







responses confirmed that farming land, grazing land, fuel-wood and constructions materials are the necessity resources by which the livelihood of the local people linked to the park. Tesfaye Hundessa (1997) confirmed that the Ethiopian rural poor depend on natural resources in repose of their basic needs.

#### **4.4. Ecotourism Resource Conservation Problems**

Accordingly, responses of respondents during households or socio-economic survey relating to management or conservation problems of natural resources of ANP indicated that 45.7%, 32.4% and 21.1% respondents responded that deforestation, overgrazing, and expansion of farming, are the major causes of degradation of natural resources in ANP. On the other hand, 34.8%, 29.3%, 15.9% respondents also responded that soil erosion, vegetation degradation, and wildlife depletion respectively are the effects of these above causes. Uncontrolled free grazing might be the main management problems of the park, which exposes natural resources for severe degradation. From this estimation, large part of the park was devastated by expansion of grazing land in addition to other factors.

#### **4.5. Alternative options or diversified livelihoods**

Responses of sampled households indicated the possibilities of some income generating alternatives or ecotourism potentials for creating diversified livelihoods. On the other hand, based on analysis of responses of sampled households 37.2% of were expressed their interest if opportunity of diversified livelihood through ecotourism activities. The results of this finding give clues to say that these possibilities can reduce the present degradations of attractive natural resources of the park. The informal discussion with sampled households during interviews showed that honey production and selling of ripened wild fruits is also the other alternative income diversification options for local people. The issue to be noticed that ecotourism activities cannot be separated from existing local activities or agriculture. The major reason why linking tourism and local agriculture is due to the majority of potential pro-poor tourism beneficiaries subsist from agriculture. As Torres and Momsen (2004) acknowledged that, the production of agriculture or farming for tourism shows an opportunity to build on the existing skills of the poor without requiring a major shift in economic livelihood strategy, lifestyle and tradition. Therefore, agriculture is a significant potential for achieving pro-poor tourism by reducing impacts and maximizing benefits for the poor. This study revealed the possibilities of creating diversified livelihood or potentials for ecotourism development in addition to linking it with existing activities of local communities or agricultural activities.

#### **4.6. Tourist Flow**

Number of tourists were recorded from 2002 to 2012, indicated that the tourists of ANP were international tourists, Ethiopians, resident foreigners and students or researchers in total figured 10, 1724. The Ethiopian tourists covered the

largest share (39.35%) whereas the resident foreigners covered the least share (16.45%) of those visited ANP in the past 11 years (Source: Adopted from ANP Headquarter of ANP Office).

#### **4.7. Positive quality of tourist facilities and services in and around ANP**

The information obtained from park records, and focus group discussion with park warden and local peoples revealed that the ANP offered ample of tourist facilities such as guiding, camping site, and guest rest house at Awash River areas. As responses of warden of the ANP confirmed during interview, ANP also created some job opportunities for 28 members of local communities from total employee of 37. The responses of the ANP warden also revealed that the villages women at the vicinity of headquarter of ANP, which offered cultural handicrafts to tourists, are other positive aspects of the tourism activities at vicinity of ANP. Moreover, as the nine selected hotels nearby ANP responses indicated 85% of their total employee are members of local people.

### **5. Conclusion**

The assessment of ecotourism potentials revealed some of the natural and cultural tourism resources of ANP and its surroundings. The absence alternative options or ecotourism and sustainable management of natural resources are the major problems of ANP and its surroundings whereas ecotourism potentials are available. The main ecotourism potentials in and around ANP include diverse species of birds, scenic landscape, hot springs, ostrich farm and some mammals, cultural and historical attractions, lakes, beaches, and some hotels or lodges and their recreational activities such as swimming, boating, horse riding etc., at nearer of ANP. The diverse species and abundant bird are residing in ANP that contributed to attract ecotourists or bird watchers to ANP. The hot springs are used for therapeutic and recreational purposes by many local people beside they are one of the attraction attributes for foreign tourists.

The study also revealed that offering tourist facilities and services and creating job opportunities for members of local communities are positive impacts of tourism activities whereas seasonality in tourism and leakages are negative impacts. The negative impacts of tourism might be able to aggravate poverty and consequent deterioration of tourism resources or natural resources whereas the positive impacts contributed to reduce degradation pressures on natural resources. In general, the study attempted to reveal some ecotourism potentials or alternative options, which benefited the local communities while sustainable management of natural resources of the park achieved.

There are some ecotourism potentials and possibilities of alternative options, which are underdeveloped like local handicrafts. Therefore, reinforcing these off-farm diversified livelihoods and introducing additional alternative options is very important for sustainable management of natural resources in and around ANP.

Degradation of natural resources around tourists' destinations sites like hot springs, the seasonality in tourism and leakages in and around are indicators of the negative impacts of tourism. Therefore, the concerned stakeholders are responsible to create alternative options for local communities, create attractive tourist facilities and services, and protect sensitive areas or sites of park and integrating the surrounding tourism activities with local economic development or agricultural activities.

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