

Community-Based Tourism in National Parks in Developed and Developing Countries: Comparative Study of Yakushima National Park, Japan and Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Nigeria

先進国および発展途上国の国立公園におけるコミュニティ主体の観光：日本の屋久島国立公園とナイジェリアのガシャカ・ Gumティ国立公園の比較研究

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The USA's and the European concepts of national parks (NPs) are the two main concepts of NPs adopted worldwide; Nigerian and Japanese NPs represent these two NP concepts. Irrespective of the concept of NP adopted by a country, it has been established that conflicts between local communities and NP authorities do exist. Community-based tourism (CBT) has been proposed as a viable alternative to solving these park-community conflicts, while at the same time improving livelihood of the community by creating jobs, income and employment. CBT is a form of tourism where the local community has substantial control over, and participates in its development and management, and a major proportion of the benefits remain within the community. The aim of the study is to examine how the NP concepts and management in Japan and Nigeria influence community participation in tourism, as prerequisite for CBT.

To achieve this aim, two case studies – Yakushima National Park (YNP) and Gashaka-Gumti National Park (GGNP)– were compared to highlight (i) the policies and management structure of the Japanese and Nigerian NP systems (ii) the community willingness to participation in tourism in both NPs, and (iii) success

factors and constrains to participation in tourism in both YNP and GGNP. A mixed method approach that includes both qualitative and quantitative techniques was employed for data collection and analysis. The qualitative techniques used were semi- structured interview, focused group discussions and participatory approach while questionnaire-based survey was the only quantitative technique used. The statistical techniques used for analyzing the quantitative data were univariate, bivariate and multivariate techniques.

The research findings show that the objectives of managing each NP actually influence the perceptions of community groups about NPs in both countries. In YNP where tourism is one of the main objectives for establishing the park, the respondents strongly supported that the park has contributed to tourism development and has influenced the island by attracting tourists. Whereas in GGNP where the park was established with the aim of nature conservation, there was a stronger view that the park contributes more to nature conservation than tourism development. Likewise, the NP's concept adopted by both NP was found to influence problems faced

by management of the parks in securing community participation. The multiple stakeholders involved in the park’s management in YNP makes it difficult for the park authorities to enforce effective solution to the park-people conflict, while, the top- down approach adopted by GGNP has resulted in problem of resource utilization in the park and hostile attitude of communities towards the park.

Furthermore, the result reveals that households in both NPs are willing to participate in tourism planning and development. However, level of willingness indicated in GGNP was higher than those expressed in YNP. Despite the lower level of willingness shown by respondents in YNP, two success cases of community participation were noted. Nevertheless, factors such as low level of awareness and lack knowledge in tourism limits community participation in tourism in both NPs. However, residents’ willingness to participate in tourism project can be considered as great opportunity and potential for effective and sustainable CBT development in both NPs. Hence, the study concludes by suggesting strategies to harness the strength of each NP as potential for CBT development and addresses some challenges limiting community participation.

Outline of the thesis

The thesis is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter is the introductory chapter, which gives a background of the research and lays out the research

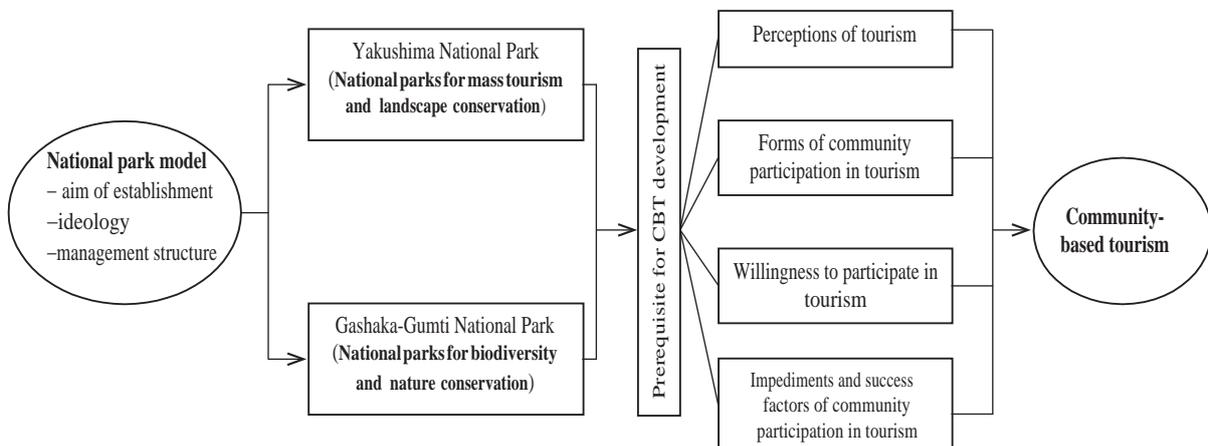
framework, focus, aim and objectives.

Key concepts used were defined so as to avoid ambiguities and contradictions since the study involves two countries, with some terms having different definitions in each country. The chapter ends by giving an overview of the sequential steps taken in planning of the research process and provides an outline of the thesis.

Chapter 2 reviews literature on the concepts of NP and how these concepts have evolved over the years; various definitions of community and why it is important to consider the different groups in the community when introducing any type of developmental project; community participation and factors influencing participation in tourism projects; and finally concept of CBT and constraints to CBT development. This chapter formed the background upon which the current research objectives were positioned and contextualized.

In Chapter 3, the overview of the preliminary study conducted in Yakushima in 2014 was given. It reports the research carried out as the pilot study for the current research. The findings helped in understanding the perceptions of tourism operators, hence providing partial understanding of residents’ perception. Thereby, forming the foundation on which the current study was developed.

Chapter 4 describes the methodology used in achieving the research objectives. The chapter starts by giving an overview of the study area, and then



describes the design of research methods, explaining the various methods used in data collection and analysis. The chapter ends by stating the limitations of the study.

Chapter 5 compared the concepts of NP adopted in Japan and Nigeria. Due to the disparity in NP models and management systems, comparison was based on the management policies, tourism development, management problems and collaborative management. The various stakeholders involved in co-management of NPs and the role they play in both countries were also elucidated. Furthermore, YNP and GGNP were used as case studies to elucidate the NP management problems faced by both countries. The chapter concludes by laying emphasis on the differences and similarities identified in the chapter.

In Chapter 6, the results of the demographic characteristics of the stakeholders that participated in the questionnaire survey were presented. Stakeholders' characteristics were analyzed to determine if there are significant differences in their characteristics that can be used for further analysis in the following chapter. The chapter is divided into three sections so as to better describe the characteristics of (i) households (ii) tourism businesses and (iii) tourists.

Chapter 7 considers the perceptions of different community groups in order to identify similarities and differences in their perception of collaborative management of NPs. This chapter was based on

results from primary data in both YNP and GGNP. This includes community perception of the two NPs; perceptions and attitude of the communities towards tourism; their willingness to participate in tourism; and factors limiting them from participating in tourism. This chapter identifies two success cases of community participation in Yakushima.

Chapter 8 discusses the result of the study and expands on how the results answer the research questions. It draws upon the information provided in the previous chapters in order to consider the applicability of CBT development in YNP and GGNP. First the chapter starts by discussing the management of the two NPs and perceptions of the community groups about the parks. It points out lessons that can be learned from one another, and explains how the objectives of managing each NP influence the perceptions of community groups about the parks. The chapter then discusses the perception of stakeholders in both NPs and variables influencing stakeholders' perceptions and their support for CBT development.

Chapter 9 reflects on the findings of the research and provides conclusions and recommendations. The chapter concludes the study by arguing that the concepts and management of NPs influence community participation in tourism and that CBT development is viable in both NPs. Finally, future areas of research arising from this study are suggested.