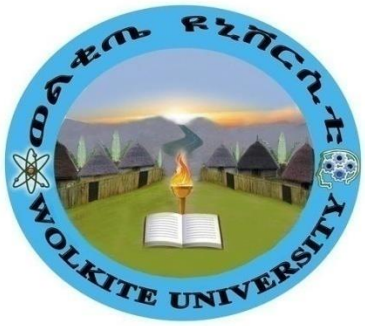


WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURA AND NATURAL RESOURCE

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

Opportunities and Challenges of Community Based Ecotourism Development the Case of Menz Guassa Conservation Area.

Senior research project Submitted to Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism management, College of Agricultural and Natural Resource, Wolkite University for the Partial Fulfillment of the Completion of BSc Degree in Wildlife and Ecotourism Management.

BY

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Wolkite, Ethiopia

Declaration

I hereby declare that thesis entitled **" Opportunities and Challenges for community based ecotourism development in case of Menz -Guassa conservation area"** submitted to department of Wildlife and Ecotourism Management, College of Agriculture and Natural Recourse management , Wolkite University in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of science in Wildlife and Ecotourism management is a record of the original report work done by me and it has not formed before, the basis for the award of any degree/diploma.

Acknowledgement

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Acronyms

CBE- Community based ecotourism

CSA- Central statistics of agency

ETO- Ethiopian tourism organization

FZS-Frankfurt Zoological Society

GCCA- Guassa community conservation area

IUCN- International union for the conservation of natural

MGCCA-Menz Guassa community conservation area

NGO- Nongovernmental organization

UNEP-United nation environmental program

WWF-World wild life fund

WTO- World tourism organization

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to assess opportunity and challenges of community based ecotourism development in Menz Guassa conservation areas. The researcher used questionnaires furthermore the researcher Used 90 sample to collect data from local communities, culture and tourism office and tour guide. The researcher also used both accidental and random sampling techniques. The researcher was used descriptive research method of analysis Most of respondents (83.3%) were using resource from the conservation area of Guassa; whereas the remaining (16.6%) were not benefited from conservation. The respondents were mentioned the purpose they have used such as gathering woods of fire, grazing of land and cutting of Guassa grass from the Guassa conservation area. Respondents were mentioned conservation challenge of an area such as lack of infrastructural facility, lack of awareness and agricultural expansion. Governmental and non- governmental parties should concern on the updating of the local community knowledge and level of understanding about the conservation area and ecotourism development.

Key words: *- Challenge, Opportunity, Ecotourism development, Menz*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Back ground of the study

The concept of ecotourism has evolved from wide spread and growing interests in the natural environment and corresponding recognition of the importance of conserving natural environmental quality. The term ecotourism appeared first in the 1980s. (Fennell, 2008). published definition of ecotourism which more comprehensively capture the dimension of sustainable development and community involvement, local benefits and conservation of the environment than earlier definition.

Traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with specific objective of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both post and present) found in these areas (Blamey, 200). The term "community- based ecotourism" is used to describe ecotourism ventures that are characterized by high environmental consideration, increased control and involvement of the local residents as well as significant benefits for host community (WWF, 2001). Community based ecotourism is tourism which focuses on travel to areas with natural attractions rather than, say urban areas which contributes to environmental conservation and local live hood enhancement.

In connection with those concepts of ecotourism, the fact that the area is attractive place for this purpose because the stability of the place there is almost no disturbance and the place are stable, very good for the availability of natural resources that includes different species of wild life and the endemic animals and plants. Menz Guassa community conservation area is magnificent Ethiopian high lands, the eastern arc mountain and southern rift, and Albertan rift constitute the three main massifs of the eastern afro mountain region, one of thirty-four global biodiversity hosts pots. The high lands are home to high levels of species eudemonism and important population of endangered and rare species such as the Ethiopian wolf, gelada baboon fandango. The region has also important water catchment area for the Nile and other important rivers drainage in to low land of Ethiopia.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Community based ecotourism developments are most of the times aimed to realize the betterment of livelihoods for the people suffered from different problems caused by shortage of

food, population pressure, marginality and decline in productivity of land. (Denman, 2001) states that in community based ecotourism, communities assume substantial control over and involvement in its development and management, and a major proportion of the benefits remain within the community. In line with this, it is increasingly being advanced as a strategy to help address economic and social problems in local communities and as an appropriate and effective tool of environmental conservation (Denman, 2001). The full and effective participation of local communities in the planning and management of eco-tourism is however; rarely the feature of eco-tourism projects and it has become increasingly debatable issue.

At best, eco-tourism projects tend to aim for the involvement of local people, and at worst Ecotourism projects can ignore the issue of local participation completely. Such projects frequently fail after relatively short period of time (Garrod, 2001). Moreover, many challenges still lie ahead in promoting community based ecotourism at start up and operational phase on the demand and supply side of tourism management. The challenges facing the tourism industry are complex and numerous.

Since, tourism sector is recently growing sector, most of the local community are not aware about the economic, social, cultural and environmental significance and some of the members of local community will not support the community based ecotourism projects. In addition, studies indicate that many communities based project have failed, usually because of lack of finance viability (Mitchell, 2008). Some researchers have done studies on community based ecotourism in different parts of Ethiopia. These researches have mainly focused on surveying potentials for community based eco-tourism development and values of eco-tourism for wild life conservation and economic development (Mitchell ,J.and Muckosy, 2008). However, studies to see the practical tasks carried out to develop community based eco-tourism, opportunities and challenges of community based eco-tourism development realized are remain un touched in case of Menz Guassa community conservation area.

In an attempt to bridge these gaps, the study focus on assessing the opportunities and challenges of community based eco- tourism development by taking Menz Guassa community conservation area as a study. Besides, in this area no study has been done on issue related to community based eco-tourism development but some researches done that is related to natural resource management in the area of Guassa.

1.4. Objectives

1.2.1. General Objectives

To assess the opportunities and challenges for community based ecotourism development in Menz Guassa community conservation area.

1.3.2. Specific Objective the Study

The specific objective of the study was

To assess opportunities for the development of community based ecotourism in Guassa community conservation area.

To assess challenges for the development of community-based ecotourism in Guassa community conservation area

To assess current condition of Guassa community conservation area

1.4. Research Questions

What are the opportunities for the development of community based ecotourism in Guassa community conservation area?

What are the Challenges for the development of community based- ecotourism in Guassa community conservation area?

What is the current condition of Menz Guassa community conservation area?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study was to assess the opportunities and challenges for developing community-based ecotourism in the Menz Guassa community conservation area. The findings of the study are vital for the sustainable benefit of the local community living in and around Guassa conservation area, for biodiversity conservation within the conservation area and for other stakeholders in the area. The paper also shows the importance of local people involvement in order to become advocates of conservation. In particular, the study has the following significances;

- Tourism and environmental Policy makers, conservation area managers, government bodies and other stake holders aware about the challenges facing tourism development isolating the local people.
- Shows policy gaps in protected areas which are unable to cope up with the new collaborative community-based tourism development perspectives.

- Motivates government, protected area and other tourism stakeholder to participate the community in management, decision making, policy and tourism planning and development.
- Decision makers at various hierarchical levels know about the importance of community involvement in addressing the adverse impacts on tourism and biodiversity conservation in protected areas.
- Inspires further studies in the area as a stepping-stone in different dimension and to extend further investigations in the future.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study was limited to Menz Guassa community conservation area and focus on opportunities and challenges of community based ecotourism development in yed, alfa mider and chare. Other Kebeles of the mahal meda district was excluded from the study due to time limitation, financial constraint and difficulties to collect and write data's in large.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Concepts and definition of ecotourism

Ecotourism is a frequently debated term. Sometimes it is used simply to identify a form of tourism where the motivation of visitors and the sales pitch to them, centers on the observation of nature. Increasingly, this general sector of the market is called "nature tourism" true ecotourism, however requires a proactive approach that seeks to mitigate the negative and enhance the positive impacts of nature tourism (WWF international, 2001). The most used definition today defines ecotourism as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well- being of local people". 'travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in the areas (Blamey, 2001).According to IUCN, (2004) and Ceballos-cascurain(1993) defines ecotourism as environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature that promote conservation, has low visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio- economic involvement of local populations.

2.2. Definition of community- based ecotourism

Community based ecotourism is a form of ecotourism where the local community has substantial control over and involvement in its development, management and a major proportion of the benefits remain within the community (Denman, 2001). The term community- based ecotourism takes the social dimension a stage further. Meaning community- based form of ecotourism takes the idea of participation much further (Duffy, 2002).Community- based ecotourism, defined by world conservation union as "environmentally, responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas and local communities in order to enjoy, study, appreciate nature and any accompanying cultural features- tangible and intangible heritage both past and present that promotes conservation, has low visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations"(IUCN, 1994).WWF guideline for community-based ecotourism further described community based ecotourism as "…ecotourism integrates conservation and rural development by helping to protect valuable natural areas, scenic land scopes, sensitive rural sites and cultural practice" (WWF, 2001).

2.3. Principles of Community- Based Ecotourism

According to Fennell (1999), community- based ecotourism should address six basic principles as; Ecotourism entails a type of uses that minimizes negative impacts to the environment and local people. Ecotourism increases the awareness and understanding of an area's natural and cultural systems and subsequent involvement of visitors in issues affecting those systems. Ecotourism contributes to the conservation and management of legally protected and other natural areas. Ecotourism maximizes the early and long term participation of local people in the decision – making process that determines the kind and amount of tourism that should occur. Ecotourism directs economic and other benefits to local people that complement rather than over whelm or replace traditional practice (farming, fishing, social systems) etc.

2.4. Challenges of community based ecotourism development

Developing community-based ecotourism is a complex and difficult undertaking. The effectiveness of using community- based ecotourism as a means for sustainable community development and conservation is still not a fail – safe method. Community based ecotourism projects hardly succeeds immediately and yield immediate profits in comparison with other projects, the level of success is varying depending on many factors known as challenges of community- based ecotourism development and those challenges must be identified prior to undertaking the development of an ecotourism operation addressing these challenges will require a high level coordination and cooperation to marshal resources more effectively (Weaver, 1998).

Government agencies can play a key role in fostering the right conditions for successful ecotourism sector. Thus, to increase the feasibility and longevity of projects, all plans should be liked with the overall socio-economic development of the community (weaver *et al* , 1996). Encouraging government interference can take the form of incentives (e.g. grants and low-interest loans), marketing and promotion or business counseling and training. Government agencies also create barriers through regulation, taxes, and bureaucratic red tape, or because of local of inter-agency cooperation and coordination (Weaver, 1998)

The other most common problem on community- based ecotourism development is lack of broad based policies (lack of sect oral integration) which integrate tourism in general and community based ecotourism in particular with other sector. Integration of national policies concerning rural development and ecotourism is often a challenge to the success of CBET (community- based

ecotourism in developing countries (Foucat, 2002). For example, while the Ethiopian government promoted sustainable development and poverty alleviation through tourism there was little offered support for ecotourism ventures (Biers, 2014). Due to the lack of government regulation, resulting in short- sighted management practices was identified as an obstacle to the success of ecotourism.

To ensure that products that are developed marketed as ecotourism are beneficial and not harmful to environments and community's legal frameworks like certification and CBET development guideline are crucial. The lack of regulation was considered to be the result of poor coordination between different government departments. Host community can create barriers to the ecotourism sector. Local traditions, availability and quality of social amentias and attitudes towards tourists are key factors in the success of ecotourism business (Mat hi eson, 1982). While local resistance to increased number of visitors and to tourism in general negatively affect opportunities for sought from tourism (Mathis on and wall, 1982).

The business Experience of the communities or owners affect the like hood of success of business in the ecotourism sector. Local communities often lack access to market information, knowledge of contracts and other business details and have limited experiences in engaging with tour operators. Community's should be involved and empowered, such that there is no ecotourism development where there is no desire for involvement in tourism. It is important for government s to ensure that communities are trained to administer joint ventures as without capacity building it is difficult to sustain an equitable approach to management (UNWTO-UNEP, 2002).

2.5. Opportunities of Community Based Ecotourism

According to (Drumm, 2005) the mere presence of a protected area alone is not enough for CBET development. That is, the development of CBET requires the presence of many features and conditions, such as physical features, cultural features, the level of local economic development, the collaboration of stake holders and the presence of suitable policy and legislation. In this section, the potentials and necessary conditions for the development of CBET are presented.

I) Presence of physical features

The land surface of the earth is composed of a variety of landforms which we can be broadly grouped into four categories: mountains (areas of elevated, rugged terrain), more gently sloping hill lands, elevated plateaus and lowland plains. Within each landform category there are features resulting from natural forces and variations in the underlying rock. Volcanoes, crater lakes and calderas, lava formations, geysers and hot springs, are geothermal features caused by disturbances from deep within the earth's' crust. Even in areas where volcanic activity ceased long ago, springs rich in minerals have in turn given rise to the type of health resort known as a spa. Another important group of features is found in karst limestone areas, where surface streams have 'disappeared' underground to carve out impressive caves, sinkholes and gorges (Brian, and cooper. (2005). Additionally inland water resources for tourism can be viewed as nodes (lakes, reservoirs), linear corridors (rivers, canals), or simply as landscape features. Where lakes are accessible to major cities they attract second home owners and a wide range of recreational activities which may not be compatible. Generally natural values are great opportunities for the development of CBET. These values are geographical position, microclimatic conditions, existence of water, natural beauties, existence of natural vegetation, existence of wildlife, surface features and geomorphologic structure (Gerry, 2001). These lection criteria of a particular site for community based ecotourism are the availability of unique scenery, cultural and historical values, and accessibility of the sites.

II) Presence of Cultural Feature

Tourists are interested in the differences between their country of origin and the peoples of the countries they visit, as expressed in terms of art and, music, traditional dance folklore and festivals, local food, architecture, pageants, traditional agricultural structure, local handicrafts, regional dress culture, historical events and people, heritage appeals, architectural variety, artistic activities and lifestyle generally. The existence of those varieties of cultural features become great opportunity for community based ecotourism development (Brain and cooper, 2005).

III) Level of Economic Development

According to (Stephen,2009).a society's level of economic development is a major determinant of the magnitude of tourist demand because the economy influences so many critical, and interrelated, factors. As a society moves towards a developed economy a number of important processes occur. The nature of employment changes from work in the primary sector (agriculture, fishing, forestry) to work in the secondary sector (manufacturing) and the tertiary sector (services such as tourism). As this process unfolds, an affluent society usually emerges and numbers of the economically active population increase. With progression to the drive to maturity, discretionary incomes increase and create demand for consumer goods and leisure pursuits such as tourism. Other developments parallel the changing nature of employment. The population is healthier and has time for recreation and tourism (including paid-holiday entitlement). Improving educational standards and greater access to media channels boost awareness of ecotourism opportunities, and transportation and mobility rise in line with these changes. Institutions respond to this increased demand by developing alternative tourism such as CBET, and arrange of leisure products and services (Stephen, 2009).

IV) Collaborations of Stakeholders

For CBET to be properly developed local and international stakeholder's dependent on government (particularly ministry of tourism and environment) to develop policy that will develop protect and manage natural areas (Wood, 2002). To deliver and sustain the CBET venture over the long term, communities can develop partnership and network with relevant organization to extend outreach and create supportive environment. Building positive relationship between CBET management teams and other tourism stakeholders build strong foundation for CBET. Identifying, developing, and managing positive relationships provide strong foundation for effective and sustainable CBET (Wood, 2002). CBET in many contexts requires engagement with private sectors. Appropriate relationship between community and private sector can benefit community managed incentives. Collaboration between community and tourism authority (including peak industries bodies) can provide benefit around branding and

positioning the CBET operation with the wider tourism market place. Regional community tourism hubs can be a great source of support CBET managers. This knowledge and networking center can assist by providing information, facilitating learning and connecting community with private operators, government agencies, and aid agencies (Samuel,1998).CBET in rural areas is typically dependent on tourism products that are natural resource based. Consequently additional agencies (government agriculture, parks, forestry, fisheries and mining departments and other organizations) may need to be involved in CBET assessment and planning phases. Build a good relationship with stakeholders from different is great opportunity for establishment of CBET (Samuel, 1998).

2.6 The Development and Expansion of CBET Enterprises

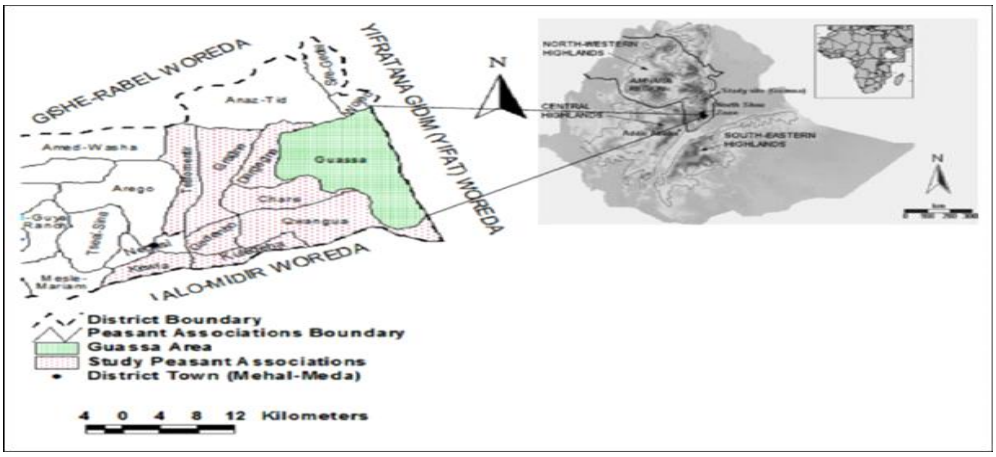
The success of communities in developing ecotourism depending factors such as local governance structure, inter-community relationships, attitudes and partnerships with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and tour operators. CBE enterprises often take the form of structured or loosely aligned cooperative in which members of the community hold active roles in providing with accommodations, transportation or guide services. When the financial benefit of tourist speeding are shared though out the community, whether by rotating the use of local houses or guides or by collecting a fee for the community, ecotourism is better received and eventually viewed as a valuable method for increasing the local quality of life (Fennell, 1999).

3. RESEARCH MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1. Description of the study area

3.1.1. Location

The study incorporates the Menz Guassa Community Conservation Area (MGCCA) of Menz-Gera Midir *district*, located in the central highlands of Ethiopia: North Shoa *Zone* of Amhara National Regional State. Menz is the popular name of the area and Gera Midir *district* is one of the district of North Shewa *Zones* of Amhara National Regional State. The capital of Menz Gera-Midir *district* is Mehal Meda which lies about 265 Km North East of the national capital Addis Ababa by road and 135 Km North of Debrebirhan; the capital of North Shoa Zone. MGCCA is occurs at 248Km before arrive to Mehal Meda. Astronomically it lies between 10˚ 15'-10˚ 27'N latitudes and 39˚45'–39˚ 49′E longitudes. The total area of Guassa is 78sq.Km. Its altitude ranges from 3200 m to3700 m above msl ((Biniyam Admassu and Zelalem Terefe, 2011)



3.1.2 Climate

The climate of Menz Guassa community conservation area varies with altitudes gradient and seasonal changes. At higher altitude, wet Season is characterized by a combination of high rainfall, frequent hail storms and occasional snow. But during dry season, frosts are common. Annual rain falls for Guassa averages1, 200mm to 1,600mm. There are sharp temperature fluctuations between night and day time. Generally, night times are colder than the day times (Woldemedihn, 2011; Hailu2010; Getachew; 2010).Temperature data for Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Areas was not available. Instead the temperature data recorded from the nearest meteorological station, Mehal-Meda, is used. The area is characterized by mild day temperatures and cold night temperatures. During the dry season (December to January), the

temperature would rise up to 21˚Cat day time, but it falls to -7˚C at night. In the wet season, at the day time temperature is 12˚C while a night temperature is 3˚C *(*Zelalem Tefera*, 2001).*

3.1.3 Flora

The Afro mountain vegetation varies with altitude and key attraction of the area. The high altitude afro alpine fistula grassland or Guassa grass gives its name but other habitats include euryops- alchemical shrub land Erica moor land. Common plants include *Cortex, Menistachia, cortexfishery, HydrocotyleMinnie and kniphofiafoliosa* moving upwards, europs- alchemical shrub land occurs over 3200m on flat gentles scope and well drained area. The shrub vegetation of Europe infolius (charanfe) is extensively used as fire wood by the communities living adjacent to the Menz- Guassa community conservation area (Biniyam *et al*,. 2011).

Above 3,200 meters, Europe-festival grassland is usually interspersed with scattered mima mounds that can reach a height of 1.5m and diameter of 5-10 m these mounds consists of highly organic and deep soil and is made by rodents, the most important of which is the common mole rat. As the altitude increases, the vegetation changes rather abruptly in to helichrysum- festuca grass land followed by Erica moor land. The torch lily or red hot poker *(kniphofiafoliosa)* covers entire hill sides with its flame colored flowers between June and November. The palm-like giant lobelia (*lobeliarhynchopetalum*) is most spectacular and reaches up to 12 m in height (Biniyam *et al*,. 2011).

3.1.4 Fauna

The Guassa area harbors nine (23%) of the endemic mammals of Ethiopia, Including the Ethiopia wolf *(CanisSiemens's),* gelada baboon (*theropithecusgelada)* and the Abyssinian hare (*lupus stack).* The Ethiopia wolf is legally protected and with a total world population of 500 individuals it is the most endangered cranial in the world. It is threatened predominately by habitat loss and disease transmission from domestic dogs with some 25 animal living in six packs (Biniyam *et al*, .2011).

The other large endemic mammals of notes are gelada. This is the only living member of the once wide spread genus therapy theca's and is only found in the high lands of northern Ethiopia. This species lives in large fission fusion bands, where the spectacular males guard harems of females. Other potential mammal's species to observe on the MGCCA plateau are the get duiker, klipspringer, spotted hyena, leopard, common jackal and servalcat. To date, 114 bird species

have been recorded in the MGCC, 12% of the 861 species of birder recorded for Ethiopia, these include the endemic spot breasted plover (vanillas malaocephalus) and the range restricted and globally endangered ankober serine (serious ankobernsis) (Biniyam *et al,* .2011).

The MGCCA is a raptor, watcher's paradises result of high density of rodents which are prey for raptors. Among those vultures, the golden eagle and the all urebuzzard are the common species. The augur buzzard has beautiful and white plumage and is more common in MGCCA plateau than anywhere else in the country (Biniyam *et al,* .2011).

3.1.5 Demography

According the central statistics agency (CSA), of Menz Gera district 2016, the population of Menz Gera administrative districts is 98,000. The population is predominantly Amhara, one of the largest cultural ethnic groups in the country. Their language is Amharic the official language of Ethiopia, which is Semitic language of Ethiopia descended from Ge'ez, the ancient liturgical language of Ethiopia now only used in the Ethiopia orthodox church to which most people's belong (Source, culture tourism office statistics from Menz Gera).

3.2 Research design

The researcher was used purposive sampling and simple random sampling method. Purposive sampling is a type of sampling method which helps to collect necessary data or information related to the study purposively. First two Kebele was select from these two Kebele. The households among these two Kebele the researcher was select 90 respondents purposively. Among them 70 local communities living in and around Menz Guassa community conservation area, 15 workers of tourism office and 5 domestic tourists which have enough knowledge and information about the potential resources for community based ecotourism conservation development in the study area. The selected respondent was give necessary information about potential resources for community based ecotourism development of the study area. The researcher was intending to use mixed approach type of research design, which means, the qualitative approach was used for interview and document analyzing, and the quantitative approach was used for analyzing the data that gathered through a questioner, interview, field observation and group discussion.

3.3 Source of data

The researcher was used both primary and secondary data sources to assess the Opportunities and challenges' of community based eco-tourism development. The primary data was collected from interviews with key informants, and questionnaires, while the secondary data was collected from both published and unpublished documents. Including book, journal, national report etc.

3.4 Target population of the study

The target populations for the study were Menz Gera culture and tourism office and local community, tourist and tour guides.

3.5 Sample size and sampling techniques

The researcher was used probability sampling techniques mainly simple random sampling to collect the necessary data from the local community. The researcher was used non - probability sampling technique, mainly purposive sampling for culture-tourism office and convenience sampling for tourists and guides. According to the central statistics agency (CSA) the total population of Menz Gera district is 98,000. Then,

To know the sample size taken from the local communities, the following formula was used. According the formula Israel $n = N/1+N (e)^{2}$.

n= sample size

N= total population

e= calculation error

1=constant number

$n= N/1+N (e^2)$

$n= \quad 98,000/1+98000(0.05)^2$

$n = 98,000/1+98000(0.0025)$

$n = 98,000/1+245$

$n = 98,000/246$

= 398

The target population of the study is local communities, tour guide and culture and tourism office is 398taken as a sample size to represent the entire population. To cover the sample size of n=398 to the time and financially limitation, the researcher was used 90 individual from the sample size of 398. From each kebele 30 respondents were selected, form them 14 respondents were elders, 10 respondents were village employees and 4 respondents were students and also 2 respondents from tourism and cultural office of district.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The study was used both qualitative and quantitative data analyzing method. The Qualitative data was analyzing through descriptive narrative methods. And, the quantitative data was analyzed through frequency, percentage and table.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1Respondents back ground

The demographic profile of the respondents is shown in table (1) bellows. The gender distribution of the respondents was quite comparable with 50(55.5%) are male respondents and 40(44.4%) are female respondents. According to the age category respondents were 18 to 30 years (20%) followed by 30 to 45 years (35.6%) There are respondents in the age group of 45 and above (44.4%).According to educational level category of local community respondent were elementary (22.2%),high school (42.2%), College (35.6%).According to the occupation indicates category were 15(16.7%) of the respondent are students.45(50%) are government employees and the remaining 30(33.3%) of the respondents are farmer. According to the tourist category respondent were 3(60%) of respondents' are male and 2(40%) of respondents are females. This indicates that male travelers in Menz Guassa Conservation areas are greater than females and males are involved in conducting of this study. According to the certification level of tour guide indicates that the only 1(50%) professional tour guide which provide guiding service, which have degree certification. But the other 1(50%) guide is local guide some times which provide information.

Table 1 demographic profile of respondent

Item	Alternative	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	50	55.5%
	Female	40	44.4%
	Total	90	100%
Age	18-30	18	20%
	31-45	32	35.6%
	46 and above	40	44.4%
	Total	90	100%
Educational	Elementary	20	22.2%

	High	38	42.2%
	College	32	35.6%
	Total	90	100%
Occupation	Student	15	16.7%
	Government employs	45	50%
	Farmer	30	33.3%
	Total	90	100%
Demographic profile Of tourist respondent	Male	3	60%
	Female	2	40%
	Total	5	100%
Certification level of Guiding service	Certificate	1	50%
	Diploma	_	_
	Degree	1	50%
	Master	_	_
	Total	2	100%

4.2. Benefits of communities from the conservation area of Guassa

The respondents mention the following for what purpose they have used. As shoes in figure (1) bellows indicates, 45.50% of respondents that have use from the Guassa conservation area for the purpose of grazing and 31.8% of respondents use fire wood from Guassa and 22.70% of them used for marketing. That is why because grazing, fire wood and Guassa grass for market are allowed for the local community to utilize properly.

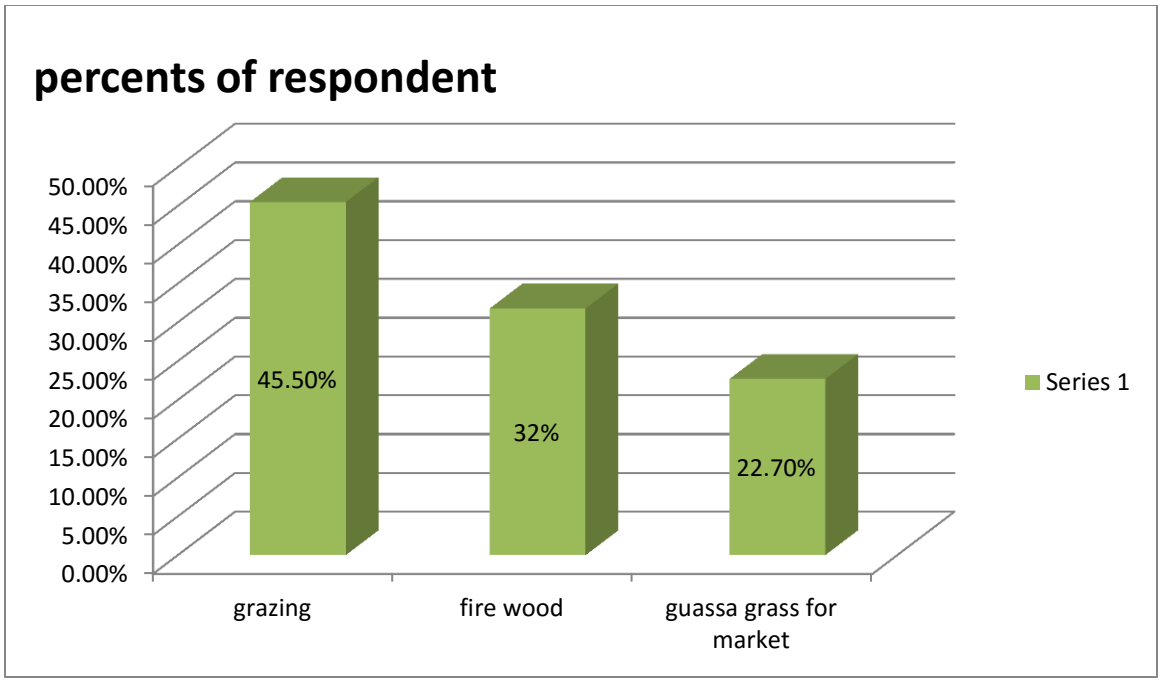


Figure 1.information about resource use of local community from Guassa for livelihood
Source own survey 2019

Most of the respondents (83.3%) explained that they were benefited from the MGCCA in one or another way. The benefit that the local peoples gain from the MGCCA were; Guassa grass for thatching and building and covering traditional house, livestock feed, for quachera (the wrapped grass that will use for binding traditional houses), for selling and know benefiting from eco-tourism activities like renting mule and preparing food for tourists. While the remaining (16.6%) were elucidated that they are not benefiting from MGCCA for different reasons like, low accessibility, the restriction especially starting from the coming EPDRF in to power, since the law doesn't allow the people to graze animals but just cutting the grass as much as they can. Some people also claim that during the previous time the society who lived in the Gera Midir *district* were benefiting by grazing and cutting but now since it is prohibited for tourism investment they can't enter and use it as usual.

Table 2 Benefits of communities from the conservation area of Guassa

Description	Option	Frequency	Percentage
Benefited from the Guassa conservation area of community.	Yes	75	83.3%
	No	15	16.6%
	total	90	100%

4.4Knowledge towards community based eco-tourism.

As shown in table (3) bellows that the respondent's response was more than 88.9% of them were not know what by mean community based eco-tourism and the rest more than 11.1% were know the meaning of community based eco-tourism. Among the respondents of the majority number have very low awareness?

Table 3 Knowledge towards community based eco-tourism.

Description	Option	Frequency	Percentage
Knowledge of local community towards community based ecotourism	yes	10	11.1%
	no	80	88.9%
	total	90	100%

4.5. The opportunities of community based eco- tourism development in the conservation area of Guassa.

As shown in table (4) bellows that 75(83.3%) of respondent's responded that participatory planning through providing local product and hand craft, tourist hospitality, connection with different NGOs for the tourist is an opportunity for developing eco- tourism in Menz Guassa conservation area. The remaining 15(16.7%) respondents are replied no. Generally, the above 83.3% of respondents replied yes, so participatory planning for the local community is an opportunity to develop the eco- tourism in the area. More than 16.7% of the respondents replied No, So that participatory planning has a great role in developing community based eco- tourism. On the other hand 80(88.9%) of respondents are agreed that. natural attraction is one opportunities for community based eco- tourism development. Whereas, the remaining 10(11.1%) of the respondents replied the natural attraction couldn't be opportunities. Generally, from the response of respondents one can be easily understand that most of respondents have given their opinion that natural attraction an opportunity is for the development of community based eco- tourism. As shown in table (4) below 80(88.9%) of the community were responded that the conscious of local community to conserve the natural resources. They are highly agreed with these ideas. The remaining 10(11.1%) of respondents responded No. As the below table indicates that 75(83.3%) of the respondents that agreed with endemic animals and plants were an opportunity of community based eco-tourism development. The remaining 15(16.7%) of respondents replied No. It is disagree with Irsael Petros study. According to his study there were diversity of potential ecotourism resource, presence of various conservation organization , local community enthusiasm for ecotourism, presence of ample labor force , existence higher education institution at nearby area ,existences of infrastructural advancement ,economic growth and development in woredas ,existence of local institution such as the Gada system , presence of ecotourism support polices at national and retinal level and existence of scientifically valuable areas in the woredas. In Dinsho and Goba Woredas (Israel Petros 2017)

Table4.The opportunities of community based eco- tourism development in the conservation area of Guassa.

Variable	Option	Number of frequency	Percentage
Participatory planning for the local community to develop Eco- tourism	Yes	75	83.3%
	No	15	16.7 %
	Total	90	100 %
Natural and scenic value (attraction)	Yes	80	88.9 %
	No	10	11.1 %
	Total	90	100 %
The conscious of local community to conserve the natural resource	Yes	80	88.9%
	No	10	11.1 %
	Total	90	100 %
Rare and endemic animals and plants	Yes	75	83.3 %
	No	15	16.7 %
	Total	90	100%

Source: own survey 2019

4.6 major challenges of community based eco- tourism development in the conservation area of Guassa

As shown in table (5) bellows that the major 94.4% of respondent's response the challenge of community based eco- tourism development was lack of infrastructural facilities. The second sever challenges of community based eco- tourism development in Guassa conservation area was lack of awareness in local community about the ecotourism concept and ideas which is proved by 88.9% of respondents. Following this 83.3% of respondents mentioned the agricultural land expansion. 77.8% of respondents also mentioned lacks of adequate finance were the major challenges of community based eco- tourism in Guassa conservation area. In addition to this other challenges also mentioned by the respondents, like lack of participatory planning, persecution or human conflict, over grazing, and grass cutting also hindered the development of community based eco- tourism in the area.it is the same with the Gomeje study. According to Gomeje further described that the difference of communities' wrong action on MGCCA during the previous time and now is very high; for example at the Derg Regime the communities was oppressed and forced to dare the traditional rule in the name of "land is communal" but now they use their right extensively. Since MGCCA is very wide, it is suitable to those who can use it illegally (Gomeje, A, 2014.)As Gomeje identified that challenges of MGCCA is related to infrastructural problem like road, electricity and networking, which threat the local community from participating in different alternative activities to minimize impacts on MGCCA. This also affects the flow of large number of tourists. Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area can only be reached by road, either in private vehicles or by public buses which run daily from Addis Ababa to Mehal Meda town Gomeje, (2014).

Table 5 the major challenges of community based eco- tourism development in the conservation area of Guassa

Variable	Option	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of infrastructural facilities	Yes	85	94.4%
	No	5	5.6%
	Total	90	100%

Lack of awareness in local community about eco- tourism	Yes	80	88.9%
	No	10	11.1%
	Total	90	100%
Agricultural land expansion	Yes	75	83.3%
	No	15	16.7%
	Total	90	100%
Lack of adequate finance	Yes	70	77.8%
	No	20	22.2%
	Total	90	100%

Source on survey: 2019

4.7Tourist length of stay in Menz Guassa

Based on the below the figure from respondents 2(40%) of respondents stay in Menz Guassa 1-2 days, And 3(60%)of respondents stay in Menz Guassa for 3-5 days. There is no respondent's response stay for 6-8 days. According to the table indication the length of stay of tourist in Menz Guassa is short. Stay length of tourist have many opportunities and challenges. Opportunities are Increases local environmental awareness among tourists and resident and introduction of conservation measures, creation of direct employment opportunity, ecotourism accessible to a broad spectrum of the population and the challenges are Air, water, noise visual and soil pollution, inflation and displacement of local culture.

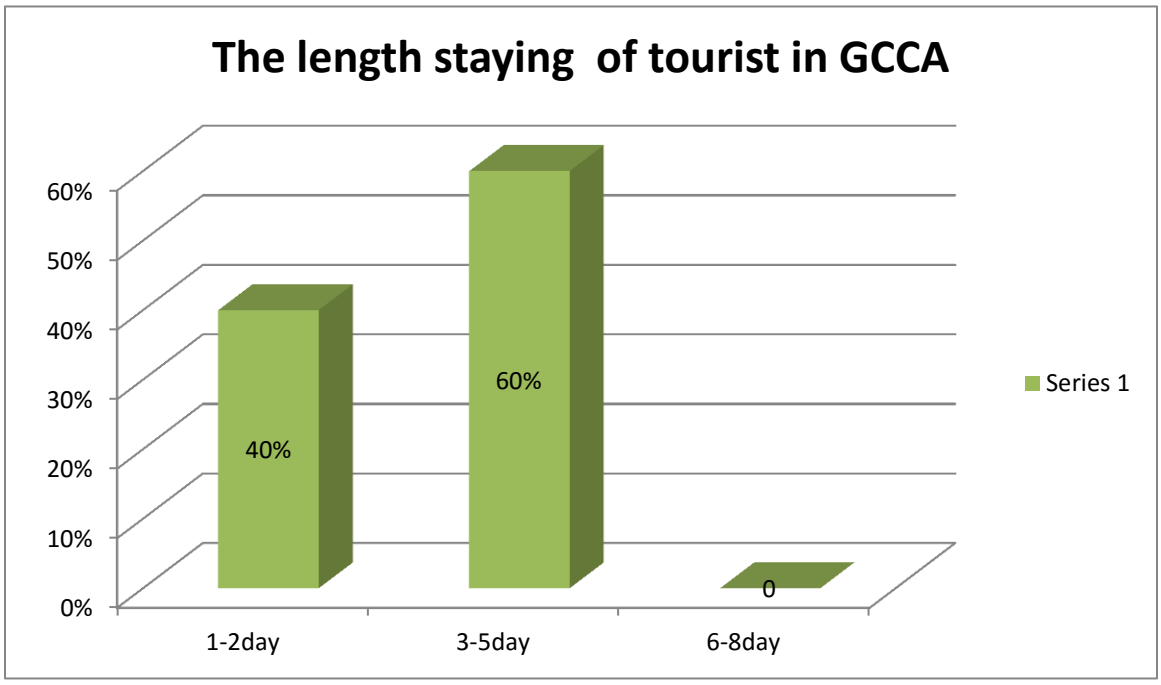


Figure2Tourist length of stay in Menz Guassa
Source own survey, 2019

4.8 information about the image of area in tourist experience

The below figure indicates that 3(60%) of tourist respondents express the image of the area is excellent and the other remains 2(40%) of tourist respondent's response is good image. Currently According to key informants and respondents of the questionnaire (MGCCA) is found in a medium condition regarding its current status. The respondents say that it is at a good condition, since now there is an intervention of governmental and nongovernmental bodies even if there are different problems related to security matters. The government has also show its commitment by accrediting the formal administration rule for MGCCA that was drafted by FZS. At present the communities living in nine Farmers Associations (kebele) adjacent to the MGGCA have both user and managers of MGCCA with the coordination of governmental offices. A MGCCA conservation Committee at Kebele level and a community conservation council at Woreda level coordinate the conservation of the whole area with representatives drawn from all user communities alongside some government representatives. Currently it is administered based on the accredited law.

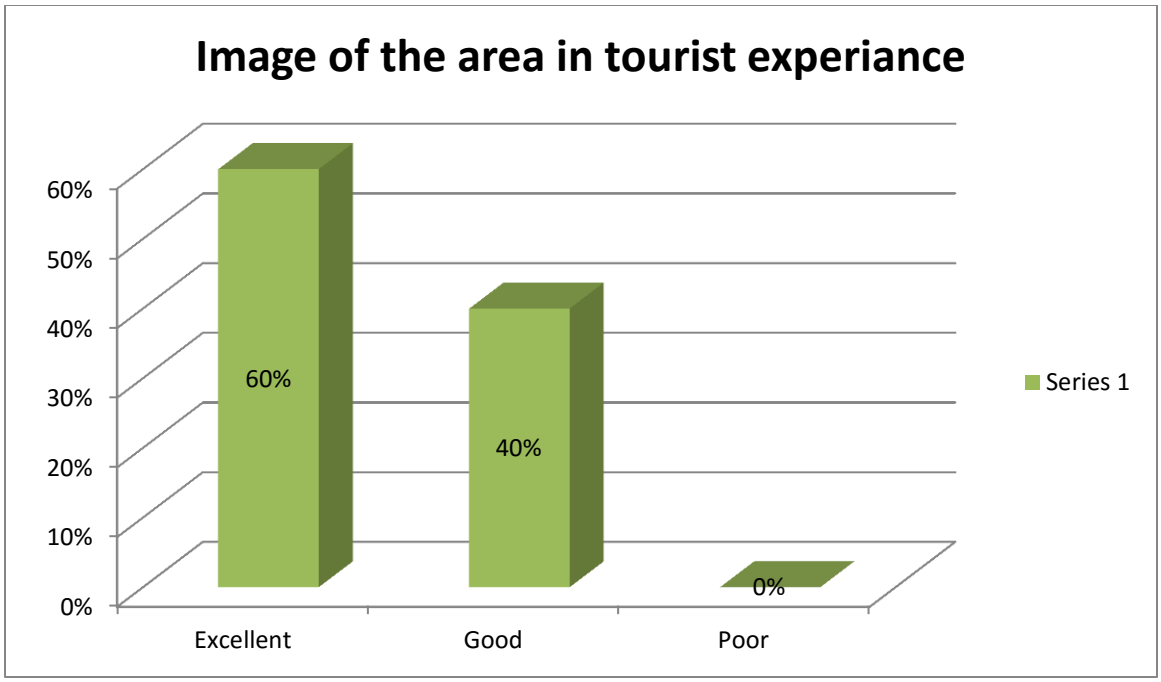


Figure3 information about the image of area in tourist experience
Source own survey, 201

4.9 The roles of local community in the conservation area of Guassa?

The local peoples conserve the area consciously even before they got the fragmented and discontinuous insufficient short term to medium trainings since 2008 about the science of natural resource management by Agricultural Office of the district and Frankfurt Zoological Society (NGO carry out different activities on MGCCA). They explained their understanding like "when the natural resources like tree and grass become damaged, the environment would become barren and experiences concurrent shortage of rainfall and drought. The endemic wild animals like Ethiopian wolf (red fox) will also disappear when they lose their shelter." They also aware of about natural resources maintain the existence of fertile soil, water and rain. Especially now the local people become very conscious about natural resource degradation and are taking actions like recovering and making degraded areas green in line with the green policy of the government to tackle starvation and desertification.

They also know that human beings will not survive if natural resources are highly degraded. They also described that the degradation of natural resources will expose the area to desertification, starvation as well as migration and affect the development of the country vastly.

So, to prevent degradation the society were accepted conserving natural resources and they insist the government must interfere in such valuable activities. Participants ask the concerned bodies to give emphasis about the security of MGCCA to improve smokeless industry, tourism. They also suggested some mechanisms how to apply sustainable natural resource management based on their level of 36understanding such as social organization like ‘Idir’ should put some measures to punish those who violate the community rule and formal administration law of MGCCA. They also mention structures like 1 to 5 as best ways of natural resource management system with describing the local community should agree upon each and every step and the role of the government should be monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the society to ensure their benefit.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 conclusions

Most of the respondents explained that they were benefited from the MGCCA in one or another way. The benefit that the local peoples gain from the MGCCA were; Guassa grass for thatching and building and covering traditional house, livestock feed, for quachera (the wrapped grass that will use for binding traditional houses), for selling and know benefiting from eco-tourism activities like renting mule and preparing food for tourists. While the remaining were elucidated that they are not benefiting from MGCCA for different reasons like, low accessibility, the restriction especially starting from the coming in to power, since the law doesn't allow the people to graze animals but just cutting the grass as much as they can. Most of respondent's responded that participatory planning for the local community is an opportunity for developing eco- tourism in Menz Guassa conservation area. The remaining respondents are replied no. Generally, the above of respondents replied yes, so participatory planning for the local community is an opportunity to develop the eco- tourism in the area. More than of the respondents replied No, So that participatory planning has a great role in developing community based eco- tourism. The participatory planning for the local community, the government and non-governmental Intervention, geographical location, good scenic view even the development of ICT, internet Website by creating good promotion and advertising the places are an opportunity of Community based ecotourism development. However, lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of awareness in local community about eco-tourism, Agricultural land expansion and lack of adequate financial, etc. are the major challenges of community-based eco-tourism development.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

Based on the major findings of the study and conclusion drawn with respect to opportunities and challenges for developing community-based eco-tourism in Guassa conservation area the following recommendations are suggested.

- So conservation management should involve local people in benefit sharing to improve their willingness.
- The responsible government bodies like culture and tourism bureaus should play significance role in developing community based ecotourism.
- Training should be provided to local peoples about cutting Guassa grass and that are highly affecting the development of eco- tourism
- Governmental and non- governmental parties should concern on the updating of the local community knowledge and level of understanding about the conservation area and ecotourism development.
- The limited intervention of the stake holder in planning and decision making with regard to the community conservation area policy formulation should be improved.
- The government must follow the participatory planning among the stake holder to design polices and legislations that related to eco-tourism.
- Generally, the governmental and non-governmental parties, the responsible bodies even each and every stakeholders should work coordinately on the bases of common good and the development of community conservation area especially to develop ecotourism in the area by minimizing the challenges and supporting opportunities for the great achievement sustaining the benefits of the local community by empowering the local people to protect from any external bodies.

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APPENDEX

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

First and for most, I would like to thank you for your willingness to fill this is questionnaires.

All pieces of information will be used only for the research purpose so you do not have to write your name.

I assure you that your response will be dep't in secret each of your response is very useful for the study. Therefore, please of through each question patiently and give genuine answer.

Thank you very much for your valuable cooperation.

Introduction: put a right sign (X) on the appropriate box whether you agree on the points or not.

General information of respondents

Age _____

Gender Male ☐ Female☐

Title Managerial☐ Non managerial☐

Educational level Primary ☐ Degree ☐ Secondary ☐
Diploma ☐ Above☐

Questions for culture and tourism office

Dear respondents

The purpose of this study is to collect data about the Opportunities and Challenges of Community Based Ecotourism Development the Case of Menz Guassa Conservation Area.

This study will be conducted for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of BSC degree in Wildlife and Ecotourism Management. The information you are going to provide is only used for academic purposes. Your kind and honest cooperation in giving accurate and valuable information is very significant. Thank you in advance for your help.

General information

You are not supposed to write your name

You can for some questions you can select more than one box are possible

Please put (X) in providing box according to your choice

1. Do you know about community based ecotourism?
   - YES ☐
   - NO ☐
2. What it look like the present tourist flow of the Area?
   - High ☐
   - Low ☐
   - Medium ☐

3. What area the opportunities for developing community based ecotourism in the conservation area?

4. What area the challenges for developing community based ecotourism in the conservation area?
5. What are the roles of local community in the conservation area of Guassa?

Questionnaires for tour guide

6 What level of certification do you have in guiding service? Certificate diploma degree masters others……...

7 What are the opportunities for community based ecotourism developing in Guassa Community conservation

area?.....

.....

.....

8 What are the challenges for community based ecotourism development in Guassa community conservation area.....?

Question for the local community

Dear respondents

The purpose of this study is to collect data about the Opportunities and Challenges of Community Based Ecotourism Development the Case of Menz Guassa Conservation Area. This study will be conducted for the partial fulfillment of the requirement of BSC degree in Wildlife and Ecotourism Management. The information you are going to provide is only used for academic purposes. Your kind and honest cooperation in giving accurate and valuable information is very significant. Thank you in advance for your help.

General information

You are not supposed to write your name

Please put (X) in providing box according to your choice

1. Do you benefited from the Guassa conservation area?

   Yes no

2. Do you know about community based ecotourism?

   Yes no

3 What are the opportunities for community based ecotourism development in the conservation area of Guassa please select and put like (x) on the table below listed.

4 What are the major challenges of community based ecotourism development in the conservation area of Guassa?

Questionnaires for Tourists

Gender

Male ☐ Female ☐

Length of stay from 1-2 day 3-5 day 6-8 day

How to express the image of the area in your experience? Excellent Good Poor

10Qs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!