



The Berau Government's Diplomatic Efforts In The International Promotion of The Derawan Islands Through The Ocean Governance Project In 2022-2023

Dinda Nurhaliza Akhrianti, Eagle Deus Decreto Ariana

Dinda Nurhaliza Akhrianti

Affiliation : Universitas Pertamina
 City : Jakarta
 Country : Indonesia
 Email : dindadna04@gmail.com

Eagle Deus Decreto Ariana

Affiliation : Universitas Pertamina
 City : Jakarta
 Country : Indonesia
 Email : eagledecreto@gmail.com

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Abstract

This research examines how the Berau Government's diplomacy efforts in promoting sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands. This is based on the signing of the Minutes of Agreement by the Berau Government with WWF and EU within the framework of the Ocean Governance Project (OGP) cooperation in 2022. This cooperation includes a series of agendas within the OGP framework, including community and community assistance, coral reef and marine biota conservation, and sustainable tourism development. This research uses the concepts of paradiplomacy and sustainable tourism. This research is conducted in a descriptive analytical based on data derived from official government reports and any relevant library research. Based on the analysis, the collaboration carried out by the Berau Government within the OGP framework is a diplomatic effort to promote sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands at the global level. There are three main steps taken by the Berau Government within the OGP framework to promote sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands, namely rehabilitation and conservation of marine ecosystems, economic development through the tourism sector, and improving the image of the Derawan Islands as a sustainable tourist destination.

Keywords: Paradiplomacy, sustainable tourism, Ocean Governance Project, Indonesia Diplomacy, Berau

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as an archipelago rich in biodiversity, has enormous tourism potential. One prominent destination is the Derawan Islands, located in Berau Regency, East Kalimantan. These islands are known as one of the underwater paradises with extraordinary biodiversity. Of the total coral reef species in the world, around 507 species can be found in the Derawan Islands (Mujiono *et al*, 2021). The Derawan Islands also have great potential to become an example of development sustainable tourism in Indonesia. With its extraordinary biodiversity, the development of sustainable tourism in Derawan can support efforts to introduce this marine destination on a global level, while encouraging environmental conservation and boosting the local economy.

Derawan Islands has the potential to become a tourism sector area. The richness and uniqueness of the Derawan Islands' underwater nature can attract domestic and foreign tourists to visit. Based on official publications from the East Kalimantan Provincial Government, in Berau Regency itself, from 2013 to 2019 there were fluctuations in tourist visits both from within the country and abroad. In the span of these years, there were around 2,061,814 total tourists visiting Berau Regency. Based on observations made in Derawan Village, although the marine tourism attraction is quite promising, the facilities and accessibility are still not managed optimally. Data shows that often during vacation periods, there is a surge in tourists so that existing facilities cannot meet demand (DPMPTSP, 2020).



Figure 1. Map of Berau Regency

Source: City Map, 2017

In addition, the Derawan Islands face various challenges that threaten the sustainability of its ecosystem. Irresponsible fishing, such as the use of fish bombs and destructive nets, has caused significant damage to the marine ecosystem. Pollution from domestic and industrial waste also worsens environmental conditions, threatening marine life that is a major attraction for tourists (Harahap

et al, 2022). The development of sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands should be a top priority, not only to increase regional income but also to preserve the environment and improve the welfare of local communities. Therefore, the Berau Regional Government (Pemda) has made several efforts to overcome the challenges faced, one of the efforts made by issuing various regulations to manage conservation areas and establishing collaboration with cross-sector actors.

In 2020, the European Union (EU) and *World Wide Fund for Nature* (WWF) launched the *Ocean Governance Project* (OGP) with the aim of improving the capacity of coastal communities to manage and develop sustainable tourism. The *Ocean Governance Project* is an internationally developed project to manage and protect Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) located in Southeast Asia and the Atlantic Basin. This project is an international ocean governance project funded by the European Union (EU) as one of their international commitments to sustainable development. In this project, WWF and several other actors such as *Gesellschaft für Organization, Planung und Ausbildung* (GOPA) and B&S Europe act as international consultants (Ocean Governance Indonesia, 2023). Then, in 2022, the Berau government and East Kalimantan provincial government officially collaborated with WWF to support the implementation of a marine conservation project, the *Ocean Governance Project*, in the Derawan Islands (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024).

Looking at the programs run under OGP, main objective of this project is to manage marine resources sustainably and ensure the conservation of marine biodiversity. This is done considering the high potential for environmental damage, especially marine ecosystems. Based on data from the East Kalimantan Provincial Spatial Plan document, around 30% of coral reefs observed in the Derawan Islands are in good condition. However, the condition of coral reefs can worsen if climate change, overfishing, and marine pollution continue to increase (WWF, 2023). Therefore, the *United Nations World Tourism Organizations* (UNWTO) states the importance of environmental conservation, natural resource management, and reduction of negative impacts on the environment as the main pillars of sustainable tourism (UNWTO, 2019).

Based on this, local governments need to prioritize the principles of sustainable tourism in their tourism development. The development of environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism infrastructure should be a key focus. This includes the construction of facilities that not only meet the needs of tourists but also consider the impact on the environment and local communities. On the other hand, climate change is also a factor that cannot be ignored in the management of tourism

in the Derawan Islands. Recent reports show that climate change has increased the risk of natural disasters, which can disrupt the balance of ecosystems and threaten the existence of many species. (WWF, 2024). The result of deforestation and land use change causes habitat loss and worsens environmental conditions, which is also happening in the Derawan Islands.

According to reports from the Head of Berau's Culture and Tourism Office (Disbudpar), there have been issues such as marine pollution, coral reef damage, and over-exploitation of marine resources that ultimately affect the condition of tourism in Berau. In addition, these conditions also affect the economic activities of the community, such as fishermen and tourism entrepreneurs, as well as impacting the environmental and socio-cultural sustainability of the Berau community. Therefore, the Berau government has initiated conservation-based tourism management efforts in the past five years, with the aim of increasing local community income while maintaining environmental sustainability and biodiversity in the region. This effort is based on Regent Regulation No. 31/2006 on Berau's Marine Conservation Areas (MPAs) (DPMPTSP, 2020).

As a follow-up to the Regent Regulation, the Berau Regency Government has issued Regent Decree No. 351/2006 on the framework for the preparation of the Berau Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plan. Conservation-based tourism management in this area has been able to increase local community income in the last five years, as well as maintain environmental sustainability and biodiversity in the region (DPMPTSP, 2020). This regulation is in line with the goals of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, especially *Goal 14: Life Below Water*, *Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals*, and *Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities*, the development of sustainable tourism plays an important role in the preservation of marine ecosystems and coral reefs. The importance of cross-sector cooperation is evident from the implementation of *Goal 17*, which encourages collaboration between governments, organizations, and communities to realize sustainable tourism that contributes to the achievement of global development goals. *Goal 14* highlights the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems and their biodiversity. In this case, the tourism sector is responsible for ensuring tourism practices that do not damage marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs and fish populations, by applying the concept of ecotourism and promoting marine rehabilitation programs that involving local communities and other stakeholders. *Goal 11* emphasizes the importance of creating cities and communities that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

In the tourism sector, this means developing destinations that are not only tourist-friendly, but also play a role in improving the quality of life of local communities through sustainable and inclusive infrastructure development. With initiatives such as the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy's *"Every Step Matters"* movement, travelers' awareness of climate change and the importance of green tourism is being raised. This movement not only aims to reduce carbon emissions in the tourism sector by 50% by 2030, which is in line with the *Paris Agreement* (2015), but also to achieve zero emissions by 2045 (Kemenparekraf, 2023). The Derawan Islands, with their extraordinary wealth of coral reef ecosystems, face serious challenges related to their sustainability, especially due to human activities and the impacts of climate change. (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024). In this context, paradiplomacy can be an important instrument to support environmental management and sustainable tourism development. Paradiplomacy is a diplomatic activity carried out by local governments. It can strengthen cooperation across borders and sectors, for example the Berau district government in conservation and tourism development, collaborating with WWF and the EU through the OGP scheme. It can be said that, with its extraordinary biodiversity, Derawan Island can become a global tourist destination that not only builds the economy but also preserves the environment. Therefore, this paper seeks to analyze the Berau Government's diplomacy efforts in promoting Derawan Islands tourism through the OGP program in 2022 to 2023.

METHOD

Research methods can be understood as a systematic and structured plan and procedure (Creswell, 2014). This research uses a qualitative approach, the author uses this approach because using this approach provides flexibility in data collection and analysis methods (Patton, 2002). So that the author can analyze the Derawan Island case study in the context of sustainable tourism management and cross-sector cooperation. The focus of the research lies on how the diplomacy efforts of the Berau Regional Government in promoting Derawan Islands tourism so that the islands become one of the tourist destinations in the *Ocean Governance Project* with the support of WWF and the European Union. In this research, various primary and secondary data were used as reading materials to support the validity of the information presented in this paper. Primary data was obtained from various official reports and news from the Marine and Fisheries Service of East Kalimantan Province, official reports of the East Kalimantan Provincial Government, official publications of the Berau Regional Government, publications from the official websites of the *Ocean Governance Project* and WWF. These documents include statistical data, program developments, and evaluation results of conservation

implementation on Derawan Island. Meanwhile, secondary data itself was collected from various journals and scientific research on related issues.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Paradiplomacy

Today, the transformation of International Relations has led to the emergence of new actors and phenomena, one of which is paradiplomacy. The term paradiplomacy was first coined in the 1980s which refers to the meaning of 'foreign policy by non-central governments'. This meaning indicates that there has been a shift in the meaning of sovereignty itself. With the involvement of city, state or provincial governments, the state is no longer the exclusive actor in international relations. In this case, the concept of the division of power with the state is no longer the exclusive actor in international relations. Other actors in the international constellation will not harm the position of the state as the highest sovereignty holder because the authority to make decisions is still held by the state. In other words, the politics of paradiplomacy can be interpreted as a framework run by the non-central government to achieve state goals. Therefore, the policies formed from the paradiplomacy process must be formulated in such a way that they are in line with the national development framework (MPR RI, 2020).

Indeed, a form of government that is not centralized to the central authority will accelerate the process of handling an issue that occurs in the local area. This can happen because the characteristics, potential, and needs of a region are fully known by the local government. Therefore, to encourage the achievement of national goals and maximize regional potential, it is important to establish cooperation with national and international actors. Cooperation can be formed at various levels, such as *Government to Government*, *Government to Non-Governmental Organizations*, *Government to Business*, and others. Cooperation between local governments and other entities often occurs in the form of foreign investment, which can be in the form of *technology transfer*, *knowledge transfer* or *Foreign Direct Investment*.

In its implementation, paradiplomacy can be established with a variety of different focuses, namely first, the international relations approach to establish economic relations such as attracting foreign investment and expanding export shares. Second, multidimensional cooperation in the form of cultural, technical, educational, technological, and others. This approach in paradiplomacy is not only oriented towards economic benefits but is conceptualized as decentralized cooperation in the form of development assistance, cultural and educational

exchanges, and scientific and technical cooperation. Third, the paradiplomacy approach considers political elements. In this case, non-central governments establish international relations with the aim of highlighting their identity that is different from what has been projected by the central government. Indeed, these layers in paradiplomacy are cumulative as non-central governments can focus on one goal and then add another goal later.

Thus, it can be said that paradiplomacy is a multifunctional vehicle for achieving certain goals (Lecours, 2008). However, in Indonesia itself, there are limitations on the authority of local governments in international cooperation. Local governments in this case must be under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). In the context of international cooperation, local governments only have the authority to sign *Memoranda of Understanding*. Meanwhile, agreements at higher levels such as treaties, conventions, or agreements are the authority of the central government (Fathun, 2016).

Sustainable Tourism

The concept of sustainable tourism has begun to be applied by many countries that make tourism a dominant aspect to fulfill their country's needs. Indonesia, as one of the countries that applies the concept of sustainable tourism, makes this sector as one of the important pillars in the vision of the country's tourism future. National tourism development can be seen from the guidelines of Constitution No. 10 of 2009, which clearly states that tourism development can be realized by taking into account the diversity, uniqueness and the distinctiveness of natural culture and human needs for travel. The guidelines for Sustainable Tourism Destinations have been aligned with the indicators set by the *United Nations World Tourism Organization* (UNWTO) and have been recognized by the *Global Sustainable Tourism Council* (GSTC). Thus, it is expected that these guidelines can strengthen the synergy of and respect the traditions and local wisdom of multicultural communities in the management of natural and cultural attractions in tourism destinations in an integrated and sustainable manner.

The implementation of sustainable tourism in Indonesia refers to the four pillars stated in the Tourism Ministerial Regulation No. 14/2016, which serves as a guide for sustainable tourism destinations. According to the regulation, a sustainable tourism destination must fulfil four important aspects: sustainable destination management, economic empowerment for local communities, cultural preservation for communities and visitors, and environmental preservation. At the global level,

many countries apply the concept of sustainable tourism development with adjustments according to local needs. In Indonesia, the pillars are divided into:

1. The first pillar is Sustainable Tourism Management, which focuses on developing long-term strategies that consider environmental, economic, health, cultural, safety and aesthetic aspects. In this process, communities are actively involved in tourism monitoring and evaluation.
2. The second pillar is Economic Utilization for Local Communities, which emphasizes the importance of providing equal employment for all community members. In addition, organizations should encourage community participation in sustainable planning and decision-making. This pillar also supports small and medium entrepreneurs in developing and promoting local products in a sustainable manner.
3. The third pillar, Cultural Preservation, highlights the importance of protecting local cultures that serve as attractions in tourist destinations. In addition to providing protection to these cultures, preservation also acts as a means of education and knowledge transfer. Tourism destinations are expected to have a visitor management system that includes efforts to maintain, protect and strengthen natural and cultural resource assets.
4. The last pillar is Environmental Preservation, which aims to reduce and prevent environmental damage caused by tourism activities. Tourism destinations are expected to play an active role in protecting the surrounding environment by implementing a system that complies with applicable local, national, and international laws (Rudy *et al*, 2019).

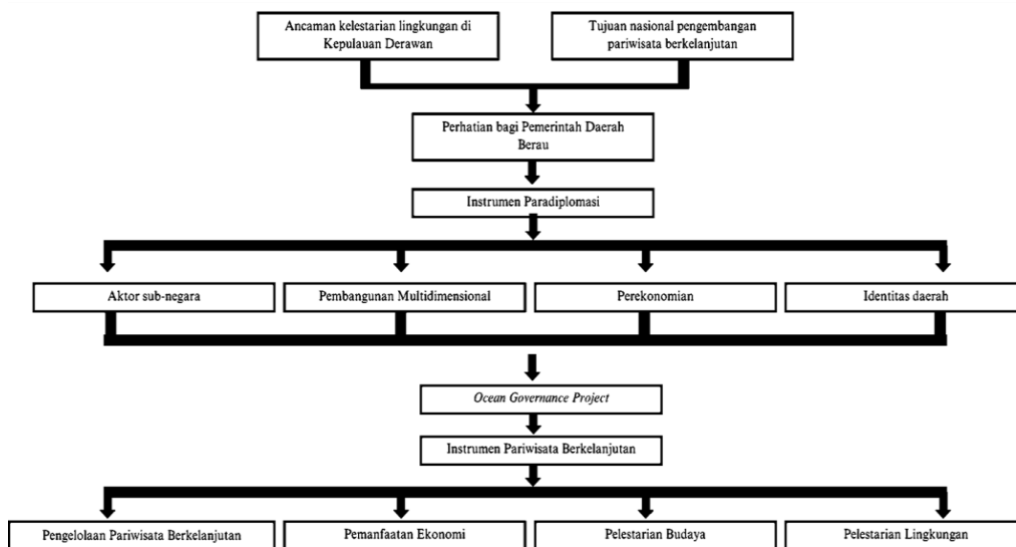


Figure 2. Synthesize planning between paradiplomacy and sustainable tourism in Bureau
Source: Compiled by the Author

DISCUSSION and ANALYSIS

Promotion Efforts as a Diplomacy Step for Berau Government

Globally, the issue of unsustainable ocean governance poses a serious threat to marine biodiversity. There are several risks that will occur if the ocean is not managed responsibly: overexploitation, inequitable distribution of access to and benefits from marine ecosystem services, and failure to adapt to changing ocean policies and management. There are steps that can be taken to address these issues, one of which is to develop a sustainable development framework. Realizing this framework requires support from stakeholders, policymakers, academics and the participation of local communities (Haas *et al*, 2022). Currently, maritime countries such as Indonesia have shown interest in developing policies related to ocean governance to promote sustainability and increase economic growth from the ocean (Wuwung *et al*, 2024).

Through the Decree of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia Number 87/KEPMEN- KP/2016, an area of 286,548.95 Ha located in the Derawan Islands, Berau Regency, East Kalimantan Province has become a Conservation Area. The area is called the Derawan Islands Coastal and Small Islands Conservation Area and Surrounding Waters (KKP3K KDPS) which includes seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and coral reefs (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024). Local policy has also designated the Derawan Islands as a Provincial Strategic Area (KSP). Based on the zoning arrangement of this area, the Derawan Islands included as a strategic area with approximately 13,500 Ha of promising marine tourism potential. The Derawan Islands itself consists of four island groups namely Derawan Island, Kakaban Island, Sangalaki Island, and Maratua Island, each of which has promising underwater tourism potential.

In Government Regulation No. 50 Year 2011, the Indonesian central government aims to encourage the development of tourism in Indonesia to be able to compete in the world, improve people's welfare and regional development, and create a sustainable environmental order. One of the strategies to realize this is by supporting the active participation of other actors such as local governments to support the development of sustainable tourism potential. To align with national tourism development goals, the Berau Regency Government issued Regent Regulation No. 31/2005 on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which aims to maintain the diversity of marine biodiversity and ensure sustainable tourism. In line with this, the Berau Regency Regional Regulation on the Regional Tourism Development Master Plan (Rippda) for 2017-2025 was also issued, providing hope for sustainable tourism development in the area (DPMPTSP, 2020).

Since 2015, the *World Wide Fund for Nature* (WWF) has initiated various initiatives related to sustainable ocean governance (WWF, 2015). Highlighting this, the Berau Regional Government and East Kalimantan Provincial Government showed one of their efforts in managing the ocean by collaborating with WWF in 2019. The Marine and Fisheries Service of East Kalimantan Province collaborated with WWF to make efforts to conserve marine ecosystems by monitoring underwater conditions in the Derawan Islands, especially coral reefs (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024). Based on 2021 data, hard coral cover in the Derawan Islands area reached 32.8%, indicating that the health condition of coral reefs is in the moderate category (WWF, 2022). In demonstrating its commitment to restore, protect, and develop sustainable marine governance, the Berau Regional Government (Pemda) together with the local government (DKP) of East Kalimantan, is working to improve the health of the coral reefs. The East Kalimantan Provincial Government collaborated with the *World Wide Fund for Nature* (WWF) through the *Ocean Governance Project* (OGP). OGP is an international sustainable ocean governance project funded by the European Union (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024).

OGP was first officially launched in 2020 as an international commitment by the European Union to sustainable development (Marine Mammals, 2022). In 2022, the Berau government is seeking further collaboration with WWF through the OGP scheme to manage the ocean and sustainable tourism. This initiative is in line with Indonesia's national goals to encourage sustainable tourism development as well as responsible and sustainable ocean governance. , Berau and East Kalimantan provincial governments agreed to support the implementation of this project in the Derawan Islands (DKP Prov. , 2024). , this move is part of the Berau government's promotional diplomacy efforts, which aim to encourage cooperation between the Berau government, the European Union, and WWF.

In the author's view, based on the concept of paradiplomacy, there are three main focuses that the Berau Government has in the implementation of OGP in the Derawan Islands. First, the focus for multidimensional development in the region. It can be said that Berau Regency is one of the strategic locations for development in East Kalimantan Province, especially the potential for marine tourism that can attract local and foreign tourists. Therefore, the Berau government emphasized that the creation of a governance plan must be strategically prepared by considering aspects such as the preservation of natural ecosystems, socio-culture, economy, and management. Long-term sustainable development scenarios must be adapted to

the conditions and structure of the region. This is in line with the priority target, which is a conducive and sustainable investment climate (DPMPTSP, 2020).

Second, the target to improve the economy from the tourism sector. The Derawan Islands have an wealth of biodiversity. Therefore, the area has great potential as an ecology-based *tourism* destination (*eco-tourism*). Utilizing this potential, accompanied by conservation efforts, can improve the local economy while preserving the marine ecosystem. Ilyas Natsir, Head of Berau's Culture and Tourism Office, said that around 60% of Berau's regional budget is currently generated by the mining sector. This is an important issue to discuss because if the mining industry experiences a crisis, the revenue in Berau Regency will decrease significantly (WWF, 2022).

Therefore, the tourism industry must be developed with responsible and sustainable governance strategies so that it can become one of the main sources of income in region. The development of sustainable marine governance and tourism will attract visitors from all over Indonesia and even the world. Local income from taxes, foreign exchange, ticket fees, and the opening of facilities such as hotels, restaurants and travel agencies have a specific impact on economic conditions. On the other hand, *Foreign Direct Investment* can enter the region if investors see promising potential in the Derawan Islands. (DPMPTSP, 2020). It can be said that the running of OGP in Derawan Islands can open various jobs from the tourism sector and other supporting sectors. In turn, local communities will be empowered and the quality of life will improve. In , sustainable tourism objects in the Derawan Islands can be the engine that drives the economy in the region.

Third, introducing the identity of the Derawan Islands as a tourism destination rich in biodiversity in the international arena. Indonesia is known as a country that has extraordinary underwater natural resources. However, tourism in Indonesia is often too centralized in certain locations, resulting in uneven growth and resulting in tourists being concentrated in only a few areas (Rachmasari *et al*, 2022). Therefore, the development of marine governance and sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands could be a strategic step to diversify marine tourism in Indonesia. If OGP is implemented consistently and responsibly, the initiative can help improve Indonesia's image as a maritime nation capable of managing and developing marine tourism. For the Derawan Islands, this initiative is a stepping stone to introduce the natural and cultural potential of the region on a global level.

Looking at these aspects, officially, a meeting to discuss tourism development towards a more sustainable direction was held on July 13, 2022. The meeting was

held in Berau Regency and was attended by WWF, the EU Delegation, the Head of the National Conservation Area Arrangement Section, the Directorate of Marine Biodiversity and Conservation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, the Head of the Marine Space Management Division of the East Kalimantan Provincial Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office, and the Berau Regency Fisheries Office. The agenda included discussions on the series of programs to be held and the signing of the minutes containing support for the running of the *Ocean Governance Project*.

At the meeting, it was agreed that a series of agendas would be implemented in this project, namely rehabilitating coral reefs, assisting community groups, managing sustainable underwater tourism, and preventing and protecting endangered marine biota. Responding to this agreement, the representative of the East Kalimantan Provincial Government, Mohamad Ali Aripe, stated that in order to succeed the implementation of the Zoning Management Plan (RPZ) of KKP3K KDPS, it is necessary to support from various parties to initiate programs that can support marine management and sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands. This then became an important momentum for the start of cooperation between the Berau Regional Government, East Kalimantan Provincial Government with the EU and WWF within the OGP framework (DKP Prov. Kaltim, 2024).

Since the agreement, the Berau government and WWF have held frequent discussions and workshops with stakeholders and community groups to discuss sustainable practices. One such workshop was held on November 4-6, 2022, attended by the Regent and Vice Regent of Berau Regency, Secretary of the East Kalimantan Tourism Office, Berau Lestari Foundation, and WWF to discuss and promote sustainable marine governance in the Derawan Islands. The main objective of this agenda is to invite tourism industry players to develop sustainable tourism governance. This agenda is also an important momentum for developing the scope of the sustainable marine governance project in the Derawan Islands (WWF, 2022).

The design and implementation of the *Ocean Governance Project* in the Derawan Islands itself lasts for approximately two years, starting from 2022 to December 2023 (Diskominfo Prov. Kaltim, 2023) The series of activities carried out in this project are diverse, strategic and structured. In this conservation and management project, there are two main strategies: collaboration and accountability. Therefore, based on these objectives and the strategies to achieve them, a series of activities have been developed that can support the success of this project. Some of these collaborative management programs include community assistance, coral reef

conservation, marine biota conservation, and sustainable tourism development (WWF, 2023).

The rehabilitation and conservation program implemented in the Derawan Islands is actually in line with the vision of the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries with the main strategy being collaboration and responsibility. The Berau Regency Government together with the East Kalimantan Provincial Government have taken strategic and effective steps by collaborating with the *World Wide Fund for Nature* (WWF) under the *Ocean Governance Project*. Funded by the European Union and WWF's technology and *knowledge* transfer schemes have supported the conservation and rehabilitation of underwater assets on Derawan Island. The paradiplomacy scheme implemented by the Berau government can be said to be in line with national development goals. Thus, state sovereignty is not compromised in this collaboration.

OGP Implementation in Derawan Islands

After a series of meetings and agreements between stakeholders, finally, the previously agreed programs began to be implemented. The programs themselves were implemented in line with the pillars of sustainable tourism. The first is the promotion of sustainable tourism management. On November 29, 2022, under the auspices of the *Ocean Governance Project*, a discussion agenda was held with the topic "Promoting Sustainable Tourism in the Derawan Islands Conservation Area" as one of the strategies to realize sustainable tourism goals. On this occasion, the panelists presented the roles of various actors involved in this project such as non-governmental organizations, government, and communities in realizing the vision of sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands Conservation Area. The underwater tourism industry actors as well as tourists were given various program recommendations such as *Signing Blue* which encourages sustainable business and tourism practices in coastal and marine areas, group mentoring, and waste management *courses* in the *Plastic Free Ocean* (PFON) program.

This is in line with the second aspect of sustainable tourism, namely economic empowerment for the community. One of the speakers on the discussion agenda, Rifki Sungkar, a representative of the Indonesia *Ecotourism Network* (INDECON) said that the biggest asset in the tourism sector is natural resources. Therefore, it is necessary to organize responsible and sustainable management of the tourism sector so that these tourist destinations can be preserved. One of the tourism industries in Berau Regency currently applying sustainability principles is Maratua Pratasaba *Resort*. To support sustainable tourism development efforts in the Derawan Islands, they have developed hospitality management that is friendly to

the natural ecosystem. In addition, they also actively provide education on vulnerable areas, underwater cleaning, and local community assistance (WWF, 2022).

In this discussion agenda, through OGP, businesses are invited to adopt these steps in the development of sustainable tourism. On the other hand, it is also emphasized that the active participation and commitment of the community and tourists need to be improved in realizing the vision and mission of sustainable tourism, one of which is by maintaining the cleanliness of the tourist sites visited (WWF, 2022). With the development of the sustainable tourism industry, not only the sustainability of the destination is maintained, but also opens up economic opportunities for the tourism sector. Third, in the context of cultural preservation, there is no specific project targeting the promotion of local culture. However, in line with the promotion of sustainable tourism that takes place in the Derawan Islands, local communities can collaborate with the government, community, and other actors to organize various cultural performances.

Fourth, the environmental conservation aspect of sustainable tourism. In the marine ecosystem, coral reefs play a crucial role as the habitat of various marine life. Currently, the diversity is threatened by inappropriate management and global climate change. Over the last two decades, the dynamics of coral reef change occurred in Derawan Island. From 2003 to 2011, it was recorded that the coral reef area decreased significantly to 16 hectares. Then, from 2011 to 2021, it was recorded that there was an increase in coral reef area but the density was more heterogeneous. These data show that the habitat and growth of the coral reef itself is dynamic (Manessa *et al*, 2024). It is undeniable that the activities of local communities and tourism have made the Derawan Islands area threatened by *over capacity* and *over exploitation* (Harahap *et al*, 2022). In response to this, to support the development of sustainable tourism, OGP conducts a coral reef rehabilitation and conservation program as a form of commitment to environmental conservation aspects.

There are two methods used by WWF to rehabilitate coral *reefs* in the local area, namely the *rock pile* and *reef star* methods (DKP. Prov. Kaltim, 2024). By applying these methods, rehabilitation has been carried out in several selected areas, namely in Gusung Senggalau Timur, Gusung Senggalau Utara, and Karang Tebba Binga. This rehabilitation resulted in positive growth. It was noted that ten months after the rehabilitation was carried out or precisely in May 2023, the density of hard corals attached to *rock piles* grew significantly. In this coral reef rehabilitation program, local communities such as the Samping Nusa Tourism Awareness Group

(Pokdarwis) and the *Derawan Snorkeling Guide* Association were also involved to assist the East Kalimantan Provincial Marine and Fisheries Service and WWF to monitor the coral reefs that had previously been rehabilitated. Based on observations made, in May 2023 it was estimated that coral density was 6.83 colonies and increased to 32.26 colonies in November 2023. This growth encouraged the emergence of new clam colonies and supported an increase in marine biota populations, especially fish (WWF, 2023).

In order to manage and protect natural resources, the *Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management* (EAFM) is also a further issue that needs to be considered. Through the *Fisheries Improvement Program*, WWF, the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of East Kalimantan Province, and Mulawarman University collaborated to support the study and development of EAFM in KKP3K KDPS as one of the OGP program series. This study focuses on reviewing and analyzing EAFM from several domains to assess sustainable fisheries management. In general, the situation in Derawan Islands shows a condition that is included in the good category. In line with this, there are several program recommendations proposed to manage fish resources to be more sustainable in area. Some of them include collaboration from each sector to manage and supervise fisheries-related activities and assistance to communities and industry players to develop sustainable aquaculture and fisheries consumption (EAFM, 2022).

Following up on a series of OGP agendas, on December 5 to 7, 2023, a workshop to present the results of OGP was held in the Derawan Islands. The meeting was attended by the Directorate General of Marine and Spatial Management, East Kalimantan Provincial Marine and Fisheries Service, Berau Regency Fisheries Service, Pontianak Coastal and Marine Resources Management Agency, and WWF. The agenda consisted of submission of project result documents and presentation of materials. It is said that, OGP has been successful to strengthen the development of sustainable marine governance in Derawan Islands. On the other hand, this project also increases collaboration from various sectors starting from the local government, central government, community organizations, and even outside actors such as WWF and the EU (Diskominfo Prov. Kaltim, 2023).

The steps taken by Berau's local government within the OGP framework show that there is a commitment to encourage the implementation of sustainable tourism principles. This was demonstrated by a visit from the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Sandiaga Salehudin Uno in June 2024. This visit was made in order to award the Derawan Islands as part of the top 50 best tourist villages in Indonesia for the period of 2024. During this visit, the Menparekraf appreciated the

collaboration carried out by the Berau Regional Government with non-state actors to develop sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands. The Menparekraf also said that cross-sector collaboration for sustainable tourism development needs to be continuously developed so that the Derawan Islands can be submitted as a nominee of the *Best Tourism Village* by *United Nations Tourism*. The nomination will be evaluated based on the three pillars of sustainable development, namely environmental, social, and economic (Diskominfo, 2024). According to the author, with the efforts made by the Berau Regional Government in developing sustainable tourism in the Derawan Islands, this area has great potential to become a world-class sustainable tourism destination.

CONCLUSION

Derawan Islands, is an area known as one of the underwater paradises with extraordinary biodiversity. Of the total coral reef species in the world, 502 species are found in the waters of Derawan Islands. However, the sustainability of this diversity is threatened by irresponsible human activities. To mitigate this issue, in 2022, the Berau government collaborated with WWF and the EU under the framework of the *Ocean Governance Project*. The OGP is a sustainable ocean governance project that involves the role of cross-sector actors. This effort was made by the Berau government to preserve nature, develop the economy, empower the community, and improve the image of the Derawan Islands as a sustainable tourism destination at the global level.

OGP is a project that involves cross-sector collaboration consisting of local government, central government, WWF, EU, and other stakeholders. Based on analysis using the concept of paradiplomacy, the Berau Government has three main focuses, namely multidimensional development, economy, and promotion of the Derawan Islands identity. The OGP agenda consists of community and society assistance, promotion of sustainable tourism, and conservation and rehabilitation of marine ecosystems. Berau's local government uses this approach to develop the region through international cooperation without ignoring the existence of national sovereignty. It also ensures that foreign investments and international companies do not only focus on economic benefits, but also provide long-term positive impacts on the environment and local communities. It can be said that in implementing this program, the Berau government is conducting diplomacy activities in the form of tourism promotion by establishing collaborations at the global level.

Looking at Berau's diplomacy efforts, it can also be observed that the principles of sustainable tourism have been sought to be implemented. These aspects are

sustainable tourism management, economic utilization for the benefit of the community, and environmental preservation. Then, for the fourth aspect itself, namely cultural preservation, although it does not yet have an independent program, it can indirectly run as one of a series of results from OGP programs. Although the efforts made by the Berau Regional Government through the OGP scheme have shown a positive trend, the development of facilities and accessibility as well as the management of other tourist destinations need further management strategies. This is done to prevent the threat of *over capacity* and *over exploitation* that can damage the ecosystem. The Berau government must take concrete steps in designing sustainable governance so that the Islands can be managed sustainably. Derawan is not only a temporary tourism icon but also an example of successful sustainable tourism in Indonesia.

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