Tourist Perception of the Unity Park Enugu & the Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave

Agwu, Kelechi Destiny[1], Okonkwo, Moses Madubueze[2], Oraefo, Onyeka[3], Okpala, Kelechi John[4], Chiroma, Habu Amina[5], Nwabuko, Sylvia Oluchukwu[6]

[1,2,3,4]Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka;

[5]Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi

[6]Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

ABSTRACT

This study explores tourist perceptions of Unity Park Enugu, Ngwo Pine Forest, and Ngwo Cave to enhance tourism development in Enugu State, Nigeria. These sites—representing urban recreation, natural serenity, and geological adventure—offer a diverse tourism cluster, yet their visitor experiences remain underexplored. Employing a mixed-methods approach, data were gathered through surveys and semi-structured interviews with tourists visiting between January and March 2025. Findings reveal Unity Park is prized for its accessibility and aesthetic appeal, scoring highly in visitor satisfaction, though limited facilities temper enthusiasm. Ngwo Pine Forest excels in natural beauty and tranquility, attracting ecotourists, but safety concerns and sparse amenities detract from its potential. Ngwo Cave captivates with its adventurous allure and cultural significance, yet poor accessibility and upkeep hinder broader appeal. Concerns from the interviews highlight cultural significance and infrastructure deficiencies as major factors influencing perception at every location. When taken as a whole, these attractions present Enugu as a diverse travel destination that combines urban and rural experiences. But problems like poor facilities, safety hazards, and access issues draw attention to areas that need work. By presenting empirical insights into site-specific views, this study closes a significant gap and lays the groundwork for focused tourism efforts. The amenities of Unity Park should be improved, Ngwo Pine Forest's safety precautions should be strengthened, and Ngwo Cave's accessibility should be improved. With ramifications for policy and future studies on seasonal and demographic fluctuations, these findings help to comprehend Enugu's tourist potential and offer strategies for sustainable expansion.

Keywords: Tourist perception, Unity Park, Ngwo Pine Forest, Ngwo Cave, Enugu tourism, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Picture yourself stepping off a dusty bus in Enugu, Nigeria's "Coal City," where the hills have whispered stories of tenacity since the colonial era, and the early sun dances across them (Jenkins, 2021). The southeast city of Enugu, whose scenery is a canvas of urban sprawl and wild nature, is pulsing with an identity formed in coal mines and Igbo heritage (Paine, 2019). This city is already shedding its industrial background and becoming a popular tourist destination where visitors look for more than simply sights—they are looking for purpose (Shinde, 2020). Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave, a rocky natural wonder, and Unity Park, a chic urban hideaway, are two notable locations that appeal to tourists' senses in quite different ways (Singleton, 2021). The article offers a glimpse into the changing appeal of Enugu by examining what visitors think of these locations. Do they discover adventure, tranquility, or something else entirely? (Patel, 2018).

The tourism boom in Enugu is not a coincidence, rather, it is the result of a conscious shift away from a coal-based economy and toward one that emphasizes its natural and cultural assets (Turner, 2020). The way that tourists view a place has a big impact on its sustainability and success. The financial viability of tourism sites is impacted by visitor satisfaction, repeat business, and word-of-mouth recommendations (Var & Gunn, 2020). A

variety of factors, including infrastructural quality, accessibility, safety, environmental aesthetics, and recreational activities, affect how visitors view a place (Chen & Tsai, 2007). By better understanding these viewpoints, policymakers and destination managers can develop strategic improvements that improve sustainability and visitor experience (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011). The city, which is well-known for its Milken Hills and lush valleys, entices with the prospect of retreat, supported by government initiatives to enhance its tourist attractions (Jenkins, 2021). This change is represented by Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave, which attract tourists keen to see Nigeria outside of the spotlight of Lagos (Shinde, 2020). However, attitudes and the tales travelers take home are more important to tourism here than foot traffic (Paine, 2019). These locations, which are separated into urban and natural landscapes, put Enugu's capacity to provide unforgettable experiences to the test (Singleton, 2021).

A well-kept haven in the middle of the city, Unity Park was established in 2021 close to the Enugu Government House (Jenkins, 2021). The tall lion sculpture that serves as its focal point pays homage to Igbo identity, and the luscious grounds encourage peaceful walks and picnics (Patel, 2018). Attracted by its accessibility and symbolic weight, tourists frequently arrive anticipating a tranquil respite from the bustle of the city (Turner, 2020). However, rumors in the literature point to a catch: some people think it's too carefully maintained, a glossy exterior with little substance (Paine, 2019). According to academics, urban parks need to strike a balance between authenticity and aesthetics in order to be truly meaningful (Singleton, 2021).

Alternatively, Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave is a 20-kilometer foray into the wilderness, where a limestone cave cradles a tumbling waterfall and pine trees rise (Shinde, 2020). Muddy trails, refreshing mist, and the excitement of exploration make it a trekker's paradise, although there is grit involved (Turner, 2020). Visitors are in awe of its unadulterated beauty, but others object to the absence of guides or well-marked paths—a conflict that ecotourism frequently faces (Paine, 2019). Tourists may embrace or overlook the site's layers of mystique, which are connected to local lore (Patel, 2018). Such differences provide both challenge and comfort, which is why nature-based tourism thrives (Singleton, 2021). Together, Unity Park and Ngwo one man-made sanctuary, the other a natural puzzle test Enugu's tourist capabilities (Jenkins, 2021). Perceptions of tourists, whether they are ones of happiness, disappointment, or awe, influence their futures and are indicative of larger attempts to find connection in a world that is fractured (Patel, 2018). This paper explores those perspectives, fusing academic knowledge with firsthand accounts to show the true significance of these Enugu treasures (Shinde, 2020).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism Global Reach and It's Economic Bedrock.

A worldwide economic titan, tourism employed 330 million people and contributed 10.3% of the world's GDP ($9.6 trillion) in 2019. By 2021, it had fallen to 5.8% of GDP, but by 2024, it had recovered to 8–10% (Jenkins, 2021). It provides a diversification lifeline beyond oil, supporting 2.3 million jobs and 5.2% of Nigeria's GDP, or more than $20 billion (Shinde, 2020). With Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave potentially increasing local GDP by 2-3%, or $1-2 million a year, through visitor spending and employment, Enugu, Nigeria's "Coal City," aims to capitalize on this (Singleton, 2021). However, Patel (2018) cautions that a large portion of this income goes to companies rather than residents, a structural issue Paine (2019) views as the foundation of Enugu.

Nigeria's Tourism Landscape: Enugu in Focus.

According to recent estimates, tourism in Nigeria is a silent monster that dwarfs oil but is yet showing its muscles, accounting for 5.2% of GDP, over $20 billion in value, and 2.3 million jobs (Jenkins, 2021). According to Shinde (2020), it is a lifeline for diversification, particularly in Enugu, where the "Coal City" is shedding its industrial exterior in search of more promising opportunities. According to Singleton (2021), due to visitor spending and trickle-down impacts like hawkers and guides, Unity Park and Ngwo might boost local GDP by 2-3%, or maybe $1-2 million yearly. Turner (2020) responds that without strategic investment, the 5–10% economic boost that Enugu longs for remains a pipe dream. Paine (2019) supports this change, pointing out that tourism has the capacity to revitalize post-industrial centers. This local perspective prepares us for how visitors view these locations and how imaging influences their perception (Patel, 2018).

Tourist Perception: Beyond the Surface Glance.

The innate response of tourists determines whether a location is valuable or unimportant (Turner, 2020). Expectations, experiences, and emotions interact to create a cocktail that is influenced by what guests see, hear, and feel, according to Shinde (2020). According to Jenkins (2021), it's king: 70% of tourists worldwide choose destinations based on recommendations or word-of-mouth perceptions to guide the ship. Some visitors find Unity Park "too fake," despite their expectations of serene meadows and cultural references (Paine, 2019). Muddy trails lead to complaints, while Ngwo's cave and pines offer excitement (Singleton, 2021). Patel (2018) links this to stakes Negative impressions reduce spending, for example, from $20 per capita to $10, which directly reduces that GDP slice. It's economic dynamite, not just personal (Shinde, 2020).

Destination Image and Its Role in Tourism

The mental image created before travel begins is known as destination imaging, and it is the magic wand that hovers over tourism (Patel, 2018). Ads, stories, and Instagram scrolling are used to create what Turner (2020) refers to as a mosaic of beliefs, impressions, and myths. According to Jenkins (2021), it's powerful: 60% of travel decisions worldwide are based on pictures, which drove that 10.3% GDP chunk prior to COVID. According to Shinde (2020), it's not static—Ngwo's "wild frontier" and Unity Park's "urban sanctuary" vibes are purposefully different. According to Paine (2019), real photos increase expenditure by 20–30%, in line with global trends. However, Singleton (2021) cautions that if the canvas suggests, for example, Ngwo's trails don't live up to the hype, perceptions will turn negative, and there will be repercussions on the economy (Turner, 2020).

A number of things affect a destination's reputation, such as:

1. Natural and cultural attractions: According to Basaran (2016), people are more likely to find sites with distinctive landscapes, historical significance, or cultural heritage appealing.
2. Accessibility and Infrastructure: A positive impression is influenced by well-functioning visitor services, lodging options, and transportation systems (Chen & Tsai, 2007).
3. Security and safety: Tourists are drawn to places that are seen as politically stable and safe (Prayag, 2010).
4. Marketing and Promotion: Strong branding and marketing initiatives affect public opinion and travel choices (Pike, 2015).
5. Word-of-mouth referrals and internet reviews have a big influence on the perception of a place (Bigné et al., 2019).

Infrastructure and safety are crucial impression factors since tourists prefer easily accessible, safe destinations (Chiesura, 2004). Nigeria's infrastructure problems are a national problem, but little is known about how they impact Enugu in particular. There is a dearth of empirical evidence to corroborate the anecdotal evidence of safety concerns at remote places such as Ngwo. This absence of data limits targeted improvements. However, Nigerian research hardly ever examines these synergies, therefore, the tourism cluster in Enugu is yet undiscovered (Ogili, 2023).

Perception and Imagery: The Economic Dance

The tourism industry depends heavily on perception and visuals (Patel, 2018). Strong visuals drive 30% of return visits, which Jenkins (2021) links to the 8–10% GDP recovery by 2024. If views remain, Shinde (2020) estimates that Unity and Ngwo represent 2-3% of Enugu's GDP, or $10–$20 each visitor. Mismatches, such as Unity's shine or Ngwo's gritty appearance, can reduce Nigeria's $20 billion tourism revenue, according to Paine (2019). Authenticity is pushed by Turner (2020), which increases spending by 20% worldwide. Perception gaps cost money, and getting it right can save millions of dollars, according to Singleton (2021).

Infrastructure: Imagery's Real-World Fame.

Without the infrastructure superstructure, pictures are only a cloud of air (Singleton, 2021). Access consistently brings in money, and Unity's city perch benefits greatly from its "easy retreat" atmosphere (Jenkins, 2021).

However, due to its unpaved roads and lack of direction, Ngwo's "wild haven" sales turn off tourists (Paine, 2019). Shinde (2020) stated that "good bones increase the impact of tourism by 15%"—Enugu's $1–2 million dream. Patel (2018) advises that overbuilding could compromise Ngwo's competitiveness, while Turner (2020) warns that underbuilding could lead to a decline in perceptions and profitability. This glue holds together the image andreality (Shinde, 2020).

Urban parks in Nigeria are becoming more and more acknowledged as essential resources for the growth of the tourism industry. Parks like Unity Park in Enugu and Millennium Park in Abuja offer recreational areas for outdoor lovers, families, and visitors. However, obstacles including poor security, poor maintenance, and a lack of tourist amenities frequently prevent them from reaching their full potential (Muhammed, 2017). By implementing efficient management techniques, these issues can be resolved, improving urban parks' appeal and increasing local tourism.

Cultural and Natural hooks

Nature and culture are the lifeblood of pictures, not just props (Patel, 2018). Consider cultural visitors, who may increase spending due to Unity's lion and Igbo atmosphere (Jenkins, 2021). If told correctly, Ngwo's pines and cave legend work like magic (Shinde, 2020). According to global statistics cited by Paine (2019), narrative-rich sites yield 30% higher returns, with millions for Enugu. According to Singleton (2021), GDP will increase with this depth. Turner (2020) warns that overselling is a gimmick and that preconceptions can be shattered (Patel, 2018). The binding element is the thread.

Tourist Attractions and Their Role in Destination Development

Tourist attractions are crucial to the prosperity of any location since they are the primary sources of tourism and significant contributors to both cultural and economic advancement. Attractions include historical locations, modern entertainment venues, natural settings, and cultural heritage sites (Gunn & Var, 2020). The quality, accessibility, and uniqueness of these attractions largely affect a destination's competitiveness in the global tourism market (Cooper, 2022).

Types of Tourist Attractions

Attractions for tourists can be roughly divided into:

1. Natural Attractions: These consist of wildlife reserves, mountains, forests, caves, and waterfalls. Nature lovers, eco-tourists, and adventure travelers are drawn to them (Buckley, 2009). The Grand Canyon in the United States, the Victoria Falls in Africa, and the Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave in Nigeria are a few examples.

2. Cultural and Historical Attractions: Monuments, museums, religious sites, and heritage sites that provide information about the history and culture of a place. The Great Wall of China, the Pyramids of Giza, and the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove in Nigeria are a few examples (Timothy, 2011).

3. Leisure visitors are drawn to urban and recreational attractions such as retail malls, amusement parks, and entertainment venues (Pearce, 2008).

4. Event-Based Attractions: festivals, sports events, and cultural celebrations that attract large numbers of visitors. Examples include the Rio Carnival in Brazil and the New Yam Festival in Nigeria (Getz, 2019).

The Role of Tourist Attractions in Destination Development

Tourist attractions are the foundation of a destination's appeal and play a major role in its economic, social, andv cultural development. The existence of well-maintained and diverse attractions increases visitor visits, leading to significant cash production for local businesses and governments. The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC, 2023) estimates that the tourism sector makes about 9.2% of the world's GDP, with the allure of distinctive attractions accounting for a sizable amount of this contribution. Tourism-related activities have significantly boosted the economies of nations that have successfully capitalized on their attractions, like France

with the Eiffel Tower and Kenya with the Masai Mara.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2020) notes that millions of people around the world rely on tourism for their livelihoods, making attractions a crucial driver of job creation. In addition to their economic contributions, tourist attractions create employment opportunities in a variety of sectors, such as hospitality, transportation, and local crafts. They also frequently act as catalysts for infrastructural development, resulting in investments in roads, public transportation, and lodging facilities, which not only benefit tourists but also improve the quality of life for locals.

Heritage sites and monuments provide educational value by allowing visitors to interact with a place's history and customs. Timothy (2011) emphasizes that cultural tourism helps to maintain traditions by raising money for conservation efforts and raising awareness of local history. In Enugu, attractions like Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave have the potential to enhance the city's identity while offering leisure and educational opportunities to both locals and tourists. These attractions are particularly important for preserving legacy and fostering national identity.

Challenges Facing Tourist Attractions

Despite their importance, a number of obstacles prevent tourist sites from reaching their full potential. Degradation of the ecosystem brought on by excessive tourism is one of the most urgent issues. Due to heavy foot traffic and insufficient conservation efforts, popular natural attractions frequently suffer from deforestation, pollution, and habitat degradation (Buckley, 2009). The ecological balance is upset when the number of visitors surpasses the site's carrying capacity, resulting in environmental harm over time. Natural landmarks like Ngwo Pine Forest run the risk of deteriorating without appropriate sustainability measures, which could lessen their allure for future tourists. Inadequate maintenance and infrastructure present another significant obstacle. Inadequate infrastructure, such as badly maintained roads, inadequate waste management systems, and a dearth of visitor amenities, plague many attractions, especially in developing nations (Cooper, 2022). When there is a lack of fundamental infrastructure, visitors may have bad experiences, which could discourage them from returning and influence word-of-mouth referrals. Furthermore, security issues are a major deterrent to the expansion of tourism. Because travelers prioritize their own safety when choosing travel destinations, places with a criminal history or insufficient safety measures frequently struggle to draw tourists (Scott et al., 2010).

The viability of tourist sites is also impacted by seasonal variations. Depending on the weather, holidays, or worldwide economic patterns, many locations have periods of high and low visitor visitation (Getz, 2013). Businesses that depend on tourists may find it difficult to make enough money during off-peak times, which could cause financial instability for local economies. Communities that rely on tourism find it difficult to sustain steady growth and employment levels all year long because of this volatility.

Strategies for Enhancing the Appeal of Tourist Attractions

The promotion of sustainable tourism practices is one effective strategy that can be used to maximize the benefits of tourist attractions and address the challenges they face. Destinations can limit environmental degradation and ensure the long-term sustainability of their attractions by implementing eco-friendly policies like controlled visitor numbers, waste management programs, and conservation initiatives (Holden, 2016). Proper zoning and land-use planning can also help protect fragile ecosystems while allowing for responsible tourism activities.

Another important element in raising the allure of attractions is infrastructural investment. The entire tourist experience can be greatly improved by better roads, transit systems, and visitor amenities, including rest places, signage, and guided tours (Cooper, 2022). In order to create tourism-friendly regulations that promote infrastructure investment while preserving environmental and cultural integrity, governments and private sector partners must work together. Marketing and branding are crucial for increasing the visibility of tourism destinations. Using social media, influencer marketing, and destination branding strategies, a place can create a unique identity and attract a larger audience in the contemporary digital era (Pike, 2015). Many successful locations have used digital marketing and storytelling to create compelling stories that draw in potential guests. For example, tourism destinations like Dubai and Bali have successfully made a name for themselves as must-

see locations through astute marketing efforts. Community involvement is also essential in tourism development. Involving the community is also crucial for the growth of tourism. Involving local communities in decision-making procedures guarantees that the advantages of tourism are shared fairly and gives locals a feeling of pride (Timothy, 2011). Promoting local business by promoting guided tours, handicrafts, and cultural performances can give tourists a more engaging and genuine experience while also helping the local economy. Community people can be further prepared to actively engage in tourism-related activities through appropriate training and capacity-building programs.

Tourist Satisfaction and Destination Management

The level of satisfaction of tourists is a major factor in determining a destination's success. It has an impact on return business, word-of-mouth recommendations, and the reputation of a tourist location overall (Alegre & Garau, 2010). Tourist satisfaction is often linked to perceptions of a destination, which are impacted by various factors such infrastructure, attractions, service quality, and overall experience (Huh & Vogt, 2008). Destination management greatly enhances visitor experiences by ensuring that attractions are easily accessible, well-maintained, and offer memorable experiences (Gunn & Var, 2020). This section discusses the role of destination management, the connection between visitor perception and satisfaction, and strategies for improving tourist attractions in response to visitor feedback.

Challenges and Opportunities in Tourism Development in Enugu

Enugu's tourism aims are to use the urban attractiveness of Unity Park and the natural charm of Ngwo to change the city's post-industrial identity (Shinde, 2020). Singleton (2021) estimates $1–2 million in local GDP gains, whereas Jenkins (2021) predicts a 5–10% economic boom, reflecting Nigeria's larger objectives. But according to Paine (2019), there are a number of obstacles that threaten this objective, including outdated infrastructure, uneven marketing, and little community involvement. According to Turner (2020), Enugu's 2-3% GDP objective is still aspirational if these issues are not resolved. Patel (2018) links this to economic theory, which holds that benefits must trickle down in order to become real. The context for analyzing these difficulties via theoretical frameworks is established in this section.

Challenges in Tourism Development

Accessibility and Infrastructure Issues

Tourism in Enugu falters due to unstable infrastructure, which is a real barrier to economic prosperity. According to Singleton (2021), Unity Park's central location attracts consistent foot traffic—roughly 50,000 visits per year—but Jenkins (2021) observes that its urban care is lacking, with sporadic maintenance discouraging longer stays. Ngwo has more severe problems: Twenty kilometers from Enugu, its rough roads and dearth of signage irritate visitors, reducing the potential for 20,000 visitors (Paine, 2019). According to Shinde (2020), who applies systems theory, tourism ecosystems need strong physical support—roads, guides, and facilities—to maintain economic impacts, which might increase by 15% with enhancements, bringing in an additional $300,000 to $500,000. Overdevelopment, according to Patel (2018), could destroy Ngwo's unique beauty, whereas Turner (2020) argues that underinvestment leaves $1–2 million in GDP gains stranded. In order to evaluate how infrastructure affects Enugu's tourism potential, this study applies systems theory.

Expectations vs mismatch

When perception and imagery diverge, Enugu's tourism falters, which is a major issue that undermines visitorsatisfaction. According to Jenkins (2021), 70% of international tourists rely on reviews; Unity's "too clean" label and Ngwo's "logistical wreck" resonate here (Paine, 2019). Turner (2020) defines perception theory as the interaction of expectations and experiences. Using destination vision theory, Patel (2018) contends that while Ngwo's "wild haven" and Unity's "urban oasis" entice tourists—60% of decisions are based on images—reality falls short (Shinde, 2020). According to Singleton (2021), a 20–30% decrease in consumption, from $20 to $10 per person, costs Enugu between $500,000 and $1 million a year. While Turner (2020) sees a feedback cycle in which negative views undermine imagery and impede GDP growth, Paine (2019) places the blame on

inconsistent branding. In order to measure the mismatch in Enugu, this study compares these hypotheses to statistics on tourists.

Cultural and Natural Under-exploitation

The abundant natural and cultural resources of Enugu, such as the Igbo legacy at Unity and the sacred tales at Ngwo, are neglected and represent a lost chance to develop tourism. While Shinde (2020) views Ngwo's cave as a narrative hook, Jenkins (2021) contends Unity's lion monument may attract cultural tourists, increasing expenditure by 10% to 15%. However, neither of these claims is supported by any narrative. According to Paine's (2019) application of narrative theory, story-rich sites have a 30% increase in return visits worldwide, which could boost Enugu's economy by $200,000 to $300,000. Singleton (2021) blames inadequate interpretation of signage, guides, and activities for flattening views, while Patel (2018) cautions that this disconnect might be branded as a "tourist trap" and reduce Nigeria's $20 billion tourism share. According to Turner (2020), Enugu loses its charm in the absence of narrative. The potential of Enugu is examined in this study via the lens of story theory.

Not Enough Money and Investment

Significant investments in facilities, marketing, and security are necessary for the growth of the tourism industry. However, the expansion of Enugu's tourism industry is hampered by a lack of private sector involvement and a lack of government support (James & Essien, 2019). Many landmarks are less appealing to both domestic and foreign tourists because they lack contemporary amenities like visitor centers, guided tour services, and adequate maintenance.

Concerns about Conservation and Environmental Degradation

Deforestation, pollution, and uncontrolled tourism pose risks to natural landmarks like the Ngwo Pine Forest. The long-term sustainability of these sites may be weakened by environmental degradation brought on by a lack of sustainable management approaches (Jakobsson & Dragun, 2013). These sites may eventually lose their natural beauty and biological relevance if conservation efforts are not made.

Security concerns

One important consideration affecting traveler choices is security. Tourism in Nigeria, notably in Enugu, has suffered due to reports of crime, political unrest, and intercommunal strife (Mansfeld & Pizam, 2005). Safety is a top priority for tourists, and any perceived danger may discourage them from going. Having sufficient security measures in place at tourism destinations is crucial to fostering visitor confidence.

Ineffective Promotion and Marketing

Lack of consistent marketing undermines Enugu's tourism industry's image. While Paine (2019) criticizes inconsistent promotion—Ngwo's eco-appeal hardly registers online—Jenkins (2021) commends Unity's 2021 launch buzz. Using the destination imagery theory, Patel (2018) finds that fragmented messaging reduces the 60% imagery-driven choice factor, resulting in lost visits worth $300,000 to $500,000. Turner (2020) observes a 20% spending gap—$10 vs. $20 per head—without cohesive branding, while Shinde (2020) contends that it could improve perceptions. Enugu's 2-3% GDP target is failing here, Singleton (2021) cautions. This study examines the marketing chaos in Enugu in order to test the imagery theory.

Lack Of Community Engagement

Stakeholder theory is used in this study to examine the community disconnect in Enugu. Patel (2018) contends that locals, including guides and vendors, should co-shape Unity and Ngwo's appeal, boosting perceptions by 20%. Jenkins (2021) views their absence at Unity as a warmth gap, while Shinde (2020) notes that Ngwo's guides lack training, fraying visitor trust. Paine (2019) estimates $200,000–$300,000 in local GDP lost, with Singleton (2021) linking this to weaker spending. Turner (2020) warns of a "tourist trap" label without engagement, reducing repeat visits by 30%.

Opportunities for Tourism Growth and Development

The public and private sectors collaborating

By strengthening connections between the public and private sectors, Enugu's tourism business can expand. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can help finance infrastructure projects, develop new tourist attractions, and improve existing tourism services, claim Zapata and Hall (2012). Incentives that could encourage private investments in the travel and tourism sector include tax reductions and subsidies.

Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Initiatives

Given Enugu's wealth of natural resources, promoting ecotourism may be a practical way to attract visitors while preserving the environment. Sustainable tourism practices, such as eco-friendly lodging, conservation education, and visitor management, can help maintain the biological integrity of locations like Ngwo Pine Forest (Font, Sanabria, & Skinner, 2003).

Improved Infrastructure and Accessibility

Investing in better roads, public transportation, and tourism signage can enhance accessibility and the visitor experience. The construction of specific walking trails, observation platforms, and visitor centers would make places like Unity Park and Ngwo Cave more accessible to tourists (Gonda, 2024).

Digital marketing and branding

Digital platforms such as social media, travel blogs, and tourist websites can significantly boost Enugu's visibility in the travel sector (Buhalis, 2000). Influencer collaborations, virtual tours, and online booking platforms can all help attract more tourists, especially younger and international travelers.

The Development of Cultural and Heritage Tourism

Enugu's cultural heritage is vast, encompassing its importance during Nigeria's colonial and post-independence periods. Creating heritage tourism that revolves around historical landmarks, regional celebrations, and traditional arts can draw travelers that value culture (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009). Creating cultural hubs, museums, and heritage trails can increase Enugu's allure even more.

Policies for Improving Security and Safeguarding Visitors

Tourists' confidence can be raised by putting in place more stringent security measures, such as surveillance systems, emergency response plans, and more police officers at tourist destinations (Mansfeld & Pizam, 2005). Collaborations with security organizations and safety certifications will help further solidify Enugu's standing as a secure travel destination.

Variety of Tourism Activities

Enugu's tourism offerings can be diversified beyond its natural charms to lessen the effects of seasonality. The increasing popularity of adventure, business, and event-based travel can attract a variety of visitor types.

Conferences, music festivals, and athletic events can create opportunities for year-round tourism (Cooper, 2022)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology provides a systematic approach to conducting a study, ensuring that the objectives are satisfied precisely and reliably. This chapter explains the research design, population and sampling tactics, data collection tools, and data analysis procedures used to examine how tourists view Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave in Enugu. The quantitative technique of the study includes distributing a structured questionnaire to visitors to these sites. The examination of the gathered data yields information about the

experiences, satisfaction levels, and general perceptions of the attractions of the visitors.

Research Design

In order to gather primary data from visitors to Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave, this study uses a descriptive survey research approach. According to Creswell (2014), a survey research design is appropriate for evaluating people's beliefs, actions, and perceptions of a certain issue. The study gathers quantitative information about the experiences, satisfaction, and possible areas for tourism management at these locations through the use of a standardized questionnaire.

Population and Sampling Technique

Target Population

Tourists and visitors who have visited Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave in Enugu make up the study's target demographic. The study intends to include respondents from a variety of backgrounds in order to gain a thorough grasp of their perspectives, as these sites draw both domestic and foreign tourists.

Sampling Size and Technique

This study employs a purposive sampling approach. This approach is selected because it ensures only participants with firsthand experience of the tourist destination were selected (Etikan, Musa, & Alkassim, 2016). A total of 130 questionnaires were distributed to visitors who had recently visited Unity Park or Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave. The tourists surveyed were selected because of their recent visit to Unity Park or Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave, making them the most suitable respondents for evaluating and providing authentic feedback on park features and overall satisfaction.

Data Collection Method

The main tool used in the study to collect data is a structured questionnaire. Both closed-ended and Likert-scale items are included in the questionnaire, enabling quantitative analysis of answers. The following sections comprise the questionnaire:

1. Age, gender, nationality, and frequency of visits are examples of demographic data.
2. Tourist Perception: views of tourists on safety, amenities, accessibility, and attractions.
3. Level of Satisfaction: Overall impression and propensity to return or suggest the website.
4. Open-ended answers for recommendations are suggestions for improvement.

To guarantee a greater response rate and to allay any questions the respondents might have had, the questionnaires were given out in person.

Data Analysis Technique

Descriptive statistical techniques, such as percentages, frequencies, and mean scores, are used to assess the data gathered from the 130 completed questionnaires. These techniques make it possible to display trends and patterns in visitor perceptions in an understandable manner.

The process of analysis entails

Data Cleaning and Coding: After being verified for completeness, responses are input into a spreadsheet for examination.

Using descriptive statistics, information is compiled into tables, charts, and graphs that show visitor satisfaction levels, favorite features, and areas in need of development.

Comparative Analysis: To find parallels and discrepancies in visitor impressions, the findings from Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave are compared.

Ethical Considerations

Throughout the study, ethical research procedures were followed to guarantee participants' respect and credibility. The following are the main ethical factors:

1. Respondents gave their voluntary consent after being made aware of the study's objectives.
2. Anonymity and confidentiality: To protect participants' privacy, no personal information was gathered.
3. Accuracy and Objectivity: The data was gathered and examined impartially, guaranteeing trustworthy results.

Limitations of the Study

While this study provides valuable insights into tourist perceptions of Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave, it has certain limitations:

- Limited Sample Size: With only 130 respondents, the findings may not fully generalize to all tourists visiting these attractions.
- Time Constraints: Data collection was conducted within a limited timeframe, which may not reflect seasonal variations in visitor perceptions.
- Potential Response Bias: Some respondents may have provided socially desirable answers rather than their true opinions.

Case Studies: Unity Park And Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave

Historical Background and Development of Unity Park, Enugu

Unity Park was formally inaugurated by Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi in Enugu, Nigeria, on May 29, 2021. The park was established to address the city's dearth of green areas, which is a consequence of urbanization and the conversion of green spaces for commercial and residential purposes. The de-zoning of open and green spaces due to early coal mining operations and population growth imposing pressure on land and housing has negatively impacted the city's atmosphere and tourism potential, Governor Ugwuanyi stressed.

Adjacent to the popular Michael Okpara Square in Independence Layout, Unity Park is a vital green space for both residents and visitors. It features a large sculpture of a roaring lion that is 42 feet high, 72 feet long, and 24 feet broad, with an air-conditioned interior that can accommodate about 50 people, a large water pond that can be utilized for boat excursions, and a 1.9-kilometer reinforced concrete pedestrian promenade. These amenities, which provide a serene environment perfect for relaxation, reflection, and leisure activities, enhance the city's livability and visitor attractiveness.
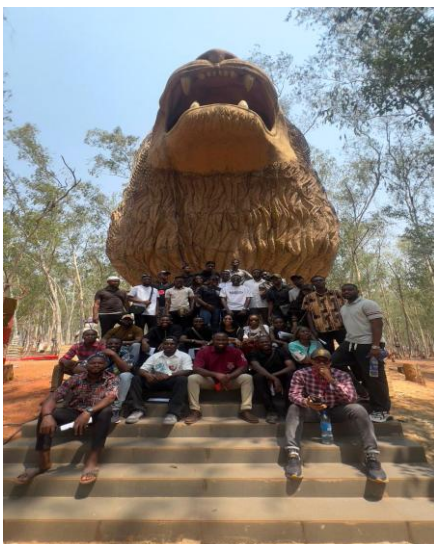

Plate No. 1.0: Lion Statue, Unity Park, Enugu
Source: Authors Field work

Plate No. 1.1: Unity Park Enugu
Source: Authors Field work

Features and Attractions of Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave

Nigeria's Enugu State is home to the Ngwo Pine Forest, which is well-known for its tranquil atmosphere and breathtaking scenery. The forest, which was once planted to stop erosion, is now a well-liked spot for hiking, picnics, and nature photography. The tall pines provide a distinctive setting that is unusual in the area and provides tourists with a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

The captivating cascade at the Ngwo Cave and cascade, a limestone creation in the center of the forest, begins as a shallow pool and then erupts as a stream from a hole in the ceiling of the cave. This natural attraction provides an immersive experience by combining the majestic architecture of the cave with the soothing sounds of the waterfall. The site is sacred to the Igbo people and has cultural significance because it has shrines and burial grounds.

To get to the cave and waterfall, visitors frequently take guided tours through the forest, taking in the verdant surroundings and the refreshing microclimate produced by the thick canopy. The cave's interior and the paths through the forest provide chances for exploration and adventure, making it a popular destination for both visitors and residents looking to get in touch with nature.

Plate No. 1.2: Pine Forest, Ngwo
Source: Authors Fieldwork, 2025.

Plate No. 1.3: Pine Forest, Ngwo
Source: Authors Fieldwork, 2025.

Plate 1.2: Pine Cave, Ngwo
Source: Authors Fieldwork, 2025.

Previous Studies and Their Significance in the Region's Tourism Landscape

Studies on the region have highlighted the economic impact of Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave on the state of Enugu's tourism sector. A study by Amalu et al. (2018) assessed the socioeconomic impacts of ecotourism sites in Enugu State and found that locations such as Ngwo Pine Forest promote local revenue generation, job creation, and community development. In order to preserve these natural features and maximize their economic benefits, the study emphasized the need for sustainable management practices.

Few studies have been conducted, especially on Unity Park because it was just recently created, but its expansion is in line with worldwide patterns that emphasize the importance of urban green areas in enhancing city livability and tourism appeal. The park's creation addresses Enugu's long-standing lack of recreational areas, which may

boost domestic travel and provide residents with access to essential recreational areas. As Unity Park becomes increasingly integrated into the community, future studies may evaluate its impact on local tourism and economical growth.

Ngwo Pine Forest, Cave, and Unity Park are all major contributors to the growth of Enugu's tourism industry. They provide a range of activities to suit different tourists' interests, from environmental exploration to urban amusement. Their expansion and upkeep are essential to the preservation of the region's natural and cultural resources, the well-being of the local populace, and the rise of sustainable tourism.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Introduction

The results of the poll on visitors' opinions of Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave in Enugu are shown in this chapter. Responses from 130 visitors who filled out the questionnaire served as the basis for the analysis. The findings are divided into four categories: visitor satisfaction and experience, perception of park characteristics, visitor profile, and recommendations for enhancement. The results are analyzed in light of the body of research on visitor perception and satisfaction, emphasizing these two attractions' advantages, disadvantages, and possible areas for development.

Visitor Profile

Age and Gender Distribution

81% of respondents on both sites were between the ages of 18 and 25, followed by 11% in the 26–35 age range and 8% in the 36–45 age range. This suggests that the majority of visitors are young adults, which is consistent with research showing that younger people are more prone to travel and participate in leisure activities. In terms of the distribution of respondents by gender, 81% of them were men and only 19% were women. This discrepancy would indicate that Enugu's parks draw more male tourists, perhaps as a result of social or cultural issues. Similar patterns, where gender inequalities impact outdoor recreational activity, have been noted in other tourist research (Kerr & Kweon, 2019).

Nationality and Visit Frequency

Since Nigeria accounted for 100% of the responses, it seems likely that both Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest receive more domestic tourists than foreign ones. Domestic travel is the most common kind of travel in Nigeria due to its affordability and accessibility, per Eze-Uzomaka's (2020) research. 62% of visitors said they frequented parks, compared to 38% who said they visited them infrequently. This demonstrates the high level of local interest in parks, underscoring the significance of preserving and enhancing these landmarks to draw tourists.

Purpose of Visit

Leisure and recreation came in second at 40.5% of visits to both Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest, with education and research accounting for 80% of visits. Nature exploration was another important driver (10%). Photography was mentioned as another reason for going to Ngwo Pine Forest (8%). These findings suggest that Enugu parks foster not only recreational activities but also intellectual and artistic pursuits. Previous studies have shown that natural and cultural spaces are valuable educational resources, underscoring the need for improved infrastructure (Buckley, 2020).

Perception of Park Features

Tourists' perceptions of park feature significantly influence their satisfaction and likelihood of recommending the destination to others (Huh & Vogt, 2008). The survey assessed cleanliness, security, accessibility, aesthetics, biodiversity, and other park attributes.

Cleanliness

71.5% of respondents gave Unity Park "good" scores for cleanliness, and 14.5% gave it "excellent." Ngwo Pine Forest, on the other hand, received lower scores for cleanliness, with 28.6% calling it "very poor," 14.6% calling it "poor," and 42.3% calling it "average." In keeping with visitor recommendations, the discrepancy in cleanliness ratings emphasizes the need for better trash management at Ngwo Pine Forest.

Safety and Security

Safety is a crucial determinant of visitor satisfaction (Pizam & Mansfeld, 2006). At Unity Park, 64.3% of visitors rated security as "good," while 14.3% considered it "excellent." However, at Ngwo Pine Forest, 32.4% rated safety as "very poor" and 43.3% as "poor." Tourists at this site indicated the lack of patrol officers and security personnel, suggesting better safety meaures. Despite the poor rating at Ngwo pine forest and caves, it still had a high satisfaction level at 64.8%. This indicates that regardless of the potential risks, visitors found the overall experience rewarding enough to overlook security concerns.

Availability of Seating Areas

Unity Park had better seating availability than Ngwo Pine Forest, with 50% rating it as "good" and 28.6% as

"excellent." Conversely, Ngwo Pine Forest had inadequate seating, with 35.1% rating it as "very poor" and another 35.1% as "poor." The lack of seating at Ngwo Pine Forest likely contributes to lower visitor comfort and satisfaction, as reflected in recommendations for more seating areas.

Accessibility for all Visitors

Accessibility for all visitors is a key factor in inclusive tourism. At Unity Park, 57.2% rated accessibility as "good," while 14.2% found it "poor." Ngwo Pine Forest received mixed ratings, with 16.2% rating accessibility as "very poor" and 29.7% as "good." This suggests that both sites could benefit from improvements in pathways, signage, and general accessibility measures.

Aesthetics and Scenery

Park aesthetics influence the overall visitor experience. Unity Park was rated relatively well, with 35% considering it excellent, though 30% still rated it as "poor." Meanwhile, Ngwo Pine Forest had better aesthetic ratings, with 35.1% rating it as excellent and only 8.2% rating it as poor. This suggests that despite its other challenges, Ngwo Pine Forest has strong visual appeal.

Wildlife and Biodiversity

Unity Park scored poorly in biodiversity, with 60% of respondents rating it as either "poor" or "very poor." In contrast, Ngwo Pine Forest received better ratings, with 35.1% rating biodiversity as "good" and 29.7% as "excellent." This highlights a major distinction between the two sites—while Unity Park serves more as an urban recreation space, Ngwo Pine Forest offers richer biodiversity, potentially attracting nature-focused tourists.

Visitor Satisfaction and Experience

Overall Satisfaction

At Unity Park, most visitors expressed neutral satisfaction (64.8%), with only 21.6% feeling "satisfied" and 5.4% being "very dissatisfied." This shows that the park doesn't provide an memorable or outstanding experience for most visitors even though it meets basic expectations. In contrast, Ngwo Pine Forest had higher satisfaction levels, with 64.8% satisfied and only 8.2% "very dissatisfied." These results suggest that Ngwo Pine Forest, despite infrastructure challenges, provides a more enjoyable experience for visitors. A Chi-square test was conducted to determine whether there was a significant difference in visitor satisfaction between the two sites. The result demonstrated a statistically significant variation in satisfaction levels with a p-value of 0.00072 and a

Chi-square value of 16.96. This demonstrates that visitors' satisfaction is not arbitrary and the kind of park — natural (Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave) or urban (Unity park)—has a direct effect on how visitors perceive their experience. The natural beauty, biodiversity, and immersive experience that Ngwo Pine Forest provides are responsible for the noticeably higher satisfaction levels.

Challenges Faced by Visitors

Only 5.4% of Unity Park visitors reported challenges, mainly related to poor convenience facilities (e.g., restrooms). However, at Ngwo Pine Forest, 30% of visitors reported facing challenges, particularly related to safety and lack of amenities. These findings reinforce the need for investment in better facilities and security measures at Ngwo Pine Forest.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Visitors provided several recommendations for improving the parks:

Unity Park:

- 93% suggested more activities and attractions
- 35% recommended better signage
- A visitor mentioned stopping waste burning inside the park

Ngwo Pine Forest:

- 92% suggested more seating areas

- 64.8% recommended better security measures

- 64.8% wanted better signage

- 43.2% called for improved waste management

These findings align with best practices in tourism development, emphasizing infrastructure enhancement, safety improvements, and diverse recreational activities to boost visitor satisfaction (Cooper, 2020).

CONCLUSION

This study investigated tourist perceptions of Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave in Enugu to determine how tourists rate park features, satisfaction levels, and overall experiences. The findings revealed substantial differences in perception between the two attractions, with Unity Park receiving higher ratings for cleanliness, safety, and accessibility, whereas Ngwo Pine Forest was valued more for its natural splendor and biodiversity but suffered maintenance and security concerns. The Chi-Square analysis indicated that visitor satisfaction differed significantly amongst the venues, emphasizing the relevance of well-managed infrastructure in creating tourism experiences.

The study expands Echtner & Ritchie's (2003) destination image theory by applying it to underexplored African tourism destinations, illustrating how infrastructure, safety, and environmental management influence visitor perception. The findings add to the broader discussion of sustainable tourism growth in emerging locations, emphasizing the need for better destination management and visitor experiences. By applying these theoretical perspectives to Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest, this study provides a framework for understanding tourist behavior in destinations where natural and urban attractions coexist, providing valuable insights for policymakers, destination managers, and researchers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to improve visitor experiences and enhance the tourism potential of Unity Park and Ngwo Pine Forest and Cave.

Infrastructure and Facility Improvement

Visitors at Unity Park indicated that more seating areas and improved convenience amenities were needed. To improve visitor comfort, park managers could strategically put more benches and provide locations for covered relaxation. To guarantee cleanliness and accessibility, lavatory facilities should be updated and maintained on a regular basis. The addition of picnic sites and resting places along walking pathways would enhance the visitor experience at Ngwo Pine Forest, where a shortage of seats was a significant issue.

Safety and Security Enhancements

Visitors were mostly concerned about security, notably at Ngwo Pine Forest. To combat this, the state tourism agency should establish a visible security presence, with trained people stationed at strategic locations. Furthermore, installing CCTV cameras and boosting lighting along walkways will increase safety (Nwabuko, 2024), especially for those wandering in the dark or during off-peak hours.

Improved Waste Management and Environmental Conservation

Littering and poor waste management were major concerns, notably at Ngwo Pine Forest. A systematic waste disposal system, with clearly identified recycling bins and regular rubbish collection, should be implemented. Park officials should also launch an anti-littering campaign, including visitor awareness programs and signage. To protect the areas' natural biodiversity, environmental conservation actions such as tree planting and biodiversity monitoring should be prioritized

Visitor Engagement and Tourism Promotion

A large proportion of visitors discovered the sites through word of mouth. While this implies a high level of organic interest, digital marketing may be leveraged through focused social media campaigns that highlight the parks' distinctive qualities. Furthermore, developing interactive guided tours with experienced tour guides will enhance visitor experiences by offering historical and ecological context.

Accessibility and Inclusivity Improvements

Accessibility concerns at both sites, particularly for individuals with disabilities, should be addressed by constructing paved walkways, ramps, and designated seating areas that accommodate all visitors. Clear directional signage should also be installed to help first-time visitors navigate the parks easily.

Diversification of Activities and Attractions

More leisure activities should be added to increase tourist engagement. Seasonal activities, cultural displays, and live performances that honour regional tradition can all be beneficial to Unity Park. Ecotourism activities like zip-lining, adventure paths, and birdwatching can broaden the visitor experience and draw in more people to Ngwo Pine Forest.

Strengthening Destination Management Policies

To guarantee sustainable development, a cooperative management strategy incorporating community organizations, private sector stakeholders, and local government should be devised. Surveys of visitor satisfaction should be carried out on a regular basis to gauge levels of satisfaction and direct ongoing enhancements. A long-term maintenance program should also be put in place to guarantee the survival of key tourist destinations and stop infrastructure deterioration.

REFERENCES

1. Alegre, J., & Garau, J. (2010). Tourist satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Annals of tourism research, 37(1), 52-73.
2. Amalu, T. E., Otop, O. O., Duluora, E. I., Omeje, V. U., & Emeana, S. K. (2018). Socio-economic

impacts of ecotourism attractions in Enugu state, Nigeria. GeoJournal, 83(6), 1257-1269.

3. Amalu, T., Phil-Eze, P., & Ajake, A. (2020). Assessing the impact of economic and cultural diversity on tourism development in Nigeria. GeoJournal, 85(5), 1457-1468.

4. Andereck, K. L., & Nyaupane, G. P. (2011). Exploring the nature of tourism and quality of life perceptions among residents. Journal of Travel Research, 50(3), 248-260.

5. Ani L, (2021). Ugwuanyi ups Enugu's livability with unity park. The cable

6. Ayeni, D. (2012). Enhancing and developing sustainable tourism through landscaping in Nigeria (Doctoral dissertation, De Montfort University).

7. Baloglu, S., & McCleary, K. W. (1999). A model of destination image formation. Annals of Tourism Research, 26(4), 868-897.

8. Bansal, H., & Eiselt, H. A. (2004). Exploratory research of tourist motivations and planning. Tourism Management, 25(3), 387-396.

9. Basaran, U. (2016). Examining the relationships of cognitive, affective, and conative destination image: Research on Safranbolu, Turkey. International Business Research, 9(5), 164-179.

10. Berno, T., & Bricker, K. (2001). Sustainable tourism development: The long road from theory to practice. International journal of economic development, 3(3), 1-18.

11. Buckley, R. (2009). Ecotourism: Principles and Practices. CABI.

12. Buhalis, D. (2000). Marketing the competitive destination of the future. Tourism Management, 21(1), 97-116.

13. Chen, C. F., & Tsai, D. (2007). How destination image and evaluative factors affect behavioral intentions. Tourism Management, 28(4), 1115-1122.

14. Chiesura, A. (2004). The role of urban parks for the sustainable city. Landscape and Urban Planning, 68(1), 129-138.

15. Chijioke, N. M., Benedicta, C. O., Stella, I. N., & Emmanuel, T. O. (2024). Geo-Tourism for Wealth Creation: Unveiling the Geoscience Potential of Southeast Nigeria. The Asian Review of Civil Engineering, 13(1), 6-15.

16. Cooper, C. (2022). Essentials of tourism.

17. Creswell, J. W. (2017). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.

18. Darcy, S., & Dickson, T. J. (2009). A whole-of-life approach to tourism. Tourism Management, 30(4), 620-631.

19. Dolnicar, S. (2020). Designing for more environmentally friendly tourism. Annals of Tourism Research, 84, 102933.

20. Ejiofor, A. T., & Elechi, O. D. (2012). Assessment of the influence of education on tourism development in Enugu state, Nigeria. American Journal of Tourism Research, 1(1), 33-42. (Ejiofor, & Elechi. 2012)

21. Etikan, I., Musa, S. A., & Alkassim, R. S. (2016). Comparison of convenience sampling and purposive sampling. American Journal of Theoretical and Applied Statistics, 5(1), 1-4.

22. Eyisi, A. P. (2021). Residents' perceptions toward socio-cultural issues in regional tourism development in Anambra and Enugu States of Southeastern Nigeria (Doctoral dissertation, Murdoch University).

23. Font, X., Sanabria, R., & Skinner, E. (2003). Sustainable tourism and ecotourism certification: Raising standards and benefits. Journal of ecotourism, 2(3), 213-218.

24. Getz, D., & Page, S. J. (2019). Event studies: Theory, research and policy for planned events. Routledge.

25. Gonda, T. (2024). The importance of infrastructure in the development of accessible tourism. Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development, 8(2), 2735.

26. Gretzel, U., Sigala, M., Xiang, Z., & Koo, C. (2015). Smart tourism: Foundations and developments. Electronic Markets, 25(3), 179-188.

27. Gunn, C. A., & Var, T. (2020). Tourism Planning: Basics, Concepts, Cases. Routledge.

28. Guzman-Parra, V. F., Vila-Oblitas, J. R., & Maqueda-Lafuente, J. (2016). Exploring the effects of destination image attributes on tourist satisfaction and destination loyalty: an application in Málaga, Spain. Tourism & Management Studies, 12(1), 67-73.

29. Hall, C. M., Timothy, D. J., & Duval, D. T. (2012). Safety and security in tourism: relationships, management, and marketing. Routledge.

30. Hillery, M., Nancarrow, B., Griffin, G., & Syme, G. (2001). Tourist perception of environmental impact. Annals of tourism research, 28(4), 853-867. Hillery, 2001

31. Holden, A. (2016). Environment and tourism. Routledge.

32. Honey, M. (2008). Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise? Island Press.

33. Huh, C., & Vogt, C. A. (2008). Changes in residents' attitudes toward tourism over time: A cohort analytical approach. Journal of Travel Research, 46(4), 446-455.

34. Ihekuna, C. P., Johnson, J. O., Onwumere, B. O., Obiadi, B., & Onuorah, I. M. (2022). Architecture, Tourism and Housing: Ohaneze Ndigbo Youth Centre For Cultural Edification. Tropical Built Environment Journal, 8(1).

35. Iyi, E. A. (2014). A review of Enugu (Enugu State, Nigeria) urban growth and development. Journal of Research in Environmental and Earth Sciences, 1(3), 44-51.

36. Jakobsson, K. M., & Dragun, A. K. (2013). An overview of environmental and conservation issues of consequence for tourism policy. Handbook of tourism economics: Analysis, new applications and case studies, 765-785.

37. James, E. E., & Essien, A. U. (2019). Infrastructure and sustainable tourism development in Nigeria. Journal of humanities and social sciences, 24(2), 70-81.

38. Jenkins, P. (2021). The next Christendom: The coming of global Christianity (4th ed.). Oxford University Press. https://books.google.com/books?id=updatededition2021

39. Jiang, Y., Qin, C., Gao, H., & Gossage, S. (2022). How tourists' perception affects travel intention: Mechanism pathways and boundary conditions. Frontiers in Psychology. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.821364

40. Kislali, H., Kavaratzis, M., & Saren, M. (2020). Destination image formation: Towards a holistic approach. Tourism Geographies, 22(4), 545-573.

41. Konijnendijk, C. C. (2018). The Forest and the City: The Cultural Landscape of Urban Woodland. Springer.

42. Majebi, E. C., & Amalu, T. E. (2023). Cultural Tourism Development in Enugu State, Nigeria: Evidence from the Pre and Post Covid-19 Period. Journal of Archaeology and Tourism Research, 3(2), 1-18.

43. Mansfeld, Y., & Pizam, A. (2005). Tourism, Security and Safety: From Theory to Practice (The Management of Hospitality and Tourism Enterprises).

44. McElroy, J. L. (2006). Tourism, Security, and Safety: From Theory to Practice.

45. Muhammad, A. S. A., Maigatari, M. M., Halliru, S. L., & Magaji, L. J. (2022). Ecotourism as Tool For Sustainable Development in Nigeria. Geographical Perspectives of Nigeria, 256. Muhammad et al., 2022

46. Muhammed, H. B. (2017). Public green space in twentieth century post-colonial capital cities: A case study of Abuja (Master's thesis, İzmir Ekonomi Universities).

47. Nana, A. E., & Daniel, U. S. (2023). Harnessing Culture and Tourism for national development. Aku: An African Journal of Contemporary Research, 4(4).

48. NBS (National Bureau of Statistics). (2022). Nigeria's tourism sector report. Retrieved from https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng

49. Newsome, D., Moore, S. A., & Dowling, R. K. (2012). Natural Area Tourism: Ecology, Impacts, and Management. Channel View Publications.

50. Nwabuko, S.O., Agwu, K.D., Irouke, V.M., & Ilouno, D.O. (2024). Crime and infrastructure: A case study of Enugu urban. International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science, 8(5).

51. Ogili, A., Olewe, B., & Eneh, M. (2023). Effect of tourism on socio-economic development in Nigeria: A study of Enugu state, 2015-2022. NG Journal of Social Development, 11(1), 85-93.

52. Parasuraman, A., Zeithaml, V. A., & Berry, L. L. (1988). SERVQUAL: A multiple-item scale for measuring consumer perceptions of service quality. Journal of Retailing, 64(1), 12-40.

53. Pearce, P. L. (2008). Tourism and entertainment: Boundaries and connections. Tourism Recreation Research, 33(2), 125-130.

54. Pike, S. (2015). Destination Marketing: Essentials. Routledge.

55. Pine, B. J., & Gilmore, J. H. (1999). The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre & Every Business a Stage. Harvard Business Press.

56. Pine, B. J., & Gilmore, J. H. (2011). The experience economy. Harvard Business Press.

57. Ponte, J., Couto, G., Pimentel, P., de Sousa, Á. S. T., & Oliveira, A. (2021). Tourism planning in the Azores and feedback from visitors. Tourism & Management Studies, 17(2), 7-15.

58. Prayag, G. (2010). Images as pull factors of a tourist destination: A factor-cluster segmentation analysis. Tourism Analysis, 15(2), 213-226.

59. Scott, N., Laws, E., & Prideaux, B. (2010). Safety and security in tourism. Recovery Marketing after Crises, New York and London: Routledge. Scott et al., 2010

60. Sharpley, R., & Telfer, D. J. (2015). Tourism and Development: Concepts and Issues. Channel View Publications.

61. Shinde, K. A. (2020). Religious tourism and the environment. CABI. https://books.google.com/books?id=8z8eDwAAQBAJ

62. Timothy, D. J. (2011). Cultural heritage and tourism: An introduction (Vol. 4). Channel View Publications.

63. Timothy, D. J., & Nyaupane, G. P. (2009). Cultural Heritage and Tourism in the Developing World: A Regional Perspective. Routledge.

64. Ugwukah, A., & Obomanu, V. S. O. (2020). Tourism and Economic Development in Nigeria: A Critical Assessment of the Obudu Mountain Resort, Cross River State. Journal of Tourism, Hospitality and Sports, 48, 15-25.

65. UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization). (2020). International tourism and cultural heritage. Retrieved from https://www.unwto.org

66. Wolch, J. R., Byrne, J., & Newell, J. P. (2014). Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough.' Landscape and Urban Planning, 125, 234-244.

67. WTTC (World Travel & Tourism Council). (2023). Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2023. Retrieved from https://wttc.org

68. Zapata, M. J., & Hall, C. M. (2012). Public–private collaboration in the tourism sector: Balancing legitimacy and effectiveness in local tourism partnerships. The Spanish case. Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events, 4(1), 61-83.