

## Activities of Nature Iraq / Chibayish office during 2017

Jassim Al-Asadi

We worked with a press delegation from the Al-Ahed satellite channel produced a television episode of program "What If" and included important clarifications and useful talk about the marshes and the world heritage.



We organized a tour to the central marshes for a delegation that included many international and local faces, including UNESCO's Representative in Iraq, Dr. Mai Shaer of the UNESCO Office in Iraq, John Porter and Elinor Robsen from the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, They were amazed by the diversity of the landscape, the restoration of the natural landscape and enjoyed talking with the buffalo breeders in the "Ishan Kubba."





We organized a tour to Dr. Franco Augustino, the Italian Sumerian scientist and his team at the excavations of Tel Abu Tbeira, visited Central Marshes and participate to talk in a television film about the importance intimate relation between Archaeological sites and the marshes and the relationship between locals (Marsh Arabs) with Sumerians and Acadians.



We organized a tour to the Japanese Okada, President of the Middle East Forum in Tokyo visited the marshes and held a photography exhibition on the marshes in Tokyo and translated one of the Iraqi folk songs related to marshes, which surprised him a lot.



We participated with the director Nahla Mauled documented the marshes with a documentary film entitled "Treasures of Water" for Al-Iraqiya Channel / Iraqi Media Network.



We accompanied French journalist Emmy Malfato and Belgian photographer Karim Ibrahim on a tour of the Central Marshes and Hammar Marshes to write press reports about the southern Iraqi marshlands.



We organized a tour to Anja Wehler, Resident Director of the Friedrich-Ebert- Jordan / Iraq Office visited the Central Marshlands. She and her team were amazed at the beauty of nature and the lives of local communities.



We organized a tour to UNDP delegation visited the Central Marshlands and the city of Chibayish to support the marshlands and its inhabitants.



We organized a tour to the journalist Peter Schwartzstein on a tour to the central marshes. Peter wrote a number of articles related to the tour.



Press interview with Iraqi Network for Media has documented the opinion of environmental activists about the Marshlands, World Heritage, Biodiversity and other related issues.



A TV interview with Jassim Al-Asadi about the Marshlands and its sustainability requirements, the management plans for the property, the future of water with Al-Mada channel, and the British Institute.



We exchanged views and ideas with the engineer Christine Linz from ICRC on the Marshlands community's needs, especially IDPs to access drinking water and sanitation systems.





We accompanied in a beautiful trip within the central marshes a delegation that included Dr. Hamid Khalaf Ahmed from the Prime Minister's Office, Mrs. Marie Antoinette Flumin, Chair of the Canadian Governance Institute and Lauren Cole, Human Resources Specialist in this Org.



We organized a trips to Ruth Vandewalle is a Belgian journalist and producer on a tour of the central marshes for the purpose of filming a documentary film for the Dutch channel.





We organized tour to the International Archaeological Group headed by American archeologist Elizabeth Stone has made an important trip to the central marshes to see archaeological sites within the marshes; they enjoyed the beauty of nature and the splendor of human habitation.



We participated in a workshop entitled "Sustainable Society and Sustainable Architecture Development" organized by the Center of Urban and Regional Planning for Graduate Studies/ Baghdad University.

The workshop included:

- Developing the sustainable architecture of the Iraqi Marshlands.
- Planning the spatial dimension of the marshes.
- Sustainability of the Marshlands Community.



We organized a tour to the American traveler Matthew Allison has made a wonderful tour into Hammar Marshes, and has seen communities and landscapes.



We met the American ambassador in Baghdad, and we organized for him and his accompanied delegation through his visit to Central Marshes and at Adobe house in the presence of representatives of the local government in Dhi Qar and Chibayish, and listened to explanation about the reality of the marshes and the requirements of its sustainability and our vision of

helping the US government to work in this field. He expressed his admiration for the environment of the Marshlands communities and landscape.



We accompanied the American journalist Alex Dziadosz on a tour to the central marshes. He was surprised by what he saw from natural landscape, biodiversity, kindness and generosity of local people. He wrote articles dedicated to climate change, water issues and the nature of the marshes.



We organized to the journalist Mohamed Hilali from Al-Iraqiya channel filmed a television reportage about Chibayish marshes ( Central Marshes and Hammar Marshes) and the aesthetics of Sumerian settlement.



Chibayish office accompanied Dr. Zahra Ali who has Iraqi French nationality, specialist in sociology from Paris and currently a professor at the University of Suas in London; she wants to study the status of women in marshes of southern Iraq.



Chibayish office participated with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) through the visit of Hawizeh Marsh and he held a press conference at the Maysan Provincial Office, He praised with a value of the marshes of southern Iraq and its importance to the region and the world.



Chibayish office accompanied the delegation of the European Union Mission to the Republic of Iraq on his visit to UR archaeological site and his meeting with the Governor of Dhi Qar, Mr. Yahia al-Naciri. The delegation consisted of Ambassador Patrick Simonet, head of mission, Sarah Korskaden, First Secretary, and Matthew Godstein. It was a successful meeting to exchange views on future cooperation between the local government in Dhi Qar and a high-level European delegation.



Chibayish office accompanied the Delegation of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Iraq visited Chibayish and its marshes. The delegation consisted of Ambassador Patrick Simonet, Head of Mission, Sarah Korskaden, First Secretary, and Matthew Godstein. The delegation enjoyed by the charm of the environment and the activity of the local population at "Ishan Kabbah."





Chibayish office organized a tour to the journalist Hussein al-Jourani who produced a television report to Al-Iraqiya channel on the subject of wooden boat, its roots, its history, the development of its industry, its connection to the Marshlands and its economic activity.



Chibayish office organized a tour to the delegation from Sharjah TV visited and photographed television reportage about the marshes of southern Iraq and their environmental, social and economic importance.



Chibayish office accompanied an Associated Press team including SAMUEL TABER, SUSANNAH GEORGE and others in a tour into Central Marshes and the Hammar Marshes, the camera documented nature's manifestations with its most beautiful images, population activities and traditional characters.





Chibayish office accompanied the journalist Hussein al-Jourani on a television tour within the central marshes and Hammar Marshes to production reportage on the reed mat.



Nature Iraq Org. in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Environment,, held a celebration marking the issuing of the book "Key Biodiversity Area of Iraq". The curriculum included words on the occasion, a photographic exhibition reflecting a part of the fieldwork team and biodiversity environments, Wetlands and nature reserves. A number of young professionals

working in the project were honored. The book was presented on the Amazon site and has a great global demand and was praised by international figures and institutions. Eric Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Marco Lambertini Director General of the World Wildlife Organization, Patricia Zorita, Executive Chairman of the World Council for the Protection of Birds and many others.



A special meeting to assess our Marshlands activity and the procedures that accompanied our work during the past year. .



At 27 Sept. 2017 a beautiful companions in the marshlands and central marshes with British author and journalist LEVISON WOOD, author of WALKING THE HIMALAYAS BOOK and a number of other British journalists interested in landscapes and communities



We participated at 6 October 2017 in the opening of the photographic exhibition entitled "Garden of Eden in Iraq", which was held in Singapore in the corridors of the National Design Center of the American University of Maryland. It was a beautiful evening of Ahwarya with speeches on the occasion, the presentation of relevant films and designs for the treatment of sewage through phytotechnology in the Chabaish marshes





We participated at 17 October 2017 in the workshop held by the Ministry of Water Resources / Marshlands and Wetland Rehabilitation Center on "Managing Drought in the Marshlands of Southern Iraq." The speech and interventions of Dr. Hassan Al Janabi, Minister of Water Resources, are important and involve great interest in the future of the Marshlands. What drew attention to research of exceptional value related to drought management and the other on the use of spectral indicators for the analysis of vegetation cover exchange roles in the delivery of enthusiastic young men and women of both sexes of the various joints of the ministry. She is a mail runner in a career of serious and productive work .... Thank you for the efforts that have been made and sincere to all.



On 21 October, we accompanied a youth group to film a short film about the marshes



On 23 October, we participated in the discussions held in Chabayish with cadres from Center of Restoration for Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW) on the rehabilitation of the guesthouse and recreation center in Chibayish City and some topics related to the Marshlands





On 24 and 25 October 2017 we completed the initial preparations of the project to transfer the skills of some handicraft in the marshes



On 26 October, we held a roundtable meeting with Ms. Asma al-Tamimi of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on some issues of mutual interest, and accompanied her on an inspection visit to the central marshes.



On 30 October, we completed our dialogue and discussions with representatives of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in Basra on future steps for multilateral cooperation to coordinate, plan and work on the development and management of the Marshlands





On October 31, we organized a visit to the Central Marshlands for a team from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.



On November 4, we met with the British archaeological team from the University of Manchester headed by Archaeologist Professor Jean Moon. We organized for them a trip to the Marshlands.



On November 8, we met with the delegation of the Ministry of Culture in preparation for the meeting of the Arab Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ALECSO) in Cairo and provided knowledge support in the inclusion of the Palm on the list of intangible world cultural heritage.



We have provided the author of the book "Matières Premières" French architect Theodod Bayan texts including images on cane and reeds "in construction and facing the conditions of housing

and the creations of Ahwama will be present in a global book and important alongside the skills of Uros of Lake Titicaca, and many African tribes and a few Of traditional European housing.



On 11 November, the Italian archaeologist Professor Franco d'Agostino and his team visited our office and we organized a tour of the central marshes..



On November 13, I met with a number of environmental activists in the marshes with Dr. Hassan Al Janabi, Minister of Water Resources. We listened to the reality of the water situation in Iraq and the procedures of the next ministry and its steps in the meeting with Turkey. We were honored by the Minister for our efforts and our overall work.





On 14 November, we visited Mr. Qais Hussein Rashid, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture for Archeology, and gave him copies of the KBA book. Also we participated in an interesting lecture on the experience of the Italian archeology team at Tal Al-Baqarat in Nu'maniyah / Wasit..



On 15 November, we participated in the discussions and deliberations and the drafting of a joint cooperation document between a Center of Restoration for Iraqi Marshland and Wetlands and the Basra Film Society by organizing and setting up an international competition for very short video films (Permutation) which aims to support the international and local governmental and community orientation of the Iraqi Marshlands, World Heritage List.



On November 20, we toured the Hammar marshes, including the Al-Bawwani, Al-Aptar, Khulafa, Hamidiya and Hor Abu Ajaj channels. We met local people and discussed water scarcity and reduction of impacts.



On November 23, We met Dr. Emily Porter the British painter and some number of researchers and we organized to her a tour into the marshes.





On November 24, we organized a trip for the German Archaeological Mission at the Warkak site headed by Professor Margret and to the Central Marshlands, including important archaeological sites.



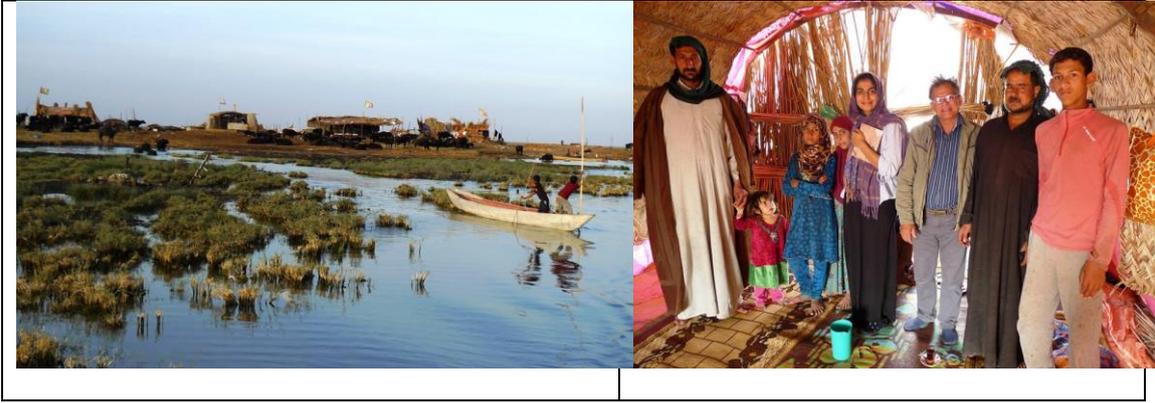
On 25 November we cooperated with Iraqi News Channel and journalist Hussain Al-Jourani to cover for media of the project of transfer of skills related to the traditional handicraft industries of a generation of young women and youth, which is being implemented in cooperation with US Embassy.



On 25 November we cooperated with AlShaquah Channel and journalist Mustafa Al-Saidi to cover for media of the project of transfer of skills related to the traditional handicraft industries of a generation of young women and youth, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States in Baghdad.



On 29 November, American researcher Teba Fatli accompanied us to the Central Marshlands, where her thesis revolves around water issues and migration in southern Iraq. An important topic will lead to national and international recommendations related to water management and distribution.



On 3 December, we collaborated with media reporter Najla Al-Khalidi in writing a press investigation on Al-Sabah newspaper about the transfer of craft skills to traditional industries.

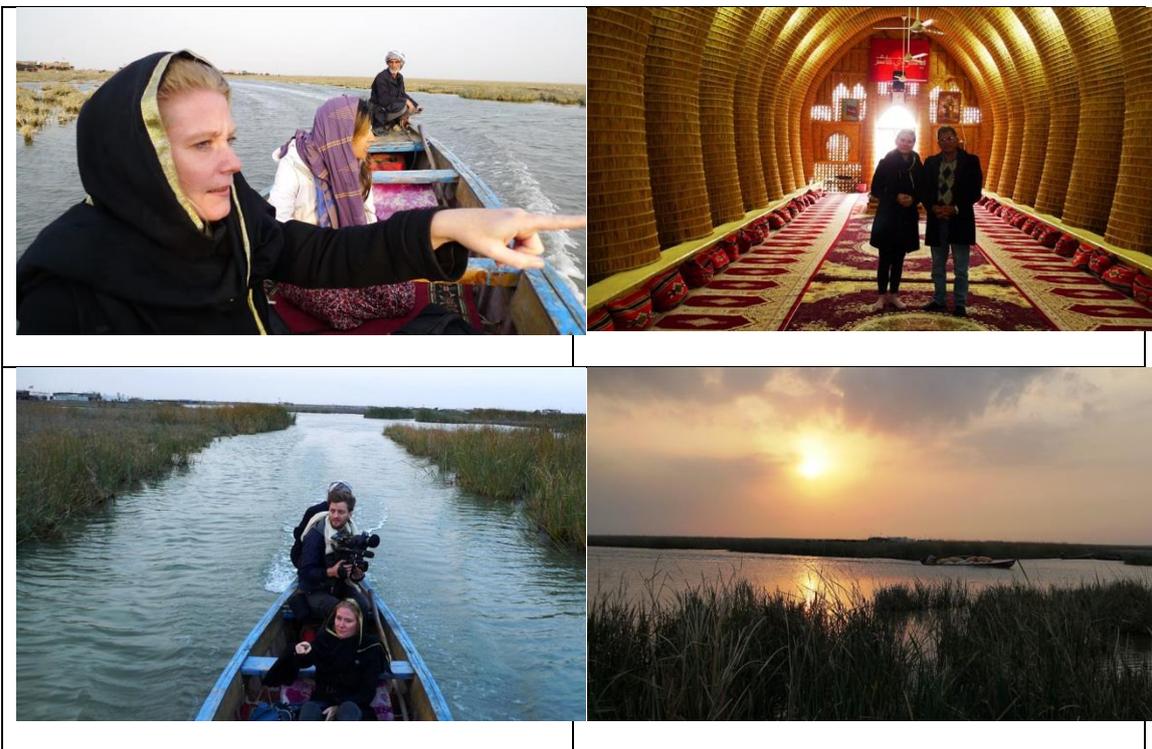


On 10 December, We organized a trip to the marshes for a delegation from the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad consists of ambassador Pontus Melander, Mr. Christian Nelson, Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Anne Soufi, First Secretary, and Mr. Manar Haddad, Assistant Ambassador..





On 15 December, we helped the Danish television channel to film a film about the marshes of southern Iraq and the lives of the population and the nature of human settlement there



On 17 December, we participated in the joint workshop between the Iraqi side and the Iranian side about Hiwazeh Marsh , held in the city of Basra under the auspices of the Ramsar Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), UNAMI and others. Our delegation was an active and important participant.



Joint meeting of the Iraqi and Iranian sides concluded on December 23 in the city of Ahwaz, under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and with the participation of the United Nations (UNEP and UNAMI) on conservation and sustainable development of Hiwazeh marshes. We were part of the official Iraqi delegation participating in the meeting and discussions.



On December 27, we organized for the international expert on the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Mr. Hassan Berto a tour to the Central Marshlands and the HHammar Marsh. We also met with him to discuss a number of related issues.



**During 2017 we had three projects:**

- 1- the social, economic and archaeological survey of Halfayah oil field in Maysan in Hawr Hawizah These surveys were completed in March 2017
- 2- The social, economic and health survey of the Majnoon oil field within Haweezah Marshes. It was completed in June and July 2017
- 3- Conservation of Marshlands Craft Project The project began on October 1, 2017 and will continue for a full year





- Establishment of several photo galleries on marshes and wetlands in Baghdad, Dhi Qar, Basra and Karbala

Attend different conferences and workshops -

A broad media presence on the environment, water resources and biodiversity -

Printing 800 copie of KBA book , funded by Basra Oil Company