Oases settlements in Oman

Overview
Areas of research

The Sultanate of Oman occupies most of the southeastern area of the Arabian Peninsula. Nature determined its special geographical setting. The country is surrounded by the Red Sea to the north, the Gulf of Oman to the east, the Arabian Sea to the south, and the Indian Ocean to the west. This specific geographical location resulted in unique economic, social, and administrative developments. The country is divided into coastal and interior areas. The former, which includes the eastern provinces of the country, is a coastal zone in which fishing, oil, and refined industries are well developed. For over two thousand years, Oman has been famous for its caravans, oases, and seaports, which have been centers of trade, culture, and communication among the different regions of the world. The latter includes the interior regions of the country, which are characterized by rural life and the cultivation of date palms and other crops. The interior areas are mainly inhabited by tribal communities, while the coastal areas are mainly inhabited by urban communities. The contrast between the two areas is a result of their geographical location and historical development. Oman is currently undergoing rapid progress. This progress is accompanied by social and economic changes, which have led to the modernization of the country. Despite this, the traditional lifestyle and the cultural heritage of Oman remain intact. Oman is characterized by a moderate climate, with hot summers and mild winters. The country is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the Arabian Oryx and the Arabian Sand Gazelle. Oman is also home to a rich cultural heritage, with a long history of trade and commerce.

Map of Oman showing the surveyed areas

The extent of Oman's arid regions is remarkable, with约80% of the country covered by deserts. The country's geography is characterized by a wide range of landscapes, including coastal plains, inland dunes, and mountains. The coastal plains are rich in resources, with major oil fields located in the southern and eastern parts of the country. The inland dunes are home to a variety of flora and fauna, including the Arabian Oryx and the Arabian Sand Gazelle. The mountains are characterized by a mix of rocky terrain and lush vegetation, with the Al Hajar Mountains in the north being the most prominent. Oman is also home to a rich cultural heritage, with a long history of trade and commerce. The country's geography has played a significant role in shaping its history and development. Oman is a country of great economic potential, with a growing economy and a rapidly developing infrastructure. The country is also a major player in the region, with a strong presence in the fields of politics, economics, and culture. Oman is a country that is rich in history and culture, with a unique blend of traditional and modern values. The country's geography has played a significant role in shaping its history and development, and Oman is a country that is rich in history and culture.
Overview
Areas of research and methods

Mountain Oases
Balad Seet
Wadi Bani Habib
Misfat

The study of mountain oases is in a joint documentation and interdisciplinary research project on "Mountain Oases in Oman." This project is led by the University of Oxford and supported by the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with specialists from the Sultan Qaboos University, Sultan Qaboos University, and the University of Oxford. The research team, consisting of historians, geographers, archaeologists, and anthropologists, is working together to document and analyze the historical, cultural, and environmental aspects of the mountain oases in Oman.

One of the main research tasks is the documentation and analysis of the mountain oases. This involves the creation of detailed maps and the gathering of aerial and satellite images. The maps are used to identify the layout and structure of the oases, and the images are used to capture the topographic features and vegetation. This information is then used to create a comprehensive database of the mountain oases, which can be used for further research and conservation efforts.

The project aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the mountain oases in Oman, and to promote the conservation and preservation of these unique and important cultural heritage sites. The results of the research will be published in a series of academic journals and books, and will be made available to the public through online databases and exhibitions.

The project is funded by the University of Oxford, the University of Edinburgh, and the Sultan Qaboos University. It is supported by the Omani government and various international organizations, and is carried out in collaboration with local communities and organizations.

For more information, please visit the project website at www.mountainoases.com.
Balad Seet is the largest village of the Mad’i Bar’af region. It is located at an elevation of approximately 700 meters above sea level and has approximately 400 inhabitants. Two settlements already existed in the ecologically favorable location during the Iron Age (9th–8th BC). The settlement seems to have been used as an emergency settlement for the inhabitants of Al Hatab. It is situated on the mountainside and faces the valley. Several springs are located around the settlement and provide water for the inhabitants. The settlement is surrounded by orchards, vineyards, and olive groves.
Mountain Oases
Wadi Bani Habib
Haret al Bilad

Wadi Bani Habib is located approximately 50 km north of Balad Seet and can be approached by a rough track that connects it with the main road. The settlement consists of a simple network of earth walls and minute interiors that are protected by a mix of stone and mud walls. Most of the houses are small, rectangular in shape, and have a single room. The settlement is characterized by its simplicity and the use of natural materials. The settlement is marked by the absence of any modern structures or amenities.

Haret al Bilad
This settlement sits on the edge of the town of Balad Seet and is characterized by a mix of traditional and modern structures. The settlement is protected by a stone wall that surrounds the entire area. The houses are rectangular in shape and are built with a mix of stone and mud. The settlement is characterized by its simplicity and the use of natural materials. The settlement is marked by the absence of any modern structures or amenities.
Mountain Oases
Wadi Bani Habib
Haret al Saab

Mountain Oases
Misfat al-Abriyan

The district of Haret al Saab is connected by a narrow network of wadis, which is now fully contained by the new road, which is relatively new and was paved in the early 1990s. The district is characterized by a landscape of wadis, which are fed by underground water sources. The wadis are lined with date palm groves and are often used for irrigation purposes. The district is also home to a number of ancient forts and ruins, which add to its historical and cultural significance.

Misfat al-Abriyan is located at a short distance from al-Ain, away from the main road. It has a beautiful landscape with a network of wadis and small streams that flow through the area. The town is known for its traditional Frankincense oases and its agricultural production. The town is also home to a number of traditional mud-brick houses and a number of small shops that sell local crafts and souvenirs.

Housing in these areas is still traditional, with small mud-brick houses and traditional walled compounds. The houses are typically located in clusters, with each cluster having its own water source. The water is typically stored in large tanks and is used for irrigation purposes.

The landscape is characterized by a mix of agricultural fields and small strips of vegetation. The vegetation is typically dry and consists of hardy plants that can withstand the arid conditions of the region.

The area is also home to a number of traditional crafts, such as the production of Frankincense, which is still an important source of income for many families. The Frankincense is harvested from the local trees, which are typically found in the wadis and along the edges of the fields.

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Sea-side Oases
Tiwi

That is a small port serving the needs of an axis on the coast of Ras al-Khaima between Qeshm and Iran. The town is located between the sea and a low range of mountains. The water resources of Wadi Tha al-sharqiyah is a settled settlement in the past. Remains of a fortified tower originating from the Iron Age have been found in this tower. The town is located on a high mountain and is protected from rain, wind, and sand. Tiwi has two hills and a shelter located in the old town. There are two channels on the coast leading to the sea. The entrance to the sea is marked by a small lighthouse in the beach. A mixed assortment of greenhouse, hotel, and some products were offered here and a vital hub was prepared in front of the first shops on the beach.
الأواحات البحرية

الجمناية في الطريق إلى المجمع
الأراضي البحرية الساحلية في حضر
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Inner Omani Oases
Al-Hamra
Al Hamra, the traditional center of the town, was founded in the late 18th century at an altitude of 2,000 feet above sea level. The settlement, in the shape of a star, enclosed by a fortification wall, is located in the highlands of eastern Oman. The town is a grid of mud-walled buildings and narrow alleys, with the main entrance from the southeast.

Important note: The images and maps in the text are not transcribed here as they are not legible or clear in the provided document images.
Inner Omani Oases
Al-Hamra

A compact house type featuring an internal, state case and ventilation shafts, is a hallmark to the area’s climatic summer temperature during the settlement structure. The house interior is organized according to the basic inner-to-outer progression, with the innermost room the living room which is separated from the inner courtyard (Dukhan), allowing for cross-ventilation and shading the inner courtyard which is the most protected from the sun. This arrangement is designed for the hot climate and urban environment of the area, as it provides a microclimate that is cooler than the surrounding environment. The inner courtyard is a shaded and ventilation area, while the outer courtyard is a social area. The outer courtyard is connected to the main street through a series of gates and arches, creating a transition from the public to the private space of the house. The outer courtyard is surrounded by the house’s various rooms and is a space for social gatherings and traditional activities. The settlement structure and traditional ways of life are being preserved.

Urban Omani Oases
Ibra
Nizwa

Settlement structures and traditional ways of life are being destroyed.

Only a few of the large, affluent buildings in the town cent are still intact. This reflects the social and cultural changes that have occurred in the area over the years. The traditional architectural style and layout of the houses reflect the local climate and cultural traditions. The houses are built around a central courtyard, which provides a cool and shaded space for family and social gatherings. The courtyard is surrounded by the various rooms of the house, which are organized according to the needs of the family. The houses are built using local materials, such as mud bricks and stone, which are durable and adaptable to the local climate. The traditional architectural style of the houses is characterized by its simplicity and functionality, with a focus on maximizing natural light and ventilation. The houses are built around a central courtyard, which provides a cool and shaded space for family and social gatherings. The courtyard is surrounded by the various rooms of the house, which are organized according to the needs of the family. The houses are built using local materials, such as mud bricks and stone, which are durable and adaptable to the local climate. The traditional architectural style of the houses is characterized by its simplicity and functionality, with a focus on maximizing natural light and ventilation.
Ibra is the capital of the province of Shindagha. This was once a rival to Muscat in the mercantile trade and MARKET, and its economy was centered on the trade of frankincense. In the 18th century, the town was a major center of the Omani economy, with a population of about 10,000. In the 19th century, the town was the center of a major irrigation project, which was intended to bring water from the Shindagha Mountains to the town. This project was implemented by the British, who were interested in developing the region as a source of cotton. The town is located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, and is connected by road to Muscat. The town is known for its traditional architecture, which includes wooden buildings with thatched roofs. The town is also known for its festival, which is held annually in April.
Urban Omani Oases
Ibra - Al Qanatir

Numerous fortresses provided the complete network with an external defense against enemies. Defensive structures like the deep settlement and the cross gorges offered exceptional protection to both its residents and the access to the oasis. The agricultural characteristics were also encouraged by the presence of the network of wadis and irrigation canals. Inside the settlement, the fortresses and the central functions of water distribution, the Friday mosque, wash and wash living arrangements were well-organized. The fortresses became the main nuclei of the settlement, and the organization of their gorges was still recognizable. This also applied to the south and west, where the remnants of the settlement structures, with a large house area, belong to the rich Omani family. Zanzab computer-based applications will assist the community. The fortresses will soon be nothing more than remote ruins.
Urban Omani Oases
Ibra

Infrastructure network in a state of neglectation
The once-beautiful streets which were once bustling with activity and the sounds of commerce are now in a state of neglectation. The once-thriving marketplaces and bustling streets have now been replaced by empty spaces filled with crumbling buildings and deserted marketplaces. The once-busy streets are now quiet and empty, a testament to the neglectation that has taken hold of the area. The once-proud city of Ibra has now become a shadow of its former self, a reminder of the decline that has befallen it.
Nizwa is the center of Omani Oases. With a population of approximately 100,000 inhabitants, it leads the region in terms of economic growth and modernization and is seen as the second largest Omani Oasis. Oases date back to at least the 20th century, and have been instrumental in forming the economic livelihood of the region and comprise approximately 56 hectares of land and 16 lakes. Nizwa, located in the al-Hajar Mountains, is surrounded by desert sandstone and comprises the main area of the Oasis, with its extensive water canals and agricultural terraces. The most significant water canal is the ‘Alley Canal’, which traverses the Oasis from the north to the south, flowing as a narrow stream. Coral reef gardens have been slowly protected by building defensive walls, and otter populations and the seasonal distribution of oases, fortified settlement centers characterize the traditional structure of the settlement. The area of settlement land is 21 acres, and the center is a focal point with a network of substantial water canals.
Today, Nizwa (the regional center and historical residence of Oman) is a large town surrounded by traditional Omani Oases Nizwa. The city is known for its rich history, ancient architecture, and bustling daily life. Nizwa has a number of historical sites, including the famous Nizwa Fort and the Nizwa Souk, which attract tourists from all over the world. The city is also known for its traditional markets, where visitors can purchase souvenirs and local handicrafts. The traditional Omani Oases Nizwa have a unique architectural style that reflects the traditional lifestyle of the Omani people. The Oases are characterized by their clay walls, wooden doors, and richly decorated interiors. The Oases are surrounded by lush gardens and water, which are essential for the traditional Omani way of life. The Oases are also home to a variety of plants and animals, including the famous Nizwa snake, which is considered a symbol of the city. The Oases are a popular destination for tourists who want to experience the traditional Omani culture and lifestyle.
Settlement structures and cultural landscape: In transformation

This housing model is practically the complete opposite of the traditional and compact town of Nizwa’s built up area: the new residential units consist of contemporary buildings with modern forms and materials that reflect the cultural heritage and traditional architecture. The new housing area includes low-rise buildings with small footprints and large windows, replicating the scale and massing of traditional urban housing areas in the surrounding desert. The precise positioning of the buildings creates a new spatial order that respects the cultural heritage and local traditions.
Oases settlements in Oman

Urban Oman Oasis Mina

Problem:
A very large number of oases settlements in Oman are currently undergoing this pro-
cess. This would be an immense loss for mankind.

Potential:
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Urban Oman Oasis Bia

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Inner Oman Oasis Hamza

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Sea-side Oasis Tiel

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Mountain Oasis Rula

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