

## Socio-Economic Dynamics and Spatial Mutations of Skikda city الديناميكيات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والتحويلات المجالية لمدينة سكيكدة

Dr. Bendjemila Imèn<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. SELATNIA Khaled<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Constantine 3; E-mail: [imen.bendjemila@univ-constantine3.dz](mailto:imen.bendjemila@univ-constantine3.dz)

<sup>2</sup> University of Constantine 3. E-mail: [khaled.selatnia@univ-constantine3.dz](mailto:khaled.selatnia@univ-constantine3.dz)

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### Abstract

A city's identity reflects its socio-economical dynamics. Skikda has always been identified as an excellent city for blue tourism and agriculture lands. The present article employs a mixed method approach, focusing on the socio-demoeconomic interaction by interrogating the shift from agricultural to industry to services. Additionally, the Advantages, Disadvantages, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) method is used to assess the city's agricultural land potential. Results have demonstrated that Skikda has shifted to become a socio-spatial mosaic, a disjointed collection lacking of harmony or articulation. The examination of the city of Skikda advocates the assertion of agriculture's and tourism's complementary roles in the city's growth project. must be viewed in the context of its contribution to the development of an urban living environment that fosters contributing to social and economic regeneration.

**Keywords** :Socio-Economic dynamics, growth city, Skikda.

### ملخص

تعكس هوية المدينة ديناميكياتها السوسيو-اقتصادية. لطالما تم تحديد سكيكدة كمدينة ممتازة للسياحة الساحلية وخصبة أراضيها الزراعية. اعتمدنا في هذه الدراسة منهجية مترابطة، تركز على التفاعل الاجتماعي-الديمو-الاقتصادي من خلال تقصي خصوصية التحويلات من القطاع الزراعي إلى الصناعي و الخدماتي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تم استخدام طريقة المزايا والعيوب والفرص والتهديدات (SWOT) لتقييم إمكانات الأراضي الزراعية في المدينة. أظهرت النتائج أن سكيكدة قد تحولت لتصبح فسيفساء اجتماعية مكانية، مجموعة مفككة تفتقر إلى الانسجام أو التعبير. فحص مدينة سكيكدة يدعو إلى تأكيد الأدوار التكميلية للزراعة والسياحة في مشروع نمو المدينة. يجب النظر إلى هذا المشروع في سياق مساهمته في تطوير بيئة معيشية حضرية تساهم أيضًا في التجديد الاجتماعي والاقتصادي. الكلمات المفتاحية: الديناميكيات الاقتصادية الاجتماعية، نمو المدينة، سكيكدة.

\* BENDJEMILA Imen, Email: [imen.bendjemila@univ-constantine3.dz](mailto:imen.bendjemila@univ-constantine3.dz)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

City identity is articulated as the sense of a city which distinguishes it from other cities (Proshansky et al., 1983). Skikda is a medium-sized city with a population of 274988 people in 2018 that is mostly agricultural and tourism in nature. Skikdahas been limited by the omnipresence of environmental boundaries. It is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean Sea. It is constrained on the south by fertile lands. The city is bounded on the east and west by the 'Mouader' and 'Bouyaala' mountains. Before independence, these natural limits were less restrictive. Nowadays, the construction of a petrochemical complex on 1200 hectares in the east has posed a major hindrance to the city's urban expansion. Consequently, a land imbalance has developed and an alarming pace of consumption of lands with a high agricultural yield.

### 1. The City of Skikda Facing the Challenges of Urban Mutations

#### 1.1. Skikda: A City with Regional Dynamics

Skikda, a coastal city in eastern Algeria, has witnessed rapid population expansion, resulting in anarchic urbanization that distorts any transition between urban, industrial, and rural fabric. Indeed, this metropolitan capital of petro-chemistry is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Its space is poorly structured by obstructing vision between the urban, industrial, and agricultural landscapes, resulting in a chaotic scene that is unappealing aesthetically. With an estimated population of about 274988 people in 2018, the city has added 119316 new residents during the last two decades, a pace of development that exceeds the average for Algerian cities.

#### 1.2. Manifestations of Urban Sprawl as a Producer of New Urban Forms

Skikda, like many other Algerian towns, has witnessed a lengthy period of unregulated urbanization, agricultural land use, and environmental deterioration. Its urban territory, which spanned 310 hectares in 1962, has expanded exponentially, currently covering more than 4200 hectares (2018).

#### 1.3. Persistence of the City to Achieve Identity Transformation.

In 2008, the peripheral space becomes the major terrain for urbanization. The communal crumbling has reinforced urbanization in oil spots, which accelerate at an alarming rate. The dynamics of the city are increasingly displayed in the peripheral space.

Between 1998 and 2018, the city center lost a quarter of its population (Direction of Planning and Land Development of Skikda, 2018). This mutation started with problems within the city (deterioration of the built environment, traffic, and other difficulties) and with the need for people to own a quality constructed environment.

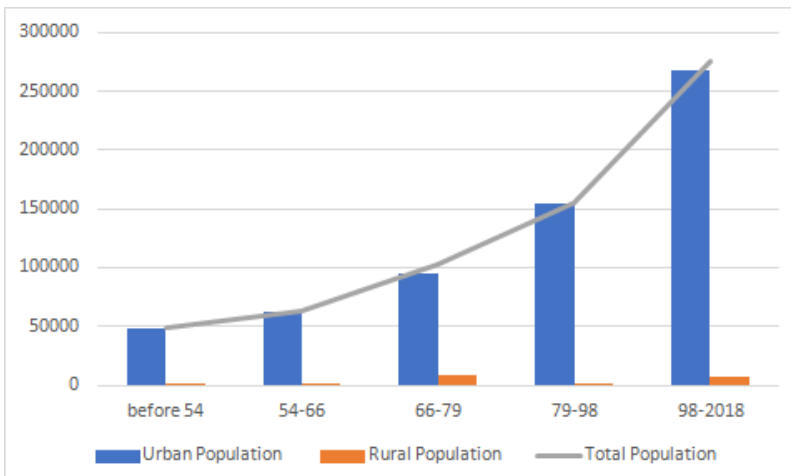
**1.4. Urban Sprawl: When Urbanization Devours Fertile Farmland**

For generations, Skikda has been defined by an agricultural environment dominated by vineyards. It has been changed by urban sprawl in recent decades on the fringes of cities. The change started as an urbanization gradient upward from the coast to the hinterland, and in certain rural municipalities.

**2. Skikda's Morphogenesis and Urban Dynamics.**

Skikda is a very old city, To better comprehend and approach this complex and mutating entity, the concept of morphogenesis may add another dimension to the city's formal dynamics.

**Fig.1.**Skikda, population evolution 1954 to 2018.



**Source:** Office for National Statistics (ONS), personal treatment, 2020.

**2.1. Skikda on the Roman City's Ruins: From Russicada, to Philippe City, and Finally to Skikda.**

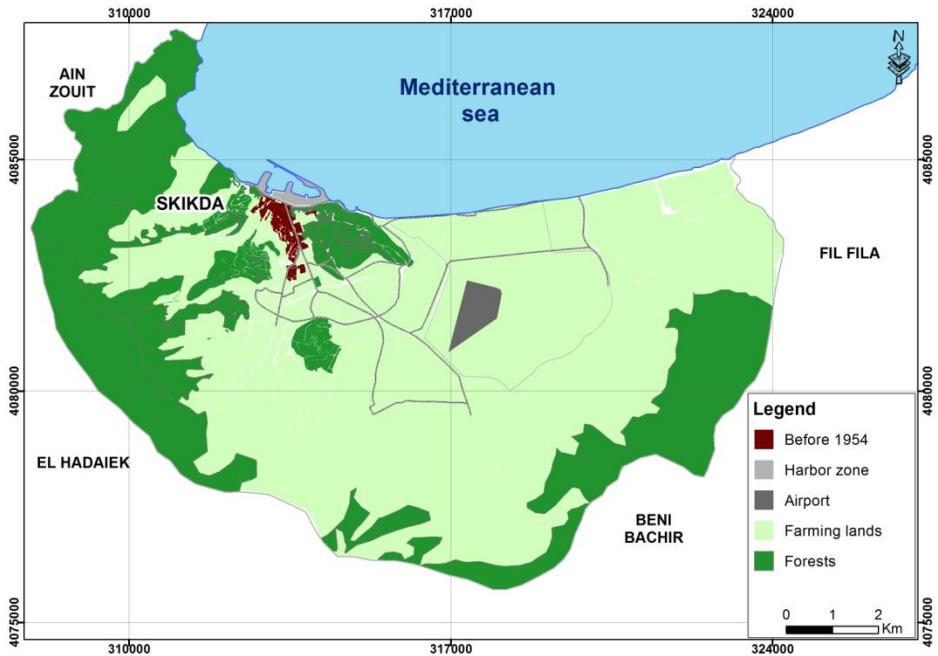
Skikda's foundations date all the way back to 439 B.C. The Phoenicians inhabited the city and called it Ras Oukada, or Cape Hycad, i.e., the Cape of the Lighthouse. The Phoenician period ended with the Roman conquest of the city, which they called Russicada in allusion to the Mouader mountain,

which overhangs the city to the east. Two main axes defined this metropolitan structure; one aligned north/south (Cardo) and the other east/west (Decamanus). At the junction of these two axes, convivial places such as squares and temples were created.

**2.2. The Colonial Period: Reclaiming the Ancient Site**

Following Ahmed Bey's defeat in 1838, the French army gained control of the whole Constantine area. They were interested in Russicada because they viewed it as the future major port of the Algerian East, which would facilitate their marine connections with the capital. They quickly established a military station there and dubbed Russicada "Philippeville" in honor of French King Louis-Philippe. As the city transitioned to the civil rule, the need for housing increased, driving settlers to live on the slopes of the mountains of El-Mouader and Bouyala, separated by a thirty-meter-wide ravine, thus encouraging the development of the city's first individual structures.

**Fig.2.**Skikda from 1849 to 1954: urbanization imposed by the constraints of the site.



**Source:** Communal Popular Assembly, authors' interpretation 2020.

**2.2.1. From 1838 to 1848: Russicada then Philippeville on the Romans Trail**

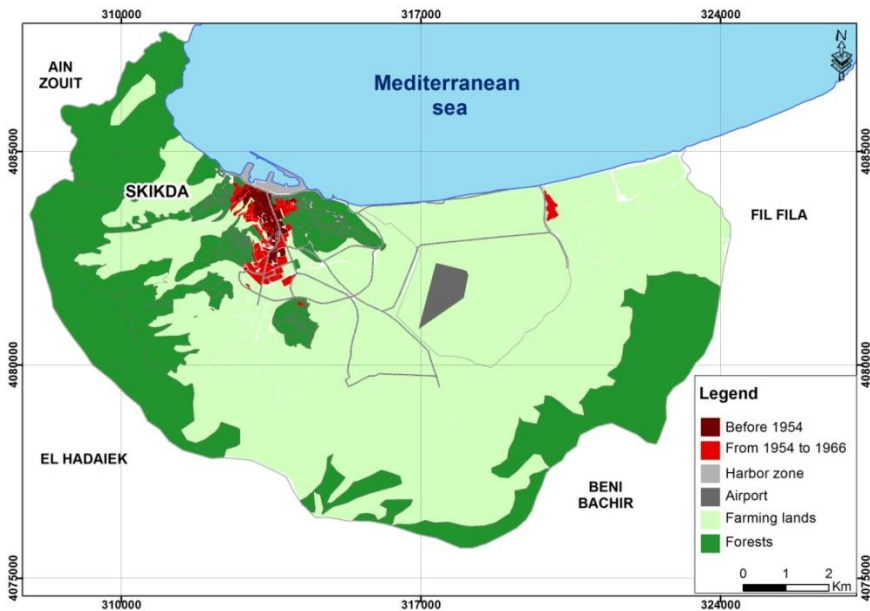
Initially, its growth path seemed to be obstructed by the gates of Stora to the north and Constantine to the south, which served as the city's actual boundaries. It is only later that the space cleared by the ravine, which was the site of the first extensions, takes on a dual role in the city's urbanization; on the one hand, it organizes and regulates the city's first linear growths; on the other hand, it serves as a support for the elements of the urban structure.

**2.2.2. Prior to 1954: A Spatial Stretching Forced by the Site's Boundaries**

The first urban extensions in general, dictated by the historical context and the uniqueness of the site, which is reduced to a narrow natural corridor corresponding to the bed of the East-West watershed, are elongated in shape and extend approximately 5.00 kilometers along the North-South axis, with a maximum width of 30 meters.

**2.2.3. From 1954 to 1966: The Coastline Taken Over by Urbanization**

**Fig.3.** Beginning of the change of the physiognomy of the skikdi landscape.



**Source:** Communal Popular assembly, authors' interpretation 2020.

During this period, the intensity of people's migration into the city

reached an unparalleled level, as residents were compelled to leave their villages of origin in 1959 as part of the colonization's regrouping policy. This large-scale reorganization transformed Philippeville from a 20,000-person city to a 50,000-person metropolis. This policy of forced population transfers from rural areas to the colonial center, followed by a demographic explosion fueled by a high rate of natural growth, resulted in the anarchic occupation of the city's southwestern sector through the establishment of precarious housing estates with identical small houses (Chetaibi, Bouabaz, and Boukeroua estates). These suburbs were created at the expense of productive agricultural land and a subdivision of individual housing consisting of 1,200 dwellings dominated by villa-style structures adapted to the steep slopes found in the city's west (BeniMelek) and southwest (Mont plaisant city) (Figure 03).

### **2.3. The Independence Era**

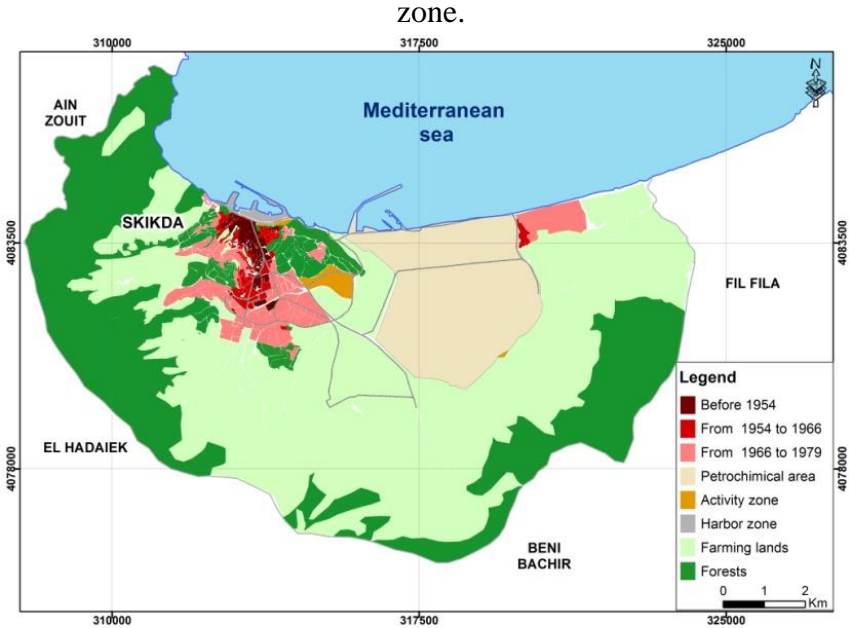
After the independence, Philippeville was renamed Skikda, which had significant economic difficulties as a result of the post-colonial environment. This imbalance is typified by the massive evacuation of Europeans, which is somewhat balanced by the increasing inflow of rural native people, resulting in the city's population expanding from 48,700 in 1954 to 59,000 in 1966. The development of precarious and illegal dwellings in the areas of the alleyways of 20 August 1955, the brickworks, Bouabaz, and Salah Boulkeroua is a direct result of this population increase.

These half-rural, half-urban structures in the form of shacks jeopardizes their economic and social equilibrium by contributing to the loss of agricultural land.

#### **2.3.1. From 1966 until 1978, the Industrial Site Alters the City's Image**

This period was characterized by the construction of the petrochemical complex (10,000 potential employment), which was equipped with a varied infrastructure and specialized in natural gas and oil processing. It is the country's second industrial hub, with national and even worldwide significance. Located on the plain of Safsaf, it consumes 1,200 hectares, where it was built concurrently with the city. Studies have reported the removal of vineyards and orchards.

**Fig.4.** Duplication of the city by the establishment of the petrochemical



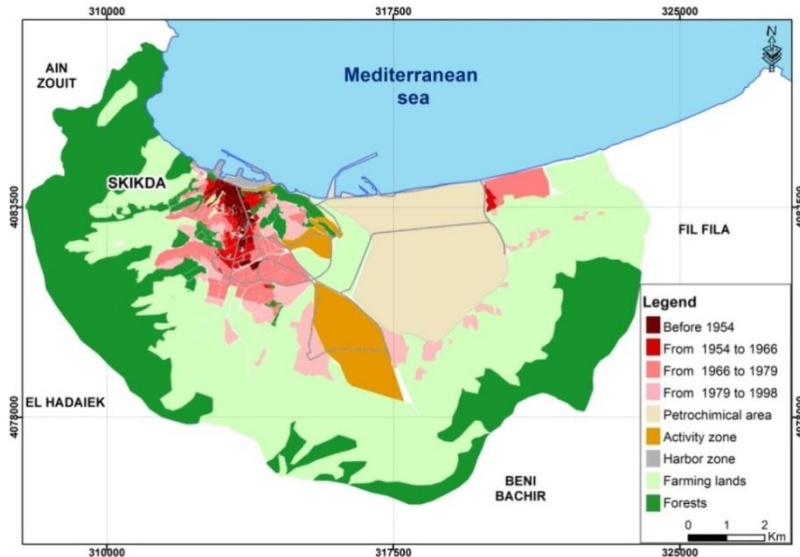
Source: ONS, personal treatment, 2020.

Demand for infrastructure, equipment, and housing grew significantly as a consequence of this settlement. The reaction to this gap was evident in the major housing projects, especially after the 1974 establishment of the land reserve policy and the new urban development zone (1975). In all, 10,000 dwelling units have been constructed in the Skikda commune alone. The majority of the locations selected were rural and agricultural in nature. Thus, far from slowing the city's urban development, illegal dwellings and even slums made a spectacular entrance into the city's urban environment, with no less than 5000 slums being fragmented in 1980 (Figure 04).

### 2.3.2. From 1978 to 1998: A Shift in Centrality towards the Southwest

The period's highlight is defined by a significant number of crucial works intended at rebuilding the city center to meet the population's needs and, on the other hand, by the almost complete filling of the voids in the first circle of the colonial center. It was essentially about eliminating the old city center and constructing a new one in keeping with the historical site (Figure 05).

Fig.5. Demultiplication of the urban space in the southwest of the city.



Source: ONS, personal treatment, 2020.

Rather than being halted, these spontaneous communities continue to expand out in oil fields, without Roads and Utility Services, public services, and most importantly, without supporting equipment. They never fail to create significant issues in terms of agricultural land waste, which becomes difficult, if not impossible, to optimize, and public health.

As a consequence, urban space has grown rapidly in response to the demands of newly settled people fleeing rural poverty in search of better jobs, commercial, and service opportunities available in the city.

### 2.3.3. From 2000 to the present: Skikda Seeking Rebirth via the Resurrection of Major Socio-Economic Projects

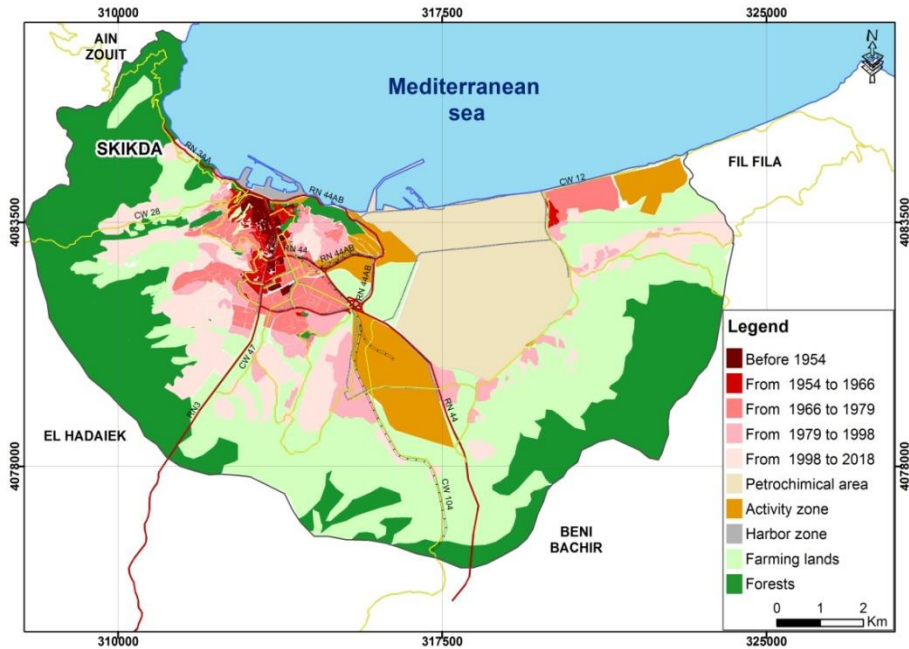
Space consumption has been treated critically, to the point that the urban perimeter's limits have nearly merged with those of the municipality. Skikda has reached a turning point in its history. Once a birthplace of agriculture and later a significant industrial town structured around its port and railway network, the city has struggled with deindustrialization since 2008, with the closure of several petrochemical sites.

The extension of the limits of the city of Skikda is evidenced by the large number of major projects that have been executed. These projects entailed the extension of the fishing port of Stora, the realization of a platform on the high seas, the extension of the commercial port in the hinterland, the creation of a dual carriageway that will connect Skikda to the



East-West highway, and the doubling of the national road linking Salah Bouchaour to El Hadaiek. These projects are thought to further strengthen the role of the city port on a national and international scale (Figure 06).

**Fig.6.** Spatial dynamism in all directions dispersed throughout the territory.



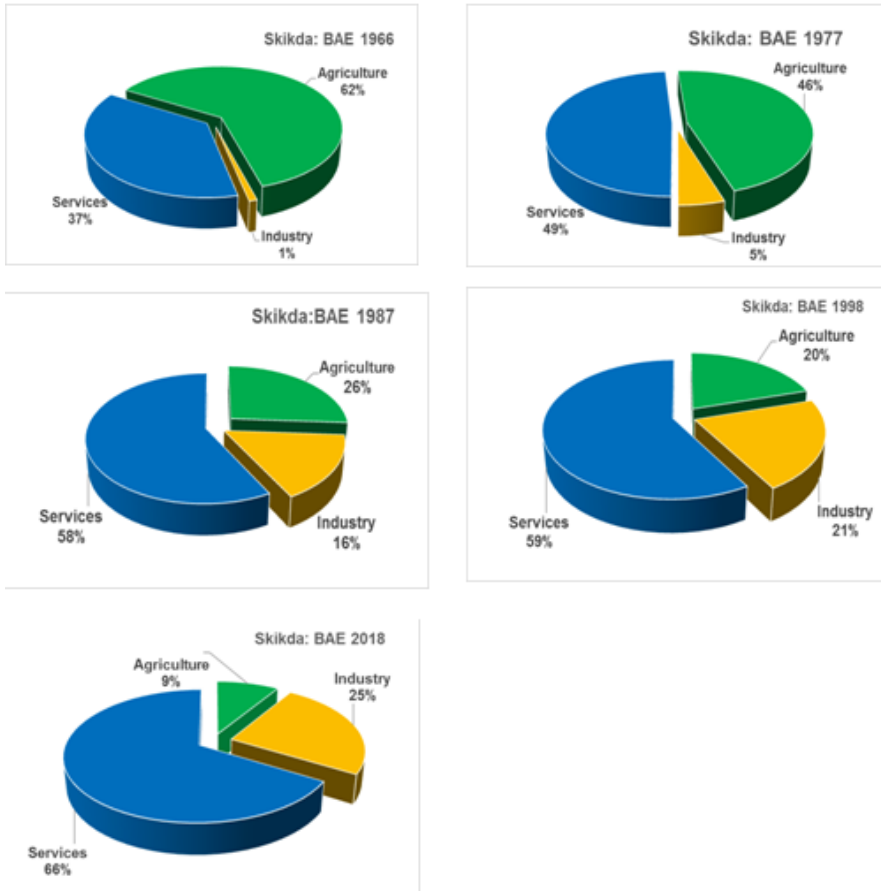
Source: Communal Popular assembly, authors' interpretation 2020.

#### 2.4. The Socio-Spatial Transformations

Agriculture has suffered a significant decrease as a result of urbanization. The rise in land prices has motivated the farmers' speculative tactics.

Agricultural and natural areas have not been adequately preserved in this dual environment of peri-urbanization and coastalization. Rural land is usually amenable to urbanization. The term "rural spaces" alone is deceptive. The agricultural profession emphasizes the danger that artificializing specific areas pose to its ability to preserve the territory.

**Fig.7.**Skikda, evolution of economic activities from 1966 to 2018.



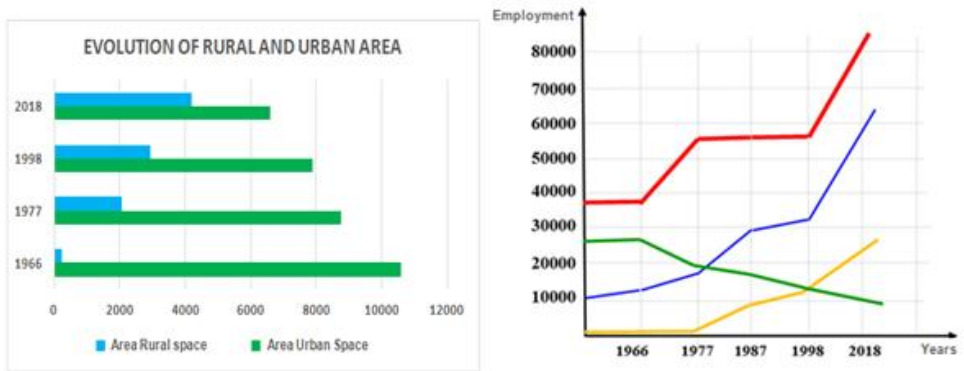
Source: ONS, personal treatment, 2020.

**2.4.1. Skikda: A Constraining Site for all Future Extensions.**

Skikda has been limited by natural boundaries from its inception: the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Mouader and Bouyaala mountains to the east and west. Before independence, these natural limits were less constricting. However, when combined with the existence of the petrochemical zone to the east, these natural barriers have become a significant impediment to urban development. As a result, the latter has relocated to agricultural land in the south.

According to recent research, Skikda requires more than 30 hectares of additional land each year for expansion, which is acquired at the cost of a peripheral agricultural area in the south.

**Fig.8.** Skikda, evolution of the urban and rural space from 1966 to 2018.



**Source:** ONS, personal treatment, 2020.

In summary, the city's dynamics are increasingly manifested in uncontrolled periphery areas, the habitat of which is inappropriate for a social space that is half rural and half urban. While the city does need space for growth, it is high time to rein in the invasion of agricultural land and restore its value as a scarce and non-renewable resource.

### 3. EXPERIMENTAL

#### 3.1. The Aim of the Study

The current paper's argument is founded on Enault Cyril's concept of contagion (2003) used in conjunction with the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Dangers (SWOT) analysis. It serves as an assessment grid for determining the city's strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and threats it confronts. The aim is to restore the city of Skikda's outmoded character via the promotion of blue tourism and a return to agriculture.

#### 3.2. The Methodological Approach

This analytical and geographical modeling approach is based on four primary criteria. The commune is the fundamental unit of territorial analysis (urban space and peri-urban space). A Geographic Information System (GIS) processes the data. Two processes are investigated sequentially: urban dynamics, as shown by the diachronic spatial development of these urban fabrics, and agricultural spatial mutations, as revealed by changes in land usage. The two processes are then compared to demonstrate the variety of interconnections between agricultural and urban areas in the region. The database is organized around three themes related to urban growth and

development:

- Density, as urbanization results in both the concentration and dispersion of commodities and people;

- Economic and employment developments in territory result in urban identities being redefined.

- Dynamics, since expansion and urbanization can only be comprehended through time. Thus, the character of Skikdais defined by the reorganization of the city's boundaries and specific kinds of renewal.

Four indicators for the urban phenomena based on these three concepts have been created:

- The population, through indicators of variation in population size and density;

- The built environment, via indications of variation and density of various categories (housing, equipment, and open spaces);

- Employment, in particular, variation in employment by socio-professional category

- Land use, in particular variation in land use within the artificial land class (continuous and discontinuous urban fabric, networks, industrial and commercial zones, construction sites) and transformations in land use between natural (agricultural and forest) and artificial (buildings, infrastructures) land classes. Though they are not farmed, wastelands are nonetheless classified as agricultural, although they often presage future artificialization of land use.

### **3.3. Research Question:**

Studying urban sprawl and the loss of Skikda's distinct identity raises the issue of how to set up governing systems that will protect agricultural areas from massive urbanization. Hence, the current paper aims to address the following question:

For a systematic and sustainable urban development, what meanings should be ascribed to the city's reconstruction of its identity?

### **3.4. Skikda, a City with an Evanescent Urban Identity**

This research highlights two key modalities of the phenomenon of urban identity change: the discontinuity of urban tasks, which is the defining element of the city's spatial growth process, has given rise to new urbanization fronts, restructuring the city and impacting the lifestyle of its

inhabitants. Additionally, the duality of the center and the periphery-rural zone has posed a question of control relations and interactions that are permanently established between the center and the periphery. On the one hand, the center, with its privileged position, is considered the master and regulator of territories located on its periphery, it has a concentration of population, economic activities, cultural offer, and places of power. On the other hand, the dependent periphery, which loses its agrarian substance to the center, but which nevertheless, receives benefits from it, while being maintained permanently in a situation of quantitative and qualitative inferiority.

### **3.1. RESULTS: Redefining the City of Skikda's Identity Via Agriculture and the Blue Economy**

The components of the SWOT analysis for Skikda will be determined using an assessment method that includes a survey of the Directorate of Agriculture and the Directorate of Tourism.

#### **3.1.1. The SWOT Analysis's Strategic Axes: Skikda's Identity**

The study of different SWOT analyses related to tourism and agriculture in the city of Skikda allowed for the identification of the city's potential in terms of agricultural/tourism and the dangers that may jeopardize its growth and sustainability. The outcome is a set of rules named strategic lines that will aid in the city of Skikda's recovery of its lost identity and growth of blue tourism.

Indeed, the disclosed strategic lines may be divided into three different categories:

- Strategic lines related to the city's attractiveness and reinforcing a feeling of belonging.
- Strategic axes for developing tourism and agricultural potential.
- Strategic lines related to sensitization and engagement of all city actors.

These key axes are the consequence of a variety of factors relating to the region's way of life, history, and economic development. It is critical to encourage sustainable development now to leave future generations with a healthy environment conducive to a higher quality of life.

**Table 1.** Components of the SWOT analysis for the city of Skikda

**Strengths**

1. A high degree of assistance is a major benefit since it enables farmers to maintain a stable income in the face of market volatility and uncertainty.
2. Demonstrates agricultural land with a high agricultural value and high-quality goods.
3. Farmers' willingness to invest in diversifying their agricultural output and developing their farms.
4. The overwhelming majority of farms are family-owned and operated: this creates a favorable brand image for the farmer in the eyes of the customer.
5. The farmer's job has many advantages, including the farm manager's freedom and autonomy, labor in and with nature, and an ever-increasing need for agricultural goods.
6. Mutual agreement (on the basis of trust) and non-contractual sales, trust relationships between producers and downstream chains.
7. Presentation of a feeling of community within a region/village
8. The rural regions' constructed (agricultural, habitat, etc.), natural, and cultural heritage.
9. A more than 140-kilometer-long marine front containing exceptional landscapes and natural treasures.
10. A brisk harbor activity that fosters passionate ties with both the interior and the outside of the nation.
11. A cultural legacy deserving of a long magnificent and rich history, conducive to tourist growth.
12. The city center's proximity to the sea.

**Weaknesses**

1. Personnel shortages on farms; it is becoming more difficult to recruit a competent staff.
2. Non-existent support to players proposing to conduct agricultural research initiatives in order to create a common ship commander enhanced.
3. The farmer is not sufficiently integrated into the food chain's decision-making process.
4. Farming methods are not adequately considered in the formulation of agricultural policy, due to a lack of a broad vision and a too narrow focus.
5. Consistent loss of agricultural land and natural areas as a result of urbanization along existing infrastructures
6. Predominance of private travel as a result of the inflexibility of public transit in rural regions, particularly within municipalities.
7. Input costs (water, energy, etc.) are higher in rural regions.
8. Considerable urban sprawl and enlargement of urban borders.
9. A downtown that is decaying, saturated, and crowded.
10. Environmental annoyances associated with the port's numerous industrial operations.
11. Anarchic encampment near the seashore.
12. The site's challenging topography.
13. Flooding and landslide danger.
14. Technological lag in managing and promoting tourism destinations (virtual tours, digital media, interactive tourist maps...).
15. Inadequate distribution of tourism-related information (websites, virtual tours, videos, leaflets...).



**Opportunities**

1. The proximity of the producer to the consumer.
2. Chance to promote regional agriculture and customer trust in locally grown goods.
- 3) Exploration of novel farming methods and the potential of utilizing drought- and heat-resistant crops in order to develop an appropriate crop rotation.
- 4) Possibility of growing the local economy by guaranteeing agricultural variety and therefore enhancing the competitiveness of locally produced high-quality goods.
5. Effective branding of local and/or regional goods.
6. Dynamics of regional tourism or even ecotourism, especially within natural parks.
7. interdisciplinary cooperation (rural development, regional planning)
- 8) Rural tourism is an opportunity to be explored.
9. increased awareness of the quality of life in rural areas (eco-tourism, nature discovery activities)
10. Possibilities of enhancing the value of structuring buildings (train station, old town hall, etc.).
11. Eight zones of tourist expansion on 2000 Ha.
12. A port with triple functions (commercial, industrial and tourist).
13. Port and urban wastelands awaiting exploitation.
14. Important technical infrastructures (national roads, ports and railroads...).

**Threats**

1. Land's legal status makes access difficult and may endanger farms' profitability and sustainability. Rapid population expansion puts additional strain on the land.
2. Labor shortages in all agricultural subsectors, both skilled and unskilled. As a consequence, the sector's labor expenses are very expensive.
3. Societal change: Over the last several decades, family arrangements have changed, presenting an issue with the availability of family labor on farms.
4. Exclusion from society, young unemployment, and school dropout
5. The effects of climate change, especially floods, on agricultural crops. These developments exacerbate farmers' economic instability.
6. Degradation of high-quality agricultural land as a result of urbanization and commercial zones.
7. Conflicts over land usage (agriculture, arboriculture, environmental protection, and tourism and population growth).
8. Dumped industrial trash in the water.
9. Impairment of the area's tourism potential.
10. Exclusion of civil society from city consultation and administration.
11. A perilous transition between city, port, and industrial zone.
18. The artificialization of peri-urban areas and the retreat of rural lands.

**Source:** Field survey and author's interpretation, (2020).



Table 2. Diagnosis defined by combinations of SWOT analysis

Combinations of the analysis	Diagnostics
Strength/opportunities(+/+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase awareness of and investment in blue tourism.</li> <li>• Preserve cultural identity and values.</li> <li>• Reinvest in agricultural land development.</li> </ul>
Strength/threat (+/-)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote beach tourism to diversify the tourist offer.</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate people on the economic value of their city.</li> <li>Rejuvenate the port's economic and tourism activities.</li> </ul>
weakness/opportunities(-/+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the city's image on a national and worldwide level via events and new information and communication technologies (interactive tourist map, applications, and websites).</li> <li>To enhance tourism-related services.</li> <li>To plan and coordinate large-scale cultural events.</li> <li>Increase public knowledge and participation in tourist initiatives.</li> <li>Incorporate tourist education into school curricula.</li> </ul>
weakness/threat (-/-)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish specialist heritage labs in collaboration with the university</li> <li>Conduct a review of the heritage management plan, enlisting the assistance of experts and engaging the university.</li> <li>To request that the New Information and Communication Technologies conduct an inventory of the condition of the heritage and create a data bank.</li> <li>To educate people about tourism. (Begin sensitization at the school level and include all stakeholders.)</li> <li>Promote associative behavior</li> </ul>

Source: Field survey and authors' interpretation 2020.

Table 3. Main issues arising from the SWOT analysis








	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	Intensity of the pressure
Transport and Travel	A brisk port activity that fosters strong ties with both the interior and the outside of the state. The city center's proximity to the sea.	Individual transport predominates owing to the inflexibility of public transportation, which is insufficient in rural regions, particularly intra-communal.			
Urban planning	Proximity of the city centre to the sea.	Urban sprawl and the expansion of municipal boundaries at the cost of agricultural land are important.	To explore, there are eight zones of tourism expansion covering 2000 hectares.	A hazardous transition between the city, the port, and the industrial zone.	
Building		A decaying, suffocating, and	Possibilities for organizing	Expansion of port	



		congested downtown.	buildings development (station, town hall etc...).	operations, resulting in an increase in infrastructure at the cost of the coastal fringe and beaches.	
<b>Industry development</b>		Environmental annoyances associated with the port's numerous industrial operations. Industrial trash that has been thrown into the sea.	A port that serves three purposes (commercial, industrial and tourist).	Expansion of port and industrial operations, resulting in an increase in infrastructure development at the cost of the coastal fringe and beaches.	
<b>Blue Economy</b>	A more than 140-kilometer-long marine front containing exceptional landscapes and natural riches.	Inadequately qualified personnel and substandard services. Inadequate distribution of tourism-related information (websites, virtual tours, videos, leaflets...).	Rural tourism is an opportunity to explore.	The original "agricultural" profession is harmed, and the rural and seaside tourism potential is jeopardized.	
<b>Agriculture</b>	Existence of agricultural land having a high agricultural value.	Significant urban expansion and an increase in insecure dwellings on excellent agricultural land.	Possibility of developing the local economy by guaranteeing agricultural variety in order to better position and build customer trust in locally produced agricultural goods.	Changes in society: Family patterns have changed over the last several decades, resulting in a manpower shortage in agriculture, both skilled and unskilled. As a consequence, the sector's labor expenses are very expensive.	

Source: Authors, 2020.

**Table 4.** Significance of the SWOT factor/ Classification of human activity on the urban identity of the city of Skikda (according to the SWOT method)

Essential		Intensity of the pressure	Positive pressure of the urban identity theme	Neutral	Negative pressure of the urban identity theme
High		Important			
Medium		Middle			
Low		Low			

Source: Authors, 2020.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

According to the SWOT analysis, Skikda has significant characteristics and assets that position it strategically in the national and international tourist sectors. These variables are generated from the potentialities inherent. Thus, any successful strategic position will inevitably rely on the reinforcement and development of the primary factors and assets that contribute to the destination's image and references. Differentiation from similar destinations and the control of weaknesses and threats are also crucial variables to foster strategic positioning. Skikda's unique natural potential, cultural identity, and rooted history all provide possibilities to grasp that will allow it to become a significant and distinctive tourist destination.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

This examination of the city of Skikda teaches us about a potential territorial project based on the removal of urban and ecological deficiencies, the preservation of place identity, and the assertion of agriculture's and tourism's complementary roles in the city's growth project. This project must be viewed in the context of its contribution to the development of an urban living environment that fosters a feeling of belonging and identity assertion, while also contributing to social and economic regeneration. The transition from urban planning to urban project implementation is undoubtedly one of the issues to channel the urban growth of the Algerian city and ensure a coherent and sustainable urban development, likely to promote a thrifty control of space by formal translations of identity and contemporary.

In summary, the current paper advocates the success of Algerian cities' development operations and innovative urban planning. It is achieved

through a constantly renewed process of establishing a complementary connection between the individual, the collaborative, and the urban environment through the daily uses and practices of daily activities, perceptions, and games of spatial projection that appear as a constituent element of urban identity.

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