

UTILIZATION OF COASTAL BOUNDARIES IN LOVINA BEACH, BULELENG, BALI, FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract:

This study aims to examine the utilization of coastal boundaries in the Lovina Beach area of Buleleng, Bali, and to assess its alignment with the principles of sustainable development. The research examines inconsistencies between regulatory frameworks and actual practices in managing coastal boundary areas, particularly in balancing economic development, environmental protection, and public access. This study employs a normative-empirical legal research method, combining statutory and conceptual approaches with field observations and interviews conducted in the Lovina Beach area. The findings indicate that although the regulatory framework governing coastal boundaries has been established at both national and regional levels, its implementation remains suboptimal. Weak supervision, overlapping interests, and limited enforcement contribute to deviations in the utilization of coastal boundaries, potentially undermining environmental sustainability and social equity. The study further reveals that development activities in coastal areas tend to prioritize economic interests over ecological and social considerations. These findings suggest the need to strengthen governance mechanisms, enhance institutional coordination, and promote community involvement to ensure that coastal boundary utilization supports sustainable development objectives. The study concludes that effective enforcement of regulations and integrated coastal management are essential to achieving balanced and sustainable use of coastal boundary areas in Lovina Beach.

INTRODUCTION

Coastal areas represent strategic spaces that support economic activities, environmental functions, and social interactions, particularly in regions that rely on tourism as a driver of local development. In this context, coastal boundary areas play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance while ensuring public access and sustainable use of coastal resources (Bekci, 2021; Glavovic & Boonzaier, 2007; Klein et al., 2004). The governance of coastal boundaries is therefore an essential component of sustainable development, as ineffective regulation and supervision may lead to environmental degradation, spatial conflicts, and inequitable resource utilization (Dayal et al., 2022; Gökkurt Baki & Baki, 2025; Lee et al., 2012; Solé & Ariza, 2019). This issue becomes increasingly relevant in coastal tourism destinations such as Lovina Beach in Buleleng, Bali, where development pressures continue to intensify. Previous studies on coastal management have emphasized the importance of regulatory frameworks and institutional roles in ensuring sustainable coastal development. However, existing research largely focuses on environmental impacts or economic benefits, while paying limited attention to the effectiveness of governance mechanisms in controlling the actual use of coastal boundary areas. In practice, discrepancies often emerge between formal



regulations and field implementation, particularly in tourism-oriented coastal zones. This gap indicates that regulatory compliance and supervisory functions remain critical challenges in coastal governance, especially at the local government level (Ghermandi & Nunes, 2014; Heidkamp & Morrissey, 2018).

Lovina Beach has experienced significant tourism growth, prompting various developments along the coastline. While such development contributes to regional economic growth, it also raises concerns regarding deviations from designated coastal boundaries, reduced public access, and potential environmental risks (Parthasarathy et al., 2022; Pérez-Cayeiro et al., 2019; Zahedi, 2008). The absence of consistent supervision and enforcement mechanisms may lead to coastal boundary utilization prioritizing short-term economic interests over long-term sustainability objectives (Ramadhan & Nuryanti, 2021). This condition highlights the need for empirical legal analysis that examines how governance arrangements function in practice and whether they effectively support sustainable development principles. Based on these considerations, this study seeks to address the following research problem: how are coastal boundaries in the Lovina Beach area governed to support sustainable development? Accordingly, the research aims to analyze the regulatory framework and its implementation for managing coastal boundary areas and to identify governance challenges that hinder sustainable coastal utilization. By focusing on local governance practices, this study contributes to the ongoing discourse on sustainable coastal management (Idajati et al., 2025; Mustika et al., 2018; Nitivattananon & Srinonil, 2019). It provides insights for improving regulatory enforcement and institutional coordination in coastal tourism areas.

Furthermore, the governance of coastal boundary utilization is closely related to local governments' capacity to perform regulatory, supervisory, and control functions in a transparent and accountable manner. Weak governance structures may result in regulatory capture, selective enforcement, and limited monitoring of development activities in coastal zones (Asio et al., 2026; Bremer & Glavovic, 2009; Clarke et al., 2013; Ernsteins et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2011; Scherer & Asmus, 2021). In the context of coastal tourism, these governance challenges are often exacerbated by competing interests between economic development objectives and environmental protection mandates. Consequently, the absence of integrated governance frameworks may undermine the effectiveness of coastal boundary regulations and reduce their role as instruments for sustainable spatial planning. In addition, community participation remains a critical yet underutilized component of coastal governance (Kelly et al., 2019). Although coastal communities are directly affected by development activities, their involvement in monitoring and decision-making processes is frequently limited. This lack of participation may weaken social control mechanisms and reduce public awareness of coastal boundary regulations. Strengthening participatory governance can enhance regulatory compliance and promote shared responsibility for coastal sustainability (McFadden, 2007; Thomas, 2025). Therefore, examining coastal boundary utilization from a governance perspective not only provides legal insights but also contributes to the development of more inclusive and sustainable coastal management practices.

METHODS

This study employs a normative-empirical legal research method to examine the utilization of coastal boundaries in the Lovina Beach area, Buleleng Regency, Bali. The normative approach analyzes statutory regulations and policy instruments governing coastal boundary management, while the empirical approach assesses their implementation in practice. The research was conducted in the Lovina Beach area as a major coastal tourism destination. Data were obtained from primary sources through field observations and interviews with relevant stakeholders, including local



government officials and community representatives, as well as from secondary sources comprising legal documents, regional regulations, and official reports (Zahedi, 2008). The collected data were analyzed using qualitative, descriptive, and juridical-analytical techniques to evaluate regulatory effectiveness, governance practices, and their alignment with sustainable development principles.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the utilization of coastal boundaries in the Lovina Beach area has not been fully aligned with the principles of sustainable development. Field data show that various development activities have taken place within coastal boundary zones, particularly those related to tourism facilities and supporting infrastructure. Although such development contributes to local economic growth, it also raises concerns regarding compliance with spatial planning regulations and coastal protection norms. These findings demonstrate a gap between regulatory objectives and actual implementation on the ground. From a normative perspective, the regulatory framework governing coastal boundaries in Indonesia provides clear guidelines regarding spatial limits, environmental protection, and public access rights. National and regional regulations emphasize the importance of coastal boundaries as protected areas intended to preserve ecological functions and prevent environmental degradation. However, empirical findings indicate that these regulations are often interpreted flexibly in practice, enabling development activities that may compromise environmental sustainability. This condition aligns with previous studies that highlight the challenges of enforcing coastal regulations in tourism-driven regions (Ganster & Gámez, 2012; Heidkamp & Morrissey, 2018; Nursey-Bray et al., 2016; Ramadhan & Nuryanti, 2021).

The role of local government emerges as a central factor in determining the effectiveness of coastal boundary governance. The findings show that local authorities possess formal authority to regulate, supervise, and control coastal utilization, yet these functions are not consistently exercised. Weak monitoring mechanisms and limited coordination among relevant agencies contribute to ineffective oversight. As a result, deviations from designated coastal boundaries may occur without adequate corrective measures, reinforcing concerns raised by earlier research regarding institutional weaknesses in coastal governance. Another significant finding relates to the prioritization of economic interests over environmental and social considerations. Development activities along Lovina Beach tend to emphasize tourism expansion and investment attractiveness, sometimes at the expense of ecological preservation and public access. This pattern aligns with previous research indicating that coastal tourism development often creates tensions between economic objectives and sustainability goals. Without balanced governance, such development risks undermining the long-term viability of coastal ecosystems (Dong et al., 2025).

Community involvement in coastal boundary management was found to be limited, despite the direct impact of coastal development on residents. Interviews with community representatives indicate that public participation in planning and monitoring processes remains minimal. This lack of engagement reduces social control and weakens accountability mechanisms in coastal governance. Previous studies have emphasized that community participation is essential for effective coastal management, particularly in enhancing compliance and fostering shared responsibility for sustainability. The findings also reveal inconsistencies in regulatory enforcement, particularly in responding to violations within coastal boundary areas. In several cases, enforcement actions were either delayed or absent, suggesting selective application of regulations. Such inconsistency may reduce the deterrent effect of legal norms and encourage further non-compliance. This result supports earlier research that identifies enforcement gaps as a major obstacle in achieving sustainable coastal governance.





From an analytical standpoint, the interaction among regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and stakeholder interests decisively shapes outcomes of coastal boundary utilization. Effective governance requires not only comprehensive regulations but also strong institutional commitment and coordination. The absence of integrated governance approaches may lead to fragmented decision-making and weaken the overall effectiveness of coastal management strategies. Overall, the results of this study underscore the need to strengthen governance mechanisms for coastal boundary utilization. Improving supervision, enhancing institutional coordination, and increasing community participation are essential to ensure that coastal development aligns with sustainable development principles. These findings contribute to the broader discourse on coastal governance by providing empirical insights into the challenges faced in tourism-oriented coastal areas and highlighting the importance of effective regulatory implementation.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the utilization of coastal boundaries in the Lovina Beach area has not yet fully supported sustainable development objectives. Although the regulatory framework governing coastal boundaries provides a normative basis for environmental protection and public access, its practical implementation remains weak. Governance challenges, particularly in supervision and enforcement, limit the effectiveness of coastal boundary management and allow development activities that may compromise ecological and social sustainability. These findings indicate that regulatory adequacy alone is insufficient without strong institutional capacity and consistent governance practices. Furthermore, the study highlights that the dominance of economic considerations in coastal development has influenced the utilization of coastal boundaries, often at the expense of environmental preservation and community interests. Limited community participation and weak accountability mechanisms reduce the effectiveness of coastal governance and hinder the realization of inclusive and sustainable coastal management. Strengthening governance structures, enhancing institutional coordination, and promoting participatory approaches are therefore essential to ensure balanced utilization of coastal boundaries.

Future research may explore comparative governance models in other coastal tourism areas to identify best practices in coastal boundary management. In addition, further studies could examine the role of integrated coastal management policies and community-based governance mechanisms in enhancing regulatory compliance and sustainability outcomes.

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