

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Indonesia is the largest archipelago country in the world with a total 17.504 of large and small islands. There are 14 large islands in Indonesia, for example Kalimantan Island, Papua Island, Sumatera Island, Sulawesi Island, and Java Island. Meanwhile, there are 17.490 small islands which spread in all areas of Indonesia, such as Sabang Island (the westernmost island), Miangas Island (the northernmost island), Rote Island (the southernmost island), and so on. With a large number of islands, Indonesia has many beautiful natural resources which spread throughout all its islands. Some of them have been developed into natural tourism destinations such as *Komodo* Island in Nusa Tenggara Island, *Pramuka* Island in Seribu Island, *Wakatobi* National Park in Sulawesi Island, and lake *Toba* in Sumatera Island.

Sumatera Island is the island in Indonesia which is the sixth biggest island in the world with an area of 473.481 km<sup>2</sup>. There are ten provinces in Sumatera Island. Most provinces have a lot of natural tourism destinations such as river, sea, mountain, hill, national park, waterfall, beach, and lake.

South Sumatera as one of the provinces in Sumatera island has many attractive natural tourism destinations to visit, for example *Kemaro* Island in Palembang, lake *Rantau* in Ogan Komering Ulu, mount *Dempo* in Pagar Alam, *Maspari* Island in Ogan Komering Ilir, *Buluh* waterfall in Lahat, *Sembilang* National Park in Banyuasin, etc.

The *Sembilang* National Park is a nature conservation area with a total area of 45.000 hectares. This national park consists of peat swamp forests, freshwater swamp forests, and riparian forests that have become the habitats of several faunas, like Sumatran tigers, Asian elephants, Asian tapirs, gibbons, golden cats, sambar deer, estuarine crocodiles, various types of fish, freshwater turtles, freshwater dolphins and various species of birds, and also several floras such as *Acrostichum aureum*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Casuarina*, *Pandanus*, etc (Bangsawan, 2017, p. 1). With

these habitats of faunas and floras, many tourists are interested in visiting this destination.

The *Sembilang* National Park can be reached by water transportation. The tourists can take a speedboat from Palembang (capital of South Sumatera) to Sungsang (Banyuasin) which takes around two hours. And they can continue the other two hours from Sungsang to the *Sembilang* National Park (Bangsawan, 2017, p. 2).

Besides having the beauty of nature which is also a habitat for several faunas and floras, the *Sembilang* National Park also has river that can be used as fishing spot, but this national park needs more facilities and infrastructure such as the amenities to support the activities in this destination. Nasutman, Head of Tourism and Creative Economy, cited in Perdana (2018) states that the supporting infrastructure in the *Sembilang* National Park is still incomplete. Furthermore, he also states that because the facilities and infrastructure are not complete yet, the tourists always use the local settlements which are near this national park for staying.

Related to the explanation above, the writer is interested in writing this final report entitled **“The Potential of the *Sembilang* National Park as a Tourism Destination in Banyuasin, South Sumatera”**.

## **1.2 Problem Formulation**

The problem formulation of this final report is whether the *Sembilang* National Park is potential as a tourism destination in Banyuasin, South Sumatera or not.

## **1.3 Problem Limitation**

Based on the problem formulation above, the problem of this final report is limited towards the *Sembilang* National Park and its potency as a tourism destination in Banyuasin, South Sumatera.

#### **1.4 Purpose**

The purpose of this report to know whether the *Sembilang* National Park is potential as a tourism destination in Banyuasin, South Sumatera or not.

#### **1.5 Benefit**

The benefit of this final report is to give information to the students of English Department in State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya about the potency of the *Sembilang* National Park as a tourism destination in Banyuasin, South Sumatera.