

Reviewing the Geo-Tourism Resources in Bauchi State, Nigeria with Potentials for Hospitality, Recreation, and Tourism Development

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ABSTRACT: It is a known fact that the experience of a community or region where geo-tourism resource attractions are well planned suggests that the area where these potentials and resources are located, if well packaged and promoted could be harnessed for sustainable development. While a tourist's generating destination as a result of factors capable of attracting visitors accordingly increases the inflow of such visitors as well as the socio-cultural interaction, and revenue generation of the areas and community which will revamp and boost the hospitality, recreation and tourism activities of Bauchi state and the country at large. The methodology employed here showcases the carefully selected secondary research method based on geographical components of hospitality, recreation, and tourism resources in the extant literature. The study area under investigation further discusses issues of immense contribution to geo-tourism resource attractions by special attention to preserve, protect and promote our culture and tradition at the identified tourist sites of Land, Water, Climatic, Vegetation and Historical based. Hence, the contribution of this work can never be overestimated as the results and findings were all relevant to professionals and future possibilities in terms of attainment of hospitality, recreation, and tourism potentials in Bauchi state and Nigeria in general. It has been recommended that the government and stakeholders should strictly enforce the law that provides an enabling environment and logistics for developing geo-tourism resource attractions with potentials for hospitality, recreation, and tourism in Bauchi state and therefore, Nigeria.

Keywords: Geo-tourism, Resources, Attractions, Preserve, Recreation, Tourism

I. INTRODUCTION

In any visit to a destination, tourists engaged in activities and events that provide a focal point for the use of their leisure time. Attractions and activities are a basic element of any tourist's itinerary, in some cases the attractions, events or activity may be the main motive of the visit. Attractions involved natural, e.g., the environment, scenic beauty, vegetation, etc. as a resource which tourists use at a destination; and human-made resources as an attraction, e.g., the building, facility, etc. which add colour to and support the tourist's stay at the place visited. Tourism resources which combine both natural and human resources of an area are key elements of supply of tourism services by industries [1]. The experience of a community or region where tourism and outdoor recreation is well planned and developed suggests that the areas where potentials and existing resources are located if well packaged and promoted could be a tourist's generating destination as a result of factors capable of attracting visitors. Accordingly, increasing the inflow of visitors as well as the socio-cultural interaction, and revenue generation of the areas and community will help in recreation and tourism activities. Tourism is a significant area for developing or sustaining the economy, particularly in poor, less developed countries [2]. Geo-tourism is an alternative or nature-base tourism and could be practiced in natural or urban area [3]. Alternatively, same authors [3] added that the National Geographic views geo-tourism as geographical tourism which embraces geographical characteristics (i.e., diverse natural and cultural features of a place) as tourism attraction. Likewise, Geo-tourism has shown substantial growth all over the world and it is also valued as a useful tool for promoting natural and cultural heritage for fostering local and regional economic development especially within rural areas [4].

There is limited awareness about existing geo-tourism resource attractions in various areas in Bauchi with their types as it relates to hospitality, recreation, and tourism, and how to use them for sustainable development. However, physical resources for outdoor recreation activities in various areas, their types as it relates to recreation and tourism, and how individuals can use them have a noticeable influence on them.

It is against this background that this study sought to review the Geo-tourism attractions of Bauchi state with the potentials for recreation and tourism geo-tourism resources in Bauchi state with potentials for hospitality, recreation, and tourism development.

Objectives

1. To identify how the geo-tourism attractions in Bauchi state could be used for hospitality, recreation, and tourism purposes.
2. To locate the direction of geo-tourism resource attractions in Bauchi state for hospitality, recreation, and tourism purposes.
3. To assess the influence of the geo-tourism resource attractions towards hospitality, recreation, and tourism purposes.
4. To appraise the impact of the geo-tourism resource attractions on Bauchi state towards hospitality, recreation, and tourism purposes.

Theoretical Framework

The study is theoretical in nature, data was obtained from organization's reports, journals, tourism magazines and other existing literature related to the subject that are reliable. The sections concern with three theoretical issues: geo-tourism resource attractions, sustainable management techniques, and how to attract tourists in Bauchi state, Nigeria. The framework is based on the theory of [5] who presents tourism supply as being comprised of natural resources and environment, operating sectors e.g., establishments/industries, hospitality and cultural resource.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Geo-tourism components

It is not a surprise to note that not all people wish to see hospitality, recreation, and

tourism taking place in their community despite the availability of tourism and recreation resources in the areas. On this note, Robinson as cited in [6] shows up a list of tourism components that have been termed as geo-tourism resource attractions. In the same way, these are brought out as accessibility and location; space; scenery; landforms, (e.g., mountains canyons, coral, reefs chaffs, etc.); water (e.g., rivers, lakes, waterfalls, geysers, glaciers, the sea); vegetation (e.g., forests, grasslands, moors, deserts, etc.); climate (e.g., sunshine, clouds, temperature conditions, rain, and snow); animal life and other. The above resources influence participation in different forms of tourism. Similarly, [7] identifies the following forms of geo-tourism and recreation resources as key components: Land-based resources; Water-based resources; Vegetation based resources; Climatic based resources, and Historical based resources. The subsequent table further reveals additional components. However, the purpose of this study is not to re-identify what is already known but rather to update, categorize them based on components and explore the usefulness of such in various tourism and recreational activities, and to recommend appropriate recreational activities for each category of resources. Tourism is a combination of products/services and experiences that meet different range of needs [1]. Geo-tourism resources are normally physical features that are appreciated by the tourists and are economically beneficial to the state.

Geographical Resources in Bauchi and Environs

With the above noted, Bauchi state is not left behind in terms of such unique resources comprising of both natural and human-made attraction (existing and potential) of which it is naturally blessed. Correspondingly, the abundant natural resources in Nigeria has provided the country with a strong foundation on which to build a motivated tourism industry, especially in Bauchi state. In this regard, [8] states that physical resources exist and are identified in Bauchi state. Such bountiful resources are located in different areas/communities and have the potentials for recreation and tourism. These could further be categorized in Table 1 below:

Table 1: List of Type/component, names of geo-tourism resource attractions and recreational activity

S/N	Type/component of resources	Name of resources	Recreational activity
1	Water-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gubi dam ○ Swimming pool ○ Maladumba lake ○ Wikki warm spring 	Water sports e.g. Swimming, Boating/canoeing/Ball games/Recreation,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mawulgo warm spring ○ Gwana warm spring ○ Dimil cold spring 	Honeymoon/Exploration/Photography/Others
2	Wildlife-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lame Bura Game Reserve ○ Yankari Game Reserve (GR) ○ Sumu Wildlife Park 	Game viewing, Safari, Safari/Wilderness activities/ Holiday/Others
3	Vegetation-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Across the wildlife areas 	Sightseeing/Recreation/Wilderness activities/Safari/Nature watch (e.g. bird watching)/ Adventure/Others
4	Cultural-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Religious festivals ○ Cultural festivals ○ Durbar festivals 	Event activities (e.g. durbar, display of local culture)/ Religious/Heritage/Cultural/ Photography/Holiday/Others
5	Sites and Monuments-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palaces of Emirs of: Bauchi, Dass, Ningi, Jama'are, Katagum, Misau ○ Tomb of Nigeria's first Prime Minister (Declared a National Monument in 1979) ○ Tomb of Mallam Zaki ○ Tomb of Ten Emirs of Katagum ○ First European Settlement at Gadau ○ The first Mining Beacon at Tilden Fulani ○ Panshanu Stone Heaps ○ Geji Rock Paintings ○ Rimin Jigawa Rock (Dutsin Shira) ○ Mbula Rock, Dass ○ Rijiyar Kawada, Darazo ○ Babban Gwani, Kafin Madaki, ○ Babban Gwani, traditional architecture inside Emir's Palace ○ State Museum 	Heritage/Cultural/ Historic visits/ Sightseeing/Special interest/Others Special interest/Historic visits/ Heritage/Culture/Sightseeing / Photography/Others
6	Facility-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium, ○ Open Air Theatre, ○ Gymnasium Hall, ○ Multi-purpose Indoor Sport Hall, ○ Hotels, 	Sports/Fitness activities/ Recreation/Cultural Events/Holiday/Gastronomy/ MICE - Meetings, Conventions, Conferences & Events/ Others
7	Historical-based resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marshal caves, situated in Yankari, Game Reserve 	Historic visit/Heritage/Cultural/

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Borkono caves, situated in Yankari, Game Reserve ○ Dukkey wells, situated in Yankari, Game Reserve ○ Ampara ancient iron smelting furnaces situated in Yankari Game Reserve ○ Park museum in Yankari Game Reserve ○ State museum ○ First Juma'at Mosque in Bauchi ○ City walls in the six emirate councils 	Special interest/ Adventure/ Photography/Excursion/Others
8	Arts and Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leather crafts centers (hand-made) ○ Mats weaving centers (hand-made) ○ Blacksmithing centers (local) ○ Pottery centers (local) ○ Calabash carving centers ○ Traditional dress making centers 	Special interest/ Heritage/Cultural/ Souvenirs/Shopping trip/ Photography/Others
9	Parks and Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eagle Sino Children Amusement Park ○ Cinderella Children Amusement Park 	Children recreation/ Entertainment/Play/Children Events/Others
10	Event Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Double 4 Event Center ○ The Event Center ○ Mai-Sango Event Center ○ Jarmai Garden 	Meetings, Conventions, Conferences & Events (MICE)/ Wedding reception/ Others

Information was sourced from [9]; while the table was drafted by the authors with additional details in 2020.

Given the above [10] further added, tourists' services such as accommodations are impossible to stock and have to be consumed when and where they exist. The authors point out that tourism is significant in land use, while conflict and its resolution must be achieved through competent management; since time immemorial, sightseeing has always been a major tourist activity [11]. Accordingly, tourism resources serve as either attraction sites or forces that influence tourists to travel to a destination. However, every tourist is attracted by other factors such as education, religion, medical/health, etc. As noted earlier, the resources serve as either attraction sites or forces that influence tourists to travel to a destination. Conversely, land-based resources may include exceptional topography sites, e.g., relief area, mountain, hills, and certain unique landforms [6].

B. Plan for Tourism and Recreation Development for the Community

Tourism plan is a "crisscross" matrix plan with many levels, multiple programs and disciplines [3]. This means it is a network of numerous activities and events involving different areas of specialization. To plan for tourism and recreation development in Bauchi state, the need to consider many issues is essential. Bringing together the numerous physical resources for promotion stimulates recreation and tourism development. Tourism could contribute to the betterment of the lives of communities, the environment, and the culture of a region that is well planned and implemented sustainably [12], [13]. Certain recreational activities are sporty and require an enabling environment, facilities, and kits to engage in. Similarly, certain factors need to be considered as well. The following factors are to be considered when planning for a recreational sports facility and are applicable in this respect as recommended by [14]:

- Consider the community involved in building the structures or facilities;
- The cultures and interests of the people;
- The geographical location of the area e.g. Forests Mountains, rivers, waterfalls, vegetation, etc. to provide hunting related sports, Water-related sports e.g. swimming, canoeing fishing, etc.;
- Consider the age groupings; for example, 0-5 (children), 6-12 (youth), 13-19 (Adolescents), 20 and above (Adults), and others;
- The type of community you are planning for, their interest i.e., if it is an institutional community, etc.;
- The law guiding the construction of recreational facilities;
- The money involved, i.e., budget;
- Security Involved, e.g., the police, civil defence, volunteers, etc.
- Land required for recreation and tourism;
- Personnel to operate the sectors/outfits;
- Facilities needed;
- The economic viability of the facilities you are putting in place among others;

On the contrary, not every project is accepted by the local community, some people might reject it for not seeing any significance in it, while others accept it. In another perspective, [15] gave classifications of how to make resource viable and sustainable, which are relevant in the planning and development process. This suggests that effective participation in tourism and recreation in Bauchi can never be underestimated. In the same way, these have to do with infrastructural facilities, i.e., good road, electricity, and water supplies in all the located areas of the resources so that tourists would not be disappointed whenever they patronize the sites' attractions, accommodation, and catering services. Not only tour operators but also travel agencies, financial institutions and bureau de-change, etc., should be in place for proper service to the tourists whenever they are in Bauchi state for tourism consumption.

C. Sustainable management techniques in geo-tourism resource attractions

Certain techniques should consider a checklist of unexpected variable factors such as Checking; mass tourism; interest of ecotourism; objectives of racks; balance impact; carrying capacity of the natural environments; a range of recreation opportunities, and planning system steps for carrying capacity, and others [6].

In the same way, [16] described that tourism is a great boom, but further suggests we can make it an even greater boom by harmonizing nature with tourism. Noting from the above discussion, therefore, clearly, it is important to put into consideration some factors when planning for recreation and tourism development such as the existing resources because they are currently being used by the tourists; the potential resources because the resources qualified as latent and can only be determined by users or investors. Such resources could be natural or man-made, tangible, or intangible. Consider the demand and supply issue about hospitality, tourism, and recreation assessment, it could eventually help in satisfying the visitors' motives at a destination. Since these issues have a spatial concern, thus, the need to consider place, space, area location/ site, situation, environment, and setting; consider the pattern of demand of the total population, demand for a particular activity, and demand at individual sites. When these are satisfied it could further add values to visitor's experience. Similarly, consider the flow pattern of the visitor's demand. The key issues here are origin and destination i.e., where do the users come from? What is the overriding decision for the movement? A pattern of demand for the total population helps to track the level of patronage in terms of area or region. Furthermore, demand for particular activities is concerned with hospitality, tourism, and recreation activities people engaged in; while the demand for individual activities, i.e. looking at the combination of activities at the site equally significant. It can be formal activities in restricted areas, or informal activity in rural terrain e.g. mountaineering/mountain climbing or hiking, trekking, etc.

D. How to attract potential visitors in Bauchi state

By attracting tourism consumers to the product at the point of production rather than the other way, rural tourism catalyzes development in the tourist receiving region/country. In consideration of the tourism products and services as mentioned earlier, all the tourism resources areas in Bauchi state must consider that the resources ought to be properly harnessed for a sustainable purpose; visitors' information and marketing services about all the available and potential tourism resources must exist; there should be a place to stay for the tourists such as standard hotel accommodation of various room categories and facilities for meetings/seminars and sports, etc., such accommodation setting could be traditional or modern to offer varieties of choice; and an effective

marketing efforts to communicate and sell the tourism products to the consumers among others.

To sum up, geo-tourism resource attraction is understood in the geographical point of view, narrowly on land-base, water-base, vegetation-base, facility-base, historical-base resources, etc., with a view of clearly identifying the existing and potential resources and matching them with related activities for sustainable purpose.

III. METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objectives, the study adopts a secondary research method. This is based on geo-tourism resource components under which various attractions are found as identified by [7]. These include land-based resources, water-based resources, vegetation-based resources, climatic-based resources, and historical-based resources.

To justify that the above geo-tourism resource attractions have potentials for hospitality, recreation, and tourism, certain considerations have to be made. This is because tourism is known to be a product mainly built on natural, human-made, and cultural resources, alongside recreational facilities. Fortunately, such possessions abound in many areas of Bauchi state.

Although in a secondary method, data may not facilitate particular research questions, information regarding study design and data collection procedure may be scarce [17]; however, its data may be of higher quality and it saves time and money [18].

IV. DISCUSSION

Past research has shown that tourism attractions are key to sustaining the local tourism development, as they are the main features of tourism products (for example, [19], [20]). This means that the above resources could influence participation in different forms of tourism activities. Traditionally, sightseeing has for long been a major tourist activity [11]. Conversely, when such resources are available it would offer an enabling environment for tourists at a tourism destination. This suggests that in a destination, tourism attractions provide essential recreation and entertainment opportunities for inbound visitors to satisfy their primary travel motivations [21]. It shows that geo-tourism resources can pull visitors with different motives to where they are found. Also, due to their type and nature, the resources have certain peculiarities which determine how and when they could be used. For this reason,[15] emphasized on how to make resources viable, sustainable and relevant in the planning and development process, for example, not every

project is accepted by the local community, some might see it as insignificant.

In the same way, some tourism sectors have not been given the required attention they deserve, which could be the main reason why they are not considered as part of the sector. As a result, not only, the potential resources are untapped to put into use, but also the existing attractions are underutilized.[16found that tourism when harmonized with nature it could become greater.

V. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the harmonization of the entire group in preliminary planning is to give bountiful ideas on how to start the project. The development of tourism resources especially in Bauchi state is a development of the state and Nigeria at large, therefore, the government should give attention to it owing to its potentials. As a result, it could attract local and international investors because some tourism sites seem to be intentionally left for potential investors, but how to attract them is a key factor. Certain communities do revolt in an attempt to put a project in their area which they regard as not beneficial to them. This might affect its successful implementation. All geo-tourism resource attractions serve as either attraction site(s) or force(s) that influence(s) tourists to visit every destination where they are situated. Thus, the need for proper planning and development with sound tourism policy implementation is crucial in a community where such resources are found. While this will help to persuade potential users and/or visitors to the hospitality, recreation, and tourism sites, they rise the inflow of visitors, increase interactions among people of various communities (as the hosts) and the visitors, maximize the revenue generation of the destination and increase job and income multiplier. As a result, the business regenerates to provide more opportunities for others among many benefits. This means more job creation in Bauchi state and subsequently reduces the burden on the government (the three-tiers) upon which most people depend. However, the sector has been seriously affected by the current Corona Virus pandemic which bedeviled the world ending the year 2019. The pandemic "Covid-19" has collapsed many sectors of the tourism industry not only in Bauchi state but in Nigeria, Africa, and the world at large. With good support of stakeholders, tourism excels in an environment free of human-made and natural disaster.

VI. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Physical resources should be identified by experts in the field of tourism and enlisted in the tourism and recreation sites in each community;
- Natural and human-made resources comprising of both tangible and intangible should be harnessed for proper planning and development for socio-cultural, economic, and technological development of the community and the state at large as per as they constitute tourism attractions of the area;
- Device effective and efficient marketing practices that will attract potential users of the attractions and maintain existing visitors as well. This could be done through publicity and public relations, appropriate site promotion, proper use of social media networks with good response to visitors' reviews for improvement of service provision.
- There should be well-established contact with stakeholders in the community where tourism projects when established will enhance harmonious relationships with a clear understanding of the impact of the project on the socio-economic life of the local community because it would be beneficial to both the people and the state.
- Since Bauchi state has vast, beautiful green grasslands and deserts, animals, birds, fascinating human beings with diverse cultures, which could attract potential users of such resources for hospitality, tourism, and recreation purposes if well harnessed, attention should be shifted towards that area to achieve success.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be conducted for proper implementation of the planning process, where experts in various fields would be involved to offer advice.

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