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Call for Papers

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Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism

Journal of Environmental Management and Tourism is an open access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research journal, aimed to publish articles and original research papers that contribute to the development of both experimental and theoretical nature in the field of Environmental Management and Tourism Sciences. The Journal publishes original research and seeks to cover a wide range of topics regarding environmental management and engineering, environmental management and health, environmental chemistry, environmental protection technologies (water, air, soil), pollution reduction at source and waste minimization, energy and environment, modelling, simulation and optimization for environmental protection; environmental biotechnology, environmental education and sustainable development, environmental strategies and policies.

Authors are encouraged to submit high quality, original works that discuss the latest developments in environmental management research and application with the certain scope to share experiences and research findings and to stimulate more ideas and useful insights regarding current best-practices and future directions in Environmental Management.

Also, this journal is committed to a broad range of topics regarding Tourism and Travel Management, leisure and recreation studies and the emerging field of event management. It contains both theoretical and applied research papers and encourages obtaining results through collaboration between researchers and those working in the tourism industry.

The journal takes an interdisciplinary approach and includes planning and policy aspects of international, national and regional tourism as well as specific management studies. Case studies are welcomed when the authors indicate the wider applications of their insights or techniques, emphasizing the global perspective of the problem they address.

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Development of Urban Tourism along the Seaside Resort Town of Limbe in Cameroon

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Abstract: The city of Limbe is endowed with tourism potential whose development has several advantages to the development of the economy of the area. Tourism has become one of the vibrant sectors in the development of economies in both developed and developing countries of the world. The contribution of tourism to economic development lies first with the identification of potentials and the various stakeholders involved in their development. The purpose of this study is to identify and locate key tourist attractions in Limbe, identify the actors involved in tourism development and the role they play, to investigate the implications of urban-tourism, in the tourism sector of Limbe. Purposive and random sampling techniques were used to collect data from the field in the study. Questionnaires and interview were used as instruments to obtain data from 333 residents drawn from the three council areas that make up the Limbe metropolitan area. Data collected were analysed by using simple statistical methods by tabulation and categorisation. Treated data is presented in forms of tables, graphs, photographs, and figure. The findings reveal amongst others that the tourism potentials of Limbe and its surroundings are enormous and attract many tourists into Limbe. It is also realised that tourism development in Limbe is influenced by both public and private actors. More so, urban regeneration and events such as Limbe FESTAC and AFCON are strategies used to promote urban-tourism in Limbe. Urban-tourism in Limbe has socio-cultural, spatial and economic implications. By implication, the participation of different actors is very necessary for tourism development in the city. The results are significant in crafting the future of urban-tourism projects and practices.

Keywords: urban tourism; sea-side resort; tourist attraction; actors; urban regeneration; development; mega events; Limbe.

JEL Classification: Z32; R00; R11.

Introduction

Tourism industry is the largest, fastest growing industry and the biggest provider of jobs in the world (WTTC, 2011). In 2008, travel and tourism accounted for 8.4% of world employment and contributed 9.9% of global GDP (Waugh, 2009). According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the number of international tourists has grown at 6.5% per annum between 1950 and 2006 with the top 15 destinations in Europe and America attracting 98% of the tourists. However, in 2007, the top 15 destinations attracted only 57% tourists, thus suggesting the emergence of new destinations particularly in developing continents such as Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. In its 2019 statistics on international tourist arrivals, the UNWTO recorded 1.5 billion visitors, about 54

million more than the previous year. Of this, 65% visited cities or urban centres such as London, Paris, New York, Madrid, Istanbul, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, thus boosting urban tourism.

Urban tourism emerged in the developed world in the 1970s. As a result of the global economic restructuring and the decline of traditional urban manufacturing activities in the United Kingdom, Western Europe and Northern America, several local governments turned to tourism as a strategy to regenerate urban growth and economic development. This new industry has compensated the older manufacturing industry and reoriented urban policies away from industrial location to mobile tourist attraction sites. Development of tourism sites has accelerated urban regeneration and provided opportunities and legitimization for flagship development projects. Competition among cities has been increased as city officials attempt to market their cultural heritage and compete in regional and global tourism markets. With the intensification of place competition, the role of tourism has strengthened in such a way that it represents an important policy issue for urban sustainable development across much of the developed world (Kagermeier 2012; Law 1996). Ioannides and Timothy (2010) contend that other than tourism, many US cities nowadays have few options for economic development.

In developing societies such as Latin America, Africa and Asia, urban tourism is a new area of concern and still needs to be developed. Although most Africa's tourism assets are natural tourism and cultural tourism products, much of which are located in rural areas, it must be appreciated that a large segment of the continents' tourism economy is urban-based and urban tourism represents a significant constituent of the rising tourism industry (Rogerson and Visser 2005, 2007). Cornelissen (2006) points out that Africa's cities constitute centres of both production and consumption, providing the residential basis for tourism firms as well as being centres where tourism infrastructure and other factors of supply are located, offering consumption sites for tourism goods. In line with world trends, many urban centres in Africa are not only critical organizational nodes in national tourism space economies, but also function as centres for touristic consumption and even represent essential components of the African tourism experience (Rogerson and Visser 2005). Nairobi, Maputo, Gaborone and Accra represent some examples of contemporary African cities which are experiencing transformation linked to the expansion of urban tourism (Twining-Ward 2009).

Cameroon, commonly known as "Africa-in-Miniature" has almost every resource found in the continent, ranging from beautiful beaches, warm climate, nature reserves, rich and diverse cultures, etc. This gives her the advantage of a classic destination. Since independence, the government of Cameroon has rapidly developed some tourism infrastructures such as hotels, improved transport facilities by extending roads and railway network, as well as creating the national airline (Camair) in 1979, later transformed to Camair-Co in 2011. The government is also sponsoring annual cultural festivals, annual sporting events like the Mountain and cycling races; international soccer competitions, etc. Schools of tourism and hotel management equally abound to trained Cameroonians in the domain of tourism, all of them under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure created to supervise the activities of tourism operators. It should be noted that most of these tourism infrastructures are based in the major urban centres of the country, especially Douala and Yaoundé, thus boosting city tourism.

Limbe, a seaside resort town in the Southwest Region is a popular destination. In order to attract more tourists and make its impacts felt by the Limbe city residents, ministerial departments and municipal authorities, in collaboration with tourism entrepreneurs (hotels owners, travel agents, tour operators, transporters, restaurant operators, nightclubs and bar operators and other entertainment services), and the local population, have benefited from the tourism potentials of the city to formulate policies and initiate redevelopment projects to boost the tourism sector of the city.

Limbe founded in 1858 by Alfred Saker, was named Victoria after Queen Victoria. Saker built the first church in Victoria and planned the coastal settlement. He also united the Bakweri communities of Bota, Wovia and the Bomboko, under the canopy of Christianity. Victoria became a German protectorate in 1884 after German annexation of Cameroon. The development of plantation agriculture by the Germans attracted thousands of workers from the hinterlands of Cameroon to work there. The Germans also constructed roads, railways and the Bota Wharf in order to export the crops and other raw materials. All these developments helped to expand the town. In the early 1970s following the discovery of petroleum at cape Limboh, the National Oil Refinery (SONARA) was created and again this increased an influx of population into Victoria. Victoria was renamed Limbe in 1985 by a presidential decree after the river that flows across the town to respect the naming pattern of towns using natural features in the country.

The city has a rich and diverse tourism wealth which necessitates an investigation into the stakes of its tourism development. The city is experiencing rapid investment and expansion in tourism businesses in the form of hotels, assorted drinking spots, eateries, night life facilities, etc. and all of these intensify curiosity to examine

the reasons behind such expansions. Even in the midst of the almost 7 years of Anglophone crisis, the city is less affected compared to the other towns of the English-speaking regions of the country.

1. Literature Review

According to UNWTO, Urban Tourism is “a type of tourism activity which takes place in an urban space with its inherent attributes characterized by non-agricultural based economy such as administration, manufacturing, trade and services and by being nodal points of transport. Urban/city destinations offer a broad and heterogeneous range of cultural, architectural, technological, social and natural experiences and products for leisure and business”.

The city may be the goal of the visit, but the fact remains that it is sometimes an obligatory place of passage to reach or discover a destination. Urban tourism is therefore as opportunistic as it is intentional (Ashworth and Tunbridge 1990). The city is the place for business (symposium, conferences, congresses, exhibitions, fairs, seminars, etc.) par excellence. These activities are governed by time constraints, which vary from one activity to another. Historical and contemporary heritage are the subjects of real enthusiasm. Visiting monuments and churches would be more popular than museums and exhibitions, without forgetting cultural events of all kinds, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and gastronomic.

Urban tourism has been the subject of a lack of interest on the part of researchers, if we are to believe the very few works devoted to this subject in France. Over the years, we see specific literature on this subject emerging on the horizon. The lack of interest or limited awareness towards this phenomenon can be attributed to the paradoxical situation that arises due to the evident gap between the recent surge in conferences, individual research studies, organizations, and programs related to urban tourism, and the historic disinterest exhibited by researchers towards this specific area of study. Noteworthy publications in this field include *Urban Tourism* (1996), the earliest comprehensive work on urban tourism in France. Subsequently, *Tourism and the city: European experiences* (1998) and *Cities and tourism* (Norois, N°178, April-June 1998) were published. Lastly, a significant contribution in the context of quality urban tourism is the report titled "Integrated Quality Management (IQM) of urban tourist destinations" published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in 1999.

In the expression urban tourism, we encounter two words that combine to form a syntagma. According to Ashworth and Page (2011), "The addition of the adjective urban to the noun tourism establishes the activity within a spatial context, but it does not independently define or limit that activity." The term "urban" pertains to the physical aspect of the space in which "urban" tourism is undertaken. As stated by the United Nations in 2015, more than half (54%) of the global population resided in urban areas, and this percentage is projected to rise to 60% by 2030. Given that the majority of the population dwells in cities, it can be inferred that tourism is primarily an urban undertaking and that mobility is closely intertwined with urban living.

Urban tourism would be “all the tourist resources of a city offered to external visitors”. It is also called a “heritage ecosystem”. It would also appear as a “destination or flow node”. With this potential, the city is easy to access. Located at the center of a network of maritime, air and land routes, it is the place of transshipment par excellence, even of connectivity.

The city serves as the second most popular destination for both initial tourist intentions and actual stays. Furthermore, the city possesses a unique characteristic of being devoid of seasonality. Yet, it is deemed as an entity worthy of exploration due to its accumulation of historical and contemporary heritage. This renewed attraction towards the city can be attributed to the growing fascination with cultural heritage.

2. Materials and Methods

The materials involved questionnaires; interview guides; camera; Dictaphone and GPS receiver. The field methods involved direct observations of phenomena; administration of questionnaires in selected households using sample survey techniques and taking photographs; conducting structured and semi structured interviews to collect needed data.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

A combination of approaches was used for data collection based on a cross-sectional research design.

Quantitative data was found in sample households and was collected using structured questionnaires administered to the households in the different sub-divisions of the city. Based on a 1.3% coverage of the entire households of the study area, questionnaires were administered to 333 households systematically selected from

identified quarters within the three sub-divisions. 333, therefore, constituted the sample size with the households as the sampling units. The sample households were carefully drawn from among the different urban areas of Limbe subdivision based mainly on the specificities of each council area in terms of dominance in tourism infrastructure and resources. The unit of observation for quantitative data was therefore the household.

Qualitative data was collected using direct observations, in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions from well identified and targeted resource persons among the different stakeholders. The participant observations produced eyewitness accounts materialized by onsite photographs of the phenomenon. Documented data collected at the level of libraries provided the scientific bearing of the study and orientations to the inclination of the discussions.

The variables studied included: tourism resources, tourism infrastructure, stakeholders in the tourism sector, potentials for further development of the urban tourism industry and the economic development prospects of the tourism industry in Limbe.

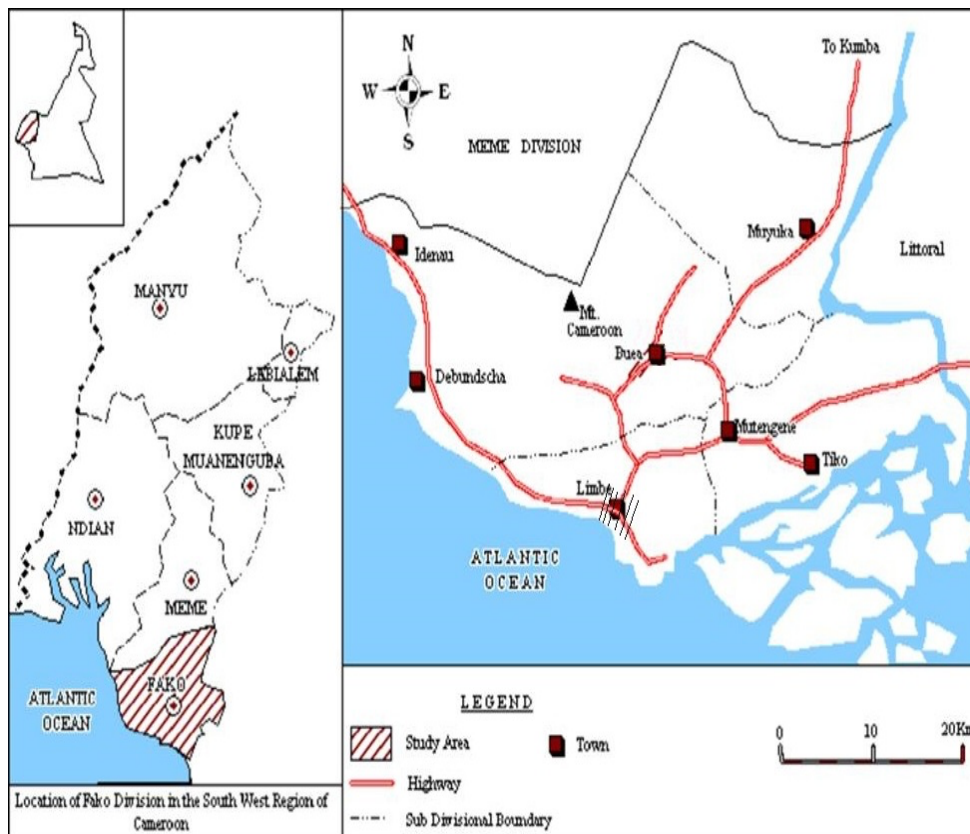
3.2 Data Processing

Data processing was based on simple quantitative categorisation of field information and generation of frequencies as per each of the variables of interest identified on the field and for each collected data. This is presented in the form of tables, maps and graphs as well as photographs illustrating the urban tourism situation in Limbe.

4. Case Studies

The study area is the Limbe Urban Municipality in the Fako Division of the South West Region of Cameroon. Limbe is limited to the north by the Buea Subdivision, the south by the Atlantic Ocean, the west by the west coast subdivision and the east by Tiko Subdivision. It lies between longitude 9° and 13° east of the Greenwich Meridian and latitude 4° and 9° north of the equator. The area has an average altitude of about 69m above sea level (a.s.l), and a population of 120,000 inhabitants on a surface area of 549 square kilometres, giving a population density of 219 persons/km². This population is distributed across the Limbe I, Limbe II and Limbe III. subdivisions that make up the city.

Map 1. Location of Fako Division in the Southwest region of Cameroon



Source: Limbe City Council, 2021

5. Research Results

5.1 Identification and Location of Tourist Attractions in Limbe and Its Environs

The city of Limbe as a tourist destination is endowed with enormous physical/natural and cultural/man-made feature of attractions that pull tourists from all over Cameroon and beyond. The physical/natural attractions include a plethora of sandy beaches such as the Limbe down beach (Photo 1), miles 6, 8, 11, Debunscha and Idenau beaches. The Limbe botanic garden (Photo 2), Wildlife Centre in Bota, offshore treasures in the Atlantic Ocean, lake Nachtigal in Debunscha, remnants of lava flow at Bakingili, Mount Etinde, Bimbia-Bonadikombo community forest in the East Coast and the beautiful plantation landscapes are among other physical attractions offered by the city of Limbe.

Man-made or cultural attractions are captured through the spectrum of historic buildings and edifices including Camp Saker, Joseph Merrick Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Engelberg Church, Joseph Merrick Monument, Alfred Saker Monument, German Lighthouse, The German Bridge, Slave Trade Ruins. In addition to these are cultural festivals occasionally organised by the city council such as the Festival of Arts and Culture/FESTAC; sporting events especially those organised by CAF and the Handicraft Centres in mile 4, Down Beach Limbe and Bota. All of these attractions offer tourists what it takes to desire visiting the city of Limbe.

Beaches are characterized by black sand, coconut trees and sea breezes that attract thousands of tourists yearly for swimming, surfing, sun basking, horse riding and photography. Some of the beaches have been harnessed through the construction of hotels, for example Fini and Seme Beach hotels on the West Coast of Limbe providing these services under guided tours.

The beautiful Limbe Botanic Park is endowed with local and exotic plant species offering a great biodiversity with orchids, medicinal plants and an herbarium with thousands of plant samples. 3 facilities such as a library, a conference hall, an open air amphi-theatre and others attract tourists for education and leisure purposes. The Limbe Wildlife centre on its part focuses on conservation education and keeps animals such as the Red Monga bey, Nile Crocodile, Drills, Mandrill, Chimpanzee, Gorilla, Olive Baboon and Gabon Vipers that attract tourists. All of these natural attractions that operate all day long charge entrance fee of 300 for the Botanic Gardens and 500 frs for the LWC making them income generating to an extent.

The offshore attractive islands in the Atlantic Ocean overlooking the city of Limbe include the Ndame, Mondoli and Bota Islands (Photo 3). There is also the Nicolls Island at Bimbia, in the East Coast of Limbe where stubborn slaves were kept before departure to the Americas. Today, these islands are covered with dense tropical rainforests adorned by a variety of plants and animal species, sandy and rocky beaches, remnants of buildings and firesides. Tourists do not feel accomplished if they have not visited these islands that are accessed by boats and canoes.

Plate 1. Natural Tourism attractions



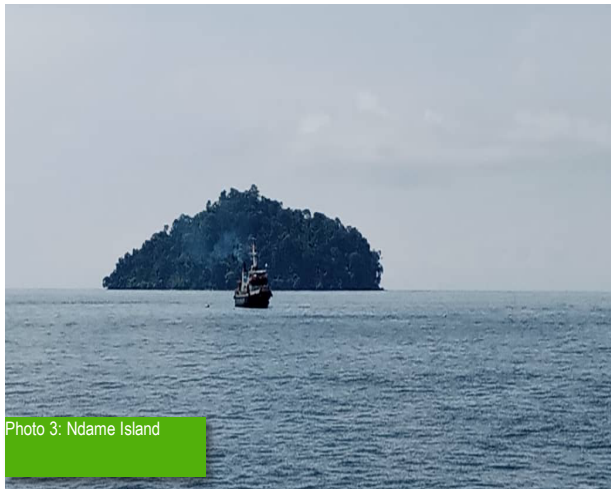


Photo 3: Ndambe Island



Photo 3a: Mondoli Island

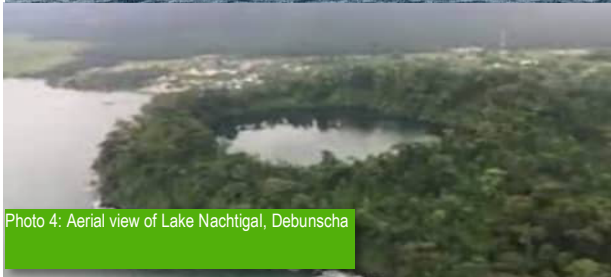


Photo 4: Aerial view of Lake Nachtigal, Debunscha

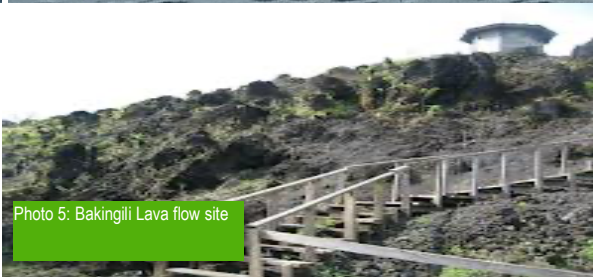


Photo 5: Bakingili Lava flow site



Photo 6: Tourists climbing Mount Etinde

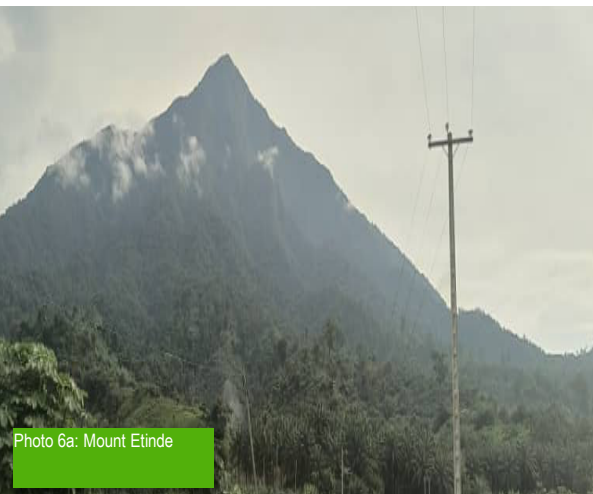


Photo 6a: Mount Etinde

Sources: Idenau Council, 2021; Ncha Ndoumbe, 2021

Lake Nachtigal in Debunscha along the West Coast of Limbe is one of the crater lakes along the Cameroon Volcanic Line (CVL). Its close 150m from the Atlantic Ocean gives it a unique attribute. The lake is surrounded by a forest at an altitude of about 30m up a cliff making its attractiveness very peculiar and alluring to tourists.

Still along the West Coast of Limbe, at Bakingili (Mile 11), is the lava flow site of the last eruption of Mount Cameroon in 1999. People were attracted to Bakingili back then in 1999 and are still attracted today to witness the traces of the 1999 eruption. Mount Etinde also, found along the West Coast of Limbe, at the southern flank of Mount Cameroon is at an altitude of 1 713 m (5 620 ft). This attraction to tourists is accessed by road through Batoke village (Photo 6). The mountain has a beautiful scenery marked by a variation in vegetation from the foot to the summit and fall within the Mount Cameroon National Park. This calls to mind the conclusion of Mbifung Lambi (2001), that in the Congo Basin, biodiversity tourism is an important factor that attracts many of the tourists that visit the countries of this region.

The Bimbia Bonadikombo Community Forest is one of the last remnants of coastal forests of the Gulf of Guinea and this habitat is very rare in the whole of Africa. The forest hosts tremendous biodiversity including

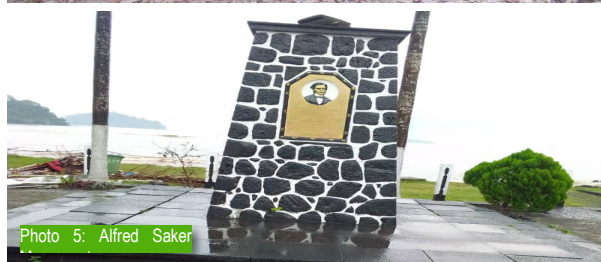
many endemic species of insects and plants that attract eco and adventurous tourists to enjoy these natural beauties.

These physical/natural attractions are a fundamental tourism resource that has significantly contributed to the development of urban tourism in the city of Limbe. While these physical attractions are a major driving force to tourism development, the cultural/man-made resources cannot be overlooked.

The diversity of the human environment of Limbe, characterized by many ethnic groups and cultural artefacts and antiques are major tourist attractions. These attractions include ancient/historic buildings, handicraft centres, cultural festivals, sporting events and the development of tourist infrastructures. The city of Limbe and its environs has ancient buildings that are of historic significance. These historic buildings include the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Down Beach Limbe built by Alfred Saker in 1877 (Photo 7). It is the very first church that was constructed in the city of Limbe. The Engelberg Church in Bonjongo is the first Catholic Church in the West of Mungo, constructed by the pallottine Priest in 1894 (Photo 8). This site is visited mostly by Catholic Christians for pilgrimage every year. The Camp Saker at Bona-Ngombe in the East Coast of Limbe (Photo 9), was built by Alfred Saker to accommodate the Baptist Christians who were expelled from Fernando Po by the Catholic Mission. Today, the camp welcomes all those desiring a peaceful place to study, rest, worship or vacation. From creation, the camp has been the cradle of scientific research, especially in medicine because of the rich rain forest. The camp attracts mostly Christians, students, picnickers, swimmers, hikers and nature lovers.

The German lighthouse of 148 ft tall in Cape Debunsha (Photo 10) along the West Coast of Limbe was constructed in 1904. The facility served as a tower to guide any approaching ship in the Atlantic Ocean and to control Idenau. A 210-flight of stairs climbing to the top gives an unforgettable magnificent view of the Ocean. The BSTV used to house slaves from the hinterlands for shipment to the Americas recalls the difficult conditions the blacks experienced before reaching the West Indies. Today, thousands of black Americans visit this site to trace their roots. The Monument of Joseph Merrick calls to mind the first Baptist Missionary to set foot on the Coast of Cameroon, at Bona-Ngombe in 1843 where he built the first church in Cameroon (Photo 12). The Alfred Saker Monument was built in 1958 to celebrate the 100 anniversaries of Victoria. The structure is tall and polished in black and white with the epitaph and portrait of Alfred Saker (Photo 13), the founder of Victoria, now called Limbe.

Plate 2. Architectural Tourism attractions





Source: Ncha Ndoumbe, 2021.

Constructed in 1902, the German Bridge (Photo 14) in Idenau is one of the legacies of the German Colonial Administration in Cameroon. The purpose of the bridge was to ease the evacuation of raw materials especially palms products before exportation to Germany. The bridge has a beautiful architectural design which is very pleasant to visitors. These cultural artefacts in addition to cultural festivals (Limbe Festival of Arts and Culture, FESTAC), sporting events and traditional crafts go a long way to enrich the tourism resources offered by the city of Limbe and on which the city relies to further develop tourism therein and to develop the city from tourism proceeds. This makes Limbe in the Fako Division to dominate tourism in the South West Region of Cameroon (Practical Traveller's Guide, 2007), with its symbolic colonial legacies (Cameroon Tourism Guide, 2002).

5.2 Stakeholders of Tourism development in Limbe

5.2.1 Institutional Stakeholders

The various government departments involved in the development of tourism in the city include the mother Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) operating through the regional delegation. It sets the regulatory framework guiding the operational setting of tourism facilities in terms of supervision and control of quality and principles regarding lodging and entertainment services. In the hotel industry, for instance, government supervision concerns the implementation and supervision of compulsory registration of visitors for proper recording and accountability and grading of hotels to ascertain and ensure quality that is imposed on operators. With all of these set, the delegation regularly collects information from the different facilities for onwards transition to MINTOUL. Apart from MINTOUL is the Ministry of Sports and Physical Education thanks to which sporting facilities attracting many visitors to the city are erected. The Middle Farm and Centenary stadia that have recently been reputed for their crowd pulling sporting events are living examples. The Ministry of Arts and Culture on its part promotes and sponsors cultural and crowd-pulling festivals such as the annual FESTAC for which it is a partner. Other ministries include those of Housing and Urban Planning involved with land use planning and rehabilitation, Small and Medium Size Enterprise in the promotion of local craft sector that produces attractive artefacts bought by tourists leading to income generation for the local craftsmen. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife develops and manages all the protected areas in the city that serve as tourism attractions. The Ministry of Territorial Administration through the Senior Divisional Officer and the Divisional Officers of Fako and Limbe I, II, and III, respectively authorise the holding of any festivities in the city and through the National Gendarmerie and the National Police Force ensure the security of tourists, tourist facilities and other visitors in the city, especially during public events.

The decentralised authorities on their part as stakeholders include the Limbe City Council, and the Limbe I, II, and III councils. These authorities play a significant role in the development of tourism in the city. Hygiene and sanitation of the city is ensured by these stakeholders. The cleanliness of the city is an important asset to tourism development as it encourages returns and ensures tourists of their health safety. In partnership with the Hygiene and sanitary company (HYSACAM), these authorities keep the streets clean. The provision of public spaces that are a vital asset for relaxation and public manifestations is a prerogative of decentralised stakeholders. The Limbe grand stand at Manga Williams Avenue, the white chair at Down Beach, the Limbe Conference Centre, etc. are some examples. The Limbe city council in particular also develops tourism facilities such as the Mwanja Hotel at Bota, Municipal Restaurant at Down Beach, the Dorade Restaurant at Mile One that contribute significantly to boasting the tourism sector in the city. The organisation of public events in collaboration with the ministries concerned is also the prerogative of the decentralised stakeholders. The success in the organisation and realisation of the Limbe Festival of Arts and Culture has always been thanks to the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Culture and the various councils of the Limbe municipality. This even that started as a

small festival in 2014 is today a crowd puller of visitors from far and near. Developing and enhancing beaches to be attractive to visitors regularly is also a prerogative of these decentralised authorities.

Several institutional stakeholders are seen to have been working hand in glove in a coordinated and concerted manner to ensure the growth and development of the tourism industry in the City of Limbe. The efforts of institutional stakeholders in the development of the tourism industry in the city of Limbe are laudable but the success in these efforts will hardly be significant if those of the non-institutional stakeholders are undermined. It is for this reason that the next paragraph concentrates on this group of contributors to progress in tourism in the city.

5.2.2 Non-Institutional Stakeholders

Non-institutional stakeholders who are the several individual and collective bodies in the private sector significantly contribute to the efforts of institutional stakeholders in the areas of accommodation, catering and entertainment. These three areas are very imperative to the development of tourism. Concerning accommodation, 64 establishments are numbered in the city. Of these establishments, only 7 are non-operational representing 10.9% leaving a majority of the establishments (89.1%) operational (Photo 12). This shows the extent to which the city is equipped with accommodation facilities ready to receive tourists. These establishments, in addition to lodging equally provide other services such as outdoor catering, conference facilities, diverse entertainment, car rental, tour guide parking and beauty spa. Catering is yet another area of importance in the tourism sector to take care of the food needs of tourists, especially in the area of traditional dishes some tourists always want to savour before departing.



Photo 7: Hotel Seme Beach

Source: Ncha Ndoumbe, 2021

The catering services, equally important in the development of the tourism industry is very present in the city. This takes care of the food and beverage needs of tourists and visitors. In Limbe, a total of 18 functional formal restaurants can be identified. Here a variety of dishes ranging from European through Asiatic to African are served to satisfy the needs of tourists originating from different countries with different tastes. European and other foreign dishes are mainly served in hotel operated restaurants. Formal restaurants are labelled and are registered with the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure. Closely attached to catering services are drinking spots in terms of bars and snack bars that serve as distraction points to visitors and tourists. About 30 formal bars located along major streets and junctions can be identified in the city by their name tags. Closely associated to bars are nightclubs that tourists and visitors visit for distraction and entertainment. Six renown nightclubs are identified and five of them are found in Down Beach Limbe and one at Bobende. Limbe is an example of a nightlife destination with its nightclubs that operate all day round. This attracts visitors from all around the neighbouring towns to entertain themselves. Some of these clubs offer cabaret services relished by many visitors and tourists. The proximity of Limbe to the towns of Buea and Douala makes it easier for people to visit the city of Limbe on a regular basis thanks to the transportation services linking these towns.

The transport sector plays an important role in the development of tourism in that it offers the only means by which tourists and other visitors can access the various destinations. Limbe is endowed with two modes of transportation, which are the road and sea transports. Road transport ensure the movement of a majority of visitors and this is made possible by the existence of a plethora of travelling agencies offering comfortable interurban bus services. These travelling agencies are equally stakeholders par excellence owing to their role in ferrying tourists in and out of the city. Water transport also plays an important role in the transportation of foreign

visitors from Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria through the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the Bota wharf as the only authorised landing or departure point, other clandestine ports exist such as Woyia, Ngeme and Batoke. Visitors also originate from Bakassi, Idenau and Tiko. During the Limbe FESTAC, cruising is often done in the Atlantic Ocean between Limbe and Idenau.

Apart from these are tourism intermediaries who are the tour operators and travel agents. They act as middlemen between customers and supplies. The customers are tourists while the suppliers are tourism service providers such as hotels, airlines, and attractions. The intermediaries play an important role of marketing and selling the products of suppliers to tourists through air ticket, tour packages, hotel reservation, airport assistance and car rental. In return, they earn a commission for the service they render. Limbe as a tourist destination has few intermediaries which help organize travel arrangements for visitors into the city. In Limbe four of such agents are identified. These are Flora Travel and Tour, Euro Voyage, Jamal International Travel and the Star Light Travel Agency. In addition to these are the local populations whose role in the development of tourism is vital. They are the main labour force in the different tourism businesses such as hotels, restaurants, bars, amusement parks, nightclubs, amongst others. They equally animate during festivals, like the case of the Limbe FESTAC where the different tribes display their culture through traditional dances, canoe race, tug-of-war, parade and other activities. The local population produces local craft objects that tourists purchase as souvenirs during their stay in Limbe.

All of these services provided by the different non-institutional stakeholders have gone a long way to developing the tourism industry in the city of Limbe. The development of tourism in an area such as Limbe comes with implications to the sociocultural, spatial, and economic lives of the area. Limbe being a tourist destination and having benefitted from the various efforts by the different stakeholders to develop the sector has benefitted and is benefiting from the fallouts of this development.

5.3 The Sociocultural, Spatial and Economic Implications of the Development of Tourism in Limbe

5.3.1 The Sociocultural Implications

The development of tourism in urban destination exposes the said destination to the outside world and as the industry expands, it produces diverse implications. The sociocultural implications of tourism abound in tourist destinations. Field findings reveal that 29.1% and 63.4% strongly agree and agree, respectively amounting to 92.5% of the opinion that urban-tourism improves the quality of public spaces and develops recreational areas for both tourists and residents of Limbe (Table 1). This leaves only, 07.5% of the population with a contrary view. This implies that urban-tourism has a positive implication on the quality of public spaces and the development of recreational areas in Limbe. The construction of the White Chair at Down Beach, the green spaces at the Black and White Roundabout, and at the Community Field testify to this. Some of these spaces are equipped with concrete chairs providing ample space for relaxation to both tourists and Limbe residents.

Empirical findings equally show 84.7% of the population accepting that regeneration for tourism purposes beautifies neighbourhoods in the city of Limbe, while only 15.3% has a contrary view. It can, therefore, be deduced that regeneration for tourism purposes has positive implications as far as beautifying neighbourhoods in Limbe is concerned. This is demonstrated by the tarring of streets and installation of traffic lights, the demolition of makeshift unpleasant buildings along major streets and subsequent replacement with villas and concrete structures that have transformed the cityscape. Relating to the displacement of people as a result of regeneration, only 4.2% of the population seems to have been affected by displacement of people from neighbourhoods. Regeneration for tourism purposes therefore records 95.8% of the population not incriminating it as responsible for the displacement of many people. Regeneration for tourism purposes is, therefore, desirable at 95.8% (Table 1).

Table 1. The Socio-cultural Implications of urban-tourism

S/N	Statements	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Total
1	Urban-tourism improves quality of public spaces and develops recreational areas	97	29.1	211	63.4	25	07.5	00	00.0	333
2	Regeneration for tourism purposes beautifies neighbourhoods in the city	152	45.6	130	39.1	33	09.9	18	05.4	333
3	Regeneration displaced many people in neighbourhoods	03	00.9	11	3.3	201	60.4	118	35.4	333
4	Urban-tourism promotes cultural restoration and conservation	111	33.3	199	59.8	14	04.2	09	02.7	333

S/N	Statements	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Total
5	Regeneration for tourism purposes results in rioting in my quarter	105	31.5	99	29.7	79	23.7	50	15.1	333
6	Urban-tourism results in social vices amongst youths in the city of Limbe	93	27.9	150	45.1	81	24.3	09	02.7	333

Source: Field survey, 2022 NB: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree.

Sources at the department of urban planning of the LCC, the Director for Urban Development revealed that majority of the houses along major streets were partially demolished and rehabilitated thereby displacing very few occupants. Urban-tourism is equally credited for promoting cultural restoration and conservation at 93.1%. It, therefore, can be deduced that the capacity of urban tourism to restore and conserve the culture of the people of Limbe is very high, especially with the introduction of Limbe FESTAC in 2014, an annual platform to showcase culture in its diversity. Through this platform, Bakweri girls are encouraged to learn the dialect, how to cook traditional meals and to dress in traditional attires. This ties with Bailey and Robertson (1997), who hold that mega-events transform cities and are used as opportunities to facilitate and legitimize urban regeneration, to redevelop the built environment and to build new facilities and amenities such as stadium and other sports facilities, theatres, museums, new means or route of transportation, community centres, accommodation facilities, culture and convention halls and congress centres.

Notwithstanding the positive implications attached to regeneration, 61.2% of for rioting registered especially during breakups organised by the city council in their quarters. This proportion indicates that rioting linked to regeneration demonstrates the unwillingness of some city dwellers to cede to the demolition of their homes and business premises. Another negative implication ties with the 73% of the population blaming urban-tourism for promoting social vices amongst youths such as alcoholism, vandalism, theft, drug abuse, etc. The rapid expansion of bars, snack bars, nightclubs and cabarets, especially at Down Beach to entertain visitors during events like FESTAC and Football Competitions where all kinds of alcoholic drinks are sold are not restricted from youth of Limbe. These facilities are also avenues for the sales of drugs. The consumption of alcoholic drinks and drugs makes the youths vulnerable to ills like theft, vandalism, sexual harassment, etc.

5.3.2 The Spatial Implications

The spatial implications of urban-tourism refer to the differences in development brought by tourism in the different neighbourhoods in Limbe. This can best be understood by examining the views of populations on the field resented on Table 2.

Table 2. The spatial implications of urban-tourism

S/N	Statements	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Total
1	Urban regeneration for tourism purposes has created spatial inequality in the development of the city	83	24.9	177	53.2	31	09.3	42	12.6	333
2	Tourist zones in Limbe are more secured than other quarters	119	35.7	131	39.3	77	23.2	06	1.8	333
3	Public utilities are better served in tourist zones than others	111	33.4	203	60.9	19	5.7	00	0.0	333

Source: Field survey, 2022 NB: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree.

Regeneration for tourism purposes has created spatial inequality in the development of the city of Limbe as testified by 78.1% of the population. It, therefore, implies that urban-tourism fosters segregation in development of the different neighbourhoods. This is evident in the city with tourist zones around Down Beach, Church Street, Gardens and Ngeme, better planned and laid out with good street patterns, tarred roads, and traffic lights, making them more beautiful, attractive and accessible than other parts of the city. In line with this empirical finding indicate that 75% of the population holds that tourist zones in Limbe are more secured than other neighbourhoods of the city. This is evident with the presence of surveillance cameras on the streets and the forces of law and order at close range to check criminal activities. On the other, in non-tourist zones like Motowo, Mile IV, Mao Quarter, amongst others, these services are lacking, and interventions are only made when an incident is reported. This falls in line with Fainstein and Gladstone (1999), who point out that urban regeneration for tourism purposes may increase urban segregation and division in cities since, while tourist areas are kept

clean, secure, and free from undesirables and physical decay, anomalies or criminal activities in other parts of the city may prevail.

Sources from the Divisional Delegation of Tourism and Leisure for Fako and the Divisional Delegation of Housing and Urban Development for Fako revealed that following the land use plan of Limbe, the sea front and protected areas are priority zones for tourism development. All of these spatial disparities point to the lack of equitable development of the city with emphasis on tourism sites at the detriment of the other areas that equally need the attention of the different stakeholders.

5.3.3 The Economic Implications

The economic implications of tourism are significant. Starting from the creation of employment, investment opportunities and consequently additional income that tourism provides to the local population as testified by 94.3% on the field, tourism development also creates new market outlets for local products as admitted by 94.6% of the population. While 93.7% of the population opine that tourism development diversifies the economy of Limbe, 64.8% admit that business turnover is highest during cultural and sporting events (Table 3). The new opportunities of investment and employment created reside in the several hotels, bars, restaurants, nightclubs and cabarets, amusement parks, amongst others which go a long way to stimulate the local economy through employment and income generation. This corroborates Evans (2012) opinion that mega-events and urban regeneration are strategies of improving the night life of cities. In some cases, this is pursued in order to attract particularly younger tourists for clubbing for part of the so termed 24 hours a day city. These also fall in line with the new market avenues that give opportunities to the local population to sell their products such as traditional dresses, carved wooden objects, beats, clay pots, etc. These various opportunities greatly contribute in diversifying the economy of the Limbe. Diversification in the economy is very evident especially within the framework of cultural festivals and sporting activities that ensure an increase in business turnover thanks to the influx of tourists and visitors attracted by these events.

Table 3. The Economic Implication of urban-tourism

S/N	Statements	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%	Total
1	Tourism creates new opportunity of investment and employment	181	54.4	133	39.9	17	05.1	02	00.6	333
2	Tourism creates new markets for our local products	199	59.8	116	34.8	13	03.9	05	01.5	333
3	Tourism diversifies the local economy	201	60.4	111	33.3	12	03.6	09	02.7	333
4	Business turnover is highest during cultural and Sporting Competitions	101	30.3	115	34.5	86	25.8	31	09.4	333
5	Cost of living in Limbe has increased because of tourism	16	04.8	44	13.2	115	34.5	158	47.5	333

Source: Field survey, 2022 NB: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree.

Notwithstanding the positive economic implication analysed in the preceding paragraph, increase in the cost of living appears to be the experience of the city. In spite increasing cost of living, only 18% of the population attribute it to the development of tourism in the Limbe. A significant 82% of the population does not incriminate tourism development for the increasing cost of living. This implies that the increase in cost of living in Limbe is induced by other factors other than tourism development.

Despite these economic gains from tourism in the city of Limbe, most city dwellers consider additional money gains from tourism activities as insignificant extra benefits and not a major source of income. For most of those who perform traditional dances and security services to tourism establishments, tourism contributes only a small percentage of their income and supplements their main occupation. Nevertheless, this additional income, regardless of its insignificance, serves as a supplementary resource to enhance their living conditions. By fostering tourism, alternative avenues for earning money are generated, thus alleviating the populace from excessive reliance on the primary and secondary sectors of the urban economy.

Empirical findings also reveal that apart from the implication analysed in preceding paragraphs, tourism development in Limbe has environmental implications. Positively, regeneration for tourism purposes has improved the sanitation condition of the city through the clearance of slumps and garbage which used to pollute the city, especially the city centre. It has equally contributed in the conservation of flora and fauna in the different reserves and parks. Negatively, tourism development has resulted in plastic pollution especially at Down Beach,

which is the tourist hub of Limbe. The high concentration of tourist facilities such as bars, restaurants, snack-bars, night clubs, hotels, mobile vendors of all sorts, amongst others has attracted large numbers of visitors to this zone for leisure and entertainment that consume and litter the vicinity with plastic materials, which are environmentally unfriendly.

6. Discussions

The development of urban-tourism in Limbe like any other city of the world has similar attributes. Urban-tourism activities in Limbe involves the visit of attractions like museums, art gallery, handicraft centres, beaches, ancient monuments, attending festivals, participating in sports, amongst others. This is similar to urban-tourism activities as defined by the UNWTO (2013). The development of urban-tourism in Limbe resides on the actions of different stakeholders and factors in an urban coalition consisting of institutional and non-institutional stakeholders involving government departments, NGOs and participating citizens, adequate funding, presence of a group of experts, alongside careful planning and management of events, selecting the right audiences, effective use of marketing tools and the use of media in promotion just as in the case of Barcelona in Spain according to Richards and Palmer (2012).

According to Sassen and Roost (1990), cities in Europe such as Barcelona, Glasgow and Bilbao have become models showing how a city can turn to a tourist magnet by following urban regeneration strategies. Consequently, more and more cities have begun to invest in building hospitality facilities, cultural and convention centres, museums, landmarks, entertainment and sports facilities in order to attract tourists and to please the tourist gaze. This is the case of Limbe where massive rehabilitation is carried out in the city since 2016, as well as the building of hospitality facilities in preparation for the succeeding editions of Limbe FESTAC and football events. In spite of Burbank *et al.* (2002) highlighting the risks and intangible benefits associated with mega-event strategies, such as the possibility of abandonment post-event as seen in the case of the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics, the construction of these facilities in Limbe signifies progress. This is evident through the ongoing hosting of various sporting events at the stadium since its inauguration, including the prestigious 2016 Female AFCON jamboree.

Urban-tourism development in Limbe has both positive and negative implications on the socio-cultural, spatial and economic domains of the city. The positive implications are more noticeable in the socio-cultural and economic domains, while the negative are very evident in the spatial domain. Socially, the city is benefiting from projects brought about by regeneration for tourism purposes such as the clearance of shanty premises along major streets, tarring of new streets and installation of traffic lights; creation of public spaces, amongst others. Also, the culture of these communities is being promoted by tourists through their participation in cultural festivals, payment of entrance fees into museums and botanic gardens. Economically, local residents have been employed in tourism enterprises like hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, theme parks, amongst others. With regards to spatial impacts, regeneration for tourism purposes has created segregation in development in the different neighbourhoods of the city. For instance, tourist zones like Down Beach, Half Mile, Ngeme, Bota are developed at the expense of other neighbourhoods. The same case prevails in other urban destinations where water fronts are priority zones and gain the highest share of tourism development.

Conclusions and Further Research

This paper that set out to identify key tourist attractions in the city of Limbe and its environs, stakeholders involved in tourism development and their role, and to bring out the implications of urban-tourism, used a number of field approaches and technique to collect data from the field based on a survey of households and tourism sites. This data was treated using simple statistical tools and manipulation of field illustrations, and presented in tables photographs, texts, and figure. Data processing revealed that the attractions of the city, the role of the public and private stakeholders and the strategies used by public actors (urban regeneration, Limbe FESTAC and the 2016 Female AFCON) to promote tourism has greatly influenced the development of the tourism sector of Limbe, thereby producing socio-cultural, spatial, and economic implications. It is widely established from these findings that the development of tourism has contributed to the general development of the city of Limbe through a number of positive contributions that impact in the lives of the population in general and that of the city council through taxes and other returns that are largely related to tourism activities.

That notwithstanding it is suggested that for better performance, the rate of abandonment of some of the sites such as the BSTV and the German Lighthouse at Debunscha often covered in grass and trees out of neglect, the Idenau German Bridge in an advanced state of dilapidation need to be rehabilitated to render them attractive.

The state of roads linking tourist sites at the East Coast of Limbe that are earth surfaced limiting all year-round accessibility, during the rainy season, due to their muddy and slippery nature, should be rehabilitated to ensure continuous access to tourism sites.

The government needs to support tourism operators/promoters of Limbe especially those owning hotels, travel agencies, tour operators, attraction owners, amongst others, to permit them to operate at a breakeven level.

The supply of utility services that is hard hit in the city today should be rehabilitated. This concerns mostly the problem of electricity and water supply that are usually erratic. Tourism industries, including hotels, restaurants, and theme parks, heavily rely on water and electricity, making them vulnerable to the adverse impacts of irregular supply. Despite resorting to alternative sources such as bore holes and standby generators, operators face significant financial burdens.

Implementing these proposed measures, supported by institutional stakeholders, would enable non-institutional stakeholders to elevate the current level of tourism development to new heights.

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Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

Amélie-Emmanuelle Mayi: involved in the Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Formal analysis, Supervision, Validation, Writing– review and editing, Visualization, Funding acquisition.

Gilbert Fondze Bamboye: The second author also contributed to the Conceptualization Methodology, Project administration, Formal analysis, Supervision, Data curation, Validation, Writing – review and editing, Visualization.

Terence Ncha Ndoumbe: The third author took part in the Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft, Data curation, Validation, Writing – review and editing, Visualization, Funding acquisition.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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