



Original Article

Collaborative Governance in Political Economic Development On Kumala Island: Potential And Challenges

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Abstract:

The tourism sector is the main focus in the development of the public economy. Kumala Island Tourism in Tenggong, Kutai Karta Negara is the object of this study. This study examines the political economy of Kumala Island tourism and focuses on potential and challenges. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method strengthened by the theory of Ansell & Gash (2008), developing a collaborative governance model with four main variables, namely initial conditions (starting conditions), institutional design, leadership, and collaboration processes. The results of this study state that there is collaboration in improving Kumala Island to increase the potential of Kumala Island Tourism's appeal, problem-solving in challenges is also carried out to improve tourism and to more massively implement Kumala Island Tourism policies.

Keywords: Tourism; collaborative governance, economy; politics; Kumala Island.

Introduction

Political economy, in its various forms and transfigurations, is a research philosophy that provides social commentary and theoretical advances and addresses a number of different topics: politics, regulation and governance, production systems, social relations, inequality and development, among many others. As a critical theory, political economy seeks to provide an understanding of society – and of the social structures and relations that shape it – in order to generate social change towards more equitable conditions. Despite the early influence of critical development studies and political economy on tourism research, political economy has received relatively little attention in tourism research. Political Economy and Tourism is the first volume to bring together the various theoretical perspectives and discourses in political economy as they relate to



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tourism. It provides interesting insights and alternative critical perspectives on political and economic theory to broaden discussions on tourism development and policy in the future. ([Mosedale, 2011](#)). Political economy is an understanding of a political dimension that comes from all contexts and actively participates or utilizes information that aims to inform existing policies and programs at all levels of society ([Australian Government, 2016](#); [Dahlan & Wildan, 2022](#)). Meanwhile, from the perspective of political economy, the public sector can be understood as an entity whose activities are related to efforts to produce goods and public services with the aim of meeting public needs and rights ([Sagena, 2024](#)).

In general, in the discussion of political economy, all political organizers participate in various things, including concerning aspects, processes in institutions, and several economic activities carried out by society with industry by the government ([Mufti, 2018](#)). All politics in every nation in the world compete for power that cannot be separated from social life itself ([Elyta et al., 2022](#)). The political economy of tourism has historically been a marginalized paradigm in tourism studies. Suppose the political economy of tourism is to receive attention in tourism studies and the broader political economy literature. In that case, it must engage with important debates in political economy, such as discussions about the origins of corporate profits, land rents, and the nature of corporate profits. Commodities and tourism revenues. Developing a theoretical agenda for the political economy of tourism around profits, rents, and finance not only allows for reconnecting the political economy of tourism with the main debates currently taking place in the broader field of political economy but also allows for questioning the main theories. Assumptions in the political economy of tourism ([Yrigoy, 2023](#)).

Research by [Richter & Steiner \(2008\)](#) explains challenging the claim that state-regulated market liberalization in developing countries can drive long-term economic development. Analysis of the rise of tourism in Egypt over the past three decades shows that the neo-patrimonial character of the Egyptian political system limits the impact of liberalization and structural adjustment. Since the decline of oil rent revenues in the 1980s, tourism development has been an optimal strategy to compensate for the resulting fiscal losses. Increased tourism revenues have helped to address macroeconomic imbalances and avoid more costly adjustments of traditional economic sectors. In addition, they have also provided opportunities for private elites to generate large profits. Therefore, the sectoral transformation resulting from economic liberalization in neo-patrimonial rentier countries should be described as a process leading to the diversification of external rent incomes rather than to a general reduction in the rentier character of the economy.

Indonesia is one of the countries that has interesting places and is also used as a tourist attraction. Tourist attractions are everything in a tourist destination area/region that can attract people or visitors who want to visit a place ([Oktavia et al., 2021](#)). Tenggarong, Kutai Kartanegara, Tenggarong is a sub-district and the capital city of Kutai Kartanegara. Kutai Kartanegara itself is a district that has good tourism potential. According to [Rahman \(2021\)](#), Kutai Kartanegara Regency is in the spotlight as a superior tourism sector destination in East Kalimantan Province. There are many relics from the Kutai kingdom, namely cultural relics, which are special attractions for tourists when visiting. Kumala Island is located to the west of Tenggarong. Kumala Island itself is one of the tourist attractions that is quite well-known to the people of Kutai Kartanegara. Kumala Island tourism was built and operated around the 2000s. This study analyzes the political economy of Kumala Island Tourism in Tenggarong, Kutai Kartanegara, with a

focus on the potential and challenges faced in developing this sector. Tenggara, as the capital of Kutai Kartanegara Regency, has various natural and cultural tourist attractions that have the potential to be a significant source of income for the region. According to [Pratiwi's, \(2020\)](#) shows that the tourism office has achieved management in accordance with its duties and functions in managing the tourist attractions of Kumala Island, this is indicated by the implementation of 3 (three) indicators taken from its services in one of the tourism service areas that they have partially achieved, but have obstacles, namely the lack of budget makes them feel that their management is hampered and not optimal. In the study ([Panigoro et al., 2022](#)).

Community-based tourism management, namely placing the community as the main actor through community empowerment in various tourism activities, so that the benefits of tourism are maximized for the community. The development of the potential of this tourism must be carried out in accordance with the respective regional governments by considering the potential and specialties of each region. The expected results of this development are a good inventory of cultural and tourism potential, so that development is dynamic in order to preserve artistic and cultural values and historical heritage ([Fadilah et al., 2023](#)). From the description above, the researcher wants to focus this research on the potential and challenges and implementation of policies in Kumala Island Tourism in Tenggara within the framework of the political economy of tourism. This study uses the Collaborative Governance perspective theory by Ansel and Gash which describes 4 main variables, namely, Starting Condition, Institutional Design, leadership and Collaborative Process using qualitative methods where according to [Hasrudin & Sagena, \(2023\)](#) a qualitative approach is used to obtain more in-depth information about the phenomenon so that a more comprehensive explanation is obtained.

Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method using Merilee Grindle perspective theory on policy implementation. Collaborative Governance perspective theory by Ansel and Gash describes four main variables, namely, Starting Condition, Institutional Design, leadership and Collaborative Process. This study aims to examine the implementation of the Kumala Island Tourism policy in Tenggara within the framework of the political economy of tourism. It will also focus on the potential and challenges of Kumala Island tourism in Tenggara. To obtain the necessary data, researchers need informants who will later be interviewed about Kumala Island tourism in Tenggara. Researchers also carry out observations to see the condition of the research object. Data collection techniques are also carried out in this study, including observation, interviews, and literature studies. Qualitative research according to [Mack et al. \(2005\)](#), qualitative research is one type of scientific research. In general, scientific research consists of investigations that: 1) Seek answers to a question, 2) Systematically use a series of predetermined procedures to answer questions, 3) Collect evidence, 4) Produce findings that are not previously determined, 5) Produce findings that can be applied beyond the boundaries of the study

Qualitative research has the same characteristics. In addition, this research seeks to understand a particular problem or research topic from the perspective of the local population involved. Meanwhile, according to ([Kim et al., 2017](#)), qualitative research is very effective in obtaining specific cultural information about the values, opinions, behaviours, and social contexts of a particular population. Qualitative descriptive research is an important and appropriate design for research questions that focus on gaining insight

into a poorly understood area of research, not on a particular phenomenon. Because qualitative descriptive research designs seek to describe rather than explain, explanatory frameworks and theories are not needed to explain or 'ground' a study and its results.

According to [Ansell & Gash \(2008\)](#), collaborative governance is a process of making decisions together consisting of one or more government agencies related to non-governmental institutions with the aim of implementing public policy and managing public assets. Furthermore, [Ansell & Gash \(2008\)](#) developed a collaborative governance model with four main variables, namely initial conditions (starting conditions), institutional design, leadership, and collaboration processes ([Danastry & Kurniawan, 2021](#)).

Results

Sub 1 Kumala Island Tourism Profile in Tenggara

Kumalah Island is one of the tourist attractions in Tenggara City, Kutai Kartanegara Regency. Around the 2000s, this island was built into a tourist attraction. However, in 2006, due to a corruption case, the development of Kumala Island was halted. There are several facilities available for Kumala Island tourism, such as the Sky Tower, which functions to see the view from the air, which is about 100 meters high; there is a mini train in the play area and a hanging train. The Kumala Island tourism area is very large, so many tourists and residents relax on the island. DJS Resort provides swimming pool facilities for tourists who want to rest and relax. In [Pratiwi \(2020\)](#), Kumala Island is located in the middle of the Mahakam River and is located in Tenggara District with an area of +80 Ha. Kumala Island Tourism has its uniqueness with a strategic location. Kumala Island is known as a neatly arranged tourist attraction with a modern technological design and traditional culture. The Lembuslawana statue can be seen at the tip of Kumala Island, where the statue is the icon of the island and will be visible when visitors are on the banks of the Mahakam River.

Sub 2 Potential, Challenges, and Tourism Policies of Kumala Island in Tenggara

The potential of Kumala Island Tourism in the competition of the tourism sector can actually compete. However, the facilities on Kumala Island must continue to be developed so that it can become a comfortable tourist destination. Kumala Island Tourism was once crowded because of the cable car and sky tower facilities, and only a few cities have these facilities. However, to support its potential again, the waterboom construction process will be developed to advance Kumala Island Tourism. The local Regional Government holds Kumala Island to advance the tourism sector in Kutai Kartanegara Regency. To face competition between other tourism sectors, the Regional Government designed Kumala Island tourism to be more modern. For now, Kumala Island tourism is still in the renewal stage to advance Kumala Island tourism again. So, the attraction of Kumala Island Tourism is vague; however, because Kumala Island is large, it is used as a place to rest, relax, play, and ride electric bicycles to get around.

In addition to the challenges above, Kumala Island Tourism also has minimal funding because this tourism belongs to the government rather than the private sector. However, there are several policies to revive Kumala Island tourism, namely: 1) Development and improvement of the capacity of officers and staff in managing Kumala Island tourism, 2) Providing a modern feel without eliminating the culture or characteristics of Kumala Island, 3) Enforcement of safety standards for visitors to Kumala Island, 4) Deliberation and consideration of several aspects for the development and development of Kumala Island tourism. 5) Cooperation with the surrounding tourism

sector to update tourism developments, 6) Educate visitors always to maintain cleanliness and maintain the Kumala Island tourist spot.

Sub 2 Political Economy of Tourism in Kumala Island Tourism with the Ansell & Gash collaborative governance model theory

a. Starting Condition

Starting Condition is a key factor that determines the success of collaborative governance in policy implementation. Operationally, the starting condition is determined by aspects of the balance of power/resources, trust between collaborators, various types of incentives to encourage participation, and a history of previous cooperation or conflict experiences from the collaborating parties ([Mukhlis et al., 2019](#)). Kumala Island tourism is currently under repair because it is still quiet; some changes are needed for renewal. Given the minimal funds, repairs take longer. The management and coordinator of the Kumala Island tourism field always pay attention to the Condition of tourism on Kumala Island because Kumala Island belongs to the local government. An interview with Mr. Yuli on July 8, 2024, showed that Kumala Island has good initial conditions; however, due to the lack of funds for management, repairs need to be improved. However, some institutions want to collaborate with Kumala Island Tourism, which aims to develop Kumala Island tourism.

b. Institutional Design

The Regional Government and several Kumala Island tourism coordinators collaborated to improve Kumala Island Tourism. The institutional design of Kumala Island Tourism includes human resources, economy, and socio-culture. Several things support the establishment of Kumala Island Tourism, including determining policies or regulations, promotion, marketing, and cooperation. With this institutional system, the Kumala Island tourism object is still running even though it is less busy than before.

c. Leadership

Currently, Kumala Island Tourism is still held by the tourism coordinator, namely Mr Yani and other coordinators, who will later be assisted by the Regency government (PEMKAB) and the Tourism Office to develop Kumala Island Tourism.

d. Collaborative Process

The Collaborative Process is also carried out by the management and coordinators of Kumala Island tourism through five stages, namely, face-to-face dialogue, building trust, commitment in the collaboration process, mutual understanding, and results/intervals. This collaboration process is carried out with OPD to advance Kumala Island BLHD with its Kohati Forest program.

Conclusion

Kumala Island Tourism is a famous tourist spot in Kutai Kartanegara; in the past, this tourist spot was crowded; however, over time, due to competition in the tourism sector, Kumala Island tourism visitors were few. Kumala Island tourism facilities are still under repair; the repair is said to be slow because there is no cost. The collaborative Governance perspective by Ansel and Gash describes four main variables, namely, Starting Condition, Institutional Design, leadership and Collaborative Process, to analyze the political economy of Kumala Island tourism. From the analysis of this theory, it can be concluded that Kumala Island tourism is still in the process of being repaired,

and the existence of cooperation also aims to sustain the development of Kumala Island tourism.

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