

COVER LETTER

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Dear Dr. Budi Warsito,

I wish to submit an original research article entitled **“Sustainable Religious Tourism Development In Tana Toraja: Hierarchical Structural Model Approach”** for consideration by Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan.

I confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we report the development of a hierarchical model using Interpretative Structural Modeling (ISM) to enhance religious tourism centered on the world’s tallest Jesus Christ statue in Tana Toraja, Indonesia. This is significant because the site is culturally and spiritually vital yet faces persistent development challenges such as stagnating visitor numbers, weak stakeholder coordination, and infrastructure gaps.

We believe this manuscript is appropriate for publication in Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan because it aligns with the journal’s focus on sustainable environmental development, community engagement, and inter-sectoral planning. Our study uniquely integrates environmental, socio-cultural, and institutional dimensions into a replicable framework for sustainable religious tourism—an area rarely modeled structurally using ISM-VAXO techniques

The significance and novelty of our work lie in three main contributions: (1) It establishes a phased, data-driven structural model to guide policy prioritization across short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes; (2) It introduces ISM-VAXO as an underutilized yet powerful analytical tool for managing complex stakeholder environments in tourism planning; (3) It offers practical implications for scaling sustainable religious tourism not only in Indonesia but across interfaith destinations globally facing similar challenges of preservation, overtourism, and under-participation.

We hope the readers of Jurnal Ilmu Lingkungan—including researchers and practitioners in sustainable development, tourism, and environmental management—will find this study insightful and applicable to broader planning contexts.

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

If you feel that the manuscript is appropriate for your journal, I suggest the following reviewers:

1. Prof. Dr. Kholil – kholillppm@gmail.com – Specialist in environmental policy and multi-actor analysis.
2. Dr. Linda Noviana – lindanoviana@gmail.com – Researcher in tourism development and community approaches.
3. Dr. Ira Mulyawati – iramulyawati@gmail.com – Expert in stakeholder mapping methods.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at tatan.swk@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tatan Sukwika