

Original Research Article

Transformation of Kalale and Boziya as Viable Tourism Destinations for Social and Economic Development in Zamfara State, Nigeria

Mas'ud Bello, Ph.D^{1*}, Taofiki Aminu, Ph.D¹, Ahmed Ibrahim¹¹Department of History & International Studies Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria**Article History**

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Abstract: Nigeria is endowed with tremendous and unimaginable human and natural resources. Since its rise to nationhood, agriculture was the major driver of its economy. The discovery of crude oil at Oloibiri in the Niger Delta in 1956 and with the production of 5,100 Barrels per day, crude oil receipts replaced agriculture as the major source of revenue for the government. The country depended solely on oil which has made its economy vulnerable to external shocks, resulting from price variations in the global oil market. This situation has affected the performance of its budgetary spending and poor handling of economic diversification drives. It is against this background that this paper intends to explore the potentials of a neglected industry like the tourist sector, using Kalale and Boziya as viable tourism destinations for social and economic developments in Zamfara State and Nigeria at large. The paper initiated strategies for the improvements of these identified tourism locations for recreational benefits, income generation and the development of critical infrastructures among others in Kalale and Boziya. The methodologies adopted in the collation of data were oral interviews, fieldworks, observation, and use of relevant documentaries. Multidisciplinary approach, historical and archaeological surveys were also applied and undertaken. The findings revealed that Kalale and Boziya have the potentials for tourist attractions that will usher in a significant inflow of foreign reserve that will further boost the economy of Zamfara State and Nigeria, besides the capacity of the industry in employment generation, alleviation of poverty and social cohesion among several other advantages.

Keywords: Transformation, Tourism Destinations, Social and Economic Development.

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is refers to the movement of people to different places of interest for fun, holidays, comfort, recess and adventures among others. Normatively, people's that engages in such travel and expenditure are called "tourists," while the locations or places where many tourists stay are often referred to as resorts. For clarity, tourism is classified into; International tourism, (ii) Domestic tourism, (iii) Long Distance Tourism, and (v) Short Distance Tourism (Bankole, 2002). These classifications are informed by several factors like; proximity and purpose of visits. The definition of tourism takes different forms depending on individual's orientation, perception and world outlook (Bharwaj, 2006). Etymologically, the word "tour" is derived from the Latin word 'tornare' and the Greek 'tornos,' meaning 'a lathe or circle; the movement around a central point or axis. When the word tour and the suffixes -ism and -ist are combined, they suggest the action of movement around a circle (Bankole, 2002). In

addition, Mathieson and Wall (1982), offered a practical working definition of tourism as "the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence, and tourists undertake different social activities during their stay in those destinations, and are provided with facilities to cater for their needs.

In a similar vein, a tour represents a journey that is in form of a round trip which deals with the act of leaving, and thereafter returning to the original starting point or home means tour, and therefore, one who embarks on such a journey is called a tourist. In fact, the undulating nature of Zamfara State land and forest reserves' prepares the sound base for numerous tourism activities (Zamfara Tourist Guide, 2020). These areas could be harnessed and transformed to spawn new face-look with potential innovations for domestic and international recognition, pristine infrastructural growth, migration, urbanisation as well as income

*Corresponding Author: Mas'ud Bello, Ph.D

Department of History & International Studies Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria

generation to Zamfara State (Fieldwork, 2021). Again, a critical observation indicated that the tourist areas of Zamfara State depicts such characteristics with the potential to draw visitors or tourists from close and far distance areas within and beyond the State and shore of Nigeria. Most significantly, the cosmopolitan values of Kalale as a forested community in Dangulbi district of Maru Local Government Area and Boziya cannot be over-valued. For instance, Kalale is noted for its abundant wild animals, viz: Elephants, Lions, Hyena, Tiger, Gorilla, and Hippopotamus take shelter (Daji, 2022). On the other hand, Boziya has two plains located directly at opposite directions and a thick forest covering a very large area which can be transformed to serve multiple purposes like; rain water harvesting, development of game and grazing reserves, livestock watering points, etc. It has the propensity to engender source for drinkable water; a similitude of Yankari water or Faro table waters, which enormous vantage will reduce the constraints of water and as well yield income to the Zamfara State. It is against the above prism, the germaneness of tourism could be expressed as a dynamic and profitable industry that requires the ability to adapt constantly to customers' changing needs and desires, as the customer's satisfaction, safety and comfort are the cardinal focus of tourism businesses (Christie, Fernandes, Messerli and Twining-Ward, 2020). Deducing from the foregoing conceptual dispositions, the potential gains and benefits to be accrued from the transformation of the tourism sites of Kalale and Boziya in Zamfara State will be unimaginable, if actually explores to the fullness.

Similarly, in most developing nations of the World, tourism is a major source of employment, improvement of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It should be noted that earnings accruing from tourist spending at various destinations has empowered members of the local host communities has to a large extent served as a catalyst for socio-economic development (Cooper, Fletcher, Gilbert & Wanhill, 1993). The host local communities of Kalale and Boziya tourism sites, when robustly transformed will have the proactiveness for provision of systemic development of critical social infrastructural amenities like electricity, water supply, communication, transportation, motor-able roads and improvement of primary health care facilities (Cooper, *et al*, 1993). In a nutshell, the tourism sector is a peaceful industry that reflects the nature and beauty of a country. By and large, it helps tourists to explore the culture and norms of other people outside their abode and as well provides opportunity for a country to make a better image of itself around the World (Bankole, 2002).

Taxonomy of Tourism

There are different taxonomy of tourism travels and activities. These classifications are based on the nature, dimension and purposes of visitation. Some

of the major established taxonomy of tourism may include but not limited to the followings:

- **Coastal Tourism** - This refers to land-based tourism activities, such as swimming, diving, surfing, sunbathing, felucca sailing and other coastal leisure, recreation and sports activities which take place at the Red Sea and Mediterranean coasts, the Nile and the oases (Lickrich, 1991). Others example include the pond like; Kalalle Hippopotamus pond in Zamfara strategically located for a specific form of river tourism engagements (Zamfara Tourist Guide, 2020).
- **Cultural Tourism** – This is a type of tourism in which the visitor's essential motivation is to learn, explore, discover, experience and consume culture and cultural heritage of the host community. For example, Egypt is more specifically refers to ancient history, temples and tombs, tangible and intangible cultural attractions and products. Other areas may include; archaeological sites, locations with monuments, History and Culture Bureaus, Museums, Archival centres, etc. A similitude of such historic sites abounds in Zamfara State endowed with numerous aesthetic cultural heritage and centres for cultural tourism (World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), 2021).
- **Adventure Tourism** - This form of tourist journey usually takes place in destinations with specific geographic features, such as the Desert, Wadis, and National Parks, which tends to be associated with physical activity, cultural exchange, interaction, and engaging with nature, like Queen Yargoje's palace at Kuyambana, Dutsi site and ancient Kiyawa in Zamfara State (Mason, 2003).
- **Religious Tourism** - This form of adventure is informed by religious reasons. It can also be referred to as faith tourism or spiritual tourism. People go on religious holidays to reflect upon their faith, by travelling spiritual and religious sites for reflections on old memories. Examples of locations may include; Tombs of famous religious, cultural and political heroes and heroines, battle field, shrines, synagogues, etc. Examples of these sites in Zamfara State are the Tomb of Sarkin Yaki Namoda at Kauran Namoda, Yandoto ancient city, Kwatarkwashi ancient historical mountain (*Bori Cult or worship*), remnants of Madacci settlement on Kwatarkwashi ancient Mountain, Barayar Zaki in Anka (the final spot of the Sokoto Jihad in Zamfara), Gada spot of distribution of flags to Sokoto Jihad war lords known as the Flag-Bearers, etc. (Saddik, 2022).
- **Rural Tourism** - This is a type of tourism in which visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities. In Egypt for example, this includes agricultural production sites in the Delta, rural lifestyle or culture, and Bedouin Arabs locations and rural life styles. In Zamfara these locations may refer to

ancient Zamfarawa cities, rural architecture and cousins (Lickrich, 1991).

- **Wellness Tourism**- This also has been another form of tourism with the primary motive of engaging the tourists in preventive pro-active lifestyle-enhancing activities. Tourists visit rich therapeutic environments that attract people from around the World. This form of tourism is recommended for victims of social depression, stigmatised persons, frustrated individuals, hypertensive patients, victims of rapes and assaults, etc. The rationale of this form of tourism is to cool tension through gradual improvement of mental, emotional and physical health conditions (Ngozi, 2018). Similarly, Kalale and Boziya have the potential for provision of serene environments that could be transformed to perform such hospitable functions in responding to ill-conditions of tourists.
- **Urban or City Tourism** - This is an exposition trip aimed at improving local and global awareness. The places of visit offer broad and heterogeneous range of cultural, architectural, technological, entertainments and shopping experiences (Mason, 2003).
- **Sports Tourism**- Sports tourism refers to travel experiences where tourists either watch as spectators or actively participates in a sporting tournament (Mason, 2003). Kalale and Boziya tourism sites cannot be exempted from sports tourism due to availability of water and forest reserves.

Therefore, in the global economy, tourism is one of the most noticeable fastest growing sectors of an economy, particularly in stabilised economies with relative peace and stable political system. This sector plays an important role in boosting a nation's economy because an increase in tourism flow can bring positive economic outcomes to a nation, particularly, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment opportunities (Lickrich, 1991).

Tourism industry has emerged as a key force for sustainable socio-economic development World over. The idea behind sustainable tourism is to visit the locations without harming the local community by also having some constructive impact on the environment, society, as well as the economy of the country. Tourism activities entails; local transportation to the tourist destinations, securing and paying for accommodations, spending on leisure's, entertainments, shopping, taking of pictures and nourishments. There has been a widespread consensus that tourism growth should be sustainable, although the question of how to achieve this has been a subject of debates in the globalisation era (Pender, and Sharpley, 2005).

Developing economies initiatives on the development of tourism is to advance their weak economies, promote peace, develop human resources,

and alleviate poverty in the economy. Tourism helps to enhance employment opportunities and earnings, which will add values to income among the local population in terms of employment and improving their socio-economic condition, which could lead to an improved standard of living. Tourism industry also improves local community development and helps to reduce poverty (Sahalu, 2019). Based on the above rhetoric analysis of tourism industry, Kalale and Boziya have the tremendous capacity to provide similar or that will transcend the aforementioned.

Insights on Zamfara State

Zamfara State as the study area has natural resource endowments to facilitate the development of a viable and sustainable tourism industry. It is a very beautiful State located in the heart of north-western part of Nigeria with evidence of undulating nature of lands, and vegetation types inherent in the physical features. In fact, the adequacy of rainfalls and sunshine in the State are blessings which can never be neglected on the growth and development in plethora of areas. However, these natural blessings are capable of accommodating the needed development strides within the ambit of providing a tourism haven for visitors, not on its face-look, but for myriad of benefits. The cultural heritage and historical inheritances of the State are visibly very evident in this ancient kingdom (Chafe, 1999). In its geographical description and reality, Zamfara is located on a Trunk A major high-way along Zaria (Kaduna State) - Sokoto road and famous for its enviable hospitality, commerce; particularly agriculture, livestock production, leather works and extractive industries like Gold mining (Bello, 2020). These and many other advantages in Zamfara State have been contributing to the State and Nigeria development. It could still be actualised in the contemporary situation, if tourism sites are thoroughly morphed to provide alternative source of hospitality and revenue generation.

Statement of Research Problem and Justification for the Study

The settlements of Kalale Hippopotamus Pond and Boziya historical forests and Mountains are potential tourism destinations in Zamfara State. These potential enclaves have suffered serious neglect by successive and present State Government since 1996 when the State was created (Umar, 2022). Some reasons adduced to such neglect might have arises from government disinterest as there overbearing concentration mono-economy of oil as well as lack of synergistic nexus with domestic and international investors. As a matter of fact, the potentials of these tourism sites (Kalale and Boziya) locations deserved to be harnessed and developed with a view to improving the States and the Nation's sources of income through tourism industry. Aside from the economic benefits, the tourism sector through recreational services will promote peaceful co-habitation among the conflicting groups in State. It is interesting to construe that, there

has not been any scholarly production on the tourism potentials of Zamfara State, or any suggestions on how to develop the sector and bringing to fore its socio-economic benefits to the State and the nation. These natural resource endowments at Boziya and Kalale are grossly under studied, reported and exploited for wider benefits. It is based on the foregoing assertion that this current academic discourse sees it as a double necessity and made concerted effort to x-ray the phenomenon for its advantages as well as aiding the de-escalation, or probably ride-off Zamfara State of incessant violent conflicts.

The justification for the study therefore becomes imperative in order to bring to fore the historic communities of Kalale and Boziya as well as how their natural resource endowments can be explored, transformed and improving to attracts domestic and international tourists' visitors with the attendants' socio-economic benefits for Zamfara State and Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The cardinal aim is the exploration of the "Transformation of Kalale and Boziya as Viable Tourism Destinations for Social and Economic Development in Zamfara State, Nigeria,"

Fundamentally, the study is to find-out and document the tourism potentials of Boziya and Kalale communities in Zamfara State. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. to examine and document the community histories of Kalale and Boziya towns;
2. to examine the natural endowments of these locations in relations to tourism development in Zamfara State;
3. to assess the social and economic benefits that will be accrued from Kalale and Boziya tourists destinations;
4. To initiates strong collaboration between government, investors and tourism host communities towards the mitigation of violent crimes and conflicts in Zamfara State.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research on tourism requires a multi-disciplinary approach; hence inputs from tourists and hospitality service providers were sought for and applied in this study. Data for the re-construction of the study was also obtained from varieties of sources namely; primary, secondary sources and fieldworks (observation) etc. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sectors. These respondents include; different categories of tourists, Hotel managers, Government officials, host community members, and forest guards among others. Considering the areas covered by study, the services of research assistants and guides were employed in sourcing for information. The oral respondents

consulted were personalities not below the age of forty unless in rare circumstances where information were obtained from respondents below the age of forty like tourist travellers, and hotel managers. Information obtained from oral interview was critically examined to avoid misinterpretations and contradictions of the major established arguments and conclusions of the research findings.

Similarly, in the conduct of oral interview respondents were chosen from different parts of the study areas and the basis for choosing these respondents was that they were the key players in the tourism industry in their respective areas and have provided valuable information for this work. Relevant literatures (Books, Journals, Newspapers and Periodicals) were consulted, studied, analysed and used to establish facts on the study.

Geographical Description of Zamfara State

Zamfara land is located in the Rima Basin area, its area extends up to the bend of River Rima to the North-West and River *Ka* in the South-West (Garba, 1977). Greater part of this the kingdom later metamorphosed into Zamfara State (the area of this research). Zamfara is one of the thirty six States in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (Bello, 2020) (See Figure 1a showing Map of Zamfara State and Figure 1b showing Map of the study Areas). The climate of the area records a minimum temperature rising up to 35⁰C (100.40F) between March and May. Raining Season starts in late May to September/October, while cold season or harmattan starts from December to February/March, depending on climatic variations (Udoh, 1970). The changes in the condition of the climate had continued to impact on the patterns of livestock production and the wider agricultural practices in the identified areas (Bello, 2020). Zamfara State is located in the North-west Region of Northern Nigeria. It covers a landscape area of 38,418 square kilometers. It has Sokoto to the North, Kebbi and Niger States to the west; Katsina to the East and Kaduna State to the south (GPS Coordinates of Zamfara, 2022).

The 21st Zamfara State stretches from latitudes 10° 21¹ N to 13° 15¹ N and longitude 6° 20¹ E, (Zamfara State Ministry Of Information Youths Sports And Culture, 2006). The State also serves as a transit zone for pastoralists migrating from neighboring States and from the Republic of Niger to central and south - western Nigeria through Zamfara in search of rich grazing land (National Population Commission of Nigeria, 2016).



Fig-1a: The Map of Zamfara State

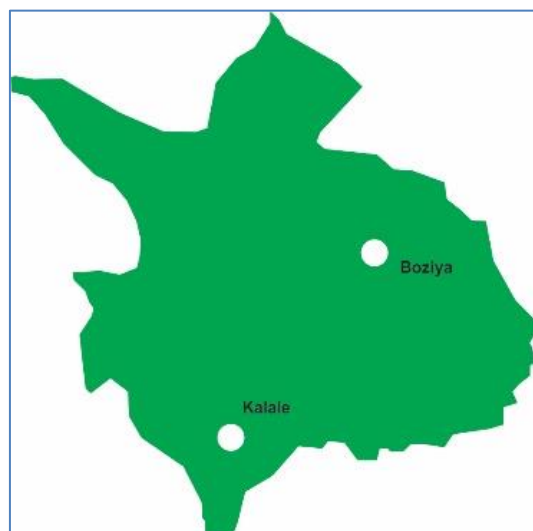


Fig-1b: The Map of Maru Local Government Area showing the study spots

Sources: Zamfara State History & Culture Bureau, State Library, Ministry for Land & Housing, Field Work 2022, the Map was re-drawn by Ochuko Mathias Ogbodu.

Appraisal of Related Literature

There are quite a handful number of scholarly literatures that attempted to explain the concept of tourism as would be demonstrated in some of the appraised works below. However, on a general note, tourism has been agreed to be an the activity involving people traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business or other purposes for not more than one consecutive year. The word 'tour' in the context of tourism became established in the English language by the eighteen century. On the other hand, according to Oxford dictionary, the word 'tourism' first came to light in the nineteen century (1811). It originated from a Greek word 'tomus' meaning a round shaped tool. In 1905 tourism was defined "as a phenomenon involving the

mingling of various nations and classes of human society, as a result of the development of commerce, industry and trade, and the perfection of the means of transportation', UNWTO (Zaei, M.E and Zaei, 2013).

In his attempt to define tourism, Haiying (2019), offered that tourism is "a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purpose." While Kamra and Chand (2002), added that tourism has been a growing service industry with vast sustainable potentials.

IQPC (International Quality and Productivity Centre), Mani, Abdulrahman *et al.*, observed that tourism industry is fast growing in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa records 4% annual growth rate in tourism industry. The World Tourist Organization (WTO) predicts that the number of international tourists will rise to almost 1.6bn by 2020 as opposed to 565mn in 1995 and international tourism receipts will exceed US \$2,000bn, this is quite remarkable (IQPC (International Quality and Productivity Centre) (2015); Mani 2021; Abdulrahman, Muhammad & Muhammad, 2014). The study is very significant as it will equally envision for projection of viable potential values of tourist industry in Zamfara State.

The Star Attraction (SAT) - explored tourism policies in South Africa stressing on their strength and deficiencies. It in addition evaluated Government policies and legislations on tourism, but did not examined government spending in the years under review and the role of other development partners in the South Africa's tourism industry. Deriving from the foregoing, this write-up on Kalale and Boziya in Zamfara State will assess formal policies as well as the extent of engagement of development partners on tourism sector in the area under review (Star Attraction (SAT), 2020/2021). In addition, SAT also observed that over the last ten years, tourism in South Africa has emerged as a leading economic growth sector. It is now one of the largest contributors to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and offers significant employment and enterprise development opportunities. The contributions by SAT also observed that tourism is the fastest growing economic sector in South Africa, contributing close to 7.1% of the GDP, a labour-intensive industry that generates foreign revenue and stimulates a broad range of other industries (Star Attraction (SAT), 2020/2021). The works by SAT will guide this particular research piece in evaluating the benefits of tourism sector in Zamfara State.

In the same vein, the piece is a report on South Africa by 'Annual Year Book' of 2016/2017 on South African Tourism Sector. The work established that tourism remains a key driver of South Africa economy and has contributes to job creation. The report stressed

that, tourists arrive South Africa by air with highest visitors coming from China. It highlighted that legislations and policy initiatives are channeled towards the improvement of tourism sector like marketing, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, protection of the environment, special arrangements for people (visitors) with physical challenges, improvising and facility upgrade, prudent management of income from the sector for welfare of the citizens and comprehensive training of tourism guides. In the cases of South Africa, these centres up to this period remain a landmark areas where tourists find it much expedient where tourists savour to visit, such like; Green Kalahari, Kalahari, Northern Cape, Free State, Matheo, Diamond Field, Upper Karoo, Namaquaaland, Eastern Cape, Xharrep, Hantam Karoo etc (South Africa Tourism Report, 2016/2017). In relation to Zamfara State, the indices of tourism industrial sector in South Africa are good illustrated examples that have the capability to improving on people's life well-being. To transform such ideals in area of study, it is evident that, it has the potential for beautification of tourism attraction centres of Kalale and Boziya in Zamfara State.

CBI (2019), made a value chain analysis on tourism industries in Egypt; the study underscored the competitiveness of Egypt's tourism industries, its value chain prospects and challenges. The report acknowledged the following forms of tourism in Egypt; Coastal, Adventure, Cultural, Religious, Rural, Wellness, Sports, and Urban/City tourism destinations. These indices will be adopted where applicable to classify the taxonomy of tourism destinations in Zamfara State (CBI Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019) While the studies conducted by Tamazon assessed the impact of the Arab spring on tourism industry in Egypt and it established that the toppling of Hosni Mubarak in 2011 resulted to 30 % drop in tourist arrivals in Egypt and its attendant decline in revenue figures compared to 2010. Adapting from the above, the study have the propensity to demonstrate how tourism industry will supports the fight against crimes and criminalities in rural and urban communities of Zamfara State (Tamazon, 2017). Response to such will be established through governments' proactiveness in strengthening the gesture of employment opportunities to the youths of the tourism host communities.

Abeer, El-Hady, *et al.* (2015) fine-tuned their work on the study on another form of tourism called dark or religious tourism in Egypt. The duo observed that there is abundance of dark tourism attractions in Egypt that are of historical important, such includes; the battle grounds, cemeteries of military leaders and international celebrities, memorials houses of leaders, spots of murders or assassinations, shrines, etc, these elements are not effectively utilised. According to their findings, dark tourism aims at healing wounds and entails a collective sense of identity and empathy, reunion with grandparents, revival of events and self-

fulfillment, self-discovery, commemoration, education and entertainment. The studies identified dark tourist destinations like; South and North Sina, Port Said, Suez, Sharqeya, etc. The study on Egypt is very apposite to the discourse on Zamfara State as similar historic tourism sites are often available in Zamfara left unexplored by researchers and scholars of tourism. This inept might have due to its remoteness to point of attraction or does not arouse the consciousnesses the intellectual favours of the government and investors. This study on Zamfara State will identify with religious tourist destinations and advance more lights on the development of the identified dark tourism as another virgin sector to be explored. The dark tourism destinations has the possibility of satisfying tourists desirability of getting acquainted with the jihadists' military and religious dispositions exhibited in Zamfara in the 19th century, as part of the Sokoto Caliphate.

According to Christie *et al.* (2020), tourism creates revenue to the economy, job opportunities to localities and other source of livelihood to Sub-Saharan Africa States. It shows the strength of tourism as abundant assets with expansive beaches, plentiful wildlife, extensive natural and cultural attractions, and adventure opportunities with major problem of land availability, investor access to finance, taxes on tourism investments, low levels of tourism skills, lack of security, safety and high crime rates, public health challenges, visa requirements, etc. More also, the study highlighted the importance of both public (government) and private (individual/organizations) sector's investment towards tourism. The study is very relevant to the current intellectual expedition on tourism in Zamfara State, it provides the exactitude of the inherent constraints, and when morph to better advantage will have the disposition to reduce the pervasive criminalities in the rural areas. However, the study on Zamfara tourism destinations will spur the government roles and individual/organisations towards positive development and modernization of tourism attraction centres in the State.

The United Nations (UN) (2017), Report stressed that tourism plays an importance role in growth, structural transformation and revenues (more stable source of external flows than foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances); promotion of peace among Africans and the wider World. It also emphasised the components of tourism i.e. tangible (transport system, hospitality services; security and other services) and intangible components (rest and relaxation, culture, adventures and experiences). The study discussed the negative impact of Ebola pandemic on tourism in Africa, which drastically reduced the revenue generation of from 2014 to 2016. A recent diminishing Covid-19 pandemic precipitated serious devastating effects on African nations leading to another reduction in revenue generation in tourism sites.

Harilal, Tichaawa & Saarinen (2019), established that tourism promotes the sustainable use of resources and ecosystems. Tourism growth and development in Cameroon are managed by the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure. Their study reviewed anchored on the place of legislative policies and strategic plan on improving tourism advantages. Most fundamental, the study explained pervasive corruption malaise and Boko Haram terrorists' ceaseless pugnacious attacks as some of the major impediments militating against the growth and development of tourism in Cameroon. The study in Zamfara State could not be devoid of such constraints arising from the fragile nature of the State that emanated from security laxity and corruption scourge. This study will therefore assess the role of Zamfara State government's legislative policies on tourism and the effect of armed banditry on tourism as its pangs can never be undervalued.

Signe *et al.* (2018), is a significant study on tourism in Africa, it critically examined tourist potentials, opportunities, risks and challenges. The study established that since 1950, the global market for international travel and tourism has exhibited uninterrupted growth. It posited that after the end of the Cold War, the sector accelerated more rapidly in the global economy, with an average annual growth rate of 4.1 percent between 1995 and 2010. This figure informed Africa development experience in its initial boom in tourism industry which if improves on have the potential to increase positive income yielding in the subsequent years that follows. This development gives hedge to Zamfara State tourism industry if adequately utilise will have the leeway to ushers in pristine source of income that will discourage overarching competition on oil and the other economies.

Other relevant study is that conducted by African Tourism Monitor (ATM) (2015), which recorded that Egypt leads in tourist arrivals in Africa, followed by South Africa, Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire. The study asserted that there are more than 1.4 Billion tourists globally from that which identified African tourist States take their portion accompanied with exchange of ideas and revenue generation through visits. The work also appraised and applauded the existing inter- regional legislations across Africa that empowers tourism. This study is highly germane to Zamfara State as regional legislative policies have the strength to improve qualitatively on tourism centres that are of historic and significant cultural heritage in nature. In this, Kalale and Boziya seem to have the tendency to benefits from such empowerment if properly transform to bring out the desire tourism quality.

While JIKA & TDA (2000), identified and proposed development plans for some selected tourist destinations like Cairo , Suez Canal, Sub- Nile Valley, Middle Nile, Upper Nile, Red Sea, South Sinai, Red Sea, North Sinai, Mediterranean Sea, Alexandria, Matruh , Desert and Oasis regions and sub-regions, etc. This study on Zamfara will identify, extract and suggest improvements of tourist destinations in the State, not only on its outlook aesthetics' values, but an improvisation for job opportunity and income generation as well as to compete with international tourism standard globally. Comparatively, the work of Ondicho (2003), discusses tourism endowments in Kenya, the role of private investors in tourism development plans and challenges facing the sector. The study is helpful in suggesting tourism development plans and platforms for private investors in Zamfara State tourism sector.

Benefits of Kalale and Boziya Tourism Destinations on Social and Economic Development of Zamfara State and Nigeria

Zamfara State is endowed with a good number of tourist attractions centres. It is one of the ancient kingdoms of Western Sahara that attract local and foreign visitors because its' natural mysteries. Some of the areas of interest in the State include; Historical, cultural heritage and natural places of significance which include; Kuyumbana Game Reserve, Dajin Rugu, Bakalori Dam and Dangulbi Pond (Kalale), Ruwan Kaiwa, Rumu, Surguma, Chilbin Kaya; Sarakkara where crocodiles reside; forest reserve at Dawan Jiya; Bagegea and Wuya where Elephants, Lions, Hyena, Tiger, Gorilla, and Hippopotamus take shelter. Others areas include; cultural and historical sites like Kwatarkoshi rock, Baura and Kauka cultural festivals in Kwatarkoshi and Kanoma hills; Namoda tomb in Kaura Namoda, River Ka and Zamfara in Anka; Ganuwa city wall at Kiayawa; and Shamushalle elephants grazing reserve. However, this particular article ventures and carry-out expeditions on the Kalale Hippopotamus Pond, and the plains water resources of Boziya Forest (Zamfara Tourist Guide, 2020).

Kalale Community Hippopotamus Pond

Kalale is a forested community in Dangulbi district area of Maru Local Government of Zamfara State. Its inhabitants comprise of agro-pastoralists, hunters, artisans, Gold miners and petty traders. It is a serene, friendly and comfortable settlement because of its liberal climatic condition. Its boundaries from all cardinal directions are all year round attractive forest and farm lands. Its inhabitants are majorly; Hausa and Fulbe speaking groups (Dangulbi, 2022). The picture below in Figure 2a shows the Kalale Hippopotamus old site, while the image in Figure 2b shows the proposed impression of the improved site.



Fig-2a: Kalale Hippopotamus Pond (Old Site)



Fig-2b: Kalale Hippopotamus Pond (Proposed Site)

The image in Figure 3 below shows the Boziya plains and improved water ways for conservation. This site is of great natural attraction and will serve as a source of water conservation to support livestock production, fish production, game reserve development, pasture improvement and irrigation agriculture respectively. It has the potential support for rural economic and cultural development in Zamfara State. In fact, the cool down restive nerves over pasture resources from the month November/December livestock watering points usually become dried due to shortage of annual rainfall. In other words, this challenge has grossly hampered the management of livestock by semi-nomads in all year round pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.



Fig-3: A Section of the Proposed Boziya Tourist Site and Water Conservation

Therefore, it becomes imperative for Zamfara State government to re-double its efforts and liaise with

consultants to develop the Kalale hippopotamus pond and Boziya plains forest by improving the sites to become one of the most impressive tourist's attraction centres in the country. This will become where tourists from within and beyond the shores of Nigeria could troop all-year-round to get entertained by aesthetic nature of the natural endowments in area (Daji, 2022).

It is worthy of note that there are about a thousand of hippopotamus at the Kalale pond which have the potential capacity and values to attract visitors to enjoy the scenery and desirable taste. However, the hippos have, over the ages, especially in the recent decades, constituted a great nuisance and terror to the Kalale community. Again, the hippos have become night 'thieves,' they swim out of the pond at night, invade farms and damage large bulk of farm crops. The farmers in the locations close to the pond had to device measures to safeguard their farm produce from being damaged by the hippos. This therefore, informed the needs to protect and conserve these species for tourist's attraction (Ladan, 2021) and menace has grossly affected farmers' profit margins at point of harvest. But with proper transformation to tourism destination, it will help to broker tourism activities from heinous attacks of wild animals to a tourism site for visitors to Zamfara State and Nigeria.

Kalale has to be connected to the national electricity grid, drilling boreholes and connected with pipe water to make a befitting tourist destination. Other required key infrastructures include; security outpost, accommodation, access roads, cafeteria, transportation facilities, canopies, galleries for display of historical artifacts, shops, library, etc. (Bilyaminu, 2022).

The Forest of Boziya Community as a Tourist Resort the Community History

Historically, Boziya is an ancient village under Dangulbi district of Maru Local Government Area in Zamfara. The land is located in the geological belt of Precambrian age formed as a result of metamorphosis and igneous activities. There are also tertiary sediments that have resulted in limestone, clay, graphite, stone and coal. In Boziya, the average amount of rainfall in the area fluctuates between thirty-six (36) and eighty (80) millimetres in a year. The vegetation of the area is a hybrid of southern Sudan and Northern Guinea Savannah blessed with light and beautiful thick forest and small, but very rich water ways. It is a hospitable and attractive forest belt because of its serenity. The settlement on a general note has an average attractive and friendly climate. It is bounded in the east by the village of Malmaye, in the west by a vast forest blessed with a famous game reserve in the south part by a large forest, and also the Sabuwal in the north. This therefore signifies that Boziya is centrally located amidst forest and surrounded by distant human settlements (Dauda, 2022).

The major inhabitants of Boziya are; Zamfarawa, migrants gold miners, Sullubawa groups, Hausa and Fulbe speaking people. The major occupations of the people are; hunting, farming, artisanal gold mining, irrigation farming and petty trade. The major routes leading to Boziya forest are; Bingi road, Kanoma hills and from Bungudu town. Boziya has been a no - man's land because of its accommodative and receptive nature of migrant communities from all over the State and the region. This makes the area more cosmopolitan and liberal town that has the strength and capacity to influence tourism visitation against all odds and challenges (Albada, 2022).

The centrality of its location geographically distant it from all other neighbouring or outlying communities, this isolation makes it a unique settlement worthy for its transformation to a tourist destination in Zamfara State. However, the State Government in its bid to improving and sustain peaceful co-existence in the State has to initiate more and improves the existing basic infrastructures in Boziya community. These include; water supply, drainages and sanitation, access roads, shelter belts and accommodation for visitors. Other critical infrastructures include; security post, primary health care facilities, re-creation centres, shops, library for comfortable research, irrigation farm lands, water canals, game reserve, and gazette hectares of land as grazing reserves and cattle ranches. This has the possibility of going a long way in further cementing the relationship between the nomads and farmers in the State who has been at logger- heads over diminishing pasture or forage resources (Lawal, 2022). This has been so because Zamfara State is largely an agrarian society with livestock economy serving as a major source of income for its citizen because of its value chain. This stride will have the propensity for internationalization of commercial activity on livestock and others in Zamfara State and Nigeria as a whole.

The Natural Features of Boziya Community

In its geographical realities, Boziya community has two plains located directly at opposite directions and a thick forest covering and inundate a very large area which can be transformed to serves multiple purposes like; rain water harvesting, development of game and grazing reserves, and livestock watering points among others. Its length covers about 322 metres and breadth of the two opposite plains covering about five kilometres with very attractive features of shrub trees, flowers, and flowing waters from the height of the plains down deep to the bottom base of the plains. The geographical location attracts livestock for grazing and water supplies, advantageously for other consumable in the like of Faro table water among others. The game reserves are also worthy for conversion or invariably transformation into an animal reserve for tourist attraction (Lawal, 2022). In fact, local visitors in the

region have oftentimes epithet this location as a little 'World Paradise.'

Importance of Tourism Industry to Social and Economic Development of Zamfara State

- 1. Generation of Income and Alleviation of Poverty Ridden:** The importance of the tourism industry to the economic development of Zamfara State is numerous. The industry, if adequately funded for transformation to tourism destinations, it will improve the State's revenue drives in multifold. First and foremost, it will promote the generation of income which will be of tremendous benefit to the local host communities and the country Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The local host community members that render sorts of services to tourists will make some earnings for livelihood with the potency to accelerate the host standard of living. The income and other levies generated can be used at the national and local levels to fund education, improve infrastructure, to fund the conservation efforts at Boziya forest and to promote tourism resources at other virgin locations in Zamfara State such as; Barayar Zaki, Galadi and Katuru, Jaja, Kuyanbana, Damri, Dutsi, Gada, Kiyawa, 'Yandoto etc (Zamfara Tourist Guide, 2020). All these are historic areas that could necessitate visitation not only for its relic, but also to appreciate the political and gallantry military dispositions prior the 19th century British colonial enterprise.
- 2. Tourism as a Source of Employment:** The tourism industry encompasses the provision of different services that therefore creates job opportunities in plethora of ways. Tourism promotes the development of souvenir shops, sports equipment rentals, hotels, hotel housekeeping, tour guides and tour companies, restaurants, car rental agencies, service stations and many more. The resultant impact in the long-run leads to creation of different types of employment for people within and outside tourist's resorts and destinations. Financial transactions that usually ensued during engagements promote the circulation of money and services that are rendered and paid for accordingly. This will in no small measure digital banking system (POS) through self-employ opportunity created through the availability of uninterrupted visitation by tourists. Through this, visitors' expenditure generates income for the local community and can equally lead to alleviation of poverty in countries which are heavily reliant on tourism or searching for means of economic diversification like Zamfara State in Nigeria. Equally, poverty as an economic condition of lack of money and basic necessities of life like; food, water, education, safety, health care, freedom, shelter etc can be alleviated through the incomes generated from the tourism industry (Mason, 2003).

3. **Tourism, Peace, Social Cohesion and Integration:** Travelling enriches an individual's exposition and experience particularly educative encounters based on recreation provide relief from the monotony of daily routine. A change of place and climate helps a traveler to refreshes his/her mind, body and spirit. Tourism also allows both the tourist and the locals an opportunity to share experience of other cultures, which promotes exposures and broadens understanding. The current stage of insecurity crisis in Zamfara State has shown that many armed banditry groups are tired of jungle life. Having acquired tremendous booties, the desire is now to have peace, rest of mind and settle in the urban or semi urban centres for comfort. But the fear of the unknown like reprisal attacks, revenges made them feel highly unsafe to come close to major towns and cities to repent and live a normal life (Kabia, 2005). However, the conversion and development of the Boziya and Kalale forests into tourism centres will serve as a soft-landing destination for visitors, the general public, repentant groups, etc. This can be achieved through the State Government's peace negotiations, social rehabilitation initiatives and will avail the tourism destinations for better and exceptional transformation. This is because; the powers of recreational centres in soothing of tensions, promoting social cohesion and vivifying old good moments that cannot be overestimated. This has been evident because the recent re-introduction of a Fulani cultural ceremony called *Sharo* (Fulbe Wrestling) have started cementing cordial relationship at a very significant and appreciable level between the two warring factions of Hausa and Fulanis' before the atmosphere became tensed again by dissatisfied political groups in Zamfara State as alleged (Ladan, 2022; Daji, 2022).
4. **Transformation and Aesthetics Nature of the Environment:** Normatively, tourism industry provides financial supports for the conservation or transformation of ecosystems and natural resource management by making the destination beautiful, attractive and desirable to visitors. This is because values have been added to spawn the natural features for serenity and habitation haven. This could be ascertain and actualised because Kalale and Boziya sites have all it takes to attract tourists due to the uniqueness of the locations and centrality. It could equally be reiterated that, a beautiful environment promotes happiness and joy which improves and supports good health and prolong life span of an individual (Akan, Ibrahim and Isik, 2008). This could also address, as a therapy to dissuade the short life-span challenge ubiquitous among African populace.
5. **Economic Diversification:** The minimal and radical neglect by government of some African States' endowed with natural resources advantages toward creation of alternative economy has resulted

to cumbersome economic policy. For example, the implications of the enormity has hinges on continues over-concentration on mono-economy of oil which many years has culminated to violent conflicts and dwindling nature of other economic vantage in Nigeria. In other words, Nigeria's economy has been vulnerable to external shocks because of the nations over reliance on oil revenue while other potential sectors of the economy like the tourism sector suffers neglect. Therefore, in addition to bringing prosperity to an economy, tourism industry also allows an economy to develop and generate a opportunity, new source and forms of income. This acts as an insurance policy during hard times, because additional income accruing to the treasury can support the nation's oil receipts deficits resulting from oil price fluctuations at the international crude oil market (Joseph, 2022). In the case of Zamfara State, its bulk of economic sources is solely relies on statutory allocation from the Federation account, therefore, the needs to improving on alternative source of revenue earnings is highly imperative. This can be achieved multi-tourism destinations of Zamfara State if judiciously utilise to provide the requisition of tourists within and Nigeria beyond.

6. **Improvements of Infrastructural Developments:** The development of the tourism sector will definitely bring in the improvement of existing infrastructures and facilities. This is because of their inseparable nature as each complement one another in services provision to tourists in the State and host communities. The sector in turn will have the potential to create additional revenue to the Federal, State and Local Governments through infrastructural improvement. The pristine basic infrastructures and facilities bring in more visitors especially when there is enough revenue to build new airports runways, schools and hospitals, which all support the economic development of a country (Falade Timothy and Suchi, 2014). Infact, the wide expanse of land in Zamfara have the potential capability to provide such benefits in the face of transformation of the tourism destination of Kalale and Boziya to amiable haven in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual budgetary expenditure of Zamfara State government has been majorly from the statutory grants it receives from the federation account which constitute more than ninety percent (90 %) of its year in - year out spending. Government businesses cannot survive without financial allocations from the Federation account; it is against this background the needs for alternative source of income became highly imperative. Therefore, the development of tourism in addition to income creation and employment opportunities is a direct response since there available

tourism destinations that are left unexplored in Zamfara State. In fact, harnessing them will help the State and the country over time to overcome the challenges of balance of payments as well as consolidation of gains without overbearing romance with one mono-economic system and income.

Besides, it is interesting to note that international tourists who patronize tourism services add value to the receiving country's revenue accounts on an appreciable scale. Equally, the tourism sector in Kalale has the potential strength to provide trading opportunities for participating nations, regardless of their level of socio-economic development. This is because of the availability of livestock farming among others. The tourism industry will also play strategic role in healing old wounds and further cementing the relationships among the troubling factions in the State like the farmers and herdsmen. These were people that had hitherto been living together as one united family by soothing tensions through recreational engagements, convivial robust relation, improving income flow, proving additional pasture and grazing resources; particularly the Boziya project.

At this juncture, the authors commend the initiatives of Zamfara State Government for establishing the Ministry for Tourism Development. This will avails the Ministry in collaboration with professional stakeholders as a matter of urgency to gazette all viable tourism resources in Zamfara State for the purpose and possible development of master plan and a blue print for their systemic development in phases. This article has offered some strategies and headways in this direction with particular reference to Kalale Hippopotamus Pond and Boziya forest reserves.

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