

## **The geological heritage of the Oued Akrech area (northwestern part of Morocco): inventory and geotourism**

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Geologically, the Oued Akrech area (Rabat-Tiflet, northwestern part of Morocco) belongs both to southern part of Sehouf exotic Bloc (mainly Middle Cambrian metamorphosed quartzo-phyllites) and the northwestern (unmetamorphosed) Moroccan Meseta attached by a strike slip/thrust southward fault where are aligned numerous lenses of Upper Devonian deformed granites and "andalusitic" mica-schists.

Diversity, richness and scientific knowledge of the geosites from Oued Akrech are very important. Ranging from the Upper Precambrian to recent Quaternary, the Oued Akrech area contains many geosites with a high scientific, educational and touristic value. These geosites display excellent outcrops of various sedimentary, tectonic, magmatic, paleontological, geomorphological phenomena... Some of those geosites are unique, for example: (i) The remains of the Upper Neoproterozoic granitic northern Moroccan basement, (ii) the amphibolites of Rabat (Rheic Ocean relicts?), (iii) the Lower Ordovician pillow lava, (iv) the Lower Visean undeformed fluvial red conglomerates, (v) several examples of Tournaisian-Visean debris flows, (vi) the Tortonian/Messinian Oued Akrech GSSP stratotype, (vii) the coastal consolidated Quaternary sand dunes structures,...

Pertinent geosites should be conserved, but before that, we need start the inventory process. The preservation and assessment of geosites can be a lever for the geotourism development of the region.

**Keywords :** Oued Akrech area, geosites, inventory