**SaliDrâa جوج**

Salt in the system

**Introduction**

The German Moroccan research project is focusing on the consequences of climate change and human activity on the water bodies of the Drâa River Basin. The aim is to find solutions for problems like salinization and clarification of terms, the strengthening of personal relationships, as well as the organizational coordination in the project team.

**WP1: Transdisciplinary cooperation**

This work package serves the targeted exchange of methods, concepts, theories and results between the different work packages, team members and practice partners, and the development of new methods, the strengthening of personal relationships, as well as the organizational coordination in the project team.

**WP2: River Ecosystem**

**Aim:** Assess the effects of water/soil salinity and other anthropogenic/natural stressors on biodiversity and ecosystem functions of the Drâa river.

**Methods and data collection:**
- Quantitative and qualitative sampling of the river biodiversity.
- Laboratory and field experiments.
- Point and continuous physico-chemical measurements of the river water.
- Remote sensing and GIS.

**WP3: Ecosystem Services**

**Aim:** Assess the values of the key ecosystem goods and services in the Drâa river basin to facilitate their integration into the local and regional decision-making process.

**Methods:**
- The Economic of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) approach to identify ecosystem services.
- Social network analysis to identify environmental resources decision-makers and managers.
- Environmental valuation and value aggregation methods.

**Data collection techniques:**
- In-depth semi-structured interviews with decision-makers at governmental institutions, local associations, and farmers’ households.
- Focus groups approach.
- Quantitative surveys.

**WP4: Land and water conflicts**

**Aim:** Analyse and explain what drives the current land and water-related conflicts in the Drâa basin.

**Qualitative methodology:**
- Case Study approach applied to conflicts.
- Actor-based approach to analyze the conflicts (Schilling, 2016).
- Life trajectories to understand water and land-use-practices in the context of wider socio-political processes.

**Data collection techniques:**
- In-depth-ssemi-structure interviewing with water users, traditional authorities, and governmental institutions.
- Systematic observations of daily water and land use practices.

**WP5: Transdisciplinary conclusions and recommendations**

By combining the various results and observations of the previous work packages, work package 5 aims to develop practical recommendations for water use and conservation plans as well as to develop new concepts of social-ecological systems in relation to river basins. New transdisciplinary concepts may be insightful applicable to overcome challenges in the context of complex interactions between humans, water and biodiversity, not only in the Drâa river basin, but worldwide.

**Status quo**

- Several exploration field work visits have been conducted by both social and ecological teams.
- Data have been gathered about the Drâa river basin; flow regimes, habitat heterogeneity, water physico-chemical measurements, land use and anthropogenic activities.
- Good contacts have been established with stakeholders, local authorities and scientific partners and common ground for future collaborations have been discussed and underlined.

**Next steps**

- Field campaigns focusing on quantitative seasonal, social and ecological assessments are ongoing.
- A project website will be launched next month: www.salidraajuij.uni-landau.de
- The next large project workshop will be held end of this year.

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