

Inventory and Assessment of Geomorphosites for Geotourism Development: a Case Study of Aït Bou Oulli Valley (central High-Atlas, Morocco)

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Aït Bou Oulli valley is located in the heart of the Moroccan central High-Atlas, of which the height is 4068 m in Ighil M'goun and 3800 m in Rat Mountain. Mountain areas are characterized by higher geodiversity respect to other areas. The valley possesses a geoheritage, which is very rich, very diversified, an exceptional landscape of high mountains, and attractive to number of tourists every year. However, this number of visitors is still restricted due to lack of tools for promotion, valorization and mediation of this heritage. It is with that aim to promote this rich heritage that the present work was performed. The work focuses on the inventory, selection, and quantitative evaluation of the remarkable geomorphosites in order to classify them. The results reveal the presence of 81 potential sites, of which 24 are conducive to geotourism use. These conducive sites include 9 fluvial landforms among which 5 are enviable panoramic viewpoints and 4 are karstic forms, 4 structural landforms, 3 glacial landforms, 2 gravitative landforms, one anthropic landform and one lake landforms. Rich information provided by this study and knowledge of these new geomorphosites are important for promotion of tourism activities at the Aït Bou Oulli region and can assist planners and authorities to formulate suitable plan for sustained development of the region.

Keywords: Aït Bou Oulli valley, assessment, central High-Atlas, Geomorphosites, Geotourism, Inventory