

SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURAL TOURISM FOR SOCIOCULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF LAGOS STATE: CASE STUDY OF THE EYO FESTIVAL

***LAWAL, A.O.,¹ LAWAL, J.B.,² BASHORUN, O.E.,³ AND BABATUNDE A.O.⁴**

^{1,3}Department of Home Science and Hospitality Management, Faculty of Agricultural Management and Rural Development, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye

³Department of Microbiology Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria

⁴South-western University, Okun-Owa, Ogun State

*Corresponding author: adenikelawal8@gmail.com

Abstract

Cultural tourism has emerged as a strategic avenue for promoting sustainable development by fostering sociocultural preservation and environmental stewardship. This study examines the role of cultural tourism in enhancing sociocultural and environmental sustainability in Lagos State, Nigeria. Drawing on a multidisciplinary framework, the research explores how cultural heritage, traditional practices, and community engagement can be leveraged to achieve broader sustainability goals, including those articulated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The quantitative and descriptive methods were employed in this study, supported by empirical literature to assess the opportunities, best practices, and challenges associated with integrating sustainability into cultural tourism. Findings reveal that while cultural tourism in Lagos holds considerable potential for reinforcing social cohesion, heritage conservation, and ecological responsibility, its development is hindered by limited policy frameworks, environmental mismanagement, and inadequate community participation. The importance of inclusive governance, environmental awareness, and the adoption of community-based tourism models to achieve sustainable outcomes were also presented. The study concludes that for cultural tourism to serve as a catalyst for sustainable development in Lagos State, stakeholders must adopt a holistic strategy that integrates cultural integrity, social inclusion, and environmental consciousness. The findings provide policy insights for governments, tourism planners, and heritage managers seeking to align tourism growth with sustainable development objectives.

Keywords: *Cultural tourism, Sociocultural sustainability, Environmental sustainability, Eyo Festival, Lagos, Nigeria*

This work is licensed to the publisher under the Creative Commons Attributions License 4.0

Introduction

Cultural tourism has increasingly become an integral component of the tourism industry globally. It acts as both as a driver of heritage conservation and as a tool for promoting identity, social cohesiveness, and sustainable development (Środa-Murawska *et al.*, 2021; Geçikli *et al.*, 2024). It is referred to as travel that is motivated by curiosity regarding a destination's cultural, historical, artistic, and traditional heritage, cultural tourism bridges the past and present by allowing people to engage constructively in tangible and intangible cultural heritage (Richards, 2021; UNESCO, 2022). With increased demand for cultural experiences among tourists seeking authenticity, many countries are leveraging their unique cultural capital to promote inclusive and resilient development strategies.

Simultaneously, the global push toward sustainable development has necessitated a reevaluation of how tourism can contribute positively to long-term societal well-being and ecological integrity. Socio-cultural and environmental sustainability are key pillars of sustainability (Figure 1). The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, emphasizes the integration of economic, environmental, and social dimensions of development, articulated in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Tourism, and more particularly cultural tourism, has been identified as a powerful facilitator for the achievement of several of these, including SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) (UNWTO, 2019). However, authentic

sustainability in tourism extends beyond economic benefits, but also responsible for maintaining cultural identity, promoting social inclusiveness, and preserving natural environments for future generations (Jeong *et al.*, 2023).

Sociocultural sustainability refers to the preservation and promotion of cultural identity, social equity, heritage continuity, and the well-being of communities within development processes. It entails maintaining the integrity of cultural values, traditions, and practices while fostering inclusive participation, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and social cohesion (Duxbury and Jeannotte, 2017). Within the tourism context, sociocultural sustainability ensures that tourism development respects local customs, empowers host communities, and supports cultural vitality rather than causing commodification or cultural erosion. As cultural tourism increasingly gains prominence, it becomes crucial to develop tourism practices that celebrate and protect the sociocultural fabric of communities while fostering mutual understanding between visitors and residents.

More specifically, the sociocultural aspect of sustainable development centers on the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems, and community participation. Cultural tourism has the capacity to reinforce these elements by encouraging local empowerment, fostering intercultural dialogue, and safeguarding indigenous practices (ICOMOS, 2021). At the core of sociocultural sustainability is the active engagement of local communities in decision-making processes that influence their cultural and social environment. This includes

participatory governance, equitable benefit-sharing, and the protection of intangible cultural heritage such as language, festivals, crafts, and traditional knowledge systems (UNESCO, 2022). Sustainable tourism, particularly cultural tourism, can serve as a platform for reviving marginalized cultural identities and empowering communities to take pride in their heritage.

Environmental sustainability involves the responsible management of natural resources and ecosystems to ensure ecological balance and resilience for current and future generations. It seeks to minimize environmental degradation, promote biodiversity conservation, and encourage sustainable consumption patterns (UNEP, 2021). In the tourism sector, environmental sustainability is concerned with reducing the ecological footprint of tourism activities through efficient resource use, pollution control, habitat preservation, and climate adaptation strategies. This involves aligning tourism practices with environmental goals such as carbon neutrality, water conservation, and waste reduction. The integration of environmental sustainability into tourism ensures that tourism activities do not degrade natural ecosystems but instead support conservation, resource efficiency, and climate resilience. This promotes environmental sustainability by advocating for the stewardship of both cultural and natural landscapes (UNEP and UNWTO, 2021).

Some countries have established best practice examples for placing cultural tourism within the frameworks of sustainability. For instance, Japan through its heritage tourism revitalization program integrates traditional cultural villages into

local tourism development with assurances for environmental sustainability and local ownership (METI Japan, 2020). Also, Scotland has outlined its Sustainable Tourism Strategy that demands the Gaelic language and culture preservation, community-led tourism activities, and ecologically conscious site management (VisitScotland, 2022). In New Zealand, Māori cultural tourism is being integrated sustainably into the tourism value chain with policies ensuring cultural integrity, environmental sustainability, and equitable benefit-sharing with indigenous communities (Tourism New Zealand, 2021).

Despite the growing recognition of cultural tourism's potential to drive sustainability, many regions in the Global South still grapple with underutilization, environmental degradation, and loss of cultural heritage due to inadequate policy support and unmanaged tourism growth. In this context, Lagos State, Nigeria, with its rich cultural heritage, historical landmarks, and vibrant artistic traditions, presents a compelling case for exploring how cultural tourism can be harnessed to support sociocultural and environmental sustainability. This study therefore seeks to assess the significance of cultural tourism in promoting these twin pillars of sustainable development within the context of Lagos State, identifying both opportunities and barriers to its full realization.

Empirical Literature

Quite a number of researchers have highlighted the transformative potential of cultural tourism in driving sustainable development, especially in developing nations. For instance, the study of Richards (2021) emphasized that cultural

tourism promotes inclusive development by connecting local communities to the global economy through cultural products and experiences. Using a comparative analysis of European cities, the study found that destinations with robust cultural tourism frameworks tend to exhibit stronger social capital and community participation. Another study also revealed that cultural tourism significantly contributed to the generation of local jobs and safeguard intangible heritage in the form of traditions and customary arts (Mensah and Antwi, 2020).

More specifically, cultural tourism has been found to enhance social cohesion and revive indigenous rituals, though it can also lead to resource depletion and environmental degradation, necessitating the adoption of ecotourism and community-based approaches (Akama and Kieti, 2019). It has also contributed to social inclusion and urban regeneration through heritage initiatives, though challenges like gentrification and environmental neglect persist (George and Booyens, 2021). In Osun State, cultural tourism around the Osun-Osogbo Grove promotes local pride and ecological conservation but remains threatened by over-tourism and poor environmental oversight (Adeyinka and Olatunde, 2022).

It has also been revealed by studies across Africa that while cultural tourism is widely recognized for its economic value, fewer policies effectively incorporate sociocultural and environmental goals, pointing to the need for holistic planning (Ndlovu and Heath, 2020). For instance, in southeastern Nigeria, research found that cultural tourism fostered community pride but suffered from limited local participation and weak environmental oversight (Ifeanyi and Umeh, 2021).

Another study in Ibadan and Abuja reported benefits like youth engagement and cultural awareness, yet noted risks including poor waste management and lack of sustainability metrics (Egbetokun *et al.*, 2023). Internationally, cultural tourism has supported biodiversity conservation and strengthened traditional identities, with models like homestays and eco-cultural trails promoting both community bonds and ecological restoration (Tatar and Dodu, 2022; Pham and Dao, 2020).

While there is a growing body of literature to affirm the role of cultural tourism in promoting elements of sustainable development, there remains a significant empirical gap in studies that holistically assess its dual impact on sociocultural and environmental sustainability, most especially in Lagos State. This is true because most of the studies either focus on economic outcomes of tourism or isolate cultural and environmental dimensions without examining their interdependencies (Adeyinka and Olatunde, 2022; Egbetokun *et al.*, 2023), which therefore necessitates the need for this study.

Aim and Objectives of Study

The aim of this study is to examine the extent to which cultural tourism contributes to the sociocultural and environmental sustainability of Lagos. The specific objectives are to:

- i. assess the current state of cultural tourism (Eyo festival) in Lagos
- ii. assess the contributions of cultural tourism activities to sociocultural and environmental sustainability in Lagos
- iii. examine the impact of cultural tourism in socio-cultural and environmental sustainability practices in Lagos Nigeria.

Hypotheses

1. Cultural tourism does not significantly contribute to socio-cultural sustainability of Lagos
2. Cultural tourism does not significantly contribute to environmental sustainability of Lagos.

Methodology

Study Area

The study area is Lagos State. The Adamu Orisha Play, or the Eyo Festival is a popular traditional cultural festival that is celebrated in Lagos Island, Nigeria by the Isale Eko people. The festival traces its origin back to the 19th century and is performed under the patronage of the traditional white-capped chiefs as well as

the Oba of Lagos (Butt-Thompson, 2005). The cultural festival is done to mark the passing of a king, chief, or other officials, or to celebrate significant state functions, taking place majorly in Isale-Eko. The defining characteristic of the festival is the processional dance of the Eyo masquerades (Agogoro Eyo), attired in white flowing robes and veiled headgear, carrying "opambata" staffs as they dance through the street streets to traditional chants and drumbeats (EYO, 2011). Besides its religious and sociocultural importance, the Eyo Festival is also a major source of tourism that attracts thousands of visitors and injects business into the local economy.



Fig. 1: Eyo masquerade



Fig. 2: Map of Lagos State

Research Design

This study is a descriptive research design of survey type employing the quantitative techniques to assess the significance of cultural tourism for sociocultural and environmental sustainability in Lagos State, using the Eyo (Adamu Orisha) Festival as the case study.

Sampling

The Eyo Festival, a significant cultural heritage event, is primarily celebrated on

Lagos Island, with its most prominent manifestations in areas such as IsaleEko, Idumota, and Oba's Palace precincts. These locations serve as the traditional grounds for the festival's procession and are central to its cultural significance. The study utilized a multi-stage sampling technique, beginning with the purposive selection of Lagos Island as the focal area due to its cultural importance in hosting the Eyo Festival. Within Lagos Island, three major communities Isale Eko,

Idumota, and Oba's Palace area were purposively selected. From these, a total of 450 respondents were randomly sampled during the festival, including festival attendees, local residents, and cultural custodians, ensuring a balanced representation of perspectives.

Data Sources and Research Instrument

Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire designed to capture comprehensive insights into the sociocultural and environmental dimensions of the Eyo Festival. The questionnaire was divided into four sections: (i) socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, (ii) role of cultural tourism on sociocultural and environmental sustainability (iii) sociocultural and environmental implications of cultural tourism. Responses were recorded using a five-point Likert scale ranging from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree.”

Data Collection

Before administering the questionnaire, it underwent a pilot test and was validated through expert review. Minor revisions were made to improve clarity and relevance. Test-retest

reliability test was also carried out using sample who were not part of the population, specifically in Ogun state, and a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.81 was obtained indicating high reliability. During the actual festival, trained research assistants administered the questionnaire in the three selected areas. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the study and their consent was obtained in accordance with ethical research standards. Participation was entirely voluntary, and all data were treated with strict confidentiality. A total of 450 questionnaire were administered in all and 431 copies were retrieved of which only 415 had valid responses and used for analysis.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using both descriptive statistics (percentages, means, and standard deviations) and regression analysis was employed to test for the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The statistical analysis was performed with the aid of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) and Excel. Results were presented in tables and charts.

Results

Table 1: Current State of Cultural Tourism (Eyo/Adamu Orisha) Festival in Lagos

Attribute	Mean	SD	Rating
Infrastructure	5.84	0.874	Good
Diversity of Attractions	3.84	1.114	Poor
Accessibility of Attractions	4.97	1.092	Fair
Management of Adamu Orisa Festival	4.82	1.501	Fair
Collaboration of Stakeholders	5.45	0.985	Good
Quality of Cultural Events and Festivals	5.22	1.283	Good
Community Engagement	5.18	1.434	Good
Government Support	6.67	0.806	Very Good
Cultural Tourism Offerings	4.93	1.955	Fair

Note: Very Good: \bar{x} =6.1 – 7.0; Good: \bar{x} =5.1 – 6.0; Fair: \bar{x} =4.1 – 5.0; Poor: \bar{x} =2.6 – 4.0; Bad: \bar{x} =1.0 – 2.5

The data presented in Table 1 offers a comprehensive overview of the current state of cultural tourism, specifically focusing on the Eyo (Adamu Orisha) Festival in Lagos. The findings reveal that government support for the festival stands out prominently with the highest mean score of 6.67 and a "Very Good" rating, indicating strong institutional backing. Similarly, infrastructure (Mean = 5.84), stakeholder collaboration (Mean = 5.45), quality of cultural events (Mean = 5.22), and community engagement (Mean = 5.18) all received "Good" ratings, suggesting that the foundational and participatory elements necessary for successful cultural tourism are largely present. These results reflect a relatively

strong enabling environment for the Eyo Festival, marked by effective community involvement and inter-organizational coordination. However, the table also highlights several areas requiring improvement. Diversity of attractions received the lowest rating (Mean = 3.84, rated "Poor"), indicating limited cultural variety or thematic experiences associated with the festival. In addition, accessibility of attractions (Mean = 4.97), festival management (Mean = 4.82), and overall cultural tourism offerings (Mean = 4.93) were rated as "Fair", pointing to moderate challenges in logistical planning, visitor access, and the broader appeal of cultural experiences.

Table 2: Impact of Cultural Tourism (Eyo Festival) on Socio-Cultural Sustainability of Lagos

S/N	Items	Mean	SD
1	Promotes intercultural understanding among visitors and locals	3.45	0.903
2	Preserves and promotes traditional arts, craft and heritage	3.70	1.065
3	Encourages the revitalization and preservation of cultural traditions and practices	4.11	1.126
4	Enhances community pride and sense of identity	4.11	0.989
5	Fosters cultural exchange and dialogue between tourists and local residents in Lagos State	3.87	1.383
6	Provides opportunities for local artisans and cultural practitioners	3.38	0.953
7	Promotes cultural diversity and tolerance within the community in Lagos State	3.81	0.950
8.	Support the conservation and protection of cultural heritage sites and landmarks in Lagos State	3.83	1.254
		X^2	9.17
		<i>Sig.</i>	0.023

Result presented in Table 1 shows the impact of cultural tourism, specifically Eyo Festival on socio-cultural sustainability in Lagos State. It was revealed that the highest mean score recorded for the role of cultural tourism in revitalization and preservation of cultural

traditions and practices (Mean=4.11) and enhances community pride and sense of identity (Mean=4.11) indicating a strong agreement among participants that the festival plays a crucial role in sustaining cultural heritage and social cohesion. Other notable impacts include fostering

cultural exchange between tourists and locals (Mean = 3.87) and promoting cultural diversity and tolerance (Mean = 3.81). The lowest mean, though still above average, was for providing opportunities for local artisans and cultural practitioners (Mean = 3.38), suggesting that economic inclusivity may be comparatively less felt in some aspects. The chi-square (X^2) value

of 9.17 with a significance level of 0.023 ($p < 0.05$) indicates a statistically significant relationship between cultural tourism and socio-cultural sustainability in Lagos.

Hypothesis 1: Cultural tourism does not significantly contribute to socio-cultural sustainability of Lagos

Table 3: Impact of Cultural Tourism on Sociocultural Sustainability

Variable	β	t	p	R ²	F	Sig.
Sociocultural Sustainability	.022	3.159	.025	.216	10.11	.001

The result in Table 3 presents a regression result that shows a beta coefficient (β) of 0.022, a t-value of 3.159, and a p-value of 0.025. Since the p-value is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating that cultural tourism has a statistically

significant impact on sociocultural sustainability in Lagos. Furthermore, the R^2 value of 0.216 suggests that approximately 21.6% of the variation in sociocultural sustainability is explained by cultural tourism.

Table 4: Role of Cultural Tourism (Eyo Festivals) in Environmental Sustainability of Lagos State

S/N	Items	Mean	SD
1	Preservation of natural landscape and ecosystem	2.89	0.804
2	Sustainable waste reduction and resources conservation	2.54	0.522
3	Support for Biodiversity and Wildlife	2.65	1.418
4	Encourages sustainable tourism infrastructure or green infrastructure	2.94	1.179
5	Contributes to raising awareness about environment conservation and sustainable practices.	3.22	1.480
		X^2	2.17
		Sig.	0.148

Table 4 presents result on the role of cultural tourism (Eyo Festival) in promoting environmental sustainability in Lagos State. The highest mean score was recorded for the item stating that the festival contributes to raising awareness about environmental conservation and sustainable practices (Mean = 3.22), suggesting some perceived potential for environmental education. Other indicators

such as preservation of natural landscapes and ecosystems (Mean = 2.89) and encouragement of sustainable or green infrastructure (Mean = 2.94) were rated moderately, reflecting limited visible impacts. The lowest score was associated with sustainable waste reduction and resource conservation (Mean = 2.54), indicating that festival-related activities may be contributing to waste and resource

strain rather than mitigating it. The chi-square value (X^2) of 2.17 with a p-value of 0.148 (which is above the 0.05 significance threshold) implies that there is no statistically significant relationship between cultural tourism (in the context of

the Eyo Festival) and environmental sustainability in Lagos.

Hypothesis 2: Cultural tourism does not significantly impact environmental sustainability of Lagos

Table 5: Impact of Cultural Tourism on Environmental Sustainability

Variable	β	t	p	R ²	F	Sig.
Environmental Sustainability	.015	0.726	.213	.051	1.15	.030

Table 5 presents the regression result on the impact of cultural tourism on environmental sustainability of Lagos. Result indicated that cultural tourism does not significantly impact environmental sustainability in Lagos with a beta coefficient (β) of 0.015, a t-value of 0.726, and a p-value of 0.213. Since the p-value is greater than the 0.05 significance level, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected, indicating that cultural tourism does not have a statistically significant impact on environmental sustainability in Lagos. Furthermore, the R^2 value of 0.011 suggests that cultural tourism explains only 5.1% of the variance in environmental sustainability, a very weak explanatory power.

Discussion

In assessing the current state of cultural tourism specifically the Eyo festival in Lagos state, it was revealed that the festival enjoys strong institutional and community support, characterized by good infrastructure, effective stakeholder collaboration, and positive community engagement. Government support was particularly robust, indicating the state's recognition of the cultural and tourism significance of the festival. However, challenges remain in terms of diversity of attractions, accessibility, and

management, which were rated lower. These results align with the findings of Richards (2021) and George and Booyens (2021), who emphasized that while cultural tourism initiatives often benefit from institutional support, they tend to fall short on logistical and programmatic elements that enhance tourist experience and inclusivity. The relatively low diversity of attractions also echoes the concern raised by Adeyinka and Olatunde (2022) in the Osun-Osogbo festival context, where cultural tourism is vibrant yet lacks strategic expansion in thematic experiences.

In assessing the contributions of cultural tourism activities to sociocultural and environmental sustainability in Lagos, findings revealed a strong positive contribution of the Eyo Festival to sociocultural sustainability. Participants agreed that the festival promotes cultural identity, social cohesion, intercultural understanding, and pride in heritage. The statistical significance observed affirms that the festival plays a critical role in preserving and revitalizing indigenous culture. This is consistent with the work of Mensah and Antwi (2020), who found that cultural tourism not only preserves traditions but also fosters a sense of belonging and identity among community members. Similarly, the findings support

Akama and Kieti's (2019) view that cultural festivals enhance social inclusion and promote indigenous practices. However, the relatively lower mean score for economic participation (especially for artisans) indicates that the inclusivity of cultural tourism's economic benefits remains partial, echoing the observations of Ndlovu and Heath (2020) and Ifeanyi and Umeh (2021), who reported that while cultural tourism builds pride and cohesion, economic gains are not always equitably distributed.

On the other hand, the findings on the environmental dimension were less favorable. While there was some recognition of the Eyo Festival's potential to raise awareness about environmental conservation, most indicators such as waste management, ecosystem preservation, and green infrastructure scored poorly. Statistical results showed no significant contribution of cultural tourism to environmental sustainability in Lagos. This aligns with existing empirical literature which emphasizes that although cultural tourism supports social and cultural sustainability, it often lags in environmental stewardship (Akama and Kieti, 2019; Egbetokun *et al.*, 2023). Studies in similar contexts, such as Osun and Ibadan, have likewise revealed weak environmental policies and poor implementation practices during cultural events (Adeyinka and Olatunde, 2022).

Lastly, on the impact of impact of cultural tourism on socio-cultural and environmental sustainability practices in Lagos the regression analysis further substantiates the duality observed. Cultural tourism was found to have a statistically significant impact on sociocultural sustainability, explaining over 21% of its variance. This underscores

the powerful role of cultural heritage events in reinforcing social cohesion, identity, and intercultural dialogue. These findings reinforce the assertions of Pham and Dao (2020) and Tatar and Dodu (2022), who argue that cultural tourism can be a tool for strengthening traditional identities and building community capital. However, on the environmental front, the regression results revealed a weak and non-significant impact, explaining only a minimal variance in sustainability outcomes.

Conclusion

The study explored the role and impact of cultural tourism in promoting sustainability in Lagos specifically the role of Eyo festival in enhancing socio-cultural and environmental sustainability. It was discovered that the Eyo festival contributes meaningfully to sociocultural sustainability in Lagos through tradition preservation, community identity, and intercultural dialogue. Its contribution to environmental sustainability is, however, negligible and statistically insignificant, and this suggests a critical missing link in the integration of ecological considerations in cultural tourism planning and practice. The implication of the above is that while cultural tourism has the potential to be a successful tool for social integration and conservation of heritage, its long-term sustainability potential in Lagos requires more holistic and inclusive policy orientation. Environmental education must receive prime importance by all the stakeholders like government agencies, tourist operators, and community organizations, adopt green infrastructure, and ensure sustainable waste management systems during cultural festivals.

Limitation of the Study

This study explored the impact of cultural tourism on sociocultural and environmental sustainability in Lagos. A key limitation of the study is its exclusive focus on the Eyo Festival in Lagos, which may not fully capture the broader dynamics of cultural tourism across other festivals or regions. Future studies can explore the impacts of diverse cultural festivals across multiple regions in Lagos State or Southwest Nigeria for a more comprehensive coverage of the role of cultural tourism in sustainable development.

References

- Adeyinka, K.A. and Olatunde, O.B. (2022). Cultural tourism and sustainable development in Osun State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Tourism Research*, 14(2): 113–127.
- Akama, J.S. and Kieti, D. (2019). Sustainable tourism development in Kenya: An empirical analysis of stakeholder perspectives. *Tourism Planning and Development*, 16(3): 297–312.
- Butt-Thompson, F.W. (2005). *West African secret societies: their organisations, officials and teaching*. Whitefish: Kessinger Publ. ISBN 978-0-7661-5736-1 – via Google Books
- Duxbury, N. and Jeannotte, M. S. (2017). The role of cultural resources in sustainable community development. *Culture, Sustainability and Communities*, 13–29.
- Egbetokun, A., Yusuf, S. and Lawal, M. (2023). Cultural Tourism and Sustainability in Urban Nigeria: A Comparative Study. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 29(1): 92–109.
- EYO (2011). Its purpose and role in the history of Lagos. Eyo Festival Lagos website. Archived from the original on 27 November 2011. Retrieved 24 November 2011.
- Geçikli, R., Turan, O., Lachytová, L., Dağlı, E., Kasalak, M., Uğur, S. and Guven, Y. (2024). Cultural Heritage Tourism and Sustainability: A Bibliometric Analysis. *Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16156424>.
- George, R. and Booyens, I. (2021). Cultural tourism and urban regeneration in South Africa. *Sustainability*, 13(5), 2607. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13052607>
- ICOMOS (2021). *Cultural Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy guidance for heritage and development actors*. Paris: International council on monuments and sites.
- Ifeanyi, P. and Umeh, C. (2021). Cultural tourism and community development in Southeastern Nigeria. *Journal of Tourism and Heritage Studies*, 10(1): 45–60.
- Jeong, J., Karimov, M., Sobirov, Y., Saidmamatov, O. and Marty, P. (2023). Evaluating culturalization strategies for sustainable tourism development in Uzbekistan. *Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15097727>.
- Mensah, I. and Antwi, K. (2020). Cultural heritage tourism and sustainable development: The case of Cape

- Coast and Elmina, Ghana. *Tourism Management Perspectives*, 35: 100702.
- METI Japan (2020). Heritage tourism revitalization program. Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- Ndlovu, J. and Heath, E. (2020). Cultural tourism policy in Sub-Saharan Africa: Aligning culture, tourism and sustainable development. *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events*, 12(1): 56–73.
- Pham, T. and Dao, N. (2020). Ecotourism and cultural preservation in Southeast Asia: Integrating communities and conservation. *Asian Journal of Tourism Research*, 5(2): 110–124.
- Richards, G. (2021). Cultural Tourism: A review of recent research and trends. *Tourism Review*, 76(1): 66–77. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TR-03-2020-0111>
- Robinson, D. (2019). Three pillars of sustainability: in search of conceptual origins. *Sustainability Science*, 14(3): 681–695. doi:10.1007/s11625-018-0627-5
- Środa-Murawska, S., Grzelak-Kostulska, E., Biegańska, J. and Dąbrowski, L. (2021). Culture and Sustainable Tourism: Does the Pair Pay in Medium-Sized Cities? *Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13169072>.
- Tatar, C. and Dodu, M. (2022). Cultural tourism and local sustainability in Romania: A dual heritage-environment perspective. *European Journal of Tourism Research*, 31: 3106.
- Tourism New Zealand (2021). Tiaki promise and Māori cultural engagement in sustainable tourism. Retrieved from <https://www.tourismnewzealand.com>
- UNEP and UNWTO (2021). A practical guide to climate action in tourism. United Nations Environment Programme and World Tourism Organization.
- UNEP. (2021). Tourism and environmental sustainability: Challenges and approaches. United Nations Environment Programme.
- UNESCO (2022). Culture in crisis: Policy guide for resilient cultural and creative sectors. Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- UNWTO (2019). Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – A Guidebook. Madrid: United Nations World Tourism Organization.
- Visit Scotland (2022). Scotland’s Responsible Tourism Strategy 2022–2027. Retrieved from <https://www.visitscotland.org>