



## The role of tourism-related organisation networks in developing sustainable community livelihoods

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Received: 28 April. 2016, In Revised form: 9 Sept. 2016, Accepted: 10 Sept. 2016, Available online: 1 Oct. 2016

### Abstract

This study aims to investigate the effect of environmental and non-environmental roles of tourism organisations in protecting environmental natural resources and developing sustainable community livelihoods. A questionnaire was used to collect data from 510 employees of tourism-related organizations involved in managing tourism's environmental impacts on Hurghada, through a purposive convenient sampling approach. The results revealed a strong environmental role versus poor non-environmental role contributing to the sustainable livelihood outcomes. The study integrated sustainable livelihoods (SL) approach and collaboration theories to examine the role of a network of tourism-related organisations in improving Hurghada's local community livelihoods.

**Keywords:** Tourism organisations, sustainable livelihoods approach, collaboration, environmental protection, Structural equation modelling, Egypt.

### 1. Introduction

It has been argued that development could promote conservation, and that, rather than local communities paying the cost for conservation, they could benefit from it. Hence, if tourism is to support conservation and livelihoods, efforts to manage it must be made through frameworks [5]. The sustainable livelihoods (SL) approach can be seen as an analytical framework dealing with the dynamic dimensions of poverty and well-being [6]. It establishes a typology of assets through which poor individuals, households and communities deploy to sustain well-being under varying circumstances [36]. It supposes that when local community's livelihoods are secure, they will be less likely to resort to practices damaging the environment [13]. This is confirmed by Ashley and Roe who stated that poverty is not only a matter of lack of income, it has been also viewed as a function of lack of individual capabilities[3], such as education or health, that enable individuals to accomplish a fundamental level of human well-being [52]. Krantz, included other dimensions of poverty including illiteracy, lack of social services, natural and institutions' capitals, as

well as a state of vulnerability and feelings of powerlessness in general [28].

Organisations in tourist destinations have a collective role in protecting the natural resources and preserving the environmental assets. In addition to their environmental role, organisations have a non-environmental role that contributes to improve the livelihoods of poor people. This study aims at investigating the contribution of environmental and non-environmental roles of tourism-related organisations in improving the sustainable livelihood outcomes for local community of Hurghada, Egypt. The main contribution of the study is to draw the attention of relevant organisations that working on the principle of the integration of sustainable livelihoods approach and collaboration theories could help achieve the livelihood outcomes, particularly when these outcomes require involving various organisations.

### 2. Literature review