Identification Of Minangkabau Landscape Characters

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Abstract. Minangkabau is one of the cultures in Indonesia which occupies landscape intact. Landscape of Minangkabau have a very close relationship with the culture of the people. Uniqueness of Minangkabau culture and landscape forming an inseparable character unity. The landscape is necessarily identified to know the inherent landscape characters. The objective of this study was to identify the character of the Minangkabau landscape characterizes its uniqueness. The study was conducted by using descriptive method comprised literature review and field observation. Observed the landscape characters comprised two main features, they were major and minor features. Identification of the features was conducted in two original areas (darek) of the Minangkabau traditional society. The research results showed that major features or natural features of the landscape were predominantly landform, landcover, and hidrology. All luhak (districts) of Minangkabau showed similar main features such as hill, canyon, lake, valley, and forest. The existence of natural features such as hills, canyon and valleys characterizes the nature of minangkabau landscape. Minor features formed by Minangkabau cultural society were agricultural land and settlement. Rumah gadang (big house) is one of famous minor features characterizes the Minangkabau culture. In addition, several historical artefacts of building and others structure may strengthen uniqueness of the Minangkabau landscape character, such as The royal palace, inscription, and tunnels.

1. Introduction

Minangkabau is one of the oldest cultures in Indonesia. Minangkabau is the largest matrilineal society in the world has a strong culture [7]. Minangkabau landscape affected by the culture of society, similarly otherwise seen from natural and non-natural features [9] in the landscape. Minangkabau society see the land not only as the shelter but also as a symbol of social status. Communal land management system at this tribe, resulting in the tradition of land use can still maintained until now. This makes the Minang has an identity that is different from other areas in Indonesia [6]. Land-use regulations in Minangkabau is based on the adage "nan rato kaparumahan, tabu tumbuh dinan lereng, kok manggu kapakuburan, nan bancah ditanami sawah" which means that the flat land used for housing, sloping land overgrown plants, dry
land used for burials and wetlands used for rice paddies [2] [6]. From this adage can be seen that the land use pattern is done by dividing the group of functions based on the condition of the land. This proverb is used on land use patterns in each nagari located in darek (the core area of Minangkabau). The uniqueness of the Minangkabau landscape in terms of the values physical nature associated with culture and history of the people causing the landscape has a strong character that indicates Minangkabau culture.

A landscape has a strong character can be caused by the force of natural features (major features) and minor features (minor feature) interacting. The landscape character shaped by landscape elements such as landforms, landcover, hidrology, settlements, and artifacts of historical / cultural [3] [5] [9]. Spatial association of these elements form a very strong character. With the value of the uniqueness Minangkabau landscape's be interesting to study.

This study was conducted to identify and analyze the Minangkabau landscape character by looking at the major features and minor features result from the people and nature interaction.

2. Research Methods

2.1. Study area

The study were made in the province of West Sumatra where the majority (approximately 95%) the population of West Sumatra is Minangkabau ethnic. Geertz (1981) explained that the central area minangkabau culture is a valley surrounding Mount Merapi, near the town of Bukittinggi. Original areas of the Minangkabau culture called darek territory (land) which this region has a high level of originality, is different from the seacoast region which is a region division with levels of acculturation from outside is very high. Darek region is divided into three luhak now called District, including Tanah Datar, 50 koto, and Agam (Fig 1). Three luhak are agricultural areas with high enough population density and teachings tradition held tight enough. the Site chosen because of the diversity of the unique landscape, semi-natural, cultural features and shape changes that occurred in the last few years. The topography in site moderately change between 0 and 2,891 meters above sea level with Mount Merapi as the highest point.

2.2. Method of the study

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative of the landscape character approach proposed by Starke and Simonds [9]. The study was conducted through two main stages, by using descriptive method comprised literature review and field observation.
The study of literature is done by collecting a variety of information Minangkabau landscape character through a variety of literature and official documents of the local government, in this case the Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda). Field studies conducted with a visit to the Minangkabau landscape. Photographing various landscape character made during the field observation. The result of literature review and field observation an analysis with Landscape Character approach Starke and Simonds [9], the character is formed through the features of nature and features of non-natural (artificial), or a combination of both. In detail, these features can be seen in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Nature and Man-Made Features**

| No | Features          | Sub-Features       | Elements                  |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1  | Nature Feature    | Topography         | mountain, hill, valley, canyon |
|    |                   | Land cover         | forest                    |
|    |                   | Hidrologi (water body) | lake, river, sea          |
| 2  | Man-made Feature  | Agriculture        | paddy fields, farm, plantation |
|    |                   | Traditional Building | home, settlement          |
|    |                   | Artifacts          | monuments, caves, tunnel  |

3. Result and Discussion

Minangkabau is one Indonesia culture is located in West Sumatra Province. Minangkabau world is divided into two regions are Pasisia territory (coastal) or seacoast and darek territory (land), which consists of three luhak Tanah Datar, Agam, and 50 Koto. Minangkabau Landscape has a complete feature in the third luhak (districts) as formulated by Starke and Simonds (2013), includes natural features and man-made features. Overall the features, constructing landscape character that provides cultural identity of Minangkabau. The results of the study literature and field observations are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

3.1. Major Feature

Minangkabau landscape is dominated by the major features. Compilation of the results study literature and field observation is shown in Table 2. The main features of the Minangkabau
landscape based on topography, land cover and hydrology. These features are based on
topography includes mountains, hills, valleys and canyons. Mountain features has in the three
(districts), includes Mount Marapi, Mount Singgalang, Mount Sago, Mount Bungsu, dan
Mount Sanggul. Mountain Features were the most prominent elements as they giving the
very strong landscape character identity [9], especially the Minangkabau landscape character.

Table 2. Major Features Three Luhak (district) Minangkabau

| Major Feature | Luhak (Districts) | Informations |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
|               | Tanah Datar | Agam | 50 Koto |
| Topography    | Mountain | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Mount Marapi, Mount Singgalang, Mount Sago (Tanah Datar, Agam) Mount Sago, Mount Bungsu, Mount Sanggul (50 koto) |
|               | Hill | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Aua Hill, Batu patah Hill (Tanah Datar), Bulek Hill (50 koto) |
|               | Valley | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Anai Valley (Tanah Datar), Permai valley (Agam), Harau Valley (50 koto) |
|               | Canyon | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Sihanok Canyon (Agam) |
| Land Cover    | Forest | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Tropical Forest |
| Hydrology     | Lake | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Singkarak Lake (Tanah Datar), Maninjau Lake (Agam) |
|               | River | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Batang ombilin, Batang anai, Batang sinamar, Batang selo, Batang sumpur (Tanah Datar), Batang antokan, Batang katutulan, Batang agam (Agam), Batang sinama, Batang lampasi (50 Koto) |
|               | Sea | ✓    | ✓    | ✓    | Tiku (Agam) |

a. Tanah Datar District
Luhak Tanah Datar that is now called Tanah Datar district known as "LUHAK Nan Tuo" is
one area that is located in the middle of West Sumatra Province. This district is located in a
basin of mountains and hills that circle with a height ranging from 100-2891 meters above sea
level. The position of tanah datar district is located between 3 pieces of the mountain (mount
Merapi, Mount Singgalang dan Munt Sago) and two hills (Aua hill and Batu Patah Hill) so
that the topography varies from flat, undulating, hilly to mountainous. Mountains, hills and
flat landform in the middle of the natural features that characterize the landscape Luhak
Tanah Datar [8].

The natural landscape elements is a strong supporting characters in tanah datar district are
the water element in the form of lakes, rivers, and waterfalls. The famous lake in this luhak is
Singkarak Lake with an area of Approximately 1,000 hectares (Fig 2a). The famous river in
this area is Anai river where there is a very beautiful valley with waterfalls, is Anai valley.
Lakes, rivers, and waterfalls displaying a very high aesthetic quality through the support
element in the form of forest vegetation is still covered in full by the standing trees.
Tanah Datar district landscape character does not reflect the flatness of the landscape (flat landform = level), because overall very varied landform. However, in the middle of this luhak there is a relatively flat area that is currently occupied as residential areas or urban. Flat region surrounded by hills and mountains and is equipped with a water element in the form of lakes and rivers characterize the landscape displays the typical visual landscape [5].

b. Agam District

Luhak Agam character very varied landscape that stretches from the coast to the mountains (0-2877 meters above sea level). The elements of the landscape which are natural features include mountains, hills, valleys, canyons, lakes, rivers, forests, and beaches. Mount Singgalang and Mount Merapi is a mountain elements in luhak that are also contained in luhak Tanah Datar, because the location of both the mountain located on the border luhak Agam and luhak Tanah Datar. Maninjau lake is a landscape element of water is very famous, and the lake area is 9,950 hectares. The lake is located at an altitude of about 500 meters and is surrounded by hills. A very dense forest located in the hills surrounding the Maninjau lake and in the two mountains.

In this luhak also include valleys, is the permai valley. The valley is not as big and famous as Anai valley on luhak Tanah Datar. Natural landscape elements feature very famous both within and overseas is Sianok Canyon. The canyon has a similar character to the Grand Canyon in the United States, therefore, known as the Grand Canyon of Minangkabau (Figure 2b). Several rivers strengthen this luhak character, the Antokan river, Katutulan River, and the Agam River. Natural elements that do not exist in other luhak is the beach. Up to 43 km long beach and overlooking the Indian Ocean. Landscape character luhak Agam very strong is Mount Merapi, Maninjau lake, Sianok Canyon, and the Tiku beach. Most of these natural features already become a Minangkabau world landmark.

c. 50 koto District

Luhak 50 koto is the Easternmost district in the province of West Sumatra, the which is the main gateway belt of landline. the topography 50 koto district of varies between flat, undulating, hilly and mountainous (120-2271 meters above sea level). the strong Natural features in this luhak is topography (landform). Mount Sago, Mount Bungsu and Mount Sanggul is a naturally occurring element that visually looks very strong. Geological structure, this area belongs to the Payakumbuh basin area so there are many valleys and rivers. One element of the landscape in the form of a famous valley in lareh 50 koto is Harau Valley (Fig 2c). This valley covers an area of 300 hectares. Status area of the valley is a nature reserve. Good soil on the floor of valley lay the fields, into an exotic panorama region. The cliffs of the valley almost upright shapes and colorful moss due to rain and running water from the top of the cliff. The Wall of Harau Valley long stretches, interspersed with a few waterfalls. Elements of the river that is known at this lareh is Sinama river and Lampasi river. Features of land cover in the form of the element was dominant forest cover the hills and mountains row. The elements that are not owned by luhak are canyon, lakes, beaches.
3.2. Minor Feature

Besides major features, minor features in minangkabau landscape also display a strong character. Minor features is a form of land use by humans, which a landscape is modified for human needs as well as to enhance the beauty of an area (Starke and Simonds 2013). Some minor feature that shows the character of Minangkabau landscape are agriculture (paddy field), settlement (traditional house), and artifacts in the form of buildings, tunnels, and inscriptions (Table 3).

Table 3. Minor Features Three Luhak (district) Minangkabau

| Minor Features | Luhak (district) | Informations |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
|                | Tanah Datar | Agam | 50 Koto |
| 1. Agriculture | Paddy field | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Tanah Datar, Agam, 50 Koto |
| 2. Settlement  | traditional house | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Rumah Gadang |
| 3. Artefact    | buildings | ✓ | ✓ | Jam Gadang, Pagaruyung palace |
|                | tunnels | ✓ | | Japanese Hole |
|                | inscriptions | ✓ | ✓ | Adityawarman Inscription, Menhir |

Paddy fields location in the three luhak always close to housing, because the most of Minangkabau people are farmers. The reasons paddy fields location close to the settlement because of need to control the form of a permanent water supply and management fields. Land use patterns in Minangkabau governed by Nagari [6]. Nagari is composed of a central housing, agricultural land and forest areas are located on the outside. This makes the paddy fields landscape character in Minangkabau is quite unique because it follows the arrangement pattern of Nagari. The complex Minangkabau settlement shaped is Nagari. Nagari is a collection of several villages, while the village is a compilation of some of Hamlet. Minangkabau Settlements composed by several elements among which the Rumah Gadang (big house). Rumah gadang is a Minangkabau traditional home. This house the residence of Minang community are located in nagari.

Physically, Rumah Gadang has a roof gonjong like a horn of buffalo tapering upward. But of the three lareh there are different characters. Differences of rumah gadang seen in the form
of arrangement, in Tanah Datar district has a wings on the left and right a building, while in the Agam and 50 Koto district a smaller because it does not wear wings on either end of the building, or do not have a raised floor on both ends of the building (Figure 3).

![Luhak Tanah Datar](image1)
![Luhak Agam](image2)
![Luhak 50 Koto](image3)

**Figure 3.** Minor features: Minangkabau traditional house

Minangkabau region a long time ago is a kingdom centered in Pagaruyung. So many historical relics left behind at that time, one of them are Pagaruyung Palace, tombs of kings and some inscriptions relics of the king Adityawarman. There are other historical relics in the Japanese colonial period that also characterizes the Minangkabau region, Jam gadang and Japanese holes is located in Luhak Agam. Jam gadang looming in the Agam district become an icon for the Minangkabau region beside that it has the unique shape with roof gonjong in the top hours.

Minangkabau natural landscape features form the character of a very "distinct" from the viewpoint of class variety of ratings Visual Resource Management. This is because the landform features a very diverse and their elements of vegetation and water [1], such as the Moun Marapi, Anai Valley and Harau valley, Sianok Canyon, as well as Singkarak lake and Maninjau lake. In addition, some elements of the man-made features to support very strongly the formation of Minangkabau landscape character as the rumah gadang and Jam gadang (gadang hours), even these elements become the icon of the Minangkabau culture. Other elements both natural features and man-made features is unique, but not strongly shape the character of the landscape.

4. **Conclusion**
Minangkabau landscape character is shown by the existences of natureand man-made features strongly interacting and making an icon of the landscape. Dominant the nature features of the landscape consist of landforms and hydrology with the elements such as Mt. Marapi, Lembah Anai, Harau Valley, Canyon Sianok, Singkarak lake, and the lake Maninjau. The man-made features that make the icon and character of the cultural landscape of Minangkabau are the Jam Gadang, Rumah Gadang, and Pagaruyung Palace.
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