Research Article

Progress of Tourism Development in East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia: A Path to Realize the Sustainable Economic Sector

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Abstract.
The tourism sector in East Kalimantan Province is expected to contribute to the region's economy over the domination of the mining industry. On the other hand, the main issue is that the province's economy still relies much upon the mining-based sector, particularly coal. As green growth-based and sustainable development strategies have been embraced globally for future development, developing a tourism-based economy is associated with this implementation due to tropical and mangrove forest area resources owned by the province. This path, if consistently developed, means not only an improved proportion of non-mining sectors in total local GDP but also significant reductions of carbon emissions responsible for global warming and climate change. Less elaborated studies have discussed the case of tourism development for the case of coal-based at province level. This paper tries to contribute to the gap by descriptively summarizing the current conditions of the tourism destinations and their climate development in the region using SWOT analysis. Our study shows that East Kalimantan Province has a comparative advantage in natural tourism with ecotourism destinations. Mangrove forest attractions, for instance, recorded as many as 18 objects and if these objects are properly conserved, they may contribute to reducing the harmful effects led by greenhouse gases. Other tourist objects with nature backgrounds have also reached 124 in number, and there was one object recognized in the Indonesian Tourism Village Award. An increase in non-domestic tourist visits from 2013 to 2019 was also seen, though the number was less developed compared to national tourists, and it experienced a significant decrease due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some limitations such as accessibility and amenities, human resource, branding, and marketing of tourist destinations hamper the development of the tourism sector and should be addressed to optimize its competitiveness. Policies that cut these burdens may improve the realization of sustainability in East Kalimantan's Province economy.

Keywords: tourism, development, tourist destinations, ecotourism, East Kalimantan

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1. Introduction

Developing countries tend to rely much on natural resources to maintain their economic growth. Indonesia is one of emerging nations with abundant resources and currently has more than 34 administrative provinces from Sumatra to Papua Islands. Based on the 2021 Handbook of Energy and Economic Statistics of the Ministry of Economic Resources and Minerals, East Kalimantan Province is one resource-dependence province in Indonesia with the largest coal resource (both probable, indicated, and measured) with a total of 44,933.27 billion tonnes. This brings the peculiarities of this region's economy to mining-based activities as the average contribution of the coal mining sector to East Kalimantan's local GDP (GRDP) until 2021 was 35.42%. Meanwhile, the average contribution from the mining and quarrying sector in the same period of the year reached 49.64% or almost half of the value of East Kalimantan's GRDP for all sectors. As shown in Figure 1, however, the trend of the mining and quarrying sector within local GDP has decreased considerably over the last 10 years.

According to the 2019-2023 Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) document, one mission stated is that, "East Kalimantan is able to realize self-sufficiency in natural resource management in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner" and in Mission 4, "Sovereignty in the management of natural resources sustainable nature". Based on the vision and mission declared in the planning document, it is illustrated that there is a strong enthusiasm to realize a green, sustainable and development economy in this province, though the realization seems to be slow as until 2021 the province economy was still very dominantly supported by the mining sector. On the other hand, the contribution of the eco-friendly business sector (such as business sectors engaged in the tourism sector) was still underperform, though if seen from accomodation and food beverages sector, the progress seems to gradually increase (see Figure 2). The Figure shows increasing role of the accommodation and food and beverage sub-sectors which have been a supporting ecosystem for the tourism sector in East Kalimantan. It can be seen that during 2010-2021 the contribution of this sub-sector has increased from only 0.60 percent of GRDP to approximately 0.86 percent of GRDP in 2021.

Figure 1 captures information related to proportion of coal in total GRDP of East Kalimantan Province. The graph also compared with ratio of mining & quarrying sector in total GRDP. This figure indicates that coal contributed 35.41% on average over the last 11 years while mining &quarrying sector has approximately contributed 49% of total GRDP (using base year 2020). The trend of mining share in total GRDP, however, dropped, though not significantly, from 49.87% in 2010 to 47.07% in 2021.
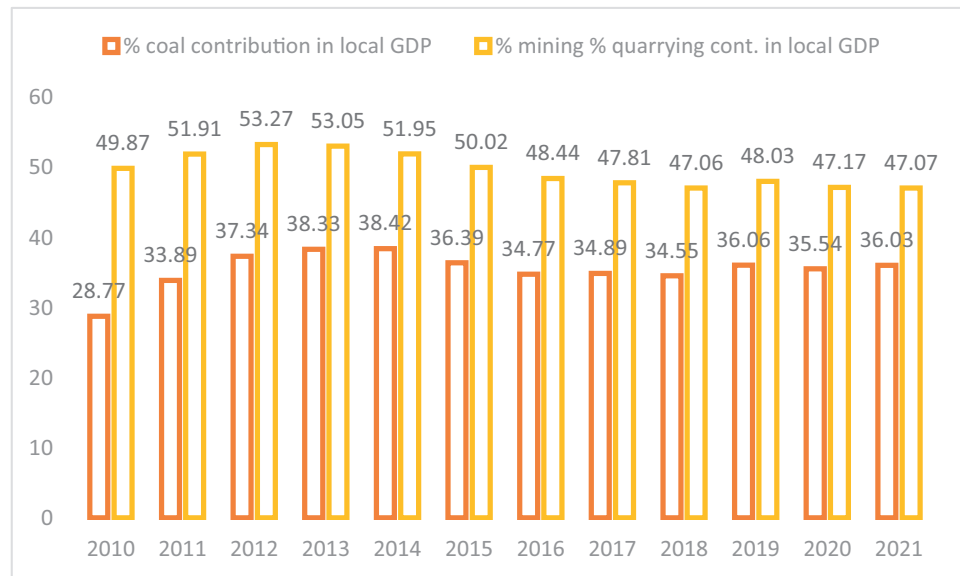
Figure 1: Comparison of Coal and Mining&Quarrying Sector in Total Local GDP of East Kalimantan (base year 2020) – Source: Indonesia's Statistic Agency (BPS).
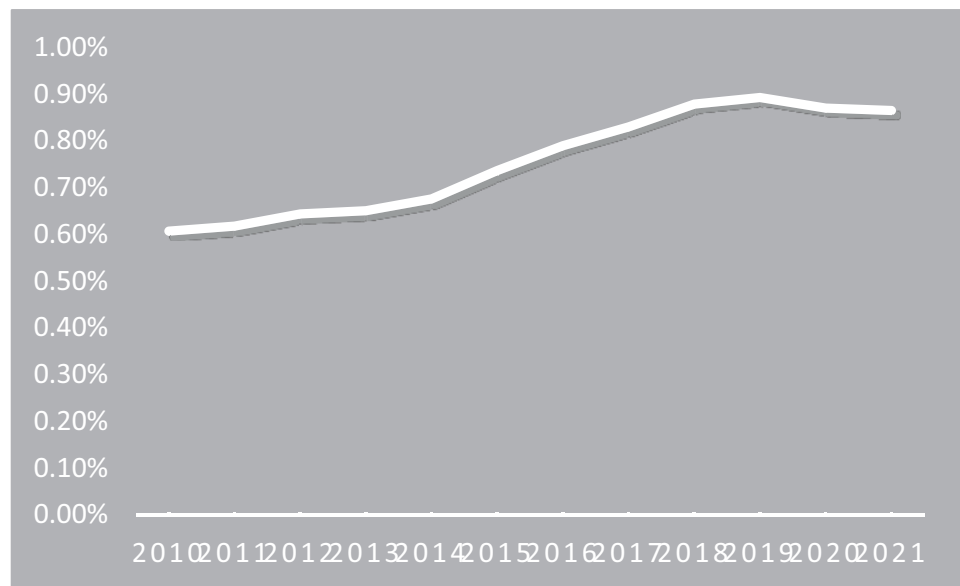

Figure 2: Percentage Proportion of accomodation and food beverage sector in Total local GDP of East Kalimantan.

Figure 2 highlights increased proportion of tourism sector in East Kalimantan, measured using accomodation and food beverage sector share in total GRDP over 2010-2021 years. The progress shows better performance from just 0.60% in 2010 to be 0.80% in 2019. However, there was a decline in 2020 as the Covid-19 affected economy caused by the heavy restriction of human mobility.

By comparing the contribution of the mining and quarrying sector with that of the tourism sector in the formation of the local GDP, it can be concluded that until 2021,

the economic structure of East Kalimantan Province was still far from being "green". This article discusses development progress to optimize the tourism sector in order to become one of the alternative economic sectors in East Kalimantan. While this province is significantly important as the location has become a center of Indonesia's New Capital (IKN), less number of study that specifically focuses on tourism sector in East Kalimantan. We find some studies exist but only emphasized for the context in developed countries (see Kachniewska (2015) and Roman et al. (2020) in Polandia or Litavniece et al. (2021) in Cyprus). Meanwhile, for Indonesia, many studies used Java areas as the sample case (Darmawan et al. (2018) and Priatmoko et al. (2021), Section 2 provides short literature review. Section 3 discusses data used and research method choosen. Section 4 shows the results and discussed, while recommendations are summarized in Section 5.

2. Literature Review

Economic growth acceleration is a key in bringing prosperity to the nation, and if managed inclusively can also impact poverty eradication. These increased in economic activities, however, have a direct consequence on depletion of water resources and degradation of soil and biodiversity (Fouquet, 2019). Therefore, both sustainability of natural resources and environmental quality are two vital dimensions of human civilization existence (Acemoglu, 2012; Cook, 2006; Ngepah, 2017). Developing economic sectors that help economy grows and at the same time maintain resource and environment are desirable goals. Tourism sector development is one way to achieve this target, by increasing competitiveness of tourism destinations both from the side of comparative and competitive advantages (Mensah et al. (2022); Topolansky et al. (2016)). Comparative advantage is defined as a condition where region is able producing goods and services at their lower opportunity cost than its competitors. In other words, one destination is able to provide more value to tourists compared to other objects in different location. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of using resources in more effective way defined as a competitive advantage.

Previous empirical studies have summarized the factors associated with the competitiveness of tourist destinations in developing countries such as: (a) Core Resources [natural resources, artificial resources, inherited resources, tourism services/attractions /services (special events, entertainment, activities)] (Topolansky et al. (2016); Richie & Crouch (2003); Dwyer & Kim (2003); Michael et al. (2019); Goffi et al. (2019); Salinas et al (2020)), (b) Supporting factors [accessibility, amenities/infrastructure, hospitality, quality of service] (Mensah et al. (2022); Crouch (2011)) (c) Situational Conditions [organizer

institutional / operational capacity tourism business, security, technology adaptation, and price competitiveness with competitors). (d) Destination Management [planning, marketing, management organization, environment, human resources, visitor management] (Mensah et al. (2022); Crouch (2011)).

Other studies confirm that indicators of natural potential, accessibility, comfort, facilities, destination competitiveness, cultural attractions, number and satisfaction of tourists determine the sustainability of rural tourism (Chin et al. (2014); Park & Yoon (2011)). Kachniewska's (2015) reviewed that tourism infrastructure and amenities are not the only the major determinant of the tourist destinations development, but also the quality of the attitude or hospitality of the local community in welcoming tourists. If recapitulated, there are at least three things that play role: (a) the availability and quality of technical and social infrastructure, (b) the friendliness of the local population and (c) the number and behavior of tourists.

Nevertheless, the competitiveness of the tourism sector cannot only be partially oriented to one party (for example, tourism managers, or only visitors). Focusing on increasing the volume of visitors to tourist destinations can also create negative externalities that contribute to the issue of threats to the sustainability of these tourist objects, especially those destinations that rely on nature-based tourism. Several models of developing tourist destinations that integrate aspects of sustainability were then proposed, for example the model of developing tourist destinations that are both competitive and sustainable by Nadalipour et al. (2019) which integrated elements of sustainable development, tourism development and competitiveness.

Previously, a sustainable tourism planning model was proposed by Padin (2012). Empirical study done by Litavniece et al. (2021) in two tourist villages in Cyprus investigated the success factors that brought tourism villages closer to sustainable development. Using field visits techniques and interviews with village stakeholders, qualitative findings addressed several contributing factors: tourism destination branding, clear tourism theme positioning, economic benefits, local community involvement, strong village leadership, and composition of young population.

3. Materials and Methods

This study limits its scope to the contemporary context of tourism in East Kalimantan Province, with some information across the districts. The data are taken from the Indonesia's Statistics Agency (BPS) and Tourism Offices of the Government Province. Documents that inform about Master Plan (*Rencana Pembangunan Daerah*) and Tourism

Strategic Plan are also used as additional information. We also combine data from public such as google (including information provided by google maps) linked to tourism objects and its current issues. Then according to these secondary data, we construct criteria standard SWOT criterion classifying strength, weakness, opportunity and threat dimensions.

We apply a case study method in which the researcher seeks answers (or in-depth understanding) to an issue, a particular case, or a selected phenomenon. Overall the research approach is descriptive and neither correlational nor explanatory. According to Thomas (2021), data in case studies can be obtained from observations, secondary data searches and other valid sources. For this reason, this research follows a descriptive research approach in which researchers document and interpret a variety of secondary information (e.g. quantitative tourism data, reports on tourism developments, as well as news shared publicly related to tourism development in targetted region, East Kalimantan) (Thomas, 2021).

4. Results and Discussions

Figure 3 shows information of nature-based tourism destinations in East Kalimantan Province, where in total there are 128 objects across 10 district that exist. Mangrove forest and cave consists of 18 and 52 destinations respectively, while indigenous forest and hot water objects have the lowest number. In the context of natural tourism, East Kutai, Berau and Bontang districts own the highest tourism locations resource.
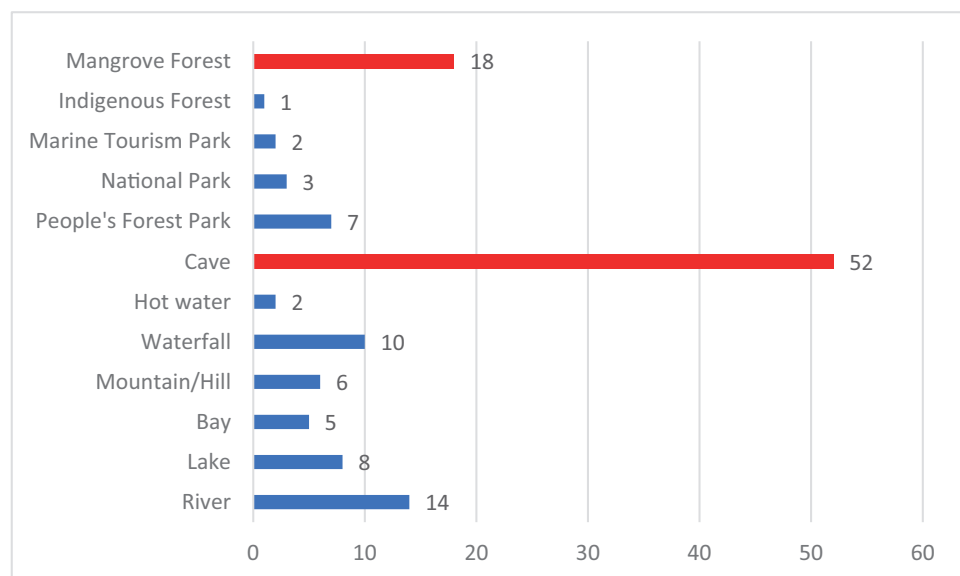

Figure 3: The spread of nature-based tourism destination in East Kalimantan Province.

Cave destinations dominate in addition to mangrove forests as shown in Figure 3. This is advantageous in the context of ecotourism-based development. Mangrove forests in the tropics, for example, are highly important ecosystems to maintain the health of coastal areas. Mangrove forests provide habitat for thousands of species, prevent erosion and protect the soil. In the context of the green economy, the conversion of mangrove forests, for example, caused by the expansion of shrimp pond cultivation, contributes to the increase in greenhouse gas effect, which is the main source of global warming. Protecting mangrove habitat from deforestation of tropical forests through the development of mangrove forest-based tourism also supports green growth programs which are globally highly desirable in efforts to prevent climate change. Tourism themes with tropical forest nuances with environmental ecosystem services such as mangroves have the potential to create their own characteristics in attracting domestic and international tourists.

District Name	Artificial tourism	Religious Tourism	Shopping Tour	Sport Tourism	Cultural Tourism	Culinary Tour
Paser	1	1	-	-	-	-
Kutai Barat	2	1	-	-	-	-
Kutai Kartanegara	21	9	-	-	-	-
Kutai Timur	3	4	-	-	5	-
Berau	27	5	-	2	-	3
Penajam Paser Utara	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mahakam Ulu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balikpapan	9	14	13	-	-	13
Samarinda	4	3	1	-	1	1
Bontang	12	1	-	-	-	2
Kalimantan Timur	79	38	14	2	6	19

Source: BPS

Figure 4: The Spread of Non-Natural Tourism Destinations.

The development of the number of tourists in East Kalimantan Province is still dominated by domestic tourists compared to foreign tourists. This is an opportunity in order to increase the attractiveness of regional tourism in the eyes of the international community, especially with the plan of moving Indonesia's new capital, so-called *Nusantara*, to East Kalimantan Province (at Sepaku sub-district, Penajam Paser Utara Regency), and the concept of developing a green and smart city-based of Indonesia's Capital of Nusantara (IKN).

Figure 5 shows that Balikpapan, Kutai Kartanegara and Samarinda including Berau have become favorite tourist locations for foreigners. Balikpapan experienced the highest choice location for foreign tourists with total visits reached 16,510 people during 2021. Although in this case the number of domestic tourists in Balikpapan was most dominating with a total of 1.072 million national tourist in the same year.

East Kalimantan also has tourism potential based on ecotourism. This should give leverage to accelerate the development of sustainable tourism sector. Through this potential, there are opportunities for a variety of artificial and derivative tourism-based

attractions that have an impact on the people's economy, especially in the rural areas. The development of ecotourism is also relevant to the current global concern that leads to the green economy concept. It is hoped that the integration of Ecotourism-based tourism in East Kalimantan may become a strong competitive advantage in increasing the attention of foreign tourists to visit.
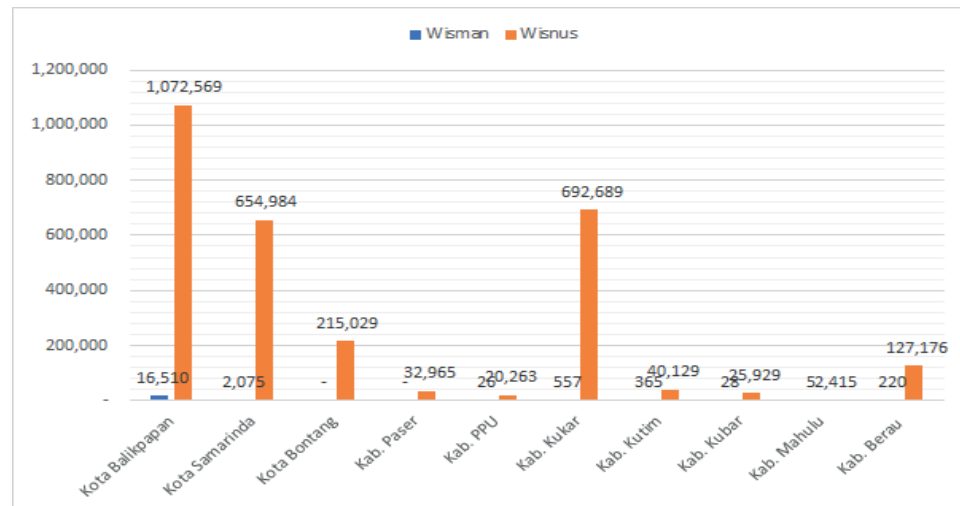

Figure 5: Comparison of tourist visits (foreign (Wisman) and domestic (Wisnus)) in East Kalimantan in 2021.
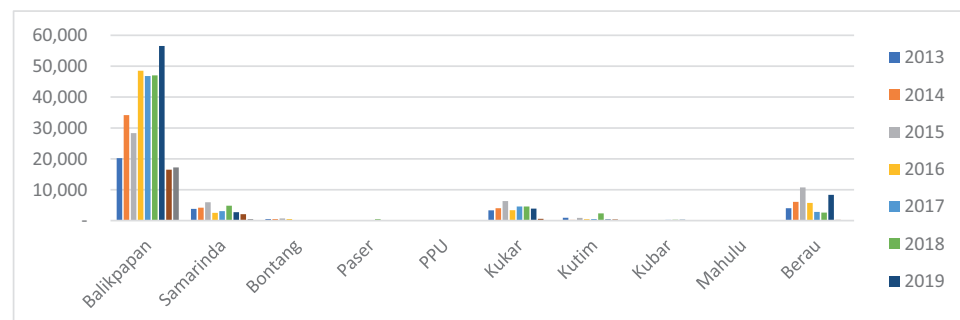

Figure 6: Foreign visits by East Kalimantan's district during 2013-2019. Source: Tourism Agency, East Kalimantan Province.

The results of the data inventory, to which the author summarizes from secondary sources, depict 27 tourist destinations currently exist and have the potential to be developed as ecotourism. These destinations are spread across some districts such as Bontang, Balikpapan, North Penajam Paser, Berau, Paser, East Kutai and Kutai Kartanegara. Bontang, Balikpapan, Berau and Kutai Kartanegara districts are the most potential (see table below).

TABLE 1: Ecotourism Destinations in East Kalimantan Province.

District	Destination Name	Category
Bontang	Bontang Mangrove Park	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Bontang	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Protected Forest Area and Mangrove BSD Bontang	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Wildlife Berbas Beach	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Board Walk	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Cultivation Ecotourism Area CSR. PT Badak NGL	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Bontang Kuala	
Balikpapan	Mangrove Center Graha Indah	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Margo Mulyo	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Forest Beach Mangrove	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Bangkirai Hills Balikpapan	
	Protected Forest Sei Wain	
	Balikpapan Botanical Garden	
	Crocodile Breeding Balikpapan	Articial Tourism and Education/ Conservation
PPU	Ecotourism Mangrove Kampung Baru	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Forest Mangrove Tourism	Ecotourism education and conservation
Berau	Mangrove Tourism Tanjung Batu Derawan	Ecotourism education and conservation i
	Center of Mangrove Information	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove tourism area Teluk Semanting	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Tourism Lobang Kelatak	Ecotourism education and conservation
Paser	Mangrove Tourism Desa Klempang Sari	Ecotourism education and conservation
Kutai Timur	Mangrove Area Pulau Seribu	Ecotourism education and conservation
	Mangrove Ecotourism	Ecotourism education and conservation
Kutai Kartanegara	Gua Batu Hitam	Cave Tourism
	Desa Wisata Pela	Lake tourism and conservation
	Kersik Blue Beach	Beach Tourism
	Mutiara Indah Beach, Pangempang Muara Badak	Beacu Tourism

Source: Tourism Agency of East Kalimantan, combined with google maps information

4.1. Plan and Strategy for Tourism Climate and SWOT Identification

In order to grow the tourism sector that supports green economy, two important elements are classified, namely nature-based tourism and environmental sustainability.

Elements of natural resources are represented, for example ownership of nature-based tourism resources and interest in natural assets. Environmental sustainability includes elements of environmental regulation, sustainability of the development of the tourism industry.

As stated in East Kalimantan Tourism Master Plan, ecotourism is the focus of development that will be promoted. Referring to the East Kalimantan Tourism Development Master Plan document for 2020-2025, there are three criteria that have been determined, namely National Tourism Destinations (DPN), Strategic Tourism Areas (KSP) and Tourism Development Areas (KPP). Figure 7 shows focus areas planned to be tourist destinations in both KSP and KPP. The selected tourism theme is Ecotourism by emphasizing educational benefits, experiences, conservation urgency and be able to encourage community empowerment (empowering community-based tourism).

KSP
- [KSP 1] Derawan Island (Biduk-Biduk and around
- [KSP 2] Samarinda, Tenggarong, Tanjung Isui and around
- [KSP 3] Sangkulirang, Mangkalihat, and around

KPP
- [KPP 1] - Samboja, Balikpapan, Penajam Paser Utara and around
- [KPP 2] - Sangatta, Bontang and around
- [KPP 3] - Ujoh Bilang, Long Bagun, and around

There of Ecotourism
Marine
Forest/Mangrove
River
Cave/Karst
Cultural and Historical

Figure 7: Tourism Areas Based on the Development of Tourist Destinations and Directions of Tourism Themes.

Summary of SWOT identification are provided inside the table as below:

Table 2 lists SWOT identification based on internet and secondary data, we find more weaknesses than strengths identified while comparison between opportunities and threats each has shown a balanced number. Strategies according to TOWS framework build four ways that could be operationalized: (a) strengthen human resource skill for tourism, (b) improved institutional quality of tourism stakeholders, (c) build strong supporting infrastructure and (d) facilitate tourism amenities as it affects traveling affordability. The last strategy is to expand ecotourism as differentiation promotion strategy which mixes education, experience, conservation and local community empowerment aspects.

TABLE 2: SWOT Identification of Tourism Issues in East Kalimantan Province.

Strenght Elements	Weakness Elements
Tourism objects in East Kalimantan are dominated by natural tourism (tropical forest tourism, mangrove tourism, conservation tourism, flora and fauna tourism, river tourism, beach/sea tourism, cultural tourism etc.) Availability of main supporting infrastructure (Airport, Bal-Sam toll road, Tanjung Batu Berau Harbor, hotel/guest house accommodation, etc.) Regional Tourism Promotion Board has been established The move of Indonesia's capital location from Jakarta to East Kalimantan. Availability of tourism development planning documents based on destinations and tourism themes (*Rencana Induk Pariwisata Daerah*/Riparda). One tourist destination (Pela Wisata Village) has been included as the top 50 tourist villages in the 2022 Indonesian Tourism Village Award. Increased of the contribution of the tourism support sector (sub-sector of accommodation and food and beverage provision) in local GDP during 2010-2021.	- Limited accessibility, for example road infrastructure to tourist locations/destinations which led to affordability issue for travelling to some destinations. - Elements of amenities that support tourist locations/destinations (especially those in district/sub-district/rural areas) are still limited (electricity, water, gas stations, accommodation, shopping areas, etc.). - Air infrastructure (limited flights to a few number of remote destinations). - Limited number and quality of human resources (HR) for tourism (e.g. local tour guides/local community (Pokdarwis)), especially in educating/providing experience for visitors at ecotourism destinations. - Limited budget from the government for the massive development infrastructure to support tourist objects and protect it from negative externalities. - Low number of foreign tourists. - Lack of ownership of CHSE tourism business certification, especially those that guarantee food and beverage processing to hygiene and health standards. - Trip package promos that are still weak in targeting international consumers (clarity of destination, promised benefits, price). - East Kalimantan has not been included in the national priority tourist destinations.
Opportunity Elements	**Threat Elements**
- Increased awareness of CHSE implementation, consisting of aspects of hygiene, health, safety and environmental sustainability protocol. - Pentahelix-based tourism synergy (government, community, media, and tourism industry players). - Opportunities for the integration of nature tourism and economic/creative industry-based tourism based on IKN super-hub. - The development of the internet (digital marketing) speeding up the promotion of tourist destinations to national and international segments.	- Competition with well-established tourist destinations (Bali, Yogyakarta, Bandung, Lombok, etc.) as well as those that offer similar experiences and affordable travelling prices. - Mining, fishing (pond cultivations) and oil palm plantations that could endanger the sustainability and protection of biodiversity and natural-based tourism resource assets. - Waste management at tourism objects may threatens the aspect of tourism sustainability. - Threats of natural disasters (floods/landslides/hotspots).

5. Conclusions

This study descriptively discusses and shows the current progress of tourism development in East Kalimantan Province by identifying tourism destinations both natural and non, trend of tourist visits and emphasizing information regarding ecotourism in the region. We show that East Kalimantan has a comparative advantage in natural tourism with developed ecotourism destinations that align with sustainability aims. Mangrove forest attractions, for example, have recorded as many as 18 objects spread over the majority of districts and if properly protected these may reduce the harmful effect of greenhouse gases. Other destinations such as artificial, religious, culinary, and cultural/historical tourism have potential markets for the region's economy.
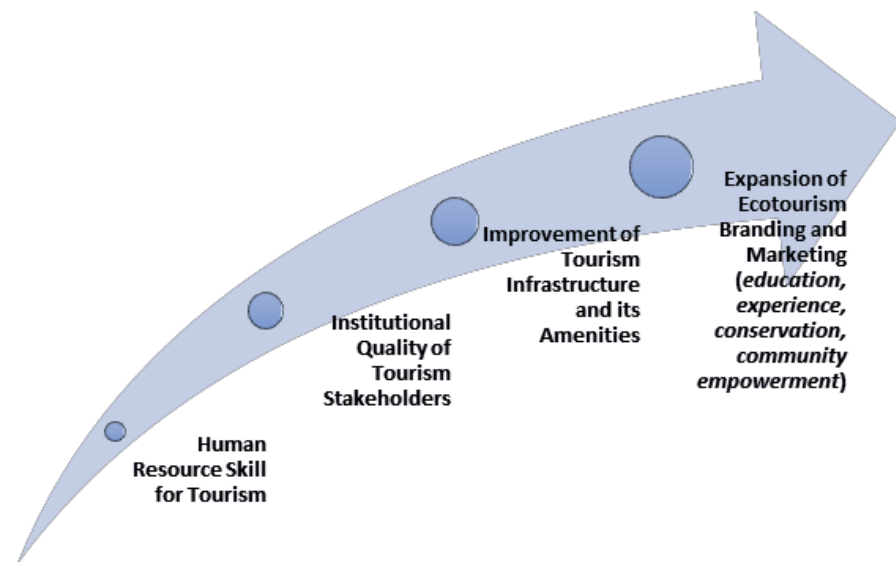
Figure 8: Four-integrated ways in strengthening Tourism Sector in East Kalimantan. Source: author(s) summary according to the TOWS analysis.

Other tourist objects with nature backgrounds have reached 128 in number, and there was one object included in the Indonesian Tourism Village Award, and increased trend of non-national tourist visits since 2013, although it shows a significant decrease due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, according to our SWOT identification, some limitations such as road accessibility and amenities, branding and marketing of tourist destinations, tourism human resources to support this sector, and institutional quality of stakeholders affect the development of tourism competitiveness in East Kalimantan. This study recommends that these factors should be improved in order to boost tourism development in the future.

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