



Migration, Development and Environment in Southeast Spain

EACH  *FOR*

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EUR/Erasmus MC/ERCOMER Rotterdam

EFMSV, Bonn, 9-11 October 2008



Case study SE Spain

- **Desk research only**
- **Historical perspective: relations between environment – population –development**
- **Water shortage, drought, soil degradation, desertification**
- **SE Spain: Almeria, Murcia, Alicante**

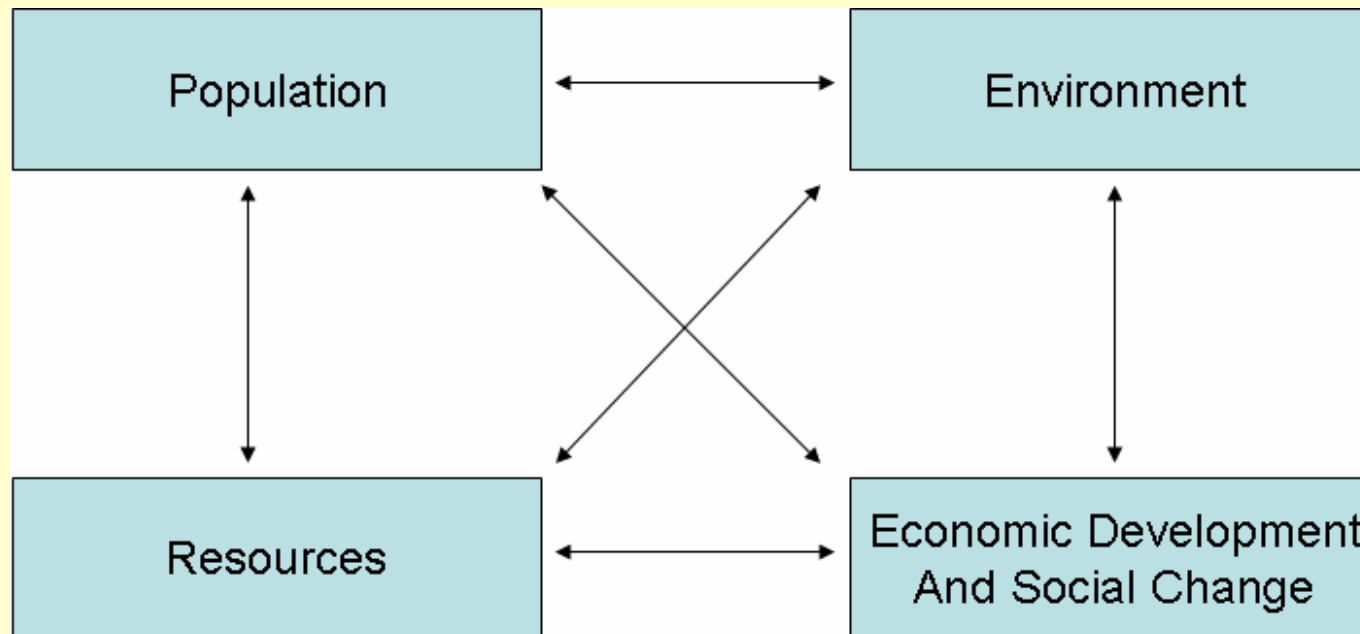


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Environment & migration in SE Spain until the 1970s

- marginal + paradigm of poverty
- Semi-arid climate: vulnerable environment
- Mining + population growth in 19th century
- exhaustion resources → desertification
- Mines closed - rural, self-sufficient economy
- Economic + demographic stagnation until 1960s
- Emigration due to poverty + structural scarcity: intraregional, interregional, international

Relations between population, environment and development



Source: Hugo 2008

Environment, development and immigration since 1970s

- Gradual reversal of migration flows
- Environment as pull factor migrants: directly (tourism) and indirectly (immigrant labour in tourism, construction and horticulture)
- Development: EU membership 1986, tourism, agriculture
- Horticulture 'revolution' Almeria: innovative developments in technologies of production (sand-plot technique, greenhouse, irrigation techniques etc.) of transportation and of commercialization + extension of farms + enterprise model.

Agriculture and immigration

- 1954-1970: new farms, new centres, intra regional migration
- 1971-1989: new settlers attracted from other regions by the Almeria miracle: new farms.
Increased opportunities younger generations + welfare state →
- Since 1990: immigrant labour, from West-Africa and CEE: in unwanted, low paid and insecure jobs
- 115,064 legal foreigners in Almeria in 2007

Conclusions

- Development & technology may turn environment from push into pull factor
- Almerian model also solution for LDCs with comparable opportunities?
- Future: unsustainable agriculture + climate change → further desertification?
- (EU) agricultural policy more important