Acknowledgment and Appreciation
Presented to

Adel Sepehr

In recognition and appreciation for your participation and outstanding and contribution in the International Conference on Land Degradation Dry Environments
Kuwait, March 8-14, 2009

Dr. Jasem Al-Awadhi
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, in combating desertification requires an improve understanding of its causes and impacts and specially the interactions between desertification and climate, soil, water, land cover and socio-economic indicators. There are many methods for selecting, scoring, weighting and ranking of indicators for desertification monitoring in desertification assessment models. The main cavi 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, and evaluate multiple alternatives that involve incommensurate attributes. Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) method is a multi-criteria method to identify solution from finite set of points. The aim of this paper is to extend the TOPSIS decision making method for selecting of desertification indicators. This TOPSIS method an algorithm for determining the most preferable choice among all possible indicators affecting on desertification was developed.

Geomorphological and sedimentological mapping of Jal Az-Zour escarpment, northern Kuwait, using GIS methods
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Abstract
Jal Az-Zour escarpment is one of the most important geomorphological features in northern Kuwait that are recognized and differentiated into different units from higher upland to lower flat coastal plain. The landform 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 geomorphic units, namely: back slope, crest, scarp, debris slope, and coastal plain with certain drainage pattern that control 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, coastal deposits playa, gravel plain and ridges, and alluvial fan deposits. 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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