

Review: Manuscript Number: ENVI-D-19-00627

Full Title: Mangrove eco-tourism development at Nusa Penida Sacred Island in Bali, Indonesia

Tourism development in environmentally sensitive areas – such as Mangrove forests – requires careful analysis and planning. As such, I welcome any research that promotes an inclusive and ecologically-sound tourism development. There are some important issues here raised, such as community participation and ecological feasibility. However, I cannot recommend this paper for publication as it stands. Major corrections would be needed in line with an entire overhaul of the paper to provide much more detail.

From the outside, the research objectives have not been clearly stated. The author(s) state that the research intends to examine the potential of mangrove forests as tourism sites. However, this is much too broad in needs to be further broken down.

The author(s) then proceed to provide a series of definitions or descriptions of mangrove forests and what they understand ecological feasibility to be. However, there is no critical engagement with extant literature evident. The entire literature review section would need to be rewritten. The reference list does not provide much insight into critical literature on the key concepts. The author(s) does not provide any critical discussion on the various measurement instruments, such as carrying capacity, the tourism suitability index and the conformity index for tourism. This would need to be rectified.

The methods section requires further substantial revisions. The author(s) states that purposive sampling was used to sample research participants. Who are these people? Where interviews conducted or a survey carried out? How were the measurements taken? It is also customary to provide a map of the research site for such a geographically specific research area.

As a result of this, it is unclear what the findings are based on. Some scores have been provided together with some interpretation of these. This is good, but requires more depth. The author(s) list a number of strategies and recommendations. It is difficult to assess their validity and reliability without a sound research framework. I would urge the author(s) to substantially rework the literature review and the methodology section in order to produce a rigorous study. It is also necessary to consult a much wider range of academic literature. Only 13 references were listed, all but one sourced from Indonesian institutes. This is not sufficient for publication in an academic journal of global geographical reach.