

Tourism Development in Yobe State (A Case of Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary)

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Abstract— The study investigates tourism development in Yobe State with particular reference on Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary in the Chad Basin National Park. The study relied on personal observations, questionnaires and interviews to generate useful information with the view to examine the development of tourism potential of Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary and assess the level of tourism patronage by tourist, as well as to examine the factors impinging on the development of the Sanctuary. Data were collected through structured and unstructured interviews with research participants. A random sampling techniques method was adopted for the data collection. Purposive sampling techniques was also applied to include persons aged 25 years and have attained secondary school level of education and above. 60 questionnaires were distributed in three locations of GadanKargo, Dala and Dagona villages neighboring communities in the study area, where 15, 15 and 30 questionnaires were allocated to each village respectively, and 52 were retrieved. Data were analyzed using descriptive approach. About 88% of the people interviewed showed that there is low level of tourist arrival to the Sanctuary, hence, the study identified the effects faced in ensuring tourism development in Yobe State, including insufficient funding, inadequate infrastructure facilities and publicity, and lack of master plan for its physical development among others, indicating the low level of tourism development at the barest minimum. Appropriate recommendations have been suggested that can be implemented to achieve the objectives of developing tourism in Yobe State of Nigeria.

Index Terms— Chad Basin, Dagona, Infrastructure, National Park, Sanctuary, Tourism, Yobe.

I. INTRODUCTION

Human beings have the basic and innate desire to travel. They like to visit attractive places within means at any material time.

According to Satpathi, (1986) viewed tourism as a post-World War II phenomenon and is now a major item in international trade, perhaps the biggest international business activity next oil. It can also be seen on an economic platform which is regarded as a viable source of revenue which nations cannot afford to ignore. In fact, Nnebe (1987) opined that tourism is a multi-million-dollar industry which a number of countries drive a greater percentage of their revenue, for example Italy, Kenya, Bermuda and others. Economically, tourism is one aspect of international trade which can in ideal circumstance lead to a reduction in internal trade deficits and corresponding better foreign exchange earnings.

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Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary Lake, in has an area coverage of approximately 344 ha; located at 12°48'N 010°44'E is in Yobe State, Nigeria. A large, natural, seasonally flooded oxbow lake that falls in the section of Hadejia - Jamaare River floodplain within the Chad Basin National Park, is a wetland of international importance. The site supports over 25 bird species and is one of the most important sites in the Hadejia - Nguru wetlands for wintering Palearctic and inter-African migrant water birds. It also provides a breeding site for the Grey heron and Little Egret. The lake also supports a wide range of fish species, and is an important source of drinking water for local cattle. The sanctuary is under protection as part of the Chad Basin National Park, hence, under the multiple use management, within the site free access to wild resources (wild animals, fish, birds) is forbidden. However, grazing and collection of wild resources are practiced by the local population, and there is therefore a need for more stringent enforcement of existing laws. (Ramsar site no. 1753. Most recent RIS information: 2008), hence, an important attraction site for international tourism development.

Despite the attention and financial allocation given to tourism by both the government and non-governmental organisations (NGO's) in Yobe State, nothing has been achieved in practical terms to develop or harness the tourism potentials into reality in tourist attraction areas. Even in view of the corresponding foreign exchange earnings that tourism will generate for the state and the country at large, it is still left at the background in terms of infrastructure facilities development.

The proper provision of infrastructure facilities in Dagona sanctuary will bring economic, social and physical benefits to the people of the area. The non-chalet attitude towards tourism development is attributed largely to emphasis given on economic planning with less consideration for physical planning. Therefore, there is need to integrate both economic and physical planning for a viable and sustainable tourism development in Nigeria and Yobe State in particular.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS

Preliminary investigation reveals that the level or phase of development in Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary in terms of tourism is not encouraging or negligible. The Sanctuary is blessed with numerous tourist attractions, natural endowment, good spectacular scenery, panoramic views to mention a few (tourism clusters), but it is however, very disheartening to notice that little or nothing is done in practical terms to develop them for the purpose of tourism or

eco-tourism activities that will bring fruitful results to the state and the country at large. The Sanctuary lacks infrastructural facilities such as good roads network, portable water and electricity. Others include comfortable accommodations, shops, security post and clinics, that will enhance the development of tourism and attract tourist to the destination.

III. AIM

The aim of this study is to examine the tourism potentials, level of infrastructure provision, and factors affecting tourism development in the Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary.

IV. OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the tourism potential of Dagona Sanctuary;
2. To assess the level of provision of tourism infrastructural facilities in the Sanctuary;
3. To assess the level of patronage of the Dagona sanctuary by tourists;
4. To examine factors impinging on the development of the tourism potentials of the sanctuary.

V. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Research into aspect of tourism is an essential component of the development process at both national and international, rural and urban levels. It is relevant to real life situation and for planning. Many developed and developing countries are presently looking forward towards tourism development as an industry second to petroleum in terms of revenue generation and a corresponding foreign exchange earnings and balance of payment in an effort to diversify their economy, Nigeria inclusive. Tourism when fully developed brings rapid development to a nation, region, state and the community by bringing some betterment in the areas concern, and it also creates employment opportunities for the unemployed.

However, this research is just a preliminary study, it can be used by other researchers for further investigation within and outside the state so that the image of tourism development will be portrayed and the government on its part can note the recommendations when formulating policies to improve tourism development.

VI. ASSUMPTIONS

- a. It is assumed that tourism development in Yobe state is low.
- b. Non-recognition of the importance of tourism has a significant relationship to the inadequate provision of infrastructural facilities in the study area.
- c. Low level of patronage by tourist is attributed to lack of publicity and inadequate infrastructure facilities in the study area.

VII. LITERATURE REVIEW

Attempts at documenting and ensuring efficient tourism development have gain prominence in the literature

especially during the present dispensation. In this review, efforts are made particularly at reviewing the works of the different scholars or authors and organisations who have documented various authoritative views on tourism development.

The definition of tourism has been a very complex subject. Agreement concerning the scope and nature of the tourism industry has been difficult to secure because there is no single universal definition of tourism that is acceptable for all occasions by every profession or discipline. Most industries are usually defined from a supply side approach – in terms of the commodities they produce or the activities they undertake – but for tourism many of the existing definitions have focused on tourist and their motivation or tourism as a phenomenon and have, therefore, been almost exclusively demand based. The definition of tourism also varies from country to country and it is also defined at individual levels.

The World Tourism organisation (WTO) define tourism as a discretionary travel by individuals and families for business, military activity, education, and excursion or family visitation purposes. This helps to explain why families persist in going to crowded sites for sightseeing and while they decided to put up with crowded groups at beaches, restaurants, places of amusement or other places of natural interest to view new sites or recreation areas whereby their environment would not provide or they become monotonous in their environment. Within the UK the definition in most general use is that of the Tourism Society which is broad based and encompasses tourism and leisure activities:

Tourism denotes the temporary short term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during their stay at these destinations. This definition includes domestic and international tourism comprising day visits, for holidays, leisure, and conferences (Tourism Society Handbook), it also includes the activity undertaken which is useful since it permits for the examination of the industry as a producer of “tourism products” including leisure and recreation, that meet the visitor’s needs.

Early geographers defined tourism as a distant and significant land use and the major component was land and the changes in use.

Pearce, (1981) also gave another definition of tourism as the relationship and phenomenon arising out of the journeys and temporary stay of people travelling primarily for leisure and recreation. Humxiker and krap in the Nigeria National Parks (1995) also defined tourism as the sum of the phenomenon and relationship arising from the travel and stay of non-residents in a destination in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected in any form of earning activities.

The definitions of Pearce, Humxiker and Krap agree with each other in the sense that, they emphasized the terms relationship and phenomenon arising out of people’s temporal travels. These relationship and phenomenon can be attributed to the recreational activities enjoyment, excursion activities, educational, social, sightseeing, catering services, accommodation, Banking services, park viewing, wilderness, fishing festivals and cultural festivals.

In view of the overriding importance attached to tourism, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 1987, declared that "Tourism is a basic and most desirable human activity deserving the praise and encouragement of all the people and government". The (UNGA) see the importance of tourism in the development aspect that will bring to a nation economically, socially and physically. They assumed that tourism will bring overall development to a country, which needs adequate handling.

On the physical front tourism can fastened rural development, (Fatima, 1995). The creation of a tourist attraction in an area quickens the pace of development of such an area because of the provision of infrastructure facilities such as roads, electricity, pipe borne-water, hotel, catering services etc. In essence tourism development will ensure the development of physical infrastructure in an area which will consequently bring about a corresponding development of the areas where the tourist attraction is located thus enhancing rural development.

In the same vain, modern phenomenon and technological advancement has made tourism an industry complete of its own, tourism is one of the major elements in the balance of payment of many countries and an important factor in international trade. It is a major industry in Britain, Russia, United States of America, Spain etc. while some few developing countries like Kenya, and Tanzania are known to be dependent mainly on the proceeds of this industry particularly wildlife tourism (Au, 1995). Tourism industry involves substantial amount of money to be accrued from it, since tourism encompasses supportive industries, enterprises, resources and leisure.

The English Tourist Board, (1991) was quick to seize upon the potential of recreation and tourism to create employment opportunities in a new tourism industry for the unemployed such as tourist guide, hoteliers, and transporters with other varying employment opportunities attached to the tourism industry.

Economically, tourism is one aspect of foreign exchange earnings. For a developing country like Nigeria, tourism, if embraced with vigour will offers a genuine prospect to a substantive foreign exchange earning to compliment the exportation of petroleum resources. The expected revenue generated from tourism development come from transportation, accommodation, banking services etc. International and domestic tourist pay minimal fee and taxes for some of the services and payments will provide a source of revenue drive for the country. Culture on the other hand plays the most significant role in the development of Tourism industry. To ascertain this claim, (Devi, 1989) emphasizes that a region, state or community that is rich in culture, traditions, festivals, and dance will attract a large number of tourists from all over the globe. In effect tourism and culture are intricately interrelated whereby people and their manifestations provide a lot of attractions to the tourists.

Socio- culturally tourism is a capable tool of socialization, breaking real and imaginary barriers amongst people of the world. This is exemplified in the areas of sporting, excursion, exploration and visits because tourists move from one country to another and hence appreciate the values, ways of

life and beliefs of the new culture. Similarly, the recipient culture learns something from the visiting tourist no matter how small or little (Fatima 1995).

More importantly, tourists nor only bring money to a region; they also carry along a strong and visible life-style. Their dress and address, food habits and marry-making manners all bring some newness and uniqueness in the region of their travel. Their life-style sometimes give pleasures to the residents of the locality and then to adopt the same unwittingly, this sometimes causes strong cultural tight.

However, many people viewed tourism development at the negative angle as being a significant factor that has contributed inversely to some of the social malice of the day and one that is adulterating the people's culture, though the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) considers tourism as a means of bringing or contributing to international understanding, peace, prosperity and universal respect for observance of human rights and fundamental freedom for all without difference to race, sex, language or religion.

Tourism brings a number of positive cultural and social changes too, such as cultural consciousness re-awakening social regeneration and preservation are good symptoms of modern tourism. It resulted in the restoration of architectural monuments, buildings and preservation of important landscape. Without tourism these may have been allowed to slowly decay without notice into depletion which would have historic importance to the incoming generations (sustainability).

A. *The Chad Basin National Park*

Chad Basin National Park is one of the seven (7) National Parks in Nigeria, under the overall administration of the Nigeria National Park Service (NNPS), a Federal Parastatal under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Environment established by Act 46 of 1999 (LFN Cap 65 of 2004). The Park has the same organizational structure as the six (6) sister Parks, (Cross River, Gashaka-Gumpti, Kainji Lake, Old Oyo and Yankari National parks), being operated under Category II of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources otherwise known as the World Conservation Union (WCU). However, Kainji and Yankari National Parks are the most developed infrastructural and otherwise.

B. *Wetlands*

The Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands is an extensive area of floodplain located in the north-eastern Sudano-Sahel ecological zone of Nigeria that some part forms one of the three sectors of the Chad Basin National Park within which the study area (Dagona waterfowl Sanctuary) falls, covering an area of approximately 3,500 square kilometers, it is situated where two rivers (Hadejia and Jama'are) flow through a fossil dune field before converging and draining into Lake Chad. The Wetlands play a major role in the recharge of groundwater in the Komadugu-Yobe Basin and also harbour large numbers of diverse species of wildlife, particularly Palearctic and Afrotropical migrant water birds.

The Wetlands have played a prominent role in the economy of the region for centuries, as evidenced by the historical importance of urban centres, such as Hadejia and Gorgoram. Adams (1993a) attributes this importance to

annual flooding, which results in one of the most biologically productive areas in northeastern Nigeria. This seasonal inundation supports the export of agro-pastoral surpluses and a higher density of population with relatively high levels of nutrition and income. During drought years, the importance of flooded areas increases, attracting many temporary immigrants from surrounding areas. In addition, the Wetlands play a vital role in the economy of the semi-nomadic Fulani pastoralists, who graze their livestock in the area during the dry season. An estimated one million inhabitants live in the Wetlands with the predominant ethnic groups being the Hausa, Fulani, Kanuri and Bede; it appears as though a large number of people have immigrated since 1963, particularly during the years of severe drought in the region (Adams 1993a). The financial benefits of major agricultural outputs in the Wetlands has been estimated at approximately N6 billion (US\$75 million; Barbier et al. 1993 p4), much of which is exported to other parts of the country. Over 250,000 heads of cattle are reared in the area, supporting a cattle trade with an annual turnover of over N400 million (US\$5 million). An annual catch of over 6,000 metric tonnes of fish with a market value of N480 million (US\$6 million; Barbier et al. 1993) is also provided by the Wetlands. This makes Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary one of the potential tourism destination in the region and the nation at large.

VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND STUDY AREA

A. Method of data collection

Data were collected through primary and secondary source. Questionnaires were used as an instrument for data collection. A random sampling techniques method was adopted for the data collection. Purposive sampling techniques was also applied to include persons aged 25 years and have attained secondary school level of education and above. 60 questionnaires were distributed in three locations of GadanKargo, Dala and Dagona villages, the neighboring communities in the study area, and 15 questionnaires were allocated to GadanKargo, 15 questionnaires to Dala and 30 questionnaires to Dagona villages respectively, where 52 were retrieved, A site visit to the study area was also undertaken for personal observations. Formal interviews were also conducted with the head of department of eco-tourism and some of the dwellers in the study area. Journals, books, websites, research projects among others, were also consulted.

B. The Study Area

The study area location falls within Bade-Nguru Wetlands sector of the Chad Basin National Park which is also part of the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands with an area of 938 km² round, 12°40'00"N and 10°30'00"E. It lies in the southwest of the Bade and Jakusko Local Government Areas of Yobe State. The sector includes the Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary (the study area), an important resting place for migratory birds. It also includes five forest reserves.

Annual rainfall ranges between 200–600 mm, during the period late May–September. With reduced flooding due to upstream dams and perhaps climate change, and with increasing population, the environment is degrading. There is

growing competition between humans and wildlife.

IX. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the study on tourism development in Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary, one notices that, it has diverse and enormous points of attractions located sporadically. The Waterfowl Sanctuary which is one among the three sectors of the Chad Basin National Park covers an area of 938 km² around coordinates 12°40'0"N 10°30'0"E Sahel zone of Yobe and Borno states. This study revealed that it was a game reserve which was upgraded to a status of national park and it was later officially declared as one of the sectors within Hadejia-Nguru World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2014.

The study shows that the sanctuary has an intricate patchwork of woodland, and grassland. It has spectacular scenery as hallmark, with magnificent panoramic views and other areas of interest found at various corner which harbour large numbers of diverse species of wildlife, particularly Palearctic and Afrotropical migrant water birds, plants and animals of both Sudano Sahel and forest ecological zones.

The Sanctuary has different points of attraction like, rivers and flooded water for sport fishing and cruising with both traditional and modern speed boats, and also the discovery of various species of fish that can help promote eco-tourism activities in the state. Another point of attraction is the irrigation farming activities during the dry season that produces variety of fresh vegetable products and the annual fishing festivals organized by different local communities in the area (such as the annual Gogaram Fishing Festival) in Gogaram village. The over 250,000 heads of cattle that are reared in the area, supporting a cattle trade with an annual turnover of over N400 million (US\$5 million) is a point of attraction to tourist.

In the study the problem that hitherto is lingering round those areas of attraction is lack of infrastructure development to harness these points of tourist attraction to meet national and international standards level of its counter parts in the country and other part of the world.

The study reveals that, the low patronage of tourist to the sanctuary is attributed to a lot of problems which includes among others; inadequate infrastructure facilities to support tourist nationally and internationally. For instance it is discovered from the study that, the total number of motorable roads is only about 48km compared to the overall area of 938 km² which is grossly inadequate to covey tourist round the sanctuary for tourism activities successfully.

It is also ascertained by the study that, the visiting periods in the sanctuary is only in dry season, because it is inaccessible during raining seasons (from May–November) owing to the clayey nature of the soil and the over flooding of the available access roads. Also lack of bridges across the rivers make movement in raining season inaccessible for visitors, (this period is important for official visits and research). Also of importance is that, there is inadequate supportive facilities in the sanctuary to attract visitors, such as; portable water, electricity, clinics, shops, security post to mention just a few. It lacks accommodation facilities, however, it was discovered that limited catering accommodation is available inside Dagona village.

The research discovered that, the park lack transportation facilities to serve tourist on their tour, visitors have to rely on their own means of transport from either Nguru or Gashua to the main heart of the Sanctuary at Dagona village, for there are no official vehicles to convey visitors into and around the sanctuary. In the study area, it shows that the Sanctuary is yet to have an expert who would plan and implement what it supposed to showcase.

The lack of tourist patronage to this park is a result of lack of supportive facilities to encourage tourist. Most of the few visitors received are resident expatriate who come as consul or visitation experts in recreation like sport fishing exotic bird watching and conservation.

It was also gathered that lack of funds to developed some of the tourist attractions and tourism in general constitute the basic problem. The Federal Government allocation for the development of capital projects in the park especially conservation is inadequate talk less of tourism, in essence the amount earmark for capital projects is too negligible to develop tourism industry.

The people within the area are mostly peasant farmers with low level of income couple with illiteracy make it difficult for tourism development. Their low level of income makes it impossible to develop the industry such that, they will not be able to patronize the facilities provided in absence of external tourist (national and international) to keep the industry moving.

Another problem discovered during the study is the dilapidated nature of the road linking the Nguru-Gashua-Dagona road with other parts of the country. The state of road is too poor couple with the narrow bridges linking the Dagona village with other parts of the state which cannot accommodate two vehicles at the same time

The study also discovered that, there is lack of publicity about the existence of the Sanctuary with its biodiversity and numerous natural potentials that is endowed with, which has contributed immensely to its low patronage and development.

Finally, and of most importance is that the Sanctuary is yet to have a master plan for its physical and overall development. The respondents argue that, lack of master plan to guide development makes it difficult to developed the Sanctuary and at what periods. The nonexistence of the master plan has affected the provision of infrastructure facilities that will subsequently lead to the overall development of tourism in the Sanctuary.

X. CONCLUSION

Tourism represent one of the basic human needs and has profound impact on the economic, cultural, physical and social life of individual, community and the nation at large. Recreation helps to contribute to the satisfaction of basic human needs for creative and self-expression, it helps to promote health, economic, physical and social benefits to strains and tension in life or daily activities.

Inspite of the importance attached to tourism there is a universal low awareness or knowledge of its importance to the economic, social, physical, and cultural upliftment. The situation is even pathetic in developing countries where there is little knowledge of the importance attached to tourism,

Nigeria as a country belongs to this category of countries.

Tourism development in Yobe State as indicated in the study is very low, which is related to the cold arm given to it by the government. The inadequacy or lack of development of the supportive facilities in the Sanctuary is expressed in lack of roads to take visitors in and around the various attraction points, lack of portable drinking water, clinics, accommodation, catering services, inadequate electricity etc. Non development of the tourist points of attraction in the Sanctuary constitute a threat to tourism development in Yobe state.

Though the Sanctuary has the potentials of becoming an international tourism centre in the state and the country at large, but lack of funds to develop the tourist sites is been emphasized by the study.

Numerous points of attractions existed in the Sanctuary but lack or inadequate publicity on what these tourist spots have to offer is another contributing factor to the low level of interest by the tourist. Similarly the absence of private sector participating in tourism projects is a factor which contributes to the low level of development of the tourism industry in the state.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of this, it is therefore, recommended that:

- 1) There is the need for government to encourage the development of the sanctuary by providing adequate funding for the execution of capital projects that will encourage tourist to visit the destination.
- 2) The provision of basic and supportive infrastructure facilities such as access roads, good accommodation, catering services, clinics, shops, camping site and etc; should be stepped out in the tourist attraction sites or centres.
- 3) The provision of low-priced accommodation should be provided by both the public and private sectors to enable the local communities of the area to patronized and benefit from the potentials of the sanctuary.
- 4) The government should encourage proper development of the environment of various places of tourist attraction in the Sanctuary and the state at large. One of the problems indicated in the study is inaccessibility to see the tourist attraction sites due to lack of transportation facilities. The government should ensure the expansion of facilities relating to transport by providing official vehicles to convey tourist in and around the park. Some of the rivers should be bridged or canoes be provided for effective conveying of tourist across the various part of the Sanctuary.
- 5) There is the need to provide and train tourism experts/professionals who will be able to implement tourism projects in the sanctuary (more emphasis should be given to in-house training).
- 6) The road linking the park with other parts of the country should be rehabilitated and expanded especially the Hadejia-Nguru-Gashua road.
- 7) The government should encourage the private sector participation in tourism development projects in the state inform of Public – Private – Participation (PPP).
- 8) Reference should be made to the maintenance and renovation of places of historical importance in and around

the study area to provide for tourism clusters.

9) Tourism information centers at selected places of importance should be established in order to furnish tourists with information about places of interest and the intensification of public enlightenment programs with the objective of attracting and increasing the number of both domestic and international tourists in the state.

10) The production of a comprehensive master plan for any tourism destination is very vital to guide its physical, economic, social-cultural and aesthetics development, hence, the need to provide a sustainable master plan for Dagona Waterfowl Sanctuary in Yobe State.

11) A bottom – up approach system of governance should be adopted by all stakeholders that are involved in the tourism industry for sustainable development.

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