

1 Morocco has always been a strategic location between Europe and Africa. The wealth of fauna and flora makes it the second richest country in the Mediterranean in terms of biodiversity. However, various aspects of ***the latter*** remain uncertain and even threatened.



2 Morocco joined the international community in saving the environment a while ago. Since 2003 it has been putting foundations in place to enhance ***its*** environmental policy, which until then primarily addressed water management issues. Three important environmental laws – those related to preserving the environment, combating air pollution and assessing environmental impact – were approved in 2003. The adoption of the National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development has allowed Morocco to redouble its efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. The Moroccan government has launched numerous national programmes against water waste and air pollution, campaigns to raise people’s awareness in schools and universities.

3 Despite the steps taken by the government, sustainable development remains challenging due to outdated laws, limited resources used to improve the situation; lack of regulations; outdated legal requirements related to industry; lack of waste management; and poor energy efficiency. Water resources have already been severely damaged by recurrent droughts and by modifications to natural water systems. Water stocks are being consumed faster than they are being replaced, but demand from agriculture, industry and the population is increasing. A serious crisis is expected by 2020. Such serious water pollution in addition to reduced rainfall and longer and more frequent droughts affect the agricultural sector and lead to rural poverty.

4 But it is nothing compared to the waste daily created. Morocco generates over 6.5 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) annually, of which 5 million tons are produced in urban areas and 1.5 million tons in rural areas. Furthermore, a low collection rate has led to wild dumpsites and widespread littering. Where MSW collection is operating, its focus is on the cleaning of the waste-generating neighbourhood, with restricted attention paid to waste disposal and recycling.

5 Salaheddine Ait Lakdoume, a Moroccan environmentalist, came up with the interesting idea of marrying technology to ecology.



He’s working on creating an interactive online platform to “geolocate” wild dumpsites in order to map them and share the information with volunteers and Environmental NGOs, activating cleaning actions. Another ecologist called Yassine Zegzouti has started educational campaigns in schools in Marrakesh to educate children on recycling and reusing trash.



6 Thanks to Morocco’s great potential for generating green energy, in particular solar, wind and hydro energy, and with its energy strategy and programmes, the government wants to increase the production of this environment-friendly energy to more than 42 % by 2020.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Say if each of the sentences below is a fact or an example. Tick (✓) where appropriate. (3 pts)

	Sentence	Fact	Example
1	Morocco has been regarded as a bridge between different cultures and civilizations.
2	Five million tons of solid waste are produced yearly in urban areas.
3	Morocco has great possibilities of generating green energy.

B Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 What makes Morocco a distinguished country as far as the environment is concerned?
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.....
- 2 Why is sustainable development hard to achieve?
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- 3 Which strategies do some Moroccan activists use to promote environment preservation?
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C Say if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3 pts)

- 1 Morocco started to deal with all environmental issues before 2003.
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.....
- 2 Water pollution and climate change make people in the countryside poorer.
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.....
- 3 The Moroccan government handles the problem of waste wisely and efficiently.
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.....

C Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (2 pts)

- 1 improve (para 2):
- 2 frequent (para 3):

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)

- 1 the latter (para 1):
- 2 its (para 2):

E Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (2 pts)

- 1 Morocco has redoubled its efforts so that it
- 2 The government wants to increase the generation of green energy to more than 42 % because

