

Factors Affecting Residents' Support for Tourism Development: Case of the Aurès Cultural Landscape

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Abstract

The paper aims to understand residents' perceptions and opinions of tourism impacts and to determine whether there is a relationship between tourism impacts and support/participation in tourism in a developing region: The Aurès. A total of 360 questionnaires were collected from the inhabitants of 4 villages, selected according to their tourist frequentation. 50 items concerning demographic characteristics, tourism impacts and tourist support/involvement were used. The results indicate that the inhabitants generally have positive perceptions and opinions towards tourism development. Motivated by the economic factor and concerned about privacy issues, residents of villages with tourist traffic are more supportive of tourism development than others. From the perspective of the tourism development that the city government has initiated, these results provide useful information for the planning and management of future tourism projects.

Keywords: Tourism development; residents' opinions and perceptions; tourism impacts; tourism support; Aurès Cultural landscape

Introduction

In the context of heritage dynamics, the heritage dimension has become an essential element (Grefe, 1990). The cultural identity of territories can be strengthened, preserved and enhanced through tourism (Donert & Light, 1996; Jansen-Verbeke, 2009). Moreover, tourism offers other perspectives for heritage preservation (Garrod & Fyall, 2000; Milne & Ateljevic, 2001). Numerous studies have cited tourism as a lever for the conservation of monuments and heritage as a whole (Alzue, O'Leary & Morrison, 1998; Herbert, 2001; McKercher, Ho & DuCros, 2005). In recent decades, tourism has become an important part of the global economy of any country due to its growth and development (Budeanu, 2005; Eraqi, 2007). Some researchers have described it as a powerful factor responsible for economic change because of its positive impact on communities (Eshliki & Kaboudi, 2012). Consequently, communities have an important role to play in tourism development strategies. Their positive or negative perceptions

of tourism have an impact on its development, especially in the case of rural tourism development, where the support of the local community is essential (Verbole, 2000).

The importance of rural areas in the tourism sector was highlighted by the Stetic (2012) study due to their ecological and natural characteristics, traditional culture and ethno-cultural heritage, but also due to the interaction between man and nature. The population is strongly involved in this type of tourism (Giannakis, 2014); the local community represents a key factor directly affected by its evolution (Eshliki & Kaboudi, 2012) Thus, its understanding is essential to ensure the success of tourism development and its sustainability (Zamani-Farahani, 2016). Sustainable tourism can also be beneficial for the preservation, improvement and revitalization of rural areas (Garau, 2015). In this context, it is important to understand the opinions and perceptions of residents on tourism through a scientific approach. Today, it is important to understand how local populations perceive the development of tourism and its impacts on their territories. Researchers have highlighted that local people's attitudes and support for tourism differ between developed and developing countries. However, there are still few studies on developing countries (McDowall & Choi, 2010; Pham, 2012; Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012).

Although research in developed countries may be of significant theoretical and practical importance, it may not be applicable to remote developing countries, which are highly dependent on natural resources and vulnerable to climate change (Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012). These characteristics indicate that in terms of sustainable tourism development, developing countries may face more challenges than developed ones (Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012). Therefore, sustainable tourism development in developing economies may require greater community participation (Truong, Hall & Garry, 2014). Algeria, with nearly 1,740,000 foreign tourist arrivals in 2007 (see Table 1), i.e., 1% of visitors from the Mediterranean and 12.21% of arrivals from the rest of the Maghreb, is a lagging country in terms of the number of stays on its territory, although the number of foreign tourists increased annually by an average of 6.5% to 7% between 1995 and 2007. The country aims to develop future touristic projects.

Table 1. Comparison between international arrivals in the Maghreb countries

Country	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2015
Algeria	519.600	866.000	1.443.000	1.640.000	1.740.000	2.500.000
Tunisia	4.120.000	5.058.000	6.378.000	6.500.000	-	10.000.000
Morocco	2.602.000	4.278.000	5.843.700	6.000.000	-	10.000.000

It has become very important to understand how local inhabitants perceive tourism development and its impact on heritage areas, knowing the perception of the impacts of the latter by the local community is essential to develop sustainable tourism (Zammani-Farahani, 2016), This research work aims to examine the opinions and perceptions of the inhabitants of the Aurès region, which represents a cultural landscape heritage, on the impacts of tourism development in their area. The pride of the inhabitants towards their territory and their heritage makes them perceive tourism a priori as an advantage. It is for this reason that this study aims to understand their opinions on the positive or negative impacts of tourism development, which ones prevail and which ones motivate or disturb them the most? It is also interesting in this study to cross-reference demographic characteristics with perceived impacts and support for tourism and to find out whether certain basic demographic characteristics have an influence on the perceived impacts of tourism and whether certain categories are more likely to support and be involved in tourism development. Also, it is very interesting to explore whether people in certain villages in the region who have experienced tourism are more supportive or less supportive. Providing answers to these questions defines the main objectives of our research, and these answers represent a very important information base prior to any tourism development project especially in rural areas. If the inhabitants have a negative perception of

tourism and are hostile towards tourists, the project could fail, and in some historical cities that have experienced tourism this information has serious implications (Snaith & Haley, 1999). Finally, this study can be used by tourism development planners and to provide advice to decision-makers on planned tourism development projects.

Literature review

Today, the concept of tourism in rural areas is the subject of great interest from scientific research in various disciplines, and involves many debates on this topic which has been much discussed in recent years (Mccomb, Boyd & Boluk, 2017). rural tourism used to be mainly about agro-tourism (Salazar, 2012). However, today it is more about the interaction of the population with its environment, and tourism development in rural areas involves community residents and natural resources (Hernández-Maestro & González-Benito, 2014). where the support of the local community is essential (Verbole, 2000). The analysis of local communities' perceptions of the impact of tourism becomes a major concern, as it is strongly linked to the willingness to support tourism development (Bestard & Nadal, 2007; Huh & Vogt, 2008). Researchers have highlighted that local people's attitudes and support for tourism differ between developed and developing countries. Most studies on residents' perceptions, attitudes and support for tourism focus on communities in developed countries (Nepal, 2008; Sirakaya, Teye & Sönmez, 2002), although some serious research has been conducted in developing countries (McDowall & Choi, 2010; Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012; Pham, 2012). In these countries, all decision-making processes are usually top-down and controlled by governments and different organisations. In this way, the right of community residents to participate in decision-making is challenged (Muganda, Sirima & Ezra, 2013). In this context, Tosun's (2006) study emphasised the role of community participation in tourism development in developing countries, and it is the communities that approve decisions on tourism development made for them rather than by them. Previous studies have shown that residents' perception of tourism depends on the benefits they receive from it (Jurowski, Uysal & Williams., 1997; Ap, 1992). If residents obtain more benefits than costs, they are willing to trade with tourists (Blau, 1964; Jurowski et al., 1997).

Three basic categories can be recognised: economic, environmental and socio-cultural. With regard to economic perspectives, most studies show that residents who depend on tourism or those who gain the most economic benefits from it (Abdollahzadeh & Sharifzadeh, 2012); increased employment opportunities, investments and profitable local businesses tend to have a more positive understanding of tourism than other residents (Deccio & Baloglu, 2002; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; Jurowski et al., 1997; Sirakaya et al., 2002). The success of tourism development and sustainability depends on the local population deciding whether or not to support tourism based on its benefits and its weight in economic, social, cultural and environmental concerns (Ap, 1992; Gursoy, Chi & Dyer, 2010; Gursoy & Rutherford, 2004; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2011; Yoon, Gursoy & Chen, 2001). If residents consider that the benefits of tourism outweigh the costs, they are likely to support tourism development (Ap, 1992; Gursoy et al., 2002; Jurowski et al., 1997).

Different studies on residents' attitudes, perceptions and opinions on tourism development have been conducted in different regions of the world and thus to cover different types of tourism: costal tourism (Belisle & Hoy, 1980; Gursoy et al, 2010; Monterrubio & Andriotis, 2014; Sharma & Dyer, 2009), rural tourism (Látková & Vogt, 2012; Park, Nunkoo & Yoon, 2015), mountain tourism (Brida, Osti & Barquet, A.2010) and even national parks (Pham & Kayat, 2011; Türker & Öztürk, 2013). In most cases, cultural and heritage resources are the main elements of tourism development (Jansen-Verbek & Lievois, 1999), as is the case in many destinations where cultural and heritage tourism is the reason for tourism development

(Cardoso & Silva, 2018). Away from the UNESCO designation, there is an interest in residents' attitudes towards heritage tourism development (Schmutz & Elliott, 2018). as is the case in this article, where we try to understand the opinion and perceptions of residents of the Aurès region that should represent a cultural landscape according to the criteria of the World Heritage site. Residents who support the development of tourism believe in its positive impacts such as improved living standards, entertainment, historical and cultural exhibitions, cultural exchange and strengthening of cultural identity (Liu & Var, 1986). Some research has also shown that residents give priority to environmental dimensions over economic factors (Liu & Var, 1986). Although the environmental impacts of tourism are obvious to researchers, not all residents believe that tourism has negative impacts on the environment. Residents' reactions to the environmental impact are mixed. Some believe that the tourism industry has created more parks and recreation areas, improved the quality of roads and public facilities, and has not contributed to ecological decline. Some studies have shown that residents have different views on the relationship between tourism and environmental damage, which differ according to the type of tourism, the degree of protection of the natural environment by residents, and the distance between residents and tourist attractions (Jurowski et al., 1997; Jurowski & Gursoy, 2004).

Material and methods

In recent years, the trend towards the use of mixed methods has increased, necessitating crucial changes in the development of tourism research frameworks and methodologies to take into account multiple positions, practices, perspectives and cultural differences (Ren, Pritchard & Morgan, 2010). In this context, the methodologies used have overlooked a crucial aspect, namely the acceptance by the indigenous population of foreign visitors to their territories, which could have an impact on the development of tourism potential. Natural attractions are generally associated with cultural attractions (Weaver, 2005), however, in this study, the distinction between the natural and cultural component is not always straightforward in these cases. The cultural layer is based on nature, as different natural areas are not free of cultural influences (Weaver, 2005). The distinction between natural and cultural features is in fact increasingly complicated in anthropogenic territories, making it difficult to assess cultural and natural features separately.

Area of study

This research was conducted in the rural area of eastern Algeria, called the Aurès. This region is composed of numerous villages located in a quadrilateral zone of 100/100 km, bordered by Biskra - Batna - Khenchela - M'sila (Delatrig, 1904). Rich and diversified by different landscapes, microclimates, reliefs and altitudes, the region is characterized by "high altitudes reaching 2328 m, grasslands, and desert". This study focuses on four main villages, located in the two parallel valleys of the region that are named after the wadies (rivers) that cross them (Oued Abdi and Oued Labiod). The villages were selected because they present a good choice of landscapes that could be attractive to tourists. The region includes oases and palm groves at the gates of the Biskra desert in the southern part of the valleys, the Ghoufi gorges in the Oued Labiod valley, and the traditional villages perched on the tops of the mountains, or on the banks of the wadies. In addition, there are agricultural terraces created by the population to adapt to the hostile territory.

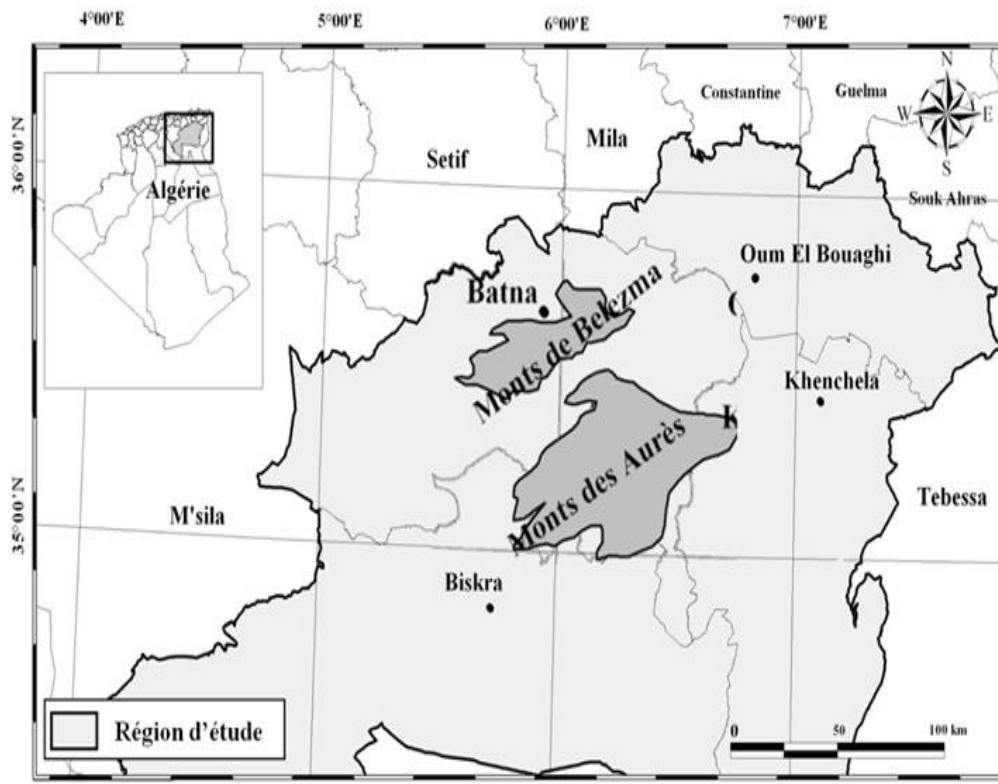


Figure 1. Location map of the Aurès region, Algeria
Anthropogenic landscape as an overlay of historical, cultural and environmental processes

This study focuses on the definition of the cultural landscape which is centred on the human being as the main element with regard to his integration with the environment. The Aurès territory is a geologically ancient territory, characterized by its morphological, environmental and above all historical diversity. This diversity has generated a process of social and cultural adaptation that is closely linked to the environmental conditions of the territory, resulting in constructive diversity, quality agricultural and historical traditions. The use of building techniques has been strongly conditioned by the environmental conditions and the nature of the land. Stone is the material par excellence for its ease of use and availability. Villages are perched at the tops of valleys and on the banks of wadis, favouring flat areas for terraced farming. The population lives in communities, called the Déchera, which means a group of houses juxtaposed and grouped together in one place. In addition, the diversity of the microclimate along the valley favours architectural and agricultural diversity, which has an impact on the way of life of its inhabitants. Two types of sedentary and semi-nomadic population have been traced in the two valleys, creating a landscape diversity par excellence. In the perspective of the tourist development of the region and with the aim of promoting territorial identity, the inhabitants represent a key element of the sustainability of the project for their attachment and subjectivity towards their environment. Consequently, it is necessary to study the local people's perception of and support for tourism development.

Tourism potential of the region

A diverse and picturesque territory, the region is, both geographically and culturally, a true and authentic land of escape. It could be a great tourist attraction; the region has an important natural and cultural deposit which combines the paradisiacal beauty of the Aurès valleys, the Belezma park, the splendor of the remains of Thamugadi, and Lambaesis, Fom K'santina, Ichoukkane and the remains of an ancient Amazigh city, the Numidian mausoleum of

Imedghassen, the site of M'Doukal, Mount Mahmel, the forest of Beni Imelloul. These sites may be of interest to tourists. The territory presents various attractions between Roman and Byzantine sites, Numidian remains and traditional architecture (Taddart, Dechra, Guelaa. The nature of the Aurès occupies a privileged role between springs of pure water, preserved landscapes, companions, spaces, cedar forests (Mahmel), valleys and snow-covered peaks. The Aurès culinary art and local products can also offer tourist opportunities (Aberbouche, Baatout, Thabsisith, arfis, Zeraoui Todfist l'Aich, apple of Arris, apricots of N'Gaous, dates of Ghoufi). In addition, cultural and artistic events are organized every year (Timgad International Festival, M'Doukal Fantasia, N'Gaous Apricot Festival, Inoughissen Apple Festival, Zerdas, Batna Cultural Week, Ghoufi Local Festival).

The two major assets of the Aurès region are its two large valleys which testify to the existence of a Berber civilization that has been able to integrate and adapt to its territory. The valleys contain incomparable archaeological riches and mythical and symbolic sites. The landscapes are varied, between beautiful plains, valleys, ridges and cedar forests. A unique composition of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage characterizes this region. Altitude pastures, lush flora and fauna also mark their territory. Today, however, this region of great value and tourist interest suffers from a lack of interest; its heritage and landscape are neglected. As a result, it is gradually losing its authenticity and is rapidly being replaced by new concrete and brick constructions along the national roads, thus altering the existing cultural landscape as a whole. This study aims to strengthen the role of the local population in the preservation of their heritage and to assess their perception and support for the development of tourism, which could be a real asset for the development of bed and breakfast accommodation, especially in mountainous regions where hotel facilities are really lacking.

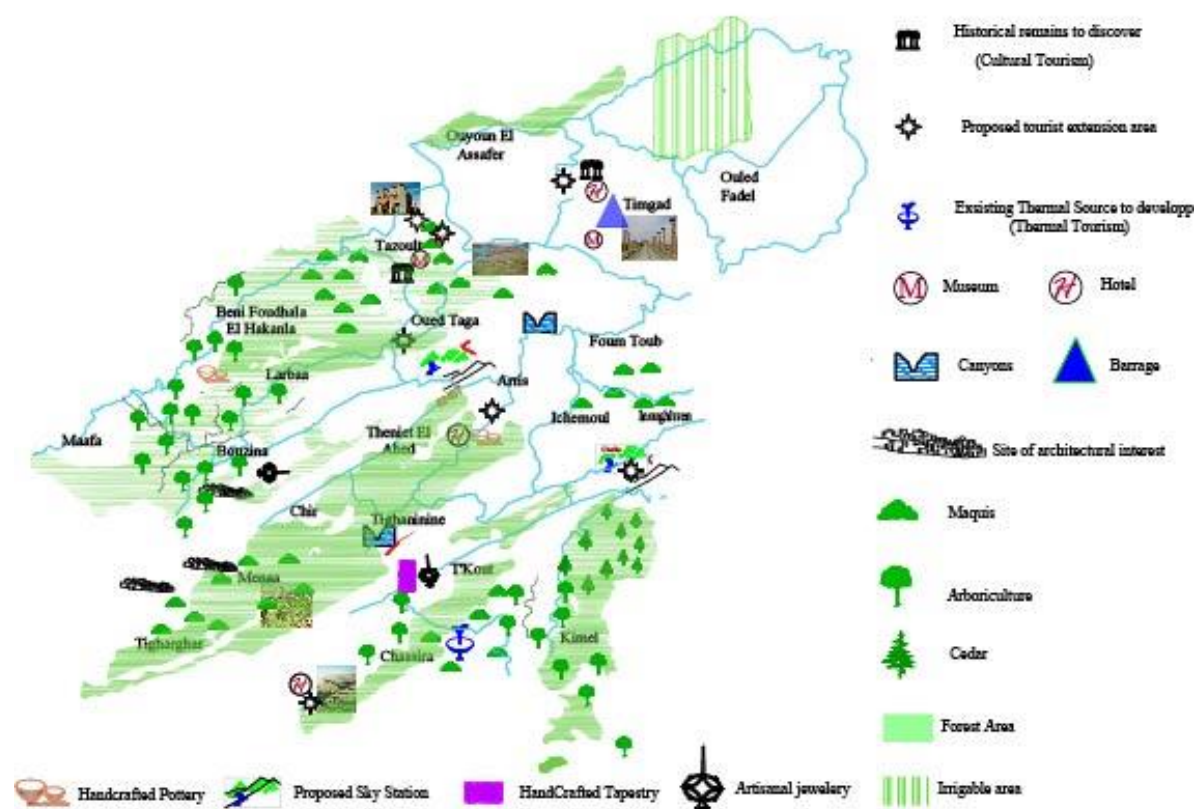


Figure 3. Tourist attractions in the Aurès region
 Source: Authors, 2020 Adapted from Tourism Office Batna



Sampling and data collection

A questionnaire was used as a data collection tool as part of a quantitative methodological approach, based on previous studies on local residents' perceptions of the impacts of tourism. The statements used in this questionnaire were extracted from the existing literature review (Hong Long, 2012; Andereck & Vogt, 2005; Oviedo-Garcia, Castellanos-Verdugo & Martin-Ruiz, 2008; Long & Kayat, 2011; Altıntaş, 2010; Yoon et al., 2001; Chen & Chen, 2010; Lankford & Howard, 1994; Vargas-Sánchez, Plaza-Mejia & Porrás-Bueno, 2009; Ritchie & Inkari, 2006). This study was carried out in the Berber villages of the Aurès, hence the need for a translator, as the questionnaire was conducted in French and then translated into Arabic. Students from the region with a good command of Arabic and Berber were recruited to translate the questions. Some of the interviewees were fluent in Arabic, which did not pose a problem, but for the majority of them, the presence of a translator was necessary. The questionnaire was reviewed by two sociologists, taking into account their suggestions.

The questionnaire was distributed to the population over a year and a half (January 2018 - September 2019) in situ and during different seasons. The population was asked to answer closed-ended questions, using the five-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" with a "neutral" option. The first part of the questionnaire was devoted to demographic characteristics for which participants were told that the questionnaire was voluntary and completely anonymous, so that they could provide the true point of view (Podsakoff, MacKenzie, Lee & Podsakoff, 2003) Demographic characteristics studied in this study include age, gender, education, marital status, length of residence and village of residence.

The second part of the questionnaire was based on the literature review of previous studies (Hong Long, 2012; Lankford & Howard, 1994; Andereck & Vogt, 2005; Andereck & Vogt, 2001; Chen & Chen, 2010; Oviedo-Garcia et al., 2008; Long & Kayat, 2011; Altıntaş, 2010; Yoon et al., 2001; Vargas Sanchez et al., 2009; Ritchie & Inkari, 2006). The questions focused on four main dimensions: economic, environmental, socio-cultural and attachment. The third and last part, aimed at assessing the support and involvement of residents in tourism development. The interviewer and translator gave a brief explanation of the study to the respondent and invited him/her to participate. Our presence on site was essential throughout the interview to avoid possible misunderstandings or problems. The questionnaire lasted between 10 and 15 minutes. This method resulted in a higher response rate (Czaja & Blair, 2005) than when the questionnaires were left with the residents. In each household, we invited every woman and man to respond to find out what each one thought. The response rate obtained was 72% (i.e., 360 out of 500 persons contacted agreed to respond).

Results

Respondents' profiles

According to the responses obtained, 52.2% of the respondents were women; 71.1% were married; 25.8% were between 31 and 40 years of age and 23.9% between 41 and 50 years of age; 34.1% had obtained a bachelor's or master's degree and 24.2% had higher education; 19.2% had no teaching degree; 60.3% had lived in the community for more than 20 years; 58% of the respondents came from villages with high tourist frequentation, while 42% came from villages with low tourist frequentation or no tourist frequentation. Table 2 represents the characteristics of the respondents.

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of respondents

		Frequency N°360	Percentage %
Gender	Female	188	52.2

	Male	172	47.8
Age	18 and under	74	20.6
	19-30	63	17.5
	31-40	110	30.6
	41-50	63	17.5
	50 and above	50	13.9
Marital status	Married	247	68.6
	Unmarried	113	31.4
Education	No education	50	13.9
	Primary/ secondary	89	24.7
	Certificate / Diploma	77	21.4
	Bachelor / Master	114	31.7
	Higher studies	30	8.3
Length of residency (years)	1-10	79	21.9
	10-20	63	17.5
	+20	218	60.6
Village	Menaâ	111	30.83
	Ghoufi	98	27.22
	Chir	87	24.17
	Djemmorah	64	17.78

Perceived impacts of tourism

After analyzing the 9 points for economic impacts on a Likert scale from 1 to 5, the final average is 3.98. The final average is 3.98. Further analysis of the results of the questions asked about opinions regarding the impacts of tourism shows that the opinions are fairly unanimous. Indeed, the local people agree that tourism favours local products (4.35) and that it creates a working environment as well as employment opportunities (4.20). These economic benefits are well known and often cited in various studies, which have found that the creation of new employment opportunities, new investments and economic benefits for the local population improves the perceived impacts of tourism (Abdollahzadeh & Sharifzadeh, 2014; Andereck, Valentine, Knopf & Vogt, 2005; Jurowski et al., 1997; Lankford, 1994; McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Perdue, Long & Allen, 1990; Sirakaya et al., 2002; Wang & Pfister, 2008; Yoon et al., 2001). With an average total economic impact of 3.98, the inhabitants of the Aurès have a generally positive perception of the economic impact of tourism. They support the idea that tourism improves the quality of life (4.16), adding an economic contribution to the country (4.14). In addition, it helps to diversify the region's rural economy by encouraging public investment (4.11). Yet, one of the aspects that the inhabitants consider negative is that tourism increases the cost of living in the region (3.94). Finally, another manifestation of the positive perception of the impacts of tourism is that the inhabitants do not believe that tourism can increase the price of goods in the Aurès by an average of only (2.61). However, this statement may be somewhat misleading as to its significance, which is explained by a fairly large standard deviation from the other respondents (1.107).

The environmental component includes elements relating to the preservation and conservation of natural resources, as well as the negative impacts of tourism on the environment. Local population remains favourable to the negative impacts of tourism with low means such as tourism damaging the natural environment and landscape which shows an average of (2.45). Furthermore, tourism causes pollution (2.90) and wastes water (2.77), affects natural resources (2.53), which means that residents are not convinced by the negative impacts of tourism on the environment, except for the problems of overpopulation, which shows an average value of (3.60). But they do recognize that tourism improves the appearance of the city (3.80) and creates protected areas (4.09). Residents recognize that tourism development has a positive impact on the development of the region. The effects of tourism development on the natural environment and landscape are not perceived as negative. These results are consistent

with those of Ramseook-Munhurrin and Naidoo (2011) and Muresan and Oarion (2016). Local residents have a positive perception of socio-economic impacts (mean of 3.7). In addition, they have a positive view of the cultural benefits of tourism. They agree that tourism generates interest in the maintenance and preservation of historic buildings and archaeological sites (4.15), increases pride in cultural identity, and preserves cultural values (4.11). Furthermore, they believe that it develops a sense of ownership and promotes respect for local culture and customs (4.09). However, they disagree on the negative side of tourism, such as the fact that it distorts values (2.48) and leads to moral degradation (2.08). Finally, they consider that tourism affects intimacy within their village (3.94), which they see as a negative impact of tourism.

Non-parametric tests were used to examine differences in respondents' perceptions of the impacts of tourism as a function of demographic variables. A Chi-square was performed and the results suggest that some differences between variables are significant, while others are not. No significant differences were found between demographic characteristics and perceived economic impacts. Age and marital status are explanatory variables for socio-cultural impacts, with males (3.82) and single residents (3.87) tending to be more favourable than females (3.75) and married residents (3.76). The results also suggest that education is significant in the categories of perceived environmental impacts, with those with high levels of education tending to be against negative environmental impacts.

Table 3. Residents' perceptions on the economic impacts of tourism development

Question items	Likert Scale %						
	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Standard Deviation
ECO 01 - Tourism creates a local business environment	0	1.9	15.8	42.5	39.7	4.20	0.771
ECO 02 - Tourism creates employment opportunities	0	0.6	13.3	51.7	34.4	4.20	0.679
ECO 03 - Tourism raises the price of goods	15	36.7	26.9	15.0	6.4	2.61	1.107
ECO 04 - Tourism makes residents' quality of life better	0	1.7	16.4	46.7	35.3	4.16	0.749
ECO 05 - Tourism leads to high cost of living in the region	1.1	3.6	21.4	48.3	25.6	3.94	0.844
ECO 06 - Tourism encourages investments and public development	0.3	0.3	17.5	51.9	30.0	4.11	0.707
ECO 07 - Tourism diversifies the rural economy	0.6	1.1	17.2	49.4	31.7	4.11	0.757
ECO 08 - Tourism creates additional income for the country	0	0.6	20.8	42.8	35.8	4.14	0.756
ECO 09 - Tourism promotes local products	0.0	0.6	14.4	34.7	50.3	4.35	0.742
Total						3.98	0.639

Table 4. Residents' perceptions on the environmental impacts of tourism development

Question Items	Likert Scale % (n°360)						
	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Standard Deviation
ENV 01 - Tourism damages natural environment and landscape	6.9	55.6	25.6	9.7	2.2	2.45	0.846
ENV 02 - Tourism causes pollution	5.8	30.8	35.6	22.8	5.0	2.90	0.981
ENV03 - Tourism causes water wastage	6.4	35.3	35.6	20.3	2.5	2.77	0.928

ENV04 - The construction of tourist facilities destroys the environment	11.7	50	34.7	3.6	0.00	2.30	0.720
ENV05 - Tourism improves the appearance of the city	0.00	5.3	30.6	42.8	21.4	3.80	0.833
ENV 06 - Tourism affects natural resources	8.6	45.8	31.4	12.2	1.9	2.53	0.886
ENV 07 - Tourism causes overcrowding problems for residents	1.7	15.6	23.9	38.9	20.0	3.60	1.027
ENV8 - Tourism creates a public environmental protection zone	0.8	5.00	13.3	45.8	35.00	4.09	0.867
Total						3.05	0.793

Table 5. Residents' perceptions on socio-cultural impacts of tourism development

Question items	Likert Scale % / n°360						
	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Standard Deviation
SC01 - Tourism increases pride in cultural identity	0.3	2.5	15.8	45.8	35.6	4.14	0.788
SC02 - Tourism preserves cultural values	0	0.8	21.4	43.9	33.9	4.11	0.759
SC03 - Tourism offers opportunities for interaction with tourists	1.1	1.4	23.9	39.7	33.9	4.04	0.857
SC04 - Tourism raises interest in maintaining and preserving historic buildings and archaeological sites	0.6	2.2	21.9	31.9	43.3	4.15	0.878
SC05 - Tourism stimulates cultural activities	5.3	12.2	18.6	35.6	28.3	3.69	1.159
SC06 - Tourism develops a sense of ownership	0.3	2.8	18.3	43.9	34.7	4.10	0.811
SC07 - Tourism affects the intimacy inside my village	0.8	1.7	28.9	40.3	28.3	3.94	0.844
SC08 - Tourism is synonymous with respect for local culture and customs.	0	0.3	25.0	40.0	34.7	4.09	0.776
SC09 - Tourism creates new learning opportunities for residents	1.7	5.0	28.1	37.8	27.5	3.84	0.940
SC10 - Tourism causes value distortion among the youth	20.0	38.1	21.7	14.2	6.1	2.48	1.142
SC11 - Tourism leads to moral degradation due to cultural differences	9.4	34.7	28.1	14.2	13.6	2.88	1.183
SC12 - Tourism development increases recreational opportunities for the local population	0.3	0.8	23.6	42.5	32.8	4.07	0.787

Table 6. Chi-square test between demographic characteristics and the perceived impacts of tourism development

	Gender	Age	Marital status	Period of living	Education	Village of residence
Economic impacts	.965	.329	.451	.358	.432	.960
Environmental impacts	.651	.631	.505	.201	0.000	.489
Socio-cultural impacts	0.034	.101	0.001	.306	.181	.291

Resident support/involvement in tourism development

A principal component analysis was carried out to assess the dimensionality of the 8 elements. The Barlett test of sphericity is significant (Chi-square = 371,526, $p < 0.000$). The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) overall sampling measure is 0.68, indicating that the data are suitable for principal component analysis (Kaiser, 1974). Values of 0.6 or greater from KMO measurements indicate that the data are adequate for PCA. PCA with Varimax rotation of the 8 variables resulted in a two-component solution that explains 47.20% of the total variance.

Only factors with eigenvalues greater than one were selected. The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient was calculated to assess the internal consistency of each component. An acceptable reliability coefficient is greater than 0.6 impacts, but also the attachment and involvement of the inhabitants in the development of tourism (Mason & Christie, 2003; Harrill & Potts, 2003; Mason & Cheyne, 2000). The overall reliability of the 8 variables was 0.83. The PCA with Kaiser normalization yielded complex results (see Table 7). The convergent rotation yielded a result of two main factors in the responses, i.e., two groups of residents in relation to their views of support for tourism. The first would include all perceptions related to support for tourism development, in addition to the second part of the statements related to the involvement of the population in tourism development. The results show four statements for each factor; the first factor called "Tourism development support" explains 26.48% of the variance and has an average of 3.52. This factor involves attributes that focus on the degree of support of local residents for tourism development. It contains both positive and negative statements about tourism.

The second factor labelled "Involvement in tourism development", accounts for 20.70% of the variance and has an average of 3.88. It involves attributes related to the degree of involvement of residents in the development of tourism in their region. The elements in this group of components are related to participation in cultural exchanges between residents and visitors, involvement in promoting education and environmental conservation, residents' willingness to show others around their region/village, and involvement in sustainable tourism planning and development. Residents do not believe that local authorities should restrict the development of tourism (mean = 2.12), and that tourism should be actively pursued in their villages (4.07). They actually support tourism (3.98) and support new tourism facilities that can attract more tourists to their villages (3.94). Rural residents are involved and want to show their villages to strangers (4.06), but also want to participate in cultural exchanges (3.65), in the promotion of education and environmental conservation (3.98) and finally to be part of plans and development related to sustainable tourism (3.84).

Table 7. Factor analysis of tourism support development opinions using principal component analysis and varimax rotation. method with kaiser normalization.

Eigenvalue	Variance %	Component	Items	Factor loading	Communalities	Mean	SD
2.12	26.49	Tourism Support 3.52	Local government should restrict future tourism development	-,717	,587	2.12	.845
			I support new tourism facilities that will attract more tourists to my village	,790	,213	3.94	.800
			Tourism development should be actively continued in my village	,382	,640	4.07	.789
			I support the development of tourism	,773	,638	3.98	.867
1.65	20.70	Tourism Involvement 3.88	I want other people to discover my village	,752	,157	4.06	.757
			I participate in cultural exchanges between residents and visitors	,658	,520	3.65	.867

		I would participate in the promotion of environmental education and conservation	,665	,456	3.98	.852
		I would participate in sustainable tourism-related plans and development	,722	,566	3.84	.888
Total variance	47.206				3.70	

The results of the simple correlation analysis on support for sustainable tourism development and involvement in tourism development for environmental impacts, economic, socio-cultural benefits show a weak direct correlation between perceived environmental impact and support for sustainable tourism development ($r=0.08$). Furthermore, it shows a strong indirect correlation between environmental impact and involvement in tourism development ($r=-0.98$). An indirect correlation can be noted between socio-cultural impacts and support and involvement in tourism development ($r=-0.12$), ($r=-0.68$), which may explain a negative relationship between them. There is a relationship between economic impacts and support for tourism ($\text{sig}=0.000$, $r= .207$) and involvement in tourism ($\text{sig}=0.000$, $r= .205$); a positive correlation shows that economic impacts have an impact on both support for tourism and involvement in tourism. Most of the economic benefits can be considered as personal benefits of tourism development. These results are in line with previous studies which have shown that the more residents perceive the benefits of tourism, the more they are in favour of sustainable tourism development (Long, 2011; Wang, 2008; Muresan, 2016).

Table 8. Correlation between tourism impacts and support / involvement in sustainable tourism development

Dependent Variable	Tourism support		tourism Involvement	
	Correlation Coefficient (r)	p-Value	Correlation Coefficient (r)	p-Value
Attachment	,151	,004	,080	,131
Socio-cultural	-,012	,819	-,068	,197
Environmental	,008	,875	-,098	,062
Economic	,207	,000	,205	,000

* significant at 0.05; ** significant at 0.01

This section aims to analyze whether residents' opinions on the support and involvement of tourism in the Aurès region have changed according to their: gender, age, status, period of residence in the region, education, villages of residence. Non-parametric tests such as the Chi-square test were carried out to determine whether there were significant differences between groups. The results of these tests indicate that there were no significant differences between the different demographic and socio-economic groups in terms of support for and involvement in sustainable tourism development, with the exception of age where significant differences appeared in involvement in tourism, marital status and villages of residence in support for tourism. Descriptive statistics were applied to explain the significant differences between the groups, calculating the average of each category in each group to understand the relationship between them.

The findings suggest that age has an impact on participation in tourism and that the category of residents aged 19 to 30 is more likely to be involved and concerned by tourism activity (average of 3.48). Unmarried residents are more supportive of tourism development

than married residents (mean = 3.57). Gender shows a significant difference with support for tourism; indeed, males are more supportive of tourism. Finally, place of residence is also discriminatory with regard to support for the development of tourism; indeed, residents of villages such as Mena and Ghoufi, which have experienced some tourist attendance, are more likely than others to be favourable to the development of tourism; attendance in these villages remains low but higher than tourist attendance in Chir or Bouzina.

Table 9. Results of Chi-square test analysis of demographic and socio-economic characteristics and support/involvement for future tourism development

	Tourism support		Tourism involvement	
	Value	Sig	Value	Sig
Gender	9,004a	0.029	2,170a	,538
Age	8,181a	,771	37,826a	,000
Marital status	36,334a	.000	3,725a	,293
Length of residence	6,174a	.404	9,112a	,167
Education	4,958a	.959	5,823a	,925
Village of residence	203,539a	.000	6,397a	.700
Number of valid observations	360			

* significant at 0.05; ** significant at 0.01

Discussion

Tourism is of interest to many researchers, on various subjects but especially on the perceptions and opinions of residents with regard to tourism development. Many of them have examined the relationship between residents and tourism development. A large number of relevant studies have shown many results in different aspects of the study. However, it remains complicated to be able to generalize the results across all case studies for the different opinions and perceptions encountered in different parts of the world. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to cross-check our results with some of the main general findings in the field. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between certain demographic variables and the impacts of tourism. Some demographic variables are significantly related to residents' perceptions of the impacts of tourism, while others are not. For example, this study identified education as a significant variable influencing residents' perception of the environmental impacts of tourism. Based on the results, it can be argued that people with higher education and university degrees are less enthusiastic about the negative impacts of tourism on the environment than those with lower levels of education. There were many contradictory results for gender; most of them indicate that it has no impact (Harrill & Potts, 2003; Mason, 2003;), but in this study it represents a significant variable influencing residents' perception of the socio-cultural impacts and support for tourism. This research found that men are more supportive and concerned about tourism development than women. These results are in good agreement with other studies available in the literature (Harrill & Potts, 2003; Mason & Cheyne, 2000; Sheldon & Var, 1984; Um & Crompton, 1987;).

The results of this study are consistent with other studies in terms of length of residency that do not find a relationship between the length of residency and attitude towards tourism (Allen, Long, Perdue & Kieselbach, 1988). On the other hand, age is a significant variable influencing the involvement of residents in tourism, and the results show that residents between 19 and 30 years of age are more likely to participate in the development of tourism activities.

Marital status also represents an important significant variable. Unmarried residents are more motivated by the socio-cultural impacts of tourism and are more supportive of tourism development. In addition, the results suggest that residents who live in tourist areas are more supportive of tourism development than those who live in villages with lower tourist attendance, which is in contradiction with previous studies that suggest that increasing the level of contact of residents with tourists increases negative attitudes towards tourism (Jakson & Inbakaran, 2006). Thus, the findings suggest that residents living in areas with high tourist numbers, even if still low, are more favourable to tourism development than those living in areas that have not yet experienced tourism, which is contradictory with a similar study that found that residents living near a tourist area are less favourable to tourism than those living far from the tourist area (>5km) (Belisle & Hoy, 1980; Gursoy & Jurowski, 2002; Xiaoming & Jun Li, 2018). Those who have experienced tourism are more favourable, as the proximity of tourism development leads to positive attitudes (Korça, 1998). Harrill & Potts (2003) confirmed in their study that these attitudes towards tourism development are partly a function of geographical location and economic dependence. In this case, local population is motivated by the economic impacts, in particular the promotion of local products, which comes first in terms of economic benefits, followed by the fact that tourism creates employment opportunities in the Aurès region. The respondents see tourism as advantageous insofar as it improves the quality of life, encourages investment and generates additional income.

However, residents are nevertheless discouraged by the fact that tourism is generating an increase in the cost of living in the region. This is in line with the results of previous studies on the economic impacts of tourism (Abdollahzadeh, 2014; Brunt & Courtney, 1999; Gursoy et al., 2002; Hanafiah & Jamaluddin, 2013; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; Jurowski, Uysal & Williams, 1997; Lankford & Howard, 1994; McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Sirakaya et al., 2002). Residents fear that tourism will cause problems of overcrowding, except that while they are fully in favour of tourism development, although most of them are aware of the negative impacts of tourism on the environment, their responses show the opposite, with low averages for the negative aspects. Indeed, there is a majority of neutral responses that may hide the desire to experience tourism. Doğan (1989) noted that tourism can have an impact on the socio-cultural aspects of a region and create social conflicts. Furthermore, in the study by Besculides, Lee and McCormick, 0(2002), the authors stated that the local population believes that tourism causes the invasion of the tourist's culture. In contrast to the study by Abdollahzadeh and Sharifzadeh (2012), this research shows that socio-cultural impacts are welcomed by residents mainly because they increase pride in cultural identity and help preserve historic buildings and archaeological sites. The study shows that socio-cultural and economic variables affect residents' perceptions to a large extent. The eight questions asked residents to assess their perception of tourism development result in support for and involvement in tourism development. Thus, the results of this work show a relationship between perceived economic impacts and support, attachment and involvement in tourism development. Residents' perception of tourism is strongly based on economic benefits, which outweigh any possible negative impacts, making residents believe in the positive aspects of tourism, encouraging its development and resulting in strong involvement and support (Bestard & Nadal, 2007; McGehee & Andereck, 2004). Attachment to the community is related to support for tourism, as the more people are attached to their region, the more support tourism for residents is important. Support for tourism development, community attachment, and involvement in tourism are seen as benefits to residents (Lee, 2013), which in this case are primarily economic.

Conclusion

This study revealed a scarcity of research and knowledge on the perception of the impact of tourism and the attitudes of residents towards the sustainable development of tourism in Algeria's tourism development zones, particularly in the Aurès region, which is currently the subject of several tourism projects. From the perspective of tourism development in Algeria, this study aimed to better understand the perception of the inhabitants with regard to the sustainable development of tourism as well as the factors influencing their support for tourism development. However, the study must be integrated into a more inclusive perspective to avoid a purely physical approach without any real knowledge of the field. By positioning itself in the existing literature, the objective of the study was to study the attitudes of residents towards the various impacts of tourism and to know their impact on supporting the future development of sustainable tourism. The results indicate that the rural residents of the Aurès perceive the development of tourism in their region positively. Tourism allows residents to value the natural and historical assets of their region and to derive economic income from these potential resources. Tourism planners and policy makers can use information on the perceptions and attitudes of rural residents as a tool in future sustainable tourism development plans to reduce the negative impacts of tourism. Results show that positive attitudes of residents towards tourism are motivated by its economic impacts and benefits. However, they have some concerns about the disadvantages of tourism development in the region, such as privacy, traffic problems or environmental constraints. It is therefore imperative to generalize this type of study in the different regions subject to tourism development, as it has been shown in previous studies that support for tourism development is more important if decision-makers and planners are attentive to the concerns and beliefs of residents. Several limitations of this research could be addressed in future studies. This study was conducted as a doctoral research study with limited time and budget. It was carried out in a specific region, the Aurès region, which is a region where there are almost no tourist activities and frequentation. The aim of this study was to understand how to develop sustainable tourism in the region thanks to the support of its population, which may not be sufficient. Future research could consider other stakeholders such as authorities and investors. Based on the results of this study, it is not possible to make specific recommendations that can be generalized to different regions. A survey of residents' attachment to their region has been initiated and could be pursued in many other aspects. For example, subsequent studies should focus more on the attachment factors influencing support for tourism.

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