

# Review of: "Tourists' Activities and their Impacts on Chinhoyi Caves Heritage Site, Zimbabwe"

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## **Tourists' Activities and their Impacts on Chinhoyi Caves Heritage Site, Zimbabwe**

The issue is relevant, particularly in the context of the heritage site that is studied, Chinhoyi Caves Zimbabwe, a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the main tourist attractions in the country.

The abstract clearly indicates the problem, the object of study, general objective, method, and the main findings.

It raises an interesting research question: to what extent are local heritage sites protected from human activities as the number of tourists to these sites continues to increase? which is part of the growing problem of heritage sites and tourism, which is very relevant in underdeveloped countries. This question also leads to a critical debate that we consider lacking in the document and can complement the study developed, in relation to the ineffectiveness of the World Heritage Convention (1972) to protect sites with high tourist frequency. We believe that this debate and some reflection on the case of Zimbabwe can reinforce the work.

It has an adequate frame of reference supported by authors who are leaders in the subject. However, in the work the opinion of the authors is not clear, on the negative impacts such as "graffiti" carried out by tourists (not the traditional population as part of cultural traditions or rituals) as an activity that is taking place in the Caves. of Chinhoyi to the detriment of the heritage site. This aspect will need to be expanded, the relevance of paintings and other forms of drawing made by local communities as part of cultural traditions or rituals to be more clearly noted. It is recommended to complement with images that more clearly locate the reader or researchers interested in the subject.

The work contributes to reinforce the debate on the findings in non-consumptive terrestrial activities, especially as they contribute to the interpretation of the site.

In relation to the positive impacts of tourism, it will be important to complement with some quantitative data, for example, economic flow from tourism, tourist arrivals, job creation, economic contributions for the conservation and protection of the site, etc.

The interviews carried out provide valuable information and the method can be replicated in other sites in the area to systematically identify the positive and negative impacts of tourism on heritage sites in the region. However, the work can be expanded by identifying and discussing the normative and regulatory part that exists for the site and its level of effectiveness (regulations, management plan, established legal norms, approved territorial and ecological planning plans,



etc.

Also, as a line of research, the work can be complemented with an empirical analysis that identifies and evaluates the role of the state of Zimbabwe and the local authorities, responsible for the management and protection of the studied site, observing how the recommendations are addressed. and guidelines indicated in the Practical Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO 2008). In this context and as a complement to the investigation, it will be important to raise the debate on the processes of "heritage" and turistificación that the "UNESCO brand" induces and indirectly the World Heritage Convention itself (UNESCO 1972) in the African region and how it is they are giving in the case of Zimbabwe.

The document is novel research for the region that contributes to reflection about study and can motivate derivative research on several of the aspects. It has an extensive bibliography with different recognized authors.

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