A STUDY ON SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES AT SELECTED TOURIST SITES IN EASTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Recently, safety and security have formed part of major considerations for tourists prior to making decisions on next destination. This has directed attention to the state of safety and security at various tourist sites in Nigeria for the nation to sustainably maximise the potentialities of tourism to national development. To this regard, this study was aimed at identifying various safety threats, and measures that were designed to check the threats, at selected tourist sites in Nigeria. Hostilities from the host community, site accidents, wild animal attacks, food poisoning, crime, defilement of norms and indigenous values were some of the safety threats identified. It was also discovered that amongst the major impediments to the existing measures were poor implementation, redundancy and lackadaisical attitude on the part of the government, wrong attitudes of tourists and host communities coupled with insufficient legal framework. At the end, some other safety and security measures were suggested to augment the existing ones.

Keywords: Threats, Safety, Tourism, Tourists, Tourist sites, Measures.

1. Introduction

Tourism is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the world after the oil industry. It is an increasingly important source of income, employment and wealth to most countries (e.g. Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Italy, United Arad Emirates, etc.) (WTO, 1996). It is now widely accepted by the international community that the viability of the tourism industry is a function of its ability to offer tourists a safe and pleasant visit (Breda and Costa, 2006). Globally, safety and security as noted by István and Krisztina (n.d) is an indispensable condition for tourist trips. It is worthy to note at this juncture that safety and security issues have gained much public debate in the last two decades in tourism, hence changed remarkably during the last two decades were enormous. Terrorism, local conflicts, natural disasters, epidemic and pandemics, most of which we were witnesses to, has significantly affected the world security (Sonmez, 1998). The travel and tourism industry could not avoid the negative impacts and consequences of these events, some of which manifested in the vulnerability of tourism at all levels. Safety and security guarantee is very vital to providing quality experience in the tourism industry and it has always been a requisite condition for travel and tourism (Page & Connell, 2006). This indicates that the success or failure of a tourism destination depends largely on the ability to provide for the tourists a secure and safe environment, which gives them the pleasant tourist

experience (Nwankwo, 2012). Many tourists would not want to embark on a life-threatening trip (Cartwright, 2000). Since the 9/11 attack on USA, travellers assesses their destination's capabilities in handling security threats before embarking on the trip, not even minding the low pricing, interesting attractions and quality service delivery at the destinations. Concern for safety, whether real or perceived, has been clearly identified as adversely affecting tourism behaviour, influencing destination choice and experience satisfaction (Breda & Costa, 2006). This safety and security concerns like political instability, war, crime, terrorism activities, and health hazards increases the perception of risk at a destination and automatically gives a harmful impact on destination's image (Nwankwo & Agboeze, 2016). Sight of security operatives and professionals in a destination gives an impression of impending threats to the destination. According to Johnson (n.d), by its very nature,

> Tourism is a global and intensely competitive industry. Although inherently vulnerable to economic crisis, natural disasters and outbreaks of warfare and epidemics, international tourism has shown remarkable resilience in recovering from the adverse effects of such negative, but short term factors. However, not only does the consumer have to spend relatively large amount of his/her disposable income on tourism products, he also perceives it in a subjective and experiential manner. As a result, tourism is highly sensitive to perceptions of danger and lack of safety and security. It is in the light of this, that lack of safety and security as well as incidences of crime represents a more serious threat to travel and tourism than any other negative factor.

The Nigerian tourism is not an exception, and if this is not sustainably checked, it may possibly have adverse effect on tourists' experience and patronage in the country. This has raised critical questions on the safety and security issues in the Nigerian Tourism Industry. This study however, investigates various safety and security issues at selected tourist's sites in Eastern Nigeria with greater emphasis on Ezeagu Tourist Complex and to seek for sustainable measures to that effect. At the end, the study would have contributed to quality and sustainable tourist experience and patronage in the Nigerian Tourist Industry.

Moreover, in understanding more about the issue of threats to tourists, Amujiri and Agu (2013) were of the opinion that threat represents anything that undermine the security of lives and properties of individuals, groups or a state or anything that constitutes danger to the survival of a state as a corporate entity as well as undermines the prospect of the harmonious relationship of the various communities that make up the state or a group. This was narrowed down by Tarlow (n.d) who asserts that modern travellers give utmost consideration on the security of lives and properties before embarking on travels. Also that majority of travellers or visitors are so much interested on the security guarantee from their proposed destinations than any other factor. Mendiratta (2010) notes that the Travel and Tourism (T&T) sector in most nations has been particularly bruised at different levels of development and that this has given tourists great concerns at most choice destinations around the globe as tourists are much concerned with safety of their lives and properties. Violent assaults, civil turmoil, kidnapping or terrorism are the main threats to tourism development in Nigeria and some other developing nations. For instance, Dabour (2003) in his studies on the problems facing sustainable tourism development in the OIC countries noted that problems facing the development of sustainable tourism in the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) countries are numerous, one of them being 'lack of tourism safety'. Also among the major challenges facing the Kenyan tourism development which have been declining at the dawn of the 21st century was summarized under major headings among which are "wildlife-human conflicts, as well as lack of sectoral plan by the government (Sindiga & Kanunah, 1999). This study also identified that tourism has developed in Sub-Saharan Africa without planning, while noting that Kenya is one of the African examples of tourism development

without a plan (Sindiga & Kanunah, 1999). Further on problems of tourism in Kenya,Teye (1988) and Richter (1992) as quoted by Ondicho (2000), noted that rising crime and insecurity, political instability, workers' strike, violent protest, civil war, perceived violation of human rights or even the mere threat of these activities, will cause tourists to cancel their vacations. For instance, it was recorded that the ethnic violence in Mombassa, Laikipia and Nakuru (some of Kenya's foremost tourists' circuits in the 1990's) had a profound impact on the country's tourism industry as it caused several potential tourists to cancel their tours in favour of alternative safer destinations in Africa. The United Nation's Economic Commission for Africa, Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (UNECA SRO-EA)'s tourism study in East Africa, shows that tourism cannot sustainably develop without the improvements in public health and personal safety at tourist destinations. Their study reveals that among the major challenges facing the development and growth of tourism industry in the region is "relatively high levels of insecurity and political instability, as well as persistent negative global image of some countries in the region" (UNECA SRO-EA, n.d, p.29). Lately, Malaysia, which has won several top positions as a friendly tourist destination, is facing a number of challenges giving it a negative image as a safe tourist destination to visit. Among these challenges health issue is at the top, followed by the threat of terrorism, kidnapping, among others. This started with the outbreak of dengue fever in mid-1997, and then followed by the outbreak of coxsackie B virus, cholera epidemic, SARS, and bird flu. For instance in 2013, tourist arrivals declined to 10.58 million compared to 13.29 in 2012 (Ayob & Masron, 2014). George (2003) as quoted by Perry and Potgieter (2013, p.101) stated specifically that "despite the steady increase in popularity within the international community, South Africa has developed a reputation for being an unsafe place to visit and has been labelled the 'crime capital of the world" due to high crime rate in the country which has remained one of the key challenges facing the country in the post-apartheid era. Most tourist destinations in Nigeria today have been short-lived by the thorns of safety of visitors and security of attractions. The recent fight to checkmate the activities of *Boko Haram* insurgents has given Nigeria the image of an insecure destination. Continuous media coverage of their terrorist activities has also affected domestic tourism.

Also, in Southeast Nigeria, agitations for secession can also affect the perception of tourists in this geopolitical zone. With the above safety and security issues, Nigeria's tourism industry may likely continue to suffer decline if sustainable measures are not designed to curb the menace of issues of safety at tourist destinations for both visitors/excursionists/tourists and attractions. Although other natural and induced disasters can divert tourism flows away from affected destinations, but war, terrorism, and/or political instability have a much greater negative psychological effect on potential tourists. Tourists give more considerations to these when planning and deciding their vacations (Cavlek, 2002). Barker and Page (2003) maintains that some notable destinations have seen their values diminish in the tourism market owing to the issues on tourist safety.

2. Methodology

Ethnographic method of data collection was adopted for the study. To this regard, participant observation, field observation, key informant interview, structured and unstructured interview were employed, coupled with documentary sources. The ethnography was conducted on sampled communities from the study area (See Figure I). They include Enugu-ezike, Nsukka, Ukehe, Enugu, Ezeagu, Nri, Ogbunike, Ndiowu, Igbo-ukwu, Ajalli, Arondizuogu, Owerri, Ohafia, Umuahia, Arochukwu, Uyo, Oron, Calabar, and Port Harcourt (greater emphasis was on Ezeagu Tourist Site). The huge study population of the study (30, 079, 661; see 2006 Nigerian Population Census) was systemically downsized to fifty-three (53) informants with the aid of cluster and purposive sampling techniques. Interview guides,

Figure I: Map of the study area showing study locations
(Source: Nwankwo, 2013)
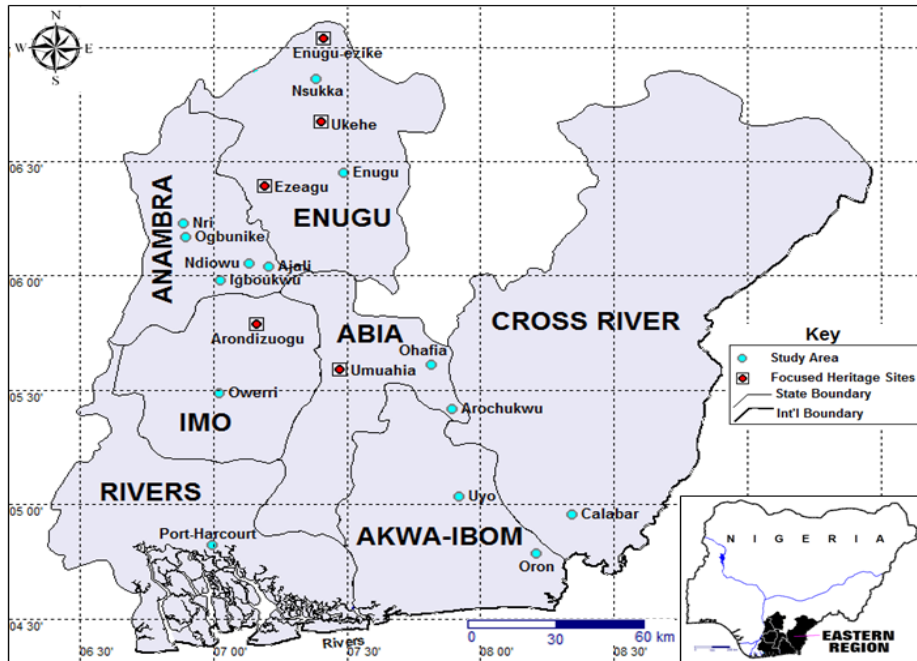
field notes, tape recorders, and field cameras were used in the recording of data in the field. Finally descriptive and evaluative methods of data analysis were used in analyzing the data collated coupled with SWOT Matrix.

3. Background Information on the Study Area

The Eastern Region was one of Nigeria's Federal divisions, dating back to the division of the Colony of Southern Nigeria in 1954. Upon independence, Nigeria was divided into three regions, Northern, Eastern, Western and the Federal district Lagos. The Eastern region's first capital was Calabar. The capital was later moved to Enugu and the second capital was Umuahia. The first Premier of the Eastern region was Chief Michael Okpara. The States that make up this Eastern region presently include: Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Abia, Cross River, Enugu, Ebonyi, Rivers, Bayelsa and Imo states. The region had the third, fourth and the fifth largest ethnic groups in the country (Igbo, Ibibio and Ijaw) next to Hausa/Fulani and Yoruba. The then Eastern region failed to capitalize on this but rather engaged in in-fighting and the wrong labelling of Ibibio and Ijaw as Minority ethnic groups in the country.

4. Issues of Tourism and Safety in the Selected Tourist Sites

Before proceeding, it is pertinent to make a distinction between tourism potentials and tourist attractions which are often used inter-changeably in tourism studies, and has deprived the understanding of their fundamental difference. For instance, while tourist attractions or tourist sites are already developed features to attract various categories of tourists; tourism potentials are those potential features that could attract tourists to a place if well developed

(Nwankwo, 2009). Therefore, tourist sites or tourist attractions can be said to be already developed tourism potentials. Medlik (2003, p. 168) defines tourist/visitor attractions as "elements of the tourist product which attract visitors and determine the choice to visit one place rather than another". However, tourist sites are the various developed tourism potentials by either the government or the private sector. And these attractions are further divided into two; the natural attractions and cultural extractions (Cooper et al., 2005; Okpoko & Okpoko, 2002; Page, 2003). While natural attractions include rivers, lakes, caves, rock over-hangs, etc, cultural attractions include cultural festivals and other material objects produced by man. After a detailed study and compilation of various natural and cultural attractions in Nigeria, Okpoko and Okpoko (2002), divided Nigeria into five circuits with their notable tourist attractions.

4.1. The observed threats

Out of the tourist sites studied in the study area (i.e. Port Harcourt Zoological Garden (PHZ), Obudu Mountain Resort (OMR) Cross River, Ezeagu Tourist Complex (ETC), Ogbunike Cave, and Ajalli Cave), emphasis will be on Ezeagu Tourist Complex (ETC) which has three distinctive features, namely cave, waterfall and lake. Notwithstanding, minor references will still be made to other studied tourist sites. The site will be abbreviated to ETC (Ezeagu Tourist Complex) in the course of this descriptive analysis. This aspect of the study shall be looking at the various threats that were observed. For instance, *Hostilities from the host community* was observed as one of the potential threats at ETC owing to the location of the site at the remotest part of the community and high level of ignorance of the members of the community on the socio-economic and cultural relevance of the site to both the community and the nation at large. This threat which is rated Moderate was also identified as potential safety and security threat at some other sites in the study area. The threat is mostly on tourists and/or visitors to the site. There is also the issue of *Neglect and defilement of norms*. This particular threat is on the preservation and sustainability of the site, mostly caused by visitor's or tourists' negative attitudes to the site. It was observed that some tourists to the site feel less concerned in upholding the socio-cultural values of the site by not adhering to the site's policies, norms, and regulations. Neglect and abuse of these aspects of the site has a much negative effect on the site and its growth and sustenance. This was equally identified at some other sites studied. This threat was rated High judging from its frequency, magnitude and fatality. Another remarkable threat was *Crime* which was identified as a potential threat at ETC owing to the location of the site at the remotest part of the community. Visitors or tourists to the site are exposed to various criminal activities which could either come from members of the host communities or even some other visitors. A visitor at the site reported that he had stopped visiting the site alone as he was used to, due to his ugly experience with arm robbers in the site which cost him some of his personal items and monies. He further advised that the site should not be visited alone by any tourist or visitor. This threat was also confirmed as a potential safety and security threat at Obudu Mountain Resort, Cross River State, Ajalli and Ogbunike caves both in Anambra State, etc. The threat was rated Low at Ezeagu Tourist Complex. Moreover, there is also the issue of *Animal attack a*s one of the available threats at the site due to the location of the site, almost in the middle of the forest. Visitors to the site are exposed to wild animal attacks, even mosquito bites, etc. Cases of appearance of snakes, pythons, and other wild animals were reported from the site. Although the threat is rated Moderate but will be higher if a tourist visits the site alone. This site is always lonely and looking deserted. Possibility of this threat was also noted by informants from some other tourist sites visited except at the Obudu Mountain Resort in Calabar.

In addition, *Food poisoning* was equally identified as a potential threat at the site mostly to visitors or tourists to the site from a different cultural background. Such tourists or visitors may fall victims of food poisoning if they indulge in excessive consumption of the local food from Ezeagu without considering the acceptance of the food by their body chemistry. This threat was present and was rated Moderate. This was equally observed as a potential threat at some other studied tourists sites in the study area. Also possibility of *Road accidents* was observed. The road to the site can be a threat to visitors to the site owing to reckless and unconscious driving. An informant cited cases of accidents by tourists to the site when the road was newly constructed, although no life was lost. This was due to the smooth and lonely nature of the road. The road accident was also discovered as a threat at some other sites except Ogbunike cave, Port Harcourt zoo, etc. In the case of Obudu Mountain Resort, cave stones were used on the snake roads leading to the site to prevent possible road accident while driving along the popular snake road. *Site Accident* was observed and informed as one of the available safety and security threats at Ezeagu Tourist Complex in Enugu State. The on-site accidents in the site include indiscriminate swimming in the lake at the site, careless swimming or playing in the water fall, and uncontrolled or unguided exploration, etc. Extreme consciousness is required when using any of these features in the site. At the water fall, one can be drowned in the water due to the volume of the water, rocky basement of the water fall (see Figure 3), and availability of dangerous aquatic animals at the basement of the lake (see Figure 2).
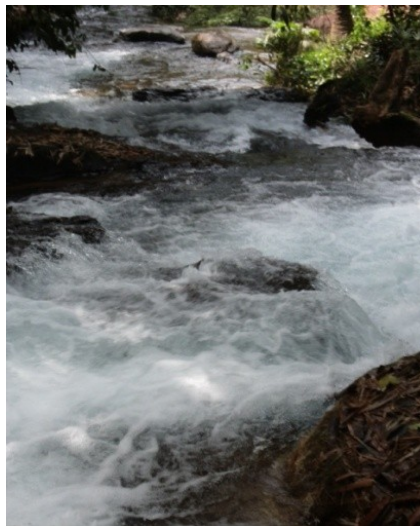

Figure 2: The Lake at Ezeagu Tourist Complex.

Site accidents which is rated high at Ezeagu Tourist Complex judging from frequency, magnitude and fatality, was equally applicable to some other sites studied. Tourists to these sites need extreme caution and proper guide while exploring these features at the site. Table 3 below gives more insight to the understanding of the nature of these threats at studied samples.

Table 3: A Tabular Analysis of safety and security Threats at Ezeagu Tourist Complex, Enugu State.

Threats at Ezeagu Tourist Complex	Probability		Rating			Remark
	Potential	Available	Low	Moderate	High	
Hostilities		X	X		X	Applicable to some
Neglect and Defilement	X		X	X		Applicable to some

Crime		X		X	X	Applicable to others
Animal attack	X		X		X	Applicable to some
Food poisoning		X		X	X	Applicable to others
Road Accidents		X	X		X	Applicable to some
Site Accidents	X		X	X		Applicable to others

Figure 3: The Water fall at Ezeagu Tourist Complex

A review of the existing measures

Safety and security measures identified at Ezeagu Tourist Complex (ETC) to curb the effects of these threats are discussed with SWOT analytical table used to give more in-depth understanding of each of the measures. One of the notable measures is the use of *Natives as guides*. Natives are used as guides within the site towards ensuring safety of tourists, site conservation and preservation of indigenous values of the people. During the ethnographic study, one of these native tour guides was seen performing creditably to that regard. This measure is paramount in the site considering the developing nature of the site as one of the greatest tourist sites in Southeast Nigeria. This particular measure is equally unique with other tourist sites visited in the cause of the study and even at the much celebrated Obudu Mountain Resort (OMR) at Calabar, Cross River State, although at Obudu Mountain Resort, local tour guides operated as illegal tour guides since they were not among certified tour guides in the site. At OMR uniformed men were used as tour guides as well. There is also the use of *Vicinity farming* as a measure. This is another good safety and security measure at the site. This measure is aimed at deforesting the vicinity of the site so as to ward-off possible animal attacks on visitors. This is pertinent considering the remote nature of the site. During the field observation at the site, it was discovered that farming activities were going on within the vicinity of the site. It was one of the key informants who disclosed that the practice is used to reduce the thick nature of the vegetation at the site. This was also observed at some other undeveloped and developing tourist sites visited like the Ajalli Cave and Ogbunike Cave. Moreover, *Road construction and maintenance* was another visible measure. At the time of this research, a new road was being constructed in the

community leading to the site which is located in the remote part of the community. An informant asserted that it was a measure to control the rate of accidents around the site. He also went ahead to note that accidents had reduced the tourist traffic to the site which is gradually coming back to what it used to be (tourist traffic) owing to the construction of new roads. (E. Nwoye, personal communication, December 27, 2011). The threat that necessitated the establishment of this measure was still present at Ogbunike cave but reduced at Ajalli cave owing to the new road constructed at Ajalli community. In addition, there is also the idea of *Host community Orientation.* This as a measure was carried out in the community by the Ezeagu Local Government Tourism Committee in consultation with the Enugu State Tourism Board to intimate members of the host community on the value of the site and the expected or prospective visitors to the site. This measure was also observed at Obudu Mountain Resort but was not identified at Ajalli cave and Ogbunike cave. *Compliance to indigenous values and belief system* was another measure observed. This measure which was asserted by most of the informants was aimed at preserving the indigenous values of the site which is not separated from the cultural and traditional practices of the people. This is done by intimating the visitor about the values and belief system attached to the site by the community. Such measure will not only preserve the socio-cultural and economic values of the site, but will also go a long way in ensuring the safety of tourists, deterring them from things or areas harmful to their lives. This particular measure was equally present at Ogbunike cave but weakened at Ajalli cave. The measure will equally eliminate or prevent act of xenophobism in the site.

Also, some other measures were equally identified at the ETC. One of them is *Police patrol.* This was mentioned as a measure by informants but its presence was mostly during peak periods when many tourists or government officials visited the site. The presence of the Police Patrol team in such occasions helps to control and minimize crime rate in the vicinity of the site. It was only at the Obudu Mountain Resort Calabar (OMR) and Port Harcourt Zoo (PHZ) that police patrol as a measure was readily available due to the nature and location of these sites. At Ezeagu Tourist Complex, Police Patrol teams were always alerted by the management of the site during heavy traffic. Another minor measure is the *Community Vigilante.* This was mentioned as safety and security measure at ETC. Although observation revealed that members of the community vigilante were not readily available in the site but their frequency to the site was higher than that of the Police Patrol team. They help to ensure orderliness and crime-free atmosphere during heavy tourist traffic to the site. This measure was also present at Ajalli cave and Ogbunike cave with similar nature of frequency and operations in the sites. *Restrictions from risk prone zones* were also another measure observed. Many instruments were used to restrict tourist movements to risk prone zones where their safety was not guaranteed. Some of these instruments include write-ups on boards, use of blockages to some points, and use of red and white cloths to note sacred zones. These were majorly done towards ensuring safety of tourists to the site. They were equally observed during field observations in the site. Although, such was also the case at OMR, Ogbunike cave, PHZ, etc, but the nature of instruments used in such restrictions differed from site to site. Moreover, the use of *Tourist Information* was another measure identified. It was the duty of a chosen local tour guide to orientate and enlighten the tourist on information concerning the site mostly as it affects safety and security issues, prior to the commencement of tour around the site. Also such information was at the Enugu State Tourism Board and Ezeagu Local Government Tourism Committee for tourists who went to their offices before journeying to the site. Tourist Information as a measure was equally identified at some other tourist sites visited in the course of this study.

Sustainable safety at tourist sites in the study area

In the course of this study, many measures were identified as existing in the study area. But most of these measures have not functioned effectively in the safety of tourists and security of tourist attractions. Their shortfalls were as a result of poor implementation, poor policy design, inadequate funding, and ignorance of the viabilities of tourism to local, regional and national development. While few of these measures needs complete replacement, many of them need augmentation and support. However, this aspect of the study suggests some other sustainable safety and security measures to make up with lapses of the existing ones. This gesture was born out of the field experience and observations in the course of this study. One of these suggestive measures is the use of *Tourist compass*. Lake, waterfall and cave which are the distinctive features of the Ezeagu Tourist Complex, do not situate in one location. They are spread across the community. Tourists' compass was suggested to aid tourists (especially the literate ones) in their movements and location of those distinctive features of the site. A tourist compass is a handy device which can either be in an electronic or print form with the major role of guiding a tourist round a given tourist destination. It will not only educate the tourists on the features of the site, but will equally reduce the risk of meeting danger while on tourist movement in a particular destination. This measure will equally help to reduce safety and security threats at Obudu Mountain Resort and other developed tourist sites. Another is the constitution of a *Management Committee*. Management issues are amongst the impediments to quality safety and security guarantee at Ezeagu Tourist complex. This situation does not only hamper the preservation and sustainability of the site, but equally endanger lives and properties of tourists to the site. Such committees should be set up by the State Tourism Board which could be made up by tourism experts, security agencies, leadership of the host community and government representatives. The committee is to plan, organize, direct and control activities at the tourist destination. Such committees as a security measure is also needed at Ajalli cave and Ogbunike cave. *Information and Involvement of the host community* is also another suggestive measure to improving the state of safety and security at destinations. To avert the threat of hostility from the host community, people of Ezeagu need to be given sincere information and orientation with regards to socio-cultural and economic benefits of the site to both the community and Nigeria in general. Such programs should be periodic (i.e. every five years) and adequately utilized. Also members of the host community need to be involved in the activities of this tourist sites either as local tour guides, security operatives, labourers, or members of the Management Committee, etc. This will bridge the long gap between the site and members of the host community. This is also applicable to Ogbunike cave and Ajalli cave, both in Anambra State. Also, there is need for the *Construction of visible signposts.* Due to the unsecured nature of the site, visitors can easily move into the site without the services of those local tour guides, thereby putting their lives in danger. A 30m height sign post should be constructed, designed and displayed with signals guiding tourists in the site and possibly guiding them out of risk-prone zones even when not with any of the local tour guides in the community. Write-ups on this sign posts should address safety and security issues in the site, coupled with various distinctive features in the site and their location. This measure will equally be effective at Ajalli cave, Ogbunike cave, Port Harcourt Zoo, etc.

Figure 4: A local tour guide with a tourist at Ezeagu Tourist Complex.

Conclusion

It is rare to find a destination without safety and security threats in contemporary times; and this have either in one way or the other affected tourist's decision and destination (Barker & Page, 2002). It has been observed that, in most situations, security challenges or crises in any given tourist destination cause shifts in the perceptions of the tourists for instance. While stressing on the changing role and conception of safety and security in tourism, especially in this age of global tourism, István and Krisztina (n.d.) rightly pointed out that ''security has undergone a significant change: from a more or less passive factor it is now an active element of tourism, an imperative to act in order to protect tourists and their belongings as well as all the achievements of the industry''. Researches on perceptions of safety and security in travel and tourism industry has equally shown that safety and security plays vital role in tourism especially in making travel choices and atmosphere of peace and tranquillity is the best friend of travel and tourism while war and insecurity are amongst its worst enemies (Anita, 2010; Page & Connell, 2006; Cooper, et al, 2005; Johnson, n.d.). Since security is one of the fundamental issues of economic, social, ecological, biological and technical development and progress, as noted by Nwankwo (2012), it should therefore be a matter of concern for all i.e. for every individual, household, local societies, government institutions, as well as public private organizations, and the entire country as a whole. Travellers assess the level of safety and security threats of destinations before embarking on the trip. This is largely owing to the rapid growth of terrorism, various crimes and health related crisis that have plagued the tourism industry. The tourist's sites under study have some similar safety and security threats with measures designed to ameliorate these threats. This paper gives a better understanding of the measures to tackle safety and security threats in Ezeagu Tourist Complex and other tourist's sites that have similar safety and security issues. Generally, provision of adequate information to intending and existing tourists, educating the host community and proper management would go a long way in reducing most safety and security issues that threaten the viability and development of the tourist sites under study (Cavlek, 2002). Public and private operators of tourist attractions should identify potential safety and security risks and develop a safety plan for the attraction. These include evacuation plans with clear emergency exit signs and escape routes, and the regular control of emergency exits to prevent blockage. Should the attraction have religious, patriotic or cultural significance, the attention of the government should not be delayed as it would have implications on the nation's stability. Finally, on a general note, to ensure that tourism

industry survives, the present authors align their thoughts with that of Johnson (n.d) to say that the industry must be conscious of the security of tourist which also is dependent on how safe the environment is. Without acknowledging this fact, and then working with it, the industry will not survive. Many countries have and are still taking positive steps to combat security issues, especially those that relates to the tourism sector. One of such steps includes the establishment of "Tourist Police" to protect visitors as well as help to checkmate crime especially in tourist frequent areas. There is also provision of private security (such as neighbourhood watches) for resort compounds by tourism industry in some of these countries (Johnson, n.d). Based on the foregoing, for tourism to contribute positively to the economy of a developing country like Nigeria, the authors advice that, more efforts/strategies should be made to stabilize state of security as this plays significant role in the development and nurturing of the sector in Nigeria and some other developing nations.

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