

# **GEOGRAPHICAL AND POPULATION SESSION**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL & SOCIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE MARSH ARABS  
& NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF NON-RETURNS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The Arabs of the marsh were subjected to severe injustice and total neglect through the long history of the country; this had led to great influence upon the personality of the Arabs of the marshes with the arising problems of ease of severity of reactions due to the severity and isolation of their environment. This problem has persisted till now, in spite of the migration of the Arabs into the nearby villages and towns due to dryness of the marshes and genocide.

## **EFFECT OF MARSHLANDS DRAINAGE ON LOCAL DUST FALLOUT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research has been conducted to study the effects of southern Iraqi marshlands desiccation on the amount of dust fallout on the Basrah area, due to the soil physical and chemical degradations and the enhancement of wind erosion and dust storms in the desiccated marshlands. Three wind-erosion-affected places were chosen (Abu Al-Khasseb, Al-Zubair and Um-Qasr) as study stations. The results showed that a significant increase in the amounts of dust fallout after the desiccating process had reached 9.44, 23.88 and 24.78 gm m<sup>-2</sup> (1974-1979), 36.70, 53.88 and 52.74 gm m<sup>-2</sup> (1992-1999) and 171.50, 489.50 and 432.30 gm m<sup>-2</sup> (2000-2004) for Abu Al-Khasseb, Zubair and Um Qasr stations, respectively. The data also showed that the falling dust amount was highest in Um Qasr followed by Al-Zubair then Abu Al-Khasseb throughout May to August as compared to the rest of the months in the studied periods. The results also showed that the dust texture is similar to the desiccated marshland soil texture and the amount of raised dust and the action of dust storms has increased after the desiccating process.

## **AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF THE LAND COVER CHANGES IN THE SOUTHERN IRAQ MARSHES DURING 2003-2006**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper aimed at recording the dramatic environmental changes involved in the southern Iraqi marshlands over the last 30 years, with the emphasis on land cover changes such as natural vegetation (hydrophytes and xerophytes) and water bodies during the last period 2003-2006. According to IMOS/UNEP, about 100 maps and images have been analyzed by spectral analysis based on both remote sensing and GIS techniques; for monitoring the most significant ecological evolutions occurring in the marshlands during this critical period. Thus, the present analysis is based on seasonal variation in order to link the resulting environmental changes to both flooding and drying seasons in Iraqi rivers. The conclusions are as follows: As a result of the re-flooding, rapid landcover changes in the marshes have occurred since 2003. Both the density of hydrophytes and the extent of water have increased. There seems to be little correlation between flooding and drying seasons and the land cover changes in the marshes. However, there is a possibility that swamps could replace marshes unless the reflooding process involves considerable amounts of water as well as suitable environmental conditions.

## **THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES ON THE DIRECTION OF THE THI-QAR PROVINCE CLIMATE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The climate of Iraq has undergone changes that are considered as a disaster for the country, most of which is considered arid or semiarid. Most of its lands get 200 mm minimum rain yearly. Thi-Qar province was also exposed to many ecological changes because of drying of marshes, reduction of agricultural lands, and an increased number of enterprises that cause increased concentrations of air pollution. These changes have caused large and expected changes in the climatic properties of Thi-Qar Province. So we studied the properties and directions of temperature, relative humidity, and suspended dust through the 20th century and estimated the changes and their future directions until 2015.

**THE CHANGING OF SIZE OF THE POPULATION IN AL-AHWAR AREA IN  
THE SOUTH OF IRAQ**

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**ABSTRACT**

The problem that this study addresses is that censuses in Iraq mix between rural, urban, and Al-Ahwar people because of the administrative unity. They consider Al-Ahwar people as rural, while in reality they are not so. If we rely on the annual rate of population growth as being 2.5%, then we estimate the population of the Al-Ahwar region will reach about one million people in 2025.

**MIGRATION REASONS IN THE MARSHLANDS: A COMPARISON  
BETWEEN 1980s AND 1990s**

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**ABSTRACT**

It is a common case all over the world that migrations differ in terms of type, number of migrated people, and in the causes of migration, which in most cases are economic, are different than what we mention above in accord with its special location of the Al-Ahwar marsh region among three provinces and bordering with the Iranian frontier. In the 1980s and 1990s decades there were many historical events that affected the life of the people and caused them to immigrate to neighbouring areas and seek housing there, where they lived in miserable health and social conditions. This paper compares the effects of the two immigrations that occurred in those two decades; damages during the 1990s were more enormous both in terms of environment and general quality of human life.