

## **Inventory and Valorization of the Geotopes in the High Atlas (Morocco)**

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The inventories constitute an indispensable tool for the management of the geological heritage. They make it possible to identify and classify with precision the Geotopes which must be protected.

Within the framework of co-operation program set up by a French-Moroccan multi-field team (Universities of Lyon, Dijon, Agadir and Rabat), an inventory of the geological sites to protect started in the Moroccan High Atlas.

Beside the geotopes, the inventory includes the geological works published as well as the Moroccan and French collections coming from the High Atlas.

The inventory is carried out according to a methodology which consists:

- To identify the geological sites.
- To gather their characteristics in a data base.
- To classify the sites with patrimonial vocation.
- To evaluate their vulnerability and needs for protection.

We present here some Geotopes from the High Atlas (Examples: El Ma, Tamzergout, Assaka, Imsouane, Addar...) which offers a very diversified rich fauna, mainly represented by ammonites, echinoids, brachiopods and bivalvia. The good outcrop conditions of these sites give them a great interest in the comprehension of the moroccan geological history. It should be noted that some geotopes can be integrated in biotopes which already profited from a protection, as it is done for Argan tree reserves, classified by UNESCO since 1999 within the world heritage.

Keywords: Inventory, geotope, High Atlas, data base.

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