

The Tourism Sector as a Strategic Alternative to the Hydrocarbon Sector for Achieving Sustainable Development in Algeria

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Abstract:

The study reveals how tourism functions as an essential driver for total economic growth which affects all facets of the worldwide economic system. The research identifies the actual impact of multiple long-term research projects between 2001 and 2030 on Algerian tourism sector growth, which serve as development plans for the tourism industry. The project failed to reach its planned outcomes because it did not match the performance of international models. Our research aims to identify the barriers which prevent tourism development from reaching the requirements of successful global tourism. The research proposes solutions. These will advance Algerian tourism industry development toward its upcoming phase.

Keywords: Tourism; Tourism Development; Tourism Sector; Development Strategy; Sustainable Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of sustainable development has long represented a major concern for both developed and developing countries. The practice receives rising attention in developing nations because it functions as their main development strategy to fight poverty. Development has evolved into the primary focus of developing nations which now use different approaches to fight their development problems. The development policy of Algeria, along with other developing nations, depends on their hydrocarbon resources because they obtain foreign currency through their petroleum industry. The economic system depends on this resource, which creates macroeconomic effects that link real gross domestic product growth to international oil price changes. It blocks the path toward sustainable development. The current situation demands a strategic evaluation of our approach because tourism stands as one of the essential economic sectors. The resource functions as a vital economic asset for multiple nations because it generates financial returns and creates employment opportunities, and attracts foreign capital.

The tourism industry has grown important to many nations, but Algeria has not achieved its desired goals through this sector. The country has not reached its tourism potential because its achievements remain below those of neighboring nations even though it possesses stunning natural beauty and a long coastline, and various weather patterns, and other valuable resources which need protection to develop Algeria into a worldwide tourist destination.

The study presents tourism as an economic factor which determines how much it helps national development. Based on the foregoing, the following research question constitutes the central focus of this study:

Can the tourism sector achieve sustainable development in Algeria?

Study Objectives:

This research paper aims to:

- Examine the extent to which the tourism sector contributes to strengthening the national economy and achieving development.
- Promote awareness of the importance of tourism in Algeria.
- Highlight the tourism sector as a contributor to financing the national economy with foreign currency.
- Identify the constraints that have hindered and continue to hinder attention to this sector within Algeria's development policy.
- Present the efforts of the state through the adoption of various programs and policies, and assess whether there is encouragement to advance this sector through domestic and foreign investment.

Study Importance:

Tourism has gained considerable attention in many countries worldwide from governments, researchers, and business practitioners alike, as it represents an economic sector that injects foreign currency, attracts foreign investment, and provides a substantial number of employment opportunities both directly and indirectly. Accordingly, tourism holds significant importance, as it constitutes a vital sector and an important source for generating financial revenues outside the hydrocarbons sector and for achieving sustainable development.

Study Methodology:

To address and analyze this problem, the descriptive analytical approach was adopted to cover the various aspects of the topic. To examine this issue, the article was divided into four sections:

- An exploration of the theoretical underpinnings and conceptual architecture of the tourism industry in relation to sustainable development paradigms.
- An examination of Algeria's tourism resources alongside the structural and institutional configuration of its constituent sectors.
- An empirical assessment of the tourism sector's actual impact on fostering sustainable development.
- An analysis of the tourism development master plan as a foundational reference for shaping tourism development policy within Algeria.

2. The Theoretical and Conceptual Framework of the Tourism Sector and Sustainable Development:

Tourism plays an important role in national economies and occupies a prominent position that receives significant attention from governments, which have sought to develop and expand the tourism sector due to its contribution to achieving sustainable development and improving the economic structure.

2.1 Theoretical Foundations of Tourism

2.1.1 Definition of Tourism:

Tourism plays a major role in achieving economic development. In order to clarify the tourism phenomenon and emphasize its importance, many researchers, institutions, and international organizations have sought to provide definitions of tourism in line with societal developments. Among these definitions are the following:

The first definition of tourism was presented in 1905 by the German scholar Joppert Froueler: “Tourism is a phenomenon of our age, arising from the growing need for rest, for change of air, for the emergence and development of a sense of the beauty of nature, and for the feeling of joy and pleasure derived from staying in regions with distinctive characteristics, as well as the growth of contacts, particularly among different peoples.”¹

The World Tourism Organization defined tourism as: “A set of activities carried out by individuals during travel and movement to places outside their usual environment for leisure or other purposes.”²

From the previous definitions, it is evident that there is no single definition of tourism. However, it can be stated that it generally falls within the following framework:

- The tourism process is based on two fundamental elements: mobility and stay.

1- Dalila Taleb and Abdelkrim Wahrani, *Tourism as One of the Drivers of Sustainable Development: Towards Sustainable Tourism Development*, paper presented at the Second International Conference on: Distinguished Performance of Organizations and Governments, KasdiMerbah University Ouargla, 22–23 November 2011, p. 571.

2- Jean Pierre and Michel Balfet, *Management du tourisme*, 2nd ed., Pearson Education France, 2007, p. 4.

- Tourism represents an interaction resulting from the travel and stay of individuals in a society other than their own. This interaction occurs at two levels: tourist to tourist, tourist to host, or tourist to tourism facilitator. This interaction generates relationships that allow the exchange of cultures and civilizations, which constitutes a fundamental principle of tourism, as host societies seek to transmit their culture and civilizational heritage.
- Tourism aims to satisfy the needs of individuals seeking recreation and leisure by providing all necessary means, including accommodation facilities, transportation, and entertainment.

There is a set of terms associated with tourism that will be defined as follows:

- Definition of the Tourist: The tourist is defined as a person who visits a country other than the one in which they usually reside for any reason other than seeking remunerated employment in the country visited.³
- Definition of the Tourism Product: The tourism product refers to the totality of natural, cultural, historical, and material factors and components, together with the various means and arrangements capable of attracting tourists to a specific destination.⁴ This type of product is characterized by a principal feature that distinguishes it from other goods, namely that it is not transferred to the consumer; rather, the consumer moves to it. The tourism product has undergone substantial development in terms of quality as well as the creation of new tourism products.
- Definition of Tourism Development: Tourism development is among the most recent forms of development to emerge. It permeates all elements of development and is nearly synonymous with comprehensive development, as all the components of comprehensive development include the components of tourism development. Accordingly, tourism development can be defined as "the various public and private arrangements that participate in the development, production, and marketing of goods and services to serve the needs and well-being of tourists."

2.1.2 Types of Tourism

Numerous studies have attempted to classify tourism into different patterns, either geographically, according to social and economic characteristics, in relation to the tourism season and its position within the different seasons of the year, based on the duration of the tourist's stay, or according to the purpose of undertaking the tourist trip. Accordingly, tourism can be classified according to the following criteria:

A. Classification of Tourism According to the Geographical Region Criterion

3- Yousra Daabous, *Tourist Consumer Behavior in Light of the Reality of Developed and Developing Countries*, 1st ed., Al-Battash Publishing and Distribution, Egypt, 2002, p. 23.

4- Rayan Darwish, *Tourism Investments in Jordan*, Master's thesis, Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Algiers, 1997, p. 11.

This criterion depends on tourist movement, whether it occurs within national borders or beyond them. On this basis, two forms of tourism can be distinguished:

- Domestic Tourism: This refers to the movement of a country's residents within its borders, whereby the tourist travels from their place of residence to visit another location within the same country and spends at least one night in the visited destination, not for work purposes but for recreation and relaxation, religious reasons, or for attending a conference or seminar.

The importance of domestic tourism lies in its contribution to strengthening social unity, social solidarity, and adherence to prevailing values, thereby fostering a sense of nationalism and belonging. This type of tourism also helps achieve economic balance among the different regions within the state through the optimal distribution of national income, in addition to developing various productive sectors within the country.

- International Tourism: This term refers to tourists who travel to destinations outside their home country. It includes both the travel of domestic residents abroad and the reception of foreign tourists, whose purpose is to spend all or part of their leisure time in rest and recreation and to participate in specific activities.

B. Classification of Tourism According to Purpose:

Tourism can be classified according to this criterion into the following categories:⁵

- Religious tourism: This refers to the organized flow of tourists arriving from within the country or from abroad with the aim of learning about religious sites, their history, and the spiritual values they represent for a particular religion or belief. It is considered a traditional form of tourism that serves as a source for understanding the religious heritage of a state, such as visiting Mecca and Medina for Muslims and the Vatican for Christians.⁶
- Cultural tourism: This includes tourists visiting foreign countries and studying their peoples and the characteristics that distinguish them from others. It enhances their knowledge and satisfies their cultural needs through the organization of seminars, cultural courses, specialized exhibitions, and cultural competitions such as poetry, theater, art, music, and others.
- Conference tourism: This involves hosting and organizing conferences of various types and is considered an advanced tourism activity. It requires substantial tourism capabilities in terms of providing accommodation facilities, tourist transportation, and other tourism services. Conference tourism carries significant media value, and different countries compete to host and organize conferences in order to achieve major political, economic, and media gains. It has been defined as a development of

5- Marwan Al-Sukkar, *Selections from Tourism Economics*, Dar Majdalawi for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 2001, p. 15.

6- Mohammad Obeidat, *Tourism Shopping*, Dar Wael for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 2005, p. 141.

the tourism industry through the organization of important international conferences characterized by large scale, high standards, substantial profits, and the advancement of the host country.

- Sports tourism: This is divided into two types, active and passive. Active sports tourism involves travel, accommodation, and actual participation in sports competitions and includes all known sports. Passive sports tourism consists of travel and accommodation for the purpose of watching sports matches and celebrations.⁷
- Therapeutic tourism: This takes place in specific locations visited by patients seeking treatment for illnesses from which they suffer. These locations are typically distinguished by their healthy climate, abundance of mineral waters, natural herbs, hot springs, sand baths, and other areas characterized by unique therapeutic properties.
- Business tourism: This consists of visits undertaken by business owners and representatives of major companies to foreign countries in order to follow up on their work. Most businesspeople also seek recreation in the country they visit.⁸

C. Tourism Criterion According to Length of Stay:

Tourism, according to this criterion, is divided into:

- Seasonal tourism: This refers to the movement of tourists during specific seasons toward particular destinations rather than others, as is the case with tourists traveling to beaches and islands during the summer to swim and enjoy the moderate climate. This type of tourism also includes visits to sacred places during specific periods. It is therefore referred to as seasonal tourism due to its association with particular times of the year.
- Transit tourism: This type of tourism consists of two forms: Transit tourism occurring during overland travel by tourists using buses, where travelers en route to a certain country pass through another country and remain there for one or two days. In such cases, some tourism companies organize short sightseeing tours for these tourists. Transit tourism occurring during air travel, such as when a flight is delayed or disrupted, or when strikes occur. In these situations, some tourism companies organize short heritage tours. This type of tourism occurs without prior planning.⁹

D. Tourism Criterion According to Number of Tourists:

- Individual tourism: This refers to a tourist traveling alone or accompanied by family members, organizing the trip at personal expense and maintaining direct contact with various tourism establishments. Individual trips are characterized by higher costs

7- Marwan Al-Sukkar, op. cit., p. 17.

8- Mohammad Khamis Al-Zouka, *Tourism Industry*, 2nd ed., Dar Al-Maaref Al-Jamiya, Egypt, 1998, p. 40.

9- Fouad Rashid Samara, *Marketing Tourism Services*, 1st ed., Dar Al-Mustaqbal for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 2001, p. 107.

compared with group travel and are therefore practiced by tourists with relatively high financial capacity.¹⁰

- Group tourism: This involves a group of individuals traveling together, linked by a specific relationship such as colleagues, friends, members of a club or school, or members of student or labor associations. It includes tourists who prefer not to bear the risks of travel, and who therefore favor organized trips arranged by travel agencies and specialized tourism companies. The tourist pays the cost of the trip in advance to the organizing company.

Beyond the aforementioned categorizations, supplementary forms of tourism may be delineated contingent upon a multiplicity of criteria, encompassing:

According to the means of transport: maritime, land-based, air, and river tourism. According to the direction of the trip: coastal, mountainous, and rural tourism.

2.1.3 The Economic Foundations of Tourism

Tourism, akin to other domains of scholarly inquiry, is predicated on a collection of fundamental principles that mutually reinforce one another, thereby facilitating the practice and augmenting its efficacy within the economic frameworks of nations that prioritize tourism. These underlying principles are manifest in the subsequent components:

- Tourism demand: Tourism demand represents the total number of arrivals to a tourist destination, including both domestic and foreign visitors. It expresses an individual's desire, which may pursue multiple objectives, either material or intangible, and subsequently translates into a tangible action in the form of movement from the individual's usual place of residence to the intended destination.
- Tourism supply: Tourism supply is embodied in a set of heterogeneous elements and components in terms of their nature, yet they are integrated with one another to satisfy the diverse needs of tourists. In simple terms, tourism supply encompasses all attractions and means capable of drawing tourists. It is characterized by three main features, namely:
 - Lack of flexibility and limited adaptability to tourists' preferences and tastes, particularly with regard to natural elements.
 - Independence of its components from one another, whereby natural elements remain distinct from industrial ones.
 - The tourism product does not move to tourists, rather tourists move to the tourism product.

Tourism marketing: This refers to the administrative and technical activity undertaken by institutions and organizations within and outside the country to identify current and

10- Mustafa Abdelkader, *The Role of Advertising in Tourism Marketing*, Majd University Institution for Studies, Publishing and Distribution, Lebanon, 2003, p. 39.

potential tourism markets and influence them in order to develop inbound international tourism flows.¹¹

Tourism expenditure: It is evident that as the volume of tourism flows increases, public expenditure on tourism goods and services rises accordingly, leading to higher saving rates and stimulating industries and services associated with the tourism sector. This, in turn, results in the expansion of these industries and services, since every new investment generates new expenditure, which subsequently creates new income.

Receipts from tourism represent a substantial influx of foreign exchange for numerous nations, both industrialized and emerging, that have strategically emphasized their tourism industries. These revenues encompass all monetary gains accruing to the government from tourist activities, alongside the economic contributions and tax implications of tourism. Moreover, they incorporate the profits accrued by individuals, domestic corporations, and governmental and non-governmental entities engaged in the tourism sector, encompassing hospitality, air travel, maritime transport, and the diverse array of services they furnish.¹²

2.1.4 Tourist Attraction Components

They can be summarized as follows:

- Natural constituents form the fundamental basis for tourism augmentation, particularly considering the global emphasis on ecological matters and sustained endeavors to mitigate environmental predicaments. These encompass physiographic features, climatic conditions, and woodlands, in conjunction with anthropogenic facets such as recreational reserves, cultural institutions, and ancient and chronological landmarks.
- Historical and archaeological constituents encompass ancient societies alongside scientific, cultural, and research institutions. These elements embody the extensive scope of human erudition and the interrelation between bygone eras and contemporary times, exemplified by instances such as the Pharaonic civilization in Egypt, the Umayyad legacy in Syria, and the vestiges of Islamic and Roman civilizations discernible across numerous nations, notably Tipasa and Batna in Algeria.
- Cultural Components These encompass cultural activities practiced by visitors, including folk dances, visual arts, and archaeological museums that reflect customs, traditions, and popular folklore.
- Modern Components These refer to indicators of civilizational development such as international airports that attract tourists, suspension bridges, railway networks, and river and maritime ports.

11- R. Boretje, *Economic Aspects of Tourism*, University Press of France, Paris, 1990, p. 25.

12- Abdelrahman Abu Riyah, *Preliminary Study of the Strategy for Joint Arab Tourism Action*, Arab Tourism Union, Egypt, 1989, p. 121.

- Elements of Political Enticement: The political framework of a nation undeniably constitutes the impetus underpinning all domestic operations; tourism represents one such operation warranting political consideration. This objective is realized via the streamlining of protocols for international investors, the facilitation of cross-border mobility for tourists, and the provision of assistance to tourism-related infrastructure, encompassing establishments such as hotels and resorts, alongside conservation zones.

2.2 The Theoretical Foundations of Sustainable Development:

The notion of sustainable development gained significant traction in the latter part of the 20th century, subsequently achieving a position of considerable import among academics, environmental and developmental experts, and policy architects. This escalating concern can be ascribed to intensifying strains on extant resources in both industrialized and emerging nations. Concretely, this stemmed from population expansion and fiscal progression, coupled with resource utilization.¹³

2.2.1 Definition of Sustainable Development:

The concept of sustainable development garnered substantial recognition subsequent to the release of the Brundtland Commission's report in 1987, which articulated sustainable development as progress that fulfills contemporary requirements while safeguarding the capacity of succeeding generations to address their own exigencies.

Edward Barbier, an early proponent of the concept of sustainable development, characterized it as an economic endeavor that fosters augmented societal well-being, concurrently assuring the utmost prudence in the utilization of extant natural resources and the attenuation of ecological impairment and dilapidation.¹⁴

From the foregoing, sustainable development can be described as development that achieves balance among environmental, economic, social, and technological systems, contributing to maximizing growth within these four systems without exerting adverse effects on them. In essence, it is based on the following principles:¹⁵

- Emphasizing the necessity of optimal utilization of available capacities and resources within the economy.
- Preserving the environment by minimizing, as far as possible, the negative effects resulting from economic and social activities on economic and environmental resources.

13- Ahmed Hichir, Sustainable Development and the Knowledge Economy in Arab Countries: Reality and Challenges, *Journal of Economic Development Studies*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2019, p. 38.

14- Ibid., p. 39.

15- Salmi Fatima and Ben Jomaa Khadija, Sustainable Development as a Mechanism for Achieving Sustainable Development in Algeria, *Journal of Human Sciences and Civilization*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2019, p. 108.

- Striving to achieve balanced economic development capable of narrowing disparities in living standards among different social groups.

2.2.2 Objectives of Sustainable Development:

Through its mechanisms and content, sustainable development seeks to achieve a set of objectives that can be summarized as follows:¹⁶

- Achieving a better quality of life for the population.
- Enhancing public awareness of existing environmental problems and fostering a sense of responsibility toward them.
- Achieving rational exploitation and use of natural resources.
- Linking modern technology to societal objectives.
- Achieving equity within the present generation through justice and equality among current and future generations while ensuring environmental protection.

3. Tourism Assets in Algeria and the Structural and Organizational Framework of Its Sectors

Tourism assets, both natural and cultural, encompass all natural, cultural, and historical potentials with historical and civilizational dimensions. Algeria has been endowed with a strategic geographical location, which has been reinforced through a structural organization aimed at its development.

3.1 Tourism Assets in Algeria

Algeria possesses natural potentials and assets that enable it to offer a high-quality tourism product capable of competing with others. This is attributed to its unique environmental and climatic diversity across its tourism regions. The following presents the principal assets available in Algeria:

3.1.1 Natural Assets

Algeria is characterized by the following natural potentials:

Location and climate: Algeria is located on the southwestern southern shore of the Mediterranean basin, occupying a central position within the Maghreb, Africa, and the Mediterranean region. This position is reinforced by its geographical and economic characteristics, as well as its social and cultural features. Algeria covers a vast area on the African continent, with an estimated surface of 2,381,741 square kilometers.¹⁷ The population residing within Algeria is approximately 38.7 million inhabitants. From north to south, Algeria is characterized by three types of climate:

16- El Djoudi Satouri, Sustainable Development in Algeria: Reality and Challenges, *Al-Bahith Journal*, no. 16, 2016, p. 301.

17- Khaled Kawash, Components and Indicators of Tourism in Algeria, *North African Economies Journal*, no. 1, 2014, p. 2016.

- A Mediterranean climate along the coastal areas extending from east to west.
- A semi continental climate in the high plateaus.
- A desert climate in the southern regions and oases.

The Algerian coastline: The Algerian coastline extends over approximately 1,200 kilometers and is distinguished by numerous archaeological sites dating back to the Roman period, in addition to remains from ancient eras.

Mountainous regions: The most prominent feature of Algeria's mountainous areas is the presence of the Tell Atlas and the Saharan Atlas ranges, which provide opportunities for exploration and hunting. Among the most important tourist elevations are the Chr  a resort in Blida, where skiing is practiced, as well as the Tikjda resort, Mount Chelia in the Aur  s with an elevation of 2,328 meters, and the Lalla Khedidja summit in the Djurdjura mountains with an elevation of 2,308 meters.¹⁸

These areas are not limited to highlands, grottoes, and caves. They also include other resources of importance to tourists, such as diverse wildlife, rare birds, and freshwater springs. All these elements constitute factors that attract tourists.

Desert regions: The Algerian desert covers approximately two million square kilometers and contains rich archaeological landmarks, including sculptures and polished stones. It is distinguished by the presence of the Hoggar National Park, which has been classified as a World Heritage site, and the Tassili National Park, which was designated as World Heritage in 1982 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO.¹⁹

3.1.2 Natural Parks and Nature Reserves:

Algeria possesses a number of parks characterized by biological diversity and considered tourist attraction areas, including:

- The Djurdjura National Park covering an area of 185000 km².
- The Th  niet El Had National Park covering an area of 38000 km².
- The Belezma National Park covering an area of 26000 km².
- The Chr  a National Park covering an area of 26000 km².
- The Gouraya National Park covering an area of 3000 km².
- The El Kala National Park covering an area of 76438 km².

In addition to the Hoggar and Tassili parks, the Ben Aknoun Leisure and Recreation Park, which includes botanical and zoological zones featuring local and African species, and the Jardin d'Essai of El Hamma, which constitutes a natural museum comprising 2500 plant

18- Achi Saliha, Developmental Effects of Tourism: A Comparative Study between Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, Master's thesis, University of Batna, 2005, p. 28.

19- Economic and Social Council, Committee on Prospects for Economic and Social Development, Contribution to Defining the National Tourism Policy, 16th session, November 2000, p. 60.

species and trees that are hundreds of years old, as well as more than 25 species of palm trees.

Mineral spas: Algeria is considered one of the countries that contain a large number of thermal springs at the global level. It is rich in dozens of basins and natural mineral spas such as Hammam Essalihine in Biskra, Hammam Guergour in Sétif, Hammam Bougrara in Tlemcen, Hammam Bouhanifia in Mascara, and Hammam Meskhoutine in Guelma. These springs can be regarded as a source for attracting and developing therapeutic tourism in Algeria.

3.1.3 Historical and Cultural Assets:

Algeria abounds in diverse historical and cultural landmarks as a result of successive civilizations, including the Numidian, Greek, Phoenician, and Roman civilizations, the latter having settled in Algeria for nearly five centuries. This occupation gave Algerian civilization significant depth by stimulating strong urban development whose remains are still visible even in inland regions, such as the city of Timgad, as well as ruins found in Tipaza, Cherchell, and others. The Byzantine and Islamic civilizations also emerged through various dynasties such as the Fatimid, Hammadid, and Almoravid, who transferred Andalusian civilization and Islamic architectural art to the country, in addition to the Ottoman rule.

Among these landmarks, those classified by UNESCO include:

- Timgad, established by Emperor Trajan in 100 AD.
- Djemila, located in Sétif, one of the oldest Roman cities in Algeria.
- The M'zab Valley in Ghardaïa, whose construction dates back to the tenth century AD.
- Tipaza, one of the ancient Roman cities.
- The Casbah, built by the Ottomans in the sixteenth century.

The cultural and civilizational heritage of Algeria also includes an important collection of museums, among which are:

The National Cirta Museum, the National Bardo Museum, the Zabana National Museum, the National Museum of the Mujahid, the National Museum of Fine Arts, and the Hippo Museum.

3.1.3 Material and Financial Assets:

Material resources lie in infrastructure such as accommodation facilities, transport means, airports, roads, ports, railways, and communication systems, in addition to institutional capacities based on implementing the tourism strategy. Some figures regarding Algeria's available capacities are as follows:

- A road transport network of 1118306 km and a railway network of 4200 km.
- 53 airports and 13 seaports.
- 1184 hotels with a capacity of 92737 beds.

However, despite these capacities possessed by the tourism sector in Algeria, they remain very limited and do not reach the required level compared to neighboring countries such as Tunisia and Morocco. This has resulted in Algeria's relatively low capacity in attracting tourists and providing various services, which remains below the global average estimated at 12.5 percent.²⁰

3.2 Structural and Organizational Framework of the Tourism Sector

The tourism sector has undergone several transformations and passed through multiple stages. Tourism was initially attached to the Ministry of Youth and Sports until 1946, when a ministry responsible for tourism was established. In 1992, the tourism sector was unified with the handicrafts sector through the creation of the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, and the first organizational structure of the ministry's central administration was introduced. In 1994, this organizational scheme was amended and completed. This modification was necessitated by the global dimension of the activity, as the establishment of a body responsible for cooperation and participation in international events became essential.

In order to implement a sustained and supported policy aimed at strengthening and promoting tourism activities, several bodies affiliated with this sector were established, including:

3.2.1 National Tourism Office "ONT"

Established pursuant to Decree No. 88 214 dated 31 October 1988, and amended by Decree No. 92 402 dated 31 October 1992. Its creation aimed at preparing tourism promotion programs and ensuring their implementation.²¹

3.2.2 National Agency for Tourism Development "ANDT"

Established pursuant to Executive Decree No. 98 70 dated 21 February 1998. It aims to maintain and protect tourism exploitation zones, acquire the necessary land and allocate it to tourism projects, and prepare land designated for hotel and spa tourism activities.

3.2.3 National Enterprise for Tourism Studies "ENET"

Established pursuant to Executive Decree No. 98 94 dated 10 March 1998. It is tasked with conducting studies to assess tourism potential and its development, undertaking tourism and spa development studies, monitoring development projects, providing expertise

20- Abdelrazak Moulay Lakhdar and Khaled Bourahli, Requirements for Developing the Tourism Sector in the Algerian Economy, Algerian Journal of Development, KasdiMerbah University Ouargla, no. 4, 2016, p. 76.

21- HachiniMadouche, Tourism in Algeria: Issues and Challenges, Houma Edition, Algiers, 2003, p. 15.

to tourism, hotel, and spa complexes, and establishing an information bank for tourism planning and development.

3.2.4 National Committee for the Facilitation of Tourism Activities

Established pursuant to Executive Decree No. 94 39 dated 25 January 1994. It aims to propose actions that improve and regulate operations related to tourism activity and tourist flows, facilitate procedures and arrangements directly or indirectly affecting tourism and hotel organizations, and protect and evaluate the natural, cultural, traditional, and historical heritage.

3.2.5 Training Institutions

There are three institutions specialized in tourism training at the national level. These institutions are presented in the following table.

Table 01. Tourism Training Institutions in Algeria²²

Institute	Capacity	Level and Specializations of Training
Bou Saada Institute	300 seats	Higher Technician in Reception, Restaurant Service, and Culinary Arts
Tizi Ouzou Institute	300 seats	Higher Technician in Reception, Restaurant Service, Culinary Arts, Pastry, and Hotel and Tourism Management
Algiers Institute	100 seats	Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Tourism Management

With regard to the Higher School of Tourism, it is assumed to be the first site that the ministry should prioritize, as it is capable of training cadres who would adopt the cause of revitalizing national tourism. The location selected for its establishment is in the province of Tipaza. However, the project remains frozen and requires political will for its implementation.

3.2.6 Tourism Associations:

Among the most important of these associations are the following:

- FNOT: National Federation of Tourism Offices.
- FNAT: National Federation of Associations of Tourism and Travel Agencies.
- COT: Federation of Tourism Agents.
- ANPT: National Association for the Promotion of Tourism.
- ANDRT: National Association for the Defense and Expression of Tourism.
- National Union of Travel Agents.
- National Promotion Association.
- National Federation of Hotels and Restaurants.

22- HachiniMadouche, *op. cit.*, p. 16.

Despite the various organizations and bodies established by Algeria to elevate and advance the sector, it remains distant from achieving this objective, as an overlap of responsibilities can be observed.

4. The Reality of the Contribution of the Tourism Sector to Sustainable Development

Economic development has become a central concern for most countries and governments around the world. However, achieving this objective requires the mobilization and utilization of all available resources, both material and human, within comprehensive sectoral policies and strategies. On this basis, the tourism sector in Algeria constitutes one of the most important sectors relied upon to contribute to diversifying the economic base and creating a sustainable economy capable of keeping pace with developments in the global economy, while reducing the repercussions of recurring oil shocks associated with sharp declines in prices.

4.1 The First Requirement: Tourism Revenues in Algeria

Tourism revenues constitute one of the objectives of public policy related to the development and advancement of this sector. They also represent an element utilized by governments to achieve economic development, particularly when such revenues account for a significant share of the national product. In this context, it becomes necessary to focus on the fundamental factors influencing the level of tourism expenditure, which in turn affects the volume of tourism revenues.

It is evident that these revenues are generated from tourists' spending in host tourism countries on various tourism goods and services.

In the case of Algeria, the country has long sought to transform itself from a source of tourists into a destination for them. However, the weakness of tourism supply components, including hotels, infrastructure, tourism services, and other facilities, as well as the violence that the country experienced beginning in 1992 and additional factors, hindered the realization of these aspirations. In light of the relative improvement in the security and social situation, Algerian tourism has begun to recover, as reflected in the following table, which illustrates the evolution of tourism sector revenues.

Table 02: Evolution of Tourism Revenues in Algeria During the Period 1999 to 2022²³

Unit: million US dollars

23– Prepared by the researchers based on:

- National Office of Statistics and Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, available at: www.ons.dz/them_sta.htm, consulted on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 14:00.
- <https://share.google/hFe3OVVUac3RsPpqD>, consulted on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 14:00.
- Mohamed El Hadi Jab Allah, *Investment in the Tourism Sector: A Comparative Study of the Maghreb Countries*, Doctoral thesis, Faculty of Economics, Commercial Sciences and Management Sciences, 2022–2023, pp. 106–108.

Year	Tourism Revenues	Year	Tourism Revenues
1999	80	2011	209
2000	102	2012	217
2001	100	2013	367
2002	111	2014	347
2003	112	2015	304
2004	178	2016	246
2005	184	2017	171
2006	220	2018	196
2007	219	2019	140
2008	323	2020	50
2009	246	2021	79
2010	246	2022	209

It can be observed from the table that tourism revenues in Algeria during the period 1999-2022 barely represented anything significant. Despite their limited value, they remained fluctuating and weak, reflecting the marginal position of the sector within the national economy. The average total tourism revenues during this period amounted to 209.70 million dollars. Tourism revenues declined in 2011 and 2012 due to the global financial crisis and the political and security conditions prevailing in the region, as well as the marginalization of the sector and the lack of attention from the supervising ministry, despite the formulation of the Tourism Development Master Plan 2030. The sector was considered non vital or secondary in terms of revenues, given the presence of the hydrocarbons sector, which generated substantial income for the national economy. In 2013, a noticeable improvement in tourism revenues in Algeria was observed, reaching 367 million dollars. However, revenues declined again in 2015 to 304 million dollars, and decreased once more beginning in 2019 due to the COVID 19 pandemic, reaching 50 million dollars in 2020. They then gradually increased, reaching 209 million dollars in 2022 following the end of the pandemic.

4.2 Contribution of Tourism to Gross Domestic Product in Algeria

The tourism sector is among the sectors contributing to gross domestic product, notably in a number of both developed and developing countries. Statistics from the World Tourism Organization indicate that the average contribution of the tourism sector to global gross domestic product reaches 10 percent. In Algeria, however, the contribution of the tourism sector to gross domestic product remains very weak, as illustrated in the following table:

Table 03: Evolution of the Contribution of Tourism Revenues to Gross Domestic Product in Algeria During the Period 1999-2022²⁴

²⁴- Prepared by the researchers based on:

– National Office of Statistics and Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, available at: www.ons.dz/them_sta.htm, consulted on Wednesday, 1 October 2025 at 14:00.

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Year	Contribution of Tourism Revenues to Gross Domestic Product (%)	Year	Contribution of Tourism Revenues to Gross Domestic Product (%)
1999	1.8	2011	3.3
2000	3.1	2012	3.3
2001	3.2	2013	3.6
2002	3.3	2014	3.6
2003	3.4	2015	3.5
2004	3.6	2016	3.3
2005	3.9	2017	3.25
2006	3.3	2018	3.2
2007	3.2	2019	3.25
2008	3.1	2020	0.6
2009	3.7	2021	0.8
2010	3.4	2022	1.1

It is observed from the table that the contribution of tourism revenues to gross domestic product in Algeria remained very weak during the period 1999–2022, as its average did not exceed 3.31 percent. This rate is low and far from the global average. The weak performance of the tourism sector and its limited contribution to gross domestic product are attributed to the lack of economic development of this sector since independence, as well as the state's focus on the hydrocarbon sector in achieving national development, which has negatively affected the outcomes achieved in the country.

5. Master Plan for Tourism Development as a Reference Framework for Tourism Development Policy in Algeria

Within the framework of its new tourism development strategy, Algeria has attached particular importance to the experiences of certain neighboring countries and countries that have achieved success in the tourism field. The current challenge lies in developing domestic tourism and integrating it into the global tourism commercial network, as well as promoting the Algerian destination as a reference tourism destination at the international level. Building a national destination that meets international standards requires the definition of an organized and sustainable approach capable of providing an accurate assessment and a clear vision for establishing a tourism-based economic alternative to non-renewable resources such as oil.²⁵

Within the framework of its national strategy for the development of the tourism sector, the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Environment, and Tourism in 2008 announced its

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- <https://share.google/hFe3OVVUac3RsPpqD>, consulted on Wednesday, 1 October 2025 at 14:00.
 - Mohamed El Hadi Jab Allah, *Investment in the Tourism Sector: A Comparative Study of the Maghreb Countries*, Doctoral thesis, Faculty of Economics, Commercial Sciences and Management Sciences, 2022–2023, pp. 106–108.

25- Ahsan Al-Ayeb and Aboud Zarguine, *The Importance of Sustainable Tourism within the Tourism Development Strategy in Algeria*, Journal of Human Research and Studies, University of 20 August 1955 Skikda, no. 14, 2017, p. 300.

future outlook in a document known as the Master Plan for Tourism Development for the horizon 2030.

5.1 Definition of the Tourism Development Master Plan

The Tourism Development Master Plan SDAT 2030 constitutes a reference framework for a new policy adopted by the state. It was prepared in 2007 by the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Environment, and Tourism in cooperation with a French committee that drafted an expert report on the reference points and axes of this plan. It includes Algeria's vision for national tourism development across different horizons, in the short term 2009, the medium term 2015, and the long term 2030. It represents a mirror reflecting the state's objectives regarding sustainable development, aimed at achieving social and economic advancement at the national level.²⁶

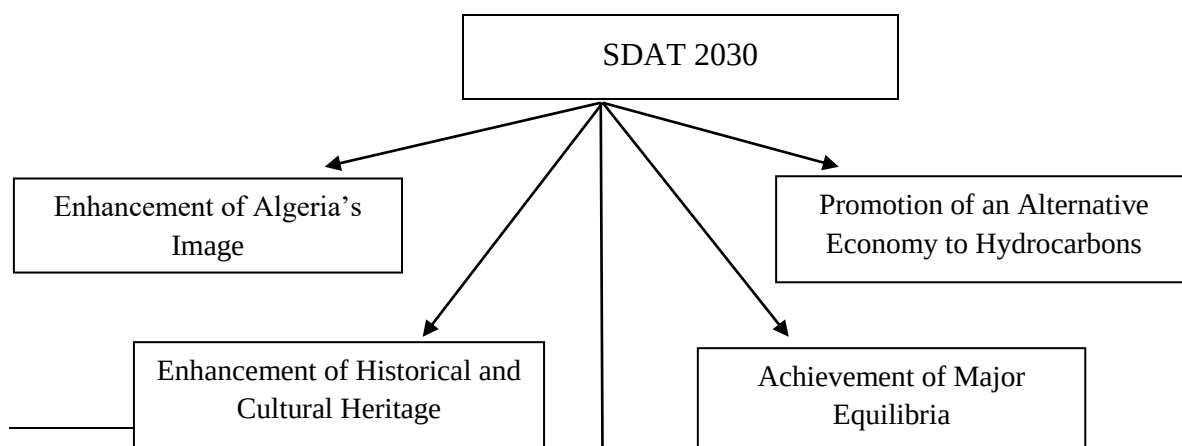
The general report on the Tourism Development Master Plan consists of six volumes:

- Volume No. 01: Diagnosis of Algerian tourism.
- Volume No. 02: The five dynamics and priority tourism action programs in the strategic plan.
- Volume No. 03: Tourism excellence poles and tourism excellence villages.
- Volume No. 04: Implementation of the Tourism Development Master Plan, the operational plan.
- Volume No. 05: Priority tourism projects.
- Volume No. 06: General summary of the Tourism Development Master Plan.

5.2 Dimensions of the Tourism Development Master Plan 2030

The dimensions of the Tourism Development Master Plan can be illustrated through the following figure:

Figure (01): The five objectives of the Tourism Development Master Plan 2030²⁷



26- Boufass Cherif and Ben Khadija Moncel, Promoting the Marketing of the tourism product in Algeria: Reality and Challenges, paper presented at the First Conference on Entrepreneurship and Activating Tourism Marketing in Algeria, Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of 8 May 1945 Guelma, 22–23 April 2014, pp. 8–9.

27- Source: Ministry of Spatial Planning, Environment, and Tourism, *Master Plan for Tourism Development 2030*, Book No. 01: Diagnosis and Assessment of Algerian Tourism, January 2008, p. 24.

Sustained Balance Between Tourism
Development and the Environment

It is evident from the figure above that the Master Plan for Tourism Development was designed to achieve a set of objectives, namely the promotion of a national economy as an alternative to the hydrocarbons sector so that it may serve as a driver of economic growth. This is to be accomplished through improving tourism revenues, attracting foreign currency, and consequently enhancing the balance of payments, while also emphasizing domestic tourism and the valorization of historical and cultural heritage.

To achieve these objectives, the Master Plan for Tourism Development relies on several programs structured as guiding orientations:

- The first guiding orientation: toward a sustainable territory.
- The second guiding orientation: creating dynamics for territorial rebalancing.
- The third guiding orientation: ensuring territorial attractiveness and competitiveness.
- The fourth guiding orientation: achieving territorial equity.
- The fifth guiding orientation: ensuring sound territorial governance.

The success of this strategy formulated by the supervising ministry largely depends on its effective implementation, particularly with regard to developing and enhancing accommodation capacity, as well as diversifying and improving tourism supply and products in line with international demand. This also includes a plan to promote Algeria's tourism image, a training plan to ensure quality improvement, and a financing plan.

6. Conclusion:

The tourism industry needs to develop and modernize because its growth enables national development which helps solve multiple challenges that involve both security and social stability and boosts state financial resources and strengthens international commercial and political ties. The tourism sector requires acknowledgment as an essential economic solution which operates independently from the hydrocarbons industry.

The country of Algeria holds substantial potential for developing its tourism industry. The development process failed to provide enough support for this sector which blocked the successful use of these resources while reducing local and global understanding of their fundamental components. Foreign investors continue to show interest in tourism which makes it possible to achieve this goal because the sector enables foreign investments and supports the growth of domestic industries and sustainable development targets. The major

problem requires all stakeholders to unite their efforts for helping Algeria establish proper recognition of its tourism industry.

Study Findings:

The study findings lead to the following main results that explain the study topic:

- The presence of regional and international competition with substantial tourism capabilities that attract tourists, which renders domestic tourism in Algeria less demanded by local tourists.
- Tourism in Algeria suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure, equipment, and facilities across various tourist sites.
- The tourism sector in Algeria fails to develop because government programs have ignored it during their development work while the industry receives less attention than other economic sectors.
- Tourists exploring Algeria observe a limited range of tourism product offerings despite the country's globally classified heritage and historical landmarks from past eras that could serve as strong attractions if supported by promoters and investors. The Algerian tourism industry faces problems because media and communication channels fail to provide sufficient coverage which prevents its products from competing effectively in the global tourism industry.
- Tourism in Algeria is largely confined to a seasonal pattern. The tourism policy which Algeria follows fails to support sustainability for tourism because the government does not provide enough backing for this matter.
- The tourism sector in Algeria faces challenges because its development programs fail to produce substantial advantages for the country's various development problems.

Study Recommendations:

- The tourism potential of Algeria needs to be used in the most effective way which should maintain its sustainability while learning from tourism success stories of countries that share similar physical and cultural backgrounds.
- The domestic tourism product needs to evolve into a form which lets it compete with international tourism offerings.
- - The development of tourism requires stronger support for infrastructure projects and basic facilities and modern communication and information systems which function as tourism development support systems.
- The security of tourists needs protection through increased security personnel who will monitor tourist destinations while tourists should encounter fewer obstacles during their visits and tourism marketing strategies need to show improved safety measures for visitors.

- The public needs to develop understanding about tourism activities because they should accept tourism as a beneficial economic practice which brings financial benefits and enhances community living conditions.
- The country needs to develop its tourism industry through support for desert tourism and therapeutic tourism which exist throughout Algeria.
- Small scale and traditional handicraft industries which operate in support of tourism need to receive development. The process of finding suitable spots for tourism investment requires special attention because foreign direct investment needs to receive maximum support in this sector.
- The tourism industry requires better services through worker education programs which should help employees obtain higher academic and professional education in tourism and hospitality institutions while they learn foreign languages with special focus on English for guides.

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