

TERRA DAILY SPACE DAILY SPACE WAR MARS DAILY SPACE MART SPA

Wetlands Law & Reg Report

News on wetlands law, regulations and agency happenings. Free issue.

Constructed Wetlands

Innovative and ecological solutions Leader in decentralized wastewater

Ecology and Conservation

University of East Anglia Excellent Research and Teaching

Wetland manag

DHV Water & Envir consultants in wate

Ads by Goooooogle

Adve

TERRADAILY

NEWS ABOUT PLANET EARTH

TERRADAILY

Ads by Goooo

Restoring The 'Garden Of Eden'

Montreal QC (SPX) Aug 10, 2005

While much of the world has focused on the war in Iraq, a group of wetland ecologists has been busy collecting data on the Mesopotamian marshes of southern Iraq.

Formerly the largest wetland in Southwest Asia, the marshes are home to the native Ma'dan marsh dwellers, as well as numerous species of migrating waterfowl and game fish.

Drainage of the [wetlands](#) as well as toxic [contamination](#) over the last twenty years devastated much of the marshlands. A mere 10 percent remain as viable wetlands.

After two years of study, Iraqi and other researchers will present their findings on the marshes' current state, as well as offer their perspectives on hopes for wetland restoration during a special session held during the Ecological Society of America's-INTECOL's Joint Meeting.

This marks the first time Iraqi ecologists have been to a western [ecology](#) meeting. It is also the first comprehensive data set on the status of the marshes collected by Iraqi scientists.

Organized by Curtis Richardson (Duke University, USA) and Barry Warner (Wetlands Research Centre, Ontario, Canada), the session will cover the current ecological state of the marshes, including studies on fish, [birds](#), plants, quality of water and soils, as well as the outlook for restoration success and the challenges of boundary issues with other countries such as Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

Among the suite of presentations:

Ali Farhan (Development Alternatives, USA) will focus on the hydrology challenges of restoring the marshlands, which suffered severe damage during two decades of water diversion. Historically, the marshlands covered 15,000 - 20,000 square kilometers; presently only 10 percent remain as viable wetlands.



DUWC Director Curtis Richardson collects data on the ecological condition of southern Iraq's marshes during a visit in February 2004.

Wetlands La Report

News on wet regulations a happenings. www.capitolpub.com

Iraq and the

The latest ne opinion from York Sun on www.nysun.com

Constructec

Innovative ar solutions Lea decentralizec nawe-pa.com

Iraq Oil

Iraq Revenue monitors Irac rebuilding fur www.iraqrevenue.com

Oil Industry

Petroleum ar logging softw and gas prof www.logicgroup.com

Advertise on thi

Competing uses for the water flowing from the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers makes restoration efforts very challenging. Irrigation, industrial, and hydropower demands all compete for the water which is vital to the marshlands.

Ads by Gooooo

**Ecology and
Conservatio**
University of
Excellent Re
Teaching
www.uea.ac.uk/

Farhan's presentation, "The role of hydrology in marsh restoration in southern Iraq," will discuss a program designed to help manage Iraq's water resources.

In a related talk, "Hydrological potential for the restoration of the marshes of southern Iraq," Azzam Alwash (The Iraq Foundation) and Andrea Cattarossi (New Eden Team, Italy) will discuss an action plan being developed to restore the Mesopotamian marshes.

Wetland ma
DHV Water &
Environment
consultants i
managemen
www.dhv.com/w

Najah Hussain and colleagues from the College of Science and Agriculture in Iraq will relay how fish are faring in their presentation, "The restoration status of the biota in marshes in southern Iraq with an emphasis on fish communities." Formerly dominant native fish populations are now rare, including commercially valuable species.

Iraq Contrac
Learn about
Management
and solution
www.TheTechDi

Several presentations will explore the soil and water quality of the marshlands: Curtis Richardson's (Duke University USA) talk, "Ecological assessment of the restoration status of the Mesopotamian Marshes of Iraq," will relay the prospects of successfully restoring the wetlands in spite of challenges from toxic materials and saline soil conditions.

Half My Hea
Custom tee's
Families Maç
Support Yell
www.ServiceFla

Sama Sameer and colleagues from the Iraq Foundation will report on the biological and chemical response of some of the re-flooded wetland areas where the scientists identified more than 20 heavy metals and cancer-causing hydrocarbons.

The potential for agriculture in the area will be explored in "Effect of tillage and nitrogen fertilizer on some physical properties of marsh soils and on yields of rice and corn," which will be presented by Iraqi researchers from academic institutions and the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture.

Global Oil &
Market analy
2005-2010 Ir
country repo
icon.ecnext.com

Advertise on thi

Majeed Al-Hilli (University of Baghdad), Barry Warner (Wetlands Research Group, Ontario, Canada) and colleagues will revisit historic surveys of the 371 species of wetland plants that once grew in the Mesopotamian marshes. Since many areas of the marshes no longer exist, the checklist of plants will help with restoration plans.

Mudhafar Salim (Iraq Nature Conservation Society) and fellow researchers will provide results from a 2004/2005 bird survey, the first undertaken in the marshes since 1979. The earlier survey found over 324,000 waterfowl, including pelicans and flamingoes, of 79 species of bird. The newest survey suggests that newly inundated wetlands are supporting many important species, but well below historic numbers.

Special Session 9: Restoration of Mesopotamian Marshes of Iraq. Tuesday, August 9, 1:30 - 5:00 PM (13:30 - 17:00), Exhibit Hall 210 A-E, Level 2, Palais des congrès de Montreal.

For more information about this session and other ESA-INTECOL Meeting activities, visit: www.esa.org/montreal. The theme of the meeting is "Ecology at multiple scales," and some 4,000 scientists are expected to attend.

Related Links

[TerraDaily](#)

[Search TerraDaily](#)

[Subscribe To TerraDaily Express](#)

IRAQ WARS

Outside View: Preparing Iraq's Army

Washington DC (UPI) Aug 05, 2005

A detailed analysis of the current Multi National Force-I and Multi-National Security Training Command-I effort to train and equip Iraqi forces indicates that this effort has been comprehensively reorganized over the course of the last year and that it now includes far better readiness standards and significant allied contributions.



[2005 - 2010 World Outlook](#)

Global oil & gas market Demand analysis, revenue potential

[Iraq News](#)

Iraq news and articles Breaking news Iraq

[The Oil Factor DVD](#)

Inside story on Iraq Special low price \$12

[Oak Tables & O](#)

Hand-crafted Eco-Forest Work Shop

[Ads by Goooooogle](#)

[Adve](#)

[SPACEDAILY MARKETPLACE AND CLASSIFIEDS](#)

[Solar Energy Solutions](#)

[Shop for telescopes online](#) :: [Memory Foam Mattress Review](#)