

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910838332603321
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Titolo	Land Matters : Can Better Governance and Management of Scarcity Prevent a Looming Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa?
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Namur : , : World Bank Publications, , 2023 ©2022
ISBN	1-4648-1738-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (131 pages)
Collana	World Bank e-Library
Altri autori (Persone)	SelodHarris
Disciplina	333.7
Soggetti	Land use - Africa, North Land use - Government policy - Africa, North Land use - Government policy - Middle East Land use - Middle East
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), land is scarce and valuable. Demand for land is projected to dramatically increase to meet the needs of a fast-growing urban population. At the same time, the supply of land is restricted by weak governance and climate factors, causing the quasi-exhaustion of cultivable land reserves. As a result, a crisis is looming. Yet, land continues to be used inefficiently, inequitably, and unsustainably. Land Matters identifies and analyzes the economic, environmental, and social challenges associated with land in the MENA region, shedding light on policy options and proposing paths to reform. It concludes that MENA countries need to act promptly, think more holistically about land, reassess the strategic trade-offs, and minimize land distortions. This report promotes a culture of open data, transparency, and inclusive dialogue on land, while filling major data gaps. These important steps will contribute to renewing the social contract, transforming the region economically and digitally, improving women's land rights, and facilitating recovery and reconstruction in a context of dramatic social, political, and climatic transformation.
