

## **Integrated Rural Development via Inclusive Tourism Development as a measure for entrenching National Peace and Security**

**Emmanuel S. Gwamna\*, Usman Musa**

Department of Estate Management and Valuation, School of Environmental Studies,  
Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, Nigeria.

Email: [emshega@gmail.com](mailto:emshega@gmail.com)

**Nasiru Salihu**

Department of Estate Management and Valuation, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

\*Correspondence Author

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.7367674](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7367674)

### **ABSTRACT**

Nigeria is presently facing a myriad of security challenges ranging from insurgency, terrorism, banditry and kidnapping in the Northern parts to ritual killings, cult clashes, armed robberies, militancy and kidnapping in the Southern parts. Over the years, there has been much advocacy for stepping up efforts towards integrated rural development in order to fast-track economic growth and development in Nigeria. This rural development is best done sustainably as enshrined in the SDGs. This study explores how the current Nigerian challenges of insecurity and terrorism can be addressed by the concept and implementation of inclusive tourism development which acts as a catalyst to integrated rural growth and development. Archival research comprising documentary secondary data was adopted for the study. Findings indicate that tourism is a potent sector that is capable of achieving all the 17 SDGs which catalyse integrated rural development. Such developments in turn foster national peace and security. This study will be of interest to academic researchers having affinity for tourism cum development studies as well as policy makers seeking for ways to improve the economy and promote peace and security.

**Keywords:** Integrated Rural Development, Inclusive Tourism Development, National Peace and Security, Sustainable Development Goals, Nigeria.

**How to Cite:** First Author, Second Author, (Year). Type the Research Title. *LC International Journal of STEM* Volume. 2 No. (3), XX– XX. DOI:

### **INTRODUCTION**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25th September 2015, recognizes not only that peace and security are

prerequisites for achieving sustainable development, but that sustainable development provides the pathway to peaceful societies (Bouzar, 2016).

It has been asserted that no meaningful development can be attained without peace and security. Nigeria is presently facing a myriad of security challenges ranging from insurgency, terrorism, banditry and kidnapping in the Northern parts to ritual killings, cult clashes, armed robberies, militancy and kidnapping in the Southern parts.

The insecurity situation has led to thousands of people being killed, millions being displaced from their homes, food production truncated, local and foreign direct investments discouraged and rural development further stagnated (UN, 2019).

Over the years, there has been much advocacy for stepping up efforts towards integrated rural development in order to fast-track economic growth and development in Nigeria. However, any development now whether urban or rural is best approached with sustainable indices in mind – that is, consideration for people (society), planet (environment) and prosperity (Zannier, 2016). Sustainable and integrated rural development can reduce poverty to a large extent as poverty is linked to insecurity, and insecurity also leads to poverty (Radio Nigeria News Commentary, 2019).

In the light of the foregoing, this paper takes a look at how the current Nigerian challenges of insecurity and terrorism can be addressed by the concept and implementation of inclusive tourism development which acts as a catalyst to integrated rural growth and development.

Following this section is the section that has to do with previous related studies. Section three explains the methodology for the study while section four dwells on the discussions of the study. The study's conclusions are drawn in section five.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Safety and security have always been an indispensable condition for travel and tourism. But it is an incontestable fact that safety and security issues gained a much bigger importance in the last two decades in tourism. Changes in the World during the last two decades were enormous. Due to terrorist acts, local wars, natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, that we were witnesses to, security has significantly decreased (Kôvári & Zimányi, 2017).

The growing influence of the tourism sector as an economic powerhouse and its potential as a tool for development are irrefutable. The available data indicates that the sector contributes to more than 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and provides for one in ten jobs in the world (World Tourism Organization, 2018).

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2017) has established the fact that there is a mutually beneficial relationship between peace and tourism. Peace is of course fundamental for tourism. The mere appearance of instability in a region can deter tourists, leading to devastating, long-lasting economic consequences. Tourism is a dynamic sector with phenomenal potential in Africa. Properly managed, it can contribute immensely to diversification and inclusion for vulnerable communities (UNCTAD, 2017).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have an intrinsic relationship to peace and stability. Without peace, all other goals—from focusing on youth and women's needs, to addressing climate change and water, energy and food security—will be impossible to achieve (Gullino, Beccaro & Larcher, 2015). The connection between tourism and rural development to foster peace and security is one of the reasons why investing in rural people is of absolute global relevance today (Radzuan, Dodo & Ahmad, 2018).

One of the present challenges in achieving the SDGs is in countries where peace is the main issue. For the SDGs to become attainable, development efforts will have to address the spectrum of challenges facing rural people, and be aware of the rural-urban nexus that ties together the fate of cities and the vitality of rural communities. Rural areas, where the majority of people derive their livelihoods from agriculture, account for around three quarters of the world's poorest and most undernourished. Eliminating hunger and poverty and consequently insecurity is inextricably tied to increasing attention to rural development (Bouzar, 2016).

## METHODOLOGY

In seeking to obtain information for this study, a review of previous research works regarding rural development through inclusive tourism development was done. The bulk of the data used for this study was obtained from secondary sources. The type of secondary data adopted is the Documentary secondary data where journals, articles, books and the World Wide Web (cyber internet) were consulted for information. This type of study is referred to as archival research (Agbola, 2013). Archived databases from research studies conducted previously have increasingly become a source of archival data for researchers (Teddlie & Tashakkori, 2009).

## DISCUSSION

Inhabitants of rural areas in Nigeria bear much of the brunt of insecurity and terrorism. This situation leads to rural-urban migration which congests urban areas and puts pressure on existing social amenities in such places.

The SDGs which are for the advancement and protection of the people, environment and economy are a sure way of achieving integrated rural development. The driver of the rural development can be readily obtained from inclusive tourism and heritage development.



Figure 1: Tourism as a facilitator to the achievement of 17 goals of Sustainable Development (UNWTO, 2019)

Figure 1 illustrates that tourism is a potent sector that is capable of achieving all the 17 SDGs. In achieving the SDGs, the rural populace is in the position to benefit. Inclusive tourism development which entails massive participation by stakeholders brings about integrated rural development in the form of improved housing, enhanced security systems, employment, industrialisation, boost in agricultural production, infrastructural provision, environmental protection and ecosystem harmony, economic growth through GDP, land accessibility and management, local and foreign direct investments.

When the people are well catered for and gainfully engaged, and the environment is protected supporting habitation, and the economy is thriving, then conflict and insecurity will be largely curtailed.

Zungeru town in Niger State of Nigeria has the potentials of becoming a sought-after and flourishing tourist destination with all its benefits to the people, environment and local economy if the inherent tourism and heritage attributes are harnessed and developed inclusively.

## CONCLUSION

There is increasing evidence of the emergence of a more responsible tourist; one that demands tourism products and services better geared towards environmental protection and beneficial to local communities. Recognizing this, as well as understanding how these demands fit within the framework of sustainable tourism for development, suggests a more critical role for destination management to better integrate the efficient use of resources, and coordinate the involvement of different stakeholders in the adoption of suitable policies, actions and initiatives.

Managing sustainable tourism for development also highlights the need to focus on developing and strengthening existing partnerships between government and the private sector, as well as those involving local communities, local stakeholders and tourism authorities, and partnerships among the international tourism community.

Tourism improves livelihoods, promotes poverty alleviation, enhances the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage development, and helps to build peace. Managing tourism development sustainably also requires strengthening partnerships between national and international public and private stakeholders, as well as local communities.

Creating firm links between tourism, the agriculture and infrastructure sectors, ecotourism and cultural tourism market segments can foster diversification into higher value activities and distribute incomes more broadly. To unlock this potential, the Nigerian Federal



and State Governments should adopt measures that support local sourcing, encourage local entities' participation in the tourism value chain and boost infrastructure development. This continued investment into the tourism sector could lift millions out of poverty, while also contributing to peace and security in the nation.

## REFERENCES

- Agbola, T., Egunjobi, L., Olatubara, C. O., Yusuf, D.O. & Alabi, M. (Eds.) (2013). *Contemporary Social Science Research Methods: A Practical Guide*. Lagos: MURLAB Searchwisdom Educational Publishing Services.
- Bouzar, K. (2016). No Peace, No Sustainable Development: A Vicious Cycle that We Can Break. *UN Chronicle*, Vol. LII No. 4.
- Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (2019). The link between poverty and insecurity. *Radio Nigeria News Commentary*, Retrieved August 05.
- Gullino, P., Beccaro, G.L. and Larcher, F. (2015) Assessing and Monitoring the Sustainability in Rural World Heritage Sites. *Sustainability*, 7, pg. 14186-14210.
- Kôvári, I. & Zimányi, K. (2013). Safety and security in the age of global Tourism: The changing role and conception of Safety and Security in Tourism. *Applied Studies in Agribusiness and Commerce*, 5(1033-2016-84147), pg. 59-61.
- Premium Times (2019). *Boko Haram: 27,000 civilians killed in 10 years – UN*. Retrieved August 01, 2019, from <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/344202-boko-haram-27000-civilians-killed-in-10-years-un.html>

- 
- Radzuan, I.S., Dodo, M. and Ahmad, Y. (2018). Exploring Training Factors as Incentive Tools in Safeguarding Cultural Heritage of Malaysian Traditional Settlements. *Journal of Heritage Management*, 2(2), pg. 189–201.
- Teddlie, C. & Tashakkori, A. (2009). *Foundations of Mixed Methods Research: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2017). *Press Release*, July 05.
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (2019). *Tourism for SDGs*. Retrieved August 03, 2019, from <http://tourism4sdgs.org/>
- World Tourism Organization and Organization of American States (2018). *Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – Good Practices in the Americas*. Madrid: UNWTO.
- Zannier, L. (2016). Fostering Peace and Sustainable Development. *UN Chronicle*, Vol. LII No.