

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
OF

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS
THROUGH

TOURISM EXTENSION
AT
YANKARI NATIONAL PARK

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ABSTRACT

Conservation areas in Nigeria are established through enforcement and compulsory expulsion of settlers. This led to conflicts and impoverishment of community residents. Tourist extension is imperative if adjoining communities to parks are to accept the changes in policy that recognize them as important stakeholders in conservation system. This study assessed how tourism extension has enhanced the quality of tourism and improved conservation of natural resources in Yankari National Park; and how this had been used to facilitate and support local communities' economic empowerment. Structured questionnaires were administered to 160 tourists to evaluate the quality of tourism using random sampling technique. The composition of flora and fauna in the park was determined by application of drive count method and line transects while the nature of tourism extension program was obtained through structured interviews. 10 out of 28 communities surrounding the park were randomly selected. 8 leaders of the Community Based Organizations were selected through purposive sampling technique, making 80 respondents. Data were analyzed through descriptive analysis using simple percentages. Results show 32.5% of respondents agreed prominent animals were missing. Majority of community residents (66.3%) were males, while those who had below secondary education were 42.5%. Occupation of respondents were mainly hunting (16.3%), cattle rearing (15.0%), farming (28.5%), trading (22.5%) and unemployed (22.5%). Respondents agreed they received benefits from improvement of traditional talents (33.8%), developmental activities (30.1%), provision of marketing opportunities (30.1%), while 18.8% were yet to receive any benefit. Majority (72.5%) agreed to existence of conflict over wildlife and land use while 61.2% believed that only the park system take decisions on nature of extension activities. Tourism extension in Yankari National Park is yet to fully link residents' participation to conservation.

INTRODUCTION

- Conservation areas in Nigeria are established through enforcement and compulsory expulsion of settlers (Adeleke and Ajayi, 2004). Local communities were ejected from their land and separated from natural resources, their skills, traditional roles, social standing and means of survival. This local dislocation led to impoverishment and low standards of living, illiteracy, high infant mortality, crime and unemployment (Armah, 2000). Fences were erected to keep local communities “at bay” and wildlife viewing was restricted to the confines of cars and tour buses. Toledo (2000) explained that to meet these challenges from without, a new wave of conservation must be let loose, one that recognizes that we cannot protect lands merely by setting them aside. If conservation and tourism is business of park then its key ingredient is natural resources and people (Adeleke and Ajayi, 2004).

- Graham (1994) described tourism extension program as the educational or technical information provided as a service of solving problems directly affecting people. He further stated that in developing extension program, community people should be involved to help identify local problems, establish objectives and determine appropriate actions to reach these objectives.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- Determine the Quality of tourism in the park
- Determine socio-economic characteristics of residents
- Determine the extension activities available in the park
- Determine benefits received from the extension activities

METHODOLOGY

- The park covers a total land area of approximately 2,244 square kilometers in the North-East of Nigeria, and it is one of the parks with highest tourist inflow in Nigeria (Adeleke and Ajayi,2004).
- Composition of flora and fauna was determined through Drive Count Method and Line Transect
- Socio-economic status of residents was determined through in- depth interview and administration of structured interview.
- 10 out of 28 communities surrounding the park randomly sampled
- 8 leaders of Community-Based Organizations were elected through purposive sampling technique
- Data were analyzed through descriptive statistics including frequencies and percentages

RESULTS

TOURISM POTENTIALS OF YANKARI NATIONAL PARK

- Common Flora Species: *Combretum molle*, *Burkea africana*, *Acacia indica*, perennial grass sp and woodland sp.
- Prominent Fauna Species: *Kobus ellipsiprymus*, *Loxodonta africana*, *Panthera leo*, *pappy anus*, *Hippopotamus amphibius* and *Tragelaphus scriptus*.
- Wikki Warm Spring: Temperature is constantly at 33 degrees
- Over 100 Chalets: Includes of V.I.P suites for Presidents
- Museum
- Restaurant
- Archaeological and Historical Attractions
- Souvenir shops
- Recreational Facilities

TABLE 1: TOURISTS' INFLOW TO YANKARI NATIONAL PARK BY CONTINENT

Year	Africa	America	Asia	Australia	Europe	Total
1985	26,887	914	3,103	202	3,642	34,748
1986	16,181	802	1,729	194	3,980	22,886
1987	13,049	857	2,073	237	4,551	21,667
1988	10,198	322	1,113	201	2,958	14,792
1989	12,845	526	1,044	197	4,077	18,689
1990	13,099	237	510	96	2,451	16,369
1991	15,463	1,027	1,276	2	5,501	23,269
1992	14,583	639	1,104	120	3,013	19,459
1993	13,529	585	929	110	2,267	17,421
1994	12,099	398	661	83	1,944	15,185
1995	8,848	351	607	86	1,977	11,869
1996	8,417	379	590	70	1,475	10,931
1997	9,088	324	605	72	1,164	11,253
1998	7,641	349	390	86	824	9,290
1999	13,437	499	438	123	1,290	15,787
2000	20,375	1,343	433	549	1,033	23,733
2001	31,958	524	549	30	891	33,952
2002	30,458	551	407	132	983	32,531
2003	32,112	569	412	224	2,044	35,833
2004	33,417	461	471	265	2,524	37,138
2005	34,052	414	439	198	2,911	38,014

SOURCE: Management of Yankari National Park (2006)

**TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO QUALITY OF TOURISM
N=80**

VARIABLES	YES	PERCENTAGE	NO	PERCENTAGE
Could see desired animals	111	69.4	49	30.6
Prominent animals missing	52	32.5	108	67.5
Constant availability of trucks for park viewing	149	93.1	11	6.9
Adequate availability of recreational facilities	106	66.3	54	33.7
Adequacy of accommodation facilities	122	76.3	38	23.7
Adequacy of souvenir shops in meeting tourists' needs	109	68.1	51	31.9

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS: (N=80)

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age: Below 45 years	11	13.8
45 years and above	69	86.2
Sex: Male	53	66.3
Female	27	33.7
Marital Status: Married	65	81.3
Single	15	18.7
Educational Qualification:		
No Formal/Informal Education	21	26.2
Primary Education	28	35.0
Secondary education	26	32.5
Ordinary Diploma and above	5	6.3
Occupation: Hunting	13	16.3
Cattle rearing	12	15.0
Farming	23	28.7
Trading	18	22.5
Others	6	7.5
Unemployed	8	10.0
Income Per Annum:		
\$ 500- 999	8	10.0
\$1000- 1,999	20	25.0
\$2000- 2,999	12	15.0
\$3000- 3999	11	13.8
\$4000- 4999	13	16.2
\$5000 and above	16	20.0

TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENTS ACCORDING TO BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT YANKARI NATIONAL PARK (N =80)

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Improvement of Traditional Talents:		
• Provision of Bee Keeping Equipment	20	25.0
• Provision of Groundnut Oil Extraction Equipment	22	27.5
• Provision of New Farming Techniques	12	15
• Provision of Improved cattle rearing technique	11	13.75
Developmental Activities:		
• Provision of drugs	9	11.3
• Improvement of roads	7	8.8
• Provision of boreholes	8	10.0
Provision of Marketing Opportunities	21	26.3
Conservation /Adult Education	45	56.2
Employment Opportunities in Park	5	6.3
Has received no benefits	15	18.8

N> 80 due to multiple responses

TABLE 5: DISTRIBUTION OF RESIDENTS ACCORDING TO EXISTENCE/ CAUSES OF CONFLICT IN THE PARK

Existence of conflict (N=80) Causes of conflict (N= 58)

VARIABLE	YES	PERCENTAGE	NO	PERCENTAGE
Existence of conflict	58	72.5	22	27.5
Causes of conflict:				
• Poaching of wild animals by residents	42	72.4		
• Illegal cattle grazing on park land	8	13.8		
• Wild animals destroying farm crops	8	13.8		

TABLE 6: PARTICIPATION AND REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN TOURISM EXTENSION MEETINGS

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Participation in tourism extension meetings: N=80		
Yes	31	38.8
No	49	61.2
Reasons for not participating: N=49 No adequate publicity of meetings Non contribution in decision making Time of meeting not conducive		
No adequate publicity of meetings	12	24.5
Non contribution in decision making	37	75.5
Time of meeting not conducive	-	-

DISCUSSION OF RESULT

- Tourists' inflow to Yankari National Park was characterized by inconsistencies which suggests need to enhance the park's tourism quality.
- Some Respondents (32.5%) believed prominent animals were missing.
- Some respondents (33.7%) agreed that more recreational facilities should be made available.
- The two tourism extension programs exist in the park:
 - 1. Support zone development program
 - 2. Local economic empowerment program.
- Majority of respondents from communities were males (66.30%).
- Major Occupations were hunting (16.3%), cattle rearing (15.0%) and trading (22.5%)
- Over 80% respondents earn less than N5,000 per annum.
- Respondents received benefits more improvement of traditional talents and many partake in the conservation/Adult education which could be responsible only 26.2% have no formal education.
- Conflicts exist in the park over wildlife and land use. This could be responsible for the missing of prominent animals.
- Majority of respondents agreed park system take decisions on extension program, thus there was low participation.

CONCLUSION

The study has indicated that the quality of tourism at Yankari National Park should be improved as some of the respondents expressed some displeasure in the non-availability of some tourists' facilities. This study has shown that the tourism extension activities at the park were mainly improvement of traditional talents and developmental activities. The result has also shown that more residents benefit from extension activities which were centered round improving traditional talents. Much economic benefit have not been accrued to residents as income of majority of respondents per annum was still very low. A majority of respondents did not participate in tourism extension meetings as a result of non-involvement in decision making. This could be linked with prominent existence of conflict over wildlife and land use. To enhance the quality of tourism in the park, tourism extension should be strengthened by full participation of all the stake holders.

BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY, THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE MADE:

- The Yankari Park System should make all efforts to improve on the quality of tourist's facilities for maximum satisfaction of tourists
- The community leaders should be fully integrated into the tourism extension planning process so as to minimize grievances that led to conflicts over wildlife and park land.
- The park must also seek strategies that would involve more residents in the tourism extension activities so that more economic empowerment would be achieved.
- Park system should encourage community residents to recognize their own traditional talents. Residents should not only participate in operational activities but also in the policy making, implementation and monitoring system.
- The Park system should seek to liaise with more NGOs and Philanthropy bodies to assist in tourism extension programs and conservation of natural resources.

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