

# ABSTRACT

## **The Role of Protection on the Amelioration of the Deterioration of Plant Cover in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A Comparative Study of Mahazat As-sayd Reserve and its Neighboring Areas**

**By**

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The aim of this research is to investigate the effect of natural reserve on limiting the deterioration of natural plant in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by comparing natural plant in Mahazat As-sayd, which is currently designated as a "Special Natural Reserve", and the areas around it.

In order to achieve this goal, the researcher applied an ecological and geographical approach, which is based on the concept that the environment components are closely related.

The research includes seven chapters: The first investigated the concept of a "Natural Reserve" and the meaning of protection. The second chapter explored the attitudes of Islam towards the environment, the history of environment protection in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the most important protected areas. The third chapter dealt with the research problem and the methodology of this research. The fourth chapter investigated the natural plants in the area. The fifth chapter discussed the natural and human factors on plant cover in the area. The sixth chapter illustrated the effect of conservation on the natural plant cover in the area. In the seventh chapter the researcher outlined his conclusions. The most important of which are:

1. The natural plant cover of the area is classified among the Saharo-Sindian Region.
2. The natural plant cover in Mahazat As-sayd is rich in variety.

3. The arid conditions are among the most important factors that have great effects on the deterioration of natural plant in the area.
4. Overgrazing is the most important factor causing environmental deterioration in the area. Also,
5. The management plans for conservation of the area have provided more protection to natural plant.
7. The area is a valuable natural environment.