

Study of Community Participation and Readiness of Small Island Resources as a Marine Tourist Destination (Study Case: Barrang Caddi Island, Spermonde, South Sulawesi)

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ABSTRACT: Small islands represent distinct regions characterized by unique ecosystems and specific community conditions. This study seeks to assess the preparedness of the community and resources on small islands, with a particular focus on Barrang Caddi Island in the Spermonde Archipelago, South Sulawesi. The research was conducted from April to August, employing methods such as location surveys, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews. The findings indicate that the culture of mutual assistance, openness, friendliness, and politeness serves as a significant catalyst for the development of tourism potential on Barrang Caddi Island. The island's environmental cleanliness, well-maintained village facilities, infrastructure, communication services, and white sandy beaches are notable attractions. The cultural potential, supported by the community's strong commitment and the pristine beach environment, positions Barrang Caddi Island as a promising tourism destination.

KEYWORDS: Destination, coastal community, beach, culture, Ecotourism

INTRODUCTION

Marine tourism constitutes a form of nature-based tourism that capitalizes on the aesthetic and recreational appeal of coastal environments, including beaches, coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, sunlight, and pristine sandy shores. The advancement of sustainable tourism, particularly through community-based tourism (CBT), has been implemented in various global regions. This approach enhances community engagement while mitigating potential adverse impacts (Haywood 1988, Jamal and Getz 1995, Murphy 1985). Community involvement in these activities facilitates a more efficient and equitable allocation of material resources and fosters a transformative learning process within community settings (Connell 1997). In the development of CBT, emphasis is placed on community participation, which entails the distribution of power and responsibility to local communities. This approach encourages equitable redistribution of benefits in tourism management (Arnstein 1969). Community participation involves all stakeholders, including local government officials, citizens, institutions, developers, entrepreneurs, and planners, ensuring that decision-making processes are carefully considered and aligned with local interests (Haywood 1988). CBT is characterized by community involvement in planning, development, management, and ownership (Hausler and Strasdas 2003, Asker et al. 2010, Tasci et al. 2013). Besides community participation, CBT is typically small-scale and incorporates educational and interpretative elements, emphasizing the importance of environmental, social, and cultural conservation (Hausler and Strasdas 2003). The capacity of communities to engage in decision-making is a fundamental right, supported by the availability of necessary facilities and resources. Communities require adequate resources and skills to effectively participate in resource management decisions (Jamal and Getz 1999). Historically, governments and other stakeholders have often perceived communities as passive recipients of management decisions, rather than as equal partners. Communities are frequently relegated to a supplementary role in activities that exploit their resources (Gray 1985, Joppe 1996). In regional tourism management, communities often remain mere observers, experiencing both the positive and negative impacts of tourism development without having a substantive role in decision-making. The small island represents a distinctive environment characterized by unique cultural and environmental attributes, distinct from those of the main island. This uniqueness can serve as an attraction for marine tourism. Effective management strategies for small

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islands must be tailored to their specific characteristics. Key potential resources of small islands include human resources (encompassing the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the island communities), natural resources (both biological and non-biological), available facilities and infrastructure, as well as the location and accessibility of transportation. The management of marine tourism on small islands should adhere to fundamental principles, including: (1) the principle of balance, which necessitates a commitment to harmonizing economic, social, cultural, and conservation development; (2) the principle of participation, emphasizing the involvement of local communities; (3) the principle of cohesiveness, which requires integrated planning that considers the outer island ecosystem and aligns with the development of various sectors; (4) the principle of law enforcement, ensuring management complies with existing legal frameworks and is executed with regulatory adherence to guarantee legal certainty; and (5) the principle of conservation, which mandates a commitment to environmental preservation (both natural and cultural), ensuring management is conducted responsibly, in accordance with ecological principles, and is sensitive to and respectful of the socio-cultural values and religious traditions of the local community, while also considering the carrying capacity (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2004). This research aims to investigate the readiness of potential biological and non-biological resources and the level of community participation in supporting the development of marine tourism on one of the Spermonde Islands in South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted from April to August 2019 on Bungkutoko Island, part of the Spermonde Islands Group in South Sulawesi (Figure 1). This descriptive research employed survey methods, focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews. Primary data collection involved the following steps: (1) Conducting a site survey and direct identification at the research location to assess the current conditions of Barrang Caddi Island, including the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the community; (2) Surveying environmental conditions, natural resources (such as beaches), supporting facilities and infrastructure, and cleanliness, as well as other relevant conditions; (3) Conducting interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with village government officials, community leaders, traditional leaders, representatives of housewives, fishermen, government employees, private sector representatives, youth, students, and parents residing in the research location. Secondary data were also collected from government agencies (such as the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Tourism Office, and related agencies), the Makassar Statistics Office, research journals, regional activity reports, library books, and other sources of information.

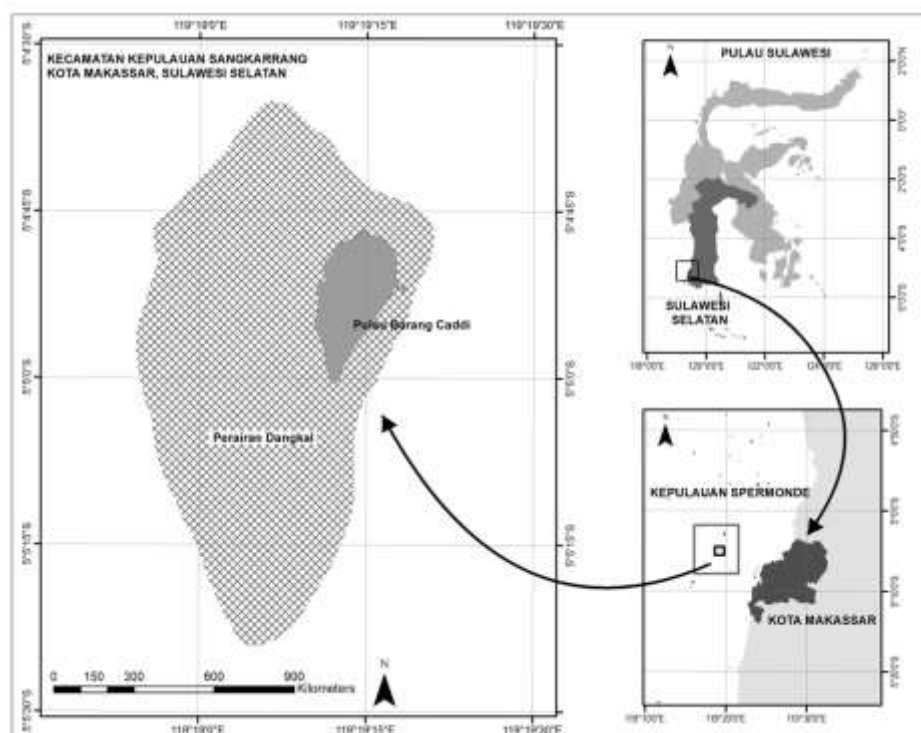


Figure 1. Maps of Study Sites

RESULTS

Overview of Research Locations

Barrang Caddi Island is administratively part of the Sangkarrang Islands District, Makassar City. The island is situated approximately 11 kilometers west of Makassar and can be accessed in about one hour by regular passenger boat. The island extends

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from east to west, covering an area of approximately 3.7 hectares. Barrang Caddi Island is densely populated, with closely situated settlements that are well-organized and feature neatly arranged pathways. The island's environment is relatively clean, enhanced by aesthetically pleasing street lighting. Waste disposal is facilitated by trash bins placed along the pathways and a garbage collection bin located at the island's corner. The island's inhabitants, predominantly of Bugis and Makassar ethnicities, exhibit a welcoming attitude towards newcomers, often greeting them warmly as they pass by.

The population of Barrang Caddi is approximately 4,425 individuals, comprising 2,113 men and 2,312 women, distributed across 1,079 households (BPS Makassar city, 2018). The community's educational level is commendable, with the presence of elementary (SD) and junior high schools (SMP). A Puskesmas Pembantu (Pustu) is available to provide public health services, and a paid public toilet is accessible for visitors' use (Table 1).

The majority of Barrang Caddi Island's residents are engaged in fishing, while others are employed in the service sector, including roles as traveling merchants, store sales personnel, transportation service providers, fiber boat manufacturers, and civil servants. A minority of the population is involved in floating cage farming and bubu fishing.

The island has access to clean water for washing and bathing; however, for drinking water, some residents transport gallon water from Makassar City, particularly during the dry season. Consequently, many residents have water storage tanks. An electricity network is operational from 18:00 to 06:00. The island is also well-served by telecommunications facilities, with strong mobile phone network coverage throughout.

Coral Reef Condition

The condition of the coral reefs surrounding Barrang Caddi Island reveals a substrate primarily composed of sand and sparse seagrass within the reef flat area. Utilizing the manta tow method for observation, numerous coral reefs are identified around the island at depths exceeding 1.5 meters, with live coral predominantly consisting of hard and soft corals. Additionally, a significant presence of dead coral is noted. The highest percentage of live hard coral cover is observed on the northern side, with hard coral cover at 50% and soft coral at 20%, primarily comprising massive and digitate corals. Conversely, the southwest side exhibits the lowest coral cover, with hard corals at 30% and soft corals at 20%. Healthy expanses of coral reefs are located on the southern, western, and northwestern sides of the island, dominated by live hard coral cover. The prevalent coral species include massive, digitate, and foliose forms, alongside soft corals and dead coral cover.

Table 1. Data on Manta Tow Condition of Coral Reef in Barrang Caddi Island (Septian, 2017)

Observation time		No of Line	Position		Living Coral cover (%)		
Start	Finish		Start	Finish	Hard	Soft	Dead
14.27	14.29	1	Ujung Split	Karang Selatan	60	20	0
14.31	14.33	2	Karang Selatan	Karang Tenggara	20	30	30
14.35	14.37	3	Karang Tenggara	Karang Barat Daya	30	10	30
14.39	14.41	4	Karang Barat Daya	Karang Barat	30	20	20
14.43	14.45	5	Karang Barat	Karang Barat Laut	40	20	0
14.47	14.49	6	Karang Barat Laut	Karang Utara Barat Laut	50	20	20
14.51	14.53	7	Karang Utara Barat Laut	Karang Utara	50	20	10

Availability of facilities and infrastructure

The availability of facilities and infrastructure is a critical factor in enhancing the tourism potential of regions, including small islands. Barrang Caddi Island exemplifies this, as it possesses a range of well-maintained facilities and infrastructure. Key amenities include a pier, sea vessels, passenger boats, small alleys, electricity, clean water, shops, waste disposal units, a meeting hall, and a mosque, all of which are in good condition (Table 2).

Table 2. Condition of Facilities and Infrastructure available on Barrang Caddi Island

No	Condition of Facility	Available	Non available	Damage	Good Condition	Repaired
1	Dock,	√			√	
2	Ship,	√			√	
3	Other passenger ships,	√			√	
4	Great road conditions,		√			

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5	The condition of small roads / passageways	√			√	
6	Cleanliness of public roads	√			√	
7	Electricity	√			√	
8	Clean water,	√			√	
9	Cottage (Other resting place)		√			
10	lodging,	√		√		
11	House for rent,		√			
12	Store,	√			√	
13	Trash can,	√			√	
14	Restaurant,		√			
15	Meeting hall,	√			√	
16	Condition of village / kelurahan halls),	√			√	
17	Mosque,	√			√	
18	Mushollah,		√			
19	Other Places of Worship,		√			
20	Diving equipment rental,		√			
21	Canoe / boat rental,		√			
22	Telecommunications (signal condition),	√			√	
23	The number of active and highly networked Cellular Operators,	√			√	
24	Clean sandy beaches,			√		
25	Other beach cleanliness (rocks etc.),					
26	Public toilets or toilets or those that can be used publicly	√				√
27	Elementary school and junior high school	√			√	
28	High school		√			

Community Participation

In examining community engagement, it was observed that among the 50 respondents interviewed, there was a notable prevalence of enthusiasm, respect, and active participation in fostering the development of community-based tourism on Barrang Caddi Island. Specifically, regarding the community's response to visitors, all 50 individuals demonstrated a relatively positive reception (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Local community response to visitors

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An essential component of community engagement was their willingness to serve as guides for visitors. Specifically, 46 individuals expressed their readiness to assume this role, while 4 individuals indicated their reluctance (Figure 3).

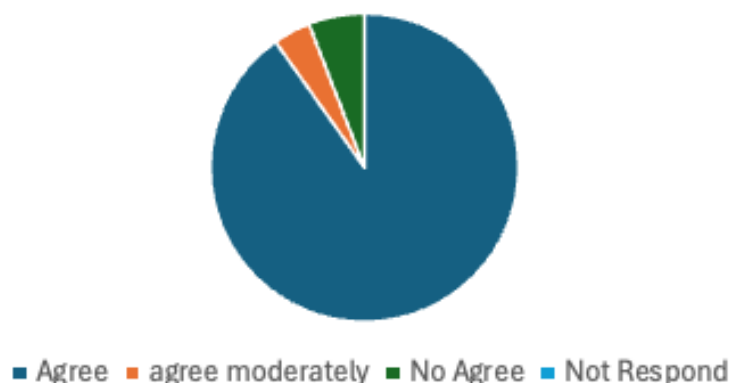


Figure 3. The level of community participation to become a guide to visitors.

Among the 50 respondents surveyed regarding their interest in constructing or renovating their homes to accommodate visitors as homestays, 49 individuals expressed willingness, while 1 individual indicated unwillingness (Fig. 4).

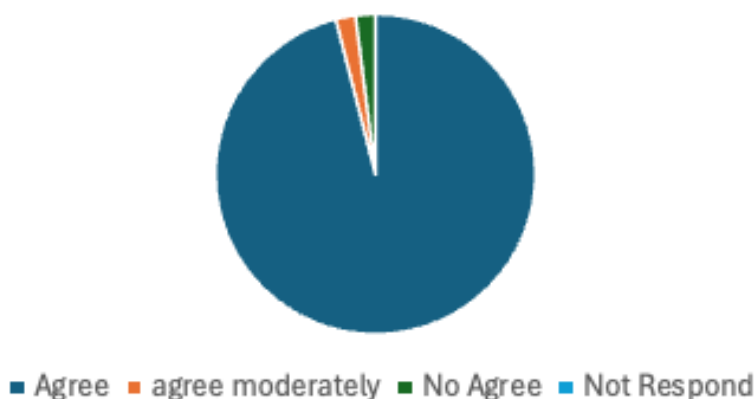


Figure 4. Response and or Desire to make an Homestay

One of the primary factors in disseminating information regarding local resources accessible to tourists is the management of coastal and marine resources. According to interviews conducted with 50 respondents, 21 individuals possess detailed knowledge of marine resources, beach conditions, and coastal resources of the Barrang Cadi Islands, whereas 29 individuals lack this knowledge (Figure 5).

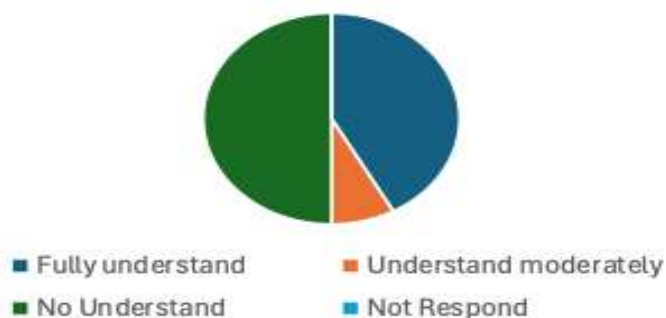


Figure 5. Knowledge of coastal resources and the marine environment

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Diving and swimming skills around the tourist area, 37 interviews have diving skills and 13 have no diving skills (Figure 6).

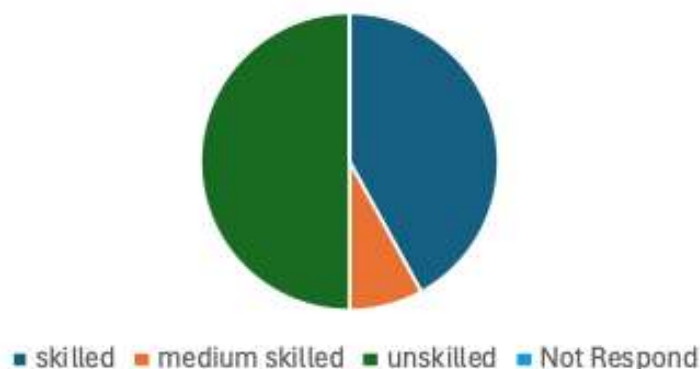


Figure 6. Diving and swimming skills at tourist sites.

DISCUSSION

The advancement of community-based tourism is intrinsically linked to the efforts of community participation. Community involvement serves as the primary driving force for the development of essential components of marine tourism, such as the environment, culture, and infrastructure. On Barrang Caddi Island, community engagement can be fostered through a strong desire for participation among the residents. The study specifically highlights community involvement through factors supporting marine tourism, including the local community's response to migrants, the level of community participation in guiding visitors, the initiative to establish homestays for tourists, knowledge of coastal resources and the marine environment, and diving skills. The study's findings indicate that all potential elements of community involvement are well-established, contributing positively to the development of marine tourism on Barrang Caddi Island. According to Lopez-Guzman (2011), community-based tourism aims to engage the community by ensuring benefits for the community itself. It is crucial to provide advantages to the community through strategic planning and mentoring efforts, which will align tourism management with community interests. The enthusiasm generated is vital, with the expectation of benefits accruing to the community. Tourism management that involves direct community participation can offer greater opportunities to enhance the welfare of local communities. The implementation of the Community Base concept has been extensively researched and applied in various regions in Indonesia, including Munjangan Subdistrict, Trenggalek Regency. In this region, the management of tourist attractions in the Tourism Village Bangunmuncul emerged from local community initiatives, leading to the establishment of a tourism village institution, prioritization of Wonoasri Waterfall management as the main attraction, and the development of community business activities resulting from tourist attraction management (Topowijono, 2018). According to Timothy (1999), community participation in tourism encompasses two perspectives: local participation in the decision-making process and local participation concerning the benefits derived by the community from tourism development.

Murphy (1985) underscores the importance of strategies that prioritize identifying the objectives of the host community, as well as their aspirations and capacity to assimilate the benefits of tourism. It is imperative for each community to be encouraged to delineate their own objectives and steer tourism to fulfill the needs of local populations. Consequently, planning must be conducted in a manner that integrates social and environmental considerations into the tourism industry, taking into account both tourists and the local community. The current development of maritime tourism is intrinsically linked to the community's involvement in its advancement. The marine tourism that is developed should aim to enhance the income of fishing families, improve the quality of the village environment, and preserve traditional cultural heritage. A village capture plan should be devised through the implementation of a village revitalization program to support community-based marine tourism initiatives (Nurisjah et al., 2017). The development of maritime tourism places significant emphasis on collaboration between the community and all stakeholders, addressing various economic, social, and political interests. This collaborative approach will serve as the foundation for improved development (Goreau, 2009). Research findings on marine tourism in Wakatobi Island identified three primary variables as determinants in the development of marine tourism: informative communication, inter-agency coordination, and natural resources. Prioritizing these variables is expected to mitigate miscommunication that disrupts harmonious relations among communities, stakeholders, and all entities involved in the development of marine tourism. Effective coordination is anticipated to synergize all planning, development, and management efforts in the tourism development of the Wakatobi Kaledupa Islands (Salim and Purbani, 2015).

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Maritime tourism is perceived positively by local communities, as it is regarded as a means of generating economic benefits and creating new employment opportunities. It is crucial to emphasize the involvement of the community, including the significant roles of women and young people, in the planning and development of tourism activities and in managing prospective businesses. Furthermore, the development of tourism facilitates the creation of resources, such as health services, education, and infrastructure, for the community itself (Lopez-Guzman et al., 2011). Community-based marine tourism can serve as a foundation for further socio-economic development in the area and, consequently, for infrastructure improvements that will benefit the local community (Manyara and Jones, 2007). The development of community participation is not limited to regions such as Indonesia; several Southeast Asian countries also foster community participation to enhance the success of regional development as marine tourism destinations. In the Philippines, particularly on Palawan Island, the model for developing community participation is notably robust. The role of indigenous peoples in initiating community-based marine ecotourism efforts is pivotal for the successful implementation of activities. Although this endeavor has encountered challenges, including conflicts with non-native stakeholders, a strengthened approach and mutual understanding among all stakeholders can yield positive outcomes from these challenges (Okazaki, 2008). Other studies in Malaysia indicate that tourism growth in Bario is closely linked to other aspects of the community's social and cultural development, which have evolved concurrently. The role of stakeholders, such as industry, provides insights into the community's role in promoting tourism by leveraging their natural environment. The success of tourism activities in this region is inextricably linked to the community-based approach that supports impoverished populations. This approach can be integrated with local development in mutually reinforcing processes that offer more than income-generating opportunities, including fostering broader recovery of the local economy and social life (Harris, 2009). In most locations where community-based tourism has been developed, the role and activities of the community are prioritized, not only for the development of the people themselves but also for the sustainable development of resources that can be optimized for the community.

Barrang Caddi Island serves as an exemplary case illustrating that the community's role extends beyond merely maintaining facilities and the environment for aesthetic purposes; it also encompasses the proper protection of coastal and marine resources. The community's involvement is crucial in ensuring that the environment yields sustainable benefits. Tegar and Gurning (2018) elucidate significant aspects related to this issue. Marine and coastal tourism, as one of the largest segments of the maritime economic sector and a major component of the tourism industry, frequently incites controversy concerning its environmental impacts and compatibility with other human activities. Implementing economic and tourism strategies that prioritize the preservation of the environment and natural resources is a viable solution to these challenges. The concept of enhancing tourism efforts with a focus on community involvement in upholding ecosystem principles can lead to economic growth as well as ecological and social sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Barrang Caddi Island presents a promising opportunity for the development of community-based marine tourism. Key elements that facilitate tourism development, including cultural aspects, community aspirations, residential area planning, cleanliness, facilities and infrastructure, community engagement, and the condition of natural resources, are crucial in supporting the advancement of community-based tourism on this island.

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