



Achas Safari Africa Magazine

**NEPAD 2ND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM CONFERENCE IN YAOUNDE:
AFRICAN YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**



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TOURISM: THE SLEEPING GIANT OF AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

Tourism has been widely acknowledged as one of the greatest socio-economic forces of the 21st century. Evidence from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC, 2016) Economic Impact Analysis reveals that the tourism sector contributed USD 7,170.3 billion (9.8%) to world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 283, 578, 000 jobs (9.5% of total employment) in 2015. While the European Union enjoyed the lion's share of this economic impact by pocketing USD 605.6 billion, the African continent attracted USD 74.3 billion. Without going further to a more detailed comparative analysis of how Africa fared vis a vis other regions of the world, one would presume a more pertinent question to ask at this stage would be if Africa has the resources and the potential to improve on its tourism economic impact. In responding to the foregoing one would generally take a quick scan through the tourism resources and attractions on the continent. Tourism literature indicates that among the greatest tourist pull factors are the quest for authenticity and novelty. Hence, cultural practices, flora and fauna, heritage products and pristine waterfronts are prime tourist attractions. Of course, a well-developed service industry delivering excellent services in hospitality, transport, banking, food and beverages, among others will greatly enhance the tourism product and multiply the economic impact of tourism.

Therefore, assessing how well Africa has fared in the tourism sphere would necessitate examining the availability of the aforementioned on the continent. There is no gain saying that Africa boasts a great array of unique traditions and cultures. Among these are the traditional practices of the Sudanese Latuka tribe, the Khweta ceremony of initiation to manhood practiced in many Southern African communities, the Maasai tribal traditions in Kenya and Tanzania, the Ahaggaren Tuaregs traditions in Algeria, the Gio tribe in Ivory Coast, the Suku tribe in South-western Congo, the Himba people of Northern Namibia and many others. One can safely say that each acre of Africa is marked by a unique culture.

The hidden gem of Africa's flora and fauna is deeply entrenched in the many acres of unspoilt forests. Prime among Africa's virgin forests are the Congo rainforest and the Bwindi impenetrable forest in Uganda. Situated in the Congo River basin and spreading through a number of countries including Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo Rainforest covers a surface area of two million square kilometres. This forest is believed to be unique in the entire planetary biosphere in terms of its floral diversity. Similarly, the Bwindi impenetrable forest houses about 340 mountain gorillas. These and many other protected areas, nature reserves and parks represent and accommodate Africa's rich flora and fauna diversity.



Pigmy in the Congo rainforest



Puppy Gorilla in the Bwindi Forest

From a tourism perspective, it is evident that the richness of Africa's biodiversity is far beyond the scope of a single editorial of this nature. Suffice to say in comparative terms to the other regions of the world, Africa can without fear of contradiction be described as the power-house of unadulterated natural environments. Promoting tourism in these areas will further strengthen the need for their conservation and protection.

Any discussion on Africa's heritage prowess would naturally start from the over ninety world heritage sites on the continent. From the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove in Nigeria, to the Bassari, Fula and Bedik Cultural Landscapes (Senegal), Konda Rock-Art Sites (Tanzania), Fossil Hominid Sites (South Africa), Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region (Ethiopia), Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) and Fort Jesus, Mombasa (Kenya), to name but a few, it is easy to see why Africa can aptly be referred to as the heritage capital of the world. And if one factors into this equation the history of the river Nile and the cradle of civilisation in Egypt (world's first recognizable nation state by c.3150 BCE), then it becomes quite evident that tourism is undoubtedly the sleeping giant of Africa's development.



As earlier mentioned, this editorial cannot capture the full essence of the African tourism potential. However, this is an attempt to shift the curtain slightly so that Africans and the world at large can catch a glimpse of the untapped tourism resources on the continent. At a time when continental bodies such as the African Union (AU), The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Pan African Parliament (PAP) are taking amazing strides towards economic prosperity on the continent as envisaged in *Agenda 2063: the Africa we want*, the opportunity presented by the global tourism boom should be capitalized upon. The "Rural Africa Development Forum" instituted by NEPAD focused on "Transforming Africa's Rural Area through Skills Development, Job Creation and Youth Economic Empowerment" is an example of an initiative that can go beyond assuring development through agriculture to maximising socio-economic benefits from tourism. This is more so because most tourism resources are in rural communities. Similarly, the initiatives of regional bodies like the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA) and Sustainable Tourism Partnership Programme (STPP) in fostering the development and implementation of Sustainable Tourism Practices (Production and Consumption in Southern Africa) need to be applauded and complimented.

It is in cognizance of the great economic potential of the tourism sector, particularly its ability to create jobs, stimulate entrepreneurship across various economic sectors and attract foreign exchange that *Achas University of Tourism and Business Management* (henceforth referred to as Achas University) was established in 2011. The premise is that African economies will only be able to take full advantage of tourism growth and positive forecasts if local people are sufficiently empowered to tap into the economic opportunities availed by the tourism sector. Hence, Achas University identified three critical success factors for fast-tracking tourism development and spreading the economic beneficiation from tourism across African economies; namely tourism awareness, professional tertiary education and stimulating the "taste-buds" of entrepreneurship in students. In essence, a professional University preparing African students to champion the course of economic development on the continent should not only disseminate knowledge, but more importantly serve as an incubator for Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs).

It is our fervent hope that Africa takes full consciousness of its tourism treasure house, accentuates practical steps to implement the beautiful dreams espoused in "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want", increases efforts towards Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and ensures that local communities are involved in the development process. In this way and with all taking pride in Africa's resources and working together, we shall persistently walk towards our sustainable development goals with tourism complementing conservation efforts as the conservation of natural and manmade resources provide the basis for tourists to visit. Through understanding that while the tourism sector relies on its own resources, developments in other economic sectors equally catalyse tourism growth, Africa will be more successful in harnessing all efforts towards fast-tracking the development of the continent. Herein lies our strategy to attaining the beautiful dream envisaged in "Agenda 2063: the Africa we want".

In God we trust!

Acha-Anyi Paul Nkemngu (Dr)
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AFRICA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

EXPLORE THE TOURISM PROWESS OF AFRICA THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

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Botswana

East African Community (EAC)
Uganda

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Ghana

Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD)
Tunisia

Sport: Revisiting the 2016 Female AFCON



THE 1ST ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



The 1st Annual Sustainable Tourism Development Conference, hosted by RETOSA in partnership with the Sustainable Tourism Partnership Program (STPP), took place from the 16th to the 17th November at the CedarWoods Hotel in Johannesburg.

The conference aimed at becoming the catalyst to trigger a lasting Sustainable Tourism dialogue within the Southern African region. Member States shared Sustainable Tourism knowledge and experiences; gain exposure to international best practices as well as utilize the forum as a means of generating annual progress reports to ascertain levels of development and implementation of Sustainable Tourism within Member States.

The Conference was targeted at stakeholders within Sustainable Tourism, namely; SMMEs, private sector, public sector, tourism boards, ministries, NGOs and Sustainable Tourism experts.

The Conference was structured in a workshop format, with panel discussions and interaction between participants being at the core of the proceedings. Some of the key topics that were addressed are as follows:

- 1. Community Based Tourism (CBT) in Southern Africa
- 2. Fair Trade in Tourism and Quality Standards
- 3. TFCAs (Transfrontier Conservation Areas) Development in Southern Africa
- 4. The State of Sustainable Tourism: Focus on both the Private sector and Public sector
- 5. Climate change resilience and mitigation measures, and natural resource management
- 6. Optional site visit/tour on the last day of the Conference

The Sustainable Tourism Conference has garnered support from all corners of the world, and some of the key speakers and organizations being represented at the Conference are outlined below:

Ms. Megan Eplar Wood- Director of International Sustainable Tourism Initiative, Harvard University
Dr. Anna Spenceley- International Sustainable Tourism Specialist
Dr. Sue Snyman- Regional Coordinator, Wilderness Safaris
Dr. Geoffrey Manyara-Senior Regional Tourism Advisor, UNECA
Ms. Caroline Ungersbock-CEO of Sustainable Tourism Partnership Programme (STPP)
Professor Kevin Mearns, UNISA

In addition to the above mentioned aim of the Conference, the delegates engaged in conducting the necessary gap analysis in order to gain greater insights into the main opportunities and benefits of sustainable tourism development as well as barriers that are preventing Member States and private sector stakeholders from implementing a holistic Sustainable Tourism agenda.

The conference was supported by a wide range of partners, led by UNWTO:

DEMYSTIFYING REFLECTIONS ON THE NEPAD 2ND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM CONFERENCE IN YAOUNDE: AFRICAN YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

By Portia Pearl Siyanda Sifolo



In the previous issue of Ahas Safari Magazine, there is an article titled “My African Dream”. The author pleaded to be “allowed to be an African by travelling in her own terrestrial...because in the African land, she claimed to be guaranteed economic development by virtue of being an African”....

Through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) which is an economic development program of the African Union, the author was accorded an opportunity to travel to in her own terrestrial (the African continent) to Camerron, Yaounde ,to attend the 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum was that was held under the theme “*Transforming Africa’s Rural Areas through Skills Development, Job Creation and Youth Economic Empowerment*” conference. The journey began in South Africa, then connected in Addis Abbaba, EthiopiaT to arrive to the final destination, Cameroon, Yaounde. This was *Déjà vu* at its best! There was excitement.

The conference was attended by delegates from all over the world, it was all inclusive (from young and old, women and men, professionals and leaders, entrepreneurs and practitioners, etc). The launch of the atlas “A New Emerging Rural World” which focuses on rural restructuring in Africa was apex. The aura around diverse cultures and networking was worthwhile. Travelling around Yaounde was adventurous! Hence, the participants had their own perspectives regarding their involvement in the conference and engaging in tourism activities in Yaounde. From the Yaounde Airport up to the different hotels and lodges, the security and the Nepad personnel made it tranquil to move around and they were helpful! The emigration and customs office made it effortless to get in the country, as there was no delay regarding the processes.

FROM TOURISM SECTOR TO MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES

This article reflects on the wonderful experiences from the Nepad conference, to great conversations in the yellow taxis...all in the spirit to accelerate and foster job creation, skills development in rural and in the urban corners as the key components to advance development in Africa.

Nombuso Vilane from LaMsiswa Farming recalls that *“the weather in Cameroon was lovely for me because I’m coming from the far north of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa) where the weather was 37 degrees, I was glad to keep in touch with people from home since the WI FI connection was excellent in all the tourists places I went to – this was a fantastic experience”*.



She noted the economic potential that Cameroon has, particularly the effectiveness of timber manufacturing companies by stating that *“I admired how they make use of timber to manufacture their furniture than to import from foreign countries which might cost more; these are the lessons to be learned to boost our African economies by manufacturing our own products and export them”*.

The participants emphasised on the NEPAD’s vision for a common voice on developmental issues, support and towards becoming an agriculture-led Africa. The youth that participated in the conference indicated that each African country should concentrate on its strong commodity to grow the economy and pay attention towards effectively working together to boost the neighbouring countries within the respective regions to make Agribusinesses sustainable and to add to the value chain.

Nombuso further claimed that *“it is possible for Africa to feed its people and end hunger by 2030; being exposed to different countries on the NEPAD meetings and being involved in the research and feasibility studies.....working together as Africans, we can overcome anything we put heads and ideas into. We can truly feed our people and grow our economy”*.

These are the reflections of young African women who push beyond the odds of inequality, autonomy and constraint, traditional dichotomies of male domination and female subordination among other challenges. It is crucial to note that living on subsistence farming may help, however it does not guarantee success towards becoming a commercial farmer. Nor does it mean that overcoming challenges such as gender differentiation evident in employment conditions, land tenure and control over resources and gender relations within and outside the household is easy.

AGRICULTURE

Several government departments from different countries were also invited to partake in the conference. Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA) applauded the NEPAD Agency and its partners for having created a much-needed platform for stakeholder engagement in taking the Rural Futures Programme to the next level.



Nompumelelo Mpanza from ADA displayed excitement when reflecting on the conference in Yaounde, she stated that *“we were able to share notes and experiences with our peers from other parts of Africa. The outcomes are envisaged to be implemented at a regional, national and provincial level; as the required intervention for revolutionary rural transformation, new strategies and policies to redress inequities calls for a united Africa to roll up the sleeves and get down to business.”*

BENEFICIATION FOR ENTREPRENEURS

There is a high rate of unemployment hitting the rest of the African continent. The Atlas on rural change in Africa indicates that there are more than 20 young people (aged between 15 and 24) that are looking for their first jobs or income-generating-activities. Entrepreneurship was advocated as the most favored tool to combat poverty by putting the African Youth on the forefront to conquer unemployment.

Speakers highlighted the complexity of entrepreneurship that the youth of Africa is facing.

According to Xolani Gumede from Cappeny Estates in Durban Ballito, *“the youth is already championing entrepreneurship in Africa...”* This point was also emphasized by Nompumelelo from ADA that *“we are committed to making a positive contribution in driving programmes and initiatives geared towards inclusive and sustainable development in the African continent”*



Xolani also highlighted on the positive impacts of owning a farm and reflected on the multiplier effect that agriculture has.

It was highlighted that Agriculture guarantees food security, encourages water management, ensures poverty alleviation and warrants sustainable economic growth, improves infrastructure development whilst ensuring rural and urban development, deals with migration dynamics, creates a platform for technological advancement and benefits the tourism and hospitality sector. For example the conference highlighted on Agri-tourism as a skills development and job creation sector that provides employment for the youth.

Another pioneer among women entrepreneurs in the conference was Beauty Manake (the CEO at Kungu Vegs in Botswana) who emphasized on the need to tackle capacity building when dealing with agribusiness mentorship and training.



There were start-ups like Icebo Empowerment Network that reflected on aspects such as Agri-tourism and Agri-ICT for networking and promoting the rural youth to embark on entrepreneurship to combat unemployment and to foster youth economic empowerment.



Nomfundo Zondi, stated that *“ICT is an important platform that the youth needs to tackle to promote agri-business and to upscale rural development. There should be systems and mother organizations that should support the youth in the ICT sector. Organizations like FAO, GIZ Germany, and OECD France Paris contributed on a great deal of how we can move forward in making skills development, job creation and rural youth development in Africa.*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education on Agricultural sector to promote healthy lifestyle was promoted. Improving awareness on the agricultural benefits was highlighted as a necessity.

According to Dr Gountiéni Lankoande, from Group for research and applied analysis (GRAAD-Burkina), uagadougou, Burkina Faso *“The 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum held in Yaoundé offered me a great opportunity to share my experience and learn from the other participants. My main reflection during the meeting was that, we don’t need to waste time by calling the youth to go back to the land. The better thing to do is to invest in appropriate infrastructures in rural medium and in agricultural schools, etc. (theme of the conference). In this perspective, the EPAB Technopole School that we visited in Cameroon is a good example of the type of investment we need to do in rural areas. The interest of youth in what they are learning and doing at EPAB school is an evidence. As an academia representative, I was very happy to congratulate the best students of this agriculture school who were ready for farming”.*

TOURISM

The NEPAD 2nd Rural Development Forum conference was not only based on business as usual. There were economic spin offs as far as tourism is concerned. Apart from the tour, different participants engaged into different tourism activities, such as visiting the casinos, travelling the city etc. Nomfundo recalled on the fun times and partaking in tourism activities by stating that

“When we went into town out with some delegates in Yaoundé, we networked and had delicious meals, not to forget roasted bananas and the fresh meal with roasted meat; we enjoyed and mingled with people of Cameroon. you haven’t been to Cameroon if you don’t bring the beautiful African fabric that is locally produced. I would really do it, all over again!.....”



FUTURE PROSPECTS

Therefore, there is a dire need for an integrated approach towards ensuring that Agriculture remains the new tool for sustainable economic growth as an industry that cuts across all other sectors in Africa to realise the dream of the Africa we want!

Let us pave our own way as the youth of Africa when dealing with the beast called unemployment. Let us contribute in our own form in this beautiful continent. Make your economic well-being the forefront and carry Africa on your shoulder (Nomfundo).

DESTINATION UNIQUENESS: PRODUCTS WITH A DIFFERENCE

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"AFRICAN CHILD, TAKE PRIDE IN OUR AFRICAN STORIES"

By Beauty M. Mtombeni

I listened to the conversations in the taxi and became aware of the richness of the words and the pride in which African people still hold on to their tongue and culture. My home is Ga-Molepo, Podile (South Africa)... My upbringing was similar to that of a child born in Malawi, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Senegal or DRC. My clan name is "Marumo". In the evenings I would sit around the fire "ka mothopeng" where a meal was prepared and cooked. Fire was the only light we had in the room, should the moon not be available. The whole family would gather and enjoy the feast filled with "mafela,dinawa,dinyebu le maraka" (corn,beans and peanuts). We would listen to the tales of my grandparents and how they used to ride donkeys to a place called "dipitseng". No one stayed at home on weekends because "motho ke motho ka batho" (I am because of you). People always supported each other.

Growing up in Ga-Molepo, I recall watching my late grandmother painting our home "ka boloko" cow dow, this was a symbol of a self-loving, hardworking and neat woman. To me it meant that I had to work hard and love myself as a young African black woman. my grandmother day in and day out fetching water from the river in the mornings and firewood in the afternoons and bringing back "matshidi, mahlatswa, ditoro le dikgwete" forest fruits; I realise now that it was a norm to do that. We were never hungry, agricultural produce was always in the yard.

One thing I really wanted to do while growing was to go through Dombha (a cultural ceremony for girls' initiation). I wanted to experience a Vhenda culture and I believe these are the activities a young African woman has to go through. I was taught many things when I was young which I thought were useless but now I see that they shaped me to be the woman that I am today,by the men of bha-venda clan. I am Beauty Modiegi Marumo Mtombeni, my mom is a women from the Shona clan.

We need to learn about our culture, our background, where we come from, so we can know we are going!



(Beauty M Mtombeni is a final year National Diploma student in the Department of Tourism Management at Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria – South Africa)

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AFRICA: CULTURAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

By Nyochembeng morfaw fobella

A glimpse of the African continent the obvious; that its culture and tradition is a beacon of beauty from the North to the South and from the East to the West. Culture, is defined as a way of life, but for us Africans, *our culture is our identity, our sense of belonging, our pride, our roots*. Our history as a people is embedded in our culture and traditions seen in short stories that tell our past escapees, poems and folktales. Such stories tend to reveal our patriotism to each nation state. If there is one thing the colonial warlords could not take from the continent is our cultural bond and tradition which the people were so many nits to the very essence. There are several examples within the continent.

1. South Africa celebrates the multicolour radiance of its culture through cultural display of the flamboyant cultural and tradition activities of what has become known over the years as the rainbow nation. History holds that heritage day as celebrated in South Africa every 24 September as a public to show case the culture and tradition started in the Zulu clan. The day in question was formerly known as Shaka day, a day in which the legendary king Shaka use his spear to embroider together a diverse collection of tribes and clans into one mighty cultural quilt. This day was over the years celebrated in the Zulu land in honour of this great warrior.



2. In the north of Africa we know about the great pyramids of Egypt which now form part and parcel of the cultural history of the people which has over the giving room for many research by global scholar. Many people around the world have become familiar or now know the history and culture of the Egyptian people due to the research done by these scholars in so rich a culture of a people.

3. We have the great town of old called Timbuktu, in present day Mali which has been a beacon of attraction in the past and even the present. This town upholds the culture and tradition of the people of Mali, their history (trade) and the various wars they fought in the past to be where they presently are today.



4. In east Africa we are looking at the famous Masai culture and tradition that has stood the test of time over the years.



5. In West Africa, the flamboyant culture and tradition of the Yoruba, Ibo and Edo people cannot be overemphasized.

6. In central Africa one of the culture and tradition that stands out is that of the Bantu people that cut across Cameroon, Gabon and part of Democratic Republic of Congo.



7. Also, in Cameroon we have prominent cultures that dominate the sub region like that of the pigmies in the south an eastern regions of Cameroon, the radians of the Bamileke, Bangwa, and Bayangi cultures in the west and south west regions of Cameroon respectively.

One cannot refute the fact that one of the motivating push factor why there is an ever increasing influx of westerners into the continent is to know and experience its vast cultural diversity and tradition. We have heard, known and experienced stories of how the western world tempered with Africa revered culture and tradition in the past with the accomplice of self-centered African leaders who traded and some are still trading with what the people hold so dearly.

This is just but a little of what we have in the continent as culture and these still remain a major pulling force of immigrants (especially white) into the continent, reason why tourism in African countries is always on the rise so much that government of many African states are spending lots of money in the tourism sector.

Yes, many, if not all African countries through the ministry of culture are trying to uphold the culture and tradition of the people, through socio-cultural activities that are organised and sponsored by the state, but it is very important to take a step further to declare a public holiday like South Africa has done where by people show case their rich culture and tradition to the entire world, not just a clan, village, a people doing it now but the entire country as a whole. The famous African day in the charter of the African union has contributed towards the preservation of our culture and tradition. In so doing, the posterity will have a sense of belonging in this world.



(Mr. Nyochembeng morfaw fobella is a Postgraduate fellow studying with the University of Johannesburg – South Africa)

DESTINATION UNIQUENESS: PRODUCTS WITH A DIFFERENCE WELCOME/BIENVENUE AU CAMEROON

KUPE MUANENGUBA DIVISION: AN UNDEREXPLOITED ECO-TOURISM HAVEN

By Acha Junior Jude

Kupe Manenguba Division (KMD) got its name from Mount Kupe and Mount Manenguba that are found in the area. Created in 1993 with three sub-divisions: Bangem, Nguti and Tombel Sub Divisions, it is bordered to the north by Manyu Division, to the north-east by Lebialem, West by part of Ndian and Meme Divisions and to the south by the Littoral Region. With a total surface area of 3,950 square kilometers, the Division has 189 villages and total population of about 197,171 inhabitants. The area has a population density of 13 persons per square kilometer. Moreover, this area has two alternating seasons which are the dry and rainy seasons. The rainy season begins from March to November, spanning 9 months. Its humidity ranges from 75% to 80% with an average temperature ranging between 210C and 240C.

Although there are multiple ecotouristic attractions and sites in Cameroon that have long fascinated international and domestic travel segments (such as the white and black sandy beaches of Kribi and Limbe respectively and the national parks like Waza, Korup and the Mount Cameroon National Parks), KMD also offers another unique destination in Cameroon for ecotourism/nature lovers. By virtue of its location along the Cameroon Volcanic Line, CVL, the Division plays host to unique nature-based attractions ranging from attractive scenery, lakes, forest reserves, hot springs and water falls amongst others that can motivate the travel market.



The Division has a captivating, picturesque mountainous landscape characterized by mountains/hills, lowlands, valleys and plains. The Manenguba (2,396m) and Kupe (2,050m) Mountains are notable in the area as well as hills such as Edib Hill (600m) that can support mountaineering, other forms of adventure and the possibilities of admiring the rich biodiversity that thrives on the mountains. The Mount Kupe Forest Reserve is for instance unique from other forests in Cameroon because it lies at the transition zone between the equatorial rainforest to sub-montane and montane forests, shrubs and grassland of the Grassfields. It is also reputed as one of the best developed sub-montane forests in West Africa with rich endemic species. Other forest reserves in the area include: the Ekanjo, Bajoh and Bangem Forest Reserves. The forests in KMD harbours primate species: chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, chameleon and big preys. The forests also have rich bird species as evident with the over 329 rare bird species in the Mount Kupe Forest Reserve Though the coming of the Herackles Farms in parts of the Division has threatened the abundance of forest resources in KMD, it has also added agro-tourism potentials by the establishment of oil palm plantations.



There are also lakes such as the Kupe Manenguba Twin Crater Lakes, waterfalls and hot springs that one can also find in parts of the East African Rift Valley. This Manenguba twin lakes are sited at the summit of the Manengubua Mountain caldera, which came as a result of volcanic activity of some 56 to 156 million years ago. The lakes appear to be blue (male) and green (female) in color with lots of cultural heritage amongst the local Bakossi people. The blue/male lake has the shape of an African map and it is bigger than the green/female lake. The male lake supports recreation activities like swimming and fishing. Contrarily to the female lake, the male lake has an out flow and is drained by the River Mungo which in turn supports fishing and sand mining. The green lake is landlocked and no one dares to go into it except for the traditional priest who goes there occasionally to make appeasement and sacrifices for the land of the Bakossi people. Surrounded by the lake is a lush of vegetation which is a savannah type. Nothing falls into the lake and if anything is thrown inside the item simply comes back outside. Besides the twin lakes, KMD also hosts seasonal like the Lake Bermin which is also found in this volcanic area. The Ndepsi Hot Spring and the Kuku Water Fall in Mekom are also captivating features in the area.

The natural vegetation of the area has also seen the indigenous community, Bororos settling in the area for cattle grazing, thereby offering possibilities for travelers to engage in ethnic/traditions tourism. The Bororo settlers graze their cattle on the landscape while the area is blessed with medicinal plants which are used in treating diseases (herbal medicine). The KMD also hosts the all Bakossi Conference (ABC) and the Nguti Cultural and Development Association (NGUSCUDA) which have gradually become shadows of themselves in modern times.



Lamentably, the level of tourist arrivals and accompanying infrastructural developments in this Division evokes the concept of the paradox of plenty because the rich ecotourism attractions have been underexploited to support ecotourism development and its accompanying community-development impact. Ecotourism can therefore be encouraged in this area by the efforts of public and private sector if the area is to take full advantage of the growing 'green market'. Road, hotel and telecommunication infrastructures and representation in the online market place amongst others all lie within the continuum of elements needed to foster ecotourism development in KMD.

(Acha Jude is a student in the department of Tourism Management at Achas University of Tourism and Business Management in Buea – Cameroon)



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EKPE AND OBASINJOM – THE ESSENCE OF CULTURE IN TRADITIONAL LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

By Paul E. Kode

Mamfe - Cameroon

Have you ever wondered why there is no recorded incident related to inter - village or tribal wars in the Manyu Clan? Have you not observed that the typical Manyu man's life is strictly moulded to conform to the social and moral fabric of the laws and customs of his village background? The response to these enigmatic questions and others of their ilk, simply boils down to the well-crafted Code of Conduct (CC) , wisely laid down by their ancestors, centuries ago. The implementation of the CC was inspired by their local deity through such cults as *Ekpe* and *Obasinjom* principally.

The administrative set up of any village in Manyu devolves on the Chief and his able assistants. They are referred to as *Sessekus*.



This title is conferred on the highest ranking members of *Ekpe*. According to the youngest *Sessekou*, Engineer Tambe Abunaw, the centuries old cult was originally created to ensure peace and order in all the villages in Manyu. It is not surprising therefore to note that the history of Manyu does not record any inter - village skirmishes since the inception of *Ekpe*.

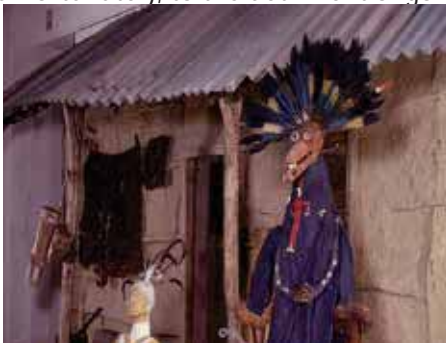
EKPE AND CHRISTIANITY

Sessekou Engineer Tambe Abunaw went on to disclose that the same Ten Commandments inscribed in the Bible are very similar to the laws that operate in *Ekpe*. This coincidence rightfully justifies the enigma. There is only the slight difference in semantics. Hence, there is always the noticeable absence of any serious conflicts in any village where *Ekpe* exists. One myth about the cult is that should an *Ekpe* member happen to go loco, he would never be able to divulge its inner workings. Infact, it is on record that in the sixties, an expatriate priest was once initiated into this age-ole secret society. Till date, he is yet to tell anyone how the cult operates.

OTHER CULTS

Our source (Sessekou Tambe Abunaw) revealed the existence of other cults that govern the social life of the Manyu man, woman and child. The *Obasinjom* for instance, is referred to as the *god of gods* – the supreme one. It is like the apex of all other cults in the Manyu culture. This is not surprising because the prefix, *obase*, means god, in local parlance: while its suffix *njom* denotes moral rectitude.

Hear this intriguing trivia: After a designated dancer donned the *obasinjom* regalia, he insisted to be led to a certain house where two stolen bunches of plantains were concealed. The interpreter tried to dissuade him from denouncing the kleptomaniac, to no avail. When the dancer eventually discarded the gown, he realized the thief was none other than his poor self! Or, this other true incident: the *obasinjom* danced and ordered to be escorted to the residence of a native of the village who had hidden some charms and amulets somewhere in his house. Again, the escorts did all they could to divert him from his focussed objective – no way. The *obasinjom* got into the house and pointed to the exact spot where the charms were hidden. The guides thought that was all. The stubborn ‘dancer’ still went ahead and got into the room. Once in, he pointed his short, blunt ended ritualistic cutlass to the exact spots where more amulets were concealed. Satisfied at last that the home was cleansed of all the charms and amulets, he later doffed the gown only to realise that the incident transpired right in his very own house! This clearly illustrates the important role of the dreaded *god of gods* in a typical Manyu village. There is no doubt, the *Obasinjom* here played out the role of a modern day Scotlandyard detective and produced the expected results, which turned out unfortunately, to the detriment of goring his very own ox.



The youngest Sessekou went on to draw a parallel between *Ekpe* and *Ekpa'a*. Nfor Tambe said, the *Ekpe* is strictly for men while the *Ekpa'a* admits only women. Its role is to settle any disputes that may arise between women folk or between spouses. As for what Nfor Tambe Abunaw called the *Angpou juju*, he described it as the exterminator, or, the ultimate dispenser of justice between men and troublesome spirits that rankle the tranquillity of a village setting. For example, should the ghosts of people who are supposed to have been dead and buried agonize those who are alive, the services of the *Angpou* would be summoned to swiftly restore order and tranquillity in the village. The *Angpou* does this by pursuing, catching and pinning the troublesome ghost to its chest that is laden with nails. Thereafter, the *Angpou* dispenses the ghost by burning it on a funeral pyre, in the village square.

An interesting fact to note is that one must initially declare his Christian affiliation before he is admitted into the Ekpe cult. There is no gainsaying therefore, that Manyu ancestors were in anyway devoid of King Solomon's, coveted priceless gift of – wisdom!

MBARGA NGUELE AND THE REVOLUTION IN THE NATIONAL POLICE CORPS

By Eddy Etawo



The name Martin Mbarga Nguéle and change have virtually become synonymous in police circles in Cameroon. At his appointment on 30th August 2010 as Delegate General for National Security, many observers doubted that the 78-year-old retired six-star senior superintendent of police-turned-diplomat would be up to the task of reforming a police force that was plagued by serious ills.

When he took over, the reputation of the Cameroon Police was at an all-time low: unbridled bribery and corruption, high-handedness, abuse of human rights, harassment of civilian population and inefficiency were some of the abuses attributed to the security forces.

Today, six years down the road, most Cameroonians are agreed that Martin Mbarga Nguéle has, through drastic reforms, improved the image of the Police in Cameroon. In fact, the positive change has revealed that age is no impediment to a clear vision and dynamism. Within a few years, the long-serving diplomat and police Commissioner crafted a series of 15 decrees lately signed by the Head of State which enforced discipline, improved pay advantages, meritocracy in promotions, extension of retirement age from 55 to 60 years for senior officers, introduction of seminars and refresher courses amongst others. He is known to have banished tribalism, nepotism and corruption in police recruitment examinations giving place to meritocracy and objectivity. A lady-five star commissioner of police said of the man "Mbarga Nguéle has changed the police force for the better. In the past, people used to stay the same grade for about 18 years without promotion. But we have many young people who have risen to senior ranks within a short time".



It is important to note that Martin Mbarga Nguete is not heading the police corps in Cameroon for the first time. He already served as Delegate General for National Security from 1983 to 1984, though the period was too short for him to leave any obvious impact. On taking office in 2010, Mbarga Nguete pledged to do two things: “Leave nothing to chance for the police once again to become what it should be” and to “faithfully continue to serve Paul Biya, the Head State”.

Before becoming police boss, Mbarga Nguete had spent a long career as a diplomat, passing through the former Zaire to Brazil where he served as ambassador for 19 years before being appointed ambassador to Spain.

In his recent book, *Defence Policy and National Security in Cameroon* (published in February 2012), Victorin Hameni Bieuleu, one of Cameroon’s opposition political leaders recognises Mbarga Nguete as ‘a brave and patriotic police officer who found himself thrown into the political arena without prior preparation’. There is no gainsaying that Mbarga Nguete’s reforms have brought satisfaction to the police corps that is now happy with its new- found status, privileges and professionalism. Perhaps, the greatest beneficiary of the reforms is the citizenry that now enjoys more liberties and freedoms from a people-friendly Police force. And the timing for this change could not be better than now that Cameroon is preparing to host the African Nations Cup.

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CAMEROON: FCFA 600 BILLION TO DEVELOP DIGITAL ECONOMY

By Eddy Etawo

Douala - Cameroon

Cameroon, economic giant of the CEMAC region will need a colossal Fcfa 600 billion to finance its national plan to develop the digital economy. This was the principal message that filtered out at the end of a meeting organized in Yaoundé August 2016 by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunication Minette Libom Li Likeng.

Even though the elaborate content of the plan commanded at the beginning of the year from CAPGEMINI Consulting and INTERFACE has not yet been made public, we however gathered that priorities of the digital economic development in the country will revolve around the content proposed in that plan.

The elaboration of this development plan finds its origin from prescription by the government of Cameroon through the Head of State President Paul Biya in his 2015 end of year speech. The President called on all his collaborators in the domain to take advantage of all available opportunities to develop the digital economy in the country.

It should be recalled that in its 2016 TIC document entitled ***“Innovations in Numerical Economy.”*** The World Economic Forum (WEF) puts Cameroon at the 124th position on the 139 Countries in the world.

In order to reverse the trend and to derive benefits that go with the development of the digital economy, the government of Cameroon has put as priorities the development of numerical economy, Agro –Industrial development and Energy as top priorities in the Industry Development plan to lead the country to the 2035 emergence dream.

It is expected that the effort to develop a digital economy would be achieved in Cameroon sooner than later especially as the ministry concerned is headed by Minette Libong Li Likeng, a woman who has proven her mettle as a competent and efficient administrator. Her record as Director General of customs for eight years speaks for itself. She has stood out as a devoted, duty-conscious, pro-active manager, qualities that won the admiration of the Head of State and earned her a cabinet position in the government.



***Minister of Posts and Telecommunications,
Minette Libom Li Likeng***

WELCOME TO TANZANIA

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BASIC FACTS:

The United Republic of Tanzania (Kiswahili: Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania), is a country in East Africa; bordered by Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Malawi. Tanzania is a result of the unification of Tanganyika (the mainland) and the Zanzibar islands. Tanganyika and Zanzibar united on 26th April 1964, forming the United Republic of Tanzania.

THINGS TO DO IN TANZANIA

Tanzania offers some of the best attractions to both local and international visitors, such as:

Zanzibar The island of Unguja, part of Zanzibar, makes up the final Spice Island. Once part of the British Empire, today Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania. The major tourist attraction is Stone Town, with its whitewashed coral rag houses.

Climb Mount Kilimanjaro; the highest mountain in Africa, famous for its snow-capped peak looming over the plains of the savannah.

Visit Ngorongoro crater Ngorongoro is formed from a volcano erupting two to three million years ago which has collapsed and formed a crater. It is also presently one of the most likely areas in Africa to see the endangered Black Rhino. This is also a world heritage site.

Serengeti national park is among the best-known big game safari destinations in Africa and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Tanzania. It is famous for its annual wildlife migration of wildebeest and zebra.

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AFRICA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

(In this series titled "Africa: Unity in diversity" we profile the tourism prowess of selected African countries to illustrate the rich diversity and quality of tourist attractions on the continent. The idea is to feature one country from each of the five economic communities (SADC, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS and CENSAD) on the African continent. Hence, in this edition we profile Botswana from the SADC region, Uganda from the EAC, Ghana from ECOWAS, and Tunisia from the CENSAD region).

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC): WELCOME TO BOTSWANA

By Paul N. Acha-Anyi (Dr)

Botswana is a landlocked country bordered by Zambia and Zimbabwe to the Northeast, Namibia to the North and Northwest and South Africa to the South and Southeast. Most of the country (84%) is dominated by the Kalahari Desert. Most of the Kalahari (or Kgalagadi, which is its Setswana name) is covered with vegetation including stunted thorn and scrub bush, trees and grasslands. The largely unchanging flat terrain is occasionally interrupted by gently descending valleys, sand dunes, large numbers of pans and, in the extreme northwest, isolated hills, such as Aha, Tsodilo, Koanaka and Gcwihaba.

In the north-west, the Okavango River flows in from the highlands of Angola and soaks into the sands, forming the 15,000 sq. km network of water channels, lagoons, swamps and islands. The Okavango is the largest inland delta system in the world a bit smaller than Isreal or half of Switzerland. The north-eastern region of the Kalahari Basin contains the Makgadikgadi Pans - an extensive network of salt pans and ephemeral lakes.

The history of Botswana is characterised by migrations of peoples into the country from the north and west and particularly from the east and south, as well as internal movements of groups of people. The group which eventually emerged as most numerous, and dominant, were the Batswana. The term "Batswana" refers to the ethnic group of people who speak the Setswana language and share the Sotho-Tswana culture, while in its common contemporary usage, it refers to all citizens of the Republic of Botswana, regardless of their ethnic background. The singular is "Motswana": a citizen of the country.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Music is the aspect of culture, which has perhaps best survived the onslaught of western influences in Botswana. Both traditional and modern music of numerous ethnic groups from southern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa are heard nearly everywhere you go - in shops, malls, houses, schools, cars, combis, trains, taxis and bars. Music, dance and singing are an integral part of everyday activities and modern-day ceremonies such as weddings and even funerals.



Botswana is well known for having some of the best wilderness and wildlife areas on the African continent. With a full 38 percent of its total land area devoted to national parks, reserves and wildlife management areas – for the most part unfenced, allowing animals to roam wild and free – travel through many parts of the country has the feeling of moving through an immense Nature wonderland.

Experience here the stunning beauty of the world's largest intact inland Delta – the Okavango; the unimaginable vastness of the world's second largest game reserve – the Central Kalahari Game Reserve; the isolation and other-worldliness of the Makgadikgadi. Botswana is the last stronghold for a number of endangered bird and mammal species, including Wild Dog, Cheetah, Brown Hyena, Cape Vulture, Wattled Crane, Kori Bustard, and Pel's Fishing Owl. This makes your safari experience even more memorable, and at times you will feel simply surrounded by wild animals.

The first – and most lasting impressions – will be of vast expanses of uninhabited wilderness stretching from horizon to horizon, the sensation of limitless space, astoundingly rich wildlife and bird viewing, night skies littered with stars and heavenly bodies of an unimaginable brilliance, and stunning sunsets of unearthly beauty.

Some flagship attractions in Botswana



Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park



Khutse Game Reserve



Kolobeng



Okavango Delta

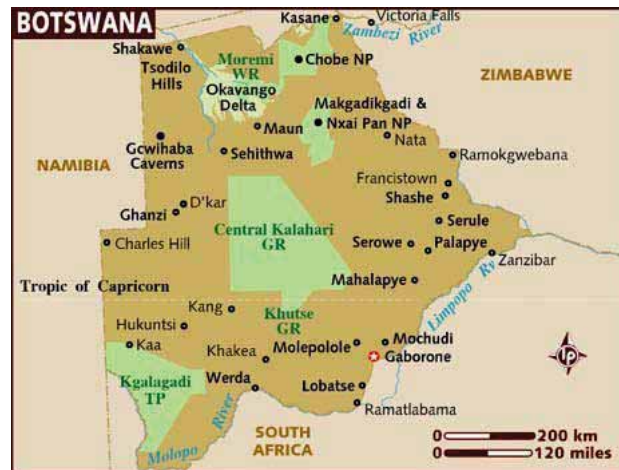


Makgadikgadi Pans National Park



The Kgalagadi

MAP OF BOTSWANA SHOWING THE SPREAD OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



As well, with more and more cultural tourism options on offer, you will be charmed by the people of Botswana, visiting their villages and experiencing first-hand their rich cultural heritage. But perhaps most of all, Botswana's greatest gift is its ability to put us in touch with our natural selves. It offers that vital link so keenly felt by inhabitants of the developed world, a pervasive void we feel but often cannot name – our connectedness with Nature and the astonishing diversity of plants and animals to be explored.

AFRICA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC): WELCOME TO UGANDA

By Gillian A. Nkenganyi

Uganda has been hailed by many experts, including Cable News Network (CNN, 2014) as the miracle baby of African tourism. A baby born into affluence and excellent health, but who suddenly slipped into a deep coma in enemy hands but eventually resurrected to claim its seat among giants of tourism.

Following its independence from Britain in 1962, Uganda emerged with a vibrant democracy, a booming economy and a tourism Eden with splendid natural parks attracting numerous safari lovers. Tourists flanked the banks of the crocodile-infested Nile River, sunbathed while watching fishing on Lake Victoria, wandered with the elephant herds in the Queen Elizabeth National park or simply mused at the roaring mighty Murchison Falls. However, the crowning "Hollywood" moment of this thriving era of Ugandan tourism was the shooting of the movie "African Queen".

Then came the reign of terror overseen by the self-proclaimed Conqueror of the British Empire, Last king of Scotland and "president for life" Idi Amin Dada. Joseph Kony and his lord's resistance army only made an already bad situation worse by unleashing a gruesome reign of terror on both Man and beast. Rebel fighters feasted on all wildlife they could lay hands on and brought the tourism industry to its knees.

However, with the ebbing of the war and the reign of terror, Uganda has again emerged as "Pearl of Africa", bustling with a rich variety of tourist attractions:

Kampala is Uganda's national and commercial capital bordering Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. Hills covered with red-tile villas and trees surround an urban centre of contemporary skyscrapers. In this downtown area, the Uganda Museum explores the country's tribal heritage through an extensive collection of artefacts. On nearby Mengo Hill is Lubiri Palace, the former seat of the Buganda Kingdom.



Kampala, Capital of Uganda

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is in south-western Uganda. The park is part of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and is situated along the Democratic Republic of the Congo border next to the Virunga National Park and on the edge of the Albertine Rift. Composed of 331 square kilometres of both montane and lowland forest, it is accessible only on foot. BINP is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-designated World Heritage Site. Species diversity is a feature of the park. It provides habitat for 120 species of mammals, 348 species of birds, 220 species of butterflies, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos, and many endangered species.



Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Kisoro District, Uganda

The Kazinga Channel in Uganda is a wide, 32-kilometre long natural channel that links Lake Edward and Lake George, and a dominant feature of Queen Elizabeth National Park. The channel attracts a varied range of animals and birds, with one of the world's largest concentration of hippos and numerous Nile crocodiles. Lake George is a small lake with an average depth of only 2.4 metres and which is fed by streams from the Rwenzori Mountains. Its outflow is through the Kazinga Channel which drains into Lake Edward, water levels fluctuating very little. In 2005, large numbers of hippos were killed in the channel as a result of an anthrax outbreak, which occurs when animals eat remnants of vegetation in the driest months, absorbing bacterial spores that can live for decades in dry soil. The channel is described as a popular wildlife tourism area.



KAZINGA CHANNEL CULTURE

The cultural wealth of Uganda is prevalent in the over thirty (30) indigenous languages, the mosaic music, art and craft forms and local cuisine. All these cultural attributes are elegantly exhibited during community and life-stage events such as kingship, birth (especially the birth of twins), marriage, death and so on. Notable festivals and dances to look out for include: tamenhaibunga, eibuga, Busoga, amayebe, enswezi and ekigwo.



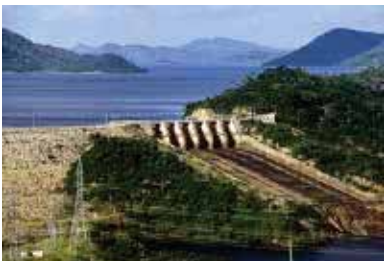
(Gillian A. Nkenganyi is a student in the Department of Tourism Management at Ahas University of Tourism and Business Management in Buea – Cameroon).

WELCOME TO AFRICA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS): WELCOME TO GHANA

*By Nkongndem A. Gugu
Pretoria – South Africa*

Ghana is a true epitome of natural beauty, friendly people, bustling markets, hectic transport hubs and a host of things to entertain, amuse and startle the visitor. Ghana is also a country of great diversity and each of its ten regions has something to offer the traveller; from the mystique and breath-taking scenery of the Northern Region where elephants can be found, to the frenetic activity of Ghana's capital, Accra.

Ghana has ten regions, each with its own culture, customs, food and festivals. The regions are extremely diverse, from the hubbub of Accra to the stunning savannah of the North, each region has something to offer the traveller.



Lake Volta & Akosombo

The Volta Region, dominated by the Lake Volta, is one of Ghana's most beautiful areas. The imposing Akosombo Dam splits the lake, its huge turbines generating electricity for the country.

Volta Basin

Situated in the central part of Ghana, the Volta Basin covers about 45 percent of the nation's total land surface. Its northern section, which lies above the upper part of Lake Volta, rises to a height of 150 to 215 meters above sea level. Elevations of the Konkori Scarp to the west and the Gambaga Scarp to the north reach from 300 to 460 meters. To the south and the southwest, the basin is less than 300 meters. The Kwahu Plateau marks the southern end of the basin, although it forms a natural part of the Ashanti Uplands.



Ecotourism has become popular over the last few years and there are now a few eco lodges in the Axim area. If you are lucky you can watch nesting turtles or even seen migratory whales passing Ghana's coastal waters.

In the capital city, Labadi beach attracts hundreds of beach-goers at the weekend. Drinking spots line the shore and there is often entertainment late into the evening.

Castles and forts

Ghana's castles and forts offer concrete testimony to the drama of human history and stand as witness to one of the world's most tragic events - the Slave Trade.

Cape Coast Castle has seen the passage of numerous foreign powers. Initially constructed as a small trading lodge in the 16th century, the building was subsequently altered and enlarged becoming a substantial fort by 1627. It was later captured by the Swedes and named Fort Carolusberg, finally becoming a British possession in 1664. Cape Coast Castle, through which millions of slaves were shipped to the Caribbean and the United States, became the seat of British colonial administration until 1877 when government offices moved to Christiansborg Castle in Accra.

The cannons still face seaward, stirring the imagination to scenes of exploration, discovery and great tragedy. The Museum of West African History, currently under development in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution of the United States, brings into sharp focus the role that these great structures played in the meeting of two cultures. As you wander the ramparts of Cape Coast Castle in the salt air, the view is a visual feast. Traditional customs - the mending of nets and launching of painted fishing canoes, continue side-by-side with the new - impromptu soccer games and the hustle and bustle of business. Cape Coast Castle is alive with the human spirit.

Ten kilometers west on a promontory visible from a great distance, Elmina Castle is the earliest known European structure in the tropics. Built in 1482 by the Portuguese during early world exploration, the castle was taken over by the Dutch in 1637, who retained control for 274 years. Inside the vast fortification is the location of the first Catholic Church in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Castle's damp, unlit dungeons served as horrific holding areas for the human cargo of the infamous slave trade.

Fort St. Jago is within walking distance. It is from this vantage point that the Dutch launched their successful land attack on Elmina Castle. Unlike other forts in the area, Fort St. Jago was not used for trading activities. Its primary purpose was to provide military protection to Elmina Castle. Be sure to bring your camera. The hill on which Ft. St. Jago stands provides an excellent view of Elmina Castle, the Atlantic Ocean, and the buzz of commercial activity at the Elmina fishing harbor.

Guided tours of Cape Coast and Elmina Castles are available. Cultural and theatrical performances are often staged here. Prominent among these are the re-enactment of the horrors of the slave trade as well as a solemn, touching portrayal of the final journey of the Africans as they walked through the hellish dungeons into the awaiting ships that transported them to the Americas.

NATIONAL PARKS

Ghana's unspoilt natural beauty offers diverse species of birds, butterflies and mammals such as monkeys. Large game like elephants can be seen at Mole National Park while hippos can be viewed at Bui National Park by canoe. For monkeys, camp overnight at Kakum National Park and wake up at dawn to them having breakfast in the treetops.

Ghana's national parks and reserves are controlled by the Ghana Wildlife Division and the Forestry Commission of Ghana. Most national parks, sanctuaries and reserves have a government office run by staff of the divisions.

Ghana has large and viable populations of wildlife and wild assets that support a growing eco-tourism industry to complement the nation's strong cultural and historical attractions. A visit to Ghana's wildlife parks and other protected areas is like walking into an interesting world of nature. Fortunately for the eco-tourism world, Ghana is only 6 hours from Europe and several airlines link Ghana to the Americas by direct flights.

Ghana has 18 wildlife-protected areas, the most renowned of which are indicated on the map below:



Nature enthusiasts, students, volunteers and researchers have found out how much Ghana offers by way of wildlife and wildlife habitats some of which offer good opportunities for adventure.

AFRICA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY COMMUNITY OF SAHEL-SAHARAN STATES (CENSAD): WELCOME TO TUNISIA

By Ayanda Mnisi

Tourism has become one of the main sources of income for Tunisia as millions of people flock in from all over the world. Tunisia's attractiveness to a vast number of both domestic and international tourists stems from the country's unique attributes which make it a rich melting pot of a favourable climate, golden beaches, rich history and shopping.

When you also consider the cost of Tunisia – visiting is an absolute no-brainer for most people. All of the above factors arrive at a much lower cost in comparison to other destinations and it means that since the turn of the millennium, tourism has boomed.

Beaches in Tunisia

First and foremost, let's not forget the Mediterranean-factor which offers tourists the opportunity to bask in glorious temperatures, whilst sitting on any of the umpteen golden beaches that the country offers.



History in Tunisia

Tunisian history is as big a pull factor for many tourists as its beautiful beaches. Tunisia offers visitors some of the most intriguing historical sites in the world and on the whole, these have been preserved fantastically well.



From the famous amphitheatre that has staged some of the most renowned movies in the world such as *Gladiator*, to ancient towns which have hosted the *Star Wars* set – many people don't realise how much the country has to offer. Other fascinating attractions are:

El Jem Amphitheatre – This is arguably the most famous attraction in Tunisia. The strict preservation of this amphitheatre offers visitors the opportunity to get a feel for what life used to be like for Roman gladiators. It's also worth mentioning that this is the third largest amphitheatre in the world – it can hold 35,000 spectators.

Matmata – This is a “Must see” attraction for all *Star Wars* enthusiasts. Matmata is a small village in South Tunisia, focussing on caves which are used as homes. It has been used as a filming location for *Star Wars*.

Dougga – Dougga offers guests a bit of everything, from a forum, amphitheatre to public baths – with some of the sites dating back to the second or third century BC. This is yet another UNESCO World Heritage site in Tunisia.

Sousse Medina – Enclosed by Sousse's city walls, this medina is certainly one of the more interesting ones in Tunisia. It's ideal for any shopping enthusiasts and is yet another historic attraction that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Shopping in Tunisia



The Tunisian shopping experience is somewhat different from other areas as “local” shopping is centered more around crafts and other cultural items, rather than visiting the big brand shops.

Many cities worth visiting include Tunis, Monastir, Djerba, Hammamet and Sousse.



(Ayanda Mnisi is a final year National Diploma student in the Department of Tourism Management, Tshwane University of Technology – Pretoria – South Africa)

THE AFRICAN HAIR-DO BUSINESS

The beauty of a woman lies on her hair. A woman may put on fancy clothes, carry expensive designer bags and sophisticated make up, but if her hair is untidy, her entire beauty is concealed. This probably explains why women are ready and much willing to pay huge sums of money for their hair. Women and young girls visit the saloon regularly for their hair to be taken care of. Some women change their hair styles as often as two weeks whereas others do so once every month. The overall objective is to change looks in order to feel beautiful and remain attractive.

The increasing desire by women and young girls to remain beautiful has caused the hairdo business to grow rapidly across the African continent. In every quarter or neighbourhood in African countries, hair saloons can be spotted at every corner to meet up with the needs of African women. These hair saloons range from moderate to expensive and then classy. The amount of money paid will depend on the quality of services rendered to the client.

There exist several types of hair dos and new styles are being created each day. Some of the styles are a modification of styles that already existed many centuries ago. Women consider several things before concluding on a particular hair style. A good number of them consider the weather before choosing their desired styles. During the dry season for example, there is so much heat causing discomfort. This explains why some women shy away from wigs and instead go for braiding which leaves the hair airy. Some who wear wigs during the dry season go for the very short ones. Hair styles are also motivated by occasions. Important occasions, events and celebrations usually require some degree of sophistication whereas informal outings with friends will require something rather simple.

Today, huge sums of money are being generated from the hairdo business. The sales of equipment such as dryers, wigs, needles, relaxers, combs, extensions, mirrors, oils, gels, sprays and several others contribute greatly to the economy of countries.

One of the most sought after commodities in Africa as far as hairdo is concerned are human hair. Human hair has better quality, texture and strength and it looks natural unlike synthetic which has a lesser quality and may look very fake if not well placed. Many African companies and even individuals spend huge amounts of money to import human hair from India, Bresil and other countries. In fact, demand is so high that there is a push by many Indian companies to not only export hair, but to invest in hair care businesses in the continent itself. Africa is a prime market for Indian hair. John-Paul Iwuoha asserts that every year, the value of trade in shampoos, relaxers and hair lotions in Nigeria, South Africa and Cameroon is over \$1.1 billion. This figure does not even include sales in other 40+ Sub-Saharan countries.

The hair do business also contributes greatly to employment and especially self-employment as many youth upon graduation open their salons. Despite the poverty levels and low standards of living in Africa, significant amount of money is spent on importing hair care products every year.



BEKO SADEY: KRIBI'S NIGHTINGALE AND SPORTS STAR

By Eddy Etawo

Douala - Cameroon

Many would hardly know that the famous dictum “un seul mot: continuer!” was coined by Cameroon music icon, Kribi's Nightingale and Cameroon's international handball player – Beko Sadey. The former Indomitable Lions handball player plied her trade with Cami Toyota Handball Club in Douala. She was a handball player in the team that beat Nigeria in Benin at the African Handball Championship in 1979. Sadey has not only been fiery in the artistic domain but is also a model to Cameroonian youths who today have taken sports as a livelihood.

The late Henri Bandolo , Yao Aissato, Chantal Biya and others were all full of praises for the legendary music icon and sports woman. The late Fon Doh of Bali crowned her with the title “Na Woteba” which means “Queen of Cameroon music”. The legendary Manu Dibango has this to say about her, “Beko Sadey has held high the colors of Cameroon music. She has fostered and promoted the cultural values of beloved Mother Cameroon, Africa and beyond. At this time of artistic misery, her resilience, talent, and will power to remain steadfast to the calling, calls for admiration by all”.

The Cameroonian Musician and Singer recorded her first Album in the United States of America under the Independent Label of Ameri-cam Production Inc. She sings in English, French , Korean , Batanga , Douala , Lingala etc... Her songs are basically centered on the day to day social problems in Cameroon, Africa and the world. Sadey sings many musical genres ranging from Makossa , Reggae, Wrapp , Afro-bit, ballads , Bitkutsi, Zaiko and Blues. Her music depicts African Folklore. The music is fast and requires a lot of energy to dance. The music is a combination of most African rhythms and danced mostly with the waist. The music has a lot to do with the “soca” musical genre in the Caribbean.

Beko's music has always been used to encourage the lions during international football competitions. In the 1994 world Cup, she was amongst the artists selected to encourage the Lions in the United States of America. Her music is equally very noticeable in this year's AWFCON 2016 organized in Cameroon. From the look of things, the music icon still has a lot in store for her fans in Cameroon, Africa and the world.



REVISITING THE 2016 FEMALE AFCON

Football is no doubt one of the greatest sports that pulls crowds and unites a great number of people across the globe. Though football has in the past been dominated by men, women are continuously proving that they can play it as well. The world football governing body, FIFA, also continues to make great strides in creating opportunities for women and girls to show their talents.

Women's football is the most prominent team sport played by women around the globe. Women participate at both the national and international levels. About 176 national teams participate internationally in competitions. FIFA organizes several women's football competitions. The prominent international competitions include: FIFA Women's World Cup, Algarve Cup, UEFA Women's Championship, Copa America Femenina, CONCACAF Women's Championship, AFC Women's football Tournament, African Women's Championship and OFC Women Championship.

The African Women's Championship is an international women's football competition held every two years and sanctioned by the Confederation of African Football (CAF). This competition serves as a qualifying tournament for the FIFA Women's World Cup. Nigeria has won 10 titles and is the most successful nation at the tournament.

This year and for the first time, Cameroon hosted the 10th edition of the African Women's Football Championship. Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Zimbabwe and South Africa were engaged in a heated battle for the title of best female football team on the African Continent. Mali replaced Equatorial Guinea after they were disqualified for fielding an ineligible player.

The mascot of the competition was a lioness named Lili which was clothed in green, red and yellow colours of the Cameroon flag and holding on its right hand the official match ball of the tournament. The logo was the African map with a star in the position of Cameroon. The anthem which was recorded in France features as lead singers Charlotte Dipanda and Richard Kings, including some other musicians. The song amongst other things celebrates women and their achievements.

After the draw for the final tournament of the competition which took place on 18 September 2016, the teams were divided into two groups. Group A included: Cameroon, Egypt, South Africa and Zimbabwe while Group B included: Nigeria, Ghana, Mali and Kenya. The tournament was played in Yaounde - Centre Region and Limbe - South West Region of the country.

The opening ceremony of the competition held on 19 November 2016 with a choreographic display showcasing the diversified culture of the Cameroonian people, referred to as "Africa in miniature".

The inaugural match was a heated encounter between host nation Cameroon and the Pharaohs of Egypt. Cameroon kicked started the competition in grand style by defeating Egypt two goals to zero. After close to two weeks of intense and fierce competition, and with each country trying to defend their national colours, Cameroon and South Africa qualified in group A while Nigeria and Ghana qualified for semi-finals in group B.

Thanks to the tactics of Raissa Feudjio who scored a goal, Cameroon defeated Ghana one goal to zero to secure their position at the finals. Nigeria on her part defeated South Africa in a fascinating match one goal to zero.

Cup holders -Nigeria and host nation -Cameroon met again at the finals after Nigeria defeated Cameroon two goals to zero at the finals in 2004. Many saw this as an opportunity for Cameroon to avenge the super eagles of Nigeria especially given that they were playing on home soil. Unfortunately, not even Gaelle Enganamouit or Aboudi Onguene was able to score a decisive goal for the lionesses. Both teams played with a lot of tactic and determination to win and they both had a wonderful defence. Cameroon boasted a defence that had yet to be breached in the tournament and the super Falcons of Nigeria had conceded only one goal which resulted from a penalty in their draw with Ghana.

Nigerian player Desire Oparanozie, scored a late but crucial goal and therefore retained the trophy they won in Namibia two years ago.





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