

Research Article

Circular Economy for the Raja Ampat Ecotourism Development: Perils, Potentials, and Study Cases Discourse

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Abstract

This article aims to analyze the development of ecotourism in Raja Ampat through the circular economy concept. A qualitative method is used in this study by compiling findings from various studies on ecotourism worldwide, especially in the local practice. Raja Ampat has become one of Indonesia's most popular tourist destinations, enhanced with extraordinary natural resources and its tourism attractiveness, which gives it potential in improving its ecotourism. However, perils like government support, insufficient technology, and community readiness were taken into account. Despite that, efforts were made to develop ecotourism in Raja Ampat through the development of eco-friendly infrastructures, workshops regarding the management of sustainable tourism, and involving locals in educational campaigns related to preserving natures in Raja Ampat. As a result, these efforts are considered for a significant increase in some infrastructural developments. These efforts indirectly had a positive impact on the economy of the locals. The Raja Ampat ecotourism development is in line with the circular economy, especially on the focus of tourist management that reinforces local and natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Keywords: Circular Economy; Ecotourism; Raja Ampat; Papua; Perils and Potentials

Introduction

Countries have been focusing on major developments in the ecotourism industry over the past three decades. The concept of a tourist destination has evolved from a traditional one that emphasizes leisure and enjoyment to one that is more environmentally friendly. Tourisms are framed as an environmentally friendly option for rural people to obtain revenue from natural resources (Kline, 2001). In other words, today's tourists are concerned with "green" (ecotourism) tourism, which prioritizes sustainable growth in tourism management.

Ecotourism is a low-impact travel form of sustainable tourism (Ormsby and Mannle, 2006). Honey (1999) argues that ecotourism is a means of funding conservation and scientific research, benefiting rural communities, promoting development in poor countries, improving ecological and cultural sensitivity, promoting environmental awareness and social responsibility in the tourism sector, satisfying and educating discriminating tourists, and, some claim, building world peace. Kiper (2013) emphasized that ecotourism entails visiting natural regions to learn, research, or engage in ecologically friendly activities that contribute

to the socioeconomic growth of locals. Meanwhile, according to Weaver (2001), ecotourism is a type of tourism that promotes learning experiences and appreciation of the natural environment, or a component of it, within its related cultural context. Honey's notion of sustainable development refers to both environmental and human development.

We chose several places like Thailand, Kenya, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Wakatobi Islands as examples, they are making strides in the management of their ecotourism industries, which will be elaborated further in the review. Every year, travelers from all over the world come to marvel at the beauty of their landscapes, marines, forests, parks, historical landmarks, cultural activities, or culinary delights. To make it possible, the role of stakeholders such as local communities, businesses, governments, and even non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in promoting ecotourism is critical. It should be mentioned that the development of the ecotourism industry has succeeded in preserving sustainable development in the "green" tourist industry and has become an outstanding role model for other countries to learn from. The rise of ecotourism is in line with the concern for the circular economy, which is defined as an economic system that aims to minimize, at some level, eliminate waste and pollution by designing products and processes that are reusable, recyclable, or compostable. In a circular economy, resources are kept in use for as long as possible, and then they are recycled or composted at the end of its cycle as it's referred to a sustainable manner (Honey, 1999). Moreover, Sergienko states that the circular economy is a concept that emphasizes waste reduction and efficient use of resources through a sustainable production and consumption approach. This strategy includes practices such as recycling, repairing, and extending product life cycles. (Sergienko et al., 2018).

In this case, Indonesia has various potential ecotourism industries, one of which is the Raja Ampat Islands in West Papua. Raja Ampat has become one of Indonesia's most popular tourist destinations, enhanced with extraordinary natural resources and its tourism attractiveness, which gives it potential in improving its ecotourism. However, perils like lack of government support, insufficient technology, and community readiness were taken into account. Despite that, efforts were made to develop ecotourism in Raja Ampat through the development of eco-friendly infrastructures, workshops regarding the management of sustainable tourism, and involving locals in educational campaigns related to preserving nature in Raja Ampat. Given an explanation that the sustainable development of ecotourism in Raja Ampat is still far from its potential, the article will elaborate on how such development could be implemented using the circular economy concept while referring to its competitors to fulfill its potential?

Literature Review

An article "Tourist Perceptions of Guided Ecotourism Tours in Thailand," by Aswin Sangpikul synthesizes findings on tourist perceptions of guided ecotourism tours in Thailand, emphasizing their role in promoting sustainability. The research addresses a significant gap in the existing literature, which has primarily focused on tour guide performance, by examining how guided ecotourism practices align with sustainability objectives encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study collected data from 183 participants across six guided ecotourism tours in southern Thailand, revealing variability in tourist experiences and sustainability outcomes based on tour design. Specifically, longer tours that incorporate community interactions and cultural exchanges were found to generate greater economic benefits and enhance social equity, while shorter tours tended to yield minimal community engagement and weaker sustainability impacts.

Sangpikul's findings further highlight the critical role of effective interpretation by tour guides in shaping tourists' understanding of ecological and cultural contexts. Guides who provided comprehensive narratives that integrated scientific knowledge and local traditions fostered a deeper appreciation for biodiversity and heritage among tourists. Additionally, the study identified the necessity for equitable benefit-sharing practices and the implementation of low-impact environmental stewardship measures among operators. Recommendations for enhancing ecotourism sustainability include prioritizing immersive tour designs,

formalizing community partnerships, and establishing robust guide training programs. Overall, Sangpikul's research contributes to the discourse on sustainable tourism development by offering actionable insights that bridge theoretical frameworks with practical implications for policymakers, operators, and local communities in Thailand (Sangpikul, 2019).

An article "The Ecotourism Metaphor and Environmental Sustainability in Kenya," by Atieno and Njoroge critically analyzes the use of the term "ecotourism" within the Kenyan context, highlighting a significant disconnect between its theoretical ideals and practical implementation. The authors argue that while ecotourism is marketed as a form of responsible travel that promotes environmental conservation, the reality often reveals that economic interests overshadow genuine ecological concerns. The study investigates five focal areas identified by the Ecotourism Society of Kenya, revealing that stakeholders frequently prioritize product promotion and corporate image over environmental sustainability, effectively reducing the concept of ecotourism to a marketing tool rather than a commitment to ecological stewardship.

The authors emphasize that the "eco" prefix in tourism is often employed as a metaphor that fails to accurately represent the environmental implications of tourism activities. They argue that the motivations behind ecotourism are primarily driven by economic gains, which can lead to practices that harm rather than protect the environment. This critique is supported by examples of mass tourism practices in Kenya that have resulted in habitat destruction and ecological degradation, particularly in regions like Amboseli and Maasai Mara. The article calls for a reevaluation of the ecotourism framework, advocating for stricter adherence to sustainability principles and greater community involvement in tourism initiatives to ensure that ecotourism fulfills its intended role as a catalyst for environmental preservation and socio-economic development (Atieno & Njoroge, 2015).

An article "Evidence for a South Korean Model of Ecotourism" by Lee et al. presents a critical discourse analysis of ecotourism within the South Korean context, revealing a distinct model shaped by the region's cultural philosophies, particularly Confucianism, Zen Buddhism, and Taoism. The authors argue that while ecotourism has been predominantly framed within Western paradigms, its application in South Korea reflects a unique synthesis of local values and practices. The study analyzes 206 peer-reviewed academic publications and incorporates interviews with ecotourism managers and volunteers, ultimately identifying three core criteria that define the South Korean model: nature as an interdependent unity of human and physical environments, education as self-cultivation for worldly development, and sustainability as a creative transformation aimed at achieving harmony. This hybridization underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of ecotourism that transcends Western-centric frameworks, emphasizing the importance of cultural context in shaping tourism practices.

The findings highlight that, in South Korea, nature is perceived not merely as a backdrop for tourism but as an integral component of cultural identity and human experience. The authors elucidate how the Confucian ideal of self-cultivation manifests in educational initiatives aimed at fostering environmental awareness among both local residents and visitors. Moreover, the concept of sustainability is reinterpreted through the lens of creative transformation, which prioritizes harmony between human development and ecological preservation. This perspective challenges conventional Western notions of conservation, suggesting that change is not inherently detrimental but can facilitate a deeper connection between people and their environment. By situating their analysis within the broader discourse of ecotourism, Lee et al. contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the globalization of tourism practices and the necessity of incorporating diverse cultural philosophies into sustainable tourism development strategies (Lee, 2012).

An article "Tourists and Turtles: Searching for a Balance in Tortuguero, Costa Rica" by Meletis and Harrison provides a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between sea turtle conservation and tourism in Tortuguero, a key nesting site for several turtle species. The authors argue that while tourism has the potential to support conservation efforts by generating revenue and raising awareness, it also poses significant risks to turtle populations through disturbances caused by increased human activity. The study highlights the recent

changes in the turtle tour system, implemented to mitigate negative impacts on nesting turtles, which involved a shift from active beach walking to a passive waiting system for tourists. This alteration aimed to reduce disturbances during critical nesting times, yet it raised questions about tourist satisfaction and engagement, as many tourists expressed dissatisfaction with the passive nature of the new format. Through a survey of 147 tourists, the authors assessed perceptions of the new tour system, revealing a mixed response regarding satisfaction and educational value, and underscoring the necessity of balancing conservation goals with the expectations and experiences of ecotourists.

The findings of the article suggest that while the majority of tourists reported enjoyment of the tours, primarily due to the thrill of witnessing turtle nesting, there were significant concerns about crowding and the adequacy of information provided during the tours. The authors emphasize the importance of understanding tourist perceptions as integral to effective management of turtle tourism, arguing that stakeholders must address the dynamic nature of tourist expectations and the potential ecological impacts of tourism. By engaging with tourists and incorporating their feedback into tour management strategies, the authors propose that Tortuguero can enhance both conservation outcomes and visitor satisfaction, thereby fostering a sustainable model of ecotourism that benefits both turtles and the local community. Overall, Meletis and Harrison's work contributes valuable insights into the complexities of managing ecotourism in sensitive ecological contexts, advocating for a more nuanced approach that considers both ecological integrity and the experiences of visitors (Meletis & Harrison, 2010).

The article "Evaluating Contrasting Approaches to Marine Ecotourism: Dive Tourism and Research Tourism in the Wakatobi Marine National Park, Indonesia" by Julian Clifton provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impacts of two distinct forms of ecotourism operating within Indonesia's Wakatobi Marine National Park. This literature review highlights the contrasting outcomes of dive tourism and research tourism, emphasizing the need for a nuanced understanding of ecotourism's effectiveness in promoting local community benefits and environmental sustainability. The study identifies that while dive ecotourism primarily benefits a small group of local staff and relies heavily on imported food, the research ecotourism operation demonstrates a more integrated approach that fosters broader economic benefits across diverse local communities, including both the Wakatobi and Bajau ethnic groups. The latter's operations not only provide significant local employment but also promote informal social interactions between visitors and residents, enhancing cultural exchange and community cohesion.

Moreover, Clifton critically examines the socio-cultural dynamics at play, revealing that dive tourism often perpetuates a neo-colonial attitude towards local communities, reducing them to mere spectacles for tourists. In contrast, research tourism encourages meaningful engagement with local cultures, as visitors participate in community development projects and educational initiatives. The article also addresses the environmental implications of ecotourism, noting that while both tourism types aim to protect marine biodiversity, the reliance on ecotourism operators for park management can undermine local community involvement in decision-making processes. Ultimately, Clifton argues for the necessity of a balanced approach to ecotourism development that prioritizes equitable economic distribution, cultural respect, and genuine community engagement, thus ensuring that ecotourism serves as a tool for sustainable development rather than a source of conflict and inequality (Clifton, 2004).

Collectively, these studies are good examples that comprehend the findings and evaluation of each ecotourism practice. Things such as an immersive tour design that incorporates communities in Thailand, prioritizing environmental sustainability over product promotion and economic gains in Kenya, emphasizing the harmony of human development and ecological preservation in South Korea, embracing the dynamics of tourist expectations and engaging them when there is a shift in tourism management in Costa Rica, and evaluating the contrast approaches of the both running tourism as well as referring them, if there is an irrelevance, with the core of sustainable development and circular economy concepts as criticized in Wakatobi. Those key points are good recommendations for the Raja Ampat Ecotourism Development.

Methods

A qualitative method is used in this study by compiling findings from various studies on ecotourism worldwide, especially in the local practice. We chose several places like Thailand, Kenya, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Wakatobi Islands as examples, as they are making strides and re-evaluation in the management of their ecotourism industries. The data collection method was obtained from related articles and combined findings from prior studies. The analysis results rely on the ongoing development of Raja Ampat ecotourism, identifying its perils and potentials, as well as observing drafts of related findings of the past review that have to be considered and become a part of the development recommendations.

Result and Analysis

Raja Ampat's Ecotourism Development

This section highlights Raja Ampat's dynamics as an ecotourism destination. The discussion will proceed by illustrating Raja Ampat's development and management as an ecotourism destination, how natural resources are managed sustainably, and how a circular economy strategy is used.

Raja Ampat's development and management as an ecotourism destination demand particular attention. Raja Ampat has witnessed consistent and positive tourism growth. Numerous development and management measures have been implemented to boost and enhance the tourism sector while preserving the region's biological richness and biodiversity. Diving and snorkeling, hiking and birding, as well as education and conservation, are some of the tourism items available in Raja Ampat. These activities grew as a result of infrastructure expansion and development, branding and advertising, the adoption of safety and health standards, post-COVID-19 recovery plans, and contributions from projections and planning (Rasyid et al., 2022). To wrap up the knowledge of the relationship between management and the circular economic method in Raja Ampat, the following explanation is required:

Conservation and Education

Conservation and education, often known as edu-eco, is an effort to regulate natural resources in a sustainable manner by focusing on nature and its equilibrium. Visitors will be given educational materials regarding Raja Ampat's biodiversity and ecosystem. The primary purpose is to raise awareness about the need for environmental and natural resource preservation.

Marine conservation is a key concern that the government prioritizes at the district, provincial, and national levels. This agenda is carried out in collaboration with Conservation International (CI), the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which has established a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) under the jurisdiction of the central and local governments, with a total area of 2,000,109 hectares currently covered. All MPAs are divided into zones, each of which governs permitted and banned activity. Saving coral reefs has essentially been a motivation since 2004, when the first MPA in Raja Ampat was established (BLUD UPTD, 2023).

Environmental Impact Mitigation

Snorkeling and diving, for example, have a number of detrimental effects on the sustainability of coral reefs. This is due to the potential for damaging coral structures through disruptive behavior such as purposely or accidentally stirring up sediment, stepping on, kicking, and holding coral reefs. Coral damage can also be caused by the negligent use of diving equipment such as fins and tanks, as well as the release of oil residue

from sunscreen used by divers. Aside from that, human conduct that purposely disrupts marine biota in an unsuitable manner might be a disruptive factor in their natural behavior and habitat.

In general, various activities, such as hiking and birdwatching, endanger Raja Ampat's environmental security, and all of these activities have implementation criteria that are regulated by specific rules. The Raja Ampat Islands Marine Protected Area Management and Zoning Plan document for 2019 - 2038 can be studied for marine conservation activities, which basically discusses the implementation of environmental education, coordination with policymakers, adaptation to climate change, implementation of marine resource rehabilitation programs and coastal areas, and campaigning for bans that harm local ecosystems. Furthermore, rules such as limiting the number of tourists or hiring environmentally friendly ships can be put in place.

Participation of Local Communities

Local communities must be involved in tourism and conservation management in order to benefit from this industry and contribute to environmental conservation initiatives. In the long run, this could boost prospects for sustainable management. Their participation guarantees that these activities will continue to deliver economic advantages to them without negatively impacting the environment. It is also a question of justice to involve local populations in natural resource management. Those most affected by resource-use decisions must have a say in the decision-making process (Wibowo & Belia, 2023).

Circular economy concepts will be unable to be realized in this scenario if the community employs indifferent patterns for the sustainability of tourism and the environment in Raja Ampat. This is similar to what happened in Saporkren village in 2020 when it was stated that the Participation-Empowerment Index (PEI) index value was less than 25 in the very inactive category and that the participation level of the teenage responder group was nil. This is contrary to the applicable role and contribution requirements, which state that the head contributes to the decision-making function. Household member groups, interest groups, and women have strong implementation, maintenance, and distribution functions in decision-making, consultation, and information provision (Tanati et al., 2020).

Perils and Potentials in Implementing a Circular Economy in Raja Ampat

This discussion will attempt to identify challenges and obstacles in implementing a circular economy in Raja Ampat. Below are several challenges that can be considered along with their potential and opportunities, including recommendations that can be proposed.

The Perils

Insufficient infrastructure and technology

Raja Ampat is still an area with insufficient infrastructure, making circular economy practices like waste management and processing challenging to adopt. Furthermore, the necessary technology to develop a circular economy is not completely available yet in Raja Ampat. Tourists may find it difficult to visit Raja Ampat due to inadequate transit infrastructure, including badly maintained roads, limited aircraft options, and unreliable ferry services. This decreased accessibility may dissuade potential visitors and limit the region's overall expansion of ecotourism. Moreover, inadequate housing alternatives, ranging from budget-friendly hostels to deluxe eco-lodges, may limit the number of tourists who can stay in Raja Ampat pleasantly. A lack of essential utilities, such as dependable electricity and water supply, can also degrade the quality of the ecotourism experience. Poor waste management methods also can lead to increasing pollution and environmental deterioration, directly contradicting ecotourism goals. Raja Ampat's pure natural beauty may be jeopardized if suitable trash disposal facilities and recycling programs are not in place (Chloe, 2017).

In addition, communication between tourists, tour companies, and local people might be hampered by low internet connectivity and mobile phone coverage. This lack of connectivity can make it difficult to schedule tours, arrange transportation, and provide guests with real-time support, thus disturbing the ecotourism experience. Inadequate infrastructure and technology might also stifle the spread of ecotourism principles and practices among local people and companies. Local stakeholders may struggle to properly grasp and apply sustainable ecotourism practices without sufficient training and education. Inadequate technology furthermore, can impede tourism data collection and analysis, making it difficult to assess the performance of ecotourism efforts, identify areas for improvement, and make educated decisions about the future of ecotourism in Raja Ampat. The reach and efficiency of ecotourism marketing strategies could potentially be limited by insufficient infrastructure and technology. It can be difficult to attract potential guests and highlight the unique ecotourism experiences available in Raja Ampat without access to innovative digital marketing tools.

Business and community readiness

Implementing a circular economy requires behavioral adjustments on the part of enterprises and communities. Businesses must adjust their practices to be more sustainable, and communities must change their consumption and waste disposal habits. These behavioral changes are difficult to implement and need a great amount of time and effort. The readiness of businesses and communities is critical to the growth of ecotourism in Raja Ampat. Ecotourism may thrive when businesses and communities are actively engaged and prepared to embrace sustainable practices, bringing positive environmental, economic, and social impacts to the region. Ecotourism businesses that are well-prepared for sustainable tourism typically exhibit the following characteristics, such as environmental awareness, sustainable practices, community engagement, and continuous improvement (Carter & Davie, 1996).

Raja Ampat's communities are critical to the development of ecotourism. Their participation promotes cultural preservation, economic opportunity, and a sense of pride in the tourism business. When a community is prepared for ecotourism, it actively participates in decision-making, contributes to sustainable practices, and benefits from tourism-related income. Community readiness for ecotourism often manifests in cultural preservation, entrepreneurial spirit, environmental stewardship, hospitality management, and fair distribution of ecotourism benefits (Arifianto, et al., 2023).

Lack of Government Support

The growth of ecotourism in Raja Ampat may be severely hindered by a lack of comprehensive government policy, which could have negative socioeconomic and environmental effects. Therefore, the development of ecotourism in Raja Ampat is heavily influenced by government policy. Governments can establish an appropriate environment for sustainable tourism practices by implementing supportive legislation, resulting in positive environmental, economic, and social outcomes (Arifianto, et al., 2023).

The lack of explicit laws and policies governing ecotourism activities can lead to unsustainable operations that threaten Raja Ampat's fragile ecosystems. Operators of ecotourism may engage in activities that harm natural habitats, contaminate the environment, and disturb wildlife populations if there is inadequate oversight. This has the potential to destroy ecotourism's core tenets, which are the preservation of the biodiversity and natural beauty that captivate travelers. Poor government policy can also have a negative impact on Raja Ampat's socio-economic advantages from ecotourism. Local communities may not reap the full economic benefits of ecotourism unless clear guidelines for community involvement and benefit-sharing are established. This can breed dissatisfaction and conflict, hindering the long-term and equitable growth of ecotourism.

The Potentials

Tourism Attractiveness

Raja Ampat is one of Indonesia's most popular ecotourism destinations. This tourism potential might be utilized to foster the adoption of a circular economy, such as by promoting environmentally conscious tourism. Tourism attractiveness would also influence the destination's appeal to drive the development of the ecotourism sector in Raja Ampat. Its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and distinct cultural heritage make a highly appealing ecotourism destination. When these characteristics are effectively promoted and managed, eco-tourists flock to the region, generating economic benefits for local communities and businesses. Ecotourism activities such as snorkeling, diving, birdwatching, and trekking generate jobs, improve local livelihoods, and contribute to Raja Ampat's overall economic development (Fennell, 2004).

Tourism attractiveness can also encourage ecotourism operators to practice sustainable practices. Businesses are more likely to adopt eco-friendly practices to attract environmentally conscious tourists as the demand for ecotourism grows. This has the potential to reduce environmental impact, create a more sustainable tourism industry, and preserve Raja Ampat's natural beauty for future generations. On the other hand, it must be carefully managed to ensure a balance between sustainable ecotourism and environmental conservation. Overcrowding and uncontrolled tourism can harm fragile ecosystems and disrupt wildlife populations. To reduce the negative environmental impacts of tourism, it is critical to develop strategies that limit tourist numbers, implement strict regulations, and promote responsible ecotourism practices.

Rich of Natural Resources

Natural resources are critical to the development of ecotourism in Raja Ampat, acting as the foundation for the destination's attraction and determining the experiences available to eco-conscious travelers. The vast natural resources of Raja Ampat, including pristine coral reefs, lush rainforests, diversified animals, and magnificent landscapes, are the main appeal for ecotourism. These natural wonders draw visitors who want to immerse themselves in the region's unique biodiversity and enjoy the beauty of nature. These resources are critical to the sustainability of ecotourism in Raja Ampat because they provide the foundation for a wide range of ecotourism activities such as snorkeling, diving, birdwatching, trekking, and nature photography (Fennell, 2004).

Raja Ampat's ecotourism growth has the ability to enhance environmental care and conservation activities. When ecotourism is done ethically, it may increase awareness about the need of maintaining natural resources and encourage local people and companies to adopt sustainable practices. Ecotourism earnings can be used to support conservation efforts such as the protection of endangered species and the restoration of degraded habitats. Nevertheless, striking a balance between tourism development and environmental conservation is critical. Unmanaged and excessive ecotourism activities, such as coral reef damage, wildlife disturbance, and pollution, can have a negative impact on the natural environment. As a result, thorough planning, management, and monitoring are required to guarantee that ecotourism in Raja Ampat contributes to long-term development and conservation goals.

Conclusion

It is critical to underline the importance of striking a balance between tourism development and environmental conservation in Raja Ampat. The primary reason for the need of detailed planning, management, monitoring, and local involvement is to guarantee that ecotourism contributes to long-term development and conservation purposes. It should also emphasize the potential negative impact of mismanaged and excessive ecotourism activities on the natural environment, such as coral reef degradation,

wildlife disturbance, and pollution. Ethical ecotourism is considered as a way to raise awareness about the need to preserve natural resources and encourage locals and businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

To establish circular ecotourism in Raja Ampat, a multi-pronged strategy is recommended, encompassing governmental and community-based initiatives. Government investment in infrastructure and technology is paramount, specifically focusing on waste management facilities and advanced recycling technologies to minimize potential waste. Concurrently, comprehensive educational campaigns targeting stakeholders are crucial, promoting the mutual benefits of a circular economy for both locals and officials. Policy implementation, including incentives for sustainable practices and waste management regulations, is also vital. The success of this transition hinges on collaborative efforts, ultimately fostering environmental conservation and community well-being. On the other hand, the reviewed studies of its competitors offer valuable insights into ecotourism practices, showcasing diverse approaches and their implications. These examples include: an immersive community-based tour design like Thailand; a prioritization of environmental sustainability over economic gains like Kenya; an emphasis on the balance between human development and ecological preservation like South Korea; an adaptive approach to managing tourist expectations like Costa Rica; and a critical evaluation of tourism practices like Wakatobi, assessing their alignment with sustainable development and circular economy principles. These findings provide pertinent recommendations for the further development of ecotourism in Raja Ampat.

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