



## The Tourism Resources of Falgore Game Reserve, Kano State, Nigeria

Gontul, T. K.<sup>1</sup>, Iirmdu, T. O.<sup>2\*</sup>, Garba, I.<sup>3</sup>, Timchang, N. M.<sup>4</sup>, Kassam, I. G.<sup>5</sup>, Aliba, V. N.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,4</sup>Department of Geography and Planning, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Jos

<sup>3</sup>National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), NDHQ Abuja, (Kano Office).

<sup>5</sup>Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Plateau State Polytechnic, BarkinLadi

<sup>6</sup>Department of Hospitality & Tourism Management, Federal University Wukari, Taraba state, Nigeria.

**\*Corresponding Author:** Iirmdu, T. O, Department of Geography and Planning, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Jos, Nigeria

**Abstract:** Falgore game reserve is a protected area in Kano State, Nigeria established mainly for conservation, tourism and recreation. The aim of this study is to take inventory of all the tourism resources (attraction/potentials) of the game reserve. Data were collected through the use of observation, interview, and questionnaire. The researchers used purposive sampling technique in the data collection. Findings show that the Falgore game reserve initially had very rich tourism opportunities, but it was noted that later-on most of the tourism opportunities were not either maximally utilized or not even tapped at all. The study unveiled that some of the support facilities provided in the reserve are presently in a very serious dilapidated conditions and have long been abandoned and are just falling which have resulted in decline in the patronage of the game reserve in the recent times. In conclusion, there is an on-going wide range of encroachment activities in the game reserve including illegal grazing, farming, bush burning, illegal settlement, poaching/hunting, wood extraction for fuel and timber among others abuses. The researchers recommend that measures that can revitalize the game reserve once again for sustainable ecological systems and efficient tourism consumption be put in place.

**Keywords:** Tourism Resources, Potentials/Attractions, Conservation, Infrastructures, and Game Reserve.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a land which is highly endowed with many spectacular and unique natural and human tourism features (United Nation World Tourism Organization, UNWTO, 2018). These tourism resources (potentials/attractions) are widely distributed all over the different states that make up the Nigerian federation. Kano state has her fair share of these rich tourism resources. Her attractions/potentials include mainly a number of exquisite natural and cultural tourist attractions to include: forest/game reserves, museums, historic sites and unique architectural design, amusement parks and gardens, festivals, commerce, local craft and modern industries among many others. However, a visit to these attractions shows that most of them are grossly underutilized or in some cases even totally abandoned. Nevertheless, tourists in their very large numbers still troop to Kano State to enjoy/patronize these numerous picturesque tourism features (potentials/attractions).

Falgore game reserve is one of the bountiful tourist sites in Kano State which was formally gazetted in the 1940s as Kogin Kano forest reserve and later converted into the present day Falgore game reserve in 1969. The Falgore game reserve is the only piece of land with such a large size and a great variety/composition of flora and fauna species in Kano State. It covers a land expanse of over 1000 square kilometers in size and constitutes about ninety percent (90%) of the watershed or catchment area that collects water into the famous Tiga Dam close to Kano city (KSTB, 2004). It was established as a representative sample of savannah ecosystem and the watershed of the giant Tiga Dam to conserve the ecological habitat of the already endangered biodiversity species of the tropical wildlife as well as to boost tourism opportunities in Kano State (KSTB 2004). It contains unique landscape features of great scenic quality, hills, caves, hydrological features, wildlife (flora and fauna) resources as well as some recreational facilities already put in place. This implies that the tourism resources of

the area have long been recognized. However, most of the resources are considerably under-utilized and there are still a lot of tourism opportunities in the reserve that have largely remained undeveloped or not known/chronicled at all. This was exactly the main task in this survey which was to take a comprehensive inventory of all the tourism resources (potentials and attractions) in the game reserve.

Falgore game reserve in Kano State has been known long ago for its dyeing, pottery making, weaving and blacksmithing industries. These industries could have served to produce a wide range of artifacts for tourists as souvenirs if the tourism resources of the area had been adequately tapped. The tourists would have trooped into Falgore game reserve in large numbers. Presently, most of these traditional industries are no longer functioning to attract the tourists. There were also many cultural activities such as Hawankaho (Bull fighting) and Sharo festivals that were performed periodically in the past to entertain the cultural tourists. But today, these activities have also completely disappeared in the cultural arena of Falgore community (Village head of Falgore, 2016).

Perhaps, the redevelopment of these tourism opportunities of Falgore could lead to the resuscitation of these moribund (dilapidated) indigenous local crafts industries. It could also have helped to preserve and restore the many cultural attractions and the historical heritage of the area. Thus, two objectives could be achieved: the preservation of cultural and historical heritages and the creation of more employment opportunities through the revitalization of the local crafts industries. The assessment of tourist resources, especially around the Falgore area of Kano State has not received any attention. There is therefore a dire need to make an appraisal of the area in terms of its existing tourism resources (potentials/attractions) so as to provide useful information on the natural and anthropogenic tourism treasuries of the Falgore area. The foregoing situations have left the researchers to ask the following fundamental research questions:

- Why was the Falgore game reserve established?
- What are the tourism resources (potentials/attractions) in the reserve?
- What is the range of tourism activities that still take place in Falgore game reserve presently?
- What factors/challenges undermine the sustainability of the Falgore game reserve?

The main aim of this research was to survey/take stock or inventory of tourism resources (attractions and potentials) of Falgore game reserve. This aim is achievable through answering specific research questions poised above in the study.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. The Study Area

The Falgore game reserve is located in Doguwa Local Government area of Kano state, Nigeria. It is situated at about 142km south of Kano city, along the Kano-Jos high way. It is between latitudes 10°45'N – 11°45'N and longitudes 8°32'E – 8°46'E. The reserve shares a common border with Wudil Local Government Area in the east. Adjoining the reserve in the north is the Tiga lake Local Government Area. To the south east of the reserve is the Lame Bura game reserve in Ningi Local Government Area (Bauchi State) while the west shares a common boundary with Ikara Local Government Area (Kaduna State). The reserve formally covered an area of 640 square kilometers (sq.km) when it was called the Kogin Kano forest reserve. By the time it was converted to Falgore game reserve in 1969, the area was extended to about 1000square kilometers (sq. km). Falgore town falls within very densely populated area in Doguwa Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano State (Bahago, 2000). This area has densities as high as 400 person per sq km. The people of the area are mainly Hausa, Fulani (Fulfulde) and Kurama. Hausa language is the main language of communication and Islam is dominant religion in the area (Bahago, 2000).

### 2.2. Research Design and Sampling Technique

The data used in this survey were mainly qualitative and descriptive in context on the tourism resources of Falgore game reserve. Data were drawn from a variety of sources. The data were basically collected on tourism resources such as relief/landforms, wildlife and hydrological scenes which were identified in in the Falgore game reserve. Data were also collected on the available infrastructural/superstructure facilities and significant cultural practices in the game reserve. The processes of data collection involved direct field observation and oral interviews. Data were also

gotten from secondary sources such as topo maps, aerial photographs, tourism related publications, research reports and seminar papers on the study area, Falgore game reserve, Kano.

Topographical Maps, aerial photographs and satellite imageries provided essential information on natural and human features of the Falgore game reserve. They are valuable tools in land resources survey (Medlik, 1999). The interpretation of topographical maps and aerial photograph were the first stage in our exercise of identifying the likely tourism features of the Falgore game reserve. The use of stereoscope was also employed to aid recognition of features from the photographs. A topographical map (Ikara NW) with a scale 1:50,000 was used to identify and locate features (hills and water bodies).

Ground trothing exercise was conducted to verify and complement the interpretation of the aerial photos aimed at gathering additional information on identified tourism features at the Falgore game reserve. These are carried out in order to identify landscape features of significant attractiveness. The exercises basically consist of identification and mapping of relief features, water bodies, such as ponds and streams as well as areas with significant vegetation such as woodlands. During the ground trothing exercise, the researchers went round the reserve in company of three members of the Falgore community: the traditional ruler (representative), one elder and one youth group leader and two staff of the Falgore game reserve who were all very familiar with the Falgore game reserve were used as field assistants giving information on historical significant sites, tourism resources (attractions/potentials), cultural activities that may be of interest to tourists, the infrastructures and superstructures of the reserve. At this time of ground trothing the researchers also engaged in direct field observation in the field to collect and update information on the present land uses around the identified resources. An inventory of accommodation and catering facilities was equally done.

### 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

A resource may simply mean anything that people find useful (Manu, 2007). It is anything that humans use to satisfy their needs and wants. Applied to tourism resource means all the tourism potentials and attractions which are either natural or cultural features and attribute that are used for the purpose of leisure/tourism activities (Agbamu, 2005; Barau, 1997). They are described as the initial lodestones or objects/features and phenomena which attract tourists flow and it is on them that the basic tourist activities depend. This study, therefore, considers tourism resources as the sum of natural and cultural attractions/potentials or in other words, phenomena or objects/features of natural and cultural interest that provide opportunities for some recreational/touristic experiences.

Tourism resources (potentials and attractions) or products can be divided into material and psychological elements. The materials elements consist of all activities and facilities required by an area to function as a tourist destination. They are basically referred to as tangible or physical elements that constitute the destination attractiveness. They are cognitive/affective in context and they are further sub-divided into: attractions, infrastructures and superstructures.

Attractions: these are the primary motives for movements. The driving forces of the tourism industry are represented by the attraction/potential at the destinations. Travelers have no reason to visit destinations that have nothing (attraction/potential) to offer (Formica, 2002). Attractions could be anything from physical features to socio-cultural activities or events as well as places of historical significance.

Infrastructure are the basic facilities which form the basis of human activities within an area without which attractions and superstructures will be of little or no importance (NIHOTOURAS, op. cit). These include transportation facilities, water and energy supplies, refuse and sewage systems, communication facilities, public conveniences, safety and security systems.

Superstructure on the other hand refers to the necessary facilities that accommodate, sustain and entertain tourists at the destination. These include variety of shops; some oriented specifically to tourists such as souvenir or supporting/ convenience shops and others supplying a general range of goods for example: chemists, food stores or snacks and beverages stores or clothing and boutiques shops, restaurants, banks, medical centers, accommodation as well as recreation and entertainment facilities (Adeodun, 2005). Both the infrastructures and the superstructures make the travel and stay at destinations of tourists a worthwhile venture (Gontul, 1997).

The second class is the psychological elements. These are the intangible attributes for tourism which are strongly affective in context. . They are products that are not tangible or physical and as such

cannot be bought or sold but can only be experienced or felt. These consist of such elements as: general atmosphere as in hospitality, friendliness and receptive attitudes of resident population to visitors/tourists. This represents the hospitality that visitors will enjoy at the local community or at the destination point (Gontul, 1996). It is the behavior of the people towards the tourists. (Abalaka & Manu, 2007). Several studies (Abedi, 2004; Adamu, 1998; Adamu, 1999; Adekoya, 2005) used this element along with six others as general criteria for the determination of the most attractive destination in Turkey. In other words, this element is concerned with the affective perceptions about the hosts and the actual performance of the destination in relation to the expectation of the tourists/visitors services. Abalaka(2007) employed different classification criteria in a study he carried out on the Jos Plateau in 2000. He identified four different categories of tourism attractions/potentials namely: land-based tourism resources, water-based, vegetation-based and cultural based tourism resources.

The land-based recreation resources(potentials/attractions) otherwise known as topographic based recreational resources (Abalaka, 2007) include important topographic features like mountain ranges, hills, volcanic features and erosional (geomorphological) features. The categories of potentials/attractions that are identified as water –based are features that consist of hydrological sceneries while the vegetation-based consists of collection of trees and vegetal cover that create opportunities for touristic/recreational pursuits. Culture based tourism resources (potentials/attractions) refer to the tangible and/or intangible potentials/attractions that have been modified to a greater or lesser extent by human influence, but are known to provide leisure opportunities. Examples include local culture, music and historic sites.

Tourism products or resources are influenced by three important factors, namely: geographical location, transportation and the characteristics of the resource:

### **3.1. Influence of Geographical Location**

Geographical location in tourism is of extreme importance. It is the axis on which tourism flow revolves and accounts very largely for tourist destination. Geographical location is a spatial relation between the places of tourism demand and that of tourism supply. Falgore game reserve is situated in the southern part of Kano region. Right inside the reserve, there are many beautiful physical feature of spellbinding attractions which include a number of rock and the beautiful rapids of the river Kano that is expectedly a must site for photographic enthusiasts as well as wetter climate than the northern parts. As such, the geographical location of the area makes it an important source of tourist supply. The determining factor of geographical location of tourism potential/attraction is its accessibility, which is influenced by transportation.

### **3.2. Influence of Transportation**

Tourism is manifestation of movement from one place to another. Transportation provides the possibility for most of these movements. In other words, transportation is an integral part of tourism and conveyor of tourist to different tourist destinations. Logically, the more accessible a tourist resource is, the more it is able to attract tourists (Gontul, 196). It is not only the distance that is important in tourism, but the comfort and expenses involved in the process of travelling to these destinations also count. Falgore game reserve is accessible by road from Kano. The roads are in fairly good physical condition. The town is also accessible from Tiga rock-castle hotel and from some neighboring villages located across Tiga reservoir. Falgore game reserve is accessible by road as it located on the Jos-Kano highway. This same highway is also linking Kano to all states in north – eastern Nigeria.

### **3.3. Influence of the Characteristics of the Tourism Resource**

In general, tourist resources have their characteristics and peculiarities. These according to Adeodun (2005) are:

- The attractiveness of the resource: naturally, the tourist prefers potential resources which differ from their usual environment. Attractiveness of an area can be due to its historic association scenic quality and social or scientific significance. Tourist potential resources include natural sites and phenomena as well as anthropogenic resources. The integration of these make up the tourist resources complex.

- Another characteristic of the resource is the conservation status. The attractiveness of the resource and the tourist attitude towards them normally change from time to time depending on their preservation status, even though the locations of such resource never changes.
- Tourism resources can be used several times over unlike other resources which have limited usage capability. Some Tourist resources are usually immovable, unutterable and cannot be exported/ imported. This characteristic excludes event attractions (Gontul, 1997).

Burkhart and Medlik(2006) have enumerated the stages that are followed in the surveys of tourism resources at a destination. These stages are:

- Preliminary examination stage: This is done to classify areas for further studies. This usually comprises deskwork using maps, records or reports.
- Field survey stage: To evaluate features, products and development options. This may be combined with analysis of air photographs or satellite imageries; preferably one surveyor covers the whole study area for one or several categories of resources.
- Detailed survey stage: To evaluate more precisely potential products related to some segment of the market. This may involve visual appraisal using photographs, questionnaire surveys, and interviews.

Tourism researches have shown that survey of tourism resources (potentials and attractions)of destinations are necessary in the understanding of the elements that encourage tourists to travel or make a choice (Medlik, 1999). For this reason, some scholars maintain that the aesthetic quality or attractiveness of an area or a feature could be studied (Medlik, 1999;Mfon& Oni, 2005;Obatala, 2011). This can be done by making an inventory of the tourism resources (potentials and attractions) at a destination in view. That is the supply of available resources (potentials and attractions), by exploring the availability of potentials and attractions together with infrastructural and superstructures attributes. This was exactly what this study did on the Falgore game reserve. The study took a detailed inventory or a comprehensive stock of all the tourism resources (potentials and attractions)together with infrastructural and superstructure attributes available at the Falgore game reserve.

#### 4. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

At first the researchers sought for the reasons why the Falgore game reserve was established. The reasons given for the establishment of Falgore game reserve are to conserve the ecological systems in their natural habitat, tourism and recreation use. It has been observed that tourism and recreation remain one of the non-consumptive utilization of any wildlife reservoirs. The researchers found that the main aim of establishing Falgoregame reserve was to protect and sustain the natural resources (flora and fauna) for the benefit of the present and future generations. This was according to Kano State Tourism Board, KSTB(2016) achievable through the following specific objectives:

- To protect flora and fauna in the area from extinction due to population pressure, this was necessary since Falgore is the only pieces of land of such a size and with such a composition of Fauna and Flora in Kano State.
- . To give the area full protection and adequate development making it an attractive tourism site for visitors in and outside the state.
- To provide a recreational facility for the relaxation of the states teeming population after a hectic week-working days
- To make the area an ideal environment for scientific research and other necessary academic activities because of her richness of biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)
- And also to control erosion and siltation of the river Kano which is the main source of water for the nearby Tigadam. Therefore, it is of almost important that the area be protected against human encroachment in order to minimize erosion. Otherwise, the life expectancy of the dam will be shortened due to siltation (KSTB, 2016).

It was very essential to critically take stock or make a detailed inventory of all the tourism resources (potentials/attractions) of Falgore game reserve. If the resources are identified and adequately developed, a number of socio- economic benefits can be realized. The tourism attractions/potentials of



Falgore game reserve were therefore identified and results presented in tables 1 to 3 below. The determination of what is tourism attraction/potential is quite subjective and open to personal preferences/judgment of any individual. The attraction/potential to draw/pull tourists are directly linked to features such as natural scenic beauty, history, culture or even belief attached to an area; hence what is important is the presence of the required resources (natural or manmade) for the preferred tourist activity in the area. Therefore, all the identified tourism attractions/potentials of Falgore game reserve also encompass all the facilities, structures and even the culture that are to serve the tourist and the recreational participants.

Attractions are the outstanding geological features, significant natural and cultural monuments/sites, and important historical events which motivate people to become tourists. Without attractions, visitors/tourists have no reason to visit a destination. Therefore, it is vital to assess/invent a destination's attractions/potentials in order to identify potentials/attractions that can pull tourists. Attempts were made to visit all attractions /potentials within Falgore game reserve. Data collected on these were mainly qualitative in content. See tables 1-3 below:

**Table1.** *Notable Tourism Attractions/Potentials in Falgore Game Reserve and their characteristics*

Name of Attraction	location	accessibility	status of dev.	Present status of use	Touristic value
Zarara rock	inside	accessible	developed	in use	Rock climbing, sight, seeing, pickining, Film shooting, and Research
Falgore Fresh water	inside	accessible	developed	in use	Swimming and fishing
Kwakkwafa rapids	inside	accessible	developed	in use	swimming/fishing Research
GanuwarRaju	inside	not accessible	not developed	not in use	Sight-seeing and Film shooting
FalgoreYaryasa	outside	accessible	developed	in use	film shooting, sight Seeing and research

**Table2.** *Species of flora and fauna found in the Falgore game reserve*

Name of Touristic Attraction	Location	Accessibility	Status of development	Status of Use Value
Fauna and Flora(see the reserve list below)	Scattered all over the reserve	seen at various watch points	Not Necessary	In Use Value: For games, bird watching, relaxation, Sightseeing, film shooting and research

**List of Animals in Falgore Gamere serve**

<p><b><u>Mammals:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RoanAntelope</li> <li>• SidestrippedJackal</li> <li>• Duikers</li> <li>• Baboons</li> <li>• PatasMonkey</li> <li>• CivetCat</li> <li>• Jenet.</li> <li>• Hyena</li> <li>• Orib</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reptiles:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frogs</li> <li>• Snakes</li> <li>• MonitorLizard</li> <li>• Tortoises</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Birds:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heron</li> <li>• HammerKob</li> <li>• GroundHornbill</li> <li>• Maraboustock</li> <li>• Pigeons</li> <li>• PlantainEaters</li> <li>• AbessynianRollers</li> <li>• Woodpecker</li> <li>• Cattle agretArdeola ibis</li> <li>• Hammerkep</li> <li>• Scopus umbretta</li> <li>• White-head vulture</li> <li>• Tringocepsoccipitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary bird sogittarus serpentacius</li> <li>• Guinea fowl</li> <li>• Numidamelleagris</li> <li>• Red-eyed Dove Sterepeliaspp</li> <li>• Carmine bee eater</li> <li>• Meropsbubicus</li> <li>• Ground Hornbill</li> <li>• Bucoruusspp</li> <li>• Brown backed wood pecker</li> </ul>
---	---	--

**Note:** *plant species: well over fifty different species of plants were identified all over the Falgore game reserve*

Considering the diversity of the rich fauna and flora identified within the study environment, it is clear that the area provide bounteous opportunities for almost all the nature-based tourist activities (ecotourism) such as game watching, nature watching, sightseeing, picnics and relaxation, film shooting and photography and bird watching. In other words, the area supplied sufficient resources in

terms of number and diversity to cater for the wide range demand of Eco tourists. The researchers also took a comprehensive stock of all the infrastructures and superstructures at the Falgore game reserve that can make the visit and stay of a tourist worthwhile. Findings are summarized on table 3 below:

**Table3.** *Infrastructural/superstructure facilities at Falgore Game Reserve*

Facility	Number	Accessibility	Status of Use	Condition	Remark
Accommodation	3	Accessible	In use	Dilapidated	Urgent renovation
Tour Operators	3	Accessible	In use	Illiterates	Need training
Restaurant	1	Accessible	Not in use	Dilapidated	Urgent renovation
Tour Vehicles	1	Not in use	Not in use	Grounded	Necessary
Electricity	Available	Accessible	in use	Not adequate	Need repair
Water Supply	Available	Accessible	In use	Not adequate	Necessary
Roads And Path	Available	Fairly	In use	Not developed	Need construction
Tour Guides	2	Fairly	In use	Not trained	Needs training
Mosque	1	Accessible	Not in use	Dilapidated	Urgent renovation

**Sources:** *Researchers' Field Survey (2016)*

Bountiful opportunities for almost all the nature-based tourist activities (ecotourism) such as game watching, nature watching, sightseeing, picnics and relaxation, film shooting and photography and bird watching are feasible at Falgore game reserve. In other words, the area supplied sufficient resources in terms of number and diversity to cater for the wide range demand of Eco tourists (see list on table 4 below)

**Table4.** *List of feasible recreational activities at Falgore game reserve*

Boating
Canoeing
Camping
Hill Climbing
Swimming
Water skiing
Sight seeing
Visiting Historical sites
Filming and photography
Picnicking and relaxation
Game/bird watching
Rambling/nature walk
Barbeque and celebration
Hunting

At present the greatest challenge facing the Falgore games reserve is that there are no catering services in the reserve. It was observed that visitors to the reserve do not get easy access to food/drinks anywhere within and even close to the reserve. The only restaurant that was in the game reserve has long been abandoned and left in a dilapidated condition. The researchers observed that there are a lot of abuses occurring in the Falgore game reserve day by day. These include mainly illegal hunting/poaching of animals (for food, hides and skin), uncontrolled cutting of tress for fuel, timber and firewood as an alternative source of energy. There is a sharp rise in the demand for fuel wood despite the existing Felling of Trees. There should be a Control Edict in the various States of the Nigerian federation to regulate/control this activity. These ugly anti-conservation practice has been on the increase due to the geometrical increase in population and rapid urban sprawl as presently witnessed in Kano city. It has been estimated that nearly three-quarters of Kano City's yearly firewood requirement is about 75,000 tons annually and are brought in by donkeys mainly within a radius of about 20 kilometers and the rate of urban growth increase is between 5- 10 per cent per annum, one can expect the woodland to become very sparse very soon.

The above situation is in addition to the clearing of the forest resources for their farming and settlement. The wood is also exploited for building, arts and craft by the villagers that live right inside the reserve or live in the surrounding villages of the game reserve and as a result most of the animals have migrated out of the reserve to the neighborhoods while some were hunted and killed by the same villagers who equally set fires in the game reserve. Bush burning is an agent in the process of deforestation. Owing to the low relative humidity of the semi-arid zone coupled with very dry

harmattan wind, there is always a high incidence of bush fires every dry season. The occurrence of fire within the zone can be attributed to: bush burning by villagers during land clearing for agriculture and constructions of roads, hunters who in search of game, set fire onto the vegetation, and Cattle herdsman who set fire to dry grass to stimulate the growth of fresh grass buds.

Other abuses include activities of Fulani herdsman inside the Falgore game reserve who are illegally rearing/grazing their animals. It is the most serious encroachment problem resulting in the rapid or accelerating the loss of biodiversity over the years. This abuse is greatly raising concerns coupled with the present ongoing atrocities of the herdsman all over Nigeria. It is the greatest challenge to the management of the reserve right now. Finally, the researchers observed rampant incidences of indiscriminate waste disposal inside the reserve. This has also caused serious environmental damage that has the potential of undermining the sustainability of the Falgore game reserve.

Furthermore, a game reserve is a protected area which supports mainly the conservation of biodiversity ever since the establishment of the first protected area in America in 1872 known as Yellowstone Park. The concept of protected area has been replicated in all nations of the world. The more to have protected areas all over the world is a flagship project of the United Nations which each nations, states and local government areas and even counties should key into. This important project is all aimed at protecting, preserving and conserving all natural and cultural features of the mother earth. The Falgore game reserve was established in response to this clarion call by the UN. But tourism and recreation are among the main use of any protected area as tourism exercise a symbiotic relationship with conservation. The findings of this study confirm that at the Falgore game reserve a wide range of abandoned and dilapidated facilities were put in place mainly for the purpose of tourism and recreational activities. The main types of tourism/recreation activities at the reserve include boating, canoeing, camping/picnicing, hill climbing, swimming, water skilling, sight-seeing and visiting historical sites.

The flourishing of tourism and recreational activities at the Falgore game reserve is supposedly to boost the sustainability of the reserve through revenue generation among other benefits. The study however found that the game reserve is faced with a wide range of challenges to include incidents of rampant encroachment activities such as grazing, farming, wood extraction, bush burning among many others which all are up to undermine the sustenance of the game reserve.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Falgore game reserve is a protected area that is supposed to conserve biodiversity, geological and hydrological features among others. The game reserve ought to be used also for tourism and recreation among other values. This reason spurred the interest in taking an inventory of the tourism resource of the game reserve. The researcher used purposive sampling algorithm which is a non-probability sampling technique in data collection. Findings show that the Falgore game reserve has very rich tourism resources (attractions/potentials) but however, it noted that most of the tourism attractions have not been developed or only partially developed. Furthermore the study unveiled that some support facilities provided in the reserve are in a very serious dilapidated conditions and have been abandoned. All these combined have resulted in poor patronage of the game reserve in recent times. The study also noted that there is wide range of encroachment activities on-going at the game reserve mainly: grazing, farming, bush burning, poaching/hunting, wood extraction and settlement among others. The researchers recommend measures that can revitalize the game reserve for sustainable ecological conservation and efficient harnessing of the rich tourism potentials for befitting and responsible consumption. The researchers have equally called for measures including enforcement of conservation laws, renovations of abandoned tourism structures, provision of additional infrastructures and facilities and efficient management of the Falgore game reserve.

## 6. RECOMMENDATION

The tourism resources of any place can be reliable basis for stimulating development from the grass-roots as well as vehicle for transformation of its entire economy. The effective utilization of the tourism resources, however, depends entirely on the awareness/knowledge about the existence of the resources (Medlik, 1999). This means that it is very important information on the tourism resource base to guide in planning and development of tourism industry generally. A well-planned tourism development could bring about the diversification of the economy of an area. In most of rural areas of



the country, Nigeria the major economic activity is only agriculture. As such tourism opportunities can augment the livelihoods of the rural populace, if the potentials identified will eventually be adequately harnessed.

There is great need to enforce the conservation laws that guide the establishment of the Falgore game reserve. There should be strict regulations to protect the forest and there is also the urgent need to enlighten people on the importance of wildlife reserve and also to mobilize the local communities to embrace the protection of the forests resources from undue exploitation to guarantee its sustainability. Reforestation is a good option in replenishing part of the lost forest resources of the world but reforestation cannot bring back or correct the loss of original vegetation and species of animals, fauna. So, it is better to leave the forest undisturbed and seek alternative sources of satisfying some of the human needs. Remote sensing and Geographical Information systems, GIS tools to provide an effective technology for monitoring changes in the environment although these tools cannot correct any anomalies in the ecosystem imbalance created by human manipulations. It is still left for man to take steps that would check the deterioration of these natural systems before it becomes too late to correct. Tourism and recreation are among the main use of any protected area as tourism exercise a symbolic relationship with conservation. The findings of this study confirm that in the Falgore game reserve a wide range of features and facilities which have long been abandoned were mainly put in place for tourism and recreational activities. They should urgently be renovated so as to make the reserve boom again in conservation and as tourist destination.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Abalaka, J.I. &Manu, S. (2007). *Factors affecting forest bird diversity and recent avifaunal changes in the degrading Kagor-Nindam forest reserves*, Kaduna, Kaduna. *Ostrich*, 78(2); 233-238.
- [2] Abedi, M. (2004). *Assessing effective factors in protection of Sari Township Forests*, Master's thesis Department of Agricultural Extension TarbiatModarres University Tehran, Iran. 34- 43
- [3] Adamu, M.U. (1998). *Further Notes on the Influence of North African Traders in Kano. Paper presented at International Conference on Cultural Integration and Interaction between Northern and Sub – Saharan Africa*. Bayero University, Kano.
- [4] Adamu, M.U. (1999). *Confluences and Influences-The emergence of Kano as a City-State*. Munawwar Books Foundation, Kano.
- [5] Adekoya, A. (2005). *Ikom monoliths to change status of Cross River tourism for development*. <http://www.megalithic.co.uk/aticle.php>. [Accessed the 5th of December 2011, 12:10].
- [6] Adekunle, V. A. J., & Oke, D. O (eds) *proceeding of the 1st National Conference of the forest and Forestry production society of Nigeria (FFPN) held at the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA)*, Ondo State between 16th – 18th April, 2008. 21-25.
- [7] Adeodun, O. A. Ladoja, O Adisa, M.A.B.O (2005). *Forestry extension services in Nigeria: prospects and challenges*. In Popoola, LMton, P and Oni P. I. *proceedings of conference of Forestry Association of Nigeria (FAN) held in Kaduna, Kaduna State between 7th- 11th November, 2005*. 120-131
- [8] Agbamu, J.U (2005). *Problems and prospects of agricultural extension service in developing countries*. *Journal of Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria*. 159-164.
- [9] Agbamu, J.U (2006) *Poverty reduction strategies for agricultural and rural development in Nigeria*. In: Adedoyin SF (ed) *proceedings of the Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria (AESON) held in Badeggi, Niger State between 14th – 17th June 2006*. 159-164
- [10] Agbogidi, O.M & Ofuoku, A.U (2009). *Forestry extension: implication for forest protection*. *International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation*. 1 (5); 98-102
- [11] Aweto, A.O. (1990). *Plantation forestry and forest conservation in Nigeria*. *The Environmentalist*, 10: 27-34.
- [12] Bahago, A. A (2000). *Kano Ta Dabo Tumbin Giwa*. Munawwar Books Foundation, Kano.
- [13] Barau, A. S (1997): *Kano: A Haven of Art*. *The Triumph Newspaper*. November 8, 1997. P. 3
- [14] Bello-Kano, I. (2003). *Representations of Kano in the Writings of Clapperton, Barth and Lugard*. In *Perspectives on Kano British Relations*. M.O Hambolu (Ed) GidanMakam Museum. Kano
- [15] Burkart, A. J. & Medlik, S. (1981): *Tourism: Past, Present, Future*. Second Edition. Heineman Professional Pub. London
- [16] Falgore Village Head (oral interview, 2016). Falgore Game Reserve, Centre for Attraction in Kano State (unpublished, undated) Kano State Wildlife Management Agency. The Great Attractions of Kano 172
- [17] Gontul, T. K. (1997). *University of Jos Academic Staff Recreational Activities*. *Journal of Research in Tourism*. 1(1); 177-190

- [18] Kano State Tourism Board, KSTB(2016).*Documentary on Falgore game reserve*.
- [19] Medlik, S. (1999).*Understanding Tourism*. Butersworth – Heineman
- [20] Mfon P, & Oni, P. I (2005). Proceedings of the 30th Annual Conference of FAN held in Kaduna, between 7th – 11th November 2005. 484- 487
- [21] Obatala, J. K. (2011). *Stone circle research in Ikom and Ogoja Local Government Areas*, March, June and October, 2010 and January, 2011. Being Field Report Presented to the Cross River State Tourism Bureau, February 2011.
- [22] Obatala, J. K (2012). *Stone Circles – Unmasking Ancient Astronomy. Business Ideas and Insight*. [Accessed the 20th May 2012, 11:20 from [www://projectstoc.com](http://www://projectstoc.com)].
- [23] Ojo, G. J. A (1990). Cultural Processes and the Conservation of Nigerian Culture’ in *Geographical Perspectives on Nigeria’s Development* (Ayeni, Faniran Eds.) Nigerian Geographical Association, 94 – 102
- [24] Olofin, E. A. & Tanko, A.I (2003).*Laboratory of Areal Differentiation: Metropolitan Kano in Geographic Perspectives*. Geography Department, Bayero Univ. Kano.
- [25] Olofin, E.A (1998): Food, Population and Environmental Degradation Text of lecture to Course 7 participants at the National War College, Abuja. October 6, 1998.
- [26] Olofin, E.A. (1987).*Some Aspect of the Physical Geography of the Kano Region*
- [27] Thom, A. (1978). *Megalithic remains in Britain and Brittany Clarendo*, Oxford: University press. United Nation World Tourism Organization, UNWTO Conference, Abuja, Nigeria, June, 2018.

**Citation:** Iirmdu, T. O, et.al. “The Tourism Resources of Falgore Game Reserve, Kano State, Nigeria”. *International Journal of Research in Tourism and Hospitality (IJRTH)*, vol 4, no. 3, 2018, pp. 23-32. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2455-0043.0403004>.

**Copyright:** © 2018 Authors. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.