

PRESERVATION OF THE GHOUTS IN SOUF (ALGERIAN SAHARA)

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Souf is an arid region located in the Algerian northern Sahara, it's characterized by a very hilly relief and it's covered of dunes chains. It's a difficult region for agriculture in reasons of its sand winds, the raised temperature of the water drillings (55°- 60°C) and its bad quality of the superficial waters. The dominant plantation of the inhabitants is the peanut, tobacco and particularly the traditional culture of the palm trees in the Ghouts adjoining the number of 10 000. The important extension of the agriculture lands required increase of waters in the region. To face the increasing needs of water, the drillings are reaching the deep groundwater (Continental Intercalary, CI, and the Complex Terminal, CT) have been achieved. The overexploitation of the groundwater resources caused the groundwater rise problem and provoked inundation of important number of the Ghouts: 950 flooded Ghouts, 2100 humid Ghouts and 6547 dry Ghouts about 742525 palms of which 231540 are affected, the percentage of affected palms is 34,76 . To save this traditional agriculture system of Ghouts some solutions have been proposed to preserve the patrimony of the region.

Key words: Preservation, Ghouts, Souf, Sahara, Algeria.

