

ZAHER A. REDWAN

Environmental & Development Specialist | Sustainability Consultant | Community Empowerment Leader

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished management professional with over **30 years of expertise** in environmental conservation, rural development, and sustainability. Known for strategic leadership in biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage preservation, and community empowerment under three core pillars: **environment, heritage, and economy**.

As the **Founder and President of Green Hand Organization**, I have spearheaded globally recognized biodiversity initiatives, collaborated with international organizations like **IUCN, WHO, UNDP, and USAID**, and developed impactful strategies for sustainable livelihoods. Honored as an **ASHOKA Fellow (2013)** for innovative environmental and social enterprise solutions, I excel in policy advocacy, program management, and capacity building.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Development
- Strategic Program Planning & Implementation
- Rural Community Empowerment & Capacity Building
- Cultural Heritage Preservation & Economic Integration
- Public Relations, Advocacy & International Representation
- Alternative Learning & Environmental Education
- Project Development & Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Founder of Green Hand Organization (GHO):** Built a globally recognized NGO for biodiversity conservation and rural development, with patented initiatives like the **Mobile Green Hand Botanical Garden (mGHBG)**.
- **International Collaborations:** Worked with leading organizations (UNDP, IUCN, WHO) to implement transformative projects in Lebanon and the region.
- **Chairman of IUCN Lebanon Committee (2014-2020):** Re-launched the national committee and hosted the first **West Asia Regional Biodiversity Forum**.

- **Innovation in Sustainability:** Awarded a **patent for mGHBG** and recognized as a finalist for the **MIT Pan-Arab Award (2018)**.
- **Craft and Cultural Heritage Leadership:** Established the **Syndicate of Lebanese Craftsmen & Authentic Producers**, empowering artisans through eco-friendly production models.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Green Hand Organization (GHO)

Founder, President & Chairman of the Board | 1999 – Present

- Designed and executed conservation strategies integrating biodiversity, cultural heritage, and economic development.
- Developed the **Mobile Green Hand Botanical Garden**, a patented tool for biodiversity research and education.
- Established facilities for sustainable packaging and product development, in partnership with international entities like **SIF (France)** and **GIZ (Germany)**.

Authentic Aley – Development Strategy Framework

Lead Consultant | 2016 – Present

- Developed a comprehensive strategy integrating cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation to promote sustainable economic development in the Aley district, as a pilot for whole country.

Oversaw projects such as:

- **Authentic Aley Craft Center (AACC):** A landfill rehabilitation project funded by **UKAID** and implemented by **UNDP**.
- **Medicinal Edible Aromatic Plant Center (AAMEAC):** Advanced production and packaging center for local plants.

Syndicate of Lebanese Craftsmen & Authentic Producers

President | 2015 – Present

- Empowered small producers and artisans to achieve sustainable livelihoods by promoting eco-friendly practices and access to markets.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Chairman, Lebanon National Committee | 2014 – 2020

- Facilitated multi-stakeholder collaborations and drove national biodiversity strategies.
- Organized the **West Asia Regional Biodiversity Forum**, fostering regional cooperation on conservation.

Baz Authentic Market - since 1945

Owner | 1995 – Present

- A third generation Herbalist, Preserved and modernized Lebanon's cultural and biodiversity heritage through sustainable farming, herbal remedies, and eco-friendly production techniques.

Consultancy Roles

- **WHO – Head of Project (2015-2016)**: Led public health and environmental sustainability projects.
- **DROSOS Foundation – Consultant (2016)**: Empowered fisherwomen through sustainable practices and economic integration.
- **Al-Shouf Cedar Society – Lead Consultant (2013-2019)**: Linked rural communities with conservation efforts, training farmers and artisans.
- **USAID Chemonics – Project Development Specialist (2008-2009)**: Designed and implemented community-based rural development programs.

EDUCATION

- **Diploma in Environmental Management for Sustainable Development**

Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands | 2010

- **Global Leadership Program (Top 100 Social Leaders)**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA | 2012

- **Master of Science in Organic Chemistry** (Thesis Pending)

Beirut Arab University, Lebanon | 2003

- **Bachelor of Science in Analytical Chemistry**

Beirut Arab University, Lebanon | 2000

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **ASHOKA Fellow (2013)**: Recognized for innovative environmental and social entrepreneurship.

- **MIT Pan-Arab Award (2018):** Semi-finalist for the Mobile Botanical Garden innovation.

AFFILIATIONS

- Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Lions International | Slow Food International (Italy)
- Rotaract Club (Founding Member)

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in Arabic and English; Proficient in French