

# **Assessing Circular Economy Policy Implementation in Tourism Sector of Labuan Bajo, Flores, East Nusa Tenggara**

## **Introduction**

Indonesia's commitment to sustainable development is increasingly reflected in its shift toward a circular economy (CE), as outlined in the National Circular Economy Roadmap and supported by the ASEAN Circular Economy Strategic Framework (2021–2030). These frameworks emphasize decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation through innovation, waste reduction, and sustainable business models.

Tourism, a key economic driver in Indonesia, especially in high-profile destinations like Labuan Bajo, Flores, East Nusa Tenggara, generates substantial material flows and waste. Labuan Bajo, designated as one of Indonesia's Super Priority Tourism Destinations, faces many environmental pressure from increased visitor numbers, resource use, and waste production. The hospitality sector plays a vital role in influencing how circular principles are operationalized on the ground.

To bridge the gap between national or ASEAN Circular Economy policy intentions and practical implementation, there is a need to assess how circular economy strategies are being translated into real-world actions in tourism infrastructure, particularly through tools like green certification programs for accommodations. This study will investigate the policy-practice alignment in Labuan Bajo's tourism sector to identify best practices, gaps, and opportunities for enhancing CE implementation in line with national and regional sustainability goals.

## **Aim**

To assess the alignment between circular economy policies and their practical implementation in the tourism sector of Labuan Bajo, Flores, East Nusa Tenggara with a focus on the hospitality industry and green accommodation initiatives.

## **Objectives**

- To identify and engage with key stakeholders (related government agencies, private sector, NGOs) involved in or influencing CE practices in tourism.
- To examine how hospitality industry in Labuan Bajo are integrating Circular Economy principles in their operations.
- To highlight discrepancies between policy and practice, and provide actionable recommendations to improve CE uptake in the tourism sector.

## **Research Questions**

- In what ways are circular principles or ASEAN CE frameworks reflected in tourism regulations, particularly those targeting hospitality sectors?

- What are the main gaps or mismatches between CE policy intentions and actual practices in the tourism sector, and how can these be addressed?

## Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative case study approach to explore how Circular Economy (CE) principles are translated from policy to practice in the tourism sector of Labuan Bajo, with a focus on the hospitality industry. It involves a document and policy analysis of ASEAN and Indonesian CE frameworks and tourism regulations, particularly those related to green homestay certification. Key stakeholders, including related local government agencies, hotel and homestay operators, NGOs, and tourist associations, will be identified and engaged through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to understand their roles, perceptions, and practices. Field observations at selected accommodations will be conducted to document on-the-ground CE initiatives such as waste management, water and energy efficiency, and sourcing practices. The data collected will be analyzed thematically and compared with policy objectives to identify gaps between intended and actual implementation. The findings will inform actionable recommendations to strengthen CE uptake in tourism operations and enhance policy-practice alignment in Labuan Bajo.

## Timetable

Activities	Month					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Literature review						
Stakeholder mapping						
Interviews						
Data Analysis						
Drafting and Feedback						
Finalization and Submission						

## SDG Relevancy

This study supports several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by evaluating how tourism actors in Labuan Bajo implement circular practices such as waste reduction, resource efficiency, and sustainable sourcing. It also aligns with SDG 13 (Climate Action) through its focus on environmental sustainability within the hospitality sector. By examining the role of green homestays and tourism infrastructure, the research contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Additionally, it promotes SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by supporting sustainable tourism as a driver of inclusive local development, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by involving multiple stakeholders in collaborative efforts to enhance circular economy implementation.