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Iraq Witnesses a Single Fire Incident in Basra Governorate Amid Environmental Challenges

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BODY

Iraq has recently experienced a fire incident in the Basra Governorate, as reported on January 20, 2025. This event comes at a time when the country faces significant environmental challenges, including a net change in tree cover. Over the years, Iraq has seen a fluctuation in tree cover loss due to various factors, with shifting agriculture being a notable driver in certain years.

The total area of Iraq spans over 44.50 million hectares, with a relatively small tree cover extent of approximately 17,504 hectares. Despite this, the country has managed to achieve a net gain in tree cover, with a reported increase of 30.50% over the years. This positive trend is a result of a net gain of about 8,903 hectares after accounting for losses and disturbances.

The historical data on tree cover loss in Iraq reveals a pattern of fluctuating but generally low levels of loss, with shifting agriculture contributing to emissions of CO₂. However, the overall trend suggests that the efforts to increase tree cover are yielding results, with the net gain indicating progress in environmental restoration or conservation.

The latest fire incident, while isolated, serves as a reminder of the ongoing risks to Iraq's natural environment. It underscores the importance of continued vigilance and proactive measures to protect and enhance the country's tree cover and biodiversity.