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## **Identification of Coastal Ecotourism Development at Valu Tutuala Beach, Lautem, Timor Leste**

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### ABSTRACT

Timor-Leste is a country that is rich in tourism potential such as natural beauty, historical tourism, and cultural heritage. The potential for natural tourism in Timor Leste is very large to be developed as a natural tourist attraction, one of which is coastal ecotourism in Valu Beach, Tutuala, Lautem, Timor Leste. Tutuala is one of the sub-districts of Lautem Regency, Timor Leste which has enormous natural potential, one of which is the natural potential of Valu Beach which can attract the attention of tourists from various countries, with natural beauty that is still very natural, clean beaches, diverse reefs, corals, and several types of rare animals such as deer, turtles, parrots and others. This Valu Beach Coastal Ecotourism is close to popular destinations in Tutuala such as Goa Ili Kere-Kere, Pouzada Tutuala which offers mountain views and the beauty of nature in the Jaco Island Region, also offers several attractions that we can enjoy, ranging from snorkeling and diving. This study aims to determine the development of coastal ecotourism in Valu Beach. In this study using research methods such as an overview of the research location and scope of research, primary and secondary data sources, the type of data used is qualitative data. Methods of collecting data through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Determination of informants using purposive sampling technique. The results obtained are the potential of coastal ecotourism in Valu Beach and Coastal Ecotourism Development in Valu Beach by using the Tourism Area Life Cycle (TALC) concept and the Tourism Product Component Concept (4A): Attraction, Amenity, Accessibility, and Ancillary.

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Keywords: Identification, Development, Coastal Ecotourism, Valu Beach, Tutuala District, Lautem, Timor Leste

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### **1. Introduction**

Tourism in economic development in various countries is no doubt. Several countries since the last few years have taken tourism seriously and have made it a leading sector in foreign exchange earnings, job creation, and poverty alleviation. Tourism, with its various positive aspects, is seen as a passport for development, a new type of sugar, a tool for regional development, invisible exports, pollution-free industry, and so on.

Alternative tourism is the answer to make tourism sustainable, because here tourists enjoy traveling more than conventional tourism. If in tourism there are many tourists who travel there and are filled with tourists, alternative tourism can get a more personal atmosphere when traveling without the need to feel jostled between tourists. Alternative tourism has many derivatives such as ecotourism, rural tourism, spiritual tourism, and urban tourism. Ecotourism is one form of alternative tourism where tourism is based on nature and as much as possible in practice minimizes the impact compared to conventional tourism. Besides tourists are invited to enjoy the beauty of nature, tourists are invited to seek new experiences and education.

According to Tuwo (2011) Ecotourism is a tourist trip to areas where the natural environment is still pristine, by respecting the cultural and natural heritage, supporting conservation efforts, not producing negative impacts, and providing socio-economic benefits and respecting the participation of local residents.

Tourism in Timor Leste has very attractive potential for tourists to visit it but there are still various problems faced by the government and investors as inhibiting factors, some of which are infrastructure, human resources and costs, because Timor Leste has a lot of tourism potential, namely tourist destinations that still have the beauty and authenticity of nature as a tourist attraction. Alternative tourism is a form of tourism that is more qualified in terms of tourists. Usually this alternative form of tourism when viewed from the number of visits is not higher than the existing and well-known mass / conventional tourism.

Tourism in Timor Leste is now starting to be developed in several places as a new destination that has a tourist attraction that can attract tourists to visit. However, there is a lack of accurate information about these tourist attractions so that every tourist visiting Timor-Leste only knows tourism in the capital city of Dili, one of the attractions in question is in the form of statues including the statue of Christ the King (Cristo Rei), the second highest after Rio de Janeiro Brazil which is located on the Fatucama hill which is the Icon of Dili. The guidance and development of tourism is carried out with due regard to the preservation of national culture and personality.

This Valu Beach Coastal Ecotourism is close to popular destinations in Tutuala such as Goa Ili Kere-Kere, PouzadaTutuala which offers mountain views and the beauty of nature in the Jaco Island area also offers several attractions that tourists can enjoy when visiting, such as snorkeling and diving. To cross Valu Beach to reach Jaco Island by using sea transportation in the form of small boats provided by fishermen.

Jaco Island has been designated as the Nino Konis Santana National Park Area in 2008. Formally, coastal ecotourism in Valu Beach is managed by the Nino Konis Santana National Park management agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Directorate General of Forests, National Directorate of Nature Conservation in Biodiversity. And informally managed by fishermen who are gathered in Cooperative Organizations. Where the use of land is not arbitrary used by both the community and the government. This conservation area is intended to be able to maintain the natural ecosystems that exist there. So that the development of tourism cannot be arbitrary, careful planning is needed because it is included in a Conservation Area. So that the existence of tourism activities does not necessarily disturb the natural ecosystems on Jaco Island and it is hoped that tourism in addition to providing an economic impact on the surrounding community can also maintain the authenticity of its environment.

Jaco Island is one of the two islands in Timor-Leste. Jaco Island has a natural beauty that is still very natural with the beauty of exotic flora and fauna such as its natural forest, plants dominated by trees remain green throughout the season, the animals that live on this island are wild and unique animals such as civets, deer, turtles, and other types of birds, one of which is the cockatoo. With the natural wealth that is owned on the island is able to attract the attention of tourists to visit. So, this research was conducted to identify viable ecotourism development on Jaco Island by using qualitative data analysis techniques research methods and the concept of the Tourism Area Life Cycle (TALC) and the concept of tourism product components (4A).

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## 2. Methodology

Data analysis technique is one of the most decisive steps in a study, because data analysis serves as an instrument to conclude the results of research. The data analysis technique used in this research is qualitative data analysis technique. This means that in qualitative research it is useful to develop theories that have been built from data that has been obtained in the field through various data sources that have been obtained.

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## 3. Results

### 3.1. Overview

Tutuala is the name of a suco and sub-district in Lautem District, Timor Leste. This sub-district is located on the eastern tip of the island of Timor. The sub-district consists of 2 sucos, Mehara and Tutuala, with the administrative center in SucoTutuala. SucoTutuala consists of 4 Aldeia or Villages, namely: Loro, Pitileti, Tchailoro and Vero. Tutuala is the main area for speaking the Fataluku language in Timor Leste, along with Lautem and Fuiloro. Tutuala sub-district has a lot of natural potential that is still very natural with beautiful beaches, a variety of coral reefs, and rare birds that are still preserved until now that can be developed and made into a tourist attraction that can attract tourists.

Jaco/Jako is the name of a small island belonging to East Timor. Jaco Island is one of the two islands in Timor-Leste. This island is located at the easternmost or the most tip has an area of 12 km<sup>2</sup>. This island is separated by a small distance from the main island of Timor, so it is quite easy to reach it by small water transportation such as small boats. The area of the island is about 12 square kilometers and is uninhabited. The island is considered sacred by the local community and Jaco Island is included in the Nino Konis Santana National Park Conservation Area. For now, tourists are allowed to visit Jaco Island by fishermen using small boats but not to stay there.

This island is dubbed as a unique and sacred island in Timor Leste because there are trees and several other types of plants that are already rare and there are rare animals that live on this island, namely civets, deer, turtles, and other types of birds, one of which is the cockatoo. This island is called sacred because this island has guards, so that every tourist who visits is not allowed to say harsh words and do things that are not wanted. With the natural wealth that is owned on the island.

### 3.2. Coastal Ecotourism Development in Valu Beach Based on the TALC (Tourism Area Life Cycle) Concept

The development of the Valu Beach Area as a coastal ecotourism can be done by identifying the tourism resources found on Valu Beach, both natural resources. The natural resources found in the Valu Coastal Area strongly support coastal ecotourism on Valu Beach, for now the efforts being made in the development of coastal ecotourism in Valu Beach are to continue to preserve and maintain natural resources and fulfill several tourism development factors such as: attractions or resources, tourist attraction, accessibility and other tourism supporting facilities.

### 1. Exploration

This exploration stage has been passed, because the number of tourists who come is quite a lot, and until now the authenticity of the Valu Beach is still maintained and there is good management from the cooperative organization as the Manager of the Valu Beach Area.

### 2. Involvement

Here the community simply participates in developments such as public toilets and promotions that are carried out by the community on a small scale to increase the number of tourists.

### 3. Development

The development of the construction of accommodation facilities as well as supporting facilities and infrastructure development starting from the city of Tutuala to Valu Beach is still in progress.

### 4. Consolidation

The number of visits is fairly crowded and remains especially during holidays. The promotion that was carried out was quite good, from the results of interviews conducted with visiting tourists, it could be seen that the information they received was not only from person to person but also through social media.

### 5. Stagnation

The number of tourist visits is quite stable on weekdays, because the number of tourist visits on weekdays and holidays is very different, the number of tourist visits on holidays is very crowded until the parking lot is full of vehicles.

### 6. Decline

For now, complaints from tourists regarding tourism facilities are: public toilets which are still in poor condition, the road to Valu Beach is not good but it is already under construction, in addition to public toilets and roads which are still under construction, tourist complaints about supporting facilities other inadequate facilities such as the lack of lodging, trash cans and parking areas that are not large.

### 7. Rejuvenation

There is no need for this new birth stage, because Valu Beach is still the same as the original one and only the construction or development of tourism supporting facilities has begun and it does not interfere or become a tourist complaint.

The development of tourism in the Valu Beach area is already in the development stage. Because there is already a manager, the supporting facilities are sufficient.

### 1. Attractions

Activities that take place at Valu Beach are in the form of adventure tourism: snorkeling, diving, enjoying the beach, photo spots, seeing forest animals on Jaco Island, and going around Jaco Island by boat.

### 2. Accessibility

Access to Valu Beach is currently under construction. Previously the road to Valu Beach was very rough but it did not become a barrier for local and foreign tourists to visit Valu beach. the distance from the center of Dili to Tutuala is  $\pm 275$  km/ $\pm 8$  hours. With road access that is still very limited resulting in a lot of transportation that cannot be used to go to Valu Beach, most tourists use motorbikes when visiting Valu Beach.

### 3. Amenity and Supporting Facilities

The existing supporting facilities at Valu Beach include public toilets, restaurants or restaurants on Valu Beach, traditional inns, and small boats.

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#### 4. Ancillary or Supporting Facilities

Coastal ecotourism on the Valu coast is the Nino Konis Santana National Park area, but every activity that takes place on Valu Beach and Jaco Island is managed by cooperatives and fishermen in Valu Beach as the livelihood of the local community.

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