



Tamblingan to be A Spiritual Tourism Destination

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ABSTRACT

Buleleng regent, Putu Agus Suradnyana confirmed Tamblingan will be promoted as a spiritual tourism object. The plan was a request from pengraja catur desa or four villages leader on Tamblingan Lake vicinity. The Lake status as a sacred site, has been preserved since the 10th century. The ancient Tamblingan communities erected many holy shrines nearby. They are Dalem Tamblingan temple, Endek temple, Ulun Danu temple, Sang Hyang Kangin temple, and Sang Hyang Kawuh temple. Then Gubug Temple, Tirta Mengening Temple, Naga Loka Temple, Pengukiran Temple, Pengukusan, Batulepang Temple, Embang temple and Tukang Timbang temple. Despite its status as holy site, Tamblingan Lake acts as sanctuary

to various types of vegetation and wild animals. The regental government realized the byproduct possibilities of promoting new tourism object is land conversion. Tourist area status often invites high-scale business investors to establish supporting facilities around the site, which can adversely affect the lake habitat's sustainability. To minimize further exploitation, Agus Suradnyana encourages indigenous villages to compose pararem (customary rules) in the villages around Lake Buyan and Tamblingan. The regulation is expected to prevent land conversion in the villages around Buyan-Tamblingan lakes, as well as to maintain groundwater availability in the long run.

Keyword: Tamblingan Lake, Spiritual Tourism, Buleleng

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BACKGROUND

Ancient Beratan Supervolcano eruption approximately 11.500 years ago formed a vast caldera on centre of Bali. Accumulated rainwater in the caldera basin then gave birth to three lakes, namely Buyan Lake, Beratan Lake, and Tamblingan Lake. Buyan and Tamblingan lakes are adjacent, whereas Beratan Lake is located slightly further. Due to its adjacent position, Buyan and Tamblingan infamous by the name the twin lakes. Indonesia's government designated Buyan and Tamblingan Lake areas as Natural Tourism Parks in 1997.¹

Recently, Buleleng regent Putu Agus Suradnyana confirmed the twin lakes, Tamblingan and Buyan in Buleleng Regency, Bali, will be designed as tourist destinations; Buyan is a mass tourist destination. Tamblingan will be promoted as a spiritual tourism object. Suradnyana explained the plan was a request from pengraja catur desa or four villages leader on Tamblingan Lake vicinity, namely Munduk Traditional Village, Gesing Traditional Village, Gobleg Traditional Village, and Uma Jero Traditional Village. The village leaders pleaded to make Tamblingan as a spiritual tourism object. Layout and Design Plans will also be made to suit local community's demands, Considering the Tamblingan area has been preserved as a sacred site since the 10th century.

TAMBLINGAN AT GLANCE

Geographically, Tamblingan Lake is located in Munduk Village, Banjar District, Buleleng Regency. It has a varied topography ranging from flat (0-8%), slightly steep (25-45%), highly steep ($\geq 45\%$) with an altitude 1,210-1,350 meters above sea level. The northern, eastern, and southern areas between Buyan and Tamblingan are highly steep green hill. However, on the lake basin, the land is rather steep, gentle to flat slope.

Among its sisters, Tamblingan Lake is the smallest. The name derives from two words in Balinese; *Tamba* means medicine, and *Elingang* means memory, consciousness, or spiritual prowess. Many ancient scripts such as *Lontar Kutara Kanda Dewa Purana Bangsul*, referred that there used to be an epidemic around the area. The text mentioned a holy man descended deep into the lake trench to obtain holy water for medicine. Thanks to his prayer and spiritual abilities, the man was able to find the holy water, and the holy lake water healed the sick. Since then, the lake was known as Tambaelingang, the words Tamba Elingang gradually shortened into Tamblingan.²

Copper inscription found in Gobleg village, mentioned an old settlement around 10th to 14th centuries on the southern part of the lake. However, due to mysterious circumstances, the inhabitants decided to establish new settlements in four

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Figure 1. Aerial View of Tamblingan Lake³

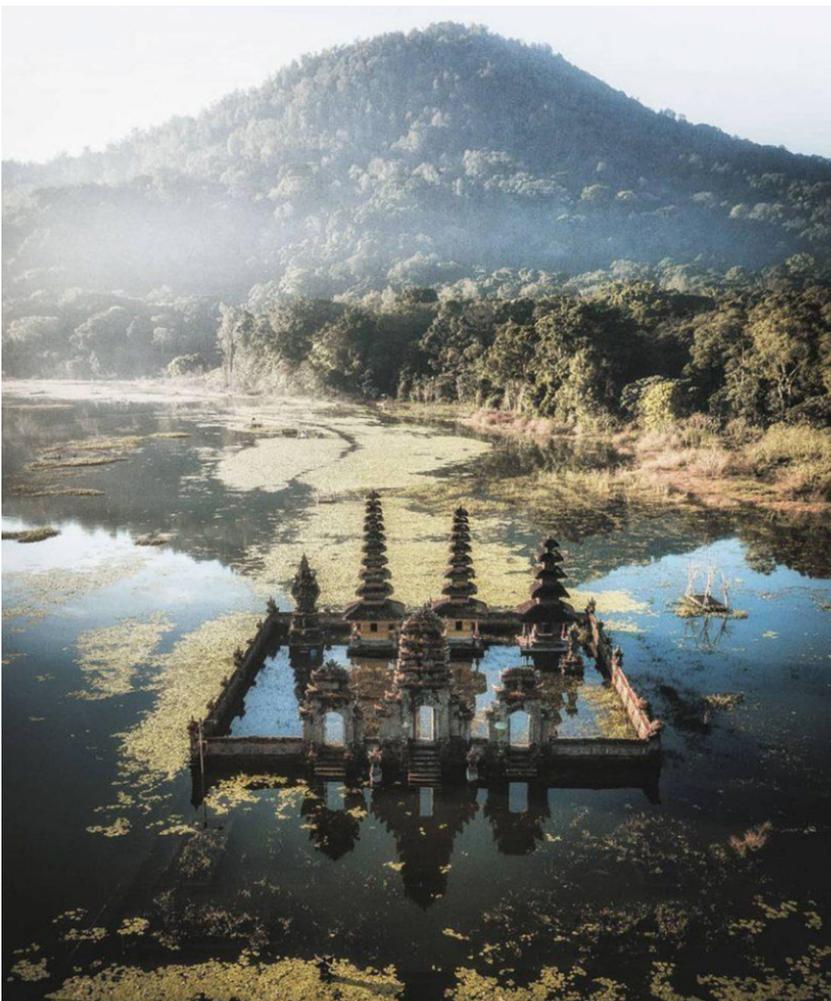


Figure 2. The Ulun Danu temple on the Tamblingan basin is the most iconic shrine. The temple is situated on the lake's edge, and it would seem floating whenever the lake water overflows.⁶

different areas yet relatively close to their older village. The four new villages were then referred to as *Catur Desa* or four villages.⁴ They are Munduk, Gobleg, Gesing, and Umejero Village. These villages bond by spiritual responsibility. Their duties are to maintain the lake as well as its surrounding temples' sanctity.

The old civilization in the Tamblingan area was known as faithful communities. They gave birth to many temples nearby, starting from Dalem Tamblingan temple, Endek temple, Ulun Danu temple, Sang Hyang Kangin temple, and Sang Hyang Kawuh temple. Then there is the Gubug Temple, Tirta Mengening Temple, Naga Loka Temple, Pengukiran Temple, Pengukusan, and Batulepang Temple. There are also Embang temple and Tukang Timbang temple, two small temples that existed long before the 10th century.⁵ Furthermore, the Ulun Danu temple on the Tamblingan basin is the most iconic shrine. The temple is situated on the lake's edge, and it would seem floating whenever the lake water overflows.

Tamblingan is surrounded by lush vegetation, with a cold temperature. Unlike Buyan Lake, which often acts as a camping spot, Tamblingan has not been developed for modern tourism. It is seen from its lack of public facilities around the area. Managers of tourist attractions deliberately allow such occasions to occur for the sake of preserving nature and the environment. However, tourists who decide to visit the Tamblingan area can do some activities such as boat rides or camping, although it is not as packed as the next area. Local uses canoes for their daily activities on the lake. The canoe also available for rent if tourists would like to explore the lake.⁷

SITE FOR SPIRITUAL TOURISM

Buleleng Regent Putu Agus Suradnyana said that the twin lakes' site plan was on the table after meeting planning consultant PT Kencana Adi Karma at the Buleleng Regent's office, Thursday (24/9). Suradnyana will plot a different scheme for Lake Tamblingan and Lake Buyan. Lake Buyan is for mass tourism, while Lake Tamblingan is specifically for spiritual tourism. He explained that the planning consultant had completed the blueprint. The draft has been socialized by planning consultants from PT Kencana Adi Karma. Soon, the next step will be to survey the lake's land status, thus as not to cause problems in the future.

Head of Buleleng Public Works and Spatial Planning (PUTR), Putu Adiptha Eka Putra, believed if the lake is well managed, it will be able to provide welfare for the community, villages, traditional villages, and Buleleng Regency Government itself.

The PUTR Service will monitor the arrangement in Tamblingan Lake. The area nature and sanctity are the topmost priority. Besides, it can also make a meaningful contribution to the community and the local government. “We will continue the work to fulfill the four Village chiefs’ aspirations,” said Adiptha Eka Putra.⁸

Likewise, Buleleng regent realized the byproduct possibilities of promoting new tourism object is land conversion. Tourist area status often invites high-scale business investors to erect supporting facilities around the site, which can adversely affect the lake habitat’s sustainability.



Figure 3. Member of Zingiberaceae’s family, Ginger, a typical plant that grows in Tamblingan forests.⁹



Figure 4. Coffee Plantation¹³

PARAREM TO PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Tamblingan Lake is a sanctuary to many floras and faunas. Endemic faunas of the lake include families of Cichlidae, Cyprinidae, and Poeciliidae. (The ratio of native and alien fish species in Buyan and Tamblingan lakes, Bali) the local community often catches Nile tilapia and Mozambique tilapia as food, due to their abundant presence on the water.

Vegetation habitus in the forest around Tamblingan and Buyan is dominated by herbs, trees, shrubs, and lianas. Residents utilize various medicinal plants that grow in the forest, such as Zingiberaceae, Leguminosae, Apocynaceae, Lamiaceae, and Poaceae.¹⁰ A study by Paramitha *et al* in the Buyan-Tamblingan natural tourism park area, there are at least thirty types of epiphytic orchids, with the domination of *Appendicula Elegans* Rchb species.¹¹ Additionally, land conversion around the lake makes the area vulnerable to flash floods, or landslides, due to hilly land contours. Sedimentation by rain can also threaten the existence of fish species that live in the lake.

Realizing the high conversion of land functions in Bali due to tourism development,¹² Buleleng Regent Putu Agus Suradnyana encourages indigenous villages to compose *Pararem* (customary rules) in the villages around Lake Buyan and Tamblingan. Vegetation *pararem* is quintessential to be drafted to avert land conversion on the two lakes’ buffer villages. According to Agus Suradnyana, the condition of the pockmarked hill is threatening for the Buleleng communities in general. The conversion may trigger natural disasters during the wet season, as well as affects groundwater absorption.

The converted lands on the upper lake area, which have been used as the horticultural farm, will be returned to cultivating perennials plants, such as coffee plantation. Meanwhile, the Head of PUTR Buleleng, Putu Adiptha Eka Putra, admitted much land in the buffer areas of Lake Buyan and Lake Tamblingan has been changing over time. The Buleleng PUTR Office will map which areas can be developed and reforested, with the local villages head assistance.¹⁴ Custom regulation is expected to prevent land conversion in the villages around Lake Buyan and Lake Tamblingan. Also, to maintain groundwater availability in the long run. Later, with this *pararem*, the land will be returned to cultivate perennials plants, such as coffee plantation. With the Bali provincial government’s help, coffee plants can become black gold to support the local community welfare.¹⁵

CONCLUSION

The Tamblingan Lake status as a sacred site, has been preserved since the 10th century. The ancient Tamblingan communities erected many holy shrines nearby. They are Dalem Tamblingan temple, Endek temple, Ulun Danu temple, Sang Hyang Kangin temple, and Sang Hyang Kawuh temple. Then Gubug Temple, Tirta Mengening Temple, Naga Loka Temple, Pengukiran Temple, Pengukusan, Batulepang Temple, Embang temple and Tukang Timbang temple.

The regental government realized the byproduct possibilities of promoting new tourism object is land conversion. Tourist area status often invites high-scale business investors to establish supporting facilities around the site, which can adversely affect the lake habitat's sustainability. Despite its status as holy site, Tamblingan Lake also acts as sanctuary to various types of vegetation and wild animals. To minimise further exploitation, Agus Suradnyana encourages indigenous villages to compose *pararem* (customary rules) in the villages around Lake Buyan and Tamblingan. The regulation is expected to prevent land conversion in the villages around Buyan-Tamblingan lakes, as well as to maintain groundwater availability in the long run.

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