

## **A study for developing the shore of the Euphrates River in the city of Al-Hindiya using the scenarios**

**By**

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to formulate some scenarios for developing of the shore of the Euphrates River. It basically determines the tourism, economic, social and cultural requirements for the success of the development and its consequences. The Euphrates River passes through the city of Al-Hindiya has given it a unique and important advantage. However, with a future fraught with uncertainty and rapid changes bring a problem which needs to be investigated. Since, scenarios are one of the most important means for environmental analysis, understanding the future and supporting decision-making for development. Thus, this study explored the proposed scenarios to be used for the development of the Euphrates River shore in the city of Al-Hindiya. The researcher surveyed the decision-makers and specialists, to gather their opinions in specifying the necessary requirements for development and the consequences thereof. The preliminary survey produced several tourism, economic, social and cultural requirements that must be met for the success of developing the beach of Euphrates River in the city of Al-Hindiya. These requirements were included in the questionnaire and redistributed to the research sample, i.e., the decision makers, within a wider scope. The research used the analytical method to analyze the data. Finding showed three possible scenarios for investing in the shore of Al-Hindiya city. Finding showed that the success of developing the shore is connected with the level of availability of economic, social, cultural, administrative and security requirements for the entails economic prosperity. It achieves new production capacities that support the production processes of the tourist service and the formation of an economic surplus, increasing local savings and employing a lot of labor in a way that reduces unemployment in the governorate. It is recommended to provide an appropriate investment environment for investment by eliminating security, administrative and legal obstacles, creating adequate infrastructure, spreading investment awareness among the residents of Al-Hindiya, and the adequately propagating for the investment of the shore and the region.

**Keywords:** Al-Hindiya city, development, Euphrates River scenarios method.

### **Introduction**

Tuwarej, the well-known Al-Hindiya district, is considered the bride of the Middle Euphrates, due to its distinguished position in the middle of the Karbala and Hilla road. Al-Hindiya is a new established district; it appeared after the excavation of the modern course of the Euphrates River at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was surrounded by vast water areas, which later dried up and turned by the hands of its residents and their activity into agricultural lands. New building were added to the building blocks of the city, which quickly rose and developed into a new civilized appearance along with the other Iraqi cities. Furthermore, the location of the city is determined at the side of the Euphrates in a middle location in Iraq, and accordingly the area gained its contemporary historical importance after the water flowed into the Al-Hindiya Canal in 1800.

In addition to its riparian position with the Euphrates River, its flat surface played a

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major role in attracting a large number of clans to settle therein. It encouraged the development of religious bonds and the practice of their beliefs to strengthen social ties between its residents and their clan surroundings. Moreover, the Canal made huge environmental changes in the areas it passed in. Since, the waters of the Euphrates were withdrawn. It changed its course and disturbed the traditional water balance between the Euphrates of Hilla and Al-Hindiya. The course of the Hilla River gradually dried up and lost its position as an agricultural and commercial center. On the contrary, the lands of Al-Hindiya expanded, and it became an important city inhabited by many people. Al-Hindiya coastline which crossed the Tuwairej town has become amongst the coast areas which is oriented by people from outside Hilla, Karbala and some nearby cities.

Al-Hindiya is a newly formed city; it appeared after digging the modern course of the Euphrates River at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was surrounded by vast water areas, which later dried up and turned by the hands of its residents and their activity into agricultural lands. New building were added to the building blocks of the city, which quickly rose and developed into a new civilized appearance along with the other Iraqi cities. Such agriculture development provided the Ottoman government with more tax funds after applying the policy of delegating the land over it.

Many factors and political events contributed to the speed of the city social, urban and economic growth; its history was a continuous chain in the presence of clan unions on its surroundings. Likewise, the stability of clans in them represented the central nerve of its political and social entity, as well as its proximity to the religious cities (Karbala and Najaf). It therefore, became a popular commercial market for them due to its location on the Euphrates River, and the emergence of its socially heterogeneous society, which facilitated the political, social and religious interaction between its members, and the features of its urban growth appeared successively on the obsession of change and renewal to meet the requirements developed in all fields (Isaac, 1998).

## **Research problem**

Since the city of Al-Hindiya possesses many tourist, natural, heritage and recreational components, in addition to its distinguished location among the governorates. Therefore, this study rises a question whether we can develop this beach and invest it in tourism. There are several sub-questions that emerged from the main problem of the research; they are summarized as follows:

1. How important is the scenario in tourism development?
2. Can we reach the development of the beach in tourism through the scenarios prepared by the researcher?
3. To what extent do the public and private sector cooperate in developing the Euphrates Rive bank?

## **Research objectives**

1. Preparing a future scenario for development and choosing the best from several scenarios.
2. Increasing the numbers of recreational and tourist places in Al-Hindiya city.
3. Increasing the income of the citizen in the city of Al-Hindiya through the influx of tourists from all regions of Iraq.
4. Preserving green and heritage areas.

5. Reaching to a scenario that can be implemented during periods of time.

**Research significance**

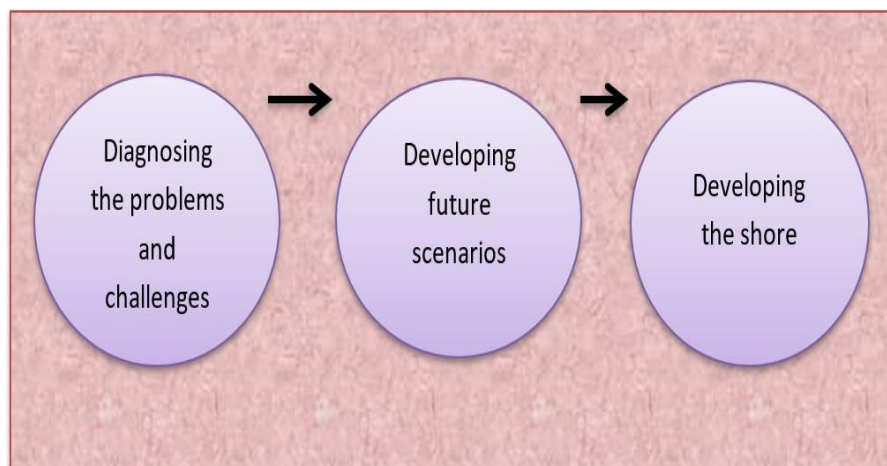
1. Preparing scenarios for the developing the Al-Hindiya beach and choosing the best among them.
2. Relying on the existing natural and recreational ingredients as a basis for development.
3. Activating tourism by attracting the largest possible number of local and international tourists. Many tourists visit Karbala. It is possible to invest their presence in the holy city of Karbala by attracting them to Al-Hindiya Corniche which is 20 kilometers away from Karbala.
4. Accessing a scenario that can be implemented at the lowest costs. The paucity of studies that dealt with the tourist development of the region under study.
5. The importance of this study stems from impact of tourism development and its impact on the cultural, economic, recreational and environmental levels.
6. Taking advantage of the geographical location where the city of Hindiya is near the city of Karbala to attract non-Iraqi tourists coming to the holy city of Karbala.
7. Using the investment method of the private sector for development.

**Research design**

This research used the analytical method to find out the impact of three possible scenarios for investing in the beach of Al-Hindiya city to reach the desired development. The researcher consulted many references, books and periodicals to get clear theoretical background understanding of the topic. Furthermore, for the development of future scenarios of the beach, the researcher conducted interviews and surveyed many local officials of the city and personal interviews of those interested in the tourism and cultural aspect in the city.

**Research scheme**

In what follows, we review an illustrative scheme of the nature of the case study in analyzing the problem, developing scenarios and possible solutions to address it in the future.



**Figure 1. Hypothetical scheme**

**Research hypothesis**

A scenario can be developed for developing the banks of the Euphrates River in the city of Al-Hindiya.

**Theoretical underpinning**

Figure 1. The study schemes

## Literature review

### *Location*

The astronomical location of the city of Al-Hindiya is determined by the intersection of longitude 42.45 degrees east with latitude 32.33 degrees north. Regarding to the geospatial location, Al-Hindiya has a river location in the middle of the road between the cities of Hilla (east) and Karbala (west), and it is 20 km far away from Hilla and 24 km far from the Karbala. It is located 110 km to the southwest of the city of Baghdad (Al-Ani, 2001).

### *Naming*

The well-known city of Tuwairaj is considered the bride of the Middle Euphrates, due to its distinguished position in the middle of the Karbala-Hilla Road. It was called so to refer to the special road obtained by the visitors of the shrine the Master of the Martyrs, (Imam Al - Hussein peace be upon him), in the holy Karbala. Then the pronunciation was changed to endear it and called it Tuwayrij. Another opinion says that the name is "Tuwairiq" by diminutive, because there are those who pronounce the Aaf as Jima. Furthermore, a third opinion mentioned by the urbanites of the city that there is a sign on the banks of the Euphrates with the words "two-way reach" written on it, meaning the intersection of the two roads. The Ottoman authority agreed to establish the Ling & his brother's company to run ships for river transport. Then the Oman-Ottoman company and companies were founded and another British company. As for the name Al-Hindiya, it came in relation to Asif al-Dawla), the Minister Muhammad Shah al-Hindi, who establish a project to deliver water to Najaf during the reign of the Great, Governor Suleiman Pasha (Al-Mahbouba, 1986). The river was dug from the city of Musayyib to the south of the city of Kufa. The dug passed in the city of Al-Hindiya. Therefore, it was called the Al-Hindiya River or Al-Hindiya only (Baban, 2014). Asif Al-Dawla is the corresponding term to the word "Minister" or his title. The mentioned Asif Al-Dawla is Yahya Khan al-Hindi, one of the ministers of Muhammad Shah al-Hindi in the state of Uda al-Hindi (Al-Mahbouba, 1986).

### *Scenario*

The term scenario reached us through historical periods, so the roots of the term scenarios go back to the military history of the battles of the Prussian strategic generals in the middle of the nineteenth century (Raspin & Terjesen, 2007). This trend was supplemented during World War II, as the United States Air Force thought on the basis of what things could be done by opponents under certain circumstances. According to historian 'Kleiner', the novelist and screenwriter 'Leo Rosten' was the first to use this term. The term is due to its cinematic roots that it acquired from his work in Hollywood (Ratcliffe, 2000).

The concept of a scenario is a summary or plan of a series of events and actions that can be predicted. A scenario is also a description of a group of possible future events, based on initial conditions or specifications, and the paths that can lead to it. Thus, a scenario is a systematic story of possible future alternatives, Fahey and Randall (1998) defined it as the representative description of situations and possible events, when we talk about future scenarios, we mean that representative description of the possible dimensions of the future, starting from the current situation and reaching a specific point in the future.

It is also believed that the scenario is an internally consistent view of what the future will be, and it is not a prediction but one possible future output (Porter, 198, cited in Ringland, 2006). The scenario is defined as that part of the strategic planning process that is linked to administrative tools and techniques to deal with future uncertainties. Furthermore, a scenario

is defined as a set of conditional assumptions that represent the launch of society. Still it is viewed as a description of a possible, potential or desirable future situation, with an explanation of the features of the path or paths that can lead to this future situation, starting from the current situation or from an assumed initial situation, and then launching into a serious future situation (Hussein et al., 2011).

Furthermore, a scenario is viewed as the calculated dialogue technique, which is one of the most appropriate future science tools in application of the strategic planning of education. It has the ability to include both sides of the innovative imagination and practical reality together. Similarly, using dialogues can lead to an integrated picture in the future.

Many writers and researchers tried through different stages of time to take comprehend the concept of scenario, so that those interested in the field of management can understand and benefit from such concepts in their field of work. These concepts include the focus of interest in the theoretical and practical reality of the state, organizations or any person who wants to analyze and portray the future.

Finally, a scenario is also defined as a summary or plan for a series of events and procedures that can be predicted. Likely a scenario is a description of a set of possible future events which are based on initial conditions or specifications, and the paths that could lead to it (Mietzner & Reger, 2005). To sum up, a scenario is an attempt to consider a range of possibilities that motivate decision makers to take into account the changes that were unknown before using the scenario (Walsh, 2005).

### ***Development***

Development is a term which evolves modification, and gradually transforms from one state to a better state; to develop a thing, it modifies and maximizes its goodness, and transfers it from one state to a better state (Okasha, 2009). Likewise, development signifies a change or transformation from one phase to another. It refers to the gradual change that occurs in the structure and behavior of living organisms. It is also perceived as the gradual change that occurs in the structure of society or the relationships, systems or values prevailing in it. Still it signifies improvement in order to achieve the desired goals efficiently (Yacoub, 2020).

The term development is considered amongst the common administrative and economic terms, and development is looked at from two main aspects: the first aspect as a process, and the second aspect as a state that reflects something. So, development in tourism as a process involves a physical change in a tourist environment including changing in infrastructure, culture and the tourism industry with all its components and its internal and external environments.

Development as a process has been identified that tourism has a basis, such as the availability of infrastructure or natural attractions or people who are able or willing to serve their guests, and in all cases, development necessarily involves fundamental changes in the physical environment; such changes are followed at the same time or at a later time in the economic, social, cultural and political environment, considering that these changes are prerequisites for the success of tourism (Al-Tai, 2009). Development is one feature of sustainable development, which is keen to develop the cultural aspects and preserve the civilization of each society (Ghadban, 2014). Tourism is one of the phenomena that are considered permanently developing and growing; it reconfigures itself permanently because it is a consumer activity. Thus, tourism is developed based on the projects that rely on it (Page, 2007). Hence, the success of tourism development leads to economic prosperity in all sectors,



and this includes providing job opportunities and local development. As for the tourism development process, we must mention that it is neither an easy nor an impossible process, but it requires a lot of effort and work, and all of this is done through concerted efforts by citizens and the government alike.

### *The first scenario*

1. Building several restaurants and casinos along the shore from the southern side of the Euphrates River between the two bridges and extending beyond the two bridges. Currently there is one popular restaurant and frequented by many residents and families of the city and the city of Karbala and the nearby cities.
2. Building an amusement park on the eastern side of the river.
3. Building a sidewalk and a walkway for people, equipping it with health services, with some kiosks or small shops on the eastern side of the riverbanks.
4. Building and preparing car parks.
5. Setting up a museum that includes the city's heritage during the historical periods it passed through.
6. Organizing cultural exhibitions in yards to be established in the walkway.
7. Establishing terraces and places to sit in.
8. Constructing a five- or four-star hotels.
9. This scenario will be developed in several stages and will be completed over a period of 5 years.
10. Afforestation of places that can be afforested with different types of plants.

### *The second scenario*

1. Building a group of restaurants and casinos on the western side of the river, provided that these restaurants extend in floating stations in the river in a beautiful manner above the water.
2. Building a water park which will be closed in the winter and opened in the summer on the eastern side.
3. Building a game-city on the eastern side of the river shore.
4. Building a sidewalk and a walkway next to the eastern River.
5. Establishing car parks.
6. Creating benches for sitting and resting.
7. Building small shops.
8. Organizing specific sports competitions.
9. The scenario will be completed within a period of 3 years.
10. Afforesting places that can be planted with different types of plants.

### *The third scenario*

1. Building a group of restaurants and casinos to the southern side of the river.
2. Building a bridge between the two river-banks that is specific to the pedestrians and with a specific width with providing safety services to protect tourists and visitors with a walkway on the banks of the river with terraces for sitting and comfort.
3. Building a tourist hotel on the river shore.
4. Building a large market close to the banks of the river.
5. Building a tourist city which imitates the style of the tourist city of Baghdad for weddings.
6. Building a hall for occasion with an appropriate size.

7. Establishing heritage markets that include heritage industries.
8. Building a city-games.
9. Building a port for tourist boats that suit the depth of the river, taking into account the depth of the river and the low level of water in the river in summer.
10. Holding annual art galleries or festivals.
11. The period of completion of the scenario in several stages. The first stage be completed within 3 years, the second 5 years, and the third is 7 years.
12. Afforesting places that can be afforestable with different types of plants.

***Supporting parties to implement the scenarios***

1. The Governorate of scared Karbala.
2. Al-Hindiya District and Western stream court.
3. Ministry of Water Resources
4. The National Investment Authority in Karbala.
5. Ministry of Culture.
6. Authority of Tourism.
7. Department of Antiquities.
8. The National Media Authority.
9. Ministry of Health and Environment.
10. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.
11. Ministry of Sports and Youth.
12. Karbala Provincial Council.
13. Municipal Council in the city.
14. Ministry of Education represented by the Kerbala Education.
15. Ministry of Education assembled by the manager of Education in Kerbala.
16. Sewer department.
17. The private sector.
18. Businessmen Federation.
19. Karbala Chamber of Commerce.

***Mechanism for implementing the scenarios***

1. The city's municipality lands should be set for investment by an investment permission according to the investment law currently in force by the National Investment Authority in Karbala. It can be disclosed as an investment opportunity, and that can do through the following:
2. Dividing the site into parts and then handing them to investors.
3. Handing the site completely to a discreet company to implement it.
4. Giving investment permission of the land of the local population in the way of investment according to the law
5. It should be implemented directly through the municipality of the city or the representative, and then put them for rent according to the law of renting and selling lands of the state in force.
6. The relevant ministries should provide infrastructure on the riverbanks
7. Propagating the site through the modern propagating techniques which are currently used.

By discussing this study extensively to be a possible study for us to apply it to the area to benefit from it in a way that makes the area to be developed tourist with benefit and a tourist feasibility. The researcher has hosted local officials and those interested in tourism affairs to a

workshop to discuss the suggested scenarios and to reach an applicable scenario. Among the officials were the holy governor of Karbala and the directors of the relevant departments in the region, as well as those interested in tourism affairs. After a deep and profound discussions, the third scenario was chosen. The Governor of Karbala on the workshop announced to put the project for invest for implementation and as an opportunity for investors.

**Table 1. Attendances at the workshop**

Place of work	Occupations
Karbala Governorate	Governor of Karbala
Karbala Governorate	Deputy of House of Representatives office in Karbala
Karbala Governorate	The second vice- governor
Karbala Governorate, Investment Authority	Chairman of the investment Authority in Karbala
Court of western district	Mayor of the Western District
Court of Al-Hindiya	Mayor of the Al-Hindiya District
Court of Al-Hindiya	Manager of Al-Hindiya Municipality
Court of Al-Hindiya	Manager of Water Resources
Court of Al-Hindiya	Director of urban planning in Al-Hindiya district
Court of Al-Hindiya	Director of Sports and Youth Center in Al-Hindiya District
Court of Al-Hindiya	Owners of three tourism companies
Karbala town	President of the Association of Hotel and Restaurant Owners: A Civil Society Organization
Karbala town	Some people interested in the tourism sector
Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University.	Academics, university professors.
Karbala University	

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**Checklist**

Respected professors, this checklist in your hands represents an academic scientific effort for the research entitled " A study for developing the shore of the Euphrates River in the city of Al-Hindiya using the scenarios." The questions in the checklist are for the purpose to check the most appropriate scenarios to be used for developing the shore of Euphrates River in the city of Al-Hindiya. We hope for your cooperation in the service of science research, and thank you very much.

**Firstly: Demographical information**

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Gender:
4. Job:
5. Years of service:
6. Tourism experiences:

**Secondly: Degree of conviction**

Strongly disagree	Disagree	neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Degree of conviction Scenarios
					First scenario
					Second scenario
					Third scenario

**Thirdly: Other details.**