FIG. 1 – Oukaimeden site localization.

Oukaimeden is a potential site for an astronomical observatory in Morocco . It's located in the high Atlas Mountains, (longitude : 7°52′52" W, latidude : 31°12′32" N) and 2700 m above mean sea level. This site dominates the plain of Marrakech (the nearest city), and is located on a peak overlooking a village also bearing the name Oukaimeden. To the south and south-east, 4000 m summits act as a natural barrier against wind-borne dust from the nearby Sahara Desert. Therefore, Oukaimeden is the first natural obstacle that homogeneous, unperturbed air masses meet as they arrive from the Atlantic Ocean. This particularly advantageous situation gives Oukaimeden the benefit of extremely transparent skies and enables us to predict the low atmospheric turbulence that characterizes coastal sites.

Weather conditions are so favourable at Oukaimeden that several groups studying helioseismology have also proposed the installation and development of international observation networks there. At now, IRIS network observing the full solar disc has been installed.