

Local Communities' Perception of Local Sustainable Development Among Ecotourism Sites in Davao City: Basis for Training - Workshop Activities

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Publication Date: 2025/09/17

Abstract: The local communities' perception is determined to have a substantial influence in acquiring sustainable development among ecotourism sites. For this reason, it helps preserve the natural environment and provides insights into understanding the issues and context of sustainability present in ecotourism sites. Disregarding the local communities' perception, sustainable development in ecotourism sites may cease since the leading factor towards sustainability is the local communities' perception. With that stated, the local communities' perception is the advancement of ecotourism sites. The researchers aim to determine the relationship between local communities' perception and local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City, which will be the basis for training-workshop activities through environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment, reducing risk to future development, revenue, environmental features, and disposition of the local communities. To answer these, the researchers employed a descriptive research design and gathered the data using the questionnaire made by the researchers validated by the Davao City Tourism Operations Office and another validator from the University of Southeastern Philippines, then surveyed five (5) ecotourism sites in Davao City with eighty-six (86) respondents, the local communities. After collecting and analyzing the gathered data, the results revealed a high average of protecting the existing environment, indicating that the respondents conclude that it is significant to preserve the natural environment and its resources. Furthermore, the respondents strongly agree that providing them with education through trainingworkshop activities would cultivate their environmental awareness further, which is essential for sustainable development.

Keywords: *Local Communities' Perception, Sustainable Development, Ecotourism Sites, Descriptive Method, Davao City.*

How to Cite: Krizza Marie Bermudo; Amiel Isaac Del Rosario; Kristian Renjo Gratuito; Ma. Dorel Poquita; Stephanie Kaye Villanueva; Rommy J Mohammad Nalang (2025) Local Communities' Perception of Local Sustainable Development Among Ecotourism Sites in Davao City: Basis for Training - Workshop Activities. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 10(9), 752-765. <https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/25sep369>

I. INTRODUCTION

The local communities' perception is determined to have a substantial influence in acquiring sustainable development among ecotourism sites. For this reason, it helps preserve the natural environment and provides insights into understanding the issues and context of sustainability present in ecotourism sites. Disregarding the local communities' perception, sustainable development in ecotourism sites may cease since the leading factor towards sustainability is the local communities' perception. With that stated, the local communities' perception is the advancement of ecotourism sites. The fundamental rationality for conducting this study is to determine the relationship between local communities' perception and local-sustainable development among

ecotourism sites in Davao City, which will be the basis for training-workshop activities. It will help the local communities recognize that there is significance in their perceptions relating to understanding local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites, for this will contribute to the betterment of society. However, if there is insufficiency concerning their perceptions, the basis for training-workshop activities will be conducted to broaden their perceptions.

The local communities' perception of sustainability transpired great significance for its contributions to ecotourism, which is the preservation of the natural environment in Taiwan (Lee & Jan 2019). In addition, the local communities' perception is considered the fundamental

fraction to develop sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Greece (Jones et al., 2019).

Moreover, the local communities' perception of ecotourism serves as a form of education towards sustainable development in Italy (Mondino & Beery, 2019).

In the study conducted by (Yttredal & Homlong, 2020), the local communities' perception aids sustainable development in Norway, for it provides insights into understanding the issues and context of sustainability. Furthermore, the local communities' perception has significantly influenced sustainable development in Spain, featuring the management and preservation of their ecotourism sites (Chams & García-Blandón, 2019).

In the study of (Rasoolimanesh, Ramakrishna, Hall, Esfandiar, & Seyfi, 2020), the local communities' perception is the leading factor of sustainability in ecotourism. In addition, (da Silva, Brandao, & Sousa, 2019) observed that the local communities' perception promotes growth in the sustainable development influencing ecotourism sites in Portugal. Moreover, in Kenya, the local communities' perception indicates the significance of the advancement of ecotourism sites contributing to sustainable development (Juma & Khademi-Vidra, 2019). The study by (Morais, Castanho, Loures, Pinto-Gomes, & Santos, 2019) conveys that the local communities' perception is highly significant in promoting ecotourism and attaining sustainable development in Angola. Furthermore, the study (Abukhalifeh & Wondirad, 2019) indicates the contributions of ecotourism to the local communities and uses their perceptions to develop sustainable development in Malaysia.

In the Philippines, the local communities' perception has substantially contributed to the blue carbon ecosystem, which generates sustainable development of ecotourism sites, specifically the beaches (Quevedo, Uchiyama, Muhamad, & Kohsaka, 2020). (Quevedo, Uchiyama, & Kohsaka, 2020) highlight the level of awareness of the local community towards the disturbances threatening the natural environment in Eastern Samar, Philippines. Moreover, another study by (Quevedo, Uchiyama, & Kohsaka, 2020) has elaborated that local communities' perceptions can further contribute to other environmental subjects and not exclusively on blue carbon ecosystem matter. In addition, the local communities' perception is substantially significant in Caramoan, Camarines Sur, Philippines, for its essential influence on sustainable development in ecotourism sites (Amata, 2021). Furthermore, the local communities' perception of sustainable development in Palawan, Philippines, has also significantly contributed to ecotourism sites (Sumeldan, Richter, Avillanosa, Bacosa, Greencia, & Pal, 2021).

In Davao City, the local communities' perception has significantly influenced the conservation of wildlife in the Tugbok District, Philippines, which increases awareness of ecological health (Villegas, Clarido, Enobio, Lumpapac, & Ibañez, 2021). In addition, the local communities' perceptions promote socio-economic benefits to preserve the

natural environment influencing the conservation of wildlife that contributes to sustainable development in Davao City

(Sabanal, Achondo, Gamalo, Pedro, Alviola, & Responde, 2021). Moreover, a study conducted by (Celeste, Condino, Dadang, & Amoroso, 2020) discusses the preservation and maintenance of the natural environment in Marilog District, Davao City, which transpired exceptionally through the local communities' perception, resulting in sustainable development. The study (Yanong & Schneider, 2022) stated that the local communities' perception has substantially contributed to sustainable development by increasing environmental awareness affecting the ecotourism sites. In the study conducted by (Cabrera & Lee, 2022), the local communities' perception has considerably influenced the moderation of the production of infrastructures to protect the landscapes of the natural environment and wildlife, referring to the coastal road in Davao City.

Through these statements, the researchers conducted this study to determine further the local communities' perception of local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training workshop activities. For this reason, there is information insufficiency concerning local communities' perception of local-sustainable enhancement among ecotourism sites in Davao City. The local communities' perception and sustainable development transpire less significantly here in the Philippines, specifically in Davao City, compared to other countries, despite appreciating the value of the natural environment and considering the local communities' perception. This study is anchored on the Ecotourism Theory developed by King and Steward (1996) for indigenous people, defined as the commodification of nature implies a change in the meaning of their environment from a source of direct sustenance with a use value to a commodity with an exchange value. The theory aids in developing local communities by giving them a more sustainable alternative source of income. Thus, its goal is to preserve resources, particularly biological diversity, and ensure sustainable use of resources so that travelers can have an ecological experience, protect the environment, and benefit economically. However, the success of ecotourism depends on whether its goals are both economically viable and environmentally and ecologically sustainable. Moreover, it asserts that the indigenous people use nature as a form of leverage. It redefines the idea of the environment as a source of direct support through the use of trading a good or service that nature or the environment offers. In return, the indigenous people protect and value the ecological landscape that benefits them.

The Top-Down theory of perception of Richard Gregory (1970) develops the paradigm of our expectations. It includes expectations from the past and relevant context structure and shapes how we perceive sensory information in human cognition, including perception, recognition, memory, and comprehension. In addition, its perception shifts from general to specific. The hypothesis is pertinent to this study because both positive and negative perceptions of a person might have an impact on their ability to support regional sustainable

development. Both of these perception-related behaviors—making assumptions about what we see and doing our best to assess that the perception is primarily explained by our prior experiences and knowledge. Gregory also said that perception is a theory that is heavily dependent on prior knowledge; in this way, we actively construct our depiction of reality by referencing our surroundings and previously collected information.

The Ecotourism Theory developed by King and Steward(1996) and the Top-down Theory of Perception by Richard Gregory(1970) both support our study on Local Communities' Perception of Local Sustainable Development Among Ecotourism Sites in Davao City: Basis for Training - Workshop Activities, where the two theories are filled to limit the scope of the significant details by concentrating on distinct variables and the particular point of view that we will take in interpreting and analyzing the data that will be collected.

The objective of this research is to study the perception of the local communities to the local sustainable development of ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training workshop activities. The study specifically aims to answer the following questions:

- *What is the Local Communities' Perception Level of Local Sustainable Development in Terms of:*
 - environmental awareness;
 - protecting the existing environment;
 - Reducing risk to future development?
- *What is the Level of Sustainable Development of the Ecotourism Sites as Perceived by The Local Communities in Terms of:*
 - revenue;
 - environmental features;
 - disposition of local communities; and,
- *What forms of Training - Workshop Activities can be Generated to Assist Local Communities' Perception Towards Local Sustainability Among Ecotourism Sites?*
- *Conceptual Framework*

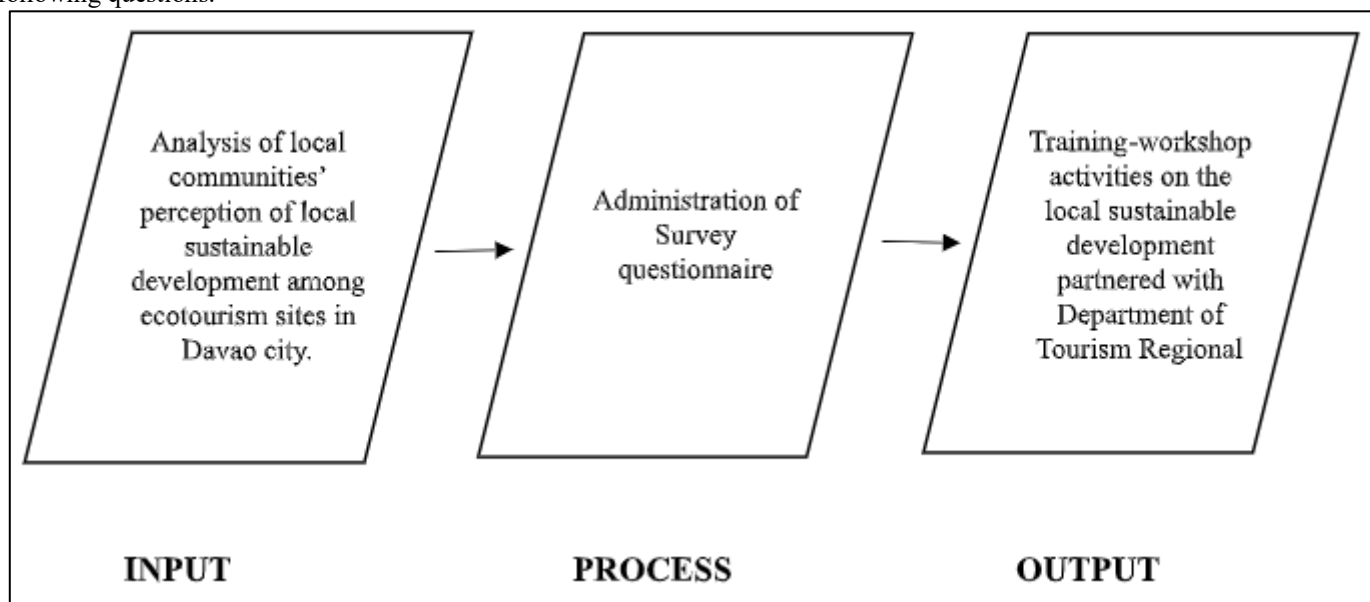


Fig 1 Research Paradigm

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework of the study. The input is the analysis of local communities' perception of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao city. The process is through the administration of a survey questionnaire. Lastly, the results will produce an output, which is training-workshop activities partnered with the Department of Tourism Regional Office XI.

II. METHODS

The researchers' work utilizes the descriptive quantitative method as their research design employing the input process output format. For this reason, they aim to know the perception of local communities towards local-

sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training workshop activities. The descriptive quantitative method is a research design that acquires information through a specific population and situation (McCombes, 2022). Thus, the researchers will increase the probability of reliability and effectiveness of their research findings, relating to the local communities' perception of local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training workshop activities.

➤ *Participants*

The respondents of this study were limited to the local communities to learn about the local communities'

perceptions of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City:

Basis for training-workshop activities. Non-Residents and Tourists of the Local Communities as Participants are not included. The total Respondents of from local communities working within the ecotourism sites is 86.

In addition, Purposive Random sampling was the method the researchers employed. A purposive random sampling method was used to ensure the trustworthiness of data collection, allowing the researchers to find the samples that can yield the most relevant insights into the phenomenon under investigation (Esfehani & Albrecht, 2019) and (Campbell, 2020). In addition, purposive random sampling is where a researcher selects a sample based on the needs of the study. This study covers five ecotourism sites in Davao City and was limited to 13 respondents for 2 ecotourism sites and limited to 20 respondents for the remaining 3 ecotourism sites a total of 86 respondents.

➤ Setting

This study was conducted in the different ecotourism sites within Davao City, specifically, the first site is located in Barangay Malagos Baguio District, Calinan Davao City. This site consists of breeding pairs of birds and it's also one of the top attractions. The second and third sites are in Barangay Datu Salumay Marilog district which features fresh local produce, special offers of agricultural farming experience to their tourist, and promotes hiking and accommodation. The fourth site is located in Barangay Carmen Baguio District, Davao City. This site is surrounded by mountains and features trailing, and birdwatching and promotes the Obu Manuvu tribe. Lastly, is in Toril Davao city one of the most popular visited man-made resorts.

Ecotourism Site A is known for operating as a breeding facility for protected species in Davao City and is considered a major tourist attraction, which is located in Barangay Malagos in Davao City.

Next, *Ecotourism Site B* is in Barangay Datu Salumay Marilog district which features fresh local produce, special

offers of agricultural farming experience to their tourist, and promotes hiking and accommodation.

Also, *Ecotourism Site C* is in Barangay Datu Salumay Marilog district which features fresh local produce and special offers of agricultural farming experience to their tourist.

Fourth, *Ecotourism Site E* is located at Barangay Carmen Baguio District, Davao City. This site is surrounded by mountains and features trailing, and birdwatching and promotes the Obu Manuvu tribe.

Lastly, *Ecotourism Site E* is one of the most popular and most visited mountain resorts located in Brgy. Eden, Toril, Davao city.

➤ Instrument

The research instrument used in this study is based on certain references about local communities' perceptions of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites, which have been taken by the researchers and modified, and have been approved by the Davao City Tourism Operations Office. A handout questionnaire was used to collect data and assess respondents' perceptions of the matter under discussion. The questionnaire serves as the main tool for the gathered data. The researchers created an instrument to gauge how the local communities in Davao City perceive local sustainable development among ecotourism sites. The questionnaire consists of twenty (20) items and is separated into six (6) indicators: environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment, reducing risk to future development, revenue, environmental features, and disposition of local communities.

To evaluate if their responses to the provided questions are valid, the researchers utilized a four-Likert scale. The scale is divided into four verbal descriptions: strongly disagree (4); disagree (3); agree (2), and; (1) strongly agree.

The computed mean in each indicator has its respective interpretation shown in Table 2.

Table 1 Interpretation Table for Mean Range Intervals

Scale	Interval	Description	Interpretation
4	0.75-1.75	Strongly Disagree	The selected ecotourism site never upholds the stated objective.
3	1.76-2.51	Disagree	The selected ecotourism site seldom upholds the stated objective.
2	2.52-3.27	Agree	The selected ecotourism site somewhat upholds the stated objective.
1	3.28-4.00	Strongly Agree	1 3.28-4.00 The selected ecotourism site consistently upholds the stated objective.

➤ Ethical Consideration

In the conduct of the study, the protection of respondents, as well as the researchers, is found to be important. Hence, the following ethical considerations were considered.

➤ Informed Consent.

The protocol includes using the informed consent form to notify the participants of voluntary participation in administering the survey. Should respondents withdraw from

participating in the study, the researchers would respectfully accept their refusal. Provisions are offered in the protocol for recruiting respondents needing help comprehending the consent form. In addition, conditions transpired prepared in the protocol for recruiting respondents incapable of expressing their decision.

➤ Privacy and Confidentiality.

The enlistment procedure includes proper security for the privacy and psychosocial needs of the respondents. In

addition, the protocol has appropriate provisions to ensure confidentiality in obtaining information from the respondents. The protocol offers the right of the researchers to disapprove individuals asking for information regarding the respondents' data who are not in the study. In addition, provisions transpired prepared in the proposal for the appropriate administration of the collected information from respondents.

➤ *Deception.*

The section discusses the risks and benefits for participants if disinformation is present in the study. The researchers established to provide participants with the accurate information they needed as to why researchers conducted this study and chose them as respondents to avoid deception.

➤ *Coercion.*

The protocol discusses the prevention of insistence in the study. The researchers guaranteed that voluntary participation transpired established in surveying to avoid disrespecting the decision and disposition of the respondents.

➤ *Risk and Benefit Analysis.*

The section talks about the possible disadvantages and benefits of the participants in the study. It contains guidelines for the respondents to be conscious of the proceeding operations in participating in the survey presented by the researchers. In addition, the agreement ensures that provisions transpired provided for proper assistance to respondents during and after the survey. The output shall transpire distributed to different ecotourism sites in partnership with the Davao City Tourism Operations Office.

➤ *Integrity.*

The protocol discusses the use of righteousness in conducting the study. The researchers established to provide accurate information about the research project to ensure its credibility and trustworthiness.

➤ *Objectivity*

The section discusses the use of fairness in establishing the research project. The researchers ensure that the construction of the paper is not biased or based on the personal interest of the researchers.

➤ *Data Accuracy.*

The protocol discusses the correct usage of the collected data in a research paper. The researchers guarantee that the data gathered for the study transpired according to the protocol to maintain integrity.

➤ *Social Responsibility.*

The research procedure outlines how the local communities will serve as participants to gain from the study. The protocols mentioned in the data-gathering process specify if its outcomes were advantageous with other groups other than the research respondents. The study's findings transpire according to the protocol.

➤ *Inclusion or Diversity.*

The section discusses the importance of presenting the distinctiveness of the participants included in the study. The researchers established the respondents from their distinction as local communities within their respective communities.

➤ *Respect for Human Dignity.*

The protocol discusses the importance of treating the participants with courtesy. The researchers established appreciation among the local communities who serve as respondents, assisting the researchers through the collected data.

➤ *Compliance with Regulations.*

The section discusses the protocols for administrating research. The researchers' findings transpired accordingly to the protocols, securing the research procedure was conducted appropriately.

➤ *Research Procedure*

• *The following Steps are Employed in the study:*

- ✓ Step 1 The researchers brainstormed a title that piqued their interests and that is relevant to their course.
- ✓ Step 2. The researchers have gathered relevant data to employ a course of action.
- ✓ Step 3. The researchers created a survey questionnaire based solely on their statement of the problem.
- ✓ Step 4. The researchers picked Five (5) ecotourism destinations as their respondents for their study.
- ✓ Step 5. The researchers sought approval from the Dean and Adviser through a letter of consent and sent the letter of consent signed by the Dean and Adviser to the President of Davao Doctors College Inc., to conduct the study.
- ✓ Step 6. The researches also sought the approval of the Davao City Tourism Operations office and were accepted.
- ✓ Step 7. The researchers proceeded and conducted pilot testing through google forms with random respondents but mostly students.
- ✓ Step 8. The researchers began their survey after the pilot testing and the permission to conduct the study was accepted.
- ✓ Step 9. The researchers traveled to the ecotourism destinations that were picked to survey with a letter of consent informing the respondents to participate.
- ✓ Step 10. The researchers surveyed the five (5) target ecotourism sites.
- ✓ Step 11. After the survey was conducted and the answers were acquired the researchers tallied the results to be taken to the statistician.
- ✓ Step 12. The researchers gave the tallied results to the statistician to be computed for the lowest mean.
- ✓ Step 13. After the statistician computed and gave the result to the researchers, the researchers began to gather relevant data to utilize the results of the survey with the lowest mean.
- ✓ Step 14. The researchers came up with a conclusion and an action plan based on the results of the survey.

➤ Data Analysis

In this study, a quantitative survey was carried out to determine the local communities' perception of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training-workshop activities. Several statistical tools, including tables, mean calculations, and the Likert scale, were used to analyze the survey data. Based on the survey results, these tools were used to generate insightful information and guide the creation of training and workshop activities:

➤ Mean

The mean was employed to calculate the average of respondents' answers and analyze the viewpoints of local communities regarding sustainable development in ecotourism sites in Davao City. The lowest mean is also the basis for training workshop activities.

➤ Scope and Limitation

The level of analysis was limited to the local communities to know the local communities' perception of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training-workshop activities. In addition, to specify, non-residents and tourists as participants are not included. The Local Communities' perception was categorized into 6 categories: (1) the interest of locals in ecotourism; (2) the perception of locals regarding the

economic impacts of ecotourism (3) the effects of ecotourism on respondents' lifestyles; (4) the effects of ecotourism on economic inequality in the study area; (5) perceptions to the effects of ecotourism on infrastructure development in their community, and; (6) the effects of ecotourism on local knowledge improvement. To delimit the study, the sampling method that the researchers employed is a purposive random sampling method to determine the local communities' perception of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao city, which will serve as a basis for training-workshop activities.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researchers have gathered data to identify the local communities' perception of local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City, which will be the basis for training-workshop activities. The following shows the summary of the gathered data based on the problem statement.

➤ SOP #1: What is the local communities' perception level of local sustainable development in terms of:

- Environmental Awareness;
- Protecting The Existing Environment;
- Reducing Risk To Future Development?

Table 2 Local Communities' Perception Level of Local Sustainable Development

Knowledge Profile	Average	Description
Environmental awareness	3.41	Strongly Agree
Protecting the existing environment	3.69	Strongly Agree
Reducing risk to future development	3.36	Strongly Agree

General Average 3.48 Strongly Agree

Table 1 indicates the perception of local communities in terms of development concerning environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment and reducing risk to future development. In terms of protecting the existing environment, with an average of 3.69, the description strongly agrees. To conserve and maintain natural resources, the local community has agreed to protect the existing environment. They ensure that these resources are used wisely and that the environment is protected within the framework of sustainable development. Loughan and Pisaniello (2019) Focus on the significance of sustainability and environmental awareness for achieving a healthier and more just world. The authors contend that promoting sustainable behavior and raising environmental awareness is essential for safeguarding the environment and lowering risk.

Thus, by achieving a balance between natural resources and human consumption that respects nature and supports our modern way of life, environmental sustainability can be achieved such that future generations will have access to enough natural resources to maintain a standard of living that is on equal with or better than that of today's generation.

In terms of environmental awareness with an average of 3.41, the description strongly agrees. The local community supports environmental awareness because educating people

is essential to preserving the environment and its resources. Because of this, the locals are willing to take part in new workshops and training sessions that will help them comprehend and deal with the potential effects of the climate crisis and equip them with the knowledge, principles, and behaviors required to act as change-aware locals. According to Mkumbachi's (2020) related studies, Environmental awareness has a significant impact on raising people's awareness of the environment and transforming them into environmentally conscious citizens.

Moreover, environmental awareness enables people to acquire the value, abilities, and knowledge necessary for sustainable living. Therefore, raising the awareness of everyone about climate and the challenges of climate change is one of the possible solutions to solve environmental problems caused by human activities; With this awareness, individuals are aware of these adverse environmental impacts and engage in environmentally friendly/environmental.

Lastly, the perception of local communities in terms of reducing risk with an average of 3.36, the description strongly agrees. As local people living in ecotourism areas, it is easier for them to respond to risk reduction because they have the local knowledge to identify and understand the risks, as well as the local capacity or deal with them. Rothenberg and

Niggli (2019) emphasize the importance of stakeholder engagement in environmental protection and risk reduction. The authors argue that engaging stakeholders helps promote understanding and cooperation in identifying and addressing environmental problems and finding solutions. As a result of project stakeholders sharing a common understanding and participating in project decision-making where to gain commitment to the project, and ultimately increase the chances of sustainability after the project has been completed improving environmental performance can positively affect financial performance and competitiveness.

Hence, the perception of local communities in terms of development concerning environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment, and reducing risk, with a general average of 3.48, the description strongly agrees. Therefore, Locals are eager to participate in new workshops and training sessions that will help them understand and deal

with the potential effects of the climate crisis, as well as equip them with the knowledge, principles, and behaviors needed to act as change-aware locals. Raising individual awareness about climate and the challenges of climate change is one of the possible solutions to environmental problems caused by human activities; with this awareness, individuals are aware of these negative environmental impacts and engage in environmentally friendly/environmental activities that respect nature and support our modern way of life.

➤ *SOP #2: How do Ecotourism sites Affect local Sustainable Development through:*

- *Revenue;*
- *Environmental Features;*
- *Disposition Of Local Communities; And,*

Table 3 The Effect of Ecotourism Sites on Local Sustainable Development

Comprehension Profile	Average	Description
Revenue	3.67	Strongly Agree
Environmental features	3.15	Agree
Disposition of local communities	3.20	Agree

General Average 3.34 Strongly Agree

Table 2 indicates the local communities' comprehension of eco-tourism sites that affects local-sustainable development concerning revenue, environmental features, and disposition of local communities. Concerning revenue, with an average of 3.67, the description strongly agrees. The majority of the respondents agree that revenue affects local-sustainable development. For this reason, without revenue, eco-tourism sites will unlikely to operate efficiently, affecting the residents and reduction of activities that minimize waste in the natural environment. The article by (Kalaitan et al., 2021) indicates that revenue toward local sustainability, including eco-tourism, lessens the impact of poverty and heightens the protection of the environment.

For this reason, revenue progresses the state of an eco-tourism site by improving the living conditions of the rural population with employment and mitigating waste towards the natural environment by preserving and exhibiting the existence of a particular eco-tourism site, leading to local sustainability.

In terms of the disposition of local communities with an average of 3.20, the description shows agree. The majority of the respondents agree that ecotourism sites enhance local sustainable development. According to The United Nations General Assembly's resolution from the study of Kalaitan et al., 2021, the business of ecotourism and other forms of sustainable tourism is important for reducing poverty and preserving the environment. Ecotourism illustrates multidimensional activity with environmental, cultural, and economic aspects that can promote achieving sustainable development goals. In addition, ecotourism can encourage the wise use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources, educate culture and raise the standard of living for people who live in rural areas. Also, it can benefit the underprivileged by

supporting job growth. As a result, being environmentally conscious is crucial to our daily life as it represents an important step toward sustainable development.

In terms of environmental features with an average of 3.15, the description shows agree. Respondents acknowledge that sustainable development benefits residents as well as the environment. Rezaeinejad and Khaniwadekar, 2021, agreed that sustainable development is based on a broad individual strategy. It contains useful ideas for long-term health preservation, promotion, and improvement as well as meeting human needs and wants. Furthermore, a comfortable environment and social equality are crucial factors in creating economic growth without compromising the capability of the next generation. As a result, this could encourage positive influences on the residents, environment, increase the quality of life, and build the community.

Thus, the local communities' comprehension of ecotourism sites that affects localsustainable development concerning revenue, environmental features, and disposition of the local communities, with an average of 3.34, the description strongly agrees, indicating that the majority of the respondents agree that revenue, environmental features, and disposition of the local communities affect local-sustainable development.

➤ *SOP #3: what form of Training - Workshop Activities can be Generated to Assist Local Communities' Perception towards Local Sustainability among Ecotourism Sites?*

A successful ecotourism framework requires a multifaceted approach that integrates environmental education, local community engagement, and strategic risk management. Proactive environmental education is essential to cultivate public awareness and comprehension of conservation principles (Buckley, 2019). This is achieved

through the development of structured programs and projects that serve both visitors and local populations, such as seminars and educational materials on sustainable resource management, wildlife protection, and climate change adaptation (Buckley, 2019). Collaboration with academic institutions further enriches these efforts by incorporating environmental studies into curricula and organizing field visits to ecotourism sites (Buckley, 2019). Furthermore, engaging local communities directly through workshops and events fosters a crucial sense of ownership and responsibility toward conservation (UNWTO, 2019). The efficacy of these educational initiatives can be continuously enhanced through the evaluation of feedback mechanisms and surveys (Stronza, Hunt, & Fitzgerald, 2019).

The perspective and participation of local communities are critical for achieving sustainable development in ecotourism. Incorporating the insights of local people alongside conservation and tourism goals can promote sustainable development, focusing on the preservation of pristine natural areas (Akshay & Nizar, 2022). This not only reduces the harmful environmental impacts of tourism but also creates employment and income opportunities for residents, directly linking local livelihoods to the sustainability of ecotourism areas (Akshay & Nizar, 2022). Local insights are also vital for fostering independent community development and enhancing the capacity of local organizations (Muhammad & Ju-young, 2021). As a key element of sustainable community-based ecotourism, active local engagement is necessary for a successful ecotourism model (Muhammad & Ju-young, 2021). The involvement of local populations as significant stakeholders is essential for promoting tourist destinations and community-based tourism organizations (Harshavardhan et al., 2021).

Moreover, local community involvement is a crucial component of mitigating risks for future ecotourism development. Preserving natural environments and resources is paramount for sustainable development (Asadi et al., 2022). The participation and perception of local communities have been shown to be effective in minimizing the impact of risks, such as those affecting wildlife in the Abbas Abad Wildlife Refuge in Iran (Asadi et al., 2022) and preserving marine protected areas in Malaysia (Rahman, Masud, Akhtar, & Hossain, 2022). Identifying and addressing potential risks to ecotourism sites requires calculated measures and careful attention to lessen uncertainty and minimize negative environmental impacts on sustainable development (Rezvani, Nickraves, Astaneh, & Kazemi, 2022).

IV. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter explains the summary, conclusion, and recommendations of the study conducted by the researchers.

➤ Summary

Sustainable development and local communities' perceptions seemed less relevant in the Philippines than in other countries despite an appreciation for the worth of the natural environment and considering local communities'

perceptions. This study was employed to determine the relationship between local communities' perception and local sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City, which will be the basis for training workshop activities. The researchers conducted a descriptive quantitative method for the local communities that are working within their respective ecotourism sites. This study covers five (5) ecotourism sites in Davao City. The survey questionnaire consists of twenty (20) items and is separated into three (6) indicators: environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment, reducing risk to future development, revenue, environmental features, and disposition of local communities. The study recommends knowledge and awareness of the value of conserving local communities' natural resources which can support their sustainable use and management. This may benefit the preservation and promotion of local cultural assets while also giving tourists the chance to become familiar with and appreciate the local way of life. Furthermore, this can promote mutual respect and understanding between the tourism sector and residents.

➤ Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of the local community's perception of local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City: Basis for training-workshop activities indicates that the majority of respondents strongly agree with the factors that environmental awareness, protecting the existing environment, reducing risk for future development, revenue, environmental features, and disposition of local communities is essential among ecotourism sites in Davao City. The factors that convey the highest average are protecting the existing environment in the statement of the problem item number one (1) and revenue in item number two (2). It indicates the participants acknowledge that protecting the existing environment and revenue is significant in sustainable development.

Hence, the study suggests that the local community's perception of local-sustainable development among ecotourism sites in Davao City should further flourish. It includes conducting training-workshop activities initiated by ecotourism sites to provide an in-depth lesson to spread awareness and construct strategies to preserve the natural environment, which could improve the knowledge of local communities towards local-sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the conclusion above, the following recommendations are offered.

- Locations that cater to ecotourism may pay special attention to providing educational resources and opportunities to assist advance sustainable behavior and provide local people with greater influence. Locals can be better equipped to participate in eco-friendly tourist activities and to support conservation initiatives through education and training. This can improve the local economy and the tourism industry while also contributing to the preservation of the area's natural environment and cultural heritage.

- Ecotourism destinations may offer local populations educational materials and tools, such as brochures, instructional videos, and online resources. These resources can be utilized to enhance training courses and offer continuous instruction and assistance to regional communities.
- Ecotourism sites may involve local communities in the planning and decision-making processes related to tourism development. This can help to ensure that local perspectives and needs are taken into account and can promote a sense of community ownership and responsibility.
- Ecotourism sites may collaborate with nearby educational institutions to offer educational opportunities relating to ecotourism and sustainability. This could encourage a sustainability-oriented culture in nearby towns and assist young people become more aware and interested.
- Ecotourism sites may foster cross-cultural interaction and comprehension by giving visitors the chance to learn about regional traditions and customs and by including members of the local community in the visitor experience. This can improve the visitor experience and encourage respect for the local cultures.
- Ecotourism sites may put a high priority on using regional supplies, goods, and services. Giving local firms the chance to expand and thrive, can boost local economies and encourage sustainable development.
- To support environmental education and conservation initiatives, ecotourism destinations may collaborate with regional conservation groups and resource management organizations. This can encourage the sustainable use and management of natural resources and assist raise awareness among local populations about how important it is to protect them.
- Ecotourism sites may offer locals the chance to take part in ecotourism activities including guided tours, hiking, and biodiversity observation. This can serve to encourage community involvement and also present local citizens with employment options.
- Ecotourism sites may seek to promote social fairness and inclusiveness by making sure all people in the community, regardless of financial class or background, have access to training and educational opportunities.
- Ecotourism sites may collaborate with regional cultural organizations like museums and community centers to advance cultural preservation and education. Giving tourists the chance to learn about and respect local traditions and practices, this can assist to maintain and promote local cultural heritage. Additionally, this can foster mutual respect and understanding between the tourism sector and neighborhood communities.
- Researchers may look at how views and actions toward sustainable tourism have changed as a result of education and training, to give tourism stakeholders, the information they need to make wise decisions about initiatives in this area.
- Tourists may Seek out ecotourism destinations that actively involve and give local populations educational opportunities as responsible travelers, as this encourages

sustainable tourism practices and gives locals more influence.

- Tourists may Take part in educational activities and programs offered by ecotourism sites to learn about local cultures, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices, contributing to their understanding and supporting the development of local communities
- To encourage a greater understanding of sustainability customs, cultural preservation, as well as protecting the environment, the Department of Tourism might want to consider developing educational and training programs for communities living in ecotourism sites.
- The Department of Tourism may allocate resources to support capacity-building programs for local communities in ecotourism destinations, providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in the tourism industry while preserving their cultural heritage and natural environment.
- The Department of Tourism and local educational institutions may foster collaboration to develop curriculum and training modules that integrate sustainable tourism principles, ensuring that future tourism professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills to promote and practice responsible and sustainable tourism in ecotourism destinations.
- Davao Doctors Administration may collaborate with local ecotourism sites and organizations to establish partnerships and internships for students, offering them practical experiences in ecotourism management, cultural preservation, and sustainable development, thereby preparing them for careers in the ecotourism industry while contributing to local community growth.
- Davao Doctors Administration may foster research collaborations between faculty members and local communities to conduct studies on ecotourism practices, environmental conservation, and community development, contributing to the body of knowledge in the field and promoting sustainable practices within the local community.

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