**Physical features of the catchment area:**

The Qurm Nature Reserve is part of Wadi Aday.

Although Wadi Aday is a typical Omani wadi, it is one of the largest wadis flowing through Muscat. The Wadi Aday basin is approximately 335 km2. It consists of a large low-sloped upper catchment area that leads water to a narrow outlet (the Wadi Aday gorge) and of a downstream part that flows through Muscat city itself.

The upper part is approximately 30 km long and 10 km wide, with an average slope of 1%. It is surrounded from all sides by mountains up to 800m high above sea level. Four main tributaries and numerous other little wadis wind through this area due to the gentle slope to the northeast towards the only exit, the gorge entrance. Vegetation is sporadic and consists of little trees and shrubs adapted to arid climate and they occur in denser concentrated on the edge of wadis.

The outlet is located in the north-east corner of the upper catchment area and leads water into a steep-sided gorge. Water then flows through the mountains until it reaches the main road (Sultan Qaboos Street) that is approximately 9km downstream. The wadi then flows through the commercial area of Al Qurm and the Qurm Nature Reserve towards the sea.

Groundwater in Wadi Aday occurs in alluvial sediments bedrock and is semi-unconfined to unconfined.