

# TOURISM DEVELOPMENT: A TOOL FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT. A CASE STUDY OF ENUAMA AND ARAROMI SEA-SIDE OF ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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#### Abstract

Tourism is increasingly becoming a key tool in community development, with the emerging recognition of its economic contribution to bolstering stagnant economies as well as its inherent ability to integrate community members. Community development is a process that allows residents to come together to plan, generate solutions, and take concerted action on developing the social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of the community. This paper, therefore, examines tourism-development in the local communities of Enuama and Araromi sea-side in Ondo State, Nigeria. For quantitative data, one hundred and fifty (150) copies of a Questionnaire Schedule were administered on purposively selected residents of these local communities, while, for qualitative data, ten (10) complementary focused group-discussions (FGDs) were also conducted with residents. The study finds that with the beaches at the sea-side, coupled with the presence of white mangrove trees, the development of tourism in the area can build people's skills towards community development, can be a vital source to economic survival for both the local communities and the entire state, can raise necessary funds for community development, create jobs, enhance community-pride, and promote indigenous culture. It, however, suggests that using a self-help approach, with assistance from some nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and/or other intervention agencies, the residents in Enuama and Araromi sea-side should further exploit this naturally endowed area by actively engaging in sustainable strategies to create the necessary awareness for a viable tourist-centre.

Key words: Community, Development, indigenous culture, tourism

### Introduction

Tourism, according to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO, 2000) is the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. Tourism entails all the processes, activities, and outcomes arising from the relationships and the interactions among tourists, tourism suppliers, host governments, host communities and surrounding environments that are concerned in attracting and hosting visitors (Goeldner & Ritchie, 2006). Tourism is increasingly seen as a key community development tool, with the recognition of its economic contribution in bolstering stagnating economies and its ability to unify local community residents (Fennell, 2003). At community levels, tourism offered opportunities for direct, indirect, and induced employment and income, spurring regional and local economic development (Coccossis, 2004). Godfrey & Clarke (2000) opined that



tourism development is an ongoing process. It is not an economic panacea, and is best suited as a supplement to a local community for achieving development (Godfrey & Clarke, 2000). Bushell & Eagles (2007) says tourism plays a role in facilitating community development through business mentoring and educational opportunities that contribute to local communities in increasing skill and knowledge in local communities and local residents as well as improving the community's economic level. The process of tourism development is important as an essential tool in community development. Hence many local communities have turned to tourism development to provide economic, social, cultural and overall development of the community. Allen, et al., (1993) suggested that tourism is increasingly being viewed as an important component community development. However, while there is appreciation of tourism as a development tool, there is little understanding of tourism development in the literature. In recent years as local communities have realized the developmental promise of tourism, there has been also a growth in research on tourism and its contribution to community development (Aref, Gill and Aref, 2010).

The concept of community development is explored in terms of participation, empowerment and community capacity as they related to tourism development (Singh, Timothy, & Dowling, 2003). Community development can be seen as building social capital for collective benefits. It uses skill and knowledge and strategy in their practice (Gilchrist, 2004). Community development aims to increase citizens' participation in their community. In community development, emphasis is placed on community as a social system, bounded by geographical location or common interest (Talbot & Verrinder, 2005). Community development is linked to community capacity building through a shared focus of building capacity to a collective participatory force (Williams, 2004). Frank & Smith (1999) explains that community development is the planned evaluation of all aspects of community well-being. Community development is undertaken to strengthen or build community relationship and strengthen structures that have become fragmented (Yan, 2004). Gilchrist (2004) reveals that community development helps local community residents to identify unmet needs. It seeks to build capacity by improving skill and knowledge for individuals and the community as a whole (Gilchrist, 2004). Community development is viewed as the best way to build the capacity of community residents to engage with each other and find solutions to issues that affect their community. Hence the process of tourism development in local communities is the process of community development. Currently tourism is one of the dynamic economic activities in creating socio - economic changes across the world which has been increasingly important. On the other hand, the tourism sector is probably the only service sector that provides concrete and quantified trading opportunities for all nations, regardless of their level of development.



However, it is also a sector where there is clearly an uneven distribution of benefits, which is threatening the social, economic and environmental sustainability of tourism in some developing countries. For many developing countries tourism is one of fundamental pillars of their development process because it is one of the dominant activities in the economy, while for others, particularly islands and some small economies, it is the only source of foreign currency and employment, and therefore constitutes the platform for their economic development (Spanou, 2007). This paper, therefore, examines tourism-development and its socio- economic prospects in the local communities of Enuama and Araromi sea-side in Ondo State, Nigeria.

### **Tourism and Community Development**

Aref, Gill and Aref, (2010) demonstrated the contribution of tourism in community development with the figure below;

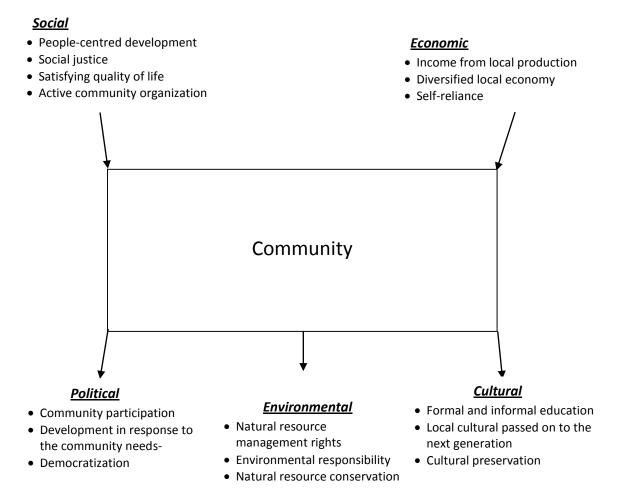


Figure 2: Contribution of Tourism in Community. Adapted from Strasdas (2005) & Suansri (2004)



According to the WTO (2015), international tourist arrivals at border posts across the globe were over the one billion mark in 2012. In 2014, the 10 most visited countries, measured by the number of international travelers are: France, 84 million; the United States of America(USA), 75 million; Spain, 65 million; China, 56 million; Italy, 49 million; Turkey, 40 million; Germany, 33 million; the United Kingdom(UK), 33 million; Russia, 30 million, and Mexico, 29 million. However, the USA leads the top 10 tourism earners for 2014, by grossing a whopping US177.2bn, representing both domestic and international tourism earnings. Others are Spain, US65.2bn; China, US56.9bn; France, US55.4bn; Italy, US45.5bn; the UK, US45.3bn; Thailand, US38.4bn; Australia, US32bn; and Turkey, US29.5bn. Macau and Hong Kong, both in Asia, which made US50.8bn and US38.4bn respectively are not included in the list, because they are not independent/sovereign nations as such (Akinnaso, 2016; Aruna, 2018). The figures above show that tourism brings in huge amounts of income into a local economy by way of payments for the goods and services needed by tourists. The goods typically bought by tourists range from souvenirs and local artwork to food, clothing etc. Similarly, transport, hospitality, and entertainment industries benefit immensely from tourism. Even more importantly, tourism also creates opportunities for employment, especially in related service industries such as health care, photography, etc. Indeed, it is estimated that tourism alone accounts for 30 per cent of the world's trade in services, rendered to tourists (Aruna, 2018).

# **Description of the Study Area**

Araromi and Enuama are in Aheri Kingdomin Ìlàje Local Government Area in Ondo State, South West Nigeria. Its headquarters are in the town of Igbokoda. The Ilajes are a distinct migratory coastal linguistic group of Yoruba peoples spread along the coastal belts of Ondo, Ogun, Lagos and Delta States, and originally made up of four geopolitical entities namely: Ode Ugbo, Ode Mahin, Ode Etikan and Aheri. While most towns and villages in the Mahin kingdom (Ode Mahin) are distributed on arable lands, the towns and villages in the other three geopolitics of Ugbo, Aheri and Etikan kingdoms are spread out along the beaches and swampy terrains of the Atlantic Ocean coast. Ilaje land has an area of 1,318 km<sup>2</sup> (509 sq mi) and a population of 290,615 at the 2006 census. Towards the western reaches, the Aheri and Etikan share border with the Ijebus. Apart from petroleum found in the area, other mineral raw materials available in Ilajeland include glass sand, salt, Tar sand/Bitumen, quartz and clay. Agricultural products include: Fish, Poultry, Piggery, Maize, Palm oil, Vegetables, Timber, Rafia, Poultry, Copra, cocoyam, Bananas and Cassava. The occupational activities of the Araromi and Enuama people just like the Ilajes include fishing, canoe making, lumbering, net making, mat making, launch building, farming and trading. Fishing however remains the major agricultural preoccupation of the Ilaje (Akingbe, 2013).



### **Data Collection Methods**

One hundred and fifty (150) copies of a Questionnaire Schedule were administered on purposively selected residents of these local communities. Ten (10) complementary focused group-discussions (FGDs) were also conducted with residents to gain more insight in the subject matter. Data generated with questionnaire were presented in simple percentage and frequency distribution tables. Data generated from the FGDs, which were conducted in local language, were recorded in both audiotapes and notebooks was subsequently transcribed and translated into English and presented in content analysis form.

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C/N		Encourance	Democrate as		
S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage		
1	Gender				
	Male	72	48.0		
	Female	78	52.0		
2	Occupation				
	Trader	20	13.3		
	Civil Servants	15	10		
	Entrepreneur	10	6.7		
	Fishing	100	66.7		
	Students	5	3.3		
3	Number of Years in the Community				
	5-10 years	5	3.3		
	11-15years	15	10		
	16-20years	60	40		
	20 and above years	70	46.7		
4	Educational Qualifications				
	No Formal Education	20	13.3		
	Primary School Qualifications	50	33.3		
	Secondary School Education/OND	60	40		
	HND/BSc Qualifications	20	13.3		

### Results

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MSc and above	-	-
Total	150	100

S/N	SOCIAL AND	SA	Α	U	D	SD
	ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM					
5	Tourism is an economic sector that is able to offer a significant contribution to the economic growth of area and creates occupation opportunities directly and indirectly through the supply of goods and the necessary services for tourist activities, it will be of tremendous help to the people of Enuama and Araromi.	80(53.3%)	50(33.3%)	10(6.7%)	10(6.7%)	
6	IF the area becomes a well organized tourist centre it will produce social benefits to the area and the entire State like; enterprises' development, creation of new jobs, improvement of infrastructure etc. Many unemployed youths will have jobs.	90(60%)	50(33.3%)	5(3.3%)	5(3.3%)	-
7	Tourism is considered as an element of community enrichment; this is attributed to the meeting of different cultures. If this area is well advertised, the communities will become a place of relaxation and tourist	85(56.7%)	45(30%)	15(10%)	5(3.3%)	-



r		1				
	centre for both local					
	and international tourists. And will					
	bring the communities into					
	limelight.					
8	Tourism can	65(43.3%)	50(33.3%)	20(13.3)	5(3.3%)	10(6.7%)
	positively contribute			()		
	to the maintenance of					
	natural environment					
	by protecting,					
	creating or					
	maintaining national					
	parks or other					
	protected areas.					
	When the beach area					
	has become					
	standardized and well					
	known, it will attract					
0	foreign investors.	00(52.22()	50(22.22())	10(670)	5(2,20)	5(2,221)
9	When the tourists	80(53.3%)	50(33.3%)	10(6.7%)	5(3.3%)	5(3.3%)
	centre is well sustained it will					
	increase the					
	population of the area					
	and enhance women					
	economic					
	participation.					
S/N	EFFECTS OF					
	TOURISM					
10	Local communities	70(46.7%)	50(33.3%)	10(6.7%)	10(6.7%)	10(6.7%)
	Enuama and Araromi					
	can mix with people					
	from diverse back-					
	grounds with					
	different lifestyles					
	which through					
	'demonstration					
	effect' may lead to					
	the development of					
	-					
	improved lifestyles					
	and practices from					
	the tourists'					
11	There can be an	80(53.3%)	55(36.7%)	5(3.3%)	5(3.3%)	5(.3.3%)
	improvement in local					
	life through better					
	local facilities and					
	infrastructure which					
	could lead to better					
	education, health					
	easeanon, neurin	1	1	1	1	1

Vol. 3 No.

Journal of General Studies ESUT ISSN 1115-6767 2. 2021

	care, employment opportunities. And more cultural and social events available for local people such as entertainment, exhibitions etc.					
12	Improvement in local life of the people, increase in population can lead to increase in crime rate and affect the indigenous culture and tradition negatively.	100(66.7%)	20(13.3%)	5(3.3%)	5(3.3%)	20(13.3%)

# Discussions of Findings Social Characteristics

Item one from the table indicates that 72(48.0%) of the respondents are males and 78(52.0%) are females. Item two from the table revealed that 20(13.3%) were traders, 15(10%) were civil servants, 10(6.7%) were entrepreneurs, and majority 100(66.7%) were into fishing which indicates that the residents in the study area are mainly into fishing business. While only 5(3.3%) of the respondents were students. Item three from the table reveals that, 5(3.3%) of the respondents have lived between 5-10 years in the communities, 15(10%) have lived up to 11-15 years, 60(40%) have lived 16-20years, while the majority 70(46.7%) have live in the communities for 20 and above years. Item four from the table, further shows that 20(13.3%) of the respondents have no formal education, 50(33.3%) have primary school qualifications, 60(40%), Secondary School Education/OND, 20(13.3%)

# Socio-economic Impact of Tourism Development.

Item five from the table reveals that majority 80(53.3%) strongly agreed thattourism is an economic sector that is able to offer a significant contribution to the economic growth of area and could create occupation opportunities directly and indirectly through the supply of goods and the necessary services for tourist activities, it will be of further tremendous help to the people of Enuama and Araromi, 50(33.3%) of the respondents agreed to the idea, 10(6.7%) were undecided and 10(6.7%) disagreed with the idea.



Furthermore, during the FGDs on the socio-economic impact of tourism development of Enuama and Araromi sea side, of the *Mrs* Asogbon, 55 years old female, fisher woman claimed *that if sea side's at Enuama and Araromi becomes standardized they can be of tremendous assistance to the people of these communities and some of the unemployed youths can have jobs.* And that if the activities are well advertised, these communities can become a place of relaxation and tourist centres for both local and international tourists. And it can bring the communities into limelight for foreign investors and it can further enhance women's economic participation and empowerment by way buying and selling. [FGD1: Mrs Asogbon, 55 years old, fisher woman].

Moreover, Mr Agbayelo, 60 years old male, an entrepreneur concluded during one the FGDs that *during Easter and New Year holiday, couple of people normally comes for picnic but if these kind of activity becomes standardized and people turn in more often, it can develop the communities and help sustainable development and is capable of stabilizing 'tottering' economies and, inherently, integrating members with their communities for sustainable development.* And if is in partnership with external change-agents, such as intervention agencies - e.g., private individuals, State and Local governments & advocacy groups for community development, especially, *nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) it can enhance sustainability.* [FGD 2: Agbayelo, 60 years old, male, entrepreneur].

Mr. Olugbuyi, 59 years' male, trader claimed that arrival...tourists in these communities will increase effective demands for the infrastructure facilities. Recognized tourism activities will help reduce poverty in our communities through the increase in income generation, employment generation; foreign currency earnings, promotion of local handicrafts and more sales of fishes and fishing equipments. [FGD 3: Mr Olugbuyi, 59 years male, trader].

Mrs Mafo, 53, female, civil servant concluded during the FGDs that with beautiful beaches at the sea-side, coupled with the presence of white mangrove trees, the development of tourism in the area can build people's skills towards community development, can be a vital source to economic survival for both the local communities and the entire state, can raise necessary funds for community development, create jobs, enhance community-pride, and promote indigenous culture. [FGD 4: Mrs, Mafo, 53 years old, female, civil servant]

Item six from the table reveals that majority 90(60%) of the respondents strongly agreed that if the area becomes a well-organized tourist centre, it will produce social benefits to the area and the entire State like; enterprises' development, creation of new jobs,



improvement of infrastructure etc. Many unemployed youths will have jobs. 50(33.3%) of the respondents agreed to the idea, 5(3.3%) of the respondents were undecided about the idea and 5(3.3%) disagreed with the idea.

Mr. Medonye, 45 years, male, civil servant during the FGDs claimed that *if the tourist centre is well developed with the numerous economic benefits and its potential growth... will help increase the standard of living of the people in the area, and, it will also improve the quality of life of the people and their families.* [FGD 5: Mr. Medonye, 45 years old, male, civil servant].

Mrs. Olugbuyi, 49 years, female, trader during the FGDs argued *that tourism development* will also help in expansion of education and literacy of the people. And this will help us to broader our mental attitude by interacting with various people with different languages and cultures. [FGD 6: Mrs Olugbuyi, 49 years old, female, trader].

Item seven from the table shows that majority 85(56.7%) strongly agreed that tourism is considered as an element of community enrichment; this is attributed to the meeting of different cultures. If this area is well advertised, the communities will become a place of relaxation and tourist center for both local and international tourists. And will bring the communities into limelight. 45(30%) of the respondents agreed to the claim, 15(10%) of respondents were undecided and 5(3.3%) disagreed to the claim, those who were undecided and disagreed to the claim are probably those who did not have formal education and possibly have little or no exposure.

# **Environmental Impacts of Tourism Development**

Item eight from the table shows that majority 65(43.3%) strongly agreed that tourism can positively contribute to the maintenance of natural environment by protecting, creating or maintaining national parks or other protected areas. When the beach area has become standardized and well known, it will attract foreign investors. 50(33.3%) of the respondents agreed to the idea, 20(13.3) of the respondents were undecided, 5(3.3%) disagreed to the idea, while were 10(6.7%) strongly disagreed to the idea.

Just like Mr. Obajimi, 67 years, fisherman, during the FGDs claimed, *that in overall a well standardize tourism development cannot disrupt the peace and tranquility of this area, it will only beautify it.* [FGD 7: Mr. Obajimi 67 years old, fisherman].

Item nine from the table shows that majority, 80(53.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that when the tourists centre is well sustained it will increase the population of the area and



enhance women economic participation. While 50(33.3%) of the respondents agreed to the claim, 10(6.7%) were undecided, 5(3.3%) disagreed and 5(3.3%) of the respondents strongly disagreed to the claim.

Mr. Sura, 54 years, fisherman, suggested during the FGDs that *for appropriate tourism development; hotels, motels, camping grounds, guest houses etc are needed to be in place to beautify the environment and enhance tourism development.* [FGD 8: Mr Sura, 34 years old, fisherman].

# Socio-cultural Impacts of Tourism Development

Item ten from the table shows that majority, 70(46.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed to opinion that local communities can mix with people from diverse backgrounds with different lifestyles which through 'demonstration effect' may lead to the development of improved lifestyles and practices from the tourists. While 50(33.3%) of the respondents agreed to this opinion, 10(6.7%) were undecided, 10(6.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the opinion, and 10(6.7%) strongly disagreed to the opinion.

Item eleven from the table shows that majority 80 (53.3%) of the respondents claimed that there can be an improvement in local life through better local facilities and infrastructure which could lead to better education, health care, employment opportunities. In addition, more cultural and social events will be available for local people such as entertainment, exhibitions etc. 55(36.7%) of the respondents agreed to this claim, 5(3.3%) of the respondents were undecided about the claim, 5(3.3%) disagreed to the claim and 5(3.3%) of respondents strongly disagreed to the claim.

Item twelve from the table shows that, majority, 100(66.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that improvement in local life of the people and increase in population can lead to increase in crime rate and affect the indigenous culture and tradition negatively. While 20(13.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed to this idea. 5(3.3%) of the respondents were undecided, 5(3.3%) disagreed with the idea and, 20(13.3%) strongly disagreed with the idea. They believe that increase in population cannot lead to increase in crime rate probably when there are enough security measures in place.

Another participant during the FGDs, Mrs. "Luro" 51 years old, fisherwoman claimed that, *increase in population due to migration can lead to increase in crime rate and this may lead to cultural diffusion and this may erode on the indigenous culture and tradition of the people and thereby affect it negatively.* [FGD 9: Mrs. Luro, 51 years old, fisherwoman].

# **Promotional strategies for Tourism Development**



During FGDs, the participants suggested the following; media, personal communication, advertising, internet marketing and promotional images as promotional strategies to bring the tourist centre into lime light.

One of the participants during the FGDs, Miss. Olugbuyi, 25 years old, female, student and entrepreneur suggested that, *promotional images of the beaches sea-side and beautiful white mangrove trees should go viral in the internet to create more awareness*. [FGD 10: Miss Olugbuyi, 25 years old, female, student and entrepreneur].

### Conclusion

Currently tourism is one of the dynamic economic activities in creating socio - economic changes across the world, which has been increasingly important. The tourism sector is probably the only service sector that provides concrete and quantified trading opportunities for all nations, regardless of their level of development. However, it is also a sector where there is clearly an uneven distribution of benefits, which is threatening the social, economic and environmental sustainability of tourism in some developing countries. For many developing countries, tourism is one of fundamental pillars of their development process because it is one of the dominant activities in the economy, while for others, particularly by islands and some small economies, it is the only source of foreign currency and employment, and therefore constitutes the platform for their economic development. However, the paper suggests that using a self-help approach, private individuals, with assistance from some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and/or other intervention agencies, the residents in Enuama and Araromi sea-side should further exploit this naturally endowed area by actively engaging in sustainable strategies to create the necessary awareness for a viable tourist-centre.

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