

Lebanon scale





Analysis of Threats and Enabling Factors for Sustainable Tourism at Pilot Scale

Maritime/Coastal tourism and the local community Lebanon scale



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OVERVIEW

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List of abbreviations

WTO	World Tourism Organization
ISA	International Surfing Association
ICIM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
UN	United Nations
LDC	Least Developed Countries
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
CDR	Council of Development and Reconstruction
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MoPWT	Ministry of Public works and Transport
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Context

Tourism development is of utmost significance for local communities, and it directly affects the current and future tourism industry development. Community-positive attitudes will encourage tourists' satisfaction levels and contribute to the promotion among them. Therefore, the involvement and the participation of the host community are pertinent towards the success of the tourism development plan.

I. Introduction

The tourism industry is facing rapid growth with holistic support from local communities who are involved directly and indirectly in this industry. Tourism is acknowledged as one of the major attributes for cultural and economic engines for growth and development of local communities and the country's GDP.

The growth of tourism industry is crucial to the economic growth as well as the related fields such as transportation, leisure services and hospitality (Sharpley and Telfer, 2002). On the other hand, tourism also becomes a symbol to support the communities, especially in changing the economic atmosphere. This is because the ability of the tourism industry to generate income, currency exchanges as well as provides the employment opportunity. The rapid growth in the tourism industry will certainly transform the tourist destination spot, but with unplanned tourism development, it may lead to environmental degradation and socio-economic disparity amongst the local community. Residents are the main stakeholders of tourism developments. Currently, the number of studies on local community attitudes towards future tourism development is increasing due to the nexus between community support and government future development.

Thus, this project will investigate the personal benefit that local communities gain from tourism development and how they perceive the development impact as well as their support towards future development.

Lebanon, the smallest country in the Middle East with 10,452 km², has been an important destination and a spotlight to tourists from around the World for its geographic location adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea. Its tourism industry rate has been increasing each year. Looking at its touristic side, Lebanon is the only Arab country that offers skiing activities, and for its breathtaking scenery, it offers a spectacular view over different historical periods. Lebanon's diverse patchwork of Mediterranean-lapped coast, remarkable crests, and green fertile valleys is packed into a parcel of land some 240 km long and averaging 60 km wide. An ancient land, its cities were major outposts and seaports in Phoenician and Roman times, two of the great civilizations that touched these important Middle Eastern crossroads. Lebanon is popular for its ancient history that has gone from the remains of these civilizations to well preserved palaces of the medieval times.

The cosmopolitan flair of cities, the gastronomic renown of the country's food and wine, and an educated and outward-looking population complementing a country that is both traditional and progressive in outlook. For all the flavors of its storied past and distinguished natural beauty, Lebanon is a well-kept tourist secret that begs exploration. Lebanon holds a large selection of valleys, old structures, and admired traveler places that must be explored by tourists when visiting.

I.1. Tourism: a system of actors, places, and practices

I.1.1. Actors of the tourism system

Apart from the tourists themselves, actors, who are the main implementers of tourism activity, are divided into three categories contributing to the satisfaction of the needs of tourists: These are: a) commercial enterprises, b) associations and organizations with a social vocation and c) public authorities. These actors can be animated by collective activities through, for example, institutions such as tourist offices, communities, *etc.*

There are several ways of classifying the main types of actors participating in the tourism value chain. These can be as follows:

1. The tourists themselves, who can be broadly categorized by purpose and origin, *i.e.*, leisure or business, international or domestic, *etc.*
2. The frontline tourism actors, who provide one or more of the main elements of the tourist experience (*e.g.*, commercial enterprises; associations and organizations with a social vocation). These can be grouped roughly into those providing direct tourism products and services, which include resorts, attraction suppliers, event organizers, transport operators, accommodation, food facilities and those providing support services to tourists (information services: media, guidebooks, and websites), advice from travel agents, travel agents who sell packages and assist in tour planning.
3. The public authorities, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the voluntary tourism sector is going through a deep crisis and somewhat abandoned by the public authorities, it is not always in line with the aspirations and practices of consumers of tourism products. The economic and social impacts and challenges of tourism require the involvement of the public authorities, the State, the geographic regions, the departments, and the municipalities are responsible for intervening in favor of the development of tourism. Tourism is, for some countries, a national priority and often complements insufficient national resources (GEOConfluence, 2011).

Lately, online tourism has boomed as a supplementary tool to develop the tourism industry. Thus, with the internet, it is now easy to prepare a plan for the touristic trip without having to travel thanks to the different actors of tourism. This technical tool has brought a great change to the tourism sector around the World. Tourism can be exchanged using a mobile phone connected to the internet, a Smartphone, a tablet or via a laptop. Internet access has changed consumer behavior and habits in the tourism sector. Users have become cyber actors where they are able to make the reservation online, negotiate on prices via the web, and discover the best destinations through the web. Tourists can prepare the trips through the destination offers exposed by the travel sites via online and tour operators, while accommodation owners can benefit from it thanks to the evolution of E-tourism. Tourists can present their activity on a website and popularize various offers from E-commerce; in addition, they can even build customer loyalty through digital tourism.

I.1.2. Places and practices on the Lebanese coast

There are several places with touristic flavor (*e.g.*, historical, archeological, natural) along the Lebanese coast (Figure 1). These places are almost close to each other notably that the entire Lebanese coast does not exceed 240 km long.

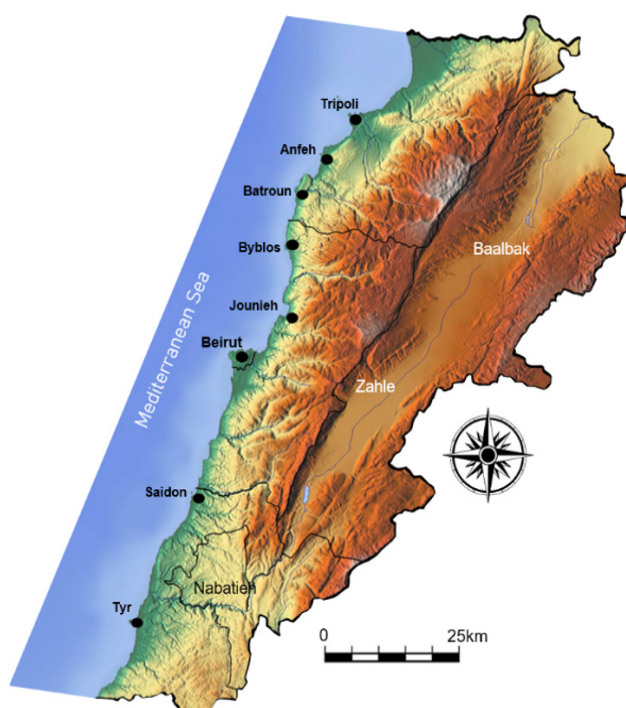


Figure 1. Coastal tourism cities in Lebanon.

Byblos

Byblos Coast is in North Lebanon at less than 30 km from the capital Beirut (Figure 1). This historical city has the following characteristics:

- Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the World since Neolithic times (Gavin, 2019).
- Considered as the origin of our contemporary alphabet with the most ancient Phoenician inscription carved on the legendary sarcophagus of King Ahiiram.
- Since the Bronze Age, Byblos provides one of the primary examples of urban organization in the Mediterranean Basin.
- Known for its close relationship with Pharaonic Egypt and the trade of cedar wood that was essential for the construction of monumental temples in Egypt (Smith, 2021).

- The city has the best-preserved Roman remains on the Lebanese coast, including a Roman Theater, and Byblos Castle (Figure 2).
- Distinguished for its ancient harbor, seaside fish restaurants, traditional souks (Figure 3), and charming residential neighborhoods dating back to the Middle Ages, Byblos represents a unique place to visit and smell the history of civilizations.



Figure 2. Byblos Castle.



Figure 3. Old Souk, Byblos.

In the proximity of Byblos, there are the archeological site of Byblos (the Neolithic houses, the monumental temples of the Bronze Age including temples of “Baalat Gubla”, L-shaped Temple, Temple of the Obelisks, the Persian fortifications, the Royal Tombs (Figure 4), the Roman road and theater, and the Crusaders citadel). Also, there are museums in the city (the fossils museum, the wax museum, the Phoenician Museum).



Figure 4. Royal sarcophagus and Byblos Castle.

In the surrounding Byblos, there are some attractive localities for tourism, such as Hakel village which is known for fossil-rich rocks where marine fossils: fish, crustaceans, shrimps, starfish fossils can be found. There is also the recognized Bentael Nature Reserve which owns several distinguished natural features.

Tyre

Located along the southern coast of Lebanon and at more than 70 km (Figure 1), Tyre (locally named as Soor) is one of the best touristic sites in Lebanon (Figure 5). The City of Soor and its archeological sites are characterized by the following:

- Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- Metropolis of Phoenicia in past times, and it has been founded as a traditional coastal site since 2750 B.C.
- Tyre as a port city was the most significant center for maritime and land commerce with colonies in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Legends and mythology in Tyre:
 - Tyre is the place of discovery of the purple pigment reserved for royalty and nobility.
 - Tyre is the birthplace of Cadmos, credited for the introduction of the bet to Greece and his sister, Europe, who gave its name to the European continent (Medlej, 2010).

- King Hiram of Tyre was the provider of the material and architects for the construction of the Temple of Solomon.
- Two archeological sites reflect the former glory of Tyre.
- It has been called the Queen of the Seas.

There are “Ras El-Ain” Springs located to the South of Tyre. These springs have been known as the main source of water since Phoenician time. In the proximity of these springs, there are the stone reservoirs that fed the arched aqueducts of the Roman Period. While to the East of Tyre, there is Hiram Sarcophagus, near Hanawey village which is known since the 1st century A.D. Further on to the East of Tyre, Qana village is located, and it is directly related to the tradition of the passage of Jesus Christ through the village and his first miracle, the Jars site and the site of the Statuary and the miraculous cave.



Figure 5. Tyre Archeological site.

Jounieh

Jounieh is one of the most visited touristic sites in Lebanon where it is located less than 12 km from the Capital Beirut (Figure 1) and known by its Bay (Figure6).

Jounieh City has been once dubbed as the “Monte Carlo of the East”. In 1959, it started to attract banks, the first which were the Lebanese Commerce Bank and the Lebanese Federal Bank. By 1975 the number of banks reached six and today there are 38 banks in addition to the Lebanese Central Bank which was established in 1963 (Weidner, 2017).

The extension of urban settlements nearby Jounieh was developed slowly and connected with the coastal villages of Sarba and Haret Sakhr, as well as the coast of Alma and Kaslik. There is Casino du Liban located in the proximity of Jounieh Bay, and the cable cars of Harissa. While the Jeita Grotto, as one of the most remarkable natural features in Lebanon, is few kilometers from Jounieh City.

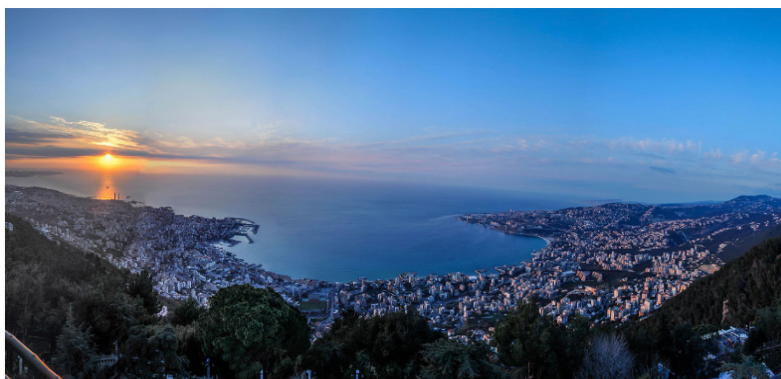


Figure 6. Jounieh Bay.

Batroun

Batroun is a coastal city in northern Lebanon, and it is about 40 km from Beirut (Figure 1). It occupies ancient/traditional streets that combine between the old houses, the gardens, the ancient churches, and the archaeological landmarks.

During the Greek-Roman era, Batroun was called “Botrys” (bunch of grapes). It was mentioned in the fourteenth century B.C. on the famous tablets which were found in “Tell el Aamarena” as part of the province of Jbeil. Batroun was invaded by the Assyrians in the 7th century B.C. King Antiochus the Great invaded it in 195 B.C (Volkman, 2021).

In the north-eastern part of the city, there are the remains of seven seats inlaid in an ancient, graded rock inside a private royal garden. The construction of this edifice was not completed (It started around 222 B.C. during the reign of the Roman emperor Eilaoabal). This place is known as Mrah el Sheikh. Near the small fishing harbor, there is the façade of the Maronite Church of Mar Stephan (St. Stephan). It was built by an Italian architect between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. In the city Centre, there are stones and remains of a fortress that dates to the Crusaders period.

A visit to the old city takes you to the Orthodox Church of Mar Jorge’s (St. George Church). Its construction was completed in 1867 (<https://lcf.lau.edu.lb/images/phoenician-batroun.pdf>). Near the ancient fortress there is the Maronite church, Saydet al Saha (Our Lady of the Square). Along the coast, there is the famous Phoenician Wall, which is 225 meters long. In ancient times (end of the 2nd century and beginning of the third century B.C.), it was a quarry. There is also the Orthodox Church Saydet Al Bihar (Our Lady of the Seas), which overlooks the sea. It contains beautiful icons of unknown origin. Its terrace is built under the arches of the Phoenician Wall. South of the city there is a public beach where you can find a small rock in the water called Maqaad el Mir (Seat of the Prince).

Enfeh

This is also a coastal city located in North Lebanon about 50 km from the Capital Beirut (Figure 1). It is accessed by the Beirut-Tripoli highway and can also be reached by the old coastal road. Known to many as “Little Greece” due to the small coves and blue and white chalets that dot its coast. Enfeh is a place so firmly rooted in its history that it becomes endearing, almost magnetic. It occupies the town’s hidden gems, including Our Lady of the Wind Church, with its recently restored 12th-century paintings, as well as the crossed citadel, destroyed by the Mamluks (<https://www.lebanontraveler.com/en/magazine/mini-guide-Enfeh/>).

Daughter of the wind and sea, Enfeh was destined to become a capital of salt, or of “white gold.” Its famous salt marshes can be admired in the grounds of Our Lady Saydet El Natour Convent in the far north of the town.

Tripoli

Tripoli is entitled as the Capital of North Lebanon, situated at about 75 km from Beirut (Figure 1) (Figure 7), and it is Lebanon’s second largest city with many landmarks. There are around forty historical sites which date back to the 14th century: Qalaat St. Gilles, 12 mosques that date back to the Mamluk and Ottoman eras, 12 theological schools, khans or caravanserais, and baths (Hammams). Its “souks” and khans are crowded with people of various trades. You see the tailors, jewelers, perfumers, tanners, and soap-makers working in a charming lively atmosphere (<https://www.visit-lebanon.org/leisure/tripoli-and-its-suburbs>).



Figure 7. Tripoli aerial view.

Historical documents and the archaeological sites in the city suggest that the city dates to the 14th century, but the exact history of the city is known since the 9th century B.C., when the Phoenicians established at the western cape of the city a small trading station which became, during the Persian rule, the headquarters of the confederation of Sidon, Tyre, and Arados Island (https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/phoe/hd_phoe.htm).

During the Hellenistic period, under the successors of Alexander the Great, Tripoli was a naval base and enjoyed local autonomy. During the Roman rule, the city flourished, and many archaeological sites were built. During the Byzantine rule, in 551, Tripoli was destroyed by an earthquake and tidal waves (MoT). In the middle of the 7th century, during the Umayyad rule, it became a naval base. Under the Fatimid rule, it received its semi-independence and became a dynamic cultural center.

At the beginning of the 12th century, Tripoli was besieged by the Crusaders. They occupied it in 1109. During the Crusade wars, it was the capital of the county of Tripoli. In 1289, Tripoli fell to the Mamluk Sultan Qalawun, who gave orders to destroy the old city and build a new city inland, around the old castle ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Tripoli_\(1289\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Tripoli_(1289))).

There are also the Great Mosque, the Khans (soap khan, tailors khan, Caravansary of the Egyptians), tower of the Lions, Tripoli International Fair, the Hammams (bathing houses).

Beirut

Beirut, the capital and largest city of Lebanon is situated on a peninsula at the midpoint of Lebanon's Mediterranean coast (Figure 8). Beirut has been inhabited for more than 5,000 years, and was one of Phoenicia's most prominent city states, making it one of the oldest cities in the World. The first historical mention of Beirut is found in the Amarna letters from the New Kingdom of Egypt, which date to the 15th century BC (<https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/beirut/m09bjv?hl=en>).



Figure 8. Zaytouna Bay, Beirut.

Several prehistoric archaeological sites have been discovered within the urban area of Beirut, revealing flint tools of sequential periods dating from the Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Paleolithic through the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (<https://placeandsee.com/wiki/beirut>).

There are many places in Beirut which have been attributed to their ancient history. These are:

Beirut (*Minet el-Hosn*) was listed as “the town of Beirut”. The site was discovered by Lortet in 1894. The flint industry from the site was described as “Mousterian” and is held by the Museum of Fine Arts of Lyon.

Beirut (*Umm el-Khatib*) was suggested by Burkhalter to have been south of Tareek el Jdideh, where P.E. Gigues discovered a Copper Age flint industry at around 100 meters (328 feet) above sea level. Beirut (Furn esh-Shebbak) was suggested to have been located on the left bank of the Beirut River. Gigues discovered a series of Neolithic flint tools on the surface along with the remains of a structure suggested to be a hut circle.

Beirut, the Rivoli Cinema and Byblos Cinema sites near the Burj in the Rue el Arz area includes the collapsed walls, pits, floors, charcoal, pottery, and flints. The other, overlooking a cliff west of the Rivoli Cinema, was composed of three layers resting on limestone bedrock. Fragments of blades and broad flakes were recovered from the first layer of black soil, above which some Bronze Age pottery was recovered in a layer of gray soil. Pieces of Roman pottery and mosaics were found in the upper layer. Middle Bronze Age tombs were found in this area, and the ancient tell of Beirut is thought to be in the Bourj area.

Often called “Paris of the Middle East”, Beirut is a thriving hotspot for shopping, socializing, and sightseeing, despite many wars and unrest. The city has been rebuilt several times, with modern architecture sharing space with Ottoman and colonial French buildings. Bustling streets such as Hamra and Ashrafieh and the National Museum and the Gibran Museum give visitors a taste of the city’s history. The Corniche is the place for activities like jogging and biking.

Rawshe Rocks

Pigeons’ Rock (also known as the Rock of Rawshe) is one of the most famous landmarks of Lebanon in general and Beirut in Particular (Figure 9). Located at Beirut’s westernmost tip, the two huge carbonate rock formations, which stand like gigantic sentinels, are a popular destination for locals and visitors alike. The unique stratification of rock layers of Pigeon’s Rock represents a typical cross-bedding geological feature that attracts many scientists, notably geologists.

Rawshe also is claimed to be the remains of a sea monster, the Greek hero Perseus killed to save Andromeda. The stone is rock as Perseus used Medusa’s head on the monster to turn it into stone (<https://www.facebook.com/FramesByFatima/posts/481569702550344/>)



Figure 9. Rawshe Rocks.

Saida Castle

Saida (Sidon) is a coastal Lebanese city, about 35 km south of Beirut (Figure 1). This ancient Phoenician city has been of great religious, political, and commercial value; it is said to be inhabited since 4000 B.C. In 1228 AD, the Crusaders built Sidon's Sea Castle as a fortress on a small island connected to the mainland by a narrow 80m long roadway (Figure 10). The island was formerly the site of a temple to Melqart, the Phoenician version of Heracles. It was partially destroyed by the Mamluks when they took over the city from the Crusaders, but they subsequently rebuilt it and added the long causeway (<https://www.tourbeirut.com/sidon-Tyre>).



Figure 10. Saida Castle.

This island has also served as a shelter from inside attacks on the city. Great Sidon, Little Sidon, powerful fortresses, pastures, cisterns and fortifications are all mentioned in the Assyrian king Sennacherib's recordings of his attacks on Sidon and nearby cities.

Today, the castle consists primarily of two towers connected by a wall. The rectangular west tower to the left of the entrance is the better preserved of the two. There is a large, vaulted room scattered with old carved capitals and rusting cannonballs. A winding staircase leads up to the roof, where there is a small, domed Ottoman-era mosque. From the roof, there is a view across the old city and fishing harbor. The lower part dates to the Crusader period, while the upper level was built by the Mamluks. There has also been evidence of the old Phoenician city being buried under the sea in the area surrounding the castle: structures of walls, columns, stairways, remains of buildings, statues, and cisterns (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sidon_Sea_Castle).

I.2. Types of tourism and their role in territorial development

I.2.1. Types of tourism

I.2.1.1. Alternative Tourism

Alternative tourism, also known as specific interest tourism (SIT) involves travel that encourages interaction with local government, people, and communities. Many tourists choose alternative tourism because they are concerned with nature and want to preserve it. Some of the approaches by alternative tourism involve ecotourism, adventure tourism, rural tourism, sustainable tourism, sports tourism, religious tourism, *etc.* In particular, the following alternative tourism are the most common ones:

- Adventure tourism, which involves the exploration of remote places looking to connect with new culture or new landscape and at the same time being physically active. Some of the adventure tourism activities involve day hiking, backpacking, zip lining, free fall, rafting, mountain's biking, skiing, and snowboarding.
- Rural Tourism occurs in rural environments, and it involves rural experience and knowledge. Tourists visit these places to understand the lifestyle of these people. Hence, under this category of alternative tourism, agro-tourism can be mentioned where it normally occurs on farms. It gives travelers an opportunity to experience rural life, taste the local genuine food and get familiar with various farming tasks.
- Ecotourism involves visiting undisturbed natural areas and bare lands. It promotes conserving the environment and improving the well-being of locals.

I.2.1.2. Business Tourism

Business tourism involves traveling to a normal workplace for the business benefit. It is a type of travel for professional purposes rather than personal ones. Some types of business tourism are incentive travel, exhibitions & trade fairs, conferences & meetings, and corporate events.

I.2.1.3. Cultural Tourism

Cultural tourism is where travelers engage with a country culture including religious places, especially the lifestyle that shapes the life of the people. Tourists get immersed with related activities such as rituals and festivals. Travelers can also experience a country by enthusiastically engaging with its history, people, culture, and food.

I.2.1.4. Domestic Tourism

Domestic tourism involves residents of a country traveling within the same country. It is often a short-term travel, also within a day of time.

I.2.1.5. Industrial Tourism

Industrial tourism, as a business aspect of tourism, is visits to industrial sites of a particular location. This concept has taken a renewed interest in recent times and attracts tourists also to visit industrial heritage and modern sites.

I.2.1.6. International Tourism

The World Tourism Organization defines tourism as ‘traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes (<https://www.unwto.org/glossary-tourism-terms>). This aspect of tourism has increased due to the impact of greater globalization.

I.2.1.7. Religious Tourism

Religious tourism, also known as faith tourism, refers to traveling individually or in groups to holy sites. These sites are also visited by non-religious tourists who want to know the cultural, historical, and religious significance.

I.2.2. Tourism role in territorial development

Tourism has a sustainable or responsible impact that involves traveling to a place to make a positive impact on the environment, society, and economy. It benefits everyone involved and not just one half of the equation (<https://sustainabletourism.net/definitionsandresources/>). Therefore, tourism plays a significant role in territorial development, and this can be viewed from the following:

- **Economic Sustainability:** It ensures the effectiveness and competitiveness of tourism destinations and enterprises. It helps continue improvement, which is beneficial in the long run.
- **Local enrichment:** Tourist destination prosperity is an enormous part of tourism. The tourism business continuously maximized the economic growth of the host destination.

- Employment Standards: Tourism supported the level of wages, terms of service, and availability for all. It creates local jobs with no discrimination based on gender, race, disability, or other means.
- Local management: In many cases, tourism involves local communities, empower local people for planning and decision making. The community, tourism management team helped to develop this.
- Community Welfare: Tourism plays a role in maintaining and boost the local community's lifestyle. It is a part of social structures. But surely, this process should take place with no social humiliation or exploitation.
- Natural Integration: Tourism usually maintains and improves the quality of both urban and rural landscapes. It avoids natural and visual degradation of the environment.
- Biodiversity: Tourism assists in conserving wildlife, natural wildlife areas and in reducing losses.
- Environmental cleanness: Besides the purpose of tourism, tourists must reduce air, water, land pollution, and waste generation.
- It motivates tourists to understand their traditions, heritage, culture, and religious aspects.
- Tourism is a significant part of national integration, and it substantially shares in the economic growth. It encourages local people to create many handicraft items, prepares local food items, different kinds of souvenirs, dresses, *etc.*, for sale.
- Tourism can provide an economic boost to the country.

II. Coastal tourism and local communities

One of the core elements of tourism development is to encourage local communities' participation as it is central to the sustainability of tourism industry (Gunawijaya and Pratiwi, 2018). In this regard, coasts provide unique features for being an attractive place for the tourists. Therefore, different types of coasts, according to their own character, offer a variety of flavors to the tourists, notably that more than 40% of the world's population lives on the coast or within the coastal zone (Burke *et al.*, 2001) and they are almost dependent on coastal tourism besides their other professions like fisheries, agriculture, and other benefits from the coast. An example on increasing interest in coastal tourism can be marked as global growth of whale watching diving certification has increased 12.1% annually since 1990 and the increased interest is 9 million between 1967 and 1990 (Garrod and Wilson, 2003).

II.1. Role of Tourism in the economic sector of communities

Economy sectors play an important role in making a stable and long running development. Tourism is one of the sectors which play a role in the development of the economic sector, and where it generates foreign revenues, notably that tourism reflects the nature and other advantages of the country. Thus, it helps people of far-flung areas to promote their cultures and norms, and it also provides the country the opportunity to make a better image around the World.

The realization of the importance of coastal tourism to the global economy and the resulting impacts on coastal communities along with their physical socio-economic and cultural environments, has led towards sustainable tourism (Tuhin, 2011). This thought process was again accentuated by the increasing tourist demand for more responsible and environment friendly options. Coastal tourism is becoming more harmful for the fragile natural and cultural areas, as those areas are mostly preferred by the tourists.

There are several problems (*e.g.*, dense population, pollution, *etc.*) in coastal tourism and associated activities, along with the immense scope for developing a sustainable tourism with high return of investment. The decline in the economic growth and environmental destruction, are the result of the conflicts between social and natural systems with the interplay of human activities. There is a need for a proper approach with a holistic view to maintain the sustainability of coastal tourism, with the sustained economic growth from coastal tourism, as a potential sector.

The impact of coastal tourism is manifold and delicate for the coastal community and their livelihood. The negative impacts on the coastal environments are resulted from tremendous pressure with limited local resources, increased or unwanted invasion of natural areas and serious conflict between tourism and other sectors (Garrod and Wilson, 2003; Dobson, 2003).

Unfortunately, the impacts of coastal tourism development from economic, social and cultural aspects haven't been enjoyed by the local communities, notably that these communities are unprepared to welcome tourists, and lack coordination between local government and tour operators.

A sustainable and integrated strategy is necessary to formulate a sustainable coastal tourism management plan for mitigating the process of degradation of coastal community, considering the physical environment, local economy and culture, and must include the local industries not related to the coastal tourism. There should be a holistic policy for sustainable development involving policy and decision makers, plans' developers managers from GOs, NGOs, and other organizations, the private sector, and the local and native communities during formulation of a tourism development plans.

There must be harmonization between conservation and people, and the demand of the local community must be addressed for easy access to necessary services and ability to manage their own natural resources, and people should ensure their livelihood and fair distribution of profit and resources including intercultural tolerance. Eventually, sustainable tourism is certainly a balance between the tourism industry and the local community to protect the destruction of assets on which coastal tourism is dependent (Dobson, 2003; Burke *et al.*, 2001).

Many local communities and environments are mostly kept outside from planning and management around the World. Local public should be included in decision making, and then it will be helpful to all other elements in the tourism industry (*e.g.*, justice, integrity, competence, and utility are the four main pillars that can help create code of ethics). In addition, ethics is required in the tourism sector to make it move with transparency. The more the ethics, the more will be the public and tourists' interaction.

The tourism industry has long been touted as a main contributor to GDP in Lebanon's services-oriented economy, but it endured an almost several years long downturn following the onset of the conflicts in Middle East Region, and then with Beirut Port Blast, Covid-19, and the Arab Gulf countries' travel advisories against Lebanon that have been issued on and off. The tourism industry has been gradually recovering since 2014, and although it is still not back to its much-hailed peak, it seems there is a strong will among stakeholders to get Lebanon back in its tourism groove (Rahhal, 2019).

II.2. Handicrafts

The art of Lebanon is quite diverse. The country has a wealth of art, some of which has been preserved from the days of Phoenician occupation in 400 BC. "Handicrafts" is among this art.

Handicrafts are part of tangible cultural heritage of all nations. This cultural component can lead to economic development, regarding the role of handicrafts in tourism and development and one of the factors influencing the tourist's attraction.

Many countries, considering the handicrafts as the main core in tourism development, establish the tourism facilities near main handicraft production centers. There is a mutual relationship between tourism and handicrafts. Handicrafts contribute to tourism development will end in growth of handicrafts production and sell (Bushat, 2017).

Lebanon is one of the only countries whose craft goes back so far in History. In fact, Lebanon has witnessed ten thousand years of uninterrupted efforts in assuring the continuity of its crafts, while guarding against the trap of modernity and industrialization. Crafts in Lebanon are numerous and varied and most are attributed to the patient work of craftsmen of the Lebanese people. Namely, blown glass, Phoenician Tyrean Purple fabrics, fine ceramics and the Arab's magnificent jewelry, delicately embroidered textiles and garments woven with gold and silver threads. There is also the manufacture of the crusader's bronze bells, 19th century cutlery and 20th century leather crafts (<https://www.opulentroutes.com/services/cultural-tourism-of-lebanon/>).

Craft of blown Glass

First Phoenicians worked the glass paste and succeeded in transforming the traditional opaque material into a transparent glass. This technique confirmed the Phoenician glass craft in its nobility and its trade flourished as appreciation for the transparent glass works became widespread in the world as it was known then. Blown glass workshops appeared in all Phoenician cities, and more particularly in Tyre, Sidon, and Tripoli (<https://365daysoflebanon.com/2016/05/23/the-ancient-art-of-glassblowing/>).

The success of the Phoenician glass craft was also owed to the diversity of shapes and ornaments produced and they manufactured molded glass works hence producing glass bottles, perfume containers, and decorative cups ornamented with motifs and sculptures of human faces, animals, and vegetal patterns.

Lately, blown glass replaced traditional pottery in the manufacture of tableware like serving dishes, drinking glasses, carafes, eating plates, *etc.* Blown glass crafts from Lebanon spread around the antic world thanks to the diligence of traveling merchants and sailors. The Lebanese craftsmen's work was often copied by the Italians and namely by craftsmen from Murano. The latter continued to import from Lebanon raw materials needed in the manufacture of their well-known glass crafts, and thus until the 19th century (<http://www.destinationlebanon.gov.lb/en/tourismtype/details/17/41>). Nowadays, Lebanon accounts for four major blown glass manufacturing sites which are in Tripoli, Halat, Khayzaran and Sarafand.

The art of Metal

The discovery of copper marks the beginning of the metal era in the Orient. Copper was first used as an alloy in the composition of bronze, and hence in the production of weapons like daggers, spears, arrows, and swords. Elders also used bronze in the production of chiseled and engraved dishes of. Variety of gold dishes found in Phoenicia provides significant proof that Phoenicians mastered the art of chiseling and engraving

metal perfectly. The latter were generally decorated with hunting scenes or geometrical designs. This metal crafting art was perpetuated in Lebanon although the decorative subjects changed over time. For example, during the Byzantine Era, the patterns engraved on silver plates were mostly religious and inspired from the Holy Bible and the Gospels. Whereas during the Islamic Era, the engraving became purely calligraphic and decorative as craftsmen privileged the transcription of verses from the Holy Koran (<https://vatican.com/Islamic-Arabic-Engraved/>).

As for the church bells industry, it was imported by the crusaders during the 12th century and is therefore considered to be relatively recent in Lebanon. This technique is exclusively perpetuated in Beit Chabab, a village in the Lebanese mountains located 30 km East to Beirut.

Lebanese workshops continue to manufacture different metallic products and some of their characteristics have evolved throughout the centuries. Dishes are produced in larger sizes sometimes reaching a diameter of 70 cm and the metal used is either bronze or an alloy of copper and pewter or even pure copper. Engravings have also evolved into the print of folkloric proverbs or quotations glorifying the beauty of the Lebanese scenery (<https://365daysoflebanon.com/2016/08/09/the-beauty-of-copper/>). The craft of copper is perpetuated in workshops concentrated in Tripoli, Qalamoun, Beirut, Zahleh, Sidon and Baalbek.

Ceramic and Pottery Crafts

The coastal city of Byblos is the world's first stone built-up area. It is from Byblos's rubbles that the first pottery items were exhumed, and these are recognized as the ancestors of Lebanese crafted ceramics.

Pottery was crafted by hand and left to dry in the sun. Later, man invented the oven which could provide heat up to 500 °C. In the middle of the 5th millennium B.C. Ovens were developed that could generate heat up to 1,200 °C. As for the pottery wheel, it appeared later, around 3500 B.C., in Mesopotamia. Its use rapidly spread outside Lebanon where it is still employed as of today. The clay used by Lebanese pottery craftsmen is of high quality (<https://www.the961.com/ancient-artisanships-still-alive/>).

Initially, craftsmen in the region privileged engraved and incised geometrical patterns for the decoration of their pottery. Painting appeared later as a pottery decorating tool whereas enameling techniques only spread across Europe with the arrival of the Arabs.

In Lebanon, there are two artistic trends: The first favors the production of ceramics with a monochrome polished coating, while the second more traditional trend, offers pottery decorated with ancient motifs like zigzags and dark color spirals on a grayish foundation. The major ceramics workshops in Lebanon are located in Beit Chabab, Rachaya El Fakhar, Assia, Aita El-Fakhar, Jisr El-Qadi, Jamhour, Al-Mina, Khaldeh and Ghazieh.

Silk

Weaving has been practiced in Lebanon since the oldest Phoenician times. The latter used to spin wool, cotton, and linen into threads on a spindle (a wooden spike known as the shaft) before moving to the use of a manual loom. The produced fabrics were of high quality and served mainly as barter merchandise. The good reputation of Phoenician fabrics was strengthened even more upon the discovery of Tyrean Purple (or Royal Purple), a dye extracted from a mollusk (the murex) (https://www.worldhistory.org/Tyreian_Purple/). These fabrics were unique in their color and became deeper with sun exposure, whereas other dyes used to lose their vividness in the same conditions. Royal Purple fabrics spread widely across the antic world and their prices soared.

Sericulture or silk farming spread rapidly in Lebanon and soon enough, natural silk fabrics trade became the region's most important source of revenue. Here again, the most beautiful silk fabrics were those that were dyed with Royal Purple. Byzantine emperors appreciated them so much that they covered the walls of their palaces with the purple silk. After the extinction of the murex mollusk, Lebanese craftsmen turned to polychrome embroidery of silk. Sericulture and silk weaving remained the Lebanese people's most important trade up until the First World War and their major clients were French (namely Lyon and Marseille). Unfortunately, sericulture declined dramatically with the advent of artificial silk production, although it is being revived today in Lebanon with the help of an organization dedicated to support natural silk craftsmen (<https://thearabweekly.com/silk-museum-keeps-memory-lebanese-industry-alive>). The major silk weaving manufacturers in Lebanon are now in Baskinta, Zouk, Barja, Bchetfine, Baadaran, Kousba, Chhim, Fekhe, Ersal and Bakkifa.

Weaving Crafts

Weaving in Lebanon was not exclusive to some privileged families or villages, as opposed to most other crafts. The weaving crafts are part of the country's history and played a significant role in its economy as they have involved large communities. At the beginning of the 20th century, Lebanon accounted for a few hundred weaving looms, while these crafts survive barely lately continuing to deliver some magnificent craftsmanship (<http://www.destinationlebanon.gov.lb/en/tourismtype/details/17/46>).

Tapestry

Carpet weaving or tapestry is essentially an oriental craft and its main activity centers are in Iran and Anatoly. As for the Lebanese, they have been manufacturing simple carpets for centuries; however, they refined their technique starting in the 17th century. At that time, the Emir Fakhreddine II the Great authorized the installation of Turkmen tribes on the northern frontier of the country. These tribes used to protect the land against the threat of invaders and brought their carpet weaving techniques with them (<https://www.facebook.com/LebanonExperiences/posts/carpet-weaving-or-tapestry-is-essentially-an-oriental-craft-and-its-main-activit/115002490667854/>).

Carpet weaving looms remained in a few villages of the Akkar area, namely Aïdamoun, up until the 19th century. Later, the looms and the weaving technique spread across Lebanon as certain families migrated and settled in the Baalbek (Fekha) region, Tripoli and in the Chouf region (Baaqline).

Contemporary craftsmen have perpetuated the precious and traditional techniques of their ancestors. Carpet weaving factories in Aïdamoun, Tripoli and Fekha remain loyal to the Anatolian school, while those of Baaqline still follow the Iranian discipline.

Carpets woven in Lebanon are polychronic and very supple. Most used colors, other than black and white, are red, navy blue, pink and yellow. They are often used as floor carpets, but also as sofa or bed covers, decorative pillowcases, or hung as tapestries.

Embroidery and Crochet

Embroidery in Lebanon is not considered to be a craft as all families, whether peasants, villagers, or city-dwellers, practiced it as well as crochet, thus perpetuating ancestral traditions. The young ladies were working as they had to start preparing their trousseau as of their tenth year which contains both embroidery for personal use such as veils, undergarments and dresses, and embroidery items for household use: window, cupboard and closet curtains, bed covers, protective covers for sofas and tablecloths.

Embroidery never declined throughout Lebanon's history, and thus for a simple reason; this technique did not require costly equipment, and it was practiced at home. Later, when philanthropic associations decided to help promote and develop this traditional craft, their only concern was to find the right locations that could hold the large numbers of women and young ladies interested. Recently, embroidery workshops are everywhere in Lebanon, and their production helps support entire families living in remote villages that were once in peril (<https://www.worldhistory.org/article/1545/ancient-handicrafts-in-rural-lebanon/>).

The embroidery works are collected from the villages and dispatched to the capital where they are sold in specialized shops. "*La Maison de l'Artisan* " is an official body that looks after many embroidery workshops, supporting them financially, technically, and helping them sell off their produce. One can also find a multitude of embroidery works showcased and sold in the regions, thus reflecting the specificities in Tripoli, Batroun, Zgharta, Zouk-Mikhael, Jounieh, Deir el-Qamar, Baaqline, Zahleh, Baalbek, Jibjanine in Sidon, Tyre, Beirut, in the neighborhoods of Achrafieh, Hamra, Aïn El-Mreisseh and Clémenceau.

Wood Craft

Lebanon is famous for its legendary Cedar wood since Antic times. The Phoenicians used it as construction wood for their houses and ships. Cedar wood was also a valuable trade instrument with Egypt and Mesopotamia to where it was transported by men, camels, or donkeys. Thus, cedar wood was also used by the Egyptians since the start of the 3rd millennium B.C. (<http://www.fao.org/3/y9882e/y9882e13.htm>), namely,

to construct their ships. Cedar wood was also used for mortuary stones, statues sculpting, and palaces' furniture manufacturing. In Jerusalem, Palestine, the roof, and monumental doors of the Temple of Solomon were made of sculpted and engraved Cedar wood.

This natural resource was abundantly used in Lebanon and manufactured all their furniture with their precious cedar wood. The Cedar wood panels were either painted or decorated by engraving and sculpting with beautiful vegetal motifs, or encrusted with small nacre, bone, or ivory shapes (lozenges, triangles, or squares).

Unfortunately, with the advent of modernization and mechanical instruments, the art of engraving and sculpting wood has progressively disappeared. As for the incrustation craft which requires highly skilled hands, it remains a living contemporary form of art, producing domestic furniture encrusted with nacre and ivory, as well as some traditional wooden games like backgammon, and decorative objects. In a typical wood crafting workshop, a master craftsman works with an apprentice, who manufactures the wooden object to be decorated, saws and paints the wood, while the master prepares and applies the veneer. For this purpose, the master assembles very thin pieces of wood that are glued together to form the main stalk. The design is then veneered on the surface to be decorated.

Wood Craftsmen are currently concentrated in the suburbs of Beirut. Whereas wood craft is no longer limited to that of Cedar wood, as they have diversified into rose wood, olive tree, mahogany, and beech wood.

Cutlery

The Phoenicians first manufactured bronze knives before moving to the use of more noble metals like silver and gold. As a matter of fact, archeologists have found a strikingly and modern silver knife encrusted with gold, in a royal tomb in Byblos dating from the 19th century B.C (<https://365daysoflebanon.com/tag/haddad-cutlery/>)

Ansar, a southern city, was known for knife manufacturing for a long time, but this craft has declined lately. At present, the center of handicraft cutlery is in Jezzine, a city located 40 km from Beirut. Jezzine workshops use materials like ivory, and buffalo, goat, or sheep horns, as well as stainless steel, silver steel and copper. The shape of the cutlery objects manufactured there is quite unique. The bird's wings are made of copper and the head is mounted by a tuft made of bone material and dyed in red. A Jezzine cutlery craftsman can only manufacture six to seven pieces per day.

Leather

Leather was a much sought-after material during Antiquity. Phoenicians used leather more specifically for confection of bags and water containers, as well as in maritime accessories. They used it so abundantly that they exhausted leather resources and went on gathering the required stocks in oriental and occidental Africa. Notes left by the great Carthaginian navigator Hannon (5th century) described his journey on the coasts

of occidental Africa, where leather is mentioned as one of the raw materials he gathered from these far regions.

Decorated and engraved leather appeared in Lebanon during the Byzantine and Islamic Eras. It was much appreciated by Byzantine emperors and Arab Caliphs. Nowadays it is mostly used in the confection of items such as clothes, belts, shoes, traveling bags, suitcases, sitting cushions, *etc.*

Lebanon's main tanneries are in the village of Machghara (75 km from Beirut, in the Bekaa Plain), while smaller leather workshops are concentrated in the capitals' suburbs, especially in the Karantina.

Wickerwork

Wickerwork is the art of weaving straw and wicker and is as ancient as it is widespread in Lebanon. The main wickerwork centers are found along the coastal zone of Lebanon, and in some villages like Zgharta, Kefraya, Baysour, Majdalaya, Barbara and Khayzaran.

Initially, this craft developed to meet domestic needs and did not constitute a trade of any kind. Wicker workers mainly manufactured straw mats used in the mountains to protect wooden floors or cover flower pergolas in the summer.

Straw was also used to manufacture big dishes, fruit baskets, sewing boxes, and bags, as well as chairs. All these items were decorated with traditional geometrical designs.

As for wicker, it was used to manufacture baskets in different sizes and dishes in which farmers carried their fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, this craft is declining rapidly as more resistant raw materials like plastic and rubber replace straw and wicker. For this reason, the Lebanese authorities, with the help of the "*Maison de l'Artisan*", encourage wicker workers to perpetuate their tradition. The latter's productions are dispatched to Beirut where the "*Maison de l'Artisan*" promotes and sells them (<http://mot.gov.lb/Content/uploads/Publication/140310041133978~Handicrafts.pdf>).

Near Jbeil, in Amchit, wicker workers have developed the craft of palm weaving to produce caps, baskets and flower pot baskets. In Kouachra, 3 km from the northern frontier, halfah or esparto grass is used to manufacture multicolored mats and large trays. While in the village of Hermel, 58 km of Baalbek, workshops weave praying rugs with colored corn straw, whereas wicker workers in the coastal villages like Zgharta, Helweh, Kefraya and Sidon, are specialized in braided cane or wicker with which they manufacture large baskets for the transportation of fruits and citrus fruits.

Gold and Silver smiting

Phoenicians have used gold and silver as raw materials since the 3rd millennium B.C (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Lebanon/Phoenicia-as-a-colonial-and-commercial-power>). They have mainly used electrum, an alloy of silver and gold, to manufacture beautiful statuettes more than four millennia ago. They have also introduced

the technique of gold leafing to shield small bronze statuettes. As for necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and other jewelry, Phoenicians crafted them exclusively with gold and semi-precious stones like carnelian, amethyst, lapis-lazuli, hematite, *etc.* Pure gold was decorated with geometrical motifs and very fine curvy designs according to the “granulation” process.

Jewelry crafting evolved in the Orient and gave way to new techniques like filigree producing delicate “ajoure” jewelry made of twisted threads and usually encrusted with gemstones. These techniques were transmitted by the Orient to Europe by the Persians, the Scythians and Sarmatians. Later, the Gauls and Franks traveling to the Orient also learned and brought back the filigree technique which was praised by the French court of kings and earned the name of “cloisonné” jewelry. Finally, the Arabs took over the craft and started manufacturing very fine jewelry.

The jewelry crafting art is still very much alive in Lebanon and great local artists have remained loyal to their ancestors and masters, working with gold, silver, and bronze with equal passion. Gold jewelry crafting workshops are concentrated in Tripoli, Sidon, Tyre, Zahleh and Baalbek. As for silver jewelry it is mostly handcrafted in Beirut and Rachaya Al-Wadi.

II.3. Modalities of participation of local communities in tourism development

Tourism is now a primary source of income in many developing countries and frequently exceeds the value, particularly the foreign currency value, of marine fisheries in those nations. Despite the importance in tourism of the quality of the natural environment, coastal and marine tourism areas are vulnerable to hasty and inappropriate development. Poorly managed tourism can lead to environmental degradation and a decline in the number of tourists. The components of coastal and marine environments that are important for tourism include clear water, sandy beaches, relevant facilities (*e.g.*, resorts, hotels, *etc.*) and opportunities to view marine life. Well-managed marine protected areas with core ‘no-take’ reserves are often major tourist attractions.

The establishment of marine protected areas is a successful management method to raise the profile of any area for marine tourism and to broaden the local economic options. It is important that the development of the tourism industry is carefully planned to ensure that it is acceptable and sustainable for the local human communities.

With appropriate training and support, local communities can gain additional economic benefit through managing the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and involvement in businesses that take tourists to the marine reserve, as well as receiving the benefits of improved local fishing. Experience in many countries shows that protected areas often earn significant revenue and make an important contribution to local economies (https://www.iucn.org/downloads/pag_002.pdf).

II.3.1. The Blue Economy

According to the World Bank (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/search?q=blue+economy>), the blue economy (BE) is the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.” While European Commission defines BE as “all economic activities related to oceans, seas, and coasts” (https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2021-05/the-eu-blue-economy-report-2021_en.pdf). It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors”, besides, the Commonwealth of Nations considers BE as “an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of ocean or ‘blue’ resources” (<https://thecommonwealth.org/blue-economy>).

While, the Conservation International adds that BE includes economic benefits that may not be marketed, such as carbon storage, coastal protection, cultural values and biodiversity (<https://www.conservation.org/blog/what-on-earth-is-the-blue-economy>).

The Center for the Blue Economy stated that “blue economy” is now a widely used term with three related but distinct meanings, these are:

1. The overall contribution of the oceans to economies,
2. The need to address the environmental and ecological sustainability of the oceans,
3. The ocean economy as a growth opportunity for both developed and developing countries.

A United Nations representative recently defined the BE as “an economy that comprises a range of economic sectors and related policies that together determine whether the use of ocean resources is sustainable” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_economy). An important challenge of the BE is to understand and better manage the many aspects of oceanic sustainability, ranging from sustainable fisheries to ecosystem health to preventing pollution. BE challenges people to realize that the sustainable management of ocean resources requires collaboration across borders and sectors through a variety of partnerships, and on a scale that has not been previously achieved.

The UN notes that BE aids in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular goal 14, entitled: life below water. World Wildlife Fund begins its report “Principles for a Sustainable BE” with two senses given to this term: Yet there is a contradictory in implementing the BE, and thus it is believed, from one side, as the use of the sea and its resources for sustainable economic development; and from another side as any economic activity in the maritime sector, whether sustainable or not. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reveals in its purpose of the report, there is still no widely accepted definition of the term BE despite increasing high-level adoption of it as a concept and as a goal of policy making and investment (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_economy).

Canada, Kenya and Japan co-hosted the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in November, 2018. This first-ever global conference on the sustainable BE aimed to help further the international community’s support of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

BE can harness the potential of the marine environments, lakes, and rivers to improve lives there, particularly people in developing countries, women, youth, and indigenous peoples. It leverages the latest innovations, scientific advances, and best practices to build prosperity, while conserving water for future generations (<https://ictsd.iisd.org/tags/oceans>).

For centuries, the Mediterranean coast, typically the Lebanese coast has played a key role in the vibrant economic and social fabric of Lebanon. It has shaped and defined coastal communities, fed people and the rest of the World for generations, connected it to diverse cultures across the globe, and charted paths for exploration and new scientific discoveries.

Lebanon has a major role in marine conservation and protection and can be considered as a key player in the BE. There are several sectors involved in the marine environment, with a special emphasis on fisheries and aquaculture, energy, shipping, tourism, and recreation. A comprehensive BE Strategy must be adopted in Lebanon, where it might help guide and support growth and modernization of high-potential sea sectors and job creation in our Indigenous and coastal communities.

BE contributes in creating reliable, middle-class jobs while ensuring that locals protect and restore the health of the marine environment. It supports ocean innovation and allows the development of new and ground-breaking technologies and takes advantage of the latest scientific findings and best practices, while steadily building prosperity and conserving our oceans for future generations.

II.3.2. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The Lebanese coastal zone has been subject to several converging pressures stemming, in addition to the changing climatic conditions, from population growth, forced migration, poor planning, urban sprawl, and encroachment, unregulated expansion, and coastal artificialization resulting in the deterioration of the environmental quality and ecological integrity of the coast.

On the international level, Lebanon has signed several environment-related international conventions and treaties including UNEP Barcelona Convention (1978), which aim to prevent sea-based and land-based pollution. However, Lebanon has ratified its latest Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol, the importance of which was highlighted and complemented by the climate change-related dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean.

On the national level, the framework Law for the Protection of the Environment (444/2002) lays out the principles governing the protection of the coast and aquatic environment and of aiming to reduce pollution sources, in accordance with the provisions of regional and international conventions ratified by Lebanon.

Moreover, Law 690/2005 entrusts the Ministry of Environment (MoE) with setting up coastal and freshwater resource standards and norms to appraise their pollution level.

It also stipulates the reorganization of the MoE, the creation of a Council for the Environment with strengthened safeguarding and possibly overriding powers at the central level and provides for the introduction of new legal and economic instruments, such as the polluter-pays principle. Nevertheless, these laws still lack to the effectiveness, implementation, and enforcement (https://www.undp.org/content/dam/lebanon/docs/Energy%20and%20Environment/Publications/SOER_en.pdf).

On the institutional level, the main players (*e.g.*, municipalities, fishermen, ministries, *etc.*) involved in coastal zone management were determined based on their cross-communality and coordination or overlap by sector or themes. Though far from being comprehensive, the assessment underscored the importance of the intersection of the following main actors in terms of central and local jurisdiction, funding, planning and implementation, safeguarding and water management:

- The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPWT) is responsible for urban development and has jurisdiction over ports and the maritime public domains where the coastline setback in summertime does not exceed 3 m from private municipal land. Through several regulations, setbacks are extended to 11 meters for housing, 23 m for commercial construction, 500 to 1,000 m for quarry sitting, 1,000 m when the industrial process does not require a near shore sitting, and to various inland width for the public marine domain salt marshes, (*e.g.*, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR) and Byblos coastal archeological site). However, coastal setbacks are poorly enforced, which led to violations along the coastal zone, dating back to the civil war period that remained unresolved.
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) tutelage, government tiers (municipalities) have jurisdiction over contiguous coastline land; however, the government exercises both administrative and financial controls over them, which gives the former very little power and leverage, particularly regarding their ability to increase tariffs and fees or introduce fiscal instruments, while the solid waste management responsibility is still assumed by municipalities (<https://kth.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1139992/FULLTEXT01.pdf>).
- The Ministry of Finance (MoF) plays a key role in achieving State objectives by ensuring the timely transfer of budgeted funds to line ministries, agencies, and government tiers. These transfers allow asserting the respective sovereign prerogatives (attribution) and executing their obligations (public services and utilities). The regularity of transfers has; however, been affected by the burden of increasing debt. Moreover, MoF is responsible for cadaster management, which puts all land transactions under its authority and responsibility (<https://ewdata.rightsindevelopment.org/files/documents/92/WB-P159692.pdf>).
- Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) has been the executing agency for most governmental development projects and has also planned prerogatives recently including land use prerogatives.
- MoE has primary safeguarding responsibility which extends across line ministries,

agencies, and government tiers with restricted resources and enforcement power that is often a challenge. For example, the management of the protected areas is under the responsibility of the MoE attributes, but often is difficult to fulfill given the irregularity of the MoF transfers.

- Academia and NGOs also play a significant role in coastal zone management. The Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) is the Government of Lebanon's arm seeking to attract foreign investments to notably buy prime coastal properties has some bearing on coastal land governance (Ministry of Environment, Lebanon, 2009).

The marine environment of Lebanon, including the coast and the adjacent seawater, is a unique destination for tourists. There is a variety of intervening rocky and sandy coastline. Therefore, numerous activities exist along the coastal zone of Lebanon, such as: snorkeling and diving, which is common between Beirut and Jounieh Bay, Chekka, Jbail (Byblos), Saida (Sidon), and Soor (Tyre).

Along the coast of Lebanon, there are also several world-class shipwreck sites, including "Le Souffleur" (a French submarine from World War II) near Khaldeh. In addition, Lebanon's coastline is aligned with many private beach resorts and diving clubs offering facilities and equipment rentals for diving and snorkeling. Surfing in Lebanon is not a new sport and can be traced back before the civil war. However, Lebanon was officially put on the international surfing map in 2014, once the International Surfing Association (ISA) formally recognized Lebanon as a surfing destination. Thus, the best locations for surfing in Lebanon are Batroun, Kfarabida, Byblos and Jiyeh.

III. Conclusions

Lebanon is known by its exquisite natural features including diversity, glamor, European flavor, and hospitable people. Its rich culture and history have placed it on the “must see” list of every World traveler. In addition, the Lebanese cities are among the most famous names in ancient history and majestic ruins, and they still stand today as a testimony to the greatness of many civilizations.

The nature of Lebanon makes it the only country in the Arab World that embraces four seasons yearly. Therefore, the country holds many attractions where visitors can explore. Hence, visiting Lebanon gives a chance to observe artificial and natural thrills and this allows tourists to experience and gain knowledge about Lebanese culture.

It is not exaggerated to say that the number of tourism-attracting sites along the Lebanese coast are tremendous compared to the length and area of this zone. However, the natural interlinkage (and proximity) between the coast of Lebanon and the adjacent mountain areas, gives it another advantage and supports the development of tourism in the entire country. In addition, tourism in Lebanon proved to be of big value for the economic development in the country, not only through the tourist programs and campaigns, but through the contribution of local communities to touristic activities, such as handcrafts, and traditional industries and trading.

Actors in the development of tourism in Lebanon have been identified with different levels, starting from locals and small-scale tourism developers to high-level decision makers and ministries. However, there is still a gap and lack of effective coordination between these actors. This has been exacerbated lately due to the existing challenges (e.g., political situation, financial crisis, Covid-19, *etc.*), and thus, the status of tourism in Lebanon is under stress.

Lebanon’s tourism encompasses all types of this development industry. This has been created because of the existence of numerous natural, cultural, historical, religious, and commercial components which are interlinked with each other, and this characterizes the tourism in Lebanon with complementary programs. This must be well understood by the Lebanese governmental bodies, as the tourism industry is one of the most significant inputs for the country’s GDP and it provides a big number of employment opportunities. Nevertheless, if badly managed the tourism industry in a fragile environment like the coastal zone of Lebanon, it might result in the destruction of the ecosystem and the infrastructures as well as the natural components, notably in the absence of legal enforcement and ineffective and constrained implementations for legislations and laws.

As an aspect of BE, tourism in Lebanon requires to be supported by the coordination of several governmental bodies, represented mainly by the concerned ministries and authorities in order to put a future strategy from which integrated protection and management approaches of tourism sites can be initiated. This can be reinforced by the networking with regional and international entities and conventions who often account Lebanon in their agendas, while establishing comprehensive touristic programs for the entire Mediterranean Region.

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