

# Potential For The Development Of Ecotourism Of Begadung Island, Bangka Regency

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**Abstract**—Bangka Belitung Province is an archipelago that has tremendous tourism potential because of its natural wealth and socio-cultural potencies which enjoys increasing popularity among tourists. However, it is now ironically threatened by tin mining activities, including in Bangka Island, in which Bangka Tengah Regency is located. Begadung Island in Bangka Tengah is, therefore, also threatened. Due to this, its potency should be studied, in an effort to propose a policy for its sustainability. A descriptive qualitative approach is utilized to explore data of Begadung Island tourism potency at the beginning of this planned research using secondary data and observation, as well as limited interviews with the stakeholders, chosen both purposively and randomly. Collected data was then analyzed qualitatively using triangulation technique. It was found that Begadung Island has indeed has authenticity, beauty and treasure, potential for tourism development. Tourists have started come for visits. Therefore, protection through ecotourism is very necessary. Further study is needed regarding the development of the potential of the Begadung Island region

**Keywords**—Tourism , Potency, Mining, Ecotourism, Sustainability

## I. INTRODUCTION

Bangka Belitung Province which is located on the eastern of Sumatra, Indonesia, has tremendous potential because of its natural wealth, in the forms of natural potential, especially its beautiful beaches, natural resources especially tin, and the socio-cultural wealth of its people, with hundreds of tourist objects [1,2]. However, this truly extraordinary potential is now ironically very threatened by mining activities that are increasingly widespread in the region. Tin mining has caused severe damage to province's land in which critical land has reached 76.91% of the land area [3].

In addition to land, mining is also carried out at sea using floating ships which has huge damage for the coastal environmental, and therefore forced many fishermen to change their livelihoods [4]. This livelihood change is due to man-made activity, not because of climate change or natural causes as fishermen in Demak, Java [5]. Ecosystem damage can actually occur naturally, but the most occurrence is due to human activities

Mining provides an increase in the economic capacity of the community but the consequences of ecological damage due to sea sand mining are truly extraordinary. Tourist service entrepreneurs such as hotels complain because the beach is dirty and polluted, even many beaches are lost due to erosion of sand suction machines [6]. The clean white sand, now it becomes blackish brown due to the mixed mud of tin mining waste [7]. The Association of the Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies (ASITA) stated that marine mining is very threatening to the tourism of Bangka Belitung [8], in addition to undermining sustainable economic potential of Bangka.

Prianto and Husnah [9] stated that tin mining on Bangka Island had a major impact on the sustainability of aquatic resources. The ecosystem is damaged. The wealth of natural resources in the form of tin, which should be a blessing, now seems to turn into a disaster. In fact, Bangka Belitung is a beautiful island with extraordinary tourism potential which, if managed with good environmental management principles, can serve as a source of income from sustainable ecotourism activities.

Ecotourism is considered as a panacea in overcoming environmental damage and poverty in areas that are sustainable tourism destinations. Ecotourism is part of the management of marine resources. The government needs to work together with various stakeholders, because the involvement of all stakeholders is so urgent along with the implementation of regional autonomy and the realization of sustainable development. [10].

In the development of ecotourism areas, commitment of stakeholders is very important in maintaining the islands in Bangka Belitung, as well as community participation. Research on ecotourism has been conducted by several researchers [11, 12, 13,14], which show different results when ecotourism is applied in their study areas.

Mining carried out in the sea area is really threatening the beauty and exoticism of the islands in Bangka Belitung, including those on Begadung Island. The research question is how is the tourism potential of Begadung Island, and how do ecotourism developments need to be carried out on the island?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Mining

In Act Number 4 of 2009 concerning Mineral and Coal Mining, mining is a part of mining business activities to produce minerals and / or coal and associated minerals [15]. Furthermore, according to Sukandarrumidi [16] mining business is a business activity carried out by a person or legal entity or business entity to extract quarries in order to be further utilized for human interest..

### B. Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism is tourism that takes into account the sustainability of tourist destinations, by not over-exploiting. The characteristics of Sustainable Tourism are: (a) 1. Local Economic Development Benefits; (b) Ensures Tourism Development Benefits Both Community and Environment; (c) Meets Both Profitability and Viability; (d) Becomes Part of the Local Culture; and e) Reinvests in the Local Region [17].

### C. Ecotourism

According to the Ecotourism Society 1990 [10]. Ecotourism is a form of tourism to natural areas that is carried out with the aim of conserving the environment and preserving the life and welfare of the local population.

## III. METHOD

The research uses descriptive qualitative approach to explore data, analyze and formulate the concept of Begadung Island ecotourism development, using the concepts of Creswell [18]. The data used in this study are both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected using direct observation and documentation of Begadung Island. In addition, limited interviews in this research preparation were conducted with resource persons, namely the manager of Begadung Island, and both formal and informal stakeholders from a number of institutions, in Bangka Belitung Province and in Bangka Tengah Regency, chosen purposively and randomly. The secondary data are in the forms of books, articles and data from government institutions. Collected data was then analyzed qualitatively using triangulation technique.

## IV. RESULTS

Bangka Belitung Province consist of two main islands, which are Bangka and Belitung, besides tens of small islands around. Its natural conditions make this region rise to be one of the tourist destinations after the dazzling popular *Laskar Pelangi* (Rainbow Warrior) film took place in Belitung. From the film, people from throughout the world understand the beauty and charm of Bangka Belitung. This film has even been mentioned to increase Belitung's tourism sector by more than 1,800%. Something that the government has tried for decades, and then supported by a film finally found its momentum through

the art of culture that was packaged in a literary tour. Belitung is an example of the success of an area that has its potential raised through the most successful literary tourism modeling[19].

However, that potential is threatened due to rampant mining. As written by Ibrahim, Bangka and Belitung are well known all over the world as Tin Islands, because they have experienced tin glory from time to time. Besides, they were also famous for their pepper as important world spice [20]. Belitung has been proving that tourism is a valuable source for income, both for the local government and the people. A question arise for the same opportunity for Bangka Island, which actually has the same natural and socio cultural richness.

Bangka Island consisted of four regencies namely Bangka, West Bangka, South Bangka, and Bangka Tengah. Begadung Island is located in Tanjung Pura Village, Sungaiselan District, which is included in the area of Bangka Tengah Regency. How is the future of this beautiful island?

Indeed, tin mining is still being practiced in Bangka and Belitung. As has been stated by informant from Bangka Belitung Provincial Board, although many people live on mining, there are also those want the opposite. Therefore, conflict interest among those who are involved in mining, fishery and tourism is strong here. In Belitung, many rejections appear from the local people, especially the fishermen, such as putting their signatures to reject offshore mining, demonstration, and even burning the suction level. In Bangka, serious threats from offshore mining over the nature of the island also occur. The fishermen delivered a formal letter to the Governor, strongly opposed the offshore mining considering that tourism has been proved to give economic benefit in the form of creating many employment to the local residents [21].

Begadung Island in Bangka indeed has authenticity, beauty and treasure in the form of a unique multicolored cluster of metamorphic rocks, as well as the crystal clear sea water conditions and the diversity of marine biota and mangrove plants. It is a very beautiful paradise island where turtles lay their eggs [22]. As has been stated by the local villagers, tourists have been starting to come to this beautiful island, especially during holidays and the *Idl Fitr* Moslem festivities.

Further study is needed regarding the development of the potential of the Begadung Island region for the sake of its sustainability. Protection through ecotourism on Begadung Island is very necessary because this area has unique ecosystems and natural resources, must be away from tin mining activities which deteriorates the quality of the environment which threatened the survival of human life and other living creatures. Therefore Begadung needs environmental protection and management, using sustainable development principles.

## V. CONCLUSION

Begadung Island in Bangka Belitung Province is a unique island with a variety of tourism potential due to the

presence of colored rocks, caves, mangroves, and beautiful beaches. The development of this island must use sustainable development ecotourism, and is away from tin mining activities.

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