

## TEST OF THE NEW APPROACH OF TAXONOMIC OF TOURIST RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT, CASE OF THE PROVINCE OF SETIF, ALGERIA

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**Abstract:** The objective of this paper is to proceed to the analysis and then to obtain a new classification and spatialization of the tourist potential of a specific territory, for the purpose of a tourism development of its resources. Besides, such analysis sheds light on the assets and constraints of the territory itself by using geographical and technical documents, in respect such as national, regional and local tourism development plans. More to the point, results show that the territory of the province of Setif is of specific aptitudes for a consequent attractiveness and a complementarity of interesting natural and cultural resources, as well. Nevertheless, the study reveals numerous limitations such as the inadequate classification of the tourist potential, which is confirmed by the vague and generalised vision of the State throughout the region. In virtue of which, based on the obtained results, a new taxonomy of the tourism potential has been proposed for the purpose of helping the operators and actors involved in a participatory approach for a wider tourism development of the province of Setif.

**Key words:** territory, attractiveness, taxonomy, tourism development, participatory approach, Province of Setif

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### INTRODUCTION:

For lots of developing countries, tourism is considered as a vector of growth (Fabry and Zeghni, 2012). Indeed, it is a powerful lever for innovation and economic and social change that is likely to drive the entire local and regional economy of a territory (Mamdy and Marsat, 2004). Attractiveness, marketing and good tourism governance constitutes three key and complementary factors in the accomplishment of tourism development because of their role in promoting tourism in the regions. In addition, tourism marketing has then become a necessity to create and expand tourism demand (Benghadbane and Khreis, 2019). Nowadays, global tourism is suffering from an unusual constraint due to the global epidemic of Covid-19 which has caused a decrease in international travels. On the other hand, according to numerous researchers, tourism continues to be the most important sector of activity in the 21st century, for the reason that contemporary society represents a “society of mobile individuals” (Stock, 2001) in which tourism plays a powerful role. In fact, it is considered as a “constituent element of the economic power of any State and the foreign trade thereof, as well” (Wackermann, 1997).

Notwithstanding this aspect of crisis, this has shown to be an opportunity for a new reconstruction of the tourism sector on a local and international scale. In virtue of which, it is then a matter of asking in which places there is a question of re-composition and spatial restructuring of the tourist activity and potential (Cousin et al., 2021). Likewise, in the study of the tourist phenomenon, the tourist places are differentiated and well distinguished from other spaces. Therefore, various proposals for the tourism development of places and spaces have brought to light the role of multiple actors who act to qualify a place as of a touristic character (Miossec, 1977; Lozato-Giotard, 1985) or alike who make places evolve according to an assortment of experiences (Stock, 2001; Bourdeau, 2012; Vlès, 2015).

Consequently, the place constitutes a geographical referent that allows the analysis of spatial actions and practices. In addition, its characteristic has shown to be very specific for the reason that it is the place where something happens (Berque, 2003) Above and beyond, we find tourist places in permanent movement, subsequent to development projects and health events which act on the tourist frequentation of such places, unlike the ordinary place which has “simply remained since the beginnings of tourism, in the shadow of tourist centralities” (Gravari-Barbas, 2017: 404).

In fact, the development of tourism in a given place or territory consists of making it accessible, providing public services and controlling the load capacities such as wastes, and preserving its natural and cultural heritage, as well, in order

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to constitute a well hierarchical and locally integrated tourism system. Therefore, a territory must be able to benefit from the effects of its tourist resources (Vellas, 2011). For the case of Algeria, the country remains a pristine tourist destination, unlike the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean: "The country is timidly involved in international tourism and gives up occupying the last ranks of tourist destinations in the Mediterranean basin" (Kherrou et al., 2018: 456). Hence, Algeria is the country with the lowest tourism receipts (0.14% of foreign currency receipts) (Collombon, 2002).

In reality, Algeria has enormous tourist resources which can develop a promising tourist industry (Herouat, 2012). As a fact of matter, the country's geographical position at the crossroads of airlines, the wealth of tourist resources and cultural diversity symbolize major assets which signify that the country has enormous advantages on both the regional and international markets. In addition, the socio-political environment is favourable, unlike in neighbouring countries (Frochot and Legoh  rel, 2007). In contrast, the various policies of the Algerian State since independence have shown their limits with insufficient revenues. Likewise, the retrospective study of these policies clearly shows the negligible position assigned to tourism, although official speeches attribute ambitious objectives to the same in terms of foreign currency contribution and job creation (Baouali and Baziz, 2020). In reality, it is difficult for Algeria to build international tourist attractiveness in the immediate prospect due to the risks of Covid, visa restrictions, inadequate air connectivity and/or insufficient infrastructures, so thought should be given to encouraging the development of domestic tourism, whose economic contribution is no less significant (G  lvez et al., 2014; Adelo  ye et al., 2019).

For long time, the tourism sector has been neglected or even underestimated. In this respect, a difficult economic and financial crisis, that has affected Algeria since June 2014 (the drastic drop in the price of oil from 120 dollars a barrel to 26 dollars with the appearance of Covid-19), has led decision-makers to consider a new alternative for the purpose of promoting the tourism sector by use of the appropriate tools available (Fertas et al., 2022). The most delicate problem remains the one pertaining to the development of tourism in a given region or a specific area. Thus, it is not just a matter of the natural or cultural potential of a territory, but a whole symbiosis related to the management and qualification of the territories and tourist sites concerned. In virtue of which, "Any tourist area has to be organised around attractive sites whose characteristics must be identified and whose dynamics must be understood" (Gagnon, 2007).

In light of the facts set out above, our study area, namely the province of Setif, has a rich and varied tourist potential (thermal, cultural, mountainous and urban) but the attractiveness thereof remains rather weak, due to the lack of selectivity of the tourist places which fail to manage to distinguish themselves so far. Hence, this Paper endeavours to provide response elements to the following question:

- How can the territory of the province of Setif be developed for tourism according to its resources?

- Why does the province of Setif fail to build specific destinations on its territory? Does the adoption of a new spatial classification that is more coherent and complementary to the tourism potential strengthen the development of tourism in the province?

Subsequent to which, we believe that tourism in the province of Setif, and Algeria in general, is facing many institutional difficulties and development strategy constraints which means that its market share in global tourism has remained insignificant for some time, in view of the fact that in 2017, tourism-related revenues in Algeria did not exceed \$300 million, i.e. 1.4% of Gross Domestic Product, whilst the number of tourists has not exceeded 3,000 per year over the past twenty years (Guenanfa, 2022). From the time of its independence, Algeria has not given a significant role for the tourism sector in its various development policies, unlike other Maghreb countries, in respect such as Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt. Nevertheless, it has shown to be understandable that if the existence of assets and potentialities is a necessary condition, it is far from being sufficient to initiate the development of tourism and to raise the same to such a level of competition that would allow it to conquer significant market shares in the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The purpose of this paper is to present a diagnosis of the pre-existing tourist resources in the province of Setif so as to help the decision-makers to have a clear vision on the tourist resources of the region and its limits and to propose, subsequent to which, a new approach of classification of the tourist potential which will help the local actors to project a plan of development of tourism of the province without neglecting the micro-spatial specificities.

## ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

### 1. Location of the study area

The province of Setif is located in eastern Algeria. It represents a geostrategic crossroads, surrounded by 06 provinces. At the northern side, it is bordered by the provinces of Beja  ia and Jijel, to the eastern side by the province of Mila, to the southern side by the provinces of Batna and M'silla and to the western side by the province of Bordj Bou-Ar  ridj. More to the point, the covered surface by which is assessed to 6,549.64 km  , with altitudes ranging from 900 m in the centre to 2,000 m in the north of the province, (Development Plan of the Province of Setif, 2009) with a population of around 1,909,916 people in 2018 (Setif monograph, 2018). Moreover, the geography of the provincial territory allows us to observe three main sets of landscapes: mountains, high plains and highlands, bearing in mind that each space is characterized by its own geographical and natural specificities (Figure1).

### 2. Analysis method

In geography, the case study refers to a method of investigation and analysis that consists in studying in details every bit of the characteristics of a problem or a phenomenon in a particular situation (Albero, 2010). Besides, the case study takes on the meaning of an example that allows showing and making understand the dysfunction of a particular territory (Leininger et al., 2016). One of the key factors of territorial analysis is to identify the problematic of the subject and the stakes thereof, along with putting the resources into perspective (Van-Laethem and Durand-M  gret, 2019). Firstly, proceed to conducting a fairly

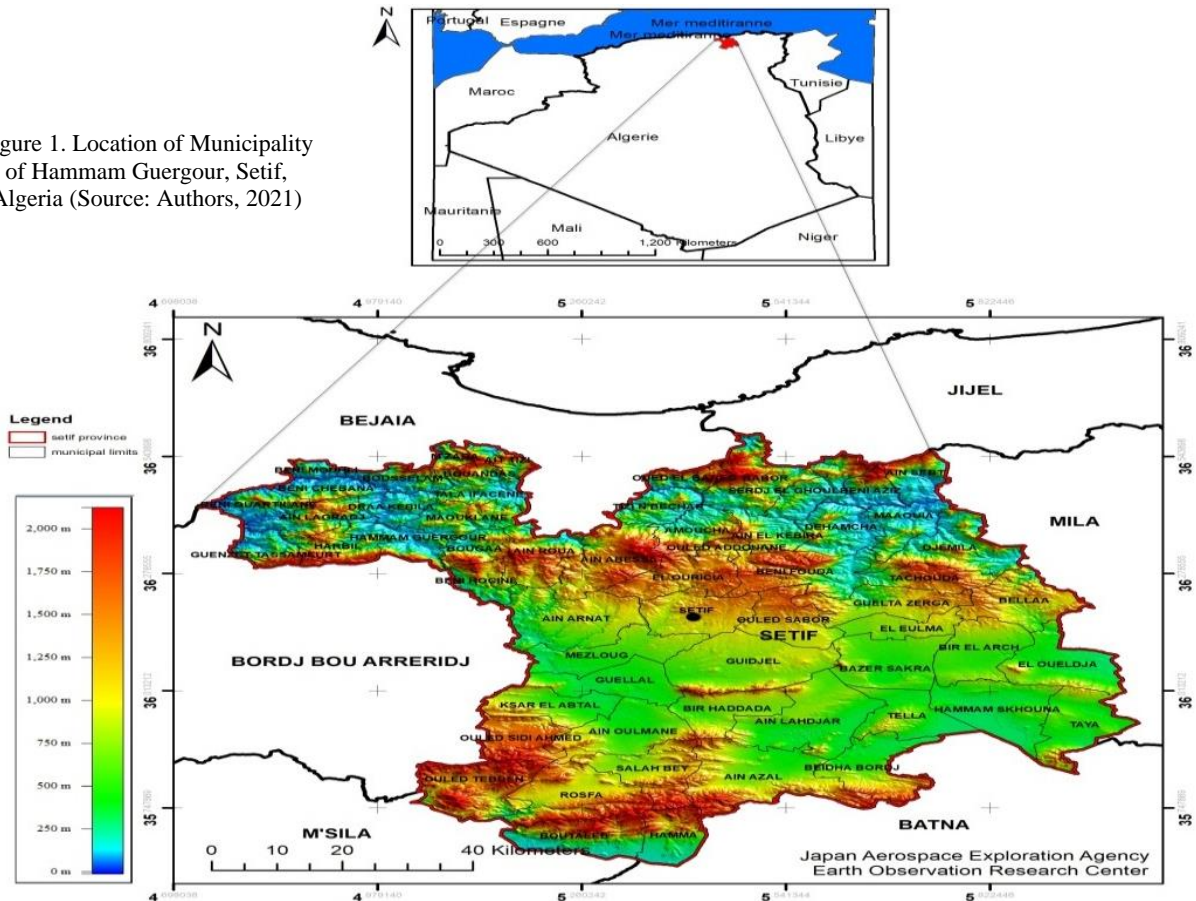
global inventory of the territory of the province so as to identify the problems, strengths, weaknesses, alongside the economic and social issues, as well. For the purpose of answering our research problem, our work went through three main stages:

First stage: The establishment of a bibliographical research, with regards to the theme by way of consulting various sources (thesis and Papers, technical documents, namely: The National Plan of the Territorial Development, the Master Plan of the Tourist Development (DTWS, 2018), the Master Plan of Tourist Development of the Province (DTWS, 2013), the Development Plan of the Province.

Second stage: It was devoted to fieldwork, by contacting the different actors in tourism in order to collect the various statistical data and regulatory documents.

Third step: It was devoted to the processing and interpretation of the different technical documents and, in closing, the dissemination of the results by proposing a new spatial classification of the tourism strata for the province of Setif.

Figure 1. Location of Municipality of Hammam Guergour, Setif, Algeria (Source: Authors, 2021)



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1 Diagnosis of tourism in the province of Setif

The territorial analysis (the diagnosis, which is not an objective in itself) has made it possible to take stock of the assets and constraints which characterize the tourism resources of the province of Setif, and then to make the interference between its different elements of the territorial dynamics of the province.

#### 1.1. Assets of tourism in the province of Setif

- Geographical position of regional crossroads: The province of Setif and its main town have become a hub of the main flows, thanks to the important communication network, in particular the national roads, coming from the South towards the North (the ports of Jijel and Bejaia), and the traffic from the East towards the West (from Constantine towards Algiers), as well. In this respect, the East-West highway crosses the territory of the province on 86 km, in addition to the national roads: the NR05 to Algiers, the NR28 to M'sila, the NR 09 to Bejaia, the NR78 to Biskra and the NR75 to Batna, along with the main railway line from the East to the West of the country (Province Development Plan, 2009).

- Diversity of the morphological framework: The province of Setif is geographically distinguished by 03 geographically diverse zones:

The mountainous zone: located in the north, it corresponds to the southern side of the Tell where the altitudes vary from 700 to 2,004 metres, made up of three mountainous masses, the Babor and Biban Mountains in the north and the Hodna Mountains in the south (province development plan 2009).

The zone of the high plains: located between the interior chains of the Tellian Atlas and the Atlas of Sahara. Besides, it represents an immense area and occupies the central region of the province; likewise, it is a relatively flat zone whose altitude varies from 750m in the East to 950m in the West. In closing, this area is characterized by the dominance of cereals and market garden crops.



The steppe zone (South and South-East): it represents the flat zone which covers 10% of the provincial surface, which is characterized by the presence of “chotts” or salty depressions whose relative depth is assessed at 10 to 20 meters in relation to the surrounding relief (DTWS, 2013).

### 1.2. Richness of the tourist potential:

The province of Setif has a multitude of tourist potential (urban, thermal, cultural and mountain) throughout its territory. Thus, these types can be cited as follows (Figure 4):

- Business and urban tourism (town of Setif and El Eulma): The town of Setif, main town of the province, is considered as the capital of the highlands. The town is equipped with accommodation infrastructures of more than 40 hotels, 17 of which are classified, with a total capacity of 3257 beds and 100 beds for youth hostels (any accommodation structure).

The town of El Eulma, the second most populated city in the province of Setif, is a commercial city par excellence thanks to its commercial zone named “Dubai”. Besides, this city is equipped with 13 hotels, 06 of which are classified, with an accommodation capacity of 857 beds (Directorate of Budgetary Planning and Monitoring, 2020).

- Thermal tourism is the type of tourism which has the greatest potential in the province of Setif. In reality, it counts nine (09) thermal springs distributed on the whole territory as follows:

- Thermal spring “Hammam Guergour” with 02 thermal stations offering several types of care: Crenotherapy, Kinesitherapy and Functional Rehabilitation, four (04) stations in the Commune of Hammam Soukhna, two stations in the commune of Ouled-Tebane and a station in Ouled-yeles (Master Plan of Tourist Development of the Province “MPTD”, 2015).

- An archaeological and cultural world-famous heritage:

The archaeological site of Djemila, “CUICUL” with an area of 42 ha represents a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Figures 2 and 3). It has a universal heritage and cultural value, with an archaeological museum. In addition, it has a hotel with a capacity of 34 beds and a youth hostel with a capacity of 70 beds. Hence, this site hosts 30,000 visitors per year (Master Plan of the Tourist Development “MPTD” 2015).

- Mountain tourism in its raw state: The province of Setif hosts two leading destinations for this type of tourism: the first is the Site of Djebel Babor, which is located in the northern side of the province in the commune of Babor. Further, this site hosts the Babor forest reserve, which is rich in plant diversity, whereat we find species of Aleppo, cedar, Numidian fir tree and cypress. More to the point, it even represents a research area that can initiate scientific tourism in the province (Figure 6). As for the second destination, it is towards the site of Djebel Megres, which is located in the northern side of the town of Setif; it offers an exceptional landscape with its pure air, a place of recreation thanks to the panoramic sight thereof on the town of Setif.



Figure 2. Roman theater of Djemila (North of Algeria) classified as a World Heritage Site (Authors, 2020)



Figure 3. The Cuicul : Roman city theater (Authors, 2020)

## 2. The tourism opportunities in the province of Setif:

### - Potential customers coming from the demographic basin of neighboring provinces

The province of Setif occupies a central position and constitutes a crossroads surrounded by 6 provinces. Besides, it is bordered from the northern side, by the provinces of Bejaïa and Jijel, to the east by the province of Mila, to the south by the provinces of Batna and M'silla and to the west by the province of Bordj Bou-Arredj. However, this positioning allows the province to enjoy potential tourists who are the populations of the previously mentioned neighbouring provinces, compared to total number of these populations is 6,653,723 inhabitants (Atlas of World Populations and Countries, 2015).

### - The proximity of the Mediterranean coastline and beaches

As this province shares borders with the provinces of Jijel and Bejaïa, this provides the province of Setif with many opportunities that advantages can be taken from the same by this province. In this respect, the distance in question is around 90 km from the main town and no more than 50 km from the border communes; the province of Setif has easy access to the beaches, which presents an opportunity, particularly for the communes in the northern side of the province.

### - Construction of the El Eulma/Jijel highway penetration which links the province with the sea

The highway penetration of Djen-Djen must connect the East-West Highway from the town of El Eulma to the port of Djen-Djen in the province of Jijel. Nonetheless, the construction thereof began in 2013; this 110 km long highway will help facilitating the mobility and flows from the country's inland provinces (Figure 5).

Table1. Accommodation capacity in the province of Setif (Source: Master Plan of Tourist Development of the Province of Setif, 2030. National Centre for Applied Urban Studies and Research "CNERU" / MAY, 2015)

Type of accommodation	Number	Number of beds
Hotels	30	1634
Hostels	02	140
Complex	/	/
Camping	/	/
Total	32	1774

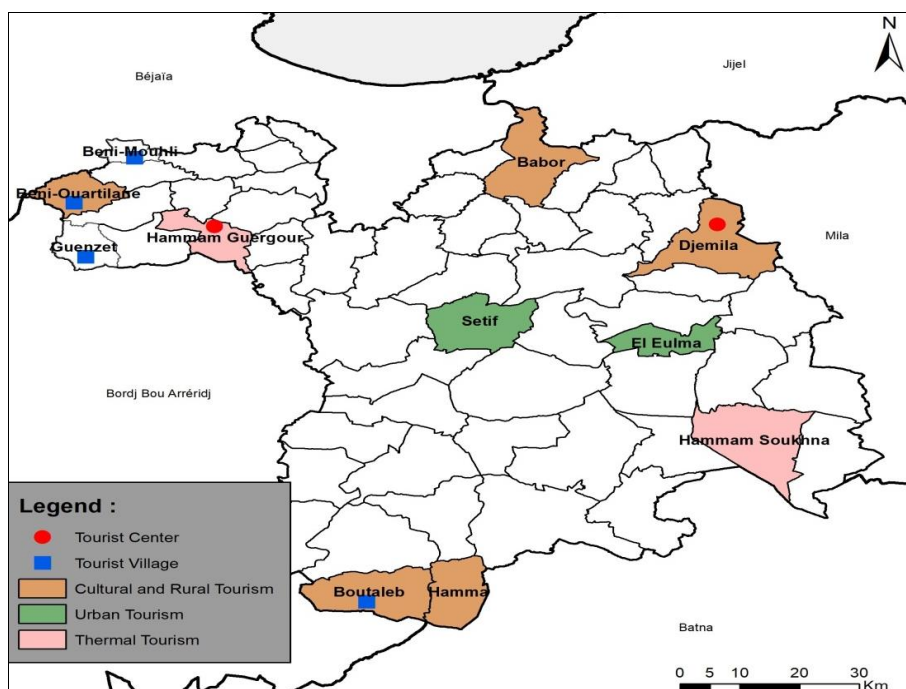


Figure 4. Typology of tourism in the province of Setif (Source: Authors, 2021)



Figure 5. Motorway: Setif – Jijel (Source: Authors, 2021)



Figure 6. Forest of Babor (Source: Authors, 2021)

### - The State's awareness of the importance of the tourism sector:

The State's new tourist policy is based above all on the promotion of the regions and territories by relying on their assets alongside their attractiveness whilst mobilising the actors who live there. In fact, it affirms its will to preserve the environment, improve the living environment, to develop and especially to perpetuate the natural and cultural capital.

### - The new tourism policy has three foremost objectives:

Improve the macroeconomic balances: Employment, growth, commercial and financial balance and investment;

Activate the knock-on effects on other sectors (Agriculture, Handicrafts, Culture, Transport, Services, Industry, and Employment). Help in socializing exchanges and openness at both national and international levels (Master Plan of Tourist Development "MPTD" 2030).

### 3. The constraints of tourism in the province of Setif

Tourism has clearly defined primary needs: It is indispensable to be able to transport tourists, to accommodate them as far as possible in accordance with world standards, to make them travel quickly and comfortably; it is alike indispensable to offer them a service of high quality; amongst the major problems of the province, we notice: lack of accommodation infrastructure to host tourists in certain stations, which reduces the accommodation capacity to 1774 beds, apart from the main town of the province; whilst the offer of para-hotel accommodation is inexistent (Table1).

### - Lack of qualified accommodation and service staff:

The training of managers and agents is not a widespread practice. However, this situation does not favour the quality of the provided services; in particular as the operators fail to complain of recruitment difficulties in the accommodation and catering fields.



### - Considerable lack of tourism marketing:

The majority of tourism agencies at the local level represent transmitting agencies and not receiving agencies. In this respect, the proposed products are rather oriented towards: Pilgrimage and OMRA, and trips abroad (Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, and Greece) the initiatives that turn towards local tourist destinations have shown to be rare.

### - Threats to tourism in the provincial territory of Setif:

The provincial territory of Setif remains an area exposed to numerous natural risks. Thus, the most vulnerable area is the one located in the northern side of the province. However, this is due to several factors, in respect such as the mountainous nature and the relief characterized by steep slopes combined with high rainfall and the lithological nature of the land. Such risks may include:

#### - Threat of Earthquakes

The North Tellian region of Algeria has a concentration of earthquakes; in other words, the region where the highest seismicity occurs due to a higher crustal deformation compared to other regions of the country (Abacha, 2015). The province of Setif, particularly in its northern part, is known for the frequent occurrence of natural earth movements. The nature of the relief and the particular topography of this area combined with its geology is the main cause of these earth movements. However, they affect the structures and the surroundings: houses, road networks, infrastructure, causing significant damage. The seismic activity occurs regularly in the Kherrata region, located in northern Setif. It is often generated by the active Kherrata fault, which corresponds to a NE–SW trending anticline (Chaouchea et al., 2006). The last earthquake occurred on November 10, 2000; shallow moderate ( $M_s=5.7$ ) but damaging earthquake shook the region of Beni-Ourtlane located about 50 km NW of Setif and 390 km NE of Algiers (Central Eastern Algeria). The main shock caused the death of 2 people, injured 50, and caused sustainable damage to about 3000 housing units (Bouhadad et al., 2003).

#### - Threat of landslides and earth movements:

The space Sétif's province is subject to different modes of ground movement such as landslides and rockfalls. The three factors responsible for such phenomena, such as the rugged topography, the dominant marl or clay lithology and the more or less abundant rainfall are much more closely related to these phenomena in the North. These forms of instability take place in the natural slopes, they will be qualified as hazards, and their intersection with the stakes allows them to be classified as natural risks (Djenba, 2015:168). More than a dozen communities and their populations are threatened, like those of Ait Mazala, Om Lalou of Bougaa, the Zerzou region of Ait Tizi complained about cracks and the risk of collapse of their homes. The risks are not only limited to houses, but also to roads, such as NR 78 and NR9 (see figures 7 and 8) of which a very large part of their respective sections was destroyed. The fact that disrupted road traffic in several places in the region, which already suffers from isolation (Tiouri, 2014).



Figure 7. National Road 78 (Setif – Bougaa), section abandoned at Takoka, due to landslide (Source: Authors, 2021)

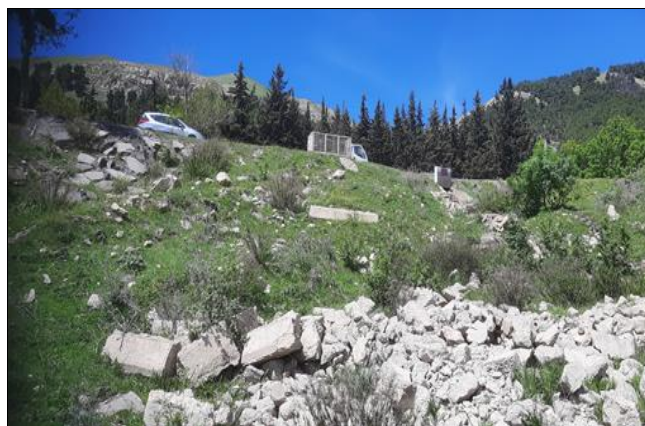


Figure 8 . National road 9 (Setif- Bejaia): threat of landslide at Dhiafet (Source: Authors, 2021)

#### -Threat of flooding during the rainy season:

The risk exists in the province, particularly in the mountainous area on the northern side of the province, due to their relief and the hydrographic network are particularly vulnerable to flooding. More to the point, the high variability of rainfall and its exceptional strength causes a rapid concentration of water and runoff. The risk of flooding in several cities of the province of Sétif is caused by the rivers: Djihadi (El Eulma), Naâmourne (Ain Lahdjar), Zaârouria, Ouarmi (Ain Oulmene), R'Mada (Ain Lahdjar) and Adouane (amoucha). These rivers represent a real danger for the inhabitants. In addition to the rapid rise of waters in the wad products, torrential rains cannot escape on the boulevards and streets of cities because of the dimensioning and the low maintenance of the sanitation networks (Francis, 2020).

#### - Threat of forest fires:

The forest fires that spread in the forests in the northern side of the province during dry periods, which generally get out of control, threaten biodiversity and the ecosystem of such fragile mountain areas.

#### - Unfavourable competition with neighbouring countries (North Africa):

Algeria remains well behind in terms of tourist attractiveness at the back of its South Mediterranean neighbours, with

2,371,000 visitors in 2019 (National Statistics Office “NSO”, 2019). According to the World Tourism Organization, the Mediterranean region is the leading tourist destination, accounting for 32.50% of the entire global tourists in 2019. Moreover, in accordance with the tourism balance sheet published by (UNWTO) in 2019, the countries with the largest shares of tourists are Morocco with 13 million and Tunisia 9.4 million, whilst Algeria is ranked 186th out of 186 countries, far behind Morocco (28th) and Tunisia (49th) in terms of tourist numbers (Chemma et al., 2021). The reasons for such a delay are, as mentioned above, the consequences of the black decade, but alike the perpetuated neglect of the tourism sector and the lack or absence of efforts to revitalize such sector compared to competing neighbouring countries.

#### 4. Classification test (taxonomy) of the tourist potential in the province of Setif

Taxonomy stands for the classification of tourist sites and territories according to various criteria. However, this represents an important step in understanding the functioning, identification and improvement of the economic and tourist yield of the territories, for the reason that a site is not born tourist, it becomes so (Hoerner, 2008). Our vision of classification of the tourist resources of the provincial territory of Setif is inspired by the documents of the World Tourism Organisation and the French Ministry of Ecological Transition (UNWTO, 2021), whilst the documents of spatial classification of the Algerian State are inexistent. Based on the local tourist resources of the province of Setif, our approach consists of a tourist center, a tourist village and a tourist commune. In virtue of which, these three elements form a tourist region, as shown in (Figure 9) and (Table 2). Thus, the interest of this selection can give certain advantages according to the classification category.

Table 2. The criteria of the Taxonomy of Tourist Areas (Source: Authors 2021)

Tourist centre A	Tourist village B	Tourist commune C	Tourist region D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classified tourist hotel;</li> <li>- Tourist activity and entertainment;</li> <li>- Permanent population;</li> <li>- Enhancement of the local landscape;</li> <li>- Organized visits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural resources;</li> <li>- Accommodation capacity that reflects local values;</li> <li>- local gastronomy and traditional culinary culture;</li> <li>- Encourages the production and promotion of local crafts;</li> <li>- Has transport infrastructure to facilitate connectivity;</li> <li>- Has health care services.</li> <li>- Has civil protection services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Well-distinguished tourist resources;</li> <li>- Access to the main tourist sites by public transport;</li> <li>- Permanent access to the Wifi network;</li> <li>- Provision of distinct public spaces and cultural and artistic activities;</li> <li>- Tourist hosting;</li> <li>- Tourist information service and presence of guides;</li> <li>- Availability of general food shops and weekly market;</li> <li>- Availability of a banking service;</li> <li>- Availability of a health care centre or polyclinic and a pharmacy;</li> <li>- Wastes treatment centre and department.</li> </ul>	<p>A tourist region has at least the following criteria: A+B+C</p>

##### 4.1. Selection criteria for a tourist center:

The tourist center is defined by the presence of tourist activity and animation, a place inhabited by a permanent population with an accommodation capacity for a non-resident population. Likewise, ensuring the structuring of the center towards a vital space that focuses social life with the possibility to enhance the local landscape thereof. Moreover, a classified tourist hotel structuring the center which fulfils this role as a prestigious infrastructure. In addition to organised and guided visits to tourist sites by agents according to the visitors' demand.

##### 4.2. Selection criteria for a tourist village:

The landscape and tourism values of the village environment are paramount. Besides, the tourist activity must respect the commitments of environmental protection and the notion of sustainable development. Likewise, which type of village is in relation with, or corresponds to what type of tourism? Hence, criteria for a typology are suggested (Rambaud, 1980): we can quote the criteria listed hereinafter:

- A distinguished geographical location: Be within 05 or 10 kilometers of a national highway with a permanent population.
- Propose a traditional restaurant;
- Offer at least one hotel accommodation;
- Ensure the existence of shops such as a grocery shop, a butcher's shop, a pharmacy and a vending machine;
- Access to parking spaces; - Provision of a playground and picnic area;
- The village must ensure the beautification of its living environment.
- Benefit from hiking trails and/or historical monuments;
- Provision of a waste treatment center.

##### 4.3. Selection criteria for a tourist commune:

- Well distinguished tourist resources, such as forests, thermal springs, heritage etc;
- Access to the main tourist sites by adapted public transport;
- Access to a permanently accessible public Wifi network;
- Provision of distinct public spaces with cultural and artistic activities;
- Tourist hosting in the commune;
- Tourist accommodation and information in the commune;
- Variety of local and national gastronomy;
- Availability of general food shops and a weekly market; - Availability of a banking service;
- Availability of a health care centre or polyclinic and a pharmacy;
- Availability of a waste treatment centre and department.

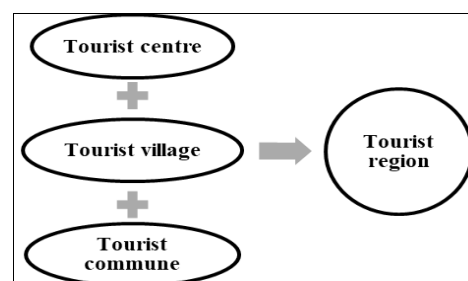


Figure 9. The components of a tourist region (Source: Authors, 2021)

#### 5. Application of the new tourism taxonomy in the province of Setif:

Through the application of the previously mentioned criteria to the provincial tourist poles mentioned in our trilogy,

and following the diagnosis prepared according to the tourist resources of the province of Setif, the corresponding results are illustrated in (Figure 10) and they are scrolled as follows:

The three well distinguished tourist regions for the province emerge whereat each region enjoys its own identity and specificity in the domain of tourism.

**Region (R 1):** It is located in the northern side of the province which has a varied tourist potential, with the presence of the thermal site of Hammam-Guergour, mountain tourism, and specifically the great reserve of the Babor Mountains and the historical and cultural site of Djemila.

**Region (R 2):** It extends over the median area of the province, with the presence of the two large towns of the province (Setif and El Eulma), as having a vocation towards business and urban tourism which polarise the commercial dynamics of the province and even in the east of the country where the two towns form a strategic axis on a national scale.

**Region (R 3):** It covers the southern region of the province. Hence, it has a double potential: thermalism on the site of Hammam-Soukhona and Ouled-Tebane and mountain tourism at the level of Djebel-Boutaleb and El Hama.

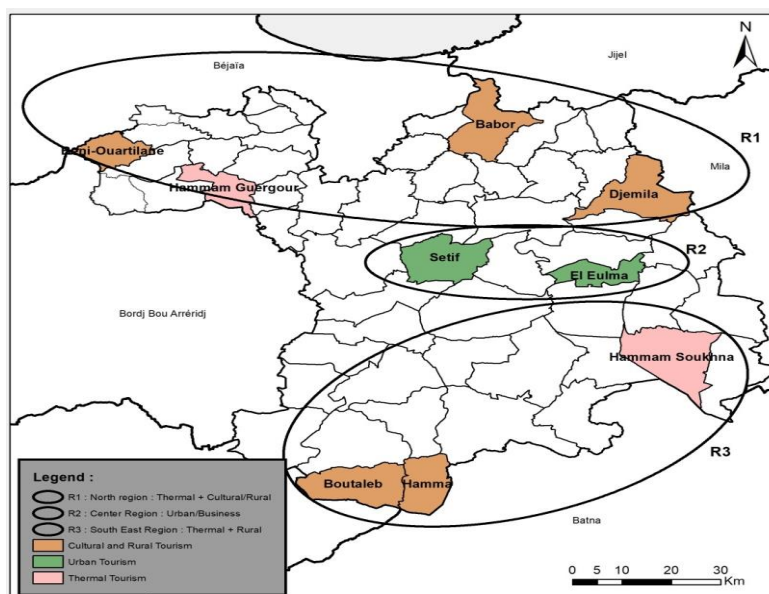


Figure 10. The tourist region proposed in the province of Setif (Source: Authors, 2021)

## CONCLUSIONS

Tourism remains a means of economic and social development, which is often representing a sector for reducing regional disparities, but alike a source of socio-cultural emancipation for the populations. Indeed, the positive effects of tourism are accompanied by others that can be harmful due to the heavy exploitation of natural resources or the absence of a strategy that fails to adapt to the realities of the territory; besides, it refers to the bad governance that takes place. Nonetheless, analysing and distinguishing the places that have a tourist value for visitors from the ordinary places, participates strongly in orienting the local decision makers who must act in the socio-economic balance of such places (Piriou, 2020). In Algeria, the tourism sector has experienced a considerable delay, which undoubtedly represents an asset for a policy favouring a micro-spatial vision and the encouragement of local resources to be implemented for the purpose of promoting the tourism potential of the regions. On the other hand, the traditional conception of the power of the “Top down” approach seems to be outdated, given its needy capacity to understand the realities and ambitions of the local population. More to the point, an objective combination with the “bottom up” approach could lead to a participatory approach that would allow for financial support for the initiatives of citizens and families. In virtue of which, this stands for a way of shifting to individuals responsibilities that have usually been the duty of public service (Knuth et al., 2018).

After our criticism of the State’s adopted policy, we come to deduce that the delay in tourist development in the province is due to generalized planning throughout the space which does not obey the classification and regionalization of the territorial tourist resources. Thus, the purpose of this Paper is to provide a new vision and conception of the development of tourist resources in a particular region. In closing, the province of Setif, with its thermal springs and its few villages which have kept their identity and their patrimonial and cultural values, represent an added value for the local population. Similarly, the towns of Setif and El Eulma are real poles of support for national and even international tourist attractiveness. In virtue of which, attaining this goal requires a selective analysis of the assortment of local tourist resources, in accordance with a participatory approach that responds to the dominant characteristics of each region.

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