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FISHERIES OF OYAN LAKE, SOUTH WEST NIGERIA AND POTENTIAL FOR ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The suitability of Oyan Lake (South West Nigeria) as a tourist centre was investigated between January 2001 and August 2002. The natural resources around the lake area were highlighted and their enhancement of ecotourism were studied. The trend of tourists to the lake for the past years was highlighted. The highest number of tourists was observed during the year 1995 while the lowest number was recorded in 2003. A total of 293 Industrial Attachment students from the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta within a ten-year period have visited the lake while an additional 81 1 students visited the lake on field trip only between 1994 to 2006. A total of four hundred (400) different nationalities were recorded as visitors. 87.5 percent of these were citizens of Nigeria while 12.5 percent were international tourists. Inli'astrJctural development needed to be put in place to enhance the visit of tourists to this lake were recommended. Conservation of 11ora, fauna and cultural resources were suggested so as to enhance foreign exchange earnings. The relationship between climatic, faunal, floral, biodiversity, human and political environment for effective and productive tourism and national development were highlighted.