

Planning in tourism development: a systematic review of the literature on approaches, models and applications

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ABSTRACT

Tourism development planning is defined as a strategic process that aims to organise and manage the growth of tourism activities in each territory. This is achieved by integrating economic development with the conservation of environmental, cultural and social resources. Within this framework, tourism planning is connected to sustainable management of destinations, territorial competitiveness, and coordination among public and private stakeholders. Analytical and technological tools are incorporated to support decision-making. Despite the growing academic interest in this field, the extant literature reveals conceptual and methodological dispersion stemming from the diversity of theoretical approaches, planning models, and institutional contexts from which the phenomenon is analysed. In light of the prevailing circumstances, the objective of this study is to identify and analyse the predominant conceptual approaches, planning models and applications that are extant in the scientific literature pertaining to tourism development planning. A systematic literature review was conducted in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 guidelines. This approach facilitated the organisation and rigorous examination of the extant scientific evidence and provided a basis for reflection on tourism planning as a relational, multidimensional and contextualised process. It was concluded that such planning requires territorial governance, the participation of relevant actors, and the use of analytical tools to promote sustainable and balanced tourist destinations.

Keywords: Tourism planning, Tourism development, Strategic tourism planning, Destination governance, Sustainable tourism

INTRODUCTION

Tourism development planning is a strategic process aimed at organizing and managing tourism growth in a territory by defining objectives, identifying resources, and coordinating public and private stakeholders. Beyond the expansion of infrastructure and services, it aims to achieve a balance between the development of the sector and the conservation of the natural, cultural and social resources that underpin tourism, thereby promoting sustainable destination management (Kumar, Agarwala, & Kumar, 2025).

Within this framework, tourism planning facilitates the anticipation of impacts, the guidance of land use, and the articulation of local economic development policies and community participation. Furthermore, it contributes to the competitiveness of destinations by identifying comparative advantages, diversifying tourism products, and improving service quality. The integration of technological tools, such as geographic information systems, in conjunction with innovations such as artificial intelligence and city branding strategies, has

the potential to enhance the scope of analysis and strategic planning in the tourism sector (Šoltéssová, Iannaccone, Štrba, & Sidor, 2025; López-Naranjo et al., 2025; AlShaalan & Durugbo, 2025).

Despite the growth of scientific literature on tourism planning, the available knowledge exhibits a notable conceptual and methodological dispersion. The phenomenon has been addressed from a variety of perspectives, including strategic planning, sustainability, territorial governance and destination management. Furthermore, it has been explored through diverse models developed in different geographic and institutional contexts. This diversity is indicative of the intricate nature of tourism as a socioeconomic and territorial phenomenon. However, it also poses a challenge to the establishment of cohesive analytical frameworks and the identification of shared patterns in tourism development planning (Pinhal, Estima, & Duarte, 2025).

This fragmentation is also observed in the diversity of actors and instruments involved in planning, including governments, businesses, communities, and international organisations, as well as strategic plans, public policies, and territorial analysis tools. Consequently, it is necessary to apply systematic literature reviews to organise and synthesise the scientific evidence, identify trends, and understand the evolution of the field, especially in a context where digital technologies, data analysis, and artificial intelligence applications are beginning to influence tourism planning processes (Pegler, de Lemos, & Ranieri, 2025; Salih et al., 2025; Djokić, Djordjević, & Milovanović, 2025). The objective of this study is to analyse the main conceptual approaches, models, and applications present in the scientific literature on tourism development planning.

To achieve this objective, it is necessary to employ a series of questions to guide the systematic literature review process and to structure the analysis of existing knowledge on tourism development planning.

1. What conceptual approaches are used to address planning in tourism development?
2. What are the most used tourism planning models in the scientific literature?
3. Which actors participate in tourism development planning processes?
4. What planning instruments are used to guide tourism development?
5. In which countries or regions is scientific production on tourism planning concentrated?

This study makes a significant contribution to the extant scientific literature on tourism development planning by integrating and organizing existing knowledge in the field. A systematic literature review was conducted to identify research trends, systematize the main conceptual approaches and tourism planning models, and analyse their applications in different contexts. Moreover, the results provide an analytical basis that can support decision-making processes in tourism development planning and management.

METHODOLOGY

This research is conducted through a systematic literature review aimed at identifying, organizing, and analysing scientific knowledge on planning in tourism development. To ensure transparency, rigor, and reproducibility, the study adheres to the 2020 PRISMA statement (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), which establishes guidelines for the identification, selection, evaluation, and synthesis of studies (Page et al., 2021). This approach facilitates the systematic structuring of the search, refinement, and analysis of the scientific literature, thereby enabling the identification of research trends, conceptual approaches, and planning models in tourism. In addition, it provides a clear and systematic overview of the state of knowledge in this field.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria were defined with the objective of guaranteeing the thematic relevance, academic quality, and methodological coherence of the studies included in the systematic review. The selection of articles was constrained to those published in peer-reviewed academic journals, thus ensuring formal editorial evaluation processes. It was deemed appropriate to include studies published in English and Spanish, due to the relevance of these publications regarding international scientific output on tourism and territorial planning. Regarding the publication period, research was selected that enabled the identification of recent trends in tourism development planning, provided it directly addressed planning processes, models, territorial management strategies, or instruments used to guide tourism development.

Subsequently, three exclusion phases were applied to refine the records obtained from the databases. The initial phase entailed the elimination of duplicates and the rectification of potential indexing errors through a meticulous review of metadata. The second phase verified the availability of the full text of the articles, excluding those without full access. A comprehensive review of the documents was subsequently undertaken to ascertain their congruence with the designated research theme. This process involved the exclusion of studies that, while mentioning tourism or planning, did not explicitly address tourism development planning. This process enabled the consolidation of a final set of articles that were consistent with the research objectives.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The studies were identified using the Scopus and Web of Science databases, selected based on their broad coverage of peer-reviewed scientific literature and their international recognition in academic research. Scopus, a product of Elsevier, is a comprehensive database that encompasses a vast collection of journals, conference proceedings, and academic books. It is equipped with sophisticated search tools that facilitate the identification of studies pertaining to tourism, regional development, sustainability, and territorial planning.

Web of Science, administered by Clarivate Analytics, is distinguished by its rigorous journal selection process and by including specialized collections that provide access to influential research in tourism and territorial planning. The amalgamation of these two databases serves to expand the scope of the literature search and mitigate potential biases in the selection of scientific literature, given their capacity to encompass a substantial proportion of the globally indexed academic output (Asubiaro, Onaolapo, & Mills, 2024).

SEARCH STRATEGY

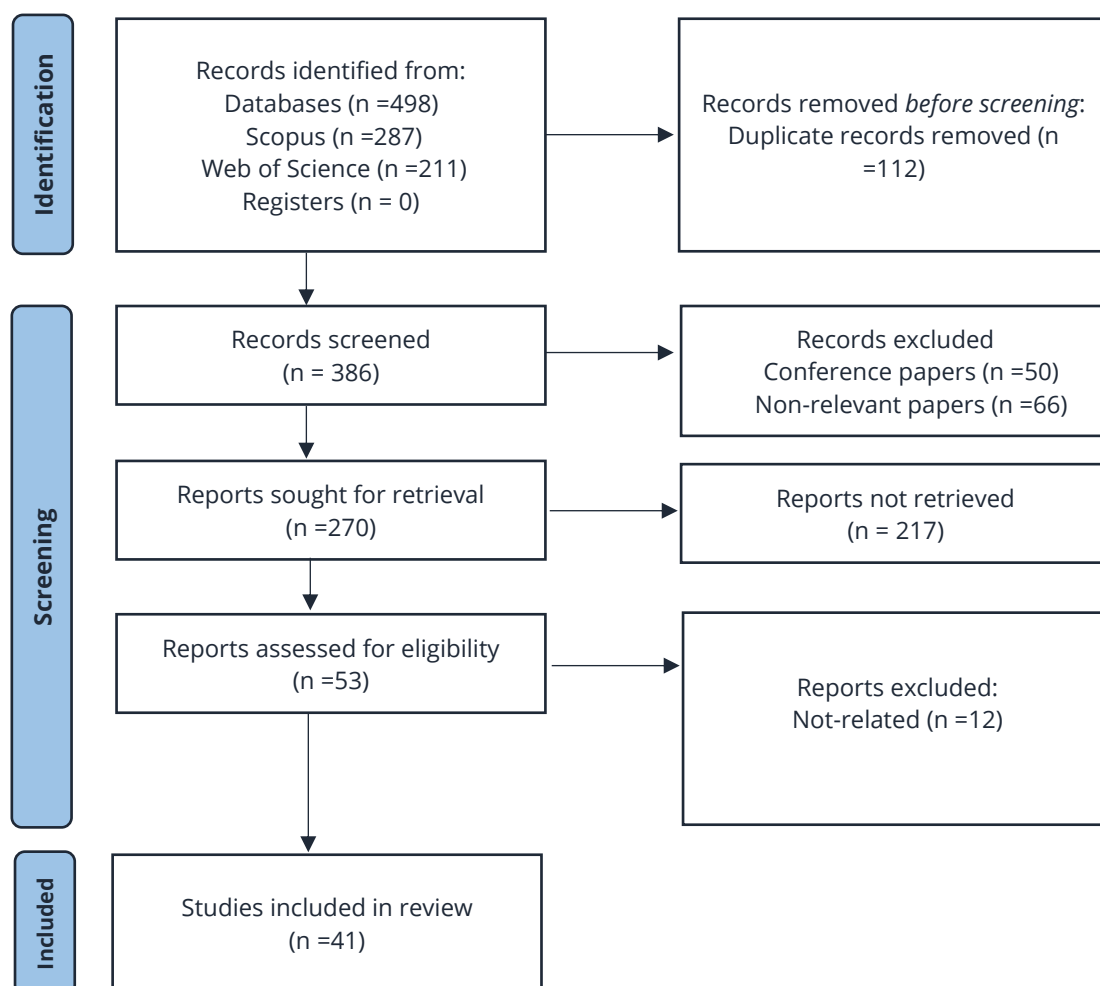
The search strategy was defined by designing specific search queries for each database to systematically retrieve studies related to tourism development planning. These queries were derived from the established inclusion criteria for the research and structured using Boolean operators (AND, OR), allowing for the combination of keywords associated with tourism development and planning. For Scopus, the following search query was used: ((TITLE ("tourism development") AND TITLE (planning)) OR (AUTHKEY ("tourism development") AND AUTHKEY (planning))). For Web of Science, an equivalent query adapted to its search syntax was applied, replacing the corresponding fields with ((TS = ("tourism development") AND TS = (planning)) OR (AK = ("tourism development") AND AK = (planning))). These configurations allowed for the identification of articles in which the concepts of tourism development and planning appear as central elements of academic analysis.

SELECTION PROCESS

The study selection process was structured in accordance with the PRISMA protocol to ensure a systematic and transparent filtration of the scientific literature. In the identification phase, records were retrieved from the databases using the defined search terms. Subsequently, during the screening phase, titles and abstracts were reviewed to verify thematic relevance and eliminate duplicates or documents unrelated to the study's objective.

In the eligibility phase, the full text of the articles was analysed to verify their compliance with the established criteria. The results of the procedure are presented in Figure 1, which shows the PRISMA flow diagram. This diagram summarizes the identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion stages, as well as the number of records retrieved from Scopus and Web of Science and the final set of studies included in the analysis.

Figure 1 – PRISMA flowchart. Created by the author using data from Scopus and Web of Science



DATA PROCESSING

The data processing was conducted utilizing the Microsoft Excel software, a tool employed for the purpose of recording, organizing, and systematizing the data extracted from the articles incorporated within the systematic review. Each study was incorporated into a registration matrix, thereby enabling the systematic structuring of information and facilitating subsequent analysis. The database incorporated variables pertinent to the

research, including author, year of publication, country of study, conceptual approach, the planning model analysed, and the type of application in tourism development. The elements pertaining to the study's context and the primary contributions documented were meticulously recorded. The organization of information thus enabled the comparison of selected studies and the identification of trends in the literature on planning in tourism development.

RISK OF BIAS

The risk of bias assessment was conducted with consideration for the methodological quality of the included studies and the rigor of the selection process applied in the systematic review. The analysis examined the thematic coherence of the articles, the clarity of their methodological procedures, and the transparency of the identification, screening, and eligibility stages defined by the PRISMA protocol. The potential for bias in the selection of databases, the utilization of specific search terms, and the inherent limitations of results reporting processes in scientific literature were also acknowledged. The traceability of the procedure followed is represented in the PRISMA flowchart presented in Figure 1, which clearly illustrates the stages of the study selection process.

RESULTS

The results of the systematic review are presented according to the research questions, thus facilitating the organization of the analysis of scientific knowledge on planning in tourism development. This structure facilitates the identification of trends in literature related to conceptual approaches, tourism planning models, the actors involved in planning processes, the instruments used to guide tourism development, and the geographical distribution of the studies. Table 1 provides a concise overview of the studies incorporated within the review, thereby establishing the foundation for the comprehensive analysis of the selected literature.

Table 1 – Studies included in the research

Title	APA citation
Heritage Tourism Development Should Take Care of Industrial Heritage Protection: A Study on the Development Strategy of Industrial Heritage Tourism in Nanjing	Wang et al., (2024).
Scenario Planning for Food Tourism in Iran's Rural Areas: Ranking Strategies Using Picture Fuzzy AHP and COPRAS	Jamini et al., (2025).
Suitable Design Guidelines of City Tourism Site for Public Service: Optimization Design of Marina in Tianjin, China	Zhao et al., (2025).
"They Have Done Nothing" to Prevent the "Irreversible Loss of Settlements": The Local Perception of Spatial Policies Against Depopulation in the Queixa and San Mamede Mountain Ranges (Galicia)	Paul et al., (2025).
A content analysis of the future of tourism through the presidential state of the nation address in the Philippines (1987-2019)	Capistrano et al., (2020).
Airport development projects in Thailand: a case study of Betong International Airport	Khianthongkul et al., (2024).
An institutional appraisal of tourism development and planning: The case of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC)	Alipour et al., (2005).
Changes and development directions in the spatial development of small port towns on the Hel peninsula from 2005 to 2022	Soldatke, N. (2025).
Community-Based Tourism: A Catalyst for Achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals One and Eight	Jackson, L. A. (2025).
Community-centric approaches to tourism development and planning	Widjaja et al., (2025).

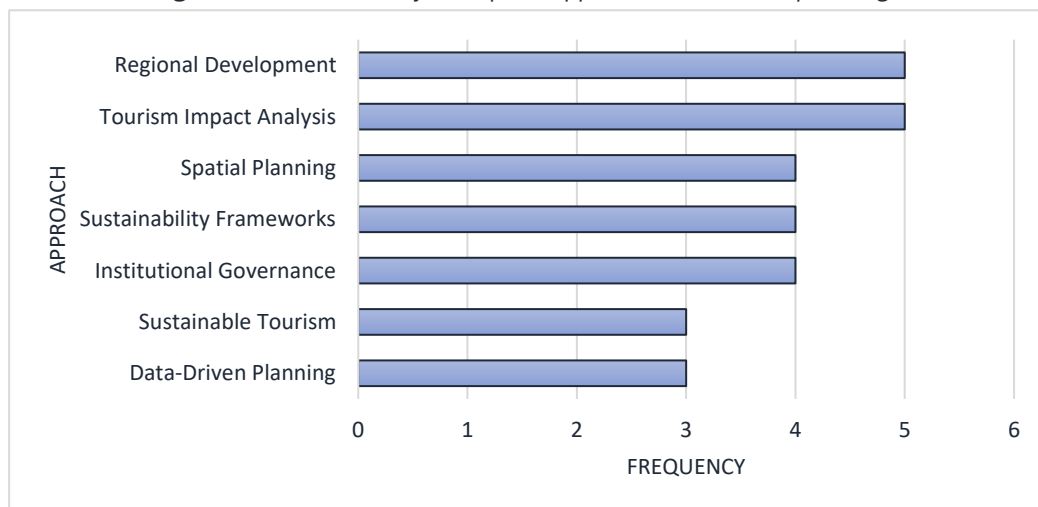
Conditions for tourist travels to the Warmian--Masurian Voivodeship during the COVID-19 pandemic	Bogusławska et al., (2023).
Criteria for planning sustainable tourism development zones in coastal regions: Case study of croatia	Ivandić et al., (2012).
Critical Factors in Planning and Evaluating Hydrotherapy Tourism: Evidence from an Attractive Destination, Sareyn, Northwest Iran	Madani et al., (2026)
Cultural tourism and cities: Kaunas case	Kuizinaite & Radzevičius (2020)
Determining a Reasonable Speed for Xinjiang's Tourism Development in the '14th Five-Year Plan' under the Green Concept: Analysis from the Perspective of Water Environment Regulation	Wu et al. (2022)
Diagnosis for the proposal of a tourism circuit in Valle Hermoso parish, Ecuador	Salas Medina et al. (2024)
Examining resident's perception of sustainability tourism planning and development: the case of malang city, indonesia	Kurniawan et al. (2021)
Hiking- and Mountaineering-Based Wellness Tourism Development in Greece: Towards a Related Regional Policy and Spatial Planning	Giannakopoulou & Tzalonikou (2026)
Historical Trajectories of Tourism Development Policies and Planning in Ghana, 1957–2017	Adu-Ampong (2019)
I, me, and the outsider—an exploratory study to identify antecedents of sustainable tourism ecosystem in India	Chopra & Pandey (2025)
Integration of strategic planning and air connectivity in tourism development	Suparman et al., (2023)
Model of local population perception in supporting coastal tourism development and planning in bali	Wardana, Utama, & Astawa (2018)
New tasks of destination management: Between tourism and quality of life; [Neue Aufgaben des Destinationsmanagements: Zwischen Tourismus und Lebensqualität]	Wittmann & Helleisz (2022)
Planning for Simultaneous Regional/Urban and Tourism Development with Case Studies	Shahraki (2021)
Retrospective analysis of urban development in the Spanish Mediterranean coast	García-Ayllón (2013)
Revisiting sport and tourism interrelationships: The case of cameroon	Nyikana & Tichaawa (2020)
Seasonality of seaside towns on the example of spatial planning solutions in poland	Soldatke, Żukowska, & Połom (2023)
Strategic planning for sustainable historical tourism development at sumberawan temple in malang, indonesia: a visitor-based assessment using importance-performance analysis	Titisari, Antariksa, & Suryasari (2025)
Strategy for the development of tourism as a tool for planning at a local level: The example of karlino commune (west pomeranian voivodeship)	Szostak, Głabiński, & Duda (2023)
Sustainable tourism development activities and planning systems in Vhembe district, Limpopo province, South Africa: A comprehensive eco-touristic and sustainability perspective	Ramaano (2024)
Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas—The Case of the Vršac Mountains Outstanding Natural Landscape, Vojvodina Province (Northern Serbia)	Trišić et al. (2023)
The 'clean, health, safety and environment sustainability' (CHSE) in tourism in the post-COVID19: a shared value perspective in Malang Regency, Indonesia	Iqbal et al. (2025)
The economic sustainability in urban planning: The case of La Manga	Miralles & García-Ayllón (2013)
The formation of tourist friendly destination concept in Kuala Lumpur	Anuar et al., (2013)

The role of tourism marketing in enhancing tourism development: A comparative study between constantine and Amman cities	Benghadbane & Khreis (2019)
The social researcher vis-à-vis community-based tourism planning: an assessment from the academic literature	Alpízar OL (2022)
The Strategy for Sustainable Tourism of Andalusia: Key elements in the framework of the and alusian subregional tourist planning	Merinero Rodríguez et al., (2013)
The use of geographic information systems in selecting the most suitable sites for tourism projects in El Driouch (northeastern Morocco)	Mohamed E; Smail B (2025)
Tourism Planning in Underdeveloped Regions—What Has Been Going Wrong? The Case of Extremadura (Spain)	Leal-Solís & Robina-Ramírez (2022)
Tourist development and planning on the Valencian mediterranean coast: The case of la devesa del saler	Miralles et al., (2018)
Tripadvisor as a source of data in the planning process of tourism development on a local scale	Minkwitz (2018)

Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

As illustrated in Figure 2, the distribution of the conceptual approaches identified in the literature on planning in tourism development is demonstrated. The results indicate that Regional Development and Tourism Impact Analysis are the most frequent, with five entries each. Spatial Planning, Sustainability Frameworks, and Institutional Governance each have four appearances, indicating an intermediate level of representation. The concepts of sustainable tourism and data-driven planning are each represented on the chart three times.

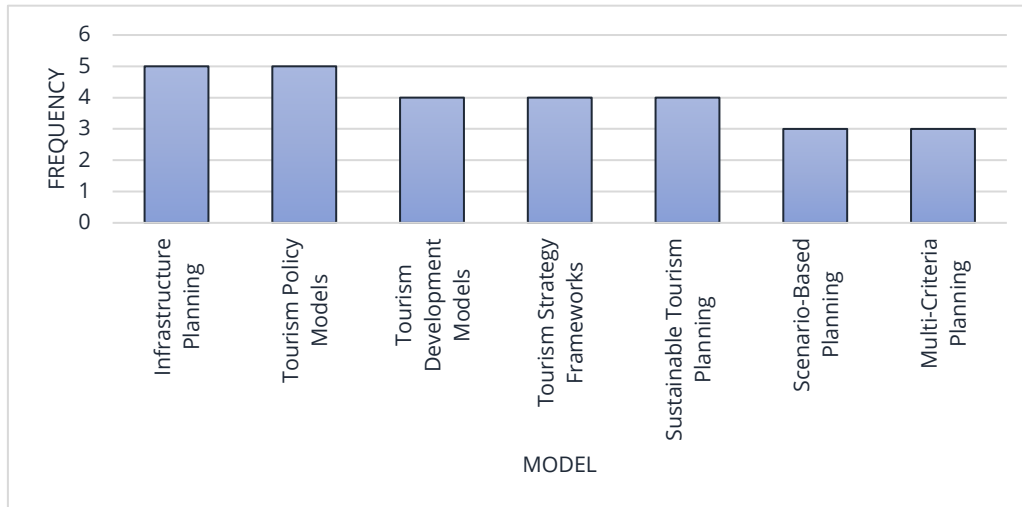
Figure 2 – Distribution of conceptual approaches in tourism planning



Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

As illustrated in Figure 3, the distribution of tourism planning models identified in the analysed literature on tourism development planning is presented. The results indicate that Infrastructure Planning and Tourism Policy Models are the most prevalent, with five entries each. The following chapters – 'Tourism Development Models', 'Tourism Strategy Frameworks', and 'Sustainable Tourism Planning' – each feature four appearances. It is evident that both Scenario-Based Planning and Multi-Criteria Planning are utilized on three occasions.

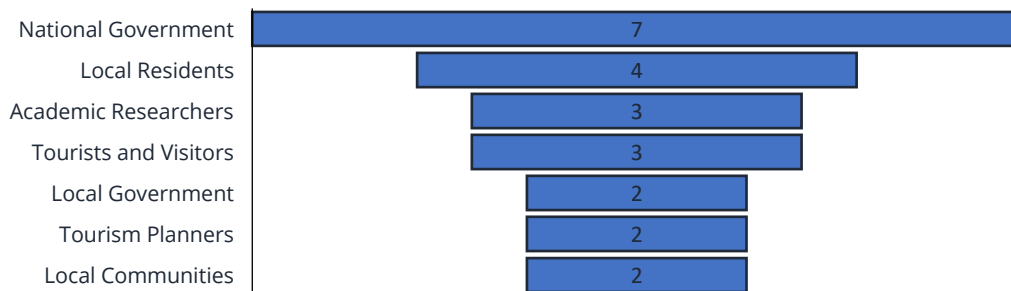
Figure 3 – Distribution of tourism planning models



Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

As illustrated in Figure 4, the distribution of actors involved in tourism development planning processes has been identified in the analysed literature. The results indicate that National Government has the highest frequency, with seven entries. Local Residents are the second most frequent, with four appearances. Academic researchers, tourists and visitors are all recorded with three entries each. It is evident that all three of the aforementioned groups – local government, tourism planners and local communities – are represented on two occasions.

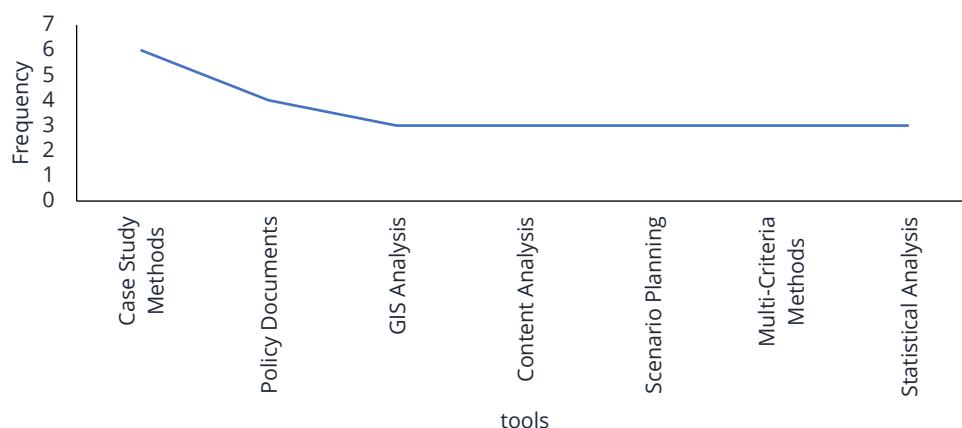
Figure 4 – Distribution of actors in tourism planning



Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

As illustrated in Figure 5, the distribution of instruments utilized in the tourism development planning studies identified within the analysed literature is presented. The results indicate that Case Study Methods has the highest frequency, with six entries. The Policy Documents category is the second most frequent occurring, with a total of four appearances. Subsequent chapters are dedicated to GIS Analysis, Content Analysis, Scenario Planning, Multi-Criteria Methods, and Statistical Analysis, each comprising three entries.

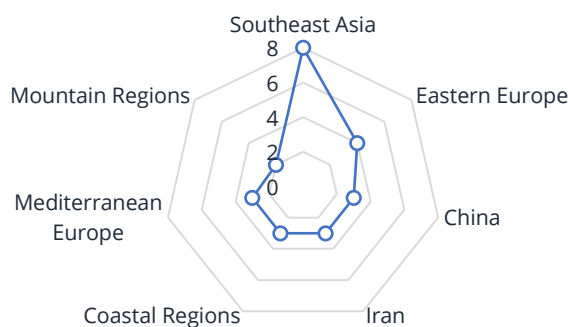
Figure 5 – Distribution of instruments in tourism planning



Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

As illustrated in Figure 6, the distribution of the countries or regions in which the tourism development planning studies included in the analysed literature are conducted is demonstrated. The results indicate that Southeast Asia has the highest frequency, with eight entries. Eastern Europe is the second most affected region, with four documented cases. The subsequent regions are China, Iran, the Coastal Regions, and Mediterranean Europe, each of which has three records. In conclusion, Mountain Regions has two entries.

Figure 6 – Geographical distribution of tourism studies



Source: Prepared by the authors using data from Scopus and Web of Science

The results of the systematic review were organized according to the research questions, thus enabling the analysis to be structured around several dimensions related to tourism development planning. Firstly, the main conceptual approaches presented in the scientific literature were identified, and then the planning models used in the analysed studies were reviewed. In the subsequent stage of the research, the actors involved in tourism planning processes were characterized, and the methodological tools used in the reviewed research were identified. Finally, the geographical distribution of the studies was examined, allowing the recognition of the territorial contexts where scientific production on tourism development planning is concentrated.

DISCUSSION

This section examines the findings derived from the systematic review on tourism development planning to interpret its contribution to academic knowledge in this field. Initially, the results identified in the analysed literature are presented, and subsequently, a comparison is made with previous studies related to tourism planning and territorial development. The subsequent section of this paper proposes a conceptual framework integrating the main elements identified in the review. In the following section, the theoretical, political and practical implications of the results are addressed. Finally, the study's limitations are outlined, and future research directions aimed at expanding the analysis of tourism development planning are suggested.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

An analysis of the conceptual approaches in the literature indicates that tourism development planning is addressed through perspectives that integrate territorial, sustainability, and institutional governance dimensions. A consistent relationship is observed between regional development and tourism impact assessment as predominant analytical frameworks, as well as the use of spatial planning approaches geared toward balanced management of tourist territories. Recent research highlights the relationship between urban regeneration, tourism infrastructure, and user needs (Zhao et al., 2025), in addition to emphasizing the importance of local stakeholders' perceptions in evaluating territorial policies related to tourism (Paül et al., 2025). These elements illustrate the convergence of territorial planning, sustainability, and governance in the field of tourism planning studies.

In the field of tourism planning, the extant literature demonstrates the coexistence of two approaches. Firstly, there are models focused on infrastructure management and public policies. Secondly, there are strategies oriented towards sustainable development and complex decision-making processes. In this context, strategic and analytical tools are identified, including prospective methodologies and multi-criteria evaluation techniques, to support the formulation of strategies in specific territorial contexts, especially in rural areas where tourism is presented as an alternative for economic development (Jamini et al., 2025). The importance of participatory models, such as community-based tourism, is also emphasized, as these promote inclusive development, sustainability, and territorial governance (Jackson, 2025). These findings reflect the integration of strategic planning, sustainability, and social participation in contemporary tourism planning models.

The analysis of stakeholders, methodological tools, and geographical contexts demonstrates that tourism planning takes place within governance structures where public institutions play a central role, complemented by the participation of local stakeholders, visitors, and the academic community. As indicated by previous studies (Capistrano & Notorio, 2021), political discourse and government strategic orientations have been demonstrated to influence the formulation of tourism policy. Furthermore, the utilization of user-generated information on digital platforms has been shown to expand the scope of indirect participation on the part of tourists in the sphere of local planning (Minkwitz, 2018).

Moreover, the extant literature demonstrates methodological diversity, incorporating case studies, spatial analyses, and surveys administered to residents and visitors to assess tourism sustainability (Soldatke, 2025; Trišić et al., 2023). The geographical distribution of the studies reflects a greater concentration of scientific output in regions where tourism is a key component of territorial development. This highlights research on tourism infrastructure and political and administrative factors that influence decision-making (Khianthongkul &

Bunyavejchewin, 2024). It also includes studies that analyse tourists' perceptions and territorial conditions in specific regions (Bogusławska & Podhorodecka, 2023).

COMPARISON OF RESULTS WITH OTHER STUDIES

The findings of the present study demonstrate that effective planning necessitates a comprehensive approach, the involvement of multiple stakeholders, and methodological tools that integrate the technical, social, and territorial dimensions. In this sense, there is convergence with Sommerauer et al. (2026), who point out that planning processes, such as climate adaptation pathways, achieve more consistent results when participation goes beyond consultation mechanisms and is organized through co-organization and collaborative learning schemes. In a similar manner, the development of tourism planning is recognized as a relational process involving governments, local communities, the private sector, and other relevant actors. The effectiveness of this process is contingent upon the quality of coordination and participatory design.

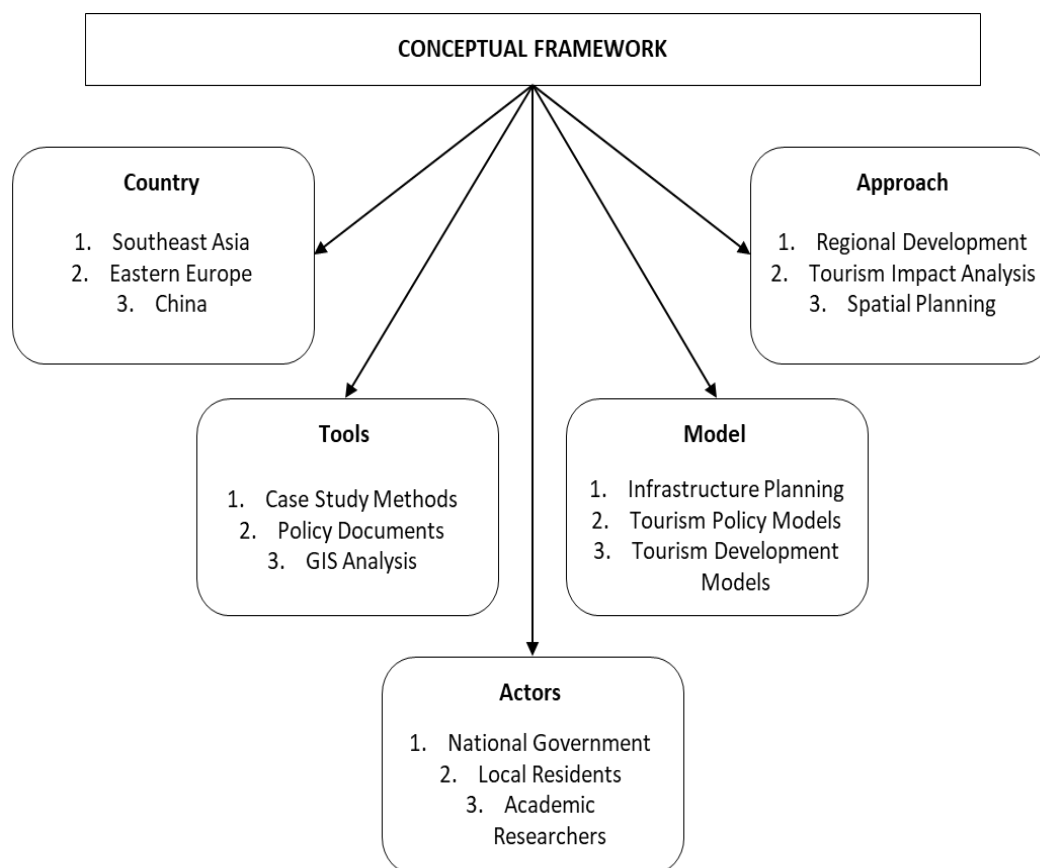
In addition, parallels can be drawn with the work of Nxumalo et al. (2026), who identified methodological limitations, a limited incorporation of advanced analytical tools, and a geographic concentration of scientific production in environmental impact studies in flood-prone areas. As is evident in the extant literature on tourism planning, despite the heterogeneity of conceptual approaches and models, empirical application does not always incorporate robust analytical methods. This underscores the disparities in scientific productivity and points to the persistent deficiencies in analytical and technological capabilities that impede the effective support of planning processes.

Finally, the present study identifies similarities with Gómez-Delgado et al. (2026), who point out a gap between conceptual development and its practical application. In the domain of tourism, this phenomenon is exemplified by the coexistence of numerous planning approaches that differ in their operationalization. In this vein, Purohit et al. (2026) underscore the imperative to systematize knowledge into theories, contexts, characteristics, and methods. In contrast to other fields that propose integrative frameworks, such as that of Aravantinos et al. (2026), tourism development planning still lacks a widely accepted model. Consequently, this review contributes to highlighting the fragmentation of the field and offering a structured vision for future research.

PROPOSED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Figure 7 presents the conceptual framework derived from the systematic review on planning in tourism development. The framework integrates the components identified in the scientific literature. Firstly, it encompasses the conceptual approaches that guide planning, including sustainability, territorial governance, and regional development. Secondly, it incorporates the planning models that structure the processes of diagnosis, formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore, it integrates the actors involved in decision-making, as well as the methodological tools used in tourism planning. In conclusion, the framework integrates the territorial scope of the analysed studies to demonstrate the impact of the geographical context on the implementation of planning approaches and models.

Figure 7 – Conceptual framework for tourism planning



Source: Author's own elaboration

IMPLICATIONS

The results of this systematic review contribute to the theoretical development of tourism development planning by organizing the existing literature around conceptual approaches, planning models, stakeholders, methodological tools, and territorial contexts. This systematization serves to reduce the field's conceptual dispersion, thereby allowing for the interpretation of tourism planning as a multidimensional process that integrates strategic, territorial, social, and institutional dimensions from a range of disciplines, including geography, regional economics, public management, and sustainability studies.

From a theoretical perspective, the analysis demonstrates that tourism planning has evolved from traditional approaches focused on economic growth towards comprehensive perspectives that incorporate environmental sustainability, social participation, and inter-institutional coordination. Moreover, an analysis of the extant literature reveals the existence of a plethora of planning models that vary according to the territorial context, development objectives, and institutional capacities. This indicates that a single model cannot be applied universally to all tourist destinations.

From a practical and public policy standpoint, the results underscore the significance of fortifying participatory governance frameworks that seamlessly integrate governments, the private sector, and local communities into the decision-making process. Furthermore, the necessity to employ rigorous methodological instruments such as territorial diagnoses, participatory analysis and strategic planning is emphasized to enhance the quality of

decisions and formulate tourism policies that are congruent with the territorial, social and environmental dynamics of each destination.

LIMITATIONS

The study is subject to limitations relating to the systematic review methodology and the search strategy employed. Despite the implementation of systematic criteria in the selection and analysis of the literature, it is possible that relevant studies were not identified due to restrictions on keywords, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the period considered.

Moreover, the review was grounded primarily in scientific articles indexed in academic databases, a methodological approach that ensures rigor in the sources but may have resulted in the exclusion of relevant information found in institutional reports, public policy documents, books, or grey literature. Furthermore, the geographical concentration of scientific output limits the global representativeness of the results. Therefore, it is imperative that the findings are interpreted considering these methodological limitations and the uneven availability of research on tourism planning.

LINES OF FUTURE RESEARCH

The results of the systematic review indicate several research lines that are aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge on tourism development planning. Firstly, the necessity to delve deeper into the analysis of the conceptual approaches that underpin this field of study is highlighted. A review of the extant literature reveals the coexistence of diverse theoretical perspectives, including sustainability, territorial governance, regional development, and strategic planning. This conceptual diversity is indicative of the intricacies inherent in the tourism phenomenon, which is inextricably linked to economic, social, and territorial dynamics. Consequently, comparative research is required to analyse how these approaches influence the outcomes of planning processes in different contexts. In addition, subsequent studies may benefit from the construction of integrative conceptual models that provide a more comprehensive explanation of the relationship between tourism development, sustainability, and territorial governance.

A secondary research trajectory entails the comparative evaluation of tourism planning models employed in disparate geographical contexts. The review demonstrates that the models utilized exhibit a range of methodological configurations, with their implementation being contingent on institutional, economic, and social factors that are unique to each territory. This finding suggests the importance of developing studies that evaluate the effectiveness of different planning models and identify the conditions that favour or limit their application. This type of research can provide relevant empirical evidence for designing planning strategies tailored to the specific characteristics of tourist destinations and their territorial particularities.

Another research trajectory that has been identified focuses on the study of stakeholders' role in tourism planning processes. The extant literature on the subject under review highlights the participation of governments, the private sector, local communities, and social organizations in decision-making related to tourism development. However, there remains a paucity of knowledge regarding the dynamics of interaction among these stakeholders and the institutional coordination mechanisms that enable them to articulate their interests. Consequently, future research endeavours should concentrate on the analysis of tourism governance processes, the examination of stakeholder network configurations, decision-making mechanisms, and the impact of social participation on planning outcomes.

Finally, the results also suggest the need to expand the study of the methodological tools used in tourism planning and to broaden the geographical scope of the research. Despite the extant literature identifying tools such as territorial diagnoses, participatory analysis and strategic planning, it is nevertheless necessary to evaluate their effectiveness and explore more advanced methodologies, including the use of digital technologies, geographic information systems and territorial data analysis. Moreover, the review discloses a concentration of studies in specific regions, which curtails the overall comprehension of tourism planning. Consequently, there is a necessity for research to be conducted in regions with less representation, particularly in developing countries and emerging destinations. This research aims to enhance the comprehension of the phenomenon and to formulate planning strategies that are more attuned to the diverse territorial realities.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis enables the examination of how tourism development planning has been addressed in recent scientific literature, and the identification of opportunities to consolidate a more structured field of study. The review demonstrates that tourism planning is undergoing a process of conceptual consolidation, whereby diverse analytical perspectives from different disciplines converge. This diversity is indicative of the intricate nature of tourism as a territorial, economic and social phenomenon, necessitating research approaches that can integrate multiple dimensions of development. In this context, there is a necessity to move towards analytical frameworks that allow for the interpretation of tourism planning as a process in which institutional, territorial, and social factors interact. The study also demonstrates that tourism planning should be understood as a relational process involving different actors with differentiated interests, functions, and capacities. This condition underscores the necessity for the enhancement of governance and institutional coordination mechanisms, with the objective of providing a coherent framework for the development of tourism in these territories.

It is therefore the case that planning assumes a strategic role by contributing to the balancing of economic development objectives with environmental protection and the social inclusion of local communities. In addition, the analysis emphasizes the necessity to consolidate methodological tools that support planning processes with solid empirical evidence. The management of tourist destinations requires territorial information, prospective analyses, and evaluation mechanisms that facilitate informed decisions. Consequently, the enhancement of analytical instruments and institutional capacities constitutes a pivotal element in the refinement of tourism planning quality.

The review concludes with the assertion that tourism development planning must be tailored to the specific characteristics of each territory. The social, economic and environmental dynamics of destinations vary between regions, thus necessitating flexible and contextualized approaches.

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