

HTM307

ECOTOURISM AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT



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Course Title: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management

Course Code: HTM 307

Course Units: 2 Units

- **Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology**
- **Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management**
- **Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism**
- **Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria**
- **Ethics, Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges**

Suggested Outline for Series 1: Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology

Part 1 Concepts and Definitions in Ecology and Ecotourism

- Definition of key ecological terms (ecology, ecosystem, flora, fauna, recycling, ecocide)
- Definition of tourism-related terms (ecotourism, sustainable leisure, adventure travel)
- Relationship between sustainability and development

Part 2 Nigerian Vegetation and Ecotourism Resources

- Overview of Nigerian vegetation zones
- Ecotourism resources associated with vegetation types
- Importance of biodiversity for tourism

Part 3 Principles of Ecology and Human–Environment Interaction

- General principles of ecology
- Relationship between living beings and the environment
- Impact of science and technological development on life, environment, and society

Introduction

Ecotourism has become one of the most significant approaches to tourism in recent decades, as it seeks to balance human enjoyment of natural environments with the need to conserve them. In Nigeria, with its diverse vegetation and rich ecological resources, understanding the foundations of ecotourism and ecology is essential for managing tourism in a way that supports both environmental sustainability and community development. This Series sets the stage for the entire course by equipping you with the basic concepts and principles that underpin ecotourism and protected area management.



The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the fundamental ecological and tourism concepts, to highlight the importance of Nigeria's vegetation and associated resources, and to explain the principles of ecology and human–environment interaction that form the basis of sustainable tourism practices.

We shall commence this Series by defining key ecological and tourism terms, and by examining the relationship between sustainability and development. Next, we will explore Nigerian vegetation zones and the ecotourism resources they support, emphasising the role of biodiversity in tourism. Finally, we will wrap up by considering the general principles of ecology, the relationship between living beings and their environment, and the impact of science and technology on life, society, and the environment. This sequential flow will provide you with a strong foundation for the more advanced topics that follow in later Series.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define key ecological terms such as ecology, ecosystem, flora, fauna, recycling, and ecocide.
- **SLO 1.2** explain tourism-related concepts including ecotourism, sustainable leisure, and adventure travel.
- **SLO 1.3** analyse the relationship between sustainability and development within the context of tourism.
- **SLO 1.4** describe the major vegetation zones of Nigeria and their associated ecotourism resources.
- **SLO 1.5** evaluate the importance of biodiversity for tourism development in Nigeria.
- **SLO 1.6** outline the general principles of ecology and their relevance to tourism.
- **SLO 1.7** examine the relationship between living beings and their environment in ecological systems.
- **SLO 1.8** assess the impact of science and technological development on life, the environment, and society.

1.1 Concepts and Definitions in Ecology and Ecotourism

1.1.1 Definition of key ecological terms

The term **ecology** refers to the scientific study of the relationships between living organisms and their environment. It helps us to understand how plants, animals, and humans interact with each other and with their surroundings. An **ecosystem** is a community of living organisms interacting with non-living elements such as soil, water, and air within a specific area.

The word **flora** describes the plant life of a particular region, while **fauna** refers to the animal life. Both flora and fauna are essential components of ecosystems and form the basis of ecotourism attractions. **Recycling** is the process of converting waste materials into reusable products, which reduces environmental pollution and conserves resources. **Ecocide** is the destruction of the natural environment, often caused by human activities such as deforestation or pollution.



Fill in the blank: The term used to describe the animal life of a particular region is _____.

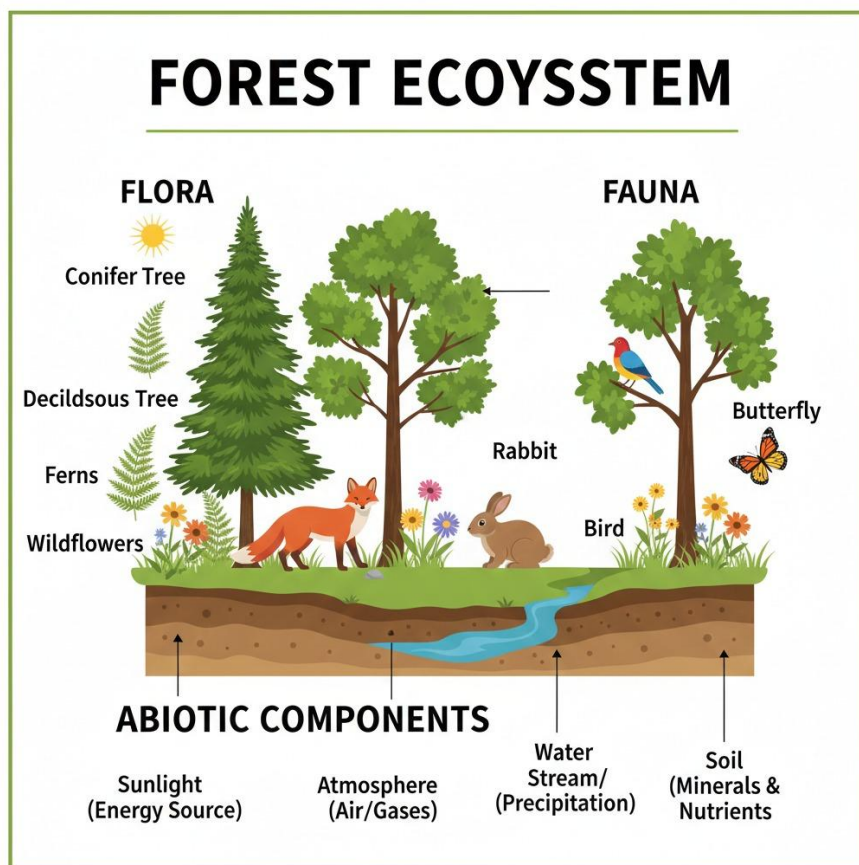


Diagram showing the interaction between flora, fauna, and abiotic elements in an ecosystem

Caption: Figure 1.1 Interaction of flora, fauna, and abiotic elements in an ecosystem

Search string: "ecosystem diagram flora fauna abiotic OER"

1.1.2 Definition of tourism-related terms

Ecotourism is a form of tourism that focuses on visiting natural areas in a way that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people. It promotes responsible travel, education, and appreciation of nature. **Sustainable leisure** refers to recreational activities that are carried out in a manner that does not harm the environment or deplete resources. **Adventure travel** involves journeys that include exploration, physical activity, and sometimes risk, often in natural or remote settings.

Fill in the blank: Tourism that promotes responsible travel to natural areas while conserving the environment is called _____.





Image of tourists engaging in ecotourism activities such as birdwatching in a forest reserve

Caption: Plate 1.1 Tourists participating in ecotourism activities

Search string: “ecotourism activities birdwatching OER image”

1.1.3 Relationship between sustainability and development

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In tourism, sustainability ensures that natural resources are preserved, communities benefit socially and economically, and cultural heritage is respected. **Development** refers to the process of improving living standards, infrastructure, and economic opportunities. The relationship between sustainability and development is crucial because tourism can either support or harm long-term growth depending on how it is managed.

Fill in the blank: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations is the principle of _____.



The Synergy: Sustainability & Development in Tourism



Box 1.1 Relationship between sustainability and development in tourism
Search string: “sustainability and development tourism OER summary”

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Which term refers to the scientific study of relationships between living organisms and their environment?
2. What is the difference between flora and fauna?
3. Define ecotourism in one sentence.
4. What does recycling achieve in ecological terms?
5. Explain the principle of sustainability in tourism.

1.2 Nigerian Vegetation and Ecotourism Resources

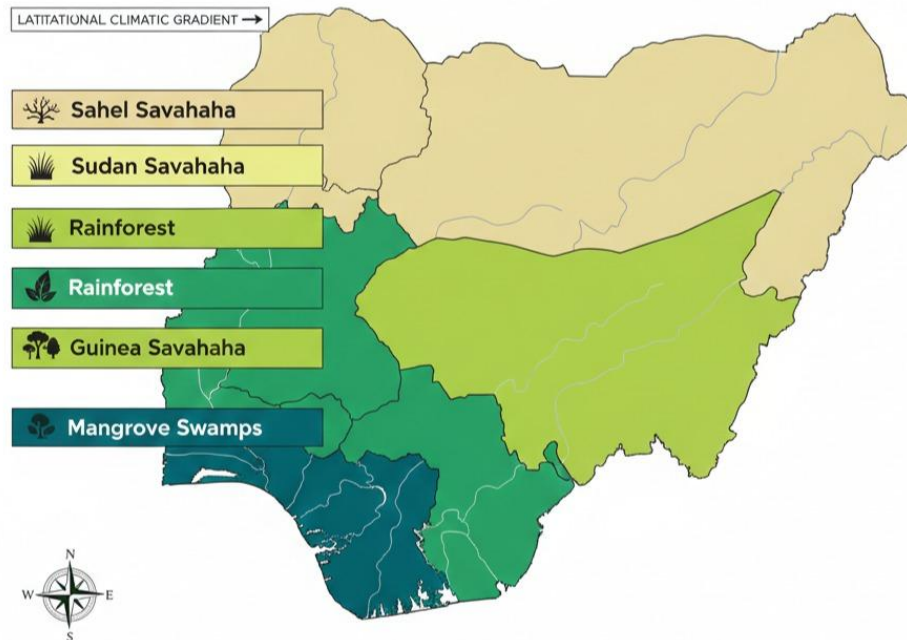
1.2.1 Overview of Nigerian vegetation zones

Nigeria is endowed with diverse **vegetation zones**, each characterised by unique plant and animal life. These zones include the mangrove swamps along the coast, the rainforest belt in the south, the Guinea savannah in the middle belt, and the Sudan and Sahel savannahs in the north. Each zone provides distinct ecological features that support tourism activities. For example, the rainforest belt is rich in biodiversity and offers opportunities for wildlife viewing, while the savannah regions are suitable for game reserves and safari experiences.

Fill in the blank: The vegetation zone found along Nigeria’s coastline is the _____.



VEGETATION ZONES OF NIGERIA



Map showing Nigeria's vegetation zones with colour-coded regions

Caption: Figure 1.2 Vegetation zones of Nigeria

Search string: "Nigeria vegetation zones map OER"

1.2.2 Ecotourism resources associated with vegetation types

Each vegetation zone in Nigeria supports specific **ecotourism resources**. The mangrove swamps and coastal areas provide opportunities for birdwatching and fishing tourism. The rainforest belt is home to national parks such as Cross River National Park, which is renowned for its primates and rich biodiversity. The Guinea savannah supports wildlife reserves like Yankari Game Reserve, famous for elephants and other large mammals. The Sudan and Sahel savannahs offer cultural tourism experiences alongside wildlife viewing, reflecting the adaptation of communities to semi-arid conditions.

Fill in the blank: The rainforest belt in Nigeria is particularly rich in _____.

Image of tourists visiting Yankari Game Reserve to view elephants

Caption: Plate 1.2 Tourists observing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve

Search string: "Yankari Game Reserve elephants tourism OER image"

1.2.3 Importance of biodiversity for tourism

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal species within a given ecosystem. In Nigeria, biodiversity is a major attraction for ecotourism because it provides unique experiences



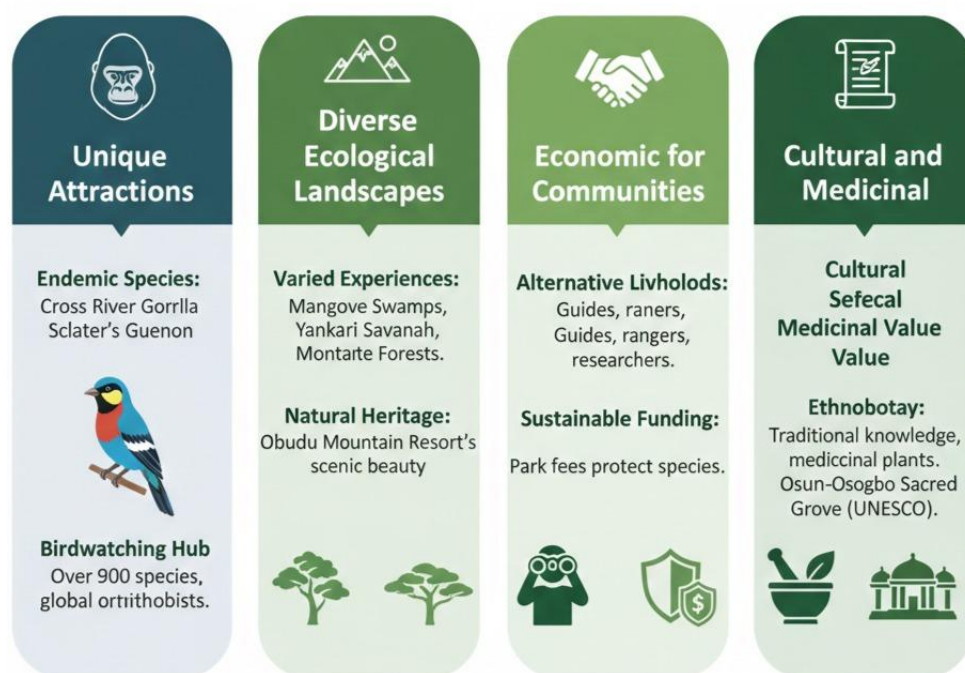
for visitors, such as observing rare species or exploring diverse habitats. Biodiversity also supports ecosystem services like clean water, fertile soil, and climate regulation, which are essential for both tourism and community livelihoods. Without biodiversity, ecotourism would lose its appeal and sustainability.

Fill in the blank: The variety of plant and animal species within an ecosystem is known as _____.



The Vital Link: Biodiversity & Ecotourism in Nigeria

Fueling Unique Experiences & Sustainable Growth



Box 1.2 Importance of biodiversity for ecotourism in Nigeria

Search string: "importance of biodiversity ecotourism Nigeria OER summary"

Pilot questions 1.2

1. Name two vegetation zones found in Nigeria.
2. Which national park in Nigeria is renowned for its primates and biodiversity?
3. What type of tourism activity is supported by mangrove swamps?
4. Define biodiversity in one sentence.
5. Explain why biodiversity is important for ecotourism.

1.3 Principles of Ecology and Human-Environment Interaction

1.3.1 General principles of ecology



Ecology is the study of how living organisms interact with each other and with their physical environment. It provides insights into the balance of natural systems and the processes that sustain life. Key principles of ecology include energy flow through ecosystems, nutrient cycling, and population dynamics. For example, plants capture energy from the sun through photosynthesis, which is then transferred to animals and humans through food chains.

Fill in the blank: The process by which plants capture energy from the sun is called _____.

THE FOOD CHAIN: ENERGY TRANSFER IN AN ECOYSTEM

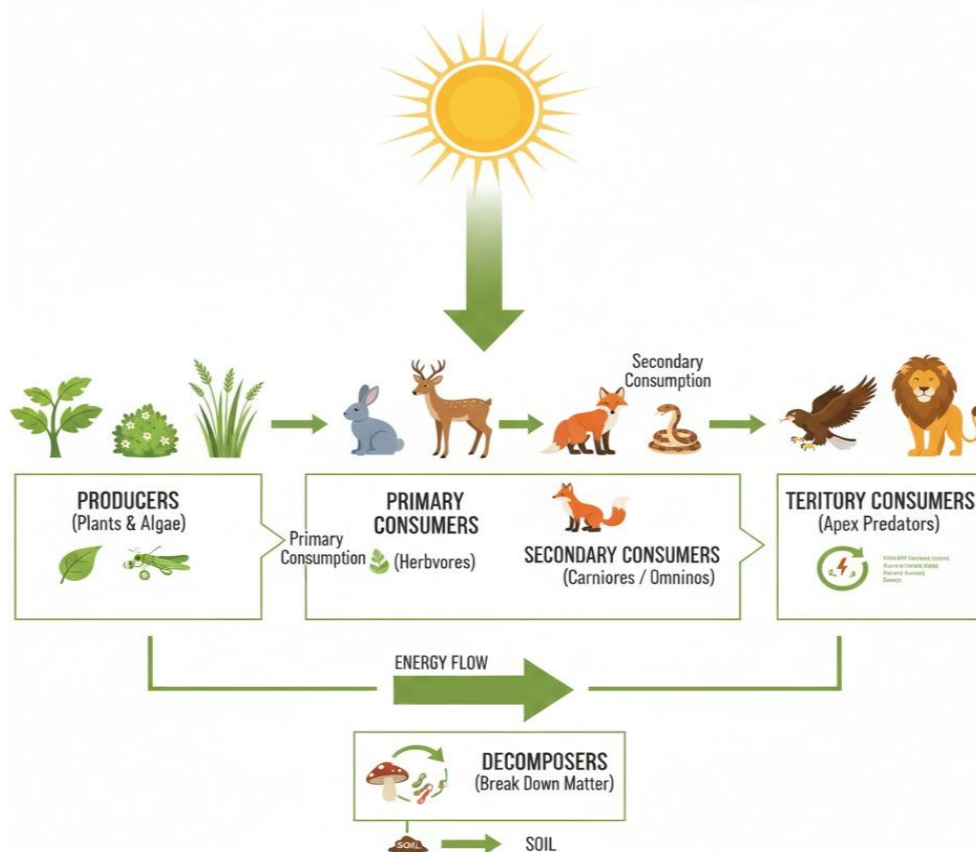


Diagram showing energy flow in a simple food chain (sun → plants → herbivores → carnivores)

Caption: Figure 1.3 Energy flow in a food chain

Search string: “food chain energy flow diagram OER”

1.3.2 Relationship between living beings and the environment

Living beings depend on their environment for survival, and in turn, they influence the environment through their activities. For instance, plants provide oxygen and food, while animals contribute to pollination and seed dispersal. Humans, however, often alter the environment through agriculture, urbanisation, and industrialisation. These interactions can be positive, such as conservation efforts, or negative, such as pollution and deforestation.

Fill in the blank: Animals that help in pollination and seed dispersal are examples of how living beings _____ their environment.



Image of bees pollinating flowers in a natural habitat

Caption: Plate 1.3 Bees pollinating flowers as part of ecological interaction

Search string: “bees pollination ecology OER image”

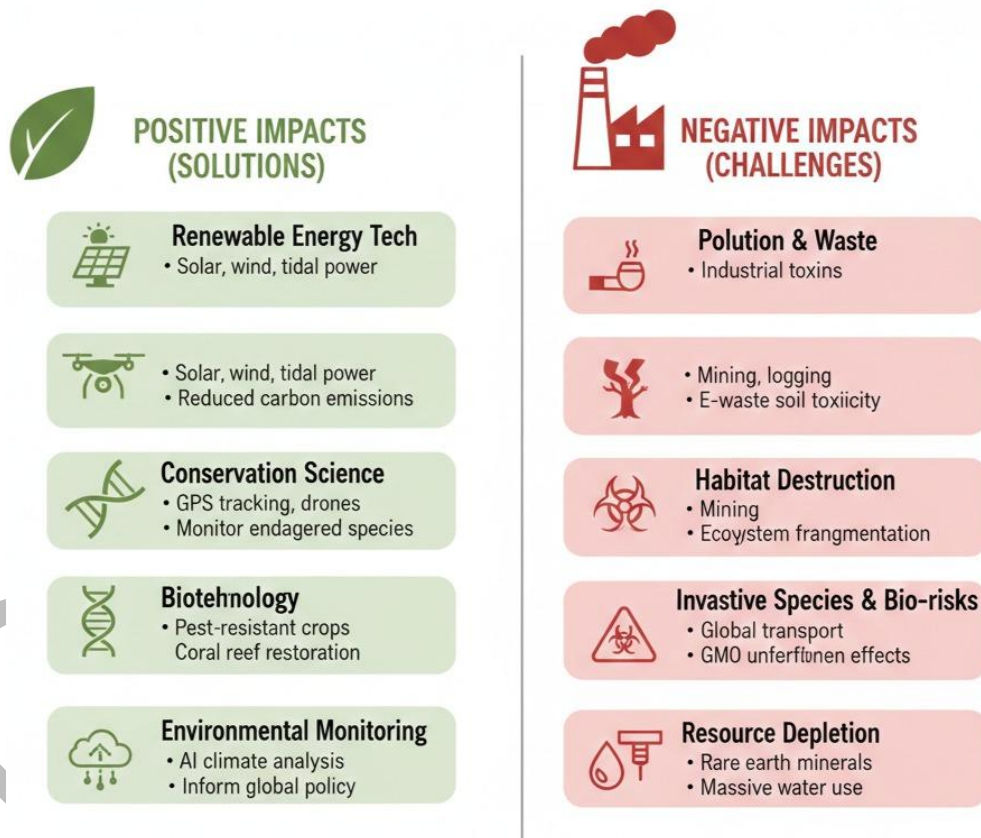
1.3.3 Impact of science and technological development on life, environment, and society

Science and technology have transformed human life, but they also pose challenges to the environment. Advances such as mechanised farming, industrial production, and modern transportation have improved living standards, yet they often lead to pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change. At the same time, technology can support sustainability, for example through renewable energy, waste recycling, and conservation tools. The challenge lies in balancing technological progress with ecological preservation.

Fill in the blank: The destruction of natural habitats caused by human activities is referred to as _____.

The Dual Impact of Science & Tech on Ecology

The "Technological Paradox." Green Tech for a Circular Economy



Box 1.3 Positive and negative impacts of science and technology on ecology

Search string: “impact of science and technology on environment OER summary”



Pilot questions 1.3

1. Define ecology in one sentence.
2. What are two key principles of ecology?
3. Give one example of how humans positively influence the environment.
4. What is the main challenge posed by technological development to ecology?
5. Explain how renewable energy supports sustainability.

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundational concepts that shape ecotourism and ecology, providing the essential background for understanding sustainable tourism and protected area management. We began by defining key ecological and tourism-related terms, then moved on to examine Nigeria's vegetation zones and their associated ecotourism resources, before concluding with the principles of ecology and the interactions between humans and their environment, including the influence of science and technology.

By working through these topics, you should now be able to define ecological and tourism concepts with clarity, explain the significance of Nigeria's vegetation zones and biodiversity for tourism, and analyse ecological principles alongside human–environment interactions. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you are equipped to evaluate how sustainability and development are linked, and to assess both the positive and negative impacts of technological progress on ecological systems. This foundation will support your engagement with the more advanced themes in the subsequent Series.

Glossary of Terms

- **Adventure travel:** Tourism that involves exploration, physical activity, and sometimes risk, often in natural or remote settings.
- **Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal species within an ecosystem.
- **Ecocide:** The destruction of the natural environment caused by human activities such as deforestation or pollution.
- **Ecology:** The scientific study of relationships between living organisms and their environment.
- **Ecosystem:** A community of living organisms interacting with non-living elements such as soil, water, and air in a specific area.
- **Ecotourism:** Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.
- **Fauna:** The animal life of a particular region.
- **Flora:** The plant life of a particular region.
- **Recycling:** The process of converting waste materials into reusable products, reducing pollution and conserving resources.
- **Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Sustainable leisure:** Recreational activities carried out in a way that does not harm the environment or deplete resources.



- **Vegetation zones:** Distinct ecological regions characterised by specific plant and animal life, such as rainforest, savannah, or mangrove swamps.

Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

1. Multiple choice: Which of the following best describes **fauna**?
 a) Plant life of a region
 b) Animal life of a region
 c) Recycling process
 d) Natural environment destruction
 (Linked to SLO 1.1)
2. True or False: **Ecotourism** is defined as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local people.
 (Linked to SLO 1.2)
3. Multiple choice: Which Nigerian national park is renowned for its primates and biodiversity?
 a) Yankari Game Reserve
 b) Cross River National Park
 c) Kainji Lake National Park
 d) Old Oyo National Park
 (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Short-Answer Questions

4. Define **sustainability** in one sentence.
 (Linked to SLO 1.3)
5. Name two vegetation zones in Nigeria and one ecotourism resource associated with each.
 (Linked to SLO 1.4)
6. Explain why **biodiversity** is important for tourism development.
 (Linked to SLO 1.5)

Long-Answer Questions

7. Discuss the general principles of **ecology** and explain how energy flows through ecosystems.
 (Linked to SLO 1.6)
8. Analyse the relationship between living beings and their environment, giving examples of both positive and negative human influences.
 (Linked to SLO 1.7)
9. Evaluate the impact of science and technological development on life, the environment, and society, highlighting both benefits and challenges.
 (Linked to SLO 1.8)

Answers to Concept Check Questions



Objective Questions

1. b) Animal life of a region
2. True
3. b) Cross River National Park

Short-Answer Questions

4. Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
5. Example: Rainforest zone – primates and biodiversity in Cross River National Park; Guinea savannah – elephants and wildlife in Yankari Game Reserve.
6. Biodiversity is important because it attracts tourists, supports ecosystem services such as clean water and fertile soil, and ensures the sustainability of tourism activities.

Long-Answer Questions

7. **Basic response:** Ecology studies the relationships between organisms and their environment. Energy flows through ecosystems beginning with plants capturing solar energy, which is then transferred to herbivores and carnivores through food chains.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that energy flow is unidirectional, nutrient cycling ensures ecosystem stability, and population dynamics regulate species balance.
8. **Basic response:** Living beings depend on the environment for survival, and humans influence it through activities such as agriculture and conservation. Positive influences include afforestation, while negative influences include pollution and deforestation.
Value-added response: Learners may expand by discussing ecological services like pollination, seed dispersal, and climate regulation, and how human actions can either enhance or disrupt these processes.
9. **Basic response:** Science and technology improve living standards through mechanised farming, modern transport, and industrialisation, but they also cause pollution and habitat destruction.
Value-added response: Learners may add that renewable energy, recycling technologies, and conservation tools demonstrate how technology can support sustainability, while unchecked industrial growth poses long-term ecological risks.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Ecology
2. Flora refers to plant life, fauna refers to animal life
3. Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local people
4. Recycling reduces pollution and conserves resources
5. Sustainability



Pilot questions 1.2

1. Mangrove swamps, rainforest, Guinea savannah, Sudan savannah, Sahel savannah
2. Cross River National Park
3. Birdwatching and fishing tourism
4. Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal species within an ecosystem
5. Biodiversity attracts tourists and supports ecosystem services

Pilot questions 1.3

1. Ecology is the study of relationships between living organisms and their environment
2. Energy flow and nutrient cycling
3. Conservation efforts such as afforestation
4. Pollution and habitat destruction
5. Renewable energy reduces environmental damage and supports sustainability

References and Attributions [Series 1]

- Course document: *HTM 307: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management* (internal course material).
- Odunlami, S. (2019). *Principles of Ecology and Environmental Management*. Lagos: University Press.
- Nigeria National Parks Service. (2020). *Guide to Nigerian National Parks*. Abuja: Government Publication.
- World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). (2018). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid: UNWTO.

Illustration Placeholders and Attributions

- **Figure 1.1 Interaction of flora, fauna, and abiotic elements in an ecosystem**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram of an ecosystem showing flora, fauna, and abiotic components such as soil, water, and air.”
 - Search string: “ecosystem diagram flora fauna abiotic OER”
- **Plate 1.1 Tourists participating in ecotourism activities**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists birdwatching in a forest reserve as an example of ecotourism.”
 - Search string: “ecotourism activities birdwatching OER image”
- **Box 1.1 Relationship between sustainability and development in tourism**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising the relationship between sustainability and development in tourism.”
 - Search string: “sustainability and development tourism OER summary”
- **Figure 1.2 Vegetation zones of Nigeria**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled map of Nigeria showing vegetation zones: mangrove swamps, rainforest, Guinea savannah, Sudan savannah, and Sahel savannah.”
 - Search string: “Nigeria vegetation zones map OER”



- **Plate 1.2 Tourists observing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists viewing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “Yankari Game Reserve elephants tourism OER image”
- **Box 1.2 Importance of biodiversity for ecotourism in Nigeria**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising the importance of biodiversity for ecotourism in Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “importance of biodiversity ecotourism Nigeria OER summary”
- **Figure 1.3 Energy flow in a food chain**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram of a food chain showing energy flow from the sun to plants, herbivores, and carnivores.”
 - Search string: “food chain energy flow diagram OER”
- **Plate 1.3 Bees pollinating flowers as part of ecological interaction**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of bees pollinating flowers in a natural environment.”
 - Search string: “bees pollination ecology OER image”
- **Box 1.3 Positive and negative impacts of science and technology on ecology**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising both positive and negative impacts of science and technology on ecology.”
 - Search string: “impact of science and technology on environment OER summary”

Course Title: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management

Course Code: HTM 307

Course Units: 2 Units

- **Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology**
- **Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management**
- **Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism**
- **Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria**
- **Ethics, Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges**

Suggested Outline for Series 2: Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management

Main Parts (3 Parts, within the 2–4 range)

Part 1 Definition and Types of Protected Areas

- Definition of protected areas



- Categories of protected areas (national parks, game reserves, forest reserves, community conservation areas)
- Global and Nigerian examples of protected areas

Part 2 Objectives of Protected Area Management

- Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation
- Cultural and heritage preservation
- Socio-economic benefits for communities

Part 3 Strategies and Challenges in Protected Area Management

- Management approaches and frameworks
- Role of government and local communities
- Challenges such as poaching, deforestation, and climate change
- Case studies of Nigerian protected areas

Introduction

Protected areas are vital for conserving biodiversity, safeguarding cultural heritage, and supporting sustainable tourism. They serve as sanctuaries for wildlife and ecosystems, while also offering opportunities for recreation, education, and community development. In Nigeria and across the world, protected areas play a central role in balancing conservation with human use, making them a cornerstone of ecotourism and environmental management.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the concept of protected areas, to explain their types and objectives, and to explore strategies and challenges in their management. By engaging with this Series, you will gain the knowledge needed to evaluate how protected areas contribute to ecological sustainability and socio-economic development.

We shall commence this Series by defining protected areas and examining the different types, including national parks, game reserves, forest reserves, and community conservation areas. Next, we will explore the objectives of protected area management, focusing on biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, and community benefits. Finally, we will wrap up by considering management strategies and challenges, including the roles of government and local communities, and real-world case studies from Nigeria. This progression will equip you with a comprehensive understanding of how protected areas are managed and why they are essential for ecotourism.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** define the concept of protected areas and identify their main types.
- **SLO 2.2** describe categories of protected areas with examples from Nigeria and globally.



- **SLO 2.3** explain the objectives of protected area management, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, and socio-economic benefits.
- **SLO 2.4** analyse management approaches and frameworks used in protected areas.
- **SLO 2.5** evaluate the roles of government and local communities in managing protected areas.
- **SLO 2.6** assess key challenges in protected area management such as poaching, deforestation, and climate change.
- **SLO 2.7** examine case studies of Nigerian protected areas to illustrate practical management issues and solutions.

2.1 Definition and Types of Protected Areas

2.1.1 Definition of protected areas

A **protected area** is a clearly defined geographical space that is recognised, dedicated, and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature, along with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. Protected areas are established to safeguard biodiversity, preserve landscapes, and provide opportunities for education, recreation, and sustainable tourism. They are often legally designated and managed under specific frameworks to ensure that natural resources are conserved for present and future generations.

Fill in the blank: A clearly defined geographical space managed for the long-term conservation of nature is called a _____.



MULTI-ZONE PROTECTED AREA

A Model for Integrated Conservation & Sustainable Use



Diagram showing the concept of a protected area with overlapping zones for biodiversity, cultural heritage, and tourism

Caption: Figure 2.1 Conceptual representation of a protected area

Search string: "protected area conceptual diagram OER"

2.1.2 Categories of protected areas

Protected areas can be classified into different categories depending on their purpose and level of protection. **National parks** are large areas set aside to protect ecosystems and provide opportunities for recreation and education. **Game reserves** are designated areas for the conservation of wildlife, often allowing regulated hunting or tourism. **Forest reserves** are areas established to protect forests and their resources, ensuring sustainable use. **Community conservation areas** are managed by local communities to conserve biodiversity while supporting livelihoods.

Fill in the blank: Large areas set aside to protect ecosystems and provide recreation are known as _____.



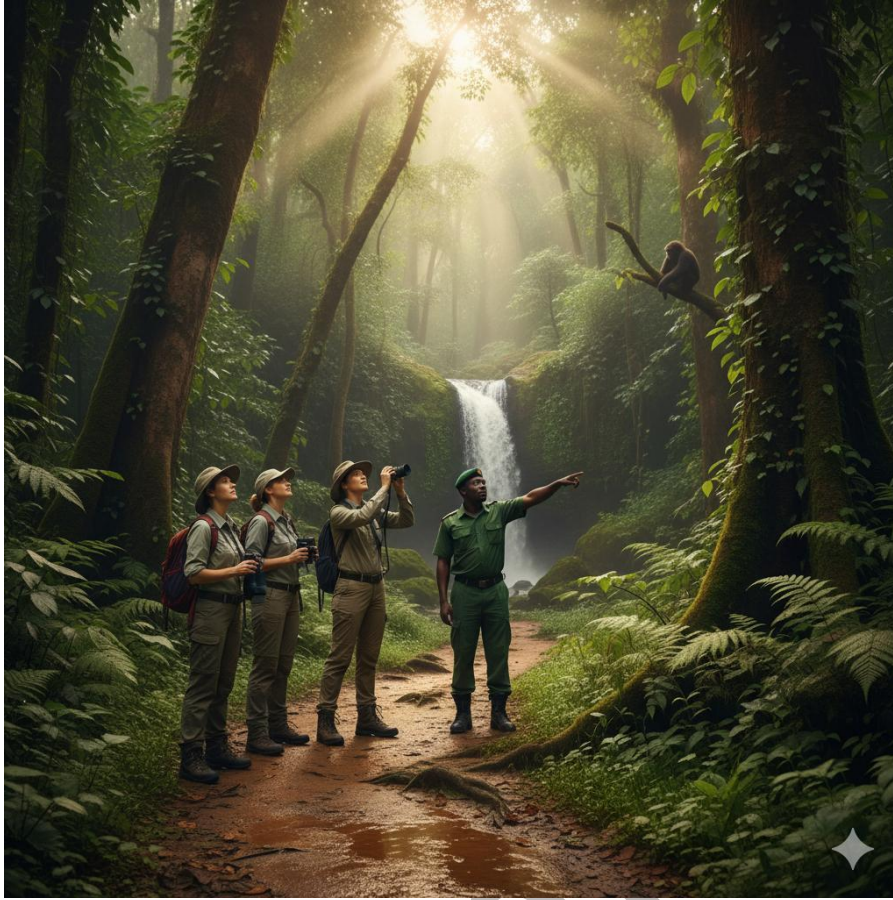


Image of tourists visiting a national park in Nigeria

Caption: Plate 2.1 Tourists exploring a Nigerian national park

Search string: "Nigeria national park tourism OER image"

2.1.3 Global and Nigerian examples of protected areas

Globally, protected areas include Yellowstone National Park in the United States, Kruger National Park in South Africa, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in Australia. In Nigeria, notable examples are **Yankari Game Reserve**, famous for elephants and hot springs, **Cross River National Park**, known for its rich biodiversity and primates, and **Kainji Lake National Park**, which combines wildlife conservation with water-based resources. These examples highlight the diversity of protected areas and their importance in conserving ecosystems while promoting tourism.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian protected area renowned for elephants and hot springs is

_____.



Guardians of Nature: Iconic Protected Areas

 Nigeria's Sanctuaries	Global Examples
Yankari Game Reserve 	Yellowstone National Park (USA) 
Cross River National Park 	Kruger National Park (USA) 
Cross River National Park 	Kruger National Park of Africa 
Gashaka-Gumti National Park 	Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) 
Okomu National Park 	Great Barrier Reef (Australia) 

Box 2.1 Selected examples of protected areas in Nigeria and globally
Search string: “examples of protected areas Nigeria global OER summary”

Pilot questions 2.1

1. Define a protected area in one sentence.
2. Name two categories of protected areas and their main purposes.
3. Which Nigerian protected area is famous for elephants and hot springs?
4. Give one global example of a protected area and explain its significance.
5. What is the difference between a national park and a forest reserve?

2.2 Objectives of Protected Area Management

2.2.1 Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems

One of the primary objectives of protected area management is the **conservation of biodiversity**, which refers to the variety of plant and animal species within ecosystems. Protected areas safeguard habitats, prevent species extinction, and maintain ecological processes such as pollination, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation. By conserving ecosystems, protected areas ensure that natural resources remain available for future generations.

Fill in the blank: The variety of plant and animal species within ecosystems is referred to as _____.



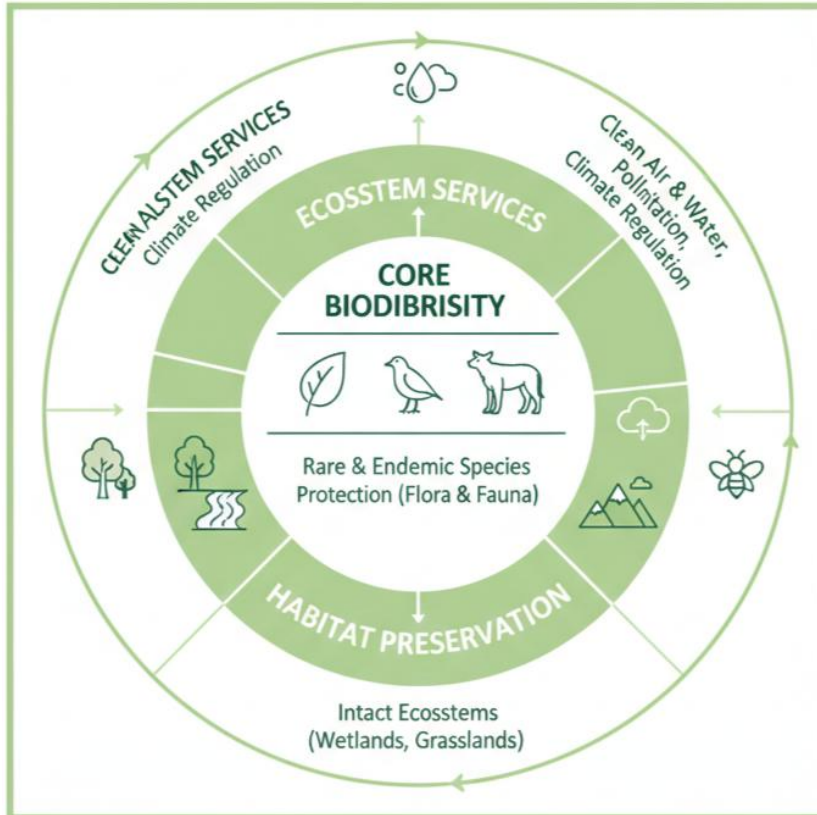


Diagram showing biodiversity conservation within a protected area (plants, animals, and ecosystem services)

Caption: Figure 2.2 Biodiversity conservation in protected areas

Search string: “biodiversity conservation protected areas diagram OER”

2.2.2 Promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation

Protected areas also aim to promote **sustainable tourism**, which involves responsible travel that conserves the environment and benefits local communities. Activities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, and cultural tours are encouraged, provided they do not harm ecosystems. Recreation in protected areas helps raise awareness about conservation while generating income for management and local populations.

Fill in the blank: Tourism that conserves the environment and benefits local communities is called _____.



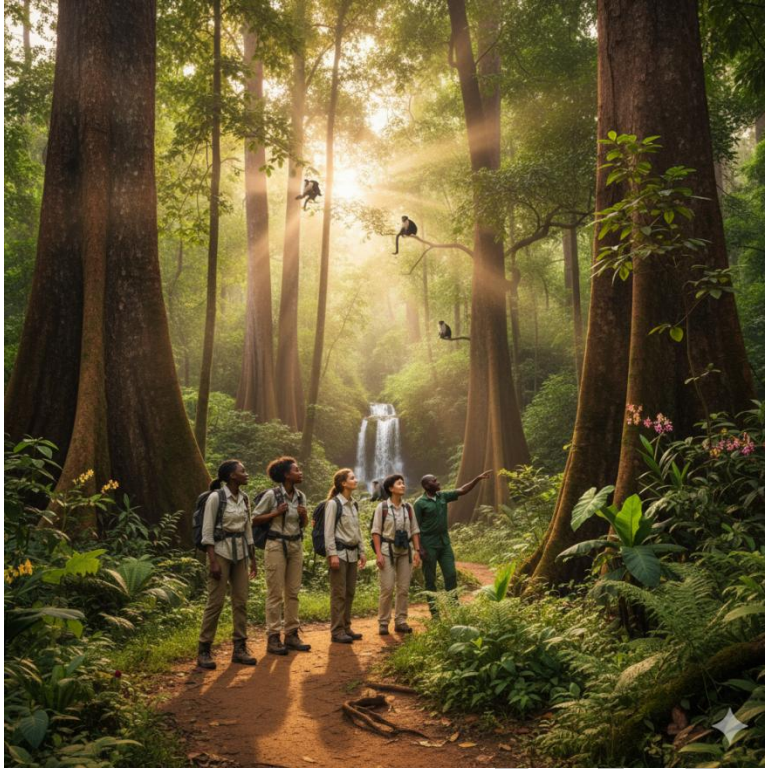


Image of tourists hiking in a protected forest reserve

Caption: Plate 2.2 Tourists engaging in sustainable recreation in a forest reserve

Search string: “sustainable tourism hiking forest reserve OER image”

2.2.3 Cultural and heritage preservation

Protected areas often include sites of cultural and historical importance. **Cultural preservation** ensures that traditions, sacred sites, and heritage resources are maintained for future generations. For example, some protected areas in Nigeria safeguard sacred groves and historical landmarks, which are integral to community identity and tourism appeal.

Fill in the blank: The safeguarding of traditions, sacred sites, and heritage resources is known as _____.



Sacred Natural Sites	Historical Landmarks
1. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (UNESCO World Heritage Site; A River, home to Osun deities, annual festivals, annual festivals intriptutes for its spiritual and ecological value. 	1. Sukur Cultural Landscape (UNESCO Heritage Site) palacted unique-smprek at cultural identity.  Sukur Cultural Landscape A hittlop village with ancient palaces farms, and untunique iron-smeting landscape an protected as part of cultural identity.
2. Idanre Hills (UNESCO Worlded Tentatied Tentative List): 	2. Kajuru Castle: A medevals-tyle castle a a rich located a scenic, protected mountainis region. Its crhature and proserved as it historical tourism asset. 
3. Ancient granite hills with sacred shrines, traditional rituals, and unique unique rock rock formations. The bodiivisity within grove is integral to its cultural status.	

Box 2.2 Examples of cultural and heritage preservation in Nigerian protected areas
Search string: “cultural heritage preservation Nigerian protected areas OER summary”

2.2.4 Socio-economic benefits for communities

Protected areas provide **socio-economic benefits** by creating employment opportunities, supporting local businesses, and fostering community development. Tourism revenue can be reinvested in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. When communities are actively involved in managing protected areas, they gain both economic and social advantages, which strengthens conservation efforts.

Fill in the blank: Employment opportunities and community development provided by protected areas are examples of _____ benefits.

Benefit Type	Example
Employment	Direct jobs for park rangers, tour guides, administrative staff, and maintenance crews.
Business	Growth of local entrepreneurship through handicraft markets, eco-lodges, restaurants, and transport services.
Development	Reinvestment of tourism revenue into community infrastructure, such as new schools, clinics, and improved road networks.

Table 2.1 Socio-economic benefits of protected areas



Search string: “socio-economic benefits protected areas OER table”

Pilot questions 2.2

1. What is the primary objective of protected area management?
2. Define sustainable tourism in one sentence.
3. Give one example of cultural preservation in Nigerian protected areas.
4. List two socio-economic benefits of protected areas.
5. Explain how biodiversity conservation supports ecosystem services.

2.3 Strategies and Challenges in Protected Area Management

2.3.1 Management approaches and frameworks

Protected areas are managed using different **approaches and frameworks** designed to balance conservation with human use. These include strict protection models, where access is highly restricted, and multiple-use models, which allow regulated tourism, research, and community activities. International frameworks such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories provide guidance on how protected areas should be classified and managed.

Fill in the blank: The organisation that provides international categories for protected area management is _____.

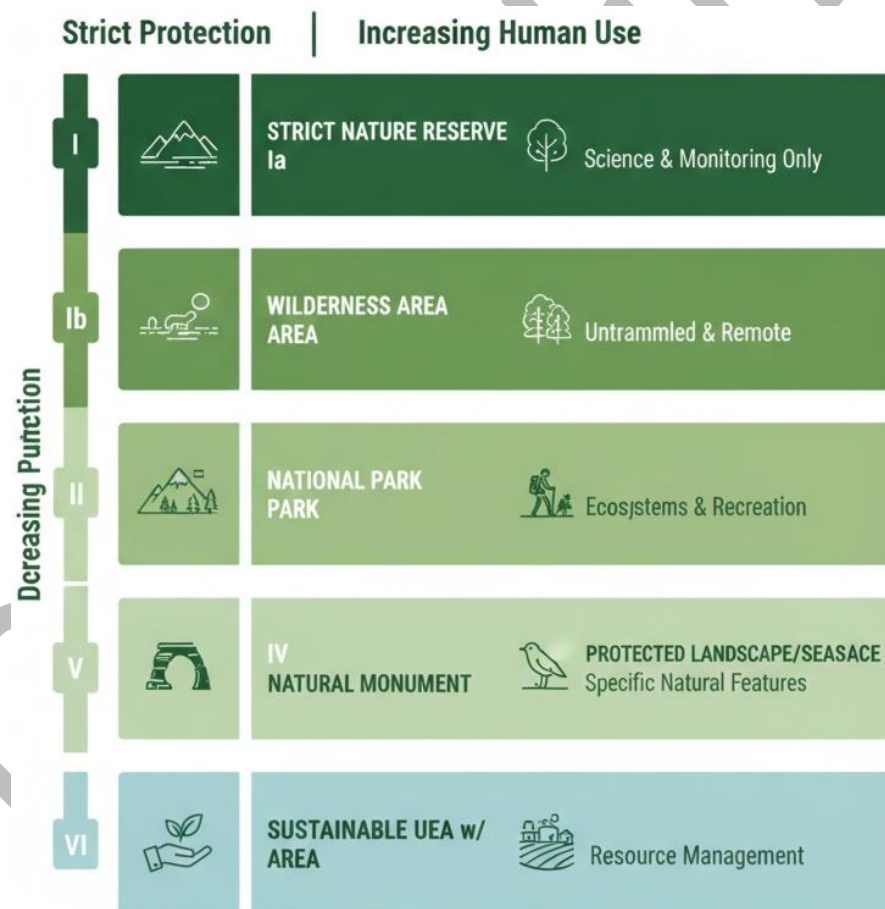


Diagram showing IUCN categories of protected areas arranged from strict protection to



sustainable use

Caption: Figure 2.3 IUCN categories of protected areas

Search string: “IUCN protected area categories diagram OER”

2.3.2 Role of government and local communities

The **government** plays a central role in establishing legal frameworks, funding, and enforcement for protected areas. At the same time, **local communities** are vital stakeholders, as their cooperation ensures sustainable management. Community involvement may include eco-guard services, cultural preservation, and participation in tourism enterprises. When governments and communities collaborate, protected areas are more likely to succeed in achieving conservation and socio-economic goals.

Fill in the blank: Protected areas are more successful when _____ and local communities collaborate.



Image of community members working with park rangers in a conservation project

Caption: Plate 2.3 Community participation in protected area management

Search string: “community participation protected area management OER image”

2.3.3 Challenges such as poaching, deforestation, and climate change

Protected areas face several **challenges** that threaten their effectiveness. **Poaching** reduces wildlife populations and undermines conservation efforts. **Deforestation** destroys habitats and reduces biodiversity. **Climate change** alters ecosystems, affecting species distribution and



resource availability. Addressing these challenges requires strong enforcement, awareness campaigns, and adaptive management strategies.

Fill in the blank: The illegal hunting of wildlife in protected areas is known as _____.



Box 2.3 Key challenges in protected area management

Search string: “challenges protected area management OER summary”

2.3.4 Case studies of Nigerian protected areas

Case studies provide practical insights into how protected areas are managed. **Yankari Game Reserve** demonstrates the importance of wildlife conservation and tourism, but faces challenges such as poaching. **Cross River National Park** highlights biodiversity conservation, especially for endangered primates, while also involving local communities. **Kainji Lake National Park** shows how water resources and wildlife can be jointly managed. These examples illustrate both successes and ongoing challenges in Nigerian protected area management.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian protected area known for its rich biodiversity and endangered primates is _____.



Protected Area	Key Features	Primary Challenges
Yankari Game Reserve (Bauchi State)	Home to Nigeria's largest remaining elephant population and the famous Wikki Warm Springs.	Poaching: Frequent illegal hunting of elephants and local human-wildlife conflict.
Cross River National Park (Cross River State)	A global biodiversity hotspot; contains the rare Cross River Gorilla and diverse primate species.	Logging & Encroachment: Illegal timber extraction and land-use conflicts with surrounding communities.
Kainji Lake National Park (Niger/Kwara States)	The oldest national park in Nigeria; protects critical water resources and diverse savanna wildlife.	Enforcement & Funding: Limited resources for patrolling large areas and managing water-based poaching.

Table 2.2 Case studies of Nigerian protected areas
Search string: “Nigerian protected areas case studies OER table”

Pilot questions 2.3

1. Which organisation provides international categories for protected area management?
2. Explain the role of local communities in managing protected areas.
3. What is poaching, and why is it a challenge for conservation?
4. Name one Nigerian protected area and describe its key features.
5. List two challenges faced by protected areas in Nigeria.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the concept of protected areas, their objectives, and the strategies used in their management. We began by defining protected areas and examining their types, including national parks, game reserves, forest reserves, and community conservation areas, with examples drawn from Nigeria and globally. We then explored the objectives of protected area management, highlighting biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, and socio-economic benefits for communities. Finally, we considered management strategies and challenges, looking at frameworks, the roles of government and local communities, and real-world case studies that illustrate both successes and ongoing issues.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define and describe protected areas, explain their objectives, and analyse management approaches. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you are equipped to evaluate the roles of different stakeholders, assess challenges such as poaching and climate change, and examine Nigerian case studies to connect theory with practice. This foundation prepares you to critically appreciate how protected areas contribute to conservation and sustainable development within ecotourism.



Glossary of Terms

- **Biodiversity:** The variety of plant and animal species within an ecosystem.
- **Community conservation area:** A protected area managed by local communities to conserve biodiversity while supporting livelihoods.
- **Conservation:** The protection and management of natural resources to ensure their long-term sustainability.
- **Cultural preservation:** The safeguarding of traditions, sacred sites, and heritage resources for future generations.
- **Deforestation:** The removal of forests through logging or clearing, which leads to habitat loss and reduced biodiversity.
- **Forest reserve:** An area established to protect forests and their resources, often managed for sustainable use.
- **Game reserve:** A designated area for the conservation of wildlife, sometimes allowing regulated hunting or tourism.
- **IUCN categories:** International classifications provided by the International Union for Conservation of Nature to guide protected area management.
- **National park:** A large area set aside to protect ecosystems and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism.
- **Poaching:** The illegal hunting or capturing of wildlife, which threatens conservation efforts.
- **Protected area:** A clearly defined geographical space recognised and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature, ecosystems, and cultural values.
- **Sustainable tourism:** Responsible travel that conserves the environment and benefits local communities.
- **Socio-economic benefits:** Positive impacts on communities such as employment, business opportunities, and improved infrastructure resulting from protected area management.

Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

1. Multiple choice: Which of the following best defines a protected area?
a) A recreational park for sports
b) A clearly defined geographical space managed for long-term conservation
c) A community market space
d) A government office building
(Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. True or False: National parks are established primarily to protect ecosystems and provide opportunities for recreation and education.
(Linked to SLO 2.2)
3. Multiple choice: Which of these is a global example of a protected area?
a) Cross River National Park
b) Yellowstone National Park
c) Yankari Game Reserve



d) Kainji Lake National Park
(Linked to SLO 2.2)

Short-Answer Questions

4. Define sustainable tourism in one sentence.
(Linked to SLO 2.3)
5. Name one socio-economic benefit of protected areas for local communities.
(Linked to SLO 2.3)
6. Explain the role of local communities in protected area management.
(Linked to SLO 2.5)

Long-Answer Questions

7. Analyse the objectives of protected area management, focusing on biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation.
(Linked to SLO 2.3)
8. Evaluate the challenges faced by protected areas in Nigeria, such as poaching and deforestation, and suggest possible solutions.
(Linked to SLO 2.6)
9. Examine one Nigerian protected area as a case study, describing its key features, challenges, and management strategies.
(Linked to SLO 2.7)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

1. b) A clearly defined geographical space managed for long-term conservation
2. True
3. b) Yellowstone National Park

Short-Answer Questions

4. Sustainable tourism is responsible travel that conserves the environment and benefits local communities.
5. Employment opportunities, such as jobs in tourism and park management.
6. Local communities contribute by participating in conservation activities, preserving cultural heritage, and engaging in tourism enterprises that support livelihoods.

Long-Answer Questions

7. **Basic response:** Protected area management aims to conserve biodiversity by safeguarding species and ecosystems, and to preserve cultural heritage such as sacred sites and traditions.

Value-added response: Learners may add that biodiversity conservation supports ecosystem



services like pollination and climate regulation, while cultural preservation strengthens community identity and enhances tourism appeal.

8. **Basic response:** Challenges include poaching, which reduces wildlife populations, and deforestation, which destroys habitats. Solutions involve stronger enforcement and awareness campaigns.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may suggest adaptive management strategies, community-based monitoring, and the use of technology such as drones or GIS to improve enforcement and conservation outcomes.

9. **Basic response:** Cross River National Park is known for its rich biodiversity and endangered primates. Challenges include logging and community conflicts, while management strategies involve community participation and conservation programmes.

Value-added response: Learners may expand by discussing how international partnerships, eco-tourism initiatives, and sustainable funding models can strengthen management and address long-term challenges.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 2.1

1. A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space managed for the long-term conservation of nature.
2. National parks protect ecosystems and provide recreation; forest reserves protect forests and ensure sustainable use.
3. Yankari Game Reserve.
4. Yellowstone National Park in the United States, significant for being the world's first national park and for its geothermal features and wildlife.
5. A national park is set aside to protect ecosystems and provide recreation, while a forest reserve is established to protect forests and their resources for sustainable use.

Part 2.2

1. Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.
2. Sustainable tourism is responsible travel that conserves the environment and benefits local communities.
3. Sacred groves preserved within Nigerian protected areas.
4. Employment opportunities and improved infrastructure.
5. Biodiversity conservation supports ecosystem services such as pollination, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.

Part 2.3

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. Local communities participate in conservation activities, cultural preservation, and tourism enterprises, ensuring sustainable management.
3. Poaching is the illegal hunting of wildlife, which reduces populations and undermines conservation.



4. Cross River National Park, known for its rich biodiversity and endangered primates.
5. Poaching and deforestation.

References and Attributions

- Course document: *HTM 307: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management* (internal course material).
- Odunlami, S. (2019). *Principles of Ecology and Environmental Management*. Lagos: University Press.
- Nigeria National Parks Service. (2020). *Guide to Nigerian National Parks*. Abuja: Government Publication.
- World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). (2018). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid: UNWTO.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2016). *Protected Areas Categories*. Gland: IUCN.

Illustration Placeholders and Attributions

- **Figure 2.1 Conceptual representation of a protected area**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing a protected area with zones for biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, and tourism.”
 - Search string: “protected area conceptual diagram OER”
- **Plate 2.1 Tourists exploring a Nigerian national park**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists exploring a national park in Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “Nigeria national park tourism OER image”
- **Box 2.1 Selected examples of protected areas in Nigeria and globally**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box listing examples of protected areas in Nigeria and globally, such as Yankari Game Reserve, Cross River National Park, Yellowstone, and Kruger.”
 - Search string: “examples of protected areas Nigeria global OER summary”
- **Figure 2.2 Biodiversity conservation in protected areas**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing biodiversity conservation in a protected area, including plants, animals, and ecosystem services.”
 - Search string: “biodiversity conservation protected areas diagram OER”
- **Plate 2.2 Tourists engaging in sustainable recreation in a forest reserve**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists hiking in a protected forest reserve as an example of sustainable tourism.”
 - Search string: “sustainable tourism hiking forest reserve OER image”
- **Box 2.2 Examples of cultural and heritage preservation in Nigerian protected areas**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box listing examples of cultural and heritage preservation in Nigerian protected areas, such as sacred groves and historical landmarks.”
 - Search string: “cultural heritage preservation Nigerian protected areas OER summary”



- **Table 2.1 Socio-economic benefits of protected areas**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a simple table showing socio-economic benefits of protected areas, including employment, business, and development.”
 - Search string: “socio-economic benefits protected areas OER table”
- **Figure 2.3 IUCN categories of protected areas**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing IUCN categories of protected areas from strict protection to sustainable use.”
 - Search string: “IUCN protected area categories diagram OER”
- **Plate 2.3 Community participation in protected area management**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of community members working with park rangers in a conservation project.”
 - Search string: “community participation protected area management OER image”
- **Box 2.3 Key challenges in protected area management**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box listing key challenges in protected area management: poaching, deforestation, and climate change.”
 - Search string: “challenges protected area management OER summary”
- **Table 2.2 Case studies of Nigerian protected areas**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a table summarising case studies of Nigerian protected areas, including Yankari, Cross River, and Kainji Lake.”
 - Search string: “Nigerian protected areas case studies OER table”

Course Title: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management

Course Code: HTM 307

Course Units: 2 Units

- **Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology**
- **Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management**
- **Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism**
- **Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria**
- **Ethics, Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges**

Suggested Outline for Series 3: Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism

Part 1 Historical development of ecotourism

- Origins of ecotourism globally
- Early ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria and Africa
- Evolution of ecotourism policies and practices



Part 2 Benefits of ecotourism to conservation and communities

- Environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection)
- Socio-cultural benefits (heritage preservation, cultural exchange)
- Economic benefits (employment, local business growth, revenue generation)

Part 3 Challenges and prospects of ecotourism development

- Key challenges (infrastructure, awareness, policy gaps)
- Prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria
- Case studies of successful ecotourism projects

Introduction

Ecotourism has become one of the most important approaches to linking conservation with sustainable development. Its roots can be traced to early efforts to protect natural areas while allowing people to experience and learn from them. Over time, ecotourism has evolved into a global movement that not only supports biodiversity but also provides cultural, social, and economic benefits. Understanding its historical development and the benefits it brings will help you appreciate its role in shaping modern tourism and environmental management.

The aim of this Series is to examine the historical development of ecotourism and to highlight the environmental, socio-cultural, and economic benefits it provides. By the end of this Series, you will be able to evaluate how ecotourism has grown over time and how it contributes to conservation and community development.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical development of ecotourism, beginning with its global origins and early initiatives in Nigeria and Africa, before considering how policies and practices have evolved. Next, we will move on to the benefits of ecotourism, focusing on environmental conservation, socio-cultural preservation, and economic opportunities for communities. Finally, we will wrap up by examining the challenges and prospects of ecotourism development, supported by case studies of successful projects that demonstrate its potential for sustainability.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** describe the global origins and historical development of ecotourism.
- **SLO 3.2** explain early ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria and Africa.
- **SLO 3.3** analyse the evolution of ecotourism policies and practices over time.
- **SLO 3.4** identify the environmental benefits of ecotourism, including biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection.
- **SLO 3.5** discuss the socio-cultural benefits of ecotourism, such as heritage preservation and cultural exchange.
- **SLO 3.6** evaluate the economic benefits of ecotourism for communities, including employment and revenue generation.



- **SLO 3.7** assess the key challenges facing ecotourism development, such as infrastructure and policy gaps.
- **SLO 3.8** appraise the prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria.
- **SLO 3.9** examine case studies of successful ecotourism projects to illustrate practical applications and outcomes.

3.1 Historical Development of Ecotourism

3.1.1 Origins of ecotourism globally

The term **ecotourism** refers to responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities. Globally, ecotourism emerged in the late 20th century as a response to increasing environmental awareness and the need to balance tourism with conservation. Early initiatives focused on creating opportunities for visitors to experience nature while ensuring minimal impact on ecosystems. Countries such as Costa Rica and Kenya became pioneers, promoting ecotourism as a tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Fill in the blank: Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities is called _____.

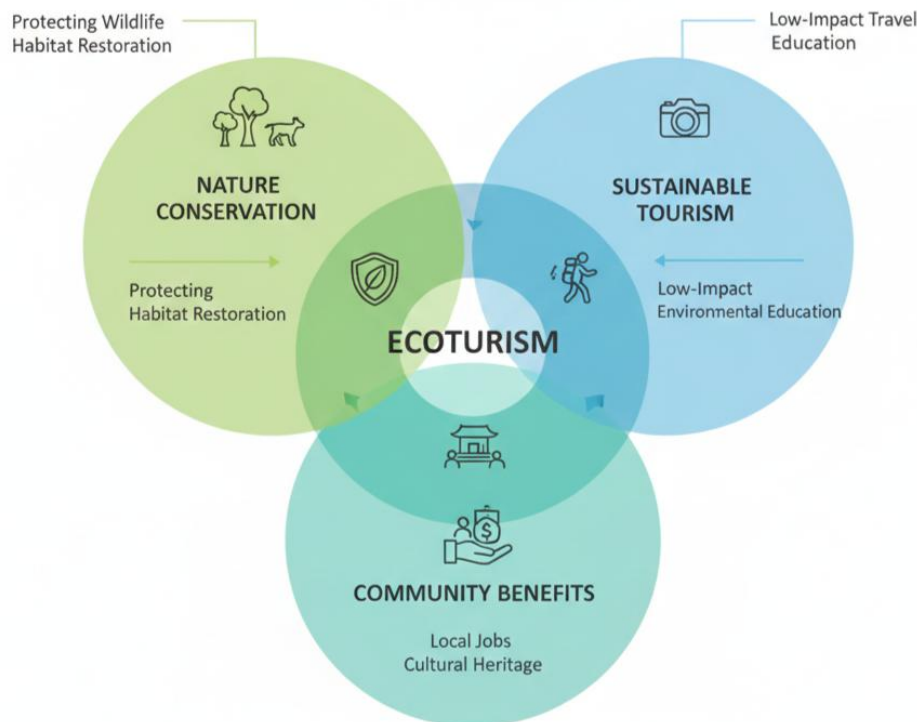


Diagram showing the global origins of ecotourism with arrows linking conservation, tourism, and community benefits

Caption: Figure 3.1 Global origins of ecotourism

Search string: “global origins of ecotourism diagram OER”

3.1.2 Early ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria and Africa



In Africa, ecotourism initiatives began with the establishment of national parks and game reserves to protect wildlife and promote tourism. Nigeria followed this trend with the creation of areas such as Yankari Game Reserve and Cross River National Park. These initiatives aimed to conserve biodiversity while providing opportunities for recreation and education. They also sought to involve local communities, recognising that conservation is more effective when people benefit directly from protected areas.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's ecotourism initiatives include _____ Game Reserve and Cross River National Park.

Image of tourists viewing wildlife in Yankari Game Reserve

Caption: Plate 3.1 Tourists observing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve

Search string: "Yankari Game Reserve tourism OER image"

3.1.3 Evolution of ecotourism policies and practices

Over time, ecotourism has evolved through the development of policies and practices that integrate conservation with sustainable tourism. Governments and international organisations have introduced frameworks to regulate ecotourism activities, ensuring that they contribute to biodiversity protection and community development. In Nigeria, policies have increasingly emphasised community participation, environmental education, and sustainable resource use. This evolution reflects a growing recognition that ecotourism must balance ecological integrity with human needs.

Fill in the blank: Ecotourism policies in Nigeria increasingly emphasise _____ participation and environmental education.

Box 3.1 Key milestones in the evolution of ecotourism policies

Search string: "evolution of ecotourism policies Nigeria global OER summary"

Pilot questions 3.1

1. Define ecotourism in one sentence.
2. Name two countries that pioneered global ecotourism initiatives.
3. Identify two early ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria.
4. What is the main purpose of establishing national parks and game reserves in Africa?
5. Explain one way ecotourism policies in Nigeria have evolved over time.

3.2 Benefits of Ecotourism to Conservation and Communities

3.2.1 Environmental benefits

One of the most significant benefits of ecotourism is its contribution to **environmental conservation**. Ecotourism supports the protection of biodiversity by reducing threats such as habitat destruction and species extinction. It also promotes ecosystem services, including clean water, fertile soil, and climate regulation. By encouraging responsible travel, ecotourism helps ensure that natural resources are preserved for future generations.



Fill in the blank: Ecotourism helps protect biodiversity by reducing threats such as _____ destruction and species extinction.

Diagram showing environmental benefits of ecotourism (biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, climate regulation)

Caption: Figure 3.2 Environmental benefits of ecotourism

Search string: “environmental benefits of ecotourism diagram OER”

3.2.2 Socio-cultural benefits

Ecotourism also provides **socio-cultural benefits** by preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural exchange. Many protected areas include sacred sites, traditional practices, and historical landmarks that are safeguarded through ecotourism initiatives. Visitors gain opportunities to learn about local traditions, while communities benefit from increased recognition and pride in their cultural identity. This strengthens social cohesion and enhances the tourism experience.

Fill in the blank: Ecotourism preserves cultural heritage by safeguarding _____ sites and traditional practices.

Image of tourists participating in a cultural festival within a community-based ecotourism project

Caption: Plate 3.2 Tourists engaging in cultural exchange during a community festival

Search string: “cultural exchange ecotourism Nigeria OER image”

3.2.3 Economic benefits

Ecotourism generates **economic benefits** by creating employment, supporting local businesses, and generating revenue for communities. Jobs are created in areas such as guiding, hospitality, and park management. Local businesses benefit from the sale of crafts, food, and services to tourists. Revenue from ecotourism can be reinvested in community development projects, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure. These economic benefits make ecotourism a valuable tool for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Fill in the blank: Jobs created in guiding, hospitality, and park management are examples of _____ benefits of ecotourism.

Benefit Type	Example
Employment	Creation of direct jobs such as professional tour guides, eco-lodge staff, park rangers, and conservation researchers.
Business	Support for local entrepreneurship through the sale of handmade crafts, traditional food, and private transport services.
Revenue Generation	Collection of entry fees and tourism taxes that are reinvested into community schools, clinics, and clean water infrastructure.



Table 3.1 Economic benefits of ecotourism

Search string: “economic benefits of ecotourism OER table”

Pilot questions 3.2

1. List two environmental benefits of ecotourism.
2. Define socio-cultural benefits of ecotourism in one sentence.
3. Give one example of cultural heritage preserved through ecotourism.
4. Name two types of jobs created by ecotourism.
5. Explain how ecotourism contributes to community development.

3.3 Challenges and Prospects of Ecotourism Development

3.3.1 Key challenges

Despite its many benefits, ecotourism faces several **challenges** that limit its effectiveness. In Nigeria, issues such as inadequate infrastructure, poor funding, and limited awareness among communities and tourists hinder growth. Policy gaps and weak enforcement also make it difficult to regulate ecotourism activities effectively. These challenges reduce the potential of ecotourism to contribute fully to conservation and sustainable development.

Fill in the blank: Inadequate _____ and poor funding are major challenges facing ecotourism in Nigeria.

Box 3.2 Key challenges of ecotourism development in Nigeria

Search string: “challenges of ecotourism Nigeria OER summary”

3.3.2 Prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria

Despite these challenges, there are strong **prospects** for ecotourism development in Nigeria. With growing global interest in sustainable travel, Nigeria can leverage its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and diverse landscapes to attract tourists. Improved policies, investment in infrastructure, and community participation can enhance the sustainability of ecotourism. If properly managed, ecotourism has the potential to become a major contributor to conservation and socio-economic development in the country.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria can leverage its rich _____ and cultural heritage to attract ecotourists.

Diagram showing prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria (biodiversity, cultural heritage, infrastructure, community participation)

Caption: Figure 3.3 Prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria

Search string: “prospects sustainable ecotourism Nigeria diagram OER”

3.3.3 Case studies of successful ecotourism projects



Case studies provide practical examples of how ecotourism can succeed despite challenges. For instance, community-based projects in Cross River State have demonstrated how local involvement can enhance conservation and tourism outcomes. Similarly, initiatives in Yankari Game Reserve show how wildlife conservation can be combined with tourism to generate revenue. These examples highlight that with proper planning, ecotourism can deliver tangible benefits for both nature and people.

Fill in the blank: Community-based projects in _____ State have demonstrated how local involvement can enhance conservation and tourism outcomes.

Project / Location	Key Features	Success Outcomes
Cross River State (CRNP & Mbe Mountains)	Focus on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and primate conservation.	Preservation: Significant reduction in illegal logging; increased global recognition for the Cross River Gorilla.
Yankari Game Reserve (Bauchi)	Integration of historical heritage (Marshall Caves) with savannah wildlife viewing.	Revenue: Consistent stream of domestic and international tourism; improved anti-poaching patrol effectiveness.
Local Craft Initiatives (Various Locations)	Market-linkage programs connecting tourists directly with local artisans and weavers.	Empowerment: Direct economic uplift for rural women and youth; preservation of traditional weaving and carving techniques.

Table 3.2 Case studies of successful ecotourism projects in Nigeria
Search string: “successful ecotourism projects Nigeria OER case studies”

Pilot questions 3.3

1. List two key challenges facing ecotourism development in Nigeria.
2. Explain one prospect for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria.
3. Name one Nigerian ecotourism project that demonstrates community involvement.
4. How can improved policies enhance ecotourism development?
5. Give one example of how ecotourism contributes to both conservation and socio-economic development.

Series Summary

This Series has examined the historical development of ecotourism and its significance for conservation and sustainable development. We began by tracing the global origins of ecotourism, then explored early initiatives in Nigeria and Africa, and finally considered how policies and



practices have evolved over time. We continued by highlighting the benefits of ecotourism, focusing on environmental conservation, socio-cultural preservation, and economic opportunities for communities. To conclude, we analysed the challenges facing ecotourism in Nigeria and discussed the prospects for its sustainable growth, supported by case studies of successful projects.

By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to describe the historical development of ecotourism, explain its environmental, socio-cultural, and economic benefits, and evaluate both the challenges and future prospects of ecotourism development. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you are equipped to analyse policies, assess stakeholder roles, and examine case studies that demonstrate how ecotourism can contribute to conservation and community development. This foundation prepares you to critically connect ecotourism theory with practice in the wider context of sustainable tourism.

Glossary of Terms

- **Case study:** A detailed example used to illustrate how ecotourism projects are implemented and the outcomes they achieve.
- **Community participation:** The active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism initiatives.
- **Ecotourism:** Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities.
- **Economic benefits:** Positive financial impacts of ecotourism, such as employment, local business growth, and revenue generation.
- **Environmental conservation:** The protection and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems.
- **Evolution of policies:** The gradual development and improvement of laws, guidelines, and practices that regulate ecotourism activities.
- **Infrastructure:** Basic facilities and services such as roads, accommodation, and utilities that support ecotourism development.
- **Prospects:** Future opportunities or potential for growth and sustainability in ecotourism.
- **Socio-cultural benefits:** Positive impacts of ecotourism on cultural heritage, traditions, and social identity, including cultural exchange.
- **Sustainable development:** Development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, often linked with ecotourism practices.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

1. Multiple choice: Which of the following best defines ecotourism?
 - a) Mass tourism focused on entertainment
 - b) Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities
 - c) Tourism that ignores conservation principles



- d) Exclusive luxury travel for high-income groups
(Linked to SLO 3.1)
 - 2. True or False: Early ecotourism initiatives in Nigeria included Yankari Game Reserve and Cross River National Park.
(Linked to SLO 3.2)
 - 3. Multiple choice: Which of these is an environmental benefit of ecotourism?
 - a) Increased pollution
 - b) Biodiversity conservation
 - c) Habitat destruction
 - d) Overcrowding of tourist sites(Linked to SLO 3.4)
-

Short-Answer Questions

- 4. Define socio-cultural benefits of ecotourism in one sentence.
(Linked to SLO 3.5)
 - 5. Name two types of jobs created by ecotourism.
(Linked to SLO 3.6)
 - 6. Explain one way ecotourism policies in Nigeria have evolved over time.
(Linked to SLO 3.3)
-

Long-Answer Questions

- 7. Analyse the environmental, socio-cultural, and economic benefits of ecotourism, giving examples from Nigeria.
(Linked to SLOs 3.4, 3.5, 3.6)
 - 8. Evaluate the key challenges facing ecotourism development in Nigeria and suggest possible solutions.
(Linked to SLO 3.7)
 - 9. Examine one Nigerian ecotourism project as a case study, describing its features, challenges, and prospects.
(Linked to SLO 3.9)
-

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

- 1. b) Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities
- 2. True



3. b) Biodiversity conservation

Short-Answer Questions

4. Socio-cultural benefits of ecotourism include preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural exchange between visitors and local communities.
5. Jobs in guiding, hospitality, and park management.
6. Policies have evolved to emphasise community participation, environmental education, and sustainable resource use.

Long-Answer Questions

7. **Basic response:** Ecotourism conserves biodiversity and ecosystems, preserves cultural heritage such as sacred sites, and creates jobs and revenue for communities.
Value-added response: Learners may add that environmental benefits include climate regulation and ecosystem services, socio-cultural benefits strengthen community identity and pride, and economic benefits extend to local businesses and infrastructure development.
8. **Basic response:** Challenges include inadequate infrastructure, poor funding, and policy gaps. Solutions involve stronger enforcement, improved awareness, and investment in facilities.
Value-added response: Outstanding learners may suggest integrating technology for monitoring, fostering international partnerships, and developing sustainable financing models to address long-term challenges.
9. **Basic response:** Cross River National Park is rich in biodiversity and endangered primates, but faces challenges such as logging and community conflicts.
Value-added response: Learners may expand by discussing how community-based ecotourism projects, eco-tourism festivals, and international collaborations can enhance conservation outcomes and promote sustainable tourism.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Pilot questions 3.1

1. Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and benefits local communities.
2. Costa Rica and Kenya.
3. Yankari Game Reserve and Cross River National Park.
4. To conserve biodiversity and promote recreation and education.
5. Policies have evolved to emphasise community participation, environmental education, and sustainable resource use.

Pilot questions 3.2

1. Biodiversity conservation and climate regulation.
2. Socio-cultural benefits of ecotourism include preserving cultural heritage and promoting cultural exchange.
3. Sacred sites and traditional practices.



4. Jobs in guiding and hospitality.
5. By generating revenue that can be reinvested in education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Pilot questions 3.3

1. Inadequate infrastructure and poor funding.
2. Nigeria can leverage its biodiversity and cultural heritage to attract tourists.
3. Community-based projects in Cross River State.
4. Improved policies can enhance regulation, encourage community participation, and promote sustainable practices.
5. Ecotourism contributes to conservation by protecting biodiversity and to socio-economic development by creating jobs and revenue.

References and Attributions

- Course document: *HTM 307: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management* (internal course material).
- Odunlami, S. (2019). *Principles of Ecology and Environmental Management*. Lagos: University Press.
- Nigeria National Parks Service. (2020). *Guide to Nigerian National Parks*. Abuja: Government Publication.
- World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). (2018). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid: UNWTO.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2016). *Protected Areas Categories*. Gland: IUCN.

Illustration Placeholders and Attributions

- **Figure 3.1 Global origins of ecotourism**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing the global origins of ecotourism, linking conservation, tourism, and community benefits.”
 - Search string: “global origins of ecotourism diagram OER”
- **Plate 3.1 Tourists observing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists observing elephants in Yankari Game Reserve, Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “Yankari Game Reserve tourism OER image”
- **Box 3.1 Key milestones in the evolution of ecotourism policies**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising key milestones in the evolution of ecotourism policies globally and in Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “evolution of ecotourism policies Nigeria global OER summary”
- **Figure 3.2 Environmental benefits of ecotourism**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing environmental benefits of ecotourism, including biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and climate regulation.”
 - Search string: “environmental benefits of ecotourism diagram OER”
- **Plate 3.2 Tourists engaging in cultural exchange during a community festival**



- Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists participating in a cultural festival within a community-based ecotourism project.”
- Search string: “cultural exchange ecotourism Nigeria OER image”
- **Table 3.1 Economic benefits of ecotourism**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a simple table showing economic benefits of ecotourism, including employment, business, and revenue generation.”
 - Search string: “economic benefits of ecotourism OER table”
- **Box 3.2 Key challenges of ecotourism development in Nigeria**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a text box listing key challenges of ecotourism development in Nigeria, such as inadequate infrastructure, poor funding, limited awareness, and policy gaps.”
 - Search string: “challenges of ecotourism Nigeria OER summary”
- **Figure 3.3 Prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing prospects for sustainable ecotourism in Nigeria, including biodiversity, cultural heritage, infrastructure, and community participation.”
 - Search string: “prospects sustainable ecotourism Nigeria diagram OER”
- **Table 3.2 Case studies of successful ecotourism projects in Nigeria**
 - Suggested AI prompt: “Create a table summarising case studies of successful ecotourism projects in Nigeria, including Cross River State and Yankari Game Reserve.”
 - Search string: “successful ecotourism projects Nigeria OER case studies”

Course Title: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management

Course Code: HTM 307

Course Units: 2 Units

- **Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology**
- **Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management**
- **Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism**
- **Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria**
- **Ethics, Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges**

Suggested Outline for Series 4: Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria

Part 1 Concept of community participation in ecotourism



- Definition and importance of community participation
- Models of community involvement in tourism
- Benefits of community participation for conservation and livelihoods

Part 2 Sustainable tourism practices in Nigeria

- Principles of sustainable tourism
- Examples of sustainable tourism initiatives in Nigeria
- Role of government and NGOs in promoting sustainability

Part 3 Case studies and future prospects

- Case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria
- Challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism
- Prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the historical development and benefits of ecotourism, highlighting how it contributes to conservation, cultural preservation, and community development. Building on that foundation, this Series turns our attention to the role of communities in ecotourism and the importance of sustainable tourism practices in Nigeria. Community participation is central to ensuring that ecotourism delivers lasting benefits, while sustainability ensures that tourism activities do not compromise the environment or cultural heritage.

The aim of this Series is to examine how communities engage in ecotourism and to evaluate sustainable tourism practices in Nigeria. By the end of this Series, you will be able to assess models of community participation, identify principles of sustainable tourism, and analyse case studies that demonstrate both challenges and future prospects.

We shall commence this Series by considering the concept of community participation in ecotourism, including its definition, importance, and models of involvement. Next, we will move on to sustainable tourism practices in Nigeria, looking at key principles, examples of initiatives, and the role of government and NGOs. Finally, we will wrap up with case studies of community-based tourism projects, an analysis of challenges, and a discussion of prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** define community participation in ecotourism and explain its importance.
- **SLO 4.2** describe models of community involvement in tourism.
- **SLO 4.3** analyse the benefits of community participation for conservation and livelihoods.
- **SLO 4.4** identify the principles of sustainable tourism.



- **SLO 4.5** discuss examples of sustainable tourism initiatives in Nigeria.
- **SLO 4.6** evaluate the role of government and NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism.
- **SLO 4.7** examine case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria.
- **SLO 4.8** assess the challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism.
- **SLO 4.9** appraise the prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria.

4.1 Concept of Community Participation in Ecotourism

4.1.1 Definition and importance of community participation

Community participation refers to the active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism initiatives. It is important because communities are directly connected to the natural and cultural resources that ecotourism depends on. Their participation ensures that conservation efforts are more effective, tourism activities are culturally respectful, and benefits are equitably shared. Without community involvement, ecotourism projects often face resistance or fail to achieve sustainability.

Fill in the blank: _____ participation refers to the active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism initiatives.



ECOTOURISM SUCCESS CYCLE in Ecotourism

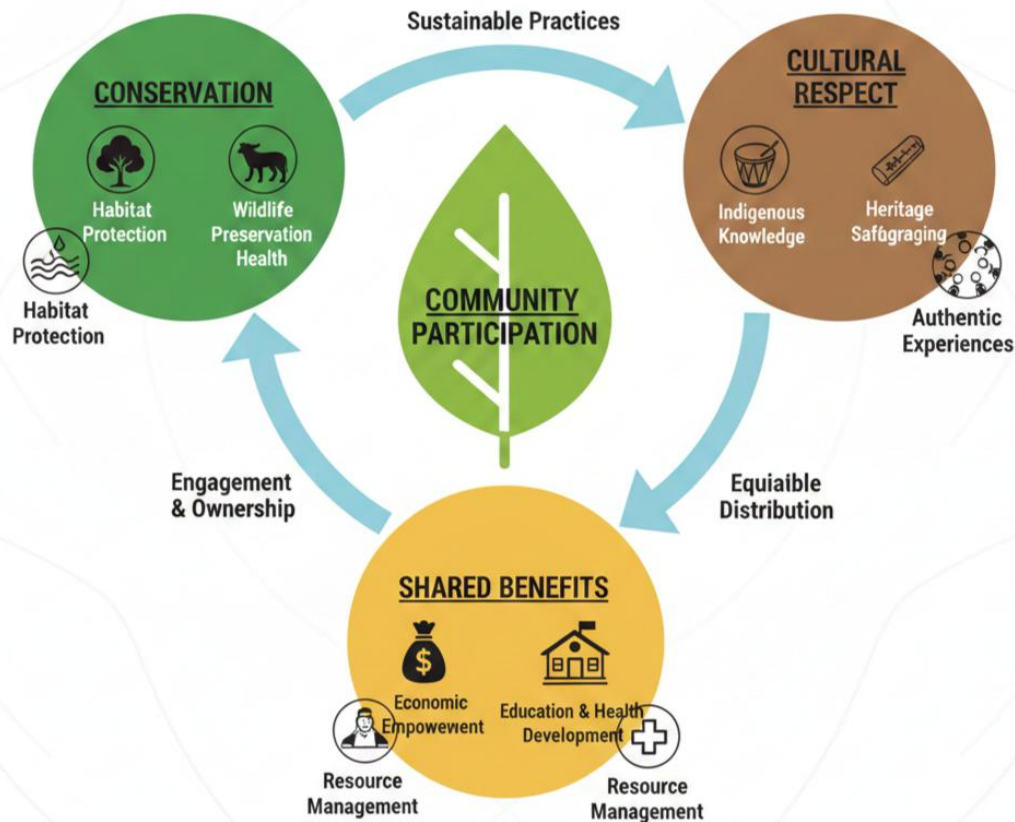


Diagram showing the link between community participation, conservation, and sustainable tourism outcomes

Caption: Figure 4.1 Importance of community participation in ecotourism

Search string: "importance of community participation ecotourism diagram OER"

4.1.2 Models of community involvement in tourism

There are different **models of community involvement** in tourism. In some cases, communities act as partners, sharing responsibilities with government agencies or private organisations. In other cases, communities take full ownership of tourism projects, managing them independently. A third model involves communities participating indirectly, for example through employment or small businesses that support tourism. Each model has strengths and limitations, but all highlight the need for communities to have a voice in ecotourism development.

Fill in the blank: Communities may act as partners, owners, or indirect participants in _____ projects.



Model	Description	Example	Key Benefit
Partnership	Collaborative governance where risks, costs, and profits are shared between the community and a third party (Gov/NGO/Private).	A joint venture between a tribe and a luxury safari operator.	Access to professional marketing and external capital.
Ownership	The community has full legal control and decision-making power over the enterprise and its assets.	A village-owned and operated cultural heritage museum.	Maximum retention of profits and cultural integrity.
Indirect Involvement	Individual community members provide goods or services to the tourism industry without owning the core attraction.	Local farmers selling organic produce to nearby resorts.	Low entry barrier; allows diverse households to earn income.

Table 4.1 Models of community involvement in tourism

Search string: “models of community involvement tourism OER table”

4.1.3 Benefits of community participation for conservation and livelihoods

Community participation provides multiple **benefits** for both conservation and livelihoods. When communities are involved, they are more likely to protect natural resources, as they see direct value in conservation. Participation also creates opportunities for income generation, such as guiding, hospitality, and craft production. These benefits strengthen local economies and reduce dependence on unsustainable practices. In addition, community involvement fosters pride in cultural heritage and encourages the preservation of traditions.

Fill in the blank: Community participation creates opportunities for _____ generation, such as guiding, hospitality, and craft production.





Image of community members working with tourists in a cultural ecotourism project

Caption: Plate 4.1 Community members engaging in cultural ecotourism activities

Search string: “community participation ecotourism Nigeria OER image”

Pilot questions 4.1

1. Define community participation in ecotourism.
2. Why is community participation important for ecotourism projects?
3. List three models of community involvement in tourism.
4. Give one example of a community-owned tourism project.
5. Explain one benefit of community participation for livelihoods.

4.2 Sustainable Tourism Practices in Nigeria

4.2.1 Principles of sustainable tourism

Sustainable tourism refers to tourism activities that meet the needs of present visitors and host communities while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. Its principles include minimising negative environmental impacts, respecting cultural heritage, and ensuring that economic benefits are fairly distributed. In Nigeria, applying these principles is crucial to balance tourism growth with conservation and community well-being.



Fill in the blank: Tourism activities that meet present needs while protecting future opportunities are called _____ tourism.



Diagram showing principles of sustainable tourism (environmental protection, cultural respect, fair economic distribution)

Caption: Figure 4.2 Principles of sustainable tourism

Search string: "principles of sustainable tourism diagram OER"

4.2.2 Examples of sustainable tourism initiatives in Nigeria

Nigeria has several initiatives that demonstrate sustainable tourism practices. Community-based projects in Cross River State promote biodiversity conservation while supporting local livelihoods. Eco-lodges in areas such as Obudu Mountain Resort provide environmentally friendly accommodation. Cultural festivals integrated into tourism activities also highlight sustainable practices by preserving traditions and generating income. These examples show how sustainability can be achieved when tourism is carefully planned and managed.

Fill in the blank: Eco-lodges at _____ Mountain Resort provide environmentally friendly accommodation.





Image of eco-lodge accommodation at Obudu Mountain Resort

Caption: Plate 4.2 Eco-lodge accommodation at Obudu Mountain Resort

Search string: “eco-lodge Obudu Mountain Resort Nigeria OER image”

4.2.3 Role of government and NGOs in promoting sustainability

The **government** and **non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** play vital roles in promoting sustainable tourism. Government agencies establish policies, provide infrastructure, and regulate tourism activities to ensure sustainability. NGOs contribute by raising awareness, supporting community projects, and providing technical expertise. Together, they create an enabling environment for sustainable tourism practices to thrive in Nigeria.

Fill in the blank: NGOs contribute to sustainable tourism by raising _____ and supporting community projects.



ROLES IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN NIGERIA

Government & Non-Governmental Organisations

Organisation

• Policy & Regulation:

- Creating the National Tourism Policy and regulating through the Nigerian Investment Development Authority, NTDA.



• Infrastructure:

- Developing National Parks (like Cross River and Yankari) and protecting biodiversity through law enforcement.



• Conservation:

- Managing National Parks as sustainable destinations accessible.



• International Marketing:

- Promoting Nigeria and its rich destination to global markets.



Core Responsibilities & Roles

• Community Empowerment:

- Training locals in hospitality and crafts to benefit directly from tourism.



• Conservation Advocacy:

- Training locals in hospitality and crafts to ensure they benefit directly from tourism.



• Gap Filling:

- Leading reforestation and wildlife protection projects (e.g., Nigerian Conservation Foundation or local NGOs).



• Monitoring:

- Acting as "watchdogs to ensure protection" or local culture.



Key Takeaway: The government creates the legal environment for tourism to exist, while NGOs ensure that tourism is equitable and environmentally sound at the local level.

Box 4.1 Roles of government and NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism
Search string: "role of government NGOs sustainable tourism Nigeria OER summary"

Pilot questions 4.2

1. Define sustainable tourism in one sentence.
2. List three principles of sustainable tourism.
3. Give one example of a sustainable tourism initiative in Nigeria.
4. What role do eco-lodges play in sustainable tourism?
5. Explain one way NGOs promote sustainable tourism in Nigeria.

4.3 Case Studies and Future Prospects

4.3.1 Case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria

Community-based tourism projects in Nigeria provide practical examples of how local involvement can enhance sustainability. In Cross River State, initiatives around the Cross River National Park have shown how communities can participate in guiding, cultural performances, and craft production. Similarly, projects in Yankari Game Reserve demonstrate how wildlife conservation can be combined with tourism to generate income for local people. These case



studies highlight that when communities are actively engaged, ecotourism becomes more effective and beneficial.

Fill in the blank: Community-based tourism projects in _____ State have shown how local involvement can enhance sustainability.

Location	Key Features	Outcomes
Cross River State	Community guiding, cultural performances, craft production, eco-tourism training.	Enhanced conservation of rainforests and improved local livelihoods through direct revenue.
Yankari Game Reserve	Wildlife conservation, guided safari tours, protection of Wikki Warm Springs.	Significant revenue generation for the state and increased protection for endangered biodiversity.
Obudu Mountain Resort	High-altitude eco-lodges, community-led hiking tours, cable car operations.	Infrastructure development in remote areas and job creation for mountain communities.

Table 4.2 Case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria

Search string: “community-based tourism projects Nigeria OER case studies”

4.3.2 Challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism

Despite successes, challenges remain in achieving effective community participation and sustainable tourism. These include inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, and lack of awareness among communities and tourists. Policy gaps and weak enforcement also hinder progress. Without addressing these challenges, the potential of community-based tourism projects cannot be fully realised.

Fill in the blank: Inadequate _____ and limited funding are major challenges facing community participation in Nigeria.



CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN NIGERIA

Based on 2025-2026 Industry Analysis

 Category	 Specific Challenges	Impact on Sustainability 
Infrastructure	Poor road networks to rural sites, unreliable electricity, limited digital connectivity.	Discourages repeat visits; eco-lodge operations difficult
Funding & Investment	Limited access to loans; high "leakage" of profits.	Leads to local resistance, poaching, poaching, or logging.
Awareness & Education	High illiteracy; low understanding of "conservation-for-profit".	Projects abandoned with leadership changes
Security Coverage Safety perceptions in certain regions hurdles	No National Tourism Master Plan; inconsistent environmental laws	Reduces high-spending international tourists.

Key Takeaway:

The "Maintenance Culture" is unique challenge—initial investments fail without a long-term budget for upkeep.

Box 4.2 Challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism in Nigeria
Search string: "challenges community participation sustainable tourism Nigeria OER summary"

4.3.3 Prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria

There are strong prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria. With its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and diverse landscapes, Nigeria has significant potential to attract tourists. Improved policies, investment in infrastructure, and greater community involvement can enhance sustainability. International partnerships and the use of technology for monitoring and promotion also offer opportunities for growth. If these prospects are harnessed, sustainable tourism can become a major contributor to conservation and socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's rich _____ and diverse landscapes provide strong prospects for sustainable tourism.





Diagram showing prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria (biodiversity, cultural heritage, infrastructure, community involvement, international partnerships)

Caption: Figure 4.3 Prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria

Search string: “prospects sustainable tourism Nigeria diagram OER”

Pilot questions 4.3

1. Name one community-based tourism project in Nigeria.
2. List two challenges facing community participation in tourism.
3. Explain one way improved policies can strengthen sustainable tourism.
4. What role does biodiversity play in Nigeria’s tourism prospects?
5. Suggest one international strategy that could support sustainable tourism in Nigeria.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on the role of community participation and sustainable tourism in Nigeria, emphasising how local involvement and responsible practices are essential for long-term success in ecotourism. We began by defining community participation, exploring its importance, and examining different models of involvement. We then moved on to sustainable tourism practices, considering key principles, examples of initiatives in Nigeria, and the roles played by government and NGOs. Finally, we analysed case studies of community-based projects, discussed the challenges they face, and highlighted prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in the country.



By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define and explain community participation, describe models of involvement, and analyse its benefits for conservation and livelihoods. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you can identify principles of sustainable tourism, discuss practical initiatives, evaluate the role of stakeholders, and examine case studies that illustrate both challenges and future opportunities. This knowledge equips you to critically assess how community participation and sustainability can shape the future of tourism in Nigeria.

Glossary of Terms

- **Community participation:** The active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism and tourism initiatives.
- **Eco-lodge:** Environmentally friendly accommodation designed to minimise ecological impact while supporting local communities.
- **Government agencies:** Official bodies responsible for creating policies, providing infrastructure, and regulating tourism activities.
- **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):** Independent organisations that support sustainable tourism through awareness campaigns, technical expertise, and community projects.
- **Partnership model:** A form of community involvement where responsibilities are shared between communities, government, or private organisations.
- **Ownership model:** A form of community involvement where communities manage tourism projects independently.
- **Indirect involvement model:** A form of community involvement where communities participate through employment or small businesses that support tourism.
- **Sustainable tourism:** Tourism activities that meet present needs while protecting and enhancing opportunities for future generations, ensuring environmental, cultural, and economic balance.

Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

1. Multiple choice: Which of the following best defines community participation in ecotourism?
 - a) Exclusive involvement of government agencies
 - b) Active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism initiatives
 - c) Tourism activities managed only by private investors
 - d) International organisations controlling tourism projects*(Linked to SLO 4.1)*
2. True or False: Eco-lodges are designed to minimise ecological impact while supporting local communities.
(Linked to SLO 4.4)



3. Multiple choice: Which of these is a role of NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism?
- a) Establishing national policies
 - b) Raising awareness and supporting community projects
 - c) Building roads and airports
 - d) Regulating tourism businesses
- (Linked to SLO 4.6)*

Short-Answer Questions

4. Define sustainable tourism in one sentence.
(Linked to SLO 4.4)
5. List three models of community involvement in tourism.
(Linked to SLO 4.2)
6. Give one example of a sustainable tourism initiative in Nigeria.
(Linked to SLO 4.5)

Long-Answer Questions

7. Analyse the benefits of community participation for conservation and livelihoods, using examples from Nigeria.
(Linked to SLO 4.3)
8. Evaluate the challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism in Nigeria and suggest possible solutions.
(Linked to SLO 4.8)
9. Examine one Nigerian community-based tourism project as a case study, describing its features, challenges, and prospects.
(Linked to SLO 4.7, SLO 4.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- 1. b) Active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from ecotourism initiatives
- 2. True
- 3. b) Raising awareness and supporting community projects

Short-Answer Questions

4. Sustainable tourism refers to tourism activities that meet present needs while protecting opportunities for future generations.
5. Partnership, ownership, and indirect involvement.
6. Eco-lodges at Obudu Mountain Resort.

Long-Answer Questions



7. **Basic response:** Community participation supports conservation by encouraging locals to protect natural resources and creates livelihoods through guiding, hospitality, and craft production.

Value-added response: Learners may add that participation also fosters cultural pride, reduces dependence on unsustainable practices, and strengthens social cohesion, with examples such as Cross River National Park initiatives.

8. **Basic response:** Challenges include inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, and policy gaps. Solutions involve improved policies, investment in facilities, and awareness campaigns.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may suggest integrating technology for monitoring, fostering international partnerships, and developing sustainable financing models to address long-term challenges.

9. **Basic response:** Cross River State projects involve community guiding and craft production, but face challenges such as limited funding and infrastructure.

Value-added response: Learners may expand by discussing how international collaborations, eco-festivals, and stronger government support could enhance prospects for sustainable tourism.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Pilot questions 4.1

1. Community participation in ecotourism is the active involvement of local people in planning, managing, and benefiting from tourism initiatives.
2. It is important because it ensures conservation efforts are effective, tourism activities are culturally respectful, and benefits are equitably shared.
3. Partnership, ownership, and indirect involvement.
4. A community-run eco-lodge.
5. It creates opportunities for income generation such as guiding, hospitality, and craft production.

Pilot questions 4.2

1. Sustainable tourism refers to tourism activities that meet present needs while protecting opportunities for future generations.
2. Minimising environmental impacts, respecting cultural heritage, and ensuring fair economic distribution.
3. Community-based projects in Cross River State.
4. Eco-lodges provide environmentally friendly accommodation that reduces ecological impact.
5. NGOs promote sustainable tourism by raising awareness and supporting community projects.

Pilot questions 4.3



1. Cross River National Park community projects.
2. Inadequate infrastructure and limited funding.
3. Improved policies can strengthen sustainable tourism by regulating activities and encouraging community participation.
4. Biodiversity attracts tourists and supports conservation, making it a key resource for tourism prospects.
5. International partnerships that provide technical expertise and funding support.

References and Attributions

- Course document: *HTM 307: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management* (internal course material).
- Odunlami, S. (2019). *Principles of Ecology and Environmental Management*. Lagos: University Press.
- Nigeria National Parks Service. (2020). *Guide to Nigerian National Parks*. Abuja: Government Publication.
- World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). (2018). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid: UNWTO.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2016). *Protected Areas Categories*. Gland: IUCN.

Illustration Placeholders and Attributions

- **Figure 4.1 Importance of community participation in ecotourism**
 - AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing the importance of community participation in ecotourism, linking conservation, cultural respect, and shared benefits.”
 - Search string: “importance of community participation ecotourism diagram OER”
- **Table 4.1 Models of community involvement in tourism**
 - AI prompt: “Create a table showing models of community involvement in tourism, including partnership, ownership, and indirect involvement.”
 - Search string: “models of community involvement tourism OER table”
- **Plate 4.1 Community members engaging in cultural ecotourism activities**
 - AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of community members working with tourists in a cultural ecotourism project.”
 - Search string: “community participation ecotourism Nigeria OER image”
- **Figure 4.2 Principles of sustainable tourism**
 - AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing principles of sustainable tourism, including environmental protection, cultural respect, and fair economic distribution.”
 - Search string: “principles of sustainable tourism diagram OER”
- **Plate 4.2 Eco-lodge accommodation at Obudu Mountain Resort**
 - AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of eco-lodge accommodation at Obudu Mountain Resort in Nigeria.”
 - Search string: “eco-lodge Obudu Mountain Resort Nigeria OER image”
- **Box 4.1 Roles of government and NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism**



- AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising the roles of government and NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism in Nigeria.”
- Search string: “role of government NGOs sustainable tourism Nigeria OER summary”
- **Table 4.2 Case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria**
 - AI prompt: “Create a table summarising case studies of community-based tourism projects in Nigeria, including Cross River State and Yankari Game Reserve.”
 - Search string: “community-based tourism projects Nigeria OER case studies”
- **Box 4.2 Challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism in Nigeria**
 - AI prompt: “Create a text box listing challenges facing community participation and sustainable tourism in Nigeria, such as inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, lack of awareness, and policy gaps.”
 - Search string: “challenges community participation sustainable tourism Nigeria OER summary”
- **Figure 4.3 Prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria**
 - AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing prospects for strengthening sustainable tourism in Nigeria, including biodiversity, cultural heritage, infrastructure, community involvement, and international partnerships.”
 - Search string: “prospects sustainable tourism Nigeria diagram OER”

Course Title: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management

Course Code: HTM 307

Course Units: 2 Units

- **Foundations of Ecotourism and Ecology**
- **Protected Areas: Types, Objectives, and Management**
- **Historical Development and Benefits of Ecotourism**
- **Community Participation and Sustainable Tourism in Nigeria**
- **Ethics, Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges**

Suggested Outline for Series 5: Ethics , Conservation, and Contemporary Environmental Challenges

Part 1 Ethical principles in ecotourism

5.1.1 Definition of ethics in tourism

5.1.2 Importance of ethical behaviour in ecotourism



5.1.3 Examples of ethical dilemmas in tourism practice

Part 2 Conservation strategies and practices

5.2.1 Role of conservation in ecotourism

5.2.2 Community-based conservation approaches

5.2.3 Government and NGO-led conservation initiatives

Part 3 Contemporary environmental challenges in Nigeria

5.3.1 Climate change impacts on tourism and conservation

5.3.2 Deforestation and habitat loss

5.3.3 Pollution and waste management issues

5.3.4 Prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined how community participation and sustainable tourism practices shape ecotourism in Nigeria. Building on that, this Series turns our attention to the ethical foundations of ecotourism, the role of conservation, and the pressing environmental challenges that affect tourism and natural resource management today. These issues are critical because they determine whether ecotourism can truly deliver long-term benefits for people and the environment.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the knowledge and skills to apply ethical principles, evaluate conservation strategies, and critically assess contemporary environmental challenges in Nigeria. By the end of this Series, you will be able to connect ethical behaviour with conservation outcomes and explore how ecotourism can respond to global and local environmental pressures.

We shall commence this Series by exploring ethical principles in ecotourism, including their definition, importance, and examples of dilemmas faced in practice. Next, we will move on to conservation strategies and practices, focusing on community-based approaches as well as government and NGO-led initiatives. Finally, we will wrap up by examining contemporary environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution, and we will consider prospects for addressing these issues through ecotourism.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 5.1 define ethics in tourism and explain its importance in ecotourism practice.

SLO 5.2 identify examples of ethical dilemmas that may arise in tourism activities.

SLO 5.3 analyse the role of conservation in ecotourism.

SLO 5.4 describe community-based conservation approaches.

SLO 5.5 evaluate government and NGO-led conservation initiatives.

SLO 5.6 examine the impacts of climate change on tourism and conservation in Nigeria.



SLO 5.7 discuss the effects of deforestation and habitat loss on ecotourism.

SLO 5.8 assess pollution and waste management issues as contemporary environmental challenges.

SLO 5.9 appraise prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism.

5.1 Ethical Principles in Ecotourism

5.1.1 Definition of ethics in tourism

Ethics in tourism refers to the principles and standards that guide behaviour in tourism activities, ensuring respect for people, cultures, and the environment. In ecotourism, ethics are particularly important because they influence how tourists, communities, and organisations interact with natural and cultural resources. Ethical practices help prevent exploitation, promote fairness, and support sustainability.

Fill in the blank: _____ in tourism refers to the principles and standards that guide behaviour in tourism activities.

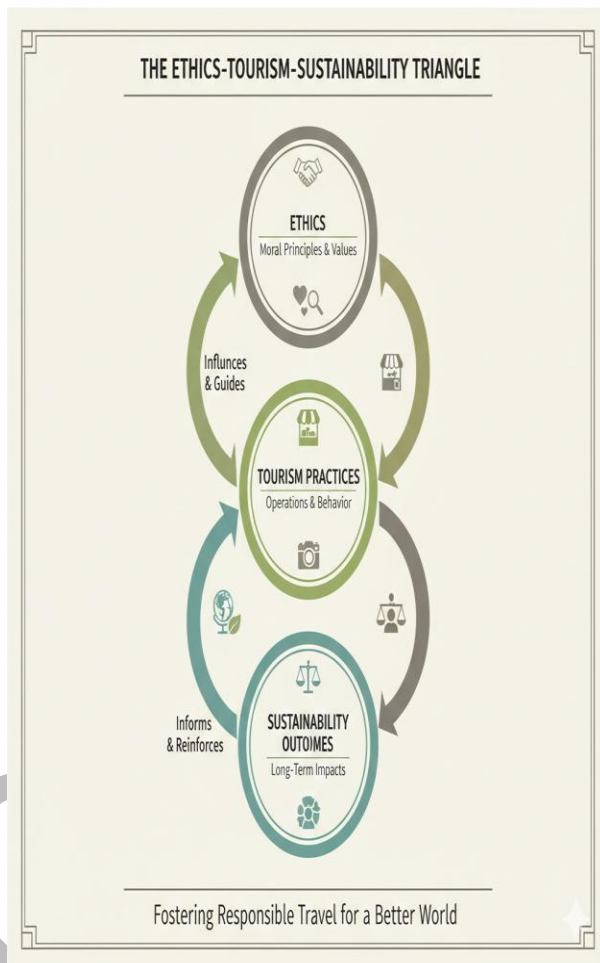


Diagram showing the relationship between ethics, tourism practices, and sustainability outcomes

Caption: Figure 5.1 Ethics in tourism and sustainability outcomes

Search string: "ethics in tourism sustainability diagram OER"



5.1.2 Importance of ethical behaviour in ecotourism

Ethical behaviour in ecotourism ensures that tourism activities respect local communities, protect the environment, and provide fair benefits. For example, respecting cultural traditions prevents the loss of heritage, while protecting wildlife reduces harm to biodiversity. Ethical behaviour also builds trust between tourists and host communities, making tourism experiences more meaningful and sustainable.

Fill in the blank: Ethical behaviour in ecotourism ensures that tourism activities respect local _____, protect the environment, and provide fair benefits.



Image of tourists engaging respectfully with a local community during an ecotourism activity

Caption: Plate 5.1 Tourists practising ethical behaviour in ecotourism

Search string: “ethical behaviour ecotourism Nigeria OER image”

5.1.3 Examples of ethical dilemmas in tourism practice

An **ethical dilemma** occurs when individuals or organisations face conflicting choices about what is right or wrong in tourism activities. For instance, a tour operator may struggle between maximising profits and ensuring fair wages for local guides. Another dilemma could involve balancing tourist demand for wildlife encounters with the need to protect animals from stress or harm. These examples show that ethical decision-making is not always straightforward but requires careful consideration of impacts on people and the environment.

Fill in the blank: An _____ dilemma occurs when individuals or organisations face conflicting choices about what is right or wrong in tourism activities.



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN ECO-TURISM		
Based on 2025–2026 Industry Analysis		
THE DILEMMA	THE CONFLICT	THE QUESTION
Fair Wages vs. Competitive Pricing	To keep tours affordable, operators may pay "local rates" which are below a living wage.	Is it ethical to profit from community's low cost of living while marketing "social responsibility"?
Wildlife Encounters vs Natural Behavior	Tourists pay to see rare animals closely, but human proximity stresses and alters animal survival instincts.	Should an operator prioritize the "once-in-lifetime" photo or the long health of the species?
Cultural Preservation vs Modernization	Communities may be encouraged to remain "traditional" for tourism, even despite modern technology and amenities.	Is ecotourism "freezing" cultures in the past to satisfy the Western tourist's desire of "authenticity"?
Resource Allocation	Tourism infrastructure often prioritizes guest areas over local residential zones (e.g., water, waste, fuel).	Is it ethical for a resort to have lush gardens or pools during local drought?
Land Rights vs. Conservation	Creating a protected "Eco-Park" often involves restricting local people's access to land for use for hunting or farming.	Does a protection of biodiversity justify the displacement of indigenous livelihoods?
Key Takeaway: Ethical ecotourism requires a "People-First" approach. If a local community feels exploited or "on display," the project will eventually fail due to a lack of local support and resentment.		
Fostering Responsible Travel for a Better World		

Box 5.1 Examples of ethical dilemmas in ecotourism
 Paying fair wages versus maximising profits
 Allowing close wildlife encounters versus protecting animal welfare
 Preserving cultural traditions versus commercialising them for tourism

Search string: "ethical dilemmas ecotourism OER examples"

Pilot questions 5.1

- Define ethics in tourism.
- Why is ethical behaviour important in ecotourism?
- Give one example of an ethical dilemma in tourism practice.
- How does ethical behaviour build trust between tourists and host communities?
- Explain one way ethical practices support sustainability in ecotourism.

5.2 Conservation Strategies and Practices

5.2.1 Role of conservation in ecotourism

Conservation refers to the protection and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems. In ecotourism, conservation plays a central role because tourism depends on healthy environments and thriving wildlife. By conserving forests, rivers, and cultural sites, ecotourism ensures that these resources remain available for future generations while also providing opportunities for education and recreation.



Fill in the blank: _____ refers to the protection and sustainable management of natural



resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

Diagram showing the link between conservation, ecotourism, and sustainability outcomes

Caption: Figure 5.2 Role of conservation in ecotourism

Search string: "role of conservation in ecotourism diagram OER"

5.2.2 Community-based conservation approaches

Community-based conservation involves local people taking responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources. This approach is effective because communities often have traditional knowledge and a direct interest in preserving their environment. Examples include community forest management, wildlife monitoring, and eco-friendly farming practices. When communities benefit economically from conservation, they are more motivated to protect resources.

Fill in the blank: _____-based conservation involves local people taking responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources.





Image of community members participating in forest conservation activities

Caption: Plate 5.2 Community members engaged in conservation practices

Search string: “community-based conservation Nigeria OER image”

5.2.3 Government and NGO-led conservation initiatives

Governments and **non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** play a vital role in conservation. Governments establish protected areas, enforce laws, and provide infrastructure to support ecotourism. NGOs contribute by raising awareness, funding projects, and offering technical expertise. Together, these efforts strengthen conservation outcomes and ensure that ecotourism projects are sustainable.

Fill in the blank: NGOs contribute to conservation by raising _____, funding projects, and offering technical expertise.





Box 5.2 Roles of government and NGOs in conservation

Government: Establish protected areas, enforce laws, provide infrastructure

NGOs: Raise awareness, fund projects, provide technical expertise

Search string: “roles of government NGOs conservation Nigeria OER summary”

Pilot questions 5.2

Define conservation in the context of ecotourism.

Why is conservation important for ecotourism projects?

What is community-based conservation?

Give one example of a community-based conservation activity.

Explain one role of NGOs in conservation initiatives.

5.3 Contemporary Environmental Challenges in Nigeria

5.3.1 Climate change impacts on tourism and conservation



Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperature, rainfall, and weather patterns caused largely by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation. In Nigeria, climate change affects ecotourism by altering ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events. For example, rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall can damage natural attractions, while floods and droughts disrupt tourism activities and threaten conservation efforts.

Fill in the blank: _____ change refers to long-term shifts in temperature, rainfall, and weather patterns caused largely by human activities.

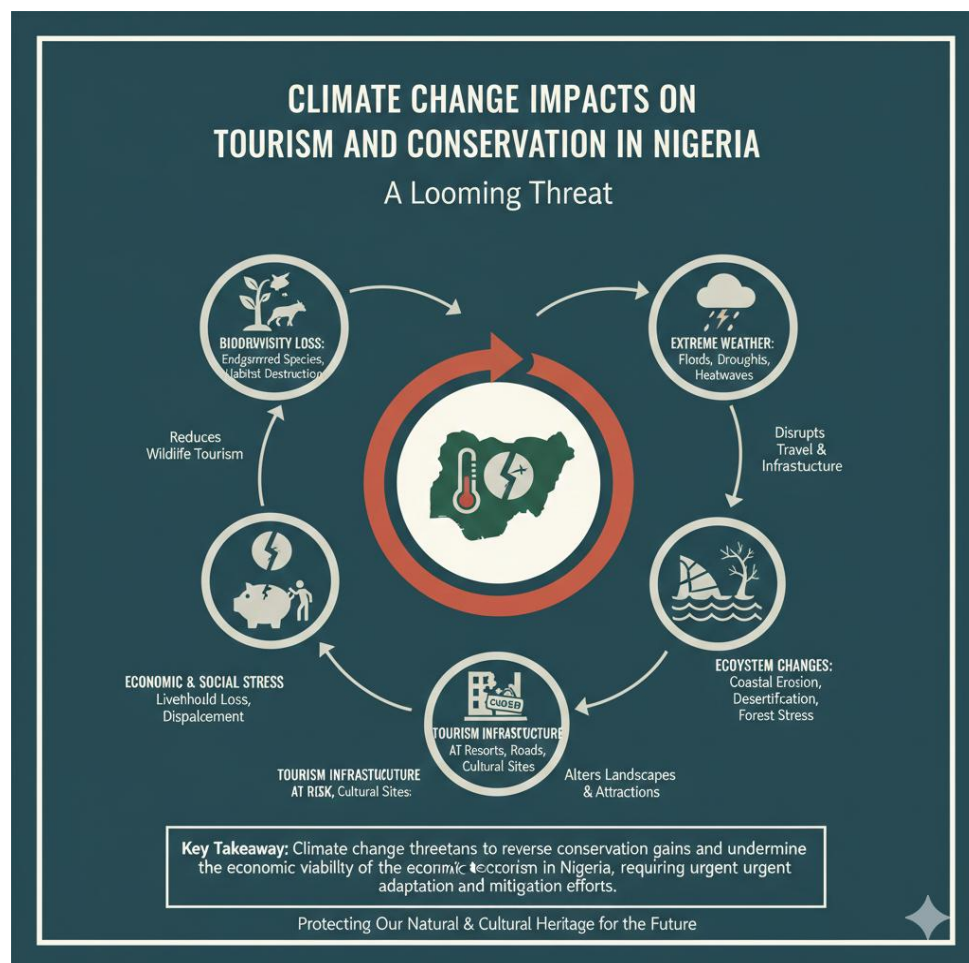


Diagram showing climate change impacts on tourism and conservation in Nigeria

Caption: Figure 5.3 Climate change impacts on tourism and conservation

Search string: “climate change impacts tourism conservation Nigeria OER diagram”

5.3.2 Deforestation and habitat loss

Deforestation is the large-scale removal of forests, often for agriculture, logging, or urban development. It leads to **habitat loss**, which reduces biodiversity and threatens species that attract tourists. In Nigeria, deforestation in areas such as the Niger Delta and Cross River forests has reduced opportunities for ecotourism and weakened conservation efforts. Protecting forests is therefore essential for sustaining ecotourism and preserving cultural and ecological heritage.



Fill in the blank: _____ is the large-scale removal of forests, often for agriculture, logging, or urban development.



Image of deforested land in Nigeria showing habitat loss

Caption: Plate 5.3 Deforestation and habitat loss in Nigeria

Search string: “deforestation habitat loss Nigeria OER image”

5.3.3 Pollution and waste management issues

Pollution refers to the contamination of air, water, and land by harmful substances, while **waste management** involves the collection, treatment, and disposal of waste materials. In Nigeria, poor waste management practices and pollution from industries and urban centres affect ecotourism by degrading natural attractions and reducing visitor satisfaction. For example, polluted rivers or littered tourist sites discourage visitors and harm wildlife. Addressing these issues is vital for maintaining the appeal and sustainability of ecotourism destinations.

Fill in the blank: _____ refers to the contamination of air, water, and land by harmful substances.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION & WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA'S ECOTOURISM: A Threat to Sustainable Tourism

Based on 2026 Industry Analysis

 Issue	 Specific Challenge	 Impact on Ecotourism
 INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION	Effluents in Onyi & Otamiri Rivers, oil spills	Contaminated water, health risks, destroys aquatic life
 POOR WASTE DISPOSAL	Refuse at Lagos beaches, Calabar Carnival waste	Ruins pristine image, flooding, disease vectors
 AIR POLLUTION	Soot in Rivers State, open burning, traffic	Reduced visibility, respiratory illness, visitor satisfaction

Key Takeaway
Pollution creates a feedback loop, driving away high-value eco-tourists. Major sites struggle with cleanup costs exceeding revenue.

Preserving Our Natural Assets
for a Greener Future

Box 5.3 Pollution and waste management issues affecting ecotourism in Nigeria

Industrial pollution contaminating rivers

Poor waste disposal at tourist sites

Air pollution reducing visitor satisfaction

Search string: "pollution waste management ecotourism Nigeria OER summary"

5.3.4 Prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism

Despite these challenges, ecotourism offers strong **prospects** for addressing environmental issues in Nigeria. By promoting conservation, raising awareness, and generating income for communities, ecotourism can reduce pressures on ecosystems. For instance, eco-friendly practices such as recycling, renewable energy use, and sustainable farming can be integrated into tourism projects. International partnerships and government policies also provide opportunities to strengthen responses to environmental challenges.

Fill in the blank: Ecotourism offers strong _____ for addressing environmental issues in Nigeria by promoting conservation and raising awareness.





Diagram showing prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism
Caption: Figure 5.4 Prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism
Search string: “prospects ecotourism addressing environmental challenges Nigeria OER diagram”

Pilot questions 5.3

Define climate change in one sentence.

Explain one way climate change affects ecotourism in Nigeria.

What is deforestation, and why is it a challenge for ecotourism?

Give one example of pollution that affects tourism activities.

Suggest one eco-friendly practice that can help address environmental challenges through ecotourism.

Series Summary

This Series has examined the ethical foundations of ecotourism, the role of conservation strategies, and the contemporary environmental challenges facing Nigeria. We began by defining ethics in tourism, highlighting the importance of ethical behaviour, and considering examples of dilemmas that arise in practice. We then moved on to conservation strategies, focusing on community-based approaches as well as government and NGO-led initiatives. Finally, we explored pressing environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution, and concluded with prospects for addressing these issues through ecotourism.



By engaging with these topics, you should now be able to define ethics in tourism, identify ethical dilemmas, and analyse the role of conservation in ecotourism. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you can describe community-based conservation approaches, evaluate government and NGO initiatives, and examine the impacts of climate change, deforestation, and pollution. You should also be able to assess prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism. This knowledge equips you to critically connect ethical principles, conservation practices, and environmental realities in shaping sustainable tourism in Nigeria.

Glossary of Terms

Climate change: Long-term shifts in temperature, rainfall, and weather patterns, largely caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation.

Community-based conservation: An approach where local people take responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources, often using traditional knowledge and benefiting directly from conservation outcomes.

Conservation: The protection and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems to ensure their availability for future generations.

Deforestation: The large-scale removal of forests, often for agriculture, logging, or urban development, which leads to habitat loss and reduced biodiversity.

Ethical dilemma: A situation in tourism where individuals or organisations face conflicting choices about what is right or wrong, such as balancing profit with fair wages or wildlife protection.

Ethics: Principles and standards that guide behaviour in tourism activities, ensuring respect for people, cultures, and the environment.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs): Independent organisations that support conservation and sustainable tourism through awareness campaigns, funding, and technical expertise.

Pollution: The contamination of air, water, or land by harmful substances, often resulting from industrial, agricultural, or urban activities.

Sustainable tourism: Tourism activities that meet present needs while protecting and enhancing opportunities for future generations, ensuring environmental, cultural, and economic balance.

Waste management: The collection, treatment, and disposal of waste materials to reduce environmental harm and maintain clean, attractive tourism destinations.

Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

Multiple choice: Which of the following best defines ethics in tourism?

- a) Profit maximisation in tourism businesses
- b) Principles and standards guiding behaviour in tourism activities
- c) Government regulations on tourism operations
- d) Tourist preferences for destinations

(Linked to SLO 5.1)



True or False: Community-based conservation involves local people taking responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources.

(Linked to SLO 5.4)

Multiple choice: Which of these is a major impact of deforestation on ecotourism?

- a) Increased biodiversity
- b) Habitat loss and reduced species attraction
- c) Improved tourist infrastructure
- d) Enhanced cultural preservation

(Linked to SLO 5.7)

Short-Answer Questions

Define an ethical dilemma in tourism.

(Linked to SLO 5.2)

Describe one role of NGOs in conservation initiatives.

(Linked to SLO 5.5)

Give one example of pollution that affects tourism activities in Nigeria.

(Linked to SLO 5.8)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the importance of ethical behaviour in ecotourism, providing examples of how it supports sustainability.

(Linked to SLO 5.1)

Evaluate the effectiveness of community-based conservation approaches in Nigeria.

(Linked to SLO 5.4)

Assess the prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism in Nigeria.

(Linked to SLO 5.9)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective Questions

- b) Principles and standards guiding behaviour in tourism activities

True

- b) Habitat loss and reduced species attraction

Short-Answer Questions

An ethical dilemma in tourism is a situation where individuals or organisations face conflicting choices about what is right or wrong, such as balancing profit with fair wages or wildlife protection.

NGOs raise awareness, fund projects, and provide technical expertise to support conservation initiatives.

Industrial pollution contaminating rivers is one example of pollution that affects tourism activities in Nigeria.



Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Ethical behaviour ensures respect for local communities, protects the environment, and provides fair benefits, supporting sustainability in ecotourism.

Value-added response: Learners may add that ethical practices build trust between tourists and host communities, prevent exploitation, and encourage cultural preservation, with examples such as fair wages for guides and responsible wildlife encounters.

Basic response: Community-based conservation is effective because it empowers locals to protect resources and provides economic benefits, motivating them to sustain conservation.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may highlight specific Nigerian examples, such as community forest management in Cross River State, and discuss challenges like limited funding and policy support, while suggesting ways to strengthen these approaches.

Basic response: Ecotourism can address environmental challenges by promoting conservation, raising awareness, and integrating eco-friendly practices.

Value-added response: Learners may expand by suggesting international partnerships, government policy reforms, and the use of technology for monitoring and sustainable resource management as ways to enhance prospects.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Pilot questions 5.1

Ethics in tourism are the principles and standards that guide behaviour in tourism activities. Ethical behaviour is important because it ensures respect for local communities, protects the environment, and provides fair benefits.

One example of an ethical dilemma in tourism practice is balancing profit maximisation with paying fair wages to local guides.

Ethical behaviour builds trust between tourists and host communities by promoting fairness and respect.

Ethical practices support sustainability by preventing exploitation and encouraging conservation of cultural and natural resources.

Pilot questions 5.2

Conservation in ecotourism is the protection and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

Conservation is important because ecotourism depends on healthy environments and thriving wildlife.

Community-based conservation is when local people take responsibility for protecting and managing natural resources.

An example of a community-based conservation activity is community forest management.

NGOs play a role in conservation by raising awareness, funding projects, and providing technical expertise.

Pilot questions 5.3



Climate change is long-term shifts in temperature, rainfall, and weather patterns caused largely by human activities.

Climate change affects ecotourism in Nigeria by altering ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, and increasing extreme weather events.

Deforestation is the large-scale removal of forests, which is a challenge for ecotourism because it leads to habitat loss and reduced biodiversity.

One example of pollution affecting tourism is industrial pollution contaminating rivers.

An eco-friendly practice that can help address environmental challenges through ecotourism is recycling and waste reduction at tourist sites.

References and Attributions [Series 5]

Course document: *HTM 307: Ecotourism and Protected Area Management* (internal course material).

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Nigeria National Parks Service. (2020). *Guide to Nigerian National Parks*. Abuja: Government Publication.

World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). (2018). *Sustainable Tourism for Development*. Madrid: UNWTO.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (2016). *Protected Areas Categories*. Gland: IUCN.

Illustration Placeholders and Attributions

Figure 5.1 Ethics in tourism and sustainability outcomes

AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing the relationship between ethics, tourism practices, and sustainability outcomes.”

Search string: “ethics in tourism sustainability diagram OER”

Plate 5.1 Tourists practising ethical behaviour in ecotourism

AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of tourists engaging respectfully with a local community during an ecotourism activity.”

Search string: “ethical behaviour ecotourism Nigeria OER image”

Box 5.1 Examples of ethical dilemmas in ecotourism

AI prompt: “Create a text box listing examples of ethical dilemmas in ecotourism, such as fair wages, wildlife encounters, and cultural preservation.”

Search string: “ethical dilemmas ecotourism OER examples”

Figure 5.2 Role of conservation in ecotourism

AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing the link between conservation, ecotourism, and sustainability outcomes.”

Search string: “role of conservation in ecotourism diagram OER”

Plate 5.2 Community members engaged in conservation practices

AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of community members participating in forest conservation activities.”

Search string: “community-based conservation Nigeria OER image”

Box 5.2 Roles of government and NGOs in conservation



AI prompt: “Create a text box summarising the roles of government and NGOs in conservation.”

Search string: “roles of government NGOs conservation Nigeria OER summary”

Figure 5.3 Climate change impacts on tourism and conservation

AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing climate change impacts on tourism and conservation in Nigeria, including biodiversity loss, extreme weather, and ecosystem changes.”

Search string: “climate change impacts tourism conservation Nigeria OER diagram”

Plate 5.3 Deforestation and habitat loss in Nigeria

AI prompt: “Generate a realistic image of deforested land in Nigeria showing habitat loss and environmental degradation.”

Search string: “deforestation habitat loss Nigeria OER image”

Box 5.3 Pollution and waste management issues affecting ecotourism in Nigeria

AI prompt: “Create a text box listing pollution and waste management issues affecting ecotourism in Nigeria.”

Search string: “pollution waste management ecotourism Nigeria OER summary”

Figure 5.4 Prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism

AI prompt: “Generate a labelled diagram showing prospects for addressing environmental challenges through ecotourism, including conservation, awareness, community benefits, and eco-friendly practices.”

Search string: “prospects ecotourism addressing environmental challenges Nigeria OER diagram”

