

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

Hanlin Xu¹

¹ Rikkyo University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper explores an important topic regarding the impacts of tourist activities on heritage sites, using Chinhoyi Caves in Zimbabwe as a case study. The introduction provides good context and background on heritage tourism and the research problem. The literature review covers relevant concepts like sustainable tourism, tourist activities, and impacts on heritage sites. The qualitative methods using interviews and observations are appropriate for an exploratory study.

The results provide interesting insights into the range of consumptive and non-consumptive tourist activities occurring at Chinhoyi Caves, as well as their positive and negative impacts. The discussion links the findings to prior literature. The negative impacts on aesthetics, environment, aquatic life, and authenticity are concerning and highlight the need for better management strategies.

Some suggestions to further strengthen the paper:

- Provide more details on the sample - how many tourists were interviewed? How were they selected?
- Expand on the data analysis methods - did you use thematic coding? What codes/themes emerged?
- Discuss limitations of the qualitative approach and small nonrandom sample. Quantifying impacts in future studies could be valuable.
- Elaborate on management strategies to mitigate negative impacts. Be more specific beyond signs and fines.
- Carefully proofread the paper to fix minor grammar, style, and citation issues.

Overall this is a worthwhile study highlighting the impacts of tourism on an important heritage site. Addressing the above concerns will further improve the quality and contribution of this paper. I recommend it for publication after minor revisions.