Managing Toba area as cultural landscape heritage

W Utami* and Andalucia
Departemen Architecture, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia

*wahyuutami2013@gmail.com

Abstract. The Cultural landscape is known as an interaction between humans and nature to set up the built environment and its activity. The built environment has been created because of human activity and the social perspective of life. Toba area which is located in Sumatera island is a cultural landscape area that must be managed appropriately. The first step of the management is announcing the mosaic of Toba to describe the potency of it and understanding the outstanding universal value. This paper is describing as cultural landscape heritage and its management to preserve it. Toba lake and its caldera which have a high value can be categorized as cultural landscape heritage because of the history and process of local people to create the space. Toba area shows the long process of human creativity with the uniqueness of the landscape. The settlement with the local people activity is shown as a cultural landscape. Toba area with its unique landscape as a living space for Batak people’s is a geology process that reflect the past time era and the dynamic of local people the face modernization. All of the data included history and prevent about Toba Lake area and caldera were analysed by the grounded method and qualitative description. To keep Toba Lake area as cultural landscape be required proper management. Not to freeze the condition but how to manage the continuity with a change that is based on past, today, and future.

1. Introduction
The cultural landscape is defined as the interaction between nature and humans [1–7] that can be shown at spatial space [8,9]. Characteristics of human action because of their culture as the result of a set of beliefs and built environment as the result of social work creates a specific space [3,8,9]. The cultural landscape is a history and space system with human activities [2,6,10–12]. The cultural landscape is not merely the result of human activity, but a conceptual framing of the world, part of a social and cultural process that as a reproduction of human activity [4,5,7,13]. The cultural landscape is defined as human activities on land and experience are the elements that create uniqueness and identities [9,11], tradition, norm, beliefs, values and cultural meaning to the place [1,9,12].

The cultural landscape which first introduced by Sauer in 1925 was fashioned out of a natural landscape by a culture group; the culture is described as the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape the result [6]. The cultural landscape is illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and opportunities presented by their natural environment and of progressive social, economic and cultural forces both external and internal [3] (Figure 1).

In Indonesia, the cultural landscape is known as Saujana. Cultural landscape heritage is known as Saujana heritage that defined as the inextricable unity between nature and humanmade heritage in space and time [14]. Saujana is also set as far as you can see, all about that can be seen and enjoy
tangible and intangible elements. In Bahasa Indonesia, saujana can be called as sejauh mata memandang.

![Figure 1. Cultural landscape’s theory [9].](image)

With the rapid development and social economy development, the built environment will change [15–20]. Nature should be an inspiration to set up the built environment [9]. Changing of it is a dynamic process, but the cultural landscape must be preserved with its value which continuity with change concepts. Especially in the tourism area, the main problem for cultural landscape heritage is an overtourism. Without proper management, tourism activities and new facilities for them take nature’s imbalance and reduce the value of nature [15,21,22]. A managing cultural landscape can be defined understanding how cultural landscape might change under alternative futures is essential for identifying to create persistence of it [11].

2. Data and methods
This paper describes an exploration of Toba area with cultural landscape theories. This study aims to identify the universal value of Toba area as a cultural landscape heritage area. Based on the qualitative approach, this research describes the management of local people and the government to keep nature to set up the built environment.

To goals the purpose, several activities had been done, i.e.:
- identifying the physical space in sensual and textual, Toba lake, its caldera and other elements;
- identifying the potency and the problem of Toba area, nature and the activities of local communities;
- defining the public policy from the government; local government, central government and specific organization and
- identifying the role of a public partnership.

3. Toba area as cultural landscape heritage

3.1. The mosaic of Toba
Toba area is most popular with its lake and Samosir Island which is surrounding the lake. Forming out of the geology process a long time ago, a super volcano and Batak Tumor. As a system of Toba, landscape has been influenced by local people’s set belief to create space, including settlement and produced area. In Batak term, a traditional village as the settlement is called by Huta. Huta, a political territorial, should be from the same family clan, known in Batak term as marga. The other uniqueness of Toba area, there is a local belief known in dalihan na tolu which describes as a social relationship based on three elements, i.e., hula-hula; boru and dongan tubu. Dalihan na tolu reflect on the social system.
The mosaic of landscape features of the Toba area (Figure 2), namely (1) Toba Lake and lake on the lake i.e., Sidihoni and Aek Natonang Lake; (2) Samosir Island and many small islands on The Toba Lake i.e., Sibandang; Simamora, Tipang, etc.; (3) The caldera on the surrounding the Toba Lake i.e., Sipinsur; Bakkara, etc.; (4) Rivers on Samosir Island and a lake catchment area; (5) Hills as a part of caldera i.e., Pusuk Buhit, Holbung hill, etc. and the mountain on Samosir Island and (6) Valley as caldera-forming.

![Figure 2. Mosaic of Toba’s cultural landscape (source: authors 2017-2019).](image)

Unarguably, Toba area with the specific landscape and local people have been designed as the cultural landscape heritage. In Batak, there are many traditions i.e., si gale-gale as a traditional dancing; mangapuli and mangokkal holi as a ritual. All of them, there is a system of Batak life that in this paper mentioned as a cultural landscape of Toba.

3.2. Understanding outstanding universal value for Toba area

On Operational Guidelines for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention mention three categories of a cultural landscape which can describe in Toba area:

- A clearly defined landscape. Toba area is a specific landscape which has been created as a living space for Batak people
- An organically evolved landscape. Toba area with its landscape as a living space for Batak people is a geology process which reflects on yesterday, present and future space
- An associative cultural landscape. Based on a set of belief, Batak people have a specific concept which describes the relationship of clan or family relationship and the macro cosmos of it as nature system

According to The World Heritage Convention regarding the outstanding universal value, the cultural landscape of Toba can be mentioned in the criteria into:

- Be outstanding geology process representing Toba super volcano activities which forming Toba Lake and Toba caldera
• Represent a social system contained in marga and dalihan na tolu. Marga is a clan term, dalihan na tolu regulate marga on each classification. Included huta as the traditional village which reflects on marga system
• Be outstanding scenery as a geology process with caldera and Toba Lake representing a beautiful scenery from hill, valley and lake

3.3. Toba lake area as national tourism destination
Toba Lake as one of The Ten National Tourism Destinations will be developed into one of Indonesia’s major Ecotourism Destinations. BOPKPDT (Badan Otorita Pengelola Kawasan Pariwisata Danau Toba / Board of the authority of Toba Lake Tourism Management) describes that the main goal is management to develop Toba Lake as Tourism Destination. Several areas have been developed and changed to support tourist demand.

The Toba area was famous as a beautiful destination for a long time ago. In the colonial period, there are many photos that drawn Toba area as a tourism destination (see Figure 3). Beautiful scenery, traditional houses, tradition, etc. have been described from the images. Many activities were recorded in a lot of photos. The uniqueness of Toba landscape and Toba lake were described with many reviews. There are several books and magazines including newspapers and letters were printed which told pleasant places in Toba area. Van der Tuuk wrote one of his letters to P.J. Veth on April 14, 1867 which described Bakkara, one of the districts in Humbang Hasundutan Regency. The others data wrote in 1904 that described a valley in Silindung as the beautiful scenery in Tapanuli Utara [23]. Meanwhile, in the kingdom period, Toba as usual is written as the kingdom area and the local belief.

Figure 3. Batak in colonial photos collection in 1910-1930 (source: KITLV Collection, Leiden).

As a system of nature and activities of people, Toba area can be seen in several settlements and their people activities in a specific space. Toba which is known with Batak ethnic group is built from the landscape and local value. Traditional houses are based on local perception in huta, marga and dalihan na tolu. Until now, the houses can be seen in many places in Toba, both still within in traditional settlement, namely Huta Sialagan and Meat traditional settlement or in a modern settlement. There are various activities in their livelihood.

All of them, beautiful scenery and traditional settlement within the activities, are an interesting object for tourists and become an icon to promote as the heritage tourism. Many tourists can enjoy the attraction, physical object, nature and landscape. But because of the heritage tourism potencies, Toba area is visited a lot of tourists in line with government programs. There are too many programs to support the tourist demand. Too many hotels, homestay, and supporting facilities, i.e., toll street, street improvement, upgrading local airport infrastructure, adding a new port, etc. were built to upgrade tourism facilities. There are so many new tourism villages were created to creates a unique tourism destination. The dangerous of these, adding facilities and infrastructure, is when there is no knowledge and skill in the local community to manage and prevent the local value. It is necessary to create an economy creative in the heritage area without local value destroying [24,25].

4. Managing Toba area as tourism cultural landscape heritage
To be a national tourism destination is not simple to keep the local value because there are too many programs to support tourism activities. Local people are currently struggling with how to stay Batak values. Tourism activities can change the spatial and socio-culture and it can be a social disaster for
the heritage area, which will be occurred on Toba area when there is no good public policy to upgrading Toba area as a tourism destination. Tourism drives of social change in the Batak area and changes the environment. Over tourism without local knowledge and sound policy in the Toba area will destroy not only spatial space but also on tradition and local belief system. Understanding how cultural landscape might change under alternative futures [11] must be clarified on each tourism destination. Each tourism destination which has a specific character must be understood as a richness that must keep.

Managing the Toba area as a cultural landscape heritage, three actions must be done:

- Understanding elements in Toba cultural landscape and describing them with the value and system
- Making cultural landscape mapping and completing with each characteristic
- Discussing the potency and the problem of Toba Area as cultural landscape heritage and as tourism destination between local people and government

To manage a tourism destination based on cultural landscape heritage must be concerned with the value of local people. The first concentration is (1) to wake up local people about local value and knowledge and the potency of domestic space; (2) to establish the area of the vulnerability to change and (3) is to develop a statement of outstanding universal value in tourism activities. To support the three concentration be required a commitment from local people as the main actor, government as the public policy producer and the private sector as the connector between local people and government.

5. Conclusions

Toba area must be necessary to describing the understanding universal value to regulate many programs in the area as the national tourism destination. Toba area as the cultural landscape with a specific landscape that has created as living space for Batak people has high value. Physically programs, i.e., infrastructure and supporting facilities must be reflected in the local value and problem-solving of human society. In this concept, infrastructure must be a focus for local people facilities too, not only for tourist. Active participation from local people must be developed to keep them as the main actor in tourism development. On the other hand, it is significant local people always follow the specific culture and nature to avoid rapid changes that can destroy the value. Synergist all components must be concerned.

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