



Halal Tourism Development: Blue Economy Based on Local Wisdom In Lampung Province, Indonesia

Mardhiyah Hayati ^{1*}, Mad Heri ²

¹Department of Islamic Economics, Faculty of Islamic Economics and Business, Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Intan Lampung, Indonesia

²Department of Sharia Economics, Sekolah Tinggi Ekonomi dan Bisnis Islam Lampung, Indonesia

^{1*} Corresponding author: mardiyah.hayati@radenintan.ac.id, email: madheri@stebilampung.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

The Blue Economy is part of socio-economic and development activities, aiming to prevent environmental degradation by optimizing the benefits derived from marine resources. The purpose of this study is to explore the interaction between the blue economy and local wisdom in the development of halal tourism in Lampung province. This study uses primary data sources and a narrative Literature Review related to halal tourism, blue economy, and local wisdom. The research found that several things can be done in the development of halal tourism in the implementation of the blue economy based on local wisdom, namely: 1) community participation is the main driver of tourism development and progress through the implementation of the blue economy which refers to the social and cultural of the local community (local wisdom); 2) the provision of halal-based facilities and services is important in order to attract Muslim tourists; 3) destination managers must provide accurate information related to halal services; 4) improve service quality by encouraging tourism employees to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills in providing halal-based services; 5) natural environment problems cannot be solved technically, appropriate solutions are needed to change human mentality and awareness in environmental management to remain sustainable, so good cooperation between the community, tourism managers and the government is needed.

Keywords: blue economy, halal tourism, local wisdom.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, halal tourism has become very attractive to develop, not only for Muslim-majority countries, but also for countries with Muslim minority communities. The rapid growth of the Muslim population causes the tourism industry to prepare itself well considering its large market share potential in the development of halal tourism in order to be ready to meet the needs of Muslim tourists in Indonesia.¹

¹ Giacomo Di Foggia et al, "The economics and management of innovation in travel and tourism services: The case of European cruise industry in Dubai", *UTMS Journal of Economics*, 3, iss. 2 (2012):167-179; and Majang Palupi et al, "The Importance of Optimization of Halal Tourism:

The Blue Economy concept is seen as an integration of short-term and long-term economic activities, as well as the principles of social inclusion development, by maintaining environmental sustainability and innovation that focuses on the environment around the sea to achieve long-term community welfare by paying attention to ecological sustainability, especially the sea, which is the basis of the Blue Economy.

The ocean, which includes 95 biospheres, provides many essential resources for humans by producing oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide, recycling nutrients, regulating the climate, and global temperature. This is stated in the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Synthesis Report entitled Green Economy in a Blue World. The sea is essentially liquid, so the division of marine, coastal, and maritime industrial estates within the scope of its operational environment, starting with watersheds and ecosystems, to achieve the harmonization of traditional economic activities with sustainable economic values, is challenging.²

Indonesia is a maritime country with the world's largest archipelago. Indonesia's vast waters with diverse biodiversity, including the diversity of marine biota, can be defined as the diversity of living creatures from all sources, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, as well as ecological complexes, which are part of the diversity that already exists and is recognized worldwide, thus earning Indonesia the nickname Marine Mega Biodiversity.³

Indonesia, as a tropical country rich in marine biological resources and with a high level of diversity, plays a vital role in meeting food, health, and renewable energy needs, and is supported by the natural beauty of much of Indonesia. This potential can be used to increase people's incomes and generate foreign exchange for the country through the tourism sector. The unique culture of the Indonesian nation, which is diverse with the characteristics of each region, is the main source of the nature-based tourism industry which attracts tourists to visit Indonesia.

Tourism is generally seen as a means to facilitate socio-economic benefits for individuals, communities, and territorial areas. The development, implementation and management of tourism must be supported by the principles of sustainable development and natural resource management.⁴

Tourism is one of the government programs that can increase large foreign exchange revenues in order to support the success of national development,

A Study of The Development of Halal Tourism in Indonesia", In *Proceedings of the 29th International Business Information Management Association Conference-Education Excellence and Innovation Management through Vision* (2020): 383-392

² Abdullahel Bari," Our Oceans and the Blue Economy: Opportunities and Challenges", *Elsevier: Procedia Engineering* 194 (2017): 5 – 11

³ R. Atillah, & S.N. Utami," Indonesia Sebagai Wilayah Marine Mega Biodiversity", *kompas.com* (2023).

⁴ Anna Carr, Lisa Ruhanen, & Michelle Whitford,"Indigenous peoples and tourism: the challenges and opportunities for sustainable tourism". *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 2, Iss 8-9 (2016): 1067-1079

especially the management and development of industrial estates. In Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 10 of 2009, concerning tourism, it is explained that tourism has a very important role for Indonesia's national development, tourism aims to increase economic growth, alleviate poverty and overcome unemployment so that it will improve people's welfare, strengthen the unity and unity of the nation by strengthening identity, foster love for the homeland, lift the image of the nation, advance culture, Preserving nature, the environment, and resources, in addition to tourism activities, will strengthen friendship between nations.⁵

In 2012, the Government of Indonesia introduced halal tourism in Indonesia and in the following year, the government introduced 12 destinations that are Muslim-friendly destinations, namely: Aceh, West Sumatra, Riau, Lampung, Banten, Jakarta, West Java, East Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, West Nusa Tenggara, and South Sulawesi.

The government realizes that halal tourism (sharia tourism) is a special attraction for many foreign tourists from countries with Muslim populations such as Saudi Arabia, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, and many more. Considering that most of the world's population comes from Muslim-populated countries and Indonesia as a Muslim-majority country that has a lot of natural beauty, this is a good business opportunity in increasing the largest source of foreign exchange for Indonesia in the future. Therefore, Indonesia does not want to only become a market but also wants to become the world's halal tourism producer.

The recovery of the tourism sector which is getting stronger after the Covid-19 pandemic can be seen from data released by the Central Statistics Agency which records that foreign tourist visits to Indonesia have increased throughout 2023. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency, the number of foreign tourist visits to Indonesia by entry point in August 2023 has reached the number 1.121.289. In February 2023, foreign tourist visits declined slightly to 701.931. In March 2023, the number of visits increased to 869.243.⁶ Entering July 2023, foreign tourist visits in Indonesia reached 1.12 million visits. This number increased by 5.66 percent compared to June 2023 (month-to-month) and increased by 7.07 percent compared to the same month in 2022 (year over year). Foreign tourists visiting Indonesia in July 2023 are dominated by foreign tourists from Malaysia (13.96 percent), Australia (12.74 percent), and Singapore (9.78 percent). Along with the enthusiasm of the tourism sector in the first quarter of 2023, the government decided to increase the target of human tourist visits to 8.5 million visits from the original 3.5 million to 7.4 million visits. With the projection of foreign exchange earnings rising to US\$6 billion from the previous target of

⁵ Undang-undang Republik Indonesia No. 10 tahun 2009. Accessed March 24, 2024.

⁶ Siti Sarah Jauhari, Jauhari, S. S., "Data Kunjungan Wisatawan Mancanegara ke Indonesia 2023", *Goodstats* (2023). Accessed March 27, 2024.

US\$2.07-5.95 billion. As well as the target for domestic tourist mobility: 1.2-1.4 billion trips.⁷

The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center (RISSC) notes that Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, with 240.62 million people in 2023. This number is equivalent to 86.7% of the national population of 277.53 million people. Therefore, tourism sector players see this as a potential new market share; by combining tourism concepts and Islamic values, halal tourism can be the answer to these conditions. Sharia tourism is a form of culture-based tourism that prioritizes Islamic Sharia values and norms as its basic foundation. As a new concept in the tourism industry, of course, sharia tourism requires further development and a more comprehensive understanding regarding the collaboration of Islamic values in tourism activities. Indonesia, as a country with religious and cultural diversity, has historical heritage and traditions that cannot be separated from the religious aspects of its society. Cultural and religious heritage with diversity of races, ethnicities, languages and customs is a potential for tourism development. In particular, Muslims as the majority of society in Indonesia certainly have unique characteristics that characterize their nation and the existing tourist destinations.⁸

Local wisdom is part of cultural heritage. However, this culture is inseparable from the unique natural environment that can be categorized as natural heritage. In tourism, the combination of cultural and natural heritage will produce exotic, unique, and interesting attractions. In fact, nowadays along with the development of the times, without realizing that various actions and attitudes have damaged the environment, the existence of local wisdom has begun to fade and experience the degradation of the heritage of noble values in various circles of society. In this regard, it is necessary to make efforts to preserve noble values so that local wisdom can develop in the community in an effort to manage natural resources and the environment so that it remains sustainable in people's lives.

Lampung is one of the provinces in Indonesia located at the southern tip of the island of Sumatra. With its position at the tip of Sumatra Island, Lampung has a variety of marine tourism that has beautiful and exotic panoramas. Beach tourism is one of the natural attractions that are in great demand by tourists, in addition to the beautiful natural scenery, the entrance fee is also relatively cheap.⁹

The development of the blue economy in an effort to develop halal tourism to achieve community economic improvement requires tourism development

⁷ Purwowidhu, "Kian Melesat di 2023, Pariwisata Indonesia Bersiap Menuju Level Prapandemi", Kemenkeu:mediakeuangan (2023), <https://mediakeuangan.kemenkeu.go.id/article/show/kian-melesat-di-2023-pariwisata-indonesia-bersiap-menuju-level-prapandemi> (Accessed March 27, 2024)

⁸ Aan Jaelani, "Halal Tourism Industry in Indonesia: Potential and Prospects", *International Review of Management and Marketing* 7, no. 3 (2017): 25-34, and K. Gilang Widagdyo, "Analisis Pasar Pariwisata Halal Indonesia", *The Journal of Tauhidinomics* 1, no 1(2015): 73-80

⁹ CnnIndonesia, "13 Wisata Pantai di Lampung yang Indah dan Eksotis tapi Murah", (05 Feb 2023), <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/gaya-hidup/20230201133011-275-907584/13-wisata-pantai-di-lampung-yang-indah-dan-eksotis-tapi-murah>, (Accessed March 27, 2024).

that is integrated with a deeply planned tourism development pattern. However, the concept of a blue economy based on local wisdom is increasingly considered hopeful, the mapping of its main components has not been clearly described even though the efforts made in the marine tourism sector are actually quite good, but have not yet achieved the goal. To maximize the potential for implementing the blue economy, strategic management is needed for the development of halal tourism in Lampung province.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method using primary data and secondary data in the form of narrative literature reviews related to halal tourism, the blue economy and local wisdom. This type of qualitative method is considered relevant to the aim of this research, namely how to describe and understand the potential for halal tourism development in Lampung province.

The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship and interaction between the blue economy and local wisdom as a whole and to map the relationship between the two in the development of halal tourism in Lampung province, Indonesia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Lampung Province is still the main destination for local and foreign tourists who want to enjoy the beach atmosphere on the island of Sumatra. In addition to the beauty of the beach, its position as a crossing route and resting place for people who want to visit various regions in Sumatra by land, Lampung is also very close to the island of Java. Its strategic position causes marine tourism attractions in Lampung Province to become one of the target tourist destinations to be visited. This can be seen from the number of tourist visits that have increased from year to year during the 2016-2022 period, which can be seen in the following table:

Tabel 1. Number of Tourism Visits to Lampung Province in 2016-2022

Years	NUMBER OF FOREIGN TOURISTS	NUMBER OF NUSANTARA TOURISTS
2016	155.053	7.381.774
2017	245.372	11.395.827
2018	274.742	13.101.371
2019	298.063	10.445.855
2020	1.547	2.911.406
2021	1.757	2.937.395
2022	7.014	4.597.534

Source: (Fernando, 2023)

From the table above, it can be seen that since 2022, there has been an increase in the number of tourists coming to Lampung. Domestic tourist arrivals increased by 1,660,139 people in a year. While foreign tourists increased by 5,257 people in a year, this shows the growth and development

of the tourism sector in Lampung Province, after rising from the slump due to the Covid-19 outbreak.¹⁰ Even from January to September 2023, as many as 10.28 million tourists visited Lampung Province, exceeding the previously set target of 5.5 million tourists, so that Lampung Province ranks 3rd in the largest tourist visits on the island of Sumatra.¹¹

Lampung has marine tourism that is no less beautiful than other islands such as Bali, Java and several other provinces in Indonesia. The tourism sector in Lampung has high potential for beauty and wealth in developing towards halal tourism. There are many marine tourism destinations in Lampung Province that offer natural beauty, including:

1. Pahawang Island

Pahawang Island is located in Pesawaran district. This place is famous for its beach and underwater beauty. Pahawang is famous for its snorkeling destinations, where tourists can enjoy stunning underwater views. Here there are many spots containing underwater biota that spoil the eyes. Starting from coral reefs to colorful fish, such as nemo fish and others.

2. Tegal Mas Island

Tegal Mas Island is a tourist attraction located in Pesawaran Regency, Lampung Province, opposite Sari Ringgung Beach. The sea is beautiful so it is suitable for snorkeling.

3. Pisang Island

This destination is located in the West Coast Regency of Lampung Province with the charm of beach beauty. Marine tourism on this island offers the beauty of coral reefs, dolphin attractions and pristine white sand beaches.

4. Kiluan Bay

Kiluan Bay is a beach tourist attraction located in Tanggamus Regency, Lampung. There are two beaches that are destinations, namely Kiluan Island (Kelapa Island) beach and Gulf beach. One of the advantages of tourism here is that tourists can watch dolphin attractions dancing in the midst of the beauty of the bay's natural panorama which is very stunning. Kiluan Bay is also famous for its natural beauty to underwater scenery that invites tourists to want to dive.

5. Tanjung Setia Beach

The location of Tanjung Setia Beach is in Krui, West Coast Regency. This tourist destination is one of the places for international surfing events that

¹⁰ Fernando, Jumlah Kunjungan Wisatawan ke Lampung Merosot Tajam, Berikut Data Tahun 2016–2022. *Lampung.rilis.id.*, (2023, T. May 26), <https://lampung.rilis.id/Humaniora/Berita/Jumlah-Kunjungan-Wisatawan-ke-Lampung-Merosot-Tajam-Berikut-Data-Tahun-2006---2022-njcGHPe> (Accessed 2024, March 27)

¹¹ Ni Nyoman Wira Widyanti, Lebih dari 10 Juta Wisatawan Kunjungi Lampung hingga September 2023. *Kompas.Com.* (2023, 8 November). <https://travel.kompas.com/read/2023/11/18/164800327/lebih-dari-10-juta-wisatawan-kunjungi-lampung-hingga-september-2023> (Accessed 2024, March 27)

are routinely held every year. As for the advantages of tourism here, the waves are quite large which roll beautifully. In addition, here is also presented with a sloping beach with natural white sand and clear sea water. There are many types of marine animals, besides that the coral reefs that are scattered add to the beauty of the surrounding area. Due to its beautiful beaches, it is perfect for photo shoots or photography events.

6. Marina Beach

Marina Beach is located in Merak Belantung Village, Kalianda District, South Lampung Regency. The charm of Marina Beach is famous for the rocks along the beach, as well as rows of soothing coconut trees and white sand adding to the beauty of the charm of Marina Beach, besides that the facilities offered are also more complete such as gazebos, meeting rooms, toilets, prayer rooms, and instagramable photo spots.

7. Kedu Warna Beach

Kedu Warna Beach, located in Kalianda District, South Lampung Regency. Kedu Warna Beach is popular for its uniqueness facing west. This makes the position of this beach very suitable for watching the sunset. In addition, carrying a modern theme and beach sand stretching widely, making this tourist attraction even more beautiful and interesting.

The marine tourism potential owned by Lampung is very worthy to be used as a leading tourist destination. This is supported by its geographical conditions in the form of capes and bays with not large waves with white sand so it is relatively safe to carry out marine tourism activities. Meanwhile, the potential of tourist attractions also supports the condition of sloping beaches, dolphin attractions, coral reefs, and other attractions both naturally and artificially formed that aim to further support their natural beauty while still paying attention to the preservation of the surrounding nature.

Tourists in marine tourism activities are usually inseparable from three main destinations, namely: 1) to see; 2) to experience and; 3) to enjoy the beauty of the beach panorama. If the destination can be achieved well, it will foster a memorable experience for tourists, so it is hoped that tourists will return to visit the tourist destination with their family and friends.

Local communities around the coast generally depend on the sea for their livelihoods, as traditional fishermen and subsistence fishermen to meet their needs. They work together to catch fish. Some of the sea catches are sold in the form of fresh fish, salted fish, and some are consumed by the family. Some are also processed into processed products such as fish balls, tekwan, empek-empek, shrimp paste, fish chips, and other souvenirs such as shellfish souvenirs and others with the aim of increasing family income. The processed food and souvenirs sold become the characteristics of the destination as an attraction for visiting tourists.

Marine tourism in Lampung Province is an activity that will be realized well through the participation of various parties, not only the government and private sector but also the community, especially those who live around coastal

locations, thereby making economic and social development a success will have a direct impact on local (coastal) communities. Local communities can be agents of change in empowering and preserving the environment and culture inherited from their ancestors so that it becomes a cultural specialty that attracts tourists to visit.

Pahawang Island is an example of successful community cooperation in environmental conservation as an effort to save mangrove forests in Lampung Province. In an area covering hundreds of hectares, mangrove forests are a proud natural tourist attraction. In fact, previously the mangrove forests were almost completely cut down by immigrants to make way for shrimp ponds. With hard work and mutual cooperation, the community has succeeded in replanting mangrove trees, and now Pahawang Island Village has a Mangrove Saving Village Regulation (Perdes) which contains prohibitions and sanctions for village residents and immigrants who cut down mangrove trees.

The traditional culture of glorifying guests is depicted in the Sigeh Pengunten dance which is a creative dance which was originally in the form of the Melinting dance and the sembah dance which later the name was confirmed to be the Sigeh Pengunten dance (guest welcoming dance) is a characteristic of the people of Lampung which is a cultural heritage as part of the local cultural wisdom which is a combination of pepadun customs and paminggir customs that must always be preserved, This is also in accordance with Islamic teachings.

The connection between humans and nature can be seen in coastal communities in Lampung province who are developing tourist destinations while still paying attention to nature conservation and preservation, such as planting mangroves, making piles of stones on several beaches to prevent erosion and flooding in order to prevent degradation of the marine environment by protecting coastal ecosystems and marine biota. as an implementation of blue economic development, for example by fishing without destroying marine habitats, protecting coral reefs which have been a marine tourism attraction for snorkeling and diving activities.

With the growth of maritime tourism, it opens up business opportunities for local communities to increase their income as tour guides, travel agents, hotel or restaurant employees, and can even set up accommodation (Homestays), MSMEs by selling typical Lampung food products that make it easier for tourists to find souvenirs to take home. With large business opportunities, it is hoped that the income of local communities and tourism business actors will experience an increase in prosperity so that people can fulfill their daily needs, as well as increase the country's foreign exchange from the tourism sector.

There are several things that can be done in the development of halal tourism in the implementation of the blue economy based on local wisdom, namely: *first*, community participation is a driver of tourism development and progress that refers to the blue economy. When locals show hospitality and have a positive attitude towards tourists who come to visit, it will create comfort in tourists, this is important in an effort to increase the interest of tourists to visit

again through the pleasant experiences they get during their visit to tourist destinations, and it is hoped that tourists can recommend the tourist destinations they visit to others. To develop positive attitudes among local communities, destination managers and the government need to build public awareness of the importance of the benefits of the tourism industry for their region in terms of social and economic development. Apart from that, increasing knowledge in realizing tolerance and respecting the diversity of other cultures and religions can also have a positive impact on the attitudes of local residents and tourists. However, if the community is unable to take advantage of existing opportunities and participate in development, then the existence of marine tourism objects will be increasingly marginalized, considering that there are still many other marine tourism destinations in Lampung Province that offer beauty. Socialization and approaches from local governments to the community regarding the importance of the role of tourism development need to continue to be carried out in order to increase communities' awareness.

Second, providing halal-based facilities and services is important to attract Muslim tourists. One important factor for Muslim tourists is halal food and drinks. At marine tourism destinations in Lampung, generally the food and drinks sold are halal food and drinks for consumption considering that the majority of people in Lampung province are Muslim, so Lampung province has been designated as one of the tourist destinations friendly to Muslim tourists. Muslim tourists who visit will have no difficulty in finding halal food, however, it would be better if food vendors, restaurants and hotels were encouraged to provide halal food and beverages and display halal food and beverage compliance certificates in their storefronts and menus. Prayer room facilities, which make it easier for Muslim tourists to worship, bathrooms and game facilities that are safe and comfortable need to be improved, this is done to build trust among Muslim tourists who visit the destination.

Third, destinations must provide information about the services provided through brochures, maps and guidebooks available in several languages (for example Indonesian, Arabic, English, etc.) to increase the knowledge and satisfaction of visiting tourists.

Fourth, in terms of improving service quality: staff, managers, and marketing departments of marine tourism destinations must encourage their employees to increase their awareness, knowledge, and skills in providing halal-based services.

Fifth, natural environmental problems cannot be solved only technically, appropriate solutions are needed to change human mentality and awareness in managing the environment so that it remains sustainable. Human awareness in managing the natural environment is very important, because humans and the natural environment are images of life which are basically for the benefit of humans themselves. This emphasizes that humans need to change their perspective on nature, have empathy for responsible behavior, not prioritize their own needs, and respect nature by increasing environmental ethics. Human life depends on nature, and humans are an integral part of nature. The principle

of respecting nature is a form of human moral responsibility towards nature. This responsibility is not only carried out individually but also carried out collectively.

Local governments, regionally (such as on Pahawang Island, etc.) have made development projects in the implementation of the blue economy, one of which is by building conservation areas. The simultaneous designation of conservation areas has a positive effect on the economy and is able to reduce the rate of destructive fishing. Beautiful underwater scenery can be used as initial capital in developing resort businesses, diving, snorkeling and others. The sustainable tourism program, which is part of the blue economy, aims to stimulate economic development by increasing community capacity in managing tourism businesses and increasing income through the introduction of creative and productive activities in the tourism sector by bringing out the characteristics of each region in Lampung Province (local wisdom).

Local wisdom which originates from the cultural and religious values of the community such as mutual cooperation and mutual respect as a cultural heritage that is characteristic of Indonesian society must continue to be explored and preserved so that it does not become extinct.

In general, managers of marine tourism destinations in Lampung Province have begun to organize themselves in completing the facilities and infrastructure needed for visiting Muslim tourists which are obstacles in the development of halal tourism, such as prayer rooms, bathrooms, restaurants that provide halal food and also game facilities that provide a sense of fun safe and comfortable for tourists, even though it was found that there are still several marine tourism destinations, the facilities are still as expected.

The use of digital marketing is a breakthrough in introducing tourist destinations to the wider community. Digital marketing can be used in building, enhance, and maintaining the reputation of tourist destinations across all digital platforms through sustainable tourism programs.

For this reason, various marketing strategies must be designed, including using digital applications to promote tourist destinations so that tourists are interested in visiting. Digital marketing strategies can be carried out by: a) creating and optimizing content on websites that showcase the beauty and advantages of halal tourism-based destinations; b) optimizing the use of social media; c) establishing partnerships, for example with MSMEs or with other sectors that can support the existence of this maritime destination so that it can be widely known by the public.

The facilities offered in digital tourism are supported by cultural diversity (local wisdom), making the tourism sector, especially marine tourism in Lampung Province, able to realize the development of halal tourism which can be synergized with the development of the blue economy launched by the government. Ministry of Tourism. By increasing tourist visits from both within and outside the country, it can create new jobs so it is hoped that it can improve the welfare of the community, especially local communities who live around

tourist destinations and at the same time also bring in foreign exchange for the country which can be used for economic development.

Conclusion

The blue economy based on local wisdom plays a very important role in realizing the development of halal tourism in Lampung Province in an effort to improve people's welfare. The participation of local communities, tourism managers, and the government in an effort to achieve halal tourism requires more detailed planning in the form of a master plant. The importance of internalizing ecological values from local wisdom in managing the natural environment is a form of environmental protection and preservation. The values of local wisdom that exist in local communities are important to be maintained and cared for so that the community has a responsibility to maintain and preserve the natural environment and respect the rights of nature itself.

Lampung has a huge potential in the use of the marine economy and this is a challenge as well as an opportunity in developing halal tourism, especially marine tourism in improving community welfare as well as an effort to increase the country's foreign exchange in the tourism sector.

Author's Contribution

Mardhiyah Hayati: Contributed to formulating research ideas, collecting data, processing and interpreting data, writing systematics and research methods.

Mad Heri: Contributed to analyzing interpretation results and correcting language.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval No patient-identifying parts in this paper were used or known to the authors. Therefore, no ethical approval was requested.

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