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HARNESSING TOURISTIC POTENTIALS TOWARDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN MBENGWI SUBDIVISION

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

BADA	Bome Cultural and Development Association
BUCREP	Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies
CIGs	Common Initiative Groups
ENS	Ecole Normale Supérieure
GNP	Gross National Product
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
MECUDA	Meta Cultural and Development Association
MSD	Mbengwi Subdivision
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
NIC	National Institute of Cartography
SOCATOUR	Société Camerounaise de Tourisme
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organisation

RÉSUMÉ

Le développement local est l'un des principaux problèmes rencontrés dans la plupart des régions rurales, en particulier dans celles des pays économiquement moins développés dans le monde. Malgré le fait que la plupart des régions rurales soient dotées de riches potentiels touristiques, une grande partie de la population rurale pratique l'agriculture, qui est principalement une agriculture de subsistance. Cela conduit à une forte pression sur l'environnement fragile entraînant une faible productivité et par conséquent, la misère des populations locales. Dans le souci d'améliorer les conditions de vie des populations le présent travail vise à étudier les atouts que peuvent apporter l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques au développement local.

Notre étude intitulée «Valorisation des potentialités touristiques et développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi », pose le problème de non valorisation du potentiel touristique et le sous-développement de l'arrondissement de Mbengwi. L'hypothèse générale est qu'il existe une étroite relation entre la valorisation du potentiel touristique et le développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi. Notre étude utilise des méthodes qualitative et quantitative pour collecter les données par une approche systémique. Les données collectées sont d'ordre primaire et secondaire. Pour ce qui est des données primaires, nous nous sommes servi des questionnaires et les guides d'entretien pour les collecter en utilisant la méthode d'échantillonnage aléatoire stratifiée. Les données secondaires ont été collectées à partir des différents travaux d'autres auteurs que nous avons consultés. Les données recueillies ont été analysées à l'aide des logiciels statistiques tels que, CSPRO, SPSS et Microsoft Excel. Les hypothèses ont été toutes vérifiées en utilisant le test de Chi Carré de l'indépendance. Les résultats de ce travail montrent qu'il y a une étroite relation entre la valorisation du potentiel touristique et le développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi. Nous terminons notre travail en suggérant des recommandations qui pourraient être mises en place non seulement pour faciliter l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques de Mbengwi mais aussi engendrer le développement local.

Mots-clés: Mbengwi, potentiels touristiques, développement local, environnement et institution.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the entire families of Pa Neba Andrew and Mfon Patrick who have been my source of joy, hope, strength and inspiration throughout my academy life. They have always seen my academic success as theirs. May they continue to experience God's abundant blessings!

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

According to United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2009), tourism happens to be one of the most significant trade industries. Tourism is said to be one of the fastest growing economic activities in the world (Tunde, 2012). Most countries of the world especially those poor in subsoil resources but rich in touristic potentials have developed thanks to the development of their tourism industry. Unfortunately, most developing countries that are rich in touristic potentials are not yet exploiting these potentials to the fullness to reap benefits. Most of them still depend predominantly on agriculture which has contributed to environmental degradation.

Of recent, tourism has been a worldwide activity that employs many people and fetches enormous income for the region involved. Tourism is said to be the key to the growth of the economy of any local area, state government and national government (Tunde, 2012). This is because tourism stimulates other sectors of the economy such as agricultural, transport, and small and medium size industries. Tourism also enables communities who are poor in material wealth but rich in landscape, culture, history and heritage to use their unique characteristic as an income generating activity.

Cameroon is known to be a land of diversity. It has diverse and rich natural and cultural touristic potentials. Most of these potentials are located in the rural areas which in most cases are very inaccessible. The inaccessibility of the rural areas coupled with traditional restrictions are some of the reasons for which most of these touristic potentials are not yet exploited. The local population on the other hand relies mostly on agriculture for livelihood whereas the exploitation of these potentials could go a long way to enhance better livelihood conditions.

The government of Cameroon under President Paul Biya recognises the importance of tourism as a development tool and in drawing its 10 year development plan places tourism 5th in its line of priorities (Wala, 2002). The government in this light has been carrying out activities such as the construction of hotels, construction of roads to touristic sites and the facilitation of entry and stay of tourists in the country. Thus, tourism is supposed to contribute to the emergence of Cameroon through the creation of employment. Unfortunately, most of these efforts are only in the main towns of Yaounde and Douala. The rural areas that harbour rich touristic potentials are without these infrastructures.

Mbengwi Subdivision, one of the rural areas in Cameroon is endowed with wonderful natural and human touristic potentials that if harnessed can be very appealing to the eyes of tourists. The paradox is that, most of these resources are either not known to the outside world or because of traditional restrictions, are not exploited to engender local development. On the other hand these resources may be known to the outside world but the infrastructures that accompany their effective utilisation are lacking. As a result, the presence of the resources has no impact on the development of the subdivision. It is as a result of the rich touristic potentials in this area that is not yet harnessed and the underdeveloped nature of the area that the topic “harnessing touristic potentials towards local development in Mbengwi Subdivision” was thought of. Documentary research, field observation, questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were used to verify whether the area possesses touristic potentials, the impact of institutional constraints on the harnessing of these potentials and the possible effects that will be accrued as a result of the development of tourism in MSD.



PART I: GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

This part of the work constitutes the first two chapters of the work. Chapter one looks at the background of the study area. It presents the context, justification, significance of the study, delimitation of the study area, related literature, research problem, objectives and the hypotheses of the study. Chapter two will present the conceptual, theoretical framework and the methodology.



CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

This chapter presents the context, justification, significance of the study and delimitation of the study area. It also looks at related literature, the research problem, objectives and the hypotheses of the study.

1.1. CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The World Tourism Organisation defines tourists as people “travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes” (UNWTO, 1995). The leisure activity can be domestic or international and affects the balance of payment of both the source and host regions or countries. According to the World Tourism Organization, even though tourism is an old activity, it started gaining grounds as an international economic activity only after the Second World War. Tourism is amongst the world’s fastest growing industries due to improvement in the global transportation and communication network (Nji, 2012). It is considered as an important tertiary sector activity which stands at the backbone to economic development especially in developing countries. The World Tourism Organization which is now an organ under the United Nation Organisation declares that “Tourism is one of the best sectors which can help in poverty alleviation and promote development in poor and developing countries of the world”(WTO, 2003). This point is also emphasized on by Tunde (2012) who sees tourism as a key to the growth of the economy of any local area, state government and national government and the fastest growing economic activity in the world. Studies indicate that most nations in the world with advanced development have tourism as a major contributing factor. This includes some developed countries such as Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Australia and the United States and in less economically developed countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

Tourism can contribute greatly to the preservation of the natural environment, culture and encourage peace, as a result encouraging sustainable development. Unfortunately most of the resources especially in less economically developed regions are underutilized hence maximum profits are not reaped from these resources. As such most of these countries still remain underdeveloped even though endowed with potentials that can be exploited to boost their development. The important role of the tourism sector as an important instrument in the development of any nation cannot be overemphasized. It has been discovered that tourism is an important instrument of poverty alleviation, attainment of the millennium development goals (MDGs) and sustainable development (Olorunfemi and Raheem, 2008). This is possible in regions served with touristic potentials. Most nations in the world and Africa in particular have developed today thanks to their tourism sector. This is the case with Kenya, South Africa etc. In Cameroon, most rural areas still remain poor and underdeveloped, yet they are endowed with different touristic potentials. Most often, the endowed local communities do not exploit these resources in a way that can lead to the development of the locality.

Cameroon is endowed with enormous natural and human potentials, coupled with its political stability and hospitality, it is a tourist haven. Unfortunately most of these potentials are either unknown to the world or are not developed to satisfy the curiosity of tourists. Without necessarily comparing our potentials with that of other giants of the continent like South

Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Namibia and Tunisia, the question is why is the number of tourists visiting Cameroon incommensurate with the existing touristic potentials? Most experts are instead concerned with the reason why very few tourists come to Cameroon instead of looking at what is to be done to attract more tourists to Cameroon. Others lay blames on the government's strict entry policy or the insecurity of the country. These are all inhibiting factors to tourism growth but other countries with more stringent entry conditions and higher insecurity rates than Cameroon still remain major tourist destinations.

Another point of contemplation is if the declaration of Cameroon as a touristic destination is just a paper work or a reality because looking at the touristic sites in the country and their level of development one will be tempted to ask what was taken into consideration in order to qualify Cameroon as a tourist destination.

Cameroon, which is located in the Central African sub-region, is a major tourist destination in the region considering the plethora of touristic potentials. Unlike many of its neighbours, Cameroon has enjoyed relative peace and stability since it gained its independence in the early 1960s (Woodgate et al, 2011). The geographical position of Cameroon in the African continent makes her to dispose of considerable touristic resources thus she is regarded as all of Africa in one country or Africa in miniature. There are about 300 touristic sites in Cameroon and 258 ethnic groups (Wala 2002) which offer much traditional and cultural diversity. She is blessed with impressive resources notably her climate which ranges from equatorial along the coast to semi-arid and hot in the northern part of the country; physical features such as waterfalls, mountains, valleys, caves; diverse fauna and flora; and human attractions such as palaces, work of arts, rich and diverse culture. These have contributed to growth in the tourism industry. In 2012, for example, travels and tourism in Cameroon accounted for about 4.6% of the total employment as about 214,000 jobs were created by this industry. By 2013, the employment rate increased by 0.3% creating 214624 jobs. The rate of increase is forecasted to rise to 2.7% per year which will lead to the creation of about 281,000 jobs in 2023 (World Travel Tourism Commission, 2012). Cameroon has been enjoying a slow but steady growth in its tourism industry although critics say that the country's tourism industry can perform better (Cyprian, 2012). In Cameroon, the tourism sector, which has been considered by WTO (2005) as an important contributor to local development, is not well developed.

With regards to the legal framework, law No 98/006 of 4th April 1998 guides tourism activities in Cameroon and decree No 99/112 of 27 May 1999 conditions the functioning of the National Tourism Council in the country as indicated in the sectorial strategies for the development of tourism in Cameroon. The government of Cameroon, cognizant of the importance of tourism to the economy has been investing towards the development of this sector. This is seen in the evolution in the creation of the Ministry of Tourism. In 1960 it was called the Cameroon National Office of Tourism, in 1970 it became the General Commissariat of Tourism, in 1971 it was NORCATOUR, in 1975 it became the General Delegation of Tourism, in 1986 it evolved to State Secretariat of Tourism, in 1987 it became SOCATOUR, 1989 it evolved to the Ministry of Tourism and finally from 2011 to present it is Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL archives). It also encourages investment in airlines, hotels, and travel agencies. The government also puts tourism as one of its priority developmental sector that must be developed to contribute to the emergence of the country in 2035. Unfortunately most of these efforts are concentrated in the urban areas especially in Yaounde and Douala and very little attention is given to the rural areas, thus, the reason for their generally underdeveloped status.

The North West Region of Cameroon and Mbengwi Subdivision like most areas in the country possess numerous touristic potentials such as the climate, relief, waterfalls, caves, diverse culture and magnificent palaces with wonderful works of art which can be very

attractive to tourists. Unfortunately, most of these resources are not harnessed. The population is basically an agricultural one putting much pressure on the natural environment thus contributing to environmental degradation. Whereas it rich touristic potentials can be harnessed in order to release this pressure on the environment and to contribute to its development. This constitute the background of our research work which seeks to identify the potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision, examine the reasons why they are not harnessed and to propose strategies that can be put in place towards the harnessing of these potentials in order to contribute to the development of the subdivision.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION

The choice of this topic is to enable Mbengwi Subdivision to participate in making Cameroon a tourist destination. Cameroon as a means to meet up with the emergence of the country in 2035 is embarking on tourism as one of the sectors to be developed to meet up with this objective since the country is endowed with several touristic potentials. This therefore requires the formulation of strategies and plan of action that will permit Mbengwi Subdivision to see tourism as a sector that can contribute to its development.

This work would supply vital information to the government, local authorities, the local community and the different actors of development that can be exploited towards the development of tourism in rural areas.

The result of this work will be significant to policy makers, NGOs, and the institutions in designing and implementing programmes and projects to improve on the socioeconomic status of rural households and to conserve the environment.

This study would serve as an inventory for the Ministry of Tourism and those involve in the tourism business to be aware of the natural potentials that are present in this part of the country and ways in which they can embark upon harnessing them to engender local development

Finally, this study would be used as a baseline for further research on tourism and development.

1.3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Tourism is an activity that has been contributing marvellously to development especially where the potentials are available. Unfortunately, most rural areas are not yet exploiting their potentials. The government of Cameroon through its policy of decentralization aims at exploiting the resources in the regions to ensure local development. This work is important as it brings to awareness the rich touristic potentials of this part of the country that can be harnessed to contribute to local development.

This work is also important because it will add to the stock of knowledge about the available touristic potentials in the country. This is because the work identifies the touristic potentials existing in this area and proposes ways in which these potentials can be harnessed to contribution to local development from a rural setting like Mbengwi.

This work is important to the local community of Mbengwi Subdivision in that it brings to awareness the richness of their locality. This will acts as a source of inspiration to the local population of this subdivision to take advantage of their rich environment and culture to ameliorate their living conditions.

Following the objectives of the Head of State in making Cameroon an emerging nation by 2035, all the various sectors of the economy are undergoing development. Thus, tourism is one of the sectors involved. So results from this study will supply a database to those who are involved in the developmental process to know the touristic potentials that if harnessed can contribute to the development of the tourism sector.

This study also proposes strategies that can be put in place to valorise the touristic potentials in Mbengwi. This work also shows the underdeveloped situation of Mbengwi, propose an alternative development opportunities. Thus the result will act as a database for those involved in development plans to be aware of the developmental strategies to carry out in this region. Thus this study will act as a guide to policy-makers in the laying down of better policies on tourism in the country.

The data from this research work will also be very important to practitioners of tourism, that is those involved in tourism business such as NGOs, travelling agencies, councils and the local community in that it brings out the touristic richness of the area to awareness. This is because the work already highlights the available resources of the area and their location thus giving basic idea about the tourism possibilities of the area.

In the academic domain, this work will add to the existing literature in the field of tourism and development in Geography. The results from the study also open up new possibilities for further research in the study area.

1.4. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1.4.1. Thematic delimitation

This study focuses on how the promotion of tourism in Mbengwi Subdivision through the harnessing of touristic potentials can contribute to the development of the locality. This study analyses underdevelopment as problems, touristic potential in Mbengwi Subdivision as resources and the harnessing of these potentials as a solution to the identified problems. Underdevelopment here is measured in terms of the inadequacy of infrastructures such as roads, hotels, restaurants; level of education, access to amenities such as portable water, electricity, health services and the low rate of employment. This work examines how tourism can be introduced as an activity to help curb underdevelopment.

1.4.2. Temporal delimitation

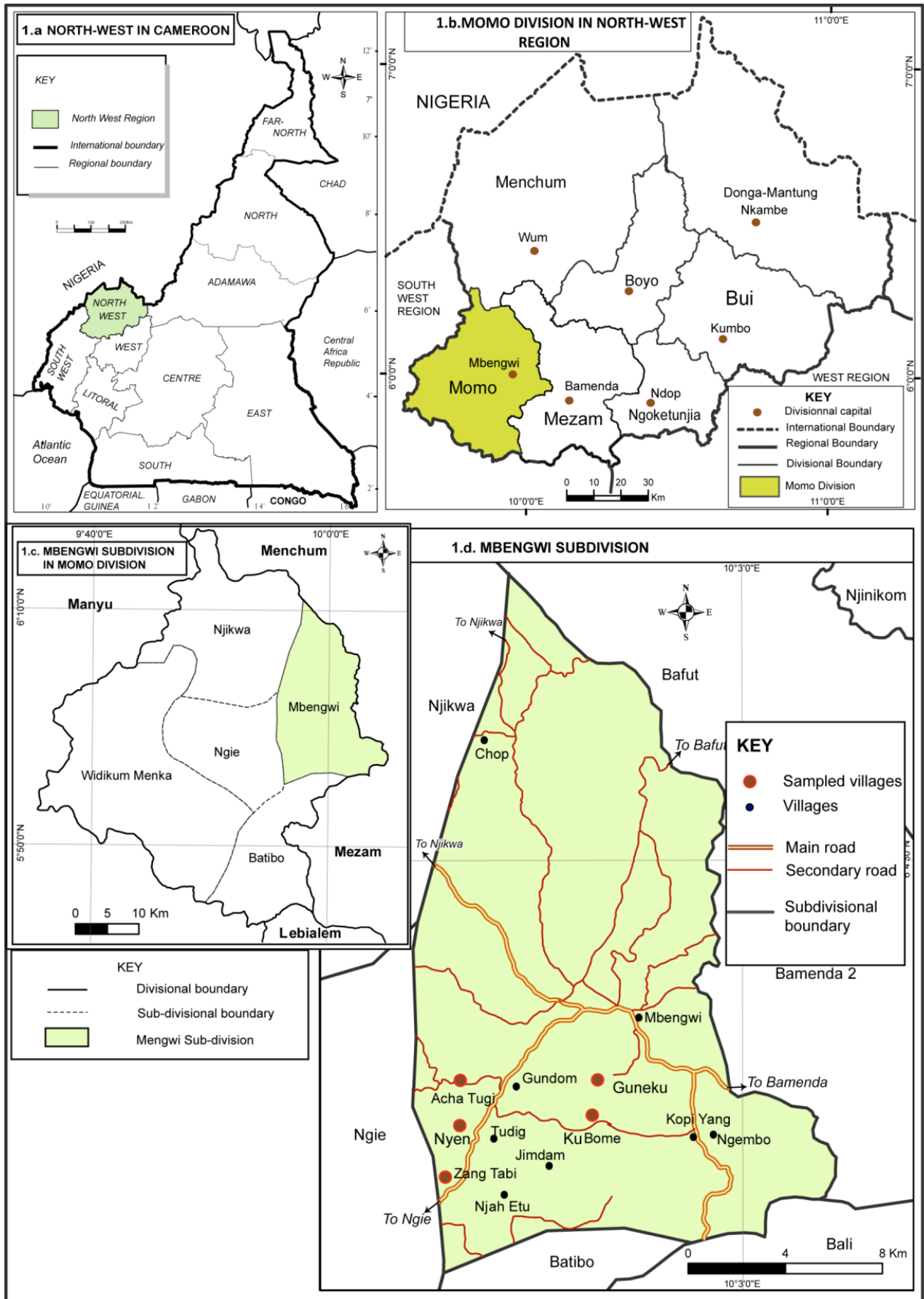
This research work spans from the 1980s when the economy of Cameroon was stroked by serious economic crisis to present date. The year 1985/86 was characterized by the drop in the prices of agricultural products such as cocoa, cotton and coffee in the world market on which the economy of Cameroon depended. This led to the abandonment of coffee and cocoa farms and most cooperative societies and marketing boards were closed down. This led to general unemployment and hardship. This situation was greatly felt in Mbengwi Subdivision for she was one of the main labour force source regions, as the population who were employed in these estates became unemployed.

The government measures of structural adjustment programme such as the reduction of salaries and devaluation led to general hardship in the country. There was therefore the need to diversify sources of income in the country. The retrenched population of Mbengwi Subdivision therefore resorted to subsistence agriculture to sustain their families. This did not solve the problem of unemployment and poverty because subsistence agriculture could not yield much output especially given the poor nature of the soils of this area. This has led to massive outward movement of population to other areas of the country and abroad in search

of greener pastures. This work also falls within the present day, when the Cameroon government is putting a lot of interest in tourism as a development and conservation strategy.

1.4.3. Spatial delimitation

The research was carried out in Mbengwi Subdivision (MSD). MSD is found in the North West Region of Cameroon. It is located at about 20km from Bamenda, the Regional headquarters. Mbengwi is the headquarters of Momo Division which is one of the 7 divisions that make up the North West Region. MSD is a sub urban unit characterized by a multiplicity of touristic potentials which have not been harnessed to attract tourists. It is located in the savannah region of the Republic of Cameroon between latitudes 5°55' and 6°10' North of the Equator and longitudes 9°80' and 10°30' East of the Greenwich Meridian. Mbengwi Subdivision is bordered to the north by Njikwa Subdivision, to the south by Batibo and Bali Subdivisions, to the east by Bamenda 2 and Bafut Subdivisions and to the west by Ngie and Njikwa Subdivisions. Mbengwi Subdivision has a surface area of about 430km² (Njong E. J. F, 2011) and a population of about 31591 inhabitants with a male population of 15323 and a female population of 16268 according to the 2005 population census. This gives a population density of about 73.5 inhabitants per kilometre square. It has a total of 6641 households (BUCREP, 2005). Mbengwi Subdivision is made up of 29 villages ruled by 31 chiefs. The location of MSD is shown on the map below (figure 1).



Source: Administrative map of Cameroon, NIC, 2014

Figure 1: Location of Mbengwi Subdivision

1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

1.5.1 Touristic Potentials

Many authors have carried out studies on touristic potentials both at the local and at the international scales that will be important to this present study. Amongst them are the following:

Nanmi (2009), studies how community based tourism in general and agro tourism, cultural and ecotourism in particular can be introduced and exercise in Njirong. In his work, he makes an inventory of touristic potentials in the region; he examines the different forms of tourism that can be developed in the Njirong locality. He also looks at the reasons for the absence of tourism in the region. He further finds how these projects can be realized and maintained sustainably. Nji (2012) examines the role of ecotourism in the development of sustainable tourism in Cameroon. The study argues that through ecotourism, sustainable tourism practices will be realized in Cameroon. He also starts his study by looking at the problems faced by the tourism industry in Cameroon and how these problems have been contributing to retard the development or practice of sustainable tourism in the country. It also looks at current attempts to develop a sustainable tourism industry in Cameroon, the techniques employed to get stakeholders involved and the challenges faced in this process. He ends by suggesting some recommendations that could be used to facilitate this process. David (2000) focuses on how cultural heritage has helped to develop tourism in Fiji. The works of these authors are very important to our study because it ties with the main objectives of the research. Thus their contribution on our topic is that it helps to highlight facts which act as a base to the research in question. The limit of these works is that the author did not make mention of how the introduction of these forms of tourism can contribute to the development of the locality. Our present research work therefore fits in as it broadens the scope by going further to see how the different forms of tourism can be introduced in Mbengwi subdivision as a way to enhance local development.

Wala (2002) makes an inventory of the existing tourist attractions in Cameroon. His research team realized that Cameroon has tourist wealth that requires some valorisation. Among these are parks, wild life sanctuaries, reserves, zoos, lakes, botanic gardens, waterfalls etc. He recommends that for these attractions to be valorised, businessmen and NGOs have to work together to expand tourism in Cameroon. He further observed that based on experience from some African countries, the tourism industry supplies currency and employment. In this regard, developing the sector has to fall in the upper part of the list of government priorities. He concludes that it is time for Cameroon to take tourism seriously in order to be considered a renowned destination by World Tourism Organization. He ends by proposing a number of measures which can be employed for this to happen. This work is important to our studies as it gives a general idea of the tourism situation of the country and confirms the fact that Cameroon is blessed with potentials. The limit is that the ideas are too general and complex. Also the author did not consider the role of local community in the harnessing of these potentials. Thus, our present research will be at a reduced scale and taking just a small region of the country and studies the resources in detail. It will also look at the involvement of the community to ensure the success of touristic potential harnessing.

Tchindjang and Kengne (2003) confirm the fact that Cameroon is full of touristic potentials as compared to countries such as South Africa, Senegal, Kenya etc where tourism is contributing hugely to their GNP but tourism in Cameroon contributes only about 1% of the country's GNP. In their studies, they lay emphasis on the fact that out of the about 120 sites available, only 20% are actually exploited for international tourism. They also emphasized on the point that the development of the tourism sector is mostly done in the two main towns of Yaounde and Douala as most of the hotels (64%) are found in these two towns with the rural areas which possess most of the touristic potentials are being neglected. They went ahead to

attribute the low rate of tourists arrivals in Cameroon to bad roads to touristic sites, mismanagement and insufficient statistics tools, absence of cartographic and zonation of site, insecurity among others. The work of these authors looked at the problem of tourism in Cameroon in general, thus, our present research will study a case of Cameroon which is MSD in detail will supply statistics to confirm the assertion that Cameroon has not exploited many of its touristic potentials. This present study therefore will add to the knowledge of these authors by giving detail statistics on the tourism situation in MSD which is one of the rural regions in Cameroon blessed with touristic potentials which have not been harnessed. Our research work will go a long way to add to the assertion put forth by Tchindjang and Kengne (2003) that touristic sites in the country are not developed. This present work also fortify this work as it also sees the lack of roads as a factor that hinders the harnessing of touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision in particular and Cameroon in General.

1.5.2 Tourism and development

Nanmi (2009) focuses on strategies that can be used for developing tourism in Oku Subdivision. They emphasize that this can be done by highlighting the different resources in the area and putting in place infrastructural facilities. They look at the lack of infrastructure as the main challenge to the development of tourism in Oku Subdivision. This view about tourism development is very important and can also be applied to the study area because one of the challenges of tourism is the lack of infrastructures. The limit of this work is that, the authors focus only on the infrastructural development as a strategy of developing tourism and less attention is paid to the other strategies. Our research work therefore goes further than this and the lack of infrastructure is just one of the challenges of tourism development in Mbengwi Subdivision. In addition to this, it considers other factors such as advertisement, community participation and government influence as a means to develop tourism in Mbengwi Subdivision. In all, our work looks as the development of tourism as a means to combat underdevelopment in rural areas.

Yenjika (2000) studies natural potentials in Oku Subdivision and examines the strategies for developing these resources to ensure rural development. This author limits his work only on the natural potentials and no allusion is made about the cultural or human potential which is also a vital attraction for tourism. Our present work therefore goes further than this as it examines not only the natural potentials but also the cultural potentials of Mbengwi Subdivision and proposes strategies for developing these resources to enhance the development of the area.

The World Tourism Organisation (2008) looks at how the community can be involved in the development of tourism in Asia. It emphasizes on the full participation of the community in every stage of tourism to ensure its success and sustainability. This idea has been supported by Mbanga (2005) who shows how the participation of the community in developmental projects in Ngoketunjia Division has lead to rural development. These works are very important to this research work as it considers community involvement one of the strategies that can be employed to ensure the success of tourism development. The limit of the above, however is that they look at community as the main actor of local development. Our work talks of a joint participation of all the actors such as the government, NGOs and the councils. Also the above is done in a larger scale and in order part of the world with different characteristics. Our research work will be done at a smaller scale and in a rural milieu thus supplementing the above work which is at a larger scale and providing varied data leading to better understanding of the phenomena.

Tunde (2012) looks at the important roles of the tourism sector as the main instrument in socio-economic development of any nation. He emphasized on the point that some of the tourist centres in Nigeria are not well developed to promote socio-economic development. He

goes further to propose that, the only way to realize the important role of tourism is through a well-developed package and the promotion of tourist attractions. In this light, he therefore examines the potentials of Owu falls that can ensure socio-economic development of the host community, state and country and promote sustainable tourism development in Africa. The above study is very important to this research because waterfall is one of the resources in the study area that needs to be harnessed to contribute to local development. Thus information on this study is very pertinent to this work. This study has been carried out in another country studying just one of the potentials so, our present research will go further as it will be identifying all the potentials in the study area and looking at how it harnessing can accrue local development. Also carrying the study in another country will add to the stock of knowledge about tourism and development.

Ashundip, W. N (2003-2004) identifies tourism resources, their location and the importance of these resources to the Development of Fako Division. In this study, the author presents the touristic potentials in the Division and their level of development. The above study has been carried in a different part of the country. Thus this present works intends to do it on a smaller scale in a rural milieu in another part of the country in order to add to the stock of knowledge on the touristic potential availability of the country. This will help to diversify the ideas about tourism and development in order to affirm the assertion that the country is rich in touristic resources.

WTO Declaration (September, 2005) looks at the growing socio-economic importance of tourism all over the world especially in developing countries. In this publication, it also sees tourism as a great contributor to the achievement of several millennium development goals especially those that are related to poverty alleviation, environmental conservation and creating of employment to indigenous community, women and young people. Our research work shows that the tourism industry is not reaping as much as it was supposed to because most of the resources are idle and unknown to the world. Thus this work aims at unveiling these resources that are available in this part of the country that can be harnessed to ensure socio-economic development.

1.6 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Mbengwi Subdivision is an example of a rural area in Cameroon that has low level of development even though it has several touristic potentials that if harnessed can promote tourism and contribute to development in the locality. The level of development is seen in the inadequate infrastructures such as hotels and recreational centres, high rate of unemployment, insufficient basic necessities such as electricity, good road network, and potable water supply just to name these few. The conditions are becoming more and more deplorable, as a result most of the population especially the active population is moving out of the region to other parts of the country for better economic opportunities. The general population census carried out by the Mbengwi Council in 2005 indicates that the population of Mbengwi has reduced from 52000 in 1987 to 31591 in 2005 which shows a serious drop of 39.25%. The flourishing of informal activities in towns such as motor bike riding and callbox in which the youths can easily find employment pull them to towns while the villages are left with mostly the old and young who are less active. Thus developmental projects that can be carried out in the villages such as community work around touristic sites, road construction and building of bridges cannot go on smoothly because there is insufficient man power.

Also, some of the cultural aspects of this area such as carving, weaving, sculpturing are practised mostly by the aged population group. These cultural potentials are threatening disappearance because the youths who are to take over from their parents are no longer in the

village. The outward movement of the active population has contributed to the disappearance of some of these arts and the low level of development of the region.

Another problem that has led to the low level of development of MSD is inadequate road network in the Subdivision. MSD which doubles as the divisional and subdivisional headquarters has only about 20km tarred road, which is the road linking her to the regional headquarters Bamenda that was tarred in 2013. The rest of the roads in the area are earth roads which are seasonal; very dusty in the dry season and muddy and slippery in the rainy season. This renders the movement of goods and people in and out of this area difficult and expensive. Thus goods produced do not even reach the MSD markets or arrived in little quantity. As a result, most of the resources in the area are not yet exploited fully for the development of the area, thus a factor contributing to the low level of development of the area.

At the point when the government of Cameroon has embarked on the decentralization process, power and financial autonomy has been given to local authorities to develop their localities by harnessing the available resources in their area. In this light the council of Mbengwi Subdivision is carrying out developmental projects in various domains such as in transportation, education, health and agriculture in order to develop its area and improve on the living conditions of its inhabitants. These efforts are not enough as a lot of lapses can still be noticed in the area as unemployment and low level of development is still rife. There is therefore a great need to think of another livelihood option that can help to contribute to the development of the area in order to boost development. So if the local government is engaging in other sectors to help develop the area, the tourism sector could be a viable alternative since the area possesses rich touristic potentials.

A critical look at Mbengwi reveals that she can be a touristic haven if the potentials are harnessed. MSD is endowed with rich touristic potentials that are not being exploited. Most of these resources are not known by the community as a resource that can fetch income, yet MSD languishes in poverty and suffers low level development. Tourism, being a sector that is fast developing and contributing enormously to development, is not developed in this locality, even though the locality is endowed with rich touristic potentials that can be harnessed to engender development.

Furthermore, the status of Mbengwi which doubles in function as the Divisional and Sub-divisional Headquarters of Momo merits both the Divisional and Sub-divisional Delegation of Tourism. However, these institutions are absent in MSD. This therefore gives an opening for one to investigate on the reasons for the absence of these institutions given the rich touristic potentials in the area.

MSD also harbours several water resources and a waterfall which ranks second in the North West Region after Menchum Fall. MSD nonetheless, suffers from water shortages and insufficient power supply characterized by several power cuts and no supplies in the neighbouring villages. The Abbi Fall in addition to supplying electricity in the subdivision can also be a good touristic site if well harnessed and developed. The Fall still remains in its natural state as if it is of no value.

Furthermore, the council which is a local arm of the government has little or no control over any of the touristic sites. Looking at the Mbengwi Council Developmental Plan, there is no budgetary allocation for the development of tourism. This raises questions as to why the council has no development plans for tourism whereas the area is rich in touristic potentials which can generate revenue and engender local development.

Another point of concern is that the tourists that come into the area have no official access because of the lack of organization. Some of these touristic sites are accessed free of charge because they are either not developed or there are no institutional controls.

MSD possesses some touristic infrastructures such as roads, hotels, inns and rest houses. These infrastructures however are of very low standards. The roads for example linking the villages are earth roads which are seasonal and in some seasons are totally impassable; most of the lodging facilities are deteriorating, others abandoned and while some have been closed up. MSD that used to boom in the early 1990s has become like a 'dead land'. Then one asks, what would have happen to the factors that attracted their set up at the first place. Considering the fact that the tourism sector of Mbengwi is not yet developed, this is the right time to introduce sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism will improve the livelihood of those employed by the sector without compromising resources for the future generation and will help to make Mbengwi a tourist destination.

1.7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Two sets of research questions were used to guide this research work. These are one general question and three specific questions.

1.7.1 General Question

How can the available touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision be harnessed to engender local development?

1.7.2 Specific questions

1. What are the touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision that can be harnessed to engender local development?
2. What constraints impact the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD?
3. What advantages will accrue to MSD from the harnessing of its touristic potentials?

1.8 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1.8.1 General objective

The general objective of this research work is to investigate the impact of harnessing touristic potentials on local development.

1.8.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to :

1. Identify the touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision that can be harnessed to contribute to local development,
2. Examine the constraints that impact the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD
3. Explore the advantages that will accrue to MSD if the touristic potentials are harnessed.

1.9 HYPOTHESES

1.9.1 General Hypothesis

There is a significant relationship between the harnessing of touristic potential and local development.

1.9.2 Specific Hypotheses

1. Mbengwi Subdivision possesses touristic potentials such as waterfall, caves, palaces, artefacts, traditional dances and shrines that can be harnessed to engender local development.

2. Institutional constraints to a large extent impact the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD.
3. There are advantages that can be accrued to MSD from the harnessing of its touristic potentials.

1.10 CHAPTER LAYOUT

This research work is presented in three parts with each of the parts constituting two chapters. The work starts with a general introduction and ends with a general conclusion.

Part one is entitled “the general framework of the study” which is subdivided into 2 chapters: chapters 1 and 2. Chapter one presents the background of the study. It focuses on the context of the study, justification, delimitations, review of relevant literature from which we come out with the problem statement. It further presents the research questions, objectives and the hypotheses that guided the work. Chapter two presents the conceptual and theoretical frameworks and the methodology used in the study, and the problems encountered during the research.

Part two is entitled “research and exploitation of data”. This part comprises chapters three and four. Chapter three presents the various touristic potentials found in MSD and chapter four looks at the various institutions involved in the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD, their strategies, limits and how these limits hinder the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD.

Part three comprises chapter five and six. It is entitled “verification of hypotheses, criticisms and recommendations” Chapter five presents the possible effects that will be accrued to MSD as a result of the development of tourism. Lastly chapter six verifies the hypotheses, criticises the results and proposing recommendations that can be implemented in order to ensure the harnessing of the touristic potentials in the locality in order to engender local development.

This work also presents the bibliography that was consulted during the research work.

CHAPTER TWO: CONCEPTUAL, THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter explains the main concepts reviewed to this work, theoretical framework of the study and methodology. Important concept used in the work have been explained from the views of other authors and then the researcher then takes position on which will be considered in the present research work. In the same light, theories related to the research work were elaborated and linked to the situation in MSD in order to bring more understanding of the research work.

2.1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Concepts and theories enhance our understanding of the research problem and guide our course of action towards seeking a solution. A number of terms and concepts have been defined in this work because they are relevant in the understanding of the principal focus of the study. This section explains major concepts used in this study such as: the concept of tourism, touristic potentials, community participation, development and local development.

2.1.1 Tourism

The concept of tourism has been defined differently by different author.

According to Cattarinich (2001), cited by Ntemngweh (2013), tourism can be defined as “those industries that provide accommodation, transportation and other services such as a sale of souvenirs and other goods, restaurants and guided tours for visitors who come from outside the destination for a period of more than 24 hours or less than one year.”

According to Tunde (2012) the term tourism is derived from “tour” meaning... “a journey at which one returns to the starting point: a circular trip usually for business, pleasure or education during which various places are visited and for which an itinerary is usually planned”. On the other hand Frida-Tolonen (2014) defines tourism as a collection of activities, services, and industries that deals with travel experience such as transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking, hotels, retail shops, and entertainment businesses, and extra hospitality services offered to persons travelling away from home.

Godwin (2002) sees tourism as the only sector where the good at the point of production remain, at the point of sale and additionally it affords several buyers the opportunity to buy the same product over and over again. McIntosh and Gupta (1980) again defined tourism as “the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interaction of tourists, business, host government and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors”. Oxford English Dictionary defines the tourist as one who travels for pleasure or culture, visiting a number of places for their objects of interest, scenery or the like.

The World Tourism Organization (1996) defined tourism as comprising of “Activities of persons travelling to and staying in place outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year and not less the 24hours for leisure, holiday, business and other non-remunerated purpose”. It is referred to as the totality of the relationship and phenomenon arising from the travel and stay of strangers, provided the stay does not imply the establishment of a permanent residence and is not connected with a remunerated activity. The International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (AIEST) adopted this definition by bringing out the unique elements of tourism.

Wall G and Mathieson A (2006) cited Rolande N (2009) define tourism as “the activity of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for more than a

consecutive year for leisure and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.”

From the above definitions we will consider tourism in this research work as the activity of people travelling and staying in Mbengwi Subdivision for at least 24 hrs and not more than one year for leisure, business or activities that are not salaried. There are several types of tourism which can be developed in Mbengwi Subdivision.

- **Types of tourism**
- **Cultural tourism:** It is a subset of country or a region’s culture, especially its arts, their feeding habits, dance and architecture. (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopaedia cited Rolande N.K: 2009).
- **Ecotourism:** This is a form of tourism in which the environment is conserved and improved for the wellbeing of the population.
- **Community based tourism:** According to Kihkwi 2005, this is a form of tourism where a significant part of the local community has a sustainable control over the resources and the involvement of its development and management. Its benefits remain within the locality’s economy. It comprises four types of tourism that are interrelated: for example cultural tourism, rural tourism, and agro tourism.
- **Sustainable tourism:** Sustainable tourism is a situation where by there is exploitation of tourism resource for present use and safeguarding it for future generation. To ensure sustainability in tourism therefore, resources should be consumed at a renewable rate, protect the biodiversity, respect local culture, livelihood and customs of the local community and also involve the local community in the development processes such that the distribution of the cost and benefits should be equally distributed.
- **Health Tourism:** This is a journey with an intention to spend time getting well after an illness thereby combining medical exercise or convalescing with holiday and rest. This is different from complete hospitalization.
- **Sports Tourism:** It is a leisure activity associated with the watching of sports such as football matches, lawn tennis, tournaments, boxing, wrestling, mountain race etc.
- **Cultural and Scientific Tourism:** This is associated with educative excursions, scientific journeys or conferences and meetings.
- **Cult and Religious Tourism:** This is associated with journeys like pilgrimage to the Vatican and Jerusalem by Christians or to Mecca by Muslims. They are seasonal in nature and are normally organized.
- **Social Tourism:** This is an organized form of tourism for the less privileged such as pensioners, students or very low-income earners. Special and subsidized facilities are provided for this group of tourists in the form of accommodation, restaurant or holiday packages.
- **Adventure tourism:** This is the type of tourism where the travellers go to remote, exotic and even hostile areas to explore landscape, cultures and activities outside of their comfort zones.
- **Reality Tourism:** This is tourism as it relates to learning about the “history of repression and political violence”. This involves visiting people who are under these conditions and who have probably broken off from such holds. It involves seeing the real life situations of people who have undergone some unfortunate circumstances like war and the impact of such experiences on their lives. It is a recent phenomenon in tourism.

The definition that will be adopted by our research will be that of the World Tourism Organization. This is because the research considers Mbengwi as not yet a tourist haven because it does not have those facilities to keep tourist comfortable. This research therefore intends to encourage the development of infrastructures and lodging facilities to keep tourist

at ease in the region; and the development of touristic potentials to satisfy the curiosity of tourist during their stay in Mbengwi Subdivision. Sustainable form of tourism which is exploitation of tourism resource for present use and safeguarding it for future generation is the form of tourism that our research work is aimed at developing. This is because the intension of this work is to make the community to be aware of the value of these resources and participate towards it development. Also to encouraged the use of the resources to generate income and at the same time preserving these resources so that the region can remain forever a tourist destination. Also because this form of tourism is that which can guarantee the continuous supply of the attraction while keeping it save our resources for future generation.

2.1.2 Touristic potentials

According to Seaton and Bennett 2004, touristic potentials comprise of the principal resources that the country has to offer to tourists, combined with every aspect of the tourism experience, from the time the tourist decides to travel until his return home. The most frequent types of assets are wildlife for safari tourism, mountains, sun, sea, lakes, rivers, forests and valleys for nature, scenic and adventure tourism. Cultural artefacts in the form of the built setting (monuments, old cities), a living heritage expressed in unique local customs and songs, dances, art and handicrafts, and museums that reflect the local cultural heritage or an extensive global legacy. In the content of this work, touristic potentials will be considered as those resources both natural and human that Mbengwi Subdivision can offer to tourists from their time of arrival in the area till their departure. With respect to this definition the touristic potentials of Mbengwi include waterfall, caves, relief, cultural artefacts, traditional relics, palaces, museums, monuments, lodging facilities etc.

2.1.3 Development

The concept of development has different meanings to different authors. According to Mayhew (2004), development means adding value to resources to relieve poverty and improve standards of living of a region or nation. According to Mihalic (2002) cited by Ntemngweh (2013), development is “a socio-economic change and progress, embracing indicators which include increases in per capita income, a reduction in poverty level among the masses, more social justice, modernization in terms of social changes, higher level of employment and literacy, improvement in and wider access to medical treatment, a better life with more opportunities for self-improvement.” Neba (1999) defines development as the sustainable improvement of an entire society towards a better and more just life. In this wise development is seen as a balance view of the cultural, personal and physical aspects of the society.

According to Frida-Tolonen (2014), the term development is ambiguous and is used descriptively and normatively to refer to a process through which the society moves from one condition to the other to allude a desirable future state. It is a state of transformation that relates to all parts of the world at every level from individual to the global transformation process. Thus the tourism industry has been noticed as one of the main factor promoting development.

Development according to Andang, (2010) is the ability of a society to provide its basic needs of health, food and shelter aimed at ensuring the wellbeing of the population. Joseph (2006) on his part sees development as: “to grow, increase, become larger or more complete”; in order words, to bring out the economic possibilities of natural and human resources. According to the Advanced Learners’ Dictionary, development is defined as the gradual growth or the process of creating something new so that it becomes more advanced and stronger. The United Nations on its part looks at development in human terms, where it is being measured by life expectancy, adult literacy, and access to all three levels of education as well as people average income which is a necessary condition for the freedom and choice.

This definition incorporates all the aspects of an individual's wellbeing from health status, to economic and political freedom according to the human right report 1996 published by the Nations Report Development program. According to Coetzee et al. (2001: 307) development is a "process whereby a community, region, or nation improves its access to basic services such as health, education, cultural opportunities and reduced levels of inequalities." Development in the content of this will mean adding value to the touristic resources in MSD in order to relieve poverty and improve standard of living in the region.

2.1.4 Sustainable development

Sustainable development is the concept that has been the most used in developmental projects today. The World Commission on Environmental Development (1987) in its report titled "Our Common Future" defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need." This is the most popular types of development used in currents and on-going development projects. This is the type of development that this research wish to encourage in the study area so as to ensure the continuous existence of these touristic resources to make Mbengwi an ever tourist destination. So the touristic resources present in MSD should be used in such a way that it will generate income to the community without deteriorating or destroying it.

2.1.5 Local development

Local development is that type of development that is seen within a locality. To understand local development, the term local has to be understood. The term "local" according to the Cambridge Dictionary relates to a particular space or place or serving only a small portion of something. This therefore means it is restricted to a particular area. Locality is regarded as a relatively small area. Despite the fact that the term local is often understood as limited to a given area, the term relates not only to a specific space. A local arrangement delimited by parameters at administrative division, should take into account also the sum of such features as the history of the area, specific social and economic features, cultural features and even geographical features.

According to the United Nations Development Programme local development is looked at as a collective action for judicious use of natural and other resources and developing human capital from basic education to management skills and entrepreneurial abilities to the cultural heritage and environmental assets and creating sustainable livelihoods.

William et al (2005), on their part see the concept of local development as a particular form of regional development, one in which endogenous factors occupies a central position. In their work, they used the stages model to support their view about local development. By this model, they proposed four stages in local development:

- The emergence of local entrepreneurship
- The take-off of local enterprises
- The expansion of these enterprises beyond the local region
- The achievement of regional economic structure that is based upon local initiatives and locally created comparative advantages.

The theoretical and empirical foundations of this model are examined, with particular emphasis upon the roles of the entrepreneur and of human capital in the process of economic growth, and upon the spatial effects of the expansion of the firm.

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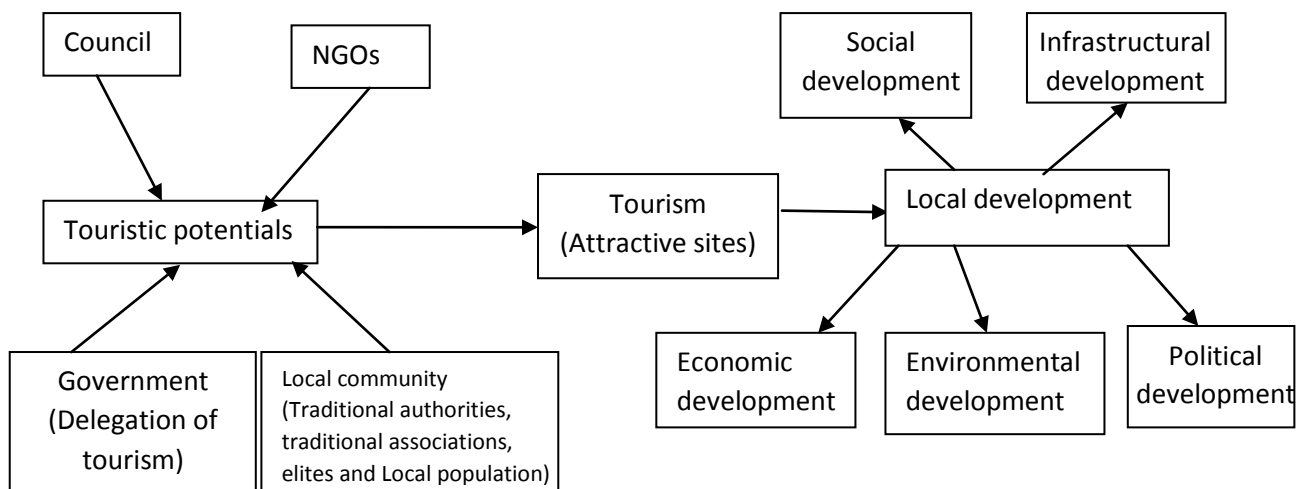
This research work will consider local development as the involvement of a favourable change, moving from the inferior to a better and progressive social life that will lead to a

better standard of living. Local development therefore will be looked at as the joint action of the people of Mbengwi Subdivision towards the exploitation of the resources within the Subdivision in order to create sustainable livelihood within the Subdivision.

2.1.6 Community participation

According to Oakley (1989), community participation is the involvement of the community in shaping, implementing and evaluating programs and sharing the benefits. It is an active process whereby intended beneficiaries influence program outcomes and gain personal growth. The World Bank (1996) on its parts sees community participation as a necessary tool for project planning. It justifies that local people have a great amount of experience concerning what can work where in their community, why in their community, also the involvement of local population in project planning can increase their commitment to ensure the success of that project. Their involvement can further help them to develop technical and managerial skills and thereby increase their opportunity for employment. Involving local community helps to increase the resource available for tourism development because they master their environment better also because community participation is a way of bringing about ‘social learning’ for both planners and beneficiaries, in which each group learns from the other.

This work considers community participation as the involvement of the local community in the planning process to clarify them and allowing them to express their own needs and objectives and taking collective action to meet them. The community here will be referring to the local population of Mbengwi Subdivision who has something in common to share with each other such as language, origin, geographical location and culture. Community participation in local development is that which employs the bottom-top approach. This is the approach whereby the local actors participate in activities such as decision-making about the strategy to use in their local area, do community works through manual labour on touristic sites, provides tourist guards who will lead tourist to the different touristic sites etc. For local development to be sustainable it will include the joint participation of all the actors (the local population, the traditional authorities, the NGOs and the government through the council), potential to be harnessed in order to render it attraction to the tourists and the coming of tourist into the area will lead to local development. The different stakeholders involve in tourism and the outcome of their actions can be demonstrated diagrammatically as shown on figure 3 below.



Source: Author's Conception, 2016

Figure 2: Tourism stakeholders and their outcome in a participative approach

Figure 2 depicts that for touristic potentials to be made attractive and sustainable it needs the joint action of the stakeholders, that is local community, council, NGOs, and the government. The attractiveness of these potentials will encourage more tourists to visit the area. Increase in the number of tourists in MSD will lead to the construction of tourists' infrastructures such as hotels, restaurants and roads (infrastructural development); these infrastructures will need to employ people to work in them (social development), the money earned from those employed by these infrastructures and from goods sold to the tourists will help to increase the income of the population (economic development), there will be the need to protect natural areas in order to satisfy the curiosity of tourists (environmental development) and there will be the creation of local association to encourage tourism (political development).

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

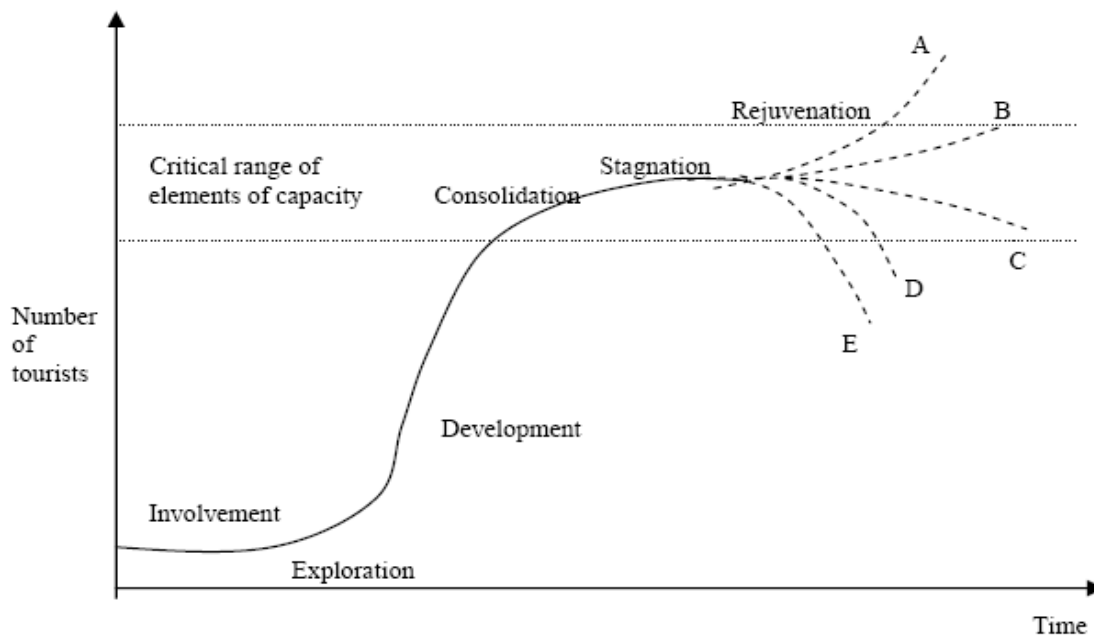
Several theories have been formulated to explain tourism. As concern this research topic, Butler's theory of product cycle-based evolution of tourist destination (1980), the core-periphery enclave Model of Britton (1981) and the multiplier effect theory of tourism by Keynes (1930s) can be used to explain tourism in Mbengwi Subdivision.

2.2.1. Product cycle-based evolution of tourist destination.

This theory was postulated by Butler in 1980 to explain the evolution of stages of tourism development. Butler in this theory proposes six stages of development which are involvement, exploration, development, consolidation, stagnation and decline or rejuvenation. Butler's model talks of the different phases in the evolution of tourism. The model identifies the phases of emergence, growth, prosperity and decline. The model emphasizes that towns depend on tourism. The six stages postulated by Butler's model are explained as follows:

- **Exploration stage** where there is a small number of tourists that move into a new location for adventure and their impact is minimal.
- **Involvement stage** in which if the tourists are accepted and tourism acceptable it will make the area better known. This will lead to the improvement of tourist infrastructures and increase local involvement.
- **Development stage** where inward investment takes place making tourism to be a big business. This will lead to external involvement in the control, management and organization of tourism leading to increase in the package tours, more holidays and less local involvement.
- **Consolidation stage** in which tourism becomes an important industry in the region as it now includes marketing and advertising. The formal agricultural land is used up for the building of hotels, swimming pools, beaches to cater for tourists. At this stage resentment begins to develop and there is decelerating growth rate.
- **Stagnation stage** where there is an increase in opposition to tourism and an awareness of the problems it creates. This leads to fewer new arrivals of tourist because of the instability and insecurity of the area.
- And lastly we have the **stage of decline**. At this stage there is decrease in popularity leading to the moving away of international operators leaving the management in the hands of local operators. This will also lead to the decline of tourism because local operators will be underfunded because of the reduction of tourists. Thus at this stage the industry will need to be renewed.

This theory has been summarized diagrammatically as follows



Source: Nagle, (2000).

Figure 2: Butler's Destination life-cycle

A – Successful redevelopment leading to renewed growth and expansion.

B – Minor modifications which may include the protection of existing resources and price increases.

C - Some readjustment to meet existing demand which may include an increase in visitor prices to prevent further growth.

D – Over use of resources leading to destination decline largely as a result of competition with other areas.

E – War, politics or some other catastrophe halting tourism altogether.

The stagnation and decline phases appear because of the non-involvement of the local community in the management of the industry. The local community reaps little or no benefit from it thus their reason for opposing. This opposition will finally lead to the dead or decline of the industry. As a result of the need for sustainability in tourism which is the great concern of researchers in tourism, the Tourism-Centric approach which is similar to Butler's tourism destination model can be used in this work. The Tourism-Centric model emphasizes the sustainability of the industry where it is necessary to reduce negative impacts on communities, the environment and societies due to lack of proper management. Since it is difficult to establish a possible relationship between resource based activity and sustainability, negotiations process and full participation of the host community should be employed to overcome these differences. This implies the seeking of the opinion of the local community and their involvement and full participation in the development and maintenance processes.

This model can be applied in Mbengwi Subdivision. The researcher sees the development of tourism as a factor that can contribute to the development of the locality. As Butler explains that towns depend on tourism; that is tourism is a riding force behind the emergence of towns. So if the touristic resources of Mbengwi are harnessed, it will lead to increase in tourism; and increase in tourism will lead to the development of infrastructures such as roads, hotels, restaurants, museums to cater for tourists. As such there will be increase employment leading to further development and increase in the number of tourist again in the area. The increase in the number of tourists in Mbengwi will encourage foreign investors to the area and thus leading to development of the areas in particular and the country as a whole. So in order to prevent the stagnation and decline stage of Butler's model of evolution, the researcher in this research work proposes a sustainable development of tourism in the research area; that

tourism which protects the environment, culture of the people and brings in revenue and development. Some of the people in the area will be employed in services that are related to tourism thus reducing the number of people involving in agriculture. As such the land that will be taken away by the tourism sector will not cause any antagonism between the local population and the tourism operators because they are conscious of the benefits that it offers to some of them. There will be some intensification of agriculture as fewer people will be involved and the demand will be high. The result of this procedure is that the objectives of the research must have been attained as the harnessing of tourists potentials has led to the development of the area.

2.2.2 Core-periphery enclave Model

This theory was proposed by Britton in 1981. It explains the socio-economic influence of tourism and effects of tourism. This model explains that the benefits of tourism to most developing countries are limited geographically. According to the model, the flow of tourism is from the core (developed countries or areas) to the peripheries which are mostly the developing countries or areas. Tour operators, airlines and hotel owners are generally located in the core. This is because at the level of the developed area, the threshold population is more. It declares that in developing countries, tourists often stay in specially designated enclaves (resort enclaves) with all the required facilities such as hotels, restaurants and recreational activities. Outside of the resort enclaves there are a number of attractions which could be scenic, historic and cultural at locations that can usually be reached and returned from within a day. At such, locations, the expected infrastructure is usually provided. As a result most tourists have little or no contact with the local people and fail to experience the reality of economic, social and cultural.

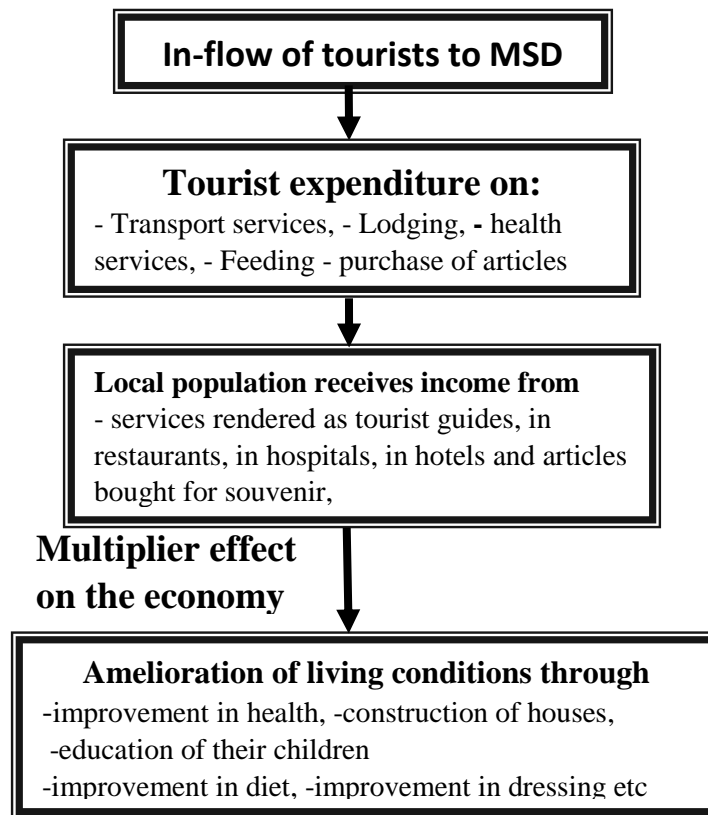
This theory applies to the tourism situation in Mbengwi Subdivision. Field research reveals that most of those who visit the touristic sites in Mbengwi for curiosity are foreigners or non-indigenes. Very few indigenes have ever visited these sites or even care to visit them. Also as a result of the underdevelopment of the tourism sector in Mbengwi Subdivision, those activities that go in line with tourism are also underdeveloped. These include hotels, road, restaurants etc. Thus most tourists who visit Mbengwi Subdivision prefer to stay in regional headquarter, Bamenda, where tourism facilities are more developed and only commute with Mbengwi. As such, they have few or no interaction with the local population and also their impact is not felt. Thus the reason for the why tourism is not yet a developmental sector in Mbengwi Subdivision.

2.2.3 Multiplier effect theory of tourism by Keynes

This theory was conceived in the 19th century and developed by John Keynes in the 1930s to explain the economic effect of tourism. According to this theory, the presence of tourists in an area will contribute to the economic growth of that area. Economic growth will come as a result of the expenditure of tourists in the area they are visiting. The expenditure of tourists leads to a multiplier effect in that tourists' spending is in different forms such as spending on goods and services; investment by external sources, government spending and export of goods stimulated by tourism. According to this theory the effect of spending by tourists is felt both directly and indirectly. Directly as tourists will pay for transport services, buy food, pay hotels bills, buy articles for souvenir from the area, etc and indirectly as the earnings from tourists' spending can be used to ameliorate the living conditions of the local population. It is therefore the earnings from tourists' spending which has affected other domains of the lives of the population that is referred to as the multiplier effect.

This theory can be applied to MSD if tourism is developed. The tourists who come to the locality will have to pay for services such as transportation, lodging, service of a tourist guide

and will buy goods from this area. The income from tourists expenditure will be used by the local population to buy other needs such as acquire medical services, education, improve on road networks, build tourist infrastructures such as hotels and restaurants that will further employ the people of the area. As a result there will be economic growth. The multiplier effects can be presented diagrammatically as seen on figure 3.



Source: Author's conception, 2016.

Figure 3: Demonstration of the multiplier effect theory of tourism

Figure 3 portrays that increase in the number of tourists in MSD will increase income got from tourists through buying of food, paying for services rendered in restaurants, hospitals and services rendered by tourists guides. Income from the spending of tourists can be used directly or indirectly to purchase some basic need of life thus leading to a multiplier effect in MSD.

2.3 OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

In order to facilitate the exploration of the topic, we had to decompose the concepts. In this light we came out with two main variables which are dependent and independent variables.

2.3.1 Operationalisation of the variables

After rendering our concepts operational they were later defined. We have two main concepts for this work: Touristic potentials which is the independent variable and local development which is the dependent variable. This is to say local development in MSD depends on the harnessing of the touristic potentials in this locality. These concepts, their variables, dimension and indicators are presented on table 1 below.

Table 1: Operationalisation of variables

Concepts	Variable	Dimension	Indicators
Touristic potentials	Independent	Spatial	-number of: hills, caves, rivers, waterfalls, protected area, -Types of animals, -Types of vegetation
		Socio-cultural	-types of cultural festivals, -types of dances -number of shrines, traditional weeding, death celebrations, birth celebration - number of palaces, types of artifacts
		Economic	-Number of: hotels, restaurants, bars, rest house, market, fish ponds, -Km of road tarred, -Type of agricultural activities
		Political	-Laws guiding tourism, -laws guiding infrastructural set up. -number of projects initiated by the council -number of projects initiated by the population
Local development	Dependent	Spatial	-Surface area, -Number of houses
		Social	-rate of employment, -Literacy rate, -dependency ratio -number of hospitals, -doctor-patience ratio -birth rates, death rates, - types of treatment -food intake, nutrients intake, dressing styles
		Economic	-km of tarred roads, - number of homes electrified -income per head, -types and number of lodging facilities, - access to health care services, -access to potable water, -access to electricity supply -Means of good, people and services transportation
		Cultural	-Number of cultural festivals, -types of traditional manifestations, -Number of trade-fairs, -Number of museums
		Human	Life expectancy, -Adult literacy rate, literacy rate Educational attainment, Employment rate
		Environmental	Number of protected areas

Source: Author's conception, 2016.

2.4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used both primary and secondary data sources. It employed both the quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The instrument used to collect quantitative data was the questionnaire and to collect qualitative data an interview guide was used. Data collected from the field through interviews and questionnaires were analysed and interpreted statistically. The study employed the descriptive method to describe the situation on the field.

2.4.1 Research approach

The systems approach was employed in the collection of both the quantitative and qualitative data. Tourism here is considered as a system because other sectors of the economy come into play to make tourism function in order to contribute to local development. In this light the different sectors that contribute in the functioning of tourism were also studied. These elements are considered as the inputs (transport, water supply, electricity supply, hospital, hotel, restaurant, etc) and the processes are cooperation and interrelationship between the various elements and actors (government, council, traditional authorities, NGOs and the local community) and the output is local development which can take various dimensions such as economic, social, cultural and environmental development. The importance of this approach is that it makes us to understand that tourism does not develop in isolation but rather interrelates with other sectors.

2.4.2. Data collection techniques

The technique for the collection of data was through a stratified random sampling. The villages of MSD were classified according to the variety of available touristic potentials from which the sample villages were chosen for the study. A portion of the population was sampled randomly for both the administration of the questionnaires and for the interview. Data collection through this technique has been generalized to MSD as a whole.

2.4.3 Sources of data

The data needed for this work was collected from two main sources which are primary and secondary sources.

- Secondary sources

This source of data collection entailed extensive reading in libraries. The data collection process for this research work started with the secondary phase which ran through the course of the research. Relevant data for this research work was retrieved from both published and unpublished works such as books, dissertations, journals and the internet. Information gotten from these source helped to situate the research theme in the academic and scientific context, provide information on the background of the study, related concepts and theories and the literature review.

In this light, the researcher consulted the library of ENS Yaounde, the library of University of Yaounde I, the library of the Ministry of Scientific Research (MINRES) Yaounde, the library of the Ministry of Tourism and that of the Department of Tourism of the University of Yaounde I. In these libraries, dissertations which carried information related to the study were consulted. Information concerning the physical and human environment was also gotten from these libraries. Works consulted gave information on how tourism contributes to the development of many areas around the world and some areas in Cameroon. Information gotten from these libraries helped the researcher to better structure the topic, review literature and to define the problem statement.

The Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies (BUCREP) was also visited. Here, data on the population structure and the ethnographic characteristics of the study area was collected. The base map for this study was collected from the National Institute of Cartography (NIC).

The Ministry of Tourism was consulted to get the laws guiding tourism in Cameroon. The following laws were consulted: Law N° 2004/018 of 22 July 2004 on rules applicable to councils, Law N° 98/006 of 4 April 1998 that relates to touristic activities in Cameroon and the sectorial strategies for the development of tourism in Cameroon.

The internet also served as an important source of recent information and data concerning the functioning of tourism in the world, Africa, and Cameroon. Some dissertations on tourism online were consulted.

The archives of the Regional Delegation of Tourism in Bamenda were also consulted to get information on what has been documented about the tourist potentials of Mbengwi Subdivision. The Mbengwi Urban Council Development Plan was consulted to get information that supplemented the background knowledge of the study area and to see the place of tourism in the council's development plan.

- **Primary sources**

Primary data for this work was generated principally through fieldwork using different techniques. Methods of data collection on the field were through interviews, questionnaire administration and field observation (direct, indirect and participative observation). The instruments used on the field to collect data were interview guides and questionnaires through a stratified random sampling method. Through this method, the villages of MSD were classified according to the types of available touristic potentials and those with more touristic potentials were chosen as sampled villages for the study as shown on table 2 below:

Table 2: Touristic potentials in MSD and sampled villages

NAME VILLAGE	OF	Physical potentials			Human potentials								Total number of touristic potentials per village	Selected villages
		Waterfall	Cave	Forest	Monastery	Monuments	Palace	Artefacts	Fish pond	Waving	Black-smithing	Shrine		
FUNAM				√			√	√				√	5	
KU-BOME		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	10	√
MBENGWI				√			√	√				√	5	
BARAKWE				√			√	√				√	5	
BESSI-FOMUKONG				√			√	√				√	5	
CHENAM				√			√	√				√	5	
CHUP				√			√	√				√	5	
GUNDOM				√			√	√				√	5	
GUNEKU			√	√		√	√	√				√	7	√
KAI				√			√	√				√	5	
KOB			√	√			√	√				√	6	
KOBENYANG			√	√			√	√				√	6	
MBEMI				√			√	√				√	5	
NGWOKWONG				√			√	√				√	5	
NGYEN-MBO				√		√	√	√				√	6	
NJAH-ETU			√	√			√	√		√	√	√	8	√
NJEKWO				√			√	√				√	5	
NJEMETU				√			√	√				√	5	
NJINDOM				√			√	√				√	5	
NJINIBI				√			√	√				√	5	
NYEN				√		√	√	√				√	6	√
TONEKU				√			√	√				√	5	
TUANYANG			√	√			√	√				√	6	
TUDIG				√			√	√				√	5	
TUGI				√			√	√				√	5	
WUMNEBIT				√			√	√				√	5	
WUMNEBUG				√			√	√				√	5	
ZANG-TABI			√	√		√	√	√				√	7	√
ZANG-TEMBENG				√			√	√				√	5	
TOTAL														5

Source: Field data, 2015.

- **Sample frame**

The sample frame for this study was the household population of the five selected villages. MSD is made up of 6641 households following the 2005 general population and housing census in Cameroon. The sample frame for this study was 1715 which is the total number households of the five selected villages in Mbengwi Subdivision.

- **Sample size**

The sample size for this study was selected from the household population because it is easier to administer questionnaires within the households. The sample size chosen for the study was 6.1% based on the household population. This sample size was chosen based on Warford (1994) conception which says that when dealing with a large sample frame, the smaller the sample size as compared to the sample frame the higher the chances of getting a more representative population and when dealing with a smaller sample frame, like in our case (1715), the larger the sample size as compared to the sample frame, the higher the chances of getting a more representative population.

Following this sample size, the number of sampled households for questionnaire administration in each village was calculated using the formula $\frac{K}{100} \times \frac{6.1}{1}$

Where K= number of households

X = multiplication sign

6.1%= sample size

From the total number of households using the above formula, a total number of 104 households were chosen for questionnaire administration. The number of questionnaires administered to each of the five villages was determined by the number of households per village as shown on table 3 below.

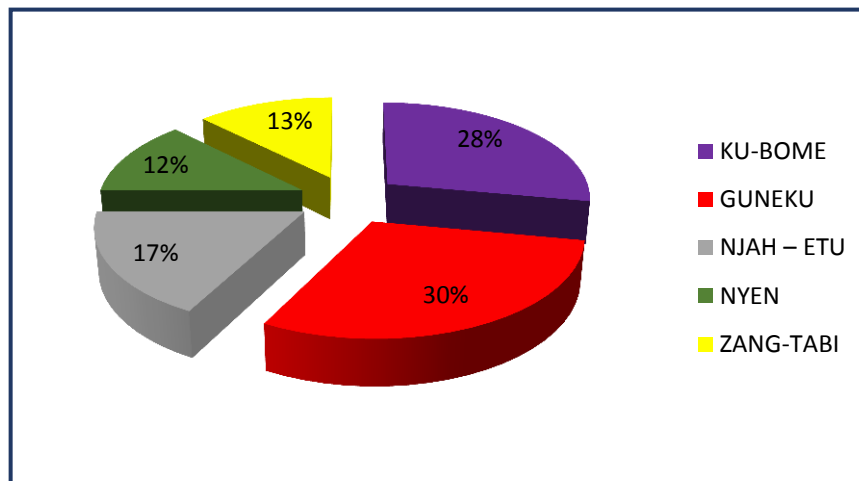
Table 3: Questionnaire administration by households in sampled villages

Name of village	Total number of households	Number of sampled households	Percentage of sampled households
KU-BOME	477	29	27.9
GUNEKU	508	31	29.8
NJAH – ETU	289	18	17.3
NYEN	227	12	12.5
ZANG-TABI	214	13	12.5
Total	1715	104	100.0

Source: BUCREP 2005 and Field data 2015

Out of the 104 questionnaires administered, 29 were administered in Ku-Bome, 31 in Guneku, 18 in Njah-Etu, 13 in Nyen and 13 in Zang-Tabi. The table depicts that villages with higher number of households had more questionnaires as compared to those with fewer numbers of households.

Figure 4 presents the percentage of total number of questionnaire administered per village.



Source: Field data, 2015.

Figure 4: Percentage of questionnaire per selected village

Figure 4 depicts the percentage of questionnaire administered per sampled village. Guneku 30 %, Ku-Bome 28 %, Njah-Etu 17 %, Nyen 12 % and Zang-Tabi 13 %. Guneku had the highest number of questionnaires (30 %) because it has the highest number of households.

Questionnaire distribution technique

The distribution of questionnaires in the sampled villages was done after calculated the path. This was to ensure that information collected should reflect the truth. The following formula was employed in the calculation of the path: $\frac{\text{total number of households}}{\text{number of questionnaires}}$. Using this formula,

Total number of households in all selected villages = 1715

Total number of questionnaire to be distributed = 104

$$\text{Thus } \frac{1715}{104} = 16.4$$

Therefore, questionnaire was administered in between 16 households in each of the sampled villages.

Field Data Collection

The first phase was in March 2015, second phase between July - August 2015 and the last phase in December 2015. These periods were chosen to enable data to be collected in both the dry and rainy seasons. A working calendar was established following the different phases for fieldwork, even though it was modified from time to time because of some unavoidable interruptions. The sites and respondents were selected randomly to collect data which were thereafter analysed and presented.

Phase I

This was the first visit to the field by the researcher. This phase was aimed principally at general field observation. It took place in the month of March 2015 and lasted for one week. The objective of this phase was familiarisation with the study area, to identify the existing touristic potentials in MSD, and to create a collaborative relationship with the different stakeholders in the study area. This first visit was important in that it helped the researcher to observe, identify, evaluate those resources that can serve as touristic potentials with the help of the community and these potentials were snapped. It also helped the researcher to come out with the problem statement and the general view of the available touristic potentials in the area and the classification table of the touristic potentials and choice of sampled villages.

Phase II

The second phase took place in two sub-phases. The first sub-phase was from the 2nd to the 7th of August 2015. This trip was designed for the pre-testing of the questionnaires and to carry out interviews with some resource persons in the area. The pre-testing phase facilitated the restructuring of the questionnaires in order to collect appropriate data for the study. Some pictures were also taken during this phase. The second sub-phase was between the 12th and the 19th of August 2015. This was mainly for questionnaire administration. A total of 57 questionnaires were administered during this period.

Phase III

The third sub-phase took place from 19th to the 30th of December 2015. This trip was mainly for questionnaire administration. The rest of the questionnaires (47) were administered during this phase. This is the period characterised by many festivals where the Meta people showcase their rich culture and tradition to the public. This period coincided with the enthronement ceremony of the Fon of Guneku (30 December). So, the researcher participated in these festivals where some pictures of the traditional manifestation were taken.

Questionnaire administration

Questionnaire administration was one of the main methods used in the collection of primary data on the field. The method used in the distribution of questionnaires was the random sampling technique. This is because the population is homogenous. Given the vastness of the study area and the limited time, the researcher recruited and trained 2 persons who assisted her in the administration of the questionnaires since most of the population is illiterate, while the researcher supervised the persons to ensure that the collection of data was appropriate.

The questionnaire was addressed to the population of Mbengwi Subdivision. It was divided into four sections. Section I: socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents; Section II: identification of touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision; Section III: factors hindering the harnessing of these touristic potentials and section IV: effects of the development of tourism. All together, the questionnaire was made up of 35 questions.

Interviews

Interview was used to collect qualitative data on the interviewee's perspective of the phenomena in question. An interview guide with open or semi-structured questions was used. The targeted group from which interviewees were drawn included traditional rulers, council personnel, government officials, tourism promoters, security agents and tourists met on the field. These people supplied relevant information about tourist potentials and the situation of tourism in MSD. The interviews consisted of direct discussions with some resource person (table 4).

Table 4: Sources of qualitative data on the situation of tourism in MSD

Structures visited	Number of resource persons interviewed	Objectives
Palaces	3 chiefs 4 quarter heads	To assess opinion to visits to touristic sites and to evaluate the flow of tourists to these sites Assess the understanding of importance of tourism to local development.
Local population	11 persons	To assess the local population opinion about the functioning of tourism and their contribution towards its promotion.
Mbengwi Urban Council	2 persons	To assess the place of tourism in the development plan of the council To find out the tourist potentials known by the council To evaluate the role of the council in the development of touristic potentials in their council area.
Senior Divisional office	2 persons	To obtain an authorization to carry out research in MSD To evaluate the SDO's opinion about the development of tourism in the locality.
Regional Delegation of Tourism	2 persons	Find out the level of awareness of the Delegation on the touristic potentials existing in MSD To assess the reasons for which a Division and Subdivisional Delegations are not existing in MSD Find out the Delegations opinion about the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD
National Delegation of Tourism	1 person	To obtain the law that is guiding the functioning of tourism in Cameroon To obtain statistics about the tourism situation in Cameroon
Promoters of tourism	2 hotel personnel	To evaluate the number of tourists that lodge in the hotels in MSD Find out the appreciation of tourists to the services of the hotels in MSD
Security department	1 person	To find out the rate of security of the area To also find out the role that can be played by the security department in the promotion of tourism in MSD

Source: Field data 2015-2016

Interview with the local community

Interview with the community was to evaluate personal views of a common Meta man about tourism in the study area. In this light the following people were interviewed: Mr Chick Emmanuel, Mr Akum Samuel and Pa Foncha of Njah-Etu Village, Mr. Njong Robert, Immaculate and Mr Muki Daniel of Gunekue village and Pa Forsah and Mr Nyaa Hans of Ku Bome; Mr Akum Leonard and Njem Rita of Zang Tabi; Dr Fomunyen of Nyen village. Both of them affirmed that they are aware of tourism and that their villages possess touristic potentials but because of the lack of organization in the sector, they do not reap anything from the business. They went further to say that people come and visit some of the sites but nothing is paid thus tourism has no impact on local development.

Interview with traditional authorities

To have the opinion of the traditional rulers of MSD, the Fon of Nyen, Regent of Zang Tabi and Guneku were interviewed. From these interview, it was discovered that, the Meta people still hold firm to their tradition and most of their rich touristic resources are considered traditionally sacred thus non-indigenes do not have access to them. The Fon of Nyen, HRH Fon Fomuyen who is a Christian declared that one of his objectives is to see how the sacred and mystical part of tradition can be eliminated so that these sites can be accessible to tourists which help fetch income for the Meta community.

Interview with the Mbengwi Urban Council

The Mbengwi Urban Council was visited and 1st assistant Mayor Mr Bernard Bah and a staff Mr Njong Robert were interviewed Mr Bernard Bah revealed that the council even though are

interested in tourism does nothing to invest in that sector as they lack technicians who are experts of that field, so no budget is set up for tourism development. He continued that the council is interested in sectors that fetch more money for the council than a sleeping tourism. He affirmed that the Subdivision is very rich in touristic potentials and that these potentials have not been harnessed to bring in income into the area. He further reiterated that Mbengwi is a Divisional Headquarter and ought to have a Divisional Delegation with experts or technicians to work with the council to handle the sector but there is none.

Interview with government officials

The Regional Delegate Mr Pezumbia Philip and Mr Mundi Valery a staff in the Regional Delegation of Tourism was interviewed on the 28th December 2015 and 6th of August respectively after several cancellations of rendezvous with the Divisional Delegate as a result of his charged scheduled. They affirmed that they are aware of the touristic riches in Mbengwi and that the government is slow but steady in the creation of divisional delegations in the North West. They also asserted that for the moment only three divisions in the North West Region have a delegation. They further frowned at the fact that Mbengwi Subdivision shows no interest in tourism because during yearly seminars organized in Bamenda for council in order to create a tourism board, which is a step toward the creation of a delegation, Mbengwi has never been represented.

Interview with the security officials

The Brigade Commander of Mbengwi Gendarmerie post was interviewed on the 3rd of August 2015 on the security situation of Mbengwi. He confirmed that there is a good security in Mbengwi. He went further to say that tourists usually come in to ask for guidance and protection during their stay in Mbengwi and so far no case of aggression has been reported.

Hotel authorities

The Abbi Fall hotel and Shalom hotel of Mbengwi Central was visited and the authorities affirmed that very few tourists come in and lodge. They affirmed that they are satisfied with their services even though tourists rarely lodge in their hotels.

Interview with tourists

An interview guide was prepared for tourists because during the researcher's first visit to the field, it was very difficult to determine the number of tourists who visit the area. Also, the touristic sites do not keep records of tourists' visits and most of the tourists lodge in the Regional Headquarters Bamenda. A total of 5 tourists were interviewed. They both affirm that their curiosity were satisfied but for the fact that the journey to the touristic sites was very tedious and risky.

Direct and participative observation

The researcher took part in cultural manifestations during the December visit in which some pictures were taken. During this manifestation, the researcher was opportune to evaluate the attractiveness of the traditional manifestations of MSD to tourists. Direct and participative observation was carried out simultaneously with interviews with tourists.

2.4.4 Data analyses

This entails the treatment of data collected on the field during the research work. The data collected was analysed to get information that will either confirm or reject the stated hypotheses. These data was analysed using the software program IBM SPSS and CSPro. This allows us to collect faster and easier datum from questionnaires. The input mask makes a control input automatically by programs that are integrated. Microsoft Excel was used to

come out with the graphs. The Chi square test was used to measure the validity of the hypotheses.

2.4.5 DATA PRESENTATION

The result from the field through questionnaire method is presented in frequency and cross tables, on graphs, pie charts, tables and flow diagrams. Information gotten through interviews is presented in plain literature form in the text while photos and plates represent the photographic evidence from the field.

2.5 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE FIELD

This research work encountered a number of difficulties during the course of the study. Amongst the difficulties encountered are:

- **Inaccessibility**

The access to the villages was very difficult because of the poor road network. Except for two of the villages that lie along the Mbengwi Bamenda road that is tarred, the rest of MSD is made of earth roads which are seasonal. This problem was more alarming during the second phase of field visits. This phase which was carried out in August is characterized by heavy rainfall. The heavy down pour which occurred almost every day caused the roads to be very muddy and slippery making access to the study area difficult. Furthermore, because of the bad roads and the hilly nature of the terrain, the means of transport was by motor bikes that charged very high price. And in other cases, the researcher was forced to access some parts of the study area through trekking because they have no roads at all. The combination of long trekking and the cold weather made the research a very difficult venture especially as the researcher was suffering from health crisis.

- **High cost**

The research work was financially demanding as it required several field trips. Also, most of the respondents in the villages ask for tips before they could respond to the questionnaires or allowed to be interviewed. So the researcher had to do some motivation gestures as offering them beer, palm wine or money. High cost was also incurred in transportation. The research during each trip to the villages had to hire a bike rider who was to wait for the researcher since bikes could only be easily bought from the main town of Mbengwi. Most of these bike men tax high prices arguing that they would have been working during the time they are meant to wait for the researcher. Also, giving the fact that most of the targeted population could not read and write, the researcher had to hire people to work with her on the field in order to help translate the questions to the mother tongue and Pidgin English, also to fill the questionnaire from the respondents' answers. All these contributed in making the research costly.

- **Time consuming**

The research required a lot of time such as in the distribution of the questionnaire and the meeting the resource persons. Since most of the sampled population could not read nor write, the researcher in most cases is supposed to read the questions to the respondent and filled answers on the questionnaires. This took so much time and very few questionnaires could be distributed a day the reason for which the researcher thought it wise to employ people to help her. It is also for this problem that the researcher had to make several trips to the field.

- **Unwillingness of the respondents to give information**

Most of the respondents were unwilling to answer the questionnaires or allowed to be interviewed. Also, information about some strategic aspects of the village was difficult to get as the respondents considered it as their village secrets. Also, the hotel managers refused to

give out information on the characteristic of people who lodge in their hotels. They virtually refused to let out their records. This made it difficult for the researcher to have information on the number of tourists that come into MSD passing through their services. Thus the reason why the sample frames for tourists was not available in the work.

- **Unavailability of Statistics on Tourism in MSD**

Mbengwi Subdivision (MSD) doubles in function as both the Divisional headquarter of Momo and a Sub-divisional Headquarter of MSD. According to its status, it is supposed to have both the Divisional and Sub-divisional Delegations of Tourism but these delegations are absent. So, it was difficult for the researcher to have statistics concerning tourism activities and flow in this area except first-hand information which was not easy to get given the time allocated for this work.

- **Unavailability of Some Resource Persons**

Most of the targeted population for interview was not available and some of those available kept cancelling rendezvous. For example, the rendezvous with the Regional Delegate of Bamenda was cancelled several times justifying it to administrative occupations. As a result interview was done with the staff of this office. For this reason, the researcher had to plan a special trip to Bamenda from Yaounde just to meet the Regional Delegate, thus making the research more expensive. Also, despite the several visits made to the Mbengwi Council Office, the researcher during her time being in the field did not succeed to meet the Mayor, the reason for which it was the 1st Assistant Mayor that was interviewed.



PART II: RESEARCH AND EXPLOITATION OF DATA

This part constitutes chapters three and four. Chapter three presents the various touristic potentials of MSD that can be harnessed to promote tourism. Chapter four presents tourist related stakeholders, the strategies they have put in place to harness touristic potentials in the area and the constraints to the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD.

CHAPTER THREE: MSD: AN AREA ENDOWED WITH TOURISTIC POTENTIALS

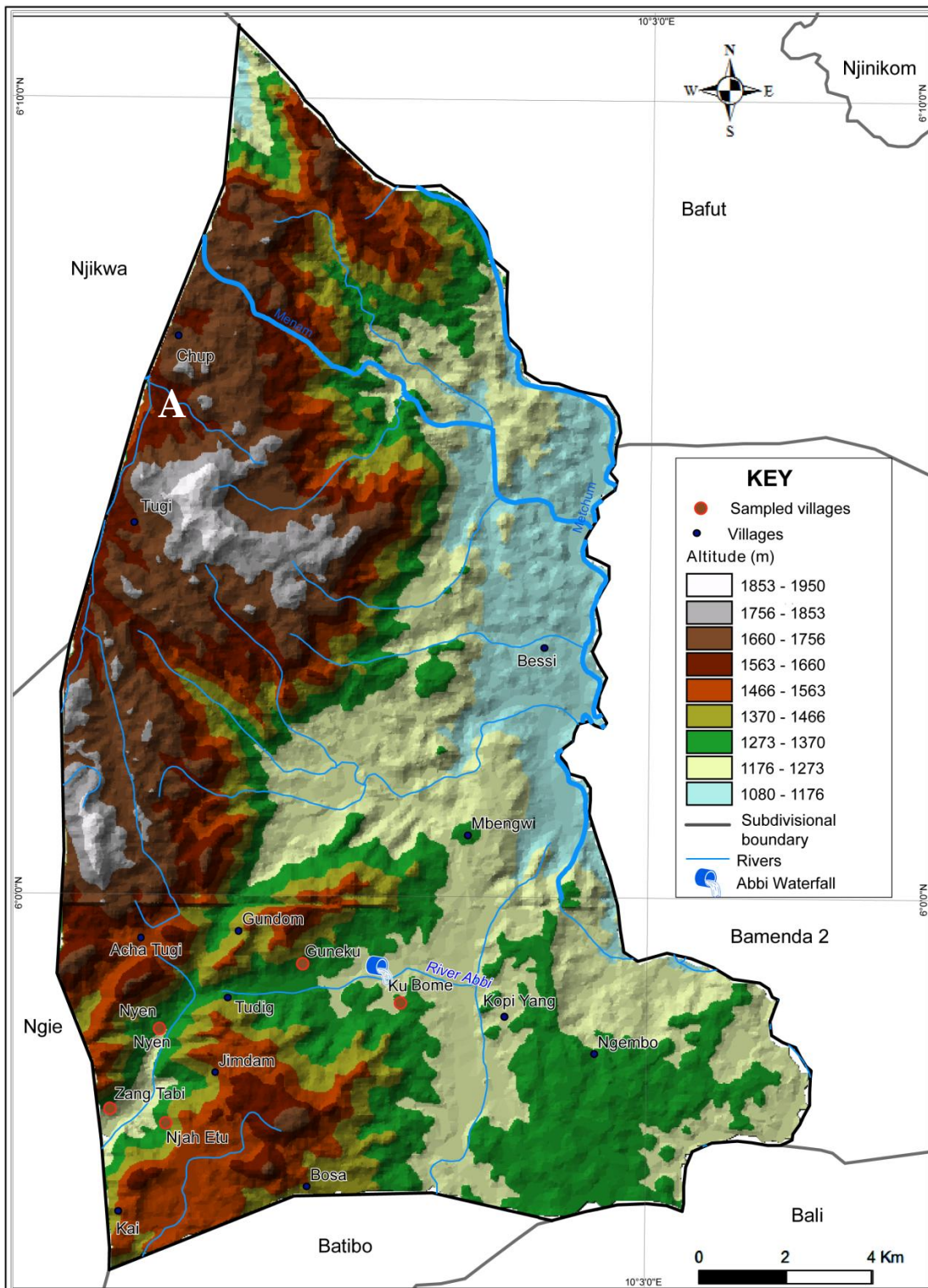
This chapter presents the various touristic potentials available in Mbengwi Subdivision (MSD). These potentials are grouped into two main groups, which are physical and human touristic potentials. The chapter further shows the frequencies of visits of the various potentials, the control of the sites and cartographic representation of the touristic potentials existing in the study area

3.1 PHYSICAL TOURISTIC POTENTIALS IN MBENGWI SUBDIVISION

Mbengwi Subdivision is endowed with several physical touristic attractions. Among them are relief, climate, vegetation, waterfall and caves.

3.1.1. Attractive undulating relief

Mbengwi Subdivision is characterized by an undulating and picturesque relief. The relief is composed of chains of hills and valleys with appealing shapes. The composition of high and lowlands gives Mbengwi Subdivision an attractive view with pleasant scenery that can be interesting to tourists who will like to enjoy the wonders of nature. The subdivision is generally surrounded by a long chain of hills which rise between 1000-2000m. These hills provide an opportunity for mountain tourism to be practiced. Examples of such hills include the Tendum, Acha, Tudig, Zang-Tabi, Fringyen hills and the “shoulder hill” of Nyen village with attractive view. The hills are wonderful potentials as they are the source of the numerous streams and rivers of this locality (figure 5). The shoulder hill of Nyen for example has a height of about 18000m and interview with the Chief of this village, HRH Chief Fomunyen declares that the village community has as one of their projects to harness shoulder hill for mountain sports. Most of these hilltops are made up of rocky surfaces which is the reason for the numerous caves we have in MSD. The lowlands cover most of the Bome and Medig zones which are areas drained by the many rivers and thus provide fertile soils for agricultural activities that can supply enough food to tourists. Figure 5 below portrays the general relief of MSD.



Source : Topographic map of Cameroon, NIC, 1963

Figure 5: Attractive undulating relief of Mbengwi Subdivision

These hills provide an excellent watershed for the numerous streams that flow in the area. These streams are touristic potentials in that it can be harnessed to provide water in the area. Water is an essential resource for tourism. The lowlands are found along the banks of River Menchum covering the villages of Bessi and part of Mbengwi village. The highest points are found in Acha Tugi and Tugi villages. The highest peaks are mostly made up of rocky

surfaces. Very appealing is the magic stone hill of Tugi where we find a large tree separating two rocks (Photo 3). It is commonly known of the magic twin rock hill.



Source: Akum, 2016.

Photo 29: The attractive magic twin-stone hill of Tugi village

Point A shows the twin rocks. These rocks have been separated equally by a large tree labelled B. This hill has been a source of attraction to visitors. In addition to its attractiveness, the rock can be exploited (quarry) for economic purposes.

3.1.2. A cool mild and pleasant climate

The climate of Mbengwi Subdivision is the sub-equatorial climate which is directly influenced by its relief. The temperature of the area varies with altitude; valleys are warmer as compared to the hills. MSD has an average yearly temperature of 30°C. Acha-Tugi, which is the hilliest area of the locality, registers the lowest daily temperature of this area (about 12°C). The area experiences two seasons: the rainy season that starts from mid-October to mid-March. This period is characterized by excessive rains that render the roads muddy and slippery and the dry season of 4 to 5 months which starts from mid-March to mid-October. The Subdivision has an annual rainfall of 1800-2600mm with about 230 days of rainfall. The average yearly and monthly temperature of MSD is represented on the table below:

Table 5: Average monthly and yearly temperature for Mbengwi Subdivision for 2012

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average maximum	30.34	32.18	32.61	33.22	32.65	31.18	32.09	32.99	32.54	35.01	35.33	32.54
Average minimum	12.57	13.96	13.76	15.54	15.31	14.97	15.42	14.56	15.49	14.80	14.71	14.74

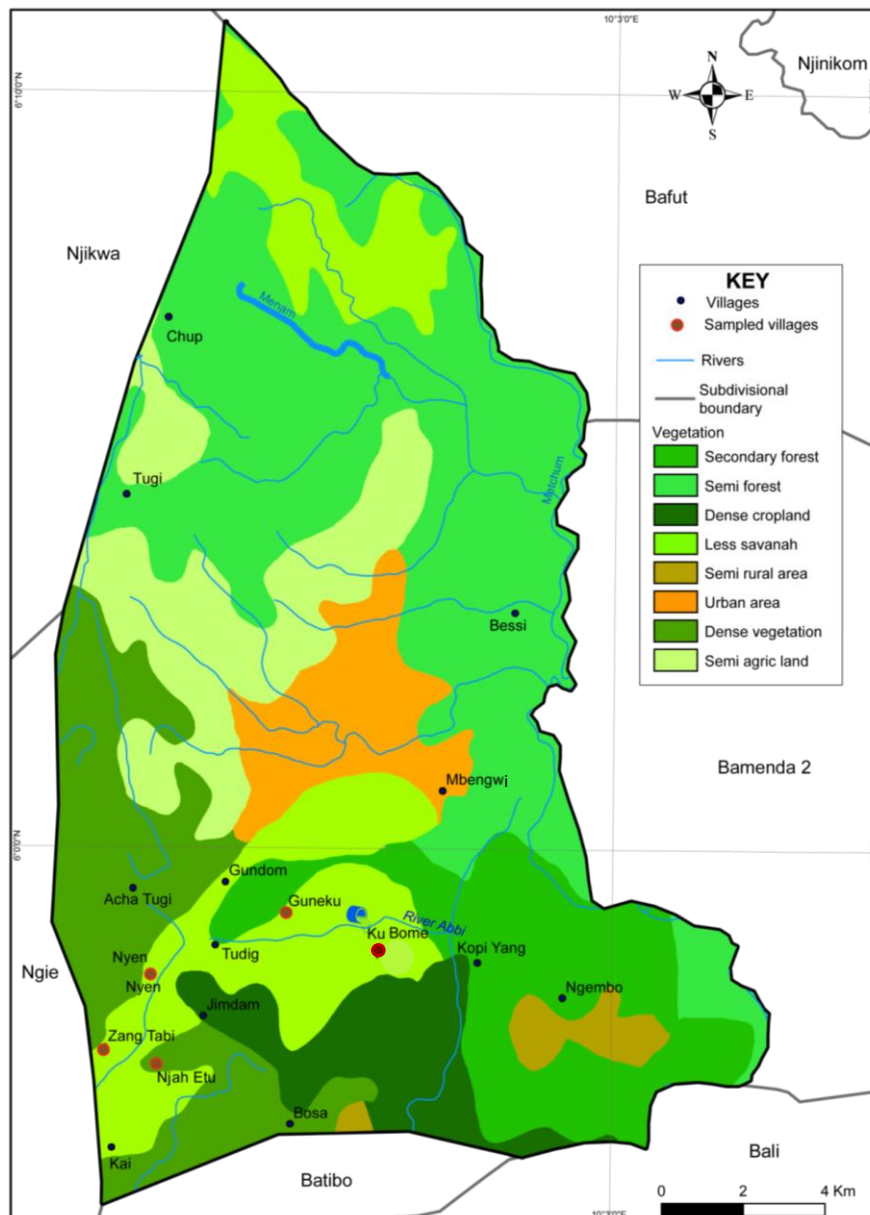
Source: Mbengwi council development plan, 2012.

From table 5, January and February are the coldest months with the morning and nights very cold and the afternoons very hot. This climatic variation is an added advantage to MSD as it is good for visitors from both cold and hot regions of the world. The climate of upland areas of MSD is favourable to visitors from cold areas and the valleys for visitors from the hot areas of the world. The climate of MSD therefore is benevolent to anyone who will want to visit this area as it gives an opportunity for tourists to enjoy fresher conditions on the hills or warmer conditions in the valleys.

3.1.3. Diverse fauna and flora

The vegetation of Mbengwi Central Subdivision is made up of both semi forest and savannah, with grassland dominating (figure 6). A view of the vegetation portrays hills with savannah vegetation; the forest appears in patches along the numerous water courses, where two hills meet and around most palaces. The composition of forest and grassland gives a variety view of the area. This variety of forest and grassland adds to the beauty of the area. Among the vegetation species in MSD is the raffia palm that grows in the swampy areas. They are tall lanky bamboos and broad fronts occupying mostly the valley areas in the villages. Bamboos from this plant are used for the construction of houses and hedges, fuel wood and furniture design which are some of the touristic attractions of the area. Fibres are used for weaving bags, dresses, baskets etc. The sweet whitish and widely consumed raffia palm wine comes from the raffia palm. This wine is widely used for consumption and for traditional sacrifices. The area is also made up of several oil palms whose nuts are used for oil production. The process of oil production in MSD could also be appealing to tourists.

Also, of great societal importance and touristic attraction are the eucalyptus trees which are found in this locality. Even though eucalyptus are ecologically damaging (Kindzeka, 2000), they are attractive when viewed en masse as the appearance resembles gallery forest. The patches of natural forests which are very insignificant are found in this area mostly around palaces. They contain several species of plants that are of medicinal value, thus the promotion of medical tourism. Of interest also, are the various animal species found in these forests. There are animals such as monkeys, snakes, squirrels, moles. Interview with a native of Guneku revealed that in the past the area used to be covered by forest and there were animals such as lions and tigers but because man has destroyed the forest, some of these animals have migrated or have been killed. Development of tourism in this area will also contribute in the preservation of these forests and the environment. Figure 6 below shows the diverse vegetation of MSD.



Source : Landsat image 2015, administrative map of Cameroon, NIC 2014

Figure 6: Diverse vegetation of Mbengwi Subdivision

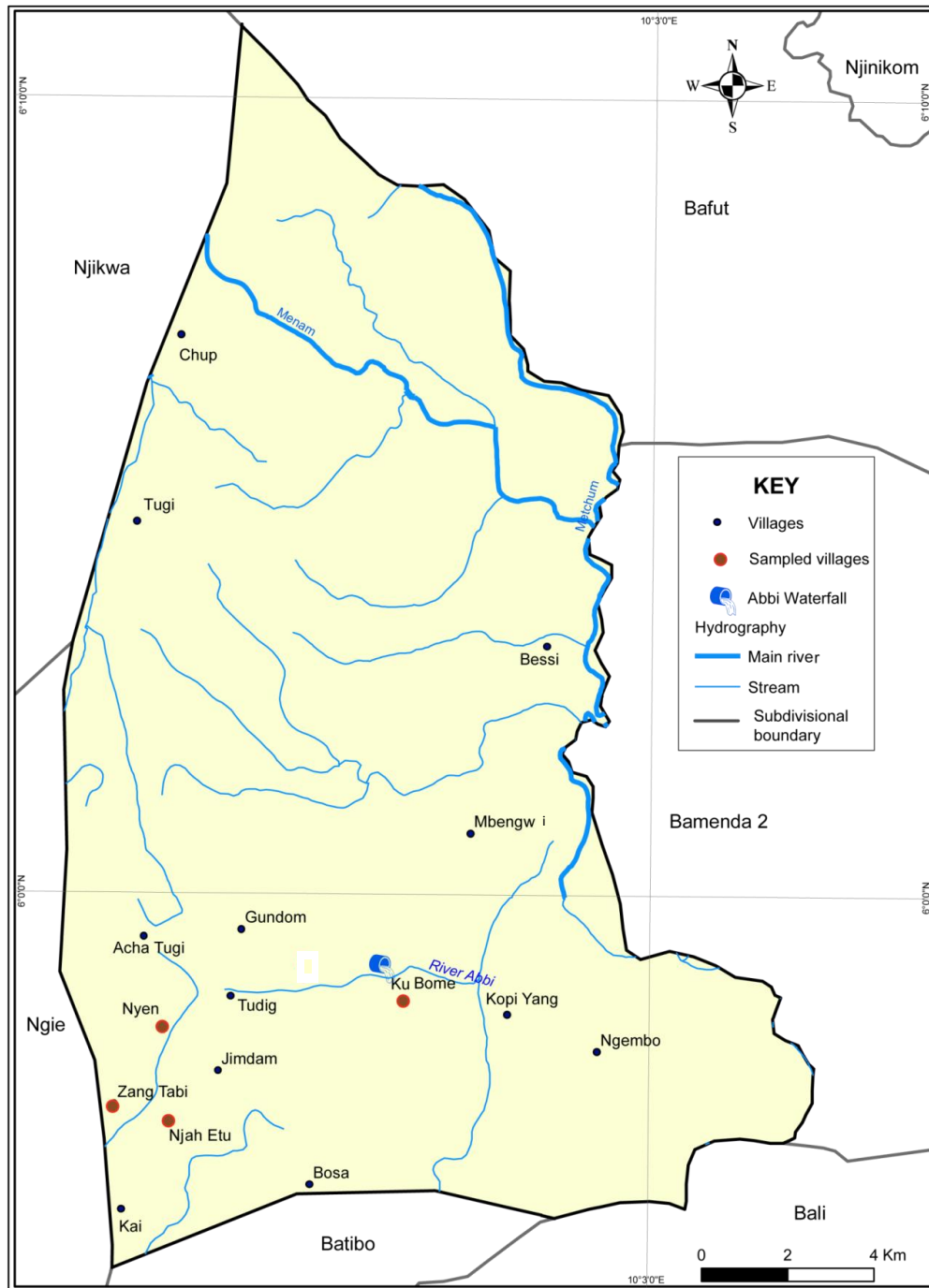
Figure 6 reveals that the Subdivision is dominated by savannah vegetation. Also, we realised that there is no primary forest, the forest that exist here are secondary forests. Interview conducted with a village official revealed that MSD used to have natural forests which have disappeared today because of human activities. Thus, the development of tourism in this area will help to reduce further destruction thus, contribute to environmental conservation.

3.1.4. Dense hydrographic network

The relief of MSD shows that it is hilly area. These hills provide a good number of watersheds in the area. Water is one of the world’s most precious natural resources. In tourism, it is both a critical resource and an asset for most destinations. The Secretary General of the United Nation World Tourism Organization asserted during its 2013 World Tourism Day Celebration that:

“water is a very important resource for the tourism industry as it is used in the hotels for drinking, waste disposal and in the restaurants and accounts for up to 10% of utility bills in hotels” (WTO, 2012).

Mbengwi Subdivision possesses water sources from the numerous streams and rivers that flow in the area. Mbengwi Subdivision is blessed with two important catchment areas which are the Fringyen and Tugi. The presence of these watersheds can encourage the development of watershed tourism. It has many streams and few major rivers. Of interest is the River Abbi, which is interrupted by a waterfall at Mile 18 (Ku Bome), a wonderful touristic site. The hydrographic network of Mbengwi Subdivision is shown on figure 7.



Source : Administrative map of Cameroon, NIC, 2014

Figure 7 : Dense hydrographic network of MSD

Figure 7 portrays the dense hydrological network of MSD. This is an added advantage in MSD as mentioned by the United Nations Secretary General in 2013, that water is very

important in tourism development. This water can be harness to supply the hotels, restaurants and even the local population. The water can also be harnessed to supply water for irrigation during the dry season in order to ensure enough food supply in the hotels and restaurants in particular and the region in general.

3.1.5. A magnificent waterfall

Mbengwi Subdivision possesses a waterfall which is the second highest waterfall in the North West Region. A waterfall is known in the Meta language as “ejuiŌ”. The Abbi Fall has a height of about 152m and is located in Ku-Bome village about 27Km from Bamenda town. River Abbi on which the fall is located takes its rise from Bali highlands to the south of Mbengwi. This fall has been a main source of attraction to tourists to this region.



Source: Akum, 2015

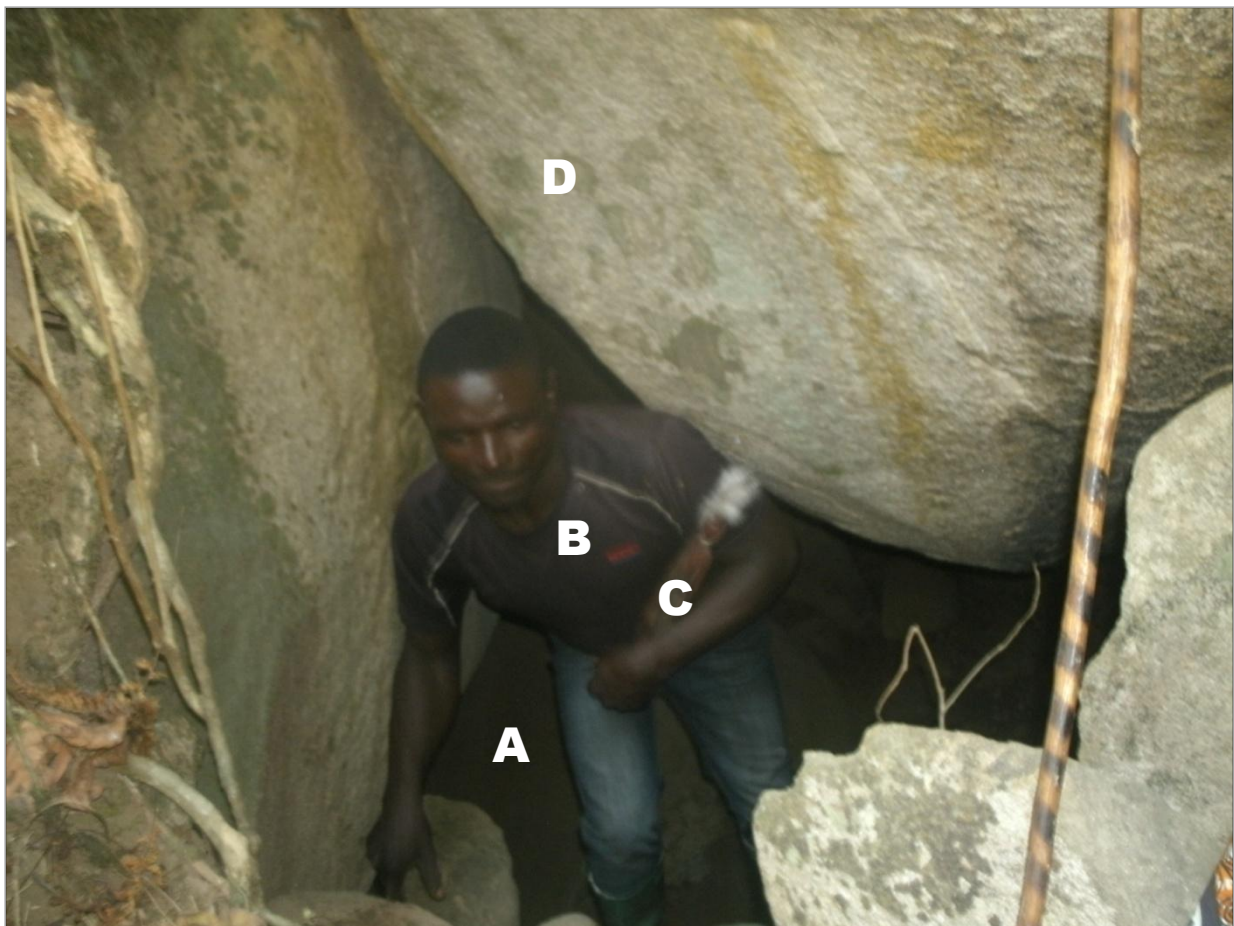
Photo 30: Magnificent Abbi Waterfall of Ku-Bome

The River Abbi takes its rise from the Bali highlands and flows into the Mbengwi where it is interrupted by a Fall in Mile 8. The location of this fall along the main road of Mbengwi is an added advantage as accessibility to it by tourists is easy. The height of the Fall (152m) is a potential that can be harnessed for electricity production to supplement electricity supply which will also contribute to tourism and local development. This Fall can also be harnessed to attract tourists who may want to visit it for leisure.

3.1.6. Mystical and historical caves

Appealing and of great interest to tourists in this region are the numerous caves. Mbengwi Subdivision is blessed with many caves because of its physical characteristics such as the hilly and stony nature of the area. These caves known in the Meta language as “Nsuem” are found in almost all the villages of this subdivision. To most of the caves are attached a lot of mysticism. As a result, access to these caves is restricted, while others are inaccessible because they had been abandoned for long and have become home for wild animals. Of great interest is of Guneku cave which is accessible to an extent and is widely known. These caves are of great historical importance. Caves were used as refuge during the numerous wars fought in this region and also during the world wars. Interviews with village officials revealed that these caves have been abandoned for very long because of the absence of wars and have become homes for very wild animals and is not safe for human beings. In order to

visit some other caves, visitors need to undergo some traditional rites. There are others such as the Guneku cave which has been pulling so many tourists. Field research reveals that this is the most attractive and visited cave in the area. Interview conducted with the palace official also revealed certain rites have to be performed before the cave can be visited. Also entrance into the cave is restricted except certain conditions are fulfilled. Interview with the Regent of Guneku revealed that only princesses of non-child bearing age and prince can get into the cave. He went further to say that if one access the cave without permission from the palace, you will never come out of the cave. He further told the researcher that in some years back, a hunter got into the cave to catch an animal and could not come out until some traditional rites were performed. As such visitors can only view the cave from outside as seen on photo 3 below.



Source: Akum, 2015

Photo 31: Guneku historical and mystical Cave

A- entrance into the cave,

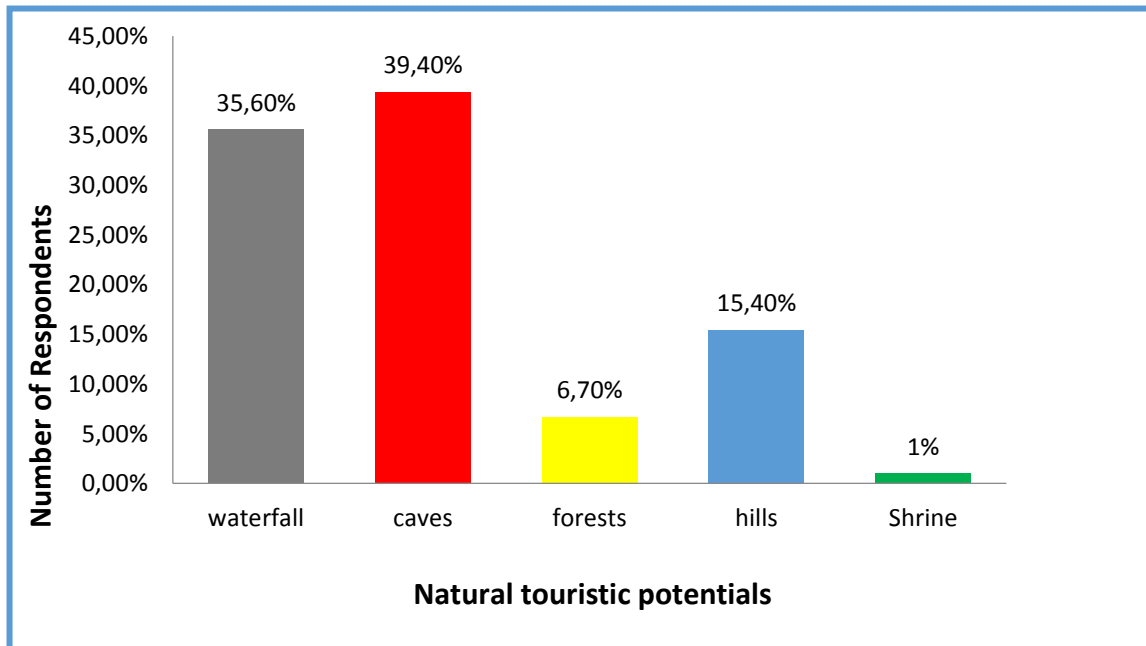
B- native coming out of the cave carrying the “big mami” (C) which is like a laissez-passé to enter the cave.

C - “big mami”, a statute used to enter into the cave

D- suspended rocks of the cave. The suspended rock of the access to the cave very risky as it may fall on the visitor.

Without the ‘big mami’ you cannot get into the cave and come out. “Big mami” can only be carried by prince and princesses of non-child bearing age (Interview with Pa Dan, 2015). The restrictions and mysticism attached to this cave is a big hindrance to its harnessing.

Some of these physical potentials presented above have been pulling visitors to the area. From the questionnaire prepared for the study, a question was asked to know the frequency of visitation of the various natural touristic sites and the results from the respondents are presented on the figure 8 below.



Source: Field data, 2015

Figure 8 : Most visited natural touristic sites in MSD

Figure 8 depicts that the cave is the most visited touristic site in MSD (39.4%). This is followed by the waterfall with 35.6%. The least visited is the shrine with 1%. Interview conducted with the quarter head of Njah-Etu palace revealed that the cave of Guneku is widely advertised locally by the local media and the population and internationally by the local population who travel out of the country. Also, unlike the other caves in MSD the Guneku cave is granted access by the chief just to view the outer part while other caves in the MSD, visitors are not even allowed to approach them. In addition to the fact that the Abbi fall is well known, it is accessible. Its location along the Bamenda-Mbengwi highway which is a tarred road renders visit easy and less tedious. The shrine for example is least visited (2.9%) because of the traditional restrictions placed on it. Investigation through interview with the village authorities in Zang-Tabi village declare that the shrine is the “heart” or secret place of the village and access to them are restricted especially to strangers except on particular occasions after initiation and tourists hardly accept to undergo this initiation process.

3.2. HUMAN TOURISTIC POTENTIALS

Apart from the physical potentials that are found in this region, we also have human touristic potentials that can be of great interest to the tourists. Amongst them we have, the hospitality of the people, the magnificent palaces, monuments and handicraft activities.

3.2.1. Hospitality of the population

The people of MSD are known as the Meta people. They speak a common language, the Meta language which is a factor of their unity. The Meta people are humble, respectful and welcoming. They are generous and see it as a privilege to assist visitors. Sharing of food and drinks (palm wine) are some of the major ways to cement social relationship and to express a high value on human company in the community. They are ready to host strangers who wish to pass a night. There is belief that their ancestors visit them as strangers and he who refuses

to welcome a stranger has refused blessings from his ancestor (interview with a native). Field research reveals that this attitude is gradually being eroded because some strangers have abused this generosity through unruly behaviours. Strangers who come to MSD are assisted to visit any place they desire except the sacred places. This hospitable nature of the population is a factor that can promote tourism because there is an assurance of the safety of tourists who may love to visit MSD.

3.2.2. Magnificent palaces

MSD as mentioned early is made up of 29 villages with 31 palaces. These palaces are very interesting touristic sites. These palaces with their sacred shrines are usually equipped with many cultural artefacts such as monuments, statues, traditional stools with beautiful designs, walls designed with animal skins and drawings. Outstanding in MSD is the Guneku palace which has drawn many tourists both from home and abroad. Plate 1 shows an out view of the Guneku palace.



Photo 32: Entrance to the Guneku Palace



Photo 33: Entrance to the Fon's residence in the palace



Photo 34: Statue depicting the supremacy of the Fon



Photo 35: Statue depicting the welcoming nature of the Meta people

Source: Akum, 2015

Plate 1: Splendid traditional palace of Guneku

- A. Entrance to the Guneku Palace. At the centre of the entrance we have the statue of Jesus carrying the cross. To the right of Jesus' statue is a lamb and next to it is the angel. These portray Christianity.
- B. Entrance to the Fon's Residence in the Palace. The statue of crocodile on both sides still indicating the power possessed by the Fon. Point 1 on photo 6 depicts the Fon seated in the midst of a lion (2). This image indicates the supremacy of the Fon (interview, Pa Dan)

Point 1 on photo 7 is a status of a man carrying a calabash with palm wine to serve a visitor (2). This portrays the welcoming nature of the Meta people.

In addition to the traditional implications of these statuses, it portrays the potentials in the people of MSD in works of art as interview revealed that these articles were carved by natives of the village.

3.2.3. Historic and cultural shrines

MSD has many shrines in which rituals are performed for cleansing and blessing to ensure the wellbeing of the local population. There are two main types of shrine in MSD: the historical shrine and the cultural shrines. The historical shrine like that of Zang-Tabi village can be granted access to tourists but the traditional shrine found in all the palaces in the Subdivision are sacred and access to them by strangers are not easily granted. The historical shrine of Zang-Tabi has been of a great attraction to tourists. This shrine represents the origin of the Meta Clan. It is made of up 7 stones planted to represent the 7 brothers who left Tadjon in Widikum and first settled in Zang Tabi. From here they separated to form the 7 main villages that make up MSD. This shrine is always visited during the annual festivals for rituals and villages also visit this shrine for ritual during their village festivals (Interview with the quarter head of Zang-Tabi). This shrine is a good touristic site for tourists who will like to trace the origin of the Meta man or carry out historical tourism. We also have the traditional shrine which is found in all the palaces. These are secret places and are only visited during special occasions. Access to them is not easily granted except on special occasions. For example, the researcher was opportune to visit the traditional shrine of Guneku because she happened to be present during the funeral celebration of the Fon. Plate 2 shows the visit to the village shrine during the funeral ceremony of the missing Fon of Guneku.



Source: Akum, 2015.

Plate 2: Traditional shrine of Guneku Village

- A. *The Guneku village traditional shrine visited on the occasion of the mourning of the missing Fon to perform traditional rites. At this shrine prayers are offered to the ancestor for protection and names considered as bringing ill-luck are changed.*

- B. *Items for the traditional rite to the ancestors to pilot the occasion of the mourning of the missing Fon of Guneku village and to accept the present Fon.*
- C. *Traditional authority pouring libation at the shrine during the traditional rite of the mourning of the missing Fon.*
- D. *The Fon of Guneku village carrying the royal walking stick. This is the stick that denotes Fons of MSD.*
- E. *Some tourists who visited Guneku village during the memorial ceremony taking part in the rite at the traditional shrine.*

Field survey revealed that this shrine is visited when there is an important event such as cultural festivals, the mourning of a missing Fon and enthronement of a new Fon. At this shrine, prayers are offered to the ancestors to pilot the occasion, protect the Fon, the village and for the prosperity of the people. Also, the tradition does not allow the visit of the traditional shrine by visitors except of certain occasions.

3.2.4. Attractive monuments

Mbengwi Subdivision has monuments that communicate important history and past events of the Meta people. For example, the status at the entrance the Government Bilingual High School Mbengwi portrays the culture and livelihood activities of the Meta people; the monument at the Council premises which represents the 50th anniversary celebration of the nation Cameroon, the monument at the Mbengwi park which represents the different forms of communication in Meta while the monument opposite the Mbengwi District Hospital portrays a typical Meta woman who works hard to protect and provide for her family and the list may continue.



Photo 36: Some forms of communication in Meta Photo 37: Hard working nature of a Meta woman Photo 38: Typical Meta man
Source: Akum, 2015

Plate 3: Monuments reflecting Meta traditional values

Image 1 on photo 8 is the traditional horn. The horn is blown in MSD to announce the coming out of a Fon during enthronement and during traditional festivals. Image 2 is the calling drum. It is played when there is an important message to pass to the community. The drum is played to different rhythm with each of them carrying different messages. For example, to announce the 'loss' of a fon, death of the queen mother, community work, the summoning of quarter heads to the palace (interview with Pa Forsah, August 2015).

Photo 9 depicts a woman backing a baby and carrying a basket of food items. It depicts the hardworking characteristic of the Meta woman, her commitment and love as a mother, and a basket of food on her head depicting her dedication in providing for her family.

Photo 10 shows a man sitting on a traditional stool serving himself with palm wine. This depicts one of the traditional values of a Meta man which is the love for his culture.

These images are very attractive and also show the rich potentials of the Meta people in craft work.

3.2.5. Creative and attractive handicraft work

The handicraft activities carried out in the study area produce articles that are very attractions to tourists. These activities include; weaving, carving and blacksmithing.

- Weaving

Weaving here involves the transformation of raffia palm into bags, thatch ceiling, baskets etc. The activity involves both men and women. The women are mostly involved in basket making while the men in bags and ceiling making. The products are produced both for home use and for sale in the local markets and out of MSD. The baskets are used for storing household items and for transportation of goods to markets and also for rituals such as twin offering baskets. These articles are very attractive and tourists can buy them for souvenirs when they visit MSD. Plate 4 shows some products of weaving in MSD.



Photo 40: Fibre bags produced in Njah-Etu



Photo 39: Attractive traditional caps

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

Plate 4: Elegant products of weaving

- A. A weaver in Njah-Etu village with his products.
- B. Wall mates made out of fibre use for home decoration
- C. Female bags made out of fibre carried especially during traditional ceremonies
- D. Male bags made out of fibre carried especially during traditional ceremonies
- E. Caps weaved out of wool. They are made of different colours and shapes. They are won by both men and women.

These articles are widely used especially during traditional ceremonies within and outside the village. Tourists who visit MSD may be attracted to these articles and may buy some for souvenir.

- Carving

The activity involves mostly men. The products fabricated include stools, masks, walking sticks, boxes, statues, drums use for dancing and communication, wooden household utensils such as spoons, dishes, mortars etc. Tourists will finds these things so attractive and may even have the opportunity to buy some for souvenirs.



Photo 41: Decorative statues carved out of wood



Photo 42: Mask and traditional stool carved from wood
Source: Akum, 2015

Plate 5: Varied products of carving depicting Meta traditional value

A- Status of a Man with two wives. This status portrays the primitive nature (necked) of the early Meta people in the past.

B- A mask won by jujus during traditional dances.

C- The traditional stools for Fon and his notables. They are of different ranks.

These products in addition to their attractiveness, portrays potential in craft work in this locality. The quantity of dust that was found on these articles indicates their duration in the carver’s house. Interview with the carver revealed that he is less committed to carving again because it fetches him no income as there are limited occasions for him to expose his products. He also declared that many carvers have abandoned the art, the reason why there are very few carvers today and mostly aged people. This indicates that with time, some of these rich cultural practices may disappear if not revived.

- Blacksmithing

This is another activity which is common in Mbengwi Subdivision that can be of interest to tourists. This activity just like carving involves mostly men. This activity is carried out mostly in Njah-Etu village which is usually referred to by the Meta people as “Japan in Africa”. The people use worn iron, smelt it using traditional method to produce article such as knives, hoes, gongs, Dane guns, bangles, spears, cutlasses etc (interview with a blacksmith). These articles are of various shapes depending on the creativity of the producer. The process of production and the products from it can be very attractive to tourists who may visit this village. Plate 6 below shows a blacksmith in Njah-Etu with some articles produced from blacksmithing.



Photo 43: A blacksmith in his workshop



Photo 44: Some products of blacksmithing

Source: Akum, 2015

Plate 6: A blacksmith and some products of blacksmithing

- A. A Blacksmith in Njah-Etu village in his workshop.
- B. Raw material to be melted. This consists of old metals of broken holes, knives and cutlasses that are melted to form new products
- C. Fire place used in melting the iron. The blacksmith burns kennels to have energy in which the metals are heated.
- D. Some products of blacksmithing. The products include knives for tapping and household uses, cutlasses, holes, etc.

These produced as revealed by the blacksmith are sold mostly in the local markets. Thus tourism development will help to widen the market of these produce, increase his income and offer him a means to acquire other life necessities leading to a multiplier effect.

3.2.6. Colourful cultural manifestations

There are several occasions in Mbengwi Subdivision in which the people show case their culture. Some of these occasions include marriages, birth celebrations, death celebrations, Fon's enthronement and annual cultural festivals. The 29 villages in Mbengwi Subdivision belong each to a cultural association and a general cultural association for all the villages (MECUDA- Meta Cultural and Development Association) which organizes festivals every year. During these festivals the people showcase their culture such as dances, their food and dressing style. These manifestations are very charming and colourful. MECUDA takes place every December and rotates from one village to another, while the various village association have different period for their village festivals. Activities during these festivals are very interesting. It ranges from the puzzling dances to the exposition of the different artefacts. Some of the dances include the *Mukongo*, *Mandere*, *Mbanganon*, *nangmukobo* etc. Visiting the area during these periods especially will place your satisfaction at the maximum. Plate 7 portrays some dances performed during traditional ceremonies in MSD.



Photo 45: The Mbororo horse dance



Photo 46: The Mandere dance

Source: Aloysius photo, December 2015

Plate 7: Colourful and gorgeous traditional manifestations of MSD

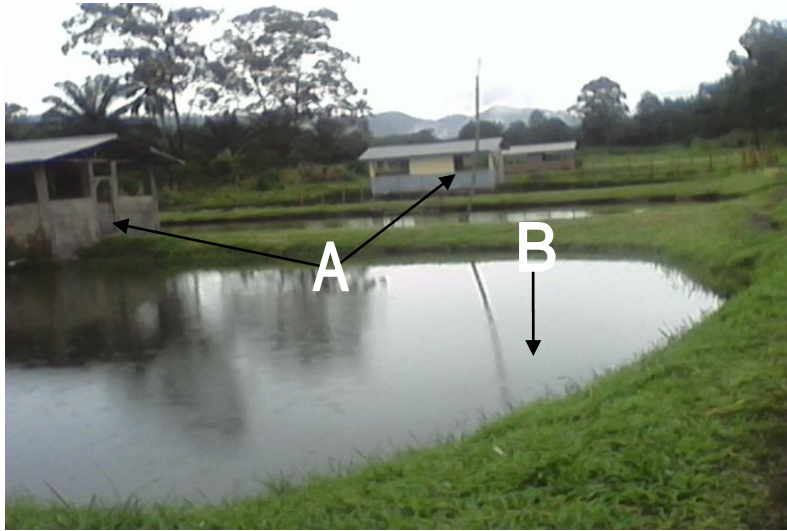
Photo 17: Mbororo horse dance from Tugi displaying during the 2015 MECUDA festival in Ku-Bome.

Photo 18: Mandere, the Royal Dance from Mbengwi. This dance is performed by the Fon and his notables. The person numbered 1 is the Fon of Mbengwi village and his is followed by his notables in a ranking manner from the most to least important. The person directly behind the Fon for example is the adviser and he is the closest person to the Fon. The designs of the dresses and necklet also vary with their rank in the palace.

Apart from the colourful and varied nature of the dances, it depicts the welcoming nature of the Meta people as the Mbororos who are not part of the Meta community have been welcomed by the people of MSD and even integrate them in their culture. The colourful and varied nature of the dresses is also forms of attractions to visitors.

3.2.7. Ntonofoam Fishing Farm

Mbengwi Subdivision possesses a fish pond which has been classified as the largest in West Africa as affirmed by the First Assistant Deputy Mayor of Mbengwi Council during an interview conducted in August 2015. This fish pond is found in Ku Bome village in a small quarter called ‘Ntonofoam’ about some 4km from the Mbengwi main town. It was opened in 1959 with a fish farming centre. It is a government owned project under the control of the MINIPIA. It consists of 35 ponds with 12 presently under use. This fish farm rears fish such as tilapia, mud fish, kanga, and a variety of others. A view of the Ntonofoam fish farm is shown on photo 5.



Source: Akum, 2015.

Photo 47: Large scientific research fish farming unit of Ntonofoam (Ku-Bome)

- A. Nurseries for the fish. The nurseries are partitioned according to the type of fish.
 B. Fish pond. They consist of larger fishes.

Just like the physical potentials, some of these human potentials have been pulling visitors to the area. From the questionnaire prepared for the study, a question was asked to know the frequency of the visitation to the human touristic sites and the results from the respondents are presented on the table 6 below.

Table 6: Most visited human potentials in MSD

Most visited human potentials	No. of respondents	Percentage
Traditional monuments	12	11.5
Traditional palaces	26	25.0
Cultural artefacts	18	17.3
Fish pond	5	4.8
Monastery	4	3.8
cultural manifestations	38	36.5
markets	1	1.0
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015.

Table 6 shows that the cultural manifestation is the most visited human potential followed by the palace while the markets are the least visited. The cultural manifestations such as annual festivals, marriages, funerals and birth celebrations pull many people to this subdivision. Mr Ivo Taminang, elite of MSD resident in Yaounde divulged that the Meta people are scattered all over the country and abroad and when coming home for these cultural manifestations always invite their friends and it is during this period that we have a peak visitation of the touristic sites (table 8). When these invitees come into the region, they also profit to visit other touristic sites. The markets on the other hand pull least of the tourists (1%) because they

are not organized and most of the products produced in area are instead sold out of the area with their local market either not having these products or very few of them (interview with Pa Muki, Nyen village).

The frequency of the visitation of the different sites also varies with the villages as seen on the table 7.

Table 7: Variation of visits within the different villages

Name of the village		KU-BOME	GUNEKU	NJAH - ETU	NYEN	ZANG-TABI	Total
Most visited human potential							
monuments	Number of respondents	11	0	0	0	10	21
	Percentage of respondents	52.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.6%	100.0%
Palaces	Number of respondents	9	10	1	6	0	26
	Percentage of respondents	34.6%	38.5%	3.8%	23.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Artefacts	Number of respondents	4	5	8	1	0	18
	Percentage of respondents	22.2%	27.8%	44.4%	5.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Cultural manifestations	Number of respondents	5	16	9	6	3	39
	Percentage of respondents	12.8%	41.0%	23.1%	15.4%	7.7%	100.0%
Total	Total number of respondents	29	31	18	13	13	104
	Total percentage of respondents	27.9%	29.8%	17.3%	12.5%	12.5%	100.0%

Source: Field data, 2015

Table 7 portrays that the most visited human potential in Ku-Bome is the Monument. Interview with the lord Mayor revealed that the monument in the Mbengwi town has been a major attraction to tourists who come and take snapshots of them and around them free of charge. In Guneku, most tourists are attracted by the cultural manifestation and the palace. The palace of Guneku is one of the most attractive in the area with wonderful works of art (plate 2). In Njah- Etu, tourists are attracted more to the artistic works and the cultural manifestations. Interview with Pa Ndakwa, a blacksmith in this village declares that Njah-Etu is the “Japan in Africa” and many people visit his workshop to admire and buy his products. In Nyen village, it is the palace and cultural manifestations that attract most tourists. Lastly in Zang-Tabi, it is the monument that denotes the different chiefs of the Meta clan planted in this village that pulls many tourists to this village. Interview with the Regent of Zang-Tabi reveal that all the villages in Meta originated from Zang-Tabi before migrating to their present destination and before any cultural manifestation is carried out in their various villages, they will have to go and perform traditional rites in Zang-Tabi to attract blessings from their ancestors. This occasion usually attracts so many tourists, thus the reason why most visits made to this village are to the monument.

Visits to the touristic sites varied with the period in any region. The research work was interested in knowing the peak and the least period of visitation of the touristic sites of the MSD and the result from the field is represented on table 8.

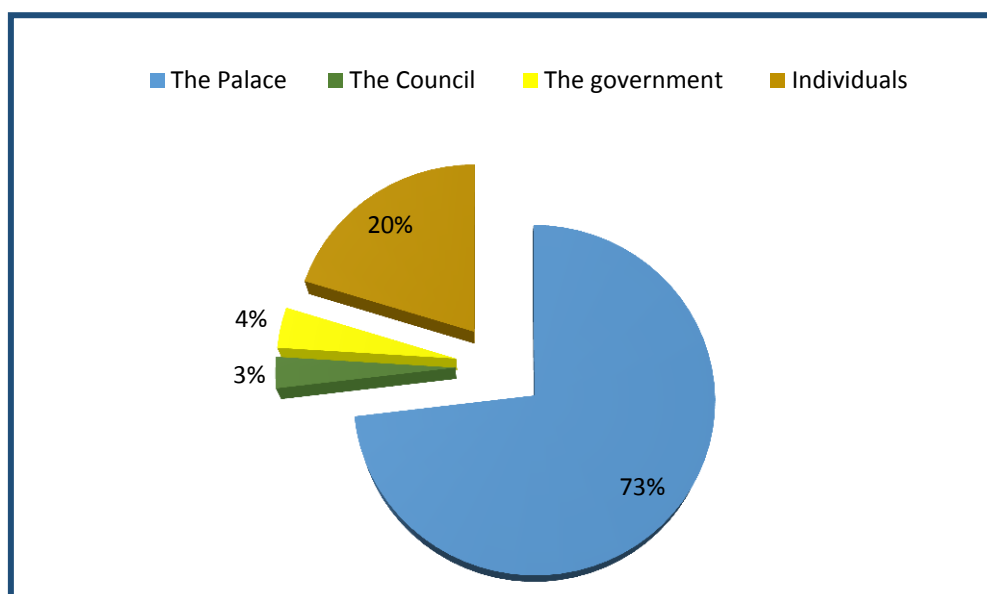
Table 8: Timing of tourist visit to touristic sites

Periods of visit	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Daily	46	44.2
During traditional ceremonies	57	54.8
During holidays	1	1.0
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015.

Out of the 104 households questioned, 57 declared that it is during traditional ceremonies that people visit the area, 46 declared it is daily and only 1 said it is during holidays. As earlier mention, the traditional ceremonies are highly advertised and their manifestation are very attractive thus the reason for which pulls in many tourists into the area. 44.2% declare that it is every day, this will therefore depend on the potential and taking the monastery for example tourists visit it almost every day. While only 1% says it is during holidays. This shows that the touristic sites of MSD are mostly visited when there is particular occasion, visitors will then profit to visits other sites.

Field survey revealed that there is a lot of disorganization in the tourism sector in this area the reason for which they are not contributing to local development. Visitation to the sites is almost free of charge or if it should be paid for, it goes to the one who owns it. This research was also interested in knowing ownership of the touristic resources of MSD. In this light a question was addressed to the community to know who control the sites and the results are presented on figure 9.

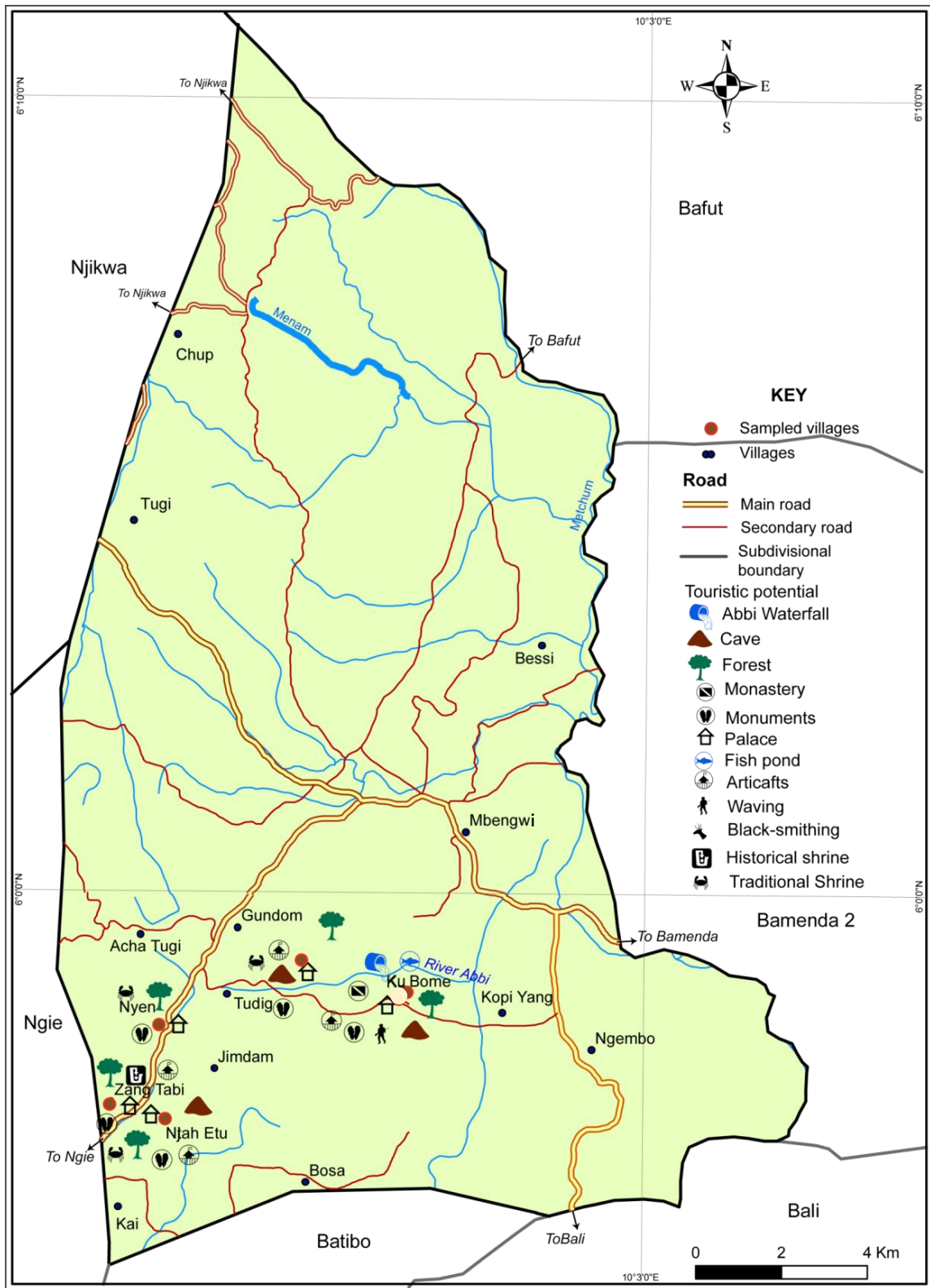


Source: Field data, 2015

Figure 9 : Control of touristic sites in MSD

The above figure shows that the palace controls most of the touristic potential in MSD (73%) followed by individual (20%) while the government (4%) and the council (3%) has very little control over these potentials. The palace controls most of the potentials because according to the Meta culture, most of these sites are homes of their ancestors and the chief is considered a link between the people and their ancestors and some individuals inherit the resource from their parents thus controls them. (Interview with HRH Chief Fomunyen). Also, most of these potentials are still in their natural state.

Field survey revealed that most of the touristic potentials are not known to the outside world. As a result there is no map showing the various touristic potentials in MSD so far. So the researcher using crude method went ahead to represent the touristic potentials of the sampled villages on a map (figure 10).



Source : Administrative map of Cameroon, NIC, 2014, field work, 2015.

Figure 10: Touristic Potentials in Sampled villages in MSD

Figure 10 reveals that MSD is rich in touristic potentials. Field survey revealed that most of these potentials are not yet exploited. Others are even unknown even to the local population as potentials that can be developed to better their condition.

From the presentation of this chapter, MSD possesses a variety of touristic potentials which can be appealing to tourists and to make MSD a tourist haven. Unfortunately most of these potentials are not yet being exploited while others are underexploited. We also noticed the disappearance of some of the cultural relics of the area because they are of no value. Tourism in MSD can be classified under the first stage of Butler's cycle of tourist' life cycle evolution, which is the exploration stage. At this stage, a small number of tourists move to a new area for adventure and their impact is not felt. So is the tourism situation in MSD because the number of tourists who visit the area is too small and because of disorganisation, the presence of these tourists is not felt in the area. On the other hand, the people of MSD are more involve in agriculture which is less yielding. Thus the people lavish in poverty whereas there are other opportunities in the area that can help in its development. Tourism therefore need to be developed in this area in order to revive some of these relics and also contribute to the local development. The question one can ask is why these touristic potentials not yet developed and what is being done to harness these potentials? The following chapter will provide the answers to these questions.

CHAPTER FOUR: TOURISTS RELATED STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSTRAINTS TO HARNESSING TOURISTIC POTENTIALS IN MSD

In this chapter, we will be presenting the various stakeholders involve in the functioning of tourism and their roles in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD. The chapter further looks at the constraints of these stakeholders and how it impacts the harnessing of touristic potentials in this locality.

4.1 INSTITUTIONS INVOLVE IN THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM

This section looks at the various institutions and other stakeholders that come into play in the promotion of tourism and their role in the harnessing of touristic potentials. The institutions here therefore will include the traditional institution, governmental institution and Non-governmental institutions.

4.1.1 Traditional Institution

The traditional institution is made up of the following stakeholders: Chief or Fon, the local population, local associations and the elites.

- The Fon or the Chief

The Fon or Chief is the main actor and the head of the traditional institution. Fons are the closest administrative body to the people. The Fons or Chiefs are the main custodian of most touristic sites. The Fons grant authorization to tourists to visit the touristic sites. They also ensure the maintenance of the touristic sites through the organization of community work around touristic sites and some village projects such as water supply sites and roads. In order to promote and safeguard the culture of their area, they organize cultural festivals in which the culture is displayed to the public. The cultural manifestation has been one of the major human touristic attractions of tourists to MSD (Table 6). The different palaces in MSD are constructed mostly with traditional materials and are decorated with different work of arts. The palaces and most touristic sites are under the control of the Fon (Figure 9). During field survey, among the questions design, was that to verify the control of the touristic sites in MSD and we noticed that the palace or the Fon controls up to 73.1% of the touristic (table 9).

Table 9: The place of the Fon in the harnessing of touristic sites in MSD

Controller of the sites	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
The palace	76	73.1
Council	3	2.9
The government	4	3.8
Individuals	21	20,2
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015.

Table 9 depicts that the Fon plays a primordial role in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD. This is because most of the touristic sites (73.1%) is under the control of the palace.

Interview with His Royal Highness the Chief of Nyen, on what the palace is doing to harness these touristic sites reveal the palace organises community work around some of these sites, organises cultural festivals in which the culture is displayed, some of the palaces keep some products from the area which are presented to tourists or offer to them during visit which is a

form of advertisement of the touristic potentials of the area, the palace also authorizes tourists to visit the touristic sites considering the fact that most of these sites are controlled by the palace, the palace also tries to eliminate some of the mystical part of the tradition in order to render their potentials accessible to tourists. On his part, he says he intends to eliminate the mystical part of tradition. Being a Christian, one of his objectives is to see into it that religion moves hand in gloves with tradition.

- **Local Associations**

Unity is one of the factors that characterize the people of MSD. They love to communion with their fellow brothers both within and out of the village. The people of MSD are found all over the country and abroad. Wherever they find themselves, they organize themselves and form associations in which they can always live as one (Interview, MECUDA President, Yaounde Branch). The local associations here include the village associations such as the Njah-Etu Cultural and Development Association, Guneku Cultural and Development Association, Nyenmbo Cultural and Development Association; and the general association, Meta Cultural and Development Association (MECUDA) which unites all the villages of MSD. The objectives of these associations include among others to unite the people of MSD, valorise their culture and to develop MSD. These associations both home and abroad organises cultural festivals where they showcased their rich culture, contribute funds to carry out developmental projects in the villages of MSD such as the construction of palaces, bridges, schools, hospitals and water projects in the villages. The Bome Cultural and Development Association for example is presently involved in the development of the portable water project (interview, Mr Nyaa Hans). These activities of the associations contribute in the promotion of tourism in MSD in that they contribute in the establishment of tourists' infrastructures in the area.

4.1.2 Governmental institution

The main actors under the governmental institution are the state through the ministry of tourism and associated ministries of tourism development and the council. Here we will be examining the role played by the state through the adjacent ministries and the laws put in place; and the council which is the grassroots arm of the government and the main implementer of these laws.

- **The State**

The government has put in place laws to guide the functioning of tourism in the Cameroon. Law No. 98/006 of 4th April 1998 signed by the president of the republic to regulate the activities of tourism in Cameroon. According to this law, tourism should lead to economic development, promote the different cultures, protect our touristic values, culture and environment and finally to valorise our rich touristic patrimony. The law obliges all investors in this sector to respect the above objectives when investing in tourism. This implies that the development of tourism in an area should contribute to the development of that area.

Decree No. 2005/450 of 09 November 2005 obliges the Ministry of Tourism to elaborate and come out with policies to guide tourism in general. In 2005, the government still in a way to encourage tourism put in place strategies to guide the development of tourism in Cameroon. This principle outlines the roles of the various public administrations and their domain of intervention. The government through this strategy aims at reducing poverty and encouraging economic growth in Cameroon. Each ministry has a role to play in the development of tourism in the country as a whole in which MSD is not left out.

The state also through the decentralization law No. 2004/018 of July 2004 delegates special powers to regional and local authorities to exploit the resources in their area to enhance development. The regional and local authorities here shall be the regions and the council

respectively. These authorities shall work as corporate bodies by law and shall be endowed with administrative and financial autonomy for the management of the regional and local environment in order to promote democracy and good governance. The Ministry of Tourism at the Regional level is represented by the Regional, Divisional, Sub-divisional Delegations and the council.

In order to better handle the harnessing of touristic potentials in the various divisions and subdivision, the Ministry of Tourism orders the creation of Tourism Board in councils especially in divisions and subdivisions where there is no delegation of tourism.

The development of tourism is not the affair of MINTOUR only, it is a joint venture of other ministries. The different ministries involve in the promotion of tourism and their domain of intervention is shown the annex . It involves the contribution of all these ministries in a systemic manner. In this light, the absence of any of these ministries causes rupture in the system. (Strategies Sectorielle de Developpement du Tourisme au Cameroun, 2005 p. 14).

- The Council

The council is an important actor in the development of tourism because of the powers dedicated to her through the decentralisation law in Cameroon. The council as designated by the decentralization law of Cameroon is the arm of the government at the grassroots. The council is empowered administratively and financially to exploit the resources of the council area to ensure good governance and development. As the government administration the council has the right to exploit the resources of its council area and using government financial subvention to ensure the development of the locality. In this light, the council through the various delegations has been carrying out some developmental projects which in one way or the other contribute in the development of tourism.

The council supervises the construction and maintenance of roads network in MSD. There is a main road that leaves Bamenda town passes through Mbengwi Subdivision to neighbouring subdivisions. This road tarred from Bamenda to Mbengwi (20km). The villages of MSD are all linked to each other by a secondary road which is maintained from time to time. For example, the road within Mbengwi town from Mile 18 to 19 was tarred by the Mbengwi Council. These roads are very important in tourism because it facilitates the movement of tourists to and from touristic sites.

The council in collaboration with the agents of law and order makes MSD secured. There is the presence of the various security agents (police and gendarmerie) that intervenes in case of any disorder. Tourists once in MSD are sure of their security.

The council in collaboration with the traditional authorities ensures the promotion of culture and its valorisation through the authorization of cultural festivals, educate the population on tourism and advertise the touristic potentials of the area. Field results shows that cultural manifestation are the most attractive aspect of tourists to MSD.

The council permits the construction of infrastructures which promote tourism. MSD possess infrastructures like a local radio station (Rainbow Radio Station Mbengwi) that covers the division. They broadcast in English, French, Pidgin and the local language. Through these media the touristic richness of the area can be advertised. The council also authorizes the construction of infrastructures like hotels, inns and rest houses. These lodging facilities can be used by tourists once in Mbengwi Subdivision. Plate 7 shows some lodging facilities found in MSD whose construction were ordered by the council.



Photo 48: Shalom hotel, GRA Mbengwi



Photo 49: Abbi Fall Inn, Mbengwi

Source: Akum 2015

Plate 8: Low standard lodging facilities in MSD

Shalom hotel located in GRA Mbengwi is made up of 12 rooms of which 5 of them are of high class The prices range from 3000 to 10000frs CFA a day. The Abbi Fall Inn, is made up of 5 rooms of 5000frs a day. (Interview with the management of the hotels, 2015).

Looking at the classification of tourists lodging facilities in Cameroon, what is known as a hotel in MSD is not a hotel. Also, the quality of the facilities and the services offered are poor. Some of the materials are deteriorating and interview with the management revealed that very few tourists lodge in their hotels. The Management of Abbi Fall Inn declared that they can go for even weeks without having a customer.

Mbengwi council area has a multiplicity of primary, secondary and professional schools permitted by the council. The schools are constructed by government, mission, and private individuals. These schools are important in the promotion of tourism because tourism is being studied in schools, thus creating awareness about tourism in the local population of MSD.

The Mbengwi council has been constructing markets in the area since it is its main source of their income. The Tad daily market located in Nyen village has been improved upon and the Mbon daily market located in Ku-Bome (Mbengwi town) is under construction. The markets provide opportunity for handicraft products to be exposed and sold thus a form of attraction to the tourists. Photo – shows the Mbon daily market under construction



Photo 50: Mbon daily market under construction

Source: Akum, 2015.

A- Sheds under construction

The council in order to beautify the town has constructed many monuments as seen on Plate 2. These monuments have been a source of attraction to tourists who visit MSD. During fieldwork, the researcher met with some tourists taking snapshots besides some of the monuments.

4.1.3 Non-Governmental Organisations

The actors of the non-governmental institutions include local and international organisations

- Local organisations

The local organisations involve those infrastructures put up by private individuals or group of individuals in Cameroon that has contributed in the promotion of tourism in MSD. Private individuals have also been very much involved in one way or the other in the promotion of tourism. Some private institutions have been putting up structures which act as touristic infrastructures in MSD. An example of these private institutions is the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon which has open hospital and schools. The Acha hospital located in Acha Tugui is a reference hospital and well known for its specialization in eye problems. This infrastructure has been pulling many tourists to this area, thus the promotion of medical tourism. Apart from hospitals, the Presbyterian Church is also involved in the opening of schools in MSD. Some of the schools opened by them include the Presbyterian Primary school and the Presbyterian Teachers' Training College in Mbengwi. These structures do not only contribute to infrastructural development of the area but also contribute in promoting educational tourism in MSD.

The Catholic Church too is another local organisation that is also involve in the promotion of tourism in MSD. Apart from the numerous catholic churches found in this locality, there is a Monastery located in Ku-Bome which pulls a lot of religious tourists every day. Mbengwi Monastery as it is called does not only involve in preaching the Good News, but involve in other activities such as the training of men of Gods, production of religious items like Bibles, communion, wine and agriculture above all a spiritual revamping ground. The activities of Mbengwi Monastery are very attractive and have also been an important religious touristic site that pulls so many Christians thus promoting religious tourism.

- International organisation

The NGO in MSD is Plan International. The organization has been supporting the educational sector through the construction of classrooms, some schools, sponsoring of children in primary schools and provision of school materials to some children in both primary and secondary schools (interview with an agent of Plan Cameroon, August 2015). Promoting education is in one way contributing in educational tourism. The structures they put in place (classrooms) have also contributed to the infrastructural development of the area.

4.1.4 Other Stakeholders

- The local population

The local population of MSD also has a major role to play in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in this locality. The local population is at the centre of development of tourism. This is because they possess the traditional and cultural riches required for the functioning of tourism. Field survey reveals that some of the projects that failed in MSD in the past such as the harnessing of Abbi Fall for electricity supply was because the local population was not involve in the planning and the realization of the projects (Interview with Pa Forsah). When the local population participate in a project they belief it is theirs and protects it better. The

Meta man by nature is very welcoming especially to strangers. Apart from their welcoming nature, the population has been carrying out community works around touristic sites under the supervision of the Fon, they belong to cultural associations where contributions are made to carry out some developmental work in the Subdivision such as the building of some bridges, realization of water projects in the village, construction of classrooms and palaces. The population also advertises their culture to the outside world through the dressing style, feeding habit, language, dancing style and by telling people about them. All these have contributed to the promotion of tourism in MSD.

During field research, questionnaire addressed to the local population seek to know what the respondent as an individual can contribute in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in and the result is presented on the table below.

Table 10: Contribution by locals to the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD

Forms of contribution	Number of respondents	Percentage
Engaging in community work in touristic sites	22	21.2
Be welcoming to tourists	39	37.5
Serve as guide/informants	43	41.3
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015

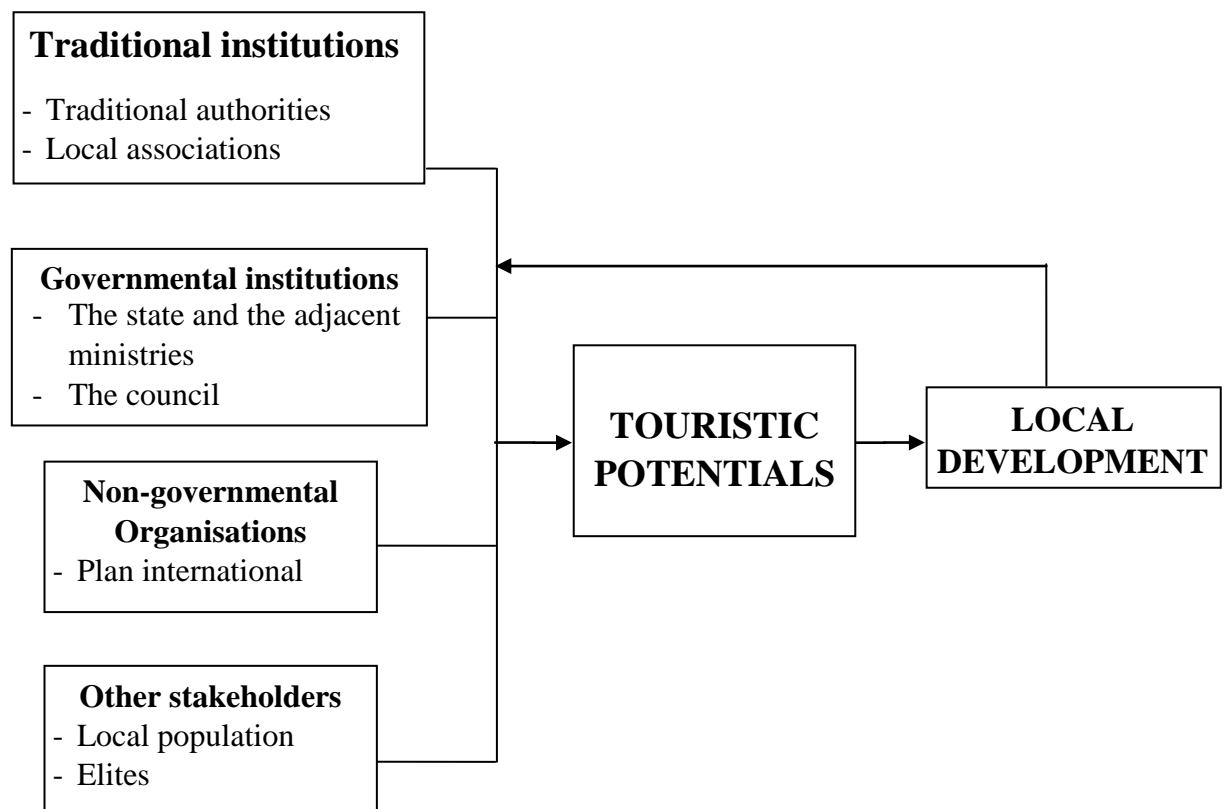
From the table 10 out of the 104 questioned, 22 said they can contribute through engaging in community work around the touristic sites, 39 said they can contribute by being welcoming to tourists and 43 said they can contribute by advertising the potentials of the area. From this data, we realize that most people will like to carry out advertisements of their culture by telling people about them. This is important in that advertisement can attract investors or tourism promoters to the area. Field research revealed that the Meta people have associations within and out of the country in which they demonstrate their culture and always invite their friends to accompany them at home during cultural manifestations in the village. This is the reason for which cultural manifestations is a potential that pulls the majority of tourists shown on table 6 above.

- Elites

MSD has influential people who have been contributing immensely to the development of the Subdivision. The elites are found both in the country and out of country. Some of these elites are very influential in carrying out developmental projects in the villages. Some of them do it individually while others contribute through the associations. Some of the major infrastructures in MSD have been put in place by elites. An example is the Bogam infrastructures in Ku-Bome which is used today as G.T.T.C. Mbengwi, the Colonel Fomundam residences, the Ruth's Hotel in Njah-Etu, Community Nursery School Zang-Tabi. These infrastructural contributions of the elites have gone a long way to promote tourism in the area in that some of these structures are touristic infrastructures and some are touristic attractions. In addition to the individual investment, the elites have been contributing generously in the local associations such as MECUDA for developmental project in the villages.

From the above discussion, we understand that tourism functions as a system and the contribution of each stakeholder is primordial for the functioning of the sector. It requires a joint participation of all the stakeholders in which each of the actors has a role to play in a systemic manner. Each of the above institutions has to work in collaboration with each other. If all the institutions play their role, then the harnessing of touristic potentials will possible

and local development will be achieved. The actions of the various institutions can be demonstrated diagrammatically as shown on figure 11.



Source: Author's conception

Figure 11: Actors involve in the harnessing of touristic potentials

Figure 11 illustrates the various stakeholders and the action in the harnessing of touristic potentials. Their various participations will lead to local development which will impact the various institutions in return. We notice that the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD calls for community participation in order for local development to be achieved. Tourism development in MSD is lacking because various stakeholders have not played their role.

4.1. CONSTRAINTS TO THE HARNESSING OF TOURISTIC POTENTIALS IN MSD

Having looked at the role of the various stakeholders involve in the development of tourism in this area and the level of intervention in tourism development, this section will be looking at the limits of each actor and how their limits impact or hinder the harnessing of the touristic potentials leading to the disfunctioning of the tourism system in MSD.

4.2.1. Constraints from Traditional institution

- **Restriction of visit to some touristic sites**

The Meta man holds firm to his culture. This is the reason why some areas considered to be of very important touristic value are restricted to the visit of tourists. Such sites include the traditional shrines, the secret forests, some caves and some traditional manifestations. A lot of mysticism is attached to these sites and this scares tourists. Others to visit needs to be

initiated, a thing that frightens most tourists and some do not dare venture to go through the initiation process. The people strongly believe in the performance of certain rites especially, when some of these touristic potentials have to be visited. These rites are obligatory given the fact that most of the potentials are solely in the control of the traditional rulers. For example it is believed that if anyone gets into the cave without the authorization from the palace, the person will never come out of it except certain rites are performed again (interview with village authority).

- Initiation process at certain touristic sites

In order to have access to some touristic sites, there are some traditional rites that have to be performed. Some of these rites are frightening and financially demanding as the visitor can be asked to buy some items such as goat, fowl, jugs of wine or give a token to the ancestor etc. This in most cases takes the visitor or tourists unaware in which may discourage most of them. Getting to the shrine of Guneku palace for example, a certain type of food has to be prepared, certain quantity of wine needed. After the traditional prayer is made, the food items and the drinks are shared to everybody present at the shrine. The wine is shared from the traditional cups using the hands and the food shared on plantain leaves. Most tourists are scared of such rites and will not dare to carry it out. The photo 5 below shows the performance of a rite at the Guneku traditional shrine during the funeral of the missing Fon.



Photo 51: Tourist receiving palm wine from the traditional cup

Photo 52: Tourists drinking palm wine

Source: Akum, 2015

Plate 9: Tourists participating in the traditional rite at the Guneku traditional shrine

- A. *Fon of Guneku sharing palm wine from the traditional cup*
- B. *Tourists drinking palm wine received from the traditional cup*

Everybody present at the shrine during the performance of the rite must eat the traditional food and drink from the traditional cup. This may discourage visitors as some will not like to undergo these processes.

- Traditional limits of women to the visit of some touristic sites

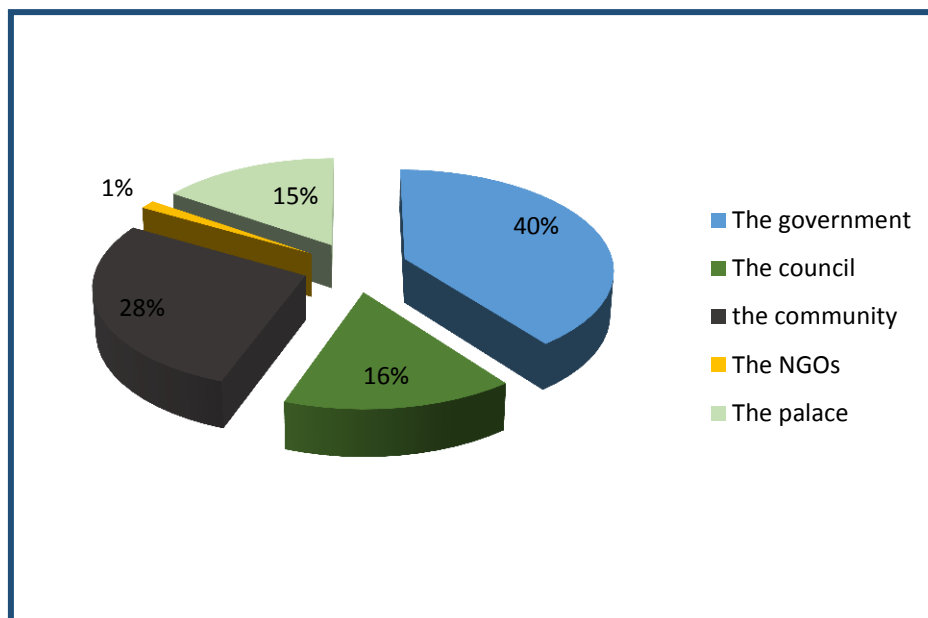
Another constraint from the traditional institution that hinders the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD is that which limits the women from visiting certain sites. Some sites cannot be visited by women especially the woman of child bearing age. For example the Cave of Guneku, only women of non-child bearing age can get into it. This is the reason why the researcher could not have access into the cave. It is belief that any woman of child bearing age that gets into the cave will never bear a child again (interview with village authority).

- Centralization of power

Meta tradition just like the rest of the grass field tradition is a centralized one in which every decision is taken from the palace. Thus in most case when the Fon or regent (the representative of the Fon) is absent access to some sites cannot be granted. This is the case with the Monument in Zang Tabi in which the research during her 2 times visit to the village was unable to have access to the site because the Fon and the regent were not present. Thus the centralized form of tradition is also a great hindrance to the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD

- Ignorance of the population on their role in harnessing touristic potential

As seen above each and every actor that is the government, the traditional authorities, the local population and the NGOs has a role to play in the harnessing of touristic potentials. In this case if one institution thinks it is the responsibility of the other alone, then the harnessing can't be possible. Field research reveals that the some actors do not even know that it is a joint venture. During an interview conducted with the First Assistant Mayor of Mbengwi Council on what the council is doing to harness these potentials, the lord Mayor responded that it is the duty of the state through the Divisional and Sub-Divisional Delegation of Tourism and not the council. Also, result from questionnaire response reveals that some people still think it is the role of the state to harness these potentials. Figure 12 below shows the percentage of the respondents' opinion on who is to develop the touristic sites.



Source: Field data

Figure 12: Opinion of respondents on the development of touristic sites

From figure 12, out of the 104 households that filled the questionnaires , 40% of the respondents said it is the government duty to develop the touristic sites, 15% said it is the palace, 1% said it is the NGOs, 15% said it is the palace, yet 28% of the respondents know that it is the duty of all the actors. This shows that some people are still ignorant of the fact

that to harness the touristic potentials is a joint duty of all the stakeholders. The ignorance of some of the people on the fact that they have to contribute to the development of these sites is a constraint on the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

- Language barrier

Communication is another hurdle that hinders the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD. Many people especially the elders who hold firm to the tradition do not speak or understand any of the official languages. Those who can communicate a bit do so in the pidgin language which is not easily understood by some tourists especially foreign tourists. In most cases, these tourists need to hire interpreters who may in turn exploit the tourists thus tarnishing the image of the area.

- Mismanagement of the association fund

The 29 villages have each a developmental association and a general association which unites all the Meta people of the Subdivision (MECUDA). Every Meta man is expected to give a certain annual contribution yearly towards the development of the villages. In most cases the funds collected for such projects are mismanage as such most of the projects are hardly fully realized while others take a very long period before its realization. Some of the realized projects are not well maintained. Also, when the leaders are changed they hardly continue with the projects of their predecessors but instead start their own projects. This is one of the reasons for the many unrealized projects in the Subdivision (interview with a village authority). Some executives end up manipulating the association funds for their private benefits (Interview with elite, Yaounde). This action discourages so many elites from contributing again towards village development projects.

The opinion of the population on what they think is hindering the harnessing of these touristic potentials in MSD was very necessary for this research work. In this light, a question was designed to this effect and the result is presented on the table 11.

Table 11: Respondents responses to factors that hinder the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD

Factors hindering the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Inaccessibility	45	43.3
inadequate of lodging facilities	21	20.2
Lack of electricity	3	2.9
The hostile nature of the people	1	1.0
The tradition	13	12.5
Ignorance of the fact that it is a source of income	4	3.8
Lack of interests	2	1.9
ignorance of the potentials	4	3.8
Insufficient fund	5	4.8
poor organization	6	5.8
Total	104	100%

Source: Field data, 2015

Table 11 depicts that insufficient infrastructures (road and lodging facilities) are the main reason for the unharnessed touristic potentials in MSD. We also denote from the table that tradition also hinders (12.5%) the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD. This indicates that the tradition has to be reviewed in order to facilitate the development of tourism.

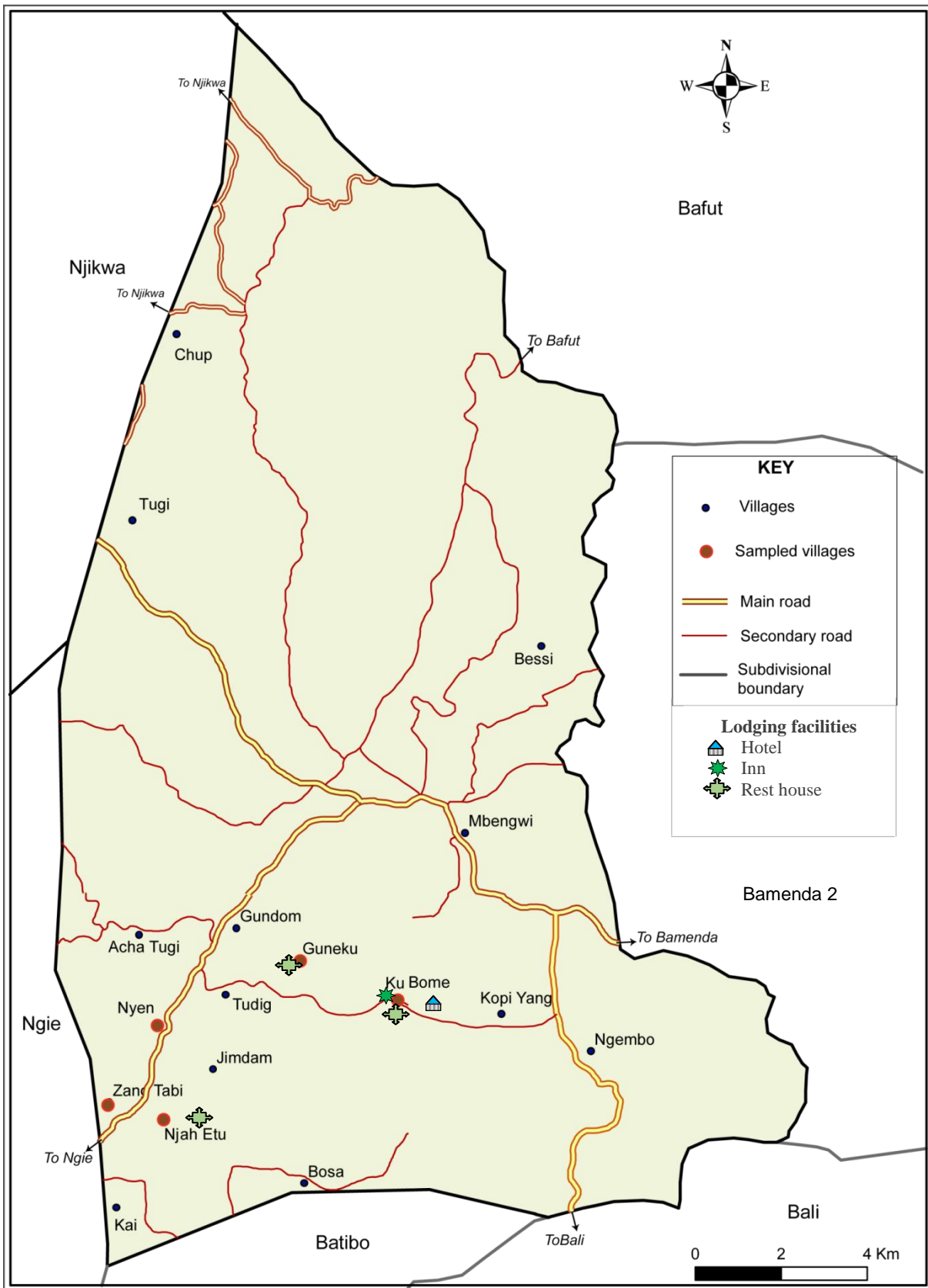
4.2.2. Constraints from governmental institutions

- Absence of the Delegation of Tourism in MSD

MSD which doubles in function as Divisional and Sub-divisional headquarter is supposed to have both a divisional and sub-divisional delegation of tourism. According to the decentralization law of Cameroon, power of administration has been given to the regional and local authorities and in the domain of tourism, the ministry of Tourism by law is supposed to put in place a Divisional and Sub-Divisional Delegations of Tourism. According to the Sector-base Strategy for Tourism Development in Cameroon (page 14), the Ministry of Administration and Territorial Decentralization has as duty to put in place tourism office at the regional and local level. The Ministry of tourism is staffed with technicians who are skilled or trained in the field of tourism. These technicians can better identify and manage touristic potentials in order to make them attractive to tourists. The absence of this institution in MSD has hindered immensely the harnessing of the touristic potentials in the study area. The Regional Delegate of Tourism in Bamenda, Mr Pezumbia Philip was interviewed by the researcher on why there is the absence of these institutions in MSD. From interview, the delegate affirmed that the Delegation of Tourism still has to be created in Mbengwi. He reiterated that the action of the government may be slow but it is sure. We realized that the actions of the government are present on paper but in action there are lapses. So the absence of this institution can be seen as one of the factor hindering the harnessing of touristic potentials in Mbengwi Subdivision, thus the reason why most touristic potentials in this area have not been harnessed.

- Insufficient and substandard tourist infrastructures

According to the sector-base strategies for the development of tourism in Cameroon, touristic sites have to be disenclaved by the Ministry of Public Works. Communication infrastructures in MSD are inadequate. Apart from the about 20km tarred road that links MSD to Bamenda the Regional Headquarter, the rest of the roads in the area are earth roads which are seasonal. These roads as confirmed by the traditional authorities interviewed are graded after very long period of time as he puts it "*these roads are graded only during election periods because they want us to vote for them*". These roads are not tarred and are made up of potholes and are muddy and slippery during the rainy season and very dusty during the dry season. Some of these roads become difficult to ply especially in the rainy season and it is only the effort of the local population through community work that made them useable. Figure 13 below depicts the current state of the road network in MSD.



Source: Administrative map of Cameroon, NIC, 2014

Figure 13: Inadequate tourist infrastructure in MSD

Figure 13 reveals the insufficient tourists' infrastructure in MSD. From the above map we can see that out of the 5 sampled villages, 3 have lodging facilities and with these most of them concentrated in the main town Mbengwi (Ku-Bome). Also most of the area is made up of secondary roads which are narrower, seasonal and less accessible especially during the rainy season. (Field survey, 2015).

More distressing is the fact that most of the touristic potentials of MSD are located in the villages where transport and communication network is a big problem with some touristic sites not having any road at all. To get to some touristic sites, tourists have to embark on long distance trekking in the bush which is very strenuous and tedious. This exposes them to risky situations like snake bites and injury from sticks. This discourages tourists and even investors who may be interested in the harnessing of the touristic potential of MSD whereas the law guiding tourism in Cameroon talks of the comfort and security of tourists. Plate 5 below shows an example of the road network situation to some touristic sites in MSD.



Photo 53: Road to Shalom hotel GRA Mbengwi



Photo 54: Road to the Guneku traditional shrine



Photo 55: Road to the Guneku cave constructed by the community



Photo 56: Stony road to the Guneku cave

Source: Akum, December 2015.

Plate 10: Roads to most visited touristic sites in MSD

A- Road to the Shalom hotel with potholes and slippery surface

B- Road to the Guneku traditional shrine with no road at all

C- Road to the Guneku cave. the portion construction by the community during community work organised by the Fon

D- Part of the road to the Guneku cave that has not been constructed

In addition to the bad state of the road, cars that ply the roads to the villages are overloaded to the detriment of the comfort of the passengers. A car that is supposed to carry 5 passengers carries 9 and a motorbike carries up to 3-4 passengers. In the rainy season the transport fare almost doubles. Furthermore, very few cars ply the roads a day. Interview conducted with a driver reveals that the cars need to overload in order to settle the numerous police checkpoints found on the road. In all this state of communication in MSD does not render tourism pleasant as it should be.

In addition to the bad state of the roads is the low standard of the infrastructures. MSD possesses some touristic infrastructures such as lodging facilities, restaurants, hospitals, schools and transport infrastructures. In addition to the fact that these infrastructures are mostly located in the main town of Mbengwi, they are of very low standards. Such include low quality hotels and poor transportation means. MSD lacks good standard hotels to lodge tourists. The study area has just inns and rest houses with some villages having none. Some of the lodging facilities present are deteriorating. Interview carried out with the manager of the Abbi Fall hotel declares that the inn has just 5 rooms of which 2 are modern, yet it is referred to as a hotel and most of the toilets are not functioning. These make it difficult for tourists to be comfortable during their visit as they find it difficult to lodge. All the tourists interviewed on the field said they are lodging in Bamenda town and after visit they will move back to their hotel. Out of the 5 villages studied, only 2 have lodging facilities which are of low standards. If lodging facilities are constructed near touristic sites and the existing ones improved upon it will facilitate the harnessing of touristic potentials in this locality.

- Absence of a museum

MSD with her multiplicity of work of arts has no museum in which some of these work of arts can be displayed and advertised to the outside world. The palaces try to collect some of these products of arts to keep but the problem is that the conditions in which they are kept leads to their deterioration. Interview with the Quarter head of Ku-Bome reveal some of these articles gets bad because they are sent out rarely (only during traditional ceremonies) because this is when tourists usually visit the village.

- Poor collaboration between government and grassroots administration (council)

Part I section 4(1) of the law of orientation of decentralization in Cameroon talks of the corporation between the regional and local authorities in which they have to be endowed with administrative and financial autonomy in the governance and development of the locality. According to the Decentralization law, the power to govern and develop the various divisions has been handed over to the councils, but the government still remains the general moderator through the regional administration. The government is to function as a regulator in order to avoid anarchy and mismanagement. In MSD, there is no collaboration between the council which is the grassroots administration and the government. While the council is pointing accusing fingers to the government for abandonment of the area as far as tourism is concern, the government is accusing the council of not having any interest for the development of the sector. Mr Mundi Valery a staff in the Regional Delegation of Tourism Bamenda and Mr Pezumbia, the Regional Delegate of Tourism for the North West Region during an interview carried out in August and December 2015 respectively, fraud at the fact that one of the reason in which MSD until now has not got a Delegation of Tourism is because of the Councils consistent absence for the yearly seminars held in the regional headquarter Bamenda to

proceed with the process of the creation of the delegation. He reiterated that councils that have been attending this seminar already have tourism board in their council which is the first step in the creation of the delegation of tourism. Mbengwi council on its parts following an interview carried out with the 1st Assistant Mayor of Mbengwi council claimed they have never been informed by anyone about such seminars. So it is the role of the government to make sure that the information reaches all the councils and sanction measure put in place for absenteeism. With this sanction, councils will be forced to attend. Thus, the lack of cooperation of the government in this domain is seen as one of the constraints impacting the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

- **Ignorance of the touristic riches of MSD**

Another constraint that hinders the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD is the ignorance of the touristic richness of this region at the national level. Pages 30-35 of the Sector-base Strategy for Tourism Development in Cameroon presents a list of touristic sites recognized in Cameroon by the MINTOUR. From this lists, none of the touristic sites of MSD has been mentioned. To confirm the ignorance about MINTOUR of this area, the Regional Delegate of Tourism during the interview conducted with him in August 2015 declares that MSD is a very poor area as far as the touristic potentials are concern and it is with the propositions of the researcher that he was enlightened about the importance of MSD to the tourism ministry. So for the potentials to be harnessed, they are supposed to be recognized without which it harnessing is impossible.

- **Council's reluctance to invest in tourism**

Following the decentralization law of Cameroon, the council is supposed to exploit the resources of its council area to develop the area. During field research, the Mbengwi council plan was consulted and it was noticed that the council allocate budget for the development of several sectors in the area such as education, agriculture and health, but nothing is allocated for tourism. Interview with the Mbengwi Council authority on the place of tourism confirmed that the area has touristic potentials which are still undeveloped. Asking him on why the council does not develop these potentials declares that the council does not have technicians and that the government shows no interest as they have no delegation of tourism which is supposed to be staffed by technicians to develop these potentials. He went further to say that the tourism sector does not give the council any revenue and that they are involved in projects that will give immediate wealth to the council. The lack of interest by the council in the tourism sector hinders the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

- **Council's constant absence from annual seminar for tourism development**

The creation of a Delegation of Tourism in the various divisions and subdivisions in the country is a whole process as declared by the Regional Delegate of Tourism for the North West Region. It starts with the creation of a Tourism Board which is based in the council and later the delegation is created. Since the decision to create Divisional and Subdivisional Delegations as declared by the Regional Delegate for North West Region, every year a seminar is held in Bamenda in which all the councils of the region are invited. This seminar is very important because councils being the closest governing body to the people better know their region and presents the touristic potentials in their various areas. The interest of the Ministry of Tourism is in those areas with potentials that can be attractive to tourists. Unfortunately, Mbengwi council as declared by the Regional Delegate has never been represented and at the regional delegation, MSD is considered poor as far as touristic potentials are concern (interview with Regional Delegate of Tourism Bamenda). So if the council was present, they will be able to presents these potentials that may be of interests to

the Ministry. The constant absence of the council in this seminar constitutes a major constraint that has impact the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

4.2.3. Constraints from Non-governmental Organisations

The constraints here include the non-involvement of the NGOs, CIG and Local Associations in tourism development. Field research reveals that there is no Non-governmental organization in MSD that is directly involve in the promotion of tourism. The NGOs present such as Plan International are interested in other sectors such as education and agriculture.

Conclusively, the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD is not an affair of one institution. It functions as a system in which all the institutions are like inputs, their action the processes and the result is local development which is output (figure 11). Tourism, a sector which can contribute to the development is dormant in MSD. This is because the touristic potentials are unharnessed. The unharnessed nature of the touristic potentials to a large extent can be attributed to the institutional constraints as explained in this chapter. On the other hand, the physical characteristics of the area also constitute a constraint to the harnessing of these potential. The difficult terrain which renders the construction of roads for example difficult and expensive, the harsh climatic conditions which may affect the health of the visitor are some other constraints that impact the harnessing of touristic potentials in this area. It question now is what can be done in order to harness these touristic potentials? This question will be answered in our presiding chapter.

PART III: VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESIS, CRITICISMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This last part of the work is made up of chapter five and six. Chapter five looks at the strategies that can be put in place to harness the touristic potentials in MSD and the possible effects that will be accrue to MSD from the harnessing of its touristic potentials. Chapter six treats the verification of hypothesis, criticisms of the results and recommendations that can be implemented in order to facilitate the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD and engender local development be used to better harness the touristic potentials in MSD.

CHAPTER FIVE: STRATEGIES TO THE HARNESSING OF TOURISTIC POTENTIALS AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON MSD

All societies strive to improve on their level of development. The environmental and human potentials provide an opportunity for its population to exploit to develop their areas. MSD is an example of an area which possesses natural and human touristic potentials that can be exploited to boost its development level. This chapter will answer the third research question and attain the third objectives of the study which is to propose the strategies that can be put in place to harness the touristic potentials of MSD and to explore the possible effects that will be accrued to Mbengwi Subdivision if the touristic potentials are harnessed.

5.1 STRATEGIES THAT CAN BE PUT IN PLACE TO HARNESS THE TOURISTIC POTENTIALS IN MSD

The following have to be put in place in order to facilitate the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD so that tourism can engender local development.

5.1.1 Education

The various stakeholders have to be educated on the importance of harnessing the touristic potentials in MSD before they can effectively participate in its harnessing. In the course of the study, the researcher realised that there were stakeholders who do not see the importance of tourism to this community. Thus, in order to encourage these stakeholders to participate fully in tourism development, they have to be educated on the importance of tourism, especially sustainable tourism to them and their community as a whole. The people can be educated in their various associations, in church and make tourism part of the curriculum to be taught in school. The domain of education should include among others how to preserve and protect touristic sites, how to behave towards tourists, etc. Thus, those involved in tourism should be well educated in order to offer professional services so that tourists who visit MSD will leave satisfied, will return to MSD and also recommend it to their friends when they travel back home.

5.1.2 Good promotion and marketing strategies

One of the reasons why there are very few tourists who visit MSD is because of the poor marketing and promotion strategies employed. Just at the level of the region most of the potentials are not known. Interview with the Regional Delegate of Tourism for North West revealed that most of the touristic potentials of the subdivision are unknown. Because the touristic potentials of MSD are unknown, they are not advertised both at the local and international level which can attract tourist investors. We are living in a communication age whereby new communication and information abound making it easier to reach out to millions at relative lower costs today. The council therefore which is the closest governmental body to the area should come out with the map of touristic potentials of the area, advertised these potentials both at the local and international level in order to attract investors and promote tourism in this area.

5.1.3 Holistic approach towards touristic potential harnessing

Tourism functions as a system. This means different actors come into play in order to ensure its smooth functioning. The harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD should employ a holistic approach in which all the actors are involved in a participative approach. Each party must play his role effectively. Tourism development is not the affair of the Ministry of Tourism alone but a joint venture of a group of ministries. The sectoral strategies for tourism development in Cameroon clearly spells out the different public administration involve in the development of tourism and their domain of intervention. Thus, all the ministries involved should work together in a holistic approach in MSD so that the harnessing of the touristic potentials will be possible.

5.1.4 Community involvement

In order to harness the touristic potentials in this area, the population must be full involved in all the stages. The local population should be involved in planning and implementation so that their interests will be considered at all levels. This is to ensure that there is no conflict between the local population and the tourism operators. Also, when the local community participate in the implementation of a project, the feel ownership of it and will protect it better. The community should see the improvement of their livelihood through the development of tourism. Field research revealed that traditional manifestations attract most people both local and international that come to witness the events (table 6). Local population involvement in the harnessing of touristic potentials should include among others the contributors to the decision making, creation of jobs for the community, encouragement of local craftsmen by the local authorities and the government in order to prevent the disappearance of some of these potentials. Tourists always like to go back home with some souvenirs. Thus, encouraging craftwork is in one way creating job opportunity for the local community. The local population can also participate in the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD by putting on responsible and cheerful behaviours towards tourists. When tourists feel welcomed in a particular area, they may definitely return to it or recommend it to others. Thus, the community should therefore involve in touristic potentials harnessing in MSD by being hospitable to tourists.

5.1.5 Putting in place of environmental protection laws

Field research revealed that most species of animals and plant have been extinct because of unscrupulous exploitation by the community. Hardly can one find a natural forest in MSD except around some palaces. The government therefore to should put in place laws to protect the biodiversity. Since the community of MSD mostly depend on the environment for livelihood, other sources of income should be made possible to the community in order for them to liberate the pressure on the environment.

5.1.6 Avoid the harassment of tourists

The harassment of tourists especially by policemen should be checked. Some policemen harass vehicles carry tourists and meticulously check tourists' documents in an attempt to find the lease fault so as to collect bribes. This is damaging to the industry in that such actions anger most tourists who return with a negative impression about the area. In order to ensure that such behaviour, which hurts the industry, does not continue recurring, it is important to provide appropriate training to police officials on how to approach tourists and ensure that policemen who attempt to collect bribes from tourists are punished in an attempt to eliminate such unfriendly behaviour which damages the image the area. This will make tourists who visit MSD to feel secure and be happy to come again. When more tourists are interested in the area, it will also encourage investors to invest in the harnessing of more touristic potentials and other tourism associated businesses.

5.1.6 Acceptance of tourist in the community

The community of MSD must be ready to accept foreigners as visitors in the local communities. They should be ready to market or sell some aspects of their culture, social life and surrounding natural environment to tourists. These will include available wide life species and unique cultural/natural landscapes, etc. It was discovered during field survey that the villages in MSD that have given access to some of the potentials considered secret to other villages have witnessed some increase rate of development. For example, Guneku village allow tourists to visit its shrines, cave etc which in some villages is sacred. Thus the reason while the village is more developed as compared to other villages in the Subdivision.

The above strategies among others can be put in place in MSD in order to effectively harness its touristic potentials and promote tourism. The development of tourism in MSD will attract some effects to the community. These effects are both positive and negative.

5.1. POSITIVE EFFECTS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MSD

Tourism is a sector that contributes greatly to local development if it is well planned. MSD being an area suffering from underdevelopment but rich in touristic potentials can exploit these potentials to boost its development. There are certain advantages that can be accrued to MSD if its tourism sector is developed. These advantages will be grouped under economic, social, cultural, political and environmental advantages.

5.1.1 Economic advantages

The economic advantages that will be accrued to MSD as a result of the development of tourism will include among others the creation of roads, creation of hotels and recreational centres.

- Construction of roads

Accessibility to an area is very necessary for its development. It is generally said that where a road passes development follows. Investigating on the problems hindering the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD it was realized that inaccessibility is the major problem as was affirmed by the greatest proportion (43.3%) of the respondent (table 11). Interview with some craftsmen on the field confirmed that their products are unable to reach the market because the cost of transportation is very high because of the bad nature of the roads. Thus in order to promote tourism, the council and local association can embark on road construction and maintenance. For example, the road to the Guneku cave has been constructed by the community through community work. Tourism therefore can help solve this problem since roads has to be constructed to sites to ease the accessibility of tourists. These roads will not only be used by tourists but also by the community to transport their different transactions within and out of the area.

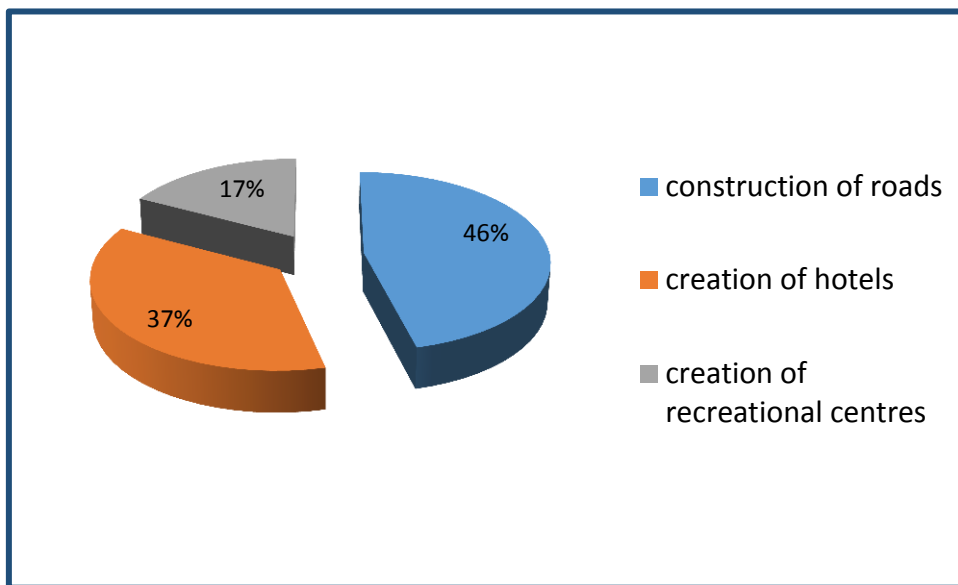
- Construction of better quality lodging facilities

Field survey reveals that MSD is does not only have insufficient lodging facilities but lacks good standard lodging facilities. What is referred to as hotels in Mbengwi is not a hotel if we consider the rating of lodging facilities. The quality is poor with poor services offered. Interview with a tourist during field work reveals that he prefer to lodge in Bamenda town and drive to the touristic sites in MSD because the quality of hotels in MSD are very poor. Again the present lodging facilities experience low demand. This discourages investment in this sector. The development of tourism therefore will experience a high flow of tourists into the area and therefore high demand for lodging facilities. This will encourage investors to construct more hotels with better quality and services. The presence of more hotels in MSD as a result of the development of tourism will contribute to infrastructural development which is a factor of development.

- Construction of recreational centres

If tourism is developed in MSD, there will be high flow of tourists into the area. The presence of many tourists in the area will create the need for more leisure facilities such as bars, and cinema halls to entertain tourists during their stay in this locality. This will not only contribute to the infrastructural development but these recreational centres will also employ more people in the area and they will also pay tax to the government. Money from these recreational facilities will be used to carry out other projects in the area thus contributing to local development.

During field survey, the respondents were asked to propose one economic advantage of the development of tourism to MSD and the results obtained is presented on figure 14.



Source: Field data

Figure 14: Economic advantages of tourism development in MSD

From the above figure, out of the 104 respondents who responded to the questions 46% declared that tourism development will contribute in the construction of the roads while 37% revealed that it will lead to the creation of hotels and 17% talked of the creation of recreational centres. From these responses, we realised that the major hindrance to tourism development in MSD is infrastructural problem. Good transport network will encourage entrepreneurial activities thus reducing the over dependence on the natural environment.

5.1.2 Social advantages

- Generation of employment

Looking at the employment situation of MSD, most of the people are self-employed. The main activity in the self-employed sector is agriculture. The development of tourism will lead to the emergences of other activities such as small businesses, creation of hotels and recreational centres. These businesses need to employ people to work in them. Thus the local population will have more employment opportunities. Increase in the level of employment in MSD will release the pressure on land. It was discovered during field survey that MSD suffers from the problem of unemployment. From table 12 below, one can estimate the rate of unemployment in MSD.

Table 12: Occupational status of respondents

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Civil servant	11	10.6
Self Employed sector	64	61.5
Employed by private	21	20.2
Jobseekers	8	7.7
Total	104	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2015

From the table 12, out of the 104 respondents, 11 were civil servants, 64 were self-employed, 21 were employed by the private sector and 8 were jobseekers. From this result we realized that most of the population in this area is employed in the self-employed sector. Field survey revealed that agriculture is the major activity of self-employed sector and most of the population of MSD has agriculture as their major occupation with very few of them who carry out other activities such as weaving, carving, blacksmithing, motorbike riding, tailoring and hunting alongside agriculture. Interview conducted on the field revealed that most of the people of MSD employed in this sector suffer from low and unstable income.

The development of tourism will entail the employment of people to carry out different activities in the tourism delegation and also in associated activities such as restaurants, bars, craft shops etc. Enhancement of tourism in the study area will employ young girls and boys as drivers, hotel workers, restaurant workers, tourist guides and managers in protected area. This will go a long way to contribute to improve the living condition of the population and thus leading to local development.

- Emergence of small businesses

Tourism is a sector that stimulates the other sectors such as commerce and transportation. The emergence of small businesses and other activities will stimulate the economy financially. The emergence of small businesses and other activities will lead to incentive structural infrastructures development. These businesses will pay taxes to the government in which the government will intern use to develop other sectors of the economy leading to local development. Field research reveals that the main source of the council income in MSD is from tax collection. So with the emergence of these businesses, there will be more tax to be paid to the council. More money to the council will facilitate the funding of different projects in the council area leading to the development of the area.

- Income generation

Tourism is an income generating activity both to the government and the community where tourism is taking place. If tourism is well organized, in addition to the creation of employment, tourists will need to pay before visiting some touristic sites; they will buy some products from the area and pay for services such as hotels, transportation and guides. Agriculture produce on the other hand will experience higher demand as food is needed in the hotels and restaurants to feed the tourists. This will help to generate more income to the community. The money generated from these activities will be used to in other domain of life such as acquire better education, acquire health services, pay electricity bills and acquire other needs of life. Field research revealed that most of the population of MSD has low income level (table 13) and the introduction of tourism may give an opportunity for more income sources. The income rate of the sampled respondents is presented on table 13 below.

Table 13: Monthly income of respondents

Approximate income	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Less than 10.000frs	12	11.5
11000-25000frs	35	33.7
26000-50000frs	33	31.7
51000-75000frs	4	3.8
76000-100000frs	1	1.0
101000frs+	11	10.6
No Salary	8	7.7
Total	104	100.0

Source : Field data, 2015

From the table above, out of the 104 respondents, 35 of them (33.7%) earn a monthly salary of between 11000-25000frs and 33 (31.7%) of the respondents earn between 26000-75000frs. Only 10.6% of the respondents earn more than 101000frs. This table depicts the fact the population of MSD suffer from low income. The low income rate is because most of the population is self-employed (table 12) in which the main activity is agriculture which is less income yielding. Other activities of this sector include, hunting, weaving, blacksmithing, motorbike riding and tailoring whose income are low and unstable. Given the low level of income, the introduction of tourism will act as additional income to businesses and individuals that supply goods and services to tourists. There will be direct source of income from the direct expenditure by tourists on goods and services such as accommodation, entertainment, transport, food and beverages. Indirect income will come from spending by hotels and restaurants through the buying of food, paying of workers, paying of water and electricity bills. The increase in income will give an opportunity for some basic needs of life to be acquired thus leading to better living conditions and local development.

- Improvement in the standard of living

The low income level of the people of MSD as seen in table 12 indicates that the people of this locality live below standards. The low income level is aggravated by the fact that there is high dependency ratio as the few active population have many people depending on that limited income. The low standard of living was measured in this area by comparing the total income earn and the number of children to be taken care of. The result from fieldwork is represented on table 14 below.

Table 14: Total income and number of children of school going age in charge

Total income per month	Number of children under your care				Total
	None	1-3	4-6	7-9	
Less than 10.000frs	4	7	1	0	12
11000-25000frs	1	11	16	7	35
26000-50000frs	2	6	22	3	33
51000-75000frs	0	1	3	0	4
76000-100000frs	0	0	1	0	1
101000frs+	0	3	8	0	11
Total	11	30	52	11	104

Source: Field data, 2015

From table 14, 35 out of the 104 respondents earn a monthly income of between 11000-25000frs. Out of the 35, 16 of them have 4-6 children of school going age to take care of. This means each person here has about 3000frs to leave on per month. Out of the 11 respondents who earn more than 101000frs a month, 3 of them have between 1-3 children to take care of and 8 have 4-6 children under their care. Calculating the income per head, we realized that generally it is very low. The low income level makes the population to be unable to afford for most basic needs of life leading to very low standards of living. So the introduction of tourism will lead to increase in employment and consequently increase income which will help to improve on the standard of living and thus contributing to local development.

- **More access to basic needs of life**

With the low level of income, employment rates and the level of education of the population of this area, there is high indication that the population cannot afford for some basic necessities in life such as portable water, electricity and good health services. Results from field survey shows that most of the population live in abject poverty and are unable to afford the basic needs of life. Table 15 shows the population access to some basic commodities in life.

Table 15: Population access to some basic needs of life

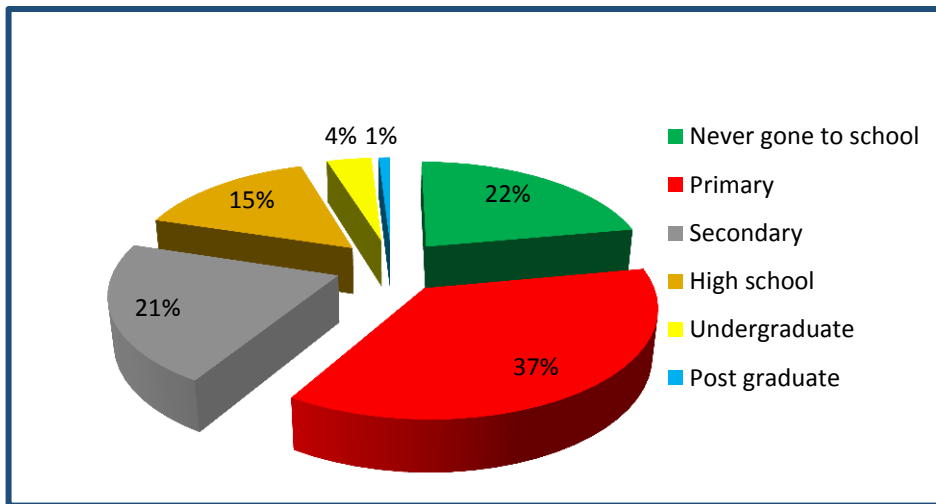
Source of drinking water	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Camwater	5	4.8
Community water	69	66.3
Springs	30	28.8
Total	104	100.0
Source of lighting	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
ENE0	47	45.2
Generator	2	1.9
Kerosene lamp	53	51.0
Solar rechargeable lamp	2	1.9
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015

The above table indicates that out of the 104 respondents, 30 (28.8%) of them still depend on springs for their drinkable water. Springs are not good water sources because upstream users do not consider downstream users. This reason why there is a high prevalence of water borne disease such as typhoid in the area (interview with Pa Ndakwa, Njah-Etu). 53 (51%) of them do not have access to electricity. Field survey reveals that most of those who do not have electricity today used to have but because of their inability to meet up with the bills, the lights have been cuts. So with the development of tourism in this area, the population will witness an increase in their income and will be able to afford for some of these life necessities.

- **Education and empowerment of the local community**

Tourism is an activity that educates and empowers the local community therefore contributing to individual and community development. Field research reveals that the level of education of the local population of MSD is very low. During field survey, respondents were asked to indicate their level of education and the result gotten is presented on figure 15.

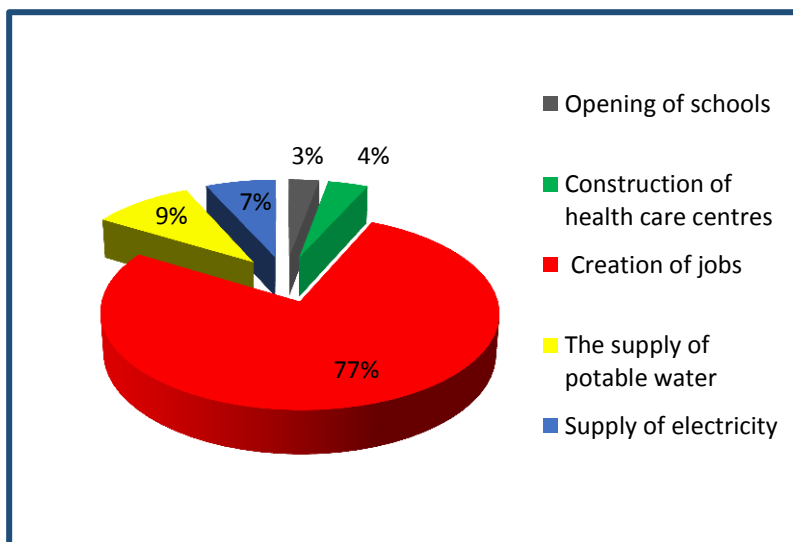


Source: Field data

Figure 15: Educational status of respondents

From the above figure, 37% of the respondents have attended only primary school and 21% have attended secondary school, 15% have attended high school 4% are undergraduates, 1% are post graduates and 22% of the respondents have never gone to school. This statistics depicts that most of the respondents do not have a good educational qualification which can earn them a good paid job. Education is very necessary for the development of every society. The introduction of tourism in MSD will increase the level of income of the population thus they will be able to afford for the education of their children. Apart from being educated to have a job, the community will also be empowered educationally. Educational empowerment is also a factor of local development.

It was necessary to find out during this research if the local population is aware of the social benefits that the development of tourism can bring into their area. In this light among the questionnaires addressed to the respondents was that which demands the respondents to indicate one social advantage that tourism can bring into their community. Figure 16 portrays the responses of the respondents on the social benefits that will accompany tourism development in MSD.



Source: Field data

Figure 16: Social advantages of the development of tourism in MSD

From the above figure, out of the 104 respondents who filled the questionnaire, 77% of them propose that socially, tourism will lead to the creation of jobs. 9% propose that it will lead to the supply of portable water, 7% propose the supply of electricity, 4% propose the creation of health centres and 3% the opening of schools. The above result shows that the main social problem of the people is unemployment.

- **Tourists benevolence**

The development of tourism in MSD may encourage the coming of philanthropic tourists who can contribute to the development of the locality. Some tourists may volunteer micro-donations which can facilitate different development processes. During an interview conducted with the quarter head of Njah-Etu village, Mr Chick Emmanuel declares that some tourists have been supporting developmental projects in the village like the community water supply projects. Also the Palace of Guneku has been receiving several donations from tourists which have been used in the construction of the palace (interview with a native of Guneku). Volunteer tourists can also contribute in capacity building by teaching and sharing ideas with the local population. For example, a volunteer has taught the Christian Women Fellowship group of Njembeng Presbyterian Church skills such as how to make potatoes flour, produce soya bean milk just to name these few. Skills acquired therefore can be used to improve on their standard of living thereby contributing to the development of their locality.

- **Local community empowerment**

Another advantage that MSD will reap from the development of tourism is local community empowerment which can be economically, socially, politically and psychologically. Economically, employment of the local population in both the formal and informal sectors and businesses brought in as a result of tourism will earn the community income thus empowering them economically.

The infrastructures, health and educational facilities brought in will also empower the local community socially. Also, tourism development will encourage cohesion between the people of MSD. Tourism encourages the organization of community groups which include youths, women and conservation groups. Profits from these associations can be used to finance social developmental projects such as water supply, construction of schools, health centres and road maintenance.

For the development of tourism to be successful in MSD, the full participation of the local community is very necessary because they are the main actors in the process. The population should be involved in every stage from decision making phase, execution and management phase. In summary the development of tourism should employ the bottom-top approach in order to ensure a sustainable development of tourism in MSD. By this approach the opinions of the local population will be needed at every level of development. In this like tourism development will provide a forum through which local population in MSD can also raise questions related to tourism and propose ideas. As a result the local population of MSD will also constitute part of the decision-making bodies of tourism development thus empowering them politically.

The inclusion of the population of MSD will make the population to be psychologically empowered. This community being confident of the fact that they are part of the project, that their culture and natural resources are appreciated outside will develop a self-esteem spirit. Increasing confidence of the community will lead them to seek further education and training opportunities therefore contributing in improving their educational status, thus empowering them psychologically.

- **Solidarity and social cohesion between the local population and tourists.**

The development of tourism in MSD will increase the number of tourists in the area. These tourists during their stay in MSD will interact with the population. In so doing there will be cultural exchange between the tourists and the locals thus contributing to solidarity and social cohesion. Tourism being a form of education, the local population will also have many things to learn from the tourists. For example, the tourists' guide in Guneku palace speaks like the American has been nicknamed 'america' behaves like an American because of his constant interaction with the white tourists.

5.1.3 Cultural advantages

- **Preservation and revival of cultural heritage**

The people of MSD are one of the people who still hold firm to their culture and tries as much as possible to conserve it. The cultural manifestation of the people of MSD such as dances, dressing style and feeding as seen above (table 6) is the main touristic attraction in the area. Rural environment and culture are very fragile (UNWTO 2006) therefore necessitate protection. The development of tourism will encourage the organization of more cultural festivals and trade fares in which there will be constant manifestation of the culture which will lead to revival and preservation of the rich culture of the Meta people.

- **Creation of museum**

The development of tourism will lead to increase in the number of tourists who will visit MSD as a result there will be the need to put in places structures that will satisfy tourists' curiosity. In this light the creation of a museum will be necessary so as to keep traditional artefacts in which tourists will pay to visit and even buy some of the products for souvenirs. Field survey reveals that most tourists who visit MSD buy some traditional arts like traditional wears, bags, craft work and food item during their return. The demand for these articles will encourage the population to revive the cultural and traditional aspects of the community such as carving, blacksmithing and weaving which are threatened by extinction due to the less economic value attach to them. The production and sale of the cultural artefacts will in addition to preserving the culture of the people of MSD, contribute in improving the financial situation of the people who produce them.

The opinion of the population was questioned on the cultural advantage of tourism development in MSD and the result is presented on the table 16.

Table 16: Sampled population's opinion on the cultural advantages of tourism development in MSD

Proposed advantages	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Organization of trade-fares	11	10.6
Creation of museums	61	58.7
Organization of cultural festivals	31	29.8
help preserve our culture	1	1.0
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015

Out of the 104 respondents sampled for the study, 11 (10.6%) said the development of tourism will lead to the organization of trade-fares, 61(58.7%) said it will lead to the creation of museums, 31 (29.8) said it will lead to the organization of cultural festivals and just 1 (1%) respondents said it will help to preserve their culture. From field observation, there is no museum in MSD the reason for which most people see tourism as a sector which will help in

the creation of one. The museum in addition to protecting the culture of the people is also an income generating activity, a source of employment and a form of advertisement of the culture of the people. The advertisement of the products from this area will lead higher demand of the products thus more production therefore generating more income in the area that will lead to the multiplier effect.

5.1.4 Environmental advantages

- Biodiversity and environmental protection and preservation

The development of tourism in MSD will lead to the education of the population on biodiversity and environmental protection and conservation strategies. The population awareness on the importance of their environment will endeavour to contribute to its protection and preservation. The implementation of environmental conservation in MSD will reduce the rate of species extinction of this area. Field research reveals that MSD was once blessed with several trees and animal species which are nowhere to be found today because they have been exploited to extinction. The area looks as if there have never been forest at all. A hunter interviewed says to catch an animal nowadays is not easy that there are no longer animals as in the yesteryears. The introduction of ecotourism as one form of tourism in MSD therefore will benefit the community in the long run. Ecotourism encourages rational use of the resources contributing to preservation of heritage and conservation of natural environment (as it uses often the same resources).

- Stimulates local activity diversification.

The creation of tourism as an activity capable of generating reasonable revenue will reduce the pressure on the environment. The population will be more involve in off-farm activities which are environmentally friendly. Such activities include, craft work, apiculture, computer training, tailoring, weaving and driving. This will help the people of MSD to diversify their activities and reduce the pressure on the environment, thus contributing to environmental conservation and preservation.

- Increase in the local population awareness on environmental education

Looking at the touristic richness of MSD, one of the types of tourism that can be developed here is ecotourism. Ecotourism has as one of its characteristics, the sensitization and education of the people on the importance of the conservation of the environment. Therefore the development of ecotourism in MSD will only succeed if the population is educated on the uniqueness of their environment and the benefits it can bring to them if they protect it.

Tourism also encourages the creation of village associations such as the hunters union, bee keeping associations and nature protection association. Through these associations, members can be easily educated on environmental protection and a sustainable way of living. This will lead to a change in attitude towards the exploitation and management of the environment and member of these groups will end up being ambassadors of nature protection thus spreading the knowledge further. Environmental education has been a very important aspect in the society today, thus the reason for which it has been included in the school curriculum. There is also the creation of clubs in schools and NGOs all in a way to create awareness of the necessity to protect our environment.

The above are advantages that tourism can bring to MSD though not exhaustive. Field research reveals that the villages that have harnessed some of their touristic potentials are witnessing more development than those whose potentials have not been harnessed. Even though the development of tourism in MSD will bring about many advantages, it will be wise to note that there are certain disadvantages that will also results from tourism development especially if it is not well planned.

5.2 NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Although this study is based mainly on the positive effects of tourism with regards to local development, it is wise to recognize that the development of tourism are associated with negative impact on the community.

5.2.1 Economic disadvantages

- Increase in the cost of living

Field research reveals that most of the products in MSD are sold only in the local markets in the Subdivision. Also these products are very cheap because of the low purchasing power of the population. Tourists are more affluent than the local population. If tourism is developed in MSD, the area will attract more tourists and tourists have high purchasing power and usually buy products from their area of visit as souvenirs. The local population will prefer to sell their produce to the tourists who buy higher than their fellow villager. With the development of tourism in MSD, more tourists will visit the area and their demand for local produce too will increase. This will lead to higher price of goods and services in MSD and the local population will have to pay a higher price for the goods they want to buy thus leading to a higher cost of living. A farmer reveals: *“I prefer to sell his garri to the Gabonese who pays higher prices than to take it to Tad or Mbon market where I will spend more time and sell for lower price.”*

5.2.2 Social disadvantages

- Practice of immoral behaviours

Generally, the Meta people are well cultured and of good morals but because of their poor and needy nature, this local cultures and morals may be corrupted by the contact with the wealthy tourists. The development of tourism may create a fertile ground from which adverse behaviours such as prostitution, drug abuse and alcoholism may spring up. In order to avoid these immoral behaviours, the development of tourism in MSD must be accompanied by strict laws to guide tourism activities in the area.

- Spread of diseases

Local community especially the young girls are attracted to wealthy tourists to reap money. Some of these tourists even though rich may be infected. The young girls of MSD as a result of poverty and the quest for easy cash may cling to wealthy tourists to have easy cash. This may expose them to disease such as HIV/AIDS.

- Rise in crime wave

The development of tourism in MSD may lead to the emergences of small businesses which will boost the economy. Economic boom may attract criminal activities such as arm robbery, terrorism and prostitution. Terrorists may come into the area in the name of tourists and cause destruction. The development of tourism therefore should be accompanied by intensified security.

5.2.3 Cultural disadvantages

- Cultural adulteration and erosion

Tourists come in with their own idea and their interaction with the local population can have an impact on the cultural practices of the local community. Local community may turn to copy and practices some aspects from tourists that may litter or even erode the original culture of the people of MSD. Local community always looks at tourists to be very rich as a result of this notion that the local community have about tourists they may do the extraordinary in order get money from tourists. If care is not taken, some may go as far as revealing some cultural secrets to tourists while others may allow tourists to visits the places they considered

secrets because of selfish interests. Some people in the community may turn to copy some attitudes from the tourists who come in the name of modernity for example, the dressing style, speaking and behaviour. Speaking with Mr Forsah on the negative effects of tourism frown on the fact that children nowadays lack respect and dress half necked in our community because they copy from outsiders.

5.2.4 Environmental disadvantages

- Environmental destruction

Despite the fact that the development of tourism especially sustainable tourism is to minimize the negative environmental effect, there are still some environmental problems associated with tourism. The problem arises when economic interest outweighs environmental concern. For example if there is a high demand for crafts products, is there is no control the will be high exploitation of wood that may surpass the regeneration rate thus leading to desertification, dry up of rivers, water scarcity, diseases. The environment has been destroyed because the demand for money or economic benefits outweighs environmental concern. For this reason tourism development in MSD needs to follow sustainable development strategies.

- Pollution

Another environmental problem that may arise as a result of the development of tourism is pollution. There will be noise pollution from the various snake bars that will be created, discharge of sewage from hotels causing water pollution, uncontrolled littering by tourist around touristic sites leading to land pollution and the air pollution from car exhaust and smoking of cigarettes.

The development of tourism even though can contribute hugely to local development can be so disastrous if not well planned. Tourism development in MSD is still at the exploration stage (Butler's destination life-cycle) and need to be well planned so that local development can be engendered. The population is supposed to be aware of these adverse effects in order to avoid their occurrence. During field survey, the opinion of the population was questioned to know if they are aware of the negative impact of the development of tourism in their area. The respondents were asked to choose one negative impact of tourism development and the results gotten is presented on table 17.

Table 17: Negative effects of tourism development

Effects	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Pollution	3	2.9
Prostitution	22	21.2
Destruction of Environment	15	14.4
Stealing	14	13.5
Terrorism	14	13.5
Cultural adulteration	17	16.3
Sickness	17	16.3
Insecurity	2	1.9
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data, 2015

From the responses gotten as shown on the above table, 17 out of the 104 respondents said it will lead to cultural adulteration, 17 said it will lead to the spread of illnesses, 15 of them said it will lead to the destruction of the environment, 22 said it will lead to prostitution, those who

stood for the fact that it will be lead to stealing and terrorism were both 14, and finally just 2 says it will lead to insecurity. The above table reveals that the population is aware of the negative impact of tourism especially on the social point of view. Interview results revealed the fact that most of the cultural aspects of the people are disappearing while others are being modified. Of less concern is the pollution and insecurity rate where only 3 and 2 respectively of the respondents were worried about.

Looking at the various choices of the respondents on the negative impact of tourism, it indicates that the population too is aware of the fact that tourism does not only impact the community positively but also negatively. What is important is that the positive impacts outweigh the negative impact thus supporting the fact that tourism can contribute to local development. In order for tourism to lead to development, it must be planned so that the negative impacts can be eroded. In this light, a follow up question was ask to respondents on what should be done to avoid these negative impacts and their responses are presented on table 18.

Table 18: Solution to the adverse effects of tourism development

Ways of avoiding the adverse effects of tourism	No of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Avoid the cutting down of trees	7	6.7
Placing of dust bins around the sites	1	1.0
Avoid industries that produce toxic waste	2	1.9
Intensify security	38	36.5
Put in place laws to guide tourism	35	33.7
Being stick to our culture	15	14.4
teach children tradition	3	2.9
practice sustainable tourism	3	2.9
Total	104	100.0

Source: Field data

Table 18 portrays that the intensification of security (36.5%) and the putting in place lay to guide tourism (33.7%) will reduce the negative effects of tourism development. 14.4% of the respondents said to avoid the negative impact the population has to be stick to their culture. A respondent revealed:

If government put law to guide tourism, policemen do their work to make sure that tourists are well checked before they come into the area then defaulters of the law punished then there will be no problem with tourism.

He further insisted that:

Police should not be only to collect money at check points but to do their work.

According to this respondent the success of tourism will only come if the various stakeholders are full involved.

The above analysis illustrates that development of tourism will have a great role to play in the development of MSD. This is because tourism development comes with the development of associated activities such as road construction, increase in commerce, water supply, electricity supply, opening of hospitals and the list continuous. The presence of these facilities offers the community greater access to the basic needs of life which is an indicator of development. It is also noticed that the success of tourism as a developmental tool in MSD will depend on how each stakeholder plays it own role. So, tourism development in MSD should be planned and the bottom-top approach employed so that local development should be achieve and maintained.

CHAPTER SIX: VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESES, CRITICISM OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION

From the beginning of our research, hypotheses were formulated in which data was collected during the course of the research which will enable us to either affirm or reject the hypotheses. The data collected was analysed, the results criticized and recommendation to ameliorate the situation proposed in order to ensure that tourism contributes to local development in MSD.

6.1. VERIFICATION OF HYPOTHESES

This study was meant to investigate if there is a significant relationship between the harnessing of touristic potential and local development in MSD. This main hypothesis is followed by three research hypotheses. In this section, we have to verify if there exists a significant relationship between the following: touristic potentials, institutional constraints in the field of tourism and the development of tourism in MSD and local development. The Chi square (χ^2) test of independence is used to test the validity of these hypotheses. Inferences are made and conclusions drawn relative to existence or nonexistence of relationship between the development of touristic potential and local development.

Chi-Square Formula

In the above test we used as level of significance $\alpha = 0.05$ (5%).

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

O = Observed frequency; E = Expected frequency; Σ = sum of; $df = (r-1)(s-1)$ (degree of freedom); r = number of modalities of the dependent variable; s = number of modalities of the independent variable.

Decision rule

If χ^2 (calculated value) < χ^2 (critical value) then accept (H_0);
Else, reject (H_0) (null hypothesis).

$\alpha = \text{probability of } (\chi^2 \text{ (calculated value)} < \chi^2 \text{ (critical value)})$

Degree of the relation

The degree of relationship is evaluated using the contingency coefficient as follows:

$$CC = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2_{\text{calculated value}}}{\chi^2_{\text{calculated value}} + \text{total frequency}}}$$

$$C_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{\frac{df - 1}{df}} \quad (\text{maximum of the contingency coefficient})$$

Conventionally, the relationship between the dependent and the independent variable is:

Perfect if $CC = 1$

Highly intense if $CC > 0.8$.

Intense if CC is between 0.5 and 0.8.

Averagely intense if CC is between 0.2 and 0.5.

Weak if CC is situated between 0 and 0.2.

Null if $CC = 0$

Hypothesis I

Null hypothesis (Ho): The existence of touristic potentials in MSD does not have any significant influences on local development.

Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): The existence of touristic potentials in MSD has a significant influence on local development.

The χ^2 test of independence was applied for the analysis, while the χ^2 critical value was read at 0.05 level of significance or alpha level (α) with 12 degree of freedom (df). The χ^2 calculated value was obtained after computing the observed frequencies. These observed frequencies are presented on table 19 below.

Table 19: Presentation of the observed frequencies of the influence of the existence of touristic potentials in MSD on local development

Name of the village		Most visited human potential					Total
		KU-BOME	GUNEKU	NJAH-ETU	NYEN	ZANG-TABI	
The monuments	Number of respondents	11	0	0	0	10	21
	Percentage of respondents	52.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.6%	100.0%
The palace	Number of respondents	9	10	1	6	0	26
	Percentage of respondents	34.6%	38.5%	3.8%	23.1%	0.0%	100.0%
The artefacts	Number of respondents	4	5	8	1	0	18
	Percentage of respondents	22.2%	27.8%	44.4%	5.6%	0.0%	100.0%
The cultural manifestation	Number of respondents	5	16	9	6	3	39
	Percentage of respondents	12.8%	41.0%	23.1%	15.4%	7.7%	100.0%
Total	Total number of respondents	29	31	18	13	13	104
	Total percentage of respondents	27.9%	29.8%	17.3%	12.5%	12.5%	100.0%

Source: Field data 2015

From the above table, we realise that there existed two possibilities; either the development of the villages of MSD is being influenced by the existence of human touristic potential or not.

Out of the 104 respondents making up the sample, 21 said that monuments were the most visited human potential, 26 said the palace was the most visited by tourists, while 18 talked of artefacts, and finally 39 for the cultural manifestations.

Out of the 21 respondents who said the most visited human potential was the monuments, 11(52.4%) were from KU-BOME village and 10 (47.6%) were from ZANG-TABI.

Out of the 26 respondents who said the most visited human potential was the palace, 9 (34.6%) were from KU-BOME village, 10 making 38.5% from GUNEKU village, while 1 making 3.8% were from NJAH-ETU village, and finally 6 (23.1%) where from NYEN village.

Out of the 18 respondents who said the most visited human potentials was the artefact, 4 (22.2%) were from Ku Bome, 5 (27.8%) were from Guneku, 8(44.4%) from Njah-Etu village and 1(5.5%) was from Nyen village.

Out of the 39 respondents who said the most visited human potential is the cultural manifestations, 5 (12.8%) were from KU-BOME village, 16 making 41.0% from GUNEKU village, while 9 making 23.1% from NJAH-ETU village, 6 (15.4%) where from NYEN village and finally 3 (7.7%) where from ZANG-TABI village.

The above observed frequencies were used to compute the Chi-square value as presented on table 20.

Table 20: Calculation of Chi square (χ^2) value on the influence of touristic potentials on local development in MSD

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	64.519	12	3.344 X 10⁻⁹

Source: Field data, 2015

χ^2 calculated value (χ^2_{cal}) = **64.519**

Level of significance = 0.05

Degree of freedom (df) = 12

χ^2 critical value (χ^2_{cv}) = **21.02607**

p-value = **3.344 X 10⁻⁹**

Contingency coefficient **CC : 0.619**

Since the χ^2 calculated value (**64.519**) is greater than the χ^2 critical value (**21.02607**), that is $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{cv}$, we reject the null hypothesis based on the decision rule.

We therefore conclude that there is a significant impact of the existence of touristic potentials in MSD on local development. We have here an intensive relationship between the two variables because CC is between 0.5 and 0.8. We also notice that, this contingency coefficient (CC) of **0.619** that infers an intensive relationship.

Hypothesis II

Null hypothesis (Ho): Institutional constraints in the field of tourism do not have any significant impact on the development of the community of MSD.

Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): Institutional constraints in the field of tourism have a significant impact on the development of the community of MSD.

The χ^2 test of independence was applied for the analysis, while the χ^2 critical value was read at 0,05 level of significance or alpha level (α) with 6 degree of freedom (df). The χ^2 calculated value was obtained after computing the observed frequencies. These observed frequencies are presented on table 21 below.

Table 21: Presentation of the observed frequencies of the impact of institutional constraints in the field of tourism on the development of the community of MCS D

Economic advantages Period of visitation		Economic advantage of tourism development			Total
		Construction of roads	Creation of hotels	Creation of recreational centres	
Daily	Number of respondents	17	16	12	45
	Percentage of respondents	35.4%	42.1%	22.5%	43.3%
During traditional ceremonies	Number of respondents	31	22	5	58
	Percentage of respondents	64.6%	57.9%	27.8%	55.8%
During holidays	Number of respondents	0	0	1	1
	Percentage of respondents	.0%	.0%	5.6%	1.0%
Total	Total number of respondents	48	38	18	104
	Total percentage of respondents	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Field data , 2015

From the above table, we realise that there existed two possibilities; either institutional development impacts the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD or not.

Out of the 104 respondents making up the sample, 45(43.3%) the touristic sites are usually visited daily, 58(55.8%) said the touristic sites are mostly visited during traditional ceremonies and 1(1%) said during holidays.

Out of the 45 respondents who said the most visited period is daily, 17(35.4%) and 16 (42.1%) said the development of tourism will lead to the creation of hotels and 12 (22.5%) said it will lead to creation of recreational centres.

The 1(1%) of the respondents who said the touristic sites are mostly visited during holidays, said the development of tourism will lead to the creation of recreational centres in MSD.

The above observed frequencies were used to compute the Chi-square value as presented on table 22.

Table 22: Calculation of Chi square (χ^2) value on the impact of institutional constraints on the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	12.920	6	0.044
No of Valid Cases	104		

Source: Field data,2015

χ^2 calculated value (χ^2_{cal}) = **12.920**

Level of significance = 0.05

Degree of freedom (df) = 6

χ^2 critical value (χ^2_{cv}) = **12.59159**

Contingency coefficient **CC : 0.332**

Since the χ^2 calculated value (**12.920**) is greater than the χ^2 critical value (**12.59159**), that is $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{cv}$, we reject the null hypothesis based on the decision rule.

We therefore conclude that there exists a significant impact of institutional constraints in the field of tourism on the development of tourism.

We have here an averagely intense relationship between the two variables because CC is between 0.2 and 0.5.

Hypothesis III

Null hypothesis (Ho): The development of tourism in MSD does not have any significant effect on the development of tourism in MSD.

Alternative Hypothesis (Ha): The development of tourism in MSD has a significant effect on the development of tourism in MSD.

The χ^2 test of independence was applied for the analysis, while the χ^2 critical value was read at 0,05 level of significance or alpha level (α) with 4 degree of freedom (df).The χ^2 calculated value was obtained after computing the observed frequencies. These observed frequencies are presented on table 23 below.

Table 23: Presentation of the observed frequencies on the effect of development of tourism on the local community in MSD

Advantages of tourism development		Opening of schools / Creation of health care centers	Creation of jobs	The supply of portable water/ Supply of electricity	Total
Most visited human touristic potentials					
The monuments	Number of respondents	4	11	6	21
	Percentage of respondents	57.1%	13.8%	35.3%	20.2%
The palace	Number of respondents	2	22	2	26
	Percentage of respondents	28.6%	27.5%	11.8%	25.0%
The artefacts	Number of respondents	0	14	4	18
	Percentage of respondents	0.0%	17.5%	23.5%	17.3%
The cultural manifestations	Total number of respondents	1	33	5	39
	Total percentage of respondents	14.3%	41.2%	29.4%	37.5%
Total	Number of respondents	7	80	17	104
	Percentage of respondents	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Field data , 2015

The above observed and expected frequencies were used to compute the Chi-square value as presented on table 24.

Table 24: Calculation of Chi square (χ^2) value on the effect of development of tourism on the local community of MSD

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.979	4	0.027
N of Valid Cases	104		

Source: Field data ,2015

χ^2 calculated value (χ^2_{cal}) = 10.979

Level of significance = 0.05

Degree of freedom (df) = 4

χ^2 critical value (χ^2_{cv}) = 9.487729

Contingency coefficient **CC : 0.309**

Since the χ^2 calculated value (10.979) is less than the χ^2 critical value (9.487729). that is $\chi^2_{cal} < \chi^2_{cv}$. we reject the null hypothesis based on the decision rule.

We have here an averagely intense relationship between the two variables because CC is between 0.2 and 0.5

We therefore conclude that the development of tourism in MSD has a significant effect on local development.

Table 25: Summary table of findings for the three hypotheses

Hypotheses	χ^2_{cal}	Df	α	χ^2_{cv}	Decision	Degree of relationship
H1 The existence of touristic potentials in MSD has a significant influence on development in this locality.	64.519	12	0.05	21.026	$\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{cv}$ Reject H0 and retain H1 There is a significant relationship between The existence of touristic potentials in MSD has a significant influence on development in this locality.	The contingency coefficient of 0.619 infers an intensive relationship.
H2 Institutional constraints in the field of tourism have a significant impact on the development of the community of MSD.	13.00	6	0.05	12.59159	$\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{cv}$ Reject H0 and retain H1 There is a significant relationship between Institutional constraints in the field of tourism and development of the community of MSD	The contingency coefficient of 0.332 infers an averagely intense relationship
H3 The development of tourism in MSD has a significant effect on local development in MSD.	10.979	4	0.05	9.48772	$\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{cv}$ Reject H0 and retain H1 There is a significant relationship between The development of tourism in MSD and the development of tourism in MSD.	The contingency coefficient of 0.309 averagely intense relationship

Source: Field data, 2015

The aim of this study was to examine the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD and effects on the development of this community. That is to investigate whether there is a relationship between harnessing touristic potentials and local development. The major findings are discussed following the research questions raised in the problem of the study and the pre-established hypotheses. We had three hypotheses to run through, after analysis we had all verified. The first hypothesis was the most relevant just as presented in the table above.

6.2 Criticism

Confident of the fact that our research work is not perfect, the criticisms made is in order to ensure that future research be ameliorated upon in order to have better results.

6.2.1 Criticism of Methods

The methods use in data collection on the field cannot be without question. The sampling technique may vary with researchers. The villages sampled could not have been a perfect one for the research. Other villages in MSD could be questioned and the result may come out different. For example the people in the village which have a waterfall will surely say the most visited potentials in the area is the waterfall because they see people going there, but do not know the situation in the other village because they are not there.

The research was not continuous and there is no data in this area on the field of tourism. The researcher carried out observation during the research period which was very short and had to

generalize it. The same situation that prevailed during her visit to the field could not have been the situation that dwells in the region. Thus, a research carried out for a longer period of time on the field may also give a different result.

The period apportion for the research work was too short with interruptions. There were classes to be attained and the internship period which was so charged that the researcher could not have time to be on the field considering the fact that the study area is so far. This limited the collection of information of certain aspects. For this reason, the touristic potentials of MSD mention in this work are not exhaustive. Also the fact that some of these potentials were considered by the people as secret did not give information concerning them while others were refused to be snapped.

6.2.2 Criticism of the result

A scientific work like this is supposed to be excellent because it is will be put to the disposal of the public for exploitation, thus it is supposed to be void of errors and mistake. Considering the fact that the researcher is human, she cannot boast of perfection thus she recognizes that the work may have some errors.

This research work is supposed to be in parts and each parts and chapter are supposed to be equal. The shortcoming of this work is that some chapters over weigh the others because of the fact that in some chapters the researcher was more inspired than in others.

Concerning the treatment of data for the realization of the maps for this work, the data collected on the field were not exact with the database given by INC for the area. So we may find some points on the map contrasting the real ground location.

Also concerning the maps, map realized for touristic potentials in MSD does not follow the exact coordinates. The location was done according the village of situation because the researcher did not use a GPS to have the exact location. Thus further research should use a GPS so that the geographical location should be appropriate

Also the treatment of data collected for this work was done using CsPro, SPSS and Excel. The unfortunate thing with SPSS is that it does not treat open questions. Information collected using open questions which are very vital for this work could not be analysed using tables or graphs. As such some important information that would have given more weight to the work could not be clearly demonstrated. Such information could only be used in the literature.

6.3. Recommendation

The proposed recommendations will be addressed to the actors under the different institutions involve in the promotion of tourism.

6.3.1 To the traditional authorities

Eliminate the mystical part of the tradition that restricts access to some touristic sites in MSD. This will help to increase the touristic potentials available in this area.

Reduce or eliminate the gender inequality gap by giving female equal access to all the touristic sites in MSD. In so doing female tourists too will have the right to visit all the sites just like their male counterparts.

Collaborate with the council in order to better organize the tourism sector in MSD. The Fons are the closest authority to the population. The Meta man holds his Fon in a very high esteem and is obliged to obey all his commands. Since most of the touristic in MSD are owned by the palace, their collaboration is very primordial in the harnessing of these potentials. For the council harness these potentials the Fon must give the go ahead. This is the reason why the Fons are considered as the principal actors in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

The traditional rulers should be educated on the necessity to harness these potentials. Most of the traditional rulers in MSD especially the aged ones hold to firm to their tradition and see the harnessing of these potentials as selling their village to the stranger. So, they need to educate them on the need to use these potentials to improve on the socio-economic status of their village.

Include the promotion of tourism in their various association plan of work. The traditional rulers of MSD are the one that proposes developmental projects to be carried out in the villages. So in proposing these projects, tourism should be made a priority project since the area is endowed with splendid touristic potentials.

6.3.2 To the community

The local population should be educated on tourism and be made to understand that they play the central role in the harnessing of the touristic potentials in MSD.

The people of MSD should be welcoming to tourists in order to attract tourists to frequently visit the area and to be comfortable while in the area. The love and kindness shown to tourists when they visit MSD will encourage them to come more often and even tell others about the area. This will help to increase the number of tourists that will visit MSD and a greater degree of the multiplier effect will be felt.

The people of MSD should advertise the potentials of their area wherever they find themselves, in their work places, social groups etc. This will help to create awareness about the touristic riches of the area and thus attract more tourists in.

The people of MSD should be made to change their perception about tourists being spies and terrorists. Also the notion that the development of their area is the government's affair but to know that they are the principal actors in the development of their locality.

6.3.3 To the local associations

Local associations should be more involve in tourism development. The development of tourism should be included in their projects.

Local associations should bring out better means of managing association fund in order to reduce conflict thereby increasing the participation and contribution rates.

Leaders of associations should be of good morals in order that use the fund for the purpose in which they were meant. They should have the spirit to serve and not to be served.

Leaders of the associations should be made to understand that being a leader is for the good of the community in general and not for their personal interests. The acting leaders should always see their predecessors as source of inspiration and thus cooperate with them. In this light their works should just continue from where their predecessors ended and not to abandon them. In this light there will not be any division between the members who were supporter of former government and the supporters of the present government.

6.3.4 To the elites

Elites should contribute towards projects that will promote tourism. They should also contribute in associations for the purpose of development and not for show-off reasons.

6.3.5 To the State

- The Creation a tourism board and a Divisional and Subdivision Delegation of Tourism

The state should endeavour to create a tourism board in the Mbengwi council and can even go as far as creating a delegation of tourism in this division which will be staff with technicians who can better identify these potentials and propose ways of harnessing them.

- **Concrete actions in the control of the councils**

Even though councils in Cameroon have been given authority to control and develop their council areas, the government is still supposed to stand as a regulatory board. In this light, the council is supposed to be answerable to the government. That is to say where the council is failing in decision, the government comes in with concrete actions. Given the fact that the period of rule in the council is short, mayors when elected want to engage in projects that will give them immediate benefits and not to engage in projects that will be benefited by their successors. So the government should draw up developmental projects for the council to follow and laws put in place to ensure that these laws are followed.

- **Improvement on the touristic infrastructures**

Field survey revealed that one of the major problems hindering the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD poor tourist infrastructures such as poor road networks, low standard lodging facilities and poor services rendered to tourists. Even where these roads exist, they are not maintained. So the government should ensure that the existing roads should be maintained through grading and where the roads do not exist the government should endeavour to create a road in order to facilitate accessibility to these potentials by tourists. Of great importance too is the low standard lodging facilities. Government should make sure that the infrastructures put in place reflect their names. This is because looking at the classification of hotels in the country, what is referred as a hotel in MSD is not a hotel at all. So lodging facilities of better standards should be put in place in order to encourage tourists to lodge in MSD so their presence will lead to more income to the community.

- **Ensure the implementation of the laws on the field**

The laws put in place to guide and promote tourism in Cameroon are so excellent. If these laws are implemented, then MSD and Cameroon in general will really be a tourist haven. The unfortunate thing is that these laws are only on papers. The government should make sure that laws put in place to guide the functioning of tourism are implemented and not only paper work.

- **Ensure the participation of all the stakeholders**

Tourism development in Cameroon is works as a system. It is not the duty of the Ministry of tourism alone but the duties of some adjacent ministries who are supposed to work hand in glove with the Ministry of Tourism (Annex 1). Each of these ministries has it role to play and a lapse in one of them will lead to the collapse of the system. So the government should make sure that each stakeholder plays it role efficiently so that tourism development can function smoothly.

- **Creation of schools of tourism in the area**

Tourism is a sector that needs skilled technicians to be able to identify and manage the sector. To ensure the presence of these technicians, the government can create a school of tourism in the area in which the level of knowledge and awareness can be increase. People from this school will be skilled with tourism development skills and which will go a long way to assist in the development of sustainable tourism sector in this area.

- **Intensification of security**

Field research reveals that the area is fairly secured as it experiences rare cases of harassment. Results from some interview carried out on the field revealed that the security agents in the area are more interested in cash than commitment. Some interviewers says their security agents are just interested in collection of funds from the drivers at the road and don't care about who is getting into the region and in case of the need for their intervention, the action is very slow or they don't come at all. The result from the questionnaire reveals that 1.9% of the population fear the fact that the development of tourism may lead to insecurity in the area.

The intensification of security will reassure the population to cooperate in the development of the tourism sector.

Tourism development as mentioned above does not concern the Ministry of Tourism only rather involving other adjacent ministries (Annex 1) whose roles are very important for the system to function smoothly. For a system to function, all its components must be present. So if one of the components are lacking, the system collapses. Tourism in MSD is not yet developed because all the stakeholders are not playing their part. So government should make sure that each stakeholder plays her role.

6.3.6 To the council

- Include tourism in their council development plan

The council is the closest organ to the people and knows the area more than the government. The council is to be interested first then can propose and ask assistance from the government. MSD council just like other councils also have tourism sector included in its development plan and the potentials in the area indicated but no fund is set aside for the development of this sector. The Mayor even affirms that the sector is a dormant one and does not fetch any money to the council and that they are interested in sectors such as agriculture and commerce that gives immediate cash to the council.

- Ensure a better collaborate with the government

The councils should collaborate with the government in order to develop this sector. The council should make sure that it response to government's call during the annual seminars in the Regional Capital Bamenda which is aimed at creating the tourism boards in councils. Thus, with this participation, the creation of the Divisional and Subdivisional delegation of tourism can be created in the area.

- Map out the Potentials of the Region

The area lacks a map of touristic potentials in the area. The council being the closest organ to the people is better place to identify the potentials in this area. The council should identify this potentials, map them out using GPS so that the government or/and investors should be aware of the touristic richness of this area and may be attract to invest in this sector.

- Collaborate with the traditional authorities for better organisation of the sector

The collaboration of between the council and the traditional authority is very necessary for the smooth functioning of this sector. Most of the touristic potentials of the area are controlled by the palace and they mystify them. So the council should make sure the traditional authority be part of the planning and execution committee so that the mystical part of these potentials can be eliminated. Taking the example with the Abbi Fall, field research reveals that the attempt to develop this fall has led to many deaths because the project planners did not seek the opinion of the traditional rulers.

- Advertisement of the potentials

Most of the touristic potentials in MSD are unknown to the outside world. There is a local radio station in MSD that can be used in the advertisement of the touristic potentials in this area. The council can also organize competitive trade-fares for the products from the area to be exposed to the outside world. The potentials in this region should be advertised in both the local, national and international media in order to create awareness.

- **Creation of employment generation activities**

Local depopulation experience in MSD is because of the movement of the population in search of jobs. The effects of this is that the active population which is the major force for the village is moving away leaving the area with less active population. So when community work is announced only old people present of which their productivity is low. The council to lay down projects in the area that will help to trap that these youths so that the labour required for the local projects such as community work, bridge and road construction should be available. Also the youths, cognisance of what they can earn in their area will see no need to move out. This will made them to be involved in creative arts thus allowing the potentials in craft work to be passed over.

- **Organisation of trade-fares**

There council should organize competitive trade-fares whereby the population of this locality will be given opportunity to expose their talents and products. This will bring in more tourists and will help in the revival of the talents of the Meta man.

- **Creation of museums**

The council should create museums in MSD in which the products can be kept for tourists who will want to visit the area at any time of the year. This will also be a form of revenue for the council. The creation of museums will also lead to continuous demand for creative works of art. This will encourage the population in involve themselves in more creative acts and the transfer of these talents to the new generation thus avoid the disappearance of these talents in future.

6.3.7 To the NGOs

Non-governmental Organizations should be encouraged to invest in the tourism in MSD.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Tourism has been seen as one of the industries that can contribute in local development. MSD is an area full of touristic attractions that can be harnessed to boost economic activities and thus local development since the inhabitants will be involved in activities such as selling of food, local materials, drinks and provide services in restaurants and hotels to tourists.

The study was meant to investigate the relationship between the harnessing of touristic potentials and local development in MSD. A general hypothesis and three specific hypotheses were formulated at the beginning whose validities were tested using the chi square test. Questionnaires, field observation and interviews were used to collect primary data; works of other writers were read to acquire secondary data that was analysed using various computer programs.

The results from the research reveal that MSD is an area endowed with touristic potentials, most of which are located in the villages where transportation is a problem. Most of these potentials are still under the control of the local authorities and are not yet harnessed. Thus the area suffers from low rate of development even though it possesses these touristic endowments.

The constraints of the various institutions involve in the development of tourism were examined to see how their limitations hinder the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD. It was concluded that the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD depends on the functioning of all the institutions in a participatory approach. The traditional institution has a major role to play since most of the touristic potentials are under their control. For the touristic potentials to be fully developed so that it can lead to local development, community participation is very necessary. The participation of the population required in order for sustainable tourism to be practicable so that the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD can lead to local development.

We discovered during this study that the villages whose potentials have been harness have higher level of development, better access to portable water, access to electricity, health services and higher level of education. We also discovered that even though these villages have developed their touristic potentials, the tradition has been more infiltrated than those villages whose potentials have not been developed. We concluded that the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD will bring many advantages to the region such as higher rate of employment, better access to basic needs of life, creation and maintenance of road networks just to name these few. Being aware of the fact that the development of tourism will also bring into MSD some disadvantages such as high rate of prostitution, frequency of disease spread, high crime waves and destruction of the environment, the creation of the Regional delegation of tourism, fortification of security and education of the local population on the need to conserve our environment. The study suggests some recommendation that can be applied in order to minimize these disadvantages. Sustainable tourism was seen as the best type of tourism to be practiced in MSD.

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Appendix 1: Ministries involve in the promotion of tourism and their domain of intervention

<p>MINISTERE DU TOURISME Paix – Travail – Patrie ----- SECRETARIAT GENERAL ----- DIVISION DES ETUDES ET DE LA PLANIFICATION -----</p>		<p>MINISTRY OF TOURISM Peace – Work – Fatherland ----- SECRETARIAT GENERAL ----- DIVISION OF STUDIES AND PLANING -----</p>
		
<p>STRATEGIE SECTORIELLE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DU TOURISME AU CAMEROUN</p>		
<p>Décembre 2005</p>		

Tableau n°4 : Principales administrations publiques et leurs domaines d'intervention

Désignation de l'administration	Domaines d'intervention
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature	Gestion des aires protégées
Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF)	Gestion des forêts, de la faune, des aires de conservation, de la chasse et de l'exportation des trophées
Ministère de la Culture (MINCULT)	Inventaire des principales activités culturelles et promotion de la culture nationale
Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MINESUP)	Formation et perfectionnement en matière de tourisme
Ministère des Enseignements Secondaires (MINESEC)	Formation et perfectionnement en matière de tourisme
Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances (MINEFI)	Fiscalité du tourisme, compte satellite du tourisme, douane et change
Ministère de la Planification, de la Programmation du Développement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MINPLAPDAT)	Programmation des investissements, de l'aménagement du territoire (zones d'aménagement touristique)
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MINADER)	Exportation des denrées alimentaires Amélioration du cadre de vie en milieu rural
Ministère de la Défense (MINDEF)	Sécurité des personnes et des biens (touristes)
Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation (MINATD)	Tutelle des collectivités locales qui assurent la mise en place des offices de tourisme
Délégation Générale à la Sûreté Nationale (DGSN)	Sécurité des personnes et des biens, contrôle des arrivées aux frontières, délivrance des visas aux postes frontières
Ministère des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, de l'Économie Sociale et de l'Artisanat (MINPMEESA)	Exportation des objets d'artisanat
Ministère du Commerce (MINCOMMERCE)	Activités commerciales
Ministère chargé de l'Industrie, des Mines et du Développement Technologique (MINIMIDT)	Code des investissements
Ministère de la Santé (MINSANTE)	Conformément à la loi cadre n°96/03 du 04 janvier 1996 portant loi cadre dans le domaine de la santé, le Ministère de la Santé s'occupe de la couverture sanitaire du territoire, de la mise en œuvre d'une politique de médecine préventive par la promotion de l'hygiène, l'assainissement de l'environnement, l'éducation sanitaire et la vaccination.
Ministère des Transports (MINT)	Fixation des tarifs de transport, tutelle des ADC, chartérisation
Ministère de la Communication (MINCOM)	Éducation touristique des populations/campagnes médiatiques de sensibilisation des populations, promotion du tourisme.
Ministère des Relations Extérieures (MINREX)	Délivrance des visas d'entrée au Cameroun, communication des informations sur le Cameroun aux touristes
Ministère des Travaux Publics (MINTP)	Désenclavement des zones et sites touristiques
Ministère des Domaines et des Affaires Foncières (MINDAF)	Problèmes domaniaux et fonciers
Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (MINRESI)	Recherche et vulgarisation à travers ses instituts spécialisés (IRAD, IRZ ...)

Source : MINTOUR

Cette liste qui n'est pas exhaustive montre à suffisance que le tourisme est une activité transversale dont le développement nécessite une synergie avec plusieurs autres administrations et institutions. C'est dire le rôle important que doit jouer le Conseil National du Tourisme.

Appendix 2: Attestation of Research

GEO 4 - ENS 2016

UNIVERSITE DE YAOUNDE I
ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE

DEPARTEMENT DE GEOGRAPHIE

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REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail - Patrie

N° *UYI/ENS/D/DPT-GEO/mng*

Yaoundé, le **02 MARS 2015**

Le Chef de Département

ATTESTATION DE RECHERCHE

Je soussigné, **Professeur René Joly ASSAKO ASSAKO**,
Chef de Département de Géographie, atteste que :

Mlle AKUM Estella AMUNDAM

Matricule **04B194**

est inscrit(e) au second cycle de Géographie à l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, et prépare un mémoire de DIPES II sur le sujet : « *Harnessing touristic potentials for local development. The case of Mbengwi Central Subdivision. North-West Region* ».

A cet égard, je prie toutes les personnes ressources et tous les organismes sollicités de bien vouloir lui faire un bon accueil et de lui apporter toute l'aide nécessaire à la réussite de cette œuvre dont les résultats sont susceptibles de contribuer au développement du Cameroun.

LE CHEF DE DÉPARTEMENT DE GÉOGRAPHIE

René Joly ASSAKO ASSAKO

Professeur des Universités

Appendix 3: Questionnaire for research

**THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE I
HIGHER TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (E.N.S) YAOUNDE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE HARNESSING OF TOURISTIC POTENTIALS TOWARDS
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN MBENGWI CENTRAL SUBDIVISION**

The aim of this questionnaire is to collect information on the available touristic potentials of Mbengwi Central Subdivision. We therefore count on your full cooperation in answering these questions. All your answers are strictly for research purposes and will be treated in an anonymous manner. Thanks for your cooperation.

Questionnaire No _____ date of administration _____

Instruction: Write only the figure corresponding to the right answer in the **answer column**.

Section I: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

No	Question	Suggested answers	Ans
Q101	Sex of respondent	1.Masculine. 2.Feminine	/__
Q102	Age of respondent	1. < 25years 2. 25-35 years 3. 36-45 years 4. 46-55 years 5. 56-65 years 6. 66-75 years 7. 76 and above	/__
Q103	Level of education	1. Never gone to school 2.Primary 3. Secondary 4. High school 5. Undergraduate 6. Post graduate	/__
Q104	Marital status	1. Married 2. Single 3.Divorced 4. Widow/widower 5. Concubine-ship	/__
Q105	Occupation	1. Civil servant 2. Self Employed sector 3. Employed by private 4. Jobseeker	/__
Q106	Approximately how much do you earn per month?	1. Less than 10.000frs 2. 11000-25000 3. 26000-50000 4. 51000-75000 5.76000-100000 5. 101000+	/__
Q107	Number of children of school going age under your care	1. None 2.1-3 3. 4-6 4.7-9 5.10-12 6. 13+	/__

Section II: IDENTIFICATION OF TOURISTIC POTENTIAL IN MBENGWI

No	Question	Suggested answers	Ans
Q201	Does your village have touristic attractions?	1. Yes 2. No 3. No idea	/__
Q202	If yes, which is the most visited natural potential?	1. The waterfall 2. The caves 3. The forests 4. The hills 5. Others. Specify	/__
Q203	Which is the most visited human potential?	1. The monuments 2. The palace 3. The artifacts 4. the museum 5. The fish pond 6. Monastery 7. The cultural manifestations 8. Others. Specify.....	/__
Q204	When do people usually visit them?	1. Daily 2. During traditional ceremonies 3. During holidays	/__
Q205	Who controls the site?	1. The palace 2. Council 3. The government 4. Individuals	/__
Q206	What are the modalities for visiting the sites	1. Palace Authorisation 2. Council Authorisation 3. Government Authorisation	/__

Section III: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES WITH RESPECT TO THE HARNESSING OF TOURISTIC POTENTIALS IN MCSD

No	Question	Proposed answer	Ans
Q301	Which of these lodging facilities are available in your village?	1. Hotels 2. Motel 3. Inn 4. Rest house 5. None	/__
Q302	What is the source of your drinking water?	1. Camwater 2. Community water 3. boreholes 4. Wells 5. Springs Others. Specify	/__
Q303	What is your source of lighting?	1. ENEO 2. Generator 3. Kerosene lamp 4. Solar rechargeable lamp 5. Others. Specify	/__
Q304	Do you have modern telecommunication facilities in your village?	1. Yes 2. No 3. No idea	/__
Q305	How often are people harassed in your village?	1. Very often 2. Rarely 3. Never	/__
Q306	Tick from the list the financial	1. Banks 2. Micro-finance 3. Both 4. None	/__

	institutions found in your village?		
Q307	Are there restaurants in your village?	1. Yes 2. No	/_/
Q308	If yes, what type of food is served?	1. Traditional dishes 2. Cameroonian dishes 3. European Dishes 3. All of the above	/_/
Q309	Is there a hospital in your village	1. Yes 2. No	/_/
Q310	If no, from where do you receive treatment in case of illnesses?	1. Traditional doctors 2. Travel out of the area 3. Auto-medication	/_/
Q311	Which of these touristic potentials in your village have you visited most?	1. the waterfall 2. The caves 3. The forests 4. The hills 5. The monuments 6. The palace 7. The artifacts 8. The museum 9. The fish pond 10. Monastery 11. The cultural manifestations 12. Others. Specify	/_/
Q312	Is this site harnessed to attract tourists?	1. Yes 2. No	/_/
Q313	If no, tick one factor you think is hindering the harnessing of the touristic potentials in your village?	1. Inaccessibility 2. Lack of lodging facilities 3. Lack of electricity 4. Lack of portable water 5. The hostile nature of the people 6. The tradition 7. Ignorance of the fact that it is a source of income 8. Lack of interests 9. Others. Please specify	/_/
Q314	One way you think can be done to help harness these touristic potentials.	1. By creating roads 2. By providing lodging facilities 3. By providing electricity supply 4. By eliminating the initiation part of it 5. By advertising the potentials 6. Creation of restaurants 7. By advertising the potentials. 7. Others specify	/_/
Q315	Who is supposed to develop these sites?	1. The government 2. The council 3. the community 4. The NGOs 5. The palace 6. All	/_/
Q316	How can you as an individual contribute in the harnessing of these potentials?	1. Engaging in community work in touristic sites 2. Be welcoming to tourists 3. Telling people about them 4. Others. Specify	/_/

SECTION IV: THE IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM

No	Question	Suggested answers	Ans
Q401	Tick from the list one economic advantage you think the development of tourism can bring into your village.	1. Construction of roads 2. Creation of hotels 3. Creation of recreational centres 4. Others. Specify	/_/
Q402	Tick from the list one social advantage you think the development of tourism can bring into your village.	1. opening of churches 2. Opening of schools 3. Creation of health care centres 4. Creation of jobs 5. The supply of portable water 6. Supply of electricity 7. Others. Specify	/_/
Q403	Tick from the list one cultural advantage you think the development of tourism can bring into your village.	1. Organisation of trade-fares 2. Creation of museums 3. Organization of cultural festivals 4. Others. Specify	/_/
Q404	Tick from the list one political advantage you think the development of tourism can bring into your village.	1. Creation of association to promote tourism 2. Creation of NGOs 3. Establishment of laws to guide tourism. 4. Others. Specify	/_/
Q405	Tick from the list one problem that tourism can bring in to your village?	1. Pollution 2. Prostitution 3. Destruction of Environnement 4. Stealing 5. Terrorism 6. Cultural adulteration 7. Sickness 8. Insecurity 9. Others. Specify	/_/
Q406	Tick from the list one way you think these problem can be avoided	1. Avoid the cutting down of trees 2. Placing of dust bins around the sites 3. Avoid industries that produce toxic waste 4. Intensify security 5. Put in place laws to guide tourism 6. Being stick to our culture 7. Others. Specify	/_/

Interview guide to the chiefs, mayor, religious authorities, Tourism delegation personnel and NGOs

- What is the state of the tourism sector in Mbengwi Central subdivision?
- Make an inventory of touristic potentials in Mbengwi Central subdivision.
 - Are there touristic potentials?
 - Which are the most visited sites?
 - Who visit them?
- Are the touristic potentials in Mbengwi Central Subdivision managed to attract tourists?
- What are the modalities to visit them?
- Does it generate income? Approximately how much?
- What is the income generated used for?
- If no tourism, why is the sector not developed?
- What are the opportunities that exist in Mbengwi that can encourage the development of these touristic potentials?
- What are the problems facing the harnessing of touristic potentials in Mbengwi Central Subdivision?
- Do you know you can take advantage of the touristic potentials to develop the area?
- What is the government, council, traditional authorities, and religious body doing to develop this sector in this locality?
- Do you think more has to be done?
- What is your relationship with other stakeholders i.e government, NGOs, council and local population?
- What are some of the advantage that the development of tourism can bring into your community?
- What are some of the problems that the development of tourism can bring into your community?
- How do you think we can avoid these problems
- If no, what can be done to make them more attractive to tourists?
- Do you think the government, FEICOM, local population, chiefs and NGO have roles to play to develop these potentials?

Interview guide for Tourists in MSD

- What is your nationality?
- How did you learn about MSD?
- How often do you visit MSD?
- How long have you stayed in MSD?
- What is your reason for visiting MSD?
- Which of the touristic sites did you visit or intend to visit
- For those visited, what are your impressions?
- What do you think can be done to ameliorate the situation
- Will you like to come to MSD next time?

RÉSUMÉ

Le développement local est l'un des principaux problèmes rencontrés dans la plupart des régions rurales, en particulier dans celles des pays économiquement moins développés dans le monde. Malgré le fait que la plupart des régions rurales sont dotés de riches ressources, une grande partie de la population rurale pratique l'agriculture, qui est principalement une agriculture de subsistance. Cela conduit à une forte pression sur l'environnement fragile entraînant une faible productivité et par conséquent, le sous-développement comme la population ne peut pas se permettre pour les besoins de base de la vie. Au vu de cette situation, il est donc important de chercher d'autres sources de subsistance, afin d'assurer le développement local. A cet effet le présent travail vise à étudier les atouts que peuvent apporter l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques au développement local.

Cette étude intitulée «L'exploitation des potentialités touristiques vers le développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi » examine la relation qui existe entre l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques et le développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi. L'étude utilise l'approche du système de recherche dans lequel les rôles des différents acteurs ont tous été examinés. Les données recueillies ont été analysées à l'aide des logiciels statistiques tels que IBM, SPSS et Microsoft Excel. Les hypothèses ont été toutes vérifiées en utilisant le test chi carré de l'indépendance. Selon ce test, la première hypothèse était la plus pertinente avec un coefficient de 0,619 d'urgence qui infère une relation intensive. La recherche conclut qu'il existe une relation significative entre l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques et le développement local dans l'arrondissement de Mbengwi. Le résultat de l'étude est généralisé de façon à représenter ce qu'il faut faire afin d'exploiter les potentialités touristiques de cet arrondissement. Nous terminons notre travail en suggérant des recommandations qui pourraient être utilisés pour faciliter l'exploitation des potentialités touristiques de Mbengwi.

Mots-clés: Mbengwi, potentiels touristiques, développement local, environnement et institution.

ABSTRACT

Local development is one of the major problems faced by most rural areas especially in less economically developed nations in the world. Despite the fact that most of the rural areas are endowed with rich resources, most of the rural population is involved in agriculture which is mostly subsistence agriculture. This leads to high pressure on the fragile environment leading to low productivity and therefore underdevelopment as the population finds it difficult to afford for the basic needs of life. With this situation in hand, it is therefore important to seek other sources of sustenance in order to ensure local development. It is on this ground that this present work seeks to study how the harnessing of touristic potentials can contribute to local development.

This study entitled “The harnessing of touristic potentials towards local development in Mbengwi Subdivision”, examines the relationship that exists between the harnessing of touristic potentials and local development in MSD. The study employs the systems approach of research in which the roles of the various actors were all examined. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Structured questionnaires and interview guide was used in the collection of primary data through a stratified random sampling method. Secondary data was collected from published and unpublished literatures. Data collected was analyzed using statistical software such as IBM SPSS and Microsoft Excel. The hypotheses were all verified using the Chi Square Test of Independence. According to this test, the first hypothesis was the most relevant with contingency coefficient of **0.619** which infers a significant relationship between the harnessing of touristic potentials and local development in MSD. The research concludes that there is a significant relationship between the harnessing of touristic potentials and local development in MSD. The outcome of the study is generalised so as to depict what should be done in order to harness the touristic potentials in MSD. The work concludes by suggesting some recommendations that could be implemented to facilitate the harnessing of touristic potentials in MSD and engender local development.

Keywords: Mbengwi, environment, touristic potentials, local development and institutions.