

**An Assessment of Environmental Conditions Within Two Coastal Tourism Destinations  
in Ghana a Case Study of Kokrobite and Bortiano**

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**ABSTRACT**

Coastal tourism, though in its nascent stage in Ghana's tourism development efforts, is an important driving force behind environmental change in coastal communities including Kokrobite and Bortianor, the focal area for this study. These changes often results in direct and indirect effects on the whole coastal ecosystem which needs to be addressed hence the basis for this study. Thus, this study adopts a multi-faceted approach, through collecting and testing of marine (beach) water samples in the laboratory, assessment of coastal and cover and land use change using medium and high resolution remotely sensed imageries in an ArcGIS software. The final approach for this study involved a social survey with local inhabitants, tourists and tourist service providers using structured and unstructured questionnaires, interview guides and informal discussions. The field work covered a period of 6 months. The results of this study suggest that tourism development in Kokrobite and Bortianor degrades beach (recreational) water quality with faecal contamination. Microbial contaminations of water were especially high in areas of intense tourists and recreational activity.

Furthermore, the trend of land cover/use change in the area points out a high deterioration of vegetative cover with increasing built-up/bare surfaces in the past twenty years. These changes are largely driven by anthropogenic activities such as increased establishments of resorts and hotels, poor sewage and waste management systems and increased population. However, a survey of local residents and tourists indicated general satisfaction with the current level of tourism development, with some concern about beach sanitation conditions. The study recommends among others monitoring of water quality in coastal tourism destinations, provision of proper waste management systems. As well, coastal land use change monitoring and effective well resourced monitoring institutions are deemed necessary in other to protect these environmentally sensitive areas.

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