

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Coronavirus, also known as COVID 19, is the cause of a global pandemic that has been affecting every country on Earth in recent months. One possible host for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, is birds, animals, and humans (Jones & Comfort, 2020). Countries are more unstable now than they were before the virus hit because of the disruption it caused to social, political, and economic activities. Lockdown, social isolation, physical distance, mask use, halting schools and public areas, canceling concerts and festivals, and forbidding assembly are just some of the measures adopted by the authorities to stop the spread of the virus (Gössling et al., 2020). Since its discovery in October 2020, the Delta and Omicron variants of the Covid-19 virus have spread to virtually every country in the world and have become the most common variation in new cases of COVID-19. This change has been independently confirmed, and it is feared to be more dangerous than previous Covid-19 variant mutations (Wang & Han, 2022).

The travel and hospitality sector has also been hit hard by the pandemic. There has been a large decline in revenue for tourism-related sectors due to travel restrictions, the closure of foreign and local tourists, fear of tourist infection, and the closure of tourist sites (Uğur & Akbıyık, 2020). The pandemic has led in a 78% decline in foreign visitor arrivals, \$1.2 trillion in lost tourism earnings, and 120 million job losses worldwide (Sigala, 2020). The number of tourists visiting Indonesia has decreased as a result of the pandemic. Tourist activities have ground to a halt as a direct result of the government's efforts to reduce the number of broadcasts (Wulung et al., 2020).



Figure 1. Graph of Foreign Tourist Visits to Indonesia (source: Asdep litbangjakpar & BPS, Kemenparekraf)

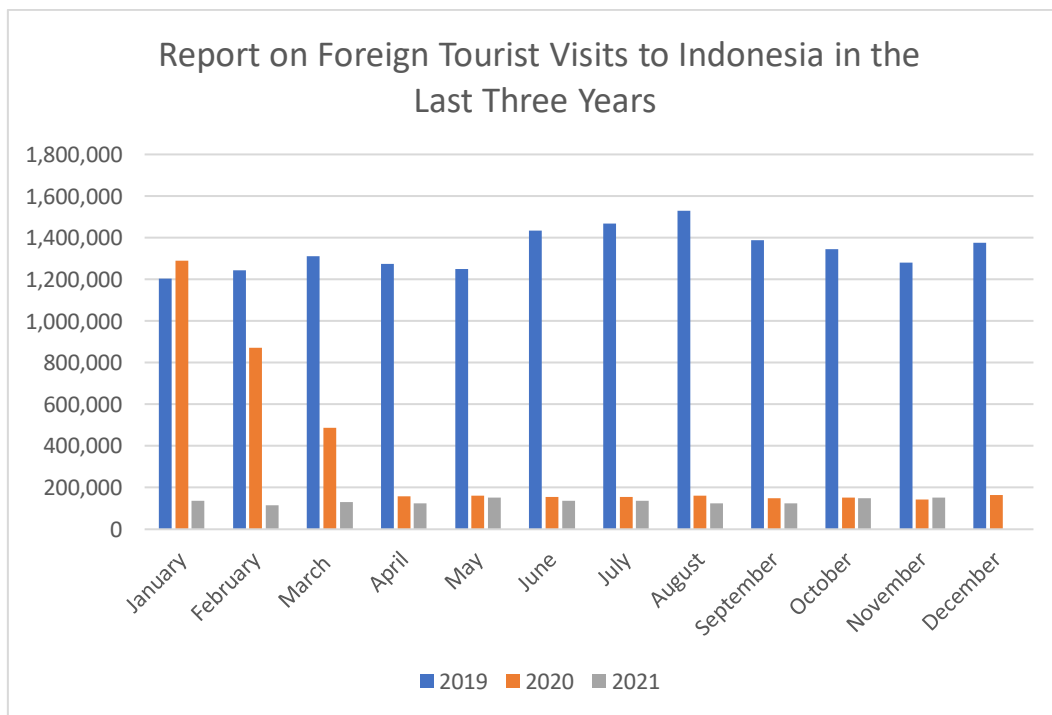


Figure 2. Graph of Number of Foreign Tourist Visits to Indonesia in the last three years

Table 1. Number of Foreign Tourist Visits to Indonesia 2019-2021

Months	2019	2020	2021
January	1.203.381	1.290.411	137.230
February	1.243.996	872.765	115.765
March	1.311.911	486.155	130.933
April	1.274.231	158.066	125.001
May	1.249.536	161.842	152.604
June	1.434.103	156.561	137.247
July	1.468.173	155.742	135.438
August	1.530.268	161.549	124.751
September	1.388.719	148.984	124.071
October	1.346.434	152.293	148.645
November	1.280.781	144.476	153.199
December	1.377.067	164.079	

The number of international visitors that vacationed in Indonesia before to the Covid-19 epidemic grew at an annual pace of 5% till 2019. The graph above, as can be seen, indicates a huge growth from 2011 to 2019. In 2017, the rise was particularly strong, with 2,520,000 arrivals, compared to 2016. However, this number has reduced dramatically after the Covid-19 virus first entered Indonesia in 2020-2021, owing to the travel restriction policy and the prohibition on foreign citizens entering Indonesia except for certain circumstances. This results in significant losses for Indonesia's tourism industry, reduces revenue from tourism, and has a direct influence on the industry's players, such as the number of jobless tour guides and tourist transport drivers (Karisma, 2020).

The Philippines, as an archipelagic nation with similarities to Indonesia and a country that relies heavily on tourism for revenue, has been hit hard by the Covid-19 virus epidemic. The Philippines' tourist industry is one of the most profitable in the world, and the country's world-class beaches are a key appeal. According to the Philippine Department of Tourism, 8.26 million international visitors visited the country in 2019, bringing in US\$9 billion in income (Opiniano et al., 2021). Furthermore, the jobless rate in the Philippines is expected to reach 10% in July 2020, up from 5.4 percent in the same month a year ago (Andulana et al., 2021).

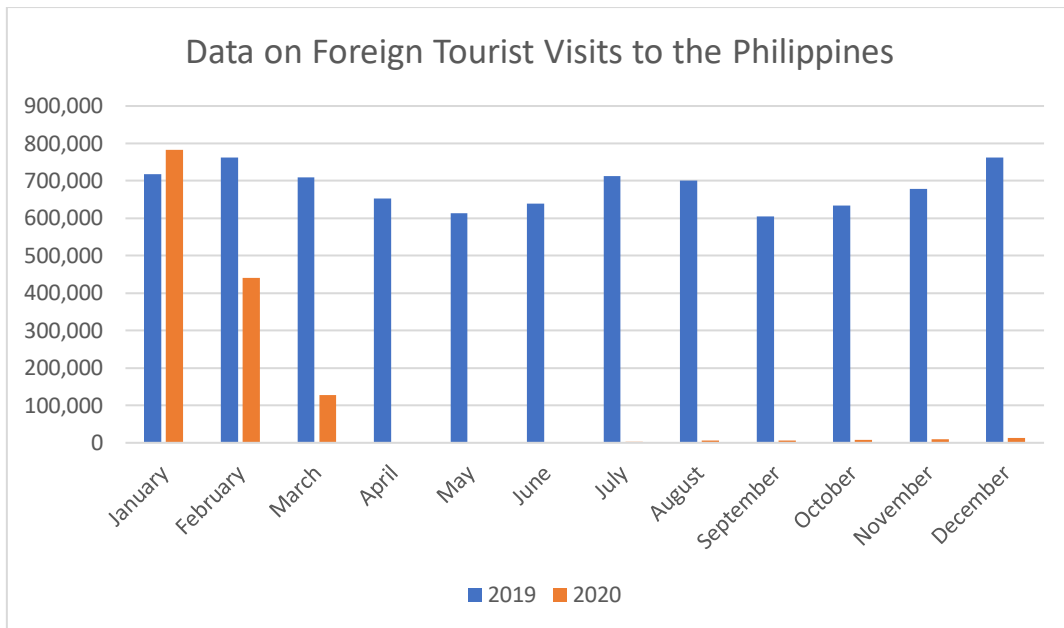


Figure 3. Data on Foreign Tourist Visits to the Philippines (Source: <http://www.tourism.gov.ph/>)

Table 2. Number of Foreign Tourist Visits to the Philippines 2019-2020

Months	2019	2020
January	718.118	782.132
February	762.437	439.852
March	709.399	127.721
April	653.336	927
May	612.861	357
June	638.440	1,186
July	712.285	3.380
August	699.933	5.364
September	604.552	6.410
October	634.786	8.304
November	679.273	9.069
December	763.057	13.753

The number of foreign tourist arrivals, as happened with Indonesia and other countries affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, has continued to decline since the restriction on the entry of migrants from abroad was imposed. The first case of Covid-19 in the Philippines first occurred on January 30, 2020, then on March 7, 2020, local spread began to occur which then spread to all parts of the country (Era & Rosario, 2020). Ever since, the government has started to take action by passing regulations like the one that makes it illegal for citizens to leave their homes in an effort to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. By comparing the March data with

the April data, it is clear that there has been a significant reduction in tourist visits (-312,131 in this case). May's record-low 357 tourists were the result of a policy that strictly forbade foreigners from entering the country. The number of arrivals rose again between June and December, suggesting that the government has begun to relax its restrictions on foreign tourists, though only under particular conditions and with restrictions on which areas can be visited.

The Philippines' tourism sector has also taken a severe hit. Since the tourism industry lost 35% of its earnings in the first quarter, costing the country a total of 279.5 billion pesos, the Philippine Department of Tourism began marketing to local tourists before the local isolation was lifted (Centeno & Marquez, 2020). Firefighters who tested positive for COVID-19 while on a visit to Boracay led to the dismissal of the fire chief and raised concerns about the spread of the virus among locals during the early phases of the advertising campaign. (Bantugan & Mahusay, 2021). It also puts President Duterte in a difficult position, given that he started encouraging local tourism in February, in response to COVID-19 concerns. In addition, many industries engaged in tourism in the Philippines have decided to stop providing services during the pandemic. As many as 78% of the tourism industry in the Philippines chose to temporarily suspend their industrial activities due to the restrictive policies issued in response to the pandemic, furthermore as many as 61% of the industry temporarily suspended their company activities due to a lack of tourists causing a lack of demand for their products or services (Disimulacion, 2021). For more details, see the graph below.



Figure 4. Actions Taken by the Philippine Tourism Industry in Facing the Covid 19 Pandemic (source: pwc.com)

Indonesia, in response to the pandemic, issued several policies such as the Decree of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia Number HK.01.07/MENKES/382/2020 concerning the Health Protocol for the Community in Public Places and Facilities in Control of Corona Virus Disease 2019 which took effect on June 19, 2020 which has limited the movement of people and affected the movement of tourism (Bascha et al., 2020). The government is not indifferent to the tourism industry's effect on the health of its residents; rather, it is taking this action to slow the development of the sickness; once the epidemic has been contained, the government will take measures to revive the industry. In light of the deteriorating tourism situation in Indonesia and the Philippines since the spread of the Covid-19 virus, I will analyze the evolution of their respective tourist rules.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background that has been written previously, the formulation of the problem in this study is:

- a. How are the policies of the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines in controlling the tourism sector during the Covid-19 pandemic (2020).
- b. How are the policies of the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines in reviving the tourism sector that has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic (2021).

1.3 Research Objectives and Research Benefits

The objective of this research is to look at how government policies in two nations, Indonesia and the Philippines, have evolved in dealing with the tourist sector. The focus of this study will be on the strategies and policies implemented to resurrect the tourist sector, which sustained significant losses as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic that struck both nations.

The expectations of the researchers for the results of this study are as follows:

a. Theoretical

This research is expected to be useful for expanding scientific studies from the study of government science regarding the concept of public policy in general and specifically related to tourism management so that the tourism sector can survive during the pandemic and build a good tourism strategy.

b. Practical

This research is expected to be useful for the Government of Indonesia and the Government of the Philippines as reference material in making various policies related to the tourism sector to be better and make better strategies in designing strategies so that the tourism sector can be stronger during the pandemic.

c. Academical

This research is expected to enrich reading materials and increase reference materials for research for those in need in the Masters in Governmental Sciences environment, and in general for all students of the University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta and students of MSU-IIT Philippines. Especially for students who are conducting research or studies on public policy, especially in the field of tourism with the comparison of two countries.