

### **Chapter III: Ecosystems in Algeria.**

Algeria covers a large area of 2,381,741 km<sup>2</sup>, runs from East to West along the Mediterranean for 1,200 km and stretches from North to South for nearly 2,000 km. Indeed, there are 06 types of ecosystems:

- 1- Coastal and marine ecosystems (marine and coastal).
- 2- Inland wetland ecosystems.
- 3- Mountain ecosystems
- 4- (a) Forest ecosystems;
- 5- Steppe ecosystems.
- 6- Saharan ecosystems.

#### **1- Coastal and marine ecosystems:**

The Algerian marine coastline encompasses a coastal strip represented by coastal dunes, cliffs, beaches and pre-forestry formations. Rich ecosystems of economic and social importance.

#### **2- Wetlands**

"These are areas of marshes, fens, peat bogs, natural or artificial water, permanent or temporary, where the water is stagnant or running, fresh, brackish or salty including areas of marine water whose depth does not exceed six meters".

Algeria's geographical position and the diversity of its climate give it 254 important natural wetlands:

- The Northeast part:** contains many freshwater lakes, marshes, ripisylves and floodplains.
- The Northwest fringe and the high steppe plains:** are characterized by salt water bodies such as chotts, sebkhas and dayas.
- **Sahara:** contains oases, dayas and gueltas.

#### **3- Mountain ecosystems:**

They occupy an area of 8,719,000 ha (3.6% of the national territory). They are mainly represented by the chains of the Tellian Atlas to the north and the chains of the Saharan Atlas bordering the Sahara.

#### 4- (a) Forest ecosystems;

The Algerian forest is structured into three main types:

- Sclerophyllous forests:** holm oak, cork oak.
- The deciduous forests:** in Oak Zeen, Oak Afares.
- Coniferous forests:** in Aleppo Pine, Maritime Pine, Atlas Cedar.

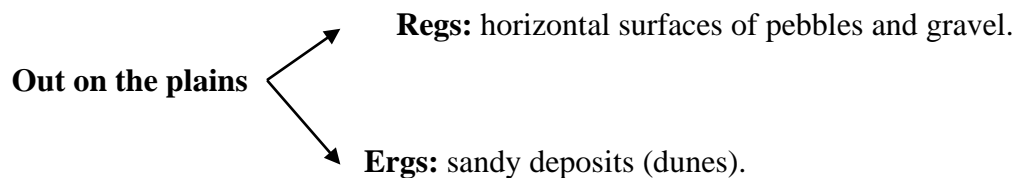
#### 5- Steppe ecosystems:

These are the spaces located between the Tellian Atlas to the north and the Saharan Atlas to the south, and between the Hodna plain to the east and that of the Oran Chotts to the west. These ecosystems are low vegetation and sparse. These steppes consist essentially of a mosaic of three plant groups (alfa, sparter, and white wormwood).

#### 6- Saharan ecosystems:

portions consist

- **Hamadas and Tassilis:** huge limestone rocky plateaus dominating the wadi valleys.



- Depressions:** either salty (chotts and sebkhas) or sweet dayas.