

## CHANGING LAND USE PATTERNS AND DESERTIFICATION IN SOUTHERN NEMENCHA (ALGERIA).

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The semi-arid region of Nemancha has an undeniable diversity of flora and fauna, but climate and man-made factors are causing the forest cover to retreat. This paper uses Landsat images to examine changing land use patterns in the region between 1987 and 2014. The approach consists in applying supervised classification using the maximum likelihood classifier to multi-date satellite images. The results show advanced degradation of the forest cover, sparse vegetation and soils.