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Assessment of Heritage Conservation Practices and its Challenges

The Case of Agulae Town

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The Thesis Submitted to School of Architecture and Urban Planning Department of Urban Planning and Development in Partial Fulfillments of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of science in Urban Planning and Development

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Mekelle, Ethiopia

DECLARATION

I declare that “*Assessment of Heritage Conservation Practices and its Challenges the Case of Agulae Town*” submitted by me in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of master of Urban Planning and development, Mekelle University, through the department of urban planning. This is original work carried out by myself. The matter personified in this thesis work has not been submitted earlier for award of any degree to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Acronym

COAG-----	Australian governments
FHBRO-----	--Federally heritage building review office
HCDs-----	heritage conservation districts
ICCROM-----	International conservation center for restoration of monuments
ICOM-----	International council of museum
ICOMOS-----	international council on monuments and sites
ICTC-----	International cultural tourism charter
IIC-----	International institute of intellectual cooperation
IMO-----	International museums office
IUCN-----	International Union for the conservation of nature
IUNNR-----	International conservation of nature and natural resources
NGO-----	None governmental organization
OHA-----	Ontario heritage Act
UNESCO-----	united nation Educational, scientific and cultural organization
UN-----	United nation

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ABSTRACT

This study is designed to investigate the practice and challenges of heritage conservation in the study town. The conservation system in the study town is poor i.e. It does not have adequate attention, awareness and coordination from stockholders and it lacks proper maintenance to keep its originality. The study used a cross-sectional descriptive and explanatory research design using a mixed research approach. The study used a variety of data collection methods, such as focus group, interviews, and observation. Systematic random sampling was used to select participant from target population and using purposive sampling key informants from various organizations were selected. The actual and valid sample size of the study is 130 household residing the entire study town. The findings of the study revealed that the heritage sites found in Agulae town are not safeguarded from being damaged and found in a poor status specially Dejat Gebreslase residential building. Through document review of plan document and interview with relevant stockholders, this paper evaluates the impact of urban planning initiatives on heritage conservation. The findings highlights the importance of holistic approach to urban planning that integrates heritage conservation, infrastructure enhancement and land use harmonization. The major conclusion sketched from the study is that the main factors affecting heritage conservation are lack of stakeholder involvement and coordination, poor government concern and professional commitment, vandalism and lack of funds. The study implied that the sustainability of heritage in the study area endanger unless conservation practice is supported by conservation guidelines, heritage site management plans, stakeholders integration and community involvement. The researcher tried to recommend that the heritage sites need to get better protection and care. They need to be relieved of their problems and threats, so stakeholders should play their roles in an organized and integrated manner, unless otherwise it will become difficult.

Key words: Heritage, Conservation, Urban planning, Agulae, Practice, Challenges etc.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1. 1.Back Ground of the Study

Urbanization is one of the challenges of modern times both in developed and developing countries. As the cities enlarge in a fast manner, human being needs to protect our natural, historical and cultural entities in order to prevent them from vanishing. Therefore, sustainable urban development has been a significant concept. It helps to conserve our values from past to future. Within the sustainability concept, it helps to conserve our values from past to future. Within the sustainability concept, heritage has a significant place of focus. Because heritage involves humanities' whole cultural and historical richness, that must be conserved for future generation (Dr. Mukesh Yadav.2017).

Heritage is expressed as architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwelling and combination of features, which are an outstanding universal value from the point of history, art or science. Therefore, Heritage is interpreted as the foundation of the present, the paths for the future, with the present generation as its custodians and the creative link (Beyene,S.G. 2010).

Conservation of heritage can be defined as all measures and actions aimed at safeguarding heritage while ensuring its accessibility to present and future generations. Conservation embraces preventive preservation, adaptation, reconstruction, and restoration. All measures and actions should respect the significant and physical properties of the heritage item (Beyene,S.G. 2010).

For a long time, African heritage sites have been and are still under represented on the world heritage list. Therefore, even those sites that are listed, most of them are poorly managed and preserved, leading to nearly a section of them being placed on the list of world heritage in danger. This is attributed to the fact that African countries lack the capacity, both human and capital, to prepare nomination profiles acceptable to the world heritage committee and also to manage the listed sites (DeregeSyoum.2018).

In principle, in Ethiopia, there are policies, guidelines and regulations of heritage conservation. In practice, however, the majority of the heritage attractions are in poor conservation status,

demolished due to ignorance, intentionally destructed due to misinterpretation and interethnic conflicts e.g. the destruction of Al-Negash Mosque due to Tigray genocidal war)

The Ethiopian government has the primary responsibility for heritage conservation. For the first time in Ethiopian history, a cultural policy was endorsed in 1997. This policy was adopted not only for the sake of conserving cultural heritage but also to enhance the role of cultural heritage in the development endeavors of the country, ensuring citizen participation in cultural activities, creating favorable conditions for artists and researchers who are working in the cultural sector, promoting the culture of the different nations, nationalities and peoples of the country, and abolishing harmful traditional practices are among the major objectives of the policy (cultural policy of Ethiopia, 1997).

The tradition of erecting monuments has an age-old history in Tigray. In this regard, Axum monuments are worth mentioning. It is obvious that monuments have been erected in Tigray region to commemorate very important personalities or events. Agulae town is gifted with a number of remarkable statues and historical monuments that stand at different parts of the town like Emperor Yohannes palace, Dejat Gebreslase residential building and Kidane Mihret Church etc. These monuments share elegant, shapely architecture and deep historical significance. The Emperor Yohannes palace commemorates the great achievement of the emperor that built the mighty Ethiopian empire.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Conserving urban heritage, historical buildings, sculptures etc. may seem less of a priority compared to more pressing issues such as infrastructure development, poverty alleviation or job creation. But effective conservation of heritage resources not only helps in revitalization the local economy of city/town identity and belongingness to its residents (Worku, 2008). Historic sites and buildings in the study town are degrading due to lack of conservation. These historical heritages need protection, for they are important historic relics. However, many of these heritages face multifaceted problems. They do not receive adequate attention from the concerned government body and the community; consequently they lack regular maintenance.

The historic buildings need a well-organized conservation mechanism that demands the concerned efforts of both the public and the concerned authority. All the necessary measures in

terms of preservation, protection and sustainable use of the buildings have to come in to force salvage. The researcher choose Agulae town as study area for the reason that, lack of awareness and coordination in protection and conservation of historic buildings, like former emperor Yohannes palace, Dejat Gebreslase residential building, Kidanemihret church and other historic sites within the study town.. In general lack of awareness and attention has let the historical structures deteriorat (Atse Yohannes palace) and collapse (Dejat Gebreslase building). Many characteristics and priceles buildings have been transformed losing their original features and values.

Henceforth, the focus of the study is to identify the various problems and challenges that the town administration in conserving the heritage sites. Now the administration is facing a problem in preserving the historical buildings in Agulae town. It also deals with any possible opportunities and solutions to be considered while providing compatible measures to be adopted with the ongoing urban development activities.

The conservation system in the study town is poor. So, the study on urban heritage conservation and its challenges on the study town is due attention for the following reasons.

- ✓ It does not receive adequate attention from governmental organization and the community at large.
- ✓ It lacks regular maintenance and management.
- ✓ And lacks coordination among stockholders to keep its originality.

1.3. Objective of the Study

❖ General Objective

To assess the current practices and identify the major challenges of urban heritage conservation practices of heritage monuments of Agulae town.

❖ Specific Objective

1. To assess the conservation practices and its challenges of heritage sites of Agulae town
2. To examine the awareness level of the stockholders of the study town regarding the heritage sites
3. To assess the role of the previous town plans in safeguarding the existing heritage sites found in the study town.

1.4. Research Question

The research attempted to answer the following questions.

1. What are the conservation practices and it's challenges of the heritage sites in the study town?
2. How is the community's awareness of the heritage asset of the town?
3. What are the possible urban planning interventions to safeguard the existing heritage sites?

1.5. Significance of the study

Even though the main significance of this study is for fulfillment of master's degree in urban planning and development, the outcome of this study would also significant in many ways. First and for most, it would provide an over view of the current status of the historic heritage sites of Agulae town. It would also try to identify the basic challenges that can be tackled to conserve the historic heritage assets of the study town. It has an importance in identifying the problems and recommending possible solutions that the heritage sites of the study town can be wisely utilize, organize, implementation mechanisms and transferring to the coming generations. This research paper would help for responsible government authorities to review the issues of the heritage conservation strategies or proclamation approaches with a visionary point of view. It will also help scholars as initial reference while they conduct their studies related to heritage monuments and the study can help other scholars to carry out future studies after identifying the gaps that this study may have failed to address.

1.6. Scope of the study

❖ Thematic Scope

The study was assessed the Practices of Heritage Conservation trends and its Challenges in the study town. Conservation practices and Community awareness of the town would be assessed and this study was deal with the basic challenges that happened on conservation practice of the historic sites and the remedial measures that should be taken to overcome the main problems in the study town

❖ Spatial Scope

The scope of the study is mainly confined to the heritage sites found in Agulae town that covers an area of 4973 hectare. The study focuses the entire town because the responsiveness of the heritage sites is common throughout the study area.

❖ **Temporal Scope**

The data/information that was used to analyze the practice in conserving the heritage sites is the last 5 years report data from different sectors like the Wereda culture and truism office, bureau of culture and truism of Tigray region and elders and religious leaders of the town and to interpret the urban planning intervention in the existing heritage sites, the researcher reviewed the overall planning process of the last two plan periods of the town. Temporally this research was completed within the academic year of 2025G.C /2017E.C.

1.7. Limitation of the study

Research work cannot be totally free from limitation. The same is true this study was faced lack of adequate literature on trends of heritage conservation practice in the region or Ethiopia at large was one major the limitation of this study. In addition to inadequate financial fund, lack of organized and reliable secondary source of data in the town due to the absence of proper documentation system was another limitation of this study. There was no prior study regarding to heritage conservation system in the study area was also another drawback. So, the study was forced to rely more on primary data gathering using questioner, interview and field observation.

1.8. Organization of the study

This Proposal is organized in five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives and research questions, scopes, limitation and significance of the study. The second chapter is literature review and over all contextual linkage within urban heritage conservation concept and its challenges. The third chapter deals with research methodology and design that comprises, description of the study town, Research Design and approach, data sources and methods of data collection are among the others. The fourth chapter contains result and discussion based on the collected data and the specified objectives like the back ground of the respondents, analyzing the current status of the heritage sites, Practices of heritage conservation, awareness of the community, challenges of heritage conservation and the role of the previous town plan in safeguarding the existing heritage sites. The last chapter deals about conclusion and recommendation sketched from the finding.

CHAPTER TWO

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Definition of Terms

Heritage: All cultural and artistic objects produced in the past or present, elements from the manmade and natural environment that are survivals from the past, seen as original, typically and appropriate to be passed on to future generations. Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration (<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary>).

Conservation: The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural and manmade environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation is generally held to include the management of human use of natural and manmade resources for current public benefit and sustainable social and economic utilization (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Heritage conservation: is defined as the practice of preserving and protecting aspects of heritage, including built, natural, and intangible elements, to maintain their value for cultural identity and economic benefit (UNESCO .1972).

Preservation: Treatment in order to maintain a original property, as nearly as possible, in a stable physical condition (<https://www.google.com>).

Attractions: The features and related activities of a specific area which draws tourists to visit the area (Oxford English Dictionary).

Consolidation: The physical addition or application of adhesive or supportive materials into the actual fabric of cultural property, in order to ensure its continued durability or structural integrity (Oxford English Dictionary)..

Urban: It is characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it (Adigrat university teaching module).

Urban planning: is the process of guiding and directing the use and development of land, urban environment, urban infrastructure and buildings, and related ecosystem and human services in ways that ensure the maximum level of economic development, high quality of life, and wise management of natural and manmade resources (Adigrat university teaching module).

Challenge: the situation of being faced with something that needs great mental or physical effort in order to be done successfully and therefore tests a person's ability (Oxford Languages).

Awareness: the quality or state of being aware or having knowledge and understanding that something is happening or exists (Oxford Languages).

2.2. Conceptualizing Cultural Heritage

Understanding the concept of heritage is important to present it effectively. Heritage is a comprehensive concept that includes various cultural, historical, architectural, archeological, geological and other types of values. Different definitions of heritages have been developed by many organization and experts, thus, the concept of heritage has been continually broadened over the decades. Due to this scope, this section focuses only on the meanings of cultural heritages of the tangible category that includes historic buildings among others (UNESCO .1972).

The definition of cultural heritage is also variable and wide in its concept, unlike, the various definitions developed by experts and many institutions around the world, the researcher prefer to concentrate on the definitions and legal basis of cultural heritage given by the entities. The first one is of an international organization experience of the united nation Educational, scientific and cultural organization and the second is of the national legislative experience of Ethiopia towards the restoration and protection of cultural heritage (UNESCO .1972).

2.3. The Terminology of Heritage Building and Conservation

Understanding the concept of heritage is important to preserve effectively. Heritage is comprehensive concept that includes various cultural, natural, historical, architectural, archeological, geological and other types of values. Broadly, the concept of heritage consists of both heritages in the context of culture and etymologically, the term 'Heritage' is derived from the word 'inheritance' refers to "valued objects and qualities such as historic buildings and cultural traditions that have been transferred from one generation to another" (LiRui,2008)).

Different definitions of heritage have been developed by many organizations and experts, thus, the concept of heritage has been continually broadened over the decades. Due to the scope, this section focuses only on the meaning of cultural heritages of the tangible category, which includes heritage building among others.

Heritage buildings are part of human creation, which produces icons for a country, provides local identity. Reflects the cultural values and background, represents a source of memory, historical events, and also contributes to the tourism business industry (Feather, 2006) what really is "heritage?" According to oxford English dictionary (1989) Heritage is defined as property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance.

There are many definitions provided from different sources regarding a heritage building. Heritage building is defined as an historic building that gives us a sense of wonder and makes us appreciate culture and our heritage (Aplin, G. 2002). This definition an heritage building as an object that is unique and distinctive such that it is capable of attracting curiosity about its existence and the history behind its being (Kamal and Harum, 2002) perceived these to be "building built in the past which have a high historical and architectural values and require continuous care and protection to preserve their aesthetic, archaeological, spiritual, social, political and economic values" in other words, an heritage building is expected to have an extensive life span, signifying it should be preserved for as long as possible in order to retain the outstanding aspects of its existence to the community. Furthermore, heritage (Aplin, G. 2002) also highlighted that, heritage building is different from contemporary buildings because it is anticipated to last indefinitely and there are various reasons for society to preserve it for as long as possible.

Heritage conservation is currently understood not only in terms of protecting the legacy from the past, but also in terms of managing urban growth while looking toward a sustainable future. In view of this paradigm shift, the reconciliation of heritage conservation and development has become a timely research topic of increasing importance to scholars and practitioners alike, especially because rapid and uncontrolled urbanization continues to cause a variety of pressures. These pressures are particularly alarming in historic places, which range in size from small urban areas to entire cities, where new construction is sometimes designed and built in a manner that threatens to diminish heritage values and character defining elements and appears "to erode the integrity and authenticity" of these places(Gustavo, 2011).

Heritage conservation is currently understood not only in terms of protecting the legacy from the past, but also in terms of managing urban growth while looking toward a sustainable future. In view of this paradigm shift, the reconciliation of heritage conservation and development has

become a timely research topic of increasing importance to scholars and practitioners alike, especially because rapid and uncontrolled urbanization continues to cause a variety of pressures. Conservation is viewed as a "process to manage the change while development, is the mechanism that delivers change "(Orbasli, 2008), has defined "conservation as activities to prevent decay, which contains all acts to extend the life of cultural and natural heritage". It usually focuses on three main aspects of conservation practice which are: Prevention of decay caused by climate and human, Management of change dynamically and Documentation and presentation of the building.

The practice of conservation or conserving normally contains two activities, to care and safeguard from being destroyed without careful planning (Harum, 2005). According to Hui and leung (2004) "conserving will lead to prolonging the life and culture property for its utilization for now and in the future". Furthermore, conserving will contribute to a society for protecting its cultural resources and preserving important heritage (Insall, 1972); the significance to a nation" local identity (Forster and Kayan, 2009), and boosting the tourism industry (Johar et.al. 2011).11. Generally, Heritage building conservation includes the process of maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, or adaptation or combination of any mentioned process to safeguard the physical conditions of an heritage building with reference to its cultural significance such a social, historic, aesthetics, and scientific values.

2.4. Urban Heritage and historic Buildings

Urban heritage conservation can be defined as the protection of public wealth and common good, which is helpful to improve people's quality of life, to enhance people's sense of belonging, and to evoke people's emotion (Li Rui, 2008). From the proclamation of venice charter in 1987,"the meaning of urban heritage conservation" has developed a lot protected objects changed from respected cultural relics to historic districts and historical cities: and involved fields tended from pure physical field to economic, social, and environment multi-field. All these determine the coordination of several municipal bodies and sharing of much information (ibid).

The concept of urban heritage conservation of a city is not only stand by itself. It is a broad concept that are consisting of many disciplines, professions and concepts and ideas, such as urban renewal, urban planning, urban development, revitalization, architecture and so on. For example, Buissink(1985) had defined six classifications of urban heritage conservation and

renewal. These are maintenance, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation (upgrading), reconstruction and redevelopment.

Internationally, the appreciation and understanding of historic urban heritage and their conservation was recognized and further enhanced in the second half of the twentieth century. The contribution of international organizations like UNESCO, international council on monuments and sites (ICOMOS) and other organizations has resulted in the recognition of cultural heritage as a significant link in urban life and the development process. This recognition of historic urban fabric as cultural heritage was significant development in the preservation of urban historic buildings (Orbasli, 2008). However, urban heritage cannot be narrowed down to individual buildings or monuments of historic interest, but also the physical attributes of buildings, public spaces and urban morphology.

Urban heritage can be classified under two categories, tangible and intangible cultural heritages. The tangible urban heritage include individual or groups of buildings and physical elements of historical and architectural significance like public spaces that includes landscape, parks and gardens; monuments. The intangible urban heritage among others include customs, beliefs and practices, which play a role for the articulation of space use and the built environment in which the non-tangible urban heritages are closely linked to the tangible heritage (McKercher and Cros, 2002).

As it is indicated above, the tangible heritages in the urban areas among the others include historic buildings. The term historic building encompasses buildings with a significant historic or architectural value. They are important to the people to reserve their history and also store the collective memory of society and they remain the living testimony of civilization in the past. They create a link between the past and present. They are the cultural heritages, historic evidence and public legacy for a society. In other words, they give people "immediate and tangible" contact with history, so they are of fundamental importance in preserving the physiological continuum between past, present and future. Because of their significance, it is vital to conserve them in a good condition so people enjoy them over the years, and even for generations. Most of historic buildings represent symbols and records of city development. They show trajectories of urban development not to mention their significance as objects of tourist attraction. The reuse of

buildings for tourist function, in its term, will provide a living function for a historic building (Orbasli, 2008)

It is vital to preserve the architectural and historic qualities of the urban historic building, because the preservation of these urban historic buildings a unique source of knowledge about a city's past. In this regard, orbasli (2008) states that "contemporary life, divorced from the roots of our history, can be an extremely superficial meaningless experience". Historic buildings hold symbolic values to the urban communities. They are sources of pride, history and identity. In general, urban historic buildings are significant assets whose importance cut across generations and historical periods. Besides their economic and aesthetic values as means of tourist attractions, they are important land marks to play a nodal role in pattering population settlement. Moreover, they are valued not only for their past glories, but also for their current roles as well. They are valued for their contemporary functions as places where people live, work and enjoy every day life experiences. As time passes if properly preserved, their value increases particularly as a link between the past and the present, and relics that enhance diversity. They are not only objects of historical past but also of future enjoyment.

2.5. Heritage planning

The Planning process for cultural heritage is different from that of community or tourism plans, as it typically involves plan mandated by a heritage branch of the government, or the UN (Garrod and Fyall, 2000). If a heritage site is of universal and international importance, the highest honor is to be listed in the UNESCO world heritage list. The world heritage center maintains the list, and is advised by two bodies: the international council on monuments and sites (ICOMOS) for physical heritage, and the International Union for the conservation of nature (IUCN) for a natural heritage (UHWTO, 2011).

These two bodies are the international sources for rules, regulations and best practices in heritage management, upon acceptance to the list, the site manager must create a plan to manage the source and the visitors to that site. This plan guides both the conservation practices and growth of tourism (Landorf, 2009).

Best practices for heritage management and planning stem from a few classic documents. One is the Burra charter (Deacon, 2006). The charter outlines the sequential steps to follow for heritage tourism planning such as: location selection, community participation, change management, significance, interpretation, documentation and monitoring. Another generally accepted guide for best practices is the ICOMOS International cultural tourism charter (ICTC). It highlights the need for a balance between conservation and a meaningful tourism experience (Deacon, 2006).

The ICTC charter also emphasizes that local community involvement and benefits returning to the community are important tenants of a cultural heritage site (ICOMOS, 1999). Site management. Plans can also include specific tourism elements such as revenue management, the organization collect the revenue can have large ramifications on the likelihood of the local community (Deacon, 2006). Whether it's an external NGO, the local level government, or a committee or council reporting to the local government, the money should be managed transparently, and used for democratically agreed upon projects, Heritage planning as well as tourism planning have both come to enhance community participation as a main tenant in best practices of planning for management of heritage sites.

However, institutional differences also appear in these planning processes especially to issues related to financing and ensuring community benefit. The disconnect between heritage planning and tourism planning often occurs when heritage planning fails to account for the market preferences and the fierce competition for tourist dollars, While the tourism development side often lacks an understanding of a fragility of a given site (Mckercher and Du cros, 2002). Even though Ethiopia accepted the rules and regulations of UNESCO, there is no organized system to protect and preserve the cultural heritage in a sustainable and planning management system that is why the heritage sites of Agulae town did not generate income for the region as a whole.

2.6. World Heritage Conventions and Charters on Heritage

Under this section the various international conventions charters and agreements in line with Ethiopia heritage legislative is reviewed. To know about the main international documents and institutions in the field of world heritage treatment provides a reliable sources for understanding of interdisciplinary approach to preservation and conservation theory on local, national and international level. During the 19th century, a lot of questions have been raised regarding the

history of art and architecture and different method for preserving cultural heritage. The 6th international congress of architects of 1904 in Madrid gave a brief draft of recommendations concerning preservation and restoration of architectural monuments. This document divided documents in two groups : dead monuments; i.e. those belonging to a past civilization or serving obsolete purposes, and living monuments, i.e. those which continue to serve the purposes for which they were originally intended (Jokilehto, 1986).

The 1st world war brought about the waste deterioration of many cultural monuments. This stimulated the idea for creating an international monument for protecting cultural heritage. The intellectual cooperation committee was founded in 1922 within the League of Nations (Geneva, 1919) and four years later was transformed to the international institute of intellectual cooperation, with head quarter in Paris. In 1926, the IIIC established the international museums office (IMO) in Paris, with the aim to promote and organize joint work and research on international level (Demas, 2003)

2.6.1. Athens charter

The international institute of intellectual cooperation (IIIC) initiated the Athens conference of 1931 on the protection and conservation of cultural and historical monuments, Its resolutions were published as the Athens charter for the restoration of historic monuments (often referred to as the Athens charter). This was the first truly international document accepted at an intergovernmental level that dealt with general principles and doctrines related to protection conservation and restoration and to favor conservation of the authenticity of historic monuments where possible. This document also gave a new concept of conservation by abandoning stylistic restoration which was among recommendations of the congress in Madrid. It also advised strengthening international cooperation in technical matters, as well as forming international center that would gather the documentation on cultural heritage all over the world. This marked the beginning of international attempts to create general guidelines and recommendations for the preservation of cultural heritage. The next step was establishment of the international commission that would be in charge of conservation education, legal and technical issues and documentation on Preservation (ICOMOS. 2016).

2.6.2. UNESCO, VENICE CHARTER and ICOMOS

Formation of the United Nations (San Francisco, 1945) brought necessary organizational changes to the principle of heritage protection and conservation. This led to creation of the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization UNESCO (London, 1945) as an international institution that would, among other aims, continue IIC's mission. These initial activities resulted in foundation of other three international organizations with specific aims: International Council of Museums (ICOM, 1946), World Conservation Union (1948, changes its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN in 1956) and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM, 1959). These initial activities resulted in foundation of other three international organizations with specific aims: International Council of Museums (ICOM, 1946), World Conservation Union (1948, Changed its name to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN in 1956) and International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM, 1959). The most important event of that time was the 2nd International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments (Venice, 1964).

The resolutions included the international charter for the conservation and restoration of monuments and sites- the Venice Charter, which became a fundamental international document on conservation and restoration theory. Its emphasis was on the necessity to respect the authenticity of the historic monuments and to keep them in appropriate use.

The Venice Charter is considered as the first document that connected the historic monument to its surrounding, in the articles 7, the concern was also given to the protection of the setting, as the monument is considered: "separable from the history to which it bears witness and from the setting in which it occurs" (ICOMOS, 1964). Since the charter did not apply to urban heritage, the congress gave a draft on the protection and rehabilitation of historic centers. Although based on the principles of the Athens Charter, the Venice Charter provided necessary contemporary updates. One of the resolutions proposed the creation of an organization that would coordinate international effort for the preservation and appreciation of world heritage. In 1965, UNESCO, established the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which has taken the Venice Charter as its ethical guideline

2.7. Experiences of Different Countries

Under this section, Experiences of different countries in relation with cultural heritage conservation, preservation, and their policy and its practices is reviewed. The countries selection is purposely based on their organized system of implementation strategies on cultural heritages.

2.7.1. Canada

In Canada, constitutionally, the provincial government regulates provincial, municipal and privately owned land and the federal government manages federally owned land. In terms of heritage conservation this translates, succinctly in to provincial legislation for the protection and designation of heritage at the local level, and federal mechanisms for the protection of federally owned buildings through the federal heritage building review office (FHBRO). In Ontario, the Ontario heritage Act, first introduced in 1975, provides legal protection for the province's places of cultural heritage value. The Act regulates designating, altering, demolishing or repealing of properties of cultural values which may be individual buildings, groups of buildings (known as heritage conservation districts (HCDs), or architectural remains (parks, 2006) According to Cameron (2000). The act can be seen as a representation of the three pillar approach to heritage conservation developed in 1973 by the heritage Canada foundation. This approach consists in:

A). Identification of property of cultural value and their designation through inscription into a municipal register of heritage places. This step also requires the identification of heritage attributes for both heritage buildings and heritage conservation districts.

B). Regulations on how the designation process is to take effect, which alterations can be done with or without a permit and how these are to be conducted, and demolition and repealing of designated properties, for HCDs this also requires creating a heritage conservation district plan which must include: a statement of objective to be accomplished by the designation, the specific value of the district that need to be protected , a description of the heritage attributes, the types of alterations can be done without a permit and other policy statements, guidelines and procedures.

C). Providing incentives and financial support for designated buildings through passing municipal by laws for the creation of various grants, loans and other financial incentives in order to promote the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of heritage buildings. However, it is important to note that the process described above applies only to the material and built heritage, unlike the legislation in place for the protection of cultural heritage in other provinces. For

example, there are no references or provisions made in the Ontario heritage Act (OHA) for the protection of intangible heritage, cultural landscape, or heritage of the first nations.

However, the provincial policy statement in Ontario does provide additional protection for archaeological resources (also covered under the OHA), cultural heritage land scope (defined as a clearly delineated geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community) and natural heritage (including the habitat of endangered and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, areas of natural and scientific interest, important for their environmental and social values). Still, no provision is made for intangible heritage and little is discussed about how to go about protecting the heritage of the first nations. In comparison, the British Columbia heritage conservation Act, as well as Quebec's *Loi sur le patrimoine culturel*, both address the protection of aboriginal peoples while the Quebec legislation also addresses intangible heritage, historical persons and events and collections (ICOMOS, 2008).

2.7.2. Australia

In Australia, organized community involvement in the conservation of immovable cultural heritage started with the formation of the National Trust of Australia in 1945. The trust was established with the objective of raising community awareness of widespread destruction of built heritage in Sydney. The national trust movement quickly spread across Australia with other states establishing national trust offices one by one throughout the 1950s and 1960s. These national trusts were strong advocates of statutory protection for historic heritage in Australia, as the heritage conservation legislation at that time was almost exclusively concentrated with protecting cultural heritage. During the early 1970s, large scale redevelopment activities in the major cities triggered community protest actions to protect cultural heritage against the development project (Ashton and Corn Wall, 2006).

The Australian Heritage Commission Act in 1975 set the stage for the establishment of the Australian Heritage Commission as a federal government agency to identify and list important historic heritages on the register of the national estate. The Australia Heritage Commission Act also obliged all federal ministers and agencies to ensure that nothing would be done to adversely affect the heritage places listed on the register. Since the passage of the Australian Heritage

commission act, states and territories have enacted their own heritage conservation legislation, and many local governments have established their respective mechanisms for the identification, conservation, and protection of historic heritage. Over time, listing of places was frequently duplicated across various tiers of government, with the result of several different protections and planning laws could apply to the site (Apline, 2002).

The current institutional arrangements for heritage conservation are based on the three-tier framework established under the council of Australian governments (COAG) agreement. The government focuses on heritage of national significance, while territory government handle heritage of state significance. As to local governments, they cater for heritage of local significance. Each level of government has its own responsibility of developing statutory protection and financial support measures corresponding to the significance of historic heritage it conserves, in 2003, the Australian government enacted the Australian heritage council act 2003 to provide for the establishment of the Australian heritage council. State and territory heritage acts introduce heritage agreement to foster public-private partnership in conservation of historic properties (Victoria, 2008).

A heritage Agreement is a legally binding contract signed between the heritage council concerned and the owner of historic heritage property for the long -term conservation of the property. Heritage agreements are generally signed in perpetuity and are therefore binding on current and future owners. Under the heritage agreement, the owner is obliged to carry out maintenance works required for the conservation of his or her historic heritage property. In return, he or she is entitled to a number of incentives, such as property tax reductions, grants, and technical assistance, for his or her guarantee to undertake the conservation works (ibid).

2.7.3 Kenya

The Kenyan national policy on culture heritage was outlawed in 2009. The Kenyan culture and national heritage policy is aimed at creating the bench mark necessary for mainstreaming culture and heritage and setting standards as well as raising awareness and the capacity building necessary for infusing culture and heritage as integral parts of public policy and development plans. Several ministries are currently involved in the promotion of cultural activities in one way or another; however there is need for a coordinated approach to the promotion of such activities to create cohesion and consistency in the implementation of the cultural heritage policy (Kenya

national policy, 2009). To support the implementation of this policy the government of Kenya should source fund from the consolidated fund, private sector, international and local organization, non-governmental organization, multilateral and bilateral co-operating partners and endowment fund.

The existing institutions on culture have largely revolved or been centered on the ministry responsible for culture and heritage. However a number of other public and private institutions have their own cultural programs and policies which govern their work as opposed to the ministry in charge of culture which has a wider mandate in terms of the depth of its activities to the ministry responsible for culture and heritage in the government which also has the duty to ensure the proper implementation of the cultural policy of Kenya (ibid)

The government of Kenya shall make appropriate legislation to encourage the integration of key actors dealing with cultural heritage within existing structures to work together in ensuring the successful implementation of the culture and heritage policy.

In particular the following government ministries shall be integrated in to the government action plan for the implementation of the culture and heritage policy. Some of them are: - education, youth affair, information and broad casting, Local government, tourism and wild life, trade and industry, sport and environment. The Ethiopian government developed a proclamation on cultural heritage to keep these buildings from destruction. Nevertheless the present situation of this cultural heritage is in question. According to ORAAMP; 2002, Messay Demessie et al, 2009; and historical buildings in Addis Ababa are deteriorating at alarming rate.

2.8. Legislation for the safeguarding of the Ethiopian Cultural Heritage

Similar to the UNESCO convention and charter, every country has issued a national legislation to protect its heritage resources under this section Ethiopia heritage legislative is reviewed. In the second half of the 19th century, the emperor of Ethiopia, MenelikII(1889-1913) began an archaeological and historical study to identify and preserve the antiquities of his predecessors of the medieval rulers of Ethiopia. The search for traces of the Christian past of Ethiopia by the emperor was focused on the ruins of churches and royal sites. The emperor had encouraged archaeological studies to be carried out. For example, in 1905 he expressed his desire for the German archaeological mission to study the historical sites in Ethiopia (BerihuTafla, 1981). The aim of program by the emperor was to uncover historical objects associated with his

predecessors. The objects could vary from the ruins of royal palaces and churches to coins stone, painting, sculptures and statues and parchment manuscripts. This indicates that the concept of heritages began to acquire a semantic change in Ethiopia towards the end of the 19th century as the notion of heritage far more advanced than the solitary view of associating monuments with heritage.

Until 1980's the only existing legislation on cultural heritage protection was the imperial proclamation No. 229 of 1966 but it had never been enforced. Proclamation No 229 of 1974 (NegaritGazeta, 1966) was, then, the first act of legislation which created the basis for safeguarding the cultural heritage by the state in Ethiopia.

According to the proclamation 229 of 1966 the cultural property which has to be protected is defined as "antiquity" which shall mean any construction or any product of human activity, or any object of historical or archaeological interest, having its origin prior to 1858. The "antiquity" so defined, which until the date of the proclamation were the property of "physical or juridical persons, including any church and any other organization", were declared "to be property of the state" and had been administered by the head of the office of Archaeology. Who in addition to the day to day execution of duties also had to supervise all discoveries and restoration work, including the issues of permits for archaeological excavations?

In the execution of these functions the Administering Authority had to "register and supervise all historical objects which may exist in any church and make a detailed list of antiquities in the possession of private individuals, as well as supervise all historical objects which may exist in any church and make a detailed list of antiquities in the possession of private individuals, as well as supervise all transfer, sale and export of any antiquities. It had also to issue regulations prescribing the basis and manner for the execution of the proclamation and to stipulate penalties for infringements in accordance with the provisions of the penal code of 1957. The proclamation stated that it was a total law covering all antiquities prior to 1858 and binding all persons, though it is not clear if the property of the former emperor and his family was included.

Nor is it clear whether the proclamation encompassed the antiquities kept by museums, libraries or archives (for instance, the national museum, National library, university or state Archives). It did not, however, extend to the protection of nature, including the landscape and rare

specimens of nature (living and inanimate) which it was perhaps intended to make the subject of a separate law.

In connection with the proclamation No.229 of 1966, there was issued an order to provide for the creation of an Ethiopian antiquities administration (NegaritGazeta, 1966). Three years later the In connection with the Proclamation No. 229 of 1966, there was issued "An Order to Provide for the export of antiquities regulations, 1977 was issued. It was the only regulation published before the revolution in 1974 and no documentation exists of any sale or export permits and no other lists or registers have been found in the archives of the ministry of culture and sports which took over the archives of the imperial authority. It would seem therefore that the proclamation of 1966 in fact had not been executed.

Several serious problems were pointed out about this first proclamation; heritage was named as antiquities the definition of which was too general, too vague, and too narrow, failing to include the artistic values and historical landscapes of the country(Gasiorowski, 1981). The proclamation No.229 of 1966 had not yet been abrogated and therefore it had been in operation until 1989, Nor was there issued after 1974 any detailed regulation which made indispensable for the execution of new cultural heritage law in 1989.

The basis for the proclamation No. 36/1989 law was the production No. 299/1966. The second proclamation proposed a broader and clearer definition of antiquities, which was strongly suggested by UNESCO experts, The definition of antiquities by the second proclamation included work of architecture, ethnographic, implements, paleontological objects, remains of ancient towns and also other religious properties, under the second proclamation, a registration process for antiquities was introduced for the first time. This second proclamation stipulated that not only the owners but also the government and every citizen as well are all responsible for heritage conservation.

However, despite the fact that this the second proclamation was more comprehensive than the first proclamation, due to the political unrest between the military government and the then rebel forces, the actual implementation of the second proclamation was effectively suspended. In comparison, with the imperial proclamation, it recognized the need for preservation of the country's historic buildings based on its values regardless of its age limitation. However, this proclamation failed to recognize and include the intangible cultural heritage and due to this reason it was replaced by another proclamation known as the research and conservation of

cultural heritage No,209/2000. This proclamation is the current working legal instrument to protect cultural heritage in Ethiopia.

The research and conservation of cultural heritage proclamation No. 209/2000 was proclaimed in accordance with article.55(1) of cultural heritage proclamation No.209/2000 was proclaimed in and the cultural policy of Ethiopia article 3(4) of the current conservation proclamation of Ethiopia (adopted in 2000 defines

"cultural heritage as anything tangible or intangible which is the product of creativity and labor of man in the pre-history and history time, that describes and witnesses to the evolution of nature and which has a major value in its scientific, historical, cultural, artistic, and hand craft content

This proclamation deals with several issues such as research, excavation, registration, subsidy, and technical advice for heritage conservation. The third proclamation is different in its content compared to the preceding first and second conservation proclamations. In general; the existence of both the legal provision as well as the institutional set up in Ethiopia gives way to an overall framework to the protection and preservation of the cultural heritages of the country.

2.9. Opportunities for Safeguarding Heritages

2.9.1 Stakeholders involvement

Cultural heritage must be thoughtfully managed if it is to survive in an increasingly globalized world. True partnerships are required between all relevant stakeholders, particularly, governments, private tourism sectors, and local communities. Through mutual understanding, key stakeholders can build on their shared interest in cultural assets, in close consultation with local communities, the ultimate bearers of humankind's cultural legacy. The awareness and attitude of among stakeholders towards the conservation of heritage is crucial to have a common stack among interest groups towards heritage and development, to keep sustainable conservation management, and to keep sustainable conservation management, and to promote tourism. Community based tourism projects allow for direct communication between communities and heritage tourism while sustainably developing cultural assets as tourism products (HariSrinivas, 2009).

2.9.2 Community Participation

Communities must be actively involved in safeguarding and managing their heritage since it is only the one who can consolidate their presence and ensure its future. Each community, using its

collective memory and consciousness of its past, is responsible for the identification as well as the management of its heritage. Communities, in particular indigenous communities, groups, and in some cases, individuals play an important role in the production, safeguarding, maintenance, and recreation of the intangible cultural heritage, each state party shall endeavor to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and where appropriate individuals that create, maintain, and transmit such heritage, and to involve them actively in its management. Apart from stakeholder's participation and community involvement, resource mobilization, ecotourism activities and corporate fundraising mechanisms could be devised to achieve conservation programs and contribution should be based on willingness and abilities of stakeholders (HariSrinivas., 2009).

2.9.3 UNESCO Committee and Convention for Safeguarding Heritages

Today, even in a world of mass communication and global cultural flows, many forms of heritage properties are being preserved or conserved in every corner of the world. Other forms and elements of heritage resources which are more fragile, and some are even endangered and needs measures called for by the UNESCO convention of safeguarding heritage at the national and international levels can help communities to ensure that their heritage remains available to their descendants for decades centuries to come. The convention recognizes that the communities, groups and in some cases individuals who safeguard and maintain heritage must be its primary stewards and guardians, but their efforts can be supported or undercut by state policies and institutions. The challenges facing such communities, and those who work on their behalf are to ensure that their children and grandchildren continue to have the opportunity to experience the heritage of the generations that preceded them and that measures intended to safeguard such heritage are carried out with the full involvement and the free, prior and informal consent of the communities, groups and individuals concerned.

2.10. Theoretical framework of the study

Heritage conservation domains received adequate attention from both the academia and practitioners. According to sinamai, the practices of heritage conservation and management must align with the principle of community based heritage conservation which recognizes the communities' wellbeing and empowers the host community through the harnessing of endogenous knowledge and skills. And, heritage conservation practices shall respect local

cultural such as vernacular architecture. Certain principles shall be adhered when heritage conservation is applied. The heritage shall continue to be used according to its earlier purpose, and when this is not feasible, a compatible use should be sought with minimal alteration to the heritage and its context. Conservation techniques shall also focus on repairing rather than replacing. Since heritage relics are authentic evidence of our past, historic fabrics should be kept as much as possible. While repairing and maintaining the heritage, emphasis shall be paid to respect the heritage context, location and significant views shall be maintained. Heritage can be deteriorated, damaged or destructed due to anthropogenic and natural factors. The anthropogenic or human factors interest and ownership issues, contestation and cultural politics, negligence, ignorance and poor handling system, theft and illicit trafficking, civil war, unprofessional conservation, urbanization, large scale agriculture and mining activities. The natural factors may encompass climatic and geological factors such as solar radiation, rainfall, humidity, wind pressure, and natural catastrophes such as earth quake, flooding, lightning and thunder as well as biological factors like plants (e.g. invasive specious, weeds) and animals such as rat can harm the heritage depending on the level of impact on the heritage, various conservation approaches can be applied or practiced. These are maintenance continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of heritage preservation maintaining the fabric of heritage in its existing state and retarding deterioration a place to a known earlier state by removing accretion or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material. Reconstruction, returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric and adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or proposed use(Feilden, B.M. 2003)..

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Description of the Study Area

Agulae is a small town in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia rich in heritage despite its limited tourism activity. Among its notable sites is the former palace compound of Emperor

Yohannes, which includes a hall and impartial residence buildings. Unfortunately, the site suffered vandalism and looting during the Tigray genocide war.

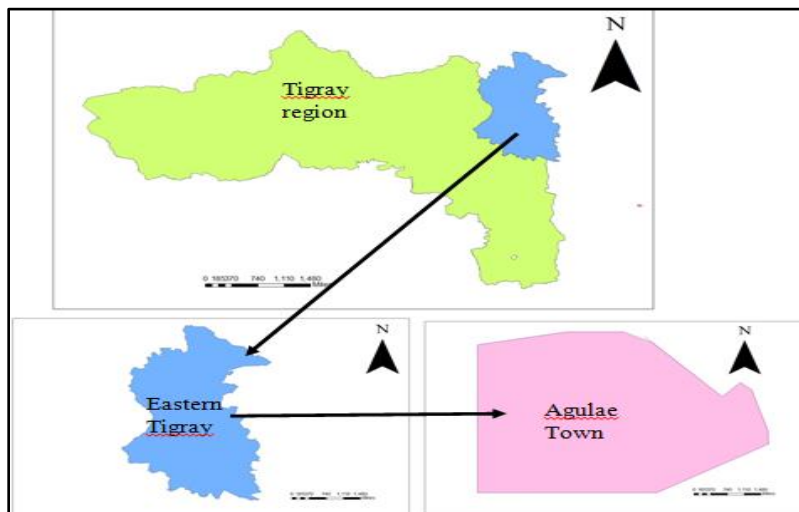
Currently, Agulae town is found under Weredathrawnberta and important pivot point Tigray and Afar region. Agulae was visited by the Portuguese priest Francisco Alvares on 13 August 1520, who called it Anguguim. He mentioned in the town a well-built church upon very thick stone supports very well hewn which was dedicated to saint Chirqos. The town is mentioned again in an inquiry conducted by emperor Iyasu in 1698, in which he proclaimed that tolls should no longer be collected there. The village was visited in 1868 by members of the Napier Expedition. Who found the church in ruins they were told that the church had been reduced to its current state by treasure seekers acting on the orders of Dejazmach Sbagadis. Agulae was significant as it was an important station on the salt caravan route from Dallol west to Atsbi.

❖ Location of the study town

Agulae is a town located in the eastern zone of the Tigray region in Wereda Thrawnberta. It lies about 32 km north east of Mekelle. It has a latitude and longitude of 13°41'30"N 39°35'30"E with an elevation of 1930 meters above sea level.

The town of Agulae lies at the crossroads of Mekelle-Adigrat and at the junction or turning point to Berahle (Afar region) highway.

Figure 1 Location map of Agulae town



Source: Own manipulation

❖ **Population characteristics of the study town**

Based on figures from the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia released in 2005, Agulae has an estimated total population of 4636, of 2229 are men and 2407 are women. The 1994 census reported it had a total population of 2666 of whom 1187 were men and 1479 were women. Currently the total population of the town is 8198 and 1863 household residing within the town. In addition to this the population is assumed to grow by an annual rate of growth of 4 percent until now and reach the mentioned number. Furthermore the fertility rate of Agulae town is found to be 458/1000 and the mortality rate of the town is 75 per year 0.075 deaths per 1000 people (Agulae town health office).

3.2 Research Design and approach

3.2.1 Research Design

In this study, different mechanisms should be applied. In order to access deeply about the practice and challenges of heritage conservation in Agulae town, the researcher is used descriptive type of study. This type of research would help the researcher to describe the characteristics of variable in the study. Therefore descriptive type of research is relevant for the research to describe the practice and challenges of historic building conservation. And, Explanatory research design is used to examine the impacts of predictors or explanatory variables such as natural factors on cultural heritage conservations.

3.2.2. Research approach

This Research employs both qualitative and quantitative research approaches which is a mixed research approach, because it helps to conduct its study using both quantifiable variables and descriptive to investigate the main Challenges in conserving heritage sites of the town and its consequences. The qualitative research approach uses descriptive variables.

- **Qualitative Research Approach**

Qualitative research was employed to explore the attitude and experiences of the respondents on the practice and challenges of the heritage buildings conservation through interview. It attempts to get an in depth opinion from respondents especially from truism experts of the town/wereda.

Qualitative data was collected mainly from the elders and religious leaders, business communities and truism experts of the study town.

- **Quantitative research Approach**

This approach can be used for the data that can be quantified or can be expressed in terms of quantity or amount. Numerical data will be collected from written report and house survey.

3.3. Data Sources

In order to achieve the underlined objectives of the study, both primary and secondary data sources were employed.

- **Primary Data Source**

These data was collected from different data sources, which includes both open ended and close ended questionnaires, semi structured interview for municipality and truism expertise. Primary data was also being collected from house hold and business communities using structured questionnaire.

- **Secondary Data**

The secondary data was collected from different secondary data sources such as, town municipality report documents, previous planning process and land use allocation would collect Wereda culture and truism office annual reports and different research documents in line with the mentioned title etc.

3.4. Method of Data Collection

The researcher was used four methods to collect the necessary data.

Questionnaire: The questionnaire was prepared in the form of close-ended question. The method of delivery would be face to face, translating to local language. So as to collect a reliable data from the target population, the researcher made trained to enumerators and performed systematized follow-up by the researcher.

Interview: The researcher was done some in-depth interviews regarding conservation and maintenance, challenges faced and other related issues. The key informants for the interview were selected professionals and officials of the organizations that are directly involved with the

issue. This tool was permitted an exchange of ideas and information between the interviewee and interviewer. Data was gathered directly from the respondent in a way of face to face contacts between the two actors through semi structured interview technique. This technique guided by schedules, i.e. a set of general questions or topic. The schedules are flexible and can be updated after each interview.

Personal observation: This method helps to observe the situations without asking respondents. Observation of the researcher was used as one means of generating primary data in this study like buffer zone demarcation and compatibility issues. It was conducted using camera and careful recording the existing situations of the heritage sites that reinforces the qualitative information obtained by interviews and questionnaires. This enables the researcher to understand the current status of conservation of the selected heritage sites in Agulae town.

Secondary data collection: The researcher was included data from books, documents, official reports and town plan review.

3.5. Sampling Technique and Sample Size

3.5.1. Sampling Technique

The researcher was used Probability and non-probability sampling techniques

Non Probability sampling: non probability sampling is also known as “deliberately sampling” because the researcher was selected items deliberately. Unites or elements may not have equal chance in selection. This types of sampling has an advantage in time and economy, (Dawit, 2002).

Purposive or judgmental sampling is one type of non-probability sampling, the way of selection of sample subject that met the required purpose of the research. The researcher was used non-probability purposive sampling for 7 administrative/Expertise officials and 4 religious leaders/elders to get more viable and reliable information so as the research to become more fruitful. Respondents were selected based on their knowledge in the Area of the study from the office of culture and tourism, municipality (Department of urban plan) and elders/community representatives. Purposive technique was used to select the expert who has knowledge on practice and challenges of heritage conservation in the study area.

Probability/Systematic Random Sampling: The researcher was used these sampling procedures in order to collect the data at household level through questionnaire from residents found in the town. With this technique, the sampling frame was organized in to relatively homogeneous strata then the researcher was used simple random sampling selected respondents for the sample with respect to quota size. This step allows a fair respondent of various types of household size of the study area. To select sample size, a list of the population formally registered in each kebele in Agulae town administration was not hold on. And the sample size that was selected here is considered as representative of total households.

3.5.2. Sampling Size

The process of choosing the unit of the target population that was included in the study. According to the information obtained from Agulae town municipal office, the total population of the study town is 8198 and 1863 total households.

To determine the target population of the study, the researcher utilized a sample size determination formula developed by kothari (2004), Assuming a 95% confidence level and a margin of error (e) of 0.5.

$$n = \frac{Nz^2PQ}{E^2(N - 1) + z^2PQ}$$

$$n = \frac{1863 * (1.96)^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{(0.05)^2(1863-1) + (1.96)^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}$$

$$n = 130$$

n= 130 household

Where: N represents the estimated population size.

Z corresponds to the z-value associated with the desired confidence level.

P denotes the estimated proportion or prevalence of a characteristic in the population.

Q is the complementary probability of P.

These 130 household sample population were selected from the total households using systematic simple random sampling unit or sample size of the study, because the awareness of the heritage sites is common throughout the study area.

Table1: sample size of Representative Key informants

Institutions	No. Representative	position	Sampling method
Town administration	1	The Meyer	purposive
Municipality	2	1 Municipal office 1 Urban Plan core process owner	purposive
Wereda culture and tourism office	3	1 office head. 2 Truism Experts	purposive
Bureau of culture and truism	1	Expert on Truism and heritage	purposive
Religious leaders/community representatives	4	1 religious leaders 3 community representatives	purposive
Total	11		

3.6. Methods of data Processing and Analysis

➤ Data Processing

The gathered information through various tools was carefully checked their validity and reliability. The available secondary data was reviewed and arranged aligned with the study objective. The data were analyzed qualitatively, whereas SPSS was used for numeric data presentations mainly to produce frequencies, such as percentage. The processed information are described and present in the form of tables, , texts, maps and figures.

➤ Data Analysis

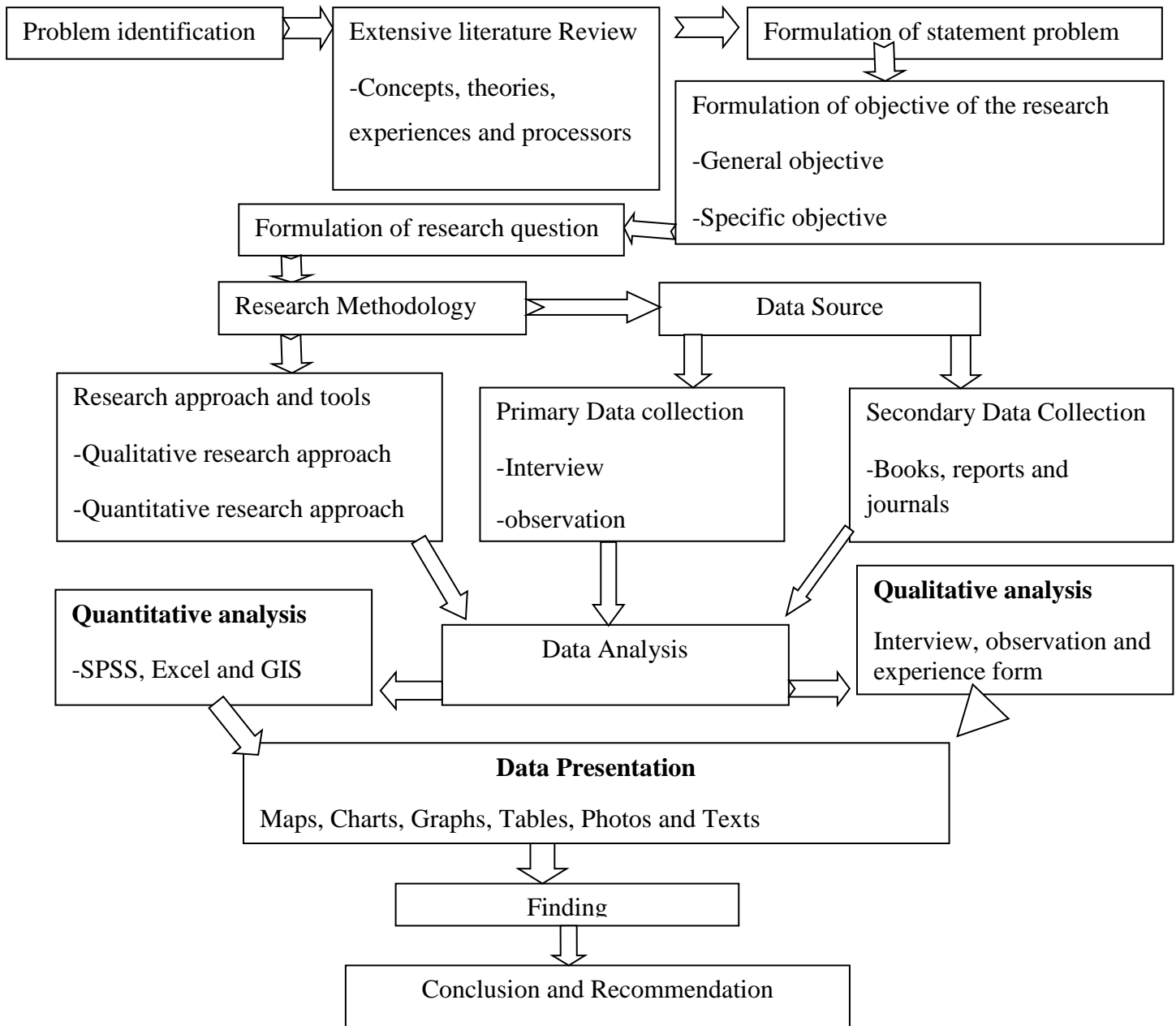
The organized data was analyzed using various methods such as descriptive statistical methods of analysis including percentage and frequency. The data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The finding were described and presented in the form of tables and figures. The qualitative data

obtained using in depth interview and field observation was analyzed in descriptive narration. Finally, conclusion was made based up on the finding of the research. Recommendation was also given based up on the conclusions made.

3.7. Research Ethics

For the validity and reliability of the information, the questionnaire was not only filled by the respondents themselves. Rather the researcher was employed two experts and four data collectors. The experts were helped in facilitating and supervising the data collector. The data collector was responsible in collecting the data based on the sampling technique of the target population. They were conducted house to house survey the required data from residents. The interviewer was created awareness regarding the gain of this study to enhance the respondent's willingness; thereby the collected data is the reflection of the reality on the ground. In addition the study was collected different practices and challenges regarding heritage conservation through interview and personal observation, the outcome of the study would imitate the actual situation of the heritage sites. Therefore, the result of this study shows the real practice and challenges of the historic sites existing on the study town.

Figure2 Research Process



Source: Own proposal

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

Understanding the social significance of historic sites, coordinating all stakeholders in the conservation process, visualizing solutions to complex problems and advocating new uses with a minimum of adaptation so as to preserve the historically essential features, considering the broad definition of the built environment as heritage, understanding the nature of materials and its appropriate uses, new services, and community needs are the first stages in preservation of community needs are the first stages in preservation of community owned historical heritage sites(Aplin,2003).

In this study, three methods have been applied to collect data. These were questionnaires, interview and observation. The data obtained through these methods were collected, interpreted, analyzed and bold the main findings.

4.1. Response rate of the respondent

There were 130 questioners distributed to 130 households, and 100% respondents were responded. The households response based on the questionnaires was attempted to organize on the table form and the percentage was used to interpret the collected data. Finally analysis was made based on the percentage value.

4.1.1 Age and sex distribution of the respondents.

Table 2.Age and sex distribution of respondent

Age categories	Frequency	Percent	Sex composition	Frequency	Percent
18-39	32	24.6%	Male	63	48.4%
40-65	73	56.2%	Female	67	51.6%
>65	25	19.2%	Total	130	100%
Total	130	100			

Source: field survey, March, 2025

According to the above table most of the respondents were in the age range of 40-65 that is 56.2% of the respondents were above the age of 40 and below 65 followed by 18-39(24.6%). The above table and the observation result indicated that respondents age more than 40 and above might get the responsibility to protect and preserve the heritage sites. By chance, the respondents were from all age groups there by the researcher conducted that reasonable number of households were participated during data collection.

The number of male respondents was 48.4% while the numbers of the female respondents were 51.6%. Therefore, female respondents were more than male respondents. This is not mean female headed households, whereas the enumerators had face in each house during house to house survey.

4.1.2 Marital Status of Respondents

Table 3 marital status of the target population of the study town

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Married	75	57.7
Unmarried	35	26.9
widowed	20	15.4
Total	130	

Source: field survey, March 2025

As the above table indicated, most of the respondents are married (57.7%) followed by unmarried ones. This can be interpreted that if most of the respondents are married they feel responsible for where they live in as of their children. Most of married men and women are responsibility takers for their actions but it does not mean that only married people have the responsibility to conserve and protect the historical heritage sites.

4.1.3. Educational status of respondents

Table4: The educational status of household respondent is listed as follows:

Variable	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	10	7.6%
Able to read and write	15	11.5%
1-8	33	25.4%
9-10	22	16.9%
11-12	16	12.3%
Certificate	14	10.8%
Diploma	11	8.5%
Degree and above	9	6.9%
Total	130	100

Source: field survey, March 2025

Education is the best tool when it comes to protect the heritage assets. It assists in comprehending the importance of conserving aspects of human life, such as old buildings, artifacts, and generation's heritage. It can inform everyone about the importance of heritage. Thus, we can learn about the history of these sites through entertaining workshops and activities, this knowledge makes people appreciate their history.

The data listed above illustrates the educational status of households who participated in the study, the 25.4% of the respondent were primary school and 29.2% were attend secondary school where as 26.2% have certificate and above. So, great numbers of respondents have been knowledge/ ability how can manage heritage sites in their town.

In conformity with, when relate the level of respondents with the awareness and activity of the heritage conservation process, it could have deduced that the majority part of the sampled respondents, including from 9-12 grade, diploma as well as first degree holders and certified residents of the study town expected to have a real awareness to close themselves and to perform tasks related to heritage conservation process.

4.1.4. Household Occupation of the Respondents

Table 5: household occupation

Distribution	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	25	19.2%
Self-employed	48	36.9%
Private employed	17	13.1%
Public employed	20	15.4%
Retired	11	8.5%
Others	9	6.9%
Total	130	100%

Source: field survey, March 2025

Occupational status has influence, especially on the capacity of maintenance activities. Proclamation No 209/2000 Article 18 sub-article 1 stated that any person who owns a heritage is obliged to preserve and protect properly the heritage sites on his expenses. In order to follow the above article, occupation plays crucial role.

According to the above table and the interview result indicated that more than 34.6% of the residents did not have occupation. Therefore they cannot afford money to maintain the historical site in their town they have been living. This means most residents of the town have no regular income, this will affect in managing and conserving heritage sites found in the study town since communities are one stockholder in conservation practice of the town.

4.1.5. Living Experience of Respondents in the study town

Table6 Respondents History of living in the study town

Waiting categories	Frequency	Percent
< 5 years	15	11.5
5-15 years	21	16.2
15-25 years	45	34.6
> 25 years	49	37.7
	130	100%

Source: field survey, March 2025

The above table shows that from 130 respondents 94 (72%) reside more than 15 years on the study town. Such character of respondents should enhance the reliability of the collected data that should reflect the reality on the ground. Because of those who stayed for a long time in the study town have better knowhow about the historic site than stayed short period of time.

4.2. The Current Statues of Heritage sites of the Town

Agulae and its surrounding areas are rich in tourist attractions, religious sites, and historical land marks that reflect the town's deep historical significant. Some of the most notable sites include

- **St.Kidane Mihret Church**

One of the most revered churches in the region, this church is home to a sacred artifact= the tablet of Moses, also referred to as the “Gold Wengel”. This precious relic, adorned with diamonds and gold, was brought from Jerusalem in 1868 E.C. by Emperor Yohannes IV. It is considered one of the most valuable religious treasures in Ethiopia and holds national spiritual importance.

Figure3: St. kidanemihre church



Source: Own field survey

- **The Palace of Emperor Yohannes IV**

Constructed in 1864 E.C., the palace of Emperor Yohannes IV stands as a symbol of royal authority and historical pride. The structure is known for its architectural style and historical relevance, serving as a residence and administrative center during the Emperor's reign. It remains a significant heritage site reflecting the political and military leadership of the 19th century.

Figure4: AtseYohannes Palace



Source: Own field survey

At an interview with local residents the heritage sites are not in a good condition. They lack an attractive environment. Their external parts are not well treated timely thereby deteriorated due to weather conditions and other external factors are current features of the site.

The key informant mentioned that heritage sites like Kidanemhret Church are in good condition and can last long. But the Emperor Yohannes' palace began to show some signs of aging. That happened because of the materials they are made of. Also, the area it is located in sometimes affects their wellbeing.

The researcher's field observation has a different result from what is told by the institution. By observing the heritage sites in the study town, the researcher saw defects and cracks on them. Particularly, the palace has small cracks that are not visible from far away. Through time, the historic building will erode; hence, probably structural damage will happen. The Dejat Gebreslase residential building is found in a failing status and needs timely intervention. So, the researcher concluded that most of the heritage sites are not in good condition.

Figure5 the current situation of heritage sites existed in Agulae town



Source: Field survey, March 2025

4.3. Practices of Heritage Conservation in the study town

One of the significant causes of damage to historic buildings is inappropriate repair and alteration. According to the proclamation number 209/2000 any conservation and restoration shall be carried out with the prior approval of the authority.

Table 7 heritage Conservation practice measurement activities

Activities	Agree(1)	Disagree(2)	Percent	
			1	2
There is an attempt of conservation practices on the historic sites found on the town	25	105	19.2	80.8
The conservation activities conducted is based on study (to keep its originality).	8	17	32	68
Follow up of the heritage's existing situation for conservation is made regularly.	11	119	8.5	91.5
The settlement program/ urbanization affects the historic site conservation practice existed on the town.	95	35	73.1	
There is a trend of traditional heritage conservation activities that helps for long lasting of the heritage sites.	25	105	19.2	80.8

Source: field survey, March 2025

As the above table indicates 80.8% of the respondent assured that there was no an attempt of conservation trends on the historic sites of the study town. The result revealed that there is insufficient attempt to conserve the heritage. Similar to this study, in Africa and many

developing countries, heritages have been facing hindrances of multiple platforms in unplanned manner that did not account for heritages sustainable use. Even though the conservation trend of the study town is becoming poor, making proper heritage conservation has many significant.

Ekwelen, Okafor and Ukwoma pointed that the preservation of heritage properties enhances historical and cultural continuity, fosters social cohesion, enables to visualization of the past and envisioning the future, and hence it is indispensable for sustainable development. Another study that supports this argument revealed that a need for conservation of heritage is subjected to a desire to transfer away from object oriented conservation and preservation practices, and the theoretical commitment to social constructivism that consider heritage a socio-constructivism that consider heritage a socio-cultural process. The aforementioned two findings assured that heritage conservation practices should not only prepare for their objective value like source of economy but also as a social and cultural process that could maintain history which in turn escalate social cohesion, promote identity and proud.

The practice of heritage conservation in the study area is not based on study as 68% of the respondents and the key informants agree in this regard. The present finding suggests that in-depth and strong research to develop conservation guidelines and undertake conservation activities in heritage sites. According to Garrod, B., & Fyall, A. (2000), conservation management should consider timeliness and managerial prudence. The timelines concept stated that conservation funds should be allotted in a timely fashion to save high conservation costs in the future. From the managerial cautiousness angle, parallel measures or techniques should be designed to prevent further deterioration. Moreover, the study of (Oevermann, 2008) examine the "Good Practice Wheel" that is composed of management, conservation, reuse, community engagement, sustainable development and climate change, education, urban development and research that expresses each of the good practice criteria spinning wheels which also needs the consideration of those criteria while practicing heritage conservation.

Besides, 91.5% of the respondents agreed that, there is no regular follow up on the existing status for conservation has not been made. This situation is assured by the key informants through questionnaire and interview. Hence, the finding of this study discovered that there is a low level practice of heritage which needs to be improved. Analogues to this, the conservation of heritage requires the three most important elements of heritage conservation underlined by professionals

(curators, academics and consultants) are training and expertise of maintenance staff, budget and financial planning and conservation plan. Conservation efforts should be monitored that could follow up information for condition, risks and value assessment, strengths and support strategic heritage planning regularly which in turn should be developed based on an inventory system that requires continuous monitoring.

The interview made with the heritage experts of wereda culture and tourism experts indicates that, there is no follow up mechanisms that guides maintenance activities on the historical buildings and their heritage items. Those who did not attempt trying to maintain the historic buildings gave different reasons. First, they are not interested, second, there was no one has asked to do so, third, they do not have enough financial capacity. In addition the interview with the town administration indicated that to maintain the historic sites much money is needed that is why the town administration did not maintain. Therefore concerned stockholders must involve in heritage conservation to sustain the wellbeing of the historical sites to become a tourist destination.

The point of fact, the field observation on the current condition of the heritage sites have been shown that the deterioration is in a critical condition and needs immediate intervention.

On field observation, the researcher observed that existed monuments and status are not protected and conserved well. The dirty materials thrown at the monuments particularly dejet Gebreslase residential building are making it lose its original appearance and have a negative impact on the materials of the monument. And the color of the monuments is fading. Actually, fading of the original color and having the sign of rain line marks are the problems of the heritage site like Emperor Yohanns palace. This shows that the conservation practice done for the monuments is poor. Regarding cleanliness issues religious institutions like Kidanemhret church is at a good condition when we compare them with the rest of the others. It is clean and has green plants around them.

Figure 6 Current feature of Yohanns palace



Source: Field survey, March 2025

The other ideas that the researcher want to reveal is the traditional trends of heritage conservation activities performed on the study town. As the above table tells indicates, that 80.8% of the respondents assured there was no traditional knowledge regarding heritage conservation system within the study town. In other way from the target population, 19.2% agreed that there are trends of traditional heritage conservation practice. In reality the traditional heritage conservation system desires to be developed through empowering the skilled professionals and institutions. These skilled persons may be craftsmen, carpenters painters and draft men etc. This can be done by direct training in theory and practice. This activity helps to establish a platform for a heritage conservation system following its historic urban landscape.

4.4. Awareness of the Community

The awareness and attitude of stockholders toward the conservation of heritage is crucial to have a common stake among interest groups towards heritage and development, to keep sustainable conservation management.

Based on the research finding lack of awareness on heritage conservation and commitment by residents in historic sites, concerned institution and officials have contributed to the demolition of historic buildings. Protecting and preserving. It is therefore, historic sites of the town that must be seem as an asset rather than a hinder for development. The society is harming these precious

heritages without even realizing it. This is because of lack of awareness and lack of enough information about the monuments.

Table 8 awareness about the heritage sites of the study town.

Questions	Response	Frequency	Percent
Do you get any awareness creation from the concerned governmental body regarding the conservation and maintenance of historical sites in your town?	Yes	35	26.9
	No	95	73.1
	Total	130	100
Do you know emperor Yohanns palace, Dejat G/slase residential building and kidanemihret church etc. is a heritage sites in your town?	Yes	89	68.5
	No	41	31.5
	Total	130	100
Have your organization ever gave awareness creation to the community or any concerned bodies regarding conservation of heritage assets?	Yes	3	27.3
	No	8	72.7
	Total	11	100
Are you aware of the rules and regulations of conservation process of heritage sites?	Yes	4	36.3
	No	7	63.7
	Total	11	100

Source: field survey, March 2025

According to the above table most of the respondents did not get awareness creation. 73.1% of the respondents replied that they did not get any awareness creation from the concerned governmental body regarding the conservation and contribution of historical assets found in the study town. The community is not well aware of the heritage sites. Most people in the study town do not know about the history and current status of the heritage assets. The rest 26.9% of the respondent replied that even though it is informal they got awareness creation from the concerned governmental body regarding conservation of the heritages.

As shown in the above table 68.5% of the respondents assured that they know the site, but they didn't have any idea regarding the historic sites. And the rest 31.5% of the respondent replied that they know each historic site's back ground and more or less its significance. This indicates most dwellers have no enough historic knowledge regarding its importance for the town, except the physical existence at their town.

The above table result indicated that most of the concerned experts and officials don't even know the rules and regulations of the conservation of historic buildings. 63.7% of the respondent replied that they do not have any idea about the rules and regulations of conservation of heritage assets.

As the key informants replied that there was no organized training or awareness creation given to the community. This is supported by 72.7% of the respondents. The rest 27.3% of the respondents revealed that their organization (culture and tourism) given formal and informal awareness creation to concerned bodies.

While working on the field observation, the researcher observed that the awareness of the society is not enough. Also, the researcher observed that the society does not care that much about the historic sites; even some residents do not know their names like dejet Gebreslase residential building. And currently the concerned institutions have no plan to mitigate this problem.

Table 9 Perception of the residents on the existing heritage sites of the town

Item	Response	Frequency	percent
Do you think the perception of the residents Joyful with the heritage sites being found in your town?	Agree	85	65.4
	Strongly agree	12	9.2
	Disagree	25	19.2
	Strongly disagree	8	6.2
	Total	130	100
Do you agree the heritage monuments can bring more benefits if protected well?	Agree	52	40
	Strongly agree	64	49
	Disagree	10	7.7
	Strongly disagree	4	3.1
	Total	130	100

Source: field survey, March 2025

As the above table tells us, most resident percept that the existence of heritage assets found in the study town pleased with it. 65.4% of the respondents assured that the residents of the study town happy on the survival of heritage monuments within the study town. On the other side a number of respondents (19.2%) revealed the presence of the heritage monuments non sense for the town dwellers’.

The interview with the key informants indicated that the historic heritage sites were not visited by tourists. The main reason for this is that there is less attention and promotion done by concerned bodies. In order to attractive and well keeping its originality, the proper management and organized stakeholders involvement should be realized. The target population of the town shared this idea if the current heritage sites are well conserved properly. The above table indicates that 49% responded strongly agree and 40% agreed as the heritage sites have socio-economic benefit if well protected and maintain based on the heritage conservation ethics.

As it is discussed above the heritage sites found at the study town have many uses and contributions. The researcher absorbed that, the benefits cannot only be for the town but it can also be at regional level. They can be more beneficial if some works are done and given more attention from the government and concerned bodies. Many events and programs can be held regarding their historical background. These heritages can serve as a symbol for the town.

Therefore the concerned government body should mobilize the community regarding heritage conservation to realize the resident’s perception on the existence heritage monuments in their town.

4.5. Challenges of Heritage Conservation in study Town

This study was also concerned with the investigation of various barriers that hinder heritage conservation practices for better management and sustainability of heritage.

Table 10Summary of challenges of heritage conservation

Variables	Frequency	Percent
. Lack of proper management, monitoring and evaluation	28	21.5
Lack of government concern and professional commitment	43	33
Lack of stakeholder involvement	23	17.8
Insufficient funds	20	15.4
Others	16	12.3
Total	130	100

Source: field survey, March 2025

As the above table designates that, 33% of respondents assured lack of government concern and professional commitment is the main challenge regarding heritage conservation in the study

town. Lack of proper management, monitoring and evaluation 21.5%, lack of stakeholder involvement 17.8% and insufficient funds are also responded other problems have been facing towards the practice of heritage conservation.

According to the interview made with the concerned key informants, lack of community concern, lack of promotion towards sustainable tourism development and agricultural practice in and around the heritage sites were found to be significant challenges hindering the heritage conservation practices. Besides the concerned officials was confirmed that biological causes like forceful intervention, humidity and vandalism have negative consequences on survival of heritage sites. The present finding was also in line with the findings of Irandu and Shah that showed the heritage conservation of Kenya faced challenges such as funding, poor performing of policies, land grabbing and lack of adequate trained personnel. In addition tackling the calamities of climate change mainly global warming and extreme weather events combined with the implementation of varied strategies toward heritage site become the growing problem in the conservation efforts of heritage assets which support the present finding. This finding also revealed that the land use issue is an emerging problem for conservation. Therefore, the present study underlines that effective planning, proper land use strategy and environmental conservation policies shall be enhanced by the local and national governments. Since these sites are often vulnerable to the pressure of development, effective land use planning is crucial for preserving heritage sites. Zoning and land use regulations can be used to protect heritage sites from incompatible land uses and development. This can be achieved through:

- Establishing heritage conservation zones
- Implementing land use regulations and zoning bylaws
- Creating buffer zones to protect the site from adjacent development

Land use planning for heritage sites requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that balances conservation with development and community needs. By assessing heritage sites, employing effective land use planning strategies, and managing tourism and visitor impact, it can preserve heritage sites for next generations.

The interviewees added that the conservation of heritage and the maintenance of its original characteristics and identity which could have been intensified by the unavailability of raw materials for conservation. Moreover, the unavailability of raw materials for restoration and

maintenance of heritage, and keeping reality was found a very serious problem in the applicability of heritage conservation practices. Besides, there is an increasing interest to replace old heritage assets with modern buildings which create problems in escalating conservation efforts. An ideal example is the Dejat Gebreslase residential building. Besides the study revealed from field observation as well as from the interview, the monuments have been facing several challenges like lack of amusement facilities at the sites and around them, lack of descriptive information, location disadvantage, lack of maintenance and restoration, cleanliness and hygiene problems. Generally, the finding of the present study indicates the various challenges that should be solved to assure the sustainability of these heritage sites. Besides, the interviewees added lack of sufficient funds for restoration and conservation and lack of experience of heritage conservation renovation of heritage in and nearby urban areas are other significant challenges for conservation. Some of the researcher's observable challenges in the preservation of the historic sites is lack of coordination among the concerned bodies of the town. Governmental and non-governmental organization and as well as private urban developers, are not working in a coordination manner towards the conservation of the heritage sites. Such problems of coordination are mainly seen with offices like municipality and Wereda culture and tourism office.

4.6 The Role of the Previous Town Plan in Safeguarding the Existing Heritage sites

Urban planning, a dynamic and multifaceted field, bridges the gap between growth and conservation. It is a discipline that blends art and science to create livable, sustainable spaces in which communities can thrive. One critical aspects of urban planning is the preservation of heritage, an essential field that ensures future generations can appreciate the rich tapestry of history and culture woven in to the fabric of the town. The incorporation of heritage into urban planning not only enriches the community's quality of life but also helps preserve the identity continuity of places. This article delves in to the significant, role urban planning plays in preserving heritage, highlighting strategies, challenges, and success stories from around the world.

The urban planning and development efforts need to consider the sustainability of historical, cultural and traditional traits of the town. To attain such sustainable town development research about the town's historical and cultural traits has to be done. While designing and implementing

the basic plane of the town, it should identify, consider, conserve and preserve the religious and historical sites of the town.

Urban planning plays a critical role in conserving heritage areas by identifying and evaluating the significance of heritage resources, it can be protected and conserved in a way that respects their cultural, social and economic values. Besides reflecting the unique cultural identity and historical significance of the local population, urban planning can also help to ensure the integration of heritage conservation into broader sustainable development goals. These include improving the resident’s quality of life and promoting economic development. The true purpose of urban planning is to serve the land and its people. Urban centers should be livable ecosystems that support the community’s history and culture, while ensuring the sustainability and functionality of the land.

Table11 the role of previous plan of the town in safeguarding the heritage sites

Item	Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Have you agree the previous plan of the town gave protection for the heritage sites?	Yes	6	54.5
	No	2	18.2
	I have no information regarding it	3	27.3
	Total	11	100%
Have you or your organization ever participated in urban plan preparation and monitoring and evaluation of the town before?	Yes	5	45.5
	No	6	54.5
	Total	11	100%

Source: field survey, March 2025

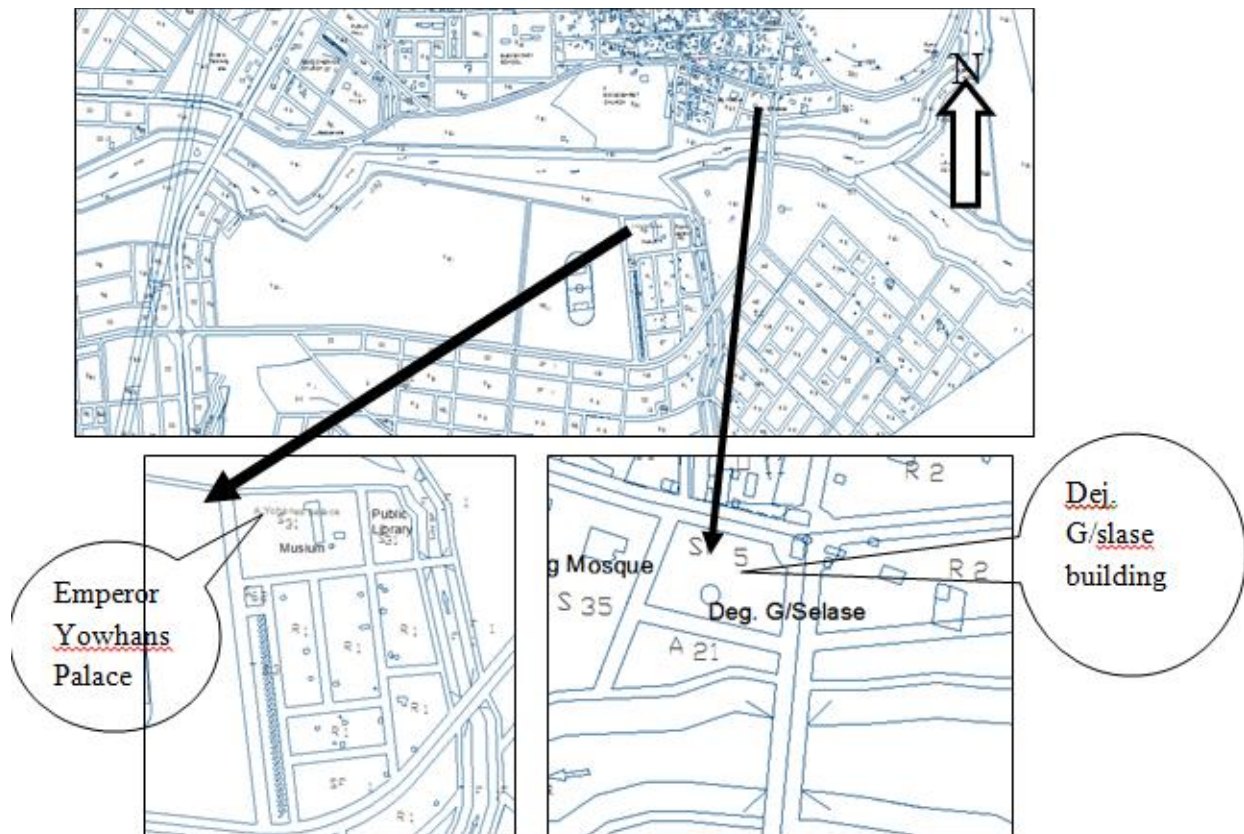
In urban area heritage site being an integral element during plan preparation of any town. So the researcher tries to assess and criticize two successive plans (2001 basic plan and revised in 2012E.C) of the study town. Since the community key informants have better knowledge regarding plan preparation and implementation, the researcher decided to accumulate the primary and secondary data from officials and experts as well as by reviewing the previous plan documents of the town. As the above table indicates that 54.5% of the respondents revealed the

previous plan of the study town gave protection for the heritage of the town. From the purposively selected experts and officials 27.3% assured as they have no knowledge about the previous plans whether preserved or not. On the other side 18.2% of the respondents expressed that they don't agree the previous plans of the town gave protection for the existing heritage sites found within it.

During plan preparation stockholder's participation is very critical so as to address the entire problems of the town. From the assessment 54.5% of the respondents replied that during plan preparation no one participated from their organization. This shows us most stockholders considered the previous plan of the town lacks participation. In another perception 45.5% of the respondents revealed that at the time of plan preparation their organization was aware and well shared as much as possible regarding problem identification bold considerations that must be considered by the concerned bodies.

The researcher understands from the last basic plan of the town and supported by 54.5% of respondents that the land use plan of the study town preserved the heritage sites. Even though the current plan of the study town respected and integrated the heritage sites with the whole land use function of the town, there is a gap in implementation on the ground. Due to poor implementation of the designed plan the heritage sites isolated from the rest of the neighborhoods particularly emperor Yohanns palace. The 2001E.C basic plan of the town designed the road network more accessible to the heritage sites. But the proposed road network nearby the heritages is not implemented; it is only on the paper. Because of the weak road infrastructure implementation, no supplies of other utility like water and electric. This makes the historic site less accessible and imperceptible for domestic and foreign tourist thereby the significant of heritage site is being going down.

Figure 7 relative Location of the Heritage sites within the town



Source: Agulae town Municipal office

The discussion with the key informants revealed that the Agulae town's rapid urbanization and enhance infrastructure demand often divert the conservation plan of the heritage sites. The demand for new housing, commercial spaces, and transportation network leads to undermine on historically significant heritage sites.

In case of Land use allocation, it is very crucial for this study. So as to have a sustainable use heritage asset, it should be supported through proper land use planning within the site and around the site and ensuring preparation of heritage conservation plans and efficient heritage destination management. The current land use plan of the town shows comprehensive zoning regulation can reinforce efforts to conservation of heritage sites of the study town. Without proper zoning guidelines, historic areas may be susceptible to haphazard development, altering the town's character and diminishing its cultural and historical validity. This means the conservation of heritage building and sites must be sensibly executed to preserve their historical and cultural significance, while enhancing the spatial experience of its functions. This reality was reflected

through 2001 and 2012 E.C Agulae town's basic plan. Through the land use proportion of the town, the historic building and sites recognized as museum and preserved areas which help to safeguard from violation because of any development activities performed by the town administration. But the land use zoning of the town lack harmonization and further integrated development of the historic site with its surrounding functions. This can be mitigated through planning intervention like allocating the nearby blocks for amusement park and hotels rather than urban agriculture, shops and bars. This arrangement enhances the attractiveness of the historic heritage areas thereby increasing the site's peculiarity. This function of planning intervention should create a sustainable environment for long lasting of the heritage assets of the town. By doing so, planning is not only protect these sites from being overshadowed or destroyed by modern development but also enhance the urban landscape, making it more attractive and meaningful for both residents and visitors.

Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

The finding of this study revealed that heritage conservation practice of the study town was found in a very deprived. Even though there was a few attempt, the practice was performed without in depth study and lacks regular fellow up. The researcher assured that there was no regular inventory on timely status of the heritage sites so as to made conservation on it. The finding of this study also revealed that the awareness level of the local communities on the existed heritage sites is little thereby, there was no traditional knowledge regarding heritage conservation system within the study town. Therefore, conservation activities was not based on study, and the conditions of heritage follow up are not provided for the sustainable conservation of heritage in the study areas.

Concerning the challenges and practices of heritage conservation, lack of government concern and professional commitment, Lack of proper management, monitoring and evaluation, lack of stakeholder involvement and insufficient funds, lack of promotion towards sustainable tourism development and agricultural practice in and around were found to be significant factors that hinder the practices of conservation of heritage. From the findings of the present study, it can be understood that the conservation of heritage site is not an easy task which cannot be undertaken

by a single actor such as the government or heritage destination managers. The multitude of the contribution of various relevant stakeholders is demanding to upscale the conservation efforts and grant sustainability of historic sites. The sustainable conservation of heritage should also be important for the wise use of the heritage for many purposes such as a means for enhancing socio cultural ties, building the image of a place or destination and fosters tourism development..

The research also concludes by emphasizing the synergy between urban planning and heritage preservation. The paper underscores the enduring importance of proactive urban planning in nurturing the heritage sites. Moreover, the enhancement of conservation practices and sustainable use of heritage should be supported through proper land use planning around heritage sites, preparation of heritage conservation plans and efficient heritage destination management. This tells us the practices of conservation efforts for heritage and heritage sites demand the involvement of various actors from various sectors to assure sustainability and community benefits from the heritage.

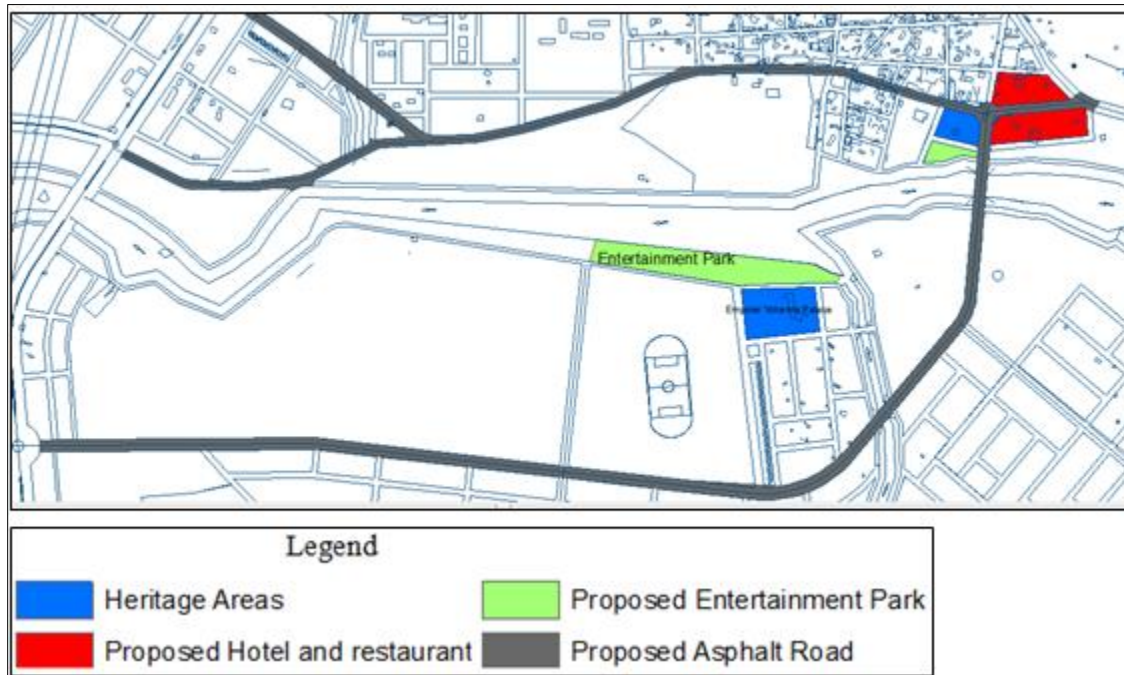
Generally, to improve effective conservation and use of heritage, especially in developing countries like Ethiopia, government and political leaders positive attitude and understanding of the relevance of heritage to the society and country at large should play a fundamental role in this regarded. The improved view of the leaders toward heritage has the potential to enhance funding possibilities and pave the way for a meaningful participation of stockholders. Therefore, a system of management of heritage needs to be developed that takes significant issues and challenges into consideration through participatory decision making process to optimize the values and sustainability of heritage assets.

5.2. Recommendation

The same as it has been carefully discussed above; presently the need for conservation and preservation of heritage sites of the study town is very important because of the current situation of the historical sites. This can be doing well if the government and other stockholders regarding on the issue of heritage conservation and work together cooperatively. The researcher recommend the following very important activities to be applied in an efficient manner concerning on the conservation of heritage of the town as a whole.

- Empowering stockholders related to the heritages in connection with capacity building. This could be realized by organizing local and regional forums regarding the conservation guideline mechanisms and the participatory approaches to conservation of historic sites. This in effect will result in recreating well informed and knowledgeable professionals and communities to involve in the activities of heritage conservation tasks.
- Creating awareness to the general public by means of preparing different kinds of activities and social gathering around the heritage sites. This shall be a well programmed event that could teach the historical significance of the monuments to all sectors of the society, children, the young and adults as well. In effect, this activity will result in an increased knowledge by all sectors of the society which ultimately help to protect the historic sites from farther damages, and attract the attention of the society which in a way will create profitable business to be incorporated in the preservation and maintenance of the heritage sites.
- There should be a mechanism and plan to evaluate, follow up and supervise the conservation status of heritage side by side with the activities of heritage inventory made each year in each heritage memorials by the respective organization. In this regard, it has been suggested that heritage sites shall receive an urgent response from the government in collaboration with the host community.
- Furthermore, heritage conservation funds should be organized institutionally and come into the practice to support conservation efforts. The local communities and government bodies should be engaged in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the heritage conservation process. In addition, better platforms for stakeholder collaboration should be developed.

Figure 8 Recommendation by design



Source: Own proposal

1. As the above figure indicates the proposed main collector road near and adjacent to the heritage sites should be treated by asphalt concrete. This type of surface treatment will make the site more accessible for all and it obviously enhances vacationer movement towards the heritage site thereby the concerned body will give attention for conservation and restoration of the heritage sites found on the study town.
2. In addition the land use allocation near the heritage site should be well-suited for the site. In the current land use plan of the study town, functions near to the heritage sites are proposed for agricultural activities, bars, shops and residential uses. These functions are better suited if proposed like entertainment Parks, hotels and restaurants. This adjustment should improve the significance of the heritage sites because of the compatible functions.
3. Further, Scholars or researchers should be conduct their studies regarding the role of urban planning in conserving heritage sites, integrated approach for heritage conservation through urban planning and the impact of urban development on the heritage monuments protection etc. to fulfill the gaps that this study may have field to address

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APPENDIX I

QUESTIONER FOR HOUSE HOLD

This questioner is prepared to assess the current status of urban heritage conservation practices and challenges found in Agulae town. The study is carried out for an academic purpose for the fulfillment of masters in urban planning and development in Mekelle University. Your genuine information has contributed a lot for the successful achievement of the study. Hence you are requested to give valuable and genuine information for each question that are forwarded bellow. The response that you provide in advance will be confidential.

I would like thank for your cooperation.

Questionnaire prepared individual respondents

1. Name of respondent _____
2. Sex:- A. Male B. Female
3. Age
A. <15 years old C.30-45 years old E. >64 years old
B. 15-30 years old D. 45-64 years old
4. Educational status _____
A. Illiterate C. 5-8 E. 11-12 G. Diploma`
B. Able to read and write D. 8-10 F. Certificate H. Degree and above
5. House hold occupation
A. Unemployed. C. Private employed E. Retire
B. Self-employed D. public employed F. Other _____
6. How long have been living or working here?
A. <5 years B. 5-15 years C. 15-25 years D. >25 years
7. Do you know emperor Yohanns palace, Dejat G/slase residential building and kidanemihret church etc. is a heritage sites in your town? A. Yes B. No
8. What problems have you observed during your stay regarding the heritage monuments?
9. Do you get any awareness creation from the concerned governmental body regarding the conservation and maintenance of historical sites in your town? A. Yes B. No

10. If your answer is yes, explain how the awareness creation assisted for your thoughtful.
11. What is your perception with the heritage sites being found in your town?
 A. Very happy B. Happy C. No Feeling D. Not happy
12. If happy, what do you think the benefits of the presence of the heritage sites found in your town?
13. Have you a sense of ownership on the mentioned heritage building of the town?
 A. Yes B. No
14. Is there any governmental authority that regularly checks up on the status of these heritage buildings?
 A. Yes B. No.
15. If yes, who are the government organs?
 Specify.....
16. Have you ever seen/heard maintenance of the damaged part of the historic buildings of the mentioned sites?
 A. Yes B. No
17. If yes, who was the responsible organ?
 Specify.....
18. Is the existing heritage sites have been transformed losing their original features and values?
 A. Yes, totally transformed B. Yes, but partially C. No, but a little losing
19. If the answer in question No “18” is yes, what are the deteriorating factors?
 A. Human intervention B. Weathering C. lose monitoring and evaluation
 D. Others, Specify.....
20. Have you ever participated in plan preparation and implementation of your town?
 A. Yes B. No
21. If yes, what was the contribution of the stockholders in conserving the heritage sites during planning process?
 A. To be accessible for all B. To have compatible function with neighboring uses
 B. To have buffer zone
 C. Others, specify.....
22. Have you agree the previous plan of the town gave protection for the heritage sites?

A. Agree B. Strongly agree C. Disagree D. Strongly disagree

23. What are the main challenges in practicing the heritage sites in your town?

A. Lack of proper management, monitoring and evaluation

B. Lack of government concern and professional commitment

C. Lack of stakeholder involvement

D. Insufficient funds

E. Others, specify_____

24. Do you think the settlement program/urbanization affects heritage conservation practice of your town? A. Yes B. No

25. If yes, how the housing development program affects the historic sites exist in the study town?

Thank you.

APPENDIX II

Questionnaires Developed for experts/officers of respective institutions

1. Name: _____

2. Position: _____

3. Educational back ground: _____

4. Why your organization recognized sites like Emperor Yohanns Palace, Dejat Gebreslase residential building and kidanemhret church etc. documented as heritages assets?

5. Is community participates in heritage conservation practice in the study town?

A. Yes

B. No

6. If yes, what was their roles regarding heritage conservation practices?

7. Have you or your organization ever participated in urban plan preparation and monitoring and evaluation of the town before? A. Yes B. No

8. If answered yes, what drawbacks have been happening with regard to heritage conservation?

A. During plan preparation:-

B. During plan implementation:-

9. What was the role of stockholders participation in preparing an integrated urban plan with heritage conservation of the town, if any?

10. Does your institution have clearly defined strategies with regarded to heritage conservation?

A. Yes

B. No

11. If the answer in question No 10 is yes, what was the stakeholder's role in heritage conservation?

12. What perceptions of the residences towards the heritage sites of the town?

A. High

B. Medium

C. Low

13. Are the residences have a sense of owner ship over the heritage sites found in the town? A. Yes B. No

14. Is your organization has a regular fellow up practices on every time status of the heritage sites found in your town? A. Yes B. No

15. If yes, what was your effort to protect from deterioration?

16. If No, Why?

17. What are the economic benefits of the historic sites of the town?

18. Have your organization ever gave awareness creation to the community or any concerned bodies regarding conservation of heritage buildings? A. Yes B. No

19. Are you aware of the rules and regulations of conservation process of heritage sites?

A. Yes B. No

20. Is urbanization/ urban expansion can be a factor affecting heritage conservation in your town? A. Yes B. No

21. If answered yes, how can affect?

22. What challenges are facing to perform effective and efficient heritage conservation activities on time?

23. How do you evaluate the financial and technical capability of your organization so as to alleviate the problem?

24. Is there any attempt so as to alleviate the challenges in collaborate with stockholders?

A. Yes B .No

25. If answered yes, specify the collaborative tasks

26. How the national or regional policy, legislation, and guidelines help to perform heritage conservation? Specify if any

APPENDIX III

Check List

This checklist is prepared to help the researcher as a guiding framework for accomplishing the tasks he wants to perform. It served as a term of reference (TOR) so as not to forget the basic data to be collected, which will help to conduct the analysis part of the research. In this checklist, all the basic data required are listed in detail. This makes the task of data collection more simplified and easier. Therefore, the researcher has listed all necessary points in detail with their source, method of data collection, and analysis. The detail of the checklist is presented in the following table.

Issues to be studied	Data to be collected	Methods of collection	Data source	Methods of analysis
Natural or environmental parameters	-Site condition Topography, soil condition -Type of vegetation	observation -Photograph -Document	Primary and secondary data	Preparing text, graphs
Plan review	Review two consecutive previous town plans regarding heritage conservation	Document	Secondary source	Document review
Physical issues	-Availability of street network -Utility condition -Existing land use	-Physical observation -interview	Sketches GIS tools photograph	Tables, charts
Social problems	Crime against person and property	-Observation -Interview	Primary data	Text summery

Economic activities	Types of activities	-Observation -Interview	Primary source	Text summery
Damage conditions of the heritage buildings	Existing status like; -good -ordinary -bad -ruin etc.	-Physical observation -Interview	Primary source	Visual analysis
State of occupancy and use	owner ship and functions	Interview	Primary source	descriptive summery
Compatibilit y issue and surrounding safety	-Functional friendly -demarked boundary - buffer condition	-Physical observation -Interview	Primary source	descriptive summery
Stockholders involvement and coordination	Role of concerned individuals and organizations on each heritage Site conservation	Interview	Primary source	descriptive summery
Traditional conservation practices	-Indigenous practices -Religious experiences	-Interview Observation	Primary source	descriptive summery

