

Documentation of damages in the city of Kish, the Ziggurat of Borsippa and the Temple of Nabu-Shakhari, and the necessary solutions to protect the sites

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Project selection criteria

- Archaeological and historical value of these sites.
- Spread of damages in these sites (among the most damaged Mesopotamian sites), especially after 2003 due to the cessation of government support.
- Necessity of solutions to preserve these sites from illicit activities and natural and anthropic damages for revealing in the future new significant data on Mesopotamian history.

Project Description

The project will focus on three important archaeological sites/buildings in Babil Governorate (the city of Kish, especially the Ishtar Temple and the Ziggurat of Al-Ehimer, the Ziggurat and the E2-ZI-DA Temple in Borsippa and the Nabu-shkhari Temple) which are suffering due to the natural phenomena, the human impact and the absence of government support. The aim is to fully document the collapse risks by the visit of engaged experts in archaeology and engineering (graduates students) and to promote the restoration of these structures and the touristic enhancement by innovative access methodologies in collaboration with the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

The Target of the Project and services

- Analysis of the damages occurring in these sites and development of traditional and innovative methodologies (such as the use technological tools) for the documentation and cataloguing of archaeological and architectural data.
- Identification of appropriate solutions for the structural maintenance (construction of protective walls, rebuilding of collapsed walls with traditional techniques, removal of rubbish).
- Building of small stands for guarding the sites and providing general information.



Aerial photos to the Ziggurat and the E2-ZI-DA Temple in Borsippa



The facade of Ishtar Temple at Kish



Ziggurat Al-Ehimer at Kish



Facade of Nabu-shkhari Temple



Collapses in the courtyards of Nabu-shkhari Temple

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