

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comments about the manuscript entitled: "Tourists' Activities and their Impacts on Chinhoyi Caves Heritage Site, Zimbabwe":

The authors address a very topical subject, i.e., the study of the impacts of the tourist's activities on Chinhoyi Caves Heritage site in Zimbabwe using an empirical study and qualitative data collected from interviews carried out with 15 tourists and 5 employees of the Zimbabwe National Parks Authority. In my opinion, they present an original and interesting scientific work, firstly because there are minimal similar studies on the impacts of tourists' activities at heritage sites in Zimbabwe and secondly because in this paper, the authors deal with a research theme in relation to an activity that could be considered a double-edged sword since on the one hand it is an activity that generates income but on the other hand; it could be harmful to the environment.

To improve the quality of the manuscript, here are some remarks:

- The Authors use data collected from asking fifteen tourists, this number still very small; perhaps it will be more interesting if the authors try with a more representative number. Also and as mentioned in the conclusion by authors themselves, it will be more interesting if the authors insert in the work, the quantitative aspect of data collected after asking tourists.
- In the introduction, the authors evoke instruments to protect heritage. I suggest that authors specify what kind of instruments they want to mention in the text (legislative instruments or others ?).
- The authors wrote in part 1.1 (Tourist activities):" For instance, it is estimated that cruise ships in the Caribbean generate more than 70,000 tonnes of waste every year". The authors must cite a reference to justify the data given.
- In part 5 (Result and discussion) the authors evoke the three objectives of the study. It's a repetition as they are already mentioned in part 3.
- In part 5.1.1 change this sentence: "Someone was smoking and they dumped their cigarette stub on the ground" by the following: "Someone was smoking and he dumped his cigarette stub on the ground".
- In part 5.2.1 (Negative land-based Impacts), the authors wrote that the chemical weathering is predominant in the Chinhoyi Caves, I suggest to cite concrete examples of chemical alteration and to insert photos for illustration.
- In the same part 5.2., the authors cited another example of weathering, i.e., the mechanical weathering; i suggest

changing mechanical weathering by anthropogenic action as the term mechanical weathering can be confusing and can be considered as natural phenomena. The collapsing mentioned by authors is caused by man action.

- In part 5.2.2 (Water-based negative impacts): the authors attributed the reduction in the volume of the sleeping pool to tourists' activities without any prior detailed and serious scientific research. Why It could not be due only to drought?. I ask the authors to justify that.

- A little further down, the authors wrote: "the fish end up dying because they would have suffocated from the plastic." I think this is a hasty conclusion, since a scientific research is needed for coming to similar conclusion.

-In part 5.3 (Strategies to minimize the negative impacts of tourist activities); I record that the term strategy can be defined as a general direction in order to achieve a desired state in the future. What the authors present in the text and propose as a strategy is only in my opinion a set of tools to reduce the impacts of tourists' activities. I suggest to authors to develop more this part by proposing a reel strategy or an action plan for minimizing the negative impacts of tourist activities. A strategy should be established in consultation with the guardianship services.

- Others comments can be consulted in the PDF document.

Best regards

The reviewer