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TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN PROTECTED AREAS: A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF ACCOMMODATION, RECREATION AND VISITOR ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE OBAN DIVISION OF CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Tourism infrastructure is fundamental to the effective management and development of protected area tourism; however, its contribution depends on its functionality, accessibility and maintenance. This study assessed accommodation, recreational and visitor-access infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park, Nigeria, from the perspectives of Park personnel. A qualitative case-study design was employed, involving semi-structured interviews with fifteen (15) purposively selected staff members of the Ecotourism Department. Data were collected using a semi-structured interview guide developed around the study objectives, supplemented by field observations and a review of relevant Park documents and tariff records. Interview data were analysed manually using Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase thematic analysis. Five themes emerged: accommodation and visitor-support services; camping and recreational infrastructure; recreation and nature-based tourism facilities; visitor access and orientation services; and infrastructure improvement needs. The findings indicate that the Park provides accommodation, camping facilities, rainforest trails, conference facilities and visitor-support services. However, unreliable electricity and water supplies, limited amenities, deteriorating roads and trails, inadequate interpretive services and limited public transportation constrain visitor experiences. Regular maintenance, targeted investment, improved accessibility and strengthened visitor services are recommended to enhance sustainable ecotourism and support conservation objectives.

Key words: *accommodation infrastructure; recreational facilities; visitor access; protected areas; ecotourism; Cross River National Park.*

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism infrastructure constitutes the physical facilities and support services that enable visitors to access, stay in and experience destinations. In protected areas, its role extends beyond facilitating tourism to supporting conservation and sustainable resource use. Accordingly, the effectiveness of infrastructure depends not merely on its availability but also on its functionality, condition, accessibility, utilisation and maintenance. Poorly managed

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infrastructure can constrain visitor experiences and tourism benefits even where destinations possess substantial natural attractions.

Infrastructure deficiencies remain a persistent challenge to protected-area tourism in Nigeria. Diminyi et al. (2020), for instance, identified inadequate infrastructure, poor funding and transportation difficulties among the major constraints to ecotourism development in Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP). Evidence from other Nigerian protected areas similarly demonstrates the wider socioeconomic relevance of infrastructure. Peter et al. (2024) reported that interventions around Kainji Lake National Park contributed to improvements in roads, water and other community facilities, while Ezebilo and Mattsson (2010) found that interventions associated with CRNP generated local infrastructure and tourism-related benefits, although questions concerning their long-term sustainability remained.

The relationship between infrastructure and tourism performance is nevertheless more complex than infrastructure provision alone suggests. Thong et al. (2024), examining protected areas in Sarawak, found that destination accessibility and tourism service quality were associated with ecotourism competitiveness, indicating that infrastructure must be evaluated in relation to its actual service performance. This perspective is particularly relevant to protected areas, where infrastructure must accommodate visitors without compromising environmental integrity.

Recreation and visitor-access infrastructure are especially important because they shape how visitors move through and interact with protected-area environments. CRNP possesses considerable nature-based tourism resources, including rainforest ecosystems, wildlife, birdwatching opportunities, hiking routes, mountain landscapes, camping areas and water-based attractions (Adetola et al., 2021). However, previous research has identified inadequate recreational facilities and supporting infrastructure as constraints to tourism development in the Park (Adetola & Ayodele, 2013). Trails, accommodation facilities, roads, signage, viewing areas and visitor orientation services therefore require effective planning and continuous maintenance.

Sustainability also depends on how these facilities are managed over time. Marion and Wilkins (2024) emphasise that sustainable trail systems require a balance between visitor use, infrastructure management and environmental protection. Similarly, Lukoseviciute et al. (2024) highlight the importance of integrating infrastructure management with visitor

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experience, resource conservation and stakeholder participation. These perspectives suggest that infrastructure assessment should consider operational condition and management practices rather than physical provision alone. Within CRNP, infrastructure management also occurs within a broader conservation context characterised by interactions between local communities, visitors and protected-area resources. Digun-Aweto (2024) highlights the complexity of human–wildlife coexistence in Nigerian national parks, reinforcing the need for infrastructure approaches that are compatible with conservation objectives. More recently, Imanyi (2026) reported moderate tourism infrastructure sustainability in CRNP, with maintenance emerging as one of the weaker dimensions. However, the study incorporated multiple stakeholder categories, limiting its ability to capture the specific operational experiences of personnel directly responsible for tourism infrastructure.

Limited attention has therefore been given to the day-to-day operational perspectives of Park personnel concerning accommodation, recreation and visitor-access infrastructure in the Oban Division. An examination of these perspectives can provide practical insights into facility conditions, maintenance constraints and the improvements required to support visitor experiences and conservation objectives.

Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess accommodation, recreation and visitor-access infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park, Nigeria, from the perspective of Park personnel. The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the availability, condition and functionality of accommodation facilities and visitor-support services in the Oban Division.
2. Assess the condition and maintenance of camping facilities and other recreational infrastructure supporting nature-based tourism.
3. Examine visitor-access routes, internal trails and orientation services, identifying operational constraints that affect accessibility.
4. Identify the major infrastructure deficiencies and improvements required to enhance visitor experiences and support sustainable ecotourism development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Tourism Infrastructure and Protected Area Tourism

Tourism infrastructure forms part of the wider system that connects attractions, visitors, services and destination management. In protected areas, its importance extends beyond

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visitor convenience because infrastructure can influence the intensity and spatial distribution of tourism activities. Poorly planned facilities can increase environmental pressure, whereas inadequate facilities can restrict access and reduce the economic value of tourism resources.

Evidence from Nigeria demonstrates these competing concerns. Diminyi et al. (2020) reported inadequate infrastructure and poor funding as major constraints to ecotourism development in Okwangwo Division. Peter et al. (2024) found that infrastructure projects associated with Kainji Lake National Park contributed to water, health, education and transportation improvements in surrounding communities. These studies suggest that infrastructure can support both tourism and wider development, but its effectiveness depends on investment, management and local priorities. At the international level, Bhammar et al. (2021) similarly emphasize that protected-area tourism requires a balance between tourism benefits, conservation and effective management. The implication is that infrastructure should not be assessed simply by the number of facilities provided; its contribution depends on functionality, maintenance and compatibility with conservation objectives.

Accommodation Infrastructure

Accommodation enables visitors to remain at or near protected area attractions and participate in nature-based activities. Its value is influenced by capacity, comfort, utilities, maintenance and supporting services. In environmentally sensitive destinations, accommodation also raises concerns about water consumption, energy use, waste generation and visitor concentration. Cross River National Park has historically faced infrastructure limitations affecting visitor experiences. Adetola and Ayodele (2013) identified inadequate infrastructure and recreational facilities among constraints to ecotourism development in the Park, despite relatively positive visitor satisfaction with tourism activities. This suggests that the quality of accommodation and related facilities needs to be considered alongside the attractiveness of the natural resources themselves. The present study extends this perspective by examining accommodation from the viewpoint of staff responsible for its operation. Such a perspective draws attention to practical issues such as utility reliability, room capacity, maintenance, food services, booking arrangements and the ability of existing facilities to meet visitor needs.

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Recreation and Nature-Based Tourism Infrastructure

Recreational infrastructure provides the physical setting for visitors to experience nature. In Cross River National Park, the resource base includes rainforest landscapes, wildlife, birdwatching, hiking, camping, rock formations and water recreation (Adetola et al., 2021). The condition of facilities supporting these activities is equally important. Marion and Wilkins (2024) argue that sustainable trails require an equilibrium between recreational use, infrastructure management, environmental protection and social and economic benefits. Lukoseviciute et al. (2024) further show that sustainable trail development benefits from stakeholder involvement and coordinated management of infrastructure, visitor experience and natural resources. These findings are relevant to rainforest tourism, where erosion, fallen trees, overgrown vegetation and inadequate interpretation can reduce visitor safety and experience. The appropriate question is therefore not simply whether trails and recreational facilities exist, but whether they remain functional and adequately maintained.

Visitor Access and Accessibility

Accessibility is fundamental to protected area tourism because visitors need to reach destinations and move safely between facilities and attractions. It includes external roads, internal access routes, trails, signage, and transportation and visitor orientation. Nigerian evidence shows that transportation and access remain important constraints. Diminyi et al. (2020) reported poor transportation infrastructure among the challenges affecting Okwangwo Division. Similarly, Thong et al. (2024) found destination accessibility to be associated with ecotourism competitiveness in protected areas. Accessibility also involves the usability of facilities for different categories of visitors. McKercher et al. (2024), in their review of accessibility in national parks and other protected natural areas, highlight physical and informational barriers that can restrict participation in protected-area recreation.

For the Oban Division, accessibility therefore encompasses both the roads leading to the Park and the internal routes, trails and orientation services that enable visitors to reach individual attractions.

Infrastructure, Conservation and Sustainability

Infrastructure development in protected areas must operate within ecological limits. Pegler et al. (2024), through a systematic review of environmental impact assessment in tourism and recreation in protected areas, highlight the importance of anticipating environmental consequences when tourism activities and associated infrastructure are planned. Kahangirwe

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et al. (2026) similarly demonstrate the value of environmental and social impact assessment in tourism infrastructure planning in Uganda's Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve. These studies reinforce the need to consider infrastructure as part of protected area management rather than as an independent tourism investment. The Nigerian context presents similar concerns. Digun-Aweto (2024) demonstrates the complex conservation and human-use environment surrounding Cross River National Park. Infrastructure improvements must therefore increase visitor opportunities without weakening the ecological values of the Park.

Park Personnel and Infrastructure Management

Protected area personnel occupy a distinctive position in tourism infrastructure management. They interact with visitors, maintain facilities, provide interpretation, supervise recreational activities and respond to operational problems. Their knowledge can therefore complement information obtained from visitors or physical inventories. Stakeholder participation is increasingly recognized as important in protected area tourism governance. Sarhan et al. (2024) highlight the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in protected area tourism governance, while Samal and Dash (2024) demonstrate the value of stakeholder engagement in sustainable ecotourism.

Empirical Gap

Existing Nigerian studies have examined visitor satisfaction, ecotourism resources, infrastructure challenges, community benefits and broader infrastructure sustainability. Adetola and Ayodele (2013) examined visitor interests and satisfaction; Adetola et al. (2021) assessed the Park's ecotourism resources; Diminyi et al. (2020) examined ecotourism challenges in Okwangwo; Peter et al. (2024) assessed infrastructure in communities surrounding Kainji Lake National Park; and Imanyi (2026) examined tourism infrastructure sustainability across stakeholder groups. Despite these contributions, limited attention has been given to the day-to-day operational perspective of Park personnel, particularly regarding accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructure within the Oban Division.

This study addresses that gap by examining how these facilities function in practice, the maintenance and operational constraints encountered by staff, and the improvements considered necessary to enhance visitor experience and sustainable ecotourism.

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Theoretical Framework

Tourism Systems Framework

This study is anchored on Leiper's Tourism Systems Framework, which conceptualizes tourism as an interconnected system comprising the tourist, tourist-generating region, transit route region, tourist destination region and tourism industry (Leiper, 1979). The framework adopts a holistic perspective, emphasising the functional and spatial relationships among these components rather than viewing tourism activities in isolation (Leiper, 1979; Mill & Morrison, 2012). The framework is relevant because tourism infrastructure operates within the destination system through which visitors access, stay in and experience tourism resources. In the Oban Division, accommodation, recreation and visitor-access infrastructure are interdependent: accommodation supports visitor stays, recreational facilities facilitate interaction with attractions, and access infrastructure enables movement to and within the destination (Gunn &Var, 2002; Hall, 2008). Deficiencies in one component may consequently reduce the effectiveness of others; for example, poor roads or trails can limit the use of otherwise functional accommodation and recreational facilities (Mill & Morrison, 2012; Hall, 2008).

The relevance of systems thinking remains evident in contemporary tourism scholarship, with McCabe (2024) calling for tourism theory that recognises the distinctive and interconnected nature of tourism phenomena. Applied to this study, Leiper's framework provides a basis for interpreting how accommodation, recreation and visitor-access infrastructure function collectively within the Oban tourism system. It guides analysis of Park personnel's perspectives on facility condition, accessibility, maintenance and operational performance, while recognising that infrastructure deficiencies in one area may affect the broader visitor experience.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP), Cross River State, southeastern Nigeria. Cross River National Park comprises two non-contiguous divisions, Oban and Okwangwo, with a combined area of approximately 4,000 km². The Oban Division is estimated to cover approximately 3,000 km² (Adetola et al., 2021), although Agaldo et al. (2016) reported an area of approximately 2,800 km². This variation reflects differences in the reported estimates of the Division's geographical extent.

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Oban is located in Akamkpa Local Government Area, southeast of Calabar, and is characterised by tropical rainforest, rugged terrain and high biodiversity. It forms part of the wider Cross River–Cameroon forest landscape and is ecologically connected with Korup National Park in Cameroon (Agaldo et al., 2016; Asuk et al., 2023). The Division supports diverse forest resources and nature-based tourism activities, including hiking, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, camping, photography and water-based recreation (Adetola et al., 2021).

A qualitative case study design was adopted to examine Park personnel's perspectives on tourism infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP). The study focused on accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructure, excluding external public utilities largely beyond the operational mandate of the Park's Ecotourism Department. Fifteen (15) Ecotourism Department staff were purposively selected based on their knowledge and experience of tourism facilities and visitor services. Data were collected between January and March 2026 through face-to-face, semi-structured interviews lasting 30–50 minutes. Interviews were audio-recorded with informed consent and complemented by field observations and reviews of relevant Park records.

Interview recordings were transcribed verbatim and analysed manually using Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase thematic analysis. The process involved familiarisation with the data, initial coding, grouping related codes, reviewing categories and developing themes. Five themes emerged: accommodation facilities and visitor-support services; camping and recreational infrastructure; recreation and nature-based tourism facilities; visitor access routes and orientation services; and infrastructure improvement needs. Field observations and Park documents were used to corroborate and contextualise the interview findings.

Trustworthiness was enhanced through triangulation and repeated comparison of emerging themes with participants' original accounts to minimise interpretive bias. Permission was obtained from the relevant Park authorities, and participation was voluntary. Informed consent was obtained before interviews and recordings. Confidentiality was maintained, and participants were identified using numerical codes.

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FINDINGS

Accommodation Facilities and Visitor Support Services

All fifteen (15) participants confirmed that accommodation facilities are available at the Park headquarters in Akamkpa and at the Erukut base camp. The facilities include a guest house and a hostel. Participants reported that the guest house contains different categories of rooms with basic amenities, while the hostel provides shared accommodation mainly for students, researchers and budget-conscious visitors. Field observations and Park records confirmed the availability of single rooms, family rooms and a luxury suite.

Table 1

Accommodation Facilities at the Park Guest House

Room type	Number available
Single room.	12
Family room	10
Luxury suite	1

Source: Field observation and Park records, 2026.

Participants reported that electricity and water are available but not consistently reliable. Power interruptions were associated with irregular public electricity supply, while occasional water shortages were attributed to interruptions in pumping and distribution. Staff indicated that alternative power sources are sometimes used during prolonged outages. One participant explained:

> *"The guest house is always maintained by dedicated staff to ensure visitors are comfortable throughout their stay. We also have another luxury suite that is available for guests. Although electricity and water are available, there are times when power goes off or water supply is interrupted, so we make efforts to manage the situation for our visitors."*(Participant 4)

They also reported that the Park provides food services on request and can prepare local and international dishes according to visitor preferences. Reservations can be made by telephone, with advance payment accepted before arrival. Another participant stated:

> *"Visitors can book their rooms by telephone before arriving at the Park, and they can also make advance payments. We prepare both local and international meals depending on the preference of our guests."*(Participant 9)

Official check-in hours were reported as 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., although staff sometimes accommodate visitors arriving later, particularly those travelling from distant locations.

Also identified were a restaurant, bar, lawn tennis court, Scrabble facilities and a nearby river suitable for swimming as visitor and recreational amenities. However, the Park does not

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currently have a swimming pool. The major accommodation related limitations identified were unreliable electricity and water supply, limited accommodation capacity and the absence of some recreational amenities. Staff considered improvements to utilities, accommodation capacity and visitor services necessary to improve visitor comfort.

Camping Facilities and Recreational Infrastructure

Camping was identified as an important visitor activity. All participants confirmed that camping facilities are available, with tents provided by the Park and designated areas available for visitors. One participant explained:

> *"Camping is one of the attractions visitors enjoy most because it allows them to experience the forest environment directly. We provide tents, but visitors are expected to pay for the camping space before setting up."*(Participant 7)

Park staff also reported designated campfire areas where visitors engage in storytelling, group discussions and barbecues. These facilities were viewed as contributing to the outdoor experience as reported by a park staff.

> *"We have designated campfire areas where visitors gather in the evenings for barbecue, storytelling and other social activities. These experiences make camping more enjoyable and memorable for many visitors."*(Participant 12)

Shopping opportunities within the Park were limited. Participants reported that visitors could purchase light snacks and a few basic items but were generally advised to obtain essential supplies before arriving.

Table 2

Official Camping Charges at Cross River National Park

Visitor category	Camping space fee (₦)	Camping tariff (₦)
Domestic	2000	3000
Foreign	5000.	6,500

Source: Park tariff schedule, 2026.

Limited camping equipment, inadequate sanitary facilities and insufficient supporting amenities were identified as constraints. They recommended additional tents, improved sanitation, more reliable utilities and additional recreational equipment.

Recreation and Nature-Based Tourism Facilities

The findings indicate that the Park provides several facilities supporting nature-based recreation and environmental education. These include rainforest trails, a conference hall, camping facilities and ranger-guided experiences. Participants reported that the conference

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hall is used for meetings, workshops, seminars, conservation programmes and environmental education. It is also used by researchers, educational institutions and conservation organisations. One participant explained:

> *"Apart from serving tourists, our conference hall is regularly used for workshops, conservation meetings and educational programmes. Schools, researchers and different organizations use the facility throughout the year."(*Participant 5)

The Park's rainforest trails were identified as important visitor attractions. Participants reported that visitors undertaking trekking activities are accompanied by trained rangers who provide safety and environmental interpretation. The Erukut Jeep Track and Nature Foot Trail, reported to extend approximately 12 km, provides opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, wildlife observation, photography and environmental education. However, participants reported erosion, fallen trees and overgrown vegetation on some trails, particularly during the rainy season. Limited interpretive signs, resting points and viewing facilities were also identified as weaknesses.

Visitor Access Routes and Orientation Services

Participants reported that the Park is connected to major road networks linking Cross River State with other parts of Nigeria. Visitors travelling from different regions generally reach the Oban Division through Calabar and Akamkpa. One participant stated:

> *"The Park can be reached from different parts of Nigeria through several road networks. Visitors coming from the North, South-West or South-East can easily access the Park through Akamkpa using the established highways."(Participant 8)*

Although the Park is accessible by road, participants identified poor road conditions as a significant constraint. Potholes, erosion and rough surfaces were reported to become particularly problematic during the rainy season. Limited public transportation was also identified as a challenge, making private vehicles a more reliable option for many visitors. Internal roads and forest trails were also reported to require regular maintenance.

> *"The major challenge is the condition of some access roads, particularly during the rainy season. Poor roads make travelling difficult and sometimes discourage visitors from coming to the Park. Some of our internal roads and forest trails also require regular maintenance because erosion and overgrown vegetation make movement to certain attractions more difficult."(*Participant 15)

Orientation services were considered an important strength. Park personnel receive visitors, provide information, register them and direct them to relevant facilities and attractions.

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> *"When visitors arrive at the headquarters, our staff receive them, provide the necessary information and direct them to the appropriate destinations within the Park. This helps make their visit easier and more organized."(*Participant 13)

Thus, while orientation services were generally considered functional, physical accessibility remains constrained by external road conditions, internal routes and limited public transportation.

DISCUSSION

The findings demonstrate that the Oban Division possesses a basic network of tourism infrastructure capable of supporting accommodation, recreation and visitor access. The guest house, hostel, camping facilities, rainforest trails, conference facilities and orientation services provide a foundation for nature-based tourism. The findings are consistent with earlier Nigerian evidence. Adetola and Ayodele (2013) reported that visitors to Cross River National Park expressed satisfaction with tourism activities but identified inadequate infrastructure and recreational facilities as constraints. The present study provides a more operational explanation of these limitations by showing how utility interruptions, trail deterioration, limited camping facilities and road conditions affect the delivery of visitor services.

The findings also reinforce the argument that infrastructure effectiveness should not be equated with infrastructure provision. The presence of accommodation does not guarantee a high-quality experience when electricity and water supplies are unreliable. Similarly, the existence of trails does not ensure effective recreation when erosion, fallen vegetation and inadequate interpretation limit their usability.

This observation is consistent with Marion and Wilkins' (2024) broader conception of trail sustainability, which incorporates infrastructure management, resource protection and visitor and community benefits. The findings also correspond with Lukoseviciute et al. (2024), who emphasise coordinated trail management, visitor experience and resource protection.

The access findings are also important. Although the Park has road connections to major population centres, poor road conditions and limited public transportation reduce the practical accessibility of the destination. This supports Thong et al.'s (2024) observation that accessibility is an important component of ecotourism competitiveness.

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The staff perspective adds an important dimension to previous research. Imanyi (2026) identified maintenance as one of the weaker dimensions of infrastructure sustainability in Cross River National Park. The present qualitative findings help explain this result by identifying specific operational issues, including deteriorating trails, unreliable utilities and limited supporting amenities.

The findings also have conservation implications. Improving infrastructure should not mean unrestricted expansion of visitor facilities. Infrastructure investment needs to be accompanied by appropriate maintenance, environmental safeguards and visitor management. This is consistent with the wider protected area literature, which emphasises balancing tourism access with conservation objectives.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study examined accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park from the perspective of Park personnel. The findings show that the Park possesses a functional but modest infrastructure base consisting of accommodation facilities, camping areas, rainforest trails, recreational amenities, conference facilities and visitor orientation services. The main challenge is not the complete absence of infrastructure but its limited capacity, uneven condition, maintenance requirements and supporting-service deficiencies. Unreliable electricity and water supply, limited camping and recreational amenities, deteriorating roads and trails, inadequate interpretive facilities and limited public transportation constrain the quality of visitor experiences.

The study therefore concludes that improving the Park's ecotourism performance requires a shift from infrastructure provision alone towards infrastructure functionality, maintenance and integrated management. Targeted investment in existing facilities may be more valuable than indiscriminate expansion, particularly where improvements can simultaneously enhance visitor experience and support conservation.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Upgrade accommodation facilities. Park management should improve existing guest-house and hostel facilities and ensure more reliable electricity and water supply.
2. Improve camping infrastructure. Additional tents, sanitary facilities, waste-management facilities and basic visitor amenities should be provided.
3. Maintain rainforest trails. A regular maintenance programme should address erosion, fallen trees, overgrown vegetation and damaged trail sections.

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4. Improve interpretation. Additional interpretive signs, information boards, resting points and viewing facilities should be provided along major visitor routes.
5. Improve access roads. Relevant government agencies should prioritise rehabilitation of major roads connecting the Park with Calabar and other population centres.
6. Strengthen internal access. Internal roads and trails should be inspected regularly and maintained according to visitor use and environmental sensitivity.
7. Improve public transportation. Collaboration with relevant transport providers and government agencies should be encouraged to improve access for visitors without private vehicles.
8. Establish infrastructure monitoring. Park management should maintain a routine infrastructure inspection system covering accommodation, recreation and access facilities.
9. Integrate infrastructure and conservation planning. New infrastructure should undergo appropriate environmental assessment and be located and designed in ways that minimise ecological disturbance.
10. Strengthen investment partnerships. Government agencies, conservation organisations and appropriate private-sector partners should collaborate on infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance.

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Appendix A

Semi-Structured Interview Guide

Title: Assessment of Accommodation, Recreation and Visitor Access Infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park, Nigeria

Introduction to Respondents

The purpose of this interview is to obtain information on the availability, condition, functionality and use of accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructure in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park. The information provided will be used strictly for academic purposes. Respondents are encouraged to provide honest views based on their experience and knowledge of the Park.

Section A: Respondent Background

1. What is your current position or role in Cross River National Park?
2. How long have you been working in or associated with the Park?
3. What are your main responsibilities in relation to tourism, visitor services, infrastructure or Park management?

Section B: Accommodation Infrastructure

4. What types of accommodation facilities are currently available for visitors in the Oban Division?
5. How would you describe the adequacy and condition of the available accommodation facilities?
6. Are the accommodation facilities functional and regularly available to visitors?
7. What major problems affect the operation, maintenance and use of the accommodation facilities?
8. To what extent do the existing accommodation facilities meet the needs of visitors?
9. What improvements are needed to make the accommodation facilities more effective for tourism development?

Section C: Recreation Infrastructure

10. What recreational facilities and visitor attractions are available in the Oban Division?
11. How adequate and functional are these recreational facilities?
12. How frequently are the recreational facilities used by visitors?

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13. What challenges affect the development, maintenance and utilisation of recreational facilities?
14. What measures could improve recreational facilities and visitor experiences?

Section D: Visitor Access Infrastructure

15. What infrastructure is available to facilitate visitor access to tourism sites within the Oban Division?
16. How would you describe the condition of roads, trails, pathways, signage and other access facilities?
17. What major challenges do visitors face in accessing tourism sites?
18. How does the condition of access infrastructure affect tourism activities and visitor satisfaction?
19. What improvements are required to enhance visitor accessibility?

Section E: General Assessment and Recommendations

20. In your opinion, how adequate are the accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructures in the Oban Division?
21. Which category of infrastructure requires the most urgent attention, and why?
22. What are the major factors responsible for the current condition of tourism infrastructure?
23. What strategies should the Nigeria National Park Service and other stakeholders adopt to improve tourism infrastructure in the Oban Division?
24. Is there any other information you consider important concerning accommodation, recreation and visitor access infrastructure in the Park?

Closing

Thank you for your participation and for providing information based on your experience and knowledge of Cross River National Park.

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Appendix B

Table 3: Characteristics of Interview Informants

Informant	Age (years)	Sex	Educational Qualification	Years of Experience	Department
R1	52	Male	B.Sc.	22	Ecotourism
R2	47	Male	HND	18	Ecotourism
R3	55	Male	M.Sc.	25	Ecotourism
R4	43	Female	B.Sc.	15	Ecotourism
R5	49	Male	B.Sc.	20	Ecotourism
R6	41	Male	HND	13	Ecotourism
R7	38	Female	B.Sc.	10	Ecotourism
R8	57	Male	M.Sc.	27	Ecotourism
R9	45	Male	B.Sc.	17	Ecotourism
R10	40	Female	B.Sc.	12	Ecotourism
R11	51	Male	M.Sc.	21	Ecotourism
R12	36	Male	HND	9	Ecotourism
R13	44	Female	B.Sc.	16	Ecotourism
R14	48	Male	B.Sc.	19	Ecotourism
R15	59	Male	M.Sc.	30	Ecotourism