

DECLARATION

I, Maanela Thabelo Maanela, hereby declare that the dissertation entitled, “Community-based ecotourism for conservation and development in Lesotho: A Case of Ha-Kome” is the result of my own investigation except where stated, and that it has not been submitted for a degree to any other university.

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the potential for community-based ecotourism as conservation and development strategy in Kome village, which is an unprotected area. The study adopts the ecotourism concept to illustrate how community-based ecotourism can be a tool for conservation and development in poor rural communities. Adopting the intensive case study design, the study investigates the major challenges for community-based ecotourism in Kome village. Findings reveal that Kome community derives low socio-economic benefits including limited earnings, low employment, poor benefits sharing and lack of entrepreneurships.

Kome has a potential to offer better community-based ecotourism products due to diverse tourist attractions ranging from historical, cultural activities to natural scenery. The study suggests and recommends formation of a partnership between the Kome community, private, public sector and the NGOs as a strategy for development. The study concludes that ecotourism can be an appropriate option for conservation and development for Kome village.

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ACRONYMS

BTDP	Botswana Tourism Development Programme
CAMPFIRE	Communal Area Management Programme for Indigenous Resource
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IYE	International Year of Tourism
LHDA	Lesotho Highlands Development Authority
LHWP	Lesotho Highlands Water Project
LNDC	Lesotho National Development Corporation
LTB	Lesotho Tourism Board
LTDC	Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MTTP	Maluti Drakensburg Transfrontier Project
MOE	Ministry of Education
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
PCPD	Popular Casual Passive Diversionary
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
QWDT	Quthing Wildlife Development Trust
RETOSA	Regional Tourism of Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Commission
TIES	The International Ecotourism Society
UN	United Nations

UNDP United National Development Programme
WTO World Tourism Organization