



Contributing to climate variability and change in Morocco, developpement of a climatic ATLAS.

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By its location between 21 and 35 North at the north-western edge of the African continent, Morocco is on the southern face of the Mediterranean basin. It has a long Atlantic maritime frontage of approximately 3000km and a 500 km long Mediterranean coasts, as well as a continental and Saharian field. Therefore, at regional scale, Morocco is lying between the temperate extra-tropical climate influences and the semi-arid climate influences impregnated by the great SAHARA in the south. More locally, the topography plays a major role in shaping local climate variations especially regarding space–time distribution of pertinent climate parameters such as rainfall and temperature.

Due to recent increase in research efforts on climate variability and change in north west African region driven by the increasing awareness of climate variability impacts on economy and societies, the Moroccan Meteorological service has established a strategy to improve knowledge and information on climate variability and change. The strategy relays on domestic needs as well as the requirement of the international scientific community in tackling with climate issues such as the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -IPCC. In this regards, we developed recently a first version of a comprehensive climatic atlas including metadata information, statistical computations of major climate parameters and phenomena and statistics on frequencies and trends. The Atlas is available for Climate research and studies and gives first insight into climate variability during the past and present records.

This paper describes the main characteristics of the climatic variations and trends in North-west part of Morocco and various climate monitoring products using a driven CD-ROM database build through the new ATLAS.