



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Heritage Protection, Communities Engagement and Sustainable Development in the Duhok Governorate (Kurdistan Region of Iraq).

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## Abstract

The Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project (LoNAP) of the University of Udine, in close cooperation with the Duhok Directorate of Antiquities & Heritage, has been working on the creation of the “Archaeological Park of the Duhok Governorate Ancient Irrigation System”. The Park will allow the protection and enhancement of a group of unique and extraordinary sites, including the imposing rock reliefs and monumental cuneiform inscriptions commemorating an extensive irrigation system (over 240 km of canals and canalised watercourses) commissioned by King Sennacherib in the early 7th century BCE. The goal is to contribute to the conservation, safeguarding, and management of this ancient hydraulic landscape and to make the archaeological park a significant driver for the development of sustainable archaeological tourism in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. LoNAP has designed and implemented extensive ethnoarchaeological research and a thriving community participation program to support sustainability and inclusivity in the park's creation processes. These initiatives aim to both better understand and improve the local community's perception of the archaeological sites and the work of archaeologists and incorporate their needs and aspirations into the design and implementation of the park.

## Keywords

Heritage Protection, Communities Engagement, Archaeology, Ethnoarchaeology, Sustainable Development

## Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation