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**National List
 Of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Of the Republic of
 Iraq for 2014 and Updating in 2017**

No	Name of an element	Category of an element / ICH domain
1	Nowrouz	Social practices, rituals and festive events
2	Khidr Elias Feast and its Vows	Social practices, rituals and festive events
3	Zachariah Day Celebration	Social practices, rituals and festive events
4	The Provision of Services and Hospitality during the Arba'in Visitation	Social practices, rituals and festive events
5	Al- Muhaibis Game	Social practices, rituals and festive events
6	Murabba'at Songs	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
7	The Palm Tree: Knowledge, Skills, Traditions and Practices	Social practices, rituals and festive events
8	Al- Mudheef	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
9	Al- Dabkka	Performing arts
10	Al- Chobby Dance	Performing arts
11	Al-Ata'aba	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage

12	Al-Abothia	Oral Traditions and Expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
13	Al-Naoor	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
14	Al-Baptizing	Social practices , rituals and festive events
15	Prophet's Birthday Celebrations	Social practices, rituals and festive events
16	Manna Candy Industry	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
17	Al-Mutanabi Street Visitation	Social practices, rituals and festive events
18	Men and Women Abaya	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
19	Arabian Coffee	Social practices , rituals and festive events
20	Art of Crafting and Playing O'ud	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
21	Art Crafting of Al-Mashhoof	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship
22	Al-Ahazeeg	Oral Traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
23	Al-Tuf Al-Husseini Theater	Performing Arts
24	Ashura'a Broth	Social practices, rituals and festive events

25	Al-Daheena Sweet	Skills related to traditional craftsmanship

Inventory card of the ICH element

1. Name of the element

The Palm Tree: Knowledge, Skills, Traditions and Practices

2. Inventory number and date of registration

On 10/April/2017, the element has been inserted in accordance with the sequence (7) of the National List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Iraq for 2014 and updating in 2017.

3. Category and sub-category of the element

- Oral traditions and expressions , including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage .
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals and festive events
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- Traditional craftsmanship .

4. Name of the communities, groups and individuals concerned

The element is practiced by all Iraqi communities, especially the residents of the villages and rural areas, as well as the groups and the individuals who live in the marshes areas (marshes populations) of Iraq.

5. Geographic range of the element

The knowledge, skills, traditions and the practices related to the element are widely spread throughout the Iraqi governorates, particularly Al-Basrah in the south of Iraq, Diyala in the east and the provinces of the middle Euphrates (Karbala'a and Najaf) to the south-west of Iraq, as well as the Iraqi capital (Baghdad). But the element is rarely existed in the northern Iraqi provinces (Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah) because of the mountainous nature of their terrains.

.6. Description of the element

Since the earliest ages, Iraqi people have been so concerned with the plantation of the palm trees. The reason behind this concern can be ascribed basically to the spiritual status of this tree in the hearts of the ancient people who inhabited the land of Mesopotamia like Chaldeans, Assyrians and Babylonians. Most drawings and carvings that were found on the clay tablets during the works of the archeological excavations that were done in different Iraqi cities indicate that

most kings and gods of that time were holding symbols of the palm tree. Moreover, the halls of temples, the cities entrances and the kings thrones were thoroughly decorated by graphics of the palm fronds. Besides, it was also used in their sacred rituals of marriages and in medication as well as a remedy for many diseases of that time, and as a matter of fact that some of these rituals are still used in the Iraqi countryside.

Actually, since the ancient time, Iraqis are preoccupied by the charm, elegance and beauty of the palm tree, since it has unique qualities which scarcely can be existed in other kinds of trees. The concerned community members consider it as a source of goodness and blessing, and they are usually associated it with wisdom, intelligence and energy.

There is no doubt that the palm tree has an active role in the economic lives of tens thousands of farmers, the owners of agricultural lands, dates' marketers and the workers of canning and date pressing..etc, and it also increases the national income through exporting different types of date which exceed (600) kinds to most of the world countries.

The whole Iraqi communities regard the palm tree as a friend of the environment, since one can make use of all its parts in daily life. Starting with date, the Iraqi individual can't do without its existence in his (her) basic food meals especially in Ramadan, since it contains a lot of vitamins, in addition to its high nutritional value. Dates are also used to extract the date honey (Debis) and the natural vinegar, and some kinds of popular sweets (Madkuka, Alhnainy, Samsamia, Klaicha and Albasisa). As for the palm's fronds, they are used in spinning baskets, mattresses, sweepers and handy fans, while the other parts of the palm tree, they are manipulated in making home furniture like chairs, tables, beds, cupboards and birds' cages. Hence, most of Iraqi local people tend to use these pieces of furniture in their houses and public cafes because they are mainly related to the ancient art of Iraqi folklore, and to their cheapness in price in comparison with other types of local or foreign made furniture, and finally, the seeds of the palm are used to produce some types of vegetable oils, and also used as animals feed especially after grinding them.

On the other hand, the palms' groves have a vital role in protection the trees of fruit and vegetables that grow under them from the hotness of summer and coldness of winter, additionally, they work as natural buffers against the sandy storms and high winds.

It is worth mentioning that the palm tree is firmly connected with both, Arabic and religious heritage, since it is an exceptional tree that is mentioned in the heavenly books (Quran, Bible and the Gospel), and Almighty Allah gave this tree a special sacredness through mentioning it many times in many of Quran's verses (Alrahman, Alkahaf, Mariam, Alshuara'a, Alana'm, Alqamar...etc). Besides, many of ancient and modern Arab poets recited tenths of poems praising its beauty as well as to many philosophers, thinkers and authors have written dozens of books and encyclopedias about it.

7 . The bearers and practitioners of the element

- The owners of orchards and agricultural lands.
- The peasants of both genders.
- The marketers and traders of the dates.

- **The agricultural engineers.**
- **The owners of confectionery shops.**
- **The specialists of the handicraft industries of the palm tree products.**
- **The authors, poets and media.**

8 . Level of the element's viability

- High
- average
- low
- very low

9. Are there any threats to the viability of the element and need for its urgent safeguarding?

- No
- Yes (if yes, please provide the description)

10 . A viability of photo, audio and video materials

- photo
- audio
- video

11 . Responsible entity, state agency, institution

The Cultural Relations Directorate – The Iraqi Ministry of Cultural, Tourism and Antiquities.

قائمة الحصر الوطنية للتراث الثقافي غير المادي لجمهورية العراق
لعام 2014 والتي تم تحديثها عام 2017

ت	اسم العنصر	صنف العنصر
-1	نوروز	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
-2	عيد خضر الياس ونذوره	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
-3	احتفالية يوم زكريا	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
-4	توفير الخدمة والضيافة في الزيارة الاربعينية	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
-5	لعبة المحيبس	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات
-6	اغاني المربعات	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير عن التراث الثقافي غير المادي
-7	النخلة : المعارف والمهارات والتقاليد والممارسات	المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية
-8	المضيف	المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية
-9	الدبكة	فنون وتقاليد اداء العروض
-10	رقصة الجوبي	فنون وتقاليد اداء العروض
-11	العتابة	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير عن التراث الثقافي غير المادي
-12	الابودية	التقاليد وأشكال التعبير الشفهي بما فيها اللغة كواسطة للتعبير عن التراث الثقافي غير المادي
-13	الناعور	المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية
-14	التعميد	الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات

الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	احتفالات المولد النبوي الشريف	-15
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	صناعة حلويات المن والسلوى	-16
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	زيارة شارع المتنبي	-17
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	العباءة الرجالية والنسائية	-18
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	القهوة العربية	-19
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	فن حرفة صناعة العود والعزف عليه	-20
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	فن حرفة صناعة المشحوف	-21
التقاليد واشكال التعبير الشفهي بما في ذلك اللغة كواسطة للتعبير عن التراث الثقافي غير المادي	الاهازيج	-22
فنون وتقاليد اداء العروض	مسرح الطف الحسيني	-23
الممارسات الاجتماعية والطقوس والاحتفالات	قيمة عاشوراء	-24
المهارات المرتبطة بالفنون الحرفية التقليدية	حلاوة الدهينة	-25