

[DOI: 10.21517/j.ponte.2020.11.17](https://doi.org/10.21517/j.ponte.2020.11.17)

DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN EXPANSION AND ITS IMPACT ON PALM OASES IN BISKRA CITY, NORTH-EAST OF ALGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The city of Biskra as the capital of the Ziban is going through an urban growth issue especially the unplanned urbanization, which became a cause and consequence of the majority of problems which the city currently endures whether planning, urban, or demographic...etc. The expansion that this historic city witnessed at first was unplanned extensions of new buildings constructed on the expense of the agricultural area distinguished by palm forests. Since this study aims to demonstrate the extent of the urban sprawl of the city, its effect on the palm oases, and the efforts made by the state to preserve them, the approach used in this study is the analytical descriptive approach through describing the expansion of the city by different stages in time and analyze the impact of this expansion on the richness of palm trees, we also relied on the comparative approach. Among the most important findings, the city of Biskra has benefited from several plans especially the construction and reconstruction master plan, although these the main purpose of the plans was to control the housing crisis, not restoring the oasis character of the city.

Keywords: Urban sprawl, Urbanization, Palm forests, planning schemes, Agricultural support.