



The meta-analysis of Ecotourism in National Parks

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Abstract

The concept of ecotourism offers sustainability in the development of tourism, particularly nature-based tourism. Ecotourism is conducted by minimizing the negative impacts of tourism implementation on the environment and culture so that future generations can enjoy the benefits of this tourism implementation. However, several studies have found that ecotourism also has negative impacts. A number of meta-analysis studies in the context of ecotourism have not specifically addressed the negative impacts of ecotourism, especially in national parks. Therefore, this study endeavored to synthesize the available literature to understand the effects of ecotourism on national parks. This was done by systematically reviewing and analyzing the literature of the past 12 years. The main attention was directed on the recommendations from previous studies which examined the management of national parks with an ecotourism approach. This study provides recommendations on ecotourism management carried out in national parks, namely: the restrictions of flora type in the development of ecotourism infrastructure, environmental activities management, attractions management, role sharing management, participation management, marketing and de-marketing management, ecotourism labeling and certification, segmentation strategy, conflict management, interpretation strategy, service strategy, resources management, communication management, total quality management, tourist demographic management, as well as collaborative management.

Keywords: ecotourism, national parks, negative impacts, ecotourism management, ecotourism recommendations.

Introduction

Ecotourism has provided hope for the sustainability of tourism development, especially nature-based tourism. Ecotourism provides the opportunity to minimize the negative impacts of tourism implementation on the environment and culture so that it can still be enjoyed by future generations. This is in accordance with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is ratified globally and in line with various environmental and social challenges. This is related to the finding that the consumptive nature of tourists creates a destructive tourism activity. Thus, ecotourism is considered as one of the solutions for economic development, nature protection, and community welfare improvement (Theng, Qiong & Tatar, 2015).

Along with the developments in ecotourism activities, several national parks that are focusing on nature conservation began to open up to be visited by tourists. On the one hand, this establishment opens the risk of intrusion to the national parks. However, this opportunity actually needs to be appreciated by the public because the opening of national parks can educate the public about the importance of nature conservation. In addition, a visit to a national park will help support the lives of local people and the park itself (Eagles & McCool, 2002). Of course, this must be realized by complying with the laws and regulations so that the effects that occur

on national parks can still be controlled. This is expected to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts on the environment and society.

Nevertheless, Buckley (2009) explained that many ecotourism activities in practice had a negative impact on the environment. For example, ecotourism can have direct negative environmental effects such as greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable development, wildlife interruption, or simply just a means of tourism marketing purpose for its green products. These negative effects raise the attention of the researcher to review the latest literature which talked about the impact of ecotourism on national parks. To date, there have been a number of meta-analysis studies conducted in the context of ecotourism (Buckley, 2009; Krüger, 2005). However, none has specifically addressed the negative impact of ecotourism on national parks. Therefore, this study tries to synthesize the available literature to understand further the effects of ecotourism on national parks.

This was done by systematically reviewing and analyzing some of the important literature of the past 12 years. This study focused on the recommendations from previous studies concerning the management of national parks. In addition, this study also paid attention to the various methods that were used by previous studies to achieve positive results for the environment, especially on national parks. This goal was achieved by using electronic databases and search engines. The final results of this study are recommendations regarding the management of ecotourism that are carried out in national parks.

Theoretical basis

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines national parks as “large natural or almost natural areas designated to protect large-scale ecological processes, together with complementary species and distinctive ecosystem of the region which provide a basis for spiritual and creative opportunities, scientific experience, education, as well as environmentally-friendly and cultural visits” (IUCN, 2017).

Each country has a different concept to define a national park. There are no rules that can bind the concept of a national park. For example, United Kingdom defines the national park as “a vast region with beautiful scenery and relatively wild conditions to benefit the country so that the right decisions and actions must be taken to (a) strictly preserve the beauty of the landscape, (b) provide access and facilities for the public in terms of open and clean air, (c) protect the wildlife, buildings, and places which have architectural and historical significance, and (d) empower the utilization of agriculture that has been effectively guarded” (Kendal, 2011: 80). In other countries such as Indonesia, national park is defined as “a nature conservation area that contains native ecosystems managed with a zoning system and used for research, science, education, supporting cultivation, tourism, and recreation purposes” (Law number 5 of 1990, Article 1 number 14 concerning the Conservation of Natural Living Resources and Ecosystems). Thus, each country holds different concepts in defining a national park. This is strengthened by Rhama (2017) which found different concepts of a national park in several countries. A number of countries like the UK see national parks as a “living environment” that can be easily visited by the public. On the other hand, other countries like Indonesia find a national park as a sterile area that can be managed on a limited basis.

Nonetheless, the various definitions and establishment of national park discussed above basically have the same concept that is to provide public access to use



national parks wisely. Consequently, this aspect can be connected with the ecotourism concept because, basically, ecotourism is nature-based tourism that is intended to provide positive impacts on the environment. Besides that, this is done to minimize the negative impacts that may occur due to the consumptive behavior of the tourists (Buckley, 2009: 643).

Methodology

The global awareness that the environment must be maintained makes various countries to continue to extend the number and area of national parks. From the 20th century to the 21st century, the number of national parks in Europe has increased from only two to 300 parks (Bejatovic & Ristic, 2016: 486). Basic Planet website estimates that the number of national parks in the world in 2013 was 6,555 (Basic Planet, 2013) and all of those national parks have the potential to become ecotourism destinations. Thus, the literature study of ecotourism activities in national parks around the world is an exhaustive study and it was thus difficult to obtain sufficiently accurate and scientific data. For this reason, the researcher of this study attempted to review the results reported in the Journal of Ecotourism (JE) as a focused and credible journal in the field of ecotourism.

The keyword “national park” was used to collect research articles in the field of national ecotourism parks from 2007 to 2018 (within the range of 12 years). Many of these journal articles are closed or restricted so that the information is only obtained from the abstracts. Even so, the abstract already contains enough information about the research findings and recommendations. If the articles did not contain an abstract, they were not be included in the study. Besides the research findings and recommendations, the information on the location of the national parks was also taken into account to be examined based on the continent and specific characteristics of the study.

Results

a. Descriptive Statistics

There are 141 articles with a “national park” keyword in the JE journal. A deeper search was carried out to identify which of these articles that really addressed the issue of ecotourism in the national park and which only made it a short excerpt or reference. After this procedure was done, the researcher found that there are 30 articles written in 2007 - 2018. Table 1 below shows the frequency of articles by year. It appears that a significant number of ecotourism articles have started to emerge in recent years, indicating a growing interest in ecotourism in national parks.

Table 1

The Number of Articles of Ecotourism in National Parks in the Journal of Ecotourism

Year	Articles	Year	Articles
2007	1	2013	2
2008	0	2014	1
2009	3	2015	2
2010	1	2016	4
2011	2	2017	4
2012	2	2018	8

b. The Site of Ecotourism

The research sites are scattered in various countries including Australia (Kosciuszko, John Forrest, Blue Mountains, Wollumbin-Mount Warning), United States (Denali, Rocky Mountain), Rwanda (Volcanoes, Nyungwe), Ghana

(Kakum), Japan (Fuji), Canada (Point Pelee), Finland (Oulanka), Vietnam (Phong Nha-Ke Bang), Nepal (Bardia), Malawi (Liwonde), Tanzania, Belize (Five Blues Lake), Zambia (Kafue), South Africa (Kruger), Botswana (Chobe), India (Kaziranga), and Ecuador (Galapagos).

c. Research Findings

Table 2 briefly shows the findings and research recommendations from previous studies which investigated the ecotourism in national parks. To have a better understanding, a number of recurring themes are grouped and explained further in the following section.

i. Visitor Segmentation

The initial step to reaching a broad tourist market is to segment visitors. The segmentation of ecotourism visitors in national parks is done with a focus on specific aspects. For example, Maple, Eagles, & Rolfe (2010) segmented birdwatchers in Point Pelee National Park, Canada. While on the other hand, Kruger, Viljoen, & Saayman (2013) chose to do segmentation on the flower observers in several South Africa national parks.

ii. Visitor Knowledge

Another goal of ecotourism is to broaden visitor awareness about the conservative meaning of ecotourism destinations. This also becomes the target of a national park establishment that is to become an educational function. Interestingly, the findings in Tanzania show that many visitors already know that access to the destinations is easy and there are many destinations that can be visited in national parks. Visitors are more aware that a national park is more likely a mass tourism destination rather than only a park (Mlozi & Pesämaa, 2018). This means that there is a general view in the society that a visit to a national park is not easy and is not common as a mass tourist attraction. In this matter, if the marketing efforts were similar to mass tourism marketing, it will be difficult for the management to maintain the sustainability of the destination.

iii. Visit Constraints

Thapa (2012) wrote a different perspective on tourist visits by looking at the inhibiting factors rather than the attractors. The study at Kafue National Park, Zambia, pointed out the differences in the constraints of domestic and foreign tourist arrivals. Domestic tourists are only constrained by funding and infrastructure while foreign tourists are constrained by safety, time, number of visitors, quality of facilities, information, and weather.

iv. Visitor Behavior

Visitor behavior can be different and this can be related to segmentation. In Denali National Park, Alaska, visitors have a tendency to be very close to wild animals. This has the potential to disturb not only the animals but also the safety of the visitors themselves (Verbos, Zajchowski, Brownlee & Skibins, 2017). In John Forrest National Park, Australia, the freedom to do mountain biking activities allows visitors to create many new paths with their bikes (Newsome & Davies, 2009). In addition to that, the studies in Europe show that visitors are quite positive with certification and eco-labeling. This provides opportunities for ecotourism destinations to create restrictions that are strengthened with the existence of certification (Puhakka & Siikamaki, 2012).

v. Visitor Satisfaction

Visitor satisfaction is one of the most commonly studied aspects. There have been various studies conducted to find out the factors that bring satisfaction and

intention to return. Botha, Saayman & Kruger (2016) highlighted the aspects of interpretation in Kruger National Park, South Africa. Meanwhile, Puustinen, Pouta, Neuvonena, & Sievänen (2009) investigated the characteristics of destinations, facilities, and services in encouraging tourist visits to 35 national parks in Finland. The factors examined were values, staff, access, information, motivation, sex, education, and marital status (Adam, Adongo & Amuquandoh, 2017; Scholtz, Kruger, & Saayman, 2015; Thapa & Lee, 2017).

vi. Stakeholder Perception

The number of stakeholders involved in the design, planning, and implementation of ecotourism programs in a national park is found to lead to complex situations. From the study in Chobe National Park, Botswana, it is found that there is a diversity of impacts caused by this participation, some of which are negative impacts (Stone, 2015). As shown in Rocky Mountain National Park, stakeholders also have different perceptions about many things related to ecotourism (Dangi & Gribb, 2018). On the other hand, an analysis in Galapagos, Ecuador, emphasized the importance of strength and solidity in local institutions, professional leadership, freedom from political nuances, and law enforcement as factors to ensure the continuity of ecotourism policies supported by local stakeholders (Hoyman & McCall, 2013).

vii. Management

The overall management aspect is highlighted in a number of previous literature and reflects the complexity behind the management of ecotourism in national parks. A study in Vietnam revealed that macro-level policies have a significant impact on national park management, leading to conflicts in various dimensions such as political, social, cultural, and economic (Ly & Xiao, 2016; Suntikul, 2010). One case in Fuji National Park, Japan, also proved that multi-stakeholder management is troublesome because it is difficult to reach an agreement and thus, the collaboration achieved is still at the micro-level (Jones, Beeton & Cooper, 2018). Munanura, Tumwesigye, Sabuhoro, Mariza, & Rugerinyange (2018) suggested the importance of implementing TQM (Total Quality Management) in the management of ecotourism in a national park as demonstrated by the Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda.

viii. The Impact of Ecotourism

Six studies have determined the impact of ecotourism on various things. These impacts can be positive or negative. In Kosciuszko National Park, ecotourism is known to have a negative impact since the development of supporting infrastructure. This happens because the infrastructure development led to the emergence of a number of new species that suppress and kill the endemic species (Pickering, Bear & Hill, 2007). However, the impact on local communities was different. In Kaziranga National Park, India, the effect is found to be positive (Das & Hussain, 2016). Other studies from Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, have a different conclusion that ecotourism has a negative effect not only on the community but also on conservation (Sabuhoro, Wright, Munanura, Nyakabwa & Nibigira, 2017). The negative impact on the community is caused by the unfair distribution of income, the high cost of living around the park, as well as the lack of community involvement and participation.

On the other hand, interesting things were found in Chobe National Park, Botswana (Stone & Nyaupane, 2016) where the community and wildlife around the park receive great economic benefits. Even so, the two beings cannot run together. When the community gets economic benefits, the community is

encouraged to expand the agricultural land. In other words, the positive effect of ecotourism on the number of wild fauna leads to the emergence of land competition and conflict between humans and wild fauna. As for example, the tourists in Galapagos National Park, Ecuador, received a large positive effect which then leads to the increasing amount of funds from tourists as an effort to support the conservation (Ardoin, Wheaton, Hunt, Schuh & Durham, 2016). Unfortunately, this can be reversed as in the case of Wollumbin-Mount Warning National Park, Australia, where high satisfaction increases tourist visits but also creates distress and damage (Wilson et al., 2018).

ix. Community Participation

Although collaboration with many stakeholders is difficult to achieve, local community participation is crucial to ensure the sustainability of ecotourism. Nicolaidis argues that stakeholder engagement is both ethical and strategic and is the path to being sustainable (2015). In Belize (Holladay & Ormsby, 2011) and Malawi (Bello, Lovelock & Carr, 2017), there are a number of common factors that inhibited community participation. These factors include apathy, financial resources, national and local management capacities, community perceptions on benefits, lack of information, inequity in the distribution of benefits, lack of training, centralized administration, lack of coordination, and conflicts between humans and wildlife.

x. Community Empowerment

Community empowerment is one of the efforts sorely needed to achieve sustainability in ecotourism (Nicolaidis, 2020). Due to the expectation that ecotourism can improve local welfare, local communities should be empowered to be able to produce income from ecotourism. In Bardia National Park, Nepal, local women's empowerment is known to be able to increase self-confidence, skills, financial access, and participation in decision making (Panta & Thapa, 2018). However, a society with strong patriarchal characteristics certainly limits the role of women so that it is also advisable to educate and encourage families and communities to support the women's empowerment.

xi. De-marketing

As the name implies, de-marketing is a step to reduce the number of tourists in a national park because it becomes too crowded. Research in Blue Mountains National Park, Australia, mentioned that the steps of de-marketing in ecotourism are duration limitation, zoning, sign limitation, and promotion removal (Armstrong & Kern, 2011). This solution is different from the strategies carried out in Wollumbin-Mount Warning National Park, Australia, where the steps taken are prioritization, alternative destination development, and facility improvement (Wilson et al., 2018). Some strategies can be better than others. In Kruger National Park, a number of steps to overcome distress have been taken but failed to be achieved (Ferreira & Harmse, 2014).



Table 2
The Theme of National Ecotourism Park Literature in the Journal of Ecotourism

No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
1	Pickering et al, 2007	Kosciuszko NP, Australia	The impact of ecotourism	Ecotourism infrastructure development brings a number of exotic species, some of which are invasive and have a negative impact on endemic species	There need to be restrictions on the types of flora that are included in the development of ecotourism infrastructure so that it does not threaten the fauna at the site. If it is already done, there needs to be a rehabilitation program
2	Maple et al, 2010	Point Pelee NP, Canada	Visitor Segmentation	Three groups of birdwatcher	Birdwatcher management needs to be integrated and involves many public and private organizations, some might come from outside the national park
3	Newsome and Davies, 2009	John Forrest NP, Australia	Visitor Behavior	Instruments development to quantify the effects of mountain bikes on the natural environment	It needs some efforts to manage mountain bike activities to protect the environment
4	Puustinen et al, 2009	35 National Parks in Finland	Visitor Satisfaction	The number of visits is associated with the type of national parks. The highest number of visits is in the mountains while the lowest is in the swamps. In addition, the factor of facilities inside the park and tourist services outside the park also affect visitor visit	The management needs to consider the attractiveness aspects of the destination to predict the number of visits relative to other national parks
5	Suntikul et al, 2010	Vietnam	Management	The national park management in Vietnam has a problem due to the political, social, cultural and economic conflicts that are caused by the open policy (<i>doi moi</i>)	There needs to be a policy and division of roles to overcome conflicts in the national park management



No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
6	Holladay and Ormsby, 2011	Five Blues Lake NP, Belize	Community Participation	The factors which inhibit community participation are apathy, financial resources, national and local management capacities, and the population perception on benefit	It requires community involvement in the development and implementation of ecotourism and community capacity building
7	Armstrong and Kern, 2011	Blue Mountains NP, Australia	De-marketing	Develop a number of de-marketing indicators such as limiting the duration of activities, closing particular areas or features, limiting signs, and removing promotions	The practice of de-marketing requires more comprehensive visitor data and further research
8	Thapa, 2012	Kafue NP, Zambia	Visit Constraints	The constraints on foreign tourist visits are personal problems (security, time, and interest in group visits) and environmental problems (quality of facilities, information, and weather). Meanwhile, domestic tourists are constrained by costs and conditions	Marketing must lead to the efforts of eliminating personal and environmental barriers
9	Puhakka and Siikamaki, 2012	Oulanka NP, Finland	Visitor Behavior	Tourists have a positive attitude with eco-labeling and certification. They want to know more about those two efforts and are eager to increase their visibility	Eco-labeling and certification can be a source of market benefits for national park destinations
10	Kruger et al, 2013	South Africa	Visitor Segmentation	There are three segments of flower observers in South Africa National Parks	Segmentation needs to be done to develop strategies for managing the attractiveness of natural events in a national park
11	Hoyman and McCall, 2013	Galapagos NP, Equador	Stakeholder Perception	In general, community leaders support ecotourism but find that ecotourism policies have not been implemented effectively due to the weak and fragmented status of local institutions, lack of professional leadership, political decision making, as well as the failure to enforce the law	The existing ecotourism policies must be improved and the factors which inhibit the effectiveness need to be taken into account



No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
12	Ferreira and Harmse, 2014	Kruger NP, South Africa	De-marketing	The strategies to overcome adversity have failed and the capacity to carry social interest has been achieved	There need to be a strategy for alternative development and management to overcome the problem
13	Stone, 2015	Chobe NP, Botswana	Stakeholder Perception	Stakeholder participation has various impacts on conservation and community welfare because of the large number of stakeholders involved in the design, planning, and implementation	It needs to take more in-site consideration to decide stakeholder involvement
14	Scholtz et al, 2015	3 National Parks in South Africa	Visitor Satisfaction	There are a number of factors that determine the visitation times of tourists	Management needs to focus on the specific attributes of each national park to encourage longer visitation times
15	Botha et al, 2016	Kruger NP, South Africa	Visitor Satisfaction	Secondary interpretations are known to meet visitor expectations while primary interpretations and staff knowledge are considered not adequate	A national park should develop interpretation services that are periodically evaluated and improved
16	Das and Hussain, 2016	Kaziranga NP, India	The impact of ecotourism	People who participate in ecotourism have improved living conditions, become more positive about ecotourism, and feel politically empowered	Resource-based economic activities and local skills are needed to ensure prosperity in low seasons
17	Ly and Xiao, 2016	Phong Nha-Ke Bang NP, Vietnam	Management	The management model in Vietnam national parks is private and public co-existent model	There needs to be a policy and division of roles to overcome conflicts that manifest in national park management
18	Ardoin et al, 2016	Galapagos NP, Equador	The impact of ecotourism	Tourists feel happy with the environment. They get new knowledge and affective connections with the environment and wildlife. They also interested to share the experience with others and are willing to contribute funds for conservation needs	National park visitors need to be satisfied so that they can donate more money for conservation needs



No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
19	Panta and Thapa, 2018	Bardia NP, Nepal	Community Empowerment	Women's empowerment increases self-confidence, personal skills, access to income, and role of decision making. Unfortunately, this is challenged by a society that is still patriarchal	There is a need for a capacity building program that focuses on increasing the non-traditional role of women and a wider program to support community and family in general
20	Thapa and Lee, 2017	Kafue NP, Zambia	Visitor Satisfaction	Satisfaction and intention to return are influenced by values. Values are affected by staff, access, and information. Physical facilities have no significant effect on the value	Services must focus on staff, access, and information to optimize value, satisfaction, and repeat visits
21	Bello et al, 2017	Liwonde NP, Malawi	Community Participation	The constraints on community participation include apathy, insufficient financial resources, lack of information, low education, inequitable distribution of benefits, lack of training, centralized administration, lack of coordination, and conflicts between human and wildlife	There needs to be more advocacy for community participation and a community participation strategy
22	Stone and Nyaupane, 2016	Chobe NP, Botswana	The impact of ecotourism	Ecotourism has an impact on increasing the number of wild animals but also improving the economy of the community. When society becomes more prosperous, more land will be bought and developed for agriculture. This leads to the conflicts between humans and wild animal	Adaptive mitigation interventions are needed to avoid a dilemma between conservation and the welfare of local communities



No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
23	Mlozi and Pesamaa, 2018	Tanzania	Visitor Knowledge	The knowledge of national parks is negatively affected by knowledge of access while access is positively influenced by knowledge of recreational factors	Policy-makers need to focus on environmental planning and management that enhance the activities and knowledge of recreational guides and facilities. They also need to provide authentic cultural experiences for tourists
24	Wilson et al, 2018	Wollumbin-Mount Warning NP, Australia	The impact of ecotourism	There needs to be a balance of natural and cultural priorities, a development of the alternative destination, and a solution for tourist resources challenges	There needs to be a balance of natural and cultural priorities, a development of the alternative destination, and a solution for tourist resources challenges
25	Verbos et al, 2018	Denali NP, US	Visitor Behavior	There is a tendency for tourists to get too close to wild animals	There needs to be a management to balance the desires, comfort, and safety of tourists
26	Dangi and Gribb, 2018	Rocky Mountain NP, US	Stakeholder Perception	The different perceptions are in regard to the carrying capacity, the impact of horse use, and the issue of visitor conflict. Whereas, perceptions that are similar are in concern to ecotourism activities and the positive impact of ecotourism	There needs a mechanism to build agreements and understanding between stakeholders
27	Sabuhoro et al, 2017	Volcanoes NP, Rwanda	The impact of ecotourism	Ecotourism does not provide direct benefits to the community and does not support conservation due to low-income sharing, high cost of living, as well as lack of involvement and participation	The community needs to participate and be involved in the management and decision-making process. They need to get a fair share from the ecotourism activities



No	Authors	National Park	Issues	Findings	Recommendation
28	Munanura et al, 2018	Nyungwe NP, Rwanda	Management	The application of TQM can be done by training, benchmarking, employee empowerment, performance measurement, and adaptation	TQM needs to be applied in ecotourism (national park) management
29	Adam et al, 2017	Kakum NP, Ghana	Visitor Satisfaction	There is a relationship between motivation, satisfaction, and intention to visit. This is also influenced by the factor of sex, education, and marital status	Marketing needs to pay attention to motivation, gender, education, and marital status of the target
30	Jones et al, 2018	Mount Fuji NP, Japan	Management	Fuji National Park succeeded in implementing multi-stakeholder management in the case of sign installment	Multi-stakeholder collaboration can be carried out in small cases but in larger cases, it certainly requires deeper research

Conclusion

A review of ecotourism literature in a number of national parks as shown in Table 2 above points out that the practice of ecotourism in the national park is not simple and easy. Macro factors such as political, social, cultural, and economic play an essential role in determining the direction of ecotourism in national parks. It is also known that tourist visits to a national park are varied due to various obstacles. Tourist visits can occur in such large numbers that it might threaten the carrying capacity of the environment and culture. This will force the managers to take de-marketing steps. Local people can be apathetic to participation and conservation if the management is not implemented carefully. In fact, a marketing that is too big and facilities/access that is too easy can lead to the risk of ecotourism failure, making the destination a mass tourism situation. Tourists can take gaps in the regulations and have an unexpected effect on the environment inside the park. The efforts to improve wildlife conservation and community welfare can collide and then will lead to conflicts between humans and wildlife. This happens not because the animals lose their natural habitat but because wild animals become too numerous. Besides that, the contact between humans and wildlife will increasingly consume the land. The community will buy and construct buildings in the area around the national park because they want to continue to prosper from the environment.

Inevitably, the complex situation that occurs in handling national parks for ecotourism destinations requires careful and informed planning of local wisdom, academic research, and stakeholder profiles. Various recommendations from previous literature presented in Table 2 automatically become recommendations for ecotourism managers in National Park to manage ecotourism based on the desired expectations.

Limitations

This study faces two limitations. Number one, this research focused only on the literature provided by one journal. There are other journals that can contribute to the research results. For instance, the Journal of Sustainable Tourism can be used as a compliment. The researcher of this study only focuses on ecotourism because this concept is more general. Whether ecotourism can be sustainable tourism or not depends on the management (Wall, 1997). Looking up to other journals can add new perspectives and knowledge. The journals in the field of tourism as indexed by the Scimago Journal Database can be used as a foothold for other literature. For example, the researcher used the keyword “national park” in the Tourism Management Journal. It is the journal with the highest index in the field of tourism. With that keyword, the researcher found 260 articles (within the period of 2009 to 2018). Considering that number, this does not include other major journals in other fields of tourism such as the Journal of Travel Research, the African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure or the Annals of Tourism Research.

Secondly, this research is still descriptive in nature and has not yet led to a framework that is able to synthesize the entire literature in the field of ecotourism in national parks. It is suggested for further research to compile a theoretical framework that can be used as a guidebook on ecotourism management in national parks. Further research can build this framework by taking a more comprehensive literature review not only in terms of journals, but also in terms of national park destinations in various countries, and especially in Indonesia.



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