



Proposal for Symposium on Constructed Wetlands

Title: Wetlands for Our Common Future

Organized by: University of Sulaimani

Date and Time: February 2, 2025, at 11:00 AM

Venue: Congress Hall

Introduction

Under the theme “Wetlands for Our Common Future,” the University of Sulaimani (UoS) invites stakeholders to commemorate the International Day of Wetlands by emphasizing the critical role wetlands play in preserving ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable water management. The symposium will highlight UoS’s Constructed Wetland Project which has been implemented by College of Engineering and College Environmental Sciences in collaboration with WFP, as a testament to innovative collaboration between academia, community, and global organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP). The event aims to inspire actionable solutions to address the challenges and opportunities associated with wetland conservation and restoration.

Objectives:

1. Highlight the environmental and socio-economic importance of wetlands.
2. Present UoS’s Constructed Wetland Project as a model for ecological and community resilience.
3. Foster dialogue and partnerships for sustainable wetland management in KRI.
4. Promote policies and practices supporting constructing wetland.



Agenda:

Opening Remarks:(11:00 11:10 AM)

- Session 1:

Documentary Screening (11:10 AM - 11:30 AM)

“The Story of the UoS and WFP Constructed Wetland”:

A short documentary showcasing the vision, achievements, and impact of UoS’s Constructed Wetland Project.

- Session 2:

Presentations: (11:30 AM - 12:00 AM)

UoS, Constructed Wetland as Natural Base Solution by Using Phytotechnology.

By: Dr. Zhino Khalid Mohammed

Dr. Zeren Jamal Ghafoor

- Session 3: Panel Discussion (12:00 PM - 12:40 PM)

Moderator: **Razan Omar Ali**, coordinator of UoS-Mobility Office

Panelists:

- **Director of Water Resources, KRI:** Discussing wetlands in regional water strategies and in the context of development planning.

By: Dr. Karwan Sabah Hawrmi, General Directory of Water Resources Ministry

- **UoS Constructed Wetland Technical Team:** Sharing the challenges and success stories of the project. **By : Dr. Ako Rashid Hama**

- **WFP Representative:** Constructing wetland impacts globally and nationally, specifically in Iraq. **by : William OKOYO, Resilience & Climate Change Coordinator**

Networking (12:40 PM - 1 PM)

**Target Audience:**

1. Decision maker of Iraq and KRI
2. Ministry of Environment-Iraq
3. KRI University presidents
4. Local farmers and community members.
5. Representatives from KRG's Agriculture, Water Resources, and Planning Directorates.
6. NGOs, international organizations, and private sector contributors to environmental conservation.
7. UoS students, faculty, and researchers

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced understanding of wetlands' role in sustainable development and environmental protection.
2. Sharing of knowledge and best practices among experts, stakeholders, and communities.
3. Policy proposals for integrating wetland technologies into agricultural and water planning in KRI.
4. Strengthened partnerships between local and global stakeholders to scale wetland conservation efforts.

Logistics and Budget:**Duties of the partners:****1. University of Sulaimani:****● Technical Team:**

- Manage live streaming and recording of sessions.
- Assist speakers with their presentations and any technical needs.

● Protocol Office:

- Coordinate the official agenda and schedule of the symposium.
- Manage invitations and communications with dignitaries and special guests.
- Ensure adherence to formal protocols during the event.

● University and community coordination center:

- Provide logistical support, including venue arrangements and facilities. (Congress hall)
- Facilitate collaboration between different departments and stakeholders involved in the event.



- Ensure compliance with university policies and standards throughout the planning and execution of the symposium.
- Accommodation for speakers and panelists
- **Media and Website office**
 - Promote the symposium through university channels and networks.
 - Wetland documentary production

The symposium on constructed wetlands aligns with several

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as follows:

1. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Wetlands are crucial for water purification, natural filtration, and water management. The activity emphasizes sustainable water resource use and wetland conservation to ensure clean water availability.

2. SDG 13: Climate Action

- Constructed wetlands help mitigate the impacts of climate change by acting as carbon sinks and enhancing ecosystem resilience. Highlighting these benefits promotes adaptive and mitigation strategies.

3. SDG 15: Life on Land

- Wetlands contribute to biodiversity by providing habitats for various species. The symposium focuses on protecting and restoring these ecosystems to support life on land.

4. SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- By promoting sustainable wetland-integrated agriculture, the symposium addresses water management for farming, enhancing productivity, and food security.

5. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Protecting wetlands ensures sustainable ecosystems for surrounding communities, reducing environmental risks like flooding and droughts.

6. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- The collaboration between the University of Sulaimani, WFP, governmental bodies, farmers, and local stakeholders exemplifies the spirit of partnerships crucial for achieving the SDGs.