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Integrating Heritage Sites into Sustainable Urban Planning: A Case of Durbi Takusheyi for Tourism Development

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Abstract

Cultural heritage sites play a crucial role in preserving collective identity and supporting sustainable tourism, yet they are often marginalized in urban planning processes, particularly in rapidly urbanizing contexts of the Global South. This study examines Durbi Takusheyi, a prominent archaeological and cultural heritage site in Katsina State, Nigeria, to assess pathways for integrating heritage conservation into sustainable urban development. Drawing on policy analysis and field observations, the research identifies critical challenges, including fragmented institutional coordination, inadequate infrastructure, weak policy implementation, and limited community participation. The findings highlight the imperative for a heritage-led urban development framework anchored in adaptive reuse, inclusive governance, and cross-sectoral policy alignment. The study advocates for the application of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to enhance spatial resilience, promote cultural continuity, and stimulate tourism-based economic growth. These insights contribute to ongoing discourse on urban heritage management in sub-Saharan Africa and offer a replicable model for culturally responsive urban planning.

Keywords: Cultural heritage, Durbi Takusheyi, heritage conservation, tourism development, urban planning.

1.0 Introduction

The integration of cultural heritage sites into sustainable urban planning has emerged as a critical challenge and opportunity, particularly in rapidly urbanizing contexts of the Global South (Bandarin & van Oers, 2012). These sites are not only repositories of cultural memory and identity but also potential catalysts for socio-economic development, especially through heritage tourism (Ashworth, Graham, & Tunbridge, 2007; Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009). However, the juxtaposition of urban growth with heritage conservation often produces conflict, where cultural assets are marginalized or degraded in favour of physical expansion and economic imperatives (Ugboko, 2010; Oyesiku, 2010).

In Nigeria, this challenge is especially acute. Despite a wealth of historical and cultural assets, ranging from ancient city ruins and sacred groves to royal burial sites, heritage resources remain insufficiently integrated into planning frameworks (Ajayi, 2015). Urban policies have tended to prioritize infrastructural

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growth and land commodification over cultural sustainability, thereby exacerbating the loss of historical landscapes and weakening cultural identity (Eze-Uzomaka, 2017). In addition, fragmented institutional frameworks, limited public awareness, and weak enforcement mechanisms hinder the effectiveness of heritage conservation efforts (Ndoro & Wijesuriya, 2015; Ayeni et al., 2016).

Durbi Takusheyi, an ancient burial site in Katsina State, exemplifies these dynamics. As a royal necropolis associated with the early Hausa kingdoms, it encapsulates centuries of political, spiritual, and cultural significance (Eyo, 2003). Yet despite its historical relevance and latent tourism potential, the site remains largely underutilized due to inadequate infrastructure, weak policy integration, and limited community engagement. This reflects a broader national trend where valuable heritage resources are sidelined in planning processes, resulting in missed opportunities for sustainable development (Adie & Hermans, 2020).

Internationally, frameworks such as UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach offer guidance for reconciling heritage preservation with contemporary urban needs. The HUL approach advocates for a holistic and participatory strategy that integrates cultural values into planning and governance structures (UNESCO, 2011). While the adoption of such frameworks in Nigeria has been slow, they present viable models for cities and regions seeking to protect heritage while accommodating urban growth.

This study aims to explore how heritage-led urban development can be operationalized in Nigeria using Durbi Takusheyi as a case study. Through a mixed-methods approach involving spatial analysis, stakeholder interviews, and policy reviews, it evaluates the potential of adaptive reuse, participatory planning, and regulatory reform in transforming heritage sites into sustainable tourism assets. The goal is to contribute to emerging discourses on heritage management and sustainable urbanism, particularly in the context of Global South cities undergoing rapid change.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development

Heritage conservation is no longer confined to the preservation of physical monuments and artefacts; it is increasingly recognized as a strategic component of cultural sustainability

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and identity reinforcement in both global and local contexts (Smith, 2006; Labadi, 2013). In postcolonial societies, heritage plays a pivotal role in restoring historical consciousness and fostering social cohesion by reclaiming marginalized cultural narratives (Harrison, 2013). In Nigeria, heritage assets such as Durbi Takusheyi carry deep symbolic meaning, yet their preservation is hindered by weak institutional frameworks and the absence of coherent cultural policies (Eze-Uzomaka, 2017). Cultural sustainability, therefore, involves not only safeguarding physical sites but also ensuring their relevance and accessibility for future generations, in ways that affirm communal identity and regional pride.

2.2 Integrating Heritage into Urban Planning

Historically, urban planning has emphasized land use, housing, infrastructure, and economic growth, often neglecting the intangible dimensions of cultural heritage (Pendlebury et al., 2009). However, evolving planning paradigms increasingly promote the inclusion of cultural values and historical assets within city development strategies (Bandarin & van Oers, 2012). UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach exemplifies this shift, advocating for a holistic, landscape-based methodology that integrates heritage conservation into broader urban policy and governance systems (UNESCO, 2011). The HUL framework underscores the importance of participatory planning and multidisciplinary collaboration in achieving a balance between modernization and heritage preservation, particularly in historic urban environments.

2.3 Governance and Implementation Challenges in Developing Countries

Efforts to integrate heritage conservation into urban development frameworks in the Global South, and particularly in Nigeria, face persistent structural and administrative barriers. These include limited funding, poor coordination between planning and cultural agencies, lack of public awareness, and ineffective policy enforcement (Ndoro & Wijesuriya, 2015; Adedayo & Afolabi, 2016). Additionally, the prioritization of short-term economic or infrastructural gains often undermines long-term cultural preservation goals. Rapid urbanization in peri-urban areas further threatens undocumented or inadequately protected heritage sites (Ajayi, 2015). This fragmented governance environment results in inconsistent heritage management practices and the erosion of culturally significant landscapes.

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2.4 Heritage Tourism as a Catalyst for Economic and Cultural Revitalization

Heritage tourism has emerged as a viable strategy for sustainable development, offering a mechanism to valorize cultural assets while stimulating local economies (Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009; Adie & Hermans, 2020). When implemented effectively, heritage tourism can enhance community participation, incentivize conservation, and contribute to inclusive development (Aas, Ladkin, & Fletcher, 2005). Nevertheless, scholars warn against the commodification of heritage, where economic interests override cultural integrity and marginalize local stakeholders (Daher, 2005). The sustainability of heritage tourism relies on maintaining a delicate balance between economic benefits, environmental stewardship, cultural authenticity, and social equity.

2.5 Participatory Planning and Adaptive Reuse as Integrated Approaches

Participatory planning has gained prominence as a foundational principle in heritage site management. Engaging local communities, traditional authorities, planners, and tourism actors in decision-making processes fosters greater legitimacy and promotes culturally sensitive outcomes (Chirikure et al., 2010). Simultaneously, adaptive reuse, repurposing historical structures for contemporary functions, offers a pragmatic and innovative solution for conserving heritage within dynamic urban environments (Bullen & Love, 2011). These approaches support the integration of heritage into everyday urban life, ensuring continued relevance without compromising historical authenticity.

2.6 Policy Frameworks for Heritage and Urban Planning Integration

A comprehensive review of relevant policy instruments in Nigeria reveals substantial gaps in the integration of heritage conservation into urban planning frameworks. The National Urban Development Policy (NUDP, 2012) emphasizes spatial equity, inclusive growth, and sustainable land use but makes no specific provision for integrating cultural heritage into urban planning agendas. This oversight reinforces the marginalization of culturally significant sites like Durbi Takusheyi in contemporary planning processes (Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development [FMLHUD], 2012).

The National Tourism Development Master Plan (2005) recognizes heritage resources as

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valuable for tourism development but focuses primarily on economic gains. It outlines infrastructural improvements and investment in tourism zones but lacks clear strategies for heritage preservation or spatial integration with urban policies (UNWTO, 2005). Consequently, while tourism is promoted, heritage conservation remains loosely addressed.

The National Cultural Policy (1988) remains Nigeria's core policy document on cultural heritage. It encourages the documentation, preservation, and promotion of the country's diverse cultural assets but predates the current sustainable urbanism discourse. It also lacks enforceable mechanisms and institutional coordination, rendering it largely symbolic in guiding urban heritage management (Federal Ministry of Culture and Social Welfare, 1988).

At the subnational level, the Katsina State Urban Development Master Plan (2020–2040) includes aspirations for promoting culture and tourism. However, the plan does not articulate detailed strategies for the conservation or integration of specific heritage sites like Durbi Takusheyi. It highlights inter-agency collaboration as a goal but stops short of assigning operational roles or defining funding frameworks for heritage-linked urban interventions (Katsina State Urban Planning and Development Authority [KASUPDA], 2020).

These policy gaps reflect a fragmented approach to heritage management, underscoring the need for reform. Integrating cultural heritage into spatial planning and tourism policies requires updated legislation, improved inter-institutional coordination, and localized heritage planning frameworks that are inclusive and enforceable.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Research Design

To comprehensively examine the integration of heritage sites into urban planning, this study employed a qualitative case study methodology. It involved a thorough review of relevant planning documents alongside direct site observations. This methodological approach was chosen to capture the complex, multidimensional nature of heritage conservation, which encompasses spatial, social, cultural, and institutional factors (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The research centered on Durbi Takusheyi, a significant heritage site in Katsina State, Nigeria. Utilizing a case study design allowed for an in-depth understanding of the specific contextual dynamics of the site while providing insights

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that could inform similar heritage conservation efforts in comparable urban settings (Yin, 2018).

Physical observation and spatial mapping were conducted at Durbi Takusheyi to assess its current physical condition, land use patterns, infrastructure, and accessibility. This helped identify challenges related to spatial planning, site boundaries, environmental degradation, and connectivity with the surrounding urban fabric. National, state, and local policy documents were reviewed to assess the integration of heritage conservation within urban planning frameworks. These included the National Urban Development Policy (2012), the National Tourism Development Master Plan (2006), and the National Cultural Policy (1988, revised draft 2020), which collectively outline federal priorities for urban growth, cultural promotion, and tourism infrastructure. At the state level, the Katsina State Urban and Regional Planning Law (2013) and the Katsina State Tourism Development Policy (2015) were examined for their provisions on land use, zoning, heritage site protection, and tourism facilitation. Locally, the Katsina Master Plan (revised draft, 2021) and planning guidelines from the Katsina Urban Planning and Development Authority (KUPDA) were assessed to identify how Durbi Takusheyi is spatially and institutionally represented. This comprehensive policy review revealed significant gaps in coordination, legal enforcement, and the operationalization of heritage management principles across planning scales.

3.2 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using a qualitative thematic approach suitable for case study research. Field observations and spatial mappings were synthesized to identify recurring spatial characteristics, infrastructure patterns, and land use relationships within the heritage site context (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). Planning and policy documents were subjected to content analysis, focusing on the presence, absence, and framing of heritage conservation provisions across federal, state, and local planning instruments. This involved coding for themes such as land use regulations, institutional responsibilities, and heritage site integration mechanisms, enabling a structured interpretation of policy alignment and gaps (Bowen, 2009; Yin, 2018).

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4.0 Results and Discussions

4.1 Durbi Takusheyi and Its Surroundings

The map (Figure 1) provides a spatial representation of Durbi Takusheyi with surrounding urban expansion, access infrastructure, buffer zones, and areas of encroachment. Located on the periphery of Katsina's urban core, Durbi Takusheyi lies within a defined green buffer zone, suggesting an intentional attempt at preservation. However, the surrounding orange-shaded areas indicate ongoing urban expansion, particularly from the west and south, encroaching into the buffer zone. The presence of access roads traversing the site demonstrates moderate connectivity to the broader Katsina urban network, although the radial pattern suggests limited direct integration into major urban corridors. Notably, three red "X" markers within the expanded zones denote critical encroachment points where urban growth intersects with protected heritage boundaries. The proximity of Durbi Takusheyi to the main urban area, estimated at 28 kilometers southwest of central Katsina, reinforces its vulnerability to unchecked peri-urban development, further highlighting the need for targeted planning interventions.

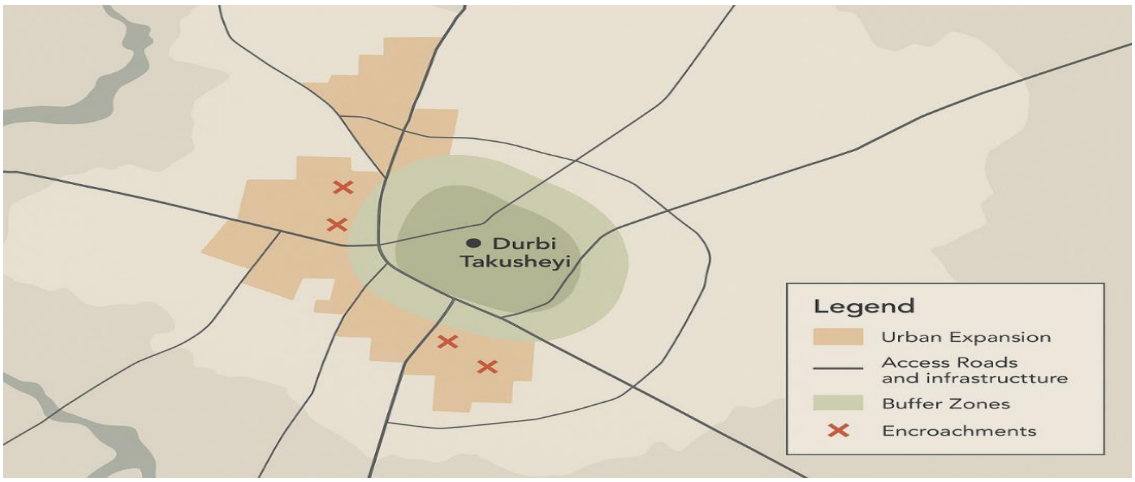


Figure 1 Map of Durbi Takusheyi and Its Surroundings
Source: Study (2025)

The spatial analysis of Durbi Takusheyi, as depicted in the map, highlights critical challenges and planning gaps that have direct implications for the sustainable integration of heritage sites into urban development frameworks. The encroachment of urban expansion into the designated buffer zones

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demonstrates the vulnerability of the site to unregulated growth and inadequate land-use controls. This pattern reflects broader institutional weaknesses in zoning enforcement and heritage protection policies (UNESCO, 2011). The limited connectivity between the site and formal circulation networks, particularly those geared toward tourism or cultural visitation, suggests a missed opportunity for integrating heritage assets into urban infrastructure planning (Ariya, 2019). Furthermore, the observed spatial pressures reinforce the need for policy harmonization across governance levels to safeguard heritage zones from the spillover effects of urban sprawl (Jokilehto, 2007). The violations within the buffer zones not only threaten the site's cultural and historical integrity but also diminish its potential as a driver for heritage tourism and community development. These findings underscore the necessity for proactive planning strategies, including stricter development control, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and the formal recognition of heritage sites in urban master plans (Ndubisi, 2002). Without such interventions, sites like Durbi Takusheyi face continued degradation, undermining both cultural preservation and opportunities for sustainable urban revitalization.

4.2 Stakeholder Perspectives on Durbi Takusheyi Integration

The stakeholder perspectives on the conservation and integration of Durbi Takusheyi into urban planning (as in Table 1) reveal a fragmented governance landscape marked by institutional disconnects, community exclusion, and missed opportunities for cultural development. Key challenges include the lack of coordination between the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) and urban planning bodies like KT-UPDA, with each operating in silos due to overlapping mandates and limited collaboration. Traditional custodians, who hold valuable indigenous knowledge and oral histories, are often sidelined in formal decision-making processes, leading to cultural marginalization. Additionally, stakeholders from tourism and academia emphasize the site's untapped potential as a heritage attraction and educational resource, hindered by poor infrastructure and insufficient promotional strategies.

Despite these challenges, the findings highlight opportunities for collaborative governance,

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leveraging the unique strengths of each stakeholder group. Government institutions bring authority and resources, communities offer cultural legitimacy and local knowledge, and NGOs can serve as intermediaries to enhance participation and provide support. To harness these synergies, a comprehensive integration strategy is proposed, one that includes forming a local heritage council, aligning heritage and urban planning policies, promoting tourism through adaptive reuse, and embedding traditional knowledge into development plans. This approach reflects the principles of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) strategy, which calls for inclusive, culturally sensitive planning in historic urban areas.

Table 1: Stakeholder Perspectives on *Durbi Takusheyi* Integration

Stakeholder Group	**Responsibility**	**Key Perspectives**	**Challenges Identified**	**Opportunities Recommendations**
National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM)	Custodian of national heritage sites, policy implementation	Views the site as a valuable but underutilized cultural asset. Lacks control over urban planning processes.	Limited funding, weak enforcement powers, and minimal inter-agency collaboration	Enhance funding, improve coordination with urban planners, and build local capacity
Katsina State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KT-UPDA)	Oversees urban land use, infrastructure, and zoning	Sees heritage conservation as outside their direct mandate. Aware of growing urban encroachment.	Heritage sites are not integrated into zoning laws or development blueprints	Incorporate cultural heritage into state-level master plans and planning tools
Local Community Leaders (Traditional Authorities)	Cultural custodians, oral historians, spiritual stewards	Emphasize the spiritual and historical importance of Durbi Takusheyi; want cultural ownership respected	Lack of recognition in formal planning, no benefit-sharing mechanisms	Institutionalize traditional knowledge, ensure participatory governance
Tourism Development Agencies (State and National)	Promote and develop tourist destinations	Recognize Durbi Takusheyi's tourism potential, constrained by poor site infrastructure.	Limited marketing, poor access, and a lack of site readiness for tourists	Develop heritage tourism packages, public-private partnerships for development
Academics and Cultural Historians	Research, documentation, and public awareness	Advocate for educational and historical value; emphasize the risk of cultural erosion	Lack of institutional support for research dissemination	Use heritage sites as educational hubs; develop interpretive programs
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Civil Society	Community mobilization, cultural advocacy, and funding support	Support participatory planning and cultural revitalization	Sporadic involvement, dependence on donor funds	Establish heritage-based community initiatives and training programs

Source: Study (2025)

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The diverse stakeholder perspectives on the integration of Durbi Takusheyi into urban planning underscore the critical need for governance reform and participatory planning mechanisms. The fragmentation among key institutions, such as the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) and the Katsina Urban Planning and Development Authority (KT-UPDA), illustrates the detrimental effects of administrative silos, which hinder the coordinated management of heritage assets (Ariya, 2019). This disconnect compromises the site's conservation outcomes and delays its integration into broader urban frameworks. Moreover, the exclusion of traditional custodians from formal decision-making processes not only undermines cultural legitimacy but also perpetuates a top-down approach that fails to leverage local knowledge and historical continuity (Jokilehto, 2007; Ndlovu, 2011). These challenges have direct implications for the study by revealing that technical planning solutions must be complemented by institutional realignment and stakeholder collaboration. The study thus supports the adoption of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, which advocates for inclusive governance, the valorization of cultural diversity, and the adaptive reuse of heritage for sustainable development (UNESCO, 2011). By fostering synergies among government agencies, community actors, and non-governmental organizations, the integration of Durbi Takusheyi can move beyond preservation toward active cultural regeneration and socio-economic inclusion, reinforcing its role within the urban fabric.

4.3 Inadequate Integration of Durbi Takusheyi into Urban Planning Frameworks

Findings from the policy document review and stakeholder interviews reveal a significant disconnect between heritage conservation efforts and urban planning in Katsina State. While urban development strategies exist, they largely omit considerations for integrating cultural heritage into spatial development policies. Stakeholders from the Katsina State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KT-UPDA) confirmed that Durbi Takusheyi is not factored into any formal land-use plans or infrastructural development projects.

This aligns with earlier studies that note how heritage sites in Nigeria are often treated as isolated monuments rather than integral parts of the urban ecosystem (Ajayi, 2015; Adedayo &

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Afolabi, 2016). Such exclusion not only leads to physical deterioration but also limits the site's potential to contribute to tourism, education, and cultural continuity.

4.4 Physical and Infrastructural Challenges

Site analysis indicates that Durbi Takusheyi suffers from poor accessibility, a lack of basic visitor facilities, and inadequate signage. There is no paved road leading directly to the site, and the absence of lighting, water, and security infrastructure undermines its viability as a tourist destination. These findings confirm assertions by Ndoro and Wijesuriya (2015) that many African heritage sites are constrained by infrastructural deficits, which hinder both conservation and tourism development.

Additionally, informal land encroachment around the site was observed, posing a threat to its spatial integrity. This encroachment is exacerbated by the absence of clear boundaries or zoning ordinances, as has been documented in other African heritage landscapes (Chirikure et al., 2010).

4.5 Weak Policy Enforcement and Institutional Fragmentation

Stakeholder interviews revealed that although there are national policies under the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) for heritage protection, enforcement at the local level is minimal. The NCMM lacks adequate funding, trained personnel, and collaboration with urban planning agencies. This results in fragmented governance where responsibilities are unclear, and conservation actions are reactive rather than strategic.

This fragmentation mirrors global concerns about institutional silos in heritage management, particularly in developing nations where planning bodies and cultural agencies rarely coordinate (Labadi, 2013; Bandarin & van Oers, 2012). The absence of an integrated framework makes it difficult to align heritage conservation goals with urban development objectives.

4.6 Community Disengagement and Lack of Participatory Planning

Local community leaders expressed frustration over their exclusion from decision-making processes concerning Durbi Takusheyi. While the site holds spiritual and historical significance for the local Hausa population, their roles as traditional custodians are not formally recognized in planning or conservation efforts. Several respondents noted that past attempts to develop the site were donor-driven and lacked local ownership.

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This finding reinforces the literature on the importance of participatory planning and community engagement in heritage site management (Aas, Ladkin, & Fletcher, 2005; Chirikure et al., 2010). Without meaningful involvement of local stakeholders, conservation projects risk being unsustainable and culturally disconnected.

4.7 Potential for Adaptive Reuse and Sustainable Tourism

Despite the challenges, there is consensus among stakeholders that Durbi Takusheyi has the potential to be transformed into a sustainable cultural tourism destination. Proposed strategies include the development of interpretive centers, heritage trails, and traditional architecture workshops. These interventions could generate income, foster cultural education, and support conservation.

The concept of adaptive reuse, repurposing heritage sites for modern functions while retaining their historical value, was frequently suggested by planning officials and cultural advocates. Literature supports this as a best practice for aligning heritage conservation with contemporary urban needs (Bullen & Love, 2011; Adie & Hermans, 2020).

4.8 Towards a Heritage-Led Urban Development Model

The findings suggest the need for a holistic model that situates Durbi Takusheyi within Katsina's broader urban and tourism development frameworks. This model should adopt the principles of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, emphasizing cross-sectoral collaboration, inclusive governance, and landscape-level planning (UNESCO, 2011).

By incorporating Durbi Takusheyi into city zoning plans, enhancing its infrastructure, and promoting community-led tourism, the site could catalyze cultural revitalization and economic development. This integrated approach is in line with global best practices and offers a replicable model for similar heritage sites in Nigeria and beyond (Smith, 2006; Timothy & Nyaupane, 2009).

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This study examined the integration of heritage sites into sustainable urban planning through the case of Durbi Takusheyi in Katsina State, Nigeria. It revealed that while the site holds immense cultural, historical, and tourism potential, it suffers from spatial marginalization,

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infrastructural neglect, and fragmented governance. The absence of coordinated policy frameworks and limited stakeholder engagement has relegated the site to the periphery of urban planning priorities, despite its capacity to catalyze cultural revitalization and local economic development.

Through qualitative analysis of planning policies and site-based observations, it became evident that current urban development paradigms in Katsina, mirroring wider Nigerian trends, have yet to fully incorporate heritage conservation as a core element. Existing policies are outdated, poorly enforced, or disconnected from localized planning efforts, resulting in systemic oversight of heritage landscapes like Durbi Takusheyi. Furthermore, unchecked peri-urban expansion threatens the integrity of the site, exacerbated by weak land-use regulations and limited infrastructure to support tourism.

However, the study also identified key opportunities for transformation. These include the adoption of participatory planning processes, the application of adaptive reuse strategies, and the potential for heritage-led tourism development. Drawing from global models such as UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, the study proposes a more integrated, inclusive, and resilient urban development model. If appropriately harnessed, heritage sites like Durbi Takusheyi can become vibrant nodes within sustainable urban systems, contributing to cultural identity, economic diversification, and spatial justice.

5.2 Recommendations

To successfully integrate Durbi Takusheyi and similar heritage assets into sustainable urban planning frameworks, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Policy Reform and Integration: Update and harmonize national, state, and local planning policies to prioritize cultural heritage within spatial development strategies by amending instruments such as the National Urban Development Policy and the National Tourism Development Master Plan to reflect contemporary sustainability and cultural preservation goals. Additionally, institutionalize heritage-sensitive zoning regulations within urban and regional plans, particularly for peri-urban areas vulnerable to uncontrolled sprawl.

1. Strengthening Institutional Collaboration: Establish formal inter-agency coordination platforms between the National

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Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), Katsina Urban Planning and Development Authority (KUPDA), and local planning bodies, with clearly delineated institutional roles to prevent overlaps and enhance accountability in the management of heritage sites.

2. Participatory Planning and Community Involvement: Engage traditional custodians, residents, cultural practitioners, and youth groups in heritage planning and site stewardship through inclusive town hall meetings, workshops, and participatory mapping sessions that build consensus and foster a sense of ownership among stakeholders.

3. Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements: Invest in sustainable infrastructure, such as access roads, visitor facilities, signage, and interpretive centers, that enhance the tourism value of Durbi Takusheyi, while incorporating green infrastructure and landscape design strategies to strengthen the site's ecological and visual integration with the urban fabric.

4. Adaptive Reuse and Economic Activation: Explore adaptive reuse models for the heritage site, such as hosting cultural festivals, exhibitions, and educational programs, to reinforce its relevance, while promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs) and heritage entrepreneurship to generate income and sustain cultural authenticity.

5. Awareness Campaigns and Capacity Building: Launch public education and awareness campaigns to enhance appreciation of cultural heritage and its role in sustainable development, alongside training programs for planners, architects, and tourism operators on heritage-sensitive urban design and conservation practices.

6. Adoption of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Framework: Pilot the implementation of UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in Katsina by using Durbi Takusheyi as a demonstration site, integrating landscape, socio-cultural, and economic dimensions of heritage into comprehensive planning tools and governance structures.

By operationalizing these recommendations, policymakers and practitioners can unlock the transformative potential of heritage sites for urban sustainability, cultural resilience, and

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tourism development in Northern Nigeria and beyond.

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