Sustainable Development of Territories in Contexts of Uncertainty

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External Shocks and Risks

Edited by

José Cadima Ribeiro, Paula Remoaldo, Flávio Nunes, Hélder Silva Lopes and Laurentina Vareiro

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Table of Contents

Introduction

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Paula Remoaldo
Flávio Nunes
Hélder Silva Lopes
Laurentina Vareiro

Over the past few decades, the pursuit of development has increasingly prioritized sustainability as a fundamental goal (Ap, and Crompton 1998; Dwyer 2022; Mowforth, and Munt 1998; Obradović, and Stojanović 2022; UNWTO 2019). The condition for achieving sustainable development is that future generations must be granted a stock of environmental, societal and economic capacity able of maintaining their well-being at a level no less than the one enjoyed by the present generation (Arrow et al. 2012; Dwyer 2021; Dwyer 2022; Obradović, and Stojanović 2022). This means that a strong intergenerational commitment is necessary in order to ensure that the main gains to be obtained from the implemented development strategy are more of medium to long term gains than immediate ones. This implies profound attitude changes, not only collectively but also individually. At present, it is clear that we still have a long way to go as the operational information given to citizens in what concerns the impacts of each of their attitudes and actions is still largely lacking. For instance, this is evident in what concerns the attitudes and actions needed from citizens to mitigate climate changes.

A word to be highlighted is "sustainability" and its association with the word "development". Both words are being used by investigators, politicians (supra-national, national, regional and local ones) and also by the common citizen as a kind of miraculous association that many believe to have discovered, even if they are not certain of what this association includes and implies, as the aforementioned two "words" are very difficult to operationalize and link. Besides other things, it implies a group of stakeholders, mainly at the local and regional levels, working in partnership, sharing the same goals, and with a strong leadership behind them, something that nowadays is very difficult to achieve.

Sustainable development is a goal that, in a broader sense, implies the well-being of the population, with an inclusive approach that guarantees standards of well-being to all. Although there is not a universally accepted definition of well-being, it is commonly agreed that it is a concept that includes factors that make life enjoyable, incorporating a material dimension, the individual freedom, and the opportunities available to people, which include employment (Durand 2015; Dwyer 2022; Smith, and Diekmann 2017; Tov 2018). As a matter of fact, the availability of jobs, wage levels and the quality of the jobs themselves are essential factors for being able to access goods and services and for people's self-esteem.

In the last few years, this concept has been associated to the concept of happiness. The World Happiness Report, in its 11th edition, published in 2023, states that several variables can lead to people's well-being and happiness. Besley, Marshall, and Persson (2023), in one of its chapters, affirmed that the transition to a common-interest state can be perceived as a long-run challenge that is key to promoting well-being, even if, operationally, it is very difficult to bring citizens together to recognize their common interests. Another important factor is the ability that every State has to establish peace, social order, and to build country`s capacities. In fact, as highlighted by Besley, Marshall and Persson (2023), maintaining internal security and the peaceful resolution of domestic conflicts has been quite problematic in many places around the world, namely: between 2006-2016, around 78% percent of the global population was living in countries that had experienced civil conflicts or where individuals were submitted to state repression.

Sustainable approaches to development and adopting people's well-being as a main goal have substantial implications for the competitiveness of territories (Dwyer 2022). That is particularly true in the case of tourism destinations, as stated by several researchers, among whom we can find Crouch and Ritchie (2012), Woo, Uysal and Sirgy (2018), Uysal, Berbekova and Kim (2020) and Berbekova, Uysal and Assaf (2022). In this regard, the long-term success of destinations, their sustainability and competitiveness have been perceived as depending on their ability to improve the well-being of all stakeholders, which includes residents. In other words, undertaking the path of sustainable tourism means balancing the concerns of tourism businesses with the concerns of residents (Gonzalez, Bertiz, and Juvinao 2018). By making an inventory of the sources of well-being of, both, the local stakeholders and its visitors, it will be possible to undertake policies aiming at establishing sustainable strategies, while preserving the competitiveness of the destinations (Dwyer 2021). Additionally, in their approaches, tourism planners and managers should be aware that helping local residents understand how tourism development may improve their quality of life through access to better amenities can be an essential component of the tourism management process (Obradović, and Stojanović 2022). Planners and decision-makers also have to monitor the tourists' attitudes and be prepared for playing active educational roles towards them, as a substantial part of tourists still favour low-cost air transport and the search for low-cost hedonism. Therefore, considering only the supply side, and societal or legislative pressure, constitutes just a dimension for dealing with the issue of a destination's sustainability (Sørensen, Bærenholdt, and Greve 2020; Sørensen, and Bærenholdt 2020).

Regarding environmental sustainability, it focuses on mitigating negative externalities -specifically, reducing pollution levels, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption. This involves striking a balance between these concerns and maintaining sustainable levels of production and consumption (Mannina et al. 2021). In what regards environmental sustainability, in the early 1970s, in the context of an increasing concern regarding the emergence of potential future economic and social collapses arising from the finiteness of natural resources (Pisani 2006), a collective consciousness began to be formed on the need to change the economic development model and work on environmental protection and safeguarding the most fragile ecosystems, on a global scale. This implied establishing a rational and responsible management of natural resources rather than continuing to exploit them until they are exhausted. This type of dynamic demanded a behavioural change towards the attenuation of anthropocentrism in favour of a more balanced relationship between human activity and nature.

When viewed through a nature lens, sustainability maintains a close connection with circular economy. Key features include energy efficiency, resource savings, and the establishment of circular material loops. These aspects require more intricate technological processes than just recycling and demand a shift in the traditional business model (Masi, Rizzo, and Regelsberger 2018). For this reason, Sehnem et al. (2020) and Tsironis, Daglis and Tsagarakis (2022) claim that the concept of circular economy presupposes a holistic and multifaceted approach. When referring to this issue, Ebert et al. (2019) state that the main mission of circular economy is to establish resources' management rules that allow for the sustainable and harmonious development of nature and humanity. However, the emphasis on the use of resources, efficiency and savings in terms of operational costs has been subject to criticism: see, for example, Jovicic (2014), Guix, Font and Bonilla-Priego (2019) and Sorin and Sivarajah (2021).

In what regards sustainability, the environmental dimension is key not only due to nature's aesthetic, productive and biological role, but also because nature keeps a close relationship with people's emotional well-being (Hanna et al. 2019; Kubickova, Croes, and Rivera 2017; Ramkissoon 2023). Nature is a source of raw materials and food, and it provides opportunities to undertake recreational and nature-based activities which improve physical and mental health (Dwyer 2022; Sachs 2019). On the other hand, environmental degradation may lead to human diseases derived from air and water pollution, reduced biodiversity, climate change and virus epidemics.

Nowadays, it is possible to say that it is quite uncommon to find a city or a region that does not have a commitment to environmental and sociocultural preservation behind its policies or development guidelines. Thus, we can conclude that we live in a time where there is an apparent consensus regarding valuing natural resources and the endogenous potential of each territory. However, stating the need to adopt a new development paradigm is easier than introducing new practices and procedures, that allow for the pursuit of economic growth without damaging natural and historic heritage resources, while promoting human well-being (Bonnedahl, and Caramujo 2019; Brand 2012; Filho 1999). The difficulty in guaranteeing an equitable balance between the environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives when planning and implementing public policies tends to persist. The "ideology" of sustainable development, which has the multidimensionality of its objectives as the main driving force for its propagation, curiously has as one of its main limitations the reduced capacity to counteract the structural subordination which has been occurring in some of its dimensions towards others (Oliveira 2005).

Besides, the increasing complexity of the world, which has been moving at an ever-faster pace, it has brought with it many uncertain contexts that make the achievement of a sustainable development harder. When looking at more recent socioeconomic world dynamics, we have to admit that we have been witnessing:

i) an enhancement of negative externalities resulting from an increased urbanization, largely due to the inability to counteract the continuous over-concentration of public and private investments in large urban-metropolitan areas;

ii) increased difficulties in preserving local cultural values, for example, in communities that are excessively dependent on the tourism industry;

iii) an intensification of natural catastrophes associated with the global climate crisis, which put the preservation of ecosystems and relevant environmental values at risk;

iv) uncertainties arising from recent technological leaps, in which the emergence of artificial intelligence raises the possibility of serious risks for humanity; and

v) a demographic crisis, coexisting with the precariousness of labour emigration movements and difficulties of immigrants to socially integrate in their host countries.

If sustainability is the paradigm the world needs to commit to, besides the environmental, economic and social constraints derived from it, businesses, policy makers and people, as a whole, have to deal with the difficulties and uncertainties arising from these and other severe phenomena. For instance, the Brexit referendum and the consequent exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, international armed conflicts, like Russia's war against Ukraine and Israel's war against Palestine, or pandemic crises, such as COVID-19.

One can speak of uncertainty when dealing with situations where decision-makers do not know their outcome, namely, the potential changes that can affect the future of the economy and society, as a whole (Al-Thaqeb, and Algharabali 2019; Daştan, Karabulut, and Yalçınkay 2023). As mentioned by Daştan, Karabulut and Yalçınkay (2023), scholars usually identify three channels through which uncertainty shocks tend to affect macroeconomic activity: i) the real option channel; ii) the risk premium channel; and iii) the precautionary saving channel. Among other impacts, the COVID-19 pandemic has relaunched the debate on the role played by uncertainty in the countries' companies and macroeconomic activity (Daştan, Karabulut, and Yalçınkay 2023).

For three years, the world has grappled with the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, reshaping societies and economies, globally. The unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic have not only disrupted traditional economic structures but they have also unveiled vulnerabilities, particularly in sectors highly dependent on human mobility, such as tourism. It is well known that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of territories most dependent on the tourism industry was dramatic (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta 2023; Gica, Balint, and Butoi 2022; Srisawat et al.

2023). In a time span of a few weeks, some destinations evolved from a situation of tourist overload to the total absence of tourists (Gössling, Scott, and Hall 2020). However, the impact of the pandemic was not just felt in tourism but in many other industries, having effects on the GDP (Gross Domestic Product), international trade and employment, and, as a consequence, on consumer spending and general wellbeing (Gica, Balint, and Butoi 2022; Habibullah et al. 2022).

The economic repercussions of the pandemic, similarly to the Global Financial Crisis of 2008/09, have posed unique challenges due to the convergence of supply and demand shocks (Alessandria et al. 2023; Panwar, Pinkse, and De Marchi 2022). For example, the tourism sector, a cornerstone of many economies, witnessed a staggering decline in international arrivals by 73% in 2020 (Harchandani, and Shome 2023). Countries heavily reliant on tourism, such as France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, experienced more substantial GDP losses than those with a more diversified economic base (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta 2023; Korinth 2023; Lopes et al. 2021). The time the economies would take for recovering from that health shock was uncertain. Data have confirmed such expectations (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta 2023; Habibullah et al. 2022).

Periods of crisis, while undoubtedly challenging, can also lead to the exploration of new opportunities. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, questions arose about the extent to which it would lead to the emergence of new models of economic and social organization, along with the repositioning of countries and companies in international markets (Cadima Ribeiro 2020; Gica, Balint, and Butoi 2022; Tasso, Perinotto, and Rezende Filho 2023). When analysing the impacts of the COVID-19 health outbreak, particularly, following data released on the subject (see Capella-Ramos, and Guri 2022), it is interesting to notice that the disturbance experienced by the international markets associated to this pandemic has led Portuguese exporting companies to adopt new operating models and distribution channels (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta 2023; Capella-Ramos, and Guri 2022). In order to achieve that result, it seems that the policies adopted by the Portuguese government have also played a relevant role (Capella-Ramos, and Guri 2022).

Despite these readjustments, it seems that a return to past trends has tended to prevail (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta, 2023). Based on secondary data, in the case of the recovery of the tourism industry, both in the case of Portugal and Brazil, returning to “business as usual” seems to have prevailed (Cadima Ribeiro, and Malta 2023). However, forecasts for tourism recovery in the context of the ongoing war and pandemic are challenging. Various risks, including prolonged war, gas embargoes, monetary policy challenges, China's economic slowdown, fragmentation of the world economy, new COVID-19 variants, and global vaccine distribution issues seem to threaten the industry's revival. Amid these challenges, implementing measures to counteract the negative effects of inflation and minimizing real income losses becomes imperative. Strategies should include redistributing excess inflation-related net tax income, offering interest-free loans or non-refundable subsidies, and actions addressed specifically towards tourism agencies, namely by integrating disaster management into their responsibilities.

The issue of uncertainty is applicable in the case of other major economic, social, or environmental shocks, such as those stemming from wars, as exemplified by recent conflicts like Russia's war against Ukraine and Israel's conflict with Palestine. The final consequences of those wars and, unfortunately, the end of the wars, themselves, can hardly be anticipated at their starting points. In such a context, the word "uncertainty" is being rapidly associated with continuous shocks (of several kinds), which include, regrettably, a high level of interdependence. In this context, few economies have shown to be prepared for it and, on the other hand, it seems to be never ending. As mentioned recently by Saadia Zahidi, the managing director of the World Economic Forum, in the Preface of "The Global Risks Report 2023", authored by the World Economic Forum (2023, p. 4), "the health and economic aftereffects of the pandemic have quickly spiralled into compounding crises". The same author also added that "Food and energy have become weaponized by the war in Ukraine, sending inflation soaring to levels not seen in decades, globalizing a cost-of-living crisis and fuelling social unrest. The resulting shift in monetary policy marks the end of an economic era defined by easy access to cheap debt and will have vast ramifications for governments, companies and individuals, widening inequality within and between countries" (World Economic Forum 2023, p. 4). Therefore, we have been witnessing the world being reshaped, where geopolitical tensions are constant, the lack of trust is increasing, and volatility has become persistent.

As a matter of fact, we are now, perhaps, confronted with one of the greatest crossroads the world has ever faced, resulting from a historical moment in which we have been witnessing a temporal coincidence of countless crises of great magnitude and with very wide-ranging effects, of international and even global reach. In the life time of a large part of the population that inhabits Planet Earth today, this is probably the moment when the future has never seemed more uncertain. Paradoxically, precisely in a context of major crises and countless uncertainties, the paradigm of sustainable development, which emerged from the uncertainties of a crisis, seeking to counteract the risk of future economic and social collapses, seems to reveal great difficulties in resisting these problems.

In general, what can we expect from the near future? Cost of living increases, natural disasters and extreme weather events, along with the failure to mitigate climate change and climate adaptation are some of the main societal and environmental risks to be expected. Other major societal risks are erosion of social cohesion, societal polarization, and geo-economic confrontation, which can lead to major geopolitical risks (World Economic Forum 2023). Such a scenario is contributing to a wide inequality within and between countries. All of this is confirming that we have not been paying enough attention to the environmental and social dimension of development, which is relevant to operationalize sustainable actions.

Bearing in mind the comments above on sustainability and uncertainty, what can small territories do to defend themselves from this "uncertainty" and how can they implement more sustainable development strategies? How can continuous shocks be softened? What is the role of each citizen? By using case studies in different territories, the present book addresses territorial bottlenecks and grapples with social and developmental challenges. By delving into the complexities of these issues, this book becomes a valuable resource for researchers seeking comprehensive insights into effective solutions.

Moreover, the book functions as a practical guide for policymakers and practitioners, providing them with the knowledge necessary to adopt and implement sustainable development strategies. It advocates the implementation of socially inclusive policies and the adoption of innovative governance models that not only deepen democratic principles but also enhance the efficacy of decision-making processes. By delving into these aspects, the collection strives to provide guidance to stakeholders on surmounting the primary challenges that impact the development of diverse territories. In the next paragraphs we will make a summary presentation of the nine chapters included.

The aim of Chapter 1 is to understand the evolution of regional tourism planning research, identify the most relevant topics and, finally, promote a broad understanding of the development of territories and suggest new research directions. The approached is justified as tourism is an economic activity that relies heavily on natural resources. In many territories worldwide, it plays an essential role in their development, even if it can negatively impact them in several dimensions. Thus, tourism planning is claimed in order to ensure rational decision-making processes to achieve specific objectives and facilitate tourism growth. The methodology used was conducting a bibliometric analysis in the databases Scopus and Web of Science to explore the evolution of the concept of regional tourism planning and its practical implications on territories' management. One of the main focuses of this bibliometric analyses was sustainability and the application of sustainability in tourism. The findings illustrate the evolution of the concept and research within regional tourism planning, highlighting the shifts that have occurred in research over the years.

The second book chapter (Chapter 2) deals with the issue of regional development, taking into account sustainability issues in rural areas, referring, specifically, to the south of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The aim is to emphasise the role the rural areas can play within the regional framework for achieving more sustainable societies. The theoretical-conceptual basis of the work is established within the pillars of a definition of development in which rural areas are taken as an important component to achieve sustainable regional development. Taking as a starting point the theoretical, empirical and conceptual data gathered in research on regional development and ruralities carried out in the aim of a postgraduate programme of the Federal University of Itajubá, Brazil, together with a bibliometric analysis contained in a paper on the Contribution of Organic Family Farming to Regional Sustainable Development, the authors aimed to identify the links between sustainable development and various factors such as food security, climate change, biodiversity, the economy and social issues. Concluding their approach to the issue raised, they claim that rural areas can provide concrete opportunities for income generation and better interconnections between rural and urban areas.

Chapter 3 presents the regional development results viewed on the basis of the Brazilian Fiscal Responsibility Law (LRF). The problem investigated was how the assumptions established in the LRF contribute to the fiscal management of municipalities, providing, in addition to economic growth, the social development of municipalities in the Metropolitan Region of Paraíba Valley and North Coast of São Paulo (RMVPLN). The objective corresponds to analysing the development of the RMVPLN municipalities from the perspective of the Federal Law of Fiscal Responsibility (LRF) based on responsible public management. The applied method resulted from the combination of two research techniques: exploratory, which provides a broad perception of the field of research, associated with an analysis of fiscal (IFGF – Firjan Fiscal Management index) and social (IFDM – Firjan Social Development index) indexes published by FIRJAN (Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro). The results attained indicate that, although the region shows various levels of development, from moderate to high, most of the studied municipalities face fiscal problems, which point out difficulties in maintaining development in a sustainable and long-term manner. Although the LRF contributes to development by imposing mechanisms to preserve fiscal sustainability, there are still gaps in full compliance of the LRF requirements, which makes it difficult to obtain the fiscal sustainability necessary for supporting regional development.

Chapter 4 highlights that investment in actions aimed at promoting equal access to health is fundamental for territorial cohesion. Starting from such statement, the main objective of the research performed was to evaluate the importance of a social entrepreneurship initiative for the community development of the municipality of Beja, Portugal. The project called "MediCar", results from the combination of the prefix 'Medi', referring to medicine, to the English word 'Car', referring to transport, emerging as a solution that aims to respond to the needs identified in the municipality of Beja, through the provision of a transport and home delivery service for medicines. MediCar defines itself as an entrepreneurial project, creating jobs and fostering relationships with the population and several stakeholders. The study is characterized as exploratory and descriptive and uses methods and techniques of quantitative nature. The data extracted from the questionnaire were collected, between the months of June and August 2022. From the analysis of the results obtained, it was possible to conclude that the project is perceived by the population and by the partners surveyed as an initiative of great relevance and interest for the community development of the municipality of Beja.

Chapter 5 refers to rural areas, population decline and aging demographics, which raises challenges for local economies and public services. Those are areas which benefit, as well, from affordable and peaceful environments. Starting from this demographical, social and economic background, the potential role digital nomads can play in the dynamic of suck kind of territories is addressed. A qualitative case study methodology is used, focusing on a co-working space available in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal. Findings highlight the importance of identifying a region's vocation and developing solutions that align with local industries, as well as the role of the co-working space manager in facilitating connections and fostering a vibrant community. The chapter insights have implications for policymakers and entrepreneurs interested in fostering communities in rural regions.

The chapter on ´Gastronomy of Lambayeque and its Contribution to Tourism` (Chapter 6), refers to the Peruvian gastronomy, which is claimed to be one of the most recognized and appreciated in the world. Lambayeque has dishes that contain an important historical wealth, strengthening the cultural identity of its inhabitants. The main objective of the research performed was to identify the traditional gastronomy of Lambayeque according to the perception of tourists, identifying the visitor´s profile and the most representative dishes that contribute to local tourism development. Surveys were applied to 314 visitors to the Lambayeque region. The methodology was quantitative, probabilistic, descriptive and cross-sectional. The main results are that 64% of the participants are female, and 35% of the participants are Millennials aged between 25 and 39 years. 53% the survey respondents have recognized the Lambayeque gastronomy for its flavour, with 26% acknowledging the variety of dishes and 14% appreciating its history.

The aim of Chapter 7 is to analyse the potential coverage of renewable electrical energy in the municipalities of Andalusia, Spain, classifying them according to their typology (rural, intermediate, and urban). To achieve this, the "Renewable Electrical Potential Coverage Index" (COPER) was proposed. This index utilises a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) approach to integrate data on renewable energy production and electrical consumption in each municipality. This approach allows for the estimation of production and consumption in different geographical areas. Results reveal that rural areas produce more renewable energy than they consume, suggesting that they could supply electricity to nearby energy-deficit cities. This could drive economic development in rural areas and reduce urban dependency on non-renewable sources. When comparing these results with the objectives of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, it is observed that rural areas are progressing towards achieving the 74% target for electrical coverage with renewable sources by 2030. The research underscores the importance of using renewable sources and the crucial role played by rural areas in the path to a greener energy system across Andalusia.

As one can infer from the title, Chapter 8 deals with the issue of understanding the role of business incubators as a tool to encourage and support entrepreneurship. Questionnaires were applied to 65 local entrepreneurs and 7 interviews were carried out with incubated companies. Interviews were done, as well as, to the manager of the business incubator and the representative of the Ferreira do Alentejo municipality. The results obtained allowed to conclude that entrepreneurs and heads of incubated companies consider this support as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and a strategic tool for territory`s development. It was also concluded that business incubators can work as a factor for strengthening the corporate structure and creating attractive conditions for population settlement and, consequently, for the development of the territory.

Pilgrimage has been increasingly becoming more visible in tourism research, together with its contribution to territorial development. The final chapter of this book (Chapter 9) deals with research on the human five senses in the context of pilgrimage on the Portuguese St. James Way. Looking to the specific landscape of this route and seeking to understand the association between the human senses and pilgrimage, chapter 9 analyses the elements that stand out along the millenary route. It follows a qualitative approach, based on 22 variables, highlighting the main realities contained in the landscape, complemented by some narratives from the pilgrims. The main results achieved tell us that the Portuguese St. James Way can be characterized as diverse, constantly changing between lush green and urban/artificialized areas. Vision is the most intense sense to be experienced, contrary to smell. The gaps identified are relevant for local/regional actors, contributing to a better plan and management of the route.

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CHAPTER 1

REGIONAL TOURISM PLANNING: BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

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1.1 Introduction

Increased competitiveness among cities and tourist destinations is associated with accelerated growth and the increased need to fulfil tourist needs. Tourism, being a complex sector, incorporates different types of environmental, cultural, economic, and social resources into its activity. The impact of tourism on destinations, whether through acculturation or the environment, varies according to the characteristics of each destination.

Tourism activity depends on natural resources and all entities involved, private and public sector, recognise the importance and need for tourism planning to protect these resources, especially in a regional dimension. From the point of view of regional tourism, the premise of regional tourism planning should be to plan the best use of the territory, based on tourism strategies aimed at achieving optimal national development (Dwyer, Forsyth, and Spurr 2004).

Tourism as a clustering sector is influenced by external factors which call into question the planning process, being influenced by different actors, governments, non-governmental organisations and private sector (Gunn 2002). As a result, tourism planning requires a particular body of knowledge and a systematic approach (Inskeep 1988). In the case of regional tourism, this also means that all urban and rural attractions and peripheral areas should be considered in tourism planning.

In the literature search, we found some review articles about tourism planning. Literature review from Calero and Turner (2020) approaches tourism planning from the perspective of regional economic development and tourism, emphasising the concept and its evolution between the years 1990 and 2000. The results showed that research was still in its infancy. The review of Rahman and Salahudin (2021) address regional tourism development planning with application to Indonesia, limiting and biasing the results of the study, and, finally, the review of Sentanu et al. (2023) addresses collaborative tourism governance between 2010 and 2021, leading to a current topic trend and proposing the factors of collaborative tourism governance for success. The bibliometric analyses that emerged during the research are related to sustainability and the application of sustainability in tourism, and no literature review was found that addresses regional tourism development.

This work stands out for its innovation, as it conducts a quantitative analysis of the gathered information. It also offers a temporal examination of the knowledge that has evolved over recent years, effectively systematising this information, and delivering valuable insights for individuals engaged in regional planning, as well as researchers and practitioners. For researchers, it facilitates a more comprehensive understanding of the topic's evolution and variables, thereby providing guidance for future research. As for practitioners, it enables an examination of diverse perspectives and their impact on the industry.

This chapter addresses examining the development of regional tourism planning as a concept and its practical implications in the evolution of planning. The aim of this chapter is to understand the evolution of regional tourism planning research, identify the most relevant topics in regional tourism planning and, finally, promote a broad understanding of the development and suggest new research directions.

The chapter structure follows with introductory literature review concerning the subject being investigated, followed by a description of the methodology used and the subsequent findings. Finally, concludes by presenting the implications and potential future avenues for research.

1.2 Tourism planning

Planning involves a systematic organizational procedure with the objective of executing specified strategies in order to attain a specific goal (Dredge 1999). Planning is a management tool for tourist destinations based on a holistic vision, projecting a future based on coordinated and monitored actions for the efficient use of existing resources (Silva Trindad, Bittencourt César, and Vianna 2019). Tourism planning is a sequence of operations and actions coordinated by the public sector with the aim of organising and controlling the development of specific (tourist) areas in line with the strategies and objectives they are intended to achieve (Page 2007).

The tourism planner must understand the various types of impacts and can reinforce the positive impacts on the area and mitigate negative ones (Inskeep 1988). As positive impacts, tourism can provide protection to culture and cultural heritage, through direct or indirect revenue that can contribute towards maintenance. This way, local culture can be preserved and appreciated by residents, tourists, and the community, who can also take advantage of the activities carried out. On the other hand, the negative impact is a loss of culture, acculturation, and the uncontrolled growth of criminal indexes.

As a multidimensional activity, tourism embraces social, economic, political, psychological, anthropological, and technological factors, tourism planning concerned with the past, present and future (Rose 1974). Being a systematic organizational process, it encompasses strategies for future actions with the goal of both territorial development and resolving existing constraints.

The strategies included in tourist plans encompass different goals and action points. Inskeep (1988) and Gunn (2002) defined three scales of action: the site scale comprises three sectors - the public and private sectors and NGO; the destination scale embraces the community and its surroundings; and the regional scale which is the most integrated, and encompasses territory, policies, and jurisdiction, being implemented, and accompanied over time.

Tourism planning is not a recent theme, having been approached by geographers as early as 1940. The first planning model was created in 1972 by Gunn with his book “Vacationscape: designing tourist regions”, where a systematic tourism model with a participated process for tourism and leisure is presented. This is considered the first regional planning model (in the USA). Over the years, various scholars have analysed the importance of planning for the growth and development of destinations (e.g.: Inskeep 1987, 1988; Gunn 2002; Getz 1983; Dredge, and Jenkins 2011; Getz 1986). Analysing the importance of tourism planning through its chronological evolution, Getz (1986) highlighted four important phases: boosterism, economic, physical-spatial, and community-oriented. These dimensions show an evolution of research into the importance of planning in tourism, having also led to a new dimension, sustainability, which is characterised by the involvement of all stakeholders and is based on economic, social and environmental pillars (Hall 2011). For Coccossis and Constantoglou (2008), planning is essential for sustainable development and in this sense policies must be developed in line with the specific characteristics of each region and development objectives. To apply sustainability effectively, the authors suggest creating tourism typologies based on the characteristics of demand and the characteristics of the destination.

Planning becomes essential in striking a balance between economic goals and the imperative to preserve and enhance tourism destinations. It serves as a crucial tool to harmonise the economic benefits stemming from tourism with sustainable practices that ensure the long-term viability and attractiveness of destinations (Costa 2020). By incorporating strategic planning, destinations can optimise their potential for economic growth while safeguarding their natural and cultural resources.

In certain countries, tourism planning aims to alleviate the economic and environmental impacts associated with non-planned areas. According to Inskeep (1988), tourism planning takes a place at all levels in the hierarchy of development planning – international, national and regional. The tourism sector requires careful planning to effectively manage its various dimensions and operational scales. For Edgell (2020) and Rahman and Salahudin (2021), planning is essential for preventing failure and maximizing efficiency in regional tourism development.

Although some of constraints were identified during the planning process, Burns (2004) believes that the big gap between planning and implementation is idealisation and projection. In some cases, regional tourism plans fail to account for the genuine requirements and unique characteristics of a destination, leading to the formulation of overly generalised plans. The author (Burns 2004) recommends addressing this issue by creating pragmatic plans that can facilitate the implementation and growth of various tourism types.

1.3 Regional tourism planning

Regional tourism planning consists of integrating all the urban, rural and peripheral attractions that are considered in the tourism planning system (Pazhuhan, and Shiri 2020), as well as on a better planning of the territory based on tourism strategies, with the aim of achieving national development (Dwyer, Forsyth, and Spurr 2004). Regional tourism development strategies should be based on the knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of each region, recognising the needs, level of maturity and vision of each region (Ndivo, Waudo, and Waswa 2013).

The regional techniques are recommended for implementing tourism planning (Inskeep, 1988; Gunn 2002) and integrating all the local community's interests, at the same time you establish cohesive cross-level communication, both at a regional and local level, as this directly influences the progress and execution of tourism planning (Rahman, and Salahudin 2021).

As part of the regional tourism planning, it is crucial to establish the tourism carrying capacity for the destination (Getz 1983). Inskeep (1987) considers that a regional approach can provide an analysis and facilitate the application of guidelines to policies and strategies directed at environmental tourism. This, according to Rahman and Salahudin (2021), also means that policymakers need to be open to innovative regional tourism development.

Regional tourism planning proves to be the most suitable system for better understanding the multidimensional engagement between the public and private sectors, in order to optimise regional tourism development plans (Macbeth, Carson, and Northcote 2004; Lopes, Pires, and Costa 2020). In their study, Rahman and Salahudin (2021) have determined that regional tourism planning, while intricate, is of paramount importance for the majority of nations. They emphasize that its intricate execution necessitates collaboration among governments, residents, entrepreneurs, and non-governmental organisations, alongside robust inter-sectoral policies and effective communication. Moreover, the government should enact regulations and laws to oversee policy development and implementation.

1.4 Research methodology

The bibliometric review presented focusses on regional tourism planning and was conducted in April 2023 in the databases Scopus and Web of Science, having resulted in 343 publications. The results were merged in the reference manager and duplicate articles removed, resulting in a sample of 322 publications, collected from 207 sources, published between 1979 and 2023. Additionally, it is worth highlighting that the bibliometric analysis was performed using the *R*-studio software.

The objective of this study was to conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing academic research on scenario regional tourism planning using bibliometric analysis. This methodology provides researchers with a structured and impartial means of examining the dissemination and development of disciplines in published works. By utilising quantitative metrics and data-driven techniques, this approach aids in reducing the potential impact of subjectivity and biases that could affect a conventional literature review (Bornmann, and Marx 2018).

1.4.1 Data collection

Bibliometric analysis is commonly employed in social sciences for various purposes, including exploring emerging trends within specific themes, identifying collaboration patterns, and examining the intellectual structure of a particular domain in existing literature. According to Donthu et al. (2021), bibliometric analysis is useful for deciphering and mapping the cumulative scientific knowledge and evolutionary nuances. The authors suggest that bibliometric analysis provides novel and meaningful ways to: (1) gain a comprehensive overview over a topic; (2) identify knowledge gaps; (3) derive innovative ideas for investigation; and (4) position one's contributions within the field.

According to Donthu et al. (2021), the techniques utilized in bibliometric analysis can be classified into two main categories: 1) performance analysis, which offers insights into the contributions of researchers in a specific field; and 2) science mapping, which reveals the connections between authors and research topics.

This chapter provides an overview of bibliometric analysis and evaluating specific fields within the existing literature using a large bibliometric dataset. The search for relevant articles in this field was conducted using the Scopus and Web of Science databases, which are considered major databases, and, according to Zhu and Liu (2020), are the two world-leading and competing citation databases. However, it is important to note that there is a potential for relevant articles to be overlooked if they are not indexed in these databases. Additionally, it is also worth highlighting that the bibliometric analysis was performed using the R-studio software, specifically the bibliometrix R-package. This package offers a collection of tools specifically designed for quantitative research in the fields of bibliometrics and scient metrics. R-studio is an open-source environment known for its versatility and widespread usage in data analysis and statistical computing (Aria, and Cuccurullo 2017).

1.4.2 Data analysis

In line with the research objective, a thorough investigation was conducted in April 2023 using the Scopus and Web of Science databases and the keywords "regional planning" AND "tourism" AND "model", yielding a total of 343 publications. These findings were subsequently organised with duplicate entries being eliminated, which resulted in 322 publications that were included in the bibliometric analysis. The sample is made up of 876 authors, 61 of whom are single authors, comprising 10312 references. The analysis of results involved processing the data according to Donthu et al. (2021) guidelines, while considering the study's objectives. This entailed performing performance analysis and science mapping for the study's analysis.

The bibliometric analysis was conducted considering four steps: the aim of the study, technique definition, database selection, and, finally, managing the data in R-studio and reporting the results. In the initial step, the study's objectives were established. Following this, in the second stage, suitable techniques for bibliometric analysis were identified. The third stage entailed the definition of inclusion and exclusion criteria for the articles to be examined, and the removal of duplicate articles. Lastly, in the fourth step, data was input into R-Studio, and the results were meticulously reported in accordance with the study's aims (Figure 1).

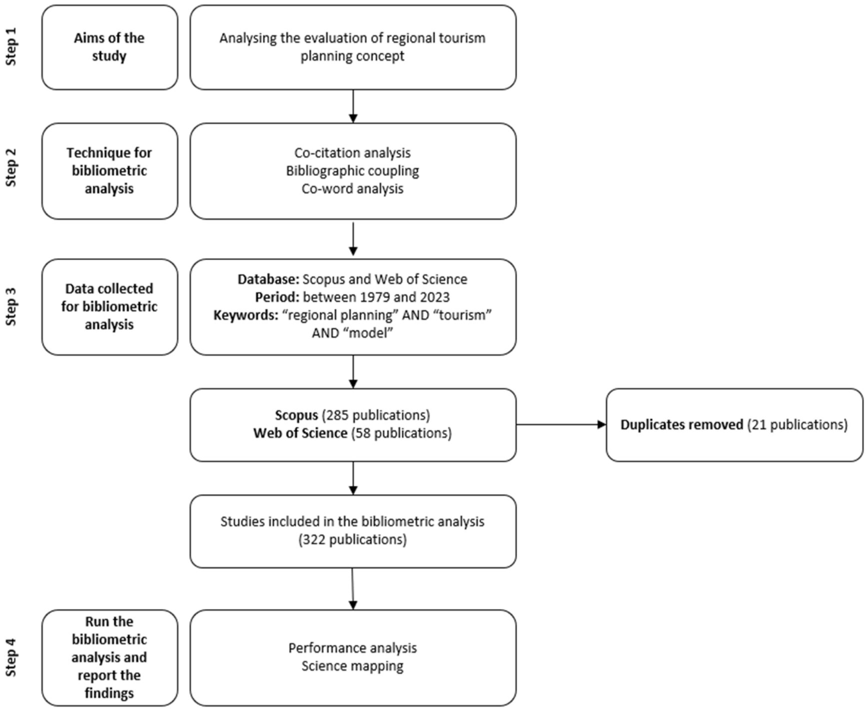

Figure 1 – The bibliometric analysis procedure
Source: Adapted from Donthu et al. (2021).

The data were processed using software, providing specialised tools for bibliometric analysis. These tools facilitate quantitative research in bibliometrics and scient metrics and leverage the versatile and widely used *R* language for data analysis and statistical computing.

The following data were considered in the performance analysis: (1) publication-related metrics, with the data - total publications, number of contributing authors and single-author publications; and (2) citation-related metrics, with total citations data. The data were considered in the science mapping taking into account that it is intended to analyse the evolution of concepts and studies over the years, co-citation analysis (which provides information on the past of research), bibliographic coupling (which provides information on the present of research) and, finally, co-word analysis (which provides information on the state of research in the present) were considered for analysis.

1.5 Results

The presentation of the results will follow the chosen analysis procedure, including performance evaluation and subsequent science mapping.

1.5.1 Performance analysis

The performance analysis presents metrics that are associated with the results obtained from the sample's publications being studied.

The annual scientific analysis demonstrates a significant increase in the number of publications since 2015. The first study on the database related to the topic under study dates to the year 1979, with one study and in the following years between one and two publications (Figure 2).