

# Handling security and terrorism issues in developing the tourism sector through ecotourism policies on small islands in Makassar City, Indonesia

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## CITATION

Seniwati, Amri K, Mangilep MAA, et al. (2024). Handling security and terrorism issues in developing the tourism sector through ecotourism policies on small islands in Makassar City, Indonesia. *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*. 8(14): 8234. <https://doi.org/10.24294/jipd8234>

## ARTICLE INFO

Received: 27 July 2024

Accepted: 3 September 2024

Available online: 18 November 2024

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**Abstract:** One of Indonesia's main characteristics of tourism development is maritime tourism, which is synonymous with archipelagic countries. The diversity of maritime tourism offered by Indonesia will never end, so it needs to be considered more carefully and used relevantly to create sustainable tourism in Indonesia that provides broad benefits for the country. Many maritime tourism locations in Indonesia are beautiful but require more active promotion. The level of security and terrorism issues are a requirement that the government must consider. The novelty of this research describes the potential ecotourism development in the town of Makassar that stakeholders should consider in the formation of tourism policy. The research locations are in Makassar City, Samalona Island, Langkai Island, and Lanjukang Island. Ecotourism developed in the coastal areas of Makassar City, especially in Samalona, Lanjukang, and Langkai Islands, produces superior objects that collaborate elements of nature and society as the main attraction in the long term. Therefore, local governments need to strengthen monitoring of regional geopolitical developments in order to avoid security and terrorism problems that might cause inconvenience to tourists.

**Keywords:** Maritim tourism; promotion; terrorism; security; geopolitical

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia is a famous tourist destination country, so it receives rapid visits from many foreign tourists. UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) data released in 2022 showed that Indonesia received 5.89 million foreign tourists in 2022 and 603 thousand domestic tourists in 2021 (UNWTO, 2023). This large number indicates that Indonesia is quite famous as a destination for domestic and foreign tourists. The popularity of Indonesian tourism shows great potential in developing a relevant leading tourism sector as one of the country's primary sources of economic strength—especially considering Indonesia's long history of success in attracting tourists to visit and participate in the national economy.

The development of the tourism sector in Indonesia has been going on for quite a long time as a popular destination for tourists. Indonesia began tourism sector development activities in the 1960s. This step became a momentum that succeeded in increasing the growth of the Indonesian tourism sector on a large scale in the 1980s (Hampton and Jeyacheya, 2015). The development of Indonesia's tourism sector is supported by its strategic geographical location. The advantage of Indonesia's geographical position is a characteristic that can attract tourists.

Indonesia is an archipelagic country. Indonesia has advantages in the maritime tourism sector. Indonesia also has a vast ocean area estimated to reach two-thirds of the country's total territory. Indonesia has a large variety of marine tourism potential, and it has such a vast ocean area. Indonesia has at least 17 thousand islands with a total coastal area length of 81 thousand kilometers (Briandana et al., 2018). The enormous potential of this marine area makes Indonesia a country that can offer various types of potential tourism in various regions throughout the country.

Each diverse archipelago cluster has a unique character, which makes it an attraction for local and foreign tourists (Briandana et al., 2018). The uniqueness offered by each region in Indonesia is an additional point representing the breadth of maritime tourism areas in Indonesia so that tourists will not get bored with the Indonesian tourism sector. Unfortunately, the diverse beauty of various maritime tourist spots in Indonesia is still not accompanied by equal access to promotion and security.

Maritime tourism in Bali and Raja Ampat has excellent beauty because it has good promotion and can develop as a leading tourist destination. However, this condition contrasts with several other maritime tourism locations in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, which need more access to developing and promoting these destinations. The main challenges are the diversity of maritime tourism in Indonesia, which needs to be supported or developed appropriately, resulting in inequality between one region and another, and also environmental concerns (Fahmy et al., 2024). Therefore, this research seeks to show the potential of maritime tourism in the South Sulawesi region, especially the city of Makassar, which has a maritime tourism sector that has yet to be developed optimally. This research describes the potential ecotourism development in the town of Makassar that stakeholders should consider in the formation of tourism policy. The lack of research on tourism security on small islands is one indicator of novelty in this research.

## **2. Methods**

This study uses a qualitative approach through unstructured interviews. The interviews involved 57 informants consisting of three stakeholders (the Mayor of Makassar City, the Head of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province and Head of the Marine, Coastal and Small Islands Spatial Planning and Management Division of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province), 25 foreign and domestic tourists, ten women who are active in entrepreneurship, eight local fishermen, six community leaders, and five people who are active in NGOs. The research locations are in Makassar City, Samalona Island, Langkai Island, and Lanjukang Island. This research was conducted from February 2024 to August 2024. Interviews were conducted directly with informants.

## **3. Literature review**

### **3.1. Marine tourism**

Maritime tourism is a terminology that defines various entertainment or tourist activities carried out by utilizing maritime tourism attractions as the primary offering.

Maritime tourism activities come from visitors' satisfaction from witnessing the uniqueness and beauty of the natural environment around coastal and ocean areas, including various recreational activities that tourists can carry out in these areas. The definition of maritime tourism was initiated by the International Coastal and Marine Tourism Society, which is one of the organizations in the field of marine tourism and was initiated in 2009 at the World Congress in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, which discussed Coastal and Maritime Tourism which was then launched in 2012 (Orams and Lück, 2014). The main point that needs to be understood from the definition of maritime tourism is maritime activities that satisfy foreign and domestic tourists. Marine tourism satisfies tourists because they can swim and do fishing activities (Opondo et al., 2022) or snorkel in the sea. Some marine tourism provides exciting challenges to tourists because they can carry out challenging activities on the beach.

Maritime tourism is one of the main parts of the tourism sector, and its activities are wholly connected and dependent on the marine environmental ecosystem. Maritime tourism activities include and are not limited to sailing, scuba diving, fishing, water skiing, windsurfing, maritime park tours, and observing wild animals. Although most of the activities carried out in maritime tourism take place around the sea area, other supporting facilities include ports, marinas, and other land facilities that play an essential role in supporting the maximum experience for enjoying maritime tourism. For this reason, maritime tourism development is segmented into marine and land infrastructure development (Tegar and Gurning, 2018). This way, sustainable maritime tourism destinations can be created, providing a satisfying experience for visiting tourists and guaranteeing tourist safety.

In developing maritime tourism, consideration is needed regarding Ecotourism and security, including terrorism issues, two primary forms of sustainable tourism. Ecotourism is represented as a harmonious combination of exploration with environmental responsibility. Ecotourism significantly differs from conventional tourism because its practices emphasize sustainability, conservation of the environment and natural resources, and community involvement. The significant growth of Ecotourism has become increasingly visible in recent years due to the formation of local communities and community institutions that create support for sustainable nature conservation and oppose exploiting nature on any basis. Ecotourism then becomes a form of tourism that seeks to involve community travel in realizing responsibility for nature, preserving the environment, and improving the welfare of the surrounding community. The main aim of ecotourism practices is not only to educate tourists about environmental conservation but also to provide funding for ecological conservation, provide direct benefits for economic development and political empowerment of local communities, and foster respect for cultural diversity and the fulfillment of human rights (Rezaeinejad and Khaniwadekar, 2021). Through goals that focus on conservation as a priority and responsibility towards the environment, Ecotourism provides a different experience for tourists. This experience not only gives a pleasant impression but also encourages contributing to the preservation, security, and terrorism of the environmental ecosystem.

### **3.2. Ecotourism**

In the maritime sector, Ecotourism is a practice that involves the exploration of marine ecosystems, coral reefs, and coastal areas, with the primary goal of adhering to environmentally friendly and sustainable practices. Responsible maritime Ecotourism prioritizes protecting marine life, coral reefs, and coastal habitats. Along with the rapidly growing potential of maritime tourism, it is important to carefully understand the application of maritime Ecotourism (Junaid and Fauziah, 2018). The aim is to encourage tourists to minimize their impact on the environment and conservation of marine areas. Through this mindful approach, ocean ecotourism offers captivating underwater experiences and fosters a commitment to preserving the health and diversity of the oceans for future generations. Considering that the development of the maritime tourism sector in Indonesia is increasingly becoming a leading sector, Ecotourism is a momentum to maintain the sustainability of Indonesian tourism so that it can be beneficial in the long term.

Ecotourism in Indonesia is essential to fulfill three main aspects of development and the economy. First, Ecotourism can encourage the expansion of employment opportunities and increase community income, which can be used to support nature conservation. Second, Ecotourism is a momentum that increases public awareness of the products and services provided by nature. Third, Ecotourism is an aspect that can reconcile economic and environmental problems in fulfilling sustainable development (Nirwandar, 2014). Thus, Ecotourism is not limited to tourism practices but is also an idea that tries to realize sustainable development in Indonesia, which aligns with environmental preservation and strengthening economic growth. In the maritime sector, Ecotourism is an aspect that provides relevant development in improving the quality of the tourism sector, which can link tourist needs and natural needs that need to be met optimally.

## **4. Results**

### **4.1. Potential of Indonesian maritime tourism**

Indonesia is one of the leading maritime tourism destinations due to its rich and diverse marine biota, which is unique. Coral reefs in Indonesia cover an area of 50,875 km<sup>2</sup>, or the equivalent of 18% of the world's total coral reefs, making them a strong attraction for tourists to visit. Indonesia is also famous as the home of various global marine biodiversity hotspots, such as the Coral Reef Triangle, which stretches mainly across Indonesia, making its territory filled with 76% of coral reef species and 37% of the world's coral reef fish species, the Sunda Seascape and Seascape. Bird Head. This condition makes Indonesia a country rich in marine ecosystem diversity. The richness of Indonesia's ecosystem is an added value for the maritime tourism sector. Also, it plays a role in encouraging the improvement of Indonesia's image on the global stage as a prestigious, leading tourist destination. Ultimately, this potential contributes significantly to Indonesia's national economy by developing the tourism sector and attracting tourists (Pane et al., 2021). Head of the Marine, Coastal and Small Islands Spatial Planning and Management Division of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province stated that Indonesia's rich marine biota is the main

attraction for maritime tourism, which can provide great significance to the development of the tourism sector and benefit the national economy (interview, stakeholders, 10 June 2024).

The World Travel and Tourism ranked Indonesia ninth out of 10 countries with the best tourism in 2018. Thus, Indonesia also became the third country in Asia and the first in ASEAN. Bank Indonesia has even confirmed this since 2019 by stating that the tourism sector is the second largest contributor after the palm oil sector in the country's foreign exchange earnings (Asriati et al., 2023). The head of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province said that this condition proves that Indonesia, especially maritime tourism, is quite popular with foreign tourists because many aspects, especially Indonesia's maritime charm, are lovely and varied. Nevertheless, the sustainability of the development of the marine tourism, security, and terrorism sectors in Indonesia is still a challenge that needs to be addressed (interview, stakeholders, 20 August 2024).

The considerable potential of the maritime tourism sector in Indonesia has not been addressed effectively. In fact, by improving the maritime tourism sector, Indonesia can significantly increase the number of tourists who can participate in strengthening the national economy. With its vast sea area, Indonesia can develop as a center for transportation, trade, and guaranteed maritime tourism security (Virgiawan and Chaerul, 2023). Community leaders on Lanjukang Island said that local people cannot yet manage this potential efficiently in Lanjukang island, so there are still many obstacles that hinder the development of the maritime sector in this island, including maritime tourism, where the main problems are lack of community skills in processing marine products, low tourist access security, and terrorism issues (interview, Community leaders, 2 July 2024). **Figure 1** shows the beauty of Lanjukang Island.



**Figure 1.** The beauty of Lanjukang Island.

Source: Researchers team.

Indonesia has various forms of maritime tourism, such as diving, marine archaeology, surfing, sailing, fishing, and Ecotourism. In addition, coastal areas provide beautiful beaches as the main attraction for tourists and play a role of 80% in Indonesian tourism. These activities and offers significantly contribute to Indonesia's

maritime tourism industry. For this reason, the Indonesian government has made the maritime tourism sector the main focus of development in line with the development trend of the global tourism industry. The strategic steps taken by the Indonesian government in realizing tourism development are accelerating the development of 10 priority tourism destinations regulated in the National Medium Term Development Plan 2015–2019 and 2020–2024 as “10 new Balis” to repeat Bali’s success in developing very famous tourism. By diversifying the tourism industry based on geographical factors, the Indonesian government hopes to reduce dependence on Indonesian tourism, which is 50% influenced by foreign tourist visits to the Bali and Lombok regions. The Indonesian government strives for Indonesia to increase the attractiveness of diverse tourist destinations in various regions to achieve great success at the global tourism level (Pane et al., 2021).

The head of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province said that, in other words, Indonesia is seeking to develop a maritime tourism sector that is no longer segmented in one region but can spread to various other potential regions so that the development of the marine tourism sector can run evenly (interview, stakeholders, 20 August 2024). Based on the results of interviews with several foreign tourists on Samalona Island, they said that Samalona Island is one of the favorite islands in Indonesia because of its natural beauty. However, before visiting Indonesia, we were still worried about the issue of terrorism and the level of security that still needs to be improved (interview, foreign tourist in Samalona island, 1 May 2024). Some domestic tourists who visited Samalona Island said that the island has perfect beauty. **Figure 2** shows the beauty of Samalona Island. However, the level of security remains our priority when visiting the island. In addition, the issue of terrorism is also one of our considerations (interview, domestic tourist in Samalona island, 1 May 2024).



**Figure 2.** The beauty of Samalona Island.

Source: Researchers team.

Currently, tourism development is increasingly complex due to various strategic aspects. For example, tourists’ expectations of tourism products are high, as they come not only to tour but also to learn about the past remains of tourism products. Tourists also want to gain new experiences and knowledge they will never forget. They even

want to learn about cultures that exist in other places, and this is a dominant variable in tourism itself, mainly marine tourism. The factors that tourism takes into consideration when visiting are the attractions at the destination, and at least six factors are attractive to tourists. These factors include natural beauty, climatic conditions, culture, history, characteristics of local ethnicities at tourist attractions, and accessibility (Abdillah and Ardiwidjaja, 2023).

The head of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province said that Makassar City fulfills these six factors because the natural beauty in Indonesia is very varied; Indonesia's climatic conditions include a tropical climate, a climate that is very popular with foreign tourists, almost all tourist attractions in Indonesia have a history that is quite interesting to learn about, and straightforward accessibility in Indonesia. This condition is an advantage of tourism, especially marine tourism in Indonesia (interview, stakeholders, 20 August 2024). The women's group is active in the entrepreneurial sector on Langkai Island. They said that the government, through the NGO YKL (Marine Conservation Foundation), has helped our group a lot in empowering women so that we can produce products such as octopus chili sauce and fish floss (interview, women group, 20 August 2024). The head of the NGO YKL said at a national seminar in Makassar City that our commitment to processing marine resources in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner (interview, Makassar, 20 August 2024).

#### **4.2. Benefits of the maritime tourism and ecotourism sector**

The tourism industry in Indonesia, especially maritime tourism and Ecotourism, has a significant role in the structure of the national economy. Maritime tourism contributes 35% to the nature-based tourism sector in Indonesia, while Ecotourism contributes up to 45%. Coupled with the priority destinations in Indonesia, the majority of which are coastal and marine areas, this shows that these two tourism sectors are the main attractions for tourists (Pane et al., 2021). Head of the Marine, Coastal, and Small Islands Spatial Planning and Management Division of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province stated that this sector shows relevance and significant economic impact. The focus on priority tourism destinations on the coast and sea shows awareness of the potential of this sector in attracting tourist attention, creating economic opportunities, and supporting national economic growth. If the maritime tourism and ecotourism sectors are developed simultaneously, the benefits for national economic growth will be even more rapid (interview, stakeholders, 10 June 2024).

The tourism sector in Indonesia contributes around 8.5% of the country's GDP. Apart from being one of the primary sources of income, the tourism sector also contributes to the absorption of significant employment opportunities in Indonesia. Based on data from the OECD, the indirect contribution from downstream sectors is estimated to be higher than the tourism sector's direct contribution to GDP. Indonesia's tourism sector provides around 12.7 million jobs, accounting for 10.5% of Indonesia's total employment in 2017. This contribution also aligns with the significant increase in tourists from 5 million in 2000 to 16 million in 2019 (Pane et al., 2021). The Mayor of Makassar said at the F8 Festival in Makassar City that

developing the tourism sector as one of Indonesia's development priorities will be beneficial but can provide greater significance to the national economy (Makassar, Mayor of Makassar, 24 July 2024).

As a strategic sector, Indonesia made tourism one of the development pillars regulated in the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015–2019 and 2020–2024. The main focus is related to the integration of maritime tourism in Indonesia's blue economy strategy. This strategy relates to mainstreaming the maritime sector in developing a solid and inclusive Indonesian economy (Pane et al., 2021). The Mayor of Makassar said at the F8 Festival in Makassar City that awareness of the potential and sustainability of maritime tourism indicates Indonesia's commitment to designing sustainable and resilient economic growth through the tourism sector. The primary consideration is the significant benefits of Indonesia's maritime tourism sector (Makassar, Mayor of Makassar, 24 July 2024).

Besides being a sector that benefits the economy, maritime tourism is also an essential element in achieving sustainable development in Indonesia. In Law Number 10 of 2009 concerning tourism, sustainability must include natural, social, environmental, and cultural aspects. Therefore, its development is relevant to Ecotourism, which has the same goals. Then, in supporting sustainable national development, the tourism sector is developed sustainably and provides socio-economic benefits without damaging the environment through a code of ethics that goes hand in hand (Nirwandar, 2014). The head of the Marine and Fisheries Service of South Sulawesi Province said that the use of marine resources must, of course, consider the area's security to fulfill elements of sustainability (interview, stakeholders, 20 August 2024).

### **4.3. Makassar maritime tourism**

Regarding regions in Indonesia with great potential for developing the maritime tourism sector, the eastern region of Indonesia has quite a significant influence. One of these potential areas is the city of Makassar. Makassar City is the capital of South Sulawesi province, which has abundant maritime tourism potential and needs to be developed as a leading maritime tourism point in Indonesia (Daris et al., 2023). The great potential of the city of Makassar as one of Indonesia's leading maritime tourism destinations is based on consideration of the community's geographic area and cultural character. As an area located in a coastal area, the city of Makassar has various views and potential tourist locations spread across the surrounding minor islands, outbound points, historical sites, and other exciting locations (Daris et al., 2023).

Even the tiny island areas around the city of Makassar, such as Lae-Lae Island, Kayangan Island, Samalona Island, Gusung Tallang Island, and Kodingareng Keke Island, have been known as superior tourist destinations for residents (Sutopo et al., 2020). The Mayor of Makassar said at the F8 Festival in Makassar City that the island's landscape offers a variety of uniqueness and charm, from the beauty and splendor of coral reefs to beautiful and charming white sand beaches. Unsurprisingly, this region can develop as a leading destination for the Indonesian maritime tourism sector if it can be developed appropriately and sustainably (Makassar, Mayor of Makassar, 24 July 2024).



Regarding maritime tourism potential, it is necessary to understand that there is a segmentation between coastal areas and small island areas. In the city of Makassar, these two segments have their potential, so support from the government is needed to preserve tourist areas relevant to current industrial needs and can be developed sustainably. The main concern needed in its development is ensuring the availability of adequate infrastructure and access. However, the main problem that occurs in the development of maritime tourism in Makassar is the government's segmented, biased focus on developing coastal tourism so that it pays little attention to the development of tourism on small islands around the city of Makassar (Daris et al., 2023). This problem is proven by the inadequate facilities and infrastructure on the small islands around the city of Makassar and the widespread tendency to exploit small islands without significant conservation efforts. Then, security still needs to be improved for domestic and foreign tourists visiting these islands. Domestic tourists visiting Lanjukang and Langkai Islands said that the infrastructure facilities on these islands are still very lacking, such as the absence of a pier on Lanjukang Island and a pier on Langkai Island (Interview, domestic tourists in Lanjukang and Langkai Islands, 1 June 2024).

Meanwhile, security and terrorism issues are still not a significant threat to domestic and foreign tourists (interview, community leaders, Lanjukang and Langkai Islands, 5 July 2024). This condition was proven when the research team asked domestic and foreign tourists who were on Samalona Island, Langkai Island, and Lanjukang directly, who explained that they felt safe when visiting the islands (Interview, domestic and foreign tourists in Lanjukang, Samalona and Langkai Islands, 5–15 June 2024). This explanation illustrates that the issue of terrorism is not a doubt for foreign and domestic tourists to visit these small islands.

At the national policy level, the Indonesian government focuses on two main subsectors in South Sulawesi, including the city of Makassar, namely the culinary sector and the non-metal mineral industry (Gani et al., 2022). This focus shows that the development of the maritime tourism sector in South Sulawesi, including the city of Makassar, still needs to be a top priority for the government. However, this problem has found a bright spot with the relocation of the Indonesian capital to the IKN (the nation's capital) area, which is considered to generate new markets and increase maritime tourism activities in South Sulawesi (Gani et al., 2022). The relocation of the capital is a momentum to develop marketing strategies and introduce new tourist destinations in various regions. Moving the capital can also open up new markets for the surrounding area, including the city of Makassar, to encourage the development of maritime tourism activities.

Two things need to be considered to strengthen the maritime tourism market: commodification and commercialization of culture (Kinseng et al., 2018). Commercialization of culture on Samalona Island has not been maximized because the population is small, so traditional dances to welcome foreign and domestic tourists have yet to be performed (Interview, community leader in Samalona Island, 5 June 2024). Meanwhile, several domestic tourists who visited Langkai Island said that traditional foods such as octopus chili sauce are one of the traditional culinary delights on the island that attract tourists (Interview, domestic tourist in Langkai Island, 10 August 2024).

## **5. Discussion**

### **5.1. Makassar city ecotourism dynamics and challenges to security and terrorism issues**

As an Indonesian coastal city, Makassar City is an ecotourism destination that combines urban life with nature conservation practices. The position of the town of Makassar which is proven by various small islands such as Samalona Island, Kodingareng Keke, Langkai, Lae-Lae, and Lanjukang (Dinas Pariwisata Kota Makassar, 2022). This location makes the city of Makassar an area with natural views that can attract tourists to visit. This location is proven by data from 2022, which shows that the number of tourists in Makassar and its surroundings reached 7662 visitors (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022). Makassar provides an attractive landscape for tourists looking for a sustainable and immersive experience with its stunning coastal, lush greenery and unique biodiversity.

Ecotourism in the city of Makassar includes maritime areas such as the sea so that visitors can enjoy the underwater beauty of the area. Coral reefs, dynamic marine life, and secluded beaches make the coastal areas around Makassar ideal for ecotourism activities such as snorkeling and diving. The potential has encouraged the government to pay more attention to the ecotourism sector. Ecotourism activities positively influence the local economy if managed well. Tourism can also encourage cultural development and revitalize local identity (Yusuf, 2020). In this way, the city of Makassar developed a maritime tourism base with its uniqueness that offers a local identity typical of coastal communities coupled with abundant natural potential. Directly, ecotourism practices in the city of Makassar can be relevant to conservation efforts and improving community welfare which can go hand in hand.

Unfortunately, threats may also arise behind the potential development of maritime Ecotourism in the city of Makassar. The intended threat can occur in the realm of state security and sovereignty. One form of security threat is geopolitical issues involving the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) countries (Datwurina and Rizkiana, 2022). AUKUS is a cooperation agreement in the defense sector involving the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. This collaboration began on 22 November 2021. This collaboration aims to develop a program to build nuclear-powered submarines with the assistance of the United Kingdom and the United States. One form of this program is to assist Australia in completing 18 months of research and training to build submarines. This program was then opposed by China because, according to China, it could threaten the stability of the Indo-Pacific Region (CNN Indonesia, 2021). This problem concerns the perception of security and safety of tourists if there is tension in the surrounding area of Makassar City. Considering the potential for militarization between AUKUS and China in the area around the Indo-Pacific Region, the maritime ecotourism sector in the city of Makassar can get problems. This obstacle is significant for the sea area around Makassar, which can become a submarine route and, therefore, a potential threat to national security and terrorism issues. Therefore, local governments need to strengthen monitoring of regional geopolitical developments in order to avoid security and terrorism problems that might cause inconvenience to tourists.

Another threat in the maritime ecotourism sector in the city of Makassar is the circulation of illegal goods. With a diverse local ecosystem and strategic but also remote location, this area is prone to illegal trade in wild animals and rare plants (Datwurina and Rizkiana, 2022). This illegal practice not only directly threatens unique biodiversity but also endangers tourist safety. Strengthening law enforcement efforts, increasing supervision, and implementing stricter regulations are essential components of a comprehensive strategy to combat the circulation of illegal goods related to Ecotourism. Apart from that, the problem of illegal exploitation of flora and fauna also contradicts the primary goal of Ecotourism which is to realize nature conservation. Therefore, local governments need to strengthen the supervision of illegal trade so that the fulfillment of nature conservation elements can be fully realized and Ecotourism in the city of Makassar can be implemented in reality.

Another challenge of tourism development is uncontrolled development, which causes damage to protected areas, increased vulnerability to natural disasters, and damage to natural habitats. Tourism development trends have led to an increase in regional unsustainability caused by a surge in natural exploitation for economic gain without considering long-term risks (Sobhani et al., 2022). Therefore, the development of the tourism sector in Indonesia, including maritime tourism, needs to be directed towards fully implementing ecotourism practices that aim to maintain a balance between the use of nature as a tourist attraction and the conservation or preservation of nature itself. There needs to be a balance between tourism development and nature conservation. The tourism sector can develop and become beneficial and sustainable in the long term.

Especially in the city of Makassar, ecotourism development is also experiencing challenges due to the impact of climate change. The problem lies in changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and extreme weather, which not only disrupt the ecological balance but also impact the accessibility of ecotourism destinations (Gordon, 2023). Therefore, it is necessary to have a climate resilience strategy that is integrated with ecotourism management to ensure the safety and accessibility of tourist areas. Cooperation from all parties is also needed to maximize the development of maritime Ecotourism in the city of Makassar which can overcome the various challenges that arise with creative solutions that provide benefits to the community and the environment.

In order to realize maximum maritime Ecotourism, local communities must also play a role in developing the maritime tourism sector. This is because the government has provided facilities and regulations to develop the maritime tourism sector in a region, so the community also needs to play a role in contributing. Local community involvement in ecotourism practices is still limited to utilization in Indonesia (Kia, 2021). Therefore, if the city of Makassar wants to develop more significant maritime ecotourism potential, the local community needs to contribute actively. Communities in tourist destinations need to play more of a role than just those who utilize existing resources. Still, the community must also be able to conserve and interpret the natural and cultural diversity offered in the tourism sector so that it can become its selling point. In this way, Ecotourism in the city of Makassar can be introduced at the global level with its uniqueness, which combines a coastal landscape rich in natural beauty with a community that offers cultural diversity and local values to be realized by

foreign tourists. Through this practice, Ecotourism, which aims to combine elements of nature and society, can be realized optimally. In the end, the uniqueness offered by the ecotourism sector of the city of Makassar can encourage greater recognition of the city as a maritime destination so that it can play a significant role in local and national economic growth.

## **5.2. Anticipating security and terrorism threats and ecotourism policy of Makassar City**

There are three main problems that threaten the balance of the tourism sector in Makassar City. First, related to regional security which also includes the potential for the spread of various illegal goods through the sea area and conflicts in the water border area which can pose a threat not only to the local community, but also to the sustainability of the tourism sector which utilizes a lot of maritime potential. If the maritime tourism area has the potential to become an area of conflict, it will be difficult to attract tourists because it will cause fear and insecurity. Therefore, the government needs to maximize efforts to monitor the waters around Makassar City's maritime tourism sites to anticipate illegal practices that endanger security. The second threat comes from environmental damage that can occur if the development of the maritime tourism sector be implemented by care and sensitivity to the environment. Therefore, the practice of Ecotourism is a clerical pillar that needs been agreed to maximize the development of a sustainable tourism sector. The third threat relates to the empowerment of the surrounding community. One of the negative impacts of tourism sector development that does not involve the interests of local communities is the occurrence of inequality in the area around the tourist attraction. To anticipate this, the government needs to mainstream the interests of local communities in developing tourism so that the benefits will be felt equally by the community and participate in building a more inclusive community economy.

The tourism policy in Makassar City that represents the urgency of overcoming the above problems is through the Draft Regional Regulation on the Makassar City Tourism Development Master Plan for 2023–2025 which has been agreed as a Regional Regulation applicable in Makassar City. This policy is a significant effort to develop the tourism sector in Makassar City so that it can become one of the leading destinations. In addition, this local regulation will also be the latest regulation that can comprehensively direct the development of tourism in Makassar City to be more effective (Warta Makassar, 2024). The policies produced by the Makassar City government aim to overcome security problems that hinder the development of the Makassar City tourism sector. The policies carried out by the government are a form of implementation of ecotourism practices in Makassar City, which aims to improve the quality of Makassar City's maritime tourism more sustainably and consider various threats so that they can be minimized. Thus, the Makassar City tourism sector will be a major tourist attraction that can provide safety and comfort for tourists through environmental elements and community values. Especially if the government can fully cooperate with the community through community-based tourism programs that can produce tourism villages. The tourism village program not only provides a more inclusive improvement in the community's economy, but is also able to become an

added value to the tourism sector if developed systematically through the cooperation of various parties (Haerul et al., 2024). In Makassar City, through the development of policies based primarily on ecotourism considerations, government will resolve the various problems previously described will be resolved systematically. By overcoming the problems that hinder the development of the maritime tourism sector, it is hoped that the small islands in Makassar City can become the newest leading tourism location in Indonesia that provides benefits for all parties.

## 6. Conclusion

The potential of Indonesia's marine areas provides excellent benefits for the national economy. The government needs to pay great attention to the tourism sector, especially the maritime tourism sector because the sea area is very prominent in Indonesia. The city of Makassar, as one of the leading maritime tourism destinations in Indonesia, has received great attention from the government because it has various charms and uniqueness, such as coral reefs and beautiful white sand beaches. However, infrastructure facilities are one of the obstacles, especially on small islands in Makassar City. Another obstacle is exploitation, which is not paid attention to in the preservation of marine areas. The security sector is also a problem, such as Australia's construction of submarines through AUKUS collaboration. This program has faced opposition from the Chinese government because it could disrupt the stability of the Indo-Pacific Region. This condition can, of course, also increase tensions in the South China Sea, which will have an impact on the security and tourism sectors in Indonesia. These obstacles can also impact the sea area around the city of Makassar, which is the route for submarines. Then, the circulation of illegal goods, such as illegal trade in wild animals and rare plants, is also a significant threat.

**Author contributions:** Conceptualization, S; methodology, S; software, ZT; validation, KA, MAAM and ZT; formal analysis, MAAM; investigation, MAAM; resources, KA; data curation, KA; writing—original draft preparation, S and ZT; writing—review and editing, MAR; visualization, MAR; supervision, S; project administration, MAR; funding acquisition, S. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** This research received funding from Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education in the Regular Fundamental Research program with a contract number No:02035/UN4.22/PT.01.03/2024.

**Acknowledgments:** We would like to thank the Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development reviewers who have provided input on this article.

**Informed consent:** Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

**Conflict of interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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