

Evaluation Study of the Joint Movement Strategy “Geber” in Improving the Preservation of Pananjung Pangandaran

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Abstract

Cagar Alam Pananjung, located in West Java, is a nature reserve rich in biodiversity and a popular tourist destination. This study evaluates the Joint Movement Strategy (Geber) in conserving this nature reserve through collaboration between the government and the community. A qualitative research method with a descriptive analytical approach was used, relying on literature review from various relevant sources. The study results indicate that the implementation of the Geber strategy faces various challenges and opportunities. The role of the government in coordinating and implementing environmental policies and managing the nature reserve is crucial. However, there is a need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and law enforcement. Active participation of the local community is also significant in managing the nature reserve through education, training, and empowerment. The study's recommendations include improving coordination between government agencies and monitoring mechanisms, as well as increasing community participation through education and training. The government is also advised to facilitate partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organisations to support conservation efforts. In conclusion, collaboration between the government and the community is essential to enhance the conservation of Pananjung Pangandaran nature reserve. Effective implementation of the Geber strategy is expected to preserve this nature reserve for the well-being of future generations.

Keywords: community based tourism; ecotourism; biodiversity

A. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with its abundance of natural resources, has long been in the spotlight. As the world's largest maritime nation, Indonesia is blessed with an incredible wealth of natural resources, ranging from vast tropical rainforests, to oceans rich in biodiversity, to volcanoes that make up its stunning landscape. Its geographical and climatic diversity makes Indonesia home to a large number of plant and animal species found nowhere else.

One of Indonesia's major assets is its stunning nature reserves. With more than 50 nature reserves spread across the archipelago, Indonesia offers the world breathtaking natural panoramas as well as unique and protected habitats for endemic flora and fauna. Reserves such as Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra and Komodo National Park in East Nusa Tenggara are important research centers and unparalleled ecotourism attractions.

Conservation challenges are also an important focus in Indonesia, given the increasing pressure from development and exploitation of natural resources (Simamora & Nugroho, 2018). However, with awareness of the importance of nature conservation, governments and non-profit organizations are working together to protect and manage natural resources and nature reserves more effectively. With continuous efforts, Indonesia is committed to maintaining its natural wealth as a valuable legacy for future generations.

Nature reserve conservation is a shared responsibility between the government and the community, which requires active and collaborative involvement from both parties (Sari & Prayitno, 2019). The government has an important role in policy-making, management, and protection of nature

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reserves to ensure environmental sustainability and biodiversity (Mansur & Utami, 2020). With clear and effective policies, the government can create a framework that enables the preservation of nature reserves as a whole.

The government needs to adopt a sustainable approach in managing nature reserves, taking into account environmental, economic and social needs (Kurniawan & Wahyuni, 2021). This includes strict monitoring and enforcement of illegal activities such as illegal logging, poaching, and destructive fishing. In addition, the government must also ensure the availability of adequate resources and financial support for nature reserve management, including funding for research and environmental monitoring. Thus, the role of the community is equally important in the conservation of nature reserves through collaboration with local governments as managers (Astusi & Santoso, 2024). Public awareness and participation in conservation efforts are key to success. Communities can play a role in monitoring activities that damage the environment, and support conservation programs through active participation in extension activities.

Nowadays, environmental education also plays an important role in shaping people's awareness and behavior towards nature conservation. With the right education and socialization programs, people can understand the importance of maintaining natural ecosystems for long-term prosperity. Thus, collaboration between the government and the community becomes a solid foundation in the effort to maintain the sustainability of nature reserves, making it a valuable heritage for future generations (Djalante et al., 2023).

The Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy has a key role in developing Indonesia's tourism potential as one of the key sectors in the country's economy. In facing the challenges of conserving nature reserves and biodiversity, the Ministry has planned a joint action strategy that integrates nature conservation needs with sustainable tourism development. This strategy is a step forward in establishing harmony between economic development and environmental conservation.

One of the key points in this joint action strategy is to increase public awareness and understanding of the importance of nature reserve conservation. The Ministry plans to involve various stakeholders, ranging from local governments, non-profit organizations, to tourism actors and local communities, in outreach and education efforts regarding the biodiversity and ecological value of nature reserves. This is expected to create a strong collective awareness of the need to safeguard Indonesia's natural heritage for a sustainable future (Utama & Widiyanto, 2017).

The geber strategy will also focus on developing conservation-based tourism around nature reserves. This approach will not only provide economic benefits to local communities, but will also increase understanding and ownership of the nature reserves. By integrating conservation principles in tourism development, it is expected to create a sustainable and responsible source of income, thereby minimizing negative impacts on the environment. Through this joint strategy, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy is committed to building sustainable tourism and strengthening the protection of Indonesia's natural wealth. While prior studies, such as those by Mansur & Utami (2020) and Djalante et al. (2023), have highlighted the importance of integrating conservation policies with economic development, limited attention has been paid to evaluating the practical outcomes of such integrated approaches. Specifically, there is a lack of research examining. Existing studies recognize the importance of public awareness but lack comprehensive evaluations of educational programs' effectiveness in shaping conservation behaviors.

Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran is one of the conservation areas rich in biodiversity and historical value in Indonesia. It is located in Pangandaran Regency, West Java. This area is home to a variety of endemic flora and fauna, such as the timor deer, Javan langur, and various bird species. In addition, Pananjung Pangandaran also has cultural and educational value, with historical sites such as Japanese Cave and Parat Cave that become tourist attractions. Its ecotourism potential makes this area not only

important for environmental conservation, but also as one of the leading tourist destinations that can support the economy of the surrounding community.

However, the management of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran faces various challenges, including pressure from excessive tourism activities and a lack of public awareness of the importance of conservation. In the context of the “moving together” (geber) strategy initiated by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, it is important to evaluate the extent to which collaboration between the government, community, and tourism actors has had a positive impact on the preservation of this nature reserve. Addressing these gaps requires a holistic approach to evaluate strategies like the “Geber” initiative in the context of Pananjung Pangandaran Nature Reserve. Research should focus on identifying best practices, challenges, and opportunities for improvement in conservation management. So the formulation of the problem in this study is how to evaluate the geber strategy in the collaboration of community and government participation in the management of the Pananjung Nature Reserve area? This evaluation is important to formulate more appropriate corrective measures to support the sustainability of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran as a valuable natural heritage.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

Based on considerations of the phenomenon raised in this study, the research approach used is a qualitative research approach. According to Creswell (2018), the qualitative research approach is used to explore and understand the meaning of an individual or group related to social contexts. The process of this research approach involves the emergence of questions and procedures, data collected from participants, inductive analysis, and the interpretation of research data results. Qualitative researchers position themselves as key instruments in the ongoing research process by applying aspects of reflexivity and evaluating the ability to analyze data and make decisions for the direction of further research (Lloyd-Jones, 2003).

This approach was chosen because it is in accordance with the research objectives to deeply understand the phenomenon of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran preservation and the evaluation of the joint movement strategy (Geber) through government and community collaboration in that context. According to expert opinion in qualitative research, as stated by Creswell (2013), the descriptive analysis approach can provide a clear and detailed description of the characteristics and dynamics of the phenomenon under study. The data collection techniques that will be used in this research are observation, interviews, and literature studies. Furthermore, by analyzing relevant literature, this research will gain a comprehensive understanding of theoretical concepts, geographical context, government policies, as well as government and community collaboration in the preservation of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran. Here are the stages involved in the qualitative research approach:

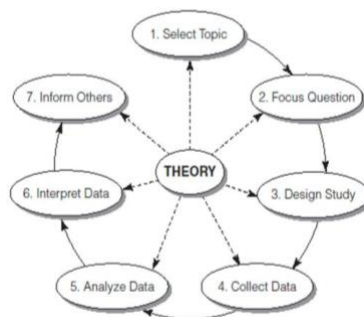


Figure 1
Stages of the Qualitative Research Approach

C. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Overview of Cagar Alam Pananjung

Cagar Alam Pananjung is located in Pangandaran Village, Pangandaran District, Pangandaran Regency, West Java Province. Geographically, the reserve is located at the coordinates 108°39'18" - 108°39'52" East and 7°42'16" - 7°42'35" LS. The topography of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran is generally in the form of gentle plains to small hills with altitudes between 0-20 meters above sea level (masl). These hills are located in the southern part of the reserve, stretching along the border from Ciborok (West) to Cirengganis (East), consisting of steep and separate rocky outcrops.

Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran is a protected natural area located in Pangandaran Regency, West Java, Indonesia. It covers a vast expanse of tropical forests, coastal ecosystems, and marine biodiversity. This conservation area is known for its rich flora and fauna, including rare species of birds, mammals, and marine life. The Nature Reserve is also a vital habitat for endangered species, making it an important site for biodiversity preservation. The area is famous for its picturesque landscapes, including pristine beaches, cliffs, and lush forests. It also offers various recreational activities such as eco-tourism, wildlife observation, hiking, and beach sports. The Nature Reserve serves both as an environmental protection area and as a significant educational resource, highlighting the importance of preserving natural habitats



Figure 2

Tourists Visit Cagar Alam Pananjung

Cagar Alam Pananjung has a wide variety of biodiversity including flora, fauna and marine life. About 80% of the flora in this area is old secondary forest vegetation, while the rest is primary forest. Dominant trees include Laban (*Vitex pubescens*), Kisegel (*Dilenia excelsa*), and Marong (*Cratoxylon formosum*). In addition, there are also various tree species such as Reungas (*Buchanania arborencens*), Kondang (*Ficus variegata*), and Teureup (*Artocarpus elasticus*). Fauna that can be found here include macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*), porcupines (*Hystrix brachyura*), pangolins (*Manis javanica*), deer (*Cervus timorensis*), and deer (*Tragulus javanicus*). For birds, the area is home to Tulumtumpuk (*Megalaima javensis*), Kangkareng (*Anthracoseros convexus*), Partridge (*Gallus varius*), Tando (*Chalcophaps indica*), and also Python molurus. The marine biota in Pangandaran Marine Reserve is dominated by rock corals (*Scleractinia*) such as *Acropora* sp., *Fungia* sp., *Goniopora* sp., and *Alveopora* sp., as well as various ornamental fishes and other coral fauna such as *Heniochus* sp., *Chaetodon* sp., *Plectorhinchus* sp., and *Apolemichthys* sp.

Evaluation of the Implementation of the “Geber” Strategy for Cagar Alam Pananjung Area

The evaluation study of the joint movement strategy (Geber) is a crucial step in understanding the effectiveness of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran conservation efforts. Located in West Java Province, Pananjung Pangandaran is a nature reserve abundant with biodiversity and a popular tourist destination. Geber's strategy includes collaboration between the government, local communities and other stakeholders to strengthen nature conservation and tourism management efforts in the area. Through this evaluation study, we can identify the successes, barriers and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Geber strategy.

The geographical context and biodiversity of Pananjung Pangandaran provide a diverse landscape, ranging from dense tropical forests to beautiful white sand beaches and stunning coral reef ecosystems. The biodiversity of the area is very high, with many endemic species of flora and fauna living in it. However, increased human activity, population growth and development have led to significant pressures on the environment, including habitat degradation, declining water quality and ecosystem damage.

The government's role in the Geber strategy is crucial. The government has the responsibility to coordinate and implement the Geber strategy effectively. Measures taken by the government include the creation of policies that support nature conservation, supervision of activities that harm the environment, as well as the allocation of adequate resources for nature reserve management. The government is also responsible for facilitating collaboration between various parties, including local communities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to achieve conservation and sustainable management goals.

The nature reserve preservation policy is the foundation for the government's efforts in protecting and maintaining the sustainability of Pananjung Pangandaran. Limiting destructive human activities, setting up conservation zones, and implementing effective law enforcement mechanisms against environmental violations are steps that must be taken. A participatory approach to policy-making can also involve local communities and other stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts.

The government also has a responsibility to manage and monitor the environmental condition of Pananjung Pangandaran on a regular basis. Activities such as biodiversity surveys, water and air quality monitoring, and assessment of the impact of human activities on the environment are important (Hermawan & Iswara, 2023). The data and information obtained from these activities can be used to inform policies and actions needed to maintain the sustainability of the reserve's ecosystem.

Environmental counseling and education is one way to increase public awareness about the importance of nature reserve conservation. Extension and environmental education programs can disseminate information about ecology, biodiversity, and ways to contribute to conservation efforts. With increased understanding and awareness of environmental values, a more caring and responsible attitude towards nature reserves is expected.

The involvement of local communities is key in nature reserve management (Astuti & Santoso, 2024). The government needs to facilitate community involvement in decision-making related to nature reserve management, and empower them to play a role in environmental monitoring and maintenance activities. Through active participation, a sense of belonging and shared responsibility in maintaining the sustainability of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran will be created.

Strengthening cooperation between parties is essential in the Geber strategy. Through collaborative forums and regular meetings, various parties can share information, experiences and resources to achieve common goals (Wibowo & Putra, 2016). The government can also facilitate the formation of partnerships between the private sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support nature reserve conservation efforts.

The development of sustainable ecotourism is an important tool in supporting nature reserve conservation. The government can encourage the development of environmentally friendly and community-based tourism businesses, which prioritize nature conservation and local welfare. These measures can include the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure, promotion of responsible tourism destinations, and training for businesses to improve service quality and environmental management.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are key in assessing the effectiveness of the Geber strategy. The government needs to conduct continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Geber strategy, including evaluating its impact on the environment and local communities. Through continuous monitoring and evaluation, it is possible to identify successes, obstacles, and opportunities to improve and enhance efforts to conserve the Pananjung Pangandaran nature reserve.

In conclusion, the evaluation study of Geber's strategy through government and community collaboration in improving the conservation of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran is an important step in ensuring the sustainability of this ecosystem. Through strong collaboration between various parties, including the government, local communities, and other stakeholders, it can be expected that efforts to conserve and manage the reserve will be successful and sustainable in the future.

D. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research highlights the importance of collaboration between the government and the community in preserving the Pananjung Pangandaran nature reserve. The joint movement strategy (Geber) is a relevant approach in strengthening nature conservation, but its implementation requires better coordination and active participation from all relevant parties. Through a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis and data collection through literature study, this research has provided an in-depth understanding of the challenges, potentials, and opportunities in improving the success of the Geber strategy in Pananjung Pangandaran.

From the results of this study, several suggestions can be proposed. First, the government needs to improve the effectiveness of coordination between relevant agencies and strengthen monitoring mechanisms to enforce environmental and nature conservation policies. Second, the participation of local communities needs to be increased through counseling, training and empowerment, so that they can become active partners in nature reserve conservation efforts. In addition, the government can also facilitate the establishment of partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to support the sustainability of conservation programs. Finally, further research can be conducted with a more inclusive approach, including direct data collection from local communities and stakeholders to gain a more holistic and in-depth insight into the dynamics of Cagar Alam Pananjung Pangandaran conservation.

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