

## Urban Heritage and Tourism Development, Role of Civil Society Institutions “Deshra of Mena” in Aures Region, Algeria

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### Abstract

This study aims at understanding the role of civil society institutions and their initiatives in the preservation of urban heritage in Algeria. In fact, Algeria's urban heritage is subject to a serious deterioration in several benchmarks that are affected by several issues threatening the balance of its social and economic development. Moreover, given the importance of preserving heritage areas due to their national wealth and the historical, cultural, economic and social values they represent, and the general trend towards the growth of the tourism industry and its economic benefits, it is increasingly urgent to find a balance between the protection of urban heritage and the tourism development. The main principles of sustainable tourism development are the involvement of civil society institutions and the local population in the development process by raising awareness, engaging the local inhabitants in tourism activities and providing sustainable tourism projects that generate incomes. Indeed, volunteering social work is one of the most important development factors in today's societies. To conduct this study, first the urban heritage situation in Dashrat Mena was analyzed, and then conducted a field survey in form of a questionnaire. The authors of the study performed a statistical analysis of the collected data and interpreted the results.

**Keywords:** Urban heritage; tourism development; sustainable development; Deshra of Mena; Aures region.

### التراث العمراني والتنمية السياحية، دور مؤسسات المجتمع المدني - حالة دشرة منعة بالأوراس، الجزائر

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### ملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى معرفة دور مؤسسات المجتمع المدني ورصد بعض تجاربها في المحافظة على التراث العمراني الذي يشهد تدهورا كبيرا وإهمال أجزاء كبيرة منه في عدة معالم بالجزائر على غرار دشرة منعة بالأوراس التي أصبحت تواجه تحديات متنوعة أثرت في توازن الحياة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية لها؛ ونظراً لأهمية الحفاظ على المناطق التراثية لما تمثله هذه المناطق من ثروة قومية وما تحمله من قيم تاريخية وثقافية واقتصادية واجتماعية، ومع تزايد الاتجاه العام لصناعة السياحة وما تحققه من عوائد اقتصادية، أصبحت هناك ضرورة ملحة لإيجاد التوازن بين حماية التراث العمراني وبين التنمية السياحية، حيث نجد أن أهم مبادئ التنمية السياحية المستدامة هو إشراك مؤسسات المجتمع المدني والسكان المحليين في عمليات التنمية من خلال التوعية وإشراك السكان المحليين في الأنشطة السياحية وتوفير مشاريع سياحية مستدامة مدرة للدخل، حيث أن العمل الاجتماعي التطوعي يعتبر من أهم الوسائل المستخدمة للمشاركة للنهوض بالمجتمعات في عصرنا الحالي، ولإنجاز هذه الدراسة، بدأنا بتحليل واقع التراث العمراني بدشرة منعة. تلها دراسة ميدانية على شكل استبيان وتحليل بيانات إحصائية وجغرافية. ليتم عرض النتائج وتفسيرها. انتهينا أخيراً ببعض التوصيات الكلمات الدالة: التراث العمراني، التنمية السياحية، التنمية المستدامة، دشرة منعة، منطقة الأوراس

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## Introduction

Heritage, in its various forms, contributes to tourism development (Alazaizheh et al., 2018) that is closely linked to the value, importance, environmental and aesthetic characteristics of the site (Lazzarotti, 2003). In addition, heritage is the driving force behind local development (Torunn, 2008). The analysis of heritage values suggests that the sequence of urban thinking is closely connected to human thinking development in general (Kalliopi et al., 2018), and that the emergence and progress of civilizations is conditioned by the extent of societies' connection to past experiences and cultures (Chuanqi, 2019). Furthermore, constructions have always been expressions of human civilizations (Kloppen, 1991). However, urban heritage can be sustained if its details are properly managed (Daisy et al., 2020).

Algeria is one of the countries rich in urban heritage resulting from the succession of many civilizations spread over different cities (Melville et al., 2008). These include archaeological sites classified as protected world heritage (UNESCO World Organization), estimated at six sites: the Kasbah of Algiers, the M'zab Valley, the Tassili National Park, the citadel of Beni Hammad, the site of Jamila and the archaeological site of Timgad (Boutemedjet, 2011). These sites require protection and development measures (Tijana, 2007). In addition to these, there are a number of unclassified heritage places such as the desert palaces, the royal sanctuaries of Numidia and Dashur (Dashra) that can be found in the north, south, east and west of Algeria (Saib et al., 2019). However, we note that coastal areas have benefited from significant development programs, particularly in the tourism sector through the SDAT plan with infrastructure or tourism projects or the expansion of tourism areas and the emergence of new tourism poles (Aouinette, 2012). On the other hand, the Aures region remains isolated since it does not benefit from any tourism development program or interest from the government.

To preserve and protect urban heritage, the sustainability principle must be applied in heritage areas (Benzeroual, 2006). This depends on people's involvement and the empowerment of civil society institutions in the preservation, development and promotion of heritage areas (Alison et al., 2012).

Dashrat Manaa, in the Aures region, features unique architectural characteristics strongly linked to its local mountainous environment and inhabitants. These monuments combine construction and architecture in a homogeneous building system and design techniques with specific characters and styles, producing a human perspective marked by urban and architectural character.

Dashrat Manaa, with its distinctive character and style (Djemaa, 2019), represents a valuable urban heritage that needs to be preserved (Dutra et al., 2011) through the involvement of various local community organizations and institutions (Samuel et al., 2007).

## Methodology and Research Objectives:

The main objective of this study is to highlight the tools for the proper preservation of urban heritage for sustainable tourism development in a mountainous region that suffers from marginalization and lack of development programs at all levels. The study also attempts to identify the role of civil society (members of organizations interested in the protection of urban heritage) in the preservation of urban heritage and national cultural identity. Furthermore, the study defines the most effective practical and scientific measures to protect heritage monuments using sustainable tourism development principles.

To understand the role of civil society institutions in preserving urban heritage and preventing its deterioration, the following questions must be properly discussed:

- What is the urban heritage reality in Dashrat Manaa?
- What is the role of civil society institutions in addressing the issues encountered in the study area to promote its urban heritage?
- What are the approaches used to preserve the urban heritage in this region?

To answer these questions and understand the urban heritage reality in this area, determine the relationship of civil society institutions with the urban heritage and the extent of their contribution to its preservation and tourism promotion, and in order to obtain realistic results, we relied on some analytical methods:

**The descriptive and analytical approach:** to understand the urban heritage reality and identify the most important challenges facing the heritage and the changes that occurred in its components.

**Empirical method:** The lack of studies, administrative data and research on the area, required direct observation and field surveys from 2019 to 2020, to uncover the urban heritage reality.

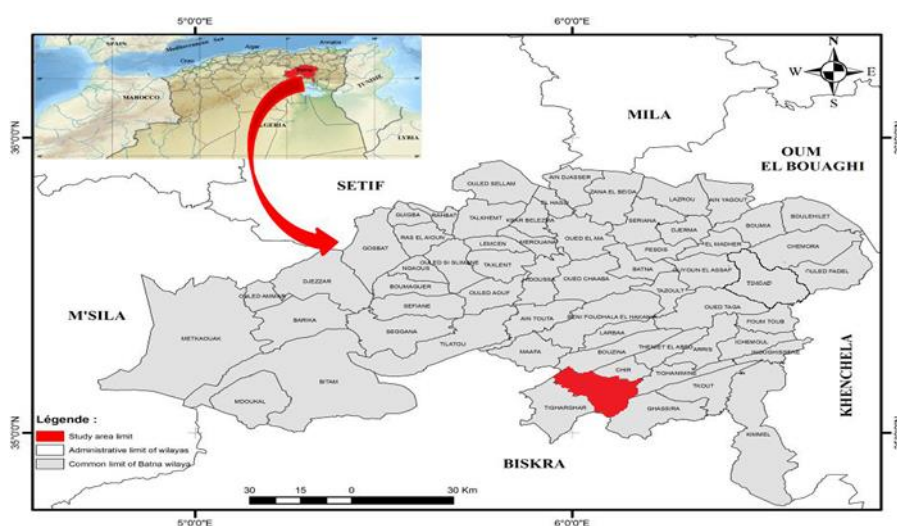
**The statistical method:** Based on a set of statistical data aiming to explain and analyze the urban heritage reality and its components, as well as the constraints to its promotion. The data were obtained using a questionnaire distributed to active members of urban heritage protection organizations. In addition to Adopt the interview half controlled with sample random conducted with the local population of Manaa in Aures ( 20 people ) , and sample purposive consists (15 people) of officials in charge of the development processes in the region, to identify the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and assess protection measures in the Manaa community. With reliance on analyzing the content of the interview in designing the questionnaire questions

In this context, this study is divided into two main sections: The first examines the characteristics of Dashrat Manaa and its components relevant to the tourism sector and their current state and the role of civil society organizations in preserving the urban heritage. The second part is an analysis and evaluation of the urban heritage components, the constraints that hinder its development, and their implications on tourism development in the Aures region.

#### **Dashrat Manaa: A model of urban heritage in the Aures.**

The Aures region is distinguished by its architectural and urban heritage arranged in settlements (Lebbal, 2013) and thus reflects the ancient lifestyle of its population (Zeraib, 2011). Dashrat Manaa in the Aures is considered a model of traditional architecture marked by a heritage of traditional architecture built more than 10 centuries ago with historical, artistic and technical values that strongly qualify the site as world heritage (Aïchouchen, 2006).

Dashrat Manaa is located 87 km from the provincial capital in the south (photo n°01), built on a rocky mountain cluster surrounded by a wall reaching ten meters high. It is located at the confluence of Oued Bouzina and Oued Abdi along an agricultural area dominated by fruit tree orchards (Boughida, 2012).



**Figure 1: Geographical location of the study area (Manaa), Banta Province, Algeria**

Dashrat Manaa in the Aures is a model of traditional local architecture deeply rooted in history (Claude , 2018). It combines tangible and intangible heritage with natural and cultural components (Jokilehto, 1986). The construction of this Dashra dates back to eight or ten centuries (Assassi , 2017). Despite being classified as tangible heritage during the colonial period in 1927, it remained unclassified after independence regardless of numerous requests from associations and authorities.



**Figure 2: Panoramic view of Dashrat Menaa**

**Source:** Author's production, January, 17th 2021



**Figure 3: A photograph of Dashrat Manaa's buildings.**

An analysis of the Dashra buildings revealed that they are similarly designed. Indeed, most of them are rectangular or square shaped with an area ranging from 80 to 200m<sup>2</sup>. These buildings usually have a lower floor with a height of between 2.30 and 3 meters, and sometimes an upper floor, where the roof carries a group of wooden beams called *Arsat* (Bardo, 2020). The roof is relatively inclined to facilitate the drainage of rainwater. All the houses are built of clay, stone and local wood. These constructions seem to blend into their environment.

The external facades include small openings not exceeding three windows, of different shapes (square, rectangle, triangle and cube). Generally, the houses of this dashra are characterized by a large door and in the middle of the house lies the *Haouche* (the courtyard). The latter is an open unit around which the rooms are distributed. The *Haouche* is a basic element of the traditional house which allows the ventilation and the lighting of the rooms. It is also the central element that separates the different rooms and components of the house and is considered the connecting area between the interior and the exterior. One of the most important features of the Dashra is its winding paths. Many of them are narrow (2.5 m) with dead ends due to the pressure of the built-up areas.



**Figure 4: One of Dashrat Menaa's alleys.**

**Source:** Author's production, January, 14th 2021



A field analysis of the various architectural elements of the study area revealed that the urban fabric is strongly influenced by two factors: an internal factor specific to the population and its cultural and social identity, and an external factor linked to the climate and topography. The traditional habitat of this dashra reflects the agricultural lifestyle of its inhabitants, so it is not only a family gathering place, but a tripartite place, i.e. a place for human, animal and storage at the same time.

**The preservation of urban heritage: inventory of a threatened architectural heritage :**

The urban heritage is exposed to different threats and challenges caused by the lack of preservation, neglect and poor tourism development programs in the region (Assassi et al., 2017). These issues are part of a set of challenges that we have classified to identify evidence of urban heritage deterioration and to find solutions that would address or limit the extent of such problems and their impact to maintain the region's prosperity and enhance its urban heritage. Based on observations and field surveys , the order of issues was as follows:

***Urban issues:***

- The constant deterioration of architectural and traditional constructions. It results in the destruction of old traditional buildings and the migration of local inhabitants. This is mainly attributed to the use of palm tree trunks to construct their roofs, contributing to their collapse.
- Use of materials inadequate to the environment during restoration and renovation processes. Disregard for the Amazigh human element and its integrity, and failure to follow the ideas and principles underlying the construction of these buildings.



**Figure 5: One of Dashrat Manaa's houses at risk of collapse**

**Source:** Author's production, January, 29th 2021

***Social and cultural issues:***

- Change in the social composition of the heritage areas due to the migration of native inhabitants to other areas and their replacement by other residents of a different cultural level without the necessary skills required to manage this type of building. This has led to the building's deterioration and loss of connection between the population and the surrounding urban heritage.
- Misuse and neglect of Dashra's urban heritage due to the low cultural, educational and social level of its inhabitants. Consequently, residents destroyed distinctive features of the town' s buildings.
- The issue of modernization leading to the loss of heritage building identity, depriving it of its authentic character and reducing its heritage value.

***Environmental issues:***

- The natural environment pollution due to lack of local awareness.

- Rainwater seepage affecting the buildings' foundations and damaging the exterior wall coating.
- Non-resistance of certain materials used in the building to various natural factors, which leads to their deterioration and threatens the integrity of the building when exacerbated.
- Continuous expansion and contraction processes resulting from constant temperature changes, which leads to the appearance of cracks and fissures that may increase over and threatens the building's safety.

***Economic issues:***

- Lack of funding needed for urban heritage preservation processes in the Dahra.
- The absence of a financial and material funding plan to successfully preserve the urban heritage

***Legislative issues:***

- Not enforcing and complying with laws during the restoration processes to prevent the loss of the building's distinct and unique character.

***Organizational issues:***

- Government neglect of periodic maintenance needed to preserve the region's heritage buildings, which has negatively impacted their structure and facades. Over time, this has led to an increase in structural damage including cracks, collapses and sewer failures.
- Establishing plans that are not consistent with the interests of local inhabitants and are not compatible with their customs and identity.
- Lack of a tourism development planning programs that involves the analysis and evaluation of selected variables and development strategies. Indeed, the proper land use planning benefits the local community's environment and agriculture. Furthermore, sustainable development processes in tourism activity also involve the rational implementation of programs which reduces the risk of tourism projects failure (Kherrou et al., 2020).

All these factors contributed to the collapse of the wall surrounding the Dashra and many buildings, especially the ones that did not benefit from restoration and preservation projects. The Dashra is a tangible and intangible heritage that deserves urgent intervention and consideration by all concerned stakeholders to ensure its preservation and viability.

Algeria expressed a great interest in heritage in previous periods. Indeed, in 1972, the country joined the Convention of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, considered as an important initiative in the protection of cultural heritage. Thus, the National Agency for Antiquities and Protection of Urban and Historical Monuments was established by Decree No. 6 of January 1987. Another equally important step followed, namely the promulgation of Law 98/04 of 1998 for the protection of the national cultural heritage, under which the provisions of Decree No. 67/281 of 1967 concerning the research and preservation of historical sites and monuments were cancelled. Law 04/98 considerably updated the content of the previous decree and led to a broader concept of heritage and the introduction of new tools for the protection and management of cultural heritage (Ouageni , 2006). Law no. 4/98 generated several legal texts all aimed at protecting heritage, including law no. 29/90. This law establishes the importance of heritage protection and the preservation of places of historical, cultural, scientific, archaeological, architectural or tourist interest (Official Gazette No. 49, 1990). However, during the 1990-2010 period, the Algerian government neglected the tourism sector in the Manaa region, due to a lack of tourists and security. This situation resulted mainly from the country's political and security conditions. This neglect caused the deterioration of the tourism sector and consequently the urban heritage and monuments degradation. However, the institutions of civil society (civil societies and organizations) decided to address the tourism development in an integrated approach (Dallen , 1998) through the preservation of the urban heritage and providing solutions to the challenges that this region is facing.

There are 125 emerging civil society institutions in the tourism and heritage sector in the Aures region (Association office in the province of Batna. 2021), including: Manaa Association for tourism and preservation of the environment and heritage and El Houiya Association of cultural heritage and artistic creativity, created by a state decision in 2010 to protect the heritage of the Aures and Amazigh culture and restore the identity of the threatened urban heritage in Manaa. The association began its activities in 2011, and most of the founding members are heritage and tourism enthusiasts and many

engineers and researchers in urban planning and Amazigh heritage. These associations worked and still working to preserve the urban heritage in Dashrat Manaa by (tourism direction of Batna 2021):

- Rehabilitation of heritage buildings using traditional construction methods that are compatible with the site instead of excessive restoration operations. The cost of renovation operations is limited to the necessary amount to ensure the durability of the heritage building and its identity.
- Use local construction materials adapted to the local environment. Engage the local population and respect their customs and traditions in the restoration process.
- Strengthen the educational role and conduct outreach campaigns within the local community on the importance of urban heritage preservation.
- Scheduling weekly clean-up campaigns around the city's urban environment, with the participation of local residents
- Increasing local awareness of environmental issues through posters and banners to help protect the environment of the dashra. Organizing conferences to educate the local population on the preservation of the region's antiquities and heritage.
- Establish a partnership with national and international associations and organizations. Promote the region's urban heritage to ensure the tourism development.
- Develop a planning program and submit it to the authorities for the implementation of urban heritage preservation projects.
- Hosting events and festivals highlighting local folklore and using the profits to fund restoration and renovation projects.
- Involve local communities and determine their interests and concerns.

Based on the issues that Dashrat Manaa is facing, the state of its urban heritage, the attempts of associations to protect this heritage, and in order to understand the role of civil society institutions in preserving the heritage of this region, a questionnaire composed of 18 questions was designed and divided into 4 axes as follows:

1. *The first axis*: the urban heritage components (five questions)
2. *The second axis*: obstacles to the promotion of urban heritage (five questions)
3. *The third axis*: tourism in line with urban heritage (four questions)
4. *The fourth axis*: the sustainability of urban heritage (four questions)

***The questionnaire was processed according to the Likert scale in the weight distribution as follows:***

Strongly disagree (1 points), disagree (2 points), neutral (3 points), agree (4 points), strongly agree (5 points). The decision is arranged according to the weights of the categories, as shown in the following table:

**Table 1: Five-point Likert scale agreement score.**

Class	1-1.9	1.8-2.59	2.6-3.39	4.4-4.19	4.2-5
Answer	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree

Source: Rensis Likert, 1932

### **Analysis of questionnaire results:**

#### ***Study description:***

*Place*: Dashrat Manaa

*Time*: April 2020 - July 2020

*Participants*: Local Community (members of civil organizations and associations interested in heritage protection)

#### ***Study sample:***

The study sample included 103 individuals selected randomly and arranged according to a set of characteristics (gender, age, education level, place of residence, length of enrollment ...) as shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Sample characteristics**

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Male	85	82.5%
Female	18	17.5%
Total	103	100%
18-23 years old	8	07.8%
24-30 years old	31	30.1%
31-40 years old	54	52.4%
>40 years old	10	09.7%
Total	103	100%
Highschool students	23	3.22%
University students (not graduated)	58	56.3%
University students (post graduation)	22	21.4%
Total	103	100%
Resident of Menaa city	18	17.5%
Not a resident of Menaa City	85	82.5%
Total	103	100%
Member for less than 3 years	42	40.8%
Member term from 3 to 5 years	38	36.9%
Member for more than 5 years	23	22.3%
Total	103	100%

From the data presented in the above table, the study sample presents a high level of randomness and diversity, as indicated by the range of attributes and their percentages. This increases the study's credibility.

However, males accounted for the highest percentage of the sample (85%). This can be explained by the fact that women's involvement in associations is still subject to certain restrictions in our society due to customs and traditions and their multiple responsibilities, which may constitute another obstacle to their associative activities. Moreover, the majority of the sample are young, only 10% are over 40 years old, which is a good indicator of the association's high energy. This vital activity is enhanced since more than 67% of these young people are either in their graduation or post-graduation phase and most of them are not residents of Dashrat Manaa, which increases the questionnaire's unbiasedness

***Psychometric properties of the questionnaire:***

To measure the reliability and validity of the questionnaire we computed the Cronbach's alpha coefficient and the results were as follows:

**Table 3: Questionnaire validity and reliability coefficient**

Number of Questions	Alpha Cronbach coefficient
18	0.716

The coefficient value ranges from zero to one [0-1]. If there is no consistency, the value is close to zero, but if the value is close to one, the questionnaire is steady, straight and clear. In most cases, a value of 60% is acceptable. In the present study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient value is 71.6% for a total of 18 questions. Therefore, the questionnaire provides reliable, stable and accurate results.



**Results presentation and discussion:**

To evaluate the study results, the mean and standard deviation of each questionnaire axis were calculated and compared to the hypothetical mean. The results are as follows:

**Results of the urban heritage components axis:**

To evaluate the results of the first axis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of each question were calculated. Then, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire axis was determined and compared to the hypothetical mean. The results are presented in the tables below.

**Table 4: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation for each question on the first axis**

Question Number	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	questions
1	4,17	1.091	Urban heritage is used in tourism investments.
2	4,24	0.834	Local youth is a positive indicator to contribute to urban heritage revival programs
3	4,37	0.626	Urban heritage preservation projects in Deshra can create many jobs.
4	4,30	0.778	Most residents of Deshra maintain their connection with their region.
5	4,62	0.596	The unique setting of Dashrat Mena and its unique urban features attract tourists.

**Table 5: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire first axis**

Urban heritage components axis	Arithmetic mean	Hypothetical mean	standard deviation
	4.34	3	0.48

It can be seen from Table (4) and Table (5) that the arithmetic mean of this axis reached 4.34, which is higher than the hypothetical mean (3) with a standard deviation of 0.48. This indicates that the means of all questions were almost equal. The highest value was recorded for question 5 (4.62) with a standard deviation of (0.596). While The lowest mean was recorded for question 1 (4.17) with a standard deviation of 1.09. The difference between the two values is very small indicating that questions on this axis actually serve the same purpose or topic which increases the axis value as a whole and the value of each question. In addition, these results reflect the reliability of the study sample in their responses to the questionnaire.

**Results of obstacles to the promotion of urban heritage axis:**

To evaluate the results of the second axis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of each question were calculated. Then, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire axis was determined and compared to the hypothetical mean. The results are presented in the tables below.

**Table 6: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation for each question on the second axis**

Question Number	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	questions
6	2,79	1.063	Local young people are the least attracted to urban Heritage.
7	3,85	0.901	Urban planning and development affects urban heritage connections
8	3,49	1.008	Urban heritage tourism represents a small percentage compared to other forms of tourism.
9	4,63	0.671	The restoration and maintenance operations must be with materials and technologies commensurate with the interests of citizens and compatible with their customs and identity
10	4,36	0.948	Weak financial resources and limited restoration and maintenance operations to revive the urban heritage

**Table 7: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire second axis**

Second axis	Arithmetic mean	Hypothetical mean	Standard deviation
	3.82	3	0.51

From Table (6) and (7), we note that the arithmetic mean of this axis reaches 3.82, which is higher than the hypothetical mean (3) with a standard deviation of 0.51. The lowest mean value is reported for the question regarding the lack of interest in urban heritage among young people in the region, suggesting that the majority of the sample disagrees with this proposal. This objection is reinforced given that most of them are young. The highest arithmetic mean is recorded for both questions related to maintenance (4.63%) and restoration (4.36%) in terms of consistency with the interests and customs of citizens, as well as the degree of expertise and use of appropriate materials in the renovation process. From these values we can infer that the obstacles to the development of urban heritage are associated mainly with the authorities' approach rather than the citizens involvement.

***Results of the tourism sector in the light of urban heritage axis:***

To evaluate the results of the third axis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of each question were calculated. Then, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire axis was determined and compared to the hypothetical mean. The results are presented in the tables below.

**Table 8: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation for each question on the third axis**

Question Number	Arithmetic mean	standard deviation	questions
11	4,59	0.550	The internal and external promotion of urban heritage contributes to tourism development.
12	4,45	0.668	New tourism plans based on urban heritage can be implemented.
13	4,07	1.087	Tourism agencies define urban heritage and support local tourism.
14	4,51	0.739	The expansion of public infrastructure and tourist services increases the flow of tourists to Dashrat Manaa.

**Table 9: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire third axis**

Third Axis	Arithmetic Mean	Hypothetical Mean	Standard Deviation
	4.40	3	0.52

From Table 8 and Table 9, we note that the third axis is marked by an arithmetic mean of 4.40 which is higher than the hypothetical mean (3) and a standard deviation of 0.52. This suggests that the arithmetic mean values are approximately the same for all questions. The highest arithmetic mean is recorded for question 11 reaching 4.59 with a standard deviation of 0.550. The lowest mean value is recorded for question 13 reaching 4.07 with a standard deviation of 1.087. These values are all high and above the hypothetical mean, demonstrating the study sample's opinions towards the important role of urban heritage in tourism development. The preservation and promotion of urban heritage and its historical and human value increases its attractiveness and stimulates the tourism. Moreover, tourism boosts the visibility of heritage sites that may be unknown to local or foreign tourists. Consequently, urban heritage preservation involves the development and promotion of the tourism industry.

***Results of sustainability of the urban heritage in Dashrat Manaa axis:***

To evaluate the results of the fourth axis, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of each question were calculated. Then, the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire axis was determined and compared to the hypothetical mean. The results are presented in the tables below.

**Table 10: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation for each question on the fourth axis**

Question number	Arithmetic Mean	standard deviation	questions
15	4,48	0.558	Dashrat Menaa is considered an urban heritage site from consecutive periods of human history.
16	4,46	0.590	Community outreach programs contribute to the preservation of Menaa's heritage sites.

Question number	Arithmetic Mean	standard deviation	questions
17	4,60	0.492	The site of Menaâ needs investment and rehabilitation in compliance with laws and legislation to preserve its original architectural character.
18	4,42	0.721	Volunteer social work's support the local community in the preservation of Dashrat Menaâ's urban heritage

**Table 11: Arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the entire fourth axis**

Fourth axis	Arithmetic Mean	Hypothetical Mean	Standard Deviation
	4.46	3	0.48

From Tables (10) and (11), it can be seen that this last axis is marked by an arithmetic mean of 4.46 higher than the hypothetical mean evaluated at 3, and a standard deviation reaching 0.48. This indicates that the arithmetic mean values of all questions of this axis were approximately equal. The highest arithmetic mean is recorded for question 17 (4.60) with a standard deviation of 0.492. While the lowest mean value is recorded in question 18 (4.42), with a standard deviation of 0.721. These results demonstrate the studied sample's interest in, on the one hand, the need for sustainable development of the region's urban heritage and, on the other hand, the opportunity provided by the tourism industry to the region's youth. Thus, this is a common mission between the concerned authorities at different levels and the local population of all categories.

Based on the analyses presented above, we discard the nihilistic hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis stating the existence of a correlational relationship with statistical significance between the study variables and urban heritage protection and continued efforts in the tourism sector development in Dashrat Manaa.

### Conclusion:

The preservation process, mainly the restoration of heritage buildings and monuments in Algeria, is a complex procedure involving different parties. This practice is an important tool that has encountered and continues to encounter many difficulties. This has been evidenced in a sample study of Dashrat Manaa in the Aures, considered an architectural heritage site that deserves to be explored. Moreover, the study highlights the importance of one of the actors, namely civil society institutions, in the preservation of urban heritage with a strong link to the country. The results of the study reveal that government has failed to provide the region with adequate resources to ensure sustainable tourism development. However, despite the lack of tourism facilities and infrastructure in Dashrat Manaa, civil society institutions are actively working to preserve and promote the endangered urban heritage due to the massive building collapse over the past years. The preservation and exploitation of urban heritage in the city of Manaa in Al-Auras starts first with a strong sense of awareness about the importance of heritage and the inconvenience of its neglect. This can be achieved by:

- Involving the local population in several projects, particularly those related to the urban heritage preservation, to strengthen their sense of belonging and to reinforce their local identity.
- The preparation of a guidebook describing the most important heritage monuments in Manaa.
- Empower the local community and cultural organizations and associations in promoting the importance of heritage.
- Preserve the folklore heritage (intangible) and enhance its value in the promotion of tourism.
- Maximizing the impact of urban heritage preservation and sustainable heritage tourism in Manaa City by

strengthening the role of the local community and building the foundation for popular participation in conservation projects that generate a sense of belonging, which contributes to the project's sustainability.

Involve local associations in the processes of urban heritage preservation and tourism investment and establish a joint partnership between all involved parties (local groups, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism ...) to develop a common policy for a sustainable tourism industry and achieve moral and material benefits for the local population and set the principle of preservation and conservation of urban heritage.

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