

Lagos Island Project Report Launch

Report Highlights

The Lagos Island Project report: Insights into tourism and urban planning was launched on 30 August 2022 at the INDIGO space of The Sahara Centre. 135a Brickfield Rd, Ebute Metta Lagos. The project was designed to gain an understanding of the residents' perspectives on recreation and leisure and gain insights into real estate and urban development in Lagos

Key Findings

- Contributions of leisure to the socio-economic development of the city usually overlooked in state development plans
- Sustainable tourist activity plans are not well driven and need to be driven by provisions for residents themselves the key stakeholders
- Authenticity is an issue with tourist destinations and tourism should not be limited to tourist villages
- The need to preserve historical buildings and put steps in place to prevent the demolition of such buildings in Lagos Island
- As Lagos Island evolves, important to have a responsible approach to development to avoid the negative impacts of gentrification which displaces inhabitants, for example the displacement of low income residents of about 300,000 the Maroko community in July 1990
- 52% of respondents defined recreation, tourism and leisure in Lagos Island as spending time with friends and family at home or outdoors, playing games, hanging out in streets with friends and eating out at local vendors
- 46% of business owners' respondents defined recreation, tourism and leisure in Lagos Island as time to relax.
- 27% of respondents identified recreational spaces like the Campos Memorial Mini stadium on Igboere road as their primary recreational space.
- 30% business owners had not visited the recreational areas before due to their busy schedule, lack of time, inadequate funds, security concerns, lack of awareness, lack of accessibility to the facilities, the most visited (25%) was Freedom Park.
- Residents seek safe and secured recreational open spaces, parks and or playgrounds with close proximity to their homes to contribute to a strong feeling of community and

with support from



- belonging. The emerging and existing arts and cultural spaces like MUSON centre were not seen as spaces for the residents of Lagos Island.
- Other factors impeding recreational activities include the state of roads which are not pedestrianized, or cycleable, and in need of rehabilitation. The lack of effective traffic management affects recreational and leisure activities in Lagos Island and the level of insecurity within neighborhoods which impacts on the sense of community
- Visitors and business owners are worried about insecurity within the neighborhoods
- Recreational activities help to build socially cohesive communities, amplify trust and boost optimal distribution and use of public resources, provision of spaces for recreational activities, affordable and inclusive arts and cultural events will contribute to the valued benefit of social cohesion.

Recommendations

- Cities need to meet the diverse and sometimes conflicting needs of residents, businesses and visitors. This will require collaborative planning efforts to ensure that the priorities of the various stakeholder groups are considered, and compromises, where required, reach a consensus among all stakeholders. Expectations for change need to complement Lagos' development trajectory.
- Public and private sector participation is required. Tourism, as a component of Lagos State urban planning efforts, will shed light on the socio-economic benefits of recreation and leisure.
- Community engagement needs to be fostered. Workshops and advisory sessions at schools, universities, workplaces, and residents' associations will build trust and strengthen social cohesion in a way that empowers the public to contribute to socially relevant issues, including development of the recreation sector.
- Encourage private and public institutions to promote work-life harmony by assuring that work schedules provide opportunities for leisure time and supporting recreational outlets for their employees.
- Offer Lagos Island stakeholders cultural awareness sensitization workshops and activities. Focusing on the island's unique heritage as a valued resource will reassure residents of the socio-economic benefits of the leisure economy
- Spaces, well-planned roads and traffic patterns, sanitary and healthcare facilities, emergency response providers, and welcoming and well managed recreational and tourist sites that accommodate the needs of all visitors are infrastructure improvements that will bolster the social, cultural, and economic welfare of all stakeholders.