

Remote Sensing and GIS, Two Major Tools for the Environment Management and Protection: Case of the Cartography of the Natural Disasters

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SUMMARY

As all over the world Algeria is affected by natural disasters and only the intensity varies depending on the place of the globe. We therefore can notice that our country is exposed to two categories of natural events, some of meteorological and others of terrestrial origins. Depending on the vulnerability of the sectors where the phenomena are taking place, the corresponding risks are more or less important and we therefore must take their effects into account.

To better apprehend and manage the different components of the risks, the production, the consultation and exploitation of cartographic data are necessary, to study/visualise the phenomena and to try to diminish its impact on the vulnerable zones. Thus the use of geographical information is so important as it brings details to different actors interested with environmental risks.

This paper neither can be very exhaustive nor developing all the aspects included in the subject. In this context we will focus essentially on “fire risks” for which we have tempted to show using two experiences led in the West part of the country that GIS combined with data from Algerian satellite Alsat-1 are efficient tools and in a continuous evolution. The aim of this feasibility study is to test the operationality of these tools to characterise the forest zones with fire risk so that to emphasise to the decision makers the role of geographic information in the environmental policy.

We will try to bring up that handing over precise and updated data can show all the difference between an expected result and a weak result even with drawbacks and the access to precise data is necessary to the decision taking process.