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DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM POTENTIAL IN WATERSPORTS RECREATION, SANTIRAH RIVER, PANGANDARAN REGENCY, INDONESIA

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Abstract

River is one of a recreational resource potential of watersport in Indonesia. The growing trend of sports tourism in water-based recreation, making some rivers and rapids with unique morphology, being developed by the local community as a tourism destination. Furthermore, comprehensive planning and meticulous study, is the key to develop sustainable sports tourism. This study was conducted as a series of special interest travel planning process-based education that used the river with River Tubing Activity as an attraction. The sample was taken on Santirah River which is currently growing as one of a favorite attraction in West Java, Indonesia. The survey was conducted through observation of the physical condition of the river and the

readiness of human resources management. As a result, Santirah river has high potential from the physical aspect, however the readiness still low on aspect of human resources to provide safe and convenient service. The role of governments and professional organizations in the field of sports recreation are essential in providing assistance to the managing authority in this river.

Keywords

Watersport, Body Rafting, River Tourism, Tourism Planning, River Tubing

1. Introduction

West Java is one of a province that has various diversity of interesting tourist destinations, and all of them are worth to be visited in Indonesia. This province tourism potential is very attractive for foreign and domestic tourists. Indonesia as an archipelago country with many islands as well as the diversity of morphology and regional local landscape are the major attraction for tourism. Competitiveness of this natural resources will remain sustain if used and developed in accordance with the unique value and its capacity. On the contrary, these advantages will be lost if the exploitation are continued irresponsibly thus eliminating the value of its appeal.

Focus of this research is in Pangandaran Regency in West Java. With interesting natural condition, tropical beach, lush forest and excellent quality river, it emerged to be high tourism potential, unique and distinctive. It goes to Southern Coastal area of Java with their own interesting local culture. This regency is the new autonomous region in West Java and become one of the icons of tourism.

Pangandaran Beach area is the center of tourism activities in the regency, but there are many other tourist sites located around Pangandaran. One of the famous attraction especially special interest tourism is located in the Santirah River, western Pangandaran Beach.

River-based recreation sport is part of special interest tourism (Jennings, 2007). The activities utilize riverside, river basin, rapid and water catchment areas so that the management requires comprehensive planning concept and integrated between all stakeholders. Some of the sports recreation activities are located in remote areas or urban areas (Zealand, 2015) and Reviews These activities has Contributed to increase the number of visitors to nature-based areas (Ceballos-lascurain, 1996; Hardiman & Burgin, 2010). The concept of management is not only

just focused on number of visitors for company financial income, but also considers the environmental sustainability as well as the vital benefits for the surrounding community. This kind of sport recreation activities also gives a problematica to the nature, which give degradation to the ecology ((NPWS, 2001). The concept of development of this area is the development concept that can also encourage and educate the tourist behavior to be green to minimize the negative impacts of tourist activity and the preservation and nature of the physical and social conditions can be maintained and used sustainably (Hardiman & Burgin, 2011).

This study was conducted to analyze the potential and constraints in the development of sport recreation on the river Santirah, Pangandaran Regency, as the basic data in the development of planning concepts of special interest tourism which used the river as resource. Research theme on recreational sport is still fairly rare, especially in Indonesia. So the results of this study, expected to be useful in the development of sport recreation in the river.

2. Methods

The method was using a systematic approach for planning recreation area founded by Gold (1980). This method was chosen because it stresses the need for recreation in any process that is adapted to local resource conditions. Analysis was performed on two elements, first the physical resources of the river and second the human resources as component that managed the area. In composing the tour package should be concerned about the physical location and the surrounding environment. The policy that applied are refer to norms or standards of planning and the impact it will have.

Analysis of the potential tourist attraction and existing facilities are conducted to get preliminary information about the objects. Field observation was conducted to define the potential of what kind of resources contained in a location. Afterwards the possibility becomes the touristic spot with due regard to the concept of sustainable and beauty.

Data collection tool / instrument used in this study are in the form of checklists observation refers to the Indonesia Tourism Ministerial Decree number 13 year 2014.

3. Literature Review

Acording to Tisnasomantri (1999) a river is a mass of water which naturally flow through the valley. River also reference as a natural drainage and disembugue in the lake and ocean. This

dynamic cycle could not be separate and influence each other in an hidrology cycle (Fandeli, 2000).

Some of sport recreation activities that popular nowadays is whitewater rafting. Since the International Rafting Federation (IRF) noted that rafting is a human activities sail through the river using special skills and physical power in paddle the boat in term of social, commercial or sport activities.

Sport recreation activities are included on special interest tourism. Special interest tourism and adventure tourism doesn't require large scale or even greatly expensive development of facilities and infrastructure (Fandeli, 2002; Buckley, Ralf. 2006). Special interest tourism is also related with a goal to enriching tourists' knowledge, especially for those who traveling to remote and nature area. This kind of travelling also give an experience of rewarding nature, culture and social environment. The tourists are having specific motivation, high curiosity to learn and contact with local nature and culture.

The development of nature tourism currently leads in the form of eco-tourism that covers aspects of conservation, education to the environment, community development, improvement of economic and tourist activities that are environmentally friendly. Fandeli, C (2002) in his book entitled *Planning on Protected Areas*, stating that the natural tourist attraction has a distinctive character such as:

- In Situ; attraction can only be enjoyed in place with the degree of satisfaction depends on the closeness and interaction with natural objects
- Total experience that satisfaction in the experience of nature is determined by a whole series of trips, while on location and time of return to the place of origin.
- Perishable that occur at a specific time and is difficult to happen again
- Non recoverable that recovery takes a long time and cannot return to normal

In this regard, developing forms of special interest tourism (special interest tourism). Special interest is a kind of travel with a small group adventure travel activity and does not require major infrastructure investments. Adventure tourism is the exploration activities carried out to remote areas where tourists end point was a surprise and activities done.

As with most aspects of tourism, this is an artificial definition in the sense that it Identifies one particular set of human Behaviors from a broad multi-dimensional continuum, with no prior evidence that it corresponds to any empirically identified clumping within each people have

many different expectations and experiences from outdoor activities, and excitement is only one of these (Buckley, 2006: 2). Form of special interest tours by (Fandeli, 2005), two (2) decades primarily in rapidly growing countries are building. This form of tourism has several principles:

- Motivation travelers looking for something new, authentic and has a quality travel experience travel.
- Motivation and decision to travel is determined by the specific interests / special traveler and not of others.
- Travellers traveling traveled generally looking for new experiences which can be obtained from the object's history, local food, sport, culture, and adventure activities in the field of nature.

Special interest tourism also has guidelines for setting interest khusu travel form, namely the elements:

- Rewarding: Choice of an object
- Enriching: Addition and enrichment of knowledge
- Adventure: Contains the involvement of the rating in adventure activities
- Learning: There is a learning process that contains aspects education

Special interest tourism and adventure tourism does not require large scale or even greatly expensive development of facilities and infrastructure (Fandeli, 2002: 108). Special interest tourism is attributed to the efforts enrichment of experience (Enriching) for tourists who are traveling to areas of untapped or areas of unspoiled, so not many people who can visit there. The shape of this trip is rewarding high of nature that has uniqueness. Usually tourists who have a special interest in this high motivation and great curiosity about something, so that tourists can learn about nature and culture.

Travelers generally want a different holiday with vacations usually, so adventure tourism is suitable for travelers looking different from the difference. Contributions made to the community were either directly or indirectly. Directly holiday given to tourists as well as local communities, while indirectly the public about these sights a source of livelihood.

Sport recreation activities was also having an environmental impact, especially to the aesthetics and crowding factors. In the peak season, these activities also give the negative impact which is reached its acceptable limit (Hardiman & Burgin, 2010).

4. Results

Santirah River Tourism is administratively located in the village of Selasari, District of Parigi. Located about 21 km and can be reached by one hour drive from the center of beach tourism activities Pangandaran leading west into ecotourism site Citumang. Accessibility to the location is good enough until the junction in the road leading to the village of Bojong Citumang, but afterward the trip must be continued by passing through a small path that can only be traversed by a minibus. Road conditions is very narrow bumpy, and most of the road has been casted by local authorities, but throughout the course must be passed by entering the forest teak Perum Perhutani, which is quite dangerous when the late afternoon, in the absence of lighting and street signs. After entering the village Cikalesem road junction, the road is damaged and rocky so it's quite dangerous for small vehicles, especially in rainy conditions.

The astronomical Attractions Santirah located 7o37'26 "LS - 7o38'10" LS and 108o31'41 "BT - 108o32'38" BT. While geographical borders, as described below:

- Northern border with Perum Perhutani Teak Forest
- Western borders with Kampung Desa Karanglelewih Selasari
- Eastern borders with Cikalesem Kampung Bojong
- Southern side borders adjacent to the Village Cintaratu

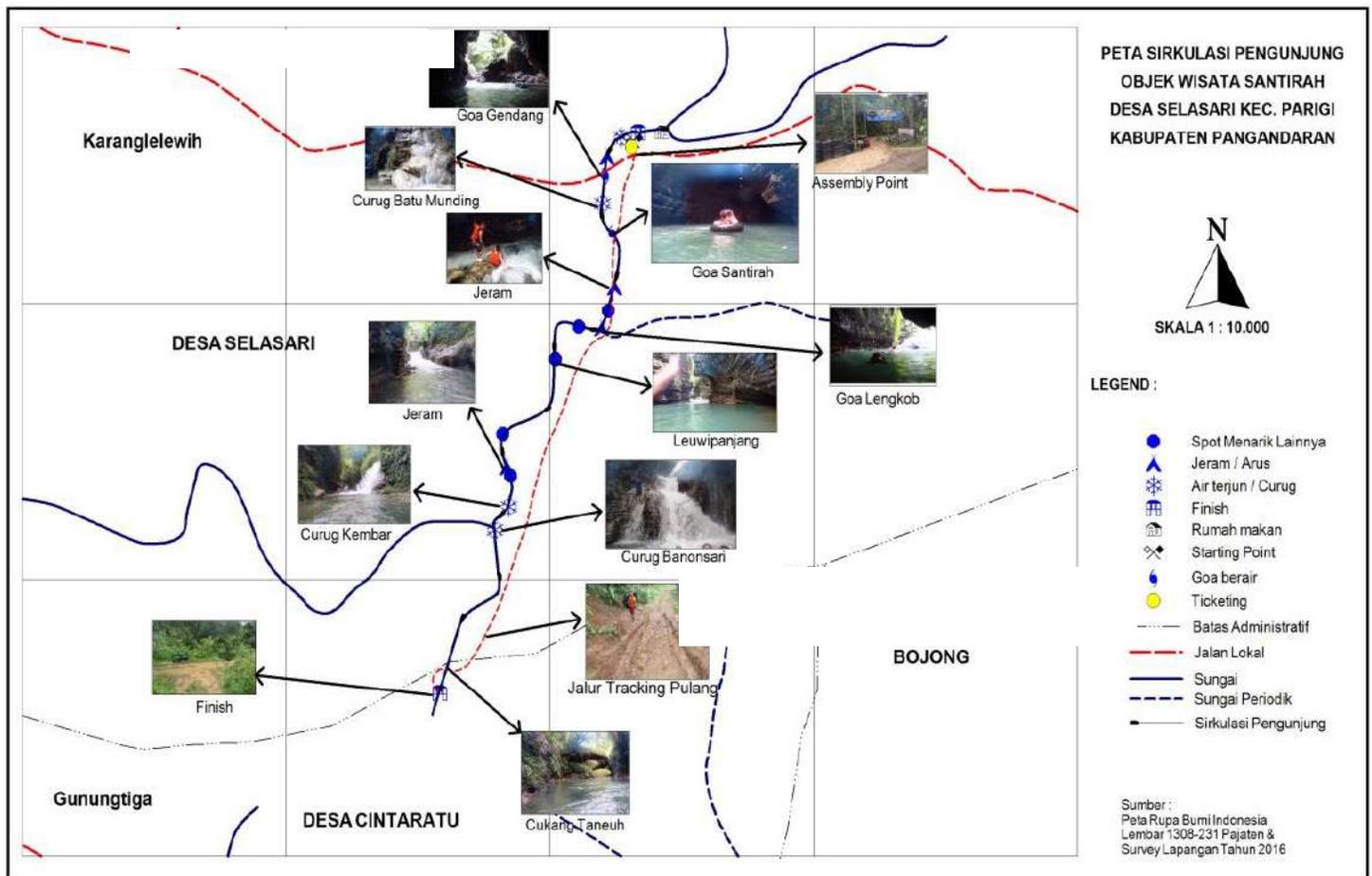
This attraction offers special interest tours that water tubing so as to distinguish the sunga other attractions. Water tubing is a kind of activity of rafting but do not use a rubber boat as usual, but use old tires as a medium (Brthomas. 2009).

Having a tourist activity that is different from other river activities, beautiful landscapes which are served along the river, Santirah River Tubing is expected to have the facilities and infrastructure facilities that support, but for the moment still inadequate. River Tubing is an adrenaline activity tourists with exciting rapids and river bend. For tourists who like sports this activity is highly recommended to be used as an alternative adventure during leisure / holiday.

The river will be more challenging because participants have a fairly heavy flow of water, if the activity is carried out during the rainy season eating debit and streams will be larger, so that the river trip will be more enjoyable and unforgettable. Upon arrival at the location of the participants, will be immediately greeted by a guide or instructor for the preparation of River Tubing gear and directing the activities as well as the rules and regulations.

Activities that can be done approximately 1.5 km with a minimum duration of two hours from start to finish such as, swimming, body rafting in some areas where the current is not so heavy, water sliding, jumping, passing five waterfalls that, along four cave has a depth of 10-100 m, see or learn stalactites and stalagmites, looking at the morphology of the river, and of course capture the moment. Upon finish, the tourists can clean-up and will be presented by the menu of local cuisine.

Discussion



Santirah river have different tourism activities from other river activities, beautiful landscapes which are served along the river, Santirah River Tubing is expected to have the facilities and infrastructure facilities that support, but still inadequate. Here, below is the map of natural attractions of Santirah River Tubing will be described in Figure 1.

Some of the challenges that exist in Santirah tourist sites, including:

- Incomplete of supporting recreational sports facilities, such as toilets or changing rooms, parking lot, health facilities, mosque and also the resting place.
- The condition of fluctuating river stream can cause the activity not running optimally, so it must be predictable for the discharge of water each day, it is also due to massive deforestation upstream.
- Standards visitor security procedures are still lacking. Visitors are not equipped with a helmet as protective headgear.
- Lack of special training for guides that exist in the location.
- The absence of a post monitoring visitor activity, so the only guide who pay attention to the activities of visitors and it was not balanced.
- The absence of adequate medical facilities at tourist sites, both medical facilities and trained personnel.

5. Conclusion

Santirah River has high potential to be developed as water-based tourism destination in West Java. However, the development should consider natural resources capacity and the quality of local community human resources as the management (Gunn, 1997; Grigg, 1996). The development of this area should be done in two ways, first of all is physical masterplan and second is human resources guidance. This guidance is refer to the training of safety procedure in sport recreation and service quality to elevate tourists expectation in river rafting.

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