

# Contribution of the Hospitality and Tourism Sector to the Development of Local Communities in the Hohoe Municipality, Ghana.

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## Abstract

Tourism is now one of the world's largest industries and one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Its high growth and development rates, considerable volumes of foreign currency inflows actively affect various sectors of economy, which positively contributes to the development of own tourist industry. Many researchers have asserted that, all tourism indicators show a consistent trend of growth in terms of contribution to GDP, foreign exchange earnings etc. In view of its potential, the government of Ghana over the years has instituted measures to salvage the industry from possible collapse. However, the performance of the sector is constrained by a number of factors in view of the fact harnessing potentials of the industry to become the leading foreign exchange earner in Ghana has not been fully realised.

The paper investigated the contributions of the tourism industry to the growth and development of the Hohoe Municipality which is a host to most of the vibrant tourist attractions in the Volta Region. To achieve the objectives of the study, primary data was collected from three communities with tourist attractions in the Municipality (i.e. Tafi Atome monkey sanctuary; Mt. Afadjato and Tagbo falls, Liati Wote; and Wli falls).

The study revealed that, the municipality received GH¢122,877.90 in 2008 as tourism revenue with an average annual growth rate of 162.2 % per annum. However, in 2011, the figure reduced to GH¢18,122.5 due to lack of marketing and promotion as well as institutional bottlenecks. The paper recommends capacity building for the local communities as well as including tourism marketing and promotion, private sector participation in building a vibrant and diverse tourism in the Municipality and Ghana in general.

**Key words:** Development, growth, Tourism Marketing, Arrivals, MDGs

## Introduction

Tourism is now one of the world's largest industries and one of the fastest growing economic sectors (Creaco and Querini, 2003). According to UNESCO (2007), tourism has become a significant source of foreign exchange revenue for many countries in the world including some least developed countries and island developing economies. For example in 2006, tourism activities in Maldives contributed 66.6 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounted for 65.9 per cent of its exports (Ibid). The industry contributes significantly to the creation of employment, both directly and indirectly. This study have also contended that, appropriate investment in tourism can lead to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; thus through the creation of income and employment which contributes to reducing the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day (MDG 1). This is because; tourism employment in North-East Asia is estimated at 86

million jobs (10.1%) of total employment. In addition to its job creation, revenue generated from the industry has enabled governments to allocate financial resources for improving education and health conditions (UNESCO, 2007).

Similarly, the role of tourism to the total development of Ghana is not very different from what pertains in other parts of the world as elaborated above. According to the Ghana Tourist Board (2010), the sector is the third-highest foreign exchange earner for the country and makes huge contributions to the country's GDP and job creation. They asserted that, all tourism indicators show a consistent trend of growth in terms of contribution to GDP, foreign exchange earnings, total tourist receipts, growth of restaurants, travel and tour operators etc. For instance international tourist arrivals increased from 497,129 in 2006 to 698,069 in 2008 indicating an average growth rate of about 18% per annum. The corresponding receipts also increased from US\$987 million in 2006 to US\$1,403 million in 2008, and contributed 6.3% to GDP. Being a service sector and also being multi-faceted with various sub-sectors namely; accommodation, food, transport, attractions, entertainment, souvenirs (handicrafts), and other auxiliary services, tourism is highly labour intensive and a major job creator in the country. According to the board, the industry generated around 300,000 direct and indirect employments during the period 2006 – 2008.

Though the sector is currently rated as the third highest foreign exchange earner in the country, harnessing potentials of the industry to become the leading foreign exchange earner in Ghana has not been fully realised. It is also observed that, many tourism communities in Ghana still lack socio-economic facilities like good road, potable water just to mention but a few in the midst of tourism's contribution to national development. According to Koutra (n.d), the causes of the low performance of the tourist sector is lack of clear strategy on how tourism growth will contribute to poverty reduction; coupled with the limited number of products offered (Asiedu, 1997). Koutra (n.d), again established that community exclusion in decision making, lack of access to credit, lack of promotion/marketing, lack of expertise and lack of cooperation between stakeholders are some of the causes of the low performance of the sector.

In the context of the district, there exist a number of tourist attractions that are underdeveloped. For instance, the Tsatsadu falls at Alavanyo; the iron mines at Akpafu; the mysterious palm tree and the talking river at Kpelezo and Gbi-Godenu respectively. These underdeveloped sites lack basic accompanying infrastructure such as roads among others necessary to propel their development. In addition, tourism in the district is not well integrated into the other sectors of the local economy leaving no strong linkages between these sectors. Hence, every effort should be made to encourage investment in tourism businesses that support social and economic development. With this at the background, this study was carried out to look at how tourism has influenced the development of the case district. The paper therefore investigates the contribution of tourism to national development with emphasis on the Hohoe Municipality where there exist a number of tourist sites as enumerated above. The paper makes appropriate recommendation aimed at promoting the growth and development of the sector for government's rural development efforts.

#### **The Research District**

The case district for this research is the Hohoe Municipality found in the Volta Region. It covers communities which have tourism facilities. These communities include Tafi Atome where we have the monkey sanctuary, Liati Wote where we have the mountain Afadjato and Tagbo waterfalls and Wli-Agumatsa falls. They are mainly farming communities with close proximity to the district capital (Hohoe). The study in context aims at examining the role of tourism to the development of the area in the three selected communities. The study in essence considers specific issues related to the role of tourism in the development of these communities, challenges facing the sector and measures that can be put in place to improve the performance of the industry towards national development.

#### **Methodological Approach**

The Study adopted a case study approach as it offers the opportunity for in-depth study of the case. The researchers adopted a double-sided research method for the study which comprised of both primary and

secondary sources. Data collection instruments involved semi-structured questionnaires and interview guides. Observation techniques were also employed especially on the utilization of the tourism revenue. A sample size of 150 households was considered for the three case communities. Purposive sampling was used to select tourist sites, community tourism managers/operators and regulators (agencies), whilst the simple random sampling method was used in the case of the households. In all, qualitative data was collected from a total of 158 respondents, two each drawn from the three communities selected for the study and the rest of the two respondent were selected from the District Tourism Management Unit. The English language was the main medium for the data administration with Ewe to complement since not all the respondents were literate. Data collected from the field was quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed.

### Plate 1: Study Sites and Artifacts on Sale



Source: Field Survey, 2012

### Role of Tourism in Development: Perspectives from Literature

Tourism has contributed in various ways to the development of many countries and continents to a large extent. According to UNESCO (2007), international tourist arrivals grew at an average annual rate of 4.1%, exceeding the 800 million mark projected for Phillipines in 2005. This outstanding performance according to the report can be attributed to several factors, including rising levels of disposable income; improvements in transportation and the introduction of low-cost airline services; easier access to destinations by tourists from traditional source markets and the emergence of new source markets such as China and India; and the diversification of the industry with new market niches such as cultural tourism, ecotourism and adventure tourism.

UNESCO reported that for 10-years consistently, (i.e. 1995 to 2005), the Asian and Pacific regions outperformed the rest of the world with increases in arrivals averaging 6.5% annually, raising its global share of the tourist market from 15.3% in 1995 to 19.2 % in 2005. In contrast, Europe and the American continent saw their global shares decrease from 58.3 % to 54.8% and from 20.2% to 16.6% respectively. Again, North-East Asia also emerged as the most dynamic sub-region posting a growth rate in arrivals of 7.8% during the period. This has raised its global share from 7.6% in 1995 to 10.9% in 2005. During the period, China was the strongest performer averaging 8.9 % increase over the period. In absolute terms, the number of international visitors to China more than doubled; reaching 46.8 million in 2005; almost equivalent to the total number of tourists visiting South-East Asia. This remarkable performance benefited from growing international and intra-regional

demand, the increased availability of low-cost airline services and the continued liberalization of outbound travel from China.

Also very instrumental to the growth of tourism is the emergence of domestic tourism markets in the populous tourism regions. For instance in India, it was estimated that, there are more than 100 domestic tourist sites for every international tourist. Similar figures for China suggest that the ratio is 26 to 1, while for Thailand and Indonesia the ratios are 7 to 1 and 6 to 1 respectively. This type of tourism though overlooked; yet, it brings wealthier urban dwellers to poorer marginal rural areas, providing opportunities for wealth redistribution and economic development as well as contributing to national pride as citizens learn more about their own country. In total, worldwide international tourists spent approximately US\$ 680 billion in 2005, a net increase of US\$ 269.2 billion-equivalent to an average increase of 5.2 % annually over the period 1995 to 2005. The Asian and Pacific regions in line with its growth performance in terms of arrivals, posted significant increases in international tourism receipts, with an average annual growth rate of 5.4 % over the last 10 years. This was slightly higher than the global rate of 5.2 %, outclassing the mature regions of Europe and America. As a result, the global share of tourism receipts in the Asian and Pacific region increased from 19.9 % in 1995 to 20.4 % in 2005 (UNESCO, 2007).

### **The Link between Tourism and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

As the fourth highest foreign exchange earner for Ghana, tourism has a direct marriage with poverty reduction and the attainment of Ghana's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is also found out that, tourism has the potential to become a powerful tool in pro-poor development strategies.

It is established that appropriate investments in the tourism sector can enhance Ghana's chances of achieving its MDGs. One of the principal means is through the creation of income and employment which contributes to reducing the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day (MDG 1).

Similarly, the provision of infrastructure, facilities and services for tourists (for example roads, health, and water and sanitation services) can be designed to benefit local communities as well. Such facilities can contribute to the achievement of goals 4, 5, 6, 7 and even 8. Tourism activities can further contribute indirectly to the attainment of the universal primary education in Ghana (MDG 2). For instance the development of tourism infrastructure like roads to rural areas can enhance the chances of the rural populace to access education facilities in the urban areas hence contributing to the attainment of goal 2 or enhancing the chances of parents to be able to afford school fees for their wards.

In the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women (MDG 3), tourism is recognised as a sector that employs a high proportion of women thereby giving them the opportunity to better their lives and that of others (UNESCO, 2007). In short, tourism becomes one of the major source employments to women. The result is that, they become economically empowered to take care of their own needs.

## **Discussion Of Results**

### **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

Empirical data for the study was gathered from the main operators/managers, key informants and sampled households selected from the case communities. From the 158 people interviewed, 25% were females while the remaining 75% were males. Ages of the respondents range between 27 to 61 years. Specifically, significant number (47%) of the respondents falls within the 31-40 years age bracket whilst those in the 41-50 years age category were 22% of the respondents. Similarly, those aged 51-60 years were about 20% of the sampled population with only 4% of the population falling into the 60 plus age group. Finally, as much as 7% of the people interviewed were aged 20-30 years.

**Table 1: Educational Level of Respondents**

Educational Level	Percentage (%)
Nil	25
Basic / JSS	48
SHS/O'Level	18
Tertiary	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>

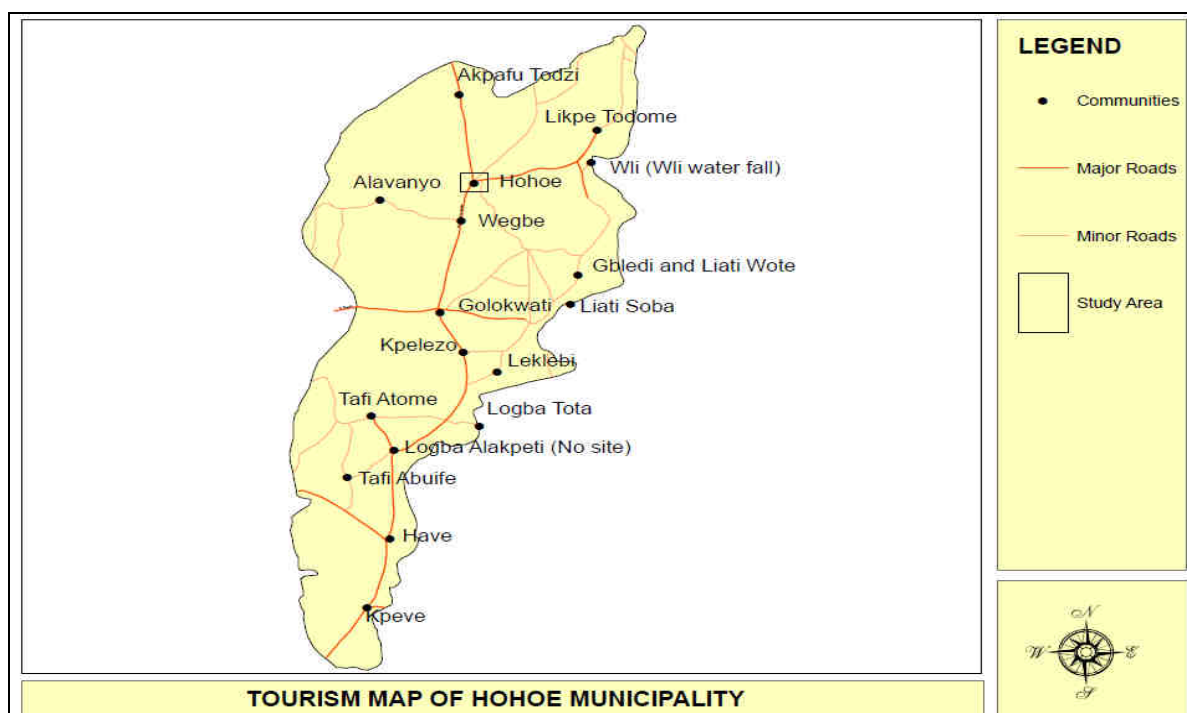
Source: Field Survey, 2012

The respondents from the agencies have some level of education but not necessarily in the tourism or hospitality management. However, a significant percentage of the households interviewed had no formal education making the use of the Local Language (Ewe) very vital in the interaction. Even though the population is not very literate, the use of the Ewe in the questionnaire administration guaranteed good response rate and therefore positively influenced the quality of data gathered.

### Tourism Attractions in the Municipality

A number of attractions exist in the Municipality. Some are still developing while others, underdeveloped. However, the study considered the three most populous tourist attractions in the area i.e. Wli-Agumatsa waterfalls, monkey sanctuary- Tafi Atome, and finally the Mountain Afadja- Liate Wote (refer to Figure 1.2 for the location).

**Figure 1: Tourism Attractions in the Hohoe Municipality**



Source: Field Survey, 2012

### **Evolution of Tourism in the Municipality**

All Ewes were believed to have migrated from Nortse the present day republic of Togo. According to them, their movement became apparent due in part to the cruelty and wickedness of their king, King Agorkorli. Apart from the wickedness of their king, the size of lands and access to water and basic social amenities also played a very vital role in their movement. Historically, at the time they were moving from Nortse, they moved in groups hence the scattered nature of settlements in the region and many other places. These places of interest gradually developed into tourist sites. The following are detailed historical accounts obtained from the field study.

#### *Historical Background of the Monkey Sanctuary*

Historically, the people of Tafi once settled in the central part of Ghana known as Half-Assini after moving from Nortse. According to the key informant, when they were migrating from Assini, they passed through the mountain Gemi and descended down in search of fertile land for farming. Interestingly however, they settled in groups with Atome (the present home of the Monkeys) being the paramouncy.

During the interaction, the informant explained that, before their ancestors settled, they were idol worshippers. So they built a place (shrine) for their gods. One day, the fetish priest visited the place and found out that, there were monkeys at their 'holy' and 'sacred' place of worship- the shrine. Upon consultation, it was revealed that, the monkeys were actually sent to protect them against any further attacks; from then on, they worshiped and adored the monkeys. However, in the mid-1980s, a peace corp volunteer from Nature Conservancy Research Centre (NCRC) in Canada visited the place and advised them to use the place for tourism. John Mason came back in 1993 to help in the establishment of the place which started full operation in 1996 as a tourist centre.

#### *Historical Discovery of the Mount Afadja and Tagbo falls*

Historical accounts have it that, 300 years ago, their ancestors moved from Nortse in search of land for farming, and before they could settle, they wanted to be near to a water source as stated by the informant. The search continued until one day, one of their forefathers on a hunting spree discovered the Wote land. The place was well endowed with animals and very fertile soil but before one could hunt and kill the animals on the mountain, one needs to fight (war) with a plant in the bush that itches. War in ewe is known as 'awa' hence, the name Awadzato- meaning war mountain. Finally, the people settled but the use of the mountain as tourist attraction was not known until in the early 1960s when the Germans came to construct a trail to the peak of the mountain for a study. As the Germans could not easily pronounce 'awadzato', they termed it 'Afadjato'.

#### *Historical Discovery of the Wli-Agumatsa falls*

The people of Wli equally migrated from Nortse in search of land for farming activities between the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The criteria for choice of land according to the people, were similar to the above. In the early 1960s, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission examined the economic viability of the place and developed the place as tourist centre. They managed the place until the local people agitated for ownership which was transferred to them in 1973, they stated.

One major lesson that can be inferred from the evolution is that, the establishment of all the attractions in the area have some level of foreign or external influence. Meaning that, local communities on their own initiative were not capable of developing tourist attractions even when the potential exist. Again, local tradition and culture have significant implication for development as demonstrated above hence the need to harness them for development.

### **Comparison of Receipt and Revenues from the three Communities**

One can also look at the receipts and revenue from individual attractions in the municipality for the purpose of comparison. From the field survey, it was realised that, Wli falls being the most 'matured' and populous in the area received more in terms of revenue and receipts as compared to other centres. For instance in 2008, Wli falls received 19,429 visitors (9,769 domestic and 9,660 foreigners) with a corresponding revenue of GH¢ 69,814.40 whilst Mountain Afadja and the monkey sanctuary received GH¢3,900.00 and GH¢9,660.50 respectively. The figure for Wli however increase to GH¢59,616.50 in 2009 and further to GH¢88,001.00 in 2010 with an average annual growth rate of 11% per annum. Details of these statistics can be inferred from Table 1.3 below.

**Table 2: Revenues and Arrivals from the three Tourist Centres in the Municipality**

<b>Arrival and Revenue for Wli-Agumatsa Falls</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of visitors per year</b>		<b>Total arrivals (A+B)</b>	<b>Total Revenue (GH¢)</b>
	<b>(A)Local</b>	<b>(B)International</b>		
2007	8120	7901	16021	-
2008	9769	9660	19429	69,814.4
2009	9933	8753	18686	59,616.5
2010	9031	8911	17942	88,001.80
2011	11220	8998	20,218	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48073</b>	<b>44223</b>	<b>92296</b>	<b>217,432.70</b>
<b>Arrival and Revenue for Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of visitors per year</b>		<b>Total arrivals (A+B)</b>	<b>Total Revenues (GH¢)</b>
	<b>(A) Local</b>	<b>(B)International</b>		
2007	2135	2076	4211	14,752.9
2008	2346	2363	4709	9,660.50
2009	3607	2868	6475	16,646.00
2010	3363	3425	6788	18,424.80
2011	4548	3845	8393	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15999</b>	<b>14577</b>	<b>30576</b>	<b>59,484.2</b>
<b>Arrival and Revenue for Mountain Afadja –Liatl Wote</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of visitors per year</b>		<b>Total arrivals (A+B)</b>	<b>Total Revenue (GH¢)</b>
	<b>(A)Local</b>	<b>(B)International</b>		
2007	2066	751	2817	4,012.80
2008	2222	506	2728	3,900.00
2009	8111	791	8902	7,626.00
2010	9630	948	10578	9,300.00.
2011	11543	913	12456	18,122.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35482</b>	<b>4557</b>	<b>40039</b>	<b>36,245.00</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2012

### Receipt and Revenues from the Municipality

With respect to the number of tourist arrivals, similar positive trends were experienced in the municipality. Data available from the three tourist sites indicates that the number of local tourists outnumber foreigners similar to what exist in literature. For instance, in 2007, the total receipts for the Municipality was 7,177 comprising of 4,440 domestic visitors and 2,737 international visitors. This figure however increased by 336.7 % in 2008 with an average annual growth rate of 62.8 % per annum to 31,341 visitors. The growth in arrivals has also impacted significantly on the revenues received over the years as can be inferred from Table 1.2 below. For instance in 2007, the municipality derived GH¢18,721.9 from tourism operations, this subsequently increased to GH¢122,877.90 in 2008 showing astronomical increase due to the effects of CAN 2008 hosted in the year.

**Table 3: Total Receipts and Revenue from 2007 to 2011 for the Hohoe Municipality**

Year	Number of arrivals		Total Receipts (A+B)	Growth of Receipts (%)	Revenue (GH¢)	Growth of Revenue (%)
	(A)Domestic	(B)International				
2007	4,440	2,737	7,177	-	18,721.9	-
2008	16,811	14,530	31,341	336.7	122,877.9	556.3
2009	19,691	12,677	32,368	3.3	84,850.0	-30.9
2010	12,993	4,373	17,366	-46	408,424.8	381.3
2011	16,091	4,758	20,849	20	18,122.5	-95.6
Totals	<b>70,026</b>	<b>39,075</b>	<b>108,101</b>		<b>652,997.1</b>	

Source: Field Survey, 2012

It is evident from the analysis that even with the limited products offered in the area, arrival is growing at an annual rate of 62.8 %. Also, the steady increase in domestic visitors from just 4,440 in 2007 to 16,811 in 2011 with an annual growth rate of 57 % is worth noting. The outstanding performance of the sector suggests that if critical issues are addressed, the sector can contribute significantly to growth and poverty reduction in the Municipality. Tourism activities also generate substantial revenue for the Municipality however, as at the time of gathering the data; some tourism communities have stopped paying taxes to the assembly for various reasons.

### Utilization of Tourism Revenue

In terms of the utilization of revenue accrued from the tourist sites, some communities have managed to put in place management committees. These are made of only indigenous people in the community. For instance in Wli and Tafi, the respondents indicated that the community has put in place a management committee which has intern put in place modalities for revenue sharing between the community and land owners whose land have been conserved for the attraction. The portion that goes to the community is used to provide community infrastructural services such as schools, clinics etc.. Even though there is no perfect system, the case communities largely benefit from the intervention.

### Effects of Tourism on Socio-Economic Parameters

Also, tourism has positive effects with a number of social and economic indicators (refer to Table 1.5 in Appendix). The survey revealed that, the road infrastructure linking the Wli community to the municipal capital (Hohoe) has been improved as result of its tourism activities. Similarly, the hotels, guest houses, major investment opportunities and home stay facilities in the community are all due to the attractions in the community coupled with the boom in business opportunities resulting in the improvement in livelihoods of the local people. This is captured in the interaction with one of the residents as follows:

*“My brother, the roads may not be what exactly as we want but due to the increase in the number of people that visit the fall, government have constructed the road and this is not only helping in*



*transportation of people to and from Hohoe but also assisting us in the transportation of our farm produce to market centres. A phenomenon hitherto was not available”*

Data gathered through interview also showed that tourism had similar effects on Liate, Gbledi and its surrounding villages. For instance, the condition of the feeder road linking Agbonyra to the Wote community was improved through their own internally generated revenue with support from ‘Madventurers’ (an American based NGO). In addition to that, the people of Wote have also built a community clinic which serves the community, visitors and surrounding communities thereby helping to reduce maternal mortality and general health care. This is portrayed in the statement of one of the opinion leaders.

*“If not for these tourist sites in our area, who would have mind us by building all these facilities in our area. Government will not do it because they will say we don’t give anything to the state. But for the sake of many foreigners who visit the area, government and NGO’s are collaborating to develop the place”*

Majority of the respondents also observed that education was not left out from the benefit of tourism in the area. Through tourism activities, the people have rehabilitated the existing educational infrastructure at Wote which has enhanced educational attainment of children. Similar effects were observed at the Tafi- Atome monkey sanctuary. With the establishment of the centre in 1993, it has afforded the natives of Atome to benefit from a scholarship instituted by Dianne Hughes (a volunteer from the United Kingdom). Records have it that, the scheme started with 140 people in 2002 and increased to 360 in 2011 and still increasing.

It has also brought about the building of a guest house and home stay facilities which provide employment opportunities to the citizens and an improvement in ‘business climate’ for petty traders and shop owners. Also worth mentioning is the improvement in the livelihoods of the community members especially people who own lands along the lines of the mountain and the Tagbo falls. This people receive a share of revenues derived from the centre. More importantly, tourism has led to the employment of a number of people in the municipality as evident from tourism managers shows. The field data gathered shows that, tourism has led to the employment of at least 56 people- 32 for Wli, 18 for Mountain Afadja and 6 for Atome sanctuary and other self-employed people in the area. Employment opportunities have also been generated for landlords, traders many more indirect employments.

### **Challenges**

Tourism development in the area is faced with many challenges. Among some of the challenges include: weak institutional coordination, infrastructure and capacity challenges just to mention but a few.

#### *Inadequate Capacity*

Capacity is a major challenge facing the growth of tourism in the area. The inadequate capacity manifests in the form of unqualified community members managing the sites. Both the tour guides and the managers do not have any formal training in hospitality. Similarly, the centres do not have enough rooms to accommodate visitors. The situation has made capital to ‘fly’ to private guest house operators in the community.

#### *Supporting Infrastructure*

It is evident from the field that, development infrastructure is hindering the growth and development of tourism in the Municipality. Roads leading to the sites are in bad condition and inaccessible during the rainy season. This has made the cost of transportation to these sites very expensive. The introduction of the ‘okada’ (commercial motor transport) mode of transport has brought a sigh of relieve to tourist even though they are not the safest mode of transportation. Others are health facilities and security services at the sites. Existing health facilities in the attraction communities have inadequate capacity and work within stipulated time periods.

#### *Underdeveloped Tour Sites*

Till date, there still exist underdeveloped and inaccessible tourist sites in the Municipality (refer to appendix II). Others are inadequate tourism data, finance among others.

## Recommendations

Marketing and product development is highly recommended for the sector so as to enhance the Municipality's tourism endowment. The strategy should consider the taste of overseas, regional and domestic tourists. This should include

1. Targeted market research;
2. Research to identify tourism marketing best practices;
3. Tour package chain development;
4. Technical assistance to designated tourism communities etc.

The use of ICT and GIS are critical for the success of this strategy. Again, Tourism Management Information Systems (TMIS) should also be developed. This is because, better management of tourism data is critical to planning, decision –making, marketing, training and programme implementation.

Secondly, there is the need to develop human resource capacity for the sector. Also, institutional capacity development should be considered by the District Assembly. The institutional capacity development should go hand-in-hand with enhancing the regulatory environment for sustainable tourism development through environmental management.

Thirdly, tourism centres should be provided with access to credits to expand and improve on visitor accommodations in the area. With Wli falls, it is recommended that they should be provided with soft loans to develop their own visitor accommodation since it is the highest recipient of visitors and revenue in the Municipality.

Finally, tourism infrastructure should also be improved in the Municipality. This should include the rehabilitation of roads, upgrading the status of existing health centres and provision of potable water to enhance visitor satisfaction and as motivation for high spending tourists to embark on return visits. The Municipal Tourism Development Unit should also come out with clear strategies on how tourism activities in local communities can contribute to wealth creation and poverty reduction.

## Conclusion

The study revealed that, tourism contributes significantly to the growth and development of the local economy. The sector contributes to the development of infrastructure, revenue and employment generation. It has also led to the conservation of the natural environment and improving the growth of local businesses hence; community inclusion in tourism should be a key strategy in the country's tourism development plan. To be able to achieve the goal of making the sector the number one foreign exchange earner, there is the need for the government to increase its support for the sector. The government must also develop clear strategies on how tourism activities can contribute to poverty reduction and the linkages between tourism and other sectors of the local economy. To this end, more studies needs to be conducted on the how tourism (local and international) can effectively contribute to national development. This can feed into the national tourism strategy (policy) of the country to guarantee the achievement of the ultimate goal of the sector.

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## Appendix

**Table 4: List of Tourism Attractions in the Municipality**

Name of attraction	Location	Status (undeveloped, developing, developed )	Accessibility (Yes/ No)
Wli waterfall	Wli	Developing	Yes
Mt Afadja and Tagbo falls	Gbledi and Liati Wote	Developing	Yes
Monkey sanctuary	Tafi Atome	Developing	Yes
Cave city	Likpe Todome	Underdeveloped	Yes
Kente Village	Tafi Abuife	Underdeveloped	Yes
Aflabo falls	Leklebi Agbesia	Underdeveloped	No
Akpon falls	Logba Tota	Underdeveloped	No
Tiizor falls	Liati Soba	Underdeveloped	No
Tsatsadu falls	Alavanyo	Underdeveloped	Yes
Beach	Kpeve Tornu	Underdeveloped	Yes
Iron mines	Akpafu Todzi	Underdeveloped	No
mysterious palm tree	Kpelezo	Underdeveloped	No
The talking river	Gbi-Godenu	Underdeveloped	No

Source: Field Survey, 2012

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