

Pablo DOMÍNGUEZ, [University of Kent](#), Religious beliefs and community based environmental management in a globalizing world : A case study of High Land Berber Agropastoralists in Morocco

Even if there is a growing scientific demonstration that Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCA's) created locally in specific cultural and ecological contexts, are a positive management regime for the wellbeing of local populations and the conservation of the environment, in fact the ICCA's are being strongly undermined worldwide. The present text is focused on treating this problem from a particular type of mountain ICCA's in Morocco, the *agdal* of Yagour of the Berber Mesioua tribe of the Moroccan High Atlas. This *agdal* consists on regulating seasonally the utilization of highland pastures through an assembly of pasture users whose objective is 1) to optimize its yield while sustaining resource production year after year and 2) to assure all users a relatively equitable access to the grassland common pool. More concretely, I will focus on how local religious beliefs and environmental management interact with each other, as well as how both relate to new globalizing influences such as emerging state structures and ideologies, mass media, migrations, market integration, tourism, NGOs and global Islamic movements. I analyze these interactions through an ethnographic study of the traditional *agdal's* integration within local religiosity and its associated ethics, which imply a local conservationist and egalitarian set of principles. The conclusions reached are that, strained by forces of globalization, the substitution of the local cosmology and the decline of the *agdal* natural resource management system are interlinked, and that the consequences of these transformations are increasing environmental degradation and social inequities.