



2003 Exceptional Weather Phenomena in Tunisia

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In the last few years Tunisia has witnessed an unprecedented increase in intensity/frequency of extreme weather events. The latest and unprecedented event occurred in September 2003 with a broken record in rainfall. The large scale atmospheric conditions were such that a low pressure centre formed on the western basin and the centre of the Mediterranean in the winter of 2003 causing successive passages of several storms. At the summer time a Saharan depression has set up the conditions that led to a northward high temperature advection and long lasting blows of sirocco hence putting heat into the Mediterranean Sea surface. In September a convective system formed over the northern part of Tunisia. The sea surface conditions intensified the system giving rise to an exceptional storm resulting in extreme precipitation and flood. The exceptionality of events are presented and discussed.