

THE HERITAGE BUILT IN MOROCCO TO THE TEST OF NATURAL DISASTER

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ABSTRACT

Natural disasters mainly earthquakes, pose a serious threat to cultural and architectural heritage, sometimes leading to irreversible damage or complete destruction of heritage assets, furthermore, inadequate interventions during emergency responses can also damage the sites to protect. Although the top priority is to save human lives during disasters, it is crucial to minimize losses of cultural heritage, given its inestimable and often irreplaceable value for future generations.

Seismic activity poses a significant threat to many cultural properties, as evidenced by the latest earthquake in Morocco, which seriously affected the stability of historic earth or stone buildings. These events caused significant cracks, structural damage to facades, roofs, floors, and even partial or total collapses. Buildings that have not been maintained for years are particularly vulnerable, even those protected by heritage services. In the event of an earthquake, incompatible repair methods can make damage worse rather than preventing it.

The ornamental wealth located inside these damaged buildings, such as in the Tinmel Mosque, may also be lost due to the earthquake itself, as well as improper handling when moving them. National and international reports recording disasters and their consequences are a crucial source of information for the protection of cultural heritage, covering technical, procedural and operational aspects. However, it is important to note that many preventive and emergency measures that are effective in saving human lives are often not sufficient to protect cultural heritage, despite their great importance for the population.

In summary, natural and human disasters represent a major threat to cultural and architectural heritage, potentially causing irreparable damage. It is imperative to integrate the protection of cultural heritage into disaster management policies and mechanisms, ensuring that damage is minimized while saving human lives. The increased vulnerability of cultural assets during seismic events requires special attention, as does the importance of maintaining records documenting these disasters to guide heritage protection measures.

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