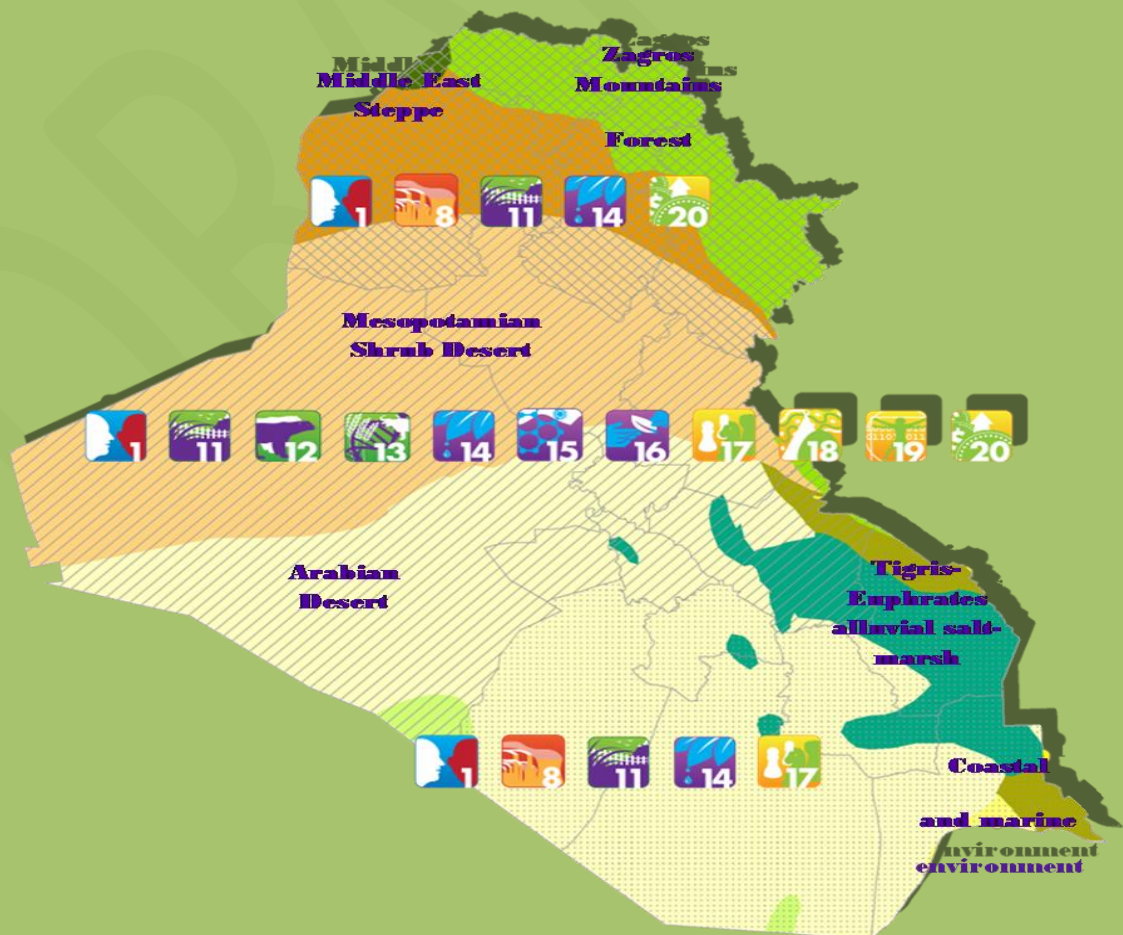


First NBSAP for Iraq and Development of Fifth National Report to the Convention of Biological Diversity

B. Report of the National and Sub-National consultations (North, Central and South Iraq) for the NBSAP

August 2013



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Background information

Iraq is in its first steps of developing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans; it has received funding through the GEF financial mechanism for the Enabling Activity Project “*First NBSAP for Iraq and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD*”.

According to the Project Work plan, approved by the GEF for Iraqi Enabling Activities in the area of Biodiversity, and to the specific guidelines given by the CBD Convention, the **Component 1** of the project addresses:

- The identification of stakeholders that will be involved in the second component of the Project.

Component 2 of the Project addresses:

- Setting national targets, principles, and main priorities of the Strategy. In particular, this component will involve the development, for Iraq, of **specific Biodiversity targets, principles and priorities to be developed in a consultative fashion**, according to best international standards of practice and based upon CBD guidance and within the framework of the CBD Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan of the Convention contributes to take action to halt the loss of biodiversity to ensure that by **2020** ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, securing the Planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. The new Strategic Plan of the Convention consists of five strategic goals, including twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 2010) the new Strategic Plan of the Convention (2011-2020) and new specific TARGETS to achieve the three objectives of the Convention were adopted with Decision X/2. These targets were named the ‘Aichi Targets’.

The twenty headline Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2015 or 2020 are organized under the five strategic goals. The goals and targets comprise both aspirations for achievement at the global level, and a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets, and report there on to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Parties are also invited to incorporate this information in their national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Within this context the Iraqi Ministry of Environment with the support of UNEP-ROWA and with the financial assistance of the GEF, has organized four events to gather all the stakeholders that will be involved in adopting and implementing or giving technical advice for the NBSAP.

1. National Workshop held in Baghdad on the 26th of May 2013 (in combination and in parallel with the sub-national consultation for central Iraq on the 27th of May).
2. Sub National Workshops
 - a) Central Iraq , Baghdad 27th of May 2013
 - b) North Iraq, Sulaimaniyah, 19th-20th of June 2013
 - c) South Iraq, Basrah, 26th-27th of June 2013

The sub-national consultations were organized as to invite all the Iraqi governorates to take part in the consultation process; the governorates that were invited, under each major geographic group were as follows.

North Iraq:

Suleimaniyah, Erbil, Dohuk, Ninewa, Kirkuk

Central Iraq:

Anbar, Kerbala, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah Ad Din, Babil, Wasit

South Iraq:

Basra, Najaf, Missan, Dhi-Qar, Diwaniya, Muthanna

The National and central Iraq Workshops were organized together and therefore the setting of the national priorities on the 26th of May was done together with the central Iraq representatives. The participants were identifying the national/central Iraq priorities during the first day; while during the second day the National Group focused on the Guiding questions (to set national targets) for the central Iraq eco-regions.

The National Workshop

The first National Workshop of Iraq was held in Baghdad on the 27th of May 2013. The purpose of this event was dual:

1. The workshop aimed at involving as many key stakeholders as possible, and at using their skills and knowledge to identify the national priorities in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the country.
2. The workshop was an opportunity and an occasion to divulgate information about biodiversity importance and to highlight the needs of the country in terms of biodiversity conservation. The presence of the media (national and local television, press offices of the Ministry of Environment, radio, journalists) achieved the objective of making this event visible to everyone and represented also an opportunity of awareness raising.

A number of key stakeholders were identified and invited prior to the event by the Iraqi Ministry of Environment. The complete list of the invited Stakeholders and the names and contact reference of the participants is presented in **Annex I - List of Participants**; in this Annex there is also an indication of the group to which the participant was assigned in dealing with the various strategic goals and his/her belonging to the (N) or sub-national (S) group.

During the Workshop, the participants were assigned to five different groups, each with the task of analyzing and discussing one of the five Strategic Goals. The participants had first to fill in an individual questionnaire to set the priority Aichi targets for Iraq. Afterwards they were assigned to five groups: A, B, C, D, E, each dealing with the corresponding strategic goal, and were asked to assign a priority to a limited number of targets in the context of the group-work and discussion. By the end of the day the five groups presented and argued the results of their discussion and these results were summarized in the Table in **Annex II – Priority Targets**.

The National Workshop further defined the possible national targets, by answering the “Guiding Questions” (as provided in the Aichi Targets Quick Guides, available at <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/quick-guides/>), for the priority targets that they had identified during group work and that are reported in Annex II. The answers to the “Guiding questions” for the **national priority Aichi Targets** are presented in

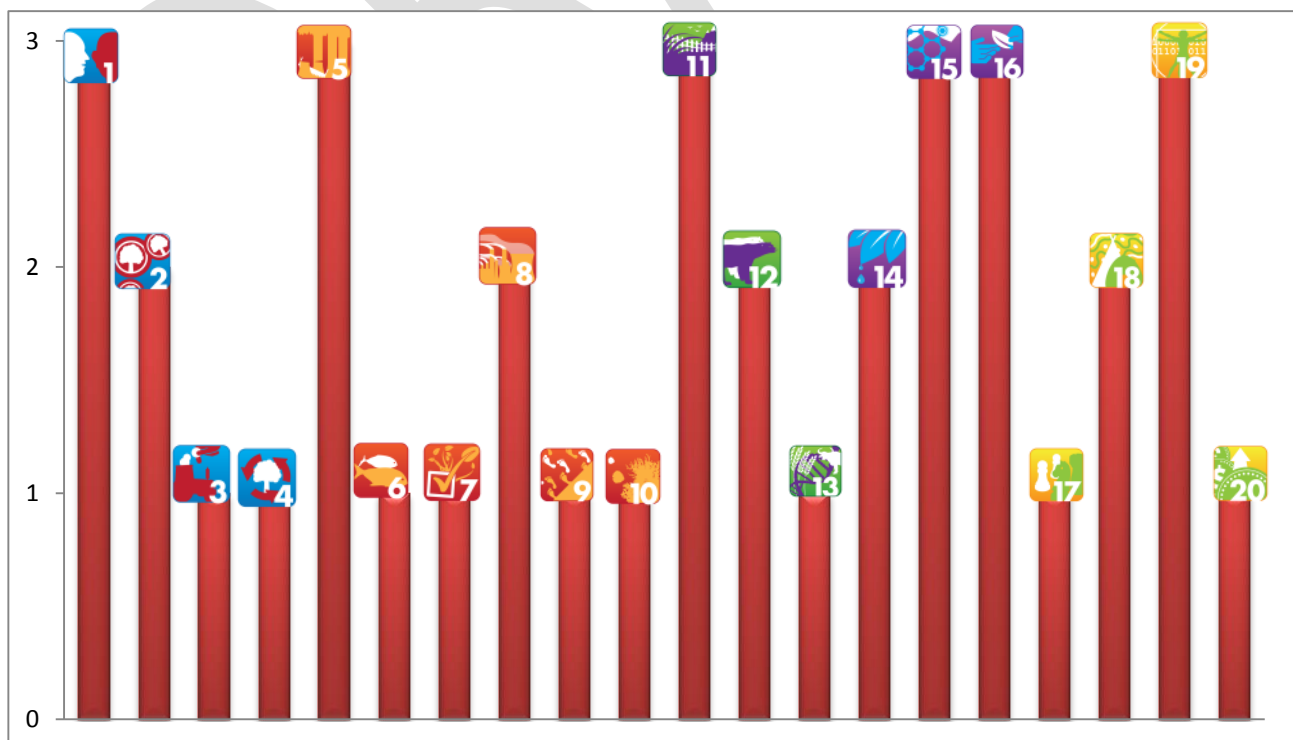
Annex III – Guiding Questions.

Outcomes of the National Workshop on setting priorities

The National Groups identified the Aichi targets that were considered as the most urgent priorities to be addressed by the National Strategy. Here follows a brief summary of the main tips and pillars extracted from the Group answers to the guiding questions, which might be useful for the formulation of SMART national targets.

The Graph of Figure 1 shows the priority of the various Targets, as determined during the Workshop.

Figure 1: National Aichi Targets priority



The 20 Targets were assessed by the national team in terms of priority and importance at the national level. The level of importance was assessed on a scale from zero to three, with three representing the highest importance, the highest national priority targets are as follows.

- **Target 1 Awareness raising**
- **Target 5 Habitat loss halved or reduced**
- **Target 11 Protected areas increased and improved**
- **Target 15 Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced**
- Target 16 Nagoya Protocol in force and operational
- Target 19 Knowledge improved, shared and applied

For five out of six targets as above listed, the national team answered the 'guiding questions', a summary thereof is reported in the following paragraphs.

Target 1

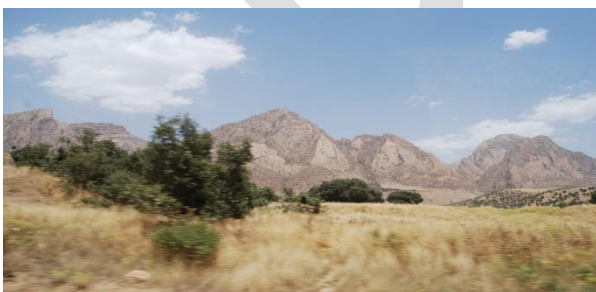
Current levels of awareness about environmental issues: in general awareness about biodiversity in Iraq is low; moderate to high levels of awareness are recognized for those Ministries and Institutions that have relations with biodiversity issues and subjects (dealing directly with fields like agriculture, fishery, environment). Scarce levels of awareness are identified for those institutional bodies that do not have among their duties direct powers on environmental/biodiversity issues.

Target groups for awareness raising initiatives: main target groups that are identified for the delivering of information and awareness initiatives are: low educated people and institutional bodies which do not deal directly with biodiversity.

Main channels that are identified for delivering key messages about biodiversity values: the media in general and in all possible contexts (radio, television, press offices of biodiversity-related Ministries) and the organization of educational activities for primary schools.

Target 5

Major habitats of the country: marshes, lakes, rivers, mountains, forests, desert and coastal environments and all of them are considered important for the conservation of country biodiversity and for the generation of ecosystem services to human well-being. All of these ecosystems are to various extents degraded, due to human impacts, including water shortage, dam construction, wars, and lack of water management policies, compounded by indirect causes like climate change and desertification.



Estimation of the approximate coverage of the main habitats in the country (from larger to smaller): desert, mountains, rivers, marshlands, forests, lakes.

Most degraded habitats: marshlands and rivers.

Decreasing and increasing habitats: forests and rivers (decreasing), desert and marshlands (increasing).

Critical points for habitat loss: the margins of agricultural areas in mountainous forested areas, where the residential expansion and the conversion of agricultural areas into urbanized surfaces is clearing and threatening the already decreasing forest habitats.

Driving forces for habitat loss: low living standards and lack of environmental awareness, failed implementation of environmental laws (local drivers), global environmental problems such as climate change and desertification (global drivers). Local drivers for habitat loss are considered easier to address.

Opportunities for the reduction of habitat loss: establishment of protected areas, constraints are identified in the laws and permissions that have to be obtained for their establishment.

Target 11

Protected areas extent: information on the extent of the country protected areas is not available to the working group, as well as other more detailed information addressed by the guiding questions for this target; however the main ecosystems of the country are identified as important biodiversity hotspots for research and scientific knowledge but also for generating economic benefits and for stimulating tourism.

Protected areas management: the management of protected areas can be accomplished by using technologies available in the environmental field and by liaising with the international scientific community.

Constraints for PAs establishment and management: main constraints that are identified by the group refer to the issuance and implementation of specific legislation, detailing and regulating the management and restrictions related with the protected areas.

Target 15

Main degraded habitats: the northern mountainous areas, marshes and rivers and the hilly desert-shrub.

The most important region/ecosystems for biodiversity richness: the northern mountainous area;

Carbon sequestration areas: the mountains, the naturally vegetated river banks and the marshlands, because of the dense plant cover.

Restoration activities: The only restoration activity that has been identified by the group refers to the increase of plant coverage and maintenance of natural vegetation.

Opportunities: the opportunities for restoring ecosystems and enhancing their resilience are identified in the establishment of protected areas and in the appropriate application of management measures such as temporary fencing of natural pastures to avoid overgrazing and habitat degradation.

Constraints: main constraints identified for this target are: the availability of funds, the availability of advanced (restoration) techniques and the expertise to apply them, the political commitment.

Stakeholders: the stakeholders that are likely to be affected by trying to enhance ecosystem resilience are identified in the local communities; they could be involved in the enhancement of ecosystem resilience by using their knowledge and cultural heritage for ecosystem well-management and by including them in public programs and projects for the ecosystems in which they live.



Target 19

Biodiversity information available in the country: the only comprehensive inventory about biodiversity features (plants) in the country is identified in the “Flora of Iraq”¹; information on animal species is recognized as enormously lacking (exceptions might exist for inventories and researches carried out by NGOs). For this reason the field surveys and data collection on animal species are recognized as a priority in knowledge acquirement.

Main sources of information: the main depositaries of the available information in the country are identified in: the Universities, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Natural History museum.

Major information gaps: major gaps identified refer to: the lack of comprehensive surveys on animal species, lack of experts in the field of animal and plant identification and classification, lack of financial support for species survey projects, lack of plant seeds gene bank.

Crucial information to acquire: comprehensive information about animal and plant species presence and distribution.

Country tools to disseminate environmental information: the mechanisms of the country to generate and spread information about biodiversity only refer to libraries, internet sites and various conferences and sporadic thematic events.

Use of biodiversity information to support policy making: the way in which biodiversity information is used to support political decision making is limited to the most popular environmental cases (e.g. the marshlands) or to the purpose of complying with international environmental obligations. Opportunities identified in this field refer to the ownership of information and skills by certain ministries (Environment, Agriculture, Science and Technology), that could gather to establish a National Clearing House mechanism for maintaining and spreading the information. Constraints are identified in the administrative systems and bureaucracy.

The Sub-National workshop for Central Iraq

The identification of the central Iraq priorities corresponds to the priorities identified during the national Workshop.

Main purpose of the sub-national Workshop was to identify the regional priorities for the central region of Iraq with a focus on the central Iraq eco-regions. Therefore also for the sub-National consultations the same approach based on the five Strategic Goals of the Convention and on the Aichi targets was adopted as a general framework for setting priorities. In addition, as compared with the national process, the sub-national consultation adopted a process which focused also on main habitats/eco-regions of Iraq, taking into account those which are present in the Central Iraqi region. The main outcomes of the sub-national group discussion are presented in **Annex IV – Guiding Questions by eco-region Annex IV – Guiding Questions by eco-region** where the main issues for the relevant targets have been identified. In this approach the Aichi Targets that were considered most relevant for the Central region were addressed, trying to score their importance and significance depending on the eco-regions and habitats that are typical of this area of Iraq.

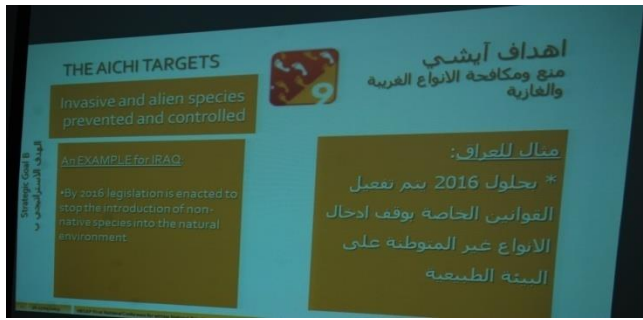
Outcomes of the sub-national workshop Central Iraq

Within this framework the main conclusions and key issues that have emerged from the sub-national workshop for Central Iraq are illustrated in the following paragraphs and Figures.

All the 20 Targets were assessed by the sub-national team in terms of relevance and importance for the main eco-regions of the central Iraq region. The level of importance was assessed on a scale from zero to three, with three representing the highest importance. Targets, for which high priority was identified for one or more eco-regions, are:

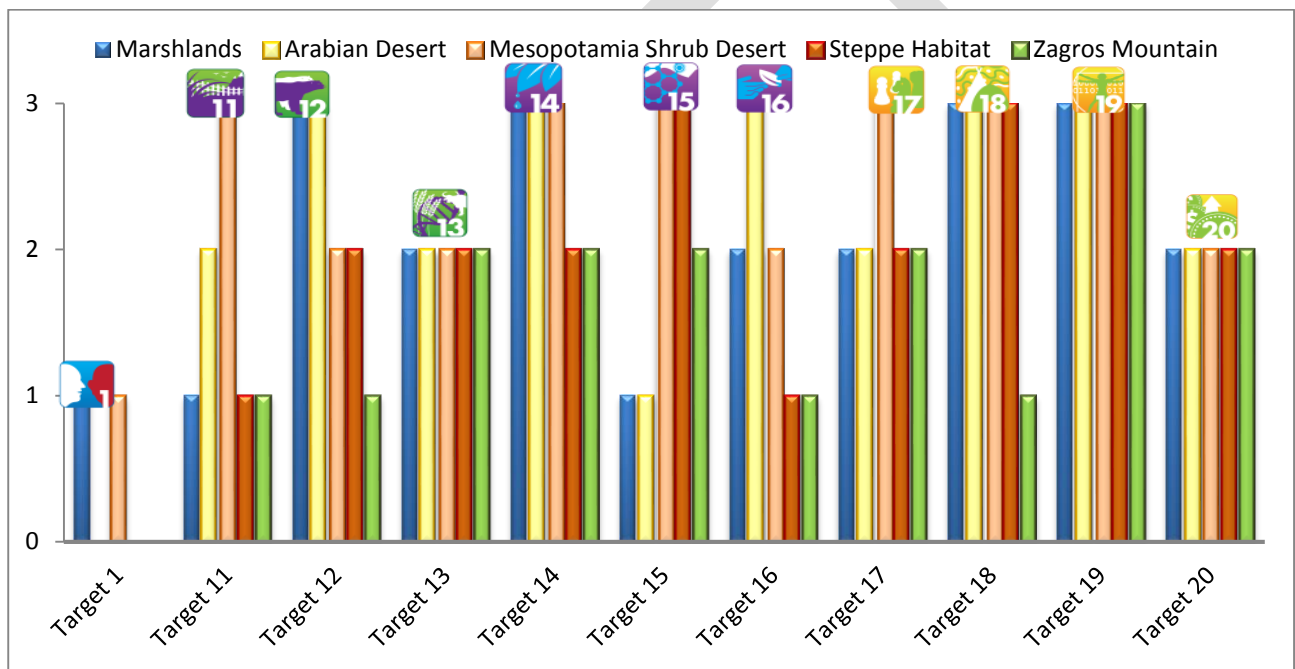
- **Target 11** **Protected areas increased and improved**
- **Target 12** **Extinction prevented**
- **Target 14** **Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded**
- **Target 15** **Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced**
- **Target 16** **Nagoya Protocol in force and operational**
- **Target 17** **NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument**
- **Target 18** **Traditional knowledge respected**
- **Target 19** **Knowledge improved, shared and applied**

¹ The work on the Flora of Iraq was interrupted because of political changes in the country; the last publication dates back to 1985. Now work has recommenced in cooperation with the UK Royal Botanic Garden (Kew). Source: <http://www.kew.org/news/flora-of-iraq-revival.htm>.



For some targets the team identified key issues, comments and justifications for assigning the priorities, in other cases they just indicated the score and degree of importance of that specific target for the central Iraq region. A summary of main issues identified by the group is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Figure 2: Priority Targets for eco-region in the central Iraq region



Target 12

Threatened species in the country: about 30 threatened species have been identified in the central Iraq area, among them: Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*), various Falcon species, Gazelles, as well as plant and reptile species.

Information about increasing and decreasing species: there are some figures especially regarding decreasing species, but exact information and trends are missing due to a lack of data.

Hotspots for Biodiversity: these sites are identified in the area in locations such as wetlands (Tharthar, Qadissiya, Samarra, Himreen, Razzaza, and Habbaniya lakes and Dalmaj marsh).

Main threats species are facing: pollution, water shortage, hunting, bad water quality, unsustainable grazing, destruction of natural habitats, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change.

Opportunities and constraints for preventing species extinction: financial resources availability and enforcement of relevant legislation to prevent illegal hunting and other activities.

Stakeholder affected by this Target: farmers, fishermen and rural village inhabitants, they could be involved by creating job opportunities in the environmental field.



Target 14

Major ecosystems of the region/country: desert, steppe, mountains, wetlands, forests. The most important for provisioning functions are the wetlands.

Contribution of major ecosystems to human well-being: food provisioning, eco-tourism, job opportunities.

Ecosystems which are quickly degrading: aquatic ecosystems. Non ecosystem is assessed as improving but also no ecosystem is assessed as taking the risk of passing the tipping point.

Ecosystems in need of restoration: wetlands, deserts, and in general all habitats are assessed as in need of protection.

Ecosystems particularly important for the well-being of women, indigenous and local communities: aquatic ecosystems and wetlands.

Drivers of ecosystem services loss: human actions, the easiest way to address these drivers is through legislation and restoration actions.

Opportunities to safeguard ecosystem services: increase environmental awareness and provide financial support.



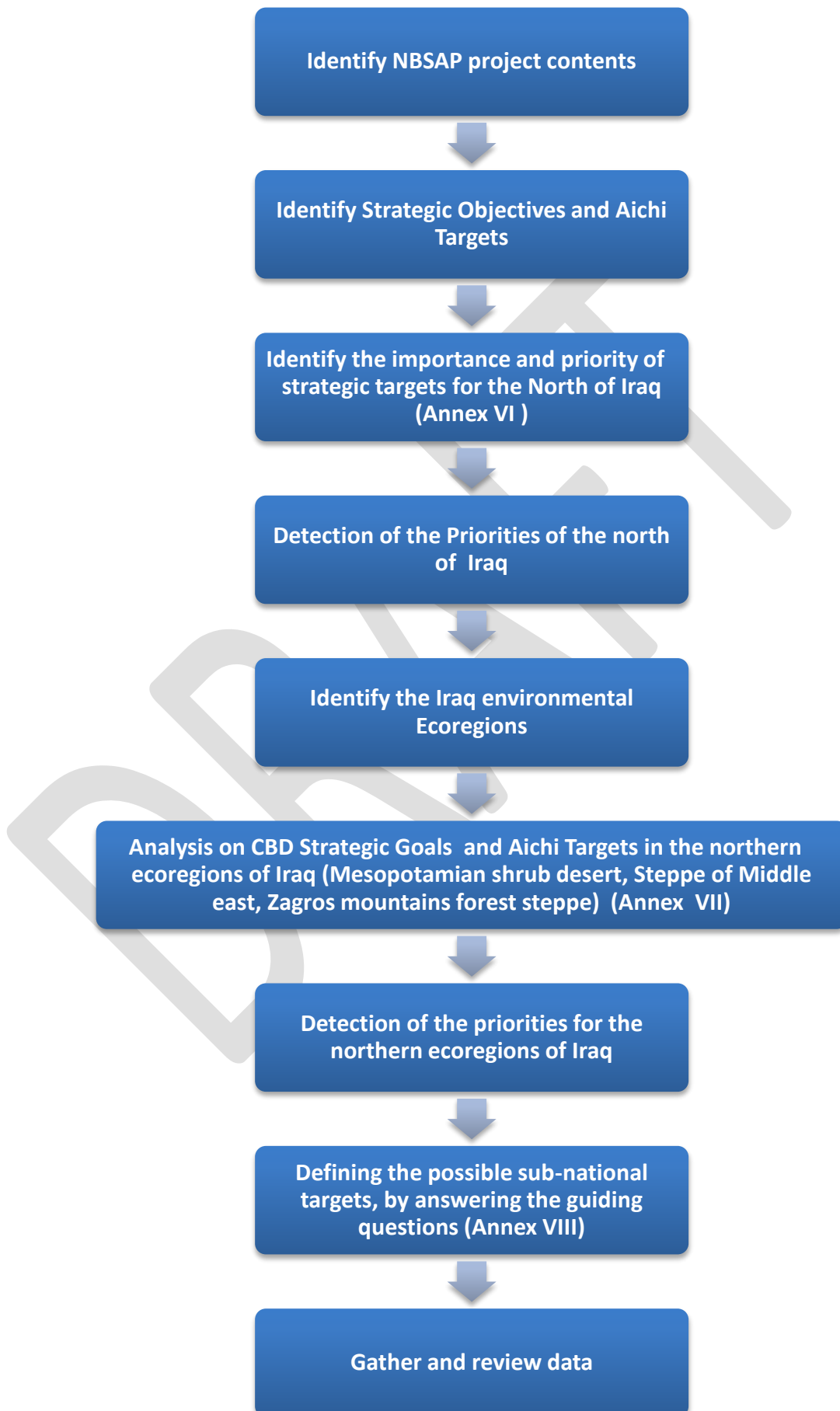
The Sub-National workshop for Northern Iraq

The workshop of the northern Iraqi region was held in Sulaimaniyah, on the 19th-20th of June 2013. The same working approach of the National and sub-national Workshops was adopted and the participants were assigned to various groups each focusing on one.

Strategic Goal of the Convention and therefore on a limited number of Aichi Targets. A comprehensive list of participants and their belonging to the working group A, B, C, D or E is reported in **Annex V** - List of Participants for North Iraq.

The approach that was adopted is summarized in the following Chart.

Figure 3: Workshop framework



During the first day of the workshop, the participants were assigned to five groups: A, B, C, D and E, according to relation of their institutions and scientific disciplines with each of the five strategic goals and the targets. The participants were first asked to fill in an individual Questionnaire for the targets within their group, and then they were asked to identify the importance and priority of those specific targets for the northern region and summarize their results in the summary form (that had been distributed to each group)

By the end of the day the groups produced the results presented in **Annex VI – Priority Targets**

During the second day the Aichi targets were assessed according to the environmental eco-region present in the northern area.

Due to the importance and richness of these eco-regions in biodiversity and in order to identify the Aichi targets that have the highest importance to the northern regions, the form presented in **Annex VII – Aichi Target priority by eco-region** has been used in the workshop to focus on: Mesopotamian shrub desert, Steppe Habitats of the middle east and Zagros Mountain forest which represent the main eco-regions in the north of Iraq.

Outcomes of the Sub-National workshop Northern Iraq

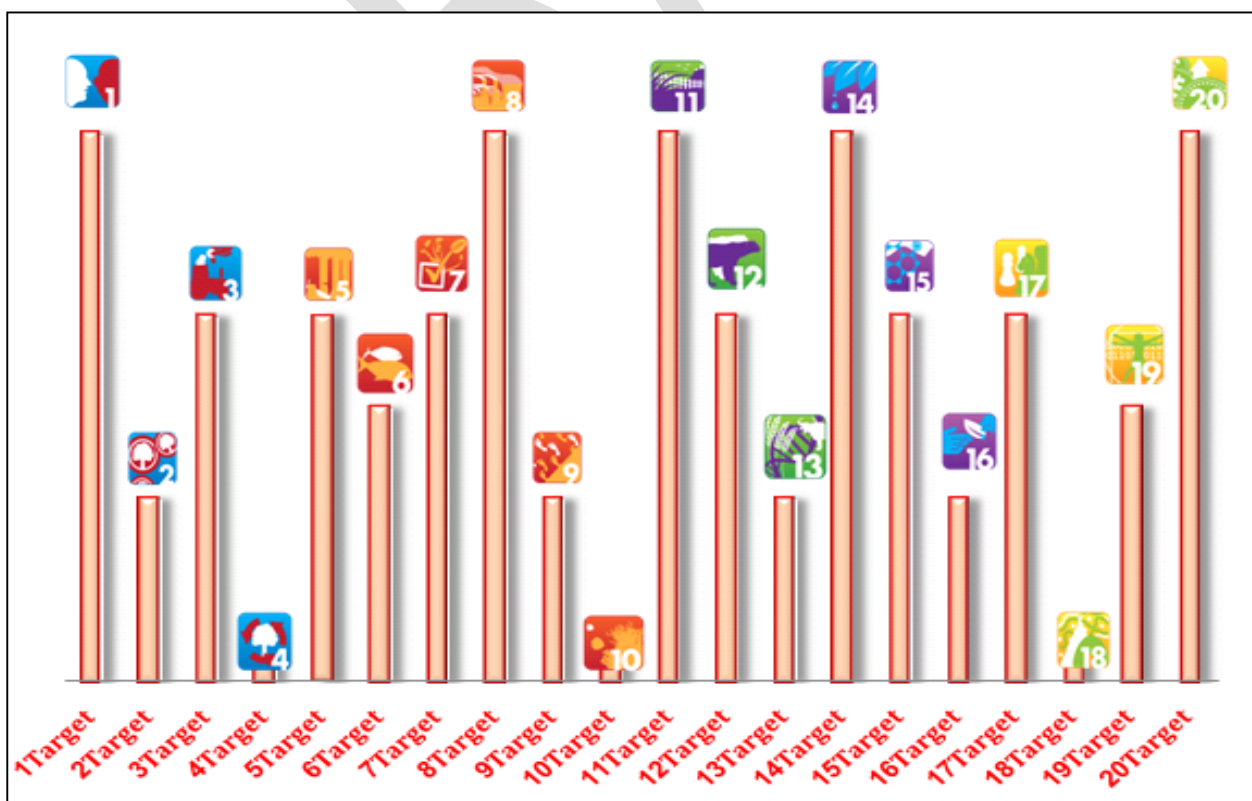
As from the information presented in **Annexes**, it appears that the priority targets for the northern regional were identified by all work group participants during day one, as follows :

- **Target 1: Awareness raising**
- **Target 8: Pollution reduced**
- **Target 11: Protected area**
- **Target 14: Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded**
- **Target 20: Financial resources from all sources increased**

The Mesopotamian shrub desert was the eco-region that emerged to have higher needs in relation to all the targets.

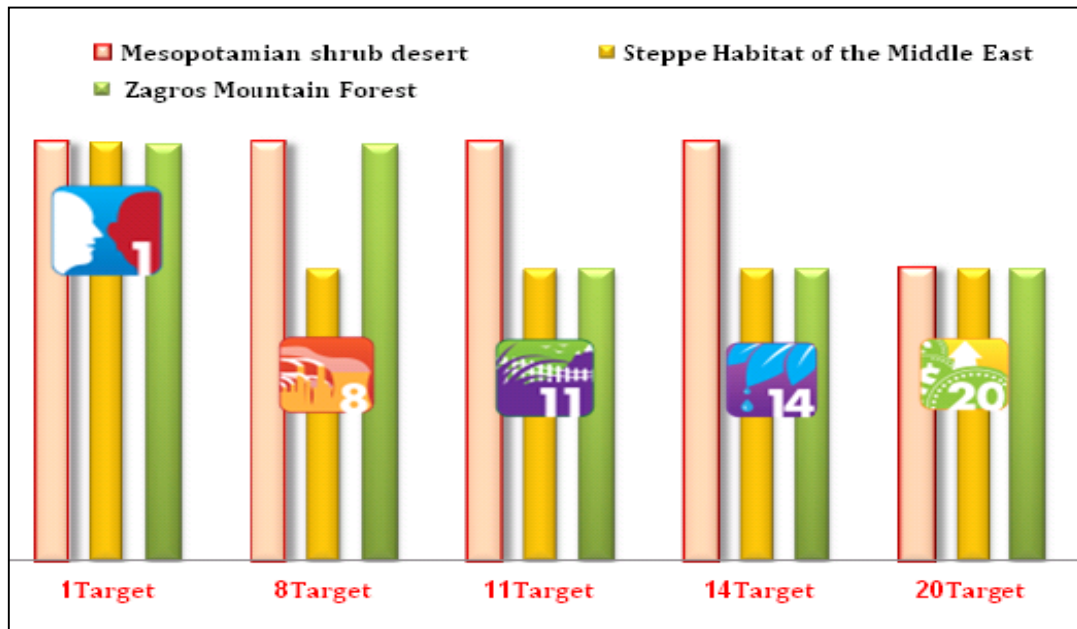
The following graph provides a schematic representation of the most important Aichi targets that were identified in the northern region during the sub-national consultation. The Aichi targets that have been addressed in this report are the top five identified as the most urgent for the north regions needs. Other Aichi targets received medium level importance and they could be addressed and developed in a further stage of the NBSAP development.

Figure 4: Priority Targets for North Iraq



The Northern areas of Iraq have different eco-regions with different needs, the Mesopotamian shrub desert have the highest priority among the other two (Steppe Habitat of the Middle East and Zagros Mountain Forest) because it is a politically disputed and unstable area, with low level of awareness and pollution problems and a strong need to protect natural areas and ecosystem services. The Steppe Habitat of the Middle East is the second priority among the eco-regions of northern Iraq, especially as concerns awareness issues and pollution reduction. The Zagros Mountain Forest is a mountainous area, with low level of pollution, but needs for public awareness and of improving protected areas.

Figure 5: Priority Targets for eco-region in the northern Iraq region



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The work Groups identified the Aichi targets that were considered as the most urgent priorities to be addressed by the National Strategy. Here follows a summary of the main tips and pillars extracted from the Group answers to the guiding questions which are reported in

Annex VIII – Guiding Questions, which might be useful for the formulation of SMART sub-national targets.



A summary of main issues identified by the group is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Target 1

Levels of awareness in the region: awareness about biodiversity in Iraq is low, moderate to high level of awareness are recognized for those academic specialists in environmental fields and the organizations that have relations with biodiversity issues. Scarce levels of awareness are identified for the public and local people.

Target groups for message delivering: main target groups that are identified for the delivering of information and awareness initiatives are: the decision makers of the government and political parties at first, then the public and the local people and students.

Key messages to be delivered: the environment is the source of life and the way in which life can be sustained. Biodiversity has no borders, the natural resources are available for all people and for the next generations.

Main channels to deliver biodiversity messages: the media, the related governmental institution, the educational programs in all educational levels, the academic centers for studies and researches, religious centers and non-governmental organization.

Note: Awareness raising is one of the targets that attracted the attention of the audience during the review of the results; it was stated that low awareness is the main reason for the destruction of Biodiversity in Iraq.

Target 8

The ecosystems that are affected by pollution: the forests, natural pastures, and the marine ecosystems.

Main pollutants affecting ecosystems: pesticides, heavy water, human and industrial waste. The pollution negatively affects organisms and their diversity.

Main sources of pollution: domestic sources, industrial sources, natural sources (dust from dust storms) and agricultural sources. Irrational industrial development and the frequent lack of proper environmental impact assessments further contribute to pollution generation and spreading. No real and efficient measures to control pollution are present in the region. Law implementation could improve these measures.

Main channels to bring pollution under control: laws implementation and enforcement, enhancement of social and environmental awareness, optimal use of technology, increase the investments in the environmental field and using the modern technology to perform environmental analysis.

Main actions to reduce pollution: re-forestation of areas, investments in the agricultural sector.

Target 11

Areas to be protected in northern Iraq: Gobi, Qara Dagh area, Cameron mountains, Tawela mountains, Mirgah Sur and Seven area. These areas don't include community based protected areas.

Areas of importance for biodiversity that currently are not protected: Gobi, Qara Dagh mountains, Berhmh cohn mountains, Bayara area, Tawela and Ahmed Awa area.

Under represented areas in northern Iraq: Berham Crohn mountains and Sukran in Arib. Until now protected areas are not effective because of the lack of financial support, the lack of expertise and oil exploration activities (e.g. oil investments in Gobi and Qara Dagh lead to the failure of the administrative procedures for protected areas).

Main constrains identified: implementation of legislation regulating the management of protected areas, lack of financial resources and experts that deals with management of protected area, lack of cooperation of the local and indigenous people in the areas that needs to be protected .

Target 14

Major ecosystem in northern Iraq: Forest and freshwater ecosystems. These ecosystems contribute to human well being by maintaining the environmental balance and controlling on the climate change.

Ecosystem that are degrading the quickest: aquatic ecosystems and pastures.

Main pressures on the ecosystem that provide services essential for human well being: impacts on groundwater quality.

Factors that are driving or causing the loss of ecosystem services: unpredictable effects from human activities and lack of awareness and environmental legislation.

Target 20

Current amount of biodiversity financing: unknown

Main sources of environmental financing: governmental, the government established the Environmental Fund, but it is still in its first steps.

Current percentages of environmental allocations: percentages unknown, financing through governmental sources and international organizations.

Possible additional funding opportunities: oil companies and foreign investors.

The Sub-National workshop for Southern Iraq

The workshop of the southern Iraqi region was held in Basrah, on the 26th-27th of June 2013. The same working approach of the National and sub-national Workshops was adopted and the participants were assigned to various groups each focusing on one Strategic Goal of the Convention and therefore on a limited number of Aichi Targets. A comprehensive list of participants and their belonging to the working group A, B, C, D or E is reported in Annex IX – List of Participants South Iraq.

During the first day of the workshop, the participants were assigned to five groups: A, B, C, D and E, according to the relation of their institutions and scientific disciplines with each of the five strategic goals and the targets. The participants were first asked to fill in an individual Questionnaire for the targets within their group, and then they were asked to identify the importance and priority of those specific targets for the southern region and summarize their results in a summary form.

The result of the first day of work was the setting of the southern Iraq priorities among the 20 Aichi Targets, as shown in **Annex X** - Priority Targets – South Iraq.

During the second day the Aichi targets were assessed according to the environmental eco-region present in the southern area; in order to identify the Aichi targets that have the highest importance to the southern regions, the form presented in **Annex XI** - Aichi target priority by eco-region has been used in the workshop to focus on: Marshlands, Coastal marine habitats, South Iran Nubo-sindian desert and semi-desert which represent the main eco-regions in the south of Iraq.

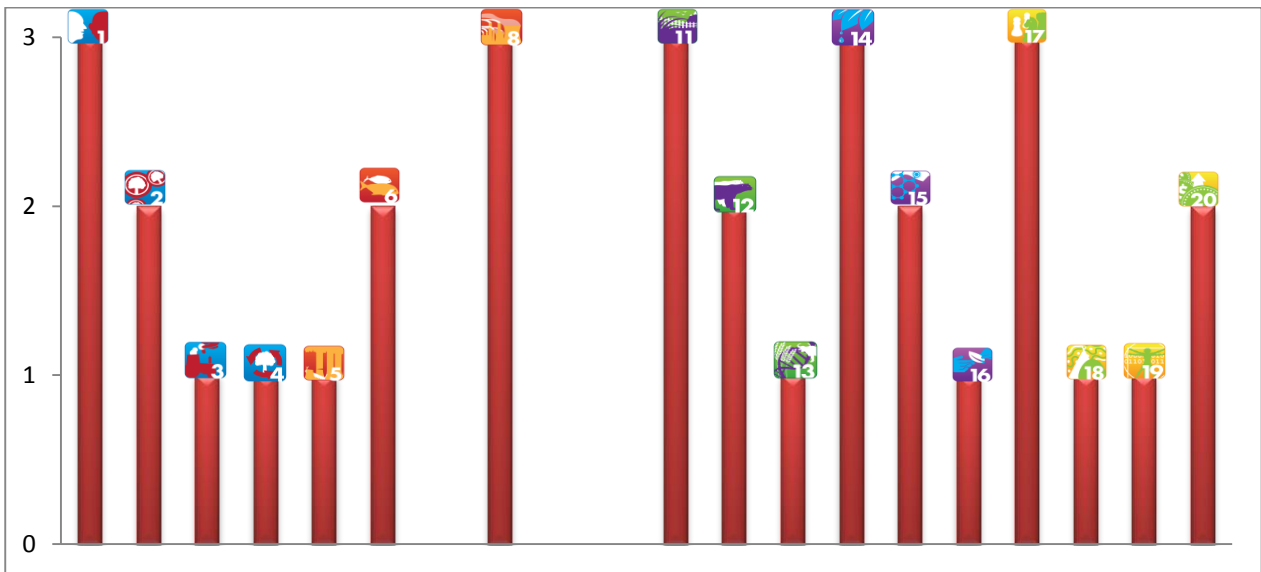
Outcomes of the Sub-National workshop Southern Iraq

The information presented in the **Annexes**, shows that the priority targets for the southern region, as identified during the first workshop day, are as follows :

- **Target 1: Awareness raising**
- **Target 8: Pollution reduced**
- **Target 11: Protected area**
- **Target 14: Ecosystems and essential services safeguarde**
- **Target 17: NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument**

The following figure represents the most important Aichi targets that were identified in the southern region during the sub-national consultation. The Aichi targets that have been addressed in this phase are the top five identified as the most urgent for the south regions needs; also not all of the Aichi targets were addressed by the working groups (targets 7, 9 and 10). The Aichi targets that received medium level importance could be addressed and developed in a further stage of the NBSAP development.

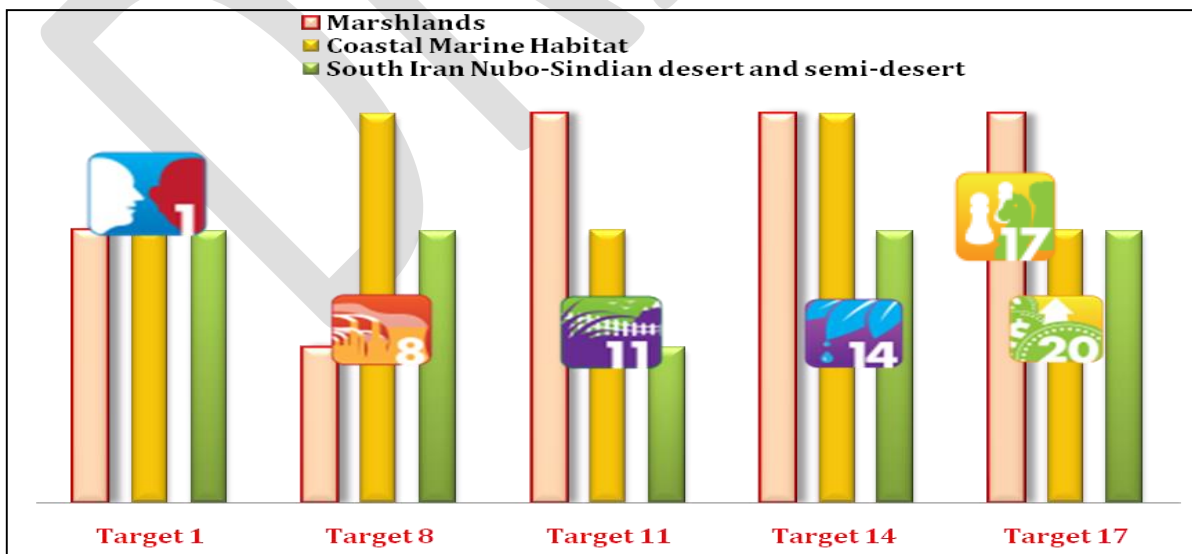
Figure 6: Priority Targets for South Iraq



Further work of the groups was the prioritization of the targets according to the most important eco-regions in southern Iraq.

The southern areas of Iraq have three main eco-regions, as identified by the working groups, each of them with different needs. The Marshlands have been considered as the first priority (in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem services importance) among the two others (Coastal Marine Habitat and South Iran Nubo-Sindian desert and semi-desert) because they represent fundamental source of services for human well-being. In these areas an intermediate level of awareness about biodiversity has been recognized and low pollution reduction needs; on the other hand has been recognized high importance for protected areas establishment, safeguarding of ecosystems and putting in place a strategy and action plans about biodiversity. The Coastal Marine habitat is the second priority, in the eco-region approach, especially as concerns pollution reduction and the safeguarding of ecosystems and essential services. The South Iran Nubo-Sindian desert and semi-desert represents a small area in this region, with little information about relevant biodiversity features; for this eco-region intermediate level of pollution and intermediate need for safeguarding of ecosystems have been assessed by the working groups.

Figure 7: Priority Targets for eco-region in the southern Iraq region



Annexes National Workshop

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Annex I - List of Participants National

List of participants (as invited)	Presence	National/ Sub-National Group	Name and position of participant(s)	Contact details
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Annex II – Priority Targets National

Goal/Group	Priority	Comments
A	Target 1: Raising awareness (1st priority) الهدف الاول : رفع التوعية (الاولوية الاولى)	Considered important and main target to improve the environmental and economic situation of biodiversity
	Target 3: Incentive measures (2nd priority) الهدف الثالث : التقديرات الحافزة (الاولوية الثانية)	The removal of the negative incentives can be achieved in the long term and it needs political stability and safety situation for the country
	Target 2: Socio-economic integration (3rd priority) الهدف الثاني : التكامل الاقتصادي والاجتماعي (الاولوية الثالثة)	It is important to biodiversity conservation.
	Target 4: Sustainable production (4th priority) الهدف الرابع : الانتاج المستدام (الاولوية الرابعة)	It depends on ability/capacity of the country which needs a long time to achieve the sustainable use.
B	Target 5: Reduce habitat loss (1st priority) الهدف الخامس : فقدان التنوع البيولوجي (الاولوية الاولى)	The achievement of this target requires the active and complete management of the marine and terrestrial habitats and their sustainable use.
	Target 8: pollution reduction (2nd priority) الهدف الثامن : اختزال التلوث (الاولوية الثانية)	It is a national problem and also common global problem. Pollution reduction techniques are available and could be achievable.
	Target 6: sustainable fishing (3rd priority) الهدف السادس : المصايد المستدامة (الاولوية الثالثة)	This target will improve the economy related with the fishing activity thereby providing for the conservation and sustainable use of the resources.
	Target 7: sustainable agriculture and forestry (4th priority) الهدف السابع : الزراعة والغابات المستدامة (الاولوية الرابعة)	The forest expansion and restoration is important for Iraq (not using the forest as production system). The formulation of a national system that ensures the sustainable forestry and agriculture is a tool to achieve the target.
C	Target 11: protected areas increased and improved: (High priority)	Protected areas as a way to protect the BD and enhancing ecotourism; Possibility of establishing special biodiversity areas Opportunity to improve the regions' climate
	Target 12: Extinction prevented (medium priority)	Protect the national BD resources; Protect the national/regional species; Give priority and protection to threatened species
	Target 13: Genetic diversity maintained (low priority)	Protect threaten and non-threaten species; Develop BD researches; Protect the unique characteristics to sustain the BD; (Genetic research to improve breeding and biodiversity)
D	Target 14: Ecosystem and essential services safeguarded (medium priority)	Sustaining of the whole ecosystems; Main factor in the BD protection; Crucial factor in the community health; Achieve food security through the sustainable agriculture; Create a balanced regional relationship. Note: achievable 30%
	Target 15: Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced (high priority)	Economic impact Demographic impact Crucial for security Crucial for health Crucial for external relations Stability & settling of community Base for sustainable development Note: Referring to SMART targets, 50% is achievable
	Target 16: Nagoya Protocol in force and operational (high priority)	Contribute to the development of national economy Provide supplementary resources for industrial utilization (Enhancing the biological resources to develop plants tolerant to harsh conditions)

Goal/Group	Priority	Comments
		Species Conservation is a base for local, regional & international development Enhance sustainable development context Note: achieve about 25% from SMART targets.
E	<u>Target number 17: NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument</u> (low priority)	The remaining period for implementation and application of NBSAP is short, so this is considered not possible. SMART target not applicable here.
	<u>Target number 18: Traditional knowledge respected</u> (medium priority)	Traditional Knowledge should be respected in order to conserve the natural systems that have the resources to contrast diseases and live in harmony with the natural cycles, and to conserve the native flora and fauna species.
	Target number 19: Knowledge improved shared and applied (high priority)	Important because the technology and the scientific baseline is a background for the designing and applying the NBSAP.
	<u>Target number 20: Financial resources from all sources increased</u> (low priority)	Because of the current lack for the financial because of the other commitments of the country, and this might conflict with SMART.

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Annex III – Guiding Questions National

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p><u>Aichi Target 1: Contribution of Public awareness</u></p> <p>1-What is the current level of biodiversity awareness in Iraq? 2-Which groups have the best/least understanding of biodiversity? 3 -Which groups should be targeted through awareness raising activities? 4 - What are the key messages that need to be transmitted to each group? 5 -What awareness raising activities are already ongoing? 6 - What are the main channels or opportunities for awareness raising? 7 -What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>1. Weak</p> <p>2. Least: ministries which don't have relation with biodiversity and the people which have low education background. Best: ministries that have relation with biodiversity issues (environment, agriculture, water resources, research institutions like university and natural history museum).</p> <p>3. Groups with low educational level targeted, to be made aware about biodiversity values for the present and future generations, media and communication institutions, press offices of relevant ministries.</p> <p>4. Key messages about biodiversity value to be transmitted to those groups with the lowest educational level.</p> <p>6. The media and the press offices of the ministries which are related with biodiversity, creating and distributing learning tools for primary school children.</p> <p>7. Financial resources must be allocated for the ministries to train and make their staff aware about biodiversity.</p>
	<p><u>Aichi Target 2: Socio-economic integration</u></p> <p>1- What are the most important ecosystem services in Iraq? 2- Have valuation studies of these services been undertaken? 3- Which services would be the most feasible to value? 4- Is biodiversity valuation being used to inform policy-making? 5 - What are the potential ecological, economic, and social benefits and costs of taking into account ecosystem services and other benefits of biodiversity? 6 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed? 8 - What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>4. Sometimes, it depends on the particular situation of the Ministry concerned.</p> <p>5. There should be a balance between the costs of protecting biodiversity and the benefits we receive from ecosystem services.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic Target 3: Incentive measures.</u></p> <p>1-What subsidies harmful to biodiversity exist in Iraq? How are the subsidies affecting biodiversity? 2 - Which are particularly harmful? What is the cost of these subsidies? 3 - What other harmful incentives exist in the country? 4- How do they affect biodiversity? 5 - What are the opportunities and constraints to removing, reforming or phasing out harmful incentives? 6 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed? 8 - What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>1. Incentives given to farmers to use chemicals without advice on the harmful effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>2. The perverse incentives provide high costs in terms of money and environment.</p> <p>3. Incentives for the introduction of non-native species</p> <p>4. Reduce biodiversity and habitats</p> <p>5. Remove the incentives to the introduction of non-native species , stop incentives for the use of chemicals and pesticides.</p> <p>6. Farmers and other stakeholders</p> <p>7. Start restoration programmes for the environment; involve the stakeholders in education activities.</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<p>8. Financial resources to start research programmes to provide new technical tools to stop using chemicals and growing alternative organic crops.</p>
<p>B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>	<p>Strategic target 5: Reduced rate of habitat loss 1 - What are the major habitats in the country? 2 - What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing? 3 - What is the condition of the natural habitats in the country? 4 - What is the size of the different habitats present? Which habitats are degraded? Which habitats are fragmented? 5 - What are the current rates of loss for each habitat? 6 - Which habitats are decreasing the quickest? --Which habitats are increasing? 7 - Which habitats have the least/most amount left? 8 - Does further loss of some habitats risk passing tipping points? 9 - What are the main causes of habitat loss? 10 - What factors are driving or causing this loss? 11 - Which are the easiest to address? 12 - What are the opportunities and constraints in taking steps to achieve or implement plans for sustainable production and consumption? 13 - What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of addressing unsustainable consumption and production? 14 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 15 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Strategic Target 6: Sustainable fishing 1-Which fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are harvested in the country? Which are under or moderately exploited? Which are fully exploited? Which are overexploited, depleted or recovering? 2 -What are the main fishing and harvesting techniques used in the country? 3-What effect are they having on vulnerable species and ecosystems? Which of these are sustainable? Which are not? 4-What management plans are already in place? How effective have they been?</p>	<p>1-Marshes, lakes, rivers, mountains, forests, desert and coastal environments. 2-Marshes, lakes, mountains, forests and coastal environments. 3- The habitats suffer from degradation due to some environmental conditions and human uses. 4- Their size can be estimated as follows (from larger to smaller 1) desert 2) mountains 3) rivers 4) marshlands 5) Forest 6) Lakes - Most degraded: 1) marshlands 2) rivers 3) forest 4) mountains 5) Lakes 6) desert 5-There is no data. 6-The Decreasing habitat: 1) Forest 2) the amount of river water 3) Lakes The increasing habitats: 1) deserts 2) Marshes. 7-The edges of agricultural areas have become residential areas(like forests) 8- Human and natural causes 9- The factors are: 1) Human reasons – decreasing in the standard of living / lack of environmental awareness / weakness in the environmental laws enforcement. 2) Natural causes - Climate Change. -Human causes are easier to address 12- Opportunities are in the establishment of protected areas, constrains are permissions and laws. 13- The costs will be positive for the establishment of protected areas related to the protection of species, tourism and the economy. 14- (1) decision-makers (stakeholders) (2) the provincial councils (3) local community. 15- Their involvement is dependent on the particular situation of the relevant entity</p> <p>1- Fish stocks represent a large proportion of aquaculture in the wetlands of the country. There are no data 2- Electricity, bombing, fishing nets with small holes 3- They affect the number of species and cause genetic selection. 4- Sustainable ones - using of legal fishing as a way to preserve species, especially during reproduction time. 5- Plans :1) sustainable fishing (in some locations), 2) releasing fingerlings,</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>5-What type of management could be introduced (quotas, allocation of rights to harvester, communities, or other appropriate units, fishing gear restrictions, spatial measures including marine protected areas, catch reductions, partial or full fishery closures, license buybacks, etc.)?</p>	<p>1) spatial measures 2)enforcing fishing restrictions 3) quotas 4) allocation of rights to the harvesters</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 7: Sustainable agriculture & forestry</p> <p>1-What are the main areas in the country used for agriculture, forestry and aquaculture? 2-Which are particularly important for biodiversity? Which are particularly important for economic reasons? 3-What measures are in place to ensure the sustainability of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry? 4-How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What areas are not currently covered by any type of sustainable management? 5-What are the opportunities and constraints to enhancing sustainable management? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing sustainable management? 6-What biodiversity related problems could be addressed through sustainable management? How could sustainable management be used to address the main threats to biodiversity? 7-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed? 8-What are the trade-off to consider? Are there stakeholders who could also act as champions for enhancing sustainable management? s</p>	<p>1- Agriculture areas are in the alluvial plain sites, and forests are located in mountainous areas 2-Both are important for biodiversity and agricultural areas are important economically 3-Integrated environmental management and ration water 4- They have been effective and can be improved through the application of laws and regulations for the protection of sites and the protection of biodiversity (different parts) 5- Opportunities are in the establishment of protected areas, laws and legislation. 6- Preserve wild species or threatened species and maintain biodiversity numbers 8- Society in general, and particularly farmers (9- Give loan to farmers and the use of modern methods in agriculture and land distribution and import of fertilizers and national seeds).</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 8: Reduction of pollution in Iraq</p> <p>1-What ecosystems are being affected by pollution, including excess nutrients? 2-Which pollutants are they being affected by? 3- How are they affecting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning? 4-What are the main sources of pollution in the country? What are the point sources of pollution? What are the diffuse sources? 5-What pollution control measures are already in place in the country? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved? 6-What are the main channels or opportunities for bringing pollution, including from excess nutrients, to levels that are not detrimental to biodiversity? 7-What type of actions could be used? What programmes or initiatives could be further built on? 8-What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>2- Industrial pollutants (agricultural, medical, chemical, fertilizer) 3-They are affecting biodiversity directly (affect the species) and in an indirect way (affecting the food or habitat of the species) 4-Factories, hospitals, power stations and oil refineries placed in cities 5-Use of the sanitation system and regular burning systems and industrial wastewater and rational use of fertilizers, pesticides and the use of clean environmental alternatives. 6-The use of appropriate environmental standards such as biological control by applying the ISO programs 7- Allocation of financial support for the establishment of protected areas, preparation of educational awareness programs, (capacity building) to the local people, contacts with countries that own modern techniques and take advantage of their expertise.</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 11: Protected areas increased and improved</p> <p>1 - What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by eco-region? Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas? 2 - What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected? What areas are underrepresented (Gap analysis)? Which habitats are declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives.</p>	<p>2. Marshland, lakes, forests, marine environment, oasis, mountain environment. They represent natural environment and habitats, and places for breeding for wild organisms; they represent huge areas that include biodiversity. These ecosystems are important for tourism, as they have a lot of biodiversity and they represent places</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>	<p>3 - How effective are existing protected areas? How can management effectiveness be improved? Are indigenous and local communities involved in protected areas management?</p> <p>4 - What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region?</p> <p>5 - How may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how could these be shared?</p> <p>6 - Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities that may be affected?</p> <p>7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Strategic Target 12: Extinction prevented</p> <p>1 - What species are threatened in my country? Which species are near threatened? Which species are likely to go extinct without urgent action?</p> <p>2 - Which species are increasing in population?</p> <p>3 - Which species are decreasing in population?</p> <p>4 - Where are threatened species located in my county?</p> <p>5-How does this relate to the location of any biodiversity hotspots, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Important Bird Areas or similar classifications?</p> <p>6- What are the main threats to the threatened species? Which can be addressed through direct conservation actions and which require broader approaches?</p> <p>7 - What are the opportunities and constraints in preventing species from becoming extinct? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of preventing the extinction of certain species. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>7 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>for evaluation and studies for the researchers, and they also represent areas of economical and social resources.</p> <p>3. Management can be improved through using technology and international scientific tools. Locals and indigenous people can be involved in management after providing awareness to them about the benefits and the targets of these environments.</p> <p>4. The natural areas can be expanded to protect biodiversity by identifying suitable areas and by increasing social awareness about the positive feedback of the natural environments and in particular of the marshlands.</p> <p>Two opportunities are identified: trying to expand the surface of protected areas and put in place legislation to control the protected area.</p> <p>6. Locals, indigenous communities, researchers in environmental fields.</p> <p>7. By sharing with the indigenous and local communities the protection of the environment and its deriving benefits and by providing data and information.</p> <p>1. The threatened species in Iraq are: mammals in general and among them: Goitered gazelle (<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>), Wild goat (<i>Capra aegagrus</i>); carnivorous species in general and among them the Asiatic Cheetah (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>), the otter (<i>Lutra perspicillata maxwellii</i>), Houbara Bustard (<i>Chlamydotis undulate</i>), White-headed duck (<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>). Fish species: Bunni (<i>Barbus sharpeyi</i>), Gattan (<i>Barbus xanthopterus</i>), Shabbot.</p> <p>2. Increasing species: unknown.</p> <p>3. Decreasing: species of the wetlands, fish of the wetlands, birds of the wetlands, and, mammals of the terrestrial areas.</p> <p>4. In the wetlands and terrestrial areas.</p> <p>6. Main threats: absence of legislation for the protection of species, absence of awareness, overfishing, increase of pollution.</p> <p>7. Opportunities: implementation of tools for addressing the threats.</p> <p>8. Stakeholders: local communities.</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 14: Safeguarding ecosystems and essential services.</p> <p>1 - What are the major ecosystems in the country? What are the areas of importance for the provision of ecosystem services?</p> <p>2- How do these ecosystems contribute to human wellbeing?</p> <p>3- What is the condition of important ecosystems in the country?</p>	<p>1-The most important ecosystems are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Marshes. b. Desert (north and south) c. Alluvial plain area.

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p>D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>	<p>4- Which ecosystems are degrading the quickest? Which ecosystems are improving? Does further degradation of some ecosystems risk passing tipping points? 5-Which ecosystems are in need of restoration? Which ecosystems are in need of safeguarding? 6-What are the main pressures on the ecosystems that provide services essential for human wellbeing? 7- Which ecosystems are particularly important for the wellbeing of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable? 8-What factors are driving or causing the loss of ecosystem services? Which are the easiest to address? 9-What are the opportunities and constraints in restoring or safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, generally and by ecosystem? 10- Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to restore or safeguard ecosystems? 11-How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>d. Steppe zone (transition). e. Mountainous region. f. Territorial waters.</p> <p>4- The quickest degraded ecosystems are: a – The desert of the western hill region. b – The desertification of areas in the south (water logging and salinity). The Improved ecosystems are: The marshlands. Tipping points are : a- The edges of cities. b- The area of oil extraction. 5 -ecosystems need rehabilitation A – areas have been left in at the western hill because of social and economic pressures. B - The water logging and salinity areas in the south of the alluvial plain.</p> <p>5-Ecosystems in need of restoration. a - marshes. b - Forested areas.</p> <p>6-The main pressures are : a – The logging of the forest areas. b – The overgrazing of the deserts areas. c - overfishing in the marshes. d - industrial waste (other pollutants).</p> <p>7- a- Marshes, b - Western hills for the Bedouins, c- Agricultural lands for the farmers in the south provinces (which face water logging and salinity).</p> <p>8-The depletion of resources in the ecosystem (Fish, plants, etc). The easier to be handled is: the legalization. 9- The Opportunities provided by restoring ecosystem services are the following : a –Increasing of oases in hill areas. b - Protection of natural pastures and creation of systems for grazing sustainability in desert hilly areas. c - The release of fingerlings in the marshes. d- Sustainability of the plant utilization especially the rare plants.</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>Target 15: Ecosystems restored and their resilience enhanced</p> <p>1-What habitats in the country are degraded? What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing that could be restored?</p> <p>2-What areas are important for carbon sequestration?</p> <p>3-What type of restoration activities are needed for each habitat?</p> <p>4-What are the opportunities and constraints in enhancing ecosystem resilience/undertaking ecosystem restoration, generally and by habitat?</p> <p>5-Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing resilience or of undertaking restoration in specific habitats. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to enhance resilience? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>The constraints are the followings:</p> <p>a - Local community and their mis-cooperation.</p> <p>b - The effects of climate change and recurring of the drought.</p> <p>c- The bordering countries and the abuses of western companies/societies in the desert ecosystems.</p> <p>10-Local community (fishermen, farmers and animal breeders).</p> <p>11- They could be involved by the following :</p> <p>1 – By their cultural heritage that would help to maintain the sustainability of the region.</p> <p>2 – Their Participation in public programs to develop the systems in which they live.</p> <p>1- The degraded habitats :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountainous areas of the north (habitat of the mountain goat, wild sheep, bears). • Habitat of the otter in the marshes and rivers. • Habitat of the gazelle (in the hill). • (Former) habitat of the ostrich (extinct) in the Babylon provinces. <p>- The Important regions of biodiversity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountainous region (rich in plants diversity), also there is a diversity in vertebrates as well as, insects and other kinds of animals. <p>2-Areas of carbon sequestration :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mountainous region (a variety of plant). • riverbanks (a variety of plants). • Marsh (a variety of plants). <p>3-The activities are the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the wild vegetation. • Increase algae and aquatic plants in the marsh areas. <p>4-The Opportunities are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of protected areas for plant and animal. 2. The sustainability of ecosystems, such as natural pastures through fencing, monitoring and appropriate management.. <p>The constraints includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding. 2) Techniques.

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<p>3) The political will of local governments.</p> <p>4) Lack of expertise</p> <p>6- local community : in the marshes They could be involved through:</p> <p>1- Their contribution, including own cultural heritage of the indigenous population (Bedouins in the deserts).</p> <p>2- Involving them in public programs and development of the systems in which they live.</p>
<p>E</p> <p>Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</p>	<p>The 17th target: NBSAP 1-Does the country currently have an NBSAP? If not, what are the obstacles to developing one? If so when was it last revised? 2-How effective has it been? How could its effectiveness be improved? What were the major obstacles to its implementation? 3-What are the opportunities and constraints in developing or updating an NBSAP? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits. How may these influence the process to be followed? 4-Who are the stakeholders that need to be consulted in the development, updating and implementation of the NBSAP? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Strategic Target 18 : Respecting the traditional knowledge 1-Who are the indigenous, local or traditional communities in the country? How are their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and customary use of biological resources being respected? What processes or mechanisms are in place to promote this respect? How effective have they been? 2-How has traditional knowledge been integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention? 3- What mechanisms are in place to promote this? 4-Has there been full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, with regards to the integration of their knowledge in the implementation of the Convention? 5-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to respect traditional knowledge and integrate it into the implementation of the Convention? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Strategic Target 19: Knowledge improved, shared and applied</p>	<p>1- The strategy is under development and preparation. 2-The strategy will be effective if necessary information is made available and with legislative and administrative commitments. 3- The main obstacles: lack of resources, lack of information and field surveys, relevant scientific disciplines and lack of specialized research centers. The Opportunities are represented by the existence of the will and political decision making because it requires high costs and legislations 5- The Stakeholders are: a) Specialists from scientific world and university professors b) International organizations c) Political decision-makers d) The local population</p> <p>1- Indigenous people- 2-Bedouin 3-Marsh dwellers 4-Farmers</p> <p>2- Fishing, agriculture, breeding and the use of medicinal herbs, grazing and local industries 3- The state financial support to the farmers and breeders to develop the production and the sustainable use. 5- Establishing local and national associations of the local people to promote and develop local industries and raising social and ecological awareness. Establishing pilot projects, capacity building programmes in order to train the local people to develop their abilities about the sustainable use of environmental resources in their areas, marketing of local products, also the governmental support is needed for the traditional knowledge promotion.</p> <p>1- Available information as follows:</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>1-What biodiversity information is available on the country? Who has the information? What are the major gaps? What information would be crucial to have?</p> <p>2-What programmes are in place to generate information on biodiversity in the country? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved?</p> <p>3-What mechanisms are in place in the country to share biodiversity information and technologies?</p> <p>4-How is biodiversity information being used to support policy decision in the country? What are the opportunities and constraints in improving biodiversity information and technologies and sharing them?</p> <p>5-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>a- Flora of Iraq where material needs to be organized and updated (like fungi).</p> <p>b- Collecting data on animals is needed through making field surveys searching for all species of invertebrates, insects, fish, reptiles, birds, mammals and amphibians.</p> <p>- Who has the information</p> <p>a- The University of Iraq</p> <p>b-Ministry of environment</p> <p>c-Museum of Natural History</p> <p>d-Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>- Major gaps:</p> <p>a-The lack of full survey on animal species in the Iraqi environment.</p> <p>b- The lack of coordination and cooperation from a central entity to document the Iraqi animals</p> <p>c-Lack of specialists in the animal and plant classification fields</p> <p>d- The lack of financial support for species surveys projects</p> <p>e - Lack of plant gene bank, as well as seeds.</p> <p>- Information crucial to have:</p> <p>a-Comprehensive survey of animal and plant species and identify areas of their presence and spread using modern technological facilities.</p> <p>b-Completion of the surveys of aquatic animal and plant species in the marshes as an environmental system</p> <p>c-Completion of the surveys of animal and plants species in the mountains</p> <p>2-</p> <p>a - There are scattered local projects like the preservation of the marshes and support local environments but there isn't any integrated project to protect the environment in Iraq.</p> <p>b- Effectiveness: With the exception of the marshes in the south, the rest are considered as weak projects.</p> <p>c- Improvement: managing projects centrally and providing financial support train specialized staff and establish specialized research centers</p> <p>a- university library (on a limited scale)</p> <p>b- Iraqi national libraries in universities</p> <p>c-Virtual Library of other ministries</p> <p>d-various Internet sites</p> <p>e-various scientific conferences</p> <p>4- The usage of biological information is in general and in critical areas, especially the aquatic environment to support the political</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<p>decision to maintain the eco-systems and the obligations of Iraq according to international laws and conventions</p> <p>Opportunities: There are research centers and environmental specialist centers in Iraqi universities and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Science and Technology can be used to improve the collection and dissemination of information</p> <p>Constrains: the administrative system and the need for the establishment of a central Clearing house mechanism inside Iraq, while facilitating access to the information by specialists.</p> <p>-Local residents, as their participation through the collection of information, decision-making, the protection of biodiversity, and sustainable use</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 20: Financial resources from all sources increased</p> <p>1-What is the current amount of biodiversity financing available in the country?</p> <p>2-What percentage of this funding comes from national budgets? What percentage comes from other sources?</p> <p>3-What are the main sources of biodiversity financing in the country? What are possible additional funding sources?</p> <p>4-What financial resources will be required to implement the Strategic Plan nationally?</p> <p>5-How can additional funds be raised?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be involved?</p>	<p>1-The current funds: No information available for now and the suggestion is that the proposed amount is 1% of the annual budget of the state, in addition to the funds that are obtained from external sources and for a period of 10 years.</p> <p>2-The percentage of the national budget 98% of this suggested amount</p> <p>Percentage of other sources 2% of the funds</p> <p>3-The main sources are the general budget of the country.</p> <p>-The additional sources: the support of international organizations</p> <p>4-The necessary financial resources for the implementation of the strategic plan at the national level of is \$ 10 billion</p> <p>5-Through the contributions of donor countries and international cooperation joint ventures (the States' contributions to the completion of projects, money, expertise and training devices)</p> <p>6-Investors and the local population (tourism, agriculture, industry, culture, breeding).</p>

**Annexes Sub-National Workshop Central
Iraq**

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Annex IV – Guiding Questions by eco-region Central Iraq

Guiding questions for setting national targets	Score/level of importance 0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high					Answers/comments
	Marshlands Zagros	Arabian Desert	Mesopotamia Shrub Desert	Steppe Habitat	Mt	
	Eco-region					
1st strategic target: Contribution of Public awareness	1	0	1			
1-What is the current level of biodiversity awareness in Iraq?						
2-Which groups have the best/least understanding of biodiversity?						The Bedouin have less awareness The educated people have higher awareness
-Which groups should be targeted through awareness raising activities?						Children and the uneducated communities
- What are the key messages that need to be transmitted to each group?						The audio and visual messages
-What awareness raising activities are already ongoing?						TVs , awareness campaigns , and Radio
What are the main channels or opportunities for awareness raising?						Awareness campaigns and conferences Publications and posters Inclusion of the BD items in the primary and secondary studies curricula Conducting the environmental completions
-What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?						NGOs Conducting the conferences Payments and presents International agencies Loans
The 8th strategic target: The reduction of pollution in Iraq						
What ecosystems are being affected by pollution, including excess nutrients?						
Which pollutants are they being affected by?						
How are they affecting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?						
• What are the main sources of pollution in the country? What are the point sources of pollution? What are the diffuse sources?						
• What pollution control measures are already in place in the country? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved?						
• What are the main channels or opportunities for bringing pollution, including from excess nutrients, to levels that are not detrimental to biodiversity?						Rationalizing the use of chemicals
What type of actions could be used? What programmers or initiatives could be further built on?						Workshops Forums Awareness campaigns
• What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?						Loans and aids
12th target: Protection of the threatened species	3	3	2	2	1	
• What species are threatened in my country? Which species are near threatened? Which species are likely to go extinct without urgent action?						There are about 30 threatened and near threatened species in the area.

Guiding questions for setting national targets	Score/level of importance					Answers/comments
	0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high					
	Marshlands Zagros	Arabian Desert	Mesopotamia Shrub Desert	Steppe Habitat	Mt	
Eco-region						
						Houbara, Falcons, Gazelles, Biz, in addition to some more Plant and reptiles species.
Which species are increasing in population?						Unknown
Which species are decreasing in population?						There are some decreasing species but there are not enough studies.
• Where are threatened species located in my county? ؟						The threatened species exist in the area but more effort is to be done to know more about their presence and distribution
How does this relate to the location of any biodiversity hotspots, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Important Bird Areas or similar classifications?						The hotspots of Biodiversity exist in the area and they are concentrated in the wetlands in this area (like, Tharthar, Qadissiya, Samarra, Himreen, Razzaza, and Habbaniya, lakes and Dalmaj marsh), and the other kinds of wetlands.
• What are the main threats to the threatened species?						The main threats for the BD are: pollution, lack of water, hunting, bad water quality, unsustainable grazing, destruction of natural habitats, unsustainable use of natural resources, and climate change.
Which can be addressed through direct conservation actions and which require broader approaches?						The direct actions are: Hunting unsustainable grazing habitats destruction unsustainable use of natural resources the indirect actions are: naturals disasters climate change water management
• What are the opportunities and constraints in preventing species from becoming extinct? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of preventing the extinction of certain species.						Finding alternatives, financial resources availability, and legislation enforcement to prevent unsustainable hunting.
How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?						Lack of environmental awareness and poverty
Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?						Farmers, fishermen, and villagers. And their involvement and the fulfillment of their needs should be done through creating job opportunities in the environmental fields.
13 th target: Maintaining of the Genetic diversity • What species of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals are in the country? What wild relatives are in the country? What socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species are in the country?	2	2	2	2	2	This requires referring to the references provided by the Ministry of environment and the NGO. And recommend the Ministry of Higher Education to participate in this effort through research and post-graduate.
Which are nationally, regionally or globally important? Which are being maintained in situ? Which have had their genetic diversity						As above

Guiding questions for setting national targets	Score/level of importance					Answers/comments
	0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high					
	Marshlands Zagros	Arabian Desert	Mesopotamia Shrub Desert	Steppe Habitat	Mt	
maintained ex situ? What species require management plans?						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What plans or strategies are in place to maintain the genetic diversity in situ and ex situ? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved ? 						Establishment of gene bank Documentations of the gene code of the local species. Requires establishment of developed laboratories and advanced technique for each species
Could traditional plant and animal breeders be involved? What gene or seed banks exist in the country or the region? Could efforts be joined with any international processes?						Yes. There is a gene bank for the plant species in Abu-Ghreib.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the opportunities and constraints in maintaining genetic diversity? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits in maintaining genetic diversity. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target? 						Research centers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to maintain genetic diversity? How can they be involved and their needs addressed? 						The people appointed for developing the strategic plans in order to share the benefits with the community in accordance with the sustainable development concept.
14th target: The safeguarding of the ecosystems and essential service. What are the major ecosystems in the country? What are the areas of importance for the provision of ecosystem services?	3	3	3	2	2	The desert Steppes Mountains Wetlands Forests These areas are the wetlands.
How do these ecosystems contribute to human wellbeing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the condition of important ecosystems in the country? 						Providing food Ecotourism Job opportunities
Which ecosystems are degrading the quickest? Which ecosystems are improving? Does further degradation of some ecosystems risk passing tipping points?						Aquatic ecosystems No ecosystem is improving none
Which ecosystems are in need of restoration? Which ecosystems are in need of safeguarding?						wetlands deserts all of the habitats in Iraq need protection
What are the main pressures on the ecosystems that provide services essential for human wellbeing?						
Which ecosystems are particularly important for the wellbeing of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable?						Aquatic ecosystems and wetlands
What factors are driving or causing the loss of ecosystem services? Which are the easiest to address?						Man made The easiest is to make legislations to restore the area that is impacted by human action.
What are the opportunities and constraints in restoring or safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, generally and by ecosystem?						Increase environmental awareness and provide financial resources
Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to restore or safeguard ecosystems?						

Guiding questions for setting national targets	Score/level of importance					Answers/comments
	0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high					
	Marshlands Zagros	Arabian Desert	Mesopotamia Shrub Desert	Steppe Habitat	Mt	
Eco-region						
How can they be involved and their needs addressed?						
15 th target: The resilience of the ecosystem	1	1	3	3	2	
16 th target: Access and benefit-sharing What are the opportunities and constraints in ratifying the Protocol? Consider potential ecological, economical, social costs and benefits.	2	3	2	1	1	
17 th target: NBSAP Does the country currently have an NBSAP? If not, what are the obstacles to developing one? If so when was it last revised?	2	2	3	2	2	
18 th target: Traditional knowledge	3	3	3	3	1	
19 th target: improvement, sharing and application of Knowledge	3	3	3	3	3	
The 20 th target: Financial resources increased	2	2	2	2	2	

**Annexes Sub-National Workshop Northern
Iraq**

Annex V - List of Participants North Iraq

List of participants (as invited)	Presence	National/ Sub-National Group	Name and position of participant(s)	Contact details
Group A				
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Al- Mosel environment directorate	X	S	Abd Al-Aleem Ateaa Manger of environmental systems department	07706720996
Organization of environment friends network	X	S	Wreaa lethri Defaf A member in the organization	UriyaKhafaf@hotmail.com
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List of participants (as invited)	Presence	National/ Sub-National Group	Name and position of participant(s)	Contact details
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Annex VI – Priority Targets North Iraq

Goal/Group	Priority	Comments
A	<u>Target 1: Raising awareness (1st priority)</u>	The public is one of the main means to maintain biodiversity by spreading awareness about all the components of biological diversity The public is the first beneficiary of biodiversity and it is also the most important factor that can positively or negatively influence biodiversity. Human activity is one of the most important key factors in the destruction of the environment, public awareness will result in protecting biodiversity especially when achieved through young people.
	<u>Target 3: Incentive measures (2nd priority)</u>	It is a positive step capable of reducing the damage to biodiversity and it is easy to apply.
	<u>Target 2: Socio-economic integration (3rd priority)</u>	Third priority because it helps to reduce poverty and decrease the violations related with biological diversity as well as might help to mitigate the impacts of biodiversity policies on the strategic plans of the governments.
	<u>Target 4: Sustainable production (4th priority)</u>	-
B	<u>Target 5: Reduce habitat loss (3rd priority)</u>	Habitat degradation leads to reduction of the environmental diversity
	<u>Target 8: pollution reduction (1st priority)</u>	Environmental pollution in the region is one of the most important issues to address because it affects the ecosystems in general (Plants, animals and aquatic organisms).
	<u>Target 6: sustainable fishing (4th priority)</u>	Fisheries are one of the most important food resources and economic activity in the region. Possibilities to create a controlled lake to maintain the endangered fish species can be explored, as well as set-basins for the breeding of fingerlings.
	<u>Target 7: sustainable agriculture and forestry (2nd priority)</u>	Sustainable agriculture and forestry, are strategic for biodiversity, because sustainable development is the cornerstone of environmental diversity
C	<u>Target 11: protected areas increased and improved: (1st priority)</u>	PAs importance for: Conducting research and scientific studies for lecturers and graduate students Conservation of natural heritage Encourage tourists and foreigners presence in Sulaymaniyah region in particular and the Kurdistan region in general Protect the area and the survival of its nature
	<u>Target 12: Extinction prevented (2nd priority)</u>	Importance of preventing extinction: To preserve biodiversity For the survival of healthy ecosystems by maintaining the food chain and the food web and the life cycle. To protect the balance between organisms and combating pollution
	<u>Target 13: Genetic diversity maintained (3rd priority)</u>	Important for: Protection of genetic diversity Gene flow protection Conduct a study to determine the endemic and rare species in the province of Kurdistan and give a genetic code to each type Protection of important economic wild species (plants and animals)
D	<u>Target 14: Ecosystem and essential services safeguarded (medium priority)</u>	Prevent the deterioration of ecosystems is better than restoring them, and ecosystems maintenance is more convenient than their restoration
	<u>Target 15: Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced (high priority)</u>	Many ecosystems are deteriorating quickly
	<u>Target 16: Nagoya Protocol in force and operational (high priority)</u>	-
E	<u>Target number 17: NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument (2nd priority)</u>	The importance of this target relates to the fact that every action, when included in the policy agenda will be applied in the community easier. It is easier to apply policy measures when they are decided in a participatory approach among all parties
	<u>Target number 18: Traditional knowledge respected (4th priority)</u>	Not considered much relevant in the region
	<u>Target number 19: Knowledge improved shared and applied (3rd priority)</u>	The knowledge of components of biological diversity is very important to develop a scientific base The use of advanced technology facilitate the knowledge of many biological diversity issues in the region

Goal/Group	Priority	Comments
	<u>Target number 20: Financial resources from all sources increased (1st priority)</u>	All the activities to implement a successful strategy to protect and improve the environment are in direct need of financial resources. The involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy will improve the financial performance

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Annex VII – Aichi Target priority by eco-region North Iraq

Proposed Priorities of Aichi Targets in the northern eco-regions of Iraq	Score/level of importance 0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high			Comments
	Mesopotamia Shrub desert	Middle East Steppe	Zagros Mt	
The 1st strategic target: Contribution of Public awareness	3	3	3	There is low awareness in all the three northern regions, because of the following. The absence of environmental awareness culture Lack of attention / interest in the biodiversity issues by the institutional media. Lack of professional academic institutions that deal with biodiversity. The instability of the security situation in the region.
The 8th strategic target: The reduction of pollution in Iraq	3	3	1	Pollution has higher impacts in the Mesopotamia shrub desert and Steppe habitats because of the reduced plant cover of this zones. Lower impacts are evaluated in the Zagros mountains because of a more dense plant cover and because of the absence of industrial projects in the area.
The 11th strategic target: Protected areas increased and improved	3	2	2	Mesopotamia shrub desert (high score): Absence of protected area. Low level of awareness among population to protect their habitats. Instability of the security situation. Middle East Steppe (medium score) The low level of awareness. Weakness in the implementation of the environmental protection laws. Zagros mountain (medium score) There is a local protected area in this region but it doesn't include all global conditions to be a protected area. Low environmental awareness.
The 14th strategic target: The safeguarding of the ecosystems and essential service.	3	2	2	Mesopotamia shrub desert (high score): Politically disputed areas Middle East Steppe (medium score) The region has the interest and care of the government. Zagros mountain (medium score) It has difficult terrain and geomorphic features. It is rich in water resources. There is commitment of indigenous people to protect this region.
The 20th strategic target: Financial resources increased	2	2	2	The Kurdistan government allocated a small financial balance to the environmental projects. The capacity of environmental staff is low There are obstacles to the use of financial resources to face the environmental challenges.

Annex VIII – Guiding Questions North Iraq

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p><u>Aichi Target 1: Contribution of Public awareness</u></p> <p>1-What is the current level of biodiversity awareness in Iraq? 2-Which groups have the best/least understanding of biodiversity? 3 -Which groups should be targeted through awareness raising activities? 4 - What are the key messages that need to be transmitted to each group? 5 -What awareness raising activities are already ongoing? 6 - What are the main channels or opportunities for awareness raising? 7 -What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>1-Weak</p> <p>2-The best group are Environmental specialists, academics, as well as organizations related to environment and environmentalists. - The Least group are the public</p> <p>3- Targeted groups are decision-makers (in the government and political parties) and public in general, especially students.</p> <p>4-Tthe main messages are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The environment is the source of life and its sustainability 2. Environment has no limit. 3. present natural resources are for all and the next generation <p>6-The main channels or opportunities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Mass media 2- The governmental related institution 3- The education programs in all education levels. 4- Increasing the academic institutions for research and studies. 5- Religious centers 6- NGOs
	<p><u>Strategic Target 3: Incentive measures.</u></p> <p>1 -What subsidies harmful to biodiversity exist in Iraq? How are the subsidies affecting biodiversity? 2 - Which are particularly harmful? What is the cost of these subsidies? 3 - What other harmful incentives exist in the country? 4- How do they affect biodiversity? 5 - What are the opportunities and constraints to removing, reforming or phasing out harmful incentives? 6 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1-The harmful subsidies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Subsidies related to oil sector support especially the refining field. 2- Industrial sector support especially Asphalt and cement 3- Governmental subsidies for residential developments. 4- Subsidies for fertilizers and pesticides 5- Subsidies for providing electricity by using fossil fuels.

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>8 - What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>6- Subsidies for communication networks that increase pollutants in water, air, soil and noisy pollution.</p> <p>2- The most harmful Subsidies are in the oil sector</p> <p>3- Importing of non environmentally friendly products without quality control and enforcement of fines.</p> <p>4- They affect the environment by accumulation of waste products</p> <p>5- Issuing environmental laws and legislations to limit entrance of this products or how to deal with them.</p> <p>6- Rich people , companies and politicians</p> <p>7- By obligating them to commit to laws for protecting the environment and also enforce environmental fees through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Environmental penalties 2- Financial Subsidies from international organization 3- Rich people. 4- Increasing specialized environmental staff 5- Providing devices and techniques. 6- Using international experts.
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>	<p>Strategic target 5: Reduced rate of habitat loss</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - What are the major habitats in the country? 2 - What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing? 3 - What is the condition of the natural habitats in the country? 4 - What is the size of the different habitats present? Which habitats are degraded? Which habitats are fragmented? 5 - What are the current rates of loss for each habitat? 6 - Which habitats are decreasing the quickest? --Which habitats are increasing? 7 - Which habitats have the least/most amount left? 8 - Does further loss of some habitats risk passing tipping points? 9 - What are the main causes of habitat loss? 10 - What factors are driving or causing this loss? 11 - Which are the easiest to address? 12 - What are the opportunities and constraints in taking steps to achieve or implement plans for sustainable production and consumption? 13 - What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of addressing unsustainable consumption and production? 14 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 15 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed? <p>Strategic Target 7: Sustainable agriculture & forestry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-What are the main areas in the country used for agriculture, forestry and aquaculture? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The major habitats are Forests and natural pastures. 2- Forests, rivers bank, villages, rivers and mountains, for ES, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Rain percentage 2- Soil fertility 3- forests 7- 30% of forests and lakes 8- Forests, lakes, mountains and valleys 9- lack of resources 10- Increasing the population of human being and its activity , wars and natural resources lose 11- Restoration of ecosystems through reforestation and water bodies cleaning up. 12- The opportunities are many and there are a lot of obstacles 13- Losing natural habitats because of human driven causes 14- Investors , business people and other people by reducing their impacting activities and finding alternatives <p>1- The main areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Investments in agricultural sector 2- Establishing fishes pools

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>2-Which are particularly important for biodiversity? Which are particularly important for economic reasons?</p> <p>3-What measures are in place to ensure the sustainability of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry?</p> <p>4-How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What areas are not currently covered by any type of sustainable management?</p> <p>5-What are the opportunities and constraints to enhancing sustainable management? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing sustainable management?</p> <p>6-What biodiversity related problems could be addressed through sustainable management? How could sustainable management be used to address the main threats to biodiversity?</p> <p>7-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>8-What are the trade-off to consider? Are there stakeholders who could also act as champions for enhancing sustainable management?</p> <p>Strategic Target 8: Reduction of pollution in Iraq</p> <p>1-What ecosystems are being affected by pollution, including excess nutrients?</p> <p>2-Which pollutants are they being affected by?</p> <p>3- How are they affecting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?</p> <p>4-What are the main sources of pollution in the country? What are the point sources of pollution? What are the diffuse sources?</p> <p>5-What pollution control measures are already in place in the country? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved?</p> <p>6-What are the main channels or opportunities for bringing pollution, including from excess nutrients, to levels that are not detrimental to biodiversity?</p> <p>7-What type of actions could be used? What programmes or initiatives could be further built on?</p> <p>8-What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>3- Forestation of areas</p> <p>2- Forestation of areas to reduce pollution</p> <p>3- Enhancing environmental and social awareness</p> <p>1- the affected ecosystems are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Forests and natural pastures. 2- Aquatic system like streams, rivers, lakes , ground water and basins 3- Soil <p>2- the pollutants that affect on ecosystems are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Fertilizers 2- Sewage 3- Gases elaborated from car exhaust <p>3 - Most of the pollutants have a negative impact on living organisms, on their growth, on biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>4- The main sources of pollution are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Home sources 2- Industrial sources 3- Natural sources (desertification and dust) 4- Agricultural sources <p>5- There are no real measures, and their effectiveness is weak but it could be improved through applying laws.</p> <p>6- Industrial development using EIA analysis properly</p> <p>- some of actions must be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Respecting laws 2- Optimal use of technology 3- Increasing investments in the environmental field 4- Bring technologies to make surveys on pollution
	<p><u>Strategic Target 11: Protected areas increased and improved</u></p>	<p>1- In Sulaymaniyah there are two appropriate areas to be protected (Gobi Qaradag, Cameron Mountains and Long</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>	<p>1 - What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by eco-region? Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas?</p> <p>2 - What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected? What areas are underrepresented (Gap analysis)? Which habitats are declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives.</p> <p>3 - How effective are existing protected areas? How can management effectiveness be improved? Are indigenous and local communities involved in protected areas management?</p> <p>4 - What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region?</p> <p>5 - How may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how could these be shared?</p> <p>6 - Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities that may be affected?</p> <p>7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>mountains in the Alhoraman). But this projects are not implemented at the present time. In Arbil (Sakran mountains, Mirgah Sur and Seven). These not include community conserved areas.</p> <p>2- In Sulaymaniyah (Gobi Qaradag Mountains- Berhmh Crohn Mountains - Bayara area- Tawela and Ahmed Awa area). - areas underrepresented (Bermh Crohn mountains and Sukar Sakran in Arbil).</p> <p>-In Arbil (Qandil Mountain - and Mirkah Sur- Sar rah rash- Sakran mountain - and Sven).</p> <p>3- Till now it has not been effective because of the lack of financial allocation or financial support for this project and the lack of specialized personnel. - Recently there has been oil exploration in this region, which led to the failure of the administration process to establish protected areas (in GobiQaradag). - Enact laws and applied effectively. - Yes indigenous and local communities are involved in the management of protected areas.</p> <p>4- constraints to expanding protected areas are the lack of cooperation with the region's population and the absence of the possibility of adequate financial and individual revenue. - In every country there are global protected areas, which involve people, culture and encourage the tourism sector and benefit the public; the population can participate in the protected areas management and environment protection.</p> <p>6- Stakeholders are the indigenous people and the country in which the nature reserves are; they are affected in a positive way and can meet their needs. - businessmen are investing in this region can be negative for protected areas.</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 12: Extinction prevented</p> <p>1 - What species are threatened in my country? Which species are near threatened? Which species are likely to go extinct without urgent action?</p> <p>2 - Which species are increasing in population?</p> <p>3 - Which species are decreasing in population?</p> <p>4 - Where are threatened species located in my county?</p> <p>5-How does this relate to the location of any biodiversity hotspots, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Important Bird Areas or similar classifications?</p> <p>6- What are the main threats to the threatened species? Which can be addressed through direct conservation actions and which require broader approaches?</p>	<p>1- More research is needed to discover the threatened species at regional (Kurdistan) level. - There are invasive alien species in Kurdistan and this is a threat for the extinction of local species. -other causes of species extinction: expansion of cities and urbanization in mountainous areas, fires and poaching, overgrazing and logging and trade of animals and endangered birds. - Trafficking in animals can be addressed imposing fines on people who hunt illegally. Also the expansion of urban and residential areas shall be addressed.</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>7 - What are the opportunities and constraints in preventing species from becoming extinct? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of preventing the extinction of certain species. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>8 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>- The enactment of laws and seizure of illegally traded animals , as well as local awareness and education can reduce extinction because of illegal hunting and trade.</p> <p>- Increased activities at the regional level will contribute to support the protection of biodiversity at the global level.</p> <p>8- local population may be affected by the giant construction projects in this region.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Strategic Target 14: Safeguarding ecosystems and essential services.</p> <p>1 - What are the major ecosystems in the country? What are the areas of importance for the provision of ecosystem services?</p> <p>2- How do these ecosystems contribute to human wellbeing?</p> <p>3- What is the condition of important ecosystems in the country?</p> <p>4- Which ecosystems are degrading the quickest? Which ecosystems are improving? Does further degradation of some ecosystems risk passing tipping points?</p> <p>5-Which ecosystems are in need of restoration? Which ecosystems are in need of safeguarding?</p> <p>6-What are the main pressures on the ecosystems that provide services essential for human wellbeing?</p> <p>7- Which ecosystems are particularly important for the wellbeing of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable?</p> <p>8-What factors are driving or causing the loss of ecosystem services? Which are the easiest to address?</p> <p>9-What are the opportunities and constraints in restoring or safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, generally and by ecosystem?</p> <p>10- Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to restore or safeguard ecosystems?</p> <p>11-How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Target 15: Ecosystems restored and their resilience enhanced</p> <p>1-What habitats in the country are degraded? What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing that could be restored?</p> <p>2-What areas are important for carbon sequestration?</p> <p>3-What type of restoration activities are needed for each habitat?</p> <p>4-What are the opportunities and constraints in enhancing ecosystem resilience/undertaking ecosystem restoration, generally and by habitat?</p> <p>5-Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing resilience or of undertaking restoration in specific habitats. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to enhance resilience? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- Forest , protected areas and water sources</p> <p>2- These areas maintain the environmental balance and maintain climate and pollution under control</p> <p>3- The aquatic environment and farmland: no improvement. Desertification increasing.</p> <p>4-</p> <p>- Water, territories and pastures.</p> <p>- Pressure on groundwater</p> <p>6- Non-studied human activities and the lack of environmental laws and awareness.</p> <p>10- Owners of commercial activities, investment companies and economic activities</p> <p>11- Increase taxes and environmental awareness.</p> <p>1- Land and water because of people encroachment on natural land, construction and water pollution in all Kurdistan.</p> <p>3- Reduce energy consumption and increase green spaces</p> <p>4- Environmental awareness and investment in legislation and the application of environmental legislation, tax and legal punishment</p> <p>6- To involve the owners of companies and investments in energy and construction and raise awareness.</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</p>	<p>The 17th target: NBSAP</p> <p>1-Does the country currently have an NBSAP? If not, what are the obstacles to developing one? If so when was it last revised?</p> <p>2-How effective has it been? How could its effectiveness be improved? What were the major obstacles to its implementation?</p> <p>3-What are the opportunities and constraints in developing or updating an NBSAP? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits. How may these influence the process to be followed?</p> <p>4-Who are the stakeholders that need to be consulted in the development, updating and implementation of the NBSAP? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- Does not exist, but there is work going on ; new Strategy in the region.</p> <p>2- Effectiveness may be few in relation to our country</p> <p>Reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental staff capacity building. -a special budget allocation by the government. - need of international experts to clarify and develop this topic <p>3- Every project needs a budget as well as visibility and it needs to be integrated in the environmental dimension and the economic and social dimension as the basis for modern sustainable development in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need of capacity building training for officers and administrators in training courses inside and outside the country to develop their expertise to improve the functioning of environmental tasks. <p>4-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO • Government ministries (environment, agriculture and oil) and the Supreme Council for the protection of the environment in the Kurdistan Regional Government. • Participation of all parties • Government + NGO + citizens
	<p>Strategic Target 20: Financial resources from all sources increased</p> <p>1-What is the current amount of biodiversity financing available in the country?</p> <p>2-What percentage of this funding comes from national budgets? What percentage comes from other sources?</p> <p>3-What are the main sources of biodiversity financing in the country? What are possible additional funding sources?</p> <p>4-What financial resources will be required to implement the Strategic Plan nationally?</p> <p>5-How can additional funds be raised?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be involved?</p>	<p>1- A special budget allocation by the competent authorities in the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>2- No information.</p> <p>3- Financial resources by the government and additional sources of funding by international organizations and major corporate contracts that invest in the region.</p> <p>5- Oil and financial penalties in general</p> <p>6- Investors from domestic and foreign companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic and foreign companies with interests in the country.

**Annexes Sub-National Workshop Southern
Iraq**

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Annex IX – List of Participants South Iraq

List of participants (as invited)	Presence	National / Sub-National Group	Name and position of participant(s)	Contact details
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List of participants (as invited)	Presence	National / Sub-National Group	Name and position of participant(s)	Contact details
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Annex X - Priority Targets – South Iraq

Goal/Group	Priority	Comments
A	<u>Target 1:Raising awareness (1st priority)</u>	- The man is the main partner in conserving biodiversity - Protecting biodiversity is directly proportional to the public awareness.
	<u>Target 2: Biodiversity values integrated (2nd priority)</u>	- Achieving well-being for the society - Decrease violations on ecosystems
	<u>Target 3: Incentives reformed (3rd priority)</u>	Is important factor for ecosystem (incentives)
	<u>Target 4: Sustainable production (4th priority)</u>	- Achieving stability of ecosystems - Achieving resources sustainability
B	<u>Target 8: pollution reduction (1st priority)</u>	We have to identify the pollution sources in the area because they affect negatively the whole biodiversity because of deterioration of water quality and decreasing in oxygen.
	<u>Target 6: sustainable fishing (2nd priority)</u>	The fisheries are one of the national economic resources, so preserving it from overfishing is to keep an important food source and to preserve genetic resources
	<u>Target 5: Reduce habitat loss (3rd priority)</u>	Destroying the habitats is a continuous problem in the southern area and this is leading to decreasing biodiversity and change in environmental factors.
C	<u>Target 11: protected areas increased and improved: (1st priority)</u>	To give a chance to endangered species to live safely by providing an appropriate environment to breed and grow, and also as an important national resource and keeping PAs ensure keeping the human population in the surroundings which depend on PAs for their livelihood.
	<u>Target 12: Extinction prevented (2nd priority)</u>	Important national resources which may not exist in other places and losing them cause perturbation in environment balance.
	<u>Target 13: Genetic diversity maintained (3rd priority)</u>	To conserve biodiversity and environment in the area and also because is helping in achieving food security and human health and contribute in facilitating livelihood
D	<u>Target 14: Ecosystem and essential services safeguarded (1st priority)</u>	Because of the following: - weakness of sustainable programs and conservation processes of habitats and ecosystems. - widespread poverty in the local society which affects and is affected by ecosystems and biodiversity. - degradation and pollution in the ecosystems.
	<u>Target 15: Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced (2nd priority)</u>	- The degraded ecosystems face pressure and there is need To strengthen their capacity for flexibility and resistance to bad conditions. - There are no programs to support ecosystem.
	<u>Target 16: Nagoya Protocol in force and operational (3rd priority)</u>	- As a part of Iraq obligations towards international conventions. - To preserve genetic resources. - To achieve the target of supporting ecosystems.
E	<u>Target number 17: NBSAP adopted as a policy instrument (1st priority)</u>	- To achieve any target, we have to put a strategy and action plan . - To protect biodiversity. - To build national expertise and enhance a successful biodiversity strategy and plans.
	<u>Target number 20: Financial resources from all sources increased (2nd priority)</u>	In order to include the national strategy within Federal budget for the implementation purposes.
	<u>Target number 19: Knowledge improved shared and applied (3rd priority)</u>	The successful start for every project is availability or collection of data through institutional cooperation.
	<u>Target number 18: Traditional knowledge respected (4th priority)</u>	In order to preserve social legacy, habits and traditions in target areas.

Annex XI - Aichi target priority by eco-region South Iraq

Proposed Priorities of Aichi Targets in the northern eco-regions of Iraq	core/level of importance 0= absent 1=low 2=medium 3=high			Comments
	Marshlands	Coastal marine Habitats	South Iran Nubo-sindian desert	
The 1st strategic target: Contribution of Public awareness	2	2	2	There is intermediate awareness in all of the three southern regions. So raising awareness has intermediate importance Priority for the south eco-regions of Iraq.
The 8th strategic target: The reduction of pollution in Iraq	1	3	2	Pollution reduction has low importance the marshlands, high for the coastal area because the increasing damages and the different levels that could lead to decrease in oxygen in water, and that will affect biodiversity.
The 11th strategic target: Protected areas increased and improved	3	2	1	
The 14th strategic target: The safeguarding of the ecosystems and essential service.	3	3	2	Marshlands (high score): the ecological systems that exist in the Marshlands represent fundamental source to many of other important ecosystem. The exploitation of marsh resources results in overfishing . Wrong practices result also from the Marshlands people. Coastal habitats (high score): the environmental pollution caused by the Maritime activities and oil affects marine plants and the coral reef. Conservation of fisheries: fisheries represent important economical benefit to large groups of people.
The 17th strategic target: Importance of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan NBSAP	3	2	2	Marshlands (high score): it is an unique area in Iraq and it represents historical heritage to Iraqi people and characterized by high biodiversity. There is an increase of the oil projects in this region (Qurna and Majnoon). Coastal habitats (medium score): the wild and coastal areas are affected by water coming from Qurna and Arabian Gulf and the existence of sub-tidal areas which make it rare with its properties and rich in marine organism. Desert (medium score): Increase of desertification in Al-Muthanna governorate about 96%.

Annex XII – Guiding Questions South Iraq

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p><u>Aichi Target 1: Contribution of Public awareness</u></p> <p>1-What is the current level of biodiversity awareness in Iraq? 2-Which groups have the best/least understanding of biodiversity? 3 -Which groups should be targeted through awareness raising activities? 4 - What are the key messages that need to be transmitted to each group? 5 -What awareness raising activities are already ongoing? 6 - What are the main channels or opportunities for awareness raising? 7 -What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>1- Below the required level.</p> <p>2- Environmental activists and specialists in universities.</p> <p>3-People that live in the area, students (best), uneducated people and people who live in touch with the environment (least).</p> <p>4- people are important partner in the environment</p> <p>6- media activities, workshops and meeting face to face with residents: civil society organizations, tribal leaders, clergymen and decision makers</p>
	<p><u>Aichi Target 2: Socio-economic integration</u></p> <p>1- What are the most important ecosystem services in Iraq? 2- Have valuation studies of these services been undertaken? 3- Which services would be the most feasible to valuate? 4- Is biodiversity valuation being used to inform policy-making? 5 - What are the potential ecological, economic, and social benefits and costs of taking into account ecosystem services and other benefits of biodiversity? 6 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed? 8 - What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?</p>	<p>1- No answer</p> <p>2- No</p> <p>4- Yes There is a lot like conserving ecosystem and providing services</p> <p>5- The society are the stakeholders.</p> <p>6- Implementing projects on sustainability and involve stakeholders using a part of oil revenues to protect the environment</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>	<p><u>Strategic target 5: Reduced rate of habitat</u></p> <p>1 - What are the major habitats in the country? 2 - What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing? 3 - What is the condition of the natural habitats in the country? 4 - What is the size of the different habitats present? Which habitats are degraded? Which habitats are fragmented? 5 - What are the current rates of loss for each habitat? 6 - Which habitats are decreasing the quickest? --Which habitats are increasing? 7 - Which habitats have the least/most amount left? 8 - Does further loss of some habitats risk passing tipping points? 9 - What are the main causes of habitat loss?</p>	<p>1- Aquatic habitat, deserts, steppes and forests.</p> <p>2- Marshlands, Sanam mountain area, steppes, mountains and deserts such as al-Teeb, Al-Najaf Badeya and Al-Uthaem.</p> <p>3- Degraded habitats in the south, habitats are destroyed in the south like Al-Basrah and marshlands.</p> <p>5- 70% of the marshlands habitats are destroyed. 50% of the habitats in the southern Iraq and Shatt Al-Arab are also destroyed, and the other habitats 50% are destroyed</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>10 - What factors are driving or causing this loss? 11 - Which are the easiest to address? 12 - What are the opportunities and constraints in taking steps to achieve or implement plans for sustainable production and consumption? 13 - What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of addressing unsustainable consumption and production? 14 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? 15 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p> <p>Strategic Target 6: Sustainable fishing 1-Which fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are harvested in the country? Which are under or moderately exploited? Which are fully exploited? Which are overexploited, depleted or recovering? 2 -What are the main fishing and harvesting techniques used in the country? 3-What effect are they having on vulnerable species and ecosystems? Which of these are sustainable? Which are not? 4-What management plans are already in place? How effective have they been? 5-What type of management could be introduced (quotas, allocation of rights to harvester, communities, or other appropriate units, fishing gear restrictions, spatial measures including marine protected areas, catch reductions, partial or full fishery closures, license buybacks, etc.)?</p>	<p>6- The agricultural habitats and Palm grove are decreasing, and the urban is expanding. 9- Lack in water resources, hunting, grazing, climate change, wars, pollution and carelessness by humans 10- There is no planning 11- The absence and weakness in law enforcement. 12- Enforcement of hunting law. 14- Local people and civil society like hunting associations and associations of farmers</p> <p>1- Few; fish are the most exploited Bunni fishes and a lot of aquatic plants (fully exploited)</p> <p>2- Fishing nets, illegal means like poisons</p> <p>3- It led to Bunni fishes overexploitation, migration and disappearance</p> <p>4- Preventing hunting in the breeding season</p>
<p>C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>	<p>Strategic Target 11: Protected areas increased and improved 1 - What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by eco-region? Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas? 2 - What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected? What areas are underrepresented (Gap analysis)? Which habitats are declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives. 3 - How effective are existing protected areas? How can management effectiveness be improved? Are indigenous and local communities involved in protected areas management? 4 - What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region? 5 - How may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how could these be shared? 6 - Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities that may be affected? 7 - How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- There is no marine protected area in the current time, but there are areas that could be protected in the future like Um Al-Risas area in the Shatt al Arab which contain endangered species.</p> <p>There are no indigenous people in that area because of security reasons and there are extensive mine fields.</p> <p>2- Marshlands in general like Al Chabaish, Al-Hammar, Tarrat Al Najaf area, Sanam Mountain which is in the Iraqi – Iranian border, Al-Dour mountain because of its richness in biodiversity, desert areas, marine areas, marine-coastal areas.</p> <p>Desert areas in Al- Badeya (under represented).</p> <p>3- Not effective because the governmental support is little and the effectiveness could be improved by raising awareness among people.</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<p>Yes the indigenous and local communities are very involved.</p> <p>4- The opportunities are: legislation enforcement to protect biodiversity, expanding protected areas, financial support, institutional commitment especially from the environmental institutions. Constraints are: absence of planning, follow up to establish protected areas, safety and absence of political & public awareness.</p> <p>6- Those who are interested in protected areas: the international & local organizations , governmental council, environmental institutions, farmers, research centers, people who live in the area and investors. By involving them as a responsible of the projects, raising awareness and involving them in the management process.</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 12: Extinction prevented</p> <p>1 - What species are threatened in my country? Which species are near threatened? Which species are likely to go extinct without urgent action?</p> <p>2 - Which species are increasing in population?</p> <p>3 - Which species are decreasing in population?</p> <p>4 - Where are threatened species located in my county?</p> <p>5-How does this relate to the location of any biodiversity hotspots, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Important Bird Areas or similar classifications?</p> <p>6- What are the main threats to the threatened species? Which can be addressed through direct conservation actions and which require broader approaches?</p> <p>7 - What are the opportunities and constraints in preventing species from becoming extinct? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of preventing the extinction of certain species. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>8 - Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>4- The most threaten species exist in the marshlands, deserts and aquatic habitats</p> <p>5- It is related in monitoring seasonal migration.</p> <p>6- Drought, losing plants, sand storms, invasive alien species, overhunting, pollutants and absence of awareness</p> <p>7- Providing water resources, protecting species and educate community to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>The opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using the financial resources in a right way. - raising awareness to protect threatened species - supporting local organizations. - using media. - prevent alien species to enter the areas. <p>The constraints:</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the decision makers are busy with other priorities. - poverty <p>8- Indigenous people, scientists</p>
	<p><u>Strategic Target 14: Safeguarding ecosystems and essential services.</u></p> <p>1 - What are the major ecosystems in the country? What are the areas of importance for the provision of ecosystem services?</p> <p>2- How do these ecosystems contribute to human wellbeing?</p> <p>3- What is the condition of important ecosystems in the country?</p> <p>4- Which ecosystems are degrading the quickest? Which ecosystems are improving? Does further degradation of some ecosystems risk passing tipping points?</p> <p>5-Which ecosystems are in need of restoration? Which ecosystems are in need of safeguarding?</p> <p>6-What are the main pressures on the ecosystems that provide services essential for human wellbeing?</p> <p>7- Which ecosystems are particularly important for the wellbeing of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable?</p> <p>8-What factors are driving or causing the loss of ecosystem services? Which are the easiest to address?</p> <p>9-What are the opportunities and constraints in restoring or safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential services, generally and by ecosystem?</p> <p>10- Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to restore or safeguard ecosystems?</p> <p>11-How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- Desert, mountains, aquatic habitats, forests, plains, water bodies, agricultural and not agricultural areas. And the most important are: marshlands, rivers and deserts</p> <p>2- Ecosystems could support national economics and could be considered as tourist attractions and important resources for economics and the community.</p> <p>3- The aquatic ecosystem is degrading the faster and it can be proposed to make an agreement with the neighborhood to maintain the water quantity. Mountain ecosystems are improving</p> <p>5- There are no ecosystems that are safeguarded The ecosystems that need restoration are: rivers, marshlands and Al-Badeya(deserts). The ecosystems that need protection are: marshlands and Al-Badeya(deserts)</p> <p>6- Hunting, sustainable development and sustainable usage of natural resources</p> <p>7- The marshlands and desert are important for women well-being and other communities</p> <p>8- Unsustainable development of natural resources , over-hunting , over-grazing, losing habitats , wars and draught The most easy to be solved is the over-hunting.</p> <p>9- The most important opportunities are: restoring the ecosystems providing services by establishing protected areas which are an important way to preserve ecosystems and get benefits from their terrestrial and aquatic services.</p> <p>10- Fishermen , the owners of handicrafts</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
	<p>Target 15: Ecosystems restored and their resilience enhanced</p> <p>1-What habitats in the country are degraded? What are the areas of importance for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing that could be restored?</p> <p>2-What areas are important for carbon sequestration?</p> <p>3-What type of restoration activities are needed for each habitat?</p> <p>4-What are the opportunities and constraints in enhancing ecosystem resilience/undertaking ecosystem restoration, generally and by habitat?</p> <p>5-Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of enhancing resilience or of undertaking restoration in specific habitats. How may these justify higher or lower figures for a national target than for the global target?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to enhance resilience? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>11- Involving them could be done through raising awareness programs.</p> <p>1- The most important habitats are desert and marshlands The activities needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strict environmental legislation - protected areas - regulating hunting and grazing - public awareness - services programs <p>2- The areas are important for carbon sequestration are forests and plants with broad canopy cover.</p> <p>4- The opportunities are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - combat desertification projects - forestry development projects - sustainable development, legislation and projects <p>6- Indigenous people, fishermen and other owner of handicrafts that are related to ecosystems, and support them for sustainable development</p>
<p>E</p> <p>Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</p>	<p>The 17th target: NBSAP</p> <p>1-Does the country currently have an NBSAP? If not, what are the obstacles to developing one? If so when was it last revised?</p> <p>2-How effective has it been? How could its effectiveness be improved? What were the major obstacles to its implementation?</p> <p>3-What are the opportunities and constraints in developing or updating an NBSAP? Consider potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits. How may these influence the process to be followed?</p> <p>4-Who are the stakeholders that need to be consulted in the development, updating and implementation of the NBSAP?</p> <p>How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- No NBSAP in the current time</p> <p>2- In the beginning will have low effectiveness but by time and when the financial and human support will be provided, it will develop, and it could be improved by technological and scientific support.</p> <p>3- The constraints are: lack in financial support, lack of awareness about the importance of biodiversity, absence of environmental centers, no training opportunities, and absence of ecological knowledge and financial means.</p> <p>The opportunities are: we have specialist staff: the specialists in environment & biodiversity field especially academics .</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		<p>4-- People inhabiting the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international organizations that work in this field. - companies owners who have funds - environment & agriculture directorates
	<p><u>Strategic Target 18 : Respecting the traditional knowledge</u></p> <p>1-Who are the indigenous, local or traditional communities in the country? How are their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and customary use of biological resources being respected? What processes or mechanisms are in place to promote this respect? How effective have they been?</p> <p>2-How has traditional knowledge been integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>3- What mechanisms are in place to promote this?</p> <p>4-Has there been full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, with regards to the integration of their knowledge in the implementation of the Convention?</p> <p>5-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to respect traditional knowledge and integrate it into the implementation of the Convention? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- Marshlands residents, Bedouins in addition to fishermen who work in the marine areas and farmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No process to promote respect of traditional knowledge are present nowadays <p>2- There was no effective participation of local communities.</p> <p>5- The stakeholders are the local people in the areas.</p>
	<p><u>Strategic Target 19: Knowledge improved, shared and applied</u></p> <p>1-What biodiversity information is available on the country? Who has the information? What are the major gaps? What information would be crucial to have?</p> <p>2-What programmes are in place to generate information on biodiversity in the country? How effective have these been? How could their effectiveness be improved?</p> <p>3-What mechanisms are in place in the country to share biodiversity information and technologies?</p> <p>4-How is biodiversity information being used to support policy decision in the country? What are the opportunities and constraints in improving biodiversity information and technologies and sharing them?</p> <p>5-Who are the stakeholders that may be affected? How can they be involved and their needs addressed?</p>	<p>1- The major gaps are in collecting data and managing and classifying it because most of the work is done individually</p> <p>2- There are no specific programs because the studies are done individually.</p> <p>3- By publishing researches, Ph.D. and Master Degree thesis and essays in the newspapers, magazines, conferences and workshops.</p> <p>4- By prepare a recommendations from the conferences, symposiums and workshops and presenting it to the decision makers.</p> <p>5- Ministry of Environment & Agriculture institutions</p>
	<p>Strategic Target 20: Financial resources from all sources increased</p> <p>1-What is the current amount of biodiversity financing available in the country?</p> <p>2-What percentage of this funding comes from national budgets? What percentage comes from other sources?</p> <p>3-What are the main sources of biodiversity financing in the country? What are possible additional funding sources?</p> <p>4-What financial resources will be required to implement the Strategic Plan nationally?</p> <p>5-How can additional funds be raised?</p> <p>6-Who are the stakeholders that may be involved?</p>	<p>1- Unknown</p> <p>2- It is unknown but we expect low percentage.</p> <p>3- Federal governmental budget, organizations support, companies.</p> <p>Obligating the investment companies to decrease a part of the contract amount of money for</p>

Strategic Goal	Guiding questions for setting national targets	Answers
		biodiversity studies and surveys (additional funding sources).

DRAFT

Collected photos from the workshop and symposiums regarding the targets settings:

1- National and Sub-National (Central of Iraq) workshop







2- Sub- National (Northern of Iraq) workshop:





3- Sub – National (Southern of Iraq) workshop:







Iraqi Ministry of Environment welcomes receiving any comments about the report to get benefit from it in the future, via following e-mail:

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