

The book cover features a photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, several tall palm trees stand on a sandy dune. In the middle ground, a herd of camels is grazing. The background shows more sand dunes under a clear blue sky. The title is printed in large, white, serif capital letters at the top of the cover.

ADVANCES IN RANGE MANAGEMENT IN ARID LANDS

EDITED BY

RIAD HALWAGY, FAISAL K. TAHA
AND SAMIRA A. OMAR

KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
KUWAIT FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL, KUWAIT

Advances in Range Management in Arid Lands

Proceedings of the
First International Conference
on Range Management in the Arabian Gulf

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UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RANGE MANAGEMENT IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Kuwait, 22-24 April 1985

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PREFACE

The First International Conference on Range Management in the Arabian Gulf was held in Kuwait on 22–24 April 1985, and was developed with the aim of strengthening and accelerating exchange of knowledge concerning rangelands. The importance of the topic stems from the recent worldwide recognition of the key role that rangelands may play if properly managed and wisely used. This is usually translated in terms of providing goods and services such as forage, livestock, wildlife, water and recreation. Conversely, misuse of the resources has led to devastating results in terms of depletion of vegetation cover, soil erosion and increasing desertification.

The specific objectives of the conference were to: analyze the state of knowledge in range management in the Gulf region and other arid areas, bring into focus the needs for and the role of range research and formulate priorities, highlight the advances made in managing arid rangelands, establish effective communication between people involved in management of Gulf rangeland resources by creating a medium for continuing exchange of view points between them, and provide preliminary recommendations for managing arid rangelands.

To attain these objectives, the Conference Organizing and Technical Committees designed the conference around five technical sessions, one poster session and a field trip to Kuwait's rangelands. Each technical session had a theme and the aim was to treat these themes in depth rather than attempt to address all the important subjects pertaining to management of rangelands. Voluntary contributions to the conference were sought regionally and internationally. Many contributions were subsequently received by the Technical Committee which screened for quality and appropriateness to conference objectives. Twenty-one papers were finally accepted for presentation, of which 17 are published in this volume. Simultaneously, invitations were extended to a number of renowned scientists in range management to make plenary addresses in the five technical sessions.

The conference was held under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Mr Rashed Abdul Aziz Al-Rashed, inaugurated the conference on behalf of His Highness. The conference was jointly sponsored and organized by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Environmental Protection Council (EPC). The publication of the proceedings was financed by KFAS.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the Chairmen of the various sessions of the conference: Mr Nazar Hussain, Dr Mohamed Al-Attar, Dr Thadis Box, Dr A. J. Salman, Mr Fahad Al-Hasawi, Dr J. R. Goodin and Dr M. A. Razzaque. Special thanks and

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appreciation go to the speakers whose contribution was essential for the success of the conference. We are also grateful to the members of the Organizing Committee, the Technical Committee and the Recommendations and Resolutions Committee who valiantly and efficiently coped with the overall management of the conference and whose unfailing efforts helped so much to make it a success.

Riad Halwagy

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