

# Community Participation in the Development of "Kapalo Banda" Tirta Tourism Nagari Taram, Lima Puluh Kota, Sumatra Barat

## *Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam Pengembangan Wisata Tirta "Kapalo Banda" Nagari Taram, Lima Puluh Kota, Sumatera Barat*

Muhammad Fauzan<sup>1\*</sup>, Ridar Hendri<sup>1</sup>, Zulkarnain<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Fisheries Socio-Economic, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine,  
Universitas Riau, Pekanbaru 28293 Indonesia

\*email: [muhammad.fauzan0218@student.unri.ac.id](mailto:muhammad.fauzan0218@student.unri.ac.id)

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### Abstract

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Community participation is an opportunity for residents to participate effectively in managing Tirta tourism. Tirta Kapalo Banda Tourism is managed by the community, which acts as tourism managers and business owners around Kapalo Banda's irrigation waters and forests in Nagari Taram. This study aims to describe the stages of participation, analyze the level of participation, and find out the supporting and inhibiting factors of community participation in the development of Tirta Kapalo Banda Tourism. The method used is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The informants in this study were determined purposively, namely representatives of the Taram Nagari Government, tourism managers, and business owners. The data analysis used is Miles and Huberman analysis, which starts from data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the participation stage of the Nagari Taram community was involved in all stages, starting from the decision-making stage, the implementation stage, the benefit-taking stage, and the evaluation stage. The degree of participation of the Nagari Taram community is in the tokenism degree category. Supporting factors for community participation are motivational factors, funds and personal assets, opportunities, training, and socialization, and inhibiting factors for community participation are weather factors and natural disasters, rules for becoming tourism managers, other jobs, and negative influences from outside.

**Keywords:** Participation, Community, Tirta tourism

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### Abstrak

Partisipasi masyarakat merupakan kesempatan bagi penduduk setempat untuk ikut serta secara efektif dalam mengelola wisata tirta. Wisata Tirta Kapalo Banda dikelola oleh masyarakat yang berperan sebagai pengelola wisata dan pemilik usaha di sekitar perairan irigasi kapalo banda dan hutan di Nagari Taram. Penelitian ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan tahap partisipasi, menganalisis derajat partisipasi dan mengetahui faktor pendukung dan penghambat partisipasi masyarakat dalam pengembangan Wisata Tirta Kapalo Banda. Metode yang digunakan yaitu penelitian deskriptif dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Informan dalam penelitian ini ditentukan secara sengaja yaitu perwakilan dari Pemerintah Nagari Taram, pengelola wisata dan pemilik usaha. Analisis data yang digunakan yaitu analisis Miles dan Huberman yang dimulai dari reduksi data, penyajian data dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tahap partisipasi masyarakat Nagari Taram terlibat di semua tahap mulai dari tahap pengambilan keputusan, tahap pelaksanaan, tahap pengambilan manfaat dan tahap evaluasi. Derajat partisipasi masyarakat Nagari Taram berada pada kategori

derajat tokenisme. Faktor pendukung partisipasi masyarakat yaitu faktor motivasi, dana dan aset pribadi, peluang, pelatihan dan sosialisasi serta faktor penghambat partisipasi masyarakat yaitu faktor cuaca dan bencana alam, aturan untuk menjadi pengelola wisata, pekerjaan lain dan pengaruh dari kegiatan negatif.

**Kata kunci:** Partisipasi, Masyarakat, Wisata Tirta

## 1. Introduction

Lima Puluh Kota Regency is geographically very strategic for developing the tourism industry, especially Tirta tourism. This regency is located in Sumatera Barat Province and has many water areas such as rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and irrigation systems (PEMKAB, 2016). This condition creates significant potential for developing tirta tourism related to adventure and water sports, as well as outdoor activities such as outbound programs and other physical activities (Dhani & Firman, 2015).

One of the tirta tourism in Lima Puluh Kota Regency is Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. Kapalo Banda is an irrigation system fed by the Buluh Kasok River, established during the Dutch colonial period. This tirta tourism also utilizes the water flow from Tapian Puti, which originates from the Sarasah Tujuh Tingkek Waterfall (Interview with Mr. Gusnedi, 2024). The water area at this Tirta tourism features water attractions such as rafting, swimming, fishing, and waterfall exploration (Interview with Mr Gio Fernando, 2024). In addition to its water features, this tourism site has obtained forest management permits in Nagari Taram, covering an area of 800 hectares (KLH, 2020). In this area, the community manages non-water attractions such as camping, culinary experiences, off-road vehicle activities, ATV rides, as well as parking and toilet facilities, which support the overall Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism experience (Interview with Mr. Gio Fernando, 2024).

The community of Nagari Taram plays a crucial role in managing Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The community is organized as a tourism management group established by the Nagari Taram Government named the Social Forestry Business Group for Kapalo Banda Ecotourism. This tourism management group comprises local youth and is officially recognized under the Decree of the Nagari Taram Head No. 26 of 2020 (Pemerintah Nagari Taram, 2020). The community of Nagari Taram also serves as a business owner in the vicinity of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. These business owners own several services and private facilities, including raft rentals, float provisions, food stalls, toilet rental services, and parking areas.

## 2. Material and Method

### 2.1. Time and Place

This research was conducted from 24 February 2024 to 3 April 2024 in Nagari Taram, Harau District, Lima Puluh Kota Regency, Sumatera Barat Province. The reason for selecting this location stems from the community's involvement in Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism activities. The Nagari Taram community contributes as tourism managers and business owners in the surrounding area of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism.

### 2.2. Methods

The method used in this research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Descriptive research aims to describe variables related to the problem being examined (Racmawati et al., 2022). According to Masrizal in Hendri (2022), qualitative research, also an artistic and interpretive method, interprets data collected in the field. The researcher has flexibility in this research, so the process does not strictly follow a set pattern. With this research method, the researcher is expected to describe the stages of participation, analyze the degree of involvement, and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors of community participation in Nagari Taram in developing Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism.

### 2.3. Sampling Method

The informants for this research were selected purposively, considering that the chosen individuals possess in-depth knowledge and understanding of community participation in Nagari Taram regarding the development of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. This research includes four informants consisting of 1 representative from the Nagari Taram Government, one member of the tourism management team, and two business owners who represent the raft owner, swimming float owner, vendor, parking lot owner, and toilet rental owner.

### 2.4. Data Analysis

The Miles & Huberman analysis in Sugiyono (2013) consists of data reduction by discarding unnecessary data, presenting data in a narrative text format, and drawing conclusions from the research results.

## 3. Result and Discussion

### 3.1. Stages of Participation

This phase discusses the planning of water and non-water attractions and the necessary facilities until their realization. The planning process began with the arrival of visitors to the Kapalo Banda Irrigation, which prompted the local community to create attractions such as rafting, swimming, culinary experiences, and parking facilities. Over time, the tourism managers and business owners planned to add several attractions and facilities, including fishing, waterfall exploration, camping, ATV rides, off-road vehicles, and toilet facilities. The recognition of tourism potential, business opportunities, and support from the government drove this initiative.

Tourism managers and business owners have specific responsibilities for their attractions and facilities in the implementation stage. The tourism managers are tasked with preparing facilities, providing information, and guiding visitors. The attractions managed by the tourism managers include fishing, waterfall exploration, camping, ATV rides, and offroad vehicle experiences. Meanwhile, business owners are responsible for maintaining the facilities to ensure they are suitable for use and renting and selling products to visitors. Business owners are specifically focused on managing the attractions of rafting, swimming, culinary offerings, parking facilities, and toilets.

Tourism managers and business owners experience variable daily wages. Wages from Monday to Friday are lower compared to those on weekends. Tourism managers receive compensation based on ticket sales, while business owners earn income from daily rentals and sales. Tourism managers distribute their earnings among all members, whereas business owners retain them individually. Tourism managers can earn a minimum of IDR. 70.000, while business owners have a minimum daily income of IDR. 20.000.

Various issues in the development of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism affect tourism managers and business owners. These challenges include disputes over attracting visitors, price discrepancies, shortages of swimming floats, a decline in fish populations, the distance of forest paths from main roads, incidents of fire, and a lack of vehicles. These disputes are addressed by regulating raft rentals, standardizing raft rental prices, utilizing personal funds for purchases, continuing fishing activities, adapting to the conditions of forest paths, and seeking additional vehicles.

Several tourism attraction ideas have been discussed in the development of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. First, there is the attraction of feeding fish by selling food to be distributed in the irrigation area. Second, an educational attraction has been proposed, which involves preparing educational routes for visitors to explore. Third, a fruit-picking attraction allows visitors to harvest fruit. However, several attraction ideas have not yet been realized and remain only in discussions.

### 3.2. Degree of Participation

The citizen control ladder represents participation, where tourism managers or business owners have complete control over activities, including decision-making, implementation, benefit-taking, and evaluation at Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism, without involvement from the Nagari Taram government. Tourism managers or business owners can plan various attractions and facilities at this level. Additionally, business owners have control over determining their revenue.

The delegated power ladder represents a level of participation where the Nagari Taram government is involved and does not fully delegate activities to tourism managers or business owners. Forms of involvement at this level include proposing assistance in providing fish seedlings to the Fisheries Department of Lima Puluh Kota Regency and regulations for the development of fisheries tourism, accompanying and supervising visitors, promoting cooperation, implementing a reforestation program in the Nagari Taram forest, proposing training and equipment assistance and receiving income.

The partnership ladder represents a level of participation where the Nagari Taram government and tourism managers or business owners collaborate as equal partners in developing Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. Regarding planning and evaluation, the Nagari Taram government does not hold regular meetings with tourism managers and business owners. During implementation, the government does not visit the location frequently. In terms of benefits, tourism managers and business owners gain more significant social and economic advantages. [Dewi & Lasso's \(2022\)](#) research presents similar findings, showing that the community plays a more critical role in tourism activities than the village government. As tourism managers and business owners, the community does not engage in activities that provide equal roles and participation with the Nagari Taram government in developing Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. This indicates that the community does not meet the criteria of the partnership ladder.

The placation ladder refers to a level of participation where tourism managers or business owners make proposals or suggestions regarding Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. However, the power still lies with the Nagari Taram government, which assesses the feasibility and sustainability of these suggestions. Participation at this level includes resolving disputes between raft owners, offering assistance to swimming buoy owners, and constructing toilet facilities, but the final decision-making remains with the authorities.

The consultation ladder represents a level of participation that indicates two-way communication between tourism managers or business owners and the Nagari Taram government regarding Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The idea discussed involves a tourism concept centered around interacting with fish. However, the discussion remains purely conversational. This is similar to [Khoiroh's \(2019\)](#) research, which highlights communication with

the community to discuss tourism development. The dialogue between the Nagari Taram government and tourism managers has not yet shown any follow-up toward realizing the idea, thus meeting the criteria of the consultation ladder.

The information ladder represents a level of participation where tourism managers or business owners have no limitations in receiving information from the Nagari Taram government regarding Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The Nagari Taram government directly announces information to tourism managers through meetings at this participation level. An example of this participation level is when Wali Nagari Taram informs tourism managers about upcoming visits from certain institutions, such as the police and the Regional Disaster Management Agency. All members of the tourism management team are invited to attend the meeting. Tourism managers are allowed to attend and receive complete information from the Nagari Taram government, thus fulfilling the criteria of the information ladder.

The therapy ladder represents a level of participation where tourism managers and business owners face limitations in receiving information from the Nagari Taram Government regarding Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. This form of involvement is experienced by members of the tourism management team and business owners when they receive information from the Nagari Taram Government. The Nagari Taram Government disseminates information through social media groups on WhatsApp, official letters, and intermediaries from the tourism management.

The manipulation ladder represents participation in which tourism managers and business owners are excluded from decision-making, implementation, benefit, or evaluation processes at the Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism, leaving only the Nagari Taram Government involved. However, in the management of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism, no activities occur without the community's involvement. This finding is consistent with the research by [Kulandima & Lasso \(2023\)](#), which demonstrates that the community remains actively engaged in tourism management. At this level of participation, tourism managers and business owners are involved in all activities at Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism, indicating that the community does not occupy the manipulation ladder.

### *3.3. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors of Participation*

The young individuals who joined as tourism managers share similar reasons for their involvement, namely that they lack activities after completing their education. Those in the community who do not have the opportunity to pursue higher education in university fill their free time by working as tourism managers. Many young people who were previously economically dependent on their parents find that working as tourism managers motivates them to participate actively.

As business owners, the community utilizes their funds and assets to begin developing the business at the Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The owners of swimming floats and vendors use their funds to purchase floats and build their stalls. The raft owners and parking lot owners utilize old rafts previously used for transporting timber and vacant land as business capital. Considering the expenses incurred, the business owners have regarded this venture as their source of livelihood.

Landowners lease their land, creating opportunities for the community to sell at Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The community can rent this space for sale at IDR 200,000 for one month. [Syarifuddin's \(2023\)](#) research aligns with this by providing job opportunities for those in the community who wish to participate in the tourism business. The availability of land leases also opens up opportunities for people outside Tanjung Ateh Rural Village to sell at this water tourism.

The training and socialization that tourism managers and business owners have participated in include training for tour guides and socialization on healthy eating and maintaining cleanliness. This is similar to the research by [Putri & Yuniningsih \(2019\)](#), which indicates that government support is a motivating factor for community participation. Through this training and socialization, tourism managers and business owners can apply the knowledge gained in managing this water tourism, such as methods for ensuring visitor safety and routines for cleaning the Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism area.

High levels of rainfall significantly impact visitors' willingness to travel to Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. Furthermore, the weather poses a potential risk of natural disasters in the surrounding area. The increased water flow can cause flooding in the Kapalo Banda Irrigation system, which poses a danger to visitors, necessitating the temporary closure of this Tirta tourism. In addition to flood-related disasters, landslides adversely affect visitors, particularly those from Riau Province. These incidents frequently occur in Kelok 17, Pangkalan Koto Baru District, obstructing one of the access routes for visitors traveling to West Sumatra. This situation parallels the findings of [Febriani et al. \(2022\)](#), which indicate that natural disasters hinder tourism development.

The tourism managers have established a rule stating that members of the tourism management must originate from Tanjung Ateh Rural Village. Initially, this tirta tourism was solely managed by the community of Tanjung Ateh Rural Village. Since using social media to promote Tirta tourism, more visitors from within and outside the city have started to arrive. Observing the growing visitor numbers, individuals from other rural villages expressed interest in joining the tourism management team. However, the tourism managers do not permit new members from other rural villages to be included.

In managing Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism, not all community members have joined as tourism managers or business owners. A significant portion of the Nagari Taram community primarily works as farmers. This situation aligns with the research conducted by Karnayanti & Mahagangga (2019), which indicates that community members prioritize their farming occupations over managing tourism activities. In addition to farming, community members also engage in professions related to livestock, fish farming, and other service sectors. Furthermore, tourism managers often seek additional income from other jobs. These other occupations may influence their willingness to transition entirely to those professions.

The youth in Nagari Taram were involved in the initial management of Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. However, negative activities among the youth, such as extortion and drug use, were prevalent in the Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism area. Following complaints from religious and cultural leaders to the Nagari Taram Government, an agreement was reached to disband the youth from managing activities at this Tirta tourism.

## 4. Conclusions

The stages of community participation in Nagari Taram involve all stages, including the decision-making stage with several suggestions and inputs from the government, the implementation stage, which provides for maximum participation, the benefit-taking stage in terms of economics and the evaluation stage, which resolves problems and includes ideas for attractions, even if they have not yet been realized. The degree of community participation in Nagari Taram is categorized as the degree of tokenism, which divides the responsibilities between the Nagari Taram government and the community, allowing only for the opportunity to receive information, exchange ideas, and listen to community suggestions in the development of the Kapalo Banda Tirta Tourism. The supporting factors for community participation in Nagari Taram are motivation, funds and personal assets, opportunities, training, and socialization while inhibiting factors include weather and natural disasters, regulations for becoming a tourism manager, other jobs, and the influence of negative activities.

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