METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM (MARS)
CONFIRMED MITIGATION ACTION

IRAQ (IRQ_S_050)



Through MARS, UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) turns satellite data into methane action. MARS is the only public global satellite-based system alerting governments and companies of extreme methane emissions. Using 30+ satellite instruments, combined with expert analysis and AI models, MARS detects major emission events and enables rapid response.

LAST UPDATED
15 April 2026

SOURCE ID
IRQ_S_050

COUNTRY
Iraq

COORDINATES
30.41874°, 47.60875°

SECTOR
Oil & Gas

SOURCE TYPE
Flare

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLUMES DETECTED
2

DATE OF FIRST DETECTION
21 August 2025

DATE OF REPORTED MITIGATION
25 February 2026

ESTIMATED TOTAL VOLUME OF EMISSIONS

60,500 tonnes

SAME CLIMATE IMPACT AS

~1,200,000 cars

DRIVEN FOR A YEAR

DETECTION & ACTION

THE CAUSE AND THE SOLUTION

The emissions resulted from routine flaring at older facilities. The operator diverted both production and associated gas from the aging facility to newer infrastructure, stopping the emissions.



The image shows a plume detected by ASI's PRISMA in Iraq, on 16 February 2026. No further emissions have been detected at the location since 25 February 2026.

In implementing MARS, UNEP collaborates with various institutional partners, including the World Bank, International Energy Agency, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Universitat Politècnica de València, the Netherlands Institute for Space Research, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.

Based on satellite data used by MARS, it is not possible to confirm the presence of minimal methane emissions at a given location. Rather, this data can confirm the absence of emissions at levels higher than a given satellite's detection limit, which varies based on the technology, ground conditions and the weather.

UN environment programme | International Methane Emissions Observatory

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