Natural characteristics of the Palestinian region of the Jordan Valley

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Resumo

This paper focuses on the study of the natural characteristics of the Palestinian part of the Jordan Valley. The study of the natural factors of the region consists of an array of elements. Location was investigated since it affects the human distribution and activities. Also, the geological structure and the development of the sedimentary rocks of the region were investigated. The geological structure is considered one of the most significant factors that determine characteristics of the region which, in turn, affects patterns of land use. In addition, the geological strata may contain mineral resources that may change the pattern of agricultural land use in the region. Topography of the region was also studied as it governs the soil distribution through the process of erosion and sedimentation. Furthermore, soil characteristics change horizontally because of the differences in the degree and direction of slope. Climate characteristics were also investigated, where each climate element was studied separately, then, the sources of surface and underground water were studied. The study also discussed soil types and vegetation in the Jordan Valley.

Palavras-chave

Jordan Valley; Geology; Topography; Climate; Soil; Water resources.

Texto Completo:

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Climate of West Bank and Gaza Strip. The climate of the Palestinian Territories is influenced by the Mediterranean climate where long, hot, dry summer and short, cool, rainy winter climate conditions prevail. Climatic variations occur in the different topographical regions. Though relatively small in area, the West Bank enjoys diverse topography, soil structure and climate conditions (ARIJ 1994). Man's creations were natural when built of the materials offered by the landscape. A. First, the Jordan Valley region extends along the western bank of the Jordan River from the Israeli border in the north to the northern tip of the Dead Sea in the south. Its elevation ranges from 200-300 m below sea level, and the climate is semitropical characterized by hot summers and warm winters. Today a large part of the Jordan Valley has been declared “open-fire zones,” nature reserves, Israeli settlements, and state land. Palestinians, who constitute the majority population in the area, are allocated less than 15 percent of the territory (which the state is also trying to slowly take away). At the end of 2014 and 2015, respectively, not a single construction permit was granted in Area C, where the Bedouin communities live, and where there is natural growth and living needs. On the other hand, the pace of home demolitions is only growing. The Soils of Palestine (The West Bank and Gaza Strip) Current Status and Future. Perspectives. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) plans to take care of the natural resources of the country in order to reach to an acceptable level regarding their sustainable use and development. Among many initiatives, which are endorsed by PNA is also the establishment of Palestinian Soil Office. This Office will be placed within the Arab Studies Soci-ety, Land Research Centre. The temperature increases toward the south and towards the Jordan Valley (east). The rainfall is ranging from 100 to 700 mm annually depending on the loca-tion. In the south of the West Bank, in the area of Jerusalem Desert and Jordan Valley, prevail arid conditions.