Finance and Business Economics Review

Vol. 9, No.3, September 2025, pp. 157-169
DOI : 10.58205/fber.v9i3.2015

An Analytical Study of the State of Local Development in the Province of El Tarf – Algeria

Labed brinis cherifa [1], Chebli Dounya [2]

[1]*Sustainable Local Development Laboratory: Agriculture, Rural Development and Ecotourism, Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Management Sciences, University of Chadli Bendjedid-El Tarf, Algeria; labed-b-cherifa@univ-eltarf.dz*
[2] *Faculty of Economic, Commercial and Management Sciences, University of Chadli Bendjedid-El Tarf, Algeria; d.chebli@univ-eltarf.dz*

Article Information

Article history
Received: 21 December 2024
Accepted: 21 September 2025
Published: 30 September 2025

Corresponding Author
Labed brinis cherifa
Email:
labed-b-cherifa@univ-eltarf.dz

Copyright© 2025, University center of Abdelhafid Boussof, Mila. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license.

Suggested Citation
Labed Brinis, C & Chebli, D (2025). An Analytical Study of the State of Local Development in the Province of El Tarf – Algeria, Finance and Business Economics Review, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 157-169.
DOI: 10.58205/fber.v9i3.2015

Abstract: This analytical study aims to examine the current state of local development in the province of el Tarf-Algeria by presenting and analyzing the main existing economic sectors in the province, such as the agricultural sector, the tourism sector, and the industrial and institutional sector. The SWOT analysis of local development in El Tarf Province revealed that the region is endowed with natural resources, biodiversity, and tourism potential. However, it suffers from weak infrastructure. Opportunities lie in the development of ecotourism and sustainable agriculture, while the main threats are environmental degradation and unemployment. The study proposes recommendations; the most important of wish are strengthening local capacities, improving governance to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development in the province of El Tarf.

Keywords: Enterprises; Industry; Local Development; SWOT Analysis; Tourism.

1.Introduction

The study of local development is essential for understanding the economic, social, and environmental dynamics that shape a region. In the context of the province of El Tarf, located in the northeastern part of Algeria, this topic holds particular significance due to the numerous opportunities and challenges the region faces. Rich in natural resources, notably its vast forests, wetlands, and potential for ecotourism, fishing, and agriculture, El Tarf has undeniable assets for sustainable development. However, structural constraints, such as the lack of infrastructure and persistent poverty, hinder the full exploitation of this potential.

This analytical study aims to thoroughly examine the reality of local development in this province by identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that influence its evolution. Consequently, we have adopted the SWOT method, relying on local data, with the objective of proposing insights and recommendations to improve the planning and management of local development in El Tarf.

1.1 Study Problem

Based on the above, the main research problem can be highlighted by posing the following key question:

What is the current state of local development in the province of El Tarf?

To address the research problem, the following sub-questions are posed:
The following sub-questions fall under this problem:

- What is the current state of infrastructure in the province of El Tarf, and how does it affect the achievement of local development?
- What opportunities exist to enhance investment in the tourism, agriculture, and industrial sectors in the province of El Tarf?
- What are the main challenges affecting local development in the province of El Tarf?
- What are the requirements for activating local development in the province of El Tarf?

1.2 Study Objective

This study aims to analyze the current state of local development in the province of El Tarf to identify the opportunities available in various economic sectors (agriculture, tourism, and industry) to achieve sustainable local development by leveraging available opportunities and overcoming existing challenges.

1.3 Study Boundaries

- Spatial Boundaries: The study is limited to analyzing the reality of local development in the province of El Tarf, as it is an area rich in natural resources and economic potential.

- Temporal Boundaries: The study focuses on recent years, starting from 2016, with greater emphasis on the period from 2021 to 2023, with statistics varying based on the data reported by different directorates within the province.

1.4 Literary Review

-Study by Coudel, (2009): Formation and Learning for Territorial Development: Crossed Perspectives between Knowledge Economy and Management Science, Reflections from an Experience of a Farmer's University in Brazil, Doctoral thesis, Graduate School: Economics and Management of Montpellier - ED 231.

This study explored how to support local actors in becoming part of regional governance. The central hypothesis focused on how such support can influence local development by emphasizing the human, social, and institutional capital of the actors involved. The study concluded that local relationships are fostered through training and the creation of a regional network of diverse actors who share a common vision for developing their territories.

- Study by Abboudi Nada and Ffoura Mohamed, (2018): Sustainable Local Economic Development: From Development to Sustainable Development. The Case of Guelma (Eastern Algeria), Article published in the Journal of Advanced Economic Studies, Vol (08).

This study aimed to highlight the opportunities available in the Guelma region to achieve sustainable local economic development by leveraging existing resources. The study concluded with positive results, encouraging sustainable local development in the province, particularly in terms of work or investment opportunities.

- **Study by Zalatou Naima, (2018**): The role of the Local Community In Managing Local Development, Case of the Oran Municipalities, Article published in the Journal of Shu'aa Economic Studies, Issus N°4.

This study aimed to assess the potential for local development under the current conditions of the local authorities in the province of Oran. It focused on the key factors contributing to economic development, particularly the role of municipalities and local communities. The study concluded that in-depth research is needed for each province to explore available economic opportunities, including natural and human resources, infrastructure, and to identify and address weaknesses to achieve local development.

2. Local Development

2.1 The Concept of Local Development

Several definitions of local development have been provided, including: Initially considered as small-scale development, local development gradually engaged with the concept of territory. It emerged as a response to the centralized Fordist system of development, aiming to create jobs and economic growth at the local level (Coudel, 2009). Local development is a strategy focused on strengthening the capacities of local actors and their driving forces, which translate government policies. The state, as a key actor serving local communities, allows the independence of this system to negotiate with its environment (Amina, 2022, p. 481).

International Labour Office (ILO) Defines local development as creating a participatory environment that strengthens local institutions capacities to implement socially inclusive and employment-generating interventions. (International Labour Office (ILO)).

Local development is characterized by a shift from a reactive, crisis-response approach to a preventive one, aiming to facilitate the adaptation of local economic and human structures to internal and external challenges (Angeon & Callois, 2005, p. 21).

2.2 Conditions for Local Development

The success of a local development approach depends on several prerequisites, which are grouped as follows:

- Understanding of the territory: Knowledge of the customs, traditions, and local population is essential for targeting and achieving the desired development (Baghdad & Mustapha, 2014, p. 370).
- Legislative framework: The promulgation of laws and regulations that support the integration and accompaniment of the desired development process is necessary.
- Existence of a local community: The participation and involvement of the population are crucial for any local development initiative. It is essential to adequately educate citizens about the roles they can play in contributing to local development and their society.
- Partnerships: Establishing partnerships is essential for local development. This involves collaboration among groups from the private, public, and community sectors, often with conflicting interests. True partnerships must be established between all stakeholders, particularly between political authorities and socio-economic partners.
- Enabling environment: A favorable climate for collaboration and community action is necessary for local development.
- Organizational process: A favorable environment for action often emerges through a process of organization and reflection. This process allows setting common objectives, establishing plans, and focusing efforts in the same direction. It also ensures harmonious coexistence with the socio-administrative environment and fosters positive interaction between formal and informal structures (Zalatou, 2018, pp. 11-12).

3. Local Development in the Province of El Tarf

3.1 General Overview of the Province of El Tarf

El Tarf is a relatively new administrative region, covering an area of 2,912.65 km². It is divided into 7 districts and 24 municipalities, with a population of 495,685. It is bordered to the north by the Mediterranean Sea, to the east by the Tunisian border, to the west by the province of Annaba, and to the south by the provinces of Guelma and Souk Ahras. The border zone of El Tarf includes eight municipalities, with a population of 103,814, which represents 22% of the province's total population, spread across an area of 873.97 km², equivalent to 30% of the province's total area. The border municipalities are: El Ayoun, Ramel Souk, Souarekh, Ain El Assel, Zitoune, Bougous, AinKerma, and Bouhadjar (Directorate of Programming and Budget Monitoring, Province of El Tarf, 2023).

The province's terrain is divided into three distinct regions, each featuring diverse areas that form three agricultural, touristic, and forested characteristics:

- The Plains and Low Hills: Covering 57,000 hectares, or 20% of the province's total area, this region includes the municipalities of Ain El Assel, El Tarf, Lake Birds, Ben M'Hidi, Besbes, Zrezer, El Chatt, Deraa, and Chebaita Mokhtar. This region, with its potential, is the most

exposed to socioeconomic development, although it faces population pressures due in large part to rural migration.

- The Dunes Area: Covering 12,000 hectares, or 4% of the province's total area, this region includes the municipalities of El Chatt, Berihan, El Kala, and Souarekh. It is known for its intensive cultivation of peanuts and livestock farming.
- The Mountainous Area: Covering 220,000 hectares, or 20% of the province's total area, this region is characterized by rugged mountain ranges, low population density, and extensive agriculture, especially in remote and isolated rural areas.

Climatic conditions vary from north to south, with the climate being semi-humid, hot, and humid.

3.2 Infrastructure of El Tarf Province

The province of El Tarf benefits from a variety of essential facilities and services that form the material foundation for its economy and society.

3.2.1 Education Sector: As of 2023, El Tarf Province has an educational network consisting of 281 primary schools, 80 middle schools, and 35 high schools. New projects have been launched to build schools and school canteens in several municipalities, funded by the state budget and the Solidarity and Guarantee Fund for Local Authorities. The pace of implementation varies between slow and satisfactory, with authorities monitoring progress to ensure deadlines are met. (El Tarf Directorate of Education, 2024).

3.2.2 Higher Education and Scientific Research Sector: Chadli Bendjedid University in El Tarf hosts more than 7,000 students supervised by 558 university professors. However, despite the progress achieved, it still suffers from a lack of modern facilities and essential equipment to support education and research. (University of Chadli Bendjedid, El Tarf, 2024).

3.2.3 Infrastructure: The road network in the province extends over a total length of 1,596.273 kilometers. The network is structured as follows:

- National roads: 300.123 km, equivalent to 18.81% of the total network.
- Provincial roads: 294.90 km, or 18.47%.
- Municipal roads: 1,001.25 km, representing 62.72%.
- East-West Highway: 1,216 km, forming an important part of the infrastructure and facilitating traffic flow.

Overall, the province’s road network is quite dense and provides satisfactory service to all population centers. However, its condition remains average and requires maintenance. The province of El Tarf has allocated a financial package for road maintenance and for addressing some infrastructure projects for the period 2020-2022.

In response to forest fires, the ministry allocated 10 helicopter landing stations, with the province of El Tarf benefiting from the construction of the "Si Bounamoussa" helicopter landing station in the Shafiah municipality near the Shafiah Dam, at a cost of 88,439,852.00 DZD (Directorate of Public Works, Province of El Tarf, 2023).

3.2.4 Water Resources: The hydraulic infrastructure of the province consists of 3 dams with a total capacity of 259 million m³, including the Makssa Dam with a capacity of 32 million m³, the Majuda Dam in Bougous with a capacity of 72 million m³, and the Shafiah Dam with a capacity of 155 million m³. There are also 103 wells with a flow rate of 2,875 m³, and 186 reservoirs with a flow rate of 37,128 m³. This makes the province of El Tarf possess significant water resources, estimated at 89,867 hectares/year, mainly represented by surface and groundwater, estimated at 29,858 hectares/year and 60,009 hectares/year, respectively, with a mobilizable volume of about 89,867 hectares/year (Directorate of Agricultural Services, Province of El Tarf, 2022).

4. The State of Local Development in the Province of El Tarf

The province of El Tarf boasts several important resources that enable it to achieve sustainable local development, provided that sufficient financial support is available and efforts are coordinated among all stakeholders to support the development projects in the province.

4.1 Agricultural Activity in the Province of El Tarf

The province of El Tarf has substantial agricultural potential, with the total agricultural area estimated at 84,031 hectares. The arable land amounts to 74,173 hectares, which represents 88.26% of the total agricultural area, of which 15,232 hectares are irrigated (18% of the agricultural area). Pastures and roads cover 8,518 hectares, accounting for 10.14% of the total agricultural area. Non-productive land is estimated at 1,340 hectares, or 1.6% of the total agricultural area. Additionally, the mountainous area spans 166,113 hectares, representing only 22.42% of the total area (Directorate of Programming and Budget Monitoring, Province of El Tarf, 2023).

The province also possesses a forest wealth, covering approximately 57% of the province's total area. Among the trees exploited from this wealth are cork and eucalyptus. The province is characterized by the cultivation of cereals, fodder, tomatoes, and vineyards, as well as cattle farming, beekeeping, and poultry farming. El Tarf has a significant livestock wealth, consisting mainly of thousands of heads of cattle, sheep, and goats. In 2022, there were 83,810 cattle, 162,335 sheep, and 41,845 goats. The recorded livestock production during the 2020/2021 period amounted to 29,632 quintals of red meat and 14,230 quintals of white meat. Milk production is estimated at 39,845 hectoliters (Directorate of Agricultural Services, Province of El Tarf, 2022).

The province has benefited from several funds directed toward the agricultural sector under government development programs, managed by the National Agricultural Development Fund. These programs have supported the development of the agricultural sector by acquiring agricultural equipment and investing in agricultural fertilizers, with the support reaching 50% in 2022. The same percentage of support was also applied to the acquisition of forage seeds and the production of fodder in the same year (Directorate of Agricultural Services, Province of El Tarf, 2022).

El Tarf enjoys rich marine resources, making fishing one of the important sectors, thanks to its coastline extending over 90 kilometers. The Mediterranean Sea in this region offers a variety of fish and seafood resources. The table below summarizes the key marine products for the year 2021.

Table .01. Fish Production in El Tarf Province in 2021

Production	Quantity (kg/year)
White fish	652,392 kg
Blue fish	3,007.19 kg
Crustaceans	147,365 kg
Mollusks	13,440 kg
Total	813,197 kg

Source: Directorate of fisheries and Aquaculture services , Province of El Tarf, 2022.

The registered fish production for 2021 was approximately 813,197 kg, including 652,392 kg of white fish, 3,007.19 kg of blue fish, and 160,805 kg of crustaceans and mollusks. This production is attributed to a fleet consisting of 734 boats in the same year, including 14 fishing vessels, 64 sardine boats, 176 small boats, and 3 coral boats (Directorate of fisheries and Aquaculture services , Province of El Tarf, 2022).

4.2. Tourism Activity in the Province of El Tarf

The province of El Tarf is known for its touristic character and environmental diversity, in addition to its rich tourism assets, particularly the coastline, which stretches for 90 kilometers and contains five areas designated for tourism expansion, as well as 25 beaches that further enrich the province's mosaic. Currently, 15 of these beaches are guarded and authorized for swimming due to their clear waters and clean golden sands. These include: Misda Beach, Aouinat Beach, Mallah Beach, Jebel Beach, Coral Beach, Old El Kala Beach, Golden Sands Beach, Summit Roza Beach, Grand Beach, Baleh Beach, Hanaya Beach, Derawish Beach, Western Batah Beach, Sabi Beach, and Misda El Chatt Beach (Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, Province of El Tarf, 2024https://el-tarf.mta.gov.dz/).

The province also contains four lakes, among the 26 wetland areas in Algeria: Lake Tonga, Lake Oubeira, Lake Mallah, and Lake Birds, in addition to natural sites, mineral springs, and natural baths. Furthermore, it boasts a rich history, with archaeological landmarks that remain standing as witnesses to the various civilizations that have passed through the area. There are over 132 prehistoric sites belonging to different civilizations. Some of the most significant nationally recognized archaeological sites include the Chal and Maurice monument in Ain El Assel, the French Fort site in Old El Kala, the archaeological site of Lalla Fatima Palace in El Ayoun, the Moulin Castle monument, and the Saint Cyprien Church monument in El Kala. The province is also home to one of the largest and most beautiful mosques, the Al-Furqan Mosque, which was built on the ruins of a church that was demolished after the French colonial exit to make way for the mosque's construction.

The diversity of natural and environmental settings—sea, forests, lakes, sand dunes, plains, and mountains—has significantly influenced the variety of wildlife, depending on the nature of the area. Noteworthy rare animals include the Barbary deer in the southern and eastern forests, eel fish in the large lakes (Tonga, Oubeira, and Mallah), the white-headed duck (at Lake Birds and Tonga), and the pink stork.

The province of El Tarf is also renowned for two primary resources: coral and briarwood, which have spurred a traditional industry with a reputation extending beyond national borders.

The city of El Kala offers entertainment and leisure facilities such as the animal park and the "Barabtia" water park, which houses rare lions, tigers, and other animals. It also features the Tonga recreational forest and an open-air theater, making it a prime tourist destination. Other recreational spots in the province of El Tarf include the Ain El Assel recreational forest and the Gargour recreational forest in Bouthelja (Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, Province of El Tarf, 2024 https://el-tarf.mta.gov.dz/).

As for hotel occupancy rates in the province of El Tarf, there has been a noticeable increase in recent years, due to the rising number of hotel establishments, which reached 25 by the end of 2023. Improved service quality in many hotels and tourist facilities, alongside local authorities' efforts to promote El Tarf as a tourist destination, have also contributed to this growth. As shown in the table below, the number of visitors more than doubled in 2022 compared to 2021, reaching 23,695 visitors. The number slightly decreased in 2023 to 18,464 visitors. This influx supports the local economy and creates new job opportunities in the tourism sector, with hotel establishments providing 248 jobs in 2023.

Table. 2. Visitor Influx in Hotel Establishments and Accommodation Facilities in El Tarf Province

Year	Number of Hotel Establishments	Accommodation Capacity	Jobs Created	Visitors	Overnight Stays
2021	17	1,185	165	11,600	13,874
2022	22	1,995	218	23,695	27,100
2023	25	2,264	248	18,464	21,464

Source: Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, Province of El Tarf, 2024.

A large number of vacationers visit El Tarf province during the summer season, as shown in the table below:

Table .3. Number of Vacationers in El Tarf Province During the Summer Seasons of 2021, 2022, and 2023

Year	2023	2022	2021
Total Number of Beaches	29	28	28
Number of Beaches Open for Swimming	17	16	15
Number of Beaches Closed for Swimming	12	12	13
Number of Equipped Beaches	17	16	15
Number of Vacationers	2,111,515	3,586,635	1,947,800

Source: Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, Province of El Tarf, 2024.

It is evident from the table above that the number of vacationers increased from 1,947,800 in 2021 to 2,111,515 in 2023. This rise can be attributed to the development of beaches and the opening of new ones across the province. In 2023, there were 17 equipped beaches out of 29 total beaches.

As for the accredited tourism and travel agencies in the province, there are 30 accredited agencies, divided into 22 main agencies and 8 branches. These agencies attracted 2,947 tourists in 2023. They provide services that significantly contribute to promoting local tourism and raising awareness of the importance of the tourism sector in the local economy, as illustrated in the following table:

Table .4. Tourism and Travel Agencies in the Province of El Tarf

Total Number of Accredited Tourism and Travel Agencies	Main Tourism and Travel Agencies	Branch Tourism and Travel Agencies	Number of Tourism Agency Clients	Number of Tourist Guides
30	22	8	2,947	2

Source: Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, El Tarf Province, 2023.

Regarding the status of private tourism investment projects for 2024, a total of 42 projects have been approved by the ministerial committee. Out of these, 41 projects have obtained construction permits. Three projects are in the final stages and are expected to become operational during 2024. However, 11 projects have been proposed for cancellation. The following table shows the distribution of tourism investment projects for 2024 by location.

Table .5. Distribution of Tourism Investment Projects by Location

Projects by Location	Number of Projects
Tourism Investment Projects in the Batah Site, Ben M'HidiMunicipality (Concession Contracts), located within the "Western Mafrugh" Tourism Expansion Area.	7
Tourism Investment Projects in the Batah Site, Ben M'Hidi Municipality (Ownership Contracts), located within the "Western Mafrugh" Tourism Expansion Area.	7
Tourism Investment Projects in Cities and Urban Areas (Concession Contracts) outside Tourism Expansion Areas.	7
Tourism Investment Projects in Cities and Urban Areas (Ownership Contracts) outside Tourism Expansion Areas.	14
Tourism Investment Projects at Site El Chatt No. 01, El Chatt Municipality: (Concession Contracts) outside Tourism Expansion Areas.	3
Tourism Investment Projects at Site El Chatt No. 02, El Chatt Municipality: (Concession Contracts) located within the "Western Mafrugh" Tourism Expansion Area.	1
Tourism Investment Projects at Thermal Springs: (Concession Contracts) outside Tourism Expansion Areas.	3
Total	42

Source: Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, El Tarf Province,2024.

4.3 Industrial and Institutional Activity in the Province of El Tarf

4.3.1 Industrial Activity in El Tarf Province: The development of investment in the industrial and institutional sector will be presented by showcasing the progress of projects in both the public and private sectors, as well as within the framework of the National Agency for Microcredit Management and the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance in El Tarf province.

- Public Sector: The National Wood Company, a unit operating in the industrial wood sector (general carpentry materials).

- Private Sector: There are 24 private companies, the most notable of which include: SARL Al-Amal Bricks, SARL Cebous, SARL Biocar Algeria, SARL AnfaMedis, Hygieneva Factory, SARL Biolux / Pico, SARL Anfa Gif, Rayan Paper SARL, and Algerian Panels.

In terms of encouraging industrial activities, the province has one industrial zone and 11 activity zones spread across the province.

4.3.2 Institutional Activity in El Tarf Province: The development of investment in micro-enterprises in El Tarf Province will be presented by showcasing the progress of funded projects under the framework of both the National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM) and the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance in El Tarf Province.

- **Projects Funded by the National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM):**

The ANGEM funded several projects during the period from 2016 to 2020, with a total of 4,901 enterprises established. These projects were distributed across different economic sectors as follows:

Table .6. Enterprises Established under ANGEM by Sector of Activity for the Period 2016-2020 in El Tarf Province

Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agriculture	38	57	132	97	34
Public Works	37	52	92	83	23
Services	88	126	198	146	66
Micro-industries	489	545	697	638	466
Commerce	8	29	74	32	5
Handicrafts and Traditional Industries	98	128	187	147	89
Total	758	937	1,380	1,143	683

Source: Statistics provided by the National Agency for Microcredit Management, Province of El Tarf, 2023.

It is evident from the table that the micro-industries sector is the most attractive sector for young people to establish enterprises under the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Tarf Province. The second place is occupied by the handicrafts and traditional industries sector, which mainly includes activities such as blacksmithing, carpentry, and hairdressing. The services sector ranks third. Despite the province's comparative advantage as an agricultural region, the agriculture sector ranks lower, followed by public works and commerce.

Through the projects it funded, the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Tarf Province created several job opportunities. In 2020, 719 jobs were created with the establishment of 683 funded projects. Young people showed a preference for easier projects that could generate acceptable profits with lower costs. A significant number of jobs were created through these projects compared to 2016, which saw 386 jobs created from 758 funded projects.

- Projects Funded Under the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance (CNAC)

The number of projects funded by the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance increased during the period from 2016 to 2021, reaching a total of 1,708 newly established projects. These projects were distributed across various economic sectors as shown below:

Table 7: Distribution of Enterprises Created Under CNAC by Sector of Activity for the Period 2016-2021

Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Agriculture	49	104	105	313	120	115	806
Freelance Work	/	5	1	20	8	2	36
Services	25	8	10	16	5	10	74
Micro-industries	4	3	4	14	5	23	53
Construction and Public	/	3	4	8	9	4	28

Works							
Handicrafts and Traditional Industries	7	33	75	265	139	181	700
Fishing	2	2	1	3	/	/	8
Maintenance	/	/	/	/	1	2	3
Total	**87**	**158**	**200**	**639**	**287**	**337**	**1708**

Source: Statistics provided by the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance, El Tarf Province, 2023.

It is observed that there was an increase in the number of projects funded by the fund from 2016 to 2019, reaching 639 funded projects. This growth can be attributed to the government's facilitation measures and the role of support programs, which helped reduce difficulties and obstacles. However, from 2019 to 2020, there was a significant decline in the number of funded enterprises, primarily due to the freezing of many activities, particularly in the services sector, and the economic challenges the country faced in the last two years, exacerbated by the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.

From Table 7, we can see that the agriculture sector holds the highest priority for projects funded under the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance in El Tarf Province, with 806 funded projects during the period (2016-2021). This is due to the province's considerable agricultural potential and advantages. The second place is occupied by the handicrafts and traditional industries sector, with 700 projects during the same period. Most young people are attracted to low-risk, profitable projects that do not require high qualifications. In contrast, the sectors of freelance work, fishing, and maintenance rank lower. Despite the province's strong fishing potential, support for institutions in this field is limited due to a lack of interest from entrepreneurs.

Additionally, there is a proportional relationship between the projects established and the jobs created by the National Fund for Unemployment Insurance in El Tarf Province. In 2021, 694 jobs were created with the establishment of 810 funded projects. Young people showed a preference for quick-profit, low-risk projects that did not require high qualifications (National Unemployment Insurance Fund, Province of El Tarf, 2023).

5. Employment in El Tarf Province

The number of primary active population is estimated at 227,831, representing an activity rate of approximately 45.96%. The unemployment rate was estimated at around 20.96% in 2021. The highest levels of unemployment were recorded in the municipalities of Ben M'Hidi, El Kala, OuedZitoun, Bouthelja, and Lake Birds, with rates exceeding 23%. Employment in El Tarf Province is affected by several factors, including the overall economic situation, the province's infrastructure, and the prevailing economic sectors. The high unemployment rate, particularly among youth, is partly due to the limited availability of job opportunities and the skills required in the labor market, despite some opportunities existing in agriculture, tourism, and fishing.

The distribution of employed individuals by sector of activity in 2021 is illustrated in the following table:

Table. 8. Distribution of Employed Individuals by Sector of Activity in El Tarf Province

Sector of Activity	Number of Employees	Percentage
Administration	30,103	16.71
onstruction, Irrigation, and Public Works	33,669	18.7
Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry	34,287	19.04
Industry	26,328	14.62
Services	22,662	12.58
Commerce	26,935	14.96
Other Sectors	6,090	3.38
Total	180,074	100

Source: Directorate of Planning and Budget Monitoring, El Tarf Province, 2022.

The table above shows the distribution of workers by branch of economic activity in 2021. The majority belong to the agriculture, fishing, and forestry sector, accounting for 19.04% of the workforce. This sector is one of the most important sources of employment in El Tarf Province, which is renowned for producing various crops such as fruits and vegetables. However, work in this sector remains seasonal and unstable. The fishing activity also plays a pivotal role in the local economy, providing food and income for many families. It offers jobs for hundreds of fishermen, along with opportunities in the processing and distribution of marine products.

Following this, the construction, irrigation, and public works sector accounts for 18.70% of employment, serving as a key driver of the local economy. It contributes to improving infrastructure, thereby enhancing competitiveness in the province. Recently, this sector has seen the implementation of several projects in construction, roads, and irrigation, increasing the demand for labor.

In third place is the administrative sector, which employs 30,103 workers, most of whom are in the public sector, which has a relatively full employment rate, unlike the private sector in the province that still requires further expansion. The contributions of other sectors, such as industry, commerce, and services, are comparable but at lower percentages. Therefore, improving and activating these sectors is a key tool for combating unemployment and boosting the local economy in El Tarf Province.

6. Local Development Analysis in El Tarf Province Using the SWOT Method (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)

The SWOT analysis provides a comprehensive view of the region's potential and the challenges it faces. The table below presents a detailed analysis for the agriculture, tourism, industry, and institutional sectors.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Agriculture : - El Tarf Province has fertile agricultural land and a suitable climate for cultivating a variety of crops, including grains, vegetables, and fruits. - The availability of water resources (lakes and dams) supports agricultural activities. - There is local expertise in traditional agriculture and livestock farming, which bolsters local production and facilitates the development of inherited agricultural practices. - El Tarf Province exhibits a diversity of livestock activities, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, which enhances animal production and provides products like meat, milk, and hides. **Tourism:** -The richness of the region in stunning natural sites such as thenational park, forests, beaches, and wetland areas that encourageeco-tourism. - The presence of multiple natural reserves, such as the national park of ElKala, which has rich biodiversity, making the province an ideal destinationfor eco-tourism and nature enthusiasts. - Proximity to the Tunisian border, which facilitates attracting touristsfrom the neighboring country. **Industry and Institutions:** - Availability of opportunities to develop agricultural industriesand light industries.	**Agriculture :** - Weak agricultural infrastructure and lack of modern equipment. - Heavy reliance on traditional methods in agriculture, livestock farming, and fishing. - Low investment in agricultural technology (irrigation, mechanization) to improve productivity, along with a lack of modern facilities and equipment to support livestock farming and enhance production, such as slaughterhouses and cold storage facilities. - A shortage of developed ports and support facilities, such as fish processing plants and cold storage facilities, which hinders the potential for expansion and increased production. **Tourism:** - Lack of tourism promotion at both local and international levels. - Weak tourism infrastructure (hotels, recreational facilities, restaurants ,and access roads) that hinders access to natural sites. - Absence of significant investments in the tourism sector. - Scarcity of tourism specializations and specialized human resources in the field of tourism and related services. **Industry and Institutions:** - Weak industrial infrastructure (roads, ports, energy, and industrial zones).

.The presence of natural resources that can be utilized in localmanufacturing, such as agriculture (processing industries) and forestry (woodindustries). - Proximity of the province to the Mediterranean Sea and the Tunisian borderprovides opportunities for industrial and commercial exchange. - Availability of an industrial zone that can be developed to attractinvestments.	- Lack of specialized skills in the industrial sector. - Limited industrial diversification, as the province heavily relies on traditional industries. - Insufficient funding and investment in industrial projects.
Opportunities	**Threats**
Agriculture : - The potential to develop the agricultural sector using modern technology. - Development of alternative crops such as medicinal and aromatic plants that have export markets. - Utilization of national agricultural support programs to improve agricultural infrastructure and sustainability of water resources, alongside providing loans to farmers and livestock breeders. - Opening internal and external markets for agricultural products. Thanks to its proximity to the Tunisian border, El Tarf Province can benefit from trade facilitation to increase the export of fish and seafood to international markets. **Tourism :** - The potential to develop eco-tourism and cultural tourism byutilizing unique natural sites to attract more environmentally-consciousandadventure-seeking tourists. - Government support for sustainable tourism projects. - Attracting and encouraging investments in tourism infrastructure, such asthe construction of hotels and recreational facilities - to enhance thesector. Opening new markets to attract both foreign and local tourists. **Industry and Institutions:** - The potential to develop agricultural industry (canning, foodprocessing) to create added value. - Government support programs for micro, small, and medium enterprises. - Encouraging industrial investments by attracting investors to build advancedfactories and industrial zones, which can enhance the local economy andprovide new job opportunities.	**Agriculture :** - Climate fluctuations and potential drought that negatively impact production. - Environmental degradation due to the unsustainable use of natural resources and exploitation, leading to environmental deterioration and reduced soil fertility. - Shortage of trained labor alongside increasing migration from rural areas. -Urban and agricultural expansion may exert pressure on grazing lands and natural areas that livestock activities depend on. - Environmental pollution resulting from human activities, such as the uncontrolled disposal of waste into the sea, which leads to water and marine resource contamination, negatively affecting fish quality and the health of ecosystems. **Tourism:** - Environmental impacts (pollution, degradation of landscapes) resulting from unsustainable activities. - Climate change may negatively affect the natural environment, which is one of the key attractions for tourism in the province. - Lack of supportive policies for the development of the tourism sector ordelays in the implementation of large tourism projects. - Competition with more well-known tourist destinations both in Algeria andabroad. **Industry and Institutions:** Competition from other industrial zones in Algeria, as provinceswith advanced industrial infrastructure may attract significant industrialinvestments. - Unregulated industries that contribute to environmental pollution, threaten the sustainability of natural resources, and reduce the quality oflife. - Instability of raw material prices in international markets.

Based on the presented SWOT analysis, an integrated strategy can be formulated to achieve sustainable local development in El Tarf Province. This strategy focuses on addressing weaknesses, making the most of strengths, and seizing available opportunities. Its goal is to transform challenges into drivers of growth and prosperity.

- **Addressing Weaknesses**: Strengthening agricultural infrastructure through storage and cooling units, adopting modern techniques to boost productivity, and developing tourism

infrastructure by investing in eco-hotels and recreational facilities. This should be accompanied by road improvements and training programs to overcome the shortage of skilled labor.

- **Leveraging Strengths**: Utilizing natural resources (forests, beaches, and reserves) to develop eco- and cultural tourism, capitalizing on agricultural and livestock diversity to support agro-industries, and taking advantage of the strategic geographic location to enhance trade and tourism exchange.
- **Exploiting Opportunities**: Making use of government support programs for micro-enterprises and start-ups, integrating modern technology into agriculture and industry, opening new markets for local products, and developing sustainable tourism projects that preserve the environment.
- **Managing Threats**: Establishing an early warning system for climate phenomena, investing in water security, enforcing strict environmental protection and anti-pollution laws, and boosting competitiveness through innovative products and services.

To achieve genuine local development that meets the desired level, these elements must be integrated into a comprehensive vision. The province can adopt a model of eco-tourism that supports the local economy, while simultaneously developing the agricultural and industrial sectors and encouraging micro and emerging enterprises to serve as a key driver for employment and production. At the same time, it is essential to preserve the environment through pollution control, waste management, and the protection of natural resources, as they represent the fundamental capital upon which all aspects of the province's development are built.

7. Conclusion

The study and analysis of local development in El Tarf Province reveal significant potential and important challenges simultaneously. The province possesses rich natural resources, particularly in agricultural and environmental fields, providing promising opportunities for enhancing its economic growth. However, there are still barriers to achieving this growth, such as weak infrastructure and economic diversification, along with the need to improve coordination among local stakeholders. Therefore, it is essential to enhance investments, value local resources, and actively involve civil society in the decision-making process to ensure sustainable and inclusive local development.

These efforts will help El Tarf Province enter a balanced and sustainable growth trajectory that meets the needs of the population while preserving its natural wealth.

7.1 Study Results

Through the study and analysis of the local development situation in El Tarf Province, the following results were obtained:

- El Tarf Province has tremendous potential in the agricultural and environmental sectors, thanks to its fertile land, forests, and natural reserves such as the national park of El Kala.
- Despite the availability of natural resources, the province still suffers from a significant lack of basic infrastructure, including roads, transportation, water, and electricity networks, which hinders economic and social development.
- The local economy heavily relies on the agricultural sector, while other sectors such as tourism and industry experience slow growth, reducing job opportunities and overall economic development.
- There is weak effective coordination among local actors, such as local authorities, civil society, and investors, leading to delays in implementing development projects.

7.2 Recommendations

To overcome current challenges and capitalize on the available potential in El Tarf Province, we propose the following points:

- Strengthen investment in basic infrastructure to support economic activities and improve living conditions for residents.

- Reduce excessive reliance on the agricultural sector and develop other sectors such as eco-tourism and small-scale crafts to create new job opportunities.
- Work towards the sustainability of natural resources by implementing policies for sustainable resource management to protect the environment.
- Encourage investment in eco-tourism to attract more tourists.
- Improve coordination among local stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of development project implementation by establishing platforms for dialogue and participatory planning among local authorities, investors, and civil society.
- Invest in vocational training for youth and work to integrate marginalized groups, such as women and low-income individuals, into local development programs to reduce social disparities and promote inclusive growth.

8. Bibliography

- Amina, S. A. (2022). Mechanism of Applying the Participatory Approach to Achieve Local Development in Algeria. International Journal of Legal and Political Research, 6(3), 481.
- Angeon, V., & Callois, J.-M. (2005). Theoretical Foundations of Local Development: What Contributions from Social Capital and the Proximity Economy? Journal of Economics and Institutions, 6-7, 21.
- Baghdad, C., & Mustapha, Z. (2014). Fiscal Efforts of the Administration for Coherent, Sustainable, and Durable Local Development: The Case of the Tlemcen Province. Taxation Studies Journal, 3(2), 370.
- Coudel, E. (2009). Formation and Learning for Territorial Development: Cross Perspectives Between Knowledge Economy and Management Sciences. Doctoral Thesis, 05-07. Montpellier: School of Economics and Management, Montpellier (ED 231).
- Directorate of Agricultural Services, Province of El Tarf. (2022).
- Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, Province of El Tarf. (2022)
- Directorate of Public Works, Province of El Tarf. (2023).
- Directorate of Tourism and Handicrafts, Province of El Tarf. (2024).Official Website: https://el-tarf.mta.gov.dz/
- El Tarf Directorate of Education, 2024.
- International Labour Office (ILO). (n.d.). Local Development Strategies. 02. Geneva, Switzerland: International Labour Office (ILO).
- National Agency for Microcredit Management, Province of El Tarf. (2023). 2023 Report. El Tarf: National Agency for Microcredit Management.
- National Unemployment Insurance Fund, Province of El Tarf. (2023).
- University of Chadli Bendjedid, El Tarf, 2024.
- Zalatou, Naima. (2018, 09). The Role of Local Government in Managing Local Development: The Case of Oran Municipalities. Beam Journal of Economic Studies, 2(2), 11-12.