



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Future of the Iraqi Marshlands – Donor meeting

12h30 – 13h00
Monday 7 November 2005

IEA (International Energy Agency / Agence Internationale de l'Energie)
9, rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris

with

- Mrs. Narmin Barzinjy, Minister of Environment, Iraq
- Dr. Latif Rachid, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq
- Mrs. Nesreen Barwari, Minister of Municipalities and Public Works, Iraq
- Dr Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, UNEP
- Donor country representatives

Iraqi Ministers and representatives of the international donor community are meeting in Paris on 7 November 2005 to review actions to reverse the destruction of the Iraqi Marshlands, considered by some as the original biblical "Garden of Eden".

The donor coordination meeting on Iraqi marshlands management hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will evaluate on-going activities, as well as identify priority areas for further support, and progress toward a coordinated approach, or "master plan," for the region.

The sustainable management of the Iraqi Marshlands, a key natural habitat for people, wildlife and fisheries, is considered as one of the priority issues for the reconstruction of Iraq, particularly from ecological, water resource, and socio-economic perspectives.

In August this year, UNEP reported that after a decade of decline in which the fabled Marshlands of Mesopotamia all but vanished almost 40 per cent have now recovered to their former 1970s extent.

IMPORTANT: Journalists will only be admitted to the press conference on presentation of a valid press card. For security reasons, journalists should be seated in the IEA press room (Conference Room 2) before 12 h30.

To confirm your attendance please contact: Mona Feghali on 01 44 37 76 32, 06 7987 2233 e-mail: mona.feghali@unep.fr

For more information, and interview requests please contact Robert Bisset on 01 4437 7613, 06 2272 5842, email: Robert.bisset@unep.fr