

## ABSTRACT

Komodo National Park (KNP) of Indonesia arguably is one of the famous tourist destination in the country. From the tourism industry itself, it generally generates billions of rupiahs annually; the number makes the region become a gold mine. Nevertheless, KNP is also located in a unique region of *Wallacea*, which makes the region vast with biodiversity. The battle of interests between the tourism industry and environmental conservation, therefore, is unavoidable; it is not uncommon to see headlines in mass media highlight the environmental damages caused by overflowing and overcrowding visitors, yet the development of new infrastructure is kept being pushed every year by the government.

On the other hand, while those major ideas collide with each other, simultaneously they disenfranchise another people: the locals. Throughout the history of KNP, it has been the main criticisms; most of the time, the tourism development and environmental protection claim the locals as their sacrifice. Together, they contest the idea what “sustainability”; one tries to make the economy sustainable, one tries to preserve the nature, and one tries to survive the daily life. In a nutshell, each of them have their own understanding of how to manage KNP, which arguably are influenced by their identities.

In this research, therefore, the author aims to explain the phenomena in KNP through the lens of constructivism on identities. Specifically, the concept of “Sustainability Positions” by Turner will be the main guideline. The concept itself divides the term sustainability in the spectrum of “very weak” to “very strong”. The result: most of the actors who are in favor of development would likely fall into the “very weak – weak” spectrum, while environmental conservationists will fall into the other spectrum. However, being in the different spectrums will not ensure conflict to happen; in fact, one of the most significant cooperation between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the government functioned for several years despite different interests. Similarly, being in the same spectrum will not guarantee cooperation as it will be seen in the conflicts between the locals and the government. In the end, the analysis will show whether merely taking the economic development and environmental conservation is enough to ensure the sustainability in the National Park’s management.