



Exploration of Tourism Potential Based on Local Wisdom in the Special Region of Yogyakarta

Case Study: Wanagama Forest

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Abstract. Wanagama Forest is one of the places located in Gunung Kidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta that has succeeded in environmental conservation and management by combining local wisdom and modernization. This study uses a qualitative approach through observation, literature studies and focused discussions to explore the potential and development of Wanagama Forest tourism based on local wisdom. The purpose of this research is to explore the potential and development of tourism based on local wisdom in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, especially the Wanagama Forest. Wanagama has developed since the reforestation carried out by Gajah Mada University in the 1960s and has 550 types of flora and 40 types of fauna and includes an ecosystem crossed by three major rivers. The Wanagama Forest is the location of socio-cultural activities of the local community which are still thick with traditions and customs such as the Prophet's Event and Earth Alms. The Wanagama Forest also offers an educational and recreational tourist experience with well-equipped facilities such as lodgings, restaurants, and meeting halls. The Wanagama Forest has biodiversity including 170 species of plants and various animals. This makes the Wanagama Forest suitable as a leading destination for scientific research, conservation, recreation, and environmental education. The Wanagama Forest not only plays a role in environmental conservation, but also in education and improving the welfare of the local community..

Keywords: Wanagama Forest, Local Wisdom, Tourism

1 Introduction

Local wisdom is an activity that is usually carried out by local communities and has its own uniqueness or characteristics in each area. Local wisdom is a form of cultural excellence of the local community and geography in a broad sense and emphasizes place and locality. Local wisdom according to Law No. 32 of 2009 concerning environmental protection and management, article 1 paragraph 30 explains that local wisdom is a noble value that applies in the community system which aims to protect and manage the environment sustainably. According to Sibarani, local wisdom is a form of original

knowledge in society that comes from the noble cultural values of the local community to regulate the order of people's lives. Local wisdom is the soul of a diverse cultural identity and can be used in tourism development innovations.

Tourism according to Matheison and Wall (1982) is a series of activities in the form of temporary individual movement activities to a destination area outside of residence or work, these activities are carried out while in the destination with all the conveniences obtained to meet the needs of time on the trip or at the destination. Tourism is an important sector in economic and social development in an area. Tourism activities function to contribute to regional income and as a means to promote cultural and natural diversity to the world.

The Special Region of Yogyakarta is an area that continues to develop quite well in Indonesia in terms of community life, culture and spatial planning. The Special Region of Yogyakarta is one of the leading tourist destinations in Indonesia and is famous for its rich culture, history, and natural beauty. The Special Region of Yogyakarta is divided into 4 districts and one city area including Bantul Regency, Gunung Kidul Regency, Sleman Regency, Kulon Progo Regency, and Yogyakarta City. The Special Region of Yogyakarta has its own uniqueness. The uniqueness of the Special Region of Yogyakarta is very diverse and the most striking is in the field of cultural landscape and tourism. Culture can be defined as a habit carried out by a group of individuals that is carried out in daily life that will be inherited or passed down to future generations. While culture is a collection of the results of taste, creativity and *karsa* and has its own characteristics in a region. Cultural landscape can also be defined as a tangible manifestation of the results of human interaction and adaptation to the surrounding natural environment. Examples of culture in the Special Region of Yogyakarta include Jathilan dance, Ramayana Dance, Sekaten Ceremony, Labuhan Ceremony, Batik, Grebeg Ceremony. The Special Region of Yogyakarta is also famous for its natural tourism and historical heritage tourism. These tourist destinations include Parangkusumo Beach, Parangtritis Beach, Baron Beach, Drini Beach, Mount Merapi Museum, and Mount Merapi Lava Tour. One example of a tourist destination that combines natural beauty, local wisdom, and biodiversity is the Wanagama Forest in Gunung Kidul Regency.

Wanagama Forest is a forest area managed by the State University of Surabaya. According to the website of Gadjah Mada University, initially, the Wanagama area was a barren and arid area which was then successfully rehabilitated into a green and lush forest. The Wanagama Forest is not only a conservation area, but also an ecological education center and an attractive ecotourism destination. The Wanagama Forest reflects collaborative efforts between the local community and academics in utilizing and protecting the environment in a sustainable manner.

In developing and exploring the potential of the Wanagama Forest, it is important to utilize local wisdom as a strategy for promoting and managing tourist destinations. Integrating local wisdom in the management of Wanagama Forest tourist destinations will not only attract tourists, but also contribute to cultural and environmental preservation. However, a study on the potential and development of tourism based on local wisdom has never been carried out as in the Wanagama Forest. Therefore, this study will discuss the potential and development of tourism based on local wisdom in the Special Region of Yogyakarta with a focus on the Wanagama Forest as an example of environmental management and the use of local culture in the Tourism Industry.

2 Research Method

This study uses a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach is a research that aims to understand what phenomena are experienced by the research subject (Creswell, 2003). The subject of the study used is the Wanagama forest, which is located in the area of Jalan Yogya - Wonosari, Gading, Playen District, Gunung Kidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta. The location of the research can be seen in figure 1 below.

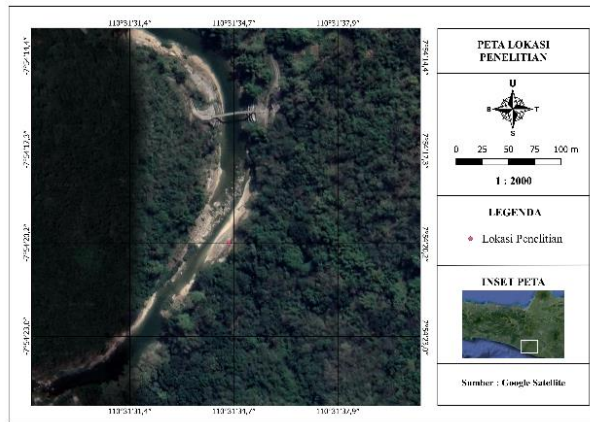


Fig. 1. Research Location

The data collection techniques used in this study are using observation methods, literature studies and discussion focuses. This process begins with a direct visit to the Wanagama forest area and obtaining some of the information needed. Then in literature studies, namely by searching for relevant extensive literature, looking for information in scientific journals or published scientific articles, and various other sources that support collecting this information. The data analysis techniques used consist of two types, namely content analysis and meta analysis. Content analysis is identifying the patterns and themes of the literature text being read, while meta analysis is combining and then analyzing research results from various sources to obtain a more comprehensive understanding.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 Potential and Development of Wanagama Forest

The round people's plantation forest or commonly known as Wanagama Forest is located on Jalan Yogya-Wonosari, Gading, Playen District, Gunung Kidul Regency, Yogyakarta. The Bunder People's Plantation Forest (Wanagama) is a forest that has an area of 634 hectares. This forest is named Wanagama because it has its own meaning or meaning for the local community. Wanagama comes from two words "Wana" and "Gama", "Wana" means "Forest" in Javanese and "Gama" means short for "Gadjah

Mada”, so Wanagama forest is a Forest managed by Gadjah Mada University (UGM). Wanagama has approximately 550 types of flora.



Fig. 2. Wanagama Forest

In the past, the Wanagama forest was in the form of a barren stretch of hills and could be known by the term "Tanah Stone" which can be interpreted as dry, barren land and included in critical land. Around the 1960s in its development, this forest reforestation began when several teams from the UGM campus obtained permission from the local community to carry out reforestation or reforestation activities in the Wanagama forest with the help of several local communities. At that time, the team from UGM began to open the land by planting as many pioneer plant types as possible. The UGM team chose the pioneer plant because this plant can grow quickly to green barren and dry land. After the area looks green and lush, it begins to be planted with several acacia trees that are useful as raw materials for paper, eucalyptus trees, pine trees, ebony trees, fragrant trees and mulberry trees which are widely used by the local community as feed for silkworms.

The Wanagama Forest is crossed by three canals of the Opak Oyo river, the Sendang Ayu river and the Bayu Tibo river. This makes the Wanagama Forest formed from the origin of the fluvial process, which is the origin of the process caused by the flow of water from river activity. The original land form of the fluvial process is related to the erosion of river water, transportation (the process of carrying erosion material) and sedimentation and undergoing uplift that we can see in the rocks in the middle of the Opak Oyo river. The Wanagama Forest which is near the outskirts of the canal of the Opak Oyo river has a variety of different vegetation as well. Vegetation in this wanagama area tends to be in the mixed type plantation sector such as teak trees, oil palm trees and some banana trees. The vegetation there is dominated by teak trees.



Fig. 3. Opak Oyo River Flow

Over time, the Wanagama Forest has developed and has the potential to become an ecological-based or environment-based education center that is open to the public, educational institutions and nature lovers. The Wanagama Forest is also used as a means of recreation or natural tourism by offering the charm of beautiful, shady and soothing natural nuances. In addition, the Wanagama Forest is used as a science park by providing natural resources for research, training and knowledge activities about 550 types of flora and 40 types of fauna in it such as Javanese bulls, antelopes, and various types of endemic birds. In the Wanagama Forest there are several water sources that flow throughout the year, namely Salak Spring, Beji, and Rara Wilis. Currently, the Wanagama Forest is used as a conservation forest and as an educational forest managed under the auspices of Gajah Mada University (UGM) for research and research purposes supported by previous research, namely on UGM Forestry on Humans and the Environment and its Relationship with the Choice of Wanagama Forest Management Scenarios.

3.2 Wanagama Forest Socio-Cultural

When viewed from the social aspect, the people who live around the Wanagama Forest area still uphold the existing moral values, even the surrounding community still strengthens the bond of brotherhood (kinship) and mutual cooperation. Even though their houses are far away. They know each other's residents and they also often interact with each other, especially when they go to the Wanagama Forest to harvest plantation products and look for firewood. Social institutions in the community around the Wanagama Forest such as RT, RW, and Youth Organizations are still actively running. Educational institutions such as kindergarten (kindergarten) / early childhood education, elementary school (SD), junior high school (SMP), and high school (SMA) can be found. However, the distance to go there is quite a distance. Health facilities such as clinics, hospitals, and health centers also have a fairly long distance. On average, health facilities can only be found in the city area or in the center of the district. The social environmental problem that occurs in the Wanagama Forest is the large amount of garbage scattered as a result of the actions of tourists who come to visit the Wanagama Forest. In addition, there are also frequent thefts of wood in the Wanagama Forest, namely the theft of sandalwood trees. This is supported by previous research on the Investigation of the Crime of Theft of Sandalwood in the Wanagama Forest UGM Yogyakarta by the Gunung Kidul Resort Police

Meanwhile, from the cultural aspect itself, the local community is still thick with the customs, traditions and values of the beliefs they adhere. The culture in the Wanagama forest area is the Apostolic Event, Jathilan Dance, Earth Almsgiving, and Wayang. The Rasulan event is an activity that begins with community service work to clean the environment around the hamlet in droves and mutual cooperation, helping each other to clean the yard, repair the road, and clean the graves of ancestors. After that, all residents of Gunung Kidul carried out a tumpengan event of produce, and were enlivened by cultural arts performances such as the art of puppetry and Jathilan dance which have magical elements in the dance. This is done as a symbol of gratitude that they give to God for their abundant harvest and as a symbol to continue to be protected and avoided from various kinds of disasters (bala). The local community upholds the habit of mutual cooperation and family. For example, such as working together to make celebratory tumpeng, harvesting plantation products, mutual cooperation in the Prophet's traditional events, and cleaning the surrounding environment (community service). The culture of mutual cooperation has existed for a long time and needs to be maintained and inherited to the next generation so that the culture does not fade or disappear. In addition, the attitude of the local community is open and friendly to visitors or tourists who want to visit the Wanagama Forest.

3.3 Wanagama Forest Tourism

The Wanagama Forest, located in a karst area with limestone rocks, offers stunning natural scenery with the beauty of its landscape. The existence of boulders and cliffs along the Oyo River enriches the natural panorama of Wanagama, creating an exotic and charming atmosphere. The Oyo River that crosses this area not only adds natural beauty but also provides habitat for various flora and fauna, as well as supporting the existence of Banyunibo waterfall which has a height of about 20 meters, adding to the attraction of ecotourism in Wanagama.

As one of the important forest areas, Wanagama is known for its diversity of vegetation which includes various types of trees, ferns, epiphytes, as well as shrubs and grasses. The Wanagama Forest is recorded to have at least 170 species of plants and seven types of bamboo. The trees in Wanagama are an interesting type for visitors because there is a forest with similar tree stands that give an aesthetic impression of its own. The dominating tree types include *Acacia mangium*, *Tectona grandis* (teak), various types of *Eucalyptus*, *Diospyros celebica* (ebony), and *Pinus merkusii* (pine). Forests with similar stands are often a favorite place for photography, as the neat rows of trees create a unique and beautiful atmosphere.



Fig. 4. Wanagama Forest Vegetation

The potential for biodiversity in Wanagama is not just limited to flora. The forest is also a habitat for a variety of wildlife, making it an ideal place for nature lovers and animal watchers. There are at least 47 species of birds and 17 species of herpetofauna living in this area. Animals that usually live in karst caves such as snakes, bats, swallows, sriti birds, porcupines, and ferrets can also be found here. For bird lovers, Wanagama offers a rich birdwatching experience, with species such as bido eagles, black eagles, twig eagles, river warblers, Javanese warblers, Javanese lathes, and twilight warblers often seen in their natural habitat.

Reptile and amphibian enthusiasts will also find Wanagama to be an interesting place to explore. Some of the species that can be found include garden lizards, brown squirrel lizards, Javanese spoon snakes, geckos, rice field frogs, gadung snakes, mane chameleons, freshwater monitor lizards, and lizards. Another uniqueness of the fauna in Wanagama is the existence of Javanese deer which is sometimes seen around the Oyo River. However, this Javan deer tends to hide in tighter areas.

The Wanagama Forest not only offers stunning natural beauty, but also provides a variety of facilities that make this tourist destination very comfortable to visit. The management of public facilities such as toilets, camping grounds, prayer rooms, halls, and large parking areas ensures the comfort of visitors while in this area. In addition, Wanagama is also equipped with various types of lodgings, including research houses, Cendana Suite, Cendana Twin, Cendana Double, Regular Sandalwood, Resin Dormitory, Meranti, and Jati Arum. Each room type offers different amenities such as air conditioning, en-suite bathroom, wifi, towels, and more, which are designed to meet the different needs and preferences of visitors.

For meeting needs, Wanagama has several buildings that can be used, such as a multipurpose building with a capacity of 100 people, a Murbei room with a capacity of 50 people, and a Joglo Wanagama which is ideal for camping areas. In addition, additional facilities such as buffet consumption, wrap consumption, conservation and cleaning services, and guide services are available to support various activities and events in Wanagama.

Pawon Alas, one of the restaurants located in the area of plot 16 Wanagama, is a culinary attraction with a semi-outdoor concept that allows visitors to enjoy the cool air in the middle of the forest. This restaurant is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 11.00 to 20.00 WIB, and provides various menus such as fried chicken, fried duck, grilled

tilapia, grilled catfish, and typical processed venison, such as venison tongseng. The strategic location of the restaurant on the side of Jalan Jogja-Wonosari makes it easy for visitors to access, and the toy facilities and gardens around it add to the attraction, especially for families with children.



Fig. 5. Pawon Alas

Wanagama Paksi, or abbreviated as Wanapaksi, is one of the ecotourism facilities that focuses on poultry education and conservation. In the shape of a bird dome, this place houses dozens of preserved birds, such as the bondol eagle, paradise, and cockatoo. This dome is equipped with an exhibition area and a captive building, which in addition to serving as an educational place for the community, is also a research location for students. Thus, Wanapaksi not only supports animal conservation but also plays a role in environmental education.

The biodiversity in the Wanagama Forest includes at least 170 species of plants and seven species of bamboo. The trees in this forest are planted regularly, giving it a neat and attractive appearance. Some of the dominant tree species include *Acacia mangium*, *Tectona grandis* (teak), various types of *Eucalyptus*, *eucalyptus*, *Diospyros celebica* (ebony), and *Pinus merkusii* (pine). Good management ensures that Wanagama is not only a place of recreation but also an important conservation area. With a variety of complete and well-maintained facilities, the Wanagama Forest offers great potential for ecotourism development. The combination of natural beauty, diversity of flora and fauna, and supportive facilities make Wanagama an ideal destination for scientific research, environmental education, and recreation. With a very affordable entrance ticket price, which is IDR 5,000 per person, Wanagama Forest can be enjoyed by various groups. Tourists can visit this forest every day from 07.00 to 16.00 WIB. For visits or events outside of operating hours, visitors can contact the management. With a wide range of facilities and attractions offered, Wanagama Forest is an ideal destination for recreation, education, and conservation, as well as contributing significantly to environmental conservation and ecological education efforts in Indonesia.

4 Conclusion

The Wanagama Forest in Gunung Kidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta, is an example of success in environmental management that combines local wisdom and modernization. Wanagama, which was once a critical land as rarely as possible, has been transformed into a green and lush forest. This reflects collaborative efforts between the local community and academics from Gajah Mada University. Currently, the Wanagama Forest is a center for ecological education, conservation areas, and ecotourism with natural beauty, biodiversity, and various facilities that support recreational and research activities. The community around the Wanagama Forest still maintains strong cultural, moral and traditional values such as the Prophet's Event, Earth Alms, and mutual cooperation. This community involvement shows that the development of tourism based on local wisdom can improve community welfare without sacrificing the sustainability of the existing environment. Sustainable tourism development in Yogyakarta as can be seen in the Wanagama Forest shows that the integration of local wisdom in tourism promotion and management strategies not only attracts tourists, but also contributes to cultural and environmental preservation. The Wanagama Forest has an important role in environmental conservation and ecological education efforts thus making it a valuable asset for the Special Region of Yogyakarta.

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