

## Perception of Residents on Tourism Development in Eleko and Tarkwa Bay Communities, Lagos State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

The study assessed residents' perception of tourism development in Eleko and Tarkwa Bay recreational communities, Lagos state, Nigeria. The two communities of Eleko and Tarkwa Bay have a total of 337 and 344 households respectively, from which proportionate sampling technique was used to select 135 respondents (20% from each community) for the study. Data obtained were analysed using frequency, percentage, means and independent sample t-test. The mean ages of residents in Eleko and Tarkwa bay were 25.6 and 29 years with a large number being singles (46.3% and 45.6%), Christians (61.2% and 76.5%), and had secondary school education (46.3% and 47.1%), respectively. Residents in the respective tourism sites (59.7% and 50.0%) had favourable perception towards tourism. A larger percent in Tarkwa Bay (53.7%), than Eleko Beach (44.1%) had favourable perception for tourism development. Improved quality of basic amenities ( $\bar{x}$  = 4.01, 4.13) and improved household standard of living ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.76, 3.98) were the most perceived contribution of tourism to residents' quality of life while better shopping opportunities ( $\bar{x}$  = 3.67, 3.77) and better roads ranked lowest. More than half (68.7% and 51.5%) perceived that the tourist centres' contribution to quality of life was high. There is a negative non-significant difference ( $t$  = -1.04,  $P < 0.05$ ) between the perception towards tourism by residents in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko as well as their perceived contribution of tourism to quality of life ( $t$  = 0.72,  $P < 0.05$ ). The study therefore concluded that residents' perception of tourism development is favourable in both Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko communities while the road network needs to be worked on.

**Keywords:** Community's perception, Tarkwa Bay, Eleko Beach, resident's quality of life

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### Introduction

Tourism is a major industry providing significant economic contributions to global development. Recent indicators of the size and impact have shown that tourism industry accounted for 7% of the world's gross domestic product and 8% of the world's export

(de Villiers, 2001). It equally accounted for the Federal Government's proposition to make tourism industry as the sixth priority sector with emphasis on wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction (NTPM, 2005). At the same time, as the demand for tourism is growing strongly, the availability of suitable tourism sites

worldwide is dwindling, putting increased pressure on remaining sites and in many cases, threatening their ecological sustainability.

Tourism development has been identified as an effective way to revitalize the economy of a destination, whether rural or urban (Chen and Chen, 2010). However, tourism industry relies heavily on the local residents' perception, attitude for participation and support (Andriotis, 2005; Yoon *et al.*, 2001). An understanding of local residents' perceptions of tourism impacts and their attitudes towards tourism development is fundamental for success and sustainability of any type of tourism development (Dogan *et al.*, 2009). Although several research has examined residents' perceptions and their attitudes toward tourism impacts and sustainable tourism development, especially in developed countries, there are still relatively new concerns for tourism researchers and scholars in developing countries. Sustainable tourism development integrates environment with development based on the ecological, economic, social and institutional pillars of sustainability. Nigeria is one of the countries in the world experiencing population growth without commensurate growth in tourism. . Improper planning and managing of tourism caused the local environment and community to suffer irreversible negative impacts. Past studies have indicated that the support of local residents is a vital element in tourism development of a destination (Andereck and Vogt, 2000; Turker and Ozturk, 2013). If residents hold positive attitude towards tourism impacts, they are more likely to support the tourism development of a destination (Carmichael *et al.*, 1996).

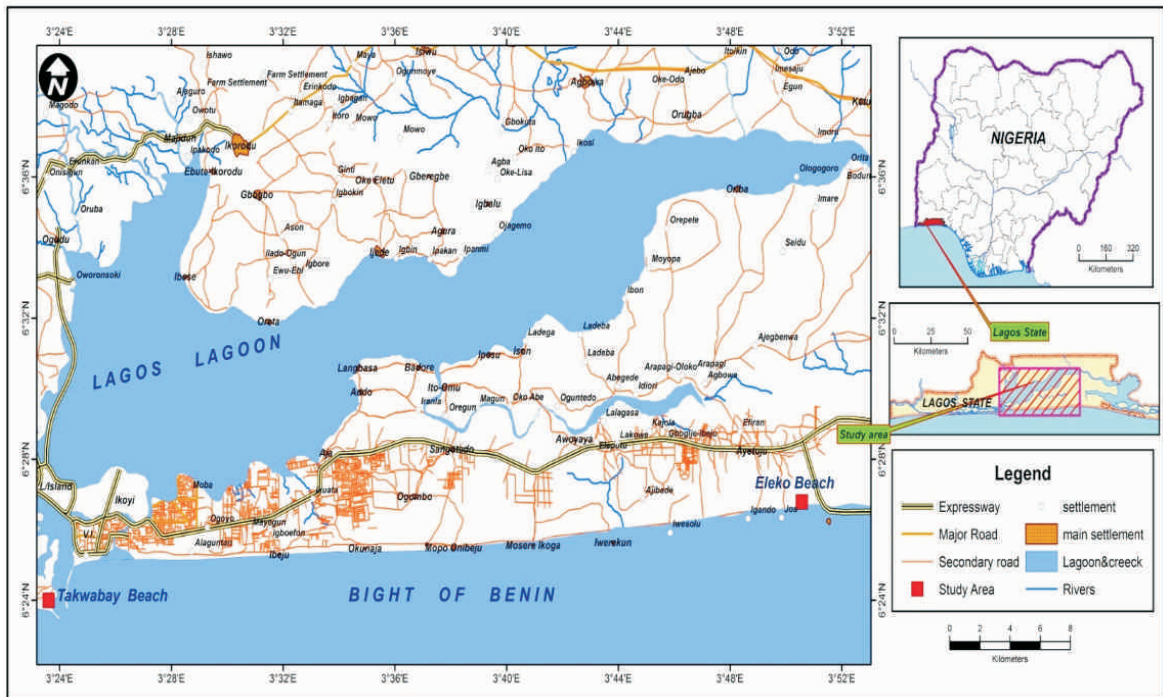
According to the study of Andriotis and Vaughan (2003) on urban residents' attitude towards tourism development of Crete, they posited that residents' characteristics are often being used as predictors of their tourism impacts perception and attitude.

Eleko, where the recreational beach is situated is a typical southwestern Nigeria sandy barrier coastal village in Lekki Peninsular with a population of 600 people (NPC, 2006 ). It is 75 kilometres from metropolitan Lagos and fronts Atlantic Ocean on longitude 13° East of the Greenwich Meridian and latitude 4° North of the equator. The completion of

Lekki-Ibeju coastal road in 1988 exposed the scenic beach landscape to picnickers from the metropolis and marked the beginning of 'day trip' beach tourism in the community. Tarkwa Bay, on the other hand, is a sheltered beach along the Lagos harbour. It is easily accessible by boat from Tarzan Jetty at Maroko or under Falomo Bridge on Victoria Island. This beach provides a pleasant outing with safe swimming conditions, even for small children. Tourists obtain deck chairs and an awning on the beach, for relaxed, casual comfort. Tarkwa is a man-made bay beach that was created during the formation of the Lagos harbour. With its own resident community, most of whom make their living from the tourists who visit the beach; this is the only "maintained" beach in Lagos with the beach hands cleaning up the garbage every weekend before the influx of tourists. Also given the fact that it is cut off from the main habitations of Lagos by water and is therefore majorly accessible by boat, this makes it a beach for real beach bums and sun bathers.

A number of studies in recent years have examined residents' perception of the tourism impacts on their communities. Understanding and assessing tourism impacts in local communities is important in order to maintain sustainability and long-term success of the industry (Diedrich and Garcý'a-Buades, 2009). It is generally felt that community perception towards tourism impacts is likely to be an important planning and policy making component for successful tourism development (Ap, 1992). Different perceptions from different residents can provide insight into the nature and degree of tourism impacts towards the perception of tourist destinations. Ko and Stewart (2002) noted that the community perception towards tourism impacts is an important planning aspect for successful community development.

However, despite having many advantages, tourism also has certain negative impacts (Moscardo, 2008; Godfrey and Clarke, 2000). A review of 329 case studies of tourism development in 92 different countries identified a number of different negative impacts from tourism due to a lack of local entrepreneurial capacity to benefit from tourism business opportunities, inadequate understanding of tourism markets and limited community



**Figure 1:** Map of Lagos State Showing the Study Area

awareness of tourism and its impacts. Not much research has examined community residents' perceived impacts of tourism in Tarkwa Bay and Eleko communities. Thus, there is limited understanding of residents' perception towards tourism development, and by implication, impacts on both communities. Therefore, this study investigated the concern of the residents toward tourism development at the study sites and identified the contributions of tourism to the quality of life of the residents at the study sites.

## Materials and Methods

The study area is Lagos State, located on the Southwestern part of Nigeria on the narrow coastal flood plain of Bight of Benin. It lies approximately on longitude  $2^{\circ}45'E$  and  $4^{\circ}20'E$  respectively and between latitude  $6^{\circ}2'N$  to  $6^{\circ}2'N$ .

Lagos State has a tropical wet and dry climate that borders on a tropical monsoon climate. It experiences two rainy seasons, with the heaviest rains falling from April to July and a weaker rainy seasons in October and November. The state also experiences a brief relatively dry spell in August and September and a longer dry season from December to March. More so, the monthly

rainfall averages over 400mm (15.7in) between May and July and goes down to 200mm (7.9in) in August and September and then in December, it goes down as low as 25mm (1.0in). The dry season comes with the harmattan winds from the Sahara desert, which can be quite strong between December and early February. The highest maximum temperature ever recorded in Lagos State was  $32.9^{\circ}C$  and the minimum  $13.9^{\circ}C$  (NiMet,2017). Available trees include logwood, mahogany, coconut and oil palm trees.

The two communities have a total of 337 and 344 households respectively. Proportionate sampling technique was used to select 135 respondents (20% from each community) for the study. Information was obtained on residents' socio-economic characteristics, perception towards tourism, concern for tourism development and perceived contributions of tourism to their quality of life. Each of the variables, apart from socio-economic were measured on a five-point Likert scale of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree, containing a mixture of both positive and negative statements. Scores of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 were assigned respectively to the response options for positive statements, while a reverse scoring order was used for statements worded otherwise. An

index of each of the variables were generated and used for further analysis in the test of hypotheses. The mean score of each of the indices was also computed and used as a benchmark for categorizing respondents into favourable and unfavourable perception and high and low levels for perceived contribution to respondents' quality of life.

Data obtained analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. This includes frequency, percentage, mean and Independent sample t-test to test for difference between the two communities

with respect to perception.

Independent sample t-test statistical tool tested for significant differences at the 0.05 level between the two communities with respect to some selected variables.

## Results and Discussion

### Socio-economic Information of Residents in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko Beach

The result of respondents' socio-economic characteristics is presented in Table 1. It reveals that

**Table 1:** Distribution of respondents by socio-economic variables

Variables	Tarkwa-Bay (n=67)			Eleko Beach (n=68)		
	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Frequency	Percent	Mean
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	28	41.8		44	64.7	
Female	39	58.2		24	35.3	
<b>Age</b>						
18-27 years	21	31.3	25.6+1.04	23	33.8	
28-37 years	19	28.4		23	33.8	28.97+2.96
38-47 years	15	22.4		15	22.1	
48-57 years	3	4.5		6	8.8	
58-67 years	7	10.4		1	1.5	
Above 67 years	2	3.0		0	0	
<b>Marital status</b>						
Single	31	46.3		31	45.6	
Married	28	41.8		33	48.5	
Divorced	8	11.9		4	5.9	
<b>Religion</b>						
Islam	21	31.3		14	20.6	
Christianity	41	61.2		52	76.5	
Traditional	5	7.5		2	2.9	
<b>Qualification</b>						
WASSCE	31	46.3		32	47.1	
OND/NCE	20	29.9		29	42.6	
HND/B.Sc.	12	17.9		6	8.8	
Post-graduate	4	6.0		1	1.5	
<b>Occupation</b>						
Trading allied business	25	37.3		21	30.9	
Fishing and farming	13	19.4		16	23.5	
Tour guard	2	3.0		1	1.5	
Artisan	5	7.5		1	1.5	
Boat rider	2	3.0		16	23.5	
Unemployed	20	29.9		13	19.1	

majority of respondents in Tarkwa Bay were females, while at Eleko beach, majority were male (64.7%). Also, the mean ages of respondents were 25.6 and 29 years respectively. This is an indication that majority of the respondents were young, which suggests that there is relative economic viability in the communities, which might be the reason the youths are still resident in the communities in large number. The study also reveals that a relatively large number of respondents were singles across the two respective communities (46.3% and 45.6%). The study further shows that the most prevalent religion in the two communities was Christianity, as represented by 61.2% and 76.5% in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko respectively. It however also shows that other religions like Islam are present.

The study also analysed the educational qualification of respondents. It reveals that 46.3% and 47.1% were holders of secondary school certificates in Takwa-Bay and Eleko communities, respectively. However, the result further shows that more residents in Eleko Beach were more educated than their Tarkwa-Bay counterparts, as implied in 17.9% and 6.0% who had HND/B.Sc. and postgraduate education as against an equivalent of 8.8% and 1.5% in Eleko respectively. The most practiced livelihood activities across the two areas were trading/ allied businesses (37.3% & 30.9% for Tarkwa Bay and Eleko, respectively). However, around Eleko, the study reveals that 23.5% practiced riding, making it the second most prevalent livelihood activity in the community, as against fishing and farming (19.4%), which were in Tarkwa-Bay. This therefore suggests that there are opportunities for livelihood engagement in the two communities. However, it is expected that the development of the two tourist centres would assist in reducing the unemployment gap in these communities, as the respective 29.9% and 19.1% who were unemployed in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko could be gainfully employed.

### **Residents' perception of ecotourism activities in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko beaches**

Results in Table 2 reveals that residents in Tarkwa Bay and Eleko were positively inclined to receiving

more tourists due to the prospects such can offer in employment opportunities for their children in the tourism industry. A larger percentage of residents in Tarkwa-Bay noted that their family has more money because of tourism. The respondents also noted that tourism benefits the whole community in both tourist sites. This is because tourism is not only for the benefits of the outsiders, but rather provides a platform for symbiotic relationship between the tourists and the host community. While tourists visit for the purpose of recreation and leisure, the residents in the host communities benefit in the form of socio-economic development, expansion of rural infrastructures and overall well-being. This finding therefore implies that tourism has been of immense benefits to the host communities. This corroborates the assertion of Lepp (2006) that tourism provides several benefits for residents, especially financial benefits. It is also in tandem with Bann (2010) that ecotourism has been identified as one of the most important alternative livelihoods for host communities and residents living in the vicinity.

Result of perception further reveals that residents in both host communities disagree that tourism has caused prices of goods to rise, which negates assertion by Türker and Öztürk (2013) that, prices of houses, lands and prices of goods and services are usually prone to hike due to the development of tourism in rural communities. Residents in both sites like the way tourists dress and that tourism is not damaging their culture. This implies that, the culture of dressing of the host communities is not under threat as a result of the activities of the residents. This is not in tandem with the assertion of Perez and Nadal, (2005) who point out that mass tourism may hinder the permanency of local cultures. Perhaps this could be due to the fact that these centres have not been fully developed to have experienced mass influx of tourists. Generally, respondents in both tourist sites had favourable perception towards tourism as shown in Table 3, although residents in Tarkwa-Bay (59.7%) had more favourable perception than those in Eleko (50%).

**Table 2:** Distribution of respondents by perception towards tourism

Perception towards Tourism	Tarkwa Bay		Eleko	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Would be happy to see more tourists here	4.44	0.88	4.77	0.45
Would be happy for my children to work in the tourism industry	3.95	1.11	4.17	0.57
Earn more money due to tourism	3.50	1.21	3.48	1.03
Tourism benefits the whole community	3.85	0.91	4.19	0.76
Only outsiders benefit from tourism here	3.08	1.23	3.11	1.19
Tourism has caused prices of goods to rise	3.73	1.10	3.22	0.96
Dislikes tourists dressing habit	3.70	1.26	3.42	1.24
Tourism conflicts with culture	3.64	1.37	3.77	1.31

**Table 3:** Categorization of residents by perception toward tourism in Eleko and Tarkwa bay

Perception of Residents	Tarkwa-Bay		Eleko		Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
	F	%	F	%				
Unfavourable	27	40.3	34	50.0	15.00	37.00	29.87	3.41
Favourable	40	59.7	34	50.0				

### Concern to Ecotourism Development in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko Beach

The result on residents' concern for ecotourism is presented in Table 4. It reveals that across the study area, concern for tourism was generally high for majority of the issues raised. It reveals a mean score of 3.86 and 3.91 for Tarkwa Bay and Eleko respectively, which implies that on the average, residents were genuinely concerned with development of tourist facilities in the two locations. Respondents agreed that tourism should be actively encouraged ( $\bar{x}$ =4.41 for both locations), and support the efforts of Lagos State Government in the promotion of tourism ( $\bar{x}$ =4.19; 4.22). Respondents were rated high concerning the importance to develop plans to manage the growth of tourism ( $\bar{x}$ =4.17; 4.41), that the tourism sector will continue to play a major role in the economy of the community ( $\bar{x}$ = 4.17; 4.41) and that tourism development will bring about improved living standard among residents ( $\bar{x}$ =4.17; 4.33). On the other hand, respondents disagreed ( $\bar{x}$ =2.89; 2.69) that they were against new tourist facilities which will attract more tourists to their communities. They also rated low for statements that tourism has a negative impact on social mores of the residents ( $\bar{x}$ = 3.16, 3.23), and that tourism gives more benefits to foreigners than to local people ( $\bar{x}$ = 3.52, 3.57). This is an indication that respondents were

concerned for adequate tourism development in the two tourist centres, and that attempts by the government to develop the sites are being widely appreciated.

Respondents' genuine concern could be partly because Tarkwa-Bay is an island and they depend greatly on tourism, while also in both communities, there are other functional businesses such as trading and other livelihood alternatives. Residents also believed that tourism should be actively encouraged in Lagos State. They were happy that the Lagos State Government is supporting the promotion of tourism, also they to acknowledged that long term planning by the state government can control the negative impacts of tourism and would like their community to become more of a tourist destination. This implies that support from the government has a way of promoting attitude of residents in host community towards tourism. The study also reveals that it is important to develop plans to manage the growth of tourism. This is because residents believe the tourism sector will continue to play a major role in the economy of the community, implying that tourism can impact the economy of host community positively.

The benefits of tourism are to improve the local standard of living and create a meeting point with tourists from different places which is a positive experience for the local people. These suggest that

there are numerous benefits of tourism to host community. Residents around Tarkwa Bay had favourable concern for tourism development while those around Eleko Beach had unfavourable

concern to tourism development. This confirms the position of Horn and Scimmons (2002) that destinations at similar stages of tourism development can have very different attitudes.

**Table 4:** Distribution of Residents by Concern to Tourism Development in Tarkwa- Bay and Eleko Beach

Concern for Tourism Development	Tarkwa Bay		Eleko	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Tourism should be actively encouraged	4.41	0.86	4.41	0.5
Would like to see it become an important part of community	4.19	0.87	4.38	0.52
Against new tourist facilities which attract more tourist	2.89	1.35	2.69	1.35
Believe tourism should be actively encouraged	4.16	0.77	4.42	0.5
The government was correct in promoting tourism	4.19	0.74	4.22	0.75
Positive benefits of tourism outweighs the negative impacts	3.80	1.14	4.25	0.78
My community should become more of a tourist destination	4.02	1	4.51	0.5
Long term planning can control the negative impacts of tourism	4.04	0.88	4.10	0.69
Tourism has reduced the quality of outdoor recreation opportunities	3.25	1.24	3.36	1.21
Important to develop plans to manage the growth of tourism	4.17	0.85	4.41	0.72
The tourism sector will continue to help develop the local economy	4.17	0.8	4.41	0.53
Tourism has the potential to improve the local standard of living	4.26	0.73	4.23	0.77
My community will have access to better roads due to tourism	3.56	1.1	2.16	1.39
Tourism has led to an increase of criminality	3.40	1.35	3.20	1.37
Meeting tourists from different places is a positive experience for residents	4.11	0.75	4.23	0.65
Tourism has made the cultural events of this become popular	4.04	0.96	4.22	0.75
Tourism gives more benefit to foreigners than to local people	3.52	1.28	3.57	1.15
Tourism provides an incentive for local people to stay in their community	3.74	1.15	4.10	0.78
Tourism often has a negative impact on social mores of the resident	3.16	1.38	3.23	1.41
Tourism helps improve the local people's standard of living	4.17	0.95	4.33	0.75
<b>Mean of mean</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>3.92</b>	<b>0.85</b>

Using 'favourable and unfavourable' to categorize respondents' concern to tourism development, a larger percentage of residents in Tarkwa Bay (53.7%) as shown in Table 5 have concern about tourism development.

**Table 5:** Categorisation of respondents by concern to tourism development in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko

Concern to tourism development	Tarkwa		Eleko		Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
	F	%	F	%				
Unfavourable	31	46.3	38	55.9	42.00	96.00	77.91	7.29
Favourable	36	53.7	30	44.1				

### Distribution of Respondents by Perceived Contribution of Tourism Activities to Quality of Life of Residents

Improved quality of basic amenities ( $\bar{x}$ = 4.01, 4.13) and improved household standard of living ( $\bar{x}$ = 3.76, 3.98) were the most perceived contribution of tourism to residents' quality of life while better shopping opportunities ( $\bar{x}$ = 3.67, 3.77) and better roads ranked lowest for Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko communities respectively. It is inferred from the study that as a result of the presence of the two beaches of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko, residents have benefited in different ways. It is also worthy of note that these benefits are reflective of similar developmental efforts by the government in which local recreation activities were expanded, through improved quality of public services in the area, resulting in improved quality of life of the people. This underscores the strong nexus between tourism development and quality of life. Expanded local recreational activities due to the influx of tourists in the community, more recreational opportunities, improved tourism facilities in the community as revealed by the result refutes the findings of Gursoy *et al.*, (2002) that residents sometimes perceive tourism as a threat to their enjoyment of certain activities and outdoor recreation. The need for further development of the

centres is however made apparent in the low rating respondents gave to better roads and better shopping opportunities, which implies that tourism activities have not brought about needed improvements in these areas. The availability of these opportunities and facilities will no doubt go a long way in enhancing the standard of living and overall quality of life of the people in the area. This is in-line with the submissions of Haralambopoulos and Pizam, (1996) that tourism creates new employment opportunities, increases local revenues and raises the standard of living of the people. Residents however, opined that the public sector must provide incentives to them in order to develop more tourist activities and develop plans to manage the growth of tourism.

In categorizing respondents, using 'low and high', a larger percentage of residents in Tarkwa Bay (68.7%) as shown in Table 7 believed that tourism highly contributed to quality of life in their community. This suggests that residents in the community benefited immensely from tourism activity. This indicates that the two beaches have been of positive impacts to the quality of life of residents, with potentials for more impacts should the centres be developed into more attractive tourist destinations.

**Table 6:** Distribution of Respondents by Contribution of Tourism to Quality of Life of Residents

Contribution	Tarkwa Bay			Eleko		
	Mean	SD	Rank	Mean	SD	Rank
Improved household standard of living	3.76	1.28	4 <sup>th</sup>	3.98	0.94	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Improved quality of basic amenities	4.01	0.91	1 <sup>st</sup>	4.13	0.75	1 <sup>st</sup>
More recreational opportunities available to me	3.97	0.97	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.98	0.97	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Availability of desirable employment opportunities for residents	3.94	1.20	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.92	0.83	4 <sup>th</sup>
Better roads	3.59	1.14	6 <sup>th</sup>	1.92	1.34	6 <sup>th</sup>
Better shopping opportunities	3.67	1.04	5 <sup>th</sup>	3.77	0.83	5 <sup>th</sup>



**Table 7:** Categorization of Respondents Based on perceived level of Contribution of Tourism to Quality of Life

Contribution of Tourism to Quality of Life	Tarkwa		Eleko		Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
	F	%	F	%				
Low	21	31.3	33	48.5	22.00	50.00	38.92	5.21
High	46	68.7	35	51.5				

**Table 8:** Independent sample t-test analysis of significant difference between Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko residents based on their perception of contribution of ecotourism sites to quality of life

Community	Mean	SD	T	Df	P	Decision
<b>Perception</b>						
Tarkwa Bay	29.57	4.20	-1.04	133	0.30	Not significant
Eleko	30.18	2.38				
<b>Contribution to quality of life</b>						
Tarkwa Bay	39.25	5.86	0.72	133	0.47	Not significant
Eleko	38.60	4.50				

P<0.05=Significant

The study also shows in Table 8 that there is no significant difference between the perception towards tourism by residents in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko ( $t=-1.04$ ,  $p=0.30$ ) communities. Similar result was obtained for test of difference between the two communities in their perceived contribution of tourism to quality of life of residents ( $t = 0.72$ ,  $p = 0.47$ ). This implies that the two communities did not differ in terms of the impacts the tourist centres have on the various indicators of quality of life in the study area.

This result could be an indication that residents in Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko had similar type of interaction with tourists. This is in consonance with the argument of Devine *et al.*, (2009) that residents, and attitudes towards tourism, are expected to be influenced by perceptions of its net benefits, while perception are also likely to vary among residents within host communities according to the amount and type of interaction that residents have with tourists.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study investigated the perception of respondents on tourism among residents in the two host communities of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko. Respondents perception was also assessed in the

form of concern towards ecotourism development of the area, as well as respondents perceived contribution of the tourists' sites of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko to residents quality of life. From a general point of view, it is clear that the host communities acknowledge the economic benefits of tourism. The cultural and social benefits are also perceived as an advantage by residents, but to a low degree. At the same time, it is recognized that tourism creates different problems. However, these problems are perceived to be inconsequential on the overall quality of life of the people. The findings further prove that the residents of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko are positively disposed towards tourism development by the reason of the economic impacts in their community, and overall contribution to quality of life. Therefore, it can be concluded that tourism is viewed as a means of rejuvenating the area, creating jobs and attracting people back to the area to work in the tourism industry. Residents were optimistic that tourism is a mechanism that can, directly or indirectly, stimulate their economy and increase the standard of living. The study also concludes that the two tourist centres share similarities in terms of benefits derived by the locals, as reflected in lack of significant differences in the overall perception of residents as well as the perceived contribution of the

sites to the quality of life in both host communities. Residents also share similar demographic attributes in both communities. It is concluded that overall, there is huge potential for development of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko beaches, since any developmental efforts by the state government will most likely enjoy the supports of the people.

In the light of these conclusions, the following recommendations are considered relevant:

1. There is need for continued injection of new ideas into developing the tourist sites of Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko beaches. This is necessary so as to be able to optimize the full potential of the sites with the aim of improving and sustaining the positive impacts on the communities.
2. Efforts at bridging unemployment gap should focus on developing the ecotourism potentials of the two sites, through provision of good road and other social amenities which will serve as point of attraction for tourists.
3. There is need for the Lagos State Government to develop a long term development plan for Tarkwa-Bay and Eleko Beach.
4. Due to the favourable disposition towards tourism development in the host communities, there is the need to involve local residents in decision making and other developmental efforts aimed at developing the sites, factoring in their interests at the different stages of implementation, as exclusion of locals will be counter-productive.

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