



## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR REALIZING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN SOUTH LAMPUNG REGENCY

### HUKUM LINGKUNGAN SEBAGAI INSTRUMEN UNTUK MEWUJUDKAN PARIWISATA BERKELANJUTAN DI KABUPATEN LAMPUNG SELATAN

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#### Abstract

This article examines the role of environmental law as a key instrument in sustainable tourism development in South Lampung Regency. Tourism significantly contributes to regional economic growth through increased investment, employment opportunities, and community welfare. However, the development of this sector is often accompanied by environmental degradation due to weak ecologically sound management. This research uses normative legal methods with legislative, conceptual, and comparative legal approaches to analyze the role of environmental law as an instrument for realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung. The research method used in this study is a qualitative approach with a library research method with a normative legal approach. This research is qualitative normative, which emphasizes the analysis of legal norms. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation analysis by identifying, reviewing, and interpreting legal sources, relevant literature, legal sources used include, Books, Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning environmental protection and management, Law Number 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism, and Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012 concerning Environmental Permits. Then a descriptive-analytical and thematic analysis is carried out, by grouping data into main themes and then drawing conclusions from a general to specific problem, in this case regarding Environmental Law as an Instrument for Realizing Sustainable Tourism in South Lampung. The results of this study indicate that environmental law plays a fundamental role as a controlling instrument in realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung Regency. Through the implementation of legal instruments such as environmental impact analysis (EIA), environmental permits, the precautionary principle, and the enforcement of legal sanctions, tourism activities can be directed to prevent ecosystem damage.

**Keywords :** Environmental Law, Instruments, Tourism, South Lampung.



### Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas peran hukum lingkungan sebagai instrumen utama dalam pembangunan pariwisata berkelanjutan di Kabupaten Lampung Selatan. Pariwisata memberikan kontribusi besar terhadap pertumbuhan ekonomi daerah melalui peningkatan investasi, kesempatan kerja, dan kesejahteraan masyarakat. Namun, perkembangan sektor ini sering diikuti oleh degradasi lingkungan akibat lemahnya pengelolaan yang berwawasan ekologis. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode hukum normatif dengan pendekatan perundang-undangan, konseptual, dan perbandingan hukum untuk menganalisis peran Hukum lingkungan sebagai instrumen untuk mewujudkan pariwisata berkelanjutan di Lampung Selatan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode studi kepustakaan (library research) dengan pendekatan hukum normatif (legal research). Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif normatif, yaitu menekankan pada analisis terhadap norma hukum. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui analisis dokumentasi dengan mengidentifikasi, menelaah, dan menginterpretasi sumber-sumber hukum, literature yang relevan, sumber hukum yang digunakan antara lain, Buku, undang-undang Nomor 32 tahun 2009 tentang perlindungan dan pengelolaan lingkungan hidup, undang-undang Nomor 10 tahun 2009 tentang Pariwisata, serta Peraturan Pemerintah Nomor 27 Tahun 2012 tentang Izin Lingkungan. Kemudian dilakukan analisis secara deskriptif-analitis dan tematik, dengan mengelompokkan data ke dalam tema utama kemudian menarik kesimpulan dari suatu permasalahan yang bersifat umum ke khusus yang dalam hal ini tentang Hukum Lingkungan Sebagai Instrumen untuk Mewujudkan Pariwisata Berkelanjutan di Lampung Selatan. Hasil penelitian ini adalah Hukum lingkungan memiliki peran fundamental sebagai instrumen pengendali dalam mewujudkan pariwisata berkelanjutan di Kabupaten Lampung Selatan. Melalui penerapan instrumen hukum seperti AMDAL, izin lingkungan, prinsip kehati-hatian, dan penegakan sanksi hukum, kegiatan pariwisata dapat diarahkan agar tidak menimbulkan kerusakan ekosistem.

**Kata Kunci :** Hukum Lingkungan, Instrumen, Pariwisata, Lampung Selatan.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, tourism is recognized as one of the sectors that continues to increase its contribution to national income. Tourism has proven capable of driving economic growth through the creation of investment opportunities, employment, and business activities, which ultimately enhance public welfare. Lampung, as one of the provinces in Indonesia, possesses significant natural and cultural potential that can be developed as tourist attractions. This potential includes scenic landscapes, a cool climate, lush green hills, beautiful coastlines, and mountainous areas rich in diverse flora. In addition, Lampung's cultural diversity is unique and appealing, as reflected in its customs and traditions. With these conditions, Lampung can be positioned as an important link in national tourism destinations.

South Lampung Regency is one of the regions that is frequently visited by tourists. The regency offers various tourism sectors, including coastal tourism, historical tourism, culinary tourism, educational tourism, accommodation services, shopping tourism, nature-based tourism, and integrated tourism destinations. The diversity of these attractions demonstrates the strategic importance of South Lampung in supporting regional tourism development.

From a legal perspective, tourism development is closely related to environmental law, which serves as a guideline for regulating environmental issues through several fundamental principles, one of which is sustainable development. Sustainable development is defined as



development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Susan Smith defines sustainable development as an effort to improve the quality of life of the present generation while reserving natural capital or resources for future generations. According to her, this approach aims to achieve four key objectives: the sustainable maintenance of renewable resources, the conservation and substitution of exhaustible natural resources, the preservation of ecological support systems, and the protection of biodiversity.

The application of these principles is highly relevant to the tourism conditions in South Lampung Regency, which is one of the districts in Lampung Province with abundant natural tourism potential. Based on data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), a total of 374,744 tourists have visited South Lampung. The region's leading tourist destinations include Rio By The Beach, Marina Beach, M Beach, Pasir Putih Beach, WTC Swimming Pool, Slanik Water Park, Minang Rua Beach, the Tomb of Raden Intan II, and the Natar Hot Springs. This significant increase in tourist visits reflects substantial economic potential, yet simultaneously presents serious challenges to environmental sustainability in South Lampung.

Tourism activities may generate various environmental problems, such as waste accumulation, clean water scarcity, air pollution, and increased disaster risks. To prevent these issues, tourism development must be properly managed in accordance with applicable legal provisions, including Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, Law Number 10 of 2009 on Tourism, and Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012 on Environmental Permits. These regulations emphasize the importance of implementing Environmental Impact Assessments (AMDAL) and obtaining environmental permits for all tourism-related activities that may cause ecological impacts. In this context, local governments bear the responsibility to ensure that every tourism destination in South Lampung applies the precautionary principle and the principle of state responsibility in environmental management. Therefore, although tourism development in South Lampung contributes positively to the regional economy, without the proper implementation of sustainable development principles within the framework of environmental law, the sustainability of natural resources may be threatened. For this reason, this article discusses environmental law as an instrument for realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung Regency.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method employed in this study is a qualitative approach using library research combined with a normative legal research approach (Nugraha, 2025). This approach is considered relevant for examining how legal instruments and environmental policies function in realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung. The research is normative-qualitative in nature, emphasizing the analysis of legal norms, statutory regulations, government policies, and academic as well as scientific documents related to environmental law and sustainable tourism development.



Data collection was conducted through documentation analysis, which involved identifying, reviewing, and interpreting legal sources and relevant literature. The legal sources used in this study include textbooks on environmental law, Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, Law Number 10 of 2009 on Tourism, and Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012 on Environmental Permits. The data were then analyzed using descriptive-analytical and thematic analysis methods by grouping the data into key themes. Conclusions were drawn using a deductive method, namely deriving conclusions from general principles related to environmental law as an instrument for realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### a. Environmental Law as a Regulatory Instrument

Environmental law can be defined as a body of law that regulates, maintains, and protects the environmental order surrounding human life. According to Takdir Rahmadi, environmental law is a distinct field of law which, as described by Drupsteen, is categorized as a functional branch of law because it incorporates elements of administrative law, criminal law, and civil law. Environmental law functions as an instrument to direct and control tourism activities so that they do not damage ecosystems. The implementation of environmental law in the tourism sector is realized through several key instruments, including Environmental Impact Assessment (AMDAL), environmental licensing based on the precautionary principle, and legal sanctions with effective law enforcement.

##### 1) Environmental Impact Assessment (AMDAL)

The implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment (AMDAL) within the framework of Law Number 32 of 2009 involves multiple stakeholders, including the government, business actors, and the community. The AMDAL process consists of several stages, ranging from document preparation and assessment to approval and post-implementation monitoring. The effectiveness of AMDAL implementation largely depends on the commitment and cooperation of all involved parties. AMDAL serves as a mechanism to reduce negative environmental impacts and manage potential risks through scientific analysis and the legal framework of environmental law. The core element of AMDAL lies in its scientific analytical approach.

Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012 on Environmental Permits, as an implementing regulation of Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, represents an adaptive response to evolving environmental governance needs. In general, AMDAL serves several key purposes: providing clear information regarding proposed business activities and their potential environmental impacts; accommodating public aspirations, local knowledge, and opinions, particularly concerning environmental issues during the planning stage of development; and collecting site-specific information useful for both project proponents and local communities in anticipating and managing environmental impacts.



The application of AMDAL in tourism development in South Lampung Regency plays a strategic role in realizing the principles of sustainable tourism. Based on Law Number 32 of 2009 and Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012, any business activity with the potential to cause significant environmental impacts is required to conduct an AMDAL study as a basis for decision-making. AMDAL is a critical instrument in project planning and development, as it enables the identification and evaluation of environmental impacts before project implementation. This allows the government and other stakeholders to take preventive and risk-management measures to minimize negative environmental consequences.

This instrument is particularly relevant to South Lampung Regency, which recorded 374,744 tourist visits as of August 2025. The significant increase in tourist arrivals reflects substantial economic potential but also poses environmental risks such as coastal ecosystem degradation, waste pollution, and increased pressure on natural resources. In this context, AMDAL functions as both a scientific and legal instrument to identify, assess, and control negative environmental impacts before and after tourism activities are carried out.

AMDAL also has an important social function by accommodating community participation in tourism planning and environmental management. Communities surrounding tourist destinations such as Kedu Warna Beach, Sebalang Beach, and the Way Belerang Hot Springs can provide valuable input regarding environmental and social impacts experienced directly. This participatory approach aligns with the principles of good environmental governance, which recognize communities as active subjects in environmental protection. Furthermore, AMDAL findings can serve as a basis for local governments and tourism operators to formulate mitigation strategies, including visitor capacity regulation, integrated waste management, coastal vegetation conservation, and zoning systems for tourism areas.

Data from the South Lampung Regency Government show that during the 2025 Eid al-Fitr holiday, 110,823 tourists visited local attractions, generating approximately IDR 3.6 billion in regional retribution revenue. While this figure highlights strong economic potential, it also underscores the importance of measurable environmental management through AMDAL to ensure that economic gains do not come at the expense of ecological sustainability. Therefore, AMDAL should not be viewed merely as an administrative requirement but as a comprehensive environmental risk control and monitoring instrument that supports long-term sustainability in tourism development.

## **2) Environmental Licensing and the Precautionary Principle**

Environmental licensing is a legal instrument designed to ensure that tourism activities are conducted in accordance with the environmental carrying and capacity limits. Under Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012 on Environmental Permits, all business actors, including tourism operators, are required to obtain an environmental permit prior to commencing activities. This policy is grounded in the precautionary principle, which emphasizes preventing environmental damage before adverse impacts occur.

In the context of South Lampung Regency, which hosts more than 30 active tourist destinations and recorded 374,744 tourist visits as of August 2025, the application of the



precautionary principle is particularly crucial. High tourist flows to destinations such as Sebalang Beach, Minang Rua Beach, and Way Belerang Hot Springs may lead to pollution and environmental degradation if not strictly supervised through transparent and lawful environmental licensing mechanisms.

However, empirical conditions indicate that many tourism activities still operate without adequate environmental permits. Weak governmental supervision during both the planning and operational stages often results in non-compliance with environmental administrative obligations. This situation potentially constitutes violations of Law Number 32 of 2009, particularly provisions concerning environmental permits and administrative sanctions. Without strict implementation of the precautionary principle, long-term risks such as coastal erosion, marine pollution, and waste accumulation may increase, ultimately threatening the sustainability and attractiveness of South Lampung's tourism sector.

To address this issue, local governments must strengthen permit-based supervision systems through regular environmental audits, community-based monitoring, and strict enforcement of sanctions against non-compliant business actors. Moreover, the precautionary principle should be integrated into spatial planning and sustainable tourism development policies. Prior to issuing permits, comprehensive assessments of environmental, social, and economic impacts must be conducted. Risk-based licensing systems, as encouraged by national policy, may also be implemented to ensure that high-risk tourism destinations receive more intensive oversight. Through disciplined environmental licensing and strong precautionary measures, tourism in South Lampung can develop sustainably while fulfilling national environmental law mandates.

### 3) Sanctions and Law Enforcement

Environmental law enforcement constitutes a critical pillar in ensuring the sustainability of tourism in South Lampung Regency. Under Law Number 32 of 2009, environmental violations may be subject to administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions. However, in practice, law enforcement in South Lampung has largely been limited to administrative measures, such as warnings, permit suspension, or permit revocation. Few cases have progressed to criminal prosecution or substantial fines, despite indications of environmentally harmful tourism activities such as marine waste disposal, destruction of coastal vegetation, and construction without environmental assessments.

This limited enforcement weakens the deterrent effect of environmental law, allowing violations to recur. In fact, Articles 97–120 of Law Number 32 of 2009 provide a clear legal basis for imposing criminal sanctions, including imprisonment of up to ten years and fines of up to IDR 10 billion. These provisions should serve as a strong legal instrument for achieving ecological justice, particularly in regions with high tourism intensity such as South Lampung, which recorded approximately 374,744 tourist visits in August 2025 alone.

Environmental law in this context functions both preventively and correctively. Preventively, it aims to avert pollution and environmental damage through licensing systems, supervision, and the application of the precautionary principle. Correctively, it serves as a



mechanism to restore environmental conditions and deliver justice to affected communities. Therefore, consistent and proportional enforcement of sanctions is essential to maintain a balance between economic interests and ecosystem preservation in tourism development.

### **b. The Role of Local Government and Community Participation**

The South Lampung Regency Government plays a central role in ensuring that tourism development aligns with environmental sustainability principles. According to information disseminated by the South Lampung Communication and Information Office (Diskominfo), the local government officially launched the Green Pro 2025–2028 Program, an initiative aimed at promoting a green economy while empowering marginalized youth to address climate change challenges and create sustainable employment opportunities. Through such programs, the local government seeks to integrate environmental principles into tourism policies, ensuring that tourism activities prioritize ecosystem sustainability and community welfare.

Community participation is equally vital in realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung. In accordance with Article 70 of Law Number 32 of 2009, communities have the right to participate in and conduct social oversight of environmental policy implementation. In practice, local residents have been actively involved in coastal clean-up initiatives, environmental education programs in tourism villages, and monitoring tourism activities with potential environmental impacts. This active participation strengthens environmental conservation efforts and fosters a sense of ownership over local tourism destinations.

The synergy between local government and community participation is key to achieving sustainable tourism governance. While the government establishes policies, provides technical guidance, and ensures legal compliance through permits and supervision, communities serve as active partners in environmental protection and tourism development. This collaborative approach strengthens environmental governance and creates an inclusive tourism management model in which sustainability becomes a shared responsibility.

### **c. Implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Concept**

Keiner identifies four dimensions of sustainable development: the economic dimension (man-made capital), environmental dimension (natural capital), social dimension (human capital), and institutional dimension (social capital). The implementation of sustainable tourism in South Lampung Regency can be analyzed using this four-dimensional framework, which provides a comprehensive understanding of balanced tourism development.

Economically, tourism development in South Lampung has generated business opportunities for local communities, particularly in the culinary, transportation, and accommodation sectors. Infrastructure development, including environmentally friendly access roads and public facilities, demonstrates investment in man-made capital aimed at improving welfare while maintaining ecological considerations.

From an environmental perspective, initiatives such as the “Clean and Green Lampung” program and the “Zero Waste Beach Movement” reflect efforts to preserve coastal ecosystems in line with the precautionary principle outlined in Government Regulation Number 27 of 2012. Socially, increased community participation in conservation-based tourism and the



establishment of tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis) highlight the strengthening of human capital. Institutionally, collaboration among government, communities, and business actors illustrates a commitment to transparent and accountable tourism governance.

Overall, the balanced implementation of Keiner's four dimensions demonstrates that South Lampung's tourism development does not solely prioritize economic growth but also emphasizes environmental preservation, human empowerment, and institutional strengthening. Such an integrated approach ensures that tourism serves not only as a source of regional income but also as an instrument for ecological sustainability, social cohesion, and improved quality of life for local communities.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Environmental law plays a fundamental role as a regulatory instrument in realizing sustainable tourism in South Lampung Regency. Through the application of legal instruments such as Environmental Impact Assessments (AMDAL), environmental permits, the precautionary principle, and the enforcement of legal sanctions, tourism activities can be directed to prevent ecosystem degradation. Strong regulatory frameworks ensure a balance between economic interests and environmental conservation. Local government holds a crucial role in ensuring compliance with environmental laws, while communities act as active partners in monitoring, maintaining environmental cleanliness, and developing tourism-based local economies.

The implementation of the sustainable development concept as articulated by Keiner—encompassing economic, environmental, social, and institutional dimensions—demonstrates that tourism management in South Lampung must maintain equilibrium across these dimensions. Regional economic growth driven by the tourism sector should proceed in tandem with natural resource conservation, community empowerment, and the strengthening of transparent and accountable institutional governance. Therefore, environmental law functions not merely as a normative framework but also as a strategic instrument to ensure that tourism development in South Lampung is sustainable, inclusive, and environmentally friendly. Furthermore, the South Lampung local government needs to strengthen inter-agency coordination and consistently enhance environmental law enforcement, while business actors and communities must continue to raise awareness and actively participate in preserving tourism environments so that the principles of sustainable tourism can be effectively and tangibly realized.

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