

Tourism for Algeria: An Essential Engine of Economic Development

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Received: January 09, 2023

Accepted: January 24, 2023

Published: January 27, 2023

Abstract

In recent years, Algeria has tried to achieve a remarkable economic recovery outside its hydrocarbon industry, given that the importance of the tourism sector on a global scale in countries economic balances. Nowadays, the challenge lies in finding another alternative path to local economic development. To this end, a comprehensive reform strategy was adopted, which was part of a proactive macroeconomic policy, mainly oriented towards tourism industry for sustained development and job creation. However, this industry's present situation, as it is practiced until today, shows a gap between the assets, potentialities, aspirations and constraints on the ground, which can threaten the future of the activity and slows down its development.

Key words: Tourism, economic development, sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of international tourism over the past 60 years has opened up opportunities that Mediterranean countries have taken advantage of. The region enjoys priceless natural resources, cultural and heritage wealth, the pleasant combination of a moderate climate, and the proximity of major emitting markets. The Mediterranean, remains the world's leading tourist destination, with over 300 million international tourist arrivals (ITAs), accounting for about 30% of total international tourists in 2014 (WTTC, 2015)¹.

However, the tourism sector in the region, is very developed in the northern countries relative to the southern countries, including France, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Greece, the top five tourist destinations in the region (France 48 million ITAs, Spain with 65 million, Italy 48 million, Turkey 40 million and Greece 22 million ITAs), which allowed them to account for a rate of nearly 83% of total international tourist arrivals in the region in 2014 (WTTC, 2015)². As a very important economic sector, tourism contributes, directly or indirectly, to about 11.5% of the region's GDP, and generates a large number of jobs, about 11.3% (WTTC, 2015)³. The last ten years, the tourist activity in the southern Mediterranean countries, has experienced significant growth such as Egypt and Morocco, as well as Tunisia, which have already begun to diversify their potential offer, so that Morocco occupies the first place in the Maghreb and 66th place in the world in 2019 (Bouafia, 2019)⁴. On the other hand, tourism activity remains largely under-exploited in countries like Algeria, Syria and Palestine, and to a lesser extent in Jordan.

Nevertheless, Algeria has everything to be a tourist country par excellence, a geography with varied climates, as well as several centuries of history, have prepared it to be a country «A Multiple Land» at the same time African, Oriental and Mediterranean. But, according to the indications of the World Tourism Organization, affiliated to the United Nations, and the World Travel and Tourism Council, on the African continent, Algeria is ranked 119th out of 172 countries, well behind South Africa (53rd worldwide) and Mauritius (55th). Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia are respectively 3rd, 4th and 9th in Africa. International tourism revenue as a % of GDP in Algeria does not exceed 0.3%, with, only, two milliotourists in 2018 (Bouafia, 2019)⁵.

1 World Travel and Tourism Council, « Economic impact of tourism in 2015-2025 and forecast for 2025 in the Mediterranean», in <https://zh.wttc.org>, 2015.

2 World Travel and Tourism Council, « Economic impact of tourism in 2015-2025 and forecast for 2025 in the Mediterranean», in <https://zh.wttc.org>, 2015.

3 Idem

4 Bouafia. L, CEO of the group "Hotels, Tourism, Thermalism"? 2019, for Alger Chaîne 3.

5 Idem

Algeria, rich in hydrocarbons, opted for a limited development of tourism, which was a secondary objective of the authorities. The various successive governments have devoted to it only 2% of the investments on the eve of independence, and have not granted to the development of the tourist industry of the country, the place that should have been his in the process of national economic development. All the importance was given to hydrocarbons. Thus the instability and the decadence of the internal situation of Algeria during the last decade, made vain any desire to catch up the delay in this sector, which was considerably deepened, relatively, with the neighboring countries.

METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS OF THE RESEARCH

The research methodology is based mainly on the critical study of the main characteristics of the tourism sector in Algeria since independence until today. The comparison of the sector with other similar cases (especially the neighbors) allows us to situate the sector not only on a national scale but also internationally. The collection of data and the crossing of the figures give a clearer image on the traceability of the sector and on its future as well as its impact on the national economy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tourism in Algeria; A Neglect of the Sector

On the eve of independence, “the authorities set themselves an objective, to meet the immense needs of the population. At that time, Algeria was committed to a socialist economic model with a predominance of the public and parapublic sector. In the context of the time, tourism was neither a strategic issue nor a priority” (Mahroug, 1972)⁶. In 1962, the State created the National Office of Algerian Tourism (NOAT) under the supervision of youth and sport, because there was no ministry of tourism at the time. The main mission of NOAT was to promote the Algerian tourist product on the international market while deploying the necessary infrastructure. In 1964, appeared, within the government, a ministry of full exercise in order to manage the sector; but the problems were settled day by day. It was not until 1966 that a new order was created and a tourism charter was published. Thus, there was the launching of the programs of the tourism expansion zone (TEZ). This program provided for three large TEZ: the Western region of Algiers, the Eastern region, and the region of Oran. Despite these reorganizations and reforms, the difficulties in the sector have not disappeared and have even worsened.

At the beginning of the years 1970, the State became aware of the benefits and the importance of the tourist sector, and its contribution to the development of the economic sector. The investments of the 1st plan 1970-1973 in the sector represented 700 million DA the equivalent of 2.5 % of the public investments, with a rate of realization of 100 % against 120 % for the agriculture and 142 % for the industry (Widmann, 1976)⁷. In the II^o quadrennial plan 1973-1977, the sector was set aside relatively to the first one: 1.4% only of the public investments are devoted to him, weaker share than the one of the first plan, what made that this awareness of the State for the tourist sector through the granted policy, was not sufficient.

The role attributed to tourism in its various development strategies, compared to the other countries of the Mediterranean rim was negligible, especially in relation to the international tourist demand of the time, or there was no opening of the economy in Algeria, which created a brake to the expansion of a tourist industry itself.

Various reasons can explain this policy of discarding the tourist sector: “Algeria opted for economic independence by giving priority to industrialization (43% of investments were devoted to it from 1973-1977). In 1973, oil alone provided 95% of the value of exports and 50% of the Gross Domestic Product. Agriculture received 13% of the investments for the realization of the agrarian reform” (Widmann, 1976)⁸.

At the time when the State granted interest for the sector of Tourism, which made dream full of places, populations, and actors of the sector of a promising future for the destination Algeria, comes the political instability of the years 80 and 90. All the circumstances changed radically, so that any initiative to develop domestic and international tourism was brutally curbed (Cherif, 2017). Because, for political and security reasons, the state, has disadvantaged and forgotten

6 In Cherif. K, « Tourism economy, a future investment for Algeria”. Casbah edition, Algiers. 2017.

7 Widmann. N, « Tourism in Algérie », in: Méditerranée, n°, 1976. pp. 23-41; https://www.persee.fr/doc/medit_0025-8296_1976_num_25_2_1663

8 Widmann. N, « Tourism in Algérie », in: Méditerranée, n°, 1976. pp. 23-41; https://www.persee.fr/doc/medit_0025-8296_1976_num_25_2_1663

about tourism, and retreated into it, which made him dismissed from the global tourism scene. It is only from the year 2000, and thanks to the return of peace gradually, that the State reconquered the tourism sector and gives it a privileged place in the policy of economic recovery.

From Oil to Tourism; An Economic Imperative for the Future

Algeria is the third largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the driving force behind the Maghreb. Thanks to its hydrocarbons, it remains one of the leading economic forces in the region. However, the analysis of the structure of the Algerian economy shows that it is a very fragile economy because, more rentier than productive and efficient, because of its strong dependence on oil rent, and hydrocarbon revenues. In 2018, out of 39.5 billion dollars of exports, 37.9 billion were hydrocarbons (International Monetary Fund, 2019)⁹. Virtually all projects, plans, forecasts, budget financing, decisions, imports and even food and medicine are, primarily, financed by hydrocarbon resources. Any event that shakes up international demand or leads to a reduction in oil prices in the long term would immediately result in a sharp drop in export earnings and would have a negative impact on the local economy. Algeria, which derived 98% of its foreign exchange earnings and 60% of its budgetary revenues from gas and oil, has seen its reserves melt away with the drop in the price of a barrel. Revenues did not exceed 33 billion dollars in 2017 (Remouche, 2018)¹⁰, against 58 billion in 2014. The oil shock due to the sharp drop in the price of oil revealed the great vulnerability of public finances, which led to one of the largest budget deficits that the country has experienced in at least fifteen years. The trade balance in 2019 will record a deficit of around US\$1.84 billion (Ministry of Finance, 2019)¹¹.

In trying to revive the local economy, Algeria has invested nearly 25% of its GDP in 15 years, yet the country has failed to emerge economically (Rostow, 1962)¹². The benefits of this investment have only allowed for improvements in several areas (roads, housing, dams). The latest figures stated by the National Statistics Office reveal an overall growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that reached an increase of 1.5% in the 1st quarter of 2019, relative to the same quarter of last year, at the time of the decline of the fallout of hydrocarbons, which recorded a negative rate of 7.7% in the 1st quarter of 2019, against 2.4% during the same period of the past year. The The National Statistical Office also revealed an increase in the growth rate of non-hydrocarbon GDP, which recorded a positive rate of 3.9% during the 1st quarter of this year, compared to the same period of 2018. The growth of non-hydrocarbon GDP is, essentially, driven by, the activity of industry, construction, public works and hydraulics (ICPH), the agricultural sector and finally the activity of market services which tourism is part.

The appreciable increase in non-hydrocarbon revenues demonstrates the State's interest in the development of other non-hydrocarbon sectors and reflects its desire to diversify its financial resources through this attempt at economic recovery. But this increase remains far from meeting national and international aspirations, because the state has not invested in productive sectors. The hydrocarbon exports still occupy the highest rates.

Endowed with a rich potential on all levels, Algeria is today at the beginning of a long reform process. The economic actors struggle to «detoxify» from the oil manna, which, tourism faces and, becomes an imperative and no longer a choice. It must, in the long term, constitute one of the main alternatives of the development except hydrocarbons, because it appears as a source likely to generate a not negligible level of receipts.

Tourism in Algeria; the Reform Strategy

Algeria, notices today that the strategy adopted at the economic level is not sustainable, and was not justified relatively to the opportunities which it possesses. The State has opted for a selective development, based on exhaustible resources, and putting in the background several economic sectors including tourism. And because this last one, once inserted in a strategy of sustainability, can be an alternative which will allow the diversification of the financial rent, and will lead towards a sustainable local development. Several strategies of revival of the tourist sector have been established by the State, on a long time of trial and error, in order to find the mechanisms of articulation and implementation of a tourist revival. Several decrees, legislative and regulatory texts were promulgated and put in scene, of which the decree N° 88-232 of November 5, 1988, which carries declaration on several tourism expansion zones (TEZ). The remarkable increase of the total number of TEZ passing from 6 in 1966 to 172 in 1988, testifies to a better speculation of the tourist resources. However, the difficult period that Algeria has known during the decade of the nineties has frozen the process

9 International Monetary Fund, in <https://www.imf.org>

10 Remouche. kh, « 2017 results, \$33 billion in revenue », 2018, in <https://www.liberte-algerie.com>

11 Ministry of Finance, in <http://www.mf.gov.dz/>

12 Rostow. WW, « Leuven Economic Research / Louvain Economic Review », 1962 , pp. in <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0770451800102544>

of reforms and has, consequently, blocked the outlets of the tourist activity of the country whose impact on the sector has been immense.

Attentive to the experiences of the neighboring countries having recorded successes as regards tourist activities, and as a member adhering to the Convention of Barcelona which required in its 12th meeting, the sustainability in all strategy of development, Algeria granted to the sector of tourism a dimension with the measurement of its potentialities and its assets. It is in this perspective that the public authorities have set up from the year 2008, a Master Plan of Tourist Development (MPTD), one of the components of the national strategy of planning and sustainable development of the territory that defines the National Plan of Territorial Development (NPTD). The SDAT 2025 constitutes the strategic framework of reference for the tourism policy of Algeria within the framework of sustainable development. This scheme was instituted by the law 02- 01 of December 12, 2001 relating to the regional planning and the sustainable development.

It was henceforth, to establish a well-structured and sustainable approach, which allows to endow the tourist activity of the legibility and the reliability, necessary to the success of a sustainable tourist economy. Beyond the objectives and aspirations with mainly economic contents, and being the horizontality of the tourist sector relatively to the other economic sectors, the development of this last one is strongly linked to the general environment (development of the other sectors such as transport, culture, the craft industry, agriculture, the means of communication, hygiene, environment, archaeology, research,...). Thus, a reform strategy to the horizon 2030 projected by the MPTD, contains "texts in force" that "*reaffirm the will of the State to preserve the environment, improve the living environment, enhance the natural capital, cultural and enhance the national tourist heritage*" (MPTD 2030)¹³, and raise the country «... to the rank of destination of excellence in the Euro-Mediterranean region and make it a receiving country» (Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, 2014)¹⁴.

Tourism in Algeria, A Sector in Turmoil Between Will and Reality

Economic growth reached a rate of 1.5% in 2018 (National Statistics Office, 2018)¹⁵, driven mainly by the sectors of activity of agriculture, Construction, Public Works and Hydraulics (CPWH), as well as by market services of which tourism is part. The share of the latter in the GDP increased to around 2.5% in 2018, at a time when it did not exceed the 0.8% to the three years before (Bounafaa, 2018)¹⁶. For its part, Algeria gains in 2019, two places in the ranking of international tourist destinations compared to the year 2017 to rank 116th, and cites itself, in the list of "seven leading destinations of the year 2019" (Bounafaa, 2018)¹⁷. Despite the progress made «in a latent but growing» in the tourism sector, and the reforms adopted for more than a decade with improved rankings, and brand references that praise the destination Algeria, the tourist activity still continues to suffer, and its development unfortunately displays a persistent failure. The Algerian economy is still linked to the hydrocarbon sector. The revenues of the tourist activity were estimated at 300 million dollars in 2017, against 5.8 billion dollars in revenues over 11 months in 2016 in Morocco, and 300 million dollars of revenues in a single month, that of August 2017 in Tunisia. The figures are then disappointing and demonstrate the derisory of the sector in Algeria.

The State has set four quantitative targets to be achieved in 2015 in the strategy developed in the Master Plan for Tourism Development: (1) The number of international tourists must increase between 2007 and 2015 from 1.7 to 2.5 million, while it did not exceed 1.7 million in 2015; (2) The share of tourism in the national BIP must increase from 1.7% in 2007 to 3% in 2015, this rate is still low and has not exceeded 2.5 in 2018 compared to 0.8 in 2015; (3) The increase in tourism employment from 200,000 (2007) to 400,000 jobs in 2015; (4) The increase in tourism revenue from \$215 million to \$1,500 / \$2,000 million between 2007 and 2015, while statistics have shown that the revenue in 2017 did not exceed \$300 million. In 2018, a budget of 5.3 billion dinars has been allocated to the tourism sector under the PLF relying mainly on «*the recovery of land located in the tourist expansion zones (TEZ) with high tourist value and their development in order to open up certain regions, open new tourist routes and carry out tourism development plans, Besides the elaboration of studies for the localization of the sites of the tourist land*», estimated at "225 sites" (Mermouri,

13 <https://www.mtatf.gov.dz>

14 <https://www.mta.gov.dz>

15 <https://www.ons.dz>

16 Bounafaa, L, in Hadjam, Z, "Algeria's accession to the World Trade Organization: CARE relaunches the debate on a controversial accession", 2019, in [https:// www.radioalgerie.dz](https://www.radioalgerie.dz)

17 Idem.

2017)¹⁸, but the result was negative, the number of tourists did not exceed the 2 million, of which nearly 600 000 were Algerians residing abroad, and all the remainder, they are visitors of the neighboring countries which, sometimes do not even spend the night. In neighboring countries, the average arrival of international tourists in the same period was 10 million annually.

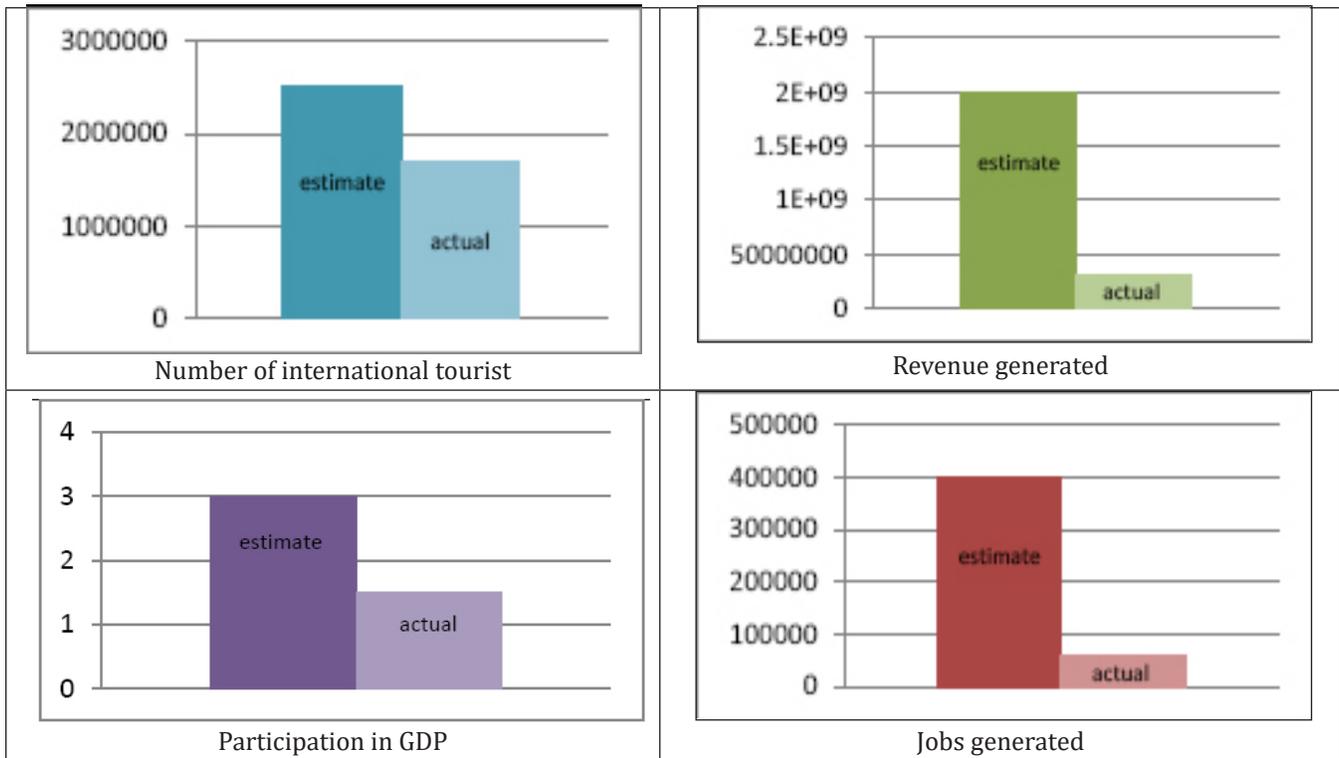


Figure 1. Comparison between estimates and the reality of the tourism sector in Algeria.

Source : Bouchemal M, 2018.

The reading of the graphs presented above shows the gap between the estimates of the State of the tourist activity and the reality, and confirms the failure of the reform strategy to achieve its objectives on the medium term, because it remained rather textual and not factual.

According to Mr. lakehal, (2013)¹⁹ “if the strategy adopted by the State was very interesting on the economic and environmental scale, the approach was more theoretical than practical, because the State has unfortunately copied the strategy of Spain where tourism, is placed under the supervision of the environment, which is one of the first European countries having bet on tourism and the most important tourist destinations in the world. After the “turnkey” formula. The state seems eager to “copy and paste” successful experiences in the world without taking into account local specificities, moreover tourism is (re)delegated another time to the Ministry of Tourism during 2010. As for Mr. Boukhelifa, (2018)²⁰ he sees that “ the MPTD remains neglected by lack of conviction of senior officials and, by lack of skills.

In terms of time, specialists see that the short-term period that ended in 2009 was consumed without significant results. The medium term has shown a very slow pace. Spatially, the tourist expansion zones (TEZ), are far from being completed and therefore they are still not exposed to local or foreign investors. The Algerian tourist product has, unfortunately, not reached the critical threshold for an effective takeoff.

The Tourism Sector in Algeria; A Problem of Monopolization By the State

The reading of studies, reports, and analysis of data on the Algerian tourism sector at the national and international level, shows that the sector suffers from serious problems far from the hotel capacity and its quality or the budget granted. First of all, the closure of the Algerian economy to the international market economy negatively affects the sector, and

18 Mermouri. H, in Tourism: The revenues “low” in view of the potential of Algeria, www.lemaghreb.dz.com/

19 Lakehal. A, « The Role of Public Expenditures in Tourism Performance in Algeria», Sétif, 2013.

20 Boukhelifa. S, « Algerian tourist memories: 1962-2018”. Houma Edition, Algiers, 2018.

does not allow it to insert itself into the multilateral world trade system. According to Cherif, (2017)²¹ «tourism grows faster than the average economy in periods of growth, but it declines faster in periods of economic contraction. Tourism growth is therefore driven mainly by economic growth.” Algeria is, to this day, negotiating for accession and membership in the World Trade Organization, because, the “Algerian economy, strongly marked by a persistent imbalance in its balance of payments since the sharp drop in oil prices in 2014, is faced with the urgency of internal structural reforms, including the major issue of diversification of its foreign trade and its smoother integration into the global trading system.” (Hadjam, 2019)²².

On another level, the tourism sector endures first of all the defects of its monopolization by the State²³. Algeria decided to turn its back on international tourism at the beginning of the 1980s following the decision of the Central Committee of the Political party “National Liberation Front” (NLF), because the country was enjoying an exceptional rise in the price of hydrocarbons at the time. The consequences of this resolution were semantic, hollow and wordy. The State had decided, therefore, to stop the receiving tourism (international) and to stop the tourist flows coming from the main European markets in order to launch the domestic tourism (popular, family, social), “at the time of a central committee organized in 1980, the NLF estimated that we had to stop the international tourism and to take care of the domestic tourism in favor of the nationals since we have a lot of receipts in currencies thanks to hydrocarbons”.

International tourism, which was flourishing in the 1970s, was thus broken up in favor of domestic tourism. Certainly, the catalyst of the real tourism lies in this internal demand fed essentially by the middle class, in order to take off the sector (besides all the big world destinations of tourism started by the internal demand, real booster of tourist receipts), but the tourism in Algeria is far from answering the purchasing power of this middle class. So that the internal tourism remains until today at the embryonic stage, and the tourist sector loses its clientele on the two national and international scales. The withholding of the international tourism which made the country undergo a consequent loss of income in estimate, was followed by the oil shock in 1986 then by the political crisis of 1988, which forced the country, unfortunately, to run some years later to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The black decade of terrorism has, completely, isolated Algeria and removed it from the world map of tourism, “*the ten bloody years have completed our tourism that was declining following the unfortunate decision of the FLN to stop receptive tourism*” (Boukhelifa S, 2018)²⁴.

The monopolization of the sector by the State has also caused an absence of decentralization policy and public/private partnership. The population and the local communities are completely excluded from any decision, investment or tourist collaboration, at the time when they can take the torch in this sector, especially as they are more and more interested in their heritage and its tourist exploitation. Consequently, in 1983, a new reform was necessary with two watchwords: decentralization of the power of decision and deconcentration of the activities (Cherif K, 2017)²⁵, but it remains that, any synergy between the main clusters of the tourist field which are well the institutional ones (the State and the local communities) and the professionals, is dismissed, whereas, “*it is the implication and the motivation of these two clusters which will make one day the Algerian tourism, as they made the tourism of the big destinations*” (Gorri, 2018)²⁶.

The Tourism Sector in Algeria; A Problem of Commitment

In terms of tourism competitiveness, Algeria has the lowest score in North Africa, with a rate of 3.1/7 against 3.9 for Morocco and Egypt, and 3.6 for Tunisia. Tourism competitiveness depends mainly on innovation in tourism engineering in general. Algeria presents, unfortunately, an offer poor in innovation and weak in quantity, with a very large deficit in hotel infrastructure, whose capacity was 102 244 beds in 2015 against 242 624 beds in Morocco in 2016 and 241 400 beds in Tunisia in 2015, and in terms of quality it remains far from the international standard (World Economic

21 Cherif. K, « Tourism economy, a future investment for Algeria “. Casbah edition, Algiers. 2017.

22 <https://lechodalgerie.dz/>

23 Art 7 - The State creates the necessary conditions for the promotion of the tourist investment. The programs of development of the tourist activities must be implemented in priority in the zones of tourist expansion. The State takes charge of the expenses inherent to the elaboration of studies and works of development and the realization of infrastructures of these zones. Official Gazette Law n° 2003-01 of 16 Dhou El Hidja 1423 corresponding to February 17, 2003 relating to the sustainable development of tourism, p. 3.in, <http://www.invest.caci.dz/>

24 Boukhelifa. S, « Algerian tourist memories: 1962-2018”. Houma Edition, Algiers, 2018.

25 Cherif. K, « Tourism economy, a future investment for Algeria “. Casbah edition, Algiers. 2017..

26 Gorri. R, « Algerian tourism is currently in its first stage », 2018, www.algerie-eco.com.

Forum, 2019)²⁷. In addition to this is the problem of marketing and tourism package known as «tourist package», which represents the cost of a tourist stay, where Algeria is considered an expensive destination (quality / price ratio), “tourism infrastructure is not adapted to the purchasing power of Algerian tourists” (Gorri, 2018)²⁸, and this, relatively to neighboring countries, mainly Turkey and Tunisia.

According to the report of the World Economic Forum on the competitiveness of countries in this sector (2019)²⁹, whose ranking has affected 140 countries. Algeria ranks poorly even on the factors of business environment (118th), prioritization of the travel and tourism sector (132nd), service infrastructure for tourists (136th), environmental sustainability (133rd), natural resources (126th) and international openness (139th). Algeria is ranked among the most competitive countries in terms of progress, in terms of health, hygiene, prioritization of the travel and tourism sector, and in terms of price (8th) given the devaluation of the Dinard relative to other foreign currencies, the same report said.

The second problem that affects the sector is a problem of tourism management and marketing. The management in tourism is a cornerstone in any tourism strategy, and is defined as the methods of organization and management of the sector in order to achieve the objectives set, it includes two dimensions, namely the technical dimension and the human dimension. As for the technical dimension, and at the time of the all digital, it revolves around the advent of the net, for tourism, it is e-tourism, or all tourism companies in the world develop strategies that rely on the internet and on an appropriate communication (marketing of the offer), and m-tourism via the rise of smartphones and its applications (booking, information and digital records and even payment in the majority of Western countries, are done via web platforms such as «Booking», «Hotels. com» or «Airbnb», using a credit card). At the time of the all-digital world, Algeria remains disconnected, and suffers from an old and non-modernized administration, lagging far behind in the Information and Communication Technology sector ICT sector which represents only 2.9% of its GDP (Benaissi, 2016)³⁰. It is only in 2018, that the tourism sector is adapting to this growing «digital transformation» and, has a digital platform that has just been launched. The various international economic organizations always flunk Algeria at the bottom of the rankings. In 2016, Algeria was ranked 117th out of 139 countries in the ranking devoted to innovation in the digital economy, and was not among the top ten African countries because of an environment and use of ICT far from international standards. At the level of all Arab countries, Algeria is ranked second to last, followed by Libya.

The human dimension focuses on staff training, which represents the Achilles heel in the tourism industry. The training in Algeria has been neglected for a long time, which has fatally affected the quality of the tourism system from the administrator to the simple agent.

According to the National Tourist Office, Algeria has, until 2014, only three schools and institutes in tourism. Certainly the date of creation of the first institute dates back to 1972, but according to experts in tourism (Boukhelifa, 2018)³¹, the programs are obsolete and outdated. The State has responded to this handicap in the MPTD, by a process of setting up a «Map of Training in the Tourism Sector» in order to study the best ways and methods likely to adapt the national training offer in the trades and professions of tourism to the requirements of the development of the sector. In 2015 Algeria opened the Higher School of Catering and Hotel Management of Algiers (HSLMA), in partnership with the prestigious school of Lausanne, one of the five best schools in the field, in the world, in order to make up for this enormous deficit in terms of training, service and qualification of personnel. Algeria is at the beginning of the road.

The same report also indicated that the tourism sector in the Mediterranean region participates with 10% in GDP (Gross Domestic Product), but it remains below the level in several countries including Algeria, where the sector is not well exploited in relation to existing capacities and opportunities. This translates into a rate of 9.3% of exports, 5.9% of investments and 1.8% of GDP (UNWTO, 2006)³², and represents only 0.2% of the tourist inflow in the region.

All attempts made by the state for the revival of tourism carried hesitant decisions and without great conviction (Boukhelifa, 2018)³³. In 2015, or it was necessary to strengthen the Ministry of Tourism following the gap with the

27 <https://fr.weforum.org/>

28 Gorri. R, « Algerian tourism is currently in its first stage », 2018, www.algerie-eco.com.

29 WEF, «The Global Competitiveness Report», 2019, pdf, in <http://www3.weforum.org/docs>

30 Benaissi. M, « Digital economy in Algeria, why this delay? » 2016, in <http://blog.economie-numerique.net/>

31 Boukhelifa. S, « Algerian tourist memories: 1962-2018” Houma Edition, Algiers, 2018.

32 In <https://www.oecd.org/fr/dev/afrique/40568587.pdf>

33 <https://fr.weforum.org/>

strategy displayed by the Regional Tourism Development Plan (RTDP) in the medium term, the Ministry of Tourism, instead of being strengthened, it sees itself dissolving into the Ministry of Land Management and becomes Ministry of Land Management, Tourism and Handicrafts. Thus, the tourism strategies in other countries have succeeded is because the tourism sector is based on the complementarity of a whole chain of ministries, namely the Ministry of Transport, Education and Vocational Training, Communication, Environment, Culture, Economy, Housing ... In Algeria, the promotion of tourism is ensured only by the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts.

CONCLUSION: TOURISM IN ALGERIA, UTOPIA OR REALITY

Unfortunately, tourism in Algeria remains an underestimated sector, and undergoes certain brakes, its development requires a real political will of the State to develop it and thus to establish a tourist strategy properly so called, followed by a plan of actions, with, the development of educational and information programs for the promotion of the tourist culture and the destination Algeria, as well as the preservation of the environment and the resources. Certainly, the meeting of all these conditions are necessary for the realization and success of this approach which is the royal way for a rational and sustainable revival of tourism. And this, especially since the recovered serenity of Algeria and its geostrategic position plead strongly, today, for a reconsideration of the place and the role that must play the tourist sector in a perspective of control of the stakes founding any policy of sustainable development of tourism.

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Citation: Manelle Bouchemal, Salah Chaouche. Tourism for Algeria: An Essential Engine of Economic Development. Int J Innov Stud Sociol Humanities. 2023;8(1): 267-275. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.20431/2456-4931.080129>.

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