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Understanding The Challenges Of Forest Insecurity And Its Impact On Danmusa Local Government Area, Katsina State, Northwestern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT
Forest reserves in Northern Nigeria have increasingly become sites of insecurity as weak management, deforestation, encroachment and inadequate surveillance have reduced effective state control. This study examines the challenges of forest insecurity and its economic and social effects in Danmusa Local Government Area of Katsina State, with particular attention to Ruma-Kukar Jangarai and Yantumaki forest reserves. The study draws on primary and secondary sources, including oral interviews with forestry personnel, traditional authorities, farmers, herders, security personnel and rural residents, as well as archival and published materials. It argues that declining forest governance has facilitated the use of forest spaces as hideouts and operational bases for banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling and related criminal activities. These developments have disrupted agriculture, grazing, markets, employment and ecotourism, while also causing deaths, displacement, sexual violence and interruption of public infrastructure projects. The paper recommends stronger state control of forest reserves, improved surveillance, collaboration with local communities, dialogue between farmers and herders, resettlement and livestock-management programmes, expanded education, and agroforestry as complementary measures for restoring security and sustainable forest management.
Keywords: forest insecurity; Danmusa Local Government Area; Ruma-Kukar Jangarai; Yantumaki; banditry; forest reserves; Katsina State.

INTRODUCTION

Forests in Northern Nigeria are fast declining, as most of them are not in their natural formation. From the colonial period when they were created, up to the late 1980's forest in Nigeria were in good and natural formation, as the flora and fauna remained intact, in which Poaching and other deforestation activities have not been taking place.. Presently large forest estate was cleared to give way for agricultural activities, whereas most of wild animals have gone extinct.

Forests have today posed serious security threat in the country, as a result of which rural communities suffer the consequences. Insecurity has nowadays made it impossible for farming and other economic activities to take place around the forests in some parts of Katsina State. Rural banditry and farmer-herdsmen conflicts are the major challenges facing the forests in Katsina State. Katsina is among the

frontline states of the Northern Nigeria that are currently facing security challenges due to expanding agriculture and urban population and the rise of cash cropping which must have led to encroachment into grazing areas. Ubale, (1992) .

Forest insecurity refers to the activities of criminals, bandits and terrorists to carry out violent attacks on nearby rural communities and farms. The major causes of these crises include the lack of proper surveillance and adequate security personnel to guard the forest. Secondly, farmers-herdsmen clashes due to disagreement over land use and trespassing on farmlands and thirdly, illegal activates such fuel wood collection, poaching and illegal loggers.

Onyilola and Mojeed pointed that since when government loses control of forest resources to non-state actors has led to forest insecurity. (Onyilola and Mojeed, https://dj.danubis.v>view) Forest insecurity resulted in massive loss of lives and property, loss of earning power. Forests in the recent years are very dangerous and pose security threat to human lives. This is because bandits have already taken control of forests and use them as camps and hideouts. Forests by their nature can be security threats as thieves, criminals, armed groups, rebels, insurgents and terrorists can use them in carrying out their activities in one way or the other. In Northern Nigeria, forestlands are vast, rugged and hazardous. Most importantly, they are grossly under-policed to the point that makes conducive to all forms of jungle criminality. Ladan, (2015). Studies have shown that banditry in Northern Nigeria is old because it started in the region for a century. The first recorded case occurred somewhere between western Hausaland and the Niger border in 1901, when a 12,000 strong camel train laden with assorted grains was attacked and 210 merchants killed. Al Chukwuma and Anthony, (2016).

According to Ladan there are five main security threats posed by bandits who camped in the Ruma-Kukar Jangarai Forest. They organize and attack villages, steal cattle, rape women and young girls or abduct them to be used as sex slaves. Ladan, (2015). Bandits come to people's houses to rob money, they create road blocks along the roads to rob travellers, they come from their forest base to rob banks and have created fear in the minds of local people, hence farmlands adjacent to the forests are no longer cultivated due to the risk of being attacked.

It is against this backdrop that the work seeks to outlines the major reasons why forests in Northern Nigeria and Katsina State poses security threat, and as well, to examine their current status. Study on forestry and insecurity is a theme that needs urgent attention and that is why this research is needful and timely, for its significance in understanding the nature of insecurity currently facing some of the Northern States of Niger,ia. Although there are quite number of literature on forest insecurity but due to large forest estates in Northern Nigeria and Katsina State in particular, carrying out study that covers all the forests is indeed a big challenge. However, sourcing information regarding forest insecurity will be a difficult task, though there are many researchers who have developed interest in carrying out research on forestry and insecurity in Katsina State. Therefore this study has delve into the area, and is with a view to give an insight to some of these issues such as rural banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herdsmen conflict, cattle rustling etc

LITERATURE REVIEW

Most of the existing literatures focus on the political, economic, social and biographical history. The fact is that some aspects of history such as security studies and environmental history have not been given fair attention by scholars. This research therefore, explores the importance of the study on forest insecurity in Danmusa Local Government Area of Katsina State. Various studies have been conducted on forestry and insecurity which focuses on the causes and effects of the phenomenon on both people and forest itself.

Ladan, (2004). opines that, forest is the most important resource of nature on earth, after air and water. It creates ecological balance by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Forest performs irreplaceable ecological services, such as shaping natural environment by influencing such factors as temperature and humidity among others. Asthana and Asthana, (1998) maintains that, forests reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as out of 81.50 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere almost 70 billion are absorbed by green plants and is converted to organic matter. According to Puwape,

(2004). forests controls and stabilizes weather; controls erosion, adds nutrient to the soil, serves as windbreak and reduces environmental hazards. Similarly, forest contributes significantly to economic and social development through revenue generation, job creation and development of ecotourism. It forms the basis, from which a larger portion of the society derives their source of livelihood. This is because forest resources such as trees and wild animals have the potentials for providing sources of food, medicinal herbs and income. People utilize the forest in various ways as sources of fuel wood, fruits, meat, pasture for livestock, and herbs for the treatment of diseases. Generally forest plays a key role in promoting and enhancing economic growth of a nation and its people.

Adeyanju, (1975). Noted that, forestry in Nigeria was a colonial experience, the idea for the establishment of forest reserves in Nigeria started in the late 19th century when in 1887, Sir Alfred Molony, the then Governor of Lagos had developed interest in studying the forest of West Africa. He published a book entitled the "Sketch Forestry of West Africa." Consequently, a Forestry Department for the Lagos Colony was established in 1897. This was followed by enacting laws, proclamations and acts and one of this was, The Protection of Tree Proclamation of 1902 which sought to control the exploitation of tree around government cantonments and stations, consequently by 1916; the first forest reserve in Nigeria was officially constituted. Etukudo, (2004)

However the development of forest reserves in Northern Nigeria started with emergence of the Communal Forest Areas (CFA) which began to be established in Sokoto, Kano, Katsina, and Bauchi in the early period of colonial rule, under the Native Authorities that managed and harvested forests through technical guidance.(Mustapha, 2004) In Katsina formation of forest reserves started in 1922 with the establishment of Ruma-Tsatskiya and Pawwa Forest Reserves, covering 284 square miles. (Richard, 1968) Ruma-Kukar Jangarai which forms the study area was among the forest reserves created in Katsina during Colonial period. The Forest Reserve was created in 1959 following the merging of two adjacent forests i.e Ruma and Kukar Jangarai, with total land area of 470 square miles. The reasons for the unification of these adjacent reserves were firstly: to find an area suitable for sustainable grazing system. Secondly, it would be easier to administer the two reserves uniformly. Mustapha, (1983) It is the largest in the state and covers five local government areas of Jibia, Batsari, Safana, Danmusa and Kankara. Ibrahim, (2016).

Study Area

Danmusa Local Government Area is within Katsina State, North-western Nigeria. It is boarded with Dutsinma and Safana Local Government Areas to the north, Musawa and Matazu to the east, Kankara to the south and by Zamfara State to the west. The local government was created in the year 1996, by the military administration of late General Sani Abacha. It comprises two district areas namely; Danmusa and Yantumaki with sixteen village areas. Danmusa is presently one of the eight local government areas that are facing challenges in relation to the forest insecurity in Katsina State. The local government has two big forest reserves namely; Yantumaki Forests with 51 square miles and Ruma Kukar Jangarai Forests (Dajin Rubu) covers more than one hundred square miles. This Forest Reserve lies between latitude 12 and 13N and between longitudes 700 and 715.E

The Ruma-Kukar Jangarai bordered with Niger Republic to the north, Zamfara State to the west,, while the River Gagare forms its southern boundary. There are towns and villages adjacent to the forest and have some close link with it. These include Runka, Duru, Biri, Rubu and Jangarai from which the reserve derived its name. (Mustapha, 1983) Presently, Ruma-Kukar Jangarai Forest is one of the largest forests in Nigeria which stretch from Niger Republic through Jibia, Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas. The forest is mangrove savanna forest that evergreen through the seasons in some parts while other sections remained semi-dry. The density and extent of the forest has over the years reduced in many sections due to various human activities such as fuel wood exploitation, agricultural expansion, clearing land for settlement etc. There are many wild animals that were once found but most of them disappeared due to deforestation. Ladan, (2008)

Nigeria in the last thirty years had been losing on the average, about 23,00ha of gazette forest estate per arum through government dereservation. A clear example, The Army School of Artillery, The Nigerian

Defence Academy and The Police Mobile Training School have together claimed about 7,420 ha of forest reserves in Kaduna State. Adetunji, (2006). More so, urbanization and other developmental projects have consequently usurped a good proportion of farmlands forcing many communities to encroach on forestland. Due to population growth both farmers and herdsmen need land for cultivation and grazing respectively. According to Etukudo, the high rate of population growth in Nigeria has given rise to land use problems. This is further compounded by the drift of rural population to urban centres in greater demand for land, food, timber and other forest produce. Etukudo, (1994)

Causes of Forest Insecurity in Northern Nigeria

Insecurity in Northern Nigeria is not a new phenomenon because for almost a decade the region is facing serious security challenges ranges from rural banditry, communal clashes, religious conflicts, farmer-herdsmen conflicts border crises etc. Every state in the region faces one form of insecurity or the other. The nature of the insecurity varies from one state to another. The focus of this study is forest insecurity and the present situation is triggered by farmer-herdsmen crises which later metamorphosed into rural banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping, raping and other related social vices. All these crimes are associated with Fulani herdsmen who resided in the forest.

Some few decades back Fulani are known to be herders, grazing their cattle, while their women fermented milk and sell it to rural dwellers. (Tanko, (2002). In those days there was harmonious relationship between Fulani herdsmen and non Fulani communities around the forest, mostly Hausa people. The two communities relate and benefited with one another economically and socially. During the 1980s and 1990s herdsmen and farmers live together and mingled without any serious complain from either side. Even though there were reports of clashes between herdsmen and farmers, in almost every state of the Northern Nigeria. The leaders of communities often reconciled and mediate between their followers. Also, the extent and implications of those clashes were very minimal because there were no much reports of lost of lives or destruction of properties. In fact, what is seen today is completely different in terms of security challenges in Northern Nigeria.

There are several causes of forest insecurity in Northern Nigeria, the major ones being farmer-herdsmen clashes, illegal collection of firewood, lack of forest guards, lack of proper surveillance, poaching, encroachment, illegal farming, etc. In the first place farmer-herdsmen clashes has been the major cause of forest insecurity. As pointed above farmers and herdsmen have often clashes over control and land use. This phenomenon has since transformed into banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping. Fulani herdsmen who lost their cattle have resorted to embarked on such crimes in order to find a means of living. It is quite clear that grazing of cattle is the mainstay of the economy of the Fulani people. Today most of the Fulani did not possess cattle in their custody, due economic situation of the country. Thus, most of them joined banditry and rustle cattle in order to regain their wealth. Most of them did not consider these criminal activities as offence rather a way of recovering their cattle and reengaged in grazing which they inherited from their ancestrs..

Secondly, forests today have become ungoverned spaces; as the large forest estate is not adequately manage by the authorities. There is abundant forest in Northern Nigeria which is abandoned for quite long. For instance, since the abandonment of the Range Management Scheme in the Ruma-Kukar Jangarai Forest Reserve, by Former Kaduna State Government, the forest reserve lost it status. The vegetation was cleared given way for farming, fuel wood collection and poaching.. Inuwa, (1983). Due the absence of forest guards and poor management of forests, the situation allows gangs of criminal to hide easily within the forest. This enabled them to carry out attacks on the fringing communities, which resulted in unwanted consequences.

Thirdly, illegal activities create avenue for crises to partake within the forests of Northern Nigeria. Activities such as mining, poaching and deforestation have often resulted in the situation where by government lose control of forests. Deforestation is a phenomenon that triggered conflicts in relation to forestry. Due to population growth both farmers and herdsmen need land for grazing and cultivation. This has given way to land use problems. This is further compounded by the drift of rural population to urban

centres in greater demand for food, land, timber, and other forest products. Etukudu, (1994). Besides deforestation, forests are very dangerous and pose security threat to human life. Forests by their nature can be security threat as thieves, criminals, armed rebels, rebels, insurgents and terrorists can use them in carrying out their activities in one way or the other.

Economic Impact of Forest Insecurity in Danmusa Local Government Area

Generally forest insecurity affects economic growth and development negatively. The affected areas have experienced major economic and social consequences. Danmusa Local Government Area is not exceptional in this regard. This is because all sectors of the economy such as trade, agriculture, local Markets, loss of jobs, low income, ecotourism, low economic growth are seriously affected. This has threatens peaceful coexistence, and discourage business. It is quite clear that forests are important resources with uncountable number of economic potentials. They enhance eco-tourism, source of food, fuel wood, medicinal value, boost local economy due to the emergence of forest markets. Thus, forest insecurity in the study area impacted negatively on the economy of the fringing communities.

Decline in Ecotourism

Forests are good potentials for eco-tourism through waterfalls, wildlife and other good scenery. This potentials attracted tourist to the areas where these natural endowments exist. Government generates revenue; rural dwellers secure mini jobs, and income. The forest estate in Danmusa local Government Area is endowed with such tourism potentials. These include Dunya waterfalls, presence of wild life like elephants, antelopes, hyena, zebra, giraffe etc. In those days especially in the 1980s and 1990s tourist from different parts of the country visited the area for tourism activities. Also, researches from national institutions and governments officials often visited the area for research purposes. In addition, some international institutions paid visit for educational researches and eco-tourism.

Nowadays, due to insecurity in the area all these tourist opportunities are no longer there. All the wild animals had left for other forests such as Shamushalle in Sokoto State, Falgore in Kano State and Kamuku in Kaduna Stste. (interview with Baushi Rabilu). Meanwhile Dunya, waterfalls which received tourist during 1980s and 1990s is no attractive. Tourists are no longer interested in visiting its sites. This is due insecurity for fear of bandit attack who have already established many dangerous camp adjacent Dunya Waterfalls. An informant revealed that sometimes back tourists including European visited Dunya rock for research in order to explore its mineral deposits. However, due to insecurity visitors have today not been seen in Dunya out rightly. (interview with Abdulhamid Dunya). Consequently, eco-tourism has affected the economy and social set up of Danmusa Local Government Area negatively.

Destruction of Agriculture

Agriculture has been the mainstay of the economy of the rural dwellers in Northern Nigeria for quite long. Most people rely on agriculture to source their means of livelihood. Today, in Danmusa Local Government Area farmers have abandoned their farms due to the activities of bandits around its forests. Farmers are afraid of bandit's attacks or, kidnapping which requires huge money before securing released. This has greatly reduced agricultural production and business in the area. Farmers in Danmusa Local Government are famous producers of Beans, guinea corn, maize, soya beans, groundnuts, cotton. Buyers of grains from across Nigeria often visiting Danmusa, especially from Dawanua in Kano and some markets of Niger State. Abubakar Muddaha maintains that, Danmusa and Yantumaki markets, the two major markets in the local government supply tons of groundnut and maize to other markets of Northern Nigeria every week. (interview with Abubakar Muddaha). Consequently, due to increase of banditry in the area, grain business have declined and this has rendered many farmers jobless and most of them left in order to expolre better areas of agricultural investment. This has also affected the economy of the area because many people lost their jobs, especially labourers who work on daily basis to earn a means of living . One of the labourers in Yantiumaki market have lamented on the present condition which they found themselves today. (interview with Shehu Sani)

Decline of Grazing Activities

Grazing has been a major economic activity in Danmusa for quite long. Fulani herdsmen have grazed their cattle and other domestic animals in the area. This is a lucrative economic activity that brings huge wealth to the people. Fulani people do not know anything beside pastoralist. Thus, they engage into the venture as their mainstay of the economy and they are doing well in it. They sell meat to butchers while their women fermented milk and sell in the towns. Over a decade grazing activates have witnessed setback as a result of forest insecurity in the area. Most of the cattle had been theft by bandits due to frequent attacks. Presently, all the cattle that are roaming in the forest belonged to bandits, since they did not allow anybody who is not a Fulani by tribe to own a single cow. Alhaji Rufaí a cttle herder in Kulere, disclosed that bandits had stolen his cattle, leaving him in abject poverty. He added that the only way to own a single cattle is to join the bandits otherwise they will not allow you to keep them in your custody.(interview with Alhaji Rufaí Kulere). Presently, the decline of the grazing activity in Danmusa has affected the economy of the area. This is because the revenue generated from the cattle markets of Danmusa and Yantumaki is no more feasible. In fact, some all the cattle markets are closed down by government hen security situation improve in the area.

Closure of Local Markets and Decline of Business

Activities of armed bandits in Katsina State and other parts of Northern Nigeria led to the closure of markets and declining of business. In Danmusa Local Governmrnt Area the issue is the same. Most of the markets are closed and business stopped abruptly. For example, Maidabino , Yarmalamai, and Mara markets all in Danmusa Local Government have since closed down due to insecurity. Also, the two big markets of Yantumaki and Danmusa have been affected by the activities of armed bandits. Many traders have stop patronizing them because of the risk of losing their business and wealth..In fact, businesses operating in the area have been closed or relocated leading to jobs lost and reduced economic opportunities. Generally forest insecurity has hampered economic growth and development in Danmusa Local Government Area. It discourage investment, destroyed properties worth million of naira, displaced people, destroyed agriculture, affected government expenditure, created unemployment and destroyed economic and social infrastructures

Social Impact of Forest Insecurity in Danmusa Local Governrment Area

For quite long forests communities, have been living together in mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. Various activates continued to flourishes between those fringing communities and have resulted in economic and social development. Fulani herdsmen and Hausa craftsmen are the predominant communities around the forest reserves of Danmusa local Government Area. The Fulani provides meat, milk and forest foods. On the other hand Hausa people. For over a decade forest insecurity began in some parts of Katsina State, it started as a minor issue and later transformed into a complex phenomenon.

Due to escalating activities of Bandits, some areas became under their control. The fact is that Nigerian Forests have turned into ungoverned spaces, and around 1990's forest the status of forest changes. This is due to the negligence of government and poor attitude of people perhaps resulted in severe depletion of forest estate and its resources. Also, between 2013 and 2014 over three hundred herds of cow were stolen at Unguwar Malamai village adjacent Dajin Rubu Musbahu, (2016).

Many projects intended to improve the welfare of the people could not be executed in Danmusa Local Government. These includes road construction, dams construction, schools renovation projects, provision of medical facilities, provision of adequate water etc. A clear example is that construction of feeder road from Danmusa to Yartsamiya in Kankara Local Government was hindered by forest insecurity. The road which was supposed to be constructed since the Governor Aminu Masari's administration 2015-2023, has not been carried out up to this period. Sources revealed that survey for the construction of the road had been carried out since 2017. (Interview with Kabir Bala Yantumaki)

Another major social impact of forest insecurity in Danmusa Local Government is loss of lives. Many innocent people were killed due to forest insecurity and this is not peculiar to Danmusa, rather it is a general phenomenon that affected many parts of Katsina State. At the initial stage ordinary and common

people were the main victims, however, as time goes on important personalities including traditional rulers, politicians, businessmen and Islamic clerics were among those that lost their lives, due to persistent insecurity related to forestry. Two years back Emir of Gobir, of Sabon Birnin in Sokoto State was captured by armed bandits and later brutally killed. In addition, many retired army officers including generals were abducted and lost their lives while in custody of bandits. More so, some few months back Major Genearal Rabe Abubakar (rtd) and his wife were abducted around Jikamshi town, in Musawa Local Government Area of Katsina State. Later the retired Nigerian Army spokes person was killed by his abductees following the recovery of his body in Karaduwa village of the same Musawa Local Government Area. (Interview with Rufaí Bature).

Between the year 2023 and 2025 hundreds of innocent people were killed in Danmusa Local Government Area. Within this period there was no accurate data, on the number of people being killed in the local government area. This is because there is no official records form the local authority to supplement the information from the rural population. However, there is no doubt many people lost their lives through forest insecurity and this involved Hausa communities, innocent Fulani herdsmen and bandits themselves. Within every town and village of Danmusa Local Government, some people lost their lives due to banditry often associated with forestry. The bandits carried out night attacks on towns and villages which resulted in killing of innocent people. In major towns of the local government such as, Danmusa, Yantumaki, Mara, Maidabino and Dan'áli bandits carried our surprise attacks on them and resulted in lost of lives. For example between June, 2020 and March, 2021 bandits killed fifteen people from Yardanko, Jirga, Tashar Kaura, and Daccin Daji all under Yantuamaki village area. Musbahu, (2021).

For example in 2024, bandits, about hundred in number attack Danmusa, the local government headquarters around 8: PM. The attackers were alleging to be under the Kamilu Buzaru, a suspected bandit leader who based in the remote areas of Mara, in Danmusa Local Government Area. During the attack bandit invaded Danmusa town where they began to shot indiscriminately. This had resulted in the killing of about seven people and they included a police officer and former local government chairman. (Interview with Shamsu Garba). Earlier on, in 2019, marauders who were suspected to be armed bandits surrounded Gurzar Kuka village in Danmusa Local Government during the night attack and it was reported that more than fifty people were killed, domestic animals were burnt and many houses were set ablaze. Also, on 6th June 2020, bandits from the Yantumaki forest stormed the compound of the District Head of Yantumaki, around 12 PM. This was a sad incident that sparked off reactions not only in Yantumaki, but in the whole Danmusa local government area. During the attacked, the District Head of Yantumaki, Alhaji Abu Atiku Maidabino and a watch man, Malam Gambo Chakau were killed after they sustained gun shots. Musbahu, (2021). Similarly, around 2024, bandits from Dunya forest carried out night attack on Maidabino town. Even though security personnel made a very serious effort, the attack resulted in the killing of many innocent people,. As pointed earlier, almost every town and village of Danmusa Local Government Area experienced one form or another of bandits attack. Also, the number of people being killed cannot be ascertain, however, it is pertinent to note that thousands of people lost their lives in the local government. Forest insecurity in Danmusa did not only resulted in the killing of civilian population, many security personnel lost their lives. Among them were army officers, civilian joint task force, police officers, community watch corps and vigilante personals

Besides killing of innocent people, raping of women especially house wives became rampant across the Danmusa Local Government Area. Whenever bandits carry out attack on a town or village they raped women instantly or took them to forest where they continue harassing them sexually until when their ransom was paid. Due to sexual harassments many married and single women lost their lives while some got unwanted pregnancy. There is no exact number or any official records of rape cases in the local government, however, sources revealed that hundreds of women were raped at different occasions and there were reports of rape cases from almost all the villages of the local government area.

Another social impact of forest insecurity is displacement of people and mass exodus of people from the rural areas to urban places. People often relocate to more secured areas, while others were displaced

without anywhere to go. Family members were separated due to the increasing activities of bandits in many parts of Danmsa Local Government Area.

The Way Forward

The major way to curtail the forest insecurity is for government to take full control of the forest estate and modify forestry laws of the country. In the first place, armed forest guards should be employed and adequately armed to enable them to eject all criminals in the forests. Community intelligent and vigilante can help in mitigating forest insecurity. This process is timely and necessary at this moment because local communities have the proper knowledge about the hideouts of the criminal more than the military or police personnel that are deployed to forests. Recruiting local vigilante and intelligence gatherers could help the security personnel to easily locate the criminals in forests. More so, local armed group are familiar with the terrain and therefore in the better position to fight against the criminals if they were better armed. There should also synergy between the security personnel and local armed group for better result in the fight against forest insecurity.

Another major way of tackling forest insecurity is the resettlement of Fulani herdsmen. Herdsmen experience hardships as a result of constant movement in search for abundant pasture. The mobile nature of Fulani herdsmen exposed them to open clashes with the farmers who hva already encroached into grazing area. Also, most of the cattle routes have disappeared which makes very difficult for herdsmen to move their cattle to the grazing areas. This situation made herdsmen to cross into farmlands, a development that attracts the anger of the farmers. Settling down herdsmen was practiced by former North Central State at the Ruma-Kukar Jangarai Grazing Reserve. The scheme was successful and yielded fruitful results. The Range Management Scheme helped tremendously in settle down large number of Fulani and their cattle. Musbahu, (2017). In line with this government should rearing centres in order to resettle herdsmen as a replacement to the conventional method of cattle rearing.

Nomadic schools should be established across the Danmusa Local Government and Katsina State in general. This will help in educating herdsmen and inculcate the good virtues to the young chaps so as to be good in the society. Education is a key element in life; it teaches morality, discipline, patriotism and self cautiousness. It is apparent that Fulani herdsmen are lagging behind in terms of Islamic and western Education. Most people believe that wide range of illiteracy among Fulani has contributed to the occurrence of some of the conflicts with farmers and forest insecurity in general.

Dialogue is another important way of addressing the menace of forest insecurity. Many people believe that coercive or military action cannot tackle insecurity; therefore using dialogue is the best alternative. Thus, the effort of Katsina State Committee on preventing farmer-herdsmen conflicts should not be ignored. Instated the committee should be overhaul and given more powers to ensure sustainable peace and order are restored. Presently in Danmusa Local Government peace agreement was signed between the communities and herdsmen and it has been in practice for more than a year. The peace deal has yielded positive results because since it was signed in last year, no case of murder or kidnapping is reported. However, there are some frictions that usually occur, but they people are enjoying the relative peace that exists as a result of the dialogue between Fulani and Farmers.

Agro-forestry farming is another way of addressing forest insecurity. Since grazing and cultivating lands are so scarce, hence, the need for the introduction of agro-forestry farming is timely and unprecedented. Agro-forestry involves raising of food crops and economic trees on the same land. The farming is more profitable and can be practice during both rainy and dry seasons. It helps farmers to produce large quantity on a small piece of land. This system could provide lasting solution to farmer-herdsmen conflicts since it does not require huge land before it could take place. Thus, agro-forestry can mitigate the hunger of grazing and cultivating land for herdsmen and farmers respectively.

CONCLUSION

Forest insecurity occurs due to lack of proper and standard policies to administer the resources. During colonial era forest resources were under protective custody and were managed efficiently. There were forestry laws that functioned well, as such, up to the early independence period forests in Nigeria, were in

their natural formation. The vegetation was intact, and wild life was very smooth. Around the 1980s and 1990s the situation change where as vegetation was cleared to give way for farming and fuel wood extraction. The wild life was endangered as most of the species went extinct. This is due poor attitude of government towards the resources and eventually forests turned into ungoverned spaces.

The study addresses the menace of forest insecurity in Danmusa Local Government and Northern Nigeria. The phenomenon is alarming and has far reaching consequences on the polity, economy and social endeavours. It is pertinent to note that maintaining stability and combating forest insecurity is a collective effort of affected communities and government. Although there is no conflict free society, however, government the needful to bring to an end to all forms of forest insecurity before they throw the country into chaos and civil unrest. Critical study of forest insecurity could be a panacea to all forms of security challenges in Northern Nigeria. Meanwhile overhauling of the Nigeria's security architecture is a key element in combating terrorism in the Nigeria's ungoverned spaces.

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APPENDIX

List of Informants

No.	Name	Occupation	Age	Place / Date
1	Salmanu Abubakar	Village Head	66	Yantumaki
2	Rabilu Baushi	Hunter	60	Yantumaki
3	Abdulhamid Dunya	Farmer	40	Danmusa
4	Alh. Rufaí Kulere	Herder	65	Kulere
5	Abubakar Muddaha	Business	30	Danmusa
6	Shehu Sani	Labourer	40	Yantumaki
7	Waziri Yusuf	Palace Official	72	Yantumaki
8	Abdullahi Abubakar	Palace Official	54	Yantumaki
9	Ahmed Danmusa	Civil Servant	56	Danmusa
10	Sani Iliya	Civil Servant	50	Yardorowa
11	Aminu Bawa	Ward Head	43	Maidabino
12	Tukur Rufaí	Farmer	36	Kanawa
13	Kabir Bala Zango	Politician	30	Zango
14	Rufaí Bature	Security Officer	32	Danmusa
15	Shamsu Garba	Civil Servant	48	Danmusa
16	Yusuf Kanawa	Farmer	42	Rugar Gyada
17	Suleman Ibrahim	Forest Guard	30	Yantumaki