



SAC Students: Field Trips and Visits



MSc Environmental Protection and Management Study Tour Morocco 2009



The study tour will allow students to familiarise themselves with the main physical, ecological, economic & social features of the High Atlas mountains, identify some of the natural and anthropogenic influences which affect the environment of these areas, and consider options for environmental protection, sustainable management & ecological recovery for each area.

The study tour will also give students the opportunity to review and discuss plans for dissertation project work and overall progress within the MSc.

The group will split into teams, covering a range of work units. Each team will be expected to produce a presentation on the final evening of the field course addressing the objectives that they have been asked to achieve. The aim of this exercise is to develop skills in working as a team, in data collection and analysis, hypothesis formulation, oral communication, etc. These skills will be invaluable for students' dissertation work. During the field course each student will be spoken to regarding the progress of their dissertation work to date and planned work on their project.



Choice of Work Units

Agriculture in the High Atlas: A Case Study of the Ait Mizane Valley

Making an agricultural land use survey in the High Atlas Mountains is not an easy task but can be done quite effectively. There are many ways of achieving such a task but the terrain limits the choices available in this region. Whilst random sampling methods are in some ways the best approach, especially if combined with some sort of stratification, they are almost impossible unless you are a mountain goat. It is therefore suggested that linear transects are used following the main paths. Changing agricultural use of the land in the valley around the Kasbah du Toubkal is established.

Soils Microclimate and Land Use in the Ait Mizane Valley.

To introduce the concepts behind describing meteorological phenomena. To practise methods for measuring meteorological data at fixed and remote locations and to investigate how microclimate factors vary within a small area. To investigate the effect of a woodland on microclimates in the walnut wood below the Kasbah du Toubkal.

A Study of the Rerayha River and irrigation in the High Atlas Mountains.

An investigation of the characteristics of a stream and irrigation in the High Atlas is carried out using traditional river measurement techniques – equipment for measuring the normal river variables is available at the Kasbah. The river can be measured at any number of sites above and below Imlil. The river actually disappears below Imlil, where it descends into the huge and loose bed, and is diverted away for irrigation purposes..

Investigating the Effects of Variations in Water Quality in the River Rerayha, Imlil

This project investigates human impact on a freshwater ecosystem. The river Rerayha is studied up stream and down stream of the village of Imlil. Abiotic factors which may be affected by the presence of sewage and other contamination in the river are tested: temperature, pH, dissolved and suspended load, and nitrates. Students sample the stream fauna to identify how these chemical changes affect the biotic community. The concept of indicator species is introduced, and how the presence of some species can give an indication of water quality, in the absence of abiotic data.

Bob Rees
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