



MANAGEMENT OF MARINE ECOSYSTEM TURTLE CONSERVATION IN AMPING PARAK

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ABSTRACT

Management of Marine Ecosystem Turtle Conservation in Amping Parak The Laskar Pemuda Peduli Lingkungan (LPPL) group is a group of activists who focus on caring for the environment in Nagari Ampiang Parak, Suter Pesisir Selatan, West Sumatra, Indonesia. One of their activities is sea turtle conservation. This research aims to examine the management of sea turtle ecosystem conservation in Amping Parak. The research used a qualitative method with a case study approach. The informants studied were the chairperson and members of LPPL who were also actively involved in conservation activities. The research findings show the strength of the chairperson to convey messages so that sea turtles can be preserved to the youth of Ampiang Parak. The action of youth who care about the environment to plant vegetation produces a cool and good environment for turtle landing. So that the cool environment originally intended to reduce the risk of disaster becomes an object of turtle conservation ecotourism. Meanwhile, the next finding is that the group leader builds communication with group members openly. The conclusion of the communication carried out by the group leader can nurture members to be aware and carry out turtle conservation in Nagari Ampiang Parak. Efforts to provide awareness of sea turtle conservation are very important to be carried out with an approach to protecting the village and supporting the ministry of marine and fisheries programs in the context of conservation.

Keywords: Conservation, Amping Parak, Marine

INTRODUCTION

Tourism potential is more particular in West Sumatra, endowed with abundant natural resources, including forests, land resources, water resources, protected areas and biodiversity (Ullah, Febriamansyah, and Yonariza 2017) and marine ecosystems. Group work and interaction will increase the chances of successful communication and teamwork (Hartley Peter 1997).

the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEEI), the sea waters of West Sumatra were expanded to 200 miles, so that the total area of its waters reached 186,580 km². These sea conditions give West Sumatra greater marine fisheries potential compared to offshore and ocean fisheries. This area is also included in the Fisheries Management Area (WPP) - 572, which includes the western Indian Ocean of Sumatra and the Sunda Strait. Its fisheries and marine potential, both in sea and public waters, is very large to support a productive economy development (Liu et al. 2023), conservation, and future development (BAPPEDA Sumbar 2021).

In the group, there is interaction between group members in determining a goal to be achieved with the time agreed upon by the team. Group communication has a strategic role in sustainable development for a nagari. Nagari is the main form of political organization in Minangkabau. Before the Dutch came to the darek area, the existence of the nagari influenced the war between Islamic orthodoxy and traditionalists, which is

known as the Paderi War (Benda-Beckmann 2001). In the context of village development, one of the contexts that can encourage the development of an area is the presence of tourism. Tourism is increasingly recognized as an asset to drive economic growth and poverty alleviation, especially in developing countries. Ecotourism is a natural tourism activity in a responsible area by taking into account elements of education, understanding, and support for natural resource conservation efforts, as well as increasing the income of local communities (Christanto 2020).

Tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis) are one of the tourism development alternatives related to tourism awareness campaigns (Purwanti 2019) to carry out sea turtle conservation activities. to carry out turtle conservation activities. The presence of Pokdarwis in tourism development starts from the surrounding community who have an awareness of the impact of tourism in their area. As a tourism driver, Pokdarwis members have a movement to encourage a tourism object to develop. The growth of tourism in Pesisir Selatan, precisely in Nagari Ampiang Parak, can be seen with the birth of Ampiang Parak Turtle Ecotourism, which was encouraged by Pokdarwis LPPL Ampiang Parak.

In the Nagari Ampiang Parak area, activists who care about the environment have been born and moved, naming their community Laskar Pemuda Peduli Lingkungan (LPPL), hereinafter researchers will be briefly referred to as LPPL. LPPL is chaired by Haridman, S.Pt, who has full concentration on the environmental concerns of Nagari Ampiang Parak with members. The issue of environmental sustainability in Nagari Ampiang Parak has been carried out by the Environmental Care Youth Group (LPPL) starting from 2013 (LPPL 2019).

The Laskar Pemuda Peduli Lingkungan group was established on January 5, 2013 (SK Walinagari Amping Parak No: 225/01/KPTS/WN-AP/I-2013) and confirmed by the district government in 2016. Giving the name Laskar, according to Haridman, is a vision of the harsh terrain on the Ampiang Parak beach without vegetation, arid and even nothing can be done on barren land, Haridman said it takes a struggle. Starting from the shoreline without vegetation, which can cause environmental damage, there is now vegetation so that it looks fertile.

LPPL was established by the youth of Amping Parak, driven by concerns about the condition of arid coastal areas and tidal lands without vegetation. The naming of Laskar is a hope that the youth who are members have a high fighting spirit, a strong militancy spirit for the environment. Because there is no hope or income that can be promised from working as an environmental activist, it began with the capital of enthusiasm and discussion by seven Ampiang Parak youth with various ages ranging from Mr. Haridman, Mr. Samsudin, Mr. Uyung, Mr. Dasman, Mr. Ari, Mr. Yendri, and Mr. Rino. Seven people who have started the idea of forming LPPL, step by step offering people who have a common goal to join, through a process of inviting about a hundred people in order to convey plans for reforestation. On the other hand, there is the serious threat of the Mentawai Megatrunk, while the coast of Amping Parak has no fortifications at all, this condition causes Amping Parak to have a high risk of the Megatrunk threat or predicted to be hit by a Tsunami. The huge disaster threat to Ampiang Parak needs to be mitigated with environmental programs that will be able to keep the Ampiang Parak community protected from disasters.

Haridman and the group mobilized ideas, energy to protect the region from disasters. From this movement was born Ecotourism Based on Disaster Risk Reduction, with mitigation even if the disaster comes or not. In connection with that, because the ecosystem is good from an environmental aspect, many sea turtles land on the shoreline of Amping Parak. The LPPL group that cares about the environment and turtle conservation is still active to this day fighting for the environment. The stage of environmental development transformed into a tourism destination, namely turtle conservation, has been proven by LPPL by developing the concept of Tourism; Ecotourism, Edu-tourism, and conservation areas. These three tours are available in Ampiang Parak due to the struggle of LPPL which has succeeded in presenting environment-based tourism.

This research examines how turtle conservation is managed in Amping Parak. The role of groups in

sustainable development needs to be studied to see how group communication involves itself for village development. This study looks at how group membership affects individual behavior? In what ways and how do groups change and develop? How do different groups relate to one another? Group Communication provides an introduction to the theory and practical application of small group dynamics. Using concepts from social psychology, linguistics and communication studies, Peter Hartley demonstrates that an understanding of how groups work as a team can lead to the successful establishment of a disaster risk reduction-based ecotourism destination that goes from being unknown to being visited by tourists.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Time and Location of Research

This research was conducted in February-March 2024 at Amping Parak, Pesisir Selatan, West Sumatera, Indonesia.

Ampiang Parak Village, located in the Sutera sub-district of Pesisir Selatan district, is approximately 119.5 km from Padang City. The village features a 2.7 km stretch of coastline lined with sea pines and mangroves, offering scenic views and ecological benefits. A key attraction is the Turtle Conservation Center managed by the Environmental Youth Care Group (LPPL), also known as Laskar Penyu, which serves as a hub for coastal ecotourism and conservation activities. This center, situated 500 m from the main road, is accessible within three hours from Padang and one hour from Painan. The coastal area, facing the Indian Ocean, serves as a nesting site for turtles during specific seasons. Conservation efforts led by Laskar Penyu, officially recognized as a Community Supervisory Group by the Padang Coastal and Marine Resources Management Center (BPSPL), focus on protecting the coastline and preserving marine biodiversity. The coastal vegetation primarily consists of sea pines planted since 2015 and mangrove species such as *Rhizophora*, *Xylocarpus*, and *nipah*, which play a critical role in preventing coastal abrasion and enhancing ecosystem sustainability (LPPL 2019).



Figure 1. Map of the Study Area in Amping Parak, Pesisir Selatan, West Sumatra, Indonesia

Data Collection Techniques

This research uses qualitative research methods, according to Strauss and Corbin defining qualitative research methods as “a type of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures and other forms of calculation” (Afrizal 2017). It is simply understood by the general public that qualitative research is describing, analyzing a phenomenon or case.

According to Afrizal, qualitative research methods are defined as social science research methods, which collect and analyze data in the form of spoken and written words and human actions. And researchers do not try to calculate what is being studied, the data analyzed in qualitative research are human words and actions (Afrizal 2017). In the research conducted, researchers used qualitative research methods by collecting data with in-depth interviews, observations and secondary data from documents. Researchers use a constructivist paradigm, In (Creswell 2017) believes that individuals always try to understand the world in which they live and work. Researchers try to rely as much as possible on participants' views about the situation being studied. Participants will see how the problem exists, then provide their perceptions of the reality experienced and have felt directly through experience.

The method used is descriptive case study method. Case study is an in-depth research method on a situation or event by using a systematic way of making observations, collecting data, analyzing information, and reporting results. The purpose of the case study research method is to collect comprehensive, systematic and in-depth information about a case (Patton 2002). In summary, what distinguishes the case study method from other research methods is the depth of analysis on a more specific case.

The type of research used is descriptive, which is a method of examining the status of a group of people, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought or a class of events in the present. According to Whitney (1960), the descriptive method is the search for facts with appropriate interpretation (Nazir 1988).

The purpose of descriptive research is to make descriptions, pictures or paintings systematically, actually and accurately about the facts, properties and relationships between the phenomena investigated. This research does not seek or explain relationships, test hypotheses or make predictions. Descriptive research is explaining, describing or telling and interpreting the data of the research object.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

History of Conservation Ecotourism and the formation of the Laskar Pemuda Peduli Lingkungan group

The Ampiang Parak Turtle Conservation Ecotourism Area began with a figure named Haridman who attended a training that discussed disasters in Painan, South Pesisir. Haridman said he attended a seminar that brought in disaster experts from Jakarta. Haridman was present at the time because he was still involved as a community empowerment facilitator.

In 2012-2013 Haridman was a facilitator of the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM), as well as a journalist who actively wrote in Haluan Daily. In a meeting that delivered material about potential disasters in South Pesisir, Haridman reminded that awareness of disaster threats began in 2012, which became a concern after the earthquake in Mentawai caused a Tsunami in 2010. In 2012, the Pesisir Selatan District Government invited an earthquake expert from ITB named Adnan to provide material about disasters at the Pesisir Selatan District DPRD building with a 3-hour activity meeting duration. At that time, the participants were packed, when the resource person talked about the threat of disasters all participants were silent and as one of the participants who was moved, Haridman felt carried away by the message conveyed by the resource person to do something for his village in anticipation of a tsunami disaster.

Haridman remembered Ampiang Parak, as an area with no hills, no vegetation, and wide open spaces close to the beach. Haridman tried to open the community's horizon to the disaster potential in Ampiang Parak, but he found it difficult to convey the message to the community, to invite them to take action together to reduce disaster risk.

Potential Disasters in Ampiang Parak, especially Tsunamis can occur because it is directly adjacent to the Indian Ocean which is an open sea. The seriousness of seeing this disaster potential is that there are BNPB, BPBD institutions that indicate that the potential for disaster is serious. But the perception of the community at that time, did not respond to Haridman's invitation. The surrounding community who had been invited to join to care for the environment, took the attitude not to join the environmental care group offered by Haridman. The group chaired by Haridman at that time did not believe in the disasters that might occur.

Starting from disaster awareness, Haridman initially gathered Omricon with his friends in the Ampiang Parak Turtle Conservation Ecotourism Area. The message conveyed at that time, that the Ampiang Parak area has a lake, there is water that does not flow, there is a beach, while looking at the news on the stretch of Ampiang Parak beach there is a threat of a Mentawai megatrust of 8.9 on the Richter scale if it happens. The height was estimated to be 15 meters on the beach with a speed from the source of the earthquake of 25 minutes to the beach of Ampiang Parak.

Ampiang Parak village had no barriers, no vegetation such as cypresses and mangroves. In Haridman's mind at that time, at least judging from the simulation at that time there were mangroves placed in a glass, then the glass box was shaken, inhibiting 60-70% of the flow because of the mangroves. Therefore, Haridman's efforts to convey messages related to the issue of disaster threats to the youth at that time were welcomed by the people who are currently members of the environmental youth laskar group.

At that time, there were some people's mindsets who did not know about disaster information that could befall the Ampiang Parak community. So they did not show participation with the group. But the reality at that time, people still thought in calming their hearts from disasters by means of religious understanding such as praying and getting closer to God, while actions made other than surrendering did not exist such as an act of concern for the environment. This means that disaster risk reduction efforts are not being made, so Haridman thought

for there to be real action to care for the environment. Then Haridman had a thought for an action to care for the environment with disaster mitigation to create a coastal safety wall, namely by planting vegetation.

Personal Strengths of Group Leader Building Information Openness

The communication pattern built by the Head of LPPL is the strength of the head to build information openness to group members. This strength is an asset for the chairman to provide messages and work information that he wants to convey, so that the messages given are approved by members to be done. The Head of LPPL provides an open space to communicate with each other about the developments carried out in the Ampiang Parak Turtle Ecotourism area.



Figure 2. Foreign tourists releasing turtles

The LPPL Group Communication Pattern starts from the ability and competence of the chairman's interpersonal communication with individual members. The approach taken by the group leader by convincing members of the ideas made, after the members are convinced, the chairman can become an opinion leader (the ability of the chairman to build opinions on development) of the location which initially from the idea of disaster to ecotourism. A concept that exceeds Haridman's prediction as the head of the LPPL group.

Haridman's internal communication has been well received by the people who have joined the group since the chairman's initial offer. The advantage of communication built by the LPPL chairman is that it can provide open communication with members. As there is a seedling planting project, there are wages for members who work full-time arranged by the chairman. The chairman socializes the budget obtained, then the information is forwarded to members for them to understand how the budget is available. Information disclosure related to the flow of funds into the group is open to the group, so the findings in this study found an open leader in a group in development as a communication pattern that can convince members to remain loyal to join the LPPL group. As Omricon said, he always gets information from the LPPL chairman regarding information disclosure.

Information disclosure as a form of communication built by the personal chairman, which convinces group members in the development of sustainable Ecotourism development. The strength of the chairman provides information in social work, especially since there is no future guarantee regarding payroll, certainty of monthly income. The openness of information carried out by Haridman as a key word, socially builds the trust of members to work together to build Ampiang Parak Turtle Conservation Ecotourism in mutual cooperation in reforestation and disaster risk reduction.

Communication of LPPL Tourism Awareness Group in Sustainable Development

Development is an effort to improve the economic and social aspects associated with social development (Burkey 1993). Pokdarwis LPPL Amping Parak as a group that pays attention to the sustainability of tourism activities in Nagari Ampiang Parak has an organization under the auspices of LPPL is a Tourism Awareness

Group (Pokdarwis) as a group that focuses on paying attention to tourism activities in the Ampiang Parak Turtle Conservation Ecotourism area. Pokdarwis LPPL communicates within the group in a family manner, meaning that there is already an emotional attachment to support each other in a job that wants to be done together. The Tourism Awareness Group (Pokdarwis) is a social entity that plays an important role and contributes to the development of tourism in an area. The presence of Pokdarwis will continue to be supported so that it can play a more effective role in mobilizing community participation to create an environment and atmosphere conducive to the growth and development of tourism activities around tourism destinations.

Pokdarwis LPPL, chaired by Haridman, plays an important role related to tourism that has an impact on economic improvement for the community in Ampiang Parak. The existence of this Pokdarwis has a positive impact on the development of the village. From this Pokdarwis activity, several village regulations related to ecotourism based on disaster risk reduction have also been born. The existence of the LPPL Pokdarwis brought the village government to the most productive village from the 2015-2018 timeframe, according to Haridman's presentation Nagari Ampiang Parak became one of the most productive villages in producing regulations. Pokdarwis members have also received training from the West Sumatra Provincial Tourism Office and the Pesisir Selatan Tourism, Youth and Sports Office.



Figure 3. Pokdarwis LPPL welcomes foreign tourists

As a group that is aware of tourism, Pokdarwis also encourages the village government to issue regulations on tourism and regulations related to disaster and has made standard operating procedures (SOP). One of the ecotourism services provided by Pokdarwis is turtle conservation, which began in late 2015 by relocating turtle eggs (2 nests), each year Pokdarwis manages to relocate 120 nests per year. One nest produces 110-140 turtle eggs. Sea turtle conservation is being pursued within the tourism area because sea turtle habitat has begun to diminish.

As an organization that pays attention to tourism, the findings in the field indicate the need to increase the capacity of Pokdarwis LPPL's human resources for sustainable tourism development in terms of services, communication and interaction with tourists. This effort in the development of the village from Pokdarwis is a group communication dynamic that has a common vision and mission to care for the environment. Currently, efforts to protect the environment are carried out in tandem with ecotourism activities that are already running.

Mortensen argues that parameters for group studies should be derived from group communication theory of group behavior and that such studies should deal with communication variables. Fisher reinforced

Mortensen's position on the need for a communication theory of group behavior and further argued that “task” “task” groups should be the object of our research.

Previous studies on group studies have varied views on group communication as a study that can examine human behavior in groups, the context in which communication occurs. A broader view defines sustainable development as the type of human activity that supports and sustains the historical fulfillment of the entire community of life on earth (Hartmut Bossel, 1999).

CONCLUSION

This research has examined the management of sea turtle conservation by Laskar Pemuda Peduli Lingkungan (LPPL) from the beginning of its establishment until now. The results of this study indicate that the development that occurred in the Ampiang Parak Turtle Conservation Ecotourism Area was an idea for mitigation of Disaster risk reduction, starting with Haridman conveying his idea to the public of Ampiang Parak nagari, Sutura District, Pesisir Selatan, West Sumatra Indonesia which then transformed into turtle conservation. The communication built by Haridman to the Ampiang Parak public is that Ampiang Parak needs vegetation as a barrier that can reduce the impact of a Tsunami if it occurs, while also becoming a tourist attraction. The idea was only welcomed by 15 people who are currently members of the LPPL group, in this context Haridman has the power of communication that is transferred to the group and can build networks for development actions in the Ecotourism area. Communication built by Haridman in a group as Chairperson, using open communication to members, thus increasing members' trust in the chairperson. The findings of this study, LPPL as a group has not optimized group communication as a conversation to discuss the generation that will continue the regeneration of the group. The next recommendation is group communication built by Haridman, needs to be passed on to the cadres of the LPPL Tourism Awareness Group for sustainable development.

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