

“Why it is Necessary to Constitute Collections “Ex Situ” and “In Situ” of Geology in Morocco”

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Morocco is a country rich in remarkable fossiliferous sites and this in all the levels of the Phanérozoïque one. The only collection, which deserves this name, is currently preserved at the Ministry for the Energy and the Mines of Rabat. In the Moroccan university towns, it would be desirable to constitute museums of collections of natural History which would gather the local collections of geology for teaching, research, the dissemination of knowledge, and the conservation of an inheritance. The authors currently work on a project in the area of Agadir concerning Mesozoic of the Atlantic High-Atlas and of Paleozoic of the Western Anti-Atlas where the grounds are very well represented, exposed and very fossiliferous. It is thus considered, in Agadir and in its area, to create at the same time natural reserves to preserve the paleontological material “in situ” and a museum to preserve and develop the inheritance “ex situ” coming from scientific studies on quite localised levels resulting from particular layers. These two types of collections are perfectly complementary and are indissociable one of the other. They will then constitute tanks for future scientific research in the area, and the vectors for the formation of the future generations of geologists, for the diffusion of knowledge and sensitizing of school and of general public and for the protection of the inheritance.

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