

# ACTIVITY 4A



BTU

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# ACTIVITY 4A: INTRO

A joint study project “Landscape Archaeology” is completed. Students’ contributions to the conservation and management plan for the archaeological site of Abila are collected and assessed.

A new study course aimed at the development of management guidelines for the Mesopotamian Marshlands is offered for World Heritage students at BTU in WS 05/06.

*Summer Semester 05*

*Winter Semester 05/06*



# ACTIVITY 4A: INTRO

## ACHIEVED RESULTS

A joint study project is completed. Students' works dealing with management guidelines for the archaeological site of Abila are incorporated into the overall conservation and management plan.

## ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

Conservation and management plan for Abila is submitted for expert assessment and recommendation to the World Heritage Centre and then finalized.

Study course aimed at the development of management guidelines for the Mesopotamian Marshlands is completed.



# ACTIVITY 4A: STUDY PROJECT „LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY“

A compilation of students' contributions is available. It covers the following aspects:

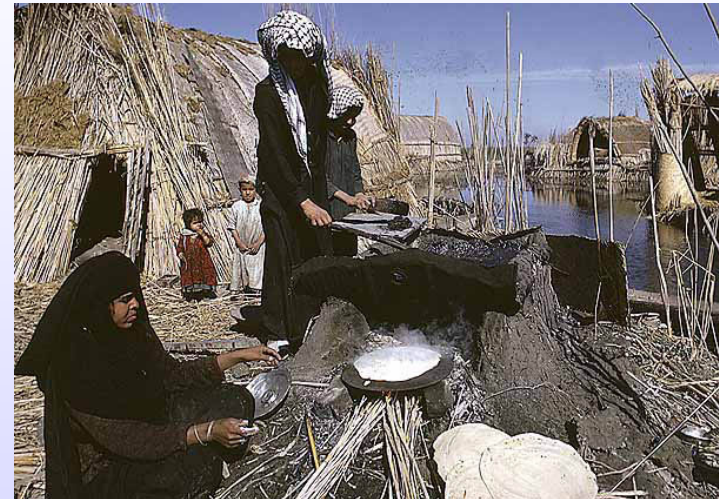
- Introduction to Abila (physical and geographical description / history)
- Value analysis (historical / artistic / research / social / religious / economic)
- Stakeholders
- Current excavation
- Standards applicable to the sustainable use of Abila (excavation / reconstruction / conservation / consolidation)
- Interpretation of the site
- Security issues
- Responsible and sustainable tourism development



# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

## Focus: Mesopotamian Marshlands

- historically covered over 20.000 sq km of interconnected lakes, mudflats, and wetlands within modern day Iraq and Iran;
- regarded by Biblical scholars as the site of „Garden of Eden“;
- have been almost entirely desiccated through simultaneous upstream damming and downstream drainage projects undertaken by Iraqi government;



# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

## Focus: Mesopotamian Marshlands

- play a key role in intercontinental flyway of migratory birds;
- sustain fisheries of the Persian Gulf;
- nurtured Sumerian civilization;
- have been home to unique culture of the Madan (Marsh Arabs).



# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

The seminar:

- aimed at analysing the existing situation in the Marshlands and evaluating chances for rehabilitation;
- dealt with both natural and cultural aspects of the problem;
- had as its ultimate target the analysis of opportunities and constraints for future management of the region.



# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

<b>GROUP 1</b>	<p><i>Geography of the Marshlands of the Euphrates/Tigris Region</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Climate</li><li>2. Hydrology</li><li>3. Flora and fauna</li><li>4. Natural resources and their practical use by the Marsh Arabs</li></ol>
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# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

## GROUP 2

### *Mesopotamian Marshlands – Historical Background*

1. Sumerians, Akkadians and Babylonians
2. Assyrian and Persian periods
3. Islamic and Ottoman eras
4. Recent history of Iraq
5. Impacts of recent political events on the Marsh Arabs



# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

## GROUP 3

### *Culture of the Madan*

1. The Madan: the endangered culture
2. Culture: tangible and intangible
3. Traditional society of the Marsh Arabs
  - Family structures and roles
  - Societal groups
  - Religious positions
  - Customs
4. Architecture
5. Boat construction
6. Fishing
7. Clothing and food



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<b>GROUP 4</b>	<p><i>Current Management of the Area</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Marshes and S. Hussein</li><li>2. Canada-Iraq initiative</li><li>3. UNEP's support for environmental management of the Marshlands</li><li>4. Benefits and beneficiaries of overall management plans</li><li>5. Conclusion: Marshlands management in perspective</li></ol>
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<b>GROUP 5</b>	<p><i>Legal Framework</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Planning and policy – Iraqi national laws concerning the protection of cultural heritage and the environment</li><li>2. International legislation for water distribution in Euphrates and Tigris basins</li><li>3. UNESCO legislation concerning the protection of Iraqi heritage</li></ol>
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# ACTIVITY 4A: SEMINAR „STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES“

## GROUP 6

*Opportunities and constraints for future management of Iraqi Marshlands*

1. Water issues
2. The ecosystem
3. Agriculture
4. Health
5. Importance of oil and gas resources in transforming the economy of Marsh Arabs
6. Possibilities for rehabilitation of archaeological sites in Marshland area
7. Protecting the people and their culture



# THINGS TO DO:

## 1. Conservation and management plan for Abila:

- compilation of a combined report by BTU and Yarmouk University;
- submission for expert assessment and recommendation to the World Heritage Centre;
- inclusion to the final progress report.

## 2. Management guidelines for Mesopotamian Marshlands:

- consultation with working group from Yarmouk University;
- fine-tuning;
- inclusion to the final progress report.

