

# Tourism and Community Development: An Approach to Sustainability in the Coastal Zone of Lautem, Timor-Leste

Keywords: *tourism, community development, sustainability, coastal zone; Lautem municipality, Timor-Leste*

## Abstract

Coastal zones are defined as ecological territories where marine and terrestrial species interact (Martins, 1998), as well as potential areas for the development of local ~~communities'~~ ~~livelihood~~ ~~community member's livelihoods~~ and a ~~gate~~ ~~gateway~~ for economic performance. The interaction between land and sea is intended as a rich source for the development of economic ~~activities~~ ~~sectors~~ like ~~fishery~~ ~~fisheries~~, agriculture, ~~and~~ livestock, and a place for health improvement through sports and recreation. In addition, the diversity of sea functions and services can be used for the provision of goods and connectivity of transportation services, fishing, and fish cultivation. The coastal potential is seen in Timor as the gate for the Timorese society's economic growth, since coastal areas are an attraction for tourists who seek the "sun-sea-sand" experience.

~~This~~ ~~The~~ authenticity of ~~the~~ ~~this~~ attraction creates various types of tourism ~~present~~ in the coastal zone, ~~one of is currently adopted by the Timor-Leste is the~~ ~~including~~ Community ~~Base~~ ~~Based~~ Eco-Tourism (CBET). ~~The~~ ~~This~~ type of tourism adopted by the Timor-Leste ~~societies is considered as a mirror~~ ~~society brings awareness~~ to ~~aware~~ the community, ~~increase~~ ~~increases~~ knowledge, and ~~change~~ ~~changes~~ the mentality ~~towards the~~ ~~toward~~ understanding ~~the importance~~ of tourism ~~importance~~ through stakeholder involvement. It also provides opportunities for communities to improve their creativity to participate in the ~~coastal~~ tourism industry ~~on the coastal that, which~~ is increasingly ~~innovatively~~ ~~innovative~~ and ~~competitiveness~~ ~~competitive~~ (Brandão et al., 2019). ~~That with~~ ~~Additionally~~, the competitiveness in the tourism sector, ~~also diversifies helps to diversify~~ skills ~~and efficient~~, ~~optimize~~ human resources, ~~supported by~~ ~~support~~ facilities and infrastructures, as well as encourages the community to take responsibility for the conservation (Neumann et al., 2017) and sustainability ~~in of the~~ coastal ~~zone~~.

However, Wollnik (2011) added that the composition of Timorese skills, in relation to the human capital investment, has ~~been started, grown~~ but still lacks ~~the~~ ~~a~~ number of skills in quality and quantity. Therefore, ~~the presence of~~ tourism in coastal zones plays an important role ~~as an approach to elevate in enhancing~~ the capacities and ~~to empower~~ ~~empowering~~ communities (Aref et al., 2010) ~~that involves and puts the community as an important factor~~ in the context of the sustainable development paradigm and as ~~an opportunity~~ ~~a vehicle~~ to mobilize all ~~potential and dynamics of the resources of the~~ community in the creation and maintenance of various tourism business activities that can ~~help in reducing the~~ ~~reduce~~ poverty and unemployment ~~rate~~. The Lautem municipality is mostly surrounded by ~~natural~~ coastal areas ~~which are authentic and have with~~ great potential for terrestrial and marine tourism destinations, to contribute ~~to~~ Rio Agenda 21. However, ~~the law enforcement~~ in terms of spatial planning, regulations, and environmental protection, ~~law enforcement~~ (Stone & Nyaupane, 2016) turns the ~~environment in~~ coastal ~~zones~~ ~~zone environments~~ into emergent and concerning areas for ~~an~~ integrated coastal management. Hence, this study aims to ~~know the role of~~ ~~stakeholders to analyze stakeholders' roles in~~ the sustainability ~~in of~~ coastal zones, through tourism and community development as a mechanism to raise coastal community awareness (Echevarría et al., 2013).

## Methodology

This study applied a qualitative methodological approach ~~which that~~ was carried out from November 2019 until March 2020 in the Lautem municipality before Covid-19. Semi-structured and ~~dept~~ ~~department~~ interviews ~~through~~ ~~conducted via the~~ snowball sampling technique were applied to 41 respondents, ~~who were composed of~~ ~~including~~ representatives

from the central, district and subdistrict Government, NGOs, and the local community. The duration of the interviews ranged between 25 minutes to 1 hour, and they were conducted face-to-face with a participant in the field, and ranged from 25 minutes to 1 hour. The information was recorded using the national language, Tetum, with the stakeholders and the local language, Fataluku, with the local community in Lautem municipality. All the data was transcribed, translated into English, and imported into Nvivo QSR 12 plus, to organize and analyze it with grounded theory (Creswell, 2003). Observation and documentation were also applied to validate the data. The information collected dealt with participants' background, tourism in the context of Lautem municipality, the role of stakeholders for community development, and concerns about sustainability in the coastal zone.

## Results

With the different education and background of historical foreing from Indonesian occupation have framed from Indonesia, the community has been framed to settle and create various activities in the coastal zone. However, although these should be regulated and certified by the Government, especially regarding when it comes to the environment and leasing agreements regarding land and property with Government. The limitations of. Due to coastal management have driven all limitations, stakeholders to conduct various types of programs, such as socialization have conducted various environmental awareness initiatives, including socializing on environmental regulations, "green schools," and zero-plastic policies, to increase environmental awareness. But judging from the benefits, the and "green schools." The national non-government organization sees that, the benefits of the regulations, but they will only be effective when if the community has its own source of income. Therefore, with a structural approach from NGOs and government in collaboration with local communities and the head of the village, implementing they implemented some programs such as; created the creation of working groups, and give the capacity building to the community in terms of for organizational behavior, conservation, tourism services, local gastronomy innovation, creativity, finance, purchasing and business controlling, and mutual assistance, with the ultimate goal is to of creating ing community-based tourism and ecotourism business which is in line with the supporting the Lautem coastal zone. To improve the community initiative, stakeholders also provided facilities and granted micro-credit with low-interest rates to communities running their business activity in the coastal zone.

Considering that the In response to inadequate income earned by the community is still inadequate, and detrimental to the surrounding environment, thus the government through the agriculture and fishery sector conducting has begun implementing some programs that are pertinent to tailored specifically for the coastal zones, especially concerns to zone, focusing primarily on conservation with the local wisdom approach "of "Tara-Bandu?" and plowing free farmland for the community. These The programs were implementing implemented after delivering providing guidance and training such as for conservation, fishing management, and how to use the land appropriately, together along with the provision of utensils in the form of boats, and gear for fishing gear, and plowing free farmland for the community, significantly improved community initiatives and changed provided a significant impact because improve community initiatives and change the behavior of the subsistence into community attitudes toward intensification. The community also noticed changes regarding the environmental aspect after After using the conservation approach of local wisdom, it turned out that the the community also noticed changes in the environment. The fish population and, coral reefs ecosystems in the sea were growing well, and flora and fauna in forests also all increased, contributing which contribute to decreasing a decrease in climate change. The community added that "before coastal conservation, some fish that were during the Indonesian occupation that had been lost during the Indonesian occupation because of bombings in the oceans and high exploration, but nowadays they resurfaced, the number of turtle population increased, the deer population in Jaco Island also increased, although during the drought season some deer died due to shortage of drinking water and food distribution." Apart from that, the

community's concerns about hygiene, waste management, pollution, coastal erosion, and transportation grew.

Moreover, the ~~community~~ local economy, especially ~~regarding when it comes to community accommodation~~ accommodations, restaurants, fishing, household businesses (kiosks), agriculture, and ~~weaving handicrafts~~ hand-woven crafts. The community ~~felt that~~ considered the income they received ~~wasto be~~ sustainable. Since their businesses had been running for a long time and some of them were trying to expand to other places, the number of rooms and the volume of products increased, as well as the employment opportunities, such as in Katy Guest House & Restaurant in Com village, which employed 4 people from the community, the Walu-Sere tourism business cooperative in Tutuala village, which employed 67 people from four villages, namely Cai-Loro, Veru, I-horu, and Pitileti. Horticulture businesses with a semi-modern in Lautem were relatively recent ~~andbut also~~ employed 4 young men from the Lautem subdistrict. ~~Through the presence of~~ Having a ~~tourism, industry in place allows~~ the community ~~eanto~~ access the market, ~~which employs family members and ensure seasonal~~ generate employment for ~~the community to improve its members, which improves the social aspect. Since it helps environment.~~ In addition, the benefit of this project enhances the welfare of coastal communities ~~improve the welfare of their families, allowing children eanto~~ have access to ~~an~~ education, ~~enabling people ean-to~~ meet their basic needs, ~~to~~ build new houses, buy new boats, and feel solidarity with relatives and neighbors who ~~get~~ experience joy and grief. ~~Furthermore, through the presence of tourists,~~

~~Additionally,~~ the community promotes Fata-Luku culture, ~~and art through the presence of tourists, such as the traditional dance~~ Sikire-Vaure, presenting traditional cloth, dance, and presents local foods and traditional houses, ~~local food, and ritual places to tourists. Reflecting on the~~ These sustainability results on the coastal, have linked on types of approaches used and the relation between the various ~~sector and depend on the approached that used. There are~~ sectors have influenced sustainability on the coast. In some ~~countries that areas,~~ coastal sustainability is generally ~~use~~ increased through technology ~~to improve their coastal sustainability,~~ but particularly ~~in the context of~~ developing countries, cultural contribution and community empowerment are ~~necessary to aid develop~~ essential for improving coastal sustainability, and influence visitors' raising visitors' awareness in the coastal zone (Rangel et al., 2015). zones (Rangel et al., 2015).

## Conclusion

~~Based on the purpose, it~~ It can be argued that ~~the stakeholders'~~ stakeholder collaboration with the community, from top-down ~~andto~~ bottom-up, ~~its sustainability~~ has embedded ~~itself~~ according to the Lautem condition. Because of The stakeholders' radical approach ~~the radical approach put into practice by the stakeholders, has led~~ the coastal community ~~has begun to initiate~~ various activities and ~~changed its~~ change their behavior from unproductive to productive. ~~This social~~ Social innovation ~~in this manner~~ was also ~~sensed~~ perceived by the community, and it ~~was supported by~~ made possible through technology and local wisdom, ~~which and it can teach~~ better prepare the community ~~to better understand for~~ tourism today. Policies were in the future. The stakeholder groups have taken by stakeholders measures to empower the community ~~towards the implementation of to implement~~ sustainable practices ~~that can contribute to geared toward achieving the objective of integrated management~~ coastal zone management (IMCZ), and to the development of generating sustainable coastal tourism in ~~the Lautem municipality, despite, regardless of the welfare disparities in societies.~~

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