



A comparative study of tourism and development between Algeria and Tunisia

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Abstract :

This article aims to establish indicators by which tourism sectors in Algeria and Tunisia can work to ensure and confirm their positive and effective participation in contributing to achieving sustainable development. We pose the following question: What is the impact of tourism development on sustainable development in Algeria and Tunisia? Methodologically, this study relies on a descriptive and analytical approach to the various aspects of the research to arrive at conclusions and answers to the presented question. It also aims to define sustainable development in the tourism sector, as well as the concept of sustainable tourism, and the feasibility of applying these concepts in this sector. In addition, it presents a comparative analytical study between Algeria and Tunisia in the field of sustainable tourism.

Key Words: Development, Sustainability, Tourism, , Algeria, Tunisia

JEL Classification : Z32, O55, O11

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Introduction :

Tourism is one of the world's fastest-growing industries. Today, it has become one of the most important sectors of international trade, with tourism exports reaching approximately \$532 billion in 1998, closely followed by vehicle production at \$522 billion. From an economic perspective, tourism is a productive sector that plays an important role in increasing national income and improving the balance of payments. It is a source of hard currency, an opportunity to employ the workforce, and a goal for achieving development programs. The number of new tourists worldwide increased by 69 million in 2004, bringing the total number of tourists to 760 million compared to 691 million in 2003, a 10% increase. This increase was distributed among Asia and the Pacific (34 million), Europe (16 million), and the Americas (11 million). Meanwhile, the Middle East accounted for 6 million, and the African continent accounted for only 2 million. The number of tourists worldwide will reach



1.6 billion by 2020, with 600 million tourists in Europe, 389 million in Asia and the Pacific, and 282 million in the Americas.

Tourism also impacts the economies of host countries, which must directly bear costs related to infrastructure (airports, roads, water and electricity supplies, etc.). From a social and civilizational perspective, tourism is a dynamic movement linked to the cultural and civilizational aspects of humanity. It is a civilizational message and a bridge for communication between the cultures and human knowledge of nations and peoples. It is a natural outcome of the development of tourist communities and the rise in the standard of living of individuals, highlighting the importance of development policy and its role in developing tourism activity.

Therefore, we will pose the following problem:

Study Problem:

We pose the following problem: What is the impact of tourism development on sustainable development between Algeria and Tunisia?

Methodology: this paper was divided into:

- Sustainable development and its indicators.
- Tourism development.
- A comparative analytical study of the components of sustainable tourism development between Algeria and Tunisia.

I. Sustainable Development and Its Indicators

1. Definition of Sustainable Development:

The term sustainable development emerged and gained significant attention after the publication of the Braudtland Commission Report, prepared by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. This report defined sustainable development as "development that meets current needs without compromising the rights of future generations to meet their own needs" (Satori, 2016, p. 300).

The United Nations also defined it as "promoting economic development while conserving natural resources and ensuring continued social, environmental, political, economic, and institutional development on the basis of equality" (Mohammed and Musa, 2018, p. 264).

2. Dimensions of Sustainable Development:

As mentioned, the areas of sustainable development are represented by the economic, social, and environmental spheres, which represent the basic dimensions of sustainable development, which we review below (Mohammed and Musa, 2018, pp. 265-266):



- The Economic Dimension: The economic dimension of sustainable development revolves around the current and future impacts of the economy on the environment. It raises the issue of selecting, financing, and improving industrial technologies in the field. The utilization of natural resources, and the following elements represent the economic dimension, sustainable economic growth, economic justice, and the satisfaction of basic needs.
- The environmental dimension: This represents the conservation and optimal use of natural resources on a sustainable basis, and their forecasting for the purpose of reserve and prevention. The environmental dimension revolves around a set of elements: energy, biodiversity, adaptability, and biological productivity.
- The social dimension: Sustainable development is characterized by this dimension, which represents the human dimension, as it makes growth a means of social cohesion and the necessity of choosing intergenerational equity. Current generations must make growth choices in accordance with their desires and those of future generations. Thus, both the economic and environmental dimensions are closely linked to the social dimension. The most important elements of the social dimension are equality in distribution, popular participation and cultural diversity, and equity and justice in growth choices.

3. Indicators for Measuring Sustainable Development: Sustainable development indicators are divided into four main axes, as follows:

3.1. Economic Indicators: The most important economic indicators are:

- Per capita national income and the investment ratio to the national income;
- Trade balance between goods and services;
- External debt relative to GDP;
- Percentage of foreign development aid relative to GDP;
- Annual energy consumption and intensity;
- Waste production;
- Transportation and communication.

3.2. Social Indicators: The most important social indicators include:

- Housing and the percentage of the population living below the poverty line;
- Percentage of the unemployed;
- Public health;
- Education and training;
- Social security and protection from crime;
- Percentage of population growth.

**3.3. Environmental Indicators: The most important indicators that address the environmental axis include:**

- Area of cultivated land relative to the total area.
- The amount of pesticides and agricultural fertilizers used.
- Forest area compared to the total area.
- The percentage of land affected by desertification compared to the total land area.
- Per capita share of fresh water
- Percentage of air pollution in urban areas.

3.4. Institutional Indicators: Institutional indicators include the following:

- Implementation of ratified international agreements.
- Number of internet users per 1,000 citizens.
- Number of telephone lines per 1,000 citizens.
- Number of computers per 1,000 citizens.
- Percentage of spending on scientific research and development as a percentage of the gross domestic product.
- Human and economic losses due to natural disasters.

II. Tourism Development:**1. Definition of Tourism:**

It is a phenomenon generated by the urgent need for entertainment, a change of scenery, enjoying the beauty of nature, and traveling to places with a distinctive charm and nature. A second definition defines tourism as the temporary residence of foreigners within the borders of a given country (Ayashi, Bouqnour, 2021, p. 72)

2. Definition of Tourism Development:

Tourism development is defined as "development initiated after a comprehensive and planned scientific study within the framework of integrated planning for economic, social, and environmental development within the country as a whole or within any region of the country, combining the components of tourism development, including natural and cultural attractions" (Saleh, 2013, p. 22).

In 1993, the European Union for the Environment and National Parks defined tourism development as an activity that preserves the environment, achieves economic and social integration, and enhances the architectural environment. It is also defined as development that meets and satisfies the current needs of tourists and small communities, while ensuring the benefits of future generations. It is also development that manages resources in a manner that achieves economic, social, and



aesthetic benefits while maintaining cultural unity, the continuity of ecological processes, biodiversity, and the basic components of life (Hassan, 2013, p. 28). 3.2 The Importance of Tourism Development:

Tourism development is one of the goals of comprehensive economic and social development, given its ability to improve the balance of payments, provide job opportunities, and generate income-generating opportunities. It also contributes to improving the social and cultural lifestyle of all members of society. The growing interest in tourism has led to an increased role in development, as it encourages investment in tourism projects within the framework of tax exemptions on tourism revenues. It will also provide important opportunities for countries to contribute to the establishment of infrastructure projects in the country. The tourism sector is a pioneer in creating interconnections with other branches and economic activities, as there are forward and backward links within this economic sector. The economic importance of tourism development is evident in the following (Salah, 2016, pp. 18-19):

- **Improving the balance of payments:** This is achieved through the influx of foreign capital to invest in tourism projects, as well as through the efficient use of natural resources and the resources that tourism generates as a result of establishing economic relationships between it and other sectors in the country. This is in conjunction with the economic benefits the country receives, such as the revenues generated from hard currency generated by tourism demand for both domestic and foreign tourism. It contributes directly and indirectly to increasing the country's gross domestic product (GDP), thus contributing to the economic development process, in addition to the revitalization of broad segments of society that this industry achieves.
- **Providing job opportunities and solving the unemployment problem:** The expansion of the tourism industry and its related projects contributes to providing new job opportunities, which reduces unemployment. This, in turn, leads to higher income levels and social well-being, and increases the growth rate of tourist spending. The direct impact of tourism in providing job opportunities stems from the tourism sector and related sectors.
- **Increasing profitable investment opportunities:** The state can identify broad areas for investment in this sector, making good use of the potential to advance tourism. This involves investing and employing domestic and foreign capital, directing it toward economically profitable areas, given the private sector's ability to enhance the competitive advantages of tourism projects. It also seeks to find the means to attract tourists by introducing the best technologies and equipment, and improving methods, performance, and work methods. This requires state oversight of the formulation of a comprehensive strategic plan, one of the most important components of which is the private sector and its role in tourism development.



3. Tourism Development Goals:

In 2015, the United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Tourism Development, a milestone in the pursuit of sustainable tourism development and the provision of assistance and guidance to member states in this vital field. This agenda includes sustainable tourism development goals. The general framework of this strategy aims to eradicate absolute poverty in developing countries, especially the least developed and poorest, combat discrimination and inequality, and reduce the risks of climate change and global warming by 2030. The sustainable tourism development goals are based on human development, integrated with the development strategies of various countries, based on their economic, environmental, and social circumstances. The tourism sector contributes directly and indirectly to achieving these goals, which can be summarized as follows (Laila and Elham, 2017, pp. 26-27):

- Eradicating absolute poverty in the world.
- Eradicating world hunger:
- Improving labor efficiency and productivity and economic growth:
- Developing industry, appropriate technology, and infrastructure

Sustainable development also refers to true development with the ability to continue and continue, based on the sustainable use of natural resources. This can be achieved through a strategy that takes environmental balance as its governing principle. This balance can be achieved within a socio-environmental framework, which aims to improve the living standards of individuals through political, economic, social, and cultural systems that maintain the integrity of the environmental framework (Chelihi, Touati 2017, p73).

4. Components of tourism development:

Sustainable tourism consists of two components: (Iraqi, 2007, p. 7)

- A material component: This is manifested in working to maintain a balanced equation for the exploitation and management of all resources between present and future generations.
- An intangible component: This is manifested in the fact that tourism leads to interactions between different cultures, and therefore it is necessary to respond to the needs and desires of three groups:
 - The tourist;
 - Tourism employees;
 - Residents of the tourist destination.



5. Characteristics of Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development is characterized by a number of characteristics that can be summarized as follows:

- It is a development in which the time dimension is the foundation. It is necessarily long-term development, based on an assessment of present potential, and planned for the longest possible future period during which changes can be predicted.

- It is a development that takes into account the future needs of the natural resources of the planet's biosphere.

- It is a development that prioritizes meeting the needs of individuals. Its priorities are meeting basic and essential needs for food, clothing, education, health services, and everything related to improving the quality of human life, both material and social.

It is a development that takes into account the preservation of the biosphere in the natural environment, whether its basic elements and components, such as air and water, for example, or the vital processes in the biosphere, such as gases, for example. Therefore, it is a development that requires not depleting the natural resource base in the biosphere, and it also requires preserving the minor and major cyclical processes in the biosphere, through which resources and elements are transferred and purified, ensuring the continuity of life. (Satori.2016, p 300)

6. Problems specific to tourist culture:

The vast majority of tourists are in the sea, and this is a clear indication of the confusion between the two.

The vast majority are in the sea, and this is a demand for the two tourists who are in the sea, and the lack of them in the sky.

The most important and important thing is the vast majority of tourists who are in the sea, and the lack of them in the sky, and the lack of them in the sky.

The most important thing that seriously needs to be preserved and worked on is the vast majority of tourists who are in the sea, and the lack of them in the sky.

It is a The three are the ones that were created in 1962 and are now prepared and ready for the night. What is the most beautiful thing about them is that they are the ones who are hidden from the people and are not considered a threat to the country. They are the ones who are hidden from the people and are not considered a threat to the country. (Rouaguet. 2023, p 852) .



III. A Comparative Analytical Study of the Components of Sustainable Tourism Development between Algeria and Tunisia:

1. Components of Sustainable Tourism Development in Tunisia:

1.1. Introduction to Tunisia:

Tunisia is located in North Africa, bordered to the north and east by the Mediterranean Sea, to the southeast by Libya, and to the west by Algeria. Its capital is Tunis. Its area is 163,610 km². Tunisia is characterized by a diverse range of terrain, including:

The Maritime Atlas Mountains, the northern coast, which includes two wide gulfs, such as the Gulf of Tunis and capes such as Cap Bon, and coastal plains. The eastern coast includes two wide gulfs, such as the Gulf of Hammamet and the Gulf of Gabes, and the islands of Djerba and Kerkennah. In addition, the extended plateaus of the Chotts Plateau in Algeria, which end in sandy plains, are also found there. Tunisia is divided into three major regions: the upper hills covering the north; the Tunisian center, with its high and low deserts, ending at the eastern coast; and the interior region, bordered to the north by Chott el-Jerid.

1.2. Tourism potential in Tunisia:

Tunisia possesses numerous assets, which can be summarized in the following table:

Table (1): Tourism potential in Tunisia

Assets	Natural	Human and Historical	Financial and Service
potential	- A vast area estimated at 163,610 km² - A coastline of 1,320 km - 17 national parks - Diverse terrain and climate - Spa treatment in Tunisia: 95 springs, 46 baths, and 4 spas	- Historical works - Numerous archaeological monuments - 50 national museums - Diverse traditional industries	- A 31,000 km long road transport network and a 2,167 km long railway network, 9 international airports, and 41 seaports (one port every 32 km). - 868 tourist establishments with a capacity of 237,600 beds - 23 banks and financial institutions distributed in the form of branches nationwide.

Source: Prepared by the researcher



2. Sustainable Tourism Development in Algeria:

2.1. Introduction to Algeria:

Algeria is located within the Maghreb in North Africa. It is the largest country in the Mediterranean and the largest country in Africa, covering 2,381,741 km². It is bordered to the northeast by Tunisia, to the east by Libya, to the south by Mali and Niger, to the southwest by Mauritania and Western Sahara, and to the west by Morocco (Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts, and Family Business, 2020).

Table (2): Tourism potential in Algeria

Assets	Natural	Human and Historical	Financial and Service
Potential	- A vast area estimated at 2,831,741 km². - A 1,200 km² coastline. - The presence of 10 national parks. - Diverse terrain and climate. - The presence of 282 spas.	- Historical collections. - Numerous archaeological monuments. - National museums. - Diverse traditional industries.	- A 127,000 km long road transport network and a 5,941 km long railway network. - The presence of 12 international airports and 53 seaports distributed across 14 coastal states. - 1,289 hotels with a capacity of 125,676 beds. - 581 beaches and 2,942 travel agencies. - 20 banks and 9 financial institutions distributed in the form of branches nationwide.

Source: Prepared by the researcher

3. Contribution of the Tourism Sector in Algeria and Tunisia to Achieving Sustainable Development

3.1. Incoming Tourists:

The increase in the number of tourists is considered one of the most important indicators of the success of the two countries' tourism strategies. The following table shows the development of the number of tourists arriving in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018):

**Table (3): Tourist Inflow to Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018)***Unit: million*

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Algeria	2.070	2.395	2.634	2.733	2.301	1.171	3.039	2.451	2.657
Tunisia	7.828	5.746	6.999	7.352	7.163	5.359	5.724	7.052	8.299

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on World Bank statistics. Website:
<https://data.albankaldawli.org/indikator>

From Table (3): We note that the total number of tourists arriving in Algeria and Tunisia during the period (2010-2018) for rest and recreation, as the highest number of tourists arriving in Algeria in 2016 reached 3,039 tourists, led by foreign tourists, as their number in 2018 reached about 2 million foreign tourists, of whom 68.45% were Tunisians. As for the entry of Algerians residing abroad, their number reached about 63 thousand Algerians, coinciding with the summer vacation. The reasons for this increase are due to the return of security and Algeria's recovery of its tourist image, which had been absent for a decade. The number of tourists arriving in Tunisia also witnessed its highest value in 2010, where it recorded 7.828 million tourists, and it witnessed a decline in 2015 to about 5.359 million tourists, but in 2018 it rose to 8.299 million tourists, of whom 2.946 million were Algerian tourists, 49.07% of the total. (Statistics of the Ministry of Tourism, Traditional Industry and Family Work, 2020) This is the highest rate recorded during this period, and this is a result of the stability of the country's situation at the local and international levels.

3.2. Contribution to Employment:

The tourism sector is considered one of the most important economic sectors in terms of creating new job opportunities, both directly and indirectly, which leads to alleviating the unemployment problem. The following table shows the number of new job opportunities contributed to by tourism in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018):

Table (4): Number of workers in the tourism sector in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018)*Unit: Thousand*

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Algeria	254	266.6	289.3	321.9	299	305.5	299	302	300.7
Tunisia	295.2	222.8	265	260.7	281.3	216.6	215.9	233.6	260.5

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on World Bank statistics. Website:
<https://data.albankaldawli.org/indikator>

Through Table (4): the number of workers in the tourism sector for both Algeria and Tunisia during the period (2010-2018) was known to be in the range of 200 thousand to 300 thousand workers, where the highest value was known in 2015 in Tunisia, and in Algeria it reached about 260 thousand in 2018, and this is due to the reasons we mentioned previously, but the recorded number remains far from the



great tourism potential of Algeria due to the unclassified accommodation centers, which constitute the largest proportion of accommodation capacities in Algeria, as employment positions in them are weak, unlike 5 and 4-star hotels, which are characterized by greater employment capacity, especially in Tunisia.

3.3. Contribution to GDP:

Tourism's contribution to GDP is considered a supporting sector in the economy. The following table represents the direct contribution of tourism to GDP in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018):

Table (5): Direct Contribution of Tourism to GDP in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018)

Unit: Percent

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Algeria	3.39	3.28	3.28	3.54	3.29	3.48	3.33	3.25	3.20
Tunisia	9.94	7.6	8.98	8.71	9.02	6.88	6.82	7.29	8.05

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on World Bank statistics. Website: <https://data.albankaldawli.org/indicator>

From Table (5): it is noted that the tourism sector's contribution to Algeria's GDP did not exceed 4% during the period (2010-2018), which is a very small percentage. The weak contribution of the tourism sector is due to the significant growth of the Algerian economy, which is linked to revenues from the hydrocarbon sector, especially after the rise in oil prices in global markets, and the neglect of other sectors, including the tourism sector, as this sector has not played any developmental role since Algeria's independence. However, Tunisia's GDP increased during the period (2010-2018), focusing on the tourism sector, where it recorded its highest value in 2010, estimated at 9.94%, then declined in 2016 to reach 6.82%. The tourism sector represents the largest contributor to the Tunisian economy, and it provides a large number of Tunisians with job opportunities to meet the growing need for qualified human resources.

3.4 Development of accommodation capacity: This refers to the accommodation capacity of hotel establishments distributed across the country. It is one of the foundations for tourism activity and represents one of the most important indicators for measuring the development and progress of the tourism sector in any country. The following table shows the development of the number of beds in Algeria and Tunisia (2010-2018).



**Table (6): Development of the number of beds in Algeria and Tunisia
(2010-2018)**

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Algeria	92377	92737	96497	98804	99605	102244	107420	112264	119155
Tunisia	240000	251000	240000	239000	240000	241400	235000	234000	237000

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the website:

- Statistics of the Algerian Ministers of Tourism, Handicrafts, and Family Work: www.mtatf.gov.dz

- Statistics of the Tunisian Ministry: www.ins.tn

- Statistics of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC): wtcc.org

From Table (6) : we note that the number of beds during the period (2010-2018) witnessed a significant increase in the number of beds in Algeria, rising from approximately 92,377 beds in 2010 to approximately 119,115 beds in 2018. Meanwhile, the number of beds in Tunisia witnessed a significant fluctuation, rising and then falling from 240,000 beds in 2010 to approximately 237,000 beds in 2018. This, if anything, indicates the importance of the tourism sector to the country, which constantly strives to achieve leadership in this field by improving the quality of the tourism product, enhancing the performance of its services, and enabling it to respond to the demands of the tourism market in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

Conclusion :

This article has discussed, in its chapters, the concepts of sustainable development and sustainable tourism. The application of the concept of sustainable tourism depends on three important aspects: first, the financial returns for tourism entrepreneurs; second, the social dimension, given that these establishments are part of the local community and must benefit from local expertise and competencies whenever possible, in addition to involving the local community and seeking its input. The third dimension is the environment, as these establishments are treated as part of the environment and must therefore conserve natural resources such as water, energy

Results:

- ✓ Applying the concept of sustainable tourism means clean, environmentally friendly, community-friendly tourism with significant financial returns. We
- ✓ Applying the concept of sustainable tourism is not financially costly; it has moral and material returns, generating profits and benefits for tourism establishments.

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