

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

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Firstly, I would like to complement the authors for doing an assessment of a natural site, which is the Chinhoyi Cave in Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, most of the impact assessment is done on archaeological sites rather than natural which makes this article important.

Not everyone is familiar with the location of Chinhoyi caves, therefore I would have liked to see a geographic map of the site location, a detailed description of the site's natural heritage, the site's geology. Although this information is partially mentioned, it would have been better if the authors mentioned it at the beginning. The authors mention some ceremonial activities, does the change in site statues (from a sacred place to a touristic place) impact the behaviors at the site.

Graphs would enhance the article; I would suggest adding a flowchart that would help follow the "consumptive" and "non-consumptive" activities.

Another aspect worth considering is the research sample. Fifteen people were interviewed, why? How many tourists visit the site? What is the peak time of visitation? Do they all come legally or there are illegal visitations? Do they buy tickets or is it free? Is there a higher awareness from the locals versus foreign?

When examining tourism's impact, a questionnaire is generally designed. This helps in creating a statistical analysis rather than using statements.

I would complement the authors on the language but advise them to merge some paragraphs as there is some repetition and long sentences.

I highly recommend more work on point 5.3.

I would encourage the authors to do a follow up project by assessing the threats, the measures taken and the impact of their implementation.

Overall, the work is very interesting, and the topic is very important. The literature review is well done, and the references cover the subject matter well. I would recommend looking at the work done on Mogao temple caves as an intervention and monitoring case study.

