

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic state. By the latest official count, the archipelago consists of 18,108 islands (Cribb & Ford, 2009). This factor makes Indonesia become a country that is rich in tourism. Tourism is a variety of tourist activities and supported by various facilities and services provided by the community, businessmen, Government, and Local Government (*Undang-undang Republik Indonesia No. 10 tahun 2009 tentang Kepariwisataaan*). Tourism is also one of the most dynamic economic sectors in many countries. According to UNWTO Annual Report 2020, about 1.460 billion tourists worldwide visit different parts of the world in 2019 - an increase of 56 billion compared to that in 2018 (UNWTO, 2020). The increasing number of tourists on a global scale seems also to occur in Lahat Regency, South Sumatera. This regency with diverse natural attractions has been currently experiencing an increase in the number of tourists in recent years.

The increasing number of tourist visits to Lahat cannot be separated from the massive opening of tourist objects at Lahat. According to Suwantoro (2004), tourism objects can be divided into two kinds. The first is a man-made tourism object. The man-made tourism object is a tourism object attraction that is deliberately made to attract visitors to come to the area such as the park, garden, statues, and museum. The second is natural tourism objects such as rivers, sea, mountain, beach, and lake.

Nature tourism is an activity to see the natural beauty, natural resources and environmental systems. Nature tourism means experiencing natural places, typically through outdoor activities that are sustainable in terms of their impact of the environment (Pendit, 1994). Most of the tourists prefer to spend a nature tourism

because there are many benefits: improving quality of life and natural resources, providing jobs and increasing local revenues and community pride.

One of the nature tourism objects in Lahat Regency is Bukit Besak. Bukit Besak is located in Tanjung Beringin Village, South Merapi District, Lahat Regency, South Sumatra. Bukit Besak offers exotic landscapes with the main attraction of clear views of Bukit Jempol and Bukit Serelo. Moreover, In the afternoon in Bukit Besak there is a panoramic view sunset spots. Tribun News (2020) states visitors who come to the Bukit Besak tour which is opposite the icon of Lahat Regency, Bukit Serelo or Bukit Telunjuk reach hundreds of visitors, even on holidays it can reach 1,000 visitors in a day. Bukit Besak visitors are dominated by teenagers and adults.

Seeing the high number of tourist visits to Bukit Besak, the writer is interested in writing this final report entitled “**The potency of Bukit Besak as a Nature Tourism in Lahat Regency**”.

1.2. Problem formulation

The problem formulation of this final report is “What are the potencies of Bukit Besak as a Nature Tourism in Lahat Regency?”

1.3. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to know the potencies of Bukit Besak as a Nature Tourism in Lahat Regency.

1.4. Benefit

Hopefully this final report beneficial for the writer to increase knowledge about the potency of Bukit Besak as a nature tourism in Lahat Regency. For academics, the writer hope this final report can give information and knowledge about the potency of Bukit Besak as a nature tourism in Lahat Regency. Next, for stakeholders, the writer hope this final report can use as a guide in improving and promoting Bukit Besak that has the potential to become nature tourism also increasing tourists to visit Lahat Regency. The last, for tourist and public, from this report the writer hopes this report can make tourists and the public to know

more about Bukit Besak as a natural tourism destination in Lahat Regency. Increasing the number of tourist visits is also expected to have a positive impact on the economy of the surrounding community due to the increase of tourism in Bukit Besak.

