Acknowledgment and Appreciation

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Conference Chairman

TOPSIS methods for development of desertification indicators system

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Abstract

UNEP/UN (1992), considered the process of desertification as: "Land degradation in arid, semi -arid and dry-sub humid areas resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities". Therefore, success in combating desertification requires an improve understanding of its causes and impacts and specially the [illegible] between desertification and climate, soil, water, land cover and socio-economic indicators. There are many [illegible] selecting, scoring, weighting and ranking of indicators for desertification monitoring in desertification assessment models. The main cavil is relation to expert's opinion in weighting and priority of indicators on desertification process. Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) is a collection of methodologies to compare, select, or rank multiple alternatives that involve incommensurate attributes. Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) method is a multiple criteria method to identify solution from finite set of [illegible]. The aim of this paper is to extend the TOPSIS decision making method for selecting of desertification indicators. In TOPSIS method an algorithm for determining the most preferable choice among all possible indicators [illegible] on desertification was developed.

Geomorophological and sedimentological mapping of Jal Az-Zour escarpment, northern Kuwait, using GIS methods

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Abstract

Jal Az-Zor escarpment is one of the most important geomorphological features in northern Kuwait that can be recognized and differentiated into different units from higher upland to lower flat coastal plain. The landforms exhibit a wide variety of shape, sediment type and size.

The main aim of this study is to map the sedimentological and geomorphological regimes in this area with emphasis on recent surface deposits (Quaternary) and their geomorphological forms, using GIS application in conjunction with field/ground truth data. The study area was subdivided into five major geomorphological units, namely: back slope, crest, scarp, debris slope, and coastal plain with certain drainage pattern that dominate the formation of these specific landscapes. The recent surface sediments were subdivided into coastal deposits which include tidal flat, sabkha and coastal dunes, and inland deposits, which include desert plain deposits, playa deposits playa, gravel plain and ridges, rugged and smooth sand sheets, wadi, and alluvial fan deposits. Quartz grains are more abundant in medium sand fractions while feldspar grains and rock fragments are more abundant in very coarse sand fractions.

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