ASSESSMENT OF TOURISTS PERCEPTION OF THE YANKARI GAME RESERVE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

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DECLARATION

I declare that the work in the thesis entitled “Assessment of Tourists Perception of the Yankari Game Reserve as a Tourist Destination” has been performed by me in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning under the supervision of Dr. Maáruf Sani and Mr. B. A. Dada.

The information derived from the literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and a list of references provided. No part of this thesis was previously presented for another degree or diploma at any university.

.....	.....	.....
Name of Student	Signature	Date

CERTIFICATION

This thesis entitled "**ASSESSMENT OF TOURISTS PERCEPTION OF THE YANKARI GAME RESERVE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION**" by Maidugu Yama meets the regulations governing the award of Master of Science degree of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late father Mr. Maidugu Mari Malgwi.

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the Yankari Games Reserve as a tourist destination by investigating the perception of the tourists who patronize it. The assessment used indicators including the level of patronage in number of tourists attracted annually, wildlife resources of the reserve, infrastructure, facilities and safety. The method employed reconnaissance survey of the reserve for observations and the administering of questionnaires to a sample of the tourists. The sample of 50 respondents, representing 10% of the average daily number of tourists received during the period of the survey was used. The study showed that in the last decade tourist inflow has continued to rise. The assessment of the perception of the tourists shows that most travel to Yankari for viewing game, which is the most important attraction. The survey also showed that tourists are satisfied with the park with 42% indicating preference of Yankari over other parks in Nigeria. The study also showed that Yankari could be better if the master plan for its development is fully implemented. The reserve however has a good prospect in view of richness of its resources. Proposals were made on appropriate policies and institutional framework to develop the park to a higher standard comparable to similar ones in other parts of the world which have been reviewed in the study.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Tourism destination is a physical space in which a visitor spends at least one night. It includes tourism products such as support services, attractions and tourism resources within one day's return travel time. It has physical and administrative boundaries defining its management, image and perceptions defining its market competitiveness. Destination incorporates various stakeholders often including a host community (WTO, 2004).

Nigeria, in addition to its huge population, is endowed with significant agricultural, mineral, marine and forest resources. Its multiple vegetation zones host a unique assemblage of wildlife. There are eight (8) National Parks distributed across the major ecological zones of Nigeria. These are: Chad Basin; Cross River, Gashaka/Gumti, Kainji Lake, Old Oyo, Kamuku, Okomu and Yankari National Parks. Yankari Game Reserve is the most popular destination for tourists in Nigeria and as such plays a crucial role in the development and promotion of tourism and ecotourism in Nigeria. It is also one of the most popular eco destinations in West Africa. Wikkipaedia (2012).

Yankari National Park started as a game reserve in 1956 and was later upgraded to the status of a National Park by the Federal Government in 1991 It has been under the management of the National Parks Service, an agency of the Federal Ministry of Environment. The Yankari Game Reserve covers an area of about 2,244 Km^2, is home to numerous species of wild life. It also has several natural archaeological attractions including the Durkkey Wells, Marshal Caves Wikki Warm Spring and Wikki Camp. In line with the National Park Service Act Amendment Bill, 2005, the

Bauchi State Government took over the Yankari National Park from the Federal Government in 2006, with the view to raise the standard of Yankari Game Reserve to an international standard both in terms of nature reserve and tourism attraction. This research explores the current situation of Yankari Game Reserve and assess its performance as a tourists destination.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Yankari is an ecological zone located within the Sudan savannah vegetation zone. The zone has abundant and diverse flora and faura, historic site and infrastructural facilities. The purpose of establishing this ecological zone is to conserve biodiversity and to promote wild life based ecotourism in the region. The Yankari Game Reserve is famous for its diverse large mammals populations, birds, spring, ethno-historical and archaeological sites, perhaps the most popular eco-destination in west Africa sub-region (Olekeshi 1994). Yankari Game Reserve is one of the few places where ecotourists are guaranteed to seeing diverse and varied wildlife species at most times of the year, therefore Yankari is the premier nature tourism destination in Nigeria and play critical role in the development and promotion of tourism and ecotourism in particular in Nigeria.

In 2006, the reserve assumed the status of Yankari Game Reserve, after its take-over from the Federal Government (Yankari National Park) by the Bauchi State Government. In 2006, there was mass renovation and development of some infrastructural facilities. These includes renovation of the seventy four(74) kilometres of road from main road to the reserve, renovation of presidential lodge, two (2) modes' suites, 100 chalets, building of new students hostel and reception units and purchase of new viewing trunks. Reports from the Press and Government have said

there is rise in tourist visitation to Yankari Game Reserve in line with this development.

However, preliminary observations appear to point to less than satisfactory levels of tourist visitation. therefore, the strength of attraction of Yankari Game Reserve needs to be ascertained by analysing the pattern of tourists visits, level of infrastructural facilities, accessibility, wildlife resources, safety and recreation facilities provision. This is to be related to the adequacy of improvements made by the Yankari Game Reserve management in reference to the goal of Yankari Game Reserve. On this basis, the research will assess the Yankari Game Reserve as it relates to its current situation and seeking explanation for any problems constraining higher tourists visitation to the reserve.

Accordingly, the research attempts to answer the following question:

i. What is the status and perception of the Yankari Game Reserve?

1.4 THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1.4.1 Aim

To assess the Yankari Game Reserve as tourist destination through an investigation of the current status and the perception of tourists on its performance.

1.4.2 Objectives

1. To review existing developments of wildlife and tourism destinations in Nigeria and Africa.
2. To examine the current situation of Yankari Game Reserve.
3. To assess the performance of Yankari Game Reserve as tourist destination.

4. To make appropriate recommendations for improvement of the performance of the game reserve.

1.5 SCOPE

The scope of this study is principally to assess the performance of Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination with reference to the perception of the tourists and the attributes in terms of the resource base and facilities. The later include review of available facilities, accessibility, wildlife resources, recreational facilities and the safety of the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination.

CHAPTER TWO

LITRATURE REVIEW

WILDLIFE AND TOURISM DESTINATIONS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is one of the West Africa country situated along the coastal region of the African continent. Nigeria boasts a wide variety of tourist attractions whose richness and diversity of tourist attractions is evidently seen from its wide tourism resources ranging from heritage /Cultural sites, unique wildlife parks and game reserves; natural / physical attractions, amusement parks, entertainment facilities, magnificent views of its waterfalls, springs, caves, an inviting environment of tropical forests, historical monuments to arts and crafts which constitute symbol of the people's cultural values.

Nigeria offers a wide variety of tourist attractions such as extended and roomy river and ocean beaches ideal for swimming and other water sports, unique wildlife, vast tracts of unspoiled nature ranging from tropical forest, magnificent waterfalls, some new rapidly growing cities and climatic conditions in some parts particularly conducive to holidaying. Other attractions include traditional ways of life preserved in local customs; rich and varied handicrafts and other colourful products depicting or illustrative of native arts and lifestyle, and the authentic unsophisticated but friendly attitude of many in the Nigerian population.

However, many of these attractions are still largely untapped and even at their raw states, they are still being enjoyed by few outsiders, either very rich visitors in quest of exoticism or adventurous people in search of new challenges and experiences.

2.2 SAFARI DESTINATIONS IN NIGERIA

The most popular Nigerian Safari destinations are:

Gashaka-Gumti National Park

This is a vast land of spectacular wilderness (6,000km^2) in the southeast corner of Taraba State, adjoining the Mambilla Plateau. Mostly mountainous, from 457 to 2407 meters, it contains Nigeria's highest mountain, Chapal Waddi (2409m). It is the most ecologically diverse conservation area in the country and contains swaths of guinea savanna, gallery forest, moist forest, mountain forest and grassland. Many rivers flow through the park, including the Taraba, a major tributary of the River Benue.

A wide variety of animal life can be found, including buffalo, roan antelope, chimpanzee, colobus monkey, hippopotamus, hyena, giant forest hog, lion and leopard. The park is a birdwatcher's paradise with a wide variety of species, and there is excellent fishing in the River Kam. The reserve headquarters is in the Forest Rest Houses at Serti, on the main road between Bali and Mambilla Plateau.

These rest houses provide self-catering accommodation at a small fee. The entrance to the park is about 15 km south of Serti. In the dry season, it is possible to drive to the former headquarters at Gashaka village, some 30 km from the entrance gate, where more self-catering accommodation is available. The park is best explored on foot and it is possible to hire game guards; guides and porters are available at Serti or in Gashaka village. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report, 2011)



Plate 1: Gashaka Waterfall

Source: www.goodlife.com.ng

The Kainji National Park

This Park, in Kwara State, was established in 1979 and incorporates the Borgu Game Reserve and Zugurma Game Reserve to the southeast in Niger State. The Bourgu sector of the park alone covers an area of about of 3,929 sq. km. of savanna woodland, and Zugurma cover an area of about 1,370 sq. km.



Plate 2: Entrance to Kainji National Park

Source: www.nationalmirroronline.net

The Kainji National Park also contains the Kainji Dam, an artificial lake which covers the town of Old Bussa. Here Mungo Park, the explorer, was said to have come to grief in 1805. Now the lake hides the scene of the accident. The lake is 136 km long and tours of the dam are available on request from the Nigeria Electric Power Authority. Boat trips on the lake can be arranged by the Borgu Game Reserve office at Wawa. To reduce the expense, it is better for several visitors to share the cost. Fishing is allowed on the lake.

The Borgu Sector of Lake Kainji National Park was set up as a Federal Game Reserve and is one of the largest in West Africa. The area was uninhabited and the idea for the park was conceived in 1960. It is in the northern guinea vegetation zone which is characterized by tall grasses and savanna woodland. The park retains a robust animal population including antelope, lion, hippopotamus, buffalo, roan antelope, jackal, baboon, monkey and crocodile.

The park is usually open from December to June, with the best time to visit towards the end of the dry season, when the grass has dried out and the animals move closer to the water. Tourist should expect Harmattan (dry wind) from December to mid-February.

The best times for game viewing are in the early morning or evening, and trips can be arranged from 6:00 am, either in park vehicles or visitor's own vehicle. Bird life is abundant, especially near the river. Visitors should call the Wawa Game Warden's office (11 miles from New Bussa) for a briefing and to also reserve a game guide. The entrance to the reserve is approximately 19 miles from Wawa along a laterite road, and the oil river camp is a further 32 miles from the entrance. Many Nigerians and foreigners make day trips to Kainji or pass by it on their way to other parts of the

country. Despite the provisions at Kainji and New Bussa, hotel accommodation is insufficient to encourage many people to stay for long periods. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)

Cross River National Park

The Cross River National Park was created from two existing forest reserves of Bashi-Okwango and Oban Forest Resveres. It is famous for its unique rain forest vegetation which, according to conservation experts, is some of the richest in Africa. This park contains the last remaining rain forest in Nigeria, which is being preserved with the help of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. It has a herd of forest elephants, the white-faced monkey (indigenous to Nigeria only), buffalo, leopards and lowland gorillas, besides over a thousand other animal species. The park has a tropical climate characterized by a rainy season between April and October and a dry season between November and April. The moist green vegetation cover makes the forest an excellent place to see birds and butterflies. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)



Plate 3: Access Road inside Cross River National Park

Source: www.venturetravelonline.com

Yankari Game Reserve: The Yankari National Park is the premier game reserve in Nigeria. Yankari Park and Wikki Warm Springs are located around the Gagi River, approximately 1 1/2 hours by road, southeast of Bauchi Town. The beauty and size of The Yankari Game Reserve make it the most popular reserve in Nigeria. Set up in 1956 and opened to the public in 1962, the main game-viewing areas of the reserve are open all year round. Japanese, Western Europeans, Americans and Southeast Asian tourists visit this park in abundance.

The reserve covers 2,058sq.km. of savanna woodland and is well-stocked with elephants, baboons, waterbucks, bushbucks, oribi, crocodile, hippopotamus, roan antelope, buffalo and various types of monkeys. Lions are occasionally spotted as well, despite their natural camouflage. The best time to visit is between November and May, when tourists are likely to see more game since the dense vegetation has dried out and the animals congregate around the rivers.

The Wikki Warm Springs is one of the best features of the game reserves. Flood-lit at night, it is wonderful after a hot day's game-viewing to relax in the warm water. The spring gushes out from under a cliff, where the water is at least 6 ft. deep, with a bathing area that extends for 600 ft. to an open area. The park is inhabited by a variety of birds, including the huge saddlebill stork, golliath heron, bateleur eagle, vultures, kingflshers, bee-eaters and more. It is excellent for serious bird-watchers. Other facilities include: Tennis courts, squash courts, a small museum in the reception area plus gas stations with convenience stores at Wikki Camp and Bauchi. Reservations: It is advisable to make reservation during the holidays and weekends with Easter a particularly busy season. Reservations can be made at Durbar Hotel in Kaduna, Bauchi State House in Lagos and at the Zaranda Hotel in Bauchi. Or call

Yankari Game Reserve at (069) 43-656. Route: You can travel by road from Lagos to Abuja, where you make an overnight stop, then on to Jos and Bauchi, as it is a 2-day journey by car over well-maintained roads. Hotels: Basic accommodations are available in chalets or rondavels. Also available are suites, double rooms and family chalets that include small kitchens. There are many other National Parks besides Yankari, as illustrated on the map. Notable ones include Mambilla, Gumti National Park, Cross River National Park, and Kainji Lake National Park. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)

Chad Basin National Park: Is found in the northeastern part of Nigeria between Borno and Yobe States and covers an area of 2258sq km. The park covers 3 eco-regions of Chingurmi-Duguma, Bade Nguru Wetlands and Bulatura Oases.The largest is is Chingurmi-Duguma Sector covering an estimated is 1228sq km in the districts of Gulumba and Woloji in the Borno state. The sector is made of large acacia woodlands and dotted with dense patches of elephants grass-a typical extension of the sahelian zone. This section borders the Waza National Park in the neighboring Cameroon.

Bade-Nguru Wetlands Sector is often referred to as Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands and covers an area of just 938sq km south west of the town of Bade and Jakusko. The main attraction in this part of the park is Dagona Waterbirds Sanctuary that is internationally significant as a host to migrant birds. Some of the important tourists to the sanctuary include the president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Prince Bernhardt of Netherlands and Prince Philip and the Duke of Edinburgh who the site in 1987 and 1989 respectively. Bulatura Sector is just a landscape of Sand Dunes in Yusufari town of Yobe State covering an area of 92sq km. valleys are fertile zones

with swamps while the oases are formal tourist zones when it comes to eco-tourism. The park contains some rare desert wildlife like giraffe, ostrich, red fronted gazelle and many other species of mammals. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)



Plate 4: Arial view of tributary of Lake Chad

Source: www.dailyindependentnig.com



Plate 5: Bird found in Lake Chad

Source: www.cbnp,nigeriaparkservice.org



Plate 6: Museum in Lake Chad National Park

Source: www.klnp.nigeriaparkservice,org

Okomu National Park

The Okomu National Park, formerly the Okomu Wildlife Sanctuary, is a forest block within the 1,082 km² Okomu Forest Reserve in the Ovia South-West Local Government Area of Edo State in Nigeria. The park is about 60 km North West of Benin City. The park holds a small fragment of the rich forest that once covered the region, and is the last habitat for many endangered species. It continues to shrink as villages encroach on it, and is now less than one third of its original size. Powerful corporations are involved in plantation development and logging concessions around the park, which also pose a threat.

The park holds a remnant of the Nigerian lowland forests that once formed a continuous 50–100 km wide belt from the Niger River west to the Dahomey Gap in Benin. To the south and southeast the forest was separated from the coast by

mangrove and swamp forests, while to the north it merged into the Guinean Forest-Savanna Mosaic ecoregion. Human pressure is not new. In the Okomu park there is an extensive layer of charcoal and pottery below the forest, indicating that it was cleared and then regenerated over the last 700 years. By the start of the 20th century the forest survived only in disconnected blocks, which were under intense pressure from human activity. The British colonial administration set up a series of forest reserves to manage what remained, including controlled extraction of valuable trees such as African Mahogany.

Khaya senegalensis, or African Mahogany. This specimen is growing further inland, near Mount Tenakourou, Burkina Faso, in a Savannah region. The 200 km² wildlife sanctuary, a rainforest ecosystem that is the habitat for many endangered species of flora and fauna, was gazetted from the Okomu Forest Reserve in 1935. A survey of southwestern forests in Nigeria in 1982 led to a recommendation for a determined effort to conserve the sanctuary. The state government formally defined the sanctuary in 1986, with an area of just 66 km^2. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) took over management of the sanctuary in 1987, and extended it to 114 km^2 by adding a one-mile wide buffer zone.

The NCF was diverted into assisting migrant farmers in the surrounding areas, in an attempt to help the villagers find alternative means of living without encroaching on the forest. The NCF agricultural initiatives had the perverse effect of attracting immigrants from poorer areas, and thus increasing the pressure from illegal hunting and logging. In 1997 it was also found that several NCF employees had been involved in illegal logging within the sanctuary. In May 1999 the sanctuary was taken over by the National Parks Service.

The park is drained by the Osse River which defines its eastern boundary. The Okomu River forms the western boundary. Rainfall is between 1,524 and 2,540 mm per year. Soils are acidic, nutrient-poor sandy loam. Vegetation is Guinea–Congo lowland rain forest, including areas of swamp-forest, high forest, secondary forest, and open scrub. Among the common trees are Kapok, *Celtis zenkeri*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, *Antiaris africana*, *Pycnanthus angolensis* and *Alstonia congoensis*. The park is probably the best example of mature secondary forest in southwest Nigeria

The park is accessible to tourists, and has well marked trails. There are two tree houses, one 140 feet high in a silk-cotton tree, from which visitors can view the park from above and observe bird life. Visitors can stay at chalets built on stilts, just outside the park entrance, surrounded by fig trees that are often occupied by Mona monkeys. Guides are available for forest walks, and will point out such things as termite nests and the many medicinal plants.

The park has diverse fauna, with 33 species of mammals including the African buffalo and the endangered African Forest Elephant. Elephant sightings are rare, although in 2007 a one-year-old elephant carcass was found, unlikely to have died from natural causes. Park officials claim that elephant poaching no longer occurs, despite the high prices commanded for ivory in Lagos. There is a population of the vulnerable White-throated Guenon, a primate. Although no thorough study of the primate population has been done since 1982, chimpanzees were reported to be present in the region in 2009. The number of chimpanzees estimated to live in the Okomu Forest reserve was guessed to be 25–50 in 2003, and some may use the national park at times. Other animals found in the park include Dwarf crocodiles, Red

river hog, Sitatunga, Warthog, Civet cat, Maxwell's Duiker, Grass cutter, Mona monkey, Thomas's galago and Tree pangolin.

About 150 species of birds have been identified. These include Angolan Pitta, Grey Parrot, Wrinkled Hornbill, Fish Eagle, hawks, woodpeckers, Great Owl, Grey Hornbill, Cattle Egret, Black-casqued Hornbill, Yellow-casqued Hornbill, Sabine's Spinetail, Cassin's Spinetail, Black Spinetail, White-breasted Negrofinch, Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch, Pale-fronted Negrofinch and Yellow-throated Cuckoo. Terrestrial molluscs seem exceptionally vulnerable to extinction, and low diversity may indicate subtle environmental problems. A survey of land molluscs in a small area of the forest found 46 species in 11 molluscan families, of which Streptaxidae snails accounted for over a third. This is much lower diversity than has been found in Cameroon and Sabah. However, it may be due to the very limited sample in just one area. Perhaps of greater interest to most visitors, the park has over 700 species of colourful butterflies.

Visitors must follow strict regulations to avoid degrading the environment. However, the park is threatened by large-scale illegal logging, the expansion of large rubber and oil-palm plantations nearby, and incursions by a growing human population involved in farming and hunting. In 2009, the Executive Director of LifeTag, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Lagos, called for urgent action by the Edo State government to prevent further illegal encroachment and destructive logging activities in the park, which both threaten the rare species and will destroy the long-term revenue to be earned from eco-tourism. The Federal government has

said that it is eager to partner with foreign investors to develop eco-tourism in Okomu and other National Parks.

In October 2010, representatives of the park's management met with leaders from the seven major communities bordering the park and established a Local Advisory Committee. The conservator of the park, Mohammed Yakubu Kolo, said the committee was to "provide a platform for the park management and the local communities to work together on issues of mutual interest, in order to achieve the park's set-goals." He went on to say "The establishment of LAC for Okomu Park is the most significant move ever made to guarantee the continuous protection of its diverse rich biological resources and splendour". A forestry officer said the move would help the communities work together to stop poaching. The protected area of the Okomu National Forest is too small and too vulnerable. Without further efforts to improve protection, it is unlikely that the forest will remain viable long into the future.



Plate 7: Elephants in Okumo National Park

Source: www.cometonigeria.com

Old Oyo National Park

Administrative Head Office Complex of Old Oyo National Park. The Park derives its name from the ruins of Oyo-Ile, (Old Oyo) the ancient political capital of Yoruba Empire. The Park is made up of two previous Native Administrative forest Reserves, the Upper Ogun (1936) and Oyo-Ile (1941) Forest Reserves. These unique ecosystem and historical relics were converted to Game Reserves in 1952 and finally upgraded to the present status of a National Park.

The Park has total land mass of 2,512km^2 and is located in south West part of Nigeria, specifically Northern Oyo State at latitude 8° 15' and 9° 00'N and longitude 3° 35' and 4° 42'E. The location has inevitably placed the Park at a vantage position of abundance land area as well as diverse wildlife and cultural/historical settings. Twelve (12) Local Government areas out of which eleven (11) falls within Oyo State and one (1) in Kwara state surround it. The administrative Head office is located in Oyo Isokun area along Oyo-Iseyin road, where necessary information and booking could be made. The landscaping and organized space within the large yard has made the facility very endearing to the public.

The topography of the whole area covered by the Park has a beautiful uniqueness as most of the Park lie in plain lowland between 330m and 508 metres above the sea level and continues with a gentle slope along the Ogun River valleys. Outcrops of granite characterize the North Eastern Zone of the Park especially at Oyo-Ile. The central part of the Park has isolated hills and ridges of numerous rock outcrops. The extreme Northern Part on its own has caves as well as rock shelters dominating the axis.

The drainage system is also interesting as the Park is well drained by rivers Ogun, Owu, Owe and their tributaries in the central and Southern parts, while river Tessi

drains the North-East part of the Park. For Eco-tourism development the inventory list with cognizance to the topography of the Park, inevitably include the rock out-crops (for mountaineering), Ikere Gorge Dam/River Ogun (for water recreation) and the archaeological endowments of Oyo-Ile (for Cultural/Historical).

Within the entire country there previously existed extensive forestation; however, there is less forested area present in the country mirroring a trend in the region. The Old Oyo National Park was previously habitat for the endangered Painted Hunting Dog, *Lycaon pictus*. However, this canid is now deemed extirpated locally due to hunting pressure and the expanding human population in this region. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)

Kamuku National Park

The Kamuku National Park is a Nigerian National Park in Kaduna state Nigeria, with a total area of about 1,120km^2 . The park has a typical Sudanian Savannah ecology, located in the west of Kaduna state.. It was established in 1936 as the Native Authority Forest Reserve of Birnin Gwari under the Northern Nigeria government.

The fauna include elephants, roans, antelopes, duikers, baboons, warthog, bush buck, patas monkeys and green monkeys. There are atleast 77 species of birds include migrants and residents. The park is an important for species such the secretory birds (Sagittarius serpentaries), Denham's Bustard (Meotis Denham) and the Abyssinan Ground-hornbill (Bucorvus abyssinicus) which are rare in other parks in Nigerian. (Nigerian National Park Annual Report 2011)

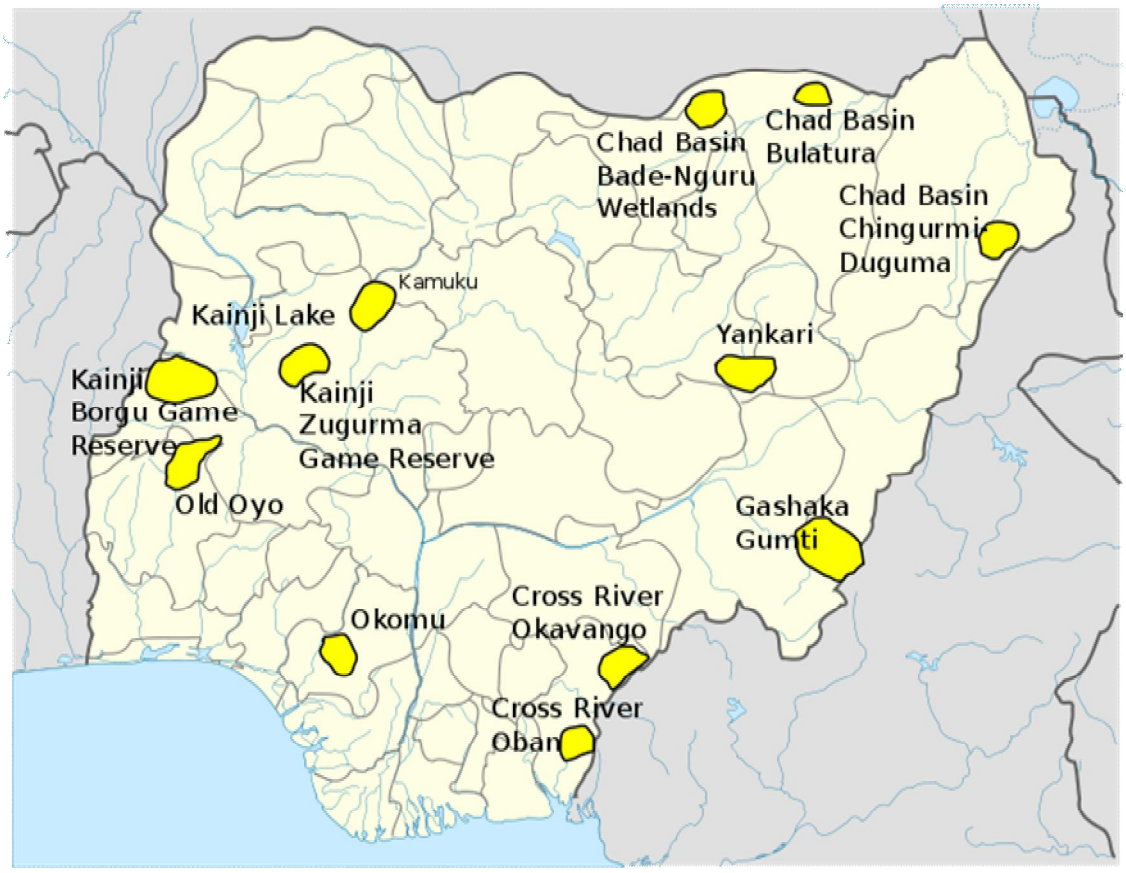
Table 2.1: National Parks in Nigeria showing their location, areas covered and year gazetted.

Park	Location	Area (km^2)	Year Gazetted

Gashaka	Taraba State, North East Nigeria	6,000	1977
Yankari	Bauchi State, North East Nigeria	2,058	1991
Kainji	Niger State, North Central Nigeria	5,299	1975
Chad Basin	Borno State/Yobe State, North East Nigeria	3,578	1978
Okomu	Edo State, South – South Nigeria	1,082	1991
Old Oyo	Oyo State, South West Nigeria	2,512	1991
Cross River	Cross River State, South – South Nigeria	3,000	1991
Kamuku	Kaduna State, North Central Nigeria	1,120	1999

Source: Nigeria National Park Annual Report (2011)

Map 1: National Parks in Nigeria



Source: Geomatics Nigeria Limited (2011)

2.3 SAFARI DESTINATIONS IN AFRICA.

Gorilla Tracking in volcanoes National Park, Rwanda located in Kuhengoic, about 1 hour 30 minutes drive from Kigali to the east of Rwanda. The park occupies

an area of 130km^3. The mountain gorilla remains Rwanda's best known tourist attraction. Tourists pay to get a glimpse at the endangered creatures and most view that is worth every cent. These gorillas stay deep in the forested areas of volcanoes. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).

Loango Safaris, Gabon. Safaris accommodation in Gabon is extensive and varies from luxury western style safari lodges to rustic research camps. Loango national park is a national park in western Gabon. The country's most well known tropical parkland, Loango protects diverse boasted habitat, including part of the 220sq km Iguela Lagoons situated between the Nkomi and Ndogo lagoons, the park is said to be a jewel of African western coast. It hosts elephants, apes and buffaloes as well as leopards and mandrills, whales and dolphins are also plenty in loango. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).



Plate 8: African Elephant in Gabon

Source: www.airboatafrika.com

Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana. Botswana and wildlife are synonymous. Central Kalhari Game Reserve is an extensive national park in the Kalahari Desert situated right in the centre of Botswana characterised by vast open plain and salt ponds. It is the second largest game reserve in the world, home of huge numbers of elephants. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).

Map 2: Safari Destinations in Botswana





Plate 9: Animals in Botswana

Source: www.experiencebotswana.co.za

Kruger Safari, South Africa. Steeped in legend and history, the iconic kruger National park in southern Africa is vast in wildlife. Thriving game drive and walking safari and lions are also found. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).



Plate 10: Airstrip in South Africa

Source: www.flyawaysimulation.com

Map 3: Safari Destination in South Africa



Source: www.flyawaysimulation.com



Plate 11: Balloons used for game viewing in South Africa

Source: www.safari.co.uk

Masai Mara National Park, Kenya. The Masai Mara National Reserve (also spelled Masai Mara and known by the locals as "The mara") is a large game reserve in south western Kenya, which is effectively the northern continuation of the Serengeti National Game Reserve in Tanzania. The reserve is one of east Africa's best known game viewing areas and adjoins the Serengeti National Park of Tanzania, is blessed

with about 450 species of birds and 200 Zebras. The park is famous for the animal widebeast migration arguably the most spectacular national event in Africa. It draws hundreds of Safari travellers every July of the year. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).

Map 4: Safari Destination in Kenya



Source: www.e-gnu.com



Plate 12: Elephants in Kenya

Source: www.swarthmore.edu



Plate 13: African Leopards in Kenya

Source: www.safariafricana.com

South Luangwa, Zambia. The South Luangwa national park is the most popular destination in the Luangwa valley. Experts have dubbed South Luangwe as one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world, and not without reasons. The concentration of games around the Luangwa rivers and its ox bound lagoons is among the most intense in Africa. It hosts over 60 animal species and 400 birds species making it one of the best African safari destinations. Elephants, buffalo, zebra, hippo, crocodiles and great giraffe concentration are some of the animals found here. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).



Plate 14: Game Viewing in Zambia

Source: www.africa.safari.org.za

Lake Malawi National Park: Located in the southern end of the great expense of lake Malawi, with its deep, clear waters and mountain backdrop, the national park is home to many hundreds of fish species, nearly all endemic (more than 400 fish species) its importance for the study of evolution is comparable to that of the fishes of the great galapoyo's islands. Lake Malawi attracts waters, fishing enthmasiasts, water skiers and snorkelers to its clear inscribed on the world heritage list in 1984. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).

Map 5: Safari Destination in Malawi





Plate 15: Game Viewing in Malawi

Source: www.ablasttothepastblockspot.com

Gorilla Tracking in Bnindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. Bnindi impenetrable national park is located on the edge of the western rift valley (Albertine rift), south western Uganda. Uganda is famous for gorilla safari in Bwindi Impendrable forest. Bwindi is famous for gorilla tracking, but there are also linking where you are guaranteed to see a large varieties of birds and other primates. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).



Plate 16: Game viewing in Malawi

Source: www.kerdowney.com

Etosha National Park Safari, Namibia. The park is known for its endemic species of impala, the black faced variety. It is said to have the tallest elephant in Africa. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).





Plate 17: Game viewing in Namibia

Source: www.worldwanderingkiwi.com

Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe. This park is one of the Africa's finest havens for wildlife and is home to a vast herd of elephants, buffalo, Zebra and has a very

large concentration of giraffe. It is also home of many predators and endangered species plus very large varied bird life. The park is situated on the main road between Bulawayo and world famous Victoria falls. Hwange offers memorable African wildlife safari experience. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).

Map 6: Safari Destination in Zimbabwe





Plate 18: Accommodation Facilities in Zimbabwe

www.all4women.co.zo

Serengeti, Tanzania: Serengeti National Park is one of the most celebrated wildlife reserves in the world. During the great migration, more than a million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras travel across these legendary east African savannah an area locally said to be the place where the land moves on forever. (African Safari Destination Guide, 2011).



Plate 19: Swinge Bridge in Tanzania

Source: www.secret.africa.com

Table 2:2 Safari Destinations in Africa showing location, Area and Year Established

Destination	Location	Area (Km^2)	Year Established
Gorilla Tracking in Volcanoes National Park	East of Rwanda, Rwanda	130	1990
Loango Safaris National Park	Western Gabon, Gabon	220	1956
Central Kalhari Game Reserve	Centre of Botswana, Botswana	52,800	1961
Kruger Safari National Park	South Africa	2,000	1898
Masai Mora National Park	Kenya	1,672	1961
South Luangwa National Park	Eastern Zambia	9,050	1972
Lake Malawi National Park	Southern Malawi	130	1980
Gorilla Tracking in Brundi Impenetrable National Park	Uganda	330	1991
Etosha National Park Safari	Namibia	5,140	1907
Hwange National Park	Zimbabwe	14,600	1928
Serengeti National Park	Tanzania	14,763	1952

Source: African Safari Destination Guide (2011)

2.4 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

The ultimate goal of wildlife management is to stop extinction of many endangered species, but in today's situation, this is almost an impossible task due to many different ecological problems such as climate change and pollution. According to him, many animals are in trouble due to habitat loss, and some are threatened with the invasive species. Improving animal habitat is the key to success and this can be achieved with several different techniques such as reforestation and pest control amongst others.

As the world faces some of its greatest challenges through climate change, Wari disclosed that protected areas' values are ascending. They help to mitigate the extent of climate change by storing carbon in forests and grasslands, soils and marine areas that would otherwise be emitted into or stored in the atmosphere. He said that protected areas also assist in adaptation to climate change: they are a source of fresh water and other environmental goods and services, while also buffering the effects of natural disasters.

The overall objective of the Nigeria National Park Service is the establishment of an ecologically and geographically balanced network of protected areas under the jurisdiction and the control of the Federal Government. Wildlife management is multidimensional task that needs to view things from many different perspectives before choosing the perfect technique for given wildlife habitat. This makes wildlife management very complex science, which makes things very difficult for wildlife managers.

Conservation of wildlife in Nigeria started in 1916 when the Eastern Nigeria Game Law was enacted. The Western and Northern Nigeria enacted subsequently game laws in 1928 and 1963 respectively. Essentially, the game laws were enacted for the preservation of the abundant wild animals. The government in pursuit of wildlife and ecosystem conservation promulgated a Decree in 1991 which formerly established Old Oyo National Park and three others. These are Gushaka Gumti National Park, Cross River National Park and Chad Basin National park. Yankari was later added to the family of national parks by the Federal Executive Council under a special request from the Bauchi state government. It was gazetted as a national park by the National Park Order of 1993, bringing the number of national parks in Nigeria to six

(6), this is in addition to Kainji Lake National Park that was established in 1995. In 1999, yet another law was passed repealing Decree 36 of 1991 and replacing it with Decree 46 of 1999, creating two additional national parks (Kamuka and Okomu). The current National Park Law (Decree 46) is perhaps one of the most progressive laws on the subject in any country in the world today (Margaba, 2000).

Nigeria is a federation with a three tier system of government. Each tier of government has responsibility to protect, control and manage specific types of protected areas. Thus, the local government councils are responsible for communal forest areas (CFA); the state governments are responsible for forest reserves, game reserves and sanctuaries, while the federal government controls and manages National Parks under the legislative list. Under this arrangement there are about 1,129 forest reserves, 29 games reserves, 4 game sanctuaries, 2 strict nature reserve and 8 national parks in the country (Marguba, 2000).

2.5 PROBLEMS FACING NATIONAL PARKS

In view of problems militating against wildlife conservation worldwide, a number of international unions for enhancement of conservation have long been established. These include the international union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB). However, some problems keep persisting especially to do with poaching and deforestation which cause habitat destruction.

2.5.1 Poaching

Poaching, illegal killing of wild game is one of the major problems facing conservation globally including Nigeria. The problem becomes irksome when people who should know better get involved in active poaching and destroying the natural heritage. Estimates on the number of elephants killed each year by poachers' ranges from 45,000 to 400,000. The African Rhinoceros is even in greater danger. Between 972 and 1978 about 2,580 rhinos were killed annually. Today, there are a mere beleaguered 11,000 and if poaching continues at such rate, biologists fear that the population of rhino will be extinct (Awake, 1987). Between 1973 and 1989 ivory poaching reduced Kenya's elephant population from some 130,000 individuals to an estimated 16,000. By 1988 the poaching of elephants has escalated to such an extent that negative international press reports began to threaten the tourism industry (John, 1999).

In the Kainji Lake National Park, a total number of 120 poachers were arrested between January and September 1991. Poachers not only kill the wild game, but also kill the least animals in a species group, thereby bringing the species to instant extinction. They also go to the extent of even killing pregnant female wild game in their quest for money and in the process, some game guards have been reportedly killed by these poachers (Kainji Lake National Park News Letter, 1992).

A study carried out by Pellinck between 1970 – 1974 to determine the abundance of large herbivore community in the Kainji Lake National Park concluded that the population had increased by about 30% between 1970 and 1973, but that a decline of a similar magnitude had occurred in 1974. This finding also is consistent with the

study by Nwade on Yankari National Park, who identified poaching as the greatest problem hampering the growth and development of all the existing national parks in the country. In order to minimize the activities of poachers, he urged government to intensify surveillance at the nation's parks (Nwade, 2002).

Similar studies by Egbu (1993) and Salihu (2002) on Yankari National Park shows that the park is experiencing some difficulty due to incessant bush fires, grazing of cattle and the 1983/1984 render pest outbreak which further replenish flora and fauna in the park. To replenish the park, Governor Mu'azu of Bauchi state visited Kenya in the year 2001 and made contacts with experts on wildlife with a view to replenishing the supply of several mammals that had either become extinct or migrated from the park as a result of disease or drought. Lawan Marguba the National Conservator General, however have contrary view to the importation of animals and plants from a region far from West Africa to deplenish national parks. According to him, animals may look very well the same to ordinary eye but they are quite different from each other in many ways. He urged that such plan is not the best option to build up the national park. The high degree of incursion into reserved lands in pursuit of agriculture and by bush meat hunters has indeed constituted a major threat to the survival of habitats and wildlife species. For instance, between 1986 and 1988, 195 arrests were made for poaching in Borgu and Zugurma game reserve alone (Oriero, 1993). Similar report was made by Foluso (2000) on Kainji Lake National Park that Kenke was caught poaching in the park and was prosecuted under Decree 46 of 1999 strict legislation and jailed with an option of N35,000.00 fine for killing a bush fowl.

2.5.2 Deforestation/Habitat Destruction

Apart from poaching and indiscriminate killing of wildlife, the game population of Nigeria's forest has been considerably reduced because the thick forest which provide shade and refuge for them have been drastically reduced as a result of deforestation (Agbogidi, 2002).

There are various views about what constitute threat to African forest among researchers. To Ogbonnaya (1999) the worst threat to Africa forests is commercial logging. This activity inflicts large scale devastation on forest cover within a short time. To Adeyoju (1991) and Agbogidi (2002), the greatest enemy of the forest ecosystem is the traditional farming system, otherwise known as bush-fallow or shifting cultivation which on the average is responsible for the destruction of 200 square kilometres of potential forests in a year. Writing on Cross River National Park (CRNP) Ife, (2003) argued that threats to the integrity of the park were considered to derive mainly from hunting and farming by the local population.

2.6 RESPONSES TO PROBLEM OF NATIONAL PARKS IN NIGERIA.

Due to the challenges of hunting, bush burning, failing of trees etc in our environment, scholars have argued that poaching is significantly not an activity that local people engage in for the purpose of deriving leisure, but one which is associated with their socio-economic upliftment. To foster socio-ecological equity without any disregard to the legal provision establishing the park; a new approach to conservation based upon local participation and sustainable utilization of resources was suggested. The rationale for local community involvement in tourism project according to sub-section 4.1.3 of 2005 National Tourism Policy for Nigeria is to

ensure that the local communities drive economic benefits from the tourism projects operating in their area. Such benefits are as equipment, income generation, infrastructural development and preservation of local heritage.

Therefore, the new approach of conservation based upon local participation and sustainable utilization of resources could be like to models and approaches to management of protected areas in the next page.

2.7 MODELS AND APPROACHES TO MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

The general theory of community development is concerned with the adoption and implementation of various resource allocations that can enhance the well-being of a people. Three models of planning as regards the development of protected areas are recognised. They are the neutral or idealistic, progressive and regressive models of planning (Elizabeth and Bisong, 2006). The neutral or idealistic models involve the adoption of distant method of resource allocation. This would involve the designation of protected areas without due negotiations with the support communities. The progressive model of planning is concerned with the involvement of all stakeholders in the planning process such that needs are channelled to the appropriate actions. The regressive model involves the selection and administration of the planning process in ways that favour the most effluent group within the environment. An example of this is seen within protected area whereby the various conservation processes are designed, executed and income generated are used solely for the management of park.

The planning model in use within protected areas frequently accounts for level of cooperation that will result between the management and the surrounding communities. Planning models which include local community participation, more often than not, is possible for the spate of increased conflicts witnessed in many protected areas. However, planning models that take into consideration the involvement of these communities frequently results in the co-management of such regions where both parties are stakeholders in the success or failure of outlined objectives.

The planning models in use within protected areas also accounts for the management approaches that will be adopted. Elizabeth and Bisong (2006) analyzed three approaches that are useful in understanding the planning and administration of protected areas. They include the Top-down, mixed management and bottom-up management approaches. The top-down management approach involved a command management in which the management of protected areas is strictly controlled by the park authorities while the local communities have no direct control or power in the administration and management of the park and its resources. Revenues accruing from eco-tourism are not allocated to the surrounding communities or utilized to enhance their standard of living.

The second approach, which illustrates resources management in protected areas, is the mixed top-down and bottom-up approaches, which attempts to partially involve local communities in the management and administration of park areas. The resultant effects of such attempts have created impacts.

The third park management approach that can be considered is the bottom-up community participation. This management strategy involves a total and complete participation of the indigenous people in the management of park affairs. The management approach in use within a region often adversely affects the development options to be put in place by the park administrators. For example, management approaches that exclude communities in the decision making processes will not be thoroughly acquainted with the preferred development needs of the communities, as opposed to management approaches that involve the communities in its decision taking processes and as such are well ground in the selected development choices of the communities.

In Nigeria, the management approach employed in protected areas is the mixed top-down and bottom-up approach. This entails the application of 'carrot' of public benefit and a 'stick' of regulations and enforcement in the villages within and bordering the park. The mechanism for the realization of this goal is a Support Zone Community Programme. The Support Zone Community Programme placed considerable emphasis on the following:

i. Effective agricultural extension service.
ii. Employment of indigenes of support zone as the key development activity in the support zone.
iii. Wildlife management.
iv. Road maintenance.
v. Development of small scale industries.

The objectives of the extension work were to improve management practice on farms. To introduce better varieties of existing crops, to maximize production on existing agricultural area and reduce the requirement for new agricultural land.

In accordance with conservation objectives, the priority in which development assistance was to be provided to support zone villages was based on the proximity to and perceived impact of each village on the area constituting the park. The primary intention of the Support Zone Community Programme was therefore to create a buffer zone around the protected area in a bid to reduce apparent threats to the park from incursion, resources use and forest loss. The hope was to keep major human impacts a greater distance than a conventional physical boundary would do, and to do so in a way that helps, rather than host local communities. The Support Zone Community Programme placed emphasis on the mutual dependence of the park and nearby communities, an important theme in the community-based conservation strategy. The Support Zone Community Programme is what has been put in place for the management of Yankari park. Thus, this study will examine the effectiveness of Support Zone Community Programme for wildlife conservation and tourism management in Yankari park in order to see the effectiveness as well as the limitations of the approach.

2.8 COMMUNITY- BASED CONSERVATION SCHEME IN NATIONAL PARKS

The natural environment offers major types of attractions in many areas of the sub-saharan Africa and conservation of this environment is essential for the success of tourism and to achieve scientific conservation objectives. Traditionally, and still prevalent in many areas, the natural environment was seen as a resource to be used

to provide meat from the wildlife and land for agricultural purposes. Establishment of protected areas for conservation is a relatively new concept to local community residents. Often, these residents are dependent on local natural resources, such as wildlife and land for agriculture that also need to be conserved as both tourist attraction and for ecological reasons. Encroachment into protected areas to clear land for agriculture and poaching of wildlife or meat or for sale is a common problem in many places.

In some African countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Senegal, Nigeria and Kenya, Community Based Tourism Programmes have been developed whereby villagers living near protected areas receive employment, agricultural implements, income and other facilities from tourism. They therefore do not have the economic need to engage in illegal poaching and encroachment. At the same time, as these initiatives are carried out, there is education of the villagers about conservation and the conservation regulations are still actively enforced. This expectation, according to Bwalya (2004), takes for granted that local people are interested and ready to ward off their values and norms in preference for new behavioural norms that guarantee the economic prosperity of rural residents. In other words, Community Based Conservation assumes that economic incentives will affect the behaviour and interests of individuals and subsequently transform local residents into conservationists. The strong emphasis on conservation, which might not be the immediate interest of residents, sometimes makes residents highly suspicious and pessimistic of whether their livelihood interest will be preserved and enhanced by the Community Based Conservation programme. Based on his analysis of Community Based Conservation schemes in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Bostwana and Namibia he concludes that Community Based Conservation

programmes have had little impact on the local behaviour, community livelihoods and wildlife conservation.

Bwalya (2004) analysed community interest in community based wildlife management in Tanzania. He concluded that local communities in Sebus were not interested in wildlife conservation and the people therefore continued to poach despite the fact that a Community Based Conservation programme can re-establish harmony between community livelihoods and nature by re-establishing traditional values and community solidarity that existed in the pre-colonial era is difficult to credit especially in the context of the current wave of globalization sweeping across countries and communities in Africa. The finding of Songorwa about Community Based Conservation in Tanzania was confirmed by Rutten (2002) who argued that the benefits of Community Based Conservation to people in Selengei Group Ranch both in financial and social terms seem to be questionable, and that the greatest cost is the loss of trust and harmony among group ranch members, once known as one of most harmonious communities in Maasailand.

Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa also allow trophy hunting on a permit basis, with some benefits from this activity accruing to local communities as well as in some cases, private game firms. Another approach Kenya and South Africa have applied is the idea of revenue sharing with local villagers so that they receive some direct benefits from wildlife tourism and therefore have the incentive to help conserve that resource.

Although it is generally agreed that conservation of wildlife in Africa will largely depend on management practices which recognize that indigenous people are integral elements of ecosystem, some problems exist. With current application of

these community based conservation programmes, the present practices in some countries, include issuing an excessive number of hunting permits. Trophy hunting is not necessarily a sustainable use of wildlife resource (Simon, 2001). Similarly proceeds from wildlife management are not always equitably distributed by community authority to community members and the members not receiving benefits do not have the incentive to conserve the wildlife in their area (David, 1997, Din, 1998). WTO (1999a) assessment of the scheme concluded that for the programmes to be successful in maintaining sustainable wildlife and bringing benefits to local communities, the following steps should be taken:

- Trophy hunting must be based on scientifically determined wildlife population estimates (which do not currently exist in most areas),
- Setting realistic hunting quotas and enforcing these quotas
- Using reputable and honest Safari outfitters
- Having transparent and accountable revenue collection and disbursement mechanism
- Putting in place competent management in the park. For both trophy hunting and ecotourism, there must be distribution of proceeds to members of local communities.

To a great extent, most community based tourism projects suffer from similar problems and barriers, which limit their effectiveness. These include the domination of individuals, short term economic goals over long term community objectives, the necessity for outside public or private sector finance which undermines local control, a lack of training and a lack of interest commitment or vision amongst those community members not directly involved in tourism. It may be concluded that though some community input is vital for sustainable rural tourism development, it

must be part of a broader integrated strategy which involves a variety of public and private sector organizations within a recognised partnership.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The research involved a tourist survey in addition to secondary information from Yankari Game Reserve officials. The field survey instrument is addressed to tourists as users of the service to investigate their patronage to the Yankari Game Reserve as well as their patronage from other game reserve.

3.1.1 Data Collection Methods

Two types of data were collected, these were Primary and secondary data.

Primary Data: This is generated from the field work through the following methods.

a. Reconnaissance survey

b. Questionnaires

c. Key informant interview

Reconnaissance survey: This involved the observation of the present situation with the view of being familiar with the various part of facilities provided to tourists coming to site. Field observation using ranking techniques matrices, and checklists for attraction inventory, infrastructure assessment, special events and service quality performances.

Questionnaire: Questionnaire was administered to individual tourists in the study area with the aim of acquiring information about his/her socio-demographic attributes and on their assessment of Yankari Game Reserve as tourist attraction.

Key informant Interview: These were carried out for the park officials in the study area, in order to get an overview of happenings within the park as it relates to tourism destinations of the game reserve.

The primary tool for the investigations on the tourists was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to enquire on the personal profiles of the respondents (the tourists) and their opinions on Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist attraction.

The tourists were targeted as individuals and their responses reflected their personal opinions. Only adults were included. The procedure for the administration is discussed under sampling method.

3.1.2 Source of Secondary Information on Yankari Game Reserve

The following sources were utilised

Bauchi State Tourism Board – is a parastatal under the state ministry of information, culture and tourism. It is charged with the responsibility of conducting and monitoring of tourism activity in the state. The following information obtained were map of the study area, Yankari development plan, records on wildlife resources and infrastructural facilities.

Nigerian Tourism Development Cooperation (NTDC) – is a parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation Agency. The parastatal is charged with the responsibility of tourism promotion in the country. The

information obtained from these organisations includes trend of tourist records to parks.

Internet – The internet is a global network connecting millions of computers. The information obtained includes safari destinations in Africa, (wildlife resources, infrastructural facilities and maps).

Nigerian National Parks Services – is a parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Environment. The objective of the parastatal is to create, develop and protect all national parks in the country. The information obtained from these establishment includes; parks location and tourists flow to parks in the country.

3.1.3 The Parameters for the Assessment

The parameters used in assessment were:

a. Tourists Perception (number and characteristics of tourists)
b. Status of the Yankari Game Reserve.

- Wildlife resources in the game reserve.
- Infrastructures in the game reserve
- Accessibility to and within the game reserve.
- Recreational facilities available in the game reserve,
- Safety arrangement in the game reserve.

3.1.4 Sampling Methods (Tourist Respondents)

Random sampling was adopted as the sampling technique for administering questionnaires to the tourists in the game reserve. The research was conducted under the period of ten (10) days and the approximate number of tourists recorded was five hundred (500) tourists. Taking 10% of the total number of the tourists within the period as the sample size, 50 tourists were administered with the questionnaire.

The survey was conducted during the peak period of visits (dry season) between 10 - 20 April 2011. Respondents were randomly selected by taking five (5) tourists that departed the park during the days of the survey. Using field assistants, the questionnaire was administered at the main reception of the park after the visitors had completed their visit and were about to check out.

3.1. 5 Data Analysis

The data collected were cleaned and edited; after that a code book was developed and the questionnaires are carefully coded manually into a code sheet. The data were then analysed and presented on tables through descriptive statistic using frequencies and percentage to find out the current situations Yankari Game Reserve as tourist destination.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF YANKARI GAME RESERVE

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discussed the current situation of Yankari Game Reserve which include location of the study area, the fauna, wikki warm spring, Dukkey wells, Marshal Caves, Camp infrastructure, Tunga Dutse, weather and climate and the geology of the Game Reserve.

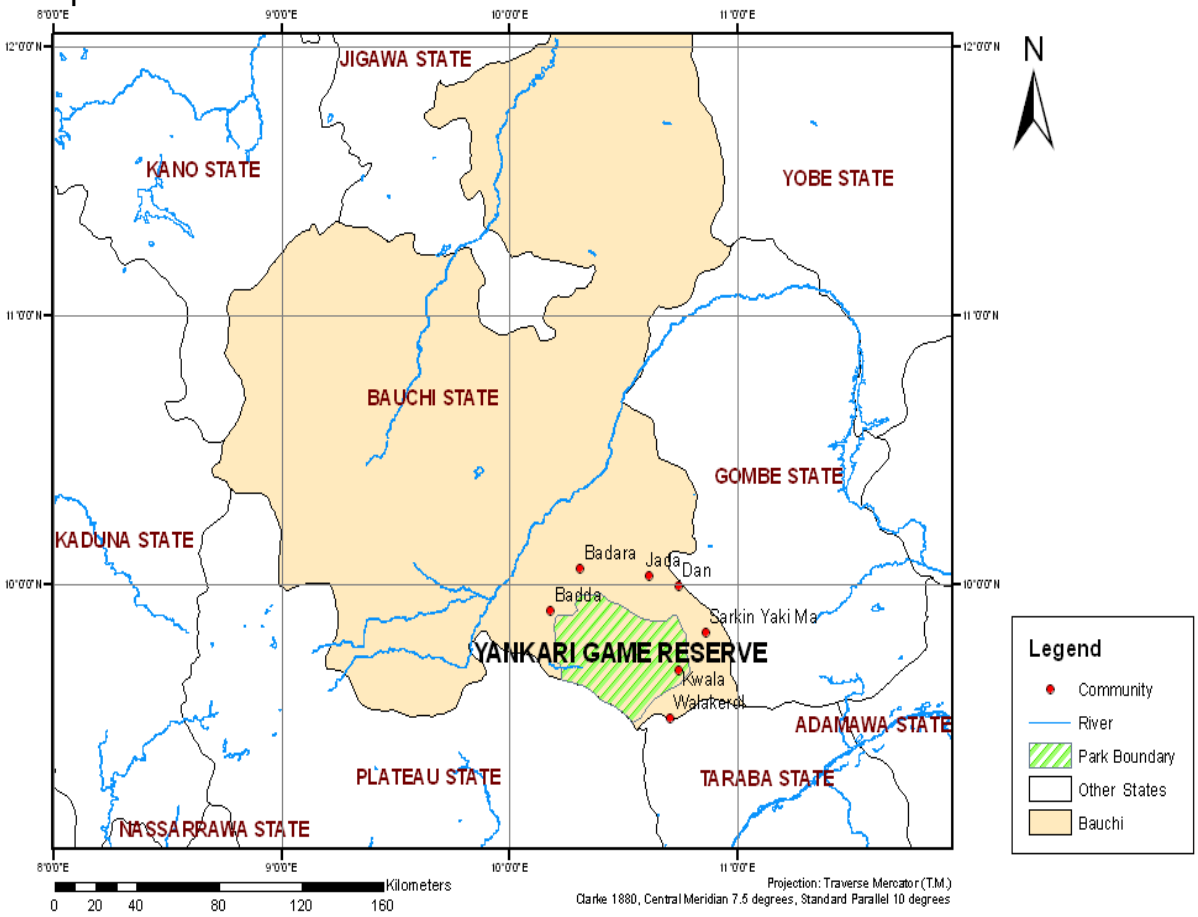
4.1.1 The Location of Study Area

The Yankari Game Reserve is located in Bauchi State, Nigeria and is perhaps the most popular eco-destination in West Africa sub region (Olekeshi 1994). The Game Reserve is famous for its diverse large mammal birds population, springs, ethno-historical and archaeology sites. The Game Reserve is one of the most important refuges in Nigeria for certain antelope species including Roan Antelope, western Hartebeest and waterbuck. The elephant population of Yankari is recognized as being among the largest in West Africa and is by far the largest district population in Nigeria.

The Game Reserve, which was established by decree 36 of 1991, is the most popular tourist attraction among Nigerians. It is one of the few places where ecotourist are guaranteed of seeking diverse and varied wildlife species at most times of the year. Its importance as insight into how large areas of the North African Savannah use to be are crucial and increasingly unique. The Game Reserve is the premier nature tourism destination in Nigeria and plays crucial role in the development and production of tourism and ecotourism in particular in Nigeria.

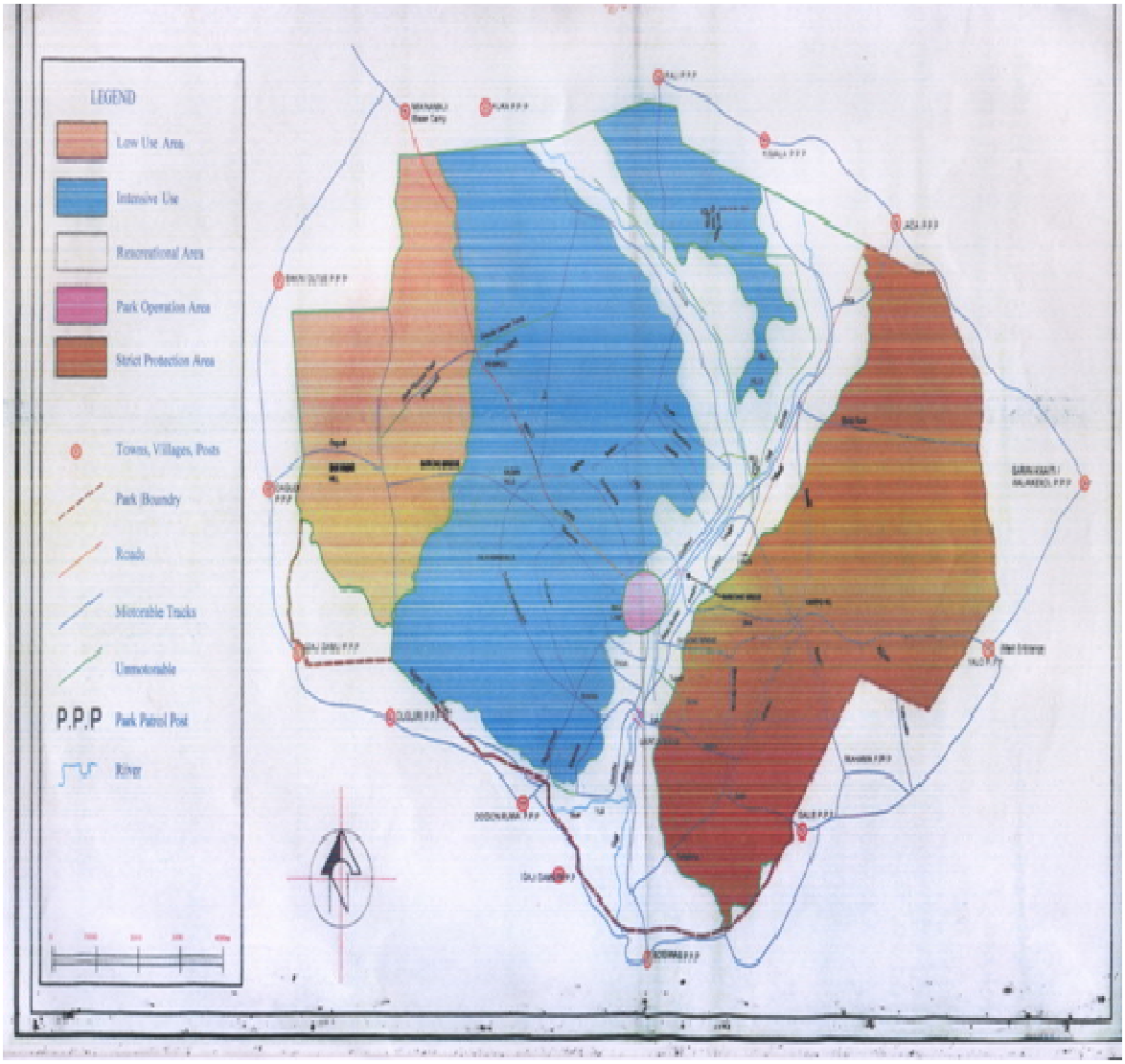
Yankari Game Reserve occupies an area of about 2244sq km^2. The game is centered at 9.50'N in the South – centered area of Bauchi state in North-eastern Nigeria, in the southern portion of the Sudan Savannah zone. Access to the game is gained mainly through a paved road branching off the federal high way leading to Gombe from Bauchi at Dindima village on the bank of Gongola river. The game main entrance is at Mainamaji village.

Map 6: Location of Yankari Game Reserve



Source: Geomatics Nigeria Limited (2011)

Map 8: Map of Yankari Game Reserve showing Development



Source: Yankari Game Reserve Masterplan (2011)

4.1.2 Fauna

The prominent ecotourist attraction of Yankari Game Reserve is the diverse and rich wildlife species otherwise known as games. The park has more than 50 species of mammals, prominent among which are Elephant, *Loxodouta african*,Baboon, *Papio anubis*, Patas Monkey, *Erythcebus patas*, Tantalus Monkey, *Cercopithecus tantalus,* Roan antelope, *Hippotragus equinus*, Western Hartebeest, *Alcephaplus buselaphus*, Lion, *Panthera leo*, Buffalo, *Syncenus Caffer*, Waterbuck, *Kobus defassa*, Bush-buck, *Tragelaphus scriptus* and Hippopotamus,*hippotamus amphibius*. Also, more than 350 avifauna species have been recovered in the park. Of these, 130 are resident, 50 are parleartic migrants and the rest are intra-African migrants that more locally within Nigeria. Some of the avifauna species commonly found in the park includes saddle bill stork, Ephipioorhynchus senegalensis, white backed vulture, gyps bengalensis, Guinea fowl, Numida meleagris, Grey hornbill, Tocus nasulus, cattle Egret, Ardeola ibis (Olekeshi, 1994).



Plate 20: A Worthog in Yankari Game Reserve

Source: Field Survey, 2011



Plate 21: Elephant in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: Field Survey, 2011



Plate 22: Roan Antelope in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: Field Survey, 2011

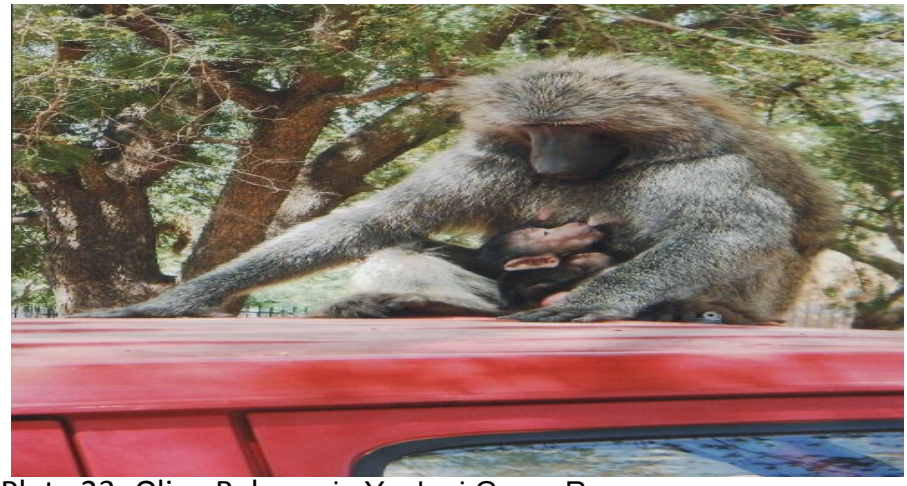


Plate 23: Olive Baboon in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: Field Survey, 2011

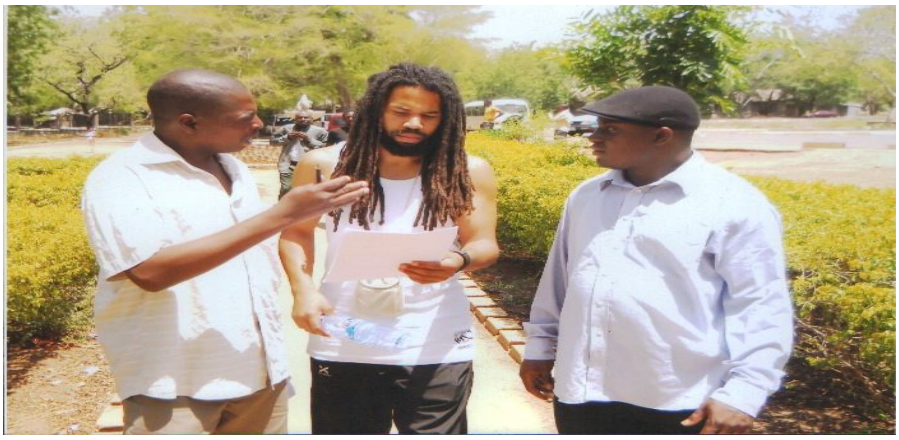


Plate 24: Nigerians and Non Nigerian Tourists Sharing Experience on Yankari Game
Source: Field Survey, 2011



Plate 25: Tourists entertained by Olive Baboon in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: Field Survey, 2011



Plate 26: The Tourists on Game Viewing in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: Field Survey, 2011

4.1.3 The Wikki Warm Spring

The Yankari National Park is endowed with five springs. Four of these are warm. These are Dimmil, Gwan, Nawulgo and wikki warm springs while the fifth; Tungan Naliki is the only cool spring. The Wikki warm spring, after which the only camp is named, is about 13.0 metre and 1.9 metres deep. “Wikki” means “where are you” in the language of Duguri people who were the predominant inhabitants of the park before it was established. The spring is the largest in the park. It flows at the rate of 21,000,000 litres per day. The resultant stream flows in to the Gaji River. Wikki warm spring has a constant temperature of 31.10^{o}C through the year during both the day and night. The spring has been developed for recreation and is been used for sunbathing, swimming and canoeing It is perhaps the most popular attraction of the park. (Ayeni, 2006)



Plate 27: Entrance to the Wikki Warm in Yankari Game Reserve
Source: www.apnigeria.com



Plate 28: Tourists swimming in Wikki spring in Yankari Game Reserve

Source: www.opnigeria.com

4.1.4 Dukkey Wells

These are wells found at a former settlement site, located about 11km south east of the Maimamaji main entrance gate. The wells are 139, all of which have interconnecting shafts sank and are between 3-5 metres appeal. This settlement and the wells were once used as resting place by the trans atlantic slave traders of the early times. The wells represent an elaborate water storage system devised by the early man. A disturbance in one of the 139 wells creates ripples in the remaining wells. (Ayeni, 2006)

4.1.5 Marshal Caves

These 59 caves found in the park were named after P.J. Marshall, a research fellow who discovered them in 1980. The caves are located some 7km north east of Wikki camp. They are dug into sandstone escarpments, are 0.5 to IM in diameter and the

inner chambers are 1-5-4-2 in diameter and 0.9 to 1.5m high. These caves are the first to be reported in Nigeria, they are varied in size but common in design. The caves consist of a circular entrance hole in the rock that opens into an inside round, round chamber. While the walls are vertical at the bottom from which they curve to the roof at the top while the floor is flat and level with the bottom of the entrance hole. (Ayeni, 2006)

4.1.6 The Camp

The Yankari Game Reserve covers about seventy seven (77) hectares and has the largest concentration of infrastructure. Facilities presently available include 100 chalets in various categories, low budget hostels, a restaurant, a conference hall with a capacity of 100 people, souvenir shop and a clinic. Also at the centre of the camp is a block containing a museum, a reception centre, a conference room and an administrative office. There is a garden plaza with footpath leading to the Wikki Warm Springs, Presidential lodge and 2 model suites and games trunks. (Ayeni, 2006)

Other facilities/infrastructure dated around the park include clusters of chalets staff quarters, a mosques; a chapel, a tennis court, access road and petrol station. (Ayeni, 2006)

4.1.7 Tunga Dutse

A rock with more elaborate engraving than the marshal caves. Legible writings cover an area on the sandstone rock, embankment of about 4inches in length in

Dwall River. The writings are legible; however, their age and meanings have not yet been determined. (Ayeni, 2006)

Weather and climate

Climate is a critical factor driving ecological processes and determining the distribution of vegetation and animals, in note shell is a determinant pull or push factor of an ecosystem. The climate of the area is basically expressed as a contrast between two regimes, the dry and wet seasons. The dry season runs from November to February, while the rainy season is between April/May to early October in Yankari Game Reserve. The most prevalent winds in the study area are the northern and south – easterly winds with an average monthly wind spread of between 0.9 and 2.7Knots(0.45 – 1.35m/s/ The mean monthly rainfall is 150mm with peak in July and thee period from November to March is without rain. The mean monthly atmospheric temperature ranges from 21^0C to 31^0C. April and December are the hottest and coolest month respectively. (Ayeni, 2006)

4.1.8 Geology

The Yankari Game Reserve is almost entirely underlain by the Kerri formation of tertiary age composed of sand stone, silt stones, kaolinites and grils. This in turn is underlain by the Gombe formation of cretaceous age composed of sandstones, silt stones and iron stones. The valley of the Gaji, Yashi and Yuli are Rinus are filled alluvial of recent age. Sandy loams and clay soils of riverine alluvium occur in the valley of the Gaji Yashi and Yuli Rivers east of the Gaji valley is 5 – 7 km wide band of very poor sandy soils that support a shrub formation. (Ayeni, 2006)

CHAPTER FIVE

ASSESSMENT OF YANKARI GAME RESERVE AS TOURIST DESTINATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section presented the data collected from the tourist through questionnaire, reconnaissance survey and park officials in the study area and the analysis on each of the parameters were captured and discussed accordingly in order to determine the Game Reserve as tourist destination.

5.2 SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES OF THE TOURISTS

Gender

The table below shows respondents, 28 are males representing 56.0% while 22 of them representing 44.0% are females. It thus shows that there are more male tourist than females in Yankari Game Reserve during the period under review.

Table 5.1 Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	28	56.0
Female	22	44.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Age

The table below shows that 6 respondents which represent (12%) are between the ages of 18-25 years, 8 respondents which represent 16% are between 26-33 years, 12 respondents which represent 24% are between 34-41, 15 respondents which represent 30% are between 42-49 while 9 respondents which represent 18% of all

the respondents are 50 years and above. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents' distribution is that individuals of the ages of 42-49 constitute the highest percentage of tourist in YGR during the period under review while those of between the ages of 18-25 constitute the least percentage.

Table 5.2 Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	6	12.0
26-33	8	16.0
34-41	12	24.00
42-49	15	30.0
50 and above	9	18.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Marital Status

The table above shows that 32 respondents which represents 64% are married, 8 respondents which represent 16% are single, 16 respondents which represent 12% are either divorced or separated while 4 respondents (8%) are widowed. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the respondent tourist in YGR during the period under review are married individuals.

Table 5.3 Marital Status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	32	64.0
Single	8	16.0
Divorced/separated	6	12.0
Widowed	4	8.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Education

The table below shows that 4 respondents which represent 8% are primary schools certificate holders, 7 respondents which represents 14% are secondary schools certificate holder while 39 respondents which is 78% of all the respondents have attained tertiary education. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the tourists in YGR during the period under review have tertiary education.

Table 5.4 Educational Status

Educational status	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	4	8.0
Secondary	7	14.0
Tertiary	39	72.0
Others	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Nationality

The table above shows that 32 respondents which represents 64% are Nigerians while 18 respondents which is 36% are foreigners or non Nigerians. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the tourist in YGR during the periods under review are Nigerians.

Table 5.5 Nationality

Nationality	Frequency	Percentage
Nigerian	32	64.0

Non Nigerian	18	36.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Surveyed Distribution of Nigerian Tourists to Yankari Game Reserve by states

The table 5.6 below shows 38% of respondents come from Bauchi state, 19% from Gombe state, 9% from Plateau state, 3% from Jigawa state, 16% from Kano state, 6% from FCT Abuja, 3% from Adamawa and 6% Kaduna State. Deductions to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the tourists in Yankari Game Reserve came from within the state followed by Gombe state, Kano state, Plateau state, FCT Abuja and Kaduna 6% and 3% each from Jigawa, Adamawa states.

Table 5.6: Surveyed Distribution of Nigerian Tourists Yankari Game Reserve by states

State	Frequency	Percentage
Bauchi	12	38
Gombe	6	19
Plateau	3	9
Jigawa	1	3
Kano	5	16
FCT Abuja	2	6
Adamawa	1	3
Kaduna	2	6
Total	32	100

Field survey (2011)

Surveyed Non Nigerian Tourists to Yankari Game Reserve

The table below reveals 22% of respondents came from America, 11% from Britain, 39% from China, 11% from Denmark, 11% from Spain and 6% from South Africa. Deductions to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution , China has the highest number of tourists that visited the game reserve under the period review, followed by America 22%, Britain 11%, Spain 11% and South Africa 5% as the least.

Table 5.7: Surveyed Non Nigerian Tourists to Yankari Game Reserve

Country	Frequency	Percentage
United States of America (USA)	4	22
Britain	2	11
China	7	39
Denmark	2	11
Spain	2	11
South Africa	1	6
Total	18	100

Field survey (2011)

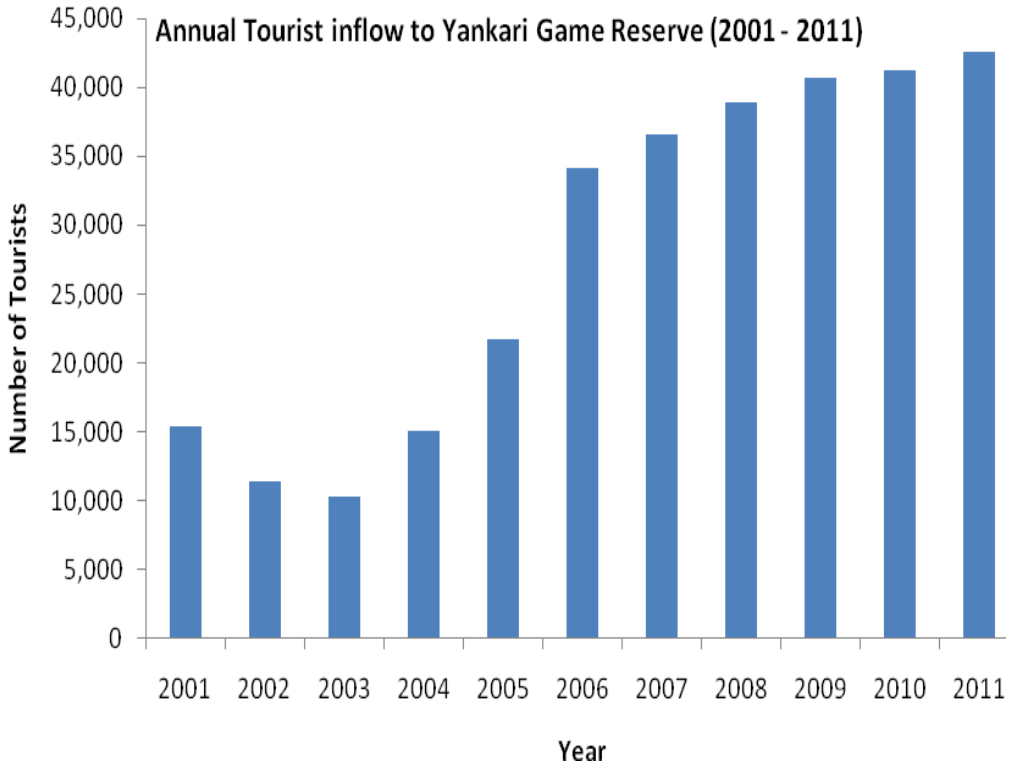
5.3 TRENDS IN TOURIST PATRONAGE TO YANKARI GAME RESERVE

In 2008 for instance the total number of tourists who visited the Yankari Game Reserve was 38,861 from the source below. This means 106.2 tourists visit the Yankari Game Reserve in 2008 daily.

Table 5.8 Annual Tourist Inflow to Yankari Game Reserve (2001 – 2008)

YEAR	NIGERIANS	BRITISH	U. S. A	CHINESE	OTHERS	TOTAL
2001	13,372	308	301	79	1,308	15,368
2002	9,632	372	305	64	1,008	11,381
2003	8,632	301	316	12	1,076	10,337
2004	13,372	332	452	08	886	15,050
2005	20,211	249	256	24	993	21,733
2006	31,851	302	336	36	1,572	34,097
2007	34,297	379	379	47	1,487	36,589
2008	36,896	383	308	56	1,218	38,861
2009	38,560	394	350	61	1,320	40,685
2010	38,950	399	360	60	1,450	41,219
2011	40,251	385	345	55	1,525	42,561

Source: Yankari Game Reserve (2011)



Source: Yankari Game Reserve (2011)

Tourists rating of the Attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve

The tourists were asked different questions on how they asses the attractiveness of Yankari Game Reserve. The table below shows that 18 respondents which represents 36% rated the Yankari Game Reserve as “very attractive”, 22 respondents which represents 44% rated the Yankari Game Reserve as “attractive”, while 10 respondents which represents 20% are of the view that the Yankari Game Reserve is not attractive. Deductions to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the respondent tourists consider the Yankari Game Reserve attractive.

Many of the respondents are of the view that they will visit the Yankari Game Reserve again next time given the opportunity because of its attractiveness as a tourist destination.

Table 5.9: Tourists rating of the Attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve

Rating	Frequency	Percentage
Very attractive	18	36.0
Attractive	22	44.0
Not attractive	10	20.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

Main Attractive Features of Yankari Game Reserve

Deduction made below reveals the main attractive features in the Yankari Game Reserve rated by tourists were game or wildlife as very attractive, followed by Wikki Warm Spring, the weather and historical sites as attractive and accommodation facilities as not attractive.

Table 5.10: Main Attractive Features of Yankari Game Reserve

Features	Very Attractive	Attractive	Not Attractive
Games/wildlife	√		
Wikki Warm Spring		√	
Weather		√	
Accommodation Facilities			√
Historical sites (Caves)/(Dokkey Wells)		√	

Field survey (2011)

How long Tourists have known Yankari Game Reserve

The table below shows that 4 respondents which represents 8% have known the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist attraction for a period of less than one month, 9 respondents which represent 18% have known the Yankari Game Reserve for between 2 months to 11 months, 20 respondents which represents 40% have known the Yankari Game Reserve for between 1-5 years while 17 respondents which is 34% of all the respondents have known the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist attraction for at least 6 years and above. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that majority of the tourist in Yankari Game Reserve during the period under review have known the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist attraction for at least 1 year and above.

Table 5.11: How long Tourists have known Yankari Game Reserve

How long	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 month	4	8.0
2 months- 11 months	9	18.0
1 year – 5 years	20	40.0
6 years and above	17	34.0
Total	50	10 –.0

Field survey (2011)

How long Tourists have been in Yankari Game Reserve during the present visit

The table below shows that 24 respondents which represents 48% have been in the Yankari Game Reserve for the current visit for a period of 6 days and below, 23 respondents which represents 46% have been there in Yankari Game Reserve for between 1-2 weeks while 3 respondents have been in Yankari Game Reserve for the current visit for a period of between 3-5 weeks, no respondents have been in the Yankari Game Reserve for the present visit for more than five weeks. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that almost all the respondent tourists found in the Yankari Game Reserve during the period under than two weeks during the current visit.

Table 5.12: How long Tourists have been in Yankari Game Reserve during the present visit

Period of time spent	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 6 days	24	48.0
1-2 weeks	23	46.0
3-5 weeks	3	6.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

How often tourists have been visiting the Yankari Game Reserve

The table below shows that 2 respondents which represent 4% visits the Yankari Game Reserve on weekly basis 9 respondents which represent 18% visits the Yankari Game Reserve every month, 18 respondents which represents 36% visits the Yankari Game Reserve on quarterly basis while 21 respondents which is 42% of all the respondents use to visit the Yankari Game Reserve every year. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondent's distribution is that majority of the respondents visit the Yankari Game Reserve at least once a year.

However, a sizeable proportion of the respondents are unanimously of the view that it is the nature and availability of the games in Yankari Game Reserve that they like most. Also, in terms of the features the tourists hate during the course of their visit, many respondents are of the view that it is the level and quality of facilities available in the game reserve that they hate most.

Table 5.13: How often tourists have been visiting the Yankari Game Reserve

How often	Frequency	Percentage
Weekly	2	4.0
Monthly	9	18.0
Quarterly	18	36.0
Yearly	21	42.0
Others	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on whether they have visited other National Parks

The table below shows that 32 respondents which represent 64% are of the view that they have ever visited other national parks apart from the Yankari Game Reserve while 18 respondents which represent 36% are of the view that they have never visited any other national parks apart from the Yankari Game Reserve. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of distribution is that majority of the respondents tourists in the Yankari Game Reserve have been to other national parks.

Table 5.14 Patronage of other National Parks

View	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	32	64.0
No	18	36.0
Others	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on Comparison of Yankari Game Reserve, with other National Parks

The table below shows that 21 respondents (42%) were of the view that Yankari Game Reserve is favourably compared with other National Parks in terms of attractiveness as a tourist destination, 11 respondents (22%) rated the Yankari Game Reserve above average, 10 respondents (20%) average while 8 respondents (16%) which is the least percentage consider the Yankari Game Reserve below average in term comparison with other National Parks in terms of attractiveness as a tourist destination. Deduction to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution is that the Yankari Game Reserve is favourably compared with other national parks in terms of its attractiveness as a tourist destination which can easily bring about increase patronage to the area.

Table 5.15: View on Comparison of Yankari Game Reserve, with other National Parks

View	Frequency	Percentage
Favourably compared	21	42.0
Above average	11	22.0
Average	10	20.0
Below average	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on whether the Yankari Game Reserve is suitably positioned to meet International Standard

The table below shows that 29 respondents (48%) the Yankari Game Reserve is suitably positioned to meet International Standard as tourist destination, while 21 respondents (42%) which is the least percentage are of the view that the Yankari Game Reserve is not suitably positioned to meet international standard. Deduction to be made from the above distribution is that the Yankari Game Reserve is suitably positioned to meet international standard.

Table 5.16: View on whether the Yankari Game Reserve is suitably positioned to meet International Standard

Suitably positioned	Frequency	Percentage
Yankari Game Reserve is well position	29	48.0
Yankari Game Reserve is not well position	21	42.0
No Idea	0	0

Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on the Assessment of the Behaviour of Staff in Terms of the way and Manner they Treat Tourists

The table below shows that 23 respondents (46%) were of the view that staff of the Yankari Game Reserve are very courteous and friendly in their attitude towards tourists, 14 respondents (28%) consider the behaviour of staff of Yankari Game Reserve as receptive and hospitable, 11 respondents (22%) are of the view that staff of the Yankari Game Reserve are non challant in their attitude towards the treatment of tourists while 2 respondents (4%) which is the least percentage did not respond to this question.

Table 5.17 View on the Assessment of the Behaviour of Staff in Terms of the way and Manner they Treat Tourists

Behaviour	Frequency	Percentage
Very courteous/friendly	23	46.0
Receptive/hospitable	14	28.0
Non challant in attitude	11	22.0
Others	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on whether there is a remarkable Improvement of facilities in Yankari Game Reserve compared to previous visit

The table below shows that 31 respondents (62%) are of the view that there is a remarkable improvement in Yankari Game Reserve compared to earlier visit, while 19 respondents (38%) which is the highest percentage were of the view that there is no remarkable improvement in the facilities of the Yankari Game Reserve compared

to what it was at their previous visit. Deduction to be made from the above distribution is that there is positive change in the activities of the Yankari Game Reserve.

Table 5.18 View on whether there is a remarkable Improvement of facilities in Yankari Game Reserve compared to previous visit

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Remarkable Improvement	31	62.0
No Remarkable improvement	19	38
Not sure	0	0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

View on whether there are factors that impact negatively on the Attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination

The table below shows that 42 respondents (84%) which is the highest percentage of all the respondents are of the view that there are factors that impacts negatively on the attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination, while 8 respondents (16%) are of the view that there are no factor that impacts negatively on the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination.

Table 5.19: View on whether there are factors that impact negatively on the Attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	42	84.0
No	8	16.0
Total	50	100.0

Field survey (2011)

The table below shows that 3 respondents (6%) were of the view that there were too much tourist traffic, 15 respondents (30%) were of the view that inadequate facilities, 7 respondents (14) were of the view that inadequate game and 25 respondents (50%) were of the view that inadequate access. Deduction to be made from the pattern of distribution is that the main factors that impact negatively on the attractiveness of Yankari Game Reserve is inadequate access.

Table 5.20: Views on the factors that impact negatively

Suggested Factor	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Too much Tourist Traffic	3	6
Inadequate facilities	15	30
Inadequate Game	7	14
Inadequate Access	25	50
Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

5.4 WILD LIFE RESOURCES IN YANKARI GAME RESERVE

View on whether the Wildlife rich enough to encourage tourists to the reserve

The table below shows that 70% of respondents rated Yankari Game Reserve wild life resources are rich enough to encourage tourists to visit the reserve while 30% were of the opinion that the wildlife resources are not rich enough to encourage tourists to visit the reserve. Base on key informant opinion Its attractions include a rich variety of games (lions, rhinos, baboons, hippopotami, giraffes, bush bucks, hartebeest, elephants, antelopes, birds etc) and a museum stocked with trophies of wildlife parts such as skins, tusks, bones, horns and hunting gears.

As observed the Yankari Game Reserve has diverse and rich wildlife species otherwise known as games. The park has more than 50 species of mammals, prominent among which are Elephant, *Loxodouta african*,Baboon, *Papio anubis*, Patas Monkey, *Erythcebus patas*, Tantalus Monkey, *Cercopithecus tantalus,* Roan antelope, *Hippotragus equinus*, Western Hartebeest, *Alcephaplus buselaphus*, Lion, *Panthera leo*, Buffalo, *Syncenus Caffer*, Waterbuck, *Kobus defassa*, Bush-buck, *Tragelaphus scriptus* and Hippopotamus,*hippotamus amphibius*. Also, more than 350 avifauna species have been recovered in the park. Of these, 130 are resident, 50 are parleartic migrants and the rest are intra-African migrants that more locally within Nigeria. Some of the avifauna species commonly found in the park includes saddle bill stork, Ephipioorhynchus senegalensis, white backed vulture, gyps bengalensis, Guinea fowl, Numida meleagris, Grey hornbill, Tocus nasulus, cattle Egre.

Table 5.21: View on whether the Wildlife is rich enough to encourage tourists to the reserve

Wildlife	Frequency	Percentage
Very Rich	35	70
Fairly Rich	15	30
Poor	0	0
Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

5.5 LEVEL OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN YANKAKRI GAME RESERVE

Different categories of accommodation at the Yankari Game Reserve

The Yankari Game Reserve has visitor accommodation, (110 well furnished chalets with various size and quality ranging from presidential suites to youth hostel catering,

booking arrangements. The existing infrastructure at the Wikki camp within the centre of approximately 42km from the main entrance covers about 77hectares of land and has the largest concentration of infrastructure. Low – budget hotels, a restaurant, a conference hall, with capacity for 100 people, a souvenir shop and a clinic. Also at the centre of the camp is a block of building housing a museum a small reception area, a conference room and an administrative building. There is a garden plaza with footpath leading to the Wikki warm spring. To the west of this block are the presidential lodge and 2 model suites. Other facilities/infrastructure dotted around the park include several clusters of chalets, staff quarter, a mosque, a chapel a tennis court, access road and a petrol station.

Table 5.22: Different categories of accommodation at the Yankari Game Reserve

Type of Accommodation	No /Qty	Suites capacity
Presidential Lodge	24	Enough to contain a family
VIP Suites	11	Each suites has a bed room / sitting room and 2 toilets
Luxury suites	36	2bedrooms each and a toilet
Royal villa	36	Executive statues and BQ
Corporate villa	4	Executive statues
Single rooms	48	Single
Studio suites	12	Bed room / silting room and a toilet
Studio	12	2 rooms each / sitting room and a toilet

Source: Field Survey (2011)

Rating of infrastructural Facilities by Tourists

Deductions made from table 5.24 below shows that tourist in the Yankari Game Reserve rated museum as very good, roads and accommodation as good and restaurant as bad.

Table 5.23: Rating of Infrastructural facilities by Tourists

	Rating			
Infrastructure	**Very good**	**Good**	**Poor**	**Very Poor**
Road		√		
Accommodation		√		
Restaurant			√	
Museum	√			

Source: Field Survey (2011)

5.6 ACCESSIBILITY IN THE GAME RESERVE

The importance of accessibility in the Game Reserve like in all other sectors of an economy cannot be over- emphasized. The accessibility of game reserve can be categorised into; accessibility to the game reserve and accessibility within the game reserve.

a. **Accessibility to Yankari Game Reserve:** To ease transportation problems to the Yankari game reserve for tourists a number of vehicles from the state government as well as private individuals were stationed in strategic points within the state capital everyday conveying tourists to the reserve. Renovation of 74 kilometre from the main road to the reserve in 2006 by the state government.

The table below shows that 35 respondents which represent 70% rated the Yankari Game res erve as easily accessibility and 30% rated it not easily accessible. Deduction to be made from the below pattern of distribution, majority of tourists classified Yankari Game Reserve as accessible when coming to the reserve.

Table 5.24: Accessibility to Yankari Game Reserve

Accessibility	Frequency	Percentage
Easily Accessible	35	70
Not Easily Accessible	15	30
Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

b. Accessibility within Yankari Game Reserve: The renovation of roads from the main gates of Yankari Game Reserve to the Camp, reconstruction of truck roads or jeep tracks within the reserve have made it easy especially when embarking on game viewing. Also the purchase of 10 four – wheel Toyota Hilux jeeps by the state government have encouraged its accessibility within the reserve.

The Table below reveals 56% of respondents classified Yankari Game Reserve as easily accessible and 44% of the respondents classified Yankari Game Reserve as not easily accessible. Deduction to be made from the below, majority of the tourists termed the Yankari Game Reserve as accessible and this could be as a result of this development made by the government above.

Table 5.25: Accessibility within Yankari Game Reserve

Accessibility	Frequency	Percentage

Easily Accessible	28	56
Not Easily Accessible	22	44
Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

From comparism between coming and moving within the reserve, it could be concluded that it is easier to come to the reserve than taking tour within the reserve.

5.7 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE GAME RESERVE

Opinion on level and quality of facilities in the camp

The table below shows that 64% rated the Yankari Game Reserve as standard while 56% rated it as below standard. Deductions to be made from the above is that majority of the tourists considered the Yankari Game Reserve as a standard game reserve.

Base on observation the facilities in the Game Reserve include; game viewing, Wikki warm spring-with excellent bathing facilities (maintain constant temperature of 31^0C all year round marshal cave and fish ponds), Provisions are made for camping, sport-fishing, boating, lawn tennis and badminton games, bus shuttle services and vehicle charter are provided. Game viewing can be done either in the Game Reserve Park Vehicles or in private vehicles..

Table 5.26: Opinion on Level and quality of facilities in the camp

Facility	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Standard	30	60
Not Standard	20	40

Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

5.8 SAFETY OF THE GAME RESERVE

Safety of Yankari Game Reserve

The table below shows that 68% of respondents rated the Yankari Game Reserve as safe and 42% rated it not safe. Deductions to be made from the above pattern of respondents distribution was that majority of the respondents considered Yankari Game Reserve not secured. The employed guards patrol enforces anti-poaching and other wild-life related offences regulations. These guards patrol along the perimeter of the Yankari Garme Reserve. It can be observed from the existing guards that patrol within the Game Reserve that considerable emphasis is laid on security. This is attributable to the increasing wave of un-authorized hunting which threatens the extinction of some animal species in the Game Reserve.

Table 5.27: Opinion on Safety of Tourist in the Yankari Game Reserve

Safety	Frequency	Percentage
Safe	29	42
Not safe	21	58
Total	50	100

Field survey (2011)

5.9 RESULT OF THE KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEW

The results from the informant interview covers all the categories of staff including all the departments in the game reserve. The informant interview included the following officials; Housekeeper, Conservation Officer, Rangers, Tour Guide Officer. The opinion of informant interview sampled from the game reserve reveals.

The development plan of Yankari Game Reserve was planned into two phases (Phase I, and Phase II). The development plan of Yankari Game Reserve proposed was to upgrade the resort facilities of the Wikki Camp and safari resources, aimed at repositioning the reserve as a tourist destination to international standard.

Phase One provides:

- Natures" Village – the hub of the resort development. It will include bar and night club, play pen, retail outlets, boutique, curio and snack shop.
- Accommodation facilities comprising

- 36 unit of four/five star 2 bedroom luxury suites,
- 12 blocks of three star, 4 bedroom studio suites,
- 12 blocks of three star 2 bedroom deluxe suites,
- 4 blocks of 6 bedroom corporate villa,
- 1 presidential villa and
- 50 tented camp suites.

- Resorting the Wikki Warm Spring environment to natural state.
- Conference Centre comprising 1 main meeting room and 2 smaller break out/board room.
- Sport and recreation centre comprising a club house, gymnasium, tennis court, squash court, soccer field and volley ball court.

- Edu-tainment centre comprising an environmental education/interpretation centre, crocodile creek, a birds-of-prey aviary and a captive breeding and research centre.
- Picnic area with swimming pool.
- Support facilities including a clinic, petrol station and sewage treatment facility, telecommunication facility, mechanical workshop, incinerator etc.

Phase two provides:

- Exclusive signature lodges
- Airstrip for light aircrafts to serve tourists to the exclusive luxury/signature lodge.
- A golf course
- Additional budget accommodation to serve bush back packers, students etc.

The response from staff shows that the development plan is still in its phase 1, and areas yet to be completed under this phase 1 include:- sports, picnic area, part of the accommodation, conference centre and sport facilities while phase 2 is yet for implementation.

On the wildlife resources some of the respondents indicated that, the elephants and lions, which were major wildlife species found to be declining in population to the extent that for some years now they have not been sighted within the reserve, this

might attribute to intensive hunting as a result of failure of Support Zone Community Programme (SZCP). The Support Zone Community Programme (SZCP) is a park National Policy which is aimed at allowing the communities around or within the buffer zone of any park in Nigeria to participate in conserving park wildlife resources. The focus here is to help to reduce poaching by communities through provision of welfare and incentives.

The failure of Support Zone Community Programme (SZCP) in Yankari Game Reserve can therefore be said to result from various face – off emanating from community desire to meet their various needs and aspirations, such as the need to provide pasture for animals need to ameliorate soil fertility leading to practice of bush fallowing, need for protein requirement leading to hunting of animals, need to provide energy for domestic wood for building, and the takeover of the Yankari Game Reserve from the Federal Government in 2006 by the Bauchi state government. Tourism destination can however be sustained when there are benefits to all parties concerned; i.e the host communities, the tourists, tourism operators or the government.

In 2006 the reserve assumed the status of Yankari Game Reserve, after its take over from the Federal Government (Yankari National Park) by the Bauchi State Government have affected the administrative structure, funding, staff training and staff welfare. The staff re-deployment, politicization of some key positions of the game reserve.

Infrastructure: In area of infrastructural development in Yankari Game Reserve recently have received serious attention especially between 2006 to 2007 when the Bauchi state government took over from the federal government in 2006. The state

government embarked on general renovation of existing structures, building of new ones such as reception, student hostels, purchase of ten (10) four - wheel drive Toyota Hilux Jeep game viewing vans and construction of road from main entrance to the camp. Areas that government has not done well is landscaping, there is need to improve on such areas, government also need to establish airstrip for easy accessibility to the game reserve.

Patronage: In terms of its patronage recently the level of patronage of the game reserve by tourists is at increasing rate compared with the past. This increase was a result of improvement in the infrastructural development that took place by the government in 2006/2007. The officials reveals that increase was not encouraging when compared with investment.

5.10 IMPLICATION OF THE FINDINGS

The study identified that, Yankari Game Reserve, despite its numerous challenges, the reserve still represent the best chance in the league of Nigeria's safari destinations. In areas of population of elephants, buffalo, roam, antelope and other wildlife in which most other Nigerian Safari destination have little or lack most of the species. The recreational sites such as Wikki Warm Spring, Dukky Well, Marshal Cave and Tunga Dutse remains attraction centre for tourists within and outside the country.

Also recently in 2006/2007 after the State government took over the running of the reserve from the Federal government, embarked on infrastructural development in order to meet up to international standard.

On the attractiveness, the finding reveals that Yankari Game Reserve is at increase rate. In comparism with other Nigerian Safari destination, Yankari Game Reserve is termed as the top most attractive among the Nigerian parks. The performance of Yankari Game Reserve in terms of tourists attraction is on increase compared with previous years.

Yankari Game Reserve from the findings identified numerous problems; such as lack of implementation of the development plan, poaching, poorly equipped and trained Rangers, shortage of experienced wildlife officer, insufficient patrol vehicles among others. The prospect of Yankari Game Reserve. is the location of the game reserve in the Savannah zone have given it the opportunity, for many wildlife species, luxury climate, easy access to the reserve and the State government attention have put the reserve at an advantage side among other parks in the country. The implication of this finding will be linked to the recommendation in the next chapter.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study was designed and undertaken to make a assessment of Yankari Game Reserve as tourists destination. The study discovered that there is an increase in the level of patronage of the game reserve owing to the improvement of facilities of the reserve over time, but the increase is not too encouraging to meet up with the target. The study also revealed that, there are factors associated with the destination of the reserve ranging from poor maintenance of facilities, politicization of management, inadequate power supply, problems of accessibility; and poor renumeration of staff. Addressing these problems highlighted will go a long way towards making the Yankari Game Reserve as tourist destination.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The assessment has establishment the level of the attractiveness of Yankari Game Reserve which were found to be not quite attractive to meet up with the international standard. Therefore from the identified factors that were found to be responsible for the out come of the assessment. The following recommendation were hereby offered with the view to improve on the reserve as tourist destination.

6.2.1 Infrastructure and Development

In 2006/2007 after the state government took over the management of the Yankari Game Reserve from the Federal Government, the government embarked on general infrastructural development such as renovation of existing camp facilities, road

rehabilitation, and purchase of game viewing trucks, yet there is still need to improve on these:-

The government should try to complete the development plan of the Yankari Game Reserve set up in two phase which currently is still under the first phase.

The government should build or establish airstrips in the reserve in order to encourage tourists especially the international tourists for their easy arrival and departure.

Provision of cable-car system to take tourists through the very rugged but scenic terrain of mountains, e.g. Tunga Dutse of sandstone rock embankment across Dwall river.

Development of additional facilities in sports and shopping centre to compliment the recreational facilities such as wiki warm springs and game views.

Development of community social centre: the host communities around the reserve need to be provided with social centre to show their rich cultural heritage through their arts and craft. This will help the communities generate and improve on their income and as well it will encourage more tourist visitation to the reserve as some may just want to come to see or buy some of these products.

Fencing of camp: The camp area of Yankari Game Reserve need to be fenced, this will help to regulate trespass of wild animals across the camp area. Some of these animals may be dangerous; they can easily attack anybody they encounter. Olive Baboons pursue tourists even to their cars or rooms when they you with something that interest them.

6.2.2 Provision of Adequate Funds

Funds are critical to actualization of any given development projects such as game reserve which require long term investment. Therefore is a capital intensive.

The Yankari Game Reserve authority should try to diversify their sources of funds through partnership with national or international organisations such as United Nations on biodiversity and other individuals or cooperate organisations that wish to invest in such areas.

6.2.3 Institutional Framework

The government and the appropriate authorities concerned should constitute a body of experts in tourism sector to carry out a comprehensive study on current operating realities of Yankari Game Reserve vis-a-vis to other national parks that are considered viable and international standard in order to learn useful lessons regarding how their system performed well.

Legislative Framework: The government need to create a legislative committee in the state assembly to work in harmony with the executive for effective function of the reserve.

6.2.4 Wildlife Resources

The ecological problem today such as climate change and pollution. Many animals are in trouble due to the habitat loss and this can be achieved through reforestation and pest control techniques. Therefore wildlife management requires multi-displinary approach, including experts in disciplines such chemistry, biology, ecology, climatology and geography amongst others, in this case Yankari Game Reserve management should take note.

The Yankari Game Reserve in conjunction with other governmental bodies should fashion out a process to facilitate community empowerment with a view to diverting the attention of the inhabitants of the surrounding communities from reserve resources of which most of them depend on, depleting the resources especially the wildlife to some extent some species into extinction. This could be best achieved by full implementation of policy on Support Zone Community Programme (SZCP). This policy helps to provide the communities around the reserve with incentives, this will try to reduce pressure on the reserve resources.

6.2.5 Public Private Partnership

The State Government should fashion out way to allow private individual and cooperate organisations to participate in the running and management of the game reserve, this will help to ameliorate the cost and politicization of the management. The presence of hospitality facilities such as Protea Hotel, Bauchi, Yankari National Park lodge, VIP Suites, Zaranda Hotel, Awala Hotel Ltd and Horizontal Hotel need to be strengthen to continue to offer hospitality services to the tourists needs to camp outside the game reserve or at a peak period when accommodation are scarce.

6.2.6 Staff Welfare and Training

The staff of the Yankari Game Reserve should be properly catered for through the improvement of their general welfare. This could be paying the staff their service charge promptly and other allowance that they are due for.

The management or government should encourage their staff to time to time be allowed to attend workshops or long term training to update their skill and knowledge. This will go a long way to enable the staff to put in their best for greater

productivity and efficiency especially Rangers need to be retrained and equipped in order to safeguard the tourists on game viewing

6.3 CONCLUSION

Predicated upon the findings of the study, the analysis of data obtained from the questionnaire administered to the respondents and the lessons learnt, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. The Yankari Game Reserve is not attractive enough to compete favourable with other Game Reserve of international standard.
2. The low attraction of the game reserve results from general neglect of the Yankari Game Reserve by government and authorities concerned.
3. The Yankari Game Reserve is mostly patronized by domestic tourist because it runs short of international standard in terms of attractiveness.
4. Lack of constant power or electricity supply is a major factor that militates against the performance of the game reserve as a tourist destination.
5. Improper maintenance of existing park facilities and depletion of resources have seriously affected the socio spatial characteristic of Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination.
6. A comprehensive revenue of the operating realistic of the Yankari Game Reserve with particular focus on addressing the major problems delighted with positively transform the fortune of the game reserve and enhanced its attractiveness as a tourist destination.

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOURISTS IN YANKARI GAME RESERVE

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES

(Please tick as appropriate)

1. Sex
   a). Male [ ] b). Female [ ]

2. Age
   a). 18 - 25
   b). 26 – 33
   c). 34 – 41
   d). 42 – 49
   e). 50 and above

3. Marital Status
   a). Married
   b). Single
   c). Divorce/separated
   d). Widowed

4. Educational Status
   a). Primary School
   b). Secondary
   c). Tertiary
   d). Others (please specify) .....

6. Nationality
   a). Nigerian
   b). Non Nigerian

7. State of origin .....

SECTION B: RESPONDENTS VIEW ON THEIR ASSESSMENT OF YANKARI GAME RESERVE AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION

8. For how long have you known the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination?

   .....

9. When did you first visited the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist?

   .....

10. How long have you been in the Yankari Game Reserve in this your present visit?

    .....

11. How often have you been visiting the Yankari Game Reserve?

    .....

12. What are the features that attracted you to the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination?
    a. Security of the Yankari Game Reserve environment
    b. The nature and availability of the game in Yankari Game Reserve
    c. The level and quality of facilities available in the Yakari Game Reserve
    d. The level of security and hospitality of staff of the Yankari Game Reserve
    e. All of the above
    f. Others (please specify).....

13. How attractive is the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination?
    a. Very attractive
    b. Attractive
    c. Not attractive at all

14. Why did you come here?
    .....

15. What do you like most here?
.....

16. What did you hate here most?
.....

17. Will you return here?

18. Briefly explain your reason? .....

19. Have you ever visited other national parks apart from Yankari Game Reserve
    a. Yes
    b. No

20. If your response to questions 14 above is yes how do you compare the Yankari Game Reserve with other National Parks earlier visited?
    _____
    _____

21. Do you think the Yankari Game Reserve is suitably positioned to meet International standard?
    a. Yankari Game Reserve is well positioned
    b. Yankari Game Reserve is not well positioned
    c. No idea

22. How do you assess the behaviour of staff of the Yankari Game Reserve in terms of the way and manner they treat tourists.
    a. Very courteous and friendly
    b. Receptive and hospitable
    c. Non Challant attitude
    d. Others (Please specify) _____

23. If you have visited the Yankari Game Reserve previously, do you think there is any remarkable change(s) in terms of positive improvement in the activities of Yankari Game Reserve compared to your previous visit?
    a. Remarkable Improvement
    b. No Remarkable Improvement
    c. Not sure

24. As a tourist in Yankari Game Reserve which of these suggested factors do you think have impacts negatively on the attractiveness of the Yankari Game Reserve as a tourist destination?
    a. To Much Tourists Traffic
    b. Inadequacy of facilities
    c. Inadequate game
    d. Inadequate access

25. If your opinion to question 19 above is yes, please briefly mention some of the major problems or factors that militate against the efficient and effective performance of the Yankari Game Reserve in terms of its attractiveness to attract tourists?

    _____
    _____

26. What do you think can be done by government and authorities concerned to effectively address the problem to ensure that Yankari Game Reserve reveals its potentials a tourist destination?

    _____
    _____
    _____

27. How do you assess the attitude of perception of the host community around the Yankari Game Reserve in terms of their hospitality towards tourists?

    _____
    _____
    _____