



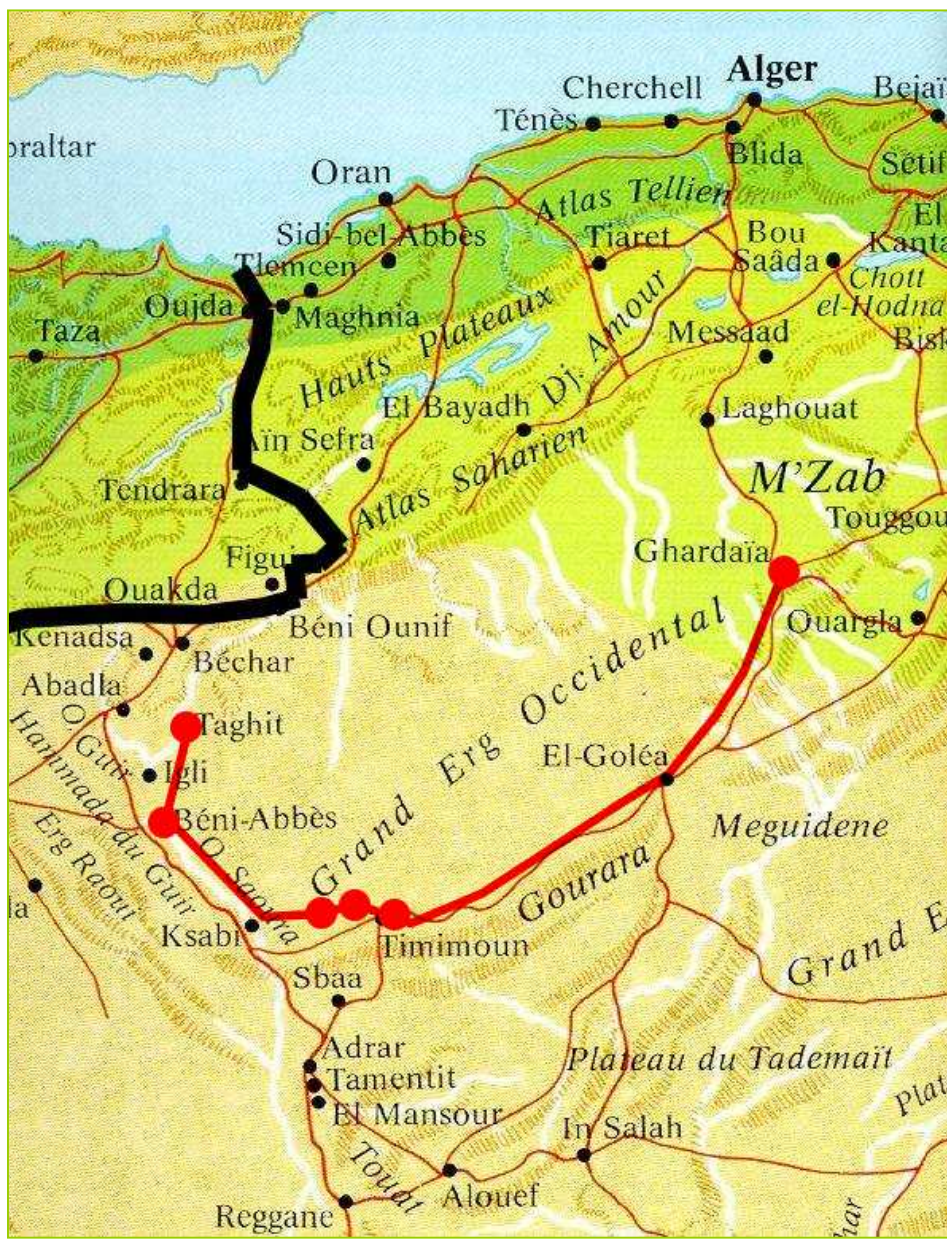
The *Ksour* Route

Algeria

Project Action Sites:

WILĀYĀT of BÉCHAR, ADRAR, GHARDAÏA

Taghit, Beni Abbès, Timimoun, Guentour, Aghlad, El Atteuf



Towards a strategy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Sahara in the context of combating poverty

“The *Ksour* Route”

INTRODUCTION

Following the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, on 13 September 2000, the United Nations agencies were invited to contribute as a matter of priority to combating poverty. In this connection, the General Conference, at its 31st session in November 2001, invited the Director-General to implement a Plan of Action relating to the cross-cutting theme of the fight against poverty and extreme poverty, which included the intersectoral project “The Sahara of Cultures and Peoples” (*Towards a strategy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Sahara in the context of combating poverty*).

The project also falls into the context of the follow-up to the World Ecotourism Summit (Quebec, Canada, 19-22 May 2002), of the Rio+10 Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg (South Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002), of the WTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and of the Plan of Action of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

The pilot project “The *Ksour* Route” is part of the 2003-2004 action plan of the UNESCO intersectoral project “The Sahara of Cultures and Peoples”, adopted at the Ghardaïa International Workshop (Algeria, 19-21 April 2003). It aims to promote sustainable tourism in order to develop the local populations’ independence of action in combating poverty in southern Algeria. It is directed above all at the most deprived populations and offers them a number of resources and tools to enable them to take charge of their own development.

Following activities to promote awareness and training, heritage will be restored and cultural and natural tourism products will be made, promoted, marketed and sold by the people themselves in a sustainability initiative. The income generated by tourism will form the basis for the heritage to be upgraded, will help to create jobs, especially in agriculture and services, and will energize activities that may form part of the development of tourism.

Since this project is subregional, it will first link the Algerian *Ksour*¹ into a network and then develop cross-border cultural tourist accommodation and routes to highlight the wealth of the heritage. National, subregional and international cooperation will be strengthened through the sharing of practical experiences and exchanges in the fields of the environment, the heritage and tourism.

¹ Translator’s note: *Ksour*, singular *Ksar*, are fortified villages.

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT TITLE: The Ksour Route	PRIORITIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To combat poverty.• To promote local governance.• To protect the tangible and intangible heritage.• To promote responsible and sustainable tourism.
PROJECT DURATION: three years (September 2004-September 2007)	
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: UNESCO	
PROGRAMME LEADER: Mr Hervé Barre	
PILOT PROJECT COORDINATOR: Ms Nesma Brahimi	

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen the capabilities of local actors and provide multidisciplinary training programmes.
- To protect, restore and re-vitalize the tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- To improve conditions for protecting the natural heritage of the oases.
- To strengthen national, subregional and international cooperation.

STRATEGY:

In general, the project strategy rests upon:

- The establishment of activities aimed at sustainable development and combating poverty.
- Involvement of the population, especially women, young people and the unemployed, in the management and direction of activities.
- The development of active teaching based on the “learn and do” principle in the different areas of the project (environment, heritage, tourism).
- Strengthening cooperation through the setting up of machinery for multidisciplinary exchanges at national, subregional and international level.

The strategy has three interdependent aspects:

The heritage:

- To re-energize mud-brick building, to promote authenticity and contemporariness.
- To set up and support local building cooperatives and associations.
- To recognize and pass on the skills of the *Maalmine*, the traditional Master-builders.
- To identify and re-energize expressions of living culture and the intangible heritage.

The environment:

- To conserve resources and to increase water production from non-conventional sources.
- To make use of renewable energy sources.
- To inform, train and promote scientific research on the environment.
- To train in environmental protection and awareness.

Tourism:

- To promote local awareness and training in the management and direction of tourism.
- To interlink sites through exchange and training programmes in tourism.
- To ensure an appropriate choice of sites and to introduce controlled and sustainable tourism therein.
- To promote cooperation by establishing cross-border cultural tourism routes.

RESULTS:

- Twenty-two traditional homes will be re-developed as tourist lodges and attractions

in the *Ksour* of Taghit, Beni Abbès, Timimoun, Guentour, Aghlad, Kali and Ghardaïa, including three traditional restaurants, three traditional *hammams*, one library (Aghlad), six association offices (*Ksar* of Timimoun, Guentour, Aghlad), one water office (Timimoun), one training farm, five fish-rearing ponds, and one collective wash-house (Timimoun).

- The traditional dry latrine system will be improved (septic tanks, sand filters).
- Independent power-supplies will be installed at the *Ksar* of Guentour, the traditional *hammams* and some homes (solar heating).
- Three hundred young people and women will be trained in professions relevant to tourism.
- A promotional tour will be made available for national and international tour operators on sustainable tourism.
- Eighty technicians will be trained in ecological improvement and a regional training workshop will be organized.
- One hundred farmers will be trained and a workshop will be organized for farmers and representatives of agricultural departments at *Daira* (commune) level (42 people including both farmers and technicians).
- Eighty operatives will be trained in basic health principles, including two young people to be trained in music therapy and two in psammotherapy, and a film will be made.
- 150 young people and unemployed will be made aware of the value of the cultural heritage and trained in the building, restoration and maintenance of traditional buildings (heritage workshops and schools).
- One hundred people (young people, women and unemployed) will be trained in the new information and communication technologies.
- Eighty women will be trained in starting, managing and coordinating projects.
- Six mud-brick cooperatives will be set up.
- Five women's cooperatives in crafts and the intangible heritage will be set up.
- 120 young or poor people will be trained in clean energies (environment).
- 250 local young people will benefit from multidisciplinary training in such topics as the heritage and cultural diversity during voluntary work periods.
- Three inventories of the intangible heritage will be drawn up.
- Two hundred children or young people will be made aware of and trained in environmental protection.
- Three inter-school competitions and two green classes will be organized and an environmental journal will be produced.
- Two foggarās (irrigation tunnels) will be strengthened, a protection committee will be set up, a subregional workshop will be held and a film will be made.
- A commercial exhibition will be held in Algiers.
- The requirements for the protection of the oasis ecosystem and palm groves will be defined.
- Networks of tourist *Ksour* and Sahara theme circuits will be established.
- A network of international, subregional and national cooperation will be set up.
- An itinerant festival of living culture will be established and will tour the project sites.
- An international workshop will be held on the project results.
- A cultural convention will be held for the young people and members of civil society of the countries in the subregion.
- A film, a documentary, a digital video, booklets and brochures will be produced on

“The *Ksour* route”.

Funding will be maintained for micro-projects and family enterprises.

THE BENEFICIARIES:

Local, national and international poor people, unemployed, women and young people, students, the *Maalmine*, farmers, local service technicians and representatives of local institutions.

EVALUATION:

- A follow-up and evaluation report per activity.
- Six half-yearly assessments by the National Project Director reviewing the progress of activities.
- An Annual Report by the National Project Director to assess progress in achieving the objectives, take note of problems encountered and identify solutions.
- An annual audit.
- A final evaluation carried out according to United Nations procedures.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET/3 YEARS

US \$1,732

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