



Impact of Landscape on Tourism Development, A Case Study of Abuja Millennium Park Abuja, Nigeria

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Abstract: *It is widely recognized that landscaping can enhance city amenities, but its role in tourism has rarely been examined. This project assesses the impact of landscape in tourism development. The development of the tourism industry and the in-burst of masses of tourists will have broad and deep impact on the landscape of tourist destinations. The aim and method used to carry out the study is discussed. The meaning of landscape, tourism, and their relationship are explained in this project. From the point of view of both natural and human landscape, both positive and negative impacts of tourism development on landscapes of the destinations are discussed. On the whole, the positive impacts are that tourism can improve people's consciousness on landscaping and provide financing, while the negative impacts are that it will increase the pressure on the environment and push the characteristic to disappear. At the end of the project, a principle is brought up, which is that the development of the tourism industry and the protection of local landscapes should be balanced.*

Key words: *Landscape, Tourism, Sustainability, & Plants*

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nigeria falls within the tropical forest zone in the West Africa sub region. Nigeria's community is heterogeneous with an estimated 250 ethnic groups and a population of about 140 million people. Nigeria's natural and cultural resources are unique and they provide the country with beautiful historical significance that is linked to the national identity and the pride of the country and her people. (James, 2000). Nigeria is endowed with abundant natural resources at different ecological zones in the country. There are eight national parks, over 36 game reserves, cultural attractions, museums and monuments, zoological and botanical gardens, conference and business tourism, sports tourism and other attractions. All these establishments are potential centers of tourism which should be developed. National parks, game reserves, and zoological gardens are sources of tourism from which huge amounts of revenue are obtained in countries like Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Although tourism and landscape occupy an important position in the economy of some countries, in Africa, it is still at its infancy in Nigeria. One of the major

causes of the economic crisis in Nigeria is the sole dependence on crude oil (Adeyemo, 2005).

Butler (2002) explained that some of the purposes of tourism development are to avoid a confrontation between tourist and community residents and to provide residents with a reasonable chance of being involved in the industry. In recent years, the concept community participation as tool for both conservation and tourism development has been increasingly recognized by government, business, private and community sectors. The emergence of community participation in tourism can be placed in the context of two developments which are recent worldwide activities that promote sustainable and responsible forms of tourism and, the emergence of alternative approaches to protected area management and conservation effort that link biodiversity conservation with local community development (Adeleke, 2004). According to Hiwasaki (2003), community participation tourism can be explained by four objectives these are, Empowerment and ownership, conservation of resources, social and economic development, and quality visitors' experience.

Tourism is one of the main drivers for metropolitan economics. Such as Millennium Park Abuja are visited by thousands of international and domestic tourist annually. Also tourist has been regarded as an economic development tool for Nigeria. Many small towns and rural communities are trying to acquire their share of growing tourism industry. In order to attract more business and tourism sites, cities are increasingly looking for ways to beautify their living places and make them more attractive for tourist. A beautiful image of a city is one of the most important requirements for tourism. Trees and green space national parks can create a positive image and provide an aesthetically pleasing experience for both residents and tourists. Thus trees/forest and green areas play a critical part in enhancing city's image, attracting tourist and increasing their tourism experiences. It is evident that linking urban forest and tourism is a very important topic gaining national recognition. The Millennium Park is the largest public park of Abuja, the capital of Nigeria and is located at Maitama District of the city. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom inaugurated the Millennium Park on the 4th December 2003. It's located near to the former presidential palace close to the nucleus of presidential and administrative buildings of the city. A river crosses the park in its main rectilinear axis, dividing into two parts.

Overview

This study is to identify the perception of tourist/visitors on the impact of landscape in tourism by carrying out a review of key concepts in landscape tourism development and also to identify key landscape features that contribute to tourism in Nigeria. Abuja is located within the mountainous regions of the country with a unique and impressive climate and a rich culture provides an impressive investment opportunity for tourism and recreation in the nation. This research is in line with the desire of the federal government to expand its economy by promoting tourism to create a social and recreational arena and to encourage tourist and visitors to come to the country. The Millennium Park Abuja is one out of numerous tourist sites in which the owner intends to equip with necessary infrastructures in which several proposals have been made to develop such a Park to an international standard. This will thereby further create direct employment and serve as a source of revenue generation to the capital authority and the nation at large.

Landscape is about the relationship between people and places it provides the settings for our day-to-day lives (Uji 2000). The term does not mean just special or designated landscapes and it does not only apply to the country side Landscape can mean a small patch of urban waste land as much as mountain range and an urban park as much as an expanse of lowland plain. It results from the way that different components of our environment both natural (the influences of geology, soils, climates, flora and fauna) and cultural (the historical and current impact of land use, settlements, enclosure and other human intervention) interact together and are perceived by us. (Redmond 2009).

Landscape comprises the visible features of an area of land, including the physical elements of landforms such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bunches such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, building and structures and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions (Adamson and Aberg 2003). There are many different interpretations of the terms landscape “the dispute in definition makes it difficult to communicate clearly and even more difficult to establish consistent management policies. According to James, (2001) Landscape is define as an area perceived by people, whose character the result of the actions and interaction or natural and human factors. Godrom (2005) also Defines Landscape as an invariable include an area of land containing a mosaic of patches or landscape elements. Forman and Godrom (2005) defined Landscape as a heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystem that is repeated in similar form throughout.

The term landscape has several connotations and interpretations. Knudsen et al (1995), clarify that landscape cannot be the same for two individuals because each of them has a different interaction with the landscape and their knowledge of landscape differs. Nevertheless, some definition of landscape can be found in the interactive and documents.

The perception of landscape has changed during the time. In general, there must be distinguished two basic perception of landscape. The first one is the classical perceptive in which the view is taken that the creation of livable and usable space, such as urban areas, is the mark of civilization and progress. The second approach is the romanticism, in which untouched space has a greatest value, and wilderness assumes a deep spiritual significance (Holden 2008) Healy (1994) determines that the ability to view natural man made scenes that are interesting is an important part of the tourism experiences and it is probably the principal motivation for many visitors Macagno et al. (2010) have similar opinion and published that it is widely acknowledged that landscape features can play a major role in determining the tourist destination choice. Knudsen et al (1995) conclude that the focus of the study of tourism is and should be landscape. They agree with Minca and Dakes (2006), in whose point of view of tourism landscape is a result of several processes made by the state, regional offices, tourist agencies, tourist and others.

The term used for tourism which respects and protects nature is green tourism. Ryglova (2007a) characterize green tourism as a desire of tourist to connect nature and human environment. Human environment, especially cultural heritage, is dealt by authors. Hudeckova and Sercikora (2007) in their work they focus on cultural heritage as part of infrastructure for certain forms of tourism. Ryglova. (2007b) added that with growing importance of tourism for the economies, the topic of sustainable tourism is and should be discussed more often. Since the beginning of time humans have travelled. Food, water, safety or acquisitions of resources (trade) wevices re early travel motivations. However,

the idea to travel for pleasure or exploration soon emerged. Travel has always depended upon technology to provide the means or mode of travel. The earliest travelers walked or domesticated animals. The invention of the wheel and the sail provided new mode of transportation. Each improvement in technology increased the individual's opportunities to travel.

Tourism is collection of activities, services and industries that delivers travel experience, including transportations, accommodations, eating and drinking establishments, retail shops, entertainment business, activity facilities and other hospitality services provided for individuals or group of travelling away from home. The world tourism organization (WTO) claims that tourism is currently the world largest industry with annual revenues.

Mathieson and Wall (2002) created good working definition of tourism as the temporary movement of people to destination outside their normal places of works and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations, and the facilities created to cater their needs. According to Macintosh and Goeldner (2006) Tourism is the sum of the phenomena and relationship arising from the interaction of tourist, Business suppliers, host Government and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourist and other visitors.

The IMPACT OF TOURISM are Damage to the landscape: litter, erosion, fires, disturbance to livestock, vandalism, Traffic congestion and pollution, Local goods can be expensive because tourist will pay more **and** Demand for development of more shops and hotels **POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM are** Jobs for local people, Income for local economy, increased demand for local food and craft

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with one of the fundamental area in any research work. It elaborates on the ways in which data were collected, the methods used, the sampling frame selected and the methods used for analyzing data. It also gives an indication about limitation of the study.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research is Case Study, Basically qualitative research method will be used in the case study, which includes the following methods:

Visual Survey: Take a visit of the parks and careful observation of its features.

Structured interview: To interview of administrative and technical staff on several aspects of the parks to get detailed and precise information on the functionality of such parks.

ii. Analytical and comparative study:

Comparative analysis of parks landscape using the following independent variables:

- i. Major facilities
- ii. Primary means of circulation
- iii. Landscape style and the concept

3.3 DATA COLLECTION

Case studies in landscape begin with a documentation of the case, and for theoretical research they may require the use of general methods of data collection (Oluigbo 2010). However, the methods of data collection adopted for this study is observations, visual survey, analytical and comparative study, and structured interview.

3.4 INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION.

Case studies in landscape architecture begin with documentation of the physical characteristics the cases studied (Oluigbo, 2010). For the purpose of this study, the instrument used for the collection and documentation of data was questionnaire.

3.5 PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION.

The procedures for data collection for the local case study involved visits to the case study sites, and taking visual analysis of their landscape elements, as the reflects harmony with nature.

Research design refers to the outline or strategies used in answering research question. Research design also shows the approach and amount of secondary and primary research based undertake as well as the analysis.

3.8 STUDY AREA

The sampling frame focused on tourism areas where tourism development is expanding. As such the study areas for the survey were the millennium park Abuja which attracts large number of tourist. Therefore, strategic areas were identified within the National parks. Some of these areas include the administrative block, lodge and the tourist/visitors.

3.9 DATA COLLECTION DESIGN

For this study, the survey instrument used was a structured questionnaire this method was chosen because it has better responses rates than other methods in previous studies, (Andereck and Nickerson, 1997). The questionnaire was designed in a simple way and in a simple language so as to facilitate the respondent in answering it. The survey questionnaire designed for the tourist consisted of the parts. Covering note was included to the questionnaire explaining the purpose of the study. Part A contained questions relating to the demographic characteristics of the respondents but no names were collected, to retain the privacy of the respondents. The demographic characteristics included: respondents age, gender, level of educations, occupation and length of residency. Part B has 26 items to capture the tourist perception of the impact of landscape in tourisms development. These items relate to the positive and negative aspect of the environment, thus, the respondent were asked to indicate their level of agreement on a five – point likert scale (strongly disagree to strongly agree). Maddox (2005) recommended the use of a likert – scale in tourism impact research because of its superior validity. Furthermore, the part consisted of 4 close ended questionnaires. Closed – ended questionnaires were mainly used since it is easier to collect, analyze and interpret data.

4.0 RESULT

The results analyzed based on the questionnaires distributed to liable tourist in the millennium park Abuja. It provides analysis to assess the tourist perception of the impacts of landscape in tourism development.

The data was organized and evaluated with the evaluation, descriptive statistic (frequency distribution, percentages means and standard deviation).

4.1 POPULATION AND RESPONSE RATE

Punch (2003) stated that a low response rate can raise question according to whether the response received were representative of the sample or were in some way biased. However the researcher should strive for a response rate of at least 60%. Therefore, as regards to this study, 100 questionnaires were distributed to the liable tourist and 84 questionnaires were collected one week later. All the collected questionnaires were deemed good to be analyzed. Hence, a feedback of 84% in this research is therefore taken to be acceptable.

4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENTS

The following sections describes the demographics features of the sample being studied and the participants were asked to provide information about gender, age group, level of education, occupation, length of residency and salary, these variables were analyzed as follows:

4.3 GENDER

Table 4:2;1 show the composition of respondents by gender and the sample was distributed between the male (59.9%) and female (40.1%) tourist.

4.4 AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

The result from figure 4.2.2 indicates that 4.4% of respondents were more than 55 years of age, 16.8% of respondents were from 46 to 55 years old, 13.9% were from 36 to 45, 34.3% were from 26 to 36 and 30.7% of the sample was between 18 and 25 years of age. This statistical figure shows that most of the employees in the sample were of 18 to 35 years of age.

4.5 OCCUPATION

Regarding occupation of respondents in this study, the result in (figure 4.2.3) show that 32.1% of the respondents were from the professional grade, 8.8% of respondents were self employed, 6.9% of respondents were students, 4.7% were retired respondents and 4.4% of the sample was unemployed.

4.6 LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Figure 4.2.4 highlights the education level of the employees, in this study the highest level of education completed by the respondents was master degree (15.3%), 25.2 % of respondents in the sample completed bachelor degree, 10.2 % of the employees attended science school, 43.4% were respondents attended secondary school and 4.4% of respondents of respondents attended primary school. Hence this statistical figure shows that most of the respondents in the sample attended secondary school.

4.7 RELIABILITY OF DATA

Reliability in general means stability of response. This concern whether the same respondents would answer the same question in the same way if they were asked again. Reliability is the consistency or dependability of a measure, therefore one of the ways to

measure reliability is called internal consistency. This is the extent to which the questions were designed to measure the same attitude in other words how well the question correlate with one another. Hence, the result (table 2) reveals a value of 0.796 which is higher than 0.7 indicating a high reliability and internal consistency of data.

4.8 NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF LANDSCAPE

The next issue examined in this study concern the negative environmental impact of landscape on tourism development in millennium park Abuja. Serve statement regarding the tourist perception of the level of impact based on the five point likert scale of agreement level (where 1=strongly disagree to 5= strongly agree) have been measured and represented in a bar chart.

Figure 4.4 illustrate that 25.5% of respondents disagreed that landscape contributes toward traffic congestion and 39.8% of sample disapproved that overcrowding at beaches, pools are merely cause by tourist. 24.1% of respondents also disagreed that landscape has massively contributed to pollution and 18.2% of the sample disapproved that wetlands are destroyed by tourists.



PLATE 3: The must crowdie area in Millennium park



PLATE 4: The Bridge inside the Millennium Park Abuja



PLATE 5: Part of a Green Garden in the Millennium Park Abuja

Table 4.8: Preference of tourism type according to gender

TOURISM TYPE (%)					
GENDER	History and culture tourism	Sun, sand and sea tourism	Golf tourism	Total	
Male	22	17	11	51	
Female	13	16	4	33	
Total	35	33	15	84	

Table 4.9

Importance of Landscape Design (%)			
GENDER	Yes	No	Total
Male	28	16	44
Female	52	4	56
Total	80	20	84

According to the survey conducted at the millennium park Abuja, the tourist surveyed described the landscape design differently from each other when asked; most describes the parks as an oriental style, while others described it as tropical. Another question was directed to tourists to see if they perceive a relation with the landscape design of the parks and the local landscape while 20% state that there is no relationship with the local landscape, 37% link it with a tropical landscape and 35% with the Mediterranean landscape.



PLATE 6: Part of a Rock Garden in the Millennium Park Abuja



PLATE 7: Part of a Pool in the Millennium Park Abuja

Table 4.10: The most Impressive Elements in Landscape

Impressive Elements	Percentages %
Vegetation	9
Water element	59
Colorful surfaces	15
Other	2
Total	84



PLATE 8: part of a Water Element in the Millennium Parks Abuja



PLATE 9: Part of a Water Element in the Millennium Park Abuja

Table 4.11: The most Impressive Elements According Gender

Elements of Landscape Design (%)					
GENDER	Vegetation	Water Element	Colorful Surfaces	Other	Total
Male	5	31	10	5	51
Female	7	13	11	2	33
Total	12	44	21	7	84

Table 4.12: Preferred Locations in the Park.

Locations	Percentages %
Shadow areas	7
Private areas	6
Closeness of water element	57
Colorful plants	9
Other	6
Total	84



PLATE 11: Some street and a part of water element in the park



PLATE 10: Bridge with some Part of a Garden in the Millennium park Abuja

Table 4.13: Preferred Locations in the Parks according to Gender

Locations						
GENDER	Shadow Areas	Private Space	Closeness to Water Elements	Colorful Plant	Other	Total
Male	7	2	37	6	1	52

Female	0	4	20	3	5	32
Total	7	6	57	9	6	84



The Millennium Park, Abuja

PLATE 12: Recreational Area in the Millennium park Abuja



PLATE 13: Tourist Snapping Pictures with Student

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

This study examines the perception of tourist on the impacts of landscape in tourism development and indicates clues for future landscape designs of similar sites. The survey conducted in the park shows that the natural and cultural features of the surrounding environment are found attractive by tourist, and leave a positive impression for a good holiday experience.

Recommendations

Upon carrying out all necessary research on the impact of Landscape on tourism development, the following recommendations are put forward:

Park in Abuja should take action to protect the environment from the negative impacts of mass tourism. Furthermore, tourist in general take into consideration the landscape design of the park and are particularly impressed by the water element design, and by prefer speeding most of their time around it. Therefore, pools site in the parks are densely populated and the places used the most. This finding shows similarly with many other research results conducted in landscape design (Saatec, 2009).

Landscape designer has used Mediterranean plant species in the design and have been careful about the interest of environmentally conscious tourist, who are less demanding and consume less when it comes to environmental resources.

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