

Degree and Socio-demographic Predictors of Residents' Willingness to Participate in Mountain Tourism: The Case of Ado-Away Suspended Lake, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study determined the degree and socio-demographic predictors of residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Away Suspended Lake (ASL), Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was employed to select and administer semi-structured questionnaires to three hundred and sixty-six (366) households. Descriptive statistics and binomial logistic regression algorithm were used to analyze the data. The results revealed that majority of the households were willing to learn about the natural heritage, preserve the culture, provide environmental education for tourists, and participate in mountain tourism-related employment. Among the four indicators of residents' willingness to participate in mountain tourism development, households were willing to participate in mountain tourism planning. The linear regression analysis shows that predictors varied with the four critical indicators - willingness to conserve the natural resources, to preserve the cultural tradition, to sustainable community development, and to participate in the mountain tourism planning and management. This implied that the socio-demography of the residents is pertinent and should be put into consideration for the successful integration of the host community into the decision making framework as well as sustainable planning and development of the ASL for mountain tourism.

Keywords: Residents, suspended lake, mountain tourism, participation, Nigeria



Introduction

Nigeria is a country endowed with rich biodiversity, natural landscapes and beautiful mountainscapes. The country is blessed with numerous resources of international ecological and touristic importance in mountainous regions which are poorly packaged and promoted to attract and satisfy the tourists' satisfaction (Ijeomah & Eniang, 2018). Amidst the yet to harness scenic mountainscapes in Nigeria is the Ado-Awaye mountain with the famous Iyake Lake (also referred to Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake) located on its cliff. It is the only hanging lakes in Nigeria and Africa. The mountainous terrain and host community's cultural attachment make the tourism destination a potential cultural heritage site and mountain tourism destination.

In recent times, the host communities to tourism destinations have become one of the major stakeholders in the tourism industry (Eshliki & Kaboudi, 2012). Their active participation is essential for successful tourism planning and development (Kim et al., 2014; Moyo & Tichaawa, 2017). The strong integration and involvement of residents and communities into conservation management is crucial to the success of biodiversity conservation (Waylen et al., 2010). Also, the customers' perception and community involvement are relative to the successes of the ecotourism enterprise (Arowosafe & Oladeji, 2017; Mudimba & Tichaawa, 2017; Harilal & Tichaawa, 2018). This supported the earlier submissions of Eshliki and Kaboudi (2012), Hanafiah et al. (2013), Tichaawa and Mhlanga (2015), Makoni and Tichaawa (2017) and Moyo and Tichaawa (2019) that the level of residents' participation in tourism is strongly associated with the apparent tourism impacts and personal benefits obtained from tourism. These views aligned with the theory of social exchange employed in tourism (Andereck et al., 2005). Hence, the interrelationship between the residents' participation and successes of mountain tourism investments cannot be underestimated (Ajayi & Eveso, 2017).

In Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake, mountain tourism activities are very minimal despite its potentials as the only suspended Lake in Africa. This might be connected to the non-existence of a broad framework on the interaction between the host community's residents and the mountain tourism destination. The residents' culture and their willingness to participate in mountain tourism are inseparable (Olaniyi et al., 2019). The consideration and integration of residents' culture in the process of decision-making related to mountain tourism planning and development are likely to increase their motivation to formulate more appropriate and robust decisions (Li, 2006; Richards & Hall, 2000). Although community participation had been argued to be complex, while the willingness of most residents to always participate in ecotourism development (Hanafiah et al., 2013; Thetsane, 2019). Some barriers classified as cultural, operational and structural limitations are responsible for this complexity in community participation (Kala & Bagri, 2018).

Until now, there is no information on the socio-economic demography of the residents of Ado-Awaye town. The understanding of residents' socio-economic demography of the residents had been confirmed to usually play an important role in the community non-participation in any form of tourism development (such as mountain tourism development) of developing countries (Manyara & Jones, 2007; Marzuki et al., 2012; Tosun & Timothy, 2003). The information on the degree of residents' willingness and its socio-demographic predictors is pertinent to formulate appropriate policies and develop a decision-making framework for sustainable mountain tourism planning and development of ASL. It could aid the introduction and success of any bottom-top approach such as community-based management system to harness the mountain tourism destination's potentials. Therefore, this study determined the degree and socio-demographic predictors of residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake (ASL), Nigeria.



Literature review

Globally, tourism remains an important component of sustainable development by promoting economic growth, alleviating poverty and food security (Long & Kayat, 2011; Richardson, 2012). Most importantly, in the developing world where tourism often assumed to play a major role in alleviating poverty, increase employment, improve the standard of living and economies of residents (Prayag et al., 2013). For instance, the tourism industry contributes to the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign exchange-earners, employment opportunities and alternative economic opportunities to rural communities in Botswana, Croatia, London, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, Tunisia and Zimbabwe just to mention a few (Akinboade & Braimoh, 2010; Belloumi, 2010; Ndlovu & Rogerson, 2003; Payne & Mervar, 2010). Tourism has various forms based on the purpose of visit (World Tourism Organization and International Labour Organization, 2014). It can be classified into recreational (e.g. nature tourism, mountain tourism), cultural, sports/adventure health just to mention a few.

Mountain tourism is a certain kind of tourism activity undertaken in mountain region characterized by distinctive attractions, special activities, unique services, well-designed infrastructure and support facilities (Chiyumba, 2015; Kruk et al., 2007). Mountain regions are one of the important tourist destinations for mountain tourism with a global tourist inflow of about 500 million yearly (Thomas et al., 2006; UNEP, 2002). They are a physical setting that has natural, cultural or social attributes with typical symbols of vigour and freedom to humans (Robertson & Hull, 2001; Smethurst, 2000). In the tropics, they are usually characterized by scorching and humid climates (McCool, 2002). Most mountains have a magnificent panoramic view, aesthetic beauty and unique resource values for conservation and tourism purposes (Nepal & Chipeniuk, 2005). They covered close to a quarter of the earth surface with approximately 12% and 14% of the world's human population occupying its core and proximity respectively (Chiyumba, 2015).

Despite the rich biodiversity and tourism potentials, mountains are fragile owing to their steepness, physiography, elevation and extreme weather which make them prone to floods, biodiversity loss, avalanches and high rate of erosion (Fang et al., 2009; Nepal & Chipeniuk, 2005). According to Price et al. (2004), mountain regions are typified by poor livelihood. The authors iterated that most countries and/or communities situated in landlocked mountainous regions (Ethiopia, Nepal, and Bolivia), in developed economies (Switzerland, Austria) and less developed economies (Northern Pakistan, Yunnah Xinziang in China, etc.) are the poorest amidst their counterparts. Notwithstanding, these mountain regions harboured many tourist destinations and mountain tourism activity due to their high intrinsic values (Silva et al., 2014).

The mountain tourism activity marked with the conceptual framework of supply, demand and management can maximize on mountain's rich biodiversity and cultural uniqueness to enhance its attractiveness and ecosystem services (Nepal & Chipeniuk, 2005). Over the years, the mountain's attractiveness had been one of the important attributes that influenced mountain tourism demand globally (Singh, 2007; Thomas et al., 2006). These attributes with some mountain elements contributed to the symbolic values of mountain regions and exerted an impact on its destination image (Silva et al., 2013). Besides, mountain tourism is influenced by many other physical attributes such as high elevation, terrain ruggedness, comparative isolation and mountain elements (Godde, 1998; Robertson & Hull, 2001). The mountain elements are human ideas and perceptions, unique mountainscape, rich ecological resources and culture of the host communities' inhabitants (Chiyumba, 2015).

The importance of mountain tourism to the local community, tourist wellbeing, the national economy and regional development cannot be overemphasized. In the last decades, mountain tourism is rapidly developing and it had profited a few countries in the world



(Geneletti & Dawa, 2009; Moss & Godde, 2000). For instance, this type of tourism boosted the local economy and improved the livelihood of host communities' inhabitants in Nepalese Himalayas, Mount Everest and Mount Kenya (Chiyumba, 2015; GOK, 2008; Nepal, 2002). It provides tangible benefits as regards the sustenance of residents' cultural, economic and physical durability and wellbeing (Fang et al., 2009). Beyond the economic potentials of mountain tourism, it contributes to the physical, cultural, social and ecological development of a mountain destination (Todaro & Smith, 2012). Also, it ensures the sustainability of the ecological resources in a mountainous region (FAO, 2005; Kuniyal, 2002).

However, various factors such as diversity, fragility, aesthetic, difficult access, niche contribute to the choice of a mountain region for tourism activities (Nepal & Chipeniuk, 2005; Price, 2002). They stirred interest and demand for various mountain recreational activities (camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, mountaineering and nature photography) which had ever been on the increase in recent times with rapid growth in mountain tourism events and market (Kruk & Banskota, 2007; Nepal, 2003). Specifically, hiking of high-altitude Mountain and trail use experienced a tremendous increase in participation over the last decades (Chatterjea, 2007; Lynn & Brown, 2003; Nepal & Nepal, 2004). Hence, Nepal and Chipeniuk (2005) opined that the involvement of a broad framework of human-nature interactions is essential for meaningful and sustainable planning and development of mountain tourism. This call for an increase in residents' involvement in mountain tourism's planning and development based on their cultural values, customs and available mountain resources (Ryan, 2002; Singh et al., 2009).

Research methodology

Study area

Ado-Away Suspended Lake lies about 20km West of Iseyin, Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State (Fig. 1.). The lake is located on the Iyake Mountains that sprawl around the sleepy town with a land cover area of 190.62 hectares. It falls within Latitudes 07°048'00''N and 07°054'00''N and on the Longitudes 003°018'00''E and 003°030'00''E (Ibrahim, 2015). The area is mainly characterized by rocks which have dynamic structure and impeccable display such as Ishage rock for tourism attraction. There is no major river within the catchment. A stair of 369 steps leads through green vegetation with scattered shrubs savanna and open secondary forests to the plains on the mountain top. Ado-Away suspended lake has an elevation of 433m above sea level with a maximum annual rainfall of 1790-1850 mm. It experiences an equatorial climatic with dry (from November to March) and wet (from April to October seasons with the average daily temperature of $27.5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 7.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and high humidity.

Methods and analysis

A preliminary survey was performed to familiarize with the settings of the only host community (Ado-Away town) to the suspended lake and ascertain the right choice of research sampling technique. Based on the literature search, a semi-structured questionnaire was designed and subjected to pre-test (25 respondents) at the Obanla campus of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria to determine the instrument's Cronbach's alpha reliability index. The instrument consisted of two sections (Section A – Attitude towards mountain tourism development, Section B – intention towards mountain tourism development) with a total of twenty-three items. Independent variables used were gender, age, marital status, born in the village, ancestors from the village, household size, occupation, religion, and education level. Dependent variables are the four indicators for residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development- willingness to conserve natural resources, to preserve cultural tradition, to participate in sustainable community development and to participate in mountain tourism planning (Lai & Nepal, 2006).

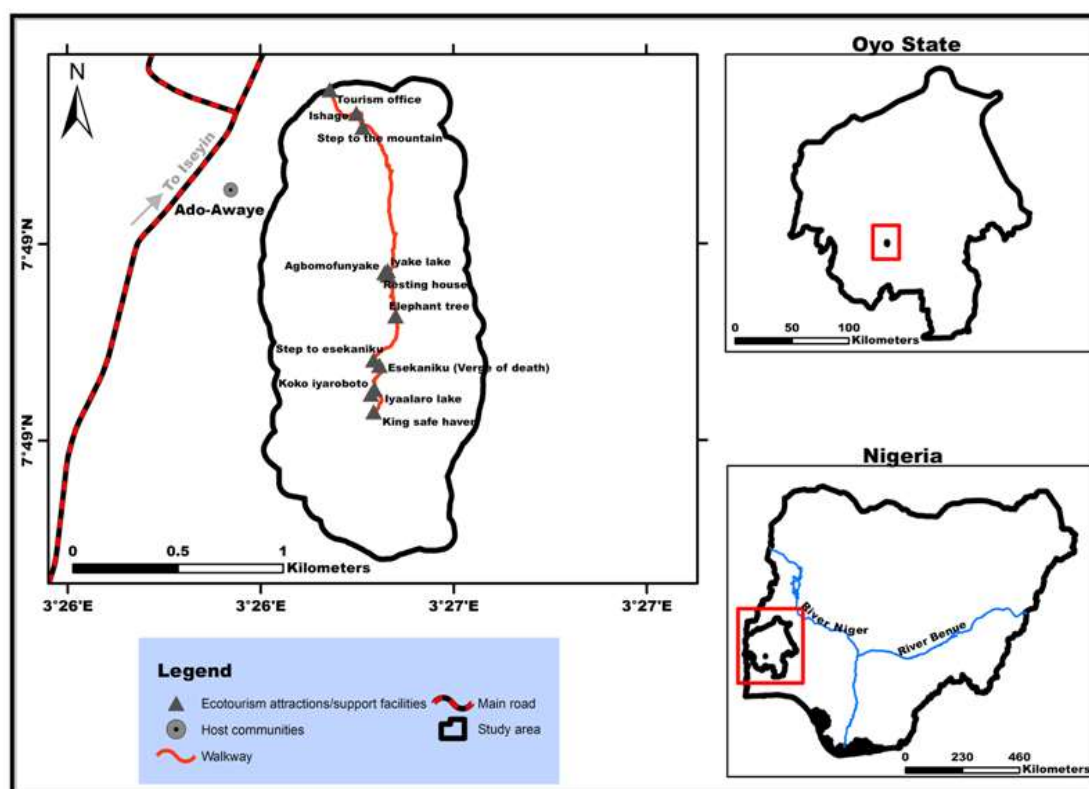


Figure 1. Ado-Away Suspended Lake in Oyo State, Nigeria. Source: Olaniyi & Bada (2020)

Method triangulation was employed to increase the validity of the study findings according to the procedures of Polit and Beck (2012). Semi-structured questionnaire and structured interview methods were used for data collection from the residents and chiefs of Ado-Away town respectively on the residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of ASL. Eight chiefs above the age of 60 years from Ado and Awaye quarters were purposively selected and interviewed based on their better understanding of the host community's residents over the years. Thereafter, the host community was subjected to a multistage sampling technique and a direct household survey was conducted for primary data collection. First of all, the host community was stratified in two stages based on the two clans (Ado and Awaye people) and permanent physical feature (Iseyin to Ado-Away road), which resulted in four sub-units. Then, the questionnaires were randomly administered to a total of three hundred and sixty-six (366) households. The formula by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) was used to compute the sample size. The details of the parameters used given by the town head and the traditional council members as shown below: The average number of household per building = 3. The approximate number of buildings = 3,300. The total number of household = 9,900. Therefore, $s = X^2NP(1-P) / d^2(N-1) + X^2P(1-P)$, where, s = required sample size, X^2 = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level. (3.841). N = the population size. P = the population proportion (assumed to be 0.50 since this would provide the maximum sample size). d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05)

Data collected on the socio-demographic characteristics of the households and the four indicators of residents' willingness to participate in mountain tourism development were subjected to descriptive statistics using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 21) software. The socio-demographic predictors of residents' willingness to participate in mountain tourism development were determined by analyzing the dependent and independent variables using the binomial logistic regression algorithm. The independent



variables are age, gender, marital status, level of education, religion, occupation, place of birth, ancestral home, family size, and income. The dependent variables are willingness to conserve natural resources, willingness to preserve cultural tradition, willingness to sustainable community development, and willingness to participate in mountain tourism planning and management.

Results and discussion

Socio-demographic characteristic of the sampled households in Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake, Nigeria is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristic of the sampled households in Ado-Awaye

Characteristics	Description	Frequency (%)
Age	18-29	84 (22.95)
	30-39	76 (20.77)
	40-49	82 (22.40)
	50-59	72 (19.67)
	60 and above	52 (14.21)
Gender	Male	233 (63.66)
	Female	133 (36.34)
Marital status	Single	62 (16.94)
	Married	277 (75.68)
	Widower/widow	9 (2.46)
	Divorced	18 (4.92)
Level of Education	Primary	123 (33.61)
	Secondary	142 (38.80)
	Tertiary	101 (27.60)
Religion	Christianity	84 (22.95)
	Islamic	238 (65.03)
	Traditionalist	44 (12.02)
Occupation	Farming	102 (27.87)
	Hunting	0 (0.00)
	Fishing	7 (1.91)
	Student	18 (4.92)
	Others	239 (65.30)
Place of birth	In the town	330 (90.16)
	Outside the town	36 (9.84)
Ancestral home	Yes	330 (90.16)
	No	36 (9.84)
Family size	1-5	134 (36.61)
	6-10	160 (43.72)
	Above 10	72 (19.67)
Monthly income	Less than ₦20,000	211 (57.65)
	₦21,000 - ₦40,000	53 (14.48)
	₦41,000 - ₦60,000	60 (16.39)
	₦61,000 - ₦80,000	9 (2.46)
	Above ₦80,000	33 (9.02)

It was noticed that 233 (63.66%) of the sampled household composition were males, while females were 133 (36.34%). The household age category (above 60 years) had the least occurrence of 52 (14.21%), while the household age category (18–60 years) had the highest occurrence of 314 (85.79%). Also, the family size category (6-10) had the highest frequency of 160 (43.72) while the family size category of (above 10) had the lowest occurrence of 72 (19.67%). Furthermore, it was noticed that 330 (90.16%) of the household heads were born inside the sampled community, while 36 (9.84%) of the household heads were born outside the sampled community. As well, 330 (90.16%) of the household heads had their ancestral home situated in the current community, while 30 (9.84%) of the household heads had their ancestral home situated outside the current community. As regards the level of education, 142 (38.80%)



of the household members had secondary education, 101 (27.60%) of the household members had tertiary education, and 123 (33.61%) had Primary education while none had University postgraduate education. Thus, 239 (65.30%) of the households were predominantly involved in other forms of occupation, while about 102 were involved in farming. Households that are practice Islam had the highest frequency of 238 (65.03%), followed by 84 (22.95%) of them who are Christians, then 44 were Traditionalists (12.02%). Most of the households had a total monthly income of less than ₦20,000 [211 (57.65%)], 60 (16.39%) had total monthly income between ₦41,000 and ₦60,000, 53 (14.48%) earned a total of ₦21,000 - ₦40,000, while 33 (9.02%) had a total monthly income of about ₦81,000 - ₦100,000 and 9 (2.46%) had a total monthly income of ₦61,000 - ₦80,000.

Host communities' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Away Suspended Lake, Oyo, Nigeria is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Host communities' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development

Item	Community's Residents (n = 366)			Community's Chiefs (n = 8)		
	M	SE	R	M	SE	R
Conservation of Natural Resources						
Encourage the management authority to have no regulation on tourist number in Ado-Away lake/sites	3.91	0.36	2nd	2.13	0.38	3rd
Assist reserve managers to prevent illegal activities	3.86	0.33	3rd	2.20	0.73	1st
Encourage the relaxation of the site regulations for mountain tourism development	3.11	0.19	5th	1.40	0.28	5th
Educate people not to buy/sell fish or other natural resources harvested from the site	3.14	0.21	4th	1.87	0.35	4th
Learn about the natural heritage of the Ado-Away sites	4.38	0.62	1st	2.20	0.58	1st
Preservation of Cultural Tradition						
Preserve the traditional tribal sites/lake in Ado-Away	4.57	0.68	1st	2.67	1.00	1st
Suggest the local government/management authorities to reschedule the traditional events to attract more tourists	3.22	0.18	4th	1.67	0.26	4th
Encourage the local government to replace the original economic activities by mountain tourism	4.00	0.37	3rd	2.40	0.56	3rd
Learn about the cultural heritage of the area	4.45	0.60	2nd	2.47	0.62	2nd
Sustainable community development						
Provide environmental education for tourists	4.31	0.59	1st	2.67	1.00	1st
Use disposable tableware to save labor and costs	3.66	0.30	5th	2.07	0.39	4th
Welcome crowds of tourists to the community regardless of how many of them	4.31	0.55	2nd	2.47	0.62	2nd
Accept negative mountain tourism impacts to facilitate local development	3.03	0.27	6th	1.60	0.37	6th
Encourage the local government to maximize non-local mountain tourism investment	4.10	0.41	3rd	1.87	0.40	5th
Involve in the prevention of negative mountain tourism impacts	3.91	0.35	4th	2.47	0.62	2nd
Participation in mountain tourism planning and management						
Encourage the local government to reduce communication with the residents so that the ecotourism development will not be impeded	3.89	0.46	3rd	2.13	0.59	3rd
Participate in mountain tourism planning	4.14	0.48	2nd	2.27	0.50	2nd
Participate in mountain tourism-related employment	4.36	0.50	1st	2.47	0.62	1st

Note: M=Mean, SE= Standard Error, R=Rank

Based on the perception of the host community's residents (4.38 ± 0.62) and Chiefs (2.20 ± 0.58), the result showed that the majority of the households were willing to learn about the natural heritage of the Ado-Away Suspended Lake. On the other hand, minimal households were willing to encourage the relaxation of the site regulations for mountain tourism development based on the perception of the residents (3.11 ± 0.19) and Chiefs (1.40 ± 0.28). Also, it was observed that most inhabitants of the households were willing to preserve the culture of the suspended lake according to the residents (4.57 ± 0.68) and Chiefs (2.67 ± 1.00). Moreover, a few households were willing to suggest that the local government/management authorities reschedule the traditional events to attract more tourists as a result of the perception of residents (3.22 ± 0.18) and Chiefs (1.67 ± 0.26).



Table 3 presents the degree of the indicators for host communities’ willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake, Oyo, Nigeria. The result revealed that the majority of the households in Ado-Awaye (4.13 ± 0.13) were willing to participate in mountain tourism planning and management of the suspended lake, while a few (3.68 ± 0.24) were only willing to conserve its natural resources based on the residents’ perception. In contrast, the majority of the households in Ado-Awaye (2.30 ± 0.22) were willing to preserve the cultural tradition of the host community according to the Chiefs’ perception.

Table 3. The degree of the indicators for host communities’ willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development

Items	Community’s Residents (n = 366)			Community’s Chiefs (n = 8)		
	Mean	Standard error	Rank	Mean	Standard error	Rank
Conservation of Natural Resources	3.68	0.24	4th	1.96	0.15	4th
Preservation of Cultural Tradition	4.06	0.31	2nd	2.30	0.22	1st
Sustainable community development	3.89	0.20	3rd	2.19	0.17	3rd
Participation in mountain tourism planning and management	4.13	0.13	1st	2.29	0.10	2nd

The study offered a broad insight into the degree of residents’ willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Awaye Suspended Lake, Nigeria based on the perceptions of the host community’s residents and Chiefs. The four critical indicators are the willingness to (i) conserve natural resources, (ii) preserve cultural tradition, (iii) provide sustainable community development, and (iv) participate in mountain tourism planning and management.

Overall, the results of this study indicated that ASL residents tend to be enthusiastic and have positive perceptions of mountain tourism development in their community. Remarkably, respondents (residents and Chiefs) indicated in their opinion in support (highly likely) of all the positive statement items. They especially felt that mountain tourism development will contribute to the conservation of the natural resources in ASL by encouraging the management authority to have no regulation on tourist number in sites ($X=3.91$) as this will enable the tourist to learn about the natural heritage of the sites ($X=4.32$). The residents welcoming nature towards tourist implies their interests in welcoming foreigners or international tourists in the community. One possible reason for this could be attributed to the culture and trait of the indigenous ethnic group (Yoruba) could have influenced the residence decision as they are known to be hospitable and accommodative naturally. These findings corroborated with past studies where residents are proud and happy to welcome tourists from various countries in Malaysia (Hasani et al., 2016).

Hypothetically, the respondents want the traditional tribal sites/lake in Ado-Awaye to be preserved as well as others to learn about the cultural heritage of the area ($X=4.57$, 4.50 respectively) and possibly encourage the local government to replace the original economic activities by mountain tourism ($X=4.00$). The residents of Ado-Awaye preferred their cultural heritage to be preserve, irrespective of the possible economical gain to be accrued from tourism development in their community. This result further revealed that as much as the residents want their cultural heritage to be preserved, they are also interested in the positive economic impact of tourism development. These result further supported the assertion from past research where residents value positive socio-cultural impact more than the economic impact of tourism development in Vietnam (Long & Kayat, 2011).

Interestingly, there were two contrasting opinions as the residents indicated to accept negative mountain tourism impacts to facilitate local development (mean= 3.03) and also to involve in the prevention of negative mountain tourism impacts (mean= 3.91) in the study area. One possible explanation for this result is that the cost (direct negative impact)- benefit (direct



positive impact) phenomenon i.e. influence residents perception of the potential impact of tourism development. Besides, this result is less insightful for sustainable development and marketing of any tourism development project in the study area. This present study further supported the assertion of past authors who reported that cost-benefit approach provided a partial understanding of how perceived impacts influence residents support for marketing of new projects (Gursoy et al., 2010; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2012; Prayag et al., 2013).

The residents will prefer to actively participate in the planning and involvement in decision making. This was revealed as the residents indicated their opinion to participate in mountain tourism planning (mean=4.14) and participate in mountain tourism-related employment (mean=4.36). This result is in support of past researchers that reported that the residents wanted the support and participation of local government, and they as well needed to be part of the decision making rather than having them imposed by external forces (Wilson et al., 2001; McKrecher, 2003).

In general, the residents showed a high disposition to participate in mountain tourism planning and management. Specifically, they are more willing to participate in mountain tourism-related employment. This could be connected to the fact that mountain tourism-related employment is believed to improve the economic well-being and open up high potential yet less-visited mountain areas (GOK, 2006; Debarbieux et al., 2014; Khalid et al., 2019). Thus, the willingness of the Ado-Away residents aligned with that of the Soana Valley, a mountainous neighbourhood of the Northwestern Alps in Italy as observed by Duglio et al. (2019).

Also, the residents demonstrated a strong will to preserve the cultural tradition of Ado-Away Suspended Lake. In particular, they were keen to preserve the tradition and learn the culture of the potential mountain tourism destination. This finding was in line with the observation of Liao et al. (2019) that two indigenous villages of Nantou County in Taiwan were willing to preserve the culture of their associated tourism destinations. On the other hand, the residents' willingness to conserve the natural resources of the suspended lake was low. They were more willing to learn about the mountain tourism destination against discouraging the management authority to regulate tourist influx in the situation when the ecological carrying capacity is exceeded.

The socio-demographic predictors to residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of Ado-Away Suspended Lake, Nigeria are shown in Table 4. The result indicated that the socio-economic determinants of the host communities' willingness to conserve the natural resources of Ado-Away Suspended Lake ($P < 0.05$) for Ado-Away Suspended Lake were age ($P = 0.00$), marital status ($P = 0.03$), religion (Islamic, $P = 0.00$), occupation (farming, $P = 0.02$) and monthly income (₦21,000 - ₦40,000, $P = 0.00$; ₦41,000 – ₦60,000, $P = 0.00$). As regards the host communities' willingness to preserve the cultural tradition of Ado-Away Suspended Lake, the only socio-economic determinant ($P < 0.05$) was the gender (female, $P = 0.00$).

Table 4. Socio-demographic predictors of residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development

Variables/Indicators	Significance			
	WCN	WPC	WSCD	WEPN
Age	0.00*	0.78 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.01*
18-29 [®]				
30-39	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.74 ^{ns}
40-49	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.01*	0.19 ^{ns}
50-59	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.70 ^{ns}	0.05*
60 and above	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.76 ^{ns}	0.58 ^{ns}
Gender	0.45 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.72 ^{ns}	0.24 ^{ns}



Male [®]				
Female	0.61 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.76 ^{ns}	0.58 ^{ns}
Marital status	0.03*	1.00 ^{ns}	0.19 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Single [®]				
Married	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.04*	0.91 ^{ns}
Widower/widow	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.33 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Divorced	1.00 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Level of education	0.25 ^{ns}	0.92 ^{ns}	0.68 ^{ns}	0.00*
Primary [®]				
Secondary	0.10 ^{ns}	0.69 ^{ns}	0.40 ^{ns}	0.00*
Tertiary	0.66 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	0.52 ^{ns}	0.12 ^{ns}
Religion	0.30 ^{ns}	0.28 ^{ns}	0.24 ^{ns}	0.28 ^{ns}
Christianity	0.95 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.24 ^{ns}	0.17 ^{ns}
Islamic	0.00*	0.11 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.20 ^{ns}
Traditionalist [®]				
Occupation	0.13 ^{ns}	0.27 ^{ns}	0.52 ^{ns}	0.00*
Farming	0.02*	0.96 ^{ns}	0.46 ^{ns}	0.00*
Hunting	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Fishing	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	0.22 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Student	1.00 ^{ns}	0.06 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Others [®]				
Place of birth	1.00 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.9 ^{ns}
In the town [®]				
Outside the town	1.00 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	0.02*	0.06 ^{ns}
Family size	0.63 ^{ns}	0.13 ^{ns}	0.03*	0.01*
1-5 [®]				
6-10	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Above 10	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Monthly income	0.00*	1.00 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.00*
Less than ₦20,000 [®]				
₦21,000 - ₦40,000	0.00*	0.99 ^{ns}	0.01*	0.00*
₦41,000 - ₦60,000	0.00*	0.99 ^{ns}	0.04*	0.29 ^{ns}
₦61,000 - ₦80,000	1.00 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}	1.00 ^{ns}
Above ₦80,000	0.39 ^{ns}	0.99 ^{ns}	0.00*	0.00*
Constant	0.04*	0.00*	0.00*	0.00*
Overall percentages	55.5%	78.4%	66.1%	73.2%
-2log-likelihood	263.52	167.01	202.33	207.38
Nagelkerke	0.64	0.69	0.72	0.65

*signifies there is significant influence ($P < 0.05$), while ns signifies not significant influence ($P > 0.05$)[®] signifies “Reference category” B (Beta), SE (Standard error), Sig (Significance), WCN (willingness to conserve the natural resources), WPC (willingness to preserve the cultural tradition), WSCD (willingness to sustainable community development), WEPN (willingness to participate in the mountain tourism planning and management)

Furthermore, the socio-economic determinants of the host communities’ willingness to sustainable community development of Ado-Away Suspended Lake ($P < 0.05$) were age (30-39 years, $P = 0.00$; 40-49 years, $P = 0.01$), marital status (married, $P = 0.04$), religion (Islamic, $P = 0.00$), place of birth (outside the town, $P = 0.02$), family size ($P = 0.03$) and monthly income (₦21,000 - ₦40,000, $P = 0.01$; ₦41,000 – ₦60,000; $P = 0.04$; ₦81,000 - ₦100,000, $P = 0.00$). With regards to the host communities’ willingness to participate in the mountain tourism planning and management of Ado-Away Suspended Lake, the socio-economic determinants ($P < 0.05$) were age (50-59 years, $P = 0.05$), level of education (secondary, $P = 0.00$), occupation (farming, $P = 0.00$), family size ($P = 0.01$) and monthly income (₦21,000 - ₦40,000, $P = 0.00$; ₦81,000 - ₦100,000, $P = 0.00$).

About the socio-demographic predictors of residents’ willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development, the vast majority of the household composition was observed to fall within the age bracket between 30 - 59 years and this age bracket was one of the significant predictors to the residents’ willingness to conserve the natural resources, involve in



sustainable community development, and participate in the mountain tourism planning and management. This finding aligned with the assertion of Bujosa and Rosselló's (2007) on the predictors of conservation attitudes in the Balearic Islands. Also, Tomljenovic and Faulkner (1999) observed that elders in a community portrayed positive disposition toward tourism impacts. On the other hand, Cavus and Tanrisevdi (2002) noted that the older inhabitants supposed more negative attitudes toward tourism development in relation to the younger inhabitants.

The most significant proportion of the household had secondary education which to some extent helps to assess their understanding of the preservation of the site. In the past, residents' perception had been influenced by their level of education (Andereck et al., 2005). Almeida, Peláez-Fernández et al. (2016) opined that the perception of residents to positive socio-cultural and economic impacts of tourism could be subjective to the residents' education. Moreover, Hernández et al. (1996) submitted that the lesser the residents' level of education, the less favourable their perception of tourism development and its benefits.

It was also observed that a very high proportion of the population earned less than ₦20,000 monthly which necessarily depicts the level of poverty and the low standard of living. However, the monthly income categories (₦21,000 - ₦40,000, ₦41,000 – ₦60,000 and Above ₦80,000) had a significant influence on the residents' willingness to conserve the natural resources, involve in sustainable community development, and participate in the mountain tourism planning and management which can influence their ability to take conservation duties seriously. The fact that cultural heritage associated with tourism is a veritable tool to the sustainable development of a host community (Kumar, 2017) makes the willingness of Ado-Awaye people to participate in mountain tourism evitable. Our findings revealed that the place of birth and ancestral home of the households were irrelevant to their willingness to conserve natural resources, preserve cultural tradition, and participate in mountain tourism planning and management. This negated the assertion of the McGehee and Andereck (2004) that the longer residents have stayed in the community, the more likely they are to have negative attitudes toward tourism development. Increasing residents' level of contact with tourists increases the degree of negative attitudes toward further tourism development (Inbakaran & Jackson, 2006).

Conclusion

The study revealed that the residents of the only neighbouring community to the suspended lake (Ado-Awaye town) were willing to conserve natural resources, preserve cultural tradition, involve in sustainable community development, and participate in mountain tourism planning and management. Based on the residents' perception and validated by the Chiefs, the willingness to preserve the culture of the host community and participation in mountain tourism planning and management are inseparable. On the whole, the socio-demographic predictors (age, gender, marital status, level of education, religion, occupation, place of birth, family size and monthly income) varied with the different indicators of residents' willingness to participate in the mountain tourism development of the suspended lake. Against other literature, our study revealed that the place of birth and ancestral home of the households had no significant influence on their willingness to conserve natural resources, preserve cultural tradition, and participates in mountain tourism planning and management.

With these findings, it implied that the introduction of any bottom-top approach such as community-based management system to harness the mountain tourism potentials of ASL would be a success. Therefore, the culture and the aforementioned residents' socio-demographic characteristics should be considered and integrated into the development of a broad framework on the interaction between the host community's residents and the mountain tourism destination. Due to the ongoing leadership crises in the host community, an integrated



and robust approach of method triangulation could not be employed. The measurement of residents' willingness to participate in mountain tourism development had been developed through the data from questionnaire administration only, and thus might limit the generalization of the results to other related locations. It is highly recommended that the host community's leaders and residents should be subjected to a focus group discussion in future research to provide an objective validation and supplement the residents' perception data through questionnaire administration respectively.

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