

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Oman: Use and Management of Frankincense Trees in the Dhofar Region			
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, frankincense, drylands			
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>									
Oman									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Dhofar Region									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@18.3205251,53.0570233,8z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland	x	Agricultural		In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Oman has a land area of which the plains account for about 3%, the mountains for some 15% and barren desert for about 82%. In terms of its ecological features, the Dhofar region can be categorized into desert, semidesert scrub, short grassland, long grassland and woodland areas. The woodland is located in the coastal areas, where agriculture is also practiced.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Grazing prevails in the grasslands around the Dhofar mountainous area, and about two-thirds of the local people earn their livelihoods by dairy husbandry. In the Dhofar region, frankincense trees grow and produce a variety of products that represent the country. The frankincense trees have been owned and managed by local kinship groups of herders mainly grazing goats and sheep.									

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 the use and management of frankincense trees in the Dhofar Region.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
Frankincense provides the herders with an economic value as a cash income source, while nomadic caravans use it as a resource for cash income or exchange in kind even in extremely arid areas. The increase in cash income, as a result of migration for work, has enabled the nomads to start a semi-sedentary life. Therefore, the opportunities for the nomads to use the frankincense trees have declined, and hence their economic value is on the decline.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
The traditional uses of frankincense trees by the herders are on the wane. This is partly because young people wish to get high-income jobs in the oil-related industry, which has been boosted since the late 1970s. Another reason for the decline is the harsh manual labor involved in frankincense tapping. The owners of the frankincense trees have recently migrated for work and have rented the rights to use the trees for tapping to the Omani frankincense buyers or migrants from Somalia.			
Key messages			
In this context, the people have tried to increase the amount of the frankincense by shortening the tapping cycle to increase the frequency of tapping. This imposes an additional stress on the frankincense trees, allegedly causing damage from diseases. Moreover, it is considered that the soil fertility has also been increasingly degraded due to the excessive plantation to increase frankincense production.			
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.

		■			■			