

Holocene human-environment interaction in arid lands

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In the Holocene, human groups have largely exploited present-day arid regions of the Old World thanks to general wetter environmental conditions. Enhanced rainfall permitted the occupation of many ecological niches. The geological record preserves evidence of major and rapid climatic changes occurred in arid regions and their comparison with the archaeological record permits to reconstruct the trajectory of human groups and the transitions from hunters-gathers-fishers to pastoralist, including shedding light on the beginning of the Anthropocene.