



Ecotourism and Its Effect on Wildlife of Kainji Lake National Park

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ABSTRACT

The influx of tourists into a protected area, if not controlled, may do more harm than good. Ecotourism have impact on wildlife both directly and indirectly on the species, communities and populations of the animals in the wild by influencing their feeding, reproductive and social behaviors of the animals in Kanji Lake National Park which might lead to a great danger both on ecosystem and tourist. This work then focus on ecotourism and its effect on wildlife of Kanji lake National park. Personal observation and the administration of questionnaire was use to collect data from the respondent. A total number of sixty-seven (67) questionnaires were administered on categories of respondents in the study area. Descriptive statistical data analysis was adopted using frequency table. Results from the analysis revealed that game view was the major tourist activities that take place in the park as at the period of the study, forming the most activities that are paramount with 54%, followed by camping by researchers, practical student and tourist with 39%.. But it was also gathered that the animal mostly (Baboon) do come into camping ground to get remnant food from trashcan and refuse collection point, and that happen always, this could be a biggest problem is when the animal get to used be around people and feed wild animal directly or indirectly, it affect or change their natural behavior and the future for animal.

Keywords: Ecotourism, wildlife Conservation, Tourism impact, flora, fauna.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism, especially international tourism, is one of the world's fastest growing industries. The world has seen an "increase in international tourist arrivals from 25 million in 1950 to 664 million in 1999" (Griffin, 2002). People have always had a great desire to travel the world, to experience other environments, and to simulate foreign ways of life. In its most basic sense, tourism can be defined as "travel outside normal home. The activities undertaken during the stay, and the facilities created to cater for tourist needs" (Dowling and David, 2003). However, this description is not as basic as one might think, rarely are the facilities created to cater for tourist needs discussed in tourism. Ecotourism is the organized viewing of wildlife. Ecotourism pay a considerable amount of money to participate in viewing of wildlife in their native countries and in foreign countries that promote ecotourism viewing to attract the revenue of tourist (Moreno, 2005). Wildlife tourism is defined as; tourism undertaken to view and / or encounter wildlife. It can take place in a range of settings, from capture semi captive, to in the wild, and it encompasses a variety of interactions from passive observation to feeding and /or touching the species viewed (Newsome *et al*, 2005).Wildlife tourism is more than travel to enjoy or appreciate wildlife; it also includes contributions to conservation and community project in developing countries, and environmental educations and awareness through the establishment of codes of conducts for wildlife tourists as well as the various component of the travel industry (Kutay, 1993). Wildlife conservation is the science of analysis and protecting the earth biological diversity, which is a variation of life from within a given

ecosystem or for entire earth. Wildlife conservation and reserve policies were found in 1974 (Bowen, 1999) rooted in the general culture and tradition of the country. This policy recognized the livelihood of people, the role of protected areas in meeting the demand for bush meat and the importance of engaging local communities in protected area development (Myers, *et al.*, 2000). Wildlife conservation is also defined as the process by which individual organization projects and preservation of habitats and management of wildlife species. In Nigeria, game and wildlife conservation commence in the early year of this century by the department of game and wildlife in 1965.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried-out at Borgu sector of Kainji Lake National Park (KLNP), Nigeria. KLNP is a transitional zone between the Sudan and Northern Guinea Savanna types (DRB 2004). The entire park (Borgu and Zuguruma sectors) which lies between latitude 9° 40'N and 10°23'N and longitude 3° 30'E and 5° 50'E covers a total land area of 5, 321.82km². The Borgu sector of the park covers an area of 3,970.02m² (Tuna Wildlife Consultants and NARDES, 1983).

The Park is rich in wildlife which include Baboons, Duikers, Hippopotamus, Hyenas, Kobs, Roan antelope, and Warthogs. Kainji lake national park is one of the Nigeria's oldest national park, which was established in 1976. It comprises two sector, Borgu sector and Zuguruma sector. The topography of the park is gently undulating with a general decrease in elevation from west to east. The Borgu sector is drained mainly by the oli, Timo and Doro rivers and their tributaries, while the Zuguruma sector is drained by the Manyara and Wawa Tizururu rivers. The vegetation of the park typical of northern guinea savanna although its south of the sudans savanna although is end is sudan Riparian forest also occurs on the bank of large water course river oli (Ezealor, 2002). Generally it is described as being northern guinea savanna types which are formation of mosaic of plant communities constituting its structure and physiognomy (Ayeni, 2007). The vegetation include Burkea, Deterium woodland, Afzelia, Isobolina woodland, the Danielia oliver complex, Acciacia / Anogeissua / Detarium etc (Ezealor, 2002).

The present study is the outcome of fieldwork on Ecotourism and its Effect on Wildlife undertaken for the period of one year. The study was conducted in the National Park. The method includes both primary and secondary data service. The primary data sources involve personal observation and administration of questionnaire. The interview aspect involved interviewing of some unit heads, park management, and Ecotourism staff department. The secondary data sources on the other hand involved the use of related /relevant documents and materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The activities of tourist are presented in the figure 1. The result gathered as the period of this study indicate that game view was the major tourist activities that take place in the park as at the period of this study, forming the most paramount ecotourism activities that take place with 54%, followed by camping by researchers, practical student and tourist with average percentage of 39%, while swimming pool and booting cruising follows with no significant value.

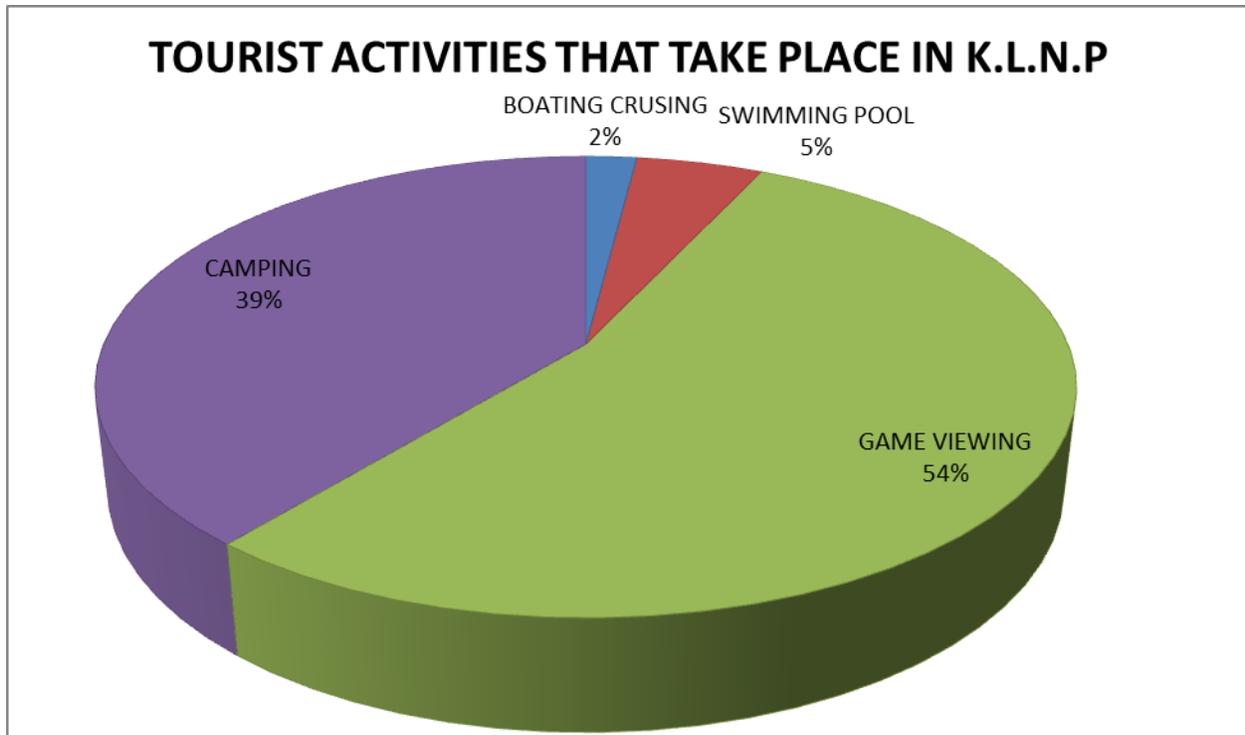


Figure 1: Showing tourist activities in KLNP

This indicates that the major tourist activities were game viewing and camping. These were the pronounce tourist activities as at the period of the research. This study agrees with earlier study of Ayeni (2014) which says Ecotourism, in a simplest sense is watching animals in their natural habitat.

Table 1: Influx of tourist into the Kainji Lake National Park between 2010 – 2015

YEAR	NO. OF TOURIST	
	NIGERIAN	FOREIGNERS
2009-2010	7800	11
2010 -2011	14200	9
2011-2012	15899	4
2013-2014	21433	19
2014-2015	21651	4

Source(Field Survey,2016)

The table above shows the influx of tourist into Kainji Lake National Park within the year 2009 to 2015. Between 2009-2010, 7800 Nigerians and 9 foreigners was recorded which increased to 14200 Nigerians and 11 foreigners in 2010-2011, it later increased to 15899 Nigerians and reduced to 4 foreigners in 2011-2012, a total number of 21433 Nigerians and 19 foreigners were recorded in 2013-2014, and in 2014-2015 there was a tremendous increase in Nigerians which recorded a total of 21651, while a total of 4 foreigners entered the park.

The influx of tourists into the park has a negative impact like air pollution through the cars by the foreigners and Nigerians that entered the park, fumes from vehicles and littering of the environment. This increase in tourist arrivals has also increase in the number of hotels and tourist lodges (Balendra and Ravi

2011). The money and education that the wildlife tourism gives back to human is what will save the industry and the animal in the end, Ultrica (2009).

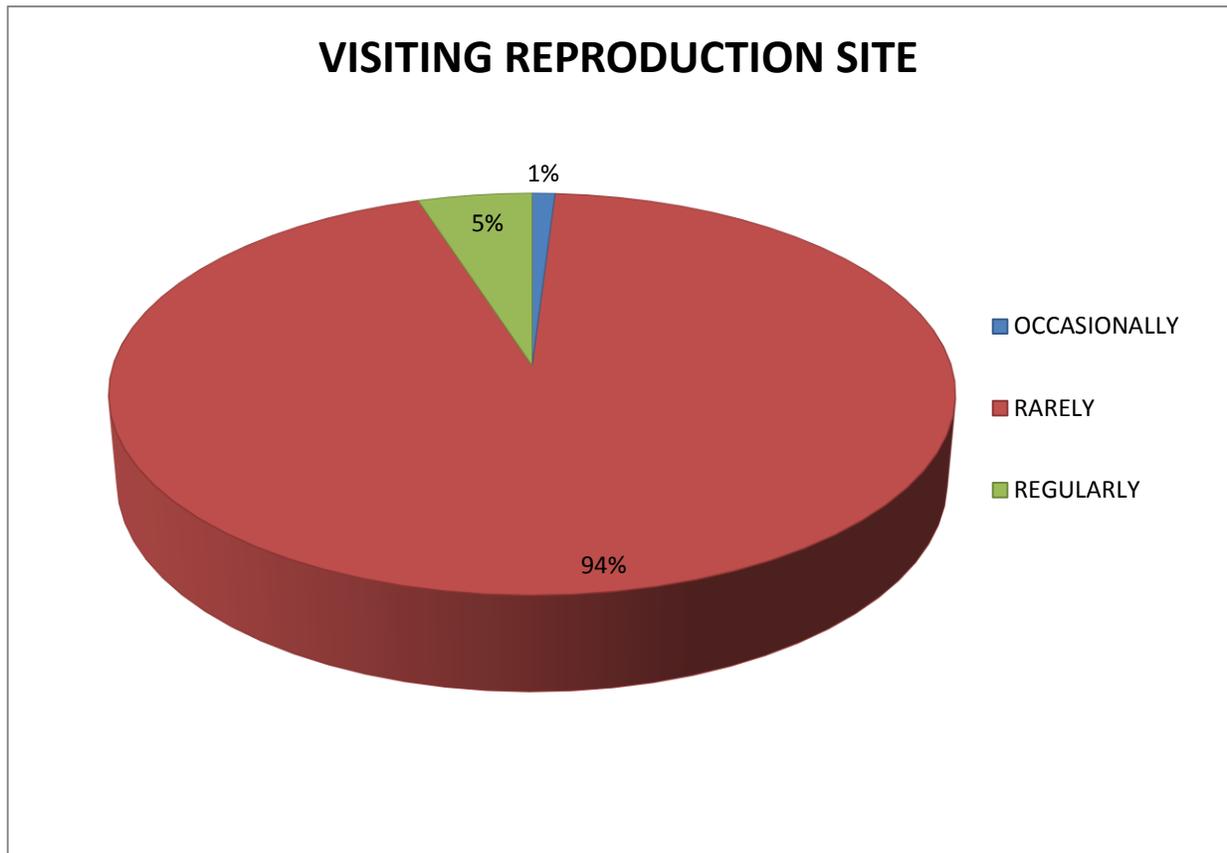


Figure 2: showing how tourist visit reproduction site

Following the results from the chart above tourist/visitors are not allowed to visit animal reproduction site for safety, and conservation purpose.

Tourists cause negative impacts on the movement, foraging and reproductive behavior of large felids and upsides, the nesting behavior of sea turtles, and the distribution of waterfowl (Boo 1990, Klein, 1995, Muthee, 1992).

The result gathered in the Figure 2, above, shows that the park staffs do not give room for visitor or tourist to feed animals during game viewing, so therefore animals are not allow to be fed during game viewing.

Where human traffic is frequent, some species withdraw, some change behavior, and still others may become habituated to human presence (Van Schaik, personal communication 1995, Griffiths and Van Schaik 1993). It was also gathered that the animal mostly (monkeys) do come into camping ground and to park lots to get leftover food from trashcan and refuse collection point, and that happen always. Although there can be tendency that animals especially monkeys can get bad food from this trash can which is in line with the work of Ultrica, (2009). From the finding it was also observed that the animals are not aggressive if they don't get food from the visitor rather the animal walks away.

Table 2: Animals reaction towards feeding

Option	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Do Visitor/Tourist	Yes	-	-
Feed Animal During	No	67	100
Game View	TOTAL	67	100
Do Animal Come Into	Yes	67	100
Camping Ground/Park	No	-	-
Lots To Get Food	TOTAL	67	100
From Visitor			
If Yes How Often	Always	54	80
	Occasionally	12	18
	Rare	1	2
	TOTAL	67	100
Animal Reaction If	Aggressive	2	3
Don't Get Food From	Friendly	12	18
Visitor	Walk away	53	79
	TOTAL	67	100

The result gathered in the table 2, above, shows that the park authority and the law establishing the park do not give room for visitor or tourist to feed animals during game viewing, so therefore animals are not allow to be feed during game viewing. 100% of the sampled respondent's key in to the fact that animals are not allow to be fed during game viewing. This is in accordance with (Lisa, 2011) that says feeding animals can result in malnourishment due to inappropriate diet and in disruption of natural hunting or food-gathering behavior. It can also be dangerous to the people doing the feeding.

CONCLUSION

From the study it can be deduce that tourist have a significant effect on wildlife by changing their feeding behavior due to the remnant of tourist they eat, making them to under goes stress in various way and accidentally killing them which can lead to the extinction of the animals in the park. Specific strategies should be put in place to minimize the impacts of tourist on the animal, this could include discouraging the tourist in feeding the animals, setting of speed limit in the park arena. In other words, tourist should be sensitizing about the activities that can affect the animals in the park.

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