

**ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES OF ECOTOURISM
DEVELOPMENT IN CHEBERA CHURCHURA NATIONAL PARK,
SOUTH WESTERN ETHIOPIA**

MSc. THESIS

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JIMMA, ETHIOPIA

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DEVELOPMENT IN CHEBERA CHURCHURA NATIONAL PARK,
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By

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MSc. Thesis

*Submitted to School of Graduate Studies, Jimma University College of
Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Department of Natural Resource
Management in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master
of Science in Natural Resource Management (Wildlife and Ecotourism
Management)*

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Jimma, Ethiopia

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my son Sofonias Tedla, Tedla Akalu, Endashaw Ashefo, Zewuditu Ermias and my best friends Bekele Tona, Getahun Shanko, Afras Abera, Ejigu Mulatu and Ehitnesh Getaw who supported and shared unforgettable pain in my life during my MSc. study.

STATEMENT OF THE AUTHOR

By my signature below, I declare that, this thesis is my own work and affirm that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been fully acknowledged. I have followed all ethical and technical principles of scholarships in the proposal writing, data collection, data analysis and accomplishment of this thesis.

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for MSc. degree at the Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and the thesis is deposited at the Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine library to be made available to borrowers under the rules of the library. I seriously declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the award of academic degree, diploma or certificate.

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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BFP	Biodiversity and Forestry Program
CCNP	Chebera Churchura National Park
CSO	Charity and Society Organizations
Das	Developmental Agents
EBI	Ethiopian Biodiversity Institution
ET	Ecotourism
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
KII	Key Informant Interview
KSDCATO	Konta Special District Culture And Tourism Office
MAB	Man And Biosphere
NFPAS	National Forestry Priority Areas
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Parks
PASDEP	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
SNNPRS	Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
TDRI	Thailand Development Research Institute
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Education Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism has become an important trade and prosperity sector in the world. Ethiopia is endowed with the vast array of ecotourism resources including cultural, historical and natural resources which are ideal for the development of sustainable ecotourism ventures. To save degradation of resources national parks are very crucial. Among various national parks in Ethiopia, Chebera Churchura National Park is one of the highest wildlife resources sites and has a potential for ecotourism development in the country. This study was conducted with objective of assessing the potentials and challenges of ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park. The research has attempted to integrate both qualitative and quantitative approaches and descriptive method. Questionnaire, interview, focus group discussion and observation were used as instruments of data collection. The collected data was analysed by using SPSS Version 20 software and presents by using descriptive statistics like frequency and percentage. The findings showed that Chebera Churchura National Park is rich in wildlife, cultural and natural beauty that has great potential for ecotourism development. The park consists of more than 1000 elephants; 3000 buffalos; rivers and more than three hot springs, five beautiful creator lakes which have hippopotamus, crocodiles, water birds, cultural attractions, caves, dense forests and waterfalls inside the park. The main challenges in the park for ecotourism development are lack of awareness, lack of infrastructure, livestock grazing, illegal farming and hunting and wildfire. Therefore, the study generally suggests that, all the concerned bodies have to focus on solving the challenges for strengthening ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park.

Key words: *Attractions, Biodiversity, Wildlife*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Tourism is a planned and time bounded travelling in person or team to places outside one's own village for visit, leisure, business and other purposes (Wegene, 2017). Humans have used to travel since ancient time leading travelling life, visiting, trade, communication, influencing, payment and other purposes. Nowadays, people travel to most corners of the planet and even beyond the planet, known as space tourism (Yogi, 2010). Tourism has become an important trade and prosperity sector that is used for generating jobs and income. Tourism contributes to 5% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and account for 6% of world's exports being the fourth largest export sector next to fuels, chemicals and automotive products (Rajani and Vasanthakumari, 2015).

Ethiopia has observed potentials for tourism resources from different parts of the world. The substantial growth of the tourism activity clearly marks tourism as one of the most remarkable economic and social phenomena of the past century. Tourism is the main sources for generating foreign exchange for many countries. It is the most important export category, creating employment and development opportunities. Tourism contribution to employment tends to be slightly higher relatively and is estimated in the order of 6-7% of the overall number of jobs worldwide (UNWTO, 2014). To develop the tourism sector and improve its potentials, it needs pre-concern of the characteristics of society, nature and environment. Unlike the conventional tourism to natural areas and to the people who live in and around them, scholars have developed ecotourism, a role within the tourism industry, which is a responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of the local people (Biqi, 2012).

The term ecotourism emerged in the late 1980s and "travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objectives of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural manifestations (both past and present) found in these areas (Coria and Calfucura, 2012). The International Ecotourism Society defined ecotourism as a "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education" (TIES, 2015). The UNWTO (2014) calculation showed that, the economic

contribution of ecotourism grow annually with 20%, which is 5 times more than the average growth of the tourism industry. This alarming growth is seen due to the increasing of environmental awareness and interest, a growing desire to see the natural places before they disappear, an increasing dissatisfaction with “traditional” tourism destination and products, an increasing desire to go a novel destination and other reasons.

In Ethiopia, ecotourism development emerged as a sustainable form of tourism. Ethiopia is a country which is endowed with the vast array of ecotourism resources including cultural, historical, and archaeological natural resources which are ideal for the development of sustainable ecotourism ventures. Ethiopia’s wildlife is one of the richest and most diversified in Africa with several of its protected areas and wetlands.

Ecotourism is a form of natural resource-based tourism that is educational, low impact, non-consumptive and locally oriented. Local people can control the industry and receive the bulk of the benefits to ensure sustainable development. Ecotourism comes with a definitional promise to promote responsible travel to natural areas, to make a positive contribution to environmental conservation and to enhance the well-being of local communities. Ecotourism is considered to be one of the essential sectors often opted for both public and private stakeholders of developing countries in responding to issues in sustainability of ecosystems, livelihood, cultural preservation and biodiversity conservation (Sonubi *et al.*, 2014). It is sustainable tourism related activities that mainly occur in close proximity to nature.

Ecotourism encompasses two independent issues: the environmental input and the environmental output. The environmental input is the primary attractions which are potentials, not the level of service or facilities provided as part of a product package, but the geographical factor that leads the tourist to a particular destination. The environmental output is the overall net global cost or benefit of the tour operation to the natural environment. Ecotourism is no solution; it is also one of the fastest growing segments of the sustainable tourism industry which focuses on wildlife conservation, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and economic development (Buckley, 2003).

An initial feasibility assessment should be made before instigating a community based strategy (Theodros, 2004). Ecotourism, often misunderstood as simply taking a holiday in a nature,

watching wildlife, or engaging in an outdoor or adventure sport, is distinguished from conventional tourism in that it employs measures to assure that the negative impacts on the natural and cultural environment are minimized and mitigated. Ecotourism is a conservation tool in and around protected areas that were building environmental awareness and cultural respect. Today's protected areas focused on conserving biodiversity and large-scale natural ecosystems. However, these protected areas are facing great challenges (Bushell and Eagles, 2006).

As ecotourism is one of the preferred tools for conservation and community development in many rural areas, its effectiveness depends on its potential to provide local economic benefits by maintaining ecological resource integrity through low-impact and non-consumptive use of local resources (Anup, 2016).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia has an immense potential for tourism industry development particularly for ecotourism. The natural bridge, dense forests, cave, waterfalls, endemic birds, mammals and hot springs associated historical resources are found indispensable for an ecotourism destination in Ethiopia (Yilma *et al.*, 2016). However, the country is facing rapid deforestation and land degradation that has been fuelled by increasing of population which in turn resulted in wide forest clearing for agricultural use, overgrazing, mistreatment of existing forests for fuel wood, food and construction materials, setting of fire to create grassland and expansion of clearings (Badege, 2001). National parks play a great role in reducing such impacts on ecotourism potentials.

Chebera-Churchura National Park (CCNP) is a place of conservation concern with one of the highest number of wildlife, different endemic bird species and large mammals which have high value for ecotourism development. Some researchers studied about the impact of different human activities on conservation of wildlife resources in the park (Megaze *et al.*, 2017) and human-wildlife conflicts and their associated livelihood impacts in and around Chebera-Churchura National Park (Alemayehu and Mathewos, 2015). Those researchers focused mainly on human wildlife conflict and impact of human activities on wildlife but not on the areas potentials and challenges for ecotourism development in the park. It is crucial time for identifying different potentials and challenges to take immediate actions on the bottlenecks and improving the fundamental weaknesses in ecotourism service provision. Therefore, this study

was conducted to identify potentials and recognise the main challenges for ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General objective

The overall objective of the study was to assess the potentials and challenges of Ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

- To identify potential resources (including both natural and cultural) for ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park,
- To assess the challenges for Ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park,
- To assess the role and perception of local people on ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park.

1.4. Research Questions

1. What are the potentials (Natural and Cultural Resources) for Ecotourism Development in Chebera Churchura National Park?
2. What are the challenges of ecotourism developments in Chebera Churchura National Park?
3. What are the role and perception of local people on the ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National Park?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The finding of the study area is vital for the sustainable benefit of the local community in Dawro zone Essera district and Konta special district for biodiversity conservation and for other stakeholders in the area. It could also be used as an input for future ecotourism development, for policy makers and other conservation organizations working in natural resource conservation as well as ecotourism development. It gives some insights on how ecotourism could be used for the livelihood improvement of the local communities and sustainable natural resource management.

1.6. Limitation of the Study

This is the first nature-related ecotourism research type of nature-related tourism research on Chebera Churchura National Park. It was difficult for the local respondents to respond to those questions composed of technical words of ecotourism and was translated in to local language because the concepts were new. These were a little bit difficult for local respondents, interviewees and to some FGD participants as most of them were not aware of ecotourism concept. Time limitations for FGD as some members of the FGD have other commitments. Financial constraint was also serious limitations of this study.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Concepts and Definitions of Tourism

Tourism is one of the leading and the fastest growing industries in the world (Ketema, 2015). It is among the main economic sectors in promoting communities development through income generation and employment opportunities. Smith, (2012) stated: *“Tourism is the sum of the connection and wonders rising from the transportable and visit of visitors delivered the holiday does not involve the establishment of an everlasting home and is not related with a rewarded movement.”* In this definition the time identified in which the wanderers must fill and the purpose of wandering were missing. The focus was on the visitors visit in the place where not their everlasting home. Nevertheless, in order to fill limitations of the above mentioned definitions, the most used definition of tourism today is the one given and approved by the UN in 1993 by the World Tourism Organization (WTO): *“It includes the actions of people travelling to and staying in places outside their common location for not more than one sequential year for relaxation, professional and other purposes not related to the bodybuilding of movement compensated from within the residence stayed.”*

The development of refreshment and enjoyment that resulted from the extra creation since the industrial revolution, take the new sector known as the smokeless industry; tourism. Industrial revolution made things easier and easier; because it helps finished production of properties and decreases the necessity of too much employment power. The attractiveness of nature lies in its diversity which definitely unlimited. Hence, it is the everlasting wish in the human beings to appreciate the nature from the bottom of their heart. This is why since ancient time’s travellers, innovators and wanderers started adventurous trip in spite of all problems they came across. The basic hint of visiting new places to appreciate their attractiveness, in course of time, has given birth to a new industry called tourism (leisure industry). People go from one place to other for different reasons: temporary change of location, relaxation, refreshment, receiving aware with customs and spending the vacation time; these all activities are called tourism. Based on the wide meaning of tourism, the industry includes all socioeconomic activities that are directly or indirectly involved in providing facilities to tourists.

As the world biggest industry, tourism development strongly wants potential resources in the destination to lead it in the sustainable way (WTTC, 2015). At the same time, this industry does not exist and grow without difficulties and destruction. No countries develop tourism without facility and goods that makes the change in the destination (Dabour, 2003). Like many other developing country, Ethiopia, importantly advancing in sustainable form of tourism, ecotourism as the potential and reliable economic sector (Sefrin, 2012). In this regard, Ethiopia is gifted with early historical and cultural heritages, wild life resources, and attractive topographical locations and many others. Due to the presence of tourism resources, the arrival of tourists from each corner of the world to Ethiopia raises the growth and development of tourism industry (Mitchell and Coles, 2009).

2.2. Ecotourism and other Forms of tourism

Ecotourism is a form of tourism inspired primarily by the natural history of an area, including its indigenous cultures. The eco-tourists visit relatively undeveloped areas in the spirit of appreciation, participation and sensitivity. The eco-tourists practice a non-consumptive use of wildlife and natural resources and contributes to the visited area through labor or financial means aimed at directly benefiting the conservation of the site and the economic well-being of the local residents, (Sangpikul, 2017).

Ecotourism is an environmentally mindful travel that improves a traveller's appreciation of nature's beauty and biodiversity, while reducing the carbon footmark (Biqi, 2012). This makes ecotourism an appreciated tool to improve community based natural and cultural conservation and contribute to the welfare of local communities. Ecotourism is also supported with an essential element of nature education to improve customer satisfaction, in addition to marketing of the quiet natural habitats as a tourism 'product' (Rajani and Vasanthakumari, 2015). "Eco-tourism" is a new idea that has captured the attention of many people from a variety of backgrounds. It believes to be a catch-all word that has different meaning to different persons. To some means environmentally-sound tourism; to other it is synonymous with nature tourism, alternative tourism, and appropriate, responsible, ethical, green, environmentally friendly or sustainable tourism. Although the continued consideration about exactly what eco-tourism requires, it looks that most agree that ecotourism must be a force for sustaining natural resources.

Thus ecotourism is nature travel that improves conservation and sustainable development efforts (Table: 1)

Table 1: Ecotourism and other forms of tourism

Tourism	“The sum of government and private sector activities that shape and serve the needs and manage the consequences of holiday, business and other travel”
Ecotourism	“Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the wellbeing of local people”
Nature-based tourism	“The segment in the market in which people travel with the primary purpose of visiting a natural destination” (Symposium “Tiger in the Forest: Sustainable Nature Based Tourism in Southeast Asia
Wildlife tourism	“Based on encounters with non-domesticated (non-human) animals in either the animals” natural environment or in captivity. It includes activities historically classified as „non-consumptive“.... as well as those that involve killing or capturing animals....”
Adventure tourism	“Nature tourism with a kick-nature tourism with a degree of risk taking and physical endurances”
Sustainable tourism	“Seeks to minimize the negative footprint of tourism developments and at the same time contribute to conservation and community development in the areas being developed”
Tourists	People who “travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited”

Source: Kuenzi and McNeely (2008)

2.3. Development of eco-tourism in the World

Ecotourism has become an important economic activity in natural areas around the world. It provides opportunities for visitors to experience powerful manifestations of nature and culture and to learn about the importance of biodiversity conservation and local cultures. At the same time, ecotourism generates income for conservation and economic benefits for communities living in rural and remote areas. The attributes of ecotourism make it a valuable tool for conservation. Its implementation can: give economic value to ecosystem services that protected

areas provide; generate direct income for the conservation of protected areas; generate direct and indirect income for local stake-holders, creating incentives for conservation in local communities; build constituencies for conservation, locally, nationally and internationally; promote sustainable use of natural resources; and reduce threats to biodiversity (WTTC 2015).

Ecotourism movement was first initiated in Latin America and Africa as a reply to the ecosystem destruction. For example, Ecotourism in Latin America became watched as potential alternative to the destructive industries such as logging, oil drilling, mining, and other natural resource misusing industries (Honey, 1999). It's a new idea that emerged in the 1980s, as an alternative form of tourism to reduce the decline at the tourism destinations caused by mass tourism, and to conserve the socio-cultural and environmental condition of the attraction areas. It is obtained the attention of developing the countries due to both its importance in promoting conservation and its significance in economic development (Pookhao, 2014).

2.4. Development of ecotourism in Africa

The idea's background can be drawn to the activities in both Latin America and Africa, the conditions in Africa were different from that of Latin America. Ecotourism first became widespread in East Africa as an alternative to an unsuccessful arrangement of a protective viewpoint of wildlife management that disconnected resident people from national parks. This idea came as a response to the widespread elephant and rhino poaching. A variety of terms have been introduced to describe the same phenomenon which may be referred to as nature travel, nature-orientated tourism, nature tourism, nature based tourism, sustainable tourism, alternative tourism and special interest tourism (Diamantis, 1999).

In line with the concept of sustainable tourism, ecotourism is concerned with promoting economic and social development, without compromising the state of natural ecosystems and biodiversity (Eriksson, 2013). Local economic benefits by maintaining ecological resource integrity through low-impact and non-consumptive use of local resources (Anup, 2016).

2.5. Development of Eco-tourism in Ethiopia

The idea of ecotourism is a new occurrence and it is challenging to clarify its important accomplishment since the approach of ecotourism is not broadly distributed in Ethiopia. The

government of Ethiopia also has documented development and advancement of ecotourism and providing consultancy facilities for a number of potential inventors of ecotourism sites. Although, inventors and policy makers do not well taken the idea of ecotourism, some shareholders started to include in development of ecotourism in different regions of Ethiopia. Bishangari Eco-Lodge located at Eastern of Langano Lake in Oromia National Regional State and Village Ethiopia located at Afar Region (Bilen) is examples of these private ecotourism developments in Ethiopia (Theodros, 2004).

It is a responsible form of tourism established as a travel to natural attraction areas that possess both attractive environmental and cultural resources, and where the scenery, flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. According to Amogne (2014), Ethiopia possesses unique and highly valuable ecotourism resources.

The combination of historical, cultural and natural ecotourism attractions has an essential role for its future growth (Meseret, 2010). The country has stunning landscapes and biodiversity, diverse culture and tradition, and ancient historical places aged as old as 3000 years. Ecotourism development and significance in social, environmental and economic aspect is low compared to the neighbouring countries (Dejene *et al.*, 2014). Absence of adequate study on ecotourism potentials and the less dissemination in the ecotourism notion and approaches hinder the effective and sustainable development of the ecotourism in Ethiopia (Birhan and Gebreyes, 2015).

2.6. Principles of Ecotourism

Several categories of tourism, which are based on the natural aspects, are tried to compared and contrasted or even used interchangeably with ecotourism. According to Blamey (2001), ecotourism is different from these categories mainly due to the major principles listed below.

These are:-

1. Minimize the negative impacts on nature and culture that can damage a destination,
2. Educate the traveller on the importance of conservation
3. Stress the importance of responsible business, which works cooperatively with local authorities and people to meet local needs and deliver conservation benefits

4. Direct revenues to the conservation and management of natural and protected areas
5. Highlight the need for regional tourism zoning and for visitor management plans designed for either regions or natural areas that are scheduled to become eco-destinations,
6. Emphasize use of environmental and social base-line studies, as well as long-term monitoring programs, to assess and minimize impacts,
7. Try to maximize economic benefit for the host country, local business and communities, particularly peoples living in and adjacent to natural and protected areas
8. Seek to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental limits of acceptable change as determined by researchers in cooperation with local residents and
9. Trust on infrastructure that has been developed in harmony with the environment, minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving local plants and wildlife, and blending with the natural and cultural environment.

2.7. Necessary Conditions for the Development of Ecotourism

According to Haroon (2002), travel agents, tour operators, tourist information and guiding services, accommodation and cooking, attractions, transportation and security are components of travel and tourism industry. Travel agents provide vital services in the sector including travel plan, schedules, issue tickets, keep accounts, money exchange, etc. Tour operators put together holiday packages which consists ravel (road, sea, air, rail), accommodations (hotels, guesthouses, self-catering) and travel service (transfers, car rent, excursions). Information for tourists is provided by national and regional tourist boards and local tourist information centres through tourist information and guiding services. Accommodation and catering includes provision of accommodation, food and drink for those who are away from home. The service can be provided in hotels, motels, guesthouses, inns, farmhouses, holiday lodges and holiday home, group parks and camp sites, restaurants, cafes etc. Attractions include both natural and cultural tourist attractions. Efficient transportation system is crucial for the development of tourism industry. The availability of peace and stability (security) is the pillar and fundamental prerequisite for flourishing and sustainable tourism development.

2.8. Protected Areas and Ecotourism

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (IUCN, 2008). Protected areas are aimed at protecting biodiversity and large scale of natural environments. However, these protected areas are increasingly facing a number of challenges (Wearing and Neil, 2009). Protected areas are main destinations for increasing tourism like ecotourism given that it uses diverse nature, landscapes and biodiversity as major attractions. In these protected areas, there might be a potential threat to, and an opportunity for conservation of natural resources. If well scheduled and succeeded ecotourism may reduce the environmental influences whereas significantly contributes to the protected areas (Strasdas, 2002).

The country's Ethiopia biodiversity is quite unique compared to neighbouring countries, some of which are famous safari destinations. Ethiopia's Protected Area (PA), which includes national parks, game reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and controlled hunting grounds, covers about 14% of the country. The protected areas offer ecotourism and leisure activities such as wildlife viewing, trekking, mountaineering and bird watching (Euromonitor International, 2010).

2.9. Protected areas of Ethiopia

National Park, is a large area of land which is protected by the government because of its natural beauty, plants, or animals which the public can usually visit. It's, an area of scenic beauty, historical importance, or the like, owned and maintained by a national government for the use of the people. In Ethiopia, 40 protected areas cover about 16.4% of the country's land area (186,000 km²), and include National Parks, Wildlife reserves, Biosphere reserves, Sanctuaries, and Controlled hunting areas (Young, 2012). Some of the protected areas are listed in (Table 2).

Table 2: National parks of Ethiopia and their locations

National parks name	Administered by	Location	Established	Hectares (ha)
Awash National Park	Federal	Oromia, Afar	1958	75.6
Simien Mountains National Park	Federal	Amhara	1959	41.2
Alatish National Park	Federal	Amhara	2006	266.6
Bahir Dar Blue Nile River Millennium Park	Regional	Amhara	2008	472.8
Borena Saynt National Park	Regional	Amhara	2001	432.5
Bale Mountains National Park	Federal	Oromia	1962	2200
Abijata Lakes National Park	Federal	Oromia	1963	88.7
Omo National Park	Federal	SNNPR	1959	356.6
Nech Sar National Park	Federal	SNNPR	1966	51.4
Mago National Park	Federal	SNNPR	1974	194.2
Chebera Churchura National Park	Regional	SNNPR	1997	1410
Maze National Park	Regional	SNNPR	1997	20.2
Yangudi-Rassa National Park	Federal	SNNPR	1969	473.1
Gambella National Park	Federal	Gambella	1966	506.1
Geralle National Park	Regional	Somali	1998	355.8
Dati Wolel National Park	Regional	Oromia	1998	43.1
Arsi mountains National park	Regional	Oromia	2012	-
Yabello National Park	Regional	Oromia	1978	250
Gibe Sheleko National Park	Regional	SNNPR	2001	24.8
Loki Abaya National Park	Regional	SNNPR	2001	50
Kafta Shiraro National Park	Federal	Tigray	1999	500

Source: (Young, 2012)

Wildlife sanctuary-Areas preserved in their natural condition to protect wildlife, vegetation and ecological balance (Table 3).

Table 3: Wildlife sanctuaries of Ethiopia

Wildlife sanctuaries	Location	Established	Area coverage (ha)
Yabello Wildlife Sanctuary	Oromia	1970	698.2
Babile Elephant Sanctuary	East Hararghe	1970	698,200
Didessa Wildlife Sanctuary	Oromia	-	-
Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary	Oromia	-	5.8
Kuni-Muktar Mountain Nyala Sanctuary	Amhara	1989	-
Stephanie Wildlife Sanctuary	-	-	-

Source: (Young, 2012)

Wildlife reserves-are areas of land managed to conserve wildlife and their habitats.

Alledoghi, Awash West, Shire, Chelbi, Gewane, Mille-Sardo, Tama, Bale are wildlife reserves of Ethiopia.

Controlled hunting areas of Ethiopia- limits the number of hunters allowed and the amount of game that can be killed (Table 4).

Table 4: Controlled hunting areas of Ethiopia

Name of the controlled hunting area	Location	Year of Establishment	Area in km ²
Abasheba Demerol	Oromia	1994	210
Arba-Gugu	Oromia	1995	341
Dindin	Oromia	-	208
Besemena-Odobulu	Oromia	1993	350
Munessa-Kukie	Oromia	1993	111
Shedem Berbere	Oromia	1988	170
Hanto	Oromia	1991	190
Bilen Hertalie	Afar	-	1,090
Chifera	Afar	1998	510
Telalak-Dewe	Afar	-	457
Murullie	SNNP R	-	690
Wilshet-Sala	SNNPR	2000	350
Sororo-Torgam	Oromia	2000	78
Haro Aba Diko	Oromia	2000	200
Urgan Bula	Oromia	2000	78
Hurfa Soma	Oromia	2000	215
Adaba-Dodola	Oromia	2000	736

Source: *UNEP-WCMC, World Database on Protected Areas (2016)*

Biosphere Reserves-are sites established by countries and recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science (Table 5).

Table 5 : Biosphere reserves of Ethiopia

Biosphere reserves	Location	Year of establishment	Area in km ²
Yayu	Oromia	2010	467
Kafa Coffee Forest Region	SNNPR	2010	760
Sheka (close to Gambella and Godere)	SNNPR	2010	-
Lake Tana	Amhara	2014	6959

Source: (Young, 2012)

2.10. Ecotourism and Sustainable Development

Ecotourism is the segment of sustainable tourism that applies the sustainability principles to its tourism activities, operations, establishments and projects. The beginning of mass tourism in the second half of the 20th century was paralleled by the rise of global environmental movements. Sustainability in tourism development concerns harmonizing tourism development with ecological and social responsibilities. It aims at meeting the needs of the present tourists and hosts while protecting and enhancing environmental, social and economic values for the future. According to Simpson (2008), the goals of sustainable tourism are promoting equity in development, improving the quality of life, maintaining quality of the environment, and creating and promoting public awareness on the significance and contribution of ecotourism.

Ecotourism enhances both sustainable development and community empowerment. If managed and monitored by a well-organized community, ecotourism can generate revenue while protecting natural and cultural resources of a given area from distinctive forms of development (Remier and Walter, 2013).

2.10.1. Significance of Ecotourism

Ecotourism, a recent but widely hailed tourism alternative (Schaller, 1998), has high potential to be an instrument for rural economic development and environmental conservation.

2.10.2. Economic benefits

The economic profits of ecotourism as known by different scholars (Weggoro, 2008) include:

Occupation openings: - it carried occupation openings to often previously disadvantaged people and important amount of the industry leftovers in the form of small scale jobs that can be financed by residents. Since the sector is labor concentrated, its development creates additional work chances at semi-skilled, practical and managerial level than an equal development in other sectors of the economy.

Making new jobs:- tourist payments on lodging, transportation, food, guides and souvenirs is an important source of income for local communities by providing additional income to rural farmers, women and young people.

Spreading local economies: - it is moderately distributed business that is highly accomplished of spreading local economies of less developed countries which are in need of primary activities jobs that can be funded by locals. Since the sector is effort demanding, its expansion generates more employment opportunities at semi-skilled, technical and managerial level than an equal development in other sectors of the economy.

Promoter for development: - tourism activities act as promoter for the development of other segments of the economy, that is, it runs strong forward and backward connections so that made macro/micro economic encouragements as well as motivations for development in the region.

Ecotourism motivates profitable national businesses like hotels and other lodging facilities, restaurants and other food services, transportation systems, handicrafts, guide assists etc.

GDP: - ecotourism fund a great agreement of gross domestic product.

Foreign Interchange pays: - whereas tourism is sensitive to the level of economic activity in the tourist generating countries, it provides higher and stable earning for developing countries than those from primary products.

Development of infrastructure: - the benefits increasing from share in infrastructure and super structure as air ports, hotels and restaurants, road networks, communications, power and water amount as well as other related public values are widely shared with other sectors of the economy, resulting in to greater economic competence.

Transfer of income: - tourism is an excellent vehicle for transferring income from wealthy nations and persons to the poorer segments of society. Ecotourism is especially effective in this transfer since travellers often undertake in to remote, economically disadvantaged areas.

2.10.3. Environmental benefits

Ecotourism, if properly managed and practical, can benefit the environment in the following ways (Weggoro, 2008). Ecotourism is relatively less-pollutant industry, which can improve the protection and promotion of natural and cultural heritages. Ecotourism will additional responsible tourist behaviour, protection of important wild life environments and ecosystem.

It is best alternative activity to environmentally damaging activities like farming, logging and mining. Although ecotourism may not be able to preserve these untouched areas as they would if human contact were forbidden, it can help to protect them from the dangers of destructive agricultural practice, mining and industrialization.

Encourages individual conservation efforts educated tour guides and educational brochures can motivate tourists to become environmentalists, thus promoting conservation efforts. Determines the significance of natural and cultural resources to a community's economic and social well-being and can help to preserve them.

2.10.4. Social benefits

Ecotourism development, in addition to economic and environmental benefits, might contribute socially by enhancing local community esteem and provides the opportunity for greater understanding and communication among people of diverse background. Ecotourism helps for political empowerment of local communities and fosters respect for different cultures (helps to develop tolerance). It is an important vehicle for promoting cultural exchanges (Weggoro, 2008).

Social sustainability: ensures that development increases people's control over their own lives is compatible with the social values of people affected by it, and maintains and strengthens community identity. A socially sustainable development must achieve distributive equity, adequate provision of social services including health and education; gender equity, and political accountability and participation.

2.11. The Impacts of Ecotourism

Unlike other goods and services that are marketed, the developer and marketer of ecotourism packages must not only be sensitive to the needs of the final consumer but also to the needs of the local or host area, as well as practice good environmental management. Ecotourism is widely accepted as a strategy with the potential to provide ecological, economic, and social benefits at the local and national levels. Although a set of explicit objectives or standard principles of ecotourism do not definitively exist, clearly the aim of ecotourism is to channel economic benefits to local communities thereby creating a greater incentive for continued local involvement that would likely enhance biodiversity conservation. The following sub-sections elaborate the positive and negative environmental, economic and social impacts on the affected natural area as well as the local population.

2.11.1. Environmental impacts

According to Neto (2002), poorly managed ecotourism results the following negative environmental issues. The technological complexity of the present century has led to various forms of pollution which are both initiated and compounded by tourism development in general and by travel in particular. Any large-scale tourism movement increases air pollution, contribute to unacceptable levels of noise in rural surroundings and disposal of waste into water bodies. Although ecotourism is intended for small groups; even a modest increase in population puts extra pressure on the local environment and necessitates the development of additional infrastructure and amenities. The construction of water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, and lodges come with the exploitation of non-renewable energy sources and the utilization of already limited local resources. When the vast majority of profits are put into the pockets of investors instead of reinvestment in to local economy or environmental protection, it causes the resentment by local people results in environmental degradation.

Loss of biodiversity: - when land and resources are strained by excessive use, and when impacts on vegetation, wildlife, mountain marina and coastal environments and water resources exceed the carrying capacity, it can cause loss of biodiversity. This loss of biodiversity in fact means loss of tourism potential. The presence of wealthy Eco tourists encourage the development of

destructive markets in wildlife souvenirs contributing to illegal harvesting and poaching from the environment (Table 6).

Table 6: Environmental impacts of ecotourism development

Positive impacts	Negative Impacts
Creation of wildlife reserve/sanctuary	Disruption of breeding habitats
Justification for park protection	Change in wildlife migration patterns
Habitat restoration	Water pollution by sewerage disposal
Environmental education	Over-exploitation of biological resources (over-fishing)
Motivation for private conservation efforts	Destruction of vegetation

Source: Matthews, (2002)

2.11.2. Economic impacts

Neto, (2002) stressed that ecotourism, if not carefully monitored and managed, May results in the following economic side effects:-

Leakage: – though the major target of ecotourism is to generate domestic employment and economic opportunities for local communities, profits can leak out of the regions (locals) in to the hands of elites and wealthier nations. Many developing nations do not have the resources to construct the infrastructure necessary for ecotourism development, which leads them to turn to foreign corporations and international donors. The widespread involvement of foreign investors can lead to a leakage problem in which the profits earned by the tourism sector do not stay in the country.

Exploitation of local workforce: - the resident population may exclude from the development process and relegate to minimum wage support jobs.

Instability: - Tourism is highly weak to international shocks like wars, sudden changes in consumer tastes, sharp economic declines, terrorist attacks (Table 7).

Table 7: Economic impacts of ecotourism development

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Increasing employment opportunities	Leakage of revenues
Increase household income	Uneven distribution of revenues/income inequalities
Funding for infrastructure	Reduce access to resources (i.e. wood, medicinal plants)
Funding for protected areas	Locals lose income from resources because a public protected area
Revenue-sharing	Foreign ownership of business

Source: Lindberg (2001)

2.11.3 Socio-Cultural impacts

According to Neto, (2002)

Displacement of local people from their land: - even though ecotourism often claims that it preserves and enhances local cultures, evidences shows that with the establishment of protected areas, local people have illegally lost their homes and most often with no or little compensation. Pushing people on to marginal lands does little to enhance livelihoods even when a proportion of ecotourism profits are directed back in to the community.

Land use conflict: - ecotourism often causes conflict and changes in land use rights and fails to deliver promises of community level benefits.

Cultural change: - indigenous cultural change may result from contact between tourists and locals, which is usually closer and more prolonged than in mass tourism. Problems arising when indigenous villagers adopt city or western ways, include acculturation, locals may begin “manufacturing” culture solely for tourists” consumption. Locals may come to experience increasing dissatisfaction with their own standards of living and seek to imitate the tourists (Table 8).

Table 8: Sociocultural impacts of ecotourism development

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Increased interest in traditional practices/ceremonies	Changed in family economies
Government protection of cultural resources	Shift away from traditional practices; loss of indigenous knowledge
Promotion of cultural exchange	Change in cultural landscape, housing, and employment
Development of local cooperatives	Restricted access to resources
Training and education	Increased exploitation of local people
Increased market for development of local foods	Growth of vandalism, prostitution, crime
Community empowerment	Change in family structure

Source: (Wearing, 2001)

2.12. Mechanisms to Minimize the Negative Impacts of Ecotourism

Natural resource reduction and environmental degradation associated with tourism activities are sometimes serious problems in tourism-rich regions (Neto, 2002). Controlling ecotourism within the limit of the carrying capacity of the environment can be gifted through sound management methods or the use of economic instruments like user charges (or entrance fees), various kinds of taxes and imposing a limit on the number of visitors or tradable permits (Anderson, 1996). In order to minimize the side effects of ecotourism, government involvement at different levels is needed in the following ways: restrictive number of tourists and tourist operators based on the carrying capacity of the area, Improving the arrangements or logistics of tourism movements to reduce environmental harm or challenging properties.

Providing appropriate environmental education to tourist operators and tourists is through tour operators, lodges, national parks, private reserves, or different types of ecotourism related activities, education can make a difference. Education is one of the most essential elements of ecotourism because it can change the way people (both locals and tourists) think about the environment, Introducing scientific developments to reduce environmental damage. Due

attention should be given for the involvement of local communities in ecotourism projects so as they can develop a sense of ownership with the project. Local participation serves as an early warning system that helps managers to avoid or plan for decisions that might otherwise cause conflict with the local population (Tisdell, 1997)

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1. Description of the Study Area

The study area is located in Dawro Zone and Konta special district, about 475 km south-west of Addis Ababa. One can reach to the park following either the Addis-Jimma-Ameya road or Addis-Shashemene-Sodo-Waka-Tocha-Essera road. It covers an area of 1410 km² and lies between 36° 27' 00"- 36° 57'14"E longitudes and 6° 56' 05" - 7° 08' 02"N latitude. The altitude of the park ranges from 550-2000m a.s.l. The Park was established in 2005 by the regional government (figure 1). Highly undulating to rolling plains with incised river valleys, lakes and perennial streams, valley and gorges and savannah grass-land characterize the region of the park (Timer 2005; Datiko and Bekele, 2013).

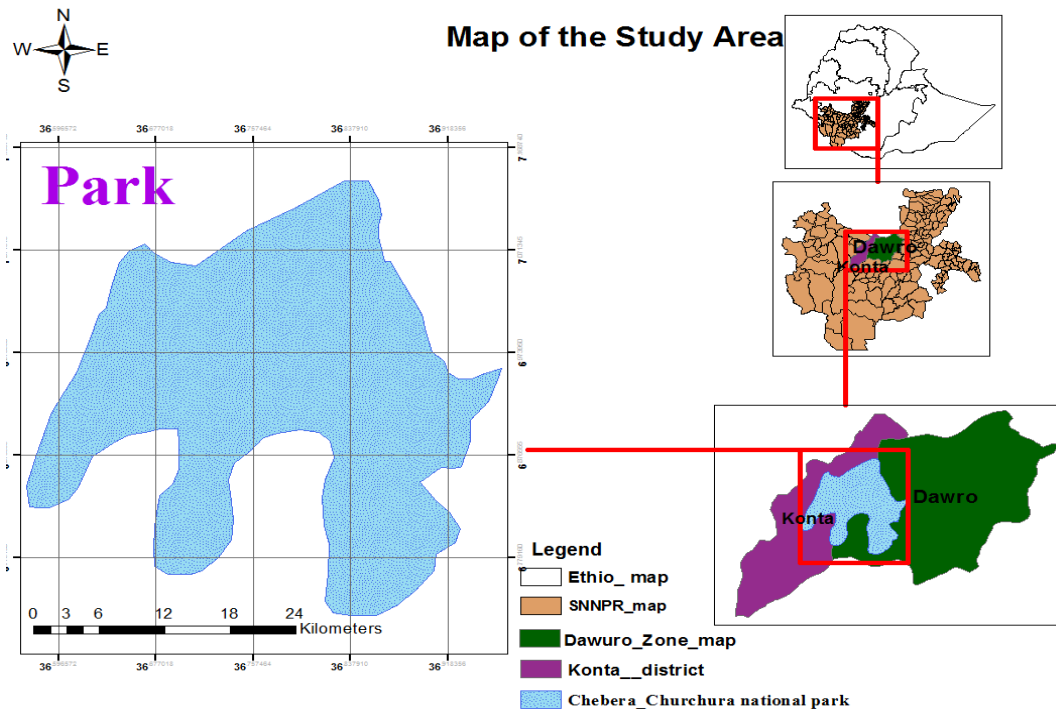


Figure 1 : Map of the study area (showing Ethiopia, SNNPR, the two districts sharing the park and the park itself)

Climate

The rainfall in the area is uni-modal (having one long rainy season) and have a continuous or more even distribution of rainfall between March and September with a peak in July and

sometimes, the rains extend high long time in December. The dry season of the area includes December, January and February and the cooler months are July and August. It is characterized by relatively hot climatic condition. The average amount of annual rainfall mean 2154 mm in the area varies from 1000 to 3500mm (KSDCATO, 2017).

Temperature

The study area can be divided into two major thermal zones, which broadly correspond to traditional temperature regions. This includes Kola thermal zone (with altitude varying between 800 and 1500 in a.s.l .and with temperature varying between 21 and 27.5°C). Woynadega thermal zone with altitude varying between 1500 and 2450m and temperature varies between 11 and 16°C. The daily temperature range in the study area is widest during the dry season and narrowest during the wet season. Maximum rainfall temperature 28°C and minimum rainfall temperature 16°C .The dry season of the study area includes December, January and February and the hottest months of the area include January and February with mean maximum temperature varies between 27 and 29°C, respectively. The absolute maximum temperature was 32.1°C in. The cooler months are July and August with mean minimum temperature varying between 10 and 11.4°C, respectively. The mean annual temperature of the area is 17°C and the mean daily temperature of the warmest month is 25.4°C. The mean daily temperature of the coldest month is 10.2 °C (KSDCATO, 2017).

Drainage

The park is blessed in owning numerous rivers, streams and creator lakes which are reasons for the rich wildlife resources of the area. Omo River is one of the features of the park bordering to the south. There are different perennial rivers and streams such as 'Zigina', 'Shoshuma' and 'Ajicola' rivers which cross the park and finally drain to Omo River, besides; there are five creator lakes in the park, namely 'Keriballa', 'Shita', 'Chofore', 'Bahe' and 'Bulo'.

Topography

The prominent topographic features of the CCNP are characterized by unique and highly heterogeneous and hilly terrain large proportion of the study area is highly undulating and rolling interspersed with different valley floors purely drained bottomland and punctuated by different hills. The general pattern of topographic features of the study area therefore is one of the rolling

to steep hills as interfluves between relatively narrow flat to undulating bottomland which acts as collecting sites for run-off water from the Nearby uplands Few flat lands and highly undulating to rolling plains with incised river and perennial streams, valley and gorges, generally characterize the region (KSDCATO, 2017).

Flora

The park is covered by savannah tall grass species with scattered trees, riverine forest, woodland and moist montane forests. About 62% of the park is wooded grassland dominated by elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), with montane woodland comprising 29% and woodland and riparian forest. For instance, the ground water forest type of vegetation is dominated by Podocarpus Juniperus and broad-leaved tree species. The riverine forests are characterized by mixed vegetation dominated by plant species such as *Albizia grandibracteata* (large-leaved Albizia), *Aspilia mosambicensis* (wild sunflower), *Arundo donax* (Carrizo), *Chionantus mildobradii*, *Ehretia cymosa* and *Grewia ferruginea*. The grassland has scattered trees and covers the largest part of the Park.

Fauna

The park is a key biological resource conservation area based on the diversity of large mammal fauna, birds, and the unique ecosystem (Timer, 2005; Weldeyohanes, 2006). Some of birds such as; *phalacrocorax africanus* (Long-tailed Cormorant), *Ardea cinerea* (Gray Heron), *Ardea melanocephala* (Black-Headed Heron), *Ardea alba* (Great Egret), *Egretta intermedia* (Intermediate Egret). It supports a wide range of savannah species. The Park has rich faunal biodiversity, which consists of 37 species of large mammals, 18 of small mammals and 137 bird species (Demeke and Afework, 2013).

Surrounding community

Dawro and Konta are the major ethnic groups belonging to Omotic family found around the park. They depend on agriculture and animal husbandry. Konta and Dawro people in the eastern, north and north western highland of Konta and Dawro traditionally practice agricultural land use that combines enset, root crops, cereals, cultivation and trees with livestock rearing simultaneously (a type of mixed agriculture). The southern lowland people practices land use for the production of cereal, teff and vegetables.

Table 9: Chebera Churchura National Park Staff profile and their job description

Staff Profile	Number of individuals	Job description
Park Warden	1	Manager of CCNP Management
Wildlife Professional	2	Follow up wildlife condition and every ongoing changes in the park
Human Resource Coordinator	1	Organize the staff profile, follow up and support all staffs to be guided by rules and regulations of the park administration.
Accountant	3	Leads finance and provides financial information to management, recommends financial actions by analyzing accounting data, prepares reports
Cashier	1	Responsible for taking money, draws balances
Secretary	1	Supports the management team
Scout Head	1	Arrange time table for scouts to patrol of the park, coordinates scouts
Scouts	51	Protective staffs, check and protect illegal activities in and around the park area, assist in field work.
Janitor	1	Cleans the park offices and the compound
Guards	2	Watch and protect other staffs and park compound

Source: CCNP office, (2018)

3.2 Methods

3.2.1 Sample site selection and research design

Chebera Churchura National Park was selected for this research because it is one the highest number of wildlife which have high value for ecotourism development. In order to achieve the planned objectives, cross-sectional method was used. This study was used two major categories of research approaches, namely; quantitative and qualitative approaches. Quantitative approach was used to analyze and interpret the data in the form of frequency, percentage, tables and graphs while qualitative approach was describing and representing accurately the characteristics of specific facts in the study area.

3.3. Sampling technique and sample size

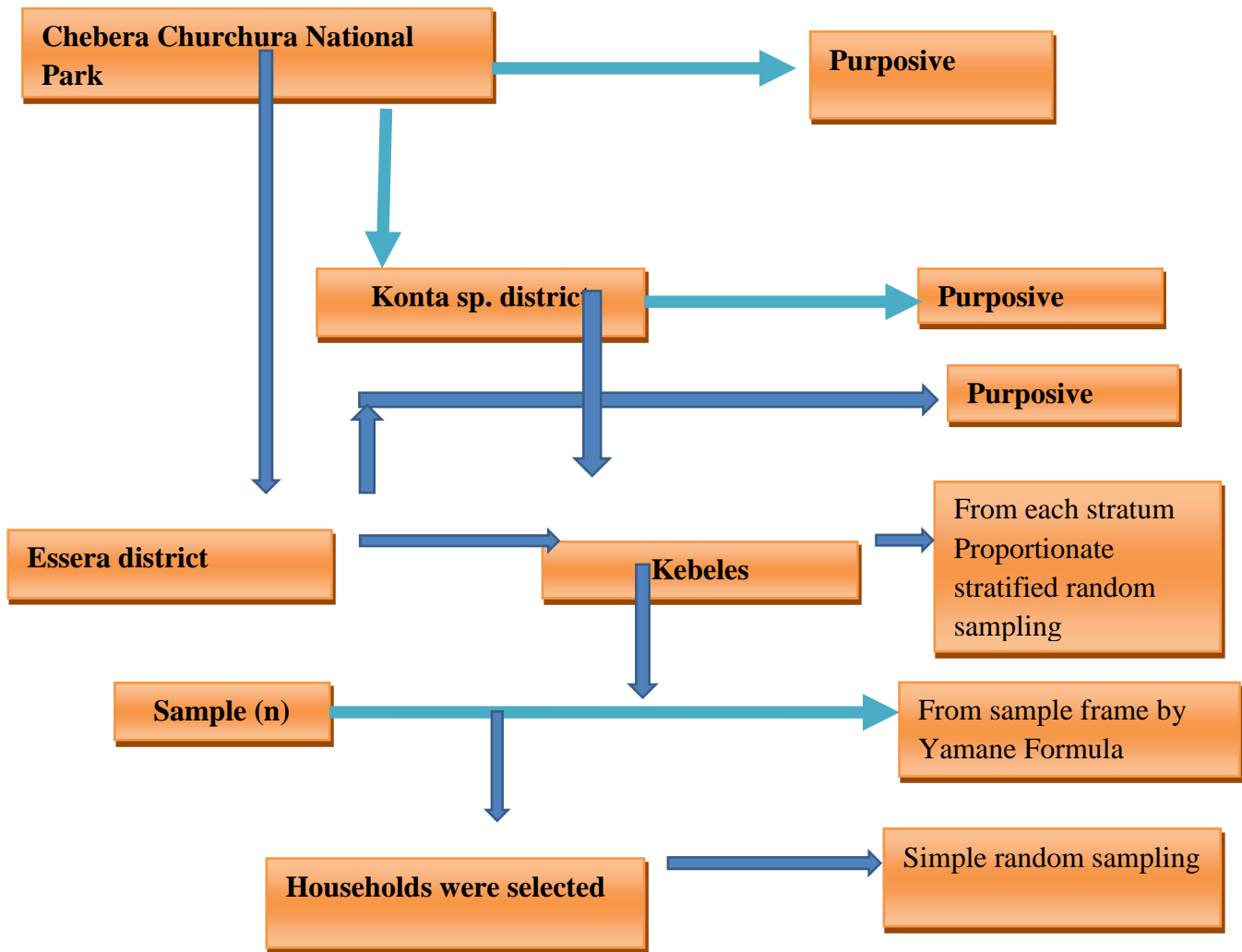


Figure 2: Sampling procedures

I. Sample size

The sample size was decided based on sample size determination formula, which is given a care to have the sample size of the study to be as representative as possible in accordance with the time and budget available. Having taken this into consideration, out of the total households in the selected districts 146 were used by Slovene formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} = \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

$$\frac{2200}{1+2200(0.08)^2} = 146$$

Where; N= the total population n=the required sample size e= the precision level which is = (8%) Precision Levels and Confidence level is 95%.

The size of sample respondents from each kebele was determined by the following formula.

$$ni = \frac{nNi}{N} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where; “ni” is the sample size of *i*th kebele, “n”, is *i*th kebele households, “Ni” is the total sample size and “N” is the sum of households in sample kebeles (Table 10).

Table 10: Sample Keble’s, their Total Population and the Samples taken

No	Name of kebele	Household	Samples taken`
1	Gudumu	112	7
2	Churchura	386	26
3	Chawuda	678	45
4	Chebera	343	23
5	Serri	135	9
6	Yora	546	36
Total		2200	146

3.4 Data Source and Collection Tools

Both primary and secondary data sources were used to collect qualitative and quantitative data. The primary data sources include: Focused group discussion, field observation and photographing, respondent’s response to structured questionnaires and interview were made with the expertise, tourist related business enterprises in the 6 (six) kebeles and the district offices as discussed below.

A. Household Survey

The household surveys using the questionnaire (Appendix 1) were used for data collection process. The questionnaire was involved both open and closed-ended questions. Before collection of data, the questionnaire was pretested with few individuals who are not members of the sampled households and presented to Development Agents (DAs) selected as interviewers.

B. Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussions were carried out at kebele level teams. The discussions were focus on the status and trend of park in different dimensions, challenges and potentials of park, and the attitude of community towards the park. Four focus group discussions sessions were conducted in the study area, and the group size in each discussion site different from 8-10. Park staffs, village leaders, local elders, primary school teacher in the village, other non-government owners and students have participated to discuss their experience concerned with ecotourism and biodiversity conservation and to gather their information on wildlife in the area. The focus group discussions were handled using a checklist (Appendix 2) prepared by the researcher.

C. Key Informant Interview (KII'S)

Key informant interviews were conducted purposely with different individuals at different levels. For the purpose of this study semi-structured questions prepared for key informant interviews (Appendix 3) were conducted with different stakeholders. The data for this study collected through in depth one- to -one interviews with various tourism stakeholders available in the study area. Most of the interviews were held after the questionnaire had been completed. For each interviewee, independent checklists were prepared. The respondents were selected because of their broad knowledge, experience, expertise and involvement with the tourism sector in the study area. In other words they were selected based on their ability to contribute to the overall research objectives.

D. Field Observations

During field surveys (observation), preferable site were selected with scouts (park keepers) and were guided by park keepers, voluntary farmers and development Agents (DAs) and some notes

taken on specific observation in advance. During field observation, digital photo camera was used to capture wild animals and binocular to observe wild animal in far distance.

The secondary data reports from Chebera Churchura National Park office, Konta special district culture and tourism office and Essera district culture and tourism office, annual reports, files, manuals and journals.

3.5. Method of Data Analysis

Qualitative data were interpreted and narrated based on the detailed information obtained in the study area. Carefully gathered quantitative data were analysed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS Version 20.0). Accordingly, descriptive static in a form of frequency, percentage and tables from descriptive statistics.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. General Characteristics of the Sample Households

Age of respondents

About (4.1%) of the respondents were in the age category between 18-25; and 47.9 % were in age group 26-31 meaning that, majority of the households were within the young age category, while 26 % were 32-45 years aged, 16.4 % were between 46-65 years and 5.5 % were in age group above 65 years. The presence of adulthood aged household heads could play a great role in the decision making of how to develop the sector (ecotourism) and biodiversity both by directly participating in the process and adding their imputes in all needed aspects. In addition, it is easy to convince the working class to do (when it is positive) or not to do (when it is negative) anything, because they do have the ability to understand things easily.

Table 11: Age of respondents

Variable	Age group	Frequency (N=146)	Percent (%)
Age	18-25	6	4.1
	26-31	70	47.9
	32-45	38	26.0
	46-65	24	16.4
	Above 65	8	5.5

Sex of respondents

The overall sample population was 146; 114 (78.09%) of them were male head households and the rest 32(21.91%) were female head households (Table 12).

Table 12: Sex of respondents

Variable	Respondent characteristics	Frequency (N=146)	(%)
Sex	Male	114	78.09
	Female	32	21.91

Education level of respondents

From the total sample respondents 36.3 % were unable to read and write, 30.8% of respondents acquired primary education (1-8), 30.1% of respondents secondary school and 2.7 % of respondents were tertiary level (College and University) graduates (Table 13).

Table 13: Education level of respondents

Variable	Respondent characteristics	Frequency (N=146)	(%)
Education level	Unable to read and write	53	36.3
	Primary school(1-8)	45	30.8
	Secondary school	44	30.1
	Tertiary(College and University)	4	2.7

Livelihood of respondents

For 9.6 % of the respondents their major means of income is crop farming.11.6 percent of respondents' means of income was livestock rearing 61.6 % of respondents' source of income was mixed farming and 17.1 % of respondents source of income was handicrafts (Table 14).

Table 14: Livelihood of respondents

Variable	Respondent characteristics	Frequency (N=146)	Percent (%)
Major means of livelihood(source of income)	Crop farming	14	9.6
	Livestock rearing	17	11.6
	Mixed farming	90	61.6
	Handicraft	25	17.1

4.2 Potentials of ecotourism development in CCNP

Chebera Churchura national park is endowed with scenic beauty with birdlife, area of recreation and also favourable area for visitation. Natural attractions can be categorized as landscape, wildlife and other natural resources.

Scenery (Landscape) of CCNP

The landscape of Chebera Churchura National Park is very fascinating and attractive with highly rough, heaving to rolling plains, hilly and mountainous land which are covered by vegetation the whole year and plains with incised rivers and perennial streams, valleys, and gorges. The rivers are lined by dense forests, which provide habitat for the Buffaloes and Elephants, as well as forest birds like trogon and turacos. The park is also relatively untouched and recently discovered as well as rich wilderness areas but the least visited and known national park.

It comprises unique and attractive mountain closed forest, closed tall grass savannah habitat, and thick woodland forest (Figure 3). The park is also part of a greater network of protected areas such as Mago and Omo NP in the south and the Kafa Biosphere Reserve (BR) in the northwest, as well as other national forest priority areas (NFPAs).

These protected areas are relatively well connected through natural forests, savannah and grasslands, allowing seasonal migration of and exchange between animal populations. Meka and Boka forests are year round preferred home for the African Elephants. According to the Key informant's respondent estimation more than 1000 elephants and 3000 buffalos are inside the park and five beautiful creator lakes are inside the park, which have innumerable hippopotamus,

crocodiles and water birds, '*Garra chebera*' a new endemic species of fish also found only in CCNP creator lakes in the world (Habteselassie *et al.*, 2009). The park is highly attractive, unique and very attractive topography because of its undulating landscape with high hills, rolling mountain chains.

The presence of wilderness area with high mammalian diversity in chained mountain forest, tall-grassed savannah habitat, thick woodland forest, number of cold and hot springs and rivers, and historical caves are potential destination for tourists. According to information obtained from the key informants, in the tradition of Konta people, if anybody in the community commits a crime, that person will be penalized by planting trees.



Figure 3: Landscape with Natural forest of the study area

Waterfalls: There are two waterfalls found inside the park namely 'Wogga barbo' and 'Qeeri Barbbbo' of which 'Wogga barbo' is the longest and found in Chebera kebele 11 km away from the head quarter.

River: The Omo River and its tributaries ('Zigina', 'Shoshuma', 'Ajicola rivers') found in the park. Creator lakes ('Shita', 'Keribala', 'Chofore', 'Bulo' and 'Bahe') harbour good population of hippos, crocodile and fishes species. 'Zigina' River starts from the north east highlands of the area and cross the central part of the park (north to south) and feeds the Omo River (there are also different perennial rivers feeding Omo River crossing the park). 'Shoshuma' River starts from the north western highlands of the Konta area cross the north eastern part of the park and join with 'Zigina' River inside the park, which go down together to Omo River. 'Shoshuma'

River is the main river of the park. It rises from the north western highlands of the Konta area, flows across the north eastern part of the park and joins with ‘Zigina’ River inside the park, and draining into the Omo River (Konta special district culture and tourism office).



A) ‘Shoshuma’ River



B) ‘Wogga barbbo’ Waterfall



C) Lake ‘Shita’



D) ‘Shoshuma’ hot spring

Figure 4: A. ‘Shoshuma’ River, B. ‘Wogga barbbo’ Waterfall, C. Lake ‘Shita’, and D. ‘Shoshuma’ hot spring

Lakes- 5 lakes are found in the park; Lake ‘Shita’, ‘Chofore’, ‘Bulo’, ‘Bahe’ and ‘Keriballa’.

Lake ‘Shita’: is the largest and found in ‘Shita’ village. It is the habitat for different animals like hippopotamus and bird species (Figure 4). Lake ‘Keriballa’ is the second largest after Lake ‘Shita’ and it is found in ‘Keriballa’ village and it is home to some endemic bird species and Hippopotamus. Lake ‘Bulo’ is the third largest after ‘Keriballa’ Lake; Hippopotamus and Cape

buffalo nearby. Lake ‘Womba’: is an isolated lake which is fed, in addition to the Dildil stream, by a number of seasonal streams originating from the hills. The catchment of Lake Womba is bordered by catchments of the Gojeb River to the north and catchments of the Omo River to the east and to the south.

‘Womba’ basin: ‘Garra chebera’, a new cyprinid fish species in the park belongs to the ‘Womba’ basin. It is unique among African Garra in possession of 2 simple and 13 branched rays on the pectoral fin and 1 simple and 8 branched rays on the pelvic fin (Habteselassie, 2009). In addition, it is distinguished from African congeners by the following combination of features: distinct black spot at the speculum on the first lateral line scale; well-developed, large papillae disc; fully scaled prodorsal region and scaled post pelvic region; unscaled chest and belly; vent located close to anal fin (vent distance 13.2-24.2 mm; mean 18% of the distance between anal and pelvic fin origins).

Hot and Cold springs

A number of hot springs such as ‘Shoshuma’, ‘Zigina’ and ‘Adabacho’ and ‘Hage’ cold spring are found in CCNP. Many local people from the surrounding areas used hot springs for therapeutic (healing) purposes. For example, in field observation many people using ‘Shoshuma’ hot springs for healing illness and recreational bathing (Figure 4).

4.2.1. Wildlife (Animals) of CCNP

Chebera-Churchura National Park is a place of conservation concern with one of the highest wildlife densities, different endemic bird species and large mammals which have high value for ecotourism development. During the socio-economic survey, the responses of households indicated that the area under the CCNP was a home for diversified and populated wildlife species (Table 15).

Table 15: Mammals and birds of the area

Mammals found in CCNP	Scientific name
African elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Cape buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Defassa waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsyprimnus defassa</i>
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Anubis baboon	<i>Papio Anubis</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>
Bush baby	<i>Gelago senegalensis</i>
Savana baboon	<i>Papio cy- nocephalus</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Bush pig	<i>Potamocheirus larvatus</i>
Common duiker	<i>Sylvicapra oreotragus</i>
Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
White tailed mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>



A) Elephant



B) Defassa waterbuck



C) Baboons



D) Owl

Figure 5: Some mammals and birds observed during survey (2018)

Table 16: Endemic birds of the country found in CCNP.

Endemic birds	Scientific name
White cliff chat	<i>Myrmecocichlacinnamomeiventris</i>
Wattled ibis	<i>Bostrychia carunculata,</i>
Banded-barbet,	<i>Lybius undatus</i>
Black-headed forest Oriole	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>
Thick billed Raven	<i>Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventr</i>

Source :(CCNP office 2018)

4.2.2. Cultural and historical attractions

Key informant and elders' interview they indicated that there are potentials of local arts, cultural dressing, cultural dances, handicrafts, tools and lifestyle of the indigenous community, cultural foods and drinks (Figure 6).

Historical caves found on the edge of lower 'Zigina' River are 'Gimba' and 'Agare'. *St. Michael* church situated on the top of 'Agare' Mountain and 'Tocha medihanialem' Essera- 'Bale' *St. Michael* churches that attract many orthodox religious people. There are many historical caves 'Alibonba' cave the one and twin (in above water flow and below cave) found in study area. 'Shallo', 'Alanbbo tussa', 'Levano' cave and 'lukit' caves are the remaining natural caves of the area.



A)



B)



Figure 6: Cultural attractions of the area

C)

- A) Shows cultural cloth and dancing of Dawro, B) Shows cultural dressing of Konta and C) Shows cultural foods of both Dawro and Konta peoples(Appendix :4).

Source: (Essera and Konta district culture and tourism office).

4.2.3 Tourist flow in CCNP

Income generated from visitors of CCNP was analysed by collecting information on tourists from records of the park (Figure 7). This analysed or calculated income was entirely from entrance fee for the park. The entrance fee for foreigners is 270 birr in around while Ethiopians pay 20 birr in around. There are also some other additional incomes which could not be calculated but obtained from the tourists via the guiding services, which benefits park scouts and local people respectively. Because, the tourists can spend more money for various recreational purposes outside and inside the park extrapolating of all expenditures of tourists might be beyond the scope of this research.

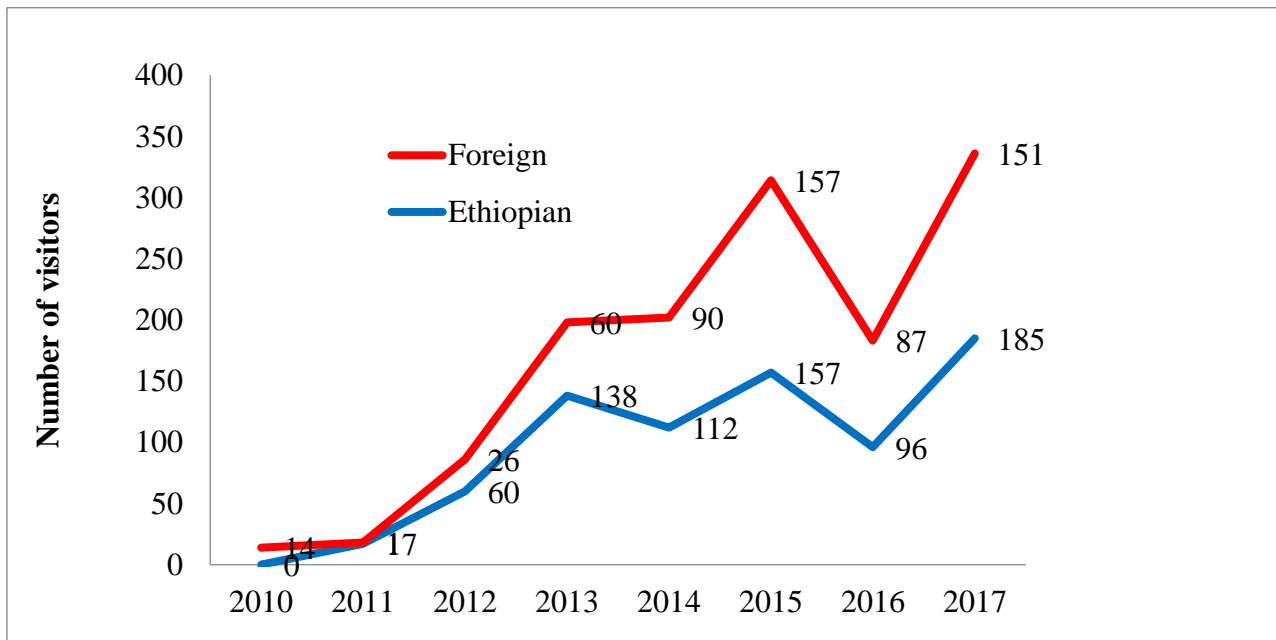


Figure 7: A graph showing Foreign and domestic tourists visited CCNP from 2010-2017

Ecotourism has been marketed as a form of nature-based tourism (Dabour, 2003). According to CCNP Head Quarter Office, most tourist arrivals to Chebera Churchura National Park are from Ethiopia, America, France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Israel, Scotland, Sweden, Argentina,

Italy, Germany, Netherland, Scotland, and Holland. The park was not visited before 2003 due to lack of promotion work to introduce the park to different stakeholders.

4.3 Challenges of Ecotourism Development in CCNP

Chebera Churchura National Park is highly covered by forest vegetation, which made it very difficult to travel inside the national park. Basic ecotourism facilities such as accommodation, transportation, health services and other support facilities are essential to enhance the satisfaction of eco-tourists and to maximize the length of stay of tourists to any area. In CCNP the challenges discussed in have reduced the ecotourism development (Table 17).

Table 17: Challenges of Ecotourism development in CCNP

Challenges of ecotourism		Frequency	Percent
Lack of awareness	Yes	93	63.7
	No	53	36.3
Infrastructural problems	Yes	85	58.2
	No	61	41.8
Livestock grazing	Yes	74	50.7
	No	72	49.3
Illegal hunting and farming	Yes	41	28.1
	No	105	71.9
Wildfire	Yes	40	27.4
	No	106	72.6
Firewood extraction	Yes	50	34.2
	No	96	65.7

As indicated in table 17, 64% of respondents showed that there was awareness gap on the role of CCNP for the local communities and the value of ecotourism. The people believe that protected area simply to conserve wildlife; protect desertification and scenic beauty. The remaining 36% of respondents have information about what ecotourism is and its importance from different Media's outlets and written materials. This result is inline with Demeke (2014) who reported similar result from Bale Mountains National Park,

A well developed and efficient infrastructure is vital for the development of tourism industry. Absence of tourist standard hotels, underdeveloped road network from Jimma to Chida, from Ameya to the Park, poor communication networks around the park and absence of tourist facilities were the difficult situations for the development of ecotourism. About 58% of the respondent's showed that lack of infrastructure as one of the challenges in Chebera Churchura national park. There is no road network in the park and as a result it's impossible to enter and travel inside the park by car. About 42% of respondents showed that they don't care about infrastructure. This result is in line with Eshetie (2012), in which he stated that the lack of basic facilities such as electricity, an effective road network to and from Borena Sayint National Park and health stations, were major problems.

Most of the local people around CCNP were dependent on subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihoods. Livestock usually intensely compete with wild animals for the same habitat resources, including forage and water which has strong impacts on wildlife. About 51% of respondent's indicated that there is livestock grazing inside the park due to lack of separate grazing lands for their cattle. This result consistent with (Desalegn, 2008) on Nechsar National Park.

The main source of energy for the people around CCNP was firewood. Among the respondents, 34.2% collect firewood and construction materials from the park. Firewood extraction has a negative impact on wildlife because trees provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife. It might reduce feeding grounds and mating sites of wildlife in the Park.

Illegal farming is another factor of anthropogenic pressure in CCNP. About 28% of respondents answered illegal farming and hunting as other factors for ecotourism development in the area. The respondents highlighted some reasons such as reducing crop damage, livestock predation; reduce the threats of wild animals on humans and to harvest wild meat. The local communities surrounding the CCNP, especially the communities of Chebera, Serri, Yora and Churchura villages use the Park area for agricultural purposes even before the establishment of the Park.

About 27% of respondents showed that wildfire is a challenge for ecotourism development in the study area. Of the local people around the Park use some trees in the park to hang/put their

traditional beehive. During the honey harvest from the traditional hives in the park they use fire and that fire may destroy the entire park. The Park management does not allow the traditional honey harvesting practice in the park because of potential to cause fire outbreaks that might destroy the Park and degrade the habitat quality of wildlife. According to the respondents, they set fires to protect themselves and their livestock from predator attacks. Fires were also set along roads in the Park to clear footpaths for ease of walking and visibility.

4.4. The role of ecotourism development to local communities and their perception

One of the ecotourism's greatest contributions to conservation is the degree to which it can shift community activities from the threats category to that of opportunities; that is those activities which contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of an area's conservation goals. Local communities are beneficiaries from development of ecotourism in Chebera Churchura National Park directly and indirectly.

4.4.1. Perception of the people about the importance of ecotourism in CCNP

Development of ecotourism on CCNP created job opportunities for the local communities. They participate in tourism related employments like guiding, accompany, washing tourist's clothes in guest houses. Local communities also involved in different job opportunities that are related with travel and tourism like employing and heaving of pack animals, rent properties, campsite home stay (guest houses), and provision of food and drinks for tourists. It opened market access for local products. The area is potentially rich for the production of highland fruits, honey and butter as well as sheep and goats. So that locals can earn income by providing their products for tourist. Development of ecotourism enhances the development of infrastructures like roads, communication networks, health facilities, power, clean water etc. which are vital for the local community as well. The possible positive impacts like; guiding, providing transportation, discussed in (Table 18).

Table 18: Local communities' benefit from Ecotourism activities in study area

Ecotourism activities		Frequency	(%)
Interesting in Ecotourism activities	Yes	84	57.5
	No	62	42.5
Guiding	Yes	83	56.8
	No	63	43.2
Local transportation	Yes	82	55.6
	No	64	44.4
Preparation of Local drink	Yes	74	50.7
	No	72	49.3
Local culture offering services	Yes	45	30.8
	No	101	69.2
Local handicraft	Yes	44	30.1
	No	102	69.9

About 58% of respondents have interest in ecotourism activities and want to gain benefit from ecotourism activities like selling fruits for tourists, washing tourists cloths and preparing meals, 43 % have no interest in ecotourism activities because they fear foreigners and most of them don't know foreign language. About 60% of respondents are interested in local transportation service provision for tourist and 40% have no interest for local transportation. About 51% of local communities prepare local drink for tourists and local communities. About 30 % of respondents sell local handicraft like cultural dressing 70% of respondents don't want to involve in selling the local handicrafts as a job due to lack of knowledge, interest and awareness.

In stakeholder meeting, participants and interviewees had more or less inter-related responses. All the participants and interviewed respondents touched that they use many natural resources for ecotourism development. However, at the same time they accepted that they only want those tourists with purposes and those that are interested in their incomes. The respondents want to develop ecotourism in their local environment to conserve the natural and cultural resources through income generation, cultural exchange and extra income for their livelihood. They also accepted that ecotourism can bring more benefits to the community through increasing participation in education for skilled labor force. More importantly the participated stakeholders

in the discussion and interview supposed that; if ecotourism is developed, it is important to bring infrastructural improvements in the community, built for the purposes of ecotourism, which would bring an added benefit to the community in the form of transportation, electricity and water. They also believe that ecotourism increases development in the area in general thus improving the livelihood of the community. By improving the road infrastructure communities are able to be linked to other communities assisting in the movement of goods, animals to the market and communication which is thought to generally improve development in the community. These responses would contribute towards the better development of ecotourism in the destination.

About 64% of respondents showed that they have lack of awareness about ecotourism, 36% of know the advantage of ecotourism for conservation of biodiversity and its advantage to local community (Table 19).

Table 19: Level of awareness of the people about the importance of ecotourism

Do you know ecotourism	Frequency	Percent
Yes	52	35.6
No	94	64.4
Total	146	100.0

4.4.2. Negative Perception of Local Community toward the Park

Due to different reasons local communities look the park negatively and they perceive it has negative effect ought weighs its benefit due to the damage caused by wildlife on their livestock, crop damage and on human life. As indicated in (Table 20) the negative perception toward the park and wildlife inside the park was discussed.

Wildlife, including smaller mammals such as primates (in particular baboons) is known to damage crops and livestock, and in a few cases lost children's lives. Focusing on livestock

losses, of the respondents identified lions, hyenas, leopards and baboons as the most problematic species. Whereas baboons, giant forest hogs and buffalos were identified as the most problematic crop raiders. About 60% of respondents reported among the problematic animals, elephant, buffalo, baboon and porcupine caused threats on both crops and human’s lives, 78.1 % mentioned damage on crop and livestock production; whereas, 34% of respondents reported expansion of theft in half parts of the park especially in Dawro Zone Essera district (Table 20).

Table 20: Disadvantages or negative influence of park to local community

	Number(yes)	Percent (%)
Damage to crop and livestock production	114	78.1
Expansion of theft	50	34.2
Wild animals harm/attack the community	88	60.3

4.4.3. Involvement and Role of NGOs and Local Communities in CCNP

The NGO community plays a major role in planning and management of biodiversity in CCNP through ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. GIZ (German cooperation) for example, Biodiversity and Forestry Program (BFP supports the management of selected protected areas, biosphere reserves and national forest priority areas (NFPAs) in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples’ Regional State (SNNPRS). In SNNPRS, GIZ works with the administration of Chebera Churchura National Park (CCNP), situated in Konta and Dawro zones managed organization and has an objective of the promotion of sustainable use and preservation of natural resources in order to maintain a balance between the community and environment. It is also engaged in education, public outreach, research and professional training, as part of long-term strategy to improve conservation management.

Another NGO like “Ethiosamuel” could assist the community in different ways by giving training, supporting modernized bee keeping material and so on. Generally, ecotourism development in the park can diversify the livelihood of the local community. Alternative sources of income for the locals help to minimize the pressure on the park’s resources and become an encouragement to enhance conservation programs.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The area is rich for ecotourism development due to presence of different species of wildlife, dense forest, birds and cultural tourism resources and the presence of wilderness area with high mammalian diversity in chained mountain forest, number of hot and cold springs and rivers, and historical caves are potential destination for tourists. The park created job opportunities for local communities like scouts.

The increasing flow of tourists to southern Ethiopia for the sake of nature, availability of different tourist attractions in National Park and high national and international concern for tourism and ecotourism are major opportunities for the development of ecotourism on Chebera Churchura National Park.

Lack of awareness among a local community was the major challenge of ecotourism development in the study area. Local communities didn't aware about the value of ecotourism destinations for their economic opportunities, wildlife conservation and recreational values. Lack of Infrastructure, livestock grazing, illegal farming and hunting and wildfire is also another challenges that hinder ecotourism development in the park. Damage to crop and livestock production, wildlife attack human life and widespread of theft in the presence of park are also another challenges of the area.

In general, the study indicated that the presence of ecotourism potentials which will benefit the local communities while contributing sustainable natural resource management of the park.

5.2 Recommendations

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

Awareness creation on the value of the park and ecotourism for local communities' .conservation of biodiversity, and income generation. Therefore, such awareness might be achieved through meetings of local communities with support of CCNP and other concerned participants.

Involvement of local communities in decision making and provide sense of ownership to local people over the park.

Development of basic infrastructures like road, electricity, mobile network, health center and other facilities that are essential for tourists. Therefore, the regional government and woreda administrators in collaboration with concerned bodies have to solve the basic infrastructures challenge.

Awareness creation to local communities about ecotourism and its importance provide an opportunity for them to participate in ecotourism activity. By paying compensation for those who lost their crop and livestock production by wild animals through regional government working with collaboration with woreda administration. Punish a local community who graze their livestock inside the park and farm illegally.

Since the park is a newly established one, strong promotion work has to be done using Medias, Websites and brochures and any other available means and concerned bodies should take the responsibility in promoting the park. The area has great ecotourism potentials and possibilities of establishing strong ecotourism destination through private companies or by the government. Ecotourism development is vital to assure the sustainable conservation of the park. Local communities have to get real and tangible benefit from the park through generating monetary value and job opportunities. To that end, the Regional State of Parks Development and Protection Authority in collaboration with the woreda administrators have to carry out the establishment of ecotourism project.

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7. APPENDICE

Appendix 1: Household Questionnaire

Introduction

My name is Tesfanesh Endashaw from Jimma University Department of Natural resource management (Wildlife and Ecotourism Management program). I am working a Master of Science thesis entitled in the “Assessment of potentials and challenges of ecotourism development in Chebera Churchura National park”. It will serve as source of information to the research paper to be done for thesis purpose. Any response you provide here is strictly confidential and will be used exclusively for the research purpose. Your honesty in responding the right answer is vital for the research outcome to be reliable.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in advance!!

Name of Interviewer _____

I. Personal Information

1. Sex: A. Male B. Female
2. Age A. 18-25 B. 26-31 C. 32-45 D. 46-65 E. Above 65
3. Marital Status: A. married B. Single C. Divorced D. Widowed
4. Household size: _____ Male _____ Female _____
5. Education level: A. Illiterate B. primary school(1-8) C. Secondary School(9-12)
D. Tertiary (College) and university
6. Source of livelihood/income: A. crop farming. B. Livestock rearing C. Mixed farming
D. Handicraft E. Specify others
7. Hectare of your land _____
8. Major crops produced in your land _____
9. Do you have adequate infrastructure? A. Yes B. No
10. If yes, mention them _____
11. Access to road A. Yes B. No

12. Access to health center A. Yes B. No
13. Access to education A. Yes B. No
14. Access to network A. Yes B. No
15. Access to market A. Yes B. No
16. Access to transportation A. Yes B. No
17. Do you know ecotourism? A. Yes B. No
18. Do you like the presence of the Park or to be changed?
A. Yes, to be continued as park B. To be changed
19. If you like its presence, why?
A. Source of spring and rivers B. Scenic beauty and tourism. C. Source of livelihood D. Protect desertification
20. If you like to be changed, for what purpose? A. Farm land B. Conserved woodland
Grazing land D. Communal land E. Other _____

II. Potential resources of Ecotourism development in CCNP

21. Do you know CCNP? A. Yes B. No
22. How far is it located from your home? _____ km
23. What are major potential resources of the park?
A. Natural B. Cultural

Natural attractions	Present		Cultural (Historical) attractions	Present	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Lakes			Local handicrafts		
Birdlife			Religious sites		
Lion			Caves		
Leopard					
Buffalo					
Hippopotamus					

Hot springs					
Cold springs					
Waterfall					
Mountain(topography)					
Rivers					
Streams					

24. Mention other purposes of using this park? A. As ecotourism development areas B.As rituals area C. Sanitation place D. All above E. specify others_____

25. What are the special features of this tourist spot?

A. Scenic beauty area endowed with bird life B. Area of recreation C. Favourable area for visiting D. All above E. Specify other_____

26. In your opinion, is there any change in the size of the natural forest of the park?

A. Increased B. Decreased C. No change D. I do not know

27. Are you interested in ecotourism activities or diversified livelihoods?

A. Yes B. No

28. If yes, what tourist services /facilities members of local communities will offer in this spot (area)?

29. Guiding A. Yes B. No

30. Local transportation to go round the spot A. Yes B. No

31. Local drinks A. Yes B. No

32. Local foods A. Yes B. No

33. Local handicraft products A. Yes B. No

34. Local culture, skills included in offering services A. Yes B. No

III. Challenges of ET development in CCNP

35. Challenges of ecotourism development in CCNP

36. What are those challenges?

37. Lack of awareness A. Yes B. No
38. Infrastructural problems A. Yes B. No
39. Livestock grazing A. Yes B. No
40. Firewood extraction A. Yes B. No
41. Illegal farming and hunting A. Yes B. No
42. What are disadvantages or negative influence of CCNP to your farming/livelihood and your community?
43. Animal damage to crop and livestock production A. Yes B. No
44. Theft expansion due to CCNP A. Yes B. No
45. Wild animals harm the community A. Yes B. No
46. Are you involved in the management and decision making process in the park? A. Yes B. No
47. If yes, in what decisions did you participate? _____
48. If not participating, why? A. I was not requested it B. I do not support it C. others__
49. Do ecotourism resources of the area affected. A. Yes B. No
50. If yes what are the most difficulties/problems face you to implement ecotourism and other developmental activities of this area. A. Lack of food crops B. Lack of drinking water C. Inadequate skills D. All above E. specify others_____
51. What important assistance you need to solve these problems? A. Adequate skills/training B. Cooperation C. Loans/ credits D. Investor's partnership E. All above F. specify others_____
52. Are residents surrounding the areas or parks? A. Yes B. No
53. If yes when do you start to reside here? A. I am already living here B. I came here to live before 20 years C. I live here since I was child D. I live here since fall of Derg Regime

IV. Awareness of the community about importance of Ecotourism

54. Do you think CCNP has benefit local community and country? A. Yes B. No
55. If Yes _____
If No, why _____
56. Is there any rules and regulations in your community regarding CCNP? A. Yes B. No
If yes, what are the rules and regulations? _____
57. Do you obey those rules and regulation in your community regarding CCNP protection?

A. Yes B .No

If No, what is the reason? _____

58. How is follow up and support of government and other institutions in protection of CCNP to make it sustainable A. Very good B. Good C. Bad

Appendix 1: Checklist for focused group discussions

1. What are the challenges for developing ecotourism?
2. What are the main responsible actors for developing Ecotourism? Who are the
3. Current stakeholders and how do they work together? Do they work together?
4. What are the future prospects of developing ecotourism in the Chebera Churchura national park?
5. What are the favourable conditions for developing ecotourism in the CCNP and the surrounding?
6. Is there any local institution that is responsible to coordinate local community for developing ET in the area?
7. What is the role of the community in protecting CCNP?
8. What attitudes does the community have towards the CCNP?
9. What is the responsibility of the CCNP towards the community?
10. What are the benefits of financing and protecting the CCNP to the community?

Appendix 2: Checklist for key informant interviewer

Name: _____

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Position: _____

Date of interview: _____

1. When CCNP established and how is the organizational structure works?
2. What are the ecotourism potentials of the CCNP?
3. What are the benefits /advantages of these resources of the park to the community and country at large?
4. Do you think there are negative externalities/factors of CCNP to the community? If yes what are they?
5. How do you explain the participation of the community for biodiversity Conservation and in the CCNP?
6. What would be the major challenges for developing ecotourism in the CCNP?
7. Opportunities to exploit the above potentials?
8. Who do you think are the main actors? Who are the current stakeholders and how do they work together?
9. Are communities participating in ecotourism related activities?
10. What activities of the government are in your locality regarding the development of ecotourism?
11. Visitors visit the area?

Appendix 4: Cultural food lists of Dawro zone and Konta special district

‘Utta’: prepared with teff ‘kita’, cheese and butter.

‘Burato’: prepared with fresh meat ‘yetekola kocha’ and butter.

‘Silisso’: prepared with cheese and butter.

‘Tancco’: prepared with cheese, ‘habesha gommen’ and butter.