

STUDENT RESEARCH

Landscape management for protecting cultural heritage sites from climate change impacts.

SYNOPSIS

People's connection to the environment has led to a new understanding of "cultural landscapes." This research focuses on AIUla, Saudi Arabia, where desert ecologies and cultural landscapes are threatened by climate change impacts. It proposes to understand how to revitalize the cultural qualities of the landscape as part of its new town development. While the government promotes cultural heritage fabric for tourism, cultural landscape recognition empowers local people with a green infrastructure. This research aims to identify ways to promote awareness about protecting cultural heritage from climate change.



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OBJECTIVE

- Reconsidering cultural heritage sites in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Develop a model/approach to evaluate the cultural landscape in the context of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and preserve it from climate change



METHODOLOGY

This research proposal outlines methods for studying a cultural landscape in Saudi Arabia. It will use desktop research, interviews, questionnaires, literature review, Experimentation and stakeholder engagement to gather data.



ESTIMATED RESEARCH LENGTH

3 years

BACKGROUND

Globalization and sustainability concerns highlight the importance of cultural landscapes. These areas offer a double win: economic benefits (tourism, crafts, food) and environmental benefits (conservation). Protecting cultural identity is key to a sustainable future. Green infrastructure, which uses natural elements for social and environmental good, can be integrated with cultural landscapes for added value.

UNESCO recognizes cultural landscapes' importance. The European Landscape Convention defines "landscape" as the product of human and natural elements. Cultural landscapes benefit communities socially, ecologically, and economically. Their preservation creates jobs and fosters a sense of place. Like organic evolution, cultural landscapes adapt to their environment and cultural beliefs. Traditional land-use practices often benefit both cultural and natural features. Local communities are crucial to managing cultural landscapes. Collaboration, resident involvement, and supporting traditional activities ensure the long-term viability of these areas. New investment models are needed to balance economic opportunities with heritage preservation. Cultural landscapes sit at the intersection of nature, culture, and identity. Preserving them requires ongoing efforts, often led by local communities.

EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

Research on the management and protection of the cultural landscape is essential for local decision-makers to prepare future policies to preserve the cultural landscape. This research aims to contribute to an understanding of how cultural landscapes can be shaped in the face of climate change.

Using AIUla as a case study, where little research has been conducted on the value of cultural landscapes, this study will be a reference for the future of cultural landscapes around the world.



REFERENCES

- UNESCO Cultural Landscapes
- European Landscape Convention
- Royal Commission For AIUla