

# Magnitude of Sustainable Tourism Development

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*Abstract: It is important to recognize, after more than 25 years of focus, the state of policy and testing in responsible development. With precisely that purpose in mind, this special volume has been created and this introduction seeks to set the stage for this important analysis and reflection on sustainable tourism. The papers are grouped into four research topics: the experiences of community actors and business methods with regard to the sustainability of tourism, community perspectives and computational challenges related to sustainability. The papers shed light on topics of interest in sustainable tourism, thus inspiring scholars from other fields and contexts to investigate the interrelationships around social sustainability including tourism more generally. The authors of this Article also tried to do something different from most previous articles, which was to introduce these concerns to readers concerned specifically with biodiversity rather than just tourism. The presentation ends with an ambitious look to the future of tourism-driven sustainability research.*

*Keywords: Sustainable tourism, Cultural responses, Community stakeholders, Business perspectives, Investigatory methods.*

## INTRODUCTION

From an academic point of view, the subject of tourism is prone to the criticism that it is too shortsighted and unable to publish outside of its own journals. This is not unusual for any new subject field, but it is time for us to develop trust and reach out to scholars in other disciplines to increase the maturity of the problem [1]. Although this journal also contributes to the papers produced on environmental tourism, it has also sought to do something different from the vast majority of previous publications, which is to address these issues to readers primarily concerned with sustainability rather than tourism. In doing so, authors and publishers were required to encapsulate the urge to engage readers who have perhaps also given little thought to the role of the tourist industry in fostering sustainability so far [2].

Tourism has a long history of initiatives related to sustainability, being one of the first industries to develop concepts and principles for 'sustainable tourism,' policies and action plans. Despite the obvious youth of tourism, it is possible to attribute the industry to shifting rapidly from its initial focus on business benefits to a role that understands its wider sustainability implications. There is growing evidence today that although a market shift is clearly underway, this change has not kept pace with both the increasing amount of responsible tourism work at academia [3]. Therefore, in this context, it is fair to question if scientific background on sustainable development is of interest, and if so, in which areas is it useful and how can it be done immediately? Using the three concerns as starting points, this Special Volume (SV) discusses some of the important problems in tourism research and practice that sustainability raises.

The special volume of this Journal for Cleaner Growth (JCLP) reflects the deep commitment of the tourism sector to sustainability challenges. Nonetheless, the shortcomings of today's sustainable tourism activities are illustrated by several comments, but this needs to be recognized in context. Scholars often take an unnecessarily pessimistic position in pursuit of criticality, refusing to discuss complexities and the nature of theory and practice [4]. This introduction describes a distinction between the abundance of science, on the one hand, and its tendency to ignore criticality and application to action, on the other. In re-channeling theoretical and practical goals, it also discusses the position of evolving perspectives as reasons that help

frame the criticisms included in this section. The second half of the introduction identifies four thematic regions arising from the clustering of articles [5].

## STRATEGIES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

### *Challenging opportunities ahead:*

A number of high profile discussions on tourism including sustainability have centered on problems, weaknesses and shortcomings in tourism practice and study and have highlighted a limited capacity to identify approaches that are economically viable and that respond adequately to the challenges of sustainability. This presentation is not intended to further explore these research constraints with limited space available, but it is important to note that there is a difference between the availability of the sample and its unquestioning inclination towards the solidity of the suggested ideas. The lack of criticality in research can lead, on the one hand, to inadequately informed policy recommendations and, on the other, to a significant loss of enthusiasm for the concept of sustainability.

Recent trends such as climate change, a hyper mobile world, and long term relationship models across social media and sharing economy are bringing new layers of bureaucracy to research and practice in tourism. The effect of societal trends in this sector is not fresh, but the impetuous speed of modern technological and economic changes brings a sense of urgency to the production and implementation of long-term solutions [5]. The quest for sustainable solutions to the problems of sustainability offers a sense of adaptability and acceptability that, in terms of educational goals, can drive marketing research but also raise the bar. No desirable reform in the tourism sector is feasible in seclusion from larger social changes and innovative sustainability models have to adapt to new challenges.

### *Sustainability Is Central To Tourism's Future:*

Given the context of this particular topic, it is necessary to consider what sustainable tourism work has achieved to date in terms of bringing about a major shift in tourism operations. It's easy to give rise to a lack of patience and expect progress to come faster than it is, recognising the urgent need for improvement [6]. A growing abundance of analysis and experience reports demonstrates how conservation has become an integral part of corporate and policy agendas while multiple examples from hospitality and tourism industries and locations around the world have effectively adopted environmental mitigation systems. These companies including destination have, in many instances, formed ties with educational institutions and recognized the importance of using evidence based data to develop business decision.

Tourism has always been seen as a new manufacturing industry, continually trying to prove its importance and to be considered a serious industry. The industry gives greater weight to evidence of employment growth and revenue generation, and is willing to accept some of the commonly known environmental and social impacts. The academic topic of tourism is very well adapted to industry participation, and while the language and medium of expression need to be different, companies seem to have a general willingness to work with academia to solve challenges [7]. As an example, the World Economic Forum, UNWTO, WTTC and also the Pacific Asia Tourism Association among many other industry associations strongly supported an academic project to establish a wider collection of indicators that represent the industry's broader conservation impacts (positive and negative).

According to the expert group, a successful model for sustainable development needs to build good adaptation capacities and promote strong involvement by all stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement and participation are vital elements for fostering improvements in current processes and strengthening the collective capacity to cope with and respond to both these anticipated changes and unforeseeable circumstances [8]. For example, disagreements in tourism communities over land use or the allocation of resources can escalate into conflicts. Different and collaborative communities are more prepared in such situations and reach consensus faster than functionally separated and collaborative groups. The importance of (or lack of) involvement and in terms of growth, democracy of tourism cultures is explored further.

### *The Transformative Power of Sustainability:*

Doubts are not unusual or specific to tourism about the viability of the principle of sustainability. In other areas, they have been addressed long enough to show that dwelling on the shortcomings of the description is not suitable for development. A greater appreciation of the weaknesses of the concept resulted in a general agreement that multi-faceted structures with multi-layered and interconnected dimensions are social improvements to sustainable practices [2]. Sustainable tourism would remain a 'theoretical bigger company' unless it is discussed in wider social contexts full of greed, wealth, short-term economics, racism as well as hypocrisy. The statement, perhaps serious, indicates that sustainability poses tough questions for tourism researchers and practitioners, and responding to them may initiate a travel stage with a high revolutionary character.

#### ➤ *Community and multi-stakeholder perspectives on sustainability in tourism:*

Analysis of tourism planning models showed that while stakeholders are often referred to as relevant, little concrete guidance is given on how to identify, communicate and collaborate with stakeholders. In fact, in some versions, initial definitions of tourism stakeholders included various categories, but major tourism companies and government agencies were the most frequently mentioned and/or motivated stakeholders [9]. The significance of stakeholders in the implementation of sustainability in tourism is often viewed as a truism in academic and policy literature. This is often widely used in descriptions of sustainability, perceived as self-evident and given no further thought.

Four key issues that need to be identified and addressed have emerged from these papers, including: the challenge of balancing contrasting views and values between stakeholder groups, the complexities of stakeholder sustainability processes, the essential importance of communication and learning for active stakeholder involvement, and issues of empowerment and governance. In both the larger sustainability literature and in many of the papers in this study, a popular finding is that there is considerable confusion and dispute about what sustainability is or should be. It was argued that the use of the concept of the green economy in sustainable tourism planning in Bali in Indonesia was partly driven by the need to find a concrete definition of what sustainable tourism could be in order to develop clear tactics and action plans [10].

## CONCLUSION

The starting point for this study was to question if academic work on sustainable tourism is of interest, whether it can also be more useful in places and how can it be achieved in the future? The interventions in this study show that tourism has a broad spectrum of sustainability research and a wide range of challenges faced by researchers when addressing the topic. Global warming, the production of food and social instability are not only problems for tourism, but for the planet as a whole. The case of Greenland emphasizes in this

study the breath of difficulties posed by uncertain futures. In addition, there is an interest in considering wider connections between tourism and global sustainability, as well as the treatment of tourism and sustainability in areas beyond tourism scholarship.

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