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## **Tourism Infrastructure Development in Jaco Island to Increase Tourist Visits in Lautem Lospalos Timor-Leste**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study aims to examine the Green Bowl Beach located in the South Bali area so that it has stunning natural potential and also has adequate accessibility. However, currently Green Bowl Beach is in a position that continues to experience improvements and refinements in various ways. As a tourist attraction that has a vision and mission in increasing tourist visits and prospering local communities for the creation of sustainable tourism development, it certainly requires an optimal development strategy from the relevant stakeholders. This study uses qualitative research methods using primary and secondary data sources. Data collection techniques used include observation and literature study. The result of this research is to provide new ideas that can be used as sustainable tourism development for the welfare of local people, environmental sustainability, and also protect their social culture.*

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Keywords: *sustainable tourism, development, tourist attraction.*

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### **1. Introduction**

Jaco Island is one of the two islands in the country of Timor-Leste. This island is located at the easternmost or at the very end, has an area of 12 km<sup>2</sup>. This island is known as the most unique and sacred island in Timor-Leste because there are or are overgrown with tamarind trees and several other types of plants. Animals that live on this island are weasels, deer, turtles, and other types of birds, one of which is the cockatoo. With the natural wealth owned on the island, until now the government of Timor-Leste has issued regulations to protect the assets owned based on government decree RDTL No.5/2004 regarding general regulations for fishing. UNTAET 2000 in regulation number 2000/19, Jaco was made a national park protected area. One of the accessibility to get to Jaco Island is by using a boat provided by the government and the local community at a rate of \$ 25 USD per person for shuttle. Jaco Island is uninhabitable because there are no supporting facilities available to support activities on the island, it's just that you can enjoy the natural panorama around the island starting from

from morning to evening. Development in the tourism sector is one thing that has great potential and needs to be managed as much as possible. It can be said, tourism is able to become an aspect of potential development, generating infrastructure growth helping to improve tourism development both internally and externally and also creating mutually beneficial relationships with the production and service provision sectors. In addition to economic benefits, tourism also provides natural cultural benefits. Tourism development is also able to spread to the addition of employment for the community because there are tourist objects in the area which are used as tourist destinations, this will certainly be a sizable advantage for the local community. Given the enormous potential in the tourism sector as an industry capable of supporting the development of national infrastructure development on Jaco Island, Lospalos district.

According to Jackson (in GdePitana, 2005: 101) an area that develops into a tourist destination is influenced by several important things, such as: Attractive to tourists, Facilities and attractions, Geographical location, Transportation routes, Political stability, and Environment. Leiper (in GdePitana, 2005: 99) suggests that a tourist destination (tourist destination) is a systematic arrangement of three elements. A person with tourism needs is a core/base (what features or characteristics of a place they will visit) and at least one marker (core information). Someone going on a tour is influenced by factors that become the attraction that makes someone willing to travel far and spend quite a lot of money. An area must have good infrastructure and attractive potential so that the tourist destination of Jaco Island becomes a favorite place for tourists.

Tourism in Timor-Leste has a very interesting and unique potential for tourists to visit, but there are still various problems faced by local communities and investors as inhibiting factors, some of which are infrastructure, human resources and water, because there is a lot of tourism potential owned, namely a tourist destination in terms of its beauty and authenticity as one of the supporting factors for the level of tourist visits to Jaco Lautem Lospalos Island, Timor-Leste, showing that from year to year there has been an increase in tourists, both tourists from various countries and domestic tourists, which has been proven from 2016 (7,683) tourists until 2018 and there has been a decrease in tourist visits, namely 79% of tourists in 2019/2021 this happened because in that year the Covid-19 pandemic occurred which caused various sectors to be hampered, especially the tourism sector on Jaco Lautem Lospalos Island, Timor-Leste so that the interest of visiting tourists has decreased and this has had an impact on the government and tourism agencies to work harder on developing tourist infrastructure on Jaco Island in order to increase tourist visits, things that need to be done now are adding accommodation, repairing residences, roads, developing tourist destinations and so on, besides having abiotic beauty it also has ecological potential, natural panoramas, flora and fauna that live and thrive. Lospalos is one of the 13 districts in Timor-Leste and the only one that has its own island so that both the government and investors are focusing on the development and planning of tourism infrastructure. highways, clean water, electricity, telecommunications, hotels and restaurants as well as cultural attractions such as traditional dances, and regional specialties.

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## 2. Methodology

Data analysis technique is a process of simplifying data into simpler forms so that it is easier to understand and implement. Miles and Huberman explain that data analysis activities are carried out continuously until the data is saturated (Miles and Huberman, 2009: 41)

### 1. Data Collection

The data and information obtained from the informants by means of interviews, observation or documentation were put together in a research note.

### 2. Data Presentation

Presentation of data is intended to simplify complex information into simple data to make it easier for researchers to view research results. The amount of data obtained makes it difficult for researchers to see an overview of the results of the research and the process of drawing conclusions, because the results of the research are still in the form of stand-alone or raw data.

### 3. Conclusion

The final step in qualitative data analysis is drawing conclusions. Drawing conclusions is an attempt to find meaning, meaning, explanations that are carried out on the data that has been analyzed by looking for only important things. After the data has been summarized, reduced and adapted to the focus of the research problem, conclusions are then drawn which are arranged in the form of short and easy-to-understand statements with reference to the research objectives.

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## 3. Results

### 3.1. Overview

Jaco Island is an uninhabited island located in the Lospalos of Timor-Leste. Jaco Island is also part of the Nino Konis Santana National Park, just off the east end of the island where the rest of the country is located, separated from the mainland in front of Valu Beach.

Although the distance is not too far, there is significant danger from the swift currents that pass through the narrow passage but depending on the local weather, nevertheless, once there, the pristine beauty of the island with clear azure water will win the heart of every visitor.

Jaco Island does have a beautiful panoramic beach that invites its own charm. This island is located in the Tutuala region. Tutuala is a small village at the very eastern end of Lospalos which has a lot of tourism potential. The distance from Tutuala to Jaco Island is approximately nine kilometers. It cannot be denied that Jaco Island is a favorite tourist spot in Timor-Leste when compared to other tourist areas.

So it is no exaggeration if foreign tourists call this island the paradise of Timor-Leste. One of the uniqueness of Jaco Island is its natural beauty which is still intact and virgin. Apart from that, the island of Jaco also has a beach with a stretch of fine white sand, the sea water is calm, clear blue, and you can also see some rocks at several points. The panorama of Jaco beach is indeed quite beautiful, beautiful, sexy, charming and tempting, before going to Jaco Island, usually domestic and foreign tourists first set aside their time to enjoy the view of Valu Beach which is no less interesting than Jaco beach.

### 3.2. Discussion

Infrastructure in a tourist destination is natural resources and man-made resources that are absolutely needed by tourists when traveling in a tourist destination such as roads, electricity, water, telecommunications, bus stops, bridges, and so on. The readiness of tourist destinations to be visited by tourists in tourist destinations requires the development and fulfillment of infrastructure needs by adjusting the location and conditions of the relevant tourist destinations. This has triggered the Government of Timor-Leste to continue to develop and fulfill complete infrastructure in tourist destinations. The hope of fulfilling this infrastructure is to increase the number of tourist visits and the large number of tourists who make repeated visits to these destinations. A tourist destination that is ready in terms of infrastructure readiness is of course very helpful in realizing Sustainable Tourism Development.

#### 1. The Role of the Government of Timor-Leste in the Development of Jaco Island Infrastructure

The role of government in making infrastructure development. The government in making infrastructure development is one of the most important factors such as: Tourism laws, and regulations relating to the protection of tourists, especially for travel agencies, development planning regulations and other regulations. With the existence of this tourism law, of course all activities related to tourism will run in an orderly and smooth manner as expected. The government has also developed a bottom-up approach model as an effort to realize real community participation at all levels of development, including in the tourism sector. Participation is really sought to start from below which is measured by how far the community is involved in the decision-making process. This thinking prompted the emergence of a movement to create a tourism development model called: "Community Based Tourism" or

Community Based Tourism (CBT). CBT has the same goal as sustainable tourism but with a bottom-up participatory approach (Asker et al, 2010). The rapid growth of mass tourism on a large scale has a negative impact on less developed regions due to the scarcity of resources (financial, knowledge, experience and human resources) and infrastructure. Development is hampered due to leakage in several ways. Financial leaks occur due to massive foreign investment without considering the future.

## **2. The Role of the Haburas Agency**

The role of haburas agencies in providing facilities and infrastructure Facilities and infrastructure are one of the most important elements or as a supporting factor to attract the attention of tourists such as providing tables, chairs, rest houses, providing toilets, installing lights and so on.

Facilities are learning equipment that can be moved, while infrastructure is the basic facility for carrying out tourism functions. These facilities include buildings, hotels, tables, chairs, primary construction materials and others. Infrastructure includes yards, parks, fields, boats, roads to Valu Island, before, after and others. With adequate facilities and infrastructure, this will attract the attention of tourists to visit the tourist attraction of the LautemLospalos District.

The role of the Timor-Leste Haburan Agency in making development plans to carry out a successful job, it is first necessary for the government's role to make a more mature plan first, this is very important so that the work can go well according to what is desired. Apart from that, the Agency can also collaborate in this regard to meet the needs of the community in increasing tourist visits. If work is not carried out with a plan, the development will not work according to the functions of organizing, directing, and controlling it will not work. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors for infrastructure development in the tourism sector on Valu Island, Jaco LautemLospalos, Timor-Leste has Supporting and Inhibiting Factors.

## **3. Supporting Factors**

One of them is the tourism law, which exists even though it has not been properly implemented. In addition, there is support from the people of Lospalos for tourist destinations, the location is very natural and beautiful, namely close to beaches and trees, tourist interest is arguably increasing and there are already facilities that have been built such as lodging, restaurants, camping spots for millennials who want to spend the night near beach.

The tourist attraction on Valu Island, Jaco is very suitable for recreational activities for local tourists and foreign tourists visiting Timor-Leste. Activities that can be enjoyed by tourists at this location are snorkeling, diving, bathing while enjoying the warm blue sea water and natural scenery. Apart from these activities, tourists can also enjoy fishing or can be bought directly by fishermen who sell fresh and fresh because fishing is adjusted to the size and method of fishing. Apart from this attraction as a supporting factor, there is another attraction, namely a charter boat to go to Jaco Island to feel and enjoy the authenticity of the very blue and foreign blue sea water.

Cooper (1993) shows that visitors (motivated) to see something, both natural and man-made. Motivation is generated by the attractiveness of a tourist destination, be it a natural tourist attraction, or man-made or event. Cooper's statement (1993: 84) is reinforced by the opinion expressed by Mill and Morrison (2012: 17) which states that "The central aspect of tourism are attractions". Mill and Morrison expressed their opinion based on the understanding that a tourist attraction can attract visitors to it. Tourism occurs because there is an attraction that attracts the interest of people who are encouraged to travel to visit these tourist attractions.

## **4. Inhibiting Factors**

The obstacles or inhibiting factors in the development of the infrastructure of Valu Island, Jaco Lospalos, to become a beautiful tourism destination that can run effectively and efficiently, include two. is one of the supporting factors for making a development, both physical and non-physical, all of which require a budget. However, the budget that has been allocated to the regions (PEMDA) has been very limited. So that this becomes one of the obstacles or inhibiting factors for the community to develop a sustainable tourist attraction on Valu Island, Jaco. The two human resources (HR) for tourism destinations, of course, the Timor-Leste government and the Haburas Agency need skilled workers or human resources (HR) as a supporting factor, but until now human resources in the tourism sector are still very minimal. This is one of the inhibiting factors or obstacles for the tourism sector to develop these tourist destinations, even though natural resources or natural potential have supported it. Human resources are a vital component for the government and agencies in the development of tourism development on Valu Island, Jaco. So, what if the human resources at the destination are inadequate then this will be a factor or obstacle for the government and agencies to develop tourism destinations from any point of view, the human resource factor determines the existence of tourism. The human resource factor determines the existence of tourism. As one of the service industries, the attitudes and abilities of residents and entrepreneurs will have a crucial impact on how tourism services are provided to tourists which will directly impact the comfort, satisfaction and impression of the business activities carried out. From this description, where is the importance of a resource human beings to support and run the wheel of tourism in a tourism destination, including in terms of the development and construction of the infrastructure destination. So this is very necessary to support the competitiveness of a destination as well as a supporting component in the development of a destination in a sustainable manner. . boat and beach guides, tour guides or guides interact a lot directly with tourists having an average level of education from elementary school to high school and almost all of them have minimal tourism education. Development of Tourism Infrastructure on Valu Island, Jaco Lospalos, Tourism infrastructure requires the development of good inanimate and human infrastructure to obtain optimal results in accordance with the objectives to be achieved.

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## **4. Conclusion**

Based on the results of the discussion above, there are several suggestions that can be made the authors provide, namely as follows: With the existence of this tourism law, of course all activities related to tourism will run in an orderly and smooth manner as expected. The government has also developed a bottom-up approach model as an effort to realize real community participation at all levels of development, including in the tourism sector. Tourist destination areas require development and fulfillment of infrastructure needs by adjusting the location and conditions of the relevant tourist destinations. indicators of whether or not infrastructure is fulfilled in the tourist destinations visited and also the budget is one of the supporting factors for making a

development, both physical and non-physical, all of which require a budget. With the role of the Government, Agencies and Communities it can be trusted that the development of a tour will go well because there is a sense of empathy and sympathy for the environment and to advance Dtw it also requires skills in communication and creativity in building or developing the infrastructure of a tourist destination in a sustainable manner (sustainable tourism). )

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