

SUMMARY OF THE NEW CONCLUSIONS OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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Dissertation title: Promoting Community Participation in Tourism Development towards Green Growth in the Core Zone of the Trang An Landscape Complex, Ninh Binh

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NEW CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

1. The dissertation establishes an analytical framework for community participation in tourism development towards green growth at mixed heritage destinations. It integrates four components: the OECD's green-growth perspective and Vietnam's National Green Growth Strategy; empowerment theory; Pretty's (1995) seven-level participation typology; and the public-private partnership model involving the State, businesses, and local communities. The framework demonstrates that communities are not merely service providers but rights-bearing cultural and heritage actors who participate, co-create, and co-manage.
2. The survey reveals a disparity between the breadth and depth of participation. Although communities are widely involved in the tourism value chain and across the three pillars of green economy, socio-cultural development, and green environment. Participation in consultation, joint decision-making, cultural-space design, resource monitoring, and benefit-sharing remains limited. This finding substantiates the need to shift from implementation-oriented participation towards substantive participation, co-creation, and heritage co-management.
3. The regression model based on 395 valid responses explains 64.5% of the variance in participation. All six factor groups have positive effects, ranked in descending order as environment, economy, green-growth awareness, socio-cultural factors, barriers, and mechanisms and policies. The dissertation also identifies geo-cultural differentiation: environmental and policy-related factors are prominent in Ninh Hai; green-growth awareness, economic, and socio-cultural factors are central in Truong Yen; and economic factors exert the strongest influence in Ninh Xuan. Accordingly, a uniform set of participation-enhancement measures is unsuitable for the entire core zone.
4. Drawing on the empirical evidence, the dissertation proposes solutions tailored to stakeholder groups and the three green-growth pillars. The proposed management instruments include smart heritage governance, dialogue and co-management arrangements, a Heritage Conservation and Green Livelihoods Fund, and the "Trang An Green Community" Criteria linked to the "Trang An Green Community Convention." The findings may inform policy formulation and management at Trang An

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