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Planning for Riverside Area as Water Tourism Destination to Improve Quality of Life Local Residents, Case Study: Batuan – Sikambing River, Medan, Indonesia

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Abstract

Protected riverside area can make rivers as a source of water, water transport and water tourism destination. Nowadays, water tourism is increasingly popular to people. Local residents should be given an understanding of the importance of tourism activities mainly based on the river environment and things that need to be done to support these activities. River cleanliness must be maintained and preserved. This research was conducted at Batuan-Sikambing River, Medan, Indonesia. Research carried out quantitatively by using the questionnaire survey, where local residents become respondents. Data was analyzed descriptively; frequency to produce planning recommendation. Most respondents agreed that Batuan-Sikambing River could be a tourist destination. Provision of facilities is expected to support efforts to improve the quality of life of local communities. Recommendations resulting from this study are expected to be reference to the government and developers.

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1. Introduction

The river is fresh water that flows from high to low place and endures to the biggest river, lake or sea. The river is one of water resource that must be arranged completely and comprehensive that used as a sustainable water resource to the prosperity of people (Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 7 Tahun 2004 in Maryono, 2009). According to the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works No. 63/PRT/1993 (Maryono, 2009), there are three classifications of rivers namely: river with an embankment, the river without embankment and river was affected tide.

Protection of the riverside area is to preserve the function of river of cultivation activities that can disrupt and ruin the river and to preserve the flow of the river (RTRW Kota Medan Tahun 2011-2031). The effect of protection of the riverside area, the rivers in Medan city can serve as source of water, water transportation, and water tourism. Batuan – Sikambang river, as one of river in Medan city, this river has the potential to be developed as water tourism destination. Batuan – Sikambang river located in Medan City, especially in Medan Tuntungan District to Deli River in Medan Helvetia District. Medan city has some rivers that potentially to be developed.

Main problems of Batuan – Sikambang river are: the function of this river as source of water, transportation and water tourism were not used maximized; physical river and riverside landscape are not well designed and found some illegal buildings there; the height of the lower river surface is $\pm 3.4 - 3.9$ meters above the river banks; lack of regulation about river's flow so prone to flood in the river during the rainy season.

The aim of this research is to analyze how the riverside area in Batuan-Sikambang river can be used as water tourism destination and improve quality of life of local residents.

2. Planning for riverside area

The river is a natural source of fresh water that flowing from a higher to a lower place and headed or empties into the sea, lake or river is greater. The natural flow of the river is a major source of water for human beings to fulfill. Forest in the mountains is the catchment. The river is one of the forms of surface water flow must be managed as a whole, integrated environmentally friendly manner with realize the benefits of sustainable water resources for the greatest prosperity of the people (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2004 in Maryono, 2009).

Based on Maryono (2009), riverside area can be main guidance for usage activity and river protection, then being the edge of settlement in riverside area. Riverside area has some functions, namely to improve water quality, flood potection, space for meandering, defend stability river aquatic system in forest, etc.

2.1. Water tourism

According to Inskeep (1991) in Agnes (2005), water tourism area is developed with complete facilities and services, both for recreation and deepening the experience. According to Page (1995) in Agnes (2005), there are some elements of the tourism plan, namely: the natural and socio-economic environment; attractiveness and tourist activities; accommodation; transportation; institutional elements; other infrastructure; facilities, utilities and other travel services; domestic and international tourism market as well as the use of tourism infrastructure by local residents. According Soemarwoto (2001) in I Made (2002), tourism is an industry that sells the physical and social environment existing culture to domestic and foreign tourists. Tourism consists of three basic elements, namely:

- Mechanical elements, the issue of living to the selected destination or destination.
- Elements of statistics, the issue of living in the goal area.
- Elements consequence, the results of the above two elements related to their effects on ecosystems and social.

According to Fandeli (2001) in I Made (2002), tourism object is the embodiment of human creation, way of life, art and culture and history of the place and the nation or the state of nature that has attractive to tourists. One of tourism object that has been developed is a tourist attraction that focus on river water. Water is the main focus of tourism in nature or open space. Water tourism demand by people. The setting is unplanned or natural. Water tourism is recreation activities or traveling with the purpose and object of the natural landscape and artificial form of the waters carried in open space while enjoying views of the waters. Water tourism are usually supported by facilities and tourist activities related to the water fun or entertainment while enjoying the scenery or activity tourist attractions water.

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