

# THE AVAILABILITY OF WORSHIP FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT TANGKAHAN TOURIST SITE NAMO SIALANG VILLAGE BATANG SERANGAN SUB-DISTRICT

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# Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the descriptive condition of the availability of worship facilities and infrastructure at the Tangkahan tourist location, Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan District. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The subjects in this study were the managers of Tangkahan tourist attractions, namely Mr. Ngarihkan Pasaribu as chairman and Mr. Kembaren as vice chairman, as well as 5 people around Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan Subdistrict. the data sources used were primary data sources, namely by conducting initial observations and then conducting interviews with the community and also using supporting secondary data. The results of the study are a. Based on the current condition of the area, including damaged road access, potholed pavement, lack of clean water and telecommunications networks, lack of electricity and lighting networks, lack of direction signs and some of them are damaged, no identity gate or welcome board, lack of security facilities, and lack of health facilities, it can be concluded that the availability of tourist facilities in the Tangkahan Nature Tourism area is very inadequate. b. One of the facilities and infrastructure related to sharia is the prayer room. In Tangkahan Nature Tourism, there are few prayer rooms for Muslims to pray, but there are some shortcomings. In Tangkahan Nature Tourism, there is an ablution place for Muslim visitors who want to clean themselves before carrying out their prayers

Keywords: Facilities, Infrastructure, Nature Tourism, Tangkahan

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Tourism is defined as a series of tourism activities supported by various facilities and services offered by local communities, business owners, the federal government, and local governments, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism. . Broadly speaking, tourism is defined as "a travel activity carried out by a person or group of people by visiting certain places with the aim of recreation, self-development, or studying the uniqueness of the tourist attractions visited within a certain period of time" in Law. Number 10 of 2009 concerning Tourism

According to the Quranic verse Surah Al-Quraish about tourism or rihlah, 1. Because of the customs of the people of Quraysh, and 2. Particularly, their custom of traveling in winter and summer. 3. Let them worship the Ka'ba, the Lord of this building. 4. Who provides food to satisfy hunger and allay fear? The 106th Surah of al-Quraish or Quraysh contains verses 1-4 and explains the benefits given to the Quraysh and their associated obligations.

Al-Mulk verse 15, which means, "It is He who has made the earth easy for you, so walk in all its paths and eat of His sustenance, and it is to Him alone that you (return after) being raised up.

The word "tourism" in Arabic is actually "rihlah", which is a term for travel, specifically travel undertaken with the aim of learning something new or achieving spiritual enlightenment. In addition, there is tadabur, which is a method of reflecting on and assessing everything that God has created, both in the heavens and on earth. The goal is to help us know nature better and be more in harmony with it so that we can maintain and sustain its existence. One of the human needs that sometimes needs to be fulfilled is travel. It is believed that travel will offer a change of scenery to relieve the body and mind from the monotony of demanding daily work.

The tourism sector, the government, and the community have contributed millions of people to the rapid growth of tourist sites in Indonesia.In its development, tourism has undergone a number of changes in the types, patterns, and nature of activities as well as shifts in travel attitudes and promotion.We have the challenge of organizing, creating, and presenting tourism products that are attractive and able to attract visitors in an environment that requires travel.The collection of several elements, such as tourist infrastructure, activities, services, and attractions, make up tourism goods.There is no denying that tourism plays an important role in the economic growth of many countries .

In fact, the infrastructure and facilities needed by tourists are what tourism businesses need to grow and be prepared or provided. All facilities that make it easier for individuals to fulfill their needs and for economic processes to function efficiently are collectively referred to as infrastructure. Therefore, the aim is to support tourism facilities in order to provide services as they should

The process of adding value to several aspects of the tourism industry, especially tourist attraction accessibility, amenity, and infrastructure is known as tourism development. The goal of sustainable tourism is to manage all resources in a way that preserves socio-cultural sustainability, ecosystems, and systems that support the sustainability of living things, while meeting requirements at the aesthetic, economic, and social levels of the 1980s. Having adequate infrastructure and facilities is one way to help achieve this goal. By doing so, it is believed that the tourism potential of coastal

areas will be fully realized, thus contributing to the economic growth of coastal cities and the sustainability of coastal tourism.

North Sumatra's most popular natural tourism product, Tangkahan, was first introduced in February 2004 during a visit by Martini Mohamad Paham, Director General of Tourism Destination Development of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Tangkahan was once notorious as a haven for illegal loggers who extracted valuable timber from the forest. Proceed methodically, depending on the brutality and hubris of the authorities. The invasion and theft of Tangkahan's forest wealth took place smoothly and over a long period of time due to the involvement of several parties who did not want to comply with laws and regulations and consider the adverse effects that would occur in the future for the community .The Tangkahan environment has social problems due to the high market demand for wood. Commercial competition occurred when loggers from surrounding villages began to arrive in Tangkahan and compete for timber on the same land. Tangkahan was once famous among local tourists as a place to spend a relaxing day by the river. The rise of gambling and competition in the forestry industry made tourism activities in the Tangkahan conservation area difficult . After Ukur Depari, also known as Okor, one of the leaders and offenders of illegal logging, was arrested, the situation began to deteriorate. Meanwhile, a group of idealistic young people managed to get the Tangkahan community to care about Tangkahan conservation through a slow but steady process of facing all the difficulties and challenges posed by those who continued to be lulled by illegal logging

Together with Tangkahan residents, the Balai helps to organize the area. In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Gunung Leuser National Park and Tangkahan Tourism Center on April 22, 2002 and July 23, 2006, covering an area of 17,500 Ha, the name "Tangkahan" was established to clarify the designation of the management area boundaries. This memo refers to the provisions of the Minister of Forestry Regulation No. P.19/Menhut-II/2004 on the Cooperation of Nature Reserve Areas and Nature Conservation Areas. Part of the collaborative management area is part of the Gunung Leuser Cinta Raja National Park rest area, and is located within the rest area of the Gunung Leuser Cinta Raja National Park

For three years, Tangkahan had to learn to start over in order to transform into a nature tourism destination. When the Tangkahan Tourism Product was introduced in 2004, the local government considered how the growth of nature tourism could affect the economy, social fabric and protected areas. Village regulations governing waste management and infrastructure development in nature tourism areas reflect the community's agreement that Tangkahan Nature Tourism should be sustainable. The village regulation is now in effect and will protect Tangkahan Nature Tourism in a sustainable manner. It can still be said that the condition of religious buildings and infrastructure that support Tangkahan Nature Tourism has not been fully met, especially in Tangkahan

Therefore, to meet the needs of visitors to Tangkahan, Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan District, it is necessary to develop tourism infrastructure and facilities appropriately and efficiently so that visitors are impressed and willing to come back again. Given these conditions, the much-in-demand Tangkahan Nature Tourism is expected to receive special attention in terms of developing facilities and infrastructure in the region. In 2018, there were 421 local tourists and 102 international visitors. Meanwhile, Tangkahan will receive 183 international visitors in 2022, a very significant increase. Tangkahan Nature Tourism received 534 domestic visitors (Yunus, 2019).

Mushola serves as a means of worship in Tangkahan. The prayer space offered is open and without walls, so it looks more like a hut or joglo angkringan. The dimensions start from 7 by 5 meters. The floor is made of ceramic. The prayer space is kept in good condition. Ambals, prayer

mats, mukenas, as well as cabinets where the Koran and mukenas are stored are all available. Three pairs of fragrant mukenas are available. There are also toilets and ablution places, and the musala manager maintains them regularly. The water is clear and smooth, suitable for prayer. Both the Tangkahan Nature Tourism manager and the local community supervise the musala.

Besides being able to assist visitors in carrying out their worship in a coordinated and efficient manner, mushollas in tourist destinations also have the potential to advance the place of worship and get blessings from Allah SWT because many people pray there. It is also hoped that in the near future, the Tangkahan Nature Tourism musholla can be expanded and renovated to be better able to accommodate visitors.

The availability of tourism infrastructure and facilities in the Bunaken National Park area of the Bunaken Islands Regency has not been fully met, according to research by This is just one of the studies that looks at analyzing the needs of tourism facilities to support tourism. As a result, in terms of infrastructure and amenity needed for tourism, services to visitors have not been provided effectively and efficiently. The Lejja Hot Springs tourist attraction in Marioriawa District, Soppeng Regency has an average index value of 85.13% which indicates that visitors are very interested in the facilities and services it has. The information is based on a survey of visitors' attraction to facilities and services at the Lejja Hot Springs tourist attraction. In addition, research conducted in 2018 by Permadi et al. investigated how Muslim visitors' perceptions of Mandalika halal tourism infrastructure and services. The findings show that facilities such as public toilets and trash cans are still lacking, considering the halal tourism facilities that Muslim visitors appreciate in the Mandalika Special Economic Zone: The facilities that visitors to Mandalika Special Economic Zone are most interested in are Places of Worship. A number of other facilities need to be adjusted to the needs of tourists, such as prayer rooms that are located far from popular tourist destinations. Thus, it can be said that to advance tourism operations, religious institutions are an important component at tourism sites.

Yoeti defines tourism infrastructure as all facilities that can facilitate the smooth running of the economic process so as to facilitate the community in meeting its needs. Meanwhile, tourism facilities are what make a place complete to meet the needs of visitors and ensure a pleasant vacation. On the other hand, Yoeti defines tourist facilities as businesses that provide services to visitors, either directly or indirectly . One of the benchmarks of tourism development is the smoothness of infrastructure and facilities. What is meant by "facilities" is the smooth process of acquiring and modernizing lodging, dining, entertainment centers, and other business places, as well as smooth and affordable road and transit infrastructure for travelers. Both numerically and qualitatively, the development of tourist facilities in certain tourist destinations and tourist attractions must be tailored to tourist demand. In addition, market preferences may dictate the need for certain facilities. Hotels, travel agencies, transportation, dining, and other supporting services are some of the tourist facilities that must be offered at tourist destination locations. Not all tourist destinations require the same or complete facilities. Facilities for tourists must be obtained by considering their needs

The accessibility of a tourist attraction will increase along with the development of tourism infrastructure that considers its location and condition, so that it will increase the attractiveness of the tourist attraction as a whole. In addition to the various requirements above, tourist destinations such as banks, pharmacies, hospitals, gas stations, retail malls, and so on also need to provide other needs for visitors

The broad definition of tourism is a temporary movement from one location to another by individuals or organizations in an effort to achieve harmony or balance with the environment in social,

cultural, ecological, and scientific aspects. People who travel and tourist sites are referred to as tourism subjects in the context of tourism activities (Nasution, 2021). Gamal Suwantoro defines tourism as the act of someone leaving their place of residence for a while for purposes other than their place of origin. The reasons for this departure can vary and include social, cultural, political, religious, health, and economic interests

People who carry out tourism activities are considered tourists (Law Number 10 of 2009).(Anio Indah Lestari, Reni Ria Armayani Hasibuan, 2023). a person is considered a tourist when traveling. Travelers are defined by the Pacific Area Travel Association as those who visit a foreign country for a minimum of three months and a maximum of twenty-four hours

The lack of transportation access to Tangkahan, including damaged roads, unclear signs, and sometimes unlawful citations, limits the scope of this study. In addition, the prayer place in Tangkahan still lacks facilities for worship, such as the small number of mukena and sometimes the gray floor that is not clean. Then, the toilet or the area where you use the toilet is unclean. To facilitate tourists in worship, Tangkahan tourism should be expanded and the number of musala. Infrastructure and facilities in Tangkahan lack attention from the government.

# **RESEARCH METHOD**

A qualitative research strategy that emphasizes close observation and can produce a more indepth analysis of a phenomenon is the methodology used.In addition, this research is descriptive qualitative.Five residents of Namo Sialang Village, Batang serangan Subdistrict, as well as the manager of Tangkahan tourist attraction.Mr. Ngarihkan Pasaribu as chairman and Mr. Kembaren as vice chairman became the subject of this research. The presence of religious infrastructure and facilities in the Tangkahan tourist area of Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan Subdistrict is the focus of this research. This explanation uses qualitative methodology. The primary data sources used for this analysis are direct observation and subsequent interviews with subjects, namely the manager of the Tangkahan tourist attraction and the local community in Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan Subdistrict. In addition, secondary data derived from theories and concepts that support the discussion concerned are collected from journals and previous researchers . This research and its theoretical basis are used as guidelines to ensure that the research objectives are in accordance with the facts in the field. data analysis strategy which includes data reduction, data collection and analysis, data presentation, and conclusion making/verification.

# **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Overview of Tangkahan Nature Tourism**

In Namo Sialang Village, Batang Serangan District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra, there is a small area called Tangkahan. In addition, the boundaries of Tangkahan National Park and Mount Leuser are also straight.Buluh River and Batang serangan River meet to form the Tangkahan area.It still displays amazing scenery, waterfalls, hot springs, cliffs, and a variety of plants and animals.It also still retains its original rock formations. Tangkahan is geographically located at N 300 41'01", E 980 4'26.8".Langkat Regency is usually located between 130 and 200 meters above sea level.Tangkahan itself is a popular ecotourism destination.

Based on the statistics of the Tangkahan Tourism Institute, the Tangkahan Nature Tourism Area includes a tourist area of  $\pm 103$  hectares, a plantation area of 18,526 hectares, and a forest area of 17,653 hectares, with a total area of  $\pm 36,282$  hectares. In the Tangkahan nature tourism area, the

average air temperature ranges from 21.10 to 27.5 0C. The climate in Tangkahan, a popular tourist destination, is tropical. There are two distinct seasons in this region: the rainy season and the dry season. The amount of rainfall in a given month and the number of wet days are typical indicators of the wet and dry seasons. In the Tangkahan region, the rainy season is evenly long and constitutes the dry season.

Located on the outskirts of Gunung Leuser National Park, the Tangkahan nature tourism area is about 105 kilometers from Medan and can be reached within 3-4 hours by car. Thirty minutes away, the Pinang Baris-Simpang Robet public bus departs from Semesta Development. Then, the journey from Simpang Robet to Tangkahan can be continued by using an ojek. Every place where economic activities take place requires facilities so that the fulfillment of human needs is not hampered. These facilities are still separated into the following three parts:

- 1. Basic facilities are important facilities or basic facilities needed in every location where economic activities take place. The main tourist facilities consist of:
  - a. Locations that offer food and beverage services, housing, eating places, hotels, and so on.
  - b. Organizations that plan and arrange trips, including tour operators and taxi and bus services.
- 2. Complementary facilities are facilities that add to the main facilities with the aim of helping visitors to feel more at home in the destination. These complementary facilities include horses for visitors who like to ride them, or elephants, or anything that can entice visitors to do activities so that they don't get bored quickly when visiting tourist destinations.
- 3. Supporting facilities, such as facilities needed by tourists and serve to improve basic and additional facilities, but prioritize facilities that allow visitors to spend more money at the location visited, such as souvenir shops.

boats and bridges used as a means of crossing in Tangkahan Nature Ecotourism are each charged a fee of IDR 3,000. This is done with the aim of making the Tangkahan nature ecotourism area more attractive so that it can attract the attention of tourists and can cross bridges and getecks. The condition of the road to the Tangkahan nature ecotourism area which is badly damaged reduces the natural attractiveness of the area. In addition, cellular telephone reception in the Tangkahan nature tourism area is still fairly unreliable. In addition, there are still many tourists who come to the Tangkahan nature tourism site in the wrong direction due to the lack of signage.

My research shows that Tangkahan's current infrastructure, including restaurants, lodging options, hotels, and transportation, is lacking. As a result, visitors to Tangkahan's natural attractions are overwhelmed and less likely to return. In addition, Tangkahan's natural tourism facilities have not been well maintained and structured, making Tangkahan's natural tourism area unable to support tourist comfort.

All facilities that allow economic operations to function properly and facilitate people's ability to meet their needs are collectively referred to as tourism infrastructure. By providing essential services that are part of the infrastructure (such as water supply systems, telecommunication networks, power generation, and connecting roads) this infrastructure supports Tangkahan's natural tourism offerings. Therefore, it will be difficult for tourism facilities to provide services to visitors if a tourist destination does not have the aforementioned infrastructure.

Traffic to the Tangkahan natural tourist site in Batang Serangan District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra, is increasingly hampered by damaged road infrastructure. The North Sumatra Provincial Government has not paid much attention to this area because the road to the tourist destination is a provincial road and the task of maintaining it is provincial. The road to the Tangkahan natural tourist site is still closed so that it is less accessible and causes fewer people to visit the Tangkahan natural tourist site. Moreover, news is circulating that the government will soon repair the road.

The Tangkahan area, located in Batang Serangan sub-district between Namo Sialang and Sei Serdang villages, is approximately 124 km from Medan City via the Tanjung Pura route; however, if you take a shortcut via Stabat and Simpang Sidodadi, the distance is only 95 km. In addition, the longer road through Medan-Stabat-Tanjung Pura is in better condition than the Stabat-Simpang Sidodadi bypass. This bypass has about 50km of badly damaged roads, mostly in the rubber plantation section. Although the Tangkahan area is intended as an ecotourism destination, this requirement may need to be enforced. It may only need to be slightly altered to consider safety and enhance the unique ambience of traveling to the very attractive Tangkahan area. Concerns and complaints about the very poor condition of the road were also expressed by the local community, especially by those affiliated with the Tangkahan LPT Tourism Organization which has been patiently and diligently trying to manage and promote the Tangkahan ecotourism area to foreign countries. In fact, residents in the Tangkahan area have long complained about the poor road conditions to the district government. In fact, the demand for harmonious relations between local residents and visitors is more the cause of this complaint than just the existence of ecotourism sites.

The transportation options available in the region to reach Tangkahan, namely by crossing the Batang Panggang river, demonstrate the infrastructure and service delivery facilities. This kind of transportation, which is considered quite limited, is usually done by raft or bamboo raft, or by a very simple and old-fashioned looking boat. It is not possible to cross the Batang Serangan River in case of flooding. Housing options in the Tangkahan region appear to be limited. There are only two lodging options: Alex's House which has eight rooms, and Bamboo River which has six double rooms with internal bathrooms.

#### Worship Facilities and Infrastructure in Tangkahan Nature Tourism

Tangkahan's abundant natural resources include the deep Tangkahan Forest, rivers, waterfalls, hot springs, valleys, and rare species such as Rafflesia. For those who love rock climbing, mountaineering and camping, the hilly terrain with cliffs is ideal. Tangkahan offers a variety of tourist activities to choose from. Taking pictures on the suspension bridge, swimming with elephants, playing in waterfalls, resting in warm water, and river tubing tours are just a few of the Tangkahan trips that include these activities.

One of the facilities and infrastructure related to sharia is the musala. Although some claim not to provide a musala for female visitors who want to pray, Tangkahan Nature Tourism provides a simple musala where Muslims can pray. Given the research findings, travelers said.

Interviewees expressed that Tangkahan Nature Tourism is good, there is already a prayer room for Muslims who want to pray, but unfortunately mukenah is not provided, even though it is important for visitors who do not bring mukenah. in the prayer room is not provided mukenah.

However, there are also visitors who say that Tangkahan Nature Tourism has provided mukenah for Muslims who want to pray.

The informant revealed that in the prayer room, mukenahs were provided but only a few so they had to take turns with other visitors. in Tangkahan Nature Tourism there is already a prayer room and mukenahs have also been provided, so don't worry if you don't bring mukenahs ...

Based on the interview results, different visitors reported different things: some said that mukenas were provided for tourists who would worship at Tangkahan Nature Tourism, while others stated that they were not. It can be concluded that although authentic mukenahs are offered at Tangkahan Nature Tourism, their availability is limited after corroborating with the observation findings.

Tangkahan Nature Tourism applies sharia principles by providing a musala equipped with all the needs for prayer, including mukenas. However, the management should make additional mukena facilities so that guests can worship comfortably. There is a simple musala at Tangkahan Nature Tourism where Muslims can worship. If they forget to bring a mukenah, there is one mukenah available. Based on the findings of interviews and observations, several people stated that the existence of a musala is an important need for tourist sites, because it makes it easier for Muslims to carry out their worship.

It is very important for traveling Muslims to have access to a place of worship. There are accessible places of worship in Tangkahan Nature Tourism, including musala and mukena for Muslims to worship. Additional public toilets remain outdoors or accessible, still accommodating both male and female toilets.

In Tangkahan Nature Tourism, there is an ablution place for Muslim visitors who want to clean themselves before praying. Therefore, Tangkahan Nature Tourism in this case has used sharia principles by providing a place of ablution, although the place is still exposed to nature and is still used by men and women.

The interviewee revealed that the ablution place is still integrated with men and open ...

In this case, the manager must focus more on the existing ablution facilities, because there are guests who feel uncomfortable using a place that is communal and often visited by men. Therefore, the manager at least has a partition between male and female ablution places. There is an area outside the Tangkahan Nature Tourism Area that can be used by Muslim visitors for ablution; however, the area is still divided between areas designated for men and women. Then, there are four taps for washing.Based on interview findings, tourists do not choose to visit locations that have toilets .

# Development of Facilities and Infrastructure of Tangkahan Natural Tourism Area that will be done by the Government

The Langkat Regency Government is tasked with overseeing and developing the Tangkahan natural tourism area by prioritizing locations that might become valuable regional assets. In addition, because the nature around the Tangkahan natural tourism area is still beautiful and well maintained, although it is classified as a young and controlled tourist destination, it has been visited by many people.Building community and government commitment based on the potential of natural resources for tourism is the most important strategy needed to develop natural tourism businesses.Because tourism development also involves cross-sector development, the Regional Government essentially coordinates, plans, implements, and supervises the growth of Tangkahan's natural tourist attraction .

The purpose of the Langkat Regency Government's Arts and Culture Tourism Office policy on the development of the Tangkahan natural tourism area is to increase the region's overall natural tourism offer through a participatory process that considers ecosystem changes, natural resource potential, space availability, and ecosystem changes. the best involvement of the community and local economy, as well as visitor safety, with the following objectives:

- 1. Creating an ecologically-oriented tourism destination model that benefits the environment
- 2. Offer Tangkahan nature tourism program to domestic and international visitors.
- 3. Creating a cooperative management or co-management paradigm.
- 4. Expanding community involvement by promoting tourism and deriving income from it.
- 5. Ensuring guests are safe and comfortable.

The necessary stakeholders are working together to develop the Tangkahan natural tourism area into an ecotourism destination. when conducting marketing initiatives, especially when promoting Tangkahan natural tourism destinations. Public relations and publication of Tangkahan natural tourist attractions in Langkat Regency are often carried out by the Tourism Office of the Langkat Regency Government and are outlined in the North Sumatra Tourism Handbook.By installing road signs that direct motorists to the Tangkahan natural tourist area and displaying parts of the area in seminars.Developing the tourism sector involves creating an industrial structure (relationships and functions), commercial credibility, and maintaining the natural socio-cultural environment.

In addition to ensuring the sustainability of the economy, socio-cultural life, environmental preservation, and preservation of regional culture, tourism procedures and supporting facilities in North Sumatra also provide space for local communities to explore their potential to produce competitive goods and improve tourism welfare. Building tourism institutions includes the development of local government, private and community organizations, human resources, and operational mechanisms in the field of tourism. In addition, building tourism facilities and infrastructure includes joint tourism marketing, sustainability by involving all stakeholders, and responsible marketing to build the image of Langkat Regency as a competitive tourism destination.

# CONCLUSION

Based on the current condition of the area, including damaged road access, potholed pavement, lack of clean water and telecommunications networks, lack of electricity and lighting networks, lack of direction signs and some of them are damaged. no identity gate or welcome board, lack of security facilities, and lack of health facilities, it can be concluded that the availability of tourist facilities in the Tangkahan Nature Tourism area is very inadequate.

One of the facilities and infrastructure related to sharia is the prayer room. In Tangkahan Nature Tourism, there are few prayer rooms for Muslims to pray, but there are some shortcomings. In Tangkahan Nature Tourism, there is an ablution place for Muslim visitors who want to clean themselves before praying. Therefore, by providing prayer rooms and ablution locations, Tangkahan Nature Tourism in this case has implemented sharia principles. In addition, there are additional recommendations such as hotels, cottages, and clean public toilets. The Langkat Regency Government is tasked with maintaining and expanding the infrastructure and facilities of the

Tangkahan natural tourism area by prioritizing locations that have the potential to become important regional assets.

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