

THE JOURNAL REPORT
THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC TO MOUNT GEDE PANGRANGO
NATIONAL PARK

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THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC TO MOUNT GEDE PANGRANGO NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

The tourism industry is an industry that can be interpreted as an industry that produces goods/services. The tourism industry has also become global and influential in every country, for example, Indonesia, where tourism is one of the best in the world. West Java has various tourist destinations that are often visited, for example the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park. The large number of tourism potentials in the area makes Mount Gede Pangrango National Park a favorite destination for local and foreign tourists. Destinations that are a favorite of tourists are climbing mountains and going to waterfalls. This makes the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park also a source of income that is not only for the state but also for the local people who live there. However, at this time, the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak is increasingly spreading throughout the world which causes all activities to be temporarily suspended. This Covid-19 pandemic is very influential in all aspects, and makes almost all activities carried out from home or work from home. The purpose of this paper is to identify the impact of the *Covid-19* outbreak on the tourist destinations of Mount Gede Pangrango National Park.

Keywords –Tourism Industry, Destination of National Park of Mount Gede Pangrango, Covid-19.

ABSTRAK

Industri pariwisata merupakan industri yang dapat diartikan sebagai industri yang menghasilkan barang/jasa. Industri pariwisata juga telah mendunia dan berpengaruh di setiap negara, misalnya Indonesia, dimana pariwisata merupakan salah satu yang terbaik di dunia. Jawa Barat memiliki berbagai destinasi wisata yang sering dikunjungi, misalnya Taman Nasional Gunung Gede Pangrango. Banyaknya potensi wisata yang ada di kawasan tersebut menjadikan Taman Nasional Gunung Gede Pangrango sebagai destinasi favorit wisatawan lokal maupun mancanegara. Destinasi yang menjadi favorit wisatawan adalah mendaki gunung dan pergi ke air terjun. Hal ini membuat Taman Nasional Gunung Gede Pangrango juga menjadi sumber pendapatan yang tidak hanya bagi negara tetapi juga bagi masyarakat lokal yang tinggal di sana. Namun, saat ini, wabah pandemi Covid-19 semakin menyebar ke seluruh dunia yang menyebabkan semua aktivitas dihentikan sementara. Pandemi Covid-19 ini sangat berpengaruh di segala aspek, dan membuat hampir semua aktivitas dilakukan dari rumah atau work from home. Tujuan penulisan ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dampak wabah Covid-19 terhadap destinasi wisata Taman Nasional Gunung Gede Pangrango.

Kata kunci – *Industri pariwisata, Destinasi Taman Nasional Gunung Gede Pangrango, Covid-19.*

Introduction

Tourism is an activity of temporary people in the short term, to destinations outside their place of residence and work, as well as outside their activities, and while at the destination has various purposes, including tourist visits (Pendit 1995:35). Based on the tourism terminology above, it can be concluded that tourism can be formed if there are tourism actors (demand) who do have the motivation to travel, the availability of supporting infrastructure, the existence of tourist objects and tourist attractions.

The tourism sector is an industrial sector that is developing very rapidly. This rapid development occurs because of the people who help fix the existing tourist

destinations in their respective regions in developing every existing tourism potential.

The tourism sector is also one of the largest foreign exchange earners for Indonesia. This happens because there is a lot of tourism potential from Sabang to Merauke which makes local and foreign tourists very curious to see the tourism potential in Indonesia. In Indonesia, local governments have more authority in an effort to develop tourism objects. This is in accordance with Law No. 33 of 2004 which gives more authority to local governments to manage their regions, where they are required to explore and develop every potential resource that exists in the region as an effort to support regional development.

With the *Covid-19* pandemic, which has spread throughout the world, it has greatly affected the tourism industry in Indonesia. The *Covid-19* pandemic is a disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (*SARS-CoV-2*). This virus can cause disorders of the respiratory system starting from flu symptoms to infections that attack the lungs, such as pneumonia.

West Java is certainly one of the provinces that has been affected by this positive case of the *Covid-19* virus. With this, the government issued a stay at home and work from home policy. Of course, this has a big impact on the tourism sector in West Java, especially the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park which has potential tourist destinations.

With the *Covid-19* pandemic, it is very influential on tourist destinations that are there. Where, some activities there stopped for a while. This is very detrimental to the residents or people there who usually get income from the tourists who come to that place. This loss also affects food stall owners or souvenir sellers and so on because there are no local or foreign tourists who come to Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park because the government issued a Social Distancing policy.

To be able to maintain the potential of the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park tourist destination, it is necessary to analyze the impact caused by *Covid-19*. Therefore, I raised the title "*The impact of the pandemic on the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park*"

Theoretical Framework

A. Covid-19

The *Covid-19* pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is the ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (*Covid-19*), caused by acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (*SARS-CoV-2*). This virus was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding *Covid-19* on January 30, 2020, and subsequently declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. As of June 21, 2021, more than 178 million cases had been confirmed, with over 3.86 million deaths. confirmed to be associated with *Covid-19*, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in history. *Coronavirus disease (Covid-19)* is an infectious disease caused by the newly discovered coronavirus.

Most people infected with the *Covid-19* virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illnesses.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the *Covid-19* virus, the disease it causes, and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently and not touching your face.

The *Covid-19* virus is spread primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into your bent elbow).

B. Pandemic

Pandemis is an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a large geographic area (such as several countries or continents) and usually affects a large proportion of the population.

According to the KBBI, the term pandemic is interpreted as an epidemic that spreads simultaneously everywhere covering a wide geographical area. In the most classic sense, when an epidemic spreads to several countries or regions of the world.

C. Tourism

Tourism or tourism is a journey undertaken for recreation or leisure and also preparations made for this activity. The definition of tourism according to A.J Burkat in Damanik (2006), tourism is the temporary and short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they usually live and work and also their activities during their stay at a destination.

D. National Park

National park is a large area of land which is protected by the government because of its natural beauty, plants, or animals, and which the public can usually visit.

National Parks are the preservation of native ecosystems managed by the system zoning that can be used for educational, research, tourism, recreation and support cultivation. (*Peraturan pemerintah No. 68 tahun 1998*). ★

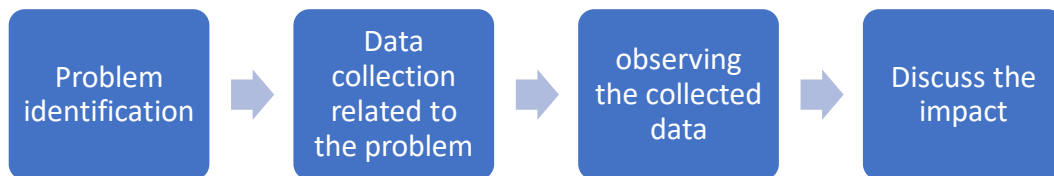
Research Method

This study aims to look at the condition of the Indonesian tourism sector, especially the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park in the midst of the *Covid-19* pandemic. The method used in this research is library research which means the process of collecting data from various reference sources that support this research. These sources include online media, data published by the government, as well as from research journals. This research uses qualitative research. This study aims to explain, describe a phenomenon, event or event that is happening to seek and find meaning in its actual context. Another goal to be achieved is to get an overview of the impact felt on the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park in the midst of the actual and factual *Covid-19* pandemic.

In this study, the data source used are primary data and secondary data. Primary data is about the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park as a tourist destination and secondary data is data obtained from the results of a literature review as literature

or library materials. Secondary data were obtained from website pages and other references and were considered relevant to the theme of this research. The data were then collected by researchers and then analyzed and interpreted.

(Part of production output)



Discussion

Indonesia has many natural tourism destinations spread from Sabang to Merauke, the large number of tourism potentials in Indonesia makes Indonesian tourism one of the largest sources of income for the country's economy. The World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2013 placed Indonesia in 5th and 38th positions out of 140 countries in the world for ownership of natural and cultural resources. Its competitiveness index in 2013 was in the 9th position out of 140 countries (Utami, 2016). Tourism potential can be defined as everything that is owned by a tourist attraction and is useful for developing the tourism industry in the area (Sukardi, 1998). In this study, the tourism potential in question is the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park.

Mount Gede Pangrango National Park has a lot of cultural potential that makes local or foreign tourists interested in visiting the place. With its beautiful nature, it is one of the reasons for some tourists to travel there. One of them is Ecotourism (ecotourism) is a tourism development concept that aims to support the preservation of the natural and cultural environment, and increase community participation in management and can provide economic benefits to the local community. Adventure tourism is a sport activity that is coupled with natural tourism such as cross country, rock climbing, and deep sea diving (Supriatna, 2008). Geographically, Mount Gede Pangrango is located between 106°51'- 107°02E and 6°41'-6°51'LS. Administratively Mount Gede National Park Pangrango is located in three

regencies, namely Sukabumi Regency, Bogor and Cianjur Regency. Mount Gede Pangrango has two peaks different mountains, namely the Peak of Mount Gede and the Peak of Mount Pangrango, The two mountains are a series of volcanoes (Mulyana, 2015).

Mount Gede is the 3rd highest volcano in the West Java region status is still active and has a height (2,958mdpl), According to records Volcanology Mount Gede first erupted in 1747, then it happened again successive eruptions in 1840, 1852, 1886, 1947, 1957. Mount Pangrango is the 2nd highest volcano in the West Java region. Mount Pangrango is declared a volcano that is no longer active and has a height (3,019mdpl). Mount Gede Pangrango National Park serves as a buffer continuity of water and soil management for parts of West Java and DKI Jakarta, Conservation of biota and ecosystem diversity, resource research facilities nature, educational facilities, tourism or recreational facilities, supporting cultivation and other environmental service functions such as oxygen generation and carbon sink dioxide (Mulyana, 2015).

However, in 2020, with the *Covid-19* pandemic which spread rapidly to various cities in Indonesia after the discovery of the first case, it certainly prompted the government to make various efforts to overcome this virus. One of the efforts of the government is as stated in "*Presidential Decree 12 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Non-Natural Disasters for the Spread of Covid-19*" as a National Disaster. The implication of the Presidential Decree is how the central and regional governments carry out policies to deal with *Covid-19* by submitting and obeying each of these policies.

The effects of the pandemic have a direct or indirect impact on the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park. Several studies reveal the impact of the weakening of the tourism sector on the high unemployment rate. Some tourist attractions are very dependent on tourists. In addition to the declining number of tourists, tourist attractions face other risks such as climate change and natural damage.

Efforts to improve the tourism sector that can be done by the government, one of which is making promotions through virtual visits, this approach can be used to socialize and promote early to potential consumers. The use of 360 photography

technology and virtual visits can be a marketing strategy in the tourism sector (Sulaiman, 2020). Tourism based on community participation and the use of domestic resources as tourist sites will also support proactive national economic resilience against community elements (Maharani & Mahalika, 2020).

The impact of Covid-19 is also felt by local people whose tourist attractions are not visited by visitors, which has an impact on decreasing their economic income. Months of uncertainty about their economic income since the Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia are gradually being given leeway for its citizens to leave their homes to work and vacation by following the health protocols that tourists must follow.

According to I Dewa Gede Sugihamretha (2020), there are several problems that need to be responded to quickly regarding the impact of Covid-19 in the tourism sector, including:

1. The tourism sector has not yet provided a standard of governance related to the planning, implementation, and control of disaster impacts.
2. Mapping of basic data relating to the workforce of industry players in tourism has not been supported by strong technology.
3. Lack of cross-sectoral coordination in the tourism industry from the central to the regional levels.
4. The institution in charge of dealing with disaster impact mitigation for the tourism sector has not yet been established.
5. Funds used to cope with disasters that occur in the tourism sector are very low.

The steps taken by the government in restoring the tourism sector through the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy (Kemenkarekraf) are to improve supply and demand with six steps in the tourism sector and the creative economy. among others are :

1. Prepare tourist destinations.
2. Build a competitive connectivity infrastructure with other countries.
3. Implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the CHSE protocol in the regions.
4. Creating and building a tourist attraction.
5. Improving the quality of human resources for creative economy workers.

6. Increasing the quantity and quality of creative economy products

As a guide for tourism sector activities, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy (Kemenparekraf) compiles tourism health protocol standards based on Cleanliness, Health, Safety, and Environmental Sustainability (CHSE). There are several simulation methods that can be considered effective, such as;

- The tourism sector can implement the gradual opening of low-risk areas such as outdoor tourism
- Avoid overcrowding
- There are restrictions on the number of visitors to prevent the spread of the virus through crowds.
- Always apply standard health, hygiene and safety protocols
- Payments using electronic money.

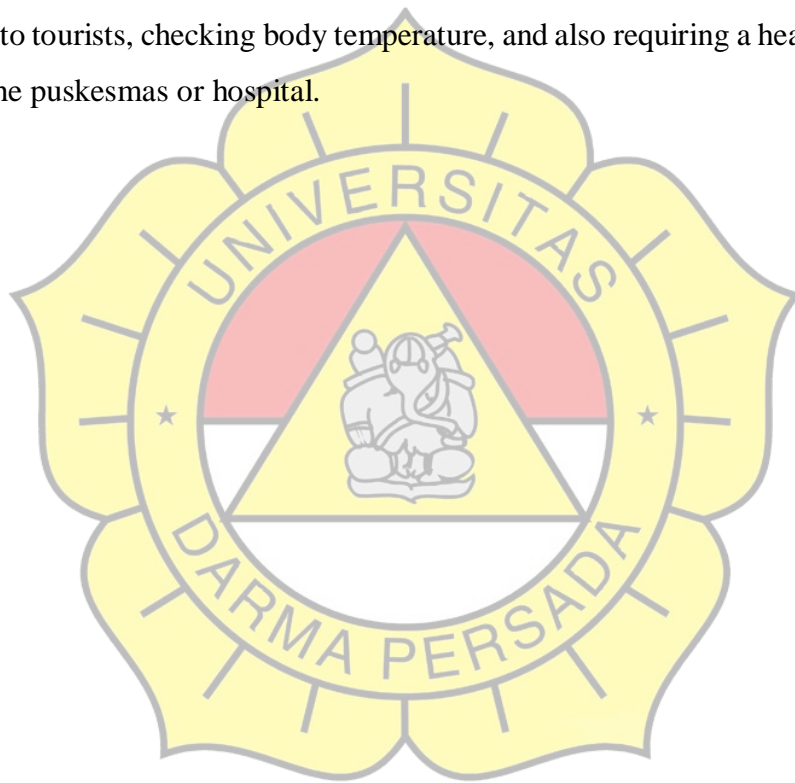
Conclusion

From the discussion and analysis above, as has been observed, it can be concluded that the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the tourism sector in Indonesia. The existence of the Massive Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy has an impact on the economy not only for the tourism sector but also for the people living in the area who depend on foreign and local tourists, especially for the tourist destination of Mount Gede Pangrango National Park. Although this outbreak is still ongoing, recovery or planning must be planned so that the Mount Gede Pangrango National Park tourist destination can return to running as before this pandemic occurred or even better. Communities and governments who are considered to be subjects or objects must always be involved for the development or maintenance of tourist destinations. With the development, both in terms of facilities and services, it will improve the condition of tourist objects that are getting better, so that they can attract the attention of tourists.

The Indonesian tourism sector has taken a strategy to regulate how to restore tourism conditions so that they can bounce back. The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy (Kemenkarekraf) has taken several policy steps to improve the

tourism and economic sectors. Increasing exports and digitizing the marketing of creative economy products (Ekraf) is one of the government's steps, so it is expected to be able to restore national tourism.

For tourism parties, especially Mount Gede Pangrango National Park, they must make strategies in this new normal era, one of which is implementing and standardizing health protocols recommended by the government so that tourists who come feel safe. In addition, it is necessary to create sanitation standards by providing several facilities or services including, always maintaining the cleanliness of toilets, providing hand washing facilities, providing or distributing masks to tourists, checking body temperature, and also requiring a health certificate from the puskesmas or hospital.



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