ASSESSING LAGOS COASTAL TOURISM POTENTIALS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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Abstract

The importance of coastal tourism development cannot be over emphasized as its benefits are unquantifiable. The importance of coastal tourism development as identified in this paper includes; the generation of foreign exchange and income to the government and individuals, generation of direct and indirect employment opportunities, facilitation of infrastructural development, encouragement of peoples participation at all levels and increase in the potentials for public participation. Problems of tourism development identified include loss of wildlife due to souvenir hunting, spread, spread of diseases, environmental pollution and security. The study focused on the beaches in Lagos, and two beaches were selected for the purpose of collecting relevant data, and these are; the Bar beach in Victoria Island and the Suntan beach in Badagry. The potentials of the beaches were identified, while the data on the satisfactory levels of the two selected beaches revealed that 24 respondents (tourists), out of the 50 respondents selected at the Suntan beach, representing 48%, were not satisfied with the environmental conditions of the beach, and 21 respondents (tourists) out of the 50 respondents selected at the Bar beach representing 42% were not satisfied with the environmental condition of the beach. The challenges of were identified while recommendations were made for an improved coastal tourism development.

Keywords: Tourism, Coastal Tourism, Beach, National Development

Introduction

Amosun and Babalola (2003) defines the coastal area as the land mass extending from the initial limit of tidal or sea-spray influence to the outer extent of the continental shelf, characterized by interconnection among neighboring ecosystem , and directly influenced by the land and land based human activities. It is a zone with lots of potential, both in terms of the base for aquatic resources, and the creation of a unique environment for tourists. Ahove (2001) has noted that almost 70.8% of the surface of the earth or 360 million kilometer in ocean and coastal water, and that the coast is an amazingly awkward to manage; yet it is significant for economic, leisure, and natural restoration process.

Ngoka(2007) defined tourism as leisure industry which operates within capabilities for regeneration and future productivity of natural resources, recognize the contribution of people and communities, costumes and lifestyles to the tourism experiences, accept that these people must have equitable share in the economic benefits of tourism, and guided by the wishes of the local people and communities in the host area, while Adejumo (2010) has earlier pointed out that tourism has become an appealing sustainable economic development strategy for the less development country and next to oil is tourism which is the net foreign exchange earner at the international level. It is the highest employer of labor in the tertiary sector of the world economy and the second largest after agriculture. (Adejumo 2010) identified a number of benefits of tourism and some of these include the following;

I. Generation of foreign exchange and income for government and individuals
II. Generation of direct and indirect employment opportunities into greater multiplier effort
III. Facilitates infrastructural development (transport, electricity, water, health and so on).
IV. Encourage peoples participation at all levels.
V. Increase the potential for public appreciation of the environment.

Adejumo (2010) defined tourism development as all the activities associated with natural development, and therefore involves activities such as skill development, job and wealth creation, and marketing. The marketing of various tourist destinations through liaison, training, and other marketing strategies are keys to tourism development. However, tourism has become a major source of income for some countries and brings in large amount of income into a local economy in the form of payment for goods and services needed by the tourists. Hence, tourism is a major industry providing significant economic contribution to global development.

Lagos is located at the western strip of the coastline of Nigeria, and blessed with about 180 kilometer coastline, majority of which can be described as beaches, (Osundeyi and Taiwo (2003)). However, the location of the state has significantly influenced the human and physical environment. Osundeyi and Taiwo (2003) noted that the Lagos has the human advantage of housing the longest stretch of the country's coastline. The coastal tourism centers are the beaches which are found at different locations in the state. These beaches are the Victoria Beach known as the bar-beach, the Lekki beach, the Eko beach, the Badagry beach and the Tarkwa bay treated in Victoria Island and owned by the Nigeria ports authority.The purpose of this study is to identify the coastal tourism potential of Lagos state, the conditions of selected central tourist center, and examine the constraints to the development of the tourist center. Suggestions are made for an improved central tourism development.

The problems associated to tourism development include:

1. Loss of vegetation due to anthropogenic pressure
2. Loss of extinction of wild life resulting from souvenir hunting.
3. Spread of diseases through increased mobility of people.
4. Environmental pollution due to unplanned tourism.
5. Security

1. Loss of vegetation due to anthropogenic pressure: Hollway (2006) noted that tourism attraction are vulnerable to anthropogenic presume that owing to the fact that uncontrolled tourism can kill or stunt vegetation when hoards of visitors tramp through conservation areas. Pressure of tramping feet and vehicles can lead to wear and tear of tourist facilities, while over use of footpaths through constant walking, playing and dumping waste can lead to wind or flood erosion, while man-made site which are less fragile than natural settings can be affected by departure from overuse. Hollway (2006) concluded from the study of geo tourist district that tourism often provides ecology transformation especially in open space of natural resorts noting that un spoilt natural habitat are often chosen for new tourism development which in the long term leads to loss of forest cover and swindling numbers of fauna species.
2. Loss of extinction of wildlife resulting from souvenir hunting: collection of species such as seashell and coral and theft of wildlife resources from reserve area can lead to extinction of specie when local resources gather or hunt these to sell to tourists. Wildlife can be affected directly through hunting and cropping to provide souvenirs for tourists. Hollway (2006) noted that the animals are sometimes sold as pet or used for posing of photographs, only to be killed when the animal gets too big to be handled.
3. Spread of diseases through increased mobility of people: Tourism helps to spread diseases through increased mobility of people. Flora and fauna species of a region often pick up diseases from livestock, visitors or objects brought in by them and vice versa.
4. Environmental pollution due to unplanned tourism: unplanned tourism leads to uncontrolled tourism at popular resorts which is often manifested in the form of congestion and expected in the form of crowded cam and trailers, and consequently played by noise, traffic jam, litter, polluted water and so on. Environmental pollution has both physical and aesthetic dimension. As an area of scenic beauty attracts greater and greater number of tourists, more and more of the natural landscape is lost if proper development plans are not put in place and a stage will be reached when the site will end up not seen as attractive any more due to loss of its original appeal and tourist move on to find somewhere more tranquil and beautiful.
5. Insecurity: security is one of the major key factors to tourism development, and insecurity of lives and properties has been a bomb to tourism development. Drug, vandalism and crime often abound in tourist centers where poor law enforcement is in operation the effect of insecurity in low patronage of the tourists by tourists and consequently lead to low income generation from tourist centers.

However it is important to consider the 3 major components of the environmental impact of tourism development in order to achieve a sustainable tourism development. These 3 components:

1. The capacity of the area to absorb tourist car on the streets, and other infrastructure all having finite limit to the number of tourists which they can accommodate at any time.
2. The psychological dimension which is measured interim of the degree of congestion which the individual tourist will tolerate before the site start to lose its appeal. It should be noted that congestion in many cases leads to pollution.

The weakness that coastal tourism market faced had certain reasons one of which was the stuck of coastal market destinations into high rise buildings with lack of infrastructure. Unplanned development caused unrecoverable damages on coasts of popular tourist destinations due to the uncoordinated and unplanned tourist development. On the other hand it has been recognized that tourism industry should preserve and protect the environment and natural attraction to ensure the continuity of tourist travels (Adejumo 2010). Popular coastal tourism destination were facing not only environmental problem but also quality problems in accommodation facilities, provision of water sport, shopping and auxiliary facilities, maintenance of existing facilities, and so on, due to the high population movement, congestion and overcrowding in peak seasonal period,(Hollway (2006))

Tourism is an indispensable tool for development in the country if not the whole world tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industry employing hundreds of millions of people worldwide which explains the reason why study of tourism and tourism research have become so important in not only the academic field but also for the economy on the whole.

Beach tourism also known as coastal tourism and recreations are important part of the largest and most rapidly growing activity in the world (Hollway, 2006). It embraces the full range of tourism, leisure and recreational oriented activities that takes place in the coastal zone and the offshore coastal waters across the world. They include coastal tourism development, for instance, the hotels, resorts, restaurants, food industry, vacation home, second home and so on, the infrastructural facility supporting coastal development like retail businesses, marinas, dive shops, fishing taping store, recreational boating harbors, beaches, fishing facilities, boating cruise, swimming, snorkeling and diving as well as public and private programs affecting the aforementioned activities(Hollway 2006).

However, the relationship between postal area and tourism is as old as tourism itself. Early tourists favor sea side location and made journeys to fashionable resorts to bath in the sea water to take advantage of it alleged curative power. This was a major departure in the eighteenth century from a time when the sea and coast were revered as places and even feared.

Winandi, (2018) observed that the coastal environment is a magnet for tourist although it roles in leisure activities has changed in time and space, as coastal destinations have to developed, waned, been reimaged and redeveloped in the 20th century the coastal environment is a complex system which is utilized by the recreations for day trips, while juxtaposed to these visits are those made by the domestic and international tourists.

Methodology

Study area

Lagos State is located at the western tip of the coastline of Nigeria.

Lagos falls between latitude 622'N - 6°52'N and longitude 2°42'E, bounded in the north by Ogun state, in the east by Ondo State, it shares international boundaries of about 45km with the Republic of Benin to the west and the vast, deep-blue Atlantic ocean in the southern limit. It is of a wet equatorial climate, characterized by high temperatures, high humidity are rainfall with double maximum, couple with proximity to equator and Gulf of Guinea, influenced by rain bearing South West trade wind, less extensive effect of harmattan bearing northeast trade wind that is noticeable in the state between November and January. Lagos therefore seat as economic and commercial nerves cent - of most populate country in Africa. This huge profile of the state is due largely owing to it indomitable coastal location and resources. This therefore makes it very important to manage these coastal environmental resources.

There is a large network of backwater, flood plains and permanent pools maintained by frequent and high precipitation 250-450 cm/yr) (Ahove, 2001). The Lagos coastal areas can be classified into four broad regions based on the difference in the geomorphologic features that ranges from the West to East. They include the followings:

I. The active barrier - lagoon/beaches
II. The low/upland sandy plains
III. The wetlands
IV. The mangrove swamps and tidal flats.

These are mainly sandy ridges and beaches, formed by the prevailing South West Vest wind that directs waves and littorals drift to deposit the sand, ridges, spits and mounds. These and ridges vary between 400-800m in width off shore across the Atlantic shoreline (Ojo, 1999). The most popular beaches is Bar/Victoria Island beach, others are

Badagry and Maiyegun beaches. The most abused lagoon in the state is the Lagos lagoon. Other prominent ones include Olooge and Lekki lagoons. The Badagry creek, the Lagos lagoon and the Lekki lagoon back the barrier lagoon complex. A sandy barrier, Kuramo Island, divides lagoons from the sea. Only the Lagos lagoon has a direct link with the sea. The various lagoons are generally shallow with depths of about 1.5 - 3m. The low sandy plains lie to the north of the lagoon creek complex. The average altitude here ranges between 3m - 5m, while the coastal upland are relatively higher in altitude and better drained than the foregoing land - form (Abegunde, 1986).The wetlands include numerous creeks, rivers, rivulets and lagoon inlets with stagnant seasonal-or perennial swamps. These form the convergence zone of a number of rivers. Each of these rivers including Ogun, Osun, Shasha, Yewa and Ona has developed prominent estuaries and flood plains into which short streams drains. These rivers are connected to the lagoon through marshes and mangrove swamps. This has debarred the coastal rivers from directly reaching the sea, thus, forming a reservoir for water brought b these rivers from the hinterlands. The mangrove swamps and tidal flats are usually characterized by fresh and blackish water vegetation, which include the coastline of the lagoons and internal creeks, estuaries and the lower flood plains of coastal rivers. Here is a large deposit o fine sediments and organic matter brought by coastal rivers and streams.

A secondary data on the locations of the coastal tourism centre in Lagos was sourced in order to identify the coastal tourists centre in the study area, while the potentials of these coastal tourists center were analyzed. It is important to note that these coastal tourists centre in the study area are the beaches, which can be clarified into two, namely; the depositional beach and the erosional beach. Hence, a stratified sampling method was adopted in the selection of the samples for the purpose of collecting primary data for the analyzing of the potential, condition, and constraint to the development of the coastal tourists centre for depositional beach.

The Badagry beach, which is known as Suntan beach was selected, while for the erosion beach, the bar beach in Victoria Island was selected.

Condition of the beaches were assessed based on the environmental conditions of the beach area and the conditions of the existing facilities, while a purposive sampling techniques was adopted in the selection of respondents (tourists), for the purpose of collecting primary data on the satisfactory levels of the conditions of the selected in the study area. A total of fifty (50) respondents were selected from the two selected beaches, and a structured questionnaire was used to collect relevant data. However, a descriptive statistical analysis was adopted in the analysis of data collected while the tables were adopted in presentation of data.

Results

The coastal tourists' centres, which are the beaches in Lagos are located in different areas within the state, and these beaches are of immense benefits to the state. On it potential in expressed in term of income generation to the state. However, the location of the state on a coast line has served on an advantage to the exploration of tourism potential (coastal tourism).

Table 1: the coastal tourists centre (Beaches) and their location.

Beaches	**Ownership**
Lekki	State Government
Badagry	State Government
Eleko	State Government
Maiyegun	State Government
Coconut	State Government
Water Parks	Private
Elegunshi	State Government
Ibeshe	State Government
Tekunle Island	State Government

Source: Oshundeyi and Babarinde (2003)

Beaches in Lagos State

Lagos State is blessed with about 180 kilometers coastline, majority of which can be described as beaches. The following are the major ones that are regularly patronized by tourists.

Victoria Beach

Bar-Beach - it lies parallel to the Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island. It is the first recognized holiday beach in Nigeria, and the most popular, to both local and foreign tourists, despite its occasional upsurge which is receiving - the attention of the Federal Government. Private operators provide facilities such as beach tents, chairs and tables, while the State Government provides regular staffs that serve as swimmers and lifeguards.

Lekki Beach

This is situated at Maiyegun Village. It is one of the beaches attracting-ovér 3 million tourists yearly. It is noted for its musical jamborees. It has good access roads, car parks, and facilities such as seats, umbrellas, and huts. There is also a big podium for open air performances. At Lekki there is also La Campain Africana which is an important tourist centre.

Eko Beach

This is situated at Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area. It is about 65kms from Lagos – Maroko- Epe Express Road. It is presently the most sought after by expatriates and Nigeria Elite because of its cleanliness and privacy. It has good facilities for accommodation, parking, beach tents, and chairs.

Badagry Beach

This is a continuation of Beaches from the Republic of Benin. It runs parallel to the Lagos - Seme Road. Other beaches are operated by Ocean - Views Plaza, Atlantic Beach Resort - Odidi Beach, Resort Sapo and Aivoji Beaches; they are not as popular, because of their distance from Lagos.

Tarkwa Bay

Located in Victoria Island and owned by Nigeria Ports Authority. It is accessed only through the Lagoon while the following bodies provide water transportation tours; Paradise Holidays Inn, Eleke crescent, Victoria Island. Rarzan Boat transportation, Maroko, Foreshore Fiki-Bal Enterprises -OzumbaMbadiwe Road, Victoria Island Mc Even Jetty, Victoria- Island Lagos Motor Boats Club, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi.

Discussion

Potentials of Beaches to National Development

The importance of coastal tourism, particularly beaches cannot be over emphasized as its benefits are expressed within the economic, socio-cultural and environmental benefits.

Economics importance of beaches

1. Coastal tourism gives a long way to generating foreign exchange earnings in both the host and the country. Tourism expenditures, export and import) of goods and services generates foreign exchange to the host communities.
2. Another major positive impact is employment generation. Beach tourism and other forms of tourism are sources of employment to the host communities. The income realized in the beach tourism could be used to expand the tourism sector especially international tourism thereby, creating so many job opportunities to the local people.
3. Beach tourism contributes immensely to the local economies of the local people. Various Beach tourist centers which can be seen as tourism assets can generate revenue to the local people and income generated can be used to promote other tourism activities in the community and the estate. Additionally, it will bring about regional development in those communities.
4. Beach tourism and other forms of tourism can help in the conservation, preservation or protection of habitats; promote aquaculture by protecting the aquatic animals and other sensitive areas. Development of tourism resources and the promotion of beach tourism can make more tour Operators to take .a positive

approach for a sustainable coastal tourism by ensuring that tourism product are well maintained, protected and preserved. The socio-cultural implications of tourism development in Communities will be determined by the number of tourists they receive. If the number of tourists is on the high side, so will be the increase in the socio-cultural effects on the host community.

Socio-cultural Benefits

1. Beach tourism in Nigeria can help to foster peace in that locality. Traveling brings people together, The length of stay of tourist will foster a mutual understanding between them and the communities, states, nation and countries as they tend to learn and appreciate the people's culture as well as providing cultural exchange between the guests and the hosts.
2. Beach tourism, if well developed, can add to the vitality of communities. This can be done through most of their cultural activities like festivals, carnivals and other events. In other words, it will help to project the image of the communities, the state and the nation. In addition, the development and provisions of jobs for local people will motivate them and deter them from emigrating from the rural areas.
3. Furthermore, sustainable coastal tourism will lead to revitalization of culture and traditions. This can be done by improving in the conservation/preservation and transmission of culture and historical traditions.
4. Again, coastal tourism can help the tourists enjoy and appreciate nature reserves like ocean, rivers, lakes, sea, mountains, hills, landscapes etc, healthy and crime free community, local culture and traditions, environmental goods like clean water and air, ecosystems, other habitats and aquatic animals.
5. Sustainable beach tourism encourages social involvement and pride. It can stimulate the interest of the host communities and generate the feeling of pride in preserving/conserving and protecting both the local and national heritage of the area.

Environmental Benefits of Beaches

The environment entails the natural environment which includes landforms, plant and animals and the man-made environment that includes buildings and streets. In most cases, the natural environment attracts tourists to a destination.

1. Beach tourism greatly involves the environment and depends on it too. If well harnessed in tourist centers communities will increase the flow of tourists to that town. The environment can motivate the tourism developers to invest and improve on the tourism products which are the 3As (Access, Amenities and Accommodation). Access involves the transportation network to the place of destination. Transport is of two elements: It could be air, water or road transport. Having arrived at your destination, how does the tourist go around if he or she wishes to explore through surface transport (such as taxis, motorcycles or other vehicles).
2. Amenities are the basic social amenities that should make the tourist's stay worthwhile like electricity, portable water supply, health centers, post offices, internet services, good accessible roads, communication networks, banks and money exchange centers, salons and so on. Accommodation on the other hand, entails the building of hotels, guest houses, motels, hostels and so on because these will serve as second homes to the tourists.
3. Moreover, coastal areas provide a number of environmental goods and services. These make them ecologically important. So, the coastal wetland areas, estuaries, marine, coral reefs often benefit from the environment and the ocean which brings nutrient rich water to the surface they support rich biological diversity and contain valuable natural resources. Apart from providing nursery, they equally serve as feeding areas for many coastal and oceanic aquatic species. Also, fishes are got from the environment (that is the ocean) and the coastal areas support large numbers of reptiles and other sea animals as well as shore birds.

The Conditions of the Selected Beaches

The environmental conditions of Suntan beach and Bar beach were assessed. It was observed that facilities that are expected to be at the beaches are lacking. Only the toilets are available at the Bar beach and sheds for passive recreational activities, while sheds are located at different areas of Suntan beach. However, shops are located at the beaches for commercial activities. It is important to note that essential facilities are lacking at the two beaches and such facilities is the waste disposal facilities, in which its non availability has resulted into the littering of the beach

surroundings.

Table 2: Satisfactory levels of Tourist at the selected beaches

Satisfactory levels	Beaches	
	Bar Beach	Suntan Beach
Highly Satisfied	04	07
Fairly Satisfied	25	19
Not Satisfied	21	24
Total	50	50

Source: Researcher's Survey, April 2022

From the data collected on the satisfactory levels of tourists at the beaches, it was revealed that 24 respondents (tourists) at the suntan beach, representing 48% of the total number of sampled were not satisfied with the condition of the beach environment, while 21 respondents (tourists) at the Bar beach, representing 42% of the total number of respondents sampled were not satisfied with the condition of the beach environment.

Challenges of Coastal Tourism in the Study Area

1. Coastal areas are easily affected whenever there are climatic changes and Nigeria is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate variability and change because of her under developed state and low adaptive capacity. The coastal areas in Nigeria, despite the benefits got from the water surrounding, still experience adverse effect of the climate change on those areas. Climate change is a serious threat to coaster areas especially those areas where there is high concentration of people, economic, socio-cultural and political activities and ecosystems.

However, climate change has had adverse effects on coastal areas. Incessant rainfall has led to the rise of the sea level, changes in the frequency and intensity of storms, increased precipitation, and warmer ocean temperatures. Also, raising of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (Co2) cause the oceans to absorb more of gas thus, becoming more acidic and harmful to coastal and marine ecosystems. Additionally, more problems and challenges are faced in these areas like water pollution, shoreline erosion, coastal flooding, degradation of infrastructural facilities and the coastal ecosystems. For instance, at Elegushi Beach resort, it was learnt that during rainy season, there is sea level rise because of rainfall and the ocean overflows its banks thereby, causing coastal flooding in that area as well as in other beaches very close to the lagoons, rivers oceans, creeks.

2. Beach tourism can cause loss of biodiversity for instance, by competing with wildlife for habitat and natural resources. Although these effects on biodiversity are also caused by other negative impacts like the environmental, socio-cultural or economic impacts. This could lead to extinction of wild species. For Adejumo (2010), noted that conflict between coastal tourism and the natural environment arises in a number of areas and concern has been expressed about the implications of continued growth. The main environmental issue is that the marine environment is of greater ecological diversity than land environments with the most biologically significant areas being close to shore-such as coral reefs, estuaries and wetlands, coral reefs for example, are said to contain a higher biodiversity than tropical rain forests.

3. Beach tourism or conventional tourism if not well harnessed can cause change or loss of local identity and values and bring so many negative socio cultural effects especially on the host communities. It could lead to ethnicity reconstruction. Local culture or traditions of a particular community, local customs, festivals, religious traditions and other ceremonies are in most cases changed or reduced to suit the tourists especially the foreigners' taste.

4. Moreover, beach tourism—development in an area can affect-the health of the host communities. Tourism provides easy access to sexual exploitation and with the inflow of tourists from different parts of the world could lead to prostitution, homosexuality, and lesbianism thus, spreading communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, syphilis, and so on to the host communities.

5. Security is another major challenge of coastal tourism development. Lack of the provision of safety equipment in the beaches is observed. Observatory posts manned by life guards or surveillance posts are lacking at the beach vicinity.

5. Conclusion

The challenges of coastal tourism development have undermined the expected benefits of the potential of the aquatic resources and the need to make necessary recommendation for an improved coastal tourism development is mandatory. Hence, recommendation made include:

i. Clean environment and matter through regular clear of the beach environment and the provision of waste disposal and collection facilities. Also, public toilets should be situated far from the activity areas, so that sewage will not affect from the aquatic environment.

ii. Safe and security must be considered on one of the major aspect for an improved coastal tourism in the beaches and well trained and qualified personnel patrolling the beach area should be employed the presence of security personnel in mandatory for beach management.

iii. Code of conduct reflecting law governing the use of the beaches should be enforced and this code of conduct should include the rule relating to company, and environment sanitation.

iv. There is need for government and private sector synergy.

v. Environmental education should be embarked upon to create environment and social awareness in the importance of coastal tourism to individual and the nation.

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