets to reduce emissions, implementing and reporting mitigation actions, and encouraging compensation for remaining emissions.
 4. Transportation, characterized by promoting low-impact transportation and setting targets to reduce transport emissions at and to the destination. The use of low-emission vehicles, sustainable transport, and active travel (walking and cycling) is encouraged to reduce tourism's contributions to air pollution, congestion, and climate change.
 5. Light and noise pollution, characterized by guidelines and regulations to minimize such pollution. Destinations encourage businesses to adhere to these regulations.

This regulation is highly relevant to ecotourism development in Indonesia. Given that it is relatively new, tourism destinations need to adjust to this policy. If the guidelines for sustainable tourism destinations are implemented and monitored effectively, they will support ecotourism development. Active participation from local communities is equally important for ecotourism advancement. Thus, ecotourism can support sustainable development by emphasizing the three pillars of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental.

3.2 Environmental Challenges in the Development of Ecotourism in Indonesia

Ecotourism emphasizes environmental awareness and prioritizes tourism activities that are environmentally responsible. It is also defined as tourism that promotes conservation and sustainable development (Sya, 2020). Based on this definition, ecotourism serves as part of conservation activities while simultaneously providing benefits for the environment and the welfare of the community. Hence, ecotourism inherently aligns with the principles of sustainable development. Historically, tourism was initially undertaken for specific purposes such as religious pilgrimages, geographical exploration, scientific expeditions, and cultural studies (Hakim, 2004). In modern times, tourism has evolved primarily for recreation and stress relief. Ecotourism emerged in Indonesia during the 1980s and gained momentum when the government encouraged public participation in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, followed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiative. These efforts reflect Indonesia's commitment to environmental conservation, including through ecotourism.

The shift towards ecotourism is indirectly influenced by a change in perspective from anthropocentric to non-anthropocentric. The anthropocentric perspective views nature and its resources as existing solely to fulfill human needs, often leading to extensive exploitation under the pretext of societal welfare. Conversely, the non-anthropocentric view acknowledges the limitations of natural resources and underscores the need for responsible stewardship due to humanity's heavy reliance on nature. In the context of ecotourism, a non-anthropocentric approach prioritizes the preservation of nature over the interests of stakeholders such as tourists, tourism operators, and governments. This perspective aligns ecotourism closely with environmental laws in Indonesia, which position the environment both as an object and subject requiring protection. Such legal frameworks aim to prevent environmental impacts that could affect societal well-being, such as declining food production, water crises, and biodiversity loss.

The presence of environmental law in Indonesia since the existence of Law no. 4 of 1982 concerning Basic Provisions for Environmental Management, which was later amended by Law no. 23 of 1997 concerning Environmental Management until it was finally amended again through Law no. 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management has begun to introduce sustainable development with an environmental perspective. Including Law no. 11 of 2020 concerning Job Creation in environmental regulations also includes regulations regarding sustainable development, namely conscious and planned efforts that combine environmental, social and economic aspects into development strategies to ensure the integrity of the living environment as well as safety, capability, welfare, and mutual life for present and future generations. The PPLH Law classifies environmental problems in the form of environmental pollution, environmental destruction and climate change. In accordance with the contents of the

PPLH Law, environmental pollution is the entry or entry of living creatures, substances, energy and/or other components into the environment by human activities so that it exceeds the established environmental quality standards. Environmental damage is a direct and/or indirect change to the physical, chemical and/or biological characteristics of the environment that exceeds the standard criteria for environmental damage.

The context of protecting and preserving the environment contained in the PPLH Law is carried out with several efforts, namely:

- a. Planning. Conducting an inventory of natural resources to gather data on their potential and availability, types of resources utilized, forms of damage, and potential conflicts that may arise. This planning is documented in the Environmental Protection and Management Plan (RPPLH) at the national, provincial, and district/city levels. The RPPLH should include the following: a) utilization and/or reservation of natural resources; b) maintenance and protection of environmental quality and/or functions; c) control, monitoring, utilization, and conservation of natural resources; and d) adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.
- b. Utilization. The use of natural resources must align with the RPPLH that has been established. In areas where an RPPLH is unavailable, resource utilization should be based on the environmental carrying capacity and assimilative capacity. Carrying capacity refers to the ability of the environment to support human life, other living organisms, and the balance between them. Assimilative capacity is the environment's ability to absorb substances, energy, and/or other components introduced into it.
- c. Control. Control is carried out to prevent environmental pollution or damage in order to preserve the environment. Control can be carried out through prevention, mitigation and environmental restoration. In developing ecotourism, it is appropriate to have fulfilled the Strategic Environmental Study (KLHS), Amdal and environmental approval (Environmental Feasibility Decision or Environmental Management Capability statement that has received approval from the central government or regional government). This is because all three are instruments for the government in controlling pollution or environmental damage that occurs. Environmental management is a way or process to overcome environmental problems. And recovery is an effort to return environmental conditions to normal. Efforts can be made in the form of: stopping sources of pollution and cleaning up polluting elements; remediation (the process of carrying out environmental restoration by removing pollutants from soil, water, air, etc. so that the environment can recover); rehabilitation (restoration efforts to restore the value, function and benefits of the environment including efforts to prevent land damage, provide protection and improve the ecosystem); restoration (is a restoration effort to make the environment or its parts function again as before).
- d. Maintenance. Natural resource conservation is one form of environmental preservation effort. This means that the development of ecotourism in Indonesia can be used as an effort to maintain the environment.
- e. Supervision. The government has the authority to supervise activities/businesses carried out by the community. Even if the type of activity/business carried out is ecotourism, the government must still carry out supervision to ensure that business actors continue to carry out their business in accordance with applicable regulations and do not cause conflict for the environment or other parties. In the event of an environmental dispute, the PPLH Law has prepared instruments for resolving disputes either through administrative sanctions, civil sanctions or criminal sanctions.

Ecotourism development cannot be separated from the 3 pillars of sustainable development, namely that ecotourism must consider economic, social and environmental aspects (Primantoro N Vitrianto, 2024).

1. Economic aspect. It is hoped that the ecotourism activities carried out can provide economic benefits for local communities.
2. Social aspect. It is hoped that tourism activities will continue to preserve the social and cultural values of local communities so that they can create a balance between tourism and local culture.
3. Environmental aspect. It is hoped that tourism activities will not only be about utilizing natural resources but that conservation activities will be carried out.

It is said to be sustainable development when these three pillars work hand in hand. However, it is worth paying attention to regarding the economic aspect. Where economic motives in environmental law are one of the factors in the occurrence of environmental problems. That there needs to be confirmation to business actors and local communities in utilizing natural resources not only to improve the economy but also to consider environmental sustainability. Apart from that, as far as possible, ecotourism activities do not change the physical condition of the environment. Don't let economic motives end up changing the physical condition of the environment by establishing homestays. So that ecotourism activities can minimize environmental impacts in the form of environmental pollution and environmental damage. Ecotourism prioritizes the perspective of concern, responsibility and interests in preserving natural resources, the environment and local culture, as well as prioritizing businesses that are environmentally friendly and economically sustainable. The principle of conservation of natural resources and the environment contains the values of care and responsibility in preserving nature based on ecological principles and nature conservation standards (Butarbutar, 2021).

However, the development of ecotourism in Indonesia is apparently far from the actual basic principles. In fact, ecotourism actually becomes a threat to the environment itself. In practice in the field, it shows that a lack of understanding of the concept of ecotourism is one of the causes of environmental damage, both from tourists, tourism actors and the local community itself. The lack of understanding of the concept of ecotourism is because it only focuses on the economic aspect which prioritizes profits for tourism actors and local communities, thereby ignoring the environment which causes environmental damage. Not a few tourist attractions eventually undergo physical changes solely for the comfort of tourists. Even culture has to give way for the sake of tourists. This is actually wrong. As part of selected government affairs, the government needs to firmly determine the orientation in tourism, whether it is oriented towards the quantity or number of tourists visiting but will of course have an impact on environmental problems or whether it focuses on the quality of the environment. We know mass tourism, namely tourists with large numbers or groups. The mass tourism phenomenon is also a challenge in developing ecotourism, on the one hand it has a positive impact but on the other hand it also has a negative impact (Kusumah, 2020). The positive impacts generated include: a) increased revenue from local government taxes and levies; b) improving the local community's economy; c) Increasing the commitment of local governments in preserving the culture and heritage of their ancestors. Meanwhile, the negative impacts that arise include: a) Decreased environmental quality/environmental damage; b) Physical changes in the living environment; and c) Reduce the value of spirituality.

Even though in theory the environment has the ability to improve its own conditions, it certainly has limitations in improving itself, such conditions are called self-purification. So it is very important for the government, business actors, local communities and tourists to understand and implement the instruments and principles of ecotourism. The principles of sustainable ecotourism are as follows (Blamey, 2022):

1. Using Resources Sustainably
Conservation and sustainable use of resources, including natural, social, and cultural resources.
2. Reducing Overconsumption and Waste
Minimizing excessive consumption and waste avoids long-term environmental recovery costs and contributes to the quality of tourism.
3. Preserving Biodiversity
Maintaining and promoting natural, social, and cultural diversity is essential for long-term sustainable tourism and creates a resilient foundation for the industry.
4. Integrating Tourism into Planning
Tourism development integrated into national and local strategic planning frameworks, along with environmental impact assessments, enhances tourism's long-term viability.
5. Supporting the Local Economy
Tourism that supports a variety of local economic activities and considers environmental costs and values helps protect these economies and avoid environmental harm.
6. Engaging Local Communities
Full involvement of local communities in the tourism sector not only benefits them and the environment but also enhances the quality of the tourism experience.
7. Consulting Stakeholders and Communities
Consultation between the tourism industry and local communities, organizations, and institutions is crucial for collaboration and resolving potential conflicts of interest.
8. Providing Training
Training that integrates sustainable tourism into work practices, along with hiring personnel at all levels, improves the quality of tourism products.
9. Responsible Tourism Marketing
Marketing that provides comprehensive and responsible information to tourists fosters respect for the natural, social, and cultural environments of destinations and enhances customer satisfaction.
10. Conducting Research
Ongoing research and monitoring by the industry, using effective data collection and analysis, are essential to addressing issues and providing benefits to destinations, the industry, and consumers.

4. Conclusion

1. Indonesia has numerous regulations in the field of tourism, including: a) Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism, b) Government Regulation No. 50 of 2011 on the National Tourism Development Master Plan (RIPPARNAS), and c) Regulation of the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy No. 9 of 2021 on Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Destinations. However, both the Tourism Law and the National Tourism Development Master Plan are primarily oriented toward improving the economy of communities and the government, while neglecting environmental protection. The environment is often perceived merely as an object to be exploited for economic

gains, overlooking its role as a subject that needs protection and preservation. Given the current climate change challenges, it is crucial to review tourism regulations so that future regulations not only promote economic growth but also mitigate climate change, thereby achieving sustainable development in the tourism sector. The issuance of Ministerial Regulation No. 9 of 2021 is a positive step in supporting sustainable ecotourism. It incorporates environmental aspects alongside efforts to improve the economy of local communities. Environmental criteria include the management of liquid, solid, and air waste, as well as specific measures that tourism actors must undertake to promote sustainable ecotourism development in Indonesia.

2. The environment is a vital aspect of ecotourism because it serves as the core attraction for tourism activities. Ecotourism development must consider three key aspects: social, economic, and environmental. These aspects must work in harmony without prioritizing one over the others. However, in practice, ecotourism development in Indonesia often appears to focus solely on economic motives. This is evident from the many ecotourism destinations that have altered the natural physical environment, leading to environmental damage due to increasing tourist numbers. On the other hand, the environment remains critical to the livelihoods of local communities. Research has shown that a low understanding of the ecotourism concept is one of the factors leading to the mismanagement of ecotourism development in Indonesia. Therefore, it is essential to provide local communities with opportunities to participate in ecotourism management actively.

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