



**IRAQ UNDAF TRUST FUND  
Socio-Economic Development of the Maysan  
and Eastern Hammar Marshes**

<b>Participating UN Organization(s) (specify Coordinating Organization):</b>
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

<b>Strategic Result/Outcome:</b>
Resilience and livelihoods enhanced in rural community affected by limited access to services and multi-dimensional poverty.

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<b>Programme Title:</b>
Socio-Economic Development of the Maysan and Eastern Hammar Marshes

<b>Programme Costs:</b>	
<b>IRAQ UNDAF TRUST FUND:</b>	US\$ 721,700
<b>Govt. Contribution:</b>	-
<b>UN Organization Core:</b>	-
<b>Other:</b>	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	US\$ 721,700

<b>Programme Location:</b>	
<b>National:</b>	Iraq
<b>Governorate(s):</b>	Maysan
<b>Town(s):</b>	Nearest towns: - Qalat Saleh and Al Qahla (40 km south of Amarah). - Al-Qurnah (74 km north of Basra)

## Programme Description

The proposed initiative will build upon a robust participatory community planning approach to deliver a contextually-appropriate infrastructure for the mooring of traditional boats, amenities for inhabitants of the marshes and visitors, orientation facility for tourists, and kiosks for the sale of local products. By supporting Government counterparts in implementing such a project (defined as a local priority by Governor Dawai), the project intends to establish a platform for dialogue that will bring stakeholders together to develop a spatial planning framework for the socio-economic revitalisation of the Maysan and Eastern Hammar Marshes and the enhancement of existing yet unserved cultural and nature routes connecting them with Amarah and Basra.

The overall goal is to help the governorate of Maysan retain and serve its local population – particularly unemployed Youth and women – and develop projects that can be replicated in the Easter Hammar marshes. Specific project objectives include:



- Enhancing working and mooring conditions of local boatmen and fishermen;
- Improving visitors' accessibility to and enjoyment of the marshes – including the disabled;
- Supporting viable business opportunities for women and youth;
- Creating local jobs and enhancing skills

<b>Line Ministry / Authority Responsible:</b>	<b>Programme Duration:</b>
Governorate of Maysan Governorate of Basra	Total duration (in months): 8 months Expected Start Date <sup>1</sup> : 1 Feb 2021 Expected End Date: 30 Sep 2021


## Review & Approval Dates

<b>Line Ministry/ National Authority Endorsement Date:</b>	Ministry of Planning / Governorate of Maysan/Governorate of Basra
<b>Steering Committee Approval Date:</b>	

### Signatures of Participating UN Organizations and Government Counterparts

I.	<b>Name of Representative:</b> Wael Al-Ashhab, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq <b>Signature:</b>  <b>Name of UN Organization:</b> UN-Habitat <b>Date:</b> 25 January 2021	
II.	<b>Name of the Government Counterparts Signatures:</b>  <b>Name of the Government Institution:</b> Maysan Governorate Basra Governorate <b>Date:</b>	

### Signatures of ITF UNDAF Steering Committee Co-Chairs

III.	<b>Name of Steering Committee Co-Chair (UN):</b> Ms. Irena Vojackova Sollarano, DSRSG/RC/HC <b>Signature:</b>  <b>Date:</b>	
III.	<b>Name of Steering Committee Chair (GOI):</b> Mr. Hamid Al-Ghazi, Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers <b>Signature:</b> <b>Date:</b>	

<sup>1</sup> The official start date of any approved project/programme occurs when funds are transferred by MPTF Office.

## Strategic Planning Reference (s)

### Relevant NDP 2018-2022 Goal(s):

The project will contribute to **NDP 2018-2022 Strategic Goal 7: Reduce unemployment and underemployment rates** and **Strategic Goal 11: Align the general development framework with urban structures based on the foundation of urban planning and spatial comparative advantages.**

It aligns to *NDP 2018-2022 pillars*:

- **[2.1] Population - Objective 3.4: Achieve population stability in rural areas and under-developed cities**, by leveraging the development potential of less developed cities and rural areas;
- **[8.6] Culture, Tourism and Antiquities - Objective 1.2: Promote Iraqi culture among social groups** by raising rehabilitating facilities and assets to revive the heritage and promote the cultural activities through investment leading to a profitable economic revenue and reviving and managing folklore and heritage industries through an investment way that preserves an accessible cultural heritage and insures its sustainability; and **Objective 2.1 Increase the GDP contribution of tourism** by increasing the number of visitors to religious, antiquity and natural sites and increasing tourist facilities; **Objective 2.3 Improve private sector participation in tourism investments** by improving infrastructure of sites and monuments.
- **[9.3] Women – Objective 3.2: Empower women economically** by improving women's participation in the labour market and increasing their participation in the private sector.
- **[9.4] Youth – Objective 3.2: Create an enabling environment for youth** by implementing plans and programmes to empower youth economically.
- **[10.3] Environment – Objective 3: Protect, restore and increase the sustainable use of ecological systems.**

### Relevant UNDAF Strategic Result & Outcome:

The project will address **Priority Area B** for 2015-2019: Addressing acute vulnerability and participation gaps; **Outcome B.2: Economic and livelihood opportunities increased for women and youth in both public and private sectors.**

## Project Budget Breakdown by Source of Funds and Participating UN Organization

Total Project Budget (in US\$): 721,700

### Budget Breakdown by Source:

Participating UN Organization	Iraq UNDAF Fund (US\$)	Other sources	GOI Funds (US\$)	Participating UN Organization Funds (US\$)	
				Core Funds	Non-core
UN-Habitat	721,700	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Budget (US\$)</b>	<b>721,700</b>	-	-	-	-

## 1. Executive Summary

Since 2003 the marshlands have been object of several international and national efforts to restore critical water levels for the survival of this unique wetland and encourage the return of its people. These projects have had a fair success in re-flooding the parts of the marshlands and restoring some of its livelihoods and biodiversity. Although greatly changed and still affected by the draining efforts conducted in the 1990s by the former regime, the area has returned to be a vital economic and ecological resource for the Ma'dan community, and an attraction for local tourism.

Since the nomination in January 2014 of the 'Ahwar of Southern Iraq and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities' on the World Heritage List, the Hawizeh, Central and Hammar Marshes have seen a significant increase of local tourists, researchers and nature enthusiasts. Local inhabitants have benefited from this influx of visitors, yet economic gains from the tourism sector have been very limited. The lack of local accommodation, poor accessibility, lack of information and/or organised tours, severely hinder the development of socio-economic opportunities for the people of the marshes. The scarcity of livelihood opportunities and basic infrastructure is threatening the relationship between the indigenous community and the environment, forcing people to migrate to Amarah, Basra or Baghdad in search for better income opportunities.

The proposed initiative is two-pronged: (1) firstly it will build in the shortest time possible a contextually-appropriate **priority community infrastructure**, designed as a "quick-win" infrastructure project to improve the accessibility of tourists to the Hawizeh marshes, provide basic facilities for the mooring of traditional boats and the marketing of locally produced goods, and identify the most appropriate intervention to enhance tourist access to the Eastern Hammar marshes; (2) secondly, it will build upon past collaborations in Maysan to develop a **Strategic Spatial Planning Framework for the Socio-Economic Revitalisation of the Maysan and Basra Governorate Marshes** that aims to increase the number of visitors to cultural and natural sites located between the cities of Amarah and Basra and enhance livelihood opportunities in the tourism sector.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the Governorates of Maysan and Basra, and in close coordination with the district authorities and communities.

## 2. Situation Analysis

The Mesopotamian Marshlands (al-Ahwar) were once the third largest wetlands in the world, originally extending more than 20,000 square km and partially covering the three southern governorates of Maysan, Thi Qar and Basrah. The wetlands were a vital resource for regional fisheries, reeds, and other natural resources; the home of the indigenous Ma'dan Marsh Arabs; an expanse of water attracting large numbers of migrant and wintering birds; and the permanent habitat of native birds and other valuable wildlife. Aside from its environmental and cultural importance, the Marshlands are one of the world's largest ecosystems, serving as an indispensable source of fresh water, cooling torrid temperatures in the region, and act as a gigantic 'filter' for water pollution.

In the 1990s, the Saddam regime conducted a drastic campaign to drain the marshlands, in an effort to reclaim land for agriculture and to quell insurgency movements, effectively reducing their footprint by nearly 93%. As a result of the oppression, the Marsh Arab population dropped from around half a million to a few thousand people. UNEP called this action the "worst environmental disaster of the last century".

Since the fall of the former regime in 2003, the marshlands have been object of several international and national efforts to restore critical water levels for the survival of this unique wetland and encourage the return of its people. These projects have had a fair success in re-flooding the parts of the marshlands and restoring some of its livelihoods and biodiversity. Although greatly changed, the area has returned to be a vital economic and ecological resource for the Ma'dan people, and an attraction for local tourism. In July 2013, the Iraqi Council of Ministers approved the designation of the Central Marshes of Iraq as the country's first National Park, as a joint effort by Iraq's Ministry of

Water Resources, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Municipalities with support from Nature Iraq, an Iraqi environmental conservation organisation, but despite expectations, the planned National Park has not yet been approved by the Council of Ministers.

In January 2014, the '*Ahwar of Southern Iraq and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities*' was successfully nominated for inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. The nomination covers a vast area, spanning between the governorates of Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan. It includes the **Hawizeh marshes** (included within a Ramsar Wetland of international importance), the **Central marshes** (designated as a National Park), and the **Western and Eastern Hammar marshes**.

Since the nomination, the Hawizeh marshes have seen a significant increase of local tourists, researchers and nature enthusiasts. Local inhabitants have benefited from this influx of visitors, offering slow visits through the reeds on traditional poled canoes known as *mashoof* or thrilling excursion on motorised boats to visit to the uniquely-designed *al-mudhif* ceremonial spaces and reed houses, and purchase local dairy products. Yet, gains from the tourism sector have been very limited. The scarcity in local accommodation, poor accessibility, the lack of basic infrastructure for parking, mooring and safely boarding the canoes, structures for displaying and selling local produce (the area is famous for its dairy products, largely produced by women), the lack of orientation facilities for visitors and/or organised tours, WASH facilities etc, severely hinder the development of socio-economic opportunities for the people of the marshes.

Water scarcity and high levels of salinity in the Eastern Hammar marshes have severely prejudicated its capacity to provide for its inhabitants – let alone accommodate tourism. Yet, the wetlands are still an extremely important staging area for several species of freshwater birds on their way between breeding grounds in Central Asia and winter quarters in eastern and southern Africa. This factor alone attracts on a yearly basis hundreds of students, researchers and bird watchers.

In brief, the scarcity of livelihood opportunities is threatening the relationship between the indigenous community and the environment that has hosted them for hundreds of years. Many locals nowadays rely on jobs outside the marshes to make a living. The governorate of Maysan reports a flux of people, particularly youth, that are forced to migrate to the cities to seek for better opportunities. Many will find a shelter in the unserved informal settlements that are sprawling in the outskirts of Basra and Baghdad.

### **3. Context and Relevance to NDP and UNDAF, Cross-Cutting Themes, and UN Organization Experience including any Lessons Learned**

#### **3.1 Project context and its relevance to NDP and UNDAF**

The *National Development Plan 2018-2022* recognizes that spatial disparities among Iraqi governorates are increasing, especially between rural and urban areas, intensifying the duality in spatial development within the country and maintaining the inherited underdevelopment of rural areas. Rural governorates of Iraq are experiencing a steady decline in their rates of population density, particularly in the southern and central governorates. As elsewhere, rural migration is the result of "push and pull" factors: low remunerating farming that acts as an expelling force pushing people, especially youth of working age seeking for better opportunities towards cities, and a magnet force in the city that attracts them not only for offering more jobs but also for reaping the benefits of urbanization and enjoying the better quality of life and opportunities offered by the city. This means that today, urban systems across Iraq must cope not only with the challenges associated with accommodating citizens displaced by internal conflict and insecurity, but also with absorbing the inevitable migration of destitute rural migrants and unemployed youth towards primary cities.

Another important objective of the NDP Protect concerns the conservation of the country's unique biodiversity and the sustainable use of its ecological systems.

*"The designation of Al-Ahwar (the Iraqi marshes) as a world heritage site on 17 July 2016 requires to revive, invest in and develop the capacities of this environment, as well as to preserve traditional livelihoods due to the exceptional importance of Al-Ahwar for Iraq's environment. The area's natural, economic, cultural and historical features can be used to conserve Iraq's environment and biodiversity."*

National Development Plan 2018-2022; p. 228

The project intends to contribute to *NDP 2018-2022* Strategic Goal 7: Reduce unemployment and underemployment rates and Strategic Goal 11: Align the general development framework with urban structures based on the foundation of urban planning and spatial comparative advantages. It aims to support the government's effort to stabilise the population in rural areas and underdeveloped cities, by leveraging the development potential of less developed cities and rural areas. The project will promote cultural and tourism activities by investing in facilities that contribute to revive folklore and increase the number of visitors to religious, antiquity and natural sites. The project also aims to empower women and youth by improving their economic participation in the private sector. Among the development priorities of non-conflict affected governorates, the *NDP 2018-2022* recommends the use of the marshlands (Ahwaz) natural reserve to "create a sophisticated tourist attraction promoted to local and foreign tourists".

Gol's *Poverty Reduction Strategy* acknowledges the worsening indicators in southern governorates (including Maysan) particularly in regard to the concentration of 'extreme poverty'. Indicators provide evidence that the rate of poverty in rural areas is more than double the poverty rate in urban areas. Maysan ranks first in terms of poverty in rural areas (73%), followed by Muthanna (64%), Thi Qar (61%), and Qadisiyah (60%). Rural community in southern governorates have also the highest levels of child poverty (up to 50%). In the rural areas of the 5 poorest governorates, small-scale farmers and livestock producers are the most marginalized households with unemployed young men and women members as the most vulnerable (IFAD, 2018).

According to UNDP's *Iraq Human Development Report 2014*, about 30 percent of the population of the governorate of Maysan suffers from multidimensional poverty, while the Youth Development Index in Maysan ranks among the last three places. The overall Human Development Index (HDI) was the lowest in Maysan, with 0.655. Specifically, the Al Qahla district has the lowest economic potential and quality of life and the highest deprivation index in the governorate (CSO, 2016). The location of the Hawizeh marshes in the district contribute to depress its index scores.

The three pillars of Iraq's *Vision 2030*, which this project adheres to are: creating opportunities for generating sustainable income, empowering and building human capital, and establishing an effective social safety net. The most relevant strategies are the creation of sustainable income for the poor and improved resilience.

By supporting the authorities at the national and provincial level to achieve these goals, the project supports both *UNDAF 2015-2019* – Outcome 1: Improving the performance and responsiveness of targeted national and sub-national institutions, and Outcome 2: Addressing acute vulnerability and participation gaps.

Lastly, the *New Urban Agenda*, agreed upon at the Habitat III conference in Quito in 2016, recognises the strong link between urban and rural communities in the planning and development of food systems, and the need for a territorial approach that provides food security and improved nutrition for all.

### 3.2 Cross-Cutting Themes

The project will support the Government of Iraq to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, namely: **SDG Goal 1**: No poverty; **Goal 10**: Reduced inequality; and **Goal 11**: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Note: A planned Phase II of the project aims to address issues of climate adaptation in collaboration

with specialised agencies such as UNEP, thus contributing to **Goal 13: Climate Action**; and **Goal 17: Partnerships** to achieve the Goal.

### 3.3 UN Organization Experience including any Lessons Learned

Specific to Maysan Governorate, in 2012 UN-Habitat conducted needs assessments in three local areas within the Marshlands and implemented the rehabilitation of several schools and community recreation facilities in Maysan. Since 2017, its planning team engaged local stakeholders from Maysan in the development of an **Urban Expansion Plan for Qalat Saleh**, a small town south of Amarah, and the drafting of the **Maysan Governorate Transportation Plan** – two important deliverables funded by the EU under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP II) implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN-Habitat. Both reports were submitted to the Ministry of Planning and the local authorities in mid-2018. The *Maysan Governorate Transportation Plan* included the proposal for the establishment of a Cultural and Cultural Route and a Hawizeh and Central Marshes Route.

Specific to Basra Governorate, in 2018 UN-Habitat presented to H.E. Governor Al Eidani the comprehensive **Old Basra Conservation and Development Plan**, also developed as part of the above mentioned LADP II project.

Despite the poor indicators that hold back the Governorate and the difficult circumstances that the Ma'dan are enduring, with the appropriate support the marshes can become a source of development of a tertiary sector based on site management, tourism and hospitality.

## 4. Results Framework

By engaging rural communities affected by limited access to services and multi-dimensional poverty, the project expects to achieve the following:

### **Outcome: Enhanced resilience and livelihoods of marshes communities**

- Output 1: **Site assessments** of designated departure/arrival of visitors, tourists and community members conducted at the entrance of the Hawizeh and Eastern Hammar marshes.
- Output 2: **Participatory Workshops** conducted with local boatmen of the Hawizeh and Eastern Hammar marshes for the design of basic community infrastructure serving visitors, tourists and inhabitants.
- Output 3: **Site Planning Workshops** to design an improved departure/arrival area for tourists in collaboration with the local authorities and relevant NGOs conducted in the 2 locations.
- Output 4: **Detailed Plan and Design of (1) community infrastructure at the entrance of the Hawizeh marshes** consisting of a wooden pier/ mobile pontoon for tourist boats, shaded departure and arrival area, kiosk facilities for vendors of local produce, solar power units, information boards, orientation facility, nature paths, WASH facility and parking areas; and **(2) improved boat and pedestrian access to the Eastern Hammar marshes.**
- Output 5: **Community infrastructure and related facilities** constructed at the identified sites through a local Implementing Partner.
- Output 6: **Livelihoods Survey** conducted through a local Implementing Partner conducted.
- Output 7: **Spatial Planning Workshops** with local authorities, selected community members and relevant NGOs conducted in Amarah, Basra or Al Qurnah.
- Output 8: **Strategic Spatial Planning Framework for the Socio-Economic Revitalisation of the Maysan and Eastern Hammar Marshes** that aims to improve access to the



marshlands and nearby cultural heritage sites and enhance livelihood opportunities for the long-term socio-economic revitalization of the area developed, drafted and disseminated, along with visually enticing maps and illustrations.

**Table 1: Results Framework**

Project Title	Socio-Economic Development of the Maysan Marshes					
UNDAF Strategic Result	<b>Priority A:</b> Improving the performance and responsiveness of targeted national and sub-national institutions <b>Priority B:</b> Addressing acute vulnerability and participation gaps.					
Relevant SDG(s)	<b>SDG Goal 1:</b> No poverty; <b>Goal 10:</b> Reduced Inequality; and <b>Goal 11:</b> Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.  <b>Strategic Goal 7:</b> Reduce unemployment and underemployment rates <b>Strategic Goal 11:</b> Align the general development framework with urban structures based on the foundation of urban planning and spatial comparative advantages.					
Relevant NDP Goals	<b>Sectoral Development Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Population</b> - Objective 3.4: Achieve population stability in rural areas and under-developed cities.</li> <li>• <b>Culture, Tourism and Antiquities</b> - Objective 1.2: Promote Iraqi culture among social groups; Objective 2.1 Increase the GDP contribution of tourism; and Objective 2.3 Improve private sector participation in tourism investments.</li> <li>• <b>Women</b> – Objective 3.2: Empower women economically.</li> <li>• <b>Youth</b> – Objective 3.2: Create an enabling environment for youth</li> </ul>					
<b>Relevant UNDAF Priority Outcome A2:</b> Government capacity at national and subnational levels enhanced for evidence-based decision-making; <b>Outcome B.1:</b> Strengthened resilience through enhanced government and community disaster risk management capacities; and <b>Outcome B.3:</b> Increased inclusion of women and minority groups in decision-making processes on development issues at national and sub-national levels						
Project Outputs	UN Org.	Other Implementing partner(s)	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
Output 1: Site assessments	UN-Habitat	Governorates of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district.	# Site maps	No site assessment	2 Site maps completed	Progress report with maps
Output 2: Participatory Workshops with communities of the Hawizeh and Eastern Hammar marshes	UN-Habitat	Governorate of Maysan; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH;	# of Participants	n/a	# 20 participants	Attendance list and photographs of event

Project Outputs	UN Org.	Other Implementing partner(s)	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification
<b>Output 3: Site plan workshops with local authorities</b>	UN-Habitat	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Ministry of Environment/ Department for Marshes and Wetlands; SBAH;	# of Participants	No site plan	2 Site Plans drafted and approved by local authorities	Attendance list and Photographs Progress report illustrated by site plan
<b>Output 4: Detailed Designs of basic community infrastructure at the entrance of the Hawizeh marshes and improved boat and pedestrian access to the Eastern Hammar marshes</b>	UN-Habitat	UNESCO Iraq and World Heritage Centre (Paris)	# of detailed drawings and BoQs	Previous designs did not obtain UNESCO approval	2 Designs approved by Governorates and UNESCO	Detailed Designs UNESCO approval of BoQs
<b>Output 5: Implementation of basic community infrastructure and related facilities</b>	UN-Habitat	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district.	% of construction completed as per design	No serviced area for boatmen, visitors, tourists and local entrepreneurs	1 boat pier and related facilities completed Access improved	Photographs of completed project Handover ceremonies
<b>Output 6: Livelihoods Survey</b>	UN-Habitat	Govs of Maysan and Basra; District Office; Local NGO	# of Households surveyed	n/a	Min. 150 households surveyed	Survey report
<b>Output 7: Spatial Planning Workshops</b>	UN-Habitat	Govs of Maysan and Basra; District/sub Offices; Local NGO	Total # of participants	No spatial plan available	Spatial Plan approved by Governorate	Attendance list and Photographs
<b>Output 8: Strategic Spatial Planning Framework for the Socio-Economic and Cultural Revitalisation of the Maysan and Eastern Hammar Marshes</b>	UN-Habitat	Govs of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district.	# Maps and Plans	No spatial plan available	Illustrated Planning Framework drafted and disseminated	4 Detailed Thematic GIS Maps 2 Spatial Thematic Plans 1 Illustrated report

## 5. Management and Coordination Arrangements

Within the delegated authority of Head of UN-Habitat Iraq Programme, the project team will be composed of the following members:

- 1) **Human Settlements Advisor**  
Responsible for overall management, coordination, monitoring and reporting of the project. Will maintain regular communication with key project stakeholders and monitor progress of project activities in close collaboration with other project team members.
- 2) **Local Coordinator / Heritage Expert**  
Responsible for liaising with local authorities, facilitating community meetings and advising on heritage aspects in liaison with SBAH.
- 3) **Architect / Designer**  
Responsible for realising the participatory design of community members and prepare detailed execution drawings.
- 4) **Field Engineer and Site Supervisor**  
Expert in timber construction, responsible for drafting detailed construction plans, BoQs and conducting regular site supervision.
- 5) **Urban Planner / Graphic Designer**  
Responsible for the development of the Strategic Spatial Planning Framework.
- 6) **Planning and Liaison Assistant**  
Responsible for overall liaison, administrative and logistics support for the timely and effective implementation of the project activities.
- 7) **GIS Expert**  
Responsible for mapping and analysing spatial data, entering and processing findings from the socio-economic survey; produce maps and Spatial Plans.
- 8) **Community Mobiliser and Logistics Assistant**  
Responsible for mobilising NGOs and community members to be involved in the planning process.

Local government counterparts' staff will be closely involved, namely from Maysan and Basra Governorate, SBAH/Maysan and Basra, Maysan and Basra Departments of Shia shrines – Hateba, Maysan and Basra Directorates of Water Resources, Departments for Marshes and Wetlands, and Sub-District Offices.

Expert NGOs, such as Nature Iraq, will be consulted and engaged in the implementation of the project.

Technical staff and decision-makers will be involved in the drafting of the plans and community project, in close coordination with the local community and tribes' representatives, also as part of an effort to ensure local ownership of the initiative

## 6. Feasibility, Risk Management and Sustainability of Results

	Potential Risks	Likelihood of Occurrence	Mitigation Measures
1	UN-Habitat project team will not have access to the marshes due to local instability	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request UNAMI/UNDSS Basra for regular security updates.</li> <li>• Engage local government counterparts so that information can be obtained even when access is limited</li> </ul>
2	UNESCO World Heritage Centre does not approve the design	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve WHC (in Paris) from the start through UNESCO Iraq to discuss options of design and construction material</li> </ul>
3	Lack of engagement from the relevant counterparts or stakeholders	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all relevant actors are informed in advance and aware of the proposed project, the planned consultation process and the implementation modality.</li> <li>• Obtain commitments from the senior officials of the relevant actors</li> </ul>

The completed infrastructure will be handed over to the leadership of the Governorates of Maysan and Basra and sub-district offices after the completion of the project interventions. To ensure sustainability, the local authorities will be engaged in the design of the infrastructure and monitoring of the works. Members of the local community skilled in carpentry will be recruited in the actual building activities so that they will be capable of any future repairs.

The *Strategic Spatial Socio-Economic Plan* will be presented and submitted to Maysan and Basra Governors in Amarah or Basra.

## 7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

### 7.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

Key monitoring and evaluation activities under the project will include:

- Consultations with key stakeholders including national and local government counterparts, as well as international and national development actors;
- Site Monitoring of construction works will be undertaken by qualified engineer.

### 7.2 Reporting

As per *Memorandum of Understanding between Participating UN Organizations and the United Nations Development Programme regarding the Iraq UNDAF Fund*, UN-Habitat will produce the following reports:

- Quarterly narrative progress reports
- Annual financial statements and reports
- Final narrative report
- Certified final financial statements and final financial reports

## 8. Legal Context

The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** was ratified by Iraq in October 2007 and entered into force on February 18th, 2008. An Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee (INMWC) was established in 2008 to assist the Government of Iraq in its implementation of national Ramsar Convention responsibilities. The Hawizeh marshes were designated as Iraq's first Ramsar site in 2007 and registered as an 'International Protected Area'.

The Mesopotamian Marshlands (al-Ahwar) were inscribed on the **World Heritage List** in 2016. In 2018, the **World Heritage Committee** recalled 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 (Decision 42 COM 7B.66).

The **Strategy for Water and Land Resources in Iraq** (SWLRI) has been developed, covering the period until 2035, and recognizing the Iraqi marshlands as a legitimate water user. Minimum water flows of 5.8 billion cubic meters (BCM) are being allocated to the marshlands annually. Competition with other water users, notably agriculture, remains a challenge, particularly in light of upstream dam developments in neighbouring countries. Efforts to address the noted need for reform of water governance in Iraq, and long-term water sharing agreements with Turkey and Iran are underway.

UN-Habitat and the Governorate of Maysan will sign a Letter of Agreement that describes the project, its scope and deliverables.

## 9. Phasing

The project will be rolled out as a pilot project of a potentially larger future programme focused on the implementation of selected recommendations of the *Strategic Spatial Planning Framework for the Socio-Economic Revitalisation of the Hawizeh and Easter Hammar Marshes*.

The proposed "quick win" project and Strategic Spatial Plan aim to capture the attention of donors and sister agencies, such as UNESCO, IOM, UNDP and ILO, and attract public and private investments towards a range of development activities related to tourism and culture, capacity-building, shelter and local entrepreneurship.

## 10. Work Plan and Budget

**Table 2: Work Plan for Urban Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (Period Covered: Month 1 to Month 9)**

Annual Targets	Key Activities	Timeline				Planned budget (\$)	Implementing Partner
		M1-2	M3-4	M5-6	M7-8		
	<p><b>UNDAF Strategic Result: Priority A:</b> Improving the performance and responsiveness of targeted national and sub-national institutions; and <b>Priority B:</b> Addressing acute vulnerability and participation gaps.</p> <p><b>UNDAF Strategic Result Outcome A2:</b> Government capacity at national and subnational levels enhanced for evidence-based decision-making; <b>B.1:</b> Strengthened resilience through enhanced government and community disaster risk management capacities; and <b>B.3:</b> Increased inclusion of women and minority groups in decision-making processes on development issues at national and sub-national levels</p>						
	<b>Output 1: Site assessments of the entrances of Hawizeh and Eastern Hammar marshes</b>						
Site map completed	1-1. Obtain necessary approvals and permits						Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district
	1-2. Conduct site visits with local authorities					0	
	1-3. Take measurements						
	1-4. Draft site plans of existing situation						
	<b>Output 2: Participatory Workshops with Hawizeh and Hammar marshes communities</b>						
Workshop held	2-1. Obtain approvals and send invites					14,000	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH, local NGO
	2-2. Hold prep. meeting with community / logistics						
	2-3. Conduct workshop on site						
	<b>Output 3: Site planning workshops with local authorities of Maysan and Basra governorates</b>						
Workshops held	3-1. Send invites					14,000	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Ministry of Environment/ Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH, local NGO
	3-2. Prepare site plans and GIS maps						
	3-3. Conduct consultation workshops						
	<b>Output 4: Detailed Designs of basic community infrastructure and improved access</b>						
Design approved by Governorate and UNESCO	4-1. Designs 1:50					0	Consultation with UNESCO
	4-2. Verifications on site						
	4-3. Detailed designs 1:20						
	4-4. BoQs						

Annual Targets	Key Activities	Timeline					Planned budget (\$)	Implementing Partner
		M1-2	M3-4	M5-6	M7-8			
Boat pier and related community / visitors facilities completed	<b>Output 5: Implementation of basic community infrastructure and related facilities</b>							
	5-1. Tendering and awards of contracts						360,000	Local NGOs selected through competitive process
	5-2. Implementation and site supervision							
5-3. Official Handovers								
<b>Output 6: Livelihoods Survey</b>								
Min. 150 households surveyed	6-1. Design of survey						20,000	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, Heads of sub-district
	6-2. RFP Tendering and award of contract							
	6-3. Survey implementation							
	6-4. Analysis of findings and reporting							
<b>Output 7: Spatial planning workshops</b>								
Spatial Plan approved by Governorate	7-1. Send invitations / draft Agendas						42,000	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district
	7-2. Spatial Planning Workshops							
<b>Output 8: Strategic Spatial Planning Framework for the Socio-Economic and Cultural Revitalisation of the Hawizeh and Eastern Hammar Marshes</b>								
Illustrated Planning Framework drafted and disseminated	8-1. Data collection and mapping						0	Governorate of Maysan and Basra; Department for Marshes and Wetlands, SBAH; Heads of sub-district
	8-2. Consultations/site visits							
	8-3. Drafts for feedback							
	8-4. Presentation in Amarah/Basra							
	8-5. Final draft and printing							
<b>Operational Costs</b>								
Personnel, equipment, travel, etc.							217,808	
Indirect costs							46,747	
1% coordination levy							7,146	
<b>Total Planned Budget</b>							<b>721,700</b>	



**Table 3: Project Budget (Iraq UNDAF Funds Only)**

Project Budget	
Category	Amount (US\$)
1. Staff and other personnel costs	84,000
2. Supplies, commodities, materials	10,000
3. Equipment, vehicles and furniture including depreciation	-
4. Contractual services	70,000
5. Travel	12,106
6. Transfers and grants to counterparts	426,000
7. General operating and other direct costs	72,380
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>674,486</b>
8. Indirect support costs (7%)	47,214
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>721,700</b>

## Annex A: Detailed Budget

Category	Item Description	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Amount
<b>1. Staff and other personnel costs</b>				
1.1.	Human Settlements Advisor	In-kind contribution from UN-Habitat	-	-
1.2.	Local Coordinator/Heritage Expert (SC7)	100% time, per month	8	40,000
1.3.	Architect/Designer (International Expert)	In-kind contribution from UN-Habitat	-	-
1.4.	Field Engineer (National UNV)	100% time, per month	8	18,400
1.5.	Urban Planner/Graphic designer (International Expert)	In-kind contribution from UN-Habitat	-	-
1.7.	GIS Expert	In-kind contribution from UN-Habitat	1	7,200
1.8.	Community Mobilizer and Logistics Assistant (National UNV)	100% time, per month	8	18,400
Sub-total 1				84,000
<b>2. Supplies, commodities, materials</b>				
2.1.	Printing and translating materials	Provision	10,000	10,000
Sub-total 2			1	10,000
<b>3. Equipment, vehicles and furniture including depreciation</b>				
Sub-total 3				10,000
<b>4. Contractual services</b>				
4.1.	Workshop with community members	Provision	7,000	14,000
4.2.	Workshop with local authorities	Provision	7,000	14,000
4.3.	Workshop on spatial planning	Provision	21,000	42,000
Sub-total 4			2	70,000
<b>5. Travel</b>				
5.1.	Domestic air tickets (Erbil - Basra - Erbil)	Per round trip	150	1,500
5.2.	DSA in Basra	Per night	212	8,056
5.3.	Local travel from Basra to Maysan	Per round trip	30	2,550
Sub-total 5			85	12,106
<b>6. Transfers and grants to counterparts</b>				
6.1.	Implementation of basic community infrastructure and related facilities	Per contract	400,000	400,000
6.2.	Livelihoods survey through NGO implementing partner	Per contract	26,000	26,000
Sub-total 6			1	426,000
<b>7. General operating and other direct costs</b>				
7.1.	Security costs			602,106
7.2.	Monitoring and evaluation		50,000	50,000
7.3.	Communications and visibility activities		10,000	10,000
7.4.	Miscellaneous		10,000	10,000
Sub-total 7			2,380	2,380
<b>Total Project Costs (1-7)</b>				
				72,380
				674,486
8. Indirect support costs (7%)				47,214
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>721,700</b>

**Annex B: UN Organization Project Status Profile**

Sl. #	Project ID #	Project Title	Total Budget (US\$)	Implementation Rate (% complete)	Commitments (% as of 24 July 2019)	Disbursements (% as of 24 July 2019)	Remarks
1	S1-32QXB-000142	Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme Phase II	2,393,946	100%	0.002%	99.92%	S1-32QXB-000142
2	S1-32QXB-000437	Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience Data Platform	900,000	77.91%	39.69%	38.21%	S1-32QXB-000437
		<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>3,293,946</b>		<b>19.85%</b>	<b>69.07%</b>	