Ancient Kano City Wall: Tourism and Economic Resource

Saliu, A. R.¹, Muhammad Aliyu² and Osiboye, Oluwaseun Opeyemi³

¹²Department of Fine Arts, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Kaduna State
³Dept. of Fine & Applied Arts, Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Kano State

Abstract
This study on ancient Kano city wall attempts to bring to light the potentials for economic sustainability in the ancient wall through tourism, thus giving meaning to tourism, and as well discussing the history of tourism in Nigeria. It also gave a brief history of Kano state, in the course of which the ancient Kano wall was identified as a tourist centre. Alongside the aforementioned, the perception of a few individuals of the ancient Kano wall was reviewed. The identification of the traditional and contemporary importance of the ancient wall was not left out either thereby highlighting the tourist importance of the wall as a means of sustaining the economy. Based on this platform, recommendations were made which included the opinion that tourism can be developed into a means of income that will increase the gross domestic product (GDP) of a nation.

Keywords: Tourism, Sustainability and Kano wall.

Published completely free to support Academic Research in Developing Countries: an initiative of the Zeetarz Publishing Nigeria
The meaning and concept behind tourism defers from one institution to the other. Tugberk (2010), the definition of Tourism varies source by source, person by person. There is no consensus concerning the definition of tourism. He further states that, nearly every each institution defines tourism differently. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in Tugberk (2010), therefore suggest tourism to be, a collection of activities services and industries which deliver a travel experience comprising transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking establishments, retail shops entertainment business and other hospitality services provided for individuals or groups travelling away from home. It was further buttressed that;

"Tourism is different from travel. In order for tourism to happen there must be a displacement: an individual has to travel, using any type of means of transportation (he might even travel on foot: nowadays, it is often the case poorer societies, and happens even in more developed ones and concerns pilgrims, hikers…). But all travel is not tourism".

Tugberk (2010) identify The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. He further states that, “It is the leading international organization in the field of tourism, which promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies.

Tourist Attraction
In simple terms a tourist attraction could be a subject of interest that makes a particular person or group to sacrifice time, money, to visit a particular place at a particular time or period. In view of this, Tourism Western Australia (2009), analyse Tourism Attraction to be,

• A physical or cultural feature of a particular place that individual travellers or tourists perceive as capable of meeting one or more of their specific leisure related needs. Such features may be ambient in nature (eg. climate, culture, vegetation or scenery), or they may be specific to a location, such as a theatre performance, a museum or a waterfall.
• “Positive or favourable attributes of an area for a given activity or set of activities as desired by a given customer or market, including climate, scenery, activities, culture.
  (a) Manmade attractions are physical structures (Sydney Harbour Bridge) or events (Olympics).
  (b) Natural attractions are physical phenomena deemed unusual and /or beautiful (Bungle Bungles).
  (c) Secondary attractions have tourist appeal, but are not the primary reason for visiting a location.
  (d) A negative attraction is an attribute of an area that tends to make some customer or market chooses not to visit as for example pollution or crime.”

It was also made clear that, “Arts & crafts outlets, nurseries, garden centres and the like are generally not considered to be tourist attractions unless the premises are significantly large and they provide some kind of value added experience such as having a well known or established artist in residence, or they conduct guided tours of their premises.” This that is been made clear appears to be a general conscious and unconscious assumption. Also in Nigerian Tourism Development Master Plan (2006), the following issues are pinpointed so as to produce reliable source of financial sustainability through Tourism in Nigeria and the
world at large. They are tourism policy, governance, organization, values, marketing and tourism product.

Tourism Policy, Governance and Organization

- The existing legislation is weak. The proposed tourism bills and classification proposals should be put on hold until the master plan is in place.
- The presidential Council on Tourism and the Tourism Steering Committee on Tourism are unique and key to driving tourism growth.
- The Federal Ministry for Culture and Tourism needs strengthening and professional personnel.
- The NTDC is overstaffed, under resourced, lacks targets and action plans and consequently is ineffective.
- The commercial sector lacks a strong unified voice.
- The Public/Private relationships are non-existent.
- There is a lack of an enabling environment for the private sector involvement and investment in the tourism sector.
- The current marketing of Nigeria is inadequate.

The Value of Tourism to Nigeria

- The sector lacks reliable statistics and market information
- Essential databases to implement the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) are not available
- The project identified 190,000 international air arrivals with visitor spending at US$ 280 million for 2004.
- No information exists on land frontier arrivals
- The existing incentives and investment procedures are not attracting investment in the tourism sector

Current Marketing Approach

- Current marketing activities are under-funded, inadequate and ineffective
- The tourist products are not organized or packaged for the market place
- Nigeria’s tourist attractions are unknown to the international travel trade
- The image of Nigeria abroad is very negative and is not being addressed

Access and Internal Transportation

- International air access is adequate for existing and short term needs
- Internal air transport needs safety improvements as a matter of urgency
- The road network is adequate and amongst the best in Africa. It needs to be properly maintained and signposted

The Nigerian Tourism Product

- The slave route, culture and heritage are strategic elements in the Nigerian tourism product but require development and packaging
- Nigeria’s historical and cultural sites are in decay and the physical environment is a strategic competitive disadvantage
- With improvements in presentation and packaging the many festivals and events can be highly marketable
- Levies and imposts by the federal, state and local governments make trading difficult and raise the operating costs for hotels by up to 30%.
However, Hotels. ng Guides (2018), list the following as 15 top tourist attractions in Nigeria. Olumo rock, Abeokuta, Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi state, Lekki Conservation Centre, Lagos state, Zuma rock, Abuja, Hi impact Planet, Lagos state, Aso rock, Abuja, Agodi Gardens, Oyo state, Kajuru Castle, Kaduna state, Nike Art Gallery, Lagos state, Tarkwa Bay Beach, Lagos state, Obudu Cattle Ranch, Cross Rivers state, Eleko Beach, Lagos state, Osun Sacred Grove, Osun state, New Afrika Shrine, Lagos state and **Kano City Walls.** Kano state

The ancient Kano city wall was identified among the 15 top tourist attractions in Nigeria to visit, it was posed that,

“Although the city has long taken a modern cosmopolitan hue, relics of the city’s past as the hub for commercial activities during the trans-Saharan trade still remain. The real identity of Kano can best be felt in the old city area. The mud houses with distinct Hausa local architectural dexterity. The narrow roads meant for only men and their domestic animals are still there. However, gradually being lost as the ancient structures go modern, relics have gradually been wiped away by both man and nature. The walls also helped in monitoring the movement of people in and out of the city.”

It was this that suggests that, a study needs to be carried out on the relics of the Kano ancient city wall. This will help in preserving the ancient culture through documentation, creating the awareness of the socio-cultural sustainability of the monuments and exposing the financial sustainability to the government through Tourism.

**Review of Related Literature**

This section contains the review of available literature that exists in relation to the study. The review is divided into sub-headings as follows:

i. A General History of City Walls  
ii. History of Ancient Kano City Wall  
iii. Tourism as a Function of City Walls

**A General History of City Walls**

Walls are part of architectural structure that are use to protect and adorn our environment right from the ancient to modern day. Banister (1996) refers to city wall as “a defensive wall, which he defines as a fortification used to protect a city or settlement from potential aggressors. From ancient to modern times, they were, and still enclose settlements; generally, these are referred to as city walls or town walls”. Within the context of this study, city wall is regarded as an architecture which is built around a city or town so as to demarcate its boundary, protect and regulate all activities that take place in the town or city. In Africa, many countries build city walls to serve different purposes in the cities where they are situated. Graham (1996) justifies that:

> *African city walls, so-called, are part of a morphological continuum that extended from single households to large cities, and which varied in function from domestic protection to formal military defence, as well as serving a variety of other functions. There is Harar city gate in Ethiopia, Hamdallahi in Mali, Quarcoopome at Notse in Togo, and many others.*

In Nigeria, there are cities that have recorded history of walls, for instance, walls were built in, Zaria in Kaduna state while walls and gates were also built in Kano to perform some
specific functions. Aribidesi (2004) avers that, “the enclosure walls found among small-scale societies of Igbomina in northern Yoruba shared similar characteristics with some well-known walls of large political centres in various parts of tropical Africa, particularly Nigeria. Benin City in Nigeria has city wall and gates to its credit in the pre-colonial era”.

![Benin City: Nigeria](image)

Lagun (2013) buttresses the above statement by stating that:

Construction started on the Walls of Benin in 800 AD, now situated in modern day Benin City, capital of Edo State, and continued into the mid-1400s. Stretching seemingly endlessly across the land, the Benin Moat is the world’s second longest man-made construction, falling short of only the Great Wall of China. The Walls of Benin, built as a city fortification against neighbouring rivals such as the Oyo Kingdom to the south and the Sokoto Caliphate in the north, is estimated to be 10,000 miles in length and 2,000 square miles in area. Excavations by British archaeologist Graham Connah in 1960 uncovered a rural network of earthen walls that, he estimated, if spread out over five dry seasons, would have required a workforce of 1,000 labourers working ten hours a day, for seven days a week to construct – a rough total of 150 million man hours.

**History of Ancient Kano City Wall**

Evidence on a tablet in the National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK) (n.d) states that,

The foundation of the construction of Kano city walls and gates was established 900 years ago by Sarki Gijimasu son of Warisi (1059-1134 AD). The City Walls developed in phases until it reached its present extent measuring approximately 24 Sq Km in circumference. It has fifteen traditional and two modern gates, most of which have now been transformed. Kano city wall today encompasses parts of three Local Government areas of Dala, Gwale and Kano Municipal with a total population of 1,055,690 and population density of 54,277 per Sq Km, thus making the City Wall enclosure one of the densely populated traditional urban centers in the world. In its original state the city wall measured between 30-40ft in height and a thickness of up to 100ft at the base of some portions.
The city wall performed some security functions due to the fact that they were majorly constructed for that purpose. Kayode (2013) states that “during the reign of Sarkin Kano Usman Giji Masu Dan Wasiri; the grandson of Bagauda; the third King in the Habe dynasty, he decided to build and surround the ancient city with a wall as protection against external invaders, and this was the year 1112 AD. Aribidesi (2004) corroborates that it seems that, the construction of enclosure walls was to counter aggressions on the frontier and protect local communities from invaders. The walls were built with materials and techniques which could enable them withstand siege.

Tourism Functions of City Walls
The city walls has variety of functions, among which are, security function, economic function, religious function, Tourism, historical function, aesthetic function. The study will dwell more on Tourism. A good number of the ancient city walls reviewed can be described as a tourist centre. Alan in Alastair (2005) holds a similar view when he avers that, “Tourism in Northern Ireland is flourishing, with visitor numbers continuing to rise and tourists spending more while they are here. The world’s leading travel publication, Lonely Planet, recently nominated us as a must see destination”. The author stresses further that, “This recognition captures a very real sense that Northern Ireland’s moment has arrived as a discovery travel destination. The walled city of Derry has played a pivotal role in this progress and will continue to be an integral part of our world class tourism products”. The author maintains that, “The Walled City Signature Project is one of the five iconic projects identified in the Northern Ireland Tourist Board’s Strategic Framework for action 2004 – 2007. The walls are surrounded by buildings of historical and cultural importance and now play a central role in welcoming visitors to the city”. He concludes that, “As a unique tourism asset, the walled city of Derry Signature Project has the potential to create world class excellence for Northern Ireland. Quality orientation and interpretation schemes now ensure that visitors are able to explore this area’s unique culture and history through the city walls”. The authors above shed lights on the beauty and attractions, that the London Derry walls have created to tourists all over the world that troop in large number to visit the city. The authors explain further that, London Derry walls (Fig. 5) have also been certified by international organisations as tourist destination which needs to be preserved for future reference and further patronage.

Fig. 2: London Derry Walls. Source: Alastair (2005)
Many of the city walls and gates in France serve as tourist attractions that eventually bring hundreds of tourists to their various locations. Anon (2013) avers that, “city walls in Carcassonne, Laon, Avignon, Besançon, Guérande, Brouage, La Couvertourade, Aigues Mortes, to mention but just a few, are included in UNESCO’s world heritage site thereby attracting tourists in large number to the cities in France”.

Methodology

Research Design
The study adopted a design and procedure, which lead the researcher to obtain sources of data for the study. Adetoro (1997) stated that, it is appropriate for a researcher to examine the technique and procedures used in previous studies to gain control of a research. This study is a survey of styles, and functions of Kano ancient wall and gates of the ancient city of Kano. In view of this, the following research procedures were adopted: historical, and survey methods. Mohammed (2004) describes historical method in research as the attempt to establish facts and arrive at conclusions concerning the past. He further states that, the prime purpose is to provide a clear perspective of the present. From the historical method, the researcher was able to seek for the origin of the ancient walls and gates in Kano, what led to the building of the walls and gates, the purpose the walls and gates were serving in the community during the traditional period and what are their values in the modern period.

The researcher also used survey method. According to Awotunde & Ugodulunwa (2004), survey research is often conducted for the purpose of achieving any or all of the following objectives: description, explanation and exploration. In the view of Mohammed (2004), survey research concerns itself with the present and attempts to determine the current status of the phenomena under investigation. In the course of this study, the survey method was adopted for the collection of data on the ancient Kano city wall and gates which helped in gaining an estimable dimension of styles and functions of the wall and gates. The information gave the state of the wall and gates at present, which acted as a determinant of their state in future.

Sources of Data

Awotunde, Ugodulunwa and Ozoji (1997) define data as, facts, observation or information relating to a particular activity or study. The authors also mention that “data collection is an important step in the research process”. Information on this research was sourced from primary and secondary sources. The primary data are the existing city wall and gates present and the interview conducted with the Sarkin kofar (Oral tradition). Adetoro (1997) states that, primary source includes relics, documents, etcetera, which have direct physical relationship. They involve actual eye witness or participant, in an event or the participation of an ancient or recent historical object. Secondary data, on the other hand, were written or printed materials on the city wall and gates (Documents) books, magazines, journals and the internet.

Data Collection

The researcher employed historical and observation method of data collection in carrying out the research. Adetoro (1997) states that historical method of data collection involves the systematic search for documents and other sources that contain facts relating to historian’s question about the past to have better understanding of the present and perhaps to predict the future situation. Lere, Dadughun & Bulus (2002) describe observational method of data collection as “a basic method of obtaining information about the world around us. It was also mentioned that “it is the primary tool of scientific enquiry and its value is greatest if it serves,
the formulated research purpose. Therefore, research procedures such as literature reviews, pilot study, and field work, were used. These procedures were used in the following ways:

**Literature/Internet Source:** The researcher used relevant literary materials (journals, magazines and periodicals) theses and dissertations. Also, electronic data was collected through the internet which assisted in checking other pieces of information. All literary materials collected have been commented on, analyzed and discussed with the sources fully acknowledged. The literature materials helped in giving a background to the study as well as helped in establishing direction for the study.

**Pilot Study:** The researcher embarked on a pilot study. The aim of the pilot study was to acquaint the researcher with an idea of what he wanted to study. Baker (1994) states that, “a pilot study can also be the pre-testing or ‘trying out’ of a particular research instrument”. Teijlingen and Hundley (2001) observe that “pilot study is used for developing and testing adequacy of research instruments and assessing the feasibility of a (full scale) study/survey”. In view of this, the researcher made use of the ancient Kano city modern wall and two modern gates (Kofar Nasarawa and Kofar Ruwa) for his pilot study. Selected few people within the area of the wall and gates were interviewed, pictorial representation of the walls and gates were taken through the use of digital camera. The pilot study was done to validate the instruments that were used for the field work.

**Oral Interview:** Oral interview, based on structured and unstructured questionnaire, was administered on the staff members of National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK) and the present Sarkin Kofa (king of the gate) of each of the gate.

**Field Work:** Field work is a major means of getting information. Duniya (2009) states that, “only fieldwork could produce adequate documentation”. In view of this, the researcher depended largely on field work as the basis for the investigation. In the course of the field work, oral interview questions were asked by the researcher from the Sarkin Kofar about the wall and gates. The oral interview questions are both structured and unstructured. Structure and unstructured oral interview questions were also presented to the staff members of the museum (National Museum Gidan Makama Kano). Photographs of the wall, gates and items that are related to the wall and gates were taken.

**Population of the Study**

Population in research, according to Awotunde *et al.*, (1997), is the “target group which a researcher is interested in studying, and from which he/she intends to obtain information and draws conclusions”. Going by the above, the populations of this study were Sarkin Kofa and the staff of National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK). Both the Sarkin Kofa and the staff of National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK) could be referred to as the custodians of the ancient architecture. In selecting the population for this study, the researcher made use of Purposive sampling method, on the conviction that, they would provide useful information on the subject under study. Tongco in Samuila (2014) explains that, “the purposive sampling technique, also called judgmental sampling, is the deliberate choice of an informant due to the qualities the informant possesses. Also, it is a non-random technique that does not need underlying theories or a set number of informants” and that the researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge or experience. Hence, thirteen (13) Sarkin Kofar, the custodians of the ancient gates and the wall within their areas and four
(4) staff in the National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK) that are delegated to the ancient gates and wall formed the population of the study.

**Research Instruments and Tools**

Research instruments that were used are based on structured and unstructured interview questions while the research tools are digital and video camera. Digital camera was used to snap photographs of the wall and gates during the field work. According to Muhammad (2012), visual representation serves the purpose of documentation. He further states that, the snapped pictures are used to facilitate the analysis and discussion of the works under study. Also the video coverage was used to record interview sections for better interpretation and translation when replayed several times. The video picture assisted in proper analysis of the data. The use of digital camera was adopted to enable the researcher to have multiple shots, and at the spot, pictures that were unclear were deleted easily and clearer ones taken. These assertions is supported by Ogene (2006), Digital art practice could be in the form of two or three dimensional image manipulation, word processing, digital animations, audio and video as well as the art of desktop publishing, drawing, scanning, digital photography and web page creation among others. He further emphasis that, this entails the production, reproduction, recycling, cloning and documentation of visual data.

**Method of Data Analysis**

Photographs taken, opinions collected through oral interviews were discussed using the historical and descriptive approaches. This was carried out in a way that the set objectives of the study are met appropriately. The historical method enabled the researcher to look at the historical and socio-cultural functions that surround the construction of the wall and gates. The descriptive method of data analysis on the other hand, ensured that the photographs, audio and video coverage of the wall and gates were used for comprehensive description and interpretation of the architectural structures of the wall and gates. This helped in analyzing the styles and the medium employed in executing the Kano city wall and gates.

**Observations and Analysis of Kano Ancient City Wall**

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments of Nigeria, Gidan Makama Kano is the custodian of the ancient Kano city wall and gates and other monumental structures such as Dala hills, Goron Dutse and Gidan Makama. This has enabled some preservation of the monuments by the government and non-governmental bodies. This gives guide and room for the history of the ancient wall to be traced, studied, maintained and documented. This study therefore focuses on the analysis of the information gathered from the investigations and observations during the field work on the Kano ancient city wall. First is to articulate the extent of the wall, to examine the forms and styles of the remains of ancient wall, to enumerate and discuss the tourist function. This will also include the materials used in building the Kano ancient wall. Even though the wall appear and should appear as a single wall that creates boundary for the ancient city, it is within the walls that the city gates were created and within every two gates the present state of the wall differs. The ancient wall, having been transformed into the modern period from the ancient period is not completely transformed due to different kinds of activities (human and natural activities). Therefore, the analysis and observation for this study is basically on the remains of the wall.
The foundation and erection of the city wall was started by Sarkin Usman Gijimasu, son of Warisa (1059-1134 AD), and the city wall developed in phases before getting to its present state which approximately measures 24kmsq in circumference. The expansion might have been necessitated due to population growth in the city. There are various walls in the city of Kano, but the purpose of the study is to identify the remains of the ancient Kano city walls that still exist. Yusuf (2015) laments that, “over 70% of the ancient traditional architecture has disappeared”. This is evident in the field trip taken, and also manifest in the map above (Plate I). The pink colour stands for area where the wall is still standing, the green coloured parts are areas where the wall are encroached, and the broken orange lines are the collapsed wall. Truly in the trip around the ancient enclosure of the ancient Kano city, it was
discovered that majority of the wall and walled parts have been overridden by developmental factors like roads, houses, warehouses and many other structures and activities.

The study concentrates on the parts where the ancient wall is still standing, which fall between Kofar Ruwa and Kofar Dawanau. According to Hussain (2015) “the strongest and wildest remains of the walls are evident around the ancient gate of Kofar Ruwa”. The remains of the wall are observed to a stretch of about 250 meters above and also in fragmentations. Around the ancient Kofar Ruwa gate, the wideness of the wall measures 25 ft though varies along the wall. This site has witnessed the largest and tallest remains of the ancient city wall. The wall has completely been transformed from the ancient to modern because it gives a vivid idea of what the wall looked like in the ancient period. Despite the natural and human activities that have destroyed over seventy percent (70%) of the ancient Kano city wall. The thickness of the wall in the ancient times was suggested to be 100 ft wide as reflected on a tablet at (NMGMK) (nd) and the researcher was able to measure 25 ft on the average during the field work. It could be assumed that 75 ft of the wall has been eaten up by both human and natural activities.

**Style and Form of the Ancient Wall of Kano City**

During the identification of the wall in the study, it was made mention by Hassan (2015) that “the strongest and widest remains of the ancient wall was evident around the ancient gate of Kofar Ruwa and Kofar Dawanau”. He further stated that, “the ancient Kofar Ruwa and the wall around it, is the only gate and wall that have not been reconstructed and rebuilt”. Also, as observed in the course of the field work, this point gave the vivid idea of how gigantic and enormous the ancient wall is and was. It is against this background therefore, that the analysis of the Kano ancient city wall is made, the point between Kofar Ruwa and Kofar Waika, seeing that the strongest form of the wall is still being perceived within these two gates as against other areas where the only trace of the wall is a massive heap of sand lying in the bush. The site has the largest and tallest remains of the ancient city wall; the wall was completely transformed from the ancient period to the modern period, and because it gave a vivid idea of what the wall looked like in the ancient period despite human and natural activities which have posed a threat to the ancient structure. The wall was observed from both the exterior and the interior (Fig IV, V, VI, and VII).

![Remains and Moat of the ancient Wall at the ancient Kofar Ruwa Gate, (Exterior view).](image-url)
For the exterior view above (Fig. 4), the researcher was denied a close view of the wall simply because of the presence of a large and deep ditch (moat) which is over 60ft wide. It was made known by the Sarkin Kofar Ruwa^{11} that the ditches were the spots where mud was collected and used in molding the wall. He further said that the moats in turn served as a security for the wall for no matter the speed of a horse, it cannot jump over the moat let alone the wall. Having a close view of the wall from the interior, different forms and patterns were observed in the now fragmented walls. The initial surface pattern given to the wall has been totally eroded away. What is being observed now as a surface of the wall is actually the cross section of the wall that is the inner part of the wall.

![Fig. 5: Relics of the ancient Wall at the ancient Kofar Ruwa gate, (Interior view). Photograph by author, (2015).](image1)

The wall is found now giving an impression of various sizes of folds and contour running vertically across the wall in various forms and sizes. This impression found on the wall surface is as a result of erosion, and the method used in molding the wall.
Vividly at certain points, the method used in laying the *tubali* bricks is clearly perceived. As observed in the (Fig. 5) above, the shape and arrangement pattern of the *tubali* bricks could be felt. The *tubali* bricks are the ancient bricks, conical in shape, used for building in the ancient period and the ancient wall is not an exception.
Fig. 8 shows the specimen of the tubali bricks exhibiting the pattern of their arrangement. The pattern of the arrangement of the brick appears like the gnashed teeth and gum of a crocodile, and the tubali bricks look like the canine tooth. The tubali bricks are usually arranged in vertical and horizontal order, and then the mud paste, which appears like the gum of the tooth, will be laid. Another set of tubali bricks will be arranged horizontally and vertically. This process continues till the desired form and height are achieved. During the course of the field work, the remains of walls observed with a close look near Kofar Waika and also at Kofar Ruwa reflected the pattern in (Fig. 6 & 7).

Fig. 10: Makuba Design on Wall. Photograph by author, (2015)

After the arrangement of the bricks to form the desired shapes and forms, it will be plastered with soft mud so as to conceive the brick lines and formation, thereby making the wall one. According to Dominic (2015), “Makuba mixture is the last to be applied on the wall with patterns been made with hands. The Makuba is made from the mixture of mud, straws of locust bean fruit and water”. He further stressed that “the mixture is allowed to ferment or decay for three days before application on the wall. The application is done with the bottom
edge of the palm in other to achieve the pattern effect on the wall”. It is implied that the *makuba* is not just applied to beautify the wall. It is also studied to be used in preserving the wall as it reduces the effect of erosion, both the wind erosion and water erosion because of its synthetic nature. It was confirmed by Akinade (2005) that “the mixture of *Makuba* (bark of locust bean tree) and red clay was used to create the finals finishing touches. *Makuba* mixture when applied produces the aesthetic aspect of the wall. It also preserves the wall from the vagaries of weather, especially rain splashes”. It is observed that, the *Makuba* design appears similar to the scale of a fish, which is also protecting the fish from the various temperature of the water.

**Tourist function of the Ancient Wall**

These are the functions observed bellow, but the study is concentrating on the Economic/Tourist function of the Ancient wall which can be a source of financial sustainability to the nation.

1. Monuments function
2. Historical function
3. Economic/Tourist function

**Tourism**

The ancient wall, having been a national monument to the country, there is the tendencies for the ancient culture to call for the attention of both local and international visitor, which can simply be refer to as tourism. From tourism, the economic value or purpose could be felt too. According to Sally (2014) “many developing countries have managed to increase their participation in the global economy through the development of tourism. Tourism development is increasingly viewed as an important tool in promoting economic growth, alleviating poverty, job creation, as well as contributing to national development goals”. Realizing the socio cultural and financial sustainability power of tourism there is need also to observe the National Tourism Policy, according to Sally (2014) to make a good tourist centre on wall cites in Kano.

“The policy thrust is to develop sustainable tourism by capitalising on heritage diversity as the basis for promoting domestic and international tourism. This is aimed at competitive sustainable tourism development within the confines of the world tourism market and open up Nigeria as a major tourist destination in Africa through the development of international tourism and promotion of domestic tourism”.

If effective measures could be made by the custodians of the ancient wall city, to keep and promote the tourist market values of the monument, putting in mind the National Tourism Policy, also viewing tourism as an important tool in promoting socio cultural and financial sustainability power, it will boost the economy power of the nation. In overall, the wall is having a strong defensive power during the ancient period. While in the modern period the economic power is high if activated, which could be pursued through tourism and the cultural historical value. It should also be noted that when the wall was built in the ancient period perhaps, nobody had an idea of the future economic value measured out of tourism; therefore the structure and culture should be well preserved because the positive future value appears unpredictable.
Conclusion

Having known the expectation of the International Tourist Organisations and the economic power enhancement that tourism could result into for a nation and then more value in terms of preservation should be explored on the ancient wall with their ancient style and structure. They should not be destroyed rather they should be maintained as they are; movement around the monuments should be put to check. Lack of coherency, between the state government and the representatives of the federal government that is National Museum Gida Makama Kano (NMGMK), is bringing about the fast disappearance of the ancient forms, styles and structure. For instance, at certain point, the state government feels the ancient structure styles and forms are littering the state and the state government desires to develop the town with more beautiful and permanent structures. Probably not knowing or minding the fact that the ancient structures, styles and formation in the modern period attract more tourist values. Yusuf (2015) stated that several International organisations on tourisms that show interest in rebuilding the ancient architecture, there criteria were not met due to the style of reconstruction by the state government. He made an example of International Council of Monuments Sites (ICOMOS), Africa World Heritage Fund (AWHF) they sponsored some representatives of the museum for a workshop, but considering what is on ground, their proposal was turned down when they came around for visibility study. This was confirmed in the words of Attairu (nd);

This action, besides undermining the Laws of the Nation also constitute a major drawback to the efforts of concerned individuals like Dr Yusuf Adamu who spent over a decade campaigning for the restoration of the dilapidating Historical Monument[ the Kano Wall]. Above all it was a fatal blow to the quest of Nigeria for the inclusion of the ancient wall in the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. How could the international community under the auspices of UNESCO consider Nigeria’s bid as serious with the constant violation of the integrity of the Wall and the complete absence of state policy for its protection, which is one of the principal responsibility agreed to by signatory countries , i.e.” to adopt a general policy giving cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes “ and also “to set up services for the protection, conservation and interpretation of such heritage”.

Therefore, the state government and the representative of the federal government need to put heads together to avert the continuous loss of the ancient heritage;

1. On some and around the wall, posters, hand bills and signpost were found defacing the ancient tradition. This act reduces every value of the wall including the aesthetic values of the wall. To reduce this act, the people living around the wall should be educated on the values of the remains of the wall so as to wake up their protective mode and sense of patriotism. The National Museum Gidan Makama Kano (NMGMK) and Sarkin Kofa cannot alone be the custodian of the wall; people around the ancient tradition should also be custodians, so as to meet the standard requirement of world tourist policy.

2. Maintenance should not be a spontaneous activity which could be void of consistency by the government; rather a calendar should be created. Minor maintenance could be four times in a year while major maintenance could be every two years, this could help preserve the styles forms and medium of the ancient period.
References:


**About the Authors**

**Osiboye Oluwaseun Opeyemi** is from Odogbolu Local Government of Ogun State. He graduated with Bachelor Degree in Fine and Applied Arts Education in 2006, from the citadel of learning Adeyemi College of Education Ondo, Ondo State. Osiboye obtained his Masters in Arts (M. A. Art History) in 2016 with his Ph.D in view at the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin. He is a lecturer in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts and Head of the department at Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Kano State.

**Dr. Aliyu Muhammad**, hail from Nasarawa Local Government of Kano State. He graduated with Bachelor Arts (Fine Arts) from the prestigious Zaria Art School. Aliyu obtained his first Masters, Masters in International Affairs and Diplomacy (MIAD) at the Department of Political Science (A.B.U Zaria) in 2002. He also obtained another M.A (Art History) in 2006 and also defended his Ph.D (Art History) in 2014 all from the Department of Fine Arts, Ahmadu Bello University. Aliyu has been teaching and researching on Art History subjects.
APPENDIX

Other Pictures Taken During the Field Work

Fig. 11: The researcher standing beside the corner stone of Kofar Kansakali (The first ancient gate to be built), with Makuba expression on the wall behind, on Thursday 12th February, 2015.

Fig. 12: From the left: Aminu Muhammad Kabir (Chief Antiquities Assistant) NMGMK, Abu Lukman (Video Coverage man), the Researcher, Muhammad Raji Ridwan (Interpreter) and Hussain Muhammad (Senior Heritage/ Monument Officer) NMGMK. Background (Makuba designed wall). Thursday 12th February, 2015.