



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



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Dear colleagues

I was very pleased to find Iraqi Marshlands Project named amongst the winners of this year's UN 21 Award Prize.

Working under difficult conditions, you have helped to demonstrate how environment is important to reconstruction efforts in a post conflict situation – and have done so in a manner that today makes us all proud.

Satellite images UNEP launched in 2001 brought to world attention the scale and pace of environmental degradation of the Fabled Marshlands of Mesopotamia and the plight of the Marsh Arabs. Since 2004, when you as a team started work in the Marshlands to restore the ecosystems and provide water to some 85,000 people, over 60% of the Marshlands have water again and up to 22,000 people have access to safe drinking water again.

This is why the UNEP SMT picked the Iraq Marshlands for the Baobab Award, and perhaps one of the many reasons why the rest of the UN is recognizing your work with the UN 21 Awards.

The win speaks volumes about your belief, hard work, creativity and dedication. This achievement honors UNEP and many other individuals outside the institution.

Well done!

With best wishes

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Executive Director

Iraq Marshlands Team

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Mao Kawada

Mika Kitagami

Mayumi Morita

→ Ali Al-Lami (National coordinator in Iraq)

Chizuru Aoki

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Samira de Gobert

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