



# THE VALUE OF WILDLIFE TOURISM IN NIGERIA: ***THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE URGLY***

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**WORLD  
WILDLIFE DAY**  
3 MARCH

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06/03/2018

# BACKGROUND

- ❑ **Wildlife tourism is simply the interaction with wild animals in their natural environment either actively (hunting/collections) or passively (watching/Photographing) *Osu.* (2016).**
- ❑ **There is no official data in Nigeria on receipts/arrivals of Wildlife Tourism patronage blamed on official corruption (NBS -2017). Tourism implies travelling a distance from home, while recreation is the activities undertaken during leisure.**
- ❑ **BIG CATS-are *Lions, leopards, tigers, jaguar, cheetah, puma* biodiversity**

# WILDLIFE TOURISM IN THE WORLD (UNWTO, 2016)

- ❑ 5% of the worlds GDP
- ❑ 6-7% of the jobs worldwide
- ❑ 30% worlds export of commercial services
- ❑ 3-4% growth in international tourist arrivals
- ❑ growing share of emerging & developing countries (32% (2009) to 47% (2017))
- ❑ Rich destinations are USA, Belize, Sri lanka, Costa Rica, Thailand, Philippines etc.

# WILDLIFE TOURISM IN AFRICA( UNWTO, 2015)

- ❑ 4% of international arrivals to Africa
- ❑ Much concentrated in the far North & South
- ❑ With a high % of beach tourism and mountains---
- ❑ With a low % of nature-based tourism

## MAJOR ASSETS: HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES

- ❑ Nearly 1/3 of the world terrestrial biodiversity
- ❑ About 22% of the world terrestrial surface
- ❑ About 15% of the world population
- ❑ Most visited, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Egypt, Fiji, Kenya, S/Africa, Madagascar etc

# WILDLIFE- BASED TOURISM IN NIGERIA

- Nature-based tourism with wildlife component
- Visit to locations with good wildlife presence
- Visit to artificial attractions based on wildlife
- Habitat specific tours
- Thrill-offering tours
- Animal watching
- Hunting/fishing tours
- Ecotourism
- No data on local and international arrivals
- Travel & Tourism to GDP & employment 2007-2017 (1.7% to 4.6%)

# THE GOOD- WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

THE VALUES OF WILDLIFE TOURISM ENTAILS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN WELL-BEING AS THUS:

- ❑ Ecological & Genetic balance -butterflies, bees(aid pollination) etc
- ❑ Social, economic and environmental values
- ❑ Scientific, educational & cultural-Researchers, tourists /fieldtrips
- ❑ Recreational & aesthetic delights-beauty, fresh air, stress-off/HBP/sports.
- ❑ Food web and chain vitality and stability of ecosystems
- ❑ Jobs and wealth creation for community members, transporters/ agents

# THE BAD SIGNALS IN WILD LIFE TOURISM SITES

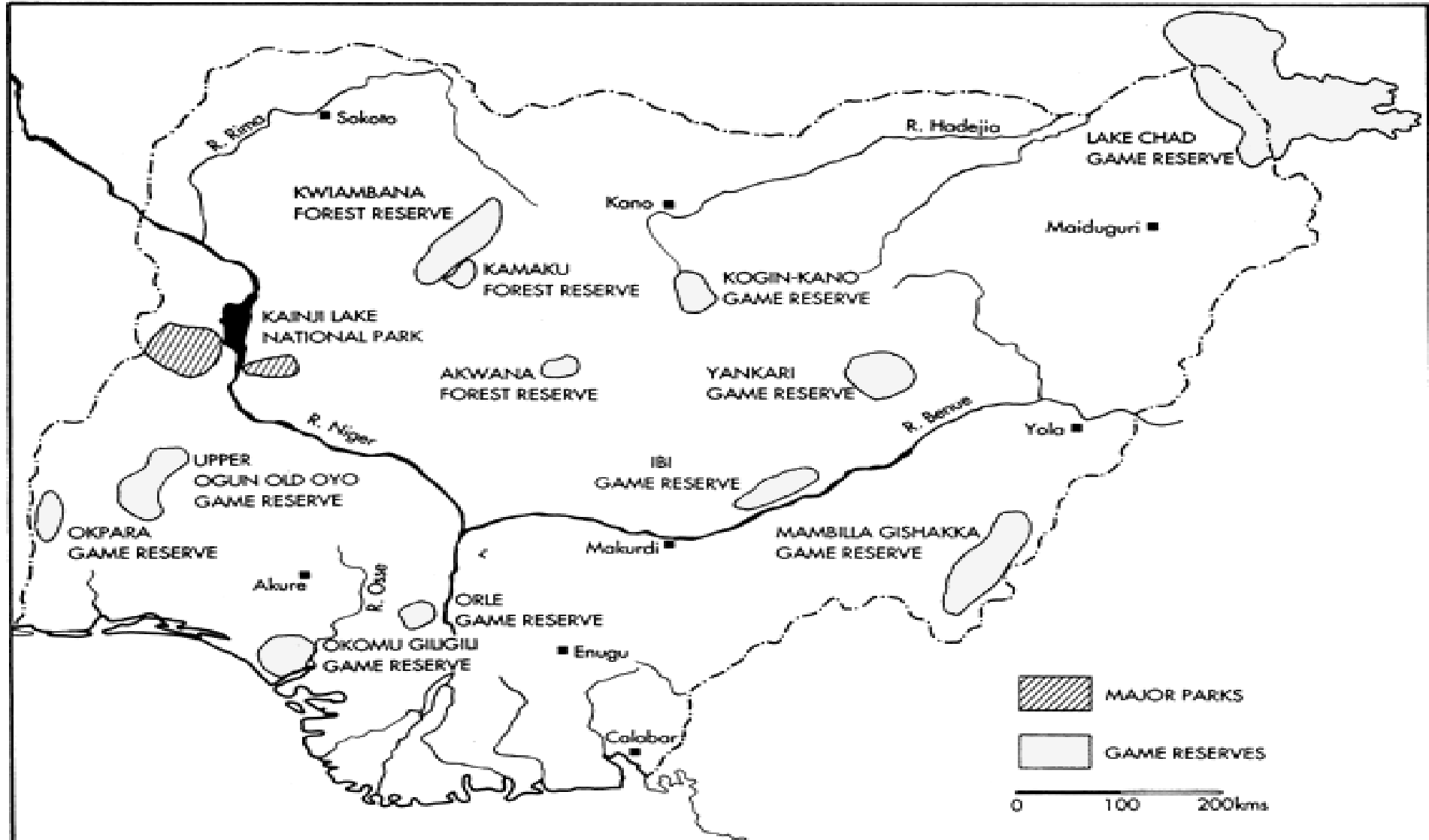
- ☐ Deforestation, Overgrazing, Wood Loggers/ Sellers Destroys Wildlife habitats
- ☐ Indiscriminate Killings via Hunting/ Poaching For Food, Horns, Tusk, Skin And Perfumes.
- ☐ Increased Mortality, Vanity Due To Hunger, Droughts, And Food Insecurity via Hunting, Poaching and Illicit Trade of Wildlife Products.
- ☐ Population Reduction via Increased Vulnerability to Higher Predators/ Competitors, Diseases.
- ☐ Mining and Quarry noise disruptions.
- ☐ Soil Erosion and Climatic Change (Global Warming).
- ☐ Dumping of Toxic, Medical and Radioactive Waste Kill Wildlife.
- ☐ Poverty of the Nigerian people NO holidays, No recreation.
- ☐ Lack of information and perception of conservation as waste of agricultural land.

# CONT.

- ❑ Oil Spillage in Niger Delta (kills large animals & distroys aquatic Ecosystem).
- ❑ Desertification of arid and semi arid region of Nigeria.
- ❑ Poor Maintenance and Patronage of National Parks and sanctuaries(Yankari, Mambilla Plateau, Gashaka-Gumti. Cross River, Old Oyo, Kainji Lake) and Bagauda lake, Falgore, Baturiya birds/wetlands.



# NIGERIA WILDLIFE TOURISM MAP



## THE URGLY - THREATS TO WILDLIFE TOURISM AREAS IN NIGERIA .

- ❑ High Population and new settlements in Nigeria.
- ❑ Mass Construction works and Technology (GSM Masts in the Wilds).
- ❑ Annual bush burning (Wild Fires).
- ❑ Explosives & Gun Shots (Military Exercises).
- ❑ Risks, fears and terrorism (Boko Haram insurgency Cattle rustlers, Kidnapping, Banditry and Armed robberies).
- ❑ Disturbance by nomadism.
- ❑ Exposure to dangers of Heat, Rains and Thunder-storms.
- ❑ Poisoning of Wetlands, Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Oceans.
- ❑ Wildlife Crimes (Illegal Trade and Poaching).

# PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN WILD LIFE TOURISM

- ❑ ESTABLISHMENT OF WILD LIFE TOURISM CENTERS BY CORPORATE ORGANISATIONS, INDIVIDUALS AND NGOS (NCF, LEVENTIS, GENERAL MURTALA FOUNDATION) FOR PROSPERITY OF THE COMING GENERATION.
- ❑ PPP ON URBAN WILDLIFE TOURISM IN NIGERIAN STATE CAPITALS & UNIVERSITIES FOR REVENUE GENERATIONS AVERT FEARS/ATTACKS AT WILD LOCATIONS BY VISITORS/TOURISTS (UI ZOO).

# RECOMENDATIONS

- ❑ WILD LIFE RIGHTS (RIGHTS TO LIFE AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.
- ❑ BANNING OF HUNTING AND TIMBER EXPLORATION IN NIGERIA.
- ❑ ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION LAWS BY NCDC, NPF, NA, NIS AND FEDERAL QUARANTINE/FOREST & GAME GUARDS.
- ❑ CREATION OF FEDERAL MINISTRIES FOR TOURISM /NATURAL ECOTOURISM COUNCIL AND TO LIASE WITH TOURISM INDUSTRIES.
- ❑ STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ECOTOURISM IN NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. (PLANNING & BUDGET).
- ❑ MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE SHOULD KEEP NATURAL PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM PLAN (I.E WILD LAND AND NATURE RESOURCES DEPARTMENTS AND PROHIBIT TRESPASS/INJURIES).

## CONT.

- ❑ MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHOULD MAKE ADEQUATE RELEASES FOR PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TO NIGERIA.
- ❑ LOCAL COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATION IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.
- ❑ TRADITIONAL RULERS (EMIRS, OBAS, OBIS ETC) SHOULD VOICE OUT FOR WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AT COMMUNITY LEVELS.
- ❑ DEVELOP STRIVING SECURITY SYNERGY AT WILDLIFE TOURISM AREAS TO CURB INSECURITY PROBLEMS/
- ❑ DEPLOYMENT OF NYSC & SIWES TO EDUCATE THE ENTIRE POPULATION ON THE BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.
- ❑ WORLD WILDLIFE DAY (WWD) COMMITTEES SHOULD WRITE MEMO TO NASS/STATES TO ENACT LAWS ON WILDLIFE TOURISM PROTECTION.
- ❑ STRENGTHEN LGAS & COMMUNITIES/WARDS TO SAVE THE WILDLIFE STATUS AS A CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE ANIMAL HABITATS.

CONT.

- ALL RADIOS & TV STATIONS (PUBLIC & PRIVATE) BE MANDATED FOR DAILY SLOTS ON CONSERVATION MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC.
- ALL HANDS MUST BE ON DECK TO CONSERVE THE REMAINING WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN NIGERIA.

- LET US SPEAK, LEGISLATE AND PROTECT THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENTS.

✓ **WILDLIFE TOURISM IS LIFE; EMBRACE IT**

**THANKS FOR LISTENING**

