

# Challenges and Opportunities of Community Based Ecotourism: The Case of Wonchi Crater Lake, South-west Shoa, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia

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## Abstract

Ethiopia is a country which endowed with the vast array of ecotourism resources. But, these resources are not yet well exploited by tourists and a variety of stakeholders. This thesis was conducted on Wonchi Crater Lake with the aim of identifying the main prospects, challenges and opportunities of this ecotourism. Three Kebeles surrounding Wonchi Crater Lake were purposively selected. Both the qualitative and quantitative methods were applied in collecting and analysing the data. From three kebeles, 152 sample household were selected using a simple random sampling method. In addition to survey questionnaire data collection method, KII, FGD and review of secondary sources were made. The data collected were analysed through descriptive statistics quantitatively and by narration and interpreting the meaning of words qualitatively. Descriptive result revealed that out of the total respondents, 82.2% respondents were agree to low government attention and 88.2%, 94.1%, 89.5%, 88.2% and 92.1% agree with lack of trained human power and budget, Lack of infrastructure, absence of training and awareness creation, conflict of interest over resource and low community engagement as the challenges of Wonchi Crater lake respectively. Furthermore, according to the result from descriptive analysis, out of the total respondents 28.3%, 22.4%, 21.1%, 14.5% and 13.8% respondents were report the attractive and beautiful landscape nature of the area, presence of hot spring around the lake, attractive culture of the community, presence of government responsible bodies and good ecotourism policy as opportunities for Wonchi ecotourism development respectively. Finally, the researcher recommended that, the government organizations would provide trainings, create awareness and engage local community in management of ecotourism to develop sense of ownership and develop the Wonchi Crater Lake.

**Keywords:** Challenges; community based; ecotourism, opportunities; Wonchi Crater Lake

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## INTRODUCTION

Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. It makes an enormous contribution to local economies, job creation and sustainable development, and can play a leading role in the transformation to the green economy. It is the largest and fastest growing industry, which has the best possibility for generating many new jobs worldwide. It could be act as business in rural areas since it does not require year's long vocational trainings (Rannersmann, 2003). Although tourism contributes to the economic development, in latter periods it resulted in very negative environmental impacts due to the large number of visitors (mass tourism) damaging destination areas of tourists. Because of this, since in the 1990s, the tourist concern for environmental issues increased and ecotourism became known and tourism is recognized as an economic sector that needs to develop sustainable (Holden,2003; Timmothy, 2002)

According to World Tourism Organization UNWTO (2010), sustainable tourism leads to the management of resources in such a way that economic, social, environmental and aesthetic needs can be full-field. In developing countries tourism or ecotourism has become one of the economic sectors that generates substantial income and maintains conservations of protected areas. For example, in Kenya in Amboseli National Park the income obtained from ecotourism is 18-20 times more than the income obtained from agricultural activities (Theodros, 2002)

In Ethiopia, the total contribution of Travel & Tourism to GDP was ETB 121,435 (USD 5,074), 6.8% of GDP in 2017, and is forecast to rise by 6.3% in 2018, and to rise by 5.2% to ETB 213,357, (USD 8,915), 6.1% of GDP in 2028. In 2017 Travel & Tourism directly supported 604,000 jobs (2.4% of total employment). This is expected to rise by 1.9% in 2018 and rise by 1.9% to 742,000 jobs (2.1% of total employment) in 2028. In 2017, the total contribution of Travel & Tourism to employment, including jobs indirectly supported by the industry was 6.1% of total employment (1,538,000 jobs). This is expected to rise by 1.7% in 2018 to 1,565,000 jobs and rise (Eshetie,2012) by 2.1% to 1,934,000 jobs in 2028 (5.4% of total). International inbound tourist arrivals show a growth rate from 138,856 in 1997 to 871,000 in 2017 in Ethiopia (MoCT, 2017).

Ecotourism is a new concept in tourism, which was originally sparked off by the idea of making harmonious co-existence with nature a reality once again. As defined by the Ecotourism Society, it is the responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and sustains the wellbeing of local people. Today, ecotourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry. Its potential for growth is virtually unlimited. Any tourism program which is nature – based, ecologically sustainable, where education and interpretation is a major concept and where local people are benefited can be called ecotourism (Eshetie,2012).

In order to maximize ecotourism in Ethiopia, the government of Ethiopia introduced *Gebeta lehager* project. The aim of *Gebeta Lehager* project is for sustainable economic growth of the country. Wonchi Crater Lake was listed as one of the natural lakes in Ethiopia and it is one of the ecotourism included in *Gebeta lehager* project. The Lake continued to serve as a natural recreation area in the Western Shoa Zone until the 1960s. The lake is located on a mountain range not far from the town of Ambo, at an altitude of about 3000 meters above sea level. According to All Africa new, it have green mountainous landscape, blue waters, lush valleys, natural hot springs, pleasant weather and other marvelous attributes (Goodwin and Santilli,2009)

The increase in human population and preferences for leisure activities often leads to an increase in demand for recreational use of public lands in many parts of the world. Ecotourism, travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the wellbeing of local people (Garraway, 2008), is a fast growing industry. It encompasses variety of activities that encourage and support a wide range of objectives in economic and social development and conservation. It also became alternative means of income generations and off-farm activities to minimize degradations pressure on endangered environments in rural areas (Drumm *et al.*, 2004).

Ethiopia is a country which endowed with the vast array of ecotourism resources including cultural, historical, and archaeological and natural resources with a great potential to attract visitors, ranging from both domestic and foreigners, and also from day trippers to overnight visitors (Asfaw,2004; Tesfaye,2017). However, the abundant resources are not yet fully utilized and the tourism industry is still at its infancy. According to World Bank (2006), community participation throughout the sector in Ethiopia is weak and shallow offering little opportunity for benefits from tourism to disperse to the local community. According to Ashley and Garland (2006), aside from the employment generated in formal sectors (hotels, transport, tour operators) there are few opportunities for poorer Ethiopians to be involved in tourism in terms of decision making and benefit sharing.

Oromia regional state is amongst the richest region when it comes to natural and man-made resources that have good potential of Community based ecotourism. Amongst the Community-based ecotourism sites in the region the Bale Mountain, the Sof-umar cave, and Wonchi Crater Lake are the most famous one (Israel and Menbere,2017). But, these resources are not yet well exploited by tourists and a variety of stakeholders. This may be because too little is known about the latent resources and no published research paper done on. It is in response to this fact, that the researcher conducted research on Wonchi Crater Lake which is considered to be one of the strategic Community-based ecotourism in the region and a country in general. And thus, it requires an extensive in-depth research undertaking. Some researchers have addressed issues related to community based ecotourism development in different parts of Ethiopia. They addressed the issues related to problems, opportunities and practices, relating to Community based ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development (Beza and Berhan, 2017; Israel and Menbere, 2017). However, studies related to the prospects, challenges, and opportunities of community based ecotourism especially in water bodies like Wonchi Crater Lake is remains untouched. Hence, this study is intended to assess the prospects, challenges and opportunities of community based ecotourism of Wonchi Crater Lake in Oromia regional state, Ethiopia.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the study were:-

- To identify the challenges of Wonchi Crater Lake Community based ecotourism
- To explore the development opportunities of Wonchi Crater Lake Community based ecotourism

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study aimed at examining prospects, challenges and opportunities of Wonchi Crater Lake community based ecotourism. This study has the significances by identify the difficulties, prospects and opportunities of the Wonchi Crater Lake in South Western Shoa Zone. The governmental bureaus like Ethiopian ministry of Tourism and Culture can use it as a source to take action against the challenges community based ecotourism development. Furthermore, since this study will try to render evidence based challenges of community based ecotourism development it serving the community and it will play a significant role for socio-economic development of the research participants.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study conducted at Wonchi Crater Lake. Wonchi Crater Lake was listed as one of the natural lakes in Ethiopia. It is one of an impressive, wide and very steep lake in Ethiopia with its dramatic valley located in the

central high land of Ethiopia, 155 kilometers south-west of the capital, Addis Ababa. It is found between Ambo town and Weliso town and located at Haro Wenchi village of Wenchi District. The Lake is 29 Kms and 38 Kms away from the district town Chitu and the town of the zone Woliso respectively. The altitude of the area ranges between 2900 and 3384 meters above sea level. The average annual rainfall in the area is 1420 millimeters (CSA, 2011). The lake and its surroundings are endowed with indigenous plant species including Hyginia abyssinica, Juniperus procera, Olea Africana, Schefflera Abyssinica and Erica Arborea. The average land holding size for a single household is 0.5 hectares and the major crops grown in the area are “enset” or false banana, barely, wheat, and potato. As the farming land is hilly, it is difficult to use oxen plough and the common practice is hand plough. An extinct volcano, the top of which is 3380 meters above sea level, is a crater that contains a large lake, hot mineral springs, waterfalls, beautiful valleys and farmland.

### Sample Technique and Sample Size

This study employed purposive and simple random sampling techniques so as to address the stakeholders in the study area. Purpose sampling method was applied in which Wonchi Crater Lake was selected purposively from community based ecotourism in the region because there is no sufficient research done on this ecotourism. Next, two stage simple random sampling method was employed. At first stage, the rural villages surrounding the Wonchi Crater Lake from Wonchi district at which Marfo, Haro Mika’el and Yabbata were selected purposively depend on its proximity to Wonchi Crater Lake. At second stage 152 households were selected depend on PPS from three sample kebeles. From the total number of the study population (6320) of the Wonchi district the three kebeles Marfo, Haro Mika’el and Yabbata have 450, 500 and 420 households respectively (Kidane, 1987). To determine the sample size Yamane’s formula is employed.

Accordingly, the sample size for this study is computed as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n; represent the desired sample size, N; represent the target population and e; represent the maximum acceptable margin of error which was set at 8% for this study When the sample size calculated by using Yamane formula,

$$n = \frac{6320}{1 + 6320(0.0064)} = 152$$

By using the above formula, the sample size becomes 152 households. The distributions of sample size across the Community based ecotourism sites were proportionally selected based on their size of households. Accordingly the PPS samples of respondents were indicated as follow

Table 1: Sample size

Kebeles	Total Households	Sample size
Marfo	450	50
Haro Mika’el	500	55
Yabbata	420	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>152</b>

Source: computed according to PPS (2022)

### Sources and Types of data

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used for this study. Primary data (both qualitative and quantitative) collected directly from the respondents those selected from each kebeles. Secondary data were taken through review various documents both published and unpublished materials relevant to the study

Both quantitative and qualitative types of data were collected for the study. Quantitative data collected by administering pre-tested semi-structured questions through Survey questionnaires. Qualitative method was employed to capture data pertaining to local perception and opinions on Community based tourism prospects, challenges and opportunities from FGD and KII by face to face contact. This was taken by employed one focused group discussion (FGD) contains ten number of members in each of the selected kebeles and through key informant interview

### Data Collection Methods

#### Survey questionnaire

The primary data were generated through household survey questionnaire among the randomly selected 152 sample respondents. Questionnaire consists of both open and closed ended questions were used to obtain information from the selected sample of 152 households from three kebeles of the study area, Marfo, Haro mika’el and Yabbata. The data were collected by trained data collectors with close supervision of researcher

### **Focus Group discussion (FGD)**

This kind of data collection method is stimulating to the respondent in that it makes the participants reflect on what is being said by the other participants and give a well-reasoned response rather than being one-sided as in interviews (Marshall and Rossman, 2006). Thus, this method employed in this research to provide the context of further exploring key issues identified in the individual interviews. The major target of FGD in this research was local elders, women and adults in order to get detail information from different group of community about major factors challenging ecotourism development in the study area. In each village the researcher conducted focus group discussions with selected HHs. The participants in the focus group discussions comprised of 8-10 household members in each kebele. One FGD per each study kebeles were undertake depend on data saturation and the households not participate in survey were selected from younger and older age groups and both female and male headed households. The focus group discussions were handled using a checklist prepared by the researcher. The checklist prepared to guide the discussion on right track

### **Key Informant interview**

Thus, intensive interview were conducted with key informants that comprise one experts from Wonch district Culture and tourism development office, one administrative person of the district, One person from Abba Gada (Elders of the surrounding community), one tour guide member at each kebele, one community development organization leaders and one committee member of women organization of each sampled kebeles were included as a key informant interviewees. The qualitative data generated from key informant's interview were help to enrich the quantitative data collected through Interview schedule and supported by checklist.

### **Data Analysis Method**

The collected data was analysed using mixed methods (qualitatively and quantitatively). The first line of analysis was the quantitative data. The data analysed using descriptive statistics like percentages, frequency distribution and others. To analyse the qualitative data, organization of the details about the case study area, transcribing recorded data, coding and categorization of the data, discussions, comparisons and contrasts was also made for the qualitative data collected through questionnaire, Key informant interviews and Focus group discussion.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Socio-demographic Characteristics of Sample Households**

The overall sample population is 152 from which 115 of them were male head households and the rest 37 were female head households. The numbers of male household head were 74%, 70.9%, and 82.9% while the counter female headed household heads were 26%, 29.1% and 17.1% at marfo, haro mika'el and yabbata kebeles respectively. As indicated in Table 2 below, the marital status of the households indicates that the large majority heads of households (82.2%) are married. In contrast, the percentage of sample households who divorced was low which only 5.3% is. From the survey result, it was also possible to learn about 5.9% of the sample households have been loose either father or mother while the rest 6.6% of sample households were unmarried.

When look at the marital status of sample households per kebeles there is no as much variations. For instances, the married households were 78%, 85.4% and 82.9% at marfo, haro mika'el and yabbata kebeles respectively. While the single households were represent 8%, 5.4% and 6.4% at marfo, haromika'el and yabbata kebeles respectively. Similarly the marfo, haromika'el and yabbata kebeles were represented by 6%, 3.7%, and 6.4 divorced and 8%, 5.4, 4.3 widowed household head respectively.

Table 2: Descriptive result of categorical variables

Categories	Name of selected sample kebeles						Total	
	Marfo		Haromika'el		Yabbata			
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
<b>Sex composition of household head</b>								
Male	37	74	39	70.9	39	82.9	115	76
Female	13	26	16	29.1	8	17.1	37	24
<b>Marital status</b>								
Married	39	78	47	85.4	39	82.9	125	82.2
Single	4	8	3	5.4	3	6.4	10	6.6
Divorced	3	6	2	3.7	3	6.4	8	5.3
Widowed	4	8	3	5.4	2	4.3	9	5.9
<b>Education status of household head</b>								
Can't read & write	18	36	24	43.6	23	48.9	62	42.8
Read& write only	9	18	19	34.5	14	29.8	42	27.6
Elementary(1-8)	17	34	6	10.9	6	12.8	29	19.1
Secondary (9-12)	4	8	3	5.4	3	6.4	10	6.6
College & above	2	4	3	5.4	1	2.1	6	3.9

Source: computed from survey data (2022)

As the descriptive result show in table 3 below, the average family size of the sample households was 4.72 with over all range of 1-10 persons. The minimum family size was 1 while the maxim is 10 for the all respondents. The standard deviation of family size was 1.94. Specific to kebele the average family holding size of marfo, haro mika'el and yabbata kebeles were 4.72, 5.13 and 5.13 respectively.

The results as indicated in table 4 above shows that the mean age of the respondent smallholder household heads was 43.62 years with 19 and 80 years of the minimum and the maximum age respectively with standard deviation of 12.85. Specific to kebele the average age of household head of marfo, haro mika'el and yabbata kebeles were 44.52, 46.96 and 38.74 with 11.92, 13.00 and 12.37 standard deviation respectively.

Table 3: descriptive result of continuous variables

	Sample kebeles			
	Marfo	Haro mika'el	Yabbata	Total
	Family size composition			
N	50	55	47	152
Mean	4.72	5.13	5.13	4.99
Std. deviation	1.73	2.11	1.96	1.94
Age of household head				
Mean	44.52	46.96	38.74	43.62
Std. deviation	11.95	13.00	12.37	12.85

Source: Computed from survey data (2022)

### Challenges of Wonchi Crater lake community based ecotourism

Wonchi Crater Lake is one of the potential ecotourism destinations in the country. However despite its potential the Wonchi Crater lake CBET did not get attention before the current government establish Gebeta le hager project to make three community based ecotourism more attractive and contribute to the country economic development. In fact, a particular destination whether it is fragile or potential, has its own challenges and opportunities for tourism development (Kauffmann, 2008). Likewise, the Wonchi Crater Lake has its own challenges and prospects in the development as one of community-based ecotourism. In relation to this, the respondents' response on the pre-identified challenges of the ecotourism were analysed and put as below.

### Inadequate Government attention and other stakeholders' participation

As indicated in (Table 4) below out of the total respondent households 125 (82.2%) agree with low attention of government and other stakeholders' participation as the Wonchi Crater lake community based ecotourism development challenges. Only 27(18.8%) respondents were disagreeing to low attention the government bodies and other stakeholders' participation. This implies that the low government attention given for the ecotourism in the past two decades affect the development of Wonchi Crater Lake in specific and ecotourism in the country in general. Ambelu (2011), stated lack of cooperation and formal relationship between the Community Tourism Enterprises and other stakeholders as a bottleneck in the study area which possibly emanated from lack of capacity and legal registration amongst Community Tourism Enterprises and support from government offices. Bires (2014), also found that Lack of good government attention and other stakeholders' participation is the

major challenge of community based ecotourism in case of Lake Zengena. The FGD participants and some members of KII explain that the low level (district and kebele level) governments bodies are not give more attention to the conservation and protection of the ecotourism. Furthermore, the FGD data show that no Non-government organization support the surround people. Informed participation of all relevant stakeholders, as well as strong political leadership is essential for sustainable tourism development so as to have wide participation and consensus among the population.

**Lack of trained human power and budget**

According to response from respondent households indicated in table 6 above, out of the total respondents 134 (88.2%) of respondents perceived the lack of skilled human power and low budget allocation as one of the challenges for Wonchi crater lake CBET development. Only 18 (11.8%) of respondents were not agree with the lack of skilled human power. The reason behind major respondents’ agreement with the skilled human power as Wonchi Crater Lake ecotourism challenge is that at the area most of the communities have no clear awareness on the importance of wonchi community based Crater Lake ecotourism and this indicate the lack of skilled personnel that give awareness creation and training on CBET role at the area.

Most of the findings from the reviewed empirical studies also suggested that the ecotourism destinations have been challenged due to shortage of ecotourism professionals. For instance, according to Alemayehu (2011) pointed out there is no ecotourism expert or consultant who is in charge of ecotourism or community based ecotourism activities in Awash National park. The FGD participants also forward that the shortage of skilled personnel being a challenge to even translate the tourists speaks foreign language (English) for the community at ecotourism area. Many people are working in tourism sector without having sufficient tourism knowledge. Due to lack of knowledge and professionalism community based ecotourism is not growing fast and community members are not involving and managing the local tourism resources like nature, history, culture, tradition and so on. On the other according to the finding of Gemechu *et al.* (2014), the inability of members of ecotourism committee to speak in English with tourists is one of the challenges of Wonchi crater lake CBET.

Table 4: Challenges of Wonchi lake community based ecotourism

Do you agree or not with the following statement regarding to the Challenges of Wonchi Crater Lake community based ecotourism?	Agree		Disagree	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Lack of government attention and other stakeholders’ participation	125	82.2	27	17.8
Lack of skilled human power and budget	134	88.2	18	11.8
Lack of infrastructure for ecotourism development	143	94.1	9	5.9
Lack of appropriate ecotourism development policy and land degradation	130	85.5	22	14.5
Absence of training and awareness creation for local community	136	89.5	16	10.5
Conflict of interest over resource usage and Ownership Problems	134	88.2	18	11.8
Lack of local community attention for ecotourism development	128	84.2	24	15.8
Corruption	129	84.9	23	15.1
Low community engagement in managing ecotourism	140	92.1	12	7.9

Source: Computed from survey data (2022)

**Absence of training and awareness creation for local community**

The descriptive result analysis show that as indicated in table 6 above majority of the respondents agree with lack of infrastructure being one of the challenges of Wonchi crater lake ecotourism development. Out of the total respondents 143 (94.1%) respondents were agree with the lack of infrastructure as the challenges Wonchi crater lake ecotourism development at the area. The challenge is emanated from the lack of road infrastructure, electricity, internet, hotel and lodge facilities at the area. There are no basic tourist facilities that can maximize the length of stay of tourists. Furthermore, the FGD participants explain the infrastructure as the main challenge of wonchi crater ecotourism development. Some part of the road problem is solved as the asphalt from Ambo to Wonchi-Waliso finished at recent. However the other facilities shortages were encompasses such as bedroom and hotels, electricity, internet for tourist attraction is still continuous as the challenge for CBET. This means the movement of tourist needs the good hotels, roads, internet, and electric facilities. This finding agree with Ketema (2015) finding which point out the absence of well-designed trekking pass, parking facilities, camping sites and land use planning along the lake as the development challenge of CBET at Wonchi Crater Lake. Besides, Ketema mentioned lack of transportations and comfortable roads, Eco lodges and other catering facilities around the lake

### **Conflict of interest over resource usage and ownership problems**

One of the major challenges to community participation in ecotourism development in Ethiopia is due to the fact that the anticipated benefits by community members have not been achieved to a large extent. The descriptive result show as indicated in table above 134(88.2%) of the respondents were agree with conflict of interest over the resources usage as one of the challenges of wonchi crater lake community based ecotourism out of the total respondents. This finding is in line with Ketema (2015) that identified unfair benefit sharing, inability of ecotourism to substitute traditional agriculture, illegal land marketing, plantation of eucalyptus tree on the Shore of Wonchi Lake, Institutional constraints as the challenges for community based Ecotourism development in Lake Wonchi crater and its surrounding.

The inappropriate use of farmers near the ecotourism most of the time raise the conflict between government administrative bodies and farmers. According to FGD members' explanation the near ecotourism household refuse to rent the land for business and complex issue of land use ownership is raised here. Additionally, unequal share of benefit also create conflict among women and men farmers. At Wonchi Crater Lake Community based ecotourism the FGD participants confirmed that women are not empowered due to a gender task division for it is believed that women are physically incapable. KII interviewee members point out that the expansion of farm land together with population density challenges the ecotourism destination. The also forward that women and men are not equally benefited from the ecotourism which most of the time raise the conflict.

### **Low community engagement in managing ecotourism**

The low awareness of local community on the importance of the ecotourism leads to low engagement in the management of the ecotourism. According to the result descriptive statistics out of the total respondents 140(92.1%) agree as the low community engagement of the community is one the challenges of Wonchi Crater Lake community based ecotourism. This finding is confirmed with the finding of Cole (2006) that pointed lack of ownership, skills and knowledge as challenges to Community based ecotourism. Although the project had been handed over to the community to manage, they did not see themselves as owners of the project. The FGD participants also explain that most of the time the Wonchi crater lake community management is top-down and from government to committee and the surround committee is even not know what is happened and this action upgrade low sense of ownership of the ecotourism in the local community. They forward as the issue of low community engagement open the door for corruption and not participate the local community is corruption itself. Out of the total respondents 129(84.9%) were agree as the challenge of the Wonchi crater lake ecotourism is corruption. According to participants of FGD and KII the unequal way of benefited from resources leads to corruption which on the other way create low local community participation in ecotourism conversation.

### **Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development Opportunities**

#### **The attractive and beautiful landscape nature of the area:**

Depend on descriptive analysis as indicated in the bi chart below (fig.1) out of the respondents households 43(28.3%) of them were call the attractive and beautiful landscape of the area as opportunities for Wonchi Crater Lake community based ecotourism development. The finding of Israel and Timar (2017) confirm with this finding which point out that diversity of ecotourism attraction is the major opportunity, and is the foundation for the development of ecotourism in the areas as community based ecotourism primarily depends on the natural attraction resources. The FGD also mentioned the presence of mountains surrounded the lake, different species of flora and fauna considered as the opportunities of Wonchi crater community based ecotourism development. Furthermore, the KII members explain the natural resources of the area like forests, fauna, flora, water, soil, and minerals and additionally indigenous tree species in and around Wonchi Lake is a good opportunity for the development of this ecotourism. The finding of Meseret (2010) also in line with this result which pointed out that the combination of historical, cultural and natural ecotourism attractions has an indispensable role for its future growth in Ethiopia. The country has stunning landscapes and biodiversity, diverse culture and tradition, and ancient historical places aging as old as 3000 years.

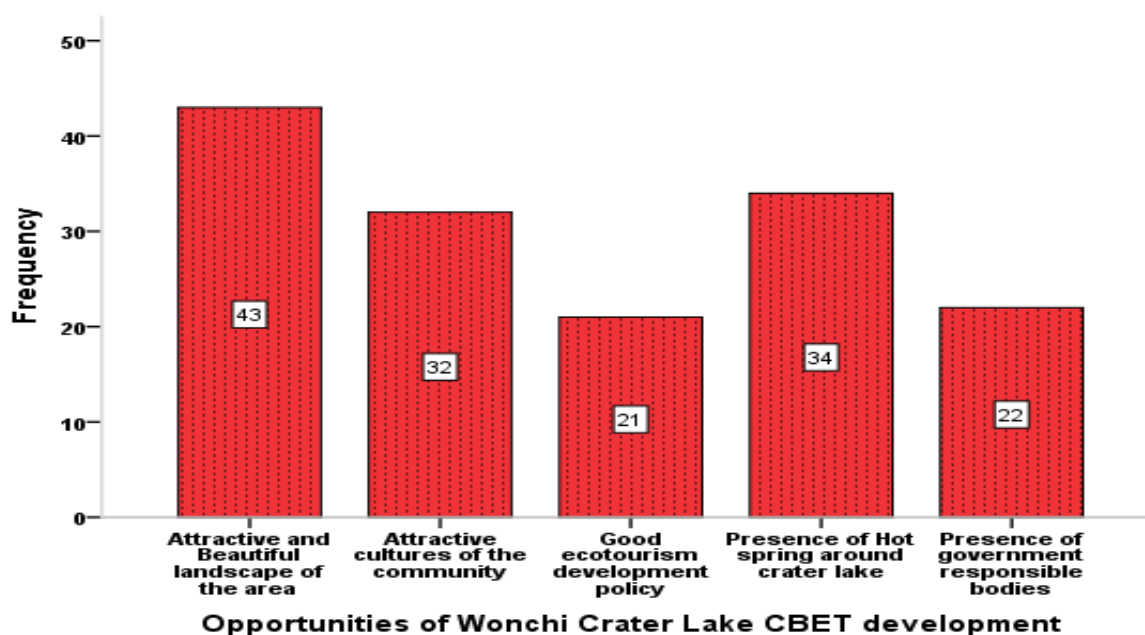


Figure 1: Wonchi Crater Lake development opportunities

#### **Presence of hot spring around the lake**

According to the result from descriptive statistics out of the total respondent households 34 (22.4%) of them were response the presence of hot spring around Wonchi Crater Lake as the opportunity for Wonchi crater lake community based ecotourism. This implies that the hot spring around the Wonchi Crater Lake ecotourism is give more beauty for the ecotourism and it is an opportunity.

#### **Attractive culture of the community**

Similarly, out of the total respondent households 32(21.1%) were report the attractive culture of the community as the opportunity for Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development as indicated by the Fig 1. above. According to Asfaw (2014) the rich natural and cultural attractions are valuable ingredients for community based ecotourism development in Ethiopia. Israel and Timar (2017) also found that presence of local institution such as the Gada system and existence of conservation organizations are also important in that they contribute for the sustainable management of the resources The FGD participants forward that historical monastery built in the 15th century (Kirkos Monastery), and cultural landscape give the colorful beauty and an opportunity for Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development.

#### **Presence of government responsible bodies**

As indicated by Fig 1. above out of the total respondents 22 (14.5%) of them respond the presence of responsible government sector as the opportunity for Wonchi Crater lake ecotourism development. This implies that the existence of tourism development offices at different level (at regional, zonal and district levels) and take the responsibilities of working for the development of the ecotourism is an opportunity for Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development. In line with this result, G Shale (2014) identified the presence of Culture and Tourism Offices, Environmental protection offices, tourism promotion clubs and organizations, a strong desire to plant indigenous trees, and the political will to develop ecotourism, as opportunities to develop Community Based Ecotourism Tourism in and around Addis Ababa

#### **Good ecotourism development policy**

The respondents also receive the good ecotourism policy of the country as the opportunity for Wonchi Crater Lake community based ecotourism development. Out of the total respondents 21(13.8%) of them were forward the good ecotourism policy for Wonchi CBET. It was also found that there are various policies in the country which support and creates favorable condition for ecotourism development. For instance, Eshetie (2012) stated that Ecotourism development is priority in Ethiopian tourism development strategy and also Ethiopia's Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) has laid foundations by establishing relevant strategies and policies to address issues on wise use of natural resources and an integrated approach for



achieving rapid and sustainable growth to end poverty.

## CONCLUSIONS

The finding of the study shows the challenges face Wonchi Crater Lake CBET. Out of the total respondents 125 (82.2%) of the households agree the low government attention and other stakeholders participation as one of the challenges of Wonchi Crater Lake CBET. Additionally, out of the total respondents, 134(88.2%), 143(94.1%), 136(89.5%), 134(88.2%) and 140(92.1%) respondents were agree to lack of trained human power and budget, Lack of infrastructure, absence of training and awareness creation, conflict of interest over resource use and low community engagement in management as the challenges of Wonchi Crater Lake CBET respectively. Furthermore, the opportunities of the Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development are identified by respondent households. Accordingly out of the total respondents 43(28.3%), 34(22.4%), 32(21.1%), 22(14.5%) and 21(13.8%) respondents were report the attractive and beautiful landscape nature of the area, presence of hot spring around the lake, attractive culture of the community, presence of government responsible bodies and good ecotourism development policy as opportunities for Wonchi Crater Lake CBET development.

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