



# Mapping Sustainable Horizons: The Transformative Power of Tourism Research for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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## Abstract

While the tourism and hospitality industry can be considered a significant role in driving toward a more sustainable future, stakeholders in the industry must grapple with several challenges as they seek to make a meaningful contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. There is evidence of growing knowledge on how to drive tourism toward greater sustainability but limited progress in moving from concepts and principles to pan-industry practice, reflecting a lack of collaborative partnerships among tourism stakeholders. This chapter reviews the current status of the tourism and hospitality industry and explores the critical role of its industry stakeholders in achieving sustainability goals. The chapter provides sustainable recommendations for the roles of different stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism development.

## Keywords

Sustainable Development · Tourism and hospitality industry · Economic growth, green economy · Environmental sustainability · Wellness tourism

## Introduction

Sustainable development has proven to be a compelling yet elusive paradox (Adelson et al., 2008). This paradox reflects the conflict between the potential benefits of economic growth on poverty and employment and the destructive consequences of economic growth on the environment, natural resources, and local communities (Ramirez, 2012). Tourism is considered an environmentally harmful industry due to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with tourist movements (Higham et al., 2016). With the rapid development of tourism as a significant industry and its increasing global importance, it has gradually become a tool for regional economic growth and job creation. Compared to economic factors and benefits, little attention has been paid to the environmental impacts of tourism, as tourism has become a driving force in local economies (Saarinen, 2013). Patwary (2023) indicates that responsible consumption and production related to tourism and hospitality is one of the interrelated global goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. Although consumer pressure for sustainability can positively impact the entire supply chain (Jacob-John, 2018), unsustainable consumption habits and production practices are essential factors in the ecological footprint of tourism, thus demonstrating the role of consumers and producers as stakeholders' impact on the environment. Tourism industry actors face challenges of tourism inclusion and sustainability, as tourism partnerships are often complex, multifaceted, and subject to multiple legal frameworks and governance arrangements, and are often cross-sectoral, transnational, and cross-border (Scheyvens & Cheer, 2022). It is necessary to think

about the possibilities for creating partnerships in the context of the pandemic, as partnerships across government, industry, and communities are a crucial prerequisite for developing a more sustainable tourism future. As important stakeholders, local communities regard community participation as essential to sustainable tourism development (Shani & Pizam, 2011). They are promoted as a means to achieve tourism planning-oriented and community-oriented goals. Although policymakers regard health tourism as a welfare and development strategy, many policymakers fail to identify industry standards to articulate a health tourism policy vision (Arellano, 2012), making it challenging to promote the sustainable development of health tourism. Given the nature and scope of the industry, tourism, as an environmentally sensitive industry, is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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## Tourism and the SDGs

Tourism is expected to be one of the fastest-growing industries in the world. More and more people are seeing the value of tourism as a catalyst for economic progress, particularly in developing countries. Hospitality and tourism are critical industries for global economic development and job creation. Tourism is vital in promoting the socioeconomic growth of the country (Adnan Hye & Ali Khan, 2013). The tourism industry significantly contributes to the nation's foreign exchange reserves and offers direct and indirect employment opportunities to a large portion of the population. Unique to any industry, H&T fosters economic growth at every economic level – from developed economies (e.g., UK, the USA) to developing economies (e.g., China, India) to postconflict economies (e.g., Cambodia, Vietnam). From another perspective, the industry offers job opportunities across human capital and various skills. The industry directly contributes \$2.3 trillion and 109 million employment globally. Considering its indirect impact, it contributes \$7.6 trillion to the global economy and supports 292 million employment. This equals 10.2% of global GDP and roughly one-tenth of all jobs. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (2017), the hospitality and tourism industry is predicted to support more than 380 million jobs globally by 2027 and provide roughly 23% of total global net employment creation. By more evenly dispersing socioeconomic benefits across the community, tourism will increase employment and aid in long-term growth and poverty reduction (Vanegas & Croes, 2007). Tourism is a global industry and an essential economic activity around the world. Historically, the industry has also given global labor mobility opportunities and has been a critical source of work for freshly arrived and first-generation migrants worldwide. The industry's potential to create jobs reflects its labor-intensive nature.

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## Decent Work and Sustainable Tourism Development and Growth

Social sustainability is closely related to decent work, which emphasizes job opportunities with a fair wage, safe working conditions, opportunities for personal growth, freedom of expression and association, and equal treatment of men and women (Santos, 2023). In other words, social sustainability depends on decent working

conditions and dignity. Decent work in the tourism industry has been a research subject, and empirical studies have revealed different perspectives on job quality, working conditions, and practices from a “decent work” perspective (Kensbock et al., 2016). However, many tourism research suffer from a fragmented thematic, analytical, theoretical, and methodological approach (Baum et al., 2016). Therefore, a more comprehensive understanding of its structure and characteristics can be gained by understanding the decent work. Decent work is not limited to job creation but also emphasizes job quality (Kužnar, 2023). The idea of “sustained” and “inclusive” growth is intrinsic to one of the three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 8 – Decent Work and Growth) established by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Tourism (UNWTO, 2016). In other words, it tackles the neglect of jobs and labor in the discussion over tourism sustainability (Baum et al., 2016). Decent work embodies the concept of economic sustainability in the labor market context and is increasingly referenced as a critical component in the conceptualization of work and sustainability (Baum, 2018). The resource-based perspective views tourism employees in a utilitarian manner as a significant migrant labor force that is a part of the global tourism production system or as a potential source of innovation (Robinson et al., 2014). Williams and Shaw (2011) indicate global worker migration flows can remove barriers to innovation in the tourism industry. In other words, skilled immigrant workers are more likely to switch to new ways of doing things, which makes it easier for the tourism industry to practice tourism innovation.

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## **Economic Growth and Sustainable Tourism Development and Growth**

Tourism is a rapidly expanding and economically significant global and local industry. It is critically economic, has social and cultural significance, and presents viable opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development. The UNWTO believes that regulated growth in tourism can assist in achieving the transition to a “green economy” and help eliminate poverty, improve resource use efficiency, and reduce environmental degradation (Stroebel, 2018). Research on economic growth shows travel impulses’ long-term impact on overall economic progress (Lee & Brahmasure, 2013). Therefore, many governments have become involved in developing tourism to promote economic growth because it has the potential to distribute wealth, contribute to the development of emerging economies, and generate revenue through exports (Niñerola et al., 2019). Tourism is a powerful tool for promoting a development idea in line with environmental standards (Yoopetch & Nimsai, 2019).

## **Tourism and Employment: The Hidden Dimension of Sustainability**

In the global economy, tourism contributes significantly to the growth of a country's economy. The countries' economies can benefit from a rise in tourism, particularly in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) and employment prospects – most discussions on tourism and sustainable development center on the viability of balancing economic growth and environmental protection. On the one hand, it advocates permanent growth; on the other hand, it advocates sustainable development. However, within the social aspects of sustainability, the emphasis is on the role of jobs and individual workers in the tourism labor market. Target 8.9 of the SDGs is specific to tourism and calls for efforts to develop and implement policies that promote sustainable tourism that provides employment opportunities and promotes local products (UNWTO, 2017).

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## **The Intersecting Roles of Consumer and Producer in the Tourism Sector: Innovation Approach on Sustainable Behavior**

One of the SDGs' interconnected global goals is responsible consumption and production (Patwary, 2023). Due to different economic conditions and sociocultural factors, sustainable consumption and production require different concerns in developing and developed economies. Countries differ in the environmental pressures associated with consumption and production and the drivers behind them. They also differ in the priorities, strategies, and policy instruments used to govern sustainable consumption and production (Brizga et al., 2014). Sustainable consumption and production systems include the “top-down” sustainability efforts of policymakers and the “bottom-up” activities of companies (Tseng et al., 2013). “Top-down” efforts lead to government economic intervention, and “bottom-up” efforts incorporate companies' sustainable consumption and production commitments into their commercial activities (Wang et al., 2019). Economic development is always a significant concern in developing economies, while sustainable development is ignored and focuses on “bottom-up” activities. Developed economies have actively carried out “top-down” and “bottom-up” efforts and adopted intervention measures on both the supply and demand sides. As the primary objective and critical necessity to establish sustainable development, integrating consumption and production systems with sustainable development is developed and implemented (Lozano et al., 2015). Attention to sustainable consumption and production models has risen unprecedentedly and attracted international attention. In recent years, national institutions and organizations, especially the UNWTO, have increasingly focused on the responsible consumption of raw materials, resources, and materials to address SDGs 12 (sustainable production and consumption) (Bertella, 2020). In hotels, the supply chain is an organizational network that transfers information such as room reservations, payment transactions, and physical goods (food and beverages). The hotel supply chains include the reverse transaction direct supply chains (recycling and reuse) from consumers (Al-Aomar & Hussain, 2017). Environmental relationship management

between producer and consumer is crucial because it allows both entities to understand each other's environmental goals (Bu et al., 2020). While green consumption is essential for maintaining and constructing green subjectivities, it must be understood within an increasingly personalized process in which individuals feel responsible and empowered in dealing with the environmental risks of the wider global planet. However, this responsibility-right is accompanied by doubts and insecurities about the decision that must be taken, resulting in a somewhat paradoxical situation (Connolly & Prothero, 2008). This runs counter to the view that green consumption as some form of political choice can clearly form part of an environmental reform strategy because it falls short of resolving people's sore problems. Environmental pollution in tourist destinations is primarily caused by tourists' unreasonable consumption habits and consumption methods. However, green consumption is essential for solving environmental problems (Sheng & Ge, 2019). On the other hand, green consumption can create green market demand for environmental protection, forcing organizations to establish green development strategies and guiding companies to go green (Nguyen et al., 2019).

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## **Issues and Challenges for Responsible Consumption and Production in the Context of SDGs**

In general, the current patterns of consumption and production, which are based on conventional methods and industrial technology, are not sustainable (Tseng et al., 2013). Traditional practices in hospitality and tourism continue to pose severe threats to the environment, such as carbon monoxide emissions, disposable packaging materials, discarded toxic waste, other types of industrial pollution, and traffic congestion (Wisner et al., 2014). It is known that many severe environmental degradation behaviors are rooted in tourism development and activities (Wang et al., 2020). Global travel supply chains are blamed for around 8% of global carbon emissions. Unsustainable global consumption patterns have led to severe environmental problems such as global warming, pollution, and waste generation (Brizga et al., 2014). Over the last two decades, sustainable consumption behavior has received more attention and discussion in academic, business practice, and public policy (Romani et al., 2016). However, sustainable consumption behavior is challenging to define. Still, it is frequently used to refer to a broad range of initiatives that focus on boosting quality of life, meeting needs, reducing waste, and increasing resource efficiency (Bridges & Wilhelm, 2008). Studies investigating sustainable consumption behavior have mostly ignored how emotions contribute to and influence sustainable consumer behavior, even though sustainable consumption behavior typically entails the results of interactions between people and objects (Dong et al., 2020). Specifically, it examines how different dimensions of love for nature (passion, intimacy, and commitment) influence sustainable consumption behavior dimensions (green purchasing, reusability, and recycling) (Cavanaugh et al., 2015).

On the other hand, the Environment affects consumers' green consumption behaviors and decisions. Leary et al. (2014) segmented consumption behaviors and decisions into postconsumption, energy efficiency, and eco-conscious

purchasing behaviors. Geng, Liu, and Zhu (2017) broke down these actions and decisions, categorizing them into green purchasing, reusability, and recycling based on the product's life cycle. Since green consumption requires tourists to share various costs, and the environmental benefits created by green consumption are unpredictable, it may prevent many tourists from engaging in green consumption (Sheng & Ge, 2019).

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## **Responsibility for Conduct and Innovation of Responsible Tourism Behavior**

Globally, green consumption behavior and marketing have fundamentally changed the green product life cycle and green product brands to eliminate the environmental impact of global tourism. The hospitality sector must establish environmental management strategies to address environmental standards and their effects on supply chain operations (Beamon, 1999). Consumers' interest in environmental protection has been rekindled (Sarkis & Zhu, 2018). Additionally, cost pressures, competitive pressures, governmental pressures, and increased social responsibilities have prompted hospitality organizations to incorporate green environmental issues into their fundamental business processes (Sanidewi & Paramita, 2018). To reduce environmental impact, the effective use of traffic congestion information can considerably increase tourists' confidence in reducing traffic. Determining and evaluating green innovation standards for adopting sustainable supply chain management activities is necessary to mitigate environmental issues such as natural resource scarcity, climate change, and global warming (Musaad et al., 2020). The hotel and tourism industry should actively carry out green supply chain management, guide the green market strategy, establish an image of corporate social responsibility, and connect with the green image to promote green production practices in the hotel and tourism industry. Green supply chain management combines multiple aspects, including product development and design, raw material procurement and selection criteria, manufacturing procedures, product transportation, and disposal of expired products (Lee & Klassen, 2008). It is known as a hotel's initiative to recognize and adopt environmental planning throughout the supply chain process to improve the environmental footprint of production significantly (Hsu & Hu, 2009), improve overall environmental sustainability, and effectively eliminate relevant environmental threats and impacts (Klassen & Vachon, 2003). The hotel industry reduces costs, energy consumption, and waste management, and green supply chains can significantly improve the hotel's reputation and green image (Han & Huo, 2020).

In recent years, green consumption has become the focus of government, enterprises, and consumers (Ge et al., 2020). Green consumption is voluntary participation in proenvironmental consumption behavior and is a critical way to alleviate the pressure of world environmental problems (Connolly & Prothero, 2008). Green consumption is consumers' preference, willingness and possibility to consume environmentally friendly and sustainable products (Rashid, 2009). Previous studies show that connectedness relates to environmental attitudes and sustainable consumption behavior (Dong et al., 2020). Those more connected to nature show greater compassion for nature, are more concerned about environmental issues, and are

more willing to protect the environment and engage in green consumption practices (Gosling & Williams, 2010; Dutcher et al., 2007). Green consumption requires tourists to increase their efforts, such as being more inclined to purchase green products and changing their original consumption habits. Green consumers generate environmental benefits that are not only experienced by each tourist but also by the entire society. The emergence of green consumption behavior demands tourists balance personal and social interests. The occurrence and solution of environmental problems are inherently collective and require the collective participation of tourists.

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## **Opportunities and Challenges for Transformation: The Environmental Impact of Travel Emissions**

Effectively managing the relationship between tourism development and climate change depends on credible assessments of human activities and carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon footprint and carbon efficiency are two indicators often used to quantify the environmental costs of tourism development (Zhang et al., 2015). Before the Covid-19 global pandemic, international arrivals averaged more than 44 million annually. The number of international tourists is predicted to be approximately 2 billion by 2030 (Balsalobre-Lorente & Leitão, 2020). Rapidly growing and ongoing demand for domestic and international tourism significantly contributes to carbon emissions. In addition to the increase in tourist numbers, travel behavior has also shown fundamental changes, with travelers looking to travel further, staying for shorter periods, and relying more on aviation (Peeters & Landré, 2011), which results in higher carbon emissions per trip.

Since the 1950s, anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, have led to unprecedented and sustained changes in climate conditions. At the same time, reliance on fossil fuels and traditional economic development patterns make short-term decarbonization ambitions challenging (Field & Barros, 2014). Tourism is no longer a smoke-free industry but a significant source of carbon emissions. For the tourism industry, addressing climate change through energy conservation and emission reduction has been a long-term challenge (Hasselmann et al., 2003). Carbon emissions, as a critical indicator of the environmental impact of tourism, have been widely recognized and tested at global, national, and regional levels (Chenghu et al., 2021).

Tourism development is accompanied by large-scale, rapid growth and diversified flows of people, materials, services, and capital, which have a significant and complex effect on the social economy and ecological environment from local to global (Pan et al., 2021). All tourism-related activities, from transportation to accommodation, heavily use electricity or fossil fuels, which links tourism to carbon emissions through energy consumption (Dogan & Aslan, 2017). Transportation is particularly prominent among them, accounting for about half of total carbon emissions. Lenzen et al. (2018) indicate that transport activity due to tourism is equivalent to 4% of the world's carbon emissions. It should be emphasized that the expansion of international aircraft networks and the ease of access to these services



are crucial elements in the rapid growth of global tourism. However, while international tourism boosts economic activity, it degrades environmental quality due to transportation.

Carbon emissions from the tourism industry account for approximately 8% of total carbon emissions, rising at an annual rate of 3.2%. If no action is taken, carbon emissions from global tourism will increase by 130% by 2035 (Lenzen et al., 2018). Against this backdrop of rapid tourism growth, technological improvement is especially critical to address the growth in tourism's carbon emissions while maintaining the economic growth generated by tourism activities. Governments and policymakers should take action to reduce the transport sector's negative impact on carbon emissions. One such action is the development of environmentally friendly transportation technologies. Technological innovation is crucial to green growth (Lorek & Spangenberg, 2014). The creation of environmentally friendly transportation technologies is one such action. Energy innovation can significantly minimize the negative impact of air travel on carbon emissions (Balsalobre-Lorente & Leitão, 2020).

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## **Sustainable Communities' Role in Creating Sustainable Urban Tourism: Sustainable Urban Planning Practices**

From an interactive perspective, a community consists of many different social fields or groups whose members take action to achieve different interests and goals, with the ultimate goal of pursuing the common interests and needs of the entire community (Brennan et al., 2009). The term "Community-based development" refers to initiatives where beneficiaries are actively involved in the planning and management of the project (Mansuri & Rao, 2004). Community-oriented governance considers empowerment and resident participation crucial (Tosun, 2000).

### **Bridger, Luloff, and Brennan (2006) Outline Five Dimensions for Achieving a Sustainable Community**

- Increase the diversity of the local economy through entrepreneurial efforts and the development and retention of small businesses.
- Develop local markets, produce and process previously imported goods, and strengthen cooperation between local economic entities.
- Reducing energy use and carefully managing and recycling waste.
- Focuses on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and careful management of natural resources.
- Sustainable communities are committed to social justice and meet all residents' social and economic needs.

Community-based tourism was hailed as a necessity for alternative tourism in the early 1980s (Weaver, 2010). A fundamental principle of community-based tourism

is that the development and use of community goods and resources should be locally controlled, community-based and community-driven. Vajirakachorn (2011) identified ten criteria for the success of community-based tourism: community participation, benefit sharing, tourism resource protection, partnerships and support within and outside the community, local ownership, management and leadership, and communication and interaction among stakeholders. The relationships include quality of life, scale of tourism development, and tourist satisfaction.

Defining “sustainable” tourism is problematic because it presents increasingly diverse aspects that are difficult even for scholars to fit into a comprehensive framework (Jamal et al., 2013). Furthermore, it is more challenging to relate this concept to the dimensions of sustainable cities. Nonetheless, there are no apparent allusions to sustainable urban tourism (Lerario & Di Turi, 2018). However, governments all over the world have made urban tourism a priority on their economic development agendas (Beauregard, 1998). Everything is carried out according to strategic planning, in which the market and the needs and expectations of tourists are at the core of the tourism business plan. Residents are less critical (Moscardo, 2011). However, residents should not be involved occasionally, as is the case with classic approaches to sustainable tourism implementation. Residents must actively participate in planning rather than merely being informed (Marzuki & Hay, 2013).

Local planning and development decisions can significantly impact global environmental sustainability (Haughton & Hunter, 2004). Community participation is a cornerstone of sustainable tourism development (Nicholas et al., 2009). In the local community, responses are more flexible and can be tailored to the unique local resources and cultural and historical context (Timothy & Tosun, 2003). Additionally, at the community level, formal and informal social systems encourage the adoption of values and attitudes that are generally favored. A community-level strategy enables the creation of policies and procedures responsive to the opportunities, limitations, and distinctive characteristics of specific locations (Bridger & Luloff, 1999). Local residents’ perceptions about tourism impacts are a key predictor of their support for and participation in tourism development and the achievability of sustainable tourism development and management (Jaafar & Rasoolimanesh, 2015). The perception of a positive impact on the community encourages residents to support tourism development (Sharpley, 2014).

Furthermore, how locals view the benefits and drawbacks of tourism development affects their engagement in tourist-related activities and the viability of any tourism development (Nicholas et al., 2009). Community participation in decision-making benefits local people and enhances their respect for traditional lifestyles and values (Mitchell & Reid, 2001). Therefore, tourism planning success depends on local inhabitants’ cooperation and involvement (Hall & Jenkins, 1995). Community agency is required for communities to effectively engage in negotiation and act toward desirable sustainable practices to remove barriers to interaction, communication, and participation (Wilkinson, 1991). Community-based sustainable development approaches (Scheyvens, 1999) emphasize the importance of social capital and host community participation in tourism development (Saarinen, 2006).

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## **The Role of Health and Safe Standard in Health and Wellness Tourism Development**

Health tourism is a comprehensive concept, including medical and wellness tourism (Mueller & Kaufmann, 2001). In recent years, health and wellness tourism has become an essential trend in tourism. The main reasons for this trend are the need to relieve work stress and increase health awareness. To draw more visitors from around the world, Asian countries that offer health and wellness tourism are competing with one another. Health and wellness tourism are a niche or special interest market in the tourism industry that many countries plan and regulate legally and practically. Because this is a rapidly growing industry globally, with an increase in travelers and commercial operations. Pacific Asia Travel Association (2008) states that wellness tourism is gaining the same attention as the meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions industry. Health tourism seeks to improve people's quality of life by providing products and services that address health-related requirements (Chen et al., 2008).

Although policymakers focus on health tourism as a welfare and development strategy, many have failed to articulate a health tourism policy vision clearly. This is reflected in the fact that most initiatives are operated and implemented without policy gaps (Arellano, 2012). The main problem currently is the lack of policy orientation, as it limits the understanding of the various challenges faced by health tourism and the formulation of policies against the background of the challenges. Health tourism will burden public resources and exacerbate inequality in resource distribution, plundering the medical and health rights of vulnerable groups in the destination country (Johnston et al., 2010). However, most policies remain focused on easing outbound medical travel in source countries and providing supply-side support and effective competitiveness in destination countries, ignoring systemic drivers of medical tourism (such as health system deficiencies and regulatory barriers).

Destination management organizations and corporate managers should segment their demand based on more creative standards than those traditionally used for wellness in terms of health care and medical procedures. The value proposition for tourists should be health-driven to meet the growing health needs and involve all actors and producers in health destinations' health tourism service system (Dini & Pencarelli, 2021). Relevant Australian departments have formulated a health and wellness tourism plan to promote the steady and rapid growth of the region's health and wellness tourism industry (Bennett et al., 2004). Based on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), tourism companies can assist in developing healthcare services and infrastructure at tourist sites, enhancing both locals and visitors' access to high-quality healthcare.

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## **Creating Partnerships in the Hospitality Industry Development for Sustainable Development Goals**

Intersectoral partnerships are essential to health promotion (Kickbusch & Quick, 1998). Partnerships can achieve synergistic results more excellent than partners alone can achieve. Weiss et al. (2002) identify six dimensions of partnership

operations: leadership, administration and management, effectiveness, nonfinancial resources, partner engagement, and community-related challenges. Synergy is most closely related to leadership and effectiveness. Different synergies include vertical integration, shared expertise, shared resources, and more effective problem-solving (Goold & Campbell, 1998). The five determinants of synergy include partnership assets, partner characteristics, governance, leadership, and partnership, including trust and power (Lasker et al., 2001). Jones and Barry (2011) indicate that synergy in health promotion partnerships is both a process and a product.

Collaboration is considered crucial to driving sustainable development in the tourism industry. Bringing together various organizations to achieve shared objectives and establish a framework for cooperative action is a critical component of sustainable destination management (Berresford, 2004). According to Fadeeva (2005), collaboration through partnerships is a loosely coupled structure of organizations and people from diverse public and commercial sectors coming together to accomplish objectives impossible for the partners to achieve on their own. Collaboration is the evolution of alliances working together on an issue area (Jamal & Stronza, 2009). Inclusive, collaborative approaches generate social capital that can contribute to developing more sustainable types of tourism (Kernel, 2005).

Across, the literature suggests cross-sector partnerships because they can deliver sustainable development outcomes (Bramwell & Lane, 2005). The critical elements of a partnership are as follows:

- Stakeholders are interdependent.
- Solutions emerge through constructive handling of differences.
- Involves shared ownership of decisions.
- Stakeholders take collective responsibility for the future direction of the field.
- Partnership remains a dynamic and emergent process (Gray, 1996).

These fundamental elements are the partnership's founding principles, providing a cohesive environmental vision that enables tourism destinations to pool their resources. The UNWTO revealed that public-private partnerships are the most critical factor for successful destination management (Foggin & Munster 2003). Carbone (2005) points out that a true partnership between local residents, tourism, and tourists is essential to align community needs with sustainable environmental use while providing profits to relevant stakeholders. Through partnerships, governments, organizations, and communities can work together to address tourism pollution and set mutually agreed sustainability targets, which will benefit all stakeholders and further promote sustainable management of tourism destinations.

Participants traditionally operating in isolation must learn to collaborate (Halme, 2001). The value of collaboration in sustainable tourism has received considerable attention, and there are some examples of successful tourism partnerships. In Australia and Canada, national tourism boards have corporatized, emphasizing partnerships with industry in joint marketing and promotional activities (Hall & Jenkins, 1995). In Australia, the Federal Government has made large investments to encourage the growth of commercial networks between companies in various

industries, including tourism (AusIndustry, 1996). The partnership for commercial leases between the New South Wales National Parks, Wildlife Service and its many private on-site tour providers aims to facilitate sustainable tourism while preserving natural landscapes (Wilson et al., 2009). Zapata and Hall (2012) adopt a new institutional theoretical perspective and focus on the public-private partnership process in local tourism public-private partnerships in Spain, with its main finding being the emergence of mixed quasi-public and quasi-private partnerships.

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## Conclusion and Recommendations

With the rapid development of globalization, the sustainable development of tourism and hotel industries has increasingly become a hot topic, attracting widespread attention from international organizations, governments, industries, and academia. Green practices in the hospitality and tourism industry are a significant way to achieve sustainable development goals, as socioeconomic activities can positively and negatively impact the environment and social resources. As a result, hospitality and tourism are increasingly considering sustainability issues in their business models and strategies. Climate change reveals past one-sided understandings of sustainable tourism and the need to properly consider the environmental and social impacts of the tourism travel stage. Addressing climate change is considered a prerequisite for sustainable development and is therefore closely linked to promoting sustainable tourism. Tourism has grown steadily over the past few decades, and the tourism and hospitality industry has grown in importance to the economies of many countries. Taking international tourism as an example, tourism spending has become an alternative form of exports, improving the balance of payments of many countries through foreign exchange earnings. Therefore, the revenue generated by tourism has become an essential source of income for countries worldwide, bringing steady growth to the national economy. Since tourism is a labor-intensive industry, tourism has become the “new gold” and has driven the prosperity of the job market. To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12 (sustainable production and consumption), the United Nations World Tourism Organization is paying more and more attention to industry chain management (raw materials, resources, and materials) and responsible consumption in the tourism and hotel industry. Tourism planning and development decisions involving local communities can significantly impact global environmental sustainability. Health and safety standards in the industry need to continue improving to meet tourists’ growing health and leisure needs. To achieve resource sharing and environmental cohesion in tourist destinations, the World Tourism Organization states that partnerships are the most critical factor in successful destination management.

The current chapter broadly explores the critical role of advancing sustainable practices in the dynamic landscape of the tourism and hospitality industry through an archive of secondary data. For the industry, the results of this chapter can provide constructive ideas for social production practices and organizational strategic arrangements. Local communities’ environmental and cultural life backgrounds

should be fully considered in the decision-making process to formulate common goals consistent with sustainable development. Developing sustainable tourism and hospitality about the SDGs can become a long-standing research topic for academia. However, this chapter only covered secondary data from archival analysis, resulting in limitations of this study. Future research may add mixed methods analysis of raw data and comparative discussion of results. This chapter supports the sound notion that such studies may reveal new viewpoints on the subject.

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