



Ref: 72/19

Paris, 31 January 2019

Dear Ms. Rössler,

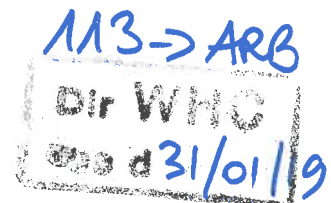
Subject: The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and Relict  
Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities

Kindly find herewith the National report regarding the site "The Ahwar  
of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and Relict Landscape of the  
Mesopotamian Cities, concerning the remarks of the decision 42COM7B.66  
of the above site.

Thank you for your cooperation and best regards.

**Prof. Mahmood Al-Mullakhalaf**  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
of Iraq to UNESCO

**Mrs. Mechtild RÖSSLER**  
Director, World Heritage Center





Second State of Conservation Report Addressed  
by the Republic of Iraq  
to the World Heritage Committee on

The Ahwar of Southern Iraq:  
Refuge of Biodiversity and Relict Landscape of  
the Mesopotamian Cities

World Heritage Property n. 1481

February 2019



## Table of Contents

1. Requests by the World Heritage Committee
2. Natural heritage
3. Reiterated requests to the State Party
4. Oil and gas development activities
5. Cultural heritage
6. Tourism in the property
7. Planed construction projects
8. Biological diversity surveys
9. Signature of the concerned authority
10. Annexes

## 1. REQUESTS BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

This report addresses the following requests expressed by World Heritage Committee in its Decision 42 COM 7B.66(paragraphs 4 – 13), namely:

4. Urges the State Party to take appropriate measures for providing the property with the adequate amount of water within its national capacity;

5. Further welcomes the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of long-term water sharing agreements between the States Parties of Iraq, Iran and Turkey and strongly encourages all three States Parties to continue these efforts, so as to ensure the provision of adequate amounts of water for the property that can sustain its biodiversity, and considers that non-fulfilment of minimum water requirements could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. While acknowledging the prevailing conditions in Iraq, notes with significant concern the continued absence of adequate legal protection for the majority of the natural components in the property, as well as the State Party's statement that law enforcement remains a challenge, and also considers that this situation could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Also notes with concern the significant challenges reported upon by the State Party, related to illegal bird hunting and overfishing, and further considers that in the continued absence of legal protection for most of the property and without sufficient management capacity, these issues are unlikely to be effectively controlled;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:

1. Conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows needed to sustain the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property, and demonstrate that these water flows are being provided,

2. Complete the designation of all of the natural components of the property as protected areas, as a matter of utmost urgency, and ensure effective legal protection to regulate oil and gas concessions, and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property,

3. Provide support for the maintenance of the traditional ecological knowledge held by the men and women of the Ma'adan "Marsh Arabs" communities, and for rights-based approaches to management, recognizing the customary use of the property;

9. Further notes with significant concern the continued vulnerability of the property to oil and gas developments and, recalling its established position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, strongly urges the State Party to make a permanent commitment not to explore for or exploit oil and gas within the property, and to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not cause a negative impact on its OUV;

10. Welcomes furthermore the re-instatement of international archaeological teams at Uruk, Ur and Eridu, and the decision to concentrate on conservation; notes progress with work on detailed maps and surveys; nevertheless, in the light of the dire state of conservation at the time of inscription and on-going losses of archaeological layers, also urges the State Party to accelerate work on surveys and maps in order, to develop baseline data for all future work, including monitoring;

11. Requests the State Party to put in place a structured approach for overall conservation work through the development of conservation plans for each of the three archaeological sites, coupled with operational action plans;

12. Takes note with concern of the increasing tourism interest in the property in light of the lack of adequate consolidation and maintenance of the excavated areas of Uruk, Ur and Eridu at the time of inscription, the on-going loss of the archaeological remains from erosion and collapse, and the sensitive ecosystem of the marshes, also requests the State Party to develop and implement an overall tourism plan for the whole property, to regulate visitation, ensure visitors' safety, and sustainable and adequate tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities;

13. Recalls to the State Party its obligation to submit any planned construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their commencement;

## 2. NATURAL HERITAGE

*4. Urges the State Party to take appropriate measures for providing the property with the adequate amount of water within its national capacity.*

The Strategic Study for Water and Land Resources in Iraq (SWLRI) has identified the minimum flow for marshlands restoration as 5.8 BCM (billion cubic meters) for a medium year and **3.7 BCM for a dry year**. Both in 2017 and 2018, Iraq has witnessed dry conditions and water scarcity threat due to a decrease in water inflows from the upstream countries, the rise in temperature and the effects of climate change. To address this situation, Iraq has taken the following measures to ensure that the marshlands receive a minimum level of water (see map below):

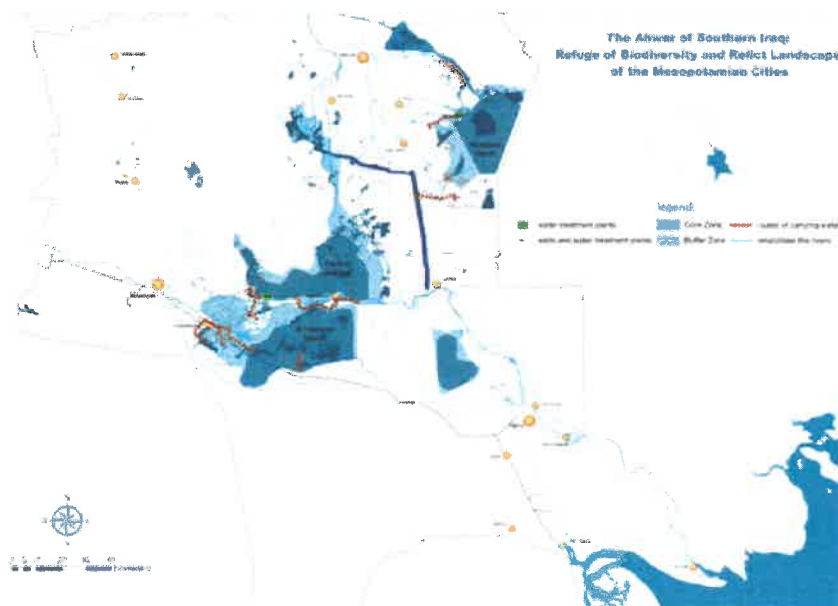
1/ To provide freshwater to the marshlands:

- a) Rehabilitation of the river branch feeders;
- b) Connection of the feeders from Tigris to the marshes due to the increase of river discharge.

2/ To provide water to people, cattle and agriculture:

- a) Drilling several wells equipped with water treatment plants with a production capacity of 1 m<sup>3</sup>/hr;
- b) Conveying water in large water tanks to reduce the impact of droughts on buffaloes.
- c) Installation of two new water treatment plants on the rivers each with a production capacity of 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/ day;

Thanks to these measures, Iraq has been able to deliver water amounts to the marshlands estimated at **3.15 BCM** and **3.15 BCM** during the 2017 and 2018 respectively. This is admittedly below the minimum flow for restoration identified by SWLRI yet still a noteworthy effort to ensure water allocation in a situation of scarcity effecting the whole country.



*5. Further welcomes the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of long-term water sharing agreements between the States Parties of Iraq, Iran and Turkey and strongly encourages all three States Parties to continue these efforts, so as to ensure the provision of adequate amounts of water for the property that can sustain its biodiversity, and considers that non-fulfillment of minimum water requirements could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.*

Meetings and dialogue have been continuous between the Iraqi and the Turkish Governments on the issues of water cooperation and joint technical cooperation implemented in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments signed in 2014 and reactivated in 2016.

More recently, in December 2017, the Ramsar Secretariat, assisted by UNEP and UNDP, conducted a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) to develop a pathway for collaboration between the Governments of Iraq and Iran as a first step for long-term conservation and sustainable development of the marshlands. This entailed organization of workshops and field visits on both sides of the border. Both parties emphasized the need for further dialogue and cooperation to safeguard the marshlands including tackling associated issues of drought and sand and dust storms.

*6. While acknowledging the prevailing conditions in Iraq, notes with significant concern the continued absence of adequate legal protection for the majority of the natural components in the property, as well as the State Party's statement that law enforcement remains a challenge, and also considers that this situation could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.*

The laws and regulations in force guarantee the legal protection of the natural components of the Ahwar of Southern Iraq World Heritage property both in terms of reduction of illegal bird hunting and overfishing and protection against pollution, which was referred to in the national report submitted in November 2017 (pp. 12-13). Until 2003, the Government of Iraq did not pay attention to the ecological, historical and social values of the marshlands, but on the contrary dried up large areas, causing an environmental and humanitarian disaster. Since 2003, the new Government of Iraq has exerted considerable efforts to rehabilitate the marshlands and sought to include them in international agreements to protect them from future harmful governmental interventions. This is a work in progress that includes unifying the laws and regulations from various ministries with a stake in the natural, cultural and social aspects of the property.

*7. Also notes with concern the significant challenges reported upon by the State Party, related to illegal bird hunting and overfishing, and further considers that in the continued absence of legal protection for most of the property and without sufficient management capacity, these issues are unlikely to be effectively controlled.*

During 2018, a number of measures were taken to improve the performance of the executive bodies directly responsible for protecting the natural components of the Ahwar of Southern Iraq World Heritage property in the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment and Interior, namely:

- a. Membership of the Ministry of the Interior in the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property. This committee gathers concerned ministries and other authorities. It ensures direct coordination between responsible bodies in the field of environmental protection and has activated the role of the environmental police, local governments and field committees operating in the marshlands to hold accountable (including through legal actions) whoever violates the laws against birds hunting, overfishing and environmental pollution.
- b. Field campaigns conducted by the monitoring team at the Ministry of Environment to monitor violations, hold violators legally accountable and confiscate equipment used for illegal birds hunting and overfishing. The Ministry of Environment also works to increase the number of members of the environmental police and involve local residents and community leaders in protection activities.
- c. Awareness-raising activities for preserving the environment of the natural components of the property targeted at the local population and fishermen. This includes meetings to promote the importance of biodiversity conservation, reducing the improper use of natural resources, and mobilizing the participation of local communities in the Water Management Users Associations that have been established in these areas. These activities have helped create communication mechanisms among water management personnel and the local population to conserve water which as a vital element of the marshlands environment.
- d. Invite representatives of fishermen associations in the marshlands to attend the meetings of the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property to participate in the discussions and decisions taken by the Committee and urge them to adhere to environmental standards also to implement the Committee's decisions in relation to the reduction of illegal birds hunting and overfishing.

As a result of these measures, the natural components of the Ahwar of southern Iraq witnessed a significant reduction in the level of illegal birds hunting and overfishing during the last months of 2018. The administrative capacity of the workers to control illegal activities has also improved considerably.

### **3. REITERATED REQUEST TO THE STATE PARTY**

*8.a Conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows needed to sustain the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property, and demonstrate that these water flows are being provided.*

At the national level, Iraq is working on updating the SWLRI in cooperation with the IHE-Delft Institute and the support of the Dutch Government. The updating process includes special attention to the marshlands and their social, economic and ecological values. The update will include steps to rise national and international awareness regarding the importance of the



marshlands, institutional and legal reforms to sustain the minimum water inflows, and research in the field of marshlands management especially in dry conditions.

And the international level, the Collaborative Program Euphrates and Tigris Rivers (CPET, 2014-2018) sponsored by the Government of Sweden was launched. It is implemented by a number of international organizations: The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), ICARDA, AUB and SHMI. The program is bringing together riparian countries (Iraq, Turkey, informal representation from Syria, but excluding Iran) to discuss different river basins technical issues through six working groups from the mentioned countries. One of these working groups works on the marshlands: "The main objective of this task force has been the examination of existing management and restoration plans developed for the Iraqi marshlands/wetlands, with an emphasis on the Huwaiza, Central, and Hammar marshes. The status of the marshlands with regards to inundation area and vegetation cover was also assessed through the use of Landsat-based remote sensing" (CPET Program, Marshlands Taskforce Final Report 2018).

*8.b Complete the designation of all of the natural components of the property as protected areas, as a matter of utmost urgency, and ensure effective legal protection to regulate oil and gas concessions, and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property.*

Since 2003, the Government of Iraq has provided protection for the marshlands by establishing a center specialized in their restoration (CRIMW) working under the Ministry of Water Resources alongside other relevant ministries and authorities. Funded by a yearly allocation from the State budget, CRIMW works to revitalize the marshlands ecological system and biodiversity and develop solutions to support local populations by implementing protection and development projects in cooperation with all concerned governmental and non-governmental parties. The first achievement of CRIMW has been revitalization of the marshlands environmental system. Furthermore, the Huwaiza marshes were declared a RAMSAR site in 2008 and the Huwaiza together with the other components of the marshlands were designated a World Heritage property in 2016. These international designations have the force of law in Iraq since the country is a party of both the RAMSAR Convention and the World Heritage Convention.

*8.c Provide support for the maintenance of the traditional ecological knowledge held by the men and women of the Ma'adan "Marsh Arabs" communities, and for rights-based approaches to management, recognizing the customary use of the property.*

The Government of Iraq and all stakeholders acknowledge the Marsh Arabs' long-lasting presence in the marshlands and the value of their ecological knowledge accumulated since the most ancient times. They also recognize the importance of keeping a balance between people and nature in the marshlands. This is why local communities, in large part composed of Marsh Arabs are the main local stakeholders involved in awareness-raising efforts and are fully associated to decision-making within the Water Management Users Associations put in place.

Concerned federal and local level governmental entities, together with civil society organizations, have been conducting a range of activities, events, and projects in order to maintain and support the ecological knowledge and traditional crafts at the Marsh Arab communities. All these activities and projects that took place after submitting the first national report on December the first 2017, can be summarized as follows (see Annex 2 for weblinks to examples):

- A comprehensive survey of traditional environmental knowledge in the marshlands areas prepared by the Ministry of Environment in coordination with the Chabayish Organization for Environmental Tourism (NGO) focusing on the natural resources of the marshlands and their use in the daily lives of the Marsh Arabs in a sustainable and non-polluting way.
- A booklet on traditional knowledge printed by the Ministry of Environment in the natural component of World Heritage property.
- A project to train the local community on traditional crafts in the town of Al-Madinawhich is part of East and West Hammar marshes.
- A one-year project to transmit the skills of traditional crafts from elderly artisans to young ones of both genders in the town of Chibaysithe Central and Hammar marshes. It also included the traditional crafts related to reed, palm frondsand hand-made wool fabrics and the production of educational films about these crafts.
- A project to revive the craft of wooden boats (tarada) construction that became extinct 50 years ago.
- Celebrating the marshlands artisans in popular venues in Baghdad and supporting them to establish an outlet for their products.
- Several exhibitions about the traditional crafts of Marsh Arabs and marshlands CBOs in Baghdad and most of the other governorates to introduce their products (see Annex 4).
- Exhibition ofthese craft products in Singapore and the UAE to present them to international audiences and enhance their role for the sustainable livelihood of Marsh Arabs.
- The first international film competition on the marshlands in the Basra Governorate which included two short films about the traditional lifestyle and crafts of marshlands communities.

#### **4. OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

*9. Ensure that oil and gas developments, exploration and exploitation and any such activities within or outside the property do not cause a negative impact on its OUV.*

The laws concerned with protecting the natural components of the World Heritage property from pollution provide adequate legal coverage for the competent authorities to manage the property. The Ministries of Water Resources and the Environment exercise control and monitoring of the oil and gas activities. Companies operating in this sector, whether local or international, are

aware of the environmental laws and regulations and have granted their full and permanent commitment to work in accordance with them as regards the exploitation of hydrocarbons within the property and its buffer zone. These companies are obliged to submit environmental impact assessment reports for any of their activities planned in the vicinity of the buffer zone. Reports are examined by several ministries including the Ministry of Environment. Licenses to conduct activities are only granted if there is a clear demonstration that these activities will not affect the OUV of the property.

A Committee was formed to strengthen the control and coordination mechanisms between the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment and Oil and the companies operating in the provinces of Maysan, Basra and Dhi-Qar in addition to local governments. The Committee holds regular meetings to discuss on-going and planned oil and gas activities. Committee members have agreed to seek approval from the National Committee for Marshlands Management as a World Heritage Property on the development of any oil and gas fields and activities near the buffer zone of the property.

## 5. CULTURAL HERITAGE

*10. Re-instatement of international archaeological teams at Uruk, Ur and Eridu, and the decision to concentrate on conservation; and accelerate work on surveys and maps in order, to develop baseline data for all future work, including monitoring.*

Since the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List 2016, the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (CBAH) has conducted important work to meet the requirements mentioned in the World Heritage Committee's 2018 decision, namely:

- **Ur Archaeological City:** SBAH through the Dhi-Qar Department of Antiquities has performed conservation on the site whereas foreign archaeological missions, particularly the Italian and British missions, have intensified their work which includes conservation components. Most electricity poles erected among the monuments, together with prefabricated structures used as administration buildings have been removed.
- **Eridu Archaeological City:** The Italian mission at Ur has extended its activities to Eridu in collaboration with French archaeologists with a view to survey and prepared a conservation plan. Meanwhile, the protection of the site has been strengthened by a daily presence of guards and archaeological police.
- **Uruk Archaeological City:** The German archaeological mission has fully resumed its work in Uruk including excavations (season 47, 2018) at Tell Nabonid and systematic conservation of all newly excavated areas. Furthermore, conservation has been performed for the ziggurat of Inanna. The mission has completed a survey of the entire site going beyond the city walls to distinguish archaeological remains. The consolidated map will be approved by

the SBAH and disseminated to all public bodies in the governorate in order to prevent building and other development encroachments on the buffer zone.

*11. Putting in place a structured approach for overall conservation work through the development of conservation plans for each of the three archaeological sites, coupled with operational action plans.*

SBAH has included conservation in the work plans for each of the sites. Actions are implemented by Departments of Antiquities at the governorate level. SBAH also grant permits to foreign archaeological missions and ensures that work plans prioritize conservation.

## **6. TOURISM IN THE PROPERTY**

*12. Develop and implement an overall tourism plan for the whole property, to regulate visitation, ensure visitors' safety, and sustainable and adequate tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities.*

The natural components support a large number of human activities, of which tourism could become a significant part. However, tourism is wholly dependent on the maintenance of the ecological character of the marshlands. Tourism activities include (but are not limited to): boating, swimming, picnicking, bird watching, sport fishing, hunting, camping and general sightseeing. The Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property has examined a plan for tourism activities adequately protecting and promoting the restoration of the natural components, ensuring the rights of other users and activities, and balancing the development of tourism in the property by putting in place strong measures to protect it from over-exploitation. The Committee has issued instructions to ensure that current and future tourism projects will not damage the property. Instructions also cover the coordination of tourism activities until the Marshlands Development Strategic Plan starts being implemented and pending the development of a Tourism Management Plan (see Annex 3). The Marshlands Development Strategic Plan, which provides for tourism activities that do not affect the natural ecosystem, was annexed to the national report submitted to the World Heritage Committee in December 2017. The plan is articulated with the one prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities for the cultural components of the property. Furthermore, instructions for the regulation of ecotourism in the property have been finalized by the Ministry of Environment.

## **7. PLANNED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

*13. Submit any planned construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their commencement.*

A project proposed to be carried out inside the property site by the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage

Property is attached in Annex 3 in order to request comments from the World Heritage Committee. Implementation of the project is conditional on the availability of funds from the State budget.

## **8. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SURVEYS**

In 2018, public universities and civil society organizations conducted several surveys in view of preserving biodiversity in the marshlands, namely:

- Joint Iraqi-Iranian survey of water birds in the Huwaiza marshes with support from UNEP (January and February).
- Survey of biodiversity in the Central Marshes;
- Preserving species threatened with extinction (especially the beaver) through a national program led by governmental and civil society stakeholders;
- Workshops and seminars about the marshlands and their biodiversity (Annex 1).

## **9. SIGNATURE OF THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY**



Dr. Jamal Abbas Mohsin Al-Adilee

Head of the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the  
Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World  
Heritage Property

Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of Iraq

**Annex 1: Workshops and seminars about the marshlands and their biodiversity**

| Item | The Title                                                                                 | Place and date                                             | Organization/Institute                                                |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | International workshop to discuss the challenges facing the marshlands                    | Iraq and Iran<br>17 Nov. 2017                              | CRIMW/ MOWR                                                           |
| 2    | Iraqi Marshes: Biological diversity and cultural heritage                                 | Al-Mustansiriya University<br>8 Dec. 2016                  | Al-Mustansiriya University, College of Sciences                       |
| 3    | Future visions to support and enhance marshlands management                               | Al-Karkh University of Science<br>25 May 2017              | Al-Karkh University of Science                                        |
| 4    | Biodiversity of Iraqi marshes                                                             | Iraqi Natural Museum<br>20 Dec. 2017                       | Iraqi Natural Museum, University of Baghdad                           |
| 5    | Seminar: Biodiversity and the reality of migratory birds of the wetlands in Southern Iraq | University of Basra<br>20 Dec. 2018                        | University of Basra, College of Sciences                              |
| 6    | Ecotourism in the Iraqi Marshlands                                                        | Central Library, University of Baghdad<br>14 Jan. 2017     | Climate Change & Wildlife Conservation in Iraq, University of Baghdad |
| 7    | Biodiversity in our environment                                                           | Youth Directorate in Missan Governorate<br>26 Nov. 2017    | Missan Environment Directorate                                        |
| 8    | The sustainable development of the marshlands World Heritage property in Southern Iraq    | Missan University<br>11 Oct. 2017                          | Missan University with University of Baghdad                          |
| 9    | Awareness workshop on the management of protected areas and marshes                       | Shell Company Office, Basra<br>6 July 2017                 | Shell Company                                                         |
| 10   | Seminar: International Protection of World Heritage. The Iraqi Marshlands as an example   | University of Al-Qadisiyah, College of Law<br>12 June 2017 | University of Al-Qadisiyah, College of Law                            |

**Annex 2: Activities, events, and projects in order to maintain and support the ecological knowledge and traditional crafts at the Marsh Arab communities**

1. <https://www.facebook.com/100000377528532/videos/1729781170377784/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1771229886244991&set=pcb.1771233229577990&type=3&theater>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/yaser.imn/videos/899633350194917/>
4. <http://crispnews.network/Entertainment/1086/ar>
5. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Ejxm\\_ISbM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-Ejxm_ISbM)
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YUqihK7obg>
7. [https://www.facebook.com/laglhakika/posts/1513935892039915?hc\\_location=ufi](https://www.facebook.com/laglhakika/posts/1513935892039915?hc_location=ufi)
8. <https://www.awla.news/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B8-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D8%B3%D9%83/>
9. [https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ninanews.com%2FNews\\_Detail\\_s.aspx&h=AT1bwcuH64eoODJ43DuJXZbMDCJsd0nRbmCsejj7aKiERXfXrXzXCVLNwQNphdaY4sM\\_K3OhTXbbBhqVpbfvj2Zg7S0XaTCiHPJz72MKmTuYpf9oTuUIFJ2P](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ninanews.com%2FNews_Detail_s.aspx&h=AT1bwcuH64eoODJ43DuJXZbMDCJsd0nRbmCsejj7aKiERXfXrXzXCVLNwQNphdaY4sM_K3OhTXbbBhqVpbfvj2Zg7S0XaTCiHPJz72MKmTuYpf9oTuUIFJ2P)
10. <http://al-janoob.org/2018/08/News/118475>
11. <https://www.moen.gov.iq/Portals/11/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%81/Biodiversity%20Survey%20Report.pdf>
12. <https://www.moen.gov.iq/Portals/11/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%81.pdf>

Annex 3: Projects proposed to be carried out inside the property by the Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property

| No. | Project Name                                                                                                                    | Responsible Entity                                                                                                         |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Construction of a UNESCO category 2 research center type 2 specializing in marshlands development and biodiversity conservation | Higher Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan for the Ahwar of Southern Iraq as a World Heritage Property |
| 2   | Development and implementation an overall tourism management plan for the property                                              |                                                                                                                            |



#### Annex 4. Photos

Exhibitions of traditional crafts by local communities and civil society organizations



Training local community members on traditional crafts





Activities of the environmental police



Conservation of the Ziggurat of Inanna, Uruk



Operating of railway for transporting dirt, abandoned since the 1930s, Uruk



Removing prefabs from the archaeological site, Ur

