

SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT OF TOURISM IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

*Badmus, O¹; Gbise, D.S²; Yacim, S.E¹. and Dogonyaro, B.B³.

1. Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology,

National Veterinary Research Institute, (N.V.R.I.) Vom.

2. Parasitology Department, N.V.R.I. Vom.

3. Viral Vaccines Production Department, N.V.R.I. Vom.

Email: janre2ola@yahoo.com

*Corresponding author.

ABSTRACT.

Socio-cultural impact of tourism has become a veritable tool for fisheries development in Nigeria. Little wonders that Nigeria who has a great potential in tourism and rich cultural heritage and notable festivals attracts tourist not only in Nigeria but other parts of the World are not fully explored. Among many other popular festivals is the Niger Delta holds the Ikwere, Kalabari and Obirika festivals, to celebrate the water head dress that imitate the heads of fish or water birds. Many communities, including those in north, have a version of the harvest festival. Also in the north, the Argungu fishing festival occasion takes place in Argungu, in Birnin Kebbi State, during February and dates back to the 16th century. During the festival, hundreds of local men and boys enter the water armed with large fish net scoops, and the competition is to catch the biggest fish. With a population of almost 140 million people comprising of over 250 ethnic groups, Nigeria is a blend of exciting socio-cultural diversity that has produced a land of unparallel opportunities for fisheries development.

Key words: Cultural heritage, Tourism, and Festival.

INTRODUCTION

Fishing can be dated back to the mesolithic period which began about 10,000 years ago. We know that from archeological features, discarded fish bones and caves painting that foods were important for survival and consumed in significant quantities. Fishing may even pre-date the development of modern humans, although there is no way to know for sure. The ancient river Nile was full of fish. Many early fishing methods were clearly illustrated in tomb scenes and drawings found within Egyptian tombs. By the 12th dynasty, metal hooks with bards were being used. Nile perch, eels, and catfish were among the most important fish in the region. There are even some representations that hint towards fishing being pursued as a pastime.

Nigeria is highly rich in cultural festivals with a major event in fishing events. Nigeria is blessed with an abundance of both marine and inland water resources with many different species of fish. Fish and fishing contribute immensely to the national economy by providing nutritious, food, employment and poverty alleviation. It is a renewable resources, which must be harnessed sustainably.

The Nigerian fishing industry is practiced in two environment: fresh and salt waters and can be divided into two (2) broad categories namely:- capture fisheries and culture fisheries, capture fisheries involves hunting for fish from the natural water bodies such as rivers, lakes, lagoons, estuaries, creeks, seas and oceans. Culture fishery is the act of fish husbandry, whereby fish are kept and fed in confinement and managed to achieve quick growth and accelerated reproduction.

FISHERIES RESOURCES POTENTIALS.

Nigerian is located in West Africa bordering the Gulf of Guinea between Benin and Cameroon. As a costal State, it has a costal land of 853km and in 1978, Nigerian declared a 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ). The provision of UNCLOS III under which the EEZ was declared conferred on the costal State, exclusive rights over the fish and all other natural resources of the zone. Accordingly, Nigerian as an EEZ covering an area of 210, 900km² over which sovereign right for the purpose of exploiting, conserving and managing its fisheries resources. The fisheries within the territorial waters and the EEZ can be broadly classified into the costal artisanal, Coastal Inshore and Offshore resources, all of which have tremendous

potentials economic for prosperity for Nigeria, If well harnessed. However, Nigeria is blessed with a rich diversity of finfish and shellfish resources. In addition to the brackish water resources, Nigeria has massive fresh water systems, including lakes, rivers, reservoirs and flood plains which support extensive artisanal fisheries. The river Niger which rises in Sierra Leone and has a total length of 4,184 kilometers, flow through West Africa, enters Nigeria in the Northwest and runs Southwards to join the river Benue at Lokoja, before traveling the remaining 547 kilometers to the sea. These two major rivers and the many smaller rivers support large fresh water artisanal fisheries in the country. A study by the National Special Programmes for Food Security, (NSPFS) (2004) identified about 2,658 fish farms and 973 Dams and Reservoirs in Nigeria. Ita, (1995) has identified about 365 lakes and reservoirs and 687 ponds and floodplains totalling over 13 million hectares of water bodies.

Despite the potential, current annual demand for fish is 1.5 million tones, where as total Production stands at about 0.4 million tones. In 2000, the fish import bill exceeded N30 billion naira i.e US\$241.1m. (Dada 2004). This relatively low production and the impact on the economic of high imports, is of concern and a challenge to all in the fisheries sectors.

FISHERIES IN NIGERIAN ECONOMY.

The contribution of fisheries in the Nigerian economy is significant when viewed from the supply of animal protein and macronutrients requirements, income and employment generation, food security, rural development and foreign exchange earned potentials.

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA.

Endowed with a very rich cultural heritage that spans through 250 ethnic groups, a variety of vegetation belts complimented by a tropical climate which accounts for the country's bio-diversity in terms of flora, fauna and the ecosystems, and a sandy coastline lined with several beaches, Nigeria is the perfect haven for tourists. These factors combined make the Nigeria tourism sector an economically viable industry. Fishing festival, warm springs, water falls and cultural heritage e.t.c form parts and parcel of the tourism industry throughout the country.

BACKGROUND TO TOURISM IN NIGERIA.

Following independence, Nigeria gained international recognition both as a sovereign State and as a country with its doors open to foreign investors and pleasure seeking resorts. Over the years, a reasonable inflow of both investors has been recorded with tourism actually making its contributions to the country's GDP.

The climax for Nigeria tourism industry came in 1977 when the country hosted the second festivals for Arts and culture (FESTAC'77), tourism was at its most prosperous phase in this period. Other international and inter-continental events that hosted in the country that invariably meant a boast for tourism include 1984, African cup of the Nations, the 1992 and 1997 world youth championship.

Cultural Tourism in Nigeria.

Nigeria is a nation of diverse people and culture. And is known for her cultural assets which is among the most intriguing and colourful, the world over. Each of the over 300 ethnic groups in the country has its own unique cultural assets which is usually expressed in forms of cultural festivals and fishing festivals.

Culture is a main "pull factor" which influences visitor's initial decision to travel to destinations in different part of the world.

Richards (2001) observed that at global level, cultural attractions are usually perceived as being icons of important streams of global culture. Nigeria have limited tourism development but by comparison have considerable potential for future development. Cultural tourism will assist in removing existing stereotypes and misrepresentations of indigenous Nigerian cultures. Cultural tourism in fishing industry in Nigeria will contribute to the promotion of international harmony and cross cultural understanding. Cultural tourism has to be explained with context of culture. It can be viewed into two inter related perspectives.

The psychological perspectives what people think (i.e attitudes, beliefs, ideas and values) and what people do (ways of life, at work, artifacts and cultural products).

From the psychological perspective, culture is seen as the organized systems of knowledge and beliefs of people structure their experiences and perceptions, formulate acts and make choices between different alternatives (Kessing and Kessing, 1971). As Reid puts it, culture is a product of human psychology which has manifestation in the physical world, technology which influences living, including beautification of technological objects or art.

Cultural Practices in Nigeria.

Nigerian cultural heritage is woven from threads of history and diversity, legend and conquest. Culture is a way of life in a given society. In Nigeria, culture is manifested in art, dance, fishing activities, language, literature, folklore, mores, music, governance, and even the environment etc.

According to archeological findings, Nigeria artifacts depicting the early life of the people date back to 2000 years. Nigeria offers a remarkable range of physical beauty in her land and hospitality of her people, ready to be enjoyed by the tourist, fortunate enough to choose the land of ancient empire as their travel destination. Nigeria is a vast country of about 140 million people covering about 923,768 sq. km of landmass, located wholly within the tropics. The richness and diversity of her people culture is a manifestation of the socio-cultural differences of the over 250 ethnic groups that inhabit the land for ages.

History of Fishing in Nigeria.

The agricultural history of Nigeria is intertwined with its political history. This is discussed broadly in that context of the varying longitudinal frameworks, thus, colonial, the internal self government and the post 1960 periods.

The history of fisheries development in Nigeria is a comparatively recent one, although reports have shown that a fishing company operated from the coastal waters of Lagos long before 1915. Deliberate efforts at developing the countries can be said to date back to the second world war when, because of the naval blockage of the high seas. The then colonial Administration decided to develop the countries local resources, including fisheries.

A fisheries organization was established in 1941 as a fisheries. Development Branch of the Agricultural Department of the colonial office and a senior Agricultural officer was appointed to conduct a survey of industries and its responsibility office. The headquarters was cited at Apese village at Onikan in Lagos, preliminary experiment in fish culture in brackish water ponds at Onikan were carried out and surveys were conducted on the canoe fisheries of Apese village and Kuramo waters around Victoria Island, Lagos. A small fisheries school was also established at Onikan.

Early in 1945, the fisheries development branch was temporarily transferred from the Agricultural Development to the Department Branch of the Secretariat. A fisheries development officer was appointed and a five year plan for fisheries development was formulated and incorporated in the Ten year plan of development and welfare in Nigeria, laid on the table of the legislative council on 13th December, 1945. From this date to 1947, the branch became a section of the Department of Commerce and industries with a principal fisheries officer in charge. In addition to the brackish water fish culture experiments and canoe fisheries surveys, other activities were initiated. Small motor fishing crafts were acquired for exploratory fishing in the estuaries, lagoons and creeks, it was considered 'that these fisheries should receive priority treatment at this stage in Nigeria over sea fisheries'. This was in spite of the earlier report on the fishing company which showed that suitable trawling grounds existed off Lagos at depths of 16 - 65m other activities undertaken included tests of rice growing in the tidal Mangrove. Samples, where such an activity could be combined with fish farming, and improvement in the social conditions of the wholly fisherman populations of two small villages in Lagos. Between 1948 and 1956, major efforts were made at extending the artisanal fisheries programme to other coastal areas of Nigeria. An active extension service was established to demonstrate the benefits of improved fishing techniques and gear to the coastal canoe fishermen.

Moreover, trawling surveys were undertaken in the vicinity of Lagos and Cameroons and the substation was maintained at Ipodo for several years before it was closed down due to lack of funds and personnel. A start was also made in fish culture in Inland areas by the constructions of experimental ponds and the stocking of the then existing ponds reservoirs. A fish farmer was appointed to extend this aspect of production and this culminated in the establishment in 1951, of a 160ha industrial scale fish farm at Panyam on the Jos Plateau. By the end of this period, the branch had grown to become the Federal Fisheries Services under the federal ministry of Economic Development.

Between 1952 and 1957, the bulk of the marine biological Research was performed by the West African Fisheries Research Institute (NAFRI) at free town, Sierra Leone; a unit was maintained at Birnin Kebbi to conduct research into the fisheries of River Sokoto. In consequent of Nigeria's and Ghana's withdrawal of their support, the WAFRI research activities of the Federal Fisheries Services were expanded, to take care of this function. Under the 1954 constitutions of Nigeria, the fisheries organization was split between the Federal; and the Regional Governments. The Federal Fisheries Services of the Federal Ministry of Economic Department was headed by a Director with laboratories and headquarters in Lagos. The Western Region Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and National Resources was headed by a

Principals Fisheries Officer, its headquarters and officers were at Ibadan and a Sea Fisheries Organization and Inspectorate at Epe and fish culture section at Ibadan and Asaba. The Eastern Region Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and the headquarters at Aba and outstation at Opodo.

The period also saw a considerable increase in the artisanal fisheries. This has been attributed to the concentration of fishing activities close to the rich grounds; higher money returns for efforts; general improvement in processing, storage and distributions methods; improvements in the type of fishing craft used and especially, to the higher gear efficiency due to a complete change over to synthetic fibre. The general results was that the contribution of fisheries to the country's QDP quadrupled between 1960 and 1970. In the mid 1980s, the government set up the Nigeria National Fish company jointly with foreign interest to operate deep sea fishing fleet. In 1975 the Nigerian National Shrimp Company was established in partnership with North America Firm. But deep sea fisheries were, and in 1990 continued to be dominated by foreign owned trawlers.

Nigerian Fishing Tourism.

Fishing is an ancient and worldwide practice with various techniques and traditions. To some degree fishing has even become an important and significant role in the communities where it has been practiced in time immemorial in Nigeria.

Fishing like other hunting activities has been a major source of food for human race and has put an end to the unsavory outbreak of anemia Kwashiorkor and so on. It accounts for about one fifth of world total supply of animal protein and this has risen five folds over the last forty years from 20 million metric tons to 98 million metric tons in 1993 and projected to exceed 150 million metric tons by the year 2010 (FAO, 1991).

Fish allows for protein improved nutrition in that it has a high biological value in terms of high protein retention in the body. (Anthonio and Akinwunmi, 1991), higher protein assimilation as compared to other animal protein sources low cholesterol content and one of the safest sources of animal protein (Slang, 1973).

Consequently, culture is a way of life in a given society. Tourism is the vehicle through which this way of life is appreciated. Among many fishing festivals in Nigeria are:

- Amassoma fishing festival - Delta State
- Argungu Fishing festivals - Kebbi State
- Opuaduo Fishing festivals - Taraba State
- Igbide Fishing festival - Delta State
- Panyam Fishing festivals - Plateau State
- Seigben Fishing festivals and Lake Ife festival. - Bayelsa State.
- Fishing festival at Gashua, Lake Chad - Borno State,
- Ogoribaoge fishing festival in Odi - Delta State
- Fishing festival on the shore of Beautiful lake - Niger State
- Awonga, Nicargua
- Fishing festival in confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue at Lokoja etc - Niger State. c.t.c.

However, among the two notable fishing festivals highlighted, above the Argungu and Igbide fishing festivals are discussed below:

Argungu Fishing Festival.

The annual Argungu (pronounced 'ar-goon-goo') fishing festival is a major week long event, and one of the leading festivals in West Africa. It takes place near the town of Argungu. 99km Southwest of Sokoto. This festival originated in 1934 when Sultan Dan Mu'azu of Sokoto made a visit to the region and a grand fishing festival was organized in his honour on the Argungu River. Hundreds of men and boys dived into the water and the biggest fish caught was presented to the Sultan. Since then, it's become a celebrated yearly event held during February or March, and it marks the end of the growing season and the harvest. Events include art and craft exhibitions, cultural dances and music, local drama, traditional boxing and wrestling, archery competition; bicycle races, donkey and camel races, and a motor rally. On the river itself are canoe and swimming races, deep diving competitions, bare hand fishing, and wild duck hunting. They are joined by canoes filled with drummers, plus men rattling huge seed filled gourds to drive the fish to shallow waters. During the allotted time, they are harvested, including giant Nile perch reaching weights of over 60kg. A 1.6km stretch of the Argungu River is protected throughout the year, so that the fish will be

plentiful for this 45 minutes fishing frequency. It's all finished off with singing and dancing well into the night.

Igbide Fishing Festival.

Igbide is a clan situated in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. Fishing is the predominant occupation of the people. The clan's fishing festival is used to mark the beginning of the fishing season which starts in the first week of February, when water table is low, it begins a day after the market day in the first week of February to enable all sons and daughters participate.

The first activity on the first day is allowing eight fishing boats into the lake to harvest fish for the councils of Edios (Elders/Traditional chiefs). After which the villages are allowed to fish freely for two days.

The Igbide Annual Fishing Festivals is organized annually also to remember the founder of Igbide (ERU). It is celebrated on the spot where Eru landed in the bank of the Igbide lake called Urie Igbide. Spectators usually starts arriving the bank of the lakes as from 8.00am in the morning. Visitors and all indigenous of Igbide are allowed to witness this festival except the traditional ruler of Igbide (Ovie of Igbide) who does not allow to attend this festival. The Odion Ologbo of Igbide (the oldest man) presides over the festival in company of other Igbide Chief.

Some of the activities during the first day include chiefs and community leaders receiving and welcome dignitaries and spectators to the occasion and the traditional presentation of kola nut which is essential aspect of festival in the part of the world. Only natives are allowed to fish during the three days of the festival. Some of the traditional fishing methods used local canoes, 'era, iriri, Ikpokpobe, atigole and iwe.

Prior to this festival, a ban would have been placed on fishing in the lake (Urie Igbide) from around June every year to allow for mature harvest during the festival. Consequently, the festival is used as an occasion to lift this ban and the commencement of a new of fishing season for the Igbide people. The occasion brings about as people come from within and outside the country to witness the festival. During the festival commercial activities like the sales of drinks, food, gift items and food stuffs take place in various canopies. One very exciting aspects of the festival is the frying of the small catch that usually arrives the shores first for consumption by spectators. There is also the gift of fresh fish to relations, friends and well wishers. However, the main catch for the day are sold to buyers who come for that purpose and the cost of fresh fish at the venue of the festival is usually very cheap. Palm wine is usually in abundance

Prospects of Fishing Industries in Nigeria.

Fishing Industries offers great prospects for the attainment of the following national goals,

- i. Enhancing food security.
- ii. Export earnings with a view to reversing negative trade balance.
- iii. Diversification of the nation's economic base.
- iv. Enhancing rural and coastal economy with particular effects on employment generation, food security, social security, arrest or minimization of rural urban migration, boost social status, employment, esteem and poverty alleviation.
- v. To enlighten our people on the need to patronize fish protein in addition to sensitizing them on aquaculture.
- vi. Promote tourism based in rural enterprises..

The Federal Capital Territory acting agriculture Secretary, Lois Maikori disclosed that a sum of N25million (US\$195.442) has been earmarked for the maiden of the fishing festival of Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT). According to her, about 1000 fishermen and 5000 spectators graced the festival taking place in November 18 at Yaba in Abaji Council at the FCT. The event aimed at creating wealth among the FCT Fishery Communities. The development, however, is to enhance the growth of national economy and to complete favourably with the famous Argungu fishing festival that nets in over N70 million annually.

Challenges of Fishing Industry In Nigeria.

The major challenges that need to be addressed for sustaining and increasing production from fishing industry are that, there should be a restoration of habitat and control of pollution, regulation of fishing pressure through enforcement of closed seasons.

There are no reliable data available on the catch, effort and the status of the stocks. Private participation is very low in fishing industry in Nigeria. The fishing industry suffers sets back because of the absence of security and the activities of pirates who usually hijacked trawlers, boats in the sea, rivers and disposed them of their fish and other valuables and in most cases, killed the people (Shimang, 2005). Reluctance of insurance companies to give insurance has been a constraint to fisheries development, and

reluctance of commercial banks and other financial institutions to provide credit facilities to fisher folks (Dada, 2003).

Spaulding and Blasco (1997) observed that the major constraints to fish farming were identified to be those of environmental impacts of aquaculture operations, that is water pollution, while Assiah (1997) noted that inadequate supply of fingerlings, inadequate information and feeds supply is a challenge to the industry. There is the need to have structural and institutional change for sustainable gender activities in the fishing industry such as:

1. Authorities face the challenge of wide spread tax evasion.
2. Accommodation facilities, hotels of international standards which are targets for investors in most tourism destinations across the globe. Restaurant groups.
3. Tour operations for companies that can market Nigeria.
4. Patrol and Regulation of the Industry. The government has enacted laws and regulations to govern the activities of the categories of the people involved in the industry like hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, car hire services.
5. Discrimination of participants in fishing game due to gender differences.
6. Other developmental challenges include good road network, hospitals, communication facilities, electricity, portable drinking water and transportation.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Due to the constraints and challenges facing the fishing industries the following are recommended.

1. Government at all levels should be involved in the institutional policy framework that will encourage and enhance fishing industry.
2. FISON as an association should consistently in organizing training, seminars, workshop, conferences in collaboration with other NGO's and international bodies for members and fishing communities so that they could have access to improve methods and modern technology.
3. FISON as a body should identify most state in the country, that practiced fishing activities in lieu with socio-cultural events so as to encourage and promote them for national development.

CONCLUSION.

It is however, an established fact that fishing activities promote the socio - cultural assets of Nigeria people. Therefore, the cultural interaction among different ethnic groups in the country should be encouraged. This will foster unity and harmony as well as contribute to the national development.

REFERENCES.

- Antonio R. O. and Akinwunmi J. A. Supply and distribution of fishes in Ibadan, Nigeria. *Georg J.*, 14(2). 16 (1991).
- Assiah, Van Eer, O. Small scale fresh water fish farming: Agromisa Press, Netherlands, Pp. 1-3 (1997).
- Dada (2003). Contribution of fisheries to employment, National Economy and Food Security in Nigeria. Paper Deliver of 2003, FISON public lectured. 6, 11, 20 & 21.
- Dada, B. F., 2004 Contribution of fisheries to employment, national economy and food security in Nigeria. *Fish Network: a quarterly publication of the fisheries society of Nigeria* 11(1): 1, 2, 5, 7 and 14.
- Ita, E. O., Sado, E. K., Balogun, J. K., Pandoggeric, A. and Ibitoye, B. (1985). Inventory survey of Nigerian Inland Waters and their fishery Resources; a preliminary checklist of inland waters and their fishery Resources: a preliminary checklist of inland water bodies in Nigeria with special reference to ponds, lakes, reservoirs and major rivers. Kainji Lake Research Institute Technical Report Series No. 14.
- Kessing, R. M. and Kessing F. M. (1971). *New perspective in cultural tourism Anthnology*. New York, Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Mairr, H. Reid D. G, Taylor Y (2000) Raw materials, neutral part or pivotal player. Assessing community in rural tourism development and planning. In *Environmental papers* Vol. 3 (3). Pp 68-74.
- Richards, G. (2001). The development of cultural Tourism in Europe. In Richards g. (ed) *cultural Attractions and European Tourism*. Wallingford. (ABI Publishing pp.3-29).
- Sheimang (2005). *Fishwries Development in Nigeria: Problems and Prospects*. A Paper presented on

Homestead fish farming for training for surviving and retired public servants on the Federal Ministry of Aquaculture and Rural Development, 7th, 10th February, 2005.

Slang V. C. Comparison on the Economic potential of Agricultural Land, Animal Husbandry and Oceans fisheries, the case of AIWA Agriculture. FAO Technical Conference on Aquaculture, Kyoto, Japan (1973).

Spauling, A. V. and Blasco, T. A. World Mangrove Atlas. International Society for Mangrove Ecosystem, Japan, pp 94 97 (1997).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The paper contributors would like to thank the Executive Director of National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom Dr.(Mrs.) L. H. Lombin for her generosity. Asincere thank you to the Provost of the College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Vom for his kindness and support.

INTRODUCTION

Microfinance can play an extremely important role in development strategies because they give small farmers and traders the possibility of increasing their earnings and raising their standard of living through the creation of small businesses. In recent years, the attention and interest of policy makers have shifted to the provision of credit and financial services to micro-entrepreneurs in reaction to their importance to the economies of nations and the need to assist them to realise the economic development of their countries. Equally in Nigeria, this realization led to the declaration of the international year of microfinance in 2005 and in launching a microfinance policy in the country (Adeboye, 2006). However, the fact remains whether all stakeholders (beneficiaries) are really aware about the existence and basic understanding of microfinance, the policy, regulations and reason for it. It is against this backdrop that this paper reviews extensively the position of microfinance and relate it to wealth creation particularly amongst the artisanal fisher folks in Nigeria who are mostly classified as poor and vulnerable (Ayame, 2002; Fregene, 2002). Understanding the basic of microfinance by the fisheries stakeholders would lead to development of the fisheries sub-sector particularly the artisanal fisher folks, who constitute the majority compared to other fisheries stakeholders.

THE MICROFINANCE POLICY

Policy objectives

- Make financial services accessible to a large segment of the potentially productive Nigerian population which otherwise would have little or no access to financial services
- Promote energy and mainstreaming of the informal sub-sector into the national financial system
- Enhance service delivery by microfinance institutions to rural, small and medium enterprises
- Contribute to rural transformation and
- Promote linkage programmes between microfinance development banks

Policy target

- The target of the policy as adopted from CBN, 2006 are as follows:
- To cover the majority of the poor but economically active population by 2020 thereby creating millions of jobs and reducing poverty
 - To increase the share of micro credit to the economy from 0.9 percent in 2005 to at least 20% in 2020 and the share of micro credit as a percentage of GDP from 0.3 percent in 2005 to at least 7 percent in 2020.