

**Evaluating Sustainable Ecotourism Practices from
the Integrated Perspective of Stakeholders; in Lekki
Conservation Center**

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ABSTRACT

The development and promotion of economic growth of the specific tourism activities within that area, community engagement in protected areas, and community-based tourism management are crucial to that region's environmental sustainability. To determine how the local community can work with the management of the Lekki Conservation Center to successfully promote the center for the benefit of tourists and how their intention will result in revisiting intentions to the conservation center, the study sought to examine the parameters and measures of local community participation. For accurate observation of linked research, a variety of literature on the development of ecotourism, community-based tourism, stakeholder theories, and complexity in sustainability was evaluated. Furthermore, because the research was focused on respondents' perceptions, it tended to use a qualitative strategy for gathering data. To get further data for the study, the researchers used theoretical collaboration to provide through semi-structured interviews, the researcher's physical observation, and group discussions with the pertinent Respondents.

The local community, the management of the conservation center, and the tourists were the subjects of the semi-structured interview, which was done in three stages. Tables representing the socioeconomic traits of the respondents and a picture of the conservation facility were used to examine the data. The outcome demonstrates that the majority of the local communities reasonably implemented community engagement in preserving the conservation center for the center and their safety. In terms of community involvement in decision-making, the findings indicate that residents were excluded from management decision-making. This occurred as a result

of local communities' involvement in the illegal destruction of the conservation center's forest, which for a long time served as a barrier between them. The study advises and suggests that the management should assist the small and medium-sized enterprises in the area with funding to increase investments for visitor happiness, which would afterward directly benefit the conservation center. However, the study recommends management assist the local people with the biggest concerns of monkey infiltration into their homes to prevent a disease outbreak similar to the Ebola virus outbreak in east Africa.

Keywords: sustainable ecotourism, local community participation, stakeholder's perspective.

ÖZ

O bölgedeki belirli turizm faaliyetlerinin ekonomik büyümesinin geliştirilmesi ve teşvik edilmesi, ayrıca korunan alanlarda toplum katılımı ve toplum temelli turizm yönetimi, o bölgenin çevresel sürdürülebilirliği için çok önemlidir. Turistlerin yararına merkezi başarılı bir şekilde tanıtmak için yerel halkın Lekki Koruma Merkezi yönetimiyle nasıl çalışabileceğini ve niyetlerinin koruma merkezine tekrar ziyaret etme niyetleriyle nasıl sonuçlanacağını belirlemek için çalışma, parametreleri ve önlemleri incelemeye çalıştı. yerel topluluk katılımı. Bağlantılı araştırmanın doğru bir şekilde gözlemlenmesi için ekoturizmin gelişimi, topluluk temelli turizm, paydaş teorileri ve sürdürülebilirliğin karmaşıklığı üzerine çeşitli literatür değerlendirildi. Ayrıca, araştırma katılımcıların algılarına odaklandığından, veri toplamak için nitel bir strateji kullanma eğilimindeydi. Araştırma için daha fazla veri elde etmek amacıyla araştırmacılar, yarı yapılandırılmış görüşmeler, araştırmacının fiziksel gözlemi ve ilgili Katılımcılarla grup tartışmaları yoluyla teorik işbirliğini kullandılar. Üç aşamada gerçekleştirilen yarı yapılandırılmış görüşmenin konusu yerel halk, koruma merkezi yönetimi ve turistlerdir. Verilerin incelenmesinde, katılımcıların sosyoekonomik özelliklerini temsil eden tablolar ve koruma tesisinin resmi kullanılmıştır. Sonuç, yerel toplulukların çoğunluğunun, koruma merkezini merkez ve onların güvenliği için korumak için topluluk katılımını makul bir şekilde uyguladığını göstermektedir. Karar alma sürecine toplumun katılımı açısından, bulgular bölge sakinlerinin yönetimin karar alma sürecinden dışlandığını göstermektedir. Bu, yerel toplulukların uzun süre aralarında bir bariyer görevi gören koruma merkezinin ormanının yasa dışı olarak yok edilmesine karışmasının bir sonucu olarak meydana geldi. Çalışma, yönetimin bölgedeki küçük ve orta ölçekli işletmelere daha sonra doğrudan koruma merkezine

fayda sağlayacak olan ziyaretçi mutluluğuna yönelik yatırımları artırmak için fon sağlama konusunda yardımcı olması gerektiğini tavsiye ediyor ve öneriyor. Bununla birlikte, çalışma, yönetimin, doğu Afrika'daki Ebola virüsü salgınına benzer bir hastalık salgınını önlemek için evlerine maymun sızmasıyla ilgili en büyük endişeleri olan yerel halka yardım etmesini öneriyor.

Anahtar Kelimeler: sürdürülebilir ekoturizm, yerel toplum katılımı, paydaş bakış açısı

DEDICATION

This thesis research work is dedicated to Alhaji Aliyu Abubakar, I truly appreciate your support from day one to my final journey toward this academic pursuit. It's of blessed opportunity that Allah provides through your means. Your kindness will forever be remembered. I wish you Jannatul Firdaus you and your entire family. May Allah protect him against any evil act Amin.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Sustainability is still a crucial worldwide issue that is supported by the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all member states in 2015, provides a blueprint for achieving a better world by 2030. It consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that cover economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The United Nations Sustainable Development aims after the UN's decade of education for Sustainable Development (Rezapouraghdam et al., 2022a; UN, 2015). Given the symbiotic linkages between the host community and tourism related activities, decision makers and planners must consider residents' perspectives while using a sustainable development strategy (Weaver & Lawton, 2013). It is often argued that ecotourism, in all its manifestations, can assure environmental preservation and provide local populations with economic benefits. The main characteristic of ecotourism is that it is grounded in the natural world (Cater, 2006). It might be argued that community based tourism development strategies are a requirement for sustainability. Indeed, there hasn't been a broad consensus on both the theoretical and practical aspects of ecotourism (Fennel & Nowaczyk, 2010). For ecotourism projects to be successful, security is equally important. Security is a top worry for business and leisure travelers who are not likely to jeopardize their safety while traveling to a new location, (Nwokorie & Igbojekwe, 2019). The presence of tour guides must also direct visitors through the ecotourism areas, which is crucial for the visiting tourist (Orimaye et al., 2018; Uka built et al., 2018; Vengesayi et al., 2009). To address growing concerns about climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and the effects of globalization on indigenous and local populations, new

forms of collaboration emerging, transforming the theory and applications of collaboration to tourism planning and protected area management. Multiple stakeholders can work together to collaboratively handle problems or challenges because of collaboration's flexible and dynamic approach that develops over time (Gray, 1989). According to the (UNWTO, 2013), the tourism industry is complicated and has many dimensions. Students studying tourism can influence the industry (Wade, 1999). Recently, tourism has been acknowledged as a revolutionary economic growth accelerator (Tang & Tan, 2015). The threats of global warming, declining biodiversity, drinking water scarcity, air and land pollution, hunger, and poverty, among others, are now appearing worldwide, and the Earth is going through an ecological emergency. Despite being among the largest industries in the world (Rezapouraghdam & Karatepe, 2020), tourism and hospitality operations continue to hurt the environment (Alipour et al., 2021; Rezapouraghdam et al., 2018). Research has shown that in addition to the ecological dimension, ecotourism's sustainability criterion also considers economic and sociocultural factors. The emphasis on the fact that local communities must receive help from tourism for the tourism business to be sustainable is noteworthy. (Weaver, 2008) refers to Northern Tanzania, where a case study of three communities found that local people's support for wildlife conservation is strongly correlated with the advantages they experience from ecotourism. Therefore, scientists caution humanity that environmental issues, particularly climate change, pose a considerably greater threat than the current pandemic (Prideaux et al., 2020). Because of this, world leaders are urged to act to ensure humanity has a sustainable future (Hameed et al., 2021). Studies on tourist development often incorporate the concepts of participation and community involvement because it takes a community to sustain an industry. It is recognized that tourism has both favorable and unfavorable effects on the environment, culture, and way of life of the people (Gunn, 2004;

Hanrahan & McLoughlin, 2015; Inkari & Ritchie, 2006; Oviedo-Garcia et al., 2008). This insight emphasizes the need for locals in tourist areas to collaborate with other stakeholders to evaluate the effects of tourism growth. The likelihood of higher sustainability for tourist development is increased by providing opportunities for stakeholder involvement, which is consistent with sustainable tourism (Alipour et al., 2021; Andriotis & Vaughan, 2003; Hardy & Pearson, 2018; Lyon et al., 2017). Local representation is more likely when there is community involvement, which is one principle of effective tourism development. Community participation in tourism can take the form of decision-making and benefit-sharing, (Muganda et al., 2013a; Muganda et al., 2013b). Empowerment and a transfer of power and attention to locals in areas where tourism development occurs are community engagement goals (Tosun, 2000). For assorted reasons, including its alleged contribution to sustainable tourist development, community participation in tourism planning is encouraged (Inskip, 1994; Joppe, 1996; Ritchie, 1988; Tosun & Jenkins, 1996). Advocates for community tourism planning claim that a community-based approach to tourism development is a requirement for sustainability. This argument is predicated on the notion that locals are more likely to support local tourism and protect natural and cultural assets if they receive more benefits from tourism (Timothy, 1999). Therefore, local participation can aid in the growth of tourism, which is more responsive to a community's local economic and social demands (Haywood, 1988; Krippendorf, 1982; Murphy, 1983).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Systems thinking is considered a practical strategy for addressing difficult sustainability issues because it makes it easier to understand how intricately interrelated and complex a phenomenon's part elements are (Porter & Cordoba, 2009). Ecotourism comes to the rescue in such situations by supplying alternative livelihood

options to communities, unlike traditional livelihood practices that depend on natural resources (Fletcher, 2009; Vannelli et al., 2019). Such systems are described by the author as "generally being made of interconnected components, the interaction of components, and their relation with the environment. Although much research was conducted on ecotourism development worldwide, a study on the current state of ecotourism research points out that the ecotourism literature is not only imbalanced but also (fragmented Weaver & Lawton, 2007). The concept of community participation has become an umbrella term of the postindustrial era for a new form of public administration when the government's incapability in figuring out public open opinion failed in development projects (Tosun, 2000). Community participation is criticized for its one size fits all approach not considering the internal dynamics of the communities (Belsky, 2009). By involving local communities in ecotourism-related jobs native sources of income can play a crucial role in addressing the economic problems prevalent in protected areas (K.C. et al., 2015; Swain et al., 2008). Erosion may wipe out Lekki Conservation Centre, National Conservation Foundation (NCF, 2019). Sand filling, dredging, and land reclamation efforts in many villages in the area have directly jeopardized the park's existence. Our difficulty is that we have become an island because of recent events. According to the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Nigeria has lost almost 96% of its original forest cover, and the rate of deforestation is alarmingly high at 11.1% per year. The widespread issue of deforestation, fragmentation, and land conversion for agricultural uses have hurt the heavy forest biodiversity. The local community should be involved in its distinct stages (Brohman, 1996; Place, 1995) because the local communities which are taking part in ecotourism projects showed a favorable attitude towards ecotourism and conservation (Goodwin, 1996; Snyman, 2014). We are exploring ways to reclaim some of what we

have lost through the 'Green Recovery Nigeria Initiative,' which will bring stakeholders including the government, church leaders, traditional rulers, and others together to think about solutions.

1.3 Thesis Purpose and Objectives

The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987) defined global sustainability as "development that satisfies the requirements of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Stakeholder theory suggests that businesses should not only satisfy the requirements and expectations of their stakeholders but also refrain from taking any actions that make it more difficult for interested parties, including future generations, to meet their demands. The following goals will be carried out to the goal;

- i- Maintain the fundamental ecological processes, and aesthetic spiritual values, and contribute to the preservation of natural heritage and biodiversity while preserving the environmental and cultural aspects that draw tourists.
- ii- Protect tourism and tourist management in the protected area while upholding the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples and their sociocultural authenticity.
- iii- promoting intercultural tolerance and understanding through tourism and visits to places with protected cultural assets and traditional values;
- iv- Supply proper opportunities to ease a meaningful and high-quality visitor experience that will contribute to reducing poverty and ensure practical, long-term economic operations.

1.4 Research Questions

The research question offers sufficient context for a comprehensive review of what can be seen in the subject region. The inquiry focuses mostly on what tasks a researcher

should perform, and from which we derive recommendations from it. The inquiry for the study is as follows:

- i- What services and opportunities should the nearby local communities provide?
- ii- How can local people in and around protected areas take an active part in and profit from the development of protected area tourism?
- iii- How will revenues generated by tourism and visitors be secured and distributed for the management of conservation and local communities?
- iv- How can the conservation planning and tourism sectors' policies be affected to meet these issues?

1.5 The Significance Study

The study holds literature on the background and history of the Lekki Conservation Center, which happens to be the most significant conservation center in Nigeria with great protection toward flora and animals, allowing nature to be preserved. The issue of the local community's contribution to the expansion of tourist attractions and how that development affects the community's residents' ability to grow their economies. The study focuses on the community's advantages brought about by the center's location in employment generation, structural development, and global recognition. Because the study concentrates on primary and secondary data, which has significant benefits matter of academic study. More specifically, considering the participant's socioeconomic background will help the research place a value on the community members who benefited and took an active role in preserving the conservation center. The study will examine the conservation center's contributions to the academic field of environmental and nature conservation. It will also justify the goals and create a paper for academic use.

1.6 Methodology and Data Analysis

This methodological evaluation will focus on thematic analysis, a data analysis procedure used often in all qualitative designs. Without supplying the necessary information on how the analysis reduced the data into acceptable themes and emerging findings, thematic analysis is often employed in research projects and later classified as qualitative research (Castleberry & Nolen, 2018). Accurately describing the interview is the most important part of the thematic analysis. The stage of data analysis, known as theme analysis, involves familiarizing the data using video and audio recordings transcribed by the researcher. The basic idea was to consider each respondent's explanation of dependability and reduce the number of data inaccuracies. The coding enables the researcher to categorize the data into diverse groups. We look for the themes and group them into several parts to increase the data's dependability. The reader will have access to sufficient data in the report to evaluate it. As a result, it will be simpler for people to accept the results as correct. Thematic analysis is the process of extracting the main concepts from a jumble of data and turning them into a graphic. Coding the finished semi-structured interview into the computer allowed for the analysis of the data gathered. The percentage, frequency table, and charts are the methods used for data analysis and display in descriptive statistical approaches. These instruments were used to examine the fundamental socioeconomic traits of the sampled hosts in the research area.

1.7 Justification of the Study

This study will be useful because it will prove how important it is to preserve the environment, keep natural habitats, and support sustainable development in Nigeria's many ecological zones. So, the study is convincing considering the mounting demand for environmental conservation across the country and in the world at large because of

the population explosion, climate change, (flooding, drought, and variable rainfall), and other environmental hazards.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Complexity of Sustainability

Tourism is a complex system and dynamic phenomenon whose study requires a systems perspective (Rezapouraghdam & Akhshik, 2021; Chhabra, 2019), the complex issues of sustainable development cannot be addressed without recognizing their complexity, and there is a need to support systematic approach to handle the sustainability problems of a complex world (Rezapouraghdam et al., 2022a), linking tourism to sustainable development via a geographical lens has been advocated in the literature (Scheyvens, 2018; Dobson & Tomkinson, 2012). This source states that "meeting the demands of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs" is what sustainable development is defined as according to this formulation, the two opposing concepts of environmental conservation and economic growth are more adaptable to reconciliation formulation (Hak et al., 2016). According to the (UNWTO, 2013), the tourist industry is complicated and has many sides. Students studying tourism can influence the industry (Wade, 1999). Additionally, the challenges placed on hospitality firms globally as they switch to sustainable operations (Rezapouraghdam et al., 2019). However, more tourism and hospitality curriculum development in sustainability education is needed (Deale et al., 2009)

2.2 Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

The Sustainable Livelihood framework is used prominently in development studies to apprehend the complexities of poverty, where in every quantity and extraordinary additive of carefully considered (Scoones, 1998). Sustainable Livelihood moreover gives unquantifiable or non-fabric additives of properly being (Angelsen & Wunder, 2003; Chambers & Conway, 1992). It is legitimate to state that there is a lack of a thorough framework or method in the literature for how sustainable tourist development education should be delivered. This is especially true considering the Covid-19 pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerability of tourism and its detrimental effects on social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors (such as job insecurity, constant increasing pressure on nature, global economic performance, and loss of heritage and identities).

However, the pandemic offered a chance to reconsider and restart certain parts of tourism (Higgins & Desbiolles, 2020), and a perfect chance to update the standards for teaching sustainable tourism. The concept of sustainable communities was the subject of Chamber's artwork between the late 1980s and the middle of the 1990s, and it has since sparked discussion about how to interpret and apply it. The Sustainable Livelihoods Technique's various characteristics have been mentioned in the literature, expanding Chamber and Conway's specific definition of employment generation. (Bhandari & Grant, 2007; Franken Berger & Mc Caston, 1998; Scoones, 1998). (Chambers & Conway, 1992) described livelihoods because the method of creating a dwelling forms capabilities, belongings, and sources used in everyday activities. They argued that the sustainability of livelihoods may be found out simplest when a family can cope or get over shocks to fulfill and preserve a respectable dwelling without

compromising the possibilities for the following generation (Chambers & Conway, 1992). (Scoones, 1998) in addition, underscored that livelihoods need now no longer threaten the herbal aid base to be sustainable. The conversation has significantly improved how poverty is conceptualized in international development, moving it away from an entire income- and asset-based issue and toward sustainable lives that also take into account a person's family's ability to make ends meet. It is possible to think about sustainability from both an environmental and social perspective (Chambers & Conway, 1992). Interest in and mitigation of livelihood activities that degrade and excessively utilize non-renewable resources comprise environmental sustainability. Communities should be helped to gain access to assets and improve their functionality while reducing their vulnerability, especially those whose livelihoods jeopardize herbal assets (Solesbury, 2003). The alternative, however, is social sustainability refers network to deal with stress and shock, and reworking opportunities and assets to make a respectable living. The network should work together with public and private regional institutions to address livelihood activities that degrade natural resources, thereby reducing the nearby people's ability to earn a living and their potential (Chambers & Conway, 1992). In the context of biodiversity protection, the link between livelihoods and well-being is also complicated. Traditional definitions of well-being have been well-being with economic production measures such as wealth, employment, and income, which continue to dominate contemporary discourses due to the ease with which these concepts can be measured and compared across cases. However, there are growing concerns about relying solely on economic measures, which ignore both the multidimensional nature of betterment and individual differences. (Ban et al., 2011).

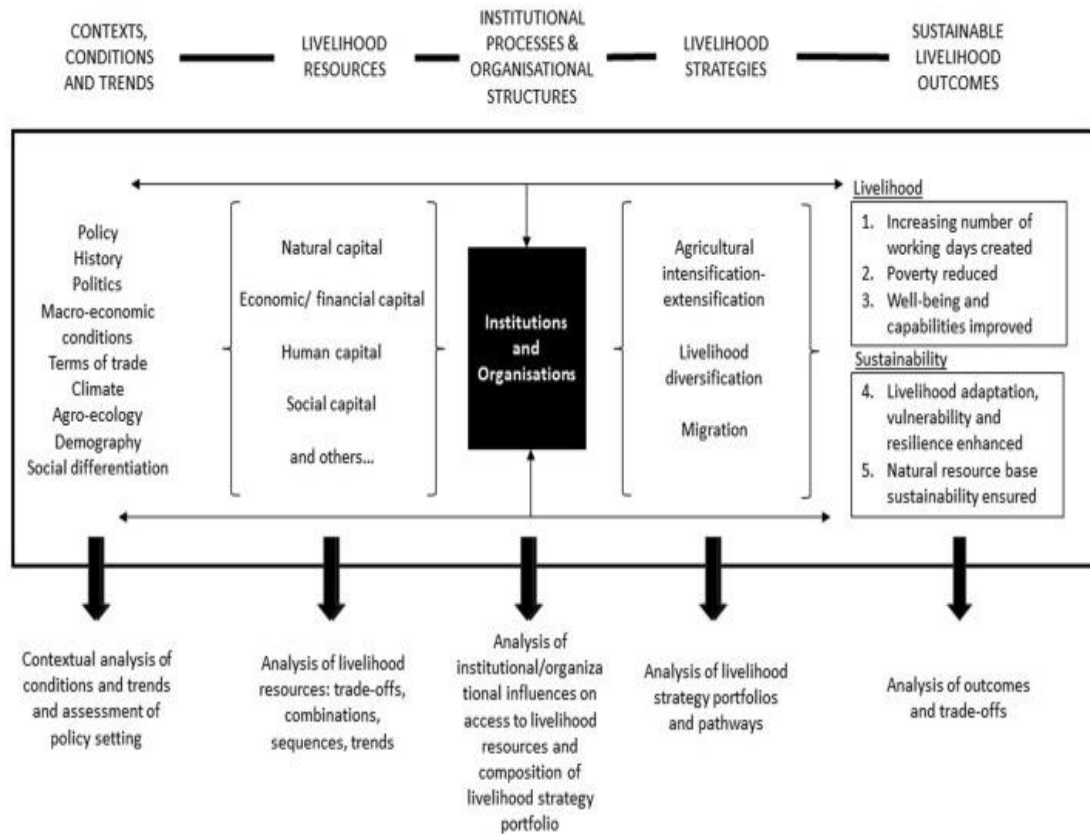


Figure 2.1 Sustainable rural livelihoods a framework for analysis
Source: (Scoones, 1998).

2.3 Sustainable Development in Tourism Protected Area Framework

Tourism in Protected Areas can increase through an improved framework focused on three priorities to help the nature-based tourism sector recover sustainably, protecting the natural asset on which tourism is built, growing and diversifying the tourism business to generate positive economic impact, and sharing the benefits with local communities around Protected Areas (Akhshik et al., 2022). Collaboration between governments, the corporate sector, and communities is important for putting this strategy into practice and carrying out the triple bottom line: economic growth, poverty reduction, and nature protection. The assessment and balancing of the economic, social, and environmental components of sustainable development are achieved via sustainable management of tourism-protected areas (Akhshik et al., 2021; Kunz, 2006;

Redclift, 2005; Spangenberg, 2002; Wood, 1999). Advantages must, in essence, be sufficient to meet livelihood requirements and pay those who live near a protected area which was provided through tourism initiation (Adams et al., 2004). When Equity is critical when it comes to benefit-sharing and the long-term viability of protected area tourism concept of justice is considered in terms of overall conservation aims, but it also refers to the advantage of conservation and protected area of tourism Franks, (Booker & Roe, 2018).

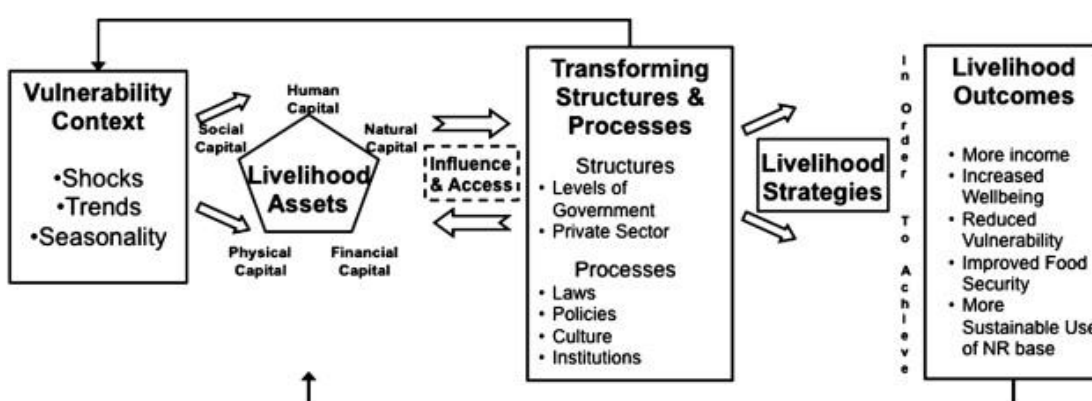


Figure 2.2 the framework for sustainable livelihoods developed by the Department for Foreign Affairs and International Development (DFID)
Source: (Carney, 1998)

Table 2.1: The benefit of tourism development in protected areas for the community.

Benefits of tourism in global protected areas	Source
Protected areas are often considered destinations due to their naturalness and high-quality tourism-related resources.	(Boo, 1990).
The main goal interest of tourism as a conservation and development tool in	(Stem et al., 2003).

protected areas is that it can supply local economic benefits while keeping ecological integrity through low-impact, non-consumptive use of local resources.	
To improve their sustainability and economic advantages, better their interactions with the ecotourism sector, and hence increase conservation efforts, the local community is recognized as a fundamental aspect of tourism in protected areas.	(Kutay, 1992; Murphy 1985; Simmons, 1994; Wild, 1994).
Many studies have concentrated on job prospects and money generated by tourism-protected areas.	(Belisle & Hoy 1980; Davis et al., 1988; Murphy, 1983)
Protected areas have aided in the wildlife habitat, security of food maintenance, water supplies, the building of climate adaptation, and enhancement of the human healthcare system and well-being as well.	(Clark et al., 2008)
Communities near or next to protected areas increasingly recognize the advantages of tourism in these places.	(Eagles & Mc Cool, 2002; Wall & Mathieson, 2006)
These advantages focus on concrete economic and employment	(park or tourism management participation, 2007)

opportunities, natural resources, joint decision-making, and park or tourism management participation.	
The tourism industry can potentially include a long-term sustainable alternative to simple resource extraction economic activities in gateway communities, such as increased employment, financial gains, infrastructure creation, and cultural development while promoting environmental conservation approaches.	(Butler & Hinch, 2007; Zeppel, 2006)
Tourism development may help conservation by giving an economic justification for avoiding more harmful forms of development.	(Langholz, 1999, Notzke, 2006, Valentine, 1993)
In developing nations endowed with natural resources, tourism in protected areas contributes to GDP, acts as a significant source of fiscal and foreign income, supports the local livelihoods, and aids in the financial support for conservation.	(Balmford et al., 2015)
Since the 1980s, Egypt's government has promoted tourism as a key	(WTTC, 2021)

economic sector. The tourist industry now accounts for a massive part of Egypt's GDP, accounting for \$32 billion (about \$98 per person in the US) and 88% in 2019.	
Tourism, however generating opportunities for economic expansion, has resulted in lasting damage to the environment and society.	(Spencley, 2005).
Sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its present and future economic, social, and environmental implications, fulfilling the requirements of tourists, the industry, the environment, and host communities" by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.	(UNEP & UNWTO, 2005,)
Tourism is a broad concept that encompasses all the events and interactions that arise because of people often visiting areas other than where they live, as well as their temporary lodgings at their destinations	(Holloway & Taylor, 2006).
In terms of advantages and threats, tourism growth at a location has the	(Lee, 2013)

biggest influence on the lives of the local community.	
The greatest visible effect of tourism as a global sector is on the economics of countries and local communities.	(Lee et al., 2007)
Tourism is often employed as a livelihood strategy in many nations, in addition to biodiversity protection in protected areas.	(H. Goodwin, 2001)
Sustainable tourism is a validated tool for development that benefits communities in destinations by being highly employment, application of the convention infrastructure development, directly funding conservation, and contributing to international understanding and peace.	(World Bank, 2017)
Tourism development has become one of the major growth mechanisms for many developing nations in their efforts to boost internal development. Economic indicators are often the focus of attention in the development process, and tourism is considered appealing since it generates foreign cash, improves	(Weaver & Opperman, 2000)

employment and income for communities, attracts development capital, and fosters financial freedom.	
These conservation programs are seen to offer a lot of potential for nature conservation and sustainable tourism development while also supplying jobs for underprivileged people in developing nations	(Peace Parks Foundation, 2006).
Protected Areas tourism can make a significant contribution to nature conservation by raising awareness and promoting environmental protection.	(Leung et al., 2018)

2.4 Community-Based Tourism Model

To evaluate a community's present involvement level, a model was developed that incorporates the ideas of the ladder of participation, power redistribution, cooperation processes, and social capital. Focus is placed on internal and vertical involvement levels within the community by the ladder of participation, power redistribution, bonding, and linking social capital. The external and horizontal ties with other stakeholders are explained by the collaboration theory in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and bridging social capital. Importantly, the degree of internal engagement affects the connections with others, and the opposite is also true (Arnstein, 1969; Selin & Chavez, 1995). According to the CBT model, which is "focused on participation

and community organization and is built in socially equitable and ecologically responsible development approaches," community engagement is considered as being essential (Burgos & Mertens, 2017). Local community participation to control tourism development is one of the many sides of CBT. According to the definition, CBT is a type of tourism that combines three fundamentally essential elements: (a) community involvement; (b) equal access to resources; and (c) political empowerment to support the community's role as a decision-maker (Djou, Baiquni, Widodo Fandeli &, 2017). Although involvement in CBT can be viewed as a basic issue, it can also be regarded in a variety of ways.

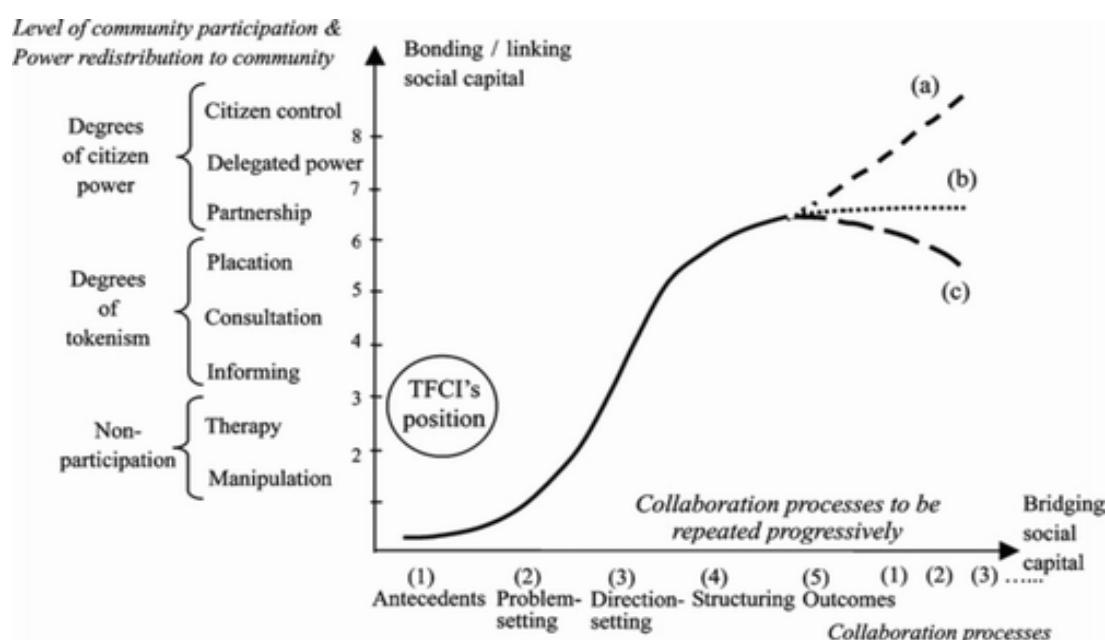


Figure 2.3 a model of community-based tourism Facilitating conditions
Source: (Aronstein, 1969; Selin & Chavez, 1995)

Table 2.2: Global Community-based tourism.

Community-based tourism	Source
"Community-based tourism" (CBT) is defined as "tourism planned, created,	(italics in original, 2013)

owned, and managed by the community for the community under the principles of accountability, access, ownership, and benefits".	
Community involvement is a process that involves all stakeholders (local government officials, local citizens, architects, developers, business people, and planners) in such a way that decision-making is shared in the context of tourist planning.	(Haywood, 1988)
It has long been argued that a community engagement strategy is essential to the growth of a sustainable tourist industry. The strategy is expected to boost a community's carrying ability by reducing tourism's negative effects and improving its positive ones.	(Haywood, 1988; Jamal & Getz, 1995; Murphy, 1985)
The image of tourism is based on the local community's assets, including the local people and the natural environment, infrastructure, facilities, and extraordinary events or festivals.	(Murphy, 1985).
Community involvement is a key part of community-based tourism. Therefore, it's	(Nyaupane et al., 2006)

<p>crucial to organize community activities that might encourage this kind of tourism while also fostering connections between residents and tourists. Different official agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), private entities, and the neighborhood itself should become engaged and collaborate to make this happen.</p>	
<p>Community-based tourism, in general, refers to tourism whereby local communities are engaged in offering tourist services, which have a significant involvement (ownership) in doing so, and are engaged in a variety of tourism-related businesses</p>	<p>(Strydom et al., 2019)</p>
<p>Locals gain from community-based tourism since a part of the revenue goes toward fostering local community growth.</p>	<p>(Fennell, 2003; Fotiadis et al., 2016; Notzke, 2006)</p>
<p>Local communities should protect their urban and natural environment, culture, customs, and other such things. They should be involved in choices affecting the growth of the tourist industry in their area.</p>	<p>(Karacaolu & Birdir, 2017).</p>

<p>In Jamaica, there is a policy specifically devoted to Community Based Tourism CBT "means giving local communities authority over the development of the larger tourist product and ensuring that the advantages of tourism are equitably distributed throughout the community".</p>	<p>(Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, 2015).</p>
<p>Inextricably linked to alternative tourism is community-based tourism, which is a byproduct of sustainable tourism development. Natural resources, social values, and community values are all to be balanced, which will be helpful for both residents and visitors. Those forms of tourism respect and uphold the ideals of nature, society, and the local community while enabling hosts and visitors to engage in ways that are beneficial and valuable and to partake in similar experiences.</p>	<p>(Eadington, W. R, 1992)</p>
<p>Resources, people, and visitors are all intended to be balanced through community-based tourism. The following examples show how to create a harmonious interaction between local communities, natural resources, and</p>	<p>(Haywood, 1988)</p>

culture. These standards are based on community-based tourism development.	
Likewise, the proponents of the detrimental effects of the international tourism industry associated alternative development techniques and alternative forms of tourist development, such as CBT, with alternative development concepts and concerns, such as empowerment, self-reliance, and sustainability.	(Mitchell & Muckosy, 2008; Telfer, 2009; Zapata et. al., 2011)
CBT offers inhabitants the chance to strengthen their social or traditional cultural identity as well as the community's social cohesion.	(Choi & Sirakaya, 2006)
Participation through CBT entails involvement, ownership, control, and power over decisions about tourism, resources, and people's lives.	(Lapeyre, 2010; Scheyvens, 2003)
Community members should have access to life satisfaction sustainability domains including material well-being, communal well-being, emotional well-being, and health & security well-being to ensure the sustainable growth of CBT.	(Woo et al., 2015)

CBT has gained popularity because it offers base growth and control over tourism planning and administration in rural and sometimes neglected areas.	(Bello et al., 2017)
The concept of community-based tourism is an alternative kind of tourism that prioritizes community involvement and has several crucial components, including Participatory planning; Collaboration; and Partnership. establishing environmental and community goals; local management/community empowerment; Relieving associated parties, including the government, financing organizations, and the commercial sector; concentrating on long-term revenue generation for the neighborhood	(Dodds, et al., 2016)
Objectives for community development and environmental preservation can be incorporated into CBT to aid assure sustainability. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) compiles instances of effective community-based ecotourism practices that emphasize initiatives for long-term	(UNWTO, 2003)

<p>environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Some of the social and economic initiatives include aiding in the construction of schools, supplying water to locals, fostering micro-enterprise, teaching locals how to be tour guides, and hiring families to educate tourists.</p>	
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2.5 Global Frameworks for Protected Area Tourism

Managers need to understand the broader, global context to responsibly manage the tourism industry. International collaboration and coordination for protected area protection is one major global trend. The various worldwide protected area designs, nations, and projects that have appeared since the 1970s are a direct expression of that trend. These programs include legally binding agreements like the World Heritage, Ramsar, and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as non-binding initiatives like the Man and the Biosphere Programmed of UNESCO and its global network of biosphere reserves and the recently set up key biodiversity areas partnership (IUCN, 2017c). Each proves conservation standards, guidelines for monitoring, and, when necessary, corrective action. Candidate-protected places must fulfill certain requirements to receive these international designations and respect all relevant legal requirements. These initiatives are all about tourism. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations body with the specific responsibility for promoting sustainable and easily accessible travel. The UNWTO promotes tourism to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN (SDGs).

The 10-Year Framework of Programs (10YFP) on Sustainable Tourism, which contributes to Goal 12 of the SDGs on Sustainable Consumption and Production (<http://sdt.unwto.org/about-10yf>), is one of the sustainable tourism initiatives that UNWTO sponsors. Another initiative is the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, which set up standards that national governments and protected area agencies can meet to gain market recognition for sustainable tourism operations (Box 4.15, p.59).

2.6 Regional Networks of Protected Areas

Regional protected area networks can be found all over the world within a particular geographical area, they connect protected zones in adjacent nations. Examples include the European Union's Natural 2000 system and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Heritage Parks network. Guidelines and procedures for sustainable tourism have been developed at this regional level by coalitions of nations. Examples include the East Asian Guidelines for Tourism and the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (EUROPARC Federation, 2010; Eagles, et al., 2001). However, (Freeman, 1984) is often credited with popularizing the stakeholder theory in academic circles (Schilling, 2000). All people who have the potential to affect or who are changed by the attainment of organizational goals have been referred to as "stakeholders" in a broad sense (Freeman & Reed, 1983). To highlight the overall value of preservation for environmental guidance and maintenance for future generations, this research explores community engagement in safeguarding the conservation center in the middle of a densely populated area. A framework for sustainable livelihoods that incorporates community members' beliefs acts as a mediator to convey fundamental information with both theoretical and real-world applications (Follett, 1941). Stakeholders are thought of as people who give an organization the crucial support it needs. If their expectations or demands are not

satisfied, they may withdraw that support, which could lead to the organization's failure or the infliction of unacceptable levels of harm. If an organization can continuously meet or surpass the expectations of its stakeholders, organizational sustainability will be reached.

2.6.1 Stakeholder's Theory

We use (Freeman's, 1984) definition of a stakeholder because it is pertinent to our research: "Any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of the organization's objectives". However, (Eden & Ackermann, 1998) describes stakeholders as "individuals or small groups with the authority to influence the strategic destiny of the organization through negotiation and response". While the second meaning is centered on the ability to influence a firm's conduct, the first definition concentrates on the person who might interact with the company. We used Freeman's definition since it considers in the analysis every person who might contact the region. We contend that some of the 17 pillars of the UNWTO's Agenda 2030 are significantly affected by "the effect of stakeholders' opinions of a company, industry, or a destination" (Shams, 2016). The support of all stakeholders is crucial for the sustained development of the human system, claims stakeholder theory (Freeman, 1984). Three broad often overlapping categories environmental, economic, and social describe how tourism affects protected areas. (The phrase "environmental" encompasses biophysical effects, while "social" also refers to cultural, communal, and other heritage-related effects.)

Table 2.3: Potential benefits of a protected area across the world

Type of benefit	examples of potential benefits a protected area
Community	raise locals' standards of living

	<p>Encouraging pride in and appreciation for one's native culture and protected environments.</p> <p>Encourage a broader knowledge of cultural heritage values and resources and support environmental education for tourists and residents.</p> <p>Create appealing venues for both locals and tourists, which could encourage further related new activities (e.g., service or product-based industries).</p> <p>Through social interaction, multicultural understanding can be improved. Culture, crafts, and the arts can be developed and preserved.</p> <p>Encourage people to learn other people's languages and cultures. Promote aesthetic, spiritual, and other well-being-related values.</p> <p>Enhance physical fitness through leisure activity (e.g., walking, cycling)</p>
Economic	<p>To increase the commitment to protecting the natural area and its species, produce economic value for a country, a region, or a community.</p> <p>Increase resident income and employment.</p> <p>Promote new tourism businesses and broaden the region's economic base.</p> <p>Increase the sustainability of local communications, transportation, and infrastructure.</p>

	Promote the production, distribution, and sale of goods and services locally.
Environmental	<p>Educate the public on needs and issues related to conservation.</p> <p>Encourage research and development of good environmental practices and management systems to influence the operation of travel and tourism businesses, as well as</p> <p>Transmit understanding and a greater appreciation of natural values and resources through experiences, education, and interpretation;</p> <p>Raise awareness of the value of natural resources and protect resources that would otherwise be overlooked by locals or seen as a cost rather than a benefit; and •</p>

Source: (CBD, 2004; Eagles, et al., 2002; IUCN, 2010 Maller, et al., 2009; Spenceley, et al., 2015)

Table 2.4: Socio-economic impacts of protected areas on local communities' global view

Socio-economic impact	Source
Protected areas as a method of supplying employment and benefits for sustenance, especially for the poor, who are often in rural regions with few other chances for earning a living. Maintaining populations of hunted	(Dudley et al., 2017a)

wild species, especially stabilizing fish populations, as well as essential support services like soil formation and water supply stabilization.	
Community beliefs, customs, spirituality, traditions, norms, values, religions, and socio-cultural aspects have been influenced by the development of the tourism sector.	(Garau del et al., 2018)
Using protected areas, especially those close to metropolitan areas, to teach the fundamentals of how ecosystems work and to address issues with nature deficiency in people of all ages. Protecting floodable forests, cloud forests, and water towers for their water services.	(Dudley et al., 2017a)
Community involvement can reduce the negative impact of human practices on ecotourism development. We believed that protecting natural resources and culture and involving local communities was the key to the success of ecotourism development.	(Osman et al., 2018)
Development efforts could be successful through community participation. The alternative development paradigm can contribute to the development and sustainable	(Pieterse, 1998)

development of ecotourism through community participation.	
Sustainable development, community participation, and community-level planning call for alternative development paradigms for the sustainable development of MPAs that lead to the development of ecotourism.	(Murphy et al., 1988)
Social impacts are the impacts of public or private behavior in groups that change people`s lives, jobs, play, interactions, and organizations to meet their needs and generally how they take part in society.	(Burgge et al., 1995)
Indeed, earlier conservation models were often chastised for ignoring local people, which resulted in increased marginalization of marginalized populations and, in many cases, poor preservation performance.	(Natalie C Ban et al., 2019)
Proponents suggest that it can supply favorable results for both conservation and development. It creates concrete benefits to compensate the community for conservation-related costs while supplying financial incentives for conservation.	(Font & Tapper, 2004; Goodwin, 2002).
Low-income families, usually with low-educated members, rely on natural resources	(de Arruda et al., 2019; de Medeiros et al., 2012; Hegde &

such as food plants, medicinal plants, and plants that have wood that can be used to build fuel and homes, and fences.	Enters, 2000; Ramos et al., 2015;).
Marine Protected Areas vary greatly in terms of the type and amount of protection they provide, ranging from places that enable various uses to areas that are completely off-limits to humans.	(Pita et al., 2011).
Provisioning of products and services, support for economically useful enterprises, development of new employment and diversification of livelihoods, increase in income owing to tourist taxes, and non-consumptive recreation and tourism expenditures are all positive impacts.	(IUCN, 2003)
Studies investigating the role of MPA's nonspecific activities fishing tourism, and recreation are becoming more common across the world.	(Scholz et al., 2011; Agardy, 1993; Davis & Tisdell, 1996; Hargreaves-Allen et al., 2011; Lynch et al., 2004)
Nevertheless, ecotourism is unable to set up sustainable development due to a lack of community involvement and proper assessment of MPA. Assessing tourism potential and taking part in the community is	(Lonn et al., 2018)

important for the development of ecotourism and tourist attractions.	
Human society's growth and prosperity within protected areas rely on various infrastructures. Linear infrastructure (roads, highways, and railways) is one type of such infrastructure that can supply significant social and economic benefits, such as promoting resource use, trading, and connectivity.	(Iacono & Levinson, 2016; Wang et al., 2020)
For rural populations in Sub-Saharan Africa, forests are one of the most valuable natural resources. Food, fuelwood, construction materials, and local medicines are some of these woods' ecosystem goods and services.	(Chidumayo 1989; Vinya 2012)
This green infrastructure is also critical for minimizing the consequences of climate change (for example, carbon sequestration) and enhancing people's lives.	(Bodart et al., 2013; de Chazal and Rounsevell 2009)
These protected zones were created to achieve a variety of goals. Some protected areas, for example, were developed to safeguard and conserve animal resources while simultaneously protecting forest resources. Forest reserves have been set up in Africa and	(Andam et al., 2008; Jones et al., 2018)

several other nations across the world to safeguard forest regions.	
Multiple stakeholders, such as policymakers and practitioners, needed up-to-date information to inform their decision-making processes when checking protected areas and managing available forest resources. With the advancement of technology, remote sensing supplies a reliable method for monitoring forest resources in protected areas.	(Phiri & Morgenroth 2017; Woodcock et al.,2008)

2.7 Protecting Animals and Mangrove Forests from Urban Threats at the Lekki Conservation Centre.

The project manager of the Lekki Conservation Centre revealed that all the animals naturally occupy the area. Prince Charles was one of the people who helped build the center's foundation. "We have (wild animals), but they are not fed." They're mostly the species we've met so far. Crocodiles, monkeys, Siberian cats, antelopes, snakes, and other animals can be found here. The Government supplied the fish pond, peace, and tortoise. "All other creatures live here naturally," He noted there were various problems with setting up a conservation area in an urban context, the first of which was informing the community that "this is not a place where you can cut down trees, hunt fish, or just walk in." He went on to say that as the years passed, the challenges became a conflict between the animals and humans because the area was not as developed as it is now when the center was founded in 1990."There were not many

complications in the past as the monkeys or snakes moved around," he explained. In the 1990s, Nigeria's total protected area was about 10 million hectares, about 10% of the total area mass (NEST, 1991; World Bank, 1992), consisting of almost 1000 forest reserves included in the IUCN World Conservation Data base other territories, but many of them are severely degraded due to activities such as unsustainable prey, "game" hunting, poaching, expansion of human habitat and land-use conversion (Oates et al., 2008). Few have effective enforcement controls in place, while others exist only on paper. The Lekki Conservation Center (LCC), a private nature reserve, was proved in 1990 to protect the biodiversity of the Lekki peninsula and to educate and raise awareness about natural resources, and the management Environment in Nigeria.

2.7.1 Tourism in Nigeria

Over 200 million people live in Nigeria, despite being viewed as a possible economic growth strategy for the nation should political stability increase, tourism is currently undeveloped. It holds a broad variety of ecological features, such as mountains, waterfalls, lakes, hills, and caverns, as well as natural tourist attractions including coastal beaches (Intel, 2007), in addition to a rich cultural history of traditional arts and crafts (Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, 2012).

Even though Nigeria has almost 500 tourist destinations and attractions, the sector does not produce anywhere near the amount of money that it does in South Africa and Dubai, as the tourism minister hinted during a TV interview. This suggests that Nigeria lacks correct data on the contribution of tourism to the Growth of domestic Product (Ajibola, 2013). On a global scale, the budgetary impact of the tourist sector is often evaluated and can be evaluated in a variety of ways. The traditional method of measuring concentrates on tourist revenue and the sector's GDP contribution. (Olu, 2012). The entire contribution of travel and tourism to Nigeria's GDP was N598.6

billion, or 1.6%, according to more recent research by The WTTC titled "Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2012." and 6.3% annually from 2012 to 2022, of the entire GDP. Additionally, 838,500 jobs, or 1.4% of all employment in 2011, were directly attributed to travel and tourism. In 2022, 1,289,000 jobs, or 1.6% of all employment will be projected to stand for this, an increase of 3.7% yearly. The research estimates that N 251.5 billion was invested in Nigeria's travel and tourism subsectors in 2011 and projects that this sector would expand by 1.5 percent in 2012 and by 2.4 percent annually from 2012 to 2022. (Adewole, 2012). According to WTTC, travel, and tourism contributed N1.232to (3.3 percent of GDP) in 2011, and they further said that the contribution to GDP was increased because, in 2012, GDP growth of 10.8% was expected, and in 2022, it was projected to increase by 7% annually to N2.691, 000. (Agency Reporter, 2012). Tourism made both Nigeria's vision 2020 and the 7-point agenda possible by tourism, which also attracted foreign direct investment. The "export" income from foreign visitor spending was intended to bring N29 billion in added gross receipts to the economy's bottom line (Bronze, 2013). Industry observers also point out that the industry increases FDIs in the nation. They blame it, among other things, on the country's supply of high-quality hotels. (George, 2013).

A joint conference on "Linking Tourism, Culture, and Creative Industries: Pathways to Recovery and Inclusive Development" is being organized by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture of Nigeria and the United Nations World Tourism Organization. The conference will take place in Lagos from November 14 to November 16, 2022. With a focus on the Kyoto Declaration on Tourism and Culture, which calls for stronger ties between tourism, cultures, and the creative industries, this conference will build on the joint declarations of the UNWTO and UNESCO to address the current difficulties that the world faces in its many attempts to recover its

economic health. More specifically, in the work we have done at the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), which I have managed for more than five years, we have provided crucial aid to the nation's creative and cultural sector assets, whose virility and forward-looking significance, testimony bounds significant changes that heighten the desire to see and experience Nigeria, our music, cinema, art, dance, fashion, cuisine, and festivals have always had a close relationship with tourism. They both support one another.

2.7.2 Sociocultural Tourism in Nigeria

Examining the relationships between locals' adherence to their culture, belief system, customs, and attitudes toward the sector is necessary to figure out the potential for tourism in Nigeria. By cultural attachment, we mean that most locals in the area hold their cultural traditions in the highest regard. Respecting and incorporating aspects of the architectural and natural heritage is necessary for effective tourist planning in regions where peoples' cultures are sacred (Okpoko, 2001). In these locations, locals revere sacred creatures including pythons, fish, crocodiles, snakes, vultures, and monkeys (Onuigbo, 2001; OPU, 2015). Most local Igbo people hold festivals, streams, holy groves and shrines, caves, and monuments in high regard since they are a part of their cosmology and worldview (Nwoye, 2011). It is critical to think about possibilities as tourism grows. Social and cultural effects on this constructed and natural heritage. If researchers look to evaluate local opinions and support for tourism and find socio-cultural consequences and solutions for alleviating the effects, they must consider belief systems.

The Nigerian government unveiled a tourism strategy in 1990 (Reprinted in 2005). Following this, they set up the Local Government Tourism Committee (LGTC) at the local level and the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), Act at the

federal and state levels in 1992. However, the nation lacks the political will to put its tourism policies and actions into practice and sustain them. Nigeria's economy is severely influenced by tourism; however, the industry is largely underfunded and underdeveloped (Eneji, et al., 2016).

Chapter 3

STUDY AREA

3.1 Study Setting

Lekki conservation center is found within latitude 6° 26' 11" N, and longitude 3° 32' 8" E in Lagos-Nigeria, it's a multidimensional conservation area that forms environmental education purposes and a conservation area that was enriched with natural features within the ecological zone (flora and fauna). The conservation center preserves a large part of the region's biodiversity coastal ecosystem and educates tourists on the importance of coexisting with nature. The backbone behind this conservation area is protected management and ecotourism development area. Lekki conservation center intended to guide the importance of enhancing tourist satisfaction and their services, encouraging tourism destinations globally (Airhekhola, 2017). We look to address tourism development and its impact on the community and the rapid development reached by the community in terms of economic growth, job creation, and new development from global tourists visiting the area. The Lekki Conservation Center has secondary forest, swamp forest, and savanna grassland among its vegetation types. Numerous floral plants, ferns, lianas, vines, epiphytes, grasses, and palms can all be found in the reserve. Cylindrical are some of the grasses found in the Savannah region (Omorie et al., 2014). The two seasons of the climate are the dry Season (November to March) and the rainy season (April to October).

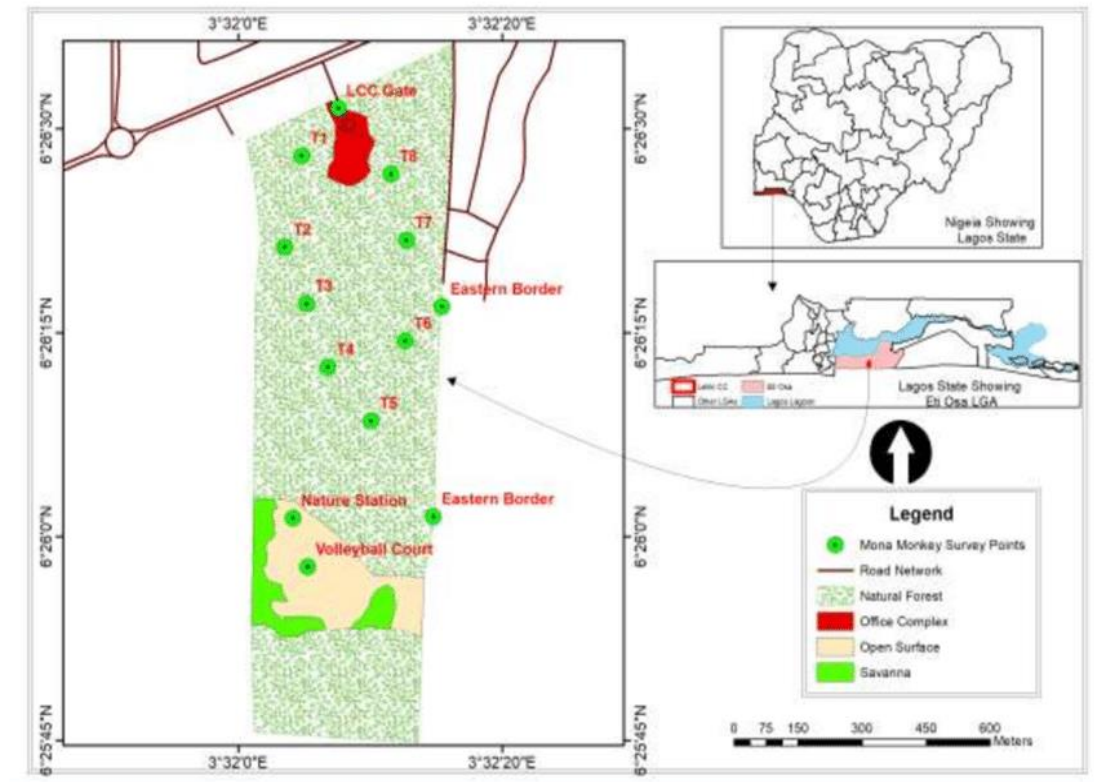


Figure3.1: geographical map of Lekki conservation center
Source: Research gate 2020

Tourism can also supply a compelling incentive for governments and organizations to institute environmental policies and conservation measures. The 78-hectare reserve is situated on the Lekki Coast, next to the Lekki Lagoon. It safeguards the marsh and savannah habitats of the Lekki mainland's wetlands. As you approach the reserve area, a palm-lined avenue leads to a well-kept vehicle and visitor park. Plant and animal life abound. Its vast marshes have been appointed as wildlife observation areas. Monkeys, crocodiles, snakes, and various birds may be seen from the elevated pathways. In addition, there is a library and a conservation center. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation manages the wetlands, which now include a figure-eight network of walkways with trekking opportunities.



Figure 3.2.the main entrance of the conservation center
Source: authors

In addition, there is a library at the conservation center that documents and other research materials. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation protects the wetlands, which currently make up a start figuring network of footpaths, hiking trails, and stepping stones for crossing waterways. In 1992, a trail boardwalk was built to enhance tourists' views of the huge resources of the wetland's nature reserve. Swamp outlook, birds hiding, rest stations, and the canopy are some of the trail's side attractions. Two wooden rails connect the 1.8 kilometer nature route that runs behind the main buildings.



Figure 3.3: The conservation center surroundings and natural vegetation overview.
Source: authors

However, we are trying to examine the community involvement in protecting this ecotourism environment and to come across the impact economically, their relationship with tourists, how they find it attractive, and to investigate if the tourist meets their demand from the community members against human actions towards environmental degradation. The local community includes areas like Ikorodu, Ijede, Epe, Imobi, and Ebute Oni of Eti-Osa local Lagos state government, which has several populations. Also, look at the neighboring localities' participation and their support citing the area.



Figure 3.4: Community view around Lekki conservation center
Source: authors

3.2 Methodology

A qualitative approach was used to conduct data collection, analysis, and research design (Rezapouraghdam et al., 2022b). Data were mostly gathered through key informant interviews. Social science academics have given a lot of attention to qualitative methods for studying communities using computer-mediated platforms in the Web 2.0 era (Mura P, 2018). The researchers' field observations aided the effectiveness of the surveys and interviews, both primary and secondary sources were employed to perform this research. The usage of archive records and colonial reports is one of the key sources and the collection of secondary data such as tourism statistics and government documents supplemented the results of the analysis of the primary data. The type of data needed is socio-economic, including the following: sex, age, marital status, occupation, and educational level. To achieve the set aims of this study,

data, and information is achieved from the participants, which are the local community members, the tourist, and the management board governing the center. The goal of qualitative research is to understand circumstances in their individuality as components of a certain environment and the interactions there (Patton, 1985). This understanding is an end, so it is not necessarily trying to predict what might occur in the future, but rather to understand the nature of that setting and what it means for participants to be there, as well as what their lives are like, what's going on for them, what their meanings are, and how the world looks in that specific setting. The analysis aims for depth of understanding. The data needed for the study will include,

- The respondents' age, sex, marital status, degree of education, and occupation are among their socio-economic characteristics.
- The view of locals as having received help from the conservation center in terms of job opportunities, community development initiatives carried out by the conservation center or the government, and management participation in decision-making.
- Techniques the conservation center employed in conserving the area as well as the tourist properties and lives.
- A significant contribution from the local community to the area's protection.

3.3 Research instrument

Primary and secondary data sources are the main sources of information upon which the empirical analysis is built. This is being conducted to make it possible to carry out the study's stated goals.

3.3.1 Semi-structured Interviews

The main research tool used to get data from this source is a semi-structured interview with the sampled respondent, along with a field survey and visual picture representations taken by the researcher. The semi-structured interview sought out

detailed information on the respondent's sex, age distribution, marital status, level of education, and line of work. (Bernard, 1988) believes that semi-structured interviewing is most effective when there is only one opportunity to speak with a subject and when many interviewers will be going out into the field to gather information. A dependable source of comparable qualitative data, the semi-structured interview guide offers interviewers a clear set of instructions. To allow the researchers to gain a thorough understanding of the subject of interest necessary for creating pertinent and insightful semi-structured questions, semi-structured interviews are often preceded by observation, informal interviewing, and unstructured interviewing (e.g., Akhshik et al., 2022; Alipour et al., 2021; Rezapouraghdam et al., 2018).

Additionally, it looked for information on how the local populace, government officials, and tourists could contribute to the preservation of the protected area, as well as suggestions from residents on how to better engage them in the area's development for both their benefit and the fertility of the study area's center. However, the interview was divided into three parts and given to each participant in the research region to see if academics and the surroundings in the study location are affected by the different answers I provide.

3.3.2 Secondary Data

The secondary data from library research textbooks or current studies, journals, magazines, conference papers, and internet publications was supported by content analysis of the main data (e.g., Alipour et al., 2017; Rezapouraghdam & Karatepe, 2020).

3.4 Method of data collection

The method used to create this work is a semi-structured interview, which semi-structured here selection into three major groups: 30 people were selected from the local community, 25 people consisting of the tourists currently present in the conservation center, and 5 people from management, who are the coordinator and the tourist record department and from whom we get information that is pertinent to this research.

3.5 Sampling Technique

To minimize the possibility of human bias in the selection of instances to be included in the sample, the researcher is chosen as a subgroup of the sampled frame because the research is restricted to a host's local communities. As a result, the purposive sample gives us a sample that, assuming there are few missing data, is highly representative of the population under study (Rezapouraghdam et al., 2018). This is because the semi-structured interview method gives the researcher some degree of control over the sampled population. In a sort of non-probability sampling called "purposeful sampling," which is also known as "judgmental sampling" or "subjective sampling," researchers use their judgment to select members of the public to take part in their survey, it also costs less money and time to use a smaller sample.

3.6 Data analysis

All study fields follow the same procedures for conducting a thematic analysis (Rezapouraghdam & Karatepe, 2020). Accurately describing the interview is the most important part of the thematic analysis. The stage of data analysis, known as theme analysis, involves familiarizing the data using video and audio recordings transcribed by the researcher. The basic idea was to consider each respondent's explanation to increase dependability and reduce data inaccuracies. The coding enables the researcher

to categorize the data into diverse groups. We look for the themes and group them into several parts to increase the data's dependability (Rezapouraghdam & Akhshik, 2021). The reader will have access to sufficient data in the report to evaluate it. As a result, it will be simpler for people to accept the results as correct. Thematic analysis is the process of extracting the main concepts from a jumble of data and turning them into a graphic. Coding the finished semi-structured interview into the computer allowed for the analysis of the data gathered. The percentage, frequency table, and charts are the methods used for data analysis and display in descriptive statistical approaches. These instruments were used to examine the fundamental socioeconomic traits of the sampled hosts in the research area.

Chapter 4

RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Understanding what a community entails, including its boundaries, the rights-holder, and stakeholder groups it recognizes, activities important to local livelihoods, as well as any factors that may hinder collaboration among them, is necessary to build capacity in local communities to engage in and profit from tourism focused on the protected area (Pretty, 2005). This section presents and analyzes information on the sampled respondents' demographic, socioeconomic, and community characteristics. Age, sex, education level, marital status, and occupation were among the socioeconomic factors that were examined. The community participation factors examined were the number of visitors, the community members who took part in the study area around the protected area, and their contributions.

Table 4.1: Socioeconomic characteristics of the local community respondent

Local Respondent	Age	Gender	Occupation	Education
LR1	37	Male	Graphic designer	Postgraduate
LR2	39	Male	Woodworker	High school
LR3	47	Male	Refrigerator repairing	High school
LR4	44	Female	Midwifery	Postgraduate
LR5	36	Female	Waiter	Postgraduate
LR6	38	Male	Fashion designer	High school

LR7	48	Male	Guidance and counseling coach	Postgraduate
LR8	43	Male	Ion bender	High school
LR9	38	Female	Bakery and cake maker	High school
LR10	42	Female	Bank customers service	Postgraduate
LR11	40	Female	Homemaker	Postgraduate
LR12	46	Male	Manager delivery service	Postgraduate
LR13	37	Female	Secretary in an organization	Postgraduate
LR14	41	Male	Cleaning service	Bachelor degree
LR15	37	Female	Teaching	Postgraduate
LR16	50	Male	Refinery company technician	Bachelor degree
LR17	45	Female	Port authority worker	Postgraduate
LR18	35	Male	Retailer	High school
LR19	37	Male	Driver	High school
LR20	35	Female	Hotel worker	Postgraduate
LR21	44	Female	Chef	Postgraduate
LR22	55	Male	Animal husbandry officer	Postgraduate
LR23	45	Male	Real Estate developer	Postgraduate
LR24	49	Male	Construction worker	High school
LR25	49	Male	Construction engineer	Bachelor degree
LR26	39	Male	Computer repairing	Postgraduate
LR27	44	Male	Hotel manager	Postgraduate
LR28	35	Male	Photographer	Postgraduate
LR29	34	Male	Mobile mechanic repairing	High school
LR30	39	male	Gym instructor	Postgraduate

The table above gives detailed information about the local community respondents, these help the researcher in knowing the kind of sampled population he is dealing with, and know the effectiveness and reliability of the population that the data was acquired from. However, the sample was justified due to the involvement of a high concentration of knowledgeable respondents which help in the easy transcribing of the data collected. The groups of respondents took part in the semi-structured interview: the local community, where 30 members of a sample population were questioned. According to the age categories, 20 respondents, or 66.6% of the total, were between the ages of 34 and 44. Eight respondents, or 26.6% of the total, were between the ages of 45 and 54. Two respondents, or 6.6% of the total, were between the ages of 50 and 55. Open-ended, semi-structured questions were used to encourage respondents to openly express their feelings. The facilitators also supply probing questions to elicit more information and detailed responses to the main questions (Minichiello et al., 1990). Most of the respondents are found in the conservation center's business and residential districts. However, members of the indigenous community help find vulnerable individuals who are willing to express their opinions and feelings about the interview. The gathering of data placed between August 26th and September 1st, 2022. About 30 minutes were allotted for each interview. Focus group interviews were videotaped, and notes were collected throughout. The interviewee asked the local community member several questions during the interview session to (1) explain the benefit brought by the protected area; (2) verify their role in protecting the area; (3) show their involvement by stakeholders in decision-making; (4) highlight the benefit brought by tourists to the local members; (5) entailed the role of government position in supplying basic amenities to the community; and (6) clarify the challenges.

Table 4.2: Socioeconomic characteristics of the tourist's respondent

Tourist respondent	Age	Gender	Occupation	Education
TR1	26	Female	Bartender	Postgraduate
TR2	19	Female	Mini trader	High school
TR3	22	Female	Hairdressing	Postgraduate
TR4	20	Male	Technical engineering	Postgraduate
TR5	36	Male	Radio broadcasting	Postgraduate
TR6	34	Male	Taxi driver	Postgraduate
TR7	24	Male	Barbing saloon	Postgraduate
TR8	45	Male	Building construction supervisor	Postgraduate
TR9	18	Female	Foodstuff seller	High school
TR10	42	Male	Teaching	Nation college of education
TR11	36	Male	Banker	Postgraduate
TR12	23	Female	Teaching	Bachelor of education
TR13	27	Male	Sport instructor	Postgraduate
TR14	18	Female	Student	High school
TR15	32	Male	Custom officer	Postgraduate
TR16	18	Male	Boutique employee	High school
TR17	30	Male	Film academy producer	Bachelor degree
TR18	25	Male	Transportation manager	Bachelor degree
TR19	28	Male	Marine engineer	Bachelor degree
TR20	23	Female	Waiter	Diploma
TR21	19	Female	Baking snacks	Diploma
TR22	20	Female	Small scale trading	Diploma
TR23	29	Male	Medical doctor	Postgraduate
TR24	28	Male	NGOs	Postgraduate
TR25	21	Female	Lab attendance	School of Health

52% of the respondent age groups are between the ages of 18 and 25, as shown in the table above describing the tourist respondents' socioeconomic characteristics. This group is primarily business-oriented and consists primarily of teenagers. 32% of respondents in this age group are between the ages of 26 and 35, while 16% are between the ages of 36 and 45. The traveler approached the conservation center in several tourist destinations. The interviewer introduces himself using a reliable form

of identification, which encourages the responder to feel comfortable and open about their opinions and experiences with conservation and the neighborhood they live in. The interview began on September 3rd and lasted until September 7th. Due to the time and distance required for the interviewee to go to the center for the interview, each respondent spent at least 15 minutes there. The following questions were suitably posed to the tourist about their relation to the community, conservation, and management of the protected area. (1) To confirm the management's strategies and tactics for conserving and protecting the natural habitat (2) To define the economic benefit gained from the community. (3) The social interaction between tourists and the local community. (4) To evaluate how tourism affects the neighborhood. (5) To look at the issue the visitors face.

Table 4.3: the stakeholder's response toward the management system

Stakeholders' respondent	Age	Gender	Job position	Job description	Education
MR1	56	Male	Project manager	Leading the conservation center's teamwork to carry out all project goals within the established boundaries is the responsibility of project management.	Bachelor degree
MR2	47	Female	Finance Record	The money raised by donors, The Foundation of Birdlife International, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Bachelor degree

				(RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), Wetlands International, and Fauna and Flora International (FFI), as well as money from tourists, is all kept in the record by the finance department, which also keeps track of expenditures, worker wages, and other activities.	
MR3	37	Female	Maintenance department	The management department enlists overseeing the service made and exercises effective control over all conservation-related operations.	PHD
MR4	52	Female	Human resource management	The Lekki Conservation Center's human resource management employs a systematic and cohesive approach to the effective and efficient management of people in a way that fosters cooperation and is intended to maximize employee performance in service.	Bachelor degree
MR5	48	Male	Chief security officer	The security department protects the environment, the lives, and possessions of tourists, employees,	postgraduate

				and the conservation's flora and fauna. Furthermore, the security division had good control over all tourist entries and looked after the main gates. Also, the security division inspects all equipment inside the conservation center.	
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The interviewee receives a response from the project manager, human resource department, maintenance department, financial record department, and chief security officer as shown in the table above, which described the management of the Lekki conservation center, which is formed of 12 board members. The interview took place between September 12th and September 14th, 2022, and it lasted 15 minutes per respondent. The secretary responds on behalf of some department heads who could not address the inquiry. To help the interviewee learn more about the conservation center, certain departments supply papers. Hopefully, the conservation center will be managed by graduates with elevated levels of experience in their fields for a long time.

Chapter 5

FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

This section outlined the analysis done using field data, and the conclusion looks at how the local community expresses their view and belief about the conservation center and how the management handled the locals and the tourists. Obtaining the data allowed the creation of themes that explain the main terms and ideological expressions that the respondents displayed. The question design is essential in conducting the semi-structured interview, helping to produce the themes. The findings, however, examine the data collected and cross-check the extraneous information that can make the research inapplicable. It's a tool that also distinguishes between the dynamic experiences of learning about conservation from the past. Because of the template's structure, we could consider each comment from the local community, tourists, and management about their interaction, which is another finding we had not initially predicted. We could see the predominance of emotional reactions from the local community about the difficulties they experienced and the various approaches taken by respondents.

5.2 Local Community

This section described the local community's perception of the conservation center, the management's approach to protecting the center, community involvement in decision-making, and the contribution they offered and rendered to see the developmental aspects and projects for both the center and the local community, which will allow

them to promote the services they have been providing to tourists and the center generally.

5.2.1 The Advantages of the Protected Area for the Community

Participants in this interview said that the conservation center acts as a catalyst for economic growth for both small- and large-scale operations, including hotels, restaurants, and close-by beaches on the Lekki peninsula. They claimed that this allows these businesses to expand their customer bases and create jobs because of the high concentration of activities supported by the conservation center. Respondents said that “flooding and climate change have an impact on the region. In response, the management of the conservation center distributed a wide variety of trees that will contribute to minimizing climate change”, according to a participant. Communities must be able to access the tourism destination and have the necessary infrastructure to support the level of tourism desired and the resulting increase in the local population for communities to be able to reap these socioeconomic benefits (Spencley, 2008). According to a respondent, “these students were chosen from various schools within the local community, and in keeping with the benefits the local community derives from the protected area”, participants express their views on promoting the educational system about wildlife, environmental sustainability, and conservation by educating students and involving them in initiatives that will broaden their perspective on protecting the immediate environment. Although Lekki is found on an island, several respondents said that the community had difficulty with domestic water use because of the geography during the years when we had organizations work with the government to build boreholes.

5.2.2 The Actual Involvement of the Local Community in Conserving the Protected Area

Respondents often mention keeping an eye on any suspicious activity at the conservation center that might be directed at their residents while discussing the genuine local community involvement in protecting the environment. Although the conservation center is huge, residents have written down that sudden illegal activities are set to occur, and we believe that protecting it is protecting nature. The Respondent said that “we the neighborhood work together to fence off any undeveloped land that might be used for unlawful activities”. Utilizing robust lighting systems which help lighten the environment during night hours was a good contribution by private hotel owners and banks”. Some respondents examined their efforts to enforce the rule that prohibits mining in protected areas by showing any open space within the community while describing their involvement in the survey. This system typically contributes to a decrease in this behavior. The conservation fence slips through the gap because of significant rains that cause floods, acting as a reference point for those folks to conveniently gauge the center. A group of respondents claimed that because of their busy work schedules, they hardly ever saw illegal activity and actively helped to preserve the environment. “We spent time removing it for a better atmosphere and to appreciate nature since during the rainy season the garbage generated by the conservation center flushes out, fills the drainage, and pollutes the neighborhood”. Fewer respondents asserted that their social media postings serve as advertisements to draw large numbers of tourists to the facility; instead, they claimed that they serve to enhance both local and worldwide beliefs of the facility as a renowned conservation center. Participation in tourism-related activities may raise awareness and concern about local dangers, conservation issues, and management solutions among tourists

and locals (Hill, et al., 2010). The organization also grants members a spot in many activities carried out domestically or abroad that were started by different founders and donors of this institution, like the World Wild Fund (WWF) and the d International Union of Conservationists.

5.2.3 Actual Involvement of the Local Community in Decision-Making

The management board in charge of a protected area has an objective duty to consider community members' perspectives when making decisions about dwellings inside that protected area. Most respondents raised the under-representation of final decision-making bodies as a concern; the respondent explained this by saying that the conservation center is run by non-governmental organizations and that these organizations have rules and regulations in place in a proper system design that will support their establishment. Respondent explains that” We, the local community, have less to offer because the conservation is seeking financial gain to support their efforts, but our involvement will give us the courage to look more closely at any illegal actions. Even if our decision is not supported through with, we will still feel appreciated”. They demand less help from the neighborhood because they have a clear plan for implementing their activities. Even while several respondents noted that the chevron group of enterprises began working on habitat conservation early, the local community was represented by a few chosen members and involved in the project's execution. According to the respondent, the management stopped this connection because some local members were involved in unlawful actions, such as destroying forests. Another respondent stated that “the community is the foundation of the general environment of all organizations, we can contribute by identifying a good source and making the conservation name more well-known through our interaction with our friends

elsewhere, but we have fewer affairs because we also pay before we enter into the center."

5.2.4 Tourists Receive Help from Sharing with the Local Community

We investigated the potential of several activities that boost local income and various job opportunities because of tourist concentration in this location, considering tourists' benefit sharing with the local community. In response to this question, the respondent discussed their level of satisfaction with the contribution of tourists in several areas, including economic development, the creation of jobs that empower the locals, and taxi drivers from the community who are part of the major benefit they receive from the better movement of tourists in UBER drivers who are safe and affordable. Promoting and protecting the cultural assets of protected regions, displaying local culture (such as through storytelling, crafts, design, music, and food), and offering suitable interpretation services (Mc. Cool & Moisey, 2008). Respondent stated that "We now fully appreciate the Lekki conservation center's presence in this neighborhood since travelers from other nations and other tourist destinations exchange foreign currencies for local currency with our residents". Tourist purchases of locally produced goods and crafts help to expand our local traditional system, which is why cultural tourism exists. The responder claimed that despite Lagos being an island that was active in trade and investment, the local population in particular valued tourist traffic in the city center for the expansion of their market and the increased international reputation it provided.

5.2.5 Government Participation in the Protected Area and the Community

The community saw how the government responded to the community's and the Lekki conservation's requests for help due to flooding and erosion. According to the respondent, water was beginning to beckon the conservation area due to the protection

of the bar beach shoreline and land reclamation activities in Lekki. This writes down that the conservation area is under threat, but the government intervenes suddenly and supplies channels that will allow the discharge of the water in proper ways. To secure the preservation of wildlife within the Center, the state government wrote down its willingness to strengthen the already-existing partnership with the management of Lekki Conservation Center said to many respondents. Respondent explain the benefit of electricity which was made available to the neighborhood, allowing residents to use businesses like hotels and restaurants around the beach area. Entailed the role of government position in supplying basic amenities to the community. Due to the importance of protected area-based tourism, the protected area may receive political support for excessive growth (Walker & Chapman, 2003). The respondent said that “in addition to monkeys intruding into our compound, flooding is one of our main problems, prompting the government to take action. Due to the topography, we also have a problem with potable water; some settlements have government-funded boreholes”. The government also aimed to increase public awareness about the Center in magazine cover pages, radio stations, television, and alliance in bringing its guess that visited the state for special assignments and occasions, encouraging tourists to visit the Center occasionally to experience something different from the regular city living atmosphere and promote nature and adventure.

5.2.6 Threats Facing the Local Community

The invasion of monkeys from the conservation center into their homes and the destruction of several priceless things they meet were regarded by the local community responders as the main threat they have been fighting for a long time. Monkeys broke into our kitchen and tampered with the food we had either preserved or stored. The respondent claimed that because the monkeys were not fed by the management, they

jumped from the canopies into our property. A compound next to the conservation center was the scene of an alleged attack by monkeys that left some kids hurt. According to other respondents, these conflicts are caused by the starving and malnutrition of the monkeys, which forces them to hunt for solutions on their own because of their similarities to humans. The answer told that we are afraid of illnesses and viruses that originate from those animals because they have occurred in the past, such as the Ebola virus, which came initially from monkeys. The local citizen complained about this matter to the state ministry of agriculture, but no action has been taken. According to a response, many residents, especially those who live in the chevron quarters, may soon sell their homes and move.

5.3 Tourists' Feelings

5.3.1 Tourists' Belief in Managing Natural Habitat

The attitudes of various nations toward tourist accommodations in protected regions that are offered by zoning, facility construction, and visitor services are strikingly different. Among others, (Dudley, 2013). The importance and value of tourist destinations lay in offering effective management systems for the benefit of visitors, considering the questions that are posed to visitors about their opinion and belief about the Lekki Conservation Center's efficient management systems. Respondents described the upkeep of the exploiting areas as impressive in response to these questions because there have never been any reports of anyone falling from the canopy walk. "When I first heard about this location, I started to wonder how management would control a forest in the middle of a large population. However, when I visited the Lekki Conservation Center. The researcher discovered that management had made proper arrangements and had methods for exploring the center; however, the center showed less interest in cutting-edge technologies that would blow people's minds".

Management has a maintenance department that inspects the roof every day before tourists begin to go on, but only a certain number of people are allowed to be on the canopy, which is controlled by the guide man standing there. The respondent further admits that there aren't many tourist-drawing traditional goods in the local market inside the conservation center. Due to an occurrence that causes visitors to voice their displeasure, most tourists claim that the first aid staff is not performing their duties effectively.

5.3.2 Tourists' Economic Benefit to the Local Community

This section examines the significance of tourists' contributions to the local economy. The tourist reply discussed the importance of valuing and honoring the customs of the local inhabitants. Recreational possibilities are often offered to ease feature protection and public knowledge and to encourage visitor use and experience. However, the respondent claimed that although some visitors come from nearby areas, the local community helps us become more familiar with the new surroundings and allows us to form relationships. Although one of the respondents is a victim whom they often mistreat when trading, some respondents claimed that local members exchange foreign dollars with them. The visitor reveals that changing foreign currency in a bank is a tedious and time-consuming process, which prompts them to explore other options. Regarding this matter, the respondent claimed that the bulk of the neighborhood residents who work as UBER drivers profit from their regular schedules. Although the fact that they claim the application is charging them for the extra distance to the center, according to the respondent, given the current situation, management could offer buses that will transport tourists directly to the center for a lower price, as this will increase the center's uniqueness and appreciation.

5.3.3 Social Interaction Between Tourists and the Local Community

The social connection includes how the locals accept and welcome the tourists through their actions. Many respondents said that local people are nice when it comes to buying market items from them; they often lower their prices to encourage tourists to buy more and, in the process, become their customers. Respondent narrated a scenario” On a rainy day after we had done visiting the center, our vehicles broke down near the community. The residents offered shelter to us and called an Uber driver for us, and we were able to gain their trust by leaving our vehicles in their care”. Since most visitors to the conservation center are first-timers, the locals we interact with help us find acceptable hotels to stay in and catering services. However, the answer says that because of the country's kidnapping issue, some residents reject fresh faces and are wary of mingling with strangers, making their interactions stressful and uncomfortable. The respondent said that when they went in search of electric gadgets, the locals responded suspiciously to them and did not properly address them. To avoid evil persons and to find tourists from their various views or institutions, local community members like the tourist and the management should begin issuing methods of identification.

5.3.4 The Vulnerability to the Tourists

Because most of our national parks are in remote, challenging-to-reach areas, respondents often tell conservation managers that access is a tremendous problem and that there is no basic infrastructure for nature-based tourism. Due to its tiny size and inability to accommodate many people, the conservation center is disadvantageous during the rainy season. Where an ambulance bus is accessible for emergencies, there are not enough medical facilities to respond to any unforeseen occurrence that happens. The responders claimed that “the monkeys take your food and go; other

times, they may scratch you until you become injured before jumping into the canopy”. They tried to draw management's attention to the need for proper first aid support when this kind of occurrence happened because they had noticed an increase in the monkeys' aggressive behavior toward tourists. One of the respondents “detailed a fictitious situation in which her daughter was attacked by monkeys on July 27, 2022, at noon, when she was at the conservation center, and no staff members were present to help or direct her”. Overall, an interesting and captivating setting. Make sure to do the canopy walk. The respondent criticizes parks for kids, we always ask the management to supply a safer playground where we can keep our children so that we can enjoy the experience without having to worry about them getting hurt during the attacks by the monkeys on the boardwalk due to the inconvenience of bringing children along to the area, which is a risky zone. However, respondents claimed that “since they are unable to carry food or drinks with them when walking, they must be ready to buy supplies in advance”. The family park is not well proved with a variety of meals; we expect a stable restaurant inside to avoid bringing food from our various destinations which leads to conflict between visitors and the monkeys. Food is not allowed inside the family park because it makes the monkeys chase you and could cause accidents.

5.4 Management as a Tourism-Promoting Agent

The authors believed that the management reaction was the key to delivering the fundamental answer, tools, and accomplishment that would enable the conservation center to function to its fullest potential in promoting tourism, the social experience of visitors, and the local economy. In this section, many conservation center departments are introduced to the interviewee. These departments give us the information we need to the best of their ability to promote educational tourism, address threats to the local population and visitors, and address threats to the center itself.

5.4.1 Sources of Funds to the Conservation Center

Respondents from the management explain that their financial support where mostly from The Chevron Corporation constructed the facility for the Nigerian Conservation Foundation as a protected sanctuary for the abundant flora and animals of the Lekki Peninsula. Since then, the business has contributed yearly financing for the center's administration. Those who are interested to learn and explore the center pay the gate fee, the guidance service fee, and the educational fees. Respondent narrated that” We are looking for more foreign assistance and partnership that will invest in our projects because the little we receive is insufficient to maintain the center and advance our ideas toward sustainability, even though we have large-scale initiatives that will benefit both the center and the community around it”. retail stores and restaurants run by the conservancy, and activities carried out for fun at the conservation center, much of the cash for conservation comes from donations made by volunteers and funding provided by foreign organizations. However, the answer said that there is no regular budget from the government for the operation of the center. The government does, however, make contributions, but they are not as steady or as readily available as those from the currently shown sources.

5.4.2 Benefits that Enhance the Local Community and Feeling of Belonging and Well Being

According to the respondents, “management aids in a project that includes the creation of infrastructure and communication services (mobile network towers)”. The conservation management has launched several programs, some of which include the restoration of forest landscapes and the planting of fruit and cash trees in communities and schools. The conservation center underlined the value of close partnerships between individuals working in the tourism and environmental industries,

emphasizing that eco-tourism plays a key role in both. About 20 schools visit us every single day since we are conveniently accessible, have the facilities to welcome them, do not pose a security risk, have competent staff who can aid them, and the visitors enjoy their time here. However, respondents describe the work they have done to put together community health care projects. The government promotes interactions between residents and tourists on a social and cultural level. Management and skill development centers collaborate to train locals for self-sufficient businesses. The center serves as a link between tourists and locals and potential business and investment partners. Respondent described that “the Nigerian Conservation Foundation gathered 98 pupils from the area to celebrate the Spring Alive event 2021 with the topic "Protect Bird Nests" at its Lekki Conservation Center headquarters in Lagos”, according to the Head of Environmental Education. The Foundation emphasized the value of protecting bird nests and how to handle them if they are found. The youngsters gained knowledge about migratory birds, some of the challenges they face throughout their yearly journeys, and how to take care of the young. Waste Management, Beach/Market Clean-ups, School/Community Gardening, Reforestation Programs, Change Campaigns, Flora and Fauna Dramas by Students, Inter School Competitions, Community Awareness, and Sensitization are just a few of the activities that are done on World Environment Day. The respondent added that to improve the ability of vulnerable populations, delicate ecosystems, and species of conservation concern to moderate and adapt to climate change, conservation areas mix natural regeneration with restoration activities. The worth of the carbon in this natural sink is therefore continuously assessed and quantified by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation's climate change program. Community projects, programs, and other

interventions must be sustainable if they are to have long-lasting and exceptional results. Communities are directly received help from our efforts.

5.4.3 Government Participation in the Establishment of the Conservation Center

The respondent clarifies the function of Because of government action, private organizations were brought in to work at the Lekki Conservation Center, a popular tourist destination in the state. With a focus on the support and aid needed to support the center's effective management, the government oversaw the construction of Africa's longest canopy walk. The government is now working to protect the greenhouse's natural habitat in the center. To reduce traffic while visiting the center, the Lagos state government supplies a metro train station that passes through Lekki and adjacent areas. Furthermore, the respondent explained the “annual walk for nature event, which promotes the sustainable management of the preservation of Nigeria's biological resources and increases awareness of environmental issues, is funded by a partnership between the government and the conservation center”. One respondent told those who wished to protect the animals that lived in the forests, particularly the monkeys, were the ones who first pushed for conservation. Over two million people visit the Lekki conservation center each year, which generates millions of Naira as revenue for the Lagos state government. However, the government pays less attention to the procurement of equipment that should support the center to gain more international recognition. The non-governmental organization can the ability to contribute at any time, which forces conservation to always search for funding to preserve, support, and prove things.

5.4.4 Challenges that the Lekki Conservation Center is Facing

As recounted by the respondent, Due to recent developments, the problem is now in the Lekki neighborhood, which is at risk of becoming an island (unsustainable adjacent

land use). Every drop of rainwater enters the reserve. As a result, there is significant flooding, making formerly dry areas wet. Even so, we have researched the issue and are trying to improve drainage without endangering the ecosystem. However, a distinct problem we face is coastal erosion. The area's least protected wildlife and inadequate financing are the main draws for tourists. The bulk of responses has talked about the problem of monkeys being released from conservation to the residents. Being in the center of a big city, the Lekki conservation facility exposes the animals to people. Chevron and nearby neighborhoods in Lekki Phase 2 have reported monkey intrusions that have stolen food and occasionally valuables like phones and other items. It is suggested that the conservation center's administrators fence the entire park to keep wildlife away from people. Respondent also said, "Today, thieves, rebels, and other criminals conceal in our woodlands. That could present a huge barrier to the immediate fulfillment of that, but I still think that could be a significant issue". Environmental issues are not taken seriously or given the attention they need by the government. He added that the Ministry of Environment is not represented at the table where significant decisions are made and receives the least funding at the state and federal levels. Because most of our national parks are in remote areas and access is a major issue, the tourist industry claims that there is no fundamental infrastructure for nature-based tourism. This was said by the director general of Lekki Conservation Center. "How can you strengthen if you don't have the means or the cash"? Usually, we have roughly more than 100,000 visitors (about the seating capacity of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum).

Chapter 6

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Discussion

The study's main goal was to decide how community involvement affected the development of ecotourism at the Lekki Conservation Center in Lagos Nigeria. The conservation center's management concerns for the growth of tourism are shared by both tourists and the local community, as well as how tourists perceive the residents or local community there. Numerous publications on eco-tourism, sustainable development, and community-based tourism are reviewed in the literature review from a global perspective. The Nigerian tourism industry is considered in the study. The dangers the conservation center faced from the articles under consideration were revealed so that people might get a general understanding of them and learn how to deal with them without losing sight of the importance of protecting the environment. Tables highlighting various definitions and perspectives of community-based tourism were displayed. The study setting writes down the location of the research region, topography, vegetation, and weather of the environment, as it is explained in the third chapter. This section describes the research methods that were employed. Semi-structured interviews with secondary data were used to carry out the task. To gather the most up-to-date information about the research, the social media platforms of the conservation center were also examined in this study. The reader can easily understand the scope of this research thanks to the graphic portrayal of several areas within the Lekki conservation center. Reviewing the respondents' socioeconomic traits is the

subject of Chapter four. The response of the residents, the reaction of the tourists, and the management within that diaspora are all three phases. The answers to the queries posed to the three carefully chosen responder groups are included in the findings. The ability of both respondents to preserve, protect, and conserve the protected space for future use and sustainability is what ties the case studies together. The opinions of other researchers were also shared concerning how the locals perceive the protected area and its dimensions. The conservation center acts as a stimulant for the local economy, which means that the locals value the conservation center's presence in their area greatly because of the value that tourists bring to the range of services they provide. Although the management did not offer any financial help or programs to support neighborhood businesses. Since the center receives a lot of donations and funding from abroad, the management can supply financial support to the local members, giving them the impression that they are being carried along in terms of advancement. Prices and opportunities are given to the students who engage in and excel in events organized by education tourism, which coordinates yearly and seasonal programs about environmental protection and wildlife conservation for various schools in the neighborhood. Additionally, it will encourage the neighborhood to support any efforts to advance the conservation center. The conservation center was formed by a non-governmental organization, which means they did it properly since they catered to themselves. However, this research shows less participation by community people in decision-making. Even while at first only the local community was involved, its members saw this as an opportunity to engage in illegal forest logging and create the porosity that allows animals to elude capture. That was the reason we stopped paying attention to their contributions after that. The management and local community are expected to work together on supplying direction to the local members

for the good of all. Here, while speaking of how tourists affect the neighborhood, it is said to help in some way to support people's way of life. The way tourists interacted with them in the many locations where they conduct business had a significant impact on the locals, who were necessary for this research to be truly expressed. Due to the rise in demand from visitors for a variety of goods and services that residents must provide, tourism leads to the creation of more jobs. Due to the level of education of some locals and tourists alike, the cultivation of a culture that eases communication is important, even though it often leads to a profession in trade and buying things. The management is expected to prove a museum to attract more tourists as part of its campaign to promote the culture and legacy of the neighborhood. The results of this study can be used to understand how the conservation center and the larger community interact with the government. The government determined the prompt response to the call about added flooding and erosion effects in that area based on local responses to government intervention and participation in pertinent decisions to improve the standard of Lekki Conservation Center and the benefits derived by the locals. Although we notice there is no proper sewage disposal system in some nearby communities, we can infer from the response that roads were rehabilitated, electricity was generated, and extension and water channels were also built. As a result, laws enforcing waste management should be guided by government environmental agencies to help in making the environment appealing. The authorities noticed some online media advertisements that promoted public awareness in the media and online. Threats to the local community were discussed throughout the interview; therefore, we are considering the local community's demand that those in charge evaluate their complaint and take proper action. The neighborhood described the entry of monkeys into their enclosure as dreadful since it caused property damage and caused problems

for the people anytime, they were away. As in the case of the Ebola virus in East Africa, where it became a serious threat that year, the monkeys can spread the infection to the community because of this situation. The management's actions led to starvation, which forced the monkeys to fend for themselves. The management and the residents had to work together to find a solution to this issue because the local community members' ability to survive poses the biggest threat, to the point that some of them are eager to move. If this happens, the local community may lose its means of subsistence. Considering this, management should offer or evaluate their approach to feeding the monkeys to prevent the situation that the locals have been complaining about. The inhabitants also struggle with the unsanitary drinking water that some communities purchase from trucks. The community's terrain is designed to accommodate drilling for water in various locations, therefore to avoid water scarcity, they investigated pipeline water generation to the required area. The study showed a great appreciation of tourists using natural habitats as a means of a big community, these are because fewer casualties were recorded. The attitude of different reactions from tourists was investigated. Tourists expressed interest in bettering structural development, but they also asked for a museum to preserve historical events, local culture, history, and the conservation center. However, many were unimpressed with the number of animals at the conservation center. If possible, more wild animals should be kept to attract more people. Some visitors contrasted the conservation center with other locations that require improvement. Tourists' interactions in a variety of fields of interaction, such as the purchase of traditional pottery and art, restaurant and hotel booking rates that are rising due to high demand within the community, and these opportunities drove the restaurants to offer continental dishes services, have been shown to improve local communities economic growth. The exchange is regarded as fruitful and encouraging.

Although some tourists have described unpleasant experiences with or cruel treatment by locals, these incidents are the product of the country's general sense of fear, where residents tend to interact with outsiders less for personal reasons than for environmental ones. The conservation center must examine the complaint about children's parks that many of the respondents showed concerning the threats faced by tourists; doing so will lower the level of visitors with children who cannot afford to keep their children at home alone intending to return. Regarding the health facilities' capabilities, we acknowledge the examination of this issue because it will raise management standards compared to other international conservation centers in case of a monkey attack or other unforeseen circumstances. The conservation center is partnered with over sixty organizations, including banks, manufacturing companies, construction firms, and environmental and wildlife foundations from around the world. The management is the driving force behind improving the visitor experience and collaborates with locals. Numerous programs are organized in support of the conservation center by these partners and benefactors. Unfortunately, the funding and aid that the partners have given to the conservation center are not covered by this study. This will aid in figuring out the center's capacity to improve and elevate its standing from a local perspective to a global one. When managed at this level, the neighborhood typically feels like it belongs and gains from the programs they offer or the partnerships they work with. Although the management expressed concern, residents violate the agreements and rules governing the conservation center by illegally destroying forests and mistreating the animals. A barrier forms between the management and the community due to the conflict between the monkeys and the locals. On the other side, it was expected of the management to repair relations with the locals to support them. Lekki Conservation Center may be able to increase its

revenue generation through a carbon storage program. In keeping with this, the forest's fallen leaves are a reliable source of organic manure that can be processed and exported to other parts of the nation and neighboring countries.

6.2 Management Implication

As a possible consequence of the preservation of natural and cultural resources, community-based tourism generates economic benefits that help both local communities and countries achieve sustainable environmental development. Between social connectedness and support for sustainable tourism development and community involvement and support for sustainable tourist development, the perceived advantages act as a mediating factor. As a result, conservation management should concentrate on initiatives that can increase the perceived advantages of sustainable tourism among the local populace, including the creation of museums, the expansion of leisure and tourism opportunities, the development of cultural activities, and an increase in the exchange of visitors' and locals' cultures. Additionally, to create local job opportunities and reap the alleged benefits of tourism development, local tourism enterprises should prioritize employing the citizens of the destinations. It is recommended that the management ally with their partners support loans to small and medium-sized businesses oriented within the local community to boost their economy for the benefit of tourists. The management is the capable institution that can increase the economic growth of the locals. The study proves decreased local community engagement and participation in decision-making because of the aforementioned factors. Since the management is a body itself, the channel will be passed information passage, the management should invite the key community stakeholders and address by reviving the old existing relationship and providing them with something that can help them in day-to-day survival and sending their complaints to the government. Illegal activities

carried out by the local members in forest destruction was the management's primary reason given. Management should set up a feeding system for the monkeys to prevent harm to the villagers from the monkey's encroachment into their neighborhood. To attract more parents, the management should include money in their upcoming budget for building a playground for kids. In a monkey attack or other emergency inside the conservation center, the management first aid rescue team should be prepared.

6.3 Limitation and Future Direction of the Study

Future studies should be aware of how to assess the ways the local community has benefited since the study did not conduct an in-depth investigation of the financial support and management system by aiding the local community. The period was too short to assess the substantial gains made by the local community due to tourists; added research should consider visitors' desire to make investments in the neighborhood. Due to the many organizations and donors that support conservation financially but are not easily accessible, the researcher named financial expenses as the main threat that reduced the ability to explore more about the interview about management's intention to include the tourist demand in the budget. Future research should distribute more funding to guide the research and explore more on these. The research was designed to examine the tourists who visited the conservation center during the COVID-19 pandemic and after it, but the management supplied little explanation and there was no statistical data. Future research should examine visitors' feelings about this issue and their intentions to return to the conservation center.

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