

This paper was presented at the 19th International Conference on Sustainable Development, International Conference Center, Sorbonne University, Paris, France on August 26-27, 2024.

Economic Diversification Tourism in Plateau State, Nigeria

Rahila Timothy Dantong

Department of Political Science
Plateau State University Boko. Nigeria.

Corresponding author: rahilrahiladantong@plasu.edu.ng, atimothydantong@gmail.com

© Author(s)

OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development, Ontario International Development Agency, Canada.
ISSN 1923-6654 (print) ISSN 1923-6662 (online) www.oidaijsd.com

Also available at <https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/oida-intl-journal-sustainable-dev/>

Abstract: Plateau State, located in the north-central region of Nigeria, is endowed with a wealth of natural and cultural resources that present immense potential for tourism development. As the Nigerian economy continues to grapple with the challenges of over-reliance on the oil and gas sector, diversifying the economy through the promotion of tourism has become a crucial strategy for sustainable growth and development. This research paper explores the opportunities and challenges associated with leveraging tourism as a tool for economic diversification in Plateau State. The study examines the current state of the tourism industry in the state, identifying the key attractions, infrastructure, and policy frameworks that shape the sector. It also delves into the socio-economic and environmental impacts of tourism development, highlighting both the benefits and potential drawbacks. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. This includes a comprehensive review of relevant literature, analysis of secondary data from government agencies and tourism organizations, as well as primary data gathered through in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, such as policymakers, tourism operators, and local community members. The findings of the study reveal that Plateau State possesses a diverse array of tourism assets, including natural landscapes, historical sites, cultural festivals, and adventure activities. These resources have the potential to attract both domestic and international visitors, thereby generating employment opportunities, increasing foreign exchange earnings, and stimulating local economic development. However, the research also identifies several challenges that hinder the effective utilization of tourism for economic diversification. These include inadequate infrastructure, limited marketing and promotion efforts, lack of skilled workforce, and insufficient coordination among various stakeholders. Additionally, the study highlights the need to address concerns related to security, environmental sustainability, and the equitable distribution of tourism benefits among local communities. Based on the findings, the paper proposes a comprehensive strategy for leveraging tourism as a driver of economic diversification in Plateau State. This includes the following key; Strengthening Tourism Infrastructure: Investing in the development of high-quality transportation networks, accommodation facilities, and supporting infrastructure to enhance the overall visitor experience. Enhancing Destination Branding and Promotion: Developing a robust destination marketing strategy to effectively showcase Plateau State's unique tourism offerings to both domestic and international markets. Capacity Building and Skills Development: Implementing training programs to upskill the local workforce, ensuring the availability of qualified personnel to cater to the needs of the tourism industry. Fostering Stakeholder Collaboration: Establishing a collaborative framework that brings together government agencies, private sector operators, and local communities to coordinate tourism development efforts and address challenges. Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism: Integrating environmental and social considerations into tourism planning and management, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the industry and the equitable distribution of its benefits. The diversification of Plateau State's economy through tourism development holds immense promise. By leveraging its rich natural and cultural resources, the state can create new employment opportunities, generate additional revenue streams, and foster sustainable economic growth. However, the realization of this potential requires a concerted effort from policymakers, industry stakeholders, and local communities to address the identified challenges and implement the proposed strategies. This research provides a

comprehensive framework to guide the state's tourism-led economic diversification efforts, contributing to the broader goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic Diversification, Development, Plateau State, Tourism,

Introduction

Diversification implies movement into new fields and stimulation and expansion of existing traditional products. Diversification does not discourage specialization but requires that resources be channelled into the best alternative uses (Ayeni, 1987; Iniodu, 1995). In macroeconomic planning, diversification promotes growth and development through the mobilization of savings from surplus sectors for use in the development of deficit sectors of the economy (Karimo, 2017). Options for diversifying an economy abound, such as agriculture, entertainment, financial services, industrialisation, information and communication technology, tourism, etc. However, it is worthy to note that country-specific circumstances ought to as a matter of necessity, be considered. This is cogent, since due to structural differences, a model that fits an economy perfectly well may prove irrelevant in another. With a major objective of diversifying the productive base of the Nigerian economy with a view to reducing dependence on the oil sector, this study zero in on 'tourism,' as imperatives. The choice of this approach is informed by the huge successes recorded by some Asian countries—which are collectively referred to as 'Asian Tigers'—in applying these imperatives, as well as the fact that these countries were basically at the same level of national development with Nigeria, at the time of their respective take-off and still share certain similarities with Nigeria (Eko, 2013).

Tourism has been playing a vital role in the socio-economic development and promotion for Nigeria, as one of the fastest growing economies in the world today. Nigeria is not alone in its effort to diversify the mono-cultural economy status. As a nation, the country is heavily dependent on petroleum export and to some extent on agriculture to generate foreign exchange earnings. But because of the exhaustible nature of the petroleum oil and the uncertainty in agriculture resulting from the unpredictable climate condition and fluctuation is the international market of these commodities among other challenges, tourism, therefore, remains the most viable source of investment and foreign exchange earners for the country (Olumide, 2013).

Plateau State is the Nigerian famous tourism destination, the state is blessed with natural, cultural and man-made endowments which is yearning for further packaging or repackaging into significant tourism products. The Federal Government Decree No. 54 and promulgated Decree 81 of 1982 which established the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC). The Decree mandates both State and Local Government Councils to establish state tourism board and Local Government Tourism committees respectively. Plateau State Government established the Plateau State Tourism Corporation by an edict No. 16 of both April, 1986 with the following statutory functions: Identification of major tourist attraction, Development of tourist sites, Promotion and marketing of tourist sites, Creation of Tourism awareness, Provision of advisory and information services to tourist/travellers., Coordination of the activities of all tourism agencies in the state and Coordinate the National Registration of Hospitality and Tourism Enterprises in the state amongst others. This study, therefore, seeks to explore policy scenario that could enable Plateau State (Nigeria) to achieve rapid economic development successes using her tourism potentials.

The Concept of Economic Diversification

Traditionally, economic diversification has been used as a strategy to transform the economy from using a single source to multiple sources of income spread over primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, involving large sections of the population. The objective has always been to improve economic performance for achieving sustainable growth; for example, building resilience against fluctuations in extra-regional economic activity (Nourse, 1968), reducing vulnerability to income loss due to the volatility of product price on the international market, creating job opportunities and alleviating poverty.

Realizing that economic diversification contributes positively to economic performance, much of the economic and sustainable growth policy discussion revolves around the development of strategies designed to induce greater economic diversification (Hackbart, 1975). Studies are continuously being undertaken by researchers to understand the complexities, linkages and performance of implemented economic diversification policies, including developing and testing reliable empirical methods to measure economic diversification; understanding the performance of various determinants driving economic diversification; and understanding the effect of various policies on sustainable development (e.g. impact on labour market, employment generation, export growth, agriculture, tourism and mining). However, owing to the complexity created by differing national circumstances, standardized conclusive strategies are

not advised; there are only lessons learned from experience to be tested and followed up on (FCCC 2016, Ahmadov 2012).

In this context, economic diversification is a matter of concern for countries that exhibit the following two characteristics:

1. A significant percentage of their total exports is concentrated on only a few products or services (high concentration index);
2. Demand for those few products or services is likely to drop as a result of market failure.

Concept of Tourism

Ladan (2003), cited the definition of tourism from the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (IASSET) as “the sum of the phenomenon and relationship arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence”. We also adopt this definition. Investments in Nigeria’s tourism subsector are expected to benefit several stakeholders; efficient suppliers of tourism services, host communities, tourists, tourism investors and the government. However, the sector has constraints and opportunities compared with other countries’ tourism industry. Nigeria is blessed with huge tourism resources, including the tropical rainforest cluster. In this cluster, like the most beautiful natural, cultural, historical and man-made tourist attractions in Africa. Calabar, Lagos, Abuja carnivals, the recent Plateau carnivals and a variety of cultural and sports festivals are a part of Nigeria’s tourism assets. Nigeria’s football is one of the best and most entertaining in the world. Jos is the tropical rainforest cluster capital, but also includes Calaba, Ebonyi, Akwalbom, Abia and of course Cross Rivers State. There is simply no type of natural or historical tourist attraction found anywhere in the world that is not found in this cluster. The attractions that have strategic significance include: Plateau rocks formation and waterfalls, Tinapa Business tourism resort at Calabar, Cross River National Park, Afikpo Caves, the slave routes at both Cross River and Akwa Ibom States, river cruising and sea sports fishing from Calabar, Obudu Ranch Resort, Akwa Ibom Golf and Leisure resort, and Trail of Mary Slessor activities. (Tourism Master Plan 2006).

Government policy on tourism was formulated in 1991. There are also other tourist attractions spread across the six geopolitical zones such as the Sahara gateway cluster in the North-East, the confluence capital city cluster in the North-Central, the Atlantic gateway cluster in the North-West, and the Scenic nature cluster in the West. In another study by Olukesusi (1990), infrastructure, publicity and marketing determine the demand for tourism in Nigeria. Enders et al.(1992; Bichaka et al. 2007), identified peace and stability, economic boom or depression, and devaluation as factors that can also affect the demand for tourism and its impact on local economy. Ndajiya et al.,(2014) found that inadequate funding, low investment and lack of political will have been constraints to Nigeria’s tourism industry. They opined that if tourism policies are well articulated, to develop the subsector in a sustainable, equitable and responsive manner, it will raise the standard of living of Nigerians. Most of these studies were conducted in the 80s and 90s, hence, there is a gap and a need to update tourism subsector’s as a means of diversifying the Nigerian Economy. Besides, most studies in the area of tourism did not look at the need for government to invest in it as a dependable tool for economic diversification. These make our study peculiar in filling the gap.

Statement of the Problem

The tourism sector has suffered from long years of neglect, mismanagement, inconsistent and poorly conceived government policies, lack of basic infrastructure and so much bureaucratic procedures in executing programs and policies. This study attempt to seek out how diversification of the economy through the tourism sector will promote stable and viable economic growth in Plateau State (Nigeria). Plateau State is endowed with many natural resources scattered in different parts of the state of all the 36 States that make up the federal republic of Nigeria. Plateau State has many tourism potentials due to its location and good weather condition, no wonder the state is called the home of peace and tourism. Despite these, the state remains one of the poorest in the country with minimal revenue generation, high level of poverty and unemployment. The state has been dependent over the years on the oil money gotten from the Federal government as a monthly subvention to finance projects and other welfare services which off-cause is not enough.

Emerging Possibilities for Tourism Development in Nigeria

Tourism, so far observed, is a source of income and improvement of well-being of local people in destination areas, employment opportunities, revenue for the nation and investors in the business, stress reducing agent but leisure and pleasure contributor to the tourists, among other benefits like social infrastructural development to the host

communities of the tourist attraction or centers. Because it helps to promote the environment and culture of the people, it means that it has to be sustainable; hence sustainable development.

Sustainable development, according to the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987), is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Because it centers on fostering future states in which economic well-being and environmental quality can co-exist, sustainable development should, as a minimum, address the following elements: maintain ecological integrity and diversity, meet basic human needs, keep options open for future generations, reduce injustice and increase self-determination. For this to occur, it would be necessary for the nation in question to revive its economic growth; change the quality of growth; meet essential needs of the people such as jobs, food, energy, water and sanitation; conserve and enhance the resource base, reorient technology and manage risk, and merge environment and economics in decision making (Wall and Mathieson, 2006: 289).

Sustainable development requires a long-term perspective that works towards equity between people, and between people and other inhabitants of the planet. It also supports the empowerment of people to be involved in the decisions that influence the quality of their lives. Belatedly, the sustenance of culture has also been incorporated so that it is commonly argued that initiatives ideally should be economically viable, environmentally sensitive and also culturally appropriate.

Sustainable development in the context of tourism is looked at by Butler (1993:29) as tourism which is developed and maintained in an area (community, environment) in such a manner and at such a scale that it remains viable over an indefinite period and does not degrade or alter the environment (human and physical) in which it exists to such a degree that it prohibits the successful development and wellbeing of other activities and processes. Arising from this perspective is that sustainable development and its derivative sustainable development, should offer a way forward that simultaneously consider the economic, environmental and socio-cultural dimensions of development of any nation, of which Nigeria is one.

For the tourism industry to be sustainable, promote the socioeconomic development of the Nigerian nation, and benefit all the stakeholders in the business (the investors, communities, government, financiers and all other interest groups), the recommendations made by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) (1999) should be considered and adopted in Nigeria. With emphasis on the Sub-Saharan Africa, the WTO suggests that special considerations that must be made by local authorities in developing tourism in the region should include the following:

1. Improving the conservation and interpretation of natural areas and their associated biodiversity and of paleontological/archaeological/historic sites in many places.
2. Giving more emphasis to developing urban tourism.
3. Improving tourist facilities, services, public health and safety and infrastructure in many places.
4. Encouraging more involvement and participation in tourism in local communities.
5. Ensuring that land is available where and when needed in an equitable manner for tourism development.
6. Providing more education and training of personnel to work effectively in all aspects of tourism and achieving greater public awareness about tourism, and
7. Improving the institutional framework for financing tourism development and managing the tourism sector.

It is believed that when these and other suggestions earlier made are put in their proper perspectives and all the other stakeholders in the tourism business do the right thing, at the right time, and at the right place, everything being equal, tourism will actually improve the socio-economic development of Nigeria and add more value to the GDP or National Income (NI) of the country. These stakeholders are the federal, state and local governments and their respective agencies, the private and public investors in tourism development and promotion, both local and international; the financial institutions within and outside the country, the local communities where these tourist attraction facilities are located; the media and other interest groups in the business.

Tourism business has prospects in Nigeria and the potentials are many. This is because many tourists are now more physically and intellectually active than before; as they wish to participate in recreation, sports and adventure and learn about the

history, culture, natural environment and wildlife of areas they visit. More tourists want to pursue their special interests and hobbies in areas of nature, historic and cultural, economic activities and professional interests. "Roots" tourism of tourists visiting their ancestral homes and 'nostalgic' tourism of persons visiting places where they or their countries

had previous associations are becoming important. This is a case of religious tourism where many people within and outside the country are visiting sacred places in the nation.

In addition to the above, are cases where more tourists are concerned about maintaining and improving their health and, more of them seeking new destinations and new tourism products, and the rest taking more frequent but shorter vacations throughout the year. More older and active retired persons, many of whom are affluent, are travelling. Tourists are becoming more experienced and sophisticated in their travel habits and expecting good quality attractions, facilities and services, and 'good value for money' in their travel expenditures. Many business persons are travelling on business or attending international meetings and conferences on daily basis coupled with international holidaying.

More tourists are becoming more environmentally and socially sensitive and seeking well-designed, less-polluted tourists destinations, by-passing badly planned destinations that have environmental and social problems. Older tourist resorts are being upgraded and revitalized to meet present-day tourists' expectations, with this renovation being carried out in a carefully planned manner. Finally, the tourism sector is making increasing use of modern technology, such as internet, in areas such as reservation services and marketing and other potentials. In all, Nigeria is a fertile ground for tourism and tourism business as many tourist attractions are here and there, what is required is the enabling environment to be created for tourism business to grow, improve and contribute much to the socio-economic development of Nigeria and this is the challenge for all the stakeholders in the tourism business in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

The Neo-Classical Growth Model (NGM)

This work adopts as its theoretical framework the Neo-Classical Growth Model. The neoclassical growth model attributed essentially to the works of Robert Solow attempted to correct a major defect of the Harrod-Domar growth model, that defect is the rigidity of the model imparted to it by the underlying Leontief type production function. This type of production is characterized by fixed capital-labour proportions. This fixity eliminates the possibility of increasing output by increasing the supply of one factor alone. In other words, the scope of factor substitution (diversification) is zero implying the impossibility of factor substitution.

To understand the Neo-classical growth model, it will be judicious to first comprehend the meaning of economic growth. Economic growth is simply one of the four macroeconomic goals of any society. Simply defined, it refers to the increase over time of an economy's capacity to produce those goods and services needed to improve the well-being of the citizen in increasing numbers and diversity. Todaro and Smith (2009) state it is the steady process by which the production capacity of the economy is increased over time to bring about rising levels of national income. Thus, this research employs the neo-classical growth model to gain more insight into the scope of the work.

It is this defect inherent in the Harrod-Domar growth model that the neo-classical growth model proceeded to redress. In doing this, the assumption of a Leontief type production function was dropped and replaced by a more realistic production function characterized by well-behaved negatively sloping isoguanths. This production function was considered more realistic as it recognized the possibility of factor substitution.

The elegance of this production function was its permission of a variation in the capital-output ratio k . Thus, an inequality between s/k and n i.e. $s/k \neq n$ could be corrected by an alteration in k . Hence, for example, $s/k > n$ implies that the capital stock grows at a slower rate than the labour force. When this happens, the capital-output ratio, k will fall thus raising s/k and restoring the equality of s/k and n in the process. Conversely, $s/k < n$ implies that the capital stock growth rate outstrips the labour force growth rate as well as the output growth rate. The resulting rise in the capital-output ratio k will bring about a fall in the s/k ratio thus again restoring the equality between s/k and n .

Therefore, the neo-classical growth model, as opposed to its Harrod-Domar growth model counterpart, thrives on the possibility of correcting any discrepancy between the warranted and natural growth rates through changes in capital output ratio, k . Like the Harrod-Domar growth model, the neo-classical growth model implies that the part and speed of an economy's growth are endogenous policy variables that are within the ambit of policymakers and not homogenous policy. This, therefore, implies that Nigerian policymakers should make every urgent effort to encourage diversification of our resources (endogenous) and not encouraging mono-economy which is (homogenous).

Empirical Review/Review of Previous Studies

Tourism is increasingly viewed as one of the best opportunities and most viable option for the sustainable economic and social development of developing countries (Shali and Nowak 2005). The important role tourism plays in job creation and income generation for countries as well as regions in countries cannot be underestimated. For example

page (199) cited in Makochekanwa (undated) conducted a research using data from tourism sector found that tourism was more labour intensive in low labour cost countries. His findings further reveals that tourism's contribution to employment was second to agricultural sector in terms of contribution to employment in the case of South Africa Leventis and Gani (2000) in Neumayer (underted) said tourism provides low skilled and labour intensive services that can provides a relatively stable income stream than the volatile receipts from natural resources extraction. Miba'am and Dashol (2015), in studying the impact of tourism on internally generated revenue in plateau state, said, there is need for diversification and exploiting alternative source of revenue is being encourage by the federal government of Nigeria and its component states. The study used the ordinary least square (OLS) to estimate the impact of tourism sector on internally generated revenue in Plateau State . The study finds that tourism sector contribution to internally generated revenue is not significant. They conclude that the tourism potentials of the state is underutilised and recommends the private and the public sector investment to modernize and diversify the state tourism sector. Contrary to Miba'am and Dashol, this study is beyond the diversification of the tourism sector but we are considering economy diversification using plateau state tourism sector, looking at a situation where the sector can be viable and dependable source of income for the state and country at large. In another study conducted by ResearchClue.com (2014) on Tourism Development in Plateau State, a Vital tool for Enhancing the Revenue base of the State, the study attempt to examine tourism development as a tool for enhancing the revenue base of plateau and to identify the factors affecting tourism development in the state. The study was conducted without using any theory thereby creating a gap, our study has adopted the Noe-Classical Growth Model which encourages multiple source of production thereby increasing the economy productivity and stability, making this study to fill in the gap. A study on Repositioning culture and Tourism in a Diversified Economy: a case study of Nigeria, reveals the need for Nigeria to diversify its economy using culture and tourism which the country is graciously endowed with, but has been neglected over the years due to the discovery and gains of crude oil. Tourism is a beacon for pro-business policies and reforms that can help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development and stimulate foreign investment (arts, 2011). For a country like Nigeria and its various states in the federation longing for effective economic diversification, tourism presents such an opportunity. Tourism is profoundly important for economic development through its impacts on employment, exports, stimulation of infrastructure provision, generation of revenue and promotion of international culture appreciation, peace and harmony (Frangialy, 2001) in Olonrunfemi and Raheem(2008). Ayeni and Ebohan [undated] averred that tourism has become a major source of diversification allowing new employment and income earning opportunities. Tourism can be a leading industry in the fight against poverty. Tourism can bring many benefits to the government, local authority and the private sector through the generation of foreign revenue, financial returns on investment and tax revenue. Tourism sector is a magnet for foreign direct investment and affords developing countries the opportunities to attract inward direct investment both for soft and hard tourism infrastructure (Ayeni and Ebohan, undated). Despite the tourism potentials in Nigeria and plateau state some challenges are encountered .according to Adeleke (undated), peace and stability are important prerequisite to tourism development. Plateau state has had a bitter experience of ethno- religious crisis and political instability which affected the tourism image of the state. It is well known that crime, ethnic-crisis, political instability sent tourist arrival plummeting (Adeleke undated). Adeleke further added that tourism will never flourish as long as there is instability. Peace is a prerequisite for robust tourism sector to prevail in Plateau State.

Methods of Data Collection

Data for this study was generated using both the primary and the secondary we applied Scott's four criteria for assessing the quality of document. Consequently, this research combined two (2) methods of data collection; primary data was collected through a structured interview questions. The researcher used interview to obtain information on the research topic. The schedule of the interview has a number of questions to be discussed by the interviewees as instructed by Guest e'tal (2016). It is aimed at retrieving in-depth information about the phenomenon under study. In this regard, our structured questions capture the items in our research questions. The secondary data on the other hand was drawn from existing materials on the subject of economic diversification through tourism.

Tourism Potentials of Plateau State

S/NO	Names of Potentials	Type	Location
1.	Ampidong Crater Lake	Natural	Mangu L.G.C
2.	Tin Mining Ponds	Man-made	BarkinLadi L.G.C
3.	Assop Falls	Natural	Riyom L.G.C
4.	Ara Hill (Dutse Ra)	Natural	Kanam L.G.C
5.	Amurum Bird Sanctuary	Natural	Jos. East L.G.C
6.	Chief Solomon Lar Amusement Park	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
7.	Dutsen Kura Rock	Natural	Bassa L.G.C
8.	ElieiCenter	Man-made	Jos South L.G.C
9.	Fusa Fall	Natural	Jos East L.G.C
10.	Ganjuwa Spring	Natural	Kanam L.G.C
11.	Fesean Falls	Natural	Jos East L.G.C
12.	International Youth Tourism CenterKurra	Man-made	BarkinLadi L.G.C
13.	Jos Wildlife Park	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
14.	Jos National Museum of Traditional Nigerian Architecture MOTNA	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
15.	Jalbang Rocks	Natural	Shendam L.G.C
16.	Jebbu Hills	Natural	Bassa L.G.C
17.	Jos Zoo & Zoological Garden	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
18.	Kwi Conical Hills	Man-made	BarkinLadi L.G.C
19.	Kura Falls	Natural	BarkinLadi L.G.C
20.	Kerang Volcanic Cones and Spring Water	Natural	Mangu L.G.C
21.	Korrets Hamelt Amusement Park	Man-made	Jos South L.G.C
22.	Khawang Basalt Rock Formation	Natural	Riyom L.G.C
23.	Laminga Golf Course	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
24.	Laminga Dam	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
25.	Mangama Falls	Natural	Bokkos L.G.C
26.	Magama Dam	Natural	Langtang South L.G.C
27.	Naraguta Leather Works	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
28.	Nroan Lakes	Natural	Shendam L.G.C
29.	Riyom Rock Formation	Natural	Riyom L.G.C
30.	Rayfield Resort	Man-made	Jos North L.G.C
31.	Shere Hills	Natural	Jos North L.G.C
32.	Sungure Hill	Natural	Pankshin L.G.C
33.	Sha Falls	Natural	Bokkos L.G.C
34.	Tom Tom Water Spring	Natural	Kanke L.G.C
35.	Turnen Spring Water	Natural	Pankshin L.G.C
36.	Wase Rock	Natural	Wase L.G.C
37.	Yeum Rock	Natural	Mikang L.G.C
38.	Yakubu Gowon Dam	Natural	Jos South L.G.C
39.	Zul-ghibang	Natural	Pankshin L.G.C
40.	Zongu Water Falls	Natural	Bassa L.G.C
41.	Foron Hills	Natural	Barkin-Ladi L.G.C
42.	Dutsen Kura Hills	Natural	Bassa L.G.C
43.	Pandan Wildlife Park	Natural	Qua'an Pan L.G.C
44.	Mado Village	Man-made	Jos-North
45.	Ngalachua Rock	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C
46.	Zungbu Falls	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C
47.	Bingo Healing Water	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C
48.	Dutsen Kura Caves	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C
49.	Tai Amoli Caves (Jengre)	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C

50.	Octopus Gold Course Rukuba	Bassa	Bassa L.G.C
51.	Abandoned Mining Ponds and Hills	BarkinLadi	BarkinLadi L.G.C
52.	Abandoned Mining Machine Dragline	BarkinLadi	BarkinLadi L.G.C
53.	YakubaGowan Airport, Heipang	BarkinLadi	BarkinLadi L.G.C
54.	Kwi Conical Hill	BarkinLadi	BarkinLadi L.G.C
55.	Kerang Volcanic Mountains	Mangu	Mangu L.G.C
56.	Ampi-dong Crater Lake	Mangu	Mangu L.G.C
57.	Panyam Fish Farm	Mangu	Mangu L.G.C
58.	Bungha Rocks & Caves	Mangu	Mangu L.G.C
59.	Chequied Giraffe Rocks (Daffo)	Bokkos	Bokkos L.G.C
60.	ButuraTash Footbridge	Bokkos	Bokkos L.G.C
61.	Matlah Rock Formation (Rom)	Bokkos	Bokkos L.G.C
62.	Manguna Falls	Bokkos	Bokkos L.G.C
63.	Songoie Hills Wokkos	Pankshin	Pankshin L.G.C
64.	Turnen Water Spring	Pankshin	Pankshin L.G.C
65.	Pankshin Undulating Hills	Pankshin	Pankshin L.G.C
66.	Bwarat Hills	Langtang North	Langtang North L.G.C
67.	Gazum Hills	Langtang North	Langtang North L.G.C
68.	Langtang Dam	Langtang North	Langtang North L.G.C
69.	Ara Hills and Caves	Kanam	Kanam L.G.C
70.	Ganjuwa Wildlife Reserve	Kanam	Kanam L.G.C
71.	GarkingyaInsebergs	Kanam	Kanam L.G.C
72.	Wase Rock Game Reserve	Wase	Wase L.G.C
73.	Pai River Game Reserve	Wase	Wase L.G.C
74.	Konkyam Cave (Bashar) Gudas	Wase	Wase L.G.C
75.	KamoaninZurak Game Reserve	Wase	Wase L.G.C
76.	Luham Hills	Mikang	Mikang L.G.C
77.	Yuem/Dangant Rock	Mikang	Mikang L.G.C
78.	Jalbang Hills	Shendam	Shendam L.G.C
79.	Nroam Lake	Shendam	Shendam L.G.C
80.	Lordang Cave & Tunnel	Qua'an Pan	Qua'an Pan
81.	Fusa Falls		Jos East
82.	Eagle-Lake Rock Formation		Bokkos L.G.C
83.	Pandam Game Reserve/Tourist Village		
84.	Nationla Museum & (MOTNA)	Jos North	Jos North L.G.C
85.	Alternative Trade Network of Nig.		Jos North L.G.C
86.	Mado Tourist Village		Jos North L.G.C
87.	Laminga Dam		Jos North L.G.C
88.	Laminga Golf Course		Jos North L.G.C
89.	Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos		Jos North L.G.C
90.	Amurum Bird Sanctuary		Jos East L.G.C
91.	Angware Waterfalls (Durbi)		Jos East L.G.C
92.	Fesean Hills		Jos East L.G.C
93.	Higest Rail Point Kuru	Jos South	Jos South
94.	Yakubu Gowon Dam Shen		Jos South
95.	Riyom Rock Formation		Riyom L.G.C
96.	Kalwang Basalt Rocks		Riyom L.G.C
97.	Tahoss Springs		Riyom L.G.C
98.	Colonial Mining Buildings		Riyom L.G.C
99.	Kwi Conical Hill		Riyom L.G.C
100.	Shendam Hotel		Shendam L.G.C
101.	Wase Game Reserve		Wase L.G.C

Source: plateau state tourism cooperation.

Summary of Discussion

In line with the objectives of this study, which is:

- i. To identify the various tourism potentials in plateau state. Plateau state has over one hundred and one {101} identified tourism sites across the seventeen local government area of the state. Over 80% of these sites are not acquired by the state government, and no development has taken place on such sites. For the ones that have been acquired and developed, the facilities are in a state of dilapidation and do not meet the standard requirement that can generate much revenue for the state.
- ii. To assess plateau state government efforts in developing tourism potentials in the state. Right from the creation of plateau state on 3rd of February, 1976 many government have come and gone with various agenda on the state tourism sector. From our investigation 95% percent of the sites that where acquired and developed in the state were done under the colonial and the military governments. This study is focusing from 2000-2023, for these periods under investigation, the government have played more of lip service to tourism as most of the government plan always end on paper and pages of news paper with little or no significant improvement on the sector. Previous governments in the state have not given much attention to the sector since tourism do not bring immediate returned on investment. The present government that came on board from 2015 to date seems to emphasis more on the need to develop the sector, in doing so they started the Jos carnival in 2016 where various culture of the state are being displayed. The carnival has attracted many people into the state from within and across the globe. This they believed will advertise the state and her potentials. But the problem with the carnival is that it seems to be coming too early because the government have not done much to develop the potentials thereby reducing the tourists excitement. Another step this government have taken towards the development of tourism in the state, is the declaration of the state of emergency on tourism from the inception of the administration. In addition, the government have further drafted a tourism policy to guide her in the development of the sector. All these steps taken even though beautifully articulated but is yet to be backed up by financial commitment and without funds tourism remain a mirage.
- iii. To analyse the trend of tourism industry in regards to its contribution to the economy. The plateau state tourism sector have been performing below expectation, this is because the sector is not fully developed due to insufficient funding, lack of adequate infrastructures and social amenities, under utilisation of tourism potentials. The security challenges that has confronted the state in the recent years has affected the productivity of the industry since tourists inflow into the state has reduce drastically. This situation has invariably affected the revenue generation of the state through the tourism industry.
- iv. To assess the role of tourism industry and its impact on the Nigeria economy developmental processes. To look into the different tourism centres and potentials in Nigeria as shown earlier and these important sectors of the tourism industry- sports and leisure, entertainments, travel, transport, catering and accommodation among others, will show that in actuality, tourism has created opportunities for job or employment opportunities in Nigeria. This is because all these sectors are handled by human beings- both skilled\specialists and unskilled labour in Nigeria and Nigerian citizens. Tourism creates jobs directly or indirectly through linkages, employment opportunities are offered through national parks, guides, trackers, and antipoaching agents. In all, with the increase in tourist centres and supported by tourists visiting\patronizing the areas, market women could sell their goods, taxi drivers are in business and other economic activities concerned, thus, reducing poverty rate. Thereby improving the revenue of the country and increasing foreign exchange generation.

Tourism potentials has a lots of benefits and advantages to its host community and the society at large. Tourism contribute towards complete society growth and development of a country, it brings numerous economic value and benefit it helps in building country image and identity it contributes greatly towards the growth of the economy. Tourism generates other commercial activity that create demands and growth for many other industries for example, the transport industries, hospitality industries, and it encourage the development of local manufacturing industry, thereby creating employments, generating revenue and playing significant role in development.

Plateau state is recognized as the premier tourism destination in Nigeria this is due to its geographical location and beautiful vegetation pleasant weather in the surrounding not tropical savannah. The state is blessed with numerous tourism potentials spread across the (17) seventeen local government area of the state some of the sites have been develop and in used others are yet to be acquire from the original owners while others are still in their natural state.

From the data gathered, it is no just that the state is a tourism destination there is good opportunity for the state to diversity in this regard and control its revenue base to avoid the over dependence on federal allocations which fluctuates as a result of changes in the global prices of crude oil. The development of tourism sector in Plateau State has been very low and neglected most times, the sector has suffered setback in many ways which has affected it productivity in terms of its economic contribution to the state.

Based on our investigation to the present state of tourism in the state, the response is that is not been taken seriously as the government is playing lip services to tourism in the states is not taping from the potentials it has, tourism is performing on the low side as it contributes only between 3-5% to the to the state internally generated revenue. The stakeholders wish that government will give more attention to the sector by investing in it so that it can yield dividend that the state and the entire country can benefits from as is the case in countries like Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, etc where tourism has become the major contributor to their economy.

Various factors have been identified as major challenges confronting tourism sector in Plateau state, these includes the following

1. Funding, funding and funding:- Funding has been identified as one and major challenge confronting the sector in Plateau state the biggest allocation to the sector which is usually between 113,137,642-283,500,000. The release of this fund is between 30-50% which is grossly inadequate for the rehabilitation, construction and maintenance of all the above 40sitesunder government supervision through the Plateau state tourism cooperation. No wonder there are many dilapidated structures and facilities across the tourist sites in the state, the animals in the wild life parks are not Well fed, the environment in diety and the vegetation are fading away most of the sites required equipment for proper functioning.
2. Plateau state tourism cooperation which is an agency created from the state ministry of tourism, art and culture with the mandate of identifying tourist potentials in the state, develop them and market them, the agency is meant to be self sufficient and to implement all government policies on tourism. Most of these function have been hijacked by the ministry neglecting cooperation this attitude has affected the functioning of most of the sites. Since the political appointees are in the ministry the training that should be given to the staff of the cooperation who are professionals in this field are diverted to ministry including foreign trips that are usually organized to meet with foreign investors are done by the ministry on behalf of the cooperation. Therefore, the over lapping of function between the ministry and the cooperation has affected the staff productivity which is meant to boast the performance of the sector. In addition the cooperation is grossly under staff and the sites suffer from inadequate man power this has affected surveillance, maintenance and other activity thereby leading to the encroachment of some facilities
3. Lack of basic Amenities most of the sites suffered from lack of electricity, pipe born water, restaurants, rest room and relaxation spots.
4. Insecurity: The security challenges that has confronted plateau state in the recent years has affected tourism performance in the state, some of the sites have become inaccessible, and some of the facilities have been vandalized by Fulani headsmen e.g. international tourist center Kura in Barkin Ladi, Wase RocK in Wase LGA, Khawang basal rock formation in Riyom LGA. Most tourists are afraid of visiting Jos- Plateau State because of fear of crises and attacks, no one will want to go to a place where his/her security is not guaranty.
5. The inability of government to acquire most of the sites poses great challenge to tourism performance in Plateau State, without acquiring those sites no development can take place and tourist cannot visit freely for fear of harassment from the original owners.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

Summary

This work examined Economic Diversification through Tourism Development in Plateau State. Tourism if given the needed attention in Plateau State has a lot of prospects, can generate income, employment, is a source of foreign exchange earner. The sources of data collected were primary and secondary. The primary data were collected through

in-depth interview which were analysed through content analysis. The result reveals that there is a significant relationship between tourism and economic growth. Tourism can be a successful tool for economic diversification. Tourism is a more reliable means of generating income in the society unlike oil that is exhaustible and agriculture which can be affected by climatic condition.

Findings from this work also reveals that tourism in Plateau State and Nigeria at large is confronted with a numerous challenges ranging from funding, insecurity, poor infrastructure, bureaucratic bottle neck, lack of adequate information, lack of basic amenities and poor attitude of Nigerians toward tourism. The findings further shows that tourism if given the needed attention considering the great potentials Plateau State is endowed with, the state and the country would not have to border about the dwindling price of crude oil in the international market.

Conclusion

Tourism can be an engine for inclusive growth and sustainable economic development. Tourism in terms of its contribution to gross domestic product, employment and a source of foreign direct investment is an important sector in many African economy and the world over. However, Plateau State (Nigeria) still faces significant challenges and constraints in exploring the potentials of tourism services for economic growth and development. Plateau State tourism landscape is extremely rich and beautiful for global tourists' attraction the weather, vegetations, rocks, waterfalls, historical relics, rich cultural diversity, sunshine wildlife and friendly people. There is need for the government to give more attention to the sector, by increasing the budget allocation and making sure that the release are done as at when due. In order to promote tourism and achieve its motives of economic diversification, then each economic agent has a role to play and there is need for public private partnership.

Recommendation

In order to utilized tourism potentials and make it achieve its aim of diversifying the economy, then all relevant stakeholders must participate in this process of developing and promoting tourists attractions. In view of the major findings and conclusion derived above, the following are our recommendation;

The Role of the Government

1. The need for government to acquire the sites from the original owners. From our investigation most of the tourism potential in Plateau State have not been acquire by the government this has made it impossible for the development of those sites to a level that can attract tourists. We therefore, recommend that all tourists sites in the state should be acquire by the government this will help to preserve the site against encroachment.
2. Provision of infrastructural facilities, while revitalizing the existing infrastructures. One of the reasons tourists centre are not being patronized in plateau State is because of the lack of infrastructural development of tourism facilities, there is the need for government intervention in the area of the provision of infrastructural facilities such as adequate road network, pipe born water, electricity, efficient communication network, construction of chalets for tourists who would like to stay longer, relaxation sports.
3. Funding has also been identified as the major challenge confronting the development of the tourism sector in the state and the country at large. Lack of funding has affected the performance of the sector, this study therefore recommend that government should give more priority to the development of the sector. Budget allocation should be increased and releases should be made fully at appropriate Times.
4. Enhancement of security situation of Plateau State. The State has experience crises in recent years, which has affected the in flogs of tourists into the State for fear it is therefore important for the government and relevant authorities to be proactive in tackling the security situation in order to restore the State to its original State of peace and tourism.
5. Tackling the activities of headsmen in the country which affected the state drastically. Plateau State has had a fair share of the "Headers farmers clash" which has affect the country's security in the recent years. Most of the natural tourists attraction are located or found in the rural communities of the state making some of the sites inaccessible while others are turned into grazing area. For example the Khawang basal rock formation located in Bachi district of Riyom local government area is the second of its kind in the whole world with the first discovered in China, this beautiful natural tourist attraction can hardly be accessible presently without the company of heavy security guards. Secondly, the International Tourism Centre in Kura Barkin-Ladi has been turn into a grazing area, the structures are vandalized and the only access road to the place is a night mare. With this situation the government need to rise up to its responsibility of securing life and property.

6. Formulation and Implementation of tourism policy: Having reviewed the importance of tourism to the state and the need for the government to revitalized and develop the industry. It is necessary to chart a more purposeful direction in the development of tourism through a well articulated tourism policy this should be consistent with global best practices and particularly in line with the national policy on tourism for Nigeria.
7. The need to have local government tourism committees. Tourism committee should be establish at each Local Government Area to oversee the affairs of tourism and tourism related activity. The committee should be headed by professional in the field, and should be responsible for identifying, documenting and promoting all the tourism destinations found in each local government area. The committee should organized enlightenment campaigns to the communities where these location exist,the committee will also sensitize the communities on the importance of preservation and conservation of both flora and fauna and cultural heritage that are of importance to tourism. When the communities are aware of the economic benefits of these sites, they will jealously guard them from external and destructive tendencies.

References

1. Adams Oluwadamilola Kemi (2016). Diversification of Nigeria Economy through Agricultural Production. IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF) Volume 7, Issue 6 Ver. III (Nov. - Dec. 2016), PP 104-107.
2. Ajjiah-Obi, F. N. (2001). *Environmental Protection and Management: Planning, Process, and Strategies*, Calabar: Clear Lines Publications.
3. Aliqah, K. M. A. & Al-rfou, N. A. (2010), The Role of Tourism on Economic Development of Jordan during the Period 1990 - 2008. *European Journal of Economics, Finance and Administrative Sciences*, 18,173 -180.
4. Anar Ahmadov (2012). Political Determinants of Economic Diversification in Natural Resource-Rich Developing Countries May 4, 2012; 1-7
5. Anderson, C. (2010). Presenting and Evaluating Qualitative Research. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 74(8), 141.
6. Balaguer, L., & Cantavella-Jorda, M. (2002). Tourism as a Long-Run Economic Growth Factor: The Spanish Case. *Applied Economics*, 34, 877-884
7. Bankole, Abiodun (2002) "The Nigerian Tourism Sector: Economic Contribution, Constraints, and Opportunities," *Journal of Hospitality Financial Management: Vol. 10: Iss. 1, Article 7*. Available at:
8. Bello, Y.O., Bello, M.B. & Raja, N.R.Y. (2014). Travel and Tourism Business Confidence Index in Nigeria: Issues and challenges. *African Journal of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure* 3(2), 1-15.
9. Bengt-Åke Lundvall & Rasmus Lema (2014) Growth and structural change in Africa: development strategies for the learning economy, *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development*, 6:5, 455-466, DOI: 1s0.1080/20421338.2014.979660
10. Bullen, A. G., Essien, C. K., and Akpama, S. I. (2011). "Tourism: A Veritable Tool for Socio-Economic Development of Cross River State", *Policy Alert: Journal of Public Policy Analysis*, Vol. 4, No. 1. July.
11. Bultler, R. W. (1993). "Tourism: An Evolutionary Perspective", in Nelson, J. G., Bultler, R. and Wall (1993) Editors, *Tourism and Sustainable Development: Monitoring, Planning and Managing*, Department of Geography Publication Series, No. 37, Waterloo: University of Waterloo.
12. Caglayan, E., Sak, N., & Karymshakov, K. (2010). Relationship between Tourism and Economic Growth: A Panel Granger Causality Approach. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 2(5), 591 - 602.
13. Caglayan, E., Sak, N., & Karymshakov, K. (2010). Relationship between Tourism and Economic Growth: A Panel Granger Causality Approach. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 2(5), 591 - 602.
14. Cooper, C., Fletcher, J., Gilbert, D., and Wianhill, S. (1999). *Tourism: Principles and Practice*, 2nd ed. Longman.
15. Crump, B., & Logan, K. (2008). A Framework for Mixed Stakeholders and Mixed Methods.
16. Crump, B., & Logan, K. (2008). A Framework for Mixed Stakeholders and Mixed Methods.
17. Dana Lynn Driscoll (2011). Introduction to Primary Research: Observations, Surveys, and Interviews Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Volume 1:53-74
18. Denzin, N. K. (1989a). *Interpretive Interactionism*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
19. Denzin, N. K. (1989b). *The Research Act* (3rd ed). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
20. Denzin, N. K. (1989b). *The Research Act* (3rd ed). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
21. Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (1994). *Handbook of qualitative research* (pp. 361-376). Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications.

22. Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (2000). Introduction: The discipline and practice of qualitative research. In N. K. Denzin, & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), *Handbook of qualitative research* (2nd ed, pp. 1-29). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
23. Duffy, M. E. (1987). Methodological triangulation: A vehicle for merging qualitative and quantitative research methods. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 19, 103-133.
24. Easterby-Smith, M., Thorpe, R., & Lowe, A. (1991). *Management Research: An Introduction*. London: Sage.
25. Etuk, E. J., Eze, F. J., and Esu, B. B. (2012). "Marketing of Tourism Services in Nigeria: A Study with Special Reference to Cross River State", *Marketing Journal*, National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria, Vol. 1, No. 1, June.
26. Ezema, I. C. (1993). "An Integrated Approach to Tourism Development in Nigeria, in Choker, B. A. (1993) editor, *Environment and Tourism in Nigeria*, Lagos: National Library of Nigeria Cataloging in Publication Data.
27. Fagbile, A. (2001). "Repositioning Nigeria Economy through Tourism: Strategies and Options", *Nigerian Tourism* 1(1).
28. Fayissa, B., Nsiah, C., & Tadasse, B. (2007). *The Impact of Tourism on Economic Growth and Development in Africa*. Middle Tennessee State University. Department of Economics and Finance, Working Papers, 16, 1- 22

