

## International Conference

# “Contribution of sound waste management systems to sustainable tourism and the protection of marine ecosystems”

*Name of Session; Date*

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# Management and recovery of tourism industry waste in Tunisia

## Introduction

The geographical situation of Tunisia, in the southern Mediterranean basin, with:

- 1,300 kilometers of mostly sandy coastline
- A Mediterranean climate: hot in summer and mild in the winter
- A very rich cultural heritage (8 UNESCO World Heritage sites)
- A low cost for the tourist holiday

Make Tunisia one of the main destinations for European tourists.

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The development of tourism goes back to the 1960's thanks to the joint action of the State and private groups. Hotel capacity is increasing steadily from **56,000** beds in **1974** to **123,000** beds in **1991** and **242,000** beds in **2020**.

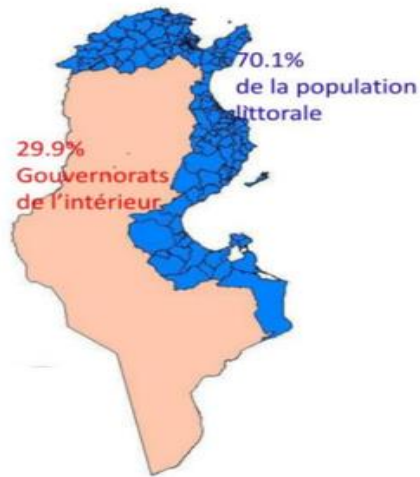
This sector contributes to the development of some regions, especially those on the east coast, accumulating over **95%** of the beds.

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## Issues

1- Since the beginning of tourism, we have chosen high-capacity hotel facilities located on the coast. Tourism in Tunisia is based on the seashore.



- More than 70% of the population is based on the coastal regions
- Concentration of 95% of hotel capacity on the coast

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2- Tunisian tourism being based on the beach and the sun : it suffers from seasonal activity



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## 3- Lack of a legal framework for private sector investment in waste management and recovery activities:

- No public-private partnership
- Waste management is almost exclusively handled by the public, namely the municipalities; lack of human and physical resources.
- There is no hotel waste recovery program, particularly in tourism regions, as we saw in the presentation.

The concentration of waste in time and space has led to a disastrous environmental situation in some regions.

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## 4- Lack of awareness of tourism sector staff and customers:

- Rare are the hotel managers who clearly commit to a sustainable development policy
- Few hotels apply selective waste sorting
- Customers do not pay attention and mix their waste

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5- the quantity of plastic waste produced annually in Tunisia goes as follows

## Annual quantity of plastic waste 250000Tones

Plastic waste buried in landfills	Recycled plastic waste	Plastic waste scattered in nature	Plastic waste dragged to the sea
160 000 tones	10 000 tones	70 000 tones	10 000 tones
64%	4%	28%	4%

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## Tendency and direction towards sustainable tourism.

In recent years, as in other countries around the world, it has become clear that intensive tourism could have a negative impact



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## 1- Increasing interest for sustainable and responsible tourism:



Hotels increasingly sign up to sustainability labels as

- Ecolabel Tunisia
- Ecolabel Europe
- Travelife
- ISO 14001

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2- By the initiative of the British Embassy, we worked on an agreement which was signed on November 26, 2019 by 5 parties:

- The Tunisian Hospitality Federation-FTH
- The Tunisian National Tourist Office-ONTT
- The National Waste Management Agency-ANGED
- The Tunisian Coastal Protection Agency-APAL
- The municipality of Hammamet



The agreement aimed to help hotel structures in the region to eliminate single-use plastic for the protection of its environment  
Unfortunately, the project was stopped before the technical assistance and training phase began  
Especially when a few months later, there were all the restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic

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3- The new hotel classification standards in Tunisia include sustainability standards related to

- energy saving,
- water saving,
- selective waste sorting,
- waste recovery, etc...

New standards will require hotels to adopt a policy for managing waste

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4- The Tunisian tourism strategy leading up to 2035 is headed towards sustainable tourism, according to the report submitted on 27/09/2022 from the Minister of Tourism to the Head of Government on the occasion of the International Day of Tourism .

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## Tendency and direction towards sustainable tourism.

5- at the level of the Tunisian Hospitality Federation, we signed an agreement “Eco Guezaz” on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022 with a Private partner who will be responsible for collecting and recycling hotel glass waste regionally



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6- At regional level: In Hammamet, 15 hotels have joined a training project for sustainable tourism and the implementation of actions on organic waste management, food monitoring and sorting.. The purpose of this training is to make hotel staff aware of the importance of controlling waste generated by the hotel business and communicate these values to guests in order to engage them in the hotel's efforts to preserve the environment.



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## Conclusion

- Tunisia has embarked on a process of sustainable tourism development that is particularly important. However this commitment is conditioned by the integration and awareness of different stakeholders
- All actors operating in the tourism sector must come together around a real consensus on the concept of sustainability.

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## Future key issues:

- What initiatives and successful strategies should we implement?
- What new regulations need to be engaged in order to introduce the culture of sustainable development in the tourism sector?
- How can we build a public-private partnership?



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# Thank you for your attention

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