INTRODUCTION

- Cultural built heritage around the world are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change resulting in loss of heritage and detachment of individuals and communities from the histories of the past.
- Places of cultural and historical significance are increasingly affected by changes in temperature, precipitation, wind, sea level resulting into partial or total destruction and loss of heritage values.
- However, understanding the nature of climate complexities and risks facing cultural built heritage is a vital process that needs to be taken for decision-making and implementation of community-based climate actions.
- This study, therefore, aim to rethink and retool assessment of climate risks facing cultural built heritage to engender community action addressing climate change.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

- The study adopted case study approach focusing on six heritage sites in Badagry that are recognised on the heritage lists of the Federal and Lagos State government (Fig. 1).
- The Seriki Williams Abass Slave History Museum (SH01), for instance, was used as the barraco (meaning prison) of the captured slaves during the trans-Atlantic slave trade (Fig. 2) while the first storey building in Nigeria (SH02), built around 1870 by the early Christian missionaries that arrived Nigeria from Sierra Leone in 1842 (Fig. 3) and Point of No Return and Attenuation well used for shipment of slaves during trans-Atlantic slave trade (Fig. 4).
- Data on the values, exposure and vulnerability of the heritage sites, impacts of climate drivers were collected through combination of four data collection strategies in a phased approach (Fig. 5).
- Actions and tools needed for implementation of community-based climate actions were developed.

RESULTS

- Participants assert the significance of the history of Badagry community not only relating to the practices and experiences of the trans-Atlantic slave trade but also the trade practices of the community members of Badagry.
- The slave heritage sites are the symbol[s] of civilization [and freedom] from colonization revealing the connection of the heritage sites to daily endeavours of Africans especially Nigerians to achieve not only physical freedom from slavery and colonization but also social, economic, legal and environmental freedom.
- The impacts of the climate drivers (Fig. 6) result into enormous loss and risk to the conservation and protection of the values and significance of the slave heritage sites.

DISCUSSION

- Adaptive actions are vital to address the climate risks and protect the values and significance of the heritage sites.
- Control of humidity and dampness, installation of roof insulation and use of climate-resistant finishes as adaptive measure needed to address the impacts of the climate risks.
- The participatory approach to climate risk assessment offers information and perception, sense of ownership and care of community members and protection of values and significance of heritage places.

CONCLUSIONS

- While more studies on climate change focus on global or national scale, this study however examines the climate change and its impacts at the local scale and understands the benefits of involving local communities in the assessment of climate risks and impacts.
- The study demonstrates that involvement of local communities in the conservation and protection of cultural built heritage improves the understanding and acceptance of climate change as imminent threat to the shared culture and identity of communities.
- The study emphasizes integration of local knowledge and practices in assessment of climate risks to develop successful responses to climate change, empower participatory and holistic decision-making at the community level to preserve the culture, art and heritage of communities.

REFERENCES