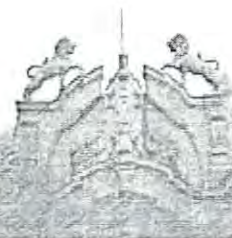


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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**THE ROLE OF ECOLOGES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: CASE OF BISHANGARI**

BY: HAIMANOT ASMAMAW

ADVISOR: FEYERA SENBETA (PHD)



A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES OF ADDIS ABABA
UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2011

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Tourism and Development

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ACRONYMS

AAU	Addis Ababa University
CDS	College of Development Studies
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
ha	Hectare
HHs	House Hold Heads
ICDPs	Integrated Conservation Development Projects
IFC	International Finance Corporation
Kg	Kilo Gram
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRC	National Research Council
PASDEP	Program for Accelerated Development and End Poverty
PPS	Proportional Probabilistic Sampling
ST-EP	Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty
UNEP	United Nation Environment Program
UNWTO	United Nation World Tourism Organization

ABSTRACT

Ecolodge development is expanding with the glorification of ecotourism all over the world (Honey, 1999). Likely, it has come true in Ethiopia by the opening of the Bishangari ecolodge in 2001. The ecolodge is found in the rich biodiversity area of KNR (Bishangari) on the eastern shore of the Langano Lake, central Ethiopian Rift valley, Oromia region. In spite of its expansion, the significance of ecolodges is not as such systematically studied in particular Ethiopia. Thus, being part of college of development studies it is conducted with the purpose of exploring the role of ecolodges in community development and environmental conservation with particular reference to the Bishangari. In this respect, the study uses both quantitative and qualitative approaches. For the quantitative, 108 household heads were taken as a sample from the benefited kebeles; Dawe, Sembero-Rrogicha, Keraru and Boku-walda through cluster, purposive and proportionate random sampling procedure. Interviews and observations were used for the qualitative approach. Interview was conducted for the purposefully selected five key informants from the nearby local communities, two woreda tourism and environment experts and the ecolodge manager. Checklists, note-takings and photographs were accompanied while and after observation. Descriptive statistical methods including percentages, frequencies, mean, graphs, and tabulation as well as coding have been used as a means for analyzing the data. The study indicated that Bishangari ecolodge is playing a great role for the better life of the inaccessible local communities. They generate income by selling agricultural, souvenir, and other products to the ecolodge and the tourists. Social services are also expanded through the provisions of clean water, school facilities, transportations and communications by the ecolodge. Concurrently, 49 local community members are permanent employees of the ecolodge. Beside with employment opportunity, the participation of the local communities in the operations of the ecolodge is found significant for their empowerment. Besides, it conserves environment and biodiversity through zoning schemes, proper waste management, solar energy utility, environmental education, limited carrying capacity and alternative measures against poaching and destruction. However, the results are also reckoning to have concerns of stakeholders like government recognition on the role of ecolodges and active participation of local communities in decision-making. Therefore, ecolodge operation strategies, community participation platforms and synergy among stakeholders shall be devised. Moreover, the local communities ought to utilize the cultural products further and generate money from the coming ecotourists.

CHAPTER- ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the time that world countries are striving for sustainable development, without compromising things for future generations. In such a way to attain this whole inclusive and demanding aspect of development, countries of the world have done and they are going to do different plausible development options. Among these options, tourism is the one having its benefit in creating foreign earnings, employment opportunities, economic multiplier effects, wealth of local people, environmental and cultural sustainability (Wearing and John, 1999). Consequently, developing countries like Ethiopia are currently moving towards tourism activities.

Tourism is the world's leading and most important industry, valued at roughly US\$ 3.5 trillion annually and employing 127 million workers i.e. among the 15 employees of the world 1 is from tourism (UNWTO, 2003). Obviously, there are different kinds of tourism depending on different perspectives. Nevertheless, the recently evolved one, around the first decade of the new millennium is ecotourism (Hawkins, *et al.*, 1995). Among the other tourism kinds, ecotourism is undergoing the fastest growth that is estimated to account 10-20% of the international travel expenditure and the annual growth rate is 15% where as the overall is 4% (Honey, 1999). This fast growth of ecotourism in the world has brought about the new concept of accommodation; eco-lodges as its main part.

Recognizing of ecotourism growing global importance, the United Nations designated the year 2002 as the international year of ecotourism, and its Commission on Sustainable Development requested NGOs, governments and the private sector to undertake supportive activities. UNEP and UNWTO, reports also confirmed that this segment of the tourism activity could benefit developing countries in a way to combat poverty and empower local communities of the periphery (Wood, 2005).

In line with ecotourism development, demand is growing inevitably for eco-lodge development as one principle of the ecotourism service rendering. This is because of the fact that the increased number of eco-tourists indispensably deserve to have such kind of accommodations'. The success of ecotourism depends, in part, on the performance of eco-lodges. Ecolodges are rapidly growing often within or near natural areas and with detrimental environmental and social impacts (Mehta, 2002). Eco-lodge development is increasing remarkably since the 1980s and 1990s following the ecotourism expansion, which has enormous potential for conserving natural and cultural resources (Stroza and Durham, 2008).

In particular, local communities who are still very recently starting to grow are now attracting eco-tourists towards their settlement and natural areas (Stroza and Durham, 2008). At times, communities can meet with the tourists and learn each other on the environmental, socio-cultural, and economy of the former. There are countries, which can be mentioned in the respect of effective eco-lodge development and related activities in the globe. These are Costa Rica, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, Kenya and others. Likewise, Ethiopia has the potential to attract eco-tourists and promising eco-lodge developments are coming up. As an example, it is possible to list eco-lodges in Ethiopia like Bishangari, Wonchi, Blen, Semien, Aregash, Ankober Amba and others as beginnings of such development.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Ethiopia with immense resource had gaps in using them for betterment of the peripheral rural society, which are still unable to satisfy their needs and wants. Obviously, Ethiopia is facing serious challenges in its socio-economic development, which is indexed as one of the poorest countries in the world. Thus, in Ethiopia, tourism is one of the focal sectors of the five year development plan striving to use it against poverty (PASDEP7, 2005-2010) which is in line with global initiatives such as the Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) (UNWTO, 2007). Thus, sustainable tourism is instrumental not only in eliminating poverty but also vital to bring about sustainable development at large.

Sustainable tourism activities include ecotourism and the respective alternative accommodation services: eco-lodges. Particularly, it is crucial that the eco-lodge developers need to practice the tourism business in a way to the ecotourism principles like environment protection, local based design, community involvement, and economic diversification that is difficult to evaluate their performances (Wood, 2005). Independently of the numbers of principles involved, they ought to be applicable, measurable and evaluated (Fennell, 2003; Kruger, 2005). However, unanimously agreed standard of evaluating and measuring ecolodge performances is a difficult task today. Despite the principles, this is mainly due to lack of extensive explorations and investigations on the activities of ecolodges.

The convectional tourism and lodging challenges are experienced in the tourism sector particularly in mass tourism where the sector failed to practice in accordance with the principles of sustainability (Holden, 2000). This traditional tourism activity has been researched out widely and found as these kinds of tourism practices are destructive to the environment and the local culture as well as it can pose economic injustice to the destination community (Holden, 2000). As a result the number of ecotourists is growing in faster rate and rewarding the eco-lodge developments and practices of ecotourism principles.

Hence, ecolodges are recent developments since 1980s following the expansion of ecotourism, their significance for sustainable community development is not well studied i.e. their contributions have rarely addressed in general (Mehta, 2002; Osland and Mackoy, 2004). In particular, except the study on Adwa and Mekidela ecotourism development by members of the AAU researchers, principally by Dr. Mulugeta Fiseha and few others, researches in the area of ecolodge is hardly conducted in Ethiopia. Despite this fact, ecolodge developments are expanding in wider range at any directions of the country today i.e. the issue of ecolodges is a recent phenomena and rarely found research activities and/or publications in the area with the context of our country.

Following the inadequate number of researches, there has been very little attention by government and other stakeholders in ecotourism and eco-lodge literature and other strategically important areas, including the industry and quality control (Weaver and

Lowton, 2007). This is particularly true in Ethiopia. As a result, the people and the government are still unenthusiastic to see the role of ecolodge development in natural conservation and community welfare. Hence, this has brought about motivation and concern as an area of research problem by raising the basic research questions.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Compliance to eco-lodge and sustainable tourism principles in tourism attraction areas is necessary because otherwise the conservation of the natural resources and the local communities' livelihoods will be at high risk. Thus, the main objective of this study is to investigate the role of ecolodges in community development and environmental conservation with particular reference of Bishangari.

The specific objectives are:

- ❖ To assess the effect of Bishangari ecolodge in local economic diversification.
- ❖ To assess the role of Bishangari ecolodge in supporting basic social service development within the study area.
- ❖ To identify the contribution of Bishangari ecolodge for biodiversity conservation.
- ❖ To point out ways of local community's participation in Bishangari ecolodge ecotourism operations.

1.4 The Basic Research questions

- ✓ Do the communities have alternative economic development option other than the traditional farming in the study area?
- ✓ Does Bishangari ecolodge contribute to conservation of biodiversity in the study area?
- ✓ Does Bishangari ecolodge play its part in local community's social service development?
- ✓ Are the local communities participating in Bishangari ecolodge tourism activities?

1.5 Significance of the Study

Following the expansion of ecotourism, ecolodges are growing faster in the world and in Ethiopia alike. Therefore, the focus of the research is on the role of the ecolodges to local communities and environmental conservation where the findings would help as guiding tool for tourism and environmental experts working in the respective area.

Ecolodge developers, especially Bishangari ecolodge can become the beneficiary of the findings. This is because, the results and the recommendations can be sound and act as benchmark for assessing their level of performances in practicing the ecolodge principles and increase the flow of their guests. Most importantly, it is vital for the local communities living around ecolodges since it can increase the level of their income and promote rural development when they properly utilize the findings of the research.

The findings can also motivate government bodies like policy and strategy designers and practitioners in a way by recognizing the contribution of ecolodges and integrate it for rural communities' betterment and environmental conservation. In addition, it can help as a stepping-stone for further research ventures and literature concerning ecolodges in different dimension.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

Acquiring literatures and recent documents is a difficult task to deliver a full comprehension about the Ethiopian eco-lodge development and its roles in particular. This is also true in this study area: Bishangari ecolodge. The eco-lodge is not documenting all its contribution or support to the communities in a systematic way. The other limitation faced is the difficulty to assess the level of Bishangari ecolodge environmental impact assessment and ecolodge architectural design interpretations fully since they need longer time and involvements from other disciplines.

The other key limitation is that the researcher became forced to use limited number of samples resulted from the sparse nature of their settlement (inaccessibility of the households) in that peripheral area and time constraints. This research finding is limited to

the Bishangari ecolodge, which may be difficult to generalize for other ecolodges. However, this does not mean that the concept and knowledge produced is limited to Bishangari and does not work to others and replicated.

1.7 Scope of the Study

In line with the scope of the study, it is restricted to investigate the contribution of Bishangari ecolodge in local communities' better economic diversification, local communities infra structure development, protection of the biodiversity and conservation of the local environment in general.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is organized in to five parts/chapters. The first chapter is the introduction that deals with the general aspects of the issue covered and followed by statement problem, research questions, objectives, significance and limitation of the study as well as organization of the study report. The second chapter is the related literature review, which covers the secondary data that provides different detailed information about the concerning research topic.

The third chapter describes about the methodology of the research. It shows the research approaches, sampling procedure, data collection tools and ways of data analysis whereas chapter four covers the discussion of the data and the research findings in respect to sample household head characteristics and contribution of Bishangari ecolodge for community development and environmental conservation. Finally, the last part, chapter five provides conclusions and recommendation of the study based on its findings.

CHAPTER- TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definitions and Concepts

There are varieties of tourism definitions provided by different scholars in different perspectives. Amongst, the UNWTO define it as the activities of people traveling to and staying in place outside their usual environment for no more than one year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to an activity of remunerating money from the place visited. However, later times a new concept evolved: ecotourism.

Ecotourism is considered as traveling to a natural area impacting minimally to the environment through architectural/design sensitivity, carrying capacity limit, providing educated guides to enhance the visitors and the residents' environmental and cultural awareness, allowing local people beneficiary and supporting economic justification (IES, 2004).

With the global growing of ecotourism, ecolodges emerged as a market niche. Following the emergence and development of ecotourism, the father of ecotourism, Ceballos-Lascurain defined it as one form of lodging which integrated the surrounding ecosystem, minimizes its negative environmental impacts by employing new energy sources (solar, wind, bio-gas etc) and proper waste management. This concept of ecolodge is also supported by other key researchers in the area like Russell (1995), Mehta (2002) and Wood (2009).

Ecolodges are developed in natural environment with huge biotic lives. According to the United Nation Environment Program (UNEP, 2003) the term environment refers to all the elements of physical and biological world including human beings as well the interaction among them. Within environment, there is concept of biodiversity, which literally mean the variability of living organisms from all sources. Britannica Concise Encyclopedia, define it as quantity of plants and animals species found in a given environment. The term is coined by Rosen (1985) while planning the national forum on biological diversity organized by the national Research council of America.

Preserving the whole biodiversity is increasingly acknowledged as healthiness of a given species since it is connected to other species within a given eco- system (Sharpley, 2009). In this respect, tropical forests are amongst the most bio diverse ecosystem on the planet.

2.2 Convectional Lodges vis a vis Ecolodges

Convectional lodges (hotels, motels and resorts) are accommodations of tourists mostly targeted to the principles of satisfying the consumer tourist with no or little attention to local community development and environmental conservation. Hence, this kind of lodging has its negative impact on sustainable development. According to the UN, an average of 40% or 50% of foreign exchange earnings from tourism leak back to the tourist generating home countries and companies for imports of consumer and luxury goods. Therefore, it allows them to channel back a lion's share of the revenue generated in the market (Mulugeta Fiseha *et al.*, 2010). This kind of lodging would have series consequence to developing countries and small suppliers like local communities of destination.

Conversely, Ecolodge is a prime economic engine for growth and development particularly for destination local communities. This is achievable through creation of designed guidelines that utilize sustainable technologies and planning. They are imperative for maintaining a healthy local ecology and the biodiversity that in turn supports the ecotourism activities (Mehta, 2002).

Table 2-1, Comparison between Convectional Lodges and Ecolodges

No	CHARACTERSTICS	ECOLOGGE	CONVECTIONAL LODGE
1	ACCOMODATION		
	Size	Small scale	Large scale
	Special pattern	Dispersed throughout the area	Concentrated in tourist areas
	Density	Low	High
	Architecture	Vernacular style; complementary	International style: obtrusive
	Ownership	Local small business	Non local, corporate
2	MARKET		
	Segment	Allocentric-midcentric	Psycho-centric-midcentric
	Volume and mode	Low individual arrangement	High – package tours
	Seasonality	No distinct seasonality	Distinct: low and high
	Origins	No dominant market	few dominant market
3	ATTRACTION		
	Emphasis	Moderately commercialized	Highly commercialized
	Character	Area specific: authentic	Generic, contrived
	Orientation	Tourists and locals	Tourists only or mainly
4	ECONOMIC STATUS		
	Role of tourism	Complement locals	Dominate locals
	Linkages	Mainly internal	Mainly external
	Leakages	Minimal	Extensive
	Multiplier effect	High	Low
5	REGULATION		
	Control	Local community	Non-local private
	Amount	Minimize local negative impact	Only facilitate private sector
	Ideology	Public intervention	Free market forces
	Emphasis	Community stability and well being integrated: holistic	Economic growth: profit's sector specific
	Time frame	Long term	Short tem

Extracted from weaver, *et al.*, 2000

2.3 Principles of Ecotourism and Ecolodge

Different scholars and non-governmental organization give numerous philosophical principles of ecotourism. Likely, IES (2004) and Wood (2005) the globally known ecotourism organization and the scholar respectively have drawn up a set of ecotourism principles to guide those who implement and participate in responsible tourism activities. These principles are:

1. Minimize impact on the environment.
2. Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.
3. Provide positive experiences and education for both visitors and hosts.
4. Provide direct financial benefits for conservation.
5. Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people.
6. Raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental and social climate.

It need to be recognized that real ecotourism, encompassing all these components and principles, is hard to find. However, many ecolodges around the world today are involved in efforts to implement a number of the practices and policies of sound ecotourism. These efforts will be helped by the development of more tools – both mandatory and voluntary – aimed at measuring environmental and social impacts (IFC, 2004).

Similarly, there are principles in order for an accommodation facility to be an ecolodge utmost it must embody the main principles of ecotourism. Likely, according to Mehta (2002) under the international ecolodge guidelines and IES (2004) stated that as part of the ecotourism, ecolodges also have their own principles that make them different from convectional tourist hotels in that they specifically strive to adhere to the following ten principles.

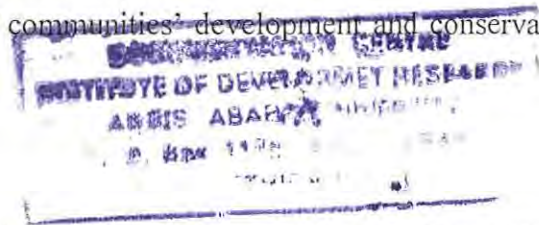
1. Help in the conservation of surrounding flora and fauna
2. Endeavour to work together with the local community.
3. Offer interpretive programs to educate both its employees and tourists about the surrounding natural and cultural environment.

4. Using alternative sustainable means of water acquisition and reduces water consumption.
5. Provide for careful handling and disposal of solid waste and sewage.
6. Meets its energy needs through passive design and renewable energy sources
7. Minimal impact on environment during construction.
8. Use traditional building technology and materials wherever possible and combine with their modern counterparts for greater sustainability.
9. Fit into its specific physical and cultural context through careful attention to forms, landscaping, colour and the use of vernacular architecture.
10. Contribute to sustainable local community development through different means.

2.4 Challenges to Practice the Principles of Ecolodge

It is convectional to the researchers and policy makers that ecolodges have positive impact on host communities when it is properly handle. Conversely, it may be a threat unless well designed, planned, managed and evaluated or not practiced with its principles (Wood, 2002).

This can be true if things are done without independent assessment via for instance, certification programs and third party inspection (Epler and Halpenny, 2001). IES (2004) pointed out the following challenges of ecolodge developments and practices that may jeopardize its utmost contribution to local communities' development and conservation of the environment.



(a) Low Government Role

In ecotourism policy development, regulations and legal frameworks are still largely at the planning and discussion stage worldwide (Font and Harris, 2004). Although national ecotourism planning has taken place in numerous developing countries, such as Malaysia and Mexico, the implementation of ecotourism plans has been sporadic, with almost no national fiscal commitment. Without fiscal support for the objectives set by national plans, planning documents are quickly shelved for future administration consideration (Beeton, 1998).

Throughout the world, there has been inadequate governmental regulation and monitoring of tourism impacts on the environment, little attention to visitor management and lack of expertise and inappropriate tourism developments in boom destinations (Lee, 2001).

Mulugeta Fiseha *et al.*, (2010) explained that with the gap of inadequate government regulation, ecolodge development is facing series issues since they are used as windows of opportunity to exploit virgin lands, amid protected areas and untouched community resources. In particular to Ethiopia, the challenges are further aggravated by lack of policy system, adaptive management strategy and coordination mechanism.

(b) Lack of Community Involvement

Following other problems, lack of inclusive involvement of local community and other stakeholders in general can result a challenge of sustainability. Hence, creating national guidelines and training is essential (Bennett, 1999).

While often stated as the preferred strategy for ecolodge and other tourism developments, in practice there are difficulties in creating and implementing joint ventures, including a common understanding and common agenda (Kenya's community based tourism, 2001). In particular, lack of transparent arrangements between community and ecolodge management (Spenceley, 2001), lack of local control of the tourism industry, non-inclusion of local people in planning and decision making, and less control and fewer benefits to local communities can lead to confrontation and limit the provision of economic alternatives for local people (Bennett, 1999). These cumulative issues will become stumbling block for the conservation and management of the environment.

2.5 Ecolodge and Local Community

Firstly, the word community do not have unanimously agreed scope and definition. However, most social scientists state community as a group of people who share a common identity such as geographical location, specific interests and or ethnic background (Sanha, 2005).

Renewed interest in the changing concept, community has a basic unit in tourism development, management, planning and marketing. For instance, tourists travel partly to consume differences and to see how other societies live. Therefore, literatures today give great recognition that the communities have influence over the development of ecotourism and brought about a new concepts of community based ecotourism (CBET) and community development in tourism (Derekhall and Grag, 2006). In particular, the local community has become crucial in many appropriate and contexts for the development of sustainable tourism and ecolodges.

2.6 Ecolodge Operations for Community Development

In general to tourism, according to Ashley and Michell (2010), there are three key pathways by which the benefits (or costs) of ecolodge activities can be transmitted to the local communities; likely to poor and rural. These are direct, secondary and dynamic multiplier effects.

In addition, there are attempts by different scholars who work out to see the positive effects of ecolodges for rural communities (IFC, 2004; Pruthi, 2006; Ashley and Michell, 2010). Below are some of the benefits of ecolodges for the respective local communities in creation of employment opportunity, economic diversification, local infrastructural development and community empowerment.

At first, ecolodges are the major source for local communities' employment opportunity. When there is employment opportunity, they will have the chance to get professional training and skill development within the ecolodges. This can directly link to increased income generation to the local communities for life long (Bookbinder, *et al.*, 1998).

For example, the study, Ecolodge Footprint and Justification for Biodiversity Conservation (IES, 2004) has surveyed lodge managers at 106 leading ecolodges around the world. This survey revealed that virtually all (98%) of the ecolodges employ local residents. Likely, about 80% of the African poverty reduction and community development strategy paper works include reference of encouraging ecotourism as a means for community employment opt (IES, 2004).

In the second place, it helps to improve the local economy diversification. This is because of the fact that its multiplier effects (direct, indirect and induced or dynamic) and other related income from ecolodge are spent directly within the community and used for a wide range of purposes, including: support for unemployed family members, to build houses; to pay for consumptions and to employ others (Bookbinder, *et al.*, 1998; Christie and Simmons, 1999; Spenceley, 2001). For instance, a more recent study conducted by IES (2004) revealed that the daily tourist expenditure rate has risen to \$5 per day, of which 50% is retained in the local economy where the ecolodge developments take the greatest share.

In addition, the local economy can be boosted due to the opportunity that the community members can sell their products to the ecolodge and the tourists like fruits, vegetables, beef, fish, honey and others produced from the local community (Mulugeta Fiseha, *et al.*, 2010).

Tourism and agriculture sectors can be mutually reinforcing since tourism promotion focus on agricultural products that can boost demands, while agriculture can lead to growth in ecolodge. For example, in Kenya the 70% increase in ecotourism spending (1971 to 1996) generated a 262% increase in agricultural output (Telfer D., 1994).

Increased options for income generation within local communities through the creation of other businesses like tour guides, agriculture products and handicrafts can be well promoted by the ecolodges (Curzon, 1993; Ceasar, 1998; Christie and Simmons, 1999; Koppel, 2000; Spenceley, 2001, cited in IFC, 2004).

Thirdly, the local communities can be empowered because of the existence of ecolodges. This is because they can get participation opportunities through employment, planning and management of ecolodge operations (Derakhall and Grag, 2006). Most importantly, it helps them to learn skills that they can apply it in the other ways to boost their livelihood. Political legitimacy and empowerment will enhance if the community members have greater influence in decision making which affects their lives (Beeton, 1998; IES, 2004).

However, the society may face challenges to participate in the planning and decision making process (Hall, 1994). In Ethiopia, this issue will further exhibit because of lack of

well-designed ecotourism policies and strategies with low government intervention in the practices of ecolodge in particular.

At last but not the least, ecolodges are mostly developing in communities who are living in the natural and peripheral areas that are less likely have development option. Worthwhile, ecolodge owners and guests make direct contributions to school projects, education, health centers, transport and communications, vocational training, environmental education and others (Christie and Curzon, 1993; Spenceley, 2001; Honey, 2002).

2.7 Ecolodge, Environment and Biodiversity Conservation

Ramachandra, the renowned environmentalist says that:

Our way of life is tied to an anthropologic ethic that sees the non-human world as simply and the stage on which the drama of life is performed. All other creatures have no more than instrumental value to us. What is now urgently called for is a biotic ethic that sees in all life some intrinsic and instrumental values. A great achievement of our time could be to extend the concept of comparison right, justice to all living creatures, not only in theory but also in the practice of a biometric ethics.

Wearing and John (2000) stated that maintaining biodiversity or the web of life on earth is the interest of not only the human species but also all species. This encompasses that the existence of one biotic life is interdependent of the other. Hence, human beings are urgently giving intrinsic and instrumental value to environment and other life. Obviously, there is high correlation between ecolodge development and that of naturally rich protected areas or other eco area with high biodiversity (IES, 2004).

In the study of ecolodge footprint and justification for biodiversity conservation (IES, 2004), the World Bank has mapped the location of ecolodges in to 60 countries based on their concentration in biodiversity and respectively obtained 5,459 ecolodges. Among these ecolodges, 84% are located in biodiversity rich hotspot areas. It is also stipulate and support by the conservation international.

Hence, this mutual relation demonstrates the ecolodges concern in sound environmental and standard practices often by the owners, managers, local government, and community members (IFC, 2004). Contribution of ecolodges in environmental conservation indicated that 80% of the global ecolodges are supporting conservation efforts and, do not purchase rare or threatened species as well as encourage guests to participate in conservation initiatives (IES, 2004).

2.8 Ways of Ecolodges Contribution for Environmental Conservation

*"ECOLOGDE: is a strong proponent of an economic engine and
incentive for preservation of the environment "*

Madidi: Park director of Ciro Oliver (cited by, IES, 2002).

Ecolodges and ecotourism at large can provide a good-quality environment for a destination by maintaining or improving the level of quality in the natural environment so that it can also satisfy the needs and demands of the tourists (UNEP, 2003; Holden, 2008). In addition, the ecolodge development helps to restore the degraded environment or landscape mainly created by other environmentally unfriendly activities like deforestation, cattle grazing and others (ICF, 2004).

From the very beginning, ecolodges have architectural design in coherence with the vernacular culture of the local community and in a way that can minimize the degradation of the local environment (Hetsha, 2002). Besides, sustainable design and renewable energy are usually adopted for the architecture of ecolodges (Sweeting, 2003; IES, 2004). The development of an ecolodge would also integrate with the local environment, contributing to a unique character. As far as possible, the design includes, local and recyclable materials with minimal impact on the environment (e.g. decking materials made from recycled plastic and wood waste) would be used (IFC, 2004).

Besides, the ecolodges can benefit biodiversity conservation by directly supporting conservation efforts (Brandon, 1996). This can happen through a variety of mechanisms like support for research and generates funds and/or provides personnel to assist in conservation research including providing access via trails, lodging for research (Bookbinder, *et al.*, 1998; Jeffreys, 1998; Bennett, 2002). Furthermore, ecolodges support protected areas through guest fees, donations, and active involvement in management issues (Bookbinder, *et al.*, 1998; Christie and Simmons, 1999; Koppel, 2000; Spenceley, 2001).

Ecolodges are also vital to change the attitudes of the public, government bodies and NGOs i.e. due to the existence and promotion of the role of the ecolodge operation in the nearby surrounding; reserved areas can gain the support of NGOs and others (IES, 2004). As a principle, ecolodges need to aware the local people, private sectors and tourists to conserve the environment through different ways.

In fact, ecolodges are working for a good-quality environment not only by the external enforcements but also they are creating a sound environment to secure the competitive advantage by attracting more ecotourists to their ventures (UNEP, 2007).

2.9 Ecolodge Management to offer its Best Contribution

Many of the modern tourism problems are not necessarily the faults of the tourists or tourism per se, but more of it is the result of poor management and a haphazard approach to development (UNWTO, 2003). Besides, with sustainable design, architecture, policy, planning, community participation, regulatory ethical practices, and certification, every tourism and ecolodge operations in natural areas ought to conduct EIA, prepare zones and limit the carrying capacity. Subsequent, operations be monitored seriously with focus on established criteria of environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability concerns (Mulugeta Fiseha *et al.*, 2010).

The recently adopted Ethiopian Tourism Policy (2009) acknowledged that coordination of the different stakeholders is a pivotal point for successful management. The tool for such issues can be the implementation of concept of interactionism. It is a platform alliance to bring the different stakeholders into the working reality and playing a ground of the living

2.11 Economic Diversification for Environmental Conservation

In many countries, protected areas and surrounding lands are often both geographically remote and economically marginal lands. Nature-based tourism and ecolodge development can help to avert environmental degradation by providing employment, income generating opportunities, and financing for community projects (Wood, 2002).

One thing here, because of the benefit from ecolodges, local communities reduce poaching and other types of illegal extraction of the natural reserves. For instance, in the eastern Transvaal region of South Africa, private lodge managers report that where neighboring communities have received positive benefits from tourism, there has been a reduction in poaching in these areas and little antagonism towards the reserves (Curzon, 1993).

Consequently, in order for conservation efforts and the establishment of reserves as well to support these initiatives to work, the neighboring communities must benefit from the reserves and protected areas (Bennett, 1999; Maikhuri, *et al.*, 2001). In general, Ashley and Michell (2010) stated that international tourists coming to eco-areas are significantly better than those development agencies at spending money in poor countries. In 2007, tourists spent US\$ 295 million in developing nations almost three times the level of official development assistances.

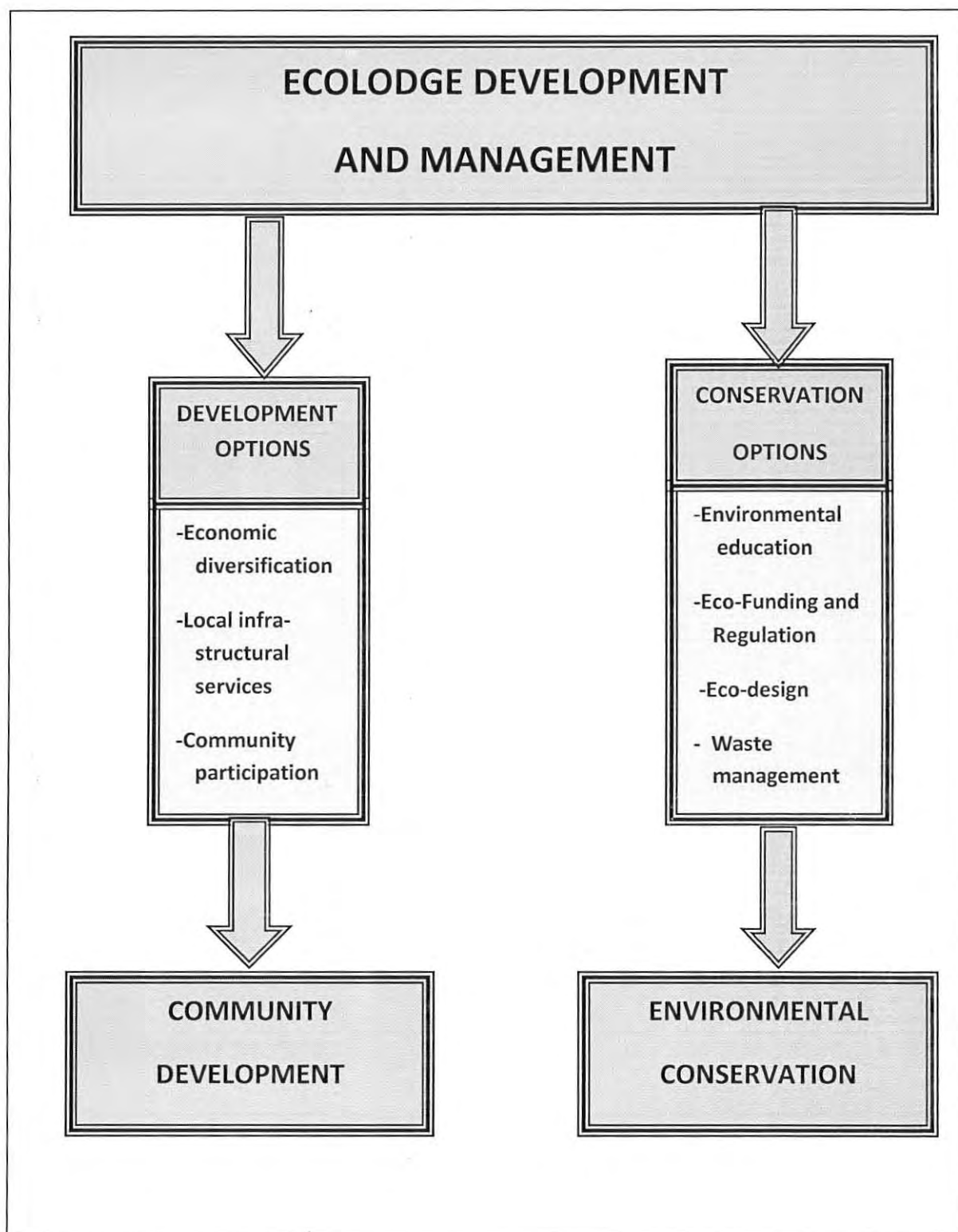


Figure 2- 1, Conceptual Framework of the Study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of the Study Area

The study area, the Bishangari ecolodge and its surrounding is found in the natural reserves of the Arsi Negele woreda, West Showa zone of Oromia regional state of Ethiopia. The ecolodge is found around 250km South of Addis Ababa; build inside the spectacular natural area of the Ethiopian rift valley in 2001 (Zeppel, 2005). In particular, it's found in the Bishangari Nature Reserve or sometimes called Kimphee Natural Reserve (KNR) located on the east shore of Lake Langano. The area covers about 1000ha stretching towards the eastern escarpments of the Ethiopian Rift Valley (Feyera Senbeta and Demel Teketay, 2003). It is found at an altitude of 1600 meter above sea level and located at $07^{\circ}35'N$ $38^{\circ}45'E$. Relatively; it is located on the west of Langano Lake, the escarpments of the Arsi Mountain in the East, rocky outcrops in the North and sheer sided hills in the South.

The woreda in which Bishangari ecolodge found, Arsi-Negele consists of 46 rural and 3 urban kebeles with a total population of 170,539 and 21,859 households (CSA, 2006). The study site found within this woreda is inhabited predominantly by farmers belonging to the Oromo Arsi. Most of the religious belief is Islam and live in polygamous families. The topography is mainly plain but is undulating land in some parts. The agro-ecology is both lowland and mid-land characteristics (Oromia Regional State, 2008).

Crop production, primarily rain-fed, and livestock rearing are the mainstays of their economic activity and means of livelihoods. The major crops are maize, wheat, *teff* and barley. However, these crop yields are affected by recurrent droughts, which results a high level of food insecurity i.e. inadequate rainfall, dry spells and early cessations of rain during critical crop growth and seed setting periods have the negative impact on harvest and pasture availability.

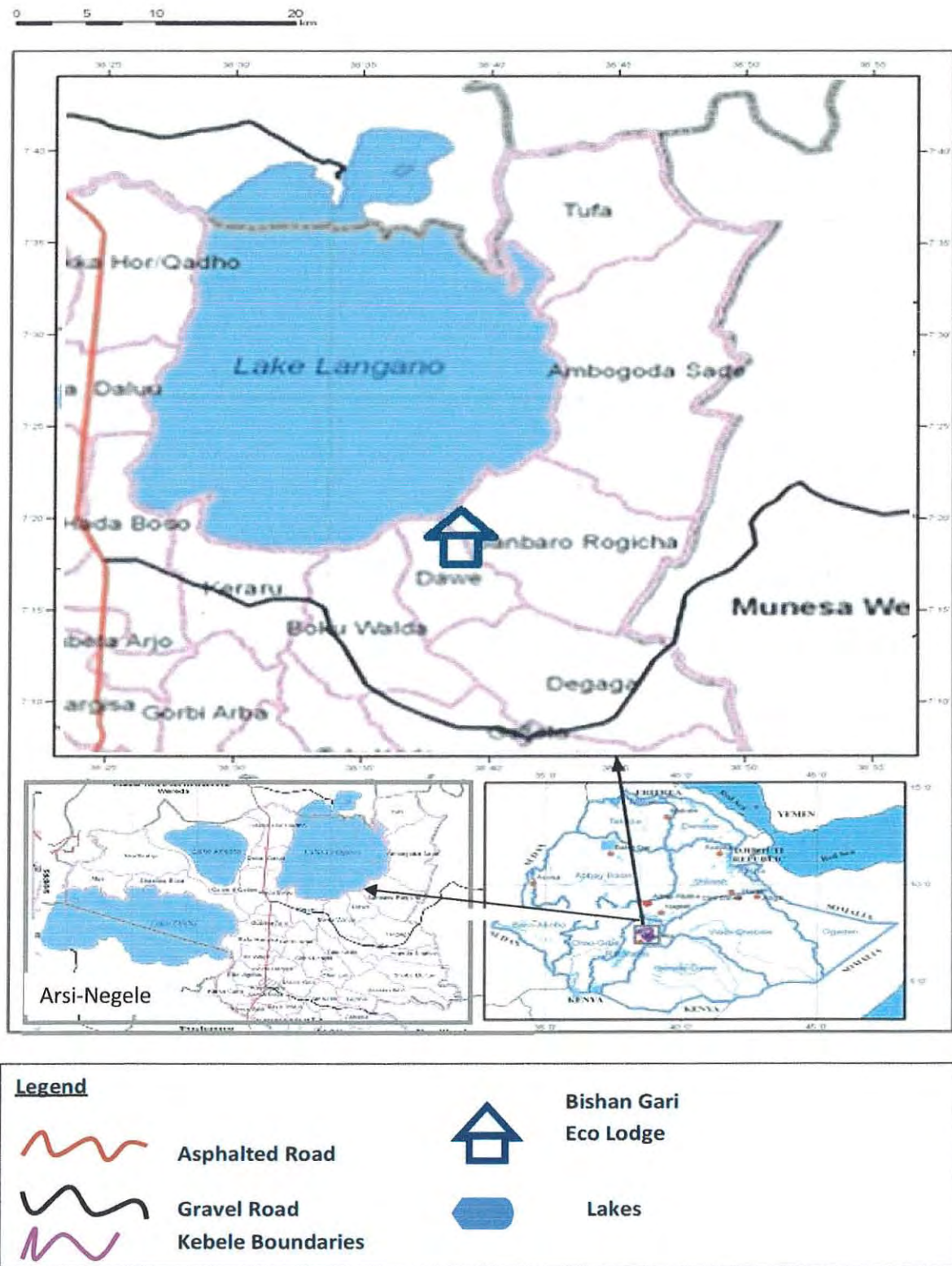


Fig 3.1, Map of the Study Area (Adapted from Endalew Addis, 2008)

The climate of the area is ranging from semi-arid to sub-humid type and accompanied by two rainy seasons with the main rainy season from July to October and the mean annual rainfall is 1190 mm (Feyera Senbeta and Demel Teketay, 2003). The average daily temperature is around 20 C⁰ but in it may reach to, 20-24.9 C⁰ in January, and October it may reach to 15-19.9 C⁰. The area is dry-sub humid in it moisture. Geologically, the area is more of tertiary volcanic/ Cenozoic where the soil is humic, mollic and vitvic andosols (Bishangari, 2007).

Given the availability of the lake and diversified vegetation, the study area is shelter of a number of bird species and other wildlife i.e. its eco-site consisting of numerous biotic lives. Besides, the area is home of 136 plant species representing 47 plant families. Here Acacia shrub and broad-leaved forest families are the dominant of what can be found in the surrounding area. The natural woody vegetation is dominated by Acacia Senegal, Acacia seyal, Acacia tortilis, Dichrostachys cinerea and Balanites aegyptiaca (Feyera Senbeta and Demel Teketay, 2003).

3.2 Historical Background of Bishangari Ecolodge

The name Bishangari originate from the two words of Affan Oromo: *Bishan* and *Gari* where the former stands for *water* and the later for *bubble-sweet*, which together refers sweet bubbling water. Having the potential natural resources, Bishangari ecolodge come true and become the first Ethiopian ecolodge which is established in 2001 (Zeppel, 2005). Before its establishment, it was a site of Farm Africa ecotourism project under the name of Bishangari Tented camp. This ecotourism project was mainly working for the conservation of the enormous natural resources of the local environment. Despite this fact, the farm Africa project has collapsed mainly because of emerging difficulties and the constraints of getting the required license for the ecotourism project of Farm Africa. This is due to the prohibition by the Ethiopian law in making businesses under the auspice of NGO.

Following the collapse of the Farm Africa project, the site is given to local private entrepreneur, called *Omar Bagersh* and his partner and opened the Bishangari ecolodge. Since then, the eco-lodge is trying to integrate development with natural environment

conservation under the context and frame works of ecotourism practices (Bishangari, 2007). The belief behind the firm is bringing economic success in the country not on pure exploitation of the natural resources but through conservation of such resources in the area and sustainability of the local development.

3.3 Research Approach

Obviously, the research approach/design of a study is mostly designed in accordance with the nature of the research problems, objectives, and questions in particular. Therefore, the aim of this study is to show the contribution of ecolodge for community development and environmental conservation under the case of Bishangari. As one kind of design, case studies are the most widely and extensively used approach for tourism research since they have the advantage of being suitable for tourism studies through qualitative and holistic-inductive paradigm (Richie, *et al.*, 2005). This is mainly because of the fact that tourism is complex by its nature and interdependent with different aspects of human life. In particular, according to previous researches by IES ecolodges are mainly studied in the manner of case studies.

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative data collection designs have been used in a way to achieve the objectives and answer the study questions. The triangulation of the methods can also potentially overcome the pitfalls of using a single research method and helps to harness diverse ideas about the same issue and assist in crosschecking the results. As well, it helps to ease data analysis and interpretations that enable to reach credible conclusions and recommendations.

3.4 Sampling Procedure, Technique and Sample Size

For the quantitative approach, the study has used household survey. Based on the pilot survey and the data acquired from Bishangari ecolodge, four kebekes (Dawe, Semberogicha, Keraru and Boku-walda: see Figure, 3-1) are the most beneficiaries and share boundaries from the ecolodge. Thus, these kebeles local communities including the ecolodge workers, government employees (teachers and development agencies) are the universe of the study population.

The total household of the four kebeles is 1338 where Sembero Rogicha, Kereru, Dawe and Bolku-walda account 347, 221, 356, and 317 respectively (The Kebeles' Development Agencies Office, 2007).

Therefore, so as to determine the representative sample size of the households, it was tried to use $\pm 5\%$ interval or 95% confidence of the samples under the Gomm (2008) formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(\alpha)^2}$$

Where, n is the expected sample size.

N is the population size and

' α ' is for the confidence interval.

However, the formula would possibly let use large sample size which is too difficult to use it within that inaccessible, peripheral and sparsely populated study area. Consequently, the researcher was obliged to use 108 household heads using cluster, purposeful and proportionate random sampling. Out of this sample size, three-fourth (81) was purposefully taken from Dawe and Sembero-Rogicha and the remaining one-third (27) from Keraru and Boku-Walda kebeles. This is because of the fact that Dawe and Sembero-Rogicha are closer to Bishangari ecolodge that can better reveal the positive and/ or negative effects of the ecolodge in community development and the environmental conservation.

In order to keep the proportionality of the sample among the selected kebeles', it is computed according to the number of their respective household number. As a result, among 108 samples 42, 39, 13 and 14 household samples were taken from Dawe, Sembero-Rogicha, Keraru and Boku-walda kebeles respectively. In line with the qualitative approach, non- probabilistic, purposeful sampling strategy was used for selecting the interviewees. In particular, interviewees from the local communities were treated by considering expected representation in the composition of age, sex, and area of their work.

3.5 Sources and Methods of Data Collection

3.5.1 Sources of Data

Data are collected from both the primary and secondary sources. The primary quantitative data was obtained from household survey. To triangulate the information found in the quantitative survey, qualitative data collection tools were employed. These are observations and in-depth face-to-face interviews. The interview is conducted to five key informants from the communities, two expertise-officials from the government body, and the ecolodge manager. Likewise, the secondary data were also used from published and unpublished sources. Most importantly, the internet is utilized as the basic source of reference materials in this study.

3.5.2 Data Collection Tools

Most Scholars agreed that using different instruments of data collection is very important to attain a more valued and reliable result. Hence, this study uses different tools to enrich the study.

(a) Observation

Initially, observation both participant (environmental education, guided walking, and social provisions) and non-participant was conducted depending on scenarios. It was accompanied by taking important photographs on environment and local community's involvements as well as on the social services provided with in and around the ecolodge. These photographs are presented so as to increase the validity and reliability of the study.

While and after each part of the observation, taking of extensive diary notes and filling checklists were accomplished properly. All these are vital for the collection of a tangible data with reflection of the live experience on the issues to consider.

(b) Questionnaires

Household survey using questionnaires is conducted and it was translated to the local community's language, *Affan Oromo*. Firstly, well-prepared English version questionnaire became translated and back checked. Secondly, after collection, it was translated to English language by the respective translators. The questions are composed of a variety of types with different approaches like those that some are close-ended whereas others are semi-structured and rating scale. The four enumerators who are trained and parts of the local people have participated in conducting the survey.

(c) In Depth Interview

Interview has been conducted on the purposely-selected five key informants from the community of the ecolodge who are not participated in the household survey. The raised points were plausible to the research problems. In addition, deep face-to-face interview was also conducted to the ecolodge manager and expertise from Woreda respective bodies'.

Furthermore, key documents such as brochures, the ecolodge plans, minutes, web site printouts and the ecolodge publicity as well as other information have been collected and analysed in order to reach conclusions.

3.6 Data Gathering Schedule and procedure

After approvals of the respective bodies, the data collection tools have been administered to the systematically selected subjects. From the very beginning, there was pilot survey from December 2, 2010 - 16, 2010. The pilot survey was significant to readjust the research questionnaire, interview guidelines and the observation checklists. Thus, test and adjustment of the questionnaire was made after distributing and collecting data from those selected 14 households in the Dawe kebele. The test helps to adjust some formats of the questions that were significant for the actual data collection.

Next to the tests and adjustments, interview has conducted to two experts from Arsi- Negele woreda in accordance with the prepared guiding questions (December 20 - 25, 2010). The in-depth interview has continued to the Bishangari ecolodge manager (December, 27 - 30).

Starting from December 3, 2010 - January 26, 2011 the household survey has conducted by the help of four enumerators. At last interviews have conducted to the key-informants who are nearby villagers to the Bishangari ecolodge (from February first to 12, 2011).

3.7 Data Analysis

The household survey data were analysed with the help of descriptive statistical analysis i.e. frequencies, percentages and mean were used. Quite significantly, the data are presented, organized and analyzed using tables, figures, graphs and pictures. In respect to the qualitative data, they were organized, coded, transcribed and interpreted based on the objectives of the study. In particular, pictures taken and documented by Bishangari ecolodge are comprehensively used since it helps to present the different activities of the ecolodge and reach conclusions.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The researcher and the data collectors/ enumerators have followed a standardized procedure in observing, conducting interviews, and administrating the household survey. Accordingly, both the rand researcher and data collectors would have been well informed about the subjects and similarly the subjects were well informed of the purpose of the study. Having done these things, is' obtained the consent of the questionnaire respondents, interviewees and others who have participated during observation. At the same time, all had the right to refuse to participate while conducting the study.

CHAPTER- FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Following data collection, the data are analyzed and interpreted here in to different parts as sampled house hold head characteristics, contribution of the Bishangari ecolodge for community development (like; income generation, local infrastructural provisions and community participation and empowerment) and contribution to environmental conservation under (Ecolodge design and waste management, positive impacts of ecolodges on environment and biodiversity protection) are treated below respectively.

4.1 Sampled Household Head Characteristics

4.1.1 Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Analyzing demographic and socio-economic characteristics of respondents is essential because of their significance in the credibility of the study findings. In order to see its effect, the variables are mainly used and integrated with the characteristics of Bishangari ecolodge employees. This is because of the relative documentation of the employees characteristics by the ecolodge and all of them except the manager are the parts of the surveyed communities in the study area.

Even though the questionnaires are distributed to the sampled 108 households, four of them are found incompletely filled. Therefore, the number of the studied households' is 104.

From the total sampled respondents (104), 77.88% are men and 22.11% are women. This significant difference in sex composition is because of the culture that male are more likely taken the leadership of a given household. In relation to sex composition among the ecolodge employees, it has indicated that more men are employed over women i.e. among the 49 employs (41)83.78% are men and remaining (8)16.32% are women. Even though few women are employed in it, the ecolodge reconstructed the souvenir shop and give it women only. Besides with souvenir production and selling, women are generating money and empower themselves by raring chicken and eggs under the support of Bishangari ecolodge.

In terms of religion, among the respondents, 59.61%, 22.11%, 11.53%, 4.8%, 1.9% is Muslim, Orthodox, Adventist, Protestant and Catholic respectively.

Concerning the marital status of the surveyed household heads, it has been investigated that the majority (83.65%) of them are married. The remaining 12.5% and 3.85% are single and divorced respectively. For example, the marital status of the local employees in the ecolodge indicate that 55.12% men are married whereas the remaining 24.48% and 0.04% are single and divorced respectively as well all women are single. This indicates that single women are more likely involved in the ecolodge activities within the study area. This can be interpreted as because of the fact that most of the local communities in the study area are Muslim (59.61%). Thus, married women are less likely allowed to go out of home and work for an earning.

Concerning the family size of the respondents in the study area, out of the sampled respondents, 89.42% of them have families and the remaining 10.57% do not.

Table 4-1, Family Size of the Sample HHs in the Study Area.

No	Family Size	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	One	11	10.57%
2	Living with husband/wife only (2)	4	3.84%
3	3-5	32	30.76%
4	6-8	39	37.5%
5	> 8	18	17.3%
6	Total	104	100%

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

As illustrated in Table 4-1, out of the 89.42% household head respondents, 30.76% of them have 3-5 family size, (37.5%) respondents constitute 6-8 members, (17.3%) respondents have eight and above families where as the remaining 4 are living only with husband or wife. Here, it is clear that more than half of them have large family size i.e. 54.8% of them have six and above family members. Therefore, the local communities need to have economic diversification for nurturing the large family size. Worthwhile, Bishangari

ecolodge is an opportunity that can assist these extended families in improving their living condition and in turn minimizes agricultural farmland expansions on the natural reserve for supporting their families.

The sampled respondents have been also asked whether they have their own house or not. And the response show that 84.61% of them do have their own house but the remaining 4.8%, 8.65% and 5.76% has got their house from their parents, the Bishangari ecolodge and the government body respectively. Lack of private house in the study area is mainly because of scarcity in money and land. In respect to this end, according to the study, Bishangari ecolodge is supporting the local communities for having their own houses through the business opportunities and provisions. For example, all the employed local communities have their own houses gained from the support of the ecolodge.

The study also tried to see the income level of the sampled households. However, there were challenges to get the fair information from the community. This is mainly lack of awareness as how to manage and document the income they get per month/year. Despite this fact, during the survey, they have provided guessed information about their income (See, Table 4-2).

Table 4-2, Approximate Monthly Income of the Sampled HHs in the Study Area

No	Monthly Income (Ethiopian Birr/ ETB)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	<100	4	3.84%
2	101-200	12	11.53%
3	201-300	31	29.8%
4	301-400	15	14.42%
5	401-500	17	16.34%
6	>500	9	8.65%
7	I don't know	16	15.38%
8	Total	104	100

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

As indicated in Figure 4-1 below, the age structure of the household respondents in the study area is relatively fair in its composition i.e. those in the age between 18-25, 26-33, 34-41, 42-49, >50 are 16%, 20%, 17%, 24% and 23% respectively. The average age of the sample house hold heads is **38.2**. As illustrated in Appendix-VI, the employees age composition shows that older ages' between 42-49(46.93%) are involved in the ecolodge like the other age groups. Thus, ecolodges are important not only for those youngsters but also it can involve the elders in its activities and generate income from it.

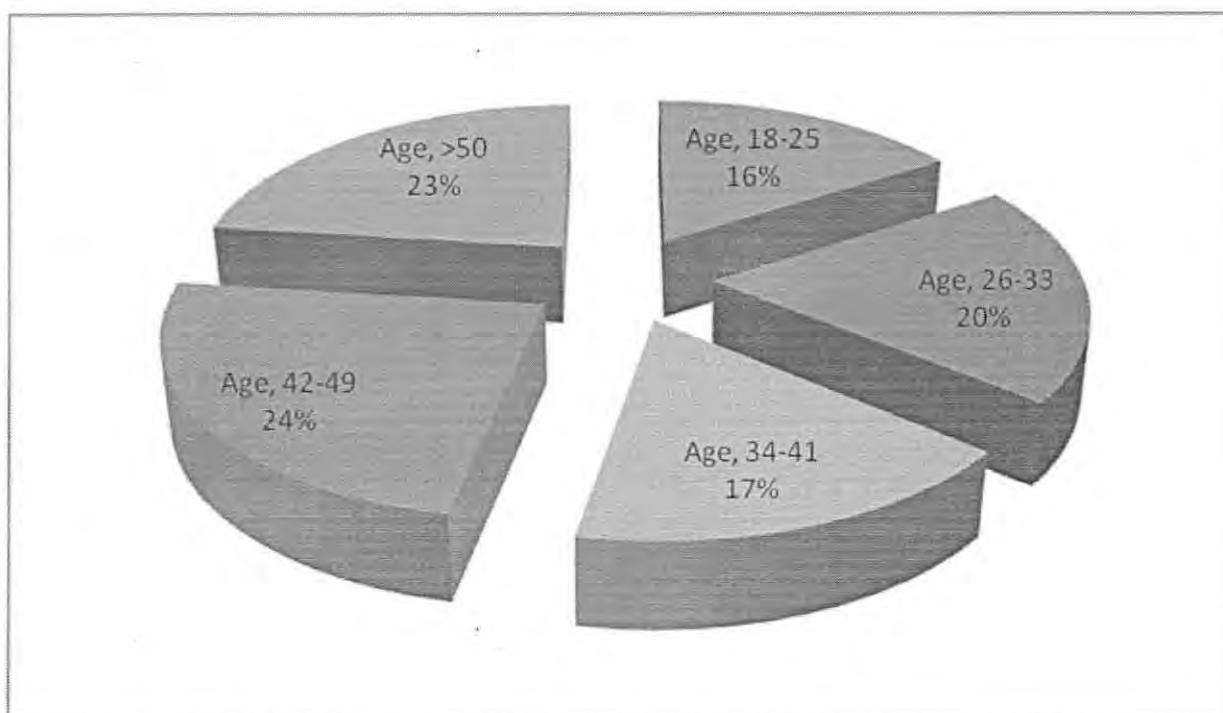


Figure 4-1, The Age Structure of the Sampled HHs.

Source: researcher own Survey, 2011.

The sampled respondents' educational level from grade 1-4, 5-8, 12 complete is 24.03%, 8.64%, and 6.8% respectively. Whereas the majorities (56.73%) are, illiterates and 5.76% are attending vocational education. The latter group, who attended higher education, is those who work in the public services as teachers, agricultural development agency and including those hired in the Bishangari eco-lodge. In general, the educational level of the surveyed sampled respondents is relatively low though there are a few you have attended secondary and higher education.

In order to relate it with locally employed employees of the ecolodge, its only 12.25% of them have vocational certificate where as 87.75% of them are illiterates and do not have higher education. This shows that Bishangari ecolodge involving more illiterates and lower grade level educates in its employment posts and activities.

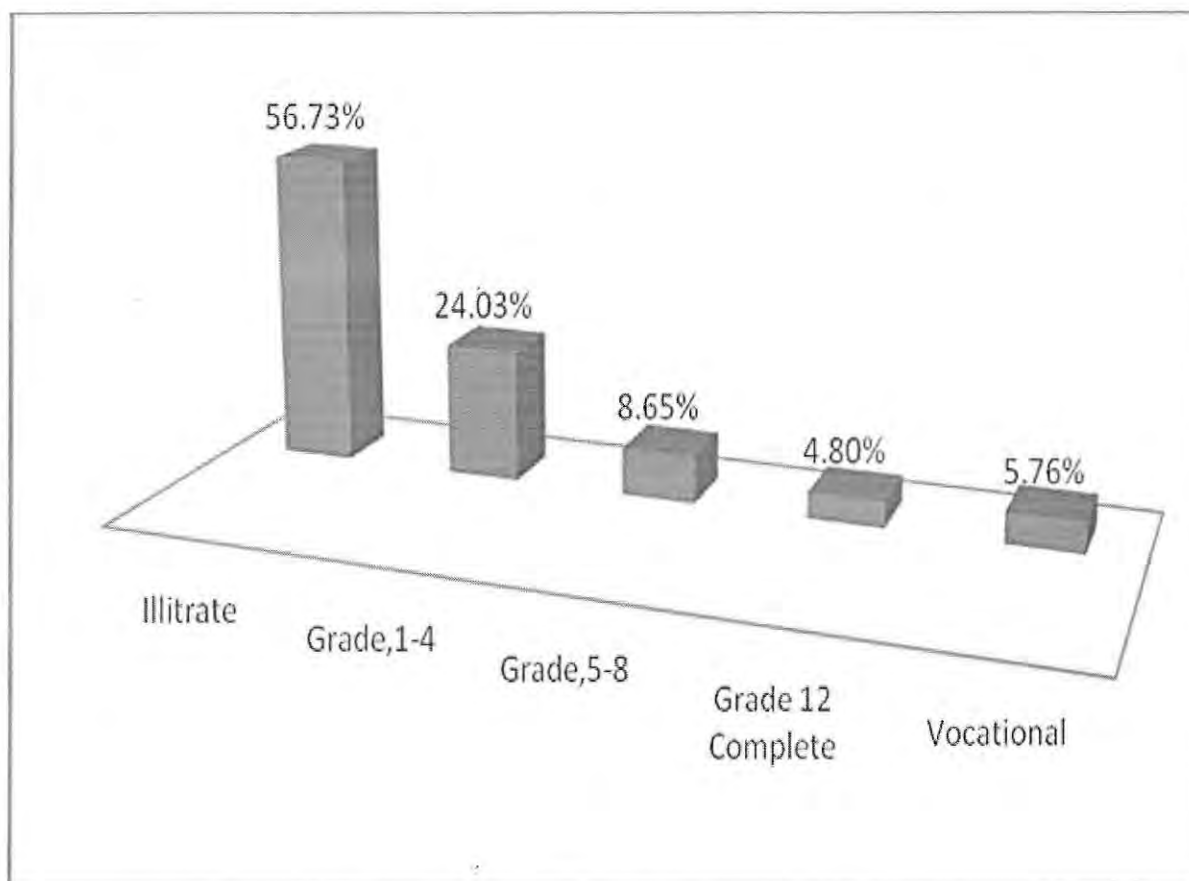


Figure 4-2, Educational Status of the Sampled HHs.

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

In line with their occupation type, the majorities of (75.96%) respondents are farmers, (5.76%) civil servants, (3.84%) small business owners, (6.73%) employed in private business, (2.88%) daily laborers, (1.92%) tourist guide and (2.88%) are handicraft producers and sellers. Among them, private business employees, tourist guides and handicraft producers and sellers are local communities sampled from the ecolodge locally employees and workers. As described from Appendix-vi, there are seventeen (17) occupation types created and the local employees are working with in the ecolodge. In addition, the small business owners are those opening shops and small cafeteria by marketing the ecolodge

workers and the coming tourists. Therefore, the Bishangari ecolodge is an opportunity for the local communities' diversification of occupation other than farming which helps for their better livelihood.

4.1.2 Know- how about Tourism, Ecolodge and Environment

The purpose of looking at HHs know-how (knowledge and attitude) about tourism, ecolodge and environment is to triangulate their response to the main body of the survey and helps to increase the validity and reliability of the survey. In addition, it helps to see how much the Bishangari ecolodge contributes in the creation of awareness's about them.

In general, the study area attracts ecotourists from different parts of the world that help the local communities aware of tourism and it is relating activities. Likely, 76.72% of the respondent's respond as if they have the know-how about tourism. Among them, 32.68% of them responded as it is traveling towards the natural attractions and 12.5% believe that it is visiting cultural heritages. Whereas 9.8% of them are responded as, it is interaction between tourists and local people. On the other hand, the study shows that 23.28% of the households' responded, as they do not know about tourism. Even though the majorities of the respondents have know-how about tourism, the survey also indicated that 23.28% of the local communities need further awareness creation programs about tourism by the ecolodge.

The sampled HHs were also asked to respond to the question whether they know a tourist or not. According, 89.42% of the respondents replied, as they know a tourist and 10.58% of them replied, as they do not know a tourist. 64.42% of them know a tourist at and around the Bishangari ecolodge, (18.26%) within their village, (3.84%) from the nearby school (Kimphee) and (0.9%) replied as they know them from the local market place. In net shell, only 10.57% of the respondents do not know a tourist/s. (See Table, 4-3). Hence, this shows that the majorities are aware of what tourists are in their locality. In addition, this survey revealed that the Bishangari eco-lodge is the main gateway for communities of the study to know about tourists and possibly interact with them coming from different areas.

Table 4-3, Common Places Where the Local Communities Know a Tourist in the Study Area

No	Where HHs Meet the Tourist	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1	Market Place	1	0.9%
2	Village	19	18.26%
3	Government Office	2	1.92%
4	Local School	4	3.84%
5	Bishangari Ecolodge	67	64.42%
6	I don't know	11	10.57%
7	Total	104	100%

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

With regard to their know-how about the Bishangari ecolodge, all respondents respond that they know about the Bishangari ecolodge. Likewise, 97.11% sampled HHs replied that the eco-lodge is a tourist site and accommodation where as the remaining 2.88% respond as they don't know about the function of Bishangari eco-lodge. Worthwhile, an attempt was made to see the respondents know how about the benefits of the ecolodge. Thus, all the respondents respond that the Bishangari eco-lodge is benefiting the local communities in different ways. Likely, 98.07% respond as it has employment opportunity, 79.8%, as business option, 92.3%, as provision of social services, 99.0% as environmental conservation and 81.73% responded as it helps for cultural exchange (See Figure, 4-3). The responses of the sample HHs indicate that the local communities are conscious about the function and benefit of the Bishangari ecolodge to the local communities.

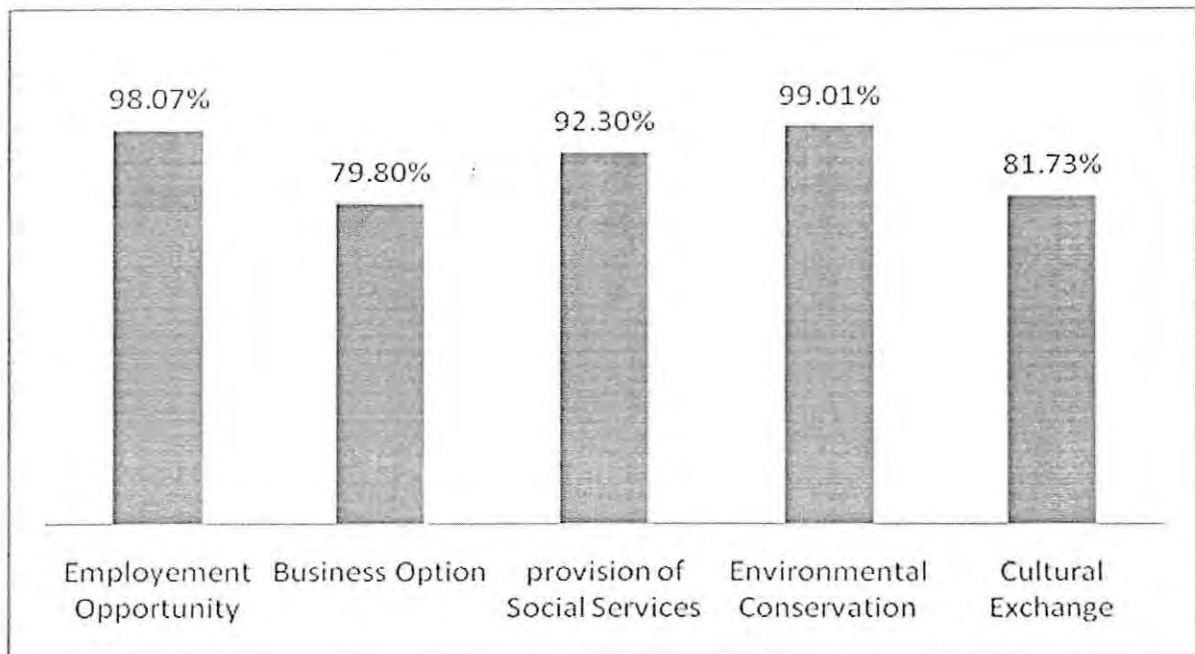


Figure 4-3, Know-how of the Respondents about the Benefit of Ecolodge.

Source: Researcher own Survey, 2011

4.2 The Role of Bishangari Ecolodge in Community Development

4.2.1 Income Generation

The sampled household head were asked to show whether Bishangari eco-lodge is helpful for increasing the amount of the local communities' income or not. Consequently, 99.03% of them responded that it is helpful. Moreover, 84.61% of them responded that Bishangari ecolodge is an opportunity for the communities to sell different kinds of their own products to the tourists. This is also supported by the coming ecotourists i.e. they are willing to buy products from the communities' products like local souvenir and other tangible and intangible products. In addition, Bishangari ecolodge is major source of income for local communities through employment and other multiplying effects. Likely, 98.01% of the employees are from the local people. All these things help the Bishangari local communities to increase the level of their annual income.

Table 4-4, Multiple Responses on Kinds of Products for Sell to the

Tourists in the study Area

No	Kind of Product for Sell to Tourists	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1	Cotton Made Souvenir	74	71.15%
2	Wood Made Souvenir	81	77.88%
3	Metal Made Souvenir	13	12.5%
4	Leather Made Souvenir	27	25.96%
5	Compound Product	76	73.07%
6	Fruits	3	2.88%
7	Honey	2	1.95%

Source: the researcher own survey, 2011.

From Table 4-4, the local communities in the study area are generating money from the coming tourists by selling different souvenirs and other products. Likewise, 77.88% of the sampled respondents replied that the local communities are generating money by selling wood made souvenirs and 71.15% of them responded as communities are selling cotton made souvenirs. As well, 73.07% of the respondents replied that communities are generating income by selling combined products to ecotourists. These figures express that the local communities are generating money from the coming ecotourists created by the Bishangari ecolodge.

Despite wood made (77.88%), cotton made (71.15%) and other souvenirs, the local communities are rarely generating income from selling fruits (2.88%) and honey (1.99%). This is mainly because of the fact that these products are perishable for eco-tourists and not attracted to buy them. Therefore, they are not good source of income from tourists.

However, souvenir products be produced with better quality since they are one of the main sources of income for the local communities.

Furthermore, the local communities can also generate income by selling different products to Bishangari ecolodge. Starting from its establishment, the local communities generate money by producing different products (the materials used for vernacular construction, decoration, labor and others) for the ecolodge. A case in point, the wood materials used for the ecolodge construction are not from the natural reserve rather they use planted trees for commercial purposes that are mostly coming from a relatively far, Degago and Keraru kebeles. In particular, after beginning of operation, the ecolodge has given special attention to shopping center where the local communities able to sell their souvenir and agricultural products to tourists and the ecolodge. This is done so as to increase the level of local communities' income.

It's clear that the community members should have market opportunities to sell their products for tourists and other consumers. Likely, it is observed that the local communities can produce products and sell them to the ecolodge. The ecolodge manager explained that:

The souvenir shop is under reconstruction for the sack of expanding the shop and making it as workshop same time. This is because, in the past it was not well managed, coordinated and most tourists were interested to see how the souvenirs are produced. In such a way, the eco-lodge is helping the communities by constructing a more viable shopping center and coordinating them to generate money from the fortune created by the Bishangari ecolodge (Interview, 2011).

However, according to the study, the local communities are not fully utilizing the maximum business opportunity out of the traditional farming. Accordingly, the ecolodge manager stated that some of the community members are loose to come to sell products though there were awareness creation program. He added that by considering this issue the eco-lodge has officially trained 17 strategically selected women from the local communities by the help of the local administration office and trained them as how to produce souvenirs and provided them startup capital and souvenir shop at the entry and exit gate. The manager further

elaborated that it focuses on women only because many men are working as employee (83.67%) within the eco-lodge as well as it helps to empower women in that peripheral area.

Concurrently, according to the document analysis found in the office, all employs except the manager are from the local community i.e. among the 50, 49(98.1%) are from the local community where 83.67% are men and 16.33% are women (See Appendix-VI). Therefore, the communities can generate income through employment in the ecolodge. After recruitment, these employs have got skillful trainings including formal higher education by the expense of the ecolodge. The training areas include cooking, catering, massage, and tour guide in the capital Addis Ababa with certifications. As a result, the employs have become owner of professional skills that are helpful for their own sustainable livelihood and proper support of their families as well as empowerment.

The local communities also generate income by selling different kinds of agricultural products to Bishangari ecolodge. As a principle and it is also easy that the ecolodge has to buy different kinds of products like fruits and vegetables (cabbages, carrots, lettuce, pepper, cucumber, tomato, potato, garlic, onion, and others) from the local communities. The ecolodge buy these products not only to produce food and drinks for coming tourists but also it buy a lot for the consumption of the 49 locally employed workers. This is because of the fact that the ecolodge is giving home and other home consumptions to the employees freely. The salary is only for save. This can help the local producers profit more and motivated to do the business further. According to the key informants and the manager, in order to increase the quality and quantity of these agricultural products, the ecolodge assists the local farmers through donating varies materials like modern hives, better seeds, fertilizers, hoes, turn over, pesticides and other indispensable agricultural materials. In addition, the ecolodge provided them relevant trainings about irrigation and modern production of apiculture.

Obviously, the study area is half circled by the renowned Langano Lake (See map of the study area, Picture, 3-1). Hence, the nearby local communities from both the selected kebeles who show interests are trained and become organized by the ecolodge where each are provided with big fishnet (which costs, 9,000 ETB) for collecting fish from it and sell to the ecolodge and other markets. Culturally, women in the study area are confined at home and the Bishangari ecolodge has logically selected nine women, two from Sembero Rogicha,

three from Boku-Walda and the remaining four from Dawe who are provided with selected hens for producing chicken and eggs with in their home and sell to it and the market. All these agricultural products produced by the local communities are sold with same price of the capital city, Addis Ababa. All these contributions from Bishangari ecolodge can enhance the amount of their income and improve livelihood (welfare) as long as it also reinforce and motivate them producing further and develop the idea of commercial agriculture.

After their production, to resolve the transportation problem, the local communities are provided with four donkeys and each with wheel (*Garrii harree*) for transporting the products from their production area or home to the Bishangari ecolodge or main road. The other excess products will be transported by the community car provided by the ecolodge to the Arsi-negele Woreda open market and sell it timely against spoilage and damage. These all supports and income generation opportunities created by Bishangari ecolodge help the local communities' economic diversification and better livelihood. According to the survey, all the selected household heads responded in respects of the products they sell to the ecolodge are shown in Table 4-5.

Table 4-5, Multiple Responses of the Sampled HHs on the Kinds of Local Community Products Sell to the Ecolodge.

No	Kind of agricultural products	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1	Fruits	79	75.96%
2	Vegetables	95	92.3%
3	Fish	92	88.46%
4	Meat (sheep, goats....)	66	63.46%
5	Milk	11	10.57%
6	Honey	27	25.96%
7	Cereals	14	13.46%
8	Chicken and eggs	81	77.88%

Source: Researcher own survey, 2011.

From Table 4-5, vegetables (92.03%), fish (88.48%), chicken, and eggs (77.88%) are the major sources of income for the local communities from the Bishangari ecolodge. However, milk (10.57%), cereals (13.46%), and honey (25.96%) are less likely to be source of income from the ecolodge.

Ecolodges are crucial to complement the local community's economy through different ways (Ashley and Mitchell, 2010). The local communities in the study area are generating income from both the ecolodge and the coming eco-visitors. In line with this, Figure 4-4 shows the response of the sampled HHs about the average income (*ETB*) of an individual (who they know) gained in the previous year from selling products to each Bishangari ecolodge and the tourists.

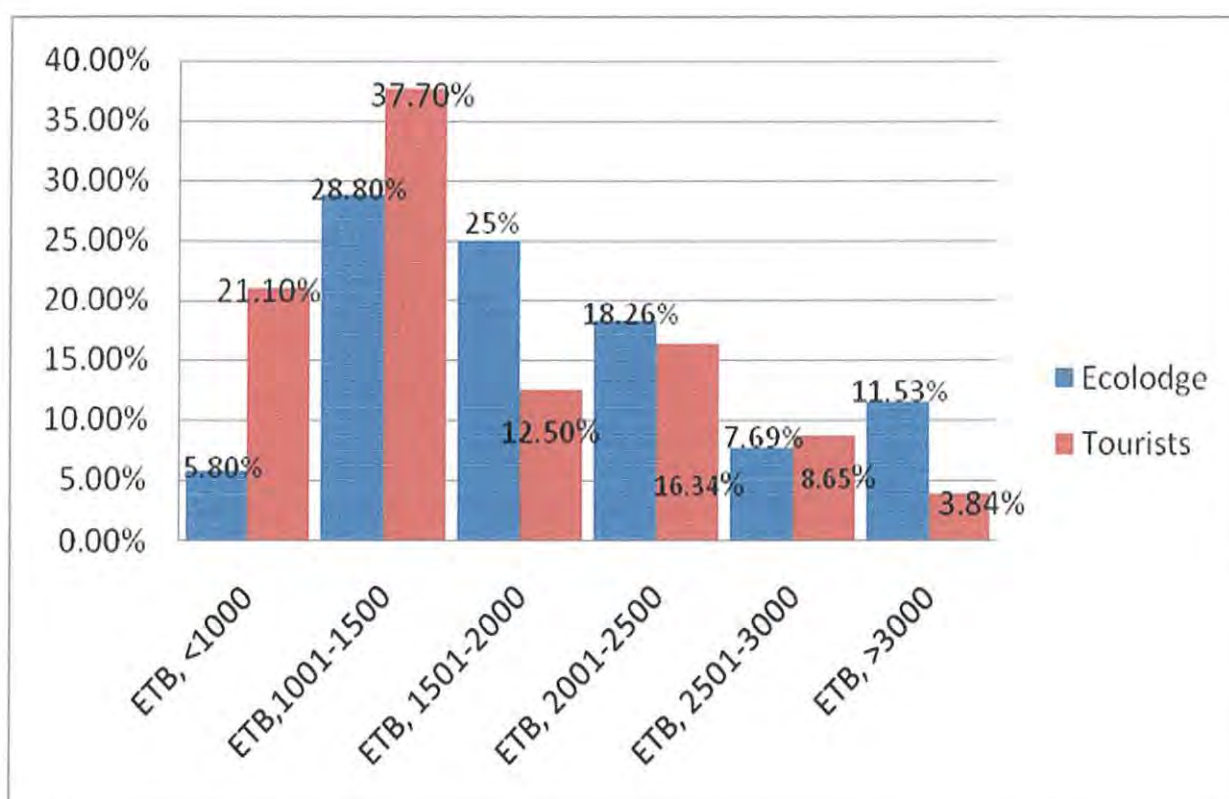


Figure 4-4, Last Year's Annual Income of an Individual Gained from the Ecolodge and the Tourists.

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

From Figure 4-4, the comparison between communities' income generated from the ecolodge and from the coming tourists indicated that the local communities are able to gain better income from the ecolodge than the ecotourists. For example, 11.53% of the sample respondents replied that an individual can gain more than 3,000.00 (ETB) from the ecolodge per year. Whereas, 3.84% of them responded that the same amount of ETB can be gained from the tourists. Similarly, 25.01% of them replied an individual can gain ETB in between 1501.00-2000.00 from the ecolodge in the previous year but 12.5% replied as it is gained from the tourists. The relatively low income generated from tourists is mainly because of the inadequate provision of different cultural and quality souvenir products to the coming ecotourists.

4.2.2 Local Infra-Structural Development

In addition to the opportunity in income generation, Bishangari ecolodge is found to play a vital role for the local communities' infrastructural development and public services. The findings of this study discovered that the development of ecolodge in the peripheral areas is in particular significant for local communities' social service development. Here, local infrastructures/social services are not only constructed by the ecolodge but the coming ecotourists are also critical in supporting the communities' development and social service provisions.

To state one prominent example, a key informant from the local communities and the chairperson of Dawe kebele, stated that:

During the early establishment of Bishangari ecolodge by Farm Africa, a generous eco-tourist called Richard Williams from England come here and become interested of the area as well as the people. After the second visit, he decided to assist the people and constructed standardized (brick) blocks for expanding the nearby elementary school and one is provided as a health center (Interview, 2011).

After the overtaking of the Bishangari ecolodge by an Ethiopian entrepreneur, Omar Bagersh, its contribution continues to the local communities. Initially from observation and

interview from local communities, the ecolodge manager and the Woreda government officials, the ecolodge has done and/ is doing a lot in serving the public needs and welfare.

The sampled HHs were asked to respond on the contribution of development of Bishangari eco-lodge towards local infrastructural services. Here, the contribution of the ecolodge may be partial i.e. in cooperation with other stakeholders (government, NGOs etc.) or provided the social service fully by itself. Therefore, the responses of the sampled HHs are categorized and analyzed as full and partial contribution or not at all. (See Table 4-6).

Table-4-6, Multiple Responses on the Contribution of Bishangari Ecolodge in Local Infrastructure Development/ social services in the Study Area

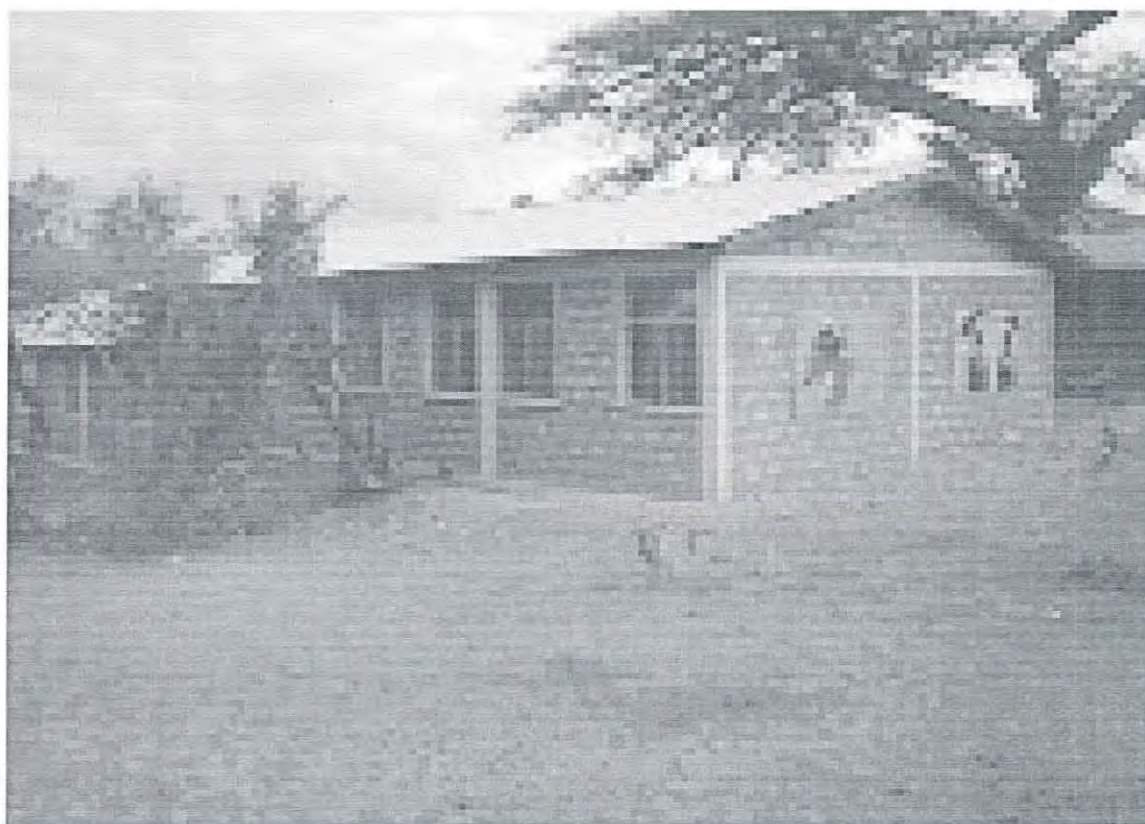
No	Local Infrastructure	Level of Contribution/104						Other way
		Provided by the ecolodge itself. (Full)		Provided in cooperation with others like (NGOs). (Partial)		Not at all		
		f	%	f	%	F	%	
1	Transportation Service	97	93.26%	17	16.34%	-	-	-
2	Road for Community Access	73	70.19%	31	29.80%	-	-	-
3	School	98	94.23%	6	5.76%	-	-	-
4	Health Center	31	29.80%	73	70.19%	-	-	-
5	Telecommunication Access	56	53.84%	48	46.18%	-	-	-
6	Clean Water Supply	102	98.07%	2	1.92%	-	-	-

*Where f is frequency.

Source: researcher own Survey, 2011.

From the observation, in depth interview and the HHs survey, the contribution of Bishangari ecolodge for the local communities infra structural development is so great and all rounded. See the summarize finding below.

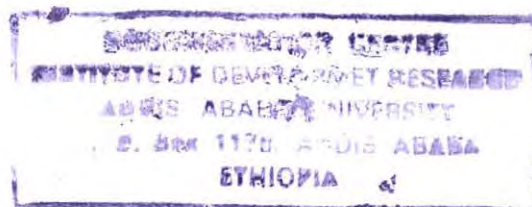
1. Partially supported the built elementary school at Sembero Rogicha school which is functioning recently, in September, 2010.
2. Build a library (furnished) with the necessary materials and books at the nearby Dawe kebele, Kimphee elementary and junior school.



Picture 4-1, Kimphee School building built by ecotourists.

(Photo: by the researcher, 2011)

3. Constructed around 10km gravel road that can connect the local communities from Dawe to Assela road.





Picture 4-2, The Gravel Road and Bridge Constructed by Bishangari Ecolodge.

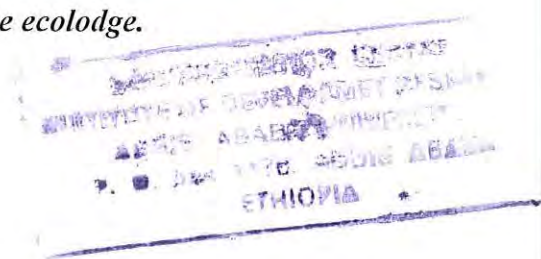
(Photo: from the Ecolodge, 2008)

4. Construct bridge along the gravel road. However, the bridge could not allow big Lorries and other cars. This is done intentionally in order to conserve the natural environment.
5. Establish water supply to the community and the nearby school. They are using water from the same huge water-tanker that the eco-lodge uses. In addition, cloth-washing dishes are constructed for the community near the water supplier.



Picture 4-3, Clean water supply provided by the ecolodge.

(Photo, by the researcher, 2011)



6. In respect of transportation service, the Bishangari eco-lodge has given the communities a pick-up car with the locally employed driver and four donkeys each with wheel .The car is provided to the communities so as to use it in times of sickness and transporting the different agricultural products to the market. Whereas, the *Garrii harres'* (donkey driven wheels) are for transporting products from home to main road or Bishangari ecolodge.



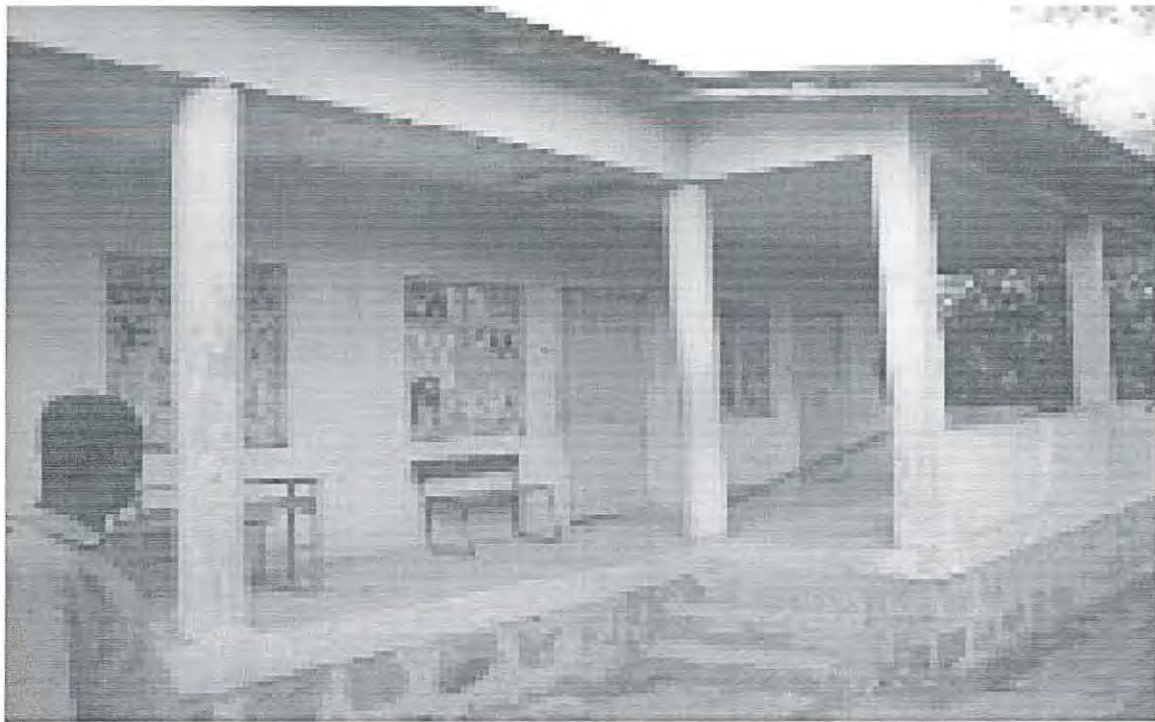
Picture 4-4, Communities-car Provided by the Ecolodge
(Photo: by the Researcher, 2011)

7. Communication services are also allowed to the local communities used in times of need.
8. Provide and contribute for building houses to the communities.

The ecolodge manager and the key informants' explained that:
Bishangari ecolodge is contributing its part for welfare of the community like construction of houses. They also elaborated that in particular most the ecolodge employees have their own commercial houses in the nearby town, Arsi-Negele (Interview. 2011).



Despite these facts, the local communities nearby health service center is now closed though ecotourists funded for construction of the houses and materials. This mainly because of lose government role in employing the health workers. The ecolodge manager explained that there is a promising deal with the higher government authorities to start the clinic.



Picture 4-5, Clinic Center Constructed by the Coming Ecotourists.

(Photo: by the researcher, 2011)

4.2.3 Community Participation and Empowerment

It is crucial if the local communities are participated in ecolodge management starting from construction phase to its operation (IES, 2004). When individuals, communities, and associations are integrated into the decision-making process or participatory processes are utilized, ecolodge development can be a transforming experience rather than only an economic alternative (Stronza and Durham, 2008).

In this study, the representatives HHs have shown the level of community's participation in the Bishangari ecolodge. Likely, 55.76% of them responded, as there is community participation before, during and after the construction of Bishangari ecolodge. In addition,

the way of the community's participation indicated by these respondents is through supply of raw materials 94.82% labor supply 98.27%, decision-making 41.37% and other management activities 72.41%.

Table 4-7, Multiple response of Sampled HHs about Communities

Participation in Bishangari Ecolodge

No	Kind of participation	Frequency(f)/58	Percentage (%)
1	Material Supply	55	94.82%
2	Labor Force	57	98.27%,
3	Decision Making	24	41.37%
4	Other Management Activities	42	72.41%.

Source: by the researcher own survey, 2011

Besides, 29.8% of the sampled HHs responded that the ecolodge management considers the communities' as one part of the decision makers about the ecolodge. The remaining 70.19% replied as the ecolodge do not consider them. This indicates that the ecolodge has to create plausible rooms and systems to participate the local communities in decision-making process that can at least satisfy the interests of the majorities in the local community.

It is obvious that the coming ecotourists are not only interested in admiring nature but also highly interested to communicate with the local community's and share of their culture. In line with this, 75.96% of the respondents state that there is cultural exchange between the tourists and the community. From the electronic documents found from the ecolodge, there are videos and pictures that show the cultural exchange between tourists and the local communities (see Appendix, IV).

Here, Bishangari eco-lodge is playing the major role for creating and facilitating the cultural sharing of the local community's with other societies (tourists). This is further supported by 75.96% of the sample respondents. However, the study shows that their cultural exchange is not used as means of business option through different ways like cultural demonstrations for fee.

Surprisingly, the study investigates that Bishangari ecolodge, except the manager has employees all coming from the local communities. According to the interview and the documents found in the ecolodge, the employees have vocational trainings, skillfulness, and medical insurances including their families, provision of food and shelter by the ecolodge. As a result, the ecolodge enforces the employees to save money and empower themselves. In respect of formal education, Bishangari ecolodge encourages and give scholarship opportunities for all the employees through distance education program starting from elementary to tertiary level. All these help the local communities to develop confidence and better awareness about the different activities around their home.

The other very crucial issue found here is that the local communities in the study area are vulnerable to shortage of rainfall (drought) and face food insecurity. In other words, drought is frequent in the area. Similarly, all the sampled HHs have confirmed the existence of drought in the study area, consequently, except two; all the sample HHs responded that Bishangari ecolodge gives immediate response against the problem. In line with this, sample HHs were requested to reply on the kinds of the immediate responses that the ecolodge provides in times of drought. The response of the respondents is tabulated below (Table 4-8).

Table 4-8, Multiple Responses of the Sampled HHs about the Support of Bishangari Ecolodge for the Local Communities in Times of Drought.

No	Kinds of responses	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1	Money in cash	1	0.09%
2	Agricultural products : maize and wheat	102	98.07%
3	Industrial products: sugar and oil	102	98.07%
4	Coffee	76	73.07%

Source: researcher own survey, 2011

Similarly, Bishangari ecolodge is recognizant of the fact and have had contingency plan to serve the local communities in times of drought. The decision made and the practice indicated that those local communities which are in face of drought are allowed to get 50kg wheat, 50kg maize, 5kg sugar, 4 kg coffee and 4 liters of cooking oil. These all are provided to each house hold directly by the eco-lodge once in that particular drought time.

In line with these, the ecolodge manager and the key informants have further boost that the eco-lodge is always ready and determined to assist the local community's in there needy times. From the document analysis, the researcher found that Bishangari ecolodge has provided the above amount for the local community in the drought years of 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2009.

In respect to the empowerment of local governance, the ecolodge has provided tables and chairs for the kebele office of Sembero Rogicha where I have fortunately participated in the delivery ceremony while collecting data on February 1, 2011. (See picture, 4-6).



Picture 4-6, Office Furniture Delivery Ceremony to Sembero Rogicha Kebele

(Photo: by the researcher, 2011)

4.3 Contribution of the Ecolodge for Environmental Conservation

4.3.1 Ecolodge Design and Waste Management

Ecolodge design and waste management are vital issues and principles that are considered by eco-lodge developers (Mehta, 2002). This is because they have a direct relation on conservation of the local environment. Firstly, the venture should conduct environmental and cultural impact assessment of the site and limit its carrying capacity. Then, the design, color, and architecture of the eco-lodge are expected to harmonize with the surrounding area (Wood, 2009) i.e. it should not dominate the local landscape and view. With in the design of an eco-lodge it should incorporate every aspects of waste management to avoid any harm to the environment and natural resources in particular (IES, 2004). The basic premises of an eco-lodge is initially minimizing waste generation through re-use, refuse, reduce and repairing.

Hence, in line with this, from the physical out line and visible effects, this research found out that the ecolodge is designed and constructed after visiting other model ecolodges of the world like from Kenya, Tanzania and Costa Rica. The design is found as it keeps the vernacular culture of the local culture and is not dominating the natural reserve. In addition, as a principle, the ecolodge included different aspects with the design for minimizing environmental degradations. Prominently, diesel generator plant is intolerable there rather it intensively uses sustainable solar energy and biogas plant.

After EIA, zoning is also another principle and scheme in which the eco-lodge developer has to include in the eco-lodge design (Mehta, 2002). Zoning principle is crucial for the conservation of the environment and optimizes the ecotourists experience by prohibiting guests in the natural area depending on its sensitivity. According to Mehta, (2002) there are four zones in an ecolodge. These are strictly protected, restricted tourist, moderate tourist use, and semi-intensive tourist use zones.

In respect to these ecolodge environmental zonings, Bishangari ecolodge has identified the four eco-zones: semi-intensive, moderate, wilder, and protected zones. The semi-intensive tourist zone began after passing by the big car limiting bridge (Picture, 4-2) where the four-wheeled cars can park, staff dwelling, souvenir shop, *Tukuls (gojos)*, restaurant, and other

ecolodge uses are rendered. Whereas, in the moderate tourist use zone of the ecolodge, guests are allowed to experience environmental educations, interpretations by walking on foot, cycling or by horses. In the wilder zone, tourists are accompanied by the employed guides and only allowed foot walks with limited number of (3) tourists. However, in the protected zone no one is allowed to go there since this zone is too sensitive to visit the eco-system or the sanctuary. Accordingly, the carrying capacity of the Bishangari ecolodge is ten (10) guests per day. This can be assured by the fact that there are only eight bungalows for accommodating the limited guests there.

The other issue to be included in the design is its waste management scenario. At Bishangari ecolodge, there are waste management means in order to manage wastes generated both from the guests and the ecolodge itself. Accordingly, 90.38% of the sampled HHs replied that Bishangari ecolodge is not discharging wastes directly to the environment including the lake Langano. Furthermore, the ecolodge is dividing wastes as organic and inorganic wastes. In principle, its organic wastes are reused as one source of sustainable biogas energy. Whereas, the solid inorganic wastes are collected and removed to a far place that is inaccessible to wildlife, the community and the lake Langano.

4.3.2 Other Positive Impacts of the Ecolodge

The selected HHs were asked to respond whether the Bishangari eco-lodge is using its effort for preserving the environment or not. As a result, among 104, 90.38% of them responded that the eco-lodge is preserving the environment in general. At the same time, 90.38% of them replied that the eco-lodge is preserving the environment by restricting poachers, enclosing the reserve in fence, conserving the environment against raids for pasturing and collecting fire woods, teaching the community, guiding the tourists about the environment and managing the eco-lodge waste. The table below shows their responses on how the eco-lodge preserves the local environment.

Table 4-9, HHs Multiple Responses in the Means of Environmental Conservation Done by Bishangari Ecolodge.

No	Ways of Environmental Conservation	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1	Restrictive poaching	102	98.07%
2	Awareness creation for local communities	69	66.34%
3	Fencing and guarding the natural reserve	103	99.03%
4	Control of grazing and collecting wood	94	90.38%
5	Managing its wastes	71	68.26%

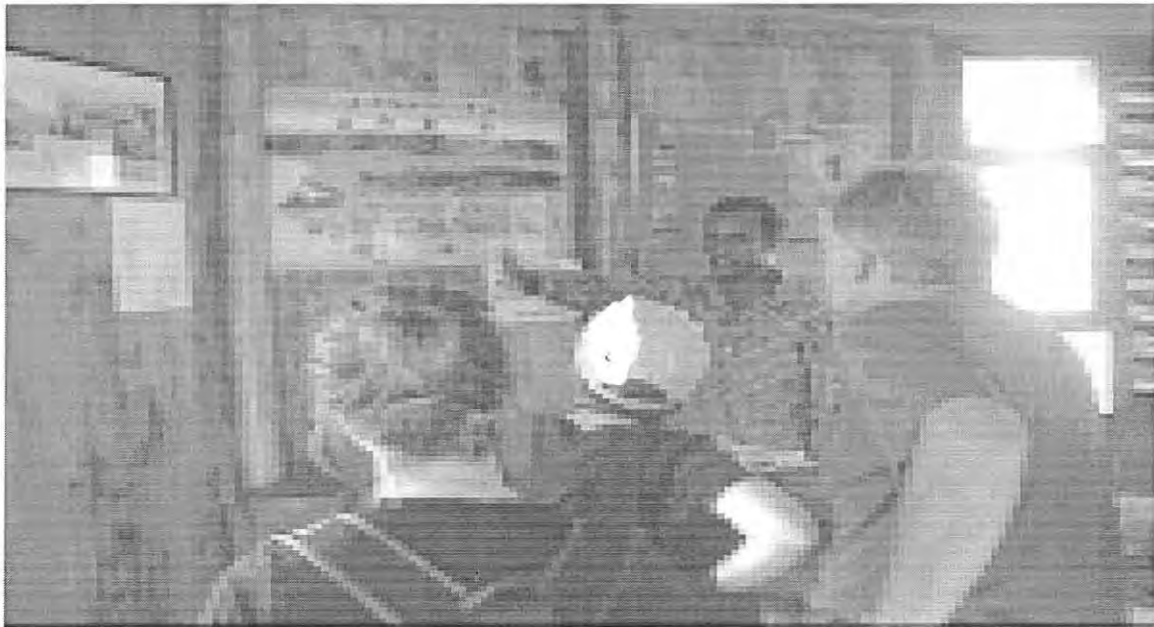
Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

As a principle, ecolodges are expected to create awareness's for the conservation of the environment by motivating the local community's and tourists towards environmental concern: protecting biotic and degradations of the local environment. In line with this, among 104, 66.34% of the sampled HHs replied as the Bishangari ecolodge is creating awareness to the local communities and the coming tourists about the conservation of the environment.

In addition to awareness creation, the sampled respondents replied that Bishangari ecolodge is using different strategies to control the communities against poaching and destructions of the natural reserve. For example, 99.03% of the respondents expressed that the ecolodge is protecting the natural reserve through proper fencing and guardianship. Here, out of the 49 local employees of the ecolodge, 16 of them are working to control poachers and grazers. There is also a Forman employed to manage the overall situation of the reserve and the stewards who is directly accountable to the ecolodge manager (see Appendix-VI). All these means of conservation activities are crucial for controlling the local grazers, wood collectors and other raiders within the natural environment. In line with this, 98.07% and 90.38% of the sample respondents respond that Bishangari ecolodge is restricting poachers and control

other raiders (grazers and wood collectors) respectively for the conservation of the natural environment.

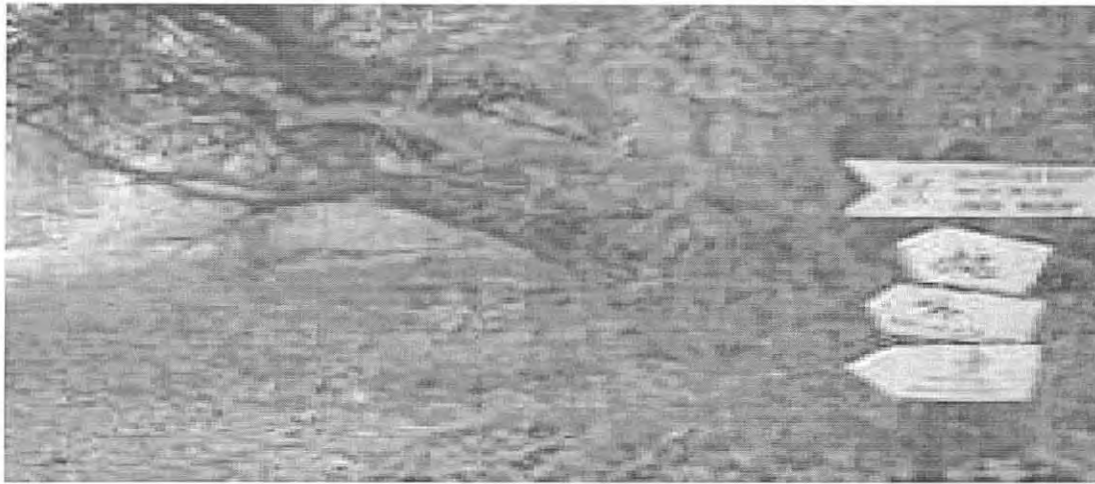
For environmental interpretation purpose, Bishangari ecolodge has prepared a visitor center/reception equipped with topographic map of the natural area with the kinds of the wildlife, plants (vegetation samples) and handicrafts as well as the sketch of local landscape. Within the center, an interpreter who is locally employed gives explanations about the environmental conservation of plants, wild life, the different possible activities, and the environmental ethical codes of conduct as well as the different guidelines about Bishangari ecolodge.



Picture 4-7, Tourists while attending the environmental Education in the center.

(Photo, by researcher own, 2011)

In addition, the ecolodge has posted wood billboard like interpretations, directions, ethical considerations and other information at the entry and other zones of the ecolodge written both in the local and English language. These interpretations are vital for the conservation of the natural environment.



Picture; 4-8, Directions and Interpretation about the Local Environment

(Photo, researcher own, 2011)



Picture 4-9, Environmental Do and Don'ts at Bishangari Ecolodge.

(Photo: by the researcher own, 2011).

Most importantly, one key informant from the nearby village explained that:

The environment in which the ecolodge developed has existed for long. However, if the eco-lodge was not established, all the biotic life and the land escape would become like what you can see in the village as a bare ground (interview, 2011).

In addition, the Woreda Agricultural and Environmental Officer stated that:

Even though the integration is low, the development of Bishangari eco-lodge is a great asset in helping us for environmental conservation. The expert also explained that the eco-lodge is funding, cooperating, facilitating and conducting researches and workshops in order to conserve the local environment (interview, 2011).

4.3.3 Protection of the Biodiversity

As described before, the ecolodge is located in bio-diversity rich area, Bishangari or Kimphee natural reserve (KNR). According to Feyera Senbeta and Demel Teketay (2003), KNR, also popularly known as the Bishangari, is one of the few remaining patches of forests (biodiversity) in the eastern highlands of the Ethiopia Rift valley. Consequently, there is different wildlife ranging from micro-organism to the huge animals. Therefore, in line with this, all the 104 sampled HH respondents replied that the ecolodge and its surrounding consist of different birds, monkey's families, insects, hippopotamus, and a variety of other land and lake animals (see Appendix-V).

In respect of plants, study by Feyera Sembeta and Demel Teketay (2003) found out that the area is rich in different biotic life's particularly plants: 136 plant species. This identification and study can help the area biodiversity in a way to protect, manage, monitor, and conserve them. Similarly, all the HHs have responded as there are flowers, large tress, long grass, shrubs and acacia trees with in the Bishangari area (see Appendix-V).

Bishangari ecolodge is highly concerned to maintain the rich bio-diversity of the area. In line with this, 93.26% of the respondents have responded that the eco-lodge is not practicing improper commercialization of the biotic lives. In addition, the study found out that there is no artificial feeding of the animals and restrictions like cages. This principle is helpful to the preservation of the biodiversity better.

One very important thing explored there is, as a principle the ecolodge does not allow noise and strong light including yet music within it. In respect to lighting, at night it uses deemed light generated from biogas and candles. This principle is accomplished in order to avoid disruption of nocturnal life cycle of plants and animals as well as helpful for safe breeding.

Conservation groups have realize that environmental protection is possible if local communities are highly involved in both management and gain direct benefits from the protected areas i.e. they need to accept that if the resources are protected and they also gain something from it (Maikhuri, *et.al*, 2001).

In respect of this, out of the 104, 70.19% of the sampled respondents responded that Bishangari eco-lodge is creating alternative income and social development that can limit the encroachment of the local communities to the natural reserve. As it is explained in the previous sections of 4.2 and 4.3, the local communities are benefited from it in different ways. This in turn would help for the conservation of the environment since it is the major source of their benefit.

During my observation and interview, the ecolodge doesn't use any kind of ornamental plants like flowers and other exotic short grasses. This is mainly important so as to avoid the invasion of the non-native plants over the indigenous ones. In addition, the newly planted seedlings may not sustain the new environment and climate. In such a way, it can help to preserve the local environment.

Another key point practiced at the Bishangari ecolodge is the better awareness of all the 50 employees about the environment and the biodiversity of the area. Within the ecolodge, there are permanently employed tourist guides that manage the tourists and always accompany them while walking or trekking within the natural reserve. This is practiced in order to interpret and conserve the environment against unethical activity.

Despite recognitions (certificates) from the Oromia Tourism Bearau and Ministry of Tourism and Culture as developmental tourism venture, the research revealed that the Bishangari ecolodge is not eco-certified and labeled for its accomplishments. This is due to low attention of government in devising and structuring the eco-certification scheme

towards the principles. Even, the newly promulgated Tourism Policy (2009) is not well equipped with the principles of ecotourism. According to the findings, the Bishangari ecolodge is concerned to the ecotourism principle from the willingness and devotion of the eco-lodge owner as well as its marketing merit for attracting the ecotourists.

A case in point, Bishangari ecolodge has took the initiative for the establishment of ecotourism association in Ethiopia by motivating the other stakeholders of the area. This formation is vital for creating awareness about ecotourism principles and it is purposeful for economic justification and environmental conservation.

In order to explore the general perception of the local communities on the significance of the Bishangari ecolodge in respect to community development and environmental conservation, the sampled household heads were asked to rate their feelings accordingly. The responses of the respondents are organized and tabulated below (See Table 4-10).

Table 4-10, Ratings of the Sampled Respondents on the Role of Bishangari Ecolodge.

<i>No</i>	<i>Ratings Level</i>	<i>Environmental Conservation</i>		<i>Community Development</i>	
		<i>Frequency(f)</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>	<i>Frequency(f)</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
1	Excellent	73	70.19%	29	27.99%
2	Very good	21	20.19%	45	43.26%
3	Good	8	7.69%	24	23.07%
4	Not good	2	1.92%	6	5.76%
5	Total	104	100	104	100

Source: researcher own survey, 2011.

From the above response, 70.19% and 27.99% of the sampled respondents perceived and replied that Bishangari ecolodge is excellent in respect to environmental conservation and community development respectively. Whereas the greater percentage of surveyed HHs; 43.26% perceive as the eco-lodge is very good in community development. The lowest percentage: 1.92% and 5.76% replied by sampled respondents indicate as Bishangari ecolodge is not good for environmental conservation and community development. Hence, in general according to the survey conducted, and from the overall study, Bishangari ecolodge is playing a significant role for local community betterment and environmental conservation.

In concise, Bishangari ecolodge is practicing the major ecolodge principles including eco-friendly architectural design, EIA, zoning schemes, limited carrying capacity, environmental education of the local communities and tourists, cooperation with other stakeholders, controlling raids, proper waste management, sustainable energy utility and local economic alternative creating are instrumental for the preservation of the environment in general and the biodiversity in particular.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

This research has come up with the following major conclusions as per the research objectives: assessing the effect of Bishangari ecolodge in local economic diversification, assessing the role of Bishangari ecolodge for basic local community's social service development, identifying the contribution of Bishangari ecolodge for biodiversity conservation of the study area and pointing out the ways participation of the communities in the Bishangari ecolodge tourism activities.

As it's assessed and explained, the development of ecotourism and ecolodges is expanding in greater number. In view of this reality, ecolodges are playing crucial role in improving environmental preservation and socio-economic development of local communities. This is mainly because of the result that ecolodge owners maximize their effort to uphold ecolodge principles as one means of attracting the ecotourists.

Even though there is no a unanimously agreed way of measurement about the role of ecolodges, they ought to contribute their part for local community development and environmental conservation (Funnel, 2003; Wood, 2005). Likely, the study indicated that local communities are acquiring better livelihood earnings from Bishangari ecolodge and the coming ecotourists. From the ecolodge, local communities are generating income by improving and selling different kinds of agricultural products like vegetables, fruits, fish, chicken, beef, fish and others. They also gain income from tourists by selling different souvenir and other cultural products in particular. In respect to the social services, Bishangari ecolodge benefit the local people through provision and support in building schools, clean water support, clinics, transportation and communication.

In addition, Bishangari ecolodge is giving immediate response against drought through provision of limited units of maize, wheat, sugar and coffee outreaching their inaccessibility by any other government body or non-governmental donors. In general, Bishangari ecolodge

is found as a great opportunity to diversify the local communities' development options and foster the welfare of these rural societies. This is mainly due to its ability to combine agricultural activities with other small ecotourism businesses.

In particular, this study revealed that Bishangari ecolodge is found so vital for the community's employment opportunity option. According to findings, 49 of the 50 or 98.9% of the employees are recruited from the local communities. The employees are provided with health insurances with their families, housing, food, cloths, distance education scholarship, vocational skill development and short term trainings. As a result, they are enforced to save their salary since every expense is covered by the ecolodge. Hence, the above-mentioned opportunities of Bishangari ecolodge have contribute destinations to build capacity, empowerment, and enhance the overall development of the local communities.

The ecolodge has supported local communities to have cultural relations with the tourists and maximize their income in producing agricultural products and others. However, they are not fully utilizing the cultural products of the area like cultural dance shows, coffee ceremony and others alike.

Beside with the significance in community development, the ecolodge is found vital for the conservation of the biodiversity and the environment at large. This is because, starting from the site selection, design and architecture to its operation, Bishangari ecolodge is functioning in harmony with the local environment and preservation of the biodiversity. Likely, the research result indicated as it practices the major ecolodge principles like zoning scheme, proper waste managing and reuse -biogas, sustainable use of solar energy, educational interpretations, carrying capacity and minimizing negative impacts o the environment in general.

Moreover, the ecolodge employees in particular and the local communities in general are found conscious of the significance of biodiversity and environmental conservation. In addition, the ecolodge is not improperly commercializing biotic by avoiding exotic (ornamental) plants caging animals, strong lighting and noises. The local community's

encroachment to the natural reserve is also controlled through creation of alternative livelihood and stewardship.

The preservation of the biodiversity and the environment at large is significant to the ecolodge developer since it attracts large number of ecotourists. In general, the study pointed out that Bishangari ecolodge conserves the Bishangari (KNR) which is rich in biodiversity; owning different kinds of peculiar wild animals particularly birds and forests including acacia shrubs and grasses.

Despite the fact that the ecolodge enables to share its potential benefit for the local community, it face challenges to create persistent and active participation of the community members during decision-making. Unless the local communities' active and persistent participation in decision-making is assured, they will lose power and belongingness to the natural reserve and ecolodge that in turn may result destructions.

Without being highly pressurized and regulated by any respective governmental structure and policies, Bishangari ecolodge is practicing major principles in community development and environmental conservation. Especially, the ecolodge is not regularly supervised, evaluated, and accredited by government body or other organizations that are responsible to it. However, the ecolodge is concerned to the major principle as a strategy for achieving long-term objectives in attracting ecotourists.

In a net shell, this study revealed that Bishangari ecolodge is contributing its part for the local communities' betterment, empowerment, development and conservation of the rich biodiversity in particular and the environment in general.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following points are recommended on the contribution of the ecolodges for the local communities' development and the conservation of the environment within and around the eco-lodges operations.

Comprehending the principles and importance's of ecolodges to the environment and local communities by the different stakeholders is crucial. However, in particular, if the government and other stakeholders failed in doing so, the irresponsible private ecolodge operators may use as a loophole opportunity for their own unfair profit generation against ecolodge principles.

- Therefore, the government at each level has to identify the roles of ecolodges and be equipped with the necessary ecotourism policies, framework, regulations, strategies, certification schemes and laws.

Besides with the other tourism business activities, further involvement of the local communities through different business oriented activities is vital i.e. it helps to expand small and medium scale-business opts. The different business activities by the local communities are viable since the coming tourists are courageous to contribute to the local communities ventures. Thus, it can assist them for further diversification of their local economy, cultural pride and fosters better livelihood.

- Hence, the local communities ought to intensify their economic involvement through selling cultural dance, coffee ceremony and demonstration of home activities, holyday celebrations, quality souvenir production and workshops as well other cultural role-plays.
- Logical platform, structures and strong representative committee formation shall be established by the cooperation of local communities and Bishangari ecolodge in order to further enhance the level of participation in decision-making and empowerment of the local communities for the sound and harmonical practice of the ecolodge principles and gain confidence of themselves.

- For assuring sustainability, the ecolodge ought to devise eco-fund to local development and environmental conservation. The eco-fund has to be collected based on agreed percentage subtracted from the profit that the ecolodge gained within periodical time.
- In addition, with what the ecolodge is exerting its effort on the conservation of the environment, it can establish a mechanism to collect funds from tourists and others interested bodies like NGOs. This is because; the incoming tourists can directly contribute their part for conservation of the natural and cultural environment. Thus, it should be one mainstream part of the ecolodge management. This can be effective since the coming most guests are eco-tourists who are conscious of the importance of environmental conservation and economic justification.
- The different tourism offices at different level of government need to work in cooperation with the private sector, agricultural and environmental offices like authority for environmental conservation and the wild life conservation as well other respective bodies. This is because of the fact that ecotourism and eco-lodge activities necessitate synergy, mutual understanding, coordination and integration of these different stakeholders.

Finally, this study is mainly emphasized on the contribution of the ecolodges with particular reference on Bishangari. Therefore, further researches ought to be conducted on the other ecolodges operating in different parts of the country since there may have other possible contributions or limitations that can be resulted from the different social and natural settings.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX- I

Questionnaire used for the household survey

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT
POST GRADUATE PROGRAM

Dear respondent,

My name is Haimanot Asmamaw. Currently, I am a graduate student at the department of tourism and development, College of Development Studies in Addis Ababa University under the supervision and advisory of Fayera Senbeta (Ph.D). *This research is conducted to investigate the role of ecolodge in community development and environmental conservation: case of Bishangari.* The research will be helpful to show the significance of eco-lodges. In particular, it helps me to give answer for the role of the Bishangari lodge to the surrounding community and environmental conservation in accordance with the eco-lodge principles.

Therefore, your honest and genuine participation and response to the questionnaire will help me for a better understanding and contribution of the Bishangari eco-lodge to the people and environment. All the information you give me will be kept private and your name is not put any where on this questionnaire. Moreover, any one of your response will not be given to any one at anytime.

Thanks in advance

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Region _____ 2. Zone _____ 3. Woreda _____
4. Kebele _____ 5. Identification Number of Respondents _____
6. Date ____ / ____ / 2011 7. Starting time _____ 8. Ending time _____
9. Surveyor Name and Signature _____ 10. Supervisor Name and Signature _____

DIRECTION: *You are requested to fill this questionnaire in accordance with the questions provided: You can give more than one answers from the choices by putting tick mark (✓) on the boxes or giving answers on the black spaces accordingly.*

**PART I - BACK GROUND: SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENT**

- 1.1 Sex 1. Male ☐ 2. Female ☐ 1.2 Age _____
- 1.3 Have you ever attended any school? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐
- 1.4 If yes, what is the highest level of education you completed? 1. Grade 1 – 4 ☐
2. Grade 5 – 8 ☐ 3. Grade 9-12 ☐ 4. College or Vocational level and above ☐
- 1.5 What is your current marital status? 1. Unmarried ☐ 2. Married ☐
3. Divorced ☐ 4. Other (specify) _____
- 1.6 What is your religion? 1. Orthodox ☐ 2. Protestant ☐ 3. Catholic ☐
4. Muslim ☐ 5. Other (specify) _____
- 1.7 Do you have family? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐
- 1.8 If yes, how many members do you have? 1. With wife or husband only ☐
2. 3-5 ☐ 3. 6-8 ☐ 4. Above 8 ☐
- 1.9 Are you currently working? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐
- 1.10 If yes, what is your major occupation?
1. Tourist guide ☐ 2. Civil Servant ☐ 3. Employed in Private Organization ☐
4. Farmer ☐ 5. Handicraft ☐ 6. Small business ☐ 7. Other (specify) _____
- 1.11 Do you have your own house? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐
- 1.12 If No, why don't you have your own house? 1. Have no money ☐
2. Have no land ☐ 3. Have no land and money ☐ 4. Other reason _____
- 1.13 Whom home you are living? 1. Family ☐ 2. government ☐ 3. NGO. ☐
4. Other _____
- 1.14 How much birr do you earn per month? _____ (birr)

PART II: KNOW-HOW ABOUT TOURISM, ECOLODGE, AND ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1 What is tourism to you? 1. Visiting cultural heritages ☐
2. Travel to recreate in the natural attractions ☐ 3. Interaction of tourists with the local people ☐ 4. I don't know ☐
- 2.2 Have you ever see a tourist/s/? 1. Yes ☐ 2.No ☐
- 2.3 If yes, where did you see the tourist first? 1. Village ☐ 2.From government office ☐
3. Bishangari eco-lodge ☐ 4 School ☐ 5. Market place ☐ 6. Other _____
- 2.4 Do you know about the Bishangari eco-lodge? 1. Yes ☐ 2.No ☐
- 2.5 What is the function of the eco-lodge? _____, _____, _____
- 2.6 Is the Beshandgari eco-lodge benefiting the community? 1. Yes ☐ 2.No ☐
- 2.7 If yes, what kind of benefit does the eco-lodge have for the community?
1. Employment opportunity ☐ 2. Business option ☐ 3.provision of social facilities ☐
4. Cultural and environmental conservation ☐ 5. Others _____
- 2.8 What things are found in your surrounding? _____, _____, _____

PART III: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: INCOME GENERATION, LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABILITY, AND PARTICIPATION.

3.1 INCOME GENERATION

- 3.1.1 Do you think that the Bishangari eco-lodge is helpful to generate income?
1. Yes ☐ 2.No ☐
- 3.1.2 Does your community sell products to tourists coming to the Bishangari eco-lodge?
1. Yes ☐ 2.No ☐
- 3.1.3 If yes, what kind of products do your community members sell to the tourists in the eco-lodge? 1.Wood products ☐ 2.Metal products ☐ 3.leather products ☐ 4.Cotton products ☐ 5.Combined products ☐ 6.Fruits and other agriculture product ☐
7. Cultural show ☐ 8. Others _____
- 3.1.4 How much average money does an individual of the community you know earn in the previous year by selling product to tourists in the Bishandgari eco-lodge? _____
_____ (Birr, in average).

3.1.5 Do your community members sell agricultural products to the Bishangari eco-lodge?

1. Yes ☐

2.No ☐

3.1.6 If yes, what kind of products do your community members sell to the eco-lodge?

1. Fruits ☐

2. Vegetables ☐

3. Milk ☐

4. Meat ☐

5. Fish ☐

6. cereals ☐

7. Others _____

3.1.7 How much money does an individual of the community earn in the previous year by selling product to the Bishandgari eco-lodge? _____(Birr, in average).

3.2. LOCAL INFRA-STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Direction: thick (√) on the full column if the Bishandgari eco-lodge provides or assists public service by its own and tick on the partial column if the eco-lodge contribute in partial or cooperation with governmental or other nongovernmental organizations as well thick on the last column if the eco-lodge don't contribute at all.

Item	Community services	Level of contribution			Other way
		Full at all	partial	not	
3.2.1	Supply of clean water				
3.2.2	Constructing roads for community access				
3.2.3	Contribution for schooling				
3.2.4	Contribution for health center				
3.2.5	Creating access for telecommunication				
3.2.6	Transportation services				

3.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

3.3.1. Is there participation of community members or their representatives before, during, and after the construction of the Bishandgari ecolodge?

1. Yes ☐

2. No ☐

3.3.2 If yes, in what way do you think that they participate?

1. Labor force ☐ 2. Supply of raw materials ☐ 3. Decision making ☐

4. Management activities ☐ 5. Other _____

3.3.3 Do you think that the eco-lodge owner or management consider the community as one part of the decision makers on the eco-lodge? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

3.3.4 Is there an exchange of culture and idea between the community and the tourists through cultural shows and others? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

3.3.5 If yes, which body facilitates the communication?

3.3.6. Are the community members employed in the bishangari eco-lodge?

1. Yes ☐

2. No ☐

3.3.8 Is there food insecurity problem in your kebele particularly in times of drought?

1. Yes ☐

2. No ☐

3.3.9 If yes, do you think that the Bishangari eco-lodge responded to it immediately against the insecurity? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

3.3.10 If yes, in what way it has responded to the community against food insecurity?

1. by providing money to the people ☐ 2. By providing agricultural products like maize, wheat, or barley ☐ 3. By providing industrial food products like oil and others ☐ 4. Other _____

PART IV- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: POSITIVE IMPACTS OF THE ECOLODGE AND PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY.

4.1. POSITIVE IMPACTS OF ECOLODGE

4.1.1 Do you think that the Bishangari eco-lodge is preserving the environment?

1. Yes ☐

2. No ☐

4.1.2 If yes, in what ways is the eco-lodge preserving the environment?

4.1.3 Is the eco-lodge educating the community and the tourists for conserving the environment? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

4.1.4 Is the Bishangari ecolodge does not dump its wastes to the natural reserve and your surrounding improperly? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

4.2- PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

4.2.1 What kinds of animals are living in the eco-lodge and its surrounding?

1. Different kinds of birds ☐ 2. Monkeys ☐ 3. Insects and butterflies ☐
4. Lake animals like duck and fish ☐ 5. Others _____

4.2.2. What categories of plants do exist in the eco-lodge and its surrounding?

1. Flowers ☐ 2. Large trees ☐ 3. Long grasses ☐ 4. Shrubs ☐
5. Acacia trees ☐ 6. Others _____

4.2.3. Do you think that the ecolodge is not practicing commercialization of the biotic products of the area improperly? 1 Yes ☐ 2 No ☐

4.2.4. Do you think that the local communities limit their poaching and cutting trees due to the bishangari ecolodge better benefit? 1 Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

4.2.5. Do you think that the eco-lodge is an opportunity to protect the biodiversity?

1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

5. How do you perceive and rate the importance of the Bishangari eco-lodge in terms of community betterment?

1. Excellent ☐ 2. Very good ☐ 3. Good ☐ 4. Not good ☐

6. How do you perceive and rate the importance of Bishangari ecolodge in respect to environmental preservation?

1. Excellent ☐ 2. Very good ☐ 3. Good ☐ 4. Not good ☐

Thank You

THE TRANSLATED AND DISTRIBUTED QUESTIONNAIRE

YUUNIVERISTII FINFINNEE

KOOLLEJJII QO'NNOO MISOOMA BIYYAA

KUTAA BARUMSATURISIMII FI MISOOMAA

Jalatamaa gaafatama,

Maqaan koo Hayimaanot Asmaamaawun jedhama yeroo ammaa kutaa barnootaa Turisimii fi Misoomaatiin, Yuuniveristii Finfinneetti Kollejjiil qo'annoo Misoomaatti barataa Digirii 2ffaa yoont'u gorsaan koo(Dr.) fayyeeraa sanbataatii. *Qo'annoon kun kan adeemsifamu Ikoloojiin guddina hawaasaatii fi eegumsa naannoo tiif ga'ee qabu Ikoloojii Bishaan gaarii bu'uura godhachuun kan qo'atudhaa.* Qo'annoon kun Ikoloojoonni faayidaa isaan qaban agarsiisuuf kan gargaarudha. Keessattuu, Ikoloojiin bishaan gaarii guddiina hawaasa naannoo fi naannoo eeguuf faayidaa qabu hubachiisuu kan danda'u dha.

Kanaafuu ga'eenkee amanamummaa fi haalaa gaaridhaan gaaffilee kana guutuudhaan bu'aa Ikoloojiin bishaan gaarii hawaasa naannoo fi naannootiif qabu nu hubachiisuu danda'a

Odeeffannoon ati kennitu hundi iciitiidhaan kan eegamu yoo ta'u maqaan kee gaaffii kamiyyu keessatti hin ibsamu, dabalatanis yeroo fi bakka kamittu deebiin ati kennite qaama kamitti dabarsee kan hin kennamne ta'uu nan mirkaneessa.

Galatoomii!

Odeeffannoo waligalaa

1. naannoo _____ 2. Godinaa _____ 3. A anaa _____ 4. Ganda namaa unkaa guutuu _____ 5. lakka adda baatii gaaffii deebistoota _____
6. Guyyaa ___/___ bara 2003 7. yeroo calqabbii _____ 8. yeroo xumuuraa _____
9. Maqaa fi mallattoo unkaa guuchisa _____
10. Maqaa fi mallattoo superviyizaricha _____

Kallatti :- gaaffilee itti aananiit deebii ni ta'a jettee kan yaaddu filachuun ykn deebii kaa'uun akka guuttu singaafadha (yoo barbachisaa ta'ee argamee fillaanoo lama fi isaa ol ta'ee filachuun ni danda'ama)

1. KutaaI; Seennaa fi heela dingadee fi hawaasummaa deebi kenna.

1.1. Saala 1 dhiira ☐ 2 dhalaa ☐

1.2. Umurii _____

1.3. Barnoota baratte beektaa ? 1. Eeyye ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

1.4. Tari eyyee yoo jette , hanga sadarkaa baranoota kamiitti baratte? 1. Kutaa 1-4 ☐
2. kutaa 5-8 ☐ 3. Kutaa 9-12 ☐ 4. barnoota Koollejji ykn barnoota Oogummaa fi isaaol ☐

1.5. Haalli gaa'ela kee amma maal fakkaata?

1. kan hin fuune ☐ 2. kan fuudhe ☐ 3. kan hike ☐ 4. kan biro _____

1.6 Amantaan ke maali? 1. Ortodooksii ☐ 2. Protestaantii ☐ 3. Kaatoolikii ☐
4. Musillima ☐ 5. Kan biro _____

1.7. Maati qabdaa? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

1.8. Tarii, eeyyee Yoo jette maatii meeqa qabda? 1. Haadhamanaa waliin ykn abbaa mana waliin qofa. ☐ 2. 2-5 ☐ 3. 6-8 ☐ 4. 8 ol ☐

1.9 Amma hojii hojjechaa jirtaa? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

1.10 Tarii Eeyyee yoo jette, hojjiin kee ijoon maali? 1. Hojii guyyaa ☐

2. Hojii mana keessaaa ☐ 3. Daawwachiisuu ☐ 4. Hojjetaa mootummmaa

5. Dhaabbata dhuunfaa keessatti qacaramuun ☐ 6. qotee bulaa ☐ 7. Hojii oogummaa ☐
8. barataa ☐ 9. kan biro _____

1.11 Mana dhuunfaa ke qabda. 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakkii ☐

1.12. Tarii lakkii yoo jette, Mana dhuunfaa kee kan dhadbeefmaaliif? 1. Maallaqa hina qabdu ☐
2. Laafaa hin qabdu ☐ 3. Maallaqaa fi lafa hin qabdu ☐ 4. Sababa biro _____

1.13. Mana Eenyuu keessa jiraata?

1. Mana maatii ☐ 2. Motummaa ☐ 3. NGO ☐ 4. Kambiroo _____

1.14. Ji'aan galiin kee hammami? _____ qarshii

- 1.15. Maallaqa maaliitti fayyadamta? ☐ 1. Daldala xixiqqaa babalddhisunf ☐
2. qonnaaf ☐ 3. Faayidaa manaa keessaf ☐ 4. Qusannaaf ☐ 5. kan birootiif

Kutaa 2:-Waa'ee Turisimii, Ekoloojii fi Naannoo Xiinxala jiru

- 2.1. Turizimii jechuun maal jechuudha? 1. Iddoo seennaa daawwachuu ☐
2. Iddoo uumamma ilaaluun bashannana ☐ 3. walitti dhufeenya Turistooni hawaasa waliin qaban ☐ 4. hin beeku ☐
2.2. Turistoota waliin walqunamtee beekta? 1. eeyyee ☐ 2. lakki ☐
2.3. Tarii eeyyee yoo jette eessatti argite? 1. Naannootti ☐
2. Waajira Mootummaatii ☐ 3. Ekoloojii bishaan gaaritti
4. mana barumsatti ☐ 5. lafa gabaatti ☐ 6. . kan birootiif _____
2.4. Waa'ee Ekoloojii bishaan gaarii beekta? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐
2.5. Tarii Eeyyee yoo jette tajaajilli isaa maalii? _____, _____, _____
2.6. Ekoloojiin bishaan gaarii uummata fayyada jira jetta? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐
2.7. Tari Eeyyee yoo jette faayida akkami qabu? 1. Caarra hojii uumuu ☐
2. Filannoo gali ☐ 3. Tajaajiraa hawaasaa kennuun ☐
4. naannoo fi aadaa eeguun ☐ 5. kan biro _____
2.8. Naannoo keesaan waantootaa akkamiitu jira? 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Kutaa 3:- Guddina Hawasumma Madda Galii bu'uura misoomaa fi hirmannaa

3.1. Madda Galii

- 3.1.1. Ekoloojii bishaan gaarii galii haawasaa ni dabala jette yadda?
1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐
3.1.2. hawaasni turistoota gara ekoloojii dhufaan omisha ni gurgura?
1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. lakki ☐

3.1.3. Tari Eeyye yoo jette omisha akkamii gurgurtu? 1. Omishaa mukaa ☐ 2. Omisha ☐
sibilaa ☐ 3. Omishaa Gogaa ☐ 4. Omishaa jirbii ☐ 5. Omishaa walmakaa ☐
6. Omishaa qonnaaf ☐ 7. Agarsiisa Aaddaa ☐ 8. Kanboroo _____

3.1.4 Turistootatti oomishaa adda adda gurgurun gidduu galeessaan waggaattii namni tokko
dara darbee galii hagaam argatte? _____ (qarshii)

3.1.5. haawasni ekoloojii bishaan gaarritti omisha qonnaa ni gurguru?

1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

3.1.6. Tari Eeyyee yoo jette, omishaalee akkamiti qabiyyee akkamitu gurgurama?

1. kuduraa ☐ 2. Fuduraa ☐ 3. Aannaan ☐ 4. Foon ☐

5. Qurxumii ☐ 6. midhaan dheedhii ☐ 7. kan biro _____

3.1.7. Ikoloojii bishaan gaariitti oomishaa adda adda gurguran gidduu galeessaan waggaattii
namni tokkobara brbee galiigagaamargata? _____ (qarshii)

3.2. Guddina bu'uura misoomaa

kallatti :-Ikoloojiin bishaan gaarii hojjiwwaan bu'uura guddina misoomaa tiif hoojjetan
mallatoo (✓) gochuun bu'uura gabatee tiin ibsi

No.	Tajaajila hawaasaa	Sadarkaa deegarsaa			Karaa biro
		Guutummaatti	Walakkaa Ssan	Hin hojjanne	
3.2.1	Bishaan dhugaati qulqulluu				
3.2.2	Daandii hojjechuu				
3.2.3	M/barumsaa ijaaruu				
3.2.4	Buufata fayya hojjechuun				
3.2.5	Tari telekominikeeshinii qragachuu				
3.2.6	sarvisii geejjibaa keennuun				

3.3. Hirmaannaa Hawaasaa fi Qoodafudhachuu

3.3.1 Hawaasnii ykn bakka bu'oonni isaanii hojii ikooloojii bishaan gaarii irratti hirmaataniiru? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. lakki ☐

3.3.2. Tari Eeyyee yoo jette bifa kamiin hirmaatani? 1. Hojii humnaan ☐
2. Meeshaale dheedhii dhiheessuun ☐ 3. murtidabarsuun ☐
4. bulchiinsaan ☐ 5. kan biro _____

3.3.3. Qaamni bulchiinsi Bishaangari ekoloojii hawaasa nanno akka qaama hawaasa murtii tokkotti ni ilaalaa? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

3.3.4. Tursitootaa fi hawaasa gidduu waljijjirraan Aadaa fi yaadaa karaa agarsiisa Addaa fi haala adda addaan ni jira? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. lakki ☐

3.3.5. Tari yoo eeyyee jettee, qaama kamtuu haala kena mijeessa?

3.3.6. Hawwasnii naannoo saani ecolodgii Bishaan gaari keessattini qaxaramu?

1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

3.3.7. Naannoo ganda jirraattuu keessatti hirinni nyaata isin muudatakeessumatueroocaama? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

3.3.8. Tari yoo Eeyyee jette, Ikoloojiin bishaan gaari deebii arifachiisaan gargaarsa isinif godhe beeka? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

3.3.9. Tarii yoo eeyyee jettan gargaarsa akkamitu isiiniif godhame beeku?

1. Mallaqaa ummataaf kennuun ☐ 2. Oomisha qonnaa, kan akka boqqolloo, garbuu kennuun ☐ 3. Oomisha industirii kan akka zayitaa kennuun ☐ kan biro _____

KUTAA- 4: Eegumsa Naannoo, Dhiibaa Ikoloojiifi egumsa Lubuqabeeyii.

4.1. Bu'aa Ikoloojii

4.1.1. Ikoloojiin bishaan gaari naannoo ni eega? 1. eeyyee ☐ 2. lakki ☐

4.1.2. Tarii eeyyee yoo jette haala kamiin naannoo eega? _____

4.1.3. Ikoloojiin bishaan gaarii hawaasa nanoo fi daawwatoota naannoo hala noonnoo itti kunuunsan ni barsisa? 1. Eeyyee ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

4.1.4. Ikolojiiin Bishangaari nanoo keessaatti fi uumama irrattii wantoota naanno fallan gatanniihin beekanii? 1 Eyye ☐ 2 lakki ☐

4.2. Eegumsa Lubbu Qabeeyyii Naannoo

4.2.1. Bineensota akkamitu Ikoloojii keessafi naannoo isaa jiratu ?

1. Simbirroota adda addaa ☐ 2. Qamalee/ jaldeessa ☐
3. Ilbisootaa fi billaacha ☐ 4. Bineensota bishaan ira jiraataan kan akka daakiyyee fi qurxummi ☐ 5. kan biro _____

4.2.2. Gosaa biqiliiltuu akkamitu ikoloojii keessafi naannoo isa jiru?

1. Daraaroota ☐ 2. Mukeen gurguddoo ☐ 3. marga dhedheeraa ☐
4. mukeen gaggabaaboo ☐ 5. laaftoo ☐ 6. kan biro _____

4.2.3. Ikoloojiin Bishan gaari lubu-qabeeyyii seeran ala gurgurtaadhaaf hin Olcha jette niyaaddaa? 1. Eyye ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

4.2.4. Fayyiddaa ikolojii Bishangaarii kennuun uumanii nannoo bineensota adamsuu fi Mancaasuu dhiisanii jira? 1. Eyye ☐ 2. Lakki . ☐

4.2.5. Ikoloojiin bishaan gaarii lubbu qabeenyyii naannoo sana eeguuf carraa gaarii jettee yaadda? 1. Eyye ☐ 2. Lakki ☐

5. Faayidaan ikoloojii bishaan gaarii haawaasa naannoo tiif qabu akkamitti ilaata?

1. Bay'ee baay'ee gaari ☐ 2. baay'ee gaari ☐
3. gaarii ☐ 4. gaarii miti ☐ 5. hin beeku ☐

6. Fayidaan ikolojiin Bishangaari equumsa nannoo tiif qabuu akkamtti ilaaita?

1. Bay'ee baay'ee gaari ☐ 2. baay'ee gaari ☐
3. gaarii ☐ 4. gaarii miti ☐ 5. hin beeku ☐

Baay'een isin galateeffadha

APPENDIX-II

Guiding Questions for Interview to the key Local Informants

1. What do you think about tourism and tourists in your living area?
2. What do you know about the function of the bishangari eco-lodge?
3. Is there any contribution from the Bishangari esolsge for the local communities and the environment?
4. Are there challenges that the local communities face because of the development of the Bishangari ecolodge?
5. What kind of bio-life exists in your natural reserve here? And is the Bishangari ecolodge and opportunity or a threat for them?
6. Are the communities involved in economic and development aspects because of the ecolodge?
7. Is there participation of the community before during and after the establishment of the ecolodge?

Leading Interview Questions for the Bishangari Eco-lodge Manager

1. What are the visions and goals of your eco-lodge venture?
2. How much your eco-lodge is compliant with the eco-lodge principles in your execution?
3. Is there certification or approval from ecolodge or ecotourism respective organizations?
4. Is there teaching for the coming tourists and the community about environment and lifestyles of the community?
5. How much is the eco-lodge doing towards the development issues of the local community?
6. As a principle, how much is the eco-lodge working to enhance the income of the community members and explain about the employment and employee of your staff?
7. Are there trainings and programs for the community members to create a better empowerment?

8. How can you explain the participation of the community members in the works of the eco- lodge starting from its very beginning till now?
9. What are the plan of the ecolodge towards community development and conservation of the reserve?

Guiding questions for the interview of the government officials or expertise

1. What are the roles and work divisions of the Woreda tourism office?
2. What do you know about the eco-lodge principles?
3. What is your idea on the relation between eco-lodge and community development and environment?
4. Do you know the Bishangari eco-lodge, which is working, in your woreda? If yes, what role do you think it has for the community and the environment?
5. Are there negative impacts resulted from the Bishangari eco-lodge against life of the local people and the environment? Here, elaboration is needed.
6. Explain on the practices of the ecolodge principles within the Bishangari eco-lodge.
7. How much the community members are participating in the activities of the eco-lodge?
8. How is the role of the government body for the implementation of the principles within the eco-lodge?

APPENDICES-III

Observation Checklist

1. Community Development	Yes	No
1.1. Is there school supported or constructed by the Bishangari ecolodge?	☐	☐
1.2. Is there road constructed by the ecolodge for the communities access?	☐	☐
1.3. Is there telecommunication service for the communities provided by the ecolodge?	☐	☐
1.4. Is there health center supported or constructed by the ecolodge?	☐	☐
1.5. Is there clean water supply for the Community provided or supported by the Bishangari ecolodge?	☐	☐
1.6. Is there community souvenir shop within the ecolodge?	☐	☐
2. Environmental Conservation		
2.1 Are their tools for awareness creation of tourists about the local environment?	☐	☐
2.2. Is there waste management in the ecolodge?	☐	☐
2.3. Is the ecolodge using non -pollutant energy?	☐	☐
2.4. Is there center for environmental education for the coming tourists?	☐	☐
2.5. Are there codes of conduct posted	☐	☐
2.6. Is the ecolodges designed environment friendly	☐	☐

APPENDICES-IV

DIFFERENT PICTURES TAKEN AND COLLECTED DURING THE FIELD SURVEY



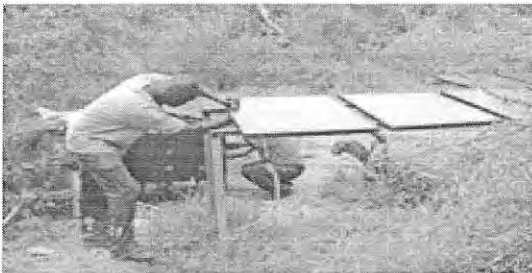
(a) *Social relations and exchanges between the tourists and the local communities*



(b) *Green design of the eco-lodge*



(c) *Guided walks in the restricted tourist zone*



(d) *Eco-friendly energy: Solar panels of Bishangari ecolodge*



(e) *Vegetation farming by the support of the ecolodge*



(f) *Community engagement: Carrying luggage; in Guiding, and Agricultural Production*

APPENDICES-V

SOME LISTS OF PRESERVED PLANTS AND WILD LIFE BISHANGARI ECOLOGDE



Some of the picture of flora and fauna (biotics) in Bishangari ecolodge

There are 136 plant species representing 47 plant families in Bishangari but a few are listed below (Feyera Senbeta and Demel Teketay, 2003;<http://bishangari.com>)

PLANT SPECIES	PLANT FAMILY
Capparaceae	Gynandropsis gynandra, Maerua edulis
Cycadaceae	Encephalartos tegulaneus
Crassulaceae	Kalanchoe lanceolata
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumis prophetarum
Liliaceae	Aloe volkensii, Gloriosa superba
Tiliaceae	Grewia bicolor
Euphorbiaceae	Croton dichogamus, Euphorbia cuneata
Caesalpinioideae	Cassia didymobotrya, Cassia occidentalis
Papilionoideae	Crotalaria barkae, Erythrina abyssinica, Psoralea foliosa
Rosaceae	Rubus keniensis
Mimosoideae	Acacia Senegal, Acacia seyal, Dichrostachys cinerea
Celastraceae	Maytenus senegalensis
Loranthaceae	Tapinanthus pennatulus
Anacardiaceae	Rhua natalensis
Apocynaceae	Carissa edulis
Compositae	Cirsium vulgare, Crassocephalum manni, Vernonia
Solanaceae	Datura stramonium, Solanum aculeastrum
Acanthaceae	Adhatoda schimperiana, Hypoestes hildebrandtii
Labiata	Leucas deflexa

Below is list of a few most popular wildlife in particular birds found in the Bishangari(<http://bishangari.com>).

No	Kinds of Birds	Other Wildlife's
1	Abyssinian Ground	Fish Eagle
2	Roller,Adam's,	Colobus monkey
3	Wattled Ibis	Porcupine
4	Yellow Fronted Parrot	Hippopotamus
5	Speckled Mouse Bird	Chameleon
6	Spotted Flycatcher	Antelope
7	Variable Sunbird	Leopard
8	Tern,White Winged Windowbird	Butterfly
9	Northern,Weaver	Orange Bellied Parrot
10	Hawk,Little Tern	Kingfisher
11	Nubian Woodpecker	Billed Duck
12	Long Tailed Cormorant,	Malachite,Marabou
13	Hooded Vulture	Mottled Swift
14	DoveLesser Flamingoand so on	Gull-Honey Buzzard.....and so on.

There are around 300 bird species in the Bishangari natural reserve (*Bishangari, 2007*).

APPENDICES-VII

COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES OF BISHANGARI ECOLODGE, (Bishangari Plc., February, 2011)

No	Kinds of work	Average age	No of workers
1	Cooker*	51	2
2	Forman	46	1
3	Guiding	36	3
4	Community car driver	47	1
5	Dish washer	43	3
6	Horseman	37	2
7	Public relation(community)	28	1
8	Guards of the reserve	44	16
9	Lodge host*	28	1
10	House keeping	30	5
11	Massage*	25	2
12	Elec.& plumber maintenance	46	3
13	Store keeper	26	1
14	Reception*	28	1
15	Biogas controller	33	1
16	Waiters	38	4
17	Staff cooks and house keepers	24	2
18	Total	Total average. 35.88	49

* are those taking vocational skill training with certification.

The total number of male and female is 41 and 8 respectively.

DECLARATION

I, undersigned, declare that this thesis, original work, has not been presented for a degree in other universities and that all sources of materials used has been duly acknowledged.

Declared by:

Name_____

Signature_____

Place_____

Date of Submission_____

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as university advisor.

Name_____

Signature_____

Date of Approval_____