

CONSERVATION OF KANO ANCIENT CITY WALL AND GATES: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the problems militating against the conservation of the Kano city ancient wall and gates and the prospects of their conservation. The theoretical purpose and significance of conserving the historic built environment were examined to clarify their validity to the study area while also evaluating the extent of decay of the wall and gates. Field surveys, interviews and observations were conducted. From data collected it was revealed that wall and gates were rehabilitated in 2004/2005 through the support of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany with a sum of \$70,000.00 as grant under the "Preservation of Cultural Heritage of Developing Countries" and also that major culprit aiding the destruction of the historical monument is the State Government among other factors. The research concluded that the ancient city wall and gates are greatly threatened by destruction and complete elimination while conservation is the only way to prevent it. Finally, the Insurance of the historic structures promotion of tourism so as to generate revenue for the upkeep of the monuments amidst other were recommended.

Keywords: Monument, Conservation, Culture, Rehabilitation.

INTRODUCTION

Conservation of the historic built environment reinforces the five senses of quality communities, namely, sense of place, sense of identity, sense of evolution, sense of ownership and sense of community. The Kano city ancient wall is a historic structure of 19km circumference (Akinade, 2005) with fifteen gates; it has a broadly triangular overall shape which marks the boundary of ancient Kano city. The historical wall of monumental importance was built about a thousand years ago as a source of protection to the inhabitants of the ancient city at the time (Akinade, 2005) and it was declared a national monument by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) in 1979.

City walls like other historic buildings reveal the aspirations and traditions of the forefathers, they are works of those who have never been drilled to conform to standard and are seen today as remnant of their former glory. However a formidable combination of human activities, climate and other natural factors are rapidly bringing about decay of the Kano city ancient wall and gates and without annual maintenance, natural erosion accelerates the process even further. These problems are a threat to cultural heritage and traditional architecture.

History is the backbone of every societal development and historic buildings are an integral part of history. They are very symbolic and significant to our identity, we have a lot to gain from them but it is quite unfortunate that in the case of the Kano city wall and gates, little had been done to preserve it. Feilden (2003) notes that historic buildings differ from new ones in that they are expected to last forever. Contextually, 'forever' means as long as it is wanted. An historic building is one that, for various reasons, a society has decided shall be conserved for as long as possible. This study is concerned with the historic form of conservation, which involves the preservation and careful management of historic buildings with specific reference to city walls.

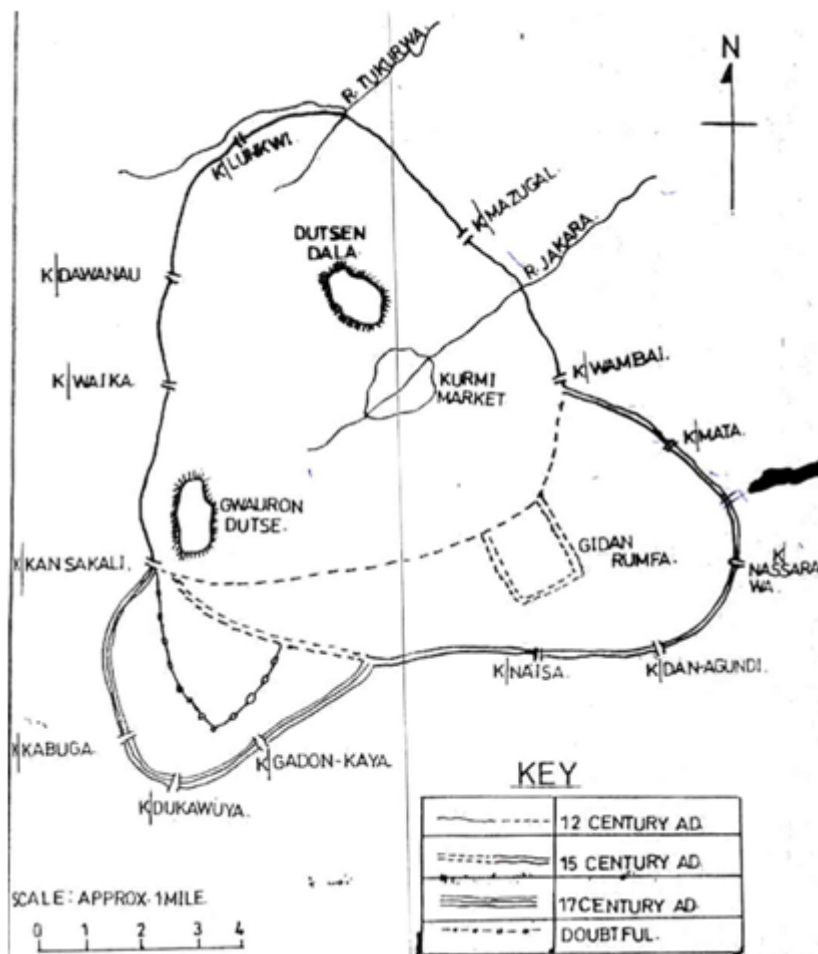


Figure 1: Map of the Wall and Gates of Kano

Source: Geography Dept, Bayero University, Kano (BUK), 2004

It is very unfortunate that, this physical as well as monumental aspect of the Kano culture is not been preserved. Conservation made the Great Wall of China the most popular ancient wall and one of the most important monuments on earth, putting China on the world map and making it a very popular destination for tourists and researchers, while on the contrary, the Kano city wall has been left to deteriorate, and

possibly may be completely destroyed within a few decade if nothing is done to salvage the situation. This will be a great tragedy to Nigerian history. Francis (1986) observes that change is inevitable but in a place where old buildings have been swept away, people feel a sense of insecurity and continuity is lost forever. It is essential to keep some buildings of historic and architectural interest of all kinds and periods. John (1984) opines that a civilized environment should accommodate conservation and development in order to sustain continuity and rational discourse between architectural forms. This study analyzes the problems militating against the conservation of the Kano city ancient wall and gates and the prospects of conserving the wall and gates with a view to recommend better and more sustainable ways of preserving them. The specific objectives therefore include:

- (a) To evaluate the extent of decay of the ancient city wall and gates,
- (b) To identify the factors causing the destruction of the city ancient wall and gates, and
- (c) To identify agencies responsible for the upkeep of the ancient city wall and gates.

METHODOLOGY

The process adopted in this research is categorized into:

- (a) A critical review of existing literature on conservation of historic buildings.
- (b) A reconnaissance survey of the ancient city wall and gates, where data such as distances between the gates; height, length, and width of some of the gates and the width of some passages through the wall, were measured and digital photographs also taken.
- (c) Analysis of the reconnaissance and interview data. The primary data used include personal interviews conducted with the gate keepers (Sarkin Kofa), residents within and outside the city wall, officials of the NCMM, Kano State museum, Kano State Ministry of Land and Physical Planning, and Kano History and Culture Bureau and Observations, while the secondary data consist mostly of published information from textbooks, journals, magazines; internet, unpublished seminar papers; and articles.

The area for this study is the ancient city of Kano located in north western Nigeria. A province and State capital during the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras. Ancient Kano is the area enclosed by the city wall and it comprises three Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely: Kano Municipal, Dala, and Gwale LGAs in the south eastern, north eastern and south western parts respectively. Between the 10th and 11th centuries, Kano became an important centre and a centre for the manufacture of various cotton goods, iron work, leather, etc. With increase in popularity, the former hill top locations could not accommodate the people of Kano, thus the need to move down and settle on the surrounding plains. This movement necessitated a defensive wall to protect the inhabitants from raids, especially from the north.

Hiskett (1957) in his article, Kano Chronicle, observed that the building of the city wall started during the reign of the Habe ruler Gijimasu Dan Warisu around the 11th and 12th centuries (1095-1134 AD). Conservation is the preservation and careful management of the environment and of natural resources, the management of resources so as to eliminate waste or maximize efficiency of use (Wikipedia, 2010). The methods of conservation include:

Conservation by Law: Enacting rules and regulations for preservation.

Restoration: Intervention made with the deliberate intention of recovering objects to their original state.

Protected Areas: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2010) defines a protected area as a clearly defined geographic space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values, and

Education: Making people aware of the need to protect and preserve the environment and its resources through schools, youth forums, media and organizations such as United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Green Peace, Wild Aid, Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), etc. (www.ypte.org.uk, May, 2010).

Values in Historic Conservation

Feilden (2003) observes that values attached to cultural property come under three major headings namely: *Emotional values* (wonder, identity, continuity, spiritual and symbolic), *Cultural values* (documentary, historic, archaeological age and scarcity, aesthetic and symbolic, architectural, townscape, landscape and ecological, technological and scientific), and *Use values* (functional, economic, social, political and ethnic)

Economic Benefits of Historic Conservation

Rypkema (1999) observes that historic preservation based on economic development strategy has several measurable benefits including the following:

Job Creation: The labour intensity of building rehabilitation generally means a greater local economic impact in jobs and income;

Job Training and Skills Passing: The local craftsmanship of the building process often nearly lost in a generation can be passed on through historic preservation.

Import Substitution: Historic conservation is locally based, using expertise, labour, and materials from the local market. Often new construction is the opposite, requiring the importation of expertise, materials, and often labor elsewhere.

Compatibility with Modernization: Most components for modernization - water, sewer lines, telephone cables, electric wires, even high speed computer transmission lines, can be put in place almost invisibly (often underground) without jeopardizing individual historic resources or their important context and inter relationships.

Opportunity for Tourism: When tourism is identified locally as a component of an overall economic development strategy, the identification, protection and enhancement of the community's historic resources will be vital for a successful tourism effort.

Natural Business Incubator for Small Enterprises: The size, location, character, and often pricing of historic buildings means that they frequently serve as natural incubators of emerging enterprises.

Most Effective Venue for Cultural Goods and Services: For communities that have cultural assets and crafts products that represents economic opportunity, historic buildings often constitute the most appropriate physical locations, for the sale and display of goods and the presentation of productions and the physical context of the historic building adds to the sense of authenticity, originality and indigenouness of the art.

Reflects Products of Differentiation: In economics it is the differentiated product that commands a monetary premium, thus if in the long run a community wants to attract capital and investment, it must differentiate itself from anywhere else. It is the built environment that expresses, perhaps better than anything else, a community's diversity, identity, individuality, in short its differentiation.

Compatibility with Evolution: Once there is an acknowledgement that effective historic conservation is not just museums and the concept of adaptive reuse is adopted, historic buildings have proven themselves remarkably versatile in responding to the demands of the widest imaginable range of uses.

REHABILITATION OF THE KANO CITY ANCIENT WALL AND GATES

The rehabilitation project under review was financed by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The sum of \$70,000.00 was released for the project as a grant under the "Preservation of Cultural Heritage of Developing Countries" (Akinade, 2005). The project was executed by direct labor, the technical expertise of the traditional builders of Kano assisted in the modalities for reconstruction. The supporting labor force was constituted by the group of youngmen of the area of construction. People see them as street urchins (Area boys) but they performed very well as reliable casual labourers. They were in charge of block production and other site duties. They exhibited untiring efforts and good sense of commitment to the project goals. The project commenced on April 17, 2004 and was executed in two phases: before and after the rains. The final completion of project was on January 15, 2005 (Akinade, 2005).

The maximum dimensions of the wall are: height 5.95 metres, width 2.80 metres and the length about 300 metres, while the work done covered the reconstruction of the wall at Sabuwar Kofa and the rehabilitation of six gates, namely: Sabuwar Kofa, Kofar Dan Agundi, Kofar Na'isa, Kofar Gadon kaya, Kofar Dukawuya

and Kofar Kabuga. The rehabilitation of the six traditional gates took the form of replastering and application of Makuba mixture. At Kofar Na'isa, Kofar Gadon kaya, Kofar Kabuga, the roofs had collapsed before work commenced. They were rebuilt using Azara, mud blocks, traditional mats and ropes. At Kofar Dukawuya and Kofar Kabuga, the offices of the gate keepers (Sarkin Kofa) attached to the gates were rebuilt (Akinade, 2005).

Measurements, interviews, photographs as well as observations taken were structured to collect necessary information on the following:-

- i Dimensions and the present state of the Kano city ancient wall and gates;
- ii Factors causing the destruction of the Kano city ancient wall and gates; and
- iii Problems and Prospects of conserving the Kano city ancient wall and gates.

Measurements and Descriptive Analysis of the Wall

The wall was divided into thirteen stations and lettered A to M from Kofar Nassarawa to Kofar Wambai as shown in the table below. The conditions of the wall in the different stations were observed and judged according to the degree of encroachment, thus:

Well Preserved: There is no encroachment whatsoever on a wall stretch;

Moderately Preserved: The encroachment on a wall stretch is average (that is, below half of the wall had been encroached upon);

Fairly Preserved: The encroachment on a wall stretch is above average (that is, more than half of the wall had been encroached upon);

Not Preserved: The whole or almost all part of a stretch has been encroached upon, the station is judged.

Table 1: Summary of Wall Measurements and Observations

Stations	Wall Stretch From One Gate to the Next	Length of Walls	Condition of Wall
A	Kofar Nassarawa - Sabuwar kofa	781.50m	Moderately Preserved
B	Sabuwar Kofa - Kofar Dan Agundi	556.80ms	Well Preserved
C	Kofar Dan Agundi - Kofar Na'isa	989.70m	Moderately Preserved
D	Kofar Na'isa - Kofar Gadon Kaya	2,001.00m	Moderately Preserved
E	Kofar Gadon Kaya - Kofar Famfo	1,143.60m	Fairly Preserved
F	Kofar Famfo - Kofar Dukawuya	184.41m	Fairly Preserved
G	Kofar Dukawuya - Kofar Kabuga	788.70m	Moderately Preserved
H	Kofar Kabuga - Kofar Kansakali	1,760.60m	Fairly Preserved
I	Kofar Kansakali - Kofar Waika	1,050.00m	Moderately Preserved
J	Kofar Waika - Kofar Dawanau	903.00m	Moderately Preserved
K	Kofar Dawanau - Kofar Ruwa	1,280.00m	Moderately Preserved
L	Kofar Ruwa - Kofar Mazugal	5,299.00m	Moderately Preserved
M	Kofar Mazugal - Kofar Wambai	1,067.30m	Not Preserved
Total	Length Measured	27,411.61	

Source: Field Survey, 2010

Table 2: Summary of the Conditions of the Gates

S/No.	Name of Gates	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Construction Material	Year of Construction	Last Rehabilitation	Present Condition
1	Kofar Nasarawa	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1463 AD	-	Good State of Repair
2	Abuwar Kofa	33.2	3.7	7.0	Traditionally in Mud	1937 AD	2004	Well Preserved
3	Kofar Dan Agundi	33.8	4.4	7.4	Traditionally in Mud	1463 AD	2004	Well Preserved
4	Kofar Na'isa	30.3	3.0	6.8	Traditionally in Mud	1470 AD	2004	Well Preserved
5	Kofar Gadon	35.1	3.6	7.6	Traditionally in Mud	1619 AD	2004	Well Preserved
6	Kofar Famfo	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1621 AD	-	Good State of Repair
7	Kofar Dukawuya	20.4	3.3	7.5	Traditionally in Mud	1112 AD	2004	Well Preserved
8	Kofar Kabuga	-	-	-	Traditionally in Mud	1112 AD	2005	Well Preserved
9	Kofar Kansakali	-	-	-	Traditionally in Mud	1112 AD	-	Destroyed
10	Kofar Waika	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1112 AD	-	Good State of Repair
11	Kofar Dawanau	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1112 AD	-	Good State of Repair
12	Kofar Ruwa	30.25	3.9	7.3	Traditionally in Mud	1112 AD	-	Fairly Preserved (No Roof)
13	Kofar Mazugal	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1118 AD	-	Good State of Repair
14	Kofar Wambai	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1112 AD	-	Good State of Repair
15	Kofar Mata	-	-	-	Modernized in Concrete	1461 AD	-	Good State of Repair

Source: Field Survey, 2010.

The six modernized gates surveyed are Kofar Nassarawa, Kofar Wambai, Kofar Dawanau, Kofar Waika, Kofar Mazugal, and Kofar Mata. The only modern gate surveyed is Kofar Famfo.

Measurements and Descriptive Analysis of the Gates

During the field survey, a total of fifteen gates were surveyed, that is to say, eight traditional gates (those built with mud like in the ancient times), six modernized gates (those rebuilt in concrete) and one modern gate (built in recent time with concrete). The length, width and height of the traditional gates (that is, those still constructed with mud according to how they were in ancient times) were measured; Kofar Kansakali was not measured because it has been destroyed. Six of the traditional gates surveyed, that is, Kofar Dan Agundi, Na'isa, Gadon Kaya, Dukawuya, Kabuga and Sabuwar Kofa were rehabilitated, the rehabilitation was financed by the 2004 Germany grant. Kofar Ruwa still exists but it has no roof and it is in great need of rehabilitation. None of the ancient metal doors is still attached to the gates but about three of them are in the custody of the Gidan Makama Museum, Kano.

Factors Causing the Destruction of the Kano City Ancient Wall and Gates

The factors responsible for the destruction of the Kano city ancient wall and gates can broadly be classified into two:

Human Factors

Human activities constitute the greatest and most destructive forces against the conservation of the city wall and gates. They are subdivided into the following:

Private individuals: The private individual constitutes the greatest threat to the wall and gates by building houses either very close or directly on the wall. This threat is likely caused by the population pressure within the old city, leading to demand for more land and the illegal selling of plots near and even on the wall, in most of such cases the ward heads and gate keepers (who are the custodians and guardians of these monuments) are the culprits.

During the field survey, observations showed that buildings of both traditional and modern types have encroached on the wall. Some of these are situated very close to the wall while others have virtually taken over the wall in violation of the law which requires a minimum 30metres allowance between the wall and any building should be maintained. Worst still is the fact that most of the traditional buildings encroaching on the wall and gates were built using sand and mud excavated from the wall. The second in line of private individual threat to the wall and gates, are those who see the wall as a veritable cheap raw material for molding sun dried mud blocks and direct quarrying of sand from the wall for construction of houses. The excavation of the wall though illegal has become a way of generating income to this group of people. Research showed that about 40 to 50 donkey loads of sand are excavated from the ancient wall site daily, which is equivalent to a tipper load of sand. Research also showed that about 108,000 pieces of sun dried mud blocks are produced in a year from the excavated sand.

The third category of individuals threatening the ancient wall and gates are residents who create illegal passages (haure) through the wall. A total of 16 such

passages were observed and mainly at the south western and south eastern parts, with an average width of approx. 7 metres: thus the total length destroyed amounts to approx. 112 metres, out of 27,411.61 metres. Other threats in this category include agricultural activities and the children who play on the wall by sliding down it, both removing and depositing soil particles from the wall.

Government Agencies: Perhaps most unfortunate in this case is the fact that various government agencies who are aware of the laws protecting the wall and gates go ahead to embark on actions which are detrimental to these monuments. Indiscriminate warrants of approval for construction which encroach and destroy the wall and gates. The main culprit here is the Kano State Environmental Protection Agency (KASEPA), which approves the construction of buildings close to the wall, clearly violating the 30 metres minimum allowance rule.

The issuance of plots to individuals for houses, shops, etc. by the three Local Government Authorities bordering the wall (i.e. Dala, Gwale and Kano Municipal), which encroach the wall. According to a respondent, the reason or philosophy behind the allocation of plots along the wall by these local authorities were to check the menace of thuggery and other anti social behaviours committed by street urchins (known as Yan Daba) that have inhabited some sections of the wall. Unfortunately, the State Government in a bid to renew Kano in 2000, through its Ministry of Land and Physical Planning demolished in excess of 1Km wall stretch between Kofar Nassarawa and Kofar Mata and more than 500 metres stretch between Kofar Nassarawa and Sabuwar Kofa, to accommodate the approved construction of motor dealers shop and a motor park. Recently also, in April of 2010, Kofar Na'isa, one of the prominent gates preserved as a Monument was completely destroyed for the construction of a tarred road through the wall.

Natural/Physical Factors

Natural forces and microbial activities of some organisms gradually erode, deposit and decline the wall. The most prominent and destructive of these factors include:

Water Erosion: Rainfall exerts significant influence over the wall and gates, the rain drops hit the wall with kinetic energy/force thereby detaching, washing and moving soil particles from the wall and at the same time increasing the base width of the wall. The original height and width of the wall according to Hambolu (2000) was 10 metres and 7.5 metres respectively. Due to continuous erosion, the height and width have reduced drastically in different parts of the wall and gates as shown on table 2.

Wind Erosion: The impact of wind erosion is negligible compared to rainfall, occasional blowing of the wind removes and transports particles from the wall. By so doing, it greatly reduces the dimensions of the wall.

Physical Weathering through Heating and Cooling Process: During the day, the sun heat absorbed by the wall surfaces is converted to heat energy and during the night, the temperature falls. The continual occurrence of this phenomenon causes

stress and cracks on the wall which consequently leads to the collapse of the wall.

Plants and Trees: Shrubs, grasses and trees cause disintegration of the wall in areas where they are present, as their roots expands the wall, thus creating cracks which trap water thereby facilitating the eventual destruction of the wall. However, to some extent, these vegetations provide a protective cover to the walls against direct quarrying; block making, direct heat from the sun, and the kinetic energy/force of rainfall. A Good example of such can be seen around Kofar Famfo where vegetations from the game reserve protect the wall.

Other Factors: Ponds (Kududdufi in Hausa) and water drainages or spill ways broken through the wall to drain water out of the city cause the destruction of the wall by engulfing it. Time also plays its own part in the deterioration and decay of the wall and gates after centuries of existence.

PROBLEMS OF CONSERVATION OF THE ANCIENT CITY WALL AND GATES

The problems or obstacles which make the conservation of the wall and gates difficult include:

Inadequate Laws Protecting Monuments in Nigeria: Nigerian laws protecting monuments is overdue for review as they relate to punishments for their violation and enforcement. The wall and gates need to be declared as national monuments.

Ignorance: From the data collated, many encroachers claim either ignorance of the law or significance of the wall and gates. They assumed that the little portion they individually encroached upon or destroyed does not amount to much harm to the facility.

Commerce: Another group value commerce more than cultural heritage, they see the space occupied by the wall as a waste compared to the economic activities that would generate revenue. This group consists mainly of influential people in the society and thus difficult to deal with even by the law enforcement agencies.

Modernity in Hausa Land: In Kano, large parts of the ancient wall and gates have been demolished to pave way for the construction of roads, houses, shops, motor parks, etc. which are thought to be more important than the historic wall and gates. This simply reflects the sense and the idea of the definition of modernity that the present is discontinuous with the past that through a process of social and cultural change, life in the present is fundamentally different from life in the past. Francis (1986) observes that change is inevitable but in a place where old buildings have been swept away, people feel a sense of insecurity and continuity is lost forever. It is essential to keep some buildings of historic and architectural interest of all kinds and all periods, houses, wind mills, warehouses, theatres, etc.

Lack of Funds: Conserving historic structures like the ancient wall and gates of Kano is a very expensive venture which government alone cannot sponsor. There is

therefore need to mobilize financial resources to support various works of historical conservation, restoration, rehabilitation and enlightenment in order for the wall and gates to be conserved. Ignorance claimed, in the destruction of the wall and gates are not genuine. Albeit, the NCMM intensified public campaign using available media to communicate the importance and value of the wall and gates and created awareness on the benefits of their conservation to Kano state and the country as a whole. Pamphlets, published in both English and Hausa languages on this were also distributed. Scholars and concerned citizens have written articles, books, reports, poems, etc. in both Hausa and English languages, on the ancient wall and gates which are published in journals, newspapers and magazines, the internet, etc. Lectures, seminars and conferences on same have been equally organized to enlighten the general public.

The NCMM organized a meeting of stake holders on 24th December, 2009 to consider the enlistment of Kano historical sites and monuments (including the wall and gates) into the UNESCO's World Heritage List. So far the report has been submitted to UNESCO and the wall and gates are now part of a tentative list for inclusion into the List. The NCMM director states that if enlisted, these monuments could create awareness about the great efforts and achievements of our ancestors, encourage local skills, promote international recognition and the development of tourism as well as generate employment opportunities.

The International Network of Traditional Builders (INTBAU), Nigerian chapter in its 2010 yearly seminar, proposed to reinstate the Kano wall and gates in three stages. One of which is setting up workshops on traditional Hausa buildings as a way of reviving the almost lost method of construction and in the quest train local inhabitants, architectural and building students as well as other interest groups in the fundamentals of this simple and sustainable method of construction.

The Kano State Governor reveals to the new Director General of NCMM who paid him a courtesy call that the State Government had included in its 2010 budget, an amount for the rehabilitation of some parts of the wall and gates. The Governor also promised to look into the demolished wall and gate for road construction. The research has discovered that most sections of the wall have been encroached upon by either houses, shops, motor parks, clinic, ponds/pits etc. only a single stretch of the wall was found to be intact. The gates on the other hand are in a better state of preservation, some have been modernized, while others have been renovated, two are in a bad shape, only one i.e. Kofar Kansakali has been completely destroyed.

The factors causing the destruction of the Kano city ancient wall and gates were found out to be of two types, that is, the human and natural factors. The human factors are the most destructive in comparison to the natural factors and they are by individuals and government agencies. The natural factors are those agents of natural forces that erode, deposit and decline and eventually destroy the wall and gates. The prospects of conserving the wall and gates of Kano are hinged on the promulgation

and enforcement of new, substantive and effective laws protecting monuments in the country, creation of awareness amongst the populace on the need to conserve the ancient wall and gates and contributions of non-governmental organizations such as INTBAU and the active support and participation of the State Government in the conservation.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of this research work, the Kano city ancient wall and gates are greatly threatened by destruction and complete elimination while conservation is the only way to prevent this. Conservation involves people managing change in ways that sustain, reveal, or reinforce its cultural and natural values. Change in the environment or anywhere is inevitable, if only as a result of passage of time, but it can be neutral or beneficial in its effect on heritage values. It is only harmful if significance and value of the historic built environment is eroded.

In order to maintain and sustain the historic built environment, the following recommendations are made:

- a. Government at the National, State, and Local levels should encourage conservation of historic buildings and structures by providing the necessary incentives and support for achieving it. For example in the case of Nigeria, government should increase its monetary allocation to the NCMM so that it can be able to carry out its duties effectively and also indiscriminate allocation of plots near monuments or on monuments site should stop.
- b. Strict penalties such as imprisonment and huge fines should be imposed and enforced on violators of the conservation laws.
- c. Campaigns on the mass media on the benefits of conserving the historic built environment should be intensified: this will play a crucial role in discerning, communicating and sustaining the established value of places, and helping people to refine and articulate the values they attach to the historic built environment.
- d. Traditional authorities such as the emirate council as custodians of traditional culture and monuments and as part of their contribution to the sustenance of the historic built environment, should use their influence and authority to organize communal activities/works periodically to renovate crumbling historic buildings/structures, clear plants, shrubs, trees and other obstacles taking over or destroying historic buildings/structures, create awareness amongst the locals on the need to safeguard the historic built environment.
- e. Prompt and proportionate remedial actions need to be taken to conserve historic structures, so as to sustain and preserve the structures in their original state, reduce cost and encourage the resourceful use of materials.
- f. Potential conflict between conserving historic structures and other important

- public interests like construction of roads should be minimized by seeking least harmful means of accommodating both interests. Instead of completely destroying a traditional gate to pave way for the construction of a wider road, the traditional gate could be expanded so that the road can pass through it.
- g. It is essential to develop, maintain and pass on specialist knowledge and skills necessary to conserve the historic built environment e.g. in the case of the ancient wall and gates of Kano, the traditional builders (Magina) should teach young and upcoming builders about the traditional materials and ways or techniques used in the construction of the wall and gates.
 - h. Insurance cover should be taken on historic structures for the risk of destruction, so that they can be reconstructed or restored if they are destroyed.
 - i. Governments should encourage tourists, especially foreigners, to visit historic sites so as to generate revenue for the upkeep of such monuments and the staff.
 - j. Finally everyone should contribute his or her quota to the conservation of the historic built environment or enjoying its benefits sustainably without compromising the ability of the future generations to enjoy it too. For example those, whose houses are located close to the ancient wall and gates of Kano, should not extend their buildings to encroach on the wall and also the citizens should report to the authorities concern any person or group seen destroying or doing anything detrimental to the historic buildings/structures located in their areas.

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