



**capacity development workshop on
the national biodiversity strategies
and action plans and biodiversity
mainstreaming
Cairo 14-18 December 2008**

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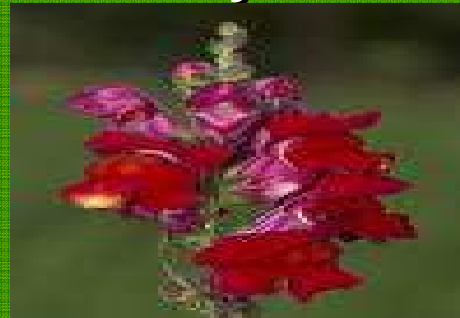


Iraq is blessed with a unique and rich biota , the importance of the biodiversity challenge was motive that encouraged Iraq to recognize the importance of CBD.

- since establishing the ministry of environment preparations began to all needed documents involving all related governmental sectors to arrange instruments towards the **CONVENTIO**.
- The presidency council endorsed the law number 31 on Iraq's joining the convention on biological diversity at its session held in August this year. .

Why the CBD

- The gap in data between the present and the past because of the unusual circumstances
- Biodiversity is being negatively impacted by human activities caused destroying or degradation the natural habitats .
- The Convention is an essential instrument for achieving sustainable development of biodiversity .



Steps towards the strategy

- Establishing of the national committee for the strategy and plan of action .
- Formulation the convention's implementation unit.
- Reviewing all available information on biota .
- Assessment of the current measures in the methods implemented in genebanks related to different kinds of plants and animals and other wild life those with social and economic values



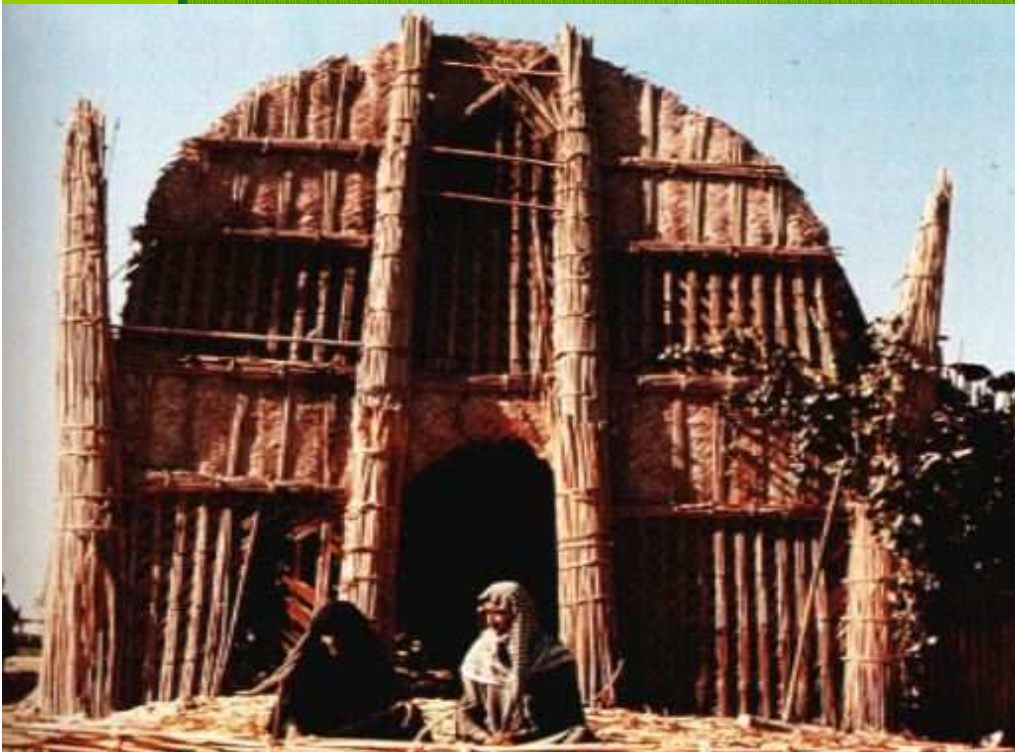
The current working programs and projects

- Revision of the wildlife protection and hunting law.
- Addressing the threats to biodiversity through the preparation of the red list of the Iraqi flora and fauna with cooperation of the natural history researches center .
- The government of Iraq is moving to designate the wetland area as a national park.



Marshlands restoration programs

- In the early 1970s, the Marshlands, consisting of interconnected lakes, mudflats and wetlands in the lower part of the Tigris-Euphrates basin, extended over 20,000 square kilometers of Iraq and Iran. They served as the spawning grounds for Gulf fisheries and were inhabited by species.
- The reeds of the marshland are of great importance to the Marsh Arab way of life and are the cornerstone of their culture. They were prolific and large which allowed the craftsmen of the tribes to create ornate canoes and barges to travel around the marshes.



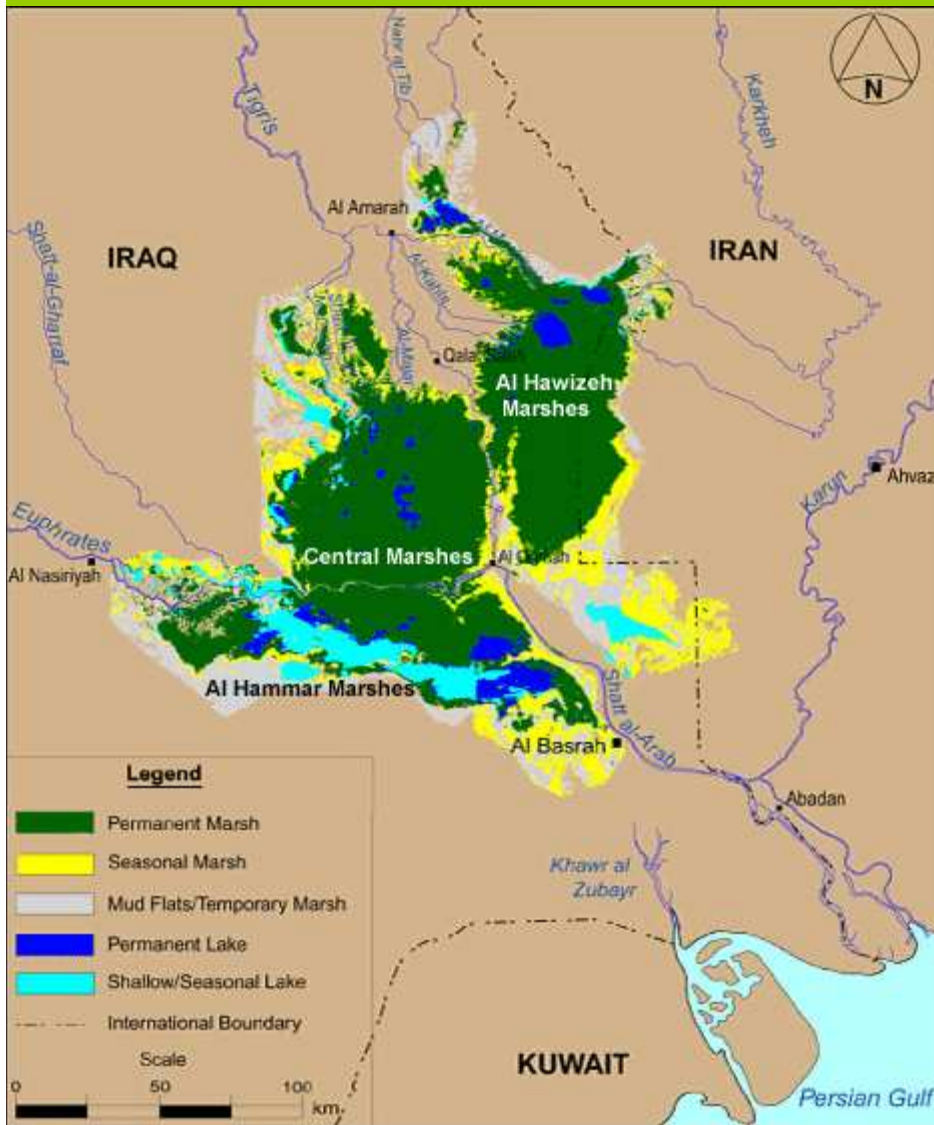
- Upstream dam construction on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers diminished water flows and eliminated the flood pulses that sustained wetlands in the lower basin, and increased pollution concentrations. By 2000, over 90 percent of the area had dried out to saltpans with severe ecosystem damage, accelerated by the construction of extensive drainage works.
- It was estimated then that the Marshlands would be completely lost within three to five years unless urgent action was taken
- The UNEP marshland management project, which began in

جزء من
الاهوار العراقية
بعد التجفيف
خلال واحده من
الزيارات الاولى
الى الاهوار
العراقية بعد فتح
السدود لاعاده
غمرها من جديد
في نيسان
2003



تصوير : عمر فاضل

Part of the Iraqi
Marshes after
the drainage in
one of the
initial visiting
to the Iraqi
marshes
directly after
opening the
dams to re- fled
them again in
April 2003



1973



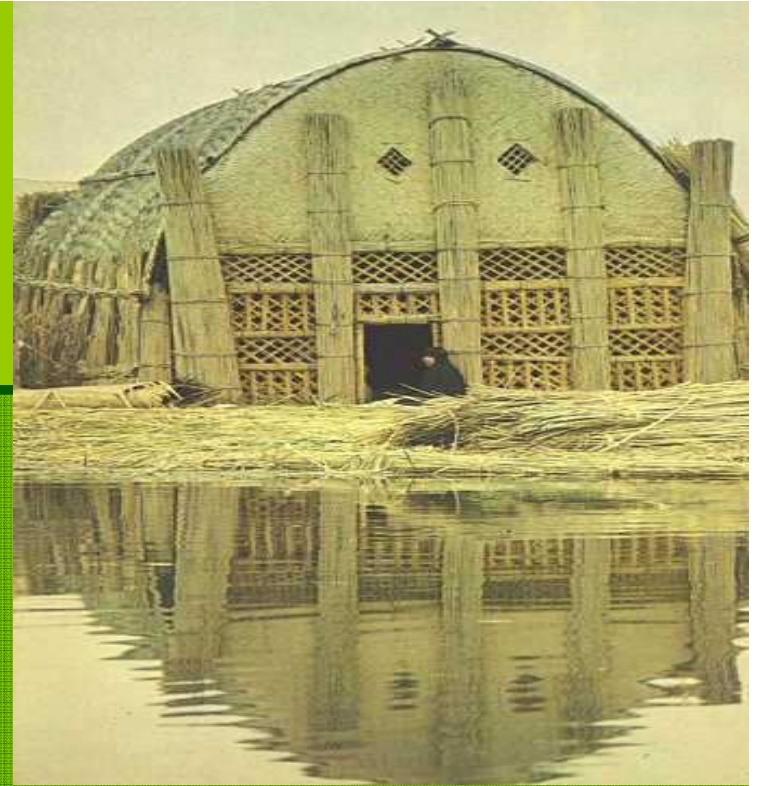
2003

- 2004 with funding from the UN Iraq Trust Fund, the government of Japan, and the government of Italy, has been working with the Iraqi environment ministry and local communities to accelerate improvements.
- These include environmentally friendly methods of providing safe drinking water for up to 22,000 people, the planting of reed banks and beds as natural pollution and sewage filters and the introduction of renewable energies such as solar.



Great White Pelican Flocks (*P. onocrotalus*) return back again to their original spots in the Iraqi marshes after the refolding and refreshing programs

- Implementation a sustainable preservation and management plan.
- This will include pilot projects on community-wide ecosystem management and cultural preservation as well as capacity building, jointly with UNESCO and the Iraqi authorities



Flock of Little Egrets (*E.garzetta*)
in the Iraqi Marshes During the
winter migration

اسراب البيوضي الصغير في الاهوار
العراقية خلال الهجره الشتويه



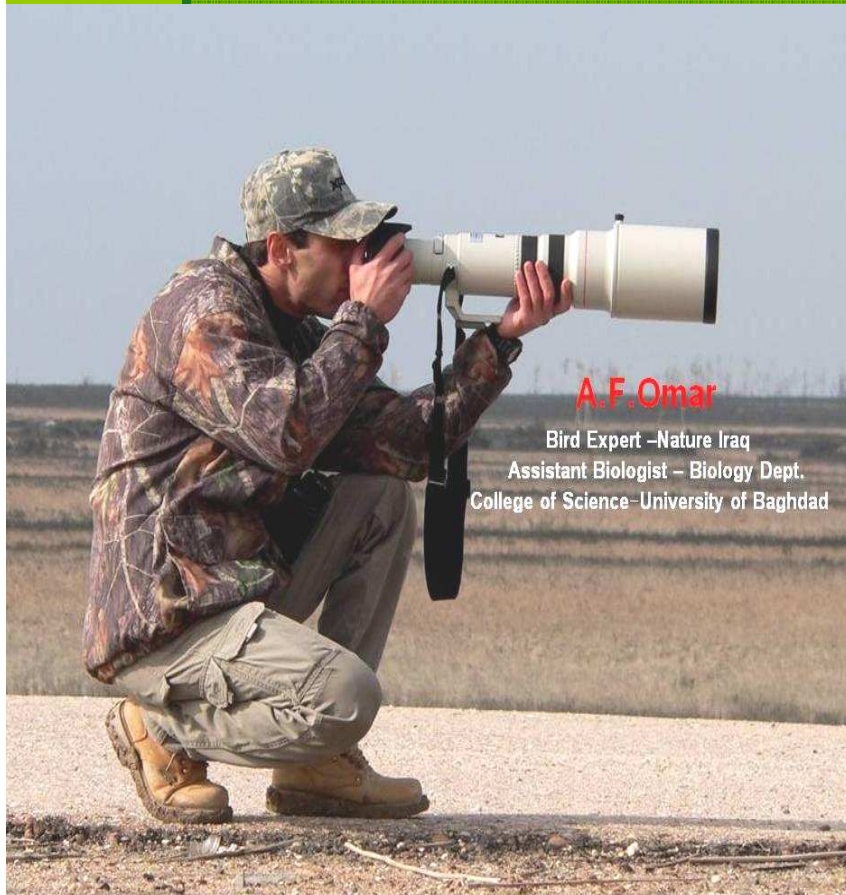
- The Iraqi ministries of environment, water resources, municipalities and public works, and the state minister for the marshlands are cooperating with the UN agencies to craft a marshland strategic management and development plan.
- Now we have 50 to 60 percent of Marshlands back we can look forward to further improvements



- According to UNESCO, which manages the World Heritage treaty, the earliest that Iraq could make a submission to the World Heritage Committee might be 2010. If approved, the Marshlands of Mesopotamia could be listed as a World Heritage in 2011 .
- The World Heritage management support plan follows a four year, \$14 million project undertaken by the UN Environment Program to restore the ecological viability of the site while bringing sustainable livelihoods to its inhabitants, the Marsh Arabs .
- Another site is the cave of shanidar in the



- **Biodiversity surveillance project in south and north of Iraq especially Iraqi Avifauna using Bird Watching techniques and Methodology .**



- nature conservation efforts in IRAQ is focusing primarily on establishing Protected Areas system, with the objective of protecting the country's best known sites of outstanding biodiversity, natural value, aiming at maintaining the diversity and viability of the various components .**
- Early alarm system for Avianflue to be implemented the next year .**



Smooth –skin Otter

THANK YOU