

Cultural Heritage Management in the Town of Debre Tabor and its Surroundings

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Abstract:

The town of Debre Tabor is one of the rare towns in Ethiopia with a rich cultural heritage. The historical sites of the area (royal camps, palaces, industrial centre, and Orthodox Churches) have left the marks of attempts of civilizations. Therefore these irreplaceable resources should be preserved and left to the next generations and we have to be aware of the responsibilities of leaving these treasures to the next generations as well as displaying them to the tourists. Nevertheless, these sites are not fully documented and their values are not sustainably used. This paper, therefore, through intensive reading of related materials, observation, measurement and semi structured interview as methods of data acquisition and qualitative data analysis tried to fill this missing through this research with the objective of identifying and documenting the major cultural heritages of the area as well as recommending the possible way of protection. Thus, following the successful completion of the study, five historically significant sites are documented, described and analyzed. The research finding shows that, the identified historical sites of the area are in bad state of conservation. The main reason for this is largely lay on unwanted human intervention which is the result of lack of awareness and lack of well trained professionals. The impact of natural agents of destruction on the sites is not also trouble-free. Moreover, due to lack of promotion, negative perception of the community, lack of qualified man power, absence of museum and lack of developed infrastructure, the tourism potential of the sites is not fully exploited. After identifying the major challenges of the sites in relation with heritage management

and tourism development, this research paper also tried to recommend possible solutions which enable us to rescue the heritage sites from further deterioration and to use their potential for sustainable tourism development.

Key words: cultural heritage management, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia

1. INTRODUCTION

We all are living with a rich background formed by an interaction between human beings and their environment. Cultural landscapes such as historic buildings, palaces, temples, royal camps and other tangible and intangible cultural heritages are the result of the human interaction with environment and are more than just a matter of material remains (ICOMOS 1990). They can provide us valuable data about the past human activities and their cultural development. Building materials and their architectural styles are a corner stone in understanding and examining the cultural developments of a given region (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). That is why; cultural remains in different parts of the world become a source of community's identity and pride (ICOMOS 1990).

Besides, the effective utilization of cultural and natural heritages may have its own contribution for economic development of any nations through sustainable tourism (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). In this regard the current trend of many nations in relation with natural and cultural heritage should be sustainably utilized them for better economic development. To this end, protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritages should get priority of governments' attention (African Heritage Management Organization 2006). But the growth of population, the expansion of cities and towns, the rise of different developmental projects', farming and looting of cultural objects (especially movable cultural objects) create unwanted human

intervention which in turn made protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritages extremely challenging.

As a result of the above mentioned reasons different natural and cultural heritages in different parts of the world, where there is no proper protection, are on the verge of destruction even without documentation (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). Therefore, the importance that we attach to the cultural and natural heritages should reflect through different activities which enable us to protect these heritages from further destruction. Thus, documentation, conservation, promotion as well as research are of the most important means of protecting cultural and natural heritages from further deterioration.

Historically Gonder has played an important role in the processes of urbanization in Ethiopia.

The impressive architectural achievements of the Gonderine period have continued to attract both foreign and Ethiopian visitors. Furthermore, it also inspires a sense of pride and identity for the surrounding communities in particular and to all Ethiopians in general. The glorious day of Emperor Fasiladas and his immediate successors have particularly been crucial in the formation of the Gonderine architectural achievements both in the town and its surrounding areas (Baharu 2008).

In spite of the establishment of Gonder as a permanent political centre in the 17th century, the Emperors of the period spent many days and months in travelling towards deferent parts of the country. In such journeys the Emperors have visited a number of localities. Based on the strategic importance that the localities have, they might have establish their temporary camp in the localities. Here, Aringo, a village located near the town, was among the localities where the early Gonderine monarchs established their temporary camps (Pankhurst 1982).

Although, some studies are conducted in and around the town of Debre Tabor, any of them are not detail in the area of

heritage management. For instance, Archaeological investigations conducted by the Spanish Archaeological team tried to identify various historical sites of Lake Tana Region including Aringo. However, the team prepares only preliminary research report (Fernandez, et al. 2006). Moreover, the research team from Gonder University has tried to identify the tourism potential of the industrial centre of Gafat and its environ, though it did not give a collective records of the historical sites of the area and it lack to detailed the heritage management aspects of the sits (Bantalem et al. 2004).

Therefore, since there are no adequate and detailed studies done in the area, particularly in the area of heritage management, the importance of conduct this study, with the aim of giving collective documentation, assessing current condition, promotion and recommending the possible ways of protection of the sites is not questionable. This research, therefore, tried to focuses on issues which are overlooked by pervious research works. Unlike the previous research works, this research tried to identifying and describing the major historical sites of the area, assessing the major challenges of the sites, shows the current status of the sites and forward a possible recommendation for better conservation and protection of the sites.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Data acquisition methods

Data for this research were collected from various sources of information. So as to make the research result valuable, both primary and secondary sources of data were used. Data for this study were collected both during pre-field data acquisition and during field work. To get basic information about the study area and about the previous research works, intensive reading of the written records such as journals, articles and books and internet sources which are relevant to the title of this research

was carried out in pre-field observation. The primary data for this study was collected during field survey through direct observation and interviewing the local people and Culture and Tourism officials. To accomplish the field work effectively within the given time, two assistant data collectors were employed by selection criteria including educational background, knowledge of the study area, and their willingness.

2.2 Method of Data analysis

The data collected using both reviewing important literatures and filed works were analyzed using an appropriate method of data analysis to have a precious research result. Thus, the collected data were analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis.

The data collected using reviewing various literatures, direct observation and interview were analysis qualitatively. Data collected using GPS were analyzed qualitatively through Arch View GIS to produce map of all the historical sites of the study area.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

3.1 *Wekro Medhanialem*

This rock hewn church is a semi monolithic with rectangular shap which is found in a village called *Wekro*, at about 37km from the town of Debre Tabor. The church is located at 0411327E and 1310632N, and its elevation is 2728m.a.s.l. The church is attached with the bed rock in its southern side and the other sides of the church are not totally attached with the main rock. The roof of this church is covered with stone. Like any other Ethiopian Orthodox Churches, it is accessed through a passage which leads to the main entrance of the church in its western side. Inside the church there are hollows and burial chamber with human skeleton. The legacy of the architectural

style of the Zagwe dynasty is clearly manifested in it (Solomon 2011).

According to local informant, the foundation stone for the construction of the church is said to have been laid down by king Lalibela and finished by Abuna Melkatsadik who come from the province of Shawa. The traditional method of carving, from bottom to top, was used to construct this church (Informant, Liqetegwan Aletaseb Mehertu).



Figure 3.1 The roof view of Wikero Medihanialem (A) and urial chambers inside the church (B)

3.2 Debre Tabor Eyasus

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church of Debre Tabor Eyasus is located on the southern outskirts of the town with UTM coordination of 0391557E and 1308821N, and with elevation of 2717m.a.s.l.

According to the local account, the original church was established by King Sayfe Ared (r.1344-1368) immediately after the establishments of the town, in 1327. The construction of this church took five years. The main raw materials which were used to construct the church were stone, wood, and lime stone (Informant Qegn geta Adane Engeda). This church is one of the richest Ethiopian Orthodox Churches in the area with substantial tangible and intangible cultural heritages. According to the inventory conducted by Culture and Tourism Office of the area, 124 tangible cultural heritages (religious

paintings, parchment religious books, cross, and other holy properties of the church) are registered.

Besides, the tomb of many regional lords is found within the compound of the church. Small memorial monument was built by Ras Gugesa Welle to Ras Gugesa Mersu. Besides, the tombs of Ras Yemame, Ras Mareye, and Ras Engeda, are found within the church (Informant Qegneta Adane Engeda).



A



B

Figure 3.2 the view of recently constructed church of Debre Tabor (A) and tomb of Ras Gugesa

3.3 The Royal Camp of Aringo

Emperor Susenyos (r.1604-1632) tried to establish his permanent capital by building residences and palace in different parts of Gojjam and Gonder. One of his was achieved at the village of Aringo (Solomon 2011). According to Pankhurst (1982), following its establishment, this site has served as a temporary capital for the Emperors of Ethiopia in the 17th century. For instance,

Emperor Fasiladas (r.1632-1667), Yohannis I (r. 1667-1682), and Iyasu I (r.1682-1706) are among the notable Ethiopian monarchs who used the site as their temporary royal camp.

The royal camp of Aringo is located at about 12km northwest of the town of Debre Tabor. The UTM coordination of the site is 0383488E, and 1312069N and its elevation is 2468m.a.s.l. This royal camp is surrounded constructed by lime and stone. There are various ruined structures found inside the enclose. The well preserved parts of the wall is found near

Aringo Abo, a church found near the royal camp, and it has the height of 2m. A still standing structures with rectangular shaped are found in the site. This building has a length of 9.30m from east to west and 3.10m from north to south. The thickness of this structure is about 60cm. This building has an entrance door in its northern side and its interior is divided in to three sections.

According to the Spanish Archaeological team this building was serves as a grain store (Fernandez et al. 2006). A ruined structures of big towers is also still stand inside the enclose..

The well preserved tower of this site is found in North-eastern direction of the site. This tower is covered with abundant vegetations. Besides, there are also different ruined structures which are very difficult to identify their pervious function as a result of destruction.



Figure 3.3 The view of rectangular shaped structure (A) and watching tower (B)

3.4 The palace of Samara

The rise of Emperor Yohannis IV marked the beginning of the new era in the history of the town of Debre Tabor. The Emperor does not camped himself on the old sites used by his predecessors, but he selected an entirely new site in the hill of Samara near the town of Debre Tabor and built his palace there. The imperial enclosure was nearly oval shape with 300m circumference and surrounded by stone wall of 4m high

(Pankhurst 1990). The UTM coordination of the site is 0397746E, and 1312083N and with an elevation of 2612m.a.s.l. Even though the site is highly disturbed, round and rectangular shape houses and the wall of the compound are still standing. In the east central part there is ruined structure with round shape and in the northern side there are two big round and rectangular buildings which are linked with a stone bridge which have 2.35m thickness. Two small round buildings are also visible.



Figure 3.4 the partial view of the site (A) and the view of big round shaped building

According to Matteucci, as cited in Pankhurst (1990), the first building was serving as waiting room; the second one was reserved for the Emperor's audience and also used as a court of justice. The third one was reserved for the Emperor and consisted of the private chamber of the monarch, where he slept, dined, and received courtesy calls. The final two small and poorly constructed round houses served for the safeguarding of animals.

3.5 The industrial center of Gafat

Emperor Tewodros II whose power bases lay on the north west of Ethiopia, wanted to produce firearms with in his country. To this end he sent a letter of support in the area of technology and

experts who can produce weapons, though he got a negative response from Europeans.

Afterwards, he began to focus on producing cannon inside the country by forcing foreign craftsmen, who were living in the country particularly protestant missionaries mainly from Germany (Pankhurst 1990). The Emperor orders the missionaries to produce cannon. The missionaries argue that they were incapable to produce such advanced weapons due to their limited skill and knowledge in the area of military technology. However, the Emperor appreciates them to try as possible as they can. After a number of ups and downs the missionaries become successful to produce big cannon in village called Gaffat (Bantalem 2011).

Gaffat is located near the town of Debre Tabor. The UTM coordination of the site is 0396717E and 1312739N with an elevation of 2509m.a.s.l. There are different ruined structures in the site.

The first one was the residence of the craftsmen (formerly German protestant missionaries).

According to Pankhurst (1990), each missionary built two houses for themselves and encircled their settlement area with stone wall. The foreign missionaries built a fine town which has made deep impressions on the local Ethiopian people's. Beside to the residences of the artisans, there are also buildings constructed in the northern direction of the compound. These buildings are said to have been the security or guard houses.

The second section of the site is charcoal house where charcoal was deposited for the production of the cannon. Charcoal had played a vital role in the process of iron work. There are also different sized metal and charcoals remains which are still visible in this section of the site. The third section of the site is said to have been the shelter for horses. Since traditional transportation system was the major means of transportation during the production of firearms the animals

needs shelter. Another important part of the site is a river called Gafat which is said to have been played a great role in the process of manufacturing cannon. According to local informants, one of the main reasons for the selection of Gafat as a manufacturing center is its location near Gafat River (Informant, Aba Damete Fikadu).



Figure 3.5 the view of the residence of craftsman (A) and view of the well of the residence (B)

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Heritages Management and Sustainable Tourism

4.1.1.1 Heritage Management

Cultural heritages are not only the center of attraction and refreshment, but also the main sources of information in understanding the past human socio-cultural and environmental developments.

Besides, their effective utilization can brought sustainable economic development through tourism (AHO 2009). The protection and proper management of these cultural heritages is essential to enable archaeologists and other scholars to study and interpret the past human cultural development on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future generations (ICOMOS, 1990).

Heritage management is a means by which cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal values are protected from anthropogenic and natural threats of damage.

There are two important principal stages in archaeological conservation activities. The first conservation activity is done through gathering information about site so the relevant sites and area may be recognized and properly recorded and the second one is practical conservation (Renfrew and Bahn 1996).

Most nations of the world now recognized that it is the duty of government to have policy with regard to conservation of cultural and natural heritages. The policy will apply to natural resources and archaeological remains. So most nation now have protective legislations for their ancient and historical sites. In addition to the formulation of different rules and regulation regarding heritage management conservation, the protection of archaeological heritages requires a wider base of professional knowledge and scientific approach (MCT 2009).

The Ethiopian government has also worked for the protection of both cultural and natural heritages through the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH).

Proclamation No 209/2000 for research and conservation of cultural heritages including for inventorying cultural and natural heritages both at national and regional level sated rules to be followed during an inventory work. The ARCCH also adopted the tentative heritage registration and inventory of all types of heritages of the country (Ibid).

Having this rational, the researcher tried to document the major historical sites of the town of Debre Tabor and assess their current state of conservation. Almost all historical sites of the area are found at bad state of preservation due to both anthropogenic and natural agent of destruction.

Unwise conservation done by the local peoples resulted from unnecessary human intervention has become the most

important destructive element of the sites. In short in these part of the paper the heritage management aspects such as current status, major challenges and the previous conservation activities taken place in the area are briefly discussed.

4.1.1.1.1 Current Status of the sites

Human destruction of heritages continues at the great speed, through various developmental projects and illicit traffic of cultural properties. There are a number of challenges that occur on heritages, caused by both anthropogenic and natural means (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). Currently the historical sites of Debre Tabor and its surroundings are highly affected by natural and anthropogenic agent of destruction. Due to this, almost all the historical sites of the area are in bad state of conservation. For instance, over the years, the industrial center of Gafat has suffered severe degradation caused by the above mentioned causes. It is highly destructed and in some parts of the site we don't see any structure due to its deterioration.

The historical site of Aringo which has served as temporary royal camp for various medieval and modern monarchs of Ethiopia is currently in bad state of preservation. All the compound of the site is occupied by farmers and it is used for cultivation of crops. The temporary palace of Samara is among the historical heritages of the area which did not get attention from both the local communities and Culture and Tourism Office. The local people use the site as grazing land.

This facilitated the destruction rate of the site. Besides, the Ethiopian Orthodox Churches are also in bad state of preservation and they are highly affected by conservation activities undertaken on the churches. The people tried to conserve the church with material that the original church is not made from and without the involvement of professionals who have the skill and knowledge of heritage conservation.

4.1.1.1.2 Major Challenges

Even though many heritage sites are getting special attentions, the problem of protection and conservation are not totally eliminated. There are various and common problems which challenges the sites. The major sources of destruction can be grouped under anthropogenic and natural agent of destruction. According to my observation and the collected, human intervention is the major agents of destruction for historical sites. In short the followings are the major challenges of the historical sites of the area.

i. Anthropogenic Agent of Destruction

The common challenges of the historical sites which grouped under anthropogenic agent of destruction include:

A. Lack of awareness: The link between conservation of heritages and the development of the local communities' awareness has become central component of heritage management. It is a key feature for the successful management of heritages (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). Most heritage organizations in the world have now recognized that the communities living in and around heritage places are responsible for the protection of heritages (MCT 2009). However, in case of the study area there is problem on the local communities on understanding importance of these historical. They use the sites as a grazing and farming land which in turn aggravates the deterioration rate of the site. According to Renfrew and Bahn (1996), although most countries keep control over the activities of developers and builders, the damage to the archaeological and historical sites from farming is more difficult to assess.



Figure 4.1 the view of animal gathering on the Samara (A) and the view of farming practiced in Aringo (B0)

B. Illicit traffic of cultural and religious properties: Illicit traffic is causing significant damage to tangible cultural assets. As a result of it, movable cultural objects are becoming victim of looters (UNESCO 1970). Likewise, the Orthodox churches of the study areas are suffering from illicit traffic and looting. The local peoples and church servants sometimes sell important antiquities of the church for tourists. According to Bantalem (2004) three movable cultural heritages of church Debre Tabor Medhanialem are the victims of illicit traffic and looting.

C. Unwise Conservation: Conservation of cultural heritages needs a wide range of professionals who have knowledge and skill of heritage management (MCT 2009). In principle, conservation is an action taken to prevent further deterioration and its primary objective is to protect heritage from loss and damage (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). However, some conservation activities done in the areas has aggravated the deterioration rate of the sites and shorten the life of heritage. Sometimes the local peoples tried to conserve the historical sites without involving professional (Informant Fasil). For instance, in the church of Debre Tabor Eyasus, the church administrators have tried to conserve the top of the memorial tomb of Ras Gugesa. Originally the tomb was made from lime, wood and stone.

But the church administrators conserve this monuments using cement. Besides, the church they also changed the door and window of the church inn to metal (Informant, Libanos).



Figure 4.2 view of the result of unwise conservation in Debre Tabor Eyasus (A) and Hiruy Georgise (B)

ii. Natural Agent of Destruction

In addition to the above mentioned anthropogenic agent of destruction, natural factors are also responsible for the destruction of historical sites. Climate change, the growth of plant over heritages, acidic rain and sun are among the common natural factors which can facilitate and fastened the deterioration rate of the sites. For several years the rock hewn church has suffered serious deterioration. The main agent for the deterioration of this site is directly related with natural agent of destruction.

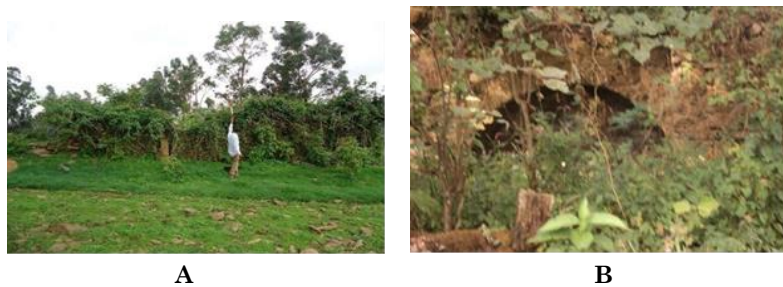


Figure 4.3 the view of the growth of plants over the historical sites of Gaffat (A) and Aringo (B)

4.1.1.1.3 Pervious Conservation activities

Conservation is an action taken to prevent further deterioration of any cultural heritages. There are different methods of conservation applied in conservation of cultural heritage. Structural stabilization, reconstruction, reburial, and positive shelter are of conservation techniques applied in cultural heritages (Renfrew and Bahn 1996). So far, various conservation activates are done by the local peoples in collaboration with Culture and tourism office.

The first conservation activity was taken place in the historic church of Wikero Medihanialem.

The main objective of this conservation was to minimize the impacts of rain and lengthen its site.

Initially, the local people tried to cover the roof of the church using stone to minimize the impact of rain on the church. Furthermore, to full stop the impact of natural agent of destruction on the church, the second conservation activity was done by Culture and Tourism Office of the area budgeted by the Federal Culture and Tourism Minister. In this conservation activity shelter was built. The other conservation activities is done on the industrial center of Gafat was done by the Culture and Tourism Office of Debre Tabor Warada with support of Gonder University with the objective of blocking further destruction.



A



B

Figure 4.4 the view of previous conservation activities Wikero Medhanialalem (A) and Gaffat (B)

4.2 Tourism development

As Ethiopia is a mosaic of peoples, culture, collections of records as well as the cradle of mankind, the protection of various types of heritages can brought economic development through tourism (Ministry of Culture and Tourism 2009). This is why, the current ideology of many nations in relation with natural and cultural heritages become sustainably utilized heritages for economic development. Nevertheless, Ethiopia is full of varied historical, cultural and natural attractions, because of the absence of clear policy that would lay the direction for the corporation and coordination that should exist among the government, private sector, the community at tourist attraction sites, the general public and other stakeholders, it has not been possible for the country to derive full benefit from tourism (ARCCCH, 2009).

The historical sites of the area have untouched tourism potentials to be exploited. For instance, the Ethiopian Orthodox Churches of the area are museum for both tangible and tangible heritages. The religious paintings, icons, crosses, textiles, and parchment books are among the tangible heritages of the church. Besides historic sites of Gaffat, where the first attempt of manufacturing fair arms in the history of the county was made, have evidential and historical values and create sense of pride for the peoples of the county. Likewise the palace of Samara and the royal camp of Aringo possess potential for tourism. Although, the area possesses a various cultural attractions, they have not been adequately protected, developed and used their potential for tourist attraction. The main reason for these is discussed as follow:

A. Lack of promotion: In order to market product, it is necessary that information about the product must be reach to the prospective consumer. As applied to tourism industry, the most important function of promoting heritages is to bring about awareness of the heritages in the mind of consumer so as

to increase the number of tourist flow in the area. Therefore, to use cultural heritages for sustainable tourism development, promotion can play a significance role (MCT 2009). Nevertheless, the cultural heritages of the area are not fully exploited for sustainable tourism and has become unable to contribute for the economic development of the country due to lack of promotion. Almost all the historical sites of the area are not well known even by the local people beyond their name.

B. Negative perception of the Community: According ARRCH (2009), it is the responsibility of the local communities, in the developments of tourist attraction, product and services to collaborate with the bodies administrating the resource as owners, and by conserving them with the sense of ownership, to become the direct participant and beneficial.

Besides, providing appropriate care to guests and being hospitability is the other responsibly vast on the communities. But in case of study area, the local peoples did not fulfill their responsibility in the area of protecting and conserving of cultural heritages as well as respecting and warmly welcoming gusts. Negative perceptions of the communities (particularly in Ethiopian Orthodox Churches) for tourism because of lack of awareness is the major challenges of the tourism development in the area.

C. Lack of Infrastructure and Facilities: Adequate infrastructure is essential for the successful development of tourism and it is a critical factor in less developing regions. As tourism tastes change and become more sophisticated, and as the competitive environment further develops, countries and destinations will require adequate infrastructure to meet market demands as well as environmental regulations. The operation of tourism facilities and services are dependent on a number of travel infrastructure networks. These networks may include transportation, water supply, energy, and

telecommunications (MCT 2009). But in case of the study area, there is a serious lack of tourist standard hotels, standard road and transportation service and other important facilities.

D. Lack of Qualified manpower: Tourism industry is regarded as hospitality and service industry, where customer has direct interaction with manpower. The image and the quality of distribution is related to the service provided to the tourist at the destination which in turn is related with skilled and qualified manpower (ACHO 2006). In Ethiopia there is a serious lack of training and education opportunities in tourism planning and management. The training that is available is often very narrow in focus, and does not address the broader context of tourism and the range of potential opportunities (MCT 2009). There is a serious problem in the area of manpower in Culture and Tourism Office. In Culture and tourism Officials of the area there is only one individual who specialized in tourism management. The others are graduated in other fields of studies such as economic, accounting, history, geography, sociology, language and law.

E. Absence of Museums: Museums are custodians of heritage resources. They help to collect, preserve, describe, display and study heritages. They are supposed to be open to the public, for the purpose of study, education and enjoyment of the material evidence of people and their environment. In this case the Ethiopian Orthodox Churches of the area possess various cultural objects which can be source of income through tourism. However, museum is important way of displaying, promoting as well as protecting cultural objects of the churches, there is no a single church museum in the area.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The historical town of Debre tabor and its surroundings are rich in historical sites. The area have served as the political center for various kings and Emperors of Ethiopia which leads for the establishment of historical sites; churches, royal camp and palaces, settlement area, as well as industrial centers. Currently these sites are in bad state of conservation and they are highly disturbed. The major factor for the destruction of the sites is directly related with anthropogenic agent of destruction. Lack of awareness, unwise conservation, and illicit traffic are the most important challenges of the historical sites of the area. Furthermore, agricultural activities and grazing taken place in the sites are another factor which aggravated deterioration rate of the sites.

Besides, the tourism potentials of the historical sites of area is not exploited. The major challenges of sustainable tourism development in the area include, lack of qualified manpower, lack of infrastructure and facilities, and negative community attitude.

5.2 Recommendation

It is clear from this discussion that, there are a number of factors and obstacles that need to be considered for the conservation and for the expansion of tourism. It is essential that an integrated approach to be taken so as to solve the above stated problems. The sites are highly disturbed by anthropogenic and natural agent of destruction and their potential for tourism is not exploited.

Therefore, the researcher forwards the following recommendation for the better protection and for the better exploitation of the tourism potentials the area.

1. Although, protection of historical sites is the first and most important components of heritage management,

the historical sites of the area are not properly protected. Unwise conservation done by the local people resulted for unnecessary human intervention.

Furthermore, settlers who are settled in and around the historical sites of the area practice farming and grazing and it aggravate the deterioration rate of the site. Thus, there should be a measure taken by Culture and Tourism Office of the area in collaboration with the local people so as to stop further destruction of the sites.

2. The best measure to stop further deterioration of the site is through creating awareness. Creating awareness about the importance of the historical sites can be a key point for heritage management and can be the best method to stop further deterioration of the sites.

Besides, promotion is the most important and key point in heritage management and tourism development activities. Therefore, the Culture and Tourism office of the area should undertake different promotional works which can attract both Ethiopian and foreign tourists.

3. Almost all the historical sites of the area lack the basic components of infrastructure. This condition creates its own impacts in the number of tourists flow towards the sites. Thus, there should be measures to be taken by the Culture and Tourism Office in collaboration with the local people and governmental organization so as to improve the existing infrastructure.

4. The Ethiopian Orthodox churches of the area are the owners of various cultural heritages. These cultural objects can be sources of income through displaying them in museum. Therefore, the Culture and Tourism office should work in collaboration with the local peoples

and church administrators to open church museum in the area.

5. There is a serious lack of qualified manpower in the area of heritage management and tourism. This creates a great challenge on cultural heritages management and sustainable tourism development. Therefore, to exploit the untouched potentials of the sites, the concerned bodies need to solving the problem related to manpower.

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