

# Tourism Planning and Regional Development

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## ABSTRACT :

Since the second half of the last century, academics and governments in various parts of the world, particularly in the Less Developed Countries (LDCs), have developed and implemented numerous strategies for regional development. The degree and nature of the success or failure of various strategies varies from nation to nation.

**KEYWORDS :** *Industrialization, Tourism Planning, Regional Development, Less Developed Countries (LDCs).*

## INTRODUCTION :

Industrialization, mineral resource exploration, primary product exportation, and the concentration of investments in major urban centers at the expense of the regions were some of these strategies. The "Growth pole theory," developed by Perroux in 1950, was modified by Myrdal (1957), Hirschmann (1958), and Boulderville (1966) into the "Growth Centre Theory" that serves as the foundation for these kinds of development strategies.

The search for an alternative development paradigm was fueled by the growing disparity in development levels and the growth center models' inability to achieve the desired equitable balance. In contrast to the growth center model, which is referred to as the "Center-down approach," researchers have developed the "Bottom-up Theory" of regional development over the past three decades.

The modernization approach was one of several strategies associated with the bottom-up approach; fundamentals of strategy; unified strategy for rural development; agribusiness strategy and agropolitan strategy, to name a few (see Adeyinka et al., 2002). The various bottom-up paradigm strategies typically concentrate on distinct aspects of regional development.

Regional development, as defined by the World Bank in 1975, is a process of growth, transformation, and progress. The ability to retain and absorb a young, progressive, and productive population demonstrates the growth. It also implies reorganizing the economy to meet the material

requirements and aspirations of the populace, particularly the rural masses, who make up the majority of the population.

It must also encourage incentives for individuals and groups to participate in development. The transformation of rural residents' monotonous and stale existence into a dynamic and exciting one is the "progress" aspect of regional development.

According to Lele (1979), development is defined as raising the standard of living of the majority of low-income rural residents and making their development self-sustaining. She says that this straightforward definition has three important characteristics that have significant repercussions for the design and implementation of regional development programs: namely-

1. Mobilization and the creation of conditions that encourage people to increase their income-generating capabilities are necessary for raising the standard of living of the subsistence population,
2. People must be involved in the formulation and design of developmental programs in order for mass participation to occur, and
3. Thus, self-sufficiency entails involving the populace in the implementation and administration of development programs with the ultimate objective of enhancing the populace's social and economic well-being.

Given the circumstances described above, various governments in LDCs have taken a sectoral approach to regional development, focusing on various economic facets, in order to fulfill these three requirements. Tourism is a neglected part of the economy in many LDCs, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Cole (1981) asserts that a nation's level of technology and its endowment of natural resources are among the factors that influence development. The potential for rapid socio-economic development, as well as the ability to generate foreign exchange, reduce unemployment, and raise people's standard of living, was not fully appreciated by many less developed nations.

As a result, the various characteristics of tourism resources and their adaptation as a strategy for regional planning are examined in this paper.

There are sections to the paper. The definition of tourism, as well as its potential and benefits, follow immediately after the introduction; The treasures for tourism development came next; ecotourism as a strategy for growing tourism; criteria for the growth

### **1.0 TOURISM: -DEFINITION, POTENTIALS AND BENEFITS**

The leisure industry, according to the definition, "operates within capabilities for regeneration and future productivity of natural resources," is referred to as tourism. recognizes the role that costumes, communities, and lifestyles play in the tourism experience; accept that these individuals must receive an equitable share of the tourism industry's economic benefits and be guided by the wishes of the host community As a result, the tourism environment consists of both physical and human components.

The physical part includes things like weather and climate, water, and natural plant and animal biodiversity; Even though the history, culture, and tradition of the people make up the human component, all of these things provide people with challenges and adventures.

Less Developed Countries (LDCs) in dire need of an alternative source of foreign exchange earnings have turned to tourism as an appealing and sustainable strategy for economic development. Tourism is the global net foreign exchange earner, second only to oil. It is the largest and second-largest employer of labor in the tertiary sector of the global economy, after agriculture. The transportation, manufacturing, food processing and packaging, construction, trade and commerce, and other ancillary services sectors are just a few of the many areas where tourism could have an impact on the economy. Because it is a commodity that is sold all over the world, it has a global market from which it gets its customers and no age limit for them.

Numerous advantages of tourism have been identified by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP, 2000). Among these are the following:

- It engenders the development of public infrastructures (transport, electricity, water, and health),
- It engenders the generation of foreign exchange and income for the government and individuals,
- It engenders the generation of direct and indirect employment opportunities with greater multiplier effects,
- It encourages people to participate at all levels,
- It has the potential to increase public appreciation of the environment and to spread awareness of environmental problems when it

of eco-tourism; a few instances from Nigeria; Ecotourism treasures in Ethiopia's Amhara region and conclusion.

brings people into closer contact with nature.

- It contributes significantly to environmental protection, the conservation and restoration of biological diversity (including plant and animal species), and the sustainable use of natural resources. This confrontation may make people more aware of how important nature is and inspire environmentally conscious actions and behaviors to protect the fragile environment.

### **2.0 THE TREASURE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

There is nothing on Earth that does not have one or more things that draw tourists there. The way tourist facilities are packaged for local and international consumption is what sets them apart. Despite the fact that there are resorts and recreation centers in cities, any nation's greatest tourist potential is found in its countryside. There are three types of tourism development treasure:

1. Geological or topographic features of particular interest, rare plants and animals, water bodies (oceans, seas, lakes, and waterfalls), ecological features that should be preserved, and areas with special scenic appeal are all examples of natural treasures.
2. Prehistoric sites (camps, artifacts, etc.), ancient monuments (precious stones, monoliths, historical buildings and ruins, and memorials), and features of industrial archaeological interest are examples of man-made treasures.
3. Places with historical, biographical, artistic, and literary treasures, as well as cultural, traditional, and lifestyle treasures, are allusive treasures.

All of these are part of the world's natural heritage. The majority of them are in the countryside and offer visitors from all over the world great challenges and adventures.

#### **2.1 The demand and uses of tourism facilities can also be grouped in to five as:**

1. the short-term vacationers' need for peace and quiet as well as mental and physical refreshment in nature. The stresses of modern life, which can be eased by tranquility, necessitate rest and recuperation in order to get away from the crowd, get back to sanity, and recharge in a quiet environment.
2. traveling to far-flung parts of the countryside to take in the unspoiled view of the natural

- environment and engaging in exercise to find contentment and relaxation.
- Engaging in permissible rural outdoor activities like hunting, shooting, fishing, sailing or canoeing, swimming, mountain climbing, etc. Most of these are sports in rural areas with both natural and artificial facilities on which people are willing to spend their leisure time and extra

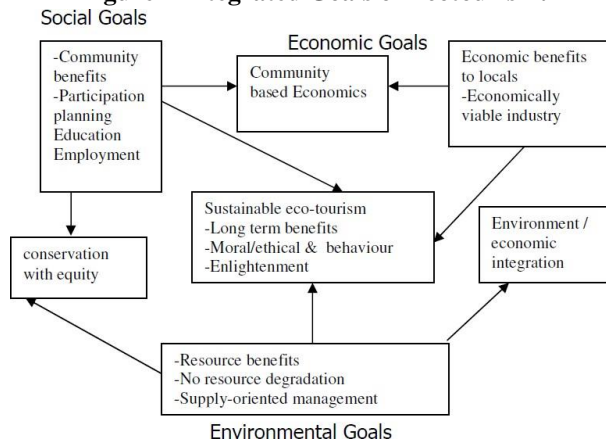
money.

- Educational use: tourist facilities serve as both a research tool and an object of study in and of themselves.
- The use of the countryside as a "second home," either permanently or for a short period of time, with country home cottages apart.

### 3.0 ECO-TOURISM AS AN APPROACH TO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The adaptation of tourism as a strategy in regional planning and development was given a new boost by the concept of "eco-tourism," which was developed a few decades ago. This had a noticeable multiplier effect. As shown in figure 1, eco-tourism is a holistic approach to tourism development because it incorporates the three fundamental development goals of economic goals, social goals, and environmental goals into its operations.

**Figure 1 Integrated Goals of Ecotourism.**



Ecotourism outlines management strategies and introduces the environment as a resource for tourism and recreation. Because of its connection to conservation, sustainability, and biological diversity, it is particularly intriguing. Ecotourism has the potential to advance the following three fundamental objectives as a development tool:

- Enhance the value of healthy ecosystems and strengthen public or private protected area management systems to preserve biological and cultural diversity.
- Create income, jobs, and business opportunities in eco-tourism and related business networks to support the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Obtain the informed consent and full participation of indigenous communities and local communities in the planning and management of ecotourism businesses to fairly share the benefits of ecotourism developments. Ecotourism examines negative cultural and environmental impacts, outlines strategies for managing recreational pressures on the environment, and introduces new economies based on leisure resources.

### 4.0 ECO-TOURISM ENCOMPASSES THE FOLLOWING FIVE CRITERIA:

- Conservation:** Private reserves, native tree reforestation, or supporting established reserve areas are all examples of conservation practices. It is essential to understand that the purpose of a protected area is to preserve habitat for flora and fauna, allowing species to exist and thrive without human interference, despite the fact that protected areas are extremely appealing to tourists. It is best to make your visit to a protected area as minimally disruptive as possible.
- Green and low-impact efforts:** Ecotourism—also known as "green hotels" or "Ecotels"—follows ecofriendly management practices like water recycling, composting, and energy conservation.
- Sustainability:** A well-balanced lifestyle that can be easily maintained in the future is considered sustainable. This is especially critical when traveling to environmentally sensitive locations. Sustainable practices include building with local materials and techniques and growing food in organic gardens.
- Community Participation:** Community involvement is one of ecotourism's most crucial components. Whether or not the establishment is sensitive to its impact on the community and whether or not tourism is benefiting the region are two of the considerations taken into account.

Tourism must benefit the local culture and population. In an ideal world, the business would be owned by the community; however, in the event that this is not the case, the locals who work there should have jobs that aren't mundane. The community ought to reap the benefits of the resources it is willing to share with visitors.

#### 4.5 Interpretation and environmental education:

As a result of environmental education and interpretation, guests can return to the Eco-Facility with new recycling techniques or knowledge of the local culture. Clear and pertinent dissemination of information is critical. development).

While the idea of sustainable tourism varies from country to country, it is still a development strategy for tourism

. However, it does not limit the availability of natural capital or prevent visitors from enjoying the same experiences. Ecological, sociocultural, and economic sustainability capabilities are the three components that make up sustainable tourism. Ecological sustainability, according to Puczko (1998), ensures that the development is compatible with the site's environmental process, economic sustainability emphasizes continuous benefit for all generations, and socio-cultural sustainability ensures that tourism development preserves community identity. Therefore, eco-tourism is relevant to tourism advancements and falls under the umbrella of sustainable development. Traditional cultures and wilderness environments face pressure from population growth, resource exploitation, poor management, debt, and issues with recreation development (external development pressures) in many developing countries.

The environment has a limited capacity to withstand the effects of human activity without losing the characteristics that initially attracted tourists and recreationists to it.

#### CONCLUSION

Since the 1950s, academics and governments in various parts of the world have developed and implemented regional development strategies. Industrialization, mineral resource exploration, primary product exportation, and the

Education programs that assist the community in preserving their environment and growing as a whole are also very important.

#### 4.6 Growth of Sustainable Tourism

Tourism and recreation ought to be sustainable, just like other land and water resources. Linking ecological principles to economic processes to reduce environmental stress and meet the needs of the populace is necessary for the long-term integrity of ecosystems and preservation of the environment's regenerative capacity (sustainable

concentration of investments in major urban centers were some of these strategies. The degree and nature of the success or failure of various strategies varies from nation to nation.

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