

<b>Thesis Title</b>	Community Empowerment for Community-Based Tourism Development in The Border Region of Timor-Leste: A Case Study of Bobonaro District
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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to (1) explore the challenges of the tourism industry in the Atabae Sub-district of Bobonaro, Timor-Leste, and (2) analyze how community empowerment can help in creating CBT in the Atabae Sub-district of Bobonaro, Timor-Leste. This research applies qualitative data analysis in order to search and collect data, investigate procedures, and gain a thorough understanding of community empowerment in managing community-based tourism (CBT). The primary data is collected in the Atabae Sub-district by interviews several sectors involving in tourism industry, including 8 local tourism business owners, and 5 government officials, both local 2 and national authorities 3. Also, the documentary research is also applied secondary sources of data to understand tourism context, especially regarding CBT of Timor Leste. Then both primary and secondary data collected from documents, literature and interviews are analyzed to assess the situation, significance, and challenges of CBT in Atabae Sub-district. The research results found that (1) CBT development in Atabae Sub-district are facing several challenges, ranging from lack of financial support, to inadequate infrastructure, to insufficient skills of local people in tourism industry, (2) local community is a key factor in the development of CBT, (3)

the community empowerment can be encouraged in several ways, including increasing roles of local government, more supporting on financial resources in tourism development, promoting capacity building of local community, and encouraging participatory development.

**Keywords:** Community Empowerment, Community-Based Tourism Development, Sustainable Tourism

