

Course: Global Functioning of Ecosystems

III- Ecosystems in Algeria

Algeria covers an area of 2,381,741 km². It stretches along the Mediterranean Sea from east to west. over 1200 km and stretches from North to South for nearly 2000 km. Bioclimatology and extent of The geographical area of Algeria is the origin of the existence of ecosystem diversity Important. Indeed, there are 6 types of ecosystems:

- marine and coastal ecosystems.
- wetland ecosystems.
- mountain ecosystems.
- forest ecosystems.
- steppe ecosystems.
- Saharan ecosystems.

1. Marine and coastal ecosystems:

The Algerian marine coastline encompasses a coastal strip represented by coastal dunes, Cliffs, beaches, and pre-forest formations. Rich and important ecosystems economic and social.

2. Wetlands:

"These are expanses of marshland, fens, peat bogs, natural or artificial water, permanent or temporary, where the water is stagnant or flowing, fresh, brackish or salty including bodies of marine water not exceeding six meters in depth." The position Algeria's geography and the diversity of its climate give it 254 important zones natural wetlands:

-The Northeast part: contains numerous freshwater lakes, marshes, riparian forests and floodplains.

-The northwestern fringe and the high steppe plains: are characterized by bodies of water salt lakes such as chotts, sebkhas and dayas.

-The Sahara: contains oases, dayas and gueltas.

3. Mountain ecosystems:

The mountain ranges of Algeria occupy very varied bioclimates from the upper humid up to the Saharan zone, they harbor a remarkable phytocenotic diversity.

However, in addition to the natural vulnerability that characterizes the Mediterranean forest and the subforest formations. They are mainly represented by the Tell Atlas mountain ranges.

to the North and the Saharan Atlas mountain ranges bordering the Sahara.

4. Forest ecosystems:

The Algerian forest is structured into three main types:

-Sclerophyllous forests: with Holm Oak, Cork Oak.

-Deciduous forests: with Zeen Oak, Afares Oak.

-Coniferous forests: with Aleppo pine, Maritime pine, Atlas cedar.

5. Steppe ecosystems:

These are the areas located between the Tell Atlas to the north and the Saharan Atlas to the south, and between the Hodna plain to the east and the Oran Chotts plain to the west. These ecosystems are of a Low, sparse vegetation. These steppes are essentially made up of a mosaic of three plant groups (esparto grass, esparto grass, and white mugwort).

6. Saharan ecosystems:

Consisting of:

-The hamadas and Tassilis: immense limestone rocky plateaus overlooking the valleys of wadis.

-The plains:

• The regs: horizontal surfaces of pebbles and gravel.

• Ergs: sandy deposits (dunes).

-The depressions: either salty (chotts and sebkhas) or fresh (dayas).