

## Impact of crime on sustainable tourism in Cross River State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

The rehabilitation, development of tourism potentials and the recent introduction of the biggest carnival event in Cross River State has constituted a great threat to residents and tourists who have interest to visit Cross River State and Calabar in particular as a tourism destination. Today, the carnival event in Cross River State has turned the State Capital Calabar into a crime prone environment which is the major concern of this research to critically assess the impact of crime rate on sustainable tourism. Eight major streets were used to investigate crime rate and within the eight sampled streets, three major resorts were selected in three major streets. Data on crime rate in the eight streets and in the three resorts environment were obtained from police crime records. More so, two hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed each to the two local government area. Findings show that December recorded the highest crime rate against tourists and residents in the areas. Besides, it was noticed that Tinapa Resort environment recorded the highest number of crime against tourists which show that residents in the Tinapa area are more vulnerable and victimised by perpetrators of crime in the area

**Key Words:** Destination, Crime Destination, Resort, Tourism,

### Introduction

Today, many scholars in the tourism industry advocate that being safe on holiday is an expected requirement for any visitor in a tourist destination. However, it has been observed that Places that develop an unsafe reputation can be substituted by alternative destinations that are perceived as safer for tourists. Beyond the obviously unsafe places in the world, where governments advise against travel, individuals must make up their own minds about where to go on holiday. It has been noticed that one of the distinctive features of the tourism industry is that we cannot 'test-drive' a holiday beforehand. Furthermore, judgments about where to travel are often made on the basis of imperfect knowledge and generalization, and tourists learn about destinations from brochures, adverts and the media (Smith, 1989; Brunt, 1997). Many people are of the opinion any tourist destination must offer certain facilities and services such as accommodation, food, laundry and also security (Crompton, 1979; Krippendorf, 1987). Accordingly, a lot of people do not consider the issue of crime when planning holidays this has caused problems in most tourism destinations in the world (Brunt *et al.*, 2000). Besides, people would probably prefer not to think about this, and certainly the tourism industry does not even capture most of these issues during its planning process. Whilst it is true that only a minority of tourists suffer criminal victimization while on holiday, it is important to explore variations in the crime experiences of different tourist types. It is observed that Crime patterns vary according to factors such as the nature of tourism, its scale, and the type of development, the season, as well as variations relating to the tourists themselves and issues associated with their behaviour. In Cross River State especially Calabar the state capital city witness a high increase in tourist arrivals owing to its geographical location and the presence of both natural and man-made attractions. Besides, the introduction of the big carnival event in Cross River State has led to an increase in crime situations ranging from robbery, assault, murder, kidnapping and burglary. Furthermore, the rehabilitation and development of the tourism potentials in Calabar has led to the emergence of other industries such as hotels, restaurants, bars and night clubs which provide services needed by tourists and other fun seekers that visit Calabar as a tourist destination. Today, it is surprising to note that most streets within the hotspots locations where these industries are located are prone to high crime rates such that most tourists and residents find themselves being robbed and their belongings taken away and at the same time leaving them with no option than for them to return back to their destination of origin. More so, during the carnival event which comes up in December every year, crime such as rape, assault, robbery seem to dominate the entire areas and in most cases the major streets constitute a harbor for cultists, armed robbers and kidnapers who either rape, kidnap tourists, fun seekers or snatch their belongings. Apart from this, no adequate measures have been put in place to arrest the perpetrators of crime and

even when security measures are provided, no proper documentation is made with respect to the types of crime and the victims wish is the main purpose of this research to critically assessed the crime rate in Calabar, the capital city of Cross River State with specific reference to evaluating the types and the estimated crime reported in eight major streets, monthly crime reported and the most vulnerable groups in the area.

### **Tourism, Crime, and Crime Prevention Theories**

Limited theories and research are available to aid and explain the relationship between tourism and crime. In fact, Pizam (1996, pg 12) cites that “only a small number of empirical studies have explained the relationship between tourism and crime”. Schiebler et al. (1996) and Crotts (1996) recognized two theories called routine activities theory and hot spot theory to offer potential insight into the relationship between tourism and crime. Routine activities theory states that criminal acts are routine activities for offenders. Three elements are required for the crime to take place: a suitable victim or target, a motivated offender, usually someone who has adopted a criminal lifestyle, and a relative absence of “capable guardians”—law enforcement officers, security guards, etc. to police tourist areas. The key to minimizing crimes, according to the routine activities theory, is increasing the presence of law enforcement in tourist areas. The hot spot theory focuses on the locations which “provide convergent opportunities in which predatory crimes can occur” (Crotts, 1996). Ryan and Kinder (1996) refer to hotspots as “crimogenic” places containing bars, nightclubs, and strip joints catering to tourists. Tourists visiting these areas are more likely to be victimized by crime (de Albuquerque & McElroy, 1999).

### **Crime and Tourism Studies**

In order to better understand the relationship between tourism and crime, researchers have conducted studies that look at crime characteristics, tourism destinations most vulnerable to crime, tourism destinations where a considerable amount of crime occurs, and the type and amount of law enforcement personnel located in these areas. According to Prideaux (1996), a number of studies have been undertaken in an attempt to discover the effect that crime has on tourism; however, researchers have yet to succeed in identifying those elements within destinations which encourage an increase in criminal activity. Crimes committed against tourists effect tourism by damaging the destination’s image. Crimes committed against tourists effect tourism by damaging the destination’s image. To illustrate his argument, Prideaux (1996) presents what he refers to as “The Tourism Crime Cycle.” The basic assertion of “The Tourism Crime Cycle” is that crime is related to the image created and the type of marketing undertaken. Prideaux used two types of destinations to support his argument. He represented these destinations as Hedonistic destinations and Family Values destinations. Hedonistic destinations were represented as adult destinations where tourist could experience “...adventure, romance, escapism and sex.” Examples of Hedonistic destinations include Cairns and the Gold Coast in Australia. Family Values destinations marketed family vacations that consisted of activities for all age groups. An example of this type was the Sunshine Coast in Australia. The study revealed that the destinations marketed as Hedonistic destinations experienced more crime than the destinations marketed as Family Values destinations. Thus, Glenson and Peak (2004) found that “the most important prerequisite for a successful tourism industry is a reputation for keeping crime under control and guaranteeing tourists’ safety.” The media plays an important role in the perception that people have regarding a specific estimation. Crimes are sometimes over reported or not reported in proportion that is consistent with the risks. Tourists contribute to these risks by participating in what Glenson and Peak (2004) refer to as “vacation behaviors.” This includes participating in excesses and dangerous practices in sport and leisure activities such as driving, gaming, and drinking. Additionally, tourists carry large sums of money, visit dangerous locations at night, leave property in view, and look like tourist (Glensor and Peak, 2004) Thus, Glenson and Peak (2004) found that “the most important prerequisite for a successful tourism industry is a reputation for keeping crime under control and guaranteeing tourists’ safety.” The media plays an important role in the perception that people have regarding a specific estimation. Crimes are sometimes over reported or not reported in proportion that is consistent with the risks. Tourists contribute to these risks by participating in what Glensor and Peak (2004) refer to as “vacation behaviors.” This includes participating in excesses and dangerous practices in sport and leisure activities such as driving, gaming, and drinking. Additionally, tourists carry large sums of money, visit dangerous locations at night, leave property in view, and look like tourist (Glensor and Peak, 2004). In 1993, as crime committed against tourist were hyped and sensationalized by the media creating the perception that this crime against tourist was out of control, there grew a need for more reliable data about crimes committed against tourists. Schiebler, Crotts, and Hollinger conducted a study that examined the

prevalence of crimes against tourists in the most popular destinations in Florida in 1993 They examined serious crime incidents committed against short term visitors who did not maintain part time residences in Florida since that fit the closest definition of tourists. The authors also attempted to identify some of the correlation between criminal victimization of tourists and social and environmental factors. The authors used the “Routine Activities” and “Hot Spots” theories to examine causation. Pelfrey (1998) used the Uniformed Crime Reports (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to evaluate the relationship between the number of tourists visiting Honolulu and Las Vegas and the types and patterns of crimes over time. The research findings failed to adequately explain the variation in violent crimes from 1982 to 1993. The study failed to reveal any significant correlation among violent crimes in Las Vegas, while Honolulu showed an inverse relationship between the number of visitors and violent crimes. The study by Pelfrey (1998) suggests that factors other than the number of tourists may explain the variations in the relationship between crime and tourism in Honolulu and Las Vegas. It may prove useful to explore social, economic, and demographic factors present at these destinations. These studies show that when tourists visit destinations where there is a high crime rate there is likelihood that tourists will become victims; however, the probability is different based on location Deployment of law enforcement personnel may help ease the fears of tourists; however, their presence alone does not necessarily yield a reduction in offenses against tourists. As a result, in order to reduce

Crime against tourist, law enforcement must find ways to arrest and remove offenders and potential offenders from the equations

### **Methodology**

This study was conducted in Cross River State taking into consideration Calabar the state capital which consist of two Local Government Areas such as include Calabar South and Municipality. Information on crime rate was obtained from eight streets and three resorts environment (hotspots) area in the two Local Government Areas between 2010 and 2011. The hotspots area include locations where resort centre, night clubs, bar and hotels are found and usually tourist are attracted to these environment due to the services rendered by these industry. Although, this study only considered eight major streets within which three resorts environment were sampled. The rationale for picking the eight streets and for using three resorts environment was base on the fact that the eight streets constitute the major streets where crime occurs in the area and the three selected resorts constitute the only resort environment with high crime rate within the eight sampled streets and usually are locations where tourist and other fun-seekers visit for recreation and for leisure. Data such as the rate and types of crime against tourist and other fun-seekers in eight streets were obtained from crime records in the police station while on type of crime and those vulnerable to such crime were obtained from resorts operators and heads of household. Four hundred copies of questionnaire were administered to heads of household in the two local government area residents in the resorts environment using random sampling technique and information such as types and the most vulnerable groups in the area were in the questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using analyses of variance (ANOVA) which try to investigate if or not there was a variation in the mean difference in the monthly crime rate between the three resorts in 2010 to 201 in the study area

### **Findings**

The estimated crime rate in selected streets around hotspots area show that 44.35% crime committed in area was burglary followed by breaking of stores with a value of 43.02% while kidnapping and armed robbery were on the least side with values of 1.15% and 9.11% respectively. However, it was observed in table 1 that out of two hundred and fifty two crime cases recorded in the eight street selected, Ekpo Abasi street recorded over six hundred and nine crime situation which show a percentage total of 21% crime rate followed by Azikiwe with five hundred and sixty five cases which indicate 19.82% crime situation in the area. Although other streets such as Edimotop, Inyang- Edem , and Ikot-oduak recorded over 17.01%,15.30% and10.56% crimes ranging from burglary, armed robbery, murder, store breaking and kidnapping. Nevertheless,1.72% and 6.24% crime were committed in the streets of Barracks road and Asuquo-Inyong which was on the least side compared to crime rate in other streets under investigation.

**Table 1: Estimated crimes rate in hotspots area(2010-2011)**

Local Govt Area	Burglary	Armed Robbery	Kidnapping	Store Breaking	Murder	Total	Percentage Total
Azikwe	254	36	3	259	13	565	19.82
Inyang Edem	195	42	2	194	4	437	15.33
Edimtop	249	24	4	206	2	485	17.01
Ekpo-Abasi	285	29	8	269	18	609	21.36
Target	99	21	2	101	3	226	7.92
AsuquoInyong	67	22	2	85	2	178	6.24
Barracks-Road	8	21	3	15	2	49	1.72
Ikot-Oduak	108	65	9	98	21	301	10.57
Total	1265=44.35%	260 = 9.11%	33 = 1.15%	1227 = 43.02%	67 = 12.34%	2852	100

Source: Field survey (2011)

### Crime rate in resorts environment

The crime rate recorded in resort environment as hotspots zone indicated in table 2 show that 48.29% and 46.63% in the study area occurred in Tinapa Resort and Aqua Vista environment. This could be base on the fact that this area is made up low income groups, unemployed and are located at the urban fringes with low security. However the monthly crime rate recorded in the resorts area revealed that 32% and 10.6% of crime were committed during November and December 2010. However, this could be base on the fact that these two months constitute the festive period which is usually accompany with events.

Besides, it was observed in table 2 that September and October were another in 2010 with over 8.6% and 8% crime rate recorded in that year. Accordingly, the crime situation was low in the Orange resort environment and in the month of March in 2010 with values of 5.07% and 3.3% respectively

**Table.2 Monthly crime rate in resorts environment in Calabar(2010)**

Months	Aqua vista Resort	Tinapa Resort	Orange Resort	Total	Percentage Total
January	23	42	9	74	5.6
February	29	23	2	54	4.0
March	18	23	2	43	3.3
April	41	61	2	104	7.8
May	29	38	2	69	5.2
June	32	42	1	75	5.7
July	28	28	3	59	4.5
August	29	30	1	60	4.5
September	63	49	2	114	8.6
October	49	49	8	106	8.0
November	69	59	12	140	10.6
December	206	194	23	423	32.0
Total	616 =46.63%	638 =48.29%	67 =5.07%	1321	100

Source: Field survey (2011)

Nevertheless, the monthly crime rate in 2011 presented in table 4 indicate that out of the three resorts used for this study, 59.64% and 38.57% of crime were committed in Tinapa resort and Aqua Vista environment while only 1.78% was recorded in Orange resort environment. It was observed on monthly bases that over six hundred seventy six and four hundred and ninety crime cases reported in the month of December and November which indicate values on 30.185 and 21.87% crime rate in the area. Nevertheless, the crime rate reported between 2010 to 2011 revealed the Tinapa Resort and Orange Resort environment the major hotspots location which witness high crime rate especially during November and December periods usually characterized with event in Calabar

**Table.4 Monthly crime rate in resorts environment in Calabar (2011)**

Months	Aqua vista	Tinapa Resort	Orange Resort	Total	Percentage Total
January	21	29	1	51	2.36
February	17	36	0	53	2.36
March	28	29	2	59	2.63
April	32	45	0	77	3.43
May	42	65	2	109	4.86
June	12	67	3	82	3.66
July	49	75	2	126	5.35
August	43	76	2	121	5.40
September	32	58	0	90	4.01
October	102	201	3	306	13.66
November	211	273	6	490	21.87
December	275	382	19	676	30.18
Total	864 38.57%	1336 59.64%	40 1.78%	2240	100

Source: Field survey (2011)

Furthermore, analysis of variance was used to examine if there is any significant variation in the monthly crime rate in 2010 to 2012 between the three resorts centres and the result presented in table 3 show that the probability level ( $p = 0.01$ ) was greater than 0.009, which show that there is a significant variation in the monthly crime rate in the various resort environment

**Table 3: ANOVA result of the variation in monthly crime rate in the resorts environment**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	71704.889	2	35852.444	5.404	.009
Within Groups	218955.333	33	6635.010		
Total	290660.222	35			

Source: SPSS Window Output Version 17.0

#### The vulnerable group in the area

The major group that were vulnerable to crime presented in table 5 show that 57.11% of tourists were vulnerable to crime compared to the residents with a value 43%. Table 4 also indicate that tourists were more vulnerable to crime during December and November with values 18.54% and 15.06% compared to the residents with values 15.66% and 9.46% while October and January also recorded a high percentage of tourists and residents that were vulnerable to crime as presented in table 5. However, it was observed in table 5 that 6.96% and 3.10% of both tourist and residents were vulnerable to crime situation in the resorts environment in 2010. However, it has been observed those tourist is the major victims that are usually attacked by the perpetrators of crime in the area

**Table.5 The vulnerable in the resorts environment in Calabar (2010)**

Monthly	Tourists	Percentage	Residents	Percentage
January	92	6.96	41	3,10
February	51	3.84	31	2.34
March	29	2.19	18	1.36
May	25	1.43	20	1.51
June	18	1.36	19	1.43
July	11	0.83	29	2.19
August	23	1.75	31	2.34
September	20	1.51	24	1.74
October	23	1.74	98	7.41
November	199	15.06	125	9.40
December	245	18.54	201	15.22
Total for 2002	755 57.11%	<b>100</b>	566 43%	100

Source: Field survey (2011)

Furthermore, 2011 also show the same scenario in terms of vulnerability as indicated in table 6. However, 62.67% tourists were vulnerable crime as compared to residents with value 37.32%. Table 6 show that tourists were more vulnerable to crime in December, November and and October with values 15.84%, 11.78% and 8.43% while residents had values of 11.21%, 9.06% which was on the least side. Besides it was discovered that the month of January tourists and residents were exposed to crime in hotspots location as observed in 2010 and 2011 in the study area.

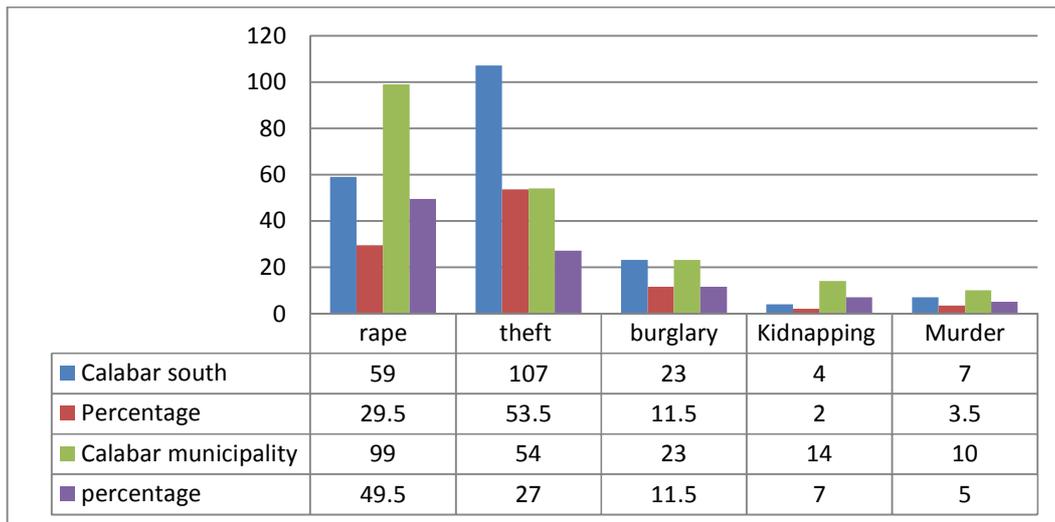
**Table.6 The vulnerable in resorts environment in Calabar (2011)**

Monthly	Tourist	percentage	Residents	Percentage
January	145	6.47	104	4,64
February	84	3.75	50	2.23
March	65	2.90	41	1.85
April	21	0.93	25	1.16
May	43	1.91	27	1.20
June	22	0.98	19	0.84
July	51	2.27	21	0.93
August	95	4.24	15	0.66
September	70	3.13	24	1.07
October.	189	8.43	56	1.60
November	264	11.78	203	9.06
December	355	15.84	251	11.21
Total for 2002	1404 62%	100	836 37.52%	100

Source: Field survey (2011)

### Types of crime in the area

The crime rate captured in the questionnaires presented in table 7 show that 29.5 and 49.5% of the population sampled in Calabar south and Municipality agreed that rape was the major committed against tourist in the area followed by theft with values Calabar south 53.5% and Calabar Municipality 27.0%. Although, other crime such as burglary, kidnapping and murder were also witness against tourist in the area. Besides, it was noticed that kidnapping and murder was on the least side in both local government area. Nevertheless, theft against tourist were on the high side in Calabar south with a high value of 53.5% compared to other variables



Source: Field survey (2011)

### Recommendations and Conclusion

Today, the development, rehabilitation of existing potentials and the overwhelming influenced of the big carnival festival event which welcome fun-seekers and which occurred December of every year in Calabar has led to increase in the rate of tourist inflow in Calabar. Although, in spite of the influence of the carnival and the tourism potentials in economic development the destination, the destination was not devoid of crime against tourists and residents especially within the hotspots location which are usually characterized with great tourism activities as evidenced in the monthly crime rate recorded in the resorts location in the study area. Besides, it was discovered that the rate of crime against tourist and resident varies over the years as observed in the data obtained between 2010 to 2011 in the study area. Therefore, this study recommends the following measures if crime situation in Calabar must be minimized.

1. The government and other security agencies most provide a sound measures that guarantee the safety of tourist in Calabar.
2. Operators of resorts centres should provide adequate security around their business environment
3. Intelligence personal should be deployed to those hotspots environment so as to monitored unnecessary movement around the area
4. Vigilante groups should be constituted and charged with the responsibility of ensuring security in their domain
5. The perpetrators of crime should be arrested, punished and charge to court. This would help eliminate those perpetrators of crime in the area

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