

Influence of Tourism Development and Community Participation Factors on Opportunity of Gashaka Gumti National Park

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Abstract:- National parks are storehouse for wildlife and habitat and endowed with potentials. Although local community participation and tourism development can enhance the potentials of national park, identifying the significant factors influencing outcomes of maximizing opportunity of the Gashaka Gumti National Parks is important. Based on the backwards selection method of community support for tourism development, help to local community, tourism development bring job opportunity and community conservation initiative significantly contributes to the likelihood of maximizing opportunity of Gashaka Gumti National in conserving biodiversity. Thus it can be concluded that local community involvement and tourism development are more likely to impact biodiversity conservation in Gashaka Gumti national Parks than strict conservation.

Keywords:- Biodiversity, tourism, Gashaka Gumti, National Park. Local community.

I. INTRODUCTION

The growing number of national park has gained a global attention to ascertain their current status in conserving diversity and management (Kolahi et al., 2013; Schulze et al., 2017) to exploit opportunity the parks. However the park's ability to fully exploit these opportunities is doubted due to the constant loss of wild life and habitat largely due overdependence of the population especially, farmers, hunters, and other members jeopardizing the future prospects.

The protectionist believe that strict preservation and protection can total eliminate adverse effect of all forms community activities (Hockings et al., 2006; Geldmann, Joppa & Burgess, 2014; Cumming et al., 2015; Oruonye et al, 2017) which stem this tide and attain the conservation goal and enhance parks potentials. However, this approach often degenerates into misunderstanding between local communities and managers due to mistrust, skepticism and apathy and its impact is below expectation, increasing the loss of endanger species and their habitat in the protected areas and national parks (Njogu, 2004). Thus, the effectiveness of this approach is doubted (Ite, 1996; Joppa et al., 2008, McDonald et al., 2008). Because the local communities view the wide life as free gift of nature and main sources of employments, such as farming, hunting,

poaching, etc. and there is no justification for protecting them and prohibiting its use at the peril of their livelihood (Tagowa and Buba, 2012).

It also argued that tourism development in national can improve wildlife and habitat and boost potentials of the park. Since tourism development can offer better alternative sources of living through ecotourism, thereby creating for opportunities local communities and improved biodiversity. For tourism development to be effective active participation of local is essential (Jeremy et al 2012; Souto et al. 2014; Garraway, 2017) because local community are the rightful owners of national parks, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where indigenes use the natural resources for agriculture, medicinal, purposes and will not augur well to "tag"them(PA) as restricted areas (Masozera, 2002).

Although, the generally census is that ecotourism provide several opportunities local communities and improved biodiversity, implies that the community support or otherwise in to maximize opportunities of the national and which specific role assign to the community improved biodiversity in national parks and the key focus of community involvement is conservation; to enhance planning and management of the national Parks. This understanding promotes equitable distribution of roles and benefits from the protected areas between the local communities and government (Adams and McShane1992; McNeely et al. 1992; Pimbert and Pretty 1997).

It is also important the local communities should be aware of the environmental, social and economic importance of protected areas (Anteneh et al., 2014). The participation of the local communities in conservation program is due to the perceive feasibility of economic and social benefits from the program (Milner- Gulland et al. 2003), as some recent studies (Obioha et al 2012; Ngoufo et al. 2014) have indicated the invaluable importance and contribution of wildlife products and by-products to various livelihood benefits of Oban communities.

Nonetheless considering that tourism development encompass many activities which also broaden the scope of local community involvement to achieve conservation goals There is so far limited explanation about the specific roles of local community involvement as well and tourism development activities which directly influence the