



Ministry of Environment
Republic of Iraq



Regional Red List Assessment of Selected Species in the Iraqi Marshlands

November 2013



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Title Photo: Basra Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*, (Photo: Mudhafar A. Salim).

List of Acronyms

AOO	Area of Occupancy
CR	Critically Endangered
DD	Data Deficient
EN	Endangered
EOO	Extent of Occurrence
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LC	Least Concern
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
VU	Vulnerable

1 Summary

A regional red-listing exercise of a selected group of taxa has been proposed to be part of the process of the preparation for the World Heritage Nomination File for the Iraqi Marshlands. Based on this, a team of national experts was formed to carry out this exercise. It should be highlighted that the term “regional” in the context of this report and its relevant red-listing exercise, refers to the Iraqi Marshlands

A total of 32 species were selected to be assessed based on IUCN Regional Red Listing Assessment Guidelines. These species were selected based on several conditions; (a) the species is globally threatened and exists in the Iraqi Marshlands, (b) the species/subspecies is endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands and/or the Mesopotamian Marshlands as a whole and (c) the species is known to be currently extremely rare in the Iraqi Marshlands.

The results of the assessment produced a total of five Critically Endangered (CR) species, 12 Endangered (EN) species, 13 Vulnerable (VU) species, one Data Deficient (DD) species and finally one Least Concern (LC) species, all on the regional level of the Iraqi Marshlands. The species evaluated were two plants, three fish, two mammals, two reptiles and 23 bird species.

All Critically Endangered (CR) species were bird species. Three of which are globally Least Concern while one is Globally Endangered and the other is Vulnerable. As for Endangered species, they consisted of two plant species, two fish species, two mammal species and six bird species. All plant and fish species in this category were not evaluated globally, whereas both mammal species have a global status; one Endangered and the other Vulnerable. As for birds, two species were Least Concern and one is Near Threatened (NT) globally, while the other three are globally threatened (one Endangered and two Vulnerable species).

Of the thirteen regionally Vulnerable (VU) species, ten of which were bird species (globally Least Concern). Two of the species evaluated as Vulnerable are Not Evaluated on the global level; a fish species and a bird subspecies (Mesopotamian Crow). A reptile species that was evaluated to be Vulnerable on the level of the Iraqi Marshlands was evaluated in 1996 to be Endangered on the global level; Euphrates Soft-shelled Turtle.

A single reptile was recorded to be Data Deficient although the species; Murray’s Comb-fingered Gecko was globally evaluated to be Least Concern back in 2009. Of all the selected species, the sole species that was evaluated as Least Concern was the Mesopotamian Gerbil, which is Endemic to the Mesopotamian Marshes, and it was equally evaluated as Least Concern on the global level back in 2008.

2 Background

The Iraqi Marshlands had been recognized as one of the world's most significant wetland ecosystems. Extensive ecological damage to this area, with the accompanying displacement of much of the indigenous fauna population, as well as the destruction of the plant-cover, was identified as one of the country's major environmental and humanitarian disasters. The protection of human health and livelihoods and the preservation of area's ecosystems and biodiversity have been a national priority since the post-conflict reconstruction period (UNEP 2009).

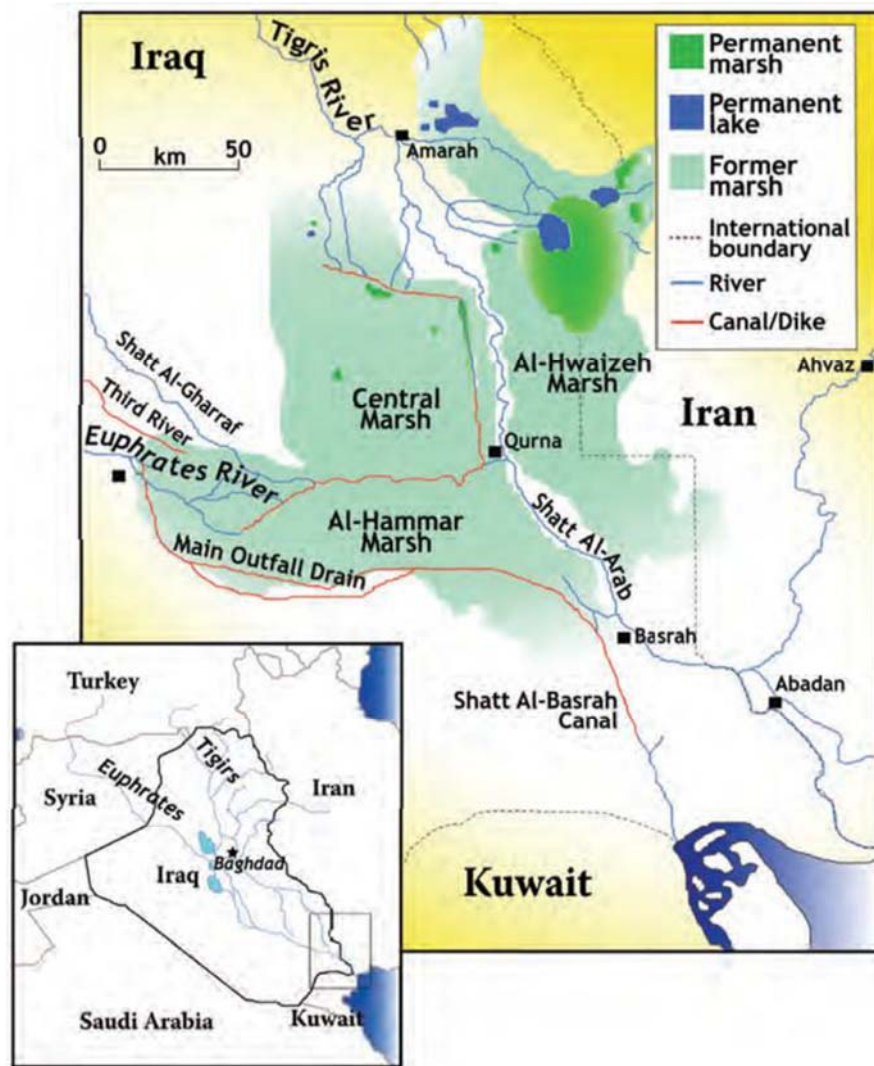


Figure 1: Geographic location and general subdivision of the southern Marshes of Iraq. (Source: UNEP 2010)

The joint UNEP-UNESCO initiative in the Iraqi Marshlands aims “to ensure sustainable development of the Iraqi Marshlands, reflecting the outstanding universal value of its historical, cultural, environmental, hydrological, and socio-economic characteristics of the area, particularly utilizing the World Heritage inscription process as a tool to develop and implement a management planning framework” (UNEP-DTIE-IETC 2009).

A regional red-listing exercise of a selected group of taxa has been proposed to be part of the process of the preparation for the World Heritage Nomination File for the Iraqi Marshlands. Based on this, a team of national experts, led by Laith Al-Moghrabi – IUCN species expert, was formed to carry out this exercise. It should be highlighted that the term “regional” in the context of this report and its relevant red-listing exercise, refers to the Iraqi Marshlands.

A literature review was carried out aiming at collecting all ecological studies of the Iraqi Marshlands. The main objective of this step was to identify a preliminary list of taxa that would consequently be evaluated based on IUCN’s regional red-listing assessment process. In parallel, all species that are known to be recorded in the Iraqi Marshlands and have a global threatened status were identified. The team has also identified all taxa that are endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands.

A workshop on IUCN Red Listing Assessments was carried out in the Arab Regional Centre of World Heritage, Manama, Bahrain on 3-6 June, 2013. The workshop principally focused on evaluating the selected taxa according to the IUCN regional assessment process. During the workshop, information gaps were also identified and further species were selected for evaluation. These species were later evaluated through electronic communication between the different expert members of the evaluation team. This report outlines the results of the regional red-listing evaluation that have been produced throughout this whole process.

A total of 32 species were selected to be assessed based on IUCN Regional Red Listing Assessment Guidelines. These species were selected based on the criteria listed below:

- (a) the species is globally threatened and exists in the Iraqi Marshlands,
- (b) the species/subspecies is endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands and/or the Mesopotamian Marshlands as a whole and
- (c) the species is known to be currently relatively rare in the Iraqi Marshlands.

3 Assessment results

3.1 Critically Endangered

Anser erythropus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	ANSERIFORMES	ANATIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Anser erythropus</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1758			
English Name(s)	Lesser White-fronted Goose			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1 ab(iii)+ 2 ab(iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	<p>Lesser White-fronted Goose winters regularly but in a few numbers in Iraq. Historically, no exact figures were provided but most records were from southern Iraq. The recent observations showed that the species still visits al-Hawizeh marshes in winter. The most recent record of the species was a total of 18 birds recorded on 13 January, 2013 in Al-Hawizeh marshes whereas the highest total was 28 birds in the same area. All records were from the same location.</p> <p>Based on historical recordings, as well as the recent ones, the species prefers special kind of marshland which is the non-permanent marshes, and this kind habitat is currently very little in the Iraqi Marshlands (less than 100km²) and it continues to face immense threats that threatens its existence and consequently the presence of the species in the area.</p>
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Vulnerable 2008- Vulnerable 2006- Vulnerable 2004- Vulnerable 2000- Vulnerable 1996- Vulnerable 1994- Vulnerable

POPULATION

Population	No population estimation was made on the national level on this bird. However, the estimated number of the species inside the area might range between 50-100 individuals.
Trend	Declining, according to the locals' and hunters' reporting.

Oxyura leucocephala

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	ANSERIFORMES	ANATIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>			
Species Authority	Scopoli, 1769			
English Name(s)	White-headed Duck			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1 ab (iii)+ 2 ab (iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	<p>The White-headed Duck is a rare uncommon winter visitor to Iraq. Most of these records were obtained from southern Iraq. The recent observations showed that it exists in two locations; one of these locations is inside the Iraqi Marshlands; al-Hawizeh marshes.</p> <p>The individuals in Iraqi Marshlands come from the most endangered populations of the species in Central Asia and Pakistan. There are no regular records of the species in the Iraqi Marshlands and most observations came from locals and hunters. The highest count that was made for this species in the property was 19 individuals. The continuing habitat loss in the single locations where this species is recorded is the main prominent threat for the species existence in the Iraqi Marshlands</p>
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Endangered 2008- Endangered 2006- Endangered 2004- Endangered 2000- Endangered 1996- Vulnerable 1994- Vulnerable

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the WhD inside the property might range between 20-50 individuals.
Trend	Decreasing

Anhinga rufa

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	PELECANIFORMES	ANHINGIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>			
Species Authority	(Daudin, 1802)			
English Name(s)	African Darter, Darter			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab (i,ii,iii) + B2ab (i,ii,iii); C2a (i,ii); D
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The population of this species in the Iraqi Marshlands is part of the only remaining population of the species in West Asia (and Western Palearctic), in the southwest of Iran and southeast of Iraq. The species is recorded in a very small, limited area of the Iraqi Marshlands not exceeding 100km ² , and has been only recorded recently in a single location. Additionally, the area where the species is recorded is facing continuous decline that is projected to continue while the quality of habitat continues to deteriorate. Also, the number of mature individuals that have been recorded in the Iraqi Marshlands does not exceed 20 birds throughout its records in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012 – Least Concern 2009 – Least Concern 2008 – Least Concern 2004 – Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Ardea goliath

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CICONIIFORMES	ARDEIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Ardea goliath</i>			

Species Authority	Cretzschmar, 1827
English Name(s)	Goliath Heron

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Critically Endangered A2 (a,c,d) + 3 (c,d) + 4 (c,d); B2ab (i,ii,iii); C2a (i,ii); D
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The population of this species in the Iraqi Marshlands is part of the only remaining population of the species in West Asia, in the southwest of Iran and southeast of Iraq. The population size of the species is believed to have decreased by more than 80% based on direct observations. The species is recorded in a very small limited area of the Iraqi Marshlands not exceeding 100km ² , and has been only recorded recently in a single location. Additionally, the area where the species is recorded is facing continuous decline that is projected to continue while the quality of habitat continues to deteriorate. Also, the number of mature individuals that have been reported by locals and hunters in the Iraqi Marshlands does not exceed two confirmed individual birds.
Global Red List Assessment	2012 – Least Concern 2009 – Least Concern 2008 – Least Concern 2004 – Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Threskiornis aethiopicus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CICONIIFORMES	THRESKIORNITHIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			
Species Authority	(Latham, 1790)			
English Name(s)	African Scared Ibis, Scared Ibis			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Critically Endangered B2ab(i,ii,iii); C2a(ii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The population of this species in the Iraqi Marshlands is part of the only remaining population of the species in West Asia, in the southwest of Iran and southeast of Iraq. The species is recorded in a very small limited area of the Iraqi Marshlands not exceeding 100km ² , and has been only recorded recently in a single location. Additionally, the area where the species is recorded is facing continuous decline that is projected to continue while the quality of habitat continues to deteriorate. Also, the number of mature individuals that have been recorded in the Iraqi Marshlands recently was 26 adults (Salim et al, 2009). In 2012, a single adult individual was observed in al-Hawizeh marshes (unpublished)
Global Red List Assessment	2012 – Least Concern 2009 – Least Concern 2008 – Least Concern 2004 – Least Concern 2000 – Not Recognised 1994 – Not Recognised 1988 – Not Recognised

POPULATION

Population	The number of mature individuals that have been recorded in the Iraqi Marshlands recently was 26 adults (Salim et al, 2009). In 2012, a single adult individual was observed in al-Hawizeh marshes (unpublished). All in al-Hawiezah marshes.
Trend	Decreasing

3.2 Endangered

Ranunculus sphaerospermus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
PLANTAE	TRACHEOPHYTA	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	RANUNCULALES	RANUNCULACEAE
Scientific Name	<i>Ranunculus sphaerospermus</i>			
Species Authority	Boiss. & Blanche			

English Name(s)	Zheir Al-Bat (Arabic)
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ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered - A2c + 3c + 4c; B1ab (i, ii, iii) + 2ab (i,ii,iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	<p>The species historically have been recorded all over the Iraqi Marshlands, but recently it has disappeared from the southern part of Iraqi Marshland (East and West Hammar Marsh) because of deterioration in quality of habitat. The distribution of the species after 2002 is only confined on Two of Southern Iraqi Marshland Central Marsh and Al-Hawizeh, and is disappeared from southern part of Southern Iraqi Marshland (East and West Hammar Marsh).</p> <p>The species is estimated to have a decrease in population of more than 50% and this is projected to continue in the future with a decrease in its range due to deterioration in quality of habitat. The species in the Iraqi Marshlands has definitely an EOO of less than 5,000 km² while the AAO is less than 500km².</p>
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	Unknown.
Trend	Decreasing

Nymphaea alba

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
PLANTAE	TRACHEO PHYTA	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	NYMPHAEALES	NYMPHAEACEAE
Scientific Name	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1753			
English Name(s)	Geaiba in (Arabic) & European White Waterlily			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1ab (i,ii,iii,iv) + 2 ab (i,ii,iii,iv)
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Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species historically have been recorded in the two largest Marshlands in Iraq; Central and Hammar Marshes, but due to the deterioration of the quality of suitable habitats; the species has recently been recorded in a very small limited area of the Iraqi Marshlands not exceeding 100km ² , and has been only recorded in two locations.
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Barbus grypus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	ACTINOPERYGII	CYPRINIFORMES	CYPRINIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Barbus grypus</i>			
Species Authority	Heckel 1843			
English Name(s)	Shabbout (in Arabic)			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered A2ce + A3cde + A4cde; B1ab (i,ii,iii); c (i,ii) + B2ab (i,ii,iii); c (i,ii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	<p>The species is endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands and is inferred to have a high population decline due to the intensive deterioration of its habitats. The species only recorded in less than five locations and the EOO and AOO of the species are less than 5,000Km² and 500Km² respectively.</p> <p>Currently, this species is very rare in Southern Iraqi Marshland, and was absent from Southern Iraqi Marshlands in the summer of 2006. It was only recorded in one month in 2005-2006, in East Hammar and represented about 0.05 % of the relative abundance from total fish catch in East Hammar.</p>
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	ACTINOPERYGII	CYPRINIFORMES	CYPRINIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi</i>			
Species Authority	(Gunther, 1874)			
English Name(s)	Bunni (in Arabic)			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered A2ce + 3cde + 4cde; B1ab (i,ii,iii) + c (i,ii) + 2ab (i,ii,iii) + c(i,ii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species is endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands and is inferred to have a high population decline due to the intensive deterioration of its habitats and effects by competitors introduced taxa. The species only recorded in five locations and the EOO and AOO of the species are less than 5,000Km ² and 500Km ² respectively. The species is very rare in three marshes (East Hammar and in the larger two marshes of West Al-Hammar and Central marshes). In Central marshes the species was recorded only in one month with a relative abundance of 0.1% in 2005-2006.
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	Unknown.
Trend	Decreasing

Lutrogale perspicillata

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	MAMMALIA	CARNIVORA	MUSTELIDAE

Scientific Name	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>
Species Authority	I. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1826)
English Name(s)	Indian Smooth-coated Otter, Smooth-coated Otter

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered A2cd + 3cd + 4cd; B1ab (i,ii,iii) + 2ab (i,ii,iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The population of this species in the Iraqi Marshlands is isolated from the rest of the species range in South Asia and Southeast Asia. It is not known to exist in any other part of the Mesopotamian Marshlands in Iran, which makes it an endemic species to the Iraqi Marshlands. The species is estimated to have a decrease in population of more than 50% and this is projected to continue in the future with a decrease in its range due to habitat deterioration and due to direct exploitation for its coat. The species in the Iraqi Marshlands has definitely an EOO of less than 5,000 km ² while the AAO is less than 500km ² and has been recorded in less than five locations in the Iraqi Marshlands as a whole.
Global Red List Assessment	2008 – Vulnerable A2acd 2004 – Vulnerable 2000 – Vulnerable 1996 – Vulnerable

POPULATION

Population	The estimated population of this animal in the marshes of southern Iraq is between 10 – 40 pairs.
Trend	Decreasing

Nesokia bunni

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	MAMMALIA	RODENTIA	MURIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Nesokia bunni</i>			
Species Authority	(Khajuria, 1981)			
English Name(s)	Bunn's Short-tailed Bandicoot Rat			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1ab (iii) + 2ab (iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species is endemic to the Iraqi Marshlands and is inferred to have a high population decline due to the intensive deterioration of its habitats. The species has been recorded in very few locations and in a few numbers so it is believed to be rare in addition to its imited distribution.
Global Red List Assessment	2008 – Endangered A2c

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Aquila clanga

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	FALCONIFORMES	ACCIPITRIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Aquila clanga</i>			
Species Authority	Pallas, 1811			
English Name(s)	Greater Spotted Eagle, Spotted Eagle			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + B2 ab (iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The EOO of this raptor covers most of the property area, but the AOO is restricted to very small, scattered locations within the marshlands where the bird were frequently spotted. The EOO for this bird over the southern marshes is less than 5,000km ² . And the AOO is less than 500 km ² . While the number of the main locations might range about five locations in different places within the Iraqi Marshlands as a whole. The species is also known to be caught alive, since several individuals were recorded in markets being sold for zoos and personal collections.
Global Red List	2012- Vulnerable

Assessment	2011- Vulnerable 2008-Vulnerable 2007- Vulnerable 2004- Vulnerable 2000- Vulnerable 1996- Vulnerable 1994- Vulnerable
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POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the wintering birds inside the property might range between 20-40 individuals.
Trend	Unknown but most probably decreasing

Aquila heliaca

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	FALCONIFORMES	ACCIPITRIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			
Species Authority	Savigny, 1809			
English Name(s)	Eastern Imperial Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Asian Imperial Eagle			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + B2 ab (iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The EOO of this raptor covers most of the southern marshlands (less than 5,000km ²), but the AOO is restricted to very small, scattered locations (less than 500km ²), where the species was frequently spotted. While the number of the main locations might range about five locations in different places within the property. Some individuals were seen in the markets, and this indicates that species individuals are seeked alive for zoos and personal collections.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Vulnerable 2008-Vulnerable 2007- Vulnerable 2004- Vulnerable 2000- Vulnerable 1996- Vulnerable

	1994- Vulnerable
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POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the wintering birds range between 15-25 individuals.
Trend	Unknown, but might be decreasing due to mainly habitat loss.

Platalea leucorodia

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CICONIIFORMES	THRESKIORNITHIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1758			
English Name(s)	Eurasian Spoonbill, European Spoonbill, Spoonbill			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1ab (i,ii,iii)+ B2ab (i,ii,iii); C2a (i,ii); D
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The resident population of this species in the Iraqi Marshlands is part of the one of the breeding species population in West Asia, in the southwest of Iran and southeast of Iraq. The species is recorded in a very small limited area of the Iraqi Marshlands not exceeding an EOO of 5,000km ² and an AOO not exceeding 500 km ² . Additionally, the area where the species is recorded is facing continuous decline that is projected to continue while the quality of habitat continues to deteriorate.
Global Red List Assessment	2012 – Least Concern 2009 – Least Concern 2008 – Least Concern 2004 – Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated population of this bird in the southern marshes might ranges between 30 – 90 individuals.
Trend	Decreasing

Porphyrio porphyrio

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	GRUIFORMES	RALLIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1758			
English Name(s)	Purple Swamphen, Purple Swamp-Hen, Purple Gallinule			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (i & iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 4 - 6. Despite that it exists over all the southern marshes, but the distribution might be related to some limiting factors (<i>i.e. food availability and availability of suitable shelter ..</i>).
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the resident population in the Iraqi Marshlands range between 2000-4000 breeding pairs.
Trend	Unknown, but might be decreasing due to the habitat loss and the severe pressure of hunting.

Limosa limosa

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CHARADRIIFORMES	SCOLOPACIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1758			
English Name(s)	Black-tailed Godwit			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + B2 ab (iii)
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The EOO of this wader covers most of the Iraqi Marshlands (less than 5,000km ²), but the AOO is restricted to very small areas due to the habitat requirements of this species (less than 500km ²), while the number of the main locations might range about five locations in different places within the property.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Near Threatened 2009- Near Threatened 2008- Near Threatened 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the wintering population in the Iraqi Marshlands ranges between 1000 – 1500 individuals.
Trend	Unknown, but might be decreasing due to habitat loss.

Acrocephalus griseldis

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	PASSERIFORMES	SYLVIIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>			
Species Authority	(Hartlaub, 1891)			
English Name(s)	Basra Reed-warbler, Basra Reed Warbler, Basra Reed-Warbler			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered A2c+3c+4c; B1ab (i, ii, iii); C1
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species is has a small population which is estimated to be undergoing very rapid and continuing declines owing to extensive, and recently accelerating, drainage of its breeding habitat. Population declines are corroborated by an apparent decline in numbers trapped on migration at a ringing station. The distribution of this bird is tightly linked to the status of the waterbody in the marshlands making it difficult to

	produce specific figures without carrying out a specific research on the species population estimation in the whole area of the Iraqi Marshlands
Global Red List Assessment	2012 – Endangered A2c+3c+4c 2008 – Endangered 2006 – Endangered 2004 – Endangered

POPULATION

Population	The population is estimated to number 2,500-9,999 individuals based on an assessment of known records, descriptions of abundance and range size. This is consistent with recorded population density estimates for congeners or close relatives with a similar body size, and the fact that only a proportion of the estimated Extent of Occurrence is likely to be occupied. This estimate is equivalent to 1,667-6,666 mature individuals, rounded here to 1,500-7,000 mature individuals.
Trend	Decreasing

3.3 Vulnerable

Tenualosa ilisha

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	ACTINOPERYGII	CLUPEIFORMES	CLUPEIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>			
Species Authority	(Hamilton, 1822)			
English Name(s)	Shour (in Arabic), Hilsa Herring			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered A2cd + 4cd + 4cd; B1ab (i,ii,iii,iv) + 2ab (i,ii,iii,iv) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species is located on the edge of its westernmost distribution in the Iraqi Marshlands. The species population is inferred to have decreased of more than 50% based on the deterioration of its habitats in the Iraqi Marshlands and this is expected to continue in the future. The species only recorded in two locations and the EOO and AOO of the species do not exceed 5,000km ² and 500km ² respectively and it is suspected to continue to decrease. This assessment qualifies the species to be Endangered but the assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable”

	because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant individuals that might breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	This species formed 48% Of the total fishery production (in 1965-1974) compared to 28% and 12% in 1990-2002 and 2003-2007 respectively. Recently this species was recorded in the East Hammar Marsh and represented 10.1% of the total catch.
Trend	Decreasing

Rafetus euphraticus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	REPTILIA	TESTUDINES	TRIONYCHIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Rafetus euphraticus</i>			
Species Authority	(Daudin, 1801)			
English Name(s)	Euphrates Softshell Turtle			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1ab (I,ii,iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	<p>The species is endemic to the Tigris Euphrates rivers and their tributaries. In the Iraqi Marshlands, the species is known to be facing a continuous decrease in its EOO and AOO and the deterioration of the quality of suitable habitats. The EOO and AOO of the species do not exceed 5,000km² and 500km² respectively and it is suspected to continue to decrease. The species is known to be recorded in less than five locations in total in the Iraqi Marshlands.</p> <p>Habitat destruction, pollution and fisheries are the main reasons for its decline. In fisheries, the species is killed intentionally since it is a by-catch that might damage nets.</p> <p>The original assessment has set the species to be Endangered but the assessment was downlisted to "Vulnerable" because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the visiting individuals that might compensate the decline in the population in the area.</p>

Global Red List Assessment	1996 - Endangered
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POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Decreasing

Francolinus francolinus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	GALLIFORMES	PHASIANIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1766			
English Name(s)	Black Francolin			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Vulnerable A2c,d+3c,d+4c,d
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species is listed as Vulnerable because it is facing high pressure due to continuous uncontrolled hunting and it is estimated to continue to decline due to habitat loss. There are no exact figures or recent observations but information was mostly based on estimations from reports from locals and hunters.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2006- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated population of this species is 1500-2500 pairs.
Trend	Decreasing

Tachybaptus ruficollis iraquensis

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	GALLIFORMES	PHASIANIDAE

Scientific Name	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis iraquensis</i>
Species Authority	Pallas, 1764
English Name(s)	Little Grebe

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	Despite that this subspecies exists over all the southern marshes, but the distribution might be related to some limiting factors (<i>i.e. food availability and water quality ..</i>). The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 5 – 10. The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the wintering birds (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the resident subspecies <i>iraquensis</i> in the Iraqi Marshlands ranges between 3500-4500 breeding pairs.
Trend	Unknown, but might be decreasing due to habitat loss.

Phalacrocorax pygmeus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	PELECANIFORMES	PHALACROCORACIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			
Species Authority	Pallas, 1773			
English Name(s)	Pygmy Cormorant			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (i, ii & iii) + B2 ab (i, ii & iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	Suitable habitats for the species are continuing to decrease over the past decades, due to the habitat destruction leading to feeding areas limitations. The EOO for this bird over the southern marshes is less than 5,000km ² and the AOO is less than 500 km ² . While the number of the main locations might not exceed 2 locations of which one of them hosts the major population and the second might harbour few individuals. The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the wintering birds from outside the property that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2005- Least Concern 2004- Near Threatened

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the resident population ranges between 700-1,000 breeding pairs.
Trend	Unknown, but most probably decreasing due to the habitat loss and hunting pressure and by-catch from fishing.

Vanellus leucurus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CHARADRIIFORMES	CHARADRIIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>			
Species Authority	Lichtenstein, 1823			
English Name(s)	White-tailed Lapwing, White-tailed Plover			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013

Justification	This species exists over most of the southern marshes with fair distribution; however it concentrates on the sides of the rivers, canals, as well as the margins of the marshes and the wet farms. It does breed in considerable numbers in the property in the grassy/shrubby wetlands. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the wintering birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the resident population ranges between 4000 - 6000 breeding pairs.
Trend	Unknown

Larus genei

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CHARADRIIFORMES	LARIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Larus genei</i>			
Species Authority	Brème, 1839			
English Name(s)	Slender-billed Gull			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over all the southern marshes but with no fair distribution. It might use an area for roosting and other areas for foraging. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is more than 2,000 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 2 - 4. The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern

	2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern
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POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the wintering population inside the property ranges between 3000 – 4500 individuals. Also, there is a breeding population in considerable numbers but no figure can be estimated due to the unstable status of this bird in the Iraqi Marshlands.
Trend	Unknown.

Chlidonias hybrida

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CHARADRIIFORMES	LARIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			
Species Authority	Pallas, 1811			
English Name(s)	Whiskered Tern			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (i, ii, & iii) + B2 ab (i, ii, & iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over all the southern marshes but with no fair distribution. It might use an area for roosting/breeding and other areas for foraging. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 4 - 5. The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the breeding population ranges between 1500 – 2000 pairs.
Trend	Unknown.

Chlidonias leucopterus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CHARADRIIFORMES	LARIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			
Species Authority	Temminck, 1815			
English Name(s)	White-winged Tern, White-winged Black Tern			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (i, ii, & iii) + B2 ab (i, ii, & iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over most of the southern marshes with no fair distribution. It does breed in not quite large numbers in the property. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 500 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 3 - 5. The assessment was downlisted to "Vulnerable" because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the migrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the breeding population ranges between 400 – 600 pairs.
Trend	Unknown.

Ceryle rudis

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	CORACIIFORMES	ALCEDINIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			
Species Authority	Linnaeus, 1758			
English Name(s)	Pied Kingfisher			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + 2 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over most of the southern marshes with fair distribution; however it concentrates over the rivers, canals, as well as the permanent patches of water. It does breed in quite large numbers in the property using the soil embankments. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . While the number of the locations ranges between 4 - 5. The assessment was downlisted to "Vulnerable" because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	The estimated number of the breeding population inside the property might range between 1500 – 2500 pairs.
Trend	Unknown.

Prinia gracilis

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	PASSERIFORMES	CISTICOLIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>			
Species Authority	Lichtenstein, 1823			
English Name(s)	Graceful Prinia, Graceful Warbler			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + 2 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over most of the southern marshes with fair distribution; however it concentrates over the rivers, canals, as well as the permanent patches of water. It does breed in considerable numbers

	in the property over the margins of the marshlands. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . and the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Unknown but probably stable

Turdoides altirostris

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	PASSERIFORMES	TIMALIIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>			
Species Authority	Hartert, 1909			
English Name(s)	Iraq Babbler			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + 2 ab (iii) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This species exists over most of the southern marshes with fair distribution; however it concentrates over the margins of the marsh, rivers, canals, as well as the permanent patches of water. It does breed in quite considerable numbers in the property using the soil embankments. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . And the AOO is less than 2,000 km ² . The assessment was downlisted to “Vulnerable” because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	2012- Least Concern 2009- Least Concern 2008- Least Concern 2004- Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Unknown but probably stable.

Corvus corone capellanus

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	AVES	Passeriformes	Corvidae
Scientific Name	<i>Corvus cornix capellanus</i>			
Species Authority				
English Name(s)	Mesopotamian Crow			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Endangered B1 ab (iii) + B2 ab (i, iii, & iv) downlisted to Vulnerable
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	This subspecies exists over most of the southern marshes with fair distribution; however it concentrates over the margins of the marsh, rivers, canals, as well as the permanent patches of water. It does breed in quite considerable numbers in the property using the soil embankments. The EOO for this bird is less than 5,000km ² . And the AOO is less than 500 km ² . The number of the locations is two. The assessment was downlisted to "Vulnerable" because of the possibility of the support of the breeding population by the immigrant birds that might stay to breed in the area.
Global Red List Assessment	Not Evaluated

POPULATION

Population	The estimated population of the breeding birds ranges between 50 – 100 pairs.
Trend	Unknown but probably stable.

3.4 Data Deficient

Stenodactylus affinis

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	REPTILIA	SQUAMATA	GEKKONIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Stenodactylus affinis</i>			
Species Authority	(Murray, 1884)			
English Name(s)	Murray's Comb-fingered Gecko			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Data Deficient
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	In Iraqi Marshlands, there is no consensus about its range, population size or trend. The extreme changes in the habitat quality and distribution in the region since its last record in the 1990s makes it highly difficult to assess its status. Further research is critically needed.
Global Red List Assessment	2009 – Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Unknown

3.5 Least Concern

Gerbillus mesopotamiae

TAXONOMY

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	MAMMALIA	RODENTIA	MURIDAE
Scientific Name	<i>Gerbillus mesopotamiae</i>			
Species Authority	Harrison, 1956			
English Name(s)	Mesopotamian Gerbil			

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Regional Red List Category and Criteria	Least Concern
Year of Assessment	2013
Justification	The species is endemic to the Tigris Euphrates rivers and their tributaries. It is found in its highest numbers in Iraq but the Iraqi Marshlands do not seem to provide to this species its most suitable habitats since it prefers river banks. The species is believed to be common in its suitable habitats. Still, further research is needed to assess its status more precisely. The number of locations where the species is recorded is not known but it is believed to be more than five locations at least. The AOO and EOO are not also known but due to its wide range, both are believed to be above the thresholds for Threatened status
Global Red List Assessment	2008 – Least Concern

POPULATION

Population	Unknown
Trend	Unknown

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Worldbirds website (<http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/middleeast.php>)

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