



Volume 4	Issue 3	March (2025)	DOI: 10.47540/ijqr.v4i3.1771	Page: 274 – 284
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Applying Circular Economy to Regenerative Tourism on Island: Insights from Con Dao, Vietnam

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Circular Economy, Regenerative Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainability.

Received : 05 December 2024

Revised : 29 March 2025

Accepted : 30 March 2025

ABSTRACT

The development of mass tourism in islands is encountering issues of resource depletion and overcapacity. Simultaneously, sustainable tourism models seek to mitigate adverse effects but do not entirely restore impacted destinations. Consequently, regenerative tourism grounded in a circular economy may serve as a viable solution to the challenges faced by islands. Con Dao, a small, ecological island in Vietnam facing significant environmental problems due to growing mass tourism, serves as a case study to explore the above integration. This paper aims to develop a regenerative tourism model based on the circular economy concept through field research and in-depth interviews with tourists, local officials, and tourism businesses. The results showed that the model is made up of three main domains: (1) a circular tourism value chain that makes the best use of resources and cuts down on waste; (2) circular and regenerative governance that encourages stakeholders to work together and makes sure that policies are aligned; and (3) regenerative tourism practices that encourage responsible behavior that is good for ecological recovery. This study also introduces specific techniques for each component to provide theoretical and practical contributions.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable tourism development is an essential approach to safeguarding destinations, especially islands with fragile and distinctive ecosystems (Dluzewska & Giampiccoli, 2021; Giampiccoli & Mtapuri, 2021; Polnyotee & Thadaniti, 2015). However, traditional sustainability techniques generally emphasize harm reduction rather than fostering good, long-term effects and not rebuilding to revive the destination (Satta et al., 2019; Tasci et al., 2022). Regenerative solutions are required to overcome this constraint and are the integration needed to ensure sustainability and resilience. (Alvarez, 2024; Bellato et al., 2023). Regenerative tourism transcends preservation by actively improving and rehabilitating natural and social systems (Corral-Gonzalez et al., 2023; Schmidt Rojas et al., 2024).

Regenerative tourism reflects a change toward generating net-positive results. It promotes tourism plans that minimize damage while simultaneously actively restoring and revitalizing ecosystems and

communities (Assiouras & Bayer, 2024; Schmidt Rojas et al., 2024). Following the principles of the circular economy, which gives closed-loop systems, resource efficiency, and waste reduction top importance, this strategy turns tourism into a catalyst for ecological and community rehabilitation (Popp et al., 2024; Schmidt Rojas et al., 2024).

Emerging as a major instrument in the tourism sector, the circular economy (CE) provides strategies to decrease waste, enhance resource efficiency, and create shared value (Jain et al., 2024; Tomassini & Cavagnaro, 2022). By enabling the use of waste as input materials and boosting resource efficiency, the CE is a significant way to support sustainable tourism development in the direction of regeneration (Andriamahefazafy & Failler, 2022; Schumann, 2020). The application of CE concepts provides a purposeful way to balance environmental preservation and economic growth for tourist destinations with limited access, such as small islands (Jain et al., 2024; Reynolds et al., 2022).

The incorporation of CE principles into regenerative tourism frameworks has been suggested to improve resource efficiency, manage waste, and foster the long-term resilience of tourism destinations, especially in vulnerable settings like small islands and rural regions (Bellato & Pollock, 2023; Nieuwland, 2024). This integration is deemed essential for guaranteeing that tourism operations significantly enhance the ecological and social well-being of the places in which they function.

Islands, due to their limited resources and distinct ecosystems, are especially vulnerable to the environmental impacts of tourism (Dłużewska & Giampiccoli, 2021; Polnyotee & Thadaniti, 2015). A transition from linear consumption models to circular practices is essential for guaranteeing the sustainability and resilience of these destinations (Jain et al., 2024). Therefore, integrating CE concepts in island tourism poses considerable prospects (Argo & Rachmawati, 2021; Pani et al., 2020).

Con Dao, a Vietnamese island well-known for its unique biodiversity and historical relevance, serves as a suitable case study in this research. This island is under further strain as demand for tourists rises, especially from the extension of aviation routes. Most tourists nowadays participate in leisure and spiritual tourism, which does not help to reclaim the ecosystems of the island (Khuu et al., 2021; Nguyet & Bau, 2023). Therefore, there is an urgent need to design a tourism development model for the island that is linked to protecting the ecosystem as well as helping the island regenerate when affected by mass tourism.

This study aims to develop a regenerative tourism model based on ideas from the CE for Con Dao. Combining ideas from the CE with

regenerative tourism philosophy is meant to help reduce negative effects and offer chances for ecological restoration. This paper presents a fresh viewpoint by aggregating many models not been given enough attention. The research results contribute a theoretical research model on applying CE to regenerative tourism as well as specific techniques to be able to apply the proposals in the context of islands facing problems in sustainable tourism development.

METHODS

This study employs qualitative research, including field research and semi-structured interviews with 10 tourists, 2 local officials, and 3 tourism businesses, to develop a regenerative tourism model grounded in ideas from the CE. Through the results of field research, the first idea of this model was proposed by the author to tourists, local officials, and business owners during tourism training courses hosted in Con Dao in June 2024. Following an analysis of current conditions, workshop attendees were given the first model for comments, which shaped additional enhancements. From June to September 2024, further in-depth interviews were done after these sessions using in-person visits and phone conversations.

Participants were chosen through a blend of purposes and snowball sampling techniques. They were either participants in the training sessions or were referred by other attendees of the seminar. All participants were cognizant that their participation was optional and the information they supplied was maintained anonymously. The study complied with ethical research norms, guaranteeing that the interview questions raised no ethical issues.

Table 1. Participants’ Demographics

ID	Participant	Sex	Age	Education Level	Occupation
T1	Tourist 1	Male	42	High School	Business
T2	Tourist 2	Male	26	Undergraduate	Office
T3	Tourist 3	Male	55	Undergraduate	Business
T4	Tourist 4	Female	47	High School	Housekeeping
T5	Tourist 5	Male	32	Undergraduate	Office
T6	Tourist 6	Female	28	Undergraduate	Office
T7	Tourist 7	Male	51	High School	Business
T8	Tourist 8	Female	45	Secondary School	Business
T9	Tourist 9	Female	36	Undergraduate	Business
T10	Tourist 10	Female	32	Undergraduate	Business

L1	Local official 1	Male	43	Undergraduate	Civil servant
L2	Local official 2	Female	37	Undergraduate	Civil servant
E1	Enterprise 1	Male	34	Undergraduate	Business
E2	Enterprise 2	Female	36	Undergraduate	Business
E3	Enterprise 3	Male	29	Undergraduate	Business

Source: Author

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Current status of tourism in Con Dao

Con Dao, commonly known as a natural paradise, is celebrated for its varied and unspoiled natural and cultural tourism assets (Greg Ringer, 2012; Nguyet & Bau, 2023). Con Dao is home to Con Dao National Park, Vietnam’s inaugural Ramsar marine island site, showcasing a diverse environment with numerous rare species of flora and wildlife, as well as pristine beaches including An Hai, Lo Voi, Dat Doc, and Dam Trau. Tourists perceive that its natural resources have predominantly remained unspoiled, maintaining their inherent beauty and ecological integrity. They contend that harm to these assets will diminish the island's allure (T4, T6, T8 case).

Con Dao is historically rich, functioning as a location of considerable heritage associated with Vietnam's resistance against colonial forces (Nguyet & Bau, 2023). Prominent cultural landmarks comprise the system of Con Dao Prison, Hang Duong Cemetery, and several historical and cultural artifacts that provide profound insights into Vietnamese history. These historical places draw a varied array of tourists in pursuit of cultural enrichment and spiritual consolation. Numerous tourists visit Con Dao initially to pay tribute to its heroes and subsequently to unwind and appreciate its natural splendor (T5, T8, T9 case).

By the end of 2019, preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, Con Dao had established itself as a significant destination, attracting about 400,000 domestic and foreign tourists each year, with tourism earnings surpassing 1,555 billion VND. From 2016 to 2019, the island witnessed a significant average annual growth rate of 33.11% in tourist numbers and 24.7% in tourism earnings, greatly enhancing the region's tourism development. Recently, it has drawn a substantial influx of tourists, registering an average yearly growth rate of over 20% in tourist numbers and 15.5% in income. In 2024, Con Dao welcomed 586,465 tourists, including about 24,000 international tourists. Total

tourism revenue is estimated at 2,360 billion VND, reaching 113% of the yearly plan.

The region comprises 141 lodging facilities with a cumulative total of 2,740 rooms, accommodating up to 7,118 people every day. This comprises one 5-star resort, five 4-star hotels, three 3-star hotels, and 132 1-2-star hotels and tourist houses. Additionally, there are 43 souvenir shops, 16 tourism and diving enterprises, approximately 14 transportation firms, and 18 passenger transport services. Approximately 49 boats and canoes are available for island excursions, along with motorbike and bicycle rentals for local exploring.

Local officials and tourism enterprises assert that Con Dao presently offers a wide range of tourism activities, each tailored to accommodate unique interests and experiences (L1, L2, E1, E2 case). The island's spiritual and cultural sites are primary attractions, allowing tourists to investigate locations renowned for their profound spiritual importance and extensive cultural legacy. These encompass significant cemeteries, temples, and pagodas that possess historical relevance and offer a serene environment for contemplation. A notable aspect is the island's historical tourism, which vividly showcases its rich past through well-preserved artifacts and historical locations. Tourists can explore the island's past and understand its significance in defining the nation's narrative, rendering it an enticing destination for history aficionados.

Con Dao's upscale hotels provide a special mix of luxury and quiet in immaculate natural surroundings for people looking for exclusiveness and elegance. These businesses mix first-rate facilities with a beautiful environment to offer the ideal refuge for tourists seeking an extravagant experience. Furthermore appealing to the island are marine activity and ecotourism. With so many ecotourism paths and sites, the national park provides tourists with the chance to view a range of habitats, including coastal regions, mountains, and woodlands. Participating in animal conservation

programs, especially those aimed at safeguarding marine life, enhances the tourist experience and advances environmental sustainability and understanding.

Con Dao is likely to witness a spike in tourist numbers soon due to the expansion of flight routes and shipping services as well as the higher demand for spiritual tourism and leisure activities. Given the increasing expenditures in infrastructure and tourism planning, it is necessary to give the creation of sustainable and regenerative tourism models a top priority. This approach will ensure that the growth of tourism concurrently helps to preserve the natural and cultural riches of the island, lessens environmental consequences, and promotes long-term community welfare.

Circular Economy Status and Urgency in Con Dao

The findings from in-depth interviews with L1, L2, E1, and E3 cases indicate that the execution of CE principles in Con Dao is presently constrained and encounters numerous significant obstacles. The island's economic pursuits, particularly tourism, have exerted significant strain on local resources and infrastructure, which are not prepared to manage increasing waste and resource requirements (Khuu et al., 2021; Nguyet & Bau, 2023). According to tourism businesses, environmental deterioration, water scarcity, and waste management are major issues that highlight how urgently a shift to a CE model is needed (E1, E2, E3 case).

According to local officials, Con Dao is confronted with a serious waste management problem since the main landfill at Bai Nhat is getting close to full. The 15 tons of trash generated per day cannot be processed effectively by the current waste management system, which leads to landfill overflow and leachate contamination that endangers nearby marine habitats and local water quality. This situation highlights the lack of recycling or waste-to-resource plans, which are crucial components of a CE strategy. Furthermore, the island's freshwater is a scarce and particularly vulnerable resource (Greg Ringer, 2012). According to island officials, the water supply is mostly reliant on reservoir storage and seasonal precipitation (L1 case), both of which are insufficient to meet the demands of a growing population and a growing number of tourists, especially during peak seasons.

Tourism businesses note that tourists use large amounts of water and warn that shortages might occur if water use is not more efficient (E1, E2, E3 case).

The initiative, "Research and application of the circular economy model to facilitate sustainable socio-economic development of Con Dao district, Ba Ria-Vung Tau province from 2022 to 2025," seeks to turn Con Dao into a paradigm of sustainable development by 2030. The main goals consist of: Attaching a 50% rate of domestic solid waste collecting and treatment as well as 100% treatment of organic waste using CE techniques; Establishing rainwater collecting and purifying systems will help to meet ten percent of water needs; Expanding coral reef building and restoration projects of 6–7 hectares help to restore marine ecosystems; Change to green transportation: With 30% of all cars running on renewable energy sources, replace 100% of passenger transportation vehicles with electric and solar energy substitutes; Encouragement of the gathering, repair, and refurbishment of used goods will help to attain a 15% reuse rate.

The increase in economic activity and tourism causes major environmental stress that results in resource depletion and the deterioration of ecosystems. Concerns about certain hazards the island faces were voiced by tourists (T1, T3, and T9 cases). They highlighted unsustainable activities like over-extraction of freshwater, unbridled tourism, and lack of sustainable tourism ventures. These activities are draining the island's natural resources faster than they can be rebuilt, therefore endangering its ecological equilibrium.

Given these problems, all of the respondents felt that Con Dao had to change to a CE if the island wanted to reach sustainable growth and minimize the impact of tourists and other business operations on the surroundings. Con Dao would be able to maximize its few resources in a CE by putting policies such as water recycling, waste-to-resource conversion, and sustainable buying into effect. This would help to reduce the waste management issue and minimize the load on natural resources.

Local officials are pushing more circular activities including recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy conversion, to help to lower landfill waste and safeguard the island's ecology. Effective waste management will also help to avoid

contamination of surrounding water sources and marine areas. Furthermore, the use of cycle water management strategies like greywater recycling, desalination, and rainfall collecting will help to reduce water scarcity and provide a more consistent water supply for residents as well as tourists. CE models may also help to turn tourism into a regenerative catalyst by promoting ecologically friendly company operations, including tourists in conservation projects, and pushing sustainable tourist behavior.

Theoretical Framework for Proposing a Regenerative Tourism Model Based on a Circular Economy

The goal of the suggested regenerative tourism model is to increase the sustainability and resilience of tourist sites by integrating the concepts of the CE. This model highlights cooperation, value co-creation, and innovation in business models while outlining the direct and indirect value chains in a tourism system (CE360 Alliance, 2020). By implementing regenerative practices, such as biodiversity preservation, efficient energy usage, and environmental leakage reduction, it aims to improve resource utilization and reduce waste. It highlights the value of collaboration in achieving sustainable tourism by including stakeholders from a variety of industries, such as waste management, utilities, construction, finance, and regulators.

The regenerative stakeholder paradigm recognizes that tourism constitutes a complex and interrelated system comprising a varied range of human and non-human participants (Husamoglu et al., 2024). The regenerative stakeholder framework demonstrates that human and non-human stakeholders are linked rather than separate. Conventional tourism models primarily emphasize human stakeholders, including tourists, employees, and local enterprises. Conversely, the regenerative

approach expands the viewpoint to encompass non-human species that are vital for the health and sustainability of a destination's ecosystem.

The human stakeholders within the framework are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governmental entities, tourists, tourism personnel, scholars, tourism providers, investors, and local communities. Each organization fulfills a unique function in developing and influencing tourist practices, encompassing policy formulation and research. Investors and tourist providers affect the economic frameworks and resources, while governmental entities establish legislation that directs the tourism sector. Non-human stakeholders, including bacteria, fungi, plants, animals, climate, and larger ecosystems and habitats, are as essential. These non-human entities are frequently disregarded, yet they deliver vital functions and constitute the cornerstone of appealing and sustainable tourism locales.

Proposing a Regenerative Tourism Model Based on a Circular Economy for Con Dao

Based on field research and interview results, the proposed model combines CE ideas into a regenerative tourism framework fit for small islands. Through matching tourism activities with sustainable and regenerative practices, it aims to increase resource efficiency, strengthen community resilience, and promote ecological recovery.

Through three interconnected components, circular tourism value chain, circular and regenerative governance, and regenerative tourist practices, this model offers a fresh and context-specific approach to incorporating principles of the CE into the tourism sector. This idea is unique in its ability to actively promote the repair and enhancement of both natural and social capital in tourism sites as well as to lessen negative environmental impact.

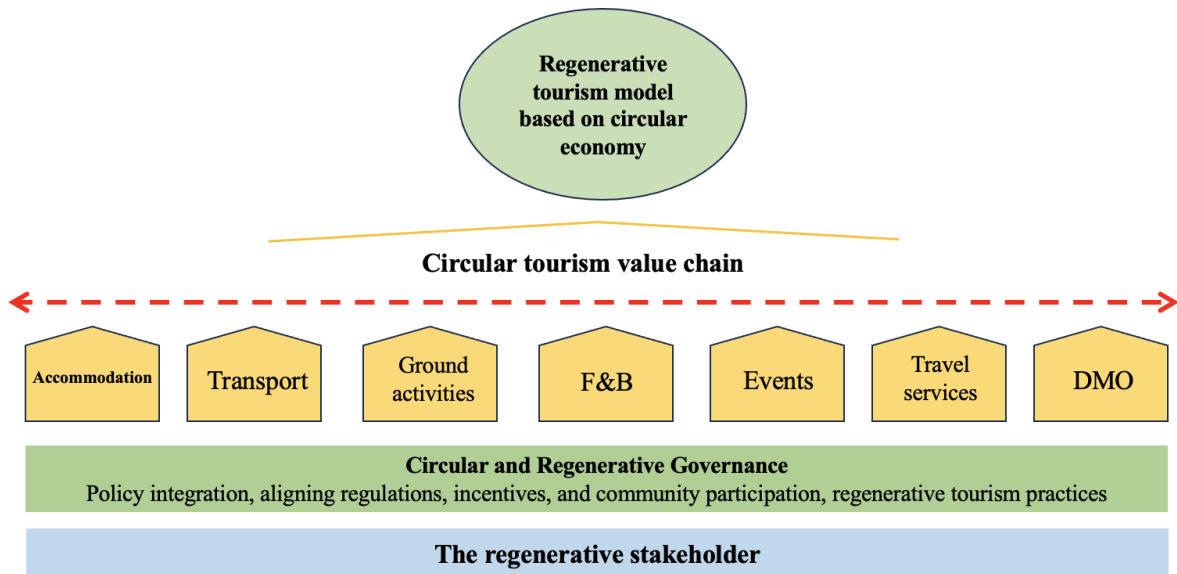


Figure 1. Regenerative tourism model based on circular economy

Source: Author

The circular tourism value chain transforms conventional tourism practices by emphasizing resource efficiency, minimizing waste, and generating value through resource recirculation (Sciacca, 2020; Tomassini & Cavagnaro, 2022). This method encompasses measures for enhancing energy efficiency, water conservation, and material cycles across the tourism service delivery chain, including housing, transportation, activities, and waste management. Circular governance is central to the approach, facilitating effective stakeholder involvement and policy alignment (Pani et al., 2020; Sciacca, 2020). It encompasses systems for collaboration among municipal authorities, tourism enterprises, community organizations, and other sectors, including utilities and waste management. The governance system is established on a collaborative responsibility model, wherein decision-making is inclusive, and results are jointly developed by all stakeholders. This method is particularly innovative as it tackles the disjointed structure of tourism governance, promoting cohesive management and shared responsibility.

Furthermore, the model prioritizes regenerative tourism behaviors, transforming tourists from passive consumers into active contributors to destination stewardship (Duxbury et al., 2021; Zaman et al., 2023). Tourists are urged to partake in activities that promote ecological restoration, including wildlife conservation initiatives and cultural preservation, such as

involvement in community-based tourism. This component presents a behavioral paradigm that promotes positive environmental and social benefits, distinguishing it from conventional sustainable tourism strategies that emphasize reducing harm.

First Component: Value Chain of Circular Tourism

In an aim to transform tourism operations, the circular tourism value chain gives waste reduction and sustainable resource management first priority. Con Dao particularly needs this strategy as the present sustainability projects on the island are limited and inadequate, including plastic recycling. The present resource use and waste management methods of Con Dao are not optimal (L1, L2 case). The entire tourist capacity does not fit the ecological boundaries of the island; water usage in hotels and restaurants is typically excessive; and tourist count in the national park is still unregulated.

Developing a circular tourism value chain primarily aims to enable Con Dao to monitor tourism operations while safeguarding its natural and cultural resources. It encourages the conversion of conventional tourism activities into a closed-loop system giving waste reduction, resource reuse top priority, and low environmental impact top importance. This method tries to lower reliance on finite resources by building a self-sustaining cycle whereby materials and energy are efficiently used and subsequently recycled back into the system.

Resource optimization is thus absolutely vital (Sciacca, 2020). Introducing sustainable energy technologies, such as solar panels and wind turbines, to run tourism facilities, helps the island less rely on fossil fuels. Effective water conservation in an island setting with limited freshwater depends on smart water management practices like water reusing and rainfall collecting.

Waste reduction and recycling take center stage most of the time. Using waste segregation systems in hotels and restaurants will improve the way inorganic and organic garbage is handled. Organic waste may be used as compost or turned into biofuel, therefore improving local industry. Similarly, non-organic waste like plastics may be upcycled or repurposed to help reduce the overall environmental effect.

The circular value chain depends critically on sustainable procurement and local sourcing. Con Dao may reduce the carbon effect connected with transportation and support the local economy by stressing locally produced goods and resources. Circular procurement rules that give recycled and upcycled materials first priority for tourism infrastructure will help to reinforce this by thus completing the supply chain loop.

Second Component: Circular, Regenerative Governance

Circular and regenerative governance is crucial if we are to promote collaboration and ensure that all those engaged, including local government, businesses, and communities, come together in favor of sustainable tourism. Putting CE ideas into effect in Con Dao, where tourism demand may strain social and environmental capacity, depends on building a governance system that supports cooperation, creativity, and policy consistency.

The most recent project, "Research and application of the circular economy model to facilitate sustainable socio-economic development of Con Dao district, Ba Ria-Vung Tau province from 2022 to 2025", sets the foundation for creating policies, especially using CE approaches to handle the consequences of tourism (L1, L2 case). This project helps Con Dao expand sustainably and provides a model for other areas wishing to use circular principles. This approach depends critically on the participation of numerous stakeholders. Establishing a cooperative platform including local communities, travel agencies, local officials, and

environmental non-governmental groups is absolutely vital. This forum might be used to define regeneration goals, coordinate resource management, and handle problems afflicting the tourism sector together. Frequent seminars and training courses will boost knowledge and capacity for circular and regenerative tourism methods, therefore enabling significant involvement from all stakeholders.

Furthermore, essential for good governance is policy and regulatory assistance. Legislation that offers incentives, including tax breaks for zero-waste businesses or certificates for sustainable operations, can help to encourage circular methods. Local legislation requiring sustainable building, efficient resource management, and responsible garbage disposal guarantees all new and current tourism initiatives to follow the ideas of a CE. Maintaining the integrity of this governance structure calls for effective assessment and monitoring. Digital tools and intelligent technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT) systems, which provide insights into areas that demand development enable real-time monitoring of resource use and environmental consequences through integration. Open reporting systems will help to promote accountability by keeping stakeholders informed and engaged and by supporting ongoing development towards common sustainability objectives.

Third Component: Regenerative Tourist Practices

Regenerative tourism methods are crucial for transforming tourists into active contributors to the preservation and enhancement of destinations such as Con Dao, rather than simply reducing their adverse effects. Although Con Dao possesses a fundamental appreciation for its environment and cultural legacy, especially the spiritual veneration of locations like Ms. Vo Thi Sau's burial site, contemporary initiatives frequently remain confined to rudimentary sustainability measures, such as reusing plastic bags or segregating waste. To progress, enhanced involvement from tourists is essential, wherein they not only refrain from causing harm but also actively participate in the repair and renewal of the island's distinctive biological and cultural systems.

A key strategy for promoting this transition is via eco-education and involvement (T5 and T7

cases). Creating educational programs that emphasize the island's delicate ecosystems and the importance of regenerative practices might enhance tourists' knowledge. Interactive components, like interpretative trails, guided eco-tours, and digital resources, can engage tourists in Con Dao's abundant biodiversity, facilitating comprehension of their actions' consequences and fostering a more conscientious tourism ethos.

An additional crucial strategy is to incorporate participation in tourism activities that transcend passive observation and engage tourists in active conservation efforts. Community-oriented initiatives like as reforestation, coral reef rehabilitation, or coastal clean-ups facilitate meaningful engagement between tourists and the environment, as well as local communities, resulting in a beneficial influence. Tourism packages that incorporate volunteer opportunities with local conservation organizations can enhance

this connection, allowing tourists to perceive themselves as contributors rather than simple consumers.

Encouraging regenerative behavior can significantly impact outcomes. For example, providing eco-certification programs that acknowledge and incentivize tourists to participate in sustainable practices or selecting low-impact tourism alternatives can facilitate a change in perspectives. Incentives for low-carbon transportation options, water, and energy conservation programs, or contributions to local conservation projects yield concrete advantages for environmentally responsible actions. An innovative initiative for Con Dao may involve the issuance of "green tourism passports" that monitor and acknowledge a tourist's beneficial contributions, thus enhancing a sense of purpose and accountability.

Table 2. Overview of the primary elements of the regenerative tourism model for Con Dao

Circular tourism value chain	Circular and regenerative governance	Regenerative tourist practices
– Optimize resource use through renewable energy (solar, wind).	– Establish multi-stakeholder collaboration platforms.	– Develop eco-education programs for tourists.
– Implement sustainable water management (rainwater harvesting, recycling).	– Involve local communities, tourism operators, and NGOs in decision-making.	– Use interpretative trails and guided tours for awareness.
– Introduce waste separation and composting systems in hotels and restaurants.	– Conduct regular workshops and training to build capacity.	– Organize community-based activities like reforestation and reef restoration.
– Convert agricultural waste into bioenergy or fertilizers.	– Implement policies for zero-waste operations, green certifications.	– Promote volunteer tourism and responsible tourism packages.
– Encourage local sourcing and sustainable procurement.	– Develop regulations for sustainable construction and resource management.	– Provide eco-certification for responsible tourist behavior.
– Establish circular procurement prioritizing recycled/upcycled materials.	– Introduce digital tools and smart technologies for monitoring impact.	– Offer incentives like discounts for low-carbon transport and conservation support.
– Create closed-loop cycles to minimize environmental harm.	– Transparent reporting systems for stakeholder accountability.	– Issue "green tourism passports" to recognize tourist contributions.

This model emphasizes regenerative tourism through three principal domains: optimizing resource utilization via renewable energy, sustainable water management, waste minimization, and local sourcing; circular governance by engaging diverse stakeholders, enhancing capacity, and implementing sustainable policies; and regenerative tourist practices that foster eco-education, community engagement, and incentives for responsible tourism.

CONCLUSION

The research proposes a regenerative tourism model for Con Dao, grounded in CE principles. This idea overcomes the shortcomings of traditional sustainable tourism, which predominantly focuses on alleviating adverse effects rather than rejuvenating ecosystems. The approach aims to revitalize the environment and local communities through the integration of resource optimization, waste reduction, and closed-loop systems. Utilizing field research and in-depth interviews with local stakeholders, three principal components were identified: (1) a circular tourism value chain that improves resource efficiency and reduces waste, (2) circular and regenerative governance that promotes stakeholder collaboration and policy alignment, and (3) regenerative tourist practices that motivate tourists to adopt responsible and supportive behaviors.

Besides the contributions, this study has some limitations. Due to limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and varying degrees of stakeholder participation, regenerative approaches are difficult to implement on small island locations like Con Dao. Furthermore, consistent monitoring of environmental impacts and policy changes requires solid funding and institutional support, which aren't always available.

Future studies should explore scalable regenerative tourism approaches that take into account different cultural, economic, and environmental contexts and are appropriate for more small islands and delicate ecosystems. Future studies may examine how digital tools like the Internet of Things and real-time data tracking might boost the effectiveness of circular tourism strategies. Techniques for successfully including tourists in regeneration activities might be improved

by a thorough grasp of tourist motives and behaviors.

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