



This work is licensed under a
[Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

ASSESSMENT OF WILDLIFE POLICY IN FOSTERING A CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT IN OLD OYO NATIONAL PARK, NIGERIA. Sotolu, R. O¹., Orsar, T. J². and Tyowua B. T³.

^{1,2,3}Department of Wildlife and Range Management, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria.
P.M.B. 2373, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria.

*Corresponding Author: omolorlar@yahoo.co.uk, <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-3849-7267>

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to examine the nexus between Biodiversity protection in parks and human livelihood demands from settlement in or around protected areas. Hence, assessing significance of legislation in striking balance between conservation and development in Nigerian National Parks, taking Old Oyo National Park (OONP) as a case study. Two sets of questionnaire were administered to Support Zone Communities (SZCs) and park officers assisted with organized Focused Group Discussions (FDGs) in each of the six ranges of the park. Secondary data collection augmented survey where records of arrests and prosecution, park projects, local groups, community-based conservation and empowerment programs, were all obtained from the park head office at Isokun. Results show that the park is under herdsmen invasion and exploitation by miners. Arrest and prosecution curb exploitation and threaten lives of under-armed park staff. There is need for more development programs for the communities. The Park Act needs to be amended for locals' involvement; fines and penalties upgraded to cater for present-day economic rates in order to make prosecution effective. Developing park communities would sharpen the locals' interest in conservation.

KEYWORDS: Community-Based, Stakeholders, Legislation, Prosecution, Park-Benefits

Sotolu, R. O., Orsar, T. J. and Tyowua B. T. (2024). Assessment of Wildlife Policy in Fostering a Conservation Development Environment in Old Oyo National Park, Nigeria. *Journal of Research, Forestry, Wildlife & Environment*. Vol 16(4):

INTRODUCTION

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) gained Nigeria's signature in 1994. By this, the country got committed to the three objectives of the convention viz-conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity components and; equitable sharing of benefits arising from effective use of genetic resources (Anwadike, 2020). Human and biodiversity resources co-exist symbiotically. Wildlife support human life

while humans are to engage in eco-friendly exploitation to ensure sustainability of the resource. Land, water and biological resources being the closest and most readily available for man's survival, though regenerative, are not perpetually inexhaustible. These resources are limiting components to human survival and healthy living. Protected areas most often than not, harbor human settlements within and around its perimeters especially in Africa. Because

protected area estates are shrinking spatially and temporally, concerns for conservation is creating an atmosphere of sustainable resource use. Indigenous people within park territories depend on biodiversity for their livelihood. Now, the need arises. What do we do so that resources are not depleted without ejecting the people from within and around the boundaries of protected areas? How do we ensure that people do not have to lavish in hunger as a price for conservation? And under what conditions do we act to achieve environmental and social justice? Conflicts between park managers and local villagers; between the villagers and wild animals and; between armed bandits and park officers, are always issues seeking attention in Nigeria National Parks, OONP inclusive. Illegal invasion, encroachment, exploitation of resources within protected area boundaries across these parks have often been accompanied by loss of lives, limbs and livelihoods, even to the killing and maiming of park staff and villagers. The list continues with encroachment of terrorists in the Sambisa Forest of Chad Basin National Park; to illegal mining of tantalite and cobalt accompanied by killing of park staff in Old Oyo National Park, the list goes on and on. All these heart-wrenching happenings pose deadly threat to conservation and hence, blinks a pointer to the need for this research-finding out how enforcement is shaping peoples' involvement in resource conservation at a juncture that caters for peoples' interests in protected areas in Nigeria, using OONP as a case study. OONP earns its uniqueness among all Nigerian National Parks due to its fascinating pockets of archaeological, cultural and historic features dotted within and around the park. There is abundance of solid mineral deposits in the park such as Tantalite, Columbite, Granite, Marble stone and many more both at Sepeteri and Oyo-Ile axes of the park. Additionally, Igbeti town in Oyo State is

notable for Marble stone deposit. Other attractions include ethno-historical ruins and traditional culture of the Yoruba race, illustrated in their local dialect (Onko), local food (Amala, Gbegiri, Ewedu and Moimoi), hairstyle (Irun Didi), dress code (Soro and Buba) and the authentic crude but friendly attitude of Oyo people. Recently, despite protective laws, OONP has been under threat from poaching, hunting, logging, mining as well as illegal herder encroachment. Due to the lush and diverse vegetation of the park, herding has been a prominent challenge to the conservation of the park.

Concept of Wildlife Policy and the Peculiarity of African Protected Areas:

Narrow shift from command and control to a more comprehensive and broader concept of sustainable conservation has influenced legislation in setting parameters for protection and use of wild stock. Wildlife policy provides a set of orientations and principles of actions to guide and determine future decisions in relation to conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society from a social, economic and ecological viewpoint. The policy represents the consensus among all relevant stakeholders on wildlife management objectives in the country (Morgera and Wingard, 2009).

While nature lands in Europe and the United States are enjoying detachment from human settlements, as original inhabitants prior to protection have been favourably relocated away from park territories, protected areas on the Asian and African continents may not be able to boast of such achievement. Reason is not far-fetched. Escalating human population as well as insecurity in all its dimensions including socioeconomic, has been a determining cause for this disparity. Now, African park lands share space and resources between biodiversity and the people. This is a peculiar condition and we have to deal with it as stakeholders. So far sustenance and

livelihood of the people, the original custodians of these resources are of interest to conservationists, conservation will remain the interest of the people.

Nigerian Conservation Legislation: The Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development supervises the Park Service as a parastatal under the ministry (NPS, 2022). The service was established by Decree 36 in 1991 with five National Parks. Yankari Game Reserve was upgraded to a National Park, and later degraded on the request of Bauchi State government, to a game reserve, keeping the total at five. With the promulgation of Decree 46 of 1999, now Act 46 Cap 65 FLN 2004, two additional parks were established in 1999 bringing the total to seven. The Nigerian National Park Act has VII parts and 57 Sections. Part I is the 'Establishment of the National Park Service of Nigeria and Its Governing Board' comprising of five sections; Part II is the 'Objectives, Functions and Powers' which has three sections; Part III is the 'Staff of the Service' with nine sections; Part IV is 'Establishment, Management etc. of National Parks' and has seven sections; Part V is 'Management Principles etc. of National Parks' with four sections; Part VI is 'Offences and Penalties' with thirteen sections; and Part VII which is 'Miscellaneous' has twelve sections.

SDGs from MDGs- Nigerian Re-Cap: Millennium Development Goals signed in 2000 by 191 country leaders were a set of eight measurable goals with a target year of 2015 as summarized by Kumar *et al.*, (2016). There had been inequalities and uneven progress in the achievement across countries. Poor countries remain poorer with progress bypassing women and the economically disadvantaged people due to their age, disability and ethnicity. Disparities between rural and urban areas remain pronounced (UN, 2015). Many years after the adoption of the MDGs, Nigeria, just like many other

African countries, has failed to meet most of the MDG targets, specifically, Goal 7, which has been interpreted to include protecting world's biological diversity to avoid depletion (Pisupati and Warner, 2003). This goal encourages all countries to, by the year 2015, reverse loss of environmental resources and reduce biodiversity loss (FGN, 2010). As an example, some rare animal species such as the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*), the Royal python (*Python regius*), and the Nigeria quillon (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*), which were found in Southern Nigeria are now on the United Nations endangered species list (Olawuyi, 2015). Consequent to this, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were initiated in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. This is a set of 17 goals with 169 targets to strengthen equity, human rights and non-discrimination and with a target span between 2015-2030.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Site: Old Oyo National Park takes its name from Oyo-Ile (Old Oyo), the ancient political capital of Old Oyo Empire of the Yoruba people, and contains the ruins of the city (Thornton, 1999). The National Park originated from two former contiguous forest reserves – the northern Upper Ogun Forest Reserve established in 1936 and the southern Oyo-Ile (Old Oyo) Forest Reserve established in 1941 (Businessday, 2020). As a result of high diversity and population of wildlife species, the two were merged in 1952 by the then Western State Government in the late 1960s to form the Upper Ogun Game Reserve. This was later upgraded to the present status of a National Park by the Federal Department of Forestry. Old Oyo National Park was established to preserve the cultural, historical and archaeological

features in the abandoned sites of the then capital city of the ancient Old Oyo empire at Oyo-Ile, Bara and Koso, to protect, preserve, conserve and manage representative samples of indigenous flora and fauna of the south-west geographical region of Nigeria. The park has six range offices (fig.1).

Location and Size: Old Oyo National Park (OONP) is sited in the northern Oyo and southern Kwara States of Nigeria. The park harbours eleven local government areas. Ten fall within Oyo State and one is in Kwara State. The administrative head office of the park is in Oyo town, in

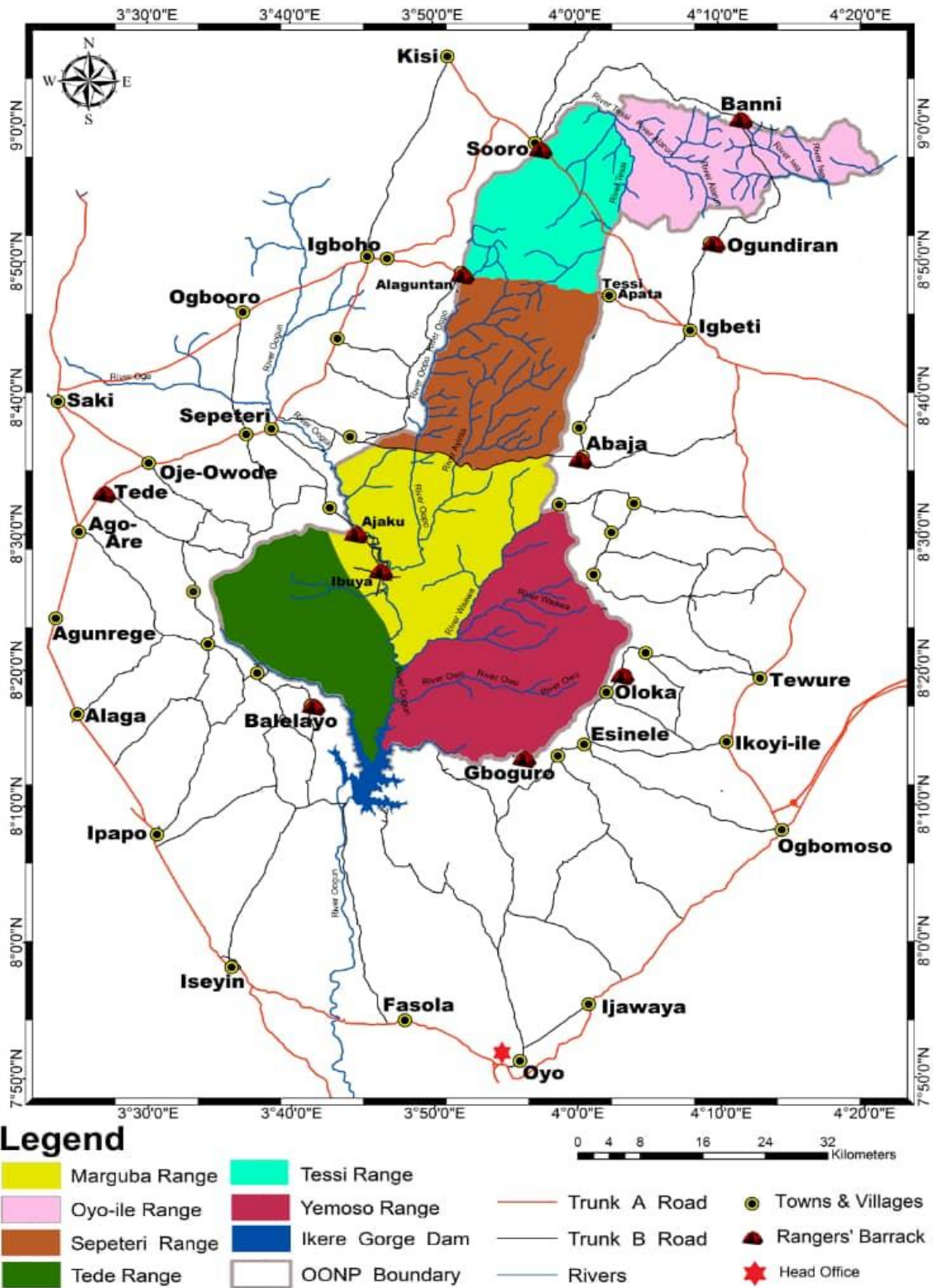


Fig. 1: Map of Old Oyo National Park Showing the Support Zone Villages

Isokun area, along Oyo-Iseyin road. Old Oyo National Park covers an approximate land area of 2,512km². The park lies on latitudes 8°15'-9°00'N of the equator and on longitudes 3° 35'-4°42'E of the Greenwich Meridian.

Climate: Rainy season begins in April through September with the highest rainfall recorded between July and August. Range of annual rainfall in the park is between 900mm and 1,500mm. Mean annual temperature is between 12°C and 37°C. Temperature is highest in the dry season with the mean daily maximal, which is greatest around February and March with values of about 33.6°C with the lowest values of about 20°C during the height of harmattan in December and January.

Drainage and Hydrology: The southern part of the park is drained by the Owu, Owe and Ogun Rivers, while the northern sector is drained by the Tessi River. The park is endowed with unique and spectacular features of abundant water resources that drain most part of the park throughout the year like the Ibuya pool and the Ikere Gorge dam. There is a great diversity of fish species in the major rivers and the pools/lakes.

Park's Biodiversity: The park is rich in flora and fauna resources. Notable flora species include: *Parkia biglobosa*, *Azela africana*, *Vitellaria paradoxa*, *Vitex doniana*, *Daniella oliveri*, *Ceiba pentandra*, *Andropogon spp*, *Eliomarus spp*, and *Hyparrhenia dissoluta*. Notable fauna species that could be found in the park include: Buffon's kob (*Kobus kob*), Roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*), Western hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*), Bush buck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), baboon (*Papio anubis*), Patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*), Grimm's duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*), Lion (*Panthera leo*), Warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), Water

buck (*Kobus defasa*), Red-flanked duiker (*Cephalophus rufilatus*), Black and white colobus monkey (*Colobus vellerosus*), Green monkey (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) and many more.

Sampling Techniques

Sources of Data: Two sources of data were employed to elucidate information from respondents for this survey. These are primary and secondary data sources

Primary Data: Two sets of structured questionnaire were designed for two categories of respondents namely: Park Officials and members of the Support Zone Communities (SZCs). This was aided with organized Focused Group Discussions and In-depth Interview in each selected village. In-depth interview targeted leaders of community association and groups including heads of departments of projects, research and planning at the park head office in Oyo town; as well as range officers at each of the selected park's range offices.

Secondary Data: Relevant pieces of information were retrieved from the policy initiatives on ecosystem-based management. Park summary of arrests and prosecutions, records on local groups, records on community-based conservation and empowerment programs, were all obtained from the park head office at Isokun. Other information gotten from the park office included information on community development projects by the park, record on sensitization campaigns by the park authority to local community groups and to public secondary school students towards conservation.

Questionnaire Design and Data Collection

Collection: A sampling size of 18 percent from a staff strength of around four hundred was adopted on park officers targeting department heads and park officers involved in projects at the six ranges of the park and at

the park headquarters (HQ) at Oyo town. Hence, ten park staff were picked from each of the range offices and the HQ, focusing on project heads, department heads and management officers. This makes a total of 70 park staff purposively selected for the survey of this research. For the park communities however, a multistage sampling procedure was adopted (Akosim *et al.*, 2010). From all the six range stations, 30% of the number of villages in each range were randomly pooled (table 1) with a total of 40 selected villages. Five households were then randomly picked from each of the selected villages to give a total of 200 selected households in the entire park for questionnaire administration. Taking household heads' involvement in empowerment initiatives into account, they were selected in each household. A total of 200 copies of questionnaire sets were then distributed to support zone villages of Old Oyo National Park to elucidate information from the park inhabitants. The empirical phase of this study was conducted between August 2023 and September, 2024 covering periods of rainy and dry seasons. The assistance of an interview guide, who understands the cultural and traditional disposition of the locals, was employed in order to syphon as much authentic information as possible from the SZC members. An approximate time of five and three minutes were spent respectively completing a questionnaire set by the local communities before and after the FGD sessions with them.

Statistical Analysis: Data emanating from this survey was processed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20.0) and subjected to both descriptive as well as inferential statistics. Results from descriptive analysis in frequencies of occurrences and percentages are presented in the form of tables and charts. Inferential

package employed includes: Mann-Whitney U Test.

RESULTS

Respondents' Demographic Parameters and Livelihood Pattern in Old Oyo National Park

Age range of respondents is between <21 to >50 years. Most of the respondents are married (80.37%) and males (82.22%). Highest percentage (54.3%) of the park managers have a family size of 1-5 individuals per household, while for the park communities, highest household size (43.5%) was recorded for the >10 household size category. As expected, all the park officers are civil servants with a minute percentage of them (5.7%) engaging in alternative livelihood sources. This is in contrast to the SZC members whose main occupation includes farming (74%), herding (12.57%), while their alternative sources of income include hunting (12%), trading (37.5%) and others. These are Garri and palm oil processing, sales of wood, planks and charcoal. There is no significant difference ($P>0.05$) in alternative sources of livelihood among the selected villages in each range station and across villages in the selected range stations. Majority of the park managers are graduates (88.6%), while a little above 25% of the SZCs are primary school leavers. There exist marked significant differences ($P<0.05$) between the two groups of respondents in their educational attainment, annual income and per capita income (PCI).

Prosecution of Offenders and Impact of Enforcement on Poaching and Illegal Entrants in OONP

In bringing harmony, forestalling peace, minimizing conflict between park management and Support Zone Community members of the park, responses depict a strong agreement (40%) by both groups of respondents. In a similar trend, respondents

strongly agree (85%) that enforcement greatly reduces number of arrests of illegal miners, invaders and poachers per year by enforcement officers as depicted on figure 2 below. However, park's record of arrests and prosecution depicts a dwindling figure over a 10-year period as found on table 2.

Pro-Conservation-Development Measures in OONP

Striking a balance between conservation and development in OONP under enforcement comes with various measures. These include enforcement which involves search, arrest, prosecution, fine

Table 1: Range Offices and Their Respective Selected Villages

Range Office	Number of SZCs	30% of Selected	SZCs	Households/Community
Oyo-Ile	12	4		20
Tessi	9	3		15
Sepeteri	17	8		40
Marguba	20	8		40
Tede	38	11		55
Yemoso	19	6		30
Total	115	40		200

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Table 2: Record of Arrests, Fines and Prosecution Over a 10-Year Span

Year	Staff Strength	Number of Arrests	Treated Cases in Court	Fined	Jailed	Compounded Cases	Court Fines (₦)	Fines from Compoundment (₦)
2013	-	84	9	10	5	67	137,000	2,035,000
2014	-	126	16	12	1	110	173,500	2,303,000
2015	290	123	-	-	2	91	-	>3,000,000
2016	302	99	5	-	1	-	-	3,913,500
2017	292	147	-	2	6	-	80,000	4,500,000
2018	281	138	27	27	6*(W&R)	105	-	5,285,200
2019	305	54	20	-	5*(W&R)	29	-	1,905,000
2020	302	78	2	5	5*(W&R)	72	-	4,685,000
2021	310	72	-	-	-	69	-	4,064,000
2022	304	86	-	-	-	86	-	4,925,000

Source: OONP Parks Annual Report (2013-2022)

*W&R – Warned and Released

and seizure of properties; conservation education with communities and park officers; dialogue with communities;

provision of community development projects and programs which include boreholes water, fruit tree plantations (table

3), road construction, conservation clubs in secondary schools; park-community partnership (table 4) where community members and group leaders like the charcoal production association, hunters' group, Miyetti Allah Group, Farmers' Group, collaborate with the park at some points in the implementation of the listed projects. Stages of involvement include planning,

implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as benefit sharing stages. Enforcement was perceived to be agreeable with conservation measures adopted to couple conservation with rural development in Old Oyo National Park (figure 2).

Table 3: Federal Government Assisted Afforestation Programmes in the Park

Location	Tree Species	Population	Land Area (Hectares)
Konga Village (Sepeteri Range)	Rose Wood (<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>)	200	0.5
	Cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>)	500	1.25
	Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>)	500	1.25
	Shea Butter (<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>)	800	2
Igbope Village (Sepeteri Range)	Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Orange (<i>Citrus sinensis</i>), Cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>), Rose Wood (<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>)	1,000 each	5
Atebe Village (Tede Range)	Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>)	500	1.25
	Orange (<i>Citrus sinensis</i>)	500	1.25
	Locust Bean (<i>Parkia biglobossa</i>)	500	1.25
	Cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>)	500	1.25
Igbeti Village (Oyo Ile Range)	Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Orange (<i>Citrus sinensis</i>), Cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>), Rose Wood (<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>)	1,000 each	5

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Table 4: Stages of Involvement of the Support Zone Community Members in Park Programs

Planning	Implementation	Monitoring and Evaluation	Benefit Sharing
Stakeholder Engagement	Community-Based Conservation	Community-Led Indicator Development	Community-Based Enterprises

Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Preservation	Compliance with Regulations	with	Cultural and Traditional Knowledge Sharing	Cultural Preservation
Resource Management	Resource Management		Monitoring Behavior	Wildlife Job Opportunities
Environmental Education	Environmental Education Preservation	Cultural	Reporting Activities	Illegal Education and Capacity Building
Eco-tourism and Hospitality Security Protection	Eco-Tourism and Hospitality Security and Protection		Environmental Impact Assessment Community Surveys and Feedback	Negotiation and Agreement Conflict Resolution
Infrastructure Development	Infrastructure Development Maintenance	and	Capacity Building	Resource Access and Revenue Allocation
Research Monitoring Advocacy Lobbying	Research Monitoring Advocacy and Outreach	and	Data Collection Participatory Mapping Feedback for Adaptive Management	Monitoring and Accountability Advocacy and Outreach Community Development Projects Environmental Stewardship

Source: Field Survey (2024)

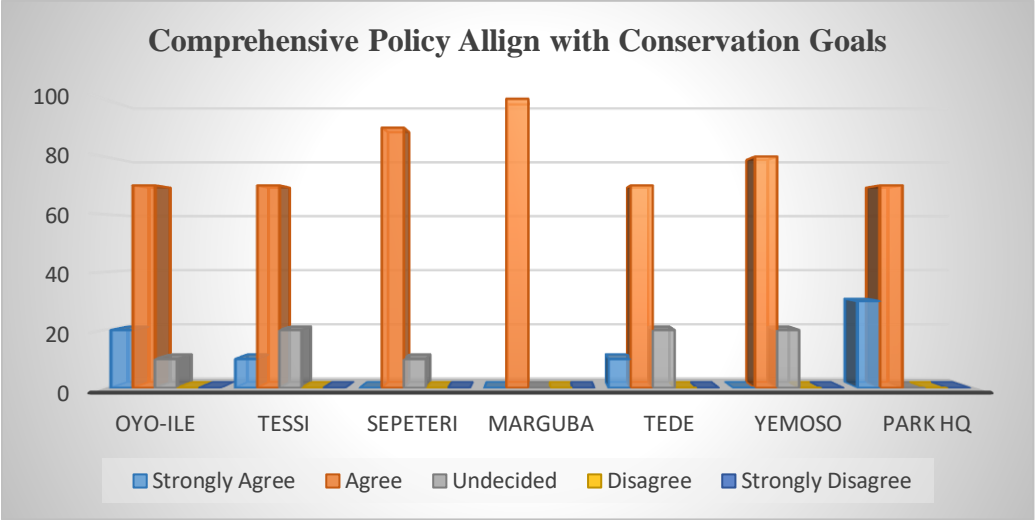


Fig. 2: Responses on Policy Development Concurrent with Conservation Goals in OONP
Source: Field Survey (2024).

DISCUSSION
Socioeconomic Parameters as Influence on Conservation-Development Agenda in OONP

Protected areas across the developing world are known to harbor human influx whose population derive their means of livelihood from tilling the soil, exploiting biodiversity resources (Toyobo *et al.*, 2014), both

terrestrial and aquatic, and encroaching inside protected area boundaries despite enforcement. The scenario is not different from the case of SZCs of OONP where inhabitants are comprised of able-bodied males of large family sizes. Locals with low educational background, large family sizes with subsistence means of livelihood, often see themselves as the original custodians of the park and its resources. As park managers earn their living through resource protection, community members rely on resource use for their sustenance. Expectedly, where park managers are keen on resource protection, community members are winding their ways around exploitation and encroachment while evading penalties, thus consequently threatening game animal population as corroborated in the works of Petrides (2010). This explains the locals' justification for their anti-conservation land use practices. Hunting, mining, fishing, logging, charcoal production which are all illegal under the National Park Act, are all the rurals rely on as their livelihood means, hence putting considerable pressure on enforcement so much so that dialogue and enlightenment could not be sufficient to protect park resources. The tragedy of the commons is the problem that, because no one person owns the resources, each individual has an incentive to utilize common resources as much as possible (Eccleston and Doub, 2012), thus exploiting biodiversity resources, especially illegally, as is found in OONP.

Wildlife Policy Pegs its Significance in OONP: Conservation-Development Strategies Speak

Measures put in place to enforce resource protection in OONP are adjudged by resource managers and community members to be effective as spelt out in the nation's National Park Act. This policy statements have been affirmed to be quite comprehensive, adaptive and align with conservation goal just as was supported by Toyobo *et al.* (2014).

As a result of rising global warming and climate change, biodiversity protection has become a critical ecological concern in the park. Dryness of the weather at the peak of the dry season between February and March, drive herders down south of the park in search of fodder for their herds as corroborated in FIJ (2023). OONP has abundant diverse and lush fauna ecosystem typical of a guinea savannah vegetation. This makes herding one of the major threats to conservation of the park. The Miyyeti Allah Group, the prominent herder organization in the park affirmed at the time of FGDs with them, that illegal herding was an important threat facing the park, but claimed that many local herders are not aware of the exact boundaries of the park nor its ecological significance. This, the organization attested, has been responsible in part for the invasion and encroachment of the park by the local herders.

Economic Empowerment of Park Communities in OONP

Economic valuation of protected areas is currently receiving considerable attention from policymakers and park managers (Pisani *et al.* 2021), as such information can assist with the identification and design of funding mechanisms and the provision of alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities to park communities. Need for this is not farfetched from OONP as locals need funding for livestock production, handicraft making, fish production, scholarship for indigenous students of the communities, as its been enjoyed by the locals of Lake Mburo National Park, Uganda (Twinamatsiko *et.al.*, 2022). Encroachment in the park as well as close proximity of communities to the park exposes fauna species to poaching. Hydrogen cyanide is contained in cassava. Communities throw cassava peelings into rivers Ajaku and Ogun, poisoning and killing aquatic lives. After this, the locals demand more compensation from

the park authorities as they claim that the benefits that they are getting from the park is too minute. There are also complaints that government-promised development projects are not getting to them. This could push locals to harbor poachers at a price; connive with and harbor illegal entrants to log, poach, mine; or engage extensively in all forms of illegal exploitation of park resources. As a result of the perceived inequitable distribution of benefits, unauthorized resource use takes place as was the case in the research findings of Twinamatsiko *et al.* (2014). And it therefore necessitates tackling illegal wildlife trade from the grassroots through enforcement.

CONCLUSION

There is no conservation without development. And, sustainability also involves sustainable livelihoods. It is evident that the functioning of the protected area is dependent on a better working relationship with the community as protection of biodiversity would interest the people whose livelihoods are protected. Greater governance, inclusive legislation and equity strengthen community support for conservation and development. The more people felt involved and that they benefited from protected areas, the more they increased their conservation support and stewardship. The following are therefore concluded from this research: that after being enlightened about need for park protection, communities need development that yield financial gains; that information, knowledge is key but it is not sufficient to keep the people off the park and win them over for conservation; that the park is facing series of threats by herders and illegal miners most of whom are armed bandits and from Niger and Zamfara States and also from Republics of Niger and Cameroun and; that Miyetti-Allah Group is prominent in the park but do not possess sufficient control over all the members as

some hoodlums in the name of herders invade the park and attack officers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Without prioritizing the interests of local people and the creation of a significant stake in the management of wildlife resources, efforts of officials to ensure sustainable use of wildlife will often be futile. Legal measures aimed at delegating rights, responsibilities and accountability of resource managers need to be reviewed to accommodate diverse local customs, traditions and customary laws of SZCs of Nigerian parks. Additionally, economic fluidity keeps hiking globally and Nigerian situation is not an exception. Consequently, for penalties to be effective, financial fines should be upgraded while park act should give room for economic incentives (like job opportunities); promote alternative non-consumptive use or create assistance to have access to alternatives; involve locals in resource management with compensation for efforts and; ensure equitable benefit sharing among the locals especially of foreign investment when it is available.

REFERENCES

- Akosim C., Bode A.S., Kwaga B.T. and Dishan E.E. (2010): Perceptions and Involvement of Neighbouring Communities of Kainji Lake National Park Towards The Parks Conservation Programmes. *Journ. Res. in For., Wild. and Env.*, 2(1): 44-53.
- Anwadike B.C. (2020): Biodiversity Conservation in Nigeria: Perception, Challenges and Possible Remedies. Current Investigations In Agriculture and Current Research. LUPINE Publishers. ISSN: 2637-4676. Pp: 1109-1115.
- Businessday (2020): Trail History, Adventure At Old Oyo National Park.

- Retrieved 2023-07-25. Reported by Obinna,Emelike (2020-11-23).
- Eccleston C. and Doub J.P. (2012). Preparing NEPA Environmental Assessments. 1st Ed. Pp 50.
- FGN (2010): Federal Government of Nigeria. Fourth National Biodiversity Report.
- FIJ (2023): Fleeing Intruders: Despite Strict Laws, Herders, Poachers Tainting Old Oyo National Park. Foundation for Investigative Journalism. Reported by Hamzat, Mariam. Retrieved 10 July 2023.
- Kumar S., Kumar N. and Vivekahdisha S. (2016): Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership. *Indian J. of Comm Med.* Jan-Mar; 41(1): 1-4. doi: 10.4103/0970-0218.170955
- Morgera E. and Wingard J. (2009): Principles for Developing Sustainable Management Laws. Joint Publications of FAO and CIC. Budapest. 90pp.
- Olawuyi D. (2015): The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals on Environmental Sustainability: Legal and Institutional Framework for Realization in Nigeria. *Uni Ben. Law Journ.* Vol. 3. P: 16.
- Petrides, G. A. (2010). Advisory Report on wildlife and National Parks in Nigeria, 1962: A Report Prepared for The IUCN and Amer. Committee for Int. Wildl. Protection. Sp. Publ. 18p.
- Pisani, D., Paziienza, P., Perrino, E.V., Caporale, D. and De Lucia, C. (2021). The Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services of Biodiversity Components in Protected Areas: A Review For a Framework of Analysis For The Gargano National Park. *Sustainability* 13(21):11726 doi.org/10.3390/su132111726.
- Pisupati B. and Warner E. (2003): Biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals. IUCN Regional Biodiversity Program. Pp7-22.
- PUNCH, (2024). Nigeria, Cameroon Sign Agreement on Ecosystem Conservation. News Written by Lara Adejoro.
- Thornton J.K. (1999): Warfare in Atlantic Africa 1500-1800. London and New York: Routledge. p. 19. ISBN 1-85728-393-7
- Toyobo A.E., Raheem W.M. and Oyoleye O.I. (2014): Conservation Strategies of Wildlife Resources in The Old Oyo National Park, Nigeria. *Int. Journ. Adv. Sci. & Techn Res.* Issue 4 (4). Pp: 526-537. ISSN: 2249-6654.
- Twinamatsiko M., Franks P., Booker F., Muchunguzi C., Murembe C.N. (2022): Alternative Approaches to Integrated Conservation and Development: Equitable Governance at Lake Mburo National Park, Uganda. *Parks.* Vol. 28(2). Pp: 23-32.
- Twinamatsiko, M., Baker, J., Harrison, M., Shirkhorshidi, M., Bitariho, R., Weiland, M., Asuma, S., Milner-Gulland, E.J., Franks, P. and Roe, D. (2014): Linking Conservation, Equity and Poverty Alleviation. Understanding the Profiles and Motivations of Resource Users and Local Perceptions of Governance at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. *London: IIED.*
- UN (2015): United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report. New York, USA; p: 3.

