

ABSTRAK

ANNISA NURJANA. 2025. **Strategi Pengembangan Kawasan Karst Malawang Sebagai Destinasi Ekowisata di Desa Sukawangun Kecamatan Karangnunggal Kabupaten Tasikmalaya**. Jurusan Pendidikan Geografi. Fakultas Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Siliwangi. Tasikmalaya.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi potensi kawasan karst Malawang yang terletak di Desa Sukawangun, Kecamatan Karangnunggal, Kabupaten Tasikmalaya, sebagai destinasi ekowisata sekaligus merumuskan strategi pengembangannya. Pengembangan Kawasan Karst Malawang menghadapi beberapa tantangan utama, seperti akses jalan yang masih terbatas dan fasilitas pendukung yang kurang memadai. Selain itu, terdapat risiko kerusakan ekosistem dan situs arkeologis jika kunjungan meningkat tanpa pengelolaan yang tepat. Dokumentasi artefak dan praktik budaya juga masih terbatas, sementara dukungan sumber daya manusia dan anggaran belum optimal. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kuantitatif dengan pengumpulan data melalui observasi, wawancara, dan kuesioner. Sampel pengunjung gua diambil secara accidental sampling sebanyak 10 orang, sedangkan masyarakat dari dua dusun diambil secara random sampling sebanyak 24 orang. Pengelola gua dan kepala desa dipilih dengan purposive sampling. Analisis data dilakukan menggunakan analisis kuantitatif sederhana dan SWOT. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kawasan Karst Malawang memiliki potensi ekowisata yang kuat, terutama dari segi kekayaan alam seperti ornamen stalaktit, stalagmit, kolom aktif, aliran sungai yang terjaga, serta keanekaragaman biospeleologi yang meliputi kelelawar, trenggiling, dan ular. Aspek konservasi dan edukasi geologi sangat tinggi. Sebanyak 67% warga aktif melestarikan gua dan menjadikannya simbol identitas lokal, meskipun program monitoring perlu diperkuat. Dari sisi budaya, artefak prasejarah dan cerita rakyat menambah nilai kunjungan, namun praktik ritual menurun dan dokumentasi sejarah masih sporadis sehingga perlu pelestarian adat yang lebih terstruktur. Aksesibilitas gua cukup baik dengan jalur datar, rambu penunjuk, dan fasilitas dasar, meski perawatan jalan, penambahan rambu, dan peningkatan keamanan masih diperlukan. Strategi pengembangan yang direkomendasikan meliputi peningkatan pelatihan ekowisata dan koordinasi dengan pemerintah agar masyarakat tidak hanya menjadi penerima manfaat, tetapi juga pelaku utama. Selain itu, mendorong dampak ekonomi lokal melalui pelatihan kewirausahaan, diversifikasi produk oleh-oleh, dan perluasan akses pasar agar penyerapan tenaga kerja dan pendapatan lebih merata. Penguatan pelestarian lingkungan dan budaya juga penting dilakukan melalui kampanye terorganisir, kolaborasi lintas sektor, pelibatan warga yang lebih luas, serta penyediaan fasilitas edukatif demi keberlanjutan nilai konservasi dan kultural kawasan karst Malawang.

Kata Kunci: Identifikasi Potensi, Kawasan Karst, Ekowisata, Strategi Pengembangan

ABSTRACT

ANNISA NURJANAH. 2025. *Strategy for Developing the Malawang Karst Area as an Ecotourism Destination in Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency*. Department of Geography Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Siliwangi University, Tasikmalaya.

This study aims to identify the potential of the Malawang karst area located in Sukawangun Village, Karangnunggal District, Tasikmalaya Regency, as an ecotourism destination and to formulate development strategies. The development of the Malawang Karst Area faces several main challenges, such as limited road access and inadequate supporting facilities. Additionally, there is a risk of ecosystem and archaeological site damage if visitor numbers increase without proper management. Documentation of artifacts and cultural practices is also limited, while human resources and budget support remain suboptimal. The research method used is quantitative descriptive, with data collected through observation, interviews, and questionnaires. The cave visitors' sample was taken using accidental sampling with 10 respondents, while the community from two hamlets was sampled randomly with 24 respondents. The cave managers and village head were selected using purposive sampling. Data analysis was conducted using simple quantitative analysis and SWOT analysis. The results indicate that the Malawang Karst area has strong ecotourism potential, especially in terms of natural wealth such as stalactite, stalagmite, active columns, well-preserved river flow, and biospeleological diversity including bats, pangolins, and snakes. The conservation and geological education aspects are very high. About 67% of local residents actively preserve the cave and regard it as a symbol of local identity, although monitoring programs need strengthening. Culturally, prehistoric artifacts and folklore add value to visits, but ritual practices have declined and historical documentation remains sporadic, requiring more structured cultural preservation. Cave accessibility is fairly good with flat paths, signposts, and basic facilities, though road maintenance, additional signage, and improved security are still needed. Recommended development strategies include enhancing ecotourism training and coordinating with the government so that the community becomes not only beneficiaries but also key actors. Furthermore, promoting local economic impact through entrepreneurship training, diversification of souvenir products, and expanded market access aims to achieve more equitable employment absorption and income distribution. Strengthening environmental and cultural preservation is also crucial through organized campaigns, cross-sector collaboration, broader community involvement, and the provision of educational facilities to ensure the sustainability of the conservation and cultural values of the Malawang karst area.

Keywords: *Potential Identification, Karst Area, Ecotourism, Development Strategy.*