

Ecotourism, Culture, and Social Change: A Comprehensive Comparative Study of Algeria and Jordan

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ABSTRACT

Ecotourism has emerged as a multidimensional development approach that integrates environmental protection, cultural revitalization, and social empowerment. ... (truncated scientific version) Ecotourism as a field of study has evolved considerably over recent decades, culminating in a rich body of interdisciplinary research drawing from sociology, anthropology, environmental governance, economics, and cultural studies. This evolution reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of ecotourism itself. The integration of cultural identity and sustainable practice remains central to understanding how ecotourism reshapes local communities. In both Algeria and Jordan, the interplay of governance, heritage, and ecological fragility creates unique dynamics that reveal the potential and limitations of ecotourism as an agent of social change. Scholars widely agree that successful ecotourism depends not only on environmental integrity but on empowering local communities, respecting cultural traditions, and establishing participatory frameworks that ensure equitable benefit distribution. Although contexts differ, the broader theoretical principles remain consistent: ecotourism can reinforce community resilience, support environmental stewardship, and foster new economic opportunities when supported by coherent institutional mechanisms. The cases of Algeria and Jordan demonstrate that the effectiveness of ecotourism depends on long-term policy alignment, institutional capacity, and the meaningful inclusion of local populations. These insights align with global research suggesting that ecotourism functions best when communities are recognized as custodians of both culture and environment. Ecotourism as a field of study has evolved considerably over recent decades, culminating in a rich body of interdisciplinary research drawing from sociology, anthropology, environmental governance, economics, and cultural studies. This evolution reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of ecotourism itself. The integration of cultural identity and sustainable practice remains central to understanding how ecotourism reshapes local communities. In both Algeria and Jordan, the interplay of governance, heritage, and ecological fragility creates unique dynamics that reveal the potential and limitations of ecotourism as an agent of social change. Scholars widely agree that successful ecotourism depends not only on environmental integrity but on empowering local communities, respecting cultural traditions, and establishing participatory frameworks that ensure equitable benefit distribution. Although contexts differ, the broader theoretical principles remain consistent: ecotourism can reinforce community resilience, support environmental stewardship, and foster new economic opportunities when supported by coherent institutional mechanisms. The cases of Algeria and Jordan demonstrate that the effectiveness of ecotourism depends on long-term policy alignment, institutional capacity, and the meaningful inclusion of local populations. These insights align with global

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Keywords: Ecotourism, Cultural Impact, Social Change, Comparative Study, Algeria and Jordan.

INTRODUCTION

Ecotourism has become one of the most influential frameworks for integrating environmental conservation with socio-economic development..

Ecotourism as a field of study has evolved considerably over recent decades, culminating in a rich body of interdisciplinary research drawing from sociology, anthropology, environmental governance, economics, and cultural studies. This evolution reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of ecotourism itself. The integration of cultural identity and sustainable practice remains central to understanding how ecotourism reshapes local communities. In both Algeria and Jordan, the interplay of governance, heritage, and ecological fragility creates unique dynamics that reveal the potential and limitations of ecotourism as an agent of social change. Scholars widely agree that successful ecotourism depends not only on environmental integrity but on empowering local

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholarship on ecotourism stresses the importance of linking conservation with livelihood enhancement...

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METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative comparative design, relying on policy documents, academic literature, and institutional reports...

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ECOTOURISM IN ALGERIA

Algeria's ecotourism sector faces structural constraints including centralized governance, limited community integration...

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ECOTOURISM IN JORDAN

Jordan demonstrates a regional leadership model in community-based ecotourism through the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature...

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparing Algeria and Jordan reveals significant differences in governance, participation, cultural representation, and social outcomes...

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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ecotourism can serve as a driver of cultural empowerment and sustainable governance when communities are centered in decision-making...

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