

Algeria's Path to Sustainable Tourism development: Insights and regional Analysis of the 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index

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Abstract:

Tourism is a critical sector for economic diversification, environmental conservation, and cultural exchange. This paper examines Algeria's performance in the 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI), with a special focus on Travel & Tourism Sustainability. Algeria ranks 98th globally, showing modest progress in environmental and socioeconomic impact but faces challenges with sustainable tourism demand and infrastructure gaps. Through an in-depth examination of Algeria's sustainability performance and comparison with regional peers Tunisia and Morocco, the study offers insights into policies needed to promote sustainable growth. Recommendations include promoting green tourism, improving accessibility, and leveraging ecotourism to establish Algeria as a resilient tourism destination.

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, Sustainable tourism, Travel & Tourism Development Index, World Economic Forum, Algeria.

JEL Classification: L81 ; Q56 ; R11

Introduction :

Tourism plays a critical role in fostering economic growth, cultural exchange, and social development worldwide. As destinations increasingly adopt sustainability principles, the tourism sector offers opportunities not only for economic diversification but also for environmental conservation and community well-being. The 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) reflects these evolving priorities, measuring the factors that enable sustainable tourism development across 119 economies. Given that tourism accounted for nearly 10% of global GDP pre-pandemic (Bedjaoui, 2022, p. 284) , it is imperative for countries to align tourism policies with sustainability to meet the sector's future demands.

Algeria, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes—from the Mediterranean coast to the Sahara Desert—holds significant potential for tourism development (Boudia & Khalki, 2021, p. 603). However, the country has traditionally lagged behind other North African peers such as Morocco and Tunisia in terms of infrastructure, tourism services, and market openness. Recognizing the importance of tourism as part of its economic diversification strategy, Algeria has begun to prioritize tourism development in recent years. The TTDI 2024 marks the first time Algeria has been ranked in this global benchmarking report, shedding light on both its progress and the challenges it faces.

Research Problematic

Tourism is increasingly recognized as a key driver of sustainable development, offering opportunities for economic growth, environmental preservation, and social inclusion. In Algeria, tourism has the potential to play a pivotal role in economic diversification efforts while also promoting cultural heritage and natural conservation. However, sustainable tourism requires a strategic balance between development, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship. This study aims to assess Algeria's current efforts and potential to enhance sustainability within its tourism sector. The following questions guide the research:

Main Question:

How can Algeria achieve sustainable tourism development while balancing economic growth with environmental preservation and social inclusion?

Sub-Questions:

- What are Algeria's strengths and weaknesses in environmental and social sustainability, based on the TTDI 2024 results?
- How does Algeria's tourism performance compare to regional peers Morocco and Tunisia?

- How can Algeria reduce seasonality and promote year-round tourism while improving international competitiveness?
- What policy recommendations can enhance Algeria's tourism sector to align with global sustainability frameworks?

Research Objective

This study explores Algeria's journey toward sustainable tourism development through the lens of the 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI). By assessing Algeria's performance across key dimensions—such as environmental sustainability, socioeconomic impact, and demand sustainability—this research identifies areas of progress, persistent challenges, and opportunities for growth. The aim is to provide actionable policy recommendations to enhance Algeria's competitiveness while aligning its tourism sector with global sustainability goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the study highlights how sustainable tourism can drive environmental conservation, reduce reliance on seasonal tourism, and promote socioeconomic equity, ensuring long-term resilience and inclusivity in Algeria's tourism development strategy.

Research Significance

This study plays an important role in demonstrating how sustainable tourism can drive Algeria's economic diversification while ensuring environmental conservation and social inclusion. As a newly ranked country in the TTDI 2024, Algeria has the opportunity to enhance energy management, pollution control, and nature preservation through sustainable practices. Additionally, tourism offers the potential to create high-wage jobs and support local communities, addressing workforce resilience. The study emphasizes the need to tackle seasonality and demand volatility by promoting year-round tourism strategies. Aligning with global sustainability frameworks and learning from regional peers, can help Algeria develop a more competitive, resilient tourism sector that balances growth with environmental and social well-being.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive research design to analyze Algeria's performance in the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and evaluate the key enablers and challenges of sustainable tourism in the country. The research focuses on secondary data analysis using the TTDI framework, which provides comparative insights into multiple dimensions. Focusing on Travel & Tourism Sustainability, the analysis highlights Algeria's environmental, social, and demand-related sustainability scores and compares them to

regional peers. Other data sources include the United Nations Sustainable Development reports.

The study also adopts a comparative research design, to benchmark Algeria's performance against Morocco and Tunisia in order to identify best practices and areas for improvement.

1- From T&T Competitiveness to T&T Development: A Historical Evolution of the Index

The Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) evolved from the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), a flagship benchmarking tool introduced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2007 (World Economic Forum, 2024). The TTCI aimed to assess the competitiveness of tourism sectors worldwide, focusing on policies, infrastructure, and market conditions that foster tourism growth. Over the years, the index became an essential tool for governments, businesses, and stakeholders to measure tourism readiness and competitiveness, guiding strategic decisions across the global tourism landscape.

1-1-Key Milestones in the Evolution of the Index

The development of global tourism has long been shaped by the need to measure and benchmark countries' abilities to thrive in the industry. Over the years, the Travel & Tourism Index has evolved to reflect the shifting priorities of the sector, moving from a focus on competitiveness to a more comprehensive approach emphasizing sustainability, resilience, and development. This section outlines the key milestones in the journey from the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) to the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI), highlighting how global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic have shaped its transformation:

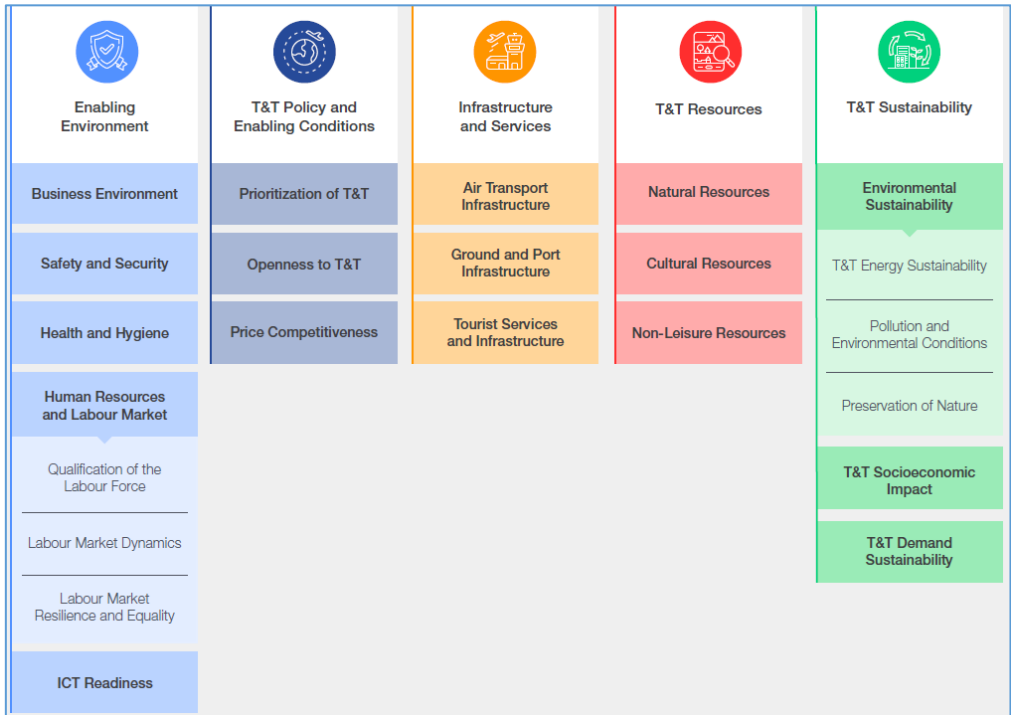
- **2007:** Launch of the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), ranking countries based on their ability to develop competitive tourism sectors through effective policies and infrastructure (World Economic Forum, 2007).
- **2017:** The TTCI underwent significant refinements, placing greater emphasis on cultural and natural resources to reflect the growing importance of tourism attractions (World Economic Forum, 2017).
- **2020-2021:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in global tourism, forcing the sector to rethink resilience and sustainability. The limitations of focusing solely on competitiveness became apparent, as countries with unsustainable tourism models struggled with economic recovery and environmental challenges.

- **2022:** The Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) was introduced, shifting the focus from competitiveness to development, sustainability, and resilience. This new framework expanded the scope of the index to account for the long-term impact of tourism on economies, communities, and the environment (World Economic Forum, 2022).

1-2-The TTDI Framework and Focus in 2024

The TTDI 2024 builds on the lessons of previous editions by measuring a broader set of factors that enable sustainable tourism development. While the TTCI focused on market competitiveness, the TTDI addresses the growing need for sustainable policies, environmental impact management, and socioeconomic inclusion in tourism. It evaluates countries across five key dimensions showed in the next figure (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 8):

Figure number (1): Travel & Tourism (T&T) Development Index framework



Source: (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 8).

1-3- The Travel & Tourism Sustainability dimension:

The Travel & Tourism Sustainability dimension addresses the current and potential challenges related to sustainability within the tourism sector. It is divided into three key pillars (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 9):

- **Environmental Sustainability:** This pillar assesses the sector's ability to achieve energy sustainability and maintain the overall health of the natural environment. It emphasizes the protection of natural resources through measures such as pollution control, sustainable energy use, and the preservation of natural ecosystems. Its Subpillars consist of: T&T Energy Sustainability, Pollution and Environmental Conditions, Preservation of Nature (refer to table 1).

Table number (1): Environmental Sustainability indicators

Environmental Sustainability
T&T Energy Sustainability - T&T GHG intensity: Greenhouse gas emissions per unit of tourism output. - T&T energy intensity: Energy consumption relative to tourism sector activity. - T&T use of low-carbon energy: Share of energy from low-carbon sources. - Renewable energy regulation: Presence of regulations promoting renewable energy use. - Energy efficiency regulation: Existence of policies ensuring efficient energy usage.
Pollution and Environmental Conditions - Particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentration: Air pollution levels measured by fine particles. - Level of water stress: Assessment of water scarcity in tourism-related areas. - Red List Index: Indicator of species extinction risk. - Forest cover loss: Measurement of forest degradation or deforestation. - Safely treated domestic wastewater flows: Proportion of wastewater managed safely. - Clean ocean water: Quality of marine water in tourist areas.
Preservation of Nature - Environmental treaty ratifications: Number of environmental treaties signed by the country. - Adequate protection for nature: Effectiveness of policies for natural conservation. - Protected areas coverage: Share of land designated as protected areas. - Biodiversity area protection: Average proportion of key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas.

Source: (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 57).

- **T&T Socioeconomic Impact:** This pillar evaluates the economic and social benefits generated by tourism, focusing on its role in job creation, income generation, and gender equality within the workforce. It highlights tourism's contribution to high-wage employment and broader socioeconomic development (table 2).

Table number (2): T&T Socioeconomic Impact indicators

T&T Socioeconomic Impact
- T&T GDP multiplier: The indirect economic contribution of tourism to GDP. - T&T employment multiplier: Indirect impact of tourism on job creation. - T&T high-wage jobs: Proportion of well-paying jobs in the tourism sector. - T&T labour gender parity: Degree of gender equality in tourism-related employment.

Source: (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 57).

- **T&T Demand Sustainability:** This pillar monitors tourism demand patterns to identify risks associated with overcrowding, seasonal fluctuations, and volatile tourism flows. It aims to promote stable, year-round tourism to avoid overburdening destinations and ensure long-term sustainability (table 3).

Table number (3): T&T Demand Sustainability indicators

T&T Demand Sustainability
- Inbound length of stay: Average duration of stay by international tourists. - Seasonality of international tourist arrivals: Fluctuations in tourism demand across seasons. - Concentration of interest in cultural attractions: Degree of focus on key cultural sites. - Concentration of interest in nature attractions: Degree of focus on key natural attractions. - Geographically dispersed tourism: Distribution of tourism activity across regions.

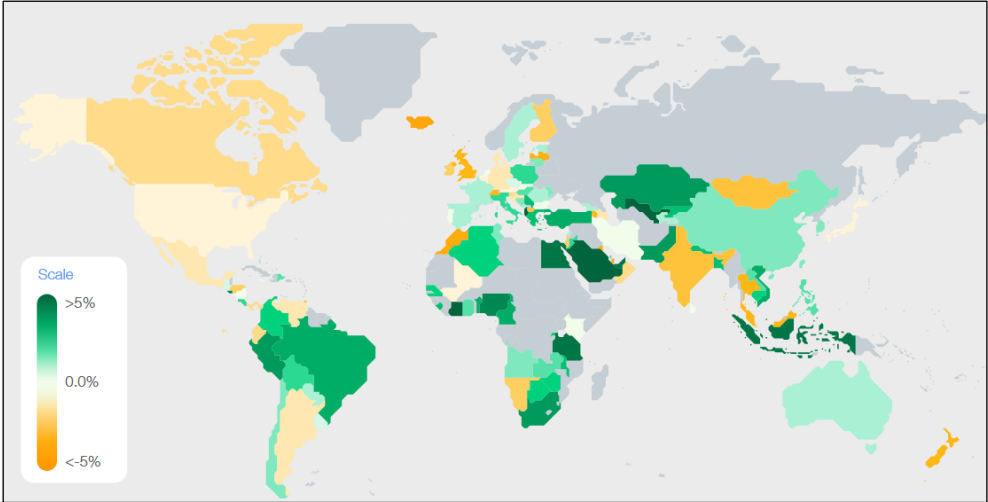
Source: (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 57).

2- Algeria's Global Performance in the TTDI 2024 vs 2019

Algeria's ranking at 98th globally out of 119 countries in the TTDI 2024 reflects both progress and persistent challenges in tourism development. The index highlights areas where Algeria has shown modest improvements, such as environmental protection policies and cultural resource preservation, but also identifies key barriers in infrastructure and demand sustainability.

The next figure represents the percentage change in the TTDI score between 2019 and 2024 for various countries. Algeria's performance in this index offers important insights into its trajectory toward sustainable development.

Figure number (2): Percentage Change in TTDI Score (2019–2024)



Source: (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024, p. 17)

Algeria is shaded in green, which indicates a positive improvement in its TTDI score, specifically in the range of 0–5% growth. This improvement, though moderate, suggests Algeria has made tangible progress in enhancing its tourism infrastructure, environmental sustainability policies, or cultural heritage preservation efforts.

Algeria’s performance in the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) over the period 2019–2024 reveals significant insights into its progress and ongoing challenges in developing a competitive, sustainable tourism sector. By comparing the two datasets, we can evaluate changes across key pillars, identifying areas of decline, improvement and stagnation.

Figure number (3): Analysis of Algeria’s TTDI Performance: 2019 vs. 2024

TTCI 2019		ENABLING ENVIRONMENT					T&T POLICY & ENABLING CONDITIONS				INFRASTRUCTURE			NATURAL & CULT. RESOURCES	
	Global Rank	Business Environment	Safety & Security	Health & Hygiene	Human Resources & Labor Market	ICT Readiness	Prioritization of T&T	Int'l. Openness	Price Competitiveness	Environ. Sustainability	Air Transport Infrastructure	Ground & Port Infrastructure	Tourist Service Infrastructure	Natural Resources	Cultural Res. & Business Travel
Egypt	65	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.3	4.3	5.2	2.2	5.5	4.7	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.5
Morocco	66	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.6	5.0	3.1	5.6	4.5	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.1	2.2
Tunisia	85	4.4	5.2	5.2	4.1	4.4	5.0	2.6	5.5	4.4	2.5	2.8	4.1	2.6	1.4
Algeria	116	3.9	5.6	5.2	4.1	4.2	3.1	1.5	5.5	3.5	2.2	2.8	1.8	2.1	2.0
North Africa Average		4.4	5.4	5.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	2.3	6.1	4.3	2.8	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.2
MENA AVERAGE		4.7	5.5	5.2	4.4	4.9	4.4	2.5	5.7	4.2	3.2	3.6	4.0	2.2	1.8

Bottom 20% Top 20%

TTDI 2024		Enabling Environment					T&T Policy and Enabling Conditions			Infrastructure and Services			T&T Resources			T&T Sustainability		
Economy	TTDI rank	Business Environment	Safety and Security	Health and Hygiene	Human Resources and Labour Market	ICT Readiness	Prioritization of T&T	Openness to T&T	Price Competitiveness	Air Transport Infrastructure	Ground and Port Infrastructure	Tourist Services and Infrastructure	Natural Resources	Cultural Resources	Non-Lecture Resources	Environmental Sustainability	T&T Socioeconomic Impact	T&T Demand Sustainability
Egypt	61	3.88	5.37	3.95	3.43	4.45	5.87	3.09	6.11	4.58	3.85	2.76	3.11	3.18	2.39	4.07	2.27	4.90
Morocco	82	4.15	5.75	3.71	3.10	4.41	4.38	4.19	4.84	3.65	3.33	2.31	2.20	2.75	2.90	4.00	2.69	3.49
Tunisia	83	3.43	5.17	4.41	3.38	4.28	5.60	3.43	5.94	2.95	2.69	2.69	2.02	1.83	2.64	3.97	3.45	3.35
Algeria	98	3.24	5.58	4.35	3.03	4.41	3.69	2.49	6.03	2.66	2.80	2.61	2.47	2.20	1.94	3.42	4.47	2.82
North Africa		3.68	5.47	4.11	3.23	4.39	4.88	3.30	5.73	3.46	3.17	2.59	2.45	2.49	2.47	3.86	3.22	3.64
Middle East and North Africa		4.26	5.86	4.55	3.83	5.17	4.51	3.63	4.62	4.13	3.56	3.18	2.08	2.19	2.62	3.86	3.75	3.80

Source: (World Economic Forum, 2019; World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

2-1- Algeria's Enabling Environment

This pillar measures foundational factors critical to fostering a tourism-friendly environment, such as business conditions, safety, and infrastructure.

Table number (4): 2019-2024 Enabling Environment key Components

Sub-Pillar		2019 Score	2024 Score	Insights
1	Business Environment	3.1	3.69	The improvement indicates Algeria is beginning to place greater emphasis on tourism in national policies, though it still has room for further progress to compete globally.
	Change	+0.59 (improvement)		
2	Safety & Security	1.5	2.49	The increase, while notable, highlights that Algeria’s openness (2.49) remains one of the lowest in the region, indicating the need for more significant reforms in visa policies, international partnerships, and connectivity.
	Change	+0.99 (improvement)		
3	Health & Hygiene	6.2	6.03	Algeria remains an affordable destination with a high score, but the slight decline suggests rising costs that need to be managed to maintain its competitive edge.
	Change	-0.17 (decline)		
4	Human Resources & Labor Market	4.1	3.03	A steep decline highlights struggles with workforce readiness and labor market challenges in the tourism sector.
	Change	-1.07 (decline)		
5	ICT Readiness	4.2	4.41	Modest growth in digital infrastructure and connectivity, aiding modern tourism services.
	Change	+0.21 (improvement)		

Source: Elaborated by the author based on (World Economic Forum, 2019; World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

Algeria experienced sharp declines in business environment and human resources & labor market, likely reflecting structural challenges in governance, workforce skills, and labor policies. Regarding health &

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hygiene, the drop from 5.2 to 4.35 may reflect reduced investment or capacity in public health systems post-COVID-19, a critical issue for tourism recovery. The only area with improvement is the ICT Readiness, suggesting progress in digital transformation, which is vital for attracting tech-savvy travelers and streamlining services.

2-2- Algeria's Travel and Tourism Policy & Enabling Conditions

This pillar evaluates policies that facilitate tourism growth, including prioritization, openness, and affordability.

Table number (5): 2019-2024 T & T Policy & Enabling Conditions key Components

Sub-Pillar		2019 Score	2024 Score	Insights
1	Prioritization of T&T	3.1	3.69	The improvement indicates Algeria is beginning to place greater emphasis on tourism in national policies, though it still has room for further progress to compete globally.
	Change	+0.59 (improvement)		
2	Openness	1.5	2.49	The increase, while notable, highlights that Algeria’s openness (2.49) remains one of the lowest in the region, indicating the need for more significant reforms in visa policies, international partnerships, and connectivity.
	Change	+0.99 (improvement)		
3	Price Competitiveness	6.2	6.03	Algeria remains an affordable destination with a high score, but the slight decline suggests rising costs that need to be managed to maintain its competitive edge.
	Change	-0.17 (decline)		
4	Environment sustainability	3.5	3.57*	A minor improvement from 3.5 in 2019 to 3.57 in 2024, signaling incremental progress in integrating sustainability into the tourism sector.
	Change	+0.07 (improvement)		

Source: Elaborated by the author based on (World Economic Forum, 2019; World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

2-3- Algeria's infrastructure

This pillar evaluates the infrastructure necessary to support tourism, including transportation systems and tourist services.

* The Environmental Sustainability component underwent a significant transformation between 2019 and 2024. In 2019, it was part of the broader T&T Policy & Enabling Conditions pillar, whereas in 2024, it emerged as a standalone pillar, reflecting the increasing global emphasis on sustainable development within the travel and tourism sector. Therefore, for the comparison purposes, the score was calculated as the average of the three sub-components of TTDI 2024: Environmental Sustainability: 3.42, T&T Socioeconomic Impact: 4.47, T&T Demand Sustainability: 2.82

Table number (6): 2019-2024 Algeria's infrastructure Key Components:

	Sub-Pillar	2019 Score	2024 Score	Insights
1	Air Transport Infrastructure	2.2	2.66	The improvement reflects some progress in enhancing Algeria’s airport facilities and connectivity, but it still lags behind most regional competitors, requiring further investment.
	Change	+0.46 (improvement)		
2	Ground and Port Infrastructure	2.8	2.69	The decline suggests insufficient attention to maintaining or upgrading road and port facilities, which are critical for domestic and regional tourism.
	Change	-0.11 (decline)		
3	Tourist Service Infrastructure	1.8	2.69	The large increase, from 1.8 to 2.69 , shows efforts to expand basic tourism infrastructure like hotels and tourist services, though it remains in need of significant development to meet global standards.
	Change	+0.89 (significant improvement)		

Source: Elaborated by the author based on (World Economic Forum, 2019; World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

2-4- Travel and Tourism Resources

This pillar evaluates how well Algeria leverages its natural, cultural, and business travel resources to attract tourists.

Table number (7): 2019-2024 Algeria's infrastructures Key Components:

Sub-Pillar	2019 Score	2024 Score	Insights
Natural Resources	2.1	2.47	Algeria is making progress in promoting its natural attractions, including the Sahara Desert and national parks, but it remains far below global and regional averages.
Change	+0.37 (improvement)		
Cultural Resources	2.0	2.2	Slight improvement suggests Algeria is gradually highlighting its rich cultural heritage, such as its UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Rehailia et al., 2021, p. 1977). However, the score remains relatively low despite its vast heritage.
Change	+0.2 (improvement)		
Non-Leisure Resources (2024)	—	1.94	This newly measured sub-pillar shows Algeria is still underdeveloped in terms of business travel infrastructure, such as international conferences, exhibitions, or corporate tourism. Remains one of the lowest scores in the region.

Source: Elaborated by the author based on (World Economic Forum, 2019; World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

3- Algeria's Performance in Travel and tourism sustainability

The elevation of Environmental Sustainability to a dedicated pillar in 2024 reflects a global shift in priorities, placing sustainability, resilience, and socioeconomic impacts at the heart of tourism strategies. Algeria has begun aligning its tourism policies with global frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2024), focusing on the environment and communities.

The next section analyzes Algeria's performance across the three sustainability dimensions—environmental sustainability, socioeconomic impact, and demand sustainability—and provides a comparison with regional peers like Morocco and Tunisia, offering insights into Algeria's current position and potential pathways for sustainable tourism development.

3-1- Environmental Sustainability: Progress and Challenges

The challenge of balancing socioeconomic development with environmental sustainability is global, as Figure number (4) illustrates: no country has achieved basic human needs without exceeding planetary boundaries. Algeria, situated in the middle, demonstrates moderate progress in meeting social thresholds while limiting its environmental overshoot compared to industrialized nations. However, to fully align its tourism sector with global sustainability frameworks, Algeria must focus on reducing biophysical impacts, particularly in water resource management, energy intensity, and pollution control, while leveraging tourism to improve social indicators like job creation and gender equity.

Figure number (4): Global Performance in Balancing Social Development and Environmental Sustainability



Source: (Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, 2019, p. 22)

Algeria's environmental sustainability score improved slightly, from 3.5 (2019) to 3.57 (2024). Efforts have been made to protect biodiversity, manage water stress, and introduce renewable energy policies. For example:

- According to the UNDP (2023), Algeria has expanded its use of solar energy, particularly in desert regions, with projects contributing to its renewable energy capacity (Algerie Presse service, 2024).
- The Algerian Ministry of Environment launched programs to restore degraded ecosystems and enhance biodiversity monitoring in protected areas such as the Tassili and Hoggar national parks.

However, energy efficiency regulations and the use of low-carbon energy sources remain limited, affecting the overall sustainability of tourism activities.

Key environmental challenges identified by the TTDI include:

- Energy Intensity: Tourism activities remain heavily dependent on non-renewable energy, with insufficient adoption of low-carbon energy sources.
- Pollution and Wastewater: Coastal areas face significant water stress and untreated wastewater discharge, threatening marine ecosystems.
- PM2.5 Air Pollution: Algeria's urban areas suffer from high levels of particulate matter, affecting not only public health but also the appeal of urban tourism destinations.

3-2- T&T Socioeconomic Impact: Unlocking Opportunities for Workforce Inclusion

Algeria's socioeconomic impact score is 4.47, indicating moderate contributions from the tourism sector to GDP and job creation. Key developments include: UNDP initiatives to promote green jobs in rural and desert areas, focusing on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture. Investments in youth employment programs (such as Jil siyaha Program (Jil Siyaha, 2024)) within the hospitality and cultural tourism industries (Belahcene, 2019, p. 285).

Tourism in Algeria has significant potential to contribute to job creation and economic diversification, especially in the southern desert regions. However, gender inequality in the tourism workforce and the lack of high-wage job opportunities limit the sector's impact.

The TTDI reveals that Algeria lags behind in:

- High-wage jobs are scarce, and much of the tourism sector is concentrated in low-skill, low-pay occupations, limiting its potential for economic transformation;
- Women remain underrepresented in the tourism workforce, with gender parity falling below regional averages;
- Fully capitalizing on indirect economic contributions from tourism activities.

3-3-T&T Demand Sustainability: Reducing Seasonality and Promoting Year-Round Tourism

Algeria's **demand sustainability score** (2.82) reflects its ongoing struggle with seasonality and concentrated tourism demand. Algeria faces challenges related to the seasonality of tourism demand, with peak tourist activity concentrated in the summer months along the Mediterranean coast. The Sahara Desert region, though holding potential for year-round tourism, remains underdeveloped.

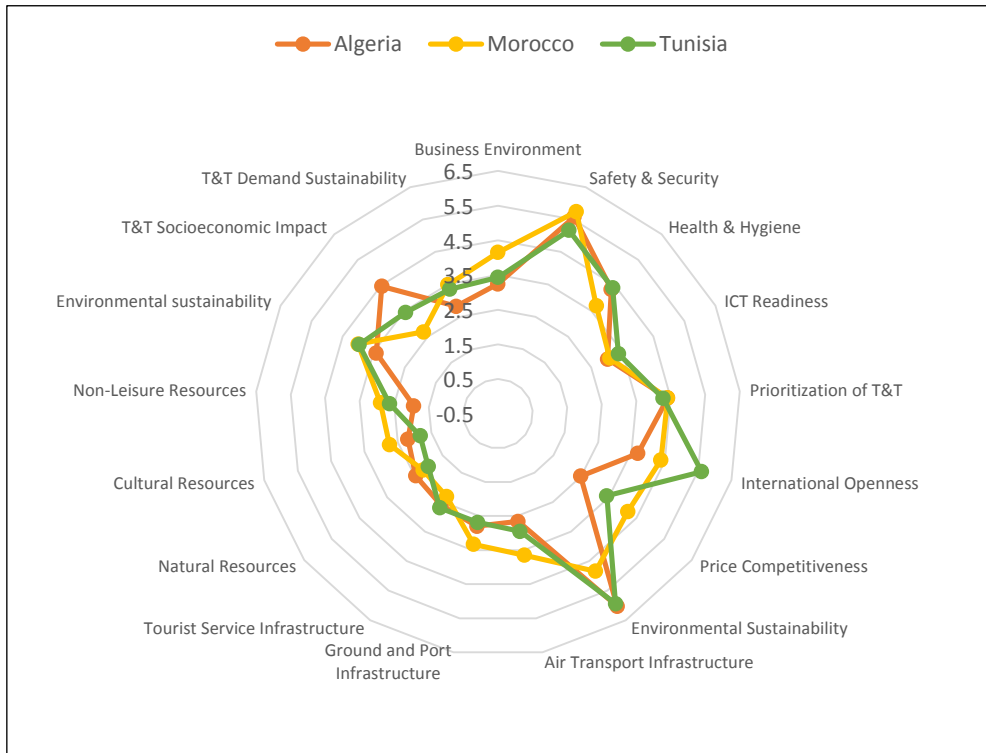
The TTDI indicators highlight:

- A high concentration of interest in a few key cultural and natural sites, limiting geographically dispersed tourism;
- Seasonal tourism patterns that strain infrastructure during peak periods and lead to underutilization during the off-season;
- The need for geographically diverse tourism offerings to balance visitor flows. Cultural events and festivals, such as those celebrating traditional Berber culture, could attract visitors during off-peak seasons.

4. Regional Comparison: Algeria vs. Morocco and Tunisia

Algeria's TTDI performance is below that of regional peers Morocco and Tunisia, which have more mature tourism sectors. Morocco ranks higher (82) and clearly leads in most TTDI categories. Tunisia performs moderately well (83). The next radar chart displays each country's performance according to 2024 TTDI:

Figure number (5): Comparing Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia on 2024 TTDI Indicators



Source: Elaborated by the author using Excel 2021 Software based on (World Economic Forum & University of Surrey, 2024)

Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia each display unique strengths and weaknesses in their tourism sectors as reflected in the TTDI 2024 .

Algeria outperforms its peers in price competitiveness (6.03) and natural resources (2.47), leveraging its vast Sahara Desert and affordability. However, it significantly lags in international openness (3.69) compared to Morocco (4.38) and Tunisia (5.60) due to restrictive visa policies and weak air connectivity. In infrastructure, Algeria scores 2.66 in air transport and 2.80 in ground and port infrastructure, behind Morocco (3.65 and 3.33, respectively). While Algeria's socioeconomic impact (4.47) surpasses Morocco (2.69) and Tunisia (3.45), its T&T demand sustainability (2.82) highlights challenges with seasonal tourism, compared to Morocco (3.49) and Tunisia (3.35). Algeria's cultural resources (2.20) also remain underutilized, trailing Morocco's (2.75), underscoring the need for better marketing and investment.

Overall, Algeria's potential lies in improving infrastructure, easing visa restrictions, and capitalizing on its rich natural and cultural assets to compete more effectively with its regional peers.

Conclusion

Algeria's ranking in the TTDI 2024 marks a critical step in its journey toward sustainable tourism. While the country faces significant challenges in terms of infrastructure, seasonal demand, and workforce development, it also holds immense potential to develop ecotourism and cultural tourism offerings that align with global sustainability frameworks.

Focusing on environmental conservation, socioeconomic inclusion, and demand sustainability, can support Algeria in building a resilient tourism sector that promotes year-round travel and attracts both domestic and international visitors. Through policy reforms and strategic investments, Algeria has the opportunity to become a leading example of sustainable tourism development in North Africa.

Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Tourism Growth in Algeria:

To align with global sustainability goals, Algeria must implement targeted policies that address both the environmental and socioeconomic aspects of tourism. Based on the TTDI 2024 analysis, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Green Tourism Initiatives: Support ecotourism projects in the Sahara and promote eco-friendly practices among tourism operators.
- Infrastructure Investments: Upgrade airports, roads, and hospitality services, particularly in underdeveloped regions like the Sahara.
- Visa and Connectivity Improvements: Simplify visa policies and partner with low-cost carriers to improve international accessibility.

- Cultural and Year-Round Tourism: Invest in festivals, events, and diverse tourist offerings to address seasonality.
- Community-Based Models: Engage local communities in tourism development and ensure revenue reinvestment in local areas.

Future Research Directions:

This study highlights several areas for future research, including:

- Assess the impact of visa policy reforms on international tourist arrivals in Algeria.
- Explore the potential of digital marketing in promoting Algeria's lesser-known tourism sites.
- Measure the effectiveness of ecotourism projects in generating sustainable economic benefits.

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