

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Syria: Olive Cultivation on Hilly Land in the Northwestern Part of the Country and along its Mediterranean Coast			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Agroforestry, olive cultivation, erosion			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>	March 2012		
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Syria									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Aleppo, Idlib, Lattakia, and Tartous governorates									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@35.953096,37.1658133,9z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Olive cultivation flourishes on hilly land that extends over the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib in the northwestern part of the country, as well as on the land that spreads along the mountains running in parallel with the Mediterranean coastline. In general, these areas have much rain in winter. In summer, it is hotter and drier than in winter in these areas.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Since the hilly regions where olive cultivation is prosperous are densely populated compared to other regions, the average area of cultivated land per owner is 3.06 ha, smaller than the national average of 5.77 ha. For this reason, these regions are highly dependent on income from industries other than agriculture.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	03/2012
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
This chapter provides an overview of olive cultivation in northwestern Syria.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
Olive cultivation is the most important traditional agricultural activity in the Mediterranean coastal areas, and olive orchard landscapes are culturally valuable. They are also important for food production, providing local residents with part of the food they need. One of its economic benefits is to contribute to value added agricultural production and the gross national product.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
According to Syria's national biodiversity strategy in 2000, the rapid rate of population growth (annual rate of 3.6% or more) is a factor that has had the most serious impact on the preservation of biodiversity. Changes in land use are considered to have major adverse effects on agricultural biodiversity.			
Key messages			
In recent years, olive cultivation has spread to neighboring areas, including the southern and eastern regions, which are extremely dry and poor in water resources. The spread of olive cultivation is seen mainly in marginal lands with many of the newly developed olive plantations found on steep slopes. Steep slopes are prone to soil erosion, but olive cultivation has been expanded without taking into consideration the danger of soil erosion.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
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.

							■	
		■			■			