

Geography

Theme II: Spaces of Low Population Density

Chapter 3: Living in a Space with Constraints

Certain places in the world have natural **constraints** that pose a challenge for their inhabitants. Small islands located far from other countries face obstacles to their economic development. Living in either hot or cold deserts means agriculture is either impossible or very difficult. The map below shows places around the world which pose major constraints on their inhabitants.



Translations

North America	Rocky Mountains
South America	Amazon Rainforest / Andes
Europe	Alps
Africa	Sahara desert / Kalahari Desert
Asia	Himalayas
Oceania	Australian desert

Legend

Hot deserts	
Cold deserts	Forest Zones
Mountain chains	Islands of large archipelagos

Some spaces are also confronted with **natural risks**: landslides (glissement de terrain), avalanches, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves, earthquake and cyclones.

Climate change can also make living conditions very difficult. For example, certain small islands are threatened by rising sea levels.

However, despite these constraints, almost all space on the planet is marked by the presence of humans. People have adapted buildings, constructed tunnels and bridges plus implemented irrigation and terracing techniques in agriculture in order to overcome challenging environments.

Certain constraints can become advantages however. High altitudes and steep slopes have enabled ski resorts to develop in places such as the Alps. Tropical landscapes also attract tourists and resources, such as gas and oil can be exploited under the sea or ice.