

Impacts of Sisyphian Socio-Political Instability on Tourism in Belo Subdivision, North West Region-Cameroon

Nfor Delphine Mbongsi^{1*} and Nges Marcel²

¹Lecturer of Geography, Department of Geography and Planning, The University of Bamenda, P.O Box 39, Bambili-Cameroon.

²Department of Geography and Planning, The University of Bamenda, P.O Box 39, Bambili-Cameroon.

*Corresponding Author

Abstract: Tourism as an act of leisure and recreation is the main income generator in the world today. In sub Saharan Africa (SSA), tourism has surfaced as one of the leading industries that provide economic benefits to independent governments. Although it is beneficial to economic development, the decision to travel by a tourist is influenced by a sound social cohesive environment void of political instability, violence, and terrorism. The Sisyphian socio-political instability existing between the state and separatists in the restive Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon denotes an obstacle to the tourism industry in Belo subdivision in the Northwest Region of Cameroon. The continuous weight exerted by the socio-political instability on tourism in Belo subdivision attracts research effort. To assess this continuous weigh, qualitative and quantitative methods of data sourcing were employed for secondary and primary data collection. Related literature was reviewed alongside oral histories captured through interviews, informal discussions, and questionnaire administration to 68 respondents in households as well as field observation which constituted methods of data procurement for the analysis of the impacts of the Sisyphian socio-political instability the subdivision. Quantitative data were processed and presented in the form of tables and graphics for descriptive analysis while qualitative data were processed using *in-vivo* codes, analytical codes and themes. Results reveal that 76.47% of rural residents acknowledged a decrease in the value of the touristic potentials while 89.5% confirmed that most of the potentials are covered with overgrown vegetation. Results also reveal that 75.6% agreed that there is a decrease in the number of visitors. To transcend this unabated instability, both state and separatist leaders should come to a consensus and give peace a chance. The subdivision should be granted incentives for infrastructural renovation around touristic potentials sites.

Keywords: Socio-political instability, touristic potentials, tourism activities, Belo subdivision

I. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is now a global industry involving hundreds of millions of people in international as well as domestic travel each year (Mason, 2003) and it has been estimated that a total of US\$1,401.5 billion was globally generated in 2016 in visitor exports (WTTC, 2017, Immanuel, 2019), creating quality jobs and substantial wealth for economies around the world (Abam, 2017, World Travel and Tourism Council, 2019). It comes second only to oil as the world's leading export commodity, accounting for global earnings of more than \$300

billion, or nearly 25% of total world GNP (Poirier, 2000; Ryu, 2010). Over the last two decades, tourism has proven to be the world's fastest growing economic sector with significant direct, indirect and induced economic effects (Njoya and Nikitas, 2020; Njoya et al., 2022), with an average growth of 7.1% per year in arrivals and 12.5% in receipts (Poirier, 2000; Ryu, 2010). Despite these statistics, apparent growth in tourism in many countries falters when confronted with various political instabilities that distract the development in tourism. The issue of political stability and political relations within and between states is extremely important in determining the image of destinations in tourist-generating regions and the real and perceived safety of tourists (Hall, 1996). Warfare, coups and political strikes cause problematic concerns in tourism development and the attraction of visitors. As Ankomah and Crompton (1990) suggest, a major consideration in a potential traveller's decision to visit any foreign destination is that country's political stability and general internal security conditions. This is in line with the investigation of Neumayer (2004) that tourism arrivals drop due to a number of different unattractive political factors (human rights violations, conflict, and other political/violent events and various types of political shocks) and their influence in the tourism and hospitality sectors (Ivanov, 2017).

Any evidence of domestic turmoil is likely to result in a decision not to visit a country. Although political risk has an impact on all types of businesses, it affects tourism business performance in terms of tourist arrivals and tourism revenue as tourists are sensitive to political risk in host countries (Muzindutsi and Manaliyo, 2016). Political instability is considered as a condition where a government has been toppled or is controlled by factions following a coup, or where basic functional prerequisites for social order control and maintenance are unstable and periodically disrupted (Sonmez, 1998; Ryu, 2020). A number of different dimensions of political instability can be identified within international tourism (civil wars, coups, terrorism, riots, political and social unrest and strikes) (Hall and O'Sullivan, 1996). Hall (2002) believes that the impact of terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America has placed the tourist

industry at the international level in turmoil thus, jeopardizing the global economy.

Political violence leads tourists to opt for places where there is peace and sometimes may decide not to go at all (Baker, 2014) as they are all concerned about their safety. Travellers will always shun politically instable resort areas (Chingarande, 2014). Tourists are generally very sensitive to their security and safety and choose carefully the holidaying country (Nyaruwata et al., 2013). The worst events which affect tourism sector are those caused by mankind such as wars, violence and political turmoil (Chingarande, 2014). These events succeed in frightening travellers (Cavlek, 2002 and Heng, 2006) thus, affecting their travels. This ties with the situation of Beijing in China in 1989 where students protests were suppressed with the help of military tanks (Ryu, 2010) which eventually portrayed a negative image on the tourism sector by reducing tourism earnings in Beijing by 30%, and overall earnings of approximately \$430 million in that year alone, contributing heavily by the cancellation of travel plans by 300 tourist groups, which was approximately 11,500 individual travelers (Sonmez, 1998). The perceived risk witnessed in the South Asian region due to the war in Afghanistan and the strained tensions between India and Pakistan caused a negative tourist flow to Nepal (Thapa, 2003).

Many SSA countries, if not for the sociopolitical instability tearing them apart, their rich touristic potentials could have been transformed into a profitable industry. Since World War II, almost all African countries have achieved independence and in several countries, this decolonization process has taken the form of long and often bloody liberation wars (Teye, 1986). Armed factions and insurgents compete for power amidst the shrinkage and collapse of state services (Day et al, 2020). Most of the evidence on tourists' reluctance to visit most African countries points to fear and insecurity that act as a major barrier, often seen as an expression of lack of interest in travel (Ankomah and Crompton, 1990). It is a truism that while many authors believe that political unrest is the gateway to the learning environment for a successful terror attack (Campos and Gaaebner, 2013), Murad and Alshyab (2019) consider terrorism as part of the political unrest framework while Lanouar and Goaid (2019) see it as political violence and terrorist attacks negatively impact tourism with the latter having a bigger long-term impact.

Cameroon was partitioned to Britain and France during the colonial era. Southern Cameroons was under British rule while East Cameroon or French Cameroon as ruled by France. In a Referendum held on the 11th of February 1961, Southern Cameroons gained independent on 1st of October 1961 by joining French Cameroon. This led to reunification of the two Cameroons under federation which was embraced to keep the colonial legacies (Kaze, 2021). These former colonial entities unitary pack went stale shortly after independence. This stale union has been the biggest threat to the tourism industry as instability and friction are constantly witnessed between the two entities (Vincent, Funteh, Henri & Léa, 2017). This has

affected overseas travellers who consider travelling to Cameroon for tourism (Okereke, 2018). Cameroon has vast tourism potentials which are challenged by political inability to situate, promote and market itself as an exciting cultural and natural as well as ecotourism destinations (Kimbu, 2011). The Sisyphian sociopolitical instability with roots as far back as 1961 resurfaced in 2016 and till date, the two Anglophone regions have increasingly witnessed major challenges in most domains of every day's happening (Konings and Nyamnjoh, 1997) including the tourism domain. The main upheavals are manifested through strikes and protests, curfews, killings, torture, kidnappings and ransom (Pommerolle and Heungoup, 2017) and they have shun tourists from visiting the beautiful destinations in the Anglophone regions with Bamenda in general and Belo subdivision in particular. The socio-political instability that became aggravated in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon initiated by trade unionists rapidly metamorphosed into a political scene on 10 October 2016. This scenario was applauded by opportunists who took as advantage over their long grievances as to the revision of the form of the state or the partition of Cameroon (Abam, 2020). This political upheaval instigated some foreign and accredited embassies in Cameroon to caution their citizens not to visit these two regions (www.allafrica.com, Abam, 2020). This political arena has enormous negative impacts on the tourism sector in Belo subdivision endowed with diverse touristic potentials. This political upheaval led to three months' internet shutdown by the government of Cameroon (International Crisis Group, 2017, and Mbamalu, 2017). This was to stiffen communication between the population and the external separatist leaders but unfortunately, this attempt instigated continuous strikes that affected all forms of businesses (Ndangam, 2008).

Perception of the state of touristic potentials in crisis zone

Political instability, civil unrest and war can increase the perception of risk at a destination (Lepp, 2003). Political instability generates negative publicity, which results in the inevitable decrease in tourist arrivals (Thapa, 2003). The risk perception can severely influence tourist decision-making and destinations with substantial negative economic consequences as tourists substitute their vacation destinations or regions as political unrest, war depressions and civil strife discourage tourism (McIntosh et al., 1995). Most research done have found that most international tourists have a positive impression and believe that tourism is a major force in promoting world peace and cultural understanding (Khamouna and Zeiger, 1995, Goeldner et al., 2000) as it is strongly dependent on peace and security (Pizam and Mansfeld, 1996). Peace is a multi-faceted concept instigating different authors to view it in diverse ways. Within the context of tourism, peace applies to the concept of harmonious relations (Var et al., 1989) while war is the clash of arms among countries (Mihalic, 1996). Generally, peace is defined negatively as the absence of war or as the absence of violence (Galtung, 1990). A positive definition of peace with relation to tourism was found in Kim and Crompton (1990) who

suggested that peace is a state which removes logistical barriers to travel and psychological notions associated with fear for personal safety and antipathy from prospective hosts. To Burnett & Uysal (1990), it is a condition where military force is not currently being applied and is not reasonably expected or anticipated in the future whether that force is from external or internal sources. A multidimensional definition of peace in D'Amore (1988) was the Russian definition that it implies peace and tranquility within us, peace with our fellow humans and between nations, peace with nature and our spaceship earth, peace within the universe. Although everyone identifies tourism industry as a significant catalyst for the economic and social transformation of less resource-rich countries and communities, the sector though with numerous advantages, can also suffer from attacks especially in socio-politically instable environment. In such a situation, the touristic potentials are bound to loss value. Political unrest and social instability can also harm tourism arrivals (Njoya, et al., 2022) as tourists prefer destinations with a peaceful social environment and political stability (Neumayer, 2004; Reisinger and Mavondo, 2005).

Impact of socio-political instability on tourism activities

Political instability is a complex and multidimensional term with various conceptualizations and interpretations (Andriole and Hopple, 1984; Gupta 1990). Politically unstable countries frequently suffer from a negative image abroad, poor infrastructure, narrow tourism supply and unstable demand (Issa and Altinay, 2006) and disruptions to the travel demand of a destination affects substitute destinations (Warnock-Smith et al., 2021). Therefore, lasting peace is a prerequisite for the continuing increase of travel. Travel is the most direct, objective and valuable tool for assisting mutual understanding, knowledge and tolerance (Goeldner, 1989). Wilkinson (2007) insinuate that political conditions which affect tourism include laws, regulations and state policies which discourage direct marketing of tourism as countries facing political instability introduce new laws such as the imposition of curfew as means to contain and manage political instability. However, the measures often do not encourage inflow of tourists. No investment, social, economic and cultural activities are flexible in warzones (Dibb et al., 2001) and therefore, activities and movements are often disrupted because of insecurity. Political turmoil in Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, South Korea, the Gambia and Zambia decreased tourists' number (Hall, 1994). Tourism in Cyprus after independence became a major source of revenue; however, the invasion of Turkey which took place in 1973-1974 drastically affected its tourism sector (Clements and Georgiou, 1998). This paints the exact situation in Belo subdivision.

II. LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

Belo Sub Division forms part of the Bamenda Highlands and lies along the Cameroon Volcanic Line (CVL), about 50 km from Bamenda. The Sub Division lies between latitudes 60 06'N and 60 020'N and longitude 10 0010'E and 10 0032'E. It is surrounded by Fundong and Njinikom Sub Divisions to the

west and to the east by Oku and Babessi Sub Divisions while to the north it is bounded by Noni Sub Division and to the south by Tubah and Bafut Sub Divisions (figure 1). The entire sub division covers a surface area of about 46,068km². The Belo municipality covers 29 villages with 96 quarters and has a population estimate of 88,664 inhabitants (2010 estimate, NWPSS, 2010) and a population density of 181.64 persons per kilometer square.

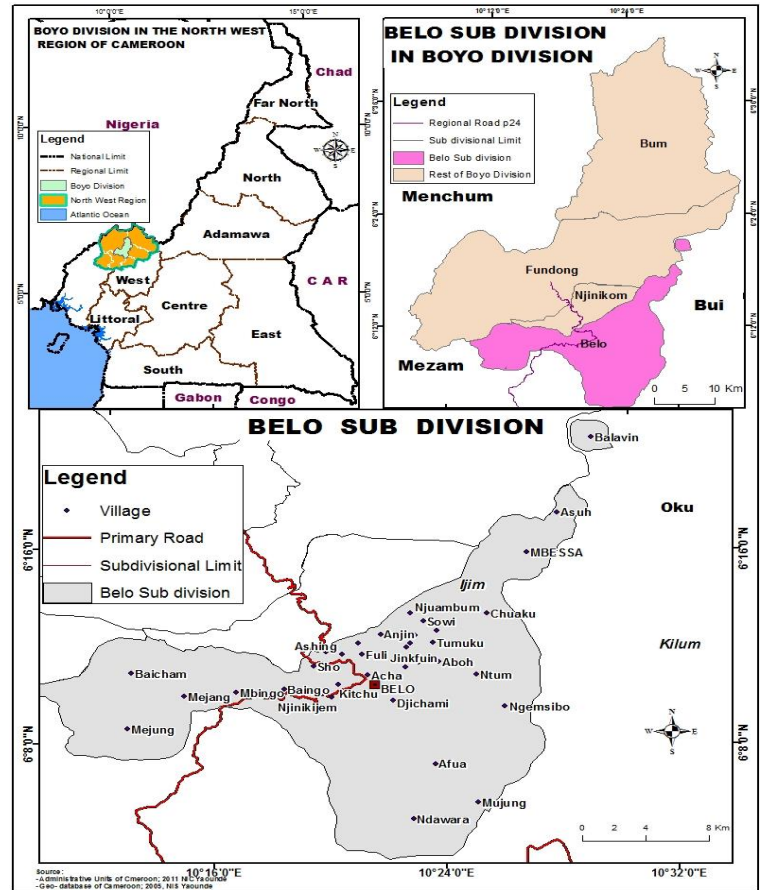


Figure 1: Location of Belo subdivision in Boyo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon

Source: Geo Database, 2011 of Cameroon, NIC

III. TOURISM POTENTIALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN BELO SUBDIVISION

Belo subdivision has waterfalls deriving from the high annual rainfall of 2000mm. This high annual rainfall with its peak in the months of August and early September necessitates the increase in the volume of streams, rivers and waterfalls. These waterfalls include the Foynkom waterfall at river Mufua (Baingo), Ngewi waterfall at river Mughom and Ijim waterfall at Anyajua. Natural swimming pools such as the Ngewi twin swimming pools (river Mughom) and that at Acha River as well as the Mbi Crater Lake and part of the Oku Lake are touristic potentials in this study area. Many rivers such as Mughom, Mejang, Mufua and Acha take their rise from the Ijim-Kilum Mountain and the headwaters of the Menchum River. The

many escarpments and caves such as the ones around Baingo, Djichami and Tumuku respectively as well as brooks serve as good attractions for tourism in Belo subdivision (figure 2) which compete with Scotland and Switzerland (Loh, 2018). Belo subdivision has beautiful rolling and a rugged topography characterized by two broad valleys separated from each other by mountain ridges running from east-north-east to west-south-east. Prominent of these ridges are the Aweh mountain ridge and the Tchington ridges which join in the east to form part of the Ijim-Kilum (Oku) Mountain of more than 3000m. Present are the Belo and Mughom valleys which join at the Tchington break. The Mbingo-Baingo escarpment and Mulonin-Ijim plateau has slopes of more than 350m which are good sites for ecotourism in Belo. The subdivision is endowed with rich volcanic soils that encourage agriculture. There is the present of a thick and ever green forest both at Ijim and Mujang with endemic species such as the *Banama Toraco*, *Prunus Africana* and a host of many. The sub montane and gallery forests (raffia trees) are found at the foot of the highlands and in the valleys respectively. These forests serve as reserves, thus, an attractive scenic beauty for tourism. The beautiful hills of the area are covered with savannah vegetation which is green during the rainy season and golden brown in color in the dry season. The Kom people have a diversified cultural and traditional performance in both happy and distress moments coupled with their warm hospitality. All the aforementioned potentials make the people to believe that if tourism is part of a people, then Kom is the place (Loh, 2018).

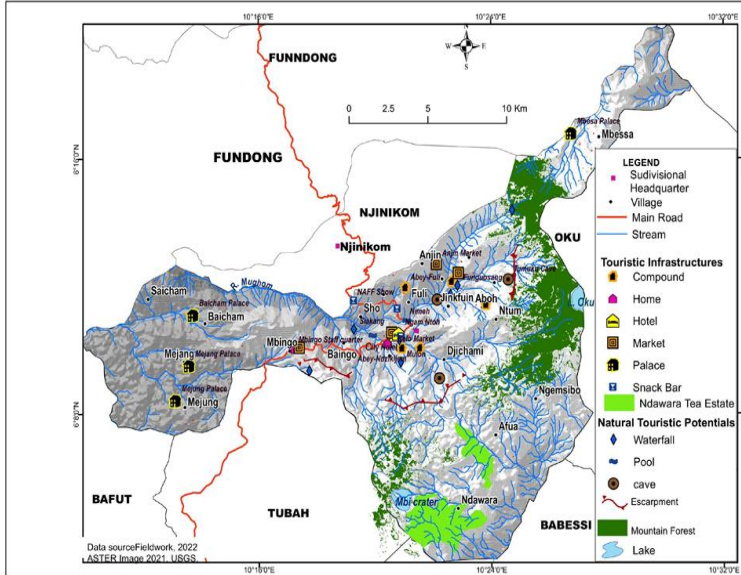


Figure 2: Spatial distribution of touristic potentials in Belo subdivision
 Source: Aster Image 2021, USGS and fieldwork, 2022

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study adopted quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection based on a review of existing literature. Data for this paper were gleaned from oral history and the responses of respondents acquired through questionnaire administration to

68 respondents at the level of households. A total of 68 respondents provided answers to the questionnaire while four interviews comprising of a tourist guard, a worker, restaurant owner, a trader all in Belo subdivision was interviewed to obtain useful information on the nature of the volume of tourists' inflow, turn over in trade, income generation situation in relation to the socio-political instability in the area. Oral historic sources were obtained in Jinkfuin, Anyajua and Kitchu, known as prominent rich touristic sites in the subdivision and was conducted at home with those that masterminded the touristic activities in the area. Informal discussions enabled the researcher to gather more insightful information on the touristic potentials and tourism in relation to the sociopolitical instability in Belo subdivision. Observations were part of this exercise to determine the touristic activities so as to review secondary sources on the subject. Photographs were obtained through on-the-spot observations for visual geography. Inferential statistical techniques were used for data treatment and the results obtained were presented in the form of tables, bar charts and percentages. Some prominent sites rich in touristic potentials were selected at random. These selected villages are Afua, Anyajua, Jinkfuin, Kitchu, Belo Central and Mejang. These sites were selected to represent the entire Belo subdivision on issues of its touristic potentials and tourism in relation to the sociopolitical instability.

V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Population perception on the state of touristic potentials in Belo sub division

The population of Belo subdivision has been affected by the socio-political instability rocking the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. This instability has resulted in massive displacement of people within and out of the North West Region. Kidnappings, torture and rape have increased death toll in the area. This has slowed down cultural-socio-economic activities (tourism sector) in the subdivision in particular and the region in general. However, the population has varied perceptions as per the impact the instability has on touristic potentials in the area (table 1).

Table 1: Population perception on the state of touristic potentials in Belo subdivision in crisis period

Indicators Village	Noticed any changes	Respondents' perception on touristic potentials			Total	%
	Yes	Decreased value	Increased value	No change		
Afua	9	7	2	0	9	13.23
Anyajua	10	7	2	1	10	14.71
Jinkfuin	17	13	4	0	17	25
Kitchu	9	7	2	0	9	13.23
Belo Central	13	10	2	1	13	19.12
Mejang	10	8	2	0	10	14.71
Total	68	52	14	2	68	100
%	100	76.47	20.59	2.94	100	100

Source: Fieldwork, (2022)

Table 1 show that all he respondents (100%) acknowledged that there are changes to the touristic potentials in Belo subdivision. Out of the 100%, 76.47% of them perceived that there has been a decrease in the value of the touristic potentials at the dawn of the socio-political instability in the late 2016. According to them, most of the potentials such as caves, shrines, village sanctuary and secret places no longer offer attractive opportunities for tourists. This is because the cultural and traditional custodians are either threatened or suspected by the regular army that they are bestowing some magical powers to non-state armed groups, thus, fortifying them to fight against the state military. They revealed that some of the touristic potentials have been burnt down by bush fire as a result of abandonment or are completely covered with overgrown vegetation beyond recognition. The roads leading to some of the potentials are narrowed or covered with overgrown vegetation, thus, making movement difficult and frightful. It was also affirmed that the non-state fighters most often make their way into the surrounding bushes, thus, rendering visitation and accessibility practically dreadful. It should be noted that once a touristic site is rendered inaccessible, the touristic potentials are devalued since it no longer plays its cultural, social and economic roles. This situation is further aggravated by the numerous and frequent road blockage, fear of uncertainty, ghost towns and lockdown as well as torture and kidnappings for ransom. It is also indicated on table 1 that 20.59% of the respondents perceived that some of the touristic potentials have increased in value. They pointed out to the waterfalls, the twin swimming pools and the forest that have increased in volume and regenerated in the course of time respectively (plate 1).



Plate 1: photos (a and b) Road to ancestral site and cave completely covered with overgrowth vegetation and photo (c) abandoned cave (sanctuary) in Belo and photo (d) waterfall at Jinkfuin

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Human activities around these areas have come to a halt and it is now possible to see some types of animals such as deer, antelope, squirrel and a greater population of rat mole that were no longer common in the area. This aspect is attributed to the fact that many people have abandoned the area because of insecurity. Still on table 1, a total of 2.94% of the respondents perceived no change in the existing touristic potentials. It was observed in the field that the physical state of the touristic potentials has undergone enormous changes that range from positive environmental resilience portrayed in the regeneration of the forest and negatively on touristic potentials and infrastructure which have a direct effect on the volume of tourists' inflow into Belo subdivision since the onset of the socio-political instability. Most infrastructures especially buildings (hotels) are in a progressive and steady deteriorating state (plate 2). This unabated political instability has also affected the socio-cultural activities, economic and environmental protection schemes.



Plate 2: photo (e) West End Hotel protruding from a bush and photo (f) Abandoned hotel covered with overgrown vegetation and photo (g) Abandoned fuel filling station in Belo Central

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Impact of Socio-political Crisis on the Touristic Activities in Belo

Impacts on the socio-cultural activities

The Kom people in Belo subdivision are known for their unique custom and tradition that attracts people from far and near. The

culture that ranges from dances, food, dressing to spiritual rites is tourist attractions in Belo subdivision. Some cultural dances and displays such as the *Njang* and *Chonng* dance performed during funerals and merriments, the yearly cultural festival manifested at the palace for the maintenance and fortification of cultural heritage and socio-cultural development, the *Manjong* and *Mbanlung* display are some of the cultural attractions of tourists in Belo. Besides these dances is the variety of traditional dishes ranging from *Achu* with either *yellow or black soup*, eaten with two fingers as well as *kati-kati*, *njama-njama* and corn *fufu*. It should be noted that the *kati-kati* is best prepared with rosters than table birds because of their unique and natural flavor. There are unique cultural regalia, *Ndiseelak* or *Atoguh* used for cultural displays and occasions. The people have unbeatable hospitality as they freely welcome strangers and even offer food and drinks (raffia wine). Shrines such as the caves at Djichami and Jinkfuin and ancestral sites in the forest for libation are also tourist attractions. At the dawn of the sociopolitical instability in late 2016 and its persistence, most of these attractive potentials have been abandoned and the residents packed out for fear of the unknown. Field work reveals a halt in the volume of tourists' inflow and cultural manifestation in the area of study (figure 3).

tourists are afraid visiting the area due to the unrest. No visitor will want to be kidnapped, arrested, and tortured in a strange land. The massive displacement of indigenes (59.4%) has led to the non-organization of festivities (63.5%) which has also led to the absence of traditional and cultural display (68.5%). This is further aggravated by the numerous lookdowns, threats, kidnappings and demand for huge ransom, arrest, torture, extra-judicial killings, rape and other types of violence and crimes. Nonetheless, these ill situations cannot encourage sociocultural manifestations, thus, hindering tourist influx into Belo subdivision.

Impacts on economic activities

Belo subdivision being a rural setting, its economic activities depends on the available natural resources which to a larger extent are touristic potentials. The population depends on most part of the resources for arts and craft while the land and part of the forest is used for agricultural activities in order to boost their economic sustenance. A majority of the males produce works of arts and crafts such as bags, drums; carvings of diverse symbols produced from wood obtain from the forest. The cost of these products ranges from 5000-10000FCFA depending on the size and type of raw material used and are sold to tourists and the income used for household exigencies. The women on their part produce a variety of food stuffs which are sold to restaurant owners as well as to visitors. Before the onset of the socio-political instability in the area, tourism activities in Belo subdivision generated a lot of economic benefits to the local population. Most youths who availed themselves as tourist's guards benefitted from financial to material gifts as payment for the services rendered. Visitors from far and near during ceremonies or on vacation boost the economy of Belo by buying the variety of goods produced by the locals, as well as eating in the various restaurants, thus, improving local living standards. A variety of economic activities ranging from restaurants, hotel management, tourist guards, craft and arts as well as farming and grazing are some of the income generating activities in Belo subdivision that have been affected by the sociopolitical instability (figure 4).

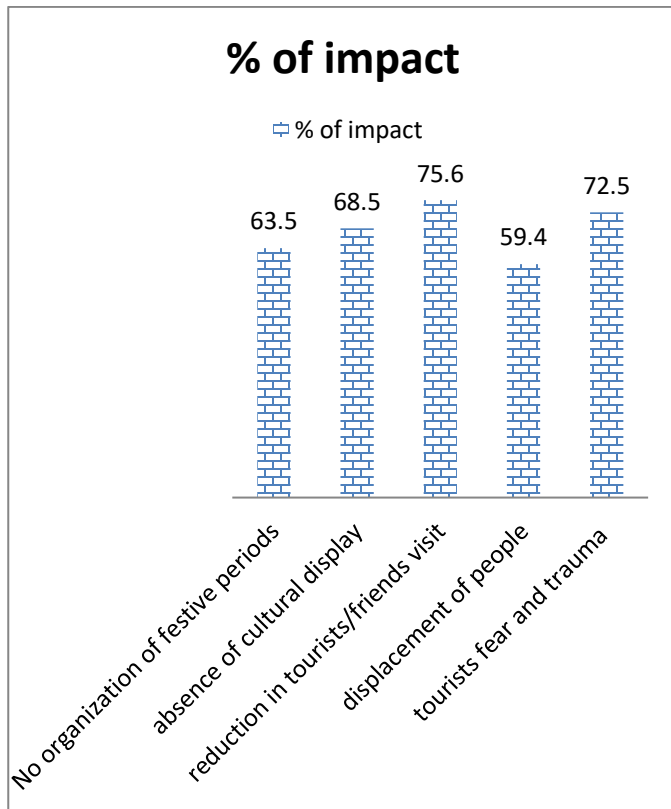


Figure 3: Impact on socio-cultural activities in Belo

Source; Field work, 2022

Figure 4 indicate that 75.6% of the respondents acknowledged a reduction in the number of tourists/friends visiting the area during festive periods while 72.5% of them revealed that

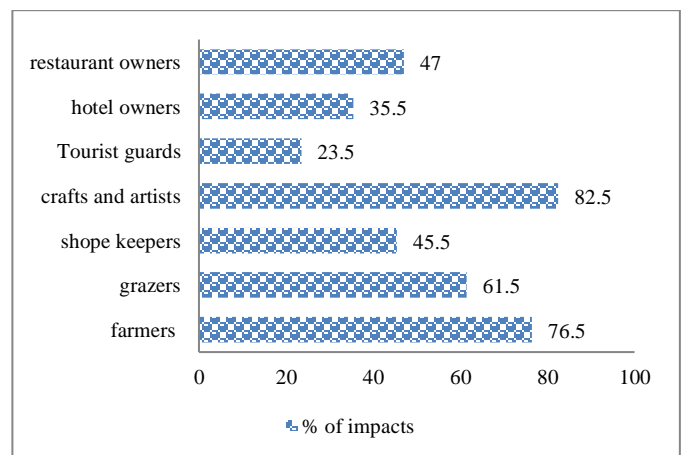


Figure 4: Effects of socio-political crisis on economic activities

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

As shown on figure 4, crafts and arts works are the most affected economic activities in Belo subdivision with 82.5% drop as a result of the heightened insecurity that have placed a ban on forest access where the raw materials are obtained. This drop is also linked to the massive displacement of the population including craftsmen and a halt to visits thus, leading to a drastic drop in products purchase. This is aggravated by the frequent disruption of the local market through ghost towns, lockdown accompanied most often by sporadic gunshots. This phenomenon ties with the notion of (Njoya, et al., 2022 and Reisinger and Mavondo, 2005) affirming that political unrest and social instability can also harm tourism arrivals as tourists prefer destinations with a peaceful social environment and political stability. Still on figure 4, it is found that 76.5% and 61.5% of the respondents affirmed that agricultural production and grazing activities have dropped. They explained that most of their farms and grazing fields have been transformed into battle fields between the regular army and the non-state armed groups. They testified that yet to harvest crops are most often, abandoned in the farms due to frequent gun firing. Most at times, animals are either killed or whisked away they added. This has led to heightened insecurity, thus, aggravating poverty and rising food insecurity in the subdivision. The scarcity in food stuffs has led to a drop in sales which has hitherto led to a consequential fall in their livelihood. It is also shown on figure 4 that restaurants, hotel owners and tourist guards (47%, 35.5% and 23.5%) respectively have also witnessed a decline in their activities. The massive displacement, halt in tourists' arrivals and a drop in food production have devastating effects on the general economy of the subdivision in particular and that of the region in general.

These aforementioned shortcomings under the canopy of the sociopolitical instability have rendered weak the economy strength of the people. As seen on figure 4, 45.5% of the respondents acknowledged that shop keepers lost a great share of their income to kidnappers as ransom. In most cases, many of them have abandoned their shops and have relocated out of the area. This has led to the collapse of the economy, thus, rendering the local people economically unstable and weak. Some shop owners reported that they feel traumatized after they are kidnapped and tortured. They explained that the situation is complex as most often; they are accused by both regular state militia and non-state militia for supporting the other, thus, putting them between the nail and the hammer. With this scenario, capital accumulation becomes a fallacy and the economy a sham as business men keep losing their meager income to both parties. In some cases, shops are looted, burnt down or sealed for failure to comply with either of the parties. These, however, have significantly plunged the population into more poverty, misery, unemployment and continuous urge for massive displacement.

VI. CONCLUSION

Belo subdivision over five years and counting has witnessed an increasing xenophobic situation initiated by the Sisyphian socio-political instability with adverse consequences on

tourism; facilitated by frequent ghost towns, lockdowns, civil unrest, kidnappings, torture and even extrajudicial killings. This paper analyzes the impact of the Sisyphian socio-political instability on tourism in Belo subdivision. Using the quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, this study found that tourism in Belo subdivision faces a plethora of challenges such as road blockage to touristic sites, abandonment of touristic potentials, rampant and frequent bush fires, and xenophobia emanating from kidnappings for ransom, torture and even extrajudicial killings as a result of the Sisyphian sociopolitical instability. This unabated instability plays negatively on the tourism sector, culture and on the economy of Belo subdivision. To revamp the sector, a general consensus on the root causes of the instability should be addressed so that life returns to normalcy for cultural and income generating activities to take their course and livelihoods improved upon in order to attract a reasonable number of visitors. This could be done through dialogue between the two warring parties and incentives be made available for the rehabilitation and innovation of touristic infrastructure and a general development of the tourism sector in this subdivision.

REFERENCES

- [1] Abam, E.N. (2017). *Tourism in Cameroon– A Case Study Approach* ISBN-13: 978-3330351455, LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing
- [2] Abam, E.N. (2020). The Effect of Political Instability on Tourism– A Case Study of Limbe Wildlife Centre, South West Region–Cameroon. *Journal of Travel, Tourism and Recreation* Volume 2, Issue 1, 2020, PP 29-32 ISSN 2642-908X pp29-32
- [3] Anna, C. (2014). Does political instability affect tourism: A case of Egypt. *International Journal of Social Relevance and Concern*. Volume 2 Issue 6, 2014. ISSN No:2347-9698
- [4] Andriole, S. and Hopple, G. (1984). *Revolution and Political Instability*. London: Frances Pinter.
- [5] Ankomah, P.K. & Crompton, J.L. (1990). Unrealized Tourism Potential: The Case of Sub Saharan Africa. *Tourism Management*, 11(1), 11-28.
- [6] Baker, D. A. (2014). The effects of terrorism on the travel and tourism industry, *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 58-67.
- [7] Burnett, G.W. and Uysal, M. (1990). 'On the nature of peace in relation to tourism: Three Cases.' *The Tourist Review*. Vol. 45 No. 1, pp. 2-7 <https://doi.org/0.1108/eb058035>
- [8] Campos, N. F. and Gassebner, M. (2013). International terrorism, domestic political instability, and the escalation effect. *Economics and Politics* 25: 1–47.
- [9] Cavlek, N. (2002). Tour operators and destination safety. *Annals of tourism research* 29(2):478-496 doi:10.1016/S0160-7383(01)00067-6
- [10] Clements, M.A & Georgiou, A. (1998). The Impact of Political Instability on a Fragile Tourism Product. *Tourism Management*, 19(3), 283-288.
- [11] D'Amore, L. (1988). Tourism-a vital force for peace. *Annals of Tourism Research* 15(2): 269-270
- [12] Day, C., Khisa, M., and Reno, W. (2020). Revisiting the civil-military conundrum in Africa. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698249.2020.1736808>. Pp156-173
- [13] Dibb, S. Simkin, L., Pride, W.M. & Ferrell, O.G. (2011). *Marketing Concepts and Strategies*, 4th Edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- [14] Galtung, J. (1990). Cultural Violence. *Journal of Peace Research* 27(3): 291-305
- [15] Goeldner, C. R. (1989). Tourism- A vital force for peace. *Tourism Management*, 27(3), 166-168.

- [16] Goeldner, C. R., Ritchie, J. R. B. and McIntosh, R. W. (2000). *Tourism: Principles, Practices, Philosophies*.
- [17] Gupta, D. (1990). *The Economics of Political Instability: The Effect of Political Instability on Economic Growth*. New York: Praeger.
- [18] Hall, C.M. (1994). *Tourism and Politics*, John Wiley and Sons, Brisbane.
- [19] Hall, C.M. (1996). *Tourism and Politics: Policy, Power and Place*. London: John Wiley & Son Ltd.
- [20] Hall, C.M. (2002). Commentary Travel Safety, Terrorism and the Media: The Significance of the Issue- Attention Cycle, *Current Issues in Tourism*, 5,458-466.
- [21] Hall, C.M. & O'Sullivan, V. (1996). *Tourism, Political Instability and Violence*. In A. Pizam & Y. Mansfeld (Eds.). *Tourism, Crime and International Security Issues*. London: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- [22] Heng, Y.K. (2006). *War as risk management: Strategy and conflict in an age of globalized risks*. Routledge, London. Doi: <https://doi.org/10/4324/9780203970072/9780203970072.222pp>
<http://www.allafrica.com/stories/201710100106.html>
- [23] Immanuel, J. (2019). Lack of basic services in the tourism industry: A study of stakeholders' perspectives in Bamenda, Cameroons. *Södertörns University | School of Natural Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies. Tourism Studies: Master Programme*.
- [24] International Crisis Group (2017). *Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis at the Crossroads*. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/cameroon/250-cameroons-Anglophone-crisis-crossroads>
- [25] Issa, I.A. and Altinay, L. (2006). Impact of political instability on Tourism Planning and Development: the case of Lebanon. *Tourism Economics* 2(3):361-381 Doi: 10.5367/00000006778493664
- [26] Ivanov, S., Gavrilina, M., Webster, C., & Ralko, V. (2017). Impacts of political instability on the tourism industry in Ukraine. *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events* 9(1), 100-127.
- [27] Kaze, T.N.S. (2021). Towards the Sustainable Integration of Internally Displaced Anglophones in the West Region of Cameroon. *Pan-African Institute for Development-West Africa (PAID-WA). Researching Internal Displacement – Working Paper*. Yaounde, Cameroon
- [28] Khamouna, Mohammed, and Zeiger, Z.b. (1995). 'Peace through tourism.' *Parks and Recreation Annals of Tourism Research*. (Arlington) 30, no. 9(1995):80-86. Doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0160-7383\(94\)00106-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0160-7383(94)00106-3)
- [29] Kim, Y.K. and Crompton, J.L. (1990). Role of tourism in unifying the two Koreas. *Annals of Tourism Research* 17(3):353-366
- [30] Kimbu, A. N. (2011). The challenges of marketing tourism destinations in the Central African subregion: The Cameroon example. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 13(4), 324-336.
- [31] Konings, P., & Nyamnjoh, F. B. (1997). The Anglophone problem in Cameroon. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 35(2), 207-229.
- [32] Lanouar, C. and Goaid, M. (2019). Tourism, terrorism and political violence in Tunisia: Evidence from Markovswitching models. *Tourism Management* 70: 404–18.
- [33] Lepp, A. and Gibson, H. (2003). "Tourist Roles, Perceived Risk and International Tourism" *Annals of Tourism Research* 30:606-624.
- [34] Loh, C. (2018). *Cameroon: Laikom-The bedrock of Kom culture*. Cameroon Tribune (Yaounde) 2018.
- [35] Mason P. (2003). *Tourism impacts, planning and management*. An imprint of Elsevier Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8DP. Butterworth-Heinemann publications. ISBN 0 7506 5970X
- [36] Mbamalu, S. (2017). Cameroon government shuts down the internet in English speaking regions. This is Africa. Available online <https://thisisafrika.me/cameroon-government-shuts-internet-english-speaking-regions/>
- [37] McIntosh, R.W.; Goeldner, C.R.; Ritchie, J.R. (1995). *Tourism, principle, practices, philosophies*. John Wiley and Sons, New York, USA. No Ed. 7pp.xv+551pp ref. many. ISBN:9780471015574
- [38] Mihalic, T. (1996). *Tourism and warfare-the case of Slovenia*. In *Tourism Crime and International Security Issues*. Edited by Abraham Pizam and Yeol Mansfeld 231-246. New York: John Wiley
- [39] Murad, Malak S. A. and Alshyab, N. (2019). Political instability and its impact on economic growth: The case of Jordan. *International Journal of Development Issues* 18: 366–80.
- [40] Muzindutsi Paul-Francois Manaliyo J. C. (2016). Effect of political risk shocks on tourism revenue in South Africa: time series analysis. *International Journal of Business and Management Studies* Vol. 8, No 2, 2016 ISSN: 1309-8047 (Online)
- [41] Ndamang, L. N. (2008). Free lunch? Cameroon's diaspora and online news publishing. *New Media & Society*, 10(4), 585-604.
- [42] Neumayer, E. (2004). The impact of political violence on tourism: dynamic cross-national estimation. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48(2), 259-281.
- [43] Njoya, E. T. and Nikitas, A. (2020). The role of air transport in employment creation and inclusive growth in the Global South: The case of South Africa. *Journal of Transport Geography* 85:102738.
- [44] Njoya, E. T.; Marina, E.; Nikitas, A.; O'Connell, J. F. (2022). The effects of diminished tourism arrivals and expenditures caused by terrorism and political unrest on the Kenyan economy. *Economies* 10:191. <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies10080191>
- [45] Nyaruwata, S., Mhizha, A. and Mandebvu, G. (2013). Impact of Political instability on Tourism Development: A comparative Analysis of Mauritius and Zimbabwe since independence, *Journal of Tourism and Peace Research*, 3(2 43-56)
- [46] Okereke, C. N. E. (2018). Analysing Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis. *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses*, 10(3), 8-12.
- [47] Pizam, A. & Y. Mansfeld (Eds.). (1996). *Tourism, Crime and International Security Issue*, London: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- [48] Poirier, R. A. (2000). "A Tourism in the African economic Miliu: A future of mixed blessing" In P.U.C. Dieke (Ed.) *The political economy of tourism development in Africa*. New York: Cognizant Communication Corp.
- [49] Pommerolle, M. E., & Heungoup, H. D. M. (2017). The "Anglophone crisis": A tale of the Cameroonian post colony. *African Affairs*, 116(464), 526-538.
- [50] Reisinger, Y. and Mavondo, F. (2005). Travel anxiety and intentions to travel internationally: Implications of travel risk perception. *Journal of Travel Research* 43: 212–25.
- [51] Ryu, S. J.R. (2010). *Ravel risk perception: A study of the factors affecting risk perception of tourism destinations*. Victoria University of technology 3 0001 00977 5984
- [52] Sonmez, S.F. (1998). *Tourism, Terrorism and Political Instability*. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 25(2), 416-456.
- [53] Thapa, B. (2003). *Tourism in Nepal: Shangri-La's troubled times*. Florida: University of Florida.
- [54] Teye, V.B. (1986). *Liberation Wars and Tourism Development in Africa-the case of Zambia*, *Annals of Tourism Research* 13:589-608
- [55] Var, T., Schluter, R., Ankomah, P., Lee, T.H. (1989). *Tourism and world peace;case of Argentin*. *Annals of Tourism Research* 16(30):431-434
- [56] Vincent, P. N. E. J., Funteh, P. M. B., Henri, M. M., & Léa, M. N. N. J. (2017). *The Boko Haram conflict in Cameroon. Why is peace so elusive?*
- [57] Warnock-Smith, D.; Graham, A.; O'Connell, J. F.; and Efthymiou, M. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on air transport passenger markets: Examining evidence from the Chinese market. *Journal of Air Transport Management* 94: 102085.
- [58] Wilkinson, T.J., McAlister, A. & Widmier, S. (2007). Reaching the international consumer-An assessment of international marketing environment, *International Journal* 1(1): 17-37.
- [59] World Travel & Tourism Council (2017). *Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2017 World*; WWTC: London, UK, 2017. <https://www.wttc.org/-/media/files/reports/economic-impact-research/regions-2017/world2017.pdf/>
- [60] World Travel and Tourism Council (2019). *Kenya Travel and Tourism Exceeding Global and Regional Levels in 2018*, Press Release <https://www.wttc.org/about/media-entre/press-release/press-releases/2019/kenya-travel-tourism-exceeding-global-and-regional-travels-in-2018/>