

Original scientific paper

UDC 338.48:502/504 (6 Bou Saada)  
<https://doi.org/10.2298/GSGD2202267B>

Received: August 03, 2022

Corrected: August 23, 2022

Accepted: September 02, 2022

**Fatima Zahra Berreghioua<sup>1\*</sup>, Boudjamea Khalfallah\***

*\* Institute of Urban Management and Techniques (GTU), Mohamed Boudiaf University, M'sila, Algeria*

## **TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PANNING IN BOU SAÂDA, ALGERIA**

**Abstract:** The city of Bou Saâda is one of the Algerian cities that have diverse tourism resources, but it has not been adopted as a premier tourist spot nor has it benefited from the tourism programs established within the national strategy for sustainable tourism development for Horizons 2030, which made the tourism weak compared to other Algerian regions that have similar tourism elements. This study aims to evaluate the existing tourism strategy to address the shortcomings and provide solutions by focusing on four variables: tourist destination, tourism industry, the tourist market, and actors in tourism. We have relied on the following techniques: SWOT analysis to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the tourism sector in Bou Saâda, MCDA Analysis using AHP for spatial planning for the future tourism industry, and a questionnaire form distributed to the residents, the tourists and the experts to take their suggestions and use them in guiding the tourism planning process. The results of the study proved that there is a weakness in the tourism planning process in the city of Bou Saâda, which negatively affects the tourism traffic, that is still weak compared to the qualifications it has, which if exploited according to a well-thought-out strategy, the city will become a targeted tourist destination.

**Key words:** tourism resources, challenges, tourism planning, sustainable tourism development, Bou Saâda

---

<sup>1</sup> fberreghioua.fatima\_zahra@univ-msila.dz (corresponding author)

## **Introduction**

Tourism planning plays a crucial role in the organization and management of tourism activity, as it provides a common framework for making the right decisions to develop the tourism traffic in Scientific Ways and provides various actors with the methods to be followed to achieve sustainable tourism development (Mahfoud Amar et al., 2017).

Within operationalizing tourism according to sustainable development to address the shortcomings in the tourism sector, the Algerian state launched a new tourism strategy adopted by the master plan of tourist development, which came as the result of a long course of research, studies and consultation with the custodians. They recognized that tourism revenues are similar to fuels revenues, and planning for their development has become an absolute necessity and not an option to generate hard currency while respecting the determinants of natural resources and local culture.

The efforts spent through the approved strategy have not been crowned with satisfactory results; it has proved the inability of the tourism plan to increase the volume of incoming tourist traffic and increase its contribution to the Gross domestic product due to the limited accomplishments as a result of the constantly updated changes and effects that were disrupting the achievement of the established goals.

At the national level, 159,869 beds were to be provided to receive 2,5 million tourists at the end of 2015, but the number recorded in that period was estimated at 102,244 beds. The number of tourists registered was 1,7 million, most of them were Algerian tourists residing abroad, while the tourist contribution to the GPD was 1,2% instead of 3% planned for the same year (Idir & Ghazazi, 2019).

The city of Bou Saâda is one of the Algerian cities that is characterized by tourist contradiction, as it has a variety of tourist resources, but a poor tourism revenue, and this is due to the ambiguity of tourism planning, most of its decisions are formalities and didn't come into effect, which contributed to the decline of the tourism sector and the absence of signs of Sustainable Tourism Development.

Therefore, the questions asked are: What are the causes of tourist planning deficiencies in the city of Bou Saâda which prevented laying the foundations of sustainable development? How to overcome these obstacles?

The research aims to develop an overall view to provide an appropriate environment to overcome the challenges facing the tourism planning process and ensure its success to achieve sustainable tourism development in the city of Bou Saâda.

## **Literature Review**

According to the 1987 Brundtland report, Sustainable Development focuses on meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of subsequent generations to meet their own needs and inherit debts that they cannot cope with, with an emphasis on reducing environmental degradation, consumption of non-renewable resources and unbalanced economic growth (Agbedahin, 2019; Lange et al., 2019; Spijkers, 2018). In 2015, orientations of the United Nations Agenda 2030 were set (Lopes et al., 2020), making sustainable development a priority issue in various developmental fields, including tourism development (Kapera, 2018).

Currently, tourism activity has become available to different social categories and an integrated industry at the forefront of global industries (Costa, 2020; Lórinicz et al., 2020) and occupies a powerful position in the development of regions internationally.

However, like any activity that has positive and negative effects in an era called the era of the tourism industry, most tourist places involve human activity (Zahrani & Kebachi, 2008) to increase the enjoyment of tourists and achieve purely economic goals. In return, there is pressure on the natural environment and the socio-cultural determinants of the host communities, which necessitated a review of the adopted policies and the practice of tourism according to the dimensions of sustainable development instead of practicing mass tourism randomly (Dumbraveanu, 2007).

Sustainable tourism works to find a compromise formula between satisfying the physical and psychological needs of tourists without violating the rights of future generations of tourists to enjoy the environment of the tourist destination, in addition to achieving the satisfaction of local residents while maintaining the quality of the environment and creating dynamic conditions designed to suit the carrying capacity (Amerta et al., 2018; Rasoolimanesh et al., 2020).

These goals will only be achieved by adopting a well-thought-out and well-controlled tourism plan that consider current and future opportunities and risks to lay the foundations for sustainable tourism development. So sustainable tourism planning is therefore important, as it helps to predict and form a long-term view of the tourism sector to avoid problems or reduce their severity by protecting tourism resources, gaining the satisfaction of tourists and maximizing the benefits of integrating tourism into social and economic life (Kausar & Gunawan, 2015).

The process of sustainable tourism planning focuses on two main elements, the quality of tourism and the actors in the tourism sector, and there is a correlative relationship between them; the quality of the tourist destination reflects a strong leadership and management style that takes into account the involvement of all actors and vice versa (Dias et al., 2018; Mira et al., 2020).

The quality of Tourism focuses on the diversity of tourist resources and services provided by tourist institutions, such as the transfer of information in addition to infrastructure and public utilities (del Río-Rama et al., 2017), and according to many researchers, its life cycle goes through five stages (Issani, 2010):

*Discovery phase*: begins with determining the tourist area, its size, attractiveness, and its carrying capacity. *Participation phase*: the provision of tourism services in terms of transportation, accommodation, food, entertainment, security, and health. *Development phase*: creating tourist areas with strong influential in terms design and brand for global tourist consumption (Lew, 2017). *Maturity phase*: focuses on achieving balance and takes into consideration several procedures, including the application of proper management of natural and human resources through trained competencies, providing visitor centres to organize their movement and provide tourist information, applying laws and regulations that ensure control over the number of the incoming tourists, and providing security, protection, and services without damaging the environment. *Stability phase*: here the tourist area becomes saturated, which necessitates directing tourist investment to support other types of tourist activities. For example, Algeria is marked by the seasonality of tourist

activity and creating pressure on the coastal areas, and efforts must be devoted to activate other types of tourism, such as spa tourism, mountain tourism, and desert tourism.

The effectiveness of the sustainable tourism planning process also requires coordination and cooperation between a wide range of actors (public sector, private sector, local residents and tourists) (Fabić & Jurdana, 2018) with the highest degree of efficiency and influence; equality in decision-making is not required, but rather harness all their energies and powers to achieve a common goal, which is to ensure the success of the tourism plan to achieve sustainable tourism development (Kapera, 2018), local groups have the authority of law and regulation, as the private sector has the ability to bear investment risks more than the public sector (Alminchawi, 2013), local residents and tourists also are essential actors in addition to technical actors and financiers, taking their opinions and suggestions into account (Fernandes et al., 2020). It is necessary to clarify the goals, unify efforts, activate consultation and communication between all actors to develop the tourism industry in accordance with the principles of sustainable development to gain the tourist region a share in the tourist market (González et al., 2019) and expand the scope of its competition to exceed neighbouring areas and extend to areas far from its borders (Mira et al., 2020).

## Materials and Methods

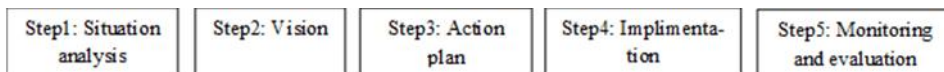
### Materials

In this study, different data were collected from different sources and prepared in GIS to create new maps. The PDAU report for 2017 was relied upon to set the administrative boundaries of the study area and georeference it to extract a land use map, roads map, quarries situation map, technical backfilling centre situation map, danger zone map. Along with the map of the Forest Directorate (2010) and its georeference to identify the extent of the dunes, the map of soil quality in the direction of Biskra accomplished by the Geographical Department of the Algerian Army (1927) and its georeference to identify soil classification, the USGS website to prepare a DEM and extract the slope map.

We also relied on field observation, reports, and previous studies, in addition to a questionnaire form for various actors in the tourism sector, emphasizing the confidentiality of the information included and that it will only be used for scientific research purposes.

### Methods

The process of tourism planning is a complex course that requires a set of steps that can be clarified as follows:



*Fig. 1. Tourism planning process (Source: Lopes et al., 2020)*

This study will focus on the first three steps, while Steps 4 and 5 can only be developed after the research results are adopted by the custodian authorities for future implementation on the ground.

As for steps 1, 2 we relied on the SWOT Analysis because of its effectiveness in identifying internal and external factors that stimulate and discourage tourist movement. Based

on the results of the relative importance of the SWOT Analysis, we have adjusted the strategy to be adopted to achieve sustainable tourism development in the city of Bou Saâda.

In the third step, we explained the four variables that we focused on in developing the proposed business plan (Kausar & Gunawan, 2015), which are as follows:

**Tourist destination:** by forming an overview of the attractiveness, permeability, and actions to be taken to value tourist resources.

**Tourism industry:** we focused on the following elements: spatial planning, search for suitable vacant real estate enclaves, and exploiting them touristically. This is what will be dealt with in this element; tourism investment and the type of projects to be developed will be addressed later, in addition to financiers and managers in charge of those projects.

Most experts have proven that the most important obstacle facing the tourism industry in Bou-Saâda is the scarcity of tourist property. In this regard, it is necessary to determine the spatial suitability for future tourism expansion and we relied on MCDA using AHP, where the criteria for pair comparison were adjusted based on expert opinions and previous studies. Then draw each criterion in GIS and combine them to get the final map of the spatial suitability of the tourism industry in Bou Saâda.

**Tourist market:** identification of the target tourism markets (national and International) based on the list of tourists obtained from the Directorate of Planning and Programming in 2019, a questionnaire form was adopted that includes questions about the attractiveness of tourism resources, the quality of services and programs, in addition to a set of proposed tourism projects to support and diversify the tourist offer.

It is pointed out that in this study, the criteria of spatial suitability were not adjusted according to the proposed tourism projects, but the first was determined without focusing on a specific type of tourism projects, and the second was prepared according to the tourism consumers' desire in the city, but both results can be adopted by tourism planners and researchers in studies and research to support tourism planning in the future.

**Actors in the field of tourism:** the study targeted a wide range of actors involved directly and indirectly to the tourism sector in Bou Saâda: residents, tourists, professors, and local authorities (Three experts from the Tourism Directorate, one expert from the Directorate of culture, one expert from the Étienne Dinet Museum, two experts from the municipality of Bou-Saâda, one expert from the Architectural and Urban Studies Office in charge of studying the traditional city, two experts are university professors).

## **Results and discussion**

### ***The tourism sector in Bou-Saâda: an analytical study using SWOT Analysis***

The city Bou Saâda is located on the southwestern side of the Chott el Hodna Basin, nicknamed the gate of the desert because it embraces the nearest oasis in the north of the country, located between the lines of longitude 4.08 and 4.14 east of the Greenwich line and between the circles of latitude 35.11 and 35.20 north of the Equator.

Bou Saâda has been considered a tourist area since ancient times due to its availability of a set of heritage components that contributed to the plurality and diversity of tourism activities in it. To analyse the tourism field in Bou Saâda, we adopted the SWOT analysis,

which is an effective methodology for adjusting the tourism destination development strategy (Ae Jeon & Kim, 2011) by identifying internal factors affecting the tourism sector, which is to determine the strengths, work to maintain them, and maximize their effectiveness, identify weaknesses and actions to be taken to improve their performance, in addition to external factors to be taken into account To seize the opportunities around and reflect a forward-looking view to mitigate the underlying risks in the future.

Tab. 1. An analytical study of the tourism sector in Bou Saâda

	Description	Importance	
Internal factors	Strengths	Various tourist components (religious, cultural, business and conferences, environmental, geomorphological)	0.265
		National heritage sites (National museum, mosque built in the 15th century)	0.265
		A suitable climate all year, except in summer, when the temperature exceeds 45°C	0.020
		tourist accommodation (3 hotels, 5 dormitories, hostel)	0.020
		A society characterised by good hospitality and a belief in the need to preserve traditional heritage	0.067
		Existence of tourism offices and associations	0.040
		The city has an Institute of Tourism and Hospitality	0.075
		Restaurants serving traditional dishes	0.020
	Weaknesses	The handicraft market to sell the traditional heritage at reasonable prices	0.250
		Environmental and visual pollution due to the deterioration of tourism potential	0.775
		Average quality tourist infrastructure and services at high prices	0.240
		The deterioration and closure of the Institute of Tourism and Hospitality	0.050
		Lack of participation in the tourism planning process	0.270
		the lack of political will has several consequences (the traditional city is not considered as a preserved area and a tourist area by excellence)	0.260
		Limited forecasting and lack of data due to the adoption of traditional methods of documentation and therefore loss of time to solve tourism problems	0.120
		The lack of stability in the working environment and the exchange of user tasks affects the organisational structure and reduces the chances of addressing the shortcomings of the approved tourism plan	0.250
		The lack of contribution of the private sector to the restoration of heritage elements. As for the associations, their work is limited to the holding of religious and national events. As for the tourism agencies, their missions are specified in the organisation of Hajj trips	0.105
		Non-realization of the programmes of the tourist expansion zone and the tourist circuit	0.240
		Local investors with traditional ideas and limited financial resources	0.140
		Indirect theft, such as doubling the price of the service for foreign tourists	0.050
Lack of places to play and walk around causes boredom	0.136		
External factors	Opportunities	The city is surrounded by tourist resources in its neighbouring areas (Shatt Al-Hudna, classified on the Ramsar list, oasis, forests, traditional palaces, Roman ruins, Zawyat Al-Hamil)	1.000
		Accessibility via national roads 46 and 08	0.900
		Visit of several foreign artists and shooting of a documentary film in 1923	0.180
		Several educational institutions for all levels	0.150
		Participation in national and international trade fairs	0.360
	Threats	The practice of business tourism and congresses since antiquity, the investiture of the late Moudjahid Houari Boumediene as President of the Algerian Republic in 1973 at the Kerdada Hotel is cited	0.480
		The problem of tourist real estate, as the urban environment is saturated	0.360
		Traditional housing is privately owned, most of which is subject to the rule of the throne and inheritance issues	0.240
		Lack of financial support from the state and the reluctance of foreign investors to invest for fear that their projects will fail	0.500
		The lack of a sense of security among tourists due to the mental context of the dark period in the country and the spread of robbery demonstrations	0.040

Source: Authors, 2022

Based on the results of the evaluation of the above table, it becomes clear to us: as for internal factors:  $\sum$  relative importance (3.65%) <  $\sum$  arithmetic average (6.5%), strengths < weaknesses, the city suffers from severe weakness in tourism practice.

With regard to external factors:  $\sum$  relative importance (4.21%) >  $\sum$  arithmetic average (3.5%), opportunities > challenges, the city has opportunities that contribute to its transformation into a tourism destination imported for tourists.

Although the tourist performance is characterized by poor quality and attractiveness, the city has various opportunities for tourism development. Based on the results of the evaluation of the matrix of internal and external factors for the tourism sector shown in the table above, it is clear to us that the correct planning method focuses on the application of a development and treatment strategy to recognize the shortcomings, transform weaknesses into strengths, and seize the opportunities to make the city an attractive environment for tourists and achieve the welfare requirements of the local population.

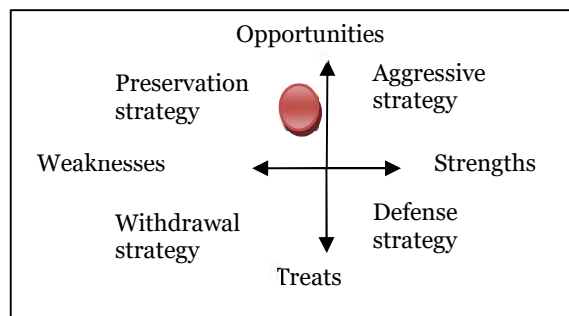


Fig. 2. The proposed tourism planning strategy in Bousaada (Source: Authors, 2022)

***Planning considerations for the development of sustainable tourism in the city of Bou Saâda***

Tourism planning is a necessity for sustainable tourism development, as it aims to achieve the highest possible rate of tourism growth at the lowest possible cost in record time (Aasali, 2015), and as it enshrines the principle of “prevention is better than cure” being able to contain the problems facing the tourism sector through proper handling of the variables, it was necessary to pool various efforts and requirements for its success.

The proposed tourism planning strategy focuses on four variables: the tourist destination (attractiveness and permeability), the tourism industry (spatial suitability of the proposed tourism projects), the study of tourism markets, and the total actors in the tourism sector (Kausar & Gunawan, 2015).

*Tourist destination*

The natural and cultural tourist components and tourist structures in the city of Bou Saâda are easily accessible, as they are connected by a network of roads connecting them to the rest of the city.

As regards attractiveness, the city of Bou Saâda suffers from the problems of association with one product, which led to a weak competitive ability in the field of tourism. Components of heritage are the main base for starting tourism, but it is not the only motive for tourist movement, as it attracts a certain category of tourists. Most of the heritage resources are in a

deteriorating situation that requires urgent intervention, either by restoring them and returning them to their original state with the help of experts and specialists in this field, or removing them and constructing new buildings, but with a traditional heritage design.

### *Tourism industry*

Identifying an area for the localization of tourism projects is a means to achieve sustainable tourism development and is not considered the ultimate goal of the tourism planning process (Rahayuningsih et al., 2016). However, knowing the spatial suitability is one of the most important challenges facing the tourism industry projects in Bou Saâda, as the area of tourist expansion had been reduced from 45 hectares to 17 hectares due to chaotic housing that swept its lands; besides, in the opinion of most experts, it has become insufficient to accommodate tourism projects in the short term. In addition, the urban area has reached saturation, especially since the city is confined between mountain blocks, so it became necessary to search for places for future tourist expansion outside the urban area and within the borders of its municipal territory.

In this element of the research, we relied on a Multi-Criteria Decision Making MCDM focusing on the Analytic Hierarchy Process AHP along with GIS to obtain a map of spatial suitability for tourism expansion, many studies have proven the effectiveness of adopting AHP technology within the GIS platform in the tourism planning process (Mansour et al., 2019) as it requires a large number of actors and this cooperation usually witnesses conflicting opinions (Kaperá, 2018). the AHP technique developed by mathematician Thomas L. Saaty at the end of the Eighties was the best solution to provide an organized structure for group discussions (Redjem et al., 2021) the problem is disassembled into a tree structure that allows more accurate decisions on complex issues (Chen et al., 2017).

The AHP is based on a paired comparison between the criteria and sub-criteria and has been adjusted to 9 criteria based on previous studies, field research, local knowledge, and experts, then each expert was asked to estimate the weight of each element, evaluate, and conclude the relative importance of each criterion, then determine the levels of spatial suitability and adjust the scale from 0 to 5, where the value of 0 symbolizes the completely unsuitable area and the value of 5 to the very convenient area.

### *Description and classes of criteria:*

Danger zones: completely unsuitable <200, not suitable: 200-500, medium fit: 500-1000, convenient: 1000-1500, very convenient: >1500. Quarries: completely unsuitable <200, not suitable: 200-500, medium fit: 500-1000, very convenient: >1000. Technical Backfill Centre: completely unsuitable <500, not suitable: 500-1000, medium fit: 1000-1500, very convenient: >1500. land use: very convenient: barren land, convenient: forest & sand dunes, completely unsuitable: urbanized & agricultural area. Roads: very convenient <200, convenient: 200-500, medium fit: 500-1000, not suitable: 1000-1500, completely unsuitable: >1500. Soil type: very convenient: stone, convenient: calcareous soil, medium fit: saline soil, not suitable: aeolytic accumulations. Slope: very convenient <7%, convenient: 7%-12%, medium fit: 12%-25%, Not suitable: 25%-45%, completely unsuitable: >45%. Urban area: very convenient <500, convenient: 500-1000, medium fit: 1000-1500, not suitable >1500. Industrial area: completely unsuitable <200, not suitable: 200-500, medium fit: 500-1000, convenient: 1000-1500, very convenient: >1500.



Tab.2. Comparison of criteria with AHP

Criteria	land use	slope	danger zones	quarries	Roads	industrial area	soil type	urban area	technical backfill center	weight	Order
land use	0.08	0.16	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.14	0.06	0.10	4
Slope	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.04	7
danger zones	0.32	0.24	0.32	0.37	0.28	0.18	0.25	0.19	0.37	0.28	1
Quarries	0.24	0.20	0.16	0.18	0.22	0.15	0.21	0.16	0.18	0.19	2
Roads	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.11	0.08	0.11	0.04	0.07	5
industrial area	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	9
soil type	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.04	6
urban area	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	8
technical backfill center	0.24	0.20	0.16	0.18	0.22	0.15	0.21	0.16	0.18	0.19	3
$L_{max} = 9.4987$ $C_i = 0.06234$ $RCI(09) = 1.45$ $CR = 0.042 < 0.1$											

Source : Authors, 2022

After adjusting the paired comparison for the specified criteria and extracting the weight of each criterion, we get the consistency ratio  $CR = 0.042 < 0.1$ , which indicates that the matrix is consistent.

The distance maps were derived and the maps were reclassified according to a specific scale to determine the importance of each field in each criterion through the GIS program, and we reached the results shown in the following figure:

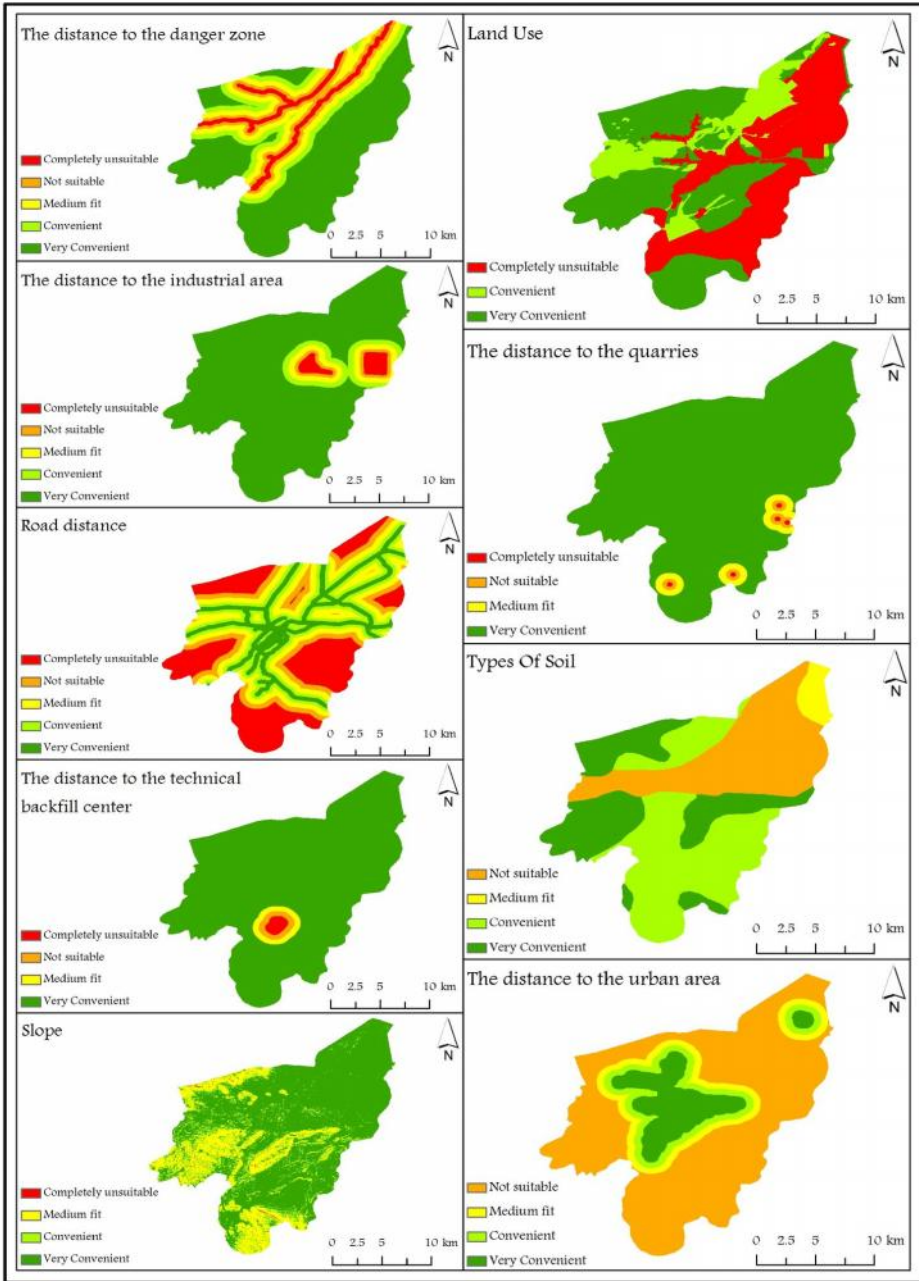


Fig. 3. Criteria maps (Source: Authors, 2022)

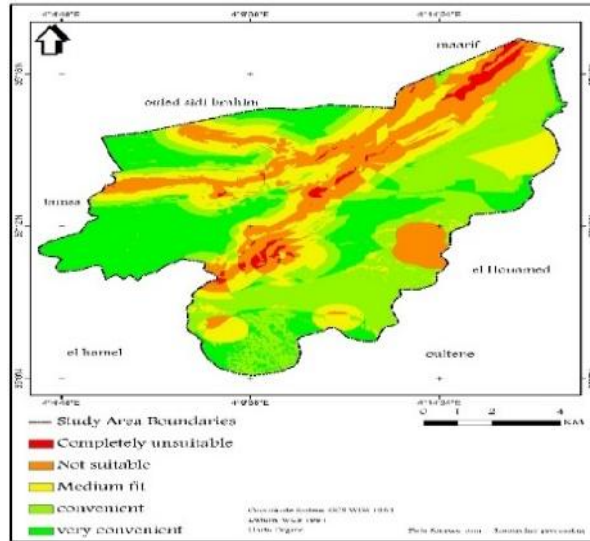


Fig. 4. Areas suitable for the localization of tourism projects (Source: Authors, 2022)

Tab.3. percentage of AHP criteria

(%)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Classes
Jan 89	Apr 78	Completely unsuitable
18.80	47.31	Not suitable
21.79	54.85	Medium fit
32.15	80.92	Convenient
25.33	63.76	Very convenient
100.00	251.62	Total

We note from the table above that the area suitability for tourism expansion exceeds 3/4 of the total area, of the city in varying ratios, where the area characterized by suitability occupies the first place with 32.15% and is located on the eastern side extending from North to South, followed by the area characterized by high suitability by 25.33%, which occupies the southwestern side and some of the north-western part, then the average suitability area by 21.79%, which is the area that is characterized by the possibility of establishing tourist projects according to conditions and specifications.

#### The tourist market

The process of studying the tourist market is a very important step, as it focuses on knowing the geographical origins of tourists, the reasons for their visit and the establishment of tourist programs according to their requirements (Mahboob et al., 2021). Regarding the city of Bou Saâda, according to 2019 statistics, the survey reported that 32.8% of the interviewees visited the city, 16.5% of them are tourists coming from outside Algeria for research on heritage; their origins vary from Arab countries and foreign countries such as France and China. The remaining ratio belongs to the category of tourists coming from within the homeland in order to study, because it contains a university pole in which

various specialties are taught in addition to the Institute of Tourism and hotel. Considering the average stay for tourists from within the homeland, it did not exceed one night (Except for visiting relatives). Regarding foreign tourists, it did not exceed three nights, and in a conversation with their guides, it turned out that the reason for their visit came as a result of the city's location on the road leading to Biskra and Ghardaia, and therefore they considered it a tourist transit area, describing it as a boring city lacking the minimum entertainment conditions, as the services provided are characterized by low quality compared to the high prices.

With regard to the existing tourist investment in the city of Bou Saâda, it does not consider the requirements of the tourist market, as the registered achievements focus only on intensifying tourist accommodation by local investors with traditional ideas and limited financial resources, without considering quality standard.

In this research element, we have proposed various tourism projects that meet the expectations of residents and visitors as the first target group to achieve satisfaction and repeat the visit (Munro et al., 2017). They are as follows: aqua-park, public parks, zoo, horse training centre, shopping mall with adding another box for the interviewees to submit their suggestions.

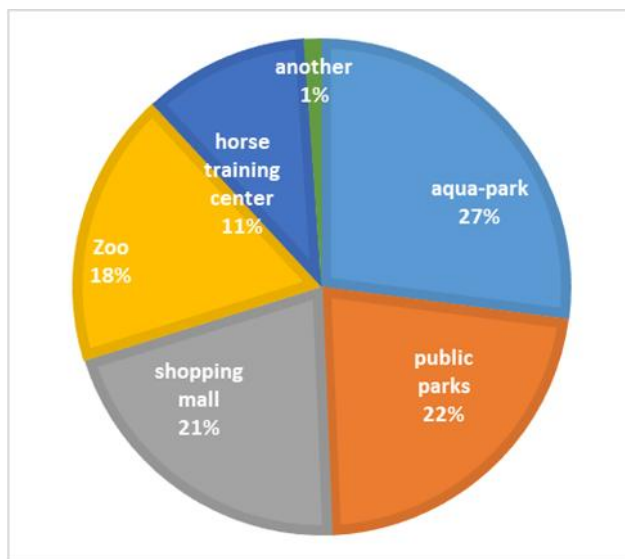


Fig. 5. tourism projects proposed (Source: Authors, 2022)

The figure shows the convergence of the ratios of the proposed tourism projects. It should be noted that the response pattern did not depend on choosing one tourism project and excluding the rest, but rather on allowing the interviewees to select more than one program, and the result was as follows: 26.9% focused on the need to establish a water park, as the city's climate is characterized by heat for more than three months, especially in the summer, and the temperature exceeds 47 °C during the peak period, followed by 22.1% related to the establishment of public parks and places for entertainment and recreation, as the city does not have the lowest recreational facilities, family gathering places, and places for children to play, 20.7% chose to set up a shopping mall, which in turn is considered a means of marketing traditional local products, 17.8% to set up a zoo, 10.7% to set up

a horse riding and equestrian training centre, then 1.1% of the interviewees chose another box without clarifying their suggestions.

#### *Actors in the tourism sector*

The process of coordination and consultation in development programs in most developing countries is a theoretical requirement, whereby plans, including tourism plans, are prepared by officials only according to market requirements without considering the opinions of other individuals at various levels, in addition to the mental belief of the rest that the planning process is the responsibility of the specialized bodies.

What is wrong with the tourism administration in the city of Bou Saâda is the absence of a working team comprising all those involved whose tasks revolve around supervising the tourism sector, following up, and evaluating it. For the results of our study to be practical, it is necessary that we go to the various directorates, each separately, and take the guidance of experts to determine the spatial suitability for tourism expansion. Therefore, the tourism planning process adopted in our research came as a result of consultation among the total of experts belonging to sectors related directly and indirectly to the tourism sector. After identifying the types of tourism projects proposed by tourists and residents, the implementation stage and the search for qualified investors to implement comes, and then evaluation in compliance with the integrated management controls (environmental dimension, economic dimension, social dimension) to achieve sustainable tourism (Mekitaa, 2017) and ensure the competitiveness and sustainability of the tourism offer (Zerouk & Hamida, 2020).

## **Conclusion**

To develop tourism activity and improve its profitability, there is an urgent need to adopt tourism planning according to the sustainable development dimensions, as it is the surest guarantee for achieving sustainable tourism development. It allows drawing an estimated future picture of the tourism sector and its development by unifying the efforts of all those involved and coordinating their work to establish a real tourism industry that focuses on taking opportunities and minimizing the risks to ensure the continuation of tourism tender for subsequent generations.

It is noticeable at the level of the city of Bou Saâda a severe failure of the strategy adopted in The Master Plan for Tourism Development, which confirmed that the tourism sector is not classified among the priorities, as heritage resources lack restoration and attention in addition to the absence of a political will. Moreover, the city does not suffer from the problem of real estate scarcity, but rather has vacant lands for tourism projects, and this has been proven by the results of the spatial suitability of the tourism expansion. The community is also characterized by good hospitality and reception, and this is something that I personally experienced, and I am certain that the city owns tourism resources that deserve support and attention, as the residents expressed their views on the projects necessary for the tourism development.

It should be pointed out that in this research, the criteria for selecting suitable areas were not set according to the characteristics of the proposed projects. Therefore, it is suggested when conducting future studies to develop a more detailed assessment regarding the spatial suitability of the proposed tourism projects, i.e. accurately defining the area of

settlement of each proposed project in the body of the research. It is also possible to add other types and programs to make Bou Saâda a target tourist city and give it a tourist status at the national and international levels.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: Serbian Geographical Society stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

© 2022 Serbian Geographical Society, Belgrade, Serbia.

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Serbia.

## References

- Aassali, A. I. (2015). *Tourism in the Arab world: history, risks, threats*. Dar Amdjed.
- Ae Jeon, Y., & Kim, J. S. (2011). An application of SWOT-AHP to develop a strategic planning for a tourist destination. *UMass Amherst*, 1–5.
- Agbedahin, A. V. (2019). Sustainable development, Education for Sustainable Development, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Emergence, efficacy, eminence and future. *Sustainable Development*, 27(4), 1–12. DOI:10.1002/sd.1931
- Alminchawi, A. C. (2013). Private Sector Partnership in Urban Conservation Projects. *Studies of Urban Heritage. Research and Heritage*, 3, 488–504.
- Amerta, I. M. S., Sara, I. M., & Bagiada, K. (2018). Sustainable Tourism Development. *International Research Journal of Management, IT & Social Sciences*, 5(2), 248–254.
- Chen, L., Huang, S., & Fang, W. (2017). A Self-Evaluation System of Quality Planning for Tourist Attractions in Taiwan: An Integrated AHP-Delphi Approach from Career Professionals. *Sustainability*, 9(10), 1–18. DOI:10.3390/su9101751
- Costa, C. (2020). Tourism planning: a perspective paper. *Tourism Review*, 75(1), 198–202. DOI:10.1108/TR-09-2019-0394
- Dias, Á., Patuleia, M., & Dutschke, G. (2018). Shared Value Creation, Creative Tourism and Local Communities Development: The Role of Cooperation as an Antecedent. *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*, 51(1), 9–25.
- Dumbraveanu, D. (2007). Principles and practice of sustainable tourism planning. *Human Geographies – Journal of Studies and Research in Human Geography*, 1(1), 1–5.
- Fabić, M. M., & Jurdana, D. S. (2018). Methodology of planning sustainable tourism development at the local level: Theory and practice. *Tourism & Hospitality Industry*, 2018, 260–272.
- Fernandes, L. M. M., Soares, J. R. R., & Coriolano, L. N. M. T. (2020). Governance in the Regionalization Tourism Policy of the State Ceará/Brazil. *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*, 55, 95–108.
- González, L. M., Rivero, M. S., & Gallego, J. I. R. (2019). Prioritization of Public Tourism Policies of a Destination from the Identification of Its Competitive Advantages and Disadvantages: The Case of Extremadura. *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*, 53, 69–87.

- Idir, R., & Ghazazi, A. (2019). The National Strategy for the Development of the Tourism Sector in Algeria under the Planning Guideline for the tourism development of the horizons of 2030. *Ibdaa Review*, 9(1), 93–111.
- Issani, A. (2010). *The economic importance of sustainable tourism development, the case of Algeria* [Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Batna, Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, Algeria].
- Kapera, I. (2018). Sustainable tourism development efforts by local governments in Poland. *Sustainable Cities and Society*, 40, 581–588. DOI:10.1016/j.scs.2018.05.001
- Kausar, D., & P. Gunawan, M. (2015). Revitalizing Tourism in the Heritage Land of Toraja: Planning as a Process. In Saufi, A., Andilolo, I. R., Othman, N, & Lew, A. (Eds.), *Balancing Development and Sustainability in Tourism Destinations* (pp. 39–46). Springer. DOI:10.1007/978-981-10-1718-6\_5
- Lange, A. S., Walter Leal, F., Luciana Londero, B., & Juliane Sapper, G. (2019). Assessing research trends related to the sustainable development goals: Local and global issues. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 208, 841–849.
- Lew, A. (2017). Tourism planning and place making: place-making or placemaking? *Tourism Geographies*, 19(3), 448–466. DOI:10.1080/14616688.2017.1282007
- Lopes, V., Pires, S. M., & Costa, R. (2020). A strategy for a sustainable tourism development of the Greek Island of Chios. *Tourism: An International Interdisciplinary Journal*, 68(3), 243–260.
- Lőrincz, K., Banász, V., & Csapó, J. (2020). Customer Involvement in Sustainable Tourism Planning at Lake Balaton, Hungary — Analysis of the Consumer Preferences of the Active Cycling Tourists. *Sustainability*, 12(12), 1–18. DOI:doi:10.3390/su12125174
- Mahboob, M. H., Ashfaq, M., Humayon, A. A., & Akhtar, K. S. (2021). Tourist's willingness to pay for Urban tourism: Determining the factors of their visit. *Journal of Urban Culture Research*, 22, 80–91. DOI:10.14456/jucr.2021.6
- Mahfoud Amar, A., Bakri Hacen, S., & Mouhamed Wafik, G. (2017). The role of tourism planning in achieving sustainable tourism development in Wadi El Rayan Reserve. *International Journal of Heritage, Tourism and Hospitality*, 1(1), 1–19.
- Mansour, S., Al-Awhadi, T., & Al-Hatrushi, S. (2019). Geospatial based multi-criteria analysis for ecotourism land suitability using GIS & AHP: a case study of Masirah Island, Oman. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 19(2), 148–167. DOI:10.1080/14724049.2019.1663202
- Mekitaa, H. (2017). Sustainability Application through integrated management systems in industrial companies: Case study Hadjar-Soud company. *Journal of Research and Human Studies*, 15, 67–93.
- Mira, M. do R., Mónico, L. dos S., Breda, Z. M. de J., & Moura, A. F. A. (2020). Quality in tourism from the perspective of local Portuguese Public Decision-Makers: A case study of Portugal's Centro Region. *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*, 56, 19–41.
- Munro, J., Kobryn, H., Palmer, D., Bayley, S., Moore, S. A., Kobryn, H., Palmer, D., Bayley, S., & Moore, S. A. (2017). Charting the coast: spatial planning for tourism using public participation GIS. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(4), 486–504. DOI:10.1080/13683500.2017.1346589
- Rahayuningsih, T., Muntasib, E. K. S. H., & Prasetyo, L. B. (2016). Nature Based Tourism Resources Assessment Using Geographic Information System (GIS): Case Study in Bogor. *The 2nd International Symposium on LAPAN-IPB Satellite for Food Security and Environmental Monitoring*, 33, 365–375. DOI:10.1016/j.proenv.2016.03.087

- Rama, D., Álvarez-García, J., & Simonetti, B. (2017). Quality, Key Tool in Tourist Destinations. Implementation in Rural Accommodation. *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*, 44(1), 23–37.
- Rasoolimanesh, S. M., Ramakrishna, S., Hall, C. M., Esfandiar, K., & Seyfi, S. (2020). A systematic scoping review of sustainable tourism indicators in relation to the sustainable development goals. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 30(11), 1–21. DOI:10.1080/09669582.2020.1775621
- Redjem, A. L. I., Benyahia, A., Dougha, M., Nouibat, B., Hasbaia, M., & Ozer, A. (2021). Combining the analytic hierarchy process with GIS for landfill site selection: The case of the municipality of M'sila, Algeria. *Romanian Journal of Geography*, 65(2), 171–186.
- Spijkers, O. (2018). Intergenerational Equity and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Sustainability*, 10(11), 1–12. DOI:10.3390/su10113836
- Zahrani, A. ben A. E., & Kebachi, K. (2008). *Tourism investment in Al-Ula Governorate*. Tourism Information & Research Center.
- Zerouk, A., & Hamida, D. (2020). Environmental Assessment as a Legal Mechanism for the Sustainable Tourism Industry. *Academy for Social and Human Studies*, 12(2), 238–248.