

# **Geographic Information System as a Decision Support System for Tourism Management in a Developing Economy: a Case of Abuja, Nigeria**

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## **SUMMARY**

In Nigeria, Tourism is growing rapidly and it is among the viable revenue earners for the country. Nigeria has a wide range of tourist activities to offer. However, many of these attractions are still largely untapped and even at their raw states; they are still being enjoyed by few outsiders, either very rich visitors in quest of exoticism or adventurous people in search of new challenges and experiences. Worst still, some of the tourist sites are not known and those that are known are not published on the net to make them accessible. This paper discusses how Geographic Information System technology could serve as a decision support tool for tourism management in ABUJA. GIS functionality was used to create digital spatial database for tourist site, hotels, hospital, police station and road network for tourist movement within ABUJA. The research involved the design of spatial database for various entities identified in the study area. Geometric data was acquired from satellite imagery through digitizing and the imagery updated through hand-held GPS receiver while attribute data were acquired through social survey. ARCGIS 10.1 was used for database creation where attribute tables were linked with geometric data. Various spatial operations were performed and these include spatial search and closest facility analysis to efficiently guide tourist movement in ABUJA. The study was concluded by recommending various ways to promptly identify tourism sites, managing tourist movement and solving direction finding problems for tourist.