

Farmer Community-Based River Ecotourism Model in Gowa Regency

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Abstract

Tourism is one of the leading business sectors that continues to develop in academic studies. This study aims to reveal a model of tourism activity development in supporting community business improvement in the Biroro Bontolerung River Area, Gowa Regency. The method applied is descriptive-qualitative with unit analysis of product resources and social resources at the research site. This research has identified the concept of tourism activities that are suitable to be developed in the Biroro Bontolerung River Area based on the concept of experiential tourism. Furthermore, this research has resulted in mapping the interests and interests of relevant stakeholders, to be studied further in making development decisions for the government and the community.

Keywords: ecotourism; river tours; community base.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic that has occurred since 2019 has had a negative impact on global tourism growth (Loannides & Gyimóthy, 2020), which was marked by a 65% decline in international tourist arrivals or the equivalent of 440 million visits in the first semester of 2020 (UNWTO, 2020). The Asia-Pacific region recorded the largest negative growth in international tourist arrivals of -96% above the global average of -87% (UNWTO, 2021). International, regional, and local travel restrictions have affected the tourism system, namely international travel, domestic tourism, day visits and the air transport industry, cruise ships, public transport, accommodation, restaurants, conventions,

festivals, or sporting events (Gössling, Scott, & Hall, 2021). On the other hand, the pandemic has had a positive impact on reducing over-tourism and providing opportunities for sub-urban areas to develop the concept of environmentally-based sustainable tourism (Koh, 2020) and smart tourism (Susanto et al., 2020). This indicator shows the impact of the pandemic on changes in market preferences, perceptions, and behavior for travel (Peters et al., 2020). Responding to this change, tourism policy makers need to follow up with product development that is in line with these changes (Brouder et al., 2020).

The South Sulawesi Government in the 2015-2030 Tourism Development Master Plan (RIPPARDA) has established 7 Provincial Tourism Destinations (DPP) consisting of Provincial Tourism Strategic

Areas (KSPP) and Provincial Tourism Areas (South Sulawesi Provincial Government, 2015). The DPP area consists of three Regional Tourism Destinations (DPD). First, the Southern Regional DPD, namely Makassar, Gowa and its surroundings, Bulukumba and its surroundings, the Selayar Islands and its surroundings. Second, the Central Region DPD, covering Wajo and its surroundings, Pare-Pare and its surroundings. Third, the DPD for the North region, covering Palopo and its surroundings. Toraja and its surroundings. Gowa Regency is one of the KSPPs with the theme of nature tourism with the iconic Malino City which is relevant to the issue of changing tourist behavior during the pandemic. Tourism development in this area has the theme of mountain nature tourism and its inherent features including rivers, valleys, hills, and villages along with environmental conservation efforts, especially Mount Bawakaraeng.

In another policy document (Bappeda, South Sulawesi, 2017), Gowa Regency is designated as a Leading Tourist Area. This relates to the area's resources that are suitable for mountain, jungle, and river-based adventure activities. The determination of this area has an impact on the strategy of developing activities on a site scale that does not require massive physical development, but still meets the rules of tourism service standards.

The development is intended to support quality-tourism experiences (Beardsley et al., 2018) and experiential tourism (Kozak & Kozak, 2018). Malino City, Tinggimoncong District, Gowa Regency is one of the areas designated as a tourism development area. The city of Malino is located in the mountains with a landscape of mountains, hills, valleys with several rivers and waterfalls as the main attraction. Land cover in the form of forests and tea plantations (although no longer producing) completes the attractiveness of this area, reinforcing the theme of developing river-

based special interest tourism. One of the existing tourist attractions, namely the "Takapala" waterfall and the "Ketemumate" waterfall, is located in Bontolerung Village.

In fact, this area has been visited by local tourists regularly. However, the development of tourism activities in this area has not been carried out optimally. The varied potential of the area has not been able to be used to provide a visiting experience for tourists. This is related to the absence of directions for the development of river-based tourism activities and tourism management which still relies on government initiatives. In fact, several studies have shown that the development of river tourism can have a positive impact on the regional economy (Ajake & Amalu, 2012; Budisetyorini et al., 2021; Putro et al., 2021), environmental conservation (Mafruhah et al., 2020), and social change (Sheldon & Fesenmaier, 2017).

The alternative for developing Bontolerung river tourism uses a combination of community-based tourism approaches (Khalid et al., 2019) and experiential tourism (Meacci & Liberatore, 2018; Smith, 2006) in order to obtain a formulation of a strategy for developing experience-based river tourism activities that utilizes the potential of the community as actors. major tourism. Research on tourism development in the river area through the principles of experiential learning and community-based tourism still has the opportunity to be expanded. It is known that the concept of developing tourism areas has focused on the physical development of the area, or at least departed from the idea that mass-tourists are the best choice for tourism areas.

This study tries to provide a different perspective on how a river area is packaged into a product that provides experiences and reveals the interests and interests of the stakeholders in it. Considering these conditions, applied research was

conducted to explore data and information regarding river tourism product resources and social resources in Bontolering Village, Tinggimoncing District, Gowa Regency. With this, it can be formulated a model for the development of river-based tourism activities on the Bontolering River, Bontolering Village, Tinggimoncong District, Gowa Regency.

METHODS

This study uses a descriptive-qualitative method to describe the potential of resources owned in a tourism object and its development model. The research location is the Bontolering river area in Bontolering Village, Tinggimoncing District, Gowa Regency. The research was conducted in July-August 2022. The method of data collection was through field observations and literature studies. Analysis of river tourism development uses a community-based tourism approach (Khalid et al., 2019) and experiential tourism (Meacci & Liberatore, 2018; Smith, 2006). An antithesis approach to the previous approach which exploited the physical development of the area or mass-tourist as a measure of tourism performance. On the other hand, these two approaches will provide a different perspective, namely how an area is packaged into a product that provides experience and reveals the interests and interests of the stakeholders in it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General Description

Gowa Regency is one of 24 Regencies/Cities in South Sulawesi. This regency is 10 km from the center of Makassar City, its territory is flanked by a number of regencies/cities. The northern part is with Makassar and Maros, the southern part is with Takalar and Jeneponto, the western part is with Makassar and Takalar, the

eastern part is Sinjai, Bulukumba and Bantaeng. It has an area of 1,888.33 km² (3.01% of South Sulawesi's area), divided into 18 sub-districts with 167 villages/keurahan. The characteristics of the area can be divided into two, namely lowlands and highlands, each with 9 sub-districts. The city of Sungguminasa, the capital of the district, includes three sub-districts: Somba Opu in its entirety, Partially Pallangga and Partly Bontomarannu. There are three largest sub-districts which are all located in the highlands, respectively: Biringbulu (11.26%), Kuncio Pao (251%) and Parang Loe (11.75%) of the area of Gowa Regency.

In terms of population, Gowa Regency is the third area after Makassar City and Bone Regency which has the largest population of 659,513 (2011). The main occupation of the community is still dominated by the agricultural sector (46.98%), followed by trade (17.74%), services (11.90%), and industry (10.74%). With this pattern and structure of work, the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) per capita in 2020, based on constant 2010 prices, is 27.45 million with an average economic growth rate of 6.5 percent. This is quite interesting. Because even though it is in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the growth trend remains positive at 1.76 percent, while South Sulawesi experienced a contraction of 0.70 percent. In addition, this area was previously the epicenter of the transmission, in addition to Makassar City and Maros Regency. However, this achievement does not mean that it has been able to overcome a number of problems in this area. Some of the development problems in this region are as follows:

1. The quality of life of the community is not yet optimal. Although in the last 10 years, the Human Development Index has increased, this area is still in the middle caste of the 24 regencies/cities in South Sulawesi. The problem of the poverty rate, although it has decreased

from 7.53 percent (2019) to 7.38 percent (2020), however, the quality of poverty has not changed. Efforts to reduce poverty, create job opportunities, and improve the quality of human resources. This includes issues of access and service quality as well as pro-people, pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-poor, and pro-environment programs.

2. The regional economy is not yet optimal. Although a number of macroeconomic indicators have increased, such as; economic growth, increase in GRDP, income per capita, the amount of public saving, investment, but it does not guarantee the creation of a proportional distribution of income. Most of the people still have low to middle income. High-income groups are still enjoyed by a small part of the population. Therefore, high economic growth on the one hand needs to be accompanied by the movement of the real sector, especially sectors that absorb a lot of labor, such as agriculture, mining and the manufacturing industry.
3. The availability of adequate infrastructure is still limited. Infrastructure in Gowa Regency is still limited. Although the budget for the allocation is quite large, the coverage area of this area is very wide, plus nine of its areas are located in highlands full of ravines and cliffs. As a result, the existing infrastructure is not evenly distributed between regions, so there is a gap between the highlands and lowlands as well as urban and rural areas.
4. The development of sub-district, village and sub-district areas is not yet optimal. Because the regional development has not been evenly distributed, it also affects the service quality that is not yet excellent. The span of control that is too wide and high makes services to the community inefficient and ineffective. The types of public services that can be delegated to lower

authorities should only be carried out, namely from the district to the sub-district to the sub-district or village. Especially the strengthening of village institutions, as stated in Law Number 6 of 2014. Where, villages that manage large enough funds need to be supported by the readiness of the superstructure to be encouraged to become independent villages. The extent to which these funds are effective has an impact on improving the performance of the agricultural sector which in turn is able to improve the welfare of rural communities. In addition, how to minimize irregularities in the use of village finances due to limited capacity, quality and accountability of human resources, especially in rural areas.

5. The implementation of good governance is not yet optimal. The quality of public services still requires improvement, especially in the integrated service system for licensing and investment. Bureaucratic capacity is still relatively low, especially with regard to institutional and management issues, utilization of information technology, information systems and e-government which are not yet integrated and comprehensive.

Topography and Climate as Basis for River Tourism

The topography of Gowa Regency is mostly hilly highlands, which is about 72.26% covering 9 sub-districts, namely Parangloe, Manuju, Tinggimoncong, Kuncio Pao, Parigi, Bungaya, Bontolempangan, Tompobulu and Biringbulu sub-districts. The remaining 27.74% are lowlands with flat topography covering 9 sub-districts, namely Somba Opu, Bontomarannu, Pattalassang, Pallangga, Barombong, Bajeng, West Bajeng, Bontononpo and South Bontononpo sub-districts.

Of the total area of Gowa Regency, 35.30% has a land slope above 40 degrees, namely in the Parangloe, Tinggimoncong, Bungaya, Bontolempangan and Tompobulu sub-districts. With the shape of the topography of the area which is mostly highlands, the Gowa Regency area is traversed by 15 large and small rivers which have great potential as a source of electricity, irrigation and river tourism objects. One of the largest rivers in South Sulawesi is the Jeneberang river with an area of 881 Km² and a length of 90 Km. Above the Jeneberang river flow by the Gowa Regency Government in collaboration with the Government of Japan, has built the Bili-Bili DAM multifunction project with an area of + 2,415 Km² which can provide irrigation water covering an area of + 24,600 ha, clean water consumption (PAM) for the people of Gowa and Makassar Regencies of 35,000,000 m³ and for hydroelectric power plants with a power of 16.30 Mega Watts.

Based on this, the principles and concepts of tourism development in Gowa Regency are prepared with reference to a number of important points mentioned above, coupled with an international tourism perspective in encouraging the development of Gowa Regency tourism at an international standard. The arrangement is at the same time in order to build the ideology and concepts that become the basis for formulating the direction of tourism development in Gowa Regency in accordance with the functions that have been determined by the central government (based on the Regulation of the Minister of Tourism Number 10 of 2016), so that consistency in tourism development in Gowa Regency is also achieved. Contributive Gowa Regency starts at the regional (provincial), national, and even international levels. Thus, the principles of tourism development in Gowa Regency are based on three main principles that are considered important in accordance with a number of

considerations set out in each relevant regulation. The three principles are; first, community-based and local wisdom.

In this case, the tourism development of Gowa Regency emphasizes the community base sector and carries the values of local wisdom that exist and develop in the community. In addition, the people of Gowa Regency are also positioned not only as objects but also subjects in their tourism development. Second, Integrative. In this case, Gowa Regency always optimizes its role actively in achieving goals and standards that apply at the provincial, national, and international levels. Thus, tourism in Gowa Regency is expected to contribute not only to Gowa Regency itself, but in real terms it can contribute significantly to the development of tourism around and at various levels. Fourth, sustainable. In this case, the tourism development of Gowa Regency in principle must prioritize important aspects that are in accordance with sustainable tourism. This is in order to preserve the resources owned in this area.

Based on the three existing development principles, the concept of tourism development in Gowa Regency will focus on the basic sectors in its community while still referring to and carrying out the values of local wisdom that exist and develop and make the people of Gowa Regency the subject of tourism development. The tourism development is compiled collectively by referring to every effort to achieve goals and standards that apply at the provincial, national, and international levels in ensuring the role and contribution of tourism in Gowa Regency broadly. In addition, the tourism development of Gowa Regency is also structured by upholding sustainability aspects as the main principle in ensuring that its tourism development has a positive impact on the environment and its territory in the long term.

Based on the Minister of Tourism Regulation Number 10 of 2016, it is

explained that district tourism destinations are tourism destinations in which there are tourist attractions that have a suitability of district/city scale themes (provincial competitiveness) and have been determined to be the authority of the district/city. The tourism destination plan is a direction for the development of tourism destinations in the tourism zoning system which consists of two parts, namely:

1. Determination of the scope of the Gowa Regency Tourism Destination (DPK) area; and
2. Determination of the Gowa Regency Strategic Tourism Area (KSPK) and Gowa Regency Tourism Development Area (KPPK) which later became the direction for the development of Gowa Regency tourism destinations.

The Gowa Regency Tourism Destinations (DPK) were determined by taking into account several things, namely the National RTRW, RIPPARNAS, RTRW of South Sulawesi Province, RIPPARPROV

of South Sulawesi, and RTRW of Gowa Regency. In addition to observing several documents, the determination of Gowa TPF is mainly made on the basis of similar characteristics of tourism attractiveness, as mentioned in Chapter 4 regarding tourism destinations. The following are the tourism areas of Gowa Regency with their respective themes:

1. Ecotourism area of Malino and its surroundings with the theme of adventure ecotourism and agrotourism;
2. Cultural and historical recreation area of Somba Opu and its surroundings with the theme of cultural and historical recreation of the kingdom of Gowa; and
3. Pattallassang Family Recreation Area with family recreation theme.

The division of the Gowa Regency tourism area development plan which is divided into three tourism areas can be seen in Figure 1 below.

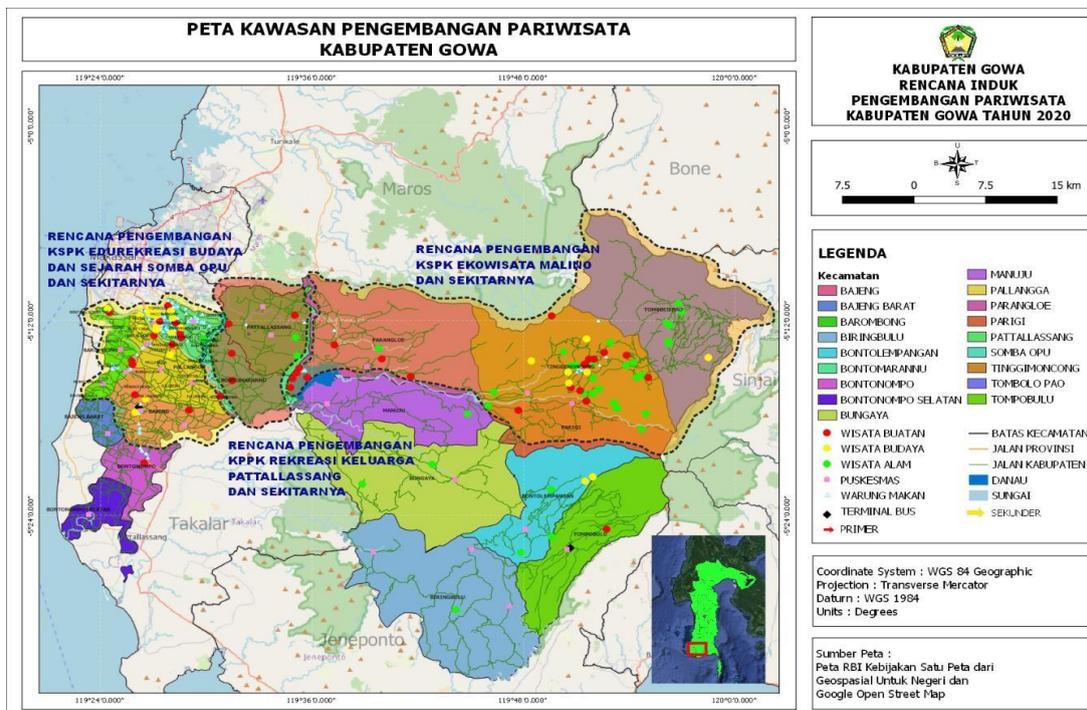


Figure 1. Map of the Tourism Development Area of Gowa Regency

Source: Gowa Regency, 2020

The research area is located in the Biroro River Area, Bontolung Subdistrict, Tinggimoncong District, which is located 65 km from the administrative area of Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi Province. Consists of highlands and valleys with a slope of above 40%. The main source of the Biroro River comes from the "Ketemu Match" waterfall which has a land area of about 3ha. The river winds its way through several neighborhoods in the Bontolung Village, before ending at Takapala Waterfall in the same village. The length of the river flow, from the Ketemu Mate Waterfall in the Biror neighborhood to the Takapala waterfall in the Bontolung neighborhood is about 1000 meters. Of course, this is a natural resource potential that is very useful.

Tourism Product Resources

The Biroro river area with the waterfall "Meet the Match" has an attraction as one of the natural river attractions in Tinggimoncong District along with the Bulu Balea waterfall, Lembanna waterfall, Bulan waterfall, Tonasa waterfall, and Gallang waterfall which then empties into the river. Jeneberang and then headed to the Makassar Sea. The Ketemu Matchmaking Waterfall and the Takapala Waterfall form a river with a width of about 2-4 meters. This river is a source of clean water and rice fields for people in Bontoelrung and Bulutana Villages. Based on secondary data from RIPPARKA Gowa 2021-2035, that the tourism area development plan based on Leading Tourist Attractions (DTWU) and Supporting Tourist Attractions (DTWP), Tinggimoncong District is stated in the following table

Table 1. Development Plan for DTWU and DTWP in Tinggimoncong District, Gowa Regency

DTWU and DTWP Development Plan	
Regional Development Goals	The realization of competitive and sustainable ecotourism and agrotourism areas
Area Coverage	Tinggimoncong District, Parangloe District, Parigi District, Kuncio Pao District
Product Theme	Adventure Ecotourism and agrotourism
Featured Tourist Attractions	Bawakaraeng Mountain, Ramma Valley, Tanralili Lake, Lembanna Waterfall, Lembanna Pine Forest, Strawberry Garden, Malino Pine Forest, Malino Highland, Takapala Waterfall, Green Valley, Bantimurung Gallang Waterfall
Supporting Tourist Attractions	Parangbugisi Waterfall, Bissoloro Waterfall, Meet Mate Waterfall, Butta Gowa Ecotourism, Water

Source: RIPPARKA Gowa (2021-2035)

The Biroro river area in Bontolerung which is flanked by highlands, valleys, and hills with natural vegetation cover in the form of forests, cabbage, mustard and potato vegetable plantations, and rice fields is a complementary attraction with the features of the "Ketemu Match" waterfall and the "Takapala" waterfall. " This view can be enjoyed, from the main access to Bontolerung Village, from entering Malino City, then turning east, to the trekking route to the waterfall location, it takes 15 minutes to get to Biroro village, as a visitor distribution point. Along the way, there is the potential for natural and cultivated plant species developed by the community.

Tourism support facilities such as lodging/homestays are adequate. However, the facilities for restaurants and stalls are still in the pilot stage. The number of inn/homestay hotels in Bulutana Village and Bontolerung Village is around 32 units, with the highest price of IDR 1,600,000 per night and the lowest price of IDR 250,000 per night. However, there are also resorts that rent up to IDR 7,000,000 per night including meals. Usually this is for family gathering classes. But unfortunately, the road infrastructure is not supportive. The road is still narrow, so when

the volume of vehicles increases, traffic jams will quickly occur.

Social Resources

One of the main elements in tourism institutions is tourism human resources (HR). Tourism HR is an important element because of its role as a provider of labor in the tourism industry. The available, competent, and reliable tourism human resources are certainly a driving force for tourism development in Gowa Regency, so it needs to be a concern for policy makers. Based on data obtained from Disparbud in the last six years, it shows a consistent increase in the workforce in the tourism sector in Gowa Regency. However, when viewed from the side of growth in the last three years, it tends to decline (see Table 2). In a survey conducted by Local Government (Logov, 2021) on 45 business actors operating in Gowa Regency, it was found that the majority of business actors absorbed less than five workers (51.11%), followed by the category of employment of 5-20 people (31.11%). The results of this survey indicate that employment in the tourism industry in Gowa Regency relies on small to medium scale businesses.

Table 1. Development Plan for DTWU and DTWP in Tinggimoncong District, Gowa Regency

Field	Type of Entrepreneur	Total (in People)					
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Accommodation	Hotels	76	76	76	76	76	76
	Lodging	23	61	76	80	88	98
	Villa	32	43	59	59	59	99
	Homestay	15	45	75	75	75	89
Food and Drink	Restaurant	12	33	47	83	168	168
	Food stalls	108	286	286	359	362	392
	Shop	12	402	402	417	417	451
	Catering	-	-	-	9	31	35
	Lesehan	-	30	30	44	44	44
	Café	-	-	-	61	72	79

Travel agency	59	59	63	94	100	116
Entertainment and Recreation	114	114	114	171	258	288
Total	451	1149	1228	1528	1750	1935
Growth (%)		154,8	6,9	24,4	14,5	10,6

Source: Gowa Regency Tourism and Culture Office (2021)

Bureauro River Development Strategy in Bontolerung

The Biroro river area in Bontolerung to the Takapala waterfall can be developed as a natural tourism area based on experiential tourism, which is a tourist area that provides flexibility for visitors to explore the area with a family adventure approach, agro and education. This principle is in line with several studies on the development of tourist areas in different destinations (Meacci & Liberatore, 2018; Serdane et al; 2020). This development scenario is realized through the packaging of activities as follows. 1) Trekking, which is exploring the Biroro river flow with the Takapala waterfall as the final destination. It can also be expanded by exploring thematic paths of geology, botany and river ecosystems; 2) Agro Adventures, namely the packaging of tourist activities exploring protected forests and tea plantation areas (Malino Highland), vegetable plantations in the Patatapang and Kanreapia highlands to get to know various types of plants, bird watching and enjoying the processed products of local vegetable plantations with vegetarian culinary activities as the main attraction; 3) Automotive tourism by developing off-road motorcycle lanes with separate lanes from non-motorcycle activities.

To support the packaging, the pattern of area development is divided into at least three, namely: 1) core zone: covering the Ketemu Jodoh Waterfall and the Biroro river as the main attractions and binding tourist activities in the core area; 2) buffer

zone: includes a buffer area from the Biroro river flow which is used in a limited manner by prioritizing the preservation of ecological functions and the spread of tourism activities to reduce the burden on the core zone; 3) development zone: an area that is reserved as a zone for the development of activities and facilities in the future; 4) support zone: an area used as a distribution point for visitors, commercial facilities and a visit circulation center area located at the front/entrance area of the Area. The recommended circulation of visits is by loop-line and back-tracking where the flow of incoming and outgoing visitors uses one access gate that is currently available. On the inside, different circulation paths are arranged between the paths leading to the core zone and exiting the core zone. This is done to reduce the impact of the density of visiting activities within the Area, spread tourism activities and optimize the visiting experience (Morrison, 2013; Albrecht, 2017).

In the management aspect, a management strategy is recommended by strengthening the function of the Bontolerung River Ecotourism Management Community group which has now been formed through Community Service activities carried out by LPPM Unhas, in accordance with the principles of community-based tourism (Khalid et al., 2019). Institutional strengthening can be pursued through the following strategies: 1) the establishment of a tourism object management community that is built through the

synergy of the community, local government and universities, by strengthening its formal juridical aspects; 2) training to increase human resource capacity gradually, starting with visitor service training, OHS and Business training; 3) strengthening the inclusion of the tourism supply chain by prioritizing products from within the Bontolerung Village and Bulutana Village, Tinggimoncong Subdistrict, Gowa Regency.

CONCLUSION

The Biroro River area in Bontolerung can be developed as a natural tourism area with the theme of experiential tourism, which is a tourist area that gives visitors the flexibility to explore the area with a family adventure approach, agro and education. In the management aspect, a management strategy is recommended by strengthening the functions of the Bontolerung Tourism Awareness Group and the Bontolerung River Ecotourism Management Community which are currently newly formed. The model for developing river-based tourism activities on the Biroro Bontolerung river is directed to a sustainable community-based tourism development model (Kahlid et al; 2019).

To achieve this, the development approach does not rely on government initiatives, but can elaborate on the interests and interests of each stakeholder. This study has provided an information regarding tourism resources in the Biroro Bontolerung River Area and contributed to the enrichment of applied science of tourism management as a consideration for tourism development in Tinggimoncong District, Gowa Regency.

The limitation of this research is that it has not revealed the technical aspects of physical, service, and operational planning. This provides an opportunity for further research that will make an important

contribution to the object of research. In the aspect of community empowerment, this research provides an opportunity for applied research in the form of a guide to the activation of social and cultural elements in the development of the Bontolerung and Bulutana areas.

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