

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52847

Date: 17-07-2025

Title: Boosting Nigeria's Services Trade: Unlocking the Tourism Potential of Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway

SS

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance			✓ s	

Reviewer Name: Dr.P.Manochithra

Date: 17-07-2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

This manuscript offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of Nigeria's tourism potential, with a strong focus on the transformative role of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway. Its multidisciplinary approach, combining economic theory, policy analysis, and infrastructural considerations, makes a valuable contribution to the discourse on sustainable services trade and tourism development in emerging economies.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Title of Manuscript:

Boosting Nigeria's Services Trade: Unlocking the Tourism Potential of Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway

General Evaluation:

This manuscript presents a timely and well-researched exploration of the tourism potential embedded within Nigeria's Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project. It effectively links infrastructure development with the broader services trade agenda, emphasizing tourism's catalytic role in stimulating economic diversification, foreign exchange generation, employment creation, and inclusive growth in Nigeria.

1. Significance and Originality

The manuscript addresses a crucial gap in Nigeria's economic policy discourse — the underutilization of tourism as a strategic lever for services trade enhancement. The idea of leveraging a major infrastructure project (the coastal highway) to catalyze tourism development is both innovative and policy-relevant. By integrating empirical data, comparative case studies (such as Morocco), and theoretical frameworks (development and dependency theories), the article contributes original insight into infrastructure-led tourism development strategies in Africa.

2. Structure and Organization

The article is logically structured, progressing from contextual background to sectoral analysis, theoretical framing, financing strategies, and actionable recommendations. Each section is well signposted and flows coherently into the next. The inclusion of comparative analysis and international best practices (e.g., South Africa's Garden Route, California's Pacific Coast Highway) enriches the paper's global relevance.

3. Strengths

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Combines economic theory, legal analysis, tourism studies, and development finance insights.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

- **Policy Relevance:** Highlights current policy frameworks such as the Nigerian Tourism Development Authority Act 2022 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.
- **Robust Data Use:** Uses current statistics from credible sources like the World Bank, UNWTO, WTTC, and National Bureau of Statistics to support arguments.
- **Case Study Integration:** Effectively draws on Morocco as a benchmark to illustrate tourism development pathways and the role of governance.

4. Areas for Improvement

- **Clarification of Methodology:** While the theoretical framing is strong, a brief section on methodology (e.g., data sources, analytical approach) would enhance academic rigor.
- **More Emphasis on Environmental Impact:** The paper could further explore potential ecological consequences of large-scale tourism along the coastline and how these might be mitigated within a sustainable development framework.
- **Expand on Gender and Social Inclusion:** The manuscript touches on MSMEs and low-skilled employment, but deeper analysis on gender empowerment and community participation in tourism would be beneficial.

5. Language and Style

The manuscript is written in a clear and articulate academic style, though some sections are dense and may benefit from more concise language for broader readability. Minimal grammatical or typographical errors were found.

6. Recommendation

The manuscript makes a substantial contribution to the field of tourism development, infrastructure policy, and trade in services. With minor revisions to methodology clarification and expanded discussion on sustainability and inclusion, this paper will be a strong addition to the journal.