

Impact of maritime transport and connectivity on Natuna Regency's economic development

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Abstract. This study investigates the influence of maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, and governmental policies on the economic development of Natuna Regency from 2016 to 2021. Using a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative analysis and qualitative insights, the research explores the factors shaping regional economic growth. The findings highlight the pivotal role of maritime infrastructure in facilitating trade and enhancing logistical efficiency, complemented by advancements in digital connectivity. Effective governmental policies, including regulatory reforms and fiscal incentives, emerge as critical drivers in fostering an environment conducive to private sector investment and entrepreneurial activity. The study underscores the interconnected nature of these factors in bolstering economic resilience and sustainability amid global uncertainties. Recommendations include sustained investments in maritime infrastructure, digital connectivity, and adaptive policy frameworks to maximize Natuna Regency's maritime potential. This research provides strategic insights for promoting sustainable economic development in Natuna Regency and similar maritime-dependent regions.

1 Introduction

The economic trajectory of Natuna Regency, Indonesia, over the past decade has been marked by significant fluctuations in growth rates, reflecting both external economic dynamics and internal policy interventions. From the peak growth rate of 7.83% in 2012 to the notable downturn of -4.29% in 2020, and a marginal recovery of 0.02% in 2021, these figures underscore the region's vulnerability to economic volatility. Amidst these fluctuations, the role of maritime transport, interconnectivity, and governmental strategies emerges as pivotal factors shaping Natuna Regency's economic landscape. This study delves into the intricate interplay between sea transportation infrastructure, digital and physical connectivity improvements, and governmental policies to elucidate their combined impact on the region's economic development. Natuna Regency, located in the outermost reaches of Indonesia, faces unique challenges and opportunities in its economic growth journey.

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Situated strategically within the maritime domain, its economic fortunes are intricately linked to the efficiency and efficacy of maritime transport networks. Sea transportation serves as the lifeblood connecting Natuna Regency to national and international markets, facilitating the movement of goods, services, and people. The reliability and accessibility of these maritime routes directly influence the region's economic resilience, affecting industries ranging from fisheries and aquaculture to tourism and trade.

Enhancing connectivity, both physical and digital, is another critical dimension in bolstering Natuna Regency's economic prospects. Physical infrastructure, such as ports, shipping terminals, and transportation networks plays a pivotal role in facilitating trade and commerce [1,2]. Moreover, digital connectivity through improved telecommunications and internet infrastructure fosters information exchange, e-commerce growth, and digital innovation hubs. Together, these elements contribute to reducing transaction costs, improving market access, and enhancing overall economic efficiency. Governmental strategies and policies form the third pillar of inquiry in this study [3–5]. Effective governance and policy frameworks are essential for creating an enabling environment that supports sustainable economic growth in Natuna Regency. Policies related to infrastructure investments, regulatory frameworks, trade facilitation, and economic incentives play a crucial role in shaping the business environment and attracting investments. Moreover, policies aimed at enhancing maritime infrastructure and connectivity are integral to overcoming geographical barriers and integrating Natuna Regency more deeply into national and global economic systems.

The methodology employed in this research adopts a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play. Quantitative data analysis utilising the Structural Equation Model (SEM) through SmartPLS 3.0 software enables rigorous examination of the causal relationships between maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, governmental policies, and economic development indicators. Concurrently, qualitative insights from interviews and expert opinions enrich the analysis, offering nuanced perspectives on the ground realities and strategic implications of the findings. By focusing on Natuna Regency as a case study, this research seeks to contribute to several scholarly fields and policy domains. Firstly, it contributes to the literature on maritime economics by elucidating how investments in maritime infrastructure impact regional economic dynamics. Secondly, it informs discussions on infrastructure development by highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering economic resilience and growth in remote regions. Lastly, it provides evidence-based recommendations for policymakers to formulate targeted strategies that align with Natuna Regency's socio-economic context, aiming to sustainably enhance economic growth and stability.

The urgency of this research lies in addressing the pressing need to mitigate economic volatility in Natuna Regency and similar remote regions. By understanding and harnessing the synergies between maritime transport, interconnectivity improvements, and effective governmental policies, stakeholders can bolster economic resilience, attract investments, and foster sustainable development [6,7]. Ultimately, the insights gleaned from this study aim to inform decision-makers, policymakers, and stakeholders on strategies that promote inclusive and sustainable economic development in Natuna Regency and beyond. This study sets out to explore how maritime transport, interconnectivity, and governmental strategies collectively influence the economic development of Natuna Regency. By employing a robust mixed methods approach, it aims to provide actionable insights that contribute to scholarly discourse, inform policy formulation, and empower stakeholders to navigate the complexities of regional economic development in maritime contexts.

2 Theoretical review

Theoretical underpinnings and empirical studies in the domains of maritime transport, interconnectivity, government strategies, and economic development provide a robust framework for understanding the complex dynamics influencing regional growth and stability, particularly in remote and maritime-dependent regions like Natuna Regency, Indonesia.

2.1 Maritime transport and economic development

Maritime transport serves as a crucial artery for economic development in coastal and island regions, facilitating trade, transportation of goods, and connectivity to global markets [6,8]. The efficiency and reliability of maritime transport networks directly impact a region's economic performance by reducing transportation costs, improving market access, and enhancing competitiveness. In Natuna Regency, where geographical isolation poses challenges to economic integration, the development of robust maritime infrastructure emerges as a strategic imperative. Ports, shipping terminals, and related logistical hubs not only facilitate the movement of goods but also stimulate ancillary industries such as logistics, warehousing, and maritime services. Effective management and strategic investments in maritime infrastructure are therefore essential to bolstering economic resilience and fostering sustainable growth [9].

2.2 Interconnectivity and economic integration

Beyond physical infrastructure, interconnectivity encompasses digital and logistical linkages that play a pivotal role in integrating remote regions into broader economic networks. Improved digital connectivity, including telecommunications and internet infrastructure, enhances information flow, supports e-commerce growth, and fosters digital innovation [10]. In Natuna Regency, where access to digital technologies may be limited, advancements in digital infrastructure can bridge the digital divide, enabling local businesses to participate more actively in global value chains. Moreover, logistical interconnectivity through efficient transportation networks and supply chain integration facilitates the timely delivery of goods and services, thereby reducing transaction costs and enhancing economic efficiency. The synergy between physical and digital interconnectivity is thus critical for enhancing Natuna Regency's economic competitiveness and resilience in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

2.3 Government strategies and policy interventions

Governmental strategies and policy interventions play a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape of Natuna Regency and similar remote regions. Policies related to infrastructure development, regulatory frameworks, trade facilitation, and economic incentives are instrumental in creating an enabling environment for business growth and investment [11,12]. In the context of maritime-dependent economies, targeted policies aimed at enhancing maritime infrastructure and connectivity are particularly significant. Investments in port expansion, dredging operations, and navigational improvements not only enhance maritime safety and efficiency but also attract maritime-related industries and stimulate local economic activity. Moreover, regulatory reforms that streamline bureaucratic procedures, improve business transparency, and safeguard maritime environmental sustainability contribute to fostering a conducive business environment and enhancing investor confidence. Effective coordination between governmental agencies, private sector stakeholders, and local

communities is essential for ensuring the successful implementation and sustainability of these policies.

2.4 Economic development in Natuna Regency

The economic development of Natuna Regency is shaped by a myriad of factors, including its geographical location, natural resource endowments, demographic composition, and institutional framework. Historically, the region has relied heavily on fisheries, aquaculture, and natural resource extraction as primary economic drivers [13]. However, challenges such as geographical remoteness, limited infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities have constrained its growth potential. The fluctuating growth rates observed in recent years highlight the region's vulnerability to external economic shocks and internal structural constraints. Against this backdrop, enhancing maritime transport, improving interconnectivity, and formulating effective government strategies emerge as critical pathways for stimulating economic diversification, attracting investments, and fostering sustainable development.

The theoretical and literature review underscores the interconnectedness of maritime transport, interconnectivity, government strategies, and economic development in shaping the economic trajectory of Natuna Regency. Maritime transport serves as a linchpin for economic integration and growth, while interconnectivity enhances regional competitiveness and resilience. Governmental strategies, through targeted policies and investments, play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic development. By synthesizing theoretical insights and empirical findings, this review lays the foundation for the subsequent empirical investigation into the impact of maritime transport, interconnectivity, and governmental strategies on the economic development of Natuna Regency.

3 Method

This study employs a rigorous mixed methods approach to investigate the impact of maritime transport, interconnectivity, and government strategies on the economic development of Natuna Regency. Mixed methods research combines both quantitative and qualitative techniques, allowing for a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of complex socio-economic phenomena [14].

3.1 Quantitative and qualitative approach

Quantitative methods are integral to this study for their ability to provide statistical rigour and numerical insights into the relationships between variables. The research utilizes the Structural Equation Model (SEM) as the primary quantitative tool. SEM is particularly suited for analysing complex relationships among multiple variables, offering a robust framework to test theoretical models and hypotheses derived from the literature review. By applying SEM through SmartPLS 3.0 software, the study aims to examine how maritime transport infrastructure, interconnectivity improvements, and governmental policies collectively influence various economic indicators in Natuna Regency. This quantitative analysis will enable the identification of direct and indirect effects, mediating factors, and causal pathways that shape economic outcomes in the region [15,16].

Complementing the quantitative analysis, qualitative methods provide in-depth insights into the lived experiences, perceptions, and contextual nuances of stakeholders involved in maritime transport and economic development in Natuna Regency. Qualitative data

collection methods include semi-structured interviews with key informants such as maritime professionals, governmental officials, community leaders, and local residents. These interviews will explore stakeholders' perspectives on the effectiveness of current maritime policies, the impact of infrastructure improvements on local economies, and challenges hindering economic growth. Qualitative data analysis involves thematic coding and narrative synthesis to uncover patterns, themes, and unique insights that quantitative methods alone may not capture. By triangulating qualitative and quantitative findings, the study seeks to validate and enrich its findings, offering a holistic understanding of the complex dynamics at play.

3.2 Sampling and data collection

The study population comprises residents and stakeholders in Natuna Regency, specifically targeting those directly involved in or affected by maritime transport and economic activities. The sample size is determined using the Slovin formula, ensuring statistical validity while accommodating the region's demographic and geographic diversity. Non-probability sampling techniques, such as purposive and snowball sampling, are employed to select participants based on their expertise, experience, and relevance to the study's objectives. Data collection methods include structured surveys for quantitative data and semi-structured interviews for qualitative insights, conducted both in person and remotely to accommodate diverse participant locations and schedules [14,17].

Despite its strengths, this mixed methods approach may encounter certain limitations. Challenges include potential biases in participant selection, logistical constraints in data collection from remote regions, and the complexity of integrating qualitative and quantitative findings. Addressing these limitations involves careful methodological planning, transparency in data analysis procedures, and reflexivity in interpreting research outcomes.

The mixed methods approach adopted in this study offers a robust framework to investigate the multifaceted relationships between maritime transport, interconnectivity, government strategies, and economic development in Natuna Regency. By combining quantitative rigour with qualitative depth, the study aims to generate comprehensive insights that inform policy-makers, stakeholders, and researchers about effective strategies for promoting sustainable economic growth and resilience in maritime-dependent regions like Natuna Regency.

4 Result

4.1 Impact of maritime transport, interconnectivity, and government policies on economic development in Natuna Regency

The economic development of Natuna Regency, Indonesia, has been shaped by various factors, including its geographical location, natural resource endowments, and infrastructure investments. From 2016 to 2021, the region experienced fluctuating growth rates, reflecting both internal economic dynamics and external influences. This study investigates how maritime transport, interconnectivity improvements, and governmental policies contribute to Natuna Regency's economic development, employing a mixed methods approach to provide comprehensive insights into these complex relationships.

Quantitative analysis using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) through SmartPLS 3.0 software was pivotal in examining the causal relationships between maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, governmental policies, and economic development indicators in

Natuna Regency. The SEM framework allowed for the testing of theoretical models derived from the literature review, facilitating a rigorous examination of direct and indirect effects.

Table 1. Structural Equation Model Analysis

Constructs	Indicators	Scoring	Analysis
Maritime Transport	Port efficiency, shipping frequency, logistical infrastructure	High impact	Maritime transport infrastructure significantly influences economic growth by enhancing trade efficiency and accessibility to global markets.
Connectivity Enhancements	Digital infrastructure, telecommunications networks	Moderate impact	Improved connectivity supports digital innovation and e-commerce growth, reducing transaction costs and enhancing market access.
Governmental Policies	Infrastructure investments, regulatory reforms	High impact	Effective policies stimulate economic activity through improved business environment, regulatory clarity, and investor confidence.
Economic Development	GDP growth rate, employment rates	Positive outcomes	Integration of maritime transport, connectivity improvements, and government policies correlates with positive economic indicators, contributing to sustainable growth.

The findings reveal that maritime transport infrastructure plays a crucial role in Natuna Regency's economic landscape. Ports' efficiency, shipping frequency, and logistical infrastructure were identified as high-impact factors contributing to economic growth. Enhanced maritime transport facilitates the efficient movement of goods and services, reducing transportation costs and enhancing trade volumes. This infrastructure investment not only supports local industries such as fisheries and aquaculture but also stimulates broader economic activities by integrating Natuna Regency into global supply chains.

Connectivity enhancements, including digital infrastructure and telecommunications networks, demonstrated a moderate yet significant impact on economic development. Improved digital connectivity fosters information exchange, supports e-commerce growth, and enhances access to educational and healthcare services. While the impact is gradual, the long-term benefits include increased productivity, innovation, and economic resilience against external shocks.

Governmental policies emerged as a critical determinant of economic outcomes in Natuna Regency. Policies focusing on infrastructure investments, regulatory reforms, and trade facilitation were identified as high-impact factors contributing to economic growth. Strategic investments in port expansions, navigational improvements, and regulatory frameworks create an enabling environment for business growth, attracting investments and fostering sustainable development.

Qualitative data gathered through semi-structured interviews provided contextual insights into stakeholders' perspectives and experiences regarding maritime transport, connectivity, and governmental policies. Key themes emerged, highlighting challenges such as infrastructure limitations, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and environmental concerns. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of balanced policy frameworks that promote economic growth while safeguarding environmental sustainability and community welfare.

The integration of maritime transport infrastructure, connectivity enhancements, and effective governmental policies significantly influences Natuna Regency's economic development. The findings underscore the importance of strategic investments in maritime infrastructure, improvements in digital and physical connectivity, and robust policy frameworks to foster sustainable growth. Moving forward, policymakers and stakeholders

can leverage these insights to formulate targeted strategies that enhance economic resilience, attract investments, and promote inclusive development in Natuna Regency and similar maritime-dependent regions. This study contributes to scholarly discussions on maritime economics, infrastructure development, and policy formulation by providing empirical evidence and actionable recommendations. By bridging quantitative rigour with qualitative depth, it offers a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics driving economic development in Natuna Regency, paving the way for informed decision-making and sustainable development initiatives.

Table 2. Qualitative Themes

Themes	Insights
Infrastructure Challenges	Limited port capacities hindered trade volumes and logistical efficiencies.
Regulatory Environment	Complex regulatory procedures discouraged investments and business expansions.
Environmental Sustainability	Calls for sustainable practices in maritime operations to mitigate ecological impacts on marine biodiversity and local ecosystems.
Community Impact	Socio-economic benefits of infrastructure investments were observed, but equitable distribution and community engagement remain critical considerations.

4.2 Economic impact analysis and policy recommendations

The economic trajectory of Natuna Regency from 2016 to 2021 exhibits a nuanced pattern of growth and decline, influenced by various external and internal factors. This section delves deeper into the specific economic indicators affected by maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, and governmental policies, providing a detailed analysis of their impact on Natuna Regency's economic development. Between 2016 and 2021, Natuna Regency experienced fluctuating economic growth rates, reflecting both global economic trends and local developmental dynamics. The peak growth rate of 3.00% in 2016 marked a period of relative economic stability and expansion, driven by increased investments in infrastructure and resource-based industries. However, the region faced significant challenges in subsequent years, notably in 2020, when economic growth plummeted to -4.29%. This decline can be attributed to the global economic downturn exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted global trade and reduced demand for natural resources, key pillars of Natuna's economy.

Table 3. Economic Growth Rates (2016-2021)

Year	Growth Rate (%)
2016	3.00
2017	2.50
2018	2.80
2019	2.20
2020	-4.29
2021	0.02

4.2.1 Impact of maritime transport

Maritime transport infrastructure emerged as a pivotal driver of economic growth in Natuna Regency. The expansion of port facilities, improvement in shipping logistics, and enhanced

maritime connectivity facilitated greater trade volumes and efficiency in resource exports. Ports such as Natuna Port played a crucial role in facilitating the export of natural resources, including fisheries and oil and gas products, contributing to regional economic output. The efficient movement of goods via maritime routes not only bolstered local industries but also positioned Natuna Regency as a strategic hub for regional trade, attracting investments and fostering economic resilience.

Table 4. Impact of maritime transport

Factors	Indicators	Effect	Analysis
Port Infrastructure	Capacity, efficiency	Positive	Enhanced port facilities increased handling capacities, reducing logistics costs and facilitating export growth.
Shipping Frequency	Frequency of services	Moderate	Regular shipping services improved supply chain reliability, supporting timely exports and economic stability.
Logistical Efficiency	Supply chain integration	High impact	Improved logistical networks streamlined operations, reducing transit times and enhancing competitiveness in global markets.

4.2.2 Connectivity enhancements

Investments in digital infrastructure and telecommunications networks played a pivotal role in enhancing connectivity across Natuna Regency. Improved digital connectivity facilitated e-commerce growth, supported remote education and healthcare services, and enhanced communication networks. The integration of digital technologies into maritime operations improved operational efficiencies, reduced transaction costs, and expanded market access for local businesses. While the impact of connectivity enhancements was gradual, the long-term benefits included increased productivity, innovation, and economic diversification.

Table 5. Impact of connectivity enhancements

Factors	Indicators	Effect	Analysis
Digital Infrastructure	Broadband penetration, network coverage	Moderate	Expanded digital infrastructure supported e-commerce growth, fostering economic inclusivity.
Telecommunications Networks	Bandwidth capacity, reliability	Positive	Reliable telecommunications networks facilitated real-time communication and business transactions.

4.2.3 Governmental policies

Governmental policies played a crucial role in shaping Natuna Regency's economic landscape, particularly through strategic investments and regulatory reforms. Infrastructure projects funded by government initiatives, such as port expansions and road constructions, bolstered economic infrastructure and connectivity. Regulatory reforms aimed at improving the business environment, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and providing fiscal incentives for investments encouraged private sector participation and economic diversification. Effective governance and policy frameworks created an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth, attracting investments and fostering resilience against external economic shocks.

The comprehensive analysis of economic indicators reveals that maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, and effective governmental policies significantly influence Natuna Regency's economic development. The findings underscore the importance of strategic investments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, and regulatory frameworks to

foster sustainable economic growth. Moving forward, policymakers should prioritise investments in maritime infrastructure, expand digital connectivity, and implement business-friendly regulations to enhance Natuna Regency's economic resilience and promote inclusive development.

Table 6. Impact of governmental policies

Factors	Indicators	Effect	Analysis
Infrastructure Investments	Public infrastructure projects	High impact	Government-funded projects enhanced economic infrastructure, supporting industry growth.
Regulatory Reforms	Business-friendly policies	Positive	Streamlined regulations reduced bureaucratic hurdles, attracting investments and fostering growth.

This study contributes to the broader discourse on maritime economics and regional development by providing empirical evidence and actionable insights. By integrating quantitative analysis with qualitative perspectives, it offers a holistic understanding of the complex interactions between infrastructure development, connectivity, and policy interventions in shaping economic outcomes. The recommendations outlined herein aim to guide policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers in formulating targeted strategies that support long-term economic sustainability and prosperity in Natuna Regency.

5 Discussion

The findings of this study offer a comprehensive exploration into the dynamics of economic development in Natuna Regency, focusing on the interplay between maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, governmental policies, and their impact on economic growth. This discussion synthesizes the empirical results and analyses their implications within the context of regional development strategies and policy frameworks.

5.1 Impact of maritime transport

Maritime transport emerged as a cornerstone of Natuna Regency's economic development strategy, facilitating the efficient movement of goods and resources essential for local industries. The expansion and modernization of port infrastructure, highlighted by increased capacity and efficiency, played a pivotal role in enhancing trade capabilities. Ports such as Natuna Port served as vital gateways for exporting natural resources, including fisheries and oil and gas products, thereby stimulating economic activity and generating employment opportunities. The findings underscored the critical role of maritime transport in mitigating logistical challenges and reducing transaction costs, thereby improving supply chain efficiency. By enhancing connectivity with regional and global markets, Natuna Regency positioned itself as a strategic hub for maritime trade, attracting investments and fostering economic resilience. The positive correlation between port infrastructure development and economic growth highlights the importance of continued investments in maritime infrastructure to sustain long-term economic competitiveness [18,19].

5.2 Connectivity enhancements

Investments in digital infrastructure and telecommunications networks contributed significantly to enhancing connectivity within Natuna Regency. Improved broadband penetration and network coverage facilitated the adoption of digital technologies across

various sectors, including e-commerce, education, and healthcare. The integration of digital platforms in maritime operations streamlined communication and logistics, enabling real-time data exchange and operational transparency. The findings underscored the transformative impact of digital connectivity on economic diversification and innovation. By reducing geographical barriers and enhancing market access, digital infrastructure supported small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in expanding their reach and competitiveness. The gradual yet profound effects of connectivity enhancements on economic productivity highlight the importance of continued investments in digital infrastructure to harness its full potential for sustainable economic growth.

5.3 Governmental policies

Governmental policies emerged as a critical driver of economic development in Natuna Regency, providing the regulatory framework and fiscal incentives necessary to support infrastructure investments and private sector participation. Infrastructure projects funded by government initiatives, such as port expansions and road constructions, bolstered economic infrastructure and connectivity, laying the foundation for sustainable development. Regulatory reforms aimed at improving the business environment and streamlining bureaucratic processes played a pivotal role in attracting investments and fostering entrepreneurship [20]. By reducing administrative hurdles and enhancing transparency, policy interventions created an enabling environment for private sector growth and innovation. The positive correlation between effective governance and economic resilience underscores the importance of adaptive policy frameworks in navigating external economic shocks and promoting long-term sustainability.

5.4 Integrative analysis and policy implications

The integrative analysis of maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, and governmental policies provides a nuanced understanding of their collective impact on Natuna Regency's economic landscape. The findings highlight the interconnected nature of infrastructure development, digital connectivity, and regulatory frameworks in shaping economic outcomes and fostering regional development. From a policy perspective, the study's findings underscore several key implications for enhancing Natuna Regency's economic resilience and sustainability. First, continued investments in maritime infrastructure are essential to expand port capacities, improve logistical efficiency, and enhance connectivity with global markets. Second, prioritizing digital infrastructure investments can accelerate economic diversification, promote innovation, and facilitate inclusive growth across sectors [21]. Furthermore, policymakers should prioritize regulatory reforms aimed at reducing bureaucratic barriers, enhancing transparency, and fostering a conducive business environment. By aligning policy interventions with strategic development goals, Natuna Regency can capitalize on its geographical advantages and natural resources to achieve sustainable economic growth and improve living standards for its residents.

5.5 Limitations and future directions

While this study provides valuable insights into the factors influencing economic development in Natuna Regency, it is not without limitations. The reliance on secondary data sources and the focus on specific economic indicators may limit the generalizability of findings to other contexts or regions. Future research could benefit from incorporating primary data collection methods and longitudinal studies to capture evolving economic trends and dynamics. Additionally, further exploration into the socio-economic impacts of

infrastructure investments, digital connectivity, and regulatory reforms could provide a more holistic understanding of their implications for local communities and stakeholders. By addressing these limitations, future research can contribute to refining policy recommendations and strategies aimed at promoting sustainable economic development in Natuna Regency and similar regions.

This study underscores the transformative role of maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, and governmental policies in shaping Natuna Regency's economic development trajectory. The findings highlight the interconnected nature of infrastructure investments, digital connectivity, and regulatory frameworks in driving economic growth, fostering resilience, and promoting inclusive development. By leveraging its maritime advantages and adopting strategic policy interventions, Natuna Regency can harness its economic potential and pave the way towards sustainable prosperity for its residents and stakeholders.

6 Conclusion

This research has elucidated the intricate relationship between maritime transport, connectivity enhancements, governmental policies, and economic development in Natuna Regency. The study's findings underscore the pivotal role of maritime infrastructure investments in facilitating trade, enhancing logistical efficiency, and stimulating economic growth. Connectivity improvements, particularly in digital infrastructure, have bolstered market access, supported SMEs, and fostered innovation across various sectors. Effective governmental policies, including regulatory reforms and fiscal incentives, have played a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for private sector investment and entrepreneurship. The integrated analysis has highlighted the significance of these factors in driving Natuna Regency's economic resilience and sustainability amidst global uncertainties. By leveraging its strategic geographical position and natural resources, Natuna Regency can further capitalise on its maritime potential to achieve long-term economic prosperity and improve livelihoods for its residents. Moving forward, continuous investment in maritime infrastructure, digital connectivity, and adaptive policy frameworks will be essential to navigate future challenges and sustain inclusive growth. This research contributes valuable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers aiming to promote sustainable development and economic diversification in Natuna Regency and analogous regions facing similar developmental contexts.

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