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**Stakeholders' involvement in sustainable destination management: a systematic literature review of existing multi-stakeholder frameworks and approaches**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Support** - This research received no external funding or support.  
**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Completed but not published.  
**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.  
**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202590037

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 11 September 2025 and was last updated on 11 September 2025.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Review question / Objective** This study has two main goals: i) to locate and understand various multi-stakeholder frameworks or approaches designed for sustainable destination development and (ii) to analyze the characteristics and applications of multi-stakeholder frameworks and participatory ap-proaches that are grounded in real-life context. For the design of the research questions, SPIDER tool was used.

**Condition being studied** This study seeks to explore and critically assess different multistakeholder frameworks and collaborative strategies for sustainable destination development, placing special emphasis on the cooperation and active participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

**METHODS**

**Search strategy** To comprehensively explore existing multistakeholder frameworks and collaborative approaches for sustainable destination development, a systematic literature search was conducted across multiple academic databases, including Scopus, Springer, Science Direct, Wiley, Taylor and Francis and Emerald.

**Participant or population** The total population was 444 papers.

**Intervention** This study aims to identify and critically compare multistakeholder frameworks and collaborative approaches for sustainable destination development, with particular attention to the cooperation and active involvement of diverse stakeholders.

**Comparator** Through a comparative analysis, the study compares frameworks and collaborative approaches grounded in real-life context, examining their operational mechanisms, foundational principles, and the adaptive perspectives tailored to specific destinations.

**Study designs to be included** Comparative analysis that compares frameworks and collaborative approaches for sustainable destination management.

**Eligibility criteria** To ensure the relevance and quality of the evidence, specific eligibility criteria were applied. Only peer-reviewed journal articles were considered, with the additional requirement that publications appeared after 2014, in order to capture contemporary developments in the field. Studies were required to be published in English and fall within subject areas related to tourism, hospitality, sustainability, and management. The screening process involved an initial review of titles and abstracts by both authors to assess relevance. When eligibility remained unclear, the full text was examined to determine suitability for inclusion. All selected articles were systematically organized and managed in Zotero, ensuring accurate referencing and efficient handling throughout the review process.

**Information sources** To comprehensively identify relevant literature on multi-stakeholder frameworks and collaborative approaches for sustainable destination development, a systematic search was carried out across multiple academic databases. The databases included Scopus, Springer, ScienceDirect, Wiley Online Library, Taylor & Francis Online, and Emerald Insight. These sources were selected due to their extensive coverage of scholarly publications in the fields of tourism, hospitality, sustainability, and management, ensuring a broad and representative evidence base.

**Main outcome(s)** The findings of this study shed light on the main characteristics and practical challenges involved in applying multi-stakeholder frameworks and collaborative approaches to sustainable destination management. The review brings forward the common patterns that emerge across different contexts, as well as the recurring difficulties and obstacles that can hinder effective implementation. At the same time, it offers valuable insights into how well these approaches work in practice and points to areas where further refinement and improvement may be needed.

**Data management** All collected articles were organized using Zotero to facilitate efficient management and referencing.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis** Given the diversity of study designs included in this review, a formal risk of bias tool was not applied. Instead, the quality of the studies was assessed based on several key criteria, including the clarity of research aims, the appropriateness of the chosen methodology, the transparency of data collection and analysis, and the overall strength of the evidence presented.

**Strategy of data synthesis** The data are analysed using thematic analysis, identifying recurring themes, patterns, and differences across the included studies.

**Subgroup analysis** No formal subgroup analysis is planned. The synthesis of the analysis is planned based on each research question.

**Sensitivity analysis** No formal sensitivity analysis is planned.

**Country(ies) involved** Greece.

**Keywords** stakeholders; destination management; multi-stakeholder approaches; multi-stakeholder frameworks; destination planning; sustainable destinations; stakeholder cooperation.

#### **Contributions of each author**

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