

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: VOLUNTOURISM AS AN ANTIDOTE

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Abstract—The integration of various stakeholders, tour operators, travel agencies and non government organization in tourist receiving countries contribute a key significant impact to the host communities (Developing Countries) development. To take the advantages of voluntourism benefit and eradicate the debacle that was characterized from the initial tourism activities (economic, environmental and cultural commodification) thus call for need to institutionalize voluntourism at rural levels. The developing countries therefore must develop agenda that is developmental driven focusing on the efficacy of planning, an action packed program that is implementable with a carefully logical evaluation policies designed to meet the community's needs and aspirations. To achieve this objective, the methodology adopted is systemic review of relevant literature in exploring the nitty-gritty of tourist role in rural development in Nigeria (African). This paper therefore, reviews the potential benefit of voluntourism as an antidote to rural development particularly in the developing Nations of Africa vis -a- vis their identified attributes of financial assistance, knowledge transfer and skill acquisition, international connection, integrated national endowment via restoration of environment through skill acquisitions, education, cultural immersion, coupled with increase competitiveness and service quality of local economy, integrated development, Proficiency and Efficacy, Image promotion and International Connection, increased capital improvement and investment, focused ideology and ideal platform for local entrepreneurs, wealth creation and equitable distribution and economic development. It is on this premise, that rural revitalization programme and African development can be attained successfully and evaluated in consonance with voluntourism involvement.

Keywords: Rural development, Developing Country, Commodification, Potential, attribute, Voluntourism.

I. INTRODUCTION

International tourism has been on centre stage of discussion for decades as a mechanism for positive economic development [1 - 7]; because of its ability to generate employment opportunities, income generation, foreign exchange, network / linkages through multiplier effect, infrastructure and regional development while less consideration was accorded to environmental and socio- cultural adverse effect of tourists activities on the host communities and their ethics [8 - 15]. To strike a balance in the dichotomy that interpolates positivity, negativity of tourism activities and its implications on developing countries. It is on this dichotomy that this paper focuses on a new niche in tourism called voluntourism as an antidote to rural declination, degeneration and development in developing countries of Africa.

Volunteer tourism or voluntourism has become a global phenomenon ignited by "Gap Year" and the seal of its younger participants to travel the universe with the main motive of "Making a Difference" basically at grassroots level [16 - 18]. This is due to the affections about our natural and serene environment and the aim to render selfless services [19 - 21]. Volunteer tourism is an alternative form of tourism in which tourists volunteer in an organized manner to undertake holidays that might involve aiding or alleviating the material needs of some groups in society, the

restoration of certain environment or research into aspects of society or environment and cultural exchange with the host community [16,22, 23]; conceives Volunteer tourism as utilizing discretionary time and income to travel out of the sphere of the regular activity to assist others in need.

The increasing demand for an alternative, friendlier, authenticity, discriminating experience has occasioned a new array of niche product amongst which Volunteer tourism is one of the fastest growing and most prominent[2, 24-26]. The definition above portends travelling with a purpose of alleviating poverty through rendering of assistance to the needy regardless of religion and cultural background, trait, sex, colour and restoration of environment, conservation through educational research, finance and freewill donations which benefits the community and tourists in the aspect of destination changing, interaction, cross-cultural experience, improving race relationship, exchange of care, improved partnership capacity and motivational standard [27-33].The shift from the traditional or conventional tourism activities that exploit the host community to activities where the tourists gives back to host community is the bedrock upon which voluntourism rests [17]. Although, many authors have different opinions to Volunteer tourism as in [34 – 36] that their study on habitat for humanity while [2, 37-38] generalized volunteer tourists as being driven by not just pleasant diversions and alternative experiences, they are devoted to "poverty alleviation and to ameliorate social and environmental conditions within local communities". This assertion is of significant relevance to our subject of investigation "rural development in developing countries context: voluntourism as an antidote". The aim of this research is to understand voluntourism as a vital weapon to sustainable poverty alleviation in Africa.

The paper further stressed the efficacy of volunteer tourism as a crucial policies to be used in

the development of Africa Nation. It also enunciated intrigue of initial tourism activity on environmental implication, cultural abuse and neglect, commodification exercise, social effect, psychological trauma of host displacement and disposition on arable farming, animal extinction, oppression, exploitation, deprivation [39- 41] thus required holistic approach to ameliorate these menace hence voluntourism involvements based on the exploration of their potential and benefits as an antidote for rural development in Africa. Although the newness of this approach firstly call for sensitization of host communities and various governmental apparatus, stakeholders that are saddled with the onus of developing Africa Nations economically, socially, infrastructural and wellness of the inhabitant at large.

II. RURAL POLICIES ISSUES AND CONVENTIONAL EFFORTS (NIGERIA)

Many approaches / strategies have been adopted to develop rural communities which ranges from rural economic development (Econometric model of as in [42]), community vitality via the exploration and utilization of community natural resources [43], promotion of new business development and entrepreneurship ; where rural residents compliment manufacturing recruitment exercise [44], economic paradigm via improvement on the primary economic base of the community [45], economic dimension based on cultural artefact/ model toward poverty alleviation [46], rural community education strategy was also instituted to reduce the illiteracy level by [47]; rural self employment and re-employment exercise via empowerment of local residents through credit facilities [48] are all laudable strategies but sad enough the strategies were deficiencies as they were unable to meet the needs of rural residents due to non involvement of rural communities hence the institutionalization of voluntourism as an alternative model to revitalize rural communities in developing countries. This is crucial so as to attain

economic regeneration, alleviate poverty and improve livelihood of rural dwellers.

Nigeria has adopted and practicalized various agricultural developmental programmes which were then the most important sector of the economy due to its ability to supply rural employment, food, fibre and exporting earnings before the discovery of oil. Based on this, emphasis which was rooted in agricultural development at all levels that yielded high optimum returns for domestic consumption and international exportation of food crop such as yam, cassava, millet, soya beans, maize accounted for over 60% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This however, has been neglected due to oil extraction and exploration [49]. This led to massive rural – urban migration and reduction in labour force required for prompt agricultural production of raw materials to feed the urban populace. To corroborate this, a survey revealed that urban population is greater than rural population. Various agricultural developmental programmes as strategies adopted in Nigeria includes operation Feed the Nation (OFN); the Green Revolution, Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI, 1986), Agricultural Development Program (ADP); National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA, 1992). It is very disdainful that these laudable efforts went to drain as they were neither properly co-ordinated nor properly implemented as a result of improper planning and less attention given to the plight and needs of local people, poor orientation, high illiteracy level in all our rural community, poor finance and so on. It is therefore necessary and imperative for Nigeria's policy makers, planners, stakeholders and tourism board to look inwards and toward the direction of new niche in tourism called voluntourism based on their antecedent, financial assistance, experience, physical presence, willingness, self efficacy, motive, altruism, professionalism and networking

as the alternative model / approach for rural revitalization in developing countries-Nigeria.

The persistence of poverty [50 -51] led to the inauguration of the presidential committee on poverty alleviation in Nigeria [51 -53] to evaluate the existing poverty alleviation efforts of government with a view to upgrading the programs where lacking. The pioneering initiative in this regard was the Lagos Plan of Action 1980 (LPA) which emphasized strategies of self-reliance, food security, industrialization and regional integration and the establishment of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) 1986-1990. In the year 1986, United Nations Programme of Action for Africa Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAARED) was established to overcome constraints to development in Africa through mobilization of development in African resources. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development in Africa (UN-NADAF) in 1990s was adopted to strengthen the continent's economy and reduce vulnerability to external shock and increase its dynamism, internalize the process of development and increase progress towards achieving oriental goal by the year 2000 in the area of life expectancy, woman empowerment, child and maternal mortality, nutrition, water and sanitation, basic education and shelter. The policy reform became handicap as it was unable to fulfil the objectives set thus becoming imperatively pragmatic to unveil voluntourism as alternative strategy.

Another effort made is the establishment of Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank (NACB) of 1973; Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) of 1986; National Directorate of Employment (NDE) of 1986; River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs) of 1987; Peoples Bank of Nigeria (PBN) of 1990, National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult & Non- Formal Education (NCMLAE) of 1990; National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) of 1992; Family Economic Advancement Programme

(FEAP) of 1997; Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) of Year 2000 till Date. The programmes encountered problems of over centralization, unsustainable design, uncoordinated management, over-politicization, irregular payment, lack of monitoring, logistics, high-level and low level corruption and non involvement of rural residents.

Also, the Federal Government of Nigeria integrated their implementation into the National Development Plan and even the MDG [53] as encapsulated in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) at the federal level, State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS) at the state level and Local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LEEDS) at the local government level. From 2003 to 2007, Nigeria was implementing the NEEDS, which is currently the overarching framework for poverty reduction in the country with primary objectives of raising the country's standard of living through a variety of reforms, including macro-economic stability, deregulation, liberalization, privatization, transparency, and accountability. In assessing the performance of NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS in general, it has been criticized and characterized with siphoning of public fund, lack of inclusiveness, bad political motive, greed, personal motive, weak targeting and low level of transparency which is hoped that volunteer tourists could help to tackle this scourge of poverty and promote the well-being of an average Nigerian and the socio-economic development of the entire country.

III. THE EPISTEMENOLOGY OF VOLUNTOURISM

The advent of voluntourism organization such as save the world in a week" by [6] "You are different" by Global Vision International; "Make a Difference" by Travellers Worldwide; and "Leave Your Mark On the World" by Global Volunteers [29, 54 -55] with a general acronym of "One Team, One Mission, Salvaging poverty in our Land. These various acronym buttressed the essence of

voluntourism as a veritable alternative approach for rural revitalization due to their immense contribution to social responsibility, tour planning and tour packaging.

The prompt education, awareness and encouragement/ incentive fashioned out to tourists to partake in meaningful activities mostly in rural communities thereby typified the ways in which numerous organizations characterized volunteer's impact as wholly positive and clearly achievable. Hence, the discovery of volunteer tourism became a vessel for economic, social, political and global development with the involvement of Government, NGOs, Tour Operators, creation of visitor centre staffing, local tourist and most importantly host participation and involvement.

The antecedent of voluntourists Self-efficacy;[56]; Motives [17]; Altruism,[57-58]; Autonomy, [59]; Self Fulfilment, [15]; Escapism, [60]; Mutual Relationship, [30]; Host Involvement / Collaboration, [61]; Civic Education, [62]; Skill Development / Acquisition, [63]; Environmental Sustainability,[64 - 65]; Curiosity, [41, 66]; Deccommodification, [67]; Social Force, [54]; Cultural Immersion, [35]; Gap Year, Ward, [68]; Non Governmental Organization [2]; Attitude/ Self Congruity; [69 - 70]. It is hoped that this laudable niche can be re-positioned towards rural revitalization so as to curb the imminent catastrophe of mass movement of the youth leading to urbanization and its attendant, rural neglect, exploitation and deprivation, shortage of raw materials, poor human life as a result of insufficient facilities, unemployment, under employment and food insecurity.

Voluntourism concept of Branding and re-branding crept in as a contemporary strategy for rural development which gives room for self congruity and community participation. This strategy was anchored on product branding, place branding, Cultural branding and acceptability and re- branding of local traditional and ritualized

products. These include traditional foods, regional languages, folklore, historical and prehistoric sites [71 - 73].

Moreso, the literature has shown how voluntourism can positively increase destination image marketing development [74- 76]. The increased performance is attributed to the emergency of alternative tourism called voluntourism and their activities have enhanced rebranding of various communities products, place branding and cultural branding [71-72, 77]. The branding not only continue to promote but create a wider opportunities to position the communities image to the international market as well as increase accessibility and intention to re visit by the voluntourist. This singular attribute is not well pronounced in the study area and if this is re-channelled towards rural revitalization, the vacuums will be hitherto bridged. Refer the figure 1:VOLUNTOURISM ORGANIZATION IN NIGERIA.

IV. THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF VOLUNTOURIST INVOLVEMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFRICA)

Having peruse some of the conventional approaches and the advent of tourism industry as a catalyst and research still showing that vacuum exists, the question now is "why Voluntourism"? The efficacy, potential, zeal and financial assistance of this calibre of tourists are the simplest answer to the above riddle. However, the mutual cooperation and involvement [30, 78- 79] of host communities plays a vital role in attainment of voluntourism gesture [7,18, 61, 80]).

Followings are some of the basic benefits gainable from voluntourism involvement

a) Increased capital improvement and investment

Capital formation and resource management has been identified as a bane of most developing countries of the world [81], therefore with this poor management of Africa resources, it has been an hindrance to resource development and most

importantly to the tourist destination thus establishes the dire needs of voluntourism gesture as a financial aid and capital transfer medium. This is achieved through their zealousness in conjunction with stakeholders, voluntary organizations tour operators NGO's and past experience. The voluntourism activities will spur increase in supply of finance and capital thus leads to increased investment, quality improvement, better marketing opportunities and at long run improve African economy.

b) Knowledge transfer and skill acquisition

The potency of voluntourism, professionalism, range of technical skill and their managerial expertise can aide African development as they are always eager to share knowledge with the policy makers, governmental agencies and host communities without any form of levies. What is expected of the developing countries is to network their plans and design in line with the voluntourism agenda and program with primary assurance on tourist security. The above connectivity will aid in breeding of such community to international repute and thereby resulting into increased economic livelihood. Government on their own part should formulate favourable policies that will support the institutionalization of voluntourism and dabble into the land tenure system and customary law that empower individual ownership of land so as to ease land acquisition marked for development, policy implementation ad knowledge transfer centre.

Moreso, Volunteer tourism can provide a range of technical and managerial expertise on poverty alleviation both at the preconception, during the course of tour and post tour as the whole world is now seen as a global village with the advent of different communication gadgets, electronic media and internet facilities. The developing countries can utilize this medium from voluntourism website in line with their current

objectives to seek and solicit for assistance and guide on the way in which they are able to apply the same strategy in alleviating poverty in some developed countries as rightly observed [2, 37,]. Emerging nations may relate with the voluntourism sector on area of interest like the design of workable programmes, mode of implementation, affected people, organizational procedures, operational procedures, and engineering aspect, planning and training. With this cross exchange of ideas, the Government can institute a policy supporting programme seeking for volunteer tourist or voluntourist via tour operators to come over to educate [4] and participate in any programme exhibited in the role played by volunteer tourism in conservation of natural park, preservation, conservation protection of natural environment and festivity [30, 59, 82]

c) Image promotion and International Connection

Volunteer tourism or voluntourism provide international connection thereby helpingq1 to polish the host country's image through selfless service rendered to the country which will eventually open more doors to other multinational organizations to help in alleviating poverty either through provision of machineries, materials and or finance. It should be noted that the sustenance of this assistance is dependent on mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence of the people and the nation at large, cultural immersion [83 - 84], understanding and positive motive [85], cultural and spiritual experience, amiability [Raymond,2008;, increase social contact [86], sustainable development and most importantly the security of life and property of the tourists must be guaranteed [87]. Thus, the involvement of volunteer tourism and their motivational antecedents [29] results in rebranding the national image thereby open more vistas of opportunities for bi-lateral relationships between the participating nationalities.

d) Focus

Considering the magnitude, profile and dimension of poverty in Africa, Nigeria as an example, it will be ideal to properly focus on sizeable proportion of people and specific programmes to be embarked upon, thus requiring the wealth of knowledge, ideas and goodwill of volunteer tourism to key in with the Government of Nigeria's policy and programs towards the low income bracket [87]. It should be noted that the primary goal of any economic planning is the attainment of rapid increase in the nation's productive capacity with a view to improving the living standard of people and improving the standard of living of an average person. Empirical findings have shown that all strategies and efforts highlighted in this study have failed to tackle endemic poverty situations and poverty has defiled solutions in Nigeria despite the enormous wealth of the nation. This calls for more concerted efforts and advocacy in rejuvenating the system through the use of new strategic efforts such as free donors of time, finance and presence [88].

e) Proficiency and Efficacy

The organizational competence of volunteer tourists is another profitable avenue that accompanies their goodwill in poverty alleviation. And in enhancing proficiency, activities rendered to improve the well-being of those areas visited by gap year volunteers as investigated by [89]; Global awareness [90]; Skill development and acquisition [63]is unquantifiable ranging from rendering personal assistance of time, finance, superior research, good reputation, managerial skills, education, enlightenment, direct construction cum supervision, sense of oneness and togetherness, people centred approach and the welfare of the host community [91] appreciative enquiry [53] that are the paramount motive of volunteer tourism as

well as resident support are vital tools that can be employed to alleviate poverty in Nigeria [58, 90, 87]. Although, the efficacy and authenticity of voluntourist may be illogical to measure but their past assistance and performance in developed countries gives the impetus to be able to perform creditably in developing countries. The acronym of voluntourism organization [6] which typified their modus operandi authenticates their potency and efficacy to take Africa to the next level of economic revitalization/development.

f) Integrated Development

Although, many developing countries have different challenges bedeviling implementation of programmes and policies but in case of Nigeria the pervasiveness of poverty could be attributed to failed strategies and non-inclusion of volunteer tourism [90, 92]. Hence, the need for alternative approach to sensitize, harmonize and develop all natural endowment to world acceptable standard for tourists and recreationists.

g) Increase competitiveness and service quality of local economy

The main concern here is that although the developing countries have natural attractions but what then requires is the knowledge, experience and motivation of voluntourism and that the developing countries needs to facilitate acceptable level of services in order to attract voluntourism because international tourism is a highly competitive industry. Hence, the developing countries should provide an enabling environment that is not hostile. Therefore, the nation preparedness, reception and networking is a vital tool to convince and solicit for voluntourism support. In this respect, the nation with the above knowledge of their support, will enjoy improved quality service and compete favourably among nations of the world economically, socially and infrastructurally [93- 94] and also the influence of

geographical setting of an area can also aid tourist attraction in a competitive manner.

h) Ideal platform for local entrepreneurs

Voluntourism may also induce the exhibition and demonstration of local artworks among the indigenous and foreign tourists. That is to say, the adoption of voluntourism as a veritable strategy to Africa development will orchestrate managerial techniques; improve local skill and local entrepreneurship, especially the locally owned business by showcasing the nation based on comparatively advantageous works/ goods produced.

NAMES	YEAR	SPECIALIZATION/ MISSION	OVERVIEW/ AIM	MEMBERSHIP
Concordia International Volunteer Projects	1943.	Nature conservation, restoration, archaeology, construction, art and culture as well as projects that are more socially based including children's play-schemes and teaching.	Build a strong and virile cultural relationship through seasonal program	16 yrs & above From 2wks to 6month seasonal programmes (www.concordia-iye.org.uk)
International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) Federation	1949	Train volunteers to experience a life-changing program AND offer a wide range of programs for volunteers from around the world MISSION: To promote intercultural understanding, equality of opportunity, tolerance and peace among people in the world	Help children from a variety of disadvantaged backgrounds including rescued child labourers, abandoned street children, disabled children, children from troubled families, those who have suffered abuse, and orphans. Volunteers assist local organizations with fundraising, supervise the children's playtime, develop activities and workshops and support families from some of the poorest areas. .	UN-Economic and Social Council – ECOSOC (Consultative Status) United Nations Department of Public Information , DPI-NGO Committee UNESCO NGO official partner of UNESCO (Consultative Status) UNESCO-NGOs Liaison Committee World Council of Churches (working relations as international ecumenical organisation) European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture Co-ordinating Committee of International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)
Voluntary Service Overseas	1958	VSO is the world's leading independent international development organisation that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries.	To secure livelihoods, HIV & AIDS education, Participation and Governance, Education Health and Disability	No age limit
The United Nations Volunteers (UNV)	1970	UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.	. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will,	epresented worldwide through the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and reports to the UNDP Executive Board .

			commitment, engagement and solidarity.	
Volunteers for Peace Contact: www.vfp.org	1982	Additional Resources and Health International (FHI) Grassroots and Family care	Offers a variety of summer volunteer workcamps in Nigeria.	FHI community-based outreach . World Computer Exchange , www.worldcomputerexchange.org Volunteer Abroad Nigeria , www.volunteerabroad.com/Nigeria.cfm Volunteers for Peace, Nigeria , www.vfp.org International Cultural Youth Exchange , www.icye.org Winrock International , www.winrock.org Voluntary Service Overseas , www.vso.org.uk
Affordable International Projects - Volunteers for Peace in Nigeria www.vfp.org	1982	Sow the seeds of a better future for all life on the planet thru intercultural education, service learning and community development	To participate in meaningful community service while living and interacting in an intercultural environment.	18+ May through September and are of 2 to 3 weeks in duration. www.vfp.org
Winrock International	1985	To empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.	Matches innovative approaches in agriculture, natural resources management, clean energy, and leadership development with the unique needs of its partners.	No age limit
CERCOPAN Primate Conservation West Africa	1995	Improve the livelihood of rural communities through wildlife conservation and protection.	Research (both flora and fauna), primate care, community development, and environmental education	
Mictec International	1998	To prepare every child for all round excellence through	Contributing towards nation-	18+

Consult Volunteer in Nigeria		qualitative academics, sound moral instructions and complementary co-curricular activities, using our highly skilled and motivated manpower,	building and achieving the best possible returns to all stakeholders.	
Student and Youth Travel Organization-SYTO Nigeria	1999	Mission is to expose students and youth to the world, and to promote understanding, knowledge acquisition and the development of skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.	Working relations with a number of non-governmental organisations and public and private organisations both in the urban & rural areas. The aim of SYTO is to promote educational and cultural exchange programmes, including social travel among students, volunteers, youths and the young at heart the world over.	member of Federation EIL, The Worldwide Network of the Experiment in International Living. Education/Teaching - Social and Welfare Services - Health Care
EIL Intercultural Learning Volunteer in Nigeria	1999	For cultural immersion in line with educational development	Volunteer projects in teaching, education, welfare, and human rights.	Contact: info@volunteerabroad.ie , www.volunteerabroad.ie/nigeria.htm
Volunteer Abroad in Nigeria - Unit	2000	To provide faith-driven approaches in line with hope for HIV/AIDs incollaboration with <i>Nigerian</i> Corporate Affairs Commission as a non-governmental organization	<i>Units</i> of motorcycles for community Home-visit and palliative follow-up to attract volunteer as a general resource for individuals planning to travel and <i>volunteer in the local areas</i>	United Planet - 6 or 12 Months www.unitedplanet.org/volunteer-in-nigeria-long-term
Eco-Health & Wellness Campaign Intern	2001	Community based project of kwara state focused on health and wellness Through initiatives in education, research and advocacy we act to end wide-scale poverty worldwide, secure a culture of peace and reverse	ERI presents a grassroots, hands-on approach to engage the region's youth and equip them for the future	Young adults age 18-26

		environmental degradation in Nigeria		
CONCERN UNIVERSA	2003	Concern Universal works in partnership to challenge poverty and inequality.	Focus specifically on sectors such as health, agriculture, human rights and capacity building	No age limit
United Planet's volunteers		Social project with local organization on woman empowerment, health care, child labour, abuse and orphanages.	Offer volunteers a unique blend of work, cultural immersion, and fun.	6-12months Website: www.unitedplanet.org Email: quest@unitedplanet.org
The Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS).	2005	Designed as a guide for peer education at the individual and community levels and aimed at providing a comprehensive guide on youth volunteerism,	Its objectives are to uphold national volunteers as main agents for constructive change to local communities and the benefit of volunteering.	Collaborative project of the Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative (FBI), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Nigeria
Global Builders Trip to Nigeria www.fullercenter.org/global-builders Abj	2005	So volunteers will be working side by side in a different culture with local families and with the Fuller Center to help provide simple, decent homes for those in need. Volunteers will mainly take part in concrete block-laying, mixing of concrete and digging, and occasionally some painting.	The Fuller Center for Housing's Mission Statement The Fuller Center for Housing, faith-driven and Christ-centered, promotes collaborative and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide.	14+ www.fullercenter.org/global-builders
European Voluntary Service – EVS	2006	Volunteering opportunity for a diverse range of young people to be useful to other community	Opportunity to support the work of a host organization or communities and develop their skills in an area of work that interests them.	Via Concordia International Volunteer Projects 18-25yrs...6-12 months
Volunteers for International	2007	Offers each international volunteer an opportunity to	Placement opportunities to	No age limit

Partnership =Volunteer in Nigeria! www.partnershipvolunteers.org/volunteer-in-nigeria/		learn a culture from the inside while doing valuable community service, peer to peer, in a stimulating new environment	participate in community projects, small-scale industries, public institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGO)	
African Rural Volunteers Volunteer Club of Nigeria	2008	To contribute positively to the development of local communities socially, healthwise educationally and economically	designed to allow volunteer's make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the condition of deprived communities.	No age limit
Humanitarian Volunteer Placements	2008	Better life for local dwellers	Creation and provision of Green energy/solar panel projects , Water project, Clothing & Food aid	No age limit
Medical: Volunteer Health Practitioners - The Clinic Project	2008	Offers placement for doctors who are willing to offer free medical care to people in this rural communities in Nigeria and other very deprived communities,	Provision ofqualified staffs, doctors, nurses and other health practitioners and construction of standard health centers.	18+
Education: Volunteer Teachers (The Book Project)	2008	Teaching in low-income communities can increase employment opportunities and ultimately help people to become economically independent.	Enhancement of local education improvement via book donation and teaching in conjunction with local volunteers	No age limit
The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE)	2009	Volunteering for the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	Promoting youth volunteering and Sustainable Human Development Rights.	partnership with First Lady's Save Our Youth Campaign, Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre and the Nigerian National Volunteer Service
Earth Hour is a global WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)	2011	Support for action on climate change and encourage sustainable living.	Primary aim is tagged ""I Will If You Will". talk about it Our Environment and Climate Change "	No age limit
Agribusiness	2011	A U.S. government's Farmer-	Farmers	United States Agency for

Volunteers in Nigeria		to-Farmer Program, a program financed by the	educators Animal husbandry in Gombe State,	International Development (USAID).
Earth Hour is a global WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)	2012	Support for action on climate change and encourage sustainable living.	Invites Individuals, businesses, governments and communities to turn out their lights for one hour on Saturday March 31, 2012 at 8:30pm	No age limit
Volunteer Partnership For West Africa (VPWA)	2012	Empowering women in Nigeria	Enable woman and girls to take action and create a better world for women and girls through entrepreneurship.	Nigerian youth (18-35 years old)

V. CONCLUSION

This paper concludes that African as a continent has not made judicious use of this sector and have also failed to recognize that investing in this sector will aid economic growth of the nation. This however may be considered as a lack of political will on the part of public policy makers and policy implementers. A finding also indicates that all efforts by the government to eradicate the scourge of poverty in the continent have failed. This study aims to encourage individuals, governments and nations that have embraced and those who have not to embrace the gesture of alternative tourism via attracting voluntourist and their activity and shared experience as a way of testing the possibility of alleviating poverty because voluntourism is a more preferred alternative for poverty reduction because of its broad and diverse nature ranging from their willingness to assist personally, financially, dedication of time and services arising from their tour. However, it was emphasized in this research that the main antidote to economic development, unemployment and poverty reduction is the adoption of voluntourism.

The study found that the developing countries has failed to provide enabling

environment devoid of conflict, maiming and kidnapping thus portend little or no assistance from voluntourists to come to their aid. This finding suggests that volunteer tourism providers, the Non-governmental organizations and developing countries, needs to pay greater attention to building a strong relationship with their volunteer tourists and to develop programs that demonstrate an obvious positive impact on the host community. Volunteer tourism providers and organizers should work toward a better understanding of the different motivation factors of various types of volunteer tourists in order to achieve; learning more about volunteer tourists' unique motivations as a way to encourage volunteer tourists participation in poverty alleviation, developing marketing programs that appeal to those distinctive motivation factors and provision of accurate information of volunteer tourism activities will motivate potential volunteer tourists to participate. It is on this premise that, this study strongly recommends that developing countries should institutionalize, recognize and adopt this sector as an antidote, weapon and tool for sustainable rural development in Africa.

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