INTRODUCTION

Background

Indonesia is the largest archipelagic state characterized by around 17,508 islands and 81,000 km coast length (Soegiarto, 1976 in Dahuri et. al., 1996), beautiful nature coast and the diversity of flora and fauna inside. There are coral reef and many kinds of the ornamental fish that estimated approximately 263 kinds (Nugroho, 2004). This huge potency is very appropriate to utilize and develop for coastal and marine tourism.

Bengkulu is a coastal city, located in the west coast of Sumatra Island, accordingly it is highly potential area to develop for tourism. The tourism sector is one of the development priorities that have contributed much to the economy of Bengkulu, although the contribution of tourism sector is not written factually. Stated on the Regional Gross Domestic Product (GRDP) of Bengkulu 2003, the close related sector of tourism such as trade, hotel business, restaurant (22.18%), transportation and communication (31.50%) are the economics sector that gave the highest contribution to Bengkulu development (Bappeda, 2004a). On the other hand, the trend of Bengkulu tourism development is under developed for the time being as the number of foreign tourist are decreasing, although domestic tourist rise slowly (Disparta, 2004). Should tourism be improved, it is expected to contribute higher income and accordingly for the increasing of community welfare. This could only be realized through a good planning in tourism which counts all influencing aspects on region development such as physical, social economics, and culture.

Coastal tourism is a kind of tourism that relies on the beauty of nature, sea and land environment as the attraction. In this case, the conservation of nature resources and healthy environment are mandatory to be secured by tour managers, community, tourists themselves (Suharsono, 1993) and government. The understanding of the environmental condition is very important in the arrangement of the coastal tourism development. Without that knowledge, the sustainable coastal tourism remains unrealistic program.
The coastal tourism development usually is started with an area planning, which zone of the region is suitable to be developed for the tourism area. The unplanned development or wrong planning will cause the declining of the coastal resources quality, especially on location determination of coastal tourism development. Unplanned development has contributed largely to the degradation of an already stressed marine environment (Turner, et al., 2000).

The study on land suitability for coastal tourism development is needed to obtain a system of sustainable development management of coastal tourism in Bengkulu. Without a good management of the tourism development planning, the declining of tourism quality will be faced, as a consequence of the lost of interesting value area (Baehaqie, 1993).

An analysis of coastal resources for tourism development that involve land suitability and development strategy is required and will become an initial input for Bengkulu government in determining their future policies.

**Issue Formulations**

Nowadays, the marine based tourism (coastal and maritime) denotes one of the interesting tourism products of the international community. The marine tourism development objective is to utilize and evolve the tourist spots and attractions in the coastal and ocean. Unfortunately the priority of resources management is given more to their mainland compared to their coastal and sea resources, especially the coastal tourism management.

Bengkulu region consist of large area with several potential that could be developed for coastal tourism activities, but right now those ideas still faces to some important issues as follow;

1. Coastal tourism is still not optimally managed where still find the promising nature resources that are poor maintained.
2. Tourism information is still not available and an accurate data is difficult to find, as the result is the less planned in tourism promoting.
3. There is no guideline for sustainable tourism development especially the spatial planning for specific scheme of coastal tourism.
Objectives
1. To identify all the coastal resources that could be used as tourism attraction.
2. To provide a zonation of coastal tourism based on suitability analysis.
3. To formulate a development strategy of coastal tourism which guaranty the acceleration and sustainability of tourism in Bengkulu.

Benefits
1. For the government especially to Bengkulu Government, the study resulting could be used as the inputs about the policy foundation development of coastal tourism in order to support the vision and mission of the city development.
2. For the education institution could become one of the scientific studies in developing natural tourism science especially in coastal management planning.