

I. ALGERIA

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This country report provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the current state-of-play with regard to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Algeria¹. After detailing Algeria's country characteristics, its most important maritime activities are presented. Next, the country report discusses the legal aspects, key players, plans and projects related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and MSP as well as the relevant international initiatives and platforms for cooperation. To conclude, the main findings related to Maritime Spatial Planning are summed up. The sources of information used and persons contacted are listed at the end. *Please note that Algeria forms part of one of the four marine areas which were studied in further detail.*

I.1. COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS

Algeria is one of the North African countries having a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. At the sea side, Algeria is bordered by Tunisia in the east and Morocco in the west. A summary of the most important country characteristics is presented in *Table 1*.

¹ For the purpose of this study 20 country reports have been drawn up in total. Relevant available information on Monaco is included in the case study of the Western Mediterranean and information on the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) is included in the case study of the Alboran Sea.

Table 1 : Country characteristics – Algeria

<u>Algeria</u>		
Coastal regions*	Tlemcen, Aïn-Témouchent, Oran, Mostaganem, Chlef, Tipaza, Alger, Boumerdès, Tizi-Ouzou, Béjaïa, Jijel, Skikda, Annaba, El-Tarf	
Coastline length**	998 km	
Water depth	Data not available	
Maritime zones***	Breadth	Area (km²)
Territorial sea	12 nm	27 863
Exclusive Fishing Zone	32-52 nm	/

* The coastal regions constitute the coastal provinces (commonly referred to as Wilaya's)

** Source: MedPAN, www.medpan.org

*** Based on the national acts or decrees of the maritime zones; EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – searchable database

Source : Policy Research Corporation

I.2. MARITIME ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AREAS

In Algeria, *fisheries*² is one of the traditional maritime sectors. The country decided to establish an Exclusive Fishing Zone. Nevertheless, efforts were needed to revive and further develop the fisheries sector and to further exploit Algeria's potential with regard to fisheries given the fact that only 2.2 million of the 9.5 million hectare of the maritime area under Algeria's jurisdiction was exploited³. The following fishing areas were identified⁴:

- Depth 0 – 200 m: zones often exploited by the national fleet;
- Depth 200 – 500 m: zones occasionally exploited by the national fleet;
- Depth > 500 m: unexploited area;
- International waters: no intervention.

In the framework of the *National Development Scheme for Fisheries and Aquaculture – Horizon 2025* (adopted in 2007), the Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Resources⁵ endorsed the optimisation of the exploitation of resources by the modernisation of the fishing fleet. Since it was impossible to make justified decisions without considerable insight into fishing stocks and as up-to-date data was not available, the Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Resources launched two campaigns concerning the assessment of fish stocks (February 2003 – February 2004: a Spanish – Algerian cooperation). This assessment allowed for the identification of new unexploited fishing zones and resulted in the

² Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010; Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques, 2008, *Le secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Algérie*.

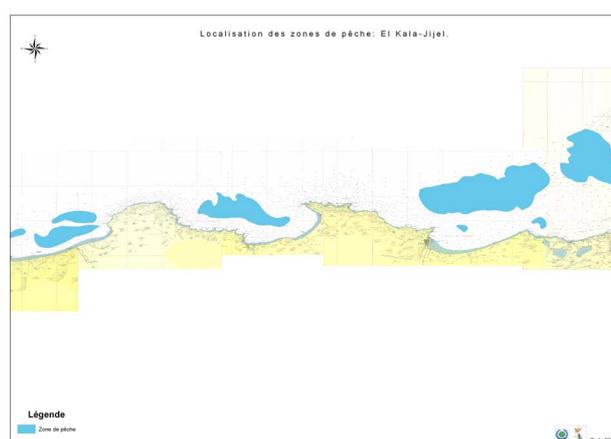
³ Due to limited use of advanced navigation techniques and limited positioning of sea fishing (resulting from limited training of the Algerian fishermen), a situation of overexploitation of fishing resources is experienced in the most 'popular' fishing spots; Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail March 1, 2010.

⁴ Fishermen by their professional competence can only act on the coastal strip.

⁵ Ministère de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques.

development of fishing zone maps, insight into the geographical distribution of the different species and the density of species per area. An example of such a fishing zone map is presented in *Figure 1*. In 2008, 138 800 tonnes of fish were caught in Algeria⁶.

Figure 1: Location of the fishing zones in El Kala – Jijel



Source: Policy Research Corporation based on Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010

Although specific efforts are taken to upgrade the fishing activities, *mariculture* activities in Algeria remain limited.

A high number of *maritime transport routes* pass by Algerian waters. Around 10% of global maritime transport passes near the Algerian coasts, which carry 400 million tonnes of petrol. Moreover, almost 80 millions tonnes of hydrocarbons pass through Algerian petrol terminals. In addition, the bulk of the Algerian trade is transported by sea. More than 60% of this trade is handled by the Port of Alger⁷.

Emerging and future maritime activities in Algeria include the desalination of sea water, the exploitation of marine aggregates, the installation of offshore wind farms and the use of wave energy as a new energy source⁸:

– **Desalination of sea water (emerging):**

- Development of stations for the desalination of sea water aiming to increase the availability of drink water, especially for coastal populations;
- Activities take place on land parts that are in direct contact with the sea⁹;

⁶ FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*

⁷ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010.

⁸ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010.

⁹ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail March 1, 2010.

- Expected to have implications for the marine and coastal ecosystem resulting from among others the salt deposits which affect the seabed and sensitive marine and coastal habitats (Posidonia sea grass beds, other underwater meadows, the coralline, remarkable species) but also from the choice of location of the installations (scattered along the entire Algerian coast), the design of these installations and the technology used¹⁰.
- ***Exploitation of marine aggregates (future):***
 - Seriously considered as a solution to meet the strong demand for sand for construction purposes; the latter mainly for beaches.
- ***Offshore wind farms (future):***
 - Seriously considered by the government as an alternative energy source;
 - Currently, Algeria does not possess any wind energy installations, apart from some onshore pilot projects by the Ministry of Physical Planning, Environment and Tourism¹¹; offshore wind farms are not yet on the agenda.
- ***Wave energy (future):***
 - Configuration of the Algerian coast and water circulation enable the generation of energy from waves;
 - Currently, there are no wave energy activities yet.

The willingness of the Algerian government to ***protect the most remarkable and vulnerable components of its coastal and marine ecosystem***, was translated through among others the following institutions and events:

- The establishment of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, the Environment and Tourism in 2000 provided a new impulse to the country's nature preservation policy;
- National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)¹²:
 - Setting up (and managing of) networks for observation and measurement of pollution (air, water, soil);
 - Monitoring the natural environment;
 - Undertaking the necessary studies to improve knowledge of the environment and the experienced pressure.
- National Office for the Coast (CNL)¹³:
 - Plays a central role in the national policy with regard to the preservation of remarkable marine habitats.

Furthermore, a number of studies aiming at the identification of marine and coastal areas in need of protection have been conducted. In addition, a law on protected areas in Algeria was proposed.

¹⁰ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail March 1, 2010.

¹¹ Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme.

¹² L'Observatoire de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable.

¹³ Commissariat National du Littoral.

In the framework of the establishment of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, the first concrete steps were taken by the establishment of the Marine Nature Reserve on the Habibas Islands¹⁴. Apart from this Marine Protected Area (MPA), which was internationally recognised as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance¹⁵ (SPAMI) and an Important Bird Area¹⁶ (IBA) and has a marine surface of 27 km² (total surface of 27.4 km²). However, according to a representative of the *Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral*, the objectives of the Habibas Islands MPA will only partially be achieved since the borders / limits of the area are not effective / visible and not respected. He insists to proceed quickly with regard to any recommendations included in the management plan, in particular those related to the materialisation of the Marine Nature Reserve of the Habibas Islands project. The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) indicates that five more MPAs are currently planned¹⁷.

Figure 2 shows the exact locations (in the Algerian territorial sea) of the Habibas Islands MPA and four of the five planned MPAs (excluding Tipaza).

Figure 2: Marine Protected Areas – Algeria



Planned MPAs – International recognition:

- El Kala: biosphere reserve;
- Gouraya: biosphere reserve;
- Ile Rechgoun: Important Bird Area (IBA);
- Taza: biosphere reserve and Important Bird Area (IBA);
- Tipaza¹⁸.

Source: Policy Research Corporation based on the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org

¹⁴ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010.

¹⁵ Specially protected area as defined in the Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

¹⁶ An Important Bird Area is designated by BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity.

¹⁷ The Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org.

¹⁸ No data available with regard to the international recognition of the planned MPA in Tipaza.

I.3. LEGAL ASPECTS AND KEY PLAYERS

The most important law related to MSP is the *coastal law*¹⁹ (Loi N° 2002-02 du 22 Dhou El Kaâda 1422 correspondant au 05 février 2002) on the protection and valorisation of the coastal zone. The coastal law defines the coastal zone and prescribes the fundamental principles of its use and its management. Thereby, the law establishes the framework for developing a national policy on coastal protection. The definition of the *coastal zone* comprises the natural shoreline, islands and islets, internal waters and the soil and subsoil of the territorial sea.

In addition, the *following legislation* is of importance to MSP:

- Law laying down the general rules for the use and exploitation of tourist beaches (Loi N° 03-02 du 17 février 2003);
- Maritime code (Loi N° 98-05 du Aouel Rabie El Aouel 1419 correspondant au 25 Juin 1998 modifiant et complétant l'ordonnance N° 76-80 du 23 Octobre).

Among others the *following actors* have competences with regard to ICZM and MSP in Algeria:

- Ministry of Spatial Planning, the Environment and Tourism;
- Ministry of Transport²⁰;
- Ministry of Fisheries and Fishery Resources;
- Ministry of Energy and Mines²¹;
- Ministry of Public Works²²;
- National Office of the Coastline (CNL);
- Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)²³;
- National Centre for the Development of Biological Resources (CNDRB)²⁴;
- Academic institutions and research institutes under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research are also involved as centres of expertise (ENSSMAL, ISM, USTHB, LRSE, CNDPA);
- Coastguard.

Several ministries also have decentralised institutions or local missions through Wilaya departments or specialised cells which are involved in Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning in Algeria.

¹⁹ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010; PAP/RAC, 2007, *La Planification Marine en Algérie*.

²⁰ Le Ministère des Transports.

²¹ Le Ministère de l'Énergie et des Mines.

²² Le Ministère des Travaux Publics.

²³ L'Observatoire de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable.

²⁴ Le Centre National du Développement des Ressources Biologiques.

I.4. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

A *Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for the Algerian Coastal Zone* was approved in 2001. It was developed at the request of the Algerian government who wanted to participate in the philosophy of Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Preliminary activities for the formulation of the CAMP began in 1995 with the preparation of a feasibility study. *Table 2* details the area covered as well as the programme's objectives and results.

The implementation of the coastal law of 5 February 2002 led to the start-up of *a register for the coastline*. This register covers:

- The delineation of the coastal area;
- The ecological balance;
- The balance of occupations;
- Action plans; identifying immediate actions to upgrade and establish a portfolio of projects.

Table 2: Coastal Area Management Programme – The Algerian Coastal Zone

Area covered:	The area of the CAMP extends between the Bay of Bou-Ismaïl in the east and the bay of Chenoua in the west; this specific area covers a land area of 447 173 ha and 80 000 ha of the seabed
Problematics and Objectives:	<p>The Algerian coastal zone encountered <i>numerous environmental problems</i>; the most important were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High urbanisation • Overexploitation of resources • Urban, industrial and agricultural pollution • Coastal erosion • Degradation of natural and cultural sites <p>The project formed a <i>part of the plan for the integrated management of the Algerian coast</i>; once completed it would be duplicated along the entire Algerian coast; the main objective was therefore to develop a shared vision and an operational strategy in order to reduce the negative impact of development in the coastal area, and to embark upon a prospective approach towards sustainable development, through defining an operational programme for the medium term</p>
Results:	The CAMP for the Algerian Coastal Zone was the first programme of its kind in Algeria and led to the creation of a CAMP in metropolitan areas of Annaba (PACAN) and Oran (PACO), promoting a truly integrated approach applied to a coastal territory
Project funding:	<p>The start-up budget was broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host country: 310 000 USD • UNEP-MAP: 350 000 USD

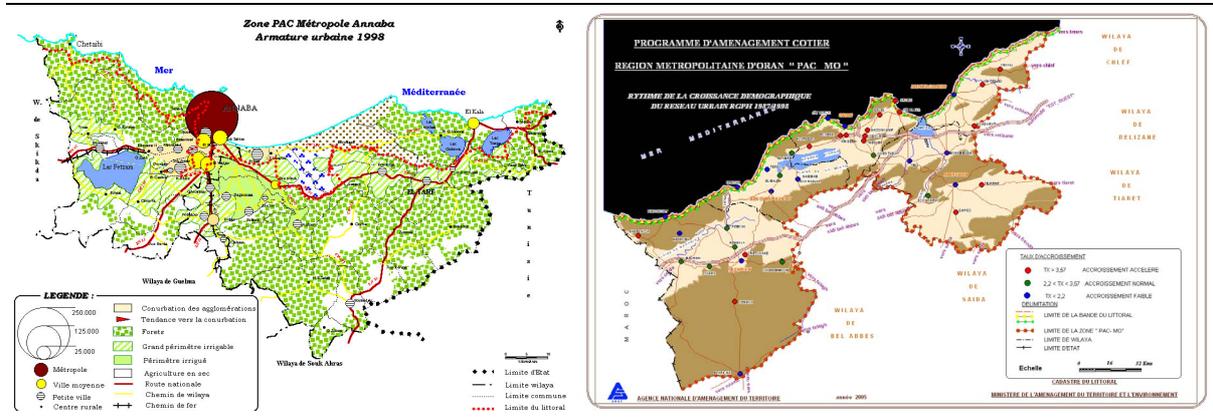
Source: Policy Research Corporation based on PAP/RAC, the Coastal Management Centre, www.pap-the-coastcentre.org; PAP/RAC, the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House, www.pap-medclearinghouse.org/eng/about_ch.asp

The Coastal Area Management Programme for the Algerian Coastal Zone, combined with the results of the register of the coastline, led to a *CAMP for the metropolitan areas of Annaba and Oran*, promoting an integrated approach applied to the coastal territory. The objectives of these CAMPS were to initiate a process of sustainable coastal development. Its basic elements were:

- Social development and well-being of the population;
- Further development of economic activities keeping in mind the rational use of the natural resources in that particular area;
- Halting the degradation of natural ecosystems;
- Prevention of negative impacts on the environment.

Figure 3 illustrates the area covered by the CAMP Annaba and Oran. Based on the results of these CAMP projects and the results of the coastal register, *coastal management plans were established at Wilaya level.*

Figure 3: Area covered by CAMP Annaba and CAMP Oran



Source : Policy Research Corporation

Furthermore, it was indicated by the Institute of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management²⁵ that an *operational ICZM strategy* was developed by the Ministry of Spatial Planning, the Environment and Tourism, supported by the World Bank and registered under the National Environmental Policy within the framework of the National Spatial Plan (Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire (SNAT)). The strategy provides the framework for ICZM applicable to diverse administrative levels keeping in mind all the changes that have affected the institutional and legislative frameworks over the last decade. It considers the institutional configuration and the existing legislation taking into account the gaps, inconsistencies and inadequacies of certain aspects of current laws to establish the foundations of an operational strategy ICZM in Algeria.

The legislative landscape strengthened by Law No. 02-02 February 5, 2002 on the protection and enhancement of the coast – that provides for the establishment of a series of entities including the National Coast Office, the Coastal Coordination Council and the Coastal Fund and plans such as the

²⁵ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail January 8, 2010; PAP/RAC, 2007, *La Planification Marine en Algérie.*

Emergency Response Plans and plans for Critical Areas or Protected Areas – makes it possible to envisage a serious process of ICZM.

This process would be based on the National Report on the Status and Future of the Environment (RNE 2000) and the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PNAE-DD), with its primary objective to reduce the environmental degradation in its broadest sense. In this context, the promotion of the integrated management of coastal areas is a necessity; it is a guarantee of the sustainability of the process of socio-economic development.

The eventual strategy will depend on the ability of governments to arrange various components in real strategic or long-term planning. Algeria has now reached the point that it needs to review the public policies conducted in the marine and coastal area and start towards a renewed way of thinking with regard to the development of the marine and coastal area in Algeria²⁶.

Algeria signed the Barcelona Convention's ICZM protocol in 2008 (*see Annex II* of the final report).

In addition, a number of important *spatial planning instruments related to coastal zones / marine areas* were identified:

– *National Spatial Plan (SNAT)*:

- Translates the fundamental strategic requirements of the national planning and sustainable development policy to the entire national territory;
- Fixes the conservation, protection and valorisation 'terms' of the coastal zones and the continental shelf, linked to:
 - Compliance with the conditions of urbanisation and occupation of coastal areas and the development of fishing and other activities;
 - Protection of coastal zones, continental shelf and marine waters against pollution hazards;
 - Protection of wetlands and aquatic archaeological heritage.
- Within the framework of the SNAT, master plans for major infrastructures and services of national interest were established; those including marine and coastal aspects are:
 - Natural Protected Areas Master Plan;
 - Water Master Plan;
 - Transport Master Plan;
 - Fisheries and Fishery Resources Development Master Plan;
 - Energy Networks Master Plan;
 - Tourism Development Master Plan;
 - Industrial Areas and Activities Master Plan;

²⁶ Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral, e-mail March 8, 2010.

- Master Plan for Coastal Development.
 - SNAT was approved by law for a period of 20 years; it is subject to periodic reviews and is updated every five years.
- **Master Plan for Coastal Development (*Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement du Littoral (SDAL)*):**
 - Translates specific conservation and valorisation requirements to the coastal zones, in compliance with SNAT.
- **Regional Spatial Plans (*Schémas Régionaux d'Aménagement du Territoire (SRAT)*):**
 - Detail the specific conservation and valorisation requirements for each region;
 - The Regional Spatial Plans for the coastal zones equally take into account the requirements of the Master Plan for Coastal Development.
- **Spatial Plans at Wilaya level (*Plans d'Aménagement du Territoire de Wilaya (PAW)*):**
 - Detail the specific conservation and valorisation requirements at Wilaya level.
- **Spatial Plan for the Coastal zone (*Plan d'Aménagement Côtier*):**
 - Designed to lay down special provisions relating to the protection and enhancement of coastal areas;
 - A tool for the management of the coastal zone, established to protect coastal areas (including the most sensitive areas in the municipalities adjacent to the sea);
 - Aim is to protect and ensure the rational and sustainable use of coastal resources by identifying solutions to the most urgent environmental problems; this identification is necessary in order to define intervention strategies for the land and for Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans.

I.5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

International initiatives (including EU-funded projects) related to ICZM and MSP in the Mediterranean Sea basin are presented in *Annex II of the final report*.

Algeria was / is involved in:

- The **Alboran platform**;
- The **Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative** (Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia);
- The following EU-funded projects:
 - The **MedPAN** project (Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey);
 - The **PEGASO** project (Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine);
 - The **SAFEMED** project (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).

I.6. MAIN FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

The main findings with respect to the potential for the application of Maritime Spatial Planning in Algeria are:

Country characteristics and maritime activities:

- Algeria did not establish an Exclusive Economic Zone; however, the country did establish an Exclusive Fishing Zone.

Current status of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning:

- Several steps towards the implementation of ICZM have been taken;
- An operational ICZM strategy has been developed;
- Algeria has a well-developed planning system at all levels concerned.

International cooperation:

- Spain, Morocco and Algeria have created a platform to discuss the conservation and sustainable development of the Alboran Sea and create trust amongst potential stakeholders involved.

I.7. OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND PERSONS CONTACTED

Sources of information used:

- EarthTrends, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems – searchable database;
- FAO, *Yearbook of fishery statistics*;
- PAP/RAC, *Project SMAP III : Sensibilisation et création d'un cadre politique favorisant l'intégration de l'environnement et du développement avec l'accent sur la gestion intégrée des zones côtières* ;
- PAP/RAC, the Coastal Management Centre, www.pap-the-coastcentre.org;
- PAP/RAC, the Mediterranean ICAM Clearing House, www.pap-medclearinghouse.org/eng/about_ch.asp;
- PAP/RAC, 2007, *La Planification Marine en Algérie*;
- PowerPoint Presentation concerning '*Initiatives récentes de la GIZC en Algérie*';
- Ministère de la pêche et des ressources halieutiques, 2008, *Le secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture en Algérie*;
- Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme, *le cadastre du littoral*;
- Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org;
- 4C Offshore, 2009, Global Offshore Wind Farms Database, www.4coffshore.com/offshorewind.

Persons contacted:

- Mr Farid Nezzar, MAP Focal Point;
- Ms Nadia Chenouf, Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme;
- Mr Samir Grimes, ICZM expert – Institut des Sciences de la Mer et de l'Aménagement du Littoral;
- Ms Samira Nateche, sous-directrice chargée du littoral, Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Environnement et du Tourisme.