

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MOUNTAINS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Towards
Halgurd Sakran National Park
Kurdistan Region
Iraq**

Abdulwahid Gwany
Steering Board Director



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Towards Halgurd Sakran National Park



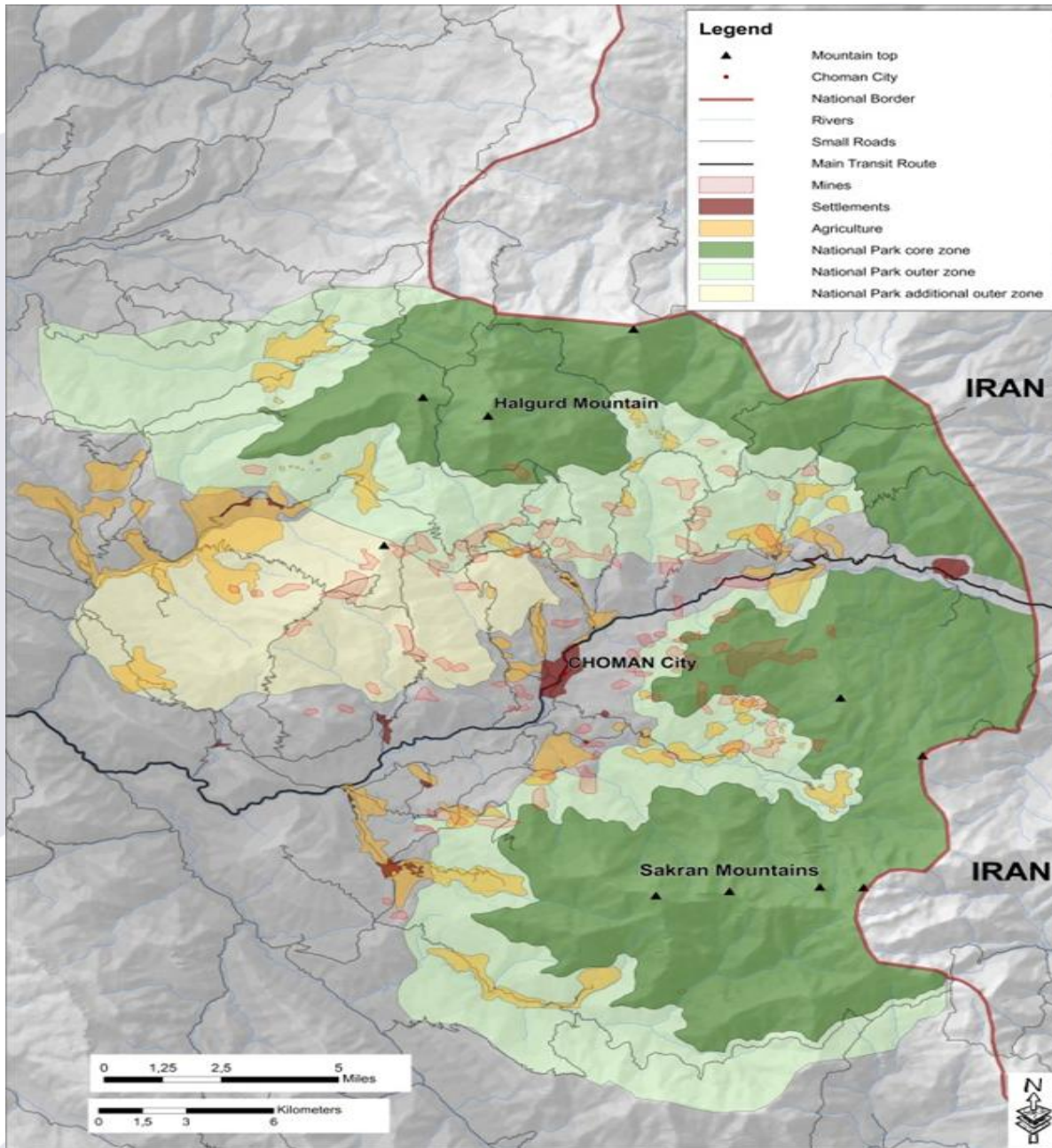
The First Flower People



- The Sakran Mountain Range as a part of Zagros mountain range, famous for the spectacular and impressive rock formation, beautiful valleys and mountain meadows with multitude of wild flora and fauna.
- Halgurd and Sakran Mountains are part of one of the most unspoiled areas in Kurdistan; the high elevations ensure that snow covers some parts of the summits of the highest peaks all years around .



Irano-Anatolian Sub-region (Original map by Conservation International)



Preliminary approach for delineation and zoning of the envisaged Halgurd Sakran National Park in mountain areas around the city of Choman, identified using modern technology.

A Brief History: “The First Flower People”

- Kurdistan represents Upper Mesopotamia since its deep prehistoric times; and has lit the candle both for mankind and civilization,
- The site of Shanidar Cave is located adjacent to HSNP in which Neanderthal hunters lived as long as 43000 years ago,
- Two clusters of human fossils were discovered at the Shanidar cave between 1953 and 1960 provide information on the geographic range of Neanderthals ,
- **“flower burial”**, The skeleton of an adult was discovered in 1960 and fossils of flowering plants was discovered nearby, evidence that the cave had multi purpose usage; this how the Kurds came to be called “The First Flower People”



- In the past, Kurdish people lived in harmony with, and had sympathy for nature,
- however, during the years of war in the area and early invasions of Kurdistan, much of the natural heritage suffered devastating destruction.



- today, Kurdistan Region Government collaborate with international organizations and developed countries in attempts to reinstate natural habitats for re-introduction of its flora and fauna.



In the spirit of Sheikh Ahmed Barzani (1896–1969)



- The Kurdistan Region intends to:
- Strengthen conservation of its natural values, by
 - Establishing a system of Protected Areas in Soran Region;
 - In the spirit of Sheikh Ahmed Barzani, who first introduced a still vital nature conservation scheme in Barzan area of Kurdistan as early as the first quarter of 20th century.



photo: Mohammad Barzani

The Rich Biodiversity of the Area

The great diversity of natural habitats in the envisaged Halgurd Sakran National Park enables the many species of animals and plants that are rare, or near extinct elsewhere, to survive and re-generate in the environment in which they originated.

Within the proposed HSNP area existing high species Diversity

In the proposed HSNP you will also find A multitude of vertebrate species (e.g. lynx, leopard brown bear, martins, wolf, mountain goats, as well as reptile and many species of birds, a long with diverse invertebrate fauna and a great variety of plants.



Bio multiplicity



Ecotourism

- The national park is also intended to serve as a carefully managed recreational space.
- The visitor will find a variety of natural land landscapes which are already becoming well known in Iraq but it is intended to also attract foreign visitors so increasing ecotourism to the area.
- It is proposed to invest in facilities such as cable cars and possible mountain climbing facilities as well as skiing,
- The Visitor Center will provide information on the cultural and historical heritage of the area and of Kurdistan.





Our culture





The Beauty of Our country





Our simplicity in life





Our Activities

Now is a great chance to give a special thanks to our main and collaborators; AIT(Austrian), EV-K2-CNR(Italy), JANNY RESOORT(Netherland), Nature Iraq and Soran University, At the beginning of this project for developing Halgurd Sakran National park, they provided a great help, as did Erbil Governorate who has given and continues to give at the financial support.



Erbil Governorate



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Overall

We want:

- To cooperate with international community to enhance the global environment as well as maintain it,
- To have our presence on the world's map to be aware of and monitor the climate change.
- despite there was no concern for natural values and the environmental degradation is in a high rank, the totalitarian governments have become a reason to destroy natural values of environment, we want to be a significant start in the Middle East in improving the environment.
- The Kurdistan Region to be a significant player, even as a small region, in the spreading out the concept of keeping a clean and safe environment and to set the benchmark for the Middle East
- To be a significant 'bridge builder' for cultural and experience exchange between 'Third World' and economically developed countries with regard to respect and care of nature and environment.

Contact

Halgurd Sakran National Park Office

Abdulwahid Gwany

Choman / Iraqi Kurdistan Region

Mob. 00964 (0)750 4474527

Email: gwany@hs-nationalpark.org

info@hs-nationalnationalpark.org

dlzar@hs-nationalpark.org

www.hs-nationalpark.org