

ECOTOURISM



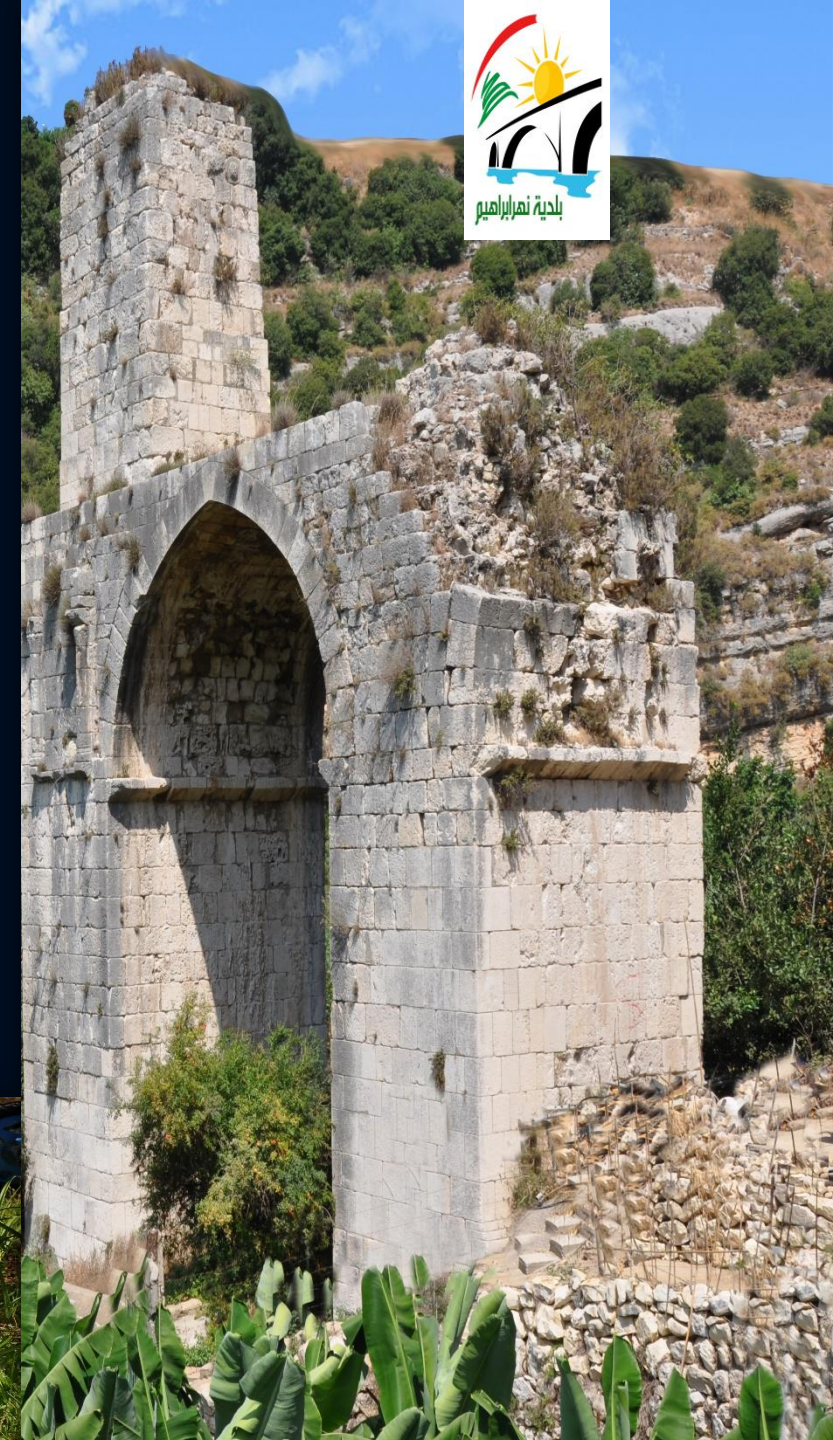
Municipality of Nahr Ibrahim
Lebanon



This project entitled “Preservation of cultural heritage and archaeological sites and launching of ecotourism in the historical valley of Nahr Ibrahim”

That includes rehabilitation, restoration and accommodation of archeological sites and roads leading to it, building of centers specialized in ecotourism and historical ears studies, equipping sites for river fishing, climbing, camping, lighting the roads around the valley through solar power,

and creation of job opportunities for the local community and Syrian refugees in the reparation and restoration of facilities and rehabilitation of roads.

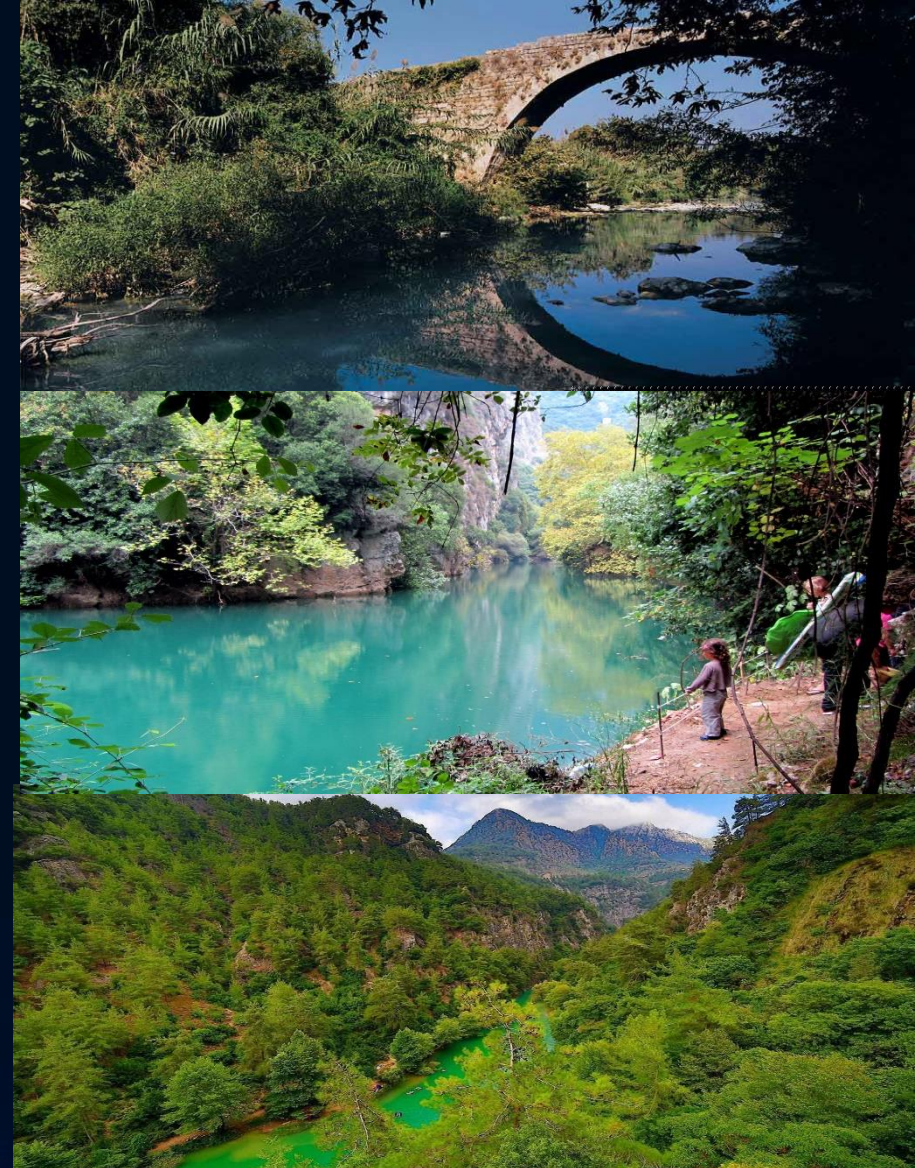


The Purpose/Objectives:

- Highlight the archaeological sites in the valley of Nahr Ibrahim, launch ecotourism in the valley.
- Introductions to the different civilizations that have passed through many centuries from the Phoenicians to the Romans.
- Create job opportunities for the Syrian refugees in the maintenance and rehabilitation of touristic and archaeological sites among other things.
- Create job opportunities for the locals / youth.



- Renovation of the archaeological sites and the roads leading to them.
- Provide new roads for bicycles and pedestrians in different parts of the valley to enjoy the beautiful scenery.
- Build rest stations and camping sites, provide means for hiking and river fishing.
- We seek to empower Syrian refugees and teach them to perform environmental rehabilitation and renovation jobs and to preserve a clean environment in the valley for wages that will allow them to improve their lifestyles and give their children a chance for a healthy life.



Estimated Results

- Enhance the competence and capacities of municipal units and unify efforts to improve the performance of environmental services.

1

- Ensure effective cooperation between all beneficiaries.

2

- Enhance the environmental, cultural and sports activities.

3

Estimated Results

- Raise the value of investments in the region surrounding the valley which will create new job opportunities that have a direct impact on improving the financial and social situation.

4

- Provide protection and preservation of archaeological and natural landmarks and develop the operation to highlight these forgotten sites.

5



Main activities

1. Build a road to access the existing archeological sites along the river to reach the Roman bridge and ramifies to the Roman arches of Zbeide.
2. Pave a part of the road with sculpted stones, and divide it into four parts: for bikes, pedestrians, cars and trees.
3. Restoration and lighting of the sites and installation of information signs/boards along the touristic sites.



Main activities

4. Creation of a network between the municipality, the union, the private sector and the local community to exchange ideas, information and environmental experts' workshops to introduce the riches of the valley.
5. Provide protection means to facilitate movement in the valley.
6. Construction of restaurants and resting areas.



Challenges

- Municipality of Nahr Ibrahim in suffers from budget deficits.
- Lack of governmental incentives and support.
- The municipality's high expenses due to the overwhelming number of Syrian refugees makes it hard for new projects to emerge.
- Years of negligence of the archeological and touristic landmarks and the difficulty of access and movements in the valley.
- Fast demographic change which also contributes to the municipality's high expenses/month which stand in the way of funding for new projects.





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