



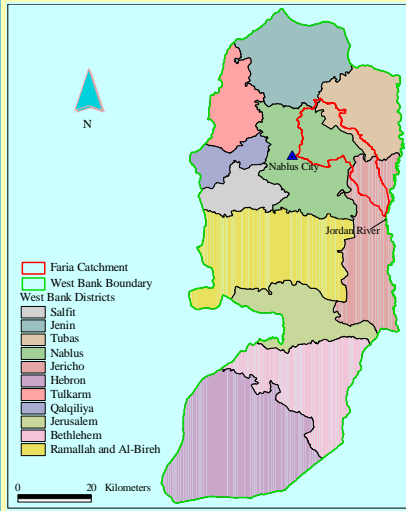
Faria Catchment

General Information

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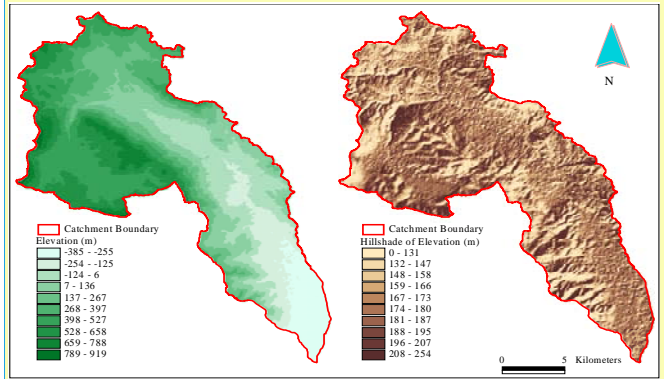
Geography

Geographically, the Faria catchment is located in the northeastern part of the West Bank, Palestine with a total area of about 320 km² which accounts for about 6% of the total area of the West Bank. Faria catchment extends from the ridges of Nablus Mountains down the eastern slopes to the Jordan River. Faria catchment overlies three districts of the West Bank. These are: Nablus, Tubas and Jericho district. The Faria catchment lies within the Eastern Aquifer Basin, which is one of the three major groundwater aquifers forming the West Bank groundwater resources.



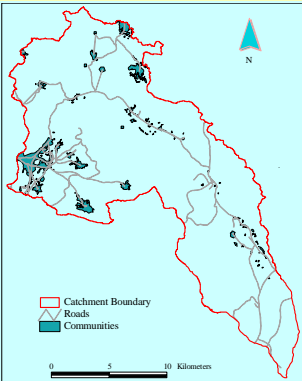
Topography

Topography is a unique feature of Faria catchment which starts at an elevation of about 920 meters above mean sea level in the Western edge of the catchment in Nablus Mountains and descends drastically to about 385 meters below mean sea level in the east at the confluence with the Jordan River. Apparently topographic relief changes significantly throughout the catchment. In less than 30 km there is an average decline of 1.3 km in elevation. Such elevation decline rate in a relatively small distance has considerable effects on the prevailing meteorological conditions in the catchment.



Communities

The population of built up areas in the Faria catchment are either natives to the catchment such as the villages of Ras Al-Faria, Wadi Al-Faria, Al-Badan, An-Nassarriya, Al-Aqrabania, Beit Hasan, Ein-Shibli, Frush Beit Dajan, Al-Jiftik and the nearby towns such as Taluza, Tubas, Tamnun, Beit Dajan, Salim and Azmoot or refugees who came from the coastal areas of historical Palestine in 1948 after the Nakba (creation of the Israeli state) such as Al-Faria refugee camp. In addition to the eastern part of Nablus city.



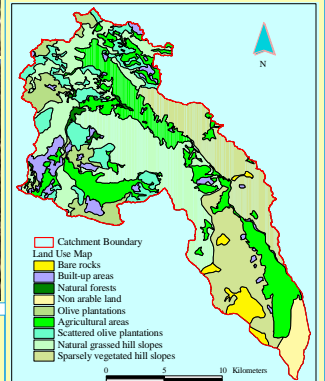
Features of the Faria Catchment



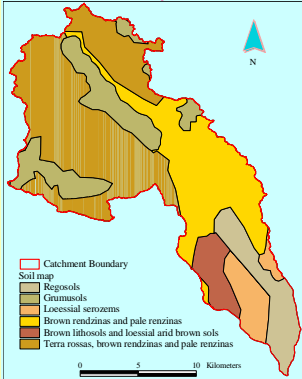
Land use

Land use map of the Faria catchment was developed using satellite images, field work experiences and ground truthing.

The developed land use map is classified into nine classes; bare rocks (2.8%), built-up areas (4.7%), natural forests (0.9%), olive plantations (6.4%), agricultural areas (22.1%), non arable land (3.3%), natural grassed hill slopes (28.3%), scattered olive plantations (8.2%) and sparsely vegetated hill slopes (23.3%).



Soil Map



Climate

The climate in the Faria catchment is Mediterranean, semi-arid climate, characterized by mild rainy winters and moderately dry, hot summers. Within a few kilometers, the area changes from a Mediterranean climate, ranging from a well marked six-month-long rainy season to a semi-arid climate, where rainfall is limited to a couple of months.

The climate is highly variable and influenced by both elevation and the circulation of the air-stream. The upper and western parts of the catchment are affected by moist, west-oriented air streams coming from the Mediterranean Sea. This air stream is responsible for most of the rainfall in the wet season and increases the relative air moisture in the dry season. Three climatic zones are characterized the climate of the Faria catchment. Elevation is the main parameter that affects the climate zones.

The winter rainy season is from October to April. Rainfall events predominantly occur in autumn and winter to account for 90% of the total annual precipitation. The rainfall distribution within the catchment ranges from 640 mm at the headwater to 150 mm at the outlet. In general, rainfall averages decrease moving from north to south and west to east. Faria catchment is characterized by high temperature variations over space and time. The mean annual temperature changes from 18 °C at the head of the catchment to 24 °C in the proximity to the Jordan River. Mean annual relative humidity changes from 61% in the western side to 58% in the eastern side of Wadi Faria. The maximum potential rate of evapotranspiration ranges from 1400 mm/year in Nablus to about 1540 mm/year in the lower part of the catchment.

Agricultural Activities

Faria catchment is one of the major agricultural areas in the West Bank. Agriculture is the most common economic activity in the Faria catchment.

Agricultural patterns in Faria include rain-fed and irrigated agriculture. Rain-fed agriculture is mainly in the higher parts of the catchment and includes vegetables, field crops and rain-fed trees; most common of which are olive trees where olives cover more than 2000 hectare.

Field crops cover approximately 500 hectare while rain-fed vegetables cover less than 100 hectare.

Irrigated agriculture includes open field vegetables, greenhouses and irrigated trees. Open field vegetables cover more than 2000 hectare.



Geology Map

