

Creation of a Cultural Tourist Circuit and its Socio-Economic Impact in the City Of Lubumbashi

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Abstract: *This study focuses on the creation of a cultural tourist circuit and its socio-economic impact in the city of Lubumbashi. It highlights the existence of a significant cultural and historical potential that is still insufficiently structured and promoted. The results show that the lack of coherent organization of tourist sites limits their attractiveness and their economic returns. However, the establishment of a structured circuit would make it possible to strengthen the visibility of local heritage and to boost cultural tourism. On the economic level, the creation of jobs and income for local populations. On the social level, social cohesion and the valorization of cultural identities. Despite these opportunities, several challenges remain, notably the lack of infrastructure and coordination between stakeholders. Thus, cultural tourism appears as a strategic lever for sustainable development for the city of Lubumbashi.*

Keywords: Cultural tourist circuit and socio-economic impact

1. Observed Phenomenon

The phenomenon observed in this study is the weak development and the lack of structuring of cultural tourist circuits in the city of Lubumbashi, despite the existence of a rich cultural heritage. Indeed, several tourist sites remain poorly valued and insufficiently integrated into an organized tourist offer. This situation limits the visibility of the city's cultural potential among national and international visitors. Furthermore, the absence of well-defined circuits leads to a fragmented exploitation of available tourist resources. There is also a lack of coordination between stakeholders in the tourism sector. This organizational weakness reduces the economic and social benefits that cultural tourism could generate. Yet, the establishment of a structured circuit could promote the creation of income and jobs. Thus, the central phenomenon is the underdevelopment of the offer of cultural tourist circuits in Lubumbashi despite a significant potential.

2. Introduction

Cultural tourism today constitutes an important lever of economic and social development for several cities with a rich and diversified heritage. In Lubumbashi, the presence of numerous historical and cultural sites offers considerable potential that is still little exploited in a structured manner. However, the creation of tourist circuits would make it possible to enhance these resources while strengthening the attractiveness of the city. It is in this context that the present study is situated, which focuses on the creation of a cultural tourist circuit. It aims to highlight the steps necessary for its design and organization. Furthermore, it seeks to understand how such a project can contribute to local development. Thus, this research is part of a dynamic of valorization of cultural heritage.

In this perspective, the present work also questions the economic and social effects that a cultural tourist circuit could generate in Lubumbashi. Indeed, the valorization of tourist sites through a structured itinerary could promote the creation of jobs and income for the local population. It could also improve the living conditions of inhabitants and encourage cultural openness. However, the issue lies in the absence of a

coherent organization of the cultural tourism sector. Therefore, this study proposes to analyze the procedures for the creation and structured organization of a circuit as well as its potential impacts. It finally aims to contribute to a better understanding of the role of cultural tourism in urban development.

3. Theoretical Foundations

The theoretical foundations constitute the scientific basis on which any research study is based, because they make it possible to support the analysis with models and explanations already established by recognized authors. They offer a framework for understanding the phenomena studied by relating key concepts to existing theories. Within the framework of this study, the theoretical foundations make it possible to explain the creation of a cultural tourist circuit and its effects on the socio-economic level. They also serve to guide the interpretation of the research results.

3.1 Definition of Concepts

The definition of concepts is an essential step in any scientific research, because it makes it possible to clarify the key notions used. It aims to avoid any ambiguity and to ensure a common understanding of the subject studied. In this study, it mainly concerns the cultural tourist circuit and the socio-economic impact. This section therefore presents definitions from different authors in order to better frame the analysis.

3.1.1 Cultural tourist circuit

According to UNWTO (2019), the cultural tourist circuit is an organized itinerary linking several sites of cultural, historical or heritage value within the same territorial space. It allows the visitor to discover in a structured way the cultural richness of a destination. This circuit is not limited to a single site but connects several points of interest. It promotes the valorization of tangible and intangible heritage. UNWTO emphasizes that these circuits contribute to the diversification of the tourist offer. They strengthen the attractiveness of cultural destinations. They also contribute to the sustainable development of tourism. Finally, they improve the overall visitor experience.

Richards (2018) defines the cultural tourist circuit as a set of places connected by a cultural theme allowing an immersive experience of heritage. He insists on the importance of the experience lived by the tourist. The circuit becomes a means of cultural learning and interpretation of the territory. It connects visitors with local communities. Richards emphasizes that these circuits integrate both tangible and intangible heritage. They promote creativity in the enhancement of destinations. They contribute to a better understanding of cultural identities. Finally, they transform tourism into an educational experience.

For Smith (2015), the cultural tourist circuit is a planned route linking several cultural attractions in order to tell a coherent story of a territory. He emphasizes the narrative dimension of tourism. The circuit makes it possible to structure the discovery of cultural sites. It helps to understand the history and identity of local populations. Smith emphasizes that these circuits strengthen collective memory. They contribute to the enhancement of historical and social heritage. They also promote local tourism development. Finally, they offer an organized reading of the culture of a region.

Getz (2013) considers the cultural tourist circuit as a strategy of networking several cultural sites in a coherent and planned itinerary. He insists on the organization and management of tourist flows. The circuit makes it possible to optimize the attendance of heritage sites. It contributes to the economic valorization of cultural resources. Getz highlights the coordination between tourism stakeholders. He emphasizes that these circuits improve the visitor experience. They also promote regional development. Finally, they strengthen the competitiveness of cultural tourist destinations.

3.1.2. Socio-economic impact

Todaro and Smith (2015) define socio-economic impact as the set of combined effects of economic activities on the social conditions of populations. They emphasize that economic development directly influences poverty reduction. These impacts particularly concern employment, income and standard of living. They also highlight social transformations linked to economic growth. The improvement of social infrastructure is part of these effects. They insist on the interdependence between economy and society. Development must therefore be inclusive to produce sustainable positive effects. Finally, socio-economic impact is measured by the overall well-being of populations.

Amartya Sen (1999) considers socio-economic impact as the expansion of individuals' real freedoms through economic development. It is not only about material wealth, but also about human capabilities. Economic impact must improve access to education and health. He insists on social justice in the distribution of resources. For Sen, development is a process of expansion of freedoms. Social effects are as important as economic results. He highlights human dignity in the analysis of development. Thus, socio-economic impact must be human-centered.

Sachs (2015) defines socio-economic impact as the consequences of economic activities on social development and the quality of life of populations. He emphasizes the reduction of social inequalities. Economic development must

promote social inclusion. He highlights the role of investments in health, education and infrastructure. Positive impacts include job creation and income growth. However, he also recognizes possible negative effects such as social exclusion. He insists on the sustainability of development. Finally, the balance between economy and social aspects is essential.

Stiglitz (2012) defines socio-economic impact as the set of effects of policies and economic activities on social cohesion and the well-being of populations. He criticizes economic models focused only on GDP growth. He emphasizes the importance of inequalities in the analysis of impacts. Social effects include access to employment, education and public services. He highlights the need for distributive policies. Economic development must improve overall quality of life. He insists on social justice as a fundamental objective. Thus, socio-economic impact must be measured in a multidimensional way.

3.2 Theories of the study

This part of the work is devoted to the presentation of the theories that frame and guide the understanding of the subject concerning the creation of a cultural tourist circuit and its socio-economic impact in the city of Lubumbashi. Indeed, any scientific research is based on a theoretical foundation that makes it possible to explain the phenomena studied and to give them a coherent meaning. In this context, the mobilized theories make it possible to analyze both the dynamics of development of a tourist destination and the interactions between tourism and local populations. Thus, they offer essential interpretative tools to understand how the valorization of cultural heritage through the creation of a cultural tourist circuit can contribute to the economic and social development of the city of Lubumbashi.

4. Theory of the life cycle of tourist destinations

The theory of the life cycle of tourist destinations, developed by Butler (1980), explains that any tourist destination evolves through successive stages ranging from emergence to decline or renewal. This theory makes it possible to analyze how a cultural tourist circuit can progressively develop in a city like Lubumbashi. It shows that tourism is not static, but dynamic and evolving over time according to the attractiveness of the territory.

In the first phase called exploration, the destination is still little known and visited by a limited number of tourists. In Lubumbashi, this would correspond to the gradual discovery of certain cultural, historical or artistic sites. Tourist infrastructures are still weak, and visits are often informal or spontaneous, without structured organization.

The involvement phase marks the beginning of the local organization of tourism. The inhabitants begin to recognize the economic interest of cultural tourism. In the case of Lubumbashi, this can be reflected in the valorization of museums, monuments and local traditions, with the involvement of local stakeholders in the promotion of cultural heritage.

The development phase corresponds to a rapid growth of tourism thanks to investments and the structuring of the offer. The cultural tourist circuit becomes more organized and attractive. In Lubumbashi, this would imply the creation of formalized circuits linking different cultural sites, with tour guides and services adapted to visitors.

Then comes the consolidation phase, where tourism becomes an important economic sector but begins to show signs of saturation. According to Butler (1980), this stage requires effective management to maintain the quality of the offer. In Lubumbashi, this means better organization of the cultural circuit to avoid the degradation of sites.

The stagnation phase appears when attendance reaches its maximum and growth slows down. Destinations may lose attractiveness if no innovation is introduced. For Lubumbashi, this can be avoided by the diversification of cultural circuits and the integration of new tourist experiences.

The decline or rejuvenation phase depends on management choices. Butler (1980) emphasizes that destinations can either decline or renew themselves through innovation strategies. In Lubumbashi, the cultural tourist circuit can be revived through the valorization of intangible heritage, digitalization or cultural events.

1) Social Exchange Theory

The social exchange theory, developed by Ap (1992), explains that the support of local populations for tourism depends on their perception of benefits and costs. Within the framework of a cultural tourist circuit in Lubumbashi, this theory makes it possible to analyze the relationships between tourism stakeholders and the local population. It emphasizes the economic and social dimension of tourism.

According to this theory, individuals engage in social interactions when they believe they will benefit from them. In the tourism context, the inhabitants of Lubumbashi may accept the development of cultural tourism if they perceive positive outcomes such as job creation and improvement of local incomes.

When benefits outweigh costs, populations support tourism development. In Lubumbashi, this can be reflected in the acceptance of cultural tourist circuits if they contribute to the local economy and enhance cultural resources without degrading them.

However, if social or cultural costs are too high, such as loss of cultural identity or degradation of sites, populations may become reluctant. Ap (1992) insists on the importance of balancing economic benefits and social impacts to ensure acceptance of tourism.

The theory also shows that exchanges are not only economic but also social and symbolic. In Lubumbashi, cultural tourism allows an exchange between visitors and local communities, promoting the valorization of culture and the strengthening of local identity.

According to this approach, the participation of local communities is essential to ensure the sustainability of tourism. In Lubumbashi, involving inhabitants in the management of the cultural tourist circuit helps to strengthen their sense of belonging and improve the social impact of tourism.

The social exchange theory shows that the success of a cultural tourist circuit depends on the satisfaction of local populations. If economic and social benefits are well distributed, tourism becomes a factor of sustainable development for the city of Lubumbashi (Ap, 1992).

2) State of the question

Moukaka (1987) analyzes the development of tourism in the Democratic Republic of Congo and highlights its weak structuring despite an important natural and cultural potential. He points out that the tourism sector suffers from a lack of adequate infrastructure. According to him, public policies in tourism remain insufficient to support its expansion. He insists on the need to valorize cultural and natural resources. The author shows that tourism could constitute an important economic lever. However, it remains marginal in national development strategies. He concludes on the need for rigorous tourism planning.

Mungu Lasu (1994) studies the place of tourism in the political context of the DRC. He states that the tourism sector is not yet considered a national priority. The author highlights institutional weaknesses that hinder its development. He also points out the lack of specialized training in the field of tourism. According to him, the valorization of cultural heritage is essential to revive the sector. He shows that tourism could generate significant economic benefits. He concludes that structural reforms are necessary to improve this field.

Kianguebeni (2018) establishes a close link between cultural heritage and tourism development. He states that the valorization of heritage constitutes a driver of economic growth. The author shows that cultural tourism promotes the creation of local jobs. He insists on the participation of communities in heritage management. According to him, tourism can contribute to poverty reduction. He highlights the importance of sustainability in tourism projects. He concludes that cultural tourism is an effective development tool.

Robert (2013) analyzes the interactions between heritage, tourism and development in Central Africa. He demonstrates that cultural tourism can stimulate local economies. The author highlights its role in the social cohesion of communities. He insists on the importance of good governance in the tourism sector. According to him, cultural valorization attracts investments. He also emphasizes the economic benefits of tourism. He concludes that tourism constitutes an instrument of territorial development.

Ilunga (2022) studies the socio-economic impact of tourism in the DRC. He shows that this sector generates income despite numerous structural constraints. The author states that tourism is a factor of direct and indirect job creation. He highlights its vulnerability to economic and health crises. According to him, the lack of infrastructure limits its

development. He insists on the role of public policies in its promotion. He concludes that tourism is a lever for economic diversification.

Deudjambé (2024) analyzes cultural tourism as a driver of development in Africa. He states that cultural valorization contributes to poverty reduction. The author highlights that tourism is a factor of economic growth. He emphasizes its role in job creation. According to him, culture is a key element of tourism attractiveness. He insists on innovation and sustainability in the sector. He concludes that cultural tourism is a lever for sustainable development.

Mupeta Mutwila (2022) studies the link between culture and economic development in Lubumbashi. He demonstrates that cultural activities promote local entrepreneurship. The author states that the city has significant tourism potential but is underexploited. He highlights the importance of cultural tourist circuits. According to him, these circuits can generate significant economic income. He emphasizes the need for the involvement of local stakeholders. He concludes that culture is a key factor of local economic development.

5. Presentation of the City of Lubumbashi

Lubumbashi, located in the southeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is the second largest city in the country after Kinshasa. Capital of the Haut-Katanga province, it constitutes an important economic, industrial and cultural center. Founded during the colonial period under the name Élisabethville, the city has gradually established itself as a strategic crossroads in Central Africa. Today, it is distinguished by its urban dynamism and its sociocultural diversity.

Within the framework of the subject concerning the creation of a cultural tourist circuit, Lubumbashi offers remarkable potential thanks to the richness of its heritage. The city hosts several historical sites, museums and cultural spaces, such as the National Museum of Lubumbashi, which traces the history and local traditions. Colonial buildings, public squares and art also constitute attractive elements for visitors. This patrimonial diversity makes it possible to design a structured and attractive circuit.

Furthermore, the city is characterized by a strong cultural vitality marked by artistic and traditional events. Dances and music reflect the identity of the peoples of Katanga. The organization of a cultural tourist circuit would make it possible to valorize these expressions while promoting their preservation. This type of initiative would also strengthen the visibility of Lubumbashi at the national and international level.

On the economic level, the establishment of a cultural tourist circuit could generate significant benefits. It would promote job creation in the sectors of tourism, handicrafts, catering and transport. By stimulating local economic activity, this project would contribute to diversifying the sources of income of the city, often dominated by the mining industry. Thus, cultural tourism appears as a lever for sustainable development.

The social impact of such a project would also be notable. It would encourage social cohesion by valorizing local cultural identities and involving communities in heritage management. Moreover, it would offer opportunities for intercultural exchange and learning for both inhabitants and visitors. In sum, the creation of a cultural tourist circuit in Lubumbashi constitutes a relevant initiative to promote both economic and social development.

6. Methodological Framework

To better refine our vast study, the use of appropriate scientific methods proves indispensable in order to respond to the stated problem. According to Laubet Del Bayle, the method is defined as “the set of intellectual operations allowing to analyze, understand and explain the studied reality”. In the same sense, Grawitz (1979) considers the method as a set of intellectual operations allowing to reach and verify scientific truths. Moreover, Durkheim (1895) insists on the importance of scientific rigor in the analysis of social facts. Bachelard (1938), for his part, emphasizes the need to break with prejudices in order to build objective knowledge. Thus, these authors confirm the fundamental role of the method in any scientific research. It is within this framework that our study adopts a structured methodological approach.

To verify our research hypotheses, we adopted a combined approach based on several complementary methods. This combination makes it possible to approach the studied phenomenon from different angles and to improve the quality of the analysis. It also allows the cross-checking of data in order to strengthen the reliability of the obtained results. Indeed, a single method is not sufficient to understand a complex phenomenon such as cultural tourism. Thus, the chosen methodological approach guarantees a better interpretation of the data. It also helps to avoid analysis errors and biases. It is within this logic that we used the analytical method and the historical method.

According to Rwigamba, the analytical method is defined as “a systematic analysis of all information as well as collected data”. This method consists of breaking down a phenomenon into simple elements in order to better understand it. It allowed us to analyze the data collected during interviews with the concerned officials. Thanks to it, we were able to organize and interpret the information logically. It also facilitates the understanding of documents consulted within the framework of the research. Moreover, it allows comparison of different sources of information. Thus, it constitutes an essential tool for rigorous analysis.

The analytical method also allowed us to examine the data in a critical and structured manner. It promotes a better understanding of the relationships between the different variables studied. It helped us identify points of convergence and divergence in the collected information. In addition, it made it possible to better exploit the results of the interviews conducted in the field. It also contributes to the clarity of scientific interpretations. Thanks to this method, our analysis becomes more coherent and reliable. It therefore constitutes an important pillar of our research.

The historical method is an approach that makes it possible to reconstruct past facts and understand their evolution over time. It aims to scientifically establish historical events and their consequences. According to Bloch (1949), history must be understood as a science that analyzes human phenomena in their temporality. Le Goff (1988) adds that the historical method makes it possible to better understand social and cultural transformations. In our study, it allowed us to examine the evolution of the city of Lubumbashi. It also helps to understand the development of local cultural heritage. Thus, it gives an essential temporal dimension to our work.

Moreover, the historical method is based on the critical analysis of available sources. It allows verification of the reliability of documents used in the research. It helped us trace the origins and evolution of cultural tourism in Lubumbashi. This method also highlights the historical factors that have influenced the current situation. It facilitates the understanding of social and economic changes in the city. In addition, it allows the contextualization of current data. It thus strengthens the scientific depth of our study.

According to Grawitz (1979), technique is the set of procedures and practical means used to achieve a research objective. It represents the researcher's know-how in data collection. It makes it possible to operationalize the scientific methods used. In our study, techniques play an essential role in the collection and processing of information. They facilitate access to field and documentary data. Thus, we mainly used the interview technique and the documentary technique. These techniques are complementary and essential for our research.

According to Grawitz (1979), the interview technique consists of questioning resource persons in order to obtain useful information for research. It allows direct contact with the actors concerned by the studied subject. This technique enabled us to collect data from officials of institutions and organizations. It promotes the obtaining of rich, precise and contextualized information. It also makes it possible to understand field realities. Thanks to it, we were able to deepen our analysis. It constitutes an important source of qualitative data.

According to Grawitz (1979), the documentary technique consists of a systematic search for written documents related to the field of study. It includes books, articles, theses, reports and digital sources. This technique allowed us to consult several documents related to our research topic. It facilitated the understanding of theoretical concepts and previous studies. It also helped us enrich our theoretical framework. Moreover, it allows comparison of different sources of information. Thus, it constitutes a fundamental pillar of scientific research.

7. Results

The results of this study first show that the city of Lubumbashi has significant cultural tourism potential but is still insufficiently structured. Several historical, cultural and symbolic sites exist, but they are not integrated into an organized circuit. This lack of structuring limits the visibility of these heritages to visitors. It also reduces their economic

and social exploitation. However, these sites have a strong historical value capable of attracting diverse tourism. Thus, their networking constitutes a real development opportunity. The potential is therefore present but remains underexploited.

Next, it emerges that the creation of a cultural tourist circuit requires a methodical and progressive approach. The identification of sites constitutes the first essential step of the process. It must be followed by an analysis of their historical value and accessibility. Subsequently, the organization of the itinerary makes it possible to structure the tourist route logically. The use of technological tools such as GPS also facilitates the design of the circuit. This approach guarantees better coherence of the final tourist product. It thus ensures an enriched experience for visitors.

The results also indicate that the implementation of a cultural tourist circuit could generate significant economic benefits. Indeed, the exploitation of tourist sites would promote the creation of direct and indirect income. It would also encourage the development of small commercial activities around visited sites. Tour guides, transporters and local artisans could benefit from new economic opportunities. This dynamic would contribute to the increase of monetary circulation in the city. Thus, tourism appears as a sector generating local wealth. It constitutes an important lever for the urban economy.

On the social level, the results reveal that the cultural tourist circuit could improve the living conditions of local populations. The creation of tourism-related jobs would reduce the unemployment rate, particularly among young people. It would also promote social inclusion through community participation. Moreover, contact with external visitors would lead to gradual cultural openness. Inhabitants could develop new skills and better valorization of their heritage. This would contribute to strengthening social cohesion. Tourism thus becomes a factor of positive social transformation.

Furthermore, the study shows that the tourist circuit can contribute to the valorization of local material and immaterial products. Local artisans and producers would benefit from better visibility of their creations. Local products could be better marketed to tourists. This dynamic would strengthen the cultural identity of the city of Lubumbashi. It would also promote the preservation of local traditions. Thus, cultural tourism plays an important role in heritage preservation. It acts as a vector of cultural promotion.

Finally, the results emphasize that despite these opportunities, several challenges persist in the implementation of a cultural tourist circuit. The lack of coordination between stakeholders in the sector constitutes a major obstacle. The lack of adequate infrastructure also limits the reception of visitors. Moreover, the weak promotion of tourist sites reduces their attractiveness. It is therefore necessary to strengthen tourism development policies. Better organization would optimize economic and social benefits. Thus, structuring the circuit appears as a strategic priority for Lubumbashi.

8. Contribution of the Study

The present study makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the development of cultural tourism in the city of Lubumbashi. It highlights the necessary steps for the creation of a structured tourist circuit, emphasizing the identification and valorization of cultural sites. It also contributes to demonstrating the role of tourism as a lever for local economic development. On the social level, it emphasizes the importance of job creation and improvement of living conditions of populations. This research also raises awareness among local stakeholders about the exploitation of available cultural heritage. It proposes a reflection on the structuring of urban tourist supply. Moreover, it serves as a scientific basis for future studies in the field of cultural tourism and the creation of a tourist circuit.

9. Discussion of Results

According to Mathieson and Wall (1982), tourism is a system of interactions between resources, visitors and space, which implies a structured organization to ensure effective exploitation of tourism potential. This approach confirms the results obtained in Lubumbashi, where the lack of structuring limits the valorization of cultural sites. It also shows that without coherent organization, tourism resources remain underexploited.

Cooper et al. (2005) emphasize that planning is an essential step in the creation of an efficient tourism product. They consider that a well-designed tourist circuit makes it possible to transform cultural resources into a truly attractive product. This idea aligns with the results of the study, which show the need for a structured itinerary to valorize the sites of Lubumbashi.

For Inskeep (1991), tourism development must follow an integrated approach combining planning, infrastructure and participation of local stakeholders. This vision corresponds to the findings of this study, where the lack of coordination between stakeholders hinders the implementation of an effective tourist circuit. Thus, his approach highlights the importance of an overall organization of the sector.

Goeldner and Ritchie (2009) state that tourism generates significant economic and social impacts for host communities. They explain that this sector promotes job creation and the growth of local incomes. These analyses corroborate the results obtained in Lubumbashi, which show that the implementation of a cultural tourist circuit could stimulate the local economy.

10. Conclusion

This study aimed to analyze the creation of a cultural tourist circuit and its socio-economic impact in the city of Lubumbashi. The results obtained show that the city has significant cultural and historical potential, but it is still insufficiently structured and valorized. The absence of coherent organization limits the visibility and exploitation of this heritage. However, its networking through a tourist circuit could strengthen the attractiveness of the city. Thus,

cultural tourism appears as a real opportunity for local development.

Furthermore, the analysis highlighted that the creation of a cultural tourist circuit requires a methodical approach and strong coordination between stakeholders in the sector. This circuit could generate significant economic benefits, particularly in terms of job creation and income for local populations. On the social level, it would promote inclusion, social cohesion and the valorization of cultural identities. However, major challenges persist, notably the lack of infrastructure and tourism promotion. These constraints must be overcome to ensure the success of the project.

This research confirms that cultural tourism constitutes a real lever for economic and social development for the city of Lubumbashi. Its structuring would not only make it possible to valorize local heritage, but also to sustainably stimulate the urban economy. It therefore calls for increased involvement of authorities, tourism stakeholders and local communities. The establishment of a well-organized cultural tourist circuit thus represents a relevant strategy for the development of the city.

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