

Empowerment of Mangrove Ecotourism

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Abstract

Kuliah Kerja Nyata (KKN or Student Community Service) is the program of UIN Sunan Kalijaga to devotion in society and providing change for the community. In this program we gave them knowledge about Local Potential of Mangrove Tourism in Jangkaran Village. This program is expected to make mangrove tourism as one of the famous tourist. The aim of KKN Program are 1) Improve the management of mangrove tourism, 2) To complete the facilities and infrastructure of mangrove tourism, 3) Improve the awareness to mangrove tourism. The object of this study is the society and mangrove tourism in Jangkaran village. activity that have been done are clean up mangrove, procurement of trash bins, procurement of banner slogans, and planting mangroves. The result of the KKN program are maximizing mangrove forest potential as tourism and provide comfortable tourism facilities.

Keywords: *Ecotourism, Mangrove, Devotion, Society.*

Introduction

Mangrove forests are tropical and subtropical coastal vegetation, mangrove can grow and develop in intertidal and muddy area (Bengen, 2001). Mangrove forests have functions and benefits for human's life, both ecologically, socially, and economically.

Mangrove forests ecosystem are natural resource that provide many benefits to humans as well as the ability to preserve nature. Mangrove forests are provide many ecologically functions because the mangroves can be habitat for fishes and some other sea creature. Beside that mangroves ecosystem can help to maintain coastal balance, avoid abrasion, and extinction of marine animals.

Considering the importance of mangrove forests for human survival and to prevent damage in coastal habitats, so it needed to conserve mangroves. The way to conserve are find potential of mangrove forests and use natural product. All must be planned wisely to benefit humans and development.

Today, ecotourism is one of the approach to achieve sustainable development in coastal areas. According to Hadinoto (1996), ecotourism is a form of tourism activity that utilizes the natural environment, where happened interactions between the environment and recreational activities, conservation and development, and empowering local communities. So that the communities can enjoy the benefits of ecotourism through the development of their potential.

Actually, there has no effort from managers and the local community to optimize mangrove forests as new ecotourism in the Jangkaran village, Temon Subdistrict, Kulonprogo. Therefore, KKN from Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University has been empowering mangrove forests as ecotourism in Jangkaran Village. The program aimed to manage mangrove forests, optimize ecotourism, improve tourism inventory, complete facilities, and increase the tourist

The program has been done in mangrove forests ecotourism, Jangkaran village. Thing that must be considered in the development of tourism is environmental cleanliness to support tourism optimization. Mangrove ecotourism is a source of economic prosperity for society, therefore if the ecotourism area is optimal, the economy of the people will increase

The target of this program is the mangrove tourism place. Activities that have been done are cleaning, procurement of trash bins, procurement of banner slogans, and planting mangroves.

Methods

The method is by holding activities in a mangrove ecotourism place. The method in this study are divided into three stages. Observation, Implementation, and Evaluation. First step is looking for the problems and analysis of needs. Second, collect information from the local government and tourism managers, then find the

solution. At the implementation stage, started with clean-up the mangrove forest with the local community. The clean-up is held every Saturday. Then providing trash bins, making banner slogans, and planting mangroves. The last step is evaluation; this evaluation is carried out together with the local community. The result of the evaluation is to socialize the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness, tourism awareness, and managing the place.

Discussion

First stage is observation and discussion with local government and local community. Based on observation and discussion were obtained some problems, that is:

1. The ecotourism mangrove is very grubby. There are much organic and inorganic waste. Organic waste are: leaves, decayed trunk, food scraps, etc. Inorganic waste are: water bottle, scraps of plastic, etc. The waste release bad smell and disrupting the mangrove ecosystem.
2. The visitors always littering mangrove because there is no trash bin.
3. There is no effort from ecotourism managers and local government about the importance maintain cleanliness and importance to throw the rubbish at the trash bin.

Once the problems obtained and identified, the next step is plan some strategies, among others:

1. Clean-up

Clean-up mangrove forests has been done periodically, once a week started on July 7 2018. This activity involves the local community so it can be improving awareness about cleanliness. The activity is done by:

 - a. Collecting the garbage in mangroves forests using hands and fish net. Took away trunk that floats in water.
 - b. Sorting out the organic and inorganic waste.
 - c. Drying up organic and inorganic waste.
 - d. Burn dry organic waste and spread it to mangrove forests as fertilizer.
2. Procurement of trash bin

Students and the society voluntarily make trash bin from paint buckets. The activities that have been done include:

 - a. Looking for a used paint bucket is then modified into an attractive trash bin.
 - b. Give the label "Tempat Sampah" so that can be easily found by the visitors.
 - c. Put 6 trash bins in several mangrove ecotourism locations. The point determination based on the most visited area.

3. Mangrove planting

Ten mangrove seeds was planted at specified location. These activities were done with the local community.
4. Installation of Slogan Banners

Slogans are made in the form of banners or posters. The aim of slogan is to educate the society and visitors about the importance of keep cleanliness. Banners are assembled in three locations. The locations for install banners are in the open areas and easily to see by the visitors. Thus the message is acceptable to all.

Here are photos of the activities:



Figure 1. Photos activities.

Below are the activity progress that has been done by KKN member:

Table 1. Activity Progress.

No	Component	Before	After
1	Improving society awareness about cleanliness of mangroves	Less	Increase
2	Trash bin	Less	Increase
3	Effort to educate society about cleanliness with slogans and posters	None	available

Conclusion

Based on the explanation above it can be concluded:

1. This program is responded positively by local governments, society, and ecotourism managers.
2. KKN activity in society has finished right on schedule.
3. Maximized the secondhand stuff like paint buckets became useful thing.
4. The video of mangrove ecotourism has not been created because time is limited and media shortage

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