



# **Gombe Journal of Geography and Environmental Studies (GOJGES)**

**Vol. 2 N0.1 Jun. 2021**

**e-ISSN: 2714-321X**

**p-ISSN: 2714-3201**

**<http://www.gojgesjournal.com>**



## ASSESSMENT OF THE INVENTORY AND CLASSIFICATION OF TOURISM RESOURCES IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

Inadequacy of inventory on the existing tourism centers and their classification is among the major challenges of tourism development in the country. This study aimed at taking an inventory and classification of the existing tourism resources in Kano state. Information pertaining to major tourism centers was sourced from the Kano State Tourism Master plan of 2007. Coordinate of the location were collected through field using GPS Garmin eTrex. Data pertaining to problem affecting the development of tourism in the state were source through interview with the Kano state tourism board officials. The result indicated that, there are 74 major existing tourism resources in the state. Ecotourism and Cultural tourism are the major classification of tourism in the area. The distribution pattern of tourism resources in the area was random mostly found in the west and southwestern part of the state. Poor funding, poor facilities and poor management are the major problems affecting the development of tourism in the state. A proper update of tourism master plan to accommodate the existing tourism resources in the state should be done in due course. Government, private sector and individual should gear up towards developing ecotourism resources in the state. There is need for the government to reverse its status quo of contra entry so that the board should have proper fund to continue with its responsibilities. Moreover the government ought to pay more attention to tourism sector.

**Keywords:** Classification, Cultural tourism, Ecotourism, Inventory, Poor funding and Tourism

### 1. Introduction

The Tourism related activities is known to man since the dawn of history and it has passed through several stages of development. Nature and human culture attracts man to places of interest where they are not disturbed and conserved for future generation and for new experiences. This makes natural areas and human culture today to be among the contending conservation and development strategies of both developed

and developing countries in order to promote tourism. This promote the industry to be one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the world that have contributed to the socio-economic growth and environmental sustainability especially where tourism is the mainstay of their economy (World Tourism Organization 1998 and Magigi and Ramadhani, 2013).

With these development, if tourism resources are properly manage could contribute to the



achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly those concerned with poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, reduced Inequalities, Zero hunger and quality education. To achieve this target, the industry relies on good and qualitative resources that can influence public policy, community participation, increase in tourist's volume and other sources of societal and economic development.

Despite all these advantages, tourism sector in Nigeria lacks adequate empirical data on the inventories of most of the existing tourism destinations, poor funding, lack of facilities and non-availability of a database which would clearly define the visibility and success factors that have put the country in the league of other nations with great tourism potentials (Eja, Ukwayi and Ojong, 2012). These among others are the problems militating against the development of the sector despite the rich and abundant tourism endowment of the country. It is important to mention here that, several Nigerian scholars from different field of human endeavor have started to write about the tourist attractions of different locations within the country using different approaches like the use of modern technology devices, particularly Geographic Information System (GIS). Some have even gone further to classify the attraction centers according to the demands of tourist products. For instance, Archibong (2004) in Emmanuel and Catherine, (2012) delineated tourist sites in Nigeria to include festival and cultural celebration such as (Durbar festival), national parks (as in Old Oyo, Yankari and Akamkpa), as well as other geographical sites such as Aso Rock.

With the global increase in the demand for tourism and the need to compete in the global tourism market, there is need to know what is where and to provide the available tourism products and services that a country or states have to potential customers. With the use of Geographic Information System for example, such data can be easily stored, managed and retrieved for dissemination at will within shortest possible time.

Kano State is blessed with a number of tourism resources ranging from hills, rock formations, water bodies, forest reserves, zoological garden, historical and cultural festivities as well as monuments which if properly developed would improve the socio-economic status of the state, ensure sustainable tourism development and be able to market itself as a tourist haven. These necessitate many scholars and researchers develop interest in studying tourism in the state. For instance; Magaji (2006) appraised the implementation of tourist camp project by way of comparison between the objectives of the project and what has so far been achieved. Barau (2007) also assessed the landscape of southern part of Kano for recreational and tourism development. Abba (2007) investigates the tourism potentials of Rurum in Kano local government area with a view to examine the resources that were already developed and those that have the potentials to be developed. Zubair, (2011) and Suleiman (2012) examined the development, challenges and prospects of domestic tourism and potentials of Durbar cultural festival as a viable tourism product using survey techniques respectively. Suleiman, (2014) appraise the Implementation of the Kano Comprehensive Tourism Master Plan. Also Abba, (2017) analyze the tourism products in



Doguwa local government Area, Kano State-Nigeria and Muhammad & Lambu (2018) also analyze the tourism and hospitality potential on employment generation in metropolitan Kano State-Nigeria.

But, looking at their studies, full inventories and their classification of the existing tourism resources in order to identify possible potentials sites suitable for comprehensive management and planning of the resources and to the tourists community were not given

## **2. Materials and Method**

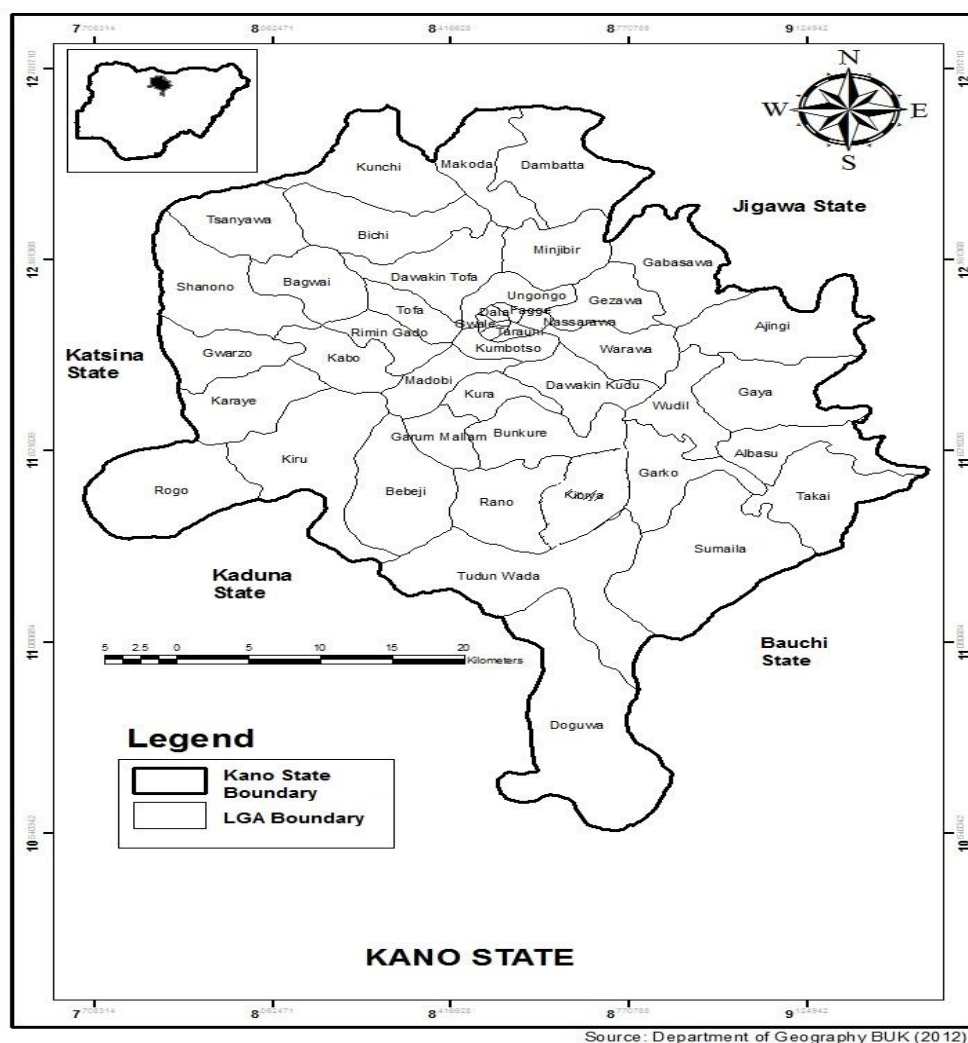
### **2.1 Location and Aerial Extent**

Kano State lies approximately between Latitudes  $10^{\circ} 30'N$  and  $12^{\circ} 37'N$  of the Equator and Longitudes  $7^{\circ} 40'E$  and  $9^{\circ} 23'E$  of the Greenwich Meridian. It has an estimated land size of  $20,280 \text{ km}^2$  (National Bureau of Statistics, 2010) with a population of 9,401,288 (2006 census). It is some 900

adequate attention in their studies. Also, problems militating against the development of tourism in the state were also not been properly explored in their studies.

Therefore, the aim of this study is to take an inventory of the existing tourism resources, their classification and major problems affecting the development of tourism resources in the state.

Kilometers from the edge of the Sahara desert and some 1, 140Km away from the Atlantic Ocean. The state shares boundaries with Jigawa state from the North and East, from the west and southwest it borders Katsina and Kaduna states respectively. From the extreme south east it borders Bauchi state. The state is made up of forty-four (44) Local Government areas (LGAs) (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Kano State (Study area)**

The area is characterized by rocks of the Basement Complex of pre-Cambrian age found in the west and south, and the Chad formation to the northeast. The geological formation of the rocks in the area formed three major relief zones, namely; the south and southeastern highlands, the middle and western high plains and the northeastern low Chad plains. The first two types are part of the High plains of Hausa land and the third is part of the Chad plains (Olofin, 2008).

However, the geological process of pediplanation occurred in the area has made it possible for the older granites to give way for flat terrain or simply plain-lands in this area and produced some pockets of hills all around Kano (Barau, 2007). This makes the area to houses varied tourism resources that are attractive capable of promoting tourism in the state.

The climate of the study area is the tropical dry-and-wet type, classified by Koppen's as



Aw. The movement of the Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) gives rise to two seasons (wet and dry seasons). Though Olofin (1987) classified the climate of Kano into four based on the general effects of climate control and temporal variation in rainfall and temperature, these are; Dry and Cool season (kaka), Dry and Hot season (bazara), Wet and warm season (damina) and Dry and warm season (rani).

The commencement and length of wet season varies between northern and southern parts of the State. In the extreme South, it could reach 1200mm per annum around Riruwai and Doguwa (Maryam, Halima and Umami, 2014). The mean annual temperature is about 26°C (Olofin, 2008). The mean annual evapotranspiration, sunshine, and relative humidity are about 1, 772mm, 8.5 hours per day and 50% respectively. But these values fluctuate as one move away from the metropolis. Temperature, sunshine and evapotranspiration increase northwards, while rainfall and relative humidity increase southwards. In essence, the good climatic conditions of Kano favours the choice of season to visit the State by tourists and other guests within and around the city of Kano.

### 2.3 Methods of Data Analysis

Microsoft word and excel were used as a medium for processing, editing and display of textual information/ attribute of the data as well as recording the data acquired from GPS of the attraction centers for easy exporting to ArcGis 9.3 version for analysis, integration and presentation of the map. The data obtained were digitized and related to their Geographical locations and their attributes were created showing tourism resources and their classification.

The vegetation of Kano State is the semi-arid savanna. The presence of savanna in the area makes the area to be rich in faunal and floral resources, provides opportunity for optimal human attainment, suitable for both cereal agriculture and livestock rearing and relatively accessible for movement of natural resources and other goods. With these features, Kano State stands out as an excellent destination whose vast tourism resources, are begging to host a large number of tourists (Barau, 2007).

### 2.2 Types and Sources of Data

The data pertaining to Inventory of the tourism resources of the state were sourced from the Kano State Tourism Management Board (KSTB) which was used to collect their coordinates using hand-held Global Position System (GPS) Garmin eTrex Hand. The secondary data include; documents from Kano State Tourism Management Board (KSTB), previous studies conducted on tourism, other related information consulted as literature materials were also used.

The spatial pattern analysis was carried out using Nearest Neighborhood Analysis (NNA) tools available in the GIS environment to ascertain the spatial distribution pattern of the tourism resources in Kano State. The Nearest Neighborhood (Rn) analysis was used to measures the pattern of the random distribution where there is no pattern at all and this case Rn equals 1.0. A pattern is said to be regular when value of Rn move closer toward 2.0 and 2.15 is considered perfectly uniform and the value means that each place is equidistant to

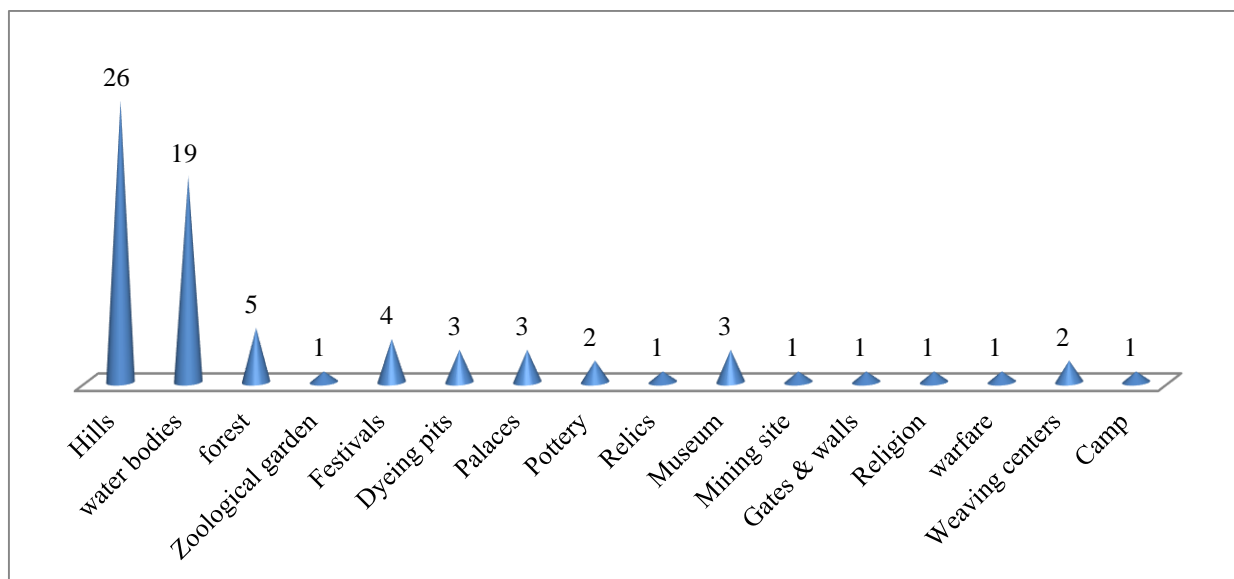


one another. Clustering occurs when all the dots are very close together almost the same point where  $R_n$  equal to 0.

## 1. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Tourism Resources in Kano

The result shows that Kano state is blessed with about seventy-four (74) major existing tourism resources that have the potential to attract different types of tourists as shown in figure 2 found in different locations.



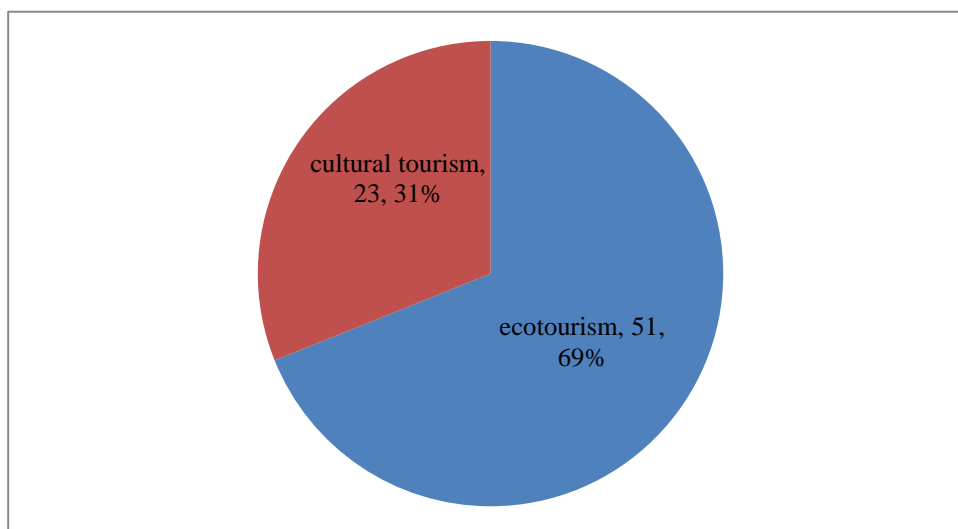
**Figure 2: Number of the tourism resources in Kano**

**Source: Data Analysis (2019)**

Based on the figure 2, hills of different categories are the major attractions (26) that the state is blessed with. These support and promote different mountaineering activities and geomorphosites studies, 19 different water bodies for recreational activities and fishing festivals and 5 forest reserves found in different part of the state that can support game viewing and biodiversity conservation. The state also is blessed with different cultural resources ranging from different festivities, dyeing pits, palaces, museums and gates and walls that surround the city of Kano.

### 3.2 Classification of Tourism Resources in Kano

In terms of tourism classification, the tourism resources in Kano and in other places are classified into two namely; ecotourism and cultural tourism. Out of the 74 major tourism resources, 69% are eco-tourism while cultural resources are 31% (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Classification of tourism**

**Source: Data Analysis (2019)**

This indicates that Kano is a home of ecotourism which ranges from scenic beauty for sightseeing and different rock formations, water bodies for boating and recreational purposes, and game reserves (figure 3). Garko Local Government Area has the highest number of eco-tourism resources that consists water body and hills for scenic beauty (Table 1). But Cultural tourism resources are more found in the urban areas than the other types with Kano Municipal Local Government Area having the highest number of cultural resources (Table 2). This is due to the fact that, Kano Municipal is located within the urban Kano where some of

the popular cultural tourism resources of Kano are found such as Emir's palace, Gidan Makama and Gidan Dan Hausa Museums and Murtala Mohammed Mausoleum. These cultural resources are the most popularly known to national and international tourists especially the famous Kano Durbar festival which attract more tourists to Kano during Sallah festival. This can be seen even from the leaflets and brochures published by Kano state tourism management board where they promote major tourism resources found in the Kano urban to national and international tourists.

### 3.3 Spatial Patterns of Distribution of Tourism Resources in Kano

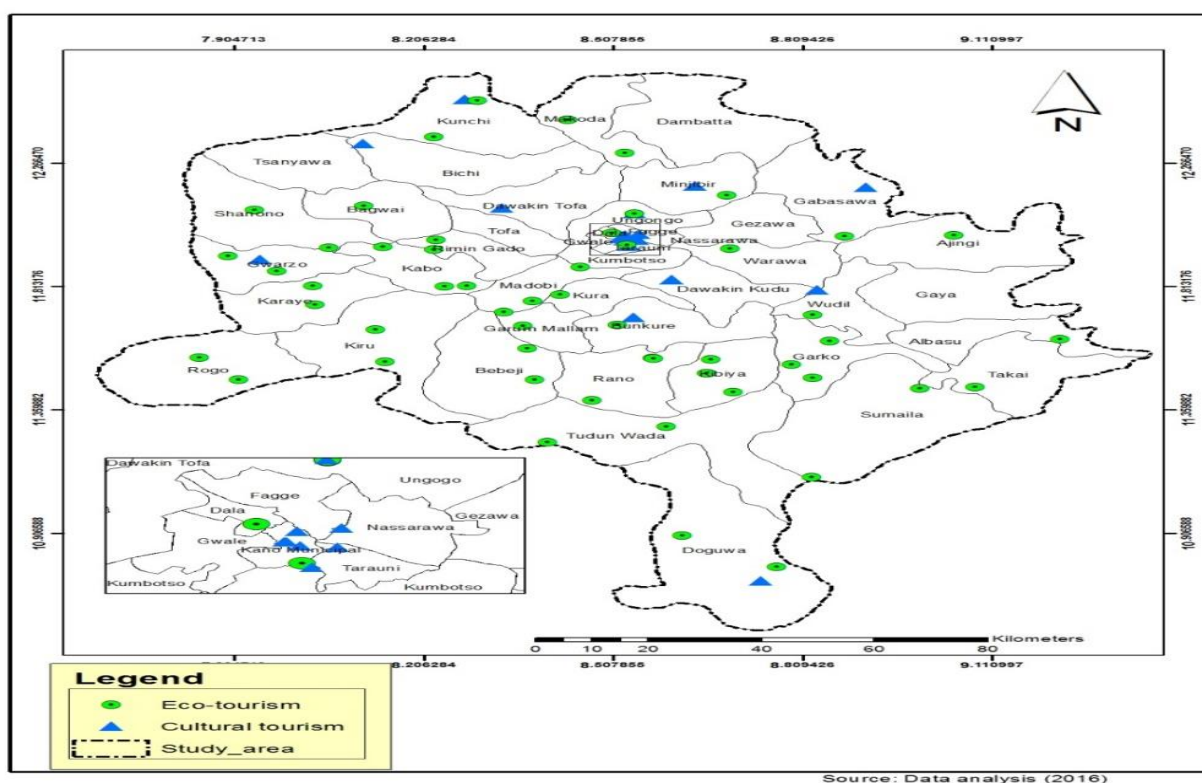
The result of the general distribution pattern of the tourism resources in Kano shows that, the general pattern of the distribution does not appear to significantly differ from randomly distribution, because statistically

the nearest ratio is 0.96, Z-Score value is - 0.51 and p-value 0.6. This indicates that the general pattern of all the destinations is random. Because all the resources are distributed across the sampled local government areas where there is no single sampled Local Government Area that has no attraction of either ecotourism or cultural tourism resources.



But the ecotourism resources mostly dominated the west and southwestern part of the state (figure 4) where the area is characterized by rocks of the Basement

Complex of pre-Cambrian age which produce different pockets of hills and form part of the High plains of Hausa land (Olofin,



**Figure 4: Composite distribution of tourism resources in Kano**

2008) and also serve as a watershed of Kano Rivers. This makes the areas to enjoy good rocks for scenic beauty, waterfall, and dams for recreational and festivities and forest reserves for game viewing. Also, the

This will be connected to the fact that, the needed facilities required to promote tourism such as accommodation; catering services, good road, hospitals, securities and market are all found in the urban centre. These make the urban tourism resources receive high level of patronage by tourists. Experience has shown that tourists are only taking to sites located at the central Kano and very few

distribution of cultural tourism resources (figure 4) revealed that the highest concentration of tourism resources occurred within the urban Kano.

resources outside central Kano are given attention such as Dawakin Tofa and Minjibir weaving village. This can be seen even from the brochure published by the Kano state Tourism Management Board distributed during festivities, fairs and exhibition and carnivals etc. The document contains all the tourism resources in Central Kano coupled with some few from rural Kano, such as Dawakin Tofa and Minjibir weaving village.



This makes the resources outside central Kano to receive little or no attention by the government officials at Kano state tourism management board.

### 3.4 Problems Affecting the Development and Management of the Tourism in Kano State

The result from the interview techniques reveals that the management of Kano state tourism Management board suffered greatly from the poor funding problems. This problem occurs as a result of changes in government policy in 2012 that cancelled contra entry system of operation that the board enjoyed in the previous years. Initially the board utilizes the revenue generated from its sources which they use as their running cost for the development, other miscellaneous expenses and the smooth running of the tourism affairs in the state. But today, as reported by one of the officials of the board, that the board *remits all what it generated to the state treasury and in turn collect merger amount as monthly overhead cost*. This affect the development and managerial activities of the board that would yield positive results in the promotion and marketing of the state tourism resources in the state.

Based on the observation conducted in all the sampled major tourism resources in the state, the resources suffered greatly from the total absence and lacks of some necessary facilities especially in rural areas that could make tourist to feel at home during their visit. However, apart from facilities, road network that would link the tourists from the major or minor road in the destination is another

problem. This is because most of the roads are poor and dilapidated that grossly affects their patronage by making the resources to be inaccessible.

Managerial problem is another factor that affects the development of tourism in the state. The appointment of the executive or managing director of the board is purely political in nature where the state government appoint whoever they wishes without considering his professional background or interest in tourism. This result to non-commitment in the part of the executive or managing director to develop the tourism resources and consequently pay more attention to greener areas that brings more revenue such as; wedding dinner and hall for meeting as they bring direct revenue to the board.

Inadequate statistical data on the tourist arrival, also affect the proper planning, management and development of tourism resources in the state. The tourism management board that is saddle with the responsibilities of marketing and promotion as well as taking and keeping the statistical records of tourists' arrival to the state, but the area received little attention in the compilation of the tourist arrival records that can be easily accessible. This affect greatly the planning, management and development of tourism not only in the state but to the entire nation.



### 3.5 Discussions and Policy Implication

This study provides inventory of the major existing tourism resources and tourism map for the state that provide different information to tourist(s). The study also revealed that the ecotourism and cultural tourism are the major classification of tourism and the patterns of their distribution in the state form dispersed pattern. In Zungeru, Niger state a similar study was conducted by Shaibu, Medayese, and Musa (2018) were they established that there are varied tourism potentials attraction areas in the area consisting of both natural and man – made tourism potentials. But unlike in Kano ecotourism or natural tourism potentials out weight the number of cultural or Man-made attractions. Furthermore, in Zungeru the tourism potentials are mostly historical relicts which have been in existence for a long period of time. This indicated that Nigeria is rich and bless with abundant tourism resources of both ecotourism and cultural

### 3.6 Policy Implications

Following the findings in this study, the following recommendations were made.

- i. A proper update of Kano state Tourism Master Plan to accommodate the existence tourism resources in the state should be done in due course through the services of experts/professionals to undertake a thorough inventory of the existence ecotourism resources of the state in order to come up with full tourism database for proper management and planning as well as to make the resources available in the global market.
- ii. Government, private sector and individual should gear up towards developing tourism resources and should involve investigating their

resources that if properly harness can boost the economy of the country, state and individuals person especially in the rural community.

On the issue of problems affecting the development of tourism resources, the study conducted by Gobin. Anake., and Asheazi, (2017) clear shows an agreement with this study were poor funding, inadequate facilities, and management problems constitute the major problem affecting the development and management of tourist resorts on the Jos Plateau. However, looking at the country in general, problems, such as inadequate data on the tourist arrival, absence of well-defined tourism programmes, inadequate funding, crude oil priority and high poverty levels in the country remain the major constraints against the success of the tourism development in the country.

characteristics with the aim of recommending suitable tourist sites in order to diversify the economy of Kano and also attracts more tourists to the destinations and in turn provides multiplier effects to the residents and generates more revenue to the government.

- iii. There is need for the government and private sector to invest adequate fund through partnership to tourism sector in the state so as to continue with its responsibilities.
- iv. With the falling price of petroleum products in the global market, there is need for the government to pay more attention to tourism sector, considering its role in stabilizing the economy of many nations in the world that depend on tourism.



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