

# **FAUNAL DIVERSITY-BASED EDUTOURISM TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN NGINGRONG CAVE AREA AS SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE FOR LOCAL TOURISM AWARENESS GROUP (POKDARWIS) IN KALURAHAN MULO, KAPANEWON WONOSARI, GUNUNG KIDUL, YOGYAKARTA SPECIAL REGION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Gunung Sewu Karst area is an area with unique topography and geological conditions. The uniqueness of Gunung Sewu Karst is not only in terms of its natural landscape and rocks but also in the potential natural resources that exist there, including flora and fauna. Ngingrong Cave is one of the caves in the Gunung Sewu Karst Area. Based on observations and interviews with several cave guides who are members of the Local Tourism Awareness Group (POKDARWIS) in Mulo Village, Kapanewon Wonosari, Gunung Kidul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta, show that cave guides need information related to biological potential, namely the diversity of typical fauna that exist in the area. Until now, the research and information provided by the cave guides is generally still focused on the geological landscape and cave geomorphology. However, it is not uncommon for visitors to ask questions about the peculiarities of the biota, especially the fauna found in the cave area. The aim of this community service activity is to help the people of the Mulo tourism village, especially the cave guides to gain knowledge and transfer the latest information related to natural richness, especially faunal diversity in the cave tourism area. The knowledge gained then can be used as part of the material delivered by Cave Guides to tourists who take part in educational tourism programs in the Ngingrong Cave Area. This information transfer will not only provide supporting knowledge for cave guides, but it is also hoped that it will provide information to raise awareness among local residents and tourists about the importance of conservation of tourist areas. The method used in the activity is carried out in three stages, namely preparation, teaching and mentoring, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The Preparation Stage consists of carrying out surveys and follow-up interviews at the location. The teaching and mentoring stage is carried out by providing training and mentoring to POKDARWIS members and also cave guides in the Mount Ngingrong area, while the third stage is Monitoring and Evaluation. Monitoring is held one month after giving the material and assistance. In general, participants rated the activities positively. Most of the participants wanted ongoing training with more varied material, so that it could help the community further in developing tourism, especially educational tourism in the Ngingrong Cave area. Thus, it is hoped that future activities can be continued. At the same time UNY hopefully can be a companion to help the community in developing edutourism in the Gunung Sewu Karst area and the Ngingrong Cave area in particular.

*Kata Kunci: Edutourism , Faunal Diversity, Ngingrong Cave*