Call for papers

The next issue of Maghreb-Machrek (270-271/2027) will focus on:

Water Issues and Trajectories in the MENA Region:
Monopolisation and Dispossession of a common good?

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The journal, published since 1964, is indexed by Scopus and does not charge any publication fees (see the website: www.eska.fr).

This issue will include around ten articles selected through a double-blind scientific review process. Articles, which must comply with the editorial standards (see appendix), should be sent by **April 27, 2026** at the latest to: agpaedit@eska.fr and adair@u-pec.fr.

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Call for papers: https://www.journaleska.com/index.php/mm/announcement

Water is an interdisciplinary subject of study, which has been the focus of numerous research programmes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region that have developed mainly since the second half of the 20th century (for a tentative synthesis, see for instance Amzert et al. 2000 and Slama 2004). The rapid expansion of the global economy has deeply transformed societies. In this context, many authors are calling for a new human development policy (Amara et al. 2007, etc.). The aim is to make the right to water effective. This right must meet the basic needs of humans and non-humans (UNDP 2006). Exposed to the multiple 'crises' that have hit the national territories of the region (climatic, demographic, socio-economic, ecological, energy, etc.). This discourse has had little practical effect. This concerns both the small cycle and the large water cycle. The same dynamics, at work for many decades, continue to have a destructive effect on fragile hydro-social territories (Molle & Closas 2016): water capture/hoarding by largely export-oriented value chains, depletion of aquifers and pollution of surface waters, economic and financial unsustainability of urban water services, development of hydro-social inequalities and injustices, low effectiveness of 'reforms' to traditional water policies, affirmation of technocratic knowledge and low consideration for the requirements of citizen participation, etc. These paradoxes persist over time. They are evidence of organised water irresponsibility. Development trajectories remain ecologically unsustainable: the development of productivist agriculture, the return of large-scale hydraulic infrastructure,

technological solutionism, the strategic consolidation of ‘extroverted’ tourism. It is worth noting that water scarcity, or bankruptcy, has triggered a strong increase in conflicts (Policy Commons, 2026).

These phenomena reflect the functioning of hydrocracies. These find it difficult to address environmental and political problems. This call for papers seeks to identify what is changing despite everything in this complex region, whether in terms of a deepening or reconfiguration of previous dynamics or the emergence of new trends. We propose a central hypothesis. In the MENA region, water governance is not limited to its redistribution. It also involves deeper processes of “capture” and “redistribution” within hydro-social territories in multiple crises (Menga & Swyngedouw 2018). As a fundamental component of vulnerable “critical zones”, water appears to be subject to the development of a logic that goes beyond liquid capture. As is the case in other regions of the world, it seems subject to phenomena of ‘fluid dispossession’. These consist of a revision/amputation of what constitutes the vital force of water: its ability to regenerate life through its fluid potential. By channelling, moving, storing, treating and reusing water, which is essentially fluid, within multiple systemic loops using increasingly sophisticated technologies and infrastructures (development of ‘unconventional’ water), an ontological work of reclassifying water is being revealed and studied. The issue is therefore not only one of hoarding that denies all the current ‘crises’, but also a loss of potential that invites us to explore other related issues: the degradation/pollution of groundwater and surface water (by phytosanitary products, the development of extractive activities, or the occurrence of armed conflicts); the increasingly assertive domination of infrastructure and technology within artificial hydro-social cycles; the drying up of alternative development imaginaries through the assertion of technocratic knowledge and the imposition of an ‘authoritarian’ political vision.

Facing such challenges, forms of resistance do exist. They appear at local and decentralised levels and propose a different relationship with water. This call for papers invites us to follow the trail of water commons and their future between appropriation, dispossession and practical regeneration (Haller 2020). Three areas of inquiry are sketched.

1. New frontiers of water overexploitation: discourse and practices, technologies and socio-ecological inequalities

Water supply is decreasing and becoming more irregular (Ward et al. 2017). Demand is increasing in all sectors (De Waal et al 2023). The gap between supply and demand is widening. It is necessary to analyse the extent of water extractivism (Molle & Cloas 2016).

Particular attention must be paid to the discourse of the various governments that frame and accompany this dynamic: how do they describe what is happening deep within their territories?

How do they justify the persistence of unsustainable technical systems? What role does science play in creating incomprehensibility or, conversely, territorial ignorance at work?

Technological solutionism relies on hydraulic infrastructure, which aim to secure vulnerable territories. They must be analysed critically (Fragkou & Budds 2020). 'Unconventional water' (desalination, reuse, etc.) was first developed at the regional level before proliferating on a global scale. In many countries, seawater desalination is an increasingly popular solution to the growing scarcity of fresh water, particularly in arid or heavily urbanised regions. By transforming an abundant resource into drinking water, it secures supply and reduces pressure on groundwater and waterways. However, this solution remains energy-intensive and generates environmental impacts (brine discharge and CO_2 emissions), which highlights the importance of integrating it into a comprehensive strategy that combines water conservation, wastewater reuse and improved efficiency of water use (Plan Bleu 2025). Today, increasing the amount of water available is put forward as the archetypal technical solution to address the decline and degradation of water resources in the MENA region. What patterns do these new technologies take? What are the conditions for their sustainable operation? What are the expected consequences, particularly economic ones, of their large-scale deployment? What levers can they activate for more sober and sustainable water management? What might their social and environmental impacts be, and what are the implications in terms of social and environmental justice?

A final area needs to be explored analytically: that of the 'forces of resistance' to the expansion of extractivism. Given the breakdown of public services in many countries and the limited room for manoeuvre of the associated public authorities, it is worth studying the emergence of popular movements or critical local protests (Hariri 2024). How are they organised? Through what channels do they express themselves? What threats do they face? What are their goals? ... Particular emphasis is expected to be placed on the issue of injustice and social mobility in relation to water, especially in urban areas where displaced populations reside. Can new forms of solidarity be forged with the incoming populations? Conversely, are tensions to be expected or perhaps are they already emerging?

2. New aspects of the society- water nexus: agricultural and industrial transformations, scale dynamics and revenue sharing

The dynamics at work are particularly obvious in a marked trend towards adopting more efficient techniques, promoting less water-intensive economic sectors, drafting public restrictions and discouraging certain crops in certain areas (FAO & IWMI 2018). Conversely, strong continuities and even technical and economic inertia, such as dams and water transfers,

and massive subsidies for water-intensive crops, persist in the territories studied. To what extent do the public policies implemented in the countries concerned reflect a new social relationship with water? How can this be characterised?

These complex dynamics deserve an investigation through the prism of the interplay of spatial and temporal scales, paying particular (historical) attention to the tensions between cooperation and socio-economic resistance. Indeed, top-down mechanisms such as the development of agribusiness or contract farming are currently reshaping the relationship with water (often in interaction with the state). At the same time, bottom-up mechanisms are fostering farmers organise themselves into networks. How can we interpret these scalar dynamics: 'resistance' from traditional farmers? New water tenure? More broadly, what conclusions can be drawn from the social mobilisations associated with the Arab Spring, fifteen years after they took place? What links can be established between 'water and land' in view of the current structuring of hydro-social territories and the sharing of the rents that take place (Verdeil 2019)?

Eventually, with regard to the climate crisis and its multiple impacts on the various territories, it is important to understand the extent to which geophysical phenomena such as water scarcity (droughts) or excess (floods) are causing radical changes in the way territories are managed. From a pragmatic perspective, how can we accurately identify the ways in which desert areas are being 'put to work' for agricultural production (exports, strategic crops)? What methods should be used to identify and assess the challenges this poses with respect to environmental and social sustainability of the territories? What practical responses do such dynamics elicit in return?

3. New geopolitical configurations of territories and water regimes.

In order to understand the geopolitical and geo-economic developments in the region, an analysis of transboundary water governance, the hydropolitics of large basins, and intra- and inter-basin diplomacy is requested (Gleick 2019; Daoudy 2024). What types of data and analyses have recently been designed that renew our understanding of these issues? Has the concept of 'water wars' been clarified or reconfigured? Is it possible to better understand the role that access to resources and the manifestations of climate change have played in triggering or intensifying the armed conflicts that have been raging in the region since the beginning of the 21st century?

In addition to these potential wars 'over' water, we can also consider an analysis of wars 'against' water: the example of dams blown up during the Syrian conflict is the archetypal example, but more everyday analyses such as the degradation of surface and groundwater

bodies due to ongoing armed conflicts (Ouda et al. 2021) also deserve to be documented: what is the political ecology of water life forms in times of war?

Eventually, it seems important to look at the new relationships being forged with external partners: what place and role do Chinese or Emirati capital play in seawater desalination as for MENA countries using this technology? Broadly speaking, are we witnessing the emergence of new international water regimes?

These generic questions need to be adapted to the specific characteristics of the national/regional/local areas studied, so that they can be discussed, amended, reformulated, etc. Comparative analyses between the areas studied are also encouraged in order to detect the converging dynamics and irreducible specificities at work. This call for papers aims to bring together a variety of contributions. Economic, sociological, anthropological and political approaches are welcome (regional, national or multi-country).

The topics and questions suggested below are not exhaustive.

Topics and questions

Water as a common good or private property? Drilling and distribution: public management versus markets.

(Potential) conflicts over access to water: Ethiopian dams versus Egyptian dams.

Inter-state cooperation: the (non-)sharing of the Jordan River: Israel versus Jordan.

Role of multinational water sanitation companies (Veolia, Suez, etc.) in the MENA region.

Drought, water crisis and irreversible water scarcity.

Water scarcity and rising costs.

The comparative costs of non–conventional water.

Is the MENA region facing water bankruptcy?

How can water desalination be made economically and energetically sustainable for countries facing water scarcity? What are the ecological impacts of desalination, and how can brine discharge and emissions be limited?

How can desalination be integrated into a comprehensive sustainable water management strategy that combines reuse, conservation and groundwater protection?

How can social acceptance, local regulation and the exploitation of desalinated water resources be reconciled?

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Authors Guidelines

Authors should send their revised full paper to agpaedit@eska.fr and adair@u-pec.fr

The full paper must not exceed 7,500 words, or approximately 48,000 signs (including spaces), in MS Word format (.doc or .docx, or rtf).

First page: Name(s) and first name(s) of the institution(s), professional address(s), email(s) and the last two publications of the author(s).

Second page: Title of the article, no mention of the author(s), an Abstract in French and in English (up to 200 words), six keywords (alphabetical order), and JEL codes, followed by the text and a list of bibliographic references.

Text: Times New Roman, size 12. No more than three levels, using Arabic numerals (1.; ***1.1***. and **1.1.1**.) for the title of each section (no indentation) with a 1.5 line spacing.

Please use full sentences and refrain from any listing with hyphens, bullet points or else.

Each paragraph is indented (0.5) as this one.

Figures (tables, graphs, diagrams and maps) in Times New Roman, size 10, simple spacing. no indentation. All must be labelled and numbered in Arabic numerals; their location must be indicated in the text. Source should be indicated as well as notes if any. No colours. No gridlines but very few horizontal dividing lines for Tables.

Box (es): Times New Roman, size 10 (no indentation), single spacing; title and Arabic numerals.

Footnotes in Times New Roman, size 10, no indentation, simple spacing. For very limited use, they must not contain references, which are included within the text and refer to the list of references.

References within the text are included as follows: (Abdou 2013), (Abdou & Salman 2015) or (Abdou et al 2017), if there are three or more authors. Otherwise, Abdou (2013) studies, or Abdou et al (2013) examine, or according to Abdou (2013).

Punctuation: Appropriate use of quotation marks and moderate use of capital letters according to typographical rules.

Bibliographic references: Times New Roman, size 10 indented as shown below.

Book: Name(s), Initial(s) First name(s) (year). *Title* (in italics). Location, publisher.
Abdel Ghafar, A. (2018). *A Stable Egypt for a Stable Region: Socio-Economic Challenges and Prospects*. Strasbourg: European Parliament, Policy Department.
Chapter: Name(s), Initial(s) First name(s) (year). Title. *In* Name(s), Initial(s) First name(s) authors. *Title* (in italics), location, publisher, pp.
Article: Name(s), Initial(s) First name(s) (year). Title. *Journal* (in italics), vol. and n° in numerals, pp.
Abdou, P., Salman, D., & Zaazou, Z. (2013). The Egyptian Revolution and Post Socio-Economic Impact. *Topics in Middle Eastern and African Economies*, 15(1), 92-115
Thesis: Name, Initial(s) First name(s) (year). Title. Discipline. University.
Working paper: Surname(s), First name(s) (year). Title, Research Team, University or Institution.

Example

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND RURAL POVERTY IN MOROCCO

AUTHOR'S *FIRST NAME AND NAME*[1]

Abstract

Agriculture represents the main source of income for rural people in Morocco, and is substantially affected by climate change (CC). The average increase in temperatures observed since 1960 is 0.23°C, and precipitation follows a general downward trend in the three rainfall regions of Morocco. Faced with such findings, agriculture has nevertheless recorded an average increase in agricultural GDP of 6.9% between 2001 and 2020, and relative poverty in rural areas has fallen from 35% to 22.9%. Faced with this paradox, this article seeks to determine whether the current CC, approached by the increase in temperatures and the variability of precipitation, has effects on the four agricultural productions to which the majority of rural people are devoted and by extension on poverty. Thus, the use of the Pettitt test and the study of the correlations between these parametric variations of the CC and the average aggregated yields of productions between 2001 and 2020 did not reveal any significant link. With the exception of cereal yield during the 5 years of drought, effectively excluding the most vulnerable farmers, this result, distinct from the expectation resulting from the literature review, opens up other methodological research perspectives for a more detailed analysis.

Keywords: agricultural production, climate change, Morocco, rural poverty, vulnerability

JEL: N57, O13, Q18.

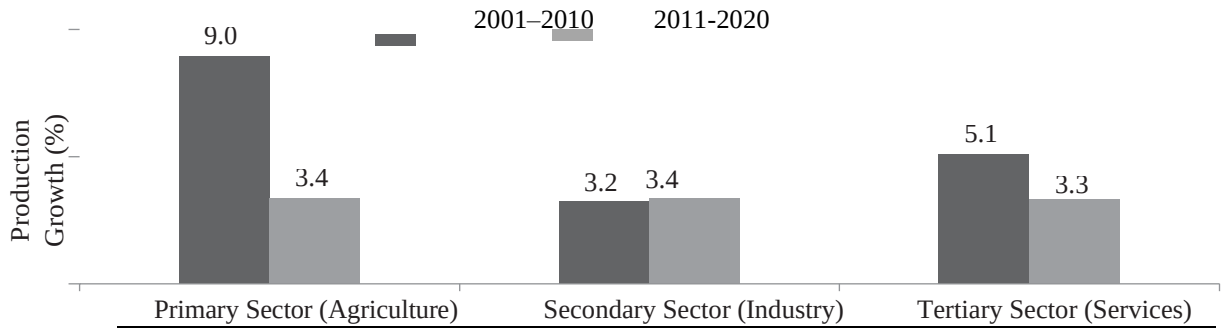
1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change threatens the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural populations and tends to have a detrimental effect on economic growth (Abidoye & Odusola 2015). The World Bank estimates that 100 million people worldwide, primarily in South Asia and Africa, are at risk of falling back into poverty due to the effects of climate change (Hallegatte et al. 2016, Baarsch et al. 2020). African countries are the most threatened by this phenomenon due to low production capacity, lack of investment, the significant proportion of the population working in agriculture, low productivity, and limited crop diversification (Hallegatte & Rozenberg 2017). This weak production is also dependent on climatic variability and the absence of political strategies for adaptation to climate change (Azzarri & Signorelli 2020). Declining harvests thus expose rural households to poverty, potentially undermining development efforts (Angelsen & Dokken 2018).

…

[1] Affiliation. Email.

Figure 2. Sharp deceleration in agricultural production growth compared to other sectors



Source: HCP (2022)

Table 1. Correlation coefficients between the yields of 4 crops for the period 2001-2020

	Fruits and Vegetables	Cereals	Legumes	Market Gardening and Sugar Crops
Fruits and Vegetables	-	0,43 (0,03)	0,56 (0,01)	0,83 (0,02)
Cereals			0,84 (0,06)	0,76 (0,05)
Legumes			-	0,69 (0,04)
Market Gardening and Sugar Crops				-

Source: Calculations by the authors

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