

Beyond Sustainability: Community Based Tourism and Governance Dynamics in Central Lombok Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract: Tourism development in Central Lombok Regency has experienced significant acceleration following the designation of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (KEK) as a national super-priority tourism destination. Despite its positive impact on economic growth and investment, this tourism development has not yet fully provided equitable benefits to local communities, particularly buffer-village communities. This study aims to analyze the dynamics of community-based tourism governance from a perspective beyond sustainability, emphasizing the roles of actors, network relationships, and opportunities to strengthen Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Central Lombok Regency. The study used a qualitative approach, with data collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and a review of regional planning documents. Data analysis was conducted using a Social Network Analysis (SNA) approach to map the structure and roles of actors in tourism governance. The results show that the tourism governance network remains centralized on institutional actors and area managers, while local communities are in a peripheral position. The results show that the tourism governance network remains centralized on institutional actors and area managers, while local communities are positioned at the periphery. However, this study is limited by its focus on a single regional case and the use of cross-sectional network data, which restricts the ability to capture longitudinal governance dynamics and comparative patterns across destinations. Future research is therefore recommended to employ multi-site comparative designs and longitudinal Social Network Analysis to examine how governance structures evolve and to assess the impacts of policy interventions on community empowerment. In addition, integrating quantitative socio-economic indicators with network analysis would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how governance configurations influence livelihood outcomes. Such extensions would strengthen empirical evidence for advancing regenerative tourism models that genuinely place local communities at the center of tourism development.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has long been positioned as a strategic sector in regional economic development, particularly in areas with rich natural resources, unique cultures, and competitive tourist attractions (Borgatti et al., 2018; Raihan, 2025). In various national and regional development policies, tourism is viewed as a leading sector capable of driving economic growth, creating jobs, increasing community incomes, and strengthening regional identity and image at the national and global levels. Tourism's strategic role is becoming increasingly important amidst government efforts to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on the extractive primary sector (Tosun, 2006; Silva e Silva et al., 2022). Therefore, tourism development is seen not only as an economic activity but also as an instrument for social, cultural, and regional development (Reza et al., 2025).

Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, is one of the regions that has experienced significant acceleration in tourism development over the past decade. This acceleration is marked by the development of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (SEZ) into a leading tourism destination on both national and international scales (Zitri, et al., 2024; Wang et

al., 2025). The designation of Mandalika as a tourism SEZ has significant implications for the direction of regional development, particularly

through large-scale infrastructure development, increased investment, and massive destination promotion (BPS Provinsi NTB, 2024; Sitorus, 2020). The existence of the Mandalika SEZ is not only projected as a new center of economic growth in West Nusa Tenggara, but also as a showcase for Indonesian tourism to the world, as reflected in the organization of various international events, including global-class sports and entertainment events (Higgins Desbiolles, 2020; Wijaya, 2020).

Mandalika's integration into the global tourism network demonstrates how tourism is increasingly connected to global economic dynamics, international capital flows, and cross-border traveler mobility (Affandi et al., 2024; Utomo, 2021; Caballero-Anthony et al., 2015; Tiwari et al., 2019). In this context, Central Lombok is no longer merely a local or national tourist destination. Still, it has become part of a global tourism system that demands increasingly complex standards of service, infrastructure, and governance (Zitri, et al., 2024). High hopes are pinned on the tourism sector as a driving force for regional development, capable of increasing local revenue, creating job opportunities, and encouraging the growth of supporting economic sectors such as transportation, accommodation, culinary arts, and the creative industry (Graham et al., 2021).

However, empirical studies show that tourism development driven by large-scale investment often creates a paradox of development. On the one hand, tourism can generate economic growth and increase tourist visits, but on the other hand, these financial benefits are not always evenly distributed among local communities (Sivac, 2015; Ngulube et al., 2024; Ali et al., 2020). This phenomenon often occurs when the tourism development structure is dominated by external actors, such as large investors and area managers, while local communities serve only as low-value labor (Maryanti et al., 2021). As a result, tourism has the potential to exacerbate regional social and economic disparities (Pollock, 2019; Pratistha & Dewi, 2025).

In Central Lombok Regency, this paradox of tourism development is particularly evident in the buffer villages surrounding the Mandalika tourism area. Despite their proximity to a rapidly expanding tourism hub, empirical evidence indicates that local communities have not experienced proportional economic gains. (Aprilani et al., 2021) report that more than 60% of residents in Mandalika's surrounding villages remain concentrated in informal tourism-related activities, such as street vending and casual labor, characterized by low income stability and limited upward mobility. Regional development statistics further reveal that while tourism investment in Central Lombok increased significantly following the establishment of the Special Economic Zone, poverty rates in several buffer villages declined only marginally, highlighting a structural disconnect between macro-level growth and micro-level welfare. This disparity underscores spatial and socio-economic polarization, with high-value tourism enclaves coexisting alongside persistent local vulnerability (Desvaux et al., 2021; Spurlock et al., 2024).

These inequalities are reinforced by the weak bargaining position of local communities within tourism governance structures (Alpusari et al., 2024). Tourism planning processes remain predominantly top-down, with limited mechanisms for meaningful community engagement. Access to capital, managerial training, and market networks is largely mediated by institutional actors and private investors, leaving community enterprises structurally dependent and marginalized (Giampiccoli, 2015). Relationships between residents and key stakeholders—particularly Special Economic Zone managers and private investors—are rarely collaborative, instead reflecting asymmetric power relations. Consequently, communities are positioned primarily as beneficiaries or labor providers rather than as co-producers of tourism value, confirming (Bramwell, 2011) assertion that unequal governance arrangements systematically constrain local agency in destination development.

While sustainable tourism has long served as the dominant policy framework, emphasizing the balance between environmental protection, economic growth, and social inclusion (Hanajayani et al., 2018), this study reveals its practical limitations in addressing entrenched disparities. Sustainability initiatives in Central Lombok have largely focused on infrastructure provision and environmental management, with insufficient attention to

redistributing power or restructuring governance networks. As (Nunkoo, 2020) argues, such technocratic interpretations of sustainability fail to confront deeper political-economic dynamics that reproduce exclusion. Similarly, (Zitri, 2022). notes that sustainability is often operationalized as a managerial tool rather than a transformative agenda. The Central Lombok case thus illustrates how tourism development can simultaneously generate global visibility and local marginalization, reinforcing the need for a beyond-sustainability approach that explicitly prioritizes governance reform, community agency, and social regeneration.

In this context, the "beyond sustainability" approach becomes increasingly relevant to drive a paradigm shift in tourism development. This approach not only demands sustainable tourism in the sense of maintaining balance but also emphasizes the importance of social regeneration, strengthening community capacity, and fairness in the distribution of benefits. Beyond sustainability, it views tourism as a socio-economic system that must restore and enhance community social capital, increase community resilience, and foster more inclusive and participatory governance (Okazaki, 2008; Tuurnas et al., 2019; Gezahegn et al., 2025).

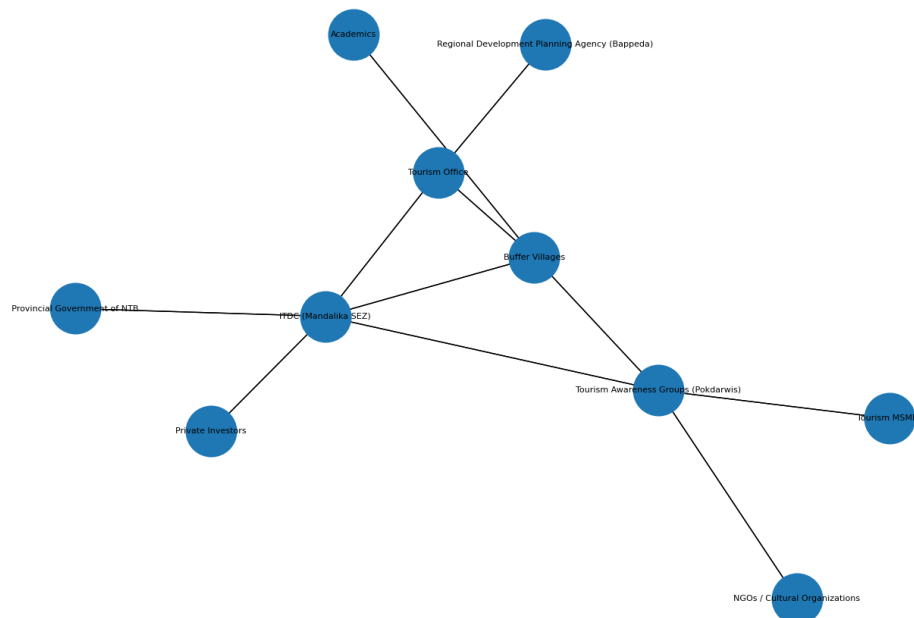


Figure 1. Governance Network and Beyond Sustainability in Community-Based Tourism Development

Source: Primary Data Processed using Nvivo 12 Plus

The Social Network Analysis indicates that tourism governance in Central Lombok Regency is characterized by a highly centralized network dominated by institutional actors, particularly the Tourism Office and the Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) (Yuniarto, 2022). These actors exhibit a high degree of betweenness centrality, positioning them as key gatekeepers of information, resources, and decision-making processes. This configuration concentrates power within a limited number of nodes, marginalizing community actors such as buffer villages, tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis), and tourism micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (Loupias et al., 2023; Gunapala et al., 2025; Eriksson et al., 2017).

This pattern reflects broader tendencies in tourism development within special economic zones, where state market alliances often prioritize investment-led growth over community empowerment (Fahlberg et al., 2023). Although Pokdarwis serve as local intermediaries, their relatively low centrality limits their brokerage capacity, and the notion of tokenistic participation suggests that structural governance barriers constrain meaningful community involvement.

From a beyond sustainability perspective, these findings highlight the limitations of conventional sustainable tourism frameworks that emphasize environmental management and economic performance while neglecting relational power and social regeneration (Lin, 2021; García & Ituarte, 2020). The peripheral positioning of academics and civil society organizations further weakens opportunities for knowledge co-production and adaptive governance, reducing the network's capacity to foster innovation and social learning. Consequently, tourism expansion in Central Lombok has not been accompanied by proportional gains in community autonomy or social capital. Achieving regenerative, community-centered tourism, therefore, requires deliberate network restructuring toward more decentralized, collaborative governance. Strengthening the degree, betweenness, and closeness centrality of village governments, Pokdarwis, and tourism MSMEs, while repositioning academics and NGOs as knowledge brokers, is essential to transforming tourism from a growth-oriented sector into a regenerative system capable of rebuilding social capital, enhancing local agency, and ensuring more equitable benefit distribution.

Within the framework of going beyond sustainability, community-based tourism (CBT) is a strategic and relevant approach. CBT positions local communities as key actors in tourism planning, management, and utilization, enabling them to enjoy economic, social, and cultural benefits more equitably and sustainably. This approach also creates space to strengthen local cultural identity, preserve traditional values, and enhance community institutions' capacity to address the dynamics of global tourism (Stone, 2015). Building on this perspective, this study attempts to fill this gap by analyzing community-based tourism development in Central Lombok Regency through the perspectives of governance and actor networks. The focus of this research is not only on the outcomes of tourism development but also on the structures of relationships among actors that shape decision-making and the distribution of benefits. Using a network analysis approach, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the position and role of local communities in the Central Lombok tourism system, while also offering a conceptual framework and policy recommendations to encourage the transformation of tourism toward a more inclusive, equitable, and empowering model of beyond sustainability.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative case study design to gain an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of community based tourism development in Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province. A qualitative approach was selected because the study seeks to explore meanings, processes, power relations, and inter-actor interactions within tourism governance, which cannot be adequately captured through quantitative methods alone. The case study design enables an intensive examination of tourism phenomena within their real-life context, particularly concerning the development of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and its implications for buffer-village communities (Creswell, 2014; Fitria et al., 2024; Maryanti et al., 2021).

The research site focused on buffer villages surrounding the Mandalika SEZ, which directly experience the socio-economic impacts of tourism expansion. These villages represent key interaction spaces between institutional actors and local communities and constitute a critical arena for implementing community-based tourism principles (Ibrahim et al., 2024; Berthanila et al., 2025; Daher et al., 2022). Research participants were purposively selected to represent diverse governance positions, including local government agencies, Mandalika SEZ management, village authorities, tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis), tourism micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), academics, civil society organizations, and cultural community representatives. This diversity enabled the capture of multiple perspectives and facilitated mapping of actor roles and relationships within the tourism governance system (Bramwell, 2015; Supriadi & Andriano, 2024; Yilmaz & Yalcin, 2024).

Data were collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews, participant observation, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and document analysis. Interviews explored stakeholders' experiences, perceptions, and interests regarding tourism development, allowing flexibility to probe emerging issues (Zitri et al., 2023). Participant observation provided direct

insight into daily governance practices, community engagement, and policy implementation. FGDs were conducted with community representatives, Pokdarwis, and tourism MSMEs to identify shared challenges, collective perceptions, and local development potentials, while also serving as a forum to validate preliminary interview findings. Documentary analysis included the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD), tourism master plans, regulatory frameworks, and Mandalika SEZ management reports to contextualize empirical findings within formal policy structures (Estiyantara, 2021).

To ensure data validity and research rigor, this study applied multiple strategies aligned with the trustworthiness framework of qualitative research, including credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. Credibility was enhanced through methodological and source triangulation, comparing findings across interviews, observations, FGDs, and documents. Member checking was conducted by sharing preliminary interpretations with selected participants to confirm accuracy and resonance with their experiences (García-Mollá et al., 2025; Batdi, 2017).. Dependability was supported through an audit trail documenting data collection procedures, coding decisions, and analytical steps. Reflexive field notes were maintained to minimize researcher bias and enhance confirmability. Transferability was addressed by providing thick descriptions of the research context and the characteristics of the actors.

Data analysis was conducted thematically to identify recurring patterns and governance dynamics (van der Hulst, 2009; Supriyadi, 2021). To strengthen interpretive depth, Social Network Analysis (SNA) was employed to map actor relationships and governance structures quantitatively. Network data were cross-validated through multiple informants to reduce reporting bias and ensure relational accuracy. Degree, betweenness, and closeness centrality measures were calculated to assess actor influence, brokerage roles, and network accessibility (Hampton, 2010; Singh et al., 2024). The integration of thematic qualitative analysis with SNA enabled a robust examination of how power, information, and resources circulate in Central Lombok's tourism system and clarified the structural positioning of local communities. This mixed analytical strategy provides a comprehensive understanding of tourism governance dynamics from a beyond-sustainability perspective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Governance Structure and Actor Positions in the Tourism Network

The research results show that the tourism governance structure in Central Lombok Regency is still dominated by institutional actors, particularly the Central Lombok Regency Tourism Office and the management of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (KEK). These two actors occupy central positions in the tourism governance network, both in policy formulation, program coordination, and distribution of tourism resources. The high centrality of these institutional actors indicates that the flow of information, authority, and decision-making remains concentrated within formal institutions with structural authority.

In contrast, local community actors, such as buffer village governments, tourism awareness groups (Pokdarwis), and tourism MSMEs, occupy peripheral positions in the network. Connectivity between community actors and key actors is relatively limited and sporadic, thus limiting their access to strategic decision-making processes and high-value-added economic opportunities. These findings indicate that, despite rapid physical and economic growth in tourism, the integration of local communities into the tourism governance system remains suboptimal.

These findings are reinforced by Social Network Analysis (SNA), which maps each actor's centrality in the Central Lombok tourism governance network. Table 1 presents an overview of the actor's position based on centrality indicators and their functional roles.

Table 1. Position of Actors in the Tourism Governance Network of Central Lombok Regency

Actors/Institutions	Level of Centrality	Position in the Network	Main Role
Central Lombok Regency Tourism Office	Tall	Core	Tourism policy and program coordinator
Injourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)	Tall	Core	Area manager and investment controller
Regional Development Planning Agency (<i>Bappeda</i>)	Medium	Semi-core	Regional policy planner and integrator
Buffer Village Government	Low	Periferal	Implementing activities at the local level
Tourism Awareness Group (<i>Pokdarwis</i>)	Low	Periferal	Manager of community tourism attractions and activities
Tourism MSMEs	Low	Periferal	Local tourism service and product providers
Academics/NGOs	Low – Medium	Supporters	Capacity building and mentoring

Source: Primary Data Processed

The data in Table 1 demonstrate an imbalance in the network structure, with institutional actors dominating core positions while community actors occupy the periphery. This reflects a top-down tourism governance pattern, with limited scope for substantive participation by local communities. In practice, the role of communities is often restricted to implementing activities designed by central actors, without meaningful involvement in planning and decision-making.

Governance Implications for Community-Based Tourism

The dominance of institutional actors in Central Lombok's tourism governance network directly affects the weak implementation of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) principles. Although the concept of community empowerment is often adopted in policy documents, the centralized network structure usually results in an unequal distribution of tourism benefits. Local communities, particularly MSMEs and tourism groups (*Pokdarwis*), primarily act as small-scale economic actors, heavily dependent on policies and programs designed by central actors.

This situation also impacts the social sustainability of tourism. When communities lack strategic positions in the governance network, their capacity to adapt, innovate, and build economic independence is limited. In the long term, this situation has the potential to weaken social cohesion, reduce community ownership of tourism destinations, and hinder local community regeneration. To provide a clearer picture of the relationships between actors, Table 2 presents the main relationship patterns in the Central Lombok tourism governance network.

Table 2. Inter-Actor Relationship Patterns in Central Lombok Tourism Governance

Main Actor	Connected Actors	The Power of Relationships	Relationship Character
Government Tourism Office	Injourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Regional Development Planning Agency (<i>Bappeda</i>)	Strong	Coordination and policy
Injourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)	Private Investors	Strong	Economy and investment

Government Tourism Office	Buffer Village	Medium	Programs and facilities
Buffer Village	Tourism Awareness Group (Pokdarwis)	Medium	Operational and social
Tourism Awareness Group (Pokdarwis)	Tourism MSMEs	Low – Medium	Local economy
Injourney Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)	Local Community	Low	Limited access

Source: Primary Data Processed

The relational pattern presented in the table reveals a highly asymmetric governance network dominated by institutional and capital-oriented actors. The Government Tourism Office occupies a central coordinating position, maintaining strong policy driven ties with Injourney Tourism Development Corporation and Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda), indicating that strategic planning and regulatory authority remain concentrated at the governmental–corporate level. Simultaneously, ITDC demonstrates strong economic relations with private investors, positioning itself as the primary gateway for capital flows into the Mandalika tourism area. This configuration shows that elite institutional actors largely shape investment decisions, infrastructure development, and destination branding, while community-oriented objectives are structurally secondary.

In contrast, community actors are embedded in weaker and more operationally constrained linkages. Buffer villages maintain only medium-strength connections with the Government Tourism Office, primarily focused on program implementation and administrative facilitation rather than joint decision-making. These villages then serve as intermediaries to Tourism Awareness Groups (Pokdarwis), whose relationships are predominantly operational and social. At the lowest tier, tourism MSMEs depend on Pokdarwis through low–medium economic ties, reflecting fragmented local value chains and limited market access. Most critically, the relationship between ITDC and local communities remains weak, characterized by restricted access to strategic resources and minimal participation in governance processes. This structural arrangement produces a top-down network architecture in which communities function primarily as implementers rather than co-designers of tourism development. Overall, the pattern illustrates a centralized, vertically segmented governance system: institutional actors control policy and investment, while local communities occupy peripheral positions with limited bargaining power. Such a configuration explains why community-based tourism in Central Lombok remains constrained, as empowerment mechanisms are not embedded within the core of the governance network but relegated to its margins.

From a beyond-sustainability perspective, a tourism governance structure centralized by institutional actors and large corporations has the potential to hinder the realization of equitable and regenerative tourism. Social Network Analysis (SNA) data show that key actors, such as the Tourism Office and ITDC, have the highest degree and betweenness centrality values in the Central Lombok tourism governance network. In contrast, community actors are peripheral with low connectedness. This condition indicates that the flow of information, resources, and decision-making is more concentrated in central actors, thus limiting the space for local community participation in determining the direction of tourism development.

Sustainability, within the framework of "beyond sustainability," is not only defined as environmental protection and economic growth, but also as a process of strengthening local communities' social, institutional, and economic capacity. However, data from the Central Statistics Agency of West Nusa Tenggara Province shows that the tourism sector's contribution to local employment in the buffer villages of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (SEZ) remains dominated by informal, low-wage jobs. Furthermore, the majority of tourism MSMEs in Central

Lombok operate on a micro-scale with limited access to capital, market networks, and technology, indicating that the economic benefits of tourism have not been optimally distributed to local communities.

Therefore, restructuring the tourism governance network towards a more collaborative and inclusive model is urgently needed. Strengthening the role of village governments, tourism groups (Pokdarwis), and tourism MSMEs as strategic actors in the network can be achieved by increasing closeness centrality, namely, shortening the relational distance between community actors and the decision-making center. This strategy can be realized through community involvement in destination planning, more equitable business partnership schemes, and integrated village tourism development budget allocations with regional policies, as outlined in the Central Lombok Regency Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD).

Furthermore, supporting actors, such as academics and civil society organizations, play a crucial role as knowledge brokers within the tourism governance network. These actors can bridge policy interests, market needs, and community aspirations through applied research, capacity building, and innovative community-based tourism business models. By strengthening these cross-actor relationships, tourism in Central Lombok will function not only as an engine of economic growth but also as an instrument for community empowerment and social regeneration, aligned with the principles of justice, inclusivity, and transformation within a framework beyond sustainability.

Quantitative Social Network Analysis (SNA)

To deepen our understanding of the tourism governance structure in Central Lombok Regency, this study applies quantitative Social Network Analysis (SNA) using three main indicators: degree centrality, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality. These three indicators measure each actor's position, role, and level of influence within the community-based tourism governance network.

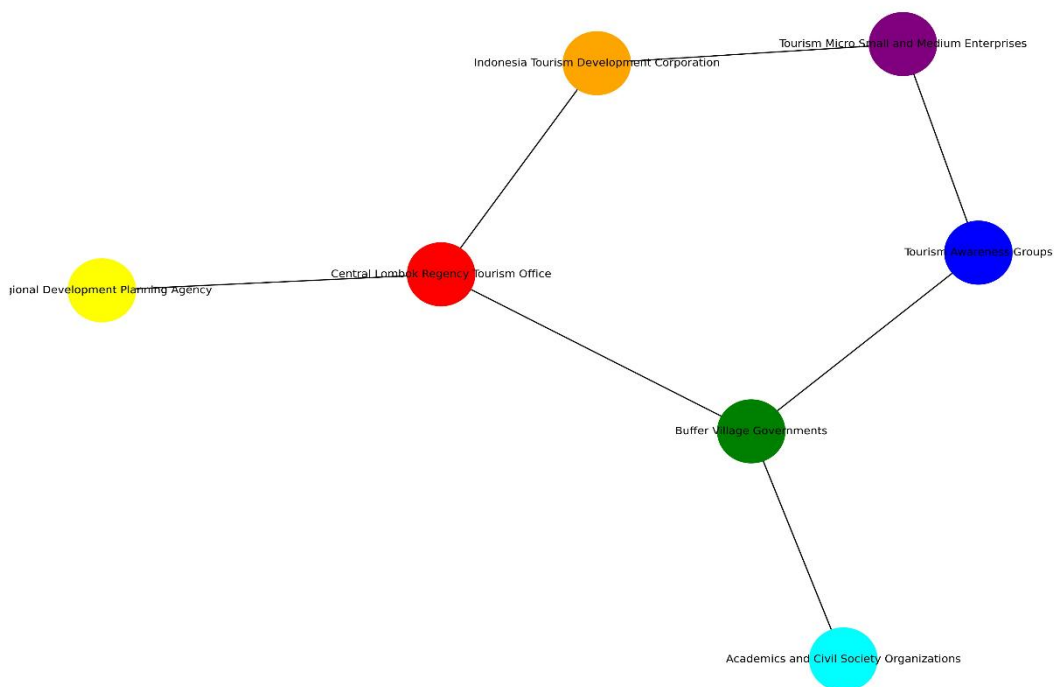


Figure 2. Governance Network Based on Degree Centrality Community Based Tourism in Central Lombok Regency

Source: Primary Data Processed using Nvivo 12 Plus

This figure illustrates the governance network of community-based tourism in Central Lombok Regency based on degree centrality analysis. Degree centrality identifies actors with the highest number of direct connections, reflecting their structural importance in coordinating information, resources, and decision-making within the tourism governance system. The visualization reveals a highly centralized network structure dominated by institutional actors, particularly the Central Lombok Regency Tourism Office and the Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation. These actors occupy central positions in the network, indicating their strong influence over policy formulation, program implementation, and investment coordination in the tourism sector.

The Regional Development Planning Agency also plays a significant role as an intermediary in cross-sectoral planning. However, its degree of connectivity remains lower than that of the core tourism authorities. In contrast, community-based actors including Buffer Village Governments, Tourism Awareness Groups, and Tourism Micro Small and Medium Enterprises are positioned on the periphery of the network. Their relatively low centrality indicates limited direct access to strategic decision-making processes and a high reliance on institutional actors for program execution and resource allocation.

Academics and Civil Society Organizations appear as supporting actors with selective connections, primarily functioning as facilitators of knowledge transfer, capacity building, and policy advocacy. However, their limited integration into the core governance network suggests that their potential role as knowledge brokers has not been fully optimized. Overall, the network configuration highlights a governance model that remains largely top-down, with strong institutional control and weak horizontal collaboration among community actors.

From a beyond-sustainability perspective, this centralized network structure poses challenges to the realization of inclusive and regenerative tourism development. The limited connectivity of community actors constrains local empowerment, innovation, and social regeneration. Strengthening horizontal and vertical linkages particularly by increasing the centrality of village governments, tourism awareness groups, and local enterprises is therefore essential to transforming the governance network into a more collaborative, equitable, and community centered tourism system.

The results of this study consistently show that tourism governance in Central Lombok Regency remains dominated by a centralized, hierarchical network structure. Quantitative Social Network Analysis (SNA) shows that institutional actors have higher degrees, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality than community actors. This finding indicates that the flow of information, resources, and decision-making processes remains concentrated among certain actors, particularly the Tourism Office and the management of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (KEK). Meanwhile, village governments, Pokdarwis (Tourism Groups), and tourism MSMEs tend to act as policy recipients and program implementers, rather than as strategic actors in the planning and control of tourism development.

Within the framework of "beyond sustainability," these conditions highlight the limitations of the current sustainability approach applied to tourism development in Central Lombok. Sustainability that focuses solely on economic growth and environmental protection risks neglecting deeper social dimensions, such as power distribution, relational justice, and the regeneration of community capacity. Centralized governance networks tend to undermine collective learning and local innovation, as communities lack the space to develop initiatives, manage knowledge, and strengthen economic networks independently.

Furthermore, these findings reinforce the argument that transforming tourism toward a regenerative model requires fundamental changes in the structure of relationships between actors. "Beyond sustainability" demands a shift from simply maintaining existing systems to actively regenerating social capital, strengthening local institutional capacity, and creating more equitable power relations. In this context, increasing the degree centrality of community actors is crucial for expanding their direct connections with key actors. Increasing betweenness centrality allows local actors to act as cross-sector liaisons, while increasing closeness centrality accelerates community access to strategic information and resources.

Thus, restructuring the tourism governance network is a key prerequisite for realizing genuine community-based tourism in Central Lombok. This transformation requires not only formal policy changes but also changes in governance practices that encourage horizontal collaboration, equal partnerships, and recognition of local knowledge as a vital part of the tourism system. Without changes in the network structure, tourism risks continuing to reproduce social inequality, despite showing positive economic performance.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that tourism development in Central Lombok Regency has demonstrated significant progress in driving economic growth and enhancing destination competitiveness through the development of the Mandalika Special Economic Zone (SEZ). However, this accelerated development has not been fully accompanied by social transformation that ensures the equitable distribution of tourism benefits to local communities, particularly those in villages surrounding the tourism area. The combined qualitative analysis and Social Network Analysis (SNA) reveal a centralized governance structure dominated by institutional actors, with community stakeholders remaining in peripheral positions. This configuration constrains the implementation of Community-Based Tourism, resulting in weak local economic independence, limited community-driven innovation, and insufficient regeneration of social capital.

Despite these contributions, this study has several limitations. First, the analysis is based on a single case study in Central Lombok, which limits the generalizability of the findings to other tourism destinations or special economic zones with different socio-political contexts. Second, while SNA provides valuable insights into actor relationships and network structures, the study relies primarily on cross-sectional data and does not capture longitudinal changes in governance dynamics over time. Third, the research focuses mainly on institutional and community actors, leaving limited exploration of tourists' perspectives, informal networks, and gendered or generational dimensions of participation, which may also significantly influence community-based tourism outcomes.

The primary contribution of this research lies in applying a beyond-sustainability perspective to tourism governance in special economic zones, emphasizing that sustainability cannot be achieved solely through economic growth and environmental protection but requires structural transformation toward more inclusive and equitable governance networks. However, future studies are encouraged to adopt comparative and longitudinal designs to examine how governance networks evolve across different destinations and policy phases. Further research should also integrate mixed methods, including quantitative livelihood impact assessments and participatory mapping, to better capture distributional effects and community empowerment trajectories. In addition, deeper investigation into power asymmetries, informal institutions, and marginalized groups would enrich understanding of regenerative tourism processes.

Accordingly, the future of tourism in Central Lombok depends on stakeholders' ability to reconstruct governance toward a more collaborative and regenerative model. Strengthening local communities as strategic actors is not merely a normative aspiration but a structural prerequisite for socially sustainable and economically resilient tourism. Within the beyond-sustainability framework, Central Lombok holds potential to become a model of tourism transformation oriented not only toward growth but also toward the regeneration of local social and economic systems provided that future research continues to critically engage with governance dynamics and community-centered development pathways.

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