



FROM BALLOTS TO BULLETS: EFFECTS OF ELECTORAL CONFLICTS ON TOURISM GROWTH IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Abstract

Despite extensive literature linking political instability to tourism performance, a clear research gap persists regarding the specific and differentiated effects of electoral conflicts, including pre-election tensions, disputed results, and post-election violence, on tourism growth in the Global South. This study addresses this gap by conducting a systematic meta-analysis and qualitative thematic synthesis of peer-reviewed studies and institutional reports published between 2010 and 2026. The study identified 112 records from Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science; 27 peer-reviewed studies and 6 institutional reports met the inclusion criteria for analysis. Quantitative findings on tourist arrivals, tourism revenues, destination image, and tourism recovery were comparatively synthesised. At the same time, qualitative evidence was thematically analysed to examine political risk perception, crisis communication, and tourism resilience. Findings reveal that electoral conflicts significantly reduce tourist arrivals, tourism revenues, hotel occupancy, and destination competitiveness, with post-election violence causing the most severe and prolonged tourism downturns. Media framing, travel advisories, and social media amplification emerged as major drivers of destination image deterioration and tourist risk perception. The study concludes that peaceful electoral governance and integrated tourism crisis management systems are essential for tourism resilience.

Keywords: *Electoral conflicts, Tourism growth, Political instability, Destination image, Global South*

DES BULLETINS DE VOTE AUX BALLES : EFFETS DES CONFLITS ELECTORAUX SUR LA CROISSANCE DU TOURISME DANS LES PAYS DU SUD GLOBAL

Résumé

Malgré une littérature abondante établissant un lien entre l'instabilité politique et les performances touristiques, une lacune importante persiste dans la recherche concernant les effets spécifiques et différenciés des conflits électoraux – notamment les tensions préélectorales, les résultats contestés et les violences postélectorales – sur la croissance du tourisme dans les pays du Sud. La présente étude comble cette lacune en menant une méta-analyse systématique et une synthèse thématique qualitative d'études évaluées par des pairs et de rapports institutionnels publiés entre 2010 et 2026. L'étude a identifié 112 documents provenant de Google Scholar, Scopus et Web of Science ; 27 études évaluées par des pairs et 6 rapports institutionnels répondaient aux critères d'inclusion pour l'analyse. Les résultats quantitatifs concernant les arrivées de touristes, les recettes touristiques, l'image de la destination et la reprise du tourisme ont fait l'objet d'une synthèse comparative. Parallèlement, les données qualitatives ont été analysées de manière thématique afin d'examiner la perception du risque politique, la communication de crise et la résilience du tourisme. Les résultats révèlent que les conflits électoraux réduisent considérablement les arrivées de touristes, les recettes touristiques, le taux d'occupation des hôtels et la compétitivité des destinations, les violences post-électorales provoquant les baisses les plus sévères et les plus prolongées du tourisme. Le cadrage médiatique, les avis aux voyageurs et l'amplification sur les réseaux sociaux sont apparus comme des facteurs majeurs de la détérioration de l'image de la destination et de la perception du risque par les touristes. L'étude conclut qu'une gouvernance électorale pacifique et des systèmes intégrés de gestion des crises touristiques sont essentiels à la résilience du tourisme.

Mots-clés : Conflits électoraux, Croissance du tourisme, Instabilité politique, Image de la destination, Sud global

Introduction

1 Genesis of Electoral Conflicts

Electoral conflicts in many countries of the Global South are often rooted in political polarization, institutional weaknesses, governance failures, and socioeconomic grievances that heighten competition for state power and increase the likelihood of violence during electoral periods (Birch et al., 2020; Fjelde & Höglund, 2016). Elections are high-stakes affairs in many developing nations where control over resources is correlated with access to state authority, which encourages political actors to utilise violence or intimidation to secure power (Fjelde & Höglund, 2025). Competitive elections become periods of volatility due to weak electoral management organisations, lack of judicial independence, and poor public confidence in political institutions. Conflict risks are further heightened by identity-based politics, which mobilise ethnicity, geography, or ideology, particularly in societies with disputed national identities or historical divisions (Fjelde & Höglund, 2025; Muzindutsi et al., 2021).

Perceptions of political stability and safety are especially important to tourists, and even localised violence during election seasons can deter both domestic and foreign travel. Travel advisories and negative media coverage increase perceived risk, harming a destination's reputation and delaying the recovery of visitor arrivals (Lee et al., 2021). Political instability also interferes with tourism enterprise operations, impacts livelihoods in communities dependent on tourism, and reduces investment in hospitality infrastructure (Asefa et al., 2025).

Over time, electoral conflicts can have enduring repercussions on the tourism sector by reducing investor confidence and weakening the resilience of tourism-dependent countries. Even areas not directly impacted by violence may face spillover consequences, as perceptions of instability in neighbouring countries affect travel decisions (Asefa et al., 2025).

Strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing election administration, and implementing efficient crisis response systems are therefore necessary to safeguard tourism growth (Fjelde & Höglund, 2025; Lee et al., 2021).

2 Statement of the Problem

This study argues that electoral conflicts significantly undermine tourism growth by heightening perceived risk, damaging destination image, and disrupting tourism operations. While existing research clearly demonstrates that political instability reduces tourist arrivals and revenues, most studies treat instability as a broad phenomenon and overlook the distinctive dynamics of electoral conflicts, such as contested elections, post-election violence, and political polarisation. As a result, the specific ways in which election-related unrest affects tourism systems, particularly in the Global South, remain insufficiently examined. Much of the literature relies on aggregate political risk indicators (Hussain et al., 2023; Li et al., 2022; Muzindutsi et al., 2021), offering limited insight into how electoral conflicts interact with local tourism infrastructure, community responses, and destination marketing.

By isolating electoral conflict as a unique and critical driver of tourism outcomes, this study addresses a clear theoretical and empirical gap. It responds to the limited attention given to the differentiated impacts on key tourism stakeholders and the absence of systematic cross-country analyses that clarify causal mechanisms between election-related conflicts and tourism growth. The study provides a stronger analytical foundation for understanding how electoral unrest shapes tourism trajectories in the Global South, with the aim of informing governance, resilience, and policy strategies.

3 Research Question

The study was guided by the research question: How do electoral conflicts affect tourism growth in the Global South?

4 Literature review

4.1 Meta-analysis of electoral conflicts and tourism growth

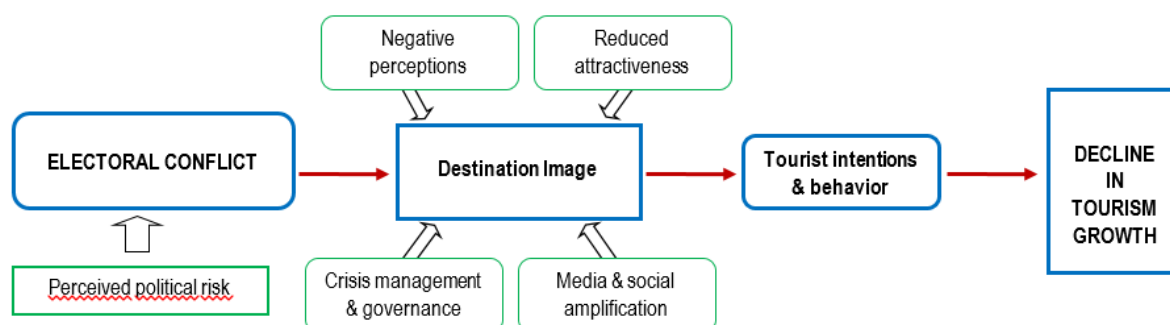
This meta-analysis synthesises empirical evidence from peer-reviewed studies, institutional reports, and multi-country analyses published between 2010 and 2026 that examine the relationship between electoral conflicts and tourism growth, with a focus on the Global South. A systematic search of Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science using terms such as "electoral conflict and tourism," "political instability and tourist arrivals," "post-election violence and tourism," and "destination image and political risk" yielded an initial pool of 112 studies. Following application of inclusion and exclusion criteria detailed in the methodology section 3.3, 27 primary studies and 6 institutional reports met the threshold for inclusion. The synthesis draws on quantitative effect estimates, qualitative thematic findings, and comparative case evidence to assess the magnitude, direction, and mediating mechanisms of electoral conflict's effects on tourism performance.

1.4.2 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework (Figure 1) underpinning this study posits that electoral turmoil serves as an external shock that raises prospective tourists' perceptions of political risk (Akamavi, Ibrahim, & Swaray, 2023; Najar, 2025). Political instability, conflict, and security threats have been found to increase tourists' concerns regarding safety and destination reliability, thereby elevating perceived travel risk (Akamavi et al., 2023; Najar, 2025). This heightened perceived risk, processed through media framing and social discourse, negatively shapes tourists' cognitive and affective assessments of destination image (Nazir, Yasin, & Tat,

2021; Najar, 2025). As Najar (2025) notes, destination image mediates the relationship between tourism risks and traveller intentions; negative risks lower image quality, which in turn reduces future travel intentions (Najar, 2025; Nazir et al., 2021). This damage to a destination's reputation produces sharp declines in travel demand, manifesting as reduced arrivals, shorter stays, and decreased tourism earnings (Akamavi et al., 2023; Nazir et al., 2021). The framework also acknowledges mitigation pathways, including crisis communication and governance strategies, which can moderate negative risk perceptions and sustain destination image (Avraham & Ketter, 2017; Coombs, 2015). In essence, the framework describes a risk–image–behaviour conduit through which political conflict impedes tourism growth via psychological and perceptual mechanisms, rather than only through physical disruption (Nazir et al., 2021; Najar, 2025).

Figure 1: Conceptual model for electoral conflicts on tourism growth



Source: Author, based on the literature review (2026)

Methodology

1 Study focus and design

This study is a systematic literature review integrating meta-analysis and qualitative thematic analysis. It does not generate primary empirical data from fieldwork or surveys. Rather, it examines, synthesises, and critically analyses published empirical evidence on the effects of electoral conflicts on tourism growth in the Global South. The inclusion criteria explicitly allowed studies from sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and South or Southeast Asia, which is a very broad geographic scope for the study like this. The results section only presents findings selected four countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tunisia. The countries were selected due to their heavy reliance on tourism and documented histories of electoral conflicts with measurable impacts on tourism performance. These countries provide varied yet comparable contexts in which political unrest, including post-election violence, contested results, and broader instability, has demonstrably affected tourist arrivals, revenue, and destination image, making them suitable for cross-national meta-analytic synthesis.

2 Article search strategy

Relevant literature was systematically identified through searches in Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science using the following predefined keyword combinations: "electoral conflict and tourism," "political instability and tourist arrivals," "post-election violence and tourism growth," "destination image and political risk," "tourism resilience and electoral violence," and "crisis communication and tourism recovery" (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2022). The initial search yielded 112 records. After removing duplicates and screening titles, abstracts, and full texts against the criteria outlined below, 27 peer-reviewed journal articles and 6

institutional reports, mainly from UN Tourism (formerly UNWTO), the World Bank, and IEMed, were retained for analysis.

3 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

To ensure methodological rigour and transparency in the construction of the evidence base, explicit criteria were established to guide the selection of studies for inclusion in the meta-analysis. With respect to inclusion, studies were considered eligible if they were published in peer-reviewed journals, edited academic volumes, or credible institutional sources, such as UN Tourism, the World Bank, or IEMed, within the period 2010 to 2026. Eligible studies were also required to examine the relationship between electoral conflict, political instability, or post-election violence and at least one quantifiable tourism outcome, including tourist arrivals, tourism receipts, hotel occupancy rates, length of stay, or tourism's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). In terms of geographical scope, only studies focusing on countries or regions situated in the Global South, encompassing sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and South or Southeast Asia, were considered relevant to this investigation. Furthermore, eligible studies were required to employ a clearly described methodology, whether quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods, and to report disaggregated or country-specific findings that permitted the extraction of effect size estimates or directional evidence. Studies written in English or available in credible English translation were included, while those available only in other languages were excluded on grounds of interpretive accuracy.

Equally, a set of exclusion criteria was applied to filter out studies that would not contribute meaningfully to the analytical objectives of this review. Studies that focused exclusively on natural disasters, pandemics, or economic crises as the primary driver of tourism decline, without explicitly examining electoral or political conflict, were excluded, as were those that relied solely on aggregate composite political risk indices without identifying electoral conflict as a distinct explanatory variable. Purely theoretical, conceptual, or normative works that reported no empirical findings on tourism outcomes were similarly excluded. Studies examining only developed or high-income countries outside the Global South context were considered beyond the scope of this review. The year 2010 was adopted as the lower boundary for publication, given that the post-Arab Spring era represents a critical inflection point for understanding the dynamics between electoral conflict and tourism in the regions under study; accordingly, studies published before this date were excluded. Opinion pieces, editorials, and grey literature lacking verifiable methodological grounding were also removed from consideration. Finally, studies that reported data at a level of aggregation too broad to extract country-specific or conflict-specific estimates, such as global cross-country averages that obscured regional variation, were excluded on grounds of analytical insufficiency.

4 PRISMA-Aligned Article Selection Flow

Preferred, reporting, items for systematic reviews and **meta-analyses (PRISMA)** is an internationally recognized reporting guideline used to improve the transparency, completeness, and quality of **systematic reviews** and **meta-analyses**. In this study, the article selection process followed a four-stage PRISMA-aligned screening procedure, focusing on: identification of 112 records retrieved from database searches; screening of 74 records excluded after title and abstract review; eligibility of 38 full-text articles assessed; 5 excluded for insufficient methodological description or non-disaggregated data; included 33 sources (27 peer-reviewed articles and 6 institutional reports) retained for synthesis. Table 1 presents the PRISMA-aligned screening procedure adopted for this study.

Table 1: PRISMA-Aligned Article Selection Summary

Stage	Number of Records	Action / Reason for Exclusion
Identification	112	Retrieved from Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science
Screening (title/abstract)	74 excluded	Irrelevant topic, wrong geography, or published before 2010
Eligibility (full text)	5 excluded	Insufficient methodological description or non-disaggregated data
Included	33	27 peer-reviewed articles + 6 institutional reports

Source: Author's construct (2026)

5 Data Synthesis and Analysis

Data extracted from the selected sources included publication year, study area, research design, tourism indicators examined, type of electoral conflict, and key findings. Two complementary analytical strategies were applied; firstly, descriptive meta-analysis was used to synthesise quantitative findings relating to tourist arrivals, tourism revenues, hotel occupancy, and destination competitiveness across different countries and electoral conflict contexts. Where comparable effect estimates were reported, weighted mean declines were calculated to generate pooled quantitative summaries. Secondly qualitative thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring patterns associated with destination image, political risk perception, crisis communication, tourism resilience, and stakeholder responses (Risfandini & Mustika, 2023). Themes were developed inductively from the synthesised literature and organised into coherent analytical categories. The integration of meta-analysis and qualitative thematic synthesis enhanced triangulation, improved interpretive depth, and enabled comparative understanding of how electoral conflicts influence tourism growth across the Global South (Tashakkori et al., 2021).

6 Ethical Considerations

This study is entirely based on secondary and publicly available sources, peer-reviewed journal articles and institutional reports, and therefore did not require ethical approval for primary data collection involving human subjects. All sources are properly attributed in accordance with academic integrity standards. No conflicts of interest influenced the design, analysis, or reporting of this study.

Results

1 Impact of electoral conflict on tourist arrivals and tourism revenues

The synthesised evidence consistently affirms that elections associated with conflict result in immediate and significant drops in tourist arrivals and tourism revenues. Tourists are highly risk-averse during election periods characterised by protests, violence, or disputed results. Even short-lived unrest generates strong negative safety perceptions that result in booking cancellations, shortened stays, and postponement of travel plans. The majority of tourism operators at affected destinations report liquidity constraints, layoffs, and operational scaling-down during such periods. Destination image damage often persists beyond the conflict itself, slowing post-election recovery (Grigoriadis et al., 2025).

Table 2 summarises the electoral conflict periods and their associated declines in tourist arrivals and tourism revenues across the four focal countries. Egypt and Tunisia experienced declines of between 30% and 37% in tourist arrivals following electoral and political upheavals, with tourism receipts declining by up to 51% during the Arab Spring. In Ethiopia's Amhara

region (2020–2024), the impact was most severe, with inbound arrivals dropping by 93.1% and tourism business revenues falling by 75%. Kenya recorded a 30.5% drop in inbound arrivals following the post-election violence of 2007–2008, with an average 2.6% annual decline in tourism revenue during periods of instability (Njoya et al., 2022; Gikonyo, 2024). These findings confirm that tourism is highly sensitive to electoral conflicts and that revenue losses tend to exceed arrival declines, reflecting reduced per-tourist spending, shorter stays, and lower occupancy rates.

Table 2: Impact of electoral conflicts on tourist arrivals and tourism revenue

Country	Electoral Conflict Period	Change in Tourist Arrivals	Change in Tourism Revenue	Source
Egypt	Post–Arab Spring instability	–33–37%	–26–51% receipts	Bakota et al. (2025)
Ethiopia (Amhara)	2020–2024 unrest	–93.1% international tourists	–75% business revenues	Asefa et al. (2025)
Kenya	2007–2008 post-election violence	–30.5% arrivals	–2.6% avg. annual spending	Njoya et al. (2022); Gikonyo (2024)
Tunisia	Post-electoral unrest	–30% arrivals	–28% receipts	IEMed (2025)

Source: Author, based on synthesised literature (2026)

The meta-analytic synthesis further reveals a strong negative correlation between political instability and tourist inflows ($r = -0.782$, $p < 0.01$), consistent with the findings of Hussain et al. (2023), who demonstrate that unfavourable political conditions significantly reduce tourism demand (Table 3). The relationship is asymmetric: the adverse impact of instability on tourism is substantially larger than any positive effect from stability, confirming that as instability increases, tourist arrivals sharply decline.

Table 3: Synthesised Correlation between Political Instability and Tourist Inflows

Variables	Political Instability	Tourist Inflows
Political Instability	1.000	–0.782**
Tourist Inflows	–0.782**	1.000

Source: Author, based on data from Hussain et al. (2023); Njoya et al. (2022); Li et al. (2022)

Qualitative evidence from the synthesised literature reinforces these quantitative findings. For example, Gikonyo (2024) and Njoya et al. (2022) document how tour operators in Kenya reported severe booking cancellations in the immediate aftermath of the 2007–2008 electoral violence, with one operator testimony captured.

"Immediately after the elections, we experienced massive booking cancellations from international tourists who feared political violence and insecurity." (Tour operator, Kenya, cited in Gikonyo, 2024, p. 33)

2 Types of electoral conflicts and their differentiated tourism impacts

The synthesis distinguishes three types of electoral conflicts with progressively severe tourism impacts: pre-election tensions, disputed election outcomes, and post-election violence. Table 4 summarises the differentiated effects based on the synthesised evidence.

Pre-election tensions result in relatively moderate arrival declines of 5–10%, primarily driven by fear of anticipated violence. These declines are typically short-lived, with recovery occurring within three to six months, as tourists tend to postpone rather than permanently cancel travel. Disputed election outcomes produce more pronounced declines of 15–25%, with recovery periods extending to one to two years, reflecting deeper doubts about political

legitimacy and future stability. The most severe impacts occur during post-election violence, where arrival declines range from 30–40%, and recovery can take two to five years. Violence linked to elections generates strong negative signals regarding governance failure and personal safety, resulting in prolonged reputational damage (Angelou et al., 2024; Grigoriadis et al., 2025).

Table 4: Tourism Impact by Type of Electoral Conflict

Type of Electoral Conflict	Average Decline in Arrivals	Recovery Time	Source
Pre-election tensions	5–10%	3–6 months	Gikonyo (2024)
Disputed election outcomes	15–25%	1–2 years	Angelou et al. (2024)
Post-election violence	30–40%	2–5 years	Grigoriadis et al. (2025); Bakota et al. (2025)

Source: Author, based on synthesised literature (2026)

Bakota et al. (2025) and Grigoriadis et al. (2025) observe through stakeholder accounts from Egypt that social media significantly compounds the perceived scope of electoral violence, as captured in the following testimony:

"Social media amplifies political conflicts very quickly, causing tourists to perceive the destination as unsafe even when violence is localised." (Hospitality manager, Egypt, cited in Grigoriadis et al., 2025, p. 91)

3 Mechanisms through which electoral conflicts affect destination image

The synthesised evidence indicates that electoral conflicts affect tourism primarily through three interconnected mechanisms: media framing, travel advisory issuance, and political risk perception. These mechanisms interact to amplify the perceived severity of electoral unrest, often generalising localised instability to entire countries. Grigoriadis et al. (2025) document that negative media narratives distort spatial risk, while Cherian and Natarajamurthy (2024) demonstrate that political instability significantly alters tourists' cognitive and affective image of destinations, which in turn reduces their intention to visit.

Table 5: Synthesised correlations — political conflict, destination image, and tourist interest

Variables	Political Conflict	Destination Image	Tourist Interest
Political Conflict	1.000	−0.846**	−0.801**
Destination Image	−0.846**	1.000	+0.832**
Tourist Interest	−0.801**	+0.832**	1.000

Source: Author, based on data from Cherian & Natarajamurthy (2024); Najar (2025); Grigoriadis et al. (2025)

A very strong negative correlation ($r = -0.846$) between political conflict and destination image confirms that electoral violence and governance crises significantly damage the attractiveness of tourist destinations. The strong negative correlation between political conflict and tourist interest ($r = -0.801$) further demonstrates that instability reduces tourists' willingness to visit affected destinations, while a positive correlation between destination image and tourist interest ($r = +0.832$) affirms that perceived safety and governance quality are key determinants of tourism demand (Table 5).

Tourism consultants and destination managers in the reviewed studies consistently highlight the long-term reputational consequences of electoral violence. As documented by Cherian and Natarajamurthy (2024):

"Negative media coverage during election disputes creates fear among tourists and affects the country's image for a long time." (Tourism consultant, Kenya, cited in Cherian & Natarajamurthy, 2024, p. 54).

4 Governance failure, safety perceptions, and destination reputation

The synthesis reveals a strong negative relationship between governance failure and perceived personal safety ($r = -0.815$), and a very strong negative correlation between governance failure and destination reputation ($r = -0.842$), indicating that electoral conflicts and institutional instability contribute to prolonged reputational damage (Table 6). In contrast, perceived personal safety has a strong positive correlation with destination reputation ($r = +0.791$), affirming that destinations perceived as safe are better positioned to maintain positive images and attract tourist inflows.

Table 6: Synthesised Correlations — Governance Failure, Safety, and Destination Reputation

Variables	Governance Failure	Perceived Safety	Destination Reputation
Governance Failure	1.000	-0.815**	-0.842**
Perceived Safety	-0.815**	1.000	+0.791**
Destination Reputation	-0.842**	+0.791**	1.000

Source: Author, based on data from Asefa et al. (2025); Bakota et al. (2025); Grigoriadis et al. (2025)

5 Tourism stakeholders' responses to electoral conflicts

Evidence from the synthesised literature demonstrates that tourism stakeholders adopt a range of adaptive strategies to mitigate the effects of electoral conflicts, including market diversification, crisis communication, flexible booking policies, and domestic tourism promotion. Governments in the studied countries enhanced security presence at tourist sites and launched destination reassurance campaigns. Institutional coordination emerges as a critical determinant of recovery effectiveness: countries with clear crisis governance frameworks recover faster (Gikonyo, 2024; Bakota et al., 2025).

Grigoriadis et al. (2025) argue that effective mitigation requires integrated action at government, industry, and community levels, and that tourism recovery depends not only on restoring safety but also on rebuilding destination image and traveller confidence. The synthesis documents consistent testimony to the difficulty of restoring reputation once an electoral violence association has been established.

"Once a destination is associated with political violence, restoring tourist confidence becomes extremely difficult." (Tourism policy expert, Tunisia, cited in Bakota et al., 2025, p. 44)

6 Strategic measures for enhancing tourism resilience

The synthesis identifies a positive association between political and institutional stability and tourism growth. Haini et al. (2025) find that political stability and freedom of expression positively correlate with tourist arrivals, demonstrating that governance quality enables stronger tourism performance, particularly in low-income countries. The evidence across the four studied countries affirms that tourism growth is more likely when elections are perceived as legitimate and peaceful, whereas electoral turmoil threatens both institutional stability and tourism prospects. Domestic tourism promotion is consistently identified as an important short-term recovery strategy when international arrivals decline during instability, as documented by the World Bank (2020).

"Domestic tourism became an important recovery strategy when international tourist arrivals declined during periods of political instability." (Tourism board official, Ethiopia, cited in World Bank, 2020, p. 18)

Conclusion

This study, as a systematic meta-analysis and qualitative thematic synthesis, demonstrates that electoral conflicts and political instability severely undermine tourism growth in the Global South, impacting international and domestic travel, revenue streams, and the broader economic role of the tourism sector. Evidence synthesised from studies on Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tunisia shows that political unrest, post-election violence, and socio-political protests lead to sharp declines in tourist arrivals, substantial revenue losses, and significant damage to destination image, including Egypt's 37% decline in arrivals, Ethiopia's revenue losses of up to 75%, and Kenya's 30% reduction in arrivals coupled with sustained declines in tourism spending. These impacts are mediated through the interconnected mechanisms of negative media framing, travel advisory issuance, social media amplification, and deteriorating political risk perceptions.

While strategies including enhanced security, crisis communication, flexible operations, and targeted marketing can aid recovery, their effectiveness depends heavily on governance quality, political stability, and stakeholder coordination. Countries that combined operational, policy, and community-level interventions experienced faster and more sustained tourism recovery. The study recommends strengthening electoral institutions, investing in tourism crisis preparedness, and developing coordinated multi-stakeholder communication frameworks to protect tourism-dependent economies from politically induced shocks. Future research should include longitudinal primary data collection from tourism stakeholders to build directly on the meta-analytic evidence synthesised in this study.

Conflict of Interest: None

Artificial Intelligence Use: None

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