

Culturicide, the Encumbrance to Tourism Sustainability in Nigeria.

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Abstract: The country Nigeria has been a theatre of genocide though more pronounced in the northern part of the country than the rest of the land. Over Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand (350,000) people have been killed since 2009. About Three Million (3,000,000) people are being displaced. Genocide massacres have targeted Christians in Southern Kaduna, Plateau, Yobe, and north central. This has later shifted to Hausa origin. Both Nigerians and Foreigners have been kidnapped, raped and put on ransom by these Fulani Jihadists, ISWAP, Boko Haram, etc. The objectives of this research work are to bewray the impediment to tourism development and sustenance in Nigeria, and to suggest the workable solution to the obstacle. This is a survey research work in its design, it is a quantitative work that made use of both primary and secondary data. The total sample was four hundred and the sampling technique used was simple random sampling. Special Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) was used for the analyses, using Chi-square inferential statistics, the findings showed cultural genocide against Nigerians which debar foreign tourists from trooping into the country. The research work concluded with a suggestion of a synergy in both local hunters, military, and international support in military operations against terrorists that are hindering the development and sustenance of tourism in Nigeria.

Keywords: Bewray, Genocide, Impediment, Military-Operation, Sustainability

I. Introduction

People living in the hot deserts of the world especially Sahara Desert; Arabian desert; Than desert; Gobi; Australian; and Syrian desert etc. are seldomly stable these modern days. They often migrate to succulent or lush environment (Oloyede, 2019; Oloyede et al, 2018). Some of these migrants are deserts Marauders, Bandits, the Arab warrior and raiders. They move to different locations and continents to cause mayhems, ruckus or rumpus especially in the developing countries of Africa and Asia. Oloyede (2019) indicated that these desert marauders tramped into Nigeria from northern Cameroun, Chad, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Mauritius, Sudan to mention a few. They are called different names viz-ISWAP, Insurgents, Boko haram, Jihadists, etc.

Oloyede et al (2025) described them as being villainous and nefarious probably due to the harsh condition of where they left. They live in the forest from where they come out to attack innocent citizens of Nigeria. Series of such are itemized thus: PM News (2025) reported that ISWAP killed 23 farmers, fishermen in Borno community. Kingimi (2025) also reported that militants killed 5 soldiers in attacks on two Nigerian bases. On June 5, a large group of assailants attacked St. Francis Xavier Catholic church Owo, Ondo state, southwest, Nigeria. They killed over 40 worshippers including children. The following month-July 5, there was an attack in Kujemedium security not too far to Abuja international airport, Abuja more than one thousands of inmates and sixty terrorists were set free.

Country reports on terrorism (2022), Mukwam (2025) reported that insurgents comprise of Boko haram and ISWAP launched attacks in Borno twelve (12) times in three weeks, scores of soldiers and civilians were killed.

In its report GCERF (2025) stated that Nigeria has faced with violent insurgencies for decades, she is 6th of the global terrorism index and 6% of global terrorism deaths in 2023. Since 2007, over 11,000 people have been brutally killed and millions displaced especially in northeast, northwest and north central. Institute of economics and peace (2025) explained the global terrorism index as the measures of direct and indirect impact of terrorism which include its effects on lives host, injuries, properties damaged and the psychological aftereffects.

This is a composite score which classify countries according to impact of terrorism from zero (o or no impact) to 10 (highest impact). Nigeria therefore was ranked 9.12 in 2025; 7.09 in 2002, 7.58 in 2023, 7.66 in 2024 etc. Nagesh (2022) reported in his genocide emergency report that Fulani jihadists massacred 215 Christians in just one week in April 2022. In another report he said, "Nigeria is currently undergoing one of the deadliest genocides in the world, more people die in Nigeria every month than Ukraine".

Also, Genocide watch (2024) reported that Jihadist militia killed 197 Christians at Christmas in 2023 in Plateau State. The international society for civil liberties and rule of law (2023) reported that since 2000, 1800 Christian churches and 2,200 Christian schools have been intentionally set on fire. Due to vehement slaughtering of Christians and nonchalant attitude of government, genocide watch therefore considers Nigeria to be at:

Stage 5- organization,

Stage 6- polarization,

Stage 7- preparation,

Stage 8- persecution,

Stage 9- Extermination and

Stage 10- denial.

Nigeria is not in the 10,20,50 most visited countries of the world either is any city in Nigeria belongs to 20,50 or more most visited cities in the world.

Table 1
 World's 20 most visited cities in 2023

S/N	Cities	Initial visitors in millions
1.	Bangkok	22.78
2.	Paris	19.10
3.	London	19.09
4.	Dubai	15.93
5.	Singapore	14.67
6.	Kuala Lumpur	13.79

7.	New York	13.60
8.	Istanbul	13.40
9.	Tokyo	12.93
10.	Alntalya	12.41
11.	Seoul	11.25
12.	Osaka	10.14
13.	Makkah	10.00
14.	Phuket	9.89
15.	Pattaya	9.44
16.	Milan	9.10
17.	Barcelona	9.09
18.	Palma	8.96
19.	Bali	8.26
20.	Hongkong	8.23

Source: travelness.com (2023)

Mkumbo (2025) reported in Altezza travel that ten countries are the most dangerous countries in Africa. Nigeria shares the fourth position after Mali; Burkina Faso; and Democratic Republic of Congo. The report went further

to state that the country appeared in nearly all negatives ranking not just in Africa. In the Global Terrorism index, Nigeria ranks 8th position, in the Global Peace Index, Nigeria is in the red zone of 147th out of 163 countries. In the rule of law index, she ranked 120th out of 142 and in the crime index she is 11th out of 147. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office FCDO (2025) declared regions of Nigeria as unsafe to travel to British citizens.

Table 2 most dangerous countries in Africa

S/N	Country	Capital	Population (in million)	Region in african
1.	Mali	Bamoko	23.1	West Africa
2.	Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	23.8	West Africa
3.	Dr Congo	Kinshasa	103.3	Central Africa
4.	Nigeria	Abuja	232.8	West Africa
5.	Somalia	Mogadishul	17.6	North Africa
6.	Sudan	Khartoum	48.3	North Africa
7.	South Africa	Pretoria	62.2	Southern Africa
8.	Central Africa	Bangui	5.2	Central Africa
9.	Cameroon	Yaoundé	29.7	East Africa

Source: Altezza Travel (2025)

Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to bewray the impediment to tourism development and sustainability in Nigeria. The other one is to find out why tourists are not trouping to Nigeria anymore.

Hypotheses

H₀₁: there is no correlation between terrorism in the land and tourists not trouping into Nigeria nowadays.

H₀₂: there is no correlation between terrorism and tourism not developing in Nigeria.

Area of the study

Nigeria supposed to be the richest country in Africa and even one of the richest in the whole wide world. The country is possessed with all resources namely: natural vizmineral resources, water resources, forest resources and human resources. It is the most populous country of the black race. It is located to the south west of Sahara on latitude 04°N to 14°N and longitude 03°E to 15°E. It is bounded by republic of Cameroon in the East, Chad in the North, Mali in the Northwest, Benin republic in the West and the Atlantic Ocean in the South.

The country is blessed with historical/cultural tourism, so also the ecological tourism shortened as ecotourism. There are diverse groups/tribes but the three main ones are Yoruba (Southwest), Ibo (Southeast) and Hausa/Fulani (Northwest). Borders of Nigeria especially in the northern region are porous; people of neighbouring countries of Africa migrate without any official permit to hustle and most of the time foment troubles thereby brew untold crisis across the country. The country has six (6) geopolitical zones each with series of tourist's attractions. The north west with Arugungu fish festival in Arugungu town in Kebbi State, (cultural tourism). In the northeast there are Gashaka gunti national park, Yankari national park, the Sukur cultural landscape etc. (both of them are ecotourism and cultural). In the north central we have: Zuma rock in Abuja, the Shere hills in Jos, Niger and Benue confluence, Kainji park, Kainji dam, Lugard house etc. (they are all ecotourism). Southwest include: Sea beaches, Lagoon sites, Ocean ports, Airports, Badagry slave house, Olumo rock, Balogun and the Lekki conservation center, Ile-Ife cultural museum and the traditional festival, Osun-Osogbo sacred groove, ancient Oyo site etc. They are both ecotourism and cultural sites. Eastern Nigeria sites include: Agbo Kim waterfalls, Ogbunike carves, and Ngwo pine forest etc. The south-south sites are: Obusu mountain resort, Ibeno beach, Benin city national museum, park vegal water park. Obudu ranching, Obudu mountain park, Obudu water fall, Coastal site, Tinapa resort Centre etc. These and many more are among the tourist attractions that can lure innumerable numbers of foreigners to the shore of Nigeria. Culturism has now grown to the present predicament that the country is facing now.

II. Methodology

This research work used survey method in which the authors collected primary data through self-report measures using questionnaire. The research work made use of two hundred and fifty (250) samples within southwest population of educated adults and youths, Hair et al (2022). The sampling technique used was a simple random, the authors administered questionnaire themselves. Questionnaires prepared using Likert scale type, paper-based questionnaire etc.

Analysis was done using statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS). Correlation analysis of Pearson was employed.

III. Presentation of results and analysis

Table 3 Descriptive Statistics Summary of the Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Option	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	106	43.6%
	Female	137	56.4%
	Total	243	100%
Age range	15-20years	163	67.1%
	20-25years	67	27.6%
	25-30years	6	2.5%
	30-35years	5	2.1%
	35-40years	-	-
	45-50years	1	0.4%
	50 years and above	1	0.4%
	Total	200	100%
Educational Qualifications	SSCE.	166	68.3%
	ND/NCE.	31	12.8%
	HND/BSc.	41	16.9%
	MSc.	3	1.2%
	Ph.D.	2	0.8%
	Total	243	100%
Status	Student	224	92.2%
	Worker	17	6.11%
	Applicant	2	1.7%
	Total	243	100%
Nationality	Nigerian	242	99.6%
	Foreigner	1	0.4%
	Total	243	100%

Source: Authors field work (2025)

Table 4:Descriptive statistics mean Scores on the Culturicide, the Encumbrance to Tourism Sustainability in Nigeria.

ITEM	STATEMENT	HA	A	D	HD	F/%	Decision
1	Tourism is a lucrative industry globally.	170	50	5	18	243 100%	
2	It fetches government with great revenue.	130	67	-	46	243 100%	
3	It gives employment opportunity to large populations	94	100	-	49	243 100%	
4	It contributes meaningfully to the national development.	155	62	13	13	243 100%	

5	It is an industry that doesn't have negative impact on the environment.	117	88	36	2	243 100%
6	The industry is not developed in Nigeria.	168	31	9	35	243 100%
7	Insecurity of lives and properties is a major setback to tourism in Nigeria.	202	22	-	19	243 100%
8	There are wanton killings, and the destruction of communities across Nigeria by terrorists	212	28	-	3	243 100%
9	These terrorists also kidnap people for ransom often to the tune of several millions of Naira.	222	8	-	13	243 100%
10	No one is saved in Nigeria.	195	33	11	4	243 100%
11	Terrorists often boast of their supremacy over Nigeria Military.	164	63	-	16	243 100%
12	Places of interest to tourists are presently dangerous to go.	137	74	-	32	243 100%
13	UN has declared Nigeria unsafe place to foreigners.	86	107	3	47	243 100%
14	Tourists have stopped tramping to Nigeria.	140	73	20	10	243 100%
15	Tourism can no longer play its roles as an important sector.	134	79	15	15	243 100%
16	Government of Nigeria should call for foreign help/support to eradicate insurgents or terrorists.	204	26	3	10	243 100%
17	Modern weapons and other military artilleries should be used when engaging terrorists.	202	31	-	10	243 100%
18	Citizens in their various communities should also be carried along in form of local hunters and vigilantes and so on to fight terrorists	195	33	-	15	243 100%

19	Tribes and religions should be set aside when fighting terrorists.	165	60	2	16	243 100%
20	Prerogative of mercy should not be shown to any terrorists.	181	45	4	13	243 100%

Source: Authors field work (2025)

Table 5: Analysis of Relationship between Terrorism and Tourists not trouping to Nigeria

Variables	Contingency Coefficient	X ²	df	p-value
4Terrorism*Tourists not trouping to Nigeria	.866	7.286E2 ^a	50	.000 ^c

df = degree of freedom X²= chi – square value, p = probability level of significance p = 0.05 (significant).

The above table reveals the analysis of Relationship between Terrorism and Tourists not trouping to Nigeria. This shows that there is a strong positive relationship between Terrorism and Tourists not trouping to Nigeria (X² = 7.286, p = 0.000). this implies that the high rate of terrorism in the country has affected tourism activities in Nigeria.

Table 6: Analysis of Relationship between Terrorism and Tourism Development in Nigeria

Variables	Contingency Coefficient	X ²	df	p-value
Terrorism*Tourism Development in Nigeria	.639	1.681E2 ^a	50	.000 ^c

df = degree of freedom X² = chi – square value, p = probability level of significance p = 0.05 (significant).

The above table reveals the analysis of Relationship between Terrorism and Tourists development in Nigeria. This shows that there is a strong positive relationship between Terrorism and Tourism development in Nigeria (X² = 1.68, p = 0.000).

IV. Discussion

In table4 above, respondents agreed that tourism is lucrative, it brings good income to the state, it is an employer of labour, it has no negative impact to the environment, and contribute meaningfully to the development of the country. However, insecurity in the country via Fulani herdsmen, Boko haram, ISWAP, and other insurgents have made country to derive far below capacity in tourism industry. These insurgents are trying to bring cultural genocide in Nigeria. All other tribes aside Fulani are overwhelmingly annihilated, so as to grab the entire country. Expatriates working in Nigeria are killed, some kidnapped for huge ransomed, these are bad signals to tourism industry in Nigeria. Tourists are therefore seeing Nigeria as an unfriendly society, and a no-go area. The correlation analyses calculated using SPSS in tables 5 and 6 above, affirm the fact that the relationship between terrorism and tourists not trouping to Nigeria is positively strong (X² =7.286, p=0.000). The implication of this is that the high rate of terrorism in Nigeria has affected tourism activities in the country. Again, on the relationship between terrorism and tourism development in Nigeria, this also shows a strong positive relationship (X²=1.68, p=0.000), meaning that terrorism does not allow development of tourism in the country.

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