

ABSTRACTS WITH PROGRAMS



CHARGING INTO THE FUTURE



SESSION 42, 03:00 PM

Monday, October 25, 1993

T6. Geologic Impacts of the Gulf War

HCC 208

03:00 PM El-Baz, Farouk

ASSESSMENT OF WAR-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TO THE DESERT SURFACE OF KUWAIT.

EL-BAZ, Farouk, Center for Remote Sensing, Boston University, Boston MA 02215; BEAUMONT, Nicola and SIMONSON, John, Environmental Management, Ltd., Oxford, England; MURAD, Ahmed, Kuwait Oil Company, Al Ahmadi, Kuwait.

Assessment of the environmental damage to the desert surface of Kuwait was conducted in the course of evaluating damage to the operational area of Kuwait Oil Company due to the Gulf War. The assessment was based on the interpretation of Landsat Thematic Mapper and SPOT images as supplemented by field measurements and observations.

Estimates of affected land areas (in square kilometers) include the following: surface areas affected by land mines and post-war clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance (3,530); areas covered by oil and soot from exploded oil wells (943); areas where desert shrubs were destroyed (500); surface areas covered by oil lakes (49.1); areas modified by sand pits around oil well heads, bunkers in the oil fields, and vehicle tracks and new roads in the open desert (9.3).

The total surface areas damaged by war-related activities is 5,446.4, which is 30.6% of Kuwait's total surface area of 17,818 square kilometers. Utilized methods and techniques are applicable to the assessment of damage due to natural or man-made causes in similar environments.

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Geological Society of America

1993 ANNUAL MEETING

Boston, Massachusetts

October 25-28, 1993

John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center

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