

## Global environmental risk and vulnerability of Morocco

Abdellatif Khattabi

Ecole Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs / Association Marocaine des Sciences Régionales

Email: [ab\\_khattabi@yahoo.com](mailto:ab_khattabi@yahoo.com)

Humans are facing today, as was in the recent past, changes that occur globally in terms of extreme weather events, climate change, natural disasters, shortages of water resources and food, etc. As elsewhere, Morocco also faces the challenge of climate change. For several decades, the country has experienced a succession of droughts and a rise in temperature that indicate a change in climate. According to several studies, the country's climate has changed in the past and will continue to change more in the future. With the emergence of concerns related to the impacts of climate change, the issue of the vulnerability of socioeconomic and natural environments systems is a human security issue. This vulnerability is a function of exposure to climate hazards, sensitivity to shocks and climate disruption and the capacity to adapt. Indeed, the fact that the country is in a region characterized by an inherently arid climate, fragile soil and ecological conditions, its environmental sensitivity is important. In addition, its economic and technical capacity is relatively small to cope with extreme weather events. Climate change could, for example, result in impacts on several sectors, on people and on the natural environment. Its impacts will be more damaging if they are exacerbated by human activities. Morocco is also vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis. Indeed, as Morocco is located on the northwestern border of the African plate, contact area between the convergence plates of Eurasia and Africa, it has a high tectonic activity. Due to its geographical position, the high variability of precipitation and its topography, the country is regularly subject to flooding. Given that Morocco has a coast that stretches over more than 3,500 km and that most of its economic activities and its large cities are located on the coast, it is also exposed to the risk of tsunamis, those resulting from earthquakes as those caused by underwater or coastal landslides and submarine volcanoes. Parts of the country, because of their physical characteristics such as soil type and particle size, the angle of slope, underground water content, etc. are sensitive and therefore vulnerable to landslides.

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