

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

POTENTIALS OF HERITAGE RESOURCE FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT THE CASE OF SEKELLA WOREDA WEST GOJJAM ZONE.

A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR BACHELOR OF ART DEGREE IN GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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WOLKOITE,

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ADVISER: Solomon (PH.D)

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Demeke Salilih and Mefthe Kase

ABSTRACT

tourism is estimated to contribute about 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and the largest contributor for the creation of jobs across the world. travel scenario of Africa, there have been 58 million international tourist arrivals and 35 billion international tourism receipts by 2016 which shared 5% of tourist arrival and 3 % of tourist receipt in the world. In sekela woreda heritage resource potentials for developing of tourism destinations have not been examined by researchers conducted before this study,in addition there is no research conducted on heritage resource potentials in the study area, Therfore to fulfill this gap the researchers was inspire to conduct this study. The main objective of the study is to explore heritage resource potentials for the development of tourism in Sekela Woreda. The study is supposed to benefit those officers, custodians, and planners by providing better understand on the potentials of heritage tourism and its development challenges of the Woreda. The study may also give an insight for tourism development challenges to the concerned stakeholders.

The researcher was applied a qualitative research approach and the descriptive research design. In this study the researcher has used non-probability sampling designs for selection of informants. To do so, key informants seven from Sekela Woreda church clergies and owners of heritage resources, one from the Woreda diocese (betekihinet), two from the Woreda Culture and tourism office, and three from other sectors of the Woreda, six from local communities, and five from local story tellers were purposively selected based on the set criteria. Altogether, 24 key informants were being interviewed besides to focus group discussion and field observation.

Results of this study revealed that different factors like, weak promotion of tourism destinations, weak infrastructures development, and inadequate accommodation deliverers, Shortage of banking facilities are the major hindering factors of tourism industry development in the study area. Finally Based on the research finding the researcher's was made recommendations to the various concerned bodies in order to increase the proper utilization of the available tourism potential and opportunity.

Key Words: Heritage tourism, heritage potentials, and Challenge

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ACRONYMS

CSA: Central Statistical Agency

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

LDCs: Least Developed Countries

MO CT Ministry of Culture and Tourism

NBT: Nature Based Tourism

NGO: Non- Governmental Organizations

OECD: Organization for Economic Corporation and Development

UNESCO: United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization

US: United State

UNWTO: United Nations World Tourism Organization

WTTC: World Travel and Tourism Council

WTO: World Trade Organization

CHAPTER ONE

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back Ground of the study

Today tourism is becoming a key service industry to many developing and developed countries. As the world's largest industry, tourism development must be developed in a sustainable way to provide resources at target destinations (Fentaw, 2016). In 2019, tourism is estimated to contribute about 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and the largest contributor for the creation of jobs across the world (WTTC, 2021).International tourist arrivals have increased from 25 million in 1950 to 278 million in 1980. 674 million in 2000, to 1,235 million in 2016 (UNWTO, 2017). as well as international tourism receipts earned by destinations worldwide have increased from US$2 billion in 1950 to US$ 104 billion in 1980, US$ 495 billion in 2000, to US$ 1,220 billion in 2016.

According to the UNWTO (2017) travel scenario of Africa, there have been 58 million international tourist arrivals and 35 billion international tourism receipts by 2016 which shared 5% of tourist arrival and 3 % of tourist receipt in the world. Total contributions of travel and tourism to GDP was about 10.4% of the world economy and 9.9% of employment opportunity was from tourism, both directly and indirectly. it also covered 4.5% of total investments which were invested in the world by 2017 (WTTC, 2021).

Ethiopia is gifted with ancient historical and cultural heritage, wildlife resources, natural attractions and attractive geographical sites (Eshetu, 2018; Teshome & Demissie, 2018b). These resources highlight opportunities for tourists and other visitors to experience Ethiopia's ecology and natural beauty (Phillips, 2002). Ethiopian cultural tourism attractions include historical monuments, archeological sites, battlefields, religious buildings, museums, festivals, indigenous architecture, dress, artifacts and handicrafts; they also include intangible components and feelings such as fantasy, nostalgia, pleasure and pride which are presented through various cultural manifestations and interpretation of physical and cultural attributes (Teffera, 2019; Teshome et al., 2021). The above mentioned resources attract tourists from every corner of the world to Ethiopia (Fentaw, 2016;

Wondirad, 2020). However, despite these abundant resources, the country has not yet benefited fully (Ali, 2016; Wondirad et al., 2021).

Amhara National Region State (ANRS) has a number of tourism resources: like the Rock Hewn Church of Lalibela, the Castle of Gondar and the Simien mountains National Park (ANRSCTPDB, 2008) are found in Amhara. Within ANRS, Sekela Woreda is also rich with cultural and natural heritage resources. Among them, Source of Blue Nile is one which is an attractive destination but heritage resources are not utilized and developed properly (Teshome 2015).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As a country, Ethiopia is endowed with numerous tourist attractions ranging from physical to cultural, all of which are important for the country's tourism development. It has unique natural features, with cultural, historical, and religious resources and unique biodiversity; it has great potential for tourism resources. Studies conducted in identifying tourism resource in parts of Amhara National regional State in Ethiopia, highlight, for example, Choke Mountain and it's natural environment (Aseres, 2015), Wunania Kosoye and the surrounding environment (Teshome, 2015), Borena Sayint Wurehimenu National Park (Eshetu, 2018),Wofwash National Priority Forest (Teshome et al., 2019), Guna Mountains (Young, 2020), Zege peninsula in Lake Tana (Molla,2019 & Wondirad, 2019). These destinations are endowed with potential tourism resources (such as scenic landforms, mountains, gorges, unique biodiversity), and exceptional cultural and related resources (Nurhssen, 2016).

However, in Sekela woreda heritage resource potentials for developing tourism destinations have not been examined, in addition to this the above researchers were concerned only about tourism resource, Also there is no research conducted about heritage resource potentials specially on sekela woreda before this study. Therefore to fill the above identified gaps and provide empirical evidence the researchers was inspire to conduct this study.

1.3. Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objectives

The General objective of the study is to explore heritage resource potentials for the development of tourism in Sekela Woreda.

1.3.2. The Specific Objectives

Based on the above general objective the study has the following specific objectives:

- ✓ To asses natural and cultural heritage potentials in the study area.
- ✓ To identify movable heritages in the study area.
- ✓ To identify challenges of tourism resource development in the study area.

1.3.3. Research Questions

- ✓ What are the natural and cultural heritage potentials in the study area?
- ✓ What are the movable heritages in the study area?
- ✓ What are the potential challenges faced the tourism development in the study area?

1.4. Significance of the Study

Specifically, the researcher's strongly believes this study has the following importance:It can assist for developing new strategies, management plans and actions to enhance the tourism sectors of Sekela Woreda, Helps officers, custodians and planners better understand the heritage potentials of the study area and its development challenges of Sekela Woreda, It provides up-to-date data on heritage potentials of Sekela, It could serve as a stepping-stone for further researches and also could be replicated to other similar destinations.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This study was delimited to explore the potentials of heritage resources for the development of tourism and describing challenges that have impact on the development of tourism resources in Sekela Wereda in West Gojjam, north central Ethiopia.

1.6. Limitations of the Study

There were many problems that was faced the researcher's during data collection. These were: lack of enough secondary sources of information related to Sekela Woreda’s heritage resource, unwillingness of custodians and clergy of ancient churches and monasteries for that they refuse

to give the true interpretation of movable religious antiquities, difficult to gather documentary information from different offices. Because, different employers were not worked in the office because of political unrest in the area, Shortage of time and finance due to this it was not cover all heritages in the area.

1.7. Organization of the Study

The research paper consisted of five chapters with their sub topics and provides detail information. Chapter one of the study deals with background of the study and study area, its statement of the problem, objective, significance, scope and limitations of the study. Whereas Chapter two provides a review of related literature. Chapter three describes about, the study area and its socio-demographic setting, study design, data sources, data gathering instruments, sample, sampling technique, sampling design, and method of data analysis. Chapter four provides data presentation and interpretation of the result. The final chapter consisted of conclusions and recommendations based on the researcher's finding.

CHAPTER TWO

2.LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter provides information about the concept of important terms that are related to heritage and tourism. First describe about the concept of Tourism, Tourist, heritage and heritage tourism, it Also describe about types of heritage this are known as nature based tourism resource and culture based tourism resource, and finally seen about the development or overview of tourism in the World, Africa, Ethiopia, and Amhara region. Tourism is any person who is voluntarily visiting a place away from their normal place of residence for a period of twenty-four hours or more, but less than a year, and whose main purpose of visit is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Natural heritage includes significant wetlands, coastal wetlands, fish habitat, woodlands, valley lands, habitat of endangered species and threatened species, wildlife habitat, and areas of natural and scientific interest, which are important for their environmental and social values. Whereas, Cultural heritage includes artifacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance.

2.1. Concept of Tourism, Tourist, and Heritage

2.1.1 Tourism

In 2019, Hunziker and Kraft defined tourism as "the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, in so far as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity." In 2017, the Tourism Society of England's definition was: "Tourism is the temporary, short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the stay at each destination. In 2018, the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism defined tourism in terms of particular activities chosen and undertaken outside the home.

2.1.2 Tourist

Chris Ryan:(2016) emphasizes the psychological aspect of tourism and defines a tourist as "any person who is voluntarily visiting a place away from their normal place of residence for a period of twenty-four hours or more, but less than a year, and whose main purpose of visit is

other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. Tourist, a fourth element of cultural tourism, is a backbone in the tourism sector.

In the previous conceptualization of tourism, all travelers engaging in tourism are described as a visitor (Goeldner, Brent Ritchie & McIntosh, 2016). Goeldener etc. al defined visitors as persons who travel to a country other than the one in which they generally reside for a period not exceeding 12 months, whose main purpose is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited. There are two categories of visitors: same-day visitors (day-trippers) and tourist.

2.1.3 Heritage and Heritage tourism

Heritage is often defined as our legacy from the past, what we live within the present, and what we pass on to future generations by communities. The word heritage in its broader meaning is generally associated with the word inheritance meaning something transferred from one generation to another. It is also something we want to appreciate and experience to the fullest extent. According to Nola Cddy (2017), 'heritage is about a special sense of belonging and of continuity that is different for each person. Heritage is regarded as one of the most significant and fastest growing components of tourism. Heritage includes landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as biodiversity, collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge and living experiences.(Nuryanti,W.2017)

2.2 Types of heritage resource

2.2.1 Natural heritage

Natural heritage refers to the sum total of the elements of biodiversity, including flora and fauna and ecosystem types, together with associated geological structures and formation. it includes significant wetlands, coastal wetlands, fish habitat, woodlands, valley lands, habitat of endangered species and threatened species, wildlife habitat, and areas of natural and scientific interest, which are important for their environmental and social values (Elizabeth Bradshaw 2020).

2.2.2 Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts (cultural property) and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artifacts), intangible culture such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge. it is often described as objects, places or practices which have been handed down by tradition or which have some link to history. (Ethics and rationale of heritage preservation, 2019).

2.3. Movable heritages

Movable heritage' is a term used to define any natural or manufactured object of heritage significance. Movable heritage may be an integral part of the significance of heritage places. It can also belong to cultural groups, communities or regions of New South Wales.Like other types of heritage, it provides historical information about people's experiences, ways of life and relationships with the environment.

It also helps us to learn about people who may have been left out of written historical accounts, including women and community groups. People's experiences of migration and settlement are rarely given a voice in official and administrative histories of government migration policies.Movable heritage can prompt people to remember experiences and reflect family and community histories. Movable heritage can help migrant communities keep their cultures alive and maintain traditions and practices.Because movable heritage is portable, it is easily sold, relocated or thrown away during changes of ownership, fashion or use. Movable heritage held by ageing migrants is not always valued by the next generation. Movable heritage is vulnerable to loss, damage, theft, dispersal and disposal, often before its heritage significance is appreciated and before people's migration memories are recorded (UNWTO (2017).

2.4. Factors affecting the development of tourism

Factors that influence tourism development include capital, knowledge, information, benefit expectations, real GDP growth rate, consumer price index, average cost of tour packages, external factors (demographic and social changes, economic and financial development, changes in political and legal regulation, technological changes, trade development, transport

infrastructure, travel safety), internal factors (supply and demand processes, market segmentation, actual marketing, tourism private sector, human factor), resource potential of the country, trends in the business environment, development of tourist infrastructure, political and legal framework for tourism regulation, land consolidation, market characteristics, institutional arrangements, farming household's understanding of tourism, household information, family characteristics, and physical proximity to tourism services(Wondirad, 2020).

2.5. Overview of Tourism Resources

2.5.1. Overview of Tourism Resources in the World

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world and plays a vital role in the economic development of a country. Many countries of the world survive upon the tourism sector. In this globalization era, third world countries started tourism to progress their economy, keep contribution to world peace, reduce poverty level and develop human resource and culture. (Shapley and Telpher 2019).

Certain countries of the Middle East have exceptional tourism development. From the Middle East countries, Dubai has demonstrated an ability to establish itself as a popular destination with a high tourism growth rate. It is an interesting example of a more successful Middle East tourism center that is creating new opportunities and realizing its potential. Dubai was started to invest in tourism which is soon to be a pillar of the economy (Crookston, 2018). Other developed countries in tourism industry like USA, France and United Kingdom they all diversified their economies from production to the much needed attention to the tourism sector (Henderson, 2014).

2.5.2 Overview of Tourism Resources in Africa

In Africa, Tourism continues to enjoy sustained growth. In 2014, the continent welcomed 56 million international tourists from 26 million in 2000.Foreign Direct Investment is one of the vital aspects to tourism development in Africa. the Arab Gulf nations, giving with their huge sovereign wealth funds are big players in investments in the tourism and hospitality sectors of Africa. Like in Djibouti, Kaminski Hotel was funded by Arab Gulf investments.

Now a day, Mozambique and Senegal attract Arab Gulf investment, as well as Rwanda and Ethiopia, By supporting of Dubai and the World Africa planning about $1.5 billion of

investments in the continent, including $100 million in Ethiopia and $230 million in Rwanda. Emirates Airlines serves almost twenty African destinations including Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda which is expected to improve tourist arrival numbers for the continent (The State of Tourism in Africa, 2018). African countries can improve their economic growth by strategically exploiting the tourism potentials. (WTO, 2019).

2.5.3. Development of Tourism Resources in Ethiopia, Some empirical evidence

Tourism in Ethiopia has a long history that dates back centuries, fueled by the country's rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and natural beauty. While it is challenging to attribute the beginning of tourism to a specific individual or event, there have been several key contributors to the development of Ethiopia's tourism industry. Emperor Haile Selassie, who ruled Ethiopia from 1930 to 1974, played a significant role in promoting tourism in the country. During his reign, he encouraged the restoration and preservation of historical sites, such as the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela and the ancient ruins of Aksum. These efforts aimed to show Ethiopia's as acultural and religious heritage to both domestic and international visitors.

The Ethiopian Tourist Organization, established in 1961, was another important contributor to the development of tourism in Ethiopia. It was responsible for promoting the country as a tourist destination, organizing tours, and providing services to visitors. The organization played a crucial role in raising awareness about Ethiopia's attractions and facilitating travel arrangements for tourist (Fleming, 2017).

Ethiopia possesses or contains different tourist attraction and a greater various tourist destination areas when compare to neighbor countries' but their opportunity is not used. According to UNWTO's regional 'distribution of tourism arrivals and receipts statistical report of 2008, share only the tourist flow of 330,000 and receipts of 377 million and has a market share of 0.7% in Africa.(Melaku 2018).

In 2006- 2008 Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also shows an identical number of tourists which was 383,399 tourists coming in Ethiopia during 2008. Compared to 2005, 2006, and 2007, it has increased by 68.6%, 16.2% and 7.1% respectively. 98% of Ethiopia's total export earnings in 2008 were also gains mainly from tourists. For the year as whole, in spite of the economic crises in the world, Ethiopia has achieved growth in the

sector (MoCT, 2017). Ethiopia's tourism industry is a rapidly growing sector and a third foreign exchange earner, following coffee and oilseeds (Mann, 2014).

2.5.4. Overview of Tourism Resource in Amhara Regional State

The Amhara region has tremendous and untapped tourism potential having some World Heritage Sites, however, the number of tourists visiting the region and the annual revenue incurred out of the tourism business is very low (Meskele, 2016). Studies conducted in this regard identified challenges including lack of effective marketing strategies, lack of human resource and capacity, weak institutional and legislative frameworks, industry quality and standards issues, insufficient tourism and support infrastructure, and, uncoordinated and fragmented tourism planning and development both at the national and regional levels (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2015; Nafbek, 2017;Teshome and Demisse). However, in the Amhara Regional State, major destination challenges related to community participation, community organizations, benefit sharing mechanism, knowledge of the society about tourism, funding for tourism development, facilities and services in a destination, organizational structure, infrastructural development and stakeholder coordination have not been properly examined.

CHAPTER THREE

3. DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

This chapter provides about firstly Description of the study area and lastly its research methodology, under Description of the study area the researcher's describe about: the geographical location of the study area including with its map, climatical conditions of the area, demographic Characteristics, livelihood Bases, social Infrastructure, and land use system of the population in the area. Under methodology the researcher gives about study design, data sources that are known as primary and secondary data sources, data gathering instruments, sampling Technique for the selection of samples, method of data analysis. Finally Ethical Considerations about the research.

Sekella Woreda is found in West Gojjam Zone, the current total population of this woreda is 175,245 among this 87,012 was male and 88,233 was female, most of the people are agriculturalist. Based on the nature of the study, qualitative research methodology was applied. In this study the researcher's was used non-probability sampling method for the selection of samples, the researcher Also applied the descriptive research design, the researcher's used interview and personal observation for the gathering of required information, the researchers used purposive sampling from non-probability sampling designs and select 24 respondents from the population, Also the researcher's used content analysis for the analysis of information obtained from the respondents

3.1 Description of the Study Area

3.1.1 Geographical location

Sekela Wereda is located in Amhara region. Part of the Mirab (West) Gojjam Zone, Sekela is bordered on the south west by Bure, on the west by the Agew Awi Zone, on the north by Mecha, on the north east by Yilmana Densa, on the East by Kuarit, and on the south east by Jabi Tehnan. The administrative center of Sekela is Gish Abay. Topographically, Sekela woreda is located at an elevation of 3062 meter above sea level and Latitude of : 11° 09' 60.00" N and Longitude of : 37° 00' 0.00" E. It is located at 459 km away North West from Addis Ababa, the capital city of

Ethiopia, 160 km away south east from Bahir Dar, the capital of Amhara National Regional State, and 74 km away north east from Finote Selam, the capital town of West Gojjam Zone (CSA, 2008).

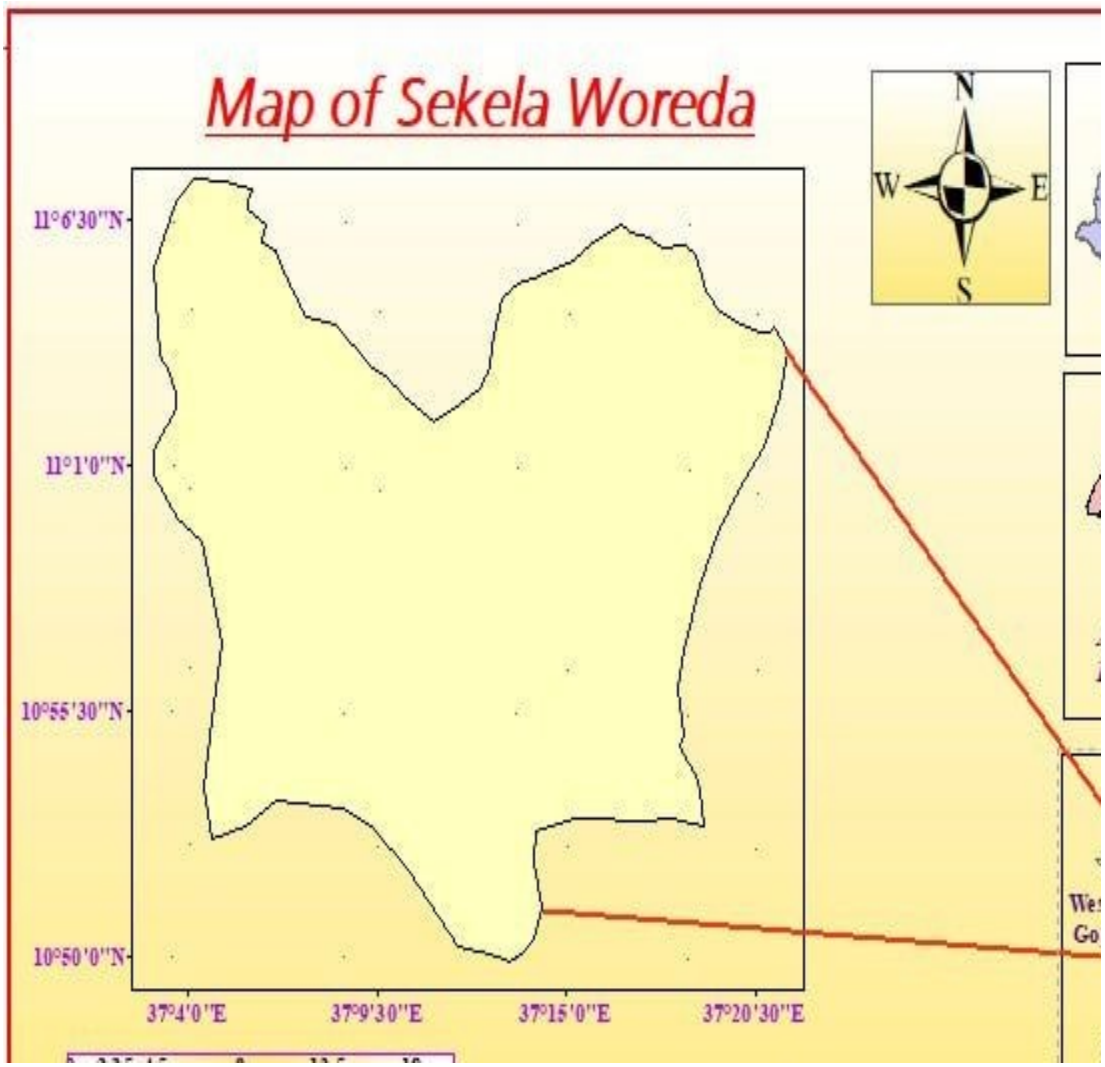


Figure 1: map of study area

Source: the researchers creation by using ARC GIS(2024).

3.1.2. Climatic Conditions

According to the Sekela Woreda Communication Office (2024), this Woreda is characterized by 70% highland (Dega), 18% midland (Woynadega) and 12 % lowland (Qola) agro-ecological zones. Besides, the geographical location this Woreda is also identified as 65% mountainous, 10% plateau and 25% of the area is valley. The average temperature of this Woreda is 18 Degre Celsius. Based on the Amhara Livelihood Zone Report (2007), the average annual rainfall of the area ranges from 1600mm to 1800mm. Agricultural activities are highly dependent on Kiremt (summer) rain which falls from June to September. But some households use irrigation, particularly for potato production. Besides, this Woreda has different soil types such as 60% red, 20% brown, 15% black and 5% gray soil which are suitable for producing various crop species in summer season.

3.1.3. Demographic Characteristics

Based on 2007 national census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), this woreda has a total population of 138,691, an increase of 61.36% over the 1994 census, of whom 69,018 are men and 69,673 women; 6,779 or 4.89% are urban inhabitants. With Total area of 768.83 km2 (296.85 sq mi), and population density of 180.39 inhabitants per square kilometer (467.2/sq. mi), which is greater than the zone average of 158.25 inhabitants per square kilometer. A total of 29,908 households were counted in this woreda, resulting in an average of 4.64 persons to a household, and 29,093 housing units. The majority of the inhabitants practiced Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity, with 99.97%. The largest ethnic group reported in Sekela was the Amhara (99.93%). Amharic was spoken as a first language by 99.95%. The current population projection in this woreda was 175,245 among this 87,012 was male and 88,233 was female (Sekela Woreda Culture and Tourism Office, 2024).

3.1.4. Livelihood Bases

The economic base of Sekela Woreda population is crop production with mixed animal rearing. They are also involved in other off-farming activities. According to Sekela Woreda Communication Office (2024), 98% of the Woreda populations are involved in agricultural activities. The main crops cultivated in the central highland areas are barley and potato and the bulk of these are produced for household consumption. Besides, the dominant crop types

cultivated in the south west areas are Maize, Finger Millet and Teff (Amhar Livelihood Zone Report, 2015). However, nowadays, extensive degradation and high soil acidity have reduced the agricultural potentials. This, in turn, forced the communities to participate in other off-farming economic activities (Berman et al, 2017).

3.1.5. Social Infrastructure

According to Sekela Woreda Culture and Tourism Office (2024), the health service coverage of the Woreda increases continuously. In 2013, 29 health posts (Tena Kelas) and 7 health centers (Tena Tabias19) are found in this Woreda. Moreover, this Woreda nearly finished the construction of 4 health posts (Tena Kelas) and 2 health centers (Tena Tabias) in different Kebeles.besides, educational institutions are expanded rapidly. Currently, there are 64 primary schools, 1 secondary schools, 3 general secondary and preparatory school and 1 technical and vocational training institute in this Woreda. (Sekela Woreda Culture and Tourism Office, 2024).

The major sources of water for Population are river/lake/pond (53.26%), unprotected well spring (22.88%), protected well spring (14.08%) and tap outside compound (8%). Among the urban population (4.89%) of the Woreda, 56.06% of them get water from tap outside the compound. But, for rural population (95.11%), the main source of water (about 57.4% population) is river/ lake/pond (CSA, 2008).

3.1.6. Land Use Systems

The total coverage area of Sekela Woreda is 79,317 km2 from this area, only 24,915.67 km2 is suitable for agriculture and the other 48,792.1 km2 of land is not suitable for agricultural activities. Furthermore, from the available land, 12,264.35 km2 of land is covered by forests and the other 20,773.8 km2 land is available for cattle grazing (Sekela Woreda Culture and Tourism Office, 2016).people use different techniques to protect their land from erosion and to enhance its fertility. As explained by Sekela Woreda Culture and Tourism Office (2024). Populations in this Woreda used 415,558 meter cube organic fertilizer to improve the fertility of their land in 2012. Besides, in the same year, they constructed 1417.087 km soil trench, 2431.335 km stone trench and 76,750 km terrace to protect the soil from erosion.

3.2 Research Methodology

Based on the nature of the study, the researchers were used qualitative research methodology. nature of the study leads the researchers to use this method. because, to gather relevant information from the respondents each respondent must be knowledgeble.

3.2.1 Study Design

To address the researchers objective the the researchers were applied the descriptive research design. Descriptive survey is the state of affairs that exists at present time and it is important to describe a set of information. It seeks to ascertain respondents perspectives or experiences on a specified subject in a predetermined structured manner.(Jackson S.L 2017).This is because the aim of the study was to describe and disclose all facts and situations regarding heritage resource of the study area through gathering primary and secondary data.

3.2.2 Data Sources

To conduct this study, the researchers had obtained necessary data from both primary as well as secondary data sources. Primary data sources include interview from key informants and observation. In addition, the researchers was seen about different documents from various institutions. The researchers was used relevant scientific journals and academic articles, published and unpublished materials, office reports and others on the subject matter which are secondary sources of the study.

3.2.3 Data Gathering Instrument

Interview

The researchers was conducted lnterview to collect necessary data from different individuals and organizations including government representatives of Sekela Woreda culture and tourism office, Sekela Woreda Orthodox Tewahido Diocese (Betekihinet), church clergies priests and teachers from Abay Minch Secondary and Preparatory school.

Personal observation

The researchers had been also, personally observed the aspects of the subject matter in order to examine and investigate tourism potentials of Sekela. The researchers had used observation to

examine heritage resource potentials of Sekela Woreda.The data gathered through observation was supported by photo.

3.2.4 Sampling Technique

In this study the researchers was used purposive sampling from non-probability sampling methods for selection of samples. Purposive sampling technique was selected because in this sampling, the selection of sampling units (i.e., the number and location and/or timing of collecting samples) is based on knowledge of the feature or condition under investigation and on professional judgment. Nature of the study leads them to use this type of sampling technique.

3.2.5 Sample Size

Since in purposive sampling, the selection of sampling units is based on knowledge of the feature or condition under investigation and on professional judgment, So by using this method the researchers was selected required samples; Accordingly, seven from the Woreda diocese (betekihinet), two from the Woreda Culture and tourism office, and two from Abay minch secondary and preparatory school history teachers, one from Abesken secondary shooll history teacher. Nine from agriculturalist of local communities and three from local church monks were participated in the study. Totally 24 respondents were participated in the research,by doing this the researchers had gathered appropriate data by means of both face to face and mobile interview.

3.2.6 Method of Data Analysis

The researchers was used Content analysis method for the analysis and interprets of the data.Content analysis is a research method used to systematically analyze and interpret the content of various forms of communication, such as text, audio, video, images, or social media posts. It involves the objective and systematic examination of the content to identify patterns, themes, and relationships within the data.

3.3 Ethical Consideration

In this research paper, all privacy, right, and confidentiality had been taken into account. Also all participants were safely assured from both physical and psychological harm. In addition the researcher's properly acknowledges the idea taken from other resources. The analyzed data. Was based on the respondents‟ interview; there is no any involvement of the researcher's opinion

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATIONS

This chapter provides the heritage tourism resource potentials and heritage tourism development, both natural and cultural as well as its movable heritages in Sekela woreda. And finally presents the major heritage tourism development challenges that Sekela has been facing. Under natural heritages it includes, sources of Blue Nile, Selassie Gedam, Lake Gudera, Selsela Natural Forest, Jabola cave. under cultural heritage it have seen about; Alazar cave, Dengai kedada, Stone of Gragn Ahmed, Castle of Fasiledes, and Monastery of Teklehaymanot. under Movable heritage it also seen about; Book of Melody of Saint Yared, Cross of Abune Zerabiruk church, Vestment, Cencer and Bronze crosse in Weraita Michael church, and finally Synaxarium found in Teklehaymanot church.

Lastly we have discuss about the challenge of tourism industry development in this area this were: inadequate trained human resources, lack of local tour guide associations, an absence of linkage with tour operators, lack of information centers, and weak promotion of tourism destinations, weak infrastructures development, and inadequate accommodation deliverers, Shortage of banking facilities due to this and other factors tourism development are an infant stage in the area.

4.1 Natural Heritage Resource Potential of Sekela Woreda

4.1.1 Source of River Abay

By watching its, huge amount of water resource, Sekela woreda was known as" land of water". it consists of 31 rivers and 78 small springs. sekela was the source of Blue Nile also known as Ghion in Geez, at the source of this river it consists of three small springs. All these three streams of water flows together to the south east direction and encircled the town of Gish Abay. Thee volume of water is varying from time to time, after about three kilo meters journey from its source the water volume increase.

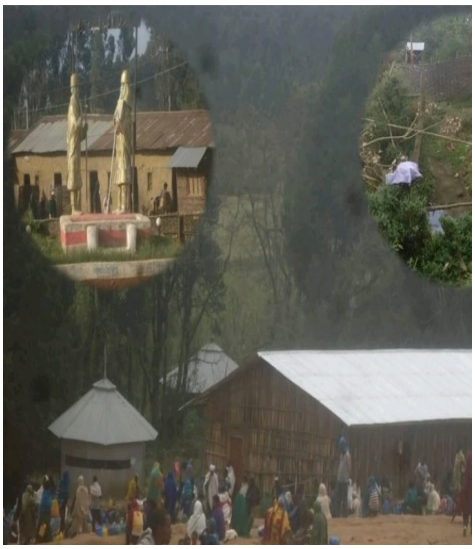
These waters are believed to have a healing power and considered as a holy water by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Christians, at the church of Abune Zerabiruk of Gish Abay. It is considered holy by many, and is believed to be the River Gihon mentioned as flowing out of the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2.According to informants the exact source of abay is sekela woreda rather than that of Tana. presently we are cooperate to culture and tourism office for the creation of acknowledgment regarding to its source for the international people. (Priest alemayehu Mengesha and Priest Endalew Alamiraw interviewed on March 18, 2024).



Picture 1: Gish Mountain the source of Abay (Photo obtained from culture and tourism office 2024).

Abune Zerabruk was one of the monks in Ethiopian orthodox Christianity he was once a time lived on these areas for 30 years. This monks were their own biblical books this book were important for those monks to communicate their own petition to God. The name that was given to abay was by these monks, to briefly explain once a time Abune Zerabruk was captured under a prisoner by Ethiopian kings, in that time abune was give those biblical books to Ghion and under prisoner for 5 years. after 5 years the abune was released from the prison. after the prison his monk was returned to Ghion and ordered Ghion to give those books that was provisioned during the prison, and said that Gish their own books that was give to you in the past, then Ghion was accepted their Abune order and give thier books to the abune without moistness.

In this time one of the disciple known as Abune Zerufael was lived together to the abune.Abune Zeaerabruk said his followers aba seen this water to give their own books withoght moistness after contained 5 years. In Amharic Gish means tifi aba means abat seen means ey. After that the name abay was used widely, before that abay was not known rather its name was Ghion. After that the abune was slay those areas by their own cross that was given directly from God. after that those area people's and others considered those water as the holy water and used it to avoid different satans and other disease for example HIV Aids (Aba Gebire Meskel Belachew interviewed on March 19, 2024).



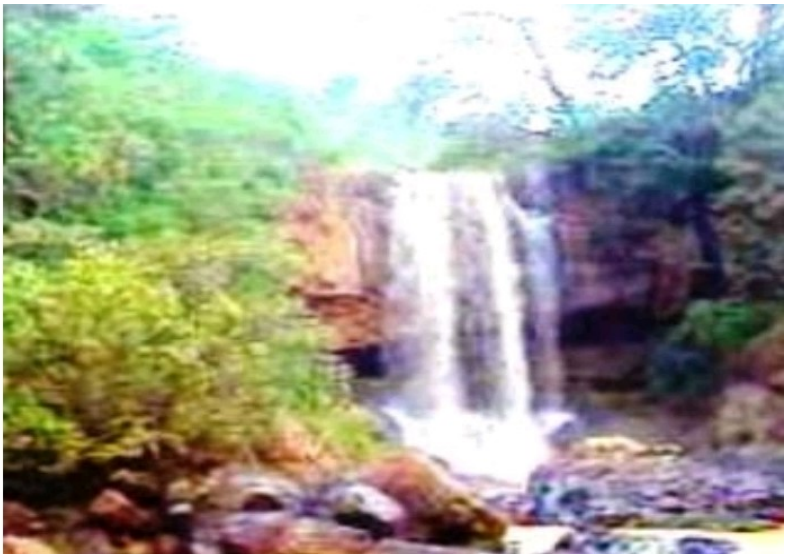


Picture 2: Monument of Monks at Gish abay Town and Gishabay Wholly Water (upper left and right respectively) and Wholly Water Users (lower picture) and Abune Zerabruk photos (photo from culture and tourism office and by the researchers respectively from left to right 2024)

4.1.2 Selassie Gedam

Selassie Gedam Falls is a natural water falls which is found about 17 kilo meters south west of Gish Abay town, in Gunkan Kebele. this fall was as a result of three small springs that flows together, after drains of asoft rock it gains hard rock that was 10 meters height and falls on it. under this rock there is a natural cave that are important for the past in 17th century for the store of the Arc of holy trinity that was brought to those cave by Aba Yaekob one of the disciple of

Dek Estifanos. this fall have been considered by Ethiopian orthodox Christianity as holy water and its healing power to avoid of the dickens and other disease. According to informants this attractive area were not seen by international tourists, because o its weak promotion in the area. (Emahoy Zewde interviewed on March 16, 2024).



Picture 3: Silassiea Gedam falls (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.1.3; Lake Gudera

Lake Gudera is the only Lake in Sekela that was found about 19 kilo meters south of Gish Abay town in Gudera kebele. This Lake measures 10,000 meter from the eastern part of the lake to the west and 1500 meter from the northern part of the lake to the south. Regarding to the depth of the lake is not known. many birds specious having a variety of colors on and around Lake Gudera have lead the lake to very atractive. This Lake is surrounded by high undulating mountain ranges, and small hills which make it to be such an interesting place for visitors.

There is a legend about this lake talk by respondants of this area. The legend says this place was inhabited by peoples before Christ, In those days the area was called ‘Gumdera’ which means the fog become dense. The respondant said that the area was destroyed and the peoples were disappeared after the whole village sink in to the crust and finally covered by lake for the reason that they disobey God. According to informants Lake Gudera is an ideal place for the development of beach tourism and for bird watching with its surrounding landscape, Also very

important for agricultural purpose (Wizero Zenebu Birle one of the usages of this lake for agriculture during the dry season and Mulatu Teshome interviewed on March10, 2024).



Picture 4: Lake Gudera (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.1.4; Selsela Natural Forest

Selsela forest is one of the natural heritage potentials found in Sekela woreda about 12 kilo meters east of Gish Abay town in Selsela abo durashale kebele.The periphery was surrounded by amazing and interesting mountain chains. This forest was covering an area of 1561 hectares from the upper bound to the lower bound. This forest is one of the relatively untouched, comprises unique and attractive mountain closed vegetation's.

The landscape around the forest is very fascinating highly rugged, undulating to rolling plains. there is a number of hilly and mountainous land which the whole year covered by vegetation's. As a natural attraction Selsela natural forest has various plants, and animals such as mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. According to informants However, now most of species are being disappeared; especially wild animals such as Tiger, lion and other large mammals. Currently, the forest is facing a big problem which leads it to be even destroyed. Among the problems over grazing is not controlled by the concerned bodies.(Sekela woreda agricultural development office 2024).



Picture 5: Selsela Natural forest (Photo by the researchers 2024)

4.2; Cultural Heritage resources of Sekela Woreda

Sekela Woreda is endowed with many cultural heritages in different remotely located kebeles. Sekela is a home of more than 112 churches and monasteries, and many caves. This section highlights some cultural heritage of the Woreda.

4.1.5 ; Jabola cave

This cave was found in jabola mariam in a village of wasnet 15 km away from Gish abay town. This cave is located in a higher elevation also its hinterland are surrounded by higher elevation because of this this cave is very amazing and interesting to view it for tourists. The total area of the cave is not known; during the time of Italian invasion this cave was used by warriors as a fortification the surrounding was made by mud and stone and has only one door which serves as an entrance and exit. This cave is also shelter of many species of birds and animals the common one that are living in this cave is bat. (Ato Atikem Genbere and Ato Mogese Degu interviewed on March 15, 2024).



Picture 6: Jabola cave (obtained from culture and tourism office 2024).

4.2.1; Alazar cave

Alazar cave is found in the Ambisi kebele south of Gish abay town. The local community was belived the name Alazar is derived from the term ‘alazar ‘which indicates the presence of powerful sprit which is invisible called ‘zar’. In the ancient times this zar cause and create harm to the local peoples who lives in these surroundings. (Ato Alehey Ayichew and weizero alemitu tebikew interviewed on March 13, 2024).

The cave serves as a home for different wild animals this animal was create harm on the local peoples, pet animals and crops so that the local peoples in fear of this build up a wall fence around the cave leaving only 2x3 meters for entrance, and the entrance of the cave which is 3m in height lead you to a hall like room which is around 50meter in length. Inside the cave there are many archaeological remains such as animal teeth, pieces of pot and other different pottery that can be the witness for that there were people living in the cave at some time in the past. (Sekela Woreda Culture And Tourism office 2024).



Picture 7: Alazar cave (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.2.2; Dengai Kedada

Is found in Alibo Genete kebele about eastern part of Gish abay town. This area was once a time in the past a home of monks. There is also a holy water in the surrounding of the cave used by Christian communities. The surrounding area of this stone is very spectacular to see by tourists. This wide stone hole takes 18-23 minutes by walking from one entering side to another exit side of the stone. (Ato Maru Gashaw interviewed on March 9, 2024).



Picture 8: Dingai kedada (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.2.3; Stone of Gragn Ahmed

Stone of Gragn Ahmed is a single standing stone found in Sekela Woreda, Afermasha kebele, about 19 kilo meters north of Gish Abay town. The stone has 1.6 meter height and 1.1 meter circumference. According to the legend attached to this stone, it was believed to be thrown by the left hand of Gragn Ahmed or Ahmed Ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi. Yet, the question of how and why this stone has been thrown or standing by Gragn was not known. (Ato Mekonen Eshetu interviewed on March 11) and (Ato Mola Kasahun and Ato Abirham Degu interviwed on March 12, 2024).



Picture 9 :Stone of Gragn Ahmed (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.2.4; Castle of Fasilades

Fasil palace is found in Abesken kebele at the north eastern part of Sekela Woreda, 27 kilo meters from Gish Abay town. this palace was found on mountain of Abagis which founds about 2760 meters above sea level. during the mid of 17 th century. king Fasiledes of Gonder was started to construct the palace in order to centeral administration for his territories. the palaces were not fully completed but it has some similarities to castles of Gondar.

There was not perfect evidence for the termination of his work but some local story tellers argue that King Fasilades gave up the construction of the palace due to the reason that a person called Jabi Anbera who was very popular in the society lived during that time. Reflected his grievance

regarding the hardship of the construction for residents. who were expected to work hard even by fetching water from river Jema, about five kilo meters from where the palace is found. Jabi Anbera express this hard condition by saying I better be burned by fire rather than building this palace". (Amare Tayachew interviewed on February 28, 2024). Also Ethiopian orthodox Christianity was opposed or refused to the construction of those castle on this holidays of (Saturday and Sunday), because this holidays are respected by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. Then different shops were ordered to the people in those areas to terminate their work in the holidays. (Alemu Eshete and prist Melaku Alehegn interviewed on March 11, 2024).



Picture 10: Castle of Fasiledes (photo by the researchers 2024),outer and inner shape respectively.

4.2.5; Monastery of Tekle Haymanot

Monastery of Tekle Haimanot is one the ancient monastery in Sekela Woreda, found in Asewa Gudera Kebele. It is located about 20 kilo meters south east of Gish Abay town. This monastery was first established as a church during the king of Susenyos in 17 th century. After a long time the church of Asiwa Tekle Haimanot was upgraded in to monastery taking the name 'Monastery of Tekle Haimanot'. Its advancement in to monastery was took place during the reign of Eyasu II in 18 th century.

Dejazmach Weregna and his wife Emet Loti who come from Oromia region live in those area during that time was responsible for the upgrading of the church to monasteries. The present day building of Tekle Haimanot is not the original; it was reconstructed after destroyed by the bombing fire thrown by the Italian aggression. The amazing thing regarding the monastery is that it is surrounded by the round valley and it is built on the top of group of caves. (Memihir Adamu Minas interviewed on February,29, 2024).



Picture 11: monastery of tekle haymanot (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.3. Movable heritages in Abune Zerabiruk Church

Abune Zerabiruk church, , is found 100 meters north of the source of Abay and three kilo meters south of Gish Abay town. which consists of the following moveable heritages:

4.3.1The Book of Melody of St Yared

The Book of Deggua is a hymnary guideline of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Churches written by the 6th century composer Yared . The great Deggua is called Mahlete Yared (treasury). Yared prepared Deggua in three modes of chanting used by the church that is knowas Ge'ez, Ezil and Araray, represent the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, respectively. t the number of pages is unknown (this is because it has no page number and custodians refused the researcher to count the pages). (Berhanu, Haymanot (2005-07-01). A Man with Integrity. Lulu.com. ISBN 978-1-4116-4130-3





Picture 12: The Book of Melody of Saint Yared and photo of Saint yared from left to right (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.3.2; Cross of Abune Zerabiruk church

It was made from silver and found in the church of Abune Zerabiruk in Abay kebele. It was gifted by Fitawurari Habte Georgis who was Ethiopian defense minister during the reign of Emperor Menelik II (1889-1909).



Picture 13: Silver cross found in abune zerabruk church (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.4; Movable heritages in Woraita Michael church

Woraita Michael church is found im Worita kebele about 17 kilo meters north of Gish Abay town. This church is a home of many ancient movable heritages. However, the researcher was allowed to observe about only two movable heritages. These are:

4.4.1 Censer

There is also ancient Censer in Woraita Michael church which has the same age with existing ark dedicated to Saint Michael and the silver cross (discussed above). Censer is a religious container used for burning incense (especially one that is swung on a chain in a religious ritual). The censer of Woraita Michael church is made up of iron and its outside is adorned by a true gold and its handing rope is made up of gold. According to informants the Censer is allowed only to priests to touch it (Priest Mulu lakew intreviewed on March 10, 2024).



Picture 14: Cencer found in weraita Michael church (photo by the researchers 2024).

4.4.2 Bronze cross

The other treasure found in Woraita Michael church is a Bronze cross which is donated by Amde Tsion during the reign of Susenyos. It was at the same time when the ark of Saint Michael of the current church brought by the same person- Amde Tsion. Though its history is not well studied, it is believed to have a great importance for heritage tourism (Priest Tafere Ayele interviewed on February 28, 2024).



Picture 15: cross made up from Bronze in weraita Michael church (Photo by the researchers 2024)

4.5; Movable heritage in Tekle Haimanot monastery

4.5.1; Ethiopic Synaxarium

The Ethiopic Synaxarium (literally called Sinksar) is the book of Ethiopian saints of Orthodox Church. it is found in monastery of Tekle Haimanot.. It is written on the animal leather (Brana) and its contents are its saint, rule of God, etc. The Ethiopic Synaxarium of Tekle Haimanot monastery is the only ancient wealth of the monastery that has been reserved from a bombing fire by the Italian aggression. Memeher Gebre Endirias, was th ruler of the monastery, he was saved the manuscript at that time. He buried the Synaxarium inside the cave for save. This ancient manuscript is weighted about 8 kilo grams but its number is unknown. (Memihir Adamu Minas interviewed on February 29, 2024).



Picture 16: Memeher Adamu Minas was willing to showing and interpreting and interpreting Manuscript of TekleHaimanot monastery. (Photo by the researchers 2024).

4.6; Challenges of Heritage Tourism development in Sekela Woreda

Even though Sekela Woreda has endowed with enormous tourism potential, however its tourism industry development is relatively in the infant stage. The region is not benefited from tourism industry sector as expected and compared with existing tourism potentials. Different factors have been hindering the development of the tourism industry. According to the findings of this study, the main factors challenging tourism industry development in Sekela were being discussed below:

4.6.1; Unskilled Human Resources

Tourism industry needs specialized, trained and committed human power for its sustainable development in a particular area. unskilled human resources in a specific tourism sector means its development in that area is under question. This phenomenon is also visible in this Woreda most respondents presented that tourism industry sectors have inadequately specialized, trained and skillful experts. , also there is lack of specialized expert who contributes to the tourism industry development. Because of untrained and un skilled people live in this woreda tourism industry development is in the infant stage.

4.6.2; Lack of Information Centers for the Tourism Destinations

Information centers play a vital role in attracting visitors to the destinations and contribute to the tourism industry development. There is no any professional tour guide in Sekela. Whenever tourists came to visit Sekela there is only the woredas tourism and culture office that provide information for the tourists. This office is only work at the government working hours.

4.6.3; Weak Promotion and Marketing of Tourism Destinations

Strong promotion and well-designed marketing strategy is the core activity in the development of the tourism industry. Efficient promotion can attract various visitors from the different corners of the world. Well-designed tourism product marketing strategies ensure sustainable visitors flow to the destinations and make the area specific product to being known by the influential visitors. However, there is a weak promotion of existing tourism potentials and weak marketing strategy in this woreda.

4.6.4; Weak Infrastructural Development

Without improved infrastructure facilities, a certain tourism potential site could be abandoned as an insignificant tourism product. as a result of weak infrastructure in this woreda, Most of the tourism destinations are inaccessible for visitation and requires a long journey on foot. to find every heritages in this woreda it must be walk by foot at least 3 hours up to 5 hours this is enervating for tourists by this reason different important heritages in this woreda have not known by anyone's for a long time. if we cannot adjust this problem it continues the future.

4.6.5; Inadequate Accommodation Delivers

Accommodation or services deliverers are one of the vital elements in the tourism industry development. However, almost there is no standardized accommodation or services deliverer, particularly in zonal and woreda level. respondents pointed out that inadequate accommodation delivers is one of the restraint of tourism industry development in this woreda.

CHAPTER FIVE

5 CONCLUSION AND RECMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Sekela woreda has reach in terms of both natural and cultural heritages examples of natural heritages found in this woreda include; Source of Abay (Blue Nile) the longest river in the world, Sellase Gedam falls used as a Holy by Christian communities, Gudera lake used as an agricultural purpose for communities, Sellase natural forest used as the main shelter for animal species. With regard to cultural heritage resource this woreda is pledged by many cultural heritages and is a home of more than 112 church's and monasteries and many caves. Most of it is located in remote areas or far from Gish Abay town. Which includes unfinished castles of facil that were constructed in 17 th century by Fasiledes for administration purpose, it also a home of many caves including: Alazar cave, tekle haymanot monastery.

Also this woreda have contained difference movable heritages that are found in different kebele for example: Ethiopic Synaxarium found in tekle haymanot monastery, The book of Melody of St Yared literally known as Digua found in Abune Zerabruk church is a few examples of moveable heritages that are found in sekela. However, there is a great gap between owning huge heritage tourism resource potentials and utilizing these resources for the benefit of Sekela Woreda and its communities. This is true because there are several challenges that heritage tourism of Sekela Woreda has been facing. For example backward in terms of infrastructure, weak promotion and marketing, inadequate manpower for the effective utilization of those huge amount of heritage resource, low accommodation areas etc.

5.2 Recommendation

- Proper Infrastructures need to be developed in ecofriendly starting from Sekela to different kebeles in order to access different heritages. .
- Potential promotional and marketing strategies being developed and adopted.

- Governments should allocate sufficient funds to support tourism development by increasing budget allocation for infrastructure development, promotional activities, and manpower training programs.
- There should be conduct well-planned promotional activities to attract tourists, on this area. The focus should be on fostering collaborations between government entities, private sector businesses, and local communities to utilize resources, expertise, and innovation for sustainable tourism development.
- Create awareness among all owners of heritages on how to conserve and restore. Especially Sekela Woreda culture and tourism office should work with the Woreda Diocese (betekinet) on conservation.
- Establish new museum at the town of the Woreda by collecting different movable heritages from different churches. It may contribute a couple of importance; the museum itself can be one heritages tourism attraction and on the other hand it can be used as a conservation method of movable heritages. Here the researcher's recommend that the responsibility of establishing and managing the proposed museum shall be given to Sekela Woreda Diocese (Betekihinet). This is because most of the movable heritages of the Woreda are on the custody of churches and monasteries found in different kebeles of the Woreda which are managed by the Woreda Diocese (Betekihinet)

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List of interviewee and its related information

Name of Informants	Sex	Place of interview	Religion	Martial status	Age	Educational level	Livelihood
Priest Alemayehu mengesha	M	Gish Abay	Orthodox	Mariad	69	Read and write	Stockist
Priest Amare Tayachew	M	Abesken kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	65	read and write	Stockist
E mahoyZewde	F	Gunkan kebele	Orthodox	Single	70	read and write	Monk
Weyzero Zenebu Birle	F	Gudera kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	58	read and write	Agriculturalist
Ato Mulatu teshome	M	Gudera kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	75	read and write	Agriculturalist
Ato Alehey Ayichew	M	Gish Abay	Orthodox	Marriad	74	Degree	Civil Cervant
Ato Atikem Genbere	M	Javola Mariam	Orthodox	Marriad	58	read and write	Agriculturalist
Ato Mogese Degu	M	J avola Mariam	Orthodox	Marriad	60	illiterate	Agriculturalist
Maru Gashaw	M	Alibo genete	Orthodox	Marriad	67	Degree	Civil Cervant
Ato Mola Kassahun	M	Afermasha kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	75	read and write	Agriculturalist
Ato Abirham Degu	M	Afermasha kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	64	read and write	Agriculturalis
Ato Amsalu Getu	M	Abesken kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	63	Degree	Civil Cervant
We zero Mantegbosh	F	Gish Abay	Orthodox	Marriad	61	Degree	Civil Cervant
Aba Gebire Mesikel Belachew	M	Gish Abay	Orthodox	Single	85	read and write	Monk
Memihir Adamu Minas	M	Asewa gudera kebele	Orthodox	Single	70	read and write	Monk
Ato Yihune Mebirat	M	Weraita kebele	Orthodox	Mariad	59	read and write	Agriculture
Priest Mulu lakew	M	Weraita kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	56	read and write	Stockist
Priest Tafere Ayele	M	Weraita kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	66	read and write	Agriculturalist
Memihir Alemu Eshete	M	Abesken kebele	Orthodox	Single	71	Degree	Civel Cervant
Priest Andualem Masresha	M	Asewa Gudera kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	64	read and write	Agriculturalist
Priest Melaku Alehegn	M	Abesken kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	60	read and write	Agriculturalist
Wezero Alemitu Tebikew	F	Ambisi kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	50	ililiterate	Agriculturalist
Priest Endalew Alamiraw	M	Gish Abay kebele	Orthodox	Marriad	59	read and write	Agriculturalist
Ato Belachew Kasse	M	Alibo Genete	Orthodox	Marriad	64	Illiterate	Agriculturalist

Appendices: 1

Interview guide for government officials

1. What are the potentials of Heritage resource in Sekela Woreda?

2. Can you tell me briefly about the history of those Heritages?

3. What are/will be the challenges of heritage tourism development in Sekela Woreda?

4. What are the main drawbacks for promoting heritage tourism in Sekela Woreda?

5. Can you tell me about the exact source of Blue Nile or abay river?

6. We have another question for you regarding to its source, some peoples in Ethiopia and most peoples in the World think that the source of abay is in Bahir Dar Tana, how to you see this untruth information?

7. Is there any work done before this time to inform its exact source of this river to the Ethiopian peoples and the international peoples?

8. is there any relationship to woreda betekihnet clergy's for the promotion of this heritage to the national peoples and international citizens?

Appendices: 2
Interview Guiding Questions set for Clergy's and monk's

1. What are the potentials of natural heritage resource in this monastery?

2. What are the potentials of cultural heritage resource in this monastery?

3. Can you tell me briefly about the history of those Heritages?

4. What are/will be the challenges of heritage tourism development in Sekela Woreda?

5. What are the main drawbacks for promoting tourism in Sekela Woreda?

6. What are the movable heritages in this church or monastery?

7. Can you tell me about the exact source of Blue Nile or abay river?

8. When was this monastery constructed, is there any supporters were presented during the construction of this church?

9. Is there any relationship to different institutions for the promotion of this heritage to the national peoples and international citizens?

10. What are the main importance of this heritages, is there advantageous for people as a result of this heritage?

11. Can you tell me about the name of abay river and related information in the Bible?

Appendices: 3
Guiding Questions for local agriculturalist and local communities

1. What are the potentials of natural Heritage resource in this keebele?

2. What are the potentials of cultural heritage resource in this kebele?

2. Can you tell me briefly about the history of those Heritages?

3. What are/will be the challenges of heritage tourism development in Sekela Woreda?

4. What are the main drawbacks for promoting tourism in Sekela Woreda?

5. What are the movable heritages in this kebele?

6. What are the importance of this heritage for you and all Ethiopians?

7. What are the main problems for infrastructural development in this area?

8. is there any tourists were coming to this area for view of this attractive area or for any purpose?