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Local community perception and attitude towards the non-utilization of natural resources in old Oyo National Park, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: This study was conducted in Old Oyo National Park, Oyo State to assess the local community perception and reaction to the non-utilization of natural resources. Ninety-four questionnaires were administered to obtain information from the local community. Data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistic such as frequency, percentage, mean, etc. Also Principal component analysis was used to determine the relationship between the respondent's demographic characteristics and their Perception of the rules and regulations of the park. The result shows that majority of the respondents were male (70%) while 24% were female. In terms of the age group, majority of the respondents were between 26-35 (36.2%) and 36-45 (28.7%) age group. Over half of the respondents (57.4%) had secondary education and 75.5% were married. The predominant occupations of the respondents were farming (42.6%) and hunting (21.3%). Some of the respondents (41.5%) agreed that the rules and regulations of the park were strict. Majority of the respondents strongly disagreed to the non-utilization of natural resources in Old Oyo National Park. By restricting access to these park resources, the people feel denied and as such majority (54.3%) of the respondents are non-compliant to the rules and regulations of the park. For adequate protection of the park, there is need to allow the local people to utilize certain resources of the park such as water, grass for roofing and vegetable. This will encourage the local people to protect the natural resources.

Key word: Local Community, Perception, Reaction, Non-Utilization.

Introduction

Outright conflict between conservation and indigenous objectives has been the major problem of conservation in Nigeria. Communities have been expelled from

national parks or denied the use of resources within the parks in line with the principle of conservation of resources in National Parks reserve (King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), 2005). Protected areas or National Parks and resource in them were considered as island of wilderness amidst the sea of people. Once demarcated, the people forfeited their traditional rights to the use of resources inside the parks and reserve (KMTNC, 2005).

Oseomeobo (1992) reported that the right of the surrounding communities to exploitation of flora and fauna resources in game reserves and national parks were extinguished following their establishment, hence the conflicts which reflect the people's sharp reaction against the discriminating government policies on their own land.

Although the ultimate aim of community conservation is to conserve natural resources and biodiversity, the intermediate outcome is to change human behavior and attitudes about conservation (Margoluis *et al.*, 2009).

Understanding residents' attitudes is a key to improving the protected area people relationship because it can provide the guidance for policy and management decision (Parry and Campbell, 1992; Hill, 1998). People are more likely to act in accordance with what they believe their peers believe. In other words when people perceive their peers to have more positive attitude towards the park, they will exhibit more positive reaction to it. They do this in order to either gain social currency or to avoid sanction from their peers. Alternatively people may develop their own internal belief system and value using their peer as referenced group for this development (Emerton, 1965). Despite the contribution realized from wildlife sector, a number of problems make wildlife a concern especially to the socio economic status of the communities' bordering wildlife protected areas. These problems include: conflicts with other land uses, poaching, habitat loss, pollution, global warming and introduction of exotic species. The failure of wildlife to compete effectively with other land uses in sustaining the livelihoods of the adjacent communities exacerbates these problems. As a result, local people look at wildlife as a liability (Gamassa, 1998).

The devolution of resource management to communities aims at getting their support for conservation. However, humans as economic agents do not decide on how much natural resources to conserve but rather how much to use (Van Kooten and Bulte 2000). Therefore perceptions of these communities towards exploitation of natural resource should be of concern to conservation professionals. Also, although the ultimate aim of community conservation is to conserve natural resources and biodiversity, the intermediate outcome is to change human behavior and attitudes about conservation (Margoluis *et al.*, 2009). One major factor that determines how humans behave towards an issue is their perception about the issue (Hawcroft and Milfont 2010; Chen *et al.*, 2011). Whether they are logical or not and/or true or false, perceptions influence the decisions humans make, and so are very important for sustainability of conservation activities. Restrictions and limitations to protected areas

have created long standing tensions between conservation managers and communities (Tessema *et al*. 2010). Therefore it is necessary to assess the perceptions of the communities about the restrictions of access to the natural resources.

The main objective of the study was to assess the local community perception and reaction to the non-utilization of natural resources. Specifically, the study aims to evaluate the local people's perception and support for the park establishment, assess the level of compliance to the non-utilization of natural resources in the park and evaluate the perception and reaction of the non-utilization of natural resources.

Materials and Methodology

Study Area

Old Oyo National Park is geographically located between North latitudes 8° 10' and 9° 05' , and East longitudes 3° 35' and 4° 21' , and centered on North latitude 8° 36' 00 and East longitude 3° 57' 05". The Park covers a land area of approximately 2,512 km^2 making it the fourth largest national park in Nigeria. Politically, it lies in Oyo State in the Southwest of Nigeria and borders Kwara State in the Northeast. It is surrounded by ten (10) Local Government Areas in Oyo State namely: Atisbo (Tede/Ago-Are), Atiba (Oyo), Irepo (Kisi), Oorelope (Igboho) Saki East (Ago-Amodu), Iseyin (Iseyin), Orire (Ikoyi), Itesiwaju (Otu), Olorunsogo (Igbeti), Saki West (Saki) and Kaima Local Government Area in Kwara State (Oladeji *et al*., 2012).

The park has an average rainfall of 1,100 mm per year (Aremu, 2007). The vegetation is southern Guinea Savannah. But several Botanists have classified the vegetation in the Park in different ways, but generally there are four sub-types. These consist of dense woodland and forest outliers in the South-eastern part, mixed open savannah woodland in the central part; out crop vegetation in the northeast and riparian grassland and fringing woodland occupying the forest plains and valleys along the Ogun River.

Some commonly found floral species in the Park include: *Burkea africana, Vitaleria paradoxum, Combretum molle, Terminalia glaucescens, Kigelia africana, Hymenoccardia acida, Lophira lanceolata, Daniellia oliveri, Mytenus senegalenis, Parinari plyandra, Uapaca togoensis, Afzelia africana, Vitex doniana, Anogeissus leiocarpus, Parkia biglobosa, Lacanoidis cuscupanoides, Lannea schimperi*, etc. (Nigeria Park Service, 2010)

Fauna species still found in the park include Western Kob (*Kobus kob*), Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equines*), Western Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*), Grimm's Duiker (*Sylvicarpra grimmia*), Red Flanked Duiker (*Cephalopus rufilatus*), Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*), Water Buck (*Kobus defassa*), Anubis Baboon (*Papio anubis*), Patas Monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), Green monkey (*Cercopithecus aethiops*), Bush Buck (*Tragelaphus sciptus*), Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Red River Hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*),

Warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), Lion (*Panthera leo*), etc. The Park is rich in both National and International migratory birds which could be watched by bird Watchers (tourists). Also abundant in the Park are Fishes, Reptiles, Butterflies, Ants, Mushroom, and Millipede etc. (Nigeria Park Services, 2012). Old Oyo National Park is divided into five ranges, as shown in figure 1. They are Oyo ile, Marguda, Tede, Sepeteri, and Yemoso Ranges (Aremu, 2007).

Sampling Method and Data Analysis

Primary data were collected from five (5) local communities in support zone of Old Oyo National Park. The study areas' selection was through multi-stage random sampling. The Parks is divided into Sector based on the Protection and administrative units of the Park. Sectors are further divided into ranges which are small units for

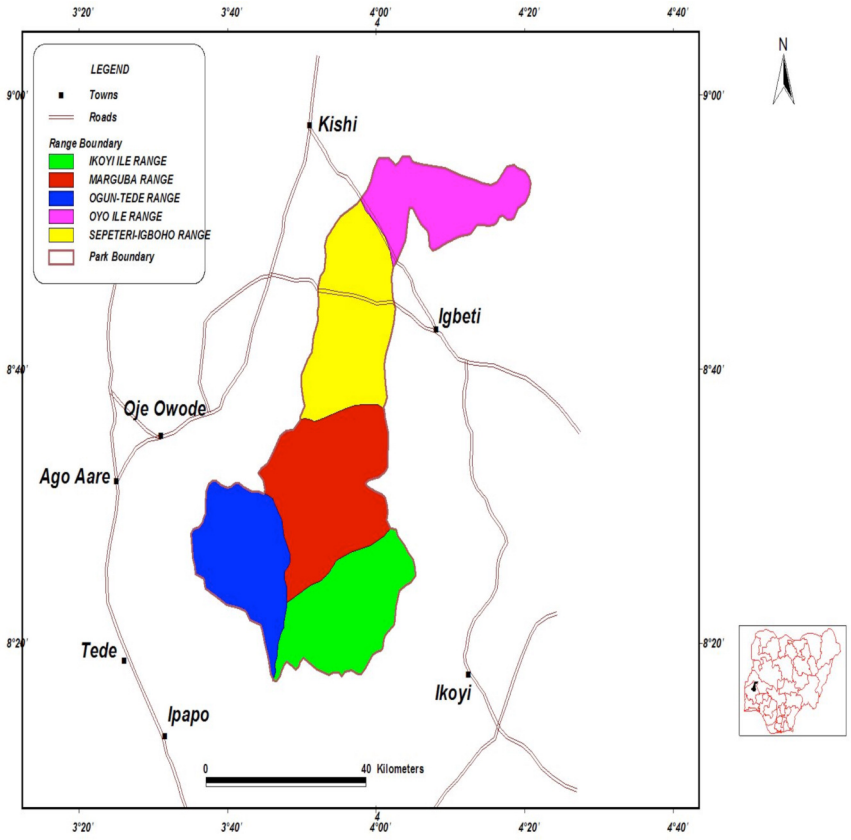

Figure 1 - Map showing Old Oyo National Park, ranges and adjourning communities.

Protection and conservation activities. Within the villages are the support zone villages of the Parks that were selected for the study. Old Oyo National Park consists of only one sector and divided into five (5) ranges: Ikoyi ile, Marguba, Oyo ile, Sepeteri and Tede. One village is selected from each range, and a total of five (5) villages were picked from the list of communities lying between 0-10 km from the Park boundaries. The villages were oloka, Sepeteri, Igbobe, Ogundiran and Igbeti based on their proximity to the Park. Twenty questionnaire each were randomly administered to each village, totaling one hundred questionnaire but only ninety-four (94) questionnaires were returned. Respondents interviewed in the study area were mostly people above the age of 25 years. The interview guide is divided into two parts: demographic information about the respondents and perception of the respondents about the Park. The interview guide was aimed at collecting information on the local people's perception and support for the park establishment, assessing the level of compliance to the non-utilization of natural resources in the park, and evaluating the perception and reaction of the respondents on the non-utilization of natural resources. Data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage e.t.c. and inferential statistics such as Principal component analysis.

Results

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents in the survey are presented in Table 1. The result shows that majority of the respondents were male (75%), while females were 25%. It was observed that majority of the sampled respondents were in the age group 26-35 (36.2 %) which shows that most of the respondents were of the younger working class/productive age, while age group 56-65 recorded 7.5%. The result shows that majority of the respondents were married (75.5%), and singles were 21.3%, while 3.2% of the respondents indicated that they were widows.

The result shows that majority of the respondents had secondary education (57.4%) while respondents with OND/NCE were only 10.6%. The family size of the respondents ranged from 1-10. The respondents that constitute the majority were household size of 5-10 with 42.6%, followed by 1-4 having 36.2%. With respect to ethnicity of the respondents it was observed that majority were Yoruba (70.2%), while Igbo and Hausa were 24.5% and 5.3% respectively. In terms of occupation 42.55% of the respondents were Farmers, 21.28% were Hunters and 10.64% were Artisans. Others are cattle rearers (3.19%), civil servants (6.38%) and traders (14.89%), while 1.06% of the respondents were unemployed.

The result reveals that the duration of residency around the park was significantly different, with majority of the respondents (50%) having resided close to the park for

Table 1 - Demographic characteristics of respondents.

Variables	Frequency (n=94)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	70	74.5
Female	24	25.5
Age Group		
16-25	16	17.0
26-35	34	36.2
36-45	27	28.7
46-55	10	10.6
56 Above	7	7.5
Marital Status		
Single	20	21.3
Married	71	75.5
Widow	3	3.2
Educational Qualification		
No Formal Education	14	14.9
Primary	14	14.9
Secondary	54	57.4
OND/NCE	10	10.6
HND/BSc	2	2.1
Family Size		
None	20	21.3
1- 4	34	36.2
5 – 10	40	42.6
Ethnicity		
Hausa	5	5.3
Igbo	23	24.5
Yoruba	66	70.2
Occupation		
Unemployed	1	1.06
Hunter	20	21.28
Farmer	40	42.55
Trader	14	14.89
Artisans	10	10.64
Cattle Rearer	3	3.19
Civil servant	6	6.38
Years in Community		
1-5	3	3.2
6-10	14	14.9
11-15	17	18.1
16-20	13	13.8
21-Above	47	50.0

more than 21 years. Respondents who had stayed around the park for less than six years were 3.2% (Table 1). All the respondents sampled (100%) were aware of the rules and regulations governing the park.

Main sources of information about the rules and regulations were significantly different, the largest proportion (42.6%) of the respondents indicated that they got their information from extension services and through public awareness by the Park management, others obtained their information through neighbors' and Friends

(30.9%), television and radio (18.1%) and community head (8.5%).

Most of the respondents (64.9%) were not in agreement with the rules and regulation governing the park because it affects their livelihood, while 35.1% thought the rules and regulations was comfortable and does not in any way affects their livelihood. Major areas through which the rules and regulation affects the respondents include: insufficient land for farming (26.6%), prohibition on hunting (21.3%) and firewood collection (8.5%). Others include; inability to graze livestock's (4.3%) and non-access to water (1.1%).

Respondents Perception, Reaction and Effects to Non-Utilization of Natural Resources

Most of the respondents (52.1%) advocated for the need to adjust the rules and regulations while 47.9% see no reason to adjust the rules. Rules and regulation strongly agitated for adjustment as indicated by the respondents are; Prohibition from using parklands (32.65%), prohibition from hunting (32.65%), prohibition from entering the park (24.49%) and prohibition from using medicinal plants in the park (10.21%). Despite the agitation for adjustment of the rules and regulation, 73.4% of the respondents still believed that the rules and regulations were effective while 26.6% of the respondents believed they were not effective. Most of the respondents (72.3%) support the establishment of the park even though some of them indicated the rules were affecting their livelihood, while 27.7% do not support the establishment of park at all.

Participatory Programmes respondents are involved include meeting (63.83%), Protecting the Park against wildfire (15.98%), Arresting poachers (5.32%), maintenance of road (10.64%), while the respondents indicated that they were not involved in any decision making.

Respondents' perception about the rules and regulations of the park revealed that 41.5% of the respondents agreed that the rules and regulations were strict. While 43.6% strongly disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing trees (Table 3). Also 36.2% strongly disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing shrubs, and 50% strongly disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing herbs. In addition 36.2% disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing mammals, while 29.8% disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing birds. However, 37.2% were indifferent to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing reptiles, and 33% were indifferent to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing insects. Also 35.1% disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing fish, and 45.7% disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing land, while 36.2% disagreed to the rule that prohibits them from utilizing water.

The result of the local community reaction to the non-utilization of natural resources in the park, reveals that 54.3% of the respondents indicated the community's

Statement	Frequency (n=94)	Percentage (%)
Awareness		
Yes	94	100
No	0	0
Information Source		
Public Awareness and extension Service	40	42.6
Television and Radio	17	18.1
Neighbors and Friends	29	30.9
Community Head	8	8.5
Acceptability of Rules		
Yes	33	35.1
No	61	64.9
Rules affecting Livelihood		
Yes	61	64.9
No	33	35.1
Ways Rules Affect Livelihood		
Insufficient land for farming	25	26.6
Not allowed to hunt	20	21.3
Not allowed to fetch firewood	8	8.5
Animals from the park destroy farmland	4	4.3
Not allowed to graze	3	3.2
Not allowed to fetch water	1	1.1
Rules need Adjustment		
Yes	49	52.1
No	45	47.9
Rules to be Adjusted		
Prohibition from using Parklands	16	32.65
Prohibition from hunting	16	32.65
Prohibition from entering the Park	12	24.49
Prohibition from using medicinal Plants	5	10.21
Rules Effectiveness		
Yes	69	73.4
No	25	26.6

Table 2 - Respondents awareness and perception about rules and regulations.

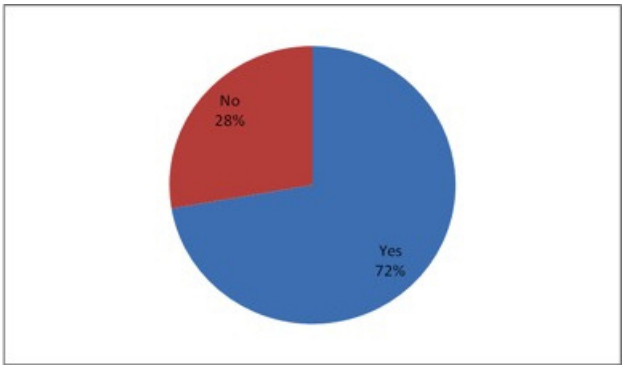

Figure 2 - Respondents support for park establishment.

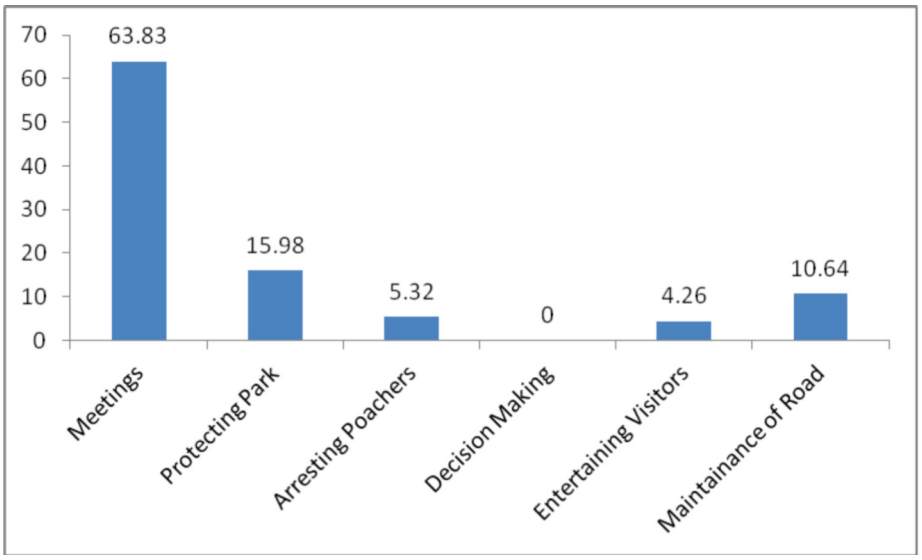

Figure 3 - Participatory programme respondents are involved.

non-compliance to rules and regulations was very serious, while 75.5% admitted that there are conflicts, but indicated that conflicts between park rangers and the community was not serious (Table 3)

In terms of the effects of the non-utilization of natural resources on the community, 36.2% indicated reduction in land utilization was very serious, 55.3% stated there was reduced access to natural resources and 51.1% said their source of livelihood was reduced.

Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to assess respondents' knowledge about the Park rules. PCA assessed the degree to which respondents have knowledge about the Park rules. A three factor solution was produced with each factor having more than a single item. Therefore, all the factors are statistically reliable. Factor I explained 38.47% with a contribution of 42.8% through alpha validity. Factor II explained 19.45% with a contribution of 22.9%. All the factors showed high contribution. All the three factors explained 76.1% of the variance of sampled respondents on their knowledge of Park rules.

The Principal component analysis of respondents knowledge of the Park rules indicated that the entire variables pointed to the fact that several demographic variables of the respondents contributed to the knowledge of the Park rules in the PCA and loaded above 0.50 on their intended factors and had relatively low cross-loading with evidence of factorial validity for the measures used.

Table 3 - Respondents perception, reaction and the effects of non-utilization of natural resources on the community.

Statement	SA	A	IND	D	SD	Mean	S.D.	S.E.
Local Community Perception								
Rules and regulations are strict	39(41.5)	23(24.5)	3(3.2)	7(7.4)	22(23.4)	2.31	1.407	0.145
Non-Utilization of Trees	4(4.3)	17(18.1)	8(8.5)	24(25.5)	41(43.6)	3.68	1.166	0.120
Non-Utilization of Shrubs	3(3.2)	22(23.4)	12(12.8)	23(24.5)	34(36.2)	3.55	1.188	0.123
Non-Utilization of Herbs	3(3.2)	22(23.4)	1(1.1)	33(35.1)	47(50.0)	4.03	1.042	0.107
Non-Utilization of Mammals	4(4.3)	23(24.5)	4(4.3)	34(36.2)	29(30.9)	3.70	1.302	0.134
Non-Utilization of Birds	3(3.2)	27(28.7)	19(20.2)	28(29.8)	17(18.1)	3.43	1.274	0.131
Non-Utilization of Reptiles	3(3.2)	23(24.5)	35(37.2)	21(22.3)	12(12.8)	3.27	1.156	0.119
Non-Utilization of Insects	3(3.2)	21(22.3)	31(33.0)	30(31.9)	9(9.6)	3.45	1.241	0.128
Non-Utilization of Fish	3(3.2)	12(12.8)	27(28.7)	33(35.1)	19(20.2)	3.71	1.170	0.121
Non-Utilization of Land	5(5.3)	17(18.1)	5(5.3)	43(45.7)	24(25.5)	3.88	1.310	0.135
Non-Utilization of Water	4(4.3)	9(9.6)	30(31.9)	34(36.2)	17(18.1)	3.72	1.177	0.121
Local Community Reaction	VS	MS	IND	NS	DK	Mean	SD	SE
Non-compliance to the rules and regulations	51(54.3)	10(10.6)	0(0)	31(33)	2(2.1)	2.18	1.429	0.147
Conflicts between park rangers and communities	3(3.2)	20(21.3)	0(0)	71(75.5)	0(0)	3.48	.936	0.097
Effects of Non-Utilization on the Community								
Reduced land utilization	34(36.2)	17(18.1)	21(22.3)	22(23.4)	0(0)	2.33	1.195	0.123
Reduced access to natural resources	52(55.3)	30(31.9)	2(2.1)	10(10.6)	0(0)	1.68	.953	0.098
Reduced source of livelihood	48(51.1)	25(26.6)	2(2.1)	19(20.2)	0(0)	1.91	1.161	0.120

Figures in parenthesis are percentages
Strongly Agree (SA=1), Agree (A=2), Indifferent (IND=3), Disagree (D=4) and Strongly Disagree (SD=5); SD - Standard Deviation SE - Standard Error
Very Serious (VS=1), Moderately Serious (MS=2), Indifferent (IND=3), Not Serious (NS=4) and Don't Know (DK=5)

Discussion and Conclusion

The study shows that majority of the respondents were married and are between the age group 26-35 and 36 - 45. This shows that the abundant population in this survey were the youths. This therefore implies that the information obtained is reliable

Table 4 - Principal Component Factor (PCA) for assessment of respondents awareness of park rules.

Variables	F_1	F_2	F_3
Age	0.895		
Marital Status	0.866		
Education	0.631		
Family Size	0.712		
Years in Community	0.821		
Sex		0.696	
Occupation		0.680	
Ethnicity			0.509
Commnity distances			0.798
Eigen Value	3.46	1.75	1.37
% Variance	38.47	19.45	18.18
Cronbach Alpha	0.428	0.301	0.229

F1 - Factor 1; F2 - Factor 2; F3 - Factor 3

since reactions are usually high among individuals in this productive age. It is this age group that is often involved in a lot of activities which include poaching and deforestation to earn income. This is also a very productive age group with very high expectations and demand that may drive them to undertake such illegal activities. Age also has significant influence on attitudes and perception of the local communities on resources use and conservation. This findings is similar to observed relationship between age and respondents attitudes as by Kimeli (1996); Newmark *et al*., 1993; Fiallo and Jacobson 1995; Shibia 2010.

Education affects many aspects of life, including how individuals relate to and perceive the Park and its natural resources. The level of formal education associated with respondents' age influenced attitudes of the people. The study shows that the younger respondents have higher educational level than older respondents, because the younger respondents have more access to education now, as compared with older generation. The older people in the study area have low level of education and such people depend so much on natural resources such as wild animals for meat, fuel wood, timber, medicine, herbs, edible plants etc., for their livelihood and survival. The level of education has also be found to determines the respondents' type of work and level of income (Kepo, 2011).

However, the younger generation that has higher qualification shows less dependence on the natural resources. Similar studies by Shibia (2010) indicated that educated people may have more knowledge on conservation related issues which could have resulted from high level of interaction at learning or educational institutions and exposures with media. This finding concur with Osunsina (2010) which stated that the more enlightened the people, the higher the tendency to support the park and be involved in the conservation of natural resources. This finding is also in agreement with the observation made by Heinen(1993), Akama *et al.* (1995), Infield

(1998), Fiallo and Jacobson (1995).

Family size and occupation are not dependent upon the length of time that a person has lived in their respective villages. The majority of inhabitants are subsistence farmers with an average family size of 5 to 10 persons/household, thus supporting the preponderance of large family sizes among the poor in rural areas of Nigeria (Eboh, 1995).

Due to the high percentage of local farmers around the park, there is a high dependence on farm produce for income which compounds the problem of land shortage. To increase their incomes, the community needs to increase farm produce which requires more land. In such situations, encroachment into the park for more land becomes almost inevitable. In many incidences, creations of these protected areas deprived local people of a resource that they had been accessing for a long time for both their cultural and economic values (Barrow and Murphree, 2001). There are also indications that some people do not regard the park as being important. This is because many claim the park does not employ the local people and this implies that the park does not benefit them. All the above scenarios provide a fertile ground for negative reactions (Kepo, 2011). When local communities outside the boundaries of protected areas are not included in the conservation planning process, conflicts often result. Most especially because local people are deprived of the opportunity of using natural resources from the Park. Hence the local people find it difficult to protect the park, from which they receive no benefit. These results concurred with those of previous studies done in Kainji lake and Cross River national parks by Okeyoyin, 2009 and Osunsina, 2010. Therefore, perceived personal benefits must outweigh perceived disadvantages to engender positive attitudes towards conservation as suggested elsewhere by Fiallo and Jacobson (1995).

Since most members of the community have lived around the park for a long time (>21 years), they consider the park as their own property and expect to be given unrestricted access to the park. This is shown in their perception on the non-utilization of natural resources (trees, shrubs, herbs, mammals, water, fish, land) as majority of the respondents disagreed to the non-utilization of natural resources. And it also shows why majority of the respondents are non-compliant to the rules and regulations of the park. Local community members in the effort to secure their means of survival were culprits of this wildlife management set up. This resulted into tension and conflict between protected area managers and the local people (Mugisha, 2002). This conflict has been attributed to high demand for natural resources resulting from the ever increasing human population (Archibald *et al*., 2001).

All respondents were totally aware of the rules and regulations governing Old Oyo National Park. Lack of information appears not to be a major source of negative reactions since the community apparently gets up to date information about the Park (a bigger proportion gets it directly from Park officials). However, this may not change

the attitudes of the conservative ones towards the Park (Kepo, 2011).

Majority of the respondents acknowledged that there were poaching activities going on in the park. This is because local people in the vicinity of the park have limited means of earning money and so need to supplement their income to provide a reasonable livelihood. The resources in the park remain a tempting supplement to a subsistence existence (Kepo, 2011). The resources are essentially needed during the dry season or farming off season, hence the total reliance on Park resources.

A good percentage of the respondents still support the establishment of the park. This shows that although their livelihood is affected, respondents still believe that natural resources need to be conserved. The effective long term conservation of Wildlife in and outside protected areas requires the support of the people who experience the direct impact of the establishment and management of these areas (Kiss, 1990; Western and Wright, 1994). Local people cannot be expected to provide their support for the Park if the costs of doing so out weight the benefits i.e. if the existence of the protected area and its wildlife has negative impacts on the local livelihood (Murphree, 1996).

Majority of the respondents acknowledged that conflicts between the rangers and the local community were minimal. This is because the relationship between the rangers and the community is a very cordial one. This shows the unity between the park and the local community and this relationship can further be improved and enhanced to garner support for the Park.

It can be concluded that although the park rules and regulations affect the local community's way of living, the local people still support the establishment of Old Oyo National Park. This means that they understand the need to conserve natural resources. Furthermore the local community disagreed with the fact that they utilize natural resources from the park which is why they are non-compliant to the rules and regulations of the park because they assume that the natural resources in the park is their natural God-given endowment. Although conflicts between the park officials and the local community was minimal bridging the gap between wildlife conservation and local communities remains a challenge. While the potential economic and ecological values of the Park to the nation cannot be ignored, it is probably when the participation by the neighboring communities translates into meaningful socio-economic benefits that the sustainability of protected areas may perhaps be assured.

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