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GEOGRAPHY: Bridging the CONTINENTS



VIRTUAL

3635 - RECRUITING VOLUNTEER TOURIST. RESHAPING VACATION MODELS, THE ANSWER FOR TRAVEL SHAMING OR JUST THE LAST RESORT TO BRING TOURISTS BACK?

3653 - THE INCREASE IN DESERTIFICATION BY AGRO-SYLVO-PASTORAL PRACTICES IN THE HIGH ALGERIAN STEPPE PLAINS: THE WAYS OF LIVING IN THE WILAYA OF DJELFA

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This study analyses the ways of inhabiting and the agro-sylvo-pastoral practices of 188 families in a steppe region of the Saharan Atlas in Algeria. The rural population is henceforth sedentary. The case of the District of Djelfa allows scrutinizing how these ways of inhabiting are anchored in the local environment and their potential impact on desertification. Based on field observations, oral survey and statistical analyses, this study points out that the householders in the four different environments (forest, matorral, steppe, dunes and chott) utilize supplementation to feed their herd. Consequently, this practice increases the size of the herds and contributes to overgrazing. Similarly, the access to water is no more traditional; while some overexploit the aquifers; most agro-pastoralists utilize tanker trucks. The adaptation of the way of inhabiting and exploitation are greatly determined by the capital of the household, which allows compensating local shortages. Nevertheless, these practices cause important damage and increased desertification.

To deepen the analysis of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and their impacts on desertification, a socio-economic survey was conducted in spring 2015 on a representative sample of sedentary agro-pastoral household heads (Bourbouze, 2000).

The sampling is random stratified according to the living environment. Among the 188 heads of households of different families questioned, 94 live in a forest environment, 24 live in the scrub, 26 live in steppe environments, and 44 live in the dune cordon or the chott. The population density can be estimated from the distances between neighboring family groups. For our study area, they vary from 100 to 800 m in a forest environment, which is the most densely populated, from 3000m to 6000m in the matorral, from 5000m to 9000m in the steppe, the least populated environment, and from 800m to 2000m in the dunes and salted areas (Chott).