

Degrowth Analysis on Indonesian International Tourism Destinations

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Abstract

Greenwashing has become prevalent as many stakeholders falsely claim to adhere to green growth principles. Green growth also often neglects human rights aspects. This study proposes degrowth as an alternative to the dominant economic growth paradigm. Degrowth, which gained popularity during the post-pandemic recovery, emphasizes sustainability, justice, and independence from capitalist growth. While green growth often relies on technology for solutions, degrowth recognizes its potential limitations. In the Global South, degrowth can support local communities and challenge neo-colonial tourism practices. Community-based tourism, slow tourism, and responsible tourism are concrete manifestations of degrowth principles. These approaches aim to benefit local communities, reduce environmental impact, and promote sustainable tourism practices. This study focuses on three Indonesian international tourism destinations, Raja Ampat, Nusa Penida, and Labuan Bajo. By analysing the discourses surrounding these destinations, the study highlights the need for a transformative shift towards more sustainable and equitable tourism practices. Degrowth offers a roadmap for achieving balanced economic growth while prioritizing ecological preservation and social justice.

Keywords: *Green Growth, Degrowth, Sustainability, Justice, Tourism.*

Abstrak

Greenwashing telah menjadi hal lazim karena banyak pemangku kepentingan secara salah kaprah mematuhi prinsip green growth. Selain itu, pada praktiknya green growth juga sering mengabaikan aspek kemanusiaan. Studi ini mengusulkan degrowth sebagai alternatif terhadap paradigma pertumbuhan ekonomi yang dominan. Degrowth, yang memperoleh popularitas selama pemulihan pascapandemi, menekankan keberlanjutan, keadilan, dan kemandirian dari pertumbuhan kapitalis. Sementara green growth sering kali mengandalkan teknologi sebagai solusi, degrowth mengakui keterbatasan potensinya. Degrowth dapat mendukung masyarakat lokal dan menantang praktik pariwisata neo-kolonial. Pariwisata berbasis masyarakat, pariwisata lambat, dan pariwisata yang bertanggung jawab merupakan perwujudan konkret dari prinsip degrowth. Pendekatan-pendekatan ini bertujuan untuk memberi manfaat bagi masyarakat lokal, mengurangi dampak lingkungan, dan mempromosikan praktik pariwisata berkelanjutan. Studi ini berfokus pada tiga destinasi pariwisata internasional Indonesia, yakni Raja Ampat, Nusa Penida, dan Labuan Bajo. Dengan menganalisis wacana seputar destinasi-destinasi tersebut, studi ini menyoroti perlunya perubahan transformatif menuju praktik pariwisata yang lebih berkelanjutan dan adil. Degrowth menawarkan peta jalan untuk mencapai pertumbuhan ekonomi yang seimbang sambil memprioritaskan pelestarian ekologi dan keadilan sosial.

Kata Kunci: *Green Growth, Degrowth, Keberlanjutan, Keadilan, Pariwisata.*

Introduction

Undoubtedly many people in the world are optimistic about the promise of a green economy. Private and business sectors are the main proponent for this perspective of economic growth. Using the recently popular green technology, global private and business sectors are endorsing three bottom lines concept, people-planet-profit, to maintain the current global economic circulation while keeping commitments to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) global agendas (Miller 2020). The green economy itself connects four crucial aspects of development, they are human, social, economic, and environmental (Leanerts et al. 2022). Green economy concepts have also led to several aspects of human activities shifting to more “green” conceptual activities, such as industries, jobs, infrastructure, energy, marketing, financing, and growth. Thus, sustainable living is becoming more popular and it’s gaining more attention on industrial terms. Automobiles’ chains of productions are moving towards electricity and also the discourse of carbon trading (carbon tax) is even becoming a-must-take strategy for many countries nowadays.

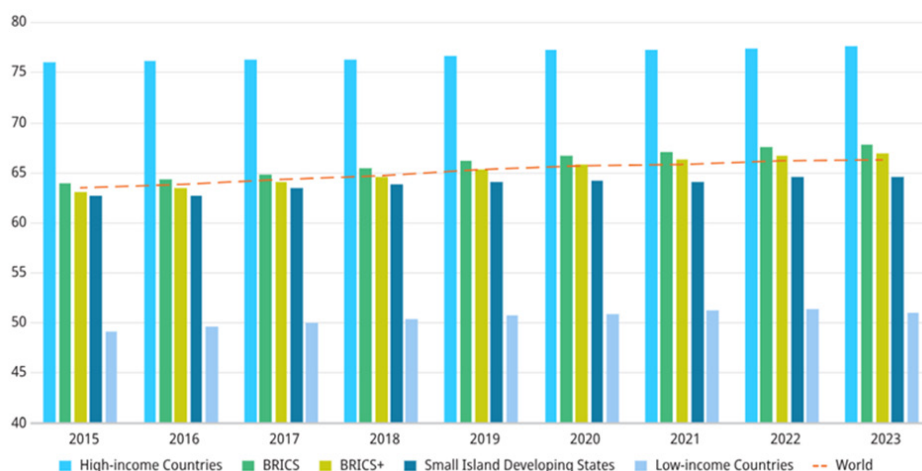
However, “*greenwashing*” has become popular recently because many stakeholders are pretending to apply the green economy principles by publishing unreal field reports to build a positive reputation, while they are not in factual (Santos et al. 2024). Consequently, scepticism is increasing in society, and trust in many public or private organizations is decreasing. Other critiques regarding the ambition of green growth are coming to the surface. The idea of the green economy, which is expected to result in green development, has at least five fundamental weaknesses: (1) it is impossible to measure the exact price of ecological services in economic activities; (2) when technological advancement comes as the solution to protect the environment, how all level of society is convinced that it is genuinely efficient; (3) green growth remains to put the economic gains over the environment; (4) the economic system offers low protection for vulnerable groups; (5) the market recently are challenging to have significant transformations towards ecological protection (Wilson 2019). Those five issues increase the potents of more considerable environmental degradation and social inequality. In other words, a green economy perspective might seem like a method of monetizing nature without any significant breakthrough.

Green growth also seemed lacking in protecting human rights aspects. In this case, the formulation of green economy policies at the national level lacks social dimensions but is more inclusive of political contestation. Green growth also seemed lacking in protecting human rights aspects. In this case, the formulation of green economy policies at the national level lacks social dimensions but is more inclusive of political contestation. The policymakers have made social participation exclusive,

so democratic control is the apparent blind spot here (Unmüßig et al. 2012). Many countries are pressured to commit to creating green growth at the global level, but disparities remain available among the governments of industrialized nations, emerging economies, and developing countries. From a broader perspective, economic growth in this era has not shown significant impacts on the expected result, thus bringing out more critiques: (1) ecological critique regarding sustainability; (2) socio-economic critique regarding well-being and equality; (3) cultural critique regarding the value and norms of local people in doing their economic activities; (4) critique of capitalism regarding the remaining nature exploitation; (5) feminist critique regarding the gender equality; (6) critique of industrialism regarding the undemocratic practice in production lines; (7) South-North critique regarding the disparities between capitalist centre and periphery (Schmelzer et al. 2022).

Based on the last publication of the Sustainable Development Report 2024, serious gaps existed in achieving sustainable development goals among countries worldwide from 2016 to 2023. While high-income countries experienced high scores and BRICS+ (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates) were slightly above the world average score, the Small Island Developing Countries and Low-Income Countries were far behind (Sachs et al. 2024). This condition can be seen in the following figure.

Figure 1. Average Sustainable Development Goals Index Score by Selected Country Groups in 2015-2023



Source: Sustainable Development Report 2024

It is a paradoxical condition, as in 2015, many nations committed to setting their national development based on the principles of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Most countries are also committed to implementing a green economy framework to balance economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Figure 2. The 41 Countries that Formulated the National Green Economy Plan



Source: Green Economy Tracker 2024

According to the Green Economy Tracker Report 2024, most of these countries' national regulations aren't yet ambitious enough to deliver on national agreements in the so-called Paris Agreement, United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and protecting the planet (Green Economy Tracker 2024). In addition to the SDG report, the United Nations would have a deep review of several strategic issues, especially the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). There was an alarming condition regarding those 4 points due to the increasing impacts of climate change, such as food insecurity and biodiversity loss because of the damaged environment and water scarcity (Sachs et al. 2024). Therefore, the question regarding the application of the green economy is rising, how influential are the principles of the green economy in helping

to achieve essential SDG points and improving economic growth?

Henceforth, in this article, we are proposing degrowth perspective as an alternative to the recent decades economic growth approach. The degrowth movement regained popularity and was once a manifesto for a post-pandemic recovery in 2020 as a form of re-orientation to ambitious economic development. Enriching the idea of green growth, degrowth offers another detailed perspective to achieve more balanced aspects of people, planet, and prosperity. There are at least five key policy proposals from the idea of degrowth: (1) a shift from focused aggregate GDP growth to differentiate between essential sectors to grow investment, such as energy, education, and critical public sector; (2) familiarizing the redistribution by establishing a universal social policy system and recognizing care work and essential public services; (3) regenerative agriculture that prioritizes biodiversity conservation, local values, and fair employment; (4) reduction of wasteful consumption and travel; (5) debt cancellation and shift to a more progressive financial system (Schmelzer et al. 2022). In short, degrowth focuses on enhancing ecological conditions, increasing human well-being, and fundamental changes that overcome the capitalist mode of production through down-scaling and redistribution.

Regarding our article for degrowth as a global perspective that manifested in Indonesia, we will be specifically using Indonesian tourism destinations and the discourses around them to assertively delivering our analysis. There are three Indonesian international tourism destinations we will use as the study cases, they are 1) Raja Ampat, 2) Nusa Penida, and 3) Labuan Bajo. These three Indonesian tourism destinations have been globally popular for their natural beauty and endowment. Unlike Bali, for a whole island for global tourism destination, these three tourism destinations are still rich in biodiversity, less polluted, and less populated, both in terms of local, domestic, and foreign citizen. We will use two variables, they are 1) natural conservation and preservation actions and 2) local communities' participation, in qualitatively measuring to what extend degrowth perspective is manifested in Raja Ampat, Nusa Penida, and Labuan Bajo. Yet first we need to deep down to define and understand what and how degrowth, both as a global perspective and a global framework, could be crucial for Indonesian tourism in the future.

Degrowth: Critically Bringing Back a Just Sustainable Tourism

Degrowth as a system of ideas and values also targets similar goals of green growth, especially sustainability and justice. Yet, degrowth emphasizes other objectives of independence from capitalist-seemed growth and stable GDP increase, not soaring values in the short term. Green growth still shows several characteristics of a capitalist economic system; for example, it is the use of technology as the critical solution. With the idea of degrowth, technology is not always the answer because it seems to be a form of efficiency that leads to a more massive production. Degrowth dwells in a “non-technical” proposal to reduce the modernization of material and energy use. Some might think it is a form of “limit to technologies.” Still, it is more likely a method to consider that exploiting natural resources might only fulfil the “necessities” to keep the abundance of ecological richness (Demaria et al. 2013).

Based on the proposals and objectives, many scholars attempted to define degrowth with a wide-spanning analysis. It was Timothée Parrique who described three definitions of degrowth. The first is the environmentalist definition, which characterizes degrowth as a decline. The decline refers to the limitation of redundant production and consumption habits, which leads to rising waste and brutal planet exploitation. The second is the revolutionary definition, which means emancipation—the emancipation of all society to be involved in their economic system to improve their wealth and well-being. The third definition is utopian, which sees degrowth as a destination or a method that best suits all economic development worldwide (Parrique 2023). Based on the definitions, we can highlight one crucial feature of degrowth: a democratic process; therefore, degrowth is sometimes considered from the microeconomic perspective that is closely related to economic democracy (Cattaneo et al. 2012). This democratic process underlines the process of transformation by reconsidering global ecological justice, strengthening social justice and self-determination, and redesigning institutions and infrastructure to reduce the dependence on extreme and continuous expansion (Schmelzer et al. 2022). Therefore, the keywords that are used to achieve degrowth objectives are systemic changes, ecological justice, social justice, self-determination, and growth independence. At the global level, degrowth means integration in a mutual symbiotic relationship instead of structural dependencies. Therefore, The Global North shall no longer displace its economic demands and problems to the Global South (Schmelzer et al. 2022).

Due to the condition of an oligarchy political system, capitalistic global economy, and centralized economic structure, the global south might have different interpretations of degrowth. A promising huge profit from massive economic growth later prevents a broader involvement from

society inclusively. Therefore, difficulties regarding the implementation of the degrowth policy will be fundamental which can be addressed through a complete economic and political independence of the South from the capitalist world-economy (MacKay 2021). As the basic principles of degrowth have been embedded in the political will, it will be possible to strengthen the degrowth policies in the Global South. There are several ways to transform into degrowth policies, they are (1) effectively reducing society's ecological footprint; (2) promoting democracy and inclusiveness in the decision-making process; (3) promoting equitable sharing of wealth to strengthen the value of social justice; (4) prioritizing prosperity compared to growth by increasing society's well-being (Parrique 2023). In short, translating degrowth into national economic development policies is localized and democratically governed economies that limit the exposure to ecological exploitation (Chiengkul 2019). Thus, it can be expected to distribute natural resources more equally between the state and everyone in the specific living region.

Degrowth comes as an alternative discussion regarding post socio-economic developments, streamlining within the pillars of socialism. This framework, juggling between capital liberty and dismantling overconsumption requires the work to reconstruct the mindset of the masses. This aspect of decentralization, more often than not depends on each local customs in which this study is applied. One of the studies we analyse is a study on the discourse within degrowth in future Arctic tourism. This analysis concluded that the future of tourism is that one of hegemonic discussions, that heavily depended on the power dynamic of "tourism nature," which leaning on to rapid growth--a capital desirability. Whereas discussions of degrowth are deemed to be a more of "radical" approach in tourism development (Tikkanen 2023). However, her study also points out that degrowth need to be atleast amplified as it concerns the ingenuity within cultural and environmental aspects in tourism, to give a limit to which commodifications of customs can be pushed as attraction.

Tikkanen's study explored the contrasting yet linear findings from ethnographic research conducted among local stakeholders (Tikkanen 2023). Between local stakeholders, discussion regarding alternatives routes in tourism including degrowth dominating their data and deemed a possible path. Meanwhile Tikkanen's study broaden their databases to business firm and established government such as Sámi Parliament of Finland, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland, and Business Finland, leading to the findings on how degrowth and alternatives paths deemed unapproachable. Tikkanen deemed conclusion that the people in power as capital-oriented and close minded. Adding into Tikkanen's study, Savini describes degrowth as a redistribution of resources and responsibility, which translates to

burdening the rich for managing their excess wealth and access, whilst limiting their capital. This aspect of degrowth is the reason why its seen as “radical” (Savini 2024).

Meanwhile, onto the Global South, degrowth could be utilized to sustain and rebuild local communities. While tourism especially in developed countries could fall onto the subject of orientalism towards neo-colonialism, prospects of alternative paths could slow down the industrial pace and ultimately filters how that tourism ran (Higgins-Desbioles 2022). Especially with how degrowth decentralized, distributed and localized the whole environment in circular system, the involvement of local people are at its core, reclaiming identities also ownership within their land. Degrowth could also tamper further commodification as it slows down the prospect of tourism dependancy (Demaria et al. 2019). This could be reflected into Kichwa Anãgu Community in Ecuador, where the tourism are community-based, and is focused on the whole betterment of all, including living wages, independent economy, and environmental balances. Through this slow-paced tourism, people of Kichwa Anãgu could reclaim their cultures and packed them as educational attraction, ranging from local language to other cultural significances. Their framework ties closely to their local wisdoms and is curating the number of tourists. In practice, however, the study of Kichwa Anãgu find a loophole in their framework as their most promising vacancy is global tourists thats unfamiliar to the charms of Ecuador. A dangerous ticking bomb towards tourism dependancy that could roll to the worst base–dismantling the desired communal reclamation within the sense of degrowth (Renkert 2019).

Thus, degrowth could be understood as the opposite of green-growth. While green-growth believes in the infinite profit for global business, degrowth re-calculate and also re-state that infinite profit is unrealistic due to the very limited resources in planet Earth. As green-growth frequently advocated as the best way the world can pursue to sustaining livings in Earth, degrowth tackles the assumption that the problem of sustainability is the green-growth itself. In tourism sector, we have been long introduced by the phenomenon of overtourism, or where “growth” is the only method to measure the successfulness of tourism. The discourses of overtourism grew exponentially over the last decade, but recently finding a hard fight with the degrowth (Fletcher et al. 2019). The environmental damages, unpredicted climate, and the un-sustained exploitation of the locals are the negative impacts caused mostly by the overtourism. Degrowth perspective is believed to be booster for sustainable tourism, a concept that has been lost in the practice.

It is politically correct and fair enough to discuss the interconnectedness of global crises, particularly climate change, and the importance of rethinking tourism futures through a lens of justice and solidarity nowadays. We are hardly enduring to ignore the argument that climate change is a pervasive crisis with far-reaching consequences, encompassing various other issues like conflict, economic recession, and resource scarcity (Rastegar et al. 2023). Furthermore, we need to realize the importance of considering diverse cultural perspectives and worldviews to understand the root causes of these crises and develop effective solutions. It is also difficult for us to claim that the wisdom of indigenous peoples, who have experienced similar hardships due to colonialism, is acknowledged as invaluable in addressing current challenges. The concept of solidarity is introduced as essential for addressing global crises, emphasizing its relational aspects of cooperation and commonality. The need for global solidarity and cooperation in addressing transnational issues like climate change and pandemics is globally discussed even more. The potential of tourism to foster intercultural understanding and contribute to peace and solidarity is explored, while emphasizing the importance of justice as a foundation for these efforts. The concept of sustainable tourism, with justice as the foundation, is begin to arise. The role and participations of community-based tourism, slow tourism and responsible tourism is ought to have deeper impact in creating a just sustainable tourism.

Manifesting Just Sustainable Tourism in Indonesian International Tourism Destinations

Community-based tourism, slow tourism, and responsible tourism, as the concrete manifestations of degrowth perspective, are expected to get a greater role in determining the direction of tourism development. The concept of community-based tourism is a form of travel to local indigenous communities, which aims to benefit the community. This already common concept in tourism development centres on providing experiences to tourists by applying the customs or living conditions that are common in a tourism destination, which in this case is a tourism village (Barker n.d). With this concept, the tourism village as a destination can maintain the authenticity or naturalness of the village and its culture and concentrate the income obtained by tourism in the village. As for slow tourism, this concept is a derivative part of the Slow Movement that originated in Italy in the 1970's as a form of opposition to fast food culture. This concept focuses on reducing the carbon footprint generated from massive tourism. By adopting this concept, tourism villages can concentrate tourist movements in tourism village locations by enjoying learning related to local culture in destinations and natural attractions in tourism villages (Dickinson 2021). Meanwhile in the concept of responsible tourism, there is an identification that focuses on minimising negative impacts on local communities, maximising economic

benefits to local communities or local people, involving local people in tourism management in tourism villages, maximising conservation of nature and culture, centred on building natural relationships between tourists and local communities, and increasing tourists' sensitivity and empathy towards culture (Goodwin n.d).

Located within the remote expanse of West Papua, one of Indonesia's provinces, Raja Ampat emerges as one of global marine tourism's haven. However, this region, geographically distant from the nation's core, has historically been more susceptible to external pressures. In 2014, West Papua's economic growth experienced a notable downturn, contracting by 4.10% compared to the preceding year. Recognizing the urgent need for diversification, the former Minister of Tourism, Arief Yahya, championed the development of the tourism sector in Raja Ampat, and generally in eastern side of Indonesia. A cornerstone of this strategy involved fostering active community engagement in preserving and safeguarding Papua's rich cultural heritage and unparalleled natural environment. To catalyze this transformation, the inaugural Raja Ampat Festival was launched in 2009, marking a pivotal moment in the region's tourism trajectory (Hutauruk & Harto 2017). The successful festival was able to give global spotlights to Raja Ampat.

The Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF), a pivotal agency within the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), orchestrated a media familiarization trip to Raja Ampat accordingly. The event invited a cohort of Indonesian journalists and brought them together to Raja Ampat. This strategic initiative aimed to amplify the region's allure as a premier tourism destination while concurrently showcasing the government's unwavering commitment to coral reef rehabilitation and management. These endeavors are aligned with the emerging paradigm of degrowth, which underscores the imperative of harmonizing human activities with the preservation of environmental integrity. By fostering a deeper understanding of Raja Ampat's ecological significance and the nation's proactive stance on climate action, this media trip serves as a catalyst for raising awareness and galvanizing support for sustainable tourism practices (Mulyanto 2022).

Raja Ampat, while renowned for its unparalleled marine biodiversity, commands a significantly higher visitation/tourism cost compared to its counterparts, Nusa Penida in Bali and Labuan Bajo in East Nusa Tenggara (Nusa Tenggara Timur). Manta-ray encounters and sea-diving experience, captivating a substantial portion of tourists, constitute a cornerstone of Raja Ampat's tourism appeal. Despite a notable surge in tourist arrivals, ranging from 20% to 50%, the region grapples with revenue leakage due to inadequate oversight (King 2017). The significant increase in tourist numbers, especially for diving attraction, indicates a need

to limit the impact of these activities on the environment. By considering the existing carrying capacity and prioritizing conservation, the application of degrowth principles can help regulate visitor volumes to ensure that tourism development does not compromise ecosystem quality. The carrying capacity of the ecosystem is a crucial issue in Raja Ampat, particularly concerning the popular snorkeling and diving activities. The pressure on coral reefs and marine species due to the surge in visitors requires careful management to ensure environmental sustainability. This highlights the need to adhere to degrowth principles by limiting the number of visitors and improving natural resource management.

The situation in Raja Ampat presents both challenges and opportunities for sustainable tourism management. While high entry fees can reduce the impact of mass tourism, this cost structure also has the potential to create disparities in accessibility and diversity of tourist experiences. Degrowth principles, which emphasize in reducing environmental impact and enhancing the well-being of local communities, suggest a more integrated approach to managing destinations like Raja Ampat. Adopting degrowth perspective in Raja Ampat means focusing on the quality of tourism rather than quantity, ensuring that tourism activities are managed carefully to minimize ecological impacts while providing fair benefits to local communities. This includes supporting conservation projects, developing training initiatives for local residents, and creating a tourism model that offers immersive experiences without excessive exploitation of resources. This approach can make Raja Ampat an example of how degrowth principles can be applied to create more sustainable and environmentally-inclusive tourism in Indonesia. In the application of sustainable tourism in Raja Ampat, which adopts the principles of degrowth, it can bring up several potentials that can be applied in local tourism villages. This potential focuses on maximising the income earned from tourists for local communities, maximising environmental conservation to preserve the environment, and higher quality economic growth. There are several concepts of sustainable tourism development theory that can be the basis for its application to tourist villages including, community-based tourism, slow tourism, and responsible tourism. Aside from Raja Ampat, there is Nusa Penida in Bali.

The Nusa Penida Islands, a region of significant ecological and cultural value in Bali, Indonesia, face mounting challenges in preserving their marine biodiversity. Despite being designated a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification, the islands' natural resources remain largely unregulated (Suhardono et al. 2024). This is exacerbated by unsustainable practices such as illegal fishing, pollution, coral mining, and the impacts of climate change. With a growing population and tourism industry, the pressure on

these fragile ecosystems is intensifying. To address these issues, the local community and institutions are working towards implementing effective conservation strategies, including knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives. By promoting sustainable practices and protecting marine biodiversity, Nusa Penida can ensure its long-term ecological and economic well-being. Due to a lack of formalized natural resource management and inadequate marine biodiversity protection, the primary institutional strategies focus on creating platforms for knowledge sharing and skill development in tropical marine conservation. The islands, home to 45,000 residents who rely on fishing and seaweed farming, face threats from illegal fishing, pollution, coral mining, and climate change (Welly 2022). With around 200,000 tourists annually, the proposed solutions aim to mitigate these threats and protect biodiversity, ecosystems, and local livelihoods (Welly 2022).

Manifesting degrowth perspective means endorsing sustainable tourism in Nusa Penida. The tourism growth in Nusa Penida must be managed or limited for the sake of natural conservation and environmental preservation. Human actions are crucial to the success of MPAs. Overfishing, pollution, and coastal development, driven by human activities, threaten coastal ecosystems vital to human well-being (Nie et al. 2023). MPAs aim to safeguard fish populations and marine resources by restricting human activities like fishing, boating, and diving. However, conflicts between fishing and tourism can arise, potentially harming livelihoods, especially among marginalized communities (Sutrisno et al. 2023). To effectively manage MPAs, understanding human behavior, including economic and social factors, is essential. This knowledge can facilitate the development of alternative livelihoods for fishing communities and foster local stakeholder involvement in MPA decision-making, ultimately leading to more successful and sustainable MPAs. There have been three concrete activities implemented in Nusa Penida in order to maintain the tourism limitation. The first thing is zone management, the second is community participation, and the third is organizational upgrading (Suhardono et al. 2024).

The Nusa Penida MPA's zoning plan is a critical component of its management strategy. By establishing four distinct zones, each with specific restrictions on human activities, the MPA seeks to balance conservation objectives with the needs of local communities. A no-take zone, where all extractive activities are prohibited, is essential for protecting marine biodiversity and ecosystem health. Marine tourism, seaweed cultivation, and fishery limited use zones allow for sustainable economic development while minimizing environmental impacts. To ensure effective implementation, a regional regulation tailored to Nusa Penida's unique circumstances is counted as necessary (Suhardono 2024). This regulation will provide a legal framework for enforcing the zoning

plan and strengthening the rules governing each zone. Additionally, public consultations with marine tourism entrepreneurs, fishers, and seaweed farmers will be conducted to gather valuable insights and foster stakeholder buy-in. The MPA's zoning plan also establishes specific time restrictions for certain activities. Fishing is permitted from 4 am to 9 am, using traditional methods such as line fishing, netting, and spearfishing. However, from 9 am to 4 pm, the focus shifts to tourism activities, including diving, snorkeling, whale watching, and cultural tours. This temporal division helps to minimize conflicts between fishing and tourism and ensures that both sectors can operate sustainably.

In recognition of the island's cultural and spiritual significance, a special "Holy Zone" has been designated within the MPA. This zone prohibits fishing activities and is reserved for rehabilitation efforts, photography, and patrols. The concept of *Tri Hita Kirana*, which emphasizes harmony between humans, gods, and nature, underpins the development of marine potential and tourism in Nusa Penida. The annual *Nyepi Segara* (Silent Day) serves as a philosophical, juridical, and sociological foundation for preserving the marine environment and promoting sustainable practices (Suhardono et al. 2024). By carefully balancing conservation and economic development through zoning, public participation, and time restrictions, the Nusa Penida MPA can serve as a model for sustainable marine management in the region. The inclusion of a holy zone further demonstrates the importance of integrating cultural values into conservation efforts and reinforces the island's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Secondly, by involving local communities in the decision-making process, the MPA can enhance its legitimacy and increase the likelihood of compliance with regulations. This participatory approach aligns with the principles of adaptive management and has been shown to improve conservation outcomes (Berdej & Armitage 2016). Local communities' participations have been an integral part even important ones when they are linked with community empowerment (Tranggono et al. 2021). Community participation is a cornerstone of successful sustainable tourism in Nusa Penida. Local communities, as primary stakeholders, play a pivotal role in guiding environmental and natural resource management. Their involvement not only promotes long-term sustainability but also mitigates human-induced environmental degradation. By fostering community engagement, sustainable initiatives in Nusa Penida serve as a model for sustainable tourism practices (Suhardono et al. 2024). Local communities' active participation ensures the preservation of cultural heritage, while their knowledge and experiences contribute to the effective stewardship of natural resources. This collaborative approach demonstrates the imperative of involving local populations in conservation efforts to achieve sustainable and equitable tourism outcomes.

Thirdly, effective management of the Nusa Penida MPA necessitates a well-structured framework that defines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Adequate funding is also essential for supporting outreach, training, and supervision efforts. The revenue generated from entrance fees can be utilized to sustain these activities and ensure the MPA's long-term well-being. Addressing the problem of waste, particularly during the rainy season, is crucial for preserving marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable tourism. Collaboration among tourism service providers, local government, waste management organizations, and community groups can significantly mitigate this issue. By implementing collective clean-up initiatives and promoting responsible waste management practices, Nusa Penida can safeguard its marine environment, enhance the tourism experience, and contribute to the well-being of local communities (Suhardono et al. 2024).

While tourism development can bring economic benefits, it can also have detrimental environmental and social consequences. Large-scale tourism projects can lead to urban sprawl, environmental degradation, and conflicts with local communities. In Labuan Bajo, as in other destinations, the tourism industry has contributed to water scarcity and resource depletion (Cole 2017). While global water consumption by tourism is relatively small, at the regional level, the sector can place significant strain on limited resources, especially in developing countries where tourist consumption often exceeds that of locals (Kodir 2019). While economically beneficial, tourism growth in Labuan Bajo is also straining local resources and infrastructure. The increasing demand for water, exacerbated by climate change (Water for Women 2023), has created challenges for both residents and businesses. Limited access to reliable water sources, particularly during dry seasons, has led to water shortages and high prices. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the tourism sector to adapt, with a focus on ecosystem preservation. The Komodo National Park Authority implemented enhanced patrols to combat illegal activities and promote conservation efforts, fostering a collaborative relationship with local communities (Sianipar & Suryawan 2024).

Conclusions

In conclusion, the discourse surrounding tourism development in Indonesia, particularly in the context of Raja Ampat, Nusa Penida, and Labuan Bajo, highlights the need for a transformative shift towards more sustainable and equitable practices. While the green economy offers a promising framework, its limitations and potential for greenwashing necessitate a more comprehensive approach. Degrowth, as an alternative perspective, provides a roadmap for achieving balanced economic growth while prioritizing ecological preservation and social justice. The application

of degrowth principles in tourism requires a focus on community-based initiatives, slow tourism, and responsible tourism. By empowering local communities, promoting sustainable practices, and limiting the negative impacts of tourism, these destinations can create more equitable and environmentally-friendly tourism experiences. This involves fostering local participation in decision-making, supporting community-led initiatives, and prioritizing the well-being of local residents.

The success of implementing degrowth in Indonesia's tourism industry depends on a collective effort. Governments, businesses, local communities, and tourists must all play a role in promoting sustainable practices and challenging the dominant paradigms of economic growth. By embracing degrowth, Indonesia can position itself as a global leader in sustainable tourism and contribute to a more just and equitable future. Furthermore, it is essential to consider the broader implications of degrowth on the global tourism industry. By prioritizing ecological sustainability, social justice, and economic fairness, degrowth can help address the challenges posed by climate change, resource depletion, and inequality. This transition will require significant changes in policies, practices, and consumer behaviour, but the potential benefits for both local communities and the planet are immense.

In addition to the specific examples provided, it is important to recognize the broader global trends and challenges that are shaping the tourism industry. The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, has highlighted the fragility of the tourism sector and its vulnerability to external shocks. Climate change is also posing significant threats to many tourism destinations, including Indonesia. By adopting degrowth principles, the tourism industry can become more resilient and adaptable to these challenges. Moreover, degrowth can contribute to a more equitable and inclusive tourism sector. By prioritizing local communities and promoting sustainable practices, degrowth can help to reduce the negative impacts of tourism on marginalized populations and ensure that the benefits of tourism are more equitably distributed. This can help to address the issue of tourism gentrification and ensure that tourism development is aligned with the needs and aspirations of local communities. At the very last, the path towards a more sustainable and equitable tourism industry in Indonesia lies in embracing degrowth principles and actively working towards a more just and sustainable future. By prioritizing community empowerment, environmental protection, and social justice, Indonesia can create tourism destinations that are not only economically viable but also contribute to the well-being of both local communities and the planet.

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