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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

International Tourism and Changes in the South African Tourism Product in the 1990s

ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST AMENITIES IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

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MILDRED M. CHITURA

Master of Arts in Tourism Studies

2005

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Mildred M. Chitura

Being a Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the degree of Master of Arts in the Department of Tourism, School of Geography, Archaeology & Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg.

2005

Supervised by

Elizabeth Delmont

To Cleopatra and Clapperton

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANC	African National Congress
NPB	National Parks Board
NPBTAR	National Parks Board of Trustees Annual Report
NPBAR	National Parks Board Annual Report
NPSA	National Parks in South Africa
SAR	SATOC Annual Report
SATOC	South African Tourist Corporation
SATOUR	South African Tourism Board
SATBAR	South African Tourism Board Annual Report

Methodology

The nature of this study was such that it was both a quantitative research and a qualitative although it restricted the core research methods to desk research. The fieldwork component was undertaken in the context of a family holiday in August 2004. The main logistics, therefore, were the normal library and Internet facilities in Wits libraries and the Graduate School to which there was enough access. Also there was public access at the Stevenson Hamilton library at Skukuza in the park. The trip facilitated field observations especially the accommodation and the tour covered the Southern part of the park. Although there was access to the National Park Board's rest camps access was restricted to those who were resident at the private camps. There was also photographing of the individual accommodation sites. During the field visit, I made use of the family digital still camera and video camcorder, both of which adequately allowed me to enrich my graphic descriptions. After the trip, the study was further strengthened with archival research material obtained from the library at Skukuza.

Motivation

I was motivated mainly by the courses that I did during Honours Degree in Tourism. They focused on tourism development in Africa; Issues such as how tourism is not as economically viable as it seems and models that have been designed to explain the development of tourist destination. I developed an interest in studying a particular tourist destination to see how far it conforms to the theories of tourism development. I chose Kruger National Park because of its position in the South African economy. Because of the major historical periods in the country I thought of looking at how they have affected the development of the park in the area of accommodation.

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