| FORESTS AND DESERTIFICTION OFFICE – MINISTRY OF AGR                                   | RICULTURE – IRAQ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Sand and Dust Storms –                                                                |                  |
| Successful story from Iraq                                                            |                  |
| Rawea Mizel Mahmood – Researcher –<br>Environment and Natural Resources<br>Management |                  |
| International workshop for SDS                                                        |                  |
| Turkey / Istanbul                                                                     |                  |
|                                                                                       | 2016             |
|                                                                                       |                  |
|                                                                                       |                  |
|                                                                                       |                  |

BAGHDAG – ABO GRAB – ALZATWN STREET

#### Description of the state of environment in Iraq

- Iraq has in recent decades passed through a series of wars and political changes which directly and negatively affected the reality of society and the environment. The drivers as (causes) of environmental degradation in Iraq can be summarized as follows:
- 1. Population Increase which led to increasing needs for food, energy resources, housing and water, in addition, timber cutting, fishing and overgrazing have also led the degradation of ecosystems and loss of homeostasis, and increasing amounts of solid and liquid wastes.
- 2. Urbanization, which in turn led to the displacement of a proportion of the rural population to the cities at a rate of three times higher over the past two decades, placing pressure and drain on resources and increased environmental degradation
- 3. Desertification and land degradation, where the desert lands accounts for about 42% of the total area of Iraq has exacerbated this phenomenon and led to high rates of sand and dust storms which hit major cities such as the capital Baghdad at frequent intervals during the recent years.

The main causes of desertification may be attributed

Natural conditions of weather and physical properties of the soil.

Human activities such as indiscriminate cutting of natural plants and urban activities and overgrazing.

. Poor environmental awareness, due to the novelty of the concept of environmental awareness in Iraqi society, not including the environmental issues in the educational curriculum, and the community and individuals who are conducting practices unfriendly environmental practices

Wars and political circumstances which impacted the state of the environment in Iraq mainly in the form of draining the marshes and the decline of the green areas and the drop of water supplies from neibourghing countries to Iraq. The Republic of Iraq is located in the south-west of the continent of Asia within the Middle East region. The north-eastern part of the Arab world.

Bordered by Turkey to the north, and Iran to the east, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to the west, and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to the south. Tension between latitudes' 29 and 5 '22 ° 37 N, and longitudes' 45 ° 38 and '45 ° 48 east. Iraq has an area of 435 052 km2.



The map of Iraq locational relation to the world

خارطة الهطولات المطرية توضح كمية الامطار المتساقطة سنوياً (1-1-6)







The increase in repeat storms annual dust in Baghdad during the period 1970-2010

Source: General Authority for meteorological and seismic monitoring Iragi

### Climate of Iraq

1- Mediterranean climate

- 2- Steppe climate
- 3- Desert climate

Iraq also characterized the climate of the following characteristics:

1. High levels of air temperature.

2. A big difference between the temperatures of the day and night and between the seasons of the year.

3. Low relative humidity in the air.

4. Large variations in rainfall of 681.7 mm in the north rates to less than 73.6 mm in the South.

| different nart         | s of Iraq      |             |    |                           |              |            |    |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|----|---------------------------|--------------|------------|----|
| 79,11                  | Ain al –Tamur  | عين التمر   | 24 | 560,7<br>560 <i>,</i> 7   | Zakho        | زاخو       | 1  |
| 355 <i>,</i><br>355,11 | Sinjar         | سنجار       | 25 | <br>389,5389 <i>,</i> .5  | Arbil        | أربيل      | 2  |
| 266 <i>,</i><br>266,55 | Mkhmur         | مخمور       | 26 |                           | Salahaddin   | صلاح الدين | 3  |
| 288 <i>,</i><br>288,66 | Tal A Far      | تلعفر       | 27 | _ 681 <i>,</i> 7<br>681,7 | Sulaymaniyah | سليمانية   | 4  |
| 177,<br>117,22         | kaam           | القائم      | 28 | 445 ,<br>445,99           | Jmjml        | جمجمال     | 5  |
| 129 ,<br>129,66        | Ana            | عنية        | 29 | 560 <i>,</i><br>560,33    | Duhok        | دهوك       | 6  |
| 170 ,<br>170,33        | Tikrit         | تكريت       | 30 | 354 <i>,</i><br>354,00    | Mosul        | الموصل     | 7  |
| 137 , 6<br>137,6       | Bosrah Hussain | بصرة الحسين | 31 | 196 <i>,</i><br>196,99    | Baiji        | بيجي       | 8  |
| 120,<br>120,00         | Bosrah mataar  | بصرة المطار | 32 | 130 <i>,</i><br>130,66    | Hadtha       | حديثة      | 9  |
| 208,6208,6             | Tel Abth       | تل عبطة     | 33 | 246 , 7<br>246,7          | Khalis       | الخالص     | 10 |
| 89 ,<br>89,00          | Akashat        | عكاشات      | 34 | 117 , 2<br>117,2          | ALrotba      | الرطبة     | 11 |
| 79<br><b>79,6,</b> 6   | Najaf          | النجف       | 35 | <u>287</u> , 8<br>287,8   | Khanaqin     | خانقين     | 12 |
| 73<br>73,6, ,6         | Nukhayib       | النخيب      | 36 | 218 ,<br>218,88           | Ваај         | البعاج     | 13 |
| 134<br>134,9, 9        | AL- hay        | الحي        | 37 | 350 <i>,</i><br>350,66    | Rabia        | ربيعة      | 14 |
| 89,789 , 7             | Samawa         | السماوة     | 38 | 239 <i>,</i><br>239,88    | Tuz          | طوز        | 15 |
| 91                     | Karbala        |             | 20 | 347,                      | Vielaula     | که که آبی  | 16 |

Physiographic Iraq Constitute a large proportion of the desert area of Iraq, where 54% are shown in Figure 4, namely:

#### • Mountainous region:

which is approximately 6% of the total area of Iraq, located in the eastern and north-eastern part of the country and the average annual rainfall which 800-1200 mm and are available in small rivers and the Great Zab Zab water and groundwater as well as superficial and deep.

It characterized by a climate of this region down the heat in winter, where up-to-5 degrees Celsius in summer and mild temperatures between 25-30 ° C and characterized this region planted orchards and the availability of natural forests, grasslands and agriculture is the main occupation of the residents of the

- Undulating region:
- represent about 15% of the area of Iraq and is located south and west of the mountainous region is characterized Bsaolha wide and a few hills rise range where the annual rainfall 200-400 mm and feed this region of the small Great Zab river Zab water in addition to the availability of groundwater in the water, and temperatures rates where in winter 10-15 °C in summer and 25-30 degrees Celsius is considered appropriate area for grain production has also grown by fruit and olive trees and is characterized by raising livestock, and agriculture is the most important economic and mining activities where

- **Desert island located** between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and most of the gypsum soil.
- Northern Badia South Badia Both North and South Albadetyn located to the west and south of the Euphrates River is a natural extension of the plateau of the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula abound in the valleys, where it set up dams to store water as the groundwater exploited by nomads and available. Rainfall ranging from 75-200 mm per year and the temperature 10-15 °C in winter and 35-40 in summer and prevail where limestone soils are concentrated in the southern region, including the sand dunes.
- Note that:
- all of the desert peninsula, and North and South Albadetyn represent western plateau region, which constitute 55% of the area of Iraq is located in the western part of it.

#### • Mesopotamian plain:

It is the area where most of Iraq's population is concentrated by (75%) of the population, although the area of 24% of the total area of Iraq stretching from the northwest to the south-east and the range where the annual rainfall 75-150 mm range from temperatures of 15 -20 ° C in winter of 35-45 degrees Celsius in summer and characterized this region of fertile soil that resulted due to sediment collected from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which feed off of this region, water is also characterized by abundant waters and the presence of large quantities of oil fields there.



172-37

تم الحصول على البيانات الرقمية للقمر • الصناعي لاندسات من الموقع الخاص بالمسح ) عن طريق شبكة USGS الجيولوجي الامريكي ( التصنيف الموجه )

|      | USGS                                                         |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | استيراد الصور الفضائية للقمر Sat ETM Land                    |
| RDAS | للاعوام 2006 ، 2012                                          |
|      | تجميع الطبقات                                                |
|      | Layer Stack                                                  |
|      | دمج المشاهد                                                  |
|      | Mosaic Images                                                |
|      | قطع                                                          |
|      | Subset                                                       |
|      | التصنيف الموجه في تحديد الغطاء الأرضي                        |
|      | Classifier- Supervised Classification                        |
|      | التحويل من مصنفة الى شيف فايل                                |
| SIS  | Raster To Polygon                                            |
|      | معالجة مع احتساب مساحة الكثبان الرملية<br>الأحداد 2002 2006  |
|      | Maioring area of sand dune                                   |
|      | إنتاج خرائط لكل محافظة موضح عليها أماكن تواجد ومساحة الكثبان |
|      | Lavout View                                                  |

l



2013محافظة واسط 2013

2006محافظة واسط 2006

Positive site ALI ALKARBY













![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### أستخلاص خرائط مع جداول توضح تطور نشاط مشاريع الدائرة للسنوات 2006-2013

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_0.jpeg)

Iraq is divided into six physiographic regions

Source : Arab Organization A

Physiographic map of Iraq

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

- مشروع تثبيت الكثبان الرملية والذي انشأ في عام 1979 من اهم اهدافه مكافحة زحف الرمال المتحركة في وسط وجنوب البلاد , التي باتت تشكل خطرا على المشاريع الاستراتيجية كالطرق , سكك الحديد , شبكات الري والبزل , محطات الطاقة , الاراضي الزراعية وتزيد من كلف ادامتها وصيانتها اضافة الى زيادة حدوث العواصف الغبارية والرملية التي تؤثر على الصحة والبيئة.

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### •مشروع الواحات الصحراوية :

العمل متوقف في أغلب الواحات الا ان تم تحرير اجزاء من محافظة الانبار المتواجدة فيها الواحات بدأ العمل على اعادة تأهيل واحات (البوحيات , الجبهه ,ابو الجير) وبجهود ذاتية من قبل منتسبي المشروع والمحافظة على المغروسات الباقية من خلال ادامة عملية الخدمة والسقى وغيرها من العمليات الزراعية.

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

- الحفريات:

الحفرة هي عبارة عن حوض أو خزان لتجميع مياه المطر وهي عادة تكون ملازمة ومصاحبة للوادي فلا يمكن أن يتم إنشاء الحفريات بدون الأودية كون الأخيرة هي من ترفد الحفرة بالمياه وقد تم إتباع هذا النظام من حصاد المياه في عدة مناطق ونجحت التجربة بحصد كميات كبيرة من مياه المطر تم استغلالها والاستفادة منها حيث تم انشاء الحفريات التالية.

| الطاقة الخزنية م3 | سنة الأنشاء | اسم الوادي           | اسم الحفريه | ت |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---|
| 40000             | 2011        | احد افرع عكاش الشرقي | النيتونيه   | 1 |
| 35000             | 2012        | احد افرع صواب        | المهري      | 2 |
| 40000             | 2012        | احد افرع عكاش الغربي | الحصيريات   | 3 |
| 16000             | 2013        | عكاش الغربي          | عكاش الغربي | 4 |
| 17000             | 2013        | وادي الهري           | ابن مهيد    | 5 |

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Dust storms

 The frequency and severity of sandstorms have increased in Iraq due to deteriorated vegetation and increased impact of desertification. This requires comprehensive planning, surveys to learn reasons, taking measures to address them and promoting relevant awareness. The phenomenon of sand and dust storms, one of the most important environmental challenges facing Iraq and many countries of the world, especially those located within the Arid and semi-arid and subhumid.

Results of the studies that the severity and frequency of storms have increased in Iraq over the past three decades and worsened with impact of this phenomenon on human health, society and the economy even returned interesting for all government and popular circles at the local, national, regional and international levels.  Drought, desertification and unsustainable use of land and water resources has led to a significant deterioration in soil and building surface, and with the increase in wind speed increased frequency and severity of dust waves, as well as sand encroachment toward strategic projects (roads, irrigation, agricultural and civic projects),

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

## The growing phenomenon of dust storms in Iraq

- The phenomenon of dust storms unit significantly in Iraq have recently risen and simultaneously with the increase due to drought due to low rainfall amounts of precipitation and water supplies contained to Iraq.
- The incidence of respiratory and allergic diseases have increased, as the Ministry of Health data indicate that the number was 205 722 and 268 984 and 224 410 cases in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively
- As it has been a marked rise in the number of days when dust storms occur, as well as throughout the storm period for up to four days in a row sometimes.
- The number of days of storms 200 and 220 days a year for each of the years 2008 and 2009, respectively, and sand encroachment toward strategic projects (roads irrigation, agricultural and civic projects) and the increasing low level of vision to below the five meters, as well as a significant increase in the concentrations of particulate matter and dust falling

## The rate of change in the concentration of dust for the period from 2000 to 2009

The peak was in 2008, a 80 mg / m2 / month.

![](_page_44_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

Monthly variations of different situations dust (susbande and rising and storms) in Iraq

## Systematic study and determine the dust phenomenon

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Climate Analysis stage**

- Back to historical climate data, which date back to more than thirty years and saved the meteorological department Iraqi Alzlalzl and the World Meteorological Organization.
- The analysis also rely on satellite imagery for the period beyond 2000, which have been extracted from the archive and the US space agency –NASA.

- Establishing a national programme to combat sand and dust storms
- إنشاء البرنامج الوطني لمكافحة العواصف الرملية والغبارية

a national programme to combat sand and dust storms

2015-2020

![](_page_48_Picture_2.jpeg)

## land use analysis stage

 This phase aims to draw if there is a change in land use over the past four decades, and in particular the case of vegetation and places of degradation of the close correlation between the degradation of vegetation and desertification and the emergence of sand and dust storms.

> التقييم الفني لأثار العواصف الغبارية والترابية على الزراعة في العراق

• It has been used for this purpose soil maps of agricultural activities and satellite imagery and indicators available land uses of the national and international reports

Assessment of the Impact of Sand and Dust Storms on Agricultural Potential in Iraq

# determine the sources and hot spots stage

 This phase relied mainly on hot spots conclusion by analyzing the results of the two studies above-mentioned procedure and approach between the reality of climate analysis of what is happening on the ground, as identified by the land-use maps and the change in vegetation

# identify strategies and mitigation projects Stage

- Mitigation strategies based on the
- type, location and causes of sandstorms and dust and the state of the ecosystem.
- It was agreed to determine the criteria for selection of priorities for projects and put them in a matrix showing the area and the nature of the intervention and the desired outcomes and indicators of success and Budget speculative and the implementing agency and partners.

- As it should be for these projects and a clear strategy, which includes the involvement of local communities and governments.
- It was also during this stage propose a special design of a national system for monitoring and surveillance and early warning based on the results of steps 1-4 which takes into account the meteorological stations and other means of monitoring the existing data.
- The system is a combination of remote sensing and field observation, that contributes to the control evaluation of the international early warning known as System (SDS-WAS) at the regional level, which will be held within the regional program under the World Meteorological Organization auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- Local sources
- First, for each exporter areas of sand and dust, it was identified 12 major locations to represent them in this program
- Second regions exporter of dust, were identified two presidents to represent them
- Third: regions exporter of sand, has been the adoption of the infestation area in Salahuddin province

![](_page_54_Figure_0.jpeg)

As for the mainstream public dust storms contained to Iraq where satellite images show that the dust contained the main paths of Iraq coming from the west and northwest

![](_page_55_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### **Regional sources**

- Iraq, like other countries in the region affected by the dust storms cross-border
- due to the similarity of dry conditions and high temperature exposure and vast areas to the problems of desertification and drought.
- According to the results of the climate survey carried out by the national team in collaboration with the Climate Research Center of the body of Meteorology Spanish, as well as the study carried out by the World Meteorological Organization in the framework of the regional program for the fight against sandstorms and of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- Iraq is under dust storms that come from the Syrian desert Iran and Saudi Arabia

| الغبار يأتي لها من (مصدر إقليمي)         | الغبار ينتقل الى (مصدر الى)              | مصادر محلية                            | الدولة          |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dust importer from                       | Dust exporter to                         | local sources                          | Country         |
| سوريا، ايران، السعودية                   | الكويت، السعودية، ايران                  | الجزيرة jazera                         | العراق Iraq     |
| Syria ,Iran , Saudi                      | Kuwait , Saudi , Iran                    | حوض الحماد العراقي                     |                 |
|                                          |                                          | الأحزمة الرملية في الشرق والوسط (السهل |                 |
|                                          |                                          | الرسوبي) والغرب                        |                 |
| شمال افريقيا، شبه الجزيرة العربية        | العراق, الأردن, تركيا, Iraq , Jordan     | منطقة البادية                          | سوريا Syria     |
|                                          | Turkey                                   |                                        |                 |
| شمال افريقيا، شبه الجزيرة العربية (رياح  | العراق Iraq                              | منطقة البادية                          | الأردن Jordan   |
| الخماسين)                                |                                          |                                        |                 |
| شمال افريقيا، الصحراء الكبرى. الأردن،    |                                          | اناضوليا (ناتج عن تدهور التربة)        | ترکیا Turkey    |
| السعودية، سوريا، مناطق شمال الفرات في    |                                          |                                        |                 |
| العراق                                   |                                          |                                        |                 |
| سوريا, الأردن (امتداد صحراء النفود),     | الإمارات, ايران, البحرين, الكويت، العراق | عدة مواقع في الوسط والشمال الشرقي      | السعودية Saudi  |
| العراق, السودان, عمان, الإمارات, اليمن   | Emirates , Iran , Bahrain , Kuwait ,     |                                        |                 |
| Iraq, sudan, oman, emirates,             | Iraq                                     |                                        |                 |
| العراق, ايران, السعودية                  | محدود                                    | مواقع صغيرة المساحة                    | الكويت Kuwait   |
| العراق, السعودية, المنطقة بين بحر الأرال | العراق, الإمارات, عمان Emirates , Iraq   | مواقع في غرب ووسط وشرق ايران           | ایران Iran      |
| وقزوين, تركمانستان وحوض السيستان         | Oman                                     |                                        |                 |
| العراق, السعودية, ايران                  | محدودة Limited                           | محدودة                                 | البحرين Bahrain |
| العراق, السعودية, ايران                  | محدودة Limited                           | محدودة                                 | قطر Qater       |
| Source: Adapted from                     | published scientific res                 | earch and studies carri                | ed out by the   |
| national project for Irac                | q and the ) regional an                  | ti-executed by the Unite               | ed Nations      |

Environment Drearomme duct

- There is a dynamic rather complex for transfer dust from state to state based on the system, climatic conditions and the direction and intensity of the wind.
- Therefore, the presence of regional cooperation between these countries is a key demand to address the cross-border problem.
- The initial phase Important To learn more about this dynamic, roads and places of treatment,
- The regional cooperation should focus on the establishment of a regional system for measuring, monitoring and assessment and early warning, in addition to the exchange of information and experiences and scientific research cooperation.

As for the mainstream public dust storms contained to Iraq where satellite images show that the dust contained the main paths of Iraq coming from the west and northwest

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_4.jpeg)

| إسم المشروع:                 | تثبيت الكثبان الرملية في منطقة السهل الرسوبي ضمن محافظات واسط – ذي قار – القادسية – المثنى sand dune stabilization |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| سم الموقع                    | الحزام الرملي الوسطي                                                                                               | ing Central                                                                                                      | Belt sand                                                                                       |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | خارطة الموقع                                                                                                     |                                                                                                 |  |
| نوع المشروع:<br>therapeutic  | وقائي 🛛 🗆<br>🗹 علاجي 🗋 تأقلمي                                                                                      |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
|                              | _مؤسسى<br>استثمارى                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
| عمر المشروع                  | 10 yearsسنة                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
| لكلفة التقديرية للمشروع:     | 100 مليون دولار امريکي                                                                                             | مساحة المشروع                                                                                                    | 1.5 مليون دونم                                                                                  |  |
| المشاكل التي سيعمل المشروع   | على حلها                                                                                                           | cities Reduce the chances of -                                                                                   | Reduce sand towards projects and                                                                |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | vironment in the region and                                                                                      | dust phenomenon Improve the e                                                                   |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | sorb unemployment Enable                                                                                         | the province Create jobs and a                                                                  |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | farmers to exploit their land                                                                                    |                                                                                                 |  |
| لأنشطة المقترحة              |                                                                                                                    | <ul> <li>ـ تغطية طينية وزراعة نباتات متحملة للجفاف والملوح</li> </ul>                                            | ، حفر ابار                                                                                      |  |
| النتائج المتةقعة             |                                                                                                                    | ction of a downstream Protection                                                                                 | Protection trocar Euphrates west Prot،                                                          |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | nsportation routes. Reduce road                                                                                  | Highway (Diwaniya, Nasiriya) Protect tr                                                         |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | of movement costs Minimize the                                                                                   | maintenance mechanisms and freedom                                                              |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | ease the total agricultural                                                                                      | impact on agricultural land and thus inc                                                        |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | and sand storms and thus reduce the                                                                              | production Reduce the chances of dust                                                           |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | ing the sand and stop its advance                                                                                | negative effects on human health Instal                                                         |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    | a sustainable resource requirements                                                                              | and protect the affected projects Reach                                                         |  |
|                              |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                  | Improve environmental conditions                                                                |  |
| طرق التنفيذ                  |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
| لتمويل                       |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |  |
| المستهدفون والمستفيدون والمو | سسات ذات العلاقة                                                                                                   | he ministries of environment, health, agriculture civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations | The population of the region and the province and and water resources, housing and construction |  |