

**PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN TOURISM
CORRIDOR OF EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Almighty God who during the course of my study gave me the opportunity to keep living and remain in his love. and to my parents Professor and Mrs. O.J. Ayodele; as well as to my husband, Mr Ajayi Kayode who saw me through the programme.

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism is a major source of revenue and provides additional income for supporting livelihoods in many countries. Understanding local communities' perceptions and tourists' attitudes are essential for the growth, sustainable management and the development of the ecotourism industry. In Nigeria, negative perceptions and low patronage have been reported as constraints to the expansion of ecotourism sector. However, information on local communities' and tourists' perceptions of Ecotourism Development (ED) along the tourism corridor of Ekiti State are currently limited. Therefore, perceptions of host communities and ecotourists towards ED in Ekiti State, Nigeria, were investigated.

Three communities with ecotourism sites in Ekiti state: Ikogosi: Ikogosi Warm Spring (IWS), Ipole-Iloro: Arinta Waterfall (AW) and Efon Alaaye (EA): River Ooni (RO); were purposively selected, based on unique natural features. Proportionate to size sampling techniques was used to select 300 residents (Ikogosi-100, Ipole-Iloro-70 and EA-130) and 100 Business Owners (BO): Ikogosi-30, Ipole-Iloro-20 and EA-50. Also, accidental sampling technique was used to select 180 ecotourists (IWS-100, AW-45 and RO-35) that visited the ecotourism sites from 2013 to 2015. Three sets of structured questionnaires were administered on each of the three categories of respondents. Using standard methods, fauna species in the ecotourism sites were identified. The perception of residents, BO and ecotourists on ED Facilities (EDF): such as roads, hotels, electricity and internet service; ecotourist-community relationship and ecotourism benefits to BO were assessed. Variables influencing willingness to pay for ED and benefits accruable to BOs were determined. Relative abundance was calculated. Data generated were analysed using simple percentage, multiple linear and binary logistic regressions at $\alpha_{0.05}$.

Residents (Ikogosi: 55.0%, Ipole-Iloro: 64.3%, and EA: 65.4%) and BO (Ikogosi: 96.7%, Ipole-Iloro: 90.0% and EA: 68.0%) believed that EDF improved their living conditions. Ecotourists (IWS: 60.2%, AW: 88.9% and RO: 2.8%) perceived improvements in road conditions will enhance patronage. Ecotourists, except in RO (28.6%), (IWS: 54.1%);(AW: 66.7%) perceived that electricity and internet services were adequate, Most ecotourists (IWS: 72.4%, AW: 97.8% and RO: 91.4%) and residents (Ikogosi: 87.5%, Ipole-Iloro: 100.0% and EA: 100.0%) discerned that a cordial ecotourist-community relationship existed. Most BO (Ikogosi: 63.3%, Ipole-Iloro: 60.0% and EA: 48.0%) recognize increased benefits from ecotourism activities through improvement of sales. Age ($\beta=1.18$), sex ($\beta=1.95$) and educational status ($\beta=4.34$) significantly influenced the amount ecotourists willing to pay. Benefits accruable to BO were significantly dependent on age ($\beta=3.05$), sex ($\beta=1.51$), educational status ($\beta=1.74$) and monthly income ($\beta=2.19$). There were 30 fauna species: IWS-24, AW-25 and RO-1, belonging to 22 families across the three sites. Family Scuridae had the highest occurrence in IWS (20%), AW (17%) and RO (100%), respectively. Perception of host communities and business owners encouraged ecotourism and improved road conditions will enhance patronage within the tourism corridor. Age, gender and educational status of tourists are important factors that affect patronage of ecotourism along the tourism corridor of Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Ekiti State, Tourism corridor, Tourism benefits, Ecotourism development

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Ecotourism is defined by various groups of citizens in many ways with different goals. In general words, ecotourism can be described as an explanatory tourism, where the environment and cultures seek protection, understanding and praise. This kind of tourism mainly focuses on the natural and cultural heritage which includes different kind oftourism forms like nature walk tourism, wildlife tourism, low impact tourism and sustainable tourism (Yacobet *al.*, 2011).It is a major source of revenue and provides additional income for supporting rural livelihoods in many countries. Nigeria is blessed with an great quantity of natural and man-made tourism resources of astonishing quality (Nwokorie *et al.*,2020). The attractions vary from beautiful mountain sceneries, waterfalls, intriguing forests, to exotic birds and animals, exquisite cuisines, as well as intriguing game reserves and conservation centres (Ijeomah *et al.*, 2019). These attractions make the country an emerging and fascinating destination in the West African region. Ecotourism in Nigeria is at its lowest level as little attention is given to this sect orgenerally because of the striving oil industry.

However, prominent ecotourism potentials in Nigeria includes the seven national parks and thirty three game reserves, several waterfalls – each unique in beauty, hills, mountains and rocks, a suspended lake, salt lakes, rivers and beaches. Due to the very little attention given to these ecotourism attractions, the level of awareness and patronage of these attractions is low. The revenue accrued from these attractions annually does not rank with those accrued from other ecotourism attractions of equal caliber in East-Africa and other parts of the world. Despite the rich ecological and biological diversities present in Nigeria, many Nigerians still prefer to take their holidays in several ecotourism destinations outside Nigeria. Sadly, the reason for this could be attributed to the negative perceptions they have towards the Nigerian ecotourism sector. The importance of ecotourism

resources to the society, and the need to conserve ecotourism cannot be overemphasized. Ecotourism has numerous benefits, that include being a source of food, a form of natural heritage and tourist attraction, a reservoir for genes, a source of employment, and a principal component of the ecosystem, to name but a few. All these ecotourism values and benefits influence tourism development either directly or indirectly. In summary, ecotourism is a natural resource of biological, economic, social, recreational, educational, environmental, and nutritional value to the present as well as future generations. ecotourism is a valuable resource that should be protected and conserved.(Shaw,2018).

Ecotourism promotion and development is one of the eight point agenda of the current Governor of Ekiti State (Dr. Kayode Fayemi).He has given majority of the ecotourism potentials in the state the governments' attention. He is ready to develop them and increase the source of revenue in the state (ekititourism.com, 2012). Out of the twenty-one tourism potentials listed for development and promotion in Ekiti State; Ikogosi warm spring and resort, Arinta Water Falls, Ooni River, Okemesi Hills; the seems to stand out because of the uniqueness of their features, their close proximity to one another and how they are being connected by a route hence the name tourism corridor of Ekiti State. The features of the other ecotourism potential in Ekiti State can also be found in some other states within Nigeria and abroad. In the case of the three selected sites (Ikogosi warm Spring, Arinta Waterfall and Ooni River), not only are they connected by one route at shorter distance to one another but they also possess same unique natural resources which is water.

The stakeholders of an ecotourism destination have different perception of ecotourism development. These perceptions can either affect the progress of the Ekiti state tourism corridor development positively or negatively. It is noteworthy to mention that there are several factors influencing these varying perceptions; topmost of these factors are the general insecurity issues facing the country, and the level of the development of these attractions.

The role of community in conservation and ecotourism development is extremely important because communities directly impact the protected areas that surround them and can either hinder or advance conservation goals (Digun-Aweto, 2015). Furthermore, they are directly affected by the restrictions on the use of their natural endowments that fall within the government protected areas. However, to benefit from ecotourism as an alternative income generator from these protected areas, communities must have some level of control over ecotourism development. (TIES, 2015). Deery *et al*, (2012) observed that each ecotourism impact classification includes positive and negative effects even as the residents' perceptions are conflicting. The economic impact is mainly perceived by residents positively as a mean to create employment, improve local economy, increase investments and economic diversification, as well as improve local community livelihood.

The representation of interests of the local communities in the development of ecotourism agenda is a complex matter that desires to be carefully dealt with. Today, lack of local community enlightenment, awareness and positive attitude to ecotourism and the natural environment have led to the depletion of the environment through mass tourism (Doan, 2000). The depiction of the local communities' responsibilities and how their views and opinion can be included in the entire planning and development process is yet to be clarified. However, understanding the knowledge of the entire public about the ecotourism in their locality, their viewpoint, and awareness about its benefits on their wellbeing helps policy makers develop and implement long-term strategies for sustaining it. Therefore, the answer to successful control of environmental problem lies in the planner's effort to understand a whole range of problems inherent to people's perception of their environment and their allied behavior. Ecotourism got established for the amalgamation of environmental protection and development. The concept of environmental protection is by recognizing the rights and impact of people in biological areas, paying more attention to human and biological priorities. The idea of development was linked to the environment to produce economic profitability over the period of business and employment opportunities (Yacob *et al.*, 2011).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, negative perceptions and low patronage have been reported as constraints to the expansion of ecotourism sector. Many researcher agree that knowledge of the perception of the stakeholders of an ecotourism destination is a serious element for the success of ecotourism, thus, it is well emphasized and encourage. Ekiti State, Nigeria is blessed with many unique natural resources that can serve as tourist sites some of which are a product of the solid geology and processes of geomorphology- rocks, inselbergs, mountain ranges, undulating terrain of old plains formed by a network of rivers which take their origin and courses through this high ground, for example the Efon ridge is the watershed of Rivers Oni, Owena and Olua; wide range of biodiversity- unique plants, forest reserves etc) Many of these tourist sites are yet to be explored and developed (Kayode, 2011) such that local communities' perception is not understood and the participation level in tourism is so minimized. This is partly because of the lack of knowledge of the poor development state of these potentials and benefits. However, the state government believes that the sustainable growth of the tourism potentials will be able to generating revenues up to billions of Naira for the state annually and alleviate poverty by creating employment opportunities at the grassroots.

Thus, government has decided to collaborate with the private sector to fully develop the tourism potentials of the state. This can be achieved successfully if the primary resources i.e. the local communities (upon which ecotourism depend) perceptions are well understood and considered in the ecotourism development. The existence of the communities in a particular period can serve as justification to the development of ecotourism itself. The quantity of information assimilated through our perception can influence our conviction. That is, the perception and behaviour as a role signify the most significant portion of the environment. Therefore, ecological tourism needs to be appreciated by people and to be fruitful as a thriving enterprise project, more interest and attention should be given to the problems, attitudes and the perception of both the elites and local residents. Furthermore, understanding the knowledge and perception of the

entire public about the ecotourism in their locality, their viewpoint, and awareness about its benefits on their well-being, helps policy makers develop and implement long-term strategies for sustaining it (Yacob *et al.*, 2011).

1.2 **Justification of the Study**

One of the states in Nigeria that are gifted with a enormous land with unique natural resources of tourist attraction that will intrigue and captivate visitors is Ekiti state. The State has a contrast and variety of natural resources that offer tourists a deep appreciation of how mother's nature has blessed the State. Former Ekiti State Governor Dr. Kayode Fayemi Stated in the year 2012 during his inspection tour to the Ikogosi resort (which is now developing) that "the tourism corridors in the State situated in Okemesi, Efon, Ipole Iloro and Ikogosi axis would be developed to international standards so that they can serve as money spinners and enhance the economy of the State" This can only be made sustainable and successful through positive perception of the public.

Therefore it is very vital to investigate public perception as an important factor which could not be overlooked in the development of these ecotourism attractions to their full potentials. Previous studies like Ijasan, *et al* (2013) focused on assessing community engagement in tourism planning and development in Arinta waterfall. Kayode (2011) investigated tourism potentials of Ekiti State, Okosun (2016) studied the impact of the Ikogosi cold/Warm Spring tourist resort on community development in Ekiti State while Orimaye *et al* (2018) assessed residents' perception of ecotourism impact in Ekiti State: a case study of Ikogosi warm spring. All these authors did not consider the public perception of ecotourism development in tourism corridor of Ekiti State. In surveying these problems, this study proposed to supply the planning method that will increase the capability of ecotourism at the site. This is to create profit for the Eco-sites as well as the local community, therefore, in general, contributes to the development of the area. This project concentrate on ecotourism, or all that is being promoted as ecotourism, in the protected region.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to assess the public perception of ecotourism development in the tourism corridor of Ekiti State, Nigeria so as to provide information important for the successful ecotourism development of the tourism sites as well as the tourism corridor. In order to achieve the main objective; the study was designed to address the following specific objectives to:

1. Evaluate the socioeconomic characteristics of the community members in the study areas
2. Identify the infrastructures, facilities and attractions that exists at the ecotourism sites
3. Evaluate the perception of residents, business owners and tourists on ecotourism development facilities in the sites.
4. Assess the factors influencing tourists' willingness to pay for ecotourism development in the study area.
5. Identify the host communities' participation in ecotourism development in the sites.
6. Assess the ecotourism benefits to business owners
7. Determine the effects of the sites on host communities' livelihood; and
8. Assess the relative availability of fauna in the sites.

1.5 Research Questions

The core purpose of this study is to examine the public perception of ecotourism development of tourism corridor of Ekiti State by responding to the following questions

- i. What are the socioeconomic characteristics of the communities residents
- ii. What are the infrastructure, facilities, programs and attractions that exist at the ecotourism sites?
- iii. What are the communities' and tourists' perceptions of ecotourism development at the sites?

- iv. What are the factors influencing tourists' willingness to pay for ecotourism development in the study areas?
- v. What is the level of communities' participation in ecotourism development in the sites?
- vi. What are the ecotourism benefits to business owners in the study areas?
- vii. What is the effect of the sites on communities' livelihood?
- viii. What are the fauna found in the sites?

1.6 Scope of the Study

The research was executed at the tourism corridor of Ekiti State and selected host communities. The study focused on the public perception of ecotourism development, community participation in the development and its effect on their livelihood as well as the benefit accrued by business owners. The study also focused on the evaluating the existing ecotourist-community and ecotourist- site officials relationships, the strategies that could be used to strengthen the relationships; identifying fauna resource available at the sites during wet(March- May) and dry (November- January.) seasons. The research was executed from 2014-2016.

1.7 Definition of Terms

- i. **Public Perception:** - The way rural community or stakeholders view, understand or construe ecotourism; their rational impression of ecotourism
- ii. **Ecotourism:** -Form of tourism based on travel to natural and undisturbed areas, with a focus on environmental and cultural conservation and with benefits to the local community (Fennell & Butler, 2003)
- iii. **Development:** -A specified state of growth or advancement.
- iv. **Community:** -A group of people living in the same place or having certain attitudes and interest in common
- v. **Participation:** -Involvement of local community in decision making, election of officials and in sharing of profits from the ongoing ecotourism taking place in the site.

- vi. **Tourists attitude:** - The approach of tourist (positively or negatively) towards ecotourism. Attitude influences tourists' choice of action which can affect ecotourism development positively or negatively.
- vii. **Rural Community Livelihood:** -The capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living contributing to benefits to the local community in the short and long term regarding access to education, health, water, income generation, security and infrastructure.
- viii. **Natural resources:** - These are resources occurring naturally within the environment for instance water, land, mountain, hill etc.
- ix. **Tourism Corridor-**Tourism corridor refers to linear space, which focuses on the integrated and coordinated development of route and regions. Tourism corridor definition for this study is the linear connection of two or more tourism sites of short distances to one another by a route.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Ecotourism

Reasonably, there are many definitions of ecotourism, depending on practitioners' scheme of it and the local people at any point in time. Kiper (2013) approved that different people views of ecotourism vary. Some view it as the universal phrase that covers nature based tourism, soft tourism, and cultural tourism". As a part of tourism that is sustainable, ecotourism is seen as responsible travelling to environments with flawless natural resources which has a very smallest harm to the environment. Ceballos-Lascurain first used the term ecotourism in the early 1980s and which was subsequently popularized by Boo (1990); He defined ecotourism as the travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objectives of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas. In these conditions, nature-oriented tourism implies a scientific, aesthetic or philosophical approach to travel. (Boo, 1990).

2.2 Infrastructure, Facilities and Attractions

Tourist destination can be viewed from five broad sectors namely; attraction, transport, accommodation, supporting facilities and infrastructure. Attractions encourage tourists to visit the location, the transport services enable them to do so, the accommodation and supporting facilities alike (e.g. shops, banks, restaurants, hostel) cater for the tourists' wellbeing during their stay, and the infrastructure assures the essentials functioning of all the above sectors. Ecotourism development relies on the availability of infrastructural, facilities, attractions, and accessibility to main attraction (Dekhili, 2015). These components are the vital predictors of successful ecotourism for a destination. Attractions in an ecotourism site could be manmade or natural. Available facilities in most situations,

including lodging apartment, could form part of the attraction especially when they are beautifully built or for aesthetic purposes. Access to these attractions is also a major consideration for the choice of destination for ecotourism. Accessibility is mostly considered necessary as it aids the guarantee of security for visitors at a destination (Ukabuilu et al., 2018).

Security is equally essential for successful ecotourism undertakings. Security is a key concern for business and leisure visitors of a new destination who are not likely to compromise their safety during the stay away from home. More importantly for the visiting tourist is the presence of tour guides who are equally needed for directing visitors around the ecotourism sites (Orimaye et al., 2018). Tour guides have experiential knowledge and are an integral part of the ecotourism experience. Aside from providing information on site history and other attributes, they also drive the social and cultural dimensions of the visit with information geared towards suppressing tourists' inquisitiveness, thereby making the tourism activity a worthwhile experience. The availability of tourist-related services is also a factor that influences sustainable tourism. There are cases where poor accommodation standards affect tourists' product choices and influence visitor perception. Gisore and Ogutu (2015) wrote that "there is a lack of coordinated categorization, grading, and rating scheme (system) for tourism and hospitality establishments and practitioners leading to the use of conflicting systems with incompatible service and product offers." Efficient transport, competitive prices of related products and services (including catering), other ancillary services (including internet services), as well as the interest of local sellers (especially in dealing with language difficulties) are important factors to consider for successful ecotourism development (Asuk, Nchor, 2018).

2.3 Public Perception of Ecotourism

In order for ecotourism to result in conservation and local people welfare, Stronza *et al* (2019) advised that communities' members must also share in the accrued benefits,

including getting them involved in management. While Nwokorie (2015) claimed that both local people and tourists profit ecotourism with little effect on the environment, identified that ecotourism as an aspect of environmental tourism causes a least impact on the environment, empowers host communities, respects the culture of the indigenous people and conserves biodiversity. Also, Arowosafe and Oladeji (2017) viewed that ecotourism as an industry that is able to provide employment, improving the livelihood of the host communities, and serving as income earners to the country. Ajayi and Eveso (2017) described that tourists impact on the environment creates a reduction in the disruption of natural habitat and considers the local culture of the attraction visited. In as much as global statistics on tourism revealed that the total international tourism arrivals reached 1.18 billion in 2015 (UNWTO,2017), a destination' s pull factors, such as promotional activities, weather, beaches, scenery, facilities, and attractions are also important influences in setting expectations, and subsequently in meeting the needs of tourists (Asbollah et al., 2017)

Nevertheless, a diversity of features could decide patronage and quantity of visitations to a given ecotourism site over a defined period. Visitors' sensitivity to climate, language barriers, accessibility to the ecotourism site, availability of accommodation, cuisine, and similar perception elements could be crucial determinants. Perception can be seen as the total environment that is cognitively sensed, experienced, and becomes the basis for decision-making (Morin et al., 2009). Perception differs from an individual tourist at anytime regarding any tourism product or towards different environmental settings, because perception is strongly linked to psychology and people construct. Their views are based on cognitive processes that capture and organize knowledge, experiences, and information through the senses (Lau, McKercher, 2006).

Human beings perceive things differently and this affects their views and relationships with their physical and social environment to a large extent. Perceptions are socially and culturally constructed, and are oftentimes interrelated with many influencing factors such as education, religion, ethnic and family background, societal pressure, physical

environment laws and regulations amongst others. All these factors account for people's opinions and attitudes towards things. In a way, the extent to which an individual is aware of ecotourism is directly related to his/her perception of it. Several definitions of ecotourism exist, and these definitions depend on whom you talk to. Tour operators, government officials, business owners, conservationists, and researchers have spent a great deal of time trying to agree on a common definition, but in a way, have failed to do so. Some people are of the opinion that nature tourism, adventure tourism, cultural tourism, educational tourism, and historical tourism are all parts of ecotourism; others believe that ecotourism is a separate category by itself (Urias et al., 2009)

2.4 Community Participation in Ecotourism Development

Community participation is a known factor in several development schemes, one of these initiatives are community-based programmes, which presume method of participation and development organizations has promoted it, especially the World Bank, to deal with the inadequacy of development approaches mainly in the developing world (Baral and Heinen, 2007). Most of the development schemes now seek for the participation of all stakeholders, at the appropriate stage, not for competence only but also for the fairness of the programmes, influence of contributors and requests of local communities, but for initiatives sustainability also. The genuine result for seeking that type of community participation is to be able to generate and produce a needed conducive environment by these stakeholders, especially the communities' members who have been vulnerable to negative effects of tourism credited to a certain extent, the fact that they possess lots of tourism resources in their vicinities, to have a genuine risk in development activities (Havel, 1996). This necessitates the participation of local communities in decision-making and empowering them to execute for themselves. According to Havel 1996, an approach to achieving this is "by investing in human resources, such as education and health, investments in social resources like local-level organizations and participatory procedures, and supporting community-based development efforts planned and executed from bottom to the top (bottom up). Nevertheless, despite the vital summit underlying people's participation may be the extent of power sharing, these efforts are unlikely to be

successful unless reactive organizations and the legal and guiding principle agenda that support and aid people participation is in position (Tosun, 2004; Wang and Wall, 2005).

2.5 Ecotourism Benefits

The broad definition of ecotourism involves high expectations of broad range of benefits.

The benefits connected with ecotourism are the ability to:

- i. offer high value tourism experiences;
- ii. inspire national and local economic development
- iii. expand or balance the economic pedestal
- iv. generate social benefits and infrastructure improvements
- v. create finances for the administration and preservation of natural areas
- vi. supply economic validation for protection of natural resources
- vii. promote environmental awareness/values and support for protection, among both local people and tourists, through on-site educational chances and
- viii. support cultural conservation

It has been argued that as the definition becomes more complex and inclusive, the It has been argued that as the definition becomes more complex and inclusive, the objectives of ecotourism will be gradually more complex to realize. However, evidences suggest that the benefits of ecotourism can be actualized. A number of case studies has been provided by Eagles *et al.*, (2001) in which confined area tourism has assisted to produce protection and community reimbursement. Ecotourism is a very important element of the experience economy. This claim could be justified by the degree of goods and services produced when tourists travel, and the level at which the lives of the local people are positively affected especially through job creation. Nwokorie and Adiukwu (2020) identified the level of jobs created through the provision of accommodation services for tourists and detected that infrastructural development is also encouraged. Informal job opportunities are also encouraged for community members through tourist activities within hospitality establishments. Also, Nwokorie and Obiora (2018) evaluated that provision of tourism and hotels are proficient in improving the livelihood of the local people and inspiring

sustainable development goals thereby improving the quality of lives within a particular environment.

2.6 Impact of Climatic Changeability on Fauna Species

Fauna species can be affected by climate changeability through diverse ways; it all depend on local climate, ecosystem type (terrestrial, aquatic or arboreal) and types of species. For amphibians that require water for breeding season, water retention in ponds and stream is already experiencing occasional early dry-up leading to mortality eggs and young ones. Also, both *terrestrial and aquatic animals are being affected by changes in climate through increase* exposure to predators and reproduction timing which is linked to photoperiod and hydro period. On the other hand, plants have their own phenological arrangements which are majorly influenced by local climatic conditions.

A shift in climatic condition will not only affects food availability for animals, it will also increase prey visibility for predator, introduce insidious species, increase disease incidence for animals and plant, alter succession and entirely change the structure of the ecosystem. A number of studies have noted that wildlife species react to the effect of climate changeability by adjusting their ecology and behaviour. These adjustment may include scheduling food resources availability, moisture content and ground level, requirement of water and different changes in cover. Furthermore, wildlife are forced to experience shift in ranges due to climate changeability. For instance, Chen *et al.*, (2009) opined that because of differences in climatic conditions at different altitude, the distribution of butterflies and moths changed. The same findings were maintained by Beever *et al.*, (2003) where upward elevation trend was seen with mammals associated with high-altitude. The relationship between non-living (Abiotic systems) and ecological characteristics may alter or affect species ability to cope with changes in the environment.

A shift in concurrent timing of biotic and abiotic environmental procedure may render species vulnerable, this is because either by instinct reflex or innate behavior, they respond to environmental changes that are not too far from expected. For instance, changes in

wind, temperature and photoperiod are known to be used by migratory birds to determine when to migrate (Price and Glick, 2002). In the same vein based on photoperiod, butterflies' use their antenna which has sensors to determine the appropriate time for migration (Kyriacou, 2002). Also on terrestrial species, the changes in the forage quality and quantity and water availability may influence migration success. Hence, a long term changes in these factor as a result of climatic change will have significant effect on the species. A good example is the American pronghorn (*Antilocapra Americana*); where migratory behavior is largely influenced by access to water and forage moisture. Protein content and plant biomass also affects the calving grounds of Caribou which potentially affects its nutritional intake (Griffith *et al.*, 2002).

2.7 Nature Based Tourism Corridor

The concept of corridors initially was associated with transport, providing a connection between two or more urban areas using the most direct and shortest connections channeling economic and social activities (Alampay, 2008). The use of the corridor concept started expanding in the 1990s and was adopted by various types of agencies, including urban planning, public infrastructure, development agencies, and, eventually, the tourism sector. The link between transport and tourism is evident in the development of tourism in general, as evidenced by the development of the itineraries linked to railways such as the Orient Express (Hawkins,et, al., 2015). Another important link is present between corridors and economic cooperation between corridor member countries, with cooperation in the tourism sector becoming an added area for cooperation. The concept of a Tourism Corridor is described as —an approach to tourism that offers travelers the opportunity to visit a variety of built and natural attractions along a themed route. From a thematic perspective, tourism corridors can be classified as cultural or natural heritage corridors. Cultural corridors are based on historical, cultural, spiritual, and economic ties that are part of the —collective memory|| of society (Valkova Shishmanova, 2015). They may combine various elements, including religion, cultural traditions, gastronomy, art, and architecture, such as the Camino de Santiago, or may focus on a single element, such as the cave art route focusing on prehistoric art (UNWTO, 2015). Cultural corridors can be

formed on the basis of religious heritage such as the Santiago de Compostela Route, arts and architecture such as the Transromanica Route, famous personalities' lives, and activities such as Destination Napoleon and the Mozart Ways, and the movement of people such as Phoenicians route

Natural corridors are based on natural resources, such as water, landscapes, plants, and wildlife, which are underdeveloped to a certain extent. Ecotourism corridor or Natural based tourism corridors may combine various elements, including experiencing adventure, natural landscapes and wildlife, and educational and conservation nature-related tourism activities (Hamzah,2008). An example of nature-based tourism corridors is the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, the largest conservation area in Africa, consisting of the Limpopo National Park of Mozambique, Kruger National Park of South Africa, and Gonarezhou National Park of Zimbabwe, offering a variety of trails including walking and wilderness trails as well as self-drive trails across Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe (Hawkins,et, al., 2015).There are many nature based tourism (Ecotourism) destinations in Nigeria but only two tourism corridor is recognised. The tourism corridors are found in Ondo and Ekiti State. The Ekiti state tourism corridor is the only nature based tourism corridor consisting of Ikogosi warm spring (, Arint waterfall, River ooni and Okemesi mountain and hills (ekitistateneews.com) while Ondo state tourism corridor is not a complete nature based. It offers mountain resort, Elizade golf course, smoking hills and Atosin golf course. They are connected by route to Idanre town (hallmarknews.com). in Nigeria c of which only Ekiti State Tourism corridor of Nigeria

2.8 Tourism Development in Ekiti State

Tourism in Ekiti was in total neglect before the advent of the new civilian administration in 2011. The facilities in the various tourism sites had deteriorated due to disrepair and lack of maintenance leading to poor services and decline in patronage by national and International tourists. The Ekiti State Government put in place some institutions for the

development and promotion of tourism in the state (Tourism, 2009). These institutions are:

1) Ekiti State Ministry of Culture and Tourism

The Ekiti State Ministry of Culture and Tourism implements projects distilled from the National Policy on Tourism based on sundry directives from the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The ministry also initiates own projects, controls land allocation and development of tourism in the state as well as regulates the operations of hotels and catering institutions in line with the Federal Government directives.

2) Ekiti State Tourism Board

The Ekiti State Tourism Board was set up as the agency to promote, market and disseminate information on tourism. Its specific functions are to:

- i. identify, preserve and promote tourism assets of the state;
- ii. manage and maintain state-owned sites and centres of attractions;
- iii. coordinate the activities of the tourism agencies within the State, including the state local government tourism committees;
- iv. register, classify, grade and monitor hotels and other tourism establishments in the state;
- v. charge fees, impose such sanctions as may be prescribed from time to time by Tourism Board, subject to approval of the governor;
- vi. Operate the State Travel Bureau.

3) Local Government Tourism Committees

Local Government Tourism Committees were set up to identify potential tourist attractions and preserve and protect monuments in their areas. They also maintain the sites and provide tourist guides.

2.9 Tourism Development in Nigeria

The World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted by Tourism Québec and the Canadian Tourism Commission. These four Organizations were the partners responsible for the Summit in 2002, were to bring together governments, international agencies, NGOs, tourism enterprise, representatives of local and indigenous communities, academic institutions and individuals with an interest in ecotourism, and enable them to learn from each other and identify some agreed principles and priorities for the future development and management of ecotourism. The Federal Government of Nigeria in its determination to develop and promote tourism into an economically viable industry had in 1991 evolved a tourism policy; the aim of this policy is;

- i. To make Nigeria a prominent tourism destination in Africa.
- ii. To generate Foreign exchange
- iii. To encourage even distribution of wealth and development.
- iv. To promote tourism based rural enterprises.
- v. To generate employment opportunities.
- vi. To accelerate rural urban integration and foster socio cultural unity among the various regions of the country, through the promotion of domestic and international tourism.(WTO,2002)

It also aims at encouraging active sector participation in tourism development. The Federal Government as well as private sectors is now giving tourism the needed attention, the task is executed at both federal and state by Nigerian Tourism Development Cooperation (NTDC), under the ministry of Trade and Tourism. The Federal government has also made efforts to establish other tourism agencies, like the national commission for Museum and monuments, the centre for Arts and culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and rural development. The subject of tourism in Nigeria is one which is believed by some can help alleviate: The problems of conservation and development. That it is capable of yielding sustainable local earning. Yield needed foreign exchange. Despite

the aforementioned efforts of the Federal government of Nigeria, Adeleke (2008) claimed that, while tourism may well promote peace, peaceful conditions have to be in place before tourism can thrive. The lack of peace and security, she argues, is the main reason why Nigeria has been unable to persuade foreigners to visit its many cultural and natural attractions. In addition, she identifies a string of other societal problems—poverty, corruption, a lack of infrastructure—that contribute to Nigeria’s failure to establish a tourist industry.

3.0 A Framework for Conceptualizing and Assessing Perception of Ecotourism

Development

Positive impact of ecotourism on the livelihood of residents is an essential indicator to measure the prosperity of a country and more importantly the well-being of the citizens (Amin, 2012). Orpia (2014) indicated that majority of the residents wanted to have a better life, and they want to be involved in tourism as they believed that tourism might bring about a good income and promote their cultural heritage. If the quality of life of the local residents is decreased then they may have negative perception of tourism in their area. Harrill (2004) stated that community perceives the tourism industry as having a negative impact on the quality of life. His research agrees with the Community Attachment Theory which explains that the more attached the residents are to the community then the more likely it is they will oppose tourism development. Hence this finding can be further investigated to cover different tourism areas, tourism programmes, communities or individuals (Kim, 2002). It cannot be generalized as some of the residents, although they may be attached to an area, might support tourism because tourism brings about economic benefit for their community and the benefit may increase their quality of life. Also, the community will provide strong support if tourism is effectively managed and the people are satisfied with the outcome (Movono, 2016). In this regard, the more the local community perceives there is a positive impact of tourism on their livelihood, the more they will support tourism development (Stylidis *et al.*, 2014). Kim *et al.*, (2013) identified four different life domains to measure the quality of life of the residents which are:

community well-being; material well-being; emotional well-being; health and safety wellbeing.

To sustain an ecotourism development in a destination is not an easy task and it may involve continuous effort and to move towards sustaining such a programme, future support is considered as one of the most critical elements (Zhang, 2016). Uysal (2015) stated that support from the community is influenced by the impact of ecotourism on the livelihood of the community. A plan developed based on the above discussion: involve a significant relationship between the good residents' livelihood and the support of local communities for further ecotourism development. A conceptual framework was constructed to better describe the relationship between tourism development impact, quality of life and support for further tourism development. Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework.

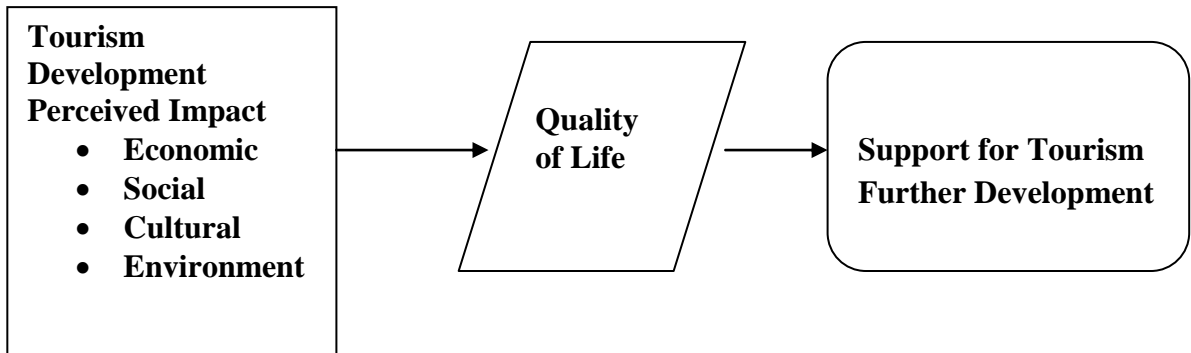


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Adapted from Woo *et al.* 2015

The framework employs a variety of indicators to establish if existing tourism-sites community relationships are working in a manner that allows each to make positive contributions to the other. Given the lack of practical assessments, there is obviously a chance to apply an evaluative framework to assess the current status of ecotourism, at a location where they are promoting it as a sustainable and balanced development strategy. In taking into account a diversity of socioeconomic and environmental facets of an ecotourism development, the framework is rightly suitable to the objectives of the planned study (figure 2.1), and has therefore been espoused in this study.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of the Study Area

The study was carried out in Ekiti State (Fig.3.1). It is located between longitudes 4°45' and 5°45' east of the Greenwich Meridian between latitudes 7°45' and 8°5' north of the equator. It shares boundaries at the south of Kwara and Kogi States, the east with Osun State, the west with Edo State and north of Ondo State. It was carved out with the old Ondo State on the 1 October 1996 with its administrative headquarters at Ado-Ekiti. The state comprises sixteen (16) Local Government Areas (Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014). The 2006 population was 2,384,212 with a population density of 375 people per square kilometer (NPC, 2006). The state accounts for 1.7% of Nigeria's total population. The major towns are: Ado, Efon-Alaaye, Aramoko, Ikere, Ijero and Ikole etc; all towns have a common suffix- Ekiti- which means 'hills'. Figure 3.1: presents the map of Ekiti state showing the sampled communities and local government areas. The shaded portion of the map is the selected tourism corridor communities while Figure 3.2 present the map of Ekiti showing the roads status. The green line indicates that the road that connects Ikogosi, Ipole Iloro and Efon together is good. Out of the twenty-one tourism potentials listed for development and promotion in Ekiti State; Ikogosi warm spring and resort, Arinta Water Falls, Ooni River, Okemesi Hills; seems to stand out because of the uniqueness of their features, their close proximity to one another and how they are being connected by a route hence the name tourism corridor of Ekiti State. The features of the other ecotourism potential in Ekiti State can also be found in some other states within Nigeria and abroad. In the case of the three selected sites (Ikogosi warm Spring, Arinta Waterfall and Ooni River), not only are they connected by one route at shorter distance to one another but they also possess same unique natural resources which is water.

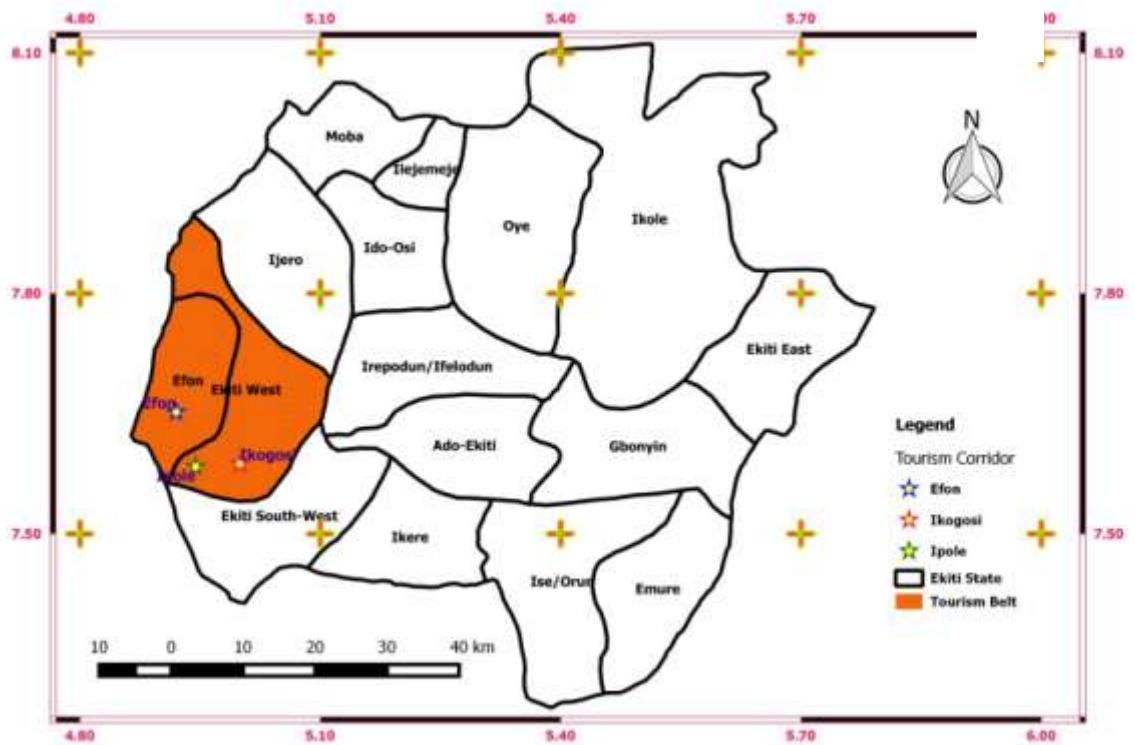


Figure 3.1: Map of Ekiti State Showing the Sampled Communities and Local Government Areas

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

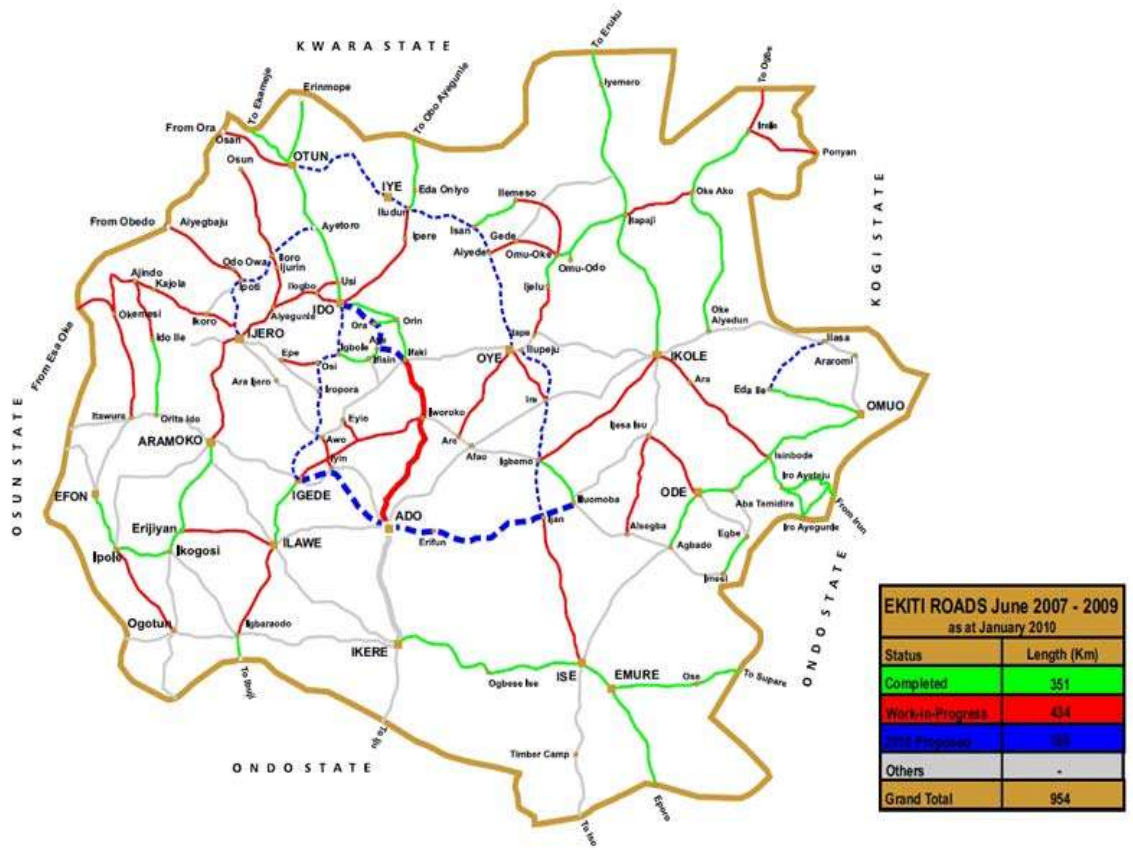


Figure 3.2: Map of Ekiti Showing the Roads Status

Source: Ekiti State Tourism Board (2014)

3.1.1 Topography

Ekiti has a rhythmically undulating surface, mainly an upland zone rising over 250 metres above sea level. The landscape consists of ancient plains broken by a large number of hills and steep-sided outcropping dome rocks (inselbergs) which may occur singularly or in groups or ridges. The most notable rocks are found in Efon-Alaaye, Ikere-Ekiti and Okemesi-Ekiti. The hills are often the sites of towns in which much of the population resides.(Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014)

3.1.2 Climate and Vegetation

The State enjoys a tropical climate with two distinct seasons. These are the rainy season (April – October) and the dry season (November – March). Temperature ranges between 21 degree celsius (21°C) and 28 degree celsius (28°C) with high humidity. The south – westerly winds and the North East Trade winds blow in the raining and dry seasons respectively. Tropical forest vegetation exists in the southern portion mainly in Ekiti South and Ekiti Central Senatorial Districts while the derived savannah and guinea savannah ecologies predominate in parts of Ekiti Central and the Ekiti North Senatorial Districts.(Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014)

3.1.3 Rivers

The state is endowed with water resources. Some of its major rivers are Ero, Osun, Ose, Ogbese, Ooni, etc.(Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014)

3.1.4 The People

The Ekitis, whose ancestors migrated from Ile-Ife as a people, form one of the largest ethnic groups in Yoruba land. The Ekitis are culturally homogeneous and speak a dialect of Yoruba language known as Ekiti. The homogeneous nature of Ekiti confers on the state some uniqueness among the states of the federation. Slight differences are noticeable in the Ekiti dialect of the Yoruba language spoken by the people. This is informed and influenced by their spatial locations, especially the border communities to other states.

However, part of the uniqueness of the Ekitis is that wherever is your own part of the state, you will understand well, when the other Ekiti man/woman speaks, inspite of the dialectical variations. In addition, all towns in Ekiti State take a common suffix, —Ekiti, after their names. Ekiti as a people settle in nucleus urban patterns, well linked with a network of roads. The state can boast of more than 127 large and small, ancient and modern towns, located on hills and valleys that characterise the state from which the confinement takes its name, Ekiti, that is, ‘Okiti’ which means hill. Ekiti State, apart from the fact that it is the only state with a warm spring in Nigeria is the watershed and source of some prominent rivers such as Ero, Ooni, Ose and Ogbese. The people of Ekiti are hard- working, upright, studious and very articulate. Ekiti men are predominantly farmers but women engage in trading.(Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014)

3.1.5 Religion, Culture and Traditions

The people are mostly Christians and Muslims while some are still traditional religionists. The state is also highly rich in culture. They have their own unique traditional way of dressing, dancing, festival, religion and other ways of life. (Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014)

3.1.6 Dressing

The dress for a typical man in Ekiti is Bùbá (round neck shirt) and Sòkòtò (trousers) while women dress in Bùbá (blouse) and Ìró (wrapper). (ekititourism.com, 2012)

3.1.7 Food

The major food of the people of Ekiti is pounded yam (Iyan) with vegetable soup. The typical Ekiti man cannot do without iyan in a day and he eats it preferably with melon-vegetable soup. (ekititourism.com, 2012)

3.1.8 Topography of the Selected Ecotourism Sites

The vegetation of Ikogosi Warm Spring is a thick forest. This natural and rich vegetation is closely maintained and protected from arbitrary deforestation. The immediate surroundings of the spring (resort centre) are about 31.38 hectares. It is highly protected from erosion by tall and evergreen trees. These trees also serve as a sort of canopy under which tourists could stay during the dry season and sunny days. The undulating topography of the entire tourist centre and the symmetry of the surrounding hills add more to the aesthetic beauty of this centre. There is a route that cuts across the tourist centre to the Arinta Waterfall at Ipole- Iloro, a few kilometres to the Warm Spring. Arinta Waterfalls is a spectacle to behold. The falls cascade down the rocky hills from a great height, amidst natural forest vegetation to form a flowing pool of spring water. The steep slopes of the overawing ridge, panoramas of a beautiful valley trapped between two ridges meet the eyes. The landscape features a sprawling expanse of lush vegetation set with a patchwork of rust-brown tabs at a distance and a sky-line bedecked with gently undulating ridge tops on the other side. River Ooni at Efon Alaaye is a non-stop flowing river from an unknown source that performs miracle and deliverance in the lives of people that drink or bath with it. (Ekiti State Tourism Board, 2014).

3.2 Data Collection.

3.2.1 Sources of Data

Primary data were collected through administration of questionnaire, interview, focused group discussion while secondary data were collected through a review of office records, sundry reports and existing literature.

3.2.2 Sampling Size and Sampling Procedure

Three communities with ecotourism sites in Ekiti state: Ikogosi: (Ikogosi Warm Spring), Ipole-Iloro: (Arinta Waterfall) and Efon Alaaye: (River Ooni); were purposively selected, based on unique natural features. The approximate total household (Table 3.1) of the three communities was estimated to be 3000 and that of business owners 200. Random

sampling techniques was used to select 300 residents (Ikogosi-100, Ipole-Iloro-70 and Efon Alaaye-130 and 100 Business Owners (BO): Ikogosi - 30, Ipole-Iloro - 20 and Efon Alaaye- 50 in the three communities (Table 3.2). Also, accidental or availability sampling technique was used to select 180 tourists (Ikogosi Warm Spring - 100, Arinta Waterfall - 45 and River Ooni - 35)

that visited the ecotourism sites from 2013 to 2015.while purposive sampling was used to select 20 site's staff based on their official affiliation and how involved they are in the management of the sites.

Table: 3.1 Sampling Size and Sampling Intensity of Host Communities

S/N	List of communities that make up Ekiti tourism corridor	Selected communities base on unique natural features	Estimated household number for each community	>10% sampling intensity
1	Ikogosi	Ikogosi	1000	100
2	Ipole-Iloro	Ipole-Iloro	700	70
3	Efon-Alaaye	Efon-Alaaye	1300	130
4	Okemesi			
	Total		3000	300

(Ekiti State Tourism Board 2014)

Table 3.2 Sampling Size and Sampling Intensity of Business Owners

S/N	List of communities that make up Ekiti Tourism corridor	Selected communities base on unique natural features (n=75%)	Estimated Business Owners for each community	>50% sampling intensity
1	Ikogosi	Ikogosi	60	30
2	Ipole-Iloro	Ipole-Iloro	40	20
3	Efon-Alaaye	Efon-Alaaye	100	50
4	Okemesi			
	Total		100	80

(Ekiti State Tourism Board 2014)

3.2.3 Primary Data Collection

3.2.3.1 Reconnaissance Survey

A preliminary survey of Ekiti tourism corridor was embarked upon in order to obtain some information needed for a well-informed preparation for the detailed study.

3.2.3.2 Administration of questionnaire

A total of 600 questionnaires were administered to elicit information on the perception of residents, business owners and ecotourists on ecotourism facilities: such as roads, hotels, electricity and internet service; ecotourist-community relationship and ecotourism benefits to business owners were also assessed. Variables influencing willingness to pay for ecotourism development and benefits accruable to business owners were identified. Three communities were purposively selected out of four communities that make up the Ekititourism corridor (Table 3.1) based on their unique natural resources. Survey was based on household head or any adult available per household. Ten percent sampling intensity was used to select respondent from the communities for questionnaire survey as follows; one hundred (100), seventy (70) and one hundred and thirty (130) among the local residents in Ikogosi, Ipole-Iloro and Efon Alaye communities respectively making a total of 300questionnaire . Likewise, 50% sampling intensity was used to select respondent from the business owners for questionnaire survey (Table 3.2) as follows: 30, 20 and 50 copies to Ikogosi, Ipole-Iloro and Efon communities respectively summing up to a total of 100 questionnaire. While 180 copies of questionnaire were administered to the tourists using accidental and convenience sampling techniques, according to influx of tourists in each site. Twenty (20) copies of the fourth type of questionnaires were administered at the ecotourism site on officials.

3.2.3.3 Interview:

This is when the interviewer and the respondent are involved in a formal interview where time had been schedule to speak to each other (Kabir 2016).Structured interview was used to elicit information from tourism corridor manager and selected site staff, community residents, business owners and tourists.

3.2.3.4 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

FGDs were organized with the Community leaders, traditional heads and the youths in each community. Each group comprises of six to eight participants both male and female participant to allow effective discussion of questions pertaining to their perception of ecotourism development in their community, benefit from the development as well as willingness to participate. Key point from the discussion were noted and was later used to supplement the information on community knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and participation in ecotourism development.

3.2.3.5 Identification of Fauna resources

Ecological and behavioural survey has been successfully accomplished by observing and following animal directly (Lucas and Rodrigo, 2009). Direct observation permits everything that can be heard or observed as regards free range animals such as primates, carnivores and other types of vertebrate. Therefore, direct observation was used to study the availability of animals at the site for two wet seasons (March- May) and dry (November - January) seasons for two consecutive years. Animals were identified and counted.

3.2.4 Secondary Data Collection

3.2.4.1 Review of Office Records

This involved the perusal of official relevant documents such as maps, tourist's record, history of the sites at the tourism board and the head office of the study sites.

3.2.4.2 Information from Literature

Various literatures were reviewed to get information on the study area and the topic at large. Also, information was gotten from online journals and articles.

3.3 Data Analysis

In order to ensure adequate data management, the questionnaires were serially numbered for control and recall purposes. A good coding guide was developed and used for coding the answer questionnaires. Data collected from the questionnaires were subjected to analysis using both descriptive and inferential statistics (multiple linear and binary logistic regressions) at $p=0.05$.

3.3.1 Multiple Linear Regression

Multiple linear regressions was used to estimate the effect of socioeconomic characteristics on the amount ecotourists were willing to pay for ecotourism. The statistical model for the regression is given below

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n + \varepsilon \dots \text{equation (1)}$$

y = the predicted value of the dependent variable

β_0 = the y-intercept (value of y when all other parameters are set to 0)

$\beta_1 x_1$ = the regression coefficient (β_1) of the first independent variable (x_1) (which is the Effect that a change of the independent variable has on the predicted y value).

$\beta_n x_n$ = the regression coefficient of the last independent variable.

ε = model random error

3.3.2 Binary Logistic Regression

In order to identify the impacts of socioeconomic variables on benefit accrued from ecotourism development, a binary logistic regression model was used and the equation given below:

Model Specification

Consider the model of the form

$$\text{Logity}_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n)}} \dots \text{equation 2}$$

and

$Y_i = 0$ if respondent monthly income is $\leq 25,000$ 1 if otherwise

$x_{1i} = 0$ if respondent is male 1 if otherwise

$x_{2i} = 0$ if respondent is less than 30 years 1 if otherwise

$x_{3i} = 0$ if respondent education status is tertiary and 1 if otherwise

$x_{4i} = 0$ if respondent is not married 1 if otherwise

$x_{5i} = 0$ if respondent religious is Christian 1 if otherwise

$x_{6i} = 0$ if respondent is a civil servant, 1 if otherwise

Equation 2 is called a logistics response function for any value of x_1, \dots, x_q . The commonest measure is the odds of belonging to a class, say, class one (1) and is defined as the relation of the probability of belonging to class 1 to the probability of belonging to class 0. Mathematically

$$\text{Odds} = \frac{p}{1-p}$$

While the probability of belonging to a class 1 is

$$p = \frac{\text{odds}}{1 + \text{odds}}$$

The relationship between the odds and the probability is connected by

$$\text{odds} = e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n}$$

Now taking a log to base e on both sides, we get the standard formulation of a logistics.

Model given as

$$\log(\text{odds}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots + \beta_n x_n$$

$$\text{So that } = \sum_{p=0}^q x_{ip} \beta_p, \quad i=1,2,\dots,n$$

$$Y_i = \log \frac{p}{1-p}$$

The model assumes the following:

- i. It does not require a linear relationship between dependent and independent variable. Hence it should yield a prediction in $[0, 1]$ which is not realized in linear regression model.
- ii. The variance of y is constant across all classes since y follows a binomial distribution.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

4.1 Socioeconomics characteristics of communities' members

Tables 4.1 show the results of socioeconomic ratings of respondents based on sex, educational status, marital status, age, religion, occupation and monthly income for the local communities.

4.1.1 Sex of the respondents

Table 4.1 shows that male respondents were more in number across the sampled communities with 56.0%, 55.7% and 56.9% in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively while the percentage of female respondent were 44.0%, 44.3% and 43.1% in the three communities respectively.

4.1.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

Table 4.1 reveals that 24.0%, 62.0%, 7.0% and 7.0% were married, single, divorced and widowed respectively in Ikogosi community; 21.4%, 55.7%, 12.9% and 10.0% were married, single, divorced and widowed respectively in Ipole community while 21.5%, 63.1%, 0% and 4.6% were married, single, divorced and widowed respectively in Efon community.

4.1.3 Educational background of the respondents

Table 4.1 reveals that 26.0%, 14.3% and 10.0% had no formal education; 12.0%, 21.4% and 13.8% had primary education; 43.0%, 38.6% and 30.0% had secondary education while 19.0%, 25.7% and 40.8% had tertiary education in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities respectively.

4.1.4 Age distribution of the respondents

Majority (30.0%, 27.1% and 28.5%) of respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities had age of less than 30 years respectively Table 4.1. Lowest percentage (12.0%,) of respondents in Ikogosi community fall under 31-40years age group compare to 21.4% and 26.2% of respondents in Ipole and Efon communities respectively. However majority (25.0%) of respondents in Ikogosi community had age between 41-50years compare to 20.0% and 23.12% of respondents of Ipole and Efon communities respectively. Also, the respondents that fall between the ages of 51-60years were 20.0%, 17.1%, and 9.2%, in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities respectively. Likewise, 13.0%, 14.3% and 13.1% of the respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities had age of 60 years and above respectively.

4.1.5 Religion of Respondents

Table 4.1 shows that respondents were mainly Christians accounting for 72.0%, 61.4% and 70.0% of the respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities respectively.

4.1.6 Occupation of the respondents

Table 4.1 shows that majority of the respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities were civil servants accounting for 36.0%, 28.6% and 31.5% respectively. The other occupations were distributed at farmers: 28.0%, 22.9% and 12.3%; fishermen: 3.0%, 4.3% and 0.8%; shopkeepers: 3.0%, 1.4% and 6.2%; bus/taxi drivers: 4.0%, 5.7% and 10.8%; traders: 11.0%, 7.1% and 13.1%; art and craft workers: 2.0%, 17.1% and 18.5%; and students: 12.0%, 12.9% and 6.9% in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively.

4.1.7 Monthly income of respondents Family

Table 4.1 reveals that low percentage (10.0%) of household head respondents in Ikogosi community earned less than ₦25,000 compare to the substantial percentages (28.6% and 25.4%) at Ipole and Efon communities respectively. Likewise, low percentage (9.0%) of respondents earned between ₦25,001-50,000 in Ikogosi compare to the considerable percentages (44.3% and 14.6%) at Ipole and Efon respectively. Also, majority (30.0% and

43.8%) of Ikogosi and Efon respondents claimed to earn ₦50,001-75,000 monthly respectively compares to the low 15.7% in Ipole. However, only Ikogosi had a substantial percentage (23.0%) of respondents earning ₦75,001-100,000 compares to the low percentages (1.4%, 8.5%) of respondents in Efon and Ipole respectively. Also, lowest percentages of respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon agreed to earn above ₦100,000 respectively.

Table 4.1: Socioeconomics characteristics of communities members

Variables	Ikogosi N=100 (%)	Ipole Iloro N=70 (%)	Efon Alaaye 130 (%)
Sex:			
Male	56 (56.0)	39 (55.7)	74 (56.9)
Female	44 (44.0)	31 (44.3)	56 (43.1)
No response	1	-	-
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Marital status:			
Single	24 (24.0)	15 (21.4)	28 (21.5)
Married	62 (62.0)	39 (55.7)	82 (63.1)
Divorce	7 (7.0)	9 (12.9)	-
Widow	7 (7.0)	7 (10.0)	6 (4.6)
No response	-	-	14 (10.8)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Educational level:			
None formal	26 (26.0)	10 (14.3)	13 (10.0)
primary	12 (12.0)	15 (21.4)	18 (13.8)
Secondary	43 (43.0)	27 (38.6)	39 (30.0)
Tertiary	19 (19.0)	18 (25.7)	53 (40.8)
No response	-	-	7 (5.4)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Age:			
<30	30 (30.0)	19 (27.1)	37 (28.5)
31-40	12 (12.0)	15 (21.4)	34 (26.2)
41-50	25 (25.0)	14 (20.0)	30 (23.1)
51-60	20 (20.0)	12 (17.1)	12 (9.2)
60>	13 (13.0)	10 (14.3)	17 (13.1)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Religion:			
Christianity	72 (72.0)	43 (61.4)	91 (70.0)
Islamic	28 (28.0)	27 (38.6)	39 (30.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.1: Socioeconomics characteristics of communities' members

Variable	Ikogosi N=100 (%)	Ipole Iloro N=70 (%)	Efon Alaaye N=130 (%)
Occupation			
Civil servant	36 (36.0)	20 (28.6)	41 (31.5)
Farming	28 (28.0)	16 (22.9)	16 (12.3)
Fishing	3 (3.0)	3 (4.3)	1 (0.8)
Shop keeping	3 (3.0)	1 (1.4)	8 (6.2)
Bus/taxi driver	4 (4.0)	4 (5.7)	14 (10.8)
Trading	11 (11.0)	5 (7.1)	17 (13.1)
Art &craft work	2 (2.0)	12 (17.1)	24 (18.5)
Student	12 (12.0)	9 (12.9)	9 (6.9)
No response	1(1.0)	-	-
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130(100.0)
Total monthly Income of respondent family(₦)			
<25,000	10 (10.0)	20 (28.6)	33 (25.4)
25,000-50,000	9 (9.0)	31 (44.3)	19 (14.6)
50,001-75,000	30 (30.0)	11 (15.7)	57 (43.8)
75,001-100,000	23 (23.0)	1(1.4)	11 (8.5)
>100,000	8 (8.0)	2 (2.9)	4 (3.0)
No response	10 (10.0)	5 (7.1)	6 (4.6)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130(100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.2 Infrastructures, Facilities and Attractions that Exists at the Ecotourism Sites

Ikogosi Warm Spring Resort has a variety of infrastructural facilities and attractions. Figure 4.1 shows the types of lodging rooms and suites found at Ikogosi and the cost for each suite. These include the Event Centre (Plate 4.1 and 4.2), the Gymnasium (Plate 4.7), restaurants (Plate 4.5 and 4.6), Relaxation Centre (Plate 4.9), the swimming pools (Plate 4.8), hotels (Plate 4.3) etc. The hotels have spacious air-conditioned rooms (Plate 4.4) that are fitted with a double bed, a flat screen television set for satellite viewing, a worktable and lampshades. Each room has free internet connection (WiFi). The hotel serves guests complimentary breakfast while other meals and drinks are provided through the on-site restaurant and bar. The hotel houses an outdoor swimming pool and a gymnasium equipped with treadmills and stationary bikes. Car hire, airport shuttle, conferencing facilities, concierge and laundry services are provided at additional charges.

A security outfit provides 24-hour guard in the hotel. The hot and cold water springs is the main tourists attraction. The infrastructure at Arinta Water Fall consists of the access road from Ipole-Iloro town, the Gate House where ecotourism site officials collect entry fees and issue receipts, the relaxation centre (Plate 4.16) paved ground that serves as parking lot for tourists. The water fall, natural vegetation and scenery of dizzying heights of the mountain range and deep valley serve as unique attractions. River Ooni has water which is touted for performing healing and miracles in the lives of those who use it. This spiritual content of the river is the main tourist attractions. Very few wild animals were observed in river Ooni due to its dispersed natural vegetation and noise from the praying team.

Ikogosi warm spring possess more and standard infrastructures, facilities and attraction compare to the other sites but there are needs for improvements. The picnic cabin (plate:4.10) was not beautiful enough, the path within the site are too dirty and the stair case to the spring was too old (plate 4.13). The water from the spring are not well channeled (plate: 4.14) hence the wastage especially during raining season. The Zoo at the site has collapsed and abandoned (Plate 4.11). The only animal on show was a mona

monkey (Plate 4.12).The infrastructures, facilities and attraction at Arinta waterfall are very few (plate 4.16). The signpost is blur and too old (platen 4.15). No lodging apartments, zoo or display of any animal are found at the site. Despite all of the aforementioned default of Arinta water fall it is still far better in term of infrastructures, facilities and attraction compare to River Ooni. The only relaxation spot at River Ooni is a poorly connected bamboo wood (plate 4.18).

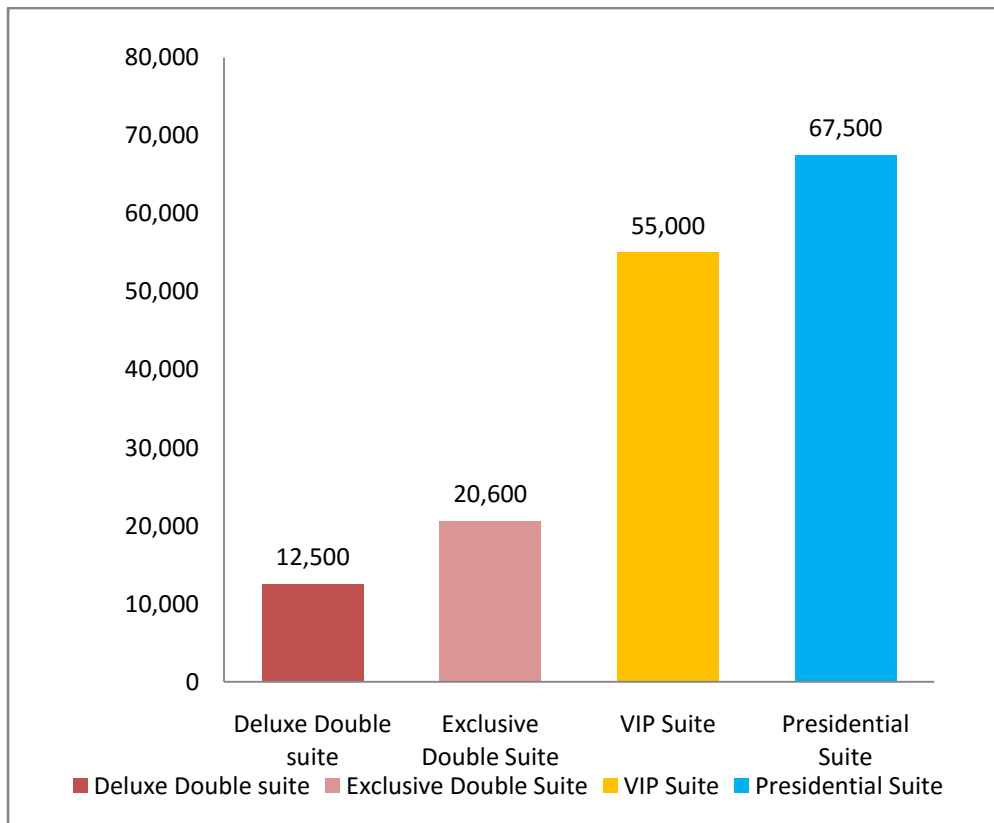


Figure 4.1: Type of Lodging Rooms and Suites Found at Ikogosi Warm Spring and their Costs

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.1: Event Hall in Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.2: Conferences Halls in Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.3: Various lodging apartments within Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.4: Deluxe Suite at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.5: Ikogosi Restaurant (front view)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.6: Ikogosi Restaurant (inward view)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.7: Gymnasium at the Ikogosi Warm Springs Hotel

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.8: Swimming Pool at Ikogosi Warm Spring (side view)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.9: Relaxation Centre at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.10: Small Relaxation Cabin on the Way to the Warm and Cold Springs
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.11: The Abandoned Zoo at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.12: Caged Monkey found on the way to the Springs
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.13: Concrete steps to the Source of the Springs

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.14: Mixed warm and cold water flowing from the springs
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.15: The Signage at the Entrance of Arinta waterfall

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.16: The paved road and relaxation Spot at Arinta Waterfall

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.17: The Arinta waterfall (the first cascade)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Plate 4.18: The Bamboo Relaxation spot at River Ooni

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.3 Assessment of relationship between the Host Communities' and the Ecotourism Site

Table 4.2 presents the relationships existing between the sites and host communities as viewed by the respondents in the host communities. Most of the respondents in the three communities (Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon) agreed that there has not been any communal conflict between the sites officials and the people of the communities. Highest percentage (98.0%, 40.0% and 97.7%) of the respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon claimed that they were allowed to collect some resources from the sites respectively while 65.0% and 80.0% of respondents in Ikogosi and Ipole respectively claimed that restriction was only placed on a resource but there was no resource restriction in Efon (0%). Therefore, the consideration given to host communities by giving them access to most of the resources was responsible for the high percentage of respondents (85.0%, 75.7% and 83.1%) at Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively agreeing to the existence of cordial relationships between the sites staff and the communities.

Table 4.2: Assessments of relationship between the host communities and the ecotourism site

Questions	Responses	Ikogosi N=100 (%)	Ipole N=70 (%)	Efon N=130(%)
Has there been any communal conflict between the site officials and the people of the community?	Yes	-	-	-
	No	100 (100.0)	68 (97.1)	130 (100.0)
	No response	-	2 (2.9)	-
	Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130(100.0)
Are you allowed to collect resources from the site?	Yes	98 (98.0)	28 (40.0)	127 (97.7)
	No	2 (2.0)	41 (58.6)	-
	No response	-	1(1.4)	3 (2.3)
	Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Is there any resource you are restricted from collecting?	Yes	65 (65.0)	56 (80.0)	-
	No	32 (32.0)	10 (14.3)	129 (99.2)
	No response	3 (3.0)	4 (5.7)	1 (0.8)
	Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
If yes, is there any compensation?	Yes	7 (7.0)	8 (11.4)	-
	No	52 (52.0)	42 (60.0)	-
	No response	4 (4.0)	20 (28.6)	130 (100.0)
	Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
What is your opinion on the associations among staff and communities residents?	Cordial	85 (85.0)	53 (75.7)	108 (83.1)
	Not cordial	2 (2.0)	2 (2.9)	15 (11.5)
	I don't know	10 (1.0)	15 (21.4)	5 (3.8)
	No response	3 (3.0)		2 (1.5)
Total		100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.4 Communities' Perception of Ecotourism Development in the Sites

Table 4.3 reveals that majority (97.0%, 95.7% and 90.8%) of the respondents of Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively have visited the sites as tourists. Likewise, highest percentage of respondents (81.0% and 68.5%) of Ikogosi and Efon community respondents perceived that ecotourism development would bring about business opportunities compared to 41.2% in Ipole. The other perceptions were that the sites: enhanced community development at 76.0%, 30.0% and 50.0%; serves as a means of conservation at 68.0%, 55.7% and 55.7%; offer employment opportunities at 54.0%, 32.9% and 95.4%; increase in income and quality of life at 91.0%, 65.7% and 34.6%; increase the demand for arts and craft at 85.0%, 64.3% and 90.8%; and has potential to create problems for the communities at 8.0%, 18.6% and 48.5% for Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively.

The collective result obtained from communities respondents on their perception of ecotourism development in their sites are presented in table 4.3 and 4.3. It shows that majority of the respondents the agreed that ecotourism activities will increase income and quality of life in the communities with 50.2% while 0.4% strongly disagree, 2.6% undecided and 46.2%strongly agree. Also, highest percentage of the respondents agreed that ecotourism activities will generate employment opportunities to the locale with 57.0%, while 0.4% strongly disagreed, 0.4% disagreed 2.1% undecided and 40.0% strongly agree. Likewise, 0.4% disagreed, 3.8% undecided and 45.5% strongly agreed that ecotourism will increase business opportunities for locale. As for whether ecotourism activities will bring development to the community in term of good infrastructures, facilities such as road, electricity supply, school & clinic etc, or not0.9% disagreed 12.8% undecided, 52.8% agreed and 45.5% strongly agreed. Highest percentage of the respondent agreed that ecotourism is a means of conserving the natural and cultural resources in the sites with 53.2% while 0.4% strongly disagreed, 0.4% disagreed 3.8% undecided and 42.1% strongly agreed. Also, 5.5% undecided, 53.6% agreed and 40.9% strongly agreed that ecotourism will promote trade in local arts and crafts to the purchase as souvenir. Likewise, 6.0% strongly disagreed, 7.2% disagreed 21.7% undecided, 57.0% agreed and 8.1% strongly agree that it will create problems for local community in terms

of over-crowding, crime, alcoholism & prostitution etc. Also, 0.9% disagreed 12.8% undecided, 52.8% agreed and 33.6% strongly agree that ecotourism will bring friendly relation between communities' members and tourists especially international tourists.

Table 4.3: Communities' Perception of Ecotourism Development in the Sites

Questions	Ikogosi N=100 (%)	Ipole N=70 (%)	Efon N=130 (%)
Have you visited the site as a tourist			
Yes	97 (97.0)	67 (95.7)	118 (90.8)
No	3 (3.0)	3 (4.3)	12 (9.2)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
What do you think can be outcome of ecotourism development;			
Business opportunity	81 (81.0)	29 (41.2)	89 (68.5)
No response	19 (19.0)	41(58.6)	41 (31.5)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Community development;	76 (76.0)	21 (30.0)	65 (50.0)
No response	24 (24.0)	49 (70.0)	65 (50.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Means of conservation	68 (68.0)	39 (55.7)	107 (82.3)
No response	32 (32.0)	31 (41.3)	23 (17.7)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Employment Opportunity	54 (54.0)	23 (32.9)	124 (95.4)
No response	46 (46.0)	47 (67.)	6 (4.6)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Increase income and quality of life	91(91.0)	46 (65.7)	45 (34.6)
No response	9 (9.0)	24 (34.3)	55 (65.4)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Increase demand for arts and crafts	85 (85.0)	45 (64.3)	118 (90.8)
No response	15 (5.0)	25 (35.7)	2 (9.2)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Create problems for the community	8 (8.0)	13 (18.6)	63 (48.5)
No response	92 (92.0)	57 (81.4)	67 (51.5)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.3: Communities' Perception of Ecotourism Development in the Site

Questions	Responses N=235	Frequency	Percent (%)
Ecotourism activities will increase income and quality of life in the community	Strongly disagree	1	0.3
	Disagree	0	0
	Undecided	6	2.0
	Agree	118	39.3
	Strongly Agree	110	36.7
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
It will generate employment opportunities to the locale	Strongly disagree	1	0.3
	Disagree	1	0.3
	Undecided	5	1.7
	Agree	134	44.7
	Strongly Agree	94	31.3
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
Ecotourism will increase business opportunities for locale	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Disagree	1	0.3
	Undecided	9	3.0
	Agree	118	39.3
	Strongly Agree	107	35.7
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
It will bring development to the community in term of good infrastructures, facilities such as road, electricity supply , school & clinic etc	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Disagree	2	0.7
	Undecided	30	10.0
	Agree	124	41.3
	Strongly Agree	79	26.3
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.3: Communities' Perception of Ecotourism Development in the Site

Questions	Responses N=235	Frequency	Percent (%)
Ecotourism is a means of conserving the natural and cultural resources in the site	Strongly disagree	1	0.3
	Disagree	1	0.3
	Undecided	9	3.0
	Agree	125	41.7
	Strongly Agree	99	33.0
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
Ecotourism will promote trade in local arts and crafts to the purchase as souvenir	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Undecided	13	4.3
	Agree	126	42.0
	Strongly Agree	96	32.0
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
It will create problems for local community in terms of over-crowding, crime, alcoholism & prostitution etc	Strongly disagree	14	4.7
	Disagree	17	5.6
	Undecided	51	17.0
	Agree	134	44.7
	Strongly Agree	19	6.3
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
It will bring friendly relation between locals and tourists especially international tourists	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Disagree	7	2.3
	Undecided	29	9.7
	Agree	128	42.7
	Strongly Agree	71	23.7
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
It will increase the locale interest in learning English	Strongly disagree	0	0
	Disagree	5	1.6
	Undecided	132	44.0
	Agree	80	26.7
	Strongly Agree	18	6.0
	No response	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

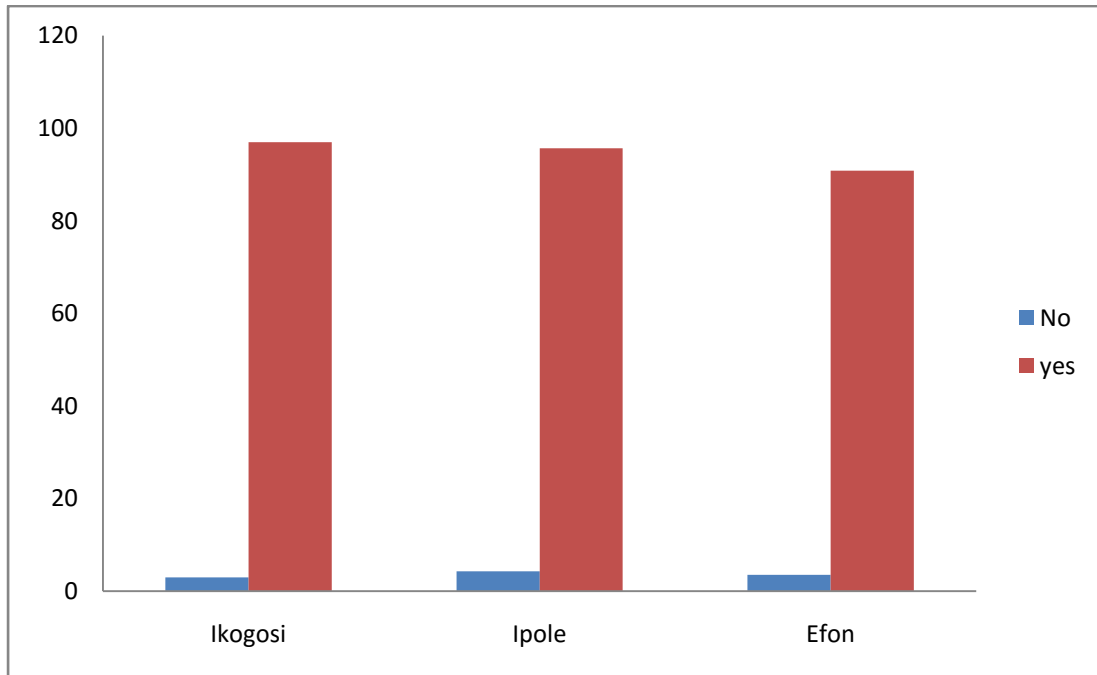


Figure 4.2: Local Communities Visitation to the Sites as Tourists

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

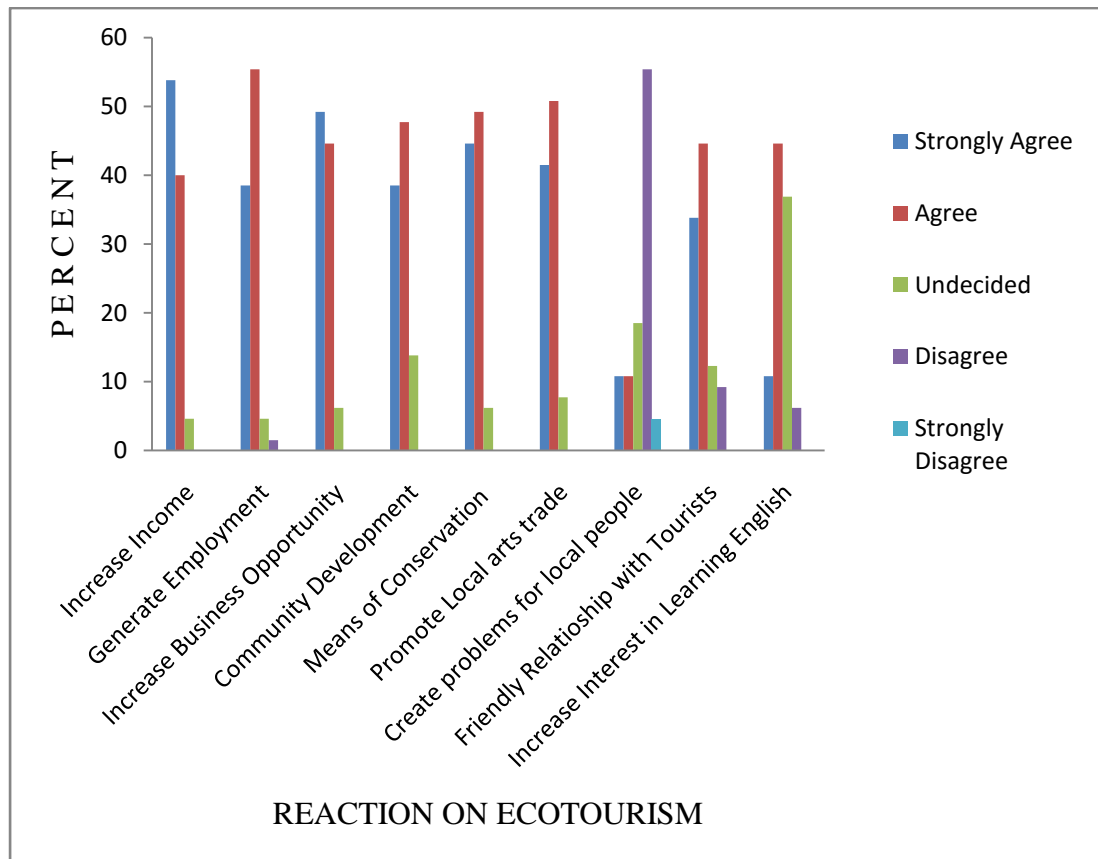


Figure 4.3: The perception of Ikogosi community on ecotourism development

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

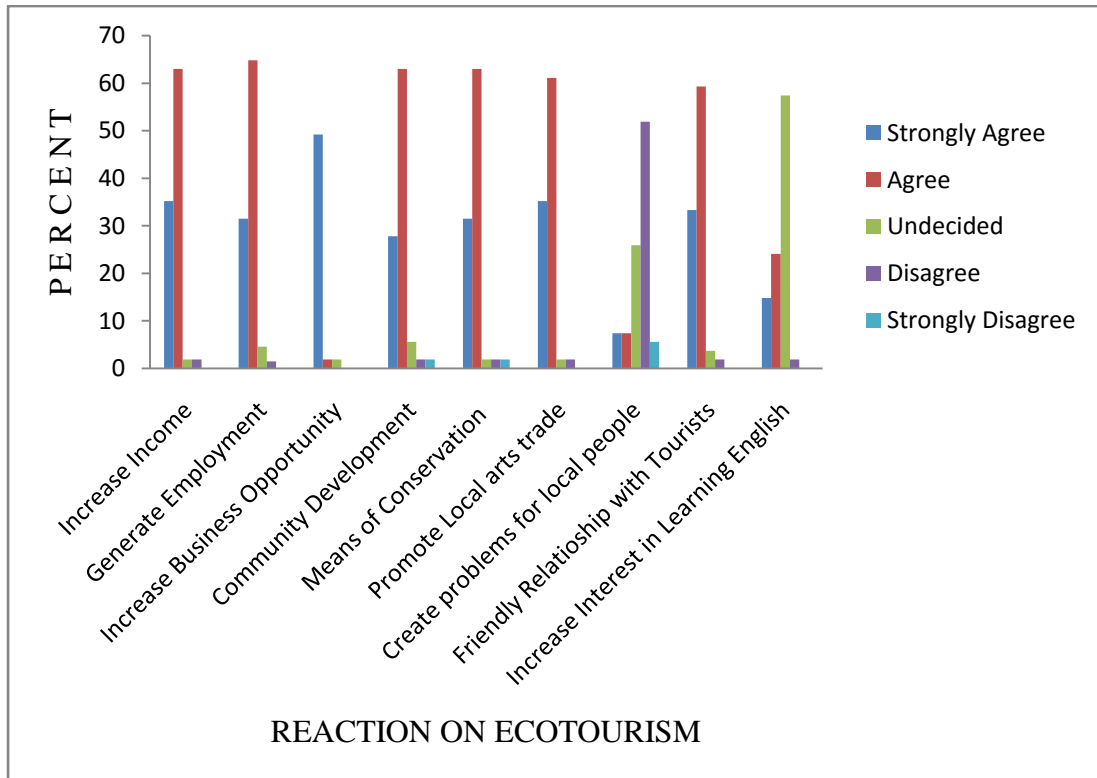


Figure 4.4: The perception of Ipole Iloro community on ecotourism development

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

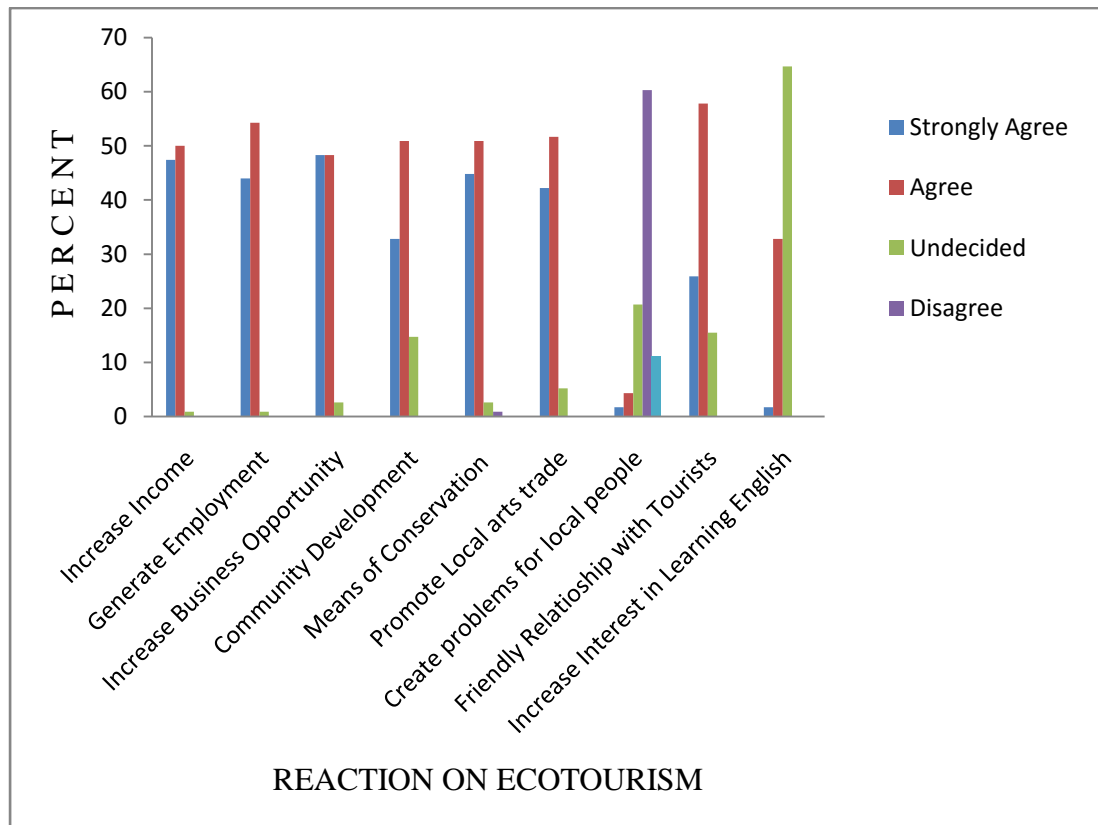


Figure 4.5: The perception of Efon Alaaye community on ecotourism development
 Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.5 The Communities Participation in Ecotourism Development Activities in the Sites

Table 4.4 presents the responses of participation in ecotourism development by the Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities. None of the respondents from Efon, while only 23.0% and 24.9% from Ikogosi and Ipole respectively claimed to have participated in ecotourism development in the area and 77.0%, 75.7% and 99.2% claimed non-involvement. Similarly, most of the respondents (69.0%, 74.3% and 81.5% in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities, respectively) were of the opinion that their communities have not been involved by the park officials in any ecotourism development activities.

The communities have not been involved in ecotourism development process in the last five years as indicated by the low attendance of various meetings. The proportions of the respondents in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities attended: meetings held by the general community (43.5%, 17.6% and 0%); meetings related to the communities security (52.2%, 23.5% and 0%); meetings on rural development issues (43.5%, 11.8% and 0%); meeting regarding conservation of the natural resources issues (26.1%, 5.9% and 0%); meeting regarding local cultural activity (13.0%, 11.8% and 0%); a work course or training (26.1%, 11.8% and 0%); and responded to research survey (13.0%, 0% and 0%) respectively. Most of the respondents (86.0%, 88.6% and 97.7%) in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively agreed that the communities were cooperating with the sites in conservation of the natural resources for ecotourism development. Table 4.9 shows that the levels of participation of the communities' members were low with 60.9% and high with 39.1%.

Table 4.4: Host communities' Participation in Ecotourism Activities

Questions/Responses	Ikogosi N=100 (%)	Ipole N=70 (%)	Efon N=130 (%)
Have the park officials involve you in any ecotourism development activities?			
Yes	23 (23.0)	17 (24.3)	-
No	77 (77.0)	53 (75.7)	129 (99.2)
No response	-	-	1(0.8)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
If yes, which events have you been involved in the last five (5) years?			
Attended a meeting held by the general village community	10 (43.5)	3 (17.6)	-
Attended a meeting at the village community level on security			
Attended a meeting on rural development issues	12 (52.2)	4 (23.5)	-
Attended a meeting regarding conservation of the natural resources issues	10 (43.5)	2 (11.8)	-
Attended a meeting regarding health issues	6 (26.1)	1 (5.9)	-
Attended a meeting of political party	5 (21.7)	2 (17.3)	-
Attended a meeting regarding local cultural activity	4 (17.4)	3 (17.3)	-
Attended a meeting regarding sports activity	3 (13.0)	2 (11.8)	-
Attended a work course or training	31 (3.0)	1 (5.9)	-
Responding to research survey	6 (26.1)	2 (11.8)	-
No response	3 (13.0)	-	-
Total	10 (43.5)	5 (21.4)	130 (100.0)
	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Have the sites officials in anyway involved the community (Planning, Education, Information, etc.)?			
Yes	25 (25.0)	16 (22.9)	24 (34.3)
No	69 (69.0)	52 (74.3)	106 (81.5)
No response	6 (6.0)	2 (17.3)	-
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)
Do you think the community is cooperating with the site in conservation of the natural resources for ecotourism development?			
Yes	86 (86.0)	62 (88.6)	127 (97.7)
No	12 (12.0)	7 (10.0)	-
No response	2 (2.0)	1 (5.9)	3 (2.3)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.6 Tourist Perception and Assessment of the Ecotourism at the Sites

Table 4.5 shows the results obtained from tourist respondents on whether they were visiting for the very first time. The tourists who were visiting Ikogosi Warm Spring, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni the first time accounted for 67.3%, 82.2% and 25.7% of the respondents respectively. Table 4.5 also shows the purposes of tourists' visitation to Ikogosi Warm Spring, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni. Substantial percentages (69.4%, 77.8% and 54.3%) of the tourists respectively were visiting the sites majorly for recreation followed by research; 12.2%, 17.8% and 28.6% respectively. Majority of the tourists are attracted to the main natural resources in the sites which are the warm and cold springs (69.4%), waterfall (77.8%) and the River (100.0%) found at Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni respectively, followed by the swimming pool in Ikogosi Warm Springs (12.2%) and the natural vegetation at Arinta (22.2%). The tourists to River Ooni claimed that they were not attracted to either the vegetation or any other feature. Other features of attraction and the percentage of the tourists attracted to them are also shown in Table 4.5.

Accommodation facilities assessment by the tourist respondents was 66.3% as good, 25.5% as fair and 1.0% as poor at Ikogosi Warm Springs while there was no response from the tourists for Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni where these facilities do not exist. Also, the assessment of transportation facilities by the tourist respondents was 32.7% as good, 60.2% as fair and 3.1% as poor in Ikogosi Warm Springs while there were no responses for Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni because none was provided. The road was adjudged good (60.2%) and fair (35.7%) in Ikogosi Warm Springs and good (88.9%) and fair (11.1%) in Arinta Waterfall while River Ooni had low percentage of 17.1% as good, 28.6% as fair and 54.3% as poor. Regarding amenities in the sites, 42.9% rated the facilities as good, 54.1% fair in Ikogosi Warm Springs; 4.4% for good, 6.7% for fair and 88.9% as poor in Arinta Waterfall and 17.1% for good, 28.6% for fair and 54.3% for poor in River Ooni.

The result obtained from tourist respondents on their perception of tourists to sites officials relationships and satisfaction are presented in Table 4.5. The highest percentages

(72.4%, 97.8% and 91.4%) of the tourist respondents claimed that the relationships between the tourists and park officials were good, 25.5%, 2.2% and 8.6% agreed that they were fair while none gave poor as an answer in Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni respectively. The proportion of tourists which agreed that they were provided with educational material about the sites and/or their natural features was 49.0%, 0%, none and 80.0% of the respondents while 49.0%, 100.0% and 20.0% disagreed at Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni respectively. Table 4.5b also shows that majority of the tourists at 93.9%, 100.0% and 88.6% would wish to visit again while 5.1%, 0% and 8.6% claimed they would not. Regarding whether the tourists were satisfied with their visits to the sites or not, the highest percentage at 94.9%, 77.8% and 85.7% agreed while 4.1%, 22.2% and 14.3% disagreed. The amount they would be willing to pay as entrance fees to the sites are also in Table 4.5. The percentage of tourist reasons for visitation to the ecotourism sites were shown in figure 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 while the medium of information about the ecotourism sites are shown in figure 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11.

Table 4.5: Tourists' Perception and Assessment of the Ecotourism Development in the Sites

Questions	Responses	Ikogosi Warm spring N=100 (%)	Arinta Waterfall N=45 (%)	River Ooni N=35 (%)
Have you visited any site or recreation centre in Nigeria?	Yes	74 (74.0)	45 (100.0)	32 (91.4)
	No	23 (23.0)	-	3 (8.6)
	No response	3 (3.0)	-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
Are you visiting the site for the first time?	Yes	66 (66.0)	37 (82.2)	9 (25.7)
	No	32 (32.0)	8 (17.8)	26 (74.3)
	No response	2 (2.0)	-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
What your major purpose for visiting?	Recreation	68 (69.4)	35 (77.8)	19 (54.3)
	Research	12 (12.0)	8 (17.8)	10 (28.6)
	Education	12 (12.0)	2 (4.4)	6 (17.1)
	No response	8 (8.0)	-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
What interest you most in this site?	Warm and cold spring	69 (69.0)	-	-
	Waterfall	-	35 (77.8)	35 (100.0)
	River	-	-	-
	Natural Vegetation	5 (5.1)	10 (22.2)	-
	Swimming pool	12 (12.2)	-	-
	Gym	7 (7.1)	-	-
	Relaxation centre	7 (7.1)	-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
What is your assessment of the accommodation facilities?	Good	65 (65.0)	-	-
	Fair	25 (25.0)	-	-
	Poor	10 (10.0)	-	-
	No response	-	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
How would you rate the transportation facilities provided for tourists?	Good	32 (32.0)	-	-
	Fair	59 (59.0)	-	-
	Poor	3 (3.0)	-	-
	No response	6 (6.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
What is the road condition?	Good	59 (59.0)	40 (88.9)	1 (2.8)
	Fair	41 (41.0)	5 (11.1)	2 (5.7)
	Poor	-	-	31 (88.6)
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
How would you rate the social amenities in the site?	Good	47 (47.0)	40 (88.9)	6 (17.1)
	Fair	53 (54.1)	3 (66.7)	10 (28.6)
	Poor	-	2 (4.4)	19 (54.3)
	Total	100 (100.0)	45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.5: Tourists' Perception and Assessment of the Ecotourism Development in the Sites
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Questions	Responses	Ikogosi spring (%)	Warm N=100	Arinta Waterfall N=45 (%)	River Ooni N=35 (%)
What is your assessment or interpersonal relationship among staff and tourists?	Good	71 (71.0)		44 (97.8)	32 (91.4)
	Fair	25 (25.0)		1 (2.2)	3 (8.6)
	Poor	-		-	-
	No response	4 (4.0)		-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
Were you/ your group given educational information/material about the site and/or its natural features when you visit?	Yes	48 (48.0)		-	28 (80.0)
	No	48 (48.0)		45 (100.0)	7 (20.0)
	No response	4 (4.0)		-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
If yes, Can you rate in general the level of satisfaction with the information you were provided with according to the following scale:	Satisfied	51 (52.0)		15 (33.3)	26 (74.3)
	Unsatisfied	2 (2.0)		30 (66.7)	9 (25.7)
	No response	47 (47.0)		-	-
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
Do you think the site is well managed?	Yes	91 (91.0)		32 (71.1)	31 (88.6)
	No	7 (7.0)		12 (26.7)	4 (11.4)
	No response	2 (2.0)		1 (2.2)	-
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
Can you rate in general the level of satisfaction when you visit to the site according to the following scale:	Satisfied	93 (94.9)		35 (77.8)	30 (85.7)
	Unsatisfied	7 (7.0)		10 (22.2)	5 (14.3)
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)
Would you visit the site again in future?	Yes	92 (93.9)		45 (100.0)	31 (88.6)
	No	5 (5.1)		-	3 (8.6)
	No response				
	Total				
What is the maximum amount you will pay to enter the site? (#)	1000	12 (12.1)		5 (11.1)	8 (22.9)
	700	1 (1.0)		-	-
	600	1 (1.0)		-	-
	500	57 (58.2)		20 (44.4)	10 (28.6)
	400	1 (1.0)		-	-
	300	11 (11.2)		-	1 (2.9)
	200	7 (7.1)		15 (33.3)	3 (8.6)
	Free	1 (1.0)		2 (4.4)	13 (37.1)
	No response	19 (9.0)		2 (4.4)	3 (8.6)
	Total	100 (100.0)		45 (100.0)	35 (100.0)

Table 4.6: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis that Shows the Effect of Socioeconomic Characteristics on the Amount Ecotourists are Willing to Pay

Variables	B	S.E.	95% Confidence Interval(C.I.) for OR
Gender:			
Male			1
Female	1.95	0.99	(0.85-1.2)*
Marital status:			
Married (Ref)			1
Others	-0.14	0.08	(0.66-1.04)
Educational level:			
None /primary (Ref)			1
Secondary and others	4.34	1.98	(1.30-3.60)*
Age:			
<30 (Ref)			1
Others	1.18	1.63	(1.49-2.11)*
Religion:			
Christianity (Ref)			1
Islamic	0.03	0.13	(0.35-1.05)
Occupation			
Civil servant (Ref)			1
Others	0.04	1.09	(0.87-1.26)
Monthly Income			
<50,000 (Ref.)			1
Others	1.31	1.42	(0.47-0.81)*

Negelkerke R square 0.61; Ref; Reference category, *: Significant (p>0.05)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

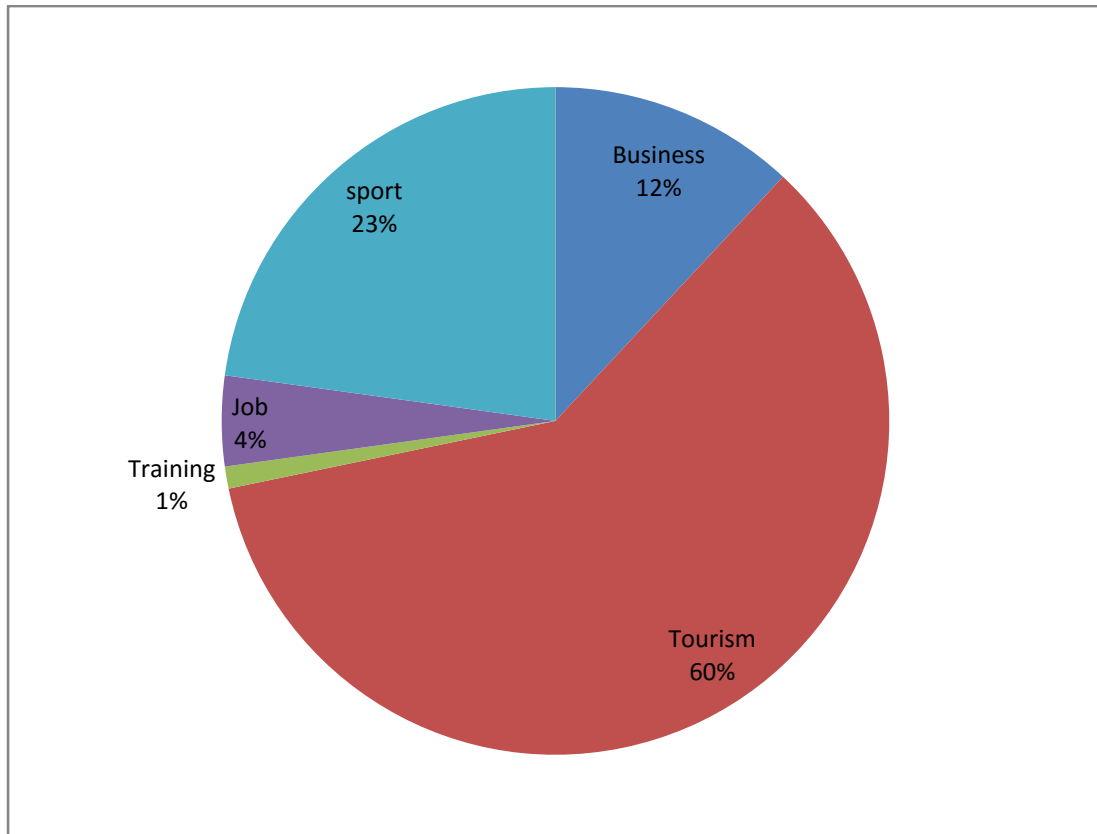


Figure 4.6: Ikogosi Warm Spring Tourists Reasons for Visiting Ekiti State

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

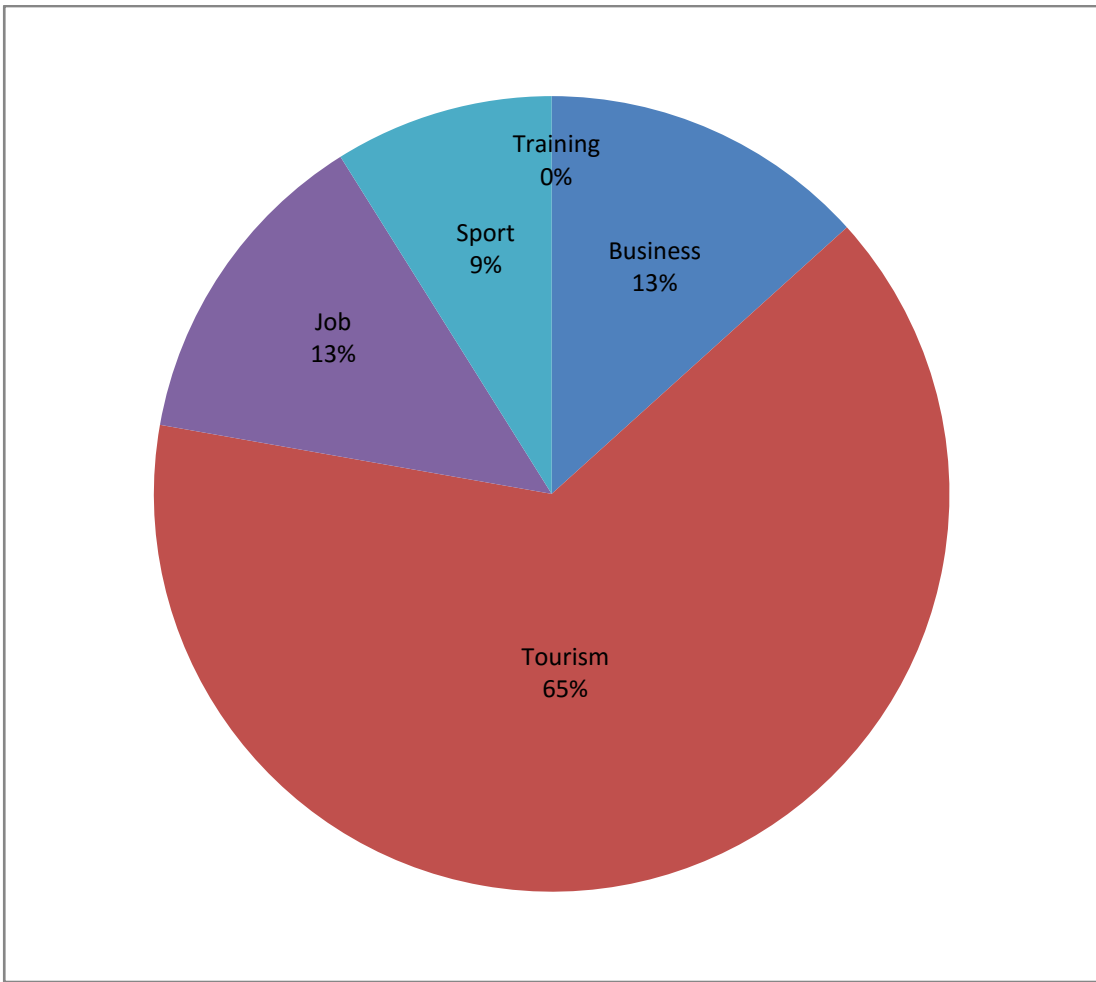


Figure 4.7: Arinta Waterfall Tourists Reasons for Visiting to Ekiti State

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

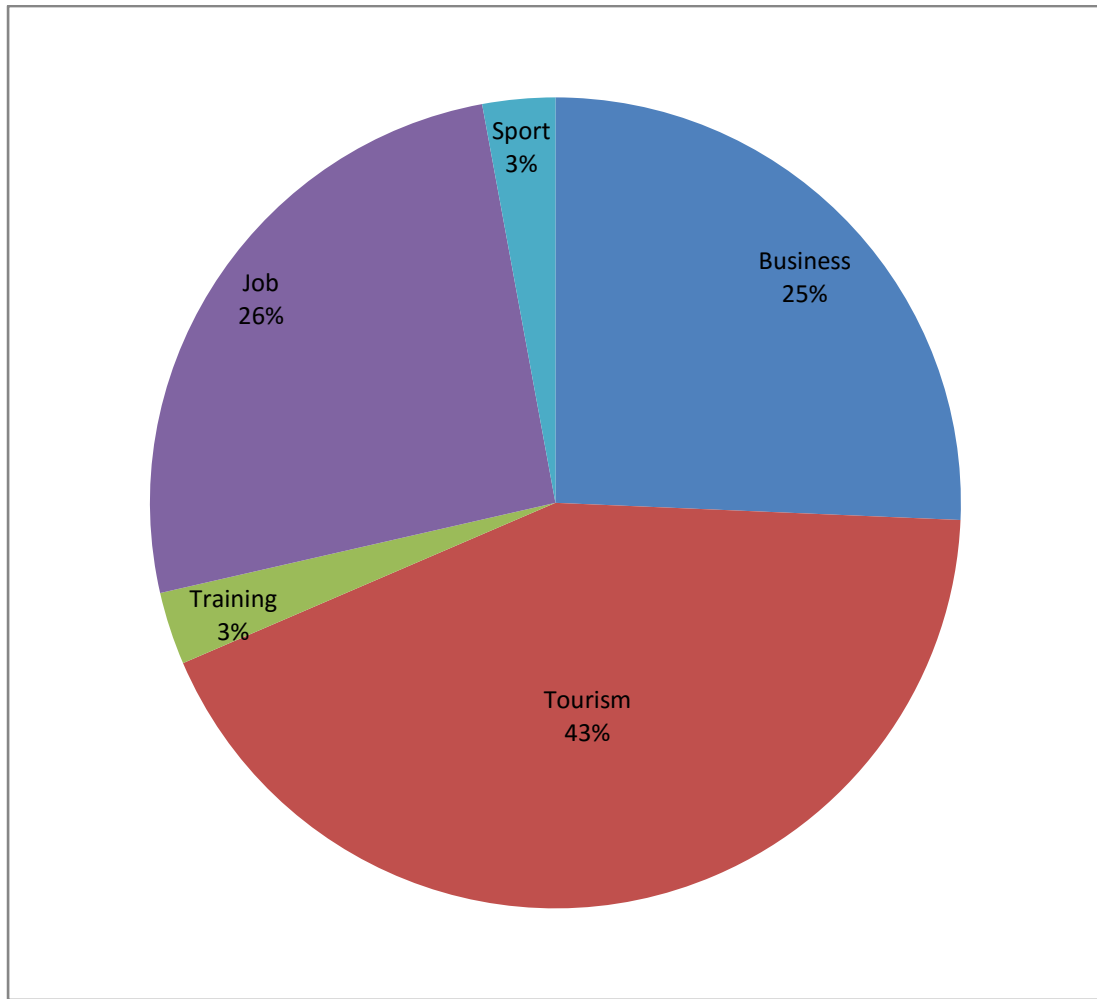


Figure 4.8: River Ooni Tourists Reasons for Visiting Ekiti State

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

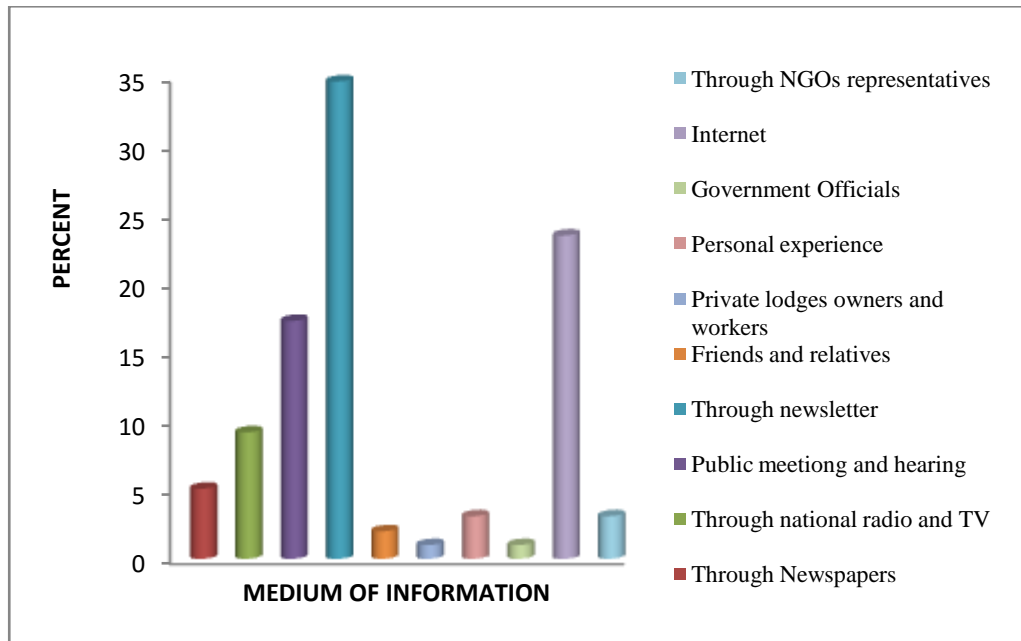


Figure 4.9: Medium of Information about Ecotourism (Ikogosi Warm Springs)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

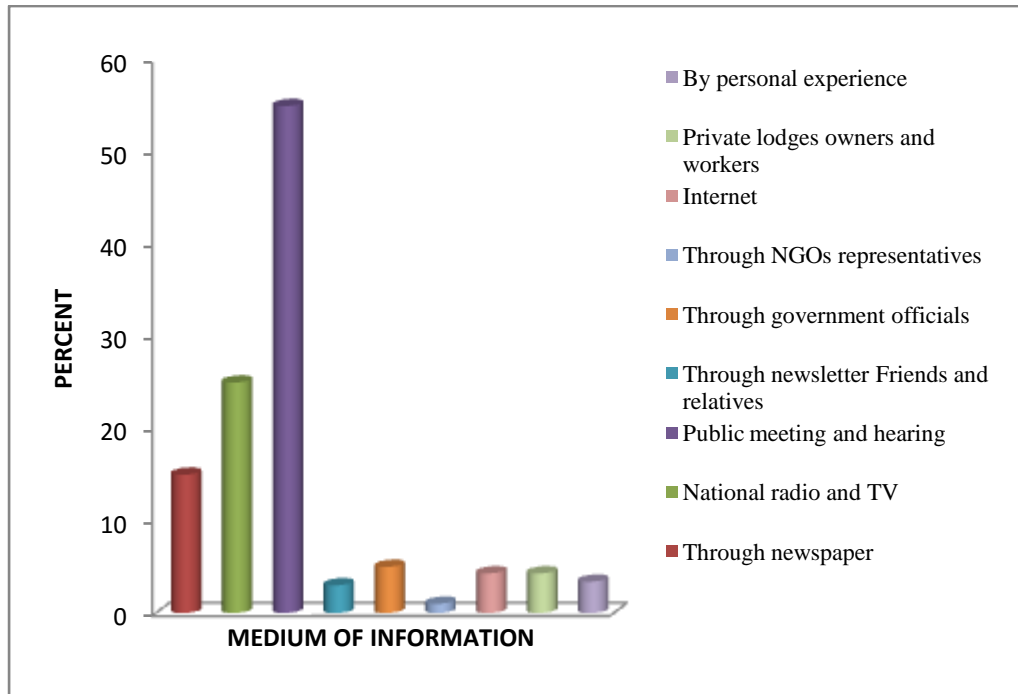


Figure 4.10: Medium of Information about Ecotourism (Arinta Waterfall)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

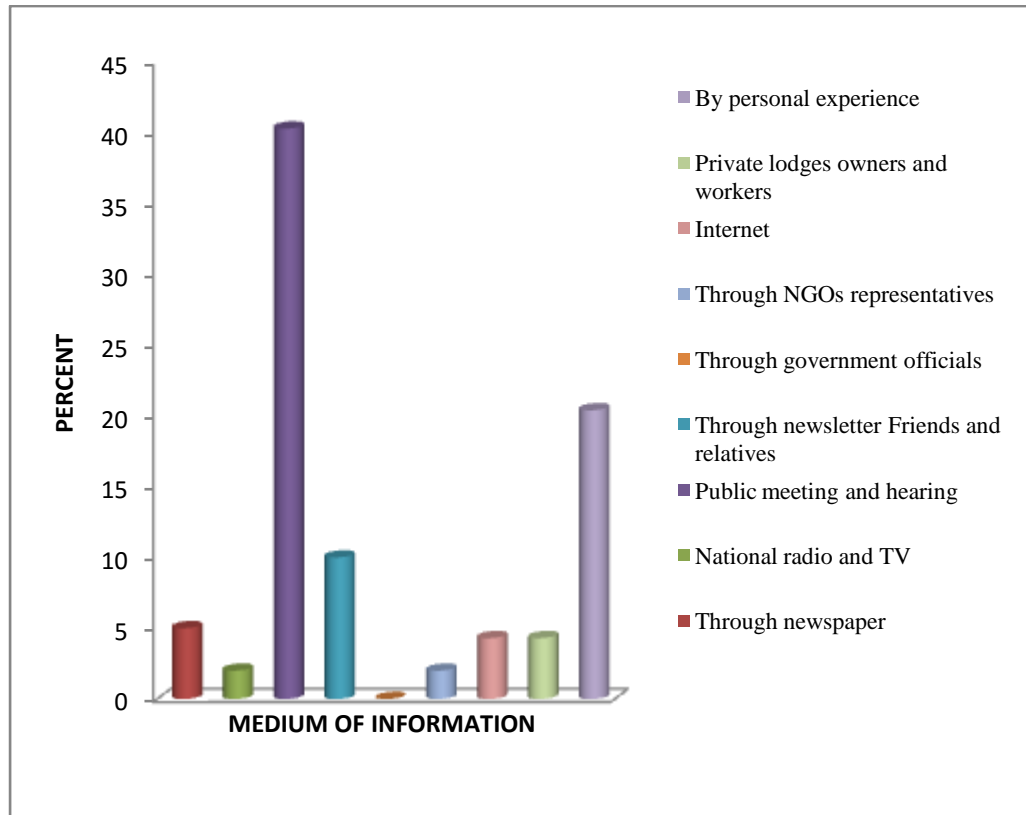


Figure 4.11: Medium of Information about Ecotourism (River Ooni)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.7 Assessment of the cooperation of local communities with the ecotourism sites' management

Table 4.7 shows that all the staff claimed that there had never been any communal conflict between the sites staff and the people of the communities around Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni respectively. Also, 81.3% and 100.0% of the staff at Ikogosi Warm Springs and Arinta Waterfall respectively claimed that local residents were permitted to use the sites resources respectively. At Ikogosi Warm Springs and River Ooni respectively, 81.3% and 100.0% of the sites staff claimed that there had been local communities' outreach/education activities with regards to the ecotourism while 12.5% and 100.0% disagreed at Ikogosi Warm Springs and Arinta Waterfall respectively. Majority of the sites' staff at 87.5%, 100.0% and 100.0% claimed that there was cordial relationship between sites staff and communities residents at Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni respectively. The staff agreed that inadequate infrastructure and recreational facilities and inadequate funding were the major constraints to ecotourism development at Ikogosi Warm Springs whereas the staff at Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni included inadequate publicity to the constraints. The highest percentage of the sites' staff (75.0%, 100.0% and 100.0% respectively) claimed that poaching/encroachment was not common in the sites and so together with interference did not constitute a constraint to ecotourism development.

Table 4.7: Assessment of the Cooperation of Local Communities with the Ecotourism Sites' Management

Questions	Responses	Ikogosi warm spring N=16(%)	Arinta waterfall N=2(%)	River Ooni N=2(%)
Has there been any communal conflict between the sites officials and the people of the community?	Yes	-	-	-
	No	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
Are local residents permitted to use Site resources?	Yes	14(87.5)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
	No	2(12.5)	-	-
	No response	6(100)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
	Total			
Are they restricted from taking any site resources?	Yes	13(81.3)	2(100.0)	-
	No	3(18.8)	-	2(100.0)
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
Is poaching/encroachment common in this site?	Yes	3(18.8)	-	-
	No	12(75.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
Have there been local communities' outreach/ education activities with regard to the ecotourism?	Yes	13(81.3)	-	2(100.0)
	No	2(12.5)	2(100.0)	-
	No response	1(6.225)	-	-
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
How do you perceive the relationships between site staff and communities residents?	Cordial	14(87.5)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
	Not cordial	-	-	-
	I don't know No response	-	-	-
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)
What are the major constraints to ecotourism development in the site?	Inadequate publicity	2(12.5)	-	1(50.0)
	Inadequate funding	12(75.0)	2(100.0)	-
	Inadequate infrastructure and recreational facilities	2(12.5)	-	1(50.0)
	Poaching and interference	-	-	-
	Total	16(100.0)	2(100.0)	2(100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.8 Assessment the Business Benefit that Accrued From the Ecotourism Sites

The ways in which the business owner respondents have benefited are presented in Table 4.18. It shows that a very low percentage (15.0%, 2.9% and 20.8 %) of communities' respondents and variable proportion of business owners (63.3, 10.0 and 24.0%) in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities respectively claimed to have benefited from the establishment of the sites. A very high percentage (93.3%, 90.0% and 72.0%) agreed that their businesses benefited from the establishment of the sites in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively. The highest form was through increase and improvement in sales (63.3%, 60.0% and 48.0% respectively) in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities. Table 4.20 shows that level of benefits from business entrepreneurs is low with 78.6%.

Table 4.9 shows a binary logistic regression analysis of the impact of some socio-economic variables namely gender, age, marital status, educational status, religion, occupation and monthly income on the benefit accruable from ecotourism. The Wald criterion demonstrated that gender, age, educational status and monthly income made a significant contribution to benefits accruable. Marital status and religion were not significant predictors of benefit accruable. The coefficient of regression β indicates that gender, age, educational status and monthly income contributed to the prediction of benefit accruable positively.

Table 4.8: Assessment the Business Benefit that Accrued from the Ecotourism Sites

Questions / Responses	Community Respondents			Business Owners Respondents		
	Ikogosi (%) N=100	Ipole(%) N=70	Efon(%) N=130	Ikogosi (%) N=30	Ipole(%) N=20	Efon(%) N=50
Has your business benefited from the establishment of the sites?						
Yes	-	-	-	28 (93.3)	18 (90.0)	36 (72.0)
No	-	-	-	2 (6.7)	2 (20.0)	14 (28.0)
Total				30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
If yes, in which ways?						
Tourist guide	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stage traditional dancer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bus/taxi/van driver	-	-	-	2 (6.7)	3 (15.0)	5 (10.0)
Carpenter and repairs works	-	-	-	-	2 (10.0)	2 (4.0)
Sea food supplier to lodge operators	-	-	-	5 (16.7)	-	-
Restaurant owner	-	-	-	2 (6.7)	4 (20.0)	3 (6.0)
Environmental management	-	-	-	-	-	-
Picnic cabin cleaner	-	-	-	1 (3.3)	-	-
Vegetable and food supplier to the lodge	-	-	-	19 (63.3)	12 (60.0)	24 (48.0)
Improved sales				1 (3.3)	-	16 (32.0)
No response				30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
Total						
What is your overall feeling about the sites?						
Relevant	82 (82.0)	69 (98.6)	129(99.2)	27 (90.0)	20 (100.0)	46 (92.0)
Not Relevant	18 (18.0)	1 (1.4)	1(0.8)	3 (10.0)	-	4 (8.0)
Total	100(100.0)	70(100.0)	130(100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
What is the highest amount you will be willing to pay to visit the sites? (#)						
Free	24 (24.0)	10 (14.3)	37(28.5)	-	5 (25.0)	22 (44.0)
100-500	58 (58.0)	54 (77.7)	67(51.5)	27 (90.0)	15 (75.0)	22 (44.0)
500-1000	18 (18.0)	6 (85.7)	16(12.3)	3 (10.0)	-	-
>1000	-	-	10(7.7)	-	-	6 (12.0)
Total	100(100.0)	70(100.0)	130(100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.9: Binary logistic regression analysis of the impact of socioeconomic variables on benefit accrued from ecotourism development

Independent variables	B	S.E.M	Wald	df	p. value
Gender	1.51	0.38	13.48	1	0.00
Age	3.05	0.54	40.36	1	0.00
Educational status	1.74	0.37	21.14	1	0.01
Marital status	1.65	0.39	16.10	1	0.11
Monthly income	2.19	0.48	21.03	1	0.00
Religious	-1.06	0.51	3.90	1	0.10
Occupation	4.01	0.49	25.90	1	0.01
Constant		0.69	17.08	1	0.00

Model summary		
-2 log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
215.48a	0.29	0.58

** Significant at 0.05 level of significant

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.9 Effect of the Establishments of the Sites on Communities' Livelihood

Table 4.10 shows that 82.0%, 55.7 % and 83.5% of the communities respondents and 16.7%, 40.0% and 60.0% of business owners respondents within the communities of Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively had good living conditions before the establishment of the sites, fair for 16.0%, 41.4% and 13.8% of the local communities' respondents and 83.3, 60.0 and 40.0% of the business owners respectively while 1.0%, 1.4% and 1.5 % of the local communities' respondents and none of the business owners was in poor living condition. None of the local communities' respondents and business owners claimed that ecotourism development in the sites has disturbed their communities' livelihood.

Table 4.10: How the Establishments of the Sites Affects Communities' Livelihood

Questions/Responses	Community		Respondents		Business Owners Respondents	
	Ikogosi(%) N=100	Ipole(%) N=70	Efon(%) N=130	Ikogosi (%) N=30	Ipole(%) N=20	Efon (%) N=50
How was your living condition before the establishment of the site?						
Good	82 (82.0)	39 (55.7)	109 (83.5)	5 (16.7)	8 (40.0)	30 (60.0)
Fair	16 (16.0)	29 (41.4)	18 (13.8)	25 (83.3)	12 (60.0)	20 (40.0)
Poor	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	2 (1.5)	-	-	-
No response	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	1 (0.8)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)			
What is the living condition now in your community?						
Improved	55 (55.0)	45 (64.3)	85 (65.4)	29(96.7)	18 (90.0)	34 (68.0)
Same	45 (45.0)	24 (34.3)	45 (34.6)	1(3.3)	2 (10.0)	16 (32.0)
Fair	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
Is there any way that ecotourism development in the sites has disturbed your Community livelihood?						
Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
No	95 (95.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	49 (98.0)
No response	5 (5.0)	-	-	-	-	1 (2.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 100.0)	130 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
Have you benefited from the establishment of the site?						
Yes	15 (15.0)	2 (2.9)	27 (20.8)	19 (63.3)	2 (10.0)	12 (24.0)
No	85 (85.0)	64 (91.4)	103 (79.2)	11 (36.7)	18 (90.0)	36 (72.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)
If yes, in which ways?						
Full-time employee in tourist lodges	3 (3.0)	-	-	3 (10.0)	-	-
Full-time tourist guide	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	-	2 (6.7)	-	-
Shopkeeper	1 (1.0)	-	-	1 (3.3)	-	-
Picnic cabin owner	1 (1.0)	-	-	2 (6.7)	-	-
Full-time employee in site restaurant	3 (3.0)	-	-	-	-	-
Healing	-	-	22 (16.9)	-	-	10 (20.0)
No response	91 (91.0)	69 (98.6)	108 (83.1)	22 (73.3)	20 (100.0)	40 (80.0)
Total	100 (100.0)	70 (100.0)	130 (100.0)	30 (100.0)	20 (100.0)	50 (100.0)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

4.10 Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring Vegetation .

Table 4.11-4.15 reveal the wild animal species identified in Ikogosi warm spring vegetation during the wet and dry season in 2014 and 2016. Also, Table 20 shows the total number of wild animal s identified in Ikogosi warm spring vegetation, the family they belong to, scientific name, frequency of occurrence and percentage of occurrence.

Table 4.11: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation during Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Cryetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	footprint	Least concern	Stable
Palm civet	Asinko	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.11: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation during Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Giant forest hog	Elede igbo	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Maxwell duiker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Decreasing
Hyracoidca					
Tree hyrax	Ofafa	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Pholidota					
Giant pangolin	Akikana	<i>Smutsia gigantea</i>	Footprint/trail	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Tree pangolin	Akika kekere	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Sighting	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown
Green mamba	Afirusoro	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014)

**Table 4.12: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring's
Vegetation during Dry Season**

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Flying squirrel	Ajao	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Footprint	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014-2015)

Table 4.12: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring’s Vegetation during Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Hyracoidca					
Rock hyrax	Elekute	<i>Procavia. Capensis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix lathaml</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown
Puff adder	Oka	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014-2015)

Table 4.13: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation during Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	Footprint /trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giantforest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Not yet accessed	Unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Footprint	Least concern	Stable
Palm civet	Asinko	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.14: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation during Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Giant forest hog	Elede igbo	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Footprints /dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Footprint /trail	Not yet accessed	Decreasing
Hyracoidca					
Tree hyrax	Ofafa	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Pholidota					
Tree pangolin	Akika kekere	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Sighting	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.15: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring’s Vegetation during Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	footprint	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2015 - 2016)

Table 4.15: Identified Wild Animals Species in Ikogosi Warm Spring’s Vegetation during Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Puff adder	Oka	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Footprint /Trail	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2015-2016)

4.11 Identified Wild Animals Species in the Arinta Waterfall Vegetation.

Table 4.16 - 4.19 reveal the wild animal species identified in arinta waterfall vegetation during the wet and dry season in 2014 and 2016. Also, Table 21 shows the total number of wild animals identified in arinta waterfall vegetation, the family they belong to, scientific name, frequency of occurrence and percentage of occurrence.

Wild animals were not observed in the vegetation of River Ooni due to its highly dispersed natural vegetation and the noise from the praying team, tourists, vehicle, and motor bike e.t.c. Fifty fauna species of wildlife belonging to 32 families were documented in which the family Scuridae had the highest occurrence with 44.7% of total occurrence

Table 4.16: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Chimpanzee	Inaki	<i>Pan troglodyte</i>	Vocalisation	Endangered	Decreasing
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Flying squirrel	Ajao	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting/dung	Least concern	Unknown
Wild dog	Ajagbo	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	footprint	Endangered	Stable
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Palm civet	Asinko	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing

Source: Field Survey (2014)

Table 4.16: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Giant forest hog	Elede igbo	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Hyracoidca					
Tree hyrax	Ofafa	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Decreasing
Pholidota					
Giant pangolin	Akika nla	<i>Smutsia gigantean</i>	Sighting	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Tree pangolin	Akika kekere	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Sighting	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown
Green mamba	Afirusoro	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014)

Table 4.17: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	Footprint /trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Flying squirrel	Ajao	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	footprint	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014-2015)

Table 4.17: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprints /dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Hyracoidca					
Rock hyrax	Elekute	<i>Procavia. capensis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix lathaml</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown
Puff adder	Oka	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Python	Ojola	<i>Python reglus</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2014-2015)

Table 4.18: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Chimpanzee	Inaki	<i>Pan troglodyte</i>	Vocalisation	Endangered	Decreasing
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Flying squirrel	Ajao	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	unknown
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting/dung	Least concern	Unknown
Wild dog	Ajagbo	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	Footprint/dung	Endangered	Stable
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Decreasing
Palm civet	Asinko	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.18: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Wet Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Giant forest hog	Elede igbo	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Hyracoidca					
Tree hyrax	Ofafa	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Decreasing
Pholidota					
Tree pangolin	Akika kekere	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Sighting	Vulnerable	Decreasing
Aves					
Bush fowl	Aparo	<i>Peliperdix lathamii</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Green mamba	Afirusoro	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2015)

Table 4.19: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Primates					
Mona monkey	Edun	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Sighting/ Vocalisation	Least concern	Unknown
Green monkey	-	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Rodentia					
Giant rat	Okete	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Porcupine	Ira	<i>Atherurus Africanus</i>	Footprint/trail	Least concern	Unknown
Giant forest squirrel	Okere	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Flying squirrel	Ajao	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Ground squirrel	Ikun	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Cane rat	Oya	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Carnivora					
Genet cat	Aguta	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	footprint	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2015-2016)

Table4.19: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta Waterfall Ipole Vegetation During Dry Season

Common name	Local name	Scientific name	Evidence Directly /Indirectly	IUCN Conservation Status	Population Trend (IUCN)
Artodactyla					
Bush buck	Agbonrin	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Footprints/dung	Least concern	Decreasing
Maxwell diker	Etu	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Faecal droppings	Least concern	Stable
Hyracoidca					
Rock hyrax	Elekute	<i>Procavia. Capensis</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Aves					
Weaver bird	Kare	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Unknown
Reptiles					
Cobra	Agbaadu	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Unknown
Puff adder	Oka	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Sighting	Least concern	Stable
Python	Ojola	<i>Python reglus</i>	Footprint/Trail	Least concern	Stable

Source: Field Survey (2015-2016)

Table 4.20: Identified Wild Animals in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Frequency of occurrence	Percentage of occurrence	Total % of Occurrence
Primates					
Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Mona monkey	10	8.1	
Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Green monkey	8	6.5	14.6
Rodentia					
Nesomyidae	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Giant rat	6	4.9	4.9
Hystricidae	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	Porcupine	4	3.3	3.3
Sciuridae	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Giant forest squirrel	12	9.8	
Sciuridae	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Flying squirrel	5	4.0	23.6
Sciuridae	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Ground squirrel	12	9.8	
Thryonomyidae	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Grasscutter	10	8.1	8.1
Carnivora					
Viverridae	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Genet cat	6	4.9	4.9
Nandiniidae	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Palm civet	4	3.3	3.3

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.20: Identified Wild Animals in Ikogosi Warm Spring's Vegetation

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Frequency of occurrence	Percentage of occurrence	Total % of Occurrence
Artodactyla					
Suidae	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Giant forest hog	3	2.4	2.4
Bovidae	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Bush buck	4	3.3	
Bovidae	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Maxwell dikor	4	3.3	6.6
Hyracoidca					
Procaviidae	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Tree hyrax	2	1.6	
Procaviidae	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Rock hyrax	2	1.6	3.2
Pholidota					
Manidae	<i>Smutsia gigantea</i>	Giant pangolin	2	1.6	3.2
Manidae	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Tree pangolin	2	1.6	
Aves					
Phasianidae	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Bush fowl	8	6.5	6.5
Ploceidae	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Weaver bird	10	8.1	8.1
Reptiles					
Elapidae	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Cobra	3	2.4	
Elapidae	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>	Green mamba	2	1.6	4.0
Viperidae	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Puff adder	4	3.3	3.3

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.21: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta waterfall Vegetation

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Frequency of occurrence	Percentage of occurrence	Total % of Occurrence
Primates					
Hominidae	<i>Pan troglodyte</i>	Chimpanzee	4	2.1	
Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	Mona monkey	16	8.4	17.3
Cercopithecidae	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Green monkey	13	6.8	
Rodentia					
Nesomyidae	<i>Crycetomys gambianus</i>	Giant rat	10	5.2	5.2
Hystriidae	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	Porcupine	7	3.7	3.7
Sciuridae	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Giant forest squirrel	15	7.9	
Sciuridae	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	Flying squirrel	4	2.1	21.1
Sciuridae	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Ground squirrel	18	9.5	
Thryonomyidae	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	Grasscutter	17	8.9	8.9
Carnivora					
Canidae	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	Wild dog	3	1.6	1.6
Viverridae	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Genet cat	10	5.2	8.5
Nandiniidae	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Palm civet	6	3.2	3.2

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.21: Identified Wild Animals in Arinta waterfall Vegetation

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Frequency of occurrence	Percentage of occurrence	Total % of Occurrence
Artodactyla					
Suidae	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Giant forest hog	6	3.2	3.2
Bovidae	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Bush buck	6	3.2	
Bovidae	<i>Cephalophus maxwelli</i>	Maxwell dikor	8	4.2	7.4
Hyracoidca					
Procaviidae	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	Tree hyrax	3	1.6	
Procaviidae	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Rock hyrax	2	1.1	2.7
Pholidota					
Manidae	<i>Smutsia gigantea</i>	Giant pangolin	4	2.1	
Manidae	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	Tree pangolin	3	1.6	3.7
Aves					
Phasianidae	<i>Peliperdix latham</i>	Bush fowl	5	2.6	2.6
Ploceidae	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Weaver bird	8	4.2	4.2
Reptiles					
Elapidae	<i>Naja senegalensis</i>	Cobra	4	2.1	
Elapidae	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>	Green mamba	6	3.2	5.3
Viperidae	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Puff adder	10	5.2	5.2
Pythonidae	<i>Python reglus</i>	Python	2	1.1	1.1

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

The fauna resources observed in River Ooni are ground squarelle (*Xerus erythropus*) ,*palm civet; (nandinia binotata)*,. This could be as a result of the dispersed vegetation and noisy environment i.e. noise from the prayer team, tourists, e.t.c.

4.12: Summary of the Associations between the sampled community, Sites and Tourists

Table 4.35-4.43 show the summary of the relationship between the sampled communities and the warm and cold, relationships between sampled communities and tourism and the relationships between tourism and the sampled community.

Table 4.22: Summary of the Associations between Ikogosi Community and the

Warm and cold Spring (The Ecotourism sites)

Determinants	Evaluation
Town population	13,863
Local residence reliance on water resources	High
Access to site resources	High
illicit Resource use	None
Enforcement power	None
Profit from resource location	Water resources
Conservation/maintenance manner	Positive
Potential for Stewardship	Good
Officials-local people dealings	Variable
Direct involvement (contribution to planning)	None
Indirect involvement (provision of employment)	Average

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.23: Summary of the Associations between Ipole-Iloro Community and

Arinta waterfall (The Ecotourism site)

Determinants	Evaluation
Town population	8000
Local residence reliance on water resources	Average
Access to site resources	Average
illicit Resource use	None
Enforcement power	None
Profit from resource location	Water resources and wild animals (hunting)
Conservation/maintenance manner	Positive
Potential for Stewardship	Good
Officials-local people dealings	Variable
Direct involvement (contribution to planning)	None
Indirect participation (provision of employment)	Poor

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.24: Summary of the Associations between the Efon Alaye Community and

River Ooni (The Ecotourism sites)

Determinants	Evaluation
Town population	89,941
Local residence reliance on water resources	None
Access to ecotourism site resources	High
illicit Resource use	None
Enforcement power	None
Profit from resource location	Water resources and Healing
Conservation/maintenance manner	Positive
Potential for Stewardship	Good
Officials-local people dealings	Good
Direct involvement (contribution to planning)	None
Indirect participation (provision of employment)	Poor

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.25: The summary of the Associations between Ikogosi Community and

Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Visitors' figure per year	Over 1.5,000,000
Tourism employment	Fair
Income of Tourism for community	Fair
Entrepreneurship connected to Tourism	Few
Host Attitude Towards Tourism's Impact	Encourage; optimistic; some have fear for the safety of the environment & prospective for authority to profit only
Social warfare profit	Climate, new roads and Water resources
Exchange of intercultural opportunities	resources
Positive intercultural exchange Potential	None
	Good

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.26: The summary of the Associations between Ipole-Iloro Community and

Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Visitors' figure per year	Over 1,000,000
Tourism employment	Poor
Income of Tourism for community	poor
Entrepreneurship connected to Tourism	very Few
Host Attitude Towards Tourism's Impact	Encourage; optimistic; some have fear for the safety of the environment
Social warfare benefits	Climate and new roads
Exchange of intercultural opportunities	None
Positive intercultural exchange Potential	Good

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.27: The summary of the Associations between Efon Alaye Community

And Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Visitors' figure per year	Over 2,000,000
Tourism employment	Very poor
Income of Tourism for community	fair
Entrepreneurship connected to Tourism	Few
Host Attitude Towards Tourism's Impact	Positive; optimistic; confirmed peaceful environment & encouraged the conservation of the healing water
Social warfare benefits	Healing; water resources, climate
Exchange of intercultural opportunities	None
Positive intercultural exchange Potential	Good

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.28: Summary of the Associations between Ikogosi Warm Spring and

Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Ecotourism site entry fees	#1000(Adult), #500(children).
Financial contribution of tourism to conservation at Ikogosi Warm Spring	Average
Provision of Educational Materials/Opportunity	None

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.29: Summary of the Associations between Arinta Waterfall and Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Ecotourism site entry fees	#500(adult), #200(children)
Financial contribution of tourism to conservation at Arinta Waterfall	Low
Provision of Educational Materials/Opportunity	None

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

Table 4.30: Summary of the Associations between River Ooni and Tourism

Determinants	Evaluation
Ecotourism site entrance fees	Free
Financial contribution of tourism to conservation at River Ooni	None
Provision of Educational Materials/Opportunity	None

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

5.1 Socioeconomic characteristics of communities' members

The dominance of male respondents in the sampled communities (Table 4.1) agrees with the trend in national population (NPC, 2006) and may also be due to the tendency of men having an open attitude to enquiries, especially from strangers. Besides, depending on the time of the day, men would be more outdoors while the women, after the day's chores and marketing activities, would be involved in caring for the home. The age distribution of the local residents differed significantly with almost one-third less than 30 years old but approximately three-quarter when the age increased to 50 years. These observations agree with the description of the Nigerian population as youthful and with the active economic age between 35 and 55 years of age (Neth, 2008). The married respondents were highest in the residents of the three communities which has validated the socio-cultural importance attached to marriage especially in Southwestern Nigeria (Obajana, 2007).

However, despite the present harsh economic conditions, widespread unemployment and crippling poverty which would prevent young people from venturing into marriage, majority of the local respondent are married. The 83.2% with at least secondary educations which is followed by 31.9% of tertiary education shows the relatively high literacy level of the local residents which recognizes the Ekiti people's legendary penchant for acquiring education by all means and to confirm the view of Ezebilo et al. (2010) that majority of the indigenes are somewhat learned. The high proportion of the residents as civil servants tends to reflect this literacy level, even as various occupations can be taken up as alternative or supplementary sources of income. Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni had most tourists with primary and secondary education (77.8%) and secondary and tertiary education (71.4%) respectively. The high proportion of the residents as civil servants tends to reflect this literacy level, even as various occupations can be

taken up as alternative or supplementary sources of income. The family monthly income of less than ₦75,000 in 73.7% of the community residents and below ₦50,000 weekly earnings from tourists by 72.2% of business owners support the finding that most Ekiti State residents are low to middle income earners (NPC, 2006).

5.1.2 The Infrastructure, Recreational Facilities and Attractions at the Ecotourism Sites

Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort has varieties of infrastructure, recreational facilities and attractions. The Hotel provides accommodation in guest chalets of choice whose high point is the serving of complimentary breakfast to lodgers while other meals, snacks and drinks are available on order from the on-site restaurant and bar. The facilities guests can enjoy are free WiFi, air-conditioned and spacious rooms fitted with double bed, flat screen television set, a worktable and lampshades. The associated structures such as the Gymnasium (equipped with treadmills and stationary bikes), Event Centre, Relaxation Centre, outdoor swimming pools etc confer on Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort the status of a tourism destination where visitors can stay for at least one night. Car hire, airport shuttle, conferencing facilities, concierge and laundry services are provided at additional charges while security personnel are on guard on 24-hour basis.

As earlier noted by Ijasan and Izobo-martins (2013), the only infrastructure at Arinta Waterfall is the Relaxation Centre that consists of small round huts under which people can sit and picnic. The road leading to the waterfall is rough and riddled with potholes. At the site and as from the security post, the ground has been leveled and paved to serve as site seeing lot, but this is small compared to Ikogosi Warm Springs. Thus, the waterfall and natural vegetation serve as the unique attractions. The differences in the infrastructure provided among the tourism sites relate to age and ownership. The development at Ikogosi Warm Springs has been going on for many years with recognition accorded it as a tourism site nationally and internationally such that all the previous government had done was to restructure the facilities and re-package the site for marketing. The proximity of three tourism sites within reach of each other supports the provision of infrastructural facilities

at Ikogosi Warm Springs to serve the accommodation and recreational needs of the visitors to Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni. Availability of pleasing natural surrounding is vital to the success of any ecotourism endeavour (Ergazakis, 2004). The state government owns and developed Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort and Arinta Waterfall whereas River Ooni site is maintained by a religious sect (Christian Apostolic Church) and so lacks infrastructure and recreational facilities but has the exciting experience from climbing the Efon Hills and the water reputed for healing and performing miracles in the lives of user it as the main attractions. The location of the corridor on the outskirts of the state gives her easy access to tourists for recreation and relaxation.

5.1.3 Assessments of Relationship between the Host Communities' Members and the Ecotourism Sites

For ecotourism to function effectively, the relationship between the host community and the site must be positive, together with the natural resources and site staff (David and Morais, 2004). The host community ideally operates as warden of the sites, sustaining protection and conservation efforts (Cater, 1993). Community inhabitants therefore gain from resource protection through having continuous right to use the resources that support and improve their daily living. According to the focus group discussion, some of the Ikogosi residents and two of Ipole-iloro residents had been employed in the sites by the Ekiti state government. Few are employed as staff and many as cleaners and gardeners in Ikogosi warm spring while two employees at Arinta water fall are the gate man and a tour guard. When the sites manager was asked how true this was he confirmed that it was true. He said that all the sites staff were employed by the government and only some of them are from the town of Ikogosi while others are from other towns in Ekiti. The employments were done in such manner that other Ekiti state indigenes can benefit. Also, when he was asked may be there has been any conflicts between the communities and the site officials, he claimed that traditional worshipers was once banned from Ikogosi warm spring by the government but it did not generate conflict except for one woman who was one of the traditional leaders, who posed herself as a threat to the site officials claiming that the

land and the water belong to them but the problem was later solved by the government, the “Baale” and some of the community’s leaders while nothing of such happened in Arinta waterfall.

The communities members still have access to the water i.e. the warm spring, the water fall and the river, only the traditional and any other activities that can affect the water that are banned. The people of Ikogosi are allowed to fetch water for drinking and people of Ipole Iloro too are allowed to hunt twice in a year in site. The people of Ikogosi so much believe in the therapeutic effects the water has on ailments like rheumatism and guinea-worm, so they welcome the rule whole heartedly and get water for house chores from other sources in the town. From Table 4.2, the three communities agreed that there has not been any communal conflict between the site officials and the people of the communities while the Ikogosi (98.0 %), Ipole (40.0%) and Efon (97.7%) communities respondents claimed that they were allowed to collect resources from the sites. Likewise, communities respondents of Ikogosi (65.0%) and Ipole (80.0%) claimed that there was restriction placed on a particular resource because the emerging consensus is that there is a need for multiple conservation and sustainable management approaches (Merbules and pressey, 2000). They also indicated that they appreciate how the water is being conserved and managed.

The Ikogosi people still depend on and cherish the site water resource because of it’s great value despite the free water they get from the water company (Gossy water) in their town. River Ooni site is maintained by a religious sect and has two staff, a guard and a pastor. The water is reported to have healing power in the lives of the users. The people of Ikogosi, Ipole Iloro and Efon Alaaye are peace loving and well cultured people. There has been no record of criminal offence, violent, illegal activities destruction of any site resources by the people.

5.1.4 Assessment of the cooperation of local communities with the ecotourism sites’ management

According to the sites manager and officials, it has been a long time since information about the importance of protecting the water resources has been provided to local residents and that no member of the communities or the communities itself had been involved in the site planning and management. This is confirmed by keeping with the local findings, which reveal that Only few respondents claimed to have been involved by the sites officials in any ecotourism development activities in the communities while majority claimed non-involvement. Similarly, most of the respondents in Ikogosi (69.0 %), Ipole (74.3%) and Efon (81.5%) communities, were of the opinion that their communities have not been involved by the sites officials in any ecotourism development activities (Table 4.3).

Interviews and focus group discussion revealed that bitterness still exist among some residents over the abandonment of their communities, and that ‘only the site staff will gain’ and ‘make decisions’ and, that ‘locals are disregarded and neglected’ and are ‘handled like animals’. According to one of the village chiefs, *our children are employed at the site only as cleaners and gardeners and that the educated ones seek for job elsewhere in a greener pasture*. He also said all of the infrastructures in the town except the road are provided by Gossy water (Water Company in Ikogosi). However, many of the local people and local leaders in Ikogosi and Ipole-Iloro claimed that no information has been provided for them by the officials or has ever been asked for their contribution, and that their villages were not offered any monetary compensation since the establishment of the site. This was denied by the sites manager who claimed that 11% of sites revenue frequently goes to the communities (Ikogosi and Ipole-Iloro) that the people should go and confirm from their communities’ leaders. Despite all these claims of neglect, the local people and the sites staff respondents interpreted local relations to be generally cordial (Table 4.14).

5.1.5 The Communities Perception towards Ecotourism Development Activities in the Sites

In order for ecotourism to result in conservation and local people welfare, Stronza and Pegas (2008) advised that communities' members must also share in the accrued benefits, including getting them involved in management and to achieve that, the perception of the local communities must be known. This study's finding confirms that local communities have positive perceptions towards ecotourism development in the region. From the analysis, it was quite evident that both motivational and community factors contribute to the appreciation of ecotourism and affect the general perception of community members towards ecotourism. It was also evident that as time elapses, communities begin to realize benefits from ecotourism and more community members develop positive attitude and perception towards ecotourism in the area.

5.1.6 The Communities Participation in Ecotourism Development Activities in the Sites

In rural Africa, it is vital for any community to significantly contribute to the immediate environment (Ajayi, 2002). This suggests that the site officials must involve the communities in any ecotourism development activity going on in the sites. The local residents' responses show that community participation in the development of ecotourism sites is very low (Table 4.7). During the focus group discussion, majority of the participants were willing to participate in the development process if given the opportunity and they also affirmed that if the communities were fully involved this will prevent environmental problems. This agrees with Akinsorotan *et al.* (2011) who concluded that there was need for synergy between host communities and the management of ecotourism sites. This is because, to a reasonable extent, the local communities are very knowledgeable about the sites and know what it means and the benefit they can derive from the sites. According to Olayeni (2005), the attitude of local residents towards development may unfold through the stages of euphoria, where visitors are welcome with apathy, irritation and potential antagonism when anti-tourist attitude begins to grow among the local people.

5.1.7 Tourists Awareness and Perception towards Ecotourism Development in the Sites

The three sites fulfill the purposes of recreation. This is especially so for Arinta Waterfall but the core natural resources in the sites constituted the focus of attraction. At Ikogosi, warm and cold water oozes out of hills from different sources only to meet at a point downstream with each maintaining its thermal identity. There is an additional attraction provided in the form of a man-made feature- the swimming pool. Lucas (2000) observed that when a tourism destination is easily accessible and filled with different activities, the flow of tourists to it will produce economic growth. The attraction at Arinta Waterfall consists of watching the water cascading the steep escarpments and the youth having a cool bath in the giant pool under a serene environment while a few would take research interest in the diverse and unique flora probably for traditional medication potentials. The site staff volunteered that many tourists came in the company of friends and family members with food, drinks, games etc. The children visitors consisted of mostly primary and nursery school pupils on excursion, that is, for the purpose of education. The tourists that were interviewed claimed, as earlier noted by Charles and Goeldner (2005), that ecotourism helps them to relax, recuperate from illness, get entertained and relieved from boredom.

The impact of hospitality management has become very crucial to attain the purposes of rest, relaxation, leisure, relief from boredom etc. This cannot be overlooked as tourism is used to relax the brain and mind and also for the proper functioning of the muscles (Famuyantan, 2011). The tourist's sites were satisfied with the management of the sites. The hotel at the Ikogosi Warm Springs provides homely feelings that most tourists commend the staff for adequate accommodation and the good manner of approach in attending to their needs. However, some tourists expressed concern about the rates that they are too expensive. Most visitors to the other sites usually stay at the Ikogosi Warm Springs hotel or look for alternative accommodation in hotels at Efon. These demerits notwithstanding, most of the tourists would want to repeat the visits to these sites. This is

because people like to visit beautiful places but also have interest in the most awful and worst or to gain exciting experience provided the destinations are packaged well and marketed to the people they are suited (Nona, 1993).

The restaurant of Ikogosi Warm Springs hotel serves local dishes: *Iyan* (pounded yam), *amala* and *semovita* along with various soups and sauces such as *egusi*, *ewedu*, *gbegiri*, vegetable (*efo riro*) etc which tourists described as delicious and so appreciate the restaurant management as the workers serve well, make them important and feel at home. The interview of the site Manager at Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort revealed that half of the numbers of staff had not attended in-service training on how best to manage a tourism site sustainably. Thus, management needs to exploit the avenues through which the staff would benefit from short courses on tourism management and hospitality service.

5.1.8 Assessment of Business Benefit that Accrued from the Ecotourism Sites

Host community should not only be recipient of sustainable tourism but active participant in the planning process for it to be successful (Byrd, 2007). It is very important for cordial relationships to exist among local community residents and tourism/tourists at an ecotourism (David and Morais, 2004). Majority of Ikogosi and Ipole visitors are domestic tourists. Interviews with the site manager revealed that the standard period of stay for tourists in Ikogosi warm spring is one week. Most of the tourists (70%) arrive by personal vehicle or on buses. Tourists that are interested in visiting Arinta waterfall usually spend the night at the hotel in Ikogosi warm spring due to lack of accommodation in there. As it is now. Apart from holidays flooded periods, there is presently minute cause for a tourist coming to Ikogosi warm spring to stop in Ikogosi town. The tourists that are visiting as family, friends or group from work may be prompted to stop in town on their way to the site or out of the town, to buy snacks, soft drinks /bottled water or general inquisitiveness.

The result revealed that there has been very limited employment and revenue related to tourism and income in the communities. No company or any other reasonable businesses

have been created mainly as an outcome of tourism, or that provide mostly for tourists. Out of 18,000 people in Ikogosi, only few people are presently employed by the site bureau, and only two are employed out of eight thousand (8000) people of Ipole- Iloro. Entrepreneurship and income that are related to tourism are basically in existence in the communities. A low percentage (15.0%, 2.9 % and 20.8 %) of communities' respondents and variable proportion of business owners (63.3%, 10.0% and 24.0%) in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon communities respectively claimed to have benefited from the establishment of the sites. A high percentage (93.3%, 90.0% and 72.0%) agreed that their businesses benefited from the establishment of the sites in Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon respectively .The highest form was through increase and improvement in sales in Ikogosi (63.3 %), Ipole (60.0%) and Efon (48.0%) communities (Table 4.16).

It is very important to recognise that the behaviour of local residents towards tourism development largely depends on their perception, contrasting the genuine, costs and profits (Lindberg et al., 1996). When inquired if there is any possibility that Ipole –Iloro and River Ooni will be developed in the future during focus group discussion, many of the participants said there is a great possibility. They also added comments such as local economy will increase, planning and management will become very important but the Government may not involve the communities and that they (communities) also might not personally benefit that it may be only government staff tht will profit from tourism, not the local people. The overwhelming pattern in questionnaires and interviews responses was optimism. Although benefits that are related to tourism have been inadequate so far, the sites staff, inhabitants and entrepreneur gave the impression that they are positive that tourism development at sites will produce economic profit for the hosts' communities.

5.1.9 Effect of the site Establishment on the Communities' Livelihood

The Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort operates with little negative impact on the host community but has a lot of positive impact on the environment, social and economic status of the host community and Ekiti State at large. The establishment of Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resort had provided enormous economic benefits to the immediate local

community in terms of improved the sales and income of the business owners. Thus, both the public and private investors should show more interest and devote sufficient funds to tourism development. Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni offered very little benefits which are associated more with the business owners than the community residents. Few of the interviewed community residents revealed that tourism had not brought any development to the communities, in terms of infrastructure and social amenities such as hospital, library, good road, bore holes, toilets etc while majority (86.0 %) of communities' members claimed to have benefited from the establishment of the sites. The inadequate benefits; sanguinity and optimistic characters are features of an initial level of tourism development (D'Amore, 1983).

The wide variation in the groups of individuals interviewed: taxi drivers, motorcyclists, business centre operators, canteens and eateries operators, GSM operators, etc shows that tourism creates opportunities to establish new facilities and services and expand existing businesses which would not otherwise be sustainable based on the resident population alone (OQTA, 2012). Sustainable expansion can only be achieved if the sites are well developed and managed. The communities' respondents also perceive better socio-economic growth if the tourism corridors in the state gain the public awareness they deserve. The communities' livelihood effects by the establishment of the ecotourism site are worse off (table 4.22.) Adetoro (2004) pointed out that the development of any tourism site must consist of management of the resources, the local community, visitors and personnel.

5.1.10 Identification of Major Constraints to Ecotourism Development

The staff of the three tourist sites identified inadequate financial resources as the main constraint to ecotourism development and improvement in the status of the destinations. The solution is to channel more funds into the maintenance of the sites. Financial resources are needed to address supply factors that pull tourists to specific destinations as these are needed to attain some level of development of tourism potentials, provide infrastructural facilities especially supply of accommodation and accessibility to tourism

potentials and improve the quality of the environment. Also the issue of management policy was regarded as a problem and they suggested a restructuring of the policy guiding the operations in the sites. This constraint has become an impediment because of poor ecotourism development policy formulation and implementation, poor implementation of policy plans and implementation. Thus, the general consensus is that ecotourism is in its infancy and would be at the mercy of sundry weaknesses and problems with the outcome being the low patronage (13%) of the tourist sites by foreigners. This low patronage reflects the poor level of development of the potentials of these resources. The factors are lack of adequate funding, lack of awareness, inadequate advertisement, poor infrastructural facilities and inadequate accessibility to tourism destinations (Ibimilua, 2009). Most of the visitors are from Ekiti State who could bear with the poor accessibility, for personal reasons, but with the low level of personal income and real discretionary income and poor standard of living of the average citizen, internally generated revenue will be minimal. The suggestion of some staff for a review of the management structure stressed that manpower development and staff motivation should be removed from the chief constraints to realizing the ecotourism potentials.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Summary

The study assessed the public perception of the current status of ecotourism at three sites of Ekiti State tourism corridor, being promoted as a local development approach, through an assessment of the ongoing relationship between tourism site, community and the effect that will enable planning course to be provided. The study sought to understand whether the ability of ecotourism to produce reimbursement (increase in income and quality of life, business opportunities, demand for arts and crafts, generation of alternative livelihood options) for the communities and the sites has been enhanced to reduce the poverty level of the people.

Public perception and opinions have been offered on the factors affecting participation in the variants of tourism, the pull of tourists to specific destinations and patronage of tourist attractions, and the impediments to tourism development. Ecotourism development is at a low level in Ekiti State mainly due to inadequate funds and little attention from the state government, along with several other constraints, the lack of understanding of the importance of utilizing nature's numerous gifts for recreation and leisure, and the need to develop these tourism potentials and bad management. This study was an assessment of the level of community's participation in ecotourism development in the selected tourism corridor of Ekiti State consisting of the Ikogosi Warm Springs, Arinta Waterfall at Ipole-Iloro Ekiti and River Ooni at Efon Alaaye.

Ecotourism is still being argued in so many ways such that there remains little agreement over its exact meaning. However, its great potentials in providing excellent stimulating tourism experiences while socio-economic growth, improving environmental

consciousness and provision of means for resource management and conservation actions are widely accepted.. The result of two decades of practice is the promulgation of various planning and management strategies aimed at promoting the growth of symbiotic tourism-

resource/ site-community relationships through which to generate benefits at an ecotourism destination.

6.2 Conclusion

The preceding study and discussions were based on the circumstances within the selected Ekiti State tourism corridor consisting of Ikogosi, Ipole and Efon Alaaye. Most of the tourism-ecotourism and site-community recommendations managing issues raised and stated will probably be relevant to other ecotourism corridors and sites in the state. Many considerations for the development of ecotourism and the management of the protected area in Ekiti State have also been highlighted. The success of ecotourism development at any site requires agreement between decision-makers on the meaning of the term and what the promotion purposes are. Information disseminated about Ekiti State revealed the existence of various natural tourism sites: Orole inselberg, Olosunta hill and Ugele hill at Ikere-Ekiti, Olota hills at Ado-Ekiti, River Osun source at Igede-Ekiti, Esa Cave with a capacity for 500 people at Iyin-Ekiti, Agbonna hills, Erin Ayonigba sacred fish in River Ayonigba, Egbigbu artificial lake at Ayetoro- Ekiti, Efon Alaaye hills that form the watershed for River Ooni, Olua and Owena. There are also several man-made tourist attractions (art galleries, archaeological sites, buildings and monuments of historical importance, colourful cultural heritage and traditional festivals, dams, sites and gardens, Oba's palaces, mat weaving and pottery etc identified and listed as potential sites for ecotourism (Kayode,2011).

If the government of Ekiti State would appeal to ecotourists, there will be a need to reconsider some of the sites being identified for promotion as ecotourism sites. If the government failed to do so, there will be a very low level of the satisfaction of tourists who arrive in Ekiti expecting ecotourism sites but are lured, through indiscriminate marketing, to inappropriate sites. If the government go for a “wobbly analysis” of ecotourism, which would be more appropriately depict as tourism of a total nature or sites tourism, then the marketing of these diverse locations becomes further suitable. The implication is that not all the wealth of natural resources and attractions that Ekiti State

possesses will equally appeal to potential visitors. Tourists who would appreciate and enjoy the luxurious resorts may be disappointed by poor accommodation and limited facilities. Therefore, the important point here is the need to tailor the marketing of specific sites to the suitable tourist segments. This appropriate marketing will distinguish Ekiti State from other competing sites in Nigeria.

According to the surveys and result of this study, Ikogosi Warm Springs can fairly be measured a successfully-operating ecotourism site but which needs a review of its management policy, maintenance and improvement on the existing infrastructure and recreational facilities. On the other hand, Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni cannot be considered as successfully-operating ecotourism sites because of the limited socio-economic benefits to the community and low funds for conservation generated from tourism. The tourists educational opportunities are almost absent at River Ooni. The state government officials and community residents recognize that ecotourism development is at infancy at Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni and so face some existing weaknesses and barriers but are optimistic that sustainable ecotourism development of these sites will bring great benefits.

6.3 Recommendations

In the initial stages of the development of ecotourism, such as at Arinta Waterfall and River Ooni, the ongoing and latent limitations in the tourism-resource or site-community relations should be highlight. Nevertheless, every site is unique and usually changes local circumstances. An investigation to gather information on tourist's socioeconomic characteristics, activities, patterns of spending, levels of satisfaction, willingness to pay and the likes, provides the site management critical data to plan and improve benefits accrue from ecotourism.. Also study to examine how local people can be more efficiently get involved in planning processes will be necessary.

The recommendations according to these results are proposed to assist in supporting the thriving development of ecotourism at the destinations. The practical value relates to the capacity to make use of the opportunities, constraints and recommendations identified to develop ecotourism plans for the site. The case-study approach created certain site recommendations and likewise recognized many other related result, problems and approaches that can improve the capacities of other sites elsewhere to benefit from ecotourism.

- i. The management plan should emphasize effective awareness campaign through information communication technology (ICT), Television, Radio and Print Media to bring the recreation and tourism potentials of the sites to the consciousness of the national and international public.
- ii. The standard of facilities needs to be maintained and improved at Ikogosi Warm Springs in order to keep on attracting visitors and give them a sense of satisfaction. The picnic site should be more beautified through landscaping to involve planting of carpet grass around the huts. The need for higher level of sanitation should be stressed so that left-over food scraps from picnickers are disposed of promptly to prevent the infestation from flying insects and ants. A better staircase should be constructed to the source of the spring and the water pouring from the source should be well channeled to prevent overflowing and wastage, especially during the raining season. Additional facilities such as horse riding, display of some animals and renovation of the abandoned zoo will add to the vistas. Special shows of unique animals, like the Mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*) in the site, can be organized and publicized to attract tourists. A certain agreed percentage of the revenue generated from the site should be used as corporate social responsibility projects in the host community such as the provision of social amenities (light, water, health facilities, scholarship awards etc.
- iii. At Arinta Waterfall, the signpost is old and should be re-painted or changed; and the inscriptions re-written as these have already faded. River Ooni should be provided with a befitting signpost. The sites should be developed in all

ramifications by the government to the standard that will enable ecotourism to grow and benefit the local community. For the residents to benefit from the employment opportunities generated, they must have the requisite qualifications and skills. Therefore, the site officials must consider developing training programs for the local people in the critical areas of site management.

- iv. The planning, development or re-development of tourism in a community should focus on sustaining both the rudimentary nature of tourism activities as well as the possible advantages. Since tourist centres are ultimately government regulated and owned, the government should provide a sustainable and conducive environment for tourism investment to thrive. Funding, which is very crucial to any development project, should be provided either by the government or private sources, but subject to community opinions and suggestions through adequate consultations and engagement.

Community engagement and impact assessment of tourism development must be given emphasis as lack of community acceptance can adversely affect any development. If tourism is planned well, it will open up the rural areas and ensure balance between tourist demands and local human, cultural and natural resources. There is a need for tourism promotion and awareness as it is disheartening when majority of people living in a neighbourhood is oblivious of the vast natural endowment within the community. Community interest and social capital can be developed through coordinated attempts and efforts by the developers and planners by designing sustainable means of engaging with local community groups.

6.5 Contributions to Knowledge

At the end of this study the following were achieved:

1. The perception of residents, business owners and tourists on ecotourism development facilities were evaluated.
2. Tourists' awareness and variables influencing willingness to pay for ecotourism development were elucidated.
3. Communities' participation in ecotourism development in the sites was identified.
4. Ecotourism benefits to business owners were assessed.
5. The effects of the sites on communities' livelihood were determined.
6. Information on relative availability of fauna species was provided.

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APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SELECTED TOURISM CORRIDOR

COMMUNITIES

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN OYO STATE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SELECTED TOURISM CORRIDOR COMMUNITY

Name of community.....

Section A: Socio-economic characteristics of respondent in the study area.

1. Sex: Male [] Female []
2. Age: years
3. Marital Status: Single [] Married [] Divorced [] Widow []
4. Number of children: Male....., Female.....
5. Religion: Christianity [] Islam [] others (specify).....
6. Educational level: Years of formal education: years
7. How long have you lived in this community.....
8. Primary Occupation: Civil servant [], Farming [], Fishing [], Resort employee [],

Shop keeping [], Bus/taxi/lorry driver [], Trading [], Art and craft work [], others
(Please specify).....

9. Secondary occupation; Hunting [], Fishing [], Farming [], Bus/taxi/lorry driver []
Trading [], Art and craft work [], Livestock rearing [], Artisan work (carpentry,
bricklaying etc) [], Others (please specify).....

10. What is your estimated income from primary occupation per period?

#....., Period: Daily [] weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []

11. What is your estimated income from secondary occupation per period?

#..... Period: Daily [], weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []

12. Is your spouse employed? Yes [] No []

Please specify).....

13. If yes, what is his/her occupation: Full-time employee in government sector [], Full -
time

employee in private sector [], Part-time worker in government sector [], part-time
worker

in private sector [], self-employed (please specify) [], full-time housewife [], other
(Please specify).....

14. Estimate total income of your spouse per period. #..... Period: Daily []
weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []

15. Estimate total income of your family (include your children).

Section B: Existing ecotourism site-community relationships

- 16 Has there been any communal conflict between the site officials and the people of the community? Yes [], No []

- 17 If yes, what was the cause?
- 18. Are you allowed to collect resources from the park? Yes [], No []
- 19. Is there any resource you are restricted from collecting? Yes [], No []
- 20. If yes, is there any compensation? Yes [], No []
- 21 If no, how do you cope with the restrictions?
- 22. Please, remark on the relationships between Park staff and communities inhabitants?
Cordial [], Not cordial [], I don't know []

Section C: Community perception

- 23. Have you visited the site as a tourist? Yes [] No []

- 24. If no, why? No Time [], No Money [], Lack of Interest [], Distance [], others []
(specify).....

- 25. What do you think can be the outcome of ecotourism development in the community?
Tick as many as appropriate: Business opportunity in the community [], Community development (Infrastructural, educational, social, healthcare facilities etc) [], Means of conservation (natural and cultural resources) [], Employment opportunities [], Increase income and quality of life [], Increase demand for arts and crafts (souvenirs, promote indigenous culture) [], Create problems for the community (over pollution, inflation, crime, prostitution alcoholism, alteration of norms, culture etc) []

- 26. Please indicate your reaction to the following statements regarding development of ecotourism in the site

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	UNDECIDED	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Ecotourism activities will increase income and quality of life in the community					
It will generate employment opportunities to the locale					
Ecotourism will increase business opportunity opportunities for the local people					
It will bring development to the community in term good infrastructures facilities such as road, electricity supply, clinic, school etc					

Ecotourism is a means of conserving the natural and cultural resources in the site?					
Ecotourism will promote trade in local arts and crafts to be purchased as souvenirs.					
It will create problems for local community in terms of overcrowding, crime ,alcoholism, prostitution etc					
It will bring friendly relation between the locale and tourists especially international tourists					
It will increase the locale interest In learning English					

Others (please specify)					
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Section D: Community participation

27. Have the site officials involve you in any ecotourism development activities?

Yes [], No []

28, on rural development issues [],

regarding conservation of the natural resources issues [], regarding health issues [],

of political party [], regarding local cultural activity [], regarding sports activity [],

Other (please specify).....

29. Have the Site officials involved the community in any way? Yes [] No []

30. Do you think the community is cooperating with the site in conservation of the natural

resources for ecotourism development? Yes [] No []

Section E: Effect of the ecotourism site establishment on the community livelihood

31. How was your living condition before the establishment of the site?

Good [], fair [], poor []

32. What is the living condition now in your community? Improved [], Same []

Fair [], Poor []

33. Is there any way that ecotourism development in the site has disturbed your

Community livelihood? Yes [], No []

34. If yes, in which way? over pollution [], inflation [], crime [], prostitution [],

Alcoholism [], alteration of norms [], others specify.....

Have you benefited from the establishment of the site? Yes [], No []

35. If yes, in which ways? (You may choose more than one option) Full- time employee

in

tourists lodges [], Full-time tourist guide [], Shopkeeper [], Picnic cabin owner [],
 Full-time employee in site restaurant [], Others (please specify).....

36. Has your business benefited from the establishment of the site? Yes [], No []

37. If yes, in which ways? (You may choose more than one option)

Tourist guide[]	Stage traditional dancer []
Bus/taxi/van driver []	Carpenter and repairs works []
Sea food supplier to lodge operators []	Restaurant owner []
Environmental management []	Picnic cabin cleaner []
Vegetable and food supplier to the lodge[]	Other (please specify) []

38. What is your overall feeling about the site? Relevant [], Not relevant []

39. What is the highest amount you will be willing to pay to visit the site.....

Thank you.

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN OYO STATE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

The name of your Community.....

Section A: Socio-economic characteristics of respondent in the study area

1. Sex: Male [], Female []
2. Marital Status: Single [], Married [], Divorced [], Widow []
3. Age: years
4. Religion: Christianity [], Islam [], Others [] (specify).....
5. Educational background: Years of formal education:
years
6. What is the name of your enterprise.....
7. Why did you venture into this kind of business? Tourist influx [], personal interest [],
Inherited business [], for the locals []
8. How long have you been in operation?
9. How long have you own the business?
10. How many staff/workers do you have?

11. How many of them are from this town?
12. How many are males/females? Males Females.....
13. What is the highest salary paid to your workers per period? #....., Period: Daily []
 weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []
14. What is the least amount paid as salary to your workers? #....., Period: Daily []
 weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []
16. Are tourists patronizing you? Yes [], No []
17. If yes, can you estimate on the average the total amount of your revenue that come from the activities tourists per period? #....., Period: Daily [] weekly [], Monthly [], annually/seasonally []
18. Can you estimate on average how many tourist that patronizes you weekly.....
19. What other people patronizes you aside the tourists: The locals [], Site officials [], people from neighbouring towns [], people from other states [], Others please specify [].....
20. What are your busiest times of the week?.....
21. Why?.....

22. What are your busiest months of the year?.....

23. Why?.....

24. What are the community events that increase your sales volume?.....

25. Why?.....

Section B; How the establishment of the site affects the community livelihoods

26. How was your living condition before the establishment of the site?

Good [], fair [], poor []

27. What is the living condition now in your community? Improved [], Same []

Fair [], Poor []

28. Is there any way that ecotourism development in the site has disturbed your community livelihood? Yes [], No []

29. If yes, in which way? Over pollution [], inflation [], crime [], prostitution [], Alcoholism [], alteration of norms [], others specify.....

30. Have you benefited from the establishment of the site? Yes [], No []

31. If yes, in which ways? (You may choose more than one option)

Full- time employee in tourist lodges []
Full-time tourist guide []
Shopkeeper []
Picnic cabin owner []
Full-time employee in site restaurant []
Others (please specify)

32. Has your business benefited from the establishment of the site? Yes [], No []

33. If yes, in which ways? (You may choose more than one option): Tourist guide[], Stage traditional dancer [], Bus/taxi/van driver [], Carpenter and repairs works [], Sea food supplier to lodge operators [], Restaurant owner [], Environmental management [], Picnic cabin cleaner [], Vegetable and food supplier to the lodge[], Other (please specify) [],

34. What is your overall feeling about the site? Relevant [], Not relevant []

35. What is the highest amount you will be willing to pay to visit the site.....

Thank You.

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SITE STAFF

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN OYO STATE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ECOTOURISM SITE OFFICIALS

Name of site.....

Section A: Socioeconomics Characteristics

1. Sex: Male [] Female []
2. Age: years
3. Marital Status: Single [], Married [], Divorced [], Widow []
4. Educational level: Years of formal education: years
5. What is your area of specialization?.....
6. Rank of respondent.....
7. Year of service in the establishment.....
10. How many workers do you have in the site?
11. How many of them are Male....., Female.....

Section B; Site-tourists relationship

12. What type of visitors/tourists patronizes the site? Foreigners [], National []

Students [], indigenes of Ekiti State [], All of the above []

Others Specify.....

13. Are there tour operators who have been bringing tourists to the site?

Yes [], No []

14. Are there tour operators that have been guiding the tourists around the site?

Yes [], No []

15. Are your visitors/ satisfied? Yes [], No []
16. If no, what have always been their complaints?

17. Do you keep visitor statistics? Yes [], No []
18. If no, what are the number of tourists received annually?

Section C: Infrastructures, facilities, and attractions that exists at the ecotourism sites

19. Does the site have accommodation /lodging facilities? Yes [], No []
 If yes, what type and bed spaces.....
20. Identify the different ecotourism attraction available for tourist in the site

ATTRACTIONS	ORDER OF PREFERENCE

Section D; Ecotourism site-community relationship

21. Has there been any communal conflict between the site officials and the people of the community? Yes [], No []
22. If yes, what was the cause?.....
23. How was it resolved?.....
24. Are local residents permitted to use Site resources? Yes [], No []
25. Are they restricted from taking any site resources? Yes [], No []
26. If yes, are there any form of compensation from the site management to the community? Yes [], No []
27. If no, why?.....

- 28 Is poaching/encroachment common in this site? Yes [], No []
29. What is your comment on the relations between Site staff and communities?
member?Cordial [], Not cordial [], I don't know []
30. In what ways does the site assist the community in terms of job creation, rural
empowerment and infrastructural development in the community?.....
32. What are charges?.....
33. What are the major constraints to ecotourism in the site? (a) Inadequate publicity []
(b)inadequate funding [] (c) Inadequate infrastructural and recreational facilities []
(c) Poaching and interference [] (d) other please specify.....
34. What are your opinions about ecotourism development in the site?
35. What are the possible ways of improving ecotourism development in the site?
-

Thank You

APPENDIX 4: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOURISTS
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN OYO STATE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOURISTS

Name of site.....

Section A: Socioeconomics Characteristics

1. Nationality.....
2. For Nigerians, which State are you from?
3. Town.....
4. Sex: Male [], Female []
5. Age:Years
6. Marital Status: Single [], Married [], Divorced [], Widow []
7. Educational level: Years of formal education: years
8. Occupation: Civil servant [], Farming [], Fishing [], Shop keeping [],
Bus/taxi/lorry
9. driver [], Trading [], Art and craft work [], Livestock rearing [], Artisan work
(carpentry, bricklaying etc) [], others (please specify).....
10. Where do you live?
11. What brought you to Ekiti state? Business [], Tourism [], Training [], Job []
12. Sport [], Others please specify.....

Section B; Tourists Awareness and Perception

10. Have you visited any site or recreation centre in Nigeria? Yes [], No []
If yes list them.....
11. List the site /recreation centre in Ekiti State that you have visited.....
12. Is this your first visit to this site? Yes [], No []
13. If No, how many times?

15. What is the main purpose for your visit? (a) Recreation [] (b) Research [] (c) Education Others [], Specify
19. How many nights will you spend during this visit?
20. Where will you spend the night? In the Site hotel [], In an hotel in Ikogosi town [], A friend's place in Ikogosi town [], In a hotel in a nearby town []
21. What interest you most in this site?
22. What activities will you be involve in while on this visit to the Site.....
23. Rank these ecotourism attractions available for tourist in the site in order of Preference to you. (1=Most importance, 2= Important, 3=Less important, 4=Not important).

ATTRACTIONS	ORDER OF PREFERENCE
Warm spring/water fall/River	
Swimming pool	
Picnic cabins	
Relaxation centre	
Others (please specify)	

24. What is your assessment of the accommodation facilities? Good [], Fair []Poor []
25. How would you rate the transportation facilities provided for tourists? Good [], Fair [], Poor []
26. What is the road condition? Good [], Fair [], Poor []
27. How would you rate the social amenities in the site? Good [], Fair [], Poor []

Thank You.



Appendix 5: Plate of main Entrance to Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 6: Plate of entrance to the Reception hall of Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 7: Plate of the Reception hall of Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 8: Plate of tarred road within Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 9: Plate of VIP Suite at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 10: Plate of presidential Suite at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 11: Plate of executive Double Bedroom Suite at Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 12: Plate of living room of the presidential suite at Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 13: Plate of a Hotel Room's Toilet and Bathroom at Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 14: Plate of a Hotel Room's Toilet at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 15: Plate of welcoming Signage within Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 16: Plate of the decorated wall that carves the Source of the springs

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 17: Plate of source of the springs (Left; warm/Right; cold)
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 18: Plate of the Warm and Cold Springs Meeting Point
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 19: Plate of palm Wine Relaxation Centre at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 20: Plate of Natural Vegetation found at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 21: Plate of Palm Tree Vegetation found at Ikogosi Warm Spring

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 22: Plate of Oil palm tree as weaver birds' habitat in Ikogosi Warm Spring
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016).



Appendix 23: Plate of the narrow path leading to the Arinta Waterfall

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 24: Plate of the Arinta waterfall (the second cascade)

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 24: Plate of water flowing from the second cascade

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 25: Plate of water flowing from the Arinta waterfall

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 26: Plate of Natural Vegetation in the vicinity of Arinta Waterfall

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 27: Plate of Another Natural Vegetation in the vicinity of the Arinta Waterfall
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 28: Plate of the Direction of the Inflow of the Water
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 29: Plate of the bathrooms (male and female) Constructed on River Ooni
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix30: Plate of the Direction of the Out flow Water from the Bathrooms

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 31: Plate of water flowing from the Bathrooms

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix 27: The Direction of the Inflow of the Water into the Bathrooms

Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)



Appendix28: Plate of Natural Vegetation found at the Site
Source: Field Survey (2014-2016)