IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Saudi Arabia: Grazing and Oasis Agriculture along the Northern Coastal Region of the Red Sea			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) *(IPSI members and/or non-members)*			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study *(manuscript or audiovisual)*	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Drylands, agriculture, nomadic pastoralism, *hima* system			
Date of submission *(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)*		March 2012	
Web link *(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)*	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country *(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")*									
Saudi Arabia									
Location(s) *(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)*									
Northern Red Sea coastal region									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link *(if location is identified)*									
https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@26.613667,36.3385863,8z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
In the coastal area of the northern Red Sea, sandy and rocky deserts extend throughout the region dotted with open forests and a sparse distribution of *Acacia ehrenbergiana* and farms using oases as their water source. These oasis farms save water and fuel oil with a time-limited supply of water in the morning and afternoon while estimating the sales of the cultivated cash crops in monetary terms.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Nomadic pastoralism was the key industry in Saudi Arabia until recently. Since the worldwide oil crises of 1973 and 1978, the exploration of abundant oil resources that the region along the Arabian Gulf is endowed with has yielded massive profits. Crops that can be cultivated in oasis farms include pasture, which is sold in the form of hay. Vegetables and fruit trees are cultivated in places where the water supply is abundant.									

Contents

Status *("ongoing" or "completed")*	Completed	Period *(MM/YY to MM/YY)*	03/2012
Rationale *(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed)*			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives *(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study)*			
This chapter provides an overview of pastoralism and oasis farming in the area.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
The nomads and sedentary farmers share a common recognition of the harsh natural environment in the Arabian Peninsula, while the need for sharing access to scarce resources has been understood at least by those who live in rural areas in Saudi Arabia since time immemorial. 85% of the rangelands were substantially degraded in the 1970s. The nomads have become sedentary and changed their lifestyle substantially.			
Lessons learned *(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities)*			
"*Hima*" are pasture reserves consisting of rangelands surrounded by stones and have been extensively demarcated since time immemorial. While the *"hima"* system has been degraded and is on the wane, full-scale nomadic pastoralism is no longer practiced and grazing, which moves the livestock over a shorter distance, is found to be common in the area. There is an increasing tendency towards dependence on workers from abroad in general and in grazing and agriculture in particular.			
Key messages			
Based on a common recognition of the need for sharing the scarce resources between the nomads and the sedentary farmers, the "*hima*" have been sustainably conserved in the way that the nomads, as "*hima*" users, have refrained from overusing the "*hima*" resources. However, the demarcation of nature reserves has in effect taken over the traditional *"hima"* system to continue certain social, economic and cultural characteristics.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

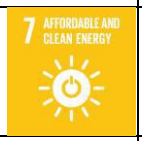
CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●		■				■			
									
Strategic Goal C			**Strategic Goal D**			**Strategic Goal E**			
■							■	■	
									

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

	■							
								
		■			■