# Marshlands
# (The Garden of Eden)

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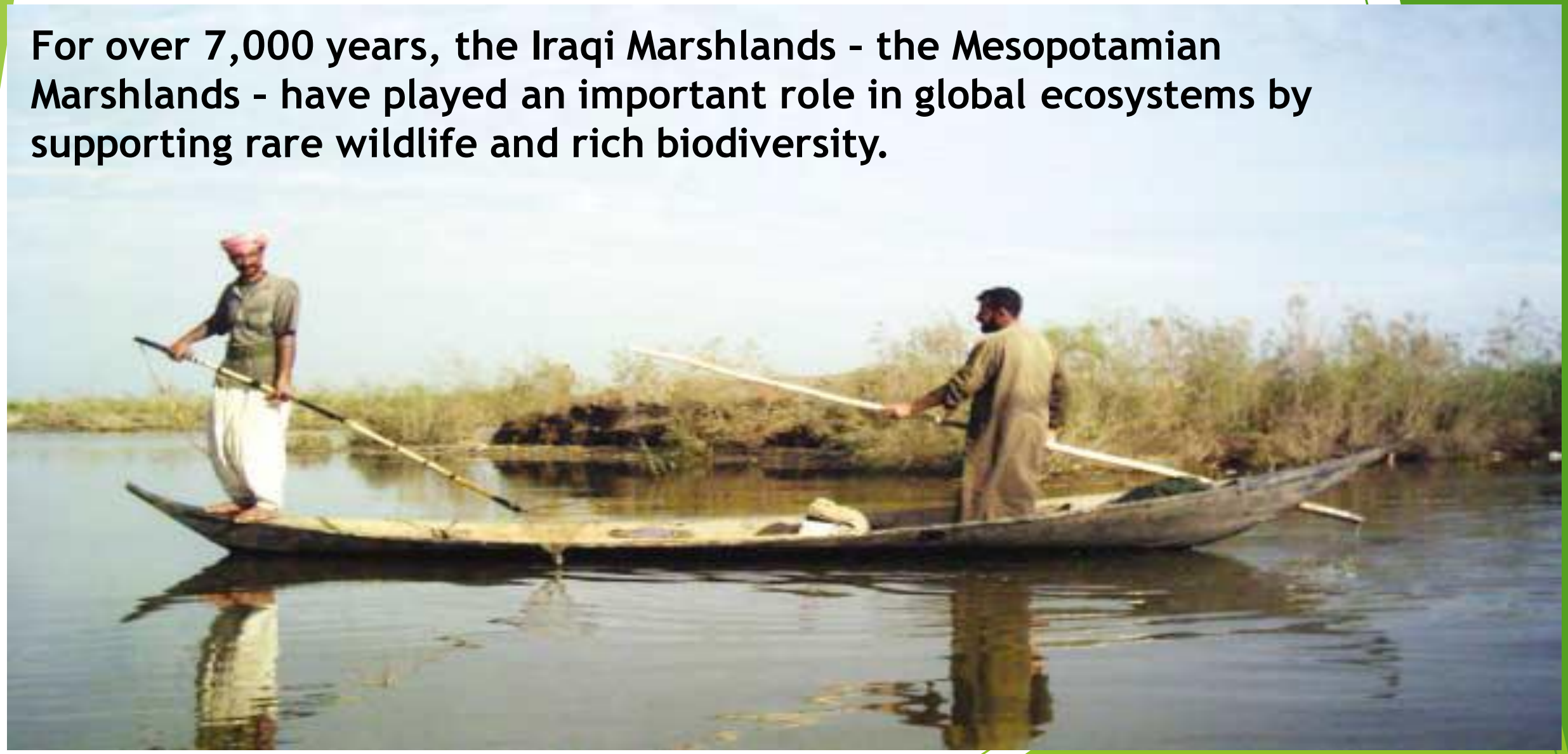
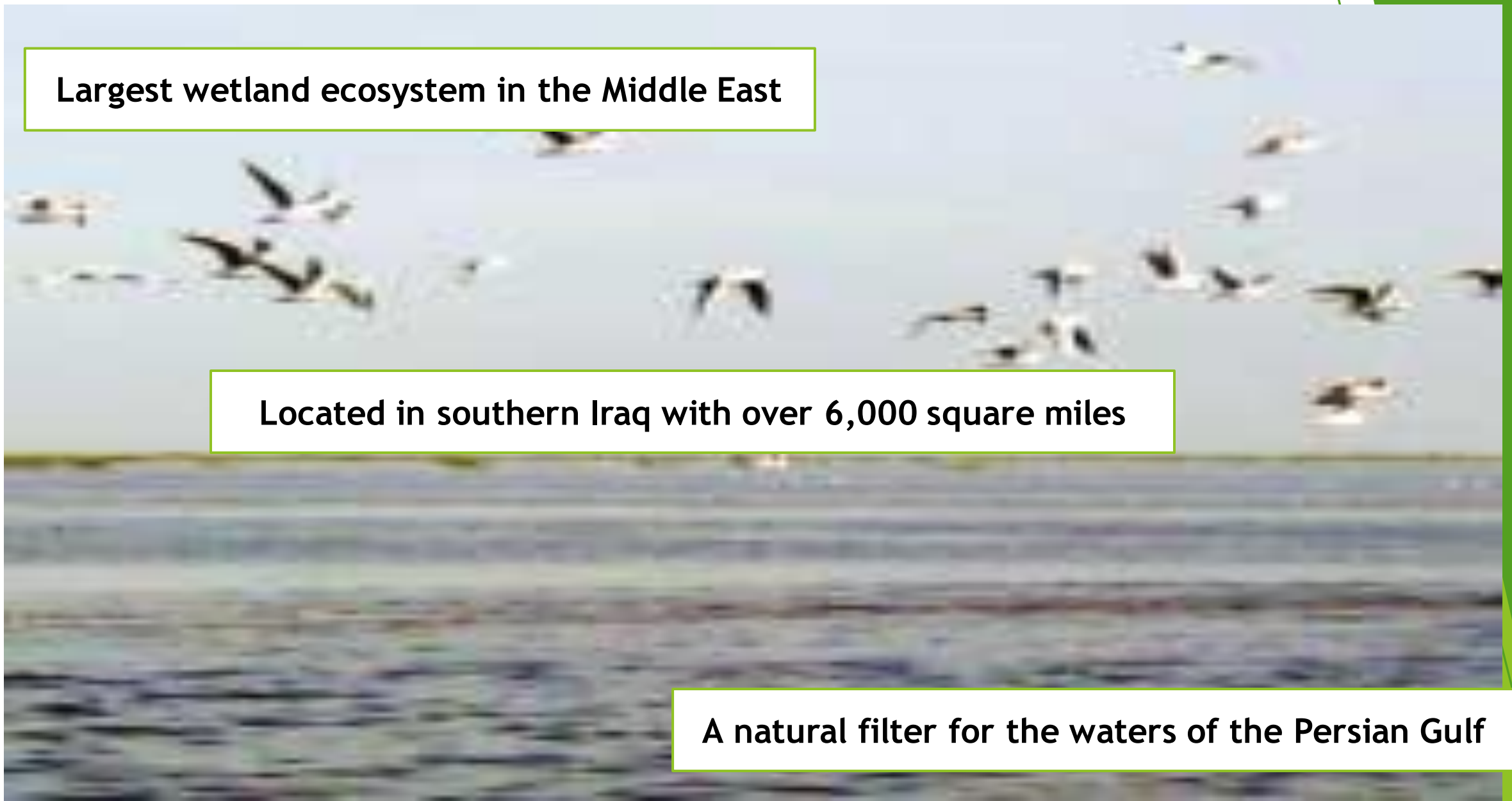
# The Unique Marshlands

**For over 7,000 years, the Iraqi Marshlands - the Mesopotamian Marshlands - have played an important role in global ecosystems by supporting rare wildlife and rich biodiversity.**



# The Unique Marshlands



Largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East

Located in southern Iraq with over 6,000 square miles

A natural filter for the waters of the Persian Gulf

# Value of Iraqi Marshlands:

## 1-Biodiversity and Ecology

- Home to 22 globally endangered species and 66 at-risk bird species.

- A major flyway for many migratory birds

- A source of fish and dairy products

# Value of Iraqi Marshlands!

## 2- Cultural Heritage

The **historic home to several hundred thousand Marsh Arabs - the Ma'dan**

## 3- Historical Significance

**The site of the biblical "Garden of Eden"**

## 4- A UNESCO World Heritage site

## 5- Water Resources and Agriculture

# Every decade has a story

# The Threaten Periods

**1930s**

The first to attempt to drain the marshes, as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and lack of apparent economic value, as well as use of the water for irrigation.

**1980s**

large-scale destruction during the Iraq-Iran War (1980-1988)

**1990s**

Destruction by Saddam Hussayn - Regime
The landscape and environment were long-term changed

**2000-2003**

UNEP alerted the international community that 90% of the Marshlands had already been lost. By 2002, the marshes had shrunk to 1,600km2 or 14% of their size in 1970s.

**2003- …**

- Turkey, Syria and Iran have constructed a number of dams on the Euphrates, Tigris, Karkeh, and Carooon Rivers.
- Fluctuation of marsh cover in the years following Re-flooding.

# The Implications of marshland degradation

1- Reduction of Biodiversity

2- Disruption of Ecological Processes

3- Economic Implications

4- Degradation of Water Quality

5- Exacerbation of Climate Change

6- ncreased Risk of Flooding and Erosion

# NBS for Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation

1- Re-flooding

2- Long-term health of the marshlands

3- Livelihoods improvement

4- Biodiversity Conservation

# 1- Re-flooding

**Challenges** → **Low water revenues from neighboring countries**

**Actions** → **Political Will and International Support**

# 2- Long-term health of the marshlands

**Challenges** → **Pollution and waste discharge into the marshes.**

**Actions** → **Water Management**

# 3- Livelihoods improvement

**Challenges**

- Infrastructure and Services
- Land and Resource Tenure
- Poverty and Unemployment
- Climate change

**Actions**

-Long-term viability of livelihoods
-Infrastructure Development
- Diversify income sources
- Climate Change Adaptation

# 4- Biodiversity Conservation

**Challenges**

- Illegal Wildlife Trade
-Invasive Species
- Lack of Awareness
-Limited Capacity
- Insufficient financial resources

**Actions**

- Maintaining the ecological balance
- Integrating conservation with development

# THANK YOU

## For Your:
## Attendance &  Attention