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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Save the Tigris and Iraqi Marshes Campaign

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Part of an international effort to save and protect the world heritage on the Tigris River, particularly Hasankeyf and the Marshlands of Mesopotamia in south Iraq) from the impacts of the Ilisu Dam, to protect Iraqi water infrastructure and to provide sustainable water policies in Iraq in times of crisis

Revision 2, February 2015

1.   Definition

Save the Tigris and the Iraqi Marshes is an advocacy campaign that started in March 2012 by a coalition of civil society organisations from Iraq, Turkey and Iran. The campaign is part of an international effort to Save the World Heritage on the Tigris River from the impacts of the Ilisu Dam- a project being constructed on the Tigris River by the Turkish government. The campaign will seek links to other groups and movements concerned with the adverse impacts of dams and other projects on the Trigris and Euphrates, including dams in Iran, in order to press for policies that secure the sustainable and equitable use of water for all who live in the region, including opposing the privatisation and commodification of water supplies. The initial focus of the ampaign was the protection of Hasankeyf, the ancient settlement located in the southeast Turkey, and the Marshlands of

Mesopotamia in south Iraq. Recently, following the security crisis in Iraq and the boader region, the scope of the campaign has been expanded to include the protection of Iraqi water infrastructure in times of conflict, and to guarantee the access to safe water to all people of Iraq. Recognizing that there are multiple challenges to water resources in Iraq, the campaign works to draw attention to the negative impact of dams and in particular Ilisu Dam on the Iraqi side, the need of sustainable water policies, and to develop advocacy and awareness activities that involve all relevant actors: local communities; civil society organisations; media; national and local institutions; societies of experts and intellectuals; research centres; universities and others.

The campaign name in English is **Save the Tigris and Iraqi Marshes (STIM).** The name in Arabic is: حملة انقاذ نهر دجلة و الاهوار

2. Campaign Goal

2.1 Challenge

The construction of the Ilisu Dam in southeast Turkey is proceeding without a dialogue with the local communities along the Tigris River or with the Iraqi government, and without taking in consideration the impact on the Iraqis' right to water, or the environmental, cultural and economical consequences. The Ilisu Dam will be the biggest dam on the Tigris River and will significantly reduce the amount of water that Iraq receives, having significant social, environmental, and cultural heritage impacts in Iraq.

Meanwhile, the political and security crisis in Syria and Iraq has caused water issues to be pushed to the margins of political discourse, without any clear water policies. Syrian and Iraqi water infrastructure is exposed to armed threats from one or more of the parties in the current conflict, occurring in both Iraq and Syria. Water is deliberately used as a tool for controlling armed conflict.

2.2 General Objectives

> 2.2. 1 To advocate at the national and international level stopping the construction of the Ilisu Dam and other big dams until negotiations between riparian states are convened on equitable shares of water in accordance with international law and in consultation with local communities.

> 2.2.2 To advocate that the Iraqi government develops policies that address transboundary water issues, specifically addressing the Ilisu Dam and other big dams and negotiating with riparian states in accordance with international law and conventions for equitable shares of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

2.2.3 To raise awareness among Iraqi citizens and the international community about the socioeconomic, natural and cultural impacts of the Ilisu Dam in Iraq, Turkey and the region.

2.2.4 To demand that UNESCO work actively, transparently and in a timely manner to protect cultural heritage sites in Iraq, especially the Iraqi Marshlands.

2.2.5 To spread awareness internationally on the cultural and environmental heritage of the marshlands.

2.2.6. To advocate on national and international level for the protection of Iraqi water infrastructure in times of conflict and for sustainable policies, taking into account water scarcity and guaranteeing safe access to water for all Iraqi's.

2.3 Specific Objectives

2.3.1 To demand the establishment of a water crisis group that includes water and environment experts, government, parliament and civil society representatives to work for immediate negotiations with Turkey to suspend construction of Ilisu until a thorough study is made concerning its impacts in Iraq.

2.3.2 To explore legal action against all companies and banks involved in the financing or construction of Ilisu to hold them accountable for the damages to Iraq due to the Ilisu Dam. This effort will be coordinated with legal actions of the Turkish partner.

2.3.3. To advocate that the Committee for the Submission of the Central Marshes to UNESCO report on its findings to the Iraqi public and bring its recommendations to UNESCO within one year or less, no later than June 2013.

2.3.4 To raise awareness internationally on the value of the cultural and environmental heritage of the Marshes.

2.3.5 To raise Iraqi people's and the international community's awareness of the Ilisu Dam's impact on Iraqi water resources by using social networks and organizing events and other activities. Iraqi people will be also sensitized to the impact of the Dam in Turkey, and on the site of Hasankeyf.

2.3.6. To demand from the Iraqi government immediate humanitarian assistance to displaced persons within Iraq, especially with regards to water, food and sanitation, to establish a crisis and post-crisis water policy, to adhere to UN development goals, and to plan the rehabilitation of water infrastructure

2.3.7 To raise Iraqi citizens' and the international community's awareness of the threats to Iraqi water resources posed by large dams such as Ilisu in Turkey as well as dams within Iraq

2.3.8 To raise international awarenss on the conditions of Iraq's rivers and water infrastructure amidst the current security crisis.

3. Campaign Members

This campaign is open to new members that agree on the spirit of the campaign and approve the objectives of the campaign and the principles set out in this TOR. New members may include NGOs, networks, social movements and individuals.

3.1 Founding Campaign Partners:

1- Center for Sustainable Development	CENESTA	Tehran	Iran	http://www.cenesta.org/
2- Civil Development Organization	CDO	Sulaymaniyah	Iraq-KRG	http://www.cdo-iraq.org/English.aspx
3- Initiative to Keep Hasankeyf Alive	--	--	Turkey	http://www.hasankeyfgirisimi.com/en/index.htm
4- Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative	ICSSI	--	Iraq+ International	http://www.iraqicivilsociety.org/
5- People of Iraq Campaign To Save the Tigris	IPCST	Baghdad	Iraq	http://www.facebook.com/groups/Tigrisxilleso/
6- Un Ponte Per	UPP	Rome	Italy	http://www.unponteper.it/
7- Corner House	--	Newton	UK	http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/
8- Counter Current	--	--	Germany	http://www.gegenstroemung.org/drupal/
9- Environmental Defender Law Center	--	Montana	USA	www.edlc.org

3.2 New Members NGOs, networks and social movements:

1- Tammuz Organization for Social Development	--	Baghdad	Iraq	www.tammuz.net/english/index-e.htm

3.3 New members–Individuals: this includes resource persons, consultants, experts, honorary members and volunteers:

See attached list

3.4 Rights and responsibilities of the members

3.4.1   To participate in the general assembly and to propose ideas or activities

3.4.2   To participate in discussions about strategy

3.4.3   To be informed about the decisions of the steering committee regarding the direction of the campaign

3.4.4   To be committed to the goals and objectives of the campaign

3.4.5   To implement the campaign strategy

3.4.6   To stay within the strategy of the campaign

3.4.7   To participate in the campaign activities

3.4.8   Members may represent the campaign with officials, during public events or with media and other stakeholders only if they coordinate in advance with the steering committee and the chair and adhere to the objectives of the campaign and the principles of this TOR.

4. Ethics and Principles

4.1 Members of the campaign are committed to opposing big dams or other projects that have a negative impact on the environment and on local communities

4.2 Members of the campaign oppose construction of all dams that are not implemented based upon participatory decision making and are built without a comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the environment.

4.3 Members of the campaign oppose using water, and water-related infrastructure, as a weapon of war in times of conflict.

4.4 Members of the campaign must be committed to responsible use of water, supporting water as a shared, public resource, and therefore opposing privatization of water.

4.5 Members of the campaign oppose pollution of rivers in Iraq. They have to be committed to the principles of respect of nature, water resources, and a healthy environment for all.

4.6 Members of the campaign support the restoration and preservation of the f the Marshlands respecting the ways of life of its people and maintaining its natural ecosystem and cultural integrity. Guaranteeing basic services like education and healthcare, while respecting the natural environment of the Marshes. For example, if a

new project is going to be started, it should use materials compatible with the environment.

5. Information Management and Official Documents Of The Campaign to Save the Tigris and the Iraqi Marshlands

5.1 Created documents that represent the opinion of the campaign are to be found on the 'Resources and Documents' page of the Campaign website. These include:

> 5.1.1 General campaign documents
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> 5.1.2 Campaign papers
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> 5.1.3 Power Point presentations
>
> 5.1.4 Press releases of the campaign

5.2 New documents should be agreed according to this TOR

5.3 Blogs and social networks of the members are the information platform for this campaign. However, they don't necessarily represent the official position of this campaign.

5.4 The management of information with media and officials and others should be as per (3.4.8).

6. Steering Committee

The steering committee is the decision making body of the campaign.

6.1 Roles and Responsibilities:

> 6.1.1 To develop and update the strategy of the campaign
>
> 6.1.2 To determine and create an organizational structure that will sustain the campaign and review the goals and objectives, work program, activity schedule, etc.
>
> 6.1.3 To identify, recruit, screen, and select qualified individuals and encourage involvement of new members in the campaign.
>
> 6.1.4 To accept or reject new members (based on background, previous experience of members, and commitment to work on the campaign)
>
> 6.1.5 To determine the self-assessment process that the committee will utilize to develop the action plans.
>
> 6.1.6 To appoint campaign representatives to attend formal meetings

6.1.7 To establish a regular meeting schedule and extend invitations to appropriate meeting participants

6.1.8 To organize general assembly meetings of members of the campaign

6.1.9 To follow up on actions, meetings and any other development related to the campaign

6.1.10 To approve campaigns documents

6.2 Structure of the steering committee (SC)

6.2.1 Meetings of the steering committee are conducted via Internet and can be open to other campaign members if needed

6.2.2 The steering committee is formed from the Partners of the campaign in (3.1) and any other active members co-opted by the SC of the campaign.

6.2.3 SC members should attend all its meetings unless in special cases a member may not attend by informing the others before the meeting.

6.3 Decision making process in the steering committee:

6.3.1 Voting mechanism- every member of the SC has one vote including the chair.

6.3.2 Decisions are taken by SC in consensus to all members. If a consensus is not reached after two meetings, the SC members have to vote and the majority is 50%+1

6.4 The chair of the SC

6.4.1 The chair is selected by the SC members for a term of one year (rotating chair)

6.4.2 The chair has the following responsibilities:

(1) Facilitate communications between other members of the steering committee

(2) Lead meetings to discuss strategy and propose changes

(3)Ensure the steering committee implements the campaign strategy

(4) Ensure that decisions are communicated to the assembly

6.5 Warnings and other forms of regulations

6.5.1 Members of the campaign are working on a voluntary basis because of their interest and commitment to the campaign. Every time there is an activity, members

of the campaign discuss resources and how to share costs of activities. The campaign does not have a budget; it is a combined effort of all members and volunteers.

6.5.2 Steering committee members cannot be paid to be part of the steering committee; their work is voluntary.

7. Assembly of Campaign

7.1 The assembly is a forum that includes all members: NGOs , civil society organizations , social movements and other forms of associations., and individuals such as activists , professionals and academics, that are committed to work on the campaign and to achieve the campaign goals.

7.2 The assembly of the campaign will be informed of events, and will be updated about campaign achievements and progress by email. A mailing list   containing email of members will be used for this purpose.

7.3 The assembly of the campaign will meet whenever it is possible.

7.4 Roles and responsibilities of the assembly are driven form Rights and responsibilities of members (3.4)

8 . Modification of this TOR

It is possible to modify this TOR, Any modification should be agreed to in the steering committee and should clearly contribute to objectives and principles set in this TOR

Adopted and approved in December 2012

Revision 1.0- October 2013- To delete members of the campaign and add new members. Minor typo error corrections.

Revision 2.0 February 2015 – To edit the Campaign definition, campaign goals, general objectives and specific objectives. To edit the information management of the campaign. To delete and add members of the campaign.