



Assessment of Ecotourism Potentials in Afikpo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

E. Oduko Janet^{1*}, U. Azu Oko¹ and C. Achi Herbert²

¹Urban and Regional Planning Department, Akanu Ibiam Federa Polytechnic, Unwana, Nigeria.

²Quantity Surveying Department, Akanu Ibiam Federa Polytechnic, Unwana, Nigeria.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author EOJ the corresponding author carried out the research design, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. The second author UAO managed the analyses of the study. The third author CAH managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/JGEESI/2020/v24i930254

Editor(s):

(1) Dr. Suwendu Roy, Kalipada Ghosh Tarai Mahavidyalaya, India.

Reviewers:

(1) Defo Louis, University of Yaounde I, Cameroon.

(2) Yuyun Hidayat, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia.

(3) Bindu. V. T. Nair, Avinashilingam University, India.

Complete Peer review History: <http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/63798>

Original Research Article

Received 18 October 2020

Accepted 22 December 2020

Published 31 December 2020

ABSTRACT

This paper asserts the case for developing the ecotourism potential in Afikpo, Ebonyi state. The main aim of the study is to assess the ecotourism potentials in Afikpo with a view to recommending means to enhance these potentials for development. The following objectives were underpinned (i) To examine the nature of tourism sites in Afikpo, (ii) To identify the potentials, (iii) To determine the extent, the potentials have been harnessed, (iv) To identify factors that hinders the potentials of tourism. The study adopted a survey design approach. Data was collected from both primary and secondary source through orals interview, questionnaire, and direct observation methods. Four hundred questionnaires were administered in the three communities that were selected for this study. The sample size of 400 respondents was determined from the sample population of 130,329 resident's population of Afikpo north using De Vaus Formula. Three hundred and eighty (380) were returned representing 95% questionnaire utilization. Simple random sampling and a purposive sampling techniques were employed to select the respondents who were the residents. The study identified factors that hinder tourism development in Afikpo and a breakdown showed that four out of the thirty one (31) variables were identified as the major factors that hinder the development of

*Corresponding author: E-mail: Deborahifunanya01@gmail.com;

potential tourist sites. The findings revealed that lack of political will was the most prominent factor responsible for the undeveloped sites. This was followed by political bureaucracy, and political instability. The study therefore recommended amongst others the intervention of the government in the development of the tourism potentials in Afikpo, Ebonyi State.

Keywords: Tourism potentials; ecotourism; ecotourism development; Afikpo; Ebonyi State Nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism as a field of study is a new addition to the academia [1]. In same vein, ecotourism as a branch of tourism has gained an increasing reputation as an alternative to mass tourism; and as a means to economic development and environmental conservation [2]. Tourism as a field is as old as time. Just like time has no beginning, no one can tell the beginning of tourism in the world. It is recorded that recreational and educational travel has been in existence since the classical world and, even earlier, in Egypt under the pharaohs (Ibid.). The privileged groups of the population embarked on the first journeys for pleasure. They visited famous monuments and relics of ancient Egyptian culture, the step pyramid of Sakkara, the Sphinx and the great pyramids of Giza, buildings that had been constructed a thousand years earlier. Classical Rome also gave impetus to travelling and particular forms of holiday. Holiday travel became increasingly important due to the development of infrastructure. The Greeks had similar traditions. They travelled to Delphi in order to question the Oracle, participated in the Pythian Games (musical and sporting competitions) or the early Olympic Games. From England, the tours went on to, for example, France and Italy. Trips to the classical sites of Italy representing the highpoint of the journey, but large cities in other countries were visited: London, Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Munich, Vienna and Prague had considerable drawing power. Recently, there is evidence of journeys emanating from a luxury lifestyle and the search for amusement, knowledge, experience and relaxation [3].

Ecotourism however, is the interaction and visitation of the natural environment for leisure purposes. Today, this venture has sustained the economy of most nations in the world [4]. It has taken a significant position in the world's economy in that developed countries in Europe and America, are making great profit out of tourism, developing countries like China, India, South Africa, and Tanzania are tapping into this opportunity of developing tourism sector as a

way of diversifying national economy. The natural environment however, is an important resource for tourism. With increasing urbanization in both industrialized and developing countries, the significant natural features, scenery, cultural heritage or biodiversity are becoming increasingly popular sites for tourist destinations [5]. In the recent times, tourism has gained continuous expansion and diversification, becoming one of the largest and fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. Tourism has become the world's largest export industry, generating huge employment opportunity in the remote and backward areas. [6].

The tourism industry in 2006 reported that tourism form 13% of the total world exports and 8.2% of the global employment [7]. In 2008 4 billion domestic arrivals were recorded and in 2010, 935 million international tourists were recorded. Tourism economy represents 5 per cent of world GDP, while it contributes to 6-7 per cent of total employment. International tourism ranks fourth (after fuels, chemicals and automotive products) in global exports, with an industry value of US\$1trillion a year, accounting for 30 per cent of the world's exports of commercial services or 6 per cent of total exports. In over 150 countries, tourism is one of five top export earners, and in 60 it is the number one export. It is the main source of foreign exchange for one-third of developing countries and one-half of least developed countries. It is also predicted in the UNWTO updated long-term forecast on future tourism trends that the international tourist arrivals worldwide will rise by 3.3% a year from 2010 to 2030 as a result, an average 43 million additional international tourists will join the tourism marketplace every year [8].

Furthermore, the organisation recorded that direct economic contribution of travel and tourism worldwide amounted to approximately 2.16 trillion U.S. dollars in 2013 [9]. The industry in 2015 registered that with more than one billion tourists travelling to an international destination every year, tourism has become a leading

economic sector contributing 10% of global GDP and 6% of the world's total export switch has made the tourism industry one of the most important industries of the world, particularly in economic terms. Travel and tourism are human-resource intensive, employing directly and indirectly 8 per cent of the global workforce. It is estimated that one job in the core tourism industry creates about one and a half additional or indirect jobs in the tourism-related economy. Globally, 1.5 billion international tourist arrivals were recorded in 2019. A 4% increase on 2018 which is as forecast for 2020, confirming tourism as a leading and resilient economic sector, especially in view of current uncertainties (WTO 2020).

Africa, and indeed Nigeria's, landscape is dotted with natural tourist attractions that are comparable to the best in the world. (Olorunfemi and Raheem [10] this is complemented by her rich cultural and traditional heritage, which dates back to over two thousand years [11]. It possesses unique tourist attractions many of which are overland safaris: national parks, exotic game viewing, deep-sea recreational fishing, lake and river fishing, archaeological tours, beach resorts and hotels, transportation (water, land and air), surfing and snorkeling, theme parks and exposition centres, and recreational beaches lined with coconut and palm groves [12]. The region offers considerable, albeit largely untapped, potential not only for cultural tourism but also for environmental tourism, ecotourism, sports tourism, and discovery tourism. African countries have begun to mainstream tourism into their poverty reduction strategies. This is because of the realization of its pro-poor benefits [13]. The World Tourism Organization estimates that 625 million tourist travelled worldwide in 1998, which generated US \$445 billion, excluding transport. Out of this, Africa received only about 8 percent of the global tourist trips, or 25 million arrivals. Although this shows an improvement of 2 million arrivals over the 1997 value, this is quite low compared to the tourism potentials of the continent. WTO, [14] Whereas Africa is blessed with numerous tourist resorts and attractions, the foregoing benefits have largely eluded the country due to the poor state of the industry, ensuing low patronage, and inadequate government attention. Between 1999, huge financial resources were committed to the sector by the government on the industry; particularly the hospitality and nature reserve (parks) sectors. Yet, the industry is a veritable tool for poverty alleviation, attainment of the

millennium goals (SDGs), and sustainable development.

Nigeria is one of the developing countries that has reorganised the tourism sector to be a tool for economic diversification and as such has embraced this idea as an alternative to high dependency on crude oil. Tourism sector had been reorganised by the Nigerian government as a contributor to the generation of investments, revenue, employment, foreign exchange earnings and GDP as seen in the Nigeria Tourism Development Plan [15]. Although as a developing country, this sector is yet to attain full recognition amongst other industries due to poor state of the industry, ensuing low patronage, and inadequate government attention and so development should be aggressively pursued.

Nigeria as at 2006, was also listed as one of the leading countries in Africa in the fight against poverty and plays an active role in UNWTO's STEP programme (Sustainable Tourism Eliminating Poverty) a programme which was launched in 2002 and focuses on long standing work to encourage sustainable tourism social, economic and ecological which specifically alleviates poverty, bringing development and jobs to people living on less than a dollar a day. Nigeria has chaired the Working Group of the UNWTO Executive Council (the highest policy-making organ of the Organization) which supervised the preparation of the STEP initiative [15]. Nonetheless, the Nigerian Association of Zoological Gardens (NAZG) has called for closer attention and proper funding for ecological heritages, so as to open them for better utilization and generation of revenue for the country and its people [16].

Afikpo North LGA of Ebonyi State Nigeria is a land of hidden treasures which can be transformed into ecotourism destination. There is remarkable array of landforms, unique physical features, lakes, numerous majestic caves, enchanted waterfalls, beaches, springs, hospitable indigenes, good weather/climate, historical and cultural beauties so rich to continuously captivate attraction from both local and foreign visitors, investors and tourist sites within the nation and even across the globe to behold this splendour as these beauties are potentials for ecotourism. These unexplored natural resources and rich cultural heritage and history in this region has necessitated for this study to make the domestic tourism more productive, competitive and profitable.

Nonetheless, developing the tourism sector will create recognition for this region home and abroad. This will serve as a key drive to strengthen economic growth and create employment for the host community.

1.1 Economic Impact of Tourism in Nigeria

According to the Tourism Policy Report of the Federal Government of Germany [17] Tourism is a major economic factor; in fact, it is more than just an economic factor. The tourist industry is seen throughout the world, and in Germany, as a motor for growth, so it plays a major role in national economies. Tourism provides local jobs and training places and enhances the recognition factor for towns and Regions and with that for Germany as a location for business and industry. It also benefits a variety of allied economic sectors. Also the German Government is always looking to strengthen the economic capabilities of the many small, medium-sized and large-scale enterprises in the tourist industry, with the aim of raising tourist arrivals from home and abroad and increasing the number of jobs in the sector. This way, it contributes to reducing poverty, conserving biodiversity and protecting the environment and climate.

Frangialli [18] maintained that tourism is immensely important for economic development through its impacts on employment, exports, stimulation of infrastructure provision, generation of revenue, and promotion of international cultural appreciation, peace and harmony. The World Travel and Tourism Organization (1999), reported that tourism is able to contribute to development which is economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable, because it: Has less impact on natural resources and the environment than most other industries; Is based on enjoyment and appreciation of local culture, built heritage, and natural environment, as such that the industry has a direct and powerful motivation to protect these assets; Can play a positive part in increasing consumer commitment to sustainable development principles through its unparalleled consumer distribution channels; and Provides an economic incentive to conserve natural environments and habitats which might otherwise be allocated to more environmentally damaging land uses, thereby, helping to maintain bio-diversity.

Nadia et al. [19] however pointed out the need to develop an encompassing tourism policy if it has

to be sustainable, equitable and responsive so as to contribute to Nigeria's economic development and in effect raise the quantity of life of all her people. However, they opined that to make tourism more productive in Nigeria, government should intensify vigorously the marketing and promotion of Nigeria cultural, historical and archaeological treasures. Gry [3] observed that tourism is often seen as a global phenomenon with an almost incomprehensibly massive infrastructure. Its importance is evident from the fact that its influence thoroughly penetrates society, politics, culture and, above all, the economy. Indeed, this is the branch of the global economy with the most vigorous growth: The World Tourism Organization (WTO) recorded a 4% increase of international tourist arrival in 2019 above the previous year which is also forecast for 2020, confirming tourism as a leading and resilient economic sector. However, the global international tourism revenue recored that in 2019, international tourism revenue amounted to 1.48 trillion US dollars [20].

Tourism is, without a doubt, one of the most important forces shaping our world Cohen & Kennedy cited in Higgins-Desbiolles [21]. Goodwin, [22] observed that economic benefit has been a major driving force for the growth of tourism in developing countries. The initial period of growth happened in the late 1960's and 1970's, when tourism was perceived as a key activity for generating foreign exchange and employment by both development institutions, such as the World Bank, as well as by governments. Olorunfemi and Raheem, [10] argued that one way of addressing the challenge of present economic crisis in Nigeria is through economic diversification from the traditional agricultural or oil mono-economy to such new areas as tourism. While Ojo, [23] maintained that the level of revenue derived from tourism contributes to socio-economic development in Nigeria and therefore suggested that tourism sector should be strengthening through public-private-partnership (PPP) in order to attract visitors to Nigeria.

The UN, report of 1998 [24] confirmed that tourism has become the main source of income for the economies of an increasing number of Small Island developing States (SIDS) as well as less developed regions of large countries with a natural environment appealing to tourists. Foreign exchange earnings can, however, vary significantly among these tourism-driven economies because of „leakages“ arising from

imports of equipment for construction and consumer goods required by tourists, repatriation of profits earned by foreign investors and amortization of foreign debt incurred in tourist development. While Neto, [25] opined that the tourism sector is an increasingly important source of employment including in tourism related sectors, such as construction and agriculture primarily for unskilled labour, migrants from poor rural areas, people who prefer to work part-time, and notably women. Because the sector is relatively labor-intensive, investments in tourism tend to generate a larger and more rapid increase in employment than equal investment in other economic activities.

Informal employment relations in small and medium-sized enterprises, which employ about half of the labour force in the hotel and catering sub-sectors worldwide, also contribute to a relatively high proportion of child labour and non-remunerated employment in these sub-sectors in many countries. The continuous and rapid growth of tourism is not in isolation of the stable economic growth experienced in the global economy, which lasted from the mid-1990 to 2007. This growth has facilitated increased global disposable income, demand for leisure, and this combined with the global economic restructures in response to globalization that ensured competition in global tourism industry and drastic reductions in travel costs. Thus, tourism has become a major source of economic growth, employment, earnings, and foreign exchange for many countries.

Rahman [26] in his study of the Influence of Tourism on the Regional Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina argued that it is clear to those employed in tourism and all others dealing with it, that tourism is a branch of the economy that has a significant position in the state developmental strategy, and within the regional programmes it has been defined as a key opportunity for development. Tourism development is promoted as a tool for poverty alleviation and community development. As a sector of the economy, tourism is used by many countries to advocate economic development. It is used as a development strategy due to its economic effects such as generating foreign exchange, creating employment and stimulating local economies [27]. Tourism in a free market economy can exploit natural resources as a means of profit accumulation, and consequently has been described as the commercialization of the human need to travel. The notion of unlimited gain has

led to the exploitation of host communities, their cultures and environments [21].

Kings, 2013 cited that tourism investment is also used as conservation and preservation strategy of the environment, historical, archaeological and religious monuments, poverty eradication and elimination of social vices, stimulation of cultural practices, folklore, traditions, art and craft cuisines. Ndanusa et al. [28] further suggested that if country like Greece can depend on tourism solely to develop the economy, create employment, and reduce poverty [29] then, the chance of Nigeria is bright in this regard as one of the strategies to facilitate the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

1.2 Factors That Hinder Tourism Development

Alison et al. [20] pointed out some limitations on ecotourism development which included poor infrastructure and difficult access, a challenging climate including a hurricane season, and past national political instability. Generally, over the past few years, the tourist industry has been seriously undermined by the growing lack of security among the citizens. This has manifested itself in the tourist sector in different ways. However, the world tourism organization [30], refers to safety and security in tourism as the protection of life, health, physical, psychological, and economic integrity of travellers, tourism staff, and people constituting host communities, including the consideration of security interests of tourist sending and receiving states and their tourism entrepreneurs and establishment operators. The crime afflicting the major cities of the developing world, according to Inter-American Travel Congresses [31], includes the following: Direct robbery of persons in city streets or park; Attacks on vehicles between airports and hotels; Attacks on tourist vehicles on roads and highways in the country; Attacks on tourists visiting national parks; Acts of corruption on the part of officials at the ports of entry; Exploitation on the part of dishonest employees of transportation companies, who charge arbitrary rates; Exposure of host communities to criminal activities of some tourists; and The activities of tourists sometimes undermine community values and culture. In Nigeria, for instance, Bankole, [32], highlighted some of the problems confronting the tourism sector in Nigeria to include lack of detailed data, insecurity through crime and terrorism, inadequate funding and marketing, and low disposable income.

Matzarakis et al. [33], opined that Weather is a factor that influences the possibility of outdoor recreation and tourism. In their findings, several features of weather that can limit tourism activity are: - Extreme thermal conditions (both in summer and in winter); Sultriness (summer); Strong radiation stimuli at hot physiological strain (summer); Weak radiation stimuli at cold physiological strain (winter); Precipitation (summer and winter). They concluded that there are several weather limitations for outdoor recreation that occur in various climatic regions of Europe. In winter outdoor recreation is hindered by frosty weather and intensive snow falls and/or lack of snow cover. In summer the most frequent and the most dangerous weather conditions for humans are related to extreme hot as well as prolonged and heavy rains. Ojo 1987 opined that there is a relationship between the individual's educational background and his desire to participate in tourism. Another important variable is the individual's level of awareness of the existence of a tourist resort. It is true that a tourist will be motivated to go to any particular resort only when he is attracted and the facilities of his choice are available in such a place.

Holec and Martin [34] pointed out some factors which they termed positive and negative indicators that will determine either the rise or fall in the United States tourism industry in future respectively. These positive indicators include: Moderate inflation, Moderately positive economic forecasts, underlying demand is growing, Continuation of consumers' tendency to limit air and long-distance travel, and Strong auto travel probable: new car sales, less air travel, reduced travel budgets etc. while the negative indicators include; Unemployment is high and expected to rise until economic recovery is well under way, Stocks are down; The U.S. economy is "probably" climbing out of a recession but recovery is expected to be sluggish and slow to materialize, Fear and inconvenience of air travel; The entire [worldwide] travel and tourism industry is being held hostage by the threat of war with Iraq and North Korea; Pricing power is limited by lower prices offered on Internet and substitutions on the trip, etc. A negative factor related to tourism in many African countries is the perception people have of safety and security issues. Many destinations are perceived as having safety and security risks, even though this is not necessarily so [35].

Trawen, [36] discovered that the limitations in the community process are of a structural, operational and socio-cultural nature and stakeholder opinions focus on awareness, perceptions of tourism, plan approach, role of stakeholders and community views. He went further to point out some traditional, community and government approaches that may be used to overcome community participation limitations which led him to conclude that community systems that focus on local knowledge and semi-formal business agreements are appropriate participation frameworks to overcome operational limitations in tourism planning.

Cho and Li [37] discovered that despite the numerous tourism potentials of Hong Kong (has a remarkable array of landforms: precipitous peaks, deep valleys, indented coasts, numerous islands, subtropical monsoon climate, with hot wet summers and cool dry winters, lies within the transitional zone between two botanical and zoological regions, the tropical Oriental and temperate Palaeartic regions) has its constraints to the development of these opportunities. These limitations were identified as: Strong seasonal factors – due to its subtropical monsoon climate; summer in Hong Kong is very hot and humid; hence it may not be suitable for land-based outdoor activities, such as hiking, birdwatching; Small absorptive capacity of ecological sensitive areas, Insufficient information and guidance, lacking professional tour guides, Lacking a proactive conservation. They finally concluded that despite the above-mentioned constraints and limitations, the outlook for eco-tourism in Hong Kong remains bright. Since sustained economic growth and the rise in incomes are the two major factors driving growth of tourist travel, this pick-up in the regional economy would enhance the recovery of Hong Kong's tourism industry so there is golden opportunity for Hong Kong to develop its eco-tourism.

The common challenge facing tourism entrepreneurs in developing countries is the lack of access to accurate market data and analysis which they require to compete effectively in international markets. However, countries' internal conflicts, the divisions between them, and the resulting insecurities hamper tourism development. Extensive areas of Africa (deserts, savannahs, and tropical forests) are fragile. The usually poor host communities are more sensitive than others to the sometimes negative social and cultural effects of tourism [38]. Ross,

[39] has shown that climate, as a component of destination image, does strongly influence tourist behaviour. Hunt [40] pointed out that images and expectations of a destination may have as much as, or more, to do with an area's tourist image projection than the more tangible recreation resources. Publicity about climate to be expected in an area can also modify a tourist's expectations and thus their degree of satisfaction with the outcome of the experience.

Ndanusa et al. [28] identified some gaps that need to be reduced or closed if Nigeria must reap bountifully from the tourism sector. These authors however listed Security, Infrastructural amenities, Promotion and awareness, Funding and financing as the problems militating against the growth of tourism in the country. Attitude and image each of the above listed components constitute the major challenges to tourism development in Nigeria. Infrastructure such as road network and various means of transportations, the international and domestic airports, telecommunication and internet access, tour guide and efficient road signs & symbols hotel accommodation and other axillaries services and perceived destination image all have positive relationship with the overall tourism performance. Nigeria today is either these essential requirements are lacking or in bad condition. Secondly, security of lives and properties is fast deteriorating, obvious cases of armed robbery, kidnapping, assassination, suicide bombing and other related crimes have negative relationship with tourism performance most especially on tourist satisfaction and repeat visit [41]. Virtually all parts of Nigeria is facing one form of security challenge or the other ranging from kidnapping in East, hostage taking in the South- South, armed robbery in the West and Boko Haram terrorism in the North.

Government funding as priority project will enhanced effective and accelerated development in the tourism sector thereby opening the windows of opportunities resulting in positive performance. Closely related to these are the lending policies of the financial institutions which can trigger aggressive transformation in the sector leading to satisfactory performance. And covertly, reverse will be the case if the Government neglects the industry and the Banks and other related institutions are ash in their policies, this will slow down investment and development of the sector resulting in low performance. The government of Nigeria is only paying lip services to the issue of tourism

development without any commensurable commitment in terms of enabling environment and direct investment in the sector. Packaging and showcasing of Nigeria tourism products is at its lowest. No information about attractions and other places of leisure at international events, average visitors to Nigeria usually get astonished when he or she stumbles into places of interest and sites of wonders. This lack of adequate information is a minus on tourism performance. This is to say, the marketing image of destination is at its lowest [42] and unless some drastic measures are adapted, little or no transformation will be achieved.

Finally, attitudinal change is required by the personnel connected with this very important internationally driven industry. Of course, Nigerians are humble and diligent yet with high potentials of fraud and corrupt related tendencies. The ground staffs at the points of entry, transportation, accommodations and tourist sites are expected to be courteous, polite and appealing both in physical appearance and manners [2]. All these virtues will transform to tourist satisfaction and by extension tourism performance.

According to Jafari and Ritchie [43], "tourism is an interdisciplinary and integrates a variety of subjects, disciplines and focuses and can be seen from numerous points of views and approaches. The tourism as a central study can be studied from many focuses and created into a new form tourism development model." Several studies on tourism have already been conducted despite being one of the newest fields in the academe and trends in the business industry. Tourism evolves and new niches or tourism markets are developed.

Tourism has a positive impact on economic growth and vice versa. Factors that affects the tourism industry responds to the demands of the market. The basic operations of the industry would have an indirect impact to the economic growth both on developed and developing countries [44]. However, tourism is more relevant in the latter. It shows that those in the developing countries are willing to take risks in investing to tourism development for its indirect positive impact to the economy.

A study was able to reveal that in assessing the economic tourism impacts, we consider the significance of the product being offered both in the perspective of the demand and supply [45].

For cultural tourism, the perspective of the demand counts and would determine the success or failure of it. "Culture and creative industries are increasingly being used to promote destinations and enhance their competitiveness and attractiveness. Many locations are now actively developing their tangible and intangible cultural assets as a means of developing comparative advantages in an increasingly competitive tourism marketplace, and to create local distinctiveness in the face of globalization." [7].

Patil [46] identified some important factors that affects the development of tourism as follows: (1) Environmental factors; Good climate and Beautiful scenery (2) Socio-economic factors; Accessibility, Accommodation, Amenities and Ancillary services. (3) Historical and cultural factors; (4) Religious factors and (5) Other factors.

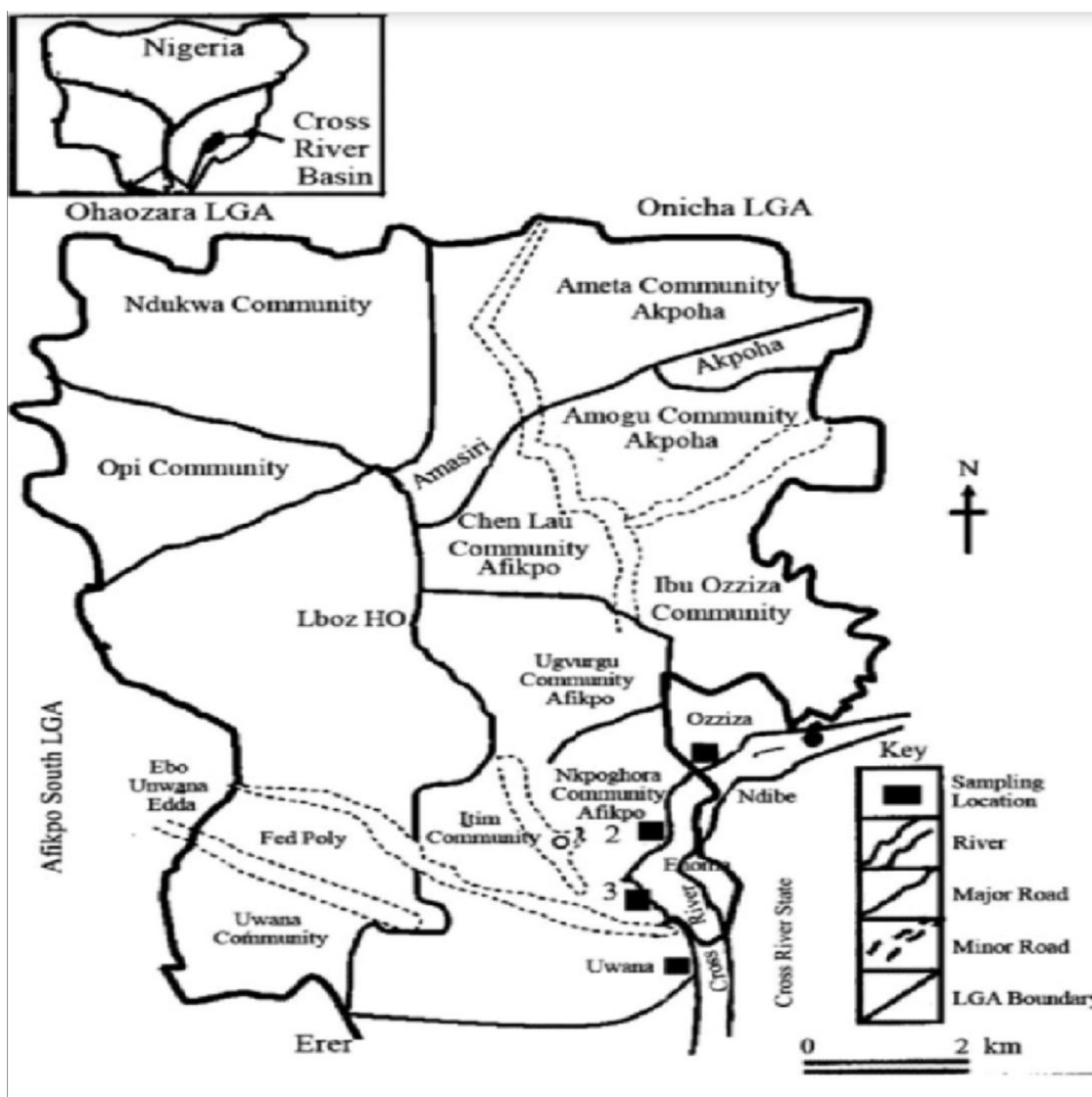
Fateme and Elahe [47] studied the importance of public participation in tourism development in Iran. It is initially dealt with the phenomenon of tourism and its importance, then such factors influencing the development of tourism industry as security, citizen participation, media and information technology are stated and a conceptual model for the research is offered. It is concluded that public involvement results in better decisions and community decisions that involve citizens are more likely to be acceptable to the local people. Also, the role of government in providing security and the role of media and information technology was proved to be significant in development of tourism industry in the country.

Abhijeet [48] opined that Economical factors have a major impact on the tourism industry globally and locally. Fluctuations in the global and local economies can affect the level of demand and supply in tourism in local areas or globally. During the recession, the demand for tourism had been affected at a global scale. Favorable economic situation leads to favorable demand for tourism services globally. When the economic activity and employment are high, people have sufficient disposable income to spend on tourism and travel. This leads to favorable demand and on the other hand lower economic activity and employment lead to low consumption of tourism services and less spending. During the recession demand for tourism services fell because people were forced to cut down on extra costs and the level of

employment had fallen worldwide. However, now that the world economy is back on track, demand has rise again and people are spending more on tourism. Fluctuations in the local economies of several countries have still kept happening and they can have short term impact on demand for tourism in these areas. Moreover, the role of economic factors in churning demand in the tourism industry also gets clear from the fact that in the Asian countries where economic activity has grown faster, the demand has also grown. Apart from the Asian countries including China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia, US and neighboring countries like Canada, Mexico etc have also benefited by good economic activity and seen healthy demand for tourism services in the recent years. In this way, the economic factors have a major impact on demand for tourism globally. However, they affect both sides – demand and supply. A healthy economy and its agents serve tourists better. Geopolitical factors also have a deep effect on the demand for tourism. A stable geopolitical situation can lead to a healthy increase in demand for tourism while instability can affect it negatively.

1.3 The Study Area

Afikpo is located in Ebonyi state in the south-eastern Nigeria. Ebonyi state is known as 'salt of the nation' because of its large salt deposition. It was created in 1996 and is made up of thirteen local governments and one of the youngest states in Nigeria. Ebonyi state is made up of thirteen towns of which Afikpo is the second largest Afikpo which is a Europeanized form for the original name 'Ehugbo' literally meaning 'stomach of the Igbos/ feeder of the Igbo people' [5]. History has it that this region earned its name because it always had food to sell to the majority of the population after the war. However this was just an advantage the region had owing to its location close to the River Cross where the ship often offloaded its goods. Afikpo is located at the southern part of Ebonyi state. There are thirty villages in Afikpo North and all thirty have a major community playground/village square where cultural festivals take place. Cultural activities such as new yam festivals (Ike ji), wrestling (Mgba), annual female waist dance (egwu asigo) and traditional initiation of men into manhood (usually involves tough physical training). Furthermore, picnics are usually organized by different peer groups at the beaches for recreation and entertainment. However, because of the topography of the area, students



**Fig. 1. Map of Afikpo north local government area Ebonyi State, Nigeria
Map of Afikpo North showing the site**

Source: Global Map.Com, (2016)

especially disciplines in sciences and environmental sciences from tertiary institutions come on excursion for educational purposes.

Afikpo spans an area approximately 164 square kilometer in size. It is located and lies within latitude 5 0 52'-5 0 57' N and longitude 7 0 52'- 7 0 58' E [49].

Afikpo is a hilly area despite occupying a region low in altitude which rises 350feet above sea level. Afikpo was purposively selected for this

study because of its naturally endowed tourism potentials amongst other localities in Ebonyi State. Three major communities made up of the entire study population namely Akpoha, Unwana, Afikpo.

2. METHODOLOGY

The main aim of the study is to assess the ecotourism potentials in Afikpo with a view to recommending means to enhance these potentials for development. The following

objectives were underpinned (i) To examine the nature of tourism sites in Afikpo, (ii) To identify the potentials, (iii) To determine the extent, the potentials have been harnessed, (iv) To identify factors that hinders the potentials of tourism. Quantitative and qualitative method of data collection was adopted in this study, combined with the review of literature in order to gauge the views of tourism stakeholders in Nigeria on the significance of tourist sites enhancement and development. While the quantitative method allow the gauge of data in numerical terms, using closed ended questionnaires, the literature review allows an in-depth knowledge of factors underpinning their views to give a credible and valid results [50] using various publications. A key informant group was also interviewed to ascertain government level of involvement and achievement in tourism development within the state in this study. A purposive sample technique was used in the selection of communities namely; Afikpo, Unwana and Akpoha (see Fig. 2 for map). The reason behind the decision was because of the nature and the condition surrounding the sample frame. By this, the selection was done based on the location

(villages) that majorly possess potential ecotourism features. Whereas, simple random sampling technique was in the selection of residents in the locations where potential tourist features were present. This decision was due to the nature of the population characteristics. Face to face interview was conducted with the state ministry of culture and tourism to ascertain the government effort and involvement in the development of tourist sites in the State. The selection was done through position held and it included the Director, the deputy director and two other staff of the ministry and findings discussed.

A sample size of four hundred was estimated using Devaus formular [51] and questionnaires distributed according to population (Adult) size of each community where Afikpo two hundred questionnaire, Akpoha hundred and Unwana hundred. At the end of the survey, a total of three hundred and eighty completed and correctly filled questionnaires were returned thus, a ninety-five percent of response rate was recorded and data analyzed with Principle Component Analysis. (PCA) and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and

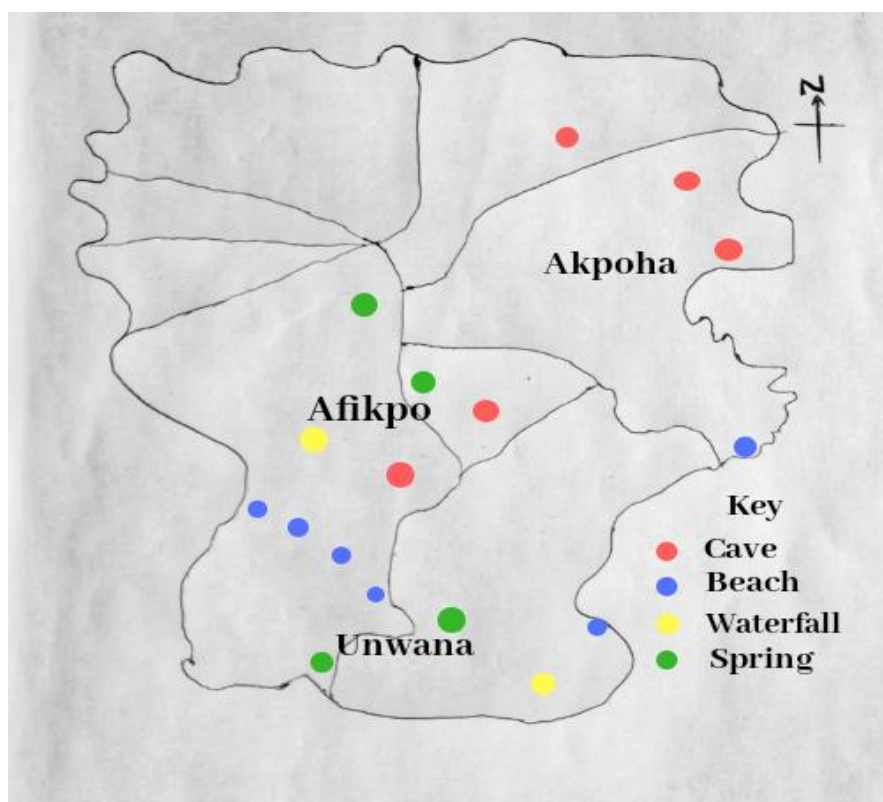


Fig. 2. Map of Afikpo north showing Akpoha, Afikpo and Unwana
Map of Afikpo North Showing Three Communities and Their Key Characteristics

results expressed in simple percentages and standard deviation. We postulated the following two hypothesis for the study:

- H1: *The factors that hinder the potentials of tourism in Afikpo cannot be significantly identified and classified.*
- H2: *There is no significant difference in the factors that are responsible for the condition of tourist sites across communities in Afikpo.*

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was ascertained that 249 respondents (representing 65.5%) were males while 131 respondents (representing 34.5%) were females. This implies that majority of the respondents were males. Most of the males were from Afikpo while most of the females from Unwana. Also 207 respondents (representing 54%) were married, 154 respondents (representing 41%) were single, 9 respondents (representing 2%) were divorced, 6 respondents (representing 2%) were divorced while 4 respondents (representing 1%) were widower. By implication all categories of people were involved in the study regardless of their marital status. The age structure of respondents revealed that 249 respondents (representing 66%) were between the ages of 20 – 35 years, 83 respondents (representing 22%) were between the ages of 36 – 50 years, 32 8% were between the ages of 51 – 65 years while 16% were between the ages of 66 years and above. This implies that majority of the respondents were between 20 – 35 years old. Obviously, all the respondents were adults and they possessed adequate information necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the study. The educational level of participants was surveyed as well and result revealed that 9% had no formal education, 22% had primary education, and 43% had secondary education while 100 respondents 26% had tertiary education. The implication of this finding is that majority of the respondents are educated and also possess relevant information necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the study.

Furthermore, the occupational status survey of participants revealed that 33% were engaged in civil service, 12% were engaged in trading, 15% students, 32% were engaged in farming while 8% were engaged in other occupations aside the aforementioned such as those that were self-employed or involved in the private sector of the economy.

The characteristics of respondents showed that all stakeholders are represented in the sample, these includes different age groups, those currently involved in tourism related activities and sufficiently educated to understand the questionnaire survey. Respondents who are currently engaged in tourism related activities transprtatin, hotels, restaurants, catering, bars, Agri-tourism and entertainment in the communities were 124 which represent 31% f the entire population. While the group of people involved in tourism related activities were of the view that there is need to enhance the tourism potentials in the area, the group not involved were in different to tourism potential development and this was due to the present state of the eco-tourism potentials in the study area and lack of education on potential benefits of tourism. The uneducated segment of respondents' population is assisted by trained field assistants. This degree of representation can only enhance the validity and credibility of results.

Further questions were posed to key informant group and respondents respectively; Measures taken by government towards tourism development, possible challenges in the development of tourism sites in Afikpo, what better approach towards the development of tourism sites in Afikpo, is the sole responsibility of the government alone to gear the development of these potentials or do the people have a role to play as well, does the government have a laid down policy on tourism development, how far has this policy been implemented; Factors perceived to be the hindrance to tourism site development in the area, nature of tourist sites, and the extent of site development and finely whether sites were accessible?

3.1 Key Informant In-Depth Report on Tourism Development

3.1.1 Measures taken by government towards tourism development

The responses of the four staff from the state ministry of culture and tourism that formed the group, revealed that the government has through this body only been able take record of all the hotels in the entire state both government owned and private owned hotels. And absolutely nothing else has been done towards harnessing any of the tourism sites in the state at all by the government. Therefore no tangible

contribution was made by the government but instead any developmental activity that has taken place was solely the effort of the people.

3.1.2 Challenges in the development of tourism sites in Afikpo

Informants pointed the following factors as challenges in the development of tourist sites; cultural belief, religion, lack of funds, orientation of the populace on the importance of tourism towards economy of the region and political bureaucracy. However, they believe that these changes can be ameliorated.

3.1.3 Public participation in decision making and public private partnership in tourism development

Informants opined that a better approach such as Public participation in decision making process of tourism development in the host communities is extremely crucial if the sites must develop in this region. This is because the people possess strong cultural values, heritage and history that must be preserved and not undermined. Therefore the enhancement of these potential tourist sites must be carefully achieved without interfering with the people's cultural heritage. The people if not carried along in the development of these sites will yield little result. Moreover, the government must take full responsibility for tourism development by showing interest and taking action in this sector, minimize political bureaucracy and creating a stable political environment for investors.

3.1.4 Existing Tourism Development Policy

There is a tourism development policy in the state but there is little to no implementation of this policy due to lack of commitment by the incumbent leadership.

3.2 The Nature of Tourism Sites in Afikpo

From the responses of residents and a trip to the various tourist sites in the three communities, it was gathered that Afikpo possesses mainly ecotourism features which as well holds a lot of cultural integrity and heritage of the local people. Generally, the nature of these

sites is such that must be treated as fragile, pristine and undisturbed geared towards conserving the environment and cultural heritage and sustain the well-being of the host communities. It was also observed that the tourist sites are still undeveloped and still in their most original and natural state and even hardly accessible. All three communities in the study area also have existing community playground/village square for cultural festivals and all other entertainment activity. There are thirty villages in the Afikpo and that cumulatively gives thirty (30) major playground/village square where all entertainment activities take place. However, our scope covers only natural features in the study area hence, the selection of this branch of tourism "Eco-tourism". (Definition by International Tourism Society, 2020: Responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education). There are caves, springs, beautiful natural landscape, and waterfall across the three communities that lack attention, which however, when harnessed would be a great source of tourist attraction site to this region.

3.3 The Tourism Potentials in Afikpo

The different types and number of tourism sites in the three communities were identified and specified. There were 5 caves, 4 springs, 6 beaches and 2 waterfalls in Afikpo North Local Government Area. This means that a total of 17 tourist sites. Specifically, 10 of the tourist sites (A place of interest where tourists visit typically for its natural beauty, offering leisure and amusement) representing 58% were in Afikpo, 4 (representing 24%) were in Unwana while 3 (representing 18%) were in Akpoha.

In addition, there were 2 caves (representing 18%), 2 springs (representing 18%), 5 beaches (representing 46%) and 1 waterfall (representing 9%) in Afikpo; 2 springs (representing 50%), 1 beach (representing 25%) and 1 waterfall (representing 25%) in Unwana while Akpoha had only 3 caves. From this analysis, it can be inferred that Afikpo had the largest number of tourist sites in the study area while Akpoha had the least. The result of respondents' perception on Number and Type of Tourist Sites is illustrated in the Table 1.

3.4 Respondents' Rating on the Extent of Development

Study revealed 23 respondents (representing 6%) posited that the rate of development of the sites were high, while 37 respondents (representing 10%) posited that the rate of development was moderate, 320 respondents (representing 84%) stated that the rate of development of the tourist sites were negligible. This rating however, agrees with researchers' assessment and rating of the extent of development of sites using a 5 point likert scale ranging from Very high, high, moderate, poor and very poor to determine extent of development. From this analysis, it can be inferred that the tourist sites in Afikpo North Local Government

Area are still undeveloped, and the extent of the development is very negligible.

3.5 Factors Hindering the Potentials of Tourism in Afikpo, Ebonyi State

H1: *The factors that hinder the potentials of tourism in Afikpo cannot be significantly identified and classified.*

This hypothesis was tested using the statistical tool Principle Component Analysis (PCA) and the result identified and classified thirty one (31) factors that hinder the potentials of tourism sites in Afikpo into four (4) components thereby collapsing then into fewer significant factors. (See Table 4).

Table 1. Number and type of tourist sites

Option	Afikpo		Unwana		Akpoha		TOTAL	%
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Cave	2	40	-	-	3	60	5	29
Spring	2	50	2	50	-	-	4	24
Beach	5	83	1	17	-	-	6	35
Waterfall	1	50	1	50	-	-	2	12
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	65	4	24	3	12	17	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 2. Respondents' perception on number and type of tourist sites

Option	Afikpo		Unwana		Akpoha		TOTAL	%
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Cave	2	40	-	-	3	60	5	29
Spring	2	50	2	50	-	-	4	24
Beach	5	83	1	17	-	-	6	35
Waterfall	1	50	1	50	-	-	2	12
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	58	4	24	3	18	17	100

Table 3. Respondents' rating on the extent of development

Option	Afikpo		Unwana		Akpoha		TOTAL	%
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
High	5	3	10	10	8	9	23	6
Moderate	17	9	16	17	4	4	37	10
Negligible	170	89	70	73	80	87	320	84
TOTAL	192	100	96	100	92	100	380	100

Table 4. Factors hindering the potentials of tourism in Afikpo, Ebonyi State

Component	Factors hindering the potentials	Factors	Factor Loading	Eigen Value	Percentage Variance
1	Sensitive Political Response to Development/ strong Institutional Framework	Lack of political will	0.781	10.405	33.564
		Political bureaucracy	0.680		
		Lack of skilful human resources	0.617		
		Promotion/poor marketing	0.547		
		Religion	0.500		
		Political instability	0.812		
		Orientation of the populace	0.776		
		Exchange rate and inflation	0.750		
		Lack of professional tour guide	0.748		
		Transportation system	0.733		
		Availability of detailed data	0.702		
	Information about the attractive sites	0.624			
2	Public participation in decision making and Private Participation in tourism development	Undermined community values	0.868	8.035	25.920
		Hotel accommodation	0.836		
		Lack of access to accurate market data	0.789		
		Location	0.775		
		Infrastructural amenities	0.757		
		Pollution	0.751		
		Disposable income	0.741		
		Local participation in decision making process	0.711		

Component	Factors hindering the potentials	Factors	Factor Loading	Eigen Value	Percentage Variance
		Attitude and image	0.690		
		Information about the attractive sites	0.628		
		Availability of detailed data	0.559		
		Exchange rate and inflation	0.548		
3	Education and Public Awareness			4.968	16.026
		Undermined community values	0.868		
		Security of the tourist	0.819		
		Beautiful scenery	0.726		
		Disposable income	0.671		
4	Effective Environmental Management			3.572	11.524
		Weather and climate	0.724		
		Seasonal pressure of visitors	0.701		
		Natural disasters	0.616		
		Landform and topography	0.536		

Source: Researcher's SPSS Analysis, 2019

The study identified and classified thirty one (31) factors that hinder tourism development in Afikpo and a breakdown showed that four out of the thirty one (31) variables were identified as the major factors that hinder the development of potential tourist sites. These are Sensitive Political Response to Development and Strong Institutional Framework (33.56%), Public Participation in Decision Making and Public Private Partnership in Tourism Development (25.92%), Education and Public Awareness (16.03%) and finally Effective Environmental Management (11.52%).

Component one loaded significantly on 13 factors. These are in descending order: lack of political will (0.918), political bureaucracy (0.895), lack of skilful human resources (0.894), promotion/poor marketing (0.883), religion (0.871), political instability (0.812), orientation of the populace (0.776), exchange rate and inflation (0.750), lack of professional tour guide (0.748), transportation system (0.733), availability of detailed data (0.702) and information about the attractive sites (0.624). It has Eigen value of 10.405 and explained variance of 33.564 %. Therefore component one is an index for measuring sensitive political response to development and strong institutional framework as factors hindering the potentials of tourism in Afikpo. The defining variable for component one is lack of political will with a factor loading of .918. (See Table 4).

3.6 Component Two: Public Participation in Decision Making and Public Private Partnership in Tourism Development

Component two loaded significantly on 12 factors. These are in descending order:

undermined community values (0.868), hotel accommodation (0.836), lack of access to accurate market data (0.789), location (0.775), infrastructural amenities (0.757), pollution (0.751), disposable income (0.741), local participation in decision making process (0.711), attitude and image (0.690), information about the attractive sites (0.628), availability of detailed data (0.559) and exchange rate and inflation (0.548). It has Eigen value of 8.035 and explained variance of 25.920%. There the component is an index for measuring public participation in decision making and public private partnership in tourism development as factors hindering the potentials of tourism in Afikpo. The defining variable for component two is undermined community values with a loading factor .868 (See Table 5). The people if not carried along in the development of these sites will yield little result (interviewee 4). The development of these sites is not sole responsibility of the government or private investors but the people as well.

3.7 Component Three: Education and Public Awareness

Component three loaded significantly on 4 factors. These are in descending order: undermined community values (0.868), security of the tourist (0.819), beautiful scenery (0.726) and disposable income (0.671). It has Eigen value of 4.968 and explained variance of 16.026%. Therefore, this component is an index for measuring education and public awareness as factors hindering the potentials of tourism in Afikpo. The defining variable for component three is undermined community values with factor loading .868.

Table 5. Component one: Sensitive political response to development and strong institutional framework

S/NO	FACTORS	Factor Loading
1	Lack of political will	0.781
2	Political bureaucracy	0.680
3	lack of skilful human resources	0.617
4	Promotion/poor marketing	0.547
5	Religion	0.500
6	political instability	0.812
7	orientation of the populace	0.776
8	exchange rate and inflation	0.750
9	lack of professional tour guide	0.748
10	transportation system	0.733
11	availability of detailed data	0.702
12	information about the attractive sites	0.624

Source: Researcher's SPSS Analysis, 2019

Table 6. Component two: Public participation in decision making and public private partnership in tourism development

S/NO	FACTORS	Factor Loading
1	Undermined community values	0.868
2	Hotel accommodation	0.836
3	Lack of access to accurate market data	0.789
4	Location	0.775
5	Infrastructural amenities	0.757
6	Pollution	0.751
7	Disposable income	0.741
8	Local participation in decision making process	0.711
9	Attitude and image	0.690
10	Information about the attractive sites	0.628
11	Availability of detailed data	0.559
12	Exchange rate and inflation	0.548

Source: Researcher's SPSS Analysis, 2019

3.8 Component Four: Effective Environmental Management

Component four loaded significantly on 4 factors. These are in descending order: weather and climate (0.851), seasonal pressure of visitors (0.760), natural disasters (0.718) and landform and topography (0.708). It has Eigen value of 3.572 and explained variance of 11.524%. The component is an index for measuring effective environmental management as factors hindering the potentials of tourism in Afikpo. The defining variable for component four is weather and climate with a factor loading of .851.

Table 7. Component three: Education and public awareness

S/N	Factors	Factor Loading
1	undermined community values	0.868
2	Security of the tourist	0.819
3	Beautiful scenery	0.726
4	Disposable income	0.671

Source: Researcher's SPSS Analysis, 2019

H2: *There is no significant variation in the factors that are responsible for the condition of tourist sites across communities in Afikpo.*

The result of the hypothesis suggests that there was no significant variation in the factors that are responsible for the condition of tourist sites across the communities in Afikpo ($F = 0.013$; alpha-significance = .987, at $P > 0.01$).

Table 8. Component four: Effective environmental management

S/N	Factors	Factor Loading
1	weather and climate	0.851
2	seasonal pressure of visitors	0.760
3	natural disasters	0.718
4	landform and topography	0.708

Source: Researcher's SPSS Analysis, 2019

Hypothesis one, which stated that the factors that hinder the potentials of tourism in Afikpo cannot be significantly identified and classified, was rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis that, stated the factors that hinder the potentials of tourism in Afikpo can be significantly identified and classified.

Hypothesis two: which stated that there was no significant variation in the factors that are responsible for the condition of tourist sites across the communities in Afikpo was accepted.

Table 9. ANOVA tests on perception of the respondents

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	.027	2	.013	.013	.987
Within Groups	94.501	90	1.050		
Total	94.527	92			

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Sensitive Political Response to Development and Strong Institutional Framework

Sensitive political response to development and strong institutional framework is a major determinant factor to tourism development in Afikpo. The government must take full responsibility for tourism development by showing interest and taking action in this sector. Minimizing political bureaucracy and creating a stable political environment for investors. The government as well through the state ministry of culture and tourism has to provide adequate detailed data for tourism, invest in tourism promotion and marketing, provide detailed information of the attractive sites, provide professional tour guide and help develop skillful human resources. The elaboration of a legal and regulatory framework and body of instrument which enables responsible authorities to achieve its defined goals and policies in the development of tourism in the state. By implication, the ministry must develop a strong institutional framework for its operations.

4.2 Public Participation in Decision Making and Public Private Partnership in Tourism Development

Public participation in decision making process of tourism development in the host communities is extremely crucial if the sites must development in this region. This is because the people possess strong cultural values, heritage and history that must be preserved and not undermined. Therefore the enhancement of these potential tourist sites must be carefully achieved without interfering with the people's cultural heritage. The people if not carried along in the development of these sites will yield little result.

4.3 Education and Public Awareness

Education and creation of public awareness is one of the indispensable factor in any development at all especially in tourism

development for that matter in our third world country where the idea of tourism is yet to be fully embraced. Nevertheless, most of the people in these host communities are both ignorant of the relevance of tourism and how it works or completely illiterates and as such must be educated on the subject matter tourism. This is evident in the kind of economic and religious activities that these sites are used for. Education of the populace is crucial in achieving a developed tourism sector in this region.

4.4 Effective Environmental Management

Effective environmental management is the last factor that hampers on the development of potential tourism sites in the region. Therefore, there must be proper and effective environmental management so as to avert adverse negative effects of tourism activities on the ecosystem.

5. CONCLUSION

The study has significantly revealed that four (4) major factors out of the thirty one (31) identified factors hamper on the development of potential tourist sites in Afikpo and they include Sensitive Political Response to Development and Strong Institutional Framework, Public Participation in Decision Making and Public Private Partnership in Tourism Development, Education and Public Awareness and finally Effective Environmental Management. The study recommended among others, the adoption of the four (4) identified limiting factors of tourism potential development in Afikpo Ebonyi State as this will apparently go a long way in alleviating the problem of poorly developed tourist sites in Ebonyi State.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

REFERENCES

1. Agha SO, Akpan AE, Okwueze EE. Assessment of strength of foundation materials in Afikpo, Nigeria using seismic

- refraction method. Nigerian Journal of Physics. 2006;18(1):33-37.
2. Aniah JE, Eja E, Judith O, Ushie M. Patronage of ecotourism potentials as a strategy for sustainable tourism development in Cross River State, Nigeria. Journal of Geography and Geology. 2009; 1(2)
 3. Gyr Ueli. The History of Tourism: Structures on the Path to Modernity by Original in German European History Online; 2010.
 4. Ormsby, Kathryn M. Ecotourism benefits and the role of local guides at Masoala National Park, Madagascar. Journal of Sustainable Tourism. 2006;14(3):271-287.
 5. Jacobson SK, Robles R. Ecotourism, sustainable Development, and Conservation education; 1998.
 6. Hasan Ali. Green tourism marketing model 1; 2010.
 7. World Tourism Organization (WTO). Tourism Highlight: 2006. WTO, Madrid; 2006.
 8. United Nations World Tourism Organization. Compendium of Best Practices and Recommendations for Ecotourism in Asia and the Pacific; UNWTO: Madrid, Philippines; 2012.
 9. World Tourism Organization (WTO). Tourism Highlight: 2014 Edition. WTO, Madrid; 2014.
 10. Olorunfemi F, Raheem UA. Sustainable Tourism Development In Africa: The Imperative for Tourists/Host Communities Security Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa. 2008;10(3). ISSN: 1520-5509
 11. Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN). Millennium Development Goals: 2004 Nigeria Report. Federal Republic of Nigeria, Abuja; 2004.
 12. Olokesusi, Femi. Environmental legislation and administration in the context of nature conservation in Nigeria In: The Law and the Environment in Nigeria, Folarin Shyllon (ed), Vantage Publishers, Ibadan, Nigeria. 1989;11 - 22.
 13. Roe, Dilys; Page, Caroline Ashley; Meyer, Dorothea. Tourism and the Poor: Analysing and Interpreting Tourism Statistics from a Poverty Perspective.PPT Partnership Working Paper No 16, ODI, IIED and CRT, London; 2004.
 14. World Tourism Organization (WTO). The Global Importance of Tourism. Background Paper No. 1 in Tourism and Sustainable Development UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York; 1999.
 15. Nations Tourism Development Programme (NTDP). 2006 Final Report Executive Summary Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
 16. Mwantok Margaret. How Eco tourism can boost economy. Guardian Arts; 2016.
 17. Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology Federal Government Report on Tourism Policy (2009) - 17th legislative term.-
 18. Frangialli F. World Tourism Organization Perspectives on the International Year of Eco-tourism. Industry and Environment. 2001;24(3)4.
 19. Nadia A, Shehu M, Yunusa HM. The possible impact of tourism industry on Nigeria economy. Review of Public Administration and Management. 2014;3:5.
 20. Allison P, Edward H, Neil Adger W. Vulnerability of national economies to the impacts of climate change on fisheries. Fish and Fisheries. 2009;10(2):173-196.
DOI: 10.1111 j.1467-2979.2008.00310.x
 21. Freya Higgins-Desbiolles. More than an industry: The forgotten power of tourism as a social force Tourism Management. 2006; 27(6):1192-1208
DOI: 10.1016/j.tourman.2005.05.020
 22. Goodwin Harold John. Pro-poor tourism: Opportunities for sustainable local development; 2000.
 23. Ojo JS. Managing tourism for socio-economic development In Nigerian local government: A case study of Idanre local government. Journal of African Studies and Development. 2014;6(2):29-35.
 24. World Tourism Organization (WTO). Tourism: 2010 Vision, Madrid: World Tourism Organization; 1998.
 25. Neto Frederico. A new approach to sustainable tourism development: Moving beyond environmental protection. Natural Resources Forum. 2002;27(3):212 – 222.
DOI: 10.1111/1477-8947.00056

26. Rahman N. Influence of tourism on the regional development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Influence of Tourism on the Regional Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina*. University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 2014;2(2).
27. Sindiga Isaac. *Tourism and African Development: Change and Challenge of Tourism in Kenya*; 1999.
DOI: 10.4324/9780429430824
ISBN: 9780429430824
28. Ndanusa MM, Yoshifumi H, Aminul I. Challenges to growth in tourism industry of a developing country: The case of Nigeria. *Asian Social Science*. 2014;10:19.
29. Andriotis K, George A, Athanasios M. Measuring tourist satisfaction: A factor-cluster segmentation approach. *Journal of vacation marketing: First Published July 1, 2008 Research Article*; 2008.
Available:<https://doi.org/10.1177/1356766708090584>
30. World Tourism Organization (WTO). *Recommended Measures for Tourism Safety*. On-line article; 1991.
31. Inter America travel congress IATC. *United States congressional serial set*. Ebook; 1997.
32. Bankole Abiodun. The Nigerian Tourism sector: Economic Contributions, Constraints and Opportunities. *Journal of Hospitality Financial Management*. 2002; 10.
33. Matzarakis A, Christopher RF, Daniel S. *Climate, tourism and recreation*. 3rd International Workshop on Climate, Tourism and Recreation Alexandroupolis, Greece Commission on Climate, Tourism and Recreation; 2007.
34. Holecek DF, Martin LA. *Travel and, tourism and recreation in Michigan at the millennium*. Michigan State University Press USA; 2003.
35. World Tourism Organization (WTO) *Currency Adjustment Factor (CAF) (2001)*. Specific Programme of Activities to Promote Tourism Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Available:www.wto.org/caf/specificprogramme.htm.
36. Trawen Alcinda Louise. *Community participation limitations in tourism planning in Papua New Guinea* University of Otago Tourism Community development Papua New Guinea; 2013.
37. Cho Nam Ng, Li Y. *Eco-tourism in Hong Kong: its potentials and limitations* Cuarta Feria Ecoturistica y de Produccion 15 Publications @ Kiskeya Alternativa; 2000.
38. SNV Netherlands Development Organization. *Asia Pro-Poor Sustainable Tourism Network. A Toolkit for Monitoring and Managing Community-Based Tourism*; Griffith University: Gold Coast, Australia; 2007.
39. Glenn F. Ross. Resident perceptions of the impact of tourism on an Australian City *Journal of Travel Research Research Article*; 1992.
Available:<https://doi.org/10.1177/004728759203000302>
40. John D. Hunt. Image as a factor in tourism development. *Journal of Travel Research Research Article*; 1975.
Available:<https://doi.org/10.1177/004728757501300301>
41. Johnson R. Identifying competitive strategies for successful tourism destination development. *Journal of Hospitality and Leisure Marketing*. 2001; 31(1):37-45.
Available:<http://books.google.com.my/books?id=>
42. Chang T.C. Chang. Heritage as a tourism commodity: Traversing the tourist-local divide. *Journal of Tropical Geography*. 2002;18(1):46-68.
DOI: 10.1111/1467-9493.00004
43. Jafar, Brent Ritchie JR. Toward a framework for tourism education: Problems and prospects. *Annals of Tourism Research*. 1981;8(1):13-34.
44. Nissan E, Galindo-Martin M, Méndez-Picazo. Relationship between tourism and economic growth *Service Industries Journal*. 2010;31(10):1567-1572.
DOI: 10.1080/02642069.2010.485636
45. De Greef H. *Introductory speech*. European Festival Association Declaration on International Dialog; 2009.
Available:www.efa.aef.eu
46. Anandao S. Patil. Assessing Mahabaleshwar residents perception on impact of tourism within community. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*; 2013.

47. Fateme Tohid A, Elahe H. Factors affecting the development of tourism industry in Iran Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran; 2010.
48. Abhijeet Pratap. Factors affecting demand in the tourism sector; 2018.
49. Map of Afikpo North LGA. Available:<https://www.google.com/search?client=ms-android->
50. Denzin NK, Lincoln YS. Strategies of quality inquiry. SAGE Publications; 1998.
51. De Vaus, D. surveys in social sciences. 5th Edition Routledge, London; 2002.

© 2020 Janet et al.; This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Peer-review history:

*The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
<http://www.sdiarticle4.com/review-history/63798>*