

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

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COMMUNITY BASED ECOTOURISM IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA: THE
CASE OF LOKA ABAYA NATIONAL PARK

BY:
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JUNE, 2017
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A Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis
Ababa University in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of
Master of Arts in Tourism and Development

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JUNE, 2017
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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Fasika Temesigen, entitled: Opportunities and Challenges for the Development of Community Based Ecotourism in Southern Ethiopia: the case of Loka Abaya National Park and submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters in Tourism and Development complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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I, Fasika Temesigen registration Number GSR/2732/08 ,do here by declare that this thesis is my original work and it has not been submitted partially or in full by any other person for an award of a degree in any other University.

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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess the opportunities and challenges for the development of community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National Park (LANP), which is found in SNNP region, Sidama zone, Loka Abaya woreda. A random sampling method was used to collect primary data from 94 sample households found in three adjacent kebeles to the park. The instruments used for data collection include questionnaire, in-depth interviews, focus group discussion and field observation. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were applied to analyze the collected data. The findings revealed that there are high opportunities to develop CBET in LANP. The presence of many physical features, such as natural resources including scenic features, forest, bird life, wild animal, hot springs and sharing of some proportion of water from Lake Abaya, create favorable conditions to develop CBET in the area. Many cultural features including showing cultural dances and hair style, traditional festivals and food and drink preparation system, are also available in LANP. The commitment of the government, safety and security, the location of the park within one regional state, its proximity to Hawassa city and hospitability of the local community are also among the opportunities to develop CBET within the LANP. Nonetheless, there are some challenges to develop CBET in the area. The challenges found out in the study include: park community relationship (e.g., temporal settlement within the park, conflict over the use of park resources and encroachment of the surrounding community to the park's territory), lack of community involvement in the park issues, lack of trained man power, lack of cooperation among stakeholders, lack of promotion and lack of infrastructure and accommodations. It is concluded that if all stakeholders work together collaboratively, the opportunities can be exploited and the challenges can be minimized for a successfully development of a CBET in Loka Abaya National Park, which was only established in 2009.

Acknowledgements

Above all I would like to thank the almighty God for his guidance throughout my life. I am highly grateful to my advisor Tamirat Tefera (Ph.D) for his intellectual comment, advice, constructive guidance, suggestion and encouragement throughout this research work, in which I had the opportunity to grasp more knowledge concerning the thesis work. In addition to this, I would also like to acknowledge the authors of referenced books which helped me for great deal that I have referred at the end of the page. My deepest gratitude and appreciation goes to the Woreda and Kebele administrators for their immense support in the distribution and collection of data. Additionally, I want to give my deepest respect to my uncle Ato Teshome Tilahun and his wife Ayelech tsegaye. I appreciate their effort for my success. I never forget them for everything that helped me in material, financial, moral, other important gift for my research. I would thank my mother Atalelech Tesfaye for her financial and moral support during my university life up to completion of this study. Last but not least, I forward my deepest gratitude to my class mates for their positive approach to share the idea during the thesis work.

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Glossary of Local Terms

Affino	Inviting somebody to mediate in affairs.
Burisamee	Traditional food of sidama
Chimessa	Local leader
Daae	Welcoming a guest with greetings.
Faroo	A traditional dance of Sidama
Fichee chambalala	Sidama's New Year
Fokko	Taboo
Hallale	Truth
Omolchoo	Traditional food of Sidama
Sicco	Easiest penalty for less serious crimes.

Acronyms

BOCT	Bureau of culture and tourism
CBET	Community Based Eco Tourism
CBT	Community Based Tourism
CBETM	Community Based Eco Tourism Model
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CHAs	Controlled Hunting Areas
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IUCN	International Union for conservation of Nature
IES	International Ecotourism Society
JVPs	Joint venture partnerships
LANP	Loka Abaya National Park
MOCT	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
SNNPRS	South Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SZDCTGCA	Sidama zone department of culture, tourism and government communication affairs
UNESCO	United nation economic, social and cultural organization
UNWTO	United nation world tourism organization
UNDP	United nation development program
WWF	World wildlife fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The growth and development of tourism industry (both in volume and value) at a global level was very slow before 1950 (Sharpley, 2009). Since then, it has showed rapid growth due to industrialization, technological developments, particularly in air travel; increases in personal wealth; and leisure time, such as holidays with pay. According to Sharpley (2009), these developments have contributed to greater international mobility and enabled more people to travel frequently. For instance, in 1950, total number of international tourists was around 25 million, but in 2000, the figure had risen to more than 687 million, and over 880 million international arrivals were recorded in 2009 (Sharpley 2009).

The significant growth of the tourism industry resulted as one of the most remarkable economic activity and social phenomena in the world. The sector is estimated to represent 10% of global GDP and is expected to continue expanding significantly to reach 1.8 billion international tourists in 2030. As a worldwide export category, tourism ranked fourth in 2013, after fuels, chemicals, food, and ahead of automotive products (UNWTO, 2015). Therefore, the hospitality and tourism industry can sustain socio-economic developments and enhance the quality of life of people through employment creation and revenue generation, financing infrastructural developments, diversifying economic activities, and driving the general economic development through creating interconnections (Sharpley, 2009).

Nonetheless, the focus on the economic significance of tourism often ignores the ecological and socio-cultural impacts of tourism. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the negative consequences of tourism have increasingly been recognized by scholars about the ecological and social costs of tourism development. As a result, the concept of ecotourism, which is defined as a “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people” by Ecotourism Society (1999),

started to be a topic of discussion among researchers in tourism (Fennel 1999). Factors like the increasing awareness of world environmental problems are the main driving forces behind the dramatic expansion of the ecotourism industry. In addition, the increase of dissatisfaction with unregulated mass tourism is also an important contributor promoting the emergence of ecotourism. Since the late 1980s, ecotourism was introduced as a potential strategy to support conservation of the natural ecosystem while at the same time contributing for sustainable local development. Ecotourism has become a major economic force for both developed and developing nations around the world (Fennel, 1999).

Ecotourism, as a tourism based on the nature experience, involves visiting natural areas in order to learn, to study, or to carry out activities environmentally friendly, at the same time enabling the economic and social development of local communities (Kiper 2013). Ecotourism contributes to conservation of biodiversity; sustains the well being of local people; involves responsible action on the part of tourist and the tourism industry; promotes small and medium tourism enterprises; requires lowest possible consumption of natural resources; stresses local participation, ownership, and business opportunities, particularly for rural people; and above all includes the learning experiences (Kiper, 2013).

Drumm and Moore (2005) stated that ecotourism provides opportunities for visitors to experience powerful manifestations of nature and culture and to learn about the importance of biodiversity conservation and local cultures. At the same time, ecotourism generates income for conservation and economic benefits for communities living in rural and remote areas (Drumm and Moore, 2005). Similarly, Bhuiyan et al. (2012) stated that eco tourism has become an important economic activity in natural areas around the world. As a result, many countries favour ecotourism as a form of economic development as it is perceived as a low impact form of tourism.

According to scholars such as Fennel (2009), Kiper (2013) Drumm and Moore (2005) Bhuiyan et al. (2012), eco tourism is a concept that emphasis on conservation of the

natural ecosystem and sustainable local development. In eco tourism, the owner of protected area can be government, NGO or private organizations. Nonetheless, it is difficult to involve local communities on ownership of eco-tourism products, equitable benefit sharing, substantial control, decision making, planning and management. This ownership issue makes it difficult to apply sustainable local development. Therefore, the best tool that increases the participation of local communities is Community Based Eco-tourism (here after referred as CBET), which is alternative form of ecotourism development.

The concept of CBET implies that the community has substantial control and involvement in the ecotourism project development and management, and that the majority of benefits remain in the community (Wood, 2002). This definition implies some kind of collective responsibility and equal involvement as well as the local community equally shares benefit from tourism activity. Community-based ecotourism should therefore foster sustainable use and collective responsibility.

CBET provides a more sustainable form of livelihood for local communities, encourage communities themselves to be more directly involved in conservation and generate more income and local communities benefit from the conservation measures in protected areas (WWF, 2001). It offers both an opportunity and threat to the communities. If the management and capacity building of local communities are not done in parallel, opportunities will be lost and significant damage will be caused (Bhoj and Jan, 2007). Protected areas, especially those found in the tropics and in less developed countries, contain many of the world's greatest ecotourism attractions. These attractions may consist of one or a combination of rare or endemic species of flora or fauna, abundant wildlife, high indices of species diversity, unusual or spectacular geomorphologic formations, or unique historic or contemporary cultural manifestations in a natural context. Protected area managers, then, are faced with the challenge of controlling and limiting the impacts of imaginative nature tourism while at the same time deciding where and how to plan adequately for the development of ecotourism as a compatible economic development option (Drumm and Moore, 2005).

Ethiopia possesses a massive ecotourism potential, but ecotourism is still in its infancy stage. The government of Ethiopia also has recognized development and promotion of ecotourism and provided consultancy services for a number of potential developers of ecotourism sites. Although, developers and policy makers do not properly take the idea of ecotourism, some investors started to involve in development of ecotourism in different regions of Ethiopia (MOCT, 2009).

Ecotourism development in Ethiopia is getting increasing interest and attention because the country has a unique biodiversity, spectacular topographic features and rich cultural resources. Though these valuable resources enable Ethiopia to develop community based ecotourism and empower local communities, while conserving the natural and cultural landscape, ecotourism development has its own challenges. One of the challenge is it requires the empowerment and full participation of all stakeholders' particularly local communities (Mulugeta, 2012). Nonetheless, regardless of its potential Ethiopia is not getting significant benefit due to immense problems.

Loka Abaya National Park (LANP), which is found in SNNP region, is one of protected areas in Ethiopia with ecotourism potential. The LANP was established in (2009). Even though it is a recently protected area, the LANP has encountered with several challenges according to the report of the Sidama zone department of culture, tourism and government communication affairs (SZDCTGCA). The report identified challenges such as improper use of the resources, degradation, deforestation, and wild animal hunting due to lack of awareness of local communities about the importance of the national park (SZDCTGCA 2014). This necessitates an investigation to minimize the challenges and promote CBET in LANP. Besides, the opportunities of the park for CBET need to be assessed so that CBET can be successfully implemented.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Ecotourism, which involves travelling to fragile and usually protected areas, helps to educate the traveller; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits local communities in economic development and political empowerment; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights (Honey 1999). As a result, ecotourism has become one of the economic sectors that generates substantial income and maintains conservations of protected areas. It also offers benefits for local residents, for conservation, development and educational experiences.

Nowadays many countries have adopted CBET, which is an alternative form of ecotourism, as a tool for poverty alleviation. CBET helps in community development by providing alternative source of livelihood to local community (Kiper 2013). According to Kiper (2013), the aim of CBET is to conserve resources, especially biological diversity, and maintain sustainable use of resources, which can bring ecological experience to travellers, conserve the ecological environment and gain economic benefit. It helps to involve local communities in the conservation of the ecology and biodiversity of the area. The biodiversity, in return, provides economic incentives to the local community by generating additional incomes from CBET (Kiper, 2013). Nonetheless, there are some issues taking into account such as environmental and cultural conservation, political interests and benefit flow to local people at ecotourism sites in the development and implementation of CBET (Bhoj and Jan, 2007). Therefore, the development of CBET in destination sites needs to be assessed. Accordingly, the first research problem addressed in this study is the assessment of the opportunities and challenges of CBET in one of the national parks found in southern Ethiopia.

There are few studies conducted in Ethiopia on CBET (Daniel 2011, Cherinet 2008,). However, many of these studies have focused on well established national parks and protected areas, such as Siemen National Park (Mulugeta,2011), Bale National Park (Assegid,2011), Awash National Park (Daniel 2011), Adwa and its environs (Cherinet 2008) and South Wollo (Aregawi 2016). Nonetheless, given its newness, there has not been any study conducted on CBET in LANP, which is considered as one of the research

problems addressed in this study. Accordingly, this study fills in this research gap or problem by assessing the opportunities and challenges for the development of CBET in this newly established national park in SNNP region (see the general objective of this study in the next section)

The development, operation and management of CBET involve several stakeholders, such as governmental and nongovernmental organizations, private sectors and community members, which may have different interests. Nonetheless, the differences in the interest of stakeholders in CBET can affect the outcome of the development of CBET in destination areas. In fact, the development of tourism destinations in general and CBET in particular, is a complex and dynamic process, which requires multiple stakeholders with diverse views and values. In this regard, Gray (2001) asserted that the stakeholders should assume collective responsibilities for the ongoing directions and success of any ecotourism establishment. Therefore, it is imperative to examine the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders involved in CBET to address the imbalances in interest among the stakeholders in CBET. This will in turn help to identify a suitable model that works for a particular ecotourism destination. Nonetheless, this aspect has not been well researched in Ethiopian context, particularly in SNNP region. Hence, the other research problem addressed in this study is filling in this gap in literature by focusing on LANP (see the fourth specific objective in the next section).

The development of Community Based Ecotourism has its own challenges, not only in maintaining the balance of the interests of the stakeholders but also in equally involving all the stakeholders. For instance, an active participation of the local communities is essential for a successful implementation of CBET and to protect destinations. The majority of the local communities are engaged in agricultural activities that causes natural resources to extreme degradations. Besides, the successful implementation of CBET requires the empowerment and full participation of all stakeholders, particularly the local communities. It is, therefore, imperative to examine the perception of local communities towards CBET development in their localities. Accordingly, this study also aims to address this research problem as well (see the third specific objective in the next section).

In a nutshell, there has not been any study conducted on issues related to tourism in general and CBET in particular in Loka Abaya National Park to date; perhaps related to its recent establishment. Hence, its newness was found to be an opportunity to conduct this study. That is, the main reason why the park is selected for research is that the area has not been addressed with any research regarding ecotourism development although the area is recognised as national park since 2009. Besides as it is protected under the government, the researcher assumes that it will create great opportunity to develop CBET within the park. In addition, the document obtained from the Sidama zone department of culture, tourism and government communication affairs (2014) reported about LANP as there are many challenges such as degradation, over grazing, deforestation for fire wood and home making because the community have low awareness about the importance of the national park. The reported challenges obviously need a research based solutions. Due to all the above mentioned reasons, the researcher is motivated to assess the existing situation of LANP by conducting this study titled “Opportunities and challenges for community based ecotourism tourism development in Loka Abaya National Park”.

1.3.Objectives of the study

1.3.1. General Objective

The main objective of this study is to assess the opportunities and challenges for community based ecotourism development in Loka Abaya National park.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to:

- Describe the Opportunities for CBET development in LANP;
- Investigate the challenges for the development of CBET in the study area;
- Examine the perception of local communities towards CBET
- Suggest ways for concerned officials and for stakeholders a suitable model that helps to successfully develop CBET at LANP.

1.4. Research Questions

- What are the potentials for the development of community based ecotourism in LANP?
- What are the challenges to develop community based ecotourism in LANP?
- What does the perception of local communities look like towards CBET development in their area?
- What kind of tourism model suits best to develop CBET in LANP?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The recommendations, which are forwarded in this study, will encourage concerned officials to develop and implement CBET in LANP. The findings of the study are also believed to maximize the positive effects of CBET in Loka Abaya national park towards biodiversity, ecosystems, and socio economic development. The study will also serve as a starting point for future research, particularly for tourism students who want to undertake further research to fill in the uncovered problems and gaps in this study. Besides, it can serve as a reference and guide for other researches in the park and around. It can also be used by practitioners and other stakeholders in the sector. It is also hoped that this study will encourage various stakeholders working in the area to rethink their activities and take action for the running of successful ecotourism.

1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study attempts to assess the opportunity and challenge for CBET development in LANP by taking three sites such as Aldebo, Felika, and Abaya zuria Kebele as a case. This study limited on Loka Abaya woreda. The subject of the study is the local communities who living adjacent to the park, tourism office, elders living around the park, kebele administrator. Some of the possible limitations include the lack of documentation over vital information of the park and budget and time constraints.

1.7. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter consists of introduction of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study. The second chapter includes literature review; the third chapter covers the study area, research approach, sampling techniques, data source, and data analysis, the fourth chapter deals analysis, interpretation and presentation of data respectively while the last the fifth chapter presents the summary, conclusion, and recommendations of the study. Bibliography and appendices are also attached at the end.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter presents the review of literature on the concepts of community based ecotourism. The chapter begins with the review of a theoretical overview and conceptual frameworks of community based ecotourism in general. Given the focus of this study on opportunities and challenges for community based ecotourism (CBET) development, the chapter broadly focus on CBET: its meaning and principles, its benefits, the negative impacts of CBET if not well managed and monitored with possible ways of minimizing them, various issues in the process of the development of community based ecotourism, such as tourism models relevant to CBET development, stakeholders, potential or requirements as well as challenges. Finally, the chapter introduces the conceptual framework of this study, which is developed based on the reviewed literature.

2.1. Community Based Ecotourism: An overview of Theoretical Frameworks

2.1.1. The Concept of Ecotourism

Ecotourism, which is a unique subset of the tourism industry, focuses on the enhancement or maintenance of natural systems through tourism activities. Nonetheless, the meaning of ecotourism may mean different things to different people (Kipper 2013). To some scholars, it is the general term that encompasses nature based only, whereas for others it also includes cultural tourism. The term ecotourism was coined in 1983 by Hector Ceballos Lascurain, a Mexican environmentalist, and was initially used to describe nature based travel to relatively undisturbed areas with an emphasis on education (Kipper 2013).

According to Kipper (2013), in his first definition of eco tourism, Hctor Ceballos emphasized on educational perspective only and failed to critically observe other benefits of eco tourism. Later on, he improved his view and defined ecotourism as "travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying scenery and its wild animals and plants as well as existing cultural manifestations" (Hctor 1987, as cited in Kipper, 2013). Nonetheless, this definition was not complete for some scholars. Hector has been criticised that he has not looked at the

conservation of ecology and benefits to local communities. Currently, an agreed upon definition of ecotourism is that of the International Ecotourism Society (IES) since 1990. The IES in 1990 defined eco tourism as a "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people" (retrived from IES web site, 2017). The World Conservation Union (WCU) described ecotourism with broad idea as an environmentally responsible travel and visit to natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socioeconomic involvement of local peoples (WCU 1996, cited in kipper, 2013).

Prominent scholars have also described the concept of ecotourism in a similar fashion with the 1990 definition of IES. According to Fennell (1999), the concept of ecotourism implies for a sustainable form of natural resource based tourism. Hence, ecotourism focuses primarily on experiencing and learning about nature, its landscape, flora, fauna and their habitats, as well as cultural artefacts from the locality. Wood (2002) observed both negative and positive impacts of ecotourism. He asserted that eco tourism has a potential to create positive environmental and social impacts, whereas, as a form of mass tourism, it can damage the environment if not conducted properly. That is, ecotourism destinations are always environmentally sensitive because ecotourism activities directly involve various environmental phenomena including bird watching, trekking, mountaineering, horse riding and elephant riding within the forest, wilderness trail, staying in natural caves, studying about flora and fauna, simple bush walking, animal behaviour study, ecological studies (Rahman,2010). Kiper, (2013) also added that ecotourism always incorporates various activities in nature (hiking, mountain climbing, observing the living beings in their natural habitat), but it may include cultural activities too. In the next section, the concept of community based ecotourism (CBET) is presented.

2.1.2. An overview of the concept of Community Based Ecotourism

Now a days, community-based approaches have become a commonly used concept in development cooperation in different sectors since they primarily focus on the

involvement of local communities and are less business orientated. In like manner, when it comes to promoting the higher involvement of locals in ecotourism, the concept Community-based ecotourism (here after also referred as CBED) is used (Christian, 2012). The World Wild Fund (WWF) described community-based ecotourism as ecotourism ventures that are characterized by high environmental consideration, increased control and involvement of the local residents with significant benefits shared with the host community (WWF 2002). Nelson (2004) also stated that CBET is more specifically associated with tourism activities or enterprises that involve local communities; it operates in their lands, and is based on their cultural and natural assets and attractions. Generally speaking, CBET is a form of tourism, which focuses on travel to areas with natural attractions to contribute to environmental conservation and local livelihood enhancement. Nonetheless, there are differences between CBET and other forms of tourism.

Bhoj and Jan (2007) provided the distinction between CBET and the traditional concepts of tourism. He pointed out that non CBET tourism activities are often marketed and organised by private travel companies and the bulk of the profit goes to the private companies and sometimes to governmental enterprises. In contrast, in CBET, tourist destinations are managed by the community and run by the community itself, management decisions are made by local people and the profit directly goes to the communities themselves. CBET is a socially sustainable activity that encourages community participation, owned and operated mainly by local community members (Hatton, 1999). CBET also encourages, respects, reinforces and maintains local cultural heritage and traditions, as well as natural heritages especially where the environment is one of the attractions. That is, the CBET is focused on sustainable activity of both cultural and natural heritages (Hatton, 1999). Moreover, the WWF (2001) has critically viewed the economic, environmental and social benefit, as well as community involvement. It is stated that CBET recognizes the social, environmental and economic significance and it primarily focuses on tourism's benefits to the local communities. In sum, CBET is a form of ecotourism where the local community has substantial control

over and involvement in its development and management, and a major proportion of the benefits remain within the community.

2.1.3. Principles of CBET

Until recent times many businesses and governments promoted ecotourism without understanding the most governing principles and guidelines. But establishing and setting internationally and nationally accepted principles and guidelines became an objectivities of different stakeholders to be engaged in ecotourism development in 1990s. Hence, following the stakeholders' meeting held in 1991, the International Ecotourism Society (IES) has developed a set of principles which are embraced by the growing involvement of NGOs, private sector businesses, governments, academia and local communities (Wood 2011). Specific guidelines and principles have been developed to meet the sustainability of ecotourism development. According to Wood (2011), the followings are, therefore, among the agreed up on principles and guidelines set to effectuate ecotourism development including CBET:

- Educate the traveler on the importance of conservation
- Stress the importance of responsible business, which works cooperatively with local authority and peoples to meet local need and deliver conservation benefits.
- Emphasizes the need of regional tourism zoning and for visitor management plans designs for either regions or natural areas that are slated to become eco destination.
- Direct revenues to the conservation and management of natural and protected area
- Emphasis use of environmental and social base line studies and long term monitoring programs to assess and minimize impacts.
- Strive to maximize economic benefit for the host country, local business and community, particularly people living in and adjacent to natural and protected area.
- Seek to ensure that tourism development does not exceed the social and environmental limit of acceptable change as determined by researchers with cooperation with local residents.
- Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people

- Rely on infrastructure that has been developed in harmony with the environment, minimizing use of fossil fuels, conserving local plant wild life and blending with natural and cultural environment.
- Support international human rights and labor agreements.

2.1.4. Stakeholders in CBET Development

CBET is a multi-sectoral tourism activity that requires different partners of various interests to involve. Some may be more important than the others. Whoever more important, however, the success of CBET is highly determined by the strong integration among those stakeholders. The key stakeholders in CBET development include park administrators, local communities, government officials, NGOs, funders, academics and private sector. In this section, the role of these stakeholders in CBET development is presented (Drumm and Moore, 2005).

i) Administrators of the Park and Protected Areas

As aforementioned, the prime settings of CBET development are pristine, exotic, remote and natural areas easily prone to threats and damages. Thus, developing CBET practices in such areas requires precarious measures most often taken and implemented by the administration of parks and protected areas (Drumm and Moore 2005). The skill, knowledge and motivation of the personnel undertaking the administrative functions greatly determine the success of CBET. Therefore, the administration staffs need to be skilful enough to closely work with all stakeholders in reconciliation with their interests. It is the administration and its personnel that could closely work with natural resources changes and opt to take diagnostic measures. Moreover, the park and protected areas personnel are still playing a key role in providing environmental education and promoting the awareness level of the local communities and the guests (tourists) about environmental resources (Drumm and Moore 2005).

ii) Local Communities

Brandon (1996), states that there is an increasing recognition of the need of local communities' participation in planning developing and managing CBET activities. Nonetheless, the degree of participation and who exactly participates remains a challenging issue. It is mostly underpinned that ecotourism gives the local people more opportunities to participate effectively in development activities, empowering them to mobilize their own capacities to become a social actor rather than the passive subjects (Brandon1996). To this end, CBET is taken as a community oriented tourism that aims to empower the locals to manage resources, make decisions and control the activities that affect their lives. Moreover, it outreaches the exercise and control of the local communities over CBET practices and has made them to make decisions on the level of CBET they want, the cultural practices they wish to share and the places where the tourist can go. Besides, it ensures the ownership and control rights of the local people over the resources of their area and inspires them to actively participate in planning actions to integrate their interests and motivates them to support CBET activities in their locality (Brandon1996).).

According to Drumm and Moore (2005), local community's participation in CBET activities is important for two main reasons. Firstly, it is their homeland and work place that attracts tourists and activities related to it should not opt to go against the traditional livelihoods rather invited the local people to become the sole architect and engineers in planning and managing ecotourism activities. Secondly, the natural wealth of the settings of ecotourism could only be maintained if and only the local people take self mobilization and motive to conserve the natural environment. In this sense natural resource conservation can only bear fruit with the effective involvement of the local community (Drumm and Moore2005). Hence, CBET can assist in spreading the benefits of development, stimulating economic activity and growth and provide an opportunity for diversification of the economy among the local community if and only if the local community emerged as a sole stakeholder. It can be a tool for conservation and rural development, but this will only materialize if a practical effort is made to incorporate local populations into the tourism industry. Involvement with local

people and consequent rural development will not happen automatically. In some cases tourism activities in protected areas are not benefiting the surrounding population. In sum, CBET will not contribute to rural development unless rural people are brought into the planning and development of the industry (Drumm and Moore2005).

iii) Government

Drumm and Moore (2005) stated that the institutional framework, the available human capital and tourism policy are crucial to determine the success of CBET. CBET, as an alternative to sustainable development, demands clear laws, legislations and regulation formulated and enforced by the government. It also demands the prevalence of effective institutional framework tends to effectuate CBET development. Moreover, CBET development requires effective leadership who can combine and articulate the national goals with the goals of ecotourism. Government also demands to establish specific ecotourism policies in parks and protected areas. The government is the sole partner in developing suitable conditions for the local people to benefit directly from the establishments of national parks and protected areas in and around their homeland, and from the emerging ecotourism businesses. According to Drumm and Moore (2005), the specific responsibilities of the government in CBET development include:

- Creating linkage and integration between ecotourism projects and other related projects takes place in the ecotourism destinations.
- Provision of technical assistance through the established government departments.
- Undertaking of market research and promoting ecotourism products and destinations through tourism bureau.
- Providing direct financial support.
- Formulation and enforcement of policies which allow for the flexible development of ecotourism enterprises.
- Licensing and registering of activities related to ecotourism.

iv) Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are valuable partners in the process of CBET development (Drumm and Moore 2005). They provide technical and financial

assistancess. NGOs' involvements in ecotourism development revolve around two focal areas. These are protection of biodiversity and environment resources; and ensuring sustainable development for the local communities. Hence, they can develop a myriad of programs such as research, training, community development, protected area management and target conservation initiatives (Drumm and Moore 2005). They offer a means of communication with a great number of interested stakeholders in fostering CBET development. NGOs also serve as facilitators between protected areas, or directly managing CBET sites These organizations can also serve as a vehicle for bringing together all elements of ecotourism. Thus, implementation of ecotourism, directly financing the projects, training and providing advisees for business partners are among some the focal areas whereby NGOs actively involve (Drumm and Moore2005).

v) Academics

Academics such as universities and research centres are another group that plays a secondary valuable role in the planning, developing, managing and examining the overall effects of CBET development (Drumm and Moore 2005). It is this group that helps to frame the issues of ecotourism including CBET and raise questions whether ecotourism meets its stated goals or not. Thus, researchers and academic institutions greatly contribute for CBET development by diagnostically evaluating the economic, environmental and social implications of CBET development (Drumm and Moore2005).

vi) Funders

According to the United Nations Environment Programme ((UNEP2002), the financial constrains to cope up with natural resources conservation and community development are believed to be sponsored and funded by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies such as World Bank ,IMF and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). These can fund the development of CBET through loan or grants. These contributions are often of critical values for parks and protected areas conservations and sustainable CBET development (UNEP2002, Drumm and Moore2005).

vii) Private Enterprises in Tourism Industry

Since the tourism industry is massive in character and highly interlinked with other sectors, it involves a variety of people engage in tourism activities in different approaches (Drumm and Moore 2005). The tourism industry in general and CBET in particular involves the private sector including tour operators and travel agents, airline and other transportation service, mega hotels and lodges, ; hand craft makers, tour guides and other people who independently offer goods and services to tourists. Hence, the private sector also play a vital role in clearly understanding and projecting the travel trend, identifying consumer behaviour and what they want, and influencing the tourists by encouraging good behaviour and promoting ecotourism (Drumm and Moore 2005).

2.1.5. Opportunities for CBET Development

According to Drumm and Moore (2005), the mere presence of a protected area alone is not enough for CBET development. That is, the development of CBET requires the presence of many features and conditions, such as physical features, cultural features, the level of local economic development, the collaboration of stakeholders and the presence of suitable policy and legislation. In this section, the potentials and necessary conditions for the development of CBET are presented.

i) Presence of Physical Features

The land surface of the earth is composed of a variety of landforms which we can be broadly grouped into four categories: mountains (areas of elevated, rugged terrain), more gently sloping hill lands, elevated plateaus and lowland plains. Within each landform category there are features resulting from natural forces and variations in the underlying rock. Volcanoes, crater lakes and calderas, lava formations, geysers and hot springs, are geothermal features caused by disturbances from deep within the earth's' crust. Even in areas where volcanic activity ceased long ago, springs rich in minerals have in turn given rise to the type of health resort known as a spa. Another important group of features is

found in karst limestone areas, where surface streams have ‘disappeared’ underground to carve out impressive caves, sinkholes and gorges (Brain and cooper, 2005).

Additionally inland water resources for tourism can be viewed as nodes (lakes, reservoirs), linear corridors (rivers, canals), or simply as landscape features. Where lakes are accessible to major cities they attract second home owners and a wide range of recreational activities which may not be compatible. Generally natural values are great opportunities for the development of CBET. These values are geographical position, microclimatic conditions, existence of water, natural beauties, existence of natural vegetation, existence of wildlife, surface features and geomorphologic structure (Gerry, 2001). According to Kauffmann, (2008) the selection criteria of a particular site for community based ecotourism are the availability of unique scenery, cultural and historical values, and accessibility of the sites.

ii) Presence of Cultural Feature

Tourists are interested in the differences between their country of origin and the peoples of the countries they visit, as expressed in terms of art and, music, traditional dance folklore and festivals, local food, architecture , pageants, traditional agricultural structure, local handicrafts, regional dress culture, historical events and people, heritage appeals, architectural variety, artistic activities and lifestyle generally. The existence of those varieties of cultural features become great opportunity for community based ecotourism development (Brain and cooper, 2005).

iii) Level of Economic Development

According to Stephen (2009), a society’s level of economic development is a major determinant of the magnitude of tourist demand because the economy influences so many critical, and interrelated, factors. As a society moves towards a developed economy a number of important processes occur. The nature of employment changes from work in the primary sector (agriculture, fishing, forestry) to work in the secondary sector (manufacturing) and the tertiary sector (services such as tourism). As this process unfolds, an affluent society usually emerges and numbers of the economically active

population increase. With progression to the drive to maturity, discretionary incomes increase and create demand for consumer goods and leisure pursuits such as tourism. Other developments parallel the changing nature of employment. The population is healthier and has time for recreation and tourism (including paid-holiday entitlement). Improving educational standards and greater access to media channels boost awareness of ecotourism opportunities, and transportation and mobility rise in line with these changes. Institutions respond to this increased demand by developing alternative tourism such as CBET, and a range of leisure products and services (Stephen, 2009).

iv) Collaborations of Stakeholders

For CBET to be properly developed local and international stakeholders dependent on government (particularly ministry of tourism and environment) to develop policy that will develop protect and manage natural areas (Wood 2002). To deliver and sustain the CBET venture over the long term, communities can develop partnership and network with relevant organization to extend outreach and create supportive environment. Building positive relationship between CBET management teams and other tourism stakeholders build strong foundation for CBET. Identifying, developing, and managing positive relationships provide strong foundation for effective and sustainable CBET (Wood, 2002).

CBET in many contexts requires engagement with private sectors. Appropriate relationship between community and private sector can benefit community managed incentives. Collaboration between community and tourism authority (including peak industries bodies) can provide benefit around branding and positioning the CBET operation with the wider tourism market place. Regional community tourism hubs can be a great source of support CBET managers. This knowledge and networking centre can assist by providing information, facilitating learning and connecting community with private operators, government agencies, and aid agencies (Samuel, 1998). CBET in rural areas is typically dependant on tourism products that are natural resource based. Consequently additional agencies (government agriculture, parks, forestry, fisheries and mining departments and other organizations) may need to be involved in CBET

assessment and planning phases. Build a good relationship with stakeholders from different is great opportunity for establishment of CBET (Samuel, 1998).

v) Presence of Suitable Policy and Legislation

According to Carlson (2001), ecotourism including CBET is the fastest growing sub-sector of the tourism industry. So ecotourism needs to be guided by very holistic policy for its effective practice to achieve real sustainable ecotourism that can be a more beneficial to local communities, safeguard to natural and cultural environments, and advantageous to tourists and other stakeholders (Fennel and Dowling, 2003). Superficial ecotourism policy is very harmful to the all phenomena on which ecotourism is based. In this point, Carlson (2001: 52) also adds that “The department or the team, that is responsible for policy formulation, should prepare alternative policies and outline plans and evaluate how well each fulfils the tourism objectives, optimize economic gains, minimize environmental and socio cultural impacts, all in accordance with country’s general development policy.” Therefore, in the process of making ecotourism policy, government officials have a critical role in formulating policies for ecotourism. For the majority of protected lands, rules and regulations are legislated at the national level (Keith, 1995).

2.1.6. Challenges for CBET Development

The development of CBET occurs not without some challenges. In this section, the major challenges on the development of CBET are presented.

i) Heterogeneous Nature and Interests of Stakeholders

As presented in Section 2.7, several stakeholders are involved in CBET development. Nonetheless, due to the differences in interest and aim among them, the stakeholders are far from remaining homogenous. Each group of stakeholders has its own particular values and objective its own culture indeed. The heterogeneous nature of stakeholders, therefore, imply for various issues with a complex mosaic of stakeholder interests that must be addressed carefully to practice CBET sustainably (Honey and Rome 2000).

Considering these all issues, sustainable ecotourism practice including CBET is not as easy as it is envisioned. Supporting these ideas, Honey and Rome (2000: 34) states that “it is a set of interconnected principles and theories whose full implementation presents multilayered problems and challenges that are needed be deeper investigation, more rigorous analysis, and more careful theatrical work.”

Pearce (1996) also stated that communities are split into different functions based on a complex interplay of class, gender and ethnic factors and certain families or individuals are likely to lay claim to privileges because of their apparent status. In such situation, it is unlikely that community members will have equitable access to participation in tourism development and the benefits of tourism. Not all communities or community members will wish to be involved in tourism activities because Communities are not homogeneous groups of likeminded people rather they are a collection of individuals with mixed feelings in relation to their perception towards tourism. Negative impacts are most common when communities are not given choices, or have no control over their involvement with tourism. Knowledge and perceptions of locals’ towards ecotourism development is highly required in order to know the significance and value of local participation (Pearce, 1996).

ii) Low Community Involvement

Involving the community is a critically important and complex subject for successful CBET. CBET requires an understanding, and where possible a strengthening, of the legal rights and responsibilities of the community over land, resources and development. This should apply in particular to the tenure of community held lands and to rights over tourism, conservation and other uses on these lands, enabling the community to influence activity and earn income from tourism. It should also apply to participation in land use planning and development control over private property. It is important to remember that ecotourism is a business, as well as community led initiatives, private enterprise and investment should be encouraged where appropriate, within a structure which enables the community to benefit, and have decision making power over the level and nature of tourism in its area (WWF, 2001).

In order to maximize the conservation benefits of an ecotourism activity, it is necessary to define how local community can participate in its planning and management. The sole participation of community is not easy in CBET due to the fact that tourism is heavily reliant on the market and resources such as national parks and other protected areas are mainly government owned. The experiences of CBET in developing countries show that a top-down planning and development approach with limited community participation which cannot benefit overall community and creates imbalances and uneven development. The government should accept the right of community people to participate in planning, decision making and managing eco-sites and natural resources including protected areas and national parks (Bhoj and Jan, 2007).

iii) Lack of Infrastructure

The existence of ecotourism potentials offers great opportunity for the development of CBET. But those opportunities are constrained by resource limitations such as water supplies, roads, airports and widespread electricity. The loss of access to a number of natural resources is as a major obstacle hindering the progress of CBET. Physical infrastructure is an important factor in a tourism industry in order to develop potential attractions. But if there are poor road conditions around attraction sites, it will harm the competitive position of these attractions in relation to other attractions which are more developed. Hence, even though road development, a tourism component, poor road construction can have a negative impact on tourism development (Silva and McDill, 2004).

iv) Capacity Building Problems

The other challenge of CBET development is capacity building in local communities and other interest groups who should be capable with knowledge, money and skills. Generally, capacity building in ecotourism development in many developing countries run by different NGOs, and is very short and entirely fund dependent. In order to be able to run the programme on a long-term and autonomous basis, it should be local and community based (Hari, 2010).

2.1.7. Models in Tourism Development

According to Joseph (2010), there are four broad tourism models, which are also relevant for CBET development. These are: 1) community-based tourism models 2) private sector investment and operational models, 3) government tourism models, and 4) donor-development agency models. These models can be useful in tourism development in general and CBET in particular (Joseph, 2010). Each model has its own strong side as well as limitations, as discussed below.

i) Community based tourism models

According to Catilin and Jessicas (2010), the community-based Tourism Model is carried out in demarcated areas of land units such as protected parks and Controlled Hunting Areas (CHAs). Government leases out CHAs to local communities to enable them participate in conservation and tourism development. As a result, Community based tourism model (CBTM) is also referred as community based natural resource management (CBNRM). This model is necessary to reduce human wildlife conflict, increase natural resource conservation, and increase rural development through tourism development with an active participation of local communities. In most CBNRM projects in countries such as Botswana, and South Africa CBET activities are carried out through Joint Venture Partnerships(JVPs), which is defined as a “ business activity undertaken between two or more partners for their mutual benefit” (Catilin and Jessicas,2010:729). The partners in a joint venture in at community level are rural people who have user rights to the natural resources occurring in the area and established private sector companies that recognise an area’s potential for business development” (Catilin and Jessicas,2010).

According to Joseph (2010), local communities often prefer the Joint Venture Partnerships (JVPs) model even though most communities lack the necessary entrepreneurship skills and experience in managing tourism enterprises. JVPs with safari companies are preferred under the assumption that there will be a transfer of entrepreneurship and managerial skills in tourism business from companies to local

communities (Joseph 2010). The strong sides of this type of partnership include: Communities living around the area can participate in community-based tourism projects; local communities can also participate in decision-making process of natural resource management. In general, this tourism model increases the socio-economic benefits in the form of employment opportunities and income generation to communities living around the area. Nonetheless, this type of partnership model has its own limitations. For instance, the communities involved in CBNRM lack skill of tourism entrepreneurship, marketing and management skills; community based tourism projects can also collapse due to internal conflict caused by ethnic differences (Joseph, 2010).

ii) Private Sector Investment and Operational Model

The private sector investment in tourism development is mainly undertaken in concession lands such as national parks and game reserves and in related wildlife-based areas. The majority of the activities are characterized by the construction of accommodation facilities. It has its strong side. For instance, investment is not determined by government but by private investors who are not limited to promote investment to the maximum due to budget constraints as is the case with government. That is, the private sector can stretch its resources to meet the tourist demand. The Private Sector is efficient in service delivery. That is, there is likelihood that service delivery in protected area in terms of tourism services would be higher when compared to that of other sectors. The private sector can bring investment in areas where government would otherwise fail to do so. In this regards, socio-economic benefits such as employment opportunities, come generation and tax revenue would be increased in private investment. Its limitations are: An exclusive form of tourism developed which would cause tension and resentment with local people who might find themselves denied access to particular areas in their local environment. The organization of the private tourism sector is a great bulk of revenue leaks from the country to other countries. This is generally not healthy for the local economy (Joseph, 2010).

iii) Government Tourism Models

Even though some scholars such as Joseph (2010) argue that, the main role of government in tourism development should be limited to provide suitable environment for tourism growth, fair opportunities for all citizens, appropriate infrastructure, easy tourism access, and a sound environmental resource base, this model assumes that government has the potential to achieve its mandate of resource preservation in protected area. The strong side of this tourism model is that there should be no safari hunting inside national parks. This model, therefore, has an advantage in the development of photographic and non-consumptive forms of tourism development.

The weakness of this model is: Governments all over the world have proved to be inefficient in running the tourism business. They fail to effectively manage campsite in national parks and game reserves. Government often lacks the necessary skills, staff, equipment and facilities to run viable tourism enterprises. Government often has a poor marketing strategy when compared to the private sector. Because government is often not worried about competition in running campsite services, such facilities are not well maintained and there is often limited space for tourists. Government's preservation approach to resource management in protected areas often cause antagonistic relations with surrounding communities (Joseph, 2010).

iv) Donor and Development Agency Model

The Donor and Development Agency Model involve donor and development agencies funding a community project at the initial stages of development. When the project is established, the donor and development agency withdraws leaving the community to manage the project at a profit (Joseph 2010). The Donor and Development Agency Model is applicable in areas where a community wants to establish a tourism activity like eco-lodge, sanctuary or any other related tourism project. In this model, local communities can have access to funding. Funding can result in communities establishing tourist facilities like eco-lodges, sanctuaries and other related tourism enterprises. This model has its own limitation such as the donor and Development Agencies can dictate the type of tourism enterprise for the community which in essence

might not be the accepted project. Donor and Development Agencies have a short life span over a project. As a result, the possibility of the project collapsing once the donor moves out is high. Local capacity building might be slow in matching the skills needed in the project during the project development stage (Joseph, 2010).

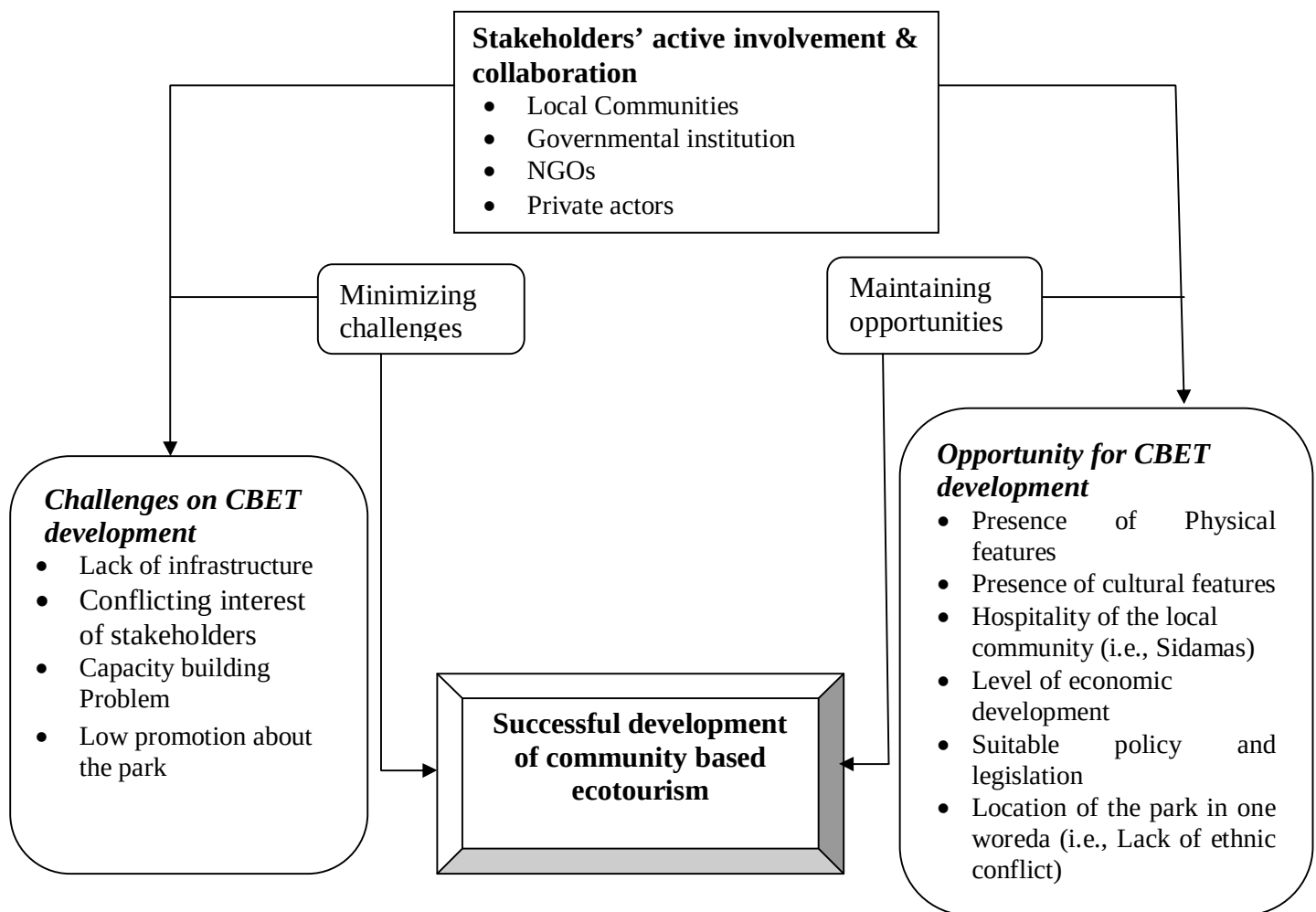
2.1.8. Conceptual Framework of the study

Based on the literature reviewed in the preceding sections of this chapter, a conceptual framework is developed. Moreover, among the four tourism models discussed in Section 2.11, the community based tourism model is assumed to be much suitable for the development of CBET in the study area. As discussed in detail in Section 4.3 in Chapter 4, the design of this framework is also guided by such an assumption. Hence, this framework serves as a guide for this study. Figure 1 below illustrates the conceptual framework of this study, which describes about the challenges and potential opportunities for the development of a community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National Park. Based on the reviewed literature in Section 2.6 of this chapter, the expected challenges for the development of CBET in the study area could be the followings: lack of infrastructure, various and conflicting interests of stakeholders, capacity building problems and low promotion activities. On the other hand, the potential opportunities for CBET development include presence of physical and cultural features, stakeholder collaboration, relatively a better level of economic development, hospitality of local communities, location of the park in a single *woreda* with a single ethnic group (i.e., Sidamas) living adjacent to the park and presence of suitable policy and legislation.

On the centre of this framework is the place of stakeholders, which include the local communities, governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. The role of stakeholders is significant for a successful development of CBET in Loka Abaya park in two ways. First, their active involvement in CBET development is crucial to exploit the opportunities. Second, collaboration among them helps to minimize the challenges. Hence, the role of stakeholders can be assumed both as an opportunity and challenge. This is because for an effective development of CBET in newly established areas such as the Loka Abaya National Park, the stakeholders' active

involvement in a collaborative manner plays a vital role so that opportunities can be maintained or maximized and challenges can be minimized. In sum, for a successful development of CBET, the active involvement of stakeholders is shown in Figure 1 with an arrow pointed towards the opportunities in the right side and the challenges in the left side, which ultimately results in a successful development of CBET. Nonetheless, a lack of active involvement in a collaborative manner among stakeholders may lead to the challenges remain unsolved and the opportunities remain unexploited.

Figure 1: A conceptual framework for a successful development of CBET in Loka Abaya National Park



Source: Own formulation based on literature

2.2. CBET in Ethiopia: An Overview of Policy and Empirical Studies

2.2.1. Ethiopian Tourism Policy viz-a-viz CBET Development

Ethiopia's tourism policy was issued in 2009 (MoCT 2009). In the Ethiopian Tourism Development Policy, substantial emphasis is placed on the potential of tourism to help Ethiopia to meet its goal of poverty alleviation. It guarantees participation of community on the tourism development activity of the country as the basic principle of the policy. This principle stated that, in order to achieve sustainable tourism development and promote the existing and new attractions effectively it is better to encourage communities at destinations in particular and the public in general to participate in and benefited from the development. Tourism Development Policy of Ethiopia promotes the collaborative relationship with local communities as one of implementation strategy in order to achieve sustainable tourism development. It also stated that the importance of coordination among the local communities in order to eliminate redundant costs and unnecessary use of resources and to bring enhanced results (MoCT, 2009).

The Ethiopian National Tourism Development Policy (2009), clearly explained that the responsibilities and roles of local communities at tourist attractions in the implementation of the policy. As explained in the policy document, giving responsibility and enabling them to play their role in the development process has the following positive impacts on the tourism development of the country. The development of tourist attractions, products and services will be more effective if it is done by collaborating with the bodies that administering the resources as owners, and conserving and protecting these resources with a sense of ownership. If it is done, it is only necessary to tourism resources rather it not also enabling the community to become direct participants in and beneficiaries of the tourism development of the locality. Participating community in the tourism development also prepares the ground for the provision of appropriate care for guests who visiting the local attractions and extending hospitality to tourists. Besides, if the communities have the responsibility and role in the tourism development, it will create positive ground to protect their cultural and social values as well as the natural environment from negative influences of tourism, and they will take corrective measures rapidly when negative impacts occur (MoCT, 2009).

2.2.2. Review of Empirical Studies

As discussed in the introduction chapter (Section 1.2), there are only few studies conducted in Ethiopia on CBET. This could mainly be attributed to the fact that the development of CBET in Ethiopia is at its infant stage. As a result the concept of CBET has not been well studied. Besides, many of the existing studies have focused on well established national parks and protected areas, such as Siemen National Park (Mulugeta,2011), Bale National Park (Assegid,2011), Awash National Park (Daniel 2011), Adwa and its environs (Cherinet 2008) and South Wollo (Aregawi 2016). Even though empirical studies on CBET in an Ethiopian context are few, it is worth mentioning about these studies. In this section, therefore, an overview of these empirical studies, which are conducted for master's thesis, is presented in Table 1 below, focusing on their objectives, methodological approaches and major findings. Finally, the research gaps in these studies, which are addressed in this study, are outlined.

Table 1: An overview of Empirical Studies conducted on CBET Development in Ethiopia

Issues	Mulugeta Asteray	Assegid Ayele	Chernet Tilahun	Daniel Alemayehu	Aregawi kidanemariam
Year	July 2011	June 2011	July, 2008	June, 2011	June 2016
Topic	Community Based Ecotourism as a Tool for Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable development	Ecotourism as a sustainable development option	Community Based Eco-tourism Development:	Challenges and Opportunities for the Establishment of Community Based Ecotourism	Challenges and prospects of ecotourism development
General objective	to assess how CBET is used as a tool for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development	to uncover how ecotourism activities in BMNP provide livelihood options for the local communities and ensure environmental conservation.	assessing the potential of the area as a destination of multiple attractions and the possibilities of developing them into various products of tourism	to assess the challenges and opportunities for developing community-based ecotourism	identifying the main challenges and prospects of ecotourism development
Study area	Simien Mountains National Park	Bale mountains national park	Adwa and its Environs”	Awash National Park Area	Kelala worda, Amhara region,
Target population	Experts, officials and local community	Experts, officials and local community	Local communities, experts from AAU	Local communities, Park staffs, government officials & lodge owners	Experts and local community
Research Approach	both qualitative and quantitative approaches	Qualitative and quantitative approaches	Not clearly mentioned	Qualitative and quantitative approaches	Qualitative & quantitative methods
Sample size	150	95	100	105	94
Statistical Analysis	Descriptive method, ANOVA and t-test	Descriptive method	Descriptive statistics	Descriptive method	Descriptive statistics
Major finding	CBET in SMNP is an effective, efficient and sustainable approach for conserving biodiversity.	The local communities' dependence on unsustainable use of the natural resources of park continue to exist.	Having an ecological feature of mountain ecosystem ,with diverse natural & cultural heritage resources in Adwa.	The study area has an excellent opportunity to be developed as a CBET destination.	The potential of the study area for CBET development.
Research contribution	Statistical procedures (the use of ANOVA & t-test)	Unsustainable use of natural resources	Mountain ecosystem for CBET development	The role of lodge owners in CBET development	CBET development in rural areas
Research gap	Stakeholders' collaboration and CBET Models not examined	Stakeholders' collaboration and CBET Models not examined	Stakeholders' collaboration and CBET Models not examined	Stakeholders' collaboration and CBET Models not examined	Stakeholders' collaboration and CBET Models not examined

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Chapter three presents the research methodology used in this study. The chapter begins with the description of the study area (i.e., Loka Abaya National Park). The chapter then presents the research methodology: research design, sampling techniques, sample size, data gathering instrument and data analysis techniques.

3.1. Description of Study Area

Description of the study area is mainly based on the document prepared by Sidama Zone department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs in 2014. The location, topography and the communities living adjacent to the park are described in the subsequent paragraphs, which are much relevant to this study. Besides, the description of the study areas' physical features, such as vegetation, wild life, drainage etc is presented in Chapter 4. Nonetheless, the soils and climate of the study area are not presented in this chapter due to lack of information on them.

Loka Abaya National Park (also referred as LANP in this study), which is established in 2009, is found in Loka Abaya Woreda in Sidama Zone of South Nations, Nationality and Peoples Region (SNNPR). The park is named after the name of the woreda where it is found (i.e., Loka Abaya Woreda, which is one of the 19 woredas of Sidama Zone). Geographically, the LANP extends from 6° 30' N to 6° 48' N and from 37° 55' E to 38° 04' E. It covers an estimated area of 500km² of which 52km² is water body (proportion of Lake Abaya). In relative terms, the park is located south west of Hawassa city (the regional capital) at a distance of about 70km and 340km from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia's capital). It is found on the northern side of the Lake Abaya, where two rivers originating from Sidama Zone (i.e., Gidawo River and Kola River) passing through the park. The park is bounded to the west by Bilate River, which also passes through the park and ends at Lake Abaya. The park is bounded by various kebeles of Loka Abaya woreda: Abaya zuria kebele to the west and south, Felika kebele and Kola River to the east and Aldebo

and Felika kebeles to the north. Figure 2 illustrates the location of the LANP in the map of SNNP region, Map of Sidama zone and Map of Loka Abaya Woreda.

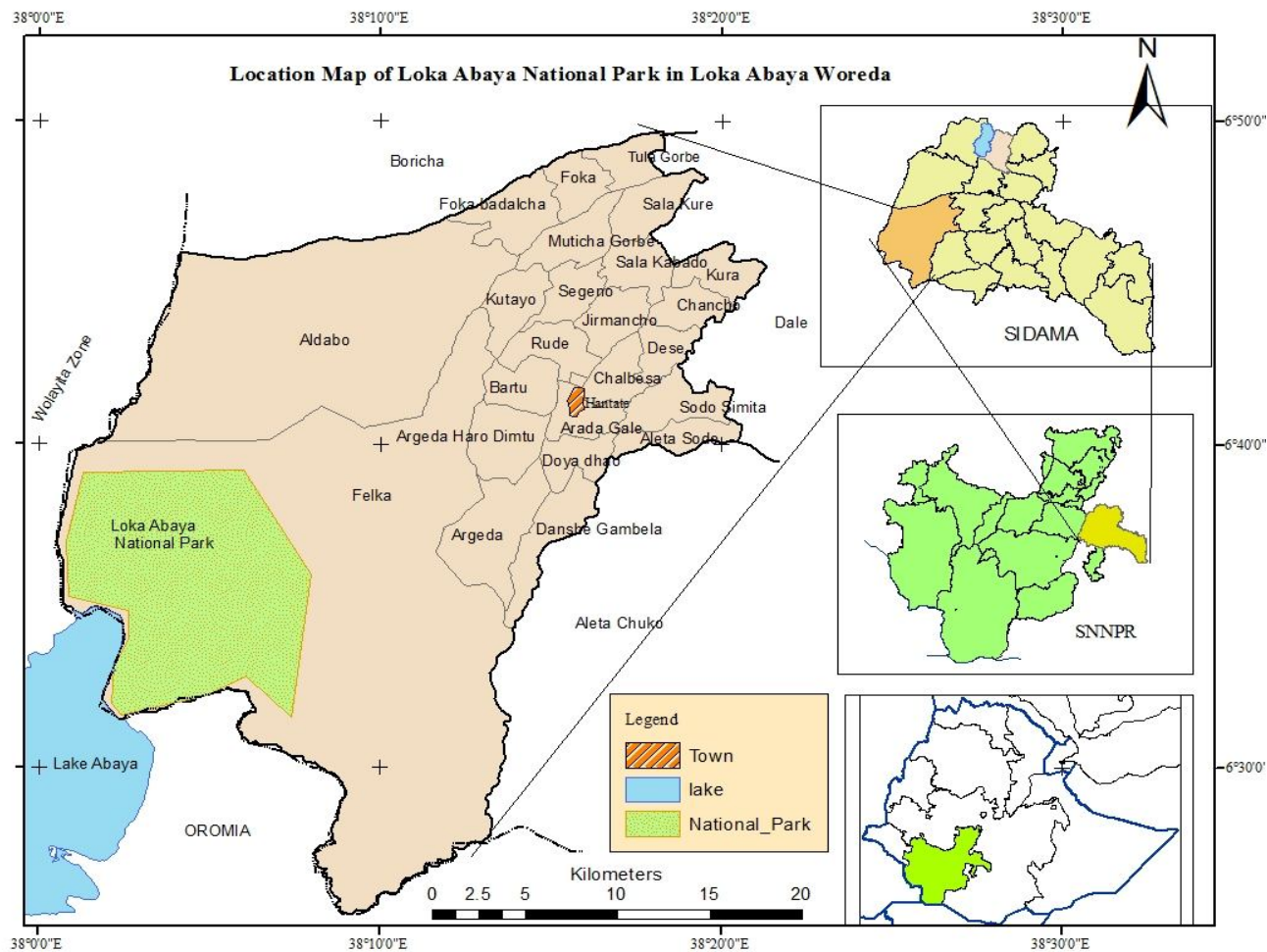


Figure 2: Map of the study area¹

With regard to the prominent topographic features of the study area, the LANP is characterised by highly heterogeneous and hilly terrains. A large proportion of the park is highly undulating and rolling interspersed with different valley floors, purely drained bottomland and punctuated by different hills. The Loka Abaya national park has different scenic features; such as mountains, high lands, lowlands Gorges etc. Lake Abaya, Bilate River, Gidaawo River and more than ten hot springs are the usual source of fresh water,

¹ Source: Sidama Zone DoCTCA, 2014.

which are important to sustain wild life in the park. A further discussion of these physical features is presented in Chapter 4 (Section 4.3.1).

The principal communities living in and around the Loka Abaya National Park are mainly the Sidama people, the fifth largest ethnic group in Ethiopia, even though there are other ethnic groups living in urban areas. The Sidama nationals in the area are dominantly Christians, mainly followers of protestant. The local communities traditionally practice agricultural activities that combine Enset, root crops, cereals cultivation and trees with livestock rearing simultaneously. Hence, it can be said that the Sidamas living adjacent to the park practice a mixed agricultural activities, even though there are few communities living in the lowland areas (Abaya zuria and Bikitu Kebele) who predominantly practice traditional animal husbandry as well as irrigation cultivation along the river banks of Bilate and Gidawo.

3.2. Research Design and Approach

In this study, a descriptive research design was employed to assess the opportunities and challenges for the development of community based ecotourism in LANP. According to Kothari (2004), a descriptive study design, which is concerned with narration of facts and characteristics concerning individuals, group or situation, is most often employed in social science research. In addition, a mixed research approach was used in this study. This method is chosen because it provides an advantage to adapt the strength and avoid the weaknesses of using a single (qualitative or quantitative) research method. A mixed research method approach has become popular since the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods provide better understanding of the research problem and discussing the findings, even though the procedures are time consuming, requiring extensive data collection and analysis in new research development methods (Creswell, 2012). Besides, due to the nature of this study on which some data can be numerical while others are demanding phenomenological explanations cannot be addressed using either a qualitative or a quantitative method alone may not address all the specific aims and research questions mentioned in Chapter 1 of this study. In this study, therefore qualitative data were gathered through direct interviews, focus group discussion and observation, whereas quantitative data were gathered by using a survey questionnaire.

3.2.2. Selection of the study site

The research was conducted at Loka Abaya national park, sidama zone, SNNPRS of Ethiopia. The area exclusively found within one woreda called Loka Abaya of sidama zone. The researcher selected this area because the area has not been addressed by any research regarding ecotourism development because it has short establishment history when we compare to other national parks of Ethiopia. The park is protected under government control so that the researcher assumes that it will create great opportunity to develop CBET within the park. Moreover, according to the information obtained from the Zonal office of Culture and Tourism, the park has faced with many challenges, such as degradation, over grazing, deforestation for fire wood and home making, that need to be addressed. These challenges could be attributed to lack of awareness among the local communities about the importance of the national park. Hence, if a CBET is developed in the area, the local communities will be benefiting from the tourism potential of the park and ultimately the challenges can be mitigated.

3.3. Sample framework, sample size and sampling techniques

For the purpose of this study, three adjacent kebeles, namely Felika, Abaya zuria and Aldebo kebeles were selected from a total of 7 surrounding kebeles. These three representative kebeles were selected through a non probability sampling technique. These three kebeles were selected purposely as there is a relatively accessible road leading to them as compared with other adjacent kebeles to the park, and most of the potential resources, such as fauna and flora, landscape, Lake Abaya, inside the park are located within these sites. The subjects of the study were both male and female from the host communities of the selected three kebeles adjacent to the Loka Abaya national park. The total sample size is determined by using the following formula; (Yemane 1967, cited in Israel, 1992).

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

N = the total population that will be studied

n = the required sample size

e = the precision level which is = ($\pm 0.1\%$), where Confidence Level is at 90%.

Even though purposive (non probability) sampling technique was used to select the three study kebeles, a probability sampling technique (i.e., random sampling technique) was used to select sample households. The rationale for selection of simple random probability technique is to minimize discrimination of the distribution of samples over total households. According to the information obtained from the Loka Abaya woreda agricultural bureau, the three selected sites have a total of 1640 households; out of which 540, 620 and 480 households are living in Felika, Aldebo, and Abaya zuria kebeles respectively. By using the above sample size determination formula, a total of 94 households were randomly selected as sample respondents for this study. Therefore, the proportional distribution of sample respondents across the three study sites becomes 31 for Felika, 35 for Aldebo and 28 for Abaya zuria kebeles.

3.4. Data Sources and data collection instrument

Both primary and secondary data sources were used in this study. Secondary sources were collected from different materials like written documents, journal articles, books, different published and non published papers and websites were a part of data sources. The primary data were collected using questionnaire, which is the main data collection tool in this study, administered to the local communities as well as interviews, focused group discussion and observation. In subsequent paragraphs, each of these tools is described.

i) Questionnaire

A survey questionnaire was administered for sample households by the researcher directly during a field survey conducted in February 2017. The questionnaire was designed mainly to generate data on socioeconomic characteristics, local people's participation, perception of the communities towards the park and wildlife, community attitudes towards CBET and natural resource and about the benefits that they get from the park. For the process of data collection, a survey questionnaire, which consists both open ended and close ended questions, was used as main tool to gather information from sample households. The questionnaire was first prepared in English and then translated into local language (Sidamigna or Sidaamu afoo) by a colleague of mine who is a native speaker. A pilot study was conducted with 10 individuals, including the chairpersons of the three kebeles mentioned above, to identify any vagueness or unclear questions before

its actual administration to the sampled respondents. Based on feedback of preliminary test, questions were modified. Finally, questions were administered face to face with the head of the sample household. All the selected sample respondents (n=94) participated in the administered survey questionnaires.

ii) Interview

In order to accomplish the mixed research approach of this study, face to face in-depth interviews were also conducted with key informants. The semi-structured interview questions were administered with selected key informants, who are representatives of the stakeholders in the development of community-based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National Park. The in-depth interviews were conducted until sufficient information were collected and reached at a saturation point, beyond which there was no any additional information. The choice of these key informants was based on knowledge, expertise, experience, responsibility and involvement with the tourism sector in the study area. In other words they were selected based on their ability to contribute to the overall research objectives of this study. Accordingly, the key informants were drawn from different governmental offices working as tourism experts or head of Culture and Tourism Bureau at regional, zonal and woreda level (i.e., the administrator of Loka Abaya national Park, the head of Loka Abaya Woreda, office of Culture and Tourism, two representatives from Sidama zone BOCT and two representatives from SNNP region BoCT) as well as nine representatives of the local communities including the chairmen of the three selected kebeles (Felika, Abaya zuria and Aldebo kebeles), three scouts or security forces of the park from the three selected sample sites and three elders who have lived in the area for a long time. In total, 15 in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants.

During the interview sessions, various issues were discussed including the current challenges of the Park and the challenges for establishing CBET in the Loka Abaya national park, the favourable conditions to establish CBET in the Park, the relationship between the park management office and the local people, local people's participation towards the park, the benefits they could generate from wildlife and other aspects of the park, their perception towards the existence of the park etc. The interview questions and pictures are shown in Appendix 2 and 6 respectively at the end of this study.

iii) Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

A single Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was also carried out for the purpose of this study. The FGD, which was organized by the researcher, was held with ten individuals at the office of the head of Loka Abaya Woreda's bureau of culture and tourism, including the head of BoCT and three tourism experts, the administrator of LANP, three local elders and three park staffs. Open ended questions were used during the FGD session, which are shown in Appendix III at the end of this study. The FGD session was chaired and guided by the researcher and the participants were encouraged to forward their ideas, opinions, feelings and knowledge regarding the challenges and possibilities for developing community based ecotourism in the Loka Abaya national park.

iv) Field Observation

A direct Field observation was also held during data collection because observation is also one of the main instruments of data collection. The field visit allowed the researcher to observe the natural resources of the park, such as flora, fauna, landscape, infrastructure, services and facilities, condition of biodiversity, for CBET development in LANP. During the field observation, as the LANP is remote the researcher was gone with scout and two park staff members. During field observation several pictures were taken using a photo camera further see the appendix 6.

3.5. Method of Data Analysis and interpretation

The collected data from different sources were analyzed by using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The data gathered using questionnaire were analysed by using the statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 16. These data were first coded and organized for analysis. In analyzing the data collected through questionnaire, descriptive statistics were employed. Then, the analysed data were tabulated and presented in the form of frequency and percentage. Qualitative data obtained from field observation, interview, and focus group discussion were analyzed and interpreted through thematic and description method. Some relevant pictures are illustrated in Chapter four as well as in Appendix Vi.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of the study by analyzing the collected data and discusses the major findings of the study. The chapter is divided into six sections. The first section describes the characteristics of the respondents. The knowledge, perception and attitude of the sampled households towards CBET development is presented in Section 4.2 and their awareness level about the park in Section 4.3.

4.1. Characteristics of the Sample Households

As discussed in Chapter 3, this study is based on primary data collected from 94 sample respondents. The mean age of the respondents was 38.9 years, the oldest and youngest being 82 years and 18 years, respectively. Nearly three-fourth of the respondents (i.e., 73.4%) were males, whereas 26.6% of them were females. The average size of the surveyed households was 6.36. Table 2 below presents the educational background and the marital status of the sampled respondents.

Table 2. Education level, marital status and income source of respondents

Education status			Marital status			Household income source		
Level	No	%	Status	No	%	Source	No	%
Illiterate	18	19.1	Single	11	11.7	Livestock	18	19.1
1-4	14	14.9	Married	65	69.1	Agriculture	21	22.3
5-8	25	26.6	Widowed	12	12.8	Both agriculture and livestock	53	56.4
9-10	28	29.8	Divorced	5	5.3	sales of forest product	2	2.1
11-12	3	3.2	Total	94	100	Total	94	100
Diploma	4	4.3						
Total	94	100						

Source: Own survey (February 2017)

As is evident from Table 2, nearly seven out of ten respondents were married (69.1%), while only one out of ten respondents was single (11.7%). This implies that the majority of the respondents can have a tendency towards generating additional income to their households because married ones in general are more responsible to their family members than single ones. Besides, the livelihood of almost all of the surveyed

households is based on agricultural activities, either in farming, livestock rearing or in both. In a separate yes or no question (i.e., is your yearly income enough to support your families?), the majority of the respondents replied that the households' income from their current livelihood is not sufficient, while only 34% of them replied their income is sufficient. Those respondents, who indicated the insufficiency of current income, stated out the presence of different factors that contributes to this situation in their reply for the subsequently asked open ended question. The most frequently mentioned reasons include: low productivity of the land, scarcity of arable land, large family size, over exploitation of the land, weather condition of the area and seasonal production. Therefore, income shortage needs to be covered by some means other than agriculture, perhaps off farm activity, such as trade and service sector activities like tourism. Therefore, if a CBET is introduced in the area, the population will be motivated to actively participate in it as an additional means of income generation. Moreover, if education on CBET is given in the area, the majority of the population will easily understand it because nearly 80.9% of them can at least read and write. As can be seen from Table 2, only 19.1% of them were illiterate and even 37.3% of them have attended secondary education and above.

4.2. Knowledge, Attitude and Awareness of Respondents towards the Development of Community Based Ecotourism

The participants of this questionnaire were selected from three kebeles with almost similar livelihood and environment. Under this section, the overall attitude, interest and their knowledge of the respondents towards community based ecotourism (CBET) development in Loka Abaya national park are assessed.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents in terms of their knowledge, attitude and perception about community based ecotourism

No	Questions asked	Responses					
		Yes		No		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
q.12	Do you like if tourists visit your community?	85	90.4	9	9.6	94	100
q.14	Do you know about CBET?	38	40.4	55	58.5	94	
q.15	Do you think your area is suitable for the development of CBET?	87	92.6	7	7.4	94	100
q.16	Do you agree to participate in the development of CBET?	88	93.6	6	6.4	94	100
q.17	Do you think that you would be beneficial if CBET be developed?	88	93.6	6	6.4	94	100

Source: Own survey (February 2017).

Table 3 shows that 58.5% of respondents have no knowledge about community based ecotourism before, whereas 40.4 % have heard about community based ecotourism. This shows that government as well as mass media and concerned body have the responsibility to enhance the knowledge of the local community about community based ecotourism. As discussed in the literature review chapter, a lack of knowledge is one of the challenges for the development of community based ecotourism. For instance, Pearce (1996) asserted that knowledge and perceptions of locals' towards ecotourism development is highly required for an effective development of CBET.

The above table also indicates that 90.4% of respondents would “like” if tourists visit their area, while only 9.6% respondents replied in contrary. This implies that the majority of respondents are interested if tourists visit their natural and cultural resources. In other words, there is a high hospitality among the local communities, which is important for the provision of appropriate care for guests who visit local attractions. Therefore, it can be said that the positive attitude of the local communities towards guests and visitors (i.e., eco tourists) is a great opportunity to develop tourism activities like community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National Park. This finding of the study is significant because other previous studies (e.g., Aregawi 2016) overlooked the hospitality aspect in the development of CBET in Ethiopia. Besides, this finding is in line with the tourism policy of Ethiopia, which emphasizes on extending hospitality to tourists (MoCT 2009).

Table 3 also confirmed the suitability of Loka Abaya National Park (LANP) for CBET development since 92.6% of the respondents agreed on the asked question (i.e., Do you think your area is suitable for the development of CBET?). The suitability of LANP to CBET can be associated with the presence of ecotourism potential within the area, which is also a great opportunity to develop community based ecotourism. As observed during a field visit, there are both natural and cultural resources like topographic structures that have the potential of attracting tourists. Pictures illustrating these physical and cultural features are presented in figure 3 to figure 13 on page 57, 62, 64.

While asked about the benefits they would get if CBET developed in their area, 93.6% of respondents replied "yes", confirming their high anticipation for potential benefits if CBET introduced and developed in their area, whereas only 6.4% respondents disagreed as they would not get any benefit if CBET developed around their area. This implies that the majority of respondents have a high anticipation towards the benefits from CBET. The anticipated benefits from CBET by the local communities cannot be limited only to economic benefits. This is so because in a separate question (#22) asked (i.e., Do you think community based ecotourism development is effective for environmental conservation?), the majority of the respondents (90.4%) replied "yes", whereas only 9.6% of them replied "no". Hence, it can be said that the communities around LANP also anticipates environmental benefits from CBET as well. This finding of the study on the effectiveness of CBET for environmental conservation is also significant because previous studies in Ethiopian context have mainly emphasised on the economic benefits of CBET. .

The economic benefits of CBET has been focused much because Community based ecotourism enterprises, which are established in natural areas such as national parks and protected areas, provide a wide variety of services. These services can create job opportunities to the local community and thus improving living standards. For instance, they can be engaged in activities such as provision of local transport services using horses and mules, guides, artisans, street vendors. Moreover, as the findings of this study reveal, such activities also have significant effects in the protection and conservation of the environment by enhancing the conservation of natural resources. As

a result, the majority of respondents, (93.6 %) agree to participate in the development of community based ecotourism in their area, whereas only 6.4% of them replied "no" to question number 16, as can be seen from their responses in table 2. Therefore, it can be claimed that there is a great opportunity to develop CBET in Loka Abaya national park. Moreover, Table 4 shows the responses of sampled respondents on the approach of the local communities towards visitors, which is also important for CBET development.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents in terms of responses on the approach of local community towards potential tourists

Question	Responses		
	<i>Response types</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Q13. How would you approach towards tourists when you contact them?	Very friendly	75	79.8
	Friendly	12	12.8
	Moderate	0	0
	Unfriendly	3	3.2
	Very unfriendly	4	4.3
	Total	94	100

Source: Own survey (February 2017).

As can be seen from Table 4, 79.8% of the respondents would approach potential tourists very friendly when they visit their locality to see the unique biodiversity, the cultural and natural site of their area. During a focus group discussion with the local communities, they were asked to point out the underlying reasons for a very friendly approach towards potential tourists. The participants in the FGD emphasized that the coming of visitors will bring a lot of advantages and opportunities to the local community and hence, contributes to the development of their area through infrastructural development such as new roads connecting them with the woreda capital, improved road to and from Hawassa, different constructions such as water supplies, toilets etc. They also mentioned about other technological developments (e.g., improved mobile network), In general, they emphasized that the development of CBET in LANP will improve the livelihood of the people in the area directly or indirectly.

Nonetheless, not all of the communities in LANP would be friendly towards potential tourists as can be seen from Table 3 since few respondents were found to be either unfriendly (3.2%) or very unfriendly (4.3%). This issue was raised to the head of Loka Abaya woreda's Culture and Tourism office (Ato Yirdachew Rubiso) during interview session. Ato Yirdachew is of opinion that "fear for cultural assimilation due to new modern life styles imitated from tourists", could be the underlying reason. One of the informants (Ato Argato berassa, elder person) associated the reason with a fear for an introduction of new practices such as begging, which strictly contradict with the beliefs and way of life of the local people. This informant during the interview session mentioned that some children were seen begging white evangelical missionaries who came to their area before, which is considered as taboo among the Sidamas who believe that begging would bring a curse to the society.

To further corroborate on the previous findings from "yes" or "no" questions on knowledge and perception about CBET, the sample respondents were also asked to rate their agreement or disagreement on other related issues in CBET development at a 5 point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=moderately agree, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree). These questions were included in the questionnaire to assess the local communities' level of awareness on issues such as community based ecotourism, importance of the park, etc. Table 5 presents these results from sampled respondents. Since the "moderately agree" option was not rated in any of the statements, it is not included in Table 5.

Table 5. Local Communities Awareness regarding community based ecotourism

No	Questions	Responses							
		<i>Strongly agree</i>		<i>Agree</i>		<i>Disagree</i>		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
q.1	To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?								
	I am aware about the importance of the park for livelihood.	63	67.0	20	21.3	1	1.1	2	2.1
q.2	Community based ecotourism promotes conservation of natural resources in Loka Abaya national park.	71	75.5	20	21.3	1	1.1	2	2.1
q.3	Local communities' participation in any affairs of the park has a vital importance for CBET development	76	80.9	14	14.9	3	3.2	1	1.1
q.4	If well developed, community based ecotourism has better economic benefit	77	81.9	12	12.8	4	4.3	1	1.1
q.5	If Community based ecotourism developed in the park, it would bring a sustainable means of livelihood.	68	72.3	19	20.2	1	1.1	1	1.1
q.6	I agreed that Community based ecotourism works are effective for socio cultural development of the area.	72	76.6%	11	11.7	7	7.4	4	4.3

Source: Own survey (February 2017).

The results on table 5 revealed that the sampled respondents are much aware about the importance of LANP for CBET development. The majority of the respondents (88.3%) rated the question on their awareness about the importance of the park for their livelihood, either "strongly agree" (67.0%) or agree (21.3%), whereas only few of them (3.3%) showed their disagreement. These results imply that local people are much aware about the importance of LANP for their livelihood. Nonetheless, as can be seen from Table 4, the local communities are also strongly believe that community based ecotourism promotes conservation of natural resources and socio cultural development in Loka Abaya national park which is also supported by 75.5% and 76.6% respectively of the sampled respondents. Hence, it can be said that local communities in Loka Abaya are aware that CBET can contribute for environmental conservation.

The local communities are also much aware that their participation in any affairs of the park has a vital importance for CBET development. As can be seen from Table 5 above, the majority of the sampled respondents (80.9%) have agreed with the asked question (q 3) on the participation of local community in any affairs of the park have a vital role for CBET development, whereas only few of them have either disagreed (3.2%) or strongly disagreed (1.1%). This implies that the active participation of the local communities in all issues related with the park in general and CBET development in particular is vital. In other words, a CBET development effort in LANP without the participation of the local communities will not be effective. This is so because, since they are aware about their vital role in the park affairs, any project in the area without their participation will inevitably invite suspicion from them.

The findings from interviews and focus group discussion also support findings from the sampled respondents. During one interview session, an informant emphasized that the local communities have a great role on the conservation of the park more than government and NGOs. This is also pointed out during the FGD session with the experts at the woreda tourism office. The FGD participants argued that the local communities who live adjacent to the park have a high stake on the park than the government officials, including the FGD participants, since they visit the park less frequently as compared with the local communities.

The local communities also believe that CBET activities bring economic benefits. As can be seen from Table 5, 81.9% of the respondents strongly agree that if community based ecotourism is well developed and managed, it will bring economic benefits. A result from interview also confirmed that if CBET is properly developed in LANP, many petty trade activities and service provisions (e.g., selling of cultural goods and services, souvenirs, paintings, local tour guides etc) will flourish in the area.

In a nutshell, the local communities are aware of the contributions of CBET as a means of income generating and new job creation, which in turn contribute for sustainable economic development and promoting cross cultural exchange.

4.3. Opportunities to Develop Community Cased Ecotourism in LANP

What are the opportunities to develop a community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National Park (LANP)? This is one of the two major questions raised in Chapter 1 of this study. Therefore, in addition to the results from the survey questionnaire, the finding from primary data collected through field observation, Focus Group Discussion and interviews are presented in this section. Generally speaking, the opportunities which create favorable condition for the development of CBET in LANP include: the proximity of the park to Hawassa city (i.e., the capital city of SNNP regional state), commitment of the government, safety and security, hospitality of the local community as well as the existence of several cultural products in the area (e.g., cultural dances, traditional festivals, traditional food and drink, preparation system, hair style etc).. In addition to the cultural products, the LANP is endowed with abundant natural resources including scenic feature, forest, bird life, wild animal, the existence of hot springs, mountains, the existence of hot spring within the park, the availability of Lake Abaya within the park. Below presented are the descriptions of each of the above mentioned opportunities in detail.

4.3.1. The Presence of Physical Features

The primary purpose of eco tourists is to visit natural areas which are reach in both physical and cultural features. As discussed in the review chapter (Section 2.8), the presences of physical and cultural features are, therefore, the major requirements for the development of CBET. In this sub-section, the potential of LANP related with physical features for CBET development are discussed. The Loka Abaya National park has different ecotourism potentials that could potentially attract many national and international tourists. These include the presence of various types of fauna and flora, water body, hot springs, etc. Each of these physical features is discussed in detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

i) Natural Resources in LANP

When someone visits the BoCT both at Sidama Zone and Loka Abaya Woreda, he/she comes across with many posters illustrating the different wild animals and other features that exist in LANP. The researcher has used this information to supplement on her own observations during field visit to the park in February 2017. Hence, the findings in this section are based on both primary and secondary data. The Loka Abaya National Park has a lot of natural resources for ecotourism development in general and CBET in particular. The Park has spectacular natural scenery, variety of wildlife and birds, outstanding birdlife viewing and spectacular scenery. These features are shown first in picture in Figures 3 to 7, that are deemed important and then followed by a description and discussion on both the illustrated pictures and other physical features that are present in LANP. In addition to the researcher's own pictures taken during field visit, some of the pictures used in this study were taken by the respective governmental offices, notably Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs (SZCTGCA), Loka Abaya Woreda Bureau of Culture and Tourism (BoCT) and the administration office of LANP. At the end of this thesis, the pictures solely taken by the researcher are shown in the appendix section. It should be noted that the pictures of some common wild animal that are found in LANP, such as hyena, lion etc, are not included.

I) Natural scenic features in LANP



Figure 3: Natural scenic in LANP.



Figure 4: The researcher in one of the scenic features in

II) Wild Animals in LANP



Figure 5: Greater Kudu



Figure 6: African Wild Dog



Figure 7: Red buck

ii) Scenic features and water bodies in the park

The Loka Abaya national park has also different scenic features, such as mountains (namely Donga, Chirata, Gedano, Tulito, and Gegessa.), high lands and lowlands as well as valleys and gorges. Moreover, there are water features such as lakes and rivers (e.g., Lake Abaya, Bilate River and Gidaawo River). These water features are the usual sources of fresh water to sustain wild life in the area. There are also more than ten hot springs in LANP. These fresh water ecosystems found in the park, which provide attractive scenic views, are also opportunities to develop CBET in LANP since eco tourists are much attracted to visit scenic features and take pictures. During the focus group discussion held with tourism experts, the existence of physical features with mountains and valleys, are pointed out as good opportunities to develop CBET activities such as trekking, horse riding, hiking and guided walks. In sum, it can be said that the LANP is suitable for photography, stargazing, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing. Hence, one of the requirements for CBET development is met in LANP.

It is also worth mentioning about the presence of part of Lake Abaya within the boundary of LANP. As discussed before in Chapter 3, the park covers an estimated 52km² water body from the northern part of Lake Abaya, the second largest Lake in Ethiopia. This outlet to a larger water body is another potential of LANP to develop lake transportation between Hawassa city via LANP and Arba Minch town, which is situated adjacent to Nech Sar National Park. A visitor to LANP via Hawassa city can also get access to Nech Sar national park, Arba Minch areas and other tourist destinations in SNNP region like Konso and south Omo, which are the very well known tourist attractions in the south. In other words, the water access via LANP could be a suitable option to launch an alternative route for tourists to reach to these destinations. The LANP is found only at a distance of 70kms from Arba Minch along Lake Abaya, according to the information obtained from the office of Sidama Zone Culture and tourism (SZBOCT, 2009).

The results from the interviews and the FGD conducted with the experts in SZBoCT also strengths this opportunity. During FGD sessions, the participants pointed out that the

tourists who visit Hawassa can travel to Lake Abaya through Loka Abaya National park. One of the interviewed tourism experts (i.e., Abraham Ashagre, who is an expert of tourist attraction sites study and development at Sidama Zone BoCT) pointed out that the presence of Lake Abaya's water body in the boundary of the LANP is a great opportunity for CBET development. He said that "after their visit in LANP, tourists can continue to Nech Sar National Park by boat, which takes a maximum of three and half hours to reach at Arba Minch Nech Sar national park". This alternative water route passing through LANP is of great importance to develop tourism activity within the area. That is, the LANP can provide the shortest paths to arrive to other tourist attraction sites of southern region if the lake transport operation is launched.

Moreover, the availability of Lake Abaya within the boundary of Loka Abaya national park has a great potential to develop different recreational activities. Hence, parts of the park shared with Lake Abaya can be developed into popular ecotourism products, including sport fishing, scuba diving, canoeing activity etc. Besides, since beaches are popular tourist destination, tourists can enjoy at the beach of Lake Abaya around the park. The picturing showing the beaches of Lake Abaya taken by the researcher from the shores of LANP is also included in Appendix VI.

In addition to the presence of Lake Abaya, the existences of more than ten hot springs in LANP are also opportunities for CBET development. A hot spring, also called thermal spring, is spring with water at temperatures substantially higher than the air temperature of the surrounding region. Most hot springs discharge groundwater that is heated by shallow intrusions of magma (molten rock) in volcanic areas. Some thermal springs, however, are not related to volcanic activity. Hot spring tourism can be one of health tourism. It can be the way of treatment by hot water, as well as it could help to improve the visitor's body and make them relaxed while bathing in the hot water. (Cooper, 2009);

The results from the interviews also confirm that Loka Abaya national park contains more than ten hot springs which are very attractive and beautiful. Besides, since hot springs are also considered as sacred waters among many Ethiopians, these hot springs

can be developed as health and wellness tourism. Besides, it is possible to develop spa around the park using the hot springs. Hence, if the hot springs are developed, tourists can highly enjoy by visiting the park and at the same time they can enjoy around hot spring by taking bath in addition to their ecotourism purpose. That is, tourists can spend more time around the park by having good time. Scholars such as Ramos & Santos (2008) cited in cooper, (2009) asserted that thermal baths are understood as the set of administrative, touristic, health, social and medical products that are put into operation in order to generate a therapeutic use of medicinal mineral water and hot gases. In sum, LANP has great opportunity to develop different tourism activities, mainly for developing CEBT.

iii) The flora and fauna of LANP

The LANP is not only endowed with breath taking scenic features, but also with fauna and flora that are also opportunities for CBET development in LANP. To begin with, the park is composed of different kinds of flora. According to the information obtained from the Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs (SZDCTGCA 2014), the principal vegetation found in LANP can be referred as trees, shrub lands and grassland. The trees are generally arranged in three storeys (upper, intermediate and ground storey). The number of plant species is numerous in the upper and intermediate storey. The upper storey contains mainly different species of Acacia tree, such as *Acacia tortolis*, *saligna*, *seyal*, *melifera*, *combratum* spp, and olive Africana. The intermediate storey is dominated by *Euclea schimperi*, *Dodonia viscosa*. The lower storey consists of grasses and herbs.

According to the document from the Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs (2014), the wooded grassland areas in the park are mainly dominated by tree species such as *combratum* ssp, *acacia drepanolobium*, *acacia melifera* (kontir), *acacia seyal* (Wachu), *acacia tortilis* Senegal, *acacia albida*, *acacia nilotica*, *acacia olifera*, *acacia nubica*, *Aloe vera*, *euophorbia tirucalli* (kinchib), *Ricinus communis* (Gulo), *Caparis tomentosa* (Gumero) and *balanites rotundifolia*. While the riverian forest comprise tree species like *Ficus sur*, *Ficus vasta*, *carica petiolatum*

stelatium, Trechlea sp, Ziziphus spina- Christi and tamarindus indicca. Moreover, the southern, south eastern and south western parts of LANP constitute riparian and swampy vegetations with tree species such as celtis Africana, icus sycamores, mimusops kummel, Tarmarindus indica, maytenus senegalensis, acacia abysinica, acaeia alibida, syzygium guineenth etc. The trees in LANP are associated with a wide range of shrubs, herbs and grasses (SZDCTGCA 2014). In sum, LANP is a mosaic of forest, bush land, river side association, and wet land vegetations. Hence, it can be claimed that the vegetations in LANP are sources of food and shelter for the wild animals and birds found in the park. Hence, it can be said that the presence of different vegetation species in LANP are potentials for CBET development. Some pictures illustrating the flora of LANP, which are taken by the researcher, are shown in Appendix Vi.

With regard to the fauna of the area, LANP contains several species of wild animals and birds. The LANP has significant variety of larger and medium sized mammals that live in the different parts of the park. According to the document obtained from Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs (SZDCTGC 2014), there are twenty- seven larger mammal species (excluding small rodents, insectivores and bats) in the LANP. The most conspicuous and observed mammals in the park include lion, leopard, three species of Jackal, among carnivores. Herbivore mammals found in LANP include lesser kudu, wild dog and bushbuck (i.e., illustrated in Figure 4, 5 and 6 above), are the prominent ones. The pictures of some mammals found in LANP are also shown in Appendix Vi. In sum, the presence of many species of wild animals, including wild dog (figure 6 above), which is in the red list of Africa endangered species, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), are, therefore, important for CBET development in LANP.

Due to its rich with mosaic ecosystem that include rivers, lake, forest, wetland and swampy areas as well as moist and wet savannas, there are also plenty of bird species in the Loka Abaya national park. According to the information obtained from the LANP administration office, the most abundant bird species in the park are: Helmeted Guniea fowl, carmine bee-eater (*Merops nubicus*), Long crested eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*),

Black kite (*Milvus migrans*), Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*), Crested francolin (*francolinus sephana*), White headed buffalo weaver (*Dinemelli*), Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*), red and yellow Barbet (*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*) and white headed vulture (*Aegyptus occipitalis*). Some of these bird species are endemic (e.g., Golden breasted starling, illustrated in Figure 8 below), according to the information obtained from the park administrator. Ato Bezabih Beyene, even though this has not been well studied yet.



Figure 8: Golden Breasted Starling

The park is also a rich assemblage of migrant birds from the arctic regions during winter season due to its location within the rift valley region. In Ethiopia, the rift valley lake system is among the places with plenty of bird population. According to the administrator of LANP, Ato Bezabih Beyene, Gidaawo River, Bilate River Lake Abaya, swampy, wet and dry savannas are ideal places to visit birds in the park. In sum, the park harbours different kinds of bird species. Hence, it can be claimed that the LANP is an ideal place for bird watching. In a nut shell, due to the presence of many species of mammals and birds, it can be claimed that the LANP has a high potential for touristic activities such as hunting and bird watching, among others.

4.3.2. Presence of cultural feature

Cultural tourism has a long history in Sidama Zone, and with its roots in the Grand Tour, which is arguably the original form of tourism in the region. There are a number of cultural tourist attractions in Sidama Zone. According to the information obtained from the office of Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Government Communication Affairs (2014), cultural tourism accounted for 47% of the zonal tourism

activities in 2013 and forecasted to grow at a rate of 15% per year. In year 2013, more than ten thousand local and international tourists visited cultural tourist sites in the zone around Yirgalem town (e.g., Aregash Lodge), the hot springs in Wondogenet, the water falls in Aletawondo Woreda and the annual cultural event of *Fiche- Caambalaa*, which is recently registered by UNESCO as intangible heritage of the world in 2016. This underlines the growing importance of tourism as a growing industry in the zone. The ceremony of *Fichee Camballala* has attracted a number of tourists as holiday traveller. The other cultural attractions of Sidama zone are Sidama's cultural coffee ceremony, traditional food preparations and dispute settling patterns. These cultural events and ceremonies are commonly visited by tourists as a leisure travel.

With regard to the benefits of CBET as related to cultural tourism in LANP, the participants in the FGD and interview sessions pointed out that local community can get a lot of benefit. The mentioned potential cultural features in LANP are performing Sidama cultural dances, showing hair styles, cultural food preparation system, traditional home construction system and selling of cultural food and drink, to tourists who come to visit the park. The local communities can also open souvenir shop to sell traditional material and cloth. Hence, the presences of such kind of cultural features in LANP are opportunities for the development of CBET in LANP. These points are discussed in detail in the subsequent paragraphs of this section after showing the pictures of the above mentioned cultural features. In a similar manner with the pictures used to illustrate the physical features of LANP, some of the pictures illustrating the cultural features were obtained from the document of the Sidama Zone Department of Culture, Tourism and Communication Affairs (SZDCTCA, 2014). Figure 9 to 13 illustrates the cultural features available in Sidama Zone including in LANP.



Figure 9. Cultural hair style of Sidama girls



Figure 11. Cultural dressing of Sidama girls



Figure 12. Young girls and boys performing Faaro, one of the cultural dances of the Sidama



Figure 10. A guest preparing Omolchoo, Sidama's



Figure 13. A guest served with Burisaame (a traditional food of Sidamas)

The above figures illustrate some of the cultural features that exist in Sidama zone. Given their shared similar culture with other localities in the zone, the local communities can also inevitably utilize these cultural features if CBET is developed in their area. In the words of one of my informant named Ato Demise Dekemo (a scout in the park) the contribution of CBET for sustainable development is stated as follows: "*gobgniwoch wede akababiyachin simetu, nigid yisfagal, bekilo yikerayal, ye bahil migibi zigijit, alebabes yemasaselutin masayet yichalal*". His saying is translated as "if tourists come to our area, businesses, such as renting of horses and mules, showing of traditional food preparation, cultural dances and dressings, and others) will flourish in the area. In sum, the opportunities for CBET development in the area is well explained this informant.

4.3.3. The Proximity of the Park to Hawassa City

As mentioned before, the Loka Abaya National Park is located at a distance of only 70kms from Hawassa city, the capital of SNNP region and 340 kms from Addis Ababa. There is an asphalt road that leads to Loka Abaya national park from Hawassa to the town of Hantate, which is the capital of Loka Abaya woreda. As observed during field visit, about 60km rough gravel road exist inside the park leading to different attraction sites in the park. Therefore, due to its proximity to Hawassa city, potential tourists who often come to visit Hawassa city and its lake environs can also easily travel to LANP.

There is also another opportunity related with the location of the park within a short distance from the international road to Nairobi via Moyale. In this regard, Ato Bezabih Beyene, Administrator of LANP, mentioned during interview session that "Tourists always want to see new products on their way and need to use different routes on their travel to see a new attraction and so as to avoid boring by looking the same thing on their path" (own translation from Amharic). He also added that the proximity of LANP to Yirgalem town, where Aregash Lodge is found, is another opportunity. Currently, Aregash Lodge is attracting both international and local tourists. Hence, these visitors can also easily visit LANP with in a drive of less than an hour from Aregash Lodge to LANP.

4.3.4. Hospitality of Local Communities

As discussed in chapter 2, the hospitality of the local communities is crucial for the successful development of CBET. The Tourism Policy of Ethiopia also emphasizes on the welcoming of guest to ecological sites (MoCT 2009). In contrary, if local communities are hostile to guests, then it becomes difficult to develop CBET.

Like the other communities of Ethiopia, the Sidama people have a high reputation for their welcoming of foreigners and guests. An interested reader about the Sidama people's culture in general and their social abiding laws and customs towards guests (e.g., *daae*, *halaale*, *affino* etc) is referred to read a book titled “*Ye Sidama Biher Tarikina Bahil*” which as published by Sidama Zone Culture, Tourism and Communication Affairs in 2011 (2003 E.C). For instance, the Sidamas custom of *daae* clearly explains the welcoming nature of guests by Sidama people. That is, a guest is greeted with the use of the word *dae bushu* which literally means “welcome” implying for the welcoming of a guest to the Sidama community (SZCTGA 2011: 358). During the field work, the researcher herself has witnessed this welcoming greeting. The hospitality of the local communities towards guests was also pointed out during interview and FGD sessions. The FGD participants confirmed that local communities are positive towards guests and accept new people with a warm greeting. Hence, it can be said that hospitable nature to host guests among the Sidamas is an opportunity for CBET development in LANP.

Not only the communities are hospitable but also they are interested to participate in CBET. For instance one the informant said that “*danchare giwaannohu nonii*” which can be translated as who dislikes if a good thing is introduced (an interview held with Ato Alambo Loka, a local elder ,on 25/06/2009E.C) . Moreover, as shown in Table 4.2, survey results also indicated that 93.6% of the respondents are interested to participate in community based ecotourism activity, whereas only 6.4% of them are not interested to participate in this activity. This show that more respondents are interested to develop community based ecotourism. In sum, if concerned bodies create awareness for local community about the park as they get equal benefit if CBET developed, they can

participate in any affairs by preparing accommodations for guests in their households and preparing spaces in their neighborhood for guests to make temporary shelters with tents.

4.3.5. The Existence of the Park within one Region

Prior studies on CBET in Ethiopia have shown that when ecological sites (e.g., National parks and protected areas) are located between the boundaries of two regions, a conflict often arises related with park management. For instance, the study of Daniel (2011) on Awash Park (shared between Afar region and Oromia region) and the study of Girma and Till (2012) on Nech Sar Park (shared between SNNP region and Oromia region) revealed such problems. Besides, ethnic conflicts in such shared boundaries are problems for CBET development. For instance, Joseph (2010) asserted that community based tourism projects can easily collapse due to internal conflicts caused by ethnic differences.

Unlike to the above mentioned protected areas in Ethiopia, the Loka Abaya National Park is found in one region, even in one zone. As discussed in Section 4.3 before, the park is named after the name of the woreda (i.e., Loka Abaya) due to its location entirely within this woreda. In other words, the people living adjacent to the LANP belong to a single ethnic group (i.e., Sidama). The homogenous nature of the surrounding communities in LANP is therefore, an opportunity to develop CBET because ethnic conflicts would hardly happen in the area.

This point was also pointed out during interview. According to the information obtained from one of the interviewee (Ato Yirdachew Rubiso, the head of Loka Abaya Woreda Tourism and Culture office), the presence of the LANP in a single region (SNNP) is a great opportunity because there would not be any conflict of interest between neighboring regions as it has happened in Awash National park (between Oromia and Afar regions) or as it is the case in Nech Sar National Park (e.g., between Oromia and SNNP region). Whereas, unlike the two mentioned cases, the presence of LANP even within a single woreda of one zone (i.e, Sidama zone) in the SNNP region is of great advantage in its location. He emphasized that it is possible to convince the Sidama nation easily to

successfully develop CBET in the area. He argued that because of the same culture and way of life the local communities share, if any problem happened, it can be easily solved.

4.3.6. Safety and Security

Needless to mention the significance of safety and security for the tourism industry. The global security as well as the safety and security of the country are, therefore, one of the elements tourists take into account for their selection of tourist destinations. Besides, the safety and security at a specific tourist destination sites is crucial especially at ecological sites that are found in a far distant from the center. In this regard, a previous study in Ethiopian context Gebeyaw (2011), stated that the occurrence of acts of terrorism, theft and other crises influence tourists flow to destinations (Gebeyaw, 2011). In other words, the presence of even petty crimes, such as theft, pickpockets etc, can affect the development of CBET.

As far as the local communities surrounding the LANP are concerned, the Sidamas have strong cultural values and customs (e.g., *fokko*) that strongly condemns even petty crimes negatively affecting their safety and security. The aforementioned book published by the zonal cultural and tourism bureau defines the custom of *fokko* as “taboo” (or *newir* in Amharic), which implies for “personality weakness” (SZCTGA 2011: 357).

According to key informants, criminal activities in Sidama Zone in general and Loka Abaya Woreda in particular, rarely occur, which is mainly attributed to the cultural values and customs of the Sidamas. One elderly interviewee (Ato Kawato Hordofa mentioned that even if a conflict happens, they have conflict resolution mechanisms. This informant stressed that in case if somebody commit a crime like theft, the local elders discriminate that person based on their cultural custom referred as *Sicco*, which is defined as “ a cultural custom that symbolizes the mechanism elderly people apply to prevent the happening of conflicts or to terminate an occurred conflict immediately” (Own translation, SZCTGA 2011: 359). Therefore, no one violates the rule and regulation which is passed by the elders because elders have great role within Sidama nation. In sum, it can be said that the cultural customs of the Sidamas that maintain the

safety and security of not only their communities but also guests is a great opportunity to develop CBET in LANP.

4.3.7. The Commitment of the Government

As discussed under Chapter 2, the role of the government in CBET is crucial. The government's commitment towards the development of CBET can be manifested with proclamations of tourism policy, issue of conducive rules and regulations and budget allocation, to mention some. In this regard, Drumm and Moore (2005: 26) pointed out the specific responsibilities of government in CBET development (see Section 2.7).

As far as the target study site is concerned, the government has given due attention since the establishment of Loka Abaya National Park. For instance, from its development stage, the regional government hired park staffs and scouts, according to W/ro Wubalem Zegeye (an expert of tourism attractions development at SNNP region bureau of Culture and Tourism (interview held on 17/06/2009 E.C). She also mentioned that the regional government has been committed to develop the reserves of Loka Abaya areas as a national park by issuing applicable laws and regulations found in the region. Hence, the designation of Loka Abaya as one of the seven National Parks of the region was with the effort of the regional bureau of culture and tourism (e.g., budget allocation, employing park staffs and scouts etc). Moreover, she pointed out that the regional government also committed to develop required infrastructure for management and development of the park, and also interested to make Loka Abaya national park to have its own internal organization and structure. Generally speaking, since both the regional government and the zonal administration have given such attention for the park, it is a great opportunity for the overall development of CBET in LANP.

In a nut shell, there are a high potential for the successful development of CBET in LANP. Nonetheless, the mere presence of these opportunities cannot ensure the development of CBET in the park. Hence, the active involvement of the concerned stakeholders is crucial to exploit these opportunities. Besides, the existing challenges

need to be minimized. In the next section, the challenges that have been found in this study are discussed.

4.4 Challenges for Developing Community Based Ecotourism

This section presents and discusses the findings on the challenges identified in this study. The findings showed that there were some challenges that could be obstacles for CBET development in the study area. In this section, the identified challenges, which include: poor park community relationships (e.g., temporal settlement with in the park among those with pastoralist life style, conflicts over resource use etc), low community involvement in park issues, lack of infrastructure and accommodations, lack of trained man power, land degradation, lack of cooperation among stakeholders and lack of promotion, are described and discussed in detail.

4.4.1. Poor Park Community Relationship

Without a positive and strong relationship with the local communities, the existence of protected areas such as parks and reserves can be threatened. This is mostly because local communities living around protected areas may compromise many of the benefits they used to get before. First, they are denied their customary rights to use the resources for grazing, cultivation, or hunting in protected areas such as national parks. Second, they are vulnerable to being termed as poachers and illegal land users. Third, they are evicted from their homelands. For these reasons, local communities develop resentment towards protected areas such as the national parks (Jacob, 2001). These phenomena are apparent in the Loka Abaya National Park.

During interview sessions, the representatives from the local communities mentioned about a weak relationships between local people and the Park's conservation activities. The administrator of the park (Ato Bezabih Beyene) argued that this weak relationship is due to low level of awareness of local people on the importance of the conservation activities. However, the interviewed local elders (Ato Argeta Berasa, Doyamo Kare and Kawato Hordofa) mentioned many reasons about the grievances of the local communities

with the park staffs including: confiscation of land, restrictions on cattle grazing and firewood collection.

During the FGD session, some participants mentioned out problems related with low protection for the wild animals from the community side and thus, the park staffs consider the communities as enemy to the park's existence, low acquaintance between the communities and the park staff, low knowledge among the local people about the park's boundary, even about its existence among some of them. While asked if there has been a park-community discussion forum before, the park administrator replied there has not been any. That is, the local communities have not been given a room to raise their problems and solve them. In general, it seems that there is less commitment from the LANP administrator and park staffs to work together with the surrounding community.

The presence of a poor park community relationship in the study area can also be explained through a conflict between the wild life and the local communities. The interviewed local communities have complained about the damage the wild life brings to their farm lands, attacking of domestic animals etc, which inevitably create hostility towards them. Generally speaking, human wild life conflict creates a great challenge to develop tourism activity within the area because the communities attack them to protect themselves. Unless government brings sustainable solution to solve these problem it will become great challenge.

4.4.2. Temporal Settlements within the Park and Pastoralist Life Style

Illegal settlements in legally designated protected areas have been the major challenge in Ethiopia. For instance, Girma and Till (2012) extensively studied about the settlement of Guji people in Nech Sar National park and its problem. The study area, Loka Abaya National Park, is no exception in this regard.

According to the results obtained through interviews, a problem related with human settlement in the Loka Abaya National Park has begun since its establishment. While the LANP was established 2001E.C as a strict conservation area, pastoralist communities

were prohibited from using the park illegally. Nonetheless, some pastoralists are still grazing in the park and the local pastoralist communities forcefully lost their important grazing land and water points of their livestock without their consent. During the in-depth interview session, it was pointed out that some pastoralist and semi-pastoralist often settle in the park, particularly in park areas adjacent to Bukitu kebele temporarily during a winter season (Interview held with Ato Hankalo Amaro a park scout on 21/06/2009 E.C or 28 February 2017). The park scouts argued these illegal settlements have been highly disturbing wild life and biodiversity of the park. In this regard, Ato Yirdachew Rubiso (head of Loka Abaya BoCT) mentioned that the government will resolve this problem by developing community based ecotourism to promote conservation effort on the park.

With regard to the eviction and resettlement problem in the Loka Abaya National Park, FGD and key informant interview results also indicated that along with the existence of large number of people within the park boundary is attributed to the lifestyle of the local pastoralist community and their dependency on the park resources for their livelihood. Keeping of too many cattle by pastoralists, due to the cultural importance about the number of livestock someone owns, was also seen as a factor contributing to the conflict between livestock population and carrying capacity of their grazing land. Figure 14 below depicts the problem of overgrazing in the park. This picture was taken by the park administrator and included in this study with permission.



Figure 14: Picture showing problem of overgrazing in LANP

During the FGD, the participants, especially park staffs, argued that people living in the park are not managing the natural resources in a sustainable manner and that the park ecosystem will be disturbed unless serious measures are taken. It was also pointed out

that the scenic value, the unique fauna and the vegetation of the Park area, which are crucially important potentials for developing community based ecotourism in the area, are critically endangered due to livestock and human population pressure and unsustainable lifestyle. In this regard, most FGD discussants emphasized that the pastoralist life style would be a difficult task for any community based tourism development in the area.

4.4.3. Conflict over resource use from the park

The use of resources of the park and its surroundings is another challenge. Local people in the Loka Abaya national Park area depend on the natural resources of the park for their livelihoods in many ways. Concerning the exploitation of natural resources of the park and their dependency on such resources, the sample respondents were asked whether they use resources from LANP. The majority of them replied "yes" and only 15% of them replied "no" for the asked question (Do you use resource from Loka Abaya National Park). The key informants from the representatives of the local communities (kebele chairperson and elders) were asked to indicate the major resources used from the park. The local communities depend on the park for fire wood collection, cutting grasses, bee keeping and collection of herbs for medical purposes. This implies that the local communities highly exploit resources from Loka Abaya national park for different purpose.

The cutting of trees for timbering was not mentioned by these informants; perhaps due to a strong monitoring of the scouts in the park. Ato Alambo Loka, a scout of the park adjacent to Abaya zuria kebele, mentioned that cutting of trees for timber purpose was a problem before. After the scouts are hired and equipped with fire arms and uniforms, this problem has minimized. The park scouts argued that they chase out those individuals who are involved in collection of dry woods from the park and those who use woods for charcoal production even though it is difficult to the park scouts to stop such activities (interview held with Ato Hankalo Amaro, Ato Demise Dekemo and Ato Alambo Loka). Nonetheless, as the researcher herself observed during a field study and as reported in the document obtained from SZCTB (2014), the local people around the park use the forest for the production of firewood and charcoal as source of additional income. During the

field work, the researcher was able to take a picture that can testify a recent charcoal production in the park, which is depicted in Figure 15 below.



Figure 15: Evidence of charcoal production in LANP

4.4.4. Low Community Involvement in Park Conservation Efforts

The conservation of biodiversity requires the commitment and agreement of key stakeholders including local communities. Hence, the formation of partnership between park staffs and local communities is crucial for effective conservation activities. Nonetheless, in the study area, there is a low community involvement of the local communities in the conservation efforts. The sample respondents were asked whether or not they participate in conservation of the park (i.e., Do you participate in the conservation of wild animals and plants of the park?). The survey result revealed that the majority of them (86.2%) replied "no", whereas only 13.8% of them replied "yes" for this question. In the subsequent open ended question to explain their reason for "no" response for the above question, the respondents mainly mentioned that there is no open discussion between government officials and local communities. Besides, they have not been invited to participate in the conservation efforts and the decision making process about the park. During interview sessions, it was also mentioned that a conflict often happen between scouts of the park and local communities. The interviewed park scouts expressed that the local communities assume as if the scouts and park staffs have been benefiting from the park. This may imply that the local communities have a feeling that they have been put aside to get benefits from the park;

This claim of the scouts has also been mentioned by the interviewed elders. When the area was officially designated as a national park, all of the traditional activities like

collecting woods, grazing in the park, cutting tree for charcoal production and for firewood and hunting, were strictly forbidden. During interview session, one local elder complained that they cannot even protect their farm lands from the wild animals since their action is considered as "illegal hunting" (interview held with Ato Ato Kayamo Wallo from Aldebo kebele on 21/06/2009). This has created resentment among the communities on the park staffs and scouts. From the above interview results, it is apparent that there is a miss trust between the park staffs and the local communities. Hence, the concerned government bodies in a higher level (e.g. at zonal and regional level) have to build trust between these two important stakeholders in the park affairs. This can be achieved through awareness creation, environmental education programmers, arranging a dialogue forum for open discussion etc. Above all, the development of community based ecotourism in the area will bring a high trust among the park staffs and the communities because CBET facilitates the active involvement of all stakeholders in the affairs of protected areas. Hence, it is the researcher's strong conviction that if CBET is developed in the area, the participation of the local communities in the conservation efforts will be increased. That is, the economic benefits they would get from CBET will increase their concern towards the wild animals in the park since they eventually realize that the visit of tourists LANP and thus the benefits they would get are due to the existence of the animals and plants in the park.

4. 4.5. Quarrying in the Park

Even though Loka Abaya National Park is rich in biodiversity with a great ecotourism potential and natural beauty, it is under continuous threat from unsustainable human activities and non proactive resource management. As discussed in the preceding section, the local people around the park use the forest for the production of firewood and charcoal as source of additional income. The western part of the LANP is highly threatened with fire wood and charcoal production. Due to this clearance of the trees and shrubs for charcoal production, land degradation and soil erosion have become common features, particularly in the western part of the park. The picture taken by the researcher during field visit illustrates the problem of land degradation in the park (see picture in appendix 6.)

Moreover, the key informants pointed out that the quarrying activities in the park are contributing for land clearing inside the park. The quarrying of construction materials (mainly sand) by some local communities have been pointed out as another challenge. One informant described the challenge of quarrying that "the noise from big trucks coming to collect sand is disturbing wild animals in the park" (interview held with Ato Abreham Ashagire on 15/06/2009 E.C). Even though the researcher was unable to see such trucks during field visit, the FGD participants have confirmed the practice of quarrying on the shores of Lake Abaya. During the FGD, the park staffs argued that the quarrying area is outside the park's boundary and they cannot deny the trucks passing through the park. Hence, the development of CBET can minimize this challenge by substituting the incomes generated from quarrying with tourism activities.

4.4.6. Lack of Trained Manpower

For an effective management of ecotourism products as well as for CBET development, the place of trained man power is central. Trained men power decisive to solve capacity related problems and ensure professionalism in the service delivery. As a result basic trainings in the tourism and hospitality sector involve topics on how to provide accommodation and local transport services, how to prepare and serve food; how to handle visitors; how to produce crafts; provision of first aid services, basic language, guiding, marketing and communication.

With regard to LANP, the findings from the FGD and interviews revealed that there is big gap in manpower within the Park officials, the local community, government administrative bodies and woreda, zonal and regional tourism offices especially in the area of community-based ecotourism. Because of this gap, locals need more training on CBET so as to diversify ecotourism products and involve in alternative income generation activities and community-based tourism enterprises. Hence, different stakeholders (e.g., government bodies, NGOs) can assist the local communities by providing short-term trainings for the members of local community by large and park staff on different aspects of CBET management and human resource development.

4.4.7. Lack of Cooperation Among Stakeholders

Tourism is a multi-sectoral activity that requires different stakeholders to participate. Hence, its success is greatly determined by the role every stakeholder pertains to play. A key to the success of ecotourism is the formation of strong partnerships so that the multiple goals of conservation and equitable development can be met. Partnerships may be difficult because of the number of players involved and their different needs, but forging relationships is essential (Drumm and Moore, 2005).

The results from FGD and interview indicated that, the regional, zonal and woreda culture and tourism office coordination is very weak. There is no strong link and communication of bottom up or up down communication between each offices. In order to ensure that any program, project, or working approach is effective, a level of monitoring and evaluation is required. Regional tourism office does not supervise regularly the level of operation of zonal and woreda tourism office and they have no positive relationship at all. Regional and zonal office expert also do not provide any training for woreda tourism bureau and for park staff. There is also no forums and dialogues created between government officials, local communities and private sectors. Thus, the big challenge to develop community based ecotourism is that, there is no platform created to mobilize and initiate the major and other stakeholders for community based ecotourism development in the study area. In general, structure of participation is not designed, private sector involvement is low, regional and zonal bureaus support is low and there is lack of formal relationship among them.

4.4.8. Lack of Promotion about Loka Abaya National Park

Promotion is an integral component of destination growth and development. While product development is associated with the creation of attractions or experiences, promotion plays a key role in communicating the value and appeal of the products that would be consumers (WWF, 2001). Often, assumptions made about the marketability of a particular location or experience has been unrealistic and not based on research. As a result, promotional activities have been misdirected. A problem has been the lack of

tourism knowledge not only among local communities themselves but also among tourism suppliers and supporting agencies (WWF, 2001).

Nonetheless, despite its importance, there is a lack of promotion about LANP. During interviews with promotional experts with regional, zonal and woreda tourism office, the informants mentioned that there have been some attempts to promote the park by preparing brochure and magazine. One key informant, who is an expert on Promotion and marketing at the region's BoCT, argued that Loka Abaya national park is newly established in 2009 G.C. The park is under the control of the regional government and it is not promoted still now to the world. As a result promotion, marketing and infrastructure development have not appropriately addressed (interview held with Ato Anteneh Kassaye on 15/06/2009 E.C). Hence, it can be said that promotion of LANP is low so that different partners including media are supposed to take their own role in promoting the potential and available resources of the park.

4.4.9. Lack of Infrastructure and Accommodation

Physical infrastructure is an important factor in a tourism industry in order to develop potential attractions. But if there are poor road conditions around attraction sites, it will harm the competitive position of these attractions in relation to other attractions which are more developed. Hence, even though road development is a tourism component, poor road construction can have a negative impact on tourism development. A common problem in ecotourism development is infrastructure development in the CBET development areas, such as roads, airports, widespread electricity, or construction of other tourist attractions would also, without doubt, change not only the number and type of tourists, but also the flows of money from tourism (Silva and McDill, 2004). As far as LANP is concerned, the participants during FGD confirmed that there is no enough infrastructure and accommodation around the park because LANP is a recently established park. Unless this infrastructure related problem is solved, it is challenging to successfully develop community based ecotourism in the area.

4.5. A Tourism Model Applicable to Develop Community Based Ecotourism in LANP

As discussed in Chapter 2, there are four tourism models which are used to develop community based ecotourism in protected areas. These are: 1) community-based tourism models 2) private sector investment and operational models, 3) government tourism models, and 4) donor-development agency models.

Among these models, a joint venture model (JVM) , which is defined as a "business activity undertaken between two or more partners for their mutual benefit" (Catilin and Jessicas,2010:729). is deemed to be much suitable to develop CBET in Loka Abaya national park for two reasons. First, the local communities, who have the user right about the resources from the protected areas surrounding them, are central in establishing joint CBET ventures or enterprises. According to the principle of CBET, the local communities should be actively involved for a sustainable conservation of the protected areas. Second given its recent establishment and thus tourism development is a new economic activity, the local communities may lack the necessary entrepreneurship skills and experience in managing tourism enterprises by themselves at early stage of CBET development in LANP. Therefore, in a joint venture model of tourism activities such as CBET development, the local communities can form partnership with other stakeholders (e.g. private businesses, NGOs, government bodies and local development actors). Accordingly, as far as the LANP is concerned, at least four scenarios can be evaluated for a successful development of CBET by applying a joint venture model (JVM) for a viable joint partnership between the local communities and potential actors.

- i) Scenario one: Joint partnership between the local communities and private actors
- ii) Scenario two: Joint partnership between the local communities and NGOs
- iii) Scenario three: Joint partnership between the local communities and government
- iv) Scenario four: Joint partnership between the local communities on one hand and local development actors including NGOs and government bodies

In the first scenario, private sector companies that recognise the area's potential for business development can form partnership with the local communities. In this regard,

Catlin and Jessicas (2010) asserted that JVPs with safari companies are preferred under the assumption that there will be a transfer of entrepreneurship and managerial skills in tourism business from companies to local communities. For instance, in developing CBET enterprises, the partnership in a joint venture business model can be established between the rural people who have user rights of the natural resources occurring in the area in one hand and other partners on the other. Hence, given its newness, this scenario seems applicable to the study area to form a partnership with private tourism businesses such as tour operators. Nonetheless, in LANP, there has not been any private company operating in the area. Therefore, this scenario can hardly be an option for LANP to develop CBET.

In scenario two, it is assumed that the local communities can form partnership with Non-governmental organization to develop CBET. Nonetheless, one of the key informants affirmed that there is no any NGO focusing on the tourism development in Loka Abaya woreda even though there are some local NGOs working in other sectors such as education and rural water supply (interview held with Ato Yirdachew Rubiso on 13/06/2009 EC). This informant (head of the woreda's BoCT) is of opinion that NGOs will show interest in this aspect since the woreda's BoCT has been encouraging these NGOs to work also on tourism sector. Nonetheless, given no any active involvement of NGOs in tourism sector in the area, it can be said that the feasibility of scenario two is less applicable currently.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the role of government is crucial for the development of CBET in protected areas. For instance, the local government can organize the local communities; provide training, micro credits etc. Hence, scenario three can be applied for forming a joint partnership between the local communities and various offices of government institutions. Nonetheless, despite this potential, a CBET has not been developed in LANP over the last seven years since its establishment in 2001 E.C (2009). That is, the feasibility of this scenario seems less applicable at the moment.

In scenario four, it is assumed that the local communities can form a joint partnership with all local development actors that strive to bring sustainable development. That is, a JVP can be formed between the local communities in one hand and several partners (e.g., government, NGOs, donors, development associations etc) on the other hand. For instance, concerned governmental bodies at woreda, zonal and regional level can provide trainings and environmental education (e.g. BoCT), can organize the local communities to establish micro and small enterprises, can provide credits to finance CBET enterprises (e.g., micro credit associations) etc. Likewise, local development associations like Sidama Development cooperation and other NGOs can provide trainings on how to establish CBET enterprises, whereas donors can provide start-up capitals. Given these wider options, scenario four seems much feasible to develop CBET in LANP.

The findings from survey questionnaires can also be considered to evaluate each of the four scenarios. In their reply to the question (are you interested to work with other partners to develop CBET in your area?), all respondents have confirmed their interest to form partnership with other stakeholders. They were also asked with whom they would like to form partnership to develop CBET in their area. Table 6 shows the responses of the sampled respondents in this aspect.

Table 6. Whom do you expect to provide support and work with to develop CBET?

<i>Stakeholder type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>%</i>
Government	37	39.4
NGO	50	53.2
private sectors	3	3.2
No preference for partnership	4	4.2
Total	94	100.0

Source: Own survey (February, 2017).

As can be seen from table 6 above, 53.2% of the sampled respondents indicated their interest to get support from NGOs, while 39.4% of respondents want to develop CBET with the help of governments. This implies that 92.6% of the sample respondents would like to form a joint partnership with either NGOs or government bodies. In other words,

this finding supports scenario four to form partnership between the local communities and local development actors including government institutions and NGOs at the same time.

In sum, the local communities in LANP want to develop any tourism activity including community based ecotourism with the support of NGO or government institutions because they have no managerial and entrepreneurship skill to run the activity and also shortage of budget. Hence, a joint venture model is best model to develop community based ecotourism in the area.

This study, therefore, emphasizes on the strategies and the need for future assistance programs to be given by governmental or non-governmental bodies in Ethiopia to be provided for local communities so that they can benefit from the development of CBET in their area.

Strategy 1) Selection of volunteers from local communities

The development of CBET requires the participation of local communities voluntarily. Hence, the Loka Abaya Woreda's department of *Mahiberat maderaja*, can organize the communities who are interested to participate in CBET activities.

Strategy 2) Provision of rural entrepreneurship training

Institutions striving to train and support start-ups including CBET businesses, such as "*Entrepreneurship Development Center (EDC): Ethiopia*", which is a quasi-government organization established in 2013 and funded by the United Nations Development programme (UNDP), can be invited to take part in CBET development in the area. The EDC (Ethiopia) provides various entrepreneurship trainings, which aimed at enhancing the skills and competency of entrepreneurs, in five packages; one of which is rural entrepreneurship training. This training is intended to enable the rural community to tap into the entrepreneurial opportunities within the rural areas and to help them develop a positive entrepreneurial disposition. The training includes a combination of entrepreneurial skill development and basic business management skills. Interested

readers on the contents of these training packages as well as the business development service the EDC (Ethiopia) provides can be found on its web site.²

Besides, the Sidama Development Corporation can identify and train the local communities about the cultural features of the area.

Strategy 3) Provision of loans

The Omo micro-finance can provide loans to start CBET businesses to the organized local communities.

Strategy 4) Promoting the Loka Abaya National Park

The regional as well as the zonal tourism offices can advertise on local media about the park. This will encourage visitors.

Strategy 5) Enhancing the commitment of the local communities towards CHET

Follow up from the woreda tourism bureau is important on the development of CBET in LANP.

In a nut shell, this finding of this study is a new contribution for CBET researches in Ethiopian context. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, no any prior study on CBET has evaluated different models for a successful development of CBET in protected areas.

² <http://www.edcethiopia.org>.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION

This final chapter of the thesis draws conclusions from the findings of the study. Based on the findings and conclusions, suggestions are forwarded for a successful development of CBET in Loka Abaya Woreda.

5.1. Conclusion

The main aim of this study was to assess the opportunities and challenges for the development of community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya national park, which is found in Loka Abaya Woreda in Sidama zone of SNNP region. Relevant data were collected through interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and survey questionnaire.

The findings of the study revealed the presence of ecotourism products in the area. These products range from cultural activities to natural attractions to other recreation opportunities. Other opportunities for the development of various ecotourism products, including cultural dances, traditional festivals, traditional food and drink preparation system and hair style are also available. Besides, the area is endowed with abundant natural resources including scenic feature, forest, bird life, wild animal, the existence of hot springs, mountains, the park also share some proportion of water from Lake Abaya. In addition, the commitment of the government, prevalence of safety and security, the existence of the park within one regional state (i.e., entirely in Loka Abaya Woreda in Sidama zone), proximity of the park to Hawassa city (the capital city of SNNP region) as well as the hospitability of the local communities, also create a favorable condition to develop community based ecotourism within the area. Hence, it can be concluded that the Loka Abaya area contains many ecotourism assets, and endowed with various tourist sites that could be developed into a viable community based tourism products.

In contrast to these opportunities, this study also found out the existence of different challenges that would be obstacles for the development of community based ecotourism in the area. These challenges include a poor park community relationship (i.e.,temporal settlement within the park and pastoralist life style, conflicts between the local

community and wild life over resource use from the park, land clearing and degradation and lack of community involvement in the conservation effort), lack of trained manpower, lack of cooperation among stake holders, lack of promotion about Loka Abaya national park, lack of infrastructure and accommodations. Nonetheless, if all stakeholders act on these challenges in a collaborative way, these challenges can be minimized. Besides, with the active involvement of stakeholders, the opportunities can be exploited. Hence, the study concludes that a CBET can be successfully developed in Loka Abaya National park if the opportunities are maintained and the challenges are minimized.

This study also attempted to identify a tourism model that can be applied to the area among the four tourism models discussed in the review of literature (Section 2.11). Given their current livelihood depending on agricultural activities, most of the local communities in LANP may lack finance and start-up capital to establish CBET enterprises by themselves, even though they had shown a high interest to do so. In other words, the local communities need support from institutions which focus to bring local economic developments (e.g., government and NGOs) to develop ecotourism in the area. As a result, a Joint venture Model (JVM) can be applied for developing CBET in the area. If they get the necessary support from either the government or NGOs to establish small CBET enterprises, the local communities can benefit from CBET by establishing small businesses (e.g., souvenir shops, bars and restaurants etc) and providing services such as tour guide in the park, renting horses and mules, providing accommodations and guard services, among others. The provision of goods and services to tourists by the local communities will create jobs and additional income if CBET is developed with the support of concerned bodies. That is, CBET can be a great tool in achieving sustainable development in LANP.

In a nut shell, there would be a win-win situation between the communities and development actors (e.g., local government bodies and/or NGOs working at the grass root level) if CBET can be developed in the area. This study, therefore, concludes that the livelihood of the local communities can be improved with the development of CBET. Besides, CBET can improve the environmental conservation of the park.

Nonetheless, this can only be achieved with the active involvement of the local communities as the local entrepreneurs and owners of small businesses. To date, the local peoples have not benefited from the presence of a national park in their surroundings. The existence of the Loka Abaya National Park will not be ensured by excluding the local community. Hence, the development of a community based ecotourism in the Park and the surrounding is essential for the sustainability of the park as well as for the betterment of the local communities surrounding the Park. In sum, by providing training for local community and park staff to raise the awareness about the importance of the park, it is possible to develop CBET in the area.

5.2. Recommendation

This study showed that there are high potentials and opportunities to develop a community-based ecotourism in Loka Abaya National park (LANP). The study also showed the challenges that can be obstacles to develop CBET in the study area. The study concluded that with the active involvement of all stakeholders collaboratively, the opportunities can be exploited and the challenges can be minimized; ultimately to achieve a sustainable development through a community-based ecotourism in the study area. Nonetheless, since its establishment in 2009, a CBET has not been developed in LANP to date. Therefore, based on the findings of the study on the opportunities and challenges to develop CBET, the following suggestions are forwarded to develop CBET in LANP:

- Community awareness and capacity building are important for a successful CBET development. Nonetheless, this study showed that the local communities in LANP have low awareness about CBET development, even though they have high interest towards it. That is, awareness creation and capacity building will play a great role to increase the participation of local communities in CBET development. Hence, concerned government bodies and NGOs should do an utmost effort to enhance the awareness level of the communities in LANP (e.g., provision of environmental education) as well as to build their capacities by providing trainings on establishing CBET enterprises (e.g., as a guide, cooker and offering mule).

- The findings of the study revealed that there is a lack of cooperation among stakeholders. Hence, all the stakeholders should work collaboratively for the development of community based ecotourism in the study area. For instance, with a joint financial support of government bodies and NGOs, the local communities can be easily organized to establish small enterprises.
- A lack of promotion was found to be one of the challenges in this study. Hence, concerned government bodies (i.e., Culture and Tourism Bureau at regional, zonal and woreda level) should make maximum efforts to promote the tourism resources of the LANP using different promotional materials. Moreover, many of the challenges identified in this study (e.g., lack of infrastructure and accommodations, lack of trained man power) need immediate actions from the concerned government bodies. If these challenges are minimized, CBET can be developed in the study area within a short period of time. Hence, concerned government bodies (e.g., regional bureau of Culture and tourism) should strive to minimize the challenges related with shortage of trained manpower. Hence, provision of short term trainings at all institutional levels in the administration of the LANP is crucial.
- Conflicts between local communities and wild animals over resource use can be minimized if communities living within and around national parks are encouraged to participate in multiple aspects related with park issues. Hence, all concerned bodies should actively involve the local communities to maintain a balanced park community relationship by involving them in decision making process. This positive relationship can be easily achieved through the development of community-based ecotourism activities in the area. Hence, all concerned government offices (e.g., the desk for micro-small business enterprises development of Loka Abaya woreda) should organize and encourage the local communities to establish CBET enterprises in the area as soon as possible.
- A strong Private Public partnership is crucial for a successful development of CBET. This concerns issues such as networking and collaboration in product development, marketing and management. That is, private business owners or entrepreneurs, as one of the stakeholders in CBET development, can play a high

role in areas such as investment, market production and promotion of tourist attractions. For instance, privately owned small tourism firms (e.g., tour operators) can be linked with the local communities for provision of locally available services to eco-tourists, promotion of destination areas such as LANP etc. Nonetheless, the role of private actors in this study has not been examined due to the limitations mentioned in chapter 1. Hence, future researchers can fill in this research gap by examining the role of investors and funders in CBET development processes.

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Appendix 1

Household survey questionnaires

The purpose of these questionnaires is to gather the necessary and fundamental information for my study concerning the title; Challenges and opportunities for the Development of Community based Ecotourism in Loka Abaya national park. I kindly request your cooperation to fill out the questionnaire accurately considering the importance of the study. I can assure you that this research stands for academic purpose. Therefore, your genuine and correct response has a great value and role in my thesis and to the study area. I appreciate your honest and correct response to the questions listed below. So I ask you to fill the questionnaires carefully and appropriately.

Part one: personal Information and Socio-economic profile

1. Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐
2. Age -----
3. Educational background: Illiterate ☐ 1-4 ☐ 5-8 ☐ 9-10 ☐ 11-12 ☐
certificate ☐
Diploma ☐ degree and above ☐
4. Marital status ☐ single ☐ married ☐ widowed ☐ divorced ☐
5. How many members of your household are currently living with you?
Male _____ Female _____ total _
6. What is your main source of income for the household? Livestock rearing ☐
Subsistence agriculture ☐ both agricultural and livestock rearing ☐ Sale
of forest products ☐ Sale of livestock products ☐ other
(specify).....
7. Is your yearly income enough to support your families? Yes ☐ No ☐

Part two: knowledge, interest and attitude related questions of the park and towards community based ecotourism development

8. Do you get any benefit from the park of Loka Abaya? Yes ☐ No ☐
9. If your answer is “yes” for question no 8, what kind of benefits do you get? Please specify.....

.....

....

10. Have you seen the tourists coming to visit the park of? Yes ☐ No ☐
11. Have you ever contacted tourists before? Yes ☐ No ☐
12. Do you like if tourists visit your community? Yes ☐ No ☐
13. How do you approach towards tourists when you contact them?

Very friendly ☐ Friendly ☐

Unfriendly ☐ Very unfriendly ☐

14. Do know about community based ecotourism? Yes ☐ No ☐

15. Do you think the area is suitable for the development of community based ecotourism?

Yes ☐ No ☐

16. If your answer is “yes” for question no 15, do you agree to be developed at the area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

17. Do you think that you will be beneficial if community based ecotourism would be developed in your area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

18. Do you use resources from the Loka Abaya national park for your livelihood?

Yes ☐ No ☐

19. Are the wild animals in the Park harmful to you?

Yes ☐

No ☐

20. If your answer is “yes” for question no 20, what problem they cause?

Diseases ☐ Damage crops ☐ Attack livestock ☐ If any others please specify
.....
.....

21. do you think community based ecotourism development is effective for environmental conservation?

Yes ☐

No ☐

22. Are you interested to participate in the community based ecotourism development activity? Yes ☐ No ☐

23. If your answer is “no” for question number 24, please explain your reason? -----

24. Do you participate the conservation of wild Animals and Plants? Yes ☐ No ☐

25. If your answer is “no” why?
.....

26. Do you support the development of community based ecotourism in your area? Yes ☐ No ☐

27. If your answer is “no” for question no 28, why?
.....

38. If your answer is “yes” for question no 28, how would you like to contribute for the development of community based ecotourism?

Cash ☐ kind ☐ labour ☐ knowledge and skill ☐ other (specify).....

29. Whom do you expect to provide support and work with to develop CBET project in your area?

Government ☐ NGO ☐ private sector ☐ investor ☐ other specify.....

Part three: The statements listed below are all related to community based eco tourism in the park and your level of awareness and participation. In each statement you are expected to rate from a scale of one to five. A score of five indicates that you strongly agree with the statement, and a score of one indicates that you strongly disagree.

NB. 1= strongly disagree 2= Disagree 3= moderately agree 4= Agree 5= strongly agree

No	Level of awareness	1	2	3	4	5
1	I am aware about the importance of the park.					
2	I believe that community based ecotourism promotes conservation of natural resources in Loka Abaya national park.					
3	I am well aware that local communities' participation in any affairs of the park has a vital importance					
4	I believe that If well developed , community based ecotourism has better economic benefit					
5	I believe that if Community based ecotourism developed in the park, it will bring me a sustainable means of livelihood.					
6	I agreed that Community based ecotourism works are effective for socio cultural development of the area.					

Appendix 2

Interview questions for experts of regional, zone and head of woreda culture and tourism bureau

1. Is there a tourist flow to Loka Abaya national park?
2. What is your organization's role for the development of community based ecotourism at Loka Abaya National Park?
3. What are the favourable conditions for development of community-based ecotourism at the Loka Abaya National park?
4. Do the local communities participate in park conservation activities?
5. Are the local communities benefiting from Loka Abaya national park?
6. Are local communities engaged to develop tourism activities?
7. Do you think that community based ecotourism encourages and empowers the local communities?
8. Do you think the local communities will actively participate if community based ecotourism developed at Loka Abaya national Park?
9. What are the challenges for developing community-based ecotourism?
10. Is the existence of the park creating a threat to the local communities?
11. Do you think that community based ecotourism will bring sustainable development of local communities?
12. Do the local communities have a capacity to develop community based ecotourism by their own capital?
13. What are the challenges that threaten the natural wealth of the park?
14. Has your office attempted to promote national parks in the region in general and in the LANP in particular?
15. Have you organized a dialogue with local community?

Special Interview questions for experts of Regional Culture and Tourism bureau

1. Does your organization provide support to woreda culture and tourism bureau?
2. Do your organization giving training for woreda culture and tourism bureau?
3. Do you have positive relationship with woreda culture and tourism bureau to run the activity?
4. Do you regularly supervise the level of operation of woreda culture and tourism bureau?
5. Do you evaluate the activities of woreda culture and tourism bureau in formal way?

Special Interview questions for head of woreda Culture and Tourism bureau

1. Are there any NGO sectors in your woreda working in tourism sector?
2. Do the regional culture and tourism bureau provide any support?
3. Do you have sufficient budget to run the activity?
4. What is the source of your budget?

Appendix 3

Interview questions for elders, security forces and chairman at selected three sample sites

1. What benefits do you get from Loka Abaya national park?
2. How is the intervention of government regarding the protection of ecosystem at Loka Abaya National park?
3. Does the government initiate you to participate in conservation activities?
4. Do you participating in conservation of the park?
5. Have you ever seen any conflict among local communities over the use of natural resources?
6. Do you think community based ecotourism will increase social cohesion and minimise local communities conflict on resources use?
7. What are the challenges for the establishment of community based ecotourism?
8. Is there opportunity for the establishment of community based ecotourism at Loka Abaya national park?
9. Do you use resources from LANP?
10. For what purpose do you use?
11. Is there any security problem in the area?
12. Is there any problem caused by wild Animal?

Appendix 4

Questions to be used during focused group discussion with expert at Woreda and zone Culture and Tourism bureau

1. How had Loka Abaya national park been conserved?
2. Is there opportunity to develop community based ecotourism in Loka Abaya national park?
3. Do you think community based ecotourism helps for park conservation and sustainable local development?
4. What are the challenges for the development of community based ecotourism at Loka Abaya national?
5. Why community based ecotourism is not still established at Loka Abaya national park?
6. Is there any attempt to develop community based ecotourism in the area?
7. How do you see about the awareness of local community towards ecotourism?
8. Do you think the local communities have a positive attitude if community based ecotourism developed?
9. What are the ecotourism potentials of the area?
10. What are the major challenges the Loka Abaya national park face?
11. Do you give immediate solutions for those challenges?
12. What support have you got from the government in preserving Loka Abaya national park?

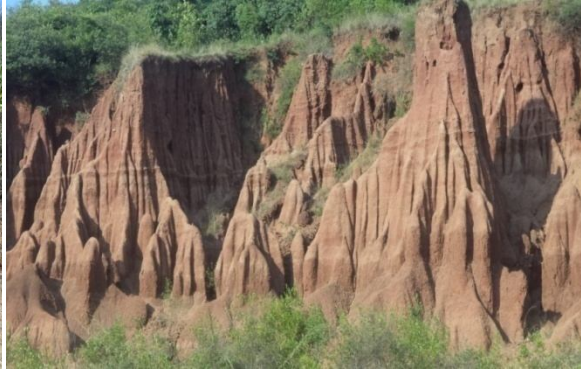
Appendex 5 Observation checklist

1	Wild life	Available	Not available	remarks
2	Flora			
3	Water body			
4	Climatic condition			
5	Geographical location			
6	Birds			
7	Scenic feature			
8	Infrastructure			

Appendix 6: Various pictures from field work



A) The researcher in the field



B) One of scenic future of LANP



C) The researcher in one of the natural scenic



D) The gate of LANP



E. Survey sessions



F) Survey sessions



G) Interview with elders & leaders



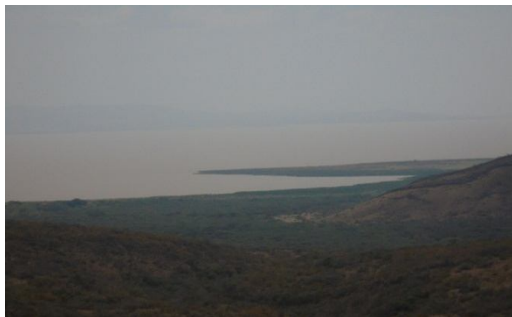
H) Interview with scouts



I) Interview with regional BOCT experts



J) Interview with regional BOCT



K) View of Lake Abaya



L) Researcher in the field



M) Researcher with park scout



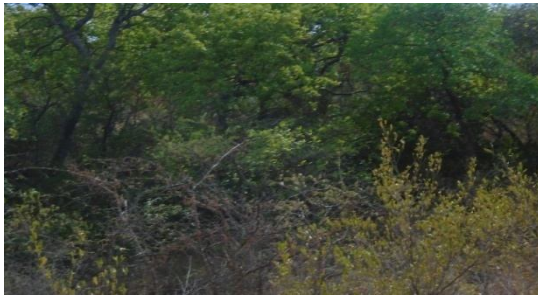
N) Horn of greater kudu



O) Survey session



P) Survey session



Q) Forest of LANP



R) View of Lake Abaya from LANP side



S) FGD with worda BOCT representatives, park staff and LANP adiminsatator



T/ Picture of birds in LANP



U/ A scout with his uniform



V/ A confiscated charcoal



W/ Shrubs often used for charcoal production

Appendix 7 List of informant

No	Name	Place of interview	Date of interview	Position
1	Ato Kassa Menigesha	Hawassa	17/06/2009 E.C	Tourism promotion and marketing expert
2	w/ro Wubalem zegeye	Hawassa	17/06/2009	Tourist attraction development and protection expert
3	Ato Anteneh Kassaye	Hawassa	15/06/2009	Promotion and marketing expert
4	Ato Abreham Ashagire	Hawassa	15/06/2009	Tourist attraction study and protection expert
5	Ato Bezabih Beyene	Hantate town	18/06/2009	Adiminstrator of the park
6	Ato Yirdachew Rubiso	Hantate town	13/06/2009	Head of Woreda BOCT
7	Ato Kayamo Wallo	Aldebo	21/06/2009	Elder person
8	Ato Dawako Gmeda	Aldebo	21/06/2009	Chair man
9	Ato Hankalo Amaro	Aldebo	21/06/2009	Security
10	Ato kinbicha kie	Felika	23/06/2009	Elder person
11	Ato Argato Berassa,	Felika	23/06/2009	Chair man
12	Ato Demise Dekemo	Felika	23/06/2009	Security
13	Ato Kawato Hordofa	Abaya zuriya	25/06/2009	Elder person
14	Ato Hamesso Sigaro	Abaya zuriya	25/06/2009	Chair man
15	Ato Alambo Loka	Abaya zuriya	25/06/2009	Security

Appendix 8. List of participant in Focus Group Discussion (28/06/2009)

No	Name	Postion
1	Ato Gezahegn Terefe	Parks development experts (park staff)
2	Ato Iyassu Jemberu	Culture, history and heritage conservation(yesira hidet)
3	Ato Bezabih Beyene	Adminstrator of LANP
4	w/rt Bilkola Belete	Elder
5	Ato Woma Leta	Elder
6	W/rt Yeshi Selemon	Promotion and marketing Expert
7	w/rt Zufan Fikire	Park staff
8	Ato Melaku Teshit	Attractions development Experts
9	Ato Mesfin Mefato	Park staff
10	Ato Doyamo Qare	Elder