

Environmental Implications of Tinapa Business Resort Development on the Catchment Communities, Nigeria.

Eja, Eja. I., Effiom, Violet Asuquo

Department of Environmental Science, University of Calabar-Nigeria.

Email: ejaiwara43@gmail.com, violeteffiom@yahoo.com.

Abstract

This paper seeks to x-ray the environmental implications of Tinapa Business Resort development on Ecosystem of catchment communities. Three communities were used in this study which includes Adiabo, Esuk-Utan and Ikot Ansa. However, three hundred questionnaires were used of which one hundred were administered to residents in each community using random sampling techniques. Findings from the data collected shows that biodiversity and prostitution were the major environmental implications of Tinapa Business Resort development in the area which was also evidenced in the tested hypotheses which shows no significant mean variation between the two variables in the three communities. It is on this note that adequate measures must be put in place by the various agencies in tourism industry so as to avert the problems associated with tourism development in the area

Keywords: Catchment, Communities, Ecosystem, Resort, Tinapa.

Introduction

In recent times, tourism development commonly has been advocated as an alternative to traditional natural resource-based economic development. Recent literature on tourism tend to differentiate between mass tourism, which is intended as environmentally and culturally destructive and alternative forms of tourism developed on smaller scale so as to minimize adverse impacts on local environments. The Nigerian government quite early recognized the potentials of tourism for the community. This recognition according to (Uya, 2001) led to the formation of the Nigeria Tourism Association. The formations of Nigeria Tourism Association necessitated the rapid promotion and development of tourism potentials in Cross River State (Eja, 2009). Today, the development of the Tinapa Business Resort which has become a world class destination for tourists and other business men from all over the world has greatly impacted positively on the livelihood of the indigenous communities within the catchment area. The positive impact of the resort has been observed through the emergency businesses and other auxiliary industry and also it has led to income generation and employment creation in the area. However, in spite of all the aforementioned impact, the location of the resort in Cross River State has caused series of environmental and social problems such as loss of farmland, water pollution and forest resource depletion and other social problems such as prostitution, inflation and increase in rental value. Besides, the impoverished and overcrowded rural communities within the Tinapa Business Resort area such as Adiabo, Esuk-Utan, Ikot Ansa, the forestland and soil have been caught up in an accelerating spiral of degradation, a cascading series of environment catastrophe which has drastically hindered the people livelihood in the area. Moreso, the mass tourist arrivals in the area has also depleted and damage surface and groundwater sources thereby exacerbating human deprivation in the area which is the aim of this paper to critically assessed the environmental implications of the Tinapa Business Resort development on the ecosystem of catchment communities in the area with specific reference to evaluating the various environmental problems and social associated with the development of Tinapa Business Resort.

Literature review

Environmental sustainability and development

Developmental strides are being made, they are made with a stroke of caution, government and communities want to develop, but not at the expense of the environment that serve as the pivot or base for the development. The concept of sustainable development, according to (Barrow, 1997) has no single and precise definition, but a rough and useful definition is development that maintains and, if possible improves the long-term condition of the environment and people's quality of life. Sustainable development demand consideration of existing and future, development demand consideration of existing and future from every proposal and plan geared towards development. Many attempts at developments have been "Faustian bargain", often obtained at the expense of damage to the environment or people's physical and mental welfare. A commonly offered definition (world commission on environmental development, (WCED) 1987) of sustainable development world run: development that seeks to satisfy the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The basic fundamental of sustainable development is to ensure that programmes and projects are designed to ensure that development objectives are sustained beyond the life of

individual programme activities. The concept requires developmental strides to be made with consideration to the relationship between environmental, economic and sociocultural factors that form the national resources for sustainable development initiatives. Unless these factors and their interrelationship are carefully assessed, there is a grave danger that unanticipated environmental economic and social cost may reduce the intended benefits of the proposed development and ultimately force it to be abandoned. The proposed “Tinapa project” will be seen in the light of this concept; the study will focus on how much of the future generations environmental and social status is at risk so that necessary mitigative measures can be taken.

Gravity model

The gravity model, in the works of Volk’s (1950) plainly established that distance has a considerable retardation effect on attendance rate at several tourist and recreational centres. Gravity model is a useful predictor of tourist travel pattern due to economic activities located at a particular location. This model predicts the structured, spatial demand and flow of tourists in a particular tourist destination. The model is based on the following assumptions:-

1. That distance has no effect on movement or that its effect is the same everywhere
2. That everybody in the area has the same capacity to generate a trip and
3. That population is the only measure of the mass on the locative attractiveness of the relevant potential destinations

In Cross River State and indeed Calabar urban is overwhelmed by economic activities, of which the social rational cannot be ruled out as people from different destinations move out to attend to their social and economic needs. The Tinapa resort which is located in Adiabo is likely to have great effect on the depressed zone peripheral Calabar since the resort is a world class trading business arena which will likely have facilities such as Shopping complex, Hospital, recreational park, banks, accommodation etc all integrated within the same location. Movement gravitation is determined by the factor of population vis-à-vis socio-economic activities concentration. Growth model will therefore, explain the short long distance or movement of people to a zone of high concentration of economic activities which is in the case of Tinapa if the proposed facilities are put in place. Although, greatest criticisms of the gravity model as presented above is its assumption of the effect of distance. Nevertheless, it has been classically argued that attraction is inversely related to the square of the distance is an exponential one. It has also been argued, that the interaction between pairs of origins and destination is condition by the quantity of the opportunities intervening between them.

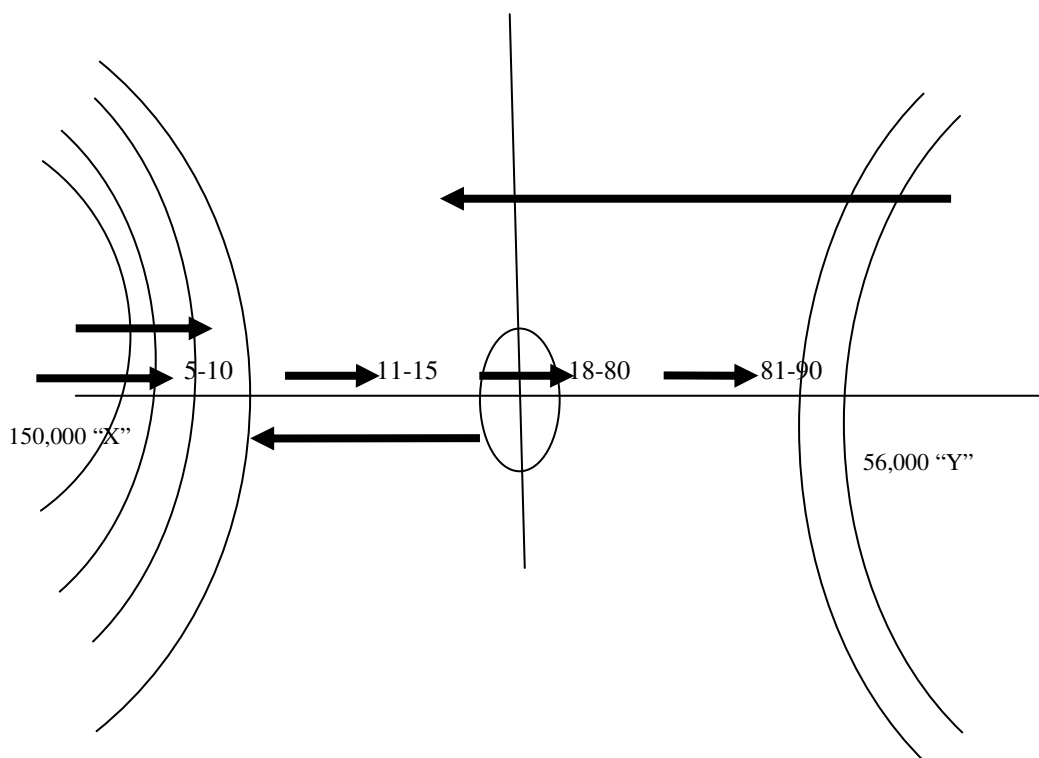


Fig 1: Gravity model
Source: Glasson, J. (1962)

Provision of facilities in the Tinapa Resort will likely create a situation whereby movement toward the zone (X) will increase leaving zone (Y) with a decrease in socio-economic activities. The concentration of these facilities such as shopping, recreational, accommodation, jobs, hospital, banks etc. within the Tinapa area, will increase the population within Adiabo and the immediate environment. With the aforementioned theory vis-à-vis growth pole, the gravity model will further explain how the agglomeration of certain major socioeconomic activities can polarized an existing depress zone, and also to measure the magnitude or intensity of the socioeconomic development of the study area.

Methodology

This research was conducted in Odukpani Local Government Area, Cross River State, taking into consideration three catchment communities such as Adiabo, Esuk-Utan and Ikot Ansa. These communities constituted the major catchment communities within the Tinapa Business Resort. Three hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed in the three communities of which one hundred were distributed to each community using random sampling technique. The questionnaires captured information such as the socio-demographic characteristics of the people, ecological problems, social problems associated with the development of the Tinapa Business Resort. However, the stated hypothesis was analyzed using the analyses of variance (ANOVA) which try to compare the mean variation between three or more variables under investigation.

Findings

Environmental implications

The environmental implications associated with the Tinapa Business Resort presented in table 1 show that all the aforementioned indicators in table 1 were the environmental implications of the resort in the catchment communities. It was discovered in table 1 that biodiversity loss and loss of arable land were the major environmental implications associate the resort with values of 18.66% and 18% followed by loss of humidity grounds with value of 11% while air population and flood were on the least side with a value of 2.33% and 2.66% respectively.

Table 1: Environmental problems associated with Tinapa Business Resort

Environmental indicators	Catchment communities			Total	Percentage
	Adiabo	Esuk-Utan	Ikot Ansa		
Land dereliction	3	2	2	7	2.33
Air Pollution	10	14	9	33	11
Water pollution	11	10	10	31	10.33
Erosion	7	9	9	25	8.33
Flood	3	2	3	8	2.66
Biodiversity loss	18	21	17	56	18.66
Loss of arable land	14	18	22	54	18
Loss of economic trees	9	10	7	26	8.66
Loss limiting ground	21	12	18	51	17
Loss of cultural groves	4	2	3	9	11
Total	100	100	100	300	100

Source: Field survey, 2012.

The tested hypothesis which try to examine whether or not there is a significant variation between environment problems within the catchment communities as a result of the development of Tinapa Business Resort as presented in table 2. However, tested hypothesis shows a calculate value of 0.11 and a table value 3.73 at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that there is no significance variation in term of the environment problem that have generated in catchment communities as a result of the development of Tinapa Business resort.

Table 2: Summary table showing environmental implication of the development of Tinapa Business resort

Source of variance	Sum of square	Cal. Value	Df	Mean sum of square	F
Between sample size	0		2	0	
Within sample mean	117.56	0.11	27	4.35	3.73
Total	117.56		29		

Source: Data analysis, 2012

Socio-environment implications

The tested hypothesis which try to examine where or not a significant variation exist in environmental problems within the catchment communities as a result of the development of Tinapa Business Resort presented in table 3 showing a calculate value of 0.11 and a table value 3.73 at 0.05 level of significance. This result show that there is no significance variation in term of the environment problem that have generated in the catchment communities as a result of the development of Tinapa Business Resort.

Table 3: Socio-environmental problems associated with the Tinapa Business Resort

Environmental indicators	Catchment communities			Total	Percentage
	Adiabo	Esuk-Utan	Ikot Ansa		
Arm robbery	7	9	6	22	7.33
Violence	11	12	13	36	12
Conflict	18	17	21	56	16.66
Prostitution	19	23	19	61	20.33
High cost of transportation	9	8	7	24	8.00
High cost of house rent	21	20	22	63	21
High cost of food	5	3	6	14	4.66
Burglary / stealing	4	4	4	12	4.00
Loss of cultural heritage	3	2	1	6	2.00
Increase in road accident	3	2	1	6	2.00
Total	100	100	100	300	100

Source: Field survey, 2012

However, table 4 which try to evaluate whether or not there was a variation in the socio-environmental implications as a result of the development of Tinapa Business Resort as presented in table 4 indicate a calculated value of 0.21 less than a table value 3.73. This result adhered to the first stated hypothesis which show that no significant variation in socio-environmental problems in the catchment communities as a result of Tinapa Business Resort.

Table 4: Table showing socio-environmental implications of Tinapa Business Resort development.

Source of variance	Sum of square	Cal. Value	Df	Mean sum of square	F
Between sample size	0		2	0	
		0.21			
Within sample mean	132.2		27	4.89	3.73
Total	132.2		29		

Source: Data analysis, 2012

Recommendations

Tinapa Business Resort is one of the biggest resort which has transform Calabar, the state capital of Cross River State into a natural paradise. Today, even though the resort has contribution to the socio-economic livelihood of the catchment communities in the area, the development of the resort is not devoid of socio-environmental problems in the area as evidenced in the data obtained. To this end the following recommendations are hereby put forward to ameliorate the menace associated with the development of the Tinapa Business Resort

- The government should provide a taskforce that would monitor the activities of various individual operating in the resort
- The waste generation in the area must be effectively disposed to avoid pollution
- The government should provide other alternative means of livelihood to the catchment communities so as to avoid conflict in the area
- The government should create employment opportunities so as to guide against crime rate in the area

Conclusion

The development of Tinapa Business Resort in Cross River State has turn the state capital into a natural paradise. However, findings from the data collected in the field show that, although the Tinapa Business Resort has significantly contributed to the enhancement of the livelihood of the catchment communities, the development of the resort in the area is not devoid of socio-environmental problems as evidenced in the data obtained and the tested hypothesis. It is on this note that, all the stakeholders involved in tourism development in the state must provide measures that would reduce the drastic problems associated with the Tinapa Business Resort in the area.

REFERENCES

- Barrow, C. I (1997). Environmental and social impact assessment: An introduction, Great Britain, Arnold.
- Borman, R. (1999). Confan: Story of the forest people and the outsiders' cultural survival quarterly.
- Botkin, D. B. and Keller, E. A. (1995). Environmental sciences earth as a living planet, John Wiley and Sons Inc.
- Burchell, R. W. and Listokin, D. (1975). The environmental impact handbook, New Brunswick, New Jersey Center for Urban Policy Research.
- Chopra, C. (1998). Tourism and development in India. New Delhi Ashish Publishing House.
- Christ, C. (1998). Taking Eco-tourism to the next level Un-commission on sustainable development (CSD) 7th session April, 1999.
- Christine Pluss and Martina Backes (2002). (www.izew.org).
- Eja, E. I. (2011). Assessment of tourism potentials as a catalyst for sustainable rural development in Enugu State. International journal of managements science. Vol, 2, No.3, pp.
- Eja, E. I. (2010). Tourism potentials as a strategy for sustainable livelihood in Calabar: Prospects and constraints. Journal of sustainable development, vol.3, No.2, pp.135-145.
- Francis, E.; Bisong (2000). Environmental impact assessment, University of Calabar.
- Hitchcock, M. (1993). Dragon tourism in Komodo Eastern Indonesia. Tourism in south east Asia. (www.propootourism.org.uk).
- Hitchcock, R. K. (1997). Cultural, economic and environmental impact of tourism among Kalahari business. State University of New York press.
- Jumbo, C. (1983, Aug. 30). Public –private partnership. Daily Time, pp.8, pp.9.
- Kigoth, W. (2000, March). Gaining ground. Business in Africa 8 (1), pp16-17.
- Leonard, J. L. (2004). The future of tourism: An introductory forum. Aba: Spectrum press.
- Mason, P. (1990). Tourism, environment and development. East Bourn Morn Park Press.
- Wale, I. (2002, March 2) partnership. Nigeria Tribune, pp.16.