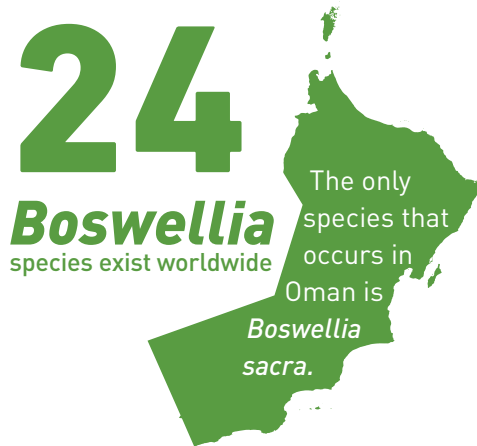


Frankincense, Oman's Pride



Frankincense, also known as Luban, plays an integral role in Omani heritage and culture. The species of frankincense native to Oman, *Boswellia sacra*, is considered to produce a fine quality resin. This much sought-after resin has been used for centuries in cultural ceremonies, cosmetics, and as traditional medicine to treat a variety of ailments.



Boswellia was named after Dr. John Boswell, a Scottish physician in the 18th century. 'Sacra' refers to the various religious uses of the species.

Frankincense trees act as a natural carbon sink, playing a valuable role in the fight against climate change. They also provide a natural habitat for wild animals, birds & insects.

Threats

In Oman, the main threats are:

Habitat destruction, from gravel mining and urban development

Overgrazing by camels and goats

Incorrect tapping practices

Insects, including termites and beetles

Ways to conserve frankincense trees:

Invest in research & scientific studies
to determine population size, health and distribution as well as the key threats faced by frankincense.

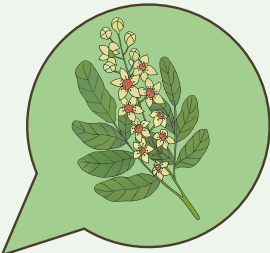
Engage with local communities
to raise awareness about the importance of conserving and managing frankincense trees.

Implement conservation actions
including tree planting, pastoral management and protection of natural frankincense habitats from destruction, degradation and fragmentation.

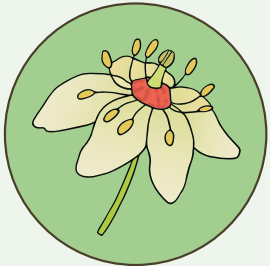
Introduce government standards
to strengthen local regulation and monitoring related to frankincense harvesting and trade.

Ecological information on *Boswellia sacra*

Boswellia sacra are small-to-medium trees that can reach up to 8m in height. The bark is easily peeled off and can be stripped in long sheets (once used for writing).



The species has small, star-shaped, white-yellow flowers with rosy-pink centres. Each flower is composed of five petals and ten stamens on a single cup.



The ring within the flower, changes colour from yellow to rosy pink or brilliant red. It is assumed to be a nectary ring that attract pollinators, such as bees.

The most common pollinators are bees, wasps, and ants. Other insects consist of little flies and butterflies. Pollination is a beneficial process essential to plant seed production.



Frankincense trees can grow on either rocky slopes or in wadis, and can be found at high altitudes of the Dhofar Mountains, at 1700 meters above sea level.