



Local Government Policies on the Management of Mangrove Ecotourism Areas in Kendari City"

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted in Bungkutoko, Abeli District, Kendari City, using an empirical juridical approach. The results of the study show that: (1) The local government has made efforts to implement policies for the management of mangrove ecotourism areas in Kendari City through Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2013, including Article 5 paragraph (1), which regulates coastal administrative areas, Article 7 paragraph (3) concerning strategies for developing marine tourism attractions, and Article 38, which contains prohibitions on the use of coastal areas and small islands in Kendari City. (2) The factors inhibiting the implementation of policies for managing mangrove ecotourism areas in Kendari City are grouped into three aspects: the ecological factor, which relates to the supervision of natural resources, particularly the mangrove ecosystem in Kendari City, that is still inadequate and the lack of mangrove reforestation; the social factor, where part of the community believes that mangrove planting and conservation activities are solely the responsibility of the Kendari City local government; and the economic factor, which includes the economic condition of the community and the limitations of public facilities.

Keywords : Community-Based Management, Kendari City, Local Government Policy, Mangrove Ecotourism Management, Sustainable Coastal Tourism

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the countries with diverse tourism attractions, as it is home to various ethnic groups that can create and develop the tourism industry. Tourism has evolved into a highly profitable industry and holds a bright prospect for national development in the future.

Tourism plays an important role in economic development across many countries, including Indonesia. It has become one of the leading sectors in generating income. The management of tourist attractions in several regions of Indonesia has improved significantly, as reflected in the growing number of tourist visits to various destinations across the country. In response to this increase, the government needs to establish tourism policies that ensure development complies with existing laws and local community norms, maintaining public order and safety for visiting tourists.

Government commitment is crucial for success in the tourism sector. Strong commitment enables the mobilization of available resources, leading to faster and more optimal development. The Indonesian government's serious efforts to develop tourism can be seen through the establishment of several laws and regulations, including Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism, which aims to regulate order and business activities in this sector.

Today, both nature-based and marine tourism have become major attractions. Essentially, tourism development is an effort to advance economic growth by exploring the potential of various areas, particularly marine zones that stretch along Indonesia's coastal waters. Several natural factors—such as beautiful beaches, marine biodiversity, and coastal ecosystems—support the establishment of attractive tourism areas. However, their development requires precise and careful management since natural elements are sensitive and demand strong cooperation among all stakeholders.

Government efforts to protect and manage coastal zones, especially those with valuable natural resources, are crucial to enhancing the potential of marine and nature-based tourism. With proper planning and management, these sectors can make a significant contribution to sustainable economic growth. Conservation programs aim to achieve sustainable natural resources and balanced ecosystems while promoting tourism development and improving local community welfare.

Coastal and marine areas in Indonesia play a vital role as they possess strategic economic and environmental value. These areas must be properly managed to prevent environmental and resource degradation. One of the significant coastal ecosystems is the mangrove forest (Arief, 2003). Mangrove forests are a type of tropical rainforest found in coastal regions, growing along tropical and subtropical shorelines affected by tidal activity. The mangrove ecosystem can be utilized for ecotourism without harming its natural balance. Developing mangrove forests as ecotourism destinations offers economic benefits for local communities while supporting environmental conservation (Zulia et al., 2019).

However, mangrove areas in Indonesia have suffered degradation due to overexploitation and human activities. In Kendari City, Southeast Sulawesi, for instance, mangrove coverage has declined from 525 hectares to approximately 367.5 hectares (Ido et al., 2019). In response, the Kendari city government developed a 2-hectare mangrove ecotourism area in Bungkutoko as part of the city's "smart point" development plan.

According to national mangrove mapping data in 2022, Indonesia has 3,364,080 hectares of existing mangroves and 756,183 hectares of potential mangrove habitat, making a total of 4,120,263 hectares. The proportions of existing and potential mangrove areas are 82% and 18% respectively (Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation, 2022). One of these areas is the coastal region of Kendari Bay.

Data from the Forestry Office of Southeast Sulawesi Province indicate that the mangrove area in Kendari Bay measured 200.58 hectares in 2019–2021 but drastically decreased to 50.85 hectares in 2020 (BPS & DLH Kendari City, 2021). The Kendari Bay coastal area forms part of the city's urban environment, bordered by the Nipa-Nipa protected forest to the north and the Nanga-Nanga protected forest to the south.

According to Law No. 26 of 2007 on Spatial Planning, the mangrove ecosystem falls under the category of "Other Protected Areas," serving as coastal zones that protect marine and shoreline ecosystems. Mangrove areas possess significant economic potential for local communities, as ecotourism provides tangible economic benefits such as increased employment opportunities and higher local and national income (Yoeti Oka, 2008). Thus, the development of ecotourism primarily aims to enhance economic value while preserving the environment.

Nonetheless, managing and developing mangrove ecotourism in Kendari faces several key challenges. Initial observations indicate a lack of balance between conservation and development. There is difficulty in maintaining equilibrium between preserving the mangrove ecosystem and utilizing it as an economic resource. Tourism infrastructure such as roads, parking areas, and other facilities must be developed in line with conservation principles to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

Furthermore, public awareness and active participation in mangrove preservation remain low. Damage to mangrove areas is often caused by human activities such as aquaculture expansion, industrialization, agriculture, settlement, and recreation, as well as natural factors like floods, droughts, and pest infestations (Purnobasuki, 2005). If development continues without adopting sustainable practices, Indonesia risks losing its remaining mangrove forests. Therefore, comprehensive forest management policies are required to ensure the long-term sustainability of these vital ecosystems.

According to Article 1 of Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, the environment is defined as "a unified space with all things, energies, circumstances, and living beings, including humans and their behavior, which affect the continuity of life and the welfare of humans and other living creatures."

In Kendari's mangrove area, several potentials remain unexplored. This has inspired both the government and local communities to identify and develop strategies for transforming mangrove forests into sustainable ecotourism destinations. However, issues such as unclear management, inadequate facilities, limited promotion, and a small tourism area continue to hinder the site's ability to attract visitors effectively.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 General Overview of Policy

In general, a policy is used to indicate the behavior of an actor—such as an official, a group, or a particular institution—in solving problems they face. Essentially, there are many explanations and definitions regarding the meaning and boundaries of a policy.

According to Noeng Muhadjir, policy is an effort to solve social problems for the benefit of society based on the principles of justice and social welfare. In formulating a policy, four essential aspects should be fulfilled:

1. The improvement of the community's standard of living.
2. The realization of justice, both in law and in opportunities for individual achievement and creativity.
3. The active participation of society in discussions, planning, decision-making, and implementation.
4. The assurance of sustainable development (Noeng Muhadjir, 2000:15).

Meanwhile, Wehrich and Koontz, as cited by Amin Priatna, define policy as a tool to clarify intentions or expectations that encourage initiative within certain limits. Freedom depends on policy and, conversely, reflects the position and authority within an organization (Amin Priatna, 2008:15). Furthermore, policy is also considered a plan, statement, or understanding that guides thinking in decision-making. Not all policies are expressed explicitly, as they are often implied through managerial actions (Amin Priatna, 2008:125).

According to Koontz, Donnell, and Wehrich, policy serves as a guideline for thinking in making decisions within certain boundaries. A decision requires action but aims to guide managers in making commitments (Harold Koontz, Cyril O'Donnell & Heinz Wehrich, 1992:144).

Empirically, policies take the form of laws, instructions, and programs. Within a state, a policy is regarded as a

series of actions developed by governmental bodies or institutions with specific goals, carried out and implemented by individuals or groups to solve particular problems.

Based on the above definitions, it can be concluded that a policy is a series of concepts and principles forming the foundation or outline of a plan that guides actions, leadership, and decision-making. It represents a declaration of ideals, principles, or intentions for solving problems and serves as a guideline for managers in achieving goals and objectives. In other words, it acts as a directive for decision-making and behavior.

2.2 General Overview of Management

2.2.1 Definition of Management

According to Nugroho (2003:119), management is a term commonly used in the field of administrative science. Etymologically, the word *management* refers to the process of handling or managing something to achieve specific objectives.

Management or administration is usually associated with organizational activities such as planning, organizing, controlling, and directing. Management also means regulating or handling tasks effectively. From these explanations, management can be understood not only as a series of activities but also as the utilization of the benefits of management itself—namely, proper planning, implementation, and supervision to achieve the best results.

According to Prajudi Atmosudirdjo (1982:282), management is an activity involving the utilization and administration of resources to achieve certain goals. The word *management* comes from the Indonesian word *kelola*, which means organized efforts aimed at utilizing and developing resources effectively to achieve predetermined objectives (Harsoyo, 1977:121).

2.2.2 Objectives of Management

The purpose of management is to ensure that all available potentials—such as human resources, facilities, and infrastructure—within an organization operate in accordance with its goals, thereby avoiding errors and inefficiencies in time, effort, or resources to achieve desired objectives. Without proper management, achieving goals would be more difficult.

Effective management ensures that resources, facilities, and infrastructure are utilized efficiently to realize an organization's objectives (Harsoyo, 1977:123). The objectives of management can be achieved when the implementation steps are carried out properly. According to Afifudin (2010:3), the steps in management implementation include:

1. Determining management procedures.
2. Defining boundaries of responsibility.
3. Setting measurable objectives that cover all criteria.
4. Establishing performance indicators and implementation plans.
5. Determining effective and efficient work standards.

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that the objectives of management rely on the optimal utilization of human resources, infrastructure, and facilities to ensure that organizational goals are successfully achieved.

2.2.3 Functions of Management

The functions of management refer to various activities carried out according to the roles and stages established in the implementation process. Management functions also represent efforts to achieve predetermined objectives. Up to now, the classification of management functions remains diverse, both in theory and in practice.

2.3 General Overview of Ecotourism Areas

2.3.1 Ecotourism

The rapid growth of tourism today tends to move toward defining tourist interests based on the type of travel or tourism activity. One type of tourism that has recently gained significant attention is ecotourism (Ayuningtyas, 2011). Nafi (2017) explains that ecotourism became popular in the 1990s and, by 2017, was ranked 14th in natural resource potential (Nafi, 2017).

- a. According to WWF Indonesia (2009), ecotourism practitioners and experts agree that the ecotourism model must minimize negative impacts on the environment and local culture while enhancing the economic performance and conservation values of local communities. Several key factors of ecotourism include: The number of visitors is limited or regulated according to the environmental and socio-cultural carrying capacity (as opposed to mass tourism).
 - b. Ecological tourism models that emphasize conservation values.
 - c. Tourism models that respect local cultures and customs (educational and experiential values).
 - d. Direct economic benefits for local communities (monetary value).
 - e. Relatively low initial capital for infrastructure (community participation and economic value).
- TIES (2002), as cited in Damanik and Weber (2006), outlines the following ecotourism principles:
1. Reducing negative impacts from tourism activities, such as environmental degradation or cultural pollution.
 2. Increasing awareness and appreciation of the environment and local culture among tourists, local communities, and other tourism stakeholders.
 3. Providing positive experiences for both visitors and locals through cultural contact and collaboration related to the preservation and conservation of tourism sites and attractions.
 4. Generating direct financial benefits for conservation efforts, such as through donations or additional tourism fees.

5. Delivering economic benefits and empowering local communities by developing tourism products that emphasize local values.

Law No. 10 of 2009 on Tourism defines tourism as a diverse range of travel activities supported by various facilities and services provided by communities, businesses, and both state and local governments. Tourism can be viewed from both supply and demand perspectives. From the demand side, it is conceptually defined as activities in which individuals travel and stay outside their usual environment for up to one year for leisure, business, or other purposes (Pender, 2005). This definition highlights the temporary and short-term nature of travel and distinguishes tourism from permanent relocation or employment-related movement.

From the supply perspective, defining tourism becomes technically complex because some enterprises serve only tourists, while others cater to both locals and visitors. Thus, tourism-related businesses should be classified according to whether they can operate without tourism (even in reduced form) or not (Pender, 2005). Essentially, this industry comprises all businesses, organizations, and facilities designed to satisfy the needs and desires of tourists.

Tourism is a complex phenomenon — a multidisciplinary and multidimensional industry — which makes generalizing its management more challenging. It encompasses various sectors, including accommodation, attractions, travel, and transportation (Pender, 2005).

2.4 Mangrove Ecotourism in Kendari City

Ecotourism refers to travel activities to natural, artificial, or culturally unique environments that are informative and participatory, aiming to ensure environmental sustainability and preserve socio-cultural functions. Ecotourism emphasizes three main aspects: ecological or environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, and social acceptance within local communities (Satria, 2009). One of the most notable ecotourism attractions in Kendari City is the Bungkutoko Island Mangrove Ecotourism Area.

The Bungkutoko mangrove area covers approximately 7 hectares, with only about 9,000 m² developed for ecotourism purposes. The development of Bungkutoko Mangrove Forest aims to utilize its natural resource potential while supporting the tourism industry in Kendari City. According to Rachmawati (2012), in addition to serving as a recreational site, mangrove ecotourism also functions as a means for education and scientific research, fostering love and care for nature. The multifunctional nature and potential of the Bungkutoko mangrove ecotourism area indicate promising development prospects that require broad support, especially from the local Bungkutoko Island community.

Community involvement can be seen through their participation level in ecotourism development. This participation is influenced by their perceptions and attitudes, which reflect how their interests are accommodated in the mangrove ecotourism system. Perception and attitude, as cognitive components, form the basis of whether the community chooses to engage in ecotourism development.

Apriyanti (2011) emphasizes that accurate knowledge and perception of mangrove ecotourism are essential to building positive attitudes toward its sustainable development. Therefore, research on community perceptions and attitudes toward the development of Bungkutoko mangrove ecotourism is necessary to achieve sustainable ecotourism management.

2.5 Legal Instruments (Laws, Regulations, and Local Ordinances)

2.5.1 Environmental Protection and Management

The management of ecotourism areas is governed by Law No. 32 of 2009, Article 1, on Environmental Protection and Management. The law defines key terms as follows:

1. The environment is the unified space containing all objects, energy, conditions, and living beings, including humans and their behavior, which influence the sustainability of life and well-being.
2. Environmental protection and management refer to systematic and integrated efforts to preserve environmental functions and prevent pollution or degradation through planning, utilization, control, maintenance, supervision, and enforcement.
3. Sustainable development is a conscious and planned effort to integrate environmental, social, and economic factors into development strategies to ensure environmental integrity, safety, welfare, and quality of life for current and future generations.
4. The Environmental Protection and Management Plan (RPPLH) is a written plan that outlines environmental potential, issues, and management efforts within a specified period.
5. An ecosystem is an integrated, interdependent system of environmental components forming balance, stability, and productivity.

2.5.2 Policies in Ecotourism Development

Hadi (2007) states that the principles of ecotourism include minimizing impacts, raising environmental and cultural awareness, providing positive experiences for both visitors and hosts, and empowering local communities for economic gain. According to The Ecotourism Society (Eplewood, 1999), ecotourism development should:

- a. Prevent and mitigate environmental and cultural impacts resulting from tourism activities, adapting mitigation measures to local characteristics.
- b. Support environmental conservation education.
- c. Provide direct financial benefits to conservation areas.
- d. Encourage community participation in planning.
- e. Deliver tangible economic benefits to local communities while maintaining environmental sustainability.
- f. Maintain harmony with nature.

g. Operate within the limits of environmental carrying capacity.

Kendari City Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2013 on the Zoning Plan for Coastal Areas and Small Islands outlines:

1. General provisions (Article 1).
2. Principles, objectives, goals, and scope (Articles 2–4).
3. Zoning planning areas (Article 5).
4. Zoning policy and development of coastal areas and small islands (Articles 6–7).
5. Transportation routes and spatial utilization in coastal and small island zones (Articles 8–9).

III. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Type and Location

Research methodology refers to a systematic and careful approach undertaken through rational thinking to achieve specific objectives by searching, recording, organizing, formulating, and analyzing data, and ultimately compiling it into a research report (Cholid Nabuko and Abu Achmadi, 2003:1).

This study employs an empirical juridical legal research method. Empirical legal research is defined as field-based research that focuses on collecting empirical data directly from real-world conditions (Mukti Fajar ND and Yulianto Achmad, 2010:34). The juridical-empirical approach is a legal research method that examines the implementation or enforcement of normative legal provisions in actual legal events occurring within society (Abdulkadir Muhammad, 2004:134). The research location is in Kendari City, specifically at the City Tourism Office.

3.2 Research Approach

The approach used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative descriptive research refers to a type of study in which collected data are presented in the form of words, images, and descriptions rather than numerical data (Sudarwan Danim, 2002:51).

This research is also a field study (field research) using a qualitative approach, aiming to obtain factual data that accurately reflects real-life conditions. Data collection techniques include interviews, observation, and direct documentation with research subjects.

According to Bogdan and Taylor as cited by Moleong, qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior (Lexy J. Moleong, 2000:109). This approach studies phenomena in their natural settings as a way to obtain and collect the required data.

3.3 Data and Data Sources

Data sources are an important consideration in determining data collection methods. Data sources consist of:

1. Primary Data

Primary data refers to data obtained directly from research subjects. Researchers collect information using predetermined instruments to answer research questions. Primary data collection is an integral part of the research process and is often required for decision-making purposes. It is considered more accurate because it is presented in a detailed and specific form (Indriantoro and Supomo in Purhantara, 2010:179).

2. Secondary Data

Secondary data refers to data that already exist in various forms. These are usually statistical data or data that have been processed in such a way that they are ready to be used in research. Secondary data can be obtained from government offices, data service agencies, private companies, or other institutions related to data usage (Moehar, 2002:113).

3.4 Data Collection Technique

The data collection method used in this study is library research (Library Research). This method is conducted to obtain secondary data by studying and reviewing legislation, scientific works, academic articles, expert opinions, and books relevant to the research topic.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Result

4.1.1 Local Government Efforts in Managing Mangrove Ecotourism Areas in Kendari City

Mangrove ecosystems are among the most productive coastal ecosystems; however, they are highly vulnerable to environmental change. Mangrove forest management must consider ecological, economic, and socio-cultural integration to achieve optimal and sustainable outcomes. In addition, coastal areas are geologically and ecologically unique regions and serve as highly important biological domains that connect terrestrial and aquatic life systems, including human communities.

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia possesses extensive coastal ecosystems, including mangroves. The utilization of mangrove ecosystems for ecotourism aligns with the shift in tourism paradigms from “old tourism”—where tourists merely visit destinations without educational or conservation components—to “new tourism,” where tourism activities integrate education and environmental conservation.

Efforts to develop ecotourism areas require identification of specific natural destinations rich in biodiversity and ecological value. Mangrove ecosystems have strong potential to be developed as alternative ecotourism destinations due to their uniqueness and biodiversity. These ecosystems contribute significantly to community welfare, offering distinctive features such as specialized root structures and diverse associated fauna, including birds,

snakes, monitor lizards, shrimp, fish, mollusks, crabs, and epiphytic plants such as orchids.

In Kendari City, Regional Regulation (Peraturan Daerah) No. 5 of 2013 concerning Coastal Zone and Small Islands Zoning regulates coastal administrative areas in Article 5 paragraph (1), which includes the coastal districts of Kendari, West Kendari, Mandonga, Kambu, Poasia, Abeli, Bungkutoko Island, and the inner and outer waters of Kendari Bay extending up to one-third of the 12-mile maritime boundary in the eastern part of Kendari City bordering the Banda Sea, covering an area of approximately 177.64 km². Bungkutoko Island, which contains the largest mangrove ecosystem in Abeli Village, is designated as a marine tourism zone under this regulation.

Furthermore, Article 7 paragraph (3) outlines strategies for developing marine tourism zones, including:

- a. Development of marine tourism supporting facilities while maintaining coastal environmental integrity and socio-cultural values;
- b. Provision of strategically located tourism areas with high attractiveness, adequate carrying capacity, and safety;
- c. Development and improvement of supporting infrastructure such as road networks, recreational facilities, cottages, and others;
- d. Control of negative impacts from marine tourism activities, including prohibition of facilities that may pollute coastal and marine environments.

In addition, Article 38 of the same regulation establishes prohibitions on the utilization of coastal zones and small islands, including:

- a. Activities that damage mangrove ecosystems, coral reefs, and seagrass beds;
- b. Conversion of mangrove ecosystems in cultivation zones without considering ecological sustainability;
- c. Mangrove deforestation in conservation areas for industrial, residential, or other purposes;
- d. Sand mining activities that cause environmental damage;
- e. Physical development that leads to environmental degradation or community harm;
- f. Use of explosives, toxic materials, or destructive fishing methods;
- g. Other destructive methods affecting fishing grounds and marine habitats;
- h. Utilization or development inconsistent with designated zoning plans under the Regional Coastal Zone Plan (RZWP3K).

Based on the above findings, the Kendari City Government has initiated Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2013 as a legal framework for coastal management and ecotourism development.

4.1.2 Factors Hindering the Implementation of Mangrove Ecotourism Management Policies in Kendari City

The obstacles to policy implementation in mangrove ecotourism development in Kendari City can be categorized into three main factors:

1. Ecological Factors

Ecological considerations are essential for maintaining biodiversity, including flora and fauna within mangrove ecosystems. Monitoring ecosystem sustainability is a primary step in ensuring long-term conservation of mangroves in Kendari City.

Another ecological issue is the low density of mangrove vegetation in certain areas, requiring reforestation and rehabilitation efforts. These efforts must be conducted systematically, including seed selection, nursery development, site preparation, planting, wave-break installation, maintenance, and replanting activities. Proper procedures are necessary to ensure successful mangrove growth. Additionally, diversification of mangrove species is needed to enhance ecological resilience and increase tourism attractiveness.

2. Social Factors

Local communities around mangrove ecosystems have historically not been involved in planning and management processes, leading to a lack of ownership and responsibility toward conservation efforts. As a result, many residents perceive mangrove conservation as solely the responsibility of the local government.

This condition poses risks to sustainability, including potential illegal logging and ecosystem degradation. Therefore, the government must collaborate with relevant institutions to conduct public awareness programs on the importance of mangroves, as well as provide education and training to improve community participation and livelihoods, such as through ecotourism-related businesses and handicraft production.

Institutional and stakeholder strengthening is also required. Given that mangrove ecotourism areas are surrounded by ports, settlements, and industrial activities, coordination among stakeholders is essential to prevent environmental degradation. Companies must properly manage waste, port authorities must control marine pollution, markets must regulate waste disposal, and communities must avoid littering.

Improving accessibility is also necessary, particularly road infrastructure improvements in areas such as Bungkutoko Village. Furthermore, public understanding of ecotourism must be enhanced through formal and informal education. Visitor perceptions must also be improved through better service quality and the provision of tour guides to support educational and research activities.

3. Economic Factors

Economic factors include both community economic empowerment and supporting infrastructure for ecotourism development. Community economic improvement can be achieved through the development of culinary tourism and supporting facilities such as small shops and stalls.

Additionally, economic empowerment can be enhanced through training programs on mangrove-based product processing, such as syrup, cakes, snacks, and other derivative products, which can increase household income and strengthen local economic resilience.

4.2 Discussion

Based on the research findings, the author argues that mangrove forest management planning at the district, sub-district, village, and community levels must be systematically socialized to relevant institutions such as forestry, fisheries, and marine agencies. This is essential to ensure full institutional support and to strengthen coordination among all stakeholders involved in mangrove ecosystem management.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The local government policy in managing mangrove ecotourism areas in Kendari City has been implemented through Regional Regulation (Perda) No. 5 of 2013. This regulation includes Article 5 paragraph (1) concerning coastal administrative areas, Article 7 paragraph (3) concerning strategies for developing marine tourism attractions, and Article 38 concerning prohibitions on the utilization of coastal zones and small islands in Kendari City.
2. The factors hindering the implementation of mangrove ecotourism management policies in Kendari City are caused by three main factors. The ecological factor relates to inadequate monitoring of natural resources, particularly mangrove ecosystems, as well as insufficient reforestation and mangrove planting efforts. The social factor is reflected in the perception of some community members who consider mangrove conservation and planting activities to be solely the responsibility of the local government. The economic factor includes both community economic conditions and limited supporting public facilities for ecotourism development.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the research findings, discussion, and conclusions above, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. The Kendari City Government needs to immediately formulate a more specific regional regulation that focuses explicitly on mangrove forest management to strengthen legal protection and governance of mangrove ecosystems.
2. The Kendari City Government should intensify socialization programs to relevant institutions (forestry, marine, and fisheries sectors) as well as surrounding communities, emphasizing the importance of mangrove forest management as an ecotourism asset in Kendari City.

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