

The role of SSE initiatives and local authorities in promoting sustainable tourism in Algeria: Illustrated by the Thyzza village of Boumerdès**BELKADI Abdelghani^{1♦}, SMADI Amina²**¹ DEFI laboratory, University of Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria), abdelghani.belkadi@ummto.dz² DEFI laboratory, University of Tizi-Ouzou (Algeria), amina.smadi@ummto.dz**Received:** 03/03/2025**Accepted:** 07/11/2025**Published:** 25/11/2025**Abstract:**

Territorial development enhances resources by involving many stakeholders. Sustainable tourism aims for the active participation of local communities in the tourism sector in order to achieve sustainable development. In Algeria, associations and local authorities are involved in promoting sustainable tourism through programs that ensure the preservation of local culture, environmental protection, and community income generation. This study examines the role of these actors in the development of sustainable tourism. A qualitative methodology based on semi-structured interviews conducted with various stakeholders at the local level was applied to determine the various actions taken. We analyzed the involvement of these stakeholders in promoting sustainable tourism and concluded that there are initiatives aimed at promoting the culture of sustainable tourism in the Wilaya of Boumerdès.

Keywords: territorial development, sustainable development, sustainable tourism, social and solidarity economy.

JEL Classification: Z30, Z39

♦ Corresponding author

1. Introduction:

In a context of globalization and to achieve territorial development, public authorities, social and solidarity economy (SSE) stakeholders, and private operators participate in protecting the specific resources of a territory. They are considered strategic assets through a well-defined development process. (Abdelmalki & Courlet, 1996) argue that territorial development processes create coherence between national and local levels, requiring systematic mobilization of heritage, local identities, specific governance modes, and clear strategic frameworks.

(Peemans, 2002) conceptualizes territorial development as a continuous process aimed at shaping and administering a specific geographical space. This process is founded upon collective agreements between residents and local political actors within institutional structures selected by the population. These elements enable residents to define their relationship with the natural environment, establish lifestyles, reinforce social cohesion, enhance quality of life, and preserve cultural identity. Territorial development is materialized through tangible actions while accounting for global economic constraints imposed upon the territory.

This approach emphasizes the importance of local involvement and sustainability in a region's development, while recognizing the economic context in which this development takes place. This perception suggests that territorial development lies at the intersection of sustainable development and the social and solidarity economy (SSE), while sustainable tourism safeguards the tourist destination and protects it in the long term for future generations. It helps avoid the negative effects of mass tourism on the destination and maintain the positive effects of tourism on future populations. Choosing sustainable tourism in the territorial development process appears to be an opportunity for income (primary and/or secondary) for local populations and a source of social stability. The better is to focus on domestic tourism, which would not be destabilized by geopolitical unrest, global economic crises, and pandemic-related crises.

Regarding the means to be implemented for sustainable tourism in local areas, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) could become a model in this regard, through initiatives aimed at creating new jobs and ensuring the sustainability of existing ones. The social and solidarity economy, through initiatives from associations, cooperatives, mutual societies, and/or foundations, helps achieve the objectives of sustainable tourism.

According to (RIPESS¹, 2015), the SSE is not limited to helping those in need but can go further towards profound and systemic change. It constitutes an alternative to capitalism because it seeks systemic transformation. Moreover, The (CRESSIDF²) describes the social and solidarity economy (SSE) as an entrepreneurial approach focused on the common good, placing human beings at the heart of its concerns. In this sense, the SSE is characterized by its roots in local areas, its potential for social innovation, and the hybridization of its public-

¹ (RIPESS): Réseau International de Promotion de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire; translated by the author to; International Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

² (CRESSIDF): Chambre Régionale de l'économie Sociale et Solidaire d'Île-de-France; translated by the author to; Regional Chamber of the Social and Solidarity Economy of Île-de-France.

private financing.

This development model promotes the creation of multidimensional wealth (material, social, and cultural) by prioritizing collective and participatory forms of organization. It constrains profit-seeking and strictly regulates profit distribution, reinvesting the majority of gains to ensure project sustainability. From this perspective, an alliance between sustainable tourism and the social and solidarity economy (SSE) is being created to promote local development, environmental sustainability, and the active participation of local communities in the tourism sector.

As stakeholders in territorial development, associations and local authorities have become increasingly involved in sustainable tourism through initiatives to promote this type of tourism. In other words, associations and local authorities in the Boumerdès province have each implemented programs aimed at encouraging sustainable tourism, with an emphasis on preserving local culture, protecting the environment, and generating income for local populations.

In particular, the Thafath association of Thyzza village (located in Ammal municipality) continues to schedule cultural and tourist activities such as Yennayer festivities, guided hikes, and tours in the Ammal region. Similarly, local authorities, through the Boumerdès province, launched an annual "cleanest village" competition in 2018 to promote sustainable development. They also planned events to promote sustainable tourism, crafts, and local culture.

In light of the above, we question the extent to which social and solidarity economy (SSE) initiatives and local authorities contribute to promoting sustainable tourism in Algeria?

In order to address this problematic, we adopted a qualitative methodology based on interview guides addressed to actors involved in actions to promote sustainable tourism in the village of Thyzza in the Wilaya of Boumerdès (Thyzza Association, Tourism and Crafts Department, and the municipality of Ammal). The aim is to explore the different facets of the efforts made by the actors who are the subject of our research. The choice of the case study through interviews allows us to analyze the involvement of associations and local authorities as actors directly involved in sustainable tourism at the field of our study. Indeed, the individual semi-directive interviews were conducted to give the people surveyed enough space to give their points of view. Nevertheless, we prepared an interview guide composed of the main ideas or axes so as not to lose sight of the objectives set beforehand.

To carry out this study, our work is subdivided into two parts. The first part is intended for the theoretical study of the concepts related to our research, namely the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and sustainable tourism in connection with territorial development. The second part will be reserved for the evaluation of the implementation of these principles in a specific context, namely the Thyzza association and the local authorities of the Wilaya of Boumerdès. The interpretation of the results of this survey would make it possible to determine to what extent the principles of sustainable tourism are applied by the village community and among public actors at the local level. Finally, to conclude, our work aims to identify the difficulties encountered by these actors and the

opportunities to be exploited in order to promote more harmonious and sustainable tourism through recommendations.

2. Theoretical Concepts and Definitions:

According to World Tourism Organization data (UNWTO, 2020), tourism represents one of the world's most dynamic economic sectors, generating approximately 10.4% of global GDP in 2019 and employing one in ten workers worldwide. Although the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily impeded growth, a robust recovery in international travel has been observed after the pandemic.

The number of arrivals is estimated at 1.2 billion international tourists in 2023 (UNWTO, 2023). In developing countries, tourism is an economic driver and has an impact on transport, agriculture, crafts, and the construction and public works sector (UNWTO, 2023). However, solutions must be found that would allow us to benefit from the economic advantages of tourism while ensuring sustainable development. Collombon (2004, p. 12) emphasizes that "some benefits of tourism are no longer in doubt, such as job creation, income generation, foreign exchange, improvement of the trade balance or the induced effect on infrastructure development. It is important to remember the many negative effects of tourism, particularly in the South."

(Bramwell & Lane, 1993) illustrate tourism's harmful effects, including climate change, which poses a serious threat to the tourism sector and could affect its growth or existence in certain regions. According to (Gosling & al., 2009), all tourism industry stakeholders reject continuing on the mass tourism path and express greater interest in sustainable development. (Burns & Novelli, 2006) state that sustainable development represents a more responsible and balanced development form that enables environmental conservation while permitting exploitation to secure continued economic growth.

Sustainable development is founded upon three interconnected pillars. These aspects are interdependent and must be balanced to achieve truly sustainable development beneficial to the environment, economy, and society (Timur & Getz, 2009). For these authors, it involves progress while preserving essential ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. The objective is to minimize environmental impact to maintain long-term ecological balance. Additionally, it aims to ensure economic development viability through wise resource management to meet current needs without compromising those of future generations. Finally, it seeks to improve population quality of life, respecting values and cultural identity, to grant people greater control over their existence while strengthening community cohesion.

In this context, (Weaver, 2005) suggests that sustainable tourism can be considered as the application of sustainable development principles to tourism. This approach seeks to preserve and improve the quality of environmental and social resources over the long term without opposing development. It recognizes growth limits and potential negative effects while acknowledging that these constraints vary significantly depending on the destination (Bramwell & Lane 1993). According to these authors, sustainable tourism aims to mitigate

conflicts resulting from complex interactions between the tourism sector, travelers, nature, and local populations.

The concept of sustainable tourism development is well established by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO, 2005) as guidelines and management methods for development applicable to all forms of tourism and destinations, including mass tourism and niche tourism. Sustainability addresses the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of tourism development to ensure its viability through a balanced approach. According to the UNWTO, sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts, meeting the needs of visitors, professionals, the environment, and host communities" (cited in Leroux, 2010, p. 234).

Furthermore, several authors make a direct link between the principles of sustainable development and territorial development. According to Peemans (2010, p.43), territorial development "can be seen as the sustainable process of building and managing a territory, through which the population of this territory defines, by means of a socio-political pact and the establishment of an institutional framework appropriate to the context, its relationship with nature and its way of life, consolidates social ties, improves its well-being, and builds a cultural identity that has its material basis in the construction of this territory."

Since the 1990s, Baudelle has observed the growing importance of territorial development in both academic research and professional circles. The notion of resources is now intimately linked to territory, referring to potential that local actors can exploit. Territorial development thus aims to leverage resources specific to a given space (Baudelle & Merenne-Schoumaker, 2011). The resource concept is increasingly associated with territory. The notion of territorial resources evokes a geographical area that has potential assets that stakeholders can exploit and develop. In this perspective, (Baudelle & al. 2011) state that territorial development aims to capitalize on resources specific to a given place.

This approach emphasizes the valorization of territory-specific resources, whether tangible or intangible. For (Pecqueur, (2005), territorial resources encompass all material and immaterial territorial objects, whether valued or to be valued. The territorial development concept designates dynamics through which local actors strive to optimize territorial resource utilization and improve population quality of life. As underlined by (Leloup & al. 2010), this notion essentially represents a social construction orchestrating various actor projects within a defined relational space. (Moine, 2007) categorizes these territorial development actors into: the state, local and regional authorities, civil society, and businesses.

In Algeria, the Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire (SNAT), which can be translated as the National Territorial Planning Scheme, approved by Law No. 10-02 of June 29, 2010, embodies the state's territorial development project. This strategic document aims to ensure territorial balance, equity, and attractiveness by 2030, with sustainable development objectives. The SNAT integrates demographic, economic, and ecological dimensions into territorial planning guidelines. The sustainable territorial development of the SNAT is structured around four main axes: the first is territorial sustainability, the

second is territorial rebalancing, the third is territorial attractiveness and competitiveness, and the fourth is territorial equity (joradp/61, 2010).

In this context, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) emerges as a potential model for sustainable tourism in local areas. Defourny (2017) asserts that although its roots date back to the earliest forms of human associations, the modern SSE developed primarily in the 19th century. According to the same author, the legal framework for these forms of organization (cooperatives, mutual societies and non-profit associations) was established between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

According to several authors, the social and solidarity economy (SSE) is seen simply as the economic actions that emanate from all forms of associations in the so-called third sector, i.e., those that complement the work of the private and public sector economies or fill the gaps left by the latter two (Defourny, 2017). He adds that since the last quarter of the 20th century, a more specific conception of the SSE has emerged internationally. It is recognized as a "third sector" distinct from the for-profit private sector and the public sector.

Non-profit organizations are the most common model within the social and solidarity economy. These organizations operate in various sectors such as sports, culture, ecology, and social action. Archambault (1996) defines them as all organizations meeting the following criteria:

1. Institutionalized: excluding unregistered associations;
2. Private: separate from public authorities, except for the presence of a minority of representatives on the board;
3. Independent: must have their own decision-making bodies and not be controlled by an external entity;
4. No distribution of profits to their members or directors;
5. Voluntary and non-mandatory participation of volunteers and/or donors.

The common principles of social economy organizations, according to (Nogues, 2003) are as follows:

- The principle of dual relationships encompassing both partnership and activity. In this relationship, individuals are not simply defined by productive capacities, as often occurs in employee relationships;
- The principle of democratic governance, emphasizing individual collaboration rather than capital, thus transforming governance practices;
- The principle of limited profit or non-profit that provides autonomy to pursue alternative objectives and embrace different values.

As (Parodi, 1999) mentions, social and solidarity economy (SSE) differentiates itself at three levels:

- Its ability to discover new territorial activities through entrepreneurial dynamics;
- Its objectives and values differing from private and public sectors;
- Its diverse interventions across numerous sectors.

These areas can be of economic dimension where the social economy offers an

alternative to the traditional entrepreneurial model, as it is based on collective entrepreneurship, representing a particular expression of entrepreneurial freedom (Parodi, 1999). In addition, social economy organizations complement traditional forms of solidarity (family, state, etc.). They establish voluntary, horizontal and reciprocal solidarity, thus strengthening social ties and cohesion.

Finally, from a social innovation perspective, the social economy serves as a laboratory for exploring and developing new ways of life. This concerns various areas such as the environment, consumption, production, exchanges, leisure and citizenship. The sustainable approach to tourism is seen as an opportunity to transform everything, including people, nature and culture. In this context, the solidarity paradigm strengthens the sustainability of tourism, especially in each destination, and offers concrete opportunities to stakeholders (Doğan, M. (2021).

3. Sustainable tourism in Algeria: the role of local stakeholders:

The Ministry of Tourism in Algeria (2023) indicates that the Algerian authorities have begun to recognise the importance of sustainable tourism as a means of promoting local communities' socio-economic development and preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage. Although sustainable tourism has not reached its full potential, some initiatives have been implemented.

Legal measures have been enacted to promote tourism activities benefiting local communities, emphasizing tourism cooperative creation and professional training for local stakeholders. Law No. 03-01 of February 17, 2003, relating to sustainable tourism development, exemplifies state legislative efforts in this domain (JO No. 11-19, February 2003).

Additionally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have supported sustainable tourism initiatives in Algeria. According to (Benyahlou & Boudjani, 2020), some NGOs have collaborated with local authorities and communities to develop projects to support associations through training activities and funding in the social field, the promotion of women's and youth rights, environmental protection, the promotion of ecotourism, and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

Among experiences and initiatives in this field, we analyzed the case of the Thafath-Thyzza association in Thyzza village in Ammal municipality, located in southeastern Boumerdès Wilaya.

3.1. Thafath-Thyzza association in the village of Thyzza:

Thafath-Thyzza is a non-profit association created in 2014 to work towards the sustainable development of the village. It aims to combine diverse interests, improve the flow of information, and act as a mediator between residents and authorities to find shared solutions for greater well-being.

The results of our interviews allowed us to identify the objectives of the Thafath-Thyzza association, which are as follows:

- Improving the quality of life of the village's residents and preserving its unique character by promoting its potential;

- Acting as an intermediary between village residents and local authorities;
- Protecting the diverse interests of villagers;
- Organizing activities within the village to maintain an active lifestyle.

3.1. 1. The cleanest village in the Wilaya of Boumerdès:

Through Thafath-Thyzza association efforts, Thyzza village earned the prize for best village in the first "Top Village" competition edition in 2018. Thyzza village inhabitants participated by organizing volunteer activities for alley cleaning and green space maintenance.

The competition was established by the local authorities of the Wilaya of Boumerdès to enable urban neighborhood and village inhabitants to better maintain, protect, and preserve their environment. Eight villages participated in this competition, which aimed to create competition between Wilaya villages in hygiene and environmental preservation. Local Wilaya authorities allocated a financial envelope of 150 million centimes for this award.

3.1. 2. The cultural heritage:

The Thafath-Thyzza association annually organizes, with all village inhabitants' contributions, activities celebrating the Tamazight New Year, "Yennayer," attracting over 5,000 tourists from across the country. Village youth welcome guests at the village entrance early in the morning. Festivities begin with various exhibitions along main village pathways, highlighting local products for sale including olives, honey, olive oil, dried figs, etc.

Local heritage such as pottery, traditional clothing, and jewelry also features in main village squares, along with traditional clothing parades featuring Kabyle dress. Parallel exhibition stands showcase local gastronomy, paintings depicting local rural life scenes, and regional traditions. Cross-country races are organized through Thyzza village over distances up to 3,000 meters. Participants from several Wilayas are divided into age categories. The event includes other sports exhibitions.

Local cultural and artistic personalities are honored, and discussions and conferences on Yennayer history and Tamazight culture are hosted. Thyzza visitors and tourists participate in hiking excursions in surrounding mountains, including Mount "Djerah," offering views of Thyzza village to promote sustainable tourism. Mount "Djerah" represents a regional historical heritage that the Thafath association aims to promote.

Through the Thafath Association and Yennayer Day celebration, the population of Thyzza has opportunities to perpetuate and revitalize preserved traditions such as solidarity and ancestral customs reflecting ethical social values. The Thafath association actively maintains cohesion values, essentially present in traditions such as "Laouziaà" and "Nefka," involving sacrificing calves for distribution to all village inhabitants, along with other social and solidarity-type customs.

3.1. 3. The SSE at the service of sustainable tourism:

Sustainable tourism, as mentioned above, is tourism that leverages the tourism economy for the benefit of present generations while preserving local resources for future

generations. To this end, the Thafath Association's efforts in sustainable tourism are not limited to festivities alone, but extend throughout the year and collaborate with other stakeholders such as local authorities to launch a local culture of sustainable tourism. Indeed, the association is involved in the following activities:

- Organizing periodic exhibitions and sales encouraging agricultural product marketing and promote village artisan products to tourists, such as for International Rural Women's Day and World Food Day;
- Cooperating with numerous national associations from Ghardaïa, Mostaganem, Tamanrasset, Bouira, and elsewhere to promote sustainable tourism, mountain tourism, and historical tourism. This cooperation includes programming guided tours and hikes for tourists accompanied by those associations, due to the presence of suitable sites in the adjacent mountain;
- Establishing periodically literature competitions and open-air book fairs at bus stops and in small libraries, with book donations related to various fields including sustainable tourism. This action enables village inhabitants and tourists to educate themselves about sustainable development concepts;
- Setting up sports events, including tourist hikes where village associations throughout the municipality participate, to promote sustainable tourism among youth;
- Promoting regional natural resources and cultural heritage to local communities, aiming to safeguard and capitalize on these assets through tourism-related activities. This action is done during the aforementioned events by inviting local authorities to provide sponsorships or during exhibitions and activities orchestrated by these authorities through various departments. This promotional effort also targets tourists, the media and other stakeholders through guided tours, culinary experiences, exhibitions and sales events;
- Providing financial and non-financial assistance during Ramadan, festive periods, and mourning periods as social solidarity manifestations;
- Participating in village sustainable development efforts by installing solar panels in treatment rooms and schools;
- Receiving and organizing tourist visits for international associations from Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and other countries. Those associations are heavily active in sustainable tourism and SSE fields, so Thafath is benefiting from their experience;
- Partaking in exhibitions and events organized by local authorities in all areas that interfere with tourist activity, such as crafts, heritage, social works, culture, agriculture, vocational training, the environment, youth, NGOs and solidarity;
- Participating in events abroad (North Africa and Europe) and representing the region's cultural and environmental character to promote sustainable and social tourism internationally;
- Organizing sit-ins near quarries advocating for cessation of activities endangering recently discovered archaeological caves, facilitating their use for tourism purposes by the local community.

3.2. Local authorities and the promotion of sustainable tourism:

According to Law No. 19-12 of December 11, 2019, amending and supplementing Law No. 84-09 of February 4, 1984, relating to territorial organization, Algeria's territorial organization includes 58 Wilayas and 1,541 municipalities. These Wilayas and municipalities are also called territorial or local authorities.

The Tourism and Crafts Department of the Wilaya, like all Wilaya administrative departments, serves dual roles: first, a centralized role representing the state at local levels and, second, a decentralized role implementing programs voted by elected representatives of l'Assemblée Populaire de Wilaya (APW), which means popular assembly of the Wilaya.

3.2. 1. The Tourism and Crafts Department of Boumerdès:

According to surveyed administrative officials, the Tourism and Crafts Department of Boumerdès Wilaya has established the following sustainable tourism objectives:

- Sustainable development of tourism ensured through local skills development;
- Marketing and promotion of local tourist products to stimulate sustainable tourism;
- Sustainable tourism development at local levels guaranteed through cultural tourism, ecotourism, and historical tourism stimulation;
- Developing and enhancing activities of organizations, associations, and traders linked to sustainable tourism;
- Participating in efforts related to integrating traditional craft activities into local economies to promote sustainable tourism;
- Integrating sustainable tourism activities into tourist site urbanization and territorial development;
- Introducing measures likely to create environments favorable to local sustainable tourism and traditional craft activities;
- Strengthening association efforts and professional organizations active in traditional crafts to propagate sustainable tourism;
- Activating and structuring intermediate spaces and associative movements active locally in sustainable tourism;
- Contributing to preservation, protection, and rehabilitation of traditional craft heritage to promote sustainable tourism.

Similarly, according to administrators at the Boumerdès Wilaya tourism and crafts department (interview subjects), the maintained Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement Touristique (SDAT), which can be translated as Master Plan for Tourism Development, strategy for Boumerdès Wilaya regarding sustainable tourism is based on five identified axes:

- Promotion and preservation of cultural, historical, and natural heritage;
- Combined environmental protection and tourism development;
- Heritage tourism promotion strategy conception ;
- Diversification of accommodation forms such as homestay tourism;

- Craft contribution to local community development.

On the other hand, the development challenges in Boumerdès Wilaya regarding sustainable tourism are:

- The protection and enhancement of ecosystems;
- Cultural and natural heritage preservation ;
- Tourism industry diversification for economic sustainability;
- The promotion of craft products;
- Job creation in tourism.

3.2. 1.1. Integrated sustainable tourism development plan:

To facilitate sustainable tourism advancement and promotion in Boumerdès Wilaya, tourism development frameworks have been meticulously analyzed. This fundamental work is based on strategic assessments and studies of various challenges and problems. Tourism modality and product diversification constitute the envisaged framework; conversion into viable operational plans remains necessary.

These actions will be spread across Wilaya territory according to each region's tourism characteristics to ensure socio-economic development. Chosen themes integrate culture and heritage, multi-seasonality, social solidarity, sport and youth, leisure, memory, nature, mountain tourism, the rural world, hiking, fishing, etc. This strategic correlation is relevant in its orientation toward tourism product diversification, capable of generating sustainable tourism project proliferation across Wilaya territory.

3.2. 1. 2. Action plan for implementing SDAT-Boumerdès towards integrated sustainable tourism:

As mentioned in the Integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, the Boumerdès Wilaya SDAT has developed the following sustainable tourism action plan:

- Six (6) actions to diversify accommodation forms, such as local inhabitant accommodation and reception capacity increases, as well as memorial tourism by enabling memorial site exploitation;
- Five (5) actions for cultural tourism, development and promotion of tourist circuits according to regional tourist attractions;
- Four (4) actions for heritage tourism;
- Twenty one (21) actions for ecotourism and nature tourism to ensure maximum ecosystem protection;
- Seven (7) actions for mountain tourism and sports tourism, designed especially for youth;
- Eight (8) actions for rural tourism and 3 actions for fishing tourism, providing tourist opportunities for mountain and coastal regions.

The SDAT action plan for Boumerdès Wilaya presents a balanced and diversified approach to tourism development, covering several strategic areas to enhance regional potential. The emphasis on ecotourism and nature tourism (21 actions) demonstrates a

strong desire to preserve ecosystems.

Cultural and heritage dimensions are well represented, as are alternative accommodation initiatives promoting authenticity and contact. The plan considers diverse audiences, including youth targeted by sports tourism, and enhances specific natural resources (mountains, coastline) to create diverse economic opportunities.

3.2. 2. The Municipality of Ammal:

Ammal is a municipality in Boumerdès Wilaya located southeast of the Wilaya capital on national road No. 5 (RN 5) leading to Bouira Wilaya. This locality houses several villages, including Thyzza, and plays remarkable roles in promoting sustainable tourism through the following actions:

- Facilitating and assisting with bureaucratic files and obtaining various permits for associations;
- Providing financial aid to youth associations, calculated at 3% of the municipality's annual budget;
- Assisting associations with available means (vehicles, trucks, equipment, etc.)
- Offering gifts to associations and village committees;
- Organizing tourist visits to various Wilaya for associations and village committees;
- Supplying necessary facilities and structures for associations (youth centers, cultural centers, etc.);
- Giving food and shelter for associations and village committees engaged in tourist exchanges between Wilayas;
- Implementing small green space projects in mountainous areas and small rest area projects in forest areas called “Bellemou” to promote mountain and ecological tourism;
- Rehabilitating and constructing mountain roads to promote mountain tourism;
- Purchasing production means (sewing machines) for women integrated into women's associations for craft products;
- Encouraging crafts and traditional products through commercial premises distribution for household working women in this field;
- Organizing events and exhibitions for traditional products and crafts;
- Establishing deliberate commercial transactions, as a sign of solidarity, with small factory owners to encourage them because they are doing business with household working women;
- Studying projects for exploiting a protected natural mineral bath at a place called “Thelath”.

3.3. Difficulties encountered by the actors involved in the study:

Multiple difficulties affect all the actors in this study, but this analysis focuses on primary difficulties hindering sustainable tourism development. These difficulties are summarized as follows:

For local authorities, tourism-related activities are spread across the various departments of the Wilaya:

- Olive oil, figs, and carob (Agriculture Department)
- Trails (Environment and Forest Conservation Department)
- Cultural heritage (Culture Department)
- Traditional activities (Tourism and Crafts Department)
- Community activities and subsidies (General Affairs Department and Youth and Sports Department)
- Small businesses (Commerce Department).
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Each department follows its own ministerial supervision, causing tourism in all forms to face information and data sharing obstacles. The envisaged solution involves creating specialized cells within the tourism and crafts department to mediate and collect information between different departments.

As for municipalities, they suffer from funding deficiencies; appropriate budget allocations for sustainable tourism development are necessary.

For associations, beyond funding deficiencies that can impede initiatives (being primary assets in any project), human resource challenges exist, and particularly younger generation abstention from associative work and community volunteering. This situation is attributed to youth motivation deficits. Budgets for associations and village committees active in sustainable tourism could exert locomotive effects on populations.

4. Conclusion:

Through manifestations of associations and local authority (Wilaya and municipality) efforts, we deduce that sustainable tourism opportunities exist despite encountered constraints.

Algeria is gradually recognizing the importance of sustainable tourism as a vehicle for the socio-economic development of local communities and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Legal frameworks exist, and several NGOs are collaborating with local authorities and communities to develop this sector.

The non-profit Thafath-Thyzza Association is a model of success in the village of Thyzza, aiming in particular to improve the quality of life of residents. Among its major achievements:

- Award for the cleanest village in 2018 thanks to citizen mobilization and promotion of natural resources;
- Promotion of cultural heritage through the annual celebration of Yennayer (Amazigh New Year), attracting more than 5,000 tourists;
- Several sustainable tourism initiatives through exhibitions of local agricultural and artisanal products, collaborations with national associations, and the organization of guided tours for national and international tourists.

Local authorities, through the Boumerdès Tourism and Crafts Department, have established objectives for sustainable tourism, including:

- Promoting local tourism products;
- Supporting the integration of traditional crafts;
- Creating an environment conducive to sustainable tourism.

The (SDAT) of Boumerdès focuses on the protection of cultural and natural heritage, with the development of a detailed action plan with 54 initiatives covering ecotourism (21 actions), rural tourism (8), cultural tourism (5), heritage tourism (4), and other forms of tourism.

The Municipality of Ammal supports sustainable tourism through:

- Financial and logistical assistance to associations;
- Implementing projects promoting mountain and ecological tourism;
- Supporting local crafts and women entrepreneurs.

This synergy between the local association Thafath-Thyza and local authorities demonstrates how sustainable tourism can become a lever for sustainable development for the benefit of local communities while preserving cultural and natural heritage.

These institutions can play key roles in promoting and regulating sustainable tourism. Local authorities of Boumerdès Wilaya can provide financial support, tax incentives, or subsidies to cooperatives, associations, village committees, and small businesses.

On the other hand, according to collected regulatory texts and arrangements implemented to develop and promote tourism generally (sustainable tourism particularly), theoretical efforts remain highly appreciated, necessary, and commendable. Dilemmas arise regarding ground realities and practices, where obtained results remain distant from planned forecasts—"much work remains," noted one interviewed official.

5. Recommendations:

Based on our survey of various territorial development stakeholders and lessons learnt from our study, we suggest the following recommendations to promote sustainable tourism in Algeria:

- Liberate entrepreneurship from public authority influence and establish commerce chambers jointly administered by territorial development stakeholders (Economic Governance Mode). Develop reliable judicial systems in economic and commercial aspects (stakeholder freedom versus responsibility and accountability).
- Develop feasible action plans for territorial-level sustainable tourism development with human and financial resources, followed by specialized activity cell monitoring.
- Highlight specific cultural and natural attractions and sustainable tourism destination diversity.
- Promote sustainable and ethical practices and encourage responsible travel behaviors.
- Emphasize local sustainability-promoting projects, support community tourism

initiatives, and share Algerian sustainable tourism successes.

- Underline the economic, social, and cultural benefits of supporting local communities and sustainable tourism in Algeria.
- Explore traveler opportunities to contribute to and participate in community projects.
- Provide travel logistics information, accommodations, local guides, and recommend useful resources and organizations for planning sustainable tourism trips to Algeria.
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