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Pioneering Public Space Reading Park in the Karangsong Mangrove Forest Ecotourism Area, Indramayu Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The eco-tourism area of the Karangsong mangrove forest is one of the educational tourism areas that is very useful in providing knowledge and insight to tourists about the environment and nature conservation, because in this tourist area there are various types of flora and fauna. To complete information about the types of flora and fauna that exist in the Karangsong eco-tourism area, it is necessary to have sources of information in the form of reading materials, infographics, or in visual form. Departing from this, it encourages researchers to collaborate in pioneering a public reading room park in the Karangsong eco-tourism area. This research uses action research research which is carried out in a cycle which is carried out in four (4) stages, namely the planning, action, observation and evaluation stages. Based on the results of the study, it is known that the availability of reading materials in the public reading room park provides benefits for tourists to gain additional knowledge related to flora, fauna and environmental conservation issues. The presence of this public reading room park is felt to be very useful because in this eco-tourism area there is no special guide who explains to tourists about mangrove forests, flora, fauna, etc., so the existence of a public reading room park can support the mangrove forest eco-tourism area into an educational tour about flora, fauna, nature conservation and the environment which are the pride of Indramayu Regency.

Keywords: community reading park, public space reading park, eco-tourism, collaboration, mangrove forest

I. INTRODUCTION

Indramayu Regency is one of the regencies located in the northern region of West Java Province, Indonesia. There are several tourist destinations in this area: Karangsong beach, located in Karangsong Village. Several interesting phenomena exist at Karangsong Beach; apart from being a relatively safe beach because it has waves that are not too strong, this beach in the morning and evening usually has receding beach water that can reach 60 to 70 from the shoreline of the tourists. Can freely play sand around the beach.

Still, around Karangsong beach, there is an eco-tourism area of the Karangsong mangrove forest. The Karangsong mangrove forest area is important as a conservation area that is projected to educate tourists about environmental

sustainability. The same thing was also stated by Dahuri et al. (1996), who stated that the mangrove ecosystem is one of the ecosystems in coastal areas that plays an important role in the sustainability of the life of various biota that lives in coastal areas. One of the most important ecological functions of mangrove ecosystems in fisheries is providing nutrients for coastal and surrounding water ecosystems. A similar opinion was also expressed by Bengen (2004), who stated that mangrove ecosystems have an important role as a buffer between land and ocean ecosystems that interact with other coastal ecosystems, such as estuaries, seagrass beds and coral reefs, causing mangrove ecosystems to be vulnerable to changes, both positive and negative, which is negative.

The eco-tourism area of the Karangsong mangrove forest has about 20 hectares in the form of a small island around the coast. Within this Mangrove forest area, various public facilities are offered to visitors, such as seed nurseries, bird watching towers, mangrove tracking, and a waiting room for boat pick-ups for visitors who will return to the Karangsong mangrove forest area. In connection with the Karangsong Mangrove forest, apart from being a green belt, there are also various flora and fauna found in this mangrove forest, such as *Avicennia alba*, *A. marina*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *R. apiculata* and *R. stylosa*, groups of birds (*Aves*), *Molluscs.*, and *Crustaceans*, etc., (Prayuda, 2014). To get to the mangrove forest area, you can take a motorboat with a rental rate of Rp. 15.000,- per person. The travel time from the crossing to the mangrove forest is about 5 to 10 minutes.



Figure 1 : Karangsong Mangrove Forest Area
Source : Dokumen Peneliti, 2021

Since it was opened as an eco-tourism area in 2015, the number of visitors has increased from year to year. As an illustration, in one semester in 2015, the number of visitors was around 72,975 people. In 2016 it increased to 90,518 people, and until January - July 2017, the number of visitors had reached 59,613 people (Source: Tourism Office of Indramayu Regency, 2017). While the number of

visitors in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic was 157,178 people, with the distribution as follows: :

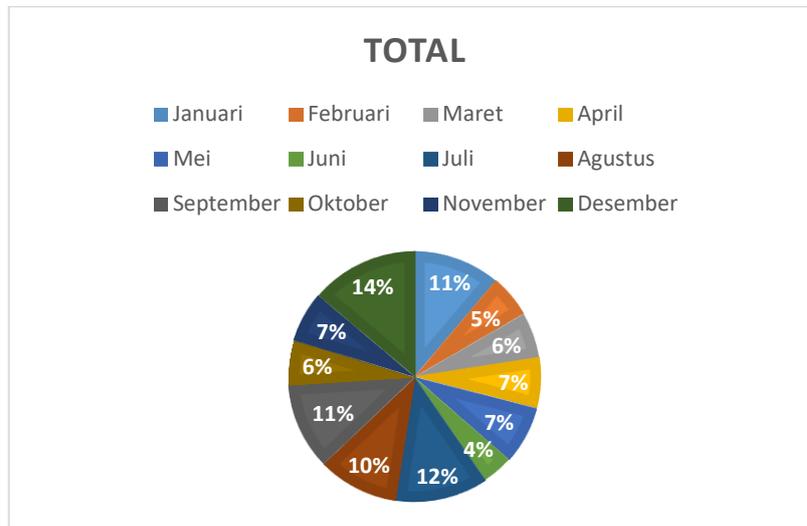


Figure 2: Tourist Visits to Karangsong Mangrove Forest
Source : Data penelitian, 2021.

Then since it reopened in August 2021 after the Covid-19 pandemic, the condition of the Karangsong tourist attraction is still not normal. Restrictions and strict application of health protocols are still enforced in the tourist area, and the rule for the number of visitors is around 25%. As an illustration, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of tourists on weekdays is around 200 people, while on Saturdays and Sundays and other holidays, visitors are around 400-700 people.

The Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism area is not only a natural tourist area. However, it can also be an educational tourism area that is very useful in providing knowledge and insight for students about the environment and nature conservation. Therefore, besides general tourists, those who come to the Karangsong mangrove forest area also include groups of school students, both kindergarten, elementary, and students from high schools such as junior and senior high schools.

As stated above, several facilities are available to get to and in the mangrove forest area, such as motorboats for shuttles to and from tourist attractions. Meanwhile, in the mangrove forest tourism area, various facilities are available such as a track to explore the mangrove forest, building resting areas, towers to see birds and the area around the mangrove forest, as well as a waiting area for tourists who will return from the mangrove forest area.



Figure 3 : Track to Mangrove Forest
Source : Dokumen Peneliti, 2021

As one of the educational tourism areas, the Karangsong mangrove debt eco-tourism area should be equipped with tracks to explore mangrove forests, towers to monitor birds and surrounding locations, and buildings where tourists rest also equipped with various information about natural resources such as types of plants and animals. As well as other information about mangrove debt and other nature conservation activities. This is very important in increasing the insight and knowledge of tourists, most of whom are students. While at this mangrove tourism location, no special officer explains various things related to mangrove forests, plants, and animals around the area. Therefore, as researchers, we are interested in making a public reading room park model in the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism area. This research is a form of collaboration by involving various parties, namely the community reading garden forum of Indramayu Regency, which will later become the manager of the public reading room park, the Karangsong tourism manager and from the Library and Information Science Study Program, Padjadjaran University who became the initiator of the pioneering model of the reading room park. public in the Karangsong ecotourism area.

Based on initial observations of the research location, in the mangrove forest eco-tourism area, several buildings become a resting place for tourists after traveling the mangrove forest track, almost 20 hectares. In addition, when tourists return to leave the location of the mangrove forest, it can take several tens of minutes or even up to 25 minutes to wait for the boat to pick them up, especially if the number of tourists who come to this location is large. To fill the void of time for tourists and increase information and knowledge about mangrove forests, types of plants and animals and their benefits, it is necessary to provide information sources in the form of reading materials with the target audience of students being students. Therefore,

the choice of making a public reading room garden model in the Karangsong Mangrove eco-tourism area is the right thing.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This research examines the public space reading garden. In the context of a library, a public space reading garden is a part of a reading garden and belongs to a public library. As for the meaning of a community reading park, it is a place that the government deliberately creates individuals or self-management and non-governmental organizations to provide reading material in order to foster reading interest in the people who are around the community reading park (Sutarno, 2018, Rohanda, et al.), (20021). The objectives of organizing a community reading garden include: :

- 1) Improve literacy and reading skills;
- 2) Develop interests and passions read;
- 3) Building a reading and learning community;
- 4) Encourage realize a lifelong learning society and;
- 5) Realizing the quality and independence of people who are knowledgeable, skilled, cultured, advanced and civilized.

(Source : Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini, Non-formal, 20210).

Then regarding the notion of a public reading park, it is a community reading park whose location is in public places full of people doing activities. Public reading parks are public reading parks held in public places, namely: shopping centers, hospital environments, bus terminals, train stations, airports, tourist areas that visitors can use to do reading and learning activities. (Petunjuk Teknis dan Pengajuan Pengelolaan Taman Baca Masyarakat Ruang Publik 2012 :5). With the presence of a public reading garden, this public space is expected to be an access / learning facility that is widespread, equitable, and reaches all levels of society.

Like a community reading park, this public reading space can also be a library for a separate community reading park or part of a community reading park in the vicinity. Theoretically, there are two (2) types of community reading parks in Indonesia: (1) independent community reading parks established by individuals or communities. In general, this community reading park stands as a form of concern and desire of a person or community to provide and provide access to library reading materials owned by the surrounding community, regarding financing and other operational activities carried out independently; (2) Community reading parks in academic units or institutions. Usually, community reading parks are located or are headquartered in non-formal education units, such as teaching and learning group centers or study group units. This type of community reading park is usually established by the local government, the District or City Education Office.

In conducting the pioneering activity of a public reading garden in the eco-tourism area of the Karangsong Mangrove Forest, this is a form of collaboration between universities, in this case, the library and information science program at Padjadjaran University, the Community Reading Garden Forum represented by the Karangsong Lantern Community Reading Park and the manager of the Karangsong tourist area. Indramayu. The concept of collaboration is defined as a process of interaction between several people or institutions to achieve common goals (Emily, 2011; Jamie, 2019; Kinsey, 2021).

Regarding the form of collaboration in the pioneering activities of community public space parks in the Karangsong Mangrove forest eco-tourism area, this is adjusted to the responsibilities and authorities of each party. In this case, activities in the form of technical pioneering public reading gardens such as providing reading materials, providing shelves, etc., were carried out by a research team representing the library and information science study program at Padjadjaran University and Lentera Karangsong Community Reading Park representing the Indramayu Regency Community Reading Park Forum. Meanwhile, the management of the tourist area is to provide a place for storing and placing reading materials at every stopover point for tourists, such as in buildings for resting places and in waiting rooms for picking up tourists. In addition, the duties and responsibilities of the manager are to supervise the activities of organizing a public reading park and coordinate with the lantern community reading park, which will later become the manager of a public reading park in the Karangsong eco-tourism forest area.



Figure 4: Tourist Rest Area
Source : Dokumentasi Peneliti

In reviewing the topic of pioneering this public space reading garden. Several previous literatures have been studied by researchers, such as research

conducted by Ahmad Fahmi Faturohman (2019), who researched public appreciation of public space reading garden services at Kertajati International Airport, West Java, Indonesia. The method used in this research is a descriptive survey method. From the study results, it is known that the presence of a public space reading park in the Kertajati International Airport, West Java, received a positive appreciation from prospective passengers who were waiting for the plane. The next research was conducted by Rohanda et al. (2020), entitled the motive of the manager of the Community Reading Park in the Community Reading Park of Bandung Regency, West Java, Indonesia. Based on the results of the study, it was revealed that the manager's motive for establishing a community reading park was to facilitate the community, increase people's interest in reading and provide facilities that could benefit the community. As for the motives, namely the lack of information or public knowledge, to preserve the reading culture, increase children's knowledge, limit uncontrolled children's association, the high illiteracy rate, and the lack of public awareness of the importance of education.

Then regarding the previous research on collaboration that became the basis of this research, namely the research conducted by Anindia Hardianti (2019) entitled collaboration of teachers and librarians in the formation of student literacy culture. The method used is a qualitative approach. Based on the study results, it is known that the success in forming a literacy culture is related to the collaboration between teachers and librarians. Another research on collaboration was conducted by Setiani and Silvana (2016) with the title collaboration between teachers and librarians in primary school library services. The method used is a qualitative approach. Based on the research results, it is known that the collaboration between teachers and librarians is carried out in various forms of library activities such as library activities, fostering reading interest, library promotion and collection development.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, the study subjects were the volunteers and managers of the Lentera Hati TBM having their address at Karangsong Village and the managers of the Karangsong tourist area. The volunteers and managers of the Lentera Hati reading park will later be tasked with providing and providing reading material services in a public space park in the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism area. Meanwhile, the object of this research is a public space park that will be pioneered in the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location.

This method used in this research is the action research method or action research. The content of action research was first put forward by Kurt Lewin. In his writings, Lewin in Madya (2006) explains that action research is research on the conditions and effects of various forms of social action and research that leads to social action that uses steps in cycles. While Kemmis and Taggart (2014), in their book *The Action Research Planner*, state that action research is a form of self-

reflective research that researchers in social situations collectively carry out to improve their "reasoning and fairness of social education practices, as well as their understanding of the practice and of the situation of the place where these practices are carried out.

Still, on action research, Suharsimi Arikunto (2002) says that action research is research related to things that happen in the community "or target group, and the results can be directly applied to the community "in question." While in the context of the library Judit A Sykey (2002), in his book *Action Research: a practical guide for transforming your school library* which states that action research is familiar research in the world of libraries because, through action research, researchers, teachers and students can actively conduct and apply research results in daily activities. Day at the library.

Then when viewed from the process David Kember (2002) states that the action research process is cyclical, which includes planning, implementation, observation and evaluation steps. The stages for each cycle can be described as follows:

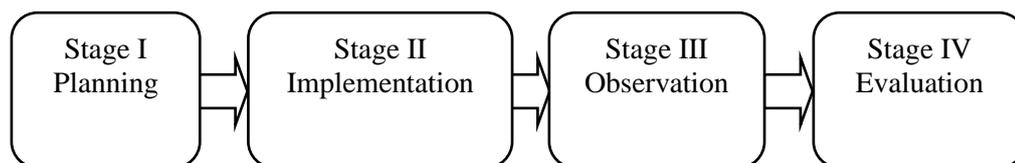


Figure 5: Stages of Action Research

Source: Kember, 2002

Data collection techniques were carried out through (1) observations or observations around the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location and the area around tourist sites, (2) conducting interviews with visitors, volunteers, library managers of TBM Lentera Hati Karangsong as well as administrators or managers of tourist areas. Karangsong.

IV. RESEARCH RESULT

As stated at the beginning of this paper, this study aims to pioneer a public space park at the Karangsong Indra mayu mangrove forest eco-tourism location, West Java Province. Several things prompted us to do this research, including the Karangsong mangrove forest tourism location since it opened in 2015. It has become a tourist destination for the community, both people living in Indramayu and people from other areas visiting the Indramayu area. From year to year, tourist visits to the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location have increased significantly, so that the presence of Karangsong beach and its mangrove forest eco-tourism is expected to be useful as an entertainment tourism destination, culinary tourism and even as an educational tour for the community about flora, fauna and environmental problems. Life and nature conservation. As for the pre-cycle activity or the preliminary stage carried out in this study was to conduct a complete

orientation to obtain an overview of the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location before action research was carried out.

When viewed from its location, this mangrove forest eco-tourism is located in Karangsong Village. To reach this tourist location from the Karangsong beach, rental and shuttle boats have been provided. The cost of renting a boat and an entrance ticket to this eco-tourism location for each person must pay around Rp. 35.000,-. Before entering the eco-tourism location and getting on the boat, ticket officers usually remind visitors to bring their food/drinks because at eco-tourism locations, there are no stalls or those selling and visitors who come to eco-tourism locations take a relatively long time because visitors besides walking along the track. The mangrove forest which is relatively far away also takes a relatively long time to wait for a boat pick-up, usually every 15-30 minutes.

When entering the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism, there is a waiting area and a resting place for visitors before traveling along the mangrove forest track. There are several other facilities provided by the manager of the mangrove forest eco-tourism such as a waiting room to pick up tourists, a tower to see around the mangrove forest, mosques, toilets and several small buildings to take a short break after walking along the mangrove forest track.

Based on the experience and observations of researchers while enjoying the beauty of ecotourism in the Karangsong mangrove forest, after completing the walk through the Karangsong mangrove forest and traveling around the edge of the Karangsong mangrove forest which is the beach, if visitors are finished and are going home, they have to wait for a boat pick-up. Based on the experience of researchers, the arrival of the pick-up boat usually takes around 15-30 minutes, even if there are many visitors, they have to wait quite a while. In addition, when traveling through this mangrove forest, you will often encounter various flora and fauna. However, because at this ecotourism location there is no guide or guide who explains the types of flora and fauna, many visitors do not know what the types of flora and fauna are. Therefore, starting from these two things, researchers are interested in providing a "public space reading park" which contains information about flora and fauna as well as other information about nature and environmental conservation. So that later the existence of the "public space reading park" can contribute to increasing knowledge and insight for visitors to Karangsong mangrove forest ecotourism.

1. Planning Stage

After obtaining an overview of the eco-tourism of the Karangsong mangrove forest, Indramayu Regency and several problems, especially those related to providing sources of information about flora, fauna and nature and environmental conservation, the next step we took were to prepare for action research.

The first step in the research is planning. For the planning stage of pioneering this "public space reading park", there are several steps that we take, namely as follows:

- 1) Carry out-licensing arrangements at the Kesbang Sospol office in Indramayu Regency related to the research plan at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location.
- 2) Contact the eco-tourism manager of the Karangsong mangrove forest park. In this activity, we explain the aims, objectives, and initial ideas for conducting this research activity and the benefits that can be obtained for visitors and the development of eco-tourism in the Karangsong mangrove forest.
- 3) During this meeting, our research team discussed the parties who will be involved and in charge of managing the "public space reading park" and the continuity of providing books or reading materials;
- 4) Visit the Lentera Hati Community Reading Park, which is located around the Karangsong beach. This meeting aims to explain the purpose of the research that we will do and invite the TBM management to be involved in the pioneering activity of the "public space reading park".

Regarding the meetings with the managers of the Karangsong forest tourism park and the managers of the Lentera Hati TBM, several meetings were held further to strengthen the preparation and planning of this research. In addition, in the meeting with the tour manager and TBM, they also discussed the time of service, the officers who served and who would provide the book storage box and provide reading books as the first step in the research. As for the meeting results, it was agreed that the research team was responsible for providing boxes and reading materials. However, along with the development of the "public space reading park" in the eco-tourism location of the Karangsong mangrove forest in the future, there will be discussions about the sustainability of reading materials and the provision of sources of funds for the provision of reading materials.

2. Implementation or Action Stage

After careful planning, both related to the provision of book boxes, reading materials, service time and those in charge of this public space reading park service activity, the next stage is to take action. There are several activities carried out related to the implementation of this action, namely as follows:

- 1) For the provision of book boxes, the research team and the manager of the community reading garden of the lantern heart of Karangsong Village coordinated, and it was agreed that the TBM manager would carry out the construction of the book city with the cost of materials and fees, etc. being the responsibility of the research team;
- 2) For the implementation of public space park services in the field later or in mangrove forest eco-tourism locations, several agreements will be made as follows:

- It is the responsibility of the research team to select, purchase and provide books and reading materials for the “public space reading park” collection at an early stage. Then the book was handed over to the Lentera Hati TBM;
 - For checking books, sending books and exchanging books/reading materials regularly to the book corner locations, TBM will do it;
 - Officers who will serve or arrange books or reading materials at the eco-tourism location of the mangrove forest are the officers or volunteers who are at the eco-tourism location of the mangrove forest.
 - The research team, together with the management of the Lentera Hati community reading park, at certain times, made visits to see the development of the “public space reading park” in order to carry out further evaluations.
- 3) From the results of a meeting with the management of the Lentera Hati TBM and the managers of the Karangsong Mangrove forest eco-tourism. To provide a storage city for books and other reading materials, the size is adjusted to the place or waiting room and is easy to move or store in a safe place. There are several alternatives for shelves or storage areas for reading materials, as follows:



Figure 6: Example of a shelf for book storage

Source : Dokumen peneliti

- 4) The next implementation stage is selecting or examining books and reading materials that will become a collection of public space reading park at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location. In accordance with the initial purpose of this research activity, it is to provide sources of information about flora, fauna, the environment and nature conservation so that reading materials can provide knowledge and enrich insight for visitors who come to the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location. Therefore, in the selection of books and reading materials, we carried out several stages of searching for reading materials as follows:
- Looking for a list of books/readings with topics of flora, fauna, mangrove forest, nature and environment conservation through several

online bookstores, including through palasari. Online, through the website of the ministry of the environment, etc. From the results of the search for books on flora and fauna, several examples of books were obtained, which will become a collection of "public space reading park" at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location.

- Regarding the list of reading books prepared as a collection of reading corners, including:
 - a. Book title : Kepiting Uca di Hutan mangrove Indonesia
Author : Dewi Citra Murniati
Publisher ; Yayasan Obor Indonesia
 - b. Book title : Mengenal hutan Mangrove
Author : Elen Tjandra
Publisher ; PT. Suka Buku
 - c. Book title : Manajemen Hutan Mangrove
Author : Asing Kustanti
Publisher ; Yayasan Obor Indonesia
 - d. Book title : Hutan Mangrove
Author : Arifin Arief
Publisher ; Kanisius
 - e. Book title : 188 Flora dan Fauna Yang Wajib Diketahui
Author : Astri Lestari
Publisher ; Buku Kita

The list of books above is a list obtained from the search and selection results in several online bookstores. In addition, our research team also selects and procures books on flora and fauna by accessing several related sources. Apart from the list of books mentioned above, several books are prepared to become a collection of public space reading park at the Karangsong eco-tourism location, namely as in the title below:



Figure 7: Sample Collection for Karangsong Public Space Park
Source : Data Penelitian, 2021.

3. Observation Stage

This stage is to see changes with the pioneering activity of "reading corner" at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location. In conducting this observation, the study used several indicators of successful implementation before the pioneering of public space reading park and after the provision of public space reading park at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location, Indramayu Regency.

Table 1: Indicators of Success of Karangsong Public Space Park Pioneering Activities

No	Indicator	Baseline (before activity)	Achievement (after activity)
1.	Public reading garden	There is no public space reading garden yet	There is a public reading garden available
2.	Collection of Flora and Fauna	There is no reading material available at the Karangsong eco-tourism location	Reading materials about flora and fauna are available at the Karangsong eco-tourism location
3.	Community Response public space reading garden	There is no response about the public space reading park	The response of tourists with the existence of a public space reading garden
4.	Collaboration with universities, community reading park forums and Karangsong tourism managers	There is no collaboration between universities, community reading parks and tourism managers in providing public space parks	There is cooperation with forums between community reading parks, tourism managers, and universities in developing public reading room parks.

Source : Diolah Peneliti, 2021.

Suppose you look at some of the success indicators of the pioneering program for public space reading parks at this Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location, in general. In that case, it shows a positive change to support Karangsong mangrove eco-tourism as an entertainment tourism destination and an educational tourism destination. At this location, apart from seeing the state of the mangrove forest, types of flora and fauna, you can also gain additional knowledge from several books and other reading materials provided in the public space reading park at waiting and resting points in the Karangsong eco-tourism location.

4. Reflection Stage

The reflection stage is a stage that is more evaluation in nature than a series of research activities carried out. Based on the facts and data on the process of implementing the pioneering public space reading park carried out at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location, the results of the analysis and reflection can be obtained as follows:

- 1) Judging from the process of pioneering a public space reading park at the Karangsog mangrove forest eco-tourism location, there has been much progress. At the beginning of the coordination of the research team with the TBM manager, there were indeed a few obstacles. However, after being explained about the aims and objectives of the research activities that we

will do, they can understand and support the research team's activities. In the second cycle, coordination with the management and Lentera Hati TBM intensified, we discussed several plans related to the pioneering of public space reading park. In addition, we also distribute work tasks that are technical, operational in the field as well as those related to the provision of reading materials and facilities for public space reading park.

- 2) In the first cycle, the Lentera Hati community reading park managers did not know much about how to manage sources of information or reading materials, especially for public reading gardens. However, after we provided knowledge and skills on managing information sources, they began to know how to carry out needs analysis, selection, procurement and service of library materials.
- 3) In the second cycle, the community reading park manager and the officers who used to provide public space reading park services at the Karangsong mangrove forest eco-tourism location began to identify the reading materials needed by visitors or tourists on the input submitted to the officers. In addition, in this second cycle, as an effort to maintain the continuity of the provision of reading materials, the management of the community reading park, in collaboration with the research team, conducted an assessment to ask for support from donors or parties concerned with environmental problems related to the provision of materials. Reading material.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the facts, data and findings in the field during the pioneering process until the establishment of a public space reading park at the Karangsong Indramayu Mangrove forest eco-tourism location, both in cycle I and cycle II, it can be concluded that the availability of reading materials or books in a public space reading park at eco-tourism locations Karangsong mangrove forest, can provide benefits for tourists to gain additional knowledge related to flora, fauna and environmental conservation issues. This is because, at the Karangsong mangrove eco-tourism tourism location, there is no special room officer who guides and explains to tourists about mangrove forests, flora, fauna, etc. so that the availability of reading materials is expected to support the mangrove forest eco-tourism area, which is an educational tour about flora, fauna, nature conservation and the environment which are the pride of Indramayu Regency.

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