

THE POTENTIAL OF NATURAL TOURISM VILLAGE OF THOUSAND GOA TOURISM HUMBANG HASUNDUTAN DISTRICT

Sepdwiyanana Donargo

Politeknik Pariwisata Medan

Corresponding email: sepdwiyanana03@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the natural tourism potential of a thousand caves as a natural tourist attraction in Humbang Hasundutan Regency. In this study using the method of observation, interviews, and qualitative methods. The results of the study are that a thousand caves have 800 to 1200 caves, the environmental conditions around a thousand caves are still natural, the uniqueness of a thousand caves is stunning carvings of stalactites and stalagmites, activities that can be done in a thousand caves are enjoying the beauty of flora and fauna, exploring caves, enjoying sunset panoramas, there are facilities in the form of toilets, photo spots, parking lots, and trekking areas. Based on the results of the research conducted, it was concluded that a thousand caves have the potential as a natural tourist attraction for the thousand cave tourism village, Humbang Hasundutan District.

Keywords: *Thousand Caves, Natural Tourism Potential*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Natural resources are everything that comes from nature and can be utilized for human needs and welfare. Water, air, trees, beaches, mountainous expanses, landscapes, and so on can satisfy and meet human needs by requiring human intervention to turn them into useful, so that they will become useful resources for tourism. Meanwhile, according to Fennel (1999: 68), natural resources that can be developed into tourism resources include geographical location, climate and weather, topography, surface materials, water, vegetation, and fauna. These beautiful natural resources are found in the Humbang Hasundutan Regency area. Humbang Hasundutan Regency has an area of 251,765.93 Ha, which consists of 10 (ten) Districts, 153 (one hundred and fifty three) Villages and 1 (one) Village. Based on the source of Humbang Hasundutan Regent Circular Letter Number: 130/1647/Pem/XI/2007, 12 November 2007. Humbang Hasundutan District is located on the lines 201'-2028' North Latitude and 98010'-98058' East Longitude and is in the central part of the region. North Sumatra Province. As for the location and administrative boundaries of Humbang Hasundutan Regency, among others.

No	Administrative Location	Borderline
1	North	Samosir Regency
2	West	Pak-Pak Bharat District
3	East	North Tapanuli Regency
4	South	Central Tapanuli Regency

The climate is classified as wet tropical with two seasons, namely the dry season occurs from April to August, and the rainy season occurs in September and March. The topography of the area is at an altitude of 330-2075m above sea level. The slope of the land is only 11% flat, 20%

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sloping, and 69% sloping. The area in Humbang Hasundutan Regency has a new natural tourism reserve called Seribu caves and was inaugurated on December 4 2020 in Banuarea Village, Pakkat District.

One Thousand Caves in Banuarea Village, Pakkat District was inaugurated by Plt. Humbang Hasundutan Regent Mr. Saut Parlindungan Simamora and Chandra Mahulae as Director of PT Sopo Marsomba Seribu Gua and Chair of the Seribu Gua Nature Tourism Development Committee said that Seribu Goa is a new nature tourism reserve by looking at cave tourism in which there are waterfalls, stalactites and stalagmites in the corner of the cave. raining down from the ceiling of the cave, there are endemic fish and various animals that can live without light entering the cave, a pristine natural formation. Thousands of caves around the Banuarea area are scattered in various locations that need to be investigated. There are caves which were the result of the devastating eruption of Mount Toba thousands of years ago, including the Pinapan cave, Rahar ni api cave and Jabi-jabi cave. In the rahar ni api cave there is a rock texture resembling a dragon's skeleton, one head, two bodies and two tails. There are herbal medicinal plants, such as siboru tiktik (rich in nutrients, good for digestion), piddul (vegetables), sitopu (mecin flavor, flavoring), and simarbosibosi (neutralizing drugs in the body). It is hoped that the natural beauty of a thousand caves can become a tourist spot, especially for tourists who have never visited, so that a thousand cave tours will be an attractive choice of natural attractions to visit in Pakkat District, Humbang Hasundutan Regency. Tourists who come are expected to feel comfortable and visit again, thereby recommending a thousand cave tours to family, friends and relatives, as well as the wider community to visit. There are herbal medicinal plants, such as siboru tiktik (rich in nutrients, good for digestion), piddul (vegetables), sitopu (mecin flavor, flavoring), and simarbosibosi (neutralizing drugs in the body). It is hoped that the natural beauty of a thousand caves can become a tourist spot, especially for tourists who have never visited, so that a thousand cave tours will be an attractive choice of natural attractions to visit in Pakkat District, Humbang Hasundutan Regency. Tourists who come are expected to feel comfortable and visit again, thereby recommending a thousand cave tours to family, friends and relatives, as well as the wider community to visit.

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Pakkat is a sub-district in Humbang Hasundutan District and Banuarea is a village in Pakkat District. In the past, Pakkat entered the Barus Hulu area. The Barus area is part of the Central Tapanuli Regency. Research is needed to link the history of Barus Hulu with the Barus Kingdom. There are many caves in the Pakkat area, especially in the location of a thousand caves in Banuarea

Village. These caves have many chambers/rooms and some are terraced. Some of the caves have been explored by youths and the local community but many more have yet to be explored. The distance between Banuarea and Parlilitan is very close. Parlilitan is the location where King Sisingamangaraja XII waged a guerrilla war against the Dutch colonialists for decades. According to the stories of the elders, including my parents (the village head's parents), that King Sisingamangaraja XII also often lived in this Banuarea area. Raja Puffer, son of King Sisingamangaraja XII, explored Dolok (Bukit) Pinapan and Goa Pinapan to get necessities in the guerrilla war against the Dutch colonialists. Raja Pangkalan is also known as a powerful human being, this was acknowledged and mentioned some time ago by this Pakkat elder. When an elder was sick, the Puffer King cured him with a mere word. There is a heritage site of King Buntal in Pakkat, namely Parhundulan-hundulan Raja Buntal (Seat of King Buntal) in Godang Dolok, Banuarea area, Pakkat. The natural wealth (gold and heirlooms) contained in Bukit Pinapan is spread to Arab countries and other countries abroad. During the Dutch invasion of Batak Land, Pakkat area is one of the areas taken into account by the Dutch. This is motivated by the existence of treasures in this area, the location of the ambush for King Sisingamangaraja XII's troops, the crossing from Barus Harbor to Batak Land. This Banuarea road is the main access projected by the Dutch to the Batak Lands. The kings in Barus were crushed by Dutch troops so that the Kings of Bius agreed to stop the Dutch from exploring Pakkat's crops. Raja Bius meetings often fail due to circumstances, such as safety and comfort, the weather, especially due to rain, so an alternative is sought, namely in a shady and comfortable place. The places chosen were the caves in the Pakkat area, one of which is the Liang Torus Cave. This meeting was attended by many participants, not only from the pack, but also from the present new territory. 7 goats as food were slaughtered at the meeting. Goa Liang Sabagonting was also used by the Kings of Bius to plan a strategy against the Dutch. From this cave, they moved to Ompu Ni Arar Cave and other caves. They did this to trick the Dutch troops who were always stalking their movements.

Banuarea thousand cave tourist village located on the slopes of Mount Pinapan, with almost thousands of caves and natural beauty contained in the cave. The thousand cave nature tourism is one of the cave tourist destinations located in Pakkat District, Humbang Hasundutan Regency, North Sumatra Province. Precisely located in the village of Banuarea which is at the foot of the hills of Dolok Pinapan. The distance to the cave is about 7 km and takes 40 minutes from Pakkat City Center. The trip from Doloksanggul City Center is about 44 km and takes about 2 hours. As for access to the Banuarea thousand cave tour through the Dolosangul-Pakkat main road. For access/entry through 3 (three) Villages to arrive at Banuarea Village, namely Panggugunan Village, Pulogodang Village, and Sipagabu Village. From Sipagabu Village to the location it is about 1 hour drive because the infrastructure is still extreme. However, if you choose the Pakkat City Center route, it is about 700 meters before the Salak monument at the Pakkat intersection. The tourism village of a thousand caves is a village with an administrative area that has the potential and uniqueness of a unique tourist attraction, where you can experience the uniqueness of life and traditions of rural communities with all their potential. The criteria for a tourist village in a thousand caves include having the potential for natural, cultural and artificial tourist attractions, the existence of communities, the potential for local human resources involved in tourism village development activities, the existence of management institutions, the existence of opportunities and availability of support basic facilities and infrastructure to support tourism activities.

In the past, in the Pakkat area, there was a legend about Halande, a giant human with a height of about 17 meters. From Banuarea, Pakkat, he only needed 17 steps to get to Barus Port. Halande also lives from one cave to another in the Pakkat area. According to the story of the elders in Pakkat, Sihalande, who is big and powerful, used to raise (make it higher) a mountain with his own power. Day by day, the mountain is getting higher. Batara Guru (the ruler of Banuarea) did not accept this and ordered his commander to cut the mountain. The mountain was cut off. Pieces of the mountain rolled down to the sea in the Central Tapanuli area and formed an island called Pulau Mursala. Still related to Mursala Island, according to the story of the elders in Pakkat, there are

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many springs at the location of the Liang Sigurbapon Cave. The water from the spring flows swiftly to Mursala Island and forms a waterfall on Mursala Island. So the Waterfall on Mursala Island, Central Tapanuli Regency, is a river flowing from the Liang Sigurbaban Cave in Pakkat. (This needs to be studied and investigated further). In Rahar Niapi Cave, there are ancient remains in the form of dragon tracks. The local community believes that these traces are traces of a dragon that used to live in that location. So the Waterfall on Mursala Island, Central Tapanuli Regency, is a river flowing from the Liang Sigurbaban Cave in Pakkat. (This needs to be studied and investigated further). In Rahar Niapi Cave, there are ancient remains in the form of dragon tracks. The local community believes that these traces are traces of a dragon that used to live in that location. So the Waterfall on Mursala Island, Central Tapanuli Regency, is a river flowing from the Liang Sigurbaban Cave in Pakkat. (This needs to be studied and investigated further). In Rahar Niapi Cave, there are ancient remains in the form of dragon tracks. The local community believes that these traces are traces of a dragon that used to live in that location.

In general, in the explored caves there are animals: Haporas fish, limbat fish (catfish), bats, swallows, Undur-undur (on the way to the cave). There are also plants such as: Simarbosi-bosi (medicinal plants), frankincense, forest flowers. There are also stalactites and stalagmites in the cave and clear springs. In some caves there are also waterfalls. The types and characteristics of some of the caves in Banuarea Village, Pakkat District: Jabi-Jabi Caves. In this location, the Jabi-jabi tree grows thick and large. Room/Cubicle I is narrow, with dimensions: 10 meters long, 40 cm wide and 60-70 meters high. Room/Cubicle II, size: 50 meters long, 10 meters wide and 10-15 meters high. Rahar Niapi Cave. Related to the myth of a dragon spitting fire. Size: 200 meters long, 1-20 meters wide, 1-10 meters high. Godang Cave. There are many caves around this Godang Cave (generally not yet explored). The location is very wide and there is a waterfall in it. There are stalactites that reflect/describe thousands of colors, pictures and panoramas. Size: 250-300 meters long, 1-30 meters wide, 10-15 meters high. Liang Torus Cave: There are several labyrinth-shaped chambers and very clear water sources/springs. Room I, with dimensions: 50 meters long, 20-30 meters wide, 10 meters high. Room II, with dimensions: 250 meters long, 20-30 meters wide and about 10 meters high. Entrance and exit are different. 250 – 300 meters long, 1-30 meters wide, 10-15 meters high. Liang Torus Cave: There are several labyrinth-shaped chambers and very clear water sources/springs. Room I, with dimensions: 50 meters long, 20-30 meters wide, 10 meters high. Room II, with dimensions: 250 meters long, 20-30 meters wide and about 10 meters high. Entrance and exit are different. 250 – 300 meters long, 1-30 meters wide, 10-15 meters high. Liang Torus Cave: There are several labyrinth-shaped chambers and very clear water sources/springs. Room I, with dimensions: 50 meters long, 20-30 meters wide, 10 meters high. Room II, with dimensions: 250 meters long, 20-30 meters wide and about 10 meters high. Entrance and exit are different.

Goa Sigurbapon: Derived from the word Sigurbapon (Batak Toba language), which means swollen feet. This is related to the condition of the feet when exploring this cave, they can experience swelling and are also associated with the shape of the cave which is similar to swollen feet. There is a hole (also considered a cave) at this location. The hole is very deep and has never been tested there. People generally drop stones into the hole and the sound of falling stones is heard a few moments later. This indicates that the hole is very deep. This cave is terraced but its size is uncertain. Sipisar-Pisar Cave: The name of this cave comes from the word pisar (Batak Toba language), which can be interpreted as sprayed, coming out of its skin. From a distance, it looks like a burst of waterfalls at the location of this cave. The exploration carried out by the residents still reached the limit of the entrance to the cave. The size of the cave is uncertain. Liang Ompu Ni Arar Cave: The name of the cave is related to a tool called arar (Batak Toba language), which is a tool in the form of a long piece of wood to take/reach fruits from tall trees. The location is in a resident's rice field area and there are many hallways/booths in it. Not sure about the size of this cave.

Liang Sabanapa Cave: This cave has many passages/rooms. Size: 100 meters long, 1 meter wide and 5 meters high. Sabagonting Cave, this cave is the longest cave in this area (of all the caves that have been explored). There are many passages / booths in this cave. Size: 1200 meters long, 1-30 meters wide, and 1-20 meters high. Liang Pinapan Cave: The name of the cave is related to the name of Mount Dolok Pinapan. Type of multilevel cave (2 levels). Level I with dimensions: 350 meters long, 1 -30 meters wide, 2-20 meters high. Level II with dimensions: 300 meters long, 1-30 meters wide, 2-20 meters high. Ramba Pantil Cave: Located in Hamlet 4 Hutaimbaru, Banuarea Village. There are human fossils in the form of bones in this cave. These bones have a size that exceeds the size of human bones now. (need to be followed up). It is predicted by the local people that the bones are the bones of King Sisingamangaraja XII's troops or the bones of Si Halande or the bones of Si Halande's descendants. Further investigation/research/assessment needs to be carried out for a thousand caves and their surroundings.

Non-biological natural tourist attractions such as terrain, weather, and water systems. Where the natural tourist attractions include plants (forests), animals (natural living), and human cultural behavior that still refers to the surrounding natural order. We can learn about the attractiveness of natural biological tourism through a branch of geology called paleontology (science of ancient life). Biological elements are starting to appear on earth and it is possible to identify their ancient environmental order (paleoecology). The next stage is called the peak of optimization or the peak of its distribution, and the stage of shrinkage until when it becomes extinct can be known. Through this branch of geology, namely stratigraphy (description of rock layers) and structural geology, which studies the problems of natural geological formations including the sequence of their occurrence. The natural tourist attraction found in the thousand caves that appears today is actually different from the appearance several centuries or millions of years ago, because it makes the natural tourist attraction of the thousand caves enchanting with the pristine natural beauty in it. Nature tourism according to Kodyat in Gunawan (1997) is grouped into 2 (two) categories, including first, as nature tourism which is more aligned with eco-tourism, is a trip to areas that have never been touched (virgin), have not been contaminated with a special purpose, not just for recreation, but to study and admire and enjoy the natural scenery, flora and fauna of Langai (wildlife), as well as all the cultural manifestations that exist in the area. The two natural attractions that are more in demand are nature tourism which is softer with less risk, but natural elements still play an important role. Mini-style tourism such as natural scenery, lakes, beaches, mountains and others. Nature tourism in a thousand caves by seeing and enjoying rare natural scenery, flora and fauna. In a thousand caves we can feel nature is cool, and natural. Where there are plants that can be used as medicine for diseases, and there are animals such as bats, fish, and the like.

Potential is something that has the ability or possibility to be developed. As for the potential in a thousand caves as strength, ability, ability, influence, strength, power, and function. The potential contained in it is a cave that is very much. Where there is natural beauty in the form of waterfalls in the cave, stalactites and stalagmites. Plants that can be used as medicine and there is water in the dragon stone which according to information from Mr. Chandra Mahulae that this water can cure all kinds of diseases. It is hoped that the natural tourism potential in the thousand caves can be recognized by tourists and be able to develop the area.

As for there is research which was conducted by Inna Septiatik. (2008). Potential and Development of Goa Lawa Natural Tourism Object, Purbalingga Regency, Central Java, Final Report. The results showed that the natural tourism object of Goa Lawa is a valuable archipelago asset and has the potential to be developed. Further related research was carried out by Ernawati Cahyani Kris, et al (2014). Potential Tourism Objects of Goa Gong, Klayar Beach, Tirta Husada Hot Springs in Pacitan Regency, Indonesian Tourism Journal, Vol.10 No.1, 2014. ISSN 1907-2457 (Print)- ISSN 2581-2688 (Online). Based on the results of the study that the potential possessed by the Goa Gong tourist attraction, Klayar Beach, and Tirta Husada Warm Water Baths, actually very large, starting from the natural potential, attractions, accessibility, which can be reached from various routes. The lack of marketing and promotion causes this area to be less than optimal. The

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many obstacles and weaknesses faced by the management have caused this tourism object to not be widely known by tourists outside the area in particular. Furthermore, research conducted by Saputra Ade, Deasy Arisanty, Ellyn Normelani. (2018). Potential and Efforts to Develop Batu Hapu Cave Tourism Object in Hatungun District, Tapin Regency, South Kalimantan, JPG (Journal of Geography Education), Vol.5, No.3 (2018). The results of the study using SWOT analysis, the potential for developing the Batu Hapu Cave natural tourism object is in quadrant 1, namely the Growth Oriented Strategy strategy.

Based on the results of previous research and the background above that the natural tourism of a thousand caves has the potential for beautiful nature with many existing caves, majestic giant stones, waterfalls flowing out of rock holes, stones that can be made into rings or necklaces, areas that are still beautiful and cool, plants, there are bats in the cave, there are hundreds of stalactites, hundreds of stalagmites, and the road to it is still rocky. So the authors raised the title in this study related to the Natural Tourism Potential of the Thousand Goa Tourism Village, Humbang Hasundutan Regency.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Humbang Hasundutan Regency is a district in North Sumatra, Indonesia. Which was formed on July 28, 2003, with an area of 2,335.33 km², the capital city is Dolok Sanggul. With physical conditions the altitude is at 330-2075 meters above sea level. The total population at the end of 2022 will be 199,719 people. Humbang Hasundutan Regency has a motto, namely "Bona Pasogit Nauli" which means a beautiful hometown. This district is led by a Regent named Dosmar Banjarnahor and a Deputy Regent named Oloan Paniaran Nababan. The boundaries of Humbang Hasundutan Regency are to the north by Samosir Regency, to the east by North Tapanuli Regency, to the south by Central Tapanuli Regency, and to the west by Pakpak Bharat Regency.

The topography of the Humbang Hasundutan Regency area has wavy and hilly terrain. Altitude reaches 330-2075 masl. The land in this area is divided into three, consisting of flat land with a percentage of 11% of the total land area in Humbang Hasundutan, sloping with a percentage of 20% of the total area of Humbang Hasundutan Regency, and finally sloping or steep land of 69% of the total area in Humbang Hasundutan. Where Humbang Hasundutan Regency has 10 sub-districts, 1 sub-district, and 153 villages. The sub-districts in Humbang Hasundutan Regency are Baktiraja, Dolok Sanggul, Lintong Nihuta, Onan Ganjang, Pakkat, Parangnan, Parlilitan, Pollung, Sijama Polang, and Tara Bintang. Where the largest population is in the Dolok Sanggul sub-district with a total of 43,197 people.

2.1. Tourism Village

A tourist village is a village administrative area that has the potential and uniqueness of a unique tourist attraction, namely experiencing the uniqueness of life and traditions of rural communities with all their potential. According to (Fandeli, Baiquni, Dewi, 2013) Tourism villages have tourism products that have cultural value and have strong traditional characteristics. The criteria for tourist villages according to the Ministry of Tourism (2011) explain that tourist villages have tourism potential that can be utilized as follows:

- a. tourist attractions;
- b. Has accessibility;
- c. Have tourism activities that already exist and are well known.

The development of a tourist village, has the principle of developing a tourism village product such as authenticity in the form of attractions offered to the people in the village, traditions carried out by the local community and become daily life, attitudes and values adopted by the community in accordance with daily values and norms, conservation and carrying capacity which is not destructive both in terms of physical and social community and in accordance with the carrying capacity of the village in accommodating tourists.

2.2. Tourist attraction

Tourist attraction according to Law No. 10 of 2009 describes everything that has uniqueness, convenience, and tangible value in the form of natural wealth, diversity, culture, and man-made products that are targeted or visited by tourists. According to Yoeti (2006: 164) tourist attraction is everything that attracts tourists to visit a certain area. As for the elaboration related to tourist attraction according to Pendit (2003: 35) is everything that is interesting and has value to be visited and seen, where tourist attractions can be grouped into 2 groups, namely natural tourist attractions and artificial tourist attractions.

According to Dimitri Buhalis (2000: 25) suggests a concept of uniqueness known as 6 (six) A, namely:

1. *Attraction*
2. *Accessibility*
3. *Amenities*
4. *Available Packages*
5. *Activities*
6. *Ancillary Service.*

2.3. Natural tourism

Etymologically the word tourism comes from torah (Hebrew) which means study, in Latin it means a tool to make a circle, while in ancient French it is called tour which means to go around a circuit. According to (Suyitno, 2001) tourism is a journey, but not all trips can be said to be tourism. While tourism is a trip or as an activity as part of the activity carried out voluntarily and temporarily to enjoy tourist objects and attractions, (Fandeli, 2001).

The characteristics of tourism include, (Suyitno, 2001), namely:

- a. It is temporary in nature, where the tourist actor will return/go back to his/her place of origin;
- b. The involvement of tourism components, namely transportation facilities, accommodation, restaurants, tourist attractions, and souvenir shops;
- c. Usually carried out visiting tourist objects and tourist attractions;
- d. Usually the aim is to get pleasure;
- e. The aim is not to make a living, where its existence is expected to contribute to community income.

Nature tourism according to (Anonymous,

2.4. Tourism Potential

Tourism potential according to Sujali (1999) is the ability in an area that may be used for development, such as nature, humans, and the work of humans themselves. There are two kinds of potential, namely natural tourism potential and man-made tourism potential.

Natural tourism potential according to Sujali (1999) are:

- Circumstances;
- Types of flora or fauna of an area;
- Landscapes such as beaches, forests, mountains, hills and the physical condition of an area

2.5. Goa Tourism

Goa is a natural hole in the ground that humans can enter (Sari Kumala, et al 2017). In Indonesia there are many caves. Cave areas are called karst areas. Speleology is the science that studies caves and their environment. Part of the science of Speleology, one of which is cave mapping. Cave maps can provide information or references for people exploring caves. Cave search cannot be done without a cave search tool and a map. Searching in caves also pays attention to the code of ethics for searching caves so as not to damage sustainability and extend the life of the cave. Searching for caves has a code of ethics that must be maintained and preserved as much

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as possible by instilling it from an early age because this concerns the long-term life of the cave so that it remains natural..

2.6. Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity and compliance is one of the important aspects in a destination against existing regulations. Carrying capacity is a concept that measures the level of use of visitors to ensure the sustainability of a destination. The concept of carrying capacity according to Liu (1994), there are three types of carrying capacity, namely:

- a. *Physical capacity*: is the ability of a natural area or tourist destination to accommodate visitors or tourists, indigenous people, tourism activities or activities, and ecotourism supporting facilities;
- b. *Biological carrying capacity*: this concept reflects the interaction of tourism destinations with flora and fauna ecosystems;
- c. *Social/ cultural capacity*: reflects the impact of visitors/tourists on the lifestyle of local communities.

2.7. Tourism Development

Tourism development according to Barreto and Giantari (2015: 34) explains that an effort to develop or advance a tourist object so that the tourist object is better and more attractive in terms of places and objects in it to be able to attract interest to visit. In carrying out tourism development, it is necessary to have an effort to realize integration in terms of the use of various tourism resources to integrate all forms of aspects outside of tourism that are directly or indirectly related, in order to sustain development in advancing, improving and improving the tourism conditions of an object and attraction. tourism so that it can become feasible and crowded to be visited by tourists and can provide benefits to the community around the thousand cave tourist attraction,

2.8. Natural resources

Natural resources that can be developed into natural tourist attractions according to Damanik and Weber (2006: 2) are natural wonders and beauty (topography), diversity of flora, diversity of fauna, wildlife, natural vegetation, ecosystems untouched by humans, aquatic recreation (lakes, rivers, waterfalls, beaches), hiking (trekking, rafting), megalithic objects, comfortable temperature and humidity, normal rainfall.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is a method or process carried out by researchers to obtain data that will be used for research purposes. The method used to find a truth by using a search for certain procedures, depends on the reality in the field that will be studied by the researcher. The methodology consists of a theoretical analysis of the body of research methods based on the theories put forward. The researchers used qualitative research methods, by describing and explaining the reality that occurred in that place.

Qualitative research, Irawan (2007: 215) explains the notion related to the type of descriptive research as research that aims to explain something as it is (as it is) where the problem solver will refer to the facts encountered during the research where the data obtained will be compiled and explained and then analyzed so that conclusions can be drawn at the end of the study. Creswell (2009: 4) explains that qualitative research is research to explore and understand the meaning that a number of individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or human humanity. That Creswell's explanation regarding qualitative research is carried out by searching or finding something with the aim of obtaining information that is considered important.

Qualitative research has functions and uses, among others, namely in initial research where the research subject is not well defined and poorly understood, in efforts to understand behavioral research and motivational research, for consultative research,

understanding complex issues of a process, understanding detailed issues about situation and reality faced by a person, to understand sensitive issues, for evaluation purposes, to research the background of phenomena that cannot be researched through quantitative research, used to research matters relating to the background of research subjects, used to further be able to understand every phenomenon that until now has not been widely known, used to find new perspectives on things that are already widely known, used by researchers intending to examine something in depth, used by researchers who are interested in examining a background, for example about motivation, roles, values, attitudes, and perceptions, used by researchers who wish to use things that are not widely known by science, and used by researchers who want to examine something in terms of the process.

3.1. Data Source

Qualitative research is based on a constructive philosophy which assumes that reality as a multilayer, interactive experience experienced in society is interpreted individually (Burhan Bungin, 2011). Whereas qualitative research is about understanding social phenomena from the perspective of participants. The participants' understanding of feelings, beliefs, ideas, thoughts and behavior. Qualitative research does not use the term population because qualitative research only focuses on social situation problems whose results are not applied to the population.

Qualitative research does not recognize the terms population and sample, the terms for qualitative research are more accurately called data sources in certain social situations (Djam'an Satori, 2007: 2). Meanwhile, according to Spradley (Sugiyono, 2011: 297) says that a social situation or social situation consists of three elements, namely: places, actors, and activities that interact synergistically.

3.2. Data collection technique

Data collection techniques are the most important step in research, because the main goal of research is to obtain data (Sugiyono, 2019). Data collection techniques carried out by researchers aim to make it easier for researchers to obtain the required data systematically, so that researchers can analyze it.

3.3. Research Instruments

Qualitative research instruments, which are the research instruments/tools, are the researchers themselves. Therefore, researchers as instruments must also be validated to what extent qualitative researchers are ready to conduct research and go into the field. In qualitative research, validation as an instrument includes validation of the understanding of qualitative research methods, mastery of insight into understanding of the field under study, the readiness of the researcher to enter the research object, where the researcher himself performs the validation.

3.4. Data Validity Techniques

The technique of checking the validity of the data in qualitative research is in the form of a credibility test. The validity of the data is an important thing to be analyzed as input material in drawing conclusions from the research data. The test of credibility/trust in the data resulting from qualitative research is carried out by observing, increasing persistence in research, triangulation, and discussions with colleagues.

3.5. Analysis Technique

The process of qualitative analysis depends on the ability of researchers to dig up information and collect data continuously and get in-depth information. Data collection is done naturally and informally. Three paths of qualitative analysis consist of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions (Miles and Huberman: 1992). Describe the process of processing and analyzing qualitative data Sanafiah (1999: 256).

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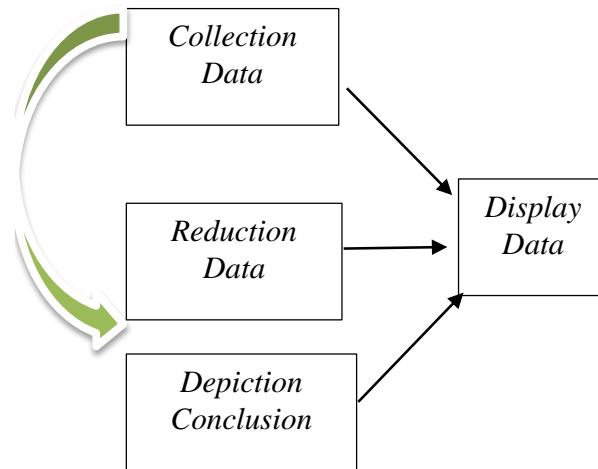


Figure 3.1 Qualitative Data Analysis Process

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Humbang Hasundutan Regency was inaugurated by the Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs on Monday, July 28 2003, while inaugurating the Regent Drs. Manatap Simanungkalit at the North Sumatra Governor's Office, Medan. The Regent of Humbang Hasundutan began his task of holding meetings with community leaders, education leaders, religious leaders, and customs, in discussing the making of the Humbang Hasundutan Regency logo. The meaning of the Humbang Hasundutan logo consists of:

- Rice and cotton in the composition of a circle symbolizing the community's determination to build towards a prosperous and prosperous society;
- The five-pointed yellow star on a red background represents belief in God Almighty and the yellow color represents majesty and gold;
- Coffee, livestock, horses symbolize agricultural and economic areas, scales symbolize obedience to laws and regulations;
- The knife, single panalan, symbolizes the historical heritage where the king was born;
- The banyan tree symbolizes the protection and protection of the community;
- The book symbolizes a form of community concern in education and struggles to send the younger generation to school;
- Mountains, land, trees and rice fields symbolize agriculture, land of coolness and land of hope;
- The red ulos folds with the inscription Bona Pasogit are a means of words to evoke the feelings of the people in the village to overseas so that they always remember their hometown.

Humbang Hasundutan Regency is located at an altitude of 330-2,075 meters above sea level, with an area of 2,335.33 km² and the capital city is Dolok Sanggul. This district has the motto "Bona Pasogit Nauli" which means in Toba Batak language is a beautiful hometown. The highest leadership is the Regent, where the Regent Humbang Hasundutan is responsible to the Governor of North Sumatra province. In the 2020 general election for the Regent and Deputy Regent, the winning votes were Mr. Dosmar Banjarnahor as the Regent and Mr. Oloan Paniaran Nababan as the Deputy Regent.

4.1. Thousand Cave Natural Tourism Potential

The Thousand Caves is one of the natural tourist attractions in Humbang Hasundutan Regency, which has amazing natural beauty. Everywhere between the caves there are stalactites and stalagmites. There are a thousand caves in Banuarea Village, to be precise, at the foot of the Dolok Pinapan hills. One thousand caves is a very beautiful and natural cave tracing attraction.



Figure 4.1. Thousand Goa

Thousand Caves is still not a more optimal tourist attraction because it is necessary for the management, government and the community to work on natural tourist attractions well. So that the tourism potential in the thousand cave natural tourism can be well developed and make a natural tourist attraction that is visited a lot and become a natural tourist attraction in Humbang Hasundutan Regency.

4.2. Thousand Cave Supporting Facilities

There are activities that can be carried out to support natural tourism in the Thousand Caves of Banuarea, such as toilets, rest areas, stalls, and homestays for resting. There is a souvenir shop that sells handicrafts from fossilized wood roots, wood roots used as tables, wood roots used as shelves, patchouli oil, frankincense, robusta coffee, and riberica coffee, as souvenirs from the thousand cave natural attractions. With the existence of supporting facilities, it is hoped that it can provide its own happiness for visitors, as well as a feeling of comfort, and its own pleasure to be in the thousand cave natural attractions. So that tourists don't feel bored, and natural tourism of a thousand caves can support the development of tourism in Humbang Hasundutan Regency. In terms of identifying the tourism potential in a thousand caves by using the components of tourist attraction, namely attraction, accessibility, amenities, Available Packages, Activities, and Ancillary Service. Dimitri Buhalis (2000: 25).

1. Attraction/ Attractions

Tourist attraction is a tourist attraction that can make tourists feel impressed by the beauty, so they feel satisfaction, comfort, and a sense of pleasure in being in the tourist attractions of a thousand caves. Tourist attractions can be natural, cultural and man-made. Thousand cave tourism is a category of natural tourist attraction, with natural beauty that is still natural and cool. The natural tourist attraction of a thousand caves is a natural tour with the uniqueness of a thousand caves, the existence of many caves with beautiful river passages, waterfalls, rivers, flora and fauna. The main attractions that we can see the natural beauty in a thousand caves. Attractions that can be done are taking pictures, camping, bathing, and exploring the cave. The only characteristic of souvenirs is the stone in the cave, which can be made into stones and rings.

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Figure 4.2. Stalactites, Swallow's Nest, Forest Mango, and Dragon Snake Root

2. Accessibility/ Accessibility

Accessibility to the location of a thousand caves takes about 40 minutes from the city of Pakkat with a distance of about 7 km. The trip from downtown Dolok Sanggul takes about 2 hours with a distance of about 44 km. The trip to the thousand caves by using a private vehicle starts from Doloksanggul and follows the main road from Doloksanggul to Jalan Pakkat. The access road is from Parbotihan Village, Onanganjang District, to Banuarea Village. After that, at the intersection, you will cross 3 (three) villages to get to Banuarea Village, namely Panggugunan Village, Pulogodang Village, Sipagabu Village. After arriving at Sipagabu Village, getting to the location is about 1 hour drive because the road is still extreme and steep.

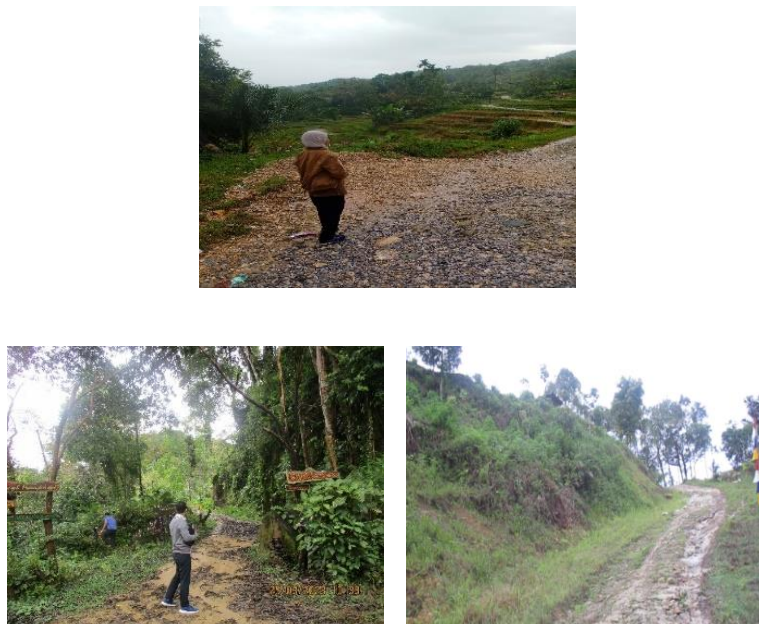


Figure 4.3. Access road to a thousand

3. Amenities/Facility

The facilities in the thousand caves are to support the needs and desires of tourists while in the thousand cave natural attractions. The main facility is the absence of a restaurant as a place to eat for tourists who come to the thousand cave natural attractions. The available facilities are small stalls and souvenir shops in the form of handicrafts made from wood roots.



Figure 4.4 Facilities in the Seribu cave nature tourism

4. Available Packages/Tour packages

Tour packages are activity plans that are prepared based on the needs of tourists, starting from transportation, places to stay, places to eat, tourist attractions, and shopping activities to buy souvenirs or souvenirs at these tourist attractions. But unfortunately, in the natural tourism of a thousand caves, no tour packages have been made.

5. Activities/Activity

There are a variety of activities such as fishing, enjoying the beauty, tracking, camping, education and hiking. Activities in the thousand cave nature tourism include cave scouring, fishing ponds, camping tents, and outbound.



Figure 4.5. Activities in a thousand caves

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6. Ancillary Service

According to (Cooper et al, 2000) regarding ancillary service is the support provided by organizations, local governments, groups or managers of tourist destinations to organize tourism activities. As for tourism activities, they receive support from the government, the community, and managers of the thousand cave tourist destinations.

7. Carrying Capacity

Interpretatively, in the context of tourism, according to O'Reilly (in Hunter, 1995:66) there are two aspects in terms of carrying capacity. First, the concept of carrying capacity relates to the ability of a destination or area to absorb the impacts of a tourism development or development before the negative impacts become apparent. Second, in relation to tourist perceptions, where the number of tourists coming to a tourist destination decreases because psychologically it has exceeded the limit of negative perceptions that can be tolerated by tourists so that the destination is no longer attractive to tourists. The two meanings of carrying capacity above clearly show the complexity of scope, namely from the supply (destination) side which is physical and the demand (tourist) which is psychological.

The above definitions substantively contain the following principles:

- a. The maximum limit of people or tourists who can take advantage of an area or destination.
- b. Without having a physical negative impact on the destination.
- c. Reducing the quality of the travel experience felt by tourists, or
- d. Bring negative impacts that can be accepted both socially, economically and culturally at the destination.

Furthermore, O'Reilly (1991 in Richardson and Fluker, 2004: 306) concludes that some of the meanings of carrying capacity above implicitly mean limits, ceilings, or levels that cannot be exceeded. in the construction or development of tourism destinations. The 'carrying capacity' limit is affected by 2 (two factor groups as follows.

- a. Factors from the first group that have marketing implications involve or are related to tourists. This concerns:
 1. Tourist characteristics such as age, gender, income
 2. Psychological aspects of tourists such as motivation, attitude and expectations
 3. Racial and ethnic background and patterns of behavior and
 4. Other factors include the level of use of the facilities, the density of tourists, the length of stay of tourists, the type of tourist activity and the level of tourist satisfaction.
- b. Factors from the second group relate to destination attributes such as:
 1. Environmental and natural conditions
 2. Economic structure and development
 3. Social structure and organization
 4. Political organization and
 5. Level of tourism development.

According to Liu (1994, Hunter (1995) and Cooper et al (1996) there are three types of carrying capacity that can be applied to the development of tourism destinations, namely:

a. Physical carrying capacity

Limits or boundaries of a destination or area in accommodating tourism activities without causing a negative impact on the physical or environmental aspects of the destination. This concept describes the ability of a natural area or tourist destination to accommodate visitors/tourists, indigenous people, tourism activities/activities, and other tourism supporting facilities. This concept is very important considering that natural resources and infrastructure are very limited so that they are often overused. Utilization of an area that exceeds its physical carrying capacity can lead to degradation of natural resources,

decreased quality of life for the surrounding community, overcrowding, and so on which results in a bad experience and impression for tourists.

b. *biological carrying capacity*

The ability of an area or tourist destination to accommodate all tourism activities within it without causing a negative impact on the flora and fauna ecosystem of the area. Sometimes tourists go to tourist destinations to enjoy the experience of interacting with their flora and fauna ecosystems (for example in ecotourism). As a consequence, it is very important to protect and maintain the ecosystem so that it remains as lifelike as possible in its natural habitat. Of course, to achieve this condition requires knowledge of the maximum threshold allowed for a tourism activity without disturbing the ecosystem through its carrying capacity. The government's role is needed to create protected and conservation areas as well as enact regulations that prohibit destructive behavior such as hunting, logging, bombing fish, poisoning marine life, and the like. However, as far as possible, efforts are made so that these regulations do not interfere with the way of life of the indigenous people. Even if this has to happen, a resolution must be sought by means of collaboration and education.

c. *Social/cultural carrying capacity*

This concept shows the level of tolerance of the local community towards tourist behavior in the destination concerned. This concept reflects the impact of visitors/tourists on the lifestyle of local communities. The ability of a community to accommodate the presence of tourists and their lifestyle in a particular community varies greatly from one culture to another, and from one region to another. Tourists generally have a better level of education and want to gain experience interacting with local residents with their unique customs or habits. Preferably, the number of tourists is limited in an area so that the concept of respecting the norms, values and native culture of the local community can work well. Therefore the possibility of tourism activities exceeding the social/cultural carrying capacity can be controlled. For example, visitors want to stay and live in local style accommodation managed by local people, eat a variety of local food, and get involved in the local way of life. However, proactive assessment is needed to ensure positive interaction and minimize social disruption. Learning and educational materials should be provided to teach tourists how to behave in a way that respects local customs and culture.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

The results of research conducted by researchers in the natural tourism of a thousand caves in Humbang Hasundutan Regency concluded the results of the study that:

The natural tourist attraction of a thousand caves is located on the slopes of Mount Pinapan and has a total of around 800 to 1,200 caves located in Banuarea Village, Pakkat District, Humbang Hasundutan Regency. According to information from Mr. Chandra Mahulae as the manager, the natural tourism of a thousand caves is a cave that was formed naturally thousands of years ago, and was inaugurated by Plt.Bupati Drs. Saut Parlindungan Simamora on December 4 2020. There is a legend behind the inauguration of a thousand caves which is believed by the people around the area as a natural tourist attraction.

The natural tourist attraction of a thousand caves actually has the potential to be developed into a natural tourist attraction. Where attractions like this have begun to experience many setbacks due to competition with today's times, as well as technological sophistication that is able to create artificial tourist attractions that are more attractive for tourists to visit. This natural tourist attraction, especially the thousand caves, really needs the attention of both the local community and the government and funds in the process of developing the potential in the thousand caves.

The thousand cave nature tourism is managed by a local tourism awareness group, the thousand caves are still in progress development, as well as working with Pokdarwis and the

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Humbang Hasundutan Regency Tourism Office. The manager of the Thousand Caves Natural Tourism area tries as much as possible to improve the road to the Thousand Caves and the necessary attractions to be added or updated for the convenience of tourists in tourism activities in the Thousand Caves.

The obstacles that occur in the Thousand Caves Nature Tourism are the need for funds to support the process of developing the Thousand Caves Nature Tourism and the need for attention from the local government. Where there are also other obstacles that need to be considered by managers, namely the low level of human resources in the field of tourism, as well as the importance of tourism awareness to support the existing natural tourism potential to be developed properly and need the support of parties who are able to support natural tourism in a thousand caves.

5.2.SUGGESTION

As for suggestions from researchers in the natural tourism of a thousand caves in Humbang Hasundutan Regency:

1. There needs to be an addition *attraction*/ attractions in the form of a children's play area and facilities that can be used by tourists at the location, as well as maximum lighting to increase the tourism potential of the thousand natural caves.
2. It is necessary *accessibility*/ accessibility and repair of several roads to the location of a thousand caves, because there are several rocky roads without asphalt.
3. There needs to be an entrance ticket for the thousand cave nature tourism, in order to find out how many visitors come per day at the thousand cave natural tourism.
4. There needs to be cooperation in packaging the thousand natural cave tourism packages.
5. Increasing activities in a thousand caves, so as to make visitors feel happy.
6. There is a need for supporting services or ancillary services for tourist attractions such as equipment rental to go into the cave.

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