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## **Tourism in the state of M'sila between reality and planning. A case study of the region and city of Bou Saada – Algeria**

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**Abstract.** Nowadays, tourism has emerged as an industry and an opportunity that cannot be neglected. Many countries have accorded proper importance to tourism as a major contributor to the economy. Indeed, it is an effective mechanism for generating national dynamism in different infrastructures and creating new jobs (reducing unemployment rates). M'sila province in general, and Bou Saada city in particular, are known to be an excellent tourist destination. During the colonial period and after the independence, this region has witnessed an important influx of tourists from all over the world. However, the tourism sector in this region is so neglected that the number of arrivals have decreased considerably and have therefore damaged the attractive image of M'sila and Bousaada. This situation requires urgent interventions to revive tourism, and find solutions to all the issues identified.

**Keywords.** Tourism development - province - city - tourism qualifications - tourism expansion zone - city of Bou Saada - M'sila - cultural heritage - tangible and intangible heritage

### **Introduction**

The tourism, as a human phenomenon, covers multiple activities and areas. It has multiple classifications and overlapping sectors. The most important definitions of this phenomenon or human activity or what is referred to as tourism is " Tourism as a science and industry, is the set of civilized, economic and organizational activities related to the movement of people to a country other than their own and their stay in that country for a period of at least 24 hours for any purpose, except for work whose wages are paid within the country visited " (Maher Abdul Aziz Tawfiq, p. 23). Based on this definition, modern time tourism has developed into an industry with record revenues that can exceed other important economic sectors when given the necessary consideration.

Therefore, to promote the tourism sector as an economic development driver that will benefit everyone (inhabitants, agencies and all actors in the tourism sector), clear strategies must be adopted according to predefined priorities. This is called tourism planning, a concept based on the fact that any policy that is initiated must be carefully designed and specific to the place, time and objectives to be achieved. In this work, we focus on addressing issues with tourism planning in the study area while highlighting the most important features of the province and how tourism plans can successfully be implemented in the region.

**1- Tourism planning definition:**

Tourism planning is described as " designing a future vision of tourism activity, which is the program or plan that begins from defining and formulating the objectives to be achieved, at a specific time, and ends with the implementation of these plans " (Thamer Al-Bakri, p. 32). Moreover, George Terry defines tourism planning as "the selection associated with facts and the formulation and use of assumptions related to the future, when planning proposed activities that are deemed necessary to achieve the desired results" (Khalid Muqabla, p. 18). Indeed, tourism planning provides a future plan or perspective for the country's tourism activity or sector within a well-studied and accurately defined period of time with the aim of achieving rapid and long-term tourism development.

***Tourism planning objectives***

- Governance or rationalization of natural resource exploitation, which ensures their sustainability (according to the principle of sustainable development).
- To provide the necessary workforce for the tourist and related service structures and facilities.

*Successful tourism planning conditions:* (Ahmed Al-Jallad, previous reference, pp. 95, 96)

- Controlling the process and methods of land use is one of the most important conditions for the successful implementation of tourism plans.
- Facilitate loans and reconsider the tax exemption schedule and rates on loans.
- Support public institutions (public sector) and their commitment to land use laws and regulations.
- Meeting the needs of tourists should not be at the expense of the needs of citizens, as the needs of tourists must be balanced with the needs of the local population.

The planning process is considered as a continuous and renewable process based on the assessment of natural and human tourism resources, identification of objectives, formulation of tourism development programs and selection of development projects to ensure that the tourism sector plan is regionally and nationally integrated and achieves integration between the public and private sectors (siham bejawia, p48).

**Methodology****2. Province presentation****2.1. Historically**

M'sila city was founded in the year 315 AH of 917 AD by Abu Al-Qasim Muhammad bin Abdullah and was named after Al-Muhammadiyah, with some calling it Al-Qahira. However, others have linked the name of M'sila to the Masilia tribe, which expanded its influence to include what was known in the past as the region of Numidia. After the disappearance of this tribe, the city of M'sila kept this name (Directorate of Tourism of the Province of M'sila, Monographic Province of M'sila, p. 03).

M'sila region was inhabited since ancient times. Ineed, several evidences and traces suggest that it settelements began with the Phoenicians and the Romans, whose presence flourished in the region, particularly on the eastern side of the city. At about 2 km away from the city lays the Roman ruins of the Bashliga city. Historians claim that the antiquities of Bashliga date back to a civilization older than the Roman era based on written traces of Libyan Numidian (Miloud Jagham, p. 59).

M'sila region was inhabited by numerous civilizations since antiquity. This is preserved in the archaeological sites, depicted in the drawings and rock inscriptions found in the Tafza area (municipality of Bin Surour, south of Bou Saada city). The ancient men, who settled in the area, drew the animals present and narrated the passage of Roman warriors and traders. The Vandals also settled in the region of Tabnah in the past (the current region of Makuria, which is about 65 km from the city of M'sila) during the 5th century.

When the Arabs and Muslims arrived in the seventh century and during the first century of the Islamic conquest, the local population adopted and defended the Islamic religion. They traced the borders of the states and the Mamluks that were in the region, to be succeeded by the Hammadids in the early eleventh century, ruled by Hammad bin Belkin. To the northeast of Masila in 1007, the Hammadid state was founded, and the castle was its capital in the Maadid region, located in a difficult geostrategic location with a defensive background for the state to develop and geographically expand its sphere of influence. It was followed by the arrival of the Hilalians in the year 1152 AD, and the Turkish thereafter as evidenced by the presence of the residential area of the Turks called Al-Karaghla in the ancient city of M'sila. Then the city was occupied by the French from June 1841 until Algeria obtained its independence on July 5, 1962.

## 2.2. Geographically and administratively

### 2.2.1. Geographical location

M'sila was designated a province after the administrative division of 1974, under which Algeria counted 31 provinces after counting only 15. M'Sila was administratively attached to Setif province. Its strategic situation turned it into a link between the East and the West and the North and the South. It is known as the capital of Hodnah, an independent barbarian kingdom in Roman era, because of its geographical position between the Atlas tellien and the Atlas saharien mountain series.

M'sila holds a privileged position in Algeria, in the central part of the Algerian north (high plateaus). The most important characteristics of the region can be summarized as follows:

- It covers an area estimated at 18,175 km<sup>2</sup>.
- At 240 km from Algiers
- It emerged after the administrative division of 1974 as a province, numbered (28).
- The largest of its cities is M'sila, Bou Saada, Sidi Aissa (Tourism Directorate of the Province of M'sila, 2008, p. 03).
- It is considered an intersection point between the two national roads No. 45 and No. 60, qualified as a link between north and south and between east and west.

### 2.2.2. Administrative borders:

M'sila is bordered to the north by the provinces of Bordj Bou Arreridj and Bouira, to the northeast by Sétif, to the east by Batna, to the northwest by Médéa, to the southeast by Biskra and to the west and southwest by Djelfa province.

## 2.3. Topography

The province is characterized by its varied relief, since it is bordered to the north by the High Atlas Mountains and to the south by the Saharan Atlas Mountains, and in between them lies an open area composed mainly of highlands. The region is marked by

- Mountainous areas on both sides of Shatt al-Hudanah.
- Area of sand dunes.
- Central region consisting mainly of highlands.

- Al-Sabkha region (Shatt Al-Hudanah).

**Rivers:** This region includes several rivers: Wadi Al-Qasab, Wadi Luqman, Wadi Al-Lahm, Wadi Sweila, Wadi Massif, Wadi Majdal, Wadi Al-Shaer, Wadi Bou Saada.

#### 2.4. Climate

M'sila is characterized by a continental Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild winters with relatively low rainfall. The northern part of the province receives an estimated 480 mm/year of precipitation, and the southern part receives an estimated average of 200 mm/year. The province is considered to be in a transitional region between the tell climate and the desert.

#### Analysis and discussion

#### 3. Tourism reality in the province of M'sila

##### 3.1. Tourist potential of M'sila

###### 3.1.1 Natural potentials and archaeological sites in the province of M'sila

The Province of M'Sila boasts many archaeological and natural sites, among which are the following:

❖ **M'sila Municipality:** It is characterized by

- Gardens aligned on the banks of Wadi Al-Qasab, starting from the dam of Al-Qasab in the north to the south of M'sila city.

• A natural mineral spring known as Hammam Belaaribi (very rich in sulphur element, which has a good property to cure some skin diseases, but its exploitation remains primitive and far from the interest of the authorities and investors).

❖ **Delaa hamam:**

- a mineral spring built in 1858 at 29 Km from M'sila city (it contains 38 minerals and its water cures many skin diseases).

• Various historical evidence dating back to prehistoric times, including caves and caverns (known locally as Kaf al-Asal and Kaf al-Maqri).

From the above, it can be noted that M'sila holds several natural characteristics, archaeological and historical potentials that can transform it to a tourist pole of distinction. However, this can only be accomplished by developing many types of tourism, such as climate tourism, animal hunting, mountaineering and hiking, in addition to cultural tourism.

❖ **Maadid Municipality:** It is characterized by

• Bani Hamada Castle, which is a World Heritage Site (Islamic State) (see Figure 1) (ANAT P37).

• The majestic mountains of Al-Maadid region, reaching a height of more than 1430 meters and reflecting the natural beauty of the region.

- Pine forest, which extends over large areas of the mountains of Maadid.

• The presence of numerous caves and caverns for those seeking adventure and exploration



The mosque's minaret rises 20 meters.



The prayer room is made up of the minaret, 13 porticoes, and 08 partitions in the mosque's remains.



It was founded in the year 1007 in a hilly (fortified) location with the defensive intention of fending off invaders and occupants. After 145 years of building, it was destroyed in the year 1152. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization categorized it (UNESCO).in 1980 while compiling a list of archaeological sites.

**Qal'at Bani Hammad's location is at 35°48'50"N 4°47'36"E.**

**Figure 1:** Bani Hammad castle, the first capital of the Hammadid state that ruled the central Maghreb

**Source** Researchers based on data from the SDAT W DE M'SILA + data from the Ministry of Tourism and the Directorate of Tourism of the Province of M'sila - Ministry of Culture

### 3.1.2. Accommodation facilities, institutions and tourism organizations

#### 3.1.2.1. Hotels

The city has an estimated capacity of 953 beds (accommodation), comprised in 9 hotels and four dorms with a capacity of 212 beds.

#### 3.1.2.2. Tourism and travel agencies:

There are 5 agencies and two active offices in M'sila city. They were created by the law n°99-06 of April 04, 1999, which specifies the rules governing the activity of the tourist agency. These activities include the provision of several services to tourists, the most important of which are tourist transport, reservations in hotels and airlines, reception and accompaniment of tourists, car rental, provision of translators and tourist guides . (Official Journal of the Republic of Algeria, Fascicule n° 24, p. 13)

city name	hotel	capacity	number of rooms	class
M'sila	hotel El Kalaa	316	/	3 stars
	hotel El Qasb	60	/	Recently opened
Bousaada	hotel kerdadaa	67	42	4 stars
	hotel el kaid	142	75	not classified
	hotel el ikama tayiba	38	18	not classified
	hotel alazouzi	101	48	not classified

<b>Ouled Djeradj</b>	hotel el djazayer	38	15	not classified
	hotel elshams	52	21	not classified
<b>Sidi Aissa</b>	hotel el fath	39	/	not classified
	hotel djbel elnaga	92	/	not classified
	hotel el nasr	176	/	not classified

**Table n°1** Reception and accommodation facilities in the province of M'sila (reception capacity, classification)

**Source** Directorate of Tourism of the Province of M'sila, previous reference, p. 11

### 3.1.2.3. Local tourism offices

Two Local Tourism Offices are operating in M'sila. The first in the municipality of Maadid, Qalaat Bani Hammad area, and the second in the city of Bou Saada. These offices are open all year-round but their activity is more noticeable during the tourist seasons and vacations.

### 3.1.2.4. Cultural structures (museums):

The state of M'sila holds three museums of high classification standards. They include rare objects and treasures, both national and international (world or human heritage). We have classified them according to their importance as follows:

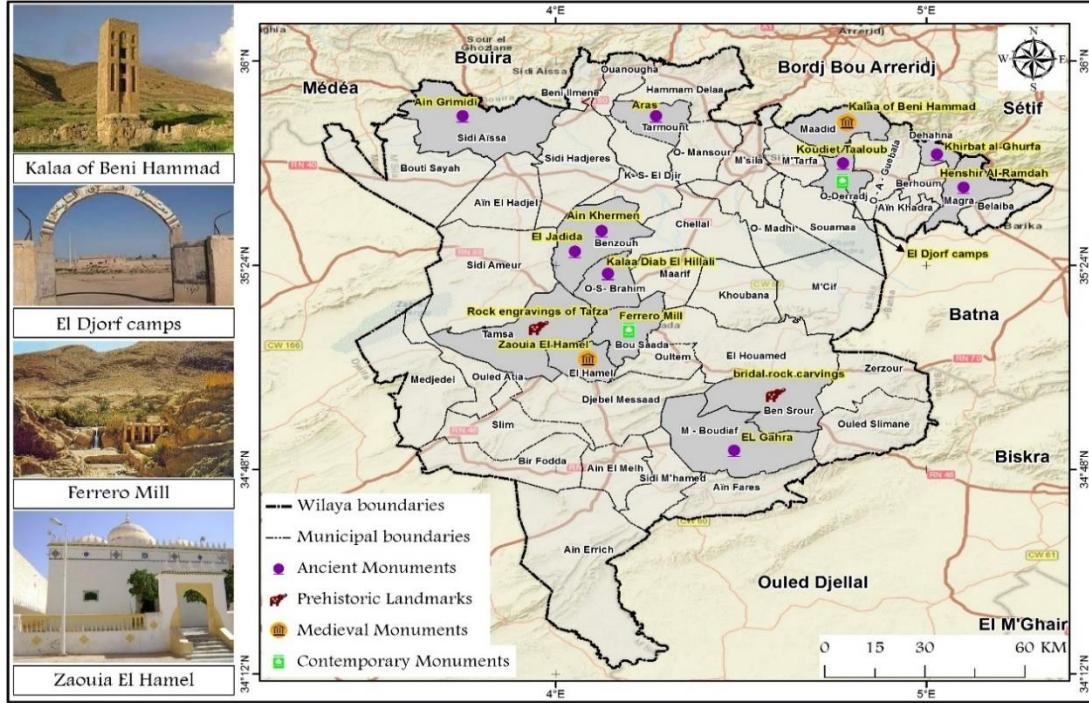
1. The archaeological museum of Bani Hammad castle in the municipality of Al-Maadid.
2. The Nasreddin Dini National Museum in the city of Bou Saada.
3. The Archaeological Museum of M'sila (It was inaugurated on: 18 May 1993).

### 3. Prospects for the development of the tourism sector in the state

The master plan for tourism development in the southern regions has identified five tourism expansion zones distributed between M'sila and Boussaada. Each tourism priority area contains at least one tourism expansion zone. However, the secondary areas do not include, at least in the current period, any tourist expansion zones (Bouchouarib Souad 2000, p. 18). As a result, the relevant procedures are limited to historical tourist sites and monuments and their protection to stimulate tourism in the region. Thus, the decree No. 238/88 of 05/11/1998 announced the emergence of tourist expansion areas. The identified tourism expansion areas in the study area are as follows: ( SDAT WILAYA DE M'SILA - Phase 1 2012 P 31 )

- Tourist expansion zone in M'sila ( Al-Qasb dam and mineral bath at Arabi).
- Tourist expansion zone in Maadid (Bani Hammad castle, pine forest, mountains and caves of Maadid)
- Tourist expansion zone in Boussada (Oasis Boussada, Oued Boussada, Moulin Ferrero,

These areas were suggested to develop many promising tourism models in the region. Their selection was based on the qualifications of each area and the degree of its importance in advancing the tourism sector to further development.



**Map n°1 - Province of M'sila - Tourism potential and features**

**Source** Prepared by the researcher from data of the SDAT W DE M'SILA + data of the Ministry of Tourism

### 5. Tourist potential in the city of Bou Saada

Bou Saada city has important tourism potentials distributed in the city and its immediate surroundings. The most important of them will be discussed with a focus on their past and their current reality. We will then proceed to an inventory of these sites and the issues they are facing as a tool for authorities to consider in any tourism planning projects aiming at the tourism development of Bou Saada city.

#### 5.1. Natural features (qualifications):

##### 5.1.1. Palm Oasis (Bou Saada Oasis):

The entire Oasis of Bou Saada consists of about 500 fields (orchards) containing about 10,000 palm trees. However, this number has declined dramatically as much of the area is almost completely deprived of any kind of plantation. This is a clear example of the oasis neglect, once the city's most important tourist attraction. Indeed, it was visited by tourists and visitors from inside and outside the country, to discover the beauty of the Oasis and Oued Bou Saada. It should also be noted that the pillage of agricultural properties classified as tourist property, and its replacement by cement has drastically increased against the principles of sustainable development, see Figure No. 3.

##### 5.1.2. El Oued (Oued Bou Saada):

The Bou Saada river, the artery that pulses life into the city, flows cuts Bou Saada from south to north, forming, due to the topography and geology of the area, a very beautiful natural scene. It flows into Shatt al-Hudanah at the northern part of Bou Saada. It was first chosen by the early founders to as the best location to build the city next to an important source of water.

Nowadays, this river has become a landfill for solid and liquid (sewage) wastes that pour into it waters at numerous points along its course from the urban outskirts of Bou Saada

city (such as the Sidi Suleiman neighborhood). This has caused the lose its luster as a landmark that attracted tourists not so long ago.



**Oued Bou Saada**  
**Source:** Recorded on November 2, 2022, by the researcher



**Bou Saada Oasis**  
**Source:** August 21, 2021, via Google Earth

**Figure 2:** Bou Saada Oasis (at about 242 km away Algiers) - Oued Bou Saada  
 The photo on the right illustrates the erosion in the oasis area over the last few years.

### 5.2. Historical potential:

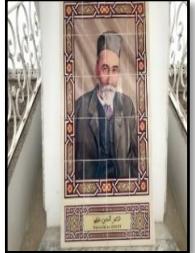
Bou Saada city posseses many touristic assets and features (attractions and touristic sites) that enhances its tourism potential and gives it a unique identity. Nevertheless, most of these sites are neglected and abandoned (voluntary or not) making their appropriate use unfeasible in their present condition (Barakat Zine El Abidine, 2003, p. 112).

#### 5.2.1 Ferrero Mill

	 <p>The mill was constructed in 1948 to grind corn and wheat at 02 km from Bou Saada city. Until recently, it was the biggest tourist attraction in the city.</p>	Past
Present	<p>It has lost most of its components due to vandalism and flooding from Oued Bou Saada. Moreover, it is experiencing a serious problem of water pollution with wastewater from the surrounding unplanned neighborhood of Sidi Suleiman.</p> 	

**Figure 3:** Ferrero Mill - a historic tourist attraction that requires attention  
**Source** researcher's work based on various sources + the tourism development plan of the state of M'sila.

### 5.2.2. Nasreddin Dinet Museum

	The museum was founded in 1993 in memory of the painter Nasreddine Dinet's work. The museum is located in the garden of the painter's first residence. It is composed of two exhibition halls and an administrative wing that includes valuable exhibitions.		
			
his home from the inside- ground floor	Medal of Merit - The key to his house - his will	Museum entrance - Exhibition room for his paintings	Étienne Dinet's most important paintings

**Figure 4:** The Museum of the painter Nasreddine Dinet - relating the life of Etienne Dinet and preserving his most important works.

Source researcher's work based on various sources + the tourism development plan of the state of M'sila

### 5.2.3 Clock Tower (Cavaignac):

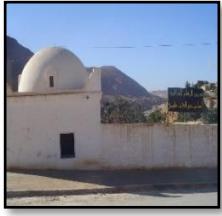
	The Clock Tower's origins date back to the French colonization in Bou Saada in 1849. Given the strong resistance encountered by the colonizer from the city's inhabitants, the military governor, decided to build a fort to secure the area. Therefore, in 1852, Captain Federb selected the highest point of the old city (palace) to be the site of Fort Cavaignac.	Clock Tower
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**Figure 5: Clock Tower (Cavaignac)**

Source: the researcher's work based on various sources + the tourism development plan for the state of M'sila

### 5.2.4. Sanctuaries

In Bou Saada city, in the cemetery located in Al Dashra Al Qibliya, two prominent personalities that contributed to the glorious past of the city are buried, the painter Nasr Al-Din Dinet and the Hashemite Emir, the grandson of Emir Abdul Qadir.

	Nasreddin Dinet Grave: The French painter (Nasser Eddine Dinet) by his real name (Alphonse Etienne Dinet - was born in Paris on March 28, 1861 AD - died on: December 24, 1929 AD) has requested in his will to be buried in Bou Saada, and his request has been executed.	Nasreddin Dinet Grave
Hashemite Emir	Hashemite Emir The son of Emir Khaled and grandson of Emir Abdul Qadir. His grave is located in the Al Shorafa area in the old city of Busaada. He died and was buried in Bou Saada in 1900 A.D.	

**Figure 6:** Tomb of the painter Nasr al-Din Dinet and the tomb of the Emir al-Hashemi, grandson of the Emir Abdul Qadir

**Source** work of the researcher based on various sources + the tourist development plan of the state of M'sila

### 5.3. Cultural assets

Bou Saada boasts a very rich cultural heritage based on all the customs, traditions and folklore that imbue the city with its very special character and identity. This cultural potential may be classified into tangible and intangible heritage that faithfully reflect the past and present of the city both intellectually and socially. Its most important aspects are dance, folk song, cuisine, traditional crafts. It is important to promote this beautiful and unique heritage to promote tourism in the city and reactivate the tourist movement. To this end, authorities must plan appropriate events such as exhibitions, festivals and conferences that will advertise the city's heritage all year long (Youssef NACIB 1986 P 79).

### 5.4. Reception structures, institutions and tourism organizations

#### 5.4.1. Hotels

The accommodation and reception capacities (hotels) of Bou Saada city are approximately 432 beds divided between 219 rooms in a limited number of locally and nationally renowned hotels. El-qaid Hotel and the Kardada Hotel are internationally known for their heritage and association with foreign artworks (film shooting) and for hosting international personalities.

#### 5.4.2. Tourism institutions and organizations:

they are represented by tourism and travel agencies and tourism offices:

##### ❖ Tourism and travel agencies:

In the municipality of Bou Saada, two tourist agencies are active:

01. Bou Saada Tour Travel Agency 02. Al Safina Travel and Tourism Agency

##### ❖ Tourism offices

The city of Bou Saada possesses a local tourist office.

##### ❖ Hospitality and Tourism Center

Bou Saada Hospitality and Tourism Center is a public institution supervised by the Ministry of Tourism. Being the second largest institution on the national territory, it has a capacity of 150 training places of experts in hotel and tourism specialties.

##### ❖ Traditional industry structures

Bou Saada city is also home to a center for traditional industries, which aims to promote and preserve traditional handicraft and manufacturing. In addition, part of its goals is to support and guide the owners of small traditional handicraft businesses as representatives of this heritage in the city.

❖ **Museums**

There are two museums in Bou Saada: the Nasreddin Dinet Museum, mentioned earlier, and the Mujahidin Museum.

**6. Tourism Expansion Zone**

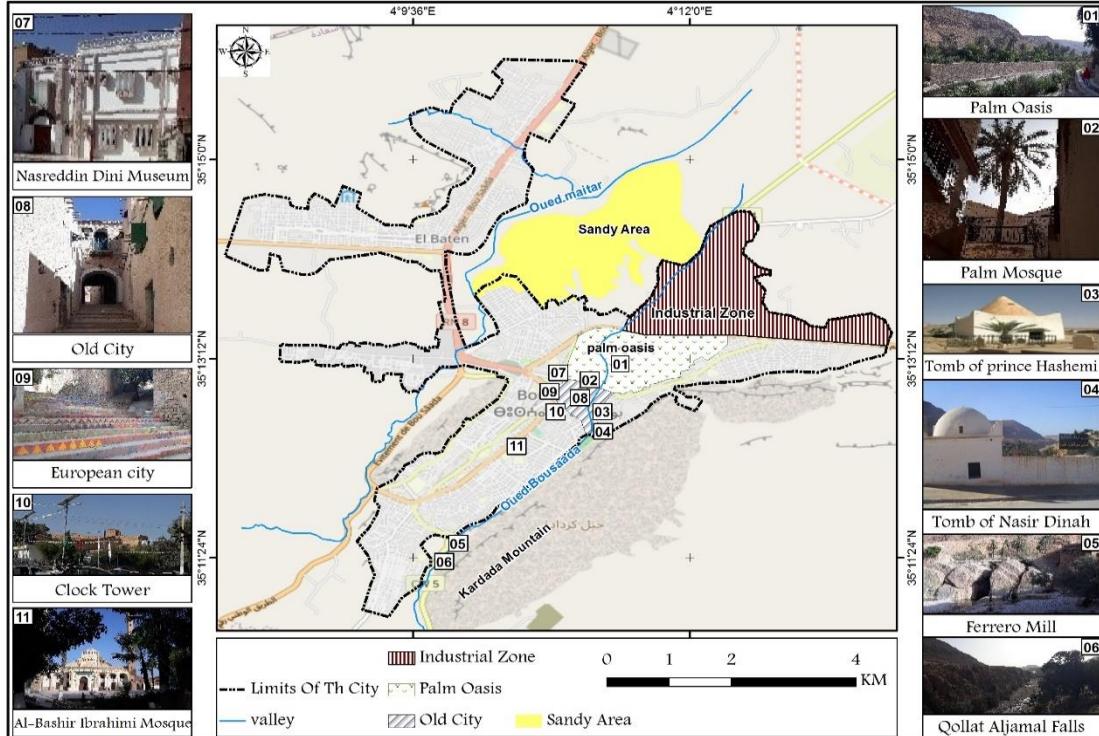
The tourist area of Bou Saada is located in the south of the city. It was created by Decree No. 232-88 of November 5, 1988, granting an area of 45 hectares and then lost about 28 hectares, thus reducing its area to 17 hectares according to the most recent assessment (December 2012). This decline is due to several reasons, the most important being the construction of chaotic buildings in total ignorance and silence of the concerned authorities and organizations (the Communal People's Council of the municipality of Bou Saada, the Directorate of Tourism, the Police of Omran), particularly in the area of Sidi Suleiman (URBACO P 50).

❖ **Limits of the tourism expansion zone: it is limited:**

- From the northwest and southwest by Sidi Suleiman district.
- From the north-east and south-east by the national road n° 08.

**7. Problems faced by the most remarkable monuments and tourist sites of Bou Saada city:**

- Total destruction of the Ferrero Mill (loss of all traces of its existence)
- Flagrant and public infringement encouraged by the silence of local authorities of the city and the municipality (ZTE)
- Erosion and disappearance of the Bou Saada oasis, one of the most important sites of the city, due to urbanization at the expense of palm trees (chaotic and illegal construction).
- The disappearance of important parts of the old city (the palace), by replacing the collapsed buildings with new modern constructions thus causing the total distortion of the aesthetic aspect of the old city (the palace) and the loss of its unique character.
- The city's main river, Oued Bou Saada, is severely polluted due to the uncontrolled discharge of solid and liquid waste (wastewater).



**Map n°2 - City of Bou Saada - Tourism potential and qualifications**

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher from the data of the SDAT W DE M'SILA + data from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture

### 8. Total absence of tourism planning and advertisements:

"Tourism planning is a special model of social, economic, and natural planning that is specific to the interests that emanate from the nature and motives of tourist activity" (Dobre Fnik, 1975, p. 65).

In addition, "tourism planning is one of the vital processes for developing tourism and coping with change. Development means the need for change, and change can only be achieved through careful planning and monitoring." (Dr. Kabashi Hussein Qasima, 2010, p. 133). The city of Bou Saada lacks any form of tourism planning and serious and effective tourism advertisements (2025 (SDAT P 56).

From the above, some positive and negative indicators that characterize the city of Bou Saada can be highlighted. This is a starting point to address and improve the existing conditions of the tourist sites and attractions.

#### Positive indicators

1. Important natural resources (the river, the surrounding mountains, the sand dunes area)
2. The various historical and cultural potentials distributed all around the region.
3. The strategic location of the city as a gateway to the desert (Nub).
4. A temperate climate that favors year-round tourism.

#### Negative indicators

1. There are very limited mid-range hotels compared to the tourism image of the city.
2. Erosion of the main tourist destination (the oasis of Bu Saada) due to the advance of concrete.

3. The degradation of the region's touristic reputation and the decline of its identity as a major tourist destination.

4. Invasion of tourist development areas (tourist expansion zone ZET, south of the city).

### **9. Suggested interventions and improvements**

Through the above, a set of practical solutions in the form of interventions are proposed. These can be considered to solve the current problems facing the various touristic landmarks of the city in an attempt to advance the tourism sector in Boussaada city. Such development can benefit the inhabitants of the city and the country as a whole. The different interventions proposed are included in the map.

**9.1 Levels of intervention:** (Barakat Zine El Abidine, previous reference 2003, pp. 199, 200)

❖ **In the old city (the palace):**

- Identify existing buildings at risk of collapse and perform appropriate restoration operations in accordance with their rate of deterioration.
- Preserve the historic identity of the old city (the palace) by maintaining all design, engineering and urban planning features.

❖ **In Oued Bou Saada:**

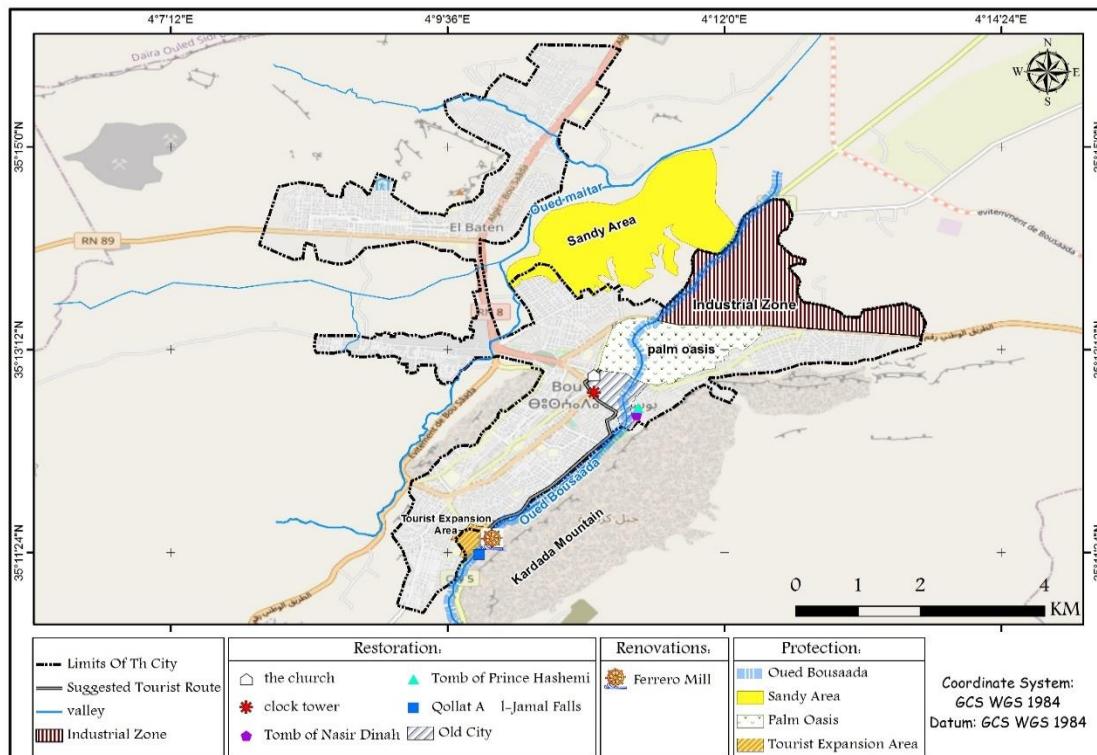
- Initiating a major purification process to remove everything that disturbs the river's natural environment (solid waste, sewage).
- Planning for a protection project on the river banks to protect the houses and palm groves from seasonal flooding.
- Restoration of Ferrero Mill to its former glory.
- Reduce automotive traffic along the river valley and prioritize pedestrian traffic.

❖ **In the sande dunes zone:**

Use legal and enforcement tools to protect tourist sites and attractions (the Sand Zone).

Reinforce the urban police's involvement in protecting the tourist expansion zone and the oasis from illegal encroachments and construction.

Implementation of the tourism projects defined by the authorities in the sandy area (tourist village project).



**Map n°3 - City of Bou Saada - Intervention locations on tourist sites and attractions**

**Source** Researchers based on the data of the SDAT W DE M'SILA + field research + data from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture

### Conclusion

The tourism sector in the province of M'sila and the city of Bou Saada is declining for various factors. The most important of them is probably the absence of a serious commitment to advance this sector. Indeed, the economic perspective of this sector is totally missing as tourism is still considered a secondary sector. Consequently, a comprehensive approach highlighting the role of tourism in the economic system is needed. Furthermore, most tourism plans that have been developed were not implemented due to a serious lack of political willingness and strict legal enforcement.

As experts and planners, we are conscious of the significance of the tourism sector in advancing the development of the city of Bou Saada in particular and the province of M'sila in general. It is important to utilize all available capacities and develop planning programs that emphasize the tourism character of the region while adjusting the roles of other sectors to sustain tourism employment instead of competing with it.

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