

PROXIMITY ASSESSMENT BETWEEN TOURIST SITES AND HOSPITALITY FACILITIES IN LOKOJA, KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

Lucky S. Ikani, Benedine A. Akpu, and Adamu K. Usman

Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's email: enemalucky@gmail.com



Abstract

The success of tourism in any local community depends on the ability of that community to sufficiently develop, manage and market the tourist sites and hospitality facilities in that area. This research examined the proximity between tourist sites and hospitality facilities in Lokoja, Kogi State. The list of tourist sites and hospitality facilities was collected from the Kogi state Tourism and Hotel Board. The Geographic coordinates of tourist sites and hospitality facilities was acquired using a handheld GPS receiver and overlaid on a georeferenced basemap of the study area to show the spatial distribution of tourist sites and hospitality facilities in the ArcGIS 10.4 software. Nearest Neighbor Analysis was performed to determine the pattern of distribution of tourist sites and hospitality facilities, while Origin-Destination (OD) cost matrix tool in ArcGIS 10.4 was used to determine the proximity between tourist sites and hospitality facilities. A Nearest neighbor ratio of 1.207017 at 0.10 level of significance indicated that tourist sites were randomly distributed, while a Nearest neighbor ratio of 0.696531 at 0.01 level of significance indicated the pattern of distribution of hospitality facilities was clustered. The result of the OD cost matrix showed that Saatof Hotel and Suites was the closest hospitality facility to the First Primary school in Northern Nigeria with a distance of 2.13km while Reverton was the closest hospitality facility to the First Prison yard in Northern Nigeria with a distance of 0.66km. The study concluded that due to the clustered nature of the hospitality facilities in the study area, it was recommended that the state government and private sector should build hospitality facilities in other parts of the study area especially in GRA/Aliu Attah road and Adankolo/Cantonment where most of the tourist sites are found.

Keywords: Geographic Information System, Hospitality facilities, Lokoja, Proximity, Tourist sites