

# Assessment of Tourism Potentials and Their Contributions to The Socio-Economic Development of Idanre People, Ondo State, Nigeria

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**Abstract**— Nigeria is a country that is blessed with a lot of tourism potentials and it is painful that attention is being diverted from tourism sector that could provide job opportunities for many Nigerians rather than concentrating on only the oil sector. Many countries rely on tourism for their economic survival (Dubai, Kenya, India, China, among others.) and most of these countries are not endowed better than Nigeria in terms of tourism resources. Both primary and secondary data were utilized in this research. Secondary data were sourced from literatures; while primary data was sourced using personal observation, oral interview which was directed at vendors close to the resort and structured questionnaires which were administered to tourists using purposive sampling. 100 questionnaires were administered to the tourists. Analysis revealed that some of the infrastructural facilities at Idanre hills resort are not in good condition due to lack of maintenance and some of the monuments at the ancient town of Idanre are not maintained. This paper assessed Idanre hills resort and discovered if well developed, it will promote other tourism potentials in Idanre thereby boosting the socio-economic activities of the people in the study area and as well improve the economy of Ondo State at large. Recommendations on how Idanre hills resort could become 'a home away from home' were put forward.

**Index Terms**— Socio-economic Development, Tourist and Tourism Facilities, Tourism, Tourism development.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Tourism over the years has proven to be a surprisingly strong and resilient economic activity and a fundamental contributor to economic growth of nations by generating billions of dollars in exports and creating millions of jobs (Yusuff and Akinde, 2015). Acknowledging these facts, many developing and developed countries today rely on tourism as an option for sustainable development of their nations. Tourism industry has now grown to be the world largest industry and one of its fastest growing economic sectors. The publication of World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC, 2014) showed that in 2013, travel & tourism's total contribution to the global economy rose to US\$7 trillion, about 9.5 per cent of global GDP, not only outpacing the wider economy but also growing faster than other significant sectors such as Financial and Business services, Transport and Manufacturing and its total contribution to employment was nearly 266 million jobs

about 8.9 percent of world employment. The sustained demand for travel & tourism, together with its ability to generate high levels of employment continues to prove the importance and value of the sector as a tool for economic development and job creation.

Tourism is a leisure activity, involving the movement of people to destinations away from their usual residences. It was promoted by the introduction of regular and paid holidays, increasing income, differences in the seasons, and the breaking down of distance barriers by improved transportation and communication systems (World Tourism Organization Journal, 1995). The same source observed that the rapid expanse of international and domestic tourism has led to significant employment generation. For example, hotel accommodation sector alone provided around 193 million jobs worldwide in 1995 (W.T.O, 1995).

In the same vein, According to World Tourism and Travel Commission (1992), Tourism generates employment directly through hotels, restaurants, night clubs, taxes and sales of souvenir and other related items. Also, the supply of goods and services needed by tourism related businesses have been other sources of employment and income generation. In other words, indirect employment through tourism is enormous. Tourism is vital for many countries such as France, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Israel, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Thailand, the Bahamas, Fiji, Maldives, Philippines and the Seychelles, among others. Tourism brings in large amounts of income in payment for goods and services contributing an estimated 5% to the world Gross Domestic Product (GPD) and creates opportunities for employment in the service industries associated with tourism. These service industries include transportation services such as airlines, cruise ship and taxi cabs; hospitality services such as accommodation including hostels and resorts, guest chalets; and entertainment venues such as amusement parks, casinos, music venues and theatres.

Cooper and etal (2008) opined that "It is the economic benefits that provide the main driving force for Tourism development". Tourism has become a popular global leisure activity. Based on the UNWTO Annual Report of 2011, there were over 983 million International Tourists arrivals worldwide, representing a growth of 4.6% when compared to 940 million in 2010. International tourism receipt (the travel item of the balance of payment) grew to US\$1.03 trillion in 2011, corresponding to an increase in real term of 3.8% from 2010. Despite concern over global economy, international tourism demand continues to show resilience. The number of international worldwide grew by 5% between January and June 2012 compared to the same period of 2011. The latest annual report of the organization (UNWTO) for the year 2013

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indicates that, a historical milestone was achieved in the year 2012 which one billion international tourists arrival was recorded. This exceeded long-term forecasts and expectations. Haven achieved this milestone in 2012; tourism maintained its momentum with a 5% growth in 2013. Additional 52 million international tourists travelled the world, reaching a total of 1,087 million international tourists a year.

Ekundayo, et al (2015) asserted that amid the current economic uncertainty, tourism is one of the few economic sectors in the world growing strongly, driving economic progress in developing and developed countries alike and most importantly, creating much needed jobs. Today, the business volume of tourism equals or even surpasses that of oil export, food products or automobiles. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represent at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries.

The key factors that impede tourism development in developing countries includes among others, poor implementation of tourism plans, absence of defined measures to encourage participation in tourism, policy formulation and implementation, and poor infrastructural development. Other factors are social, cultural and financial constraints as well as manpower development and different motivations. All these factors hinder tourism development in third world countries. Another impediment identified by Awarifefe (1986) is lack of understanding of the importance of recreation, relaxation, pleasure of landscape scenery and tourism as well as bad management.

Tourism, as a major element of the service economy, has for some time been applauded for its sustained and rapid growth. According to Cooper et al (2008) "Not even the most ardent supporters of tourism would have forecast just how well it has been able to stand up to the pressures of global economic recession, even recessions that have severely damaged many of the world's major industries". Tourism brings in large amount of income in payment for goods and services available, accounting for 30% of the world exports of services, and 6% of overall export of goods and services (UNWTO Annual Report 2011). It also creates opportunities for employment in the service sector of the economy, associated with tourism.

Olugbamila, (2005) opined that Nigeria which is richly blessed and endowed with both physical and cultural tourism potentials has been relatively insignificant on the world tourism map. This is because the Nigeria national economy has essentially been petroleum-driven, with the result that tourism does not play any significant role in the economy. Much prominence has been given to oil production as the major source of revenue, particularly, foreign exchange at the expense of other industries including tourism. He further observed that tourism industry in Nigeria is still in its infancy. Emphasis is now being placed on its development by the federal and the state governments, in realization of both its recreational values and contributions to the growth of the economy. Oderinde, 2002 noted that government in Nigeria has not really shown serious commitment to tourism development beyond mere rhetoric. Unless tourism is seen as strategically important to the economy of Nigeria and the necessary plans, policies, actions and resources to support

this initiative are in place, tourism will continue to be a missed opportunity.

In Ondo State, much concentration is still on cultural tourism. It is about promoting the culture through festivals and celebrity. The state also has natural resources which are natural phenomena that are usually of interest to tourism worldwide and which if developed, will help to generate employment for the people and boost the local economy (Emmanuel, 2005). There are series of Tourism potentials in Ondo state. But these tourism potentials are not developed thereby retarding tourists from the state. Meanwhile, Omotosho (2005) argued that "there is no point of attracting visitors or tourists to tourist centres without having anything to show them". A good tourist centre must have accessibility, good communication facilities, availability of portable water, accommodation, electricity and security of lives and property of tourists.

A lot of tourist centre abound in Ondo state such as Isharun cave of ashes, Deji of Akure palace, Igbokoda water front, Ebomi lake, Awara dam, Oke Maria, and Owo museum but Idanre hills resort has been chosen due to its superior and original historical and cultural background making it to be the best tourist centre that Ondo State could boast of both at national and international level if well developed. Presently, tourists have no other thing to enjoy than to visit the ancient town of Idanre, climb the hill; and return to their destinations same day. The facilities such as accommodation, sporting facilities and entertainment that could make them stay back and explore the resort are either not in place or in the state of disrepair. Most of the things attracting tourists to Idanre hills are fast fading off due to lack of maintenance apart from mysterious Agboogun foot print, unreadable letters, Ark of Noah, the suspended rock and the wonderful mat. This paper intend to dig deep into ways through which Idanre hills resort can become "a home away from home" to tourists and as well boost the socio-economic lives of the people in the subject area.

## II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The concept of self-expression is relevant to a study of this nature. Self-expression theory is the relevant theory that is applicable to tourism development and planning. The theory was propounded by Elmer and Bernard (1973). They saw tourism primarily as a result of the drive for self-expression. They further observed that man was perceived, as an active dynamic creature with a need to find outlet for his energy to use his ability and to express his personality.

The specific type of activity that man engages in according to Mitchell and Mason (1972) is influenced by such factors as his physiological and anatomical structure, his physical fitness level, his environment, his family and his social background. Mitchell and mason further observed that the wishes of man were influential in shaping tourists attitude and habits.

Based on the assertion by Elmer and Bernard (1973) that man engages in tourism for self-expression, it is therefore expedient that tourism sites must be developed to satisfy or to meet the needs of the tourists. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that tourism potentials in Idanre are improved in terms of environmental landscaping, designing and beautification

with the provision of necessary facilities and services so as to ensure maximum satisfaction for the visiting tourist. These features and the provision of efficient transportation infrastructure are the inertia that could enhance the self-expression drive of potential tourists; which is a relevant concept to this study.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism in Nigeria, or globally has been viewed by different authors, scholars and organizations from various angles which reflect individual professional background. Like a circle, a tour represents a journey in that it is a round-trip. That is, the act of leaving and then returning to the original starting point. The one who embark on such a journey(s) can be regarded as a **tourist**.

The tourist sector has over the years grown to become a major industry with significant socio-economic and environmental consequences. According to world tourism organization (WTO,1995) about 25 million people crossed international boundaries for tourism purposes and generated a receipt of about 2 billion US Dollars in 1950. By the year 2002, the international tourist arrivals rose to 718 million while the corresponding receipt was in excess of 474 billion US Dollars.

Similarly, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) research in (1992) shows that Travel and Tourism was the world's largest industry approaching, 3.5 US dollars trillion in gross product, the leading industrial contributor, producing 6.1% of the world's Gross National Product (GNP) and the leading producer of tax revenue of 303 billion US Dollars. The sector was also estimated to contribute about 7.1 trillion US Dollars in gross output by the year 2006 while total taxes will be in excess of 1.3 trillion US Dollars.

Also, it was observed that in the year 2010; there were over 940 million international tourist arrivals. This is a growth of 6.6% when compared with 2009 where we had 880 million with 4%. The source further asserted that international tourism receipts grew to 19 billion US Dollars (Euro 693 million) in 2010, corresponding to an increase in real term of 4.7%.

Adejuwon (1993) sees tourism as the movement of a person or group of persons from his/her abode to a place far or near for the purpose of leisure. This movement according to him could be for the purpose of relaxation, sight-seeing or other forms of recreation. Pocock (1991) gives detail account of how developed countries have been marketing their tourism attractions to the world. He pointed out that a place deserted of natural endowment could be better enriched in tourism with well-developed peculiarities. Examples are the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the liberty status in New York City, voice of America in Washington D.C. and a number of famous sky scrapers in Chicago all in USA. While London is synonymous with London Tower, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, among others.

In the same perception, Hohuhotz (1994) in his research work pointed out how tourism industry in developed countries are seen beyond investment and development of physical natural spot. Emphases are being made towards investing and marketing of the cultures, religious and work of arts of the people. He made reference to China on how culture is considered as a living and dynamic product which can be packaged to tourists.

Olomo (1990), haven consider tourism potentials as a veritable tool, for salvaging the socio-economic status of a nation. He said all would be variety if there is no concrete information both in verbal and visual forms on such sites of attraction. He further said information is vital to a successful programme on tourism development and promotion and that the mental images of prospective tourists about facilities and condition available in tourism destination could only be achieved through information. He therefore submitted that more efforts should be intensified in the publicity of all the tourism potentials.

Onwofonwan (1998) viewed tourism as an important component of modern economies, creating in several countries high net returns. Thus, any nation wanting to diversify its economic base, make efforts to access the potential of natural resources available for tourism and other uses. Omotosho (2005) asserted that there is no point attracting visitors to tourist centres when there is nothing to show them, he stressed that a tourist centre must possess all facilities that will make Life pleasant for the visitors

Olugbamila et al, (2008) while studying tourism potentials in Nigeria was of the opinion that poor management hindered the development of the tourism industry. He went further that this is evident in the nuclear definition of the role of the three tiers of government and the private sector on the development of tourism. The local government which should have been mandated to cater for local tourism activities was totally neglected. Besides where the federal government decided to collaborate with the state government in the development of certain centres, there has been some bickering and uncoordinated efforts thus leading to conflict and resource mismanagement

In view of the above literatures on tourism, this research work stands a better chance of touching or covering areas yet to be covered in studies on tourism research.

### IV. THE STUDY AREA

Idanre is a Local Government Area administrative headquarters and a historic ancient town in Ondo State, Nigeria. The town is located at the foot of the scenic Idanre hill which is of unique cultural and environmental significance and attracts many tourists, the town is about 20km south east of the State capital Akure. It has an area of 1,914km<sup>2</sup> and population of 129,024 as of the 2006 census. Idanre is Nigeria's largest cocoa producing area. Idanre is mainly a Yoruba speaking tribe with the majority into farming and trading.

The hill of Idanre is one of the most beautiful natural landscapes in Nigeria. It resides 3000ft above sea level and houses a unique eco system upon which the cultural landscape has integrated (UNESCO, 2007). The site was added to UNESCO world heritage tentative list on October 8, 2007. Idanre hills with the highest peak reached by six hundred and sixty-seven (667) steps with five resting points remain one of the wonders of nature and a marvelous tourist destination. Estimated to be over 800 years, they are located in the ancient town of Idanre. The ancient town is on the hill top while the new settlement is at the base of the hills. Idanre hills in the past offered protection against invaders and are appeased annually. Idanre hills are steep-sided, smooth and dome shaped in nature.

## V. MONUMENTAL FEATURES

### A. *The Agbagba Hill*

This hill became popular because of Agboogun, a mysterious foot print that is found on it. In the olden days, whosoever that is a witch or wizard would be detected once the foot is put in the foot print and foot print failed to match the foot. For tourists to get to Agbagba hill where the mysterious foot print is located, they must embark on the journey very early in the morning and return in the evening because it is a distance of several kilometers.

### B. *The Carter Hill*

This hill was named after a former colonial Governor who signed a peace treaty with the Oba (King) of Idanre dated back in 1891.

### C. *Ilesun Hill*

This hill was named after a great warrior who killed his daughter in a fulfillment of his vow to sacrifice the use any living thing that comes her way as a sacrifice as long as he won the war he went for. The girl was buried at the base of the Ilesun hill. Rite is being performed annually on the hill by all the children of her age in Idanre.

### D. *The Arun River:*

It is a small river on the mountain top. Arun is a crystal clear river. It is believed that it has healing power to cure any form of sickness if one can swim in it. But presently due to lack of maintenance, Arun River is no more Crystal Clear and it is no longer hygienic for anyone to swim therein. Figure 6 in the Appendix, refers.

### E. *Thunder Water (OmiApaara)*

Omi Apaara is a thunder water. It is a stream that cut across the road. Warriors do appease or consult the stream whenever they wanted to go to war. They would put the water inside a calabash and perform some rites. Once thunder strikes, it means they would go to war and win but if thunder did not strike, it means they would lose the war. Recent visit to the site shows the stream is seasonal as it is not flowing for now due to dry season. And no one could ascertain if the stream could still perform this function as of its old; more so that for decades now, there has been no war fought by the community.

### F. *The Mausoleum*

Kings that have reigned in the land were buried here. Each tomb are concreted and labeled for easy recognition and differentiation purposes. The building still remains intact till date.

### G. *Ancient Court and Prison*

The ancient court and prison were built by a team of missionaries led by Rev. Gilbert Carter in the Year 1906. These structures are maintained. Culprits who were found guilty of any offence were locked in the prison yard which is adjacent to the ancient court.

### H. *The Ancient Palace*

Owa's (King) palace courtyard with carved figures and doors believed to be built in the seventh (17<sup>th</sup>) century is still safe to show tourists. The structure is exactly the shape of the

present Owa's Palace. However, serious case that could not be resolved at the present Owa's palace is being referred to the ancient palace. Figure 2 under Appendix refers.

### I. *Ancient Buildings*

These are the buildings that the ancient people of Idanre lived in years ago. Majority of these buildings are dilapidated and no effort is directed at the reconstruction or renovation of these buildings by the community or the State government for tourist's sake.

### J. *Tourist Chalets*

These chalets were built years ago by the white people very close to where the aerial view of the present Idanre settlement can be seen. But these chalets are presently dilapidated. The chalets were the only accommodation Idanre hills resort could boast of. Although, the chalets are just twin two bedroom apartments and a separate room and sitting self-contained apartment.

### K. *The Ancient primary School*

The primary school was constructed by Rev. Gilbert Carter missionary team in the year 1896. The clay-constructed building, still stands strong till this day; Figure 4, under appendixes refers.

### L. *Other Distinct Features*

The suspended rock, the Olori quarters, the wonderful mat, irremovable sword, the ark of Noah and the unreadable inscription. Meanwhile, the administration of the former Governor of Ondo State: Dr. Olusegun Mimiko through his special adviser on tourism built a Tree house (two bedroom apartment), constructed a swimming pool and renovated some buildings within the resort including the present reception and as well carried out some beautification within the resort. The Tree house is now dilapidated. The restaurant/bar and some sales point has been rented out to the food and beverage vendors who are presently recording low sales due to low patronage, the swimming pool is not functioning and there is no other sporting facility available at the resort.

Other Tourism potentials in Idanre are Mare festival which is been celebrated and attended worldwide in November of every year, Ije Festival December of every year and Orosun Festival May/June of every year; are all for social interactions, sporting activities, cultural and religious promotion, during which many craft and artistic works, traditional attires and customs are being displayed and well patronized. Mare is a mountain climbing festival attracting a lot of people within and outside Nigeria to celebrate the rare gift of nature (the hills) in the ancient town of Idanre. The festival was created in 2009 by Dr. Olusegun Mimiko administration featuring cultural and traditional heritage of the people of Idanre with sport-inclined mountaineering. The festival also includes Mare Marathon which is a running event from Akure, the Ondo State capital to Idanre. However, the festival has not been gaining more grounds as the competitors or participants are majorly from Ondo State. The festival since it is annual, must be developed to a level where participants or mountain climbers will be attracted all over the world. Mare festival must be seen by the state government

as a medium of revenue generation; mountain climbers within and outside Nigeria would register, food and beverage vendors would register, tourists would influx Idanre and lodge in hotels while some tourists would return to their destination same day, tickets will be sold to tourists and above all there will be a boost in the socio-economic activities of the people of Idanre. Mare festival and other festivals in Idanre are annual that is why Idanre hills resort as the host must be developed and equipped with necessary facilities that will make tourists feel at home. In order to complement the tourism potentials in Idanre, the administration of former Governor of Ondo state, Olusegun embarked on the construction of an eighteen inches hole golf course and habitat/playground at Atosin-Idanre. The golf course construction has been taken over by bush and the habitat/playground did not function more than a month as the food and beverage vendors that rented the shop space are no longer there because no one is patronizing them.

Idanre hills resort would be a very good attraction center for tourists within and outside Nigeria with a serene natural environment for relaxation and holiday if well developed. The sporting facilities need to be looked into only then can it be regarded as a resort, lodging facilities and hall for seminar or event or conference and as well weekend entertainment needs to be addressed, the golf course plan needs to be implemented and the habitat/playground needs to be rejuvenated; these if done will attract tourists and companies planning retreat within and outside Nigeria even there will be improvement in the socio-economic activities of the people of Idanre and Ondo state at large.

## VI. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was sourced from literatures on tourism while primary data was sourced using personal observation, oral interview which was directed at vendors close to the resort and structured questionnaires which were administered to tourists on weekends for two months (January to February) using purposive sampling due to the manner of some tourists. 100 questionnaires were administered to the tourists and all were retrieved.

## VII. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: Gender of the tourists**

S/n	Gender	Frequency	%
1	Male	59	59
2	Female	41	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

The table above shows that majority of the tourists visiting the study area are males with 59% while females are 41%. This depicts that males have passion for tourism than their female counterpart.

**Table 2: Age of Tourists**

S/n	Age	Frequency	%
1	Below 18 years	3	3
2	Between 19-30 years	35	35
3	Between 31-45 years	37	37
4	Between 46-60 years	16	16
5	60 years & above	9	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

From the table above, tourist visiting the study area who are 18 years above are just 3%, tourists between 19-30 years are 35%, tourists between 31-45 years are 37%, tourists between 46-60 years are 16 while tourist who are 60 years and above are 9%. This implies that middle-aged people are majorly visiting the study area.

**Table 3: Occupational Status of Tourists**

S/n	Occupation	Frequency	%
1	Civil servants	37	37
2	Un-employed	5	5
3	Students	35	35
4	Researchers	11	11
5	Self-employed	12	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

From the table above, 37% of the tourists are civil servants, 5% of the tourists are self-employed, 35% of the tourists are students, 11% of the tourists are researchers while 12% of the tourists are self-employed. It can therefore be stated that tourist visiting the study area are majorly civil servants.

**Table 4: Monthly Income of the Tourists**

S/n	Monthly income	Frequency	%
1	Below ₦18,000	-	-
2	Between ₦18,001-₦28,000	10	10
3	Between ₦28,001-₦38,000	15	15
4	Between ₦38,001-₦48,000	34	34
	Between ₦48,001 & above	41	41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

The table above shows that no tourist is earning below ₦18,000. Tourists earning between ₦18,001-₦28,000 are 10%. Tourists earning between ₦28,001-₦38,000 are 15%. Tourists earning between ₦38,001-₦48,000 are 34%. Tourists earning between ₦48,001 and above are 41%. This indicates that's tourists visiting the study area are working class and they are capable of spending their money on tourism because of the passion they have for it.

**Table 5: Level of Development of the Resort**

S /n	Status	Frequency	%
1	<b>Developed</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
2	<b>Developing</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>
3	<b>Under-developed</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

The above table shows the level of development of Idanre hills resort. 16% of the tourists responded that the study area is developed, 63% responded that the resort is developing while 21% of the tourists believed that the resort is under-developed. This means that the community and government have a lot to do in ensuring that Idanre and other tourism potentials in Idanre are well developed to standard. If well developed, it will have positive impacts on the socio-economic activities of the people in the study area and as well boost the economy of Ondo State.

**VIII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Nigeria is a country that is blessed with a lot of tourism potentials and it is painful that attentions are being diverted from tourism sector that could provide job opportunities for many Nigerians instead concentration is on oil sector. Many countries rely on tourism for economic survival (Dubai, Kenya, India, China etc) and most of these countries are not better than Nigeria in terms of tourism resources. Tourism in Nigeria should be developed and seen as a way of creating jobs for the un-employed youths. Investors willing to do tourism business should be welcomed and given needed support by the government at all level. This paper has assessed Idanre hills resort and discovered if well developed, it will promote other tourism potentials in Idanre thereby boosting the socio-economic activities of the people in the study area and as well improve the economy of Ondo State at large; there will be jobs for the un employed youths, there will be physical and social development in Idanre, Economic status of Idanre people will improve because food and beverage vendors within and outside Idanre hills resort will make more sales and tourism investors will be attracted. The following recommendations if implemented will help in developing tourism potentials in Idanre.

- (i) Public Private Partnership should be encouraged to enhance effective operation and participation.
- (ii) Lodging facilities, sporting facilities, entertainments and halls for seminars or events or conferences should be provided within the resort.
- (iii) Other tourism potentials in Idanre like habitat/playground and golf course at Atosin-Idanre should be revived. Ije festival and Orosun festival also should be promoted too.
- (iv) Mare festival must be developed to a level where mountain climbers all over the world will be invited for mountain climbing competitions.
- (v) Arun river in the ancient town of Idanre must be made crystal clear again, ancient structures and guest/tourists chalets must be renovated and the great steps to the ancient town of Idanre must be guided.
- (vi) If recommendations (i-v) is followed, there should also be public awareness and enlightenment creation

about Idanre hills and other tourism potentials in Idanre on Radio, Television and Social media and even hand fliers. There should be bill boards and banners along the road welcoming tourists to Idanre and promoting tourism potentials in the land. Fliers on tourism in Idanre should be distributed across Nigeria; especially in major public and commercial places and above all trained personnel in tourism and hospitality personnel should be recruited for effective management of the resort.

At the same time, maximum development of the resources in Idanre and effective maintenance and management will not only create both direct and indirect employment for the citizens of Nigeria, but will also boost the standard of living of the citizens especially the people in Idanre. It will increase developments within and outside Idanre, Boost the foreign exchange to the country through the international visiting tourists, increase revenue generation of the government at all levels, reduce rate of unemployment, among others.

**APPENDIX**



Figure 1: Aerial view of Idanre.



Figure 2: The Ancient Palace, Oke Idanre.

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Figure 3: Guest/Tourist Chalet in poor condition, Oke Idanre.



Figure 4: Ancient Primary School, Oke Idanre



Figure 5: Dilapidated Tree House constructed by Dr. Mimiko administration at Oke Idanre.



Figure 6: Arun River in a very poor and unhygienic condition, Oke Idanre.

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