

Voices of local communities on sustainable tourism: A case of Capricorn district in Limpopo, South Africa

STANLEY NGWETJANA * [stanleyngwetjana@gmail.com]

PORTIA SIFOLO ** [sifolops@tut.ac.za]

Abstract | Community participation is a key ingredient to sustainable tourism development in local communities. Yet, community participation is limited in the Capricorn District of Limpopo because communities are not aware of the developmental extent and potential of tourism. The purpose of this paper is to analyse community participation in tourism in the Capricorn District of Limpopo. This study analysed community participation in tourism by making use of a survey, as a result, the quantitative research method was the most suitable and suited for the study. This study was a cross-sectional design study, where data was collected at a single point in time from a group of respondents (communities in the Capricorn District). A questionnaire was distributed to 550 respondents in this study. The population sample for this study was the Polokwane, Molemole, Blouberg, and Lepelle Nkumpi communities of the Capricorn District. These communities thus formed the target population. The population (N) of the Capricorn District is estimated at around 1.3 million. Therefore, through stratified random sampling, a sample size of n=394 was sufficient for this study. The results indicated that tourism awareness, community participation benefits, and tourism development have strong and positive relationships, signifying the importance of benefits and encouraging the community to take part and be involved in tourism. The community in Capricorn District of Limpopo indicated that community participation is driven by awareness, good management practices, and support from stakeholders, among other factors. Managerial implications are that when tourism policies are being developed, local communities want to be integrated and incorporated into the current systems in order to influence policymakers in developing policies that fulfill their needs and defend their interests.

Keywords | Local communities, community participation, sustainable tourism, tourism awareness, benefits, tourism

* Tourism Destination Development **Specialist** at the National Department of Tourism. Masters in the Tourism Management Department, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

** Senior lecturer, Tshwane University of Technology, Tourism Management Department, Pretoria, South Africa

1. Introduction

Tourism is one of the most resilient economic sectors in the world, having recovered from many natural disasters and global economic downturns. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO's) report forecast that international tourist arrivals worldwide are expected to increase by 3.3% by the year 2030 to reach 1.8 billion. Prior to Covid-19 the international tourist's arrivals number slowed in South Africa by 4.0% in 2019 (StatsSA 2020). This was the slowest rate. When the COVID 19 pandemic hit in 2020, this added to the job losses in South Africa; the static movement across the globe and economic meltdown became severe to the already struggling economy in South Africa. The local communities were affected severely.

The issue of how tourism filters down to the communities at the rural level is a well-established principle within the South African context and globally, one may argue that the tourism sector continues to play a critical role in community development as it generates local economic development activities. Sustainable tourism remains an important sector, not only globally or nationally but also at the local level (Butler & Rogerson, 2016). Therefore, rapid commercial tourism development in less developed areas is important for sustainability purposes. However, commercial tourism development has steadily reduced local communities' major role in visitor activities. While the research suggests that community members can play a variety of roles in tourism development, despite the fact that it is explained in tourism destinations' policy formulations, little focus has been placed on how locals themselves feel about the subject.

2. Literature review

Tourism and agriculture were initially identified

as the economic potential pillars for contributing to community development (Naidoo & Sharpley, 2016). It is in this regard that the government of South Africa has developed a different strategic framework to promote the role of participation in rural communities. In recent years, community tourism has become an important development strategy for tackling poverty and unemployment among low-to middle – income countries (Scheyvens & Hughes, 2019). Notably, Tourism is one of the world's most promising and dynamic industries. It is critical to plan and promote tourism deliberately and sustainably by seeking compromises between society's environmental, economic, and social goals (Streimikiene, Svagzdiene, Jasinskas & Simanavicius, 2021). According to Yfantidou and Matarazzo (2017), tourism is a vehicle that promotes local cultural features, it also operates under the supervision of local communities whilst it provides jobs and maintains local economic benefits. Generally, the principle of community participation is often not applied, because economic benefits can sometimes be lost to local communities. In line with the principles of sustainable development, strategies for the management of local tourism resources within a sustainable development concept framework are considered (Keitumetse 2011). Park and Kim (2016) suggest that for the field of tourism resource management in communities, sustainability principles linked to community engagement are more significant. Sustainable tourism can be referred to as tourism activities that consider economic, social, and environmental effects of its present and of the future, taking into account the environment, tourists, businesses, and communities in rural areas' demands (UNEP & UNWTO, 2005).

According to Mtapuri, Camilleri and Dłużewska (2021), Community-based tourism (CBT) can generate economic and social value for destinations, local companies, and communities. At the same time, CBT provides rich, immersive cultural experiences that might enrich tourists'

visits to various communities. Drammeh (2015), argues that sustainable CBT approaches can help communities improve their local economic development (LED), hence the economic leakages from the tourism industry must be limited for the benefit of the community. Mtapuri and Giampiccoli (2020) add that destination managers and tourism enterprises have the opportunity to engage in sustainable tourism practices and strategically leverage local resources in order to maximize economic links. It also indicates that these initiatives can lead to chances for tourist enterprises to grow and destinations to become more competitive, while protecting the environment and addressing their carrying capacities (Dłużewska & Giampiccoli, 2021). Many researchers have looked into basic tourist challenges and proposed answers based on a specific type of alternative tourism within a sustainable tourism environment that includes the well-being of the local population, particularly the poor (Naidoo et al., 2021). Alternative kinds of tourism development, such as community-based tourism (CBT) and pro-poor tourism (PPT), have been advocated as being particularly important to alleviating poverty and facilitating the development of disadvantaged community members (Saayman & Giampiccoli, 2016).

CBT has long been regarded as the most sustainable kind of tourism, according to Mtapuri and Giampiccoli (2016). Ramukumba, Pietersen, Mmbengwa and Coetzee (2011) alluded that the growth of tourism, emphasizes the importance of community participation and its impact on economic, environmental, and social sustainability in communities. However, it has been observed that CBT tourism development, directly and indirectly, contributes to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. This means that tourism development and community participation are critical for communities to achieve long-term growth.

Mtapuri and Giampiccoli (2016) are of the view that in the drive for holistic community development, community-based tourism (CBT) presents

both opportunities and obstacles. CBT initiatives can take a variety of paths such as the use of integrated rural tourism as a tool for community tourism development (Lenaoa & Saarinen, 2015). Gohori and Van Der Merwe (2021) state that rural areas are undergoing significant socioeconomic changes, necessitating the transformation and diversification of rural livelihoods. In this context, tourism is increasingly being viewed as a tool for community development, with the goal of facilitating community participation and integration in tourism planning and operations. This is in line with the findings of Apleni, Vallabh and Henama (2017) that state that the strengths of present community participation tactics and approaches to community-based tourism development will pave the way for the most effective policies and approaches to increase community participation in tourism. However, the majority of the research has excluded local people from having their voices heard in regards to tourism's ability to empower communities (Shereni & Saarinen, 2021). Gohori and van der Merwe (2021) contends that indications of disempowerment remain while tourism growth helps local people economically, socially, politically, and psychologically.

In order to encourage sustainable tourism in natural resources, community-based tourism is important to define clear roles and benefits of local communities. Shereni and Saarinen (2021) postulate that research in voices of communities imply that community members have negative attitudes toward tourist projects as a result of their lack of involvement in natural resource decision-making and management. Members in the community expect to benefit from tourism, although they have yet to see or experience any. As a result, tourism is a huge global sector with a strained relationship to poverty eradication. When compared to conventional tourism, alternative types of tourism, such as sustainable tourism (ST) and responsible tourism (RT), have been promoted as a strategy connected with community development

and poverty reduction through tourism (Giampiccoli & Saayman, 2017). Research that has highlighted understanding a society's complex political system and power structure reveals that it is crucial to developing, planning, and implementing sustainable tourist policies. To assist and maintain sustainable tourism development in communities, it is consequently critical to have a good awareness of political concerns, major political actors' interests, and how to moderate personal interests (Yasarata, Altinay, Burns & Okumus, 2010). Obradović and Stojanović (2021) are of the view that it is possible to prioritize management tactics while respecting the needs and rights of the local community by understanding locals' attitudes toward sustainable tourism. According to research conducted by Cheng, Wu, Wang and Wu (2019) residents' attitudes toward sustainable tourism development have a favourable and considerable impact on both community participation and environmentally responsible behaviour. Most communities anticipate that their evidence sustainability plan would be useful in negotiating with local authorities and other stakeholders, as well as in learning and adapting tourism-related initiatives (Islam, Lovelock & Coetzee, 2021).

However, it has been recognised that communities that attain adequate access to and participation in tourism and its related advantages may be more resilient and better positioned to profit from the links between tourist-based livelihoods and biodiversity protection (Holland et al., 2021). Furthermore, local communities perceive linkages between livelihood improvement, sustainable tourism, and conservation for their community (Nepal, Lai & Nepal, 2021). Therefore, a special focus on destination community participation in tourism development to improve livelihoods is necessary to address the issues that local communities have when it comes to tourism (Kunjuraman, 2021). Many researchers revealed that community attachment, community involvement, and perceived benefits had a significant and positive impact on sustain-

able tourism development (Butler, 2017). According to Ngo, Hales and Lohmann (2019) stakeholder engagement in the cooperation of sustainable tourism implies the function of each stakeholder engagement marketing strategy for long-term success. Chatkaewnapanon and Kelly (2019) indicated that activities such as community arts practice give a voice to a younger generation, which must be recognized from the start of the development process in order to achieve long-term destination development that leads to future wealth for the rural community. The research conducted by Stumpf and Cheshire (2019) indicates how the existing sustainable development goals targets do not adequately account for how Micronesian cultures operate, what is valued by the people who make up these societies, and how Indigenous landholding rights are the core of Micronesian livelihood sustainability. Their research looks at how concerns related to Indigenous land holding rights in Micronesia are at the heart of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Community participation can be regarded as a means by which members of a community are given a voice and the option of participating in issues that impact their lives. This can be seen in the development stalemate that has happened in such places, where local residents seem to be denied the opportunity to express their concerns (Mkono, 2011). Therefore according to Mudimba and Tichaawa (2017), globalisation has favoured foreign business dominance, reducing the voice of host communities in tourism development.

3 . Research Setting and Methods

The study adopted the positivist research paradigm, which entails the collection of scientific data that is exact and based on measurement and statistical analysis with the goal (Park & Kim,

2016:690); the findings are generalisable. The objective of this study was to analyse the community participation in tourism in the Capricorn District (Punch, 2005; Trochim, 2001). The study followed a quantitative approach to determine the level of participation of communities in the tourism sector. Leedy and Ormord (2005, pp.94-97) have identified the following key critical fundamentals of quantitative research: "It is used to answer inquiries concerning the relationships between variables that can be quantified, to be able to explain, envisage and control phenomena; quantitative researchers separate the variables they want to study; it is used as a control of variables; these researchers use an identical method to gather some kind of numerical data and by making use of statistical methods to analyse the data and draw conclusions from it".

This study adopted the most common non-experimental design which is a survey, due to the fact that it may be used in descriptive studies (Fouché, Delport & De Vos, 2011). This study analysed community participation in tourism.

Prior to data being gathered, the questionnaire had been subjected to pilot testing which was influenced by a wide spectrum of respondents that included community members, and tribal and local government leaders in the Capricorn District. About 25 respondents whose feedback was considered to improve the research instrument. The population (N) of the Capricorn District is estimated at around 1.3 million (COGTA, 2020). There after the questionnaire was distributed to 550 people within the population sample in Polokwane, Molemole, Blouberg, and Lepelle-Nkumpi communities of the Capricorn District. These communities thus formed the target population. Therefore, thorough stratified random sampling, a sample size of $n=394$ was deemed sufficient for this study (Singh & Masuku, 2014:4). Each respondent was given their own copy of the survey instrument (questionnaire) to complete. Once the questionnaires had been completed, they were collected and analysed

to reach the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The data were first corded and then captured in Excel prior to being exported to Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 24, for final analysis.

4. Findings

The demographics of the respondents' profiles were measured in terms of age, gender, home language, educational level, employment status, household income, and marital status, job in relation to tourism, district municipality and length of time that a participant has spent in a given district. The next section presents the distribution of respondents according to age.

4.1. Respondent's demographic characteristics

The results from the empirical show that there were 240 females (60.9%) that participated in this study when compared to 149 males (37.8%). The report on Women in Tourism (2019) reflects the importance of tourism among women, as most of the role players in the tourism industry are women (54%).

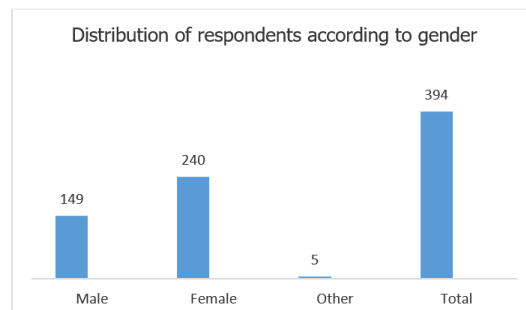


Figure 1 | Distribution of respondents according to gender

Although the sector caters for inclusivity, most of the respondents (31.7%) were amongst the ages

of 36 and 54 years, and their home language was Sesotho sa Leboa (29.7%). About 93 respondents were educated and had a diploma or a degree (24.4%) and 178 of them were in full-time employment (45.6%), earning less than R7 000 per month (39.1%). And about 165 respondents were single (41.9%) and had jobs that were not related to tourism (46.4%).

4.2. Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics provide a good measure of the extent and variation of responses on some given attributes considered in a study (Holcomb, 2016). In the current study, the statements of respondents on the extent of their community participation and involvement in tourism were measured using measures of central tendency (percentages and mean) as well as measures of spread (like standard deviation and coefficient of variation), which will be described in the subsequent subsections. The responses selected by the respondents on the extent of community participation and their involvement in tourism were evaluated on a five-point Likert scale, which were ranging from strongly disagree (which was assigned a value of 1) to strongly agree (which was given a value of 5). This means that ratings of less than 2.5 indicate adverse responses, 2.5 to 3.4 indicate a lack of response on the aspect under consideration, and ratings of at least 3.5 indicate favourable responses.

It was observed that 391 respondents largely disagreed with the statement that local communities in the Capricorn District Municipality participated in decision-making processes for tourism development. This is supported by Aref and Red-

zuan (2009), who reported that a general lack of community participation in developing countries was a barrier to effective tourism development in the third-world countries. About 190 (48.3%) of respondents disagreed, while 109 (27.9%) agreed, 111 (16%) strongly agreed that local communities do participate in decision-making processes for tourism development. Again, 183 (46.5%) respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that local communities in the Capricorn District Municipality were involved in tourism planning and development, while about 118 (30.2%) respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement above.

Respondents largely expressed favourable responses about the support offered by local resorts to local farmers and offering employment to locals. A total of 200 (50.9%) either agreed or strongly agreed that resorts and tourism facilities supported local farmers and businesses by purchasing local goods, while 113 (28.7%) of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. The remainder expressed no knowledge about this aspect. On the other hand, a total of 217 (55.2%) agreed, strongly agreed that local resorts and tourism facilities employed local people in the communities where they operated. The results reveal that most respondents seemed to be aware of the support in the form of employment the district was receiving from the tourism industry. However, 100 respondents 25.6% of the respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. The remainder expressed no knowledge about this aspect. The next section presents the discussion.

Table 1 | Responses of respondents on the extent of community participation in tourism development within the Capricorn District Municipality

Attribute	N	Strongly disagree %	Disagree %	Don' t know %	Agree %	Strongly agree %	Mean	Std. deviation	Coefficient of variation (%)
C3.1. Local communities in the Capricorn District Municipality participate in decision-making processes for tourism development.	391	32.2	16.1	23.8	25.3	2.6	2.5	1.248	49.9
C3.2. The local community is involved in tourism planning and development.	390	24.4	22.1	23.3	23.8	6.4	2.7	1.256	47.2
C3.3. The local community should be consulted when policies are formulated.	388	23.7	12.1	17.5	30.9	15.8	3.1	2.005	64.7
C3.4. Although the local community must be consulted, the final decision for tourism development should be made by formal bodies.	391	21.7	14.8	13.3	32.5	17.7	3.1	1.430	46.3
C3.5. The local community should be financially supported to invest in tourism development.	392	18.4	16.1	17.6	30.4	17.5	3.1	1.375	43.9
C3.6. The local community should take the lead in tourism development initiatives.	389	17.8	19.5	19.5	28.5	14.7	3.0	1.334	44.0
C3.7. I am interested in local tourism development.	386	16.6	18.7	18.1	32.6	14.0	3.1	1.316	42.6
C3.8. Local residents should be allowed to develop tourism attractions in the area.	390	14.1	17.7	20.3	29.7	18.2	3.2	1.315	41.1
C3.9. The community owns its own tourism attractions.	389	12.6	19.0	24.4	33.4	10.6	3.1	1.201	38.7
C3.10. The community members sell their goods to tourists.	389	11.1	20.6	21.3	32.4	14.6	3.2	1.235	38.7
C3.11. There are sites which the community members are not permitted to enter due to tourism.	392	11.0	21.7	32.4	25.3	9.6	3.0	1.140	37.9
C3.12. The community is given the opportunity to attend tourism-related seminars, conferences and workshops.	391	9.7	23.5	26.3	31.7	8.8	3.1	1.135	37.1
C3.13. The community should take the lead in planning and participating in cultural activities (religious festivities, parades, concerts, etc.).	392	15.1	18.1	21.4	30.3	15.1	3.1	1.295	41.5
C3.14. Resorts and tourism facilities should support local farmers and businesses by purchasing local goods.	393	12.2	16.5	20.4	27.5	23.4	3.3	1.326	39.8
C3.15. Local resorts and tourism facilities should employ local people in the communities where they operate.	391	12.0	13.6	19.2	28.6	26.6	3.4	1.332	38.7
Community participation							3.1	0.945	30.8

5. Discussion

The results revealed that a total of 190 (48.3%) of the respondents presented that they were not well informed on the extent of community participation in tourism development within the Capricorn District Municipality.

The results of the study show that community participation is significantly dependent on age, home language, employment status, district and years in district. There was no statistical evidence to suggest that community participation is associated with other demographic variables. This means

that number of years in the district, age, home language and employment status influence community members to participate in tourism in the Capricorn District Municipality. Thus, Capricorn District Municipality communities participate in tourism and are influenced by the socio-economic characteristics.

Respondents indicated that they were not well informed on the extent of community participation in tourism development within the Capricorn District Municipality. Therefore, tourism management office should disseminate more relevant information and promote the industry more effectively

in the communities to encourage participation. In the promotional material, the benefits of community participation should be stated clearly, tangibly, and realistically.

6. Conclusion

The purpose of this article was to analyse the voices of the Capricorn District community on their participation in tourism in Limpopo. From the literature review, it can be concluded that community participation is generally defined as involving residents staying in communities who do not participate in public initiatives and processes. It is often suggested that community participation is one of the essential ingredients in enhancing the value of communities and that it contributes economic growth potential of a country. Various studies indicate that communities that are not aware of tourism activities in their immediate environment, develop a negative attitude and may never get to participate in tourism initiatives. Therefore, the local communities' buy-in is essential to encourage participation in tourism development. It is commonly understood that if local people get the benefit of tourism and value of tourism operations, there is a high probability that they would support the tourism sector. There are two significant types of community participation in tourism, namely induced community participation and spontaneous participation. Residents in certain less developed areas choose to participate in business opportunities and gains rather than participate in making decisions. The gains are "earning income, jobs, and empowerment opportunities which are among the potential economic benefits". It should be ensured that residents in the community in tourism-related planning and decision-making, to eventually gain full control. More efforts should be made to enhance skills through community capacity building to enrich the tourism sector. Tourism deve-

lopment should be planned with participation and input from local communities. It is the responsibility of the government to coordinate local community participation in the tourism sector through IDPs, public participation, etc. Respondents indicated that they were not well informed on the extent of community participation in tourism development within the Capricorn District Municipality. Therefore, tourism management should disseminate more relevant information and promote the industry more effectively in the communities to encourage participation. In the promotional material, the benefits of community participation should be stated clearly, tangibly, and realistically. Therefore, it can be the conclusion is that community participation is driven by seven main factors, namely development initiatives, benefits, awareness and good management practices, support from stakeholders, opportunities for locals, empowerment and involvement of local community members in tourism programmes.

The significant improvements in terms of community participation can be summarized as follows:

- Local communities in the Capricorn District Municipality participate in decision-making processes for tourism development.
- The local community is involved in tourism planning and development.
- Resorts and tourism facilities should support local farmers and businesses by purchasing local goods.
- Local resorts and tourism facilities should employ local people in the communities where they operate.

Moreover, there is a need to consider the use of smart technology in tourism development and to community participation studies. Dar (2022), states that technology remains critical to the day-to-days quality of life in the community. Therefore, coordination in the smart ecosystem can allow

communities to have improved transport, banking, healthcare, energy, water, waste management, and other services including crime-free atmosphere.

7. Acknowledgments

I am indebted to The Limpopo Department of Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET) for awarding me the bursary to pursue these studies. Tshwane University of Technology for the opportunity to study this degree. My supervisor, Dr PPS Sifolo, for the knowledge and expertise that you shared with me. I am indebted to the communities of Capricorn district municipality.

References

- Apleni, L., Vallabh, D., & Henama, U.S. (2017). Motivation for tourists' participation in religious tourism in Eastern Cape: A case study of Buffalo City, South Africa. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 6(2), 1-14.
- Aref, F. & Redzuan, M. (2009). Assessing the level of community participation as a component of community capacity building for tourism development. *European Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(1), 68-75.
- Butler, G. (2017). Fostering community empowerment and capacity building through tourism: Perspectives from Dullstroom, South Africa. *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, 15(3), 199-212.
- Butler, G. & Rogerson, C.M. (2016). Inclusive local tourism development in South Africa: Evidence from Dullstroom. *Local Economy*, 31(1-2), 264-281.
- Chatkaewnapanon, Y., & Kelly, J. B. (2019). Community arts as an inclusive methodology for sustainable tourism development. *Journal of Place Management and Development*, 12(3), 365-390. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jpmd-09-2017-0094>
- Cheng, T., Wu, H., Wang, J., & Wu, M. (2019). Community Participation as a mediating factor on residents' attitudes towards sustainable tourism development and their personal environmentally responsible behaviour. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(14), 1764-1782. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2017.1405383>
- COGTA Municipality. (2020). Capricorn District Development Model: Profile document [Online]. Available from: <https://www.cogta.gov.za/ddm/index.php/2020/07/06/limpopo-profiles/> [Accessed: 30 March 2020].
- Dar, H. (2022). Conceptualizing the smart community in the ages of smart tourism: A literature perspective. *Revista Turismo & Desenvolvimento*, 39, 9-26. <https://doi.org/10.34624/rt.d.v39i0.30330>
- Dluzewska, A. & Giampiccoli, A. (2021). Enhancing island tourism's local benefits: A proposed community-based tourism-oriented general model. *Sustainable Development*, 29(1), 272-283.
- Fujiura, G. T. Park, H. J., & Rutkowski-Kmitta, V. (2005). Disability statistics in the developing world: a reflection on the meanings in our numbers. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 18, 295-304.
- George, D. & Mallery, P. (2016). Descriptive statistics. In: *IBM SPSS statistics 23 step by step*. 14th ed. New York: Routledge: 126-134.
- Giampiccoli, A. & Saayman, M. (2017). Community-based tourism, responsible tourism, and infrastructure development and poverty. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 6(2), 1-28.
- Gohori, O. & Vander Merwe, P. (2021). Limitations to community participation in tourism from local people's perspectives: Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe. *Development Southern Africa*, 1-15.
- Gohori, O., & Van Der Merwe, P. (2021). Tourism and Community Empowerment: The Perspectives of Local People in Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe. *Tourism Planning and Development*, 19(2), 81-99. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2021.1873838>
- Holland, K. G., Larson, L. R., Powell, R., Holland, W. L., Allen, L. R., Nabaala, M., Tome, S., Seno, S., & Nampushi, J. (2021). Impacts of tourism on support for conservation, local livelihoods, and community resilience around Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 30(11), 2526-2548. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.1932927>
- Holomb, Z. (2016). *Fundamentals of descriptive statistics*. London: Routledge.
- Islam, S., Lovelock, B., & Coetzee, W. (2021). Liberating sustainability indicators: developing and implementing a community-operated tourism sustainability indicator system in Boga Lake, Bangladesh. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.1928147>

- Keitumetse, S. O. (2011). Sustainable development and cultural heritage management in Botswana: towards sustainable communities. *Sustainable Development*, 19(1), 49–59. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.419>
- Kim, Y.J. & Slevitch, L. (2010). Motivation and behaviour profile of ecotourist in South Korea. In: *Education across the waters: Expanding the boundaries of Tourism and Hospitality* [Accessed: 20 February 2021].
- Kunjuraman, V. (2021). Local community participation challenges in community-based ecotourism development in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. *Community Development Journal*, 57(3), 487–508. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsaa065>
- Leedy, P.D. & Ormrod, J.E. (2014). *Practical research: Planning and design*. 10th ed. United States of America: Pearson Education Limited.
- Lenao, M., & Saarinen, J. (2015). Integrated rural tourism as a tool for community tourism development: exploring culture and heritage projects in the North-East District of Botswana. *South African Geographical Journal*, 97(2), 203–216. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03736245.2015.1028985>
- Mtapuri, O., & Giampiccoli, A. (2020). Toward a Model of Just Tourism: A Proposal. *Social Sciences*, 9(4), 34. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci9040034>
- Mtapuri, O., & Giampiccoli, A. (2016). Towards a comprehensive model of community-based tourism development. *South African Geographical Journal*, 98(1), 154–168. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03736245.2014.977813>
- Mtapuri, O., & Giampiccoli, A. (2019). Tourism, community-based tourism and ecotourism: a definitional problematic. *South African Geographical Journal*, 101(1), 22–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03736245.2018.1522598>
- Mtapuri, O., Camilleri, M. A., & Dłużewska, A. (2021). Advancing community-based tourism approaches for the sustainable development of destinations. *Sustainable Development*, 30(3), 423–432. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2257>
- Mudimba, T. & Tichaawa, T.M. (2017). Voices of local communities regarding their involvement and roles in the tourism development process in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 6(4)
- Naidoo, P., & Sharpley, R. (2016). Local perceptions of the relative contributions of enclave tourism and agritourism to community well-being: The case of Mauritius. *Journal of Destination Marketing and Management*, 5(1), 16–25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdmm.2015.11.002>
- Naidoo, R., Beytell, P., Malherbe, A., Middleton, A., Perche, J., & Muntifering, J. R. (2021). Heterogeneous consumer preferences for local community involvement in nature-based tourism drive triple-bottom-line gains. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 3(6). <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.425>
- Nepal, S. K., Lai, P., & Nepal, R. (2021). Do local communities perceive linkages between livelihood improvement, sustainable tourism, and conservation in the Annapurna Conservation Area in Nepal? *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 30(1), 279–298. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.1875478>
- Ngo, T., Hales, R., & Lohmann, G. (2019). Collaborative marketing for the sustainable development of community-based tourism enterprises: a reconciliation of diverse perspectives. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(18), 2266–2283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2018.1446919>
- Obrovic, S., & Stojanovic, V. (2021). Measuring residents' attitude toward sustainable tourism development: a case study of the Gradac River gorge, Valjevo (Serbia). *Tourism Recreation Research*, 47(5–6), 499–511. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02508281.2020.1870073>
- Park, E., & Kim, S. (2016). The potential of Cittaslow for sustainable tourism development: enhancing local community's empowerment. *Tourism Planning and Development*, 13(3), 351–369. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2015.1114015>
- Ramukumba, T., Pietersen, J., Mmengwa, V.M. & Coetzee, W. (2011). Participatory development of peri-urban and rural poor communities in tourism in the Garden Route area of Southern Cape, South Africa. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure*, 1(4), 1–9.
- Rubin, A. & Babbie, E.R. (2016). *Empowerment series: Research methods for social work*. Cengage Learning
- Saayman, M., & Giampiccoli, A. (2016). Community-based and pro-poor tourism: Initial assessment of their relation to community development. *European Journal of Tourism Research*, 12, 145–190. <https://doi.org/10.54055/ejtr.v12i.218>
- Saunders, M., Lewies, P. & Thornhill, A. (2012). *Research methods for Business students* (4th Ed). England: Pearson Education Limited publishers.
- Shapley, R. & Telfer, D.J. (2015). *Tourism and development: concepts and issues* (2nd ed.). Sydney: Channel View Publications.

- Shereni, N. C., & Saarinen, J. (2021). Community perceptions on the benefits and challenges of community-based natural resources management in Zimbabwe. *Development Southern Africa*, 38(6), 879–895. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0376835x.2020.1796599>
- Singh, A.S. & Masuku, M.B. (2014). Sampling techniques and determination of sample size in applied statistics research: An overview. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management*, 2(11), 1-22.
- Streimikiene, D., Svagzdiene, B., Jasinskas, E., & Simanavicius, A. (2021). Sustainable tourism development and competitiveness: The systematic literature review. *Sustainable Development*, 29(1), 259–271. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2133>
- Strydom, H. (2011). Ethical aspects of research in the social sciences and human service professions. In: H. Strydom, C. Fouche, C. Delport & A. De Vos (eds), *Research at grass roots for the social sciences and human service professions* (pp. 113-130). Pretoria: Van Schaik.
- Strydom, H., Fouche, C., Delport, C. & De Vos, A. (2011). *Research at grass roots for the social sciences and human service professions*. 4th ed. Pretoria: Van Schaik.
- Stumpf, T. & Cheshire, C. (2019). The land has voice: Understanding the land tenure–Sustainable tourism development nexus in Micronesia. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 27(7), 957-973
- UNWTO & UNDP. (2017). *Tourism and the sustainable development goals –Journey to 2030*. Madrid: Author.
- UNWTO. (2019). *The second edition of the Global Report on Women in Tourism*. Madrid: United World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
- UNWTO. (2020). *COVID-19: Putting people first. Tourism and COVID-19*. Retrieved from <https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19>
- Yasarata, M., Altinay, L., Burns, P. C., & Okumus, F. (2010). Politics and sustainable tourism development – Can they co-exist? Voices from North Cyprus. *Tourism Management*, 31(3), 345–356. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tourman.2009.03.016>
- Yfantidou, G., & Matarazzo, M. (2017). The Future of Sustainable Tourism in Developing Countries. *Sustainable Development*, 25(6), 459–466. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1655>