



Al-Mustaqbal University



The Funded Project:

**"The Role of Universities in Facing the
Challenges of Climate Change"**

Interim Report

07-03-2024

The Department of Scientific Affairs

Al-Mustaqbal University

Contact info: tariq.jwad@uomus.edu.iq

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Project Overview

Introduction:

Al-Mustaqbal University is a pioneer among Iraq's universities, committed to achieving excellence in education and scientific research. Its efforts are based on a firm belief in the role of universities in addressing the problem of climate change and its clear impact on the environment and society. Based on the great interest that Al-Mustaqbal University attaches to supporting researchers and supporting qualitative research projects that serve sustainable development with all its seventeen goals and the firm belief in the positive role that universities can play in addressing the problem of climate change and its impact on the environment and society, the university supports the research project entitled:

"The Role of Universities in Facing the Challenges of Climate Change"

The project has been launched on 02 January 2024 and expected to end on 31st Aug. 2024. It aims to achieve distinguished research successes and publish joint research between the Al-Mustaqbal University and prestigious international universities and in high-level journals, as well as participation in international conferences on climate change within the specifications mentioned in the tables below.

Through this research project, Al-Mustaqbal University promotes international cooperation through joint research engagement with prestigious international universities. The university seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable and effective solutions to address challenges related to climate change, and to encourage scientific dialogue on the international stage.

This report highlights the achievements of this project up to 07-03-2027 with a focus on the research and the collaboration activities that have been conducted.

Project Progress



Progress and achievements

At the end of the third month of the project, 87 points out of 130 points were achieved.



الجدول 4: المخرجات من المشروع البحثي (يجب ان جمع 130 نقطة او اكثر)

ت	نوع الفعالية	العدد	مجموع النقاط
1	بحوث سكوبس Q1 (10 نقاط)	8	80
2	المشاركة في مؤتمر تخصصي و عام (20 نقطة)	2	40
3	عمل ندوات و ورش داخل الجامعة (5 نقاط)	4	20
4	أستاذ زائر لجامعة اجنبية (20 نقطة)	1	20
5	حملات توعية + نشاطات أخرى (2 نقطة)	5	10
المجموع			170 نقطة


ملاحظة: في حالة عدم تحقيق نقاط احد الفقرات أعلاه فيتم تعويضها بفعالية أخرى لتعويض النقص بالنقاط ان لا يزيد عدد البحوث عن 8 بحث.

Part 1: The achievements in Research Publications


Number of Points: 24

As part of this project is to successfully publish number of scientific publications that focusing on the climate change reduction means such as the transition to the renewable energy and water reuse. As up to March 2024, three successful research articles were published in peer-reviewed with high impact journals. The details of these publications are explained below:


1. A comprehensive review of international renewable energy growth.

Journal	Publisher	Impact Factor	SDGs achieved	Publication URL
Energy and Built Environment	Elsevier	12.4	7,8,9,13,17	

2. Evaluating energy, economic, and environmental aspects of solar-wind-biomass systems to identify optimal locations in Iraq: A GIS-based case study.

Journal	Publisher	Impact Factor	SDGs achieved	Publication URL
Energy for Sustainable Development	Elsevier	5.5	7,13,17	

3. The renewable energy role in the global energy transition.

Journal	Publisher	Impact Factor	SDGs achieved	Publication URL
Renewable Energy Focus	Elsevier	4.8	7,13,17	

Part 2: Conferences and Forums

Number of Points: 40

One of the key objectives of this project is to participate in international conferences that can assist Al-Mustaqbal University to raise the international reputation of the university to spread its efforts in tackling the climate change regionally and globally. The attended conferences are explained below:

1. The MENA Reputation Forum, Al-Ain, UAE, 13 February 2024.

The inaugural [THE MENA Reputation Forum](#) brought together thought leaders from across the region and beyond to discuss the importance of building and maintaining institutional reputation within a global context. Delegates discussed strategies and best practice around reputation, branding, communications, and marketing. Keynotes, panel discussions and case study sessions explored the vital role that reputation plays in the success of an institution. The event uncovered the connection between reputation and rankings and delivered strategies for establishing your university brand in a crowded and dynamic landscape. Delegates learned about how they can manage and measure reputation, and use it to enhance communication with prospective students, alumni, and donors.

Dr Tariq Jawad Kadhim, Head of Scientific Affairs at Al-Mustaqbal University, has attended the event and made significant networking with other attendees. There was deep negotiation and discussions about the role of the university in achieving SDGs and reducing the effects of climate change in Iraq.



2. The Third Arabic Forum of The Effective Institutional Development to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. AL-Sharjah, UAE, 07-09 February 2024.

This event is organised by Arab Administrative Development Organization. The objective of the event is to highlight approaches and policies to develop and strengthen government institutional capabilities in a way that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.



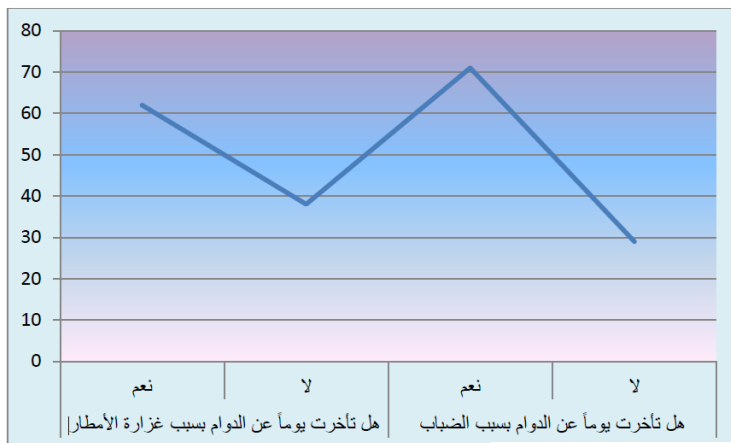
Part 3: Applied Studies

Number of Points: 8

Climate changes and their impact on working women in Babil Governorate

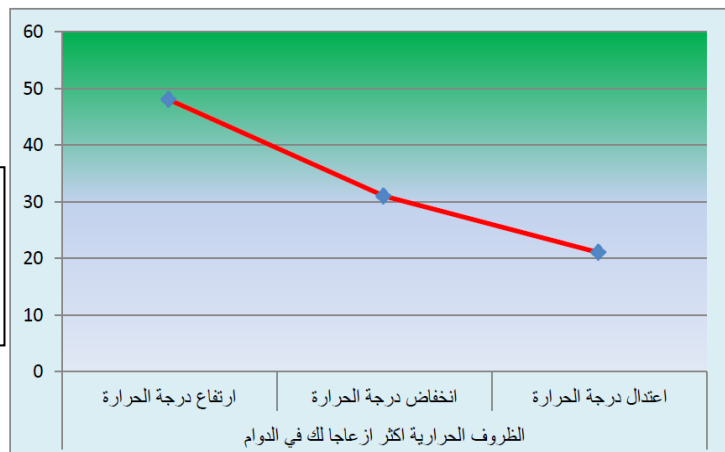
Study Overview

The study seeks to demonstrate the extent of the impact of climate change on the activity of working women as one of the most important workforces in work environments within the study area. This was done by relying on a questionnaire that was distributed in an intentional random manner to working women who are in work environments varying between closed and open, relying on the equation (Stephen Thamson), where the research revealed that the extent of the impact of climate change was clear and had different dimensions, as the increase in the severity of climate phenomena and heat waves had an impact on the health and activity of working women, as well as early and late arrival to the workplace and other professional repercussions for women in Babil Governorate.



The delay in arriving to workplace due to weather conditions.

The most uncomfortable weather conditions for the responders' women



الظروف الحرارية أكثر ازعاجاً لك في الدوام

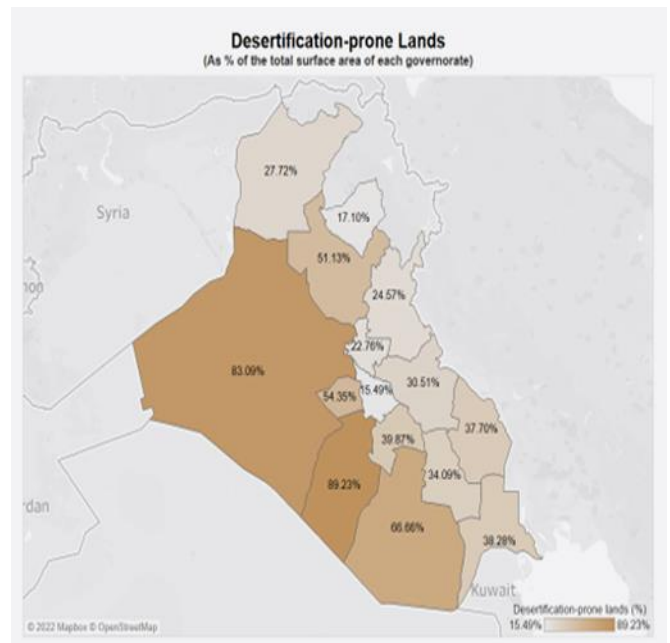
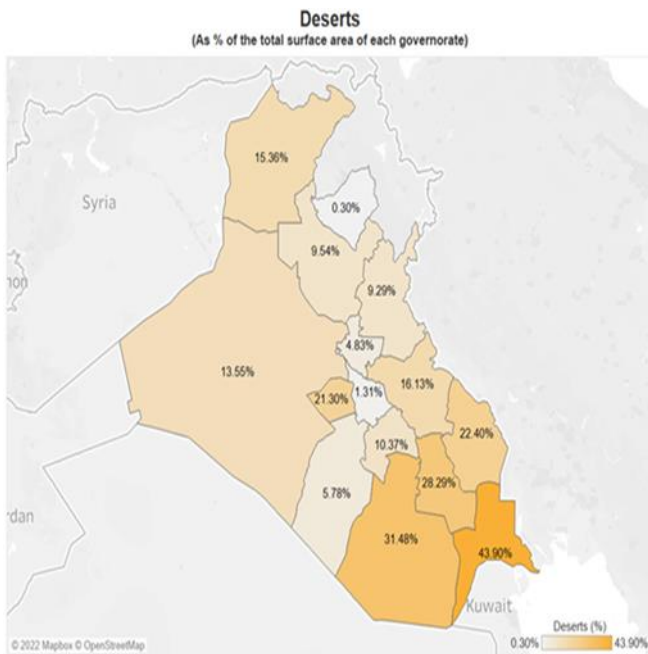
Part 4: TWO Trees Planting Campaigns

Number of Points: 10

Overview

Iraq, once the lush breadbasket of Mesopotamia, now grasps with the tightening grip of climate change. Rising temperatures parch-thirsty land, transforming fertile fields into dusty plains. The Tigris and Euphrates, lifelines for millennia, shrink to mere threads, leaving farmers staring at cracked earth and dwindling livelihoods. Desertification creeps like a malevolent shadow, swallowing villages and displacing communities. This water crisis is not just environmental; it's a societal earthquake, threatening food security, fueling social unrest, and casting a long shadow over Iraq's future.

In Iraq, desertification is a complex issue driven by a combination of climate-related factors and human-induced actions. Climate elements such as high temperatures, water scarcity, and soil erosion contribute significantly to the problem. However, human activities, including population growth, unregulated tree felling leading to deforestation, poor water management, and inefficient farming practices, exacerbate the issue.



During the active academic life of a university campus, there is a powerful tool for combatting climate change and fostering a healthy environment: trees. Their leafy presence isn't simply an aesthetic touch; it's a strategic investment in the fight against global warming and aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By acting as natural carbon sinks, campus trees devour harmful greenhouse gases, contributing directly to SDG 13 on Climate Action. A mature tree can absorb nearly 48 pounds of carbon dioxide annually, offsetting emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This leafy network cools the urban environment, aligning with SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities by reducing the urban heat island effect and improving air quality. Cooler temperatures and cleaner air translate to healthier communities, directly impacting SDG 3 on Health and Well-being.

Planting trees on a university campus is a tangible step towards a sustainable future. It tackles climate change head-on, promotes health and well-being, fosters environmental responsibility, and empowers communities – all while creating a vibrant and flourishing campus ecosystem. By nurturing these verdant sanctuaries, universities can rewrite the narrative of their role in the world, becoming not just centers of knowledge, but also beacons of environmental action and positive change.

Campaign 1:

Al-Mustaqbal University in collaboration with Babylon Agriculture Directorate and under the supervision of Al-Mustaqbal University President Prof. Dr. Hasan Shaker Majdi organized and campaign to plant over 160 evergreen trees of different species including Eucalyptus, Casuarina, Dodonaea, and Albizia over an estimated area of 400 m². The species was chosen carefully based on their different merits including water consumption and drought resistance. This campaign is part of the university's effort towards combating climate change and achieving United Nations sustainable development goals.



Campaign 2:

The Department of Scientific Affairs and the Sustainability Division organized a campaign to plant a variety of environmentally friendly plants in the outer space of Hilla High School for Excellence, in which many teachers and students participated, stressing that a good school environment is an integral part of the educational process.

This step comes as part of the Al-Mustaqbal's funded project which entitled "**The role of the universities to reduce the effects of the climate change.**" Ongoing efforts to promote awareness of sustainability and its importance among students, faculty, and the local community. This initiative has been well received by the school's members, highlighting the effective role that universities can play in promoting healthy and sustainable environmental behaviours. The school students and the educational supervisor of Hilla High School for Excellence also thanked Al-Mustaqbal University for organizing this qualitative activity, which aims to achieve the edge of climate change impacts reduction.

These efforts come within the framework of the vision of Al-Mustaqbal University to be a pioneer in the field of sustainability and environmental preservation and constitute an important step towards building a society more aware of environmental issues and sustainable development.



Part5: Workshops & Seminars

Number of Points: 5

Workshop Name	Globally Sustainable Universities
Date	Saturday, 17-2-2024
Venue	Artificial Intelligence Research Centre
Speaker	Prof. Dr Ahmed Abdel Aal from Al-Muthanna University
Session Chair	Tariq Jawad Kadhim
Brief	The workshop was held in the Artificial Intelligence research center Hall, given by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Aal from Muthana University, representing the Green Metric Foundation, entitled "Globally Sustainable Universities". The workshop witnessed lively discussions and exchange of ideas on enhancing the commitment of universities to sustainability, and discussing the good results obtained by the university in the Green Metric Ranking. He also discussed the steps to be taken to maintain these results, especially after the increase in the number of universities competing in international rankings. Workshop has witnessed the participation of many personalities and professors from different disciplines.





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