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Yacine Kouba, Ph.D.

Research Fields

My research interests include the study of the effects of changes in land use and climate on plant community diversity in forest and rangeland ecosystems. More recently, I am interested in studying the effects of anthropogenic pressure and climate change on land degradation and desertification in arid and semiarid rangelands of North Africa. My recent research has focussed on investigating the influence of the increasing sedentarization of nomads on land degradation in highly vulnerable Mediterranean semiarid rangelands. I used remote sensing imagery and statistical modelling to identify the drivers of land degradation. Among the courses that I teach are Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing, and cartography.

Education

- Oct 2007–June 2014* **PhD:** Land planning and environmental management. University of Zaragoza, Spain.
- Oct 2006–Nov 2008* **Master of Science:** Integrated Planning for Rural Development and Environmental Management. Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza and University of Lleida, Spain.
- Sep 2000–July 2005* **Engineer in Forestry:** Conservation of Natural Ecosystems. Université Mouloud Mammeri de Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria.

Specialized training

- 2008* Methods of environmental stress assessment and population dynamics analyses. Organized by the University of Zaragoza. 30 hours.
- 2013* Statistics applied to climatology in R. Organized by the Asociación Española de Climatología. 30 hours.
- 2016* Conception et développement d'un cours en ligne sous Moodle. Université Larbi Ben M'hidi Oum el Bouaghi.

Teaching/Research Experience

- September 2017-Currently* Chief of speciality : Land planning
- September 2016- Currently* Associate professor at Université Larbi Ben Mhidi Oum el Buaghi Algeria
- September 2015-* Assistant professor at Université Larbi Ben M'hidi Oum el Buaghi Algeria
- May 2013–Mar 2014* Research assistant at Pyrenean Institute of Ecology.
- June 2013* Teaching: Species distribution modelling in R. MSc University of Zaragoza. 8 hours.
- June 2011* Teaching: Species distribution modelling in R. MSc University of Zaragoza. 8 hours.

Participation in research projects

- 2013–2014* Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Desertification: Assessing the fit of responses (LEDDRA). Funding Agency: European Commission (Ref. C-ENVIR/0778). Dr. Concepción L. Alados. 3997343 €.
- 2008–2011* Spatial Configuration of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation. Funding Agency: Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (Ref. CICYT CGL2008-00655/BOS). Dr. Concepción L. Alados. 104200 €.

Skills & Languages

- Skills* Advanced level in GIS (ArcGIS), Remote Sensing (ERDAS), and Statistical analyses (R).
- Languages* Berber and Arabic (Mother languages); Advanced level in English, French, and Spanish.

Journal Publications

- Kouba Y.**, Alados C.L. (2014) *The expansion of Quercus faginea in the Aragón's Pre-Pyrenees over the second part of the twentieth century.* Pirineos; doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3989/Pirineos.2014.169002>.
- Kouba Y.**, Martínez-García F., de Frutos A., Alados C.L. (2014) *Plant β -diversity in human-altered forest ecosystems: the importance of the structural, spatial, and topographical*

characteristics of stands in patterning plant species assemblages. European Journal of Forest Research; doi: 10.1007/s10342-014-0822-6.

Kouba Y., Camarero J. J., Alados C.L. (2012) *Roles of land-use and climate change on the establishment and regeneration dynamics of Mediterranean semi-deciduous oak forests*. Forest Ecology and Management; 274:143-150.

Kouba Y., Alados C.L., Bueno C.G. (2011) *Effects of abiotic and anthropogenic factors on the spatial distribution of Quercus faginea in the Spanish Central Pyrenees*. Plant Ecology; 212(6):999-1007.

Kouba Y., Alados C.L. (2012) *Spatio-temporal dynamics of Quercus faginea forests in the Spanish Central Pre-Pyrenees*. European Journal of Forest Research; 131(2):369-379.

Kouba Y., Martínez-García F., De frutos A., Alados C.L. (2015) *Effects of previous land-use on plant species composition and diversity in Mediterranean forests*. PLoS ONE; doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0139031.

Kouba Y., Gartzia M.A., Al Aich A., Alados C.L. (2018) *Deserts do not advance, they are created: Land degradation and desertification in semiarid environments in the Middle Atlas, Morocco*. Journal of arid environments; 158: 1-8; doi:10.1016/j.jaridenv.2018.07.002.

Books

Kouba Y. (2018) *Semi-deciduous oak (Quercus faginea) forests of the Central Pyrenees: Spatial distribution, spatiotemporal dynamic, forest structure and dynamics, and plant diversity*. Latvia: Editorial Académica Española; ISBN: 978-620-2-15826-8.

Communications

Merdas S., Moustefaoui T., **Kouba Y.**, Sakaa B., Hanafi M. (2018) *Natural resources in steppe rangelands of Algeria, do we need more protection?* Colloque International AGROSEM II: Université Mohamed Khider, Biskra -Algerie.

Merdas S., Hanafi M., Sakaa B., Moustefaoui T., **Kouba Y.**, Salemkour N., Menad A. (2015) *The impact of livestock grazing in plant species composition and diversity in arid steppe of Algeria*. European Dry Grassland Meeting, Mainz-Germany.

Awards & Grants

Sep 2008 Scholarship: Ph.D. fellowship from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).

Sep 2006 Scholarship: M.Sc. fellowship from the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).