social and cultural values of the destination; encourage domestic tourism; get government, or state, financial support.

**Factors contributing to the sustainability of bicycle tourism: A literature review**

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In the last decades there has been a growing interest in forms of sustainable mobility in the context of tourism. Bicycle tourism has become an important tourism market segment that has possibly been increasing due to the growing awareness regarding sustainable development. The sustainability of bicycle tourism requires the simultaneous satisfaction of all the stakeholders involved and the preservation of all the endogenous resources of tourism destinations. The identification of factors that may contribute to the sustainability of bicycle tourism is of utmost importance to decrease the risks associated to the tourism development process. The use of bicycle as a mean of transport in tourism trips may contribute to decrease some environmental negative impacts of tourism on destinations, namely noise pollution and CO$_2$ emissions. Moreover, this activity may generate important health benefits to bicycle tourists. However, it is important that this activity is developed in appropriate facilities – e.g. bicycle routes – to minimize the risk of accidents. The economic sustainability of some destinations may be also dependent on the destinations’ ability to appeal to tourism market niches such as bicycle tourists who greatly appreciate the contact with nature.

This paper aims to identify the factors contributing to the sustainable development of bicycle tourism that have been analyzed in the literature published. In order to achieve this objective, a search in the SCOPUS database, using as searched keywords “bicycle” and “tourism” in the title, abstracts or keywords, was undertaken. In this search, carried out in March 2015, 38 papers were identified. More than 52% of these papers were published after 2010, revealing a growing interest in this field of research. Australia and Taiwan emerge as the countries where more research has been undertaken. The major interests of the researchers seem to be associated with the creation of facilities to be used by bicycle tourists – e.g. bicycle trails, GIS databases – and with the evaluation of the attractiveness of bicycle tourism destinations. Sustainability is a widely neglected topic in most of the papers. However, several papers focus issues that are somehow related to sustainability, namely the relationship between bicycle tourism and some dimensions of the sustainable development – the environmental, social and economic dimensions. In the environmental domain some studies analyze the environmental impacts of bicycle tourism and the effect of weather in the practice of this activity. As far as the social dimension is referred, the impact of bicycle tourism on health, specifically the injuries provoked, are the most mentioned issue. The economic value of the bicycle tourists has also been partially analyzed in some studies revealing that these tourists spend considerable amounts of time and money in destination areas. Other components of the social dimension, such as the tourists’ interactions with local communities and the political dimension (e.g. governance) are largely ignored. The analysis of these papers enables to detect gaps in the literature regarding the sustainability of bicycle tourism that should be overcome to ensure the successful development of this activity in the long run. Therefore, based on the results of this paper, new important routes of research in this field are identified in order to increase the sustainability of bicycle tourism, by maximizing its benefits and minimizing the risks associated to negative tourism impacts.