





Foreign Funding, Local Associations, and Environmental Resilience in Oasis Areas: A Case Study of Tata Oasis, Morocco

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Abstract

This paper analyzes how local associations combat environmental degradation and fragility exacerbated by climate change, and the resulting impacts on social and economic stability. The analysis draws on field data from a Moroccan context marked by environmental fragility, social marginalization, and the increasing effects of climate change on living conditions and stability. The Tata oasis, located in southeastern Morocco, represents a model of fragile and sensitive local environments. The environment of this region is similar to many environments in North African countries, which witness the presence of dry and semidry areas close to the desert climate, which often form oases areas, characterized by the development of mechanisms for adapting to harsh environmental conditions by resisting various environmental, political, colonial, and social risks. Marginalization is not a new issue in these communities, but new issues include lifestyle changes, increasing needs, demographic growth, and the desire for better living conditions. These areas are still developing resistance mechanisms following the intervention of governmental institutions, local authorities, and prominent international organizations that provide financial and technical support. Overall, this research reveals the resistance mechanisms of the new generation of local civic organizations and how young people continue to create innovative

interventions and lead local organizations in search of survival in the face of environmental and social challenges. Then we examine how national and international governmental and non-governmental institutions that have become intensively involved in these areas since the 1980s affect them, and are these efforts really on the right path toward resisting these contemporary challenges?

Keywords

Foreign Funding, Local Associations, Social Capital, Donor Dependency, Environmental Fragility

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