

## Application of green tourism in the Mount Rinjani National Park area to support sustainable tourism

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to analyze the application of green tourism in supporting the concept of sustainable tourism in the Mount Rinjani National Park (Taman Nasional Gunung Rinjani/TNGR) area, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The primary data of this study was generated through interviews with several informants, while the secondary data was obtained through a review of literature, books, journals, and online media. Techniques of data analysis using descriptive qualitative analysis. The results of the study reveal that the application of green tourism in the Mount Rinjani National Park area is quite good. This can be seen from the awareness of the community, organizations and related agencies in carrying out clean up and tree planting activities, both in tourist areas and the tropical rain forest with its rich biodiversity. Additionally, the green tourism concept is able to support sustainable tourism in national park tourism areas, especially in environmental, economic, socio-cultural sustainability, and environmental education.

**Keywords:** national park, green tourism, tropical rain forest, sustainable tourism.

**History Article:** Submitted 11 January 2022 | Revised 28 April 2022 | Accepted 30 May 2022

**How to Cite:** Ilyas, M. N. ., Astawa, I. P. ., Ginaya, G., & Erawati, N. M. R. . Application of green tourism in the Mount Rinjani National Park area to support sustainable tourism. *International Journal of Green Tourism Research and Applications*, 4(1), 16–22.

### Introduction

West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is one of the provinces in Indonesia which is a destination for tourists, both foreign tourists and local tourists. The province of NTB is located in the eastern part of Indonesia, which is flanked by two provinces, namely Bali in the west and East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) in the east. Each of the two provinces has its own uniqueness in attracting tourists, for example Bali is famous for its cultural tourism, while the province of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) for its komodo islands and the province of NTB for its natural tourism. Tourist destinations owned by the province of NTB are very diverse, ranging from marine tourism, culture, mountains, and religion.

Tourism is a complex activity that can be viewed as a large system, which consists of various components such as economic, ecological, cultural, political and so on (Suta & Mahagangga, 2018). Seeing the considerable potential, tourism actors are increasingly aggressive in managing tourist areas, both managed by the government and the community. In addition, people are starting to become aware of the impact of tourism on the economy. According to Waluya in Soewarni et al (2019). The positive impacts of the tourism economy are: (1) expanding employment opportunities, (2) increasing business opportunities, (3) increasing income, (4) maintaining local culture.

In addition to the positive impact of tourism development, it turns out to have a fairly large negative impact on environmental sustainability so that there is a lot of deforestation, degradation, and fragmentation in each area of the Mount Rinjani National

Park (Taman Nasional Gunung Rinjani or TNGR). Moreover, forest fires often occur even every year in several tourist destinations in the Mount Rinjani National Park area. In 2017 several tourist attractions in the Rinjani ring area experienced forest fires, including Mount Monjet, Anak Dara Hill, Pegasingan Hill, Nanggi Hill (<https://dislkh.ntbprov.go.id/>). This is based on the impact of mass tourism which has a significant influence on global climate change, socio-cultural degradation, ecosystem damage, and social inequality between the rich and the poor. (Sugandi et al., 2020). The problems that so many occur in the field trigger the emergence of various forms of alternative tourism, one of which is community-based tourism (CBT) (Personal et al., 2021) where the role of local communities in the development of sustainable tourism destinations has encouraged the emergence of new trends in community-based tourism development (Adikampana, 2017).

Alternative tourism has recently become a public discussion, because alternative tourism can minimize the impact of mass tourism which has recently become an issue related to the impact of environmental sustainability that it causes. Alternative tourism is one of the approach concepts being developed by stakeholders in supporting sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism is a tourism activity that takes into account the present and future economic value, environmental impact, meeting support, environmental industry and local communities. (UNEP & WTO, 2015). according to Yoeti & Gunadi (2013), sustainable tourism is a continuous process and requires continuous monitoring of its impacts, and can contain proven and corrective measures if necessary.

The Deputy for Resources and Institutions at the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy during a webinar with the Association of Indonesian Professors (API) explained that sustainable tourism will be a choice and a consequence of the tourism development section, after the pandemic (<https://pedulicovid19.kemeparakraf.go.id>). In addition, the concept of green tourism is also one that is being developed to support sustainable tourism. According to Weaver in Hasan et al., (2014) A destination deserves to be classified as green tourism if it has four main dimensions, namely the natural base, conservation support, sustainability and environmental education. Meanwhile, according to Doods and Joppe in Winarya (2017), components of green tourism are: (1) Environmental responsibility: Maintaining, conserving, and improving the natural and physical quality of the environment to ensure the health and sustainability of the ecosystem. (2) Strengthening the local economy: Supporting the local economy, local businesses, and communities to ensure the strengthening and sustainability of the local economy. (3) Cultural Diversity: Respect and appreciate culture and cultural diversity so as to ensure the sustainability of the welfare of the community and local culture. (4) Enriching experience: Enriching with satisfying experiences through activity. From the concept above, the impact that is felt is not only in improving the economy, socio-culture, but tourism actors and visitors will be taught how to protect the natural environment so that it remains beautiful and sustainable.

In the context of mountains in central and eastern Indonesia, not many studies have been found. Quite a lot of studies are found generally linking Mount Agung as the highest mountain and Mount Batur as the most crowded mountain to climb in Bali as in the studies conducted by Mudana et al (2017a; 2017b; 2017c; 2018a; 2018b). This is certainly related to Bali's position as the number one world destination in Indonesia. Studies on the Mount Rinjani National Park area and climbing on Mount Rinjai are classified as not widely available.



Based on the Decree of the Minister of Forestry Number P.03/Menhut-11/2007 dated February 1, 2017 concerning the Organization and Work Procedure of the National Park technical implementing unit, the Mount Rinjani National Park Office is included in type B. Based on the decree, Mount Rinjani National Park is divided into two. The management areas are (1) the Conservation Section of West Lombok Region 1 which handles the National Park area in West Lombok Regency with an area of 12,357.67 Ha (30%) which is divided into Resorts (New, Santong, Senaru) and several guard posts. (2) The East Lombok Region II Conservation Section handles the Mount Rinjani National Park area which is located in 2 (two) Regencies in East Lombok Regency covering an area of 22,152.88 Ha (53%), while the National Park area in Central Lombok Regency covers 6,819.45 Ha (17%) which is divided into 6 resorts ((Aikmel, Kembang Kuning, Joben, Sembalun, Aikberik dan Ttelling) and some guard posts.



(Source: Illyas, 2021).

**Figure 2.** Environmental responsibility activities in the Mount Rinjani National Park area

Referring to Doods and Joppe (2001) and Weaver (2012), the application of the Green Tourism Concept has at least four components, namely, environmental responsibility, local economy, culture, environmental education. The results of interviews conducted with officers from the Mount Rinjani National Park Office, where the community, tourism actors and tourists have started to be aware of the environment. Figure 2 is a documentation of the Head of the Mount Rinjani National Park that was taken by researchers through social media while carrying out joint activities with tourism actors, the community, school agencies, NGOs in protecting the environment in the Mount Rinjani National Park area. In addition, the Head of the Mount Rinjani National Park made a rule that tourists who did not bring their trash down would be given severe sanctions. that is, they will be blacklisted or blacklisted for two years and are not allowed to climb Mount Rinjani. This rule is carried out on the basis of accustoming tourists to re-

main concerned about environmental sustainability. Quoted from his official social media page, at least nearly 1,906 climbers were included in the black list.

One of the important components in the concept of Green Tourism is the economic sustainability of local communities, especially those in the Gunung Rinjani Park area. Mount Rinjani ecotourism is one of the sources of life for the people of NTB apart from the agricultural sector. Findings in the field when conducting conservation and interviews with tourism actors and communities in the Mount Rinjani National Park area. People in the Rinjani area really feel the impact of tourist activities in improving the community's economy. It can be seen from the many people who sell on the roadside and tourism actors such as porters, guides, tour organizers (TO) whose increase is quite significant every year. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, some people change professions to become farmers and sell to fulfill their daily lives. However, some tourism actors who do not own land hope that the pandemic will end soon, so that tourism will return to normal, so that friends who rely on tourism for their lives from the tourism sector can return to their normal activities.

Culture is one of the most important elements in tourism development. Because tourism can grow and develop well if it is supported by cultural tourism, which is seen from the socio-cultural aspect (Fernando, 2016). Cultural preservation is a necessity that is always passed on to future generations in the face of the impact of globalization which causes a decrease in the level of curiosity about the indigenous culture of the region. Globalization also has a strong influence on the decreasing level of public awareness to maintain and preserve Indonesian culture (Suryani, 2018). Quoted from the official social media page of Mount Rinjani National Park, during the opening ceremony of the Rinjani Begawe Festival as well as the launching of Mount Rinjani climbing, the Head of the National Park Office expressed his gratitude to tourism actors and the Sembalun community who participated in preserving culture as well as exhibiting woven products, food traditional and souvenir. On the sidelines of the closing, he also said that the Rinjani Begawe Festival would be held every year in order to preserve the indigenous culture of the region.



(Sourcen: Illyas, 2021).

**Figure 3.** Environmental education in the form of Nursery Training and Development by the staff of the Mount Rinjani National Park area

Environmental education is an important thing in realizing the concept of green tourism in order to achieve sustainable tourism. According to Yustina in (Indahri, 2020), Environmental education (PLH) is an important means of producing human resources who can implement the principles of sustainable development. Figure 3 is an activity carried out by officers from the Mount Rinjani National Park Office in order to provide environmental education to young people who care about the environment in collaboration with the manager of Joben Eko Park to realize the common goal of protecting and preserving the environment as a form of our love for the environment which will be passed on to children as future generations. Thus, this is also in line with the concept of sustainable tourism.

## Conclusions

The application of the concept of Green Tourism in the Mount Rinjani National Park area has a significant impact, especially on environmental responsibility, where the community, tourism actors and managers of the Mount Rinjani National Park are increasingly aggressively organizing tourist areas by planting trees to prevent deforestation, fragmentation which can lead to forest fires as a result of global warming. In addition, there are strict sanctions for tourists who do not bring their trash down and will be blacklisted for two years and are not allowed to climb. For the socio-culture aspect, there is public awareness in preserving culture by exhibiting the work in the form of weaving products, traditional foods, and souvenirs. While environmental education is being carried out in several tourist areas in collaboration with TNGR officers, community, students, tourism actors (guides, porters), NGOs in preserving the environment. As for the economy as an exception due to non-natural disasters (such as Covid-19).

Some suggestions can be put forward for maintaining the valuable sites. Firstly, the Head of the National Park Office should continue to provide training and direction to tourism actors, communities, visitors how to keep the environment beautiful and sustainable. Secondly, cooperation with the community, government, tourism actors in strengthening forest functions is required in order they remain beautiful and sustainable. Finally, for tourism actors who get an impact of covid-19 pandemic, they should be able to take the positive side of this non-natural disaster by carrying out activities or opening new business opportunities by utilizing information communication technology (ICT) including social media to be more resilient survive and thrive.

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