



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN LY SON ISLAND DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, VIETNAM

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APA Citation:

Nguyen Thanh Tuong (2022). SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN LY SON ISLAND DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, VIETNAM, *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 18(1), 1224-1244.

Submission Date: 14/12/2021

Acceptance Date: 03/03/2022

ABSTRACT

Through research and assessment on the level of sustainable development, it can be seen that tourism activities in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province, Vietnam have been developing in a sustainable direction. This sustainability is fully demonstrated through economic, social and environmental aspects... The aggregate score on three economic, social and environmental domains is quite high, with a given score compared to the maximum score percentage of 68.8%, 70.8% and 62.8% respectively. Thus, it can be affirmed that tourism in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province, Vietnam is quite sustainable. However, tourism activities here in the process of development also reveal some potential risks of unsustainability. These risks need to be overcome for tourism activities in Ly Son island district to become a bright spot in tourism development in the sea and island area of Vietnam.

Keywords: Sustainable tourism development, tourism activities, Ly Son island district.

1. INTRODUCTION

The central coastal strip of Vietnam is one of the areas where many forms of valuable natural resources are concentrated for the development of many different economic sectors such as transportation, fishing and aquaculture, tourism...In particular, this place also has unique landscapes,

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great ecological values of sea and islands like in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province. Ly Son island district is located in the Northeast, 15 nautical miles from the mainland of Quang Ngai province, on the sea route from North to South and at the gateway of Dung Quat economic zone; 121 nautical miles from the Hoang Sa archipelago, 90 nautical miles from the nearest international shipping lane, with this position of the island district of Ly Son, the island district has become the leading administrative unit of the country, with the role of ensuring ensure national security and sovereignty at sea, and at the same time have a lot of potential for sustainable tourism development. In recent years, tourism in Ly Son island district has made strong development steps and achieved remarkable achievements. However, in the process of development, tourism activities still reveal unsustainable factors in all three fields of economy, society and environment.

Sustainable tourism development is a new category in the tourism development strategy in many countries around the world and in Vietnam, so studying and identifying signs (indicators) to identify the state of this development process is very important. Based on these signs, managers can have appropriate and timely solutions to adjust activities to achieve a more sustainable state for the development process. The research and assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province, Vietnam is an urgent job, to clarify the sustainable development of the tourism industry in terms of economic, social and environmental aspects. Evaluation results will create a scientific basis to contribute to the development of proper tourism development right from the first stage to ensure sustainable goals for Ly Son island district.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Tourism development in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province in recent years has made significant progress, however, in the development process, there have appeared some unsustainable factors from an economic perspective, society and environment. Therefore, this study aims to establish a scientific basis for sustainable tourism development in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province. To achieve the above research purpose, the following study will answer the following questions:

1) To what extent does tourism development in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province meet the criteria of sustainable tourism?

2) What solutions to promote sustainable tourism development in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province?

In order to achieve the stated purposes, the following research will focus on solving the following tasks:

1) Assess the level of sustainable tourism development in Ly Son island district, identify problems for ensuring sustainable tourism in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province.

2) Propose orientations and solutions for sustainable tourism development in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province.

3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Data sources

In order to obtain objective and scientifically accurate assessments of tourism development issues in Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province, we conducted a survey by questionnaire and in-depth interviews with 3678 people (2601 domestic tourists, 418 international tourists and 659 local communities) were collected in Ly Son island district according to prepared questionnaires. In addition, we consulted experts and managers in developing a set of criteria to evaluate the sustainability of tourism activities for Ly Son island district, Quang Ngai province.

3.2. Method of assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the economic, social and environmental

3.2.1. Proposing to develop a set of criteria to assess the sustainability of tourism activities

The process of developing criteria for assessing the sustainability level of the data contract: is carried out in a four-step process:

Step 1: Review and review existing criteria;

Step 2: Think about, propose new criteria;

Step 3: Screening, selection criteria;

Step 4: Combine and harmonize the criteria.

Determine the criteria related to data collection in Ly Son island district: During the period 2007 - 2020, the tourism development of Ly Son island district has achieved many significant achievements such as the average number of tourists coming to the district each year 57.4%, tourism income achieved a growth rate of 67.2%/year. In 2020, tourism contributed 10.8% in the economic structure of Ly Son island district. Achieving the above results, tourism contributes directly to the economic restructuring of the island district in the direction of promoting the advantages and comparative advantages of the locality, gradually reducing the proportion of agriculture from 67.32 % (in 2007) to 59.5% (in 2015) and by 2020 it will be 42.7%, instead the service industry will increase in order from 29.32% to 35.3% and 46.9% (Ly Son District People's Committee, 2011, 2016, 2021). Tourism also contributes significantly to improving income and living standards for island district communities. However, besides these achievements, tourism development in Ly Son island district still has many

shortcomings and limitations to overcome. In order to comprehensively evaluate the shortcomings and limitations, we conducted interviews with experts of prestigious research institutes and universities, tourism managers of the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism Quang Ngai province calendar, officials and staff of the Information and Culture Department and the People's Committee of Ly Son island district, tourists as well as some local people to identify the main issues that are currently concerned, specifically include the following issues:

Regarding economic issues: Ly Son island district has not built a unique, unique and attractive tourism product to attract visitors to stay for a long time, the level of meeting customers' needs is still low, so the rate of satisfied tourists and returning to Ly Son is very low; The propaganda and promotion of tourist island image is not strong and not diversified, the presence rate in tourism communication events is still low, so visitors to Ly Son are not much, especially international visitors; The contingent of state management staff on tourism as well as service staff at motels and hotel hotels has not yet had professional skills (Ly Son District People's Committee, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020).

Regarding social issues: The rate of local communities involved in building, commenting and supervising the implementation of local investment and tourism development projects is still very low; The rate of employment in the tourism industry for local people on the total number of employees is still low; The situation of begging, stealing and pulling tourists tends to increase.

Regarding environmental issues: Environmental sanitation, garbage collection at tourist sites still have many shortcomings; Many accommodation establishments do not have a waste collection and treatment system; The rate of contribution from tourism income to the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection in resorts and tourist sites is still very low (Ly Son District People's Committee, 2008, 2015, 2020).

3.2.2. The results suggest a set of criteria to assess the sustainability of tourism activities

On the basis of the above-mentioned issues, to ensure the harmonization between economic and social objectives and the protection of environmental resources, we have developed a set of criteria according to the four process. The steps are given above. In this process, step one (Review and review of existing criteria) is conducted mainly based on the documents of reputable organizations and individuals researching on tourism such as Manning's (Manning, E.W.,1996), Criteria for assessing the sustainability of tourism development by Martin Mowforth and Ian Munt (Martin Mowforth and Ian Munt, 2001), Criteria for assessing the sustainability of tourism activities by Pham Trung Luong (Pham Trung Luong, 2008) and by Netherlands Development Organization and the University of Hawaii (Twining Ward, L., 2007)... After comparing the existing criteria with the objectives as well as the priority issues in sustainable tourism development identified for Ly Son island district, we developed a list of Criteria for conducting a "test and verification" assessment according to the above procedure to consider the appropriateness of these criteria. In addition to the existing criteria, we also

interviewed the opinions of experts to research and develop new criteria and refine the criteria, coordinate the criteria based on relevance to the subject matter the main mind and the corresponding goal, easy to measure with available human and financial resources, simple and understandable to meet management measures and especially to determine the percentage for each criterion to beat, therefore, it is possible to propose specific and effective solutions to bring the tourism development of Ly Son island district towards sustainable development. The result has been developed a set of criteria to assess the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district in terms of economic, social, environmental and State management perspective (this group is integrating in each economic, social and environmental domain to have a more comprehensive view) is shown in the following tables:

Table 1. *Criteria for assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the economic*

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Recommended standard
1. Index of tourism income and proportion of tourism in the economic structure	- Speed of tourism income growth	- Very sustainable:> 10%/year
	- Speed of increasing the proportion of tourism in the local economic structure	- Quite sustainable: 8 - 10%/year - Average sustainability: 4-7%/year - Less sustainable: <4%/year
2. Index of tourists	- Average growth rate of spending	- Very sustainable:> 10%/year
	- Speed up the average number of days of stay	- Quite sustainable: 8 - 10%/year - Average sustainability: 4-7%/year - Less sustainable: <4%/year
	- The rate of tourists returning	- Very sustainable:> 80%
	- Satisfaction rate of tourists	- Quite sustainable: 60-80% - Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%
3. Responsibility in tourism promotional activities	- The accuracy of broadcast information compared to reality	- Very sustainable:> 80% - Quite sustainable: 60-80%
	Presence rate in Tourism communication events	- Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%
4. The quality of tourism resources is raised in a sustainable way	- Percentage of tourism workers participating in training courses	- Very sustainable:> 80% - Quite sustainable: 60-80% - Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%
	- The rate of increase of the tourism labor force participating in annual training courses	- Very sustainable:> 10%/year - Quite sustainable: 8 - 10%/year - Average sustainability: 4-7%/year

		- Less sustainable: <4%/year
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Table 2. *Criteria for assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the social*

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Recommended standard
1. Speed of development of small and medium tourism enterprises	- Speed of development of shipping business establishments	- Very sustainable:> 20%/year
	- Speed of development of accommodation business establishments	- Quite sustainable: 15-20%/year - Average sustainability: 8-14%/year
	- Speed of development of catering business establishments	- Less sustainable: <8%/year
2. The satisfaction level of the local community for tourism activities	- Proportion of local communities participating in building, commenting and supervising the implementation of investment projects and tourism development in the locality (number of people surveyed)	- Very sustainable:> 80% - Quite sustainable: 60-80% - Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%
	- Overall satisfaction of the local community for tourism activities (number of people surveyed)	
3. Create jobs for local people	- The rate of employment in the tourism industry for local people over the total number of local employees	- Very sustainable:> 10%/year - Quite sustainable: 8 - 10%/year - Average sustainability: 4-7%/year - Less sustainable: <4%/year
	- The rate of employment increase in tourism	- Very sustainable:> 80% - Quite sustainable: 60-80% - Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%
4. Regarding the work of ensuring safety, security and social security	- Health risks (illness, accident) due to tourism for tourists	- Very sustainable: <5 cases/year - Quite sustainable: 5-10 cases/year
	- Number of theft and robbery cases involving tourists	- Average sustainability: 11-15 cases/year - Less sustainable:> 15 cases/year
	- The number of begging phenomena, street vendors clinging to, seizing tourists	- Very sustainable: <10 cases/year - Quite sustainable: 10-15 cases/year - Average sustainability: 16-20 cases/year - Less sustainable:> 20 cases/year

Table 3. Criteria for assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the environmental

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Recommended standard	
1. Proportion of tourist sites and spots invested in renovation and conservation	- Very sustainable: > 80%	
2. Proportion of planned resorts and sites	- Quite sustainable: 60-80%	
3. Rate of contribution from tourism income for conservation, resource development and environmental protection	- Average sustainability: 40-59% - Less sustainable: <40%	
4. Managing and limiting pressure on the environment in tourist sites and destinations	- The rate of tourist resorts and spots has regulations on sightseeing rules and environmental protection	
	- Percentage of tourist sites and sites with daily garbage collection	- Very sustainable: > 80%
	- Percentage of tourist sites and destinations has limited capacity for tourists	- Quite sustainable: 60-80% - Average sustainability: 40-59%
	- Percentage of tourist sites and destinations with standard garbage bins	- Less sustainable: <40%
	- Percentage of accommodation facilities with standard waste collection and treatment systems	
	- Average amount of water used per tourist per day and night stay in accommodation facilities (liters)	- Very sustainable: <100 liters - Quite sustainable: 100 - 150 liters - Average sustainability: 151 - 200 liters - Less sustainable: > 200 liters

Determine the weight: The most important criterion is 3, the less important criterion is the weight of 2 and the weight of 1 is the least important criterion. Each evaluation criterion is determined to correspond to the following 4 levels: (1) Very sustainable: 4 scores; (2) Quite sustainable: 3 scores; (3) Average sustainability: 2 scores; (4) less sustainable: 1 scores.

Assessment score: The individual assessment scores of each indicator is scores of that indicator corresponding to the rating scale multiplied by the weight of that factor. Thus, the highest individual assessment scores of an element with the highest level and the highest coefficient is $4 \times 3 = 12$. The lowest evaluation scores is the lowest order of the first order of the coefficient low will be $1 \times 1 = 1$ (Tables 4.5 and 6).

Table 4. Evaluation of the overall sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the economic

	Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria			
			4	3	2	1
Economy	1. Index of tourism income and proportion of tourism in the economic structure	3	12	9	6	3
	2. Index of tourists	2	8	6	4	2
	3. Responsibility in tourism promotional activities	1	4	3	2	1
	4. The quality of tourism resources is raised in a sustainable way	2	8	6	4	2
	Final scores		32	24	16	8
	% of the maximum scores		76-100%	51-75%	25-50%	< 25%
	Rating hierarchy		Very sustainable	Quite sustainable	Average sustainability	Less sustainable

Table 5. General assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the social

	Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria			
			4	3	2	1
Society	1. Speed of development of small and medium tourism enterprises	1	4	3	2	1
	2. The satisfaction level of the local community for tourism activities	3	12	9	6	3
	3. Create jobs for local people	3	12	9	6	3
	4. Regarding the work of ensuring safety, security and social security	2	8	6	4	2
	Final score		36	27	18	9
	% of the maximum score		76-100%	51-75%	25-50%	<25%

	Rating hierarchy	Very sustainable	Quite sustainable	Average sustainability	Less sustainable
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Table 6. General assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the environmental

	Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria			
			4	3	2	1
Environment	1. Proportion of tourist sites and spots invested in renovation and conservation	2	8	6	4	2
	2. Proportion of planned resorts and sites	2	8	6	4	2
	3. Rate of contribution from tourism income for conservation, resource development and environmental protection	2	8	6	4	2
	4. Managing and limiting pressure on the environment in tourist sites and destinations	3	12	9	6	3
	Final scores		36	27	18	9
	% of the maximum scores		76-100%	51-75%	25-50%	< 25%
	Rating hierarchy		Very sustainable	Quite sustainable	Average sustainability	Less sustainable

The decentralization of the sustainability level of tourism activities corresponds to the rate of assessment compared to the maximum scores based on the research results of some similar studies and

based on the results of an in-depth investigation of an expert. The results of general assessment show the sustainability of tourism activities of Ly Son island district in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability. This result is the basis for developing strategies and solutions for tourism development in Ly Son island district in a sustainable way.

4. RESEARCH RESULTS

4.1. Results of assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the economic, social and environmental

4.1.1. Assessing the sustainability of tourism activities under fields the economic

Tourism income and the proportion of tourism in the economic structure: From 2007 to 2020, the number of tourists to Ly Son island district increased, so the tourism income also increased significantly. In 2007, tourism income of Ly Son island district reached 1.06 billion VND, in 2012 reached 10.44 billion VND and especially in 2015 reached 114 billion VND. In 2018 tourism income will reach 276.8 billion VND, in 2019 it will be 317.6 billion VND (2.8 times higher than in 2015), however, by 2020 tourism income will only reach 235.1 billion VND (decreased by 82.5 billion VND compared to 2019) due to the prolonged Covid-19 epidemic, the number of tourists to Ly Son island district has decreased a lot. The average growth rate of tourism income is 67.2% and the average growth rate of tourism proportion in the district's economic structure is 72,6%/year (2007 - 2020). Therefore, the evaluation point for the index of tourism income and the proportion of tourism in the economic structure is 4 scores, with the level being very sustainable.

Table 7. Index of tourism income and proportion of tourism in economic structure

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Index of tourism income and proportion of tourism in the economic structure	- Speed of tourism income growth	67,2%	Very sustainable	4	4
	- Speed of increasing the proportion of tourism in the local economic structure	72.6%	Very sustainable	4	

Index of tourists: Through analysis of the indicators of tourists to Ly Son island district in the past years, it shows that: The rate of average spending increase, the average number of days of stay, the rate of satisfaction and return of tourists is only at the average level and assessed as medium sustainable, with a rating of 1.5 scores as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Result of index assessment on tourists

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Index of tourists	- Average growth rate of spending	International visitors: 6.2% and domestic visitors: 5.2%	Average sustainability	2	1.5
	- Speed up the average number of days of stay	International visitors: 4.3% and domestic visitors: 6.5%	Average sustainability	2	
	- The rate of tourists returning	International visitors: 6.9% and domestic visitors 22.9%	Less sustainable	1	
	- Satisfaction rate of tourists	International visitors: 39.2% and domestic visitors 34.7%	Less sustainable	1	

Responsibility in tourism propaganda and promotion: Tourism propaganda and propaganda in Ly Son has achieved remarkable achievements, but the efficiency is not high, it has not created a common attraction. through, information has not arrived much for visitors, the content has not been implemented much, still passive, lack of cooperation and sharing from tourism enterprises, tourists have access to Ly Son's destination from sources information is still low. Therefore, this criterion is evaluated with a rating of 2 scores, at the average sustainability level.

Table 9. Results of assessment of responsibility in propaganda and tourism promotion

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Responsibility in tourism promotional activities	- The accuracy of broadcast information compared to reality	79.2%	Quite sustainable	3	2
	- Presence rate in Tourism communication events	17.3%	Less sustainable	1	

The quality of tourism resources is raised in a sustainable way: The labor force participating in tourism business of Ly Son island district has increased over the years, with the average growth rate in the period of 2007 - 2020 reaching 36.6%. In 2007 there were only 155 employees, by 2015 it was 665 people and by 2020 it was 1115 people (7.2 times higher than in 2007 and 1.7 times compared to 2015). However, the quality of labor resources is very low. There are only 21 people with university and college degrees (accounting for 1.9%), 52 people with intermediate qualifications (accounting for 4.7%) but not majoring in tourism; There are 128 people at primary level (accounting for 11.5%), the rest are untrained workers accounting for 81.9%. Although there is an increase in the number of tourism workers over the years, the quality is still very low, there is a shortage of skilled workers and weak professional skills, mainly unskilled and unskilled workers create. Therefore, this criterion is evaluated with a score of 2.5 scores, with a degree of average sustainability.

Table 10. Evaluation results of criteria for quality of tourism labor resources

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
The quality of tourism resources is raised in a sustainable way	- Percentage of tourism workers participating in training courses	18.6%	Less sustainable	1	2.5
	- The rate of increase of the tourism labor force participating in annual training courses	22.8%	Very sustainable	4	

Summarizing the results of assessing the sustainability of tourism activities in the economic field in Ly Son island district with a total score of 22 scores (reaching 68.8% of the maximum score), staying at the level is quite sustainable.

Table 11. Summary of assessing the level of sustainable tourism development under fields the economic

	Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria	Total rating scores according to each criterion
Economy	1. Index of tourism income and proportion of tourism in the economic structure	3	4	12
	2. Index of tourists	2	1.5	3
	3. Responsibility in tourism promotional activities	1	2	2
	4. The quality of tourism resources is raised in a sustainable way	2	2.5	5
	Final scores			22
	% of the maximum scores			68.8
	Rating hierarchy			Quite sustainable

4.1.2. Assessing the level of sustainable tourism development under fields the social

Speed of development of small and medium tourism enterprises: The system of tourism enterprises in Ly Son has increased rapidly over the years as shown in Table 12. Therefore, this criterion is assessed as 4 scores with the level is very sustainable. However, these businesses are

mainly in the form of household, small-scale, low professionalism, so it has a significant impact on meeting the demand for tourists.

Table 12. Results of assessing the growth rate of small and medium tourism enterprises

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Speed of development of small and medium tourism enterprises	- Speed of development of shipping business establishments	47.5%	Very sustainable	4	4
	- Speed of development of accommodation business establishments	56.2%	Very sustainable	4	
	- Speed of development of catering business establishments	62.4%	Very sustainable	4	

The level of satisfaction of the local community with the database: Most of the tourist sites in Ly Son island district being exploited and used have the participation and support of the community and reach the level of comedy high heart (93.8%). However, the proportion of local communities involved in building, commenting and monitoring the implementation of local databases is very small (only 16.1%). Therefore, the evaluation score is 2.5 scores with a level that is quite sustainable.

Table 13. Results of evaluation on the satisfaction level of local communities

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
The satisfaction level of the local community for tourism activities	- Proportion of local communities participating in building, commenting and supervising the implementation of investment projects and tourism development in the locality (number of people surveyed)	16.1%	Less sustainable	1	2.5
	- Overall satisfaction of the local community for tourism activities (number of people surveyed)	93.8%	Very sustainable	4	

Creating jobs for local people: Tourism has solved jobs for more than 1170 direct employees and more than 3215 indirect labors on island districts. However, the employment rate in the tourism industry for local people on the total number of laborers in the island district (2007- 2020 period) is

low, accounting for only 7.8%, with the rate of employment growth. In tourism reached 26.9%. Therefore, the assessment score is 1 scores with the level of being less sustainable.

Table 14. Results of evaluation on employment creation for local people

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Create jobs for local people	- The rate of employment in the tourism industry for local people over the total number of local employees	7.8%	Quite sustainable	3	2
	- The rate of employment increase in tourism	26.9%	Less sustainable	1	

The work of ensuring social security and safety in tourism development: The process of tourism development in recent years in Ly Son, it can be seen that the impact of tourism on culture and society is positive. rather than negative. Social evils related to tourism...are almost nonexistent and are always under the control of local authorities. Therefore, the rating score is 4 scores with a level of very sustainable.

Table 15. Evaluation results of work to ensure security and social safety

Criteria for sustainable tourism		Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Regarding the work of ensuring safety, security and social security	- Health risks (illness, accident) due to tourism for tourists	4 cases	Very sustainable	4	4
	- Number of theft and robbery cases involving tourists	2 cases	Very sustainable	4	
	- The number of begging phenomena, street vendors clinging to, seizing tourists	6 cases	Very sustainable	4	

The results of general assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in the field of society in the island district with a total score of 22.5 scores (reaching 62.5% compared to the maximum score), at a quite sustainable level.

Table 16. Summary assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities under fields the social

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria	Total rating scores according to each criterion

Society	1. Speed of development of small and medium tourism enterprises	1	4	4
	2. The satisfaction level of the local community for tourism activities	3	2.5	7.5
	3. Create jobs for local people	3	2	6
	4. Regarding the work of ensuring safety, security and social security	2	4	8
	Final scores	25.5		
	% of the maximum scores	70.8		
	Rating hierarchy	Quite sustainable		

4.1.3. Assessing the level of sustainable tourism development under fields the environmental

Quantity (rate) of tourist sites and spots invested, renovated and protected: Most of tourist spots in Ly Son island district are invested, renovated and protected (79.1% of tourist destinations/total scores) with a rating score of 3 scores, which is quite sustainable, is shown in Table 17. However, the amount of capital available for this work is still small, currently some degraded points need to be invested, restored and protected again to better serve sustainable development.

Table 17. Results of assessment of tourist areas and destinations invested and restored

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Proportion of tourist sites and spots invested in renovation and conservation	79.1%	Quite sustainable	3	3

Quantity (proportion) of planned tourist sites and spots: Tourist spots in Ly Son island district, which are planned for investment in tourism development, have a 100% planning rate with a number of points rated 4 scores, at very sustainable level.

Table 18. Results of evaluation of indicators of planned tourist areas and spots

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Proportion of planned resorts and sites	100%	Very sustainable	4	4

The contribution from tourism income to the conservation and development of natural resources and environmental protection: Currently, the contribution from tourism income to conservation, resource development and environmental protection in Ly Son island district is very low, because all

tourist destinations on the island district do not charge and sell entrance tickets. Thus, on the side of the tourism management agency, there is almost no revenue from the database. All funding sources for investment in conservation, resource development and environmental protection are taken from the district budget or supported by the province and the central government. However, the district’s funding source each year only allocates about 100 million VND so it is not enough to restore and restore relics at degraded tourist sites. Thus, the evaluation score for this criterion is 1 scores, at a level that is less sustainable.

Table 19. Results of assessment of contribution rate from tourism income for conservation, resource development and environmental protection

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores
Rate of contribution from tourism income for conservation, resource development and environmental protection	Few (100 million VND/year)	Less sustainable	1	1

Managing and limiting pressure on the environment in tourist sites and destinations: Currently the environment at tourist sites in Ly Son island district is under pressure from fishing and aquaculture activities, products, from the extraction of algae and coastal resources, from the production of onion garlic, from the garbage of residential areas and tourists ... Recently, local authorities have implementing many measures to manage and limit the pressure on the environment at tourist sites. However, the results are not high and there are many shortcomings. Thus, the evaluation score for this criterion is 2.2 scores, at the average level of sustainability shown in Table 20.

Table 20. Evaluation results on management and pressure constraints on the environment at tourist sites

Criteria for sustainable tourism	Results	Level Sustainability	Rating scores	Average scores	
Managing and limiting pressure on the environment in tourist sites and destinations	- The rate of tourist resorts and spots has regulations on sightseeing rules and environmental protection	79.2%	Quite sustainable	3	2.2
	- Percentage of tourist sites and sites with daily garbage collection	11.5%	Less sustainable	1	
	- Percentage of tourist sites and destinations has limited capacity for tourists	No	Less sustainable	1	
	- Percentage of tourist sites and destinations has limited capacity for tourists	92.4%	Very	4	

ion	destinations with standard garbage bins		sustainable		
	- Percentage of accommodation facilities with standard waste collection and treatment systems	7.5%	Less sustainable	1	
	- Average amount of water used per tourist per day and night stay in accommodation facilities (liters)	147 lít	Quite sustainable	3	

The evaluation point summarizes the sustainability of tourism activities in the environmental field in Ly Son island district with a total score of 22.6 scores (reaching 62.8% of the maximum score) at the level quite sustainable is shown in Table 21.

Table 21. Summary assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities under fields the environmental

	Criteria for sustainable tourism	Weight	Rating scores according to criteria	Total rating scores according to each criterion
Environment	1. Proportion of tourist sites and spots invested in renovation and conservation	2	3	6
	2. Proportion of planned resorts and sites	2	4	8
	3. Rate of contribution from tourism income for conservation, resource development and environmental protection	2	1	2
	4. Managing and limiting pressure on the environment in tourist sites and destinations	3	2.2	6.6
	Final scores			22.6
	% of the maximum scores			62.8
	Rating hierarchy			Quite sustainable

The summary of the assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district on three economic, social and environmental areas is quite high. Thus, it can be affirmed that tourism activities in Ly Son island district are quite sustainable as shown in Table 22. However, the problem is not only considering the ranking results but also paying attention to the hitting points.

Comprehensive prices on each sector and points to assess each criterion for a comprehensive view to provide orientations and solutions to develop tourism in an appropriate and effective manner.

Table 22. *Summary assessment of the sustainability of tourism activities in Ly Son island district under fields the economic, social and environmental sustainability*

Fields	Final scores	% of the maximum scores	Level Sustainability
Economy	22	68.8	Quite sustainable
Society	25.5	70.8	Quite sustainable
Environment	22.6	62.8	Quite sustainable

4.2. Proposing some solutions to contribute to tourism development of Ly Son island district in the direction of sustainability and efficiency

Group of solutions to ensure sustainable tourism development from an economic perspective: Focus on building and developing a tourism product set which is considered a strong and unique feature of Ly Son island district such as: Diving to watch corals; Discover and experience “Garlic Kingdom”; Preserving and promoting cultural and island values associated with national sovereignty. Improve the quality of propaganda and promotion and tourism promotion. In addition, it is necessary to focus on training to improve the quality of tourism workers, assessing the actual situation of the tourism labor force throughout the island district in terms of both quantity and quality and based on development requirements each stage to plan new training and retrain the workforce; actively organize refresher courses to improve the management and professional skills for tourism workers across the island district (Nguyen Thanh Tuong, 2020). Investing the State budget in infrastructure construction, renovation and renovation of cultural and historical relics, promoting tourism, training human resources for tourism... Promoting internal resources, promote socialization, create investment capital to develop tourism services, constantly improve the investment environment in this area, create mechanisms for economic sectors, both household and individual economy to participate investment in tourism service business. Encourage all economic sectors to participate in the database, at the same time planning to build key tourist areas in the area to meet the development needs of the tourism industry.

Group of solutions to ensure sustainable tourism development from a social perspective: Increasing understanding of sustainable tourism development for local communities; Strengthening the role of local communities in tourism development; Share benefits from tourism revenue to support community development. To concentrate on building a model of community-based tourism development in a sustainable manner, ensuring three objectives: *Economic objectives:* Increase

people's incomes and improve their lives; *Environmental objectives*: Contribute to promoting environmental protection for tourism development of Ly Son island district. Contributing to restoring, conserving and rationally using natural resources, creating tourism products that do not pollute the environment; *Social objectives*: Promoting the role of the community in tourism development with the support of stakeholders, contributing to restoring, preserving and preserving the island's cultural values associated with the issue national rights; increasing access to social services, improving infrastructure, stabilizing production, improving spiritual and material life, contributing to poverty reduction for people in Ly Son island district.

Group of solutions to ensure sustainable tourism development from an environmental perspective: Organize and effectively manage tourism activities; Exploiting, using and protecting natural resources and environment in tourism development. Attracting community participation in tourism environment protection; Supplying domestic water and increasing the capacity of solid waste treatment plants; Renovate, build beautiful beaches and plant forests, build green islands.

Especially, it is necessary to pay attention to the creation of new livelihoods for coastal fishermen to limit negative impacts on environmental resources. The establishment of Ly Son Marine Protected Area aims to preserve and develop marine ecosystems, protect the marine environment and marine resources, and create momentum for local tourism development. Within marine protected areas, fishing and fishing activities are strictly prohibited. This made 700 fishermen practice inshore fishing by basket boat or fishing boat with capacity under 10CV worried about livelihoods in the coming time. Therefore, the issue of creating new livelihoods for fishermen in coastal fishing is a necessary task of local authorities to limit negative impacts on environmental resources. There are two options to focus on livelihood conversion that are to support fishermen with preferential loans to build large capacity vessels to catch outside the protected area and train them to participate in the service. tourist arrivals to Ly Son. It can be seen that people in Ly Son island district will be direct and long-term beneficiaries of marine protected areas. However, people do not fully understand the values that marine protected areas bring, while what they see in the immediate future is the family's source of living being "threatened". Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize the settlement of livelihood problems for coastal fishermen, as this is a prerequisite for Ly Son Marine Protected Area to be successfully implemented and create favorable conditions for distribution develop local tourism towards sustainability.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This study has assessed the sustainability of tourism activities of Ly Son island district in terms of economic, social and environmental aspects, thereby proposing some solutions to contribute to the development of district tourism. Ly Son island in the direction of sustainability and efficiency in three economic, social and environmental areas, associated with the construction of landscapes, renovation

and rational use of resources on the island in association with environmental protection. This study is a supporting document for sectors and levels in building and implementing the socio-economic development plan of the sector and localities in a more sustainable way.

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