

**An Assessment of Practices of Conservation and Its Challenges:
The Case of Monuments and Statues in Addis Ababa**

Hana Feyissa, St. Mary's University

Abstract

Addis Ababa Culture and Tourism Bureau registered about 17 historical monuments as cultural heritage of the city. Half of the Historical Monuments are inaugurated in Arada Sub-city the rest are found in different sub cities: three in Kirkos, two in Yeka, one in Lideta and one in Nifas Silk sub city. These historical monuments had been erected with the blessing of rulers of those times and sculptured by different foreign professional architects in different times and places of the city. They have various motives to be inaugurated. The Historical monuments have been erected to represent the country's history, culture ,and political and even statues of famous individuals from inside and outside Ethiopia. They were constructed to dedicate the contribution these individuals have made for Ethiopia at different historical junctures. However, for the purpose this research only seven selected historical monument of Addis Ababa have been described well. The criteria for selecting the following historical monuments are historical significance, aesthetic value, landmark value, political value and social value. And except Tiglachin monument all are public monuments which are found on road cross section of the city. The purpose of the study is to assess ~~about~~ the practices of conservation and challenges in the case of monuments and statues that are found in Addis Ababa. The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative approaches to gather the necessary data. The data gathering tools applied in this study were questionnaires, in-depth interview, field observation and secondary data. The findings of the study observed that there is no doubt about the attractiveness of the monuments and statues of Addis Ababa. They could be visited as much as other heritages of Ethiopia are visited. But most of them are not visited as main tourist destination areas and most of the monuments and statues are not protected and conserved well. The study found out several challenges facing historical monuments: accessibility problem, lack of recreational facilities in the premises and around them, lack of promotion, lack of descriptive information, locational disadvantage, lack of maintenance and restoration, lack of awareness among host community, cleanliness and hygiene problems, and having controversial historical meaning and value.

Keywords: Conservation and Challenges, Monuments and Statues, Addis Ababa

1.Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Tourism is the activities of people traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business or other purpose for not more than one consecutive year. Tourism is the world's largest and fast growing industry. The industry is a vast business made up of organizations that provide goods and services needed for tourists. It comprises a vast sector or sub industry such as the hospitality industry, transport industry, and attraction and entertainment. All those sectors are interconnected. They work together in providing goods and services as their survival depends on one another. In the tourism industry, one of the best and core elements is culture and heritage.

Associations are often made between history, heritage and culture. Many people erroneously equate heritage with history. History, however, is the recording of the past as accurately as possible. Heritage is part of the past too, but it includes a range of aspects (E.g. language, culture, locality) that have assumed some degree of importance. History is a means of producing knowledge about the past and heritage is a means of consumption of that knowledge. History is what the historian regards as worthy for recording and heritage is what the contemporary society chooses to inherit and to pass on. So generally, heritage is not simply the past, but modern day use of elements of the past. Associations are also made between heritage and culture. In fact, there is no sharp contrast between heritage and culture practically as well as conceptually. Both form an experiential form of tourism. Their difference is mainly in scope. In general, heritage and how it is understood are highly linked to its setting (the context in which it occurs). Heritage attractions can be owned by public (government), voluntary organizations, and private organizations.

Culture is the sum total of physical and spiritual values that man invents and accumulates during man's history and social work. Culture is a result of community movement and growth (Getachew Desta, 1990, 1).

Heritage is linked to the past; it represents some sort of inheritance to be passed down to current and future generations both in terms of cultural traditions and physical artifacts. Heritage is what elements of the past society wishes to keep. It is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Heritages are irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. They are our touch stones, our points of reference and identity. Generally, it is any relic of the past and the product of modern conditions that are attributed to and influenced by the past.

Cultural heritage is an expression of the way a community passes on customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values from generation to generation. Cultural heritage is often expressed as either Tangible or Intangible Cultural heritage (ICOMOS, 2002).

Statues have great values for a society. They are often constructed to represent the society's religion, culture, history and political aspects. They also function as gathering place of the society to strengthen cohesion. Predominantly, statues have been used as sites for political power legitimization. Statues erected across the globe have mainly political narratives. Stressing this, Forest and Jonson (2001) state that since the 19th C, statues have been used as weapons in political battle. Political actors have been contested for the political victory through constructing statues that support their political ideology and altering, ignoring, or removing former statues that have high political connotations. Besides, different meanings and interpretations have been affixed to the same statue in different regimes. Political leaders and interested groups have been engaged in the discourse of monuments symbolic dialogue to define the historical figures and establish the historical incidents that frame state identities.

Ethiopia is rich in natural and cultural heritages. The country's attraction includes archeological findings, historical monuments, museums, caves, lakes, parks, landscape with

beautiful scenery and good hospitality of the people. There are magnificent natural and cultural heritages which are found in the four corners of the country.

Addis Ababa, the present capital of Ethiopia, was founded over 125 years ago by Emperor Menelik II as a garrison town. Addis Ababa is one of Africa's largest and popular cities. As a chartered city, it is where ECA and the African Union, or the former OAU, are situated. Addis Ababa is, therefore, often referred to as "the political capital of Africa", due to its historical, diplomatic and political significance for the continent. The city is populated by people from different regions of Ethiopia.

The man-made historical, cultural and traditional heritage of the city is one of the attractions Addis Ababa can offer to her tourists. Many of those attractions symbolize the historical and cultural progress of the entire country. Its pleasant climate and the natural hot springs, historical buildings, museums, the numerous restaurants offering various exotic dishes make Addis Ababa a hospitable and delightful place to explore. Addis Ababa has old royal palaces, many churches and mosques, old historic buildings, monuments, museums and traditional markets with "Merkato" being the largest open air market in the whole of Africa.

The tradition of erecting monuments has an age-old history in Ethiopia. In this regard, the Axum and Tiya monuments are worth mentioning. It is obvious that monuments have been erected in Ethiopia to commemorate very important personalities or events. Addis Ababa is endowed with a number of remarkable statues and historical monuments that stand at different parts of the city commemorating different important events or personalities. Like any historic city, these monuments are found in the streets, squares or parks. Some are old, others are new, but all of them share elegant, shapely architecture and deep historical significance. In fact, many of the monuments in Addis Ababa were created after the withdrawal of Italy to honor those who gave their lives in the service of their country during the Ethio-Italian wars. Some were built earlier to commemorate the great achievements of the emperors that built the mighty Ethiopian empire. Others were erected to remember and pay respect to prominent people, such as thinkers, writers, poets, architects and scientists whose ideas, creativity, and inspired work played a key role in the development of the city and the country. These monuments contribute to the unique historical, architectural and artistic image of the capital of Ethiopia.

Therefore, Addis Ababa today can definitely be considered not only as a city of historic buildings and churches, temples, market places, as is often mentioned in guide books, but also a city full of significant and well-designed Ethiopian monuments.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Heritage tourism is highly undervalued and underutilized in Ethiopia, in general, and in Addis Ababa, in particular. Although Addis Ababa has a potential of diversified cultural heritages, whether moveable or immovable, tangible or intangible, it fails to attract, retain and satisfy cultural tourists. But the city could not use its resources efficiently and effectively. This problem has also been reflected on monuments of Addis Ababa. Many historical monuments are found in the city. However, as tourist attractions, they have not yet been able to fully capture the economic benefits to be derived from tourism to the city and its residents.

They are hardly visited by domestic and foreign tourists. These historical monuments are neglected by direct stakeholders i.e both the government and actors in the private tourism industry.

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 local authorities and the society; consequently they lack proper maintenance and attractiveness.

This research tries to assess the current conservation practices for historical monuments run by government's tourism sectors. It also tries to indicate possible opportunities and solutions to be considered while providing compatible measures and mechanisms to be implemented in promoting and utilizing these historical monuments of Addis Ababa like other cultural heritages of the city which attract domestic and international tourists.

1.3 Research Questions

- What does conserving cultural heritages mean?
- What are the conservation practices for monuments and statues that are found in Addis Ababa?
- What is the current status of monuments and statues in Addis Ababa?
- What are the challenges regarding the process of conserving the monuments and statues?
- Is the society well aware of the monuments and the statues?

1.4 Objective of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The General objective of the study is to assess the practices of conservation and challenges of monuments and statues found in Addis Ababa.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The study has the following specific objectives:

- To describe the contribution of the monuments and statues for the city;
- To assess the conservative practices of monuments and statues in Addis Ababa;
- To analyze the current status of monuments and statues that are found in Addis Ababa; and
- To list the challenges regarding the process of conserving the monuments and statues.

1.5 Significance of the Study

- This study tries to assess the current status of monuments in Addis Ababa and the measures taken to conserve them. So, the study will give additional ideas on conservation to institutions which are directly responsible to cultural heritage conservation in Ethiopia. These institutions include Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages, Addis Ababa Culture,

Arts and Tourism Bureau and other related institutions. It is a strong belief of the researcher that the institutions can use the results of this study for their future action.

- The other significance of the study is to readers who may get new information, which help to increase the awareness of the society. It will also help scholars as initial reference while they conduct their thesis or case studies related to historic monuments. In addition to this, the findings of 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 and Limitations of the Study

1.6.1 Scope of the Study

In Ethiopia there are lots of historical monuments. Among these around 17 historic monuments are found in Addis Ababa. With regard to the thematic scope of the subject matter, the study and analysis focuses mainly on the practices of historic monuments or statues of Addis Ababa. On the other hand, the spatial scope of the research is limited to those areas of Addis Ababa where the sampled historic monuments are located.

1.6.2 Limitations of the Study

When we see the definition of monuments, it includes architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archeological nature inscription, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science, but this study is limited to assess the memorial monuments or statues only.

The study is limited to a specific study area of Addis Ababa city. Lack of adequate literature on heritage conservation policy in Ethiopia is the main limitation of the research. Financial constraint is the next limitation. Also addressing all monuments in Addis Ababa is difficult due to shortage of time.

Also due to the current political situation of the country, the researcher could not take a close look at some of the monuments: Victory monument (miyaziya 27); the statue of Archbishop Abune Petros; and the Equestrian statue of Emperor Menilik II.

Therefore, readers of the study shall recognize the possible impacts of these limitations on the overall result of the research.

1.7 Definition of Terms

- Heritage: all cultural and artistic objects produced in the past or present, elements from the natural environment that are survivals from the past, seen as original, typically and appropriate to be passed on to future generations.
- Conservation: the action taken to prevent decay and manage change dynamically.
- Preservation: treatment in order to maintain a cultural property, as nearly as possible, in a stable physical condition.
- Attractions: the features and related activities of a specific area which draws tourists to visit the area.

- 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.

2. Research Design and Methodology

2.1 Study Area

The study area is Addis Ababa. Geographically, Addis Ababa is located at an elevation of 2,200 meters above sea level and rises to 3200 meters at Entoto hill. The city's subtropical highland climate enhances it to have relatively cool and pleasant weather. The high altitude at Entoto provides wonderful city viewing of Addis Ababa for international and domestic tourists. Currently, Addis Ababa is subdivided into eleven sub cities.

2.2 Population and Sampling Technique

Researchers use sampling procedures in order to choose a sample of the population in order to represent the entire population. There are two types of sampling procedures: random (or probability) and non-random (nonprobability) sampling (Tavkako & Sandars, 2014). For the purpose of this research nonprobability sampling was used to accomplish the set of objectives. In nonprobability sampling, each element does not have an equal chance of being selected.

2.3 Types of Information/Data Collected

In order to achieve the objectives of the research, qualitative information was gathered using primary and secondary data. Governmental institutions like Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau, and Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage are the major sources of the primary and secondary data.

2.4 Methods of Data Collection

The researcher used three methods to collect the necessary data:

1. Questionnaire: The questionnaire was prepared in the form of close-ended questions.
 - Interview: The researcher did some in-depth interviews regarding monuments and statues, conservation and maintenance, challenges faced and other related issues. The interview was with selected professionals and experts of organizations that are directly involved with the issue.
 - Personal Observation: It is used to prove the information given by the interviewees. It is one way of getting primary data.
 - Secondary Data Collection: The research included data collected from books, documents, reports, websites and official publications of MoCT and ARCCH, AACATB..

2.5 Data Analysis

The gathered information through different tools is carefully examined to check its validity and reliability. The collected data were organized and analyzed using various methods such

as descriptive statistical methods of analysis including percentage and frequency. The data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The findings were described and presented in the form of tables and figures. The qualitative data obtained using in-depth interview and field observations were analyzed in descriptive narration. Finally, conclusion was made based up on the findings of the research. Recommendations were also given based up on the conclusions made.

3. Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter is about the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data collected through interview, questionnaires and field observation. Findings of the study are presented and discussed. The chapter includes; demographic background of respondents, current status of selected monuments, awareness of the society, factors affecting the monuments, and challenges to conserve them. In order to achieve the objectives of the research, the researcher used mixed research approach. In the qualitative part of the study, 5 informants and 15 local residents were interviewed. And in the quantitative part, questionnaires had been developed and distributed for target population of the study. It was conducted by taking 10 employees of AACATB. In addition, field observation result was conducted and interview and field observation data were also transcribed.

3.1 Demographic Background of Respondents

Currently, the department of Cultural Heritage Conservation at AACATB has 25 employees. Among these staff members, 10 of them participated in this research by responding to the questionnaire items.

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

	Female	Male	Total
Frequency	3	7	10
Percentage	30	70	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

In terms of gender distribution, table 1 indicates that most of the respondents were male, which is 7 in number or 70% and followed by females 3 in number or 30%.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	Above 55
Frequency	1	5	4	0	10
Percentage	10%	50%	40%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

In terms of age distribution, table 2 indicates that 50% of the respondents' age was between 26 and 35, which has the highest number of respondents i.e 5. Following 4 of the respondents or 40% of them were between 36 and 45. Only 1 of the respondents was aged between 18 and 25. There was no respondent above 55 (Table 2).

Table 3: Educational Background of Respondents

	Diploma	Degree	Masters	PHD	Total
Frequency	0	8	2	0	10
Percentage	0%	80%	20%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

In terms of educational background, most of the respondents, 80% of them had university education, first degree and 20% Masters (Table 3). There is no Diploma and PhD among the respondents.

3. 2 Attractiveness and Accessibility of monuments and statues in Addis Ababa

In this part, the attractiveness and accessibility issues of Addis Ababa's monuments and statues is discussed. Also, locations and places to be visited from near distance and their appearance are discussed.

Table 4.1: Attractiveness and Accessibility of Monuments and Statues

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	0	3	3	4	0	10
Percentage	0%	30%	30%	40%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

3. The monuments and statues in Addis Ababa are easily accessible

Tables 4(1) show that 30% and 40%, which is about 70% of the respondents strongly disagree/disagree with the idea that the monuments and statues in Addis Ababa are easily accessible. But 30% of the respondents agreed with the above idea. This indicates that according to majority of the respondents, monuments and statues in Addis Ababa are not easily accessible to visit.

A key informant, coded no 3 from AACATB, answered that, *"There are 17 monuments and statues registered under the bureau and anyone has the chance to see the monuments because of their location. Since most of the monuments are located at road cross section of the city, anybody can take a look at them while passing or rounding them being inside a car. But seeing far away is not a good way to get full information or to see details about the monuments. So I don't think they are accessible."*

Another key informant coded no 7, a local resident, answered that *'I only get to see them from far distance. I never get the chance to read what is written on them because I only see them while passing. I don't even think it is possible to approach them.'*

The researcher observed that there is no place for walking and parking around the monument. But in the case of *Tiglachin* monument and both Lion of Judah at the National Theatre and Lagar, it is a little bit different. Although the places are not much safe and very crowded with people and lots of cars, tourists can see the monuments closely and take photos as much as they want. Moreover, *Tiglachin* monument is found at a park; anyone can sit inside the park and spend some time. In addition to this most of our monuments have no recreational

facilities around them. Furthermore, their location is not suitable for disabled and old people. The researcher concluded that most of monuments of Addis Ababa are accessible only from far away.

4. Monuments and statues of Addis Ababa are attractive enough to have local and international tourists.

Table 4.2: Attractiveness and Accessibility of Monuments and Statues

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	7	3	0	0	0	10
Percentage	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 4.2 shows that 70% of the respondents strongly agreed and 30% of the them also agreed with the idea that monuments and statues of Addis Ababa are attractive enough to have both local and international tourists. This indicates that the heritages have the potential to attract tourists.

An interviewee, coded no 13, described that Ethiopia has many attractive cultural heritages. Few of them are registered on UNESCO and are being visited by many international tourists. They are the main destinations of Ethiopian tourism. They are generating income for the host community. This is because they have some attractive design and amazing appearance. The same goes to monuments and statues of Addis Ababa. Local and international tourists can be easily attracted by them. Also the background history of each monument and statue is so different that tourists are surprised easily.

Another key informant coded no 1 emphasized on the idea that Addis Ababa's monuments and statues are more attractive to international tourists than to the local ones. International tourists are usually surprised by the history of the monuments. But this is not common regarding local tourists.

The researcher observed that there is no doubt about the attractiveness of the monuments and statues in Addis Ababa. They can be visited as much as other heritages of Ethiopia are visited. But most of them are not visited as main tourist destination areas. Because of their architectural and historical significance, they can be a great tourist destination of the city.

3.3 Contribution of Monuments and Statues in Addis Ababa

This part of the study deals with the basic benefits and contributions of the monuments and statues for the city and their protection.

Table 5.1: Contribution of Monuments and Statues of Addis Ababa

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	4	5	0	0	1	10
Percentage	40%	50%	0%	0%	10%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 5(1) shows that, 50% of the respondents agreed with the idea that monuments and statues in Addis Ababa have many benefits for the city. Also 40% of them strongly agreed with this idea. But 10% of the respondents didn't say anything on this issue. So, almost all respondents think the monuments have a great benefit.

A key informant, coded no 2, from ARCCH answered the interview on behalf of the institution as follows: According to ARCCH, the monuments have many economic benefits. They are the result of various cultures so they are tourist attraction sites. They can generate income both directly and indirectly from tourists.

- Creating opportunities for foreign tourists to appreciate historic architectures and change the image of Ethiopia so that they make attitudinal change. Most monuments tell our story of heroism in history. They create a positive image in the tourists' mind.
- Bringing foreign currency; while visiting the monuments tourists don't only see the heritage; they also spend for accommodation, transportation and other expenses.
- Creating job opportunities to people around the tourist sites 52, and for the community and the tourist providers.
- Boosting the local economy through the implementation of new activities such as service Industries and development projects.
- Many monuments in Addis Ababa have a special architectural design. They are a witness of the early architecture of the city. Anyone can see the style and the use of different scientific and technological materials for the construction which were used at the time. So the monuments show the civilization of Addis Ababa.
- When tourists come to Addis Ababa they don't only visit the monuments. Usually tour operators and guides sell tour packages including other attraction sites in the city. For instance, the packages may have a visit to Museums, Palaces, Entoto, Merkato open air market and so on. So visiting the monuments of Addis Ababa by itself is a starting point for the tour of the whole city.

Table 5.2: Can bring more Benefits if Protected Well

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	4	6	0	0	0	10
Percentage	40%	60%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 5.2 shows that, all respondents support the idea that if monuments and statues of Addis Ababa are well protected, they can bring more benefits for the city.

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

3.4 The Current State of the Monuments and Statues

In this section, the monument's and statues' current condition, protection and conservation methods are discussed. In addition, the researcher's observation is included.

Table 6.1: Current State of the Monuments and Statues

	Very good	good	Very bad	Bad	No answer	Total
Frequency	0	6	1	3	0	10
Percentage	0%	60%	10%	30%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 6.1 shows that majority (60%) of the respondents, replied that the current state of the monuments and statues is good while the remaining 40% of the respondents opposed this idea.

At an interview with local residents, an interviewee said that *"I don't think the monuments are in a good condition. They lack appealing environment. Some of them are even located at inappropriate place. They are aging fast. I am afraid one day they may collapse suddenly".*'

A key informant, coded no 4 from AACATB, mentioned that most of the monuments are in a good condition and they can last long. There are few monuments which began to show some sign of aging, of course. But that happened because of the materials they are made of. Also the area they are located sometimes affects their wellbeing.

The researcher's field observation has a different result from what is told by the institution. By observing some selected monuments and statues in the city, the researcher saw defects and cracks on them. Most of the monuments are located at roundabouts where several trucks cross the road every day. There are small cracks on the monuments that are not visible from far away. Through time, the movement of many cars across the road will affect the wellbeing of the monuments. The fume that comes out of the trucks is toxic. The elements of the smoke which are attached to the body of each monument will erode it through time.

So, the researcher concluded that most of the monuments and statues are not in good condition.

6.2 Protection and Conservation of the Monuments and Statues

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	0	5	1	3	1	10
Percentage	0%	50%	10%	30%	10%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 6.2 shows that half of the respondents agreed that monuments are protected and conserved well, while 40% of them disagreed.

A key informant, coded no 5 from AACATB, was interviewed if the institution thinks the monuments are well protected and conserved. He said, *"Yes, they are well protected. The institution works on their protection very well. We even put palisade around them and*

surround them with strong steel to prevent the crossing of humans and cars. Also there are plans and strategies that apply to some conservation work on selected monuments”.

On field observation, the researcher observed that most of the monuments and statues are not protected and conserved well. The dirty materials thrown at the monuments are making it lose its’ original appearance and have a negative impact on the material of the monuments. A little plant has grown on the Lion of Judah at the National Theatre. And at its left side, the color of the monument is fading. Actually, fading of the original color and having the sign of rain line marks are the problems of all the monuments. This shows that the conservation practice done for the monuments is poor. Regarding cleanliness issues *Tiglachin* monument, Martyr’s monument and Victory monument are at a good condition when we compare them with the rest of the others. They are clean and have green plants around them. There are also laborers who tend to plants and cut grasses. Also they have a security guard. The researcher concluded that, concerning conservation issues, there is much work to be done and most of the monuments found in Addis Ababa are not in good condition.

3.5 Awareness of the Society

Table 7.1 Awareness of the Society about the Monuments and Statues

	Strongly agree	Agree	Strongly disagree	Disagree	No answer	Total
Frequency	0	2	4	4	0	10
Percentage	0%	20%	40%	40%	0%	100%

Source; own survey (2021)

Table 7.1 shows that, 80% of the respondents did not agree that the society has a good awareness about the monuments and statues. Half of them strongly disagreed and the other half disagreed. The remaining 20% of the respondents agreed with that the society has a good awareness.

- A key respondent, coded no 5 from AACATB described that, *“According to AACATB, the community is not well aware of the monuments and statues. Most people in Addis Ababa don’t know about the history, location and current status of the monuments and statues. When we compare the Number of tourists who visit monuments in Addis Ababa, the foreign tourists are much better than the local tourist. And the awareness of the society is not enough. ARCCH and AACATB are currently working on creating awareness on the society.* The following are some of the methods used:
 - Working with Television and Radio stations by buying air time and Preparing documentaries about the heritages;
 - Enhancing TV programs on ADDIS MEDIA NETWORK, WALTA, FBC, EBC and other media outlets;
 - Preparing brochures that contain detailed information about the monuments;
 - Also AACATB and ARCCH have a group discussion and training with different bodies. For instance, training for selected conservationists, media persons, Journalists, University professors, Architects, government bodies who are related to heritage and management, Addis Ababa police, Ministry of Transport and other concerned organizations.

While working on the field observation, the researcher observed that the awareness of the society is not enough. Interviewees, coded no 8,12,14,15 from local community, were asked about the total number of the monuments and statues that are found in Addis Ababa. They don't know their exact number and their names. Among the 17 monuments and statues that are registered under the Bureau, Martyrs monument (Yekatit 12), Victory monument (Miyazia 27), the Equestrian statue of Emperor Menelik II, and the Lion of Judah of Emperor Haile Selassie were famous and known by the majority of the society's members.

Also, the researcher observed that the society does not care that much about the monuments. For instance; At Archbishop Abune Petros monument, Equestrian Menelik II monument, and Lion of Judah at Lagar, many street people and addicted guys use the surrounding of the monuments as a resting place, toilet, and rubbish dump. This is a very unpleasant thing to watch.

3.6 Factors that Affect the Monuments and Statues

According to the Bureau, there are many factors that put the heritages in danger. Some of them are listed below:

- Atmospheric pollutants;
- Biological growths, exacerbated by cleaning or persistent damp conditions, Physical damage from abrasions, collisions, vandalism or theft and chemical cleaning;
- The use of hard, dense cement mortars for re-painting and repair works (abrasive cleaning techniques);
- Cracking from frost action or expansion of ironwork, salt damage;
- Graffiti, natural weathering and faults in the stone; and
- Poor architectural design or detailing.

ARCCH, of course, uses some preventive methods for the monuments and statues. The following are conservation methods practiced by the institution:

- Stone cleaning
- Trial panels
- Dry brushing
- Low pressure water washing
- Steam cleaning
- Low pressure abrasive cleaning
- Chemical cleaning
- Stone repairs
- Erasing inscriptions

Other factors that affect the monuments the researcher observed are:

Moss: Moss only grows where there are persistent damp and sheltered conditions, so it may form on the shaded side of monuments, where structures are overshadowed by buildings or trees, or where heavy rainfall combines with poor water run-off. Small amount of moss is not

harmful but in greater quantities it can cause deterioration of stonework or painting, largely because moss retains moisture, making the stone vulnerable to frost damage.

Algae: The growth of algae on a stone surface indicates the presence of water. Algal growths are usually green and slimy when fresh and become black when the surface dries out. Algae may colonize where the monument is situated in a very wet area, or where it is overshadowed by trees or buildings and remains damp for extended periods.

Lichen: Lichen is a combined growth of fungi and algae. They are extremely slow growing and are often a sign of a clean atmosphere. The subtle colors and mellowing effect of lichen on stonework can be very beautiful and some rare species are protected. Most lichen is harmless but there are some species which can be damaging to the surface of vulnerable stone types, causing blistering or pitting.

3.7 Challenges to Conserve the Monuments and Statues

According to a key informant, coded no 1, doing conservation work for every monument and statue that is found in the city is not easy. Therefore, the institution annually repairs and does some conservation work for selected statues or monuments. The statue or monument is selected based on how damaged it is, its current status and its overall condition. There are 4 main challenges in the conservation process:

- Shortage of skilled professionals in the field
- Lack of fund/money issues
- Government policies/policy that clashes between government bodies
- Lack of conservation laboratory

Other factors that are listed below indirectly challenge the conservation process:

- Lack of technology and upgraded equipment
- Lack of awareness of the society and responsiveness of concerned bodies
- Political issues of the country
- Inadequate research about the monuments or statues
- Lack of well-organized plan and strategy
- Corruption
- Lack of enough information about the monument or statue

Regarding the source of finance, the Bureaus' source of money or budget for conserving these monuments comes from the Ethiopian government. Sometimes embassies of different countries, some private companies and voluntary people help the process of the conservation.

4. Conclusion

In General, the objective of heritage conservation is to prolong the life of cultural heritage and, if possible, to clarify the artistic and historical messages therein without the loss of authenticity and meaning. Conservation is a cultural, artistic, technical, and craft activity based on humanistic and scientific studies and systematic research. Conservation must respect the cultural context. People erect monuments and statues for different purposes.

Monuments are unique and irreplaceable cultural heritages which are the expression of the past generation. Without any work of conservation, these monuments will be damaged easily.

The main objective of the study was to assess about the conservation practice and its challenges in the case of monuments in Addis Ababa. There are 17 registered monuments in Addis Ababa, and these monuments have a great significance for the city. They are a source of revenue and also give a good image of Ethiopia. They are also a reminder of our past Architectural science, history of heroism and the relationship we had with other countries.

Currently Addis Ababa is experiencing a relatively faster growth in every dimension. The findings of this study show that monuments in Addis Ababa are attractive enough to generate big revenue for the city. Because of their historical background, architectural design and their location, it is easy to access them and see them while passing. But the problem is that some of the monuments are losing their originality due to poor conservation and preventive measures. The areas around the monuments are not pleasant at all. If things continue this way, after a few years, some of them will be damaged for good. 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. People have a good attitude towards the historical significance of those monuments and statues. But sadly, due to their economic capacity they are forced to destroy the heritages being unaware of what they are really doing.

5. Recommendations

The researcher recommends the following very important activities to be implemented:

- Creating awareness to the general public by means of preparing different kinds of activities and social gathering around the cultural heritages. 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 eventually help to protect the monuments from further 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 monuments and statues.
- Promoting the monuments through different ways will help the city to have more tourists. Social media, magazines, websites, documentary films are some of the ways.
- Cleanliness issues have to be a priority agenda for the city administration. Everyone hates a dirty environment. It is unhealthy and shameful practice which needs to be effectively addressed. Adding more human labor to clean the areas and plant trees is one possible way. Also securing the surroundings of the monuments and statues from people who may harm them is advisable.
- Mobilizing professionals as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations related to the cultural heritages in connection capacity building. This could be realized by organizing local and international forums regarding the present technological advancement of conservation mechanisms and the scientific approaches to conservation of monuments. This in effect will result in recreating a well informed and knowledgeable professional people to involve in the activities of the governmental and non- governmental organizations' initiatives related to the professional services needed for the task at hand.

- Awareness creation should be created to decision makers and politicians so that proper policies would be decreed and that has to happen before it becomes too late. It is quite clear and understandable that government officials have their own agenda that they may need to address for the continuation of their political power but they should be aware of the importance of the monuments and the kind of loss the whole society will face if the monuments are subjected to damages as a result of their lack of effective decisions. Apart from protecting damages on the monuments, the awareness of decision makers about the importance of the monuments will also help in securing the necessary financial budget for the implementation of conservation plans in various ways. It will also help in the preparation of a reasonably good heritage policy.
- Privatizing or leasing out of the monuments which need to be maintained as soon as possible because the government's financial capacity and the priorities set forth do not encourage the government's direct involvement in the conservation implementation activity.
- Preparing conservation manual for architect restorers in line with the local context which considers the frequently used building materials on historic heritages, the local technology and skilled man power as well as the technological level at the times of the conservation of the monuments.

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