# CHAPTER 1
# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Research Background

Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19) is a new epidemic of zoonotic disease originating from a wet animal market in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. COVID-19 is a virus that shows symptoms such as fever, cough and fatigue (Kim et al., 2021). The World Health Organization (WHO) declared an epidemic on March 11, 2020.

Based on data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) as of September 26, 2021, the total confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide reached 231.416.660 cases and 4.741.330 cases of them died. Indonesia is ranked 13th with the most cases in the world with an incidence rate of 4.209.403 cases and ranked 5th with a cumulative number of deaths of 141,585 cases *(World Health Organization.,(2021)*. Indonesia is ranked 13th with the most cases in the world with an incidence rate of 4,209,403 cases and ranked 5th with a cumulative number of deaths of 141,585 cases kasus *(Badan nasional penanggulangan bencana.,2021).*

According to Zheng, Luo & Ritcie.,(2021) Pandemic cases can cross national and continental borders with the spread of contagious viruses as a disease that spreads ver y quickly and can attack many people around the world. As long as the spread of COVID-19 cases continues, this will have an impact that continue to be felt by many individuals. Pandemic cases cause illness, death and socioeconomic disturbances

(Akin & Gözel., 2020), high levels of fear and panic (Zheng et al., 2021), , as well as psychological stress such as anxiety, worry and stress (Han et al., n.d, 2020). The widespread spread of COVID-19 has a significant impact on national and international tourism. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that there will be a 58% to 78% decrease in foreign tourist arrivals in 2020 compared to 2019 and states that this decline in arrivals from international tourists means a loss of US$ 910 billion to US$ 1.2 in international tourist reception globally.

Based on the previous trend of tourist arrivals, it is estimated that 5 to 7 years of decline in tourism growth will occur after the COVID-19 pandemic (Kementerian Pariwisata dan Ekonomi Kreatif., 2020). Furthermore, based on current trends, it is estimated that around 85% of tourist arrivals will fall in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 2019 international tourist arrivals when compared to pre-pandemic levels (UNWTO.,2021). In 2021 it is reported that tourism will fall by 96% for the Asia-Pacific region in international travel (UNWTO.,2021).

Indonesia is one of the countries still experiencing an increase in COVID-19 pandemic cases. The pandemic is becoming more serious and increasingly out of control, especially in Indonesia (Astutik.,2020). The pandemic has created a crisis for this country. The Indonesian government has chosen to implement Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) compared to Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the face of a surge in COVID-19 cases, since January 2021 (CNN Indonesia.,2021). Then the arrival of foreign tourists to Indonesia fell by 89% until May 2021 and the acceptance of foreign tourists to Indonesia also decreased by 98% (UNWTO, 2021).

Over the past five years, Indonesian tourism has grown significantly as it has become one of the main gainers in the country's revenue. Indonesia ranks ninth in the World Travel & Tourism Council and the third fastest growing tourist destination in Asia and one in Southeast Asia (Hendriana, 2019). However, the spread of COVID-19 has reduced the number of tourists visiting Indonesia. The tourism industry also saw a sharp decline in international tourist arrivals. This can be seen in the number of tourists who cancel flight tickets, hotels and reduce bookings. The domestic tourists also saw a significant drop in travel due to people's reluctance to travel for fear of the spread of the effects of COVID-19 in tourist areas. The decline in tourism and travel is affecting small businesses, informal workers, and job opportunities (Sugihamretha, 2020). In measuring tourist travel visits, the number of tourist visits is one indicator in measuring this. This is statistical data on foreign tourist arrivals for 2020-2021.
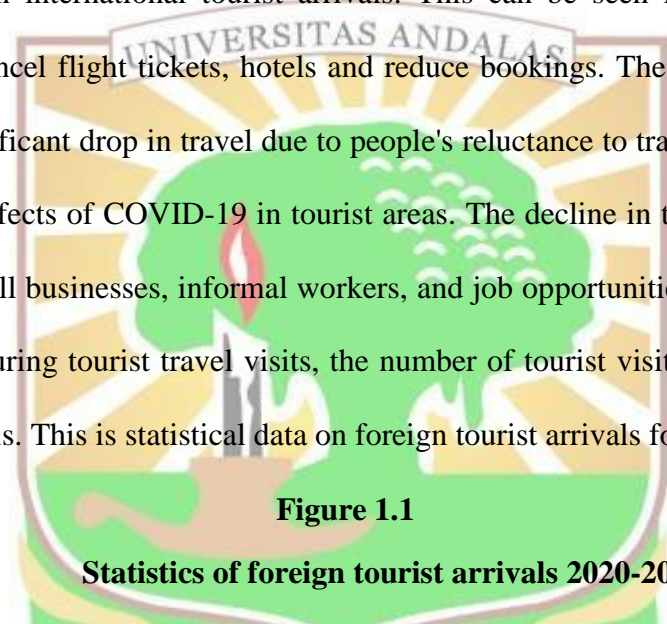
**Figure 1.1**

**Statistics of foreign tourist arrivals 2020-2021**



*Source :Kemenparekraf/Baparekraf (2021)*

Based on Kemenparekraf/Baparekraf, (2021) stated that the number of foreign tourist arrivals in 2020 was 4,052,922 people. Meanwhile, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in 2021 is 1,557,530 people. This shows that there has been a decrease in the number of foreign tourists by 2,495,393 compared to 2020. Along with the spread of COVID-19, many places have restricted international access. We see that the number of foreign tourist visits to Indonesia shows that there is no significant increase in foreign tourist arrivals to Indonesia during Post Pandemic Travel. This indicates that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still being felt by tourists in their travel activities and the condition of the tourism sector in Indonesia is still turbulent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline in the number of tourists does not only occur in foreign tourists. However, it also has an impact on domestic tourists. The decline was due to the Covid-19 pandemic that came in early 2020. In addition, there were Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) to suppress the rate of virus transmission so that community mobility was limited. The following is data on the decline in Indonesian tourists from 2020 to 2021
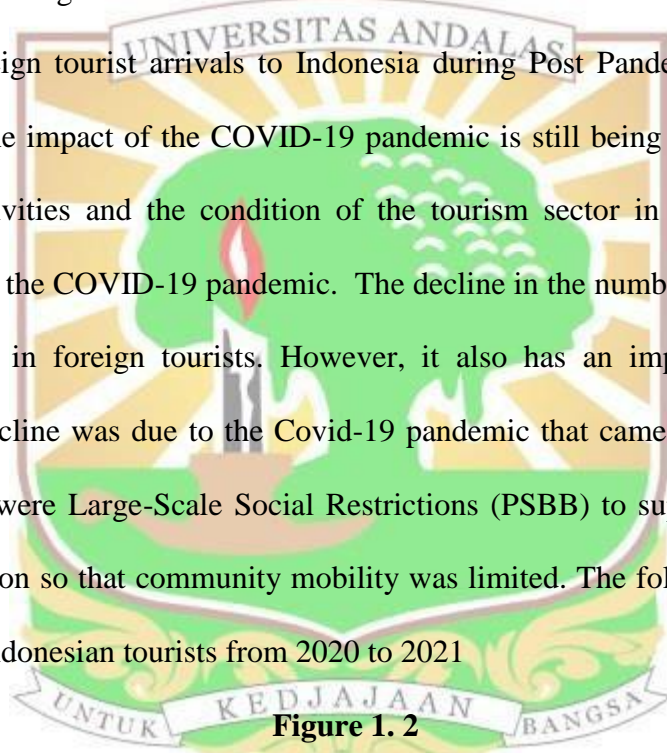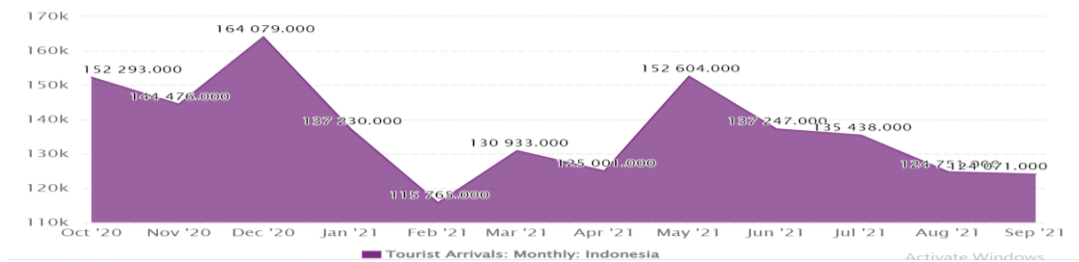
**Figure 1. 2**

**Indonesian tourist visits October 2020- September 2021**



*Source : CIEC Data (2021)*

In measuring tourist visits, the number of tourist visits is one indicator in measuring this. Based on Figure 1.2 the number of Indonesian tourist arrivals at the end of 2020 or in December to early 2021 during COVID-19 in February, there was a decrease in the number of Indonesian tourist arrivals by -29.45% or a total of 48,314,000 million Indonesian tourists. The decline in the number of Indonesian tourists continued to occur from May to September 2021, which was -18.69% or a total of 28,533,000 million Indonesian tourists. This shows that there is no significant increase in Indonesian tourist visits during Post Pandemic Travel. This indicates that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still felt by tourists in carrying out travel activities and the condition of the tourism sector in Indonesia is still volatile due to the COVID-19 pandemic.This will reduce the contribution of the tourism sector to gross domestic product (GDP) because the number of foreign tourists entering the country decreases (Kementerian Pariwisata dan Ekonomi Kreatif, 2020). High levels of health threats to tourists during the outbreak of infectious diseases can increase fear and anxiety about travel (Mertens et al., 2020).

According to Tzur Bitan et al.,(2020) certain fears and concerns with COVID-19 are associated with increased anxiety, depression, and stress. Resilience is a person's ability to remain strong during times of stress difficult times . The theory of resilience states that resistance is a protective mechanism. So that people with high resilience are able to withstand fear factors such as stress, depression, anxiety (Bermes, 2021). In a study (Hou et al.,2020) stated that women have lower levels of

resistance to COVID-19 than men. This is because women experience more severe stress and anxiety symptoms, while men show better resistance to stress.

In addition, one of the factors that influence resilience is Pandemic Travel fear. Based on the Protection motivation theories, (Weinstein.,1993) suggests that travel fear is influenced by Perceived thread which consists of threat severity and threat susceptibility. An individual's perceived threat can be determined by: beliefs about how susceptibility and serious they are to the health risks associated with the pandemic. In a study (Broche-Pérez et al., 2020) stated that women have a higher level of fear of COVID-19 than men. This is in line with research (Cullen et al., 2020) which states that women suffer a greater psychological impact from outbreaks and higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.

The perceived threat during COVID 19 includes two dimensions consisting of threat susceptible and threat severity which refers to the cognitive processes that occur during dangerous situations. The perceived threat severity has a detrimental impact on mental health in which a person's mental health is part of resilience. The importance of resilience in dealing with adversity from threat severity such as the negative impact of disasters on mental health (eg Blackmon et al., 2017; Osofsky et al., 2011). Taha et al (2014). Severity variable affects resilience.

Threat susceptibility is a person's sense of susceptibility to certain threats (Zheng et al., 2021). In a study (Inbar & Shinan-Altman, 2021) conducted among 2,108 adults in the UK, 47.5% reported a high perceived susceptibility during the

COVID 19 pandemic. Based on current research, low threat susceptibility can be seen as a factor of resilience. So that the threat susceptibility variable affects resilience.

In previous studies (Harper et al.2020; Jackson2011; Li et al.2020), threat severity had a direct effect on coronavirus fear and mental health problems, but not resilience. Current research finds that coronavirus fear fully mediates the relationship between threat severity and resilience. This suggests that the impact of the severity of COVID-19 on a person's ability to bounce back from adversity is explained by the level of fear of the coronavirus.

Based on previous research, fear of the corona virus is also able to mediate the relationship between susceptibility and resilience (Yıldırım et al.,2020). This is because the impact of the susceptibility risk of COVID-19 also affects a person's ability to bounce back from adversity is fully explained by the level of fear of the coronavirus. This is a challenge faced by tourists during the COVID-19 pandemic. In other words, it is a negative emotion that domestic tourists feel very big during a pandemic (Lenggogeni.,2021). Tourists' negative emotions are caused by risk. In other words, the perception of risk for COVID-19 affects the emotions of ( Angguni & Lenggogeni 2021). In addition, research has shown that overcoming fear can increase an individual's resilience, reduce perceived risk, and increase resilience to disasters (Rodriguez-Llanes et al., 2013), with most people in adversity showing resilience in the face.

Therefore, this research is expected to be able to find literature by exploring how threats can affect travel and self-restraint in travel in the context of the COVID-

19 time frame. In addition, this study also looks for the influence of the intervention of travel threats on travel fear during COVID-19. As mentioned above, this study aims to determine knowledge about how threat severity and susceptibility affect the behavior of the pandemic fear will have an impact on the resilience of tourists traveling during the COVID-19. By exploring the role of perceived threat, this research is expected to help policy makers and destination managers to provide a safe environment for their customers. The regard to the travel fear pandemic from the psychology of tourists and contribute to the concept of the relationship between threat severity, threat susceptibility to travel fear and tourist resilience during COVID-19. Therefore, the scope of this research should be domestic tourism with research subjects of Indonesian women who travel at least once in the last two years.

Based on the explanations of the problem data above, the authors are interested in conducting further research with a sample of female tourists in Indonesia with the title **How Threat Severity, Threat Susceptibility Could Affect Travel Fear and Resilience during COVID-19 Pandemic**.
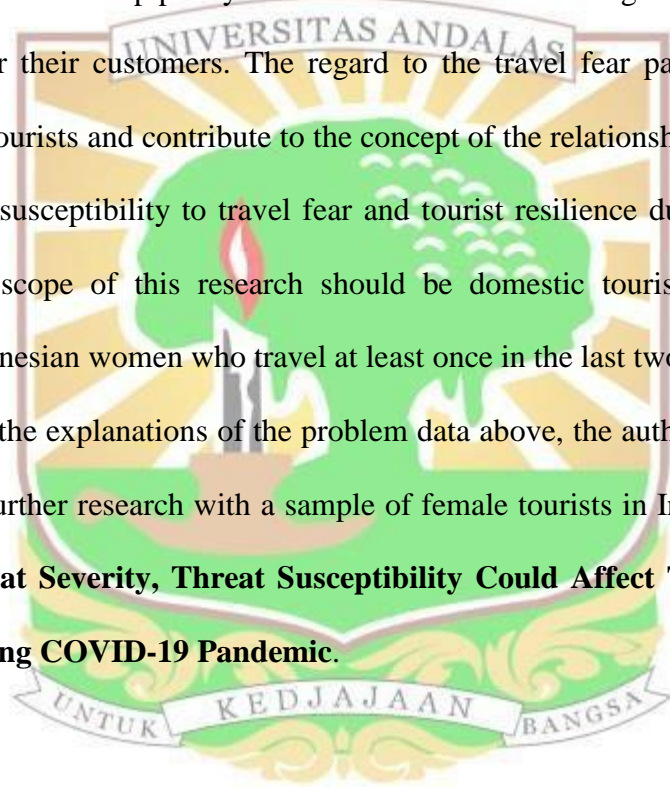
## 1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the authors formulate several problems as following:

1. How does threat severity COVID-19 affect resilience?

2. How does COVID-19 threat susceptibility affect resilience?

3. How does threat severity COVID-19 affect pandemic travel fear?

4. How does threat susceptibility affect pandemic travel fear?

5. How does pandemic travel fear affect resilience ?

6. How does the threat severity mediated with  pandemic travel fear influence the resilience ?

7. How does the threat susceptibility mediated with pandemic travel fear influence the resilience ?

## 1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the formulation of the problem above, several research objectives are to be achieved in this research are:

1. To analyze how does threat severity COVID-19 affect resilience

2. To analyze how does COVID-19 threat susceptibility affect resilience

3. To  analyze the effect of threat severity COVID-19 on pandemic travel fear

4. To analyze the effect of COVID-19 threat susceptibility on pandemic travel fear

5. To analyze the influence of pandemic travel fear on resilience

6. To analyze the influence of the threat severity mediated with pandemic travel fear influence the resilience

7. To analyze the influence threat susceptibility mediated with with pandemic travel fear influence the resilience.

**1.4 Research Benefits**

**1.4.1 Theoretical Benefits**

1. The results of this study are expected to be able to add to, widening knowledge and become a theoretical reference or input for further research related to the scope of threat severity, threat susceptibility, pandemic travel fear, resilience, as well as variables that are relevant in the future of behavioral tourism studies.

2. Become the basis of study material for further in-depth research on problems in tourism studies.

**1.4.2 Practical Benefits**

For tourism marketing industry managers and stakeholders. This research is expected to contribute to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis in the tourism sector. This is expected to be useful for tourism stakeholders, namely tourism marketers, tourism

organizations, and the government in formulating new strategies and policies for post-crisis tourism development.

Thus, tourism marketing stakeholders can have a better understanding of the description and marketing of tourists during the COVID-19 pandemic and aspects of tourist behavior in order to provide better tourism services, especially in Indonesia.

**1.5 Scope of Research**

This study focuses on Indonesian residents who plan to travel within the next one year or have a history of travel in the last two years. The theoretical aspects of this study consist of four variables, namely threat severity, threat susceptibility, pandemic travel fear and resilience.

**1.6 Outline of Research**

The research conducted consists of five chapters, using the following systematics:

**CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains the background for selecting the title, problem formulation, research objectives, research benefits, scope of research and outline of research
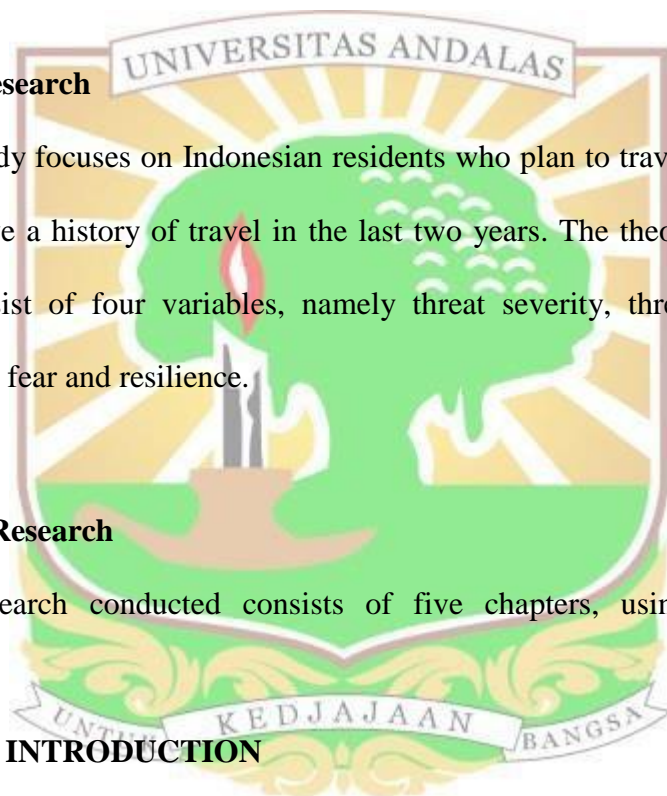
**CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter contains a literature review that discusses in detail the concepts and theories regarding threat severity, threat susceptibility, travel fear and resilience. This chapter also discuss some of the previous research, the development of hypotheses and conceptual framework models that are guided in the data processing stage.

**CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter discuss research design, population and samples, sampling techniques, data and data sources, analytical methods used and hypothesis testing, data collection methods, operationalization definitions and variable measurements, research instruments and data analysis techniques.

**CHAPTER IV : RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter discuss the general description of the research, descriptive analysis, data analysis, hypothesis testing and the results of the process of distributing research questionnaires, and conclusion hypotheses.

**CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION**

This last chapter contains conclusions, research implications, research limitations and suggestions for further research. Everything will be presented in the context of further research in the relevant scope.