

THE ROLE OF KELIMUTU NATIONAL PARK TO SUPPORT GEOCONSERVATION AND GEOPARK DEVELOPMENT

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Kelimutu National Park has an important role in conservation natural resources for research, education, and tourism. The site is situated in Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara as the product of the collision of Eurasian and Australian plates. This setting creates a high geological diversity and provides an opportunity to be developed as geoconservation and geopark.

Geoheritage is a concept to represent the geological phenomena with very high value which relates each other as part of earth dynamics. The development of geoconservation and geopark as an alternative tourism is a new paradigm in Indonesia.

Kelimutu have a unique natural phenomenon-tree different coloured lakes at the peak of Mt. Kelimutu (1690 m asl). The first lake is named Tiwu Ata Mbupu, the second is named Tiwu Nuwa Muri Koo Fai, and the third is tiwu Ata Polo. The colour of the water in each lake is different and the colour change from time to time. Thought to be caused by the volcanic activity of Kelimutu, it has also been suggested that the cangees in colour due to refraction of the sun's rays, microbiota in the water, dissolution of chemical substances and reflection of the colours of the lake walls an bottom.

This effort to this geopark status will supposedly give positive impact as a world site which contributes to assemble education and geotourism value in one protected an conserved area, also local economic growth.

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