

Dr. Ramzi TOUCHAN

Dr. Ramzi TOUCHAN is Researcher- Associate Professor in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, School of Natural Resources, the University of Arizona, USA.

His research is to integrate dendrochronology and dendroclimatology into natural and water resources management in the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean, and North Africa. His current research programs include establishing a multi-century network of climate records for the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa based on tree rings by extending and enhancing existing tree-ring datasets, and by developing new tree-ring chronologies geographically and temporally. This network is being, and will continue to be, used to study interannual to century scale climate fluctuations in the region and their links to large-scale patterns of climate variability.

Dr. TOUCHAN conducted the first large-scale systematic dendroclimatic sampling for the eastern Mediterranean region and the Middle East (Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus, and Greece) and North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia).

Dr. TOUCHAN and his colleagues developed the first standardized precipitation index (drought index) reconstruction for the eastern Mediterranean region. It is the first known reconstruction of this climatic variable anywhere in the world. He also developed the first Palmer drought index reconstruction for Algeria and Tunisia.

Dr. TOUCHAN is also involved in the European Union project entitled “European Climate of the Last Millennium” to determine whether the magnitude and rate of 20th Century climate change exceeds the natural variability of European climate over the last millennium by using the best documentary, biological and sedimentary archives available across Europe to extract palaeoclimate signals. Approximately thirty-eight European Institutes.