



WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN
BORENA-SAYINT NATIONAL PARK

SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECT

SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE, WOLKITE UNIVERSITY
FOR THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE COMPLETION OF THE BACHELOR
SCIENCE DEGREE IN WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT

BY: GETAW TESSEMA

ID NO AGR /149/09

ADVISOR: MR. AHMED MOHAMMED (MSC)

WOLKITE, ETHIOPIA

JUNE, 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank my God forever that he helps me in all my temptation to any direction. Next I would like to express my profound appreciation on to my advisor **Mr. Ahmed Mohammed** for his intensive and extensive and help full comments. I admire his tireless patience and help full reading, correcting and shaping the entire of research. Last but not least I would also like to express my gratitude to my family who have encouraged and supported me throughout this study.

ACRONOMY

EWCA- Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

WTO-World Tourism Organization

UNSECO- United Nations Educational Science and Cultural Organization

UNWTO- United Nation World Tourism Organization

BSNP-Borena Sayint National Park

IUCN -International Conservation of United Nation

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
ACRONYMY.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES.....	vii
ABSTRACT.....	viii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background Information.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	2
1.3 Significant of the Study.....	3
1.1. Objective.....	3
1.4.1 General Objective.....	3
1.4.2. Specific Objective.....	3
1.5 Research Questions.....	4
1.6 scope of the study.....	4
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	5
2.1. Definition of Ecotourism.....	5
2.2. Tourism Development.....	6
2.3. Principles of Ecotourism.....	6
2.4 Emergences and Development of Ecotourism.....	7
2.5. Development of Ecotourism in Case of Ethiopia.....	7
2.6. Ecotourism Development and Protected Areas.....	8
2.7 Ecotourism Development and Protected Areas in Case of Ethiopia.....	8
2.8. Opportunities of Ecotourism Development.....	9
2.9 Challenges of Ecotourism Development.....	9
3. MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY.....	10
3.1 Geographical location.....	10
3.2 Climate.....	10

3.3 Population.....	10
3.4 Research Design.....	11
3.5 Data Collection.....	11
3.5.1 Interview.....	11
3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion.....	11
3.5.3 Observation.....	12
3.6 Data Analysis.....	12
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	13
4.1. Back ground information of the respondents.....	13
4.2. Opportunities to development of ecotourism.....	15
4.2.1. Natural Ecotourism Resources.....	15
4.2.1.1. Scenery (landscape, cave, waterfall.....	15
4.2.1.2. Flora.....	15
4.2.1.3. Fauna.....	17
4.2.2. Cultural Tourism Resource.....	18
4.3. The challenges to develop ecotourism in BSNP.....	20
4.3.1. Park community relationship.....	20
4.3.2. Absence of buffer Zone.....	21
4.3.3. Lack of infrastructure.....	21
4.3.4. Agricultural expansion.....	21
4.3.5. Shape of the Park.....	21
4.3.6. Lack of trained manpower.....	22
5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	23
5.1 Conclusions.....	23
5.2 Recommendations.....	24
REFERENCES.....	25
APPENDIX.....	28

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Respondents Age and Sex distribution.....	13
Table 2: Level of education.....	14
Table 3 cultural tourism resources.....	18

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 major sources of income.....	14
Figure 2: Flora of BSNP,.....	16
Figure 3: some Endemic Mammals found in BSNP.....	17
Figure 4: Cultural Manifestations of Borena Woreda.....	18
Figure 5 : Type of house constructed from Wood,stone and thatched grass.....	19
Figure 6: Some Local products	19

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to assess the challenges and opportunities for developing ecotourism in the BSNP. To this end the research has attempted to integrate both qualitative and quantitative approaches and descriptive method was employed. The participant of this study was member of local community, park officials, government officials and lodge owners. Interview, focused group discussion and observation were used as instruments of data collection. The finding was showed that BSNP and the surrounding community have an excellent opportunity develop as an ecotourism destination. The opportunities includes like scenery, Flora, fauna. Cultural ecotourism resources and the challenges to develop ecotourism are absence of buffer zone(45%), lack of infrastructure (70%), lack of trained man power(60%), park community relationship(50%), Lack of stakeholders' Cooperation and Integration(75%), Shape of the Park(30%), and Inadequate Financial Allocation(85%). Finally, the researcher strongly recommends all the concerned bodies to focus on the significance.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Contrary to conventional tourism, ecotourism has widely been promoted as economic diversified and development tool, and an appropriate means for conservation of natural resources for destinations with tourism heritage possession as it provides conservation and economic benefits (Charnley,S, 2005).

Though Africa is noted for untapped tourism potential, it's under developed tourism sector is attracting only 5.1% of the total tourism arrivals in the world (UNTWO, 2013). Of this minimum share of tourism, a considerable proportion of visitors' arrival is taken by South Africa and Northern African countries (Oklo,F, 2003).The situation in Ethiopia is even worse; it shares only 0.9% of Africa's total tourist arrivals (UNWTO, 2012).With various cultural and natural attractions, with high aesthetic values of which nine tangible cultural, one natural outstanding .On the one hand, its tourism potential is diversified with natural attractions that include some of the highest and lowest places in Africa along with immense wildlife of which some are endemic; a fascinating historical traditional, cultural monuments of ancient and medieval periods, mosaic of peoples about 80 nations and nationalities; and festivals and relics of Ethiopian orthodox which open a window on the authentic world of the oldest civilization; on the other hand, the country is relative peace and its people are hospitable towards guests (Yabibal , 2010).

Despite the fact that Ethiopia is endowed heritage attractions and two intangible cultural heritages are registered by United Nations Educational Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage sites and make Ethiopia being the first in Africa in having highest number of world heritage sites, the country is one of the least beneficiaries from tourism industry in Africa. According to (Young,J, 2012) Ethiopia has 21 national parks, 20 controlled hunting areas, 4 biosphere reserves, 80 national priority forest areas, 2 wildlife sanctuaries, botanical gardens with unique wildlife, marvelous topographic land features accompanied by cultural manifestations that are compatible for ecotourism development and wildlife conservation. The loss of such diversified tourism resources could detrimentally affect ecotourism development and diversity of wildlife. Wildlife which is a pillar for ecotourism development in many national

parks is under threat from human encroachment, poaching for subsistence and commercial purpose, habitat degradation due to deforestation, encroachment of incompatible land use and uncontrolled fire create ever increasing human-wildlife conflicts (Melaku, 2011). Experiences show that many tourists come to Ethiopia mainly for the historical route and the tribal communities of Omo valley. The trend of visiting destinations especially new national parks is very limited in Ethiopia.

Having recognized the significance of Borena Sayint National Park from the point of wildlife diversity, recreational and economic values, national and international significances being act as a Green Belt in combating the expansion of Sahara and sahel desertification in the region, its potential for ecotourism development and wildlife conservation, it has been established in 2006 with declaration number 38/2006 (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA, 2012).

BorenaSayint National Park, found in Amhara regional state North Wollo zone in borena woreda and ecological corridor to wildlife conservation, cross border tourism and ecotourism. Even if the park is rich in natural beauty, diversity of fauna and flora as well as cultural and historical heritages in its vicinity, it is rarely visited by tourists.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Today tourism industry played a vital role than the previous tourism trend in bringing an enormous contribution to the development of countries in economical, socio cultural and political aspects. Despite its positive endowments and encourage able progress in tourism over the past decades, it remains true that the tourism potential was underutilized and under developed in Africa in general and in Ethiopia particularly (UNWTO, 2002). As the contribution and progress scale of tourism industry vary from continent to continent, country to country so it obvious to show a great variation in region to region in the development of a country. Indeed, BSNP is one of the richest in ecotourism resource part of the country that did not optimally utilize its resource in better way. Furthermore, the park naturally and historically has been gifted in tourism resources like wildlife resources, spectacular earth setup, plant species, the variety of ethnicity lives around the park, mountains and historical sites.

Even though the park has huge ecotourism potential resources, the development of ecotourism activity is not sufficient due to different challenges. Yet, these ecotourism resources have been

playing a vital role and decisive inputs for the development of ecotourism in the park for the half decades; but still now the basic challenges and opportunities of the ecotourism development of a place have not well identified by any one. In order to achieve the ecotourism development of the park an informed decision measures will be required, which in turn depends on effective research undertaking. In the current research, therefore the research will attempt to identify and describe the major challenges and opportunities of ecotourism development of BSNP.

1.3 Significant of the Study

The findings of the research were serve as an input for policy makers, concerned bodies and ecotourism experts. The research gives some insights how community based ecotourism is vital for the livelihood improvement of the local communities and sustainable development. Therefore, this research is expected to contribute much for government organization, NGOs, Policy makers and implementers to understand the gaps and to take actions to improve the situation. The research is also expected to help to contribute for the concerned stakeholders, especially to BSNP and Administration, Amhara region culture and Tourism Bureau, EWCA to understand issues related to major problems in the development of tourism industry. Finally, the research would serve as a source or reference material for conducting further research in the field.

1.1. Objective

1.4.1 General Objective

- ❖ The general objective of the study was to assess the opportunities and challenges of ecotourism development in BorenaSayint National park

1.4.2. Specific Objective

- ❖ To identify the opportunities of ecotourism development in BorenaSayint National Park
- ❖ To identify the major challenges for ecotourism development in BorenaSayint National Park

1.5 Research Questions

- What are the major opportunities of ecotourism development in BSNP?
- What are the major challenges of ecotourism development in BSNP?

1.6 scope of the study

Even though, the idea of ecotourism is wider and it needs to encompass different issue and perspective, this study is delimited to identify the major challenges and opportunities of ecotourism development in BSNP. Since they are well aware of the organization is where the BSNP is located which of course, facilitates the data collection process. Furthermore, the study is delimited to exploring the extent of opportunities and challenges of ecotourism development about BSNP.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Definition of Ecotourism

There is a lack of consensus in the literature regarding the etymology of the term ecotourism. A number of factors have been cited to explain the reasons why a single, agreed definition has remained elusive, and is predicted to remain so. It is suggested that ecotourism attempts to „describe an activity, set forth a philosophy, and while at the same time espouse a model of development“, and it is this multipurpose nature of the concept that prevents the adoption of a common definition. Thus, Ecotourism is often used interchangeably with other terms such as nature tourism, sustainable tourism, green tourism, responsible tourism and even soft tourism. Ecotourism is tourism and recreation that is both nature-based and sustainable (Lowmen,M, 2004). Three features of this definition merit further discussion.

Ecotourism as we all know is a vague word which became a buzzword since its origin from the 1980s, 1990s to present. And some other definitions are listed below given by different scholars (though the definition given is written in different scholars differently, let us see the 1991 definition provided by the ICUN cited in (Hoof.V, 2006) Ecotourism is “*Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the wellbeing of local people.*”

Whereas, eco-tourists are attracted to a natural area and have a more active role through a no consumptive use of wild-life and natural resources, through activities such as nature photography, botanical studies, and observing wildlife (Diamantis,D, 1999).

An official international definition was adopted during the UN International Year of Ecotourism in (WTO, 2002).The major components, as analyzed by (Buckley,M, 2004) do not seem to have changed: nature-based production, minimal-impact managements, environmental education, and contribution to conservation. An alternative but congruent analytical concept suggested by (Buckley,M, 2004) namely geo-tourism with a positive triple bottom line, seems to have received little attention.

2.2. Tourism Development

Tourism would be internationally being known since 1950 (UNWTO, 2002) and now a day it is the largest and fastest growing business which contributes to lots of new jobs including in rural areas since it does not require long term trainings (Rannersmann.J, 2003). Because of the increasing and fast growing of tourism, currently more than 650 million international tourist arrival in the world which it will be more than 1,600 million by the year 2020 (Holden,A, 2003) Even though Africa is the world's poorest region with almost fifty percent of its population living with less than \$ 1 per day, especially in rural areas it is recognized by its huge potentials for tourism development (UNWTO, 2002). There is no inadequate facilities and services infrastructure in many places which hampers the full tourism in use of exploiting this potential of tourism even though there is an existing potential for developing to Africa. The major trends influencing the growth of international tourism globally will also apply in Africa. This will particularly benefit from the increasing international travel interest in nature and cultural tourism and other forms of special interest tourism (UNWTO, 2010). It is evident, that there is an opportunity exists for Africa to have a fairer distribution of tourist flows across the world with the purpose of contributing to the alleviation of poverty in the continent (UNWTO, 2002). Ethiopia, in past periods, merchants played a considerable role for introduction for religions to Ethiopia, which contributes a lot for evolution to Ethiopia. It was also believed that the Portuguese's missionaries and other Europeans came to Ethiopia as earlier visitors when they made explorations to the source of Blue Nile (Ayalew , 2009).

2.3. Principles of Ecotourism

Several categories of tourism, which base on the natural aspects, are tried to compare and contrasted or even used interchangeably with ecotourism. Ecotourism is different from these categories main due to the major principles listed below. Accordingly, (TIES, 2015) put forward the following based on the results of stakeholder meetings since 1991, which are being embraced by a growing constituency of NGO's, private sector businesses, governments, academia and local communities. Rely on infrastructure that has been developed in harmony with the environment, minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural and cultural environment (Gebeyaw Ambelu, 2011).

2.4 Emergences and Development of Ecotourism

Although tourism has a significant contribution to economic development and conservation of environmental resources, it also becomes negative impacts on tourists' destination areas. Especially during the past decades because of the interest of business profit of the tour operators to attract more tourists, which resulted in high negative impacts tourists' destination, principle of nature-based tourism or ecotourism was not considered. The negative impacts were seen like degraded vegetation, wildlife casualties, pollution of water and atmosphere in tourist's destination areas. Consequently, in the 1990s, the attentions for environmental issues of tourist's destinations areas were increased and ecotourism to be pronounced (Sindiga,I, (1999).

Ecotourism has a wide range of meanings because of different parties or people defined it according to their own specific interests and priorities instead of all things to all people (Strasdas,W, (2002). According to Okello (2003), ecotourism refers to tourism that is nature-based but that seeks to minimize harmful impact and seeks to promote conservation. (Scwenk,T, (2002) also defined ecotourism as a sustainable development of tourism potential, which considered the social, the ecological and economic aspects. Especially, according to the recent UNWTO market surveys conducted indicated that, the growth of ecotourism demand will favor Africa. The region is likely to attract a higher proportion of tourists, both those on ecotourism tours and those seeking out newly developing destinations, which are abundance in the region (UNWTO, 2002).

2.5. Development of Ecotourism in Case of Ethiopia

The concept of Ecotourism is a new phenomenon to and it is difficult to explain its significance achievement since the approach of ecotourism is not widely disseminated in Ethiopia. The government of Ethiopia also has recognized development and promotion of ecotourism and provided consultancy services for a number of potential developers of ecotourism sites. Although, developers and policy makers do not properly take the idea of ecotourism, some investors started to involve in development of ecotourism in different regions of Ethiopia. Bishangari Eco-lodge located at Eastern of langano lake in Oromia region and Village Ethiopia located at Afar region (Bilen) are examples of these private ecotourism developments in Ethiopia, (Theodros Atlabachew, 2002).

2.6. Ecotourism Development and Protected Areas

Today protected areas are aimed at conserving biodiversity and large scale of natural ecosystems. However, these protected areas are increasingly facing a number of challenges (Wearing,S.andNeil,J, (1999) Protected areas are important destinations for a growing tourism like ecotourism given that it uses diverse nature, landscapes and biodiversity as major attractions. In these protected areas, there might be a potential threat to, and an opportunity for conservation of natural resources. If properly planned and managed ecotourism may minimize the environmental impacts while significantly contributes to the protected areas (Strasdos, 2002). Ecotourism introduce in protected areas of some countries to reverse these challenges since ecotourism could have a significant role for conservation of natural resources and the overall development in developing countries. For example in Namibia the current travel and ecotourism potential contributed 16.0% to Namibia's GDP account for 71,800 jobs, which is 17.9% of total employment (Louis,M.P, (2007) showed that the relationship between protected areas and local communities is a key factor in the long term conservation of the natural resources in and around these protected areas. However, in many cases, the relationship faces conflicts.

2.7 Ecotourism Development and Protected Areas in Case of Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, there are more than 20 protected areas (National parks), of which only two are gazetted ones, the semein mountains National park and Awash National Park. The other protected areas including the game reserves, sanctuaries, national forest priority areas etc. are not gazette. The main objectives of these protected areas are to protect natural resources of the country (Shibru,Tedl, 1994) but recently most of protected areas of Ethiopia are exposed to serve degradation due to failure of creating alternative options like ecotourism, which are off-farm activities.

Thus, to minimize these problems which expose natural resources to degradations in protected areas, some interventions, which involve ecotourism activities, have been attempted in Adaba-dodola forest priority area in Bale zone in Oromia regional state. WAJIB which said to be "WaldaaJirattootaBosonaa" in Afan Oromo meaning "Forest Dwellers Associations" is an example of an outcome of such effort. Incomes obtained by local community from provision of accommodation service to tourists, horse provision and tour guiding which contributes to reduce tree livestock grazing and deforestation of protected area (TsegayeTadesse, (2007).

2.8. Opportunities of Ecotourism Development

According to (Gemechu Shale Ogato, 2014), Ethiopia has a great opportunities for Ecotourism development, some of these are very good political will and high level of commitment to develop tourism sector for sustainable development, ratification of many international conventions in relation to conservation of natural environment, existence of different economic development policies and strategies like growth and transformational plan, existence of formal institutions and structures promoting tourism development at different levels, high social capital and social interaction among legal communities, technological advancement like internet service and telecommunication, existence of different organizations working on tourism development, availability of donor organizations favoring research and development activities on tourism and ecotourism, diverse landscape and climatic conditions, rich and diverse culture of more than 80 ethnic groups, diverse fauna, flora and physical resource

2.9 Challenges of Ecotourism Development

According to Jackie Odudoh (Associations Kenya tour operators, 2013) said that safety and security, lack of adequate resources and infrastructure, poor image and perception of Africa-political instability, limited connectivity, high operating costs-fuel prices and limited and expensive air access are the most challenges of Kenyan tourism industry. (Teshale Biazen , 2010) also support that the above problems and based on his research political uncertainty or disruption of infrastructure has a major influence of the tourism sector. Essential wages in the tourism sector tend to be low in comparison to others sectors (although agriculture in many cases is an exceptional). This is mostly happened as the sector income is seasonal and confidence of many professional experts with high salary. In return such kind of insecurity may discourage people to join this institution or to stay in for long period of time (Bull A, 2002) or employment problem is one of the bottlenecks of Ethiopian tourism.

According to (Gezachew Andarge , 2003) on his finding of the study mentioned that lack infrastructure, problems of securities, lack of museum, lack of service and facilities, lack of preservation and protections of heritage, financial constraints are the major challenges of ecotourism development.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geographical location

BorenaSayint national park is found in south wollo zone (Amhara regional state) and lies between 10⁰ 50' 45.4'' -10⁰ 53' 58.3'' latitude and 38⁰ 40' 28.4''- 38⁰ 54' 49'' longitude. The park is located in the northern eastern part of Ethiopia about 600km by road from Addis Ababa, 198km from Dessie and 16km from Mekeneselam, the capital of Borena woreda. The park is situated among the woredas namely Borena to the South, Sayint to the North, Mehalsayint (newly established woreda) to the East, Borena woreda on south (with its seven kebeles) and south west (with its two kebeles), Sayint on the north with one kebele) and Mehalsayint to the north (with two kebeles) and on the west one kebele.

3.2 Climate

The climate of the central highland is characterized by tropical type. BSNP has a wide range of altitude and therefore, embraces three (3) climate zones; woinadega, dega and wurch. The distribution of rainfall in the area is characterized by bimodal rainy season from June to September. The average temperature falls between 10⁰c to 20⁰c.

3.3 Population

Population of Borena Sayint national park is large and close to the park, that population distribute by the surrounding woredas, Borena sayint and mehal sayint and also mixed farming is dominated economic activity which includes crop production and rearing of livestock (Woldegebrie, (2003) BorenaSayint national park population had distinctive local culture practiced during different ceremony. E.g during weeding ceremony, after marriage ceremony, local music and dance and also other beautiful and attractive community's traditional life styles. Currently, the majority population of borena woreda is Islamic follower. But, the majority people of sayint and Mehalsayint are Christianity follower. Population Settlement around the park is densely populated since, it is rural area; and the preparably populated in suburban area. The total population of BorenaSayint have 962489, of these men are 487024 and 475465 are women's.

3.4 Research Design

To collect, analyze and interpret the data obtained from the park and to describe the objectives of the study, the qualitative and quantitative research techniques was employed. For the purpose of this study, the researcher was employ purposive sampling by which respondents should be to chosen purposefully from the study area, people who can give the required information like community elder, tourism experts of the park etc. are the best sample unit of the research.

3.5 Data Collection

The data was collected using both the primary and secondary data collection methods to address the objectives of the study. The primary data was gathered using interview, focus group discussion and field observation and the secondary was gathered from BSNP office, report, park staff document, published and unpublished research workers and also from websites in the study area

3 .5.1 Interview

This data collection method was used to collect necessary data from experts of tourisms that are working in BSNP and local people living in and around the national park. Interview was prepared specially for all staff members by preparing questions about the potentials and challenges of ecotourism development in the park. Interviewers, who purposefully selected from around the park were from two kebeles, namely Beja and Aneferfera. The 28 informants from one kebele and 25 people from the other kebele based on their proximity; for them the researcher prepares other questions with check lists. The questions were prepared about opportunities and challenge of ecotourism development in and around the park.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion

This method of data collection was used in order to gather data related to the attitude, the activities and perception of local community towards ecotourism development. Besides, this method was conducted in two kebeles. The researcher was organized with two groups in two kebeles; each group would contain 9-12people based on necessity. The focus group discussion was accomplished through the preparation of check list by researcher, which serves them as the base stone to process in to further ideas of discussion.

3.5.3 Observation

The researcher was used note taking photo camera to record important information. Observation is the main instrument of data collection applied during Park visitation to observe the condition of biodiversity, the visitors, guides, tourism facilities, management of tourism related activities, attitudes and feedbacks of different local peoples, environmental consciousness and life style of the local people.

3.6 Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed by using descriptive statics method like table, and interview and field observation was analyzed by both explanatory and table.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Back ground information of the respondents

The survey result of this study for the characteristics of sex, age, marital status, educational background and source of income household were presented in table1 below. The overall sample population were 46 of which 63% and 37 % respectively constitutes males and females. The sample households between 26 to 35 years old, 18-25 years old, 35-46 years old, 48-55 years old and above 56 accounts of about 50%, 30% ,10.87%, 4.35% and 4.35% respectively. Therefore, the researcher was concluded that with respect to age structure of sample households, the majority of sample households (50%) belong to the age category between 26-34 years.

Table 1 Respondents Age and Sex distribution

Characteristics of Age group	Number of respondents			Average %
	Sex			
	Male	Female	Total	
18-25	9	5	14	30.43%
26-34	15	8	23	50%
35-47	2	3	5	10.87%
48-55	1	1	2	4.35%
Above 56	2	-	2	4.35%
Total	29	17	46	100%

Source: own survey, 2019

According to the table 1 shown below, according to survey result, in terms of educational background of the sample respondents, illiteracy rate is found to be higher. Almost 43.48% of the sample households are reported to be illiterate without having formal education. About 10.87% and 28.26% of the sample population attended primary and secondary level with respectively. Of the total sample size, (17.39%) of the respondents had acquired above the secondary school.

Table 2: Level of education

Level of education	Number of respondents			Average %
	Male	Female	Total	
Illiterate	13	7	20	43.48%
Primary school	3	2	5	10.87%
Secondary school	8	5	13	28.26%
Above secondary school	5	3	8	17.39%
Total	29	17	46	100%

Source: own survey, 2019

The major economic activity in the study area is agriculture. In the sampled kebeles of BSNP and Borena Woreda, 30.43% of the households responded that agriculture is their main source of income and their major livelihood system, and 22 % of the respondent on livestock rearing. 15.22% of the respondents adapted mixed agriculture, 13.04 % of the respondents lead their life with firewood and 10.87% of the respondents used both agriculture and livestock and 8.70% respondents use both agriculture and firewood.

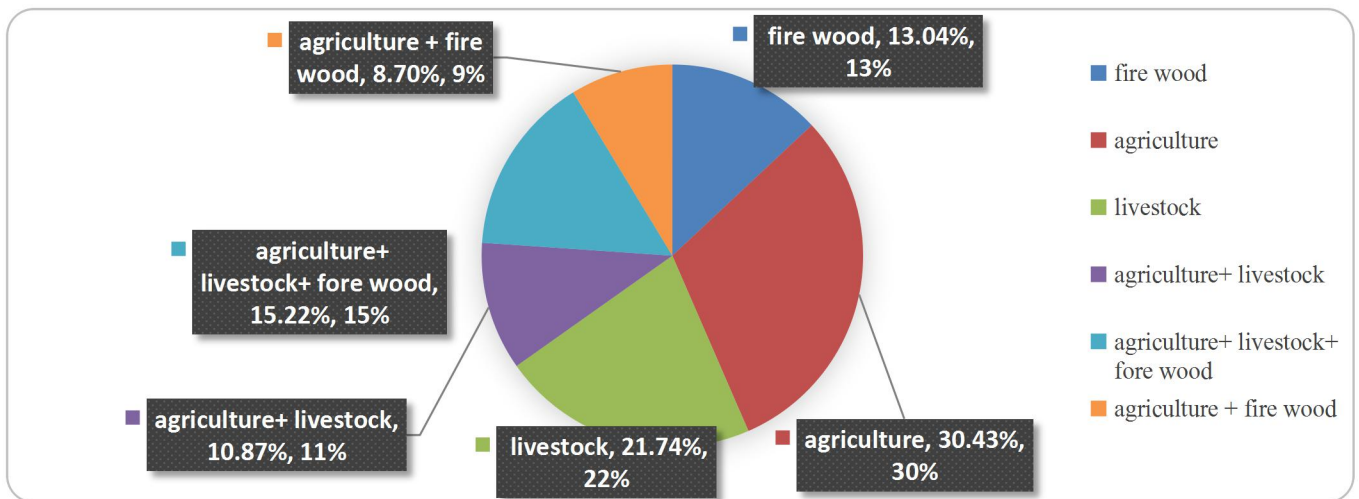


Figure 1 major sources of income (BSNP office 2015).

4.2. Opportunities to development of ecotourism

4.2.1. Natural Ecotourism Resources

4.2.1.1. Scenery (landscape, cave, waterfall)

According to environmental observation the landscape of Borena-Saynt Park is composed of rough topography, deeply incised valley, escarpments and plateau, cone shaped peaks and fascinating cliffs. The topography of the area and amazing peaks like *KabuKora*, *Mossebit*, *ShiftochKora*, *Gulas*, *KerkehaRas* that are covered with trees and tall grass can be attractive sites for tourists. These magnificent peaks also serve as a natural watching tower for tourists. Along the cliff, that separates the afro montane forest from the upper part of the park, there are around six caves (namely *Alebachewwasha*, *Wofwasha*, *Midir Washa*, *Gashawwasha*, *Abaye Washa* and *Amare washa*).

4.2.1.2. Flora

According to the respondent's altitudinal range of the park from hot zone (*kola*) to colzone (*wurch*), it encompasses afro montane forest in its lower part and sub-afro alpine and afro alpine vegetation types in its upper part. The afro montane one is a narrow strip of forest and its occurrence is largely restricted to Borena woreda. It is dominated with big trees and different types of shrubs. According to environmental observation, the afro alpine and sub-afro alpine part is dominated by species of Erica trees and shrubs, interspersed with tussock grass or Guassa (*Festuca* spp.) and *Lobelia rhynchopetalum* Populations.

According to interview with the staff managers or experts, there are around 66 families consisting of 174 species of plants which is higher species diversity in comparison to other afro montane forests of the country. The forest is in its pure naturalness, accounting nearly 100 percent of indigenous trees and shrubs. These species are *Gaint lobelia* (Gibera), *Bidenspachyloma* (Adey-Abeba), *Plectocephalusvarians* (Este-yohannis), *Euphorbia dumalis*, *Acantussennii*(Shekori), *Solanaciogigas*(YeshikokoGomen), *Echinops longisetus* and *Echinopskebericho* are endemic to Ethiopia. Both the Afro montane forest and the upper part of the park have a very attractive view for tourists. The park consists of varied types of flora which is higher species diversity in comparison to other Afromontane forests of the country

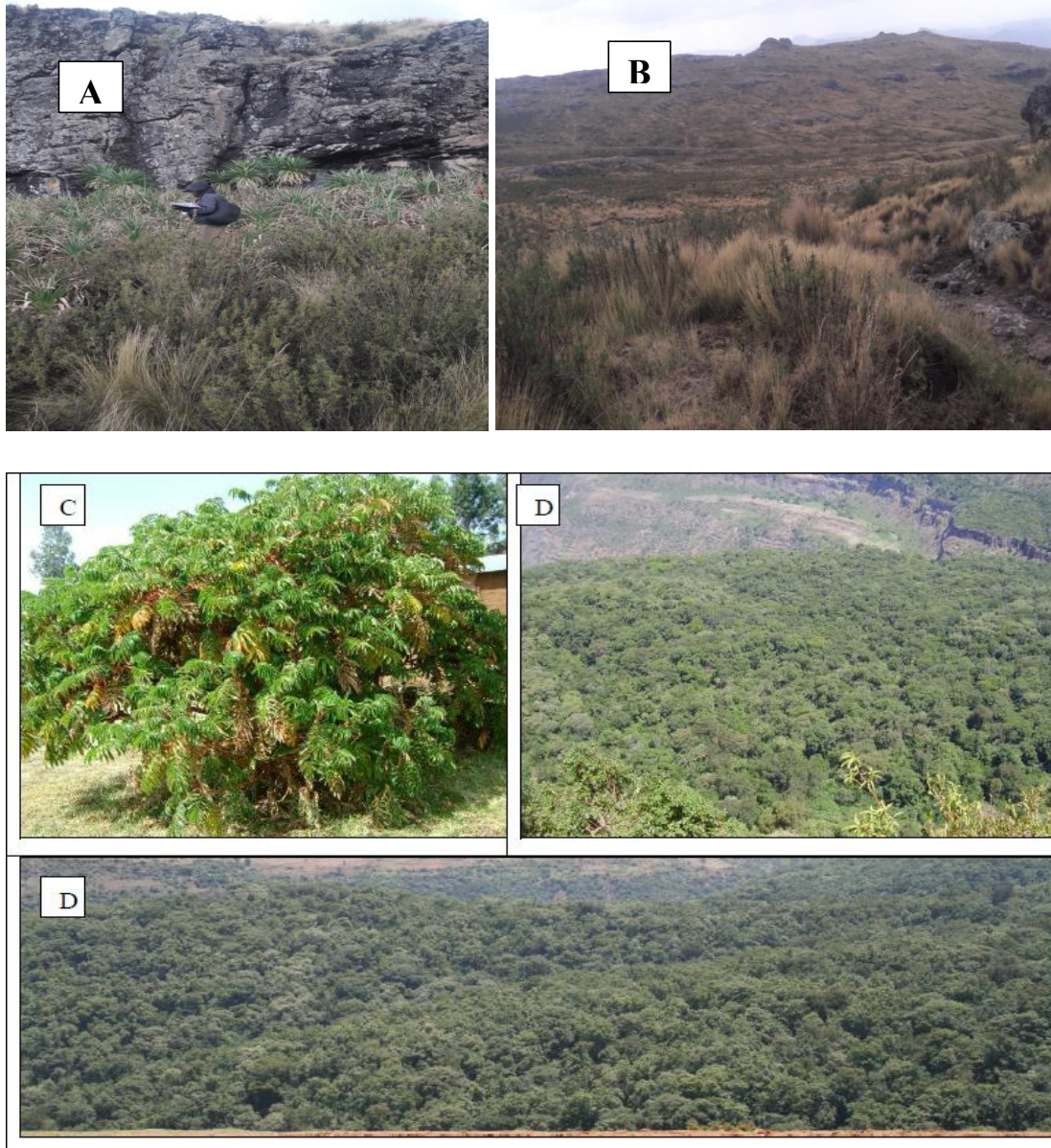


Figure 2: Flora of BSNP, (BSNP office 2015).

A. *Erica arborea* (Asta)

B. *Festuca* spp. (Guassa) and Giant Lobelia (Gibra)

C. *Hagenia abyssinica* (Kosso)

D. Dense afro-montane forest (Lower part of the park)

4.2.1.3. Fauna

According to key informant interviewee data obtained from Borena sayint national park offices respondents the park has marvelous scenery and diversified fauna flora, Borena Saynt National

Park is a home of different mammals, amphibians and birds. Four large mammals, namely Ethiopian wolf for key Kebero (*Canis simensis*), Ghilada baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*), Stark's Hare (*Lepus starkii*) and Meniliki's bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus menlikii*) are found in the park. Accordingly, the park has prominent bird species of which over 10 of them are endemic to Ethiopia. Like *Harwoodii Francolina* globally threatened species is found only in Borena Saynt Park could be probably the only place to protect this species.



Figure 3: some Endemic Mammals found in BSNP (BSNP office 2015)

- A. Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*)
- B. Gelada baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*)
- C. Stark's Hare (*Lepus starkii*)

4.2.2. Cultural Tourism Resource

Accordingly focus group discussion Borena Sayint national park has different cultural tourism resources which are listed in the above table. 87% of the respondents explained that cultural activities usually practice in and around the study area. Local people practices different ceremonies and artifacts in the area. In addition to the local communities provides cultural products for the visitors. These activities are the good opportunities for the development of eco-tourism. According to culture and tourism office given explanation around Borana Sayint national park different ceremonies are demonstrated in different time. Some of the ceremonies thoroughly below the pictures;

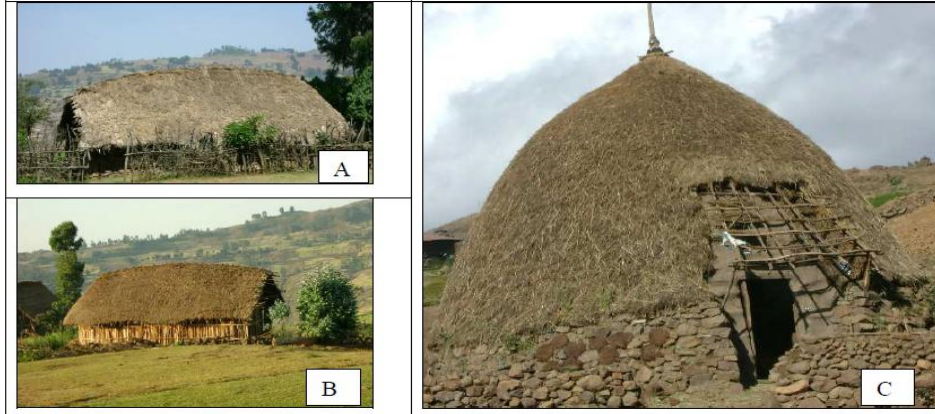
Table 3 cultural tourism resources

No	Tangible	Intangible
1	Pottery	
2	Weaving	Wedding ceremony
3	Sewing	Local music and dance
4	Calabash	
5	Cultural house building	Conflict resolution mechanism



Figure 4: Cultural Manifestations of Borena Woreda (From Borena Wereda Tourism Office)

- A .Dcorated hores used for transportation in wedding ceremony
- B .The bridegroom with his accompany marching to the brides house
- C .Local music by youngsters during marriage ceremony.



Source Borenasaynt culture and tourism office,2019

Figure 5 : Type of house constructed from Wood,stone and thatched grass(A and B near to the park,C in Gimba)



Figure 6: Some Local products (To be market resources for tourist)

A. Artifacts made by elementary school students

B. Product of micro and small scale enterprises used a uniform

4.3. The challenges to develop ecotourism in BSNP

4.3.1. Park community relationship

It is obvious that protected area cannot coexist with people hostile to its existence living around it. This is mostly because local communities living around protected areas such as national parks bear significant costs in a number of ways. As FGDs indicated, they are denied their customary rights to use the resources for grazing, cultivation, or hunting. Second, they are vulnerable to being termed as illegal land users. Third, they are evicted from their homelands. For these and a number of other reasons, local communities develop resentment towards protected areas such as the national parks. This was apparent in Ethiopia, particularly in the Borena Sayint National Park. As FGDs discussions indicated that relationships between local people and the Park's conservation activities are weak due to low level of awareness of local people on the importance of the conservation activities and the uniqueness of the BSNP. The communities cited many reasons for grievances with the park including: fines and confiscation of cattle, Beatings and shootings, restrictions on cattle grazing and firewood collection. Lack of protection from problem animals, feelings that park management see communities as the enemy, communities do not know the park staff, people do not understand why the park exists, feelings that the park took away people's land. Presently, there is a lack of effective park-community discussion forums for people to raise and solve their problems and there is no functional mechanism for communities to participate in Park management. Though challenging to establish, developing ecotourism activity can make it smooth relationships between the Park, community and other stakeholders. In general, there is less commitment from the BSNP and surrounding Community to work together in order to reconcile community development and conservation needs. In this regard, there needs a mechanism for improving park-community relations despite it encounters with a number of flaws, including lack of a policy backing and legislative frameworks from EWCA and a realistic mechanism for empowering ecotourism or for establishing an effective BSNP community dialogue. In general, the current trend of Park-community relationship indicates how it would be challenging to hold further discussions for establishing ecotourism development in the area. From the total respondents 50% of community interactions were affected with wild animal.

4.3.2. Absence of buffer Zone

The presence of buffer zone around protected areas and parks is vital for the sustainable conservation of natural resources.

According to environmental observation and FGDs, Borena-Saynt Park is surrounded with a degraded environment and the livelihood of local communities is solely dependent on traditional farming activities and rearing of animals. Such economic activities are mainly dependent on exploitation of natural resources. Due to scarcity of cultivable land and grazing land outside the park, the buffer zone up to the edge of the park is used either for farming activity or grazing land which is a threat for its sustainability. From the total respondents 45% were Absence of buffer Zone.

4.3.3. Lack of infrastructure

According to interview key informants, a well-developed and efficient infrastructure is vital for the development of the tourism industry. Absence of tourist standard hotels, underdeveloped road network development from MekaneSelam to the Park, poor communication networks around the park and absence of tourist facilities could be a hindrance factors for the development of ecotourism. Even though, the present expansion of different forms of infrastructures both in urban and rural areas is promising, more have to be done. From the total respondents 70% had been Lack of infrastructure.

4.3.4. Agricultural expansion

According to FGDs, Shortage of grazing land and forage for livestock are critical problems of the locals. Due to land degradation, the productivity of the land is extremely very low. These problems, unless reversed, may impose pressure on the park's resources. From the total respondents 40% of Agricultural expansion were affected the park.

4.3.5. Shape of the Park

According to filed observation, the shape of the park was rectangular having an exaggerated length with a very narrow width along a mountain ridge. It is believed that parks and protected areas with such kind of shape are probably exposed to an edge effect problem and face difficulty of controlling or patrolling. From the total respondents 30% of Shape of the Park was affected the park.

4.3.6. Lack of trained manpower

Knowledge contributes to a proper management. Without proper management social, ecological and cultural problems cannot be easily managed.

According to FGD discussions, there is big gap in manpower within the Park officials, the local community, government administrative bodies and woreda, zonal and regional tourism offices especially in the area of community-based ecotourism. For example, there is no ecotourism expert or consultant who is in charge of ecotourism activities among those concerned bodies. Because of this gap local need more training on ecotourism development so as to diversify ecotourism products and involve in alternative income generation activities. From the total respondents 60% were affected by Lack of trained manpower.

4.3.7. Lack of stakeholders' Cooperation and Integration: As per the results of interview and focused group discussions, there is no good integration among stakeholders and park office, for instance, the buffer zone of the park is managed by natural resource management without collaboration with park office. Besides, according to the interviewees, justice and police office evaluate some criminals or illegal activities of hunting, fishing and other unsustainable resource utilization as minor cases and sometimes they left the case without any penalties. From the total respondents 75% of park was affected by Lack of stakeholders' Cooperation and Integration.

4.3.8 Inadequate Financial Allocation: Conservation of wildlife and park management is an expensive task, and a lack of adequate financial resources for such activities is one of the profound difficulties facing park managers. Tourism experts reported that the financial allocation of the park is no sufficient which resulted in little management and conservation activities, and lack of equipment of the park (latest GPS, video- camera, gun materials for scouts). From the total respondents 85% of Inadequate Financial Allocation was affected the park.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The major findings of the study were clearly summarized on the basis of quantitative and qualitative method of data analysis and interpretation. Consequently, the study comes up with following findings based on the basic questions of the study. With regard to the overall findings of the study, the following findings were summarized. Presently, however, it is not serving these objectives to the desired extent and remains a burden rather than contributing to local development needs and livelihood security of the local communities. The local communities living around Borena Sayint National Park bear significant costs in a number of ways. First, they are denied their customary rights to use the resources for grazing, cultivation, or hunting. Second, they are vulnerable to being termed as illegal land users. There is great potential for developing Ecotourism in the BSNP and the surrounding community. As was discovered through FGD, interview and observation, the local community contains many ecotourism assets that could be developed into viable community based tourism products. These products would range from cultural activities to natural attractions to other recreation opportunities. The Borena woreda culture presents many opportunities for the development of various ecotourism products, including Flora, Fauna, scenery and cultural tourism resources (cultural dances, cultural and traditional festivals including wedding ceremonies). In addition, the study identified other infrastructural, manpower; awareness and subsistence agriculture related barriers for developing community based ecotourism in the Borena Sayint National Park area. Generally, my finding identified that these are some of the opportunities and challenges for the development of community-based ecotourism in the study area.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the major findings of the study and conclusions drawn, the following possible recommendations have been forwarded.

- Amhara National Regional State Parks Development and Protection Authority work in collaboration with the woreda administrators and concerned bodies have to carry out the establishment of ecotourism project.
- Tourism commission at different levels, ANRS Parks Development and Protection Authority, information office at different levels and other concerned bodies should take the responsibility in promoting the park.
- The regional government and woreda administrators in collaboration with concerned bodies have to upgrade the 16-kilometer road from Mekane Selam to the Park and develop basic tourist facilities.
- Training. Locally produced artifacts can be source of income for the local community. The locals are well known with the production of different artifacts from animal horn, basketry, animal hides and skin, metal etc. Training has to be given for them so that they can produce these artifacts as per the tourist standards.
- Providing alternative sources of energy like biogas, solar, wind, hydroelectric power etc for energy than wood, charcoal, dung and crop residue helps to reduce the pressure on the remaining forest resources.
- In order to avoid disturbance on any fauna and flora species like breeding, feeding, regeneration etc, a strategy should be designed with the consent of the local community on how, animal forage and thatched grass could be utilized and managed.
- Launching afforestation program on the surrounding area of the park enables local communities to have sustainable source of forage, construction materials and fuel wood so that the pressure on the remaining natural forests of the park will decreased.

REFERENCES

- Ayalew . (2009). The development of tourism in Ethiopia compiled by ETC: Addis ababa.
- Buckley, M. (2004). Burnout in organizational life. *Journal of Management*, 30, 859-880.
- Bull A. (2002). *The Economics of Travel and tourism*. Second Edition. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire
- [26] Lazear, E.P. (2004). *Balanced Skills and Entrepreneurship*. American Economic.
- Charnley, S. (2005). From Nature tourism to ecotourism? The Case of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania. *the Society for Applied Anthropology*, 64 .
- Diamantis, D. (1999). *The Concept of Ecotourism: Evolution and Trends*. Les Roches Management School, Tourism Research Centre, CH-3975, Switzerland, Bluche, Cu.
- EWCA. (2012). Ethiopian Wildlife conservation Authority. *Annually Magazine*.
- Gebeyaw Ambelu. (2011). Practices, Challenges and Opportunities of Community Based Ecotourism Development in Mekete woreda, North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region. *Unpublished Thesis*.
- Gemechu Shale Ogato. (2014). planning for sustainable Tourism challenges and opportunities for ecotourism development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Gezachew Andarge . (2003). challenges and prospects of Lake Tana island monasteries as a tourist site since 1950's [23] Jackie Odudoh 2013, Associations Kenyan tour operators. Problems of Kenyan tourism industry.
- Holden, A. (2003). *Environment and Tourism*, 1st ed., Rutledge, England: pp. 5, 62, 64, 68, 88, 97, 16.
- Hoof, V. (2006). Analysis of the critical success factors of community based Tourism: a tourism and conservation project in the central Danube Flood plains. Unpublished MA Thesis, NHTV university of Applied Sciences. Ethiopian Wildlife conservation Authority (EWCA), .
- Louis, M.P. (2007). Ecotourism in Namibia: Opportunities for Conservation and development. *Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction in Human Transformed Landscapes in Ethiopia*, pp. 17-20 & 31-4.
- Lowmen, M. (2004). Ecotourism and its impact on forest conservation" Action Biosphere; American institute of Biological sciences.
- Melaku. (2011). Wildlife in Ethiopia: endemic large mammals. *World Journal of Zoology*, .

- Okillo, F. (2003). *Tourism and Hospitality Management: Ecotourism in Uganda A Case Study of the Mgahinga National Park*. Master Thesis Graduate Business School of Economics and Commercial Law Goteborg University.
- Rannersmann, J. (2003). Geographer for the GTZ project. Community Based Ecotourism: Definition and overview of the different approaches and experiences unpublished document, *Land use Planning and Resoussrce Management of Oromiya Region (LUPO), Ethiopia, p.2.*
- Scwenk, T. (2002). Potentials for Community Based Eco-Tourism Project in the Area of the Wenchian and Dendi Crater Lake.
- Shibru, Tedl. (1994). Protected Areas Management Crisis in Ethiopia.
- Sindiga, I. (1999). *Tourism and African Development: Change and Challenge of Tourism in Kenya*. : Ashgate publishing company.
- Strasdas, W. (200.). *Ecotourism Training Manual for Protected Area Manager* German Foundation for International Development (DSE) Center For Food, Rura Development and The Environment (ZEL) Feldafing And Zschortatu, German National Par. *South Wello, Ethiopia (M. Athesis).*
- Teshale Biazen . (2010). *Ethiopia as a Tourist destination, An Exploration of Swedish Tourist Market Demand (case study)*, Blekinge Institute of Technology.
- Theodros Atlabachew. (2002). *Sustainable Tourism Development*. Paper presented on the tourism Symposium on Occasion of the World Tourism Day, Sheraton Addi .
- TIES. (2015). *Uniting conservation, community and sustainable travel*.
- Tsegaye Tadesse. (2007). *Linking Forest Conservation with Rural Livelihoods*:.
- UNTWO. (2013). *Conferencias seminarios, Turismo y nuevas Tecnologias, san Jose*.
- UNWTO. (2010). *Lesson from biosphere reserve in Easia Pacific region and a way*.
- UNWTO. (2012). *planning for sustainable Tourism challenges and opportunities for ecotourism development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Annual report*.
- Wearing, S. and Neil, J. (1999). *Ecotourism: Impacts, Potentials, and Possibilities*. Reed Educational and Professional Publishing.

- Woldegebrie. (2003). The denkoro high land in southwollo ;Preliminary assessment on the ecological significance of denkoro high land and managementoption.Environmentalprotection,Landadminis.
- WTO. (2002). Enhancingtheeconomicbenefitsoftourism forlocalcommunitiesand povertyalleviation.WTO,Madrid,Spain.
- Yabibal . (2010). TouristflowsanditsdeterminantsinEthiopia.Ethiopian DevelopmentResearchInstitute:AddisAbaba,Ethiopia.
- Young,J. (2012). .Ethiopian protected areasa‘Snapshot’:AREference guidefor future strategicplanningandprojectfunding.

Appendix

Wolkite University

College of Agriculture and Natural Resource

Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism Management

I. Household Questionnaire

Dear Respondents

The main objective of this questionnaire is to collect information about “**Opportunities and challenges of Ecotourism Development in Borena Sayint National park**, for partial fulfillment for the BSc (Bachelor of science) degree in wildlife and ecotourism management at Wolkite University. The researcher would like to thanks in advance for all your cooperation and participation.

1. General Information

1.1. Village Name _____

1.2. Sex: Male Female

1.3. Age _____

1.4. Religion: Muslim Christian Other _____

1.5. Educational Status:

Primary school Secondary school Tertiary

1.6 Occupation:

Pastoralist (livestock) Agriculture Livestock and Agriculture

Farming + Livestock + Wage labor Fire wood petty trade

Artisanal Crafts Workers Civil Servant If other, please

(Specify) _____

1.7 Family size: Male Female

Appendix II

Wolkite University

College of Agriculture and Natural Resource

Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism Management

II. Checklist for focused group discussions

Dear Respondents

The main objective of this questionnaire is to collect information about “**Opportunities and challenges of Ecotourism Development in Borena Sayint National park**, for partial fulfillment for the BSc (Bachelor of science) degree in wildlife and ecotourism management at Wolkite University. The researcher would like to thank in advance for all your cooperation and participation

1. What are the opportunities for ecotourism development in BSNP?
2. What are challenges for ecotourism development in BSNP?
3. Why tourism development did not integrate with local development in terms of improving the livelihood of the local people and for sustainable biodiversity conservation in BSNP area?
4. What are the future prospects of developing ecotourism in the BSNP?
5. What are the main responsible actors for developing ecotourism? Who are the current stakeholders and how do they work together? Do they work together?
6. What are the favorable conditions for developing ecotourism in BSNP and surrounding?
7. Is there any local institution that is responsible to coordinate local community for developing ecotourism in the area?
8. How is the attitude and perception towards tourism in general and ecotourism in particular?
9. What are the opportunities of the community in protecting BSNP?
10. What attitudes does the community have towards the BSNP?
11. What is the responsibility the community towards BSNP?
12. What are the benefits of financing and protecting the BSNP to the community?
13. What are local communities' perception and expectations on tourism in general and ecotourism in particular?

Appendix III

Wolkite University

College of Agriculture and Natural Resource

Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism Management

III. Checklist for interview questions

Dear Respondents

The main objective of this questionnaire is to collect information about “**Opportunities and challenges of Ecotourism Development in Borena Sayint National park**, for partial fulfillment for the BSc (Bachelor of science) degree in wildlife and ecotourism management at Wolkite University. The researcher would like to thanks in advance for all your cooperation and participation

1. What would be the major challenges for developing ecotourism-in BSNP area?
3. What are the favorable conditions to develop ecotourism in BSNP area?
4. Who do you think would be the main actors? Who are the current stakeholders and How do they work together?
5. How is the perception towards ecotourism development in BSNP?
6. What are the ecotourism potentials of the area?