

**THE EFFECTS OF ECO-TOURISM ON RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION IN
MAPUNGUBWE NATIONAL PARK, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

by

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DECLARATION

I proclaim that the hereby submitted dissertation to the University of Limpopo, for the Degree of Master of Development Studies (Planning & Management) has never been submitted before by me for a degree at any other university; and that it is my own work from plan to completion, and that all factual enclosed within have been accordingly accredited.

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November 2021

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my late Father, ***Bethuel Matome Makwela*** who passed on in February 2009, and to my late Grandmother ***Sethepele Elizabeth Makwela*** who passed on in October 2009. May the Heavenly Father rest their souls in Jesus Christ's loving peace.

ABSTRACT

Globally, eco-tourism has been recognised as a tool to enhance rural land transformation, mostly in areas and around eco-tourism destinations or those rich with natural resources. With that, literature has confirmed that there is a well-established principle between eco-tourism and rural land transformation in most countries across the globe. Theoretically, the establishments and expansion of eco-tourism do not necessarily bring only rural land transformation and associated benefits to the society but also entail various challenges. The challenges are inclusive of but not limited to threats to indigenous cultures and environmental degradation. Thus, this study was designed and undertaken to explore the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in Mapungubwe National Park.

The study utilised both qualitative and quantitative research methods and both qualitative and quantitative data was collected theoretically and empirically on the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. Data collection techniques included semi-structured questionnaires with a sample size of 43 respondents, interview schedules for 8 respondents and observations. Recordings of the interviews with the participants were transcribed and analysed including the findings which emanated from this investigation. The findings reveal that eco-tourism does play an important part in ensuring improvement of the Musina local municipal area's economy, where the Mapungubwe National Park is located. However, there still seems to be lot that needs to be done to ensure eco-tourism is sustainable to ensure there is rural land transformation and economic growth by eliminating damage to the natural ecosystems. Economic growth is always affected by the changing environments, either negatively or positively and there, the concept always comes in where tourism is concerned. The minimal positive impact it was making is improving some people's lives and through job creation (South African National Parks, 2006). The study revealed that eco-tourism does have positive effect on rural land transformation in the Mapungubwe National Park, which include economic growth through tourist attraction. The researcher is of the view that ecotourism is playing significant role in the rural land transformation of Mapungubwe National Park.

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
DEDICATION	iv
ABSTRACT	v
Acronyms	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF APPENDICES	xi

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction	1
1.2. Statement of the Research Problem	3
1.3. Research Questions	4
1.4. Research Aim and Objectives	4
1.5. Definitions of Terms	4
1.5.1 Eco-tourism	4
1.5.2 Rural Land	4
1.5.3 Rural Land Transformation	5
1.6. Research Design and Methodology	6
1.6.1. Research Design	6
1.6.2. Study Area	6
1.6.3. Kinds of Data Needed	8
1.6.4. Target population	9
1.6.5. Sampling Procedure	9
1.6.6. Data Collection methods	10
1.6.7. Data Analysis Techniques	10
1.6.8. Validity and Reliability	11
1.7. Significance of the Study	12
1.8. Ethical Consideration	12

CHAPTER 2

THEORITICAL PESPECTIVE THE EFFECTS OF ECO-TOURISM ON RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION

2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Theoretical Framework	15
2.3 Eco-Tourism Principles	16
2.4 The Types and Characteristics of Eco-Tourism	22
2.5 The Nature of Rural Land Transformation	25
2.6 The Types of Land Uses	27
2.7 The Effects of Eco-Tourism on Rural Land Transformation	31
2.8 Conclusion	34

CHAPTER 3

ECO-TOURISM AND RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

3.1 Introduction	35
3.2 Eco-tourism	35
3.2.1 Eco-tourism regulations	40
3.3 Rural land transformation	44
3.3.1 Rural land transformation regulations	48
3.4 Recommended measures to improve eco-tourism	51
3.4.1 Minimize impact	51
3.4.2 Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect	51
3.4.3 Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts	51
3.4.4 Provide direct financial benefits for conservation	52
3.4.5 Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people	52
3.4.6 Raise sensitivity to the local region's political, environmental, and social climate	52
3.5 Conclusion	53

CHAPTER 4

ECO-TOURISM AND RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION: SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

4.1 Introduction		54
4.2 Eco-tourism	54	
4.2.1 Legal Framework on Eco-tourism	63	
4.3.1 Legislations of rural land transformation	78	
4.4 Conclusion		82

CHAPTER 5

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Introduction		83
5.2 Biographical information of respondents		83
5.2.1 Employment Status of Respondents		84
5.2.2 Employment categories within Maroi resident		85
5.2.3 Employment categories among MNP employees		86
5.2.4 Employment categories among crafters		87
5.2.5 Total monthly income of respondents		88
5.3 Eco-tourism principle		89
5.3.1 Perceptions on Eco-tourism by the Musina Local municipality personnel		89
5.3.2 Eco-tourism practices		91
5.3.3 Reasons for involvement in eco-tourism		93
5.3.4 Environmental resource		93
5.4 Types and Characteristics of eco-tourism		96
5.4.1 Noticeable eco-tourism characteristics		97
5.4.2 Types and characteristics of eco-tourism		98
5.4.3: Partnership within the municipal area		99
5.4.4 Roles and contributions of the partnership		101
5.5 Nature of Rural Land Transformation		103
5.5.1 Perceptions on Rural Land Transformation		103

5.5.2 Characteristics of land transformation within the municipal area	105
5.5.3 Role players on Rural Land Transformation	108
5.6 Types of land use	
5.6.1 Types of land uses within the municipal area	112
5.7 Effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation	112
5.7.1 Effects of eco-tourism on transformation process in the municipal area	113
5.7.2 Income generated from eco-tourism practised activities	114
5.7.3 Sufficiency of income generated for sustainability	115
5.8 Conclusion	115

CHAPTER 6

FINDINGS AND CONTEXTUALIZATION OF RESULTS

6.1 Introduction	117
6.2 Summary of the study	117
Chapter 1	117
Chapter 2	118
Chapter 3	118
Chapter 4	118
Chapter 5	119
6.3 Key Findings	119
6.4 Conclusion	122
6.5 Recommendations	122

Acronyms

MNP	Mapungubwe National Park
GDP	Gross domestic product
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
SA	South Africa
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
LULC	Land Use And Land Cover
ALURT	Agriculture Land Use Right Transfer
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UK	United Kingdom
PPP	Polluter Pays Principle
SEZ	Special Economic Zone

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.6.1 Nature reserve at Mapungubwe National Park	7
Figure 5.1: Employment status	84
Figure 5.2: Employment sector	85
Figure 5.3: Employment categories among MNP employees	86
Figure 5.4: Employment categories among crafters	87
Figure 5.5: Total monthly income	88
Figure 5.6: Perceptions on Eco-tourism	90
Figure 5.7: Eco-tourism practices	91
Figure 5.8: Reasons for involvement	93
Figure 5.9: Environmental resources	94
Figure 5.10: Noticeable eco-tourism characteristics	97
Figure 5.11: Types and characteristics of eco-tourism	98
Figure 5.12: Partnership within the municipal area	100
Figure 5.13: Roles and contributions of the partnership	102
Figure 5.14: Perceptions on Rural Land Transformation	104
Figure 5.15: Characteristics of land transformation within the municipal area	106
Figure 5.16: Role players on Rural Land Transformation	108
Figure 5.17: Types of land uses within the municipal area	110
Figure 5.18: Effects of eco-tourism on transformation process in the municipal area	112
Figure 5.19: Income generated from eco-tourism practised activities	114
Figure 5.20: Sufficiency of income generated for sustainability	115

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Questionnaire survey for Maroi Community members	137
Appendix B: Questionnaire survey for craft makers	148
Appendix C: Questionnaire survey for Mapungubwe National Park employees.	159
Appendix D: Interview schedule for Farm Owners in Musina Local Municipality	170
Appendix E: Interview schedule for Tourism and Economic Development Officials of Musina Local Municipality.	172
Appendix F: Interview schedule for managers or operators of Mapungubwe National Park	174

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Globally, eco-tourism has the biggest and fastest growing industry and observed to be a widespread international relaxation which mainly depends on physical surroundings (Cater, 1994; Chakrabarty, 2011; Tran & Do, 2011; Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Janusz & Bajdor, 2013). It has been acknowledged as an instrument to transform rural areas through provision of economic development opportunities (Drumm & Moore, 2002; Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Onyeabor & Alimba, 2015). Just like with any other human development activities globally, eco-tourism remains dependent on land as a crucial resource to undertake its performance (Mao, Meng & Wang, 2014; Bel, Lacroix, Lyser, Rambonilaza & Turpin, 2015; Pruksanubal, 2016; Mohan, 2017). Literature has revealed that the establishment and expansion of eco-tourism does not necessarily bring only rural land transformation and the benefits to the society, but also comes with various challenges (Mequanint, Gebremedhin & Teshager, 2014; Rid, Ezeuduji & Probstl-Haider, 2014; Bel et al, 2015; Kruger & Saayman, 2015). Research have helped improve the knowledge on multifaceted and diverse matters of dissemination of eco-tourism paybacks, matters relating to ensuring quality life and encouraging natural resource protection (Pillai, 2011; Tran & Do, 2011; Rid et al, 2014; Bel et al, 2015; Cobbinah, Amenuvor, Black & Perprah, 2017; KC, Paudyal & Neupane, 2018). For instance, in Thailand, studies revealed that the main problem is uneven dispersal of revenue gathered through tourism which created numerous clashes amongst the rural populace (Pruksanubal, 2016; Sangchumnong, 2018). Also, studies conducted in China revealed that the rapid expansion of tourism exposed the area to jeopardy of deforestation and plantation dreadful conditions (Mao et al, 2014; Liu, Liu & Yan, 2016; He, He & Xu, 2018; Wang, Wu, Wu, Wu & Pearce, 2018).

In African countries, eco-tourism has turned out to be a form of livelihood diversification strategy, yet not effectively assisting in improving the entire community due to the benefits only enjoyed by the minority (Cobbinah et al, 2017). The inequality of eco-tourism benefits distribution amongst the community members gives the community elites spotlight. Some studies have revealed that most rural societies that are rich with eco-tourism assets often remain amongst the most disadvantaged in Africa, yet public participation enforced as protocol (Meguanint et al, 2014; Cobbinah et al, 2017). Rapid touristic development has been an issue that causes unrest amongst local communities regionally, due to restrictions from hunting for poverty reduction, improvement of revenue and well-being, as well as a way

of making a living which however result in wildlife reduction (Robinson & Bennet, 2004; Fitzherbert, Struebig, Morel, Danielsen, Bruhl, Donald & Phalan, 2008; Edwards, 2010). Ownership of land remains a problem and has led to delays in rural land transformation, thereby creating public protests. This has raised a lot of questions on issues of land grab challenges in relation to finance, grid connectivity and distribution of land area (Rajaram, 2012; Siraj, 2015; Mohan, 2017).

In South Africa, rural land transformation is one of the government's priorities, depending much on tourism sector as the fastest growing contributor to GDP (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, 2014). In light of this, various development strategies, policies and legislation has been established and are constantly amended binding organizations to assist on achieving the rural land transformation for rural economic growth. Nonetheless, the legal frameworks put in place does not substantiate that eco-tourism will surely assist on transforming the rural land effectively as predicted. Even with approximately 41 million populaces and 1.27 million sq. km land area, eco-tourism is seen as a strategy to transform the rural land through providing economic opportunities as a means to address the socio-economic issues, mostly in rural communities (Hill & Gale, 2009; Gordhan, 2016; Stats SA, 2017). This study revealed that rural land transformation is influenced by eco-tourism in most countries across the world.

In Limpopo Province, which has about 10.6% of country's total land area, It is used for agriculture, mining and tourism (Warren, 2011). Since the birth of democracy, the Limpopo Province government has given much attention to eco-tourism development, of which presently subsidizes 11% of the nation's tourism returns, together with the citizens' rights and policies governing to land issues (Mathabatha, 2016). As a result, eco-tourism is seen as a strategy for transforming rural land through provision of income for societies within and surrounding the conservation areas (Cini, Francesca, Peet Van der Merwe & Saayman, 2015). In areas such as Mapungubwe national park, the well-recognized park in the Limpopo Province, has various eco-tourism potentials due to its rich cultural landscape and the matchless natural resources. With the various eco-tourism destinations found within the park such as Leokwe Camp, Limpopo forest camp and the Tshugulu lodge, it seems to be a promising landscape for positive effect on transforming the rural land. Even so, socio-economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure, low economic growth, lack of entrepreneurship are observed. The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in Mapungubwe National Park.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problem

Wide-reaching, eco-tourism development is found to have conveyed various paybacks to rural communities and to conservation areas. It has found to have drastically transformed the rural areas within and around eco-tourism destinations addressing most socio-economic issues faced by the localities, directly or indirectly, yet created issues of distrust and deceitfulness due to unequal dissemination of certain paybacks brought by the tourists' attraction sites (Drumm & Moore, 2002; Onyeabor & Alimba, 2015). Internationally, eco-tourism has been observed as a viable transformer of rural land through creation of economic opportunities and attraction of investments within the rural areas (Drumm & Moore, 2002; Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Janusz & Bajdor, 2013)., This has also led to the need for construction of new development activities such as road networks and other types of infrastructure. The establishments and expansion of eco-tourism destinations has also led to several undesirable forces on natural assets, ecology and local surroundings (Vitouse, Mooney, Lubchenco & Melillo, 1997; Levin, 2001; Hakim, Soemarno & Hong, 2012; Hornoiu, 2015). Most studies have focused on examining the dissemination of eco-tourism paybacks as well as a need for reinforcement of establishment and expansion of eco-tourism destinations (Levin, 2001; Drumm & Moore, 2002; Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Janusz & Bajdor, 2013; Onyeabor & Alimba, 2015). On the contrary, information on the effects of establishments and expansions of eco-tourism destinations on community's lives seems to be side-lined. Additionally, the issues of land ownership and most importantly consideration on what the land was previously used for, as well as how such land use was previously benefiting the community, directly or indirectly, seem to also be relegated (Mao et al, 2014; Bel et al, 2015; Mohan, 2017).

Priority seems to be made on beneficial programs and projects regardless of how much such side-line the needs and voices of the beneficiaries, leading to their needs not satisfied together with environmental consequences (Mao et al, 2014). For instance in China, between 1989 and 2000, approximately an increase of 141%, and about 195% increase between the years of 2000 to 2010, on the risk of deforestation as well as forest degradation has been observed as a result of the rapid tourism development and expansion of tourism related constructions (Mao et al, 2014).

Although in South Africa eco-tourism has been seen as a way to enhance rural land transformation especially in areas located nearby eco-tourism destinations, it is still seen as an indirect development problem to certain areas nearby eco-tourism destinations (Hill & Gale, 2009). This is mainly because some of the benefits are only shared amongst certain

individuals not the entire community. Mapungubwe National Park is regarded as the biggest empire of the African continent and the recognized park of South Africa with various potentials due to its rich cultural landscape, it seems to be a promising landscape for positive effect on rural land transformation. However, there are still concerns over the socio-economic still perpetuate within the areas nearby this eco-tourism destination with its existence and expansions. Eco-tourism been perceived to be a method to ensure monetary expansion within localities, it is not known why there are still issues hindering rural land transformation especially within areas located next to the Mapungubwe National Park. Therefore, it is for this reason that this study sought to investigate the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation putting Mapungubwe National Park on the spotlight.

1.3. Research Questions

The general research question of the study was as follows: How does eco-tourism affect rural land transformation?

Precise questions for the research, that were derived from the general research question were as follows:

- What are the principles of eco-tourism?
- What are the types and characteristics of eco-tourism?
- What is the nature of rural land transformation?
- What are the types of land uses?
- What are the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation?

1.4. Research Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation.

The objectives that were derived from the aim of the study were as follows:

- To examine the principles of eco-tourism.
- To explore the types and characteristics of eco-tourism.
- To analyze the nature of rural land transformation.
- To evaluate the types of land uses.
- To investigate the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation.
- To recommend measures that might improve eco-tourism on rural land transformation, to effectively contribute to development.

1.5. Definitions of Terms

This section provided the definition of terms that were mostly used throughout the study, which are: eco-tourism, rural land, and rural land transformation. The definitions provided served as what the concepts were referred to in this study.

1.5.1 Eco-tourism

Eco-tourism is defined as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education" (The International Ecotourism Society (TIES), 2015). Additionally, eco-tourism is known as an educational nature vacation experience that provides the ecosystem protection, at the same time respecting the reliability of host societies (Wight, 1993). Eco-tourism is similarly known as an environmentally accountable travel to natural zones, in order for nature appreciation and the associated traditional sceneries, both previous and current that encourage nature protection, showing visitor impact that is low, while offering the socio-economic participation of resident people that is beneficially active (Cobbinah, 2015). Therefore, for the operational of this study, this eco-tourism definition by Cobbinah (2015) was adopted as highlighted above.

1.5.2 Rural Land

Rural land is defined as farming backgrounds, isolated residential area located far from town and cities characterized with small structures and numbers of houses (Mohan, 2017). Rural land is further described as the populated areas which are extensively disconnected and distant from the major centres of towns, whereby land is the main asset that communities depend on for practicing agricultural activities of which provide income generation opportunities within the household and results to poverty alleviation (Mao et al, 2014). Moreover, it is the locality whereby there is collective social and economic action; people's lives revolve around culture, cattle and traditional practices (William & Christopher, 2011). It is an area where people have sense of community and helping one another on addressing common issues affecting them daily (Pruksanubal, 2016). Then to operationalize, this study adopted the combined definition of authors (Mao et al, 2014; Pruksanubal, 2016; William & Christopher, 2011) defining the term as an extensively disconnected and distant area from the major centres of cities, comprising of people sharing same feeling of poverty-unemployment and inequality, whom undertake collective social and economic action, whereby their lives revolve around culture, cattle and traditional practices, as the land is the main asset which they depend on for survival.

1.5.3 Rural Land Transformation

According to (Mabogunje, 2015), rural land transformation is defined as the enhancement of the standard of living of the minimum earning populace living in rural areas on a self-supporting ground, over transmuting the socio-spatial arrangements of their forceful undertakings. It is a process of improving lives of rural poor though ensuring an increase or widens the distribution of life-sustaining needs for good health and poverty alleviation of the people (Pruksanubal, 2016). Furthermore, it is known as the process that involves raising living standards of people through provision of better education and job opportunities for more purchasing power and expands the range of social and economic choice to individuals for reducing dependency of people on external assistance (Webneh, 2018). Therefore, for the operational purposes, this study adopted the definition of the term by Mabogunje (2015), as highlighted above.

1.6. Research Design and Methodology

Research design and methodology is an inclusive idea which research is conducted upon, and the methods that the researcher intends to use in conducting the research (Bean, Gnad, Maupin, White & Andersen, 2016; Rubin & Babbie, 2016). It is further recognized as a plan throughout the study informed by the research argument and influenced by the research questions for the achievement of the study through clarifying the interconnectedness between eco-tourism and rural land transformation. Moreover, it is the tactics used to operationalize the strategy in addressing the research problem (Cloete, 2007; Maxwell, 2012; Rubin & Babbie, 2016). For this reason, this section included the research design, study area, kinds of data needed, targeted population, the sampling procedures, data collection methods, data analyses techniques, the validity and reliability of the study.

1.6.1. Research Design

The study employed a normative research design whereby exploratory research was adopted to question the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. A normative study allows observations and evaluations of processes to establish the principles or relationship of variables (Maxwell, 2012; Thomas, Nelson, Silverman & 2015). This research design was chosen since there is no control over the variables studied and as the populace of study area undertakes different eco-tourism practices on daily basis which their effects on rural land transformation cannot be controlled. Therefore, only observations and opinions said by those individuals who are involved in eco-tourism practices were considered. It was chosen as it assists the researcher to uncover the effects of eco-tourism on transforming the

rural land. The mixed approaches (quantitative and qualitative research approaches) were used in this study for collection and analysis of information.

1.6.2. Study Area

Mapungubwe is recognized as the first kingdom in Southern Africa, located in the Limpopo province sitting on the right up alongside the South Africa's north-margin, covering over 28000 hectares. It was established during the iron age and declared as a national park in 1995 aiming at protecting the historical site of Mapungubwe hill capital of the kingdom of Mapungubwe (Musina Local Municipality, 2018). It is adjacent to Botswana and Zimbabwe, forming part of the Greater Mapungubwe Trans frontier Conservation Area, famously the discovered famous golden rhino figurine from the site servicing as evidence that the community was prosperous. It is famously known as a country garden positioned by the Kolope Waterway, south of Limpopo and Shashe watercourses, with about 15 kilometres to north-east of Venetia Diamond Mine, and about 70KM to Musina and All days being the closest areas and labour supplies to the park (Musina Local Municipality, 2018).

Figure 1.6.1 Nature reserve at Mapungubwe National Park



Jacques Marais (2021): Nature reserve at Mapungubwe National Park

The national park is rich with untouched natural resources such as Mopane woodland, brooding baobabs and historical prehistoric mudflats including inimitable riverine plantations. It also has scenery for wildlife which involves elephant, giraffe, buffalo, white rhinos, mammals like hyena, leopards, lions, and antelope (SA Venues, 2018). Furthermore, it has the verdant pockets of vegetation's such as ana tees, nyala trees, fever trees, marulas, Savanna trees, weeping boer beans and smattering of other species as well as monarchs of sycamore figs as supported by the Shashe rivers and Limpopo River (SA Venues, 2018; Musina Local Municipality, 2018). The national park is amongst the least places within the African continent which has both wildcats and crocodiles. Additionally, it incorporates the proclaimed eco-tourist attractions sites such as the Leokwe Camp, Mazhou Camping Site, Tshugulu Lodge, Limpopo Forest Tented Camp, and Maloutswa Bird Hide (Musina Local Municipality, 2018).

Furthermore, it is found to be a rich cultural background that gives guests an exclusive depiction of society's cultural, social, and political structures which trades with countries such as India and China. This national park is further considered as the greatest intricate society within the Southern Africa, and it is the first humanity from the time when the Bushmen resided in South Africa (Musina Local Municipality, 2018). It is situated at a geographical space where it caters for Bakalanga people from the Bukalanga Kingdom, the Vha-Venda populace from the North-east of South Africa, and the Karanga people from Western Zimbabwe. Issues of poverty and unemployment appear to be perpetuating due to increasing inequality, lack of resources and poor services. Lack of ideas and knowledge to assist in developing the nearby areas with use of available resources are some of the challenges affecting the area.

1.6.3. Kinds of Data Needed

Primary and secondary data were utilised for the study. The secondary data required textual information regarding the status of eco-tourism and rural land transformation across the globe, as well as the effect of eco-tourism on rural land transformation worldwide. The study reviewed the theoretical data of eco-tourism practices across the different locations and countries worldwide and how eco-tourism establishments make improvements to the lives of people. Such data was collected from scholarly articles, journals, case studies, books, and government documents. Primary data was the empirical information from the individuals employed in eco-tourism destination and those involved in eco-tourism practices such as craft sellers, as well as the key informants of this study. The studies required data on the principles of eco-tourism and the types and characteristics of eco-tourism found within the study area. This has further included data on nature of rural land transformation, the types of land uses, as well as how this eco-tourism destination affect rural land transformation within this locality.

Moreover, qualitative, and quantitative data were required for corroboration of arguments provided. Qualitative data was needed to implore empirical information regarding the relation of the two studied concepts within the study area. While on the other hand, quantitative data was needed for statistical information to check the sustainability and effectiveness of the opportunities provided by the eco-tourism destination and how such opportunities assist in achieving rural land transformation. This has included the magnitude of eco-tourism destination expansion, nature of rural land transformation, different types of land use found within and surrounding the study area.

1.6.4. Target population

The target population for this study was the employees of Mapungubwe National Park and craft sellers found within Musina Local Municipality, so they could provide information on the principles of eco-tourism, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, nature of rural land transformation, as well as the effects of eco-tourism destination on rural land transformation. Additionally, the Musina Local Municipality tourism and economic development officials and managers or operators of eco-tourism destinations were also targeted as key informants of this study, to provide more opinions and facts on nature of rural land transformation, types of land uses, principles of eco-tourism, and effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. The owners of the farms nearby the Mapungubwe National Park were also targeted, to provide information on types of land uses and information on nature of rural land transformation within the Musina Local Municipality. The researcher assumed that the targeted population was relevant in providing information required to achieve the goal and purposes of this study.

1.6.5. Sampling Procedure

The study made use of two types of non-probability sampling procedures being convenience and judgmental sampling procedures. With convenience sampling procedure, only the 20 (of the 75) accessible employees of Mapungubwe National Park judged based on their roles and responsibilities, as well as 20 (of the 56) accessible households of Maroi community were sampled. In addition, 3 (of the 6) accessible craft sellers found within the Musina Municipality were considered to form part of the sample size of the study. While judgmental sampling procedure was applied for the selection of participants that were perceived to be the suitable key informants for this study as they were required to provide information on the principles of the eco-tourism, including the nature of rural land transformation, the types of rural land uses, as well as the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. For the simplicity and for accurate findings, the study has judgementally sampled: 1 (of the 3) Musina Local Municipality tourism and Economic Development officials, 1 (of the 3) Managers or operators of Mapungubwe National Park and the 6 (of the 8) owners of the farms found nearby the Mapungubwe National Park.

1.6.6. Data Collection methods

Various data collection techniques were used to accomplish the main purpose of this study. Secondary data was collected from the published journals, scholarly articles, books and abstracts. While questionnaires with semi-structured questions were used to gather information from the employees of Mapungubwe National Park, craft sellers and the

households of Maroi community for provision of opinions regarding the principles of eco-tourism, the nature of rural land transformation, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, types of land uses, as well as the effect of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. Structured interview schedule was used for data collection from the Musina Local Municipality tourism and economic development officials, owners of farms found nearby Mapungubwe National Park, as well as managers or operators of eco-tourism destinations. Observations were made to evaluate the opinions and information provided by the informants of the study on issues of eco-tourism principles or practices, types of land uses, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, rural land transformation undertakings and effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation.

1.6.7. Data Analysis Techniques

Quantitative information was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Additionally, data gathered from individuals associated with eco-tourism practices and land holders as well as those employed in eco-tourism destinations found within the Mapungubwe national park area including the statistical information from key informants has been captured on SPSS software. This was done so that it can be manipulated in a statistical form through percentages, with assistance of Microsoft excel to produce bar graphs and charts for simple or clear presentation of information as provided by the respondents and for the researcher to easily analyse and interpret the meaning of the provided information. Qualitative data was analysed using brief explanations and categorizations or classifications of findings according to the common features. This has included an analysis of data gathered during field noted by the researcher when conducting interviews of the key informants of this study found within the Mapungubwe national park area, which could provide information that assist the researcher on answering the research questions.

Additionally, this has included analysis of collected data through questionnaires from individuals associated with eco-tourism practices and those employed within eco-tourism destinations, land holders, including notes taken when interviewing key informants being managers or operators of eco-tourism destinations and municipality officials dealing with tourism and land. Consequently, data has been classified based on the respective themes and subthemes as guided by the research questions and objectives of this study. The objectives of the study was to examine the principles of eco-tourism, explore the types and characteristics of eco-tourism, analyse the nature of rural land transformation, evaluate the types of land uses, investigate the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation and to recommend measures that might improve eco-tourism on rural land transformation, to

effectively contribute to development. . This was done to support the findings of information from literature by providing new findings after the interpretations and analysis of data provided by the targeted population through interviews and questionnaires. Moreover, this has included the collected data through observations by the researcher to support or validate the arguments made by the respondents.

1.6.8. Validity and Reliability

The terms of eco-tourism and rural land transformation are well known and have been studied by many scholars (Buckley, 1994; Pallot, 1999; Fennell, 2007; Yansui, 2007; Honey, 2008; Hualou, 2012; Hooke, Martin-Duque & Pedraza, 2012); therefore, they are not new within the body of knowledge. The methods that the researcher has used for collecting data from respondents were pre-tested through distribution of questionnaires to assess the relevance of the questions being asked and for rephrasing of questions found unclear or not understood (Sheatsley, 1983; Frey & Fontana, 1991; Reynolds & Diamantopoulos, 1998; Malhotra, 2006). Similarly, interview schedule was field tested through interviewing random accessible individuals to check the schedule relevancy and effectiveness in providing information for the achievement of the purpose of the study. The reviews were made to ensure that questions asked allowed provisioning of relevant information required by the researcher. Additionally, questions were clarified to the respondents when not being understood by relevant respondent and for the validity of the conclusion of this study.

The chosen data collection methods have proven to be effective as many researchers referred to use of them for completion of their studies (Bascom, 1998; Carruthers, Schensul, Schensul & LeCompte, 1999; Wunder, 2000; Lindsey, Alexander, Mills, Romanach & Woodroffe, 2007; Rinzin, Vermeulen & Glasbergen, 2007). After data was collected, the information by the respondents were presented as it is without omitting any other information or somehow compromising the validity of the study by modifying or amending some information to favour certain group of people. This implies that the researcher was not biased for the conclusion for this study to be reliable by future researchers for references. The information scrutinising tools such as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), that were used are common in research and has provided the study with reliable data.

1.7. Significance of the Study

This study will assist scholars who will be pursuing similar study making use of the results of this undertaking as a source of reference as its findings would have added to the existing body of knowledge, especially because the research about correlation between eco-tourism and rural land transformation have not been conducted in the study area before. In addition,

recommendations that has been made to strengthen rural land transformation, will assist the local government with measures to improve the local economic development through the eco-tourism and to further strengthen the need for rural land transformation which could ensure the well-being of the local people in a sustainable manner.

1.8. Ethical Consideration

The researcher has adhered to the research ethics by ensuring that correct information is provided to the respondents about the purpose of the study. In such, respondents were well-informed that this research is solely for academic purposes. In addition, anonymity of the respondents was assured during the completion of the questionnaires so that they could give truthful answers without feeling pressurized to respond in a certain manner because of fear. Information provisioning was voluntary as respondents were not obligated to participate in the research and they were further informed that no payments will be made to those who partake in this study. The researcher did not put the participants under stressful or embarrassing situations when conducting the research. The study findings were shared to the research community and other relevant stakeholders to increase the existing knowledge on the relationship between the eco-tourism and rural land transformation.

1.9 RESEARCH OUTLINE

The layout of the study is as follows:

CHAPTER 1: Background To The Problem

This chapter contextualizes the background of the study. The statement of the problem as well as the research questions. The researcher outlines the objectives for the study. The chapter wraps up with the chapter layout of the study.

CHAPTER 2: Theoretical Perspective The Effects Of Eco-Tourism On Rural Land Transformation

This chapter presented the theoretical perspective the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. It also presented the following sections. theoretical framework, eco-tourism principles, the types and characteristics of eco-tourism, the nature of rural land transformation, the type of land uses and the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. The conclusion to the chapter was also presented.

CHAPTER 3: Eco-Tourism And Rural Land Transformation On International Perspectives

The chapter focused on the eco-tourism and rural land transformation on international perspectives eco-tourism. The study contextualised the eco-tourism regulations and

Rural land transformation. The chapter also presented the following, rural land transformation regulations, recommended measures to improve eco-tourism, minimize impact, build environmental and cultural awareness and respect, provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts, provide direct financial benefits for conservation, provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people, raise sensitivity to the local region's political, environmental, and social climate. The conclusion of the chapter was also presented.

CHAPTER 4: Eco-Tourism and Rural Land Transformation on South African Perspective

This chapter presented the eco-tourism and rural land transformation: South African Perspective. The chapter presented the following sections eco-tourism in South Africa and the legal framework on Eco-tourism in South Africa, legislations of rural land transformation on South African perspectives and the conclusion was also presented.

CHAPTER 5: Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter presented the findings of the study, analysis, and interpretation. This chapter presented the biographical information of respondents, perceptions on Eco-tourism by the Musina Local municipality personnel, types and Characteristics of eco-tourism, nature of Rural Land Transformation, Types of land use and the conclusion of the chapter was also presented.

CHAPTER 6: Findings and Contextualization Of Results

This is the concluding chapter, which provides a summary of the key findings, confirms the attainment of the set objectives, and provides a conclusion and recommendations.

1.10 Conclusion

Despite the doubts on the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in certain areas, with reference to majority of the areas found practicing eco-tourism, it can be concluded that indeed eco-tourism is a suitable tool to proliferate the rural transformation and for economic development in both global and local sectors. In Musina municipal area, eco-tourism was found to have a positive and visible effects on rural transformation both directly and indirectly including creation of opportunities such as employment, market, and economic growth within the locality. It was further found to be a tool to address the socio-economic issues such as poverty through creating the income generating opportunities for uplifting people from being vulnerable to malnutrition and hunger and to be healthy and economically active.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE THE EFFECTS OF ECO-TOURISM ON RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION

2.1 Introduction

It has been widely discovered that eco-tourism serves as the major contributing sector to different country's GDP including South Africa and for the economic development of countless localities. However, there are still some countries and areas which still doubt the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. Unlike the concept of rural land transformation, eco-tourism has acquired evenly huge kinds of meaning as used by various scholars (Wight, 1993; Prabin, 2015; TIES, 2015). Literature has confirmed the relationship between eco-tourism and rural land transformation being way too phenomenal (Drumm & Moore, 2002; Jafaar & Maideen, 2012; Ezeuduji & Probstl-Haider, 2014; Kruger & Saayman, 2015). This is mainly because eco-tourism brings about land use changes which are perceived to provide opportunities to enhance the status of environmentally friendly and rural land transformation (Jafaar & Maideen, 2012; Mao et al, 2014; Onyeabor & Alimba, 2015). Concurrently, eco-tourism has been found to be generating income for nature conservation areas enhancements and commercial benefits for societies residing within underprivileged and remote areas which bring about empowerment of society, economic growth and rural development (Drumm & Moore, 2002). Additionally, eco-tourism provides the opportunities for both visitors and local populace, whereby visitors experience powerful appearances of countryside including culture, alongside spreading lessons on the significance of the establishments of biodiversity conservation and value for local cultures (Jafaar and Maaideen, 2012; Janusz & Bajdor, 2013). Jafaar and Maaideen (2012) argue that eco-tourism leads to transformation of the areas especially the rural societies located nearby the tourism destinations. Such transformation or development is likely to be made inconsideration of the people's rights and needs of which one could refer it as one of the characteristics of humanistic approach. Hence this chapter firstly highlight the theoretical framework that this study adopted. Thereafter, provide the in-depth information about the relationship between eco-tourism and rural land transformation, specifically looking at: the principles of eco-tourism, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, nature of rural land transformation, the type of land uses and the effect of eco-tourism on rural land transformation.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation is fundamental in exploratory research for the exploration of the living modes of the society and for clarification of relation of the two studied concepts (De witt, Van der Merwe & Saayman, 2011; Juvan, Omerzel & Maravic, 2017). Tourism and land are interconnected as tourism depends largely on the land for its progression. The environment stands as a key resource for the establishment and enhancement of the tourism practice. Hence, the management and protection of the environment are in the best interest of tourism as it is more important for its future (Dimitriou, 2017). Tourism assist on improving the lives of the society residing within and nearby the tourism destinations through economic and social benefits brought by tourists (Nicosia & Perini, 2016). The more of tourism practices and tourists attracted in some areas are found to bring both negative and positive results. The documentations guiding the implementations and operation of tourism have been introduced to provide direction on how the tourism should be approached (Nicosia & Perini, 2016). However, they are based on models which include competition, innovation and customers, which some scholars find it as one of the major factors that made tourism to not be entirely environmentally conscious (Juvan *et al*, 2017). Hence eco-tourism was found to be a better practice to address the imbalances of the tourism behaviours on the environment. It has been described as the finest type of tourism as its intentions are to safeguard the natural and its resources for continuous use to cater future generations whilst still bringing benefits to the present societies (Juvan et al, 2017). Eco-tourism entails human culture protection from being destroyed, also providing the economic opportunities for the communities, resulting to rural land transformation. Eco-tourism in certain areas has been promising and very much attractive in theory, yet in practice is very much contradictory.

Although the approaches of tourism are not limited to the innovation approach, socio-cultural theory or approach, customer demand approach, traditional demand approach, humanistic approach, psychodynamic approach, behavioural approach or behaviourist theory, rational approach, the humanistic approach is found to be more appropriate for this study as it covers the factors of both eco-tourism and rural land transformation. As the name suggests, humanistic approach focuses on the people and the environment incorporating both aspects of the transformation and dependency theories (Moser, 2015). According to Goldstein, (1986) it is a practice whereby the personal and institutional capacities of society increase and this assist in organising and managing resources to create sustainable products which could ensure the enhancement of the quality of their life. It is further emphasised that humanistic approach focuses on micro-level approaches which includes the customs of the local populace, the participation processes, the needs and values of the community as well

as the knowledge of the indigenous people, just as eco-tourism and rural land transformation elements contains (Porteous, 1982; Geller, 1995; Clarke, 1997; Alagona & Simon, 2010; Strife, 2010). Moreover, humanistic approach contains the relationships of the community members', the private and public entities at the same time considering the power relations, gender relations, ethnic relations, economic and trade relations (Alagona & Simon, 2010; Moser, 2015). This approach further entails continuous changes in external environment concurrently providing people right to make decisions in any development program or project (Porteous, 1982; Moser, 2015). Just like with eco-tourism and rural land transformation, the humanistic approach respects and acknowledges the cultural diversity (Clarke, 1997; Porteous, 1982). It includes the multi-dimensional issues of economic, political, social, environmental, cultural and psychological dimensions, integrating the elements of public participation, social learning, empowerment, and sustainability which are key factors for rural land transformation and eco-tourism (Porteous, 1982; Geller, 1995; Clarke, 1997; Alagona & Simon, 2010; Strife, 2010; Moser, 2015). Therefore, to meet the objectives of this study, this approach will be adopted.

2.3 Eco-Tourism Principles

Ecotourism has a history that is continuing to grow as more travelers look to travel with an eye on environmental conservation and more countries sustainably incorporate these travelers in their local economies and environments. Although ecotourism has a relatively short history, much has occurred since the term first made its appearance in the dictionary less than 40 years ago (ioi, 2016). Ecotourism was first conceptualized in the early 1980s as a type of travel for people who wanted to learn about different and exotic environments without causing the environmental harm or damage associated with other forms of tourism.

As long as people have stood on two feet, they have been traveling. Since the dawn of time, people have travelled for reasons relating to war, religion, trade, education, relaxation, leisure, entertainment and more. In the classical world, it was mainly the privileged elite that had the means to travel for amusement or entertainment. Indeed, the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans all established infrastructure such as roads, seaside resorts and maps to facilitate travel throughout the ancient world (IOI, 2016).

With the onset of the industrial revolution, however, traveling or touring became available to the masses. Railroads, improved roads, cars, domestic air travel and other modes of transportation all made traveling accessible to large amounts of people and with it the motivations for travel also began to change. As tourism became a formalized industry, people could choose from an assortment of travel options. You could take a day trip to the

beach a few miles up the road, you could get in a bus to travel across state lines to take in a ball game or see a relative that had since moved away or you could jump in an airplane to go on safari in the African jungle (IOI, 2016).

All these possibilities had not always been available to people living in the world of yesteryear. As people began to take advantage of these exciting and unique opportunities associated with the industrial revolution, the not-so-hidden cost of such opportunities began to become known (IOI, 2016). Air pollution, deforestation, mass extinction of species, global warming, and sea-level rise have all more-or-less been popularly attributed to the many after-effects of the industrial revolution.

Eco-tourism practices involve establishments of nature reserves which encourages minimisation of negative impacts on the environment as they strive for conservation and preservation of environmental resources simultaneously ensuring community benefit (Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Janusz & Bajdor, 2013; Rivera & Gutierrez, 2018). Social activities are stimulating land use and land cover to change. Specifically, the consequences are changing in biodiversity, water and earth radiation and ultimately climate and biosphere (Butt, Shabbir, Ahmad and Aziz, 2015). The tourism industry and activities play a major role in changing the surroundings (Mao, Meng and QiWang, 2014). It is one of the major driving forces behind land use and landscape changes in the coastal, mountain areas. Even well-intentioned ecotourists might modify habitats and disturb the habit, feeding and breeding patterns of wildlife and transmit diseases (Hill and Gale, 2016).

When adopting ecotourism as a conservation practice, there arises tight linkage between the influence of economics, uncertainty and confidence in proposed land-use changes (Moskwa, 2010). Integrated ecotourism development program has the highest values in comparison to other land use programs (Lee and Wang, 2017). Some environmentalists believe that the tourism industry, to some extent, leads to unsustainability (Zambrano, Broadbent and Durham, 2010) because it creates the stressful environment. On the other hand, ecotourism is a very good income source for local people (Mas, et al. (2017). These days, eco and nature tourism are growing three times faster globally than the tourism industry as a whole. This might be due to rapid businesses like ecolodges, ecotour operators and suppliers of transport services and infrastructures within a given ecotourism destination and hotel chains, airline and cruise ship operations and retail travel agents represents non-specialized businesses, ranging from small- and medium-sized enterprises to transnational corporations (Wearing and Neil, 2014).

The need for monitoring of land use and land cover (LULC) dynamics is significantly important under the environmental service and ecotourism (Mas, et al. (2017). Monitoring activities include the spatial and temporal distribution of land use land cover (Fernando and Shariff, 2015). For instance, it is essential to quantify the change to ensure that proper management policies and ecosystem services provided by forests (Coulston, Reams, Wear and Brewer, 2014). Moreover, analysing the process of land use pattern changes helps to predict the changes and prepare the best local development policies (SNNP, 2016). Such study is importantly rational in South Africa particularly in case of promising ecotourism site like Mapungubwe National Park where thousands of visitors come.

According to The International Environments Society (TIES) (2015) eco-tourism involves connecting the communities, the nature conservation areas and the sustainable travel by tourists, which portrays that people who implement, partake in and market eco-tourism activities should adopt the certain eco-tourism principles. Internationally, communities and tourists are directed to minimise the behavioural, social, physical and psychological impacts on the surroundings (TIES, 2015). This further involves minimisation of negative impacts to local people where you find that their local needs are ignored while the eco-tourism destinations provide the best service to the tourists and even manage to attract more and more tourists at the expense of the local people (Chakrabarty, 2011). In addition, eco-tourism embraces minimizing the negative impact of the development and the tourists' activity such as littering, by choosing appropriate building materials and designs such a vertical form of buildings than horizontal form of buildings which demand more of the geographical space and results to loss of certain environmental resources which might include scarce resources during the excavation phase of the development process (Kiper, 2013).

Eco-tourism encompasses educating communities on importance of protecting the environmental resources and ensures that tourists do not cause any harm to the environment (Kiper, 2013). This is mainly done through programmes for the society for sharing ideas and knowledge on how to make living with the community resources in a manner that cannot harm the environment considering the capabilities of the community members. Moreover, training and workshops of the hosts on environmental protection and how to ensure tourists do not cause harm to the environment is as well considered. It further strives to promote knowledge and respect for the environmental resources through the workshops; programmes and training it enforces and creates the joy of discovery for the tourists (TIES, 2015). For minimisation of negative impact of the environmental resources,

eco-tourism further suggests the use of sources of energy that is renewable like the solar systems and as well as promoting the reuse and recycling processes and involving better visitor management strategies as well as monitoring techniques and good conservation plans for the environment to not be harmed (Kiper, 2013; TIES, 2015).

Moreover, eco-tourism in most developing nations such as Thailand, Taiwan, Philippines, and Malaysia and promotes reduction of harmful impact on the surroundings and the maximisation of the respect for the host cultures through policies of conservation and preservation for society to consider (Cater, 1994; Spenceley & Bean, 2013; Rozelee, Rahman, Omar, 2015). Additionally, Eco-tourism practices involves creation of partnership amongst eco-tourism destination operators and community members for rendering services like traditional dance for the entertainment of the tourists for income generation and even reduction of level of dependency on the environmental resources as they will be able to have the purchasing power for survival. This will create cultural awareness and respect, by the tourists and the eco-tourism destination operators and the managers, including the community on how important the community need the environmental resources so as how much it must be protected, for better environmental management and resource protection (Youdelis, 2013). This implies that the local people's culture should be understood including the areas natural and cultural systems for better consideration and respect when practicing certain development activities. this implies that tourists will then understand how important environmental resources and their protection it is to the lives of people in different ways. As well, it becomes easily for educational interpretational factual for tourists, informative training for escorts, the controllers and monitors, as well as enlightening the whole public and nearby communities about the importance of conservation and preservation of the environmental resources as encouraged by their benefit directly and indirectly from the environmental resources (Youdelis, 2013).

Through cultural respect, regionally in most cases, there get to be provision of great experiences that is more positive for both visitors and hosts when indigenous societies feel free to share their skills and talents for the entertainment of the tourists for their joyfulness, as encouraged in eco-tourism destinations (Chakrabarty, 2011; Youdelis, 2013). This results to more attractions of tourists within that eco-tourism destinations as it will be more preferred and referenced by most previous visitors who enjoyed their visiting considering the best service they got as well as the entertainment offered and the wonderful products they got to buy during their visit. Additionally, with the guidance provided through workshops and posters on how the environmental resources should be protected, including advice on not

chopping down the trees and killing the animals, it gives visitors and hosts the most memorable and positive experiences through the different animals and other environmental resources that are preserved and conserved. Likewise, theory and practice highlight that eco-tourism through its guidance on how local people can utilise their capabilities further empower communities to sell their products in the eco-tourism destinations which is advantageous for both private industry and the indigenous populace as they get to benefit financially (Youdelis, 2013). Furthermore, theory highlights that eco-tourism principles and guidance ensures that there are active contributions to the conservation of the cultural heritage, also making certain that the natural areas and other legally protected areas are well-managed (Torres-Sovero, Gonzalez, Martin-Lopez & Kirkby, 2012). Eco-tourism provides a direct financial benefit for conservation through the service fees the visitors pay, and the tax rates included in services provided and when buying the indigenous products during their visit (Jaafar & Maideen, 2012). Eco-tourism guidance and policies further involves financing resource conservation whereby the utilisation of resources is financed for better maintenance of the remaining resources and for the plantation of new resources to replace the already consumed, for the sake of addressing the essentials of the upcoming generation without compromising the necessities of the present group (Youdelis, 2013).

Through platforms and undertakings, eco-tourism further strives for maximisation of initial and extensive period participation of the indigenous societies in process of making decision, through including local and ethnic groups in its preparation, implementation and operating phase considering the assistances to better their living condition (TIES, 2015). This embroils the recognition of the constitutional rights and spiritual principles of the indigenous society and the work by the community including partnering with them for their empowerment (Youdelis, 2013; TIES, 2015). Thus, this clearly highlights that the eco-tourism destination provides direct economic benefits and other opportunities that are very distinctive for both local people and private industry including tourism employees to use and visit the conserved areas and even work towards maximisation of the economic benefit of the host country concurrently maximising the satisfaction of the visitors. Also, Eco-tourism practices allows people to use the environmental resources as it identifies the constitutional rights and spiritual philosophies of the local society and form partnership for empowerment creation by sharing their cultural beliefs as a wonderful experience to tourists on how things are done in certain countries as culture of certain group of people, including traditional meal and how they get the food or even how the prepare the food (TIES, 2015).

Eco-tourism makes local people benefit through employment opportunities and even get to sell their products to the increasing number of visitors for more income generation (Reimer & Walter, 2013). While the private industry gets to maximise profit through charges on service provided to the visitors which seems to have been attracted by the traditional practices and the services provided by the local people within the eco-tourism destinations (Jafaar & Maideen, 2012). Moreover, (Jafaar & Maideen, 2012; Reimer & Walter, 2013) argues that this delivers the remarkable informative experiences to guests which further helps to raise sensitivity and compassion to host country's social, political, and environmental climates. Hence, this comprises also the plan, construct and action process of the amenities that have low-impact, and the emergence of the recognition of the constitutional rights and spiritual philosophies of the ethnic group (TIES, 2015).

South Africa has used ecotourism to sustain and improve its immense biodiversity, as well as invigorate its economy. Tourism is the fourth largest generator of foreign exchange in South Africa (Diamantis, 2004) and ecotourism is the idea of encouraging visitors while promoting and supporting a country's biodiversity. South Africa contains a lot of biodiversity, and so ecotourism is a way for the country to benefit from wildlife in a non-consumptive and legal manner as opposed to illegal activities like poaching and trafficking for the international wildlife trade.

South Africa is extremely biodiverse, with 858 species of birds and 299 species of mammals. South Africa and seventeen other countries are considered mega diverse which means those countries contain 70% of the planet's biodiversity (World Atlas, 2019). South Africa's unique geography allows the country to support such a diverse population of plants and animals. It is important to protect biodiversity in South Africa because people still rely on natural resources for food and medicine. Plants and flowers are widely used as traditional forms of medicine and treatment for common ailments. The Western Cape of South Africa has 8,000 plant species and 7 out of 10 of them exist nowhere else on earth (The Independent, 2009). Some of these plants are currently being researched for treatment of HIV patients (Prinsloo, Marokane and Street, 2018).

Protecting the biodiversity of South Africa is important for maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems and protecting the health and wellbeing of South African people. Eco-tourism ecotourism has the capacity to promote conservation of biodiversity and has the capacity for disruption of wildlife and damage to the environment. The nature of these impacts varies

according to the type of ecotourism activities and how the tourism operators meet the tourists' expectations.

2.4 The Types and Characteristics of Eco-Tourism

Eco-tourism is an inclusive concept with various characteristics which includes respect for culture and environmental awareness, minimisation of environmental impact and the protection and improvement of living standard of local communities globally (Rosenya, 2018). Participation in eco-tourism includes travelling to natural environments either for vacation or for voluntary work, contributing to the eco-tourism goals without use of nature destructive material or equipment (Rosenya, 2018). Eco-tourism as a broader term has various types which are: eco-lodging, agro-tourism, community development and eco-treks (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). Eco-lodging is the venue to accommodate the tourists which has been built with environmental conscientiousness and awareness (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). It includes different kinds of building options like hotels, luxury African tents, rustic lean-tos, tea houses, alpine huts, and boarding house, constructed with sustainable and ecological materials to "eco resorts" within isolated areas with access to undertakings of tours of local outdoor attractions and birdwatching (Beth, 2019).

The buildings are for the resting and security of the tourists during their stay in the eco-tourism destination. It involves reflexive power consumption designs for minimisation of negative impact on the natural resources and the cultural environment (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). Eco-lodging not on place efforts on ensuring that the lodging has a very low negative effect on the environment, but also ensures that the communities are positively contributed with its existence. it includes taking the visitors to locals which are filled with natural educational factors to make them be knowledgeable about the place, which will further install a sense of respect for the indigenous culture, the environment and its residing persons (Rosenya, 2018).

Agro-tourism is a practice of eco-tourism that profit from or draws travellers and volunteers to rural farming and rural culture (Taleska, 2015; Rosenya, 2018.; Beth, 2019). It aims at improving the economic expansion of rural communities and small farms through capitalizing on exploring the agricultural life of rural communities to the visitors for improvement of income for the locals (Beth, 2019). As a result, tourists participating in agricultural work through shopping from the local farmers during their vacation. This can contribute to the rural advancement and to growth of the rural economy (Taleska, 2015; Rosenya, 2018). Various agro-tourism establishments provide opportunities and feature the farming of animal and plant types which are well-known within the area (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019).

According to Taleska (2015), agro-tourism has created hope for farmers who have already been experiencing decline of profit on the production of agriculture in Macedonia. Additionally, it activates the rural societies through generating the important contributions on the development processes. Even though, this type of eco-tourism does not really promote participation as it is more of partnership amongst the agriculture and the tourism sector. Agro-tourism hold some features of rural tourism which makes some people to use the two terms interchangeably (Taleska, 2015).

Moreover, agro-tourism does not only provide benefits to the farmers and the travellers, but further provides the assistance and remunerations to the nearby communities which improve their living status and results to sustainable development (Taleska, 2015; Rosenya, 2018). This is mainly because the agro-tourism pushes for provision of employment opportunities in farming area as encouraged by the flow of tourist demanding more agricultural products to cater them during their stay, although the employment opportunities are mostly found to be seasonal, part-time and temporal. Correspondingly, not only through the income generating opportunities it creates, but it also further alleviates poverty through distribution of the agricultural products to those employed within the farms and selling the farm-products to the nearby societies at an affordable price (Taleska, 2015; Rosenya, 2018). Additionally, the agro-tourism strengthens and expands the profitable activities of the local populace, helping them to independently address their social issues (Taleska, 2015).

Meanwhile, communal based eco-tourism involves opportunities brought by eco-tourism aiming at protecting the livelihood of community and land as threatened by the industry, deforestation and practice of modernization (Kiss, 2004; Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). It has extensively gained recognition as the conservation tool for biodiversity, established on the notion that the biodiversity should be able to pay on its own through economic benefits generation, especially for the surrounding societies (Kiss, 2004; Beth, 2019). Likewise, it provides tourists with experience of cultural and economic realities of rural life (Rosenya, 2018). This is done by tourists staying with local families to study and experience their daily living conditions and practices, their customs, the traditions and means to assist the community (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). In such, this provides income generation to the community which increases the economic stability within the locality and reduces the dependency on extraction of natural resources for survival (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). Such develop the community through the project that one establishes with the income generated from being the hosts of the tourists, providing food and accommodation (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019).

Some projects have been found to extensively contribute financially to the local societies, with aim of changing the local societies perceptions and behaviour towards the preservation and conservation areas (Kiss, 2004). The contributions to the conservation areas and to the development of the local economy has been limited by various factors like low participation or involvement of the local people, lower earnings, very weak linkages amongst profits of biodiversity and the success of the commercial sector, as well as the viable and specific origins of the tourism industry (Kiss, 2004; Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). These factors discouraged sponsorship and investments by the government, non-government, as well as the private companies, on the conservation and the development of the local economy of the rural areas (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). The conflict of interest amongst the different groups and institutions has further been part of the discouraging factors for the contributions and sponsorships to be made (Kiss, 2004). Even so, most projects have been regarded as successful, involving only few changes on the usage of resources and the existence or availability of the local land and making very weak enhancement on the livelihoods of the local people which make them stay dependable on assistance from outside for longer years (Kiss, 2004; Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). Nonetheless, this type of eco-tourism provide platform for local people to interact with the tourists which further increases respect and awareness, as well as financial assistance to suffering societies (Beth, 2019).

Eco-treks contain tours to unusual yet appealing sites for travellers' awareness on the natural and cultural environment of a certain area (Rosenya, 2018; Beth, 2019). It includes activities such as hiking, caving, rock climbing, sailing, as well as birdwatching for awareness of natural resources of a certain area, including its related ecological pressures and species worth protecting (Beth, 2019). It only allows and encourages the appreciation of natural resources without any form of disruptive and contaminative activities by the travellers. In other words, the adventurous tourist together and the inquisitive or curious travellers are simply the groups that enjoy eco-trek activities. This is mainly because it involves activities that are sort of investigative or inspective, such as hiking which one could learn a lot during the journey, from types of species like animals and reptiles, to type of plants, rocks, soil and trees. Also, involves caving whereby the inquisitive people could simply be knowledgeable about the history interlinked with the cave. As such, eco-trek requires a very physically fit and healthy individual to undergo its related activities, to better explore and enjoy without experiencing any difficulties, especially because the activities demand more physical reaction than mental. Although this may not provide financial benefit to the local people at large, it still benefits the visitors with knowledge on the present and possible preservation mechanisms to the explored threatened environmental species

(Rosenya, 2018). Only the community individuals, employed as tour guards benefit most from eco-treks.

2.5 The Nature of Rural Land Transformation

Land remains a crucial element for human and animal survival globally, due to the resources it carries or offers (Pruksanubal, 2016). It is recognised as the major element that carries the roots of rural transformation as its availability is essential for the planning and rise of the projects and programs (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010; Mabogunje, 2015; Pruksanubal, 2016). As such, various undertaking by humans as a means of generating income to address the socio-economic issues affecting them daily, results in human empowerment or independency, economic growth, and land transformation (Mabogunje, 2015; Pruksanubal, 2016). Public participation is regarded as an effective mechanism for achieving rural land transformation in most localities as it brings about information and knowledge sharing which enables people to learn from each other (Swapan, 2016). As well, public participation encourages social cohesion of which motivates skills development and empowerment of the rural people especially the previously discriminated talented individuals (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010). The social cohesion not only motivates the empowerment of people with skills but further improve the self-confidence of the community individuals to believe on their capabilities (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010; Mabogunje, 2015). As a result, rural land transformation emerges through enabling community to take charge on the planned activity as a means of addressing their daily challenges, such as rural poverty, through efficient use of the available-limited environmental resources of the area (Mabogunje, 2015). Additionally, rural land transformation emerges through the establishment of businesses, agro-industries, cultural creativities and well-performing local marketplaces (Mabogunje, 2015; Pruksanubal, 2016; Swapan, 2016). Also, the establishments of organisations to build the capabilities and abilities of rural communities, especially women and youth, as well transform the perception of the local minds and bring creativity (Webneh, 2018). Similarly, establishment of socio-economic infrastructure transforms the rural land, which brings about reduction of rural poverty, increases access to rural credit and technical assistance, and stabilise the economic growth (Swapan, 2016; Webneh, 2018).

As well developments remain dependent on the land for its execution (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992). Most rural areas are found to be faced with challenges that threaten their wellbeing and safety (Wilson, 2010). The common socio-economic issues that affect most of the rural communities are found to be poverty, unemployment, inequality and poor health infrastructures and services (Bonn, Earle, Lea & Webley, 1999; Akinbobola & Saibu, 2004;

Pauw, 2005). Therefore, development initiatives are very crucial in rural communities to improve the lives of people. Rapid rural population growth however is found to be the obstacle and somewhat influencer of rural land transformation (Akinbobola & Saibu, 2004; Alexandratos, 2005; Osabuohien, Gitau, Efobi, & Bruentrup, 2014). Predominantly because the population growth demand of more environmental resources for survival which can exhaust the scarce resources (Efobi, & Bruentrup, 2014). Although for some reasons its vast expansion provides a need for provision of services, to cater for the needs of the transforming the rural areas (Alexandratos, 2005; Efobi, & Bruentrup, 2014)). While also found to be availing enough labour to assist on maximising the profit and for local economic development (Osabuohien *et al*, 2014).

The private and public sector provide projects and programmes which offers training and skills for the people (Dabson, 2001; Farrington, 1994). Such provides the people with skills and knowledge that can be used to better their lives (Dabson, 2001). Likewise, in most areas, it is found that skills development platforms offered by both and private sector allows the local people to be capable of performing certain tasks, also increasing their creativity and thinking ability using the available limited resources (Dabson, 2001; Farrington, 1994). Hence in most rural areas, agricultural activities are performed, and people survive from it (Carletto, Covarrubias, Davis, Krausova, Stamoulis, Winters, & Zezza, 2007). As well, the empowerment of people brought by the established projects and programmes are however found to be the core influencer of most entrepreneurship in the rural areas (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010). These types of establishments are found to be another way of fighting poverty and unemployment rate as it employs people for it to better function, provide services, achieve goal and to grow (Mensah & Benedict, 2010). The increased number of people with purchasing power within the area contributes to economic growth and stability (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010; Mensah & Benedict, 2010). Therefore, the better ratio of the local economy as well as excessive population growth attracts investors and business opportunists (Alexandratos, 2005). As a result, areas with such land characteristics makes investors see a need to locate their businesses in the area or even invest in the already existing businesses for them to cater for the growing and changing needs of the population concurrently maximising the business profit (Alexandratos, 2005; Osabuohien *et al*, 2014).

The expansion of the already existing and the establishments of new businesses and other socio-economic opportunities within the area simply require more land to use (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992). Concurrently, it transforms the area as it calls for need for infrastructural development such as roads networks to connect the facilities with the socio- economic infrastructures and the residential areas (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992; Alexandratos, 2005; Osabuohien *et al*, 2014). Therefore, such rural land transformation hits back to poverty alleviation as the transformed rural land becomes a conducive for one to survive at through created platforms which allows people to be creative and generate money for living, performing activities like street vending on the busiest site of the road networks (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010). Moreover, it hits back to more attraction of venture capitalist which transform the society either directly through economic opportunity creation such as employment and partnership or indirectly through the provision of corporate social services (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992; Alexandratos, 2005; Osabuohien *et al*, 2014).

The more increase of capitalists within the area, together with the growing number of local entrepreneur and more emergence of business-partnership attracts implementation of other infrastructural facilities and economic development activities or services to cater the growing population, also satisfying the preferences of the capitalists to not move their business elsewhere, discouraged by poor infrastructural facilities such as road networks (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992; Alexandratos, 2005; Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010; Osabuohien *et al*, 2014). The transformation of rural land transformation occurs in a very vast manner, from various stakeholders playing their different roles, benefiting from different angles, though the societies being the central beneficiaries as their lives hits a massive change within a short period, requiring them to adjust and accept the change in time and technology (Howarth & Norgaard, 1992; Alexandratos, 2005; Osabuohien *et al*, 2014). The introduction of new innovations and technology within the rural poor, makes the lives of the people easier, quicken service delivery and advance the talented and quick-learning individuals to be economically active, which all brings about the rural land transformation (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

2.6 The Types of Land Uses

Land is a crucial element that is needed for undertaking numerous activities for addressing the socio-economic issues and for meeting the needs of both wildlife and humans (García-Frapolli, Ayala-Orozco, Bonilla-Moheno, Espadas-Manrique & Ramos-Fernández, 2007). Land use has become more and more vital element to be used to address the difficulties of disorganised and uncontrolled development that creates a decline of the environmental

worth. There are various categories of land usage which contains recreational, transport, agriculture, residential and commercial. Recreational land is used for human desire or pleasure which one can refer it as human entertainment (García-Frapolli et al, 2007). This type of land usually includes gardens or parks, museums, athletic grounds and the sites of other undertakings which are not crucial to life but are pleasurable. These are important elements to the society as they offer opportunities for undertakings that encourage active healthy lives, which are further found to create a vibrant community and encourage a peaceful environment with fresh mind-sets. Most towns usually plan these things to make their metropolitan area better-looking to populace (both visitors and residents). The recreational events interrelate with divergent amounts of compatibility causing different results, like, stress reliving, crime minimisation, creation of social cohesion or team development, as well as skills sharing and identification (Marcouiller, 2014).

Whereas the transport land is used up for road and rail network, as well as the subways and airports (Luo, Lin, & Li, 2010). Understandably, transportation land use requires infrastructural development such as construction of roads, railway, subways, and airports (Marcouiller, 2014). This is to ensure efficiency of various modes of transportation. Its demand depends on the position of the several under-goings for it to easily ensure that the interactions of both economic and social essentials of the surrounding areas are satisfied (Marcouiller, 2014; Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). It pays much attention to activities that carry people or goods moving them from one point to another location. Even so, the creation of pathways is further essential to accommodate the cyclers, together with the pedestrians as they need it to walk to their respective points to get a particular mode of transport like bus, taxi, train (Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). Logically, in small societies and sparsely occupied regions, public transport helps to provide basic movement and provide safety assurance.

Likewise, this type of land use in most areas is planned based on the number of housing blocks for it to be efficient and accessible to the entire population of the area (Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). This means that when planning the land use in areas, services such as transportation is given much. Mainly because it is the source of adjustment of traditional, societal and humanistic sector, as it offers advancement on the quality of life, as well as the economic benefits together with freedom progress (Colonna, Berloco & Circella, 2012). Furthermore, it is a tool used to achieve a goal or a need. Nevertheless, transportation is regarded as one of the major causes of pollution which should be minimised in all probable ways (Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). On the contrary, it is regarded not just a tool but a straight

chance of human needs satisfaction without exhausting the total of natural assets and cultural miscellany. Transportation land use provides many positive outcomes, just to mention few, such as improvement of traffic calming, walkway connectivity, enhancement of the human and social levels of routes, creating and allowing opportunities to get-together, engage in conversations and even do shopping, enhancing good parking policy, integration of transport infrastructure and public transport, rationalizing the logistics for transportation of goods (Colonna *et al*, 2012; Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). Noticeably, it is not limited to the mentioned as it further increases the land use mixture (housing, commercial, institutional), assist on the control of the shape of the neighbourhood, and as well controls the position and the spread of the services within and outside the area (Gulhan & Ceylan, 2016). This type of land use is found to be very crucial in terms of making sure that the other land use types operate effectively.

On the other hand, agricultural land is commonly denoted as plantation land (Kishor & Constantino, 1993). This is a land where all types of agricultural activities such as farming are undertaken. This type of land use is very important in enhancing the GDP and strengthening the economy of many countries across the globe (Kishor & Constantino, 1993; Ramankutty, Mehrabi, Waha, Jarvis, Kremen, Herrero & Rieseberg, 2018; Sun & Akiyama, 2018). Policies such as Agriculture Land Use Right Transfer (ALURT) has been introduced to strengthen and manage the practice and to address the emerging challenges of environmental, social and economic problems when practicing this type of land use. Nonetheless, the size of the land needed to practice this activity is driven by the population rate that it needs to cater as well as the firmness of the economy as it strongly assists on improving the income generation and stabilise the economy (Ramankutty *et al*, 2018). Likewise, it requires labour force for undertaking the practice of the agriculture on this reserved or allocated agricultural land. In most areas like China, the labour force has been challenged by urbanisation and economic development whereby the youth are drained away from the agricultural sector to the urban market for better economic modern opportunities, leaving the rural land left with elders and children (Sun & Akiyama, 2018). This results to sufficient agricultural production within the area due to small number of labour force.

However, some agricultural machines are introduced worldwide to be used to address the issue of lack of labour force in the agricultural industry as created by the issue of migration and urbanisation, mechanisms which are even found to be very effective and efficient in saving water (Sun & Akiyama, 2018; Ramankutty *et al*, 2018). However, the technological

introduced came with a greater cost of deforestation, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, environmental degradation and wide spread of malnutrition amongst societies increasing obesity in the community (Ramankutty *et al*, 2018). It is for some reason seen as greatest environmental threats biggest user of fresh water on this planet causing freshwater depletion (Ramankutty *et al*, 2018). In countries like Indonesia, agricultural land use is found to be causing environmental degradation due to unsuitable cropping patterns (Rondhi, Pratiwi, Handini, Sunartomo & Budiman, 2018). Yet in countries like Europe, guidelines such as Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), has been introduced to address the land issues and to improve the value of land by farmers making payment into the land value which increase the farmers unwilling to use it for non-agricultural use, though it promotes conflict between farmers and non-farmers (Rondhi *et al*, 2018). Similarly, in Botswana, this type of land use has brought nothing than low crop yields, low households' income, poor livestock and extensive soil degradation (Tersteeg, 1993).

The residential land is commonly known as the land which human being use for residing whereby, they are building their houses as a form of shelter (DeFries, Foley & Asner, 2004). It is a land used to accommodate the society of which happen to be sharing same needs and same feelings on the challenges that face them in a day to day. This type of land use depends much on transportation type of land use to move people within and outside their area to access goods and services. However, people residing nearby services might prefer walking rather than use a mode of transport, especially if more facilities can be accessed on foot without needful of transportation (Asad, 2011). In addition, residential land use involves utilization of other resources such as energy and water (Vega-Azamar, Romero-López, Glaus, Oropeza-García & Hausler, 2015). In countries like Canada, residential land use (due to an increase of population) has been found to be major problem to the environment as it creates all types of pollution, depleting water, affecting sustainability, demanding more energy and severely affect accountability (Vega-Azamar *et al*, 2015). It has the potential to affect environmental resources by residing in productive spaces and interacting with forestry farming activities (Asad, 2011; Vega-Azamar *et al*, 2015).

Whereas commercial land refers to the land used for businesses and industries or factories (Anderson, 1976; Xia, Chen, Liu & Liu, 2011). It is associated with business activities such as shops, offices, showrooms, and restaurants (Xia *et al*, 2011). Some refer to this type of land use as an economic world. This is mainly because this type of land is used for undertaking economic activities driven by a goal of making profit or trade. Economic

activities are the major focus in this type of land and transportation is needed to ensure goods and raw materials are flowing in and outside the area (Anderson, 1976). It involves use of land as distribution of centres like, storage, warehouse, wholesalers, laboratories and computer centres (Xia *et al*, 2011). Furthermore, it includes other economic activities such as processing raw material, and repairing (Anderson, 1976; Xia *et al*, 2011). In addition, invention of new products as means to satisfy the changing essentials and necessities of the generation is part of the major goal, as to stay relevant in the market and to the targeted population to remain in achieving the goal of maximising profit and stabilising the economy (Anderson, 1976). Nonetheless, the occupation of this type of land has not been easy for many people in many countries worldwide. In countries like India, the availability of land for establishments of various projects has become an enormous challenge because of the lawful complications on the practice of land acquirement for infrastructural projects of a huge scale like the power stations as the recent land acquirement regulations offers more freedoms and defence to the landowners (Mohan, 2017). With that, India is facing lot of extraordinary number of clashes over land, whereby about 60% of the documented clashes is related to matters of the land acquirement by the state (Mohan, 2017).

2.7 The Effects of Eco-Tourism on Rural Land Transformation

Numerous researchers validated the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation (Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Kiper, 2013; Datta & Banerji, 2015; Butler, 2016; Rathnayake, 2016). This is mainly because of the opportunities that eco-tourism creates for financial benefits and for the empowerment of the locals. Eco-tourism acts as a source of local economic development which transforms the rural land through job creation in most of the local areas particularly those that are directly involved in eco-tourism projects (Jaafar & Maideen, 2012). This is because eco-tourism activities in most cases prioritise local people to benefit from the opportunities of jobs and livelihoods diversification in their areas which improves the household's income and makes the community to have the purchasing power and benefit from the market opportunities (Jaafar & Maideen, 2012; Kiper, 2013; Butler, 2016; De Vos, Cumming, Moore, Maciejewski & Duckworth, 2016). Therefore, the development of eco-tourism in local areas can lead to improved job creation due to higher compensation offered by the eco-tourism projects whereby locals generate income and even share ideas and skills of how to use the available limited resources of the changing world with limit to cater the community's basic needs (Leigh & Blakely, 2013). People get to exploit the job opportunities provided by the eco-tourism destinations as their way of avoiding being vulnerable or exposed to malnutrition and poverty.

Additionally, ecotourism transforms the rural people through the provision of skills development and capacity building programs that helps people to obtain decent jobs with reasonable wages (De Vos et al, 2016). This results in locals being economically active and even managing to establish or maintain their livelihoods which simply assist on transforming the area physically and financially (Rathnayake, 2016). Concurrently, this encourages a need for expansion of eco-tourism destinations to increase the benefits for local populace, visitors and wildlife (Reimer & Walter, 2013).

Literature underlined that eco-tourism practices create job opportunities for the locals which improves the household's income and makes the community to have the purchasing power and benefit from the market opportunities (Butler, 2016; Duckworth, 2016). Additionally, this results in locals being economically active and even manages to establish or maintain their livelihoods (Rathnayake, 2016). Concurrently, this encourages a need for expansion of eco-tourism destinations to increase the benefits of local populace, visitors and wildlife (Reimer & Walter, 2013). With community having the purchasing power, results in the alleviation of poverty and food security within the locality as the households will be having access to nutritious meal each day (Jafaar & Maideen, 2012; Reimer & Walter, 2013). This promotes a healthy environment and the productive community as they will have energy to work because of their good health and as energy will be boosted by the nutritious food they acquire daily. Besides, eco-tourism provides education for locals to be mindful of the importance of guarding the environmental resources, and how they can be used with limit for community survival (Kiper, 2013; Rozelee et al, 2015). This results in economic growth of the community as people will be given authority to utilize the environmental resources to establish their own enterprises or any form of livelihood activity for survival of which creates independency (Janusz & Bajdor, 2013; Rozelee et al, 2015).

Additionally, through eco-tourism practices of making crafts and establishment of enterprises for meeting the desires of the tourists, it enhances or supports the local economy through provision of purchasing power to community members which results to increased number of economically active individuals within the area, and ensures economic growth (Janusz & Bajdor, 2013). Furthermore, the vast economic growth encourages investments by people from outside the area as they will be attracted by the well-developed and the fast improved performance of the enterprises within the locality (Janusz & Bajdor, 2013). This can result to the transformation of rural area through the introduction of business partnership among community enterprises and those of around local areas, extending to nationwide and intercontinental partnerships amongst societies and companies to create business ventures

which can further bring improvements to the local areas (Janusz & Bajdor, 2013; Butler, 2016). Furthermore, with better opportunities that eco-tourism provides, it makes the local area to be developed or transformed as there will be less dependency on the government for provision of social services like food parcels (Datta & Banerji, 2015; Butler, 2016). This is mainly because people will fulfil their basic necessities on their own without waiting for government to assist with the provision of such households' basic needs such as food and clothes. This will result to rural land transformation to be faster as government expenses and development activities to undertake will be minimised and that will make the government to invest more time on ensuring that it deliver sustainable products and services to the public made of quality resources. Therefore, this implies that eco-tourism principles with the education it provides to the people about the conservation and preservation of the environmental resources, creates a direct and indirect benefit or balance between local needs and environmental protection. Additionally, eco-tourism destination owners assist in strengthening local economy through inviting locals to sell their indigenous products within nearby and inside eco-tourism destination, which even includes rendering of other services for entertaining tourists or guests with the performance of traditional dances and portrayal of other talents and get compensated (Youdelis, 2013).

Some eco-tourism destinations are found to be providing the nearby areas with services of training, provision of school materials and even linking the community members with the relevant people to help them with opportunities they desire considering the skills, knowledge, experience and qualification one has (Youdelis, 2013; Rathnayake, 2016). This result to eco-tourism encouraging the development of the locality through ensuring that more people could make a living on their own and having employment or entrepreneurial opportunity to make earnings and be able to contribute to the economic growth of the locality. This validates the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation.

However, some scholars seem to view things differently with regards to the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation (Pillai, 2011; Tran & Do, 2011; Clements, Baum & Cumming, 2014; Mequanint et al, 2014; Rid et al, 2014; Bel et al, 2015; Kruger & Cini et al, 2015; Ababneh, Darabseh & Aloudat, 2016; Cobbinah et al, 2017; KC et al, 2018). This is mainly because some eco-tourism destinations in some areas are playing a role on ensuring that lives of people are improved through giving back to the community in terms of associating them with the available opportunities that are found at the outside locality. For instance, in Thailand, eco-tourism is causing conflicts through the unequal distribution of ecotourism benefits to the citizens (Sangchumnong, 2018). However, resolutions must

involve majority of people in tourism careers and the tourism industry as a means of attracting youth to work nearby home after graduation (Sangchumnong, 2018). Some eco-tourism destinations do not even consider provision of services to the community need, including investing or establishing a training centre whereby community will be taught about the different ways of using the available resources to make a living out of it. Rather, the eco-tourism destinations benefit at the expense of the locality through using the resources of the community to attract the tourists and maximise their profits, and not give back to the society (Clements et al, 2014; Ababneh et al, 2016). Nonetheless, majority of authors validated the positive eco-tourism effects on rural land transformation of most communities in both developing and developed countries.

2.8 Conclusion

From the above discussed themes, it is clear that eco-tourism is an inclusive concept with various characteristics and principles which includes respect for culture and environmental awareness, minimisation of environmental impact and the protection and improvement of living standard of local communities globally. Just like with any other development initiatives, ecotourism depends on land and its resources for its existence. The major aim of it is to ensure the environmental protection concurrently improving the lives of people within and around eco-tourism destinations with the use of the limited available resources of the environment. Also, as well the people's lives can as well be improved through the use of land in different ways or benefiting from the different types of land uses. eco-tourism has influence on rural land transformation in most areas. The following chapter focused on the nature of eco-tourism and rural land transformation: on international perspectives.

CHAPTER 3

THE NATURE OF ECO-TOURISM AND RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

3.1 Introduction

Eco-tourism has globally been regarded as one of the economic factors that makes enough revenue and sustains protections of natural resources, concurrently offering benefits to local residents with employment opportunities, development and educational experiences (Temesgen, 2017). While rural land transformation has been discovered as a way of improving the lives of the populace within local communities through availability of opportunities and resources to cater for the needs of the growing population and empower the rural poor discouraging the inequality and discrimination in terms of gender, race and socio-economic status (Romano, Zullo, Fiorini, Marucci & Ciabo, 2017; Dyer, 2018). Against this background, this chapter uncovers the eco-tourism performance in countries across the globe, eco-tourism legal frameworks, together with rural land transformation as well as the rural land transformation legal frameworks.

3.2 Eco-tourism

Regardless of the enactment of tourism in numerous nations, together with the figures of tourism arrivals growth and increments on profits from foreign tourists, there still seems to be concerns that exists about the factual effects of tourism on the environment (Carlo, Monica, Maria and Kennedy, 2013). This is mainly because the mass tourism as advantageous as it may appear, abolishes what it tries to find. For that reason, the new notions such as eco-tourism that have progressively conveyed great responsiveness globally, has been preferred to be good replacement of tourism to upshot its feebleness, at the same time achieving the objective of constructing stability amongst environment, development and the people (Carlo *et al*, 2013). Hence, eco-tourism is an unconventional tourism form across the world that is constantly gaining stability and acknowledgement on a world-wide scale for ages now, with the estimated growth rate of 10 to 15% (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012; Carlo et al, 2013). It is the most recent chance for giving economic value to ecosystem services and making income directly from conservation of natural resources with much care of not destroying the environment (Drumm & Moore, 2005; Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012).

Similarly, in remote rural areas, it has been found to be a device that reinforces the global market because of its positive economic influences on the societies within the country by use of natural resources attractions which are found to be the important sources of economic diversification and livelihood opportunities (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012). Eco-tourism is also perceived to be a platform for income generation in both indirect and direct manner for participants within the local area, forming encouragements and profits for conservation areas within local societies, concurrently promoting the justifiable use of environmental resources and reduces threats to biodiversity while building constituencies for conservation, locally, nationally and internationally (Drumm & Moore, 2005). Also, those residing within the eco-tourism located and surrounding areas, including household individuals employed within the eco-tourism destinations additionally gained economically and educationally (Broadbent, Zambrano, Dirzo, William, Driscoll, Gallagher, Salters, Schultz, Colmenares, Randolph & Angelica, 2012).

Within various countries, the eco-tourism existences and expansion has been regarded as important due to its influence on the local economy and on supervising the conservational resources of localities (RIVERA, 2002). Its expansion has also been influenced by its need to protect the usage of the natural resources by the growing population as well as the growing various business interests on certain resources which has created a scarcity or disappearance of such resources due to high demand (Drum & Moore 2005). In other words, eco-tourism has been found and used as a good strategy to secure the remaining minor resources of such species in restoring its generation which has created a need to expand the eco-tourism destinations (Drumm & Moore 2005). The creation and existence of the nature conservation areas does not only focus on providing protection to the habitation of the overall species but also strive to ensure that there is a minimised if not prevention of pollution, degradation and erosion (Green Global Travel, 2018). There is a need to expand several eco-tourism destinations as supported by investors and various stakeholders because of its mechanisms which has been aimed to achieve the development of the local economy and to create change in the lives of the local people (RIVERA, 2002).

As much as eco-tourism destinations have various stakeholders which its existence and its expansion affect, it side-lines some of its stakeholders when planning and making decisions. As it is mainly practiced within or around rural areas, the local people are not in most cases consulted about the implementation of such destinations (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2018). For instance, in South Australia occasion about the eco-tourism development was established without pre-consulting the impacted society which led to community opposition undermining

the success and the future of such undertakings with much consideration of the possible negative impact on their lives by such development (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2018). Such create conflict amongst the community, the community leaders as well as the developers in terms of differing interests and creates mistrust. Consultation and participation on ecotourism undertakings are clearly not being given same attention within countries across the globe, as their importance is not understood the same way. In Ethiopia, ecotourism is valued and given much attention whereby planning includes engaging stakeholders on a cooperative and strategically act towards problem solving, creating potential improvement for rural communities (Getahun & Yeshanew, 2016).

Some authors like Drumm & Moore (2005); Getahun & Yeshanew, (2016), argue that community participation within the eco-tourism development will eventually enhance the growth of the local economy and create sustainability of the development, concurrently fulfilling the needs of the people (alleviating poverty) and the mission of eco-tourism. This is mainly because eco-tourism's fundamental principles do not only refer to the minimization or reduction of negative and harmful impact on the environment, but also ensure the representation of the indigenous cultures and an active contribution to the host community's economic well-being and the involved stakeholders (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012). As such, the needs of the indigenous groups are well considered and respected during the planning and operation of eco-tourism, mainly because the eco-tourism destinations are located within and surrounding residential areas of rural communities, which still depends much on environmental resources for survival (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012).

In countries like Thailand and Malaysia, clash amongst the community members has not only been created by the absence of pre-consultation about the eco-tourism development, but mainly the unequal distribution of income generated from eco-tourism, causing severe conflicts amongst the local people (Paud, Som & Baum, 2012; Sangchumnong, 2018). The solution was that most of the people must be incorporated in the tourism industry (enforced local participation and involvement) and that there should be introduction of careers of tourism which can entice the youth to come back and work at home-ground once graduated (Sangchumnong, 2018). With differing situations related to eco-tourism undertakings across the countries, it is clear that eco-tourism does create both advantages and disadvantages to the communities at large. In some communities, it has been found that close association amongst community residents has been broken due to overlooked shared goals as the eco-tourism seem to have changed from protection instrument to business-oriented goal, causing clashes of interest between local societies, further making changes to traditional

social structure (Pookhano, 2014). The conflict within some communities in relation to eco-tourism activities has further incorporated gender inequality whereby women are less advantaged or less fortunate to undertake such activities due to cultural beliefs and discrimination. Even so, in some areas like Ghana, communities have seriously given attention to matters interconnecting development of tourism, whereby most females are involved in income generating activities that are tourism related, and the profits gained is much impressive to the community (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012).

Inequalities on eco-tourism benefits sharing is very visible in most areas, although social interchange to enhance environmental sustainability is encouraged (Pookhano, 2014). Such inequality resulted into conflict amongst the residents as ecotourism benefits seem to cater only certain minority of the community residents at the expense of the needs of majority (Pookhano, 2014; Derera, 2015). The conflict rose mainly because hunting of wildlife and firewood has always been part of their daily lives and way of survival to feed their families. The on-going hunting activities within communities have been argued to be causing loss of wildlife habitat, while the fetching of firewood creating deforestation, thus eco-tourism was seen as a workable strategy to provide protection to the natural resources within and surrounding areas that seem to have tendency of overusing the resources (Pookhano, 2014; Green Global travel, 2018). This is mainly because eco-tourism gives a long-standing substitute to over-utilization of resources, producing sustainable and justifiable profits and returns, as well as making sure that there is overall better health for the ecosystem (Green Global travel, 2018).

Although eco-tourism has the potential to drive the defensible development of tourism, together with provision of opportunities for life-improving of the marginalized and the underprivileged people especially located in rural areas, leading to poverty alleviation (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012). It further preserving both cultural heritage and the natural environment through awareness creation, at the same time stimulating the economic development and the peoples' social security (Kuuder & Wuleka, 2012). For instance, in countries like Madagascar, Indonesia, and South America without side-lining Bolivia Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guatemala and Panama, eco-tourism is popular and found to be an effective tool to reduce poverty and increase household income (Briney, 2017). The mentioned areas are just a lesser number of those regions where eco-tourism is found to be more popular, though opportunities exist within more hundreds of places globally. In other words, if eco-tourism can be designed and executed adequately, the policies and decisions can be well-shaped, providing a direct support for environmental management and

conservation, while indirectly improving livelihoods of the societies (Zacarias & Loyola, 2017). For instance, the rural areas of Nepal have been profound as the decent visitor-host contact zone due to its rich natural resources which also allows for community awareness and learning about their available indigenous products, as mainly used for success of eco-tourism projects (Walter, Regmi & Khanal, 2018).

Similarly, in Costa Rica, the emergence of construction of tourism infrastructure since 1970s, as encouraged by the available rich natural resources, has resulted in reduction of unemployment rate to less than 10% (Green Global Travel, 2018). Despite what has been found in other countries, Costa Rica seem to be achieving this through involvement of the local people in tourism management which empower them concurrently reinvesting revenue locally, giving them chance to continue residing on their inherited land, so they could safeguard it and preserve their traditional culture (Green Global Travel, 2018). This has resulted in income generating and a better platform for the community members to be independent, some venture in entrepreneurship as a form of diversifying their livelihoods as well as alleviating poverty. Even so, it is not always the case that countries rich with natural resources are having a stable economy as they benefit much from the ecotourism or tourism sector. For instance, in developing countries like Ethiopia which have a very high number of well-known heritage sites which serves as tourism resources or tourist attraction sites, still benefits the least on this sector (Getahun & Yeshanew, 2016). Nonetheless, the developing countries still stands out as the best countries with higher efforts to ensure protection and conservation of its environmental resources including (Getahun & Yeshanew, 2016).

Furthermore, it has been found that encouraging and balancing the principles of environment with the socio-economic concerns results to a systemic approach, of which such commitments can be observed as a strong model of sustainability (Batle, Orfila-Sintes & Moon, 2018). Also, environmental sensitivity and management has been given more attention as form of eco-tourism practices, which simply included cleanliness of the environmental, management of rural areas and their existing resources, as well as valuing and protecting the local culture (Walter, Regmi & Khanal, 2018). This simply shows that theorising and research knowledge in eco-tourism has focused largely on visitors' learning experiences concurrently trying to understand the visitors' perceptions on eco-tourism experience, consciousness gained and their behavioural and attitude change (Walter, Regmi & Khanal, 2018). Just like in Thailand, eco-tourism does not only promote greater conservation of environmental resources, but also result to increase in deforestation and fragmentation of forest by the development and unmanageable visitation levels with limited

socio-economic advantages (Compbell, 1993). Such includes the underlying forces interrelated with reforms in socio-economic dynamics of the people residing and employed within the area (Zambrano, 2010).

3.2.1 Eco-tourism regulations

In various countries globally, policies and strategies are frequently established and amended to control the use of environmental resources, as well as addressing the challenges mainly manmade especially due to increasing population. The legislations are designed to address different problems considering the availability of different resources. Even so, some countries adopt other countries policies and legislations especially with the encouragement of how it has best assisted on addressing the problem that has challenged that particular country. Although it might have succeeded in addressing the problems that has occurred in a particular country, such never guarantees that the adoption of the similar approach or strategy will definitely work on solving a problem in another country since the countries differ with culture, resources, socio-economic background of the people, as well as the environmental conditions. As a result, this serves as a reason why various countries prefer developing their own legislations or policies looking at their respective problems, resources as well as their indigenous cultures and believes.

In Ethiopia, National Conservation Strategy of 1994 was established and practiced protecting the environmental resources. This was mainly after the previous challenges and conflicts that severely affected the citizens of being restricted to the use of natural resources through the top-down approach which was used to manage the resources. This mainly excluded the local people, civil society as well as private sector, which such neglect made the community members to not feel the sense of ownership and created an immediate mind of vengeance of the community looking at the change of government which brought administration of power in a federal system as well as decentralisation and liberal free market system of administration (Getahun & Yeshanew, 2016). Following the issue of conservation of environmental resources in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Environmental Policy of 1997 was established to provide rules and declarations that deal with the conservation of the natural resources (Getahun & Yeshanew, 2016). The Ethiopians National Tourism Development Policy (2009) was introduced as a means to address the issue of poverty (Temesgen, 2017). It aims at promoting the association with the local societies as one of the execution plans to reach sustainable tourism improvement (Temesgen, 2017). The community participation in the tourism development activities has been guaranteed as the basic principle of the policy.

While in the Costa Rican Ministry Tourism, there has been an establishment of certification for sustainable tourism that has been introduced to address the issue of unregulated development that arises in line with the planned areas for certain development (Rivera, 2002). This was to regulate the expansion of eco-tourism destinations on land that is supposed to be used for other development (Rivera, 2004). As such, eco-tourism expansion is restricted by this regulation to ensure that it does not spread to larger space, as other development also need space for establishment (Rivera, 2002; Rivera, 2004). This is mainly because, even though eco-tourism protects the environment and strive for ensuring the well-being of the rural poor, it is as important as other development initiatives, even if such initiatives will be demanded to be environmentally consciousness (Rivera, 2004). The certification not only regulated the expansion of eco-tourism but further served as a binding tool for eco-tourism destinations to adhere to environmental protection principles and never in any way deviate from those guiding principles (Rivera, 2002; Rivera, 2004).

The most comprehensive environmental law act is the Malawi National Parks Act of 1969 which is directly related to tourism (Anstey & Hall-Martin, 1977; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The Act gives provision for regulations for guidelines that sets the National Parks in Malawi (Anstey & Hall-Martin, 1977; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The Malawi National Park Act also creates laws governing the taking and management of the wild game species both inside and outside of protected lands (Anstey & Hall-Martin, 1977). Also, the law holds anyone who undertake wildlife harassing activities while inside the game reserve accountable, unless if such individual is on lawful hunting excursion (Anstey & Hall-Martin, 1977; International Wildlife Law, 2020). This law does not only apply to the National Parks in Malawi, but also regulates and gives a close eye the actions of the tourists and locals, penalising individuals based on the amount of damage or negative impact on the environment and its species (International Wildlife Law, 2020). Example includes, when a traveller takes an animal willingly without permission on protected land, is regarded as a serious transgression, which could even call for prison time. The acts regulate the creation of National Parks, although the behavioural laws within the Parks differ according to places (Anstey & Hall-Martin, 1977; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The law enforcements within the Park are in the hands of the operators and managers of the park, on making sure that the environmental laws and policies are well accepted and respected within the park (International Wildlife Law, 2020).

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 was established in Australia (Act & Act, 1999; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The law permits Australian government bodies to execute numerous regulations for the protection of Australians' culture and biological heritage (Act & Act, 1999; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Likewise, this act achieves this through the establishments of lawful guidelines which provides assistance on the protection of the natural environment and its resources, from the disruption, unjustifiable usage, and the contamination (International Wildlife Law, 2020). The success of this act has further involved the successful promotion of regaining the threatened scarcity of certain species and environmental groups. Moreover, the Australian Endangers Species Act of 1973 was long established before the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999 of the Australia (Woinarski & Fisher, 1999; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Even so, it lasted a long period and still refereed to when establishing other related environmental policies. The Australian Endangers Species Act of 1973 has been regarded as an influential tool to achieve the preservation of the exclusive ecological species found within the grounds of Hawaii, like the Hawaiian hoary bat as well as the Hawaiian Hawk, which is found within and surrounding the desert island (Woinarski & Fisher, 1999; International Wildlife Law, 2020).

Aboriginal Peoples Act of 1954 was established in Malaysia, which is a portion a legislature that carries a substantial eco-tourism impact (Asul, Gabil, Hamah, Kamarullah & Mohd Ishak, 2010; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The Act fundamentally adopts the worldwide notion of eco-tourism and adopts it on a national scale (Asul *et al*, 2010; International Wildlife Law, 2020). As a result, this act emphasises the worldwide known and accepted principles or eco-tourism together with its types and characteristics. Additionally, the law creates a set of rules and regulations for how development should be approached, in relation to environmental protection (Asul *et al*, 2010; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Also, the interests and desires of the indigenous people are further given special attention by this act, to avoid clashes and low participation of the local societies in the eco-tourism development activities. In other words, this act promotes the improvement of the peoples' well-being (Asul *et al*, 2010). Correspondingly, this law's major elementary establishment is to make certain that the local societies across the nation are not expatriate by the outside interest from their cultural and inherited land (Asul *et al*, 2010).

In Brazil, there has been an establishment of the National Law number 6938 of 1981, which provides its nation with the environmental regulating laws to avoid pollution and ecosystem disruption (Pereira, Ferreira, Santa Rebeiro, Cavalho & Barros Pereira, 2019; Viera Teixeira, 2012; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The Brazil Environmental Policy makes a huge encouragement on the legitimacy of the eco-tourism practices, through policy designing (Pereira *et al*, 2019). Such is made available for the protection of the environment, further providing guidelines on how environment can be developed and simultaneously protected (Pereira *et al*, 2019; Viera Teixeira, 2012; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Also, the policy draws down strategies and procedures on how development of eco-tourism must be undertaken, without side-lining or ignoring how the application of eco-tourism principles will benefit both the eco-tourism destinations together with the surrounding communities (Viera Teixeira, 2012; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Likewise, the balance of the eco-tourism and community needs bring harmony and maximise the participation of the local populace in eco-tourism related activities, mainly because the benefits are fairly shared amongst the people while the eco-tourism destinations benefit as well (Viera Teixeira, 2012).

Such further creates good cooperation amongst nations and not only the livelihoods of the locals are improved, but also the eco-tourism sector across the region finds to be an enterprise that is more accessible and easily acceptable (Pereira *et al*, 2019; Viera Teixeira, 2012; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The Environmental Management and Coordination Act is one of the most important portions of legislature in Kenya (The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020). This act constructs agenda and structure as better environmental planning and for the administration of the environment, concurrently regulating various interaction of the industries and the environment (USAID, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Additionally, the Environmental Management and Coordination Act clearly highlights that the natural environment is well recognised, by the state of Kenya, as the root of the fundamentals of socio-economic improvements together with the cultural and spiritual advancement of Kenya (Government gazette, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020). The regulations in this act are interrelated to the industry of tourism directly so, both of the tourists and the local societies have to be very attentive of this act and its guiding principles. This is mainly because the act further indicated that all residents of nation of Kenya are permitted by constitutional right of birth to access environment that is hygienic, good for living, and productive for survival (USAID, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020).

Consequently, the residents of Kenya hold a large amount of power on the surrounding across the regions, which makes nearly all of the tourism businesses to be restricted by local governance (Government gazette, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020). Therefore, travellers to the nation of Kenya are expected to make a thorough research on areas of interest, to be aware in time on what is and what is not allowed within such area to avoid being caught up in environmental law disruptions and penalties (Government gazette, 2009; USAID, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020). As such, visiting to Kenya does not allow one to explore the lethal safari at any time one wishes, it requires authorisation first (Government gazette, 2009; International Wildlife Law, 2020).

3.3 Rural land transformation

Land is perceived as the survival element by most societies throughout the globe particularly in rural zones mainly because they get their food from its soil and other subsistence essentials. It remains the key factor of development and for survival to most rural populace worldwide. It is an element that rural communities depend on for living while developers and state depend on it for undertaking their activities to provide the services that will improve the lives of the people. Such results to rural land transformation which is mainly understood as the development undertaken on land that transform the usual state of the land bringing the economic factors and modifying the land to cater the socio-economic needs of the populace. The transformed rural land is found to solve the poverty related matters within the communities across the globe through the infrastructures it implements which provide income generating opportunities.

Understandably, land has its own challenges that include land ownership and land usage. In most developing countries land ownership is different to of those in developed countries especially because of the different in needs in the third world countries, in comparison of those in the first world countries (Bokermann, 1975; Jayne, Stevens, Lowery & Stickler, 2016). Land ownership has raised lot of conflicts amongst the communities in most developing countries (Bokermann, 1975). This is mainly because most rural communities derive income from farming, of which calls for land reform to make sure that the agricultural income's distribution is more equitable (Bokermann, 1975). In most developing countries especially of African region, many productive lands are owned by minority (by government and community elites) with no middle-class holdings, making the suitable farming land to increasingly be limited (Bokermann, 1975).

For instance, about 270 million of forest hectares, globally, are locally owned with fewer than 470 million hectares protected by state as owners (Garcia-Franpolli, Ayala-Orozco, Bonilla-Moheno Espadas-Manrique & Ramos-Fernandez, 2007). This serves as a means to preserve the biodiversity over approaches going from total prohibition of human undertakings to elevation of sustainable use strategies that can accommodate both human needs and natural protection (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007). Additionally, the small and private farms dominate the arable land of the African continent, majority using the systems of customary or traditional tenure to access the land, which permits individual plots for harvesting or communal plots be used for grazing, gathering firewood, and additional rural livelihoods tactics for survival (Jayne *et al*, 2016).

In most countries across the African continent, the land use is legally held by the government of which is a common land ownership across the continent, and this means family farmer have no lawful ownership of the plot. Even so, satisfactory tenure security has historically been provided to farmers by the systems of customary tenure in various places (Jayne *et al*, 2016). Likewise, land usage is not only limited to various undertakings like transportation, agriculture, residential, and recreational, but also includes usage such as commercial. Some people purchase land for business purposes which results to land development within the area. Even so, land purchase attracts its own different problems as well, particularly considering how the planned activity will affect the surrounding land and its species. Land acquisition remains a challenge globally especially for infrastructural projects of a larger scale just like the power stations, as the recent plot acquirement regulations give landowners substantial freedoms and defense (Tata institution for social sciences and rights and resources initiatives, 2016). As such, those large-scale projects get to be negatively affected as they require larger plot for execution and for smooth operation as an additional land for waste management space is needed and essential for the project, therefore the landowners dominating in this country make the acquirement of such huge plots very difficult if not impossible.

Correspondingly in India, the state has been making an effort to adjust the existing plot acquirement bill, however it has still not reached any headway regarding this agenda within the higher house of the legislative body (Tata institution for social sciences and rights and resources initiatives, 2016). It has been observed as a well income-generating and economic stability factor by others, while others are more concerned about the citizens and their complaints regarding the pollution and other environmental destruction brought by the projects within the area as compared to its benefits and opportunities. This has led to India

having an extraordinary number of clashes of about 60%, of which all documented clashes are interrelated to plot acquisition by the state (Tata institution for social sciences and rights and resources initiatives, 2016). Compatibly in Ethiopia, there is structure of usage of land that is very unmanageable and unsustainable, which has grown to be a problem for its national economy (Wubneh, 2018).

In current years, there has been an increment of various factors such as world food prices and population enlargement which demands more land usage in many regions, including in Africa (Jayne *et al*, 2016). The rapid increase in population has created more demand of land for residing, as well as more land for cultivation as a way to satisfy the growing need of food for survival (Jayne *et al*, 2016). Such has brought too many strains on the environmental soil especially due to the fact that it causes erosion, and the deforestation caused by the increased demand of firewood harvesting for increased population which creates more and more loss of scarce natural resources as well as creation of loss of biodiversity (Jayne *et al*, 2016). Population growth in Italy like in other counties still remained the prominent challenge in terms of land demand, and conflicts over inequality of resource distributions mostly land (Romano, Zullo, Fiorini, Marucci & Ciabo, 2017). In regions that are still developing like Latin America, Africa, and Asia, suffer the extreme impoverishments related to growing rural population forces, with many exertions focused on development acceleration through increasing the whole economy as well as the employment, forgetting to put more fairness on distribution of resources and benefits (Bokermann, 1975).

The increase in population has formed a new stress on the aptitude of the system of customary tenure to provide protection to domestic farmers plot from the violation or the appropriation (Jayne *et al*, 2016). The changes and the increasing demand have created pressure on state to make decision of sales and renting of the customary land with no knowledge and any participation of societies who have used the land customarily (Jayne, Stevens, (Jayne *et al*, 2016). This has created lot of awkwardness, conflict and mistrust of the people on their state, creating lack of interest in participating in introduced projects and programs. Such state decisions in most African countries were influenced by the great interest in land acquisition by intercontinental and countrywide businesses including the urban elites for investments in agriculture, together with state interest in alluring outside deals, inefficient land administration, and poor local governance within the regions (Jayne *et al*, 2016).

Gender inequality in some areas is found to still persist especially in terms of participation mostly in rural communities whereby women are not allowed to participate. In countries like Italy, gender stand out to be part of the reasons why the unequal distribution of land still persisted (Romano *et al*, 2017). This led to rural poverty and slowed down the process of rural transformation as certain services is not allowed to women such as education of certain level which makes it more difficult considering that they are the majority within the locality and that most are household heads. This further becomes a huge problem considering that they are the ones who take care of the family as heads of the households yet discriminated and not provided with access to land because of their gender (Dyer, 2018).

In Ethiopia, just like in most countries across the globe, there are human rights that are essential for people to enjoy which includes right to food, life, housing, property, development and right to self-determination (Tura, 2018). Although, there is no satisfactory judicial fortification for smallholder farmers as regulations and practices enable land grabbing and arbitrary expropriations which encourage most indigenous groups to be economically marginalised in Ethiopia (Tura, 2018). Currently, rural land users' rights in Ethiopia are not sufficiently protected by the available land laws (Tura, 2018). While in Mexico, the established land holding scheme have profoundly been transformed by the land structure of the Mexican land tenure (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007). Such revision has included giving the communities power over land usage and ownership of part of the land for undertaking practices for survival.

The local societies, just after the authorized reforms, were then permitted to split their land into parcels that are individually owned, for either leasing or be sold which ultimately promote essential changes in land cover and land uses of the area (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007). Such permission has not only improved the living condition and incomes of the households of the societies, but also boosted the confidence and increased the independence across the localities. The local residents to some extents have a sense of empowerment as they hold the land ownership powers, and sense of freedom to decide on what to do with the land as the owners. Similar studies found that the decision on leasing and selling the land by local communities is influenced by both internal factors of size of the family and level of income, as well as the external factors of government agencies support and the access to market (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007; Tura, 2018). Despite the highlighted challenges that land has within various countries, there still occur factors that develop land concurrently meeting the people's needs, striving for stability and conservation.

Land accessibility, community involvement and community participation has been factors that encouraged rural land transformation within communities. The joint action or collective planning and decision on land use have brought much harmony in most communities. This further resulted in the absence of conflict amongst community members and developers or even government as the planned development simply address the community problems and meet their basic needs. Like other regions, community involvement in Mexico on land planning has made the community to have more access and manage some parts of it. This has resulted in land ownership and independency which has lowered the rate of poverty increase (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007). While in Ethiopia, the human rights have brought the financial freedom as their rights to access land has mainly given many populaces the idea of making a living out of it which included agricultural farming and entrepreneurship (Tura, 2018).

This included the renting and selling of the land to their interested groups as a means of generating income from the land they own. Independency of community members in both of Mexico and Ethiopia resulted in community empowerment, community development through more establishments of entrepreneurs and other partnering businesses (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007; Tura, 2018). Such has brought more infrastructural development which attracted the investors and other businesses from outside Mexico and Ethiopia, which called a need for road networks for transportation and other economic facilities, resulting in economic growth within the areas. Employment rate is to be picking up, dropping the poverty and crime rate (Garcia-Franpolli *et al*, 2007).

In African continent, rural land transformation is said to be contributed or boosted by various sectors with agriculture standing as the major contributor, as well as tourism. Thus, is mainly due to the favourable special geographical different types of soil which allow for various growths of agricultural products. This is one of the major reasons why land remains the survival factor in regions like Africa (Wubneh, 2018). Even so, rural land transformation in Africa is seen to be contributed by many factors ranging from agriculture, mining, to tourism sector as they all bring about high number of employment opportunities as well as other social-economic platforms for community to take advantage of for their survival. Even so, Human activities such as mining and infrastructure expansion demand more of environmental resources and disturb the ecosystem or other species habitats, leading to numerous environmental challenges of deforestation and soil erosion (Wubneh, 2018).

3.3.1 Rural land transformation regulations

Rural land transformation related regulations, policies and acts vary country to country. Therefore, the below mentioned are few of the many regulations governing the rural land transformation within different countries. In developing countries, there are two fundamental issues that affect their economic development, namely, the association amongst distribution of land and labour productivity, as well as how to extend the land policies can proactively influence the patterns of land distribution (Jayne, Stevens, Lowery & Stickler, 2016).

The Public Land Act of 1902, 1903, 1905 and 1925 were established in Philippines, giving power to the colonial country to control the overall land across the nation (Molintas, 2004, Poblador, 2014). As such, the state had the power to regard the land as unreserved and vacant, and start making plans for that particular land, not caring about what is found on such land (Molintas, 2004). Additionally, the act gave more power to the state to even decide that such identified fertile land is not suitable for residing and venturing of business, even though there were indigenous peoples already living in such lands (Molintas, 2004). As such, the acts further regulated the removal of people from the land especially from the fertile geographical space (Molintas, 2004, Poblador, 2014). The acts also gave the state powers to trade land with just a piece of paper. The acts further gave the state the powers to perform any mining activities within the grounds of Philippines (Molintas, 2004, Poblador, 2014). Although the acts have been abolished and new correcting acts were introduced after the era of colonisation, this acts still symbolise the importance of land availability is recognised across the nations of the globe (Poblador, 2014). Hence land ownership has, since hundreds of years ago, been a target by most people and organisations (Molintas, 2004). The land ownership has largely created clashes within countries, with the understanding of the power of owning the land (Molintas, 2004, Poblador, 2014).

The Land Acquisition Act of 1960 has been established to govern the land acquisition process in Peninsular Malaysia (Adil & Rani, 2014; Rohani, Sahid, Hasbullah, & Suliman, 2019). This act has remained in-use for hundreds of years now, on lawful matters of land acquirement which were applied to forcefully take over the ownership of land in Malaysia (Adil & Rani, 2014). Although many state found within the Peninsular Malaysia is accepting and adopting the law, it would be differently instigated or applied according to each state (Rohani *et al*, 2019). This is mainly because of the different socio-economic issues affecting each state, together with the different cultures and environmental resources. According to Mohamad, Sufian, Harun & Amin (2013), the act requires government to make the valuation on the suitable remuneration in-line with the acquirement of land. The existence of this act

indicates that the laws in Malaysia identify and acknowledges the individual land ownership, together with recognition of the crucial birth-right assured by the Malaysian constitution to have total ownership of land (Mohamad *et al*, 2013; Adil & Rani, 2014; Rohani *et al*, 2019).

Likewise, in Malaysia, any actions undertaken as a means of attaining land property is forbidden, exceptions made to those actions performed in agreement to regulations (Adil & Rani, 2014; Rohani *et al*, 2019). Even so, sufficient payment is expected to be made to benefit all the stakeholders affected by the obtained land. Additionally, this act makes a provision of ordinary ways to adopt, which are presumed to be appropriate to situations and conditions of all states of the Malaysia (Mohamad *et al*, 2013; Adil & Rani, 2014; Rohani *et al*, 2019). As such, this stands as a fast instrument to be used for land attainment by force, where necessarily instantly required for the purpose of improvements (Adil & Rani, 2014). Consequently, the proper implementation of the act should ensure justice is achieved and solidified for landowners that were evicted, including the rest of other stakeholders that were affected, in order to fulfil the objectives of this act (Mohamad *et al*, 2013; Adil & Rani, 2014; Rohani *et al*, 2019). As a result, the proper implementation of this act provides development that is suitable and infrastructure that is sustainable for the society, resulting into transformation of the rural lands (Mohamad *et al*, 2013).

Whereas in Malawi, the government introduced and publicized the Customary Land Act of 2016, with the goal of achieving the securities of land tenure, efficiency of land uses, and the improvements of land market (Zuka, 2019). As such, this act was further established to address the transformation of not only the Republic of Malawi, but the entire Africa's tenure insecurities and corruption-ridden customary land sector (Zuka & Matinga, 2016). Similarly, it focused on attaining the utilization of the inter-generational capital allocation (Zuka, 2019). Smartly, the act encourages public participation, for better understanding of the peoples' views, opinions and concerns regarding the customary land related matters (Kampanje-Phiri, Kambewa, Kakwera, Chimombo, Chiwasa, Ngwale & Galimoto, 2019). Even so, this has brought lot of confusion and conflicts as some people accepted and showing backing on the designed regulations, while others strongly oppose the constructed land regulations together with the governing frameworks (Kampanje-Phiri *et al*, 2019; Zuka, 2019). The clashes called for government to review, amend and develop fresh plot and plot connected regulations. The Customary Land Act of 2016 placed attention on the registration of land, formation of institutional bodies to specially address the rising clashes of land, accessibility of land giving more preference to previously discriminated groups (women and persons with disability), and compensation and governance of plot (Kampanje-Phiri *et al*, 2019; Zuka,

2019). Considerably, all the relevant stakeholders have collectively commenced to implement the law with pilot projects. As such various stakeholders have come together, playing their different role with one aim of achieving the objectives of this act across the regions of Malawi (Kampanje-Phiri et al, 2019; Zuka, 2019).

3.4 Recommended measures to improve eco-tourism

Following are some of the possible recommendations which could help to sustain ecotourism suggested by Bustam and Stein (2021):

3.4.1 Minimize impact

Additional to low-impact travel and carbon-offset programs, potential strategies to minimize negative impacts might include considerations for waste disposal and wise use of water resources when building ecotourism infrastructure (lodging, attractions) as well as strictly following regulations and respecting customs if your business involves travelling to cultural areas such as cultural heritage tours to reservations. This simply means that we should move with times as the world is becoming more developed and ensure that we still preserve our nature. We should avoid deforestation as this has a huge negative impact on global warming which in turn destroys the nature due to climate changes.

3.4.2 Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect

Practices that address this issue might include providing education and interpretation of the local environment, employing of local guides or hosting pre-trip meetings (or providing information prior to trip departure) to share knowledge on the local environment and culture. Wildlife tour operators might show a short video to ecotourists before taking them to observe wildlife as a way of encouraging environmentally responsible behaviors during the tour. This will help in empowering the tourists with knowledge so they become more aware of the environments they will be visiting as well as learning about different plants and animals around that area. This practice also helps in cases where there are dangerous wild animals in the area which the tourists will need to be on the lookout for. Preserving of nature by also taking care of our natural plants can be achieved through this practice.

3.4.3 Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts

Interpretation and educational programs have been shown to enhance customer enjoyment and satisfaction. For instance, agritourism operators might provide visitor education

programs on the natural environment of the farm and insight into farm culture as well as community programs including curriculum-based programs for school groups. This can also be done when tourists have visited game reserves to see certain wild animals. In some instances, the tour guides teach the tourists about the wild animals during a game drive in that particular game reserve and how they live among other animals. Sometimes they even know when a certain animal was born and they can identify which one belongs to which gender, just by looking at the colour of the skins, heights and even feathers in cases of birds. This type of experience makes the trip even more enjoyable and could be used to attract more tourists. Organizations such as the National Association for Interpretation offer certification courses for guides that teach "best practices" for providing informal education.

3.4.4 Provide direct financial benefits for conservation

Potential strategies to meet this criterion may include philanthropy and volunteer programs for visitors and residents. For example, nature tour operators might offer ecotourists the opportunity to make financial donations to or volunteer in conservation projects within the protected areas they visit. Another way of raising funds for the conservation is introducing a variety of games which tourists could choose from whilst visiting the area. Eco-tourists would be expected to pay for each game they choose according to a number of hours. These games may include bungy jumping, abseiling, ziplining, horse-riding, boat trips etc. This will attract more eco-tourists into the areas and help in growing the economy of that area.

3.4.5 Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people

This may be achieved by promoting local resources. For instance, outdoor recreation operators can promote local resources by packaging travel services with locally owned businesses including restaurants, lodging, transportation, and artisans. This can be achieved by inviting local skilled people to display their hand-made products at the tourist sites where the tourists will see and buy. These can be beads, sculptures, hand-made toys, and even hand-made boats which can be used by tourists for hire when crossing rivers around the area. Local people should also be employed by these sites to guide the tourists and show them around as they are more familiar with the surroundings. This will empower the local people and help in reducing unemployment rates.

3.4.6 Raise sensitivity to the local region's political, environmental, and social climate

Efforts to meet this criterion might include opportunities for educational exchanges between ecotourists and residents. For example, agritourism operators might provide opportunities for home stays, allowing visitors to experience life on the farm as a rural Florida farmer

(Bustam and Stein, 2021). In most nature reserves, visitors are not allowed to give animals food as they could react in an aggressive manner and pose a danger to the tourists. Tourists are not allowed to modify anything in the reserves as it could interfere with preserving the nature as the primary purpose. Any changes or developmental plan by the reserve managers should be done after consultation with community members and highlight how will the developments benefit the community. Everything that might bring a change to the surroundings should be discussed with every stakeholder and reach an agreement before proceeding with the plan. This strategy will instill a sense of involvement within the community members and that will help bring peace and harmony and encourage unity in working towards a common goal.

3.5 Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is clear that across the globe eco-tourism indeed has been beneficial for most countries, although it comes with numerous challenges. On the other hand, the attainment of rural land transformation is not easily achieved due to discovered factors that hinder its fast achievement. Similarly, eco-tourism legislations differ country to country looking at the difference on availability of resources, geographical surrounding, cultures, believes, and the constitutional rights. Correspondingly, it is clear that the legislation on rural land transformation found to be protecting the needs of the people concurrently considering the protection of the environment. The following chapter presented eco-tourism and rural land transformation: on South African perspective.

CHAPTER 4

ECO-TOURISM AND RURAL LAND TRANSFORMATION: SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

4.1 Introduction

Tourism is the fastest growing sector in South Africa and the most generating sector to the gross domestic products (Rogerson, 2016). It is a sector that provides the market, economic and social opportunities for the South African populace especially the rural citizens living within and around the eco-tourism destinations (Rogerson & Visser, 2014). It is further regarded as the possible strategy to achieve rural land transformation due to the opportunities it presents to the people (Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011). With that, this chapter will cover the ecotourism performance in South Africa, the legal framework on ecotourism in South Africa, rural land transformation in South Africa, as well as the legal framework on land transformation in South Africa.

4.2 Eco-tourism

In South Africa, the vehicle for regional development and economic growth has been considered as tourism (Rogerson, 2013, Gault, 2010; Rogerson, 2015). It has been found to be the one of the key development drivers of the local economy within small townships and bordering zones, although the capacity and financial restrictions faced by municipalities makes it difficult to undertake an effective tourism planning (Rogerson, 2016). This result to tourism being faced by severe challenges with no mitigation strategies to minimize the threats to acceptable level as financial problems does not allow for problem solving strategies to be out in place. Nonetheless, it gets to be challenged by external factors like climate change of which results in low-income generation due to lower number of tourism activities to be undertaken as some depend on the weather condition (Gault, 2010). Likewise, the tourism practitioners and policy makers in south Africa are urged to focus on capacity building around change of climate as an important factor of the program of government tourism support which enables south Africa's local government to manage and sustain partnership with private sector, indicating a profound understanding on what way the municipalities can best control their areas tourism assets as well as to maximize the tourism opportunities for rural land transformation and enhancing local economic development (Gault, 2010; Rogerson, 2016).

Similarly, eco-tourism is found to provide the country with higher amount of income, directly and indirectly, making a huge contribution of stabilising the country's economy (Rogerson, 2016). This involves enhancing the community capacity through creating partnership between the local people and ecotourism destinations whereby the community render services or even retail their local goods such as crafts and indigenous food to the travellers, entertaining the tourist through their indigenous dances, and teaching the tourists their culture and way of living or survival as another form of entertainment and wonderful experience to the tourists (Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011). Furthermore, it includes creating sustainable job opportunities for the local people. This stabilises the economy of the area because of the increased number of the economically active people, which generate more income to the local businesses, assisting the businesses to grow or expand and create a need for employing new more people (Blankley & Booyens, 2010; Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011; Rogerson, 2016).

Additionally, this assist the local government to be effective on service delivery since only few people now depend on certain services provided by the government such as food parcels, of which will then require the government to direct the funds and energy to more services and resources which can best satisfy the essentials of the people, and ensure the service is of good quality and is sufficient (Blankley & Booyens, 2010; Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011). Such brings about sustainable development and rural land transformation and more new services with a required quality gets to be provided and satisfy the essentials of the current group not compromising the necessities of the upcoming group (Blankley & Booyens, 2010; Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011; Rogerson, 2016)

Given high level of inequality and poverty in South Africa the possible consequence of change in climate for biodiversity, food security, health, water resources, including tourism, all emphasize the point that climate change is not solely an environmental problem, but then positions serious challenges for development on a national level (Rogerson, 2016). As such, climate change has serious impact on the development factors which result in slow in progress, leaving other projects left undone as resources are exhausted trying to fix damages brought by the severe change in climate. Thus, create incomplete projects which can be harmful to the communities and danger to the lives of the children, while the unused incomplete infrastructure luring criminals around the communities. Investigations confirmed the impacts of change in climate on several tourism iconic attractions of South Africa, including the coastal beach resorts, Kruger national park, Robben Island, Table Mountain, the marine attractions, and distinctive biodiversity of the kingdom of cape floral (Department

of Environmental Affairs, 2013). As such, the nation gets to lose many visitors when during the severe change in climate of which in times of drought the marine attractions and coastal beach resorts suffer low of water as one of their main source of attracting their visitors. While heavy rains severely affect the operation in Kruger national park as their tourists cannot be able to see most of the animals, especially the big five which happen to be the major reason for most tourists visit to the park. Also, heavy rains and wind negatively affect the number of visitors to Robben Island as they disturb the travelling of the boards to the site. On the other hand, the misty days affects the number of travelers to Table Mountain as they cannot see the beautiful view of the Cape town city, the coastal site and the Robben Island. Similarly, to other rising economic markets in the global South, South Africa has adopted the policies of knowledge-based to quicken financial catch-up and improve its global economy's effectiveness concurrently addressing the thread of climate change impacts (Blankley & Booyens, 2010; Gault, 2010; Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011). Nonetheless, about 17% of the 55.8 million of international arrivals in 2013 has been captured by South Africa, positioning the nation as the major player in Africa's tourism (Adeleke, 2015).

Such indicate that even with the environmental challenges that impact heavily on the flow of travellers to South Africa, the tourism sector still stand firm and perform beyond expectations as domestic tourists across the nation makes the production in this sector to remain impressive. The Department of environmental affairs (2018) is proclaiming that rich ecosystems counts as valuable assets which could simply assist in availing economic opportunities' concurrently improving quality of life of the South African residents. Remarkably, in 2014, eco-tourism (especially in the wildlife ranching stream) has been found to be the fastest growing division which contributed about R3 billion to GDP than any other stream or economic contributing factors within the country, with almost double the amount made in 2008 by the same stream. Likewise, eco-tourism has found to be the sector providing sustainable employment opportunities of which with its workforce has shown an increase from about 55 000 employed (year 2008) up to around 74 000 (year 2014) which shows a yearly progression rate surpassing 6%.

Additionally, about 8979 wildlife ranches countrywide have been discovered with about half of the number coming from the Limpopo province. About 18.7 million hectares of the county's surface area or approximately 15.3% of the total surface of the country has been taken by eco-tourism destinations. Also, according to the Department of Environmental Affairs (2019), biodiversity is essential in promoting the sustainable development and alleviate poverty across the country, not only serving as the main factor in the environmental

arena of the nation however using the natural resources as acknowledged to be the key economic tactic for lots of rural inhabitants. The South African National Parks (2016) stated its principles that are put in place which includes to guide the management and controlling of the eco-tourism countrywide which includes provision of nature-based, sustainably high-quality and value-for-money experiences of tourism. It has further indicated that it strives for promotion of wildlife experiences that provides a contribution to the construction of a constituency that is broad-based for stability and protection of environmental resources in a way that is people centred (Brouder & Loannides, 2014; South African National Parks, 2016). As such, local participation is given much attention and community concerns are considered, as obligated by the guiding principles of the national parks. Conservation areas are further supported through the usage of a suitable tourism that is naturally and culturally based, as they are perceived to be the best possible financial aids which concurrently strive for balance creation between environment and the community needs (Brouder & Loannides, 2014; South African National Parks, 2016).

Additionally, the South African National Parks (2016) further stated that its principles involve striving for excellence of service for client that is aligned with market expectations, including the objections of additional organisational values, and presentation of different platforms. Moreover, the additional philosophies involved provision of the equitable access to the national park's benefits, the execution of sponsorship principle by the conservation areas as a way of giving back to the nearby communities and empowering the youth and talented persons; and further ensuring that key stakeholders are satisfactorily and fairly benefiting from the national park as documented during the design phase on how they will each benefit (South African National Park (2016). This results in the development and growth of the local economy and the existing socio-economic indicators within the neighbouring societies through the provided opportunities by the park. Furthermore, the use of strategic planning for tourism design and management, the development of product that is justifiable and ecological, concurrently ensuring the meaningful cultural and heritage support of the local populace also form part of the guiding principles of the national park (South African National Park, 2016).

The Western Cape Province, which stand to be one of the South Africa's best regions of tourism, has been considered as a key growth sector (Cornelissen, 2005). Even so, it is alleged that tourism innovation has barely had any exploration study or legal devotion locally regardless of the substantial progression of tourism related research countrywide over the previous years (Rogerson & Visser, 2011). Numerous scholars point out that there is lack of

data to advise policies of development and the economy in South Africa, equally at the local and national levels (Gault, 2010; Booyens, 2011; Kruss & Lorentzen, 2011). Likewise, the regional policies for both development and economic stability are important for current competitiveness found in regions, as revealed in both emerging as well as developed contexts of the economy (Crescenzi & Rodriguez-Pose, 2012; Lorenzini, 2014; Carrincazeaux & Gaschet, 2015; Chaminade & Plechero, 2015; Collits & Rowe, 2015). Even so, according to Turok (2010), there is an existence of numeral policy frameworks for provincial economic development, which aim at providing the assistance of regions role on encouraging the growth of the national economy, and the tourism role for development regionally. Meanwhile other authors argue that eco-tourism continue to be a comparatively new concept in South Africa (Brouder & Loannides, 2014; Rogerson, 2015). Therefore, it is further claimed that development and linked matters like networking or interacting dealings and partnership must be well-understood within the local perspective, in order for backing of proof-based economy regionally and the policy development (Brouder & Loannides, 2014).

The KwaZulu Natal Province is ironic with great quantity of the unspoiled natural resources and customary standards (Govindasamy, 2012). This province further encompasses a range of natural ecosystems and different cultures, which have all made a huge contribution to a rich history which is presently used for encouragement of both intercontinental and national tourism (Aylward & Ernst, 2003). Considering its rich resources, the dependence of this province on its natural environment and its wildlife resources is on a substantial degree, for economic growth and stability. Even so, compared to other provinces, the KwaZulu Natal province has an average Human Development Index showing more unskilled labour forces and higher number of joblessness within the localities (Mhize, 2009; Adeleke, 2015). In KwaZulu Natal, tourism has been prioritised, with the allocation of R20 million set to assist on the survival of the tourism businesses, of which majority are owned by black people, whereby about R50 000 will be provided per business (Zikalala, 2021). The tourism in this province has also been unmistakably ensuring the women empowerment as more focus is placed on ensuring the relief of the businesses owned by women and youth (Zikalala, 2021). Noticeably, gender-based equality in the tourism sector is one of the objectives that is set to be ensured through the women empowerment assurance.

Similarly, in Eastern Cape, apart from the other sectors contributions on the provincial economy, tourism sector has also been perceived as a potential effective way to build and sustain the recovery tactic of the provincial economic situation. This has been thought and planned to be attained through the establishments of the infrastructural projects for tourism activities, maintenance and operation (Mabuyane, 2021). Various projects across the Eastern Cape province have been spotted, which some are still under construction and already at advanced stage, while others that have been abandoned are now revamped and operational, increasing the number of the already operated tourism sites found around the province (Mabuyane, 2021). Also. With the coastline of about 800km that the province has, it has become way too beneficial and has created workable profitable ideas to boost the economy and create jobs. Such includes the creation of opportunities such as marine tourism, including the manufacturing and transportation of marine (Mabuyane, 2021). This idea has been made possible to implement by the R206 million investment encouraged by the Master plan of the Ocean Economy, projecting for the creation of the operational employment opportunities amounting to approximately 5 600, with additional 500 jobs for the contrition process (Mabuyane, 2021).

This indicates that the implementation of the tourism related strategies does assist on the improvement of the lives of the nearby people in both direct and indirect way as it avails the income generating opportunities from the implementation to the operational stage of the project. Although the sustainability of the opportunities can be questioned as some of those employment opportunities are for a specific period, especially those created for the construction phase of the project. Nonetheless, the mere creation of the jobs, has and does make a difference on the living condition of those employed, even though might not be a stable solution. Tourism sector in the Free-state province is one of the projected soon-to-be great injectors of the provincial economy, following the agricultural sector (Ntombela, 2021). For that, it has been given a very close attention, with the designed plans to support the development of this sector. Various potential opportunities have been realised and explored in this province to assist on strengthening the tourism sector. This includes the development of the raceway in the Welkom area, and the Airfield found in the Thaba-Nchu region (Ntombela, 2021). The investment in such development has not been only projected to generate funds and create employment opportunities, but to also attract investors to this province. Ingeniously, masterplan has been designed for more growth of this sector can create more opportunities for the public (Ntombela, 2021).

The plan guides the sector on which potential opportunities to explore, how to explore it, what to use, who to involve, how to benefit the involved persons and mainly how to stick to the binding principles, while balancing with attainment of the community needs. Although the Covid19 pandemic has affected the tourism sector just as bad as in all other provinces, the sector in this province has remained firm towards maintaining its principles of assisting the community (Ntombela, 2021). As such, the tourism sector allowed for the use of its facilities to be used as quarantine centres for those infected with the pandemic. This has further indicated the rigidity of this sector especially towards its values and ethics. With the existing 134 tourism related businesses found across the province, this sector has perceived to be gathering more momentum and gradually showing stability on serving the community within and surrounding the tourism areas (Ntombela, 2021).

The growth in the tourism related businesses has yet again provided an increase in economic opportunities for people involved in the sector both directly and indirectly (Ntombela, 2021). According to Schoemann (2010), the incapability of the provincial government of Free State to make availability of policies and directions that are clearer for development of eco-tourism in the QwaQwa National Park has made the eco-tourism in the province to be weaker. This is supported by the lack of participation by the communities. This is mainly because the community in and around the protected areas are not able to get share of the benefits associated with eco-tourism development. Additionally, it has been found that there is incompetence and disorganization in the way in which the provincial government of Free State conduct its financing processes of eco-tourism which stands as one of the reasons why the eco-tourism within the province is weaker (Schoemann, 2010). This results in the country's loss of usage of one of its key sensitive catching regions.

Mpumalanga province stands out to be one of the most travelled regions by tourists in the country (South Africa info, 2020). This is mainly due to its remarkable and good-looking nature combined with the large quantity of wildlife. Its experience of rainfall during summer season, together with the occasional wintertime snowfall on higher grounds, while the mist being used to in sizzling and moist summertime, makes it more attractive and suitable area to visit to by tourists of different weather preferences (South Africa info, 2020). This province has various nature reserves which includes but not limited to Loskop Dam which happen to be the biggest dam found within the southern hemisphere coupled with nature reserves that are home-environment to countless wildlife and vegetation.

Furthermore, the great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is largely found in this province, which is the country park that is controlled as a joined unit throughout the three African borders as it incorporates the Limpopo National Park (Mozambique), Gonarezhou National Park (Zimbabwe), and the Kruger National Park (South Africa) (South Africa info, 2020). The Mpumalanga province further includes reserves such as Sabi Sand Game Reserves that is made of several private reserves; Likweti Lodge and Sanctuary which has about 6000 lands of Bushveld that is privately owned; and Blyde River Canyon which embraces well-known viewing points of water-eroded Bourke's Luck Potholes as well as God's window (South Africa info, 2020).

In Mpumalanga, like any other provinces across the country, tourism sector has been marked as one of the economic ones that has badly been affected by the pandemic. The tourism sector was the worst affected sector, especially due to the closing of national and international flights and borders (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). There has been a massive collapse in terms of international tourism statistics amounting to approximately 80% (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). this resulted to projected job losses of approximately 100 000 covering other industries including tourism. The government has come up with ways to ease the stress of the tourism participators. This has included the provided Tourism Equity Fund of about R1.2 billion targeting to assist on the improvements and survival of the black entrepreneurs, as well as the emerging and small businesses found in this sector (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). The provision of this fund has been to help on those black players involved in this industry to be able to be operational including debts paying for the upcoming 3 years, extending the assistance to the entrepreneurs that are physically disabled and black-women owned companies across the province, in the tourism sector (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). Likewise, for the mitigation purposes, about R20 million has been allocated for this sector to address the effects caused by the pandemic, in the adjusted budget (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). This shows the importance, of well-operational sector in the provincial economy, mainly because many funds and attention seem to be placed on it. This is due to the well contribution this sector does to both the provincial and the national economy during its normal years with no pandemic. Also, it is given special attention considering its importance in the rural land transformation through the income generating opportunities it creates, as well as the business opportunities and investors attraction in the local and rural areas which calls for more and better developments.

In Limpopo Province, eco-tourism remains an effective strategy by the provincial local governments to enhance the living standards of local people especially those located within or nearby eco-tourism destinations (Department of tourism, 2019). This is mainly due to the sustainability, or the constitutions and constant growth made by this province on the country's economy through the provincial tourism performance or income generation. Even so, large amount of landscape is required for eco-tourism practices. Also, need to establish more new ecotourism destinations is felt due to the amusing nature-based assets that are constantly discovered within this province. As such in Limpopo province, the average eco-tourism destination is approximately 2,100 hectares in extent of which marks the most to be above such average confirming the need for more land for ecotourism destinations establishments and expansions to cater both wildlife and community needs (Department of tourism, 2019). The establishments of new eco-tourism destinations have found to be well benefiting the communities in terms of job creation and market opportunities.

Additionally, in Limpopo Province, since the year 2015, the tourism sector has been mounting and blossoming, placing the province on a top position for being the national host of most domestic tourist travellers amounting to 22.2 million (Mathabatha, 2021). For particular era, the province has been enjoying the second position for hosting the second-higher travellers from all over the world, although all that has severely been affected by the emergence of the Covid19 pandemic (Mathabatha, 2021). The occurrence of this pandemic has called for a need of financial assistance to aid the tourism sector within this province, just like it is needed in any other provinces countrywide. As such, about R14.7 million has been allocated from the pocket of National Tourism Relief fund to help aid the acknowledged 294 establishments of tourism across the province (Mathabatha, 2021). This has brought back the enthusiasm in uplifting the tourism sector and the potential tourist attraction sites, as already there has been a visible commencement of commercialising the numerous Nature Reserves of the province with the use of partnership between private and public sector (Mathabatha, 2021).

Even so, the covid19 pandemic seem to have brought major damage on the tourism sector than in any other economic sectors. This is said due to the losses in this sector per day as calculated looking at just one country, without escalating to other major providers of foreign tourists. South Africa has been on lockout in United Kingdom (UK) since the appearance of the covid19, and painted as a no-go area, concurrently placing South Africa on the red list of countries (Child, 2021). South Africa being listed as one of the country with a high rate of Covid19 infections meaning that whoever visits the UK from South Africa should be

quarantined for approximately ten days which will cost above 1,700 European Dollar which is about 33,300 South African Rand (Child, 2021). Such inconvenience costs result in decline of foreign visitors from the British country to South Africa as avoiding the huge costs of quarantine to be charged when returned to their country, resulting in the loss of about R780 million monthly (Child, 2021). These estimations were drawn from the 2018 statistics which indicated that about 40 000 to 50 000 UK tourists travelled to South Africa per month, with an average expenditure of R20 000. Presently, South Africa welcome just approximately 1000 to 2000 per month from UK, which indicates a loss of almost R780 million every month (Child, 2021).

4.2.1 Legal Framework on Eco-tourism

The South African environment and its resources are governed by the established laws and policies. This includes the constitution which, on section 24, says there should be promotion of conservation of the environmental resources, concurrently ensuring the prevention of the damage, harm and pollution to the natural resources of this country (Constitution of Republic of South Africa, 1996). Although it further states the people's rights on safe environment for human health, it promotes the governments regulation on the development of the natural resources, together with the economic and social development, concurrently placing limits on the harm of the environment (Constitution of South Africa, 1996). The constitution binds the country's residents together with its government on ensuring that certain regulations are adhered to, especially when one undertakes a particular activity. It places protection on the environment with the consideration of the peoples' needs, as it encourages government to promote the socio-economic development for its people with much assurance of not causing any harm to the environment and its resources. This implies that the constitution not only serve as a protective tool for the environment from the peoples' activities, but also a striving for creating balance between use and save.

Apart from the established constitution to regulate the protection of the environment, there are other policies that are being put in place such as Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) which aimed at ensuring that those people who cause pollution to the environment are charged or penalised for such to avoid or minimise the spread of pollution by the human beings (De Wet, 2008). These principal forms part of the environmental laws and is governed by the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). As such, this regulations shapes peoples' actions and highlight limits through the placing of fines and penalties. Even so, the regulations not only provide protection but also create some sense of awareness on the importance of conserving the environmental resources as it gives the curious individual

thought of questions on why the establishment of the certain law, which the answers provided give a clear environmental awareness or education (De Wet, 2008). Environmental Management can somehow be regarded as the pioneer figure of various environmental regulatory acts. Such includes the National Water Act (36 of 1998) which strive for regulating the use and protection of water across the nation from both ground and surface (Marais, 2020). The importance of availability of water and uses of water has forever been stated by various institutions that aim at protecting water from pollution and misuse. Such institutions include the Department of water Affairs which further provide awareness of the need of clean adequate water for survival of both human and needs.

Additionally, water availability is very crucial for undertaking other activities that form part of human survival both directly and indirectly. Such includes the generation of power (which electricity helps human to cook food, keep warm and provide light); operation of mines, industries and businesses (which provide employment opportunities for income generation of communities); sustaining the farming activities and production (production of nutritious food for alleviation of household poverty, avoidance of malnutrition, income generating platform, and means of food security) (Marais, 2020). Although some may argue that rural communities need water provision more than cities considering that most rural societies depend on agricultural production for meeting their basic needs, it can be greatly debated that urban areas (covering cities and towns), need water provision as much as rural communities mainly because they also need to survive. Even though they do not practice agriculture; their sanitation, employment operation, and living in general requires the availability of water. As such, the conservation of water and avoidance of water pollution is a call-for-action to all persons of the country. Hence, the National Water Act has been established and emphasised to always be considered, to ensure that the water resources are used wisely, protected from pollution, conserved, controlled, and managed in a manner that is integrated (Marais, 2020).

On the other hand, the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) has been created to ensure that the nationals' ecological areas are conserved and protected. The act extends its focus from the seascapes to landscapes. Additionally, the different types of conserved areas are classified and identified through this act, grouped into categories emphasised by the type of land ownership, being communal land owned, private land owned, and the stated owned land (Marais, 2020). Likewise, the different types of conserved zones are defined such as nature reserves, heritage sites, marine protected areas, national parks, as well as certain forest protected zones as acknowledged through

the National Forest Act (Act 84 of 1998) (Marais, 2020). Understandably, this act works along with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) mainly because they share more similar principles and strive for common goal. Even so, the act indicates some weaknesses due to its lack of certain principles as compared to the similar act in other countries, which hinder the excellence in terms of appliance of the act in reality. It is too contracted in terms of categories which can severely affect the existing partnerships and involved stakeholders, also has omissions on participation in crucial stage of processes, with poor emphasise on community empowerment (Marais, 2020). Even so, the act still holds positive drives which found to be similar to those of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004), which is to ensure provision of the conservation and monitoring of the country's biodiversity resources together with their varying components (Marais, 2020). The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act mainly aims at ensuring that all the species and ecosystems are strictly preserved throughout the nation, despite their located areas, whether in protected zones or not (Marais, 2020). Such indicate that there is no segregation in terms of the protection of the species, as such they are all given equal attention and protection for survival. Likewise, the act has established the operational framework and the institute in order to ensure the successful implementation of the objectives that has been put forward as the driving force of this act. Such includes threats identification and designing of strategies or means to combat the threats.

The National Environmental Management: Waste Act (59 of 2008) has been established to mainly focus on protection of landscape from waste pollution, excluding the air and water pollution (both fresh and marine) to be dealt by the National Water Act, the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, and the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Marais, 2020). Through this act, the waste minimisation is now not only the concern or duty of the consumers to deal with but has further been extended to the product producers to establish the realistic mitigation strategies to minimise if not avoid the waste pollution (Marias, 2020). As such, the mitigation has to start from the production process of the product, also the design of the packaging of the product to come up with a packaging that can be re-used, or either recycled or even be recovered (Marais, 2020). The act further established the licensing process to regulate the activities that produce a certain waste. This shows that there is a careful attention and more determination on ensuring that the environment is protected from waste either made from individuals, households, communities, businesses and even big industries. The no-exception is emphasised by the fact that waste is waste and there can never be anything

good a non-reusable, non-recyclable, and non-recoverable waste can be good or useful to the environment and its species. The National Heritage Resource Act (25 of 1999) has been created to regulate the activities that are conducted from the heritage sites, concurrency requiring heritage impact assessment, which is only done by specialist, and should be included in the Environmental Impact Assessments and be conducted (Marais, 2020). It further aims to support for the national heritage resources and ensures its management is more interactive and integrated system.

The tourism Act (Act 03 of 2014) has been established to achieve the vision of the country, through the advancement and enlargement of tourism that strive to benefit the community in a sustainable manner (Government Gazette, 2016). This denotes that the tourism is not only expected to focus on the environment and its resources but also show devotion to human needs, especially the rural disadvantaged populace residing closer to tourism locations. Additionally, the act focused on ensuring the provision for the sustained presence of the South African Tourism Board, with further formation of council of tourism grading, ensuring the regulation of traveller's guide profession, and revoking particular rules (Government Gazette, 2016).

Furthermore, there has been an established National Tourism Strategy (2011) which serve as the regulatory procedure to ensure development of tourism across the country (Department of Tourism, 2011). This strategy is recognising the local economic development and rural transformation as the outcomes of the positive achievements by the key partners of tourism growth being the local government (Department of Tourism, 2011). Even though local government is mandated to ensure the operational plan and implementation of tourism development, alongside being responsible for provision of services to the local population, it is still found to be less prioritising the tourism especially on funds allocation as discovered that only minimal funding is attached to this sector (Rogerson, 2013). Such alarm is noticed even by the national government as it bemoans that the tourism development in most municipalities is challenged and threatened by the absence of the specific tourism development budget allocation (Department of Tourism, 2012). Even so, that does not threaten the position of the tourism sector in the country's economy as it remains one of the economic development drivers near bordering areas and within small towns (George, 2015). Although, it cannot be ignored that even with such perception and reflection, several municipalities still struggle to effectively undertake tourism planning due to the constraints in finance and capacity (Makgamatha, 2015).

4.3 Rural Land Transformation

Land is regarded as the key factor for rural development and economic growth of South Africa (Department of Agriculture, 2016). As such, this allows for practises of socio-economic which improves the living condition of societies, at the same time expanding the commercial facilities (Sanchez & Leakey, 1997). Although as compared to majority of countries found within the African continent, South Africa is found to be way too favourable, but then again there are noticeable challenges that exist in this nation and it is faced with challenges amongst them lies the land related and the spatial division matters (Waeterloos & Cockburn, 2017). The land issues trail back to the era of colonisation whereby the introduction of spatial misrepresentation and dispossession transpired, with the reinforcement for about 46 years of the apartheid era and accompanied by the deterioration of the farmworkers (Waeterloos & Cockburn, 2017). This has severely made people to grow a lack of interest in agricultural activities due to the land problems that arose, and a huge loss of mistrust on the community leaders as the community members felt like they have been sold-out or misplayed.

The South African government has recently received Belgian support on ensuring that the land reform beneficiaries' lives and livelihoods, together with the rural people that were previously marginalised are improved by the use of better organized and incorporated services and policies (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2017). The department has placed much focus on ensuring the integration of the land reform together with the interventions on the development of the rural societies for the facilitation of the rural economic transformation. Dynamically, the pressure was on actions to advance the execution and reaction of the policies, especially amongst the countrywide, regional and metropolitan authorities, together with the promotion of the processes of participation for the development of the municipal area (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2017). As such, the views of the citizens especially the direct beneficiaries of the projects and programmes are essential for the successfulness and sustainability of the services. The collaboration of Belgian has in several methods been helpful in decontaminating such determinations of the policies by the department (Waeterloos & Cockburn, 2017). Nonetheless, developing countries like South Africa, which is regarded as relatively better than most African countries, have made the agricultural development a huge priority despite their strong tourism sector and abundant mineral resources (Sanchez & Leakey, 1997).

The rural land transformation has been given much attention by the South African government especially because it is striving on uplifting the lives of its societies. This is mainly done through the established number of programmes and projects which aim at empowering the local communities and bring about the local independency and entrepreneurship (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2016/17). Such includes the Agri-parks programme which improves the smallholder farmers' access to market, creating the transformation of the rural economies. This further allows the farmers to sell their products in marketplace, take advantage of the partnership platforms, expand to other potential businesses and products. Likewise, reports indicate the substantial improvements made with the various hubs located across the countryside such as the Agri-hubs situated at Ncora in the Eastern Cape province, the Springbokpan placed in the Northwest province, together with the Brandvlei positioned in the Gauteng province (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2016/17). Other programmes include the National Rural Youth Services Corps of which remain an essential youth empowerment component through employment openings which not only provide them with income and experiences, but also develop their skills for them to be employable or recognisable in the future, and networking so they could be aware of the platforms that exists that they could be engaged in. As such, rural land transformation in South Africa can be proclaimed that it does pay special attention to the youth development as they are perceived as the future of the nation. Similarly, in South Africa, the transformation of local communities has been given greater attention as a way of reducing the rural brain drain, whereby the local people migrate to urban areas for better opportunities, leaving their rural areas with no development, using their acquired skills, experiences and knowledge in those urban areas. It is for this reason that most local areas found in South Africa today have been consecrated with developments such as shopping complex, warehouses, whole sales, firms, industries and other economic infrastructures. This helps the local people in terms of job opportunities and other income related security.

About R500 billion measures which amounts to approximately 10% of the GDP has been recognized and put in place to generate direct income to underprivileged households, though some part of the funds has been channelled to support the wages of the workers, at the same time as giving the struggling businesses some form of relief (Ramaphosa, 2021). This indicate that improving the lives of the citizens of South Africa is the first priority of the government of this nation, although there are other top priorities that might be argued to be receiving similar attention, mainly because they need to assist on generating the funds to maintain the development processes to help improve the local populace living conditions.

Additionally, in 2020, about 18 million populaces which is almost one-third of populace benefit from the additional payments of grants which came through the relief measures (Ramaphosa, 2021). This establishment was motivated by the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic which threatened the lives and livelihood of the entire world. Therefore, the government felt a need to establish more socio-economic strategies and measures to assist on the survival of its residents especially because the pandemic severely distracted the economy, claimed the jobs and livelihoods strategies of many, and caused the shutdown of many businesses ranging from big companies to small businesses. Even so, that is not an excuse of the unemployment rate in the country as just before the struck of the pandemic, the South African unemployment rate was higher compared to the previous years as about a decrease of 1.7 million people employed, placing the rate of unemployment at 30.8% (Ramaphosa, 2021). Nonetheless, the government has not lost hope on its aim and mandate of making improvements on the living conditions of its populace. As such, it constantly came up with strategies and amended the already existing strategies to try merge with the existing resources to address the emerged challenges.

There has been an establishment of the Infrastructure Investment Plan which focuses on the road's infrastructure related projects. This plan further aims at supporting the movement of goods across the country through ensuring the smooth transportation service for bettering the delivery and economic growth rate. About R19 billion roads worth related projects wrapping the whole country has been identified to be established as motivated by this plan, to strengthen the roads networks (Ramaphosa, 2021). This indicates that transportation land use type within the country has been given a special attention as discovered to be a way to assist on the attainment of the land transformation and achievement of the national goals. Also, there is more identifiable R100 billion funds operational full-on infrastructure across the nation (Ramaphosa, 2021). This covers the commercial related infrastructure, industries and other socio-economic facilities. As such, this verifies that in South Africa, not only a specific land use type is given a close look, but almost all other types are given attention mainly because one way or the other they generate income, assist on improving the living conditions of the national residents and the economy at large. Having agriculture in the year 2020, placing South Africa on the world recognisable position of being the second-largest distributor of the citrus, concurrently being recognised for the stable exportation of sugar canes, wine, deciduous fruits, nuts and maize (Ramaphosa, 2021). Even so, further support in the agriculture stream has been found to be a good way to go to maintain the excellent performance of this sector on its contribution to the growth of the economy.

Therefore, development of the agriculture infrastructure, as well as the machines needed to undergo the agricultural activities has been provided and welcomed in this sector between the year 2020 and 2021 that will benefit the agri-business zone and production processes. In KwaZulu Natal, about 137 000 employment opportunities have been created surpassing the 100 000 targeted, through the Sukuma project which aimed at ensuring support to the unemployed youth (Zikalala, 2021). Concurrently, agriculture receiving spotlight of about R2 million funding for the agricultural related establishment (Zikalala, 2021). Such indicate the commitment of the national goal to achieve the land transformation which has escalated to the provincial objectives and local government's targets. It further confirms the interconnectedness of aims in all spheres of government across the country, and across the respective departments. Investment on the other hand is regarded to be the best drive for development within the KwaZulu Natal province, with the good partnership with the government department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

This is said due to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the government department that managed to create jobs through the secured projects across the province of KwaZulu Natal. Such includes the 108-employment created through the R50 million factory, namely Coconathi, that specialises in products of health care related; the permanent 200 jobs created through R130 million worth company, named Ubuhle towels, situated in Richard's bay with ownership of black women of about 75% of the company (Zikalala, 2021). This highlight that apart from the focus on the creation of employment opportunities and income generating channels within the KwaZulu Natal province, fight for race and gender-based inequality is one of the targets that is set to be achieved, just like it is in all other eight provinces of the country.

It is evident that in provinces such as KwaZulu Natal, jobs creation has been viewed as one of the major steps towards accomplishing the economic growth and land transformation within their area, mainly because 500 new employments have been created by the R1 billion worth project brought by the Vodacom South Africa which aimed at ensuring the rollout of the 5G network. Additional 400 jobs were projected to be created for the construction of taxi rank, shopping complex and the service station with the investment project of R100 million (Zikalala, 2021). As such, this point out that the employment opportunities in this province is based not mainly on a single sector but results of the collectiveness of various segments from construction, commercial, investments, to the production sector.

This is said without side-lining the 250 employment opportunities found to be created by the Unitrade, a well-known R105 million worth investment that deals with the production of

Volkswagen and Ford branded cars (Zikalala, 2021). In the Eastern Cape, realization of land transformation is made through the attraction of investment in order to engage in construction and maintenance of the properties of the state (Mabuyane, 2021). Presently, this province is in position of immovable assets of about 20 147 that is inclusive of the human settlement's assets amounting to 7 959 (Mabuyane, 2021). This indicates that not only the Eastern Cape province driven by the provincial goals and objectives, but also considers the stipulated human rights in the national constitution such as right to access to housing in section 26, just like any other provincial government do across the other eight provinces. The reflected rights of the people and well-understanding of such rights tend to assist on the prioritisation of funds when drawing budget and designing services, across all three spheres of government within the country. Additionally, in Eastern Cape, investment in development of new property has further been a way to go for, for the improvement of service delivery to the local people.

Concurrently, technology improvements and removal of the unsuitable infrastructure in educational facilities, informal settlement extermination, as well as building of bridges and rural roads investment (Mabuyane, 2021). Provision of basic services such water supply is also given spotlight in this province, mainly prioritised for establishments of over nine projects across the province totalling to the worth of R4.9 billion almost in the completion stage (Mabuyane, 2021). While approximately R16.8 billion has been budgeted for the road's construction and maintenance in order to sustain the networking corridors to other areas and for smooth trade of goods and services in and outside the province (Mabuyane, 2021). The approach to achieve the land transformation in this province escalated to agricultural development whereby about R1 billion budgeted to undertake the agricultural related production including dairy and agro-processing, with estimated 1 277 employments (Mabuyane, 2021). Unlike in other provinces, in Eastern Cape has encountered major challenges on development of youth and has decided to establish partnership with the private sector for creation of job-related programmes for developing their skills and development of entrepreneurship for youth from both rural and urban areas (Mabuyane, 2021). Approximately R16.3 million has been distributed across the province supporting the young people owned businesses (Mabuyane, 2021). Educational facilities, including health, commercial, roads and other socio-economic infrastructures, without side-lining the agricultural and transportation related infrastructures has also been given spotlight in the allocation of the provincial budget. Social protection and improvement of quality of lives is the central objective of the provincial government of the Eastern Cape Province.

Moreover, in the Mpumalanga Province, rural land transformation has been made of contributions from different well-beneficiating sectors. This includes the tourism, mining, agriculture. About the 83% of the coal production is made from or by this province, which happens to be the third largest regions that produce the coal across the whole world (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). While the agriculture, the commonly referred back-bone of the provincial economy, found to be well performing. This sector has been proclaimed to be the only sector that can potentially shift the provincial residents from the poverty situation to the prosperity (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). Such claims have been emphasised by the gradual growth in this sector even when the pandemic hit hard on the economic sectors, making other sectors to weaken especially due to poor trade and production. Some have been weakened by the pull-out of the investors and decline in the number of customers, nonetheless, the agricultural sector has once again proved its difference in terms of reliance for survival and operation. As a way on improving the performance of this sector, the provincial government has unconstrained about 33 farms across the province which amount to approximately 8 906 hectares (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). Such has been done to assist those interested in farming, and the emerging farmers can rent the unutilised available governmental land. The rent of the land has been made available for about 30 years of use, providing additional right of purchase for those who would wish to own the land at a later stage (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). The farms further assist on improving the programmes that have been created across the province, aiming to help the new farming entrepreneurs in this sector.

Likewise, partnership with the agri-hubs and retail stores like Boxer and Shoprite has been created for the provision of the agricultural fresh products (Mtshweni-Tsipane, 2021). The growth in this sector, has resulted in creation of many job opportunities, which have uplifted the lives of the rural communities. Even so, rural land transformation within this province has however not only been planned to be achieved through strengthening these sectors, but to also put much focus on empowering the rural communities. This includes strengthening the educational and health services within communities. This is said to be done through infrastructural development within these fields. Healthier residents can be economically active due to their physical fitness, while education can simply assist on knowing how to read, write and even how to start the business and manage its operations. Moreover, provision of the services to the communities has also been viewed as another indicator of rural land transformation. The availability of services like water supply, sanitation, electricity, and housing not only improve the living conditions of the rural communities but also reduce the brain drain migration to urban areas or even to other provinces for access of better public

services. In Free-state province, enhancement of the enterprises from small to medium has been strategized as a viable way to achieve the transformation of the rural areas as observed to be the most dominating business initiatives existing in the rural communities of the province (Ntombela, 2021). Although these businesses do not employ a large number of employees, but their existence makes a visible change in the lives of those employed and the nearby residents. Therefore, the state has noticed the changes the existence of this initiatives makes both on the living conditions and on the local economy, then strive to ensure the strengthening and stability of such businesses to survive for longer years. As such, amount of R61 million has been budgeted to aid the existing 661 businesses, concurrently striving to empower the previously underprivileged groups (Ntombela, 2021). Above R889 969 000, 00 has been spent on equipment from the 62% black owned businesses, 21% of enterprises owned by women, 1% of military veterans owned enterprises, and 1 % businesses owned by persons with disability (Ntombela, 2021). The empowerment of these groups indicate that the provincial government not only try to transform the rural land through maximisation of economic opportunities but strive to solve one of the major economic challenges of the nation which is inequality. Smartly, the provincial government has further urged for more focus to be placed on youth empowerment and locally produced goods and services. Such aim is projected to empower the youth generation, on the other hand strengthening the local economic development.

The objective of achieving rural land transformation within this province includes ensuring the existence and maintenance of facilities. Therefore, there has been a need for ensuring the construction of the business hub to manage and monitor the small and medium businesses across the province (Ntombela, 2021). Various programs have been further established to ensure the development of the roads to stabilise the transportation services of goods. Although this indicates the various land use types that have been explored in this province as means of accomplishment of rural land transformation, other types are not isolated on this regard. As such, agricultural production has also been given consideration especially as it holds about 14.5 % of the national activities of the commercial farming (Ntombela, 2021). This indicate the extensiveness of the agricultural sector of this province and how it has greatly been appreciated and considered as survival strategy. For the support of this sector, roughly R17 250 000 has been dispersed to stabilise and provide relief to about 389 farmers from disastrous incidents such as fire, drought and floods (Ntombela, 2021). Although the funds provided was to cover the vehicles, and farm infrastructure like facility storage for milling, additional support has been provided in terms of fertilizers, vegetables and fruits seeds for plantation, as well as the working equipment such as spades

(Ntombela, 2021). This shows that the agricultural sector with its visible effect on the improvement of living conditions of the rural populace, it has been a non-stopping potential to grow further motivated by the support it gets from the state as well as the positive response it gets from the nearby communities. The engagement of the public on this sector makes the sector to expand exponentially, creating more income generating opportunities, enhancing local economy, resulting to rural land transformation. The agricultural sector of this province shows stability that reflects up to the performance of the sector across the nation.

Although the agricultural sector has been regarded as the well-performing and most income generating sector in the Free-state province, that does not mean that rural land transformation through employment creation is achieved solely by the sector. As such, programs such as Expanded Public Works plays a significant role in establishments of the employment opportunities across the province. Approximately 52 233 job opportunities have been created, with projected 56 000 additional employment opportunities to be created during the next year, with much consideration of encouragement of equality (Ntombela, 2021). Even though the provided employment opportunities by this program are temporal, they still aid the living condition of the rural poor and uplift them from their state of poverty. Through the income the program provides to those employed, they manage to feed their family and be saved from malnutrition due to their improved purchasing power which allows them to afford nutritious food. The healthier the person, the productive the person becomes.

The expropriation of land has been considered as a means to give back the power to the public. Such public empowerment has only given spotlight the rightful owners of the land. Without any restrictions granted on how to use or what to use the land for, the public one way or the other benefitted from this initiative (Ntombela, 2021). The absence of the restrictions in terms of use has been motivated by the fact that people hold different passions and skills. As such some uses the land for commercial farming, non-farming activities, settlements, renting the land to others, while others use it for harvesting resources such as wood for sales and personal use. Although there are no restrictions posted on what to use the land for, the limitations on the environmental pollutions and the guidance on how to avoid the environmental harm has been ensured by government through information sharing platforms and the imposed penalties (Department of the Environmental Affairs, 2021). Although some people survive from the leasing of the land, some preferred selling the land, while others secured the land as the survival mechanism for the family's' generation to generation inheritance. Even so, about R11 billion value of the 4 872 tracts of land have

been distributed to the public with no doubt, whereby the 2626 have already been transferred to the right owners (Ntombela, 2021). The land includes the natural conservation parks and resorts, as well as the farms. Rural land transformation through the construction of infrastructural such as education, health facilities, water supply facilities and commercial facilities has been perceived as smart move to achieve the goal line (Ntombela, 2021). Looking at the six existing mining companies across the Free-state province, the mining industry has been anticipated to be the upcoming strongest business of this province, and stable enough to survive for a period of approximately 20 years with good production of minerals and coal (Department of Mineral and Resources, 2021). Such is projected to create even better stable opportunities for the future generation.

In Limpopo province, the revamping of local factories found in both Seshego and Nkowitz through the investment from the Department of Trade and Industries worth about R40 million has been a visible strategy to create jobs, at the same time assisting the enterprises ranging from small to micro (Mathabatha, 2021). This industrial investment did not side-line the renovating of the industrial park in Thohoyandou. This has been an industrial way of transforming the rural land as it provides employment opportunities together with other income generating opportunities such as partnership and market opportunities. The revamping of these three industrial parks across the province has improved the lives of many unemployed residents as more than 3 297 direct employments were created (Mathabatha, 2021). Such increased the income within households of the now-employed persons, at the same time reducing the poverty rate within the province.

The rate of economy has also been positively affected due to the increased number of people with the purchasing power. While in the transportation stream, the province has attained 75 new buses, in a process of receiving 150 extra buses to also be dispersed across the regions of the province (Mathabatha, 2021). The investment in this public transportation service is to allow those who cannot afford the taxi and special transport fee, to can still be mobile across the province and try make a living without stressing about the expensive transportation fee or inflation of petrol. While still on transportation services, roads networks have also been given a special attention with the improvement of provincial roads and maintenance of the municipal roads, with various construction of pavement across the roads found in the rural villages throughout the province. Such clearly indicate that rural land transportation within this province ranges from improvement in different land use types, to the creation of jobs for improving the lives of the people's living conditions. Especially because the provincial government evidently support all sectors with the understanding that

they are all interlinked. About R500 million has been allocated to support the development, infrastructure of roads and the farm sector, from the provided R3.5 billion (Mathabatha, 2021). Likewise, in Limpopo Province, there has further been other means of rural land transformation being in place, such as revolution of the digital technology. This has found to assist the local people mostly youth for conducting research, job hunting, running the online or social media businesses, learning or educational related activities like browsing. Additionally, some youths have been sported to have acquired business commendation and partnership through this technological innovation (Mathabatha, 2021). Some business establishments motivated by the established technological innovation across the province have already managed to change the lives of the people closer, especially because they are now well-marketed through the high-tech establishment (Mathabatha, 2021). This is mainly due to the well-performance of the business which calls for business expansion to cater the growing demands of goods and services. As such, both directly and indirectly, this technological innovation in this province has brought both economic development and rural land transformation.

Moreover, the rural transformation within the Limpopo province is still relying on other undertakings for its realization. That include the identifiable programs such as Township and Rural Entrepreneurship work in partnership with the Small Enterprises Development Agency as well as the Department of Small Business Development, aiming at improving the economy in both rural and urban areas (Mathabatha, 2021). In addition, provision of social services has once again received spotlight in this province like it always does in any other provinces in this country. This is said due to the R200 million allocated to ensure the support of the services of water supply, infrastructure of basic security and the provision of electricity (Mathabatha, 2021). Additional commercial sites such as Special Economic Zone of Musina-Makhado has been established aiming to improve the local economy within the region, considering the improvement on the living condition of the local residents through creation of industries, which is proclaimed to offer better opportunities of employment.

Agriculture on the other being targeted as a strategy can revive and lead the channels of economic recuperating for the development and growth. Forming part of the agri-parks, there has been an established plan of Farmer Production Support Units which mainly focusses on the production of primary agricultural products, managing the post-harvesting, storing the produced products, delivering, or supplying the products to the respective consumers (Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), 2021; Mathabatha, 2021). The farm units' projects have been established and across the

various regions of the province concurring the agricultural sector from all corners of the province. Some are in operational, some are in the last phase, some are yet to be constructed. The construction of this projects safeguards the livelihood of many households and reduced the poverty rate in the country. Even during the pandemic, the agricultural sector has shown a positive response with a great growth. Even so, that has not stopped the sector to be allocated the relief funds for its stability and more growth during this pandemic.

Across the South African provinces including the Limpopo province, the transformation of rural land has found to be encouraged by the independency of the community members which is created by the employment opportunities, together with the entrepreneurial opportunities brought by the programmes and projects which provided the people with skills (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2017). Such projects further grant the people with income for survival through platforms, which not only assist on improving the households' income but extends to alleviate poverty, concurrently addressing the malnutrition challenge. The economic opportunities created by the government programmes and projects further makes the local people to be economically active which results to economic growth. The rural lands furthermore can mainly be transformed by investors who bring their businesses as attracted by the growing number of economically active individuals and growing number of entrepreneurs within the area which makes the investors to establish their own business or even partner with the already existing businesses (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2017). The government then found a reason to establish more infrastructural projects such as road networks, health and educational facilities to cater both growing population and connecting the businesses with the nearby areas, ensuring smooth transportation of goods and services (Department of transport, 2016; Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2017).

4.3.1 Legislations of rural land transformation

Just like in any other developing countries, rural land transformation in South Africa is said to be the way to go for in order to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, it is given much attention and priority with the establishments of legislations to regulate the process of development and to ensure the successful establishment of the proposed projects. Similarly, to most countries across the globe, South Africa is governed by the Constitution giving directives and limitations on how the citizens should behave around the country, also stating clearly on the rights they hold towards the development of the country as a whole. As such, rights to healthy environment, housing, adequate clean water, sanitation, health and

educational services are also stated for the awareness of the citizens so they could simply exhaust those rights though with consideration of the available resources (Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996). Such provide a clear mandate of the government spheres from national to local, for people to know their different roles they have to play in their lives, and the services they have to provide to better the lives of the communities. The stipulated human rights in the constitution further created a need for establishments of legislations to regulate the use and provision of services that the people need for survival.

Not only legislations are being put in place, but also the strategies to achieve the rural land transformation. The need for the establishments of the strategies is encouraged by the identified problems intimidating the livelihoods and survival of the people. Such strategies include the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan which aims at ensuring the enormous infrastructure rollout across the country, increments in production of local goods, ensuring the creation of employment generators that can bring about income to support the lives of the people, also to safeguard the quick growth of the capacity of energy generation (Ramaphosa, 2021). Such includes but not limited to the National Development Plan which aimed at poverty elimination and reduction of the inequality by the year 2030. Disappointingly, it has been discovered that now in 2021 the poverty status within the country still rises, with the inequality on the other hand expanding or deepening (Ramaphosa, 2021). Even so, the plan clearly specifies the end goal and roadmap on how to reach the goal. Therefore, with that it could be possible to achieve the aim of this development strategy within the remaining years to 2030. The successful achievement of the strategic plan can only mean the sustainable achievement of the land transformation especially improvement of the lives of the residents of this nation. This is said because the plan detects the enrichment of the public service quality as the serious character to accomplish transformation.

The Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act (94 of 1998) has been established with the aim of transferring the particular land to the rightful owners and to the municipalities, as a way of exterminating the terrestrial separating boundaries (Government gazette, 1998). The establishment of this act was further encouraged by the aim of revoking the Rural Areas Act, 1989 together with the laws that it carried (Government Gazette, 1998). Also, the act focuses on addressing the rural land issues that relate to mineral resources. Likewise, this act provides more attention to rural communities living standards and their opinions on how they want their development to be like. Similarly, Restitution of Land Rights Act (22 of 1994) has been created to assist on ensuring that the communities and individual who previously have

been evicted from their rightful land due to law of racial discrimination and the related practices, can now claim back ownership of their land (Government Gazette, 1994). Such establishment has been planned to be a step towards creation of foundation of equality in terms of race and gender in the post-apartheid era. The practices and reality of this act creates racial empowerment, as well as sense of independency to those who have acquired their land back. The use of such land indirectly benefits the nearby persons through the practiced activities which provides socio-economic opportunities.

National Land Transportation Act (05 of 2009) has been created to ensure the control of the transportation services of public passengers across the nation, concurrently aiming to restructure and transform the system of the land transportation countrywide (Department of Transport, 2009). It provides control through permits provisions and permits checking by traffic officers across the road networks, as a way of monitoring the compliances with the land transportation laws, driver and vehicle roadworthiness (Department of Transport, 2009). Limitations are further clearly highlighted, and penalties in form of fines are issued to the persons found guilty of the offence of the law.

Operating permits and licenses of an operator and of the vehicle are clearly clarified on this act and on how they are interlinked and differ, together with the actions to be undertaken when dealing with the offence of the limitations (Department of Transport, 2009). Even so, there are other exceptional activities that have been highlighted by the act which may not require specific or special permits, this includes the transportation of farm workers by the farm owners' vehicle to work, the ambulance service transporting the patients from one area to another for access of health services, as well as municipality's vehicle transporting its own municipal workers to work (Department of Transport, 2009). As such, the protection of the land transportation does not only pay attention to the roadworthiness of the vehicles, but also the safety of the passengers through control of both transport operators' behaviour and ensuring the vehicles on the roads are in good condition for operation. The compliances of this act results to the smooth operation of the transportation of goods and services from one area to another as it reduces the number of roads accidents, which results to an increase in local economic growth and rural land transformation.

Additionally, the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act (28 of 2002) has been introduced to be an instrument to control the exploration on the mineral and petroleum resources found across the nation; whether in privately owned, communal, and state-owned land; through licensing (Department of Mineral Resources, 2020; Marais, 2020). It grants the licenses to mining sector, to regulate how the mining rights can be contracted and controlled

(Department of Minerals Resources, 2020; Marais, 2020). It further standardizes how the environmental administration in the mining sector should be undertaken and monitored. Also, it enforces the drafting of necessary documentation which will determine the approval or permit for undertaking the mining activities or not. Such includes the Environmental Management Plan which must be designed by person and should be granted approval before undertaking the prospecting activities, and further binds the person to ensure the compliance with the stipulated rules or strategies of mitigation. While those undertaking mining activities much firstly ensure that their approval of Environmental Management Programme has been granted before undertaking the activity, which is usually designed after the process of the environmental impact assessment as commended by the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Act (Marais, 2020). It further put emphasise on achievements of sustainable development, together with economic growth and stability, through governing the extraction, production and distribution of the mineral and petroleum resources countrywide.

Agricultural sector of the country has been found to be well-performing even during difficult times for other sectors. therefore, the development and means of support are put in place to aid the sector to perform even better and in a more stable manner. even supportive legislations are established to regulate and monitor the sectors activities. As such, Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (43 of 1983) has been created to ensure that water resources, together with soil and vegetation are conserved and protected from exploitation and pollution to avoid issues of degradation and scarcity (Marais, 2020). As such, the land uses are urged and obligated to issue the control measures in form of a management plan documentation stating clearly how the species or indigenous life found within that area will be protected from the initiated activities. the plan remains the responsibility of the land user to ensure that the mitigation strategies included on the plan are well considered and adhered to (Marais, 2020). Measures to exterminate unwanted wild plants is ought to be created for helping the veracity of the natural life of the indigenous. The act further regulates the established measures to control and prevent the agricultural related activities from causing pollution from the water resources needed for agricultural purposes of irrigation (Marais, 2020).

The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (16 of 2013) has been designed to ensure that there is operational structure of spatial design and administration of the land practices across the country (Government Gazette, 2013). Also, it aims at ensuring that the imbalances of spatial planning are resolved through establishment of the program containing the realistic and workable standards, norms, principles and policies for the planning, development, and management of the land use system (Government Gazette, 2013). Moreover, the act ensures that the planning of the municipal committee is well established, functioning and operating, with a workable structure highlighting clearly on how the system of spatial planning and land use should be monitored, coordinated, and reviewed (Government Gazette, 2013). In addition, development of land use measures, along with associated matters are enforced and facilitated through this act. Similarly, on the application and decision-making phase, this act endorses better regularity and encourages consistency of the authorities whom are put forward to be accountable for decisions of land use, as well as the applications of development (Government Gazette, 2013). At the local government sphere, this act strategizes and controls the spatial and land use related activities (Marais, 2020). It further provides framework of spatial planning and land use management. Administers the arrangement approval for permissions and create restrictions for new development, while making availability of diverse legal land uses (Marais, 2020).

4.4 Conclusion

From the above discussion, ecotourism in most parts of South Africa is very progressive especially because of the rich natural resources that the country has. With the established regulations in place, they will simply assist more on guiding the implementation and management of ecotourism in other areas that still need assistance, while strengthening those areas that are already doing well. On the other hand, rural land transformation is found to be coming alright despite the land challenges and conflicts that take place within the country. The land regulations further assist on such rural land related issues that will simply hinder the transformation of it especially in the rural sectors. The following chapter presented the data presentation, analysis, and interpretation.

CHAPTER 5:

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Introduction

South Africa is distinguished for preservation and conservation of its biodiversity. Although, studies indicate that historically underprivileged societies which borders the conservation areas continue to be underprivileged and have restricted access to resources, including the benefits from the conserved areas (Nsukwini & Bob, 2016). Mapungubwe national park is the key conservation area for this study and is an eco-tourism destination in South Africa. This study explore the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation adjacent to Mapungubwe national park with specific reference to Maroi community. This chapter presents data analysis and interpretation of the information acquired from the respondents in Musina Local Municipality, using questionnaires with semi-structured questions, interview schedules and observations. The analysis depends on the sample size of twenty respondents (youth or adult) from the accessible households of Maroi community for questionnaires, twenty accessible employees of Mapungubwe national park, and the three accessible crafters for questionnaires. However, interviews were used to gather information from the municipal official associated with tourism who are regarded as the key informants of this study, together with the manager or operator of the Mapungubwe national park, as well as the six farmers nearby the Mapungubwe national park. This section further incorporates the observation made to validate the information acquired from the respondents with regards to the research. The focal point of this section is to highlight the principles of eco-tourism, the types and characteristics of eco-tourism, the nature of rural land transformation, the types of land uses, and the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in Musina local municipality.

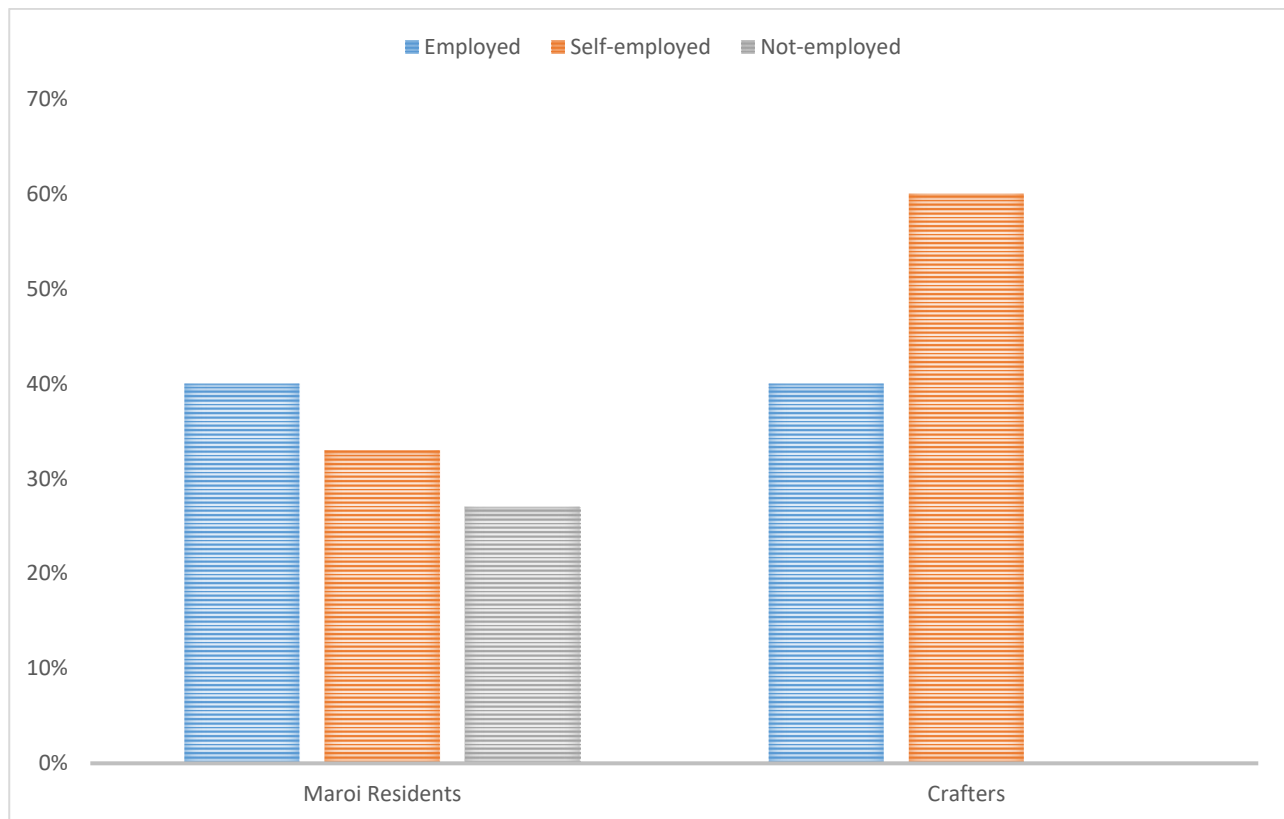
5.2 Biographical information of respondents

This section presents the findings in terms of the employment status, employment sector and the total monthly income of the respondents. Correspondingly, the illustration of graphs, as well as their detailed analysis and interpretation is provided.

Snyman (2014) asserted that "eco-tourism is one of the potential maintainable and supportable land uses which can as well assist with socio-economic development from the national to the local level". The scholar further indicates that eco-tourism is trusted to be the effective employment provider for communities especially those within and surrounding, rich with environmental resources.

5.2.1 Employment Status of Respondents

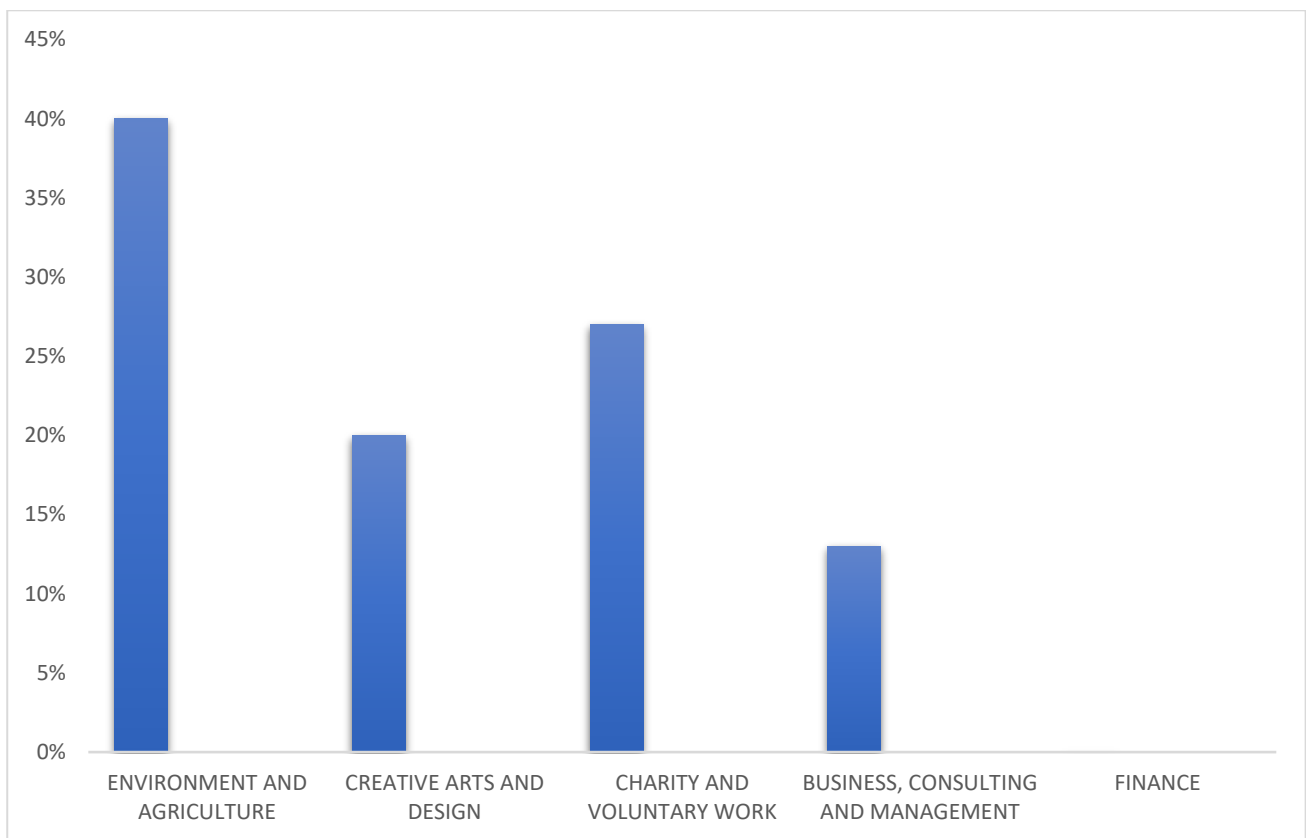
Figure 5.1: Employment Status of Respondents



The above findings show that the employment status of respondents of Maroi residents is at the same level as the employment status of crafters within the municipal area based on percentages (Figure 5.1), although for crafters, 60% of them are found to be self-employed. This means that they are more of entrepreneurs and not employed under any organisation or institution. While in Maroi, there were people who are self-employed, of which is not limited to street vendors, knitters, and spaza owners (entrepreneurs), with almost quarter of the population being unemployed. This indicated that with the existing nation-wide well-known eco-tourism destination located in the municipal area, does not mean that everyone can be provided with the employment opportunities within the park, even though it gets to experience flood of tourists. Even with the existing economic opportunities that are found outside the park, like in Musina town, the borders, and the farms, there is still a visible and unignorable percentage of unemployed people in Villages within the municipal area, with specific reference to Maroi. Nonetheless, this does not imply that there are no potential or existing sustainable employment opportunities within the municipal area. In a similar study done by Nsukwini & Bob (2014) most of the respondents (77.7%) were unemployed and relied on remittances and grants/ pensions. The discussions with the respondents and the key informants showed that many households have multiple sources of income and often more than one grant/ pension. Multiple livelihood/ survival strategies are also indicative of higher levels of poverty (Nsukwini & Bob, 2014)

5.2.2 Employment categories within Maroi resident

Figure 5.2: Employment categories within Maroi resident

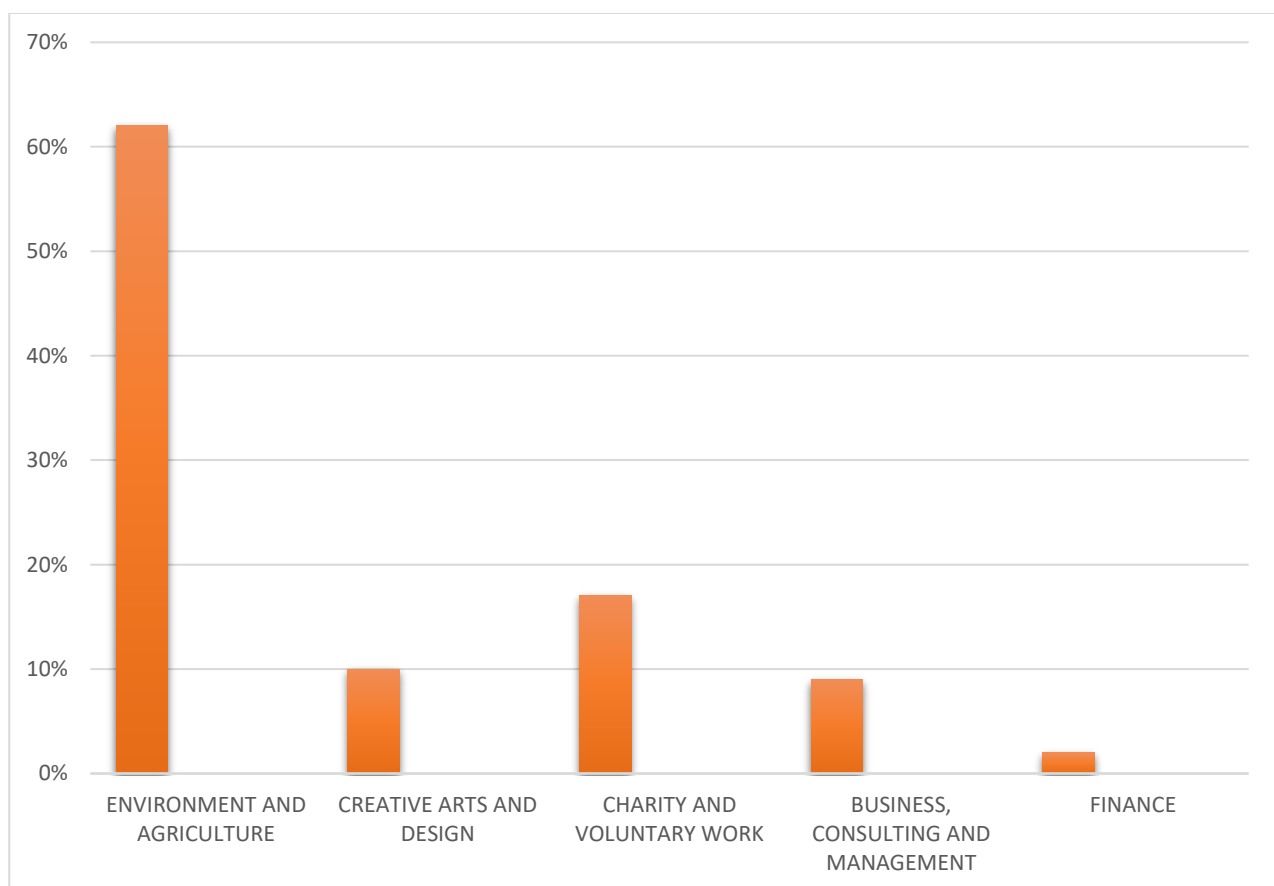


There are various employment sectors that are found to be of existence within the Musina local municipal area. This ranges from environmental and agricultural employment sector; covering the creative arts and designs; charity and voluntary work; business, consulting and management; to finance sector. In a similar study by Janssens (2018) many people in Indonesia tourism were involved in various sectors of tourism and mostly being agricultural employment sector. It is evident that tourism assist in employment creation in various sectors to local people. Looking at the environment and agricultural sector, about 40% of Maroi residents are employed in this sector, 20% are employed in creative arts. From the information above 0% of Maroi residents fall within the finance section, of which one could assume to be the results of lack of skills and qualification related to this field of work (5.2). Although this could imply that there is limited skills and experience in Maroi, this does not discourage the residents to do other work that they are capable of such as charity and voluntary work as indicated amounting to 27%, with about 13% in the business, consulting and management sector (figure 5.2). The above chart also indicates that no one among the Maroi residents in working at the Finance sector.

5.2.3 Employment categories among MNP employees

As indicated below the different forms of employment in which MNP employees are involved (Figure 5.3). About 62% of the populace of the Mapungubwe National Park are involved in environment and agriculture, in a study by Janssens (2018) most of the residents within the Indonesia tourism town were employed in the agricultural and environmental sector. Whilst 10% of them are in creative arts and design. For as much as the Mapungubwe National Park is big enough to cater floods of tourists and observed to still expanding geographically, it has further found to be having unusual employment sectors as compared to other national parks, which includes the charity and voluntary work amounting to 17% of employees engaged in this section.

Figure 5.3: Employment categories among MNP employees

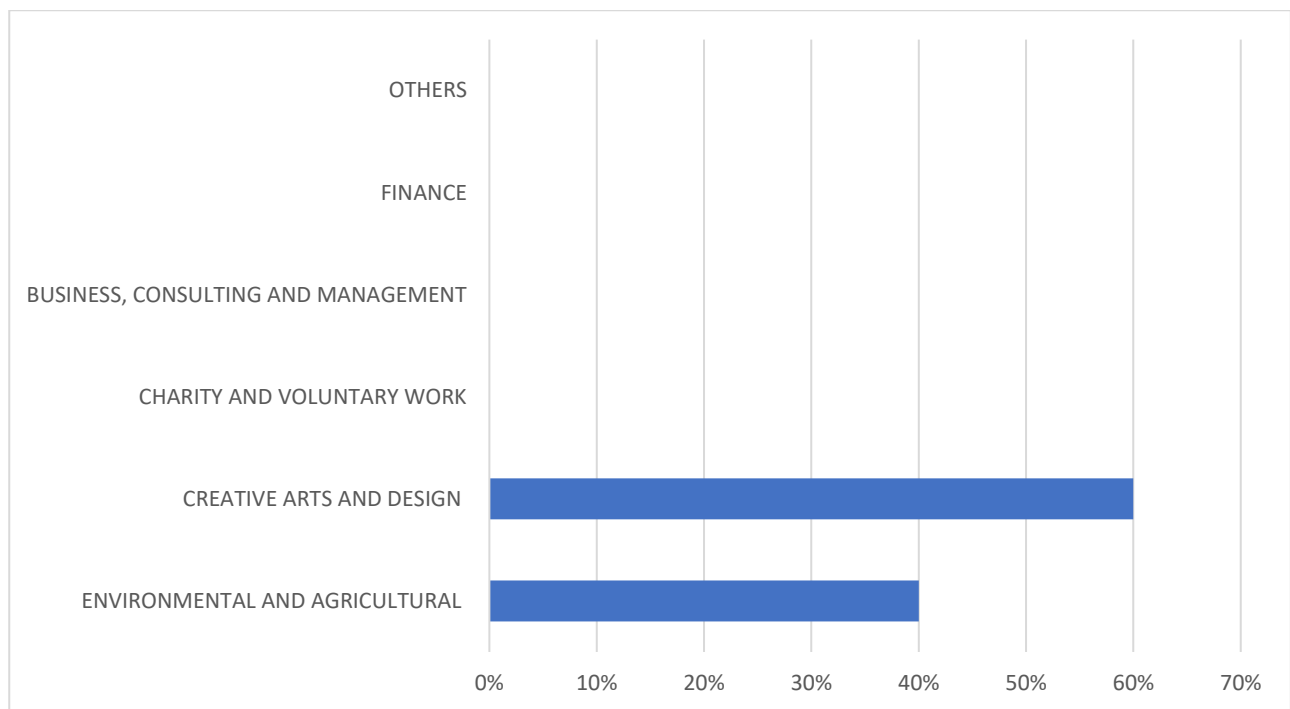


Although that sector is understood to be the non-income generating sector as people engage in it for charity work or as a means of helping without expecting any compensation, it has been found to be a different scenario in Mapungubwe National Park as the volunteers in this sector do get compensated to cover up the travelling and lunch expenses to keep their momentum of volunteering. Business, consulting, and Management sector amounts to 9% of the total population of MNP and the remaining 2% is in the Finance sector.

5.2.4 Employment categories among crafters

Although crafters in this municipal area are found to be self-employed, they are found to be falling within the highlighted sectors as indicated on (figure 5.4). About 40% of the crafters are found to be partnering in the environmental and agricultural sector, the other 60% found to be enjoying their talents of crafts in the creative arts and design sector as entrepreneurs.

Figure 5.4: Employment categories among crafters



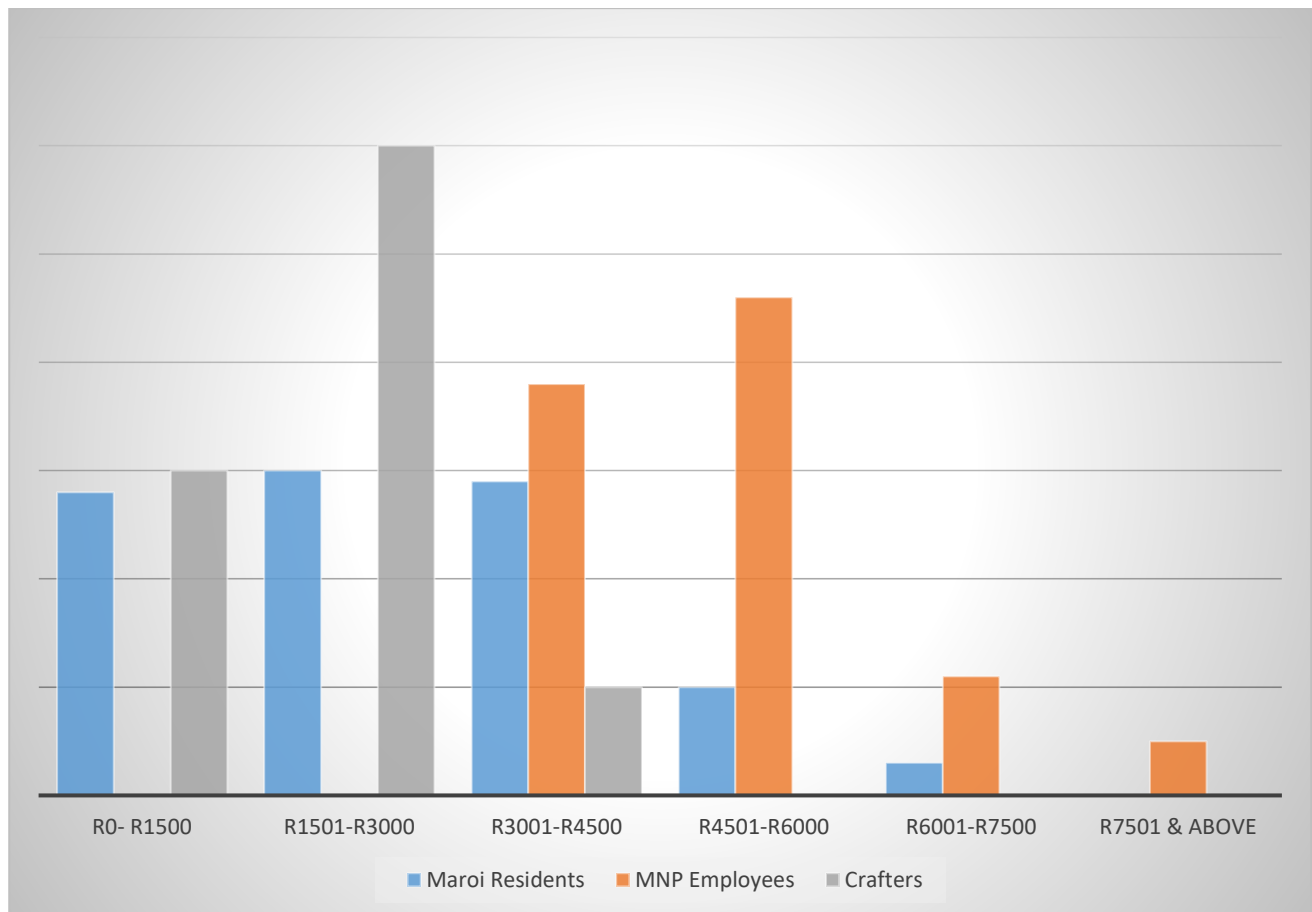
Similarly, to any other persons' plan for survival, income generation is a goal for meeting the basic needs and for livelihood diversification. According to Janssens (2018) When the livelihood outcome of more income is analysed, not only income, but also financial stability and buying power are important components. The findings imply that with the various sectors the respondents of this study are employed in or engaged in for survival, they earn the illustrated income monthly. This denotes that income to different people vary with the activities that one undertakes.

5.2.5 Total monthly income of respondents

The findings indicate that although there are those who generate between R0 to R1500, there are those who do generate around R7500 (Figure 5.5). The figure shows that employees income ranges from R0 up to R7500, which could be due to limited skills and qualifications, with only 3% of the Maroi respondents earning between R6001 to R7500, with

about 30% earning between R1501 to R3000. Although crafters within the municipal area found to be self-employed, the figure indicates that they manage to generate for survival, as it shows that only 30% generates income between R0 to R1500, with 60% of them generating income between R1501 to R3000, with about 10% generating between R3001 to R4500 income per month. The following figure illustrate the total monthly income generated by the Maroi residents, Mapungubwe National Park employees, and the crafters.

Figure 5.5: Total monthly income of respondents



Although some argue to not be generating enough income for survival, the findings show that craft selling is an ideal income generating opportunity one could diversify for survival and meeting the basic needs as it does provide monthly income for such individuals which is better than no income at all (figure 5.5). The crafters were all grouped together to represent a certain population, regardless of where they come from. This means that there are individual crafters from different areas including Maroi, but for the purpose of this study, they were made to represent the population of crafters. the findings indicates that about 46% of the Mapungubwe National Park employees earn between R4501 to R6000, following 38% of the employees earning between R3001 to R4000, 11% of the employees earning between R6001 to R7500, and only 5% earning from R7501 and above (Figure 5.5). As a result, the

different income scales are motivated by the distinguished roles and responsibilities, skills, and experiences, as well as the qualification level. In a study by Janssens (2018) the various incomes earned by people involved in tourism were also motivated by their roles and experience. However, in the study the income the employees earned helped them to have a stable income.

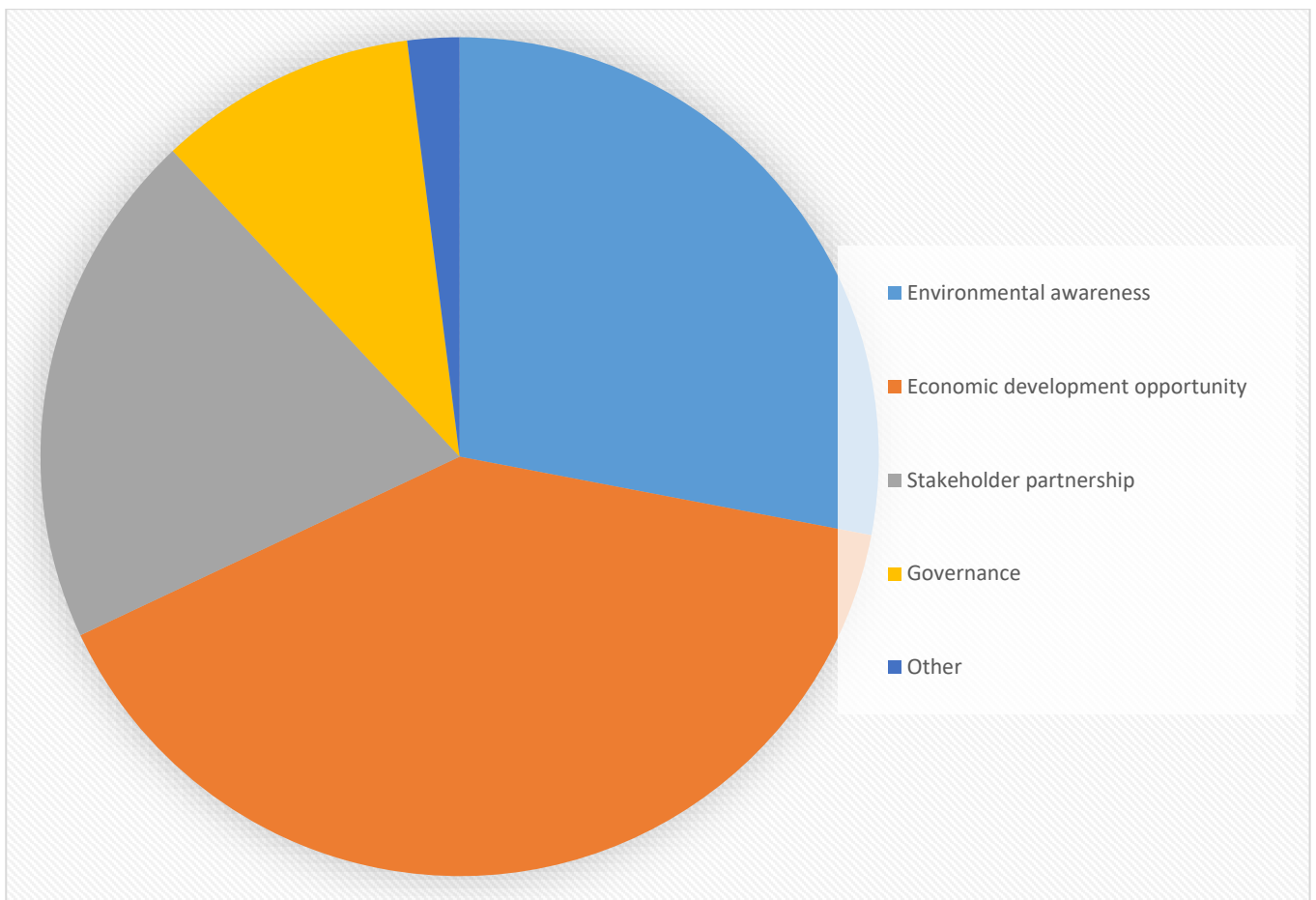
5.3 Eco-tourism principle

Eco-tourism is known as “ an educational nature vacation experience that provides the ecosystem protection, at the same time respecting the reliability of host societies” (Wight, 1993). On the other hand, it has been understood as an environmentally accountable travel to natural zones, for nature appreciation and associated traditional sceneries (Cobbinah, 2015). This encouraged nature protection, which has little tourist impact and this has made them to arrange for a constructively active socio-economic participation of resident people. (Cobbinah, 2015). For as much as eco-tourism is defined in different ways, it shows that it is perceived differently based on experiences and practices which is motivated by the available environmental resources found within areas and how such resources are beneficial. Such further results in the different values and behaviours of the population towards the eco-tourism destinations and the environmental resources motivated by the various impact the resources have on their daily lives. The below figure illustrates the different perceptions of eco-tourism within the municipal area, based on the percentages of the respondents (Figure 5.6).

5.3.1 Perceptions on Eco-tourism by the Musina Local municipality personnel

Within the Musina local municipal area, about 40% of the populace recognize eco-tourism as the economic development opportunity (Figure 5.6). This is mainly due to the economic opportunities such as employment platforms it offers to the populace to generate income and sustain their lives. In a similar study by Abeli (2017) in Lake Natron, local residents' majority of respondents held favourable attitudes towards Lake Natron, with (77%) of respondents being of the opinion that Lake Natron is either important or very important in contributing to their household's income. Following about 28% of populace perceiving eco-tourism as environmental awareness. This is mainly due to the environmental education the Mapungubwe National Park (as eco-tourism destination example within the municipal area) offers on its website, notice boards and through local newspapers and flyers they usually avail for the municipal villagers to access the environmental educating information.

Figure 5.6: Perceptions on Eco-tourism by the Musina Local municipality personnel



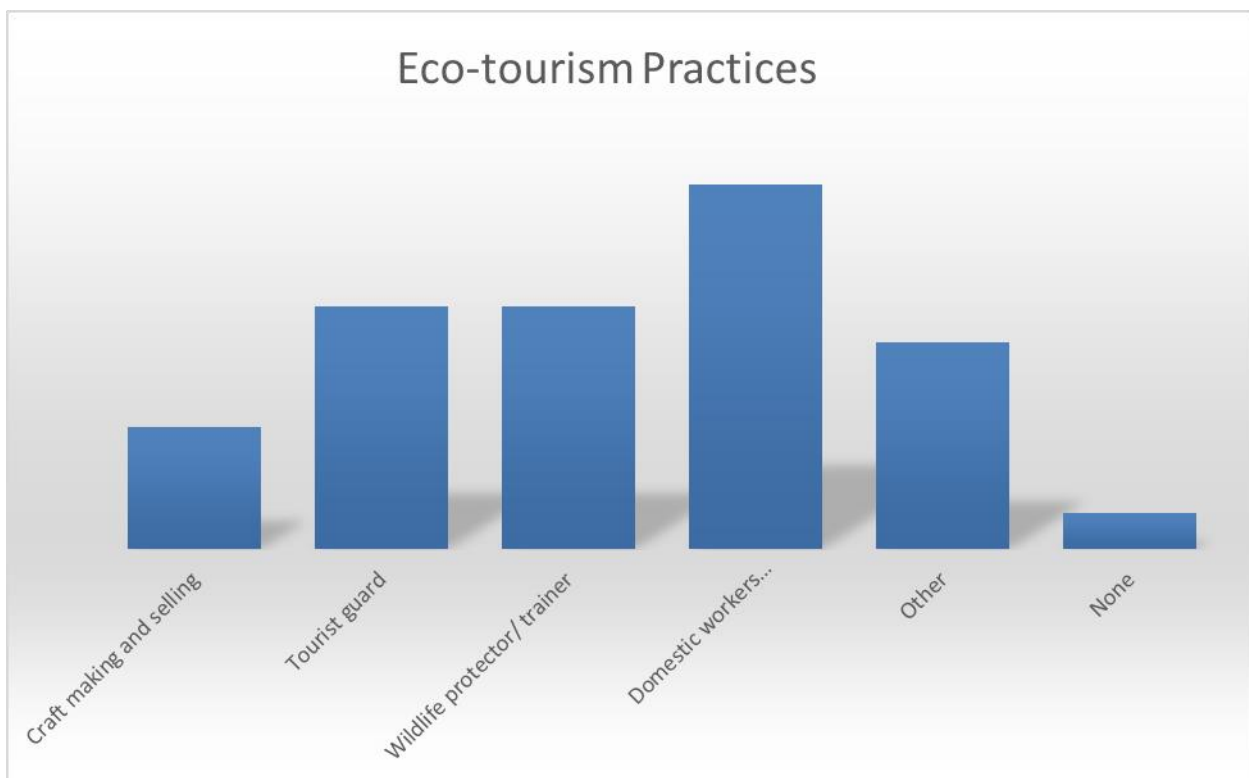
It further indicated that 20% of the populace notice eco-tourism as stakeholder partnership. This percentage includes the crafters who partner with the park to sell their products in the park for the tourists. Also, the percentage includes the residents that partner with the park for tourists' entertainment through the cultural dances, together with the residents that partner with the park for other services like provision of traditional food and clothes for tourists' better experiences during their stay. About 10% of the populace remark eco-tourism as governance of the environmental resources. The 10% includes the tour guards and some community members who regard eco-tourism as a controlling tool or means of protection of natural resources from being exploited. Some even signified that eco-tourism is beyond just governance of eco-tourism, rather classify it as pure preservation of environmental resources. While others, including the municipality and the park, perceive eco-tourism as an extends from just being an employment instrument to networking and investors attraction tool. Although eco-tourism is perceived differently within the municipal area, there is observed segregated eco-tourism practices that exists. Eco-tourism in Musina Local

Municipality like in other areas rich with natural resources is seen as a dominating activity undertaken by majority of the populace. Below figure demonstrates the different eco-tourism related practices found in the Mapungubwe National Park and the municipal area (Figure 5.7).

5.3.2 Eco-tourism practices

As indicated 30% of populace involved in eco-tourism related activities like those employed in Mapungubwe National Park are doing the domestic work such as gardening or landscaping, plants rehabilitation, room attendance, and cooking (Chefs (Figure 5.7). With about 20% of people engaged in tourists' guard job, and 20% involved in wildlife training and protection work. Also, about 10% of people are involved in crafting making and selling across the municipal area.

Figure 5.7: Eco-tourism practices



Following the 17% of the populace engaged in other eco-tourism relate activities such as environmental awareness educators and promoters, traditional awareness and respect publicists, and cultural promoters. This further covers the environmental resource conversationalists and preservationists.

Additionally, the researcher observed a mountain restricted for any other usage other than extracting the traditional medicines, though regulations are put in place to control the usage of the indigenous trees found in that mountain and the surrounding land. Even so, there was an observed expansion of mining activities, with confirmed continuation of discoveries of potential mining minerals within the park, which can be proclaimed to not only expand the employment opportunities to the nearby residents but also disturb the eco-tourism principles of the destination. Nonetheless, such predictions and proclaims have not in any way influenced the licence granting for the park on extracting the minerals, of which it has slightly been indicated that some of the community members do have a concern on the continuous licence granting for the mining practices within the park. Although there have been such discoveries, the park has clearly stated that it stands firm on ensuring that there is no deviation from its initial objectives, and no compromises are made on the eco-tourism principles as law binds them to ensure they are well adhered to.

This indicates the great interest in eco-tourism within the municipal area as eco-tourism principles are well considered when managing the environmental resources. This is further supported by the observed numerous eco-tourism destinations found to be well utilised, after being well constructed, which makes one to even classify the municipal land as the hub of tourism within the province. Correspondingly, literature has highlighted that other eco-tourism practice in other regions involve use of programmes and workshops to ensure that people are educated about the importance of securing the environmental resources and ensuring that tourists do not cause any harm to the environment (Kiper, 2013). In Musina municipal area, it is how things are done as there are flyers and posters that the municipality and the Mapungubwe National Park send out across the municipal area. The environmental awareness information is also provided through their website, even local radio station on ways to take care of the environment and its resources. In Musina municipal area, culture has been observed to be the driving tool for many actions, decisions and restrictions.

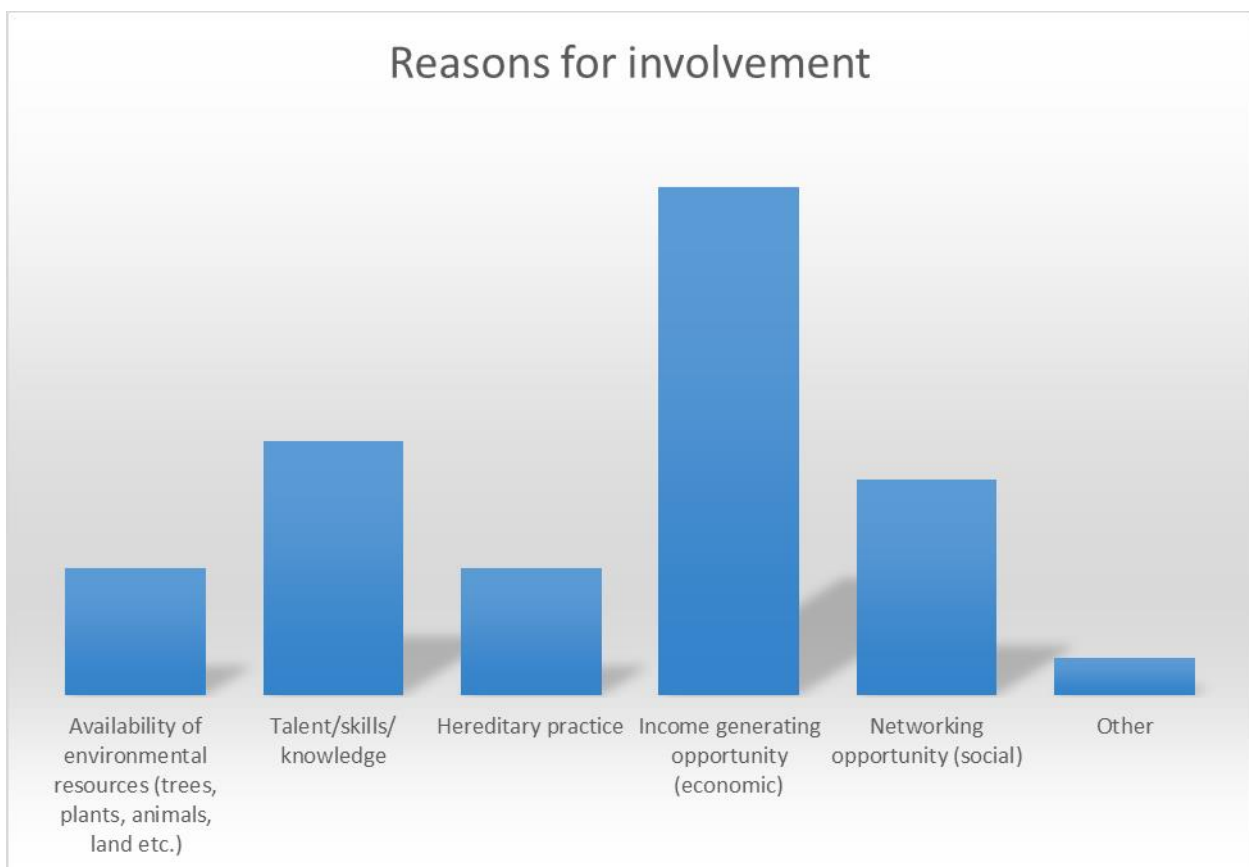
The restrictions are mainly done by the traditional authority, of which looking at some of them the local government do not really have much power. Nonetheless, the traditional authority has more similar regulations with those of government, so that makes the use, care and protection of the environmental resources not to be a difficult task to pursue, though they both have their own different reasons for why they emphasise that.

Likewise, the involvement of people in eco-tourism practices vary based on different reasons. With that, the figure below highlights the percentage of different reasons for the involvement of the populace in the eco-tourism practices (Figure 5.8):

5.3.3 Reasons for involvement in eco-tourism

As indicates that not everyone who is involved in eco-tourism practices in Musina municipal area has same reasons (Figure 5.8). Their reasons vary according to different household condition or family background as well as personal desires or reasons. It further indicates that about 20% of people are engaged in eco-tourism related activities due to their skills, talents, or knowledge. This covers the craft makers who were found to be involved in eco-tourism practices because of their different skills of making crafts.

Figure 5.8: Reasons for involvement in eco-tourism

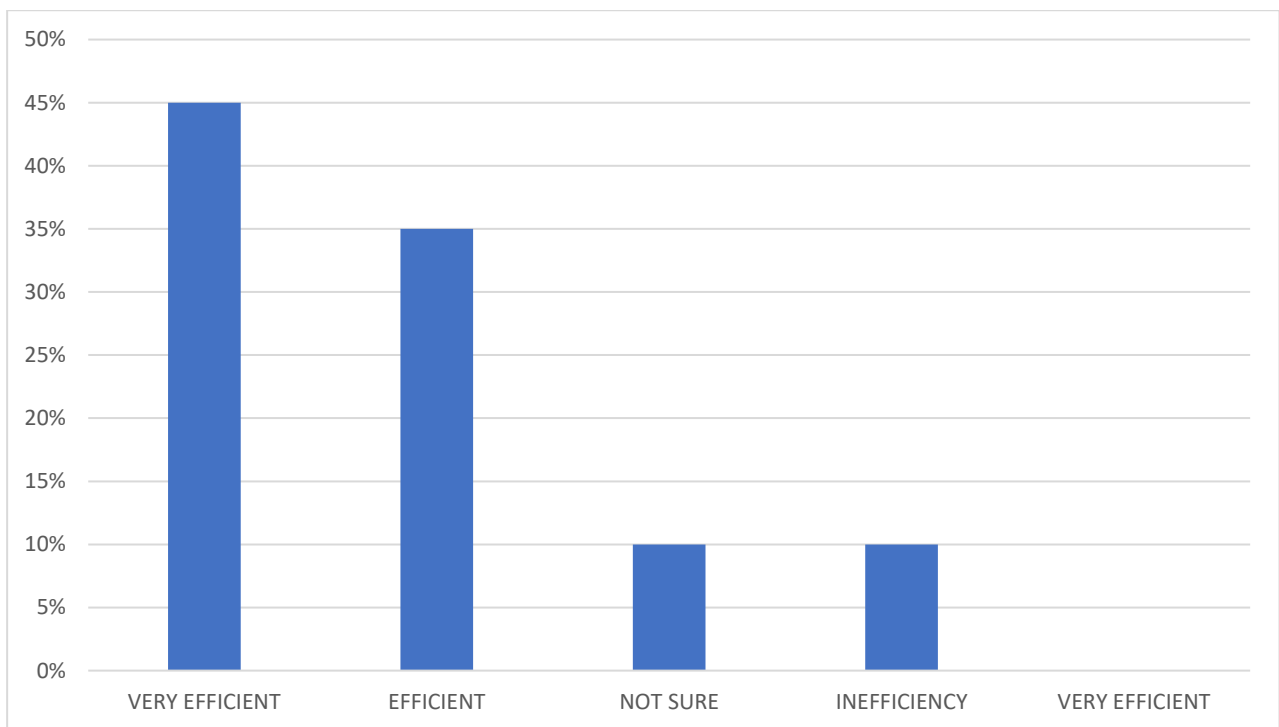


5.3.4 Environmental resource

Though there are other reasons that were discovered for the involvement of eco-tourism practices within the area which were found to be like those discovered in literature, just like it was discovered by The International Environmental Society (2015), horticulturists and plant rehabilitation workers were found to be engaged in eco-tourism practices due to availability of resources and passion for environmental protection. Even so, environment within this municipal area was observed to be far from negatively impacted by the practices of the municipal residents, as most practiced eco-tourism activities were found to be less

demanding on the consumption of the environmental resources. Similarly, about 40% of the populace were found to be engaged in eco-tourism related activities for survival or sustaining their lives as eco-tourism is perceived as their income generating opportunity. About 10% of the populace engaged in eco-tourism practices due to the availability of environmental resources, following another 10% of the people involved in the practice due to heredity. As indicated, about 17% of the populace are involved in the eco-tourism practice for networking and exposure, especially those that are in partnership with the eco-tourism destination such as Mapungubwe National Park where there is, in most cases, floods of tourists from across the globe (Figure 5.9). However, the reasons for eco-tourism involvement in different activities extend to being involved due to love of nature and working towards environmental sustainability.

Figure 5.9: Environmental resources



This further includes being involved due to being business minded for tourism, and career or livelihood. Despite the various reasons for involvement in eco-tourism practices, environmental resources are still perceived as the heart of eco-tourism. This is mainly because, eco-tourism depends on the environment and its resources for its existence, as it strives to protect the environmental resources concurrently sustaining the lives of people living within and surrounding the eco-tourism destinations. with that, without the land availability, the eco-tourism cannot exist. Below figure illustrate the scale of effectiveness of the environmental resources found in the municipal area.

The environmental resources are simply valued differently per residents of the municipal area, motivated by their importance or roles they play in their lives. Figure 7 indicates that about 45 % of the municipal populace regard the environmental resources found within the municipal land to be very efficient. This is mainly because they can make use of the resources which seem enough to can cater the present generation even last to cater the future generation. With about 35% of the populace ranking the environmental resources to be efficient as they argue that they find the environmental resources enough to use and even diversify their livelihoods. It was further highlighted that with the ability of the environmental resources catering the growing population of the municipal area and projected to be showing the stability can last to cater the upcoming decades, the environmental resources within the municipal area are efficient enough. Even so, there are about 10% of the populace that are not sure about the efficiency of the environmental resources as they argue that some of the resources seem to not be enough while other resources seem to be satisfactory, therefore they cannot place their scale on either efficient or not efficient. On the other hand, there are about 10% of the populace that contend that the environmental resource within this area is inefficiency. This is mainly because they say that some of the resources are of limit to a point that some residents cannot even access a bit of such resources. One of the respondent mentioned that "although such is found to be a different case for farmers found nearby the park which has proclaimed that the environmental resources, especially the land and water are sufficient for them, especially because their farming land is way too fertile and makes the production to be more although at times experience water challenge, but usually the matter is quickly addressed". As such, that makes them to be more satisfied with the environmental resources within the municipal area. Identically, the park operators asserted that the environmental resources are very sufficient which needs one with sharp eye to be able to see beyond what others can see. This implies that, what one person see may not be the same way as what the other see when looking at the same thing, mainly because of the different way the person values the resource, as motivated by its usefulness.

Therefore, the park finds the municipal land to be rich with natural resources, which stands to be the major cause of the expansion of its geographical space and the diversification of the activities undertaken within the park. Similarly, the municipal officials attest that the environmental resources within the municipal area are very useful and helpful on improving the lives of the residents as the municipal area is dominated with rural societies which still depended much on the environmental resources for survival. Even though, they cannot clearly proclaim that the resources are sufficient for the populace as there are policies and

lawful restrictions that regulated the use of the resources, providing protection for the resources from pollution and misuse. According to Goodwin (1996), ecotourism can benefit protected areas in three ways: by generating money to manage and protect natural habitats and species, by enabling local people to gain economically, and by offering a means by which people's awareness on the importance of conservation can be raised. Nonetheless, the area has rich natural resources that allows for numerous potential attraction sites which still needs to be explored.

5.4 Types and Characteristics of eco-tourism

Eco-tourism is an inclusive concept with various characteristics which includes respect for culture and environmental awareness, minimisation of environmental impact, and the protection and improvement of living standard of local communities globally (Rosenya, 2018). Even so, not all of the characteristics of eco-tourism appear or are noticeable in eco-tourism destinations, despite how well-known the tourism attraction site is or how beneficial and fast growing the destination seem. Nonetheless, one or more of the characteristics are found to be visible as they are the indicators of the eco-tourism which separate it from being tourism practice. The below figure illustrates the various eco-tourism characteristics found within the Musina local municipality (Figure 5.10).

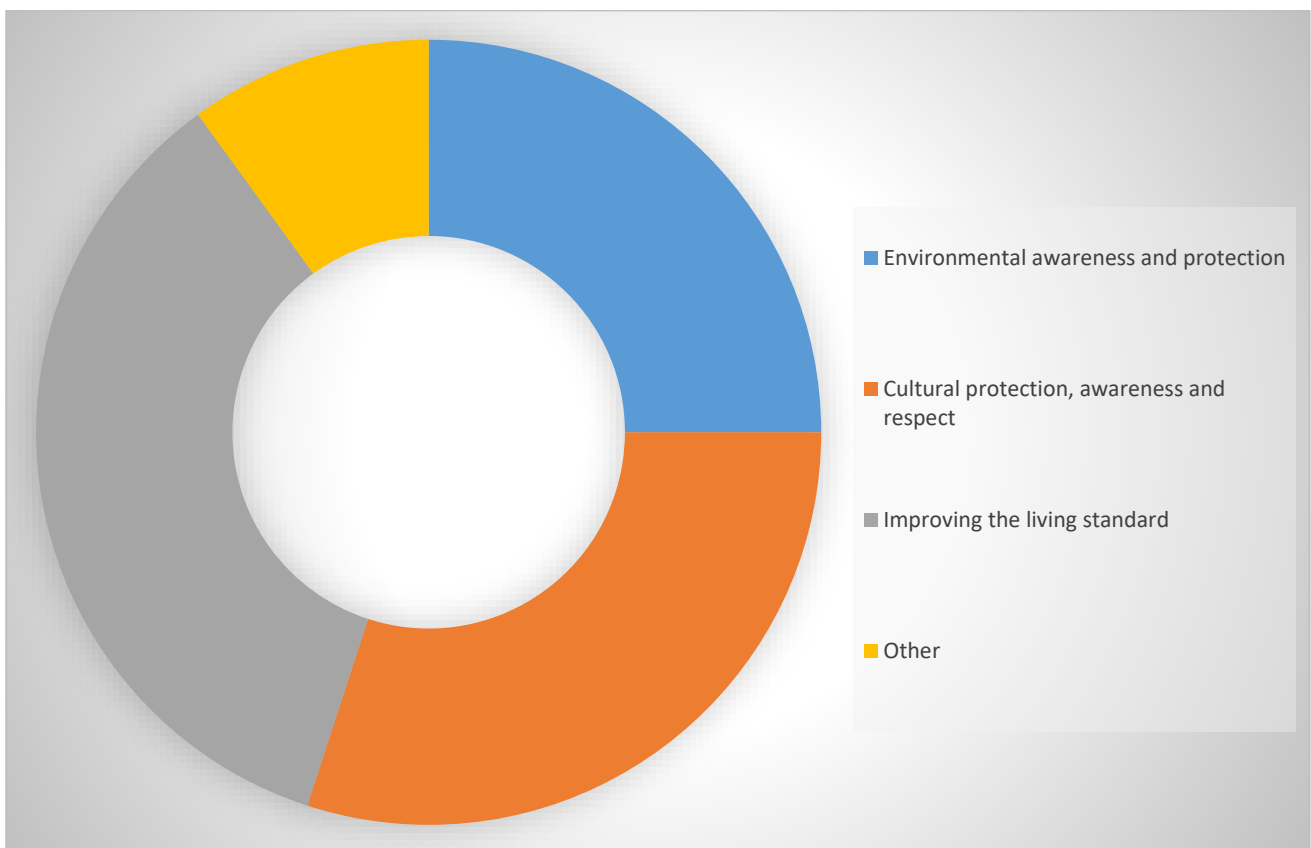
Figure signposts that there are various noticeable eco-tourism characteristics around the Musina local municipality (Figure 5.10). It further shows that about 35% of the populace argue that eco-tourism is noticed through its means of improving the living standards of the residents of the municipality. This is mainly due to economic opportunities it offers such as jobs creation, as well as other income generating opportunities brought by partnership. The following 30% of the populace arguing that eco-tourism characteristics is noticed for its means of ensuring the cultural protection, awareness and respect. This is covering the cultural exposure to tourist which brings the knowledge of the culture and respect. Such exposure includes the traditional dances, food, clothes and language as demonstrated or provided to the tourists for better experience during their stay, concurrently provided an income generating opportunities for the involved community individuals on the tourist entertainment activities.

5.4.1 Noticeable eco-tourism characteristics

About 25% of the populace testified that eco-tourism characteristics is noticed through its means to environmental awareness and respect. This is emphasised by the environmental resource restrictions that are put in place within the Mapungubwe National Park and the surrounding areas of the municipality, through laws and policies. Also, with the

environmental awareness information that is published across the municipal area. Such awareness is found to not be the municipality's sole work, but also the park put effort on disseminating the environmental awareness information through posters, flyers, even on their website for both the surrounding and the outside societies to know. Even so, about 10% of the populace states that there are other noticeable eco-tourism characteristics which included local conservation efforts support; platforms for local participation on eco-tourism planning and decision making, as well as the reliable, low-impact visitor behaviour.

Figure 5.10: Noticeable eco-tourism characteristics



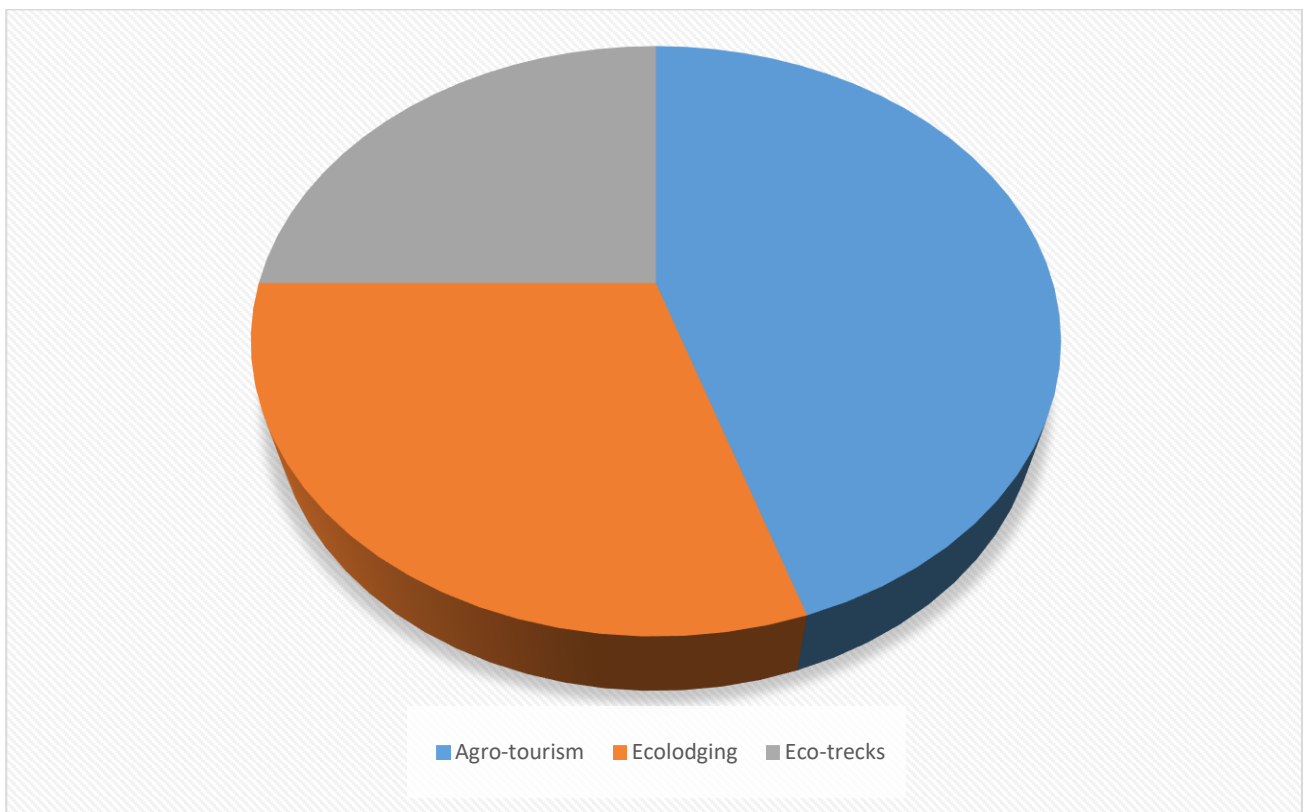
Following the general noticeable eco-tourism characteristics within the Musina municipal area, there are specific types and characteristics of eco-tourism that are found within the Mapungubwe National Park and across the municipal land. Eco-tourism as a broader term has various types which are eco-lodging, agro-tourism, community development, and eco treks. The below figure illustrates the various types and characteristics of eco-tourism found in the municipal area and the Mapungubwe National Park (Figure 5.11).

5.4.2 Types and characteristics of eco-tourism

45% of the populace states that agro-tourism is the type and characteristic of eco-tourism that is most dominating in the area (figure 5.11). Agro-tourism includes the small farming and farm tours for educational and for pleasure. Due to the rich soil the municipal area has,

the small farming within the area never ends though the products planted are changed with seasons, yet they all found to be satisfactory results. Such never-ending processes not only provide the increase in production but also contribute to the beauty of the municipal area, which makes the farm tours more fun, refreshing and educational. The greenness brought by these small farms provide a fresh air and good breathing space, which is proclaimed by farmers that it serves as the perfect example when making awareness on the importance of respecting the environment to the travellers during their farm tours.

Figure 5.11: Types and characteristics of eco-tourism



About 30% of populace focused on eco-lodging. The eco-lodging includes the venues and accommodation spaces such as the Mapungubwe National Park. The park argued that its accommodation spaces not only provide roof for resting but also the services which brought warmth for the visitors to have a feeling of home. Although, the services provided are further declared to be environmental conscious. With about 25% of the populace arguing that the type and characteristics of eco-tourism that is preferred is caving, bird watching, hiking, and climbing, especially since the Mapungubwe National Park is mostly supported by international tourists which mostly prefer to explore the geographical land and its species, getting educated on such while taking pictures for memories some for their various studies

that they undertake. Even so, it was further found that some part of the mountain is left untouched and not allowed for exploration, either by hikers or community members. The allowed sites were only for caving, watching birds, hiking and rock climbing but not anything than that. Although there seem to be numerous types and characteristics of eco-tourism that exist within the municipal area, it is evident that they are all preferred in different ways, supported by the varying reasons why one is involved in such type and characteristics of eco-tourism. With the varying reasons for involvement in eco-tourism types and characteristics, it was found that there are role players who support the undertaking of the individuals in their involvement on the different types and characteristics of eco-tourism. According to Patterson (2002) one of the characteristics of an ecotourism business involves stakeholders (individuals, communities, ecotourists, tour operators and government institutions) in the planning, development, implementation, and monitoring phases. The above findings demonstrate the partnership within the municipal area with reference to the eco-tourism types and characteristics (Figure 5.11).

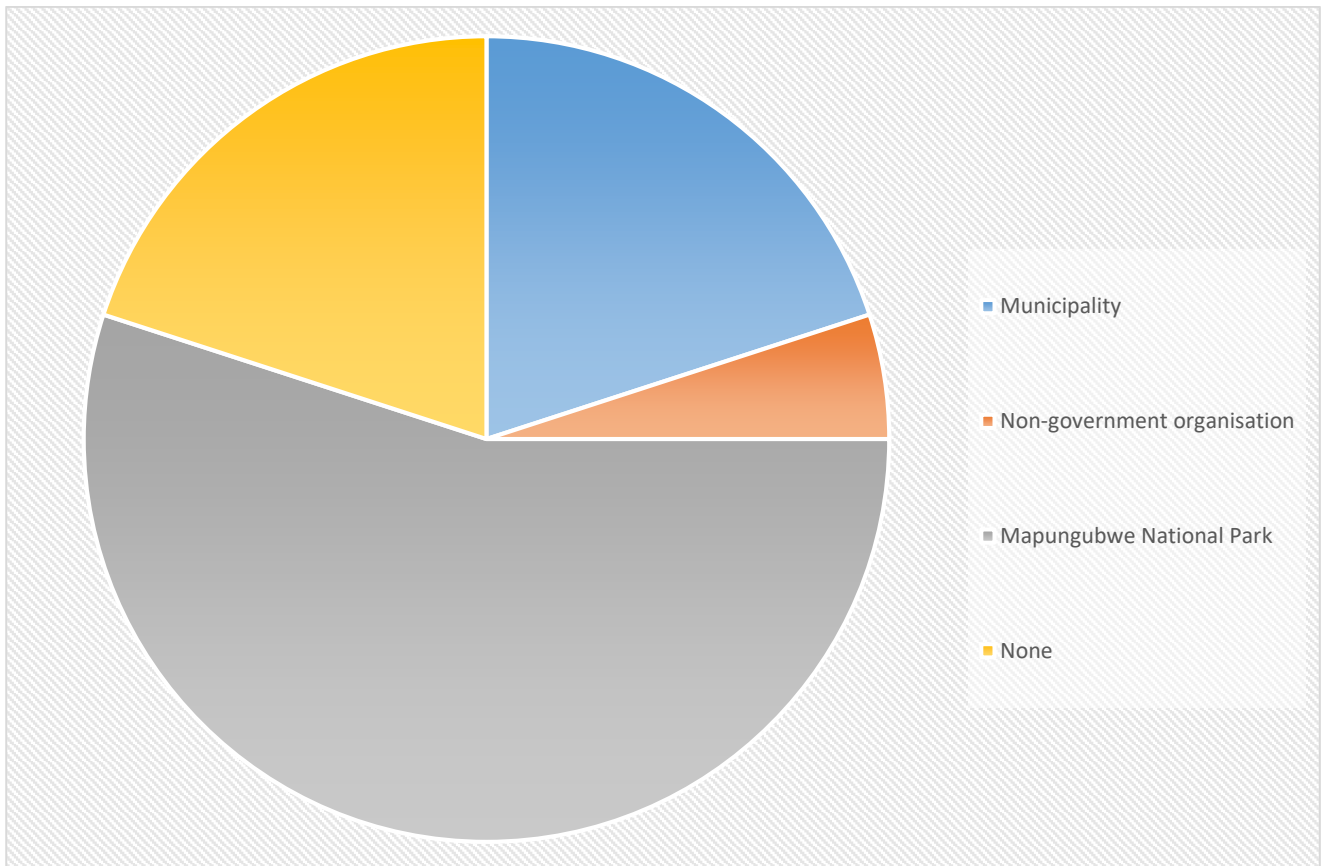
5.4.3: Partnership within the municipal area

As indicated that 55% of populace partner with the Mapungubwe National Park on eco-tourism activities they undertake (Figure 5.12). According to Spenceley, Snyman & Eagles (2017) there are many services provided in protected areas for visitors, either services directly to the visitors, such as the rental of equipment, or through services that support visitation, such as an electrical system, it is because of such services that the municipal area may partner with various service providers so as to ensure that the ecotourism functions well. Such partnership on the agro-tourism characteristic recognises the relation between the park and the small farms neighbouring the park for travellers to have farm tours and be knowledgeable about the interconnection of the environmental resources, awareness of their importance in peoples' everyday life and how the environmental resource disruptions, contamination, and poor production of the farm can affect the household, community, and the economic status of the area linking to the province and country as a whole.

Some farmers further proclaimed that they supply the park with fresh vegetables for preparation of the meals for the tourists in the park. While in relation to eco-lodging, the partnership identified the relation between the park and the crafters which are permitted to sell their products within the park. This further includes the partnership of the park and the community individuals on entertaining the parks' tourist through traditional dances and other traditional displays during their stay, which does not side-line the traditional food for better experience and educational of the tourists' during their visit. Also, the partnership of the park

and the community individuals which is basically in form of employment has been observed and confirmed by the park operators, which are tour guides that even takes the tourists for hiking, bird watching and caving. This partnership with the park seems to be the strongest as compared to the other partnerships looking at the illustrations on the above figure.

Figure 5.12: Partnership within the municipal area



This further indicate that, with the illustrations of different types of partnership that exists within the municipal area, there is a weak relationship or partnership of individuals with municipality as it only amounted to 20% of populace, showing a little or promising interest in collaboration for undertaking activities as partners of the municipality other than contract based for service delivery, employment and educational related (figure 5.12). As such, the recognised relationship amongst the community individuals and the municipality, is found to be in form of employment with few studying bursaries, internship programs and the apprenticeship or in-service training programs provided to the individuals within the municipality for development of their skills and empowerment. With an indication of few entrepreneurs partnering with the municipality for services especially needed during the public gathering such as food caterings and the DJs, together with the mobile toilet renting personnel for the successful of the municipal events.

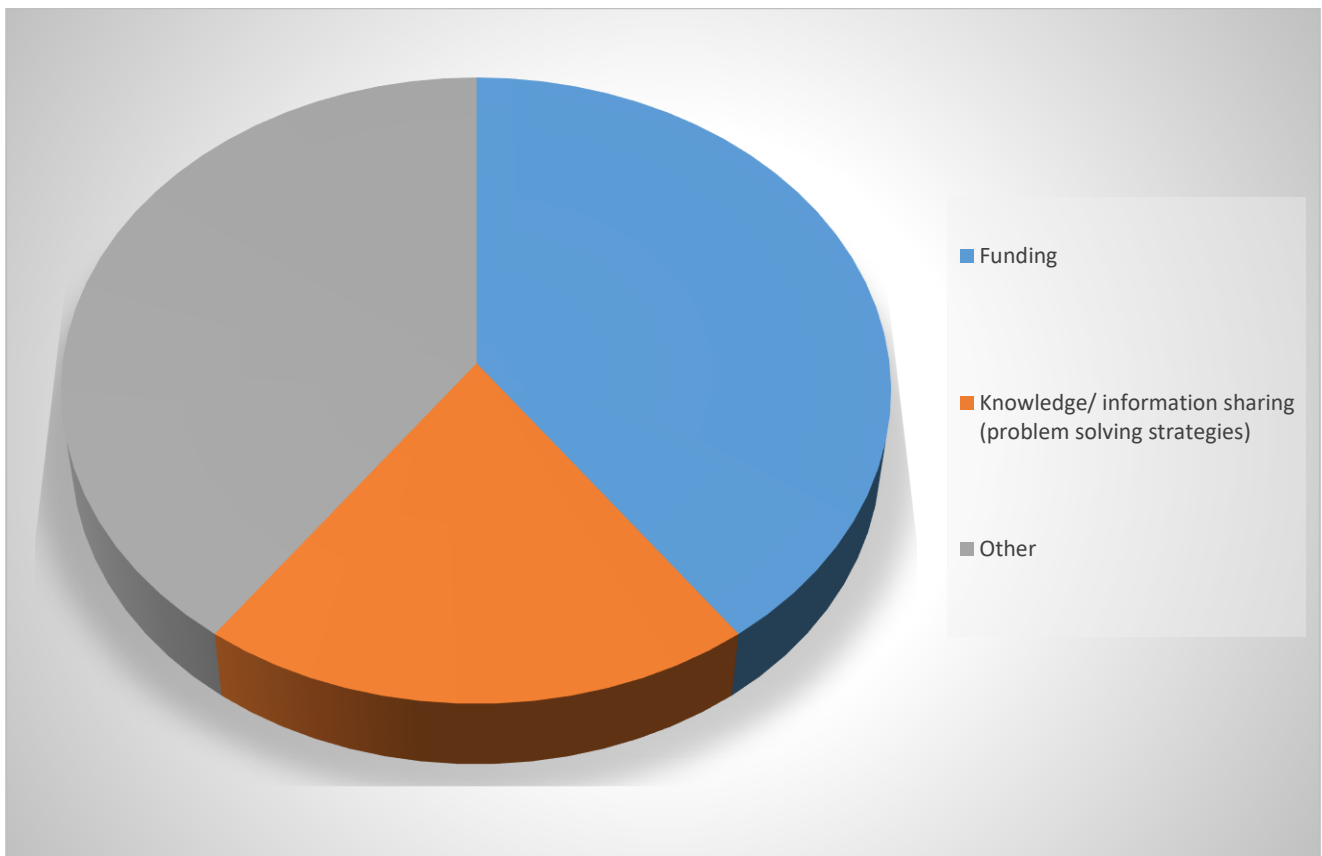
The 20% of partnership with the municipality demonstrates some poor collaborations in terms of planning and decision making, which in addition questions the effectiveness of participation in municipal initiated programs either environmentally related or not. Even so, the municipality declared that there is a good reactive participation of the community on municipal projects and programs, together with the arranged public gatherings. Moreover, figure 10 indicates another 20% of the populace that are not in any partnership, acting solely. This identifies the entrepreneurs that have no business with the municipality, the crafters that have no form of partnership across the municipal area, and the street vendors. With only 5% of the populace partnering with the non-governmental organisations. Such recognises the private companies and the business individuals that provides financial and products support to the non-governmental organisations. For as much as it has been found that there is existing different partnership within the municipal area, there are various roles and contributions that the partnerships serve. In other words, these serves as the reasons for the involvements in the partnerships as the roles and contributions simply highlights the benefits that comes with the association which motivated one to be is such involvement. The below figure illustrates the roles and contributions of the partnerships that are found in the municipal area.

5.4.4 Roles and contributions of the partnership

The findings indicate that the partnership of about 40% of the populace plays a major role in assisting in funding (Figure 5.13). This implies that, the partnership as it is based on funding, covers the capital to start and run the activities, programs, and projects that are initiated, that has motivated the establishments of the partnership.

This further covers the funds to operate and ensure the maintenance of the whole projects and its assets for smooth operation. As such, farmers proclaimed that the park play a role of providing indirect financial assistance through provision of travellers to the farm for tours whereby they get to spend money on the farm products like fruits while in there. The park further provides the direct funding for the products the farms provide to the park for fresh meal preparations.

Figure 5.13: Roles and contributions of the partnership



The 40% further covers the partnership of the park and the community individuals employed either as tour guides, wildlife trainers, including the domestic workers. Furthermore, the crafters and community individuals that partner with the park for traditional performances and chefs preparing the traditional food for cultural awareness and experience also benefit financially on their partnership with the park. With about 20% of the populace in partnership for knowledge or information gain and sharing. This includes brainstorming for strategic planning and problem solving and innovation for profit maximisation and business expansion. The business expansion calls for more needs of employees, meaning it creates more employment opportunities for the localities to cater the grown sites of the business and services. The increased employed residents attract more infrastructural developments such as shopping complex to cater their growing demand of goods as the number of people with purchasing power has increased. As indicated 40% of populace found to be in partnership that assist them with other contributions or playing different roles in their daily lives and activities than funds and knowledge sharing (Figure 5.13). This covers the networking or exposure to potential clients, suppliers, and investors for growth in profit and business expansion.

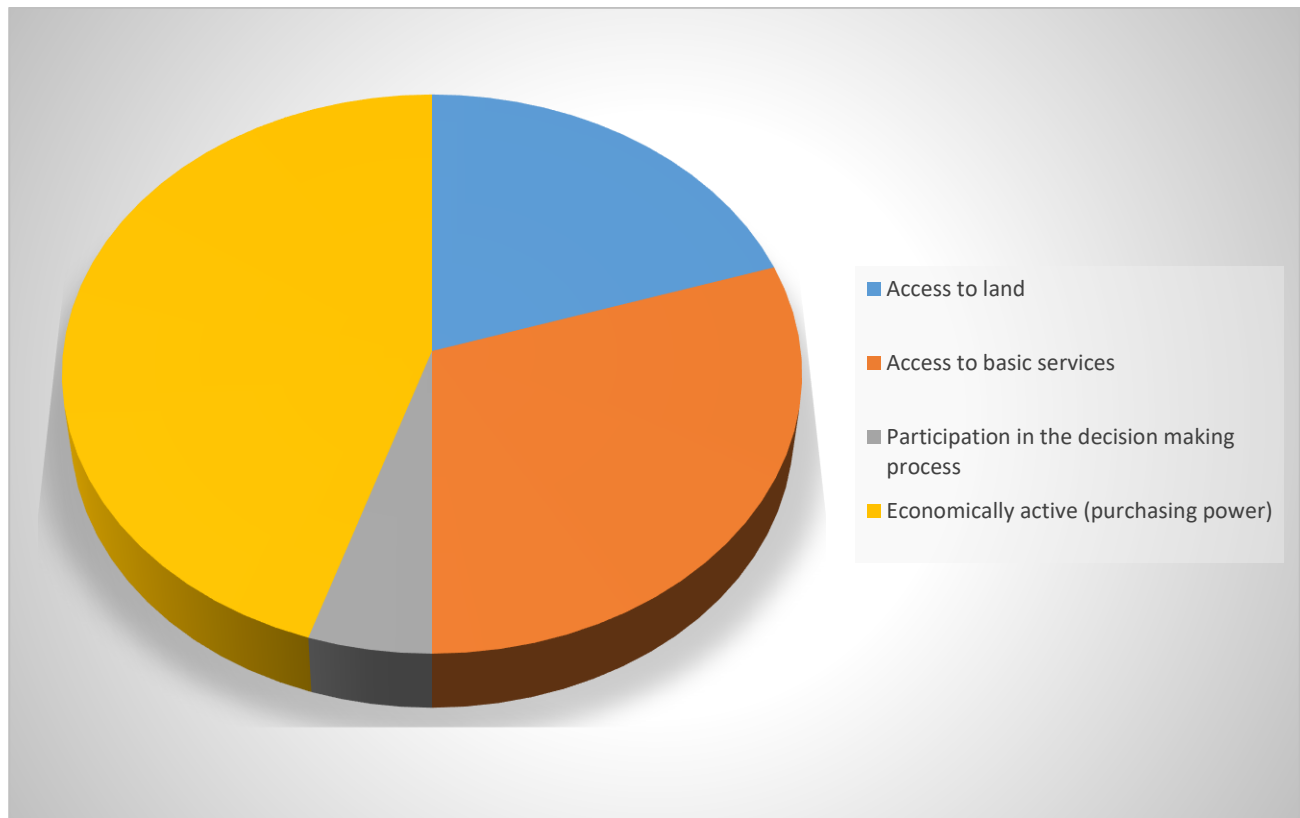
5.5 Nature of Rural Land Transformation

According to Pruksanubal (2016), rural land transformation is a process of improving lives of rural poor through ensuring an increase or widens the distribution of life-sustaining needs for good health and poverty alleviation of the people. While Webneh (2018) perceive it as the process that involves raising living standards of people through provision of better education and job opportunities for more purchasing power and expands the range of social and economic choice to individuals for reducing dependency of people on external assistance. This indicates that there are different perceptions on rural land transformation. Therefore, figure 12 elucidate the different perceptions of rural land transformation within the Musina municipal area.

5.5.1 Perceptions on Rural Land Transformation

In Musina municipal area, as indicated, it has been found that almost half of the populace (45%) perceives rural land transformation as a situation whereby people have the purchasing power which makes them to be economically active (figure 5.14). Such makes the purchase of goods and services to flow well and the economy of the area to grow gradually due to the flow of money and expansions of businesses. While 30% of the populace proclaiming that they perceive rural land transformation as a sustainable access to basic services such as water supply, health care services, shelter and basic education.

Figure 5.14: Perceptions on Rural Land Transformation



They further decreed that the availability of such services develop ones' life and make a person to live a comfortable and healthy life allowing them to be mentally and physically active to engage in other projects and programs initiated within the area. The healthy persons further able to work and make a living on their own without receiving external assistance. About 20% of the populace aligned rural land transformation with access to land. They further highlighted that land is the crucial element for transformation as all the development projects that human need for the satisfaction of basic needs and services depends on accessibility of land. An example of agricultural activities for production of food for human survival which depends on land to undertake such activities was provided. Such example was further backed up by the farmers in the area which also perceive rural land transformation as access to land as it is valued as the source of food for survival and for strengths, further highlighting that the strength one gather from food can make the person work even beyond self-expectation. About 5% of the population associated rural land transformation with opportunity to partake in the process of decision making. They further proclaimed that the transformation is for the people therefore it should be by the people based on their views and opinions.

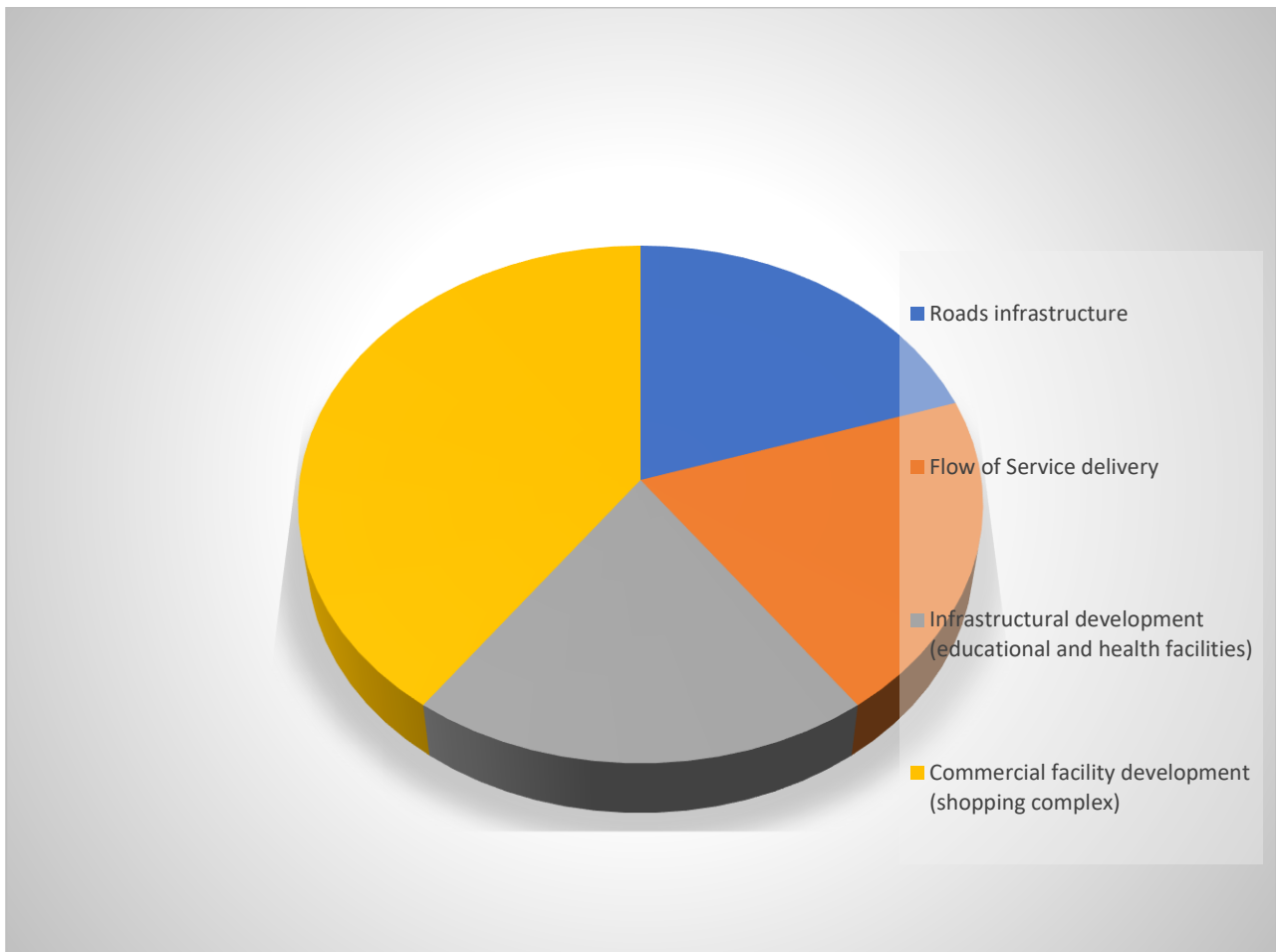
The strategies and designs should cater the opinions of the people that will benefit from the end results. Furthermore, it was highlighted that, transformation that does not include the people or that does not allow for participation will then not serve its main purpose as the end product might be rejected by the people who supposed to be the beneficiaries of it. Hence, they regard rural land transformation as public empowerment that aim at improving the lives of the community, through development initiatives that is centralized by the public participation. Correspondingly, the Mapungubwe National Park recognize rural land transformation through the empowerment of the community which can be in form of information sharing, skills development and encouragement for independency. Hence the park provides environmental awareness and protection information to the public in various ways, together with the provision of skills development and exposure platforms for the community individuals to be recognised both within and outside the community for the service they render.

While the municipality recognises the rural land transformation as having the accessibility to land which will not only increase the local economy but also reduces the unemployment rate and increase the independency of individual. The municipality further stated that public participation and access to basic services are actually the crucial character of rural land transformation mainly because the people need services for their well-being. The development projects and programs are meant to cater the identified needs and social problems of the community, which the identification of such is normally done in a collective manner, during the public meetings and hearings. As such, that is why the municipality usually encourage the community to attend the arranged public meetings as the municipal service delivery plans is drawn or guided by inputs from such gatherings, so the prioritisation of needs should be based on the concerns and desires of the majority. The development projects for service delivery to be satisfactory requires the acceptance of the development results and the sustainability of such service. Therefore, basic service delivery, amongst other accessibility of services influenced their development, which is perceived by the municipality as the transformation of rural land within the municipal area.

5.5.2 Characteristics of land transformation within the municipal area

Although there are various perceptions of rural land transformation found within the municipal area, there happen to exist various characteristics of land transformation that are observable or visible enough across the area. The findings illustrate the different characteristics of land transformation that is found across the geographical land of the Musina local municipality.

Figure 5.15: Characteristics of land transformation within the municipal area



The findings indicate that about 40% of the populace view commercial facility development such as shopping complex that exist within the municipal area to be a good character of land transformation of the municipality geographical land (Figure 5.15). This is said to be due to the socio-economic opportunities such commercial facilities bring to benefit the people within and surrounding the municipal area. The municipality together with the farmers seconded such indication. Farmers further indicated that the commercial facility makes their selling process very easy as they get to sell their products to the higher number of people found in the varying commercial facilities around the municipal land such as Musina town. Municipality stated how the commercial facilities provides for economic opportunities such as employment, and encouragement to talented individuals to have desire on embarking of entrepreneurships as a way to take advantage of the high number of the people found in the marketplace, which is projected if the products are sold in such congested place they will surely be bought. The municipality further indicate that the commercial facility attracts and

encourages for rendering of different types of services such as sewing or fashion designing, and baking services. This further includes advertisement and exposure of services that might not have been known if were not publicised in the commercial facilities such as plumbing services, carpentry, gardeners, and other domestic and handwork related. Correspondingly, the park seconds the notion and views of those who consider the commercial facilities to be part of the characters of rural land transformation within the municipality. This was said due to the investment attractions the commercial facilities bring within the municipal area. While 20% of the populace view flow of services as the best characteristics of the land transformation of the area. Some further indicated that for sustainability of good living condition of the people and better performance of individuals in the marketplace they have to be healthy. As such, clean sufficient water supply and housing provision are essential for the human safety security.

People with sense of security feel free living around the community, and comfortable enough to be innovative and interact with other community individuals, forming aiding schemes. As such, these encourages for collective actions within community with further results in community independency and transformation of the rural societies. Another 20% of the populace viewing infrastructural development such as education and health facilities as good characteristics of land transformation. Mainly due to the importance of the services and changes that these facilities bring to the lives of the municipal residents. It was further emphasized that, the provision of adequate services not only make the living condition of the society better, but also make the society to be active enough to be creative and be economic contributors either directly or indirectly.

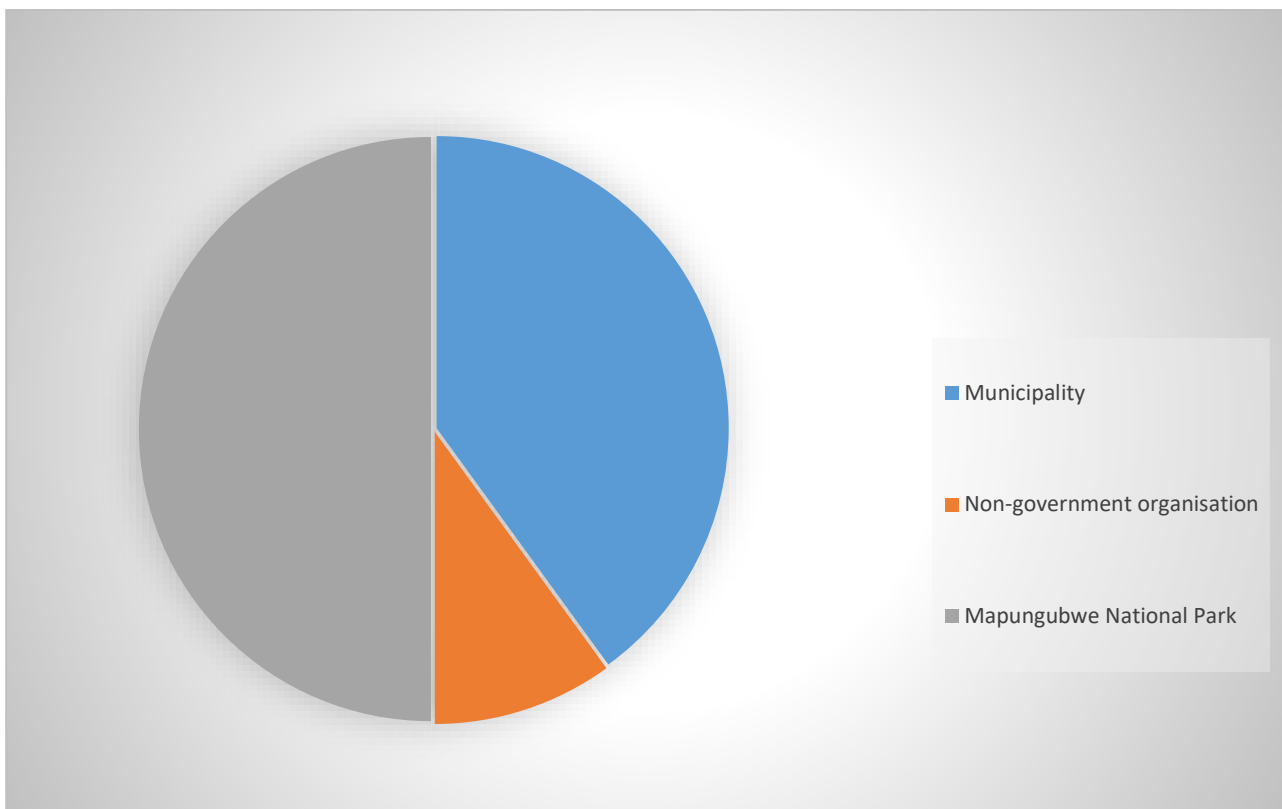
Another 20% of the populace view roads infrastructural development as a characteristic of rural transformation especially looking at the importance and opportunities that this infrastructural development brings in. This is mainly because it ensures the smooth flow of goods and services in and out of the municipal area, allowing for good flow of money which creates economic growth and stability. Similarly, the municipality and the park find the roads infrastructure to not only be the character to rural land transformation but also a mechanism to ensure the stability of the economic factors within the municipal area. This has been emphasized because the roads infrastructure further provides the networking corridors with other areas, making the movement to seem simpler and areas to be closer, which that makes one to easily move from one place to another to access that desired service. As such, this caters the desires and preference of individuals in terms of services providers. Although the road infrastructure has been viewed as a characteristics of land transformation within

the municipal area, the researcher has observed poor roads infrastructure at some parts of the municipal area, especially the roads to eco-tourism destinations and alongside the communities and some part of the provincial road found across the municipal area.5.5.3 Role players on Rural Land Transformation

The Musina local municipality, just like in any other municipal areas across the province are not the sole player in terms of developing their municipal areas. There are various stakeholders, or team players in the process of developing or transforming the municipal area, either directly or indirectly. The figure below illustrates the role players that exist within the Musina municipal area on achieving the rural land transformation.

As illustrated below about half of the populace argues that Mapungubwe National Park is the major role player within the Musina municipality on the transformation of the rural land (Figure 5.16). This is mainly due to the economic platforms such as employment opportunities it offers to the societies across the municipal area. Some further indicated that the park provides other opportunities like networking which gives exposure to investors.

Figure 5.16: Role players on Rural Land Transformation



The farmers similarly recognise the park as the major role players of rural land transformation within the area without placing any disrespect on the efforts and contributions of the municipality and the non-governmental organisations. They further agreed that the park does provide the networking platforms of which they themselves are now in partnership with other organisations that supply of fruits and vegetables, and their services were recognised through their visits on the park. Some recognitions were actually made by the park through referring their good supplying services to their respective partners and clients who were looking for such service of distribution of the agricultural products. Also, due to the corporate social responsibility services the park rendered to the municipal communities, makes some of the community individuals to regard the park as the major active role player to the transformation of their municipal land. While 40% of the populace declare that the role player in rural land transformation within the municipal area is the municipality itself. This is mainly due to the social services that the municipality provided such as but not limited to waste management and water supply.

The municipality in partnership with various government departments ensured a provision of the social services to the communities across the Musina municipal land. Such services are meant to sustaining the lives of the community, for social security and minimising the socio-economic problems. About 10% of the populace argued that non-governmental organisations are the role players of the rural land transformation within the municipality. It was further emphasized that the non-governmental organisations mainly focus on the empowerment of the rural poor, and usually put the most disadvantaged individuals with passion and talent on the spotlight to assist them become successful in life, without conducting any nepotism in terms of opportunity sharing. As such, with the fair and equal assistance the non-governmental organisations, and their focus on aiding the poorer makes some of the respondents to regard it as the major role player on rural land transformation. They further denoted that, the rural land transformation should be based on improving the lives of the rural poor and the rural surrounding, which that requires rural empowerment with less or no incentives expected from the populace, of which that is what is mainly ensured by the non-government organisations getting financial assistance from the sponsors and donators can smoothly operate.

5.6 Types of land use

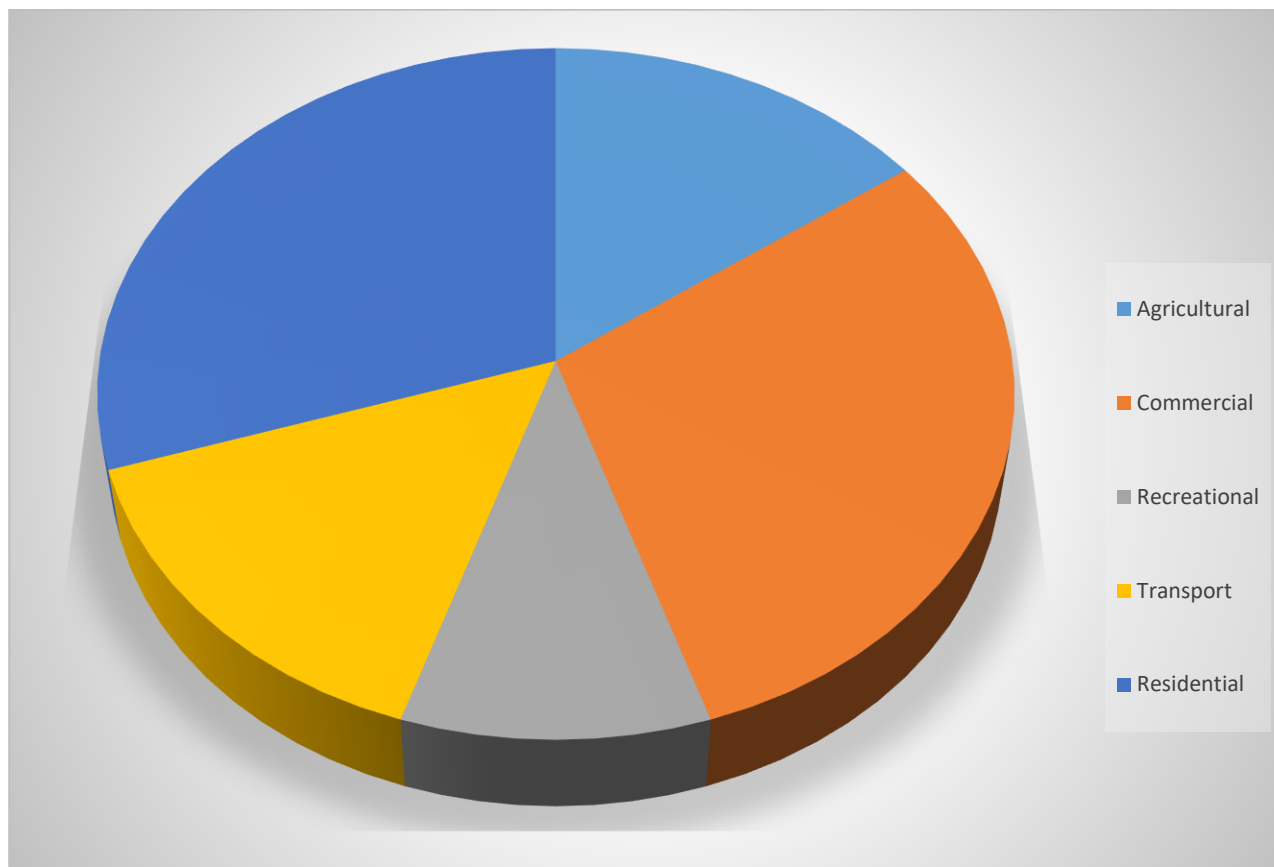
Land uses differ from country to country, though all depends on the availability of land for their varying practices. The land uses may differ, but then they all one way or the other interconnect, and results in transformation of the area. As a result, there are various types

of land uses that exist within the Musina local municipality area. The below figure illustrate the different types of land uses, together with the percentages of people who are involved in the respective land use (Figure 5.17).

5.6.1 Types of land uses within the municipal area

As indicated about 15% of the municipal geographical land was used for agriculture. According to Mao et al, (2014) many communal land are usually used for agricultural purposes. However, in this municipal area less land is used for agriculture. This includes undertaking the agricultural activities such as farming or plantation (Figure 5.17). The farming within this municipal area has been observed by the researcher to be very productive, as the other part of the farmland has newly planted vegetables, while on another side there seemed almost ready to be harvested vegetables. Also, it was pointed out by the farmer that since early days of the week they have been transporting the vegetables from the other side which were ready for harvesting.

Figure 5.17: Types of land uses within the municipal area



As such, this indicates that the agricultural land use within this municipality is stable and grows in a very vast pace. The farmers further indicated that they do need assistance at times though some assistance needed are seasonal while others are part-time. The extra hand for assistance is only needed based on what is planted at that time, and how many workers will be needed to speed up the work, with consideration of the quantity of the work. Therefore, the agricultural land use found to be creating employment opportunities for the municipal society, although the opportunities are not sustainable.

With another 30% of land for commercial use. This includes the factories, industries and mines that exists within the area. With about 30% used for residential of which happens to be the dominating land use type within the area in comparison of all the others. This has been observed and can be foreseen to remain being the major land use type for the upcoming decades due to the increasing population within the municipal area. About 15% of the land within this municipality is used for transportation. This land use makes the trade of goods and services to flow easily, as well as goods and services. This land use type is further influenced by the border that brings people from outside the country to our nation,

which this municipality happens to be the first stop and bypass to other parts of the province from the boarder that is found in the municipality. Approximately 10% of the land is used for recreational such as museums, parks, and athletic grounds.

Mapungubwe National Park happens to be part of the examples of the recreational land use types that exists within this area. Although the different types of land use within this municipality seem to be important in their own ways, they are further found to be influential not in a similar way. Commercial land use has been found to be influential to improvement on the lives of the people through the accessibility of basic needs, with residential being very influential as people need shelter for safety and survival. Similarly, recreation rated influential due to employment opportunities that recreational places such as Mapungubwe National Park offers. Even so, the influence of agriculture has been rated “not sure” due to the shaking stability in terms of provision of economic opportunities such as employment as it mostly offer seasonal jobs which pay not satisfying income can cater all basic needs. Agriculture was found to be disadvantaged by the instability of irrigation system which at times results to low production of goods. On the other hand, despite the importance of transportation on land transformation, it is also rated “not sure”. This is mainly due to the poor roads infrastructure as the transportation depends on it, makes it difficult to place much reliance on transportation to provide more influence on land transformation.

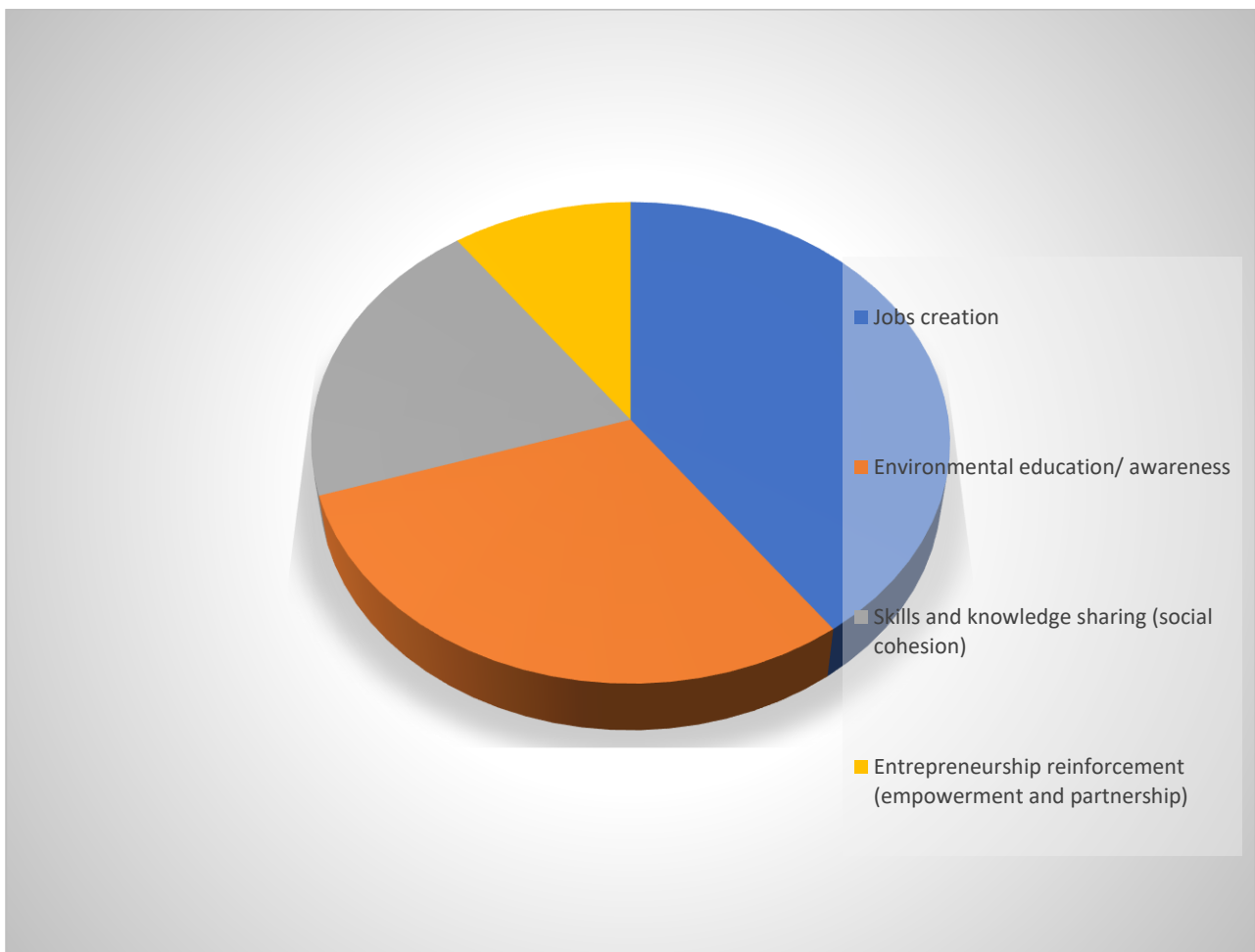
5.7 Effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

There are various ways that people assert eco-tourism develops their living conditions within the municipality. The below figure indicates the different effects of eco-tourism on transformation process in the municipal area.

5.7.1 Effects of eco-tourism on transformation process in the municipal area

As noted below eco-tourism in Musina local municipality provides about 40% of the employment opportunities (Figure 5.18). This allows the employed people to generate income to cater the needs of their household members, and even diversify their livelihoods. The income generated increase the number of individuals who have the purchasing power within the municipal area, which means the flow of money and goods also increase. Such gets to attract the need for business expansions by the business owners as there seem to be the growing demands of goods and services within the area.

Figure 5.18: Effects of eco-tourism on transformation process in the municipal area



This resulted to local economic growth and rural land transformation as there is growing number of individuals with purchasing power, which further attracts business investors to diversify in the municipal land. Consequently, the need for infrastructural development emerges, such as roads and commercial facilities.

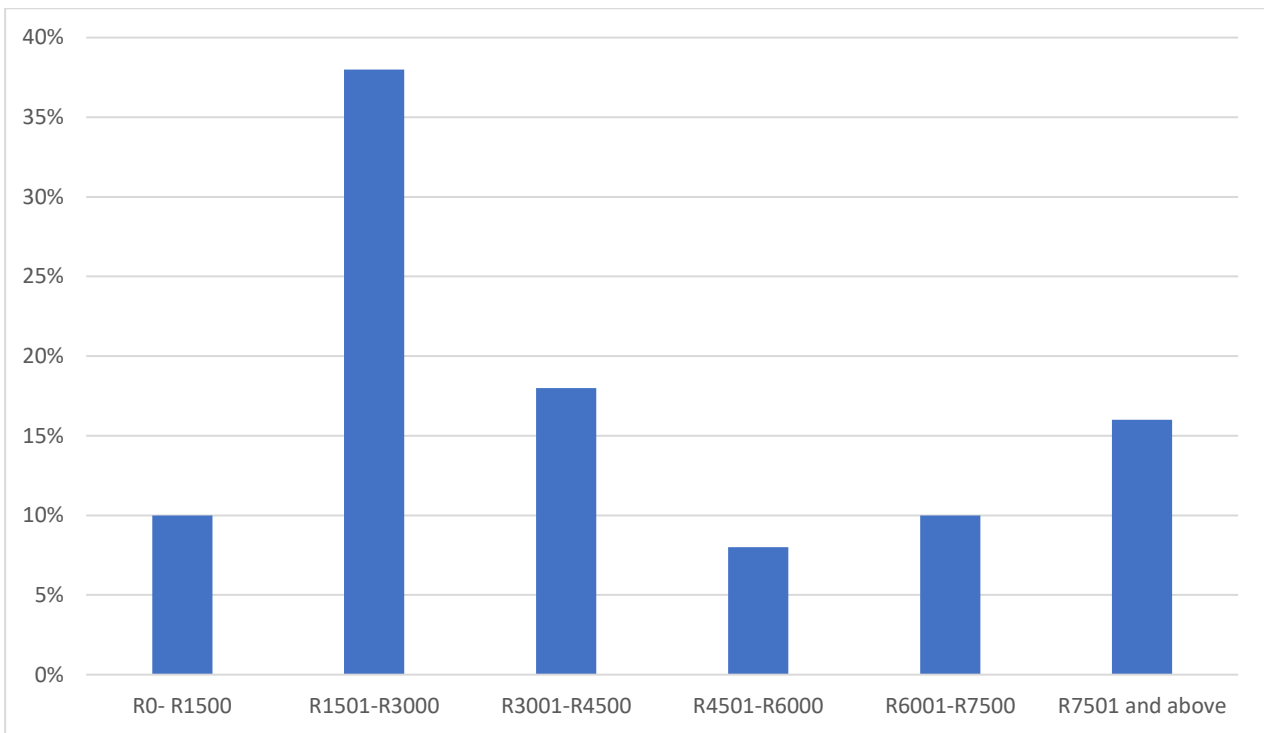
The educational and health facilities are also perceived to be needed as much as other infrastructural facilities, mainly because they allow the well-being of the people, and develop their thinking ability and skills. Which that is ground-root for the persons' performance and

activeness in the social and economic spaces. The need for the development of these facilities calls for innovative projects and programs. Eco-tourism further provides 30% of environmental education or awareness within the area. This assist in the preservation and conservation of the environmental resources. Such allows the sustainability of the resources to cater for the present and the future generation. Similarly, this provides minimisation of environmental pollution and ecosystems disruption within the municipality, with high respect and understanding of reasons for environmental protection. Furthermore, it creates the environmental sensitivity and consciousness on municipal societies. Eco-tourism further puts 20% effects on skills and knowledge which encouraged social cohesion amongst the community members. This further encourages the knowledge sharing on new innovations and strategic planning on the foreseen challenges. Moreover, eco-tourism places around 10% effect on entrepreneurship reinforcement. This includes the empowerment of the entrepreneurs through advertising their services to the tourists when visiting the eco-tourism destination (Mapungubwe National Park). Also empower them through partnership which allows them to render their services and products such as selling crafts and tailor-made clothes to the tourists. Conversely, some people still have doubt of eco-tourism effects within the municipal land due to the income one can generate from undertaking the eco-tourism activities. The figure below highlights the different income

5.7.2 Income generated from eco-tourism practised activities

The figure below indicates that eco-tourism in Musina municipality provided income to different people varying with the activities that one undertakes (Figure 5.19). It further indicates that although there are about 10% of those who generate between R0 to R1500, there are at least 16% who generate around R7501 and above, though having approximately 38% of people generating between R1501 to R3000 Figure 5.19).

Figure 5.19: Income generated from eco-tourism practised activities

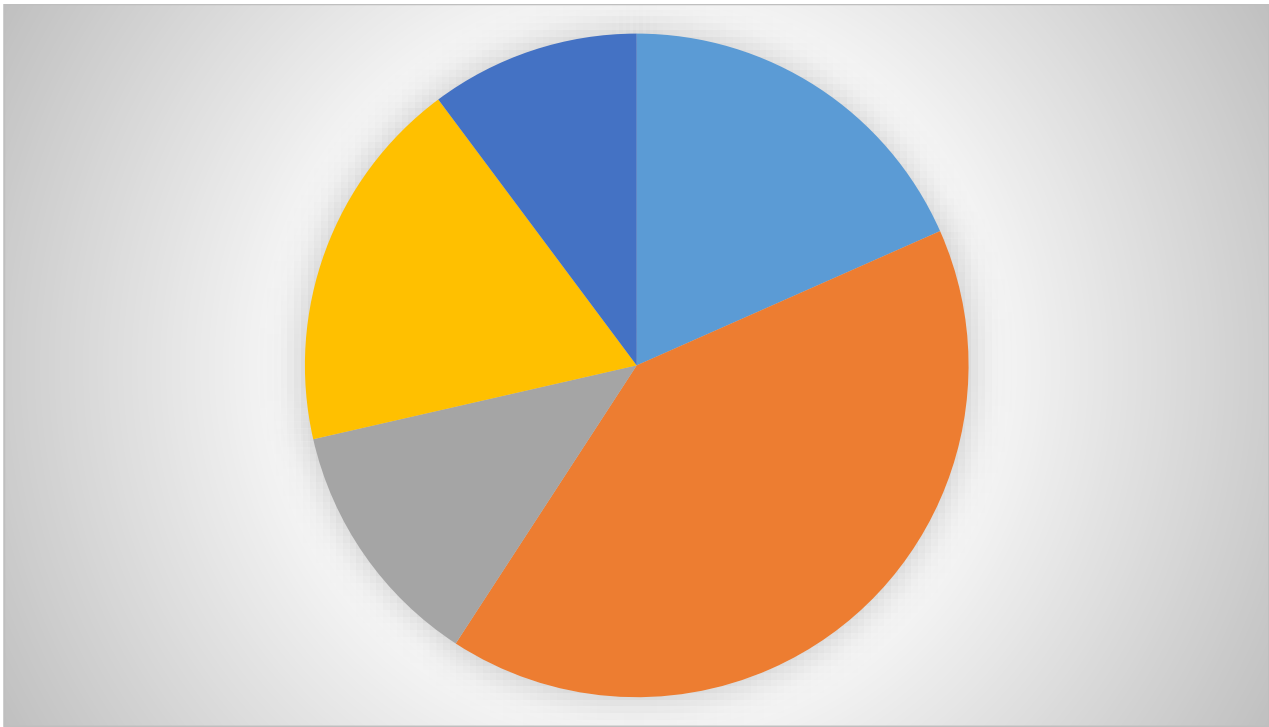


As a result, majority of the inhabitants states that income generated is able to manage or diversify the livelihood activities. This includes expanding to event organisation, establishment of hair salons; catering business; undertake educational courses; poultry; farming; carpentry business; motor spares; spaza shop and kiosk. As such, eco-tourism serves as the effective factor to market stability of the locality as it encourages innovation to fill up the gap through service and product production in the marketplace. These reduce the poverty level including the crime rate as crime is perceived to be in place due to hunger.

5.7.3 Sufficiency of income generated for sustainability

Consequently, the opportunities offered by eco-tourism destination especially the job openings serve as the income generating opportunities for people to maintain or meet their household needs. even so, eco-tourism provides income generation in various ways, directly or indirectly other than just through employment. Figure below illustrates the sufficiency of income generation from undertaking the eco-tourism activities (Figure 5.20).

Figure 5.20: Sufficiency of income generated for sustainability



As indicated eco-tourism in Musina municipality is effective though at some point it still has not provided sufficient income (Figure 5.20). About 19% of the populace claims that their involvement in eco-tourism activities generates them very sufficient income. Correspondingly, approximately 41% of the populace state that the income they generate from their involvement in eco-tourism is sufficient to diversify their livelihoods. Even so, about 10% of the people argue that income generated from their involvement in eco-tourism practices is very insufficient as they have many dependents. While others 12% argue that it is only enough for survival but too little to facilitate other activities such as business ventures except mini businesses like selling fruits and vegetables. Which is why this group rate it “neither no”. Furthermore, about 18% of the people proclaim that the income is insufficient as can only cover basic needs which cannot even last throughout the month. Nonetheless, the majority of populace including the municipality are found to be appreciating and realising the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in the municipal area as it increases the number of economically active people through provision of income generating opportunities, further encourage partnership with local businesses and make the municipal area a conducive place for one to locate a business at.

5.8 Conclusion

From the above analysis, it is realised that eco-tourism in Musina municipal land does have a positive effect on rural land transformation although lot still need to be done to ensure its stability. This is supported by the growing employment status of the area yearly as well as the economic growth improved by the growing economic active populace, of which majority

are found to be engaged in eco-tourism practices. Even so, from the above analysis, rural land transformation is not solely achieved within the Musina municipality as there has been identifiable role players which each plays their different roles that results to transformation of rural land, either directly or indirectly. Although there are various stakeholders in place that were found or viewed to be the role players of rural land transformation within the municipal area, it can be concluded that Mapungubwe national park, as the eco-tourism destination, influences rural land transformation as it has been found to be the major contributor to the process of the transformation within the area. To this end, eco-tourism is regarded as an effective factor of rural land transformation and economic development in Musina local municipality. The following chapter presented the findings and contextualization of results.

CHAPTER 6

Findings and contextualization of results

6.1. Introduction

Eco-tourism is recognised as a global factor of achieving environmental sustainability, simultaneously addressing socio-economic issues affecting people in everyday life as means to community development which will enhance the local economy and ensures rural land transformation. Therefore, eco-tourism is given much attention and effort in many localities as a means of sustaining lives. However, eco-tourism has its own limitations and negativities. With that, this chapter provided the findings on the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in Mapungubwe National Park of the Musina local municipality. In addition, this chapter further provides recommendation of possible measures that can be used to strengthen the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation in Musina local municipality.

6.2 Summary of the study

Chapter 1

The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. This section provided the definition of terms that were mostly used throughout the study, which are, eco-tourism, rural land, and rural land transformation. The mixed approaches (quantitative and qualitative research approaches) were used in this study for collection and analysis of information. The target population for this study was the employees of Mapungubwe National Park, craft sellers found within Musina Local Municipality, as well as the community of Maroi so they could provide information on the principles of eco-tourism, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, nature of rural land transformation, as well as the effects of eco-tourism destination on rural land transformation. The study has made use of two types of non-probability sampling procedures being convenience and judgmental sampling procedures. With convenience sampling procedure, only the 20 (of the 75) accessible employees of Mapungubwe National Park judged based on their roles and responsibilities, as well as 20 (of the 56) accessible households of Maroi community were sampled. Quantitative information was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Qualitative data was analysed using brief explanations and categorizations or classifications of findings according to the common features.

Chapter 2

This section presented the theoretical perspective of the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. This chapter firstly highlight the theoretical framework that this study adopted. It also provides in-depth information about the relationship between eco-tourism and rural land transformation, specifically looking at: the principles of eco-tourism, types and characteristics of eco-tourism, nature of rural land transformation, the types of land uses, and the effect of eco-tourism on rural land transformation. From the information presented in this chapter, eco-tourism is an inclusive concept with various characteristics and principles which includes respect for culture and environmental awareness, minimisation of environmental impact, and the protection and improvement of living standard of local communities globally.

Chapter 3

This chapter presented eco-tourism and rural land transformation on international perspectives. The following sections were presented, eco-tourism on international perspective, eco-tourism regulations on international perspective, rural land transformation on international perspectives and rural land transformation regulations on international perspective. It is evident ecotourism in most parts of South Africa is very progressive especially because of the rich natural resources that the country has. With the established regulation in place, they will simply assist more on guiding the implementation and management of ecotourism in other areas that still needs assistance, while strengthening those areas that are already doing well. On the other hand, rural land transformation is found to be coming alright despite the land challenges and conflicts that take place within the country. The land regulations further assist on such rural land related issues that will simply hinder the transformation of it especially in the rural sectors

Chapter 4

This chapter presented the eco-tourism and rural land transformation on South African perspective. The study presented the following section: eco-tourism in South Africa, Legal Framework on Eco-tourism in South Africa, Rural Land Transformation on South African perspective and legislations of rural land transformation on South African perspectives. From the information presented in this chapter it is evident that most parts of South Africa is very progressive especially because of the rich natural resources that the country has. With the established regulation in place, they will simply assist more on guiding the implementation and management of ecotourism in other areas that still needs assistance,

while strengthening those areas that are already doing well. On the other hand, rural land transformation is found to be coming alright despite the land challenges and conflicts that take place within the country. The land regulations further assist on such rural land related issues that will simply hinder the transformation of it especially in the rural sectors

Chapter 5

This chapter presented the findings of the study. The study revealed that co-tourism in Musina municipal land does have a positive effect on rural land transformation although lot still need to be done to ensure its stability. This is supported by the growing employment status of the area yearly as well as the economic growth improved by the growing economic active populace, of which majority are found to be engaged in eco-tourism practices. Even so, from the above analysis, rural land transformation is not solely achieved within the Musina municipality as there has been identifiable role players which each plays their different roles that results to transformation of rural land, either directly or indirectly. Although there are various stakeholders in place that were found or viewed to be the role players of rural land transformation within the municipal area, it can be concluded that Mapungubwe national park, as the eco-tourism destination, influences rural land transformation as it has been found to be the major contributor to the process of the transformation within the area. To this end, eco-tourism is regarded as an effective factor of rural land transformation and economic development in Musina local municipality

Government should establish programs and projects for bringing awareness of importance of taking care of the governmental and environmental resources can cater the needs of the current and upcoming generation. With reference to the observed potential eco-tourism sites, much effort should be placed on eco-tourism, potential tourist attraction sites, and environmental resources that exist within the area as they are can be the booming loop of growing the economy of the area and sustain the rural land transformation

6.3 Key Findings

The study was conducted within the Musina local municipality area with aim of investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation and the results are as follows:

- Mapungubwe National Park is found to change the lives of the municipal populace, especially the street vendors and other entrepreneurs, basically due to the local and international tourists that are hosted time-to-time as attracted by the park to the municipal land. During their visits, they engage into eco-tourism activities which make

them to spend lot of money during their stay. The community tend to benefit from that as it creates what is called business spin-off as more money is generated from tourists as they are found to prefer spending more on tourism related products and services such as traditional food, crafts, including non-tourism related items like fruits, vegetables, soft drinks, etc.

- The sculptures and crafter or artists are found to be the direct beneficiaries of tourism attractions because tourists regularly buy their products for remembrance.
- The partnership of entrepreneurs and Mapungubwe National Park for products display serves as a market opportunity to entrepreneurs. This includes the crafts, traditional clothes, and traditional decorations done within eco-tourism destinations by the entrepreneurs as a means of advertising their services and products. This is further found to be the booming partnership that strengthens both entrepreneurs and eco-tourism destinations as the products are not only being advertised, but at the same time decorating the eco-tourism destination making a good appearance for the tourists.
- Mapungubwe National Park is the major employment generator across the municipal area, either directly or indirectly. As such, this covers the indirect employment that is being created through the partnership of the park and other stakeholders like the farms, and this collaboration makes the products to be well recognised and increase of demand.
- The income generated from the eco-tourism related activities, including those employed in the park has been proclaimed to not sufficient for venting in other businesses, but only can cater for essential needs.
- Despite being an assisting sector for locals to generate income through employment, Mapungubwe National Park is found to further help in alleviating poverty and addressing the issue of malnutrition and hunger related matters of the employed populace. This is said because the people found have been hired within the National Park, in different positions or departments to serve tourists, took the employment opportunity to be their means of survival. The positive interaction observed with the National Park amongst the management and the staff indicated good working relations and joint problem solving, mainly because the employees not only benefit financially, but were also provided with goods and other belongings such as clothes,

as a way of improving their living conditions. Of course, the donated goods were not forceful for one to own, only those who feel like they need them then helped themselves.

- Mapungubwe National Park is found to not be fully utilized and supported by some nearby residents. This is mainly due to divided interests of individuals which are mostly indicated by restrictions on exploration of the park including the no-go areas of some part of the mountain found in the park, and different perception of how this eco-tourism destination should be managed and be responsible for, looking at the nearby areas socio-economic issues.
- The expansion of the park has been found to have brought both positive and negative results to the populace. Good for growth in economic opportunities such as employment and more need for services brought by the partnership, and bad for the surrounding communities as the emerged concerns of the constant licence granting to the park on extracting the mineral resource. Even so, it was clearly proclaimed that only minority have such concerns and seem like the license granting is just cover-up concern to them, as there seem to be more to it.
- It has further been found that there are several challenges that hamper the improvement of eco-tourism sector in the municipal area. This involves land claims that are in place as there are quite number of unresolved cases of land claims which even results to loss of investors. This is due to not being able to be allocated land, which is still in question, of which makes investors to have to go invest in another place. This is found to be due to poor coordination amongst government and traditional authority.
- In addition, other challenges are no tourism route in place which makes the travel to the attraction sites to be difficult to access especially during and after heavy rains.
- It has further been found that there is lack of financial resource to develop local businesses within the municipal area.
- The rural land transformation within the municipal area has been not the sole work for eco-tourism destinations to address, but collectively been focused on by various development stakeholders, like local government.

- Even so, there is community involvement that includes the participation of people in the process of making decisions, utilisation of the natural resources, as well as the access and dissemination of eco-tourism benefits to communities.
- Maroi community benefit from Mapungubwe National Park in numerous ways, though not to their satisfaction. Community members are permitted to make use of the resources found within the area for their subsistence, like water, firewood, meat as well as garnering grass.

6.4 Conclusion

Despite the pitfalls of eco-tourism sector in Musina local municipality, it is generally concluded that undeniably eco-tourism, with specific reference to Mapungubwe national park, does have positive effect on rural land transformation within the municipal space. This considers the effect that the well-operating Mapungubwe National park have in terms of its attraction to local economic development platforms that it has brought, without side-lining the effort of the Musina Local municipality tourism and economic development department have on ensuring the well-functioning and support of various stakeholders towards the tourism sector can sustain the rural land transformation. This further recognises the partnership that exists amongst the park and various stakeholders, and the significant role the farmers around the park play in relation to eco-tourism practices. Although eco-tourism effects cannot be easily seen mainly because of not being fully utilized and little recognition for them, there are populace that survive from eco-tourism practices especially crafters, employees of game reserves, tour operators, tour guide, partners of the park, etc. Thus, with the improvement it makes to the purchasing power of the populace, it results to economic growth through encouraging more economically active people that further make reduction of socio-economic issues, such as poverty and malnutrition, affecting citizens of the municipal land. With that, eco-tourism destination, specifically Mapungubwe National Park, is concluded to be an effective factor for rural land transformation in Musina local municipality area. Nonetheless, there remains a necessity to increase eco-tourism benefits provision, bearing in mind the existing insufficiency and joblessness rate in Maroi and the entire Musina Local municipal area.

6.5 Recommendations

Drawings from the analysis of the findings of the study was conducted in Musina local municipality, the researcher propose the following recommendations to improve the performance of eco-tourism for its better effects on rural land transformation:

- Eco-tourism must be acknowledged as the sustainable economic development option and be executed in a way that is more compatible with the sustainable development principles, considered equally with other economic activities.
- There must be development and rehabilitation of road networks as will enhance the travelling experience and increase the flux of tourists in the municipality, leading to land transformation and economic growth. In other words, government should try to enhance the road infrastructure especially roads to access the tourists' attraction sites.
- There must be virtuous collaboration amongst government and traditional authorities.
- Good collaboration of local businesses and eco-tourism destinations with full support of communities to enhance awareness of importance of establishment of eco-tourism destinations and their capabilities in sustaining development.
- Exploring the layout of the land and the fertile soil available within the municipal area which will provide potential for becoming the leading municipality in agricultural productivity and eco-tourism firmness.
- Government and the private sectors as role players to rural land transformation and local economic development should establish a committee which will deal directly with issues of tourism can assist in stabilising the tourism to a level it is expected to be at in given period.
- The designing, execution and the operating process of tourism should be incorporated within local and nationwide development that is defensible, including their connections to available ecological space together with the utilisation of the resources, and the social and cultural factors.
- Correspondingly, research on the available potential tourism sites should be made and proper planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation should be made with good management.
- There should be proper co-ordination channels of tourism to be used as well as partnership amongst eco-tourism destinations existing within the municipal area for tourists to better explore the municipal land.

- There is a need for the destination positioning and proper marketing for the improvement of tourism sector around the municipality, for better recognition, locating, analysis and monitoring of the area of attraction.
- Tourism should be obligated to either way provide assistance to the economic activities practiced within the locality, without thinking twice on placing special attention to the costs and benefits of the environment, though not be indorsed to be an action that controls the economic base of the area.
- There should be an encouragement of participation of the societies on the process of designing, executing, and managing the tourism, together with the assistance of the private sector industries and businesses, as well as the government.
- The special focus and efforts should be directed encouragement for inclusion of the previously disadvantaged and discriminated individuals, women and the indigenous societies to make sure that tourism benefits are distributed equally.
- Arrangement of the training session for community people so they could be skilful and be capable of managing the community's attraction, as a way of creating the community cord a self-supporting.
- There should be respect for the living ways of the community including their culture, the political structures and the economy, as well as the overall environment within the destination area.
- Arranging for English training sessions for the tourists' local guides for the advancement of their language, including skills on better ways to attend the visitors.
- Making an encouragement for travellers to tour in groups especially when learning about the unique lifestyle of the villages, for the knowledge to reach many of them at once.

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Appendix A: Questionnaire survey for Maroi Community members.

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice, and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Please mark your selection with an X in the appropriate box provided below

Section A: **Bibliographical information of respondents**

1. What is your gender?

Male Female

1. 2.

2. What is your age category?

18- 35 years 36-60 years 61 and
above

1. 2. 3.

3. What is your employment status?

Employed Self-employed Not
employed

1. 2. 3.

4. In which sector are you employed in?

Environment and agriculture	Creative arts and design	Charity and voluntary work	Business, consulting and management	Finance	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

5. Which range does you total monthly income positions?

R0- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001-R4500	R4501-R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

Section B: **Eco-tourism principles**

6. In Mario village, eco-tourism is regarded as what? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| Environmental awareness | Economic development opportunity | Stakeholder partnership | Governance | Other |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

If other, specify: -----

7. Which eco-tourism practices are you involved in?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|------|
| Craft making and selling | Tourist guard | Wildlife protector/trainer | Domestic workers (gardeners/landscapers; chefs, etc) | None |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

8. Other than existing practices in the village and the park, which additional eco-tourism practices would you like to be engaged in and why?

--

9. Why are you involved in this practice?

Availability of environmental resources (trees, plants, animals, land etc.)	Talent/skills/knowledge	Hereditary practice	Income generating opportunity (economic)	Networking opportunity (social)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

10. Given the importance of the environmental resources, how would you rate the environmental resources of the Maroi village?

Very efficiency	Efficiency	Not sure	Inefficiency	Very inefficiency
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

Section C: Types and characteristics of eco-tourism

11. In Maroi village, what are the noticeable characteristics of eco-tourism? **You can choose more than one option.**

Environmental awareness and protection	Cultural protection, awareness and respect	Improving the living standard	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----

12. What are the available types and characteristics of eco-tourism practices in Maroi village? **You can choose more than one option.**

Agro-tourism	Ecolodging	Eco-trecks	Other
1. Small farming	3. Venues	5. Caving	
2. Farm tours (education)	4. Accommodation		

and
pleasure)

6. Bird
watching

7. Hiking

8. Climbing

If other, specify: -----

13. Individually, which types of eco-tourism practices are you engaged in?

Small farming	Accommodation	Bird watching	Tour guarding
1.	4.	7.	10.
Farm tours	Craft making	Hiking	Other
2.	5.	8.	11.
Venues	Caving	Camping	None
3.	6.	9.	12.

If other, specify: -----

14. With the activity you are involved in, who are you partnering with? **You can choose more than one option.**

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

15. What are the roles and contributions of this partner in your type of eco-tourism practices?

Funding	Knowledge/ information sharing (problem solving strategies)	Other
1.	2.	3.

If other, specify: -----
--

Section D: Nature of Rural Land Transformation

16. In Maroi village, rural land transformation is regarded as? **You can choose more than one option.**

Access to land	Access to basic services	Participation in the decision making process	Economically active (purchasing power)	other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

17. What are the characteristics of land transformation within the area?

Roads infrastructure	Flow of Service delivery	Infrastructural development (educational and health facilities)	Commercial facility development (shopping complex)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

18. Given the various partnerships, which one do you think assist most in the transformation of this area?

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

19. What is the sequence of importance of the roles of the partners in relation to transformation of the area?

	Municipality	Non- government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Entrepreneurs	Industries/ Mines
1. Very important					_____
2. important					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. Unimportant					_____
5. Very Unimportant					_____

Section E: Types of land uses

20. Which land use types are most dominating within the Maroi Village? **You can choose more than one option.**

Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Transport	Residential
1. Plantation / Farming	2. Industrie s/factories	4. Museu ms	7. Road	11. Houses
	3. Mines	5. Parks/ gardens	8. Railway	12. Hostels /Motels

6.Athletic grounds	9. Subway	13.Lodges / hotels
--------------------	-----------	--------------------

21. Which land use types within and around the Maroi Village are you benefiting from and how?

22. How do you rate the influence of the following types of land uses on the land transformation of Maroi village?

	Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Residential	Transportation
1. Very influential					_____
2. Influential					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. little influence					_____
5. No influence					_____

Section F: Effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

23. What are the effects of eco-tourism on the transformation process of the Maroi village?

Jobs creation	Environmental education/ awareness	Skills and knowledge sharing (social cohesion)	Entrepreneurship reinforcement (empowerment and partnership)	None	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

24. Considering that eco-tourism is mostly known for its provision of income opportunities for people within and surrounding areas, on which range does your income positions that you generate from your involvement in the eco-tourism practices, on a monthly basis?

RO- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001- R4500	R4501- R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above	None
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.

25. How sufficient is your income for sustainability of your livelihoods diversification?

1. Very sufficient
2. Sufficient
3. Neither no
4. Insufficient
5. Very insufficient

26. What are the contributions of Mapungubwe National Park on the land transformation of Maroi Village?

Section G: Recommendations

In your opinion, which strategies do you suggest for improvement of the dominating eco-tourism principles within your area?

In your opinion, which practices do you recommend to be undertaken for improving the available types and characteristics of the eco-tourism to entertain and attract more tourists, investors and local people?

In your opinion, what strategies do you suggest for improve the nature of rural land transformation within the Maroi village?

In your opinion, what practices do you suggest for improvement of the types of land uses within the Maroi village?

In your opinion, what strategies/practices would you recommend for rural land to be transformed in relation of eco-tourism practices?



Appendix B: Questionnaire survey for craft makers.

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Please mark your selection with an X in the appropriate box provided below

Section A: **Bibliographical information of respondents**

1. What is your gender?

Male Female

1 2.

2. What is your age category?

18- 35 years 36-60 years 61 and above

1. 2. 3.

3. What is your employment status?

Employed Self-employed Not employed

1. 2. 3.

4. In which sector are you employed in?

Environment and agriculture	Creative arts and design	Charity and voluntary work	Business, consulting and management	Finance	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

5. Which range does you total monthly income positions?

R0- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001-R4500	R4501-R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

Section B: **Eco-tourism principles**

6. In your area, eco-tourism is regarded as what? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| Environmental awareness | Economic development opportunity | Stakeholder partnership | Governance | Other |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

If other, specify: -----

7. Which eco-tourism practices are you involved in? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|------|
| Craft making and selling | Tourist guard | Wildlife protector/trainer | Domestic workers (gardeners/landscapers; chefs, etc) | None |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

8. Other than existing practices in the village and the park, which additional eco-tourism practices would you like to be engaged in and why?

--

9. Why are you involved in this practice?

Availability of environmental resources (trees, plants, animals, land etc.)	Talent/skills/knowledge	Hereditary practice	Income generating opportunity (economic)	Networking opportunity (social)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

10. Given the importance of the environmental resources, how would you rate the environmental resources of your area?

Very efficiency	Efficiency	Not sure	Inefficiency	Very inefficiency
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

Section C: Types and characteristics of eco-tourism

11. In your area, what are the noticeable characteristics of eco-tourism? **You can choose more than one option.**

Environmental awareness and protection	Cultural protection, awareness and respect	Improving the living standard	Other
1,	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----

12. What are the available types and characteristics of eco-tourism practices in your area? **You can choose more than one option.**

Agro-tourism	Ecolodging	Eco-trecks	Other
1. Small farming	3. Venues	5. Caving	
2. Farm tours (education	4. Accommodation		

and
pleasure)

6. Bird
watching

7. Hiking

8. Climbing

If other, specify: -----

13. Individually, which types of eco-tourism practices are you engaged in?

Small farming	Accommodation	Bird watching	Tour guarding
1.	4.	7.	10.
Farm tours	Craft making	Hiking	Other
2.	5.	8.	11.
Venues	Caving	Camping	None
3.	6.	9.	12.

If other, specify: -----

14. With the activity you are involved in, who are you partnering with? **You can choose more than one option.**

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

15. What are the roles and contributions of this partner in your type of eco-tourism practices?

Funding	Knowledge/ information sharing (problem solving strategies)	Other
1.	2.	3.

If other, specify: -----
--

Section D: Nature of Rural Land Transformation

16. In your area, rural land transformation is regarded as? **You can choose more than one option.**

Access to land	Access to basic services	Participation in the decision making process	Economically active (purchasing power)	other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

17. What are the characteristics of land transformation within the area?

Roads infrastructure	Flow of Service delivery	Infrastructural development (educational and health facilities)	Commercial facility development (shopping complex)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

18. Given the various partnerships, which one do you think assist most in the transformation of this area?

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

19. What is the sequence of importance of the roles of the partners in relation to transformation of the area?

	Municipality	Non- government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Entrepreneurs	Industries/ Mines
1. Very important					_____
2. important					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. Unimportant					_____
5. Very Unimportant					_____

Section E: Types of land uses

20. Which land use types are most dominating within your area? **You can choose more than one option.**

Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Transport	Residential
1. Plantation / Farming	2. Industrie s/factories	4. Museu ms	7. Road	11. Houses
	3. Mines	5. Parks/ gardens	8. Railway	12. Hostels /Motels

6.Athletic grounds

9. Subway	13.Lodges / hotels
-----------	--------------------

21. Which land use types within and around your area are you benefiting from and how?

22. How do you rate the influence of the following types of land uses on the land transformation of your area?

	Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Residential	Transportation
1. Very influential					_____
2. Influential					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. little influence					_____
5. No influence					_____

Section F: **Effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation**

23. What are the effects of eco-tourism on the transformation process of your area?

Jobs creation	Environmental education/ awareness	Skills and knowledge sharing (social cohesion)	Entrepreneurship reinforcement (empowerment and partnership)	None	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----
--

24. Considering that eco-tourism is mostly known for its provision of income opportunities for people within and surrounding areas, on which range does your income positions that you generate from your involvement in the eco-tourism practices, on a monthly basis?

RO- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001- R4500	R4501- R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above	None
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.

25. How sufficient is your income for sustainability of your livelihoods diversification?

1. Very sufficient
2. Sufficient
3. Neither no
4. Insufficient
5. Very insufficient

26. What are the contributions of Mapungubwe National Park on the land transformation of your area?

Section G: Recommendations

In your opinion, which strategies do you suggest for improvement of the dominating eco-tourism principles within your area?

In your opinion, which practices do you recommend to be undertaken for improving the available types and characteristics of the eco-tourism to entertain and attract more tourists, investors and local people?

In your opinion, what strategies do you suggest for improve the nature of rural land transformation within your area?

In your opinion, what practices do you suggest for improvement of the types of land uses within your area?

In your opinion, what strategies/practices would you recommend for rural land to be transformed in relation of eco-tourism practices?



Appendix C: Questionnaire survey for Mapungubwe National Park employees.

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

Please mark your selection with an X in the appropriate box provided below

Section A: **Bibliographical information of respondents**

1. What is your gender?

Male Female

1. 2.

2. What is your age category?

18- 35 years 36-60 years 61 and
above

1. 2. 3.

3. What is your employment status?

Employed Self-employed Not
employed

1. 2. 3.

4. In which sector are you employed in?

Environment and agriculture	Creative arts and design	CHARITY AND VOLUNTARY WORK	BUSINESS, CONSULTING AND MANAGEMENT	FINANCE	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

5. Which range does you total monthly income positions?

R0- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001-R4500	R4501-R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

Section B: Eco-tourism principles

6. In your area, eco-tourism is regarded as what? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| Environmental awareness | Economic development opportunity | Stakeholder partnership | Governance | Other |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

If other, specify: -----

7. Which eco-tourism practices are you involved in? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|------|
| Craft making and selling | Tourist guard | Wildlife protector/trainer | Domestic workers (gardeners/landscapers; chefs, etc) | None |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

8. Other than existing practices in the village and the park, which additional eco-tourism practices would you like to be engaged in and why?

9. Why are you involved in this practice?

Availability of environmental resources (trees, plants, animals, land etc.)	Talent/skills/knowledge	Hereditary practice	Income generating opportunity (economic)	Networking opportunity (social)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

10. Given the importance of the environmental resources, how would you rate the environmental resources of your area?

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| Very efficiency | Efficiency | Not sure | Inefficiency | Very inefficiency |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |

Section C: Types and characteristics of eco-tourism

11. In your area, what are the noticeable characteristics of eco-tourism? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-------|
| Environmental awareness and protection | Cultural protection, awareness and respect | Improving the living standard | Other |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |

If other, specify: -----

12. What are the available types and characteristics of eco-tourism practices in your area? **You can choose more than one option.**

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Agro-tourism | Ecolodging | Eco-trecks | Other |
| 1. Small farming | 3. Venues | 5. Caving | |

2. Farm tours
(education
and
pleasure)

4. Accommodation

6. Bird
watching

7. Hiking

8. Climbing

If other, specify: -----

13. Individually, which types of eco-tourism practices are you engaged in?

Small farming	Accommodation	Bird watching	Tour guarding
1.	4.	7.	10.
Farm tours	Craft making	Hiking	Other
2.	5.	8.	11.
Venues	Caving	Camping	None
3.	6.	9.	12.

If other, specify: -----

14. With the activity you are involved in, who are you partnering with? **You can choose more than one option.**

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

15. What are the roles and contributions of this partner in your type of eco-tourism practices?

Funding	Knowledge/ information sharing (problem solving strategies)	Other
1.	2.	3.

If other, specify: -----
--

Section D: Nature of Rural Land Transformation

16. In your area, rural land transformation is regarded as? **You can choose more than one option.**

Access to land	Access to basic services	Participation in the decision making process	Economically active (purchasing power)	other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

17. What are the characteristics of land transformation within the area?

Road's infrastructure	Flow of Service delivery	Infrastructural development (educational and health facilities)	Commercial facility development (shopping complex)	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

If other, specify: -----
--

18. Given the various partnerships, which one do you think assist most in the transformation of this area?

Municipality	Non-government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.

If other, specify: -----
--

19. What is the sequence of importance of the roles of the partners in relation to transformation of the area?

	Municipality	Non- government organisation	Mapungubwe National Park	Entrepreneurs	Industries/ Mines
1. Very important					_____
2. important					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. Unimportant					_____
5. Very Unimportant					_____

Section E: Types of land uses

20. Which land use types are most dominating within the park and your area? **You can choose more than one option.**

Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Transport	Residential
1. Plantation / Farming	2. Industrie s/factories	4. Museu ms	7. Road	11. Houses
	3. Mines	5. Parks/ gardens	8. Railway	12. Hostels /Motels

6.Athletic grounds

9. Subway	13.Lodges / hotels
-----------	--------------------

21. Which land use types within and around your area are you benefiting from and how?

22. How do you rate the influence of the following types of land uses on the land transformation of your area?

	Agricultural	Commercial	Recreational	Residential	Transportation
1. Very influential					_____
2. Influential					_____
3. Not sure					_____
4. little influence					_____
5. No influence					_____

Section F: Effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

23. What are the effects of eco-tourism on the transformation process of your area?

Jobs creation	Environmental education/ awareness	Skills and knowledge sharing (social cohesion)	Entrepreneurship reinforcement (empowerment and partnership)	None	Other
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.

If other, specify: -----

24. Considering that eco-tourism is mostly known for its provision of income opportunities for people within and surrounding areas, on which range does your income positions that you generate from your involvement in the eco-tourism practices, on a monthly basis?

RO- R1500	R1501- R3000	R3001- R4500	R4501- R6000	R6001- R7500	R7501 & above	None
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.

25. How sufficient is your income for sustainability of your livelihoods diversification?

- 1. Very sufficient
- 2. Sufficient
- 3. Neither no
- 4. Insufficient
- 5. Very insufficient

26. What are the contributions of Mapungubwe National Park on the land transformation of your area?

Section G: Recommendations

In your opinion, which strategies do you suggest for improvement of the dominating eco-tourism principles within your area?

In your opinion, which practices do you recommend to be undertaken for improving the available types and characteristics of the eco-tourism to entertain and attract more tourists, investors and local people?

In your opinion, what strategies do you suggest for improve the nature of rural land transformation within your area?

In your opinion, what practices do you suggest for improvement of the types of land uses within your area?

In your opinion, what strategies/practices would you recommend for rural land to be transformed in relation of eco-tourism practices?



Appendix D: Interview schedule for Farm Owners in Musina Local Municipality.

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

1. How long have you been on this farm practicing the on-farm agricultural activities?
1. Which eco-tourism activities are you directly involved or partnering with?
2. How do you benefit from your involvement in such practices?
3. Given the importance of the environmental resources, would you say your area have sufficient resources for you to diversify your livelihood strategies?
4. Do you somewhat provide knowledge on the importance of the environmental resources and a need for their protection, to either your family or community?
5. With agricultural activities that you are practicing, how do you benefit the community?
6. What are the noticeable types and characteristics of eco-tourism within your area?
7. Which types of eco-tourism are you engaged in and how do you benefit from your involvement?
8. Who are your partners and their roles?
9. According to you, how do you regard rural land transformation as?
10. Who would you say play a major role in transforming your area and how?
11. Which land use types are most dominating in your area?
12. Which land use type benefit you mostly and how?
13. How do you think the existing land use types assist in the transformation of the area?
14. How does Mapungubwe National Park interfere or assist the performance of your agricultural activities?
15. How would you say Mapungubwe National Park support on the transformation of your area?



Appendix E: Interview schedule for Tourism and Economic Development Officials of Musina Local Municipality.

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

1. How long have you been an employee within this section, accountable for similar duties?
2. In your municipality, eco-tourism is regarded as what?
3. Which eco-tourism activities are most practiced within the municipality?
4. Which eco-tourism practices are observed to be ones strengthening the economy of the municipality, and how?
5. Is there any way that the municipality monitors the environmental awareness, environmental protection and respect for rural culture by the Mapungubwe National Park?
6. Considering the importance of the environmental resources, would you say the environmental resources found within the municipality area are sufficient enough to cater the needs of its people and to diversify their livelihoods?
7. In your municipality what are the noticeable characteristics of eco-tourism?
8. What are the available types of eco-tourism practices found in your municipality area?
9. Which types of eco-tourism platforms provide enough benefits to the communities? And how?
10. In your municipality, rural land transformation is regarded as what?
11. Who are the influencers of rural land transformation in your municipal area, and how?
12. Which land use types are most dominating within the municipality area?
13. Which land use type assist most on transforming the lives of people and how?
14. Do the land use types have any influence on the transformation of the rural land within the municipality? If yes, how?
15. Who/what is the core influencer of the rural land transformation within the municipality?
16. How does Mapungubwe National Park have an effect on the transformation of your rural land and the growth of the local economy?



Appendix F: Interview schedule for managers or operators of Mapungubwe National Park

Title of study: “The Effects of Eco-tourism on Rural Land Transformation in Mapungubwe National Park, Limpopo Province, South Africa”

This research project is registered with the Department of Development Planning and Management, University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus

The study aims at investigating the effects of eco-tourism on rural land transformation

Please assist by providing information required in this questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to collect information on the opinions of the people.

The study is guided by the following ethics: Minimization of the risk of harm, respecting privacy, obtaining informed consent, avoiding deceptive practices, providing right to withdraw, and respecting anonymity and confidentiality. It is a voluntary practice and no form of payments will be made to participants.

We thank you for your cooperation.

1. How long have you been on the operating or managerial level of this National Park?

2. In your park, eco-tourism is regarded as what?
3. What are the noticeable eco-tourism activities within your park?
4. Does your park provide the community and its employees with environmental protection knowledge or importance of eco-tourism? If yes, how or through which platforms?
5. Which outside practices are you partnering with to support the services you render in your park?
6. Who are your major partners and what are their roles?
7. What are the available types and characteristics of eco-tourism in the park?
8. Which land use types within the municipality does the park benefiting from and how?
9. In your words, rural land transformation is regarded as what?
10. Who are the influencers of the rural land transformation surrounding the park?
11. Which land use types are most dominating within and surrounding the park?
12. Which land use types assist most on transforming the lives of people within and surrounding the park, and how?
13. Which land use type is most helpful for the park to achieve its major goal?
14. Would you regard the existence of the eco-tourism destination as the major influencer of transformation of the rural land within the municipality? If yes why?
15. Which opportunities or benefits are offered to the local people by the park?
16. How would you describe the effectiveness of this park on growth of the local economy?
17. Would you say Mapungubwe National Park have an effect on the transformation of the rural land within the municipality? If yes how? If no, why?