Conservation of Selected Sites and Monuments in Kano Metropolis

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Abstract

The conservation of historical sites and monuments plays a significant role in preserving people's history, culture, and heritage. Kano has numerous heritage sites and monuments, out of which this study focused on Gidan Dan Hausa and Gidan Makama. The aim of the study is to assess the condition, activities, and state of the historical sites with a view to providing information that will guide in enhancing and preserving the heritage properties in the Kano metropolis. Qualitative research methodology was used for the study. Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study. Primary data were obtained through interviews and personal observation, while secondary data were obtained through journals, books, and official records from the Gidan Makama National Museum and the Kano State History and Culture Bureau. The result of the study reveals that the conditions of the heritage sites are not encouraging. There are also several activities taking place in the two heritage sites. Such activities include social gatherings/activities, wedding programs, excursions, and other skills acquisition programs. The level of patronage of the two sites is low compared to the population of the metropolis and the location of the heritage sites. Some of the challenges facing the heritage sites include lack of funding, exposure of the properties to climatic elements, and low technological equipment to support the sites. The study therefore recommends that government and stakeholders should support the sites with funding and technological equipment so that the heritage properties cannot be exposed to threats.

Keywords: Heritage Conservation, Historic Monuments, Cultural Preservation, Urban Heritage, Kano Metropolis

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The development of human societies is deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of individual groups and communities. Heritage comprising beliefs, customs, traditions, and values plays a vital role in shaping identities and sustaining cultural continuity. Heritage conservation, therefore, is the deliberate process of safeguarding these cultural expressions, including sites and monuments, to ensure their relevance and transmission across generations (Umar & Yusuf, 2019).

Historical sites and monuments serve as tangible links to the past, reflecting the aspirations, traditions, and indigenous craftsmanship of earlier civilizations. These structures, often built using local materials and traditional techniques, stand today as symbols of cultural pride and historical memory. The global recognition of monuments like the Great Wall of China highlights how effective conservation can elevate cultural assets to international significance and attract global interest.

In Nigeria, the ancient city of Kano is home to numerous historic sites and monuments that embody the region's rich cultural and

architectural heritage. Notable examples include Gidan Makama, Gidan Dan Hausa, and the Kano State Cultural Centre—structures that illustrate the typologies of traditional Hausa architecture and the socio-cultural evolution of the region. According to Umar and Yusuf (2019), these buildings reflect the use of indigenous materials such as mud bricks and timber, and exhibit forms ranging from royal palaces to colonial-era residences.

Kano's cultural homogeneity, despite its ethnic diversity, is largely attributed to the enduring influence of Islam and the Hausa-Fulani tradition. The city's social organization, language, dress, and customs continue to reflect a deep-rooted cultural identity. The institution of Sarauta (traditional leadership), for instance, remains central to the region's governance and societal values. Furthermore, the Hausa language, enriched by centuries of interaction with other cultures, remains a resilient and dynamic medium of expression in the region.

According to Barau (2014), Kano's historical significance dates back over a thousand years, with heritage properties reflecting both pre-colonial and colonial eras. These assets not only highlight the city's prominent role in trans-Saharan trade but also underscore its historical and cultural importance in the context of Nigeria and Africa at large.

This study, therefore, focuses on the conservation of selected historical sites and monuments in Kano Metropolis, with specific attention to Gidan Makama, Gidan Dan Hausa, and the Kano State Cultural Centre. It aims to assess the current state of these sites, examine the challenges of conservation, and explore strategies for sustainable heritage management.

Table 1: Kano State Heritage Properties in Pre-Colonial

S/N	SITE	PURPOSE	NATURE	ESTABLISHED
1	Dutsen Dala	Defence	Natural	Stone
2	Gauran Dutse	Defence	Natural	Stone
3	Santolo	River	Natural	-
4	Garunsheme village	Settled	Built	999 AD
5	Kano city walls	Defence	Built	11 century
6	Kano city gate	Defence	Built	11-14 century
7	Gidan Rumfa	Administrative	Built	1479- 1482
8	Gidan Makama	Museum	Built	1440 AD
9	ZaurenTubu	Education	Built	15 century
10	BebejiHabe mosque	Worship	Built	1770
11	Sarki Alwalis Tomb	Defence	Built	1806 AD
12	Sokoto jihad historical site	War	Built	1804-1808
13	Panisau mini place	Defence	Built	1819-1846
14	Gidan Nasarawa	Rest	Built	1855-1883
15	Gogel mini place	Farm house	Built	1846-1855

Source: Barau, (2014)

Table 2: Kano state heritage properties in colonial and post-colonial

S/N	SITE	PURPOSE	NATURE	ESTABLISHED
1	Bebeji battle ground	War	Built	1903
2	Kano battle ground	War	Built	1903
3	Gidan Dan Hausa	Modern school	Built	1909
4	Colonial bridge	Travel	Built	1928
5	Gidan Beminiter	Craft school	Built	1911
6	Rumfa College	Elementary	Built	1927
7	Masaka textile factory	Manufacturing commodities	Built	1950
8	First Kano power plant	Electricity	Built	1929
9	Native Authority	Northern administration	Built	1926-1963
10	Kano First church	Worship	Built	1924
11	Bello Dandago House Radio Kano	information	Built	1946
12	Maitatsine house	Settled	Built	1950-1980

Source: Barau, (2014)

Kano State, known as the "Centre of Commerce," is one of Nigeria's most economically vibrant states, second only to Lagos. While rural Kano relies primarily on agriculture and animal husbandry, the metropolitan area is driven by commerce, manufacturing, and services. The state boasts rich land, water resources, and solid minerals, with a strong presence of industrial estates and financial institutions. According to the 2006 census, Kano is the most populous state in Nigeria, with over 9.3 million people, predominantly of Hausa/Fulani descent. Urbanization in Kano dates back to early settlements and has expanded alongside infrastructural development (Tanko & Momale, 2013).

The climate is characterized by three major temperature conditions warm, hot, and cool with an annual mean temperature of 26°C. The wet season lasts from May to October, and the dry-cool season spans November to February. Vegetation types include Sahel, Sudan, and Guinea savannahs, with tree species such as baobab and tamarind, resembling the safari landscapes of East and Southern Africa.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Concept of Heritage

Heritage is broadly defined as the legacy passed down from previous generations, encompassing both tangible elements (such as buildings, monuments, and sites) and intangible elements (such as language, traditions, norms, values, and customs). It reflects the identity, culture, and lifestyle of a people and is an essential part of national and local identity. Scholars like Marmion et al. (2010) and Petti & Trillo (2019) distinguish heritage into tangible and intangible

forms, both of which are crucial to understanding a society's cultural inheritance. Heritage can be recognized and preserved to prevent its disappearance, especially in the face of modern threats.

The 1972 World Heritage Convention emphasized the protection of cultural and natural heritage, initially focusing on physical aspects. However, over time, the scope has expanded. By 2017, 193 countries had joined the Convention, and the number of listed heritage properties grew from 690 to 1,073. Still, the distribution of recognized sites remains uneven: Africa holds only 9%, compared to 24% in Asia-Pacific and 47% in Europe and North America. Urbanization, pollution, and other environmental and human pressures increasingly threaten heritage properties, especially those in urban centers. Conservation efforts are thus vital to sustaining both the tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage. However, the recorded of properties are unevenly distributed across countries and continents the below table described that 9% of recorded properties are found in Africa compared 24% and 47% in "Asia the pacific and Europe and North America" correspondingly.

Table 3: Distribution of world Heritage properties by region

S/N	Regions	Cultura	Natural	Mixe	Total	Percentage	State with described properties
1	Africa	51	37	5	93	9%	35
2	Arab States	74	5	3	82	18%	18
3	Asia and Pacific	177	64	12	253	24%	36
4	Europe & North America	434	62	10	506	47%	50
5	Latin America &Caribbean	96	38	5	139	18%	28
6	Total	832	206	35	1073	100%	169

Sources: Olufemi, 2019

Table 4: Category of Heritage properties in Nigeria

S/N	Heritage properties	Date of recording	Description
1	AlokIkom Stone Monoliths	2007	Stone monolith (Natural heritage)
2	Ancient kano city walls and associated sites	2007	Build heritage (cultural heritage)
3	Arochkwu Long juju slave Route	2007	Build heritage (cultural heritage) Benin
4	Benin Iya/ Sungbo'sEredo	1995	Earthworks (cultural heritage)
5	Kwiambana& or Ningi	1995	Build heritage (cultural heritage)
6	Gashaki-Gumpti National park	1995	Forest (Natural heritage)
7	Niger Delta Mangroves	1995	Forest (Natural heritage)
8	Oban Hills/korup	1995	Mixed heritage
9	OkeIdanre (Idanre Hill)	2007	Cultural heritage
10	Ogbunike Caves	2007	Cultural heritage
11	Old Oyo	1995	Mixed heritage
12	Surame cultural landscape	2007	Cultural heritage
13	Sukur Cultural landscape	1999	Cultural heritage Osun
14	Osun-Osogbo sacred Grove	2005	Cultural heritage Osun

Source: Olufemi, 2019

2.2 Concept of Heritage Conservation

After World War II, traditional conservation methods became inadequate due to increasing population and environmental pressures (Law, 2020). Heritage conservation has since been recognized for fostering five essential qualities in communities: sense of place, identity, evolution, ownership, and community (Adeyemi et al., 2015). Despite this, both governments and individuals previously undervalued heritage sites, favoring modern infrastructure like event centers over cultural preservation.

Heritage conservation is now viewed as a professional field focused on the protection and maintenance of cultural assets for future generations (Poulios, 2012). Across Africa, countries have established legal and institutional frameworks to support conservation. Examples include the Antiquities Department of Tanzania, South African Heritage Resources Agency, and

the National Museums and Monuments of Ghana (Chirikure, 2015). These bodies manage heritage inventories, rank sites by significance, and oversee preservation efforts. However, in many African nations including Nigeria, heritage conservation still receives less priority compared to other urban development projects like roads and drainage.

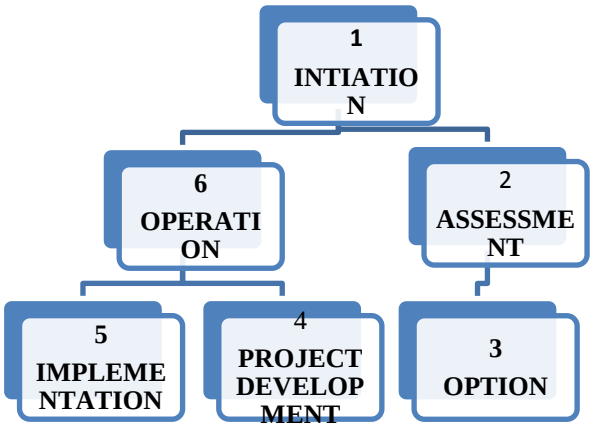
In Malaysia, laws such as the Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Enactment (1988) clearly define conservation as a process involving maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation (Azmi et al., 2018). Similar legal definitions exist in Nigeria and elsewhere, emphasizing the importance of protecting the cultural significance of heritage properties.

2.3 Heritage Conservation Process

Phase 1: Initiation

For the heritage site manager or the decision maker, this is a critical first phase that involves Understanding the situation in which the project will take place and clearly defining the problem or issue that is irritating to solve and why it is important to do so. The Initiation Phase must take Place with the entire team and other important participants to make sure that everyone involved in the project has the same or at least a similar understanding of what needs to happen. Based on this step, the managers will define the goal and objectives of the project and the activities that will be undertaken to reach them. In many cases, organizations invest considerable time and financial resources into research that provides information necessary to carry out this step. To the next phase, a decision must be made to allocate time, money and people to investigate and assess the problems or issues.

Heritage Conservation Process



Source: (Leblanc, 2006)

Phase 2: Assessment

In this phase the Assessment Phase that a Project Manager is assigned and that a team is created to begin the work necessary to understand the heritage place or property and all the related issues. The assessment is usually divided into three major activities. Assessing the significance of the place, assessing the physical condition of the resources and assessing the management system in place. The "productivity" or end result of the Assessment Phase is a good understanding of the significance, the physical condition and the management. It should be a sound knowledge base to help make informed conservation decisions.

The result is usually captured in the form of a report or sometimes a site management plan. It contains a statement of significance that explains why the site is important and what is valued by the various stakeholders, the important issues that need to be considered, an assessment or problem-solving of the condition of the physical assets, and an assessment of the management system in place. It makes recommendations for conservation and new development options (roads, services, etc.) that should be considered or studied and describes serious or longer-term conservation measures that need to be put in place or confirmed.

Phase 3: Options

Many conservation methods will be considered during this phase. In case of an historical site, the expert team may recommend the decision to rebury it completely because it would be very costly or technically difficult to conserve it; another decision could be to partially rebury it, and conserve and understand a small area. Another alternative could be to build shelters over parts of it, and so on. On-site and laboratory testing will be conducted to decide what conservation methods can be used and their efficacy to protect the resources. Visitor's management and control strategies will be suggested as well as methods to understand the heritage and its values to the visitors. Each decision will be carefully examined. A cost estimate and work schedule will be prepared for each valid decision. The advantages and disadvantages of each decision will be argued and recommendations will be made to meet your institutional requirements and constraints.

Phase 4: Project Development

During this phase, specialists such as town planners, architects, engineers, conservators, interpretation and exhibit designers, curators, landscape architects, and quantity surveyors are engaged to prepare drawings, specifications, detailed budgets and work schedules, and other legal documents for the conservation project according to the selected option. These documents usually become the contract basis

for tendering the work and for borrowing or committing the financial resources necessary. The "output" or end result of the Project Development Phase is a series of legal and contractual documents that will be used to obtain bids and schedules of work from contractors or specialized firms or companies to execute the work. For small projects, these documents tend to be relatively simple; but in the case of larger projects, they become quite huge and complex.

Phase 5: Implementation

The "idea" that activates the beginning of this Phase is the decision to go ahead with the conservation work. Clearly, this is a serious step in the project phase. After all, it is the step in which you actually carry out your project activities. Up until this point, the team has been researching, studying, examining, testing, consulting, and planning your activities. Implementation is putting all of the research and planning efforts you conducted in the previous phases into action. During this phase, experts, contractors and specialized workers undertake the conservation work according to the documents prepared in the previous Phase. The "output" or end result of the Implementation Phase is a completed project. The next phase begins when the conservation work is complete and financial resources have been assigned to operate the site.

Phase 6: Operation

In this phase, assurances are required (such as mechanical systems, roof, windows, specialized equipment etc.) and preservation database is set in place. Maintenance managers are prepared and maintenance activities remain experienced. The project documentations are archived. Management establishes a monitoring database for serious components and the project data is moved to a database for maintenance or re-treatment purposes. An evaluation of the Project is made and the training and education are captured in the final Project Report. The final Project Report is prepared and distributed. The site is open to the community or for its proposed use and a site or property manager is assigned the responsibility for its continued use, keep and protection.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

Kano State is located between latitude 12 0 3' N and longitude 8 0 32' E. It has a land area which is approximately 21,000 Square kilometers. It is 900 kilometers from the edge of the Saharadesert and 1,140 kilometers away from the Atlantic Ocean. The State shares boundary with Jigawa State from the North and East. And from the West and Southwest it borders Katsina and Kaduna States respectively. From the extreme Southeast it borders Bauchi State.

3.2 Study Sites

Gidan Makama Museum

Gidan Makama Museum, located in the heart of Kano city, serves as a significant repository of cultural and historical heritage. Originally constructed in 1440 AD by King Abdullahi Burja, the structure was initially assigned to his grandson, Muhammadu Rumfa, in recognition of his substantial contributions to the development of the Kano monarchical system. Muhammadu Rumfa retained the title of Makama Kano until he ascended the throne in 1463, and by 1475, he had established Gidan Makama as his first royal residence before constructing the present-day Emir's Palace still commonly referred to as Gidan Rumfa.

During the colonial era, following the British conquest of Kano in 1903, Gidan Makama was repurposed as the first British administrative residence in the region. Upon their departure, the British colonial authorities partitioned the building into three segments: one was allocated to the Elementary School Board (now Gidan Makama Primary School), another was retained by the Makama family, and the third was handed over to the National Department of Antiquities. This department later evolved into the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, under whose jurisdiction the museum currently operates.

Today, Gidan Makama Museum functions as a center for heritage preservation, archaeological excavation, and public education. It houses 11 exhibition galleries that chronicle the cultural, political, and socio-economic history of Kano.

These galleries include:

- Traditional Hausa Architecture – Features indigenous building materials and construction methods.
- Kofar Kabuga Gates and Kano City Walls – Highlights the entry point of British forces and provides maps and architectural models of ancient city defenses.
- Traditional Religion and Early Kano History – Includes pictorial representations of Kano's founding legends and the early Bagauda dynasty.
- Fulani Jihad and 19th-Century History – Covers the socio-political transformation under the influence of the Fulani jihad.
- Kano Civil War – Documents the internal conflicts and their impacts on the city.
- Economic History and the Durbar – Showcases pre-colonial trade practices and cultural festivals.
- Colonial and Political History – Features key events and figures of the 20th century.
- Islamic Heritage – Exhibits related to the development of Islam in Kano.
- Traditional Occupations – Displays tools and artefacts from agriculture, textile production, and craftsmanship.

- Musical Instruments – Offers insight into the musical traditions of the region.
- Traditional Hausa Bridal Room – Recreates a culturally symbolic space from Hausa matrimonial practices.

Gidan Makama plays a vital role in conserving Kano's historical properties, curating artefacts, and promoting awareness of the region's rich cultural legacy through preservation, restoration, and public exhibitions.

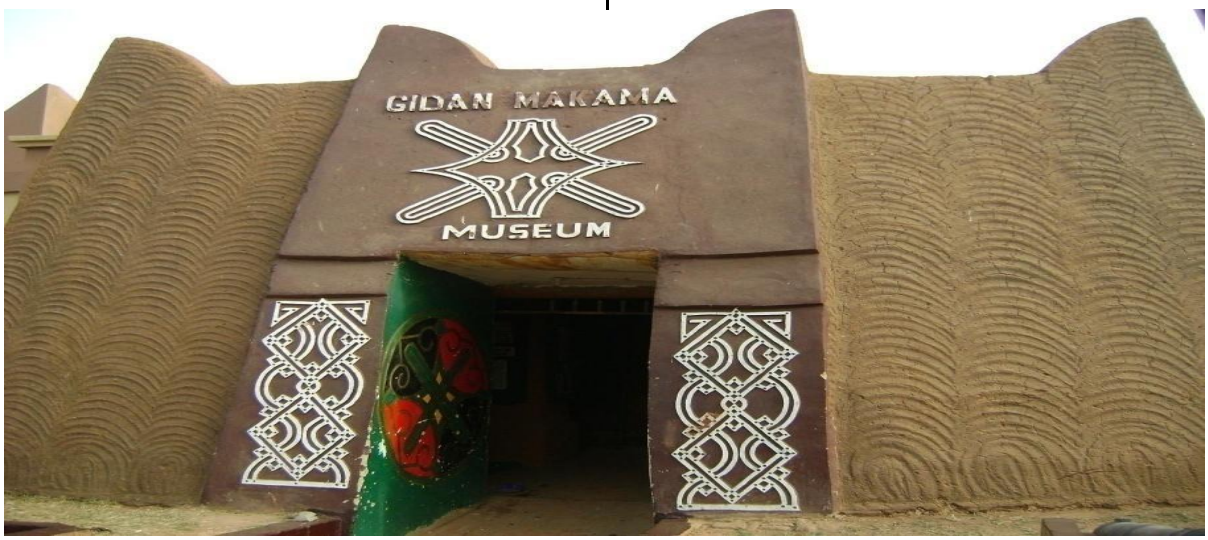


Figure 1: Showing Gidan makama in Kano Metropolis

Gidan Dan Hausa and Kano State Cultural Centre

Gidan Dan Hausa and the Kano State Cultural Centre are situated in the Nasarawa District of Kano Metropolis. The location originally served as a royal farm (Gandun Sarki), established under the reign of Sarki Kano Yaji II for agricultural purposes. The structure initially consisted of two rooms used to store farm produce, which was distributed to vulnerable and disaster-affected populations across Kano. The site gained historical and architectural significance in 1906 when a Swiss-born colonial official, Henn's Vischer later popularly known as "Dan Hausa" arrived in Kano. He initially resided at the colonial residence known as Gidan Sarki alongside Lord Frederick Lugard. In 1907, Dan Hausa undertook the architectural design and renovation of the original farm structure, converting it into what became the first storey (upstairs) building in Northern Nigeria.

In 1908, Dan Hausa was appointed the first Director of Education in Northern Nigeria. He established the region's first modern elementary school in 1909, which began under the shade of local trees specifically, two tamarind trees (tsamiya biyu) and one baobab (kuka daya). The school started with 30 pupils and grew to accommodate 209 students by 1918, drawing

attendees from across the Northern Protectorate. Dan Hausa played a pivotal role in the development of Hausa language and literature. He learned to read and write Hausa from his students and later compiled the Kamus, one of the earliest known Hausa dictionaries. In recognition of his contributions, the building and its legacy were preserved.

Today, Gidan Dan Hausa functions as the Kano State Cultural Centre under the administration of the Kano State Government. It houses the Kano State History and Culture Bureau, which was elevated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2019. The Centre now serves as a hub for the conservation, excavation, and preservation of Kano's rich historical and cultural heritage.



Figure 2: showing Gidan Dan Hausa in Kano metropolis

3.3 Methods

The method adapted in this research is including the following:

1. Critical review of existing literature on conservation of heritage properties
2. Reconnaissance survey of the heritage site and monument (Gidan makama and Gidan Dan Hausa) where data such as gallery, heritage properties, and other information that contain in each gallery were taken and digital photographs also taken.
3. Analysis of the reconnaissance and interview data collected in the heritage sites which include heritage properties, activities and challenges of conserving Gidan Dan Hausa and Gidan Makama were reported and discussed side by side with the data

collected through personal observation of the study sites.

The primary data used include personal interviews conducted with the staffs of Kano state history and culture bureau, officials of the NCMM, Kano state museum and Kano state history and culture bureau and observation. While secondary data consist mostly of published information from journals, textbooks internet, unpublished seminar papers and articles and official data record ofpatronage of the selected site collected in National Museum Commission Gidan makama and Kano state history and culture bureau.

4.0 RESULT AND DISCUSION

4.1 The Condition of the Heritage Properties in the Selected Sites

The condition of heritage properties in Gidan Makama, Gidan Dan Hausa and Kano state cutural centre are naturally eroded without adequate maintaince. A common example is seen at Gidan makama roofs of the various rooms leak heavely when rain storms occur, while excessive heating courses crack on the walls and destruction of gallery tenth and eleventh. Findings of the observation showed that, Dan Hausa and kano state cultural centre building were affected by termite which penetrate the wall and even some of the property were also affected by tempreture.

4.1.1 The Properties of Gidan Makama National Musuem

Upon arrival at the gate that leads to the Gidan Makama museum, the eyesight of some big pots as in Figure 3 on the outside buildings of the museum welcomes the visitor. The pots are so big and depth, person can enter into one and sit normally. The pots are excavated at the Kofar Kabuga, one of the gates around Kano city wall (ganuwa) through which the colonial masters entered and conquered Kano. There are several explanations as to the use of these pots, but a popular tradition describes that they were buried along the city-walls by Kano kings for protection in the ancient time.



Figure 3: Excavated pots at Kofar Kabuga around Kano city wall in 1975

Other properties displays at the entrance of the museum are two guns as in Figure 4 and 5 which were abandoned by the colonial masters when they conquered Kano. They are believed to have been part of the arsenal with which the British conquered Kano in 1903. One is for long range shots while the other is for short range shots. Four of such guns were discovered

at a military barrack at Bompai area of the city but only two were dropped at Gidan makama National museum.



Figure 4: Long range shots gun used by British conquered Kano in 1903



Figure 5: Short range shots gun used by British conquered Kano in 1903

Gidan makama museum has 11 galleries nine of them are active each gallery depict materials, artefacts and pictures representing the historical heritage of the people. First gallery is about Hausa traditional architecture and includes building materials used by the ancient people of Kano, second has the Kofar Kabuga gates through which the British entered, ancient Kano and subsequently captured Kano; it also has a map showing the walls of Kano, third exhibits a traditional architectural design of city gates, fourth depicts the Fulani influenced history of Kano starting from the 19th century, fifth contain the states formation, ruling emirs houses, sixth Hausa traditional sports, seventh the coming Islam to Kano, Dan Fodio jihad, eighth were closed, ninth containing British invasion, tenth and eleventh it has been destroyed and lastly bride's room which containing traditional weeding bride.

1. First Gallery

First gallery comprises of the materials related to building materials of the ancient Kano. It is with these materials Gidan Makama was built. Such material includes makuba, clay soil and other soil used as cement and paint by the ancient Kano people. There is azara, palm trees used for thatching roofs, and some other materials used for building.



Figure 6: image of exhibition gallery Gidan makama museum

The above figure 6 showing the picture of exhibition gallery which display highlighted historical originator of man's existence in ancient Kano. It covers the period of the occupation of Dala hills as human settlement and evaluation of ancient culture of Kano jihad and post jihad periods. In addition, it shows cases the military architecture of ancient Kano though indigenous residential buildings, mosques, ancient Kano city walls and gates. The walls and gates have witness three stages of architectural rehabilitation characterized by change of materials and designs which lasted up to the 17th century AD. The conquest of Kano by Othman Ibn Fodio in 1804 influenced the socio-religious political and economic life of ancient Kano. The activities of Gidan makama is conservation of historical properties, excavation and preservation.

2. Second Gallery

The second gallery housed Kofar Kabuga gates through which the British entered and subsequently captured Kano, it also has a map showing the walls of Kano. Ancient Kano Kingship System started in the 999 AD with the overthrow of a powerful priest called Barbushe who was in control of shirine at Dala hill called tsumburbura. Barbushe was a decendant of Dala a man of great stature and might. He is a hunter and building house in top of Dala hill. Before 999 AD ancient people of kano settled in gaps on the top of the hills these hills include Gawandutse, under control of Gunzago. Tsimbubura lived with people at Jigirya Jar Damisa, at magwan hill, Hamboro head at Tanagar hill and Gambajo head faniau hill. Dala hill become attractive to immigrants from different part of hausa land ancient palace of kano king (gidan Rumfa) present emir palace and kano middle school.

3. Third Gallery

At the third gallery depicted the picture of olden day's gate of Kofar Waika as in figure 5.5 (one of the Kano City Gates). It is a very big

iron gate, and attached to it is a metal slate with some Arabic words believed to be a fascination for protection.



Figure 6: One of the Kano City Gates

4. Fourth Gallery

Fourth gallery depicted the hunting implement such as hunting decoy, pick axe, throwing axe, fibre cap, leather bag and war implement which include shield, sword, short knife, bow and arrow, spear, bane gun, Brass gun powder and pictures of Kano emirs as shown in figure 6 next to it is the gallery showcasing the royal ceremonial dress here the royal shoes, staff, worn fan and turban as shown in Figure 6



Figure 7: pictures of Kano emirs

5. Fifth Gallery

This gallery depicted history of the state formation, Hausa Bakwai and BanzaBakwai maps. Hausa bakwai include Daura, Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Rano, Biram, and Gobir. While Banzabakwai are include Kebbi, Zamfara, Yawuri, Nupe, Gwari, Bargu and Kwararafa and Kano ruling Houses monarchical system in Kano divided into two Habe dynasty and the Fulani dynasty. Under the Habe dynasty, we have Gidan Bagauda which ruled for one hundred and sixty-four years (164) AD 999-1463, Gidan Rumfa ruled for one hundred and sixty years (160) 1463-1623 and Gidan Kutumbi, one hundred and eighty-four years (184) 1623-1807. Fulani dynasty on other hand ruled from 1807 to date. Ruler under Habe are called Sarki or king while Fulani is called Amir or Emir. Next to this gallery is a place where the occupation of ancient Kano people is depicted. Displays of farm equipment and hunting instruments are shown and illustration the types of crops grown at that time, such as millet, sorghum cowpea and groundnut were cultivated. The samples of war instruments such as iron and leather shield, sword and gun are exhibited in the next gallery. One of staff confirmed that the iron- made shield was donated to the emir of Kano by a German ambassador.

6. Sixth Gallery

The sixth gallery is depicted Hausa traditional sports both wrestling (kokawa) and boxing (Dambe) are popular Hausa traditional sports matches take place in areas or markets, especially known as drummers (makadandambe) and (makadankokawa) entertain both the competitors and spectators as showing in figure 8. Opponents wrestle until one is thrown to the ground and bothers fight until one is either brought to his knees or falls flats on the ground.



Figure 8: Hausa boxing sport (Dambe)

Langa (A Hopping Game) a children's game performed mostly under the moonlight in an open space as in showing in the above figure 9. It is a struggle between two opponents each holding up one leg with one hand and pushing his opponents with other hand. Any contestants that floors his opponents emerges the winner.



Figure 9: Hausa Hopping Game sport (Lange)

7. Seven Gallery

The seventh gallery depicted the history of coming of Islam to Kano. Kano was exposed to Islamic influence from pre- jihadist period. Hausa language contain many words of Arabic origin that entered Hausa land though Kanuri; Mande and Songhai Empire. The earliest Muslims were strangers visiting the city as merchants. The arrival wangarawa people in the 14th century from Mali was the first stage in the Islamisation of the state. Other influences were the arrival of Sheikh Abdurrahman Zaiti from Mali and Islamic scholars from Songhai. Perhaps at ever greater impact was the arrival of Sheikh Al-maghili from North Africa. His influence could be deduced from his correspondence with Amir Muhammadu Rumfa that was reproduced by Sheikh Usman bin Fodio.

Shehu Usman Dan Fodio declared jihad against Gobir many of his students sought support from him in order to legitimized their own campaigns. The various Fulani groups in Kano seized control in their own areas and even beyond. One group captured shira. Alwali, the last Sarki of Kano under the Kutumbawa dynasty joined forces with the rulers of Daura and Katsina but they were defeated by the Fulani jihadists. Alwali was killed at

Burumburum and a scholar Suleiman Abahama was appointed as the first Amir (1807-1819).

8. Eight Gallery

This picture of Gallery eight has been closed shows as in figure 10 due to lack of museum properties and destruction as a result of climate condition and poor maintenance.



Figure 10: image of gallery eight closed

9. Nine Gallery

Nine gallery contains the British invasion of Kano in the 1900 the Royal Niger company lost its charter and the British protectorate of northern Nigeria was declared. Lord Lugard the high commissioner offered protection and controlled the Niger and Benue for the first year. Sokoto rejected the offer of protection, however, by the end of 1902 only Kano, sokoto and the far northern Emirates contained free Amir Aliyu made preparations the walls were repaired and strengthened, arms and ammunition gathered to fight against British rule. Resistance was largely broken by the expeditionary force, under Lord Lugard. Other properties in the gallery include picture of Emir Aliyu Babba with the British colonial officers in 1901, picture of training progress, picture of British army ready action, picture of military officers at Kabuga the conquest in 1903,pictutures of Emir Aliyu Abbas on exile at Look, picture of installation of Emir Abbas by British in 1903, picture of Lord Fredrick Lugard and sir Gawain westerly bell Governor of northern Nigeria 1957-1962, picture of Lancaster Hausa meeting in preparation towards Nigerian independence, visit of Queen mother

to Kano emirate in 1957, the pictures of Nigerian nationalists such as NnamdiAzikiwe, SardaunaAhmadu Bello, TafawaBalewa and among others. Unfortunately, tenth and eleventh were destroyed due heavy rainfall erosion and high degree of temperature.

10. Hausa Bride Room

It includes calabash, iron tray, calabash ladder, local lantern, cotton thread, chair and among others as in showing in figure 11. This Hausa Bride room established after the destruction of galleries tenth and eleventh in order show the value of Hausa culture.



Figure 11: Hausa Bride room

5.1.2 Properties of Gidan Dan Hausa and State Cultural Centre

Gidan Dan Hausa is considered as a monument and museum. The building itself serve as a monument which has over 50-year history. Secondly Gidan Hausa served as a museum which conserved and preserve historical site or properties and it is of the classification of colonial building of Kano, while Kano state cultural Centre is a department under art and culture, Kano state history and culture Bureau (Gidan Hausa Kano).

1. Dan Hausa Elementary School

Part of Gidan Dan Hausa was converted into elementary school. Hannsvischer (1876-1945) was confirmed as a first Director of Education in northern Nigeria in 1908 and started elementary school in 1909 with a few years after the British conquest. It was first modern school in the whole Northern Nigerian Protectorate. The school started with 30 people in 1909 while in 1913 had a population of 209 from all part of the northern Nigeria. It stated educational activities under the shadow of trees

(tsamiya biyu and kuka daya). The organizational structure of Gidan Dan Hausa is presented in Figure 12 below.

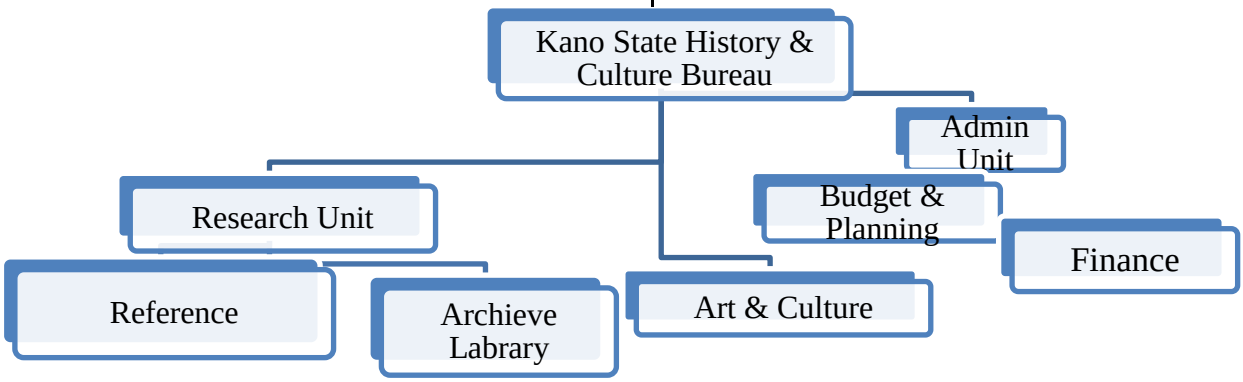


Figure 12: Organizational Structure of Kano State History and Culture Bureau

5.2 The Activities Carried Out in Gidan Makama & Gidan Dan Hausa

The study revealed that Gidan Makama and Gidan Dan Hausa host a range of similar cultural and educational activities. According to Kulli, Head of the Educational Department, and Aliyu Mustapha, the activities include individual visits and guided tours, excursions from schools and institutions, research engagements, and social gatherings such as naming ceremonies, weddings, and festivals. Muktar, a Staff Officer in the Education Department of Gidan Makama, and Malam Ustaz from the Kano State History and Culture Bureau, confirmed that the sites attract diverse visitors from primary and secondary schools, universities, polytechnics, and international tourists. In collaboration with the Waqf Foundation, Gidan Makama also runs skill acquisition programs for youth, training them in soap, detergent, and pomade production to promote self-reliance. The research departments in both heritage sites support academic work conducted by local and international researchers. Furthermore, social events are frequently organized to entertain and engage the public on various occasions.

Similarly, the Kano State Cultural Centre, located at Gidan Be on Minister Sokoto Road and built in 1911, operates under the Art and Culture Unit of the Kano State History and Culture Bureau. It serves as a hub for cultural activities such as traditional food exhibitions, cultural shows, the Durbar Festival, and carnivals. Key performances at the centre include choral music (shantu), drama entries based on NAFEST cultural themes, hunter dances (Gangiko), the Durbar procession showcasing horses, camels, attire, and music, and the Koroso dance a traditional Hausa performance often featured during festivals and institutional celebrations. Shantu is a traditional female-led music genre using a gourd instrument, while Koroso, which began in 1972

under Governor Audu Bako, uses instruments like dumangirke, sarewa, and kwarya to entertain and generate income for the state.

All three sites Gidan Makama, Gidan Dan Hausa, and the Kano State Cultural Centre have consistently recorded high levels of patronage over the years. They regularly conduct guided tours, keep daily visitor statistics, and produce monthly and quarterly reports, reflecting their active roles in preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Kano and beyond.

5.3 The Challenges in Conserving Heritage Site

Mal. Mukhtar, an education officer and conservator at Gidan Makama Museum, highlighted several pressing challenges facing the institution, chief among them being the lack of adequate funding. He explained that the museum is severely underfunded, making it difficult to achieve its objectives. According to him, like every other institution, Gidan Makama and indeed most museums in Nigeria are plagued by financial constraints. The lack of sufficient funds has hindered essential renovation works, with the buildings and galleries now in a state of disrepair. He noted that ideally, the structure should be renovated annually, but it has remained untouched for over four years, leading to leaking roofs during the last rainy season and raising concerns about possible structural collapse. In addition to the deteriorating infrastructure, there is a shortage of office space for staff and a lack of necessary technological equipment such as computers, satellite TV, video cameras, and books. The museum's gate fees N50 for adults, N30 for children, and N200 for foreigners generate minimal revenue, insufficient to meet its needs.

Similarly, Gidan Dan Hausa and the Kano State Cultural Centre also face numerous challenges, especially concerning conservation. The head of department at Gidan Dan Hausa noted that environmental elements such as sunlight, temperature fluctuations, and termites are damaging the monument's structure, which urgently requires conservation. During field observations, two large excavated pots displayed outside the monument showed signs of deterioration caused by direct exposure to heat. With a gate fee of N200, the revenue is inadequate to sustain the conservation efforts.

Malam Nasiru of Gidan Makama and other staff from the Kano State History and Culture Bureau identified several other issues threatening heritage conservation in the region. Urban development projects such as the construction of flyovers, roads, houses, shops, and motor parks have led to the destruction of significant portions of heritage sites, prioritizing modern infrastructure over historical preservation. This trend reflects a widespread perception that modernity necessitates breaking away from the past, despite the architectural and

historical value these sites hold. Furthermore, Nigeria's existing laws and regulations on monument protection require urgent review, particularly in terms of enforcement and penalties for violations. Many of these heritage sites have been occupied for commercial purposes, as influential individuals in the community prioritize economic gains over cultural preservation, making enforcement of conservation laws particularly difficult.

Another challenge stems from the behavior of visitors, many of whom handle heritage objects directly, contributing to their deterioration. As a result, there is a need for modern technology to support the conservation and education efforts of these sites. Equipment such as computers, projectors, portable generators, and digital cameras are essential for managing visitor behavior, monitoring heritage objects, and protecting them from damage.

5.4 Planning Intervention in Conservation of Heritage Properties

The profession of planning has played significant role in conservation of heritage properties. This is through listing of heritage sites and properties. The National commission for museum and monuments has 51 museums and 65 National monuments and sites and over 100 proposed sites and monuments are waiting for approval. In 2011 the Director General of the national commission for museum and monuments organized a conference in Abuja consisting of heritage professionals from different part of Nigeria to deliberate on known as Antiquities ordinance, which led to the establishment of the Department of Antiquity.

Recently the Director general submitted the document to the senate committee on culture and tourism, the documentation identified the establishment of the Private bill that needs to amend the provision of the national commission for museum and monuments when passed into law, could place some instruction on governments of the federation, state and local on impact of National commission for museum and monuments over historical sites, given the history of violations in Nigeria.

The bill has 12 parts, which contain provision of the national commission for museum and monuments, objectives, functions and powers, advisory committees of the commission, staff of the commission, General provisions and guiding principles for historical site and monument resources management, excavations and discoveries, conservation and security, prohibited transfer, museum, dedications from budget and tax to support culture, financial fines. The provision of this law part II number 17 under the conservation and protection explain that any person who cause damages to the heritage property should be guilty of an offence and is liable to conviction, at the same

time, the law prescribes penalties for violators either individual or institutions.

Under the provision of this bill 'part II number 17, Part V and subsection (3) explains the punishment and fines to the violators of the heritage properties. In addition, the Federal, states, local governments, other authorities, bodies and persons shall be guided by the provisions in this Part and Schedule 12 of this Act in ensuring the protection of historical sites and monuments.

Under the Financial Provisions of national commission for museum and monuments act chapter 242 law of the federation of Nigeria 1990 section 8(1) stated that the museum or monuments shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be used for running the activities for instead renovation of buildings, and upgrading the dilapidated properties.

In subsection (1) of this law, as contained in alphabet a, b and c said the museum shall be paid and credited to the fund established such sums as may be provided in each financial year to the Commission through Federal Government and fees charges for services rendered through the Commission.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The conservation of historical site and monuments plays significant role in preserving people's history culture and heritage. Kano has numerous heritage sites and monuments out of which this study focused on Gidan Dan Hausa and Gidan makama. The aim of the study is to assess the condition, activities and the state of the historical sites with a view to providing information that will guide in enhancing and preserving the heritage properties in Kano metropolis. There are also several activities taking place in the two heritage sites. Such activities include social gatherings/ activities wedding programmes, excursion, and other skills acquisition programmes. The level of patronage of the two sites is low compared to the population of the metropolis and the location of the heritage sites. Some of the challenges facing the heritage sites include: lock of funding, exposure of the properties to climatic elements and low technological equipment's to support the sites. The study therefore recommends that government and stakeholders should support the sites with funding and technological equipment so that the heritage properties cannot be exposed to threat. The paper therefore made the following recommendations:

- Objects should be well protected from the direct effect of elements of weather, like sunlight, rain and dust. Raising a roof above them and any other acceptable practices are aimed at conserving the properties.
- Federal, state and local legislative should make strong laws on historical site and

monument for conservation and protection of cultural value of the state

- Government should provide adequate facilities and services to the historical site and monument in order to attract the patronage both local and international visitors
- Government, non-governmental organization and other social media should organize public awareness campaign on historical site and monument in order to enlighten people about the value of the heritage properties.
- Government should equip the heritage sites with technological equipment such as computer, projector, portable generator and digital camera for smooth running of educational programs and ensure that properties should be touched only when necessary.
- The planning authority should stop issuing land titles influential people so as to reduce the encroachment of the heritage sites and destruction of heritage properties.
- Government, governmental and nongovernmental organizations should support the heritage sites with funds in order to conserve, repair and restore the other dilapidated historical site and properties.

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