

Community, Culture, and Responsible Development in Sustainable Tourism - The Case of Timor-Leste's Nino Konis Santana National Park

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INTRODUCTION

KISAR



Indonésia
(Nusa Tenggara Timur)

[illegible]

OECUSSI



DISTRICTS



SOUTH EAST ASIA





NINO KONIS SANTANA NATIONAL PARK

The First National Park in Timor-Leste!



Defining 'community'

Chavis and
Newbrough¹

Influence

Shared
emotional
connection

Membership

Hillery²

Social
Integration

Common ties

McKeown, Rubinstein
and Kelly³

Shared
action

Common
institutions

Biological and social
membership

Diverse characteristics of
members

MacQueen *et al.*⁴

Locality

Sharing common
interests and
perspectives

Social ties

Diversity of communities within
communities

Patrick and Wickizer⁵

Social
interaction

Social and
political
responsibility

Members who share
concerns in communal
groupings

Diverse communities that change
over time

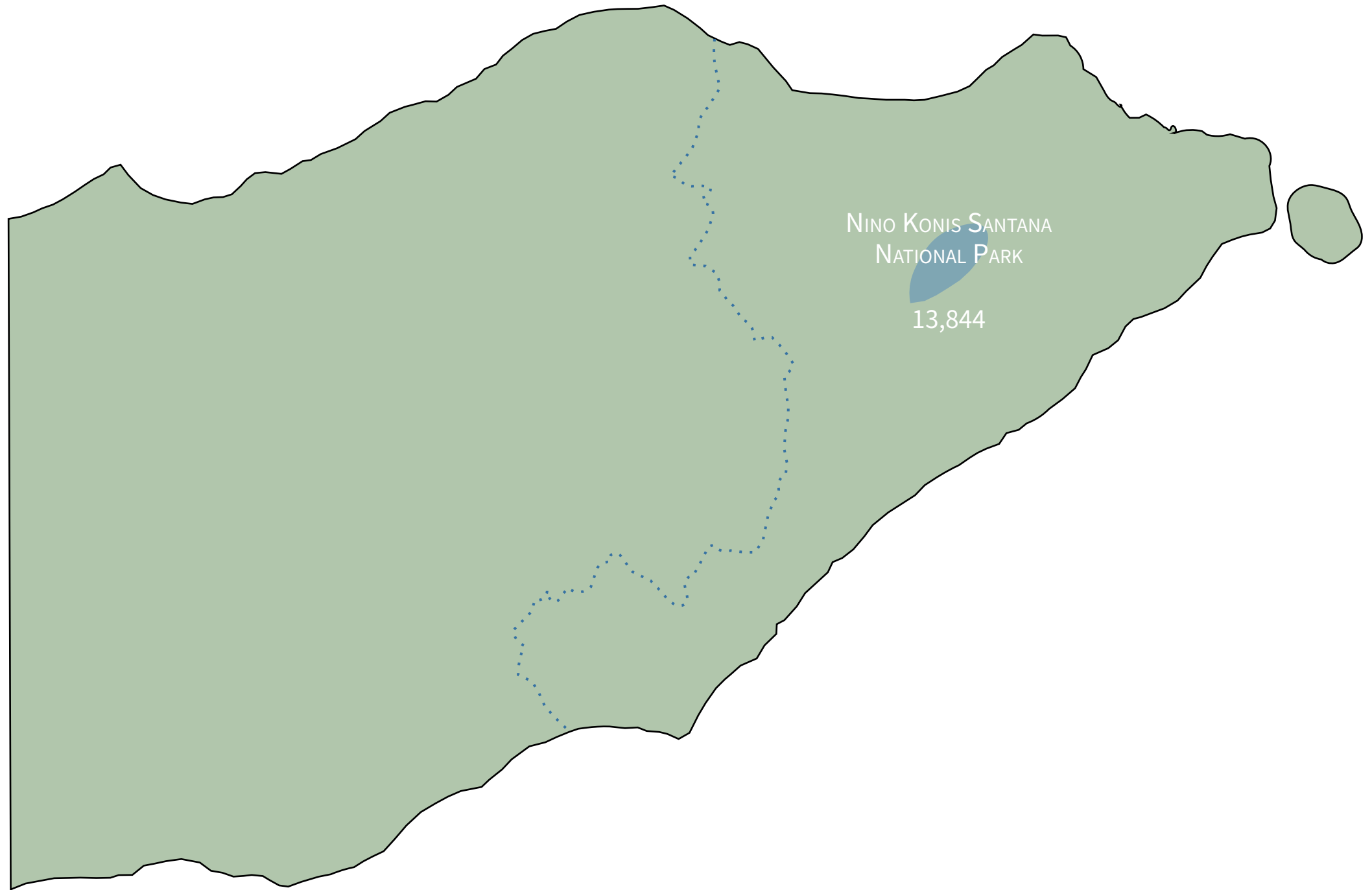
Wellman and Wortley⁶

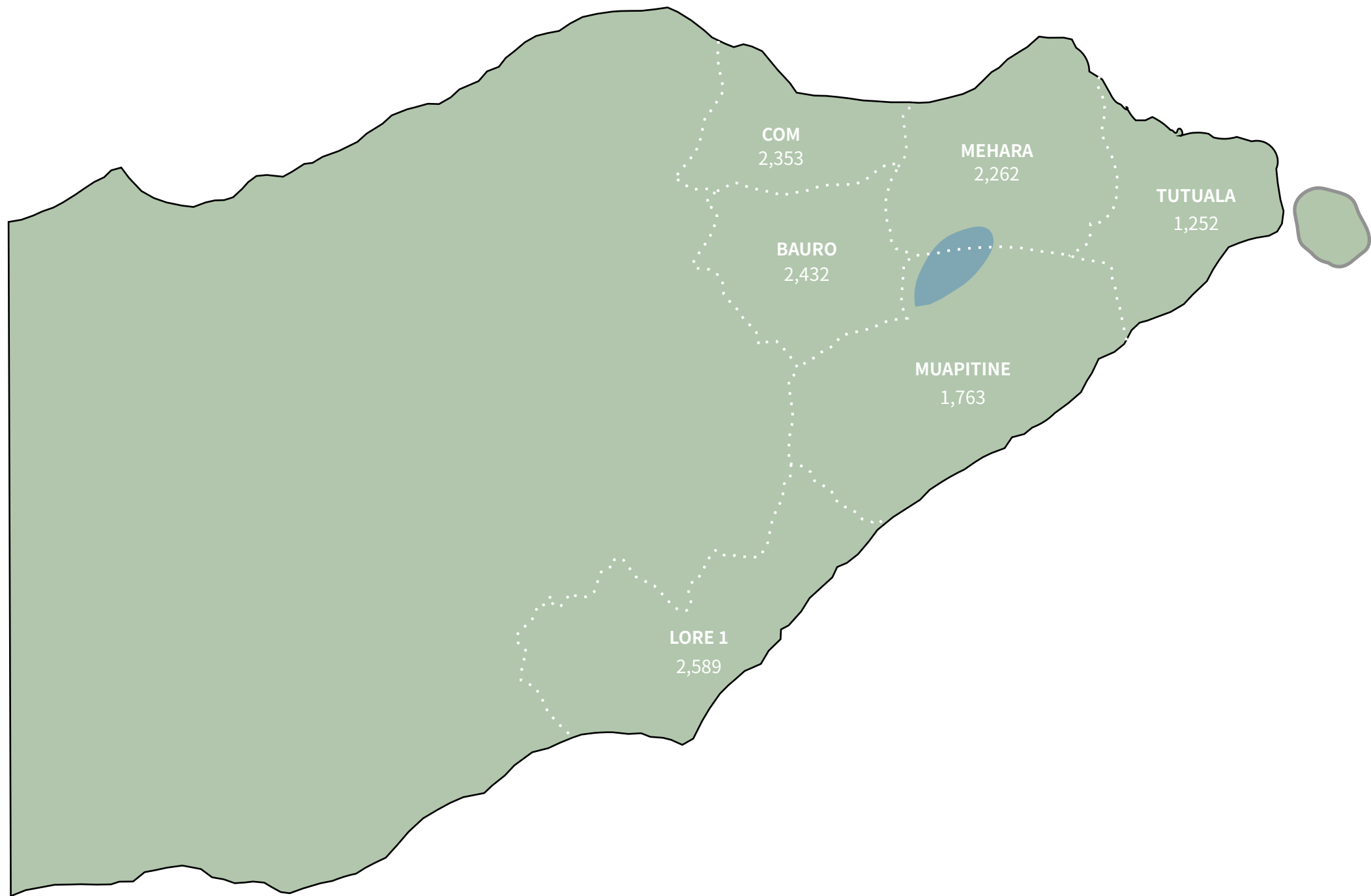
Social
support

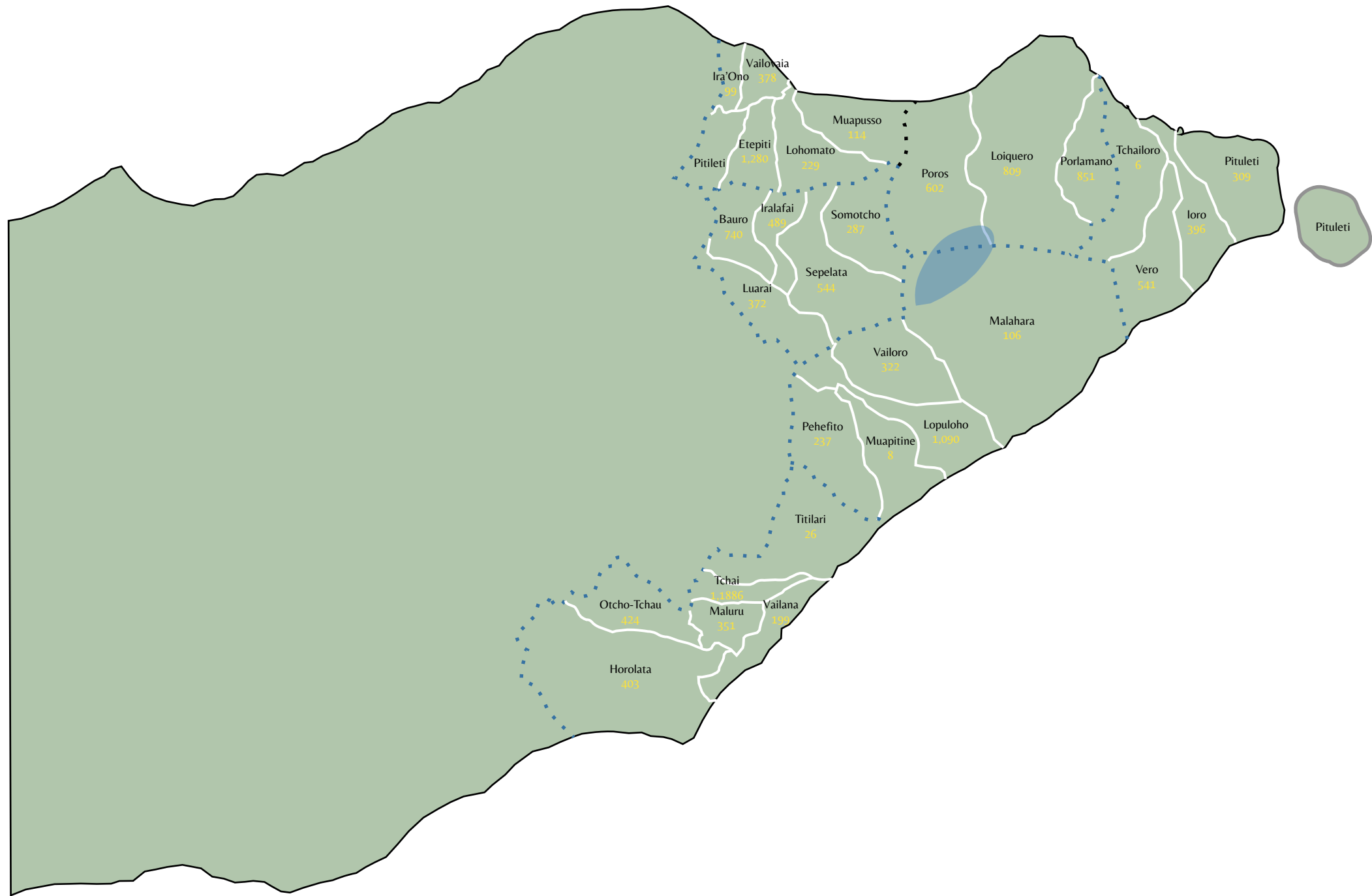
Social interaction
and support

Social support ties

Diverse types of support (kinship
neighbors, friends, organizations)









NINO KONIS SANTANA NATIONAL PARK

The First National Park in Timor-Leste!



The first National Park in Timor-Leste

Nino Konis Santana National Park, the first National Park in Timor-Leste, was established by the Government in August 2007. It is a terrestrial and marine National Park covering the entire eastern extremity of Timor Island and extends 3 nautical miles into the sea: a total area of 123,600 ha of forest, grasslands, wetlands, coasts, reefs and deeper water marine environments, comprising 95,000 ha of land and 55,600 ha of sea.

Nino Konis Santana National Park covers the entire eastern tip of Timor-Leste.

The National Park is named after the national hero Jose (Zé) Koniso Antonio Santana (1955-1990), who was born in the village of Tulaue in what is now Hato.



National Park. Better known as Nino Konis Santana, he was Chief of the Executive Committee of the Armed Resistance Front in the struggle for national independence from 1992 to 1998.

The National Park protects unique environmental, cultural and natural heritage of national and global significance. It safeguards this heritage for Timor-Leste and the world, now and for the future, while also respecting and honoring the past. It will allow future generations to understand and appreciate Timorese history and culture, and to visit or live in a healthy environment with rich forests and fisheries, productive grazing lands, and clean soil, lakes, rivers and air.

The establishment and management of the Protected Area Network is one of the most important and effective ways for Timor-Leste to fulfil international obligations on the environment and to respect the rights of its people, under both the country's Constitution and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

For more information contact:
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Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste,
P.O. Box 1000, Dili | Tel: +670 331 60 52

Lautem District
Administration
Tel: +670 325 90 28

Why is Nino Konis Santana National Park so special?

Nino Konis Santana National Park is unique in Timor-Leste and recognized internationally for its many unique and beautiful values: nature, culture, history, geology and dramatic scenery.

Natural Values

Landscapes and Habitats

The extensive and intact terrestrial landscapes include a continuum from mountains to the sea, which is rare in Southeast Asia and even world-wide.



A wide diversity of wetland habitats includes rivers, lakes and coastal zones.

Visitors will see dramatic visual panoramas of the Patachau Range and steep, forested escarpments, seascapes framed by limestone cliffs, coral reefs and white sand beaches.



Geologically important features include extensive karst systems with caves, sinkholes and freshwater springs; the large flood-plain (Lake Itaitano) and associated Transguro River and the sacred Mainina sinkhole form a unique hydrological system as well as holding species found nowhere else.

Just offshore lies Jaco Island, covered in forest and surrounded by coral reefs and limestone cliffs—it holds special spiritual significance for local people.

Terrestrial Biodiversity

Timor-Leste is recognized internationally as a high priority for biodiversity conservation and the National Park has been considered to have the richest remaining primary forest and most extensive wetland habitats on Timor Island.



The National Park holds many species unique to Timor or to the wider region known as Wallacea. Wallacea is a global centre of evolution and biodiversity 'hotspot' with a unique combination of Asian and Australasian flora and fauna and extraordinary concentrations of species found nowhere else on the planet.

The National Park contains and links three Important Bird Areas, making it a key site in the Timor and Wetar Endemic Bird Area identified by BirdLife International.

Many rare species are found in the Park, including 25 bird and 10 particularly many more plant species of conservation significance.

at least 16 bats and rare freshwater species such as turtles and a fish new to science.

The flora is very diverse and vegetation over large areas is intact as many as 9 plant communities and of regional or global significance, the latter including Coastal Rainforest, Coastal Park, Savanna and Freshwater Wetlands.

Marine Biodiversity

Timor-Leste is part of the Coral Triangle, the region of greatest diversity of coral and reef fish in the world.

The marine ecosystems of the National Park are internationally significant, being extensive, intact and diverse, including coral reef, mangrove and deep water.



In addition to the high reef fish diversity important species include many fish and other megafauna such as turtles, dugongs, whales, dolphins and sharks.

Cultural and Historical values

Ancient History

The area has been continuously occupied by people for over 40,000 years.



The National Park contains more than 300 archaeological sites, including the earliest evidence of occupation by modern humans beyond the Sunda Shelf.

Recent History

The National Park contains many important sites dating from the long period of Portuguese colonisation.



It contains ruins of Japanese fortifications and supply caves from World War II occupation.

The area that is now the Park was the stronghold for FAUNTL, the guerrilla force of the resistance movement against occupation, and holds a deep significance for the Timorese people.

Living History Culture & Tradition

Continuing traditional culture and practice remain strong livelihood activities, agricultural and fishing practices, spiritual beliefs, ceremonial practices, customary systems of land and sea tenure.



The annual harvest of Meek, marine annelid worms which spawn along the coast, is associated with the start of the new agricultural calendar, accompanied by community celebrations.

Sustainable livelihoods

The development of the human communities over many thousands of years in and around what is now the National Park has been dependent on the area's rich natural resources. This remains true today, as the inhabitants make use of their environment for their livelihoods:



resources. This remains true today, as the inhabitants make use of their environment for their livelihoods:

- Agriculture;
- Livestock rearing;
- Artisanal fisheries;
- Collection of forest resources;
- Small-scale tourism.

The National Park will enhance these where they are sustainable, while encouraging and supporting the development of new economies such as ecological and ethical tourism.

Aims of the National Park

Ensure the protection and conservation under the law of nationally and globally important natural, cultural, social, historical and livelihood values.

Guarantee, respect and recognize customary ownership, continued use, access and participation rights by local communities.

Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development for local communities – both the existing rural economy and sustainable new economies (for example ethical and ecological tourism) by protection and sustainable management of all values.

Ensure the active participation of, and foster ownership by, the communities living within the National Park via a consultative, inclusive and collaborative joint management framework between Government and local communities, supported by civil society.



Increase awareness of conservation and the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources and the impacts of human interactions with nature.

Demonstrate the highest standards world-wide, and be internationally recognized, as a Protected Area where the traditional interactions of people and nature are maintained in a way that protects and enhances the environment.

Management Principles A Living Landscape and Seascapes

Nino Konis Santana National Park was established according to the international protected areas of an IUCN Category V Protected Area – Protected Landscape and Seascapes, in which the interactions between people and nature are recognized and valued. This means that it will continue to be permanently inhabited, and the rights of local communities will be safeguarded and their sustainable development supported. In addition, communities will be assisted by the Government to protect their cultural heritage through a process guided and authorized by the communities themselves.



Nino Konis Santana National Park was established in consultation and collaboration with local communities. It will be managed collaboratively in a partnership between Government and civil society, especially local communities, who will be fully involved in decision-making and the planning and implementation of management.

The National Park will help local communities to protect their environment and to safeguard and improve their livelihoods. Existing rural livelihood activities, mainly agriculture, fisheries and livestock-rearing, will be supported, and new ones developed, such as ethical and ecological tourism.

Pressures on environmental and socio-economic values

The values of the National Park have at various times been affected by a range of threats and pressures. Management of the National Park will control these, and also safeguard against inappropriate future developments and interventions in and adjacent to the park, while ensuring that the benefits of doing so are shared equitably and outweigh any costs. Some of the typical threats are:

- Conversion of forest for slash-and-burn agriculture, which produces poor yields, is unsustainable and is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity;
- Illegal logging;
- Harvesting of medicinal plants, birds and turtles;
- Grazing stock in native forest;
- Illegal and unsustainable industrial fishing by foreign fleets;
- Pollution by waste and effluents, especially from beaches;
- Use of dynamite and other unsustainable methods for artisanal or commercial fishing;
- Uncontrolled and unmanaged access to sacred (holy) sites and areas.



Laws and Protection

Nino Konis Santana National Park was created under Government Resolution 9/2007 and is further protected under the principles of:

- The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (DRT);
- RNTL Regulation 13/2000 On Protected Areas;
- RNTL Regulation 12/2000 On Prohibition of Logging Operations and the Export of Wood from East Timor;
- Decree Law 6/2004 - General Rules of the Legal Regime for the Management and Regulation of Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- Ministerial Diploma 04/11/SGMA/0/205 - List of Protected Aquatic Species;
- Government Decree 9/2004 - General Regulation on Fishing;
- Law 12/2004 - Fishing Related Offences.

Under Resolution 4/2007, the National Park is safeguarded from damaging activities such as pollution of soil and water (for example through dumping or discharge of waste water), activities having visual negative impacts, unauthorised collection or killing of plants and animals and geological specimens; (thermal) or mineral passage through the Park's waters by vessels that may disturb or damage the ecosystems, and fishing in the most sensitive areas around the strait of Jaco, apart from subsistence fishing with hook by residents of Tulaue sub-district, which is permitted.

Scientific research that contributes to the maintenance of the values of the National Park is in principle welcomed but is subject to normal prior authorisation issued by the Government of Timor-Leste. Specific permission is required from the Department of Protected Areas and National Parks (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) and the Secretary of State for Culture, Ministry of Education.

Inauguration of the National Park

Nino Konis Santana National Park was formally inaugurated in August 2008. A ceremony was held in the National Park to celebrate the declaration and to raise national and international awareness and support for its objectives.



Timorese society was represented at all levels from the Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmão, to local communities. To commemorate this historic event, a plaque was signed by both the Prime Minister and the President, José Ramos Horta.

The future

The Government of Timor-Leste declared this first National Park in 2007, only five years after the country's formal independence. Other important Protected Areas of national and cultural significance on both land and sea are now being developed in collaboration with local communities. To create a national Protected Areas network that will be representative of the natural and cultural heritage of Timor-Leste. This has been supported by all political parties, and shows the very strong commitment nationally to conserve this heritage. International support has been gratefully received but more is needed to establish the long-term management system and infrastructure that will see the Park on a sustainable footing, and ensure benefits reach all affected stakeholders in an equitable fashion. Immediate needs include:

- Development of a national policy and legislation for Protected Areas;
- Support to and improvement of existing sustainable livelihoods and development of new revenue sources, based on the protection and rehabilitation of the natural environment;
- Appropriate infrastructure to assist in management of the National Park and to support ecological and ethical tourism;
- Education and awareness-raising programmes, both nationally and locally and to all audiences, Timorese and international;
- Long term management planning;
- Capacity development for government, local community and national civil society in all aspects of participatory protected area management.

Photographs:
Brendan Rickett, Cathy Monner, Colin Trexler, Dan Greening,
Pernando Santana, Guilherme Carrasco, Jesse Wright, Kyle Armstrong,
Nguyen Duong, Rosalynn Low, Ron Boland, Teresa Gray.





Protected Landscape/Seascape

«... a protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value ...»



Management aims to sustain this interaction and protect the heritage values. designation was made by Timorese government based on park's characteristics (**significant cultural landscapes, traditional communities living within it, high biodiversity requiring protection alongside sustainable use**).

IUCN CATEGORY V PROTECTED AREA

*«Timor-Leste's
first protected area is Nino Konis Santana
National Park, which will be a **centrepiece** of
Timor-Leste's tourism strategy. »*

An aerial photograph of a vast wetland or marsh area. On the left, there is a body of water reflecting the sky. A wide, dry riverbed or channel runs diagonally across the center of the image, showing various shades of brown and tan. The surrounding land is a mix of green and brown, indicating different vegetation or soil types. In the background, a range of dark, forested mountains stretches across the horizon under a blue sky with some clouds.

LITERATURE REVIEW

SIGNIFICANCE
STUDY

Brief Literature Overview

TOURISM PLANNING	CP CRUCIAL BUT CHALLENGING	CONTROL AND POWER																					
<p>Shift from "boosterism" to sustainable development. (McKercher, 1993)</p> <p>Recognition of need to consider local communities' concerns (Getz, 1986; Tosun, 2000; Hall, 2007; Okazaki, 2008)</p> <p>A transition from emphasizing increased visitation to promoting growth in a more holistic sense. (Ryan, 1991; March, 1994)</p>	<p>Community participation seen as vital for sustainable tourism. (Murphy, 1985; Simmons, 1994)</p> <p>Local communities face limitations in participating (Tosun, 2000)</p>	<p>Table 11: Ladder of Citizen Participation with Timor-Leste context 1999 - present</p> <table><tr><th>O'Connor's New Ladder</th><th>Ladder of Citizen Participation</th><th>Timor-Leste Citizen Participation Context</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Citizen Control</td><td>8 Citizen Control</td><td>UN-sponsored Popular Consultation (1999)</td></tr><tr><td>7 Delegated Power</td><td>National Plan for the Development of the Suku (2013)</td></tr><tr><td>6 Partnership</td><td>EMBLU - Mother-Tongue Education Pilot (2016) Community Policing Program (2009)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Tokenism</td><td>5 Placation</td><td>UN Timorization' through ETTA (2001)</td></tr><tr><td>4 Consultation</td><td>Growing Tourism to 2030 (2018) National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030</td></tr><tr><td>3 Informing</td><td>Drafting of the Constitution of the DRTL (2002)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Non-participation</td><td>2 Therapy</td><td rowspan="2">World Bank's Community Empowerment Project (CEP)</td></tr><tr><td>1 Manipulation</td></tr></table> <p>Source: Adapted from O'Connor (1988) and Arnstein (1969).</p>	O'Connor's New Ladder	Ladder of Citizen Participation	Timor-Leste Citizen Participation Context	Citizen Control	8 Citizen Control	UN-sponsored Popular Consultation (1999)	7 Delegated Power	National Plan for the Development of the Suku (2013)	6 Partnership	EMBLU - Mother-Tongue Education Pilot (2016) Community Policing Program (2009)	Tokenism	5 Placation	UN Timorization' through ETTA (2001)	4 Consultation	Growing Tourism to 2030 (2018) National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030	3 Informing	Drafting of the Constitution of the DRTL (2002)	Non-participation	2 Therapy	World Bank's Community Empowerment Project (CEP)	1 Manipulation
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Effectiveness of Community Engagement

Early Childhood
Development Programs:
EMBLI + *Hametin Familia*
Walter, 2016

Recognition of need to
consider local communities'
concerns
Getz, 1986; Tosun, 2000; Hall, 2007; Okazaki,
2008

Community Policing Model
(The Asia Foundation/Overseas Development Institute,
2014; Wassel, 2014)

Police officers worked side-by-side with
Village Chiefs to resolve local disputes

Community security volunteers support
police maintain security in remote locations

Pivot from reactionary maintenance of law
and order to proactive and preventative

Resulted in increasing levels of confidence
from general public and community leaders

Barefoot Doctors
Zhang and Unschuld, 2008; Cui, 2008; Taylor-Ide &
Taylor, 2002)

Urban doctors dispatched to both
deliver health care services in remote
areas and train indigenous paramedics

First aid
Immunization
Health education services

Successful in the campaign for
eradication of epidemic infectious
diseases such as cholera

Key Barriers to Community Participation

Tosun, 2000

OPERATIONAL (PRACTICAL)	STRUCTURAL (INSTITUTIONAL)	CULTURAL
<p>Lack of Expertise & Education: Poor communities often lack the skills needed for tourism jobs or entrepreneurial ventures.</p> <p>Financial Constraints: High costs of starting tourism businesses exclude low-income groups.</p> <p>Seasonal Employment: Tourism jobs are often temporary, offering unstable</p>	<p>Centralized Governance: Tourism planning is typically top-down, controlled by governments or foreign investors, leaving locals out of decision-making.</p> <p>Bureaucratic Inefficiencies: Red tape and corruption prevent grassroots involvement.</p> <p>Land Ownership Issues: Poor communities may lack legal rights to land, making them vulnerable to displacement for tourism projects.</p>	<p>Traditional Power Structures: Local elites or tribal leaders may dominate tourism benefits, excluding marginalised groups.</p> <p>Mistrust of Authorities: Poor communities may distrust government-led tourism initiatives due to past exploitation.</p> <p>Social Hierarchies: Gender, caste, or ethnic discrimination can prevent equal participation.</p>

income.
Tosun argues that participation is often tokenistic—governments and developers claim to involve locals but exclude them from real decision-making.

The literature emphasizes that tourism development benefits communities by fostering sustainable growth, cultural preservation, and social and economic empowerment.

However, community participation faces limitations such as lack of awareness, power imbalances, resource access issues, communication barriers, cultural factors, external influences, and resistance to change.

Overcoming these challenges requires collaborative, inclusive approaches that prioritize community engagement, capacity building, and empowerment to ensure equitable participation and benefits.



METHODOLOGY

community participation in tourism planning
community participation in tourism management

community participation in tourism planning
barriers to community participation
Resource needs evaluation



Purposive Snowball Sampling



Sony UX560 Digital Recorder



covered	654
park	kilometers
recorded	205
transcribe	kilometers
d	10.29 hours
	78,794 words

C(b)14: Yes, specific. Because during this time, we experience difficulties, when we go to court, we lose because there are no specific laws addressing this issue. Then secondly, **we still don't have resources, as I mentioned before (to you), I am one individual, one person controlling an area of 19,000 hectares, so it is not possible to apprehend all of those stealing illegally, because alone it is not possible, if it is possible, then our government, our nation should allocate four or five more guards to collaborate together in order to prevent the loss of our resources of this nature.** Thirdly, I would like to add that when we create the Nino Konis Santana National Park, we have to create the appropriate conditions for our communities that live in close proximity to those areas of the Nino Konis Santana National Park, because during this time, the park was created many years ago already, but the benefits for our community have been extremely low, they still don't feel what is the Nino Konis Santana National Park. This is our worry, because I remember earlier when the Xefi Aldeia was speaking, because in the future the oil will dry up but our natural treasures, such as our nature, our landscape, our old growth forests will not disappear.

Fourth, **we need to allocate some kind of a budget, because some of our community members still don't understand what is a national park, what is its objective, what are its benefits, they still don't understand, so we allocate a budget in order to carry out socialization amongst them, in order that they can understand(these concepts).** So, after we carry out the socialization in order for them to understand, then **we need to carry out zoning.** Such as Inti, Buffer and Utilization zones. Firstly, in regard to the Inti zones, **activities are permitted, such as ritual, but not activities such as hunting because our treasures such as wildlife can live there. The Buffer zones exist to save the Inti zones, the Inti Zones and the Utilization zones. They can be utilized for activities such as some kind of research or recreation, that is permitted. In the Utilization zones, agricultural farming and rice cultivation is permitted, these activities are allowed. What is most important is for our community to have the proper awareness and knowledge regarding these three zones.**

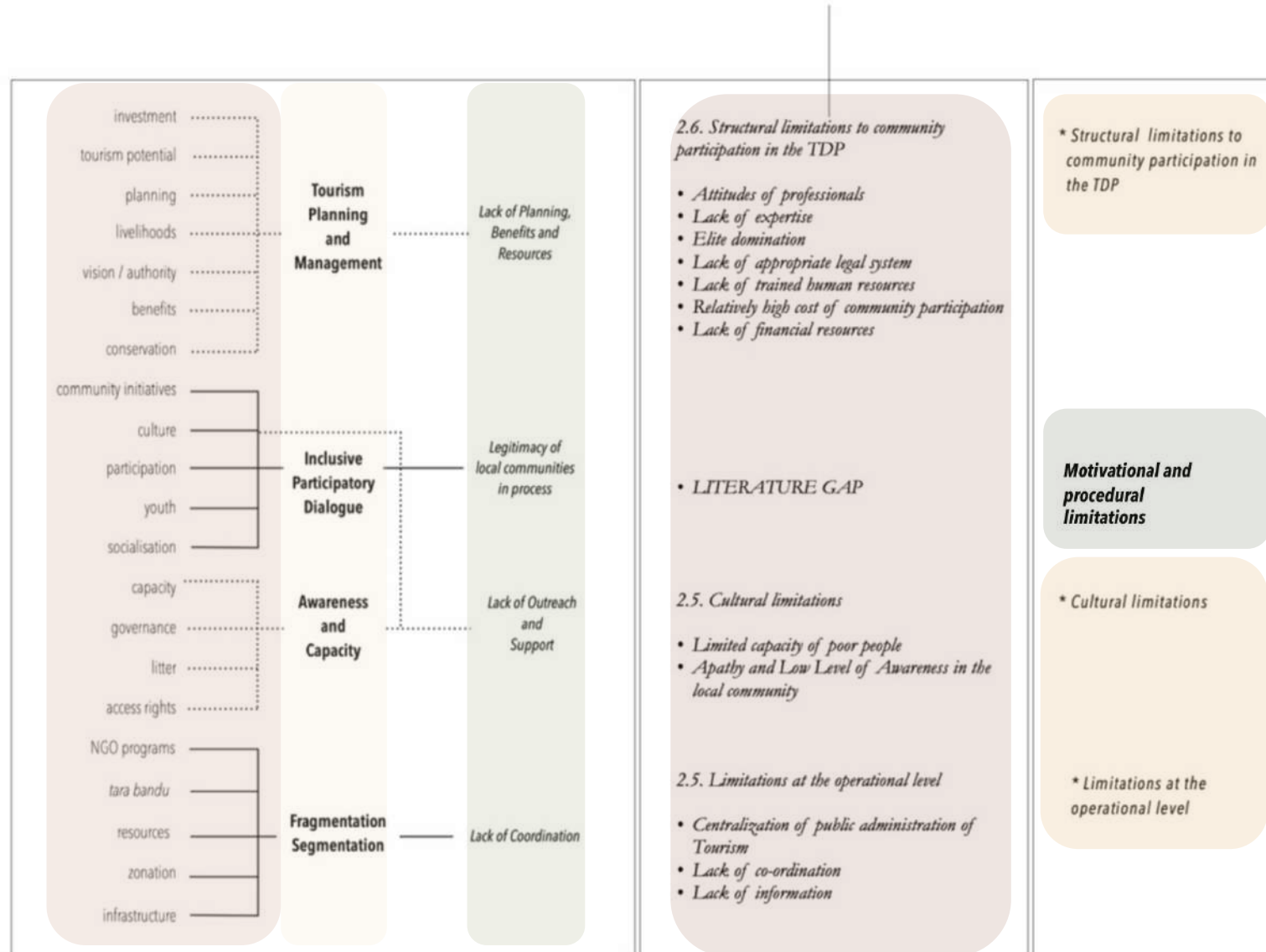
lack of resources

lack of priority by government

zoning

Limits to community participation in the tourism development process in developing countries *

Cevat Tosun (2000)



		ALPHA GROUP	BETA GROUP	BETA GROUP	BETA GROUP	BETA GROUP
	OPERATIONAL	1	2	3	4	5
1	There is adequate coordination between the central government and the local authorities for tourism development. (O ₁)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	There is a satisfactory level of coordination between the local community and non-governmental tourism partners (NGO). (O ₂)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	The community is aware of conservation efforts in our area of the park. (O ₃)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	There exists sufficient knowledge sharing regarding initiatives in tourism development within the park. (O ₄)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	The community is aware of relevant laws being implemented in the park for tourism development. (O ₅)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	The community is aware of tourism planning processes in relation to the NCSP. (O ₆)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	The public administration (for tourism development) is highly centralized. (O ₇)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	There exists an adequate inventory list of potential tourism resources within my community. (O ₈)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	There exists sufficient coordination between the relevant government departments (i.e. between fisheries and agriculture and infrastructure sectors). (O ₉)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	STRUCTURAL	1	2	3	4	5
10	There exists enough expertise in our community for us to participate in tourism planning. (S ₁)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	There currently exists a sufficient legal framework to support conservation efforts within the NCSP. (S ₂)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12	There are adequate financial resources for the community to participate in decision-making in tourism planning. (S ₃)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13	There exist adequate resources to identify the tourism potential in my locality. (S ₄)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14	The municipal authority provides opportunities for the community to participate in decision making in tourism planning. (S ₅)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15	There exist adequate trained human resources in our community in regard to the important cultural sites. (S ₆)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16	Tourism professionals incorporate the concerns of local communities in tourism planning for the NCSP. (S ₇)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17	The elite dominate the tourism development process in the NCSP. (S ₈)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18	There exists the appropriate legal system to combat illegal activities in the NCSP. (S ₉)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19	There exist enough resources to combat illegal activities in the NCSP. (S ₁₀)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20	There exist the adequate level of trained tourism guides in our community. (S ₁₁)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	STRUCTURAL (continued)	1	2	3	4	5
21	Adequate financial resources exist for the community to demarcate the different park zones. S_{11}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22	There exist sufficient timbered forest reserves. S_{12}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23	A lack of human resources is leading to the degradation of the natural resources of the park. S_{13}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24	There exists a need for technical expertise in relation to tourism and the park. S_{14}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	CULTURAL	1	2	3	4	5
25	There have been community-led initiatives in tourism development in the NCRSP. C_{11}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26	The communities are the custodians of the park's resources for future generations. C_{12}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27	I am familiar with, and can explain, all of the "zero bowrie" initiatives in my community to do with tourism. C_{13}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28	I know all of the "link sites" in my area that are important to our community. C_{14}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29	There exist community members with a vision for the development of the park as a whole (which takes into account all the values and all the stakeholders). C_{15}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30	Our community shares our tourism development experiences with other communities. C_{16}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31	There is adequate physical infrastructure for community to gather and exchange information. C_{17}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32	There is sufficient capacity building in order that communities may participate in tourism planning. C_{18}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	There is sufficient socialisation of regulations relating to the park/written my rules. C_{19}	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

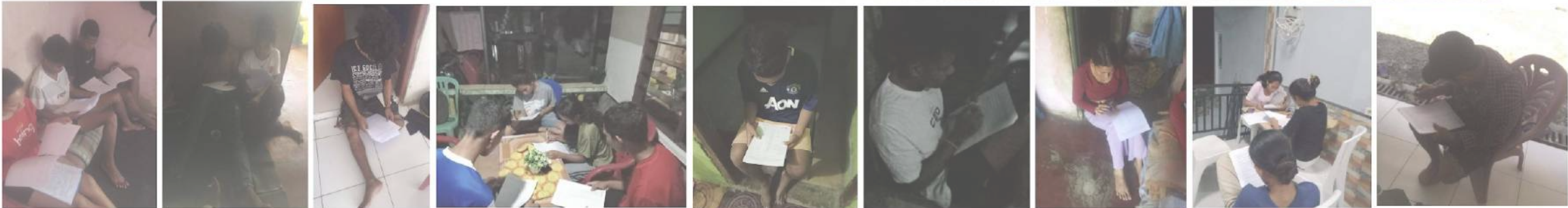
LIMITATIONS	STRUCTURAL	CULTURAL
OPERATIONAL	(a) attraction of professionals (b) lack of expertise (c) administration (d) lack of support from legislature (e) lack of trained human resources (f) lack of financial resources High-control community participation	(a) limited capacity of people (b) quality / awareness of awareness

Source: Kulkarni et al. (2003), limited community participation in PWS management process in developing countries, *Human Management* 20(1), 473-481.

		strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree
MOTIVATIONAL		1	2	3	4	5
P1	I am willing to participate actively in decision making in the tourism development process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P2	I am willing to engage with tourism development planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P3	There exist opportunities for me to participate in tourism development planning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P4	I am willing to participate in conservation efforts in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P5	I participate in cultural activities in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P6	I engage actively with the Village Council in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P7	I attend tourism related activities (meetings, workshops, events, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LIMITATIONS:		STRUCTURAL:		CULTURAL:		
OPPORTUNITIES:		(a) structure of public councils (b) lack of expertise (c) lack of information (d) lack of appropriate local legislation (e) lack of trained tourism resources (f) lack of financial resources (g) lack of local tourism management community participants		(a) limited capacity of sector (b) quality (low levels of awareness) (c) low level of tourism management (d) low level of tourism management (e) low level of tourism management (f) low level of tourism management (g) low level of tourism management (h) low level of tourism management (i) low level of tourism management (j) low level of tourism management (k) low level of tourism management (l) low level of tourism management (m) low level of tourism management (n) low level of tourism management (o) low level of tourism management (p) low level of tourism management (q) low level of tourism management (r) low level of tourism management (s) low level of tourism management (t) low level of tourism management (u) low level of tourism management (v) low level of tourism management (w) low level of tourism management (x) low level of tourism management (y) low level of tourism management (z) low level of tourism management		

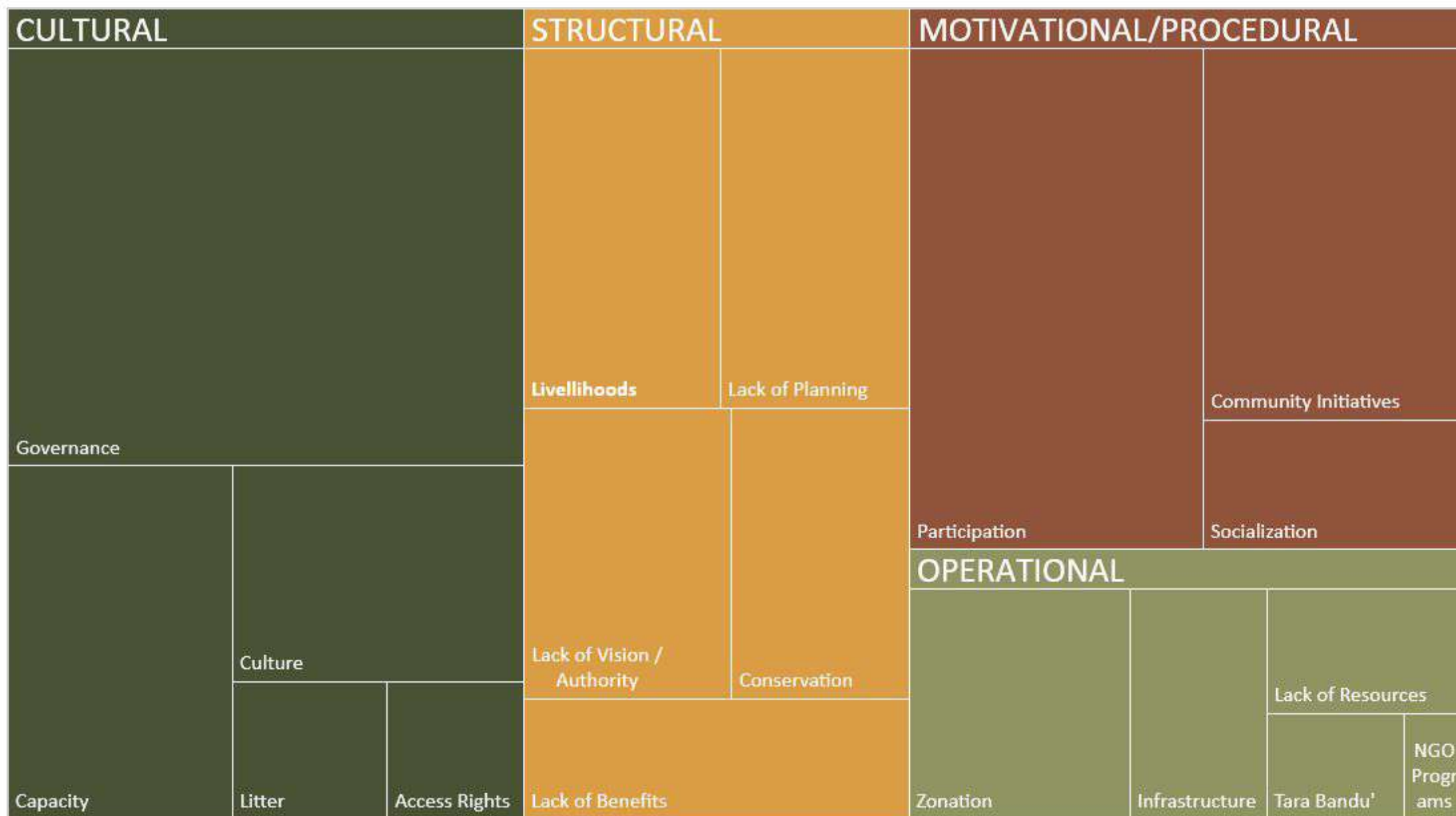
		NECESSARY CAPACITY	EXISTING CAPACITY	DEMANDING CAPACITY	EXISTING CAPACITY
P R O C E D U R A L					
P1	There is mechanism or procedure for the community to seek support from the central government for community initiatives. P_{10}				
P2	There exists a process whereby the governmental authorities and ministries from DLI are able to identify the significant cultural sites in our community. P_{20}				
P3	There is a mechanism for our community to receive information regarding the government's plans for current and future infrastructure needs in our sukla. P_{30}				
P4	There is a process whereby the government can identify with the community what are our needs in terms of human, financial and other capacity needs resources. P_{40}				
P5	There is a process whereby the community is involved in the zonation of the park in our area. P_{50}				
P6	There exists a mechanism for socialisation of policy and developments regarding the park between the different stakeholders (central government, local and NGOs). P_{60}				
P7	The public administration (for tourism development) is highly centralised. P_{70}				
P8	There exists a mechanism for the local communities to have their voices heard by the government and politicians. P_{80}				
P9	There exists a mechanism for all of the different stakeholders in tourism development to collaborate together in our community. From the central government to the municipality to the suku and aldeia. P_{90}				

LIMITATIONS:	
PROCEDURAL:	
(a) lack of a mechanism that can support for community initiatives	(f) lack of a mechanism for shared socialisation of policy and initiatives
(b) lack of a mechanism that can support for cultural heritage after deinstitutionalisation	(g) lack of a process that balances a national agenda with local considerations
(c) lack of a feedback loop regarding infrastructure needs	(h) lack of mechanisms for community systems to reach the political level
(d) lack of a mechanism that can absorb an increasing of community resource needs	(i) lack of a collaboration mechanism
(e) lack of a mechanism to include communities in the adaptation process	





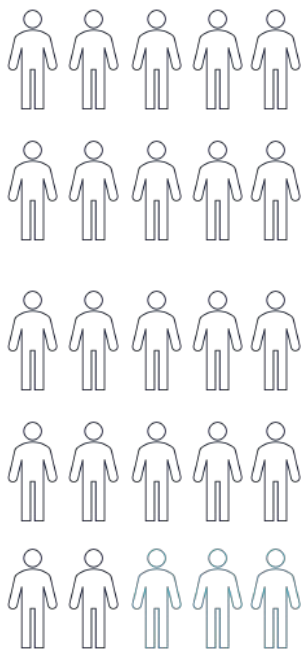
RESULTS



Demographics of semi-structured interviews and surveys

Qualitative

25 community leaders



12% female

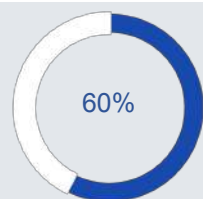
Share of leadership categories

12%
village
chiefs

12%
youth
leaders

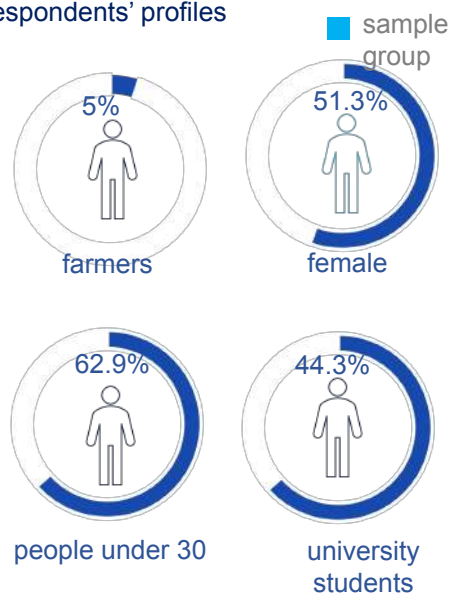
4%
business
community

Sub-Village
Chiefs

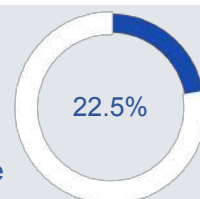


Quantitative

Respondents' profiles



Unemployed



Planning

Results of Coding

Lack of implementation

28.6%

Lack of planning

21.4%

Realized by the community

17.9%

Lack of budget

7.1%

Elitism

3.6%

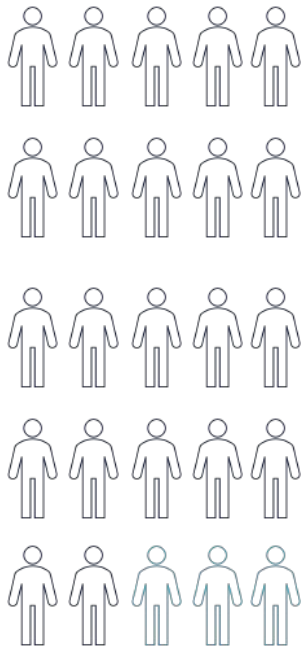
1. 4% is the figure given for female members of local deliberative bodies (106 elected women) UN Women: Data on share of women in local government as of 1 January 2023.

2. 51.3% female distribution is based on 34,327 females and 32,686 males in the 2020 Census figures. Lautém em Números (2020): ESTATÍSTICA MUNICÍPIO DE LAUTÉM. General Directorate of Statics, Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste.

Relation to overall picture and existent literature

Representation

25 community leaders



12% female

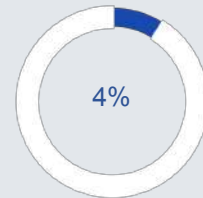
Village Councils

Village Chief
Sub-Village
chiefs

2
youth
representatives

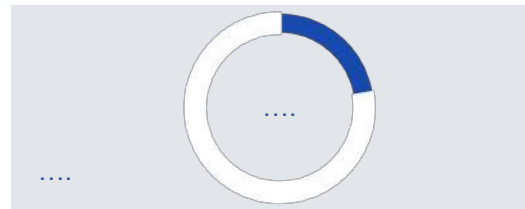
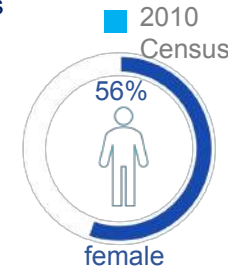
1
female

Village
Councils



Demographics

Respondents' profiles

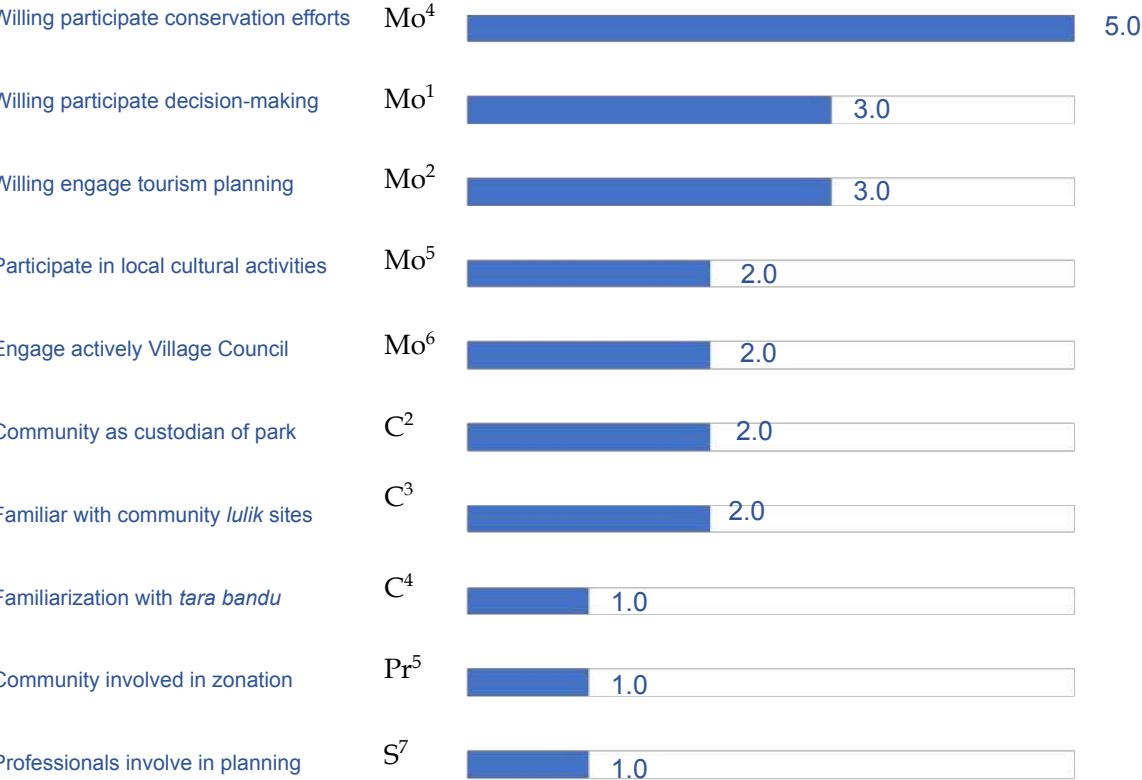


1. 7.33% for the Agricultural Land Category in the Food crops arable Class of 4,976 hectare Area. Ecosystem and community based model for zonation in Nino Konis Santana National Park, Timor-Leste (Mau, 2010).
2. Shifting cultivation figure (0.50%) based on 339 hectares (Area) of agricultural land (Category) according to UNESCO (2012).

Thematic findings of quantitative research

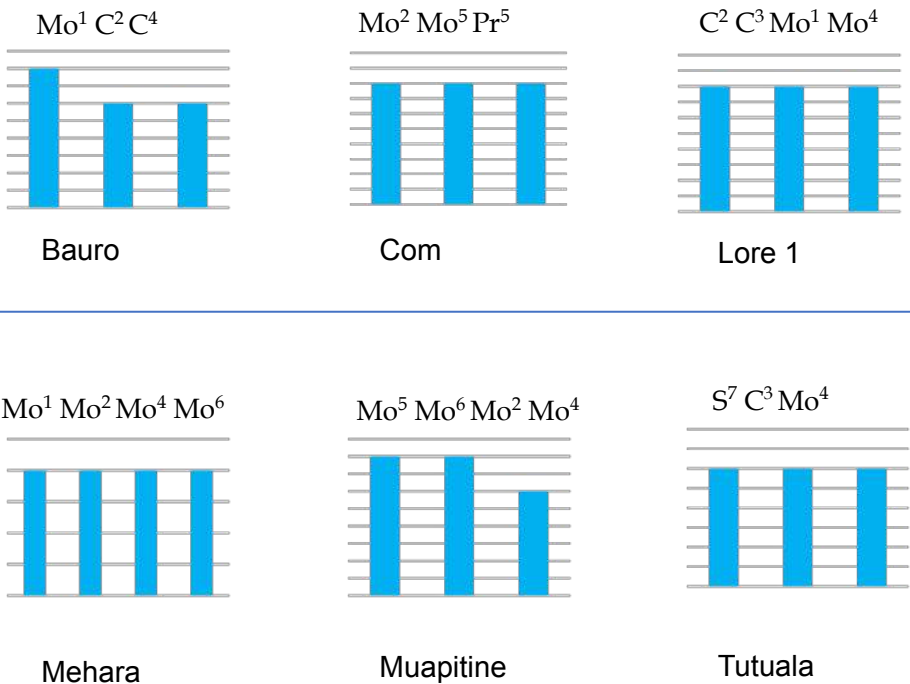
NKSNP community as a whole

Highest to Low Thematic considerations



Village level

Differences in thematic considerations



An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The left side shows a sandy beach with patches of green vegetation. The water transitions from a shallow turquoise near the shore to a deep, dark blue further out. The word "DISCUSSION" is centered in the upper right portion of the image.

DISCUSSION

Table 37: Strategies for addressing limitations to community participation

Barriers to Community Participation ₄	Addressed by PNDS Stage(s)	ensures	addresses Thematic Limitations (Survey)
Structural	3	financial resources for decision-making	S _(f)
	4	adequately trained human resources	S _(b) S _(e)
	5	decision-making also taken at community level	S _(c)
	8	ensure appropriate legal system (or mechanism)	S _(d)
	9	financial resources for implementation	S _(f)
	10	accountability by community of actions taken	S _(a)
	11	continuity and sustainability through mechanism	S _(e)
Cultural	3	overcoming low levels of awareness	C _(a)
	3 / 4 / 5 / 6	provide funds, capacity and decision-making	C _(b)
Operational	1 / 2 / 3 / 4	greater coordination and access to information	O _(b) O _(c)
	8	access to information and decentralization	O _(a) O _(c)
Motivational	1 - 12	facilitates community participation at all levels	Pa
Procedural	1 / 2	access of information and processes by community	Pr _{(f) (g) (h) (i)}
	5 / 6 / 7	support for community initiatives	Pr _{(a) (b) (c)}
	6 / 7	provides mechanism for inclusion in zonation	Pr _(e)
	12	mechanism to absorb inventory of resource needs	Pr _(d)

A scenic landscape photograph featuring a river or stream that flows from the foreground towards the background. The river is surrounded by dense, lush green vegetation, including trees and bushes. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a soft, hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

IMPLICATIONS

Figure 44: Framework for Assessing Community Participation in Tourism Development

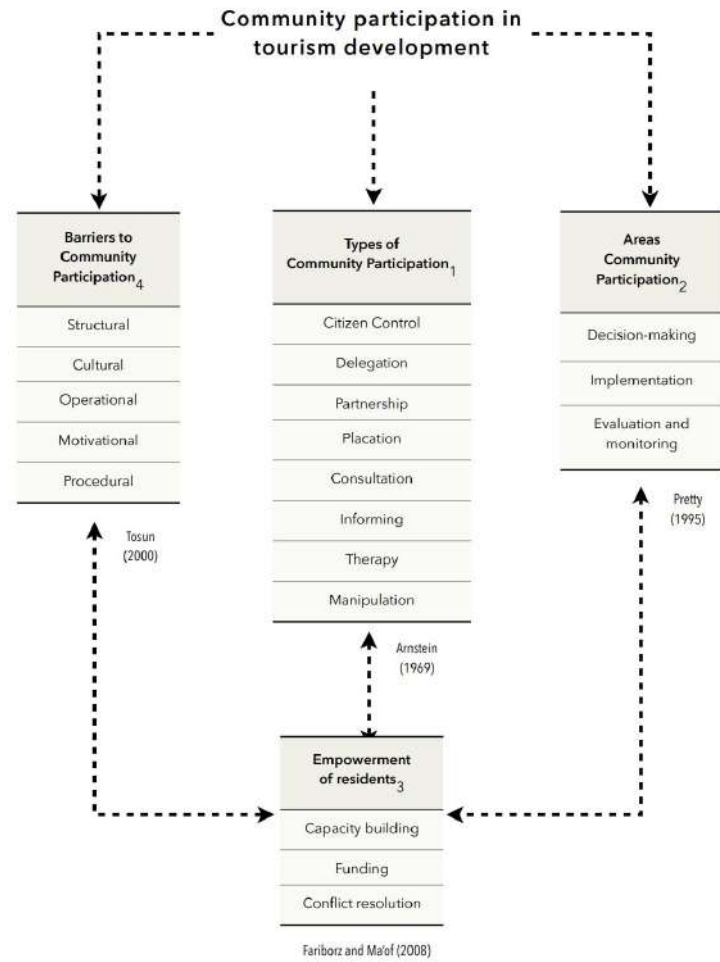


Table 38: Strategies for addressing areas of community participation

Empowerment of residents ₃	PNDS Stage(s)	through
Capacity building	4	training provided on financial management and accountability, project planning, management and monitoring and social inclusion and gender equality.
Funding	3 / 9 / 10	operational funds to facilitate meetings and staged transfer of project funding guided by compliance mechanisms
Conflict resolution	–	communities utilize customary leaders such as the <i>Xefi Aldeia</i> , the <i>lia-nain</i> and governance mechanisms such as <i>tara bandu</i> , as well as elected officials such as the Xefi Suku and Suku Council as conflict resolution mechanisms

Table 39: Strategies for addressing areas of community participation

Areas Community Participation ₂	Addressed by PNDS Stage(s)	through
Decision-making	2 / 5 / 6	decision-making for facilitator, management team and community priorities
Implementation	8 - 9	project agreement and disbursement of funds
Evaluation and monitoring	10 -12	accountability mechanisms and auditing and evaluation processes

Table 40: Empowerment strategies for residents in community participation

Types of Community Participation ₁	Addressed by PNDS Stage(s)	ensures
Empowerment	5 / 6 / 7	through decision-making on priorities and preparation of plans
Partnership	2	through <i>suku</i> facilitator and management team
Material incentives	11 / 12	completion of projects with auditing and evaluation mechanisms
Consultation	8	project proposal complies with both community and government
Informing	7	<i>suku</i> facilitators provide guidance in planning and other issues
Manipulation	4	lessen its likelihood by providing capacity building to the <i>suku</i>



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Examples of sustainability

the word **nain** (custodian) in Lore where the terms «the nain of the reef» or «the nain of the water», whereby certain people had the role of ensuring that **all** of the members of the **community** could **obtain positive benefits** from the resource and to ensure its **sustainability** to be able to continue deriving future benefits.



women from Com and Mehara were identified who utilized **plants** *Derris scandens* and *Derris trifoliata*.

every year traditional custodians travel back to ancestral lands to harvest the wild honey of Jaco island, honey production relies on healthy forest environment, economic incentive exist to ensure protection of ecosystem it depends on.



Examples of initiative

in 2020, the communities of Com and Lore 1 organized their inaugural **Festivals for the Collection of Meci** without State institutional support or presence from the municipal administration level upwards.

however, in **subsequent years the government** would support the initiative through the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

a type of autonomy

communities in the village of Muapitine displayed **their own initiative, commitment and resourcefulness** in ameliorating and rectifying situations that require action. For example, in two sub-villages, communities improved their own dire road conditions through community funding and physical labor).



dedication beyond the call of duty



Gil Mendes Cabral

Forest ranger from the
Village of Muapitine

«...*dialogue* creates the conditions, opens up all possible solutions, we do not, we do not choose a pre-established solution a priori, *because we know that in dialogue, and only in dialogue, is it possible to discuss all possible solutions to the problem...*»

Commander Nino Konis Santana [1991]

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