

Internship summary: Ecosystem Services Project at the GIZ in Rabat, Morocco

During the summer break of 2018, I had the opportunity to do an internship in the newly started project of Ecosystem Services of the GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) in Rabat. My main tasks were to research studies that had been performed on ecosystem services of the different ecosystems in Morocco and of similar ecosystems worldwide. I also went to the Scientific Institute of Rabat to meet their scientists and ask them about their research on this topic and I contacted a few other research institutes around the country to know if they had worked on ecosystem services. During this study, I realized that the analysis of ecosystem services is a relatively new topic in the research domain and that not many studies had been performed in Morocco. With the background research that I did, the team of the Ecosystem Services project will conduct studies on ecosystem services mainly in the pilot areas of Souss-Massa and Béni-Mellal-Khénifra, to determine their economical value and to find a way to promote and preserve them, for example through the method of payment for ecosystem services.

In the beginning of the internship, I also went to a conference on how climate change affects women living in oases, which was a great experience, because women from an oasis came to Rabat and talked about how their life is changing due to changing climatic conditions.

All in all, it was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone, to get some practical experience in an area that could potentially be a work place in the future.