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The Influence of Community Participation and Destination Management on the Development of Sustainable Tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park

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Abstract

Sustainable tourism development in conservation-based destinations depends on effective community participation and destination management; however, the relative contribution of these factors at Pangumbahan Turtle Park remains insufficiently understood. This study aimed to examine the effects of community participation and destination management on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. A quantitative descriptive design was employed, involving 100 respondents comprising local community members, destination managers, and other tourism stakeholders selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using questionnaires and analyzed with IBM SPSS Statistics Version 32 through validity and reliability testing, classical assumption testing, multiple linear regression, t-tests, an F-test, and coefficient of determination analysis. The findings indicate that community participation had a positive and statistically significant effect on sustainable tourism development ($t = 5.336$, $p < .001$), whereas destination management did not demonstrate a significant partial effect ($t = 1.260$, $p = .211$). Simultaneously, community participation and destination management significantly influenced sustainable tourism

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development (F = 208.670, p < .001). The adjusted R^2 value of .808 indicates that the two predictors explained 80.8% of the variance in sustainable tourism development, while the remaining 19.2% was attributable to other factors. The study concludes that community participation is the dominant determinant of sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. These findings contribute empirical evidence to the sustainable tourism literature by clarifying the relative influence of participatory and managerial factors in a conservation-based destination. Practically, the results underscore the need to strengthen community involvement while improving destination management practices to support the long-term sustainability of conservation tourism.

Keywords: Community Participation; Conservation Tourism; Destination Management; Pangumbahan Turtle Park; Sustainable Tourism Development

INTRODUCTION

The tourism sector has become one of the strategic industries that plays a significant role in supporting economic growth, improving community welfare, and promoting regional development (Aini, 2024; Mun'im, 2022;Wahyuningsi et al., 2024). Tourism not only contributes to increasing regional revenue and creating employment opportunities but also encourages the preservation of cultural heritage and the environment when managed sustainably (Rahmat, 2021; Haribudiman et al., 202). This view is consistent with Suriyani et al. (2022), who stated that *"the tourism sector plays an important role in increasing regional income while simultaneously promoting the natural and cultural resource potential of a region."* This argument is further supported by Januarto and Viria (2023), who explained that *"tourism activities developed in a sustainable manner are capable of generating positive socio-economic impacts for local communities through increased income, employment opportunities, and the welfare of communities surrounding tourism destinations."* According to the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia, the tourism industry contributed 4.67% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023, representing an increase compared with the previous year.

According to the concept of Sustainable Tourism, sustainable tourism development refers to tourism management efforts that emphasize a balanced integration of economic, environmental, and social dimensions to ensure the long-term preservation of natural resources for future generations (Hakim, 2024; Horas et al., 2023; Wibowo & Belia, 2023). This perspective is reinforced by Nugroho (2022), who argued that "conservation tourism

serves as a means of environmental preservation while simultaneously enhancing the welfare of local communities through tourism-based economic activities."

Furthermore, the development of sea turtle conservation tourism also performs an educational function by increasing public awareness of the importance of wildlife and environmental conservation. One of Indonesia's prominent sea turtle conservation destinations is Pangumbahan Turtle Park, located in Sukabumi Regency, West Java. This conservation area is widely recognized as one of the largest green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting sites in Indonesia (Nurhayati et al., 2022; Afandy et al., 2017; Leonita et al., 2019; Afif & Yulianda, 2020).

Pangumbahan Turtle Park offers a range of tourism attractions, including turtle conservation activities, hatchling (*tukik*) release programs, environmental education, and coastal tourism that attract both domestic and international visitors. According to visitor data obtained from the management of Pangumbahan Turtle Park, the number of tourists visiting the destination reached 11,834 in 2025. These data indicate that Pangumbahan.

Turtle Park possesses considerable tourism potential and continues to attract increasing visitor interest. Hermawan and Krisnadi (2021) argued that environmentally based destination management is an essential factor in maintaining a balance between the utilization of tourism resources and environmental conservation efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of tourism destinations.

According to an article published by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the development of conservation-based ecotourism at Pangumbahan Beach continues to face challenges, particularly the limited implementation of community empowerment programs in the management of the conservation tourism area. This condition indicates that community involvement in the development of conservation tourism needs to be further strengthened. Based on direct observations and interviews conducted with one of the destination managers at Pangumbahan Turtle Park, community participation in conservation tourism activities remains largely concentrated on simple economic activities. Local residents are generally not directly involved as employees or as part of the official destination management organization; instead, they participate through activities such as managing parking areas and serving as tour guides for visitors to the turtle conservation site. The findings from the observations and interviews therefore suggest that community participation is still predominantly oriented toward taking advantage of the economic

opportunities generated by tourism activities, whereas involvement in tourism planning, monitoring, and decision-making related to conservation tourism management remains relatively limited. These findings imply that community empowerment and participation in the management of conservation tourism destinations need to be strengthened to support sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

Furthermore, the interview findings revealed that there are currently no specific regulations governing the implementation of turtle conservation and sustainable tourism management within the area. At present, conservation management is primarily focused on providing and maintaining turtle breeding and conservation facilities managed by the destination management authority.

Field observations and interviews revealed that community participation is still primarily limited to economic activities such as providing parking services and guiding visitors, while involvement in planning, monitoring, and decision-making remains relatively low. Furthermore, destination management has not yet optimally implemented sustainable tourism principles. Environmental education programs remain limited, regulations specifically governing sustainable tourism and turtle conservation are not yet available, and waste management continues to rely on open burning due to inadequate waste collection systems. These conditions indicate that both community empowerment and destination management require further improvement to ensure the sustainability of conservation tourism.

Based on these issues, this study aims to analyze the influence of community participation and destination management on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. The findings are expected to enrich the literature on sustainable conservation tourism while providing practical recommendations for destination managers and relevant stakeholders to strengthen sustainable tourism governance in conservation areas.

METHODS

This study employed a quantitative research approach using a descriptive research design to examine the influence of community participation and destination management on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park, Sukabumi Regency, West Java, Indonesia. A quantitative approach was selected because it enables the objective

measurement of variables and hypothesis testing through statistical analysis, whereas the descriptive design facilitates a systematic description of the existing conditions of the research variables (Sugiyono, 2022; Hardani et al., 2022).

The study population consisted of tourists who had visited Pangumbahan Turtle Park. Based on the 2025 visitor records (11,834 visitors), the sample size was determined using the Slovin formula with a 10% margin of error, resulting in 100 respondents. Participants were selected through purposive sampling, with the criteria that respondents had visited Pangumbahan Turtle Park at least once and were familiar with tourism and conservation activities at the destination (Sugiyono, 2022; Hardani et al., 2022).

Data were collected through structured questionnaires employing a four-point Likert scale, supported by field observations, documentation, and literature review. The questionnaire measured three research variables: community participation (X_1), destination management (X_2), and sustainable tourism development (Y), with indicators adapted from the sustainable tourism framework proposed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2023). Primary data were obtained directly from respondents, whereas secondary data were collected from scientific journals, books, government publications, previous studies, and official documents related to Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

Prior to hypothesis testing, the research instrument underwent validity and reliability testing. Construct validity was assessed using the Pearson Product–Moment correlation, while internal consistency reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha, with a coefficient greater than 0.70 indicating acceptable reliability (Sugiyono, 2022).

The collected data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 32. The analytical procedures included descriptive statistics, classical assumption tests, multiple linear regression analysis, partial (t-test), simultaneous (F-test), and the coefficient of determination (Adjusted R^2) to determine both the individual and combined effects of community participation and destination management on sustainable tourism development.

This research was conducted at Pangumbahan Turtle Park, Sukabumi Regency, West Java, Indonesia, during the 2026 research period. Ethical considerations were observed by ensuring that participation was voluntary, respondents provided informed consent before completing the questionnaire, personal information remained confidential, and all collected data were used exclusively for academic and research purposes.

RESULTS

Classical Assumption Tests

Normality Test

Table 1 Results of the One-Sample Kolmogorov–Smirnov Normality Test

	Unstandardized Residual
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	0.004
Monte Carlo Sig. (2-tail	0.161

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the normality test results presented in Table 1, the Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) value was 0.004. This value is lower than the significance level of 0.05 (0.004 < 0.05), indicating that the residual data do not satisfy the normality assumption according to the One-Sample Kolmogorov–Smirnov test.

Therefore, a further normality assessment was conducted using the Monte Carlo Sig. (2-tailed) approach. The results showed a significance value of 0.161, which exceeds the significance threshold of 0.05 (0.161 > 0.05). Accordingly, it can be concluded that the residuals are normally distributed and satisfy the normality assumption required for subsequent regression analysis.

Multicollinearity Test

Table 2. Multicollinearity Test Results

Model	Tolerance	VIF
Community Participation	0.103	9.751
Destination Management	0.103	9.751

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the results of the multicollinearity test presented in Table 2, the community participation (X_1) variable has a Tolerance value of 0.103 and a Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value of 9.751. Similarly, the destination management (X_2) variable has a Tolerance value of 0.103 and a VIF value of 9.751.

The Tolerance values for both variables are greater than 0.10, while the VIF values are below 10. Therefore, it can be concluded that the regression model is free from multicollinearity. These findings indicate that the community participation and destination management variables do not exhibit excessive intercorrelation. Consequently, both variables are appropriate for inclusion in the multiple regression analysis to explain their influence on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

Heteroscedasticity Test

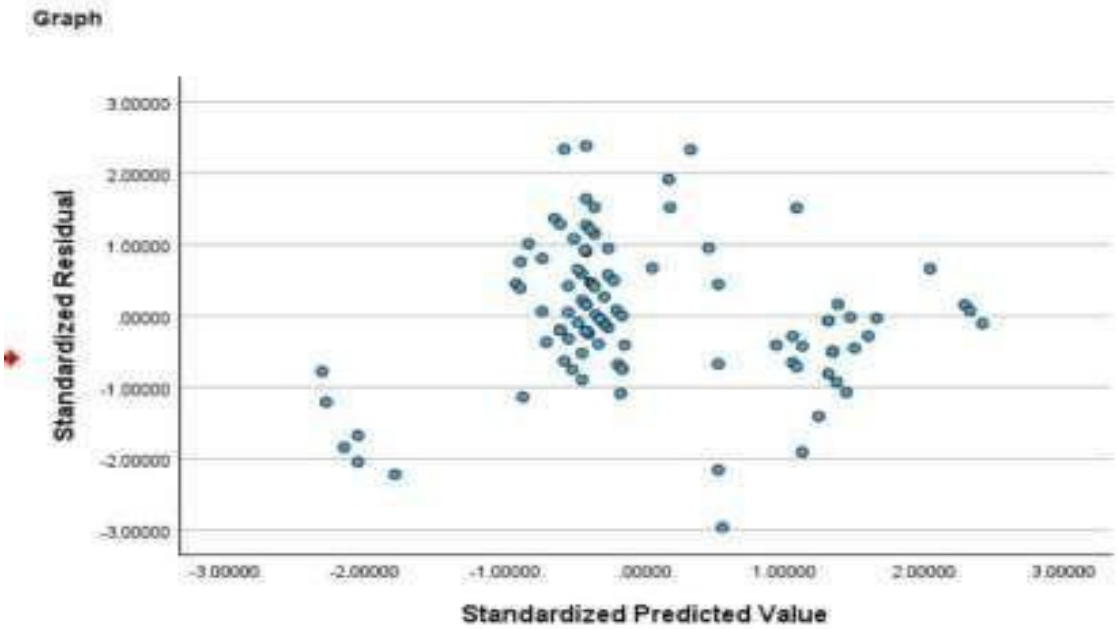

Figure 1. Scatterplot Graph

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the scatterplot presented in Figure 1, the distribution pattern of the residual points does not exhibit any specific pattern, such as a funnel shape, widening, or a wave-like distribution. Instead, the residuals are randomly dispersed above and below the zero line on the Y-axis, indicating the absence of unequal residual variances. Therefore, it can be concluded that the regression model is free from heteroscedasticity and is appropriate for subsequent statistical analyses.

The discussion section aims to analyze, interpret, and explain the research findings critically. Authors should connect the findings with the research problems, research objectives, hypotheses where applicable, relevant theories, previous literature, and the research context. The discussion should not merely repeat the results; rather, it should demonstrate the meaning, contribution, implications, and limitations of the study in a reflective and argumentative manner. The main components of the discussion include the following.

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Table 3. Results of the Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficient (B)
Constant	6.365
Community Participation	0.710
Destination Management	0.164

Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis presented in Table 3, the regression equation is as follows:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta 1X1 + \beta 2X2 + e$$

$$Y = 6.365 + 0.710\ X1 + 0.164X2 + e$$

Based on the regression equation, the constant value (α) of 6.365 indicates that when the community participation (X_1) and destination management (X_2) variables are assumed to be constant or equal to zero, the value of sustainable tourism development (Y) is 6.365.

1. Regression coefficient of community participation (X_1) = 0.710

The regression coefficient for the community participation variable is 0.710, indicating that every one-unit increase in community participation will increase sustainable tourism development by **0**.710 units, assuming that the destination management variable remains constant. The positive regression coefficient indicates a positive relationship between community participation and sustainable tourism development. Therefore, higher levels of community participation are associated with higher levels of sustainable tourism development.

2. Regression coefficient of destination management (X_2) = 0.164

The regression coefficient for the destination management variable is 0.164, indicating that every one-unit increase in destination management will increase sustainable tourism development by 0.164 units, assuming that the community participation variable remains constant. The positive coefficient indicates a positive relationship between destination management and sustainable tourism development, suggesting that improvements in destination management are accompanied by improvements in sustainable tourism development.

Overall, the regression analysis demonstrates that both community participation and destination management have a positive influence on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. These findings indicate that greater community involvement, together with improved destination management practices, tends to be associated with enhanced implementation of sustainable tourism principles within this conservation tourism destination.

Hypothesis Testing

Partial Test (t-test)

Table 4. Results of the t-Test

Model	t	Sig.
Community Participation	5.336	0.000
Destination Management	1.260	0.211

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the results of the t-test presented in Table 4 , the following findings were obtained:

1. The Community Participation variable (X_1) has a significant partial effect on Sustainable Tourism (Y). This is indicated by a significance value of 0.000, which is lower than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05), and a calculated t-value of 5.336, which is greater than the critical t-value of 1.98472 (5.336 > 1.98472). Therefore, H_{01} is rejected and H_{a1} is accepted. These findings indicate that community participation has a significant influence on sustainable tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

2. The Destination Management variable (X_2) does not have a significant partial effect on Sustainable Tourism (Y). This is indicated by a significance value of 0.211, which is greater than 0.05 (0.211 > 0.05), and a calculated t-value of 1.260, which is lower than the critical t-value of 1.98472 (1.260 < 1.98472). Therefore, H_{02} is accepted and H_{a2} is rejected. These findings indicate that destination management has not yet exerted a significant influence on sustainable tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

Simultaneous Test (F-test)

Table 5. Results of the F-Test

Model	F	Sig.
1	29.573	0.000

Dependent Variable: Sustainable Tourism
Predictors: (Constant), Community Participation, Destination Management

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the results of the F-test presented in Table 5 the calculated F-value was 29.573, which is greater than the critical F-value of 3.938 (29.573 > 3.938). Furthermore, the significance value obtained was 0.000, which is lower than the significance level of 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). Based on these results, H_{03} is rejected and H_{a3} is accepted. Therefore, the variables of community participation (X_1) and destination management (X_2) simultaneously have a significant effect on sustainable tourism (Y) at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. These findings

indicate that the better community participation and destination management are implemented collectively, the higher the level of sustainable tourism achieved at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

Coefficient of Determination Test

Table 6. Results of the Coefficient of Determination Test

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
1	.901	.811	.808

Dependent Variable: Sustainable Tourism

Predictors: (Constant), Community Participation, Destination Management

Source: Statistical data processed by the researcher (2026).

Based on the results of the coefficient of determination test presented in Table 6, the Adjusted R Square value was 0.808. This result indicates that the variables of community participation (X_1) and destination management (X_2) jointly explain 80.8% of the variance in sustainable tourism development (Y).

The remaining 19.2% is explained by other factors beyond the variables examined in this study. Therefore, it can be concluded that community participation and destination management make a substantial contribution to influencing the development of sustainable tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

DISCUSSION

The study entitled "The Influence of Community Participation and Destination Management on Sustainable Tourism Development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park" employed a quantitative research approach to examine the effects of the independent variables, namely Community Participation (X_1) and Destination Management (X_2), on the dependent variable, Sustainable Tourism Development (Y). Research data were collected through questionnaires administered to local community members and tourists who possessed knowledge of and experience with tourism and conservation activities at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

The sample was determined using a purposive sampling technique, resulting in 100 respondents who met the following criteria: (a) respondents had visited Pangumbahan Turtle Park at least once, and (b) respondents were familiar with or had directly observed the tourism and conservation activities conducted at Pangumbahan Turtle Park.

The questionnaires were distributed directly to respondents in the vicinity of Pangumbahan Turtle Park with the assistance of the destination management authority during the data collection process. This approach was adopted to ensure that the selected respondents possessed sufficient knowledge and understanding of the conditions and management practices of the conservation tourism destination. The research instrument employed a four-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 to 4, comprising the response categories Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, and Strongly Agree. This scale was used to measure respondents' perceptions of each statement related to the research variables.

The questionnaire consisted of 36 statements, equally distributed across the three research variables: 12 statements measuring Community Participation (X_1), 12 statements measuring Destination Management (X_2), and 12 statements measuring Sustainable Tourism Development (Y). All collected data were subsequently processed and analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 32 to perform statistical analyses, including validity testing, reliability testing, classical assumption tests, multiple linear regression analysis, partial (t) tests, simultaneous (F) tests, and coefficient of determination (R^2) analysis.

The Influence of Community Participation on Sustainable Tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park

The results of the hypothesis testing for the Community Participation variable (X_1) are presented in Table 4 Based on the results of the *t*-test, the Community Participation variable (X_1) obtained a calculated *t*-value of 5.336, which is higher than the critical *t*-value of 1.98472. Furthermore, the significance value was 0.000, which is lower than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Community Participation variable (X_1) has a statistically significant effect on Sustainable Tourism (Y). Accordingly, H_{01} is rejected and H_{a1} is accepted. Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis presented in Table 4.5, the Community Participation variable (X_1) has a regression coefficient of 0.710. This coefficient indicates that every one-unit increase in community participation is associated with a 0.710-unit increase in sustainable tourism, assuming that the other independent variables remain constant.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that community participation is one of the key factors supporting the realization of sustainable tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. The greater the involvement of local communities in tourism planning, implementation, monitoring, and conservation activities, the higher the level of sustainable tourism that can be achieved. The findings demonstrate that community participation makes

a significant contribution to the successful development of sustainable tourism. Community involvement in environmental protection, support for sea turtle conservation programs, and participation in tourism activities generates positive impacts on the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of Pangumbahan Turtle Park. These findings are also consistent with field observations, which indicate that the successful development of conservation-based tourism cannot be separated from the support and active involvement of the surrounding communities. Therefore, efforts to enhance community participation should continue to be promoted through community empowerment, greater involvement in decision-making processes, and increased public awareness of the importance of conservation and sustainable tourism. In this way, local communities function not only as beneficiaries of tourism development but also as key stakeholders and principal actors in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Pangumbahan Turtle Park as a conservation tourism destination.

The Influence of Community Participation on Sustainable Tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park

Based on the results of the *t*-test presented in Table 4, the Community Participation (X_1) variable obtained a calculated *t*-value of 5.336. This value is greater than the critical *t*-value of 1.98472 (5.336 > 1.98472). Furthermore, the significance value was 0.000, which is lower than the significance level of 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the Community Participation (X_1) variable has a significant effect on Sustainable Tourism (Y). Therefore, H_{01} is rejected and H_{a1} is accepted.

Furthermore, based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis presented in 3, the regression coefficient for the Community Participation (X_1) variable was 0.710. The positive regression coefficient indicates a positive relationship between Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism. This means that every one-unit increase in Community Participation will increase Sustainable Tourism by 0.710 units, assuming that the Destination Management (X_2) variable remains constant.

The findings of this study indicate that Community Participation has a significant influence on Sustainable Tourism at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. In other words, the higher the level of community participation in activities related to the development and conservation of the tourism destination, the greater the success of implementing sustainable tourism within the destination.

From a scientific perspective, this study provides empirical evidence supporting the theoretical relationship between community participation and sustainable tourism development within a conservation tourism context. Unlike many previous studies that examined community participation independently, this research demonstrates its influence within an integrated model involving destination management, thereby enriching the literature on sustainable conservation tourism. Practically, the findings suggest that destination managers should strengthen mechanisms that encourage community involvement not only in tourism-related economic activities but also in planning, environmental monitoring, conservation programs, and decision-making processes. Greater community engagement is expected to reinforce environmental conservation while simultaneously improving local economic benefits and the long-term competitiveness of Pangumbahan Turtle Park. From a policy perspective, local governments should formulate policies that institutionalize community participation through participatory tourism planning, community-based conservation programs, environmental education initiatives, and capacity-building programs that enable local residents to become active stakeholders in destination governance.

Despite these important findings, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, this study was conducted exclusively at Pangumbahan Turtle Park, limiting the generalizability of the findings to other conservation tourism destinations with different environmental and socio-cultural characteristics. Second, the study employed a quantitative cross-sectional design, which captures respondents' perceptions at a single point in time and therefore cannot explain changes in community participation over time. Third, the analysis focused solely on community participation and destination management as predictors of sustainable tourism development, whereas other potentially influential variables, such as environmental awareness, stakeholder collaboration, institutional capacity, government support, tourism policies, visitor behavior, and conservation commitment, were not included in the research model. Consequently, future studies are encouraged to incorporate these additional variables, adopt longitudinal or mixed-method approaches, and expand the study area to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of sustainable tourism development in conservation-based tourism destinations.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that community participation has a positive and significant influence on sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park, indicating that increased community involvement in tourism planning, implementation, monitoring, and benefit-sharing contributes substantially to the successful implementation of sustainable tourism. In contrast, destination management does not have a significant partial effect on sustainable tourism development. Nevertheless, the simultaneous analysis demonstrates that community participation and destination management jointly exert a significant influence on sustainable tourism development, indicating that both variables collectively contribute to achieving sustainable tourism objectives at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. These findings directly answer the research objectives by confirming the significant individual effect of community participation, the non-significant individual effect of destination management, and the significant combined effect of both variables on sustainable tourism development.

This study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on sustainable tourism, particularly within conservation-based tourism destinations, by providing empirical evidence that community participation represents the dominant factor supporting sustainable tourism development at Pangumbahan Turtle Park. Furthermore, the findings reinforce the importance of integrating community engagement with destination management as complementary elements in promoting the long-term sustainability of conservation tourism destinations.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that destination managers and relevant stakeholders strengthen community involvement through greater participation in tourism planning, implementation, monitoring, and benefit-sharing, while continuously improving destination management practices to better support sustainable tourism development. Future studies are encouraged to examine additional factors influencing sustainable tourism development beyond community participation and destination management in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of sustainable tourism governance in conservation-based destinations.

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