

**PRESENTATION OF SALT STRUCTURES AND CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THEIR GENESIS AS A
BASIS FOR THE EVALUATION OF THEIR ECONOMICAL USE**

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Abstract

The complexity of many salt structures means that evaluating their economic potential is associated with a high level of uncertainty. This is especially true when access is restricted by the presence of buildings on the surface or natural inaccessibility.

On the basis of satellite pictures, models and field observations, some typical well preserved structures in the deserts of the Middle East will be presented which can undoubtedly be used to draw valid conclusions about buried, diapiric salt deposits in humid climates.

In all of the examples described here, strong tectonic regimes are responsible for continuing diapirism, with glacier-like movement in part on the non-evaporite land surface. Despite the arid climate, the exposed salt is karstified in many cases, making it even more difficult to carry out exploration and site selection.

The clarification of overhang situations as well as the assessment of recent tectonic movements with respect to the associated fracturing are essential for project realisation.

Key words

Middle East, salt dome, salt glacier, salt uplift, tectonics, karst, Dead Sea, Central Iran