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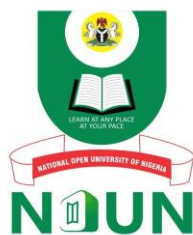
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**Sustainable Development Goals and Tourism Development in Nigeria:
A Study of Old Oyo National Park Tourism Activities**

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Abstract

This paper examines the crucial role and significance of sustainable development goals on tourism development in Nigeria. The study administers the research instrument entailing 28 close ended questions to the respondents. The responses to each item are presented on tables and analyzed using simple percentages and mean. The research hypothesis is tested using a Chi-square statistical tool with the degree of freedom of 3 at 0.05% level of significance. The study concludes that Old Oyo National Park tourism development goals and the economic development are positively related. It is hereby recommended that Nigerian government should support the integrity of local tourism activities by favoring businesses which conserve wildlife, tourism heritage and traditional values. The government needs to consciously supporting local economics by encouraging purchase of local goods among other things capable of creating a suitable premise for sustainable tourism development. Furthermore, the government is expected to set up some relevant institutions and organizations in charge of security, infrastructure development and maintenance to foster tourism development.

Keywords: Tourism, Sustainable tourism, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Destination

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sustainable tourism takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities (Edgell Sr, 2016; United Nations, (UN) 2002; Yfantidou & Matarazzo, 2017). According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), tourism covers the activities of people travelling to and staying in places apart from their usual place of abode for not less than 24 hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes unrelated to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited (WTO, 2000; Yu, Kim, Chen & Schwartz, 2012).

The focus of sustainable tourism is to make an impact on the environment and local culture as low as possible while helping to generate future employment for local people. The aim of sustainable

tourism is to ensure that development brings a positive experience for local people, tourism companies and the tourists themselves (Ajani & Kalu, 2017). It is the concept of visiting a place as a tourist and trying to make only a positive impact on the environment, society and economy.

Tourism can involve primary transportation to the general location, local transportation, accommodations, entertainment, recreation, nourishment and shopping. It can be related to travel for leisure, business and what is called visiting friends and relatives (VFR) (Peeters & Dubois, 2010). There is now broad consensus that tourism development should be sustainable. However, the question of how to achieve this remains an object of debate (Ayeni, 2013; Johnson, 2002). Besides its impact on economic growth and sustainable development, tourism is one of the sectors better positioned to deliver on jobs, perhaps the single most common issue of concern at this time. Tourism creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and provides millions of direct jobs worldwide, as well as countless more through its multiplier effects on related sectors such as trade, manufacturing, construction or agriculture. It is already one of the largest employment sectors in many countries and a fast entry vehicle into the workforce for young people and women in both urban and rural communities (Adedipe & Adeleke, 2016; Ashley, Roe & Godwin, 2001; Fagbolu, 2022)

In striving to prevent disorderly tourism development, and in order to successfully overcoming the daily changes that occur in turbulent surrounding, planning of sustainable tourism development becomes the only way possible to do it successfully. Therefore, sustainable development refers to the use without exploitation of natural, cultural and all other tourist resources from the current generation. It means preserving them for future use by future generations (United Nations (UN), 2002). Since the development of tourism in a certain area largely depends on the natural and anthropogenic attractiveness located in the surrounding, the practicing of sustainable development gets more and more important. In case these resources are to be destroyed or degraded, the attractiveness of the destination will be reduced as well, also it will lead into questions for tourism development in the region, because potential tourists are only interested in visiting attractive and clean destinations which offer services with high quality (Fagbolu, 2021; Gboyega, 2003).

However, an environment that has no quality attributes is not only unattractive to tourists; it also does not supply comfortable domestic population. Planning of sustainable tourism development

actually concerns planning to preserve the environment, and it encompasses a variety of research and analysis before making a decision on any determination of the direction of development. All these activities are done in order not to allow intensive exploitation of resources in some specific areas, without care about the preservation of resources (Agba et al., 2010; Eja et al., 2011).

Every state of the federation must identify indicators and devise strategies that accord with the resources and capabilities at its disposal. It is unfortunate to note that there is really no serious commitment to collected tourism data, because there is little agreement on the importance of the industry. Another strategy is to link work on MDGs to work on tourism development. The most effective work on tourism development takes place when there is adequate understanding of how policy frameworks are influenced by global trends and agreements. These are the bases for the construction of proposals for policy alternatives, which would lead, to the achievement of goals such as poverty eradication, advances in education, improved health, and environmental protection of the SDGs (Akpabio, 2007; Bassey & Egon, 2016; Tourism Development International, 2006).

In other words, there is a need to link the needs with the SDGs. In order to benefit from the high profile attention received by the SDGs as the new consensus framework for development discourse and assistance, all those committed to the fostering of tourism development need to develop strategies for monitoring and measuring progress towards the achievement of the NEEDS objectives, and building this into work on the SDGs.

Nevertheless, tourism can be effectively used to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (SDGs) and will also focus on the (economic) development of the industry in Nigeria. It is imperative to identify problems and suggestions for possible measures to take the identified problems (Novelli & Hellwig, 2013; Omodero, 2019; Saarinen & Rogerson, 2014). This paper, specifically attempts to reexamine the crucial role and significance of Old Oyo National Park tourism activities to sustainable development goals and tourism in Nigeria for Nigeria's development effort.

Research Questions

1. What are the desirable effects of Old Oyo National Park activities on tourists?
2. What are the Old Oyo National Park developmental strides in **Saki, Iseyin, Igboho, Sepeteri** and **Tede** ?
3. What is the relationship between Old Oyo National Park developmental goals and the economic development of the areas?

Research Hypothesis

H₀: There is no positive relationship between Old Oyo National Park Developmental goals and the Economic Development of the Area

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a potentially powerful tool for economic development. Though the industry is fraught with certain challenges, which are seemingly insurmountable, it has a crucial role to play in helping Nigeria to achieve the 2015 anti-poverty SDGs (Ferguson, 2013; Novelli & Hellwig, 2013; Omodero, 2019; Rasoolimanesh, et al., 2020). As Nigeria is becoming keenly aware of the substantial development potentials of tourism, this paper presents some recommendations to be considered in order to reap these potentials and facilitate the process of achieving the SDGs.

Economic significance tourism is a non-agricultural, economic sector. Tourism has a substantial role to play in the expanding and diversifying Nigeria's economic base. Among other contributions, the tourism sector has been shown as providing income-earning opportunities for a large number of people. Tourism employment will touch almost every aspect of the Nigerian economy, from the taxi drivers to bank managers (Adesina-Uthman, 2022; Vanguard, 2014; Yamamura, 2004). The industry has a multiplier impact on such other sectors as transportation, hotels, financial institutions, hospitals, aviation and environment.

According to World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) (2010), experiences on tourism development and growth in tourism services could result in certain sustainability positive and

social impacts. These comprise positive impacts on macro-economic indicators such as contribution to GDP, export earnings, government tax revenues and opportunities in employment to develop professional skills. Social impacts of tourism promotion include a high risk of over-reliance on one sector and therefore increasing vulnerability. Higher risks of social problems such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and not necessarily better working conditions (seasonal jobs) which does not significantly alleviate poverty. A risk of worsening environmental damages due to the development of hotel construction and increased tourist arrivals exist but so do opportunities for transfer of environmentally sound practices. The nature and degree of these impacts depend on a range of variables; the type of tourism (land-based or cruise tourism, and niche markets), investments (hotels, construction, management, contracts and environmentally sound investments) types of jobs created, tourist behavior (expenditure activities) and the institutional framework (social programs, environmental management) (Saarinen, Rogerson & Manwa, 2011; Yamamura, 2004).

Performance and Potentials of Tourism

Tourism has performed impressively in many developed countries and the newly industrialized Asian nations (Adesina-Uthman, 2022; Bankole & Odularu, 2006; Bricker, Black & Cottrell, 2013; Ekundayo, 2014; Ferguson, 2013). One can sum up the performance, role or potential contributions of the tourism sector in the following eight (8) perspectives. First, tourism provides a major source of employment opportunities for a large majority of people, being labor intensive with higher capacity for employment generation. Second, the majority of those willing to work about (70– 80 %) because operations in the tourism industry are mainly labor intensive and the industry includes hotels, airlines, travel agency and all tourism related organizations. Next, serves as a valuable training ground for the creation and development of local entrepreneurs and hospitality managers in several areas of economic activity. Fourth, they serve in some ways to aid the process of income redistribution as they impact more positively on the bulk of low-income people. Up next, tourism is the most effective means to bring about structural transformation in the rural areas. Sixth, tourism possesses better capacity to reduce poverty, inequality and social vices. Seventh, the contribution of tourism to the economy in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) has relatively been on the increase since independence. Lastly, entrepreneurial development – provides good preparation ground for the development of indigenous entrepreneurs, which drive

the wealth creation process at all levels (Bankole & Odularu, 2006; Bricker, Black & Cottrell, 2013).

In Nigeria, it has the potential to absorb a high percentage of teeming millions of people who are not gainfully employed. Tourism in the country centers largely on cultural events, due to the country's ample number of ethnic groups, but also includes rain forests, savannah, waterfalls and other natural attractions (Archibong, 2004; Bankole & Odularu, 2006; Sasidharan & Hall, 2013). In recent times, governments at both federal and state tiers have made significant impact on tourism development, by solely or in certain cases partnering with the private sector in special resorts of international standard for tourist attractions. Some major factors that tend to inhibit tourism development efforts of the country include poor electricity supply, deplorable condition of roads, religious intolerance, Security; militancy, incessant bombings, and kidnappings.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study Area

As revealed in Figure 1 below, Old Oyo National Park is one of the national parks of Nigeria located across northern Oyo State and southern Kwara State, Nigeria (*Nigeria National Park Service*, 2014; Ogunjinmi et al., 2016). The park has a total land mass of 2,512 km² and is located in the South Western part of Nigeria, specifically northern Oyo State at latitude 8° 15' and 9° 00'N and longitude 3° 35' and 4° 42' E. The location has inevitably placed the park at a vantage position of abundance land area as well as diverse wildlife and cultural/historical settings. It covers eleven local government areas out of which ten falls within Oyo State and one in Kwara State surrounds it. The Administrative Head Office of the park is located in Oyo, Isokun area along Oyo-Iseyin road, where necessary information and booking could be made. The landscaping and organized space within the large yard has made the facility very endearing to the public. It is rich in plant and animal resources including buffaloes, bushbuck and a variety of birds. The park is easily accessible from southwestern and northwestern Nigeria. The nearest cities and towns adjoining Old Oyo National Park include Saki, Iseyin, Igboho, Sepeteri, Tede and Igbeti which have their own commercial and cultural attractions for tourism. The park is a dense forest park that is rich in plants and animals' activities. Situated just about 51 km north of Ibadan city, and it harbors Nile crocodile, rock python and land tortoise. The top attractions of the park which are of historical and

archaeological value, are situated at the northern end of the park and these include the relics of the old city walls of Oyo Ile, the great Agbaku cave which has evidence of stone age, the **Kosomonu** hill, the old Akesan Market, Alaafin's Palaces with crucibles of pottery used some centuries ago (John, 1999).

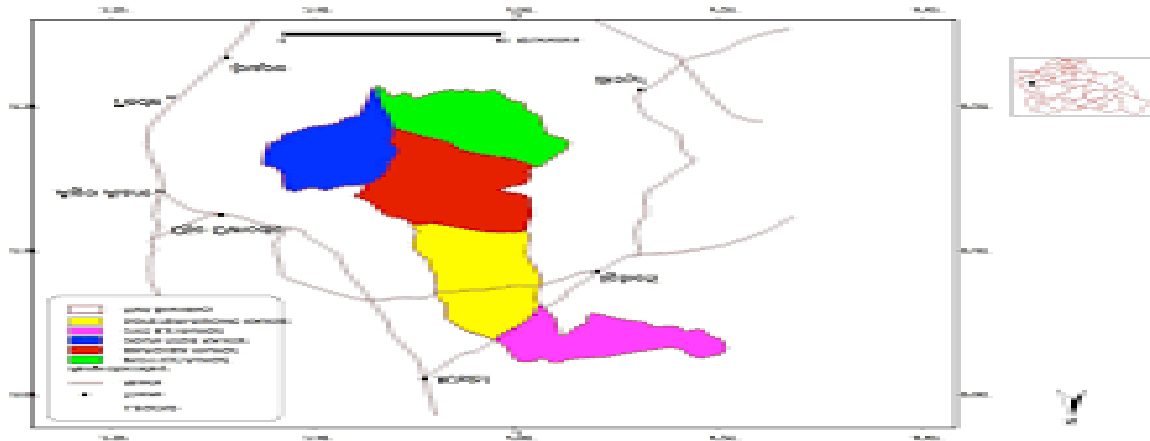


Figure 1: Map of Showcasing Old Oyo National Park

Source: Ogunjinmi et al (2016).

Sampling and Data Collection

The population of the study is drawn from Saki, Iseyin, Igboho, Sepeteri and Tede. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to select forty (40) respondents from each of the areas accounting for two hundred (200) sample size. The instrument for this study was a questionnaire of 28 item structured on the modified four (4) point Likert scale of strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly disagree (SD). To ensure the validity of the survey, each item in the questionnaire was cross-matched with the research questions. The researcher employed the face validity method. In this respect, the instrument was scrutinized and considered by experts knowledgeable in the area. After a careful study of the instrument, observations made were used to modify the instrument. Based on this, the instrument was considered valid enough for the study. Furthermore, a test-retest method was adopted to assess the reliability of the instrument. By this method, twenty (20) copies of the instrument were administered on twenty (20) people outside the sampling area. After one-week, fresh copies of the same instrument were re-administered to the same people. The scores of the test were correlated to determine its reliability.

During the main study, the research instrument was administered to the respondents of various settlements. Tabular method is adopted to present the data collected. A total of one hundred and ninety (190) respondents were used in this study. The responses on the items on the research instrument were collated while percentages of the responses to each item were analyzed using simple percentages. Moreover, the hypothesis was tested using chi-square statistical stool. Therefore, ideal mean= $10/4=2.50$. The decision rule is that if the mean score is less than or equals to the ideal mean then, respondents do not agree to the fact while the score greater than 2.50 indicates the acceptance.

Results

The table below portrays the outcomes of the study. In the Table below, items 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 13

Table 1: Tourist Activities, Park Developmental Strides and Tourists

S/N	Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Decision
Tourists Activities		Research Question 1: What are the desirable effects of Old Oyo National Park activities?						
1	Create jobs	130x4=520	60x3=180	-	-	700	3.68	Accepted
2	Improve transportation system?	30x4=120	160x3=480	-	-	600	3.16	Accepted
3	Improve sanitation facilities	-	100x3=300	60x2=120	30x1=30	450	2.36	Rejected
4	Reduce poverty	60x4=240	80x3=240	25x2=50	25x1=25	555	2.72	Accepted
5	Encourage businesses accessibility to residents	30x4=120	30x3=90	40x2=80	90x1=90	380	2.00	Rejected
6	Generate income for the local community through visitors' expenditure	140x4=560	25x3=75	25x2=50	-	685	3.61	Accepted
7	Diversify community economic activities	15x4=60	35x3=105	120x2=240	20x1=20	425	2.24	Rejected
8	Bring about a real sense of pride and identity to communities	-	-	180x2=360	10x1=10	370	1.95	Rejected
9	Are environmentally friendly	50x4=200	40x3=120	60x2=120	40x1=40	480	2.53	Agreed
10	Encourage local businesses patronage	25x4=100	65x3=195	50x2=100	50x1=50	445	2.34	Rejected
11	Set up educational programs or scholarships for students in the area	-	29x3=60	120x2=240	50x1=50	350	1.84	Rejected
12	Destroy existing cultures, freezes culture as performers, loss: language, religion, rituals, material culture	-	-	150x2=300	40x1=40	340	1.79	Rejected
13	Employment is seasonal	41x4=164	62x3=186	62x2=124	25x1=25	499	2.63	Accepted
Developmental Strides		Research Question 2: What are the Old Oyo National Park Developmental strides in the area?						
14	Provides infrastructures	110x4=440	40x3=120	15x2=30	25x1=25	615	3.25	Accepted
15	Encourage development	100x4=400	55x3=165	35x2=70	-	635	3.34	Accepted

16	Encourages preservation of traditions	130x4=520	50x3=150	10x2=20	-	690	3.63	Accepted
17	Provides financial support for the conservation of ecosystems and natural resource management	90x4=360	60x3=180	20x2=40	10x1=10	590	3.11	Accepted
18	Encourages social vices	50x4=200	70x3=210	30x2=60	40x1=40	510	2.68	Accepted
19	Supports cultural diversity	20x4=80	40x3=120	40x2=80	90x1=90	370	1.05	Rejected
20	Provides marginal employment	108x4=416	32x3=96	25x2=50	25x1=25	587	3.08	Accepted
21	Brings unrealistic expectations (divert young people from school and brighter futures)	132x4=528	18x3=54	25x3=75	15x1=15	672	3.54	Accepted
22	Decisions made outside of the area	10x3=30	20x3=60	62x2=124	98x1=98	312	1.62	Rejected
Tourists		Research Question 3: What is the relationship between Old Oyo National Park developmental goals and the economic development of the study area?						
23	Engaged in development and activities that are drawn from local traditions and add value to the community	140x4=560	30x3=90	20x2=40	-	691	3.63	Accepted
24	Practiced neo-colonialism	65x4=260	100x3=300	25x2=50	-	610	3.21	Accepted
25	Developed illegal and/or destructive economic activities (markets for drugs, endangered species, etc.	-	48x3=144	122x2=244	20x1=20	408	2.14	Rejected
26	Land controlled by the elite.	28x4=112	13x3=39	48x2=96	101x1=101	408	1.83	Rejected
27	Diverted and concentrated development (airport, roads, water, electricity to tourist destinations, development not accessible to locals	5x4=20	30x3=90	25x2=50	130x1=130	290	1.52	Rejected
28	Trained and educate people in local culture, history, natural science, etc.	137x4=548	23x3=69	20x2=40	-	657	3.46	Accepted

Source: Field Survey (2022).

means are greater than ideal mean (2.50). This is an indication of acceptance while 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected. Items 14, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 20 mean are greater than ideal mean (2.50). Consequently, they are all accepted while 19 and 22 are rejected. Furthermore, items 23, 24 and 28 mean which are greater than ideal mean (2.50) are all accepted while 25, 26 and 27 are rejected. In calculating the chi-square, the expected frequencies are calculated based on the questions 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 and displayed in the Tables below.

Table 2: Analysis of Questions 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 for Chi-Square

Opinion	SA	A	D	SD	Total
23	140(62.50)	30(40.67)	20(43.33)	-	190
24	65(62.50)	100(40.67)	25(43.33)	-	190
25	-	48(40.67)	122(43.33)	20(43.50)	190
26	28(62.50)	13(40.67)	48(43.33)	101(43.50)	190
27	5(62.50)	30(40.67)	25(43.33)	130(43.50)	190
28	137(62.50)	23(40.67)	20(43.33)	10(43.50)	190
Total	375	244	260	261	1140

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Calculation: SA=375x190/1140, A=244x190/1140, D=260x190/1140, SD=261x190/1140

Hypothesis:

H₀: There is no positive relationship between Old Oyo national Park Developmental goals and the Economic Development of the Area.

Table 3: Chi-Square

Opinion	SA	A	D	SD
F_0	375	244	260	261
F_e	62.50	40.67	43.33	43.50
$F_0 - F_e$	312.50	203.33	216.67	217.50
$(F_0 - F_e)^2$	97656.25	41343.09	46945.89	47306.25
$(F_0 - F_e)^2 / F_e$	1586.50	1016.55	1083.44	1087.50
$\sum (F_0 - F_e)^2 / F_e = 4773.99$				

Source: Field Survey (2022).

Calculating the degree of freedom (df) we have $(r-1) (2-1) = (2-1) (4-1) = 3$. Thus, the degree of freedom is 3 at 0.05% level of significant, tabulated value is 7.82. Meanwhile, calculated X^2 (4773.99) is greater than tabulated value. Therefore, H_0 is rejected and the study conclude that Old Oyo National Park tourism development goals and economic development in the study area are positively related.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

There is still much to be done by Nigeria – states on integrating Tourism fully with the international development policies. Effort of a country like Nigeria should be geared towards practicing sustainable tourism via anticipating and respecting tourism cultures, expectations and assumptions. The pillars of sustainable tourism are environmental integrity, social justice and economic development. These are capable of creating a suitable premise for sustainable tourism development.

Going by findings, it is hereby recommended that:

- i. Nigerian government should support the integrity of local tourism activities by favoring businesses which conserve wildlife, tourism heritage and traditional values.
- ii. The government needs to consciously supporting local economics by encouraging purchase of local goods among other things capable of creating a suitable premise for sustainable tourism development.
- iii. The government should encourage development of the capacity building programs that meet the needs of tourists.
- iv. The government should provide equitable distribution of revenues through participatory and democratic processes that engages people at all levels in the areas.
- v. The government should urgently tackle the problem of infrastructure development and maintenance including electricity, water and efficient transportation system, which have considerably positive impact on tourism operations.
- vi. There is a need to set up more relevant institutions and organizations to foster the development of tourism such as institute for tourism studies; center for responsible tourism, ecotourism studies and research program; institute for hotel and hospitality studies, etc.

- vii. The Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) must not relent in its efforts to create awareness for what tourism is and the benefits that flow from it.
- viii. Nigeria should exploit the full opportunities afforded by its being a member of ECOWAS to promote its tourism destinations as a regional package since tourism is no longer operated on country – by – country basis, but rather on regional platform.

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