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Introduction

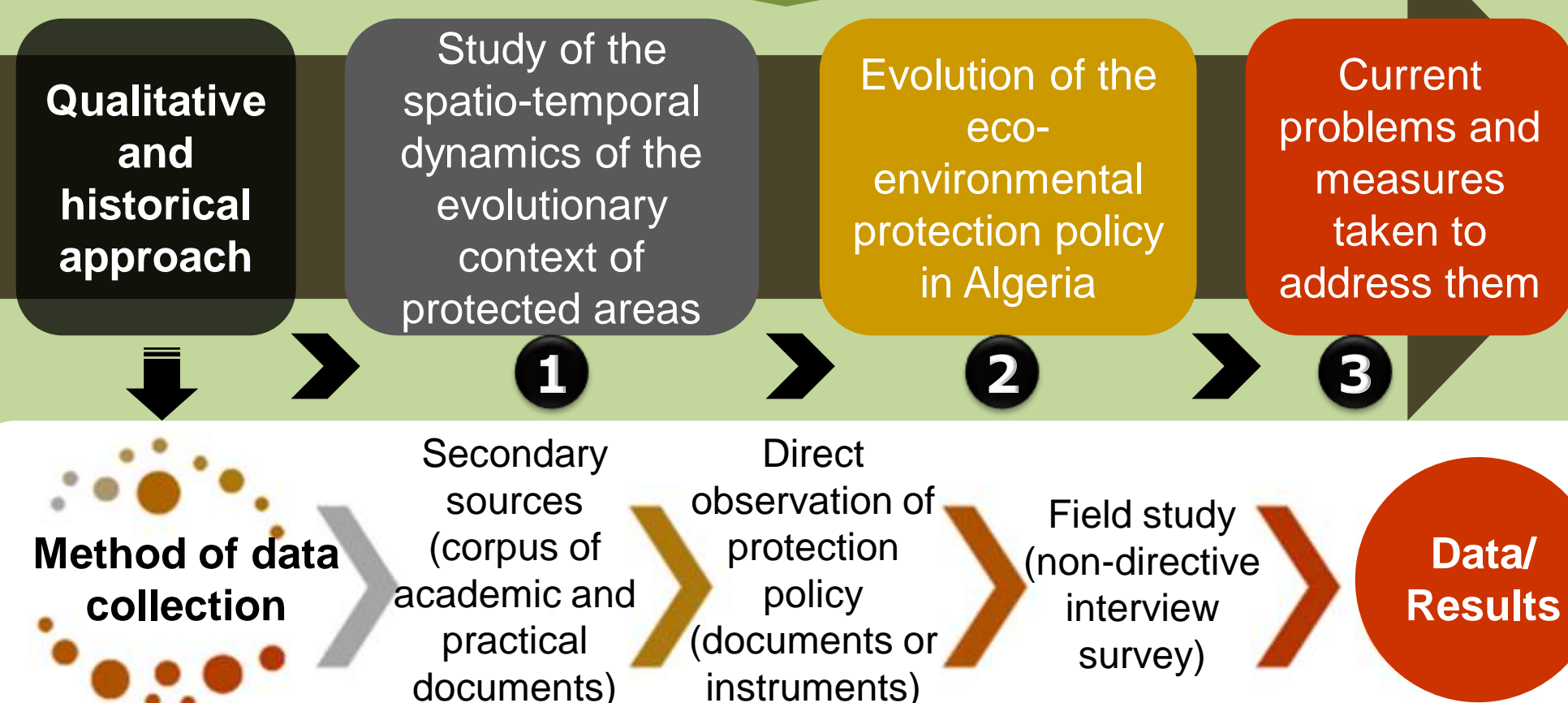
This research is part of a wider reflection on the eco-environment and the policy implemented to protect it through the creation of protected areas, which constitute a policy tool for protecting nature and a land-use planning model in terms of conserving biodiversity and creating recreational and tourist opportunities. In the case of Algeria, we are interested in studying the issue of protected areas and the role of the policies implemented for their protection and development, as well as the new strategy undertaken for their sustainable development. Indeed, the conservation and development objectives of these protected areas are less clear-cut and achievable, despite the panoply of instruments mobilized, and major natural and man-made threats currently weigh on these protected areas, which are subject to significant risks of degradation. Faced with these threats, what priority measures have been taken to improve the conservation of these fragile, listed sites?

Research objectives

- 1 To shed light on the national context of change and transition in environmental protection policies.
- 2 Explore the new national strategy put in place to ensure sustainable management of the environment and protected areas.
- 3 Reveal the potential and importance of the ecosystems in Algeria's network of protected areas.
- 4 Identify problems and priority measures to improve conservation and ensure sustainable development.

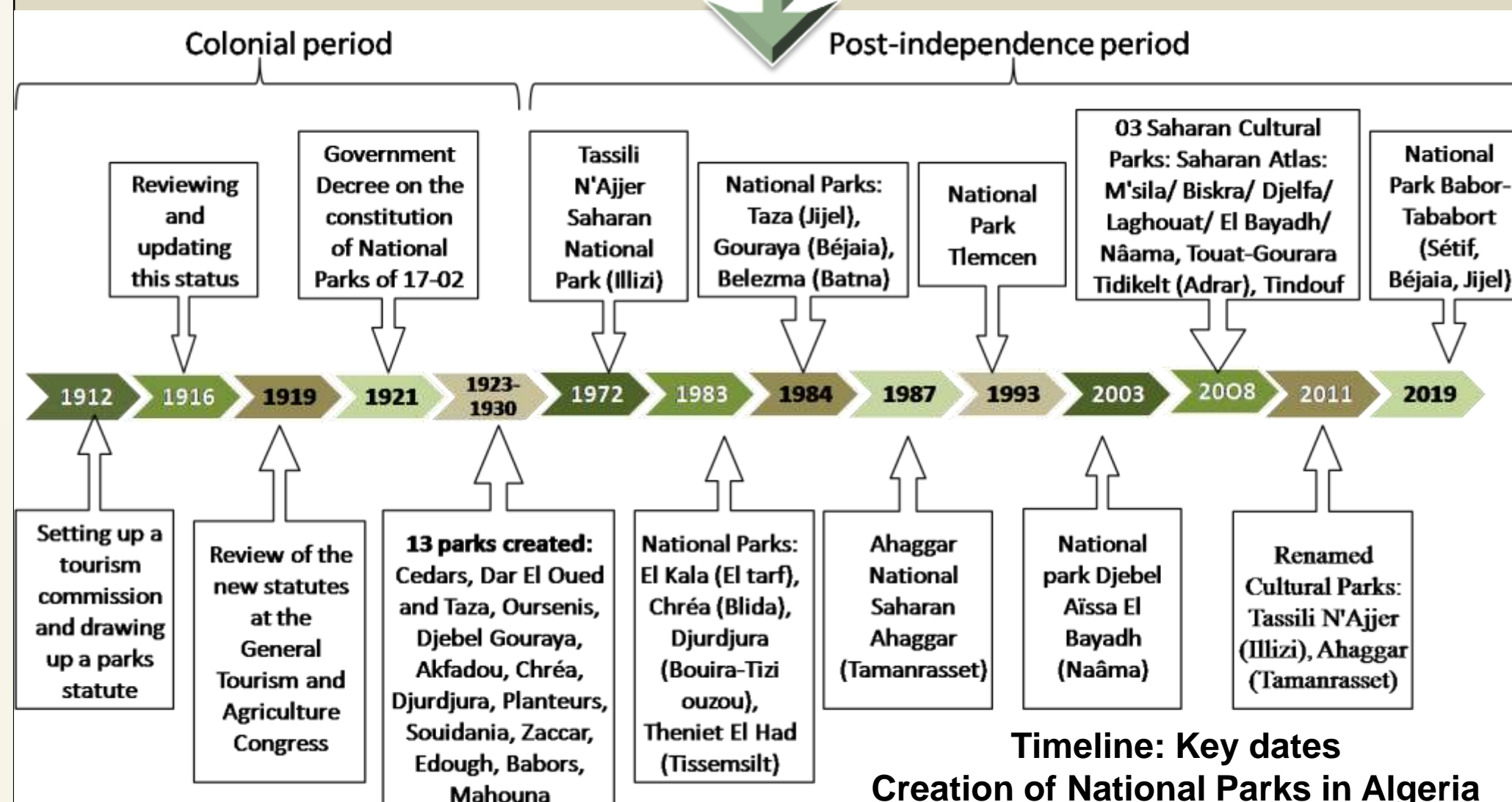


Research methodology and tools

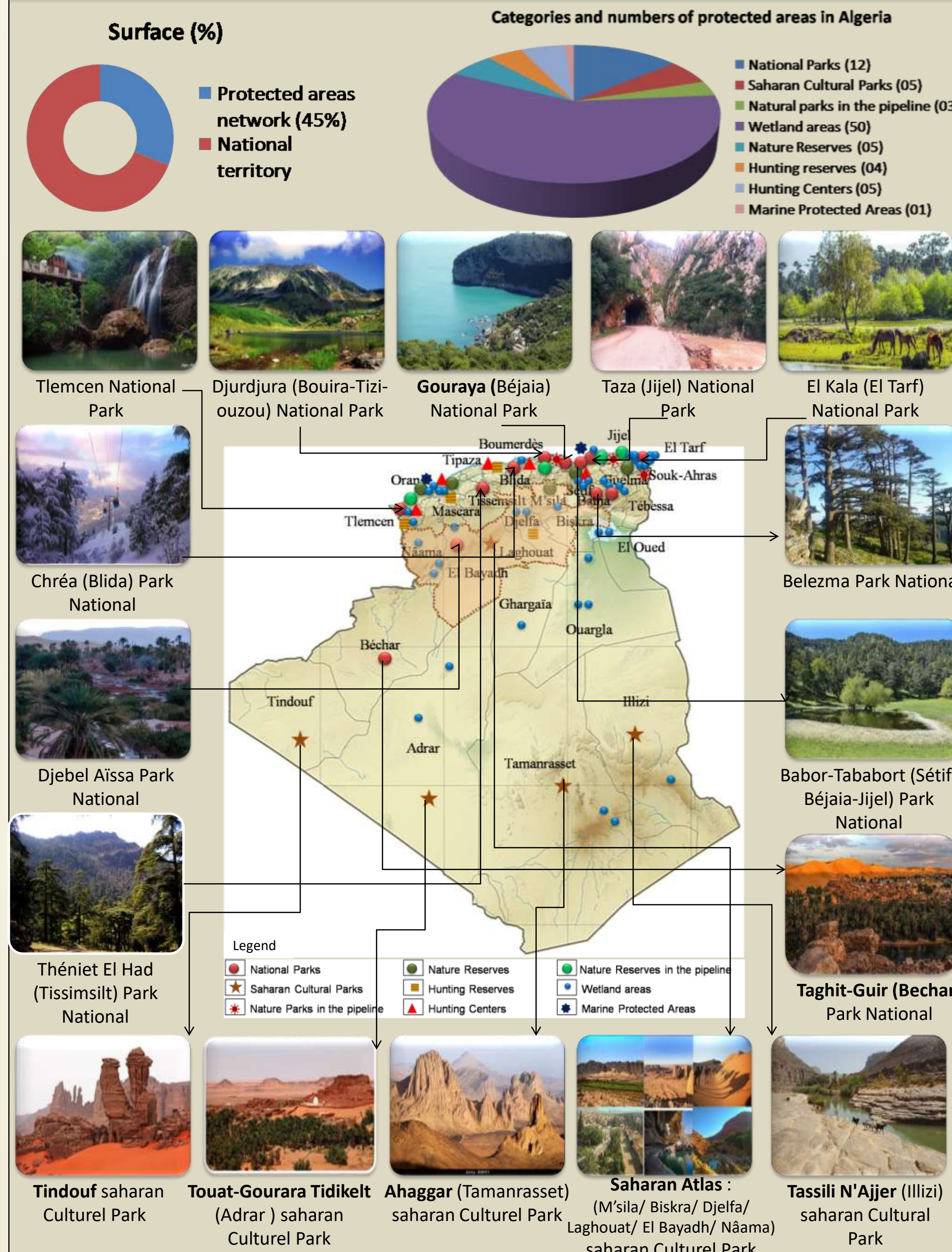


History of Protected Areas in Algeria

The history of the creation of protected areas in Algeria is represented by the National Parks, which are the pioneers from colonial times, through to post-independence and up to the present day.



Categories and territorial distribution of PA



Evolution of protection policies

Events/Participation International

- 1972: World Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden, under the aegis of the United Nations ,
- 1972: Paris Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference,
- 1975: Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution,
- 1982: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance,
- 1982: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
- 1992 (Rio de Janeiro): United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED),
- 1995: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
- 1996: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

National events/ Laws and decrees

- July 1974: Creation of the National Environmental Committee (NEC),
- November 18 to 24, 1974: First African congress on occupational risk prevention organized by the Organization of African Unity,
- 1976: National Charter on ecological restrictions for industrial facilities,
- 1983: Promulgation of the first environmental protection law, Framework Law 83-03 of 05/02/1983,
- 1983: Decree on the standard status of National Parks No. 83-458 of 23/07/1983,
- 1990: Law no. 90-29 of December 1, 1990 on urban planning and development.

National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development :Transition Phase (2000)

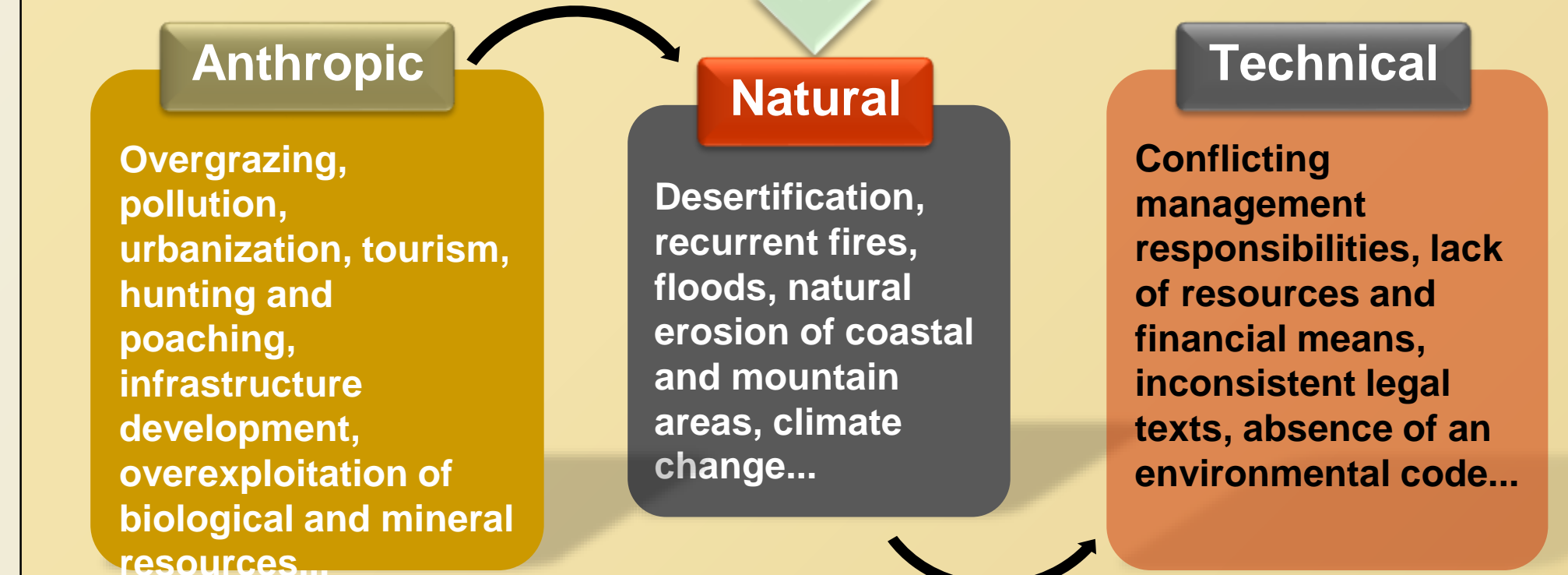
- Drawing up a National Action Plan for the Environment and Development (PNAED), the aim of which is to integrate environmental concerns into the country's socio-economic development programs in order to preserve fragile natural resources (water, soil, forests, biodiversity, etc.) and improve public health (waste management, sanitation and atmospheric emissions).
- Strengthening the legal and institutional framework with the creation of the Conservatoire national des formations à l'environnement, the Observatoire national de l'environnement et du développement durable, the Agence nationale des déchets, the Centre national des technologies de production plus propres, the Centre de développement des ressources biologiques, the Commissariat national du littoral, the associative movement and the Ministère de l'Environnement et des Energies renouvelables (in 2015).
- Promulgation of several laws:
- Law n° 2001-20 of December 12, 2001 on regional planning in the context of sustainable development,
- Law no. 02-02 of February 5, 2002 on the protection and enhancement of the coastline,
- Law no. 2003-10 of July 19, 2003 on environmental protection in the context of sustainable development,
- Law n°2004-03 of June 23, 2004 on the protection of mountain areas as part of sustainable development,
- Law n° 11-02 of February 17, 2011, on protected areas as part of sustainable development.

Forward-looking planning and Development tools

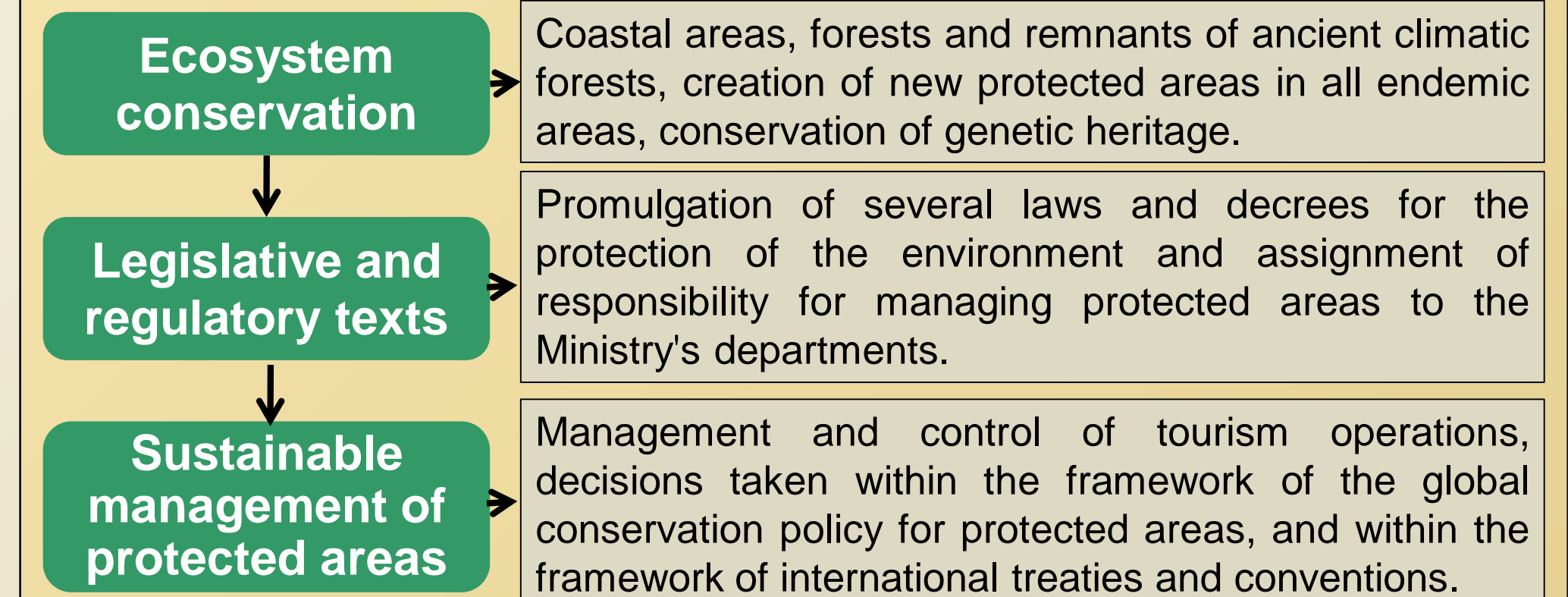
- **National Spatial Planning Scheme (2030)**, which proposes the implementation of sustainability, dynamism, attractiveness, competitiveness, territorial equity and governance measures linked to natural and protected areas.
- **Spatial Planning and Territorial Programming Scheme (2025)**, which aims to define policies for preserving social, economic and environmental balance and implementing territorial action programs to ensure the harmonious development of the country's various regions.
- **The Atlas of Protected Area Networks** is a spatial tool used for natural resource management and inventories, mapping, combating desertification and monitoring evolutionary phenomena.
- **Master scheme for natural spaces and protected areas (2025)** was proposed as part of the SNAT and adopted by the government in 2008. This tool aims to qualify all natural areas (biodiversity, socio-economic importance and the natural resources they contain).

Vulnerability of Protected Areas

Despite the many efforts made in terms of protection policies, protected areas continue to deteriorate. All natural ecosystems are under considerable threat, and are at high risk of deterioration and impoverishment. The risk factors are manifold:



Priority measures taken



Conclusion and prospects

Algeria is one of the most active countries in terms of environmental protection policies, but their implementation is still limited in effectiveness. Protected areas and the values they represent continue to deteriorate, despite the many efforts made in terms of policies (creation of a network of protected areas), legislation (laws, decrees, conventions) and strategies (reinforcement of the legal arsenal, studies and projects: UNDP project, PNAE-DD, management plan for marine areas, master plan for natural spaces and protected areas). Actions must therefore be better targeted to achieve balance and thus meet the objectives of protection and sustainable development. The key is to remove these threats, by implementing effective measures relating to sustainable management, ecosystem conservation, enforcement of laws and regulations, planning and development of PAs, creating a framework for consultation/participation and moving towards an integrated approach by promoting educational, cultural and environmental ecodesign.

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