



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



PROJECT DOCUMENT

Section 1: Project Identification

- 1.1 Project title:** Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network in Iraq
- 1.2 Project number:** GFL/5392
PMS: 1069
- 1.3 Project type:** MSP
- 1.4 Trust Fund:** GEF
- 1.5 Strategic objectives:** Biodiversity
GEF strategic long-term objective: BD-1 Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems
- 1.6 UNEP priority:** Ecosystem Management
- 1.7 Geographical scope:** National Iraq
- 1.8 Mode of execution:** External
- 1.9 Project executing organization:** Ministry of Environment – Government of Iraq
- 1.10 Duration of project:** 48 months
Commencing: 01/2015
Completion: 12/2018

1.11 Cost of project

		US\$	%
Cost to the GEF Trust Fund		1,230,365	26
Co-financing		3,450,000	74
<i>Cash</i>	National Government of Iraq	2,800,930	81
	GEF Agency - UNEP	100,000	3
	<i>Sub-total</i>	2,900,930	84
<i>In-kind</i>	National Government of Iraq	549,070	16
	<i>Sub-total</i>	549,070	16
	Total	4,680,365	100

1.12 Project summary

The primary Goal of the project is biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Iraq. Iraq's biodiversity is facing many challenges and threats. Challenges are arising from the need to reconcile environmental protection with development while threats are arising from the unsustainable development activities.

The project objective is to: *“Develop and start implementing the plan for the establishment of a national Network of Protected Areas”*. Milestones for biodiversity conservation are protected areas and a well-structured and managed network of protected areas that can be the key for preserving species and habitats and maintain their viability. Such a structured and managed network is presently missing in Iraq, due to a number of reasons, of which the most important are addressed by this Project.

The project components will address barriers and constraints to effective implementation of the national network of protected areas, focusing on (a) design, planning and establishment of the national system of Protected Areas in Iraq; (b) strengthening the institutional and legislative framework for Protected Areas, through stakeholder consultation, capacity building and provision of technical tools to enable legislation enforcement. The project will also target at involvement of the public/communities in conservation issues and the awareness raising activities about the importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation.

The project will also aim at establishing two protected areas as pilot sites with a focus on provision of essential infrastructure and support to the selected Protected Area Management Authorities, including stakeholder consultations and active involvement the local communities.

The Project will assist Iraq to meet its obligations under the CBD and in particular under the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). Strengths of the Project include: the establishment of the Pilot sites that will be a tangible example to test the effectiveness of the project components; institutional strengthening and awareness raising that will provide long-term benefits to the overall goal of biodiversity conservation. The successful stories realized with the pilot sites have the potential to be replicated to other PAs of the network.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of Parties
CPD	Country Programme Document
EO	Evaluation Office
GOI	Government of Iraq
IBA	Important Bird Area
IET	International Expert Team
IOCN	Iraqi Organization for Conservation of Nature
IPA	Important Plant AreaIUCN
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MOD	Main Outfall Drain
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
MoMPW	Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works
MoO	Ministry of Oil
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoTA	Ministry of Tourism and Antiques
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
MTR	Mid Term Review
MSP	Medium Size Project
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NDP	National Development Plan
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
TE	Terminal Evaluation
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Section 2: Background and Situation Analysis (Baseline course of action)

2.1. Background and context

2.1.1 Geographical and Environmental context:

Iraq, with a total area of approximately 435 052 km², is bordered by Turkey to the north, the Islamic Republic of Iran to the east, the Arabian Gulf to the southeast, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the south, and Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic to the west. The total population is 33.42 million¹. Iraq is a desert country crossed by the Twin Rivers; Tigris and Euphrates. The Tigris River flows southward from Turkey through the northern region of Iraq (Kurdistan), across the eastern part of Iraq and receives several tributaries from the Zagros Mountains; the Euphrates River flows from Turkey through Syria and crosses western and central parts of the country, without major tributaries in Iraq. In Qurna, about 100 km north of Basrah, the two rivers merge to form the Shatt al Arab River and flow to the Gulf. The Shatt al Arab delineates the most southern border between Iraq and Iran. The coastline of Iraq is 58 km, the area of the continental shelf is 1,034 km² and the territorial sea area is 716 km².²



Figure 1 – Map of Iraq

¹ World Bank, 2013 <http://data.worldbank.org/country/iraq>

² WRI, 2003 <http://earthtrends.wri.org>

Topographically, Iraq is shaped like a basin, consisting of the Great Mesopotamian alluvial plain of Tigris and Euphrates rivers (literally, Mesopotamia means the land between two rivers), and the alluvial plain area is about 132,500 km² or 30.5% of Iraq. This plain is surrounded by mountains in the north and the northern east, which can reach altitudes of 3,550 m above sea level, and by desert areas in the south and west, which account for over 40 percent of the land area. Within the alluvial plain there are marshes and lakes. In addition, Iraq has a marine area in the Arabian Gulf.

The climate in Iraq is mainly of the continental, subtropical semi-arid type, with the north and northeastern mountainous regions having a Mediterranean climate. Rainfall is very seasonal and occurs in winter from December to February, except in the north and northeast of the country, where the rainy season is from November to April. Average annual rainfall is estimated at 216 mm, but ranges from 1 200 mm in the northeast to less than 100 mm over 60 percent of the country in the south. Winters are cool to cold, with a day temperature of about 16 °C dropping at night to 2 °C with a possibility of frost. Summers are dry and hot to extremely hot, with a shade temperature of over 43 °C during July and August, yet dropping at night to 26 °C (FAO, 2008).

Iraq has four main geographical zones (see also the map below)³: the desert plateau, the northeastern highlands, the uplands region and the alluvial plain of Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

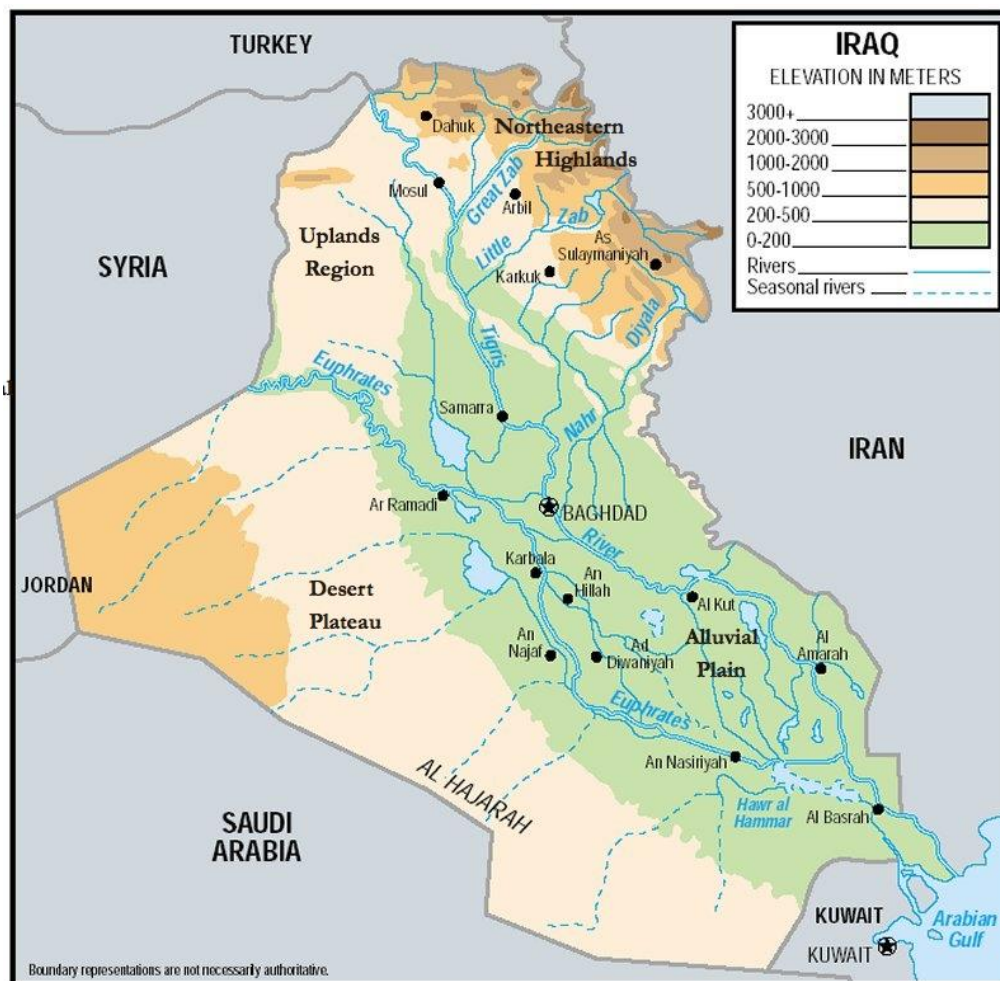


Figure 2: Map of geographical zones of Iraq

- i. *Desert plateau*: Approximately 40% of Iraqi territory consists of a broad, stony plain with scattered stretches of sand, lying west and southwest of the Euphrates River and sparsely inhabited by pastoral

³ Status and Outlook of Environment of Iraq, 2013; UNEP, 2003; FAO, 2008

nomads. A network of seasonal watercourses – or wadis – runs from the country's western borders towards the Euphrates River.

- ii. *Northeastern highlands:* Covering approximately 20% of the country, this region extends south of a line between Mosul to Kirkuk towards the borders with Turkey and Iran, where mountain ranges reach up to 3,600 m in altitude.
- iii. *Uplands region:* About 10% of Iraq comprises a transitional area between the high-lands and the desert plateau, located between the Tigris north of Samarra and the Euphrates north of Hit, and forming part of a larger natural area that extends into Syria and Turkey. Much of this zone may be classified as desert because watercourses flow in deeply cut valleys, making irrigation far more difficult than in the alluvial plain (see below).
- iv. *Alluvial plain:* Approximately 30% of Iraq is composed of the alluvial plain formed by the combined deltas of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This region begins north of Baghdad and extends south to the Gulf coast bordering Iran. Dams and water diversion projects have decimated the once extensive wetlands of the region and diversion of the Euphrates in Turkey and Syria, and by large-scale drainage works carried out by the Iraqi regime.

Water resources:

The surface water consider the main water resources in Iraq, and its quantity changes among seasons, and it varies from year to another depending on the amounts of rain and snowfall. Tigris and Euphrates are the main two rivers in Iraq, and both of them are transboundary rivers. Originating in Turkey. Tigris River enters the Iraqi territory at Feeshkhabur village. The area of the Tigris River Basin is about 235000 km², of which 54% is located in Iraq. In the Iraqi territory there are many tributaries flowing into the river from upstream to downstream (Al-Khaboor, The Greater Zab, The Lesser Zab, Al-Adhaim, Diyala). On the other hand, most of Euphrates River resources are in the territory of Turkey, and the river enters the Syrian territory, passing a semi-arid area into which there are several tributaries, and then enters the Iraqi territory at Husaybah area (Al-Qa'em). Unlike the Tigris, the Euphrates receives no tributaries during its passage in Iraq. The area of the Euphrates River Basin is about 444000 km², of which 40% is located in Iraq. Before their confluence, the Euphrates flows for about 1000 km and the Tigris for about 1300 km within the territory of Iraq. The Shatt Al-Arab is a river formed by the confluence downstream of the Euphrates and the Tigris in Basrah Governorate; it flows into the Gulf after a course of only 190 km. The Karun River, originating in the Iranian territory, flows into the Shatt Al-Arab to which it brings a large amount of fresh water just before reaching the sea. Iraq has joint water resources with Iran through some of Tigris's tributaries like: Lesser Zab, Diyala(Sirwan), Al-Wind and Kelala, and the rivers that are feeding the marshes to the east of Tigris like: Kerkha river and Karun river. In addition there are several joint boundary watercourses like Al-Teeb, Dewarej rivers and others.

Wetlands:

There are marshes whose waters are supplied by the two rivers Tigris and Euphrates with some other joint rivers. These marshes cover wide areas of various governorates (Al-Basrah, Maysan, Thi-Qar, Wasit, Al-Najaf and Al-Qadissiya), but they have been exposed to drying and burning during the last two decades and this has affected their environmental functions in general. The Iraqi marshlands formed the largest wetland ecosystem in Western Asia. They provide a home to the rural people and an economic source since they harbor different species of fish, birds and terrestrial animals. The main marshes in terms of extension and historical belonging to the once huge complex of the Mesopotamian marshes are located among the three governorates Basrah, Maysan and Thi-Qar. In addition, there are a number of small marshes and seasonal wetlands located in the same southern governorates. Central Marsh, Hawizeh and Hammar marshes are considered the most important permanent marshes in southern Iraq. The total area of Hawizeh Marshes is about 2350 km², it is located in Maysan and Basrah governorates and partly extends into Iran. The total area of Hammar marshes is about 3000 km², it is located southwards the Euphrates and extends from Thi-Qar to Basrah governorates in Karmat Ali, (Status and Outlook of Environment of Iraq, 2013; FAO, 2008)

Groundwater aquifers:

Due to a variety of reasons and causes such as the increasing drought, the application of wrong agricultural practices and irrigation schemes, together with the construction of dams in the upstream countries, the water portion of Iraq has been steadily decreasing. This has led to an increasing demand and pressure on the groundwater sources especially for agricultural purposes. However, most of the groundwater aquifers have limited exploitation potential because of poor water quality that might be affected by various problems such as high nitrates concentration, contamination by oil spills and depleted uranium and other hazardous substances released into the environment as a consequence of military conflicts and other dangerous practices. Other problems related with groundwater resources are the high salinity levels that are found in many areas (Status and Outlook of Environment of Iraq, 2013; FAO, 2008).)

Ecoregions of Iraq:

Iraq is part of the Palearctic Realm, the largest of the eight terrestrial biogeographic areas or ecozones that have been defined for the Earth. Within the Palearctic Realm, there are several primary and secondary ecoregions that make up the ecosystems of Iraq. Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3 below show the percentage of coverage of these ecoregions within Iraq as compared to the global coverage.

Table 1: Terrestrial ecoregions encompassing Iraq

<i>Terrestrial ecoregions</i>	<i>Total area (km²)</i>	<i>Area in Iraq (km²)</i>	<i>% in Iraq</i>	<i>Conservation status</i>
Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh (PA0906)	35,600	28,795	81%	Critical/Endangered
Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands (PA1303)	1,851,300	192,853	10%	Critical/Endangered
Mesopotamian Shrub Desert (PA1320)	211,000	129,995	62%	Vulnerable
Middle East Steppe (PA0812)	132,300	37,598	28%	Vulnerable
Eastern Mediterranean conifer-sclerophyllous-broadleaf forest (PA1207)	143,800	1,475	1%	Un-known
Red Sea Nubo-Sindian Tropical Desert and Semi-Desert (PA1325)	651,300	5,189	1%	Un-known
South Iran Nubo-Sindian Desert and Semi-Desert (PA1328)	351,500	7,993	2%	Un-known
Gulf Desert and Semi-Desert (PA1323)	72,600	1,480	2%	Un-known
Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe (PA0446)	397,800	29,376	7%	Critical/Endangered
Total	3,847,200	434,753		Un-known

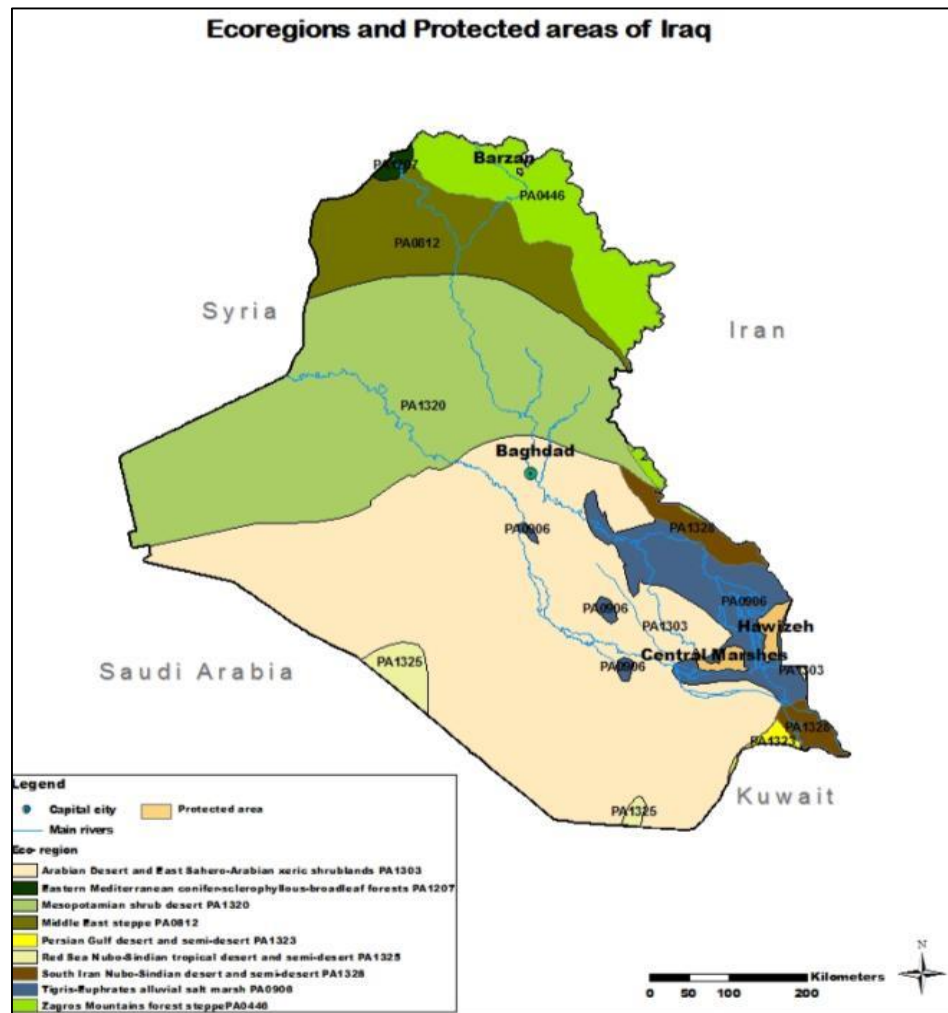
Table 2: Freshwater ecoregions encompassing Iraq

<i>Freshwater ecoregions</i>	<i>Total area (km²)</i>	<i>Area in Iraq (km²)</i>	<i>% in Iraq</i>
441 Lower Tigris and Euphrates River Basin	340,633	227,497	67%
442 Upper Tigris and Euphrates River Basin	507,236	64,745	13%
440 Arabian Interior	2,334,454	142,494	6%
445 Orumiyeh	51,772	17	0.03%

Table 3: Marine ecoregion encompassing Iraq

<i>Marine ecoregions</i>	<i>Total area (km²)</i>	<i>Area in Iraq (km²)</i>	<i>% in Iraq</i>
90 The Gulf	251,000	Territorial sea 4,910	2%

Figure 3: Map of ecoregions and protected areas of Iraq



The Tigris-Euphrates Alluvial Salt Marsh ecoregion has been considered an Endemic Bird area, because of the existence of most of the IBA sites in this region. The Lower Tigris and Euphrates River Basins have been defined by The World Wildlife Fund & the Nature conservancy as one of the major freshwater ecoregions of the world, because of the wetland ecosystems associated with these two major rivers and the extensive network of marsh habitats formed at their southernmost end. This system also contains a series of large reservoirs, several of which have been designated as Important Birds Areas (IBAs) by BirdLife International including Dukan, Darbandikhan, Mosul, Tharthaar, Razaza Lakes and others (See for further details the Fourth National Report of Iraq to CBD).

A coral reef in Iraqi coastal water was discovered in a marine survey in 2012 for the first time ever. The discovery of a living coral that lies hidden beneath the murky waters of Iraq's coas, is considered an important ecological and scientific event, not only for Iraq but for the Arabian Gulf region and the international scientific community. The discovery of the corals in the Iraqi territorial waters will impact on a range of research fields such as biology, zoology, ecology, oceanography, geology, palaeontology, geo-biology, biogeochemistry, hydrogeology, and evolutionary sciences.

The ecoregion Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe (PA0446), which is one of the main Iraqi ecoregions, is part of the Irano-Antolian biodiversity Hot Spot, an area globally important for biological diversity because of the high rate of the endemism (Fourth National Report of Iraq to CBD).

The biodiversity of Iraq

Iraq is a vast, biodiversity-rich and biogeographically diverse country, which encompasses seven main terrestrial ecoregions (Zagros Mountain forest steppe – PA0446; Eastern Mediterranean conifer-sclerophyllous-broadleaf forests – PA1207; Middle east steppe - PA0812; Mesopotamian shrub desert -PA1320; Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian xeric shrublands - PA1303; Red Sea Nubo-Sindian tropical desert and semi-desert – PA1325; South Iran Nubo-Sindian desert and semi-desert – PA1328), three freshwater ecoregions (the upper Tigris and Euphrates – 442; the lower Tigris and Euphrates – 441; the Arabian interior - 440) and one marine ecoregion (the Arabian Gulf)⁴. Iraq lies in southern Asia and because of its strategic location it is considered an important link between the east and west, both as concerns transportation and ecological corridors. The variety of natural habitats including low lands, desert, steppes, plateaus and mountains, wetlands, coastal and marine habitats is providing the country with natural, biological and economic diversity.

It has been recorded that 10 amphibian species, 98 reptile species and 74 mammal species have been found throughout all the habitats of Iraq. Many are conservation concern species and several of these are endemic or near-endemics in Iraq. Regarding the plant species in Iraq, it has been recorded that there are approximately 195 endemic species of about 4500 plants in Iraq. In addition, many marine fish that are important in the fisheries of the Gulf countries utilize the Iraqi marshlands for spawning and nursery grounds making this ecosystem particularly important to regional biodiversity. Some 106 species of fish (including freshwater and marine entrant species) have been recorded in the non-marine waters of Iraq and of these 53 species are marine fish. In 2010, a number of Iraqi species have been assessed with the status of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near-threatened or Extinct. Further assessment and evaluation of the Iraqi species should be conducted to update the information (Fourth National Report of Iraq to CBD).

A preliminary checklist of the Birds of Iraq has been developed that includes 417 bird species of which 182 are considered passage migrants to Iraq and an additional 27 are migrant species. Of these, 78 species are considered to be of conservation concern, the majority of which are either possible or confirmed breeders (as shown in table 4) while five species of birds are either endemic or have endemic races found in Iraq (as shown in Table 5:).

Table 4: Conservation concern species of birds

<i>CONSERVATION CONCERN SPECIES</i>	<i>BREEDING STATUS</i>	<i>IRAQ STATUS</i>
78 Conservation Concern Species	179 confirmed breeding bird species	Approximately 123 resident species
	36 probable breeding bird species	Approximately 232 migrant and/or common visiting species
	199 species with unknown breeding status	35 migrant or rare visitors

The region is especially important as part of the intercontinental flyways used by huge numbers of birds moving between Africa and Eurasia. It has been estimated that some two to three billion migrants move south across Arabia each autumn, with the flyways of many birds crossing over Iraq and providing therefore for the global importance of the country for migratory birds and adding value to the establishment of protected sites. In particular the vast wetlands and marshlands present in the southern part of the country are forming a large network of interconnected freshwater wetland systems running through often arid deserts with xeric vegetation, and they provide important corridors for wildlife species.

⁴ Ref. WWF, Global 200 Ecoregions http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/maps/ ; Freshwater eco-regions of the World (FEOW) <http://www.feow.org/index.php>.

Table 5: Endemic & Endemic race bird species of Iraq (Includes Terrestrial & Freshwater Species)

Common name	Latin name	Conservation status	Iraq status	Breeding Status
Little Grebe (endemic race)	<i>Tachybaptus Ruficollis(iraquensis)</i>	Conservation Concern (CC), Endemic Race (EndR)	Resident (only endemic race); Winter visitor.	Confirmed
Mesopotamian Crow	<i>Corvus cornix capellanus</i>	Conservation Concern (CC), Endemic Race (EndR)	Resident	Confirmed
Basra Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	Globally Threatened (GT), Conservation Concern (CC), Endemic	Breeding summer visitor	Confirmed
Iraq Babbler	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>	Conservation Concern (CC), Region Endemic (End)	Resident	Confirmed

The land of present Iraq hosted the most ancient human civilizations; on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates the first civilizations ever originated, writing begun with these civilizations more than 5000 years ago together with the first social, economic and political organization. Each historical phase has its cultural characteristics and their geographical distribution is clear. The Sumerian civilization flourished in the south while the Babylonian in central Iraq and the Chaldean and Assyrian civilization in the north in addition to the Islamic heritage. Three Archaeological sites have been listed on the World Heritage List as cultural sites, namely: 1) Historical large and fortified Al-Hadhar city in 1985; 2) The monuments of ancient Ashur city in 2003, which is the capital of the Assyrian empire on the banks of the Tigris River, and it is listed under the Endangered World Heritage sites; and 3) Samarra Archaeological City in 2007, which is one of the capitals of the Abbasids, and it is also one of the Endangered World Heritage sites.

2.2 Global significance

In establishing for a network of protected areas, the Project will globally contribute to safeguard and protect species and habitats across the country and this will add up to the world's asset of protected spaces where life's diversity is maintained. Protected areas actually act as life's buffers and stronghold of species⁵ and the valuable increase in the number of PAs that will be provided by this Project for its global significance in a medium and long-term perspective.

The Project, by creating a national network of protected areas, will allow Iraq to be aligned with the regional and international dimensions concerning protected areas in a short and medium-term horizon, with reference to Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in particular to the "creation of new protected areas" and "creation of connectivity corridors"⁶, and to the other MEAs to which Iraq is signatory. Among MEAs, the Ramsar Convention (protection of wetlands and freshwater/coastal/marine ecosystems); the UNFCCC on climate change (increasing –through protection- ecosystem resilience and creation of buffer areas that can mitigate harmful effects of climate change, e.g. flood prevention in coastal areas).

The Project will contribute to protect and safeguard globally threatened and significant species and ecosystems that occur only in the country, such as the endangered Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) whose

⁵ "Protected Areas in today's world: their values and benefits for the welfare of the planet"; CBD Technical series No. 36; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2008.

⁶ Ref. "Resource requirements for Aichi Target 11-Protected Areas – Progress report for the High Level Panel Meeting"; UNDP/CBD; 2012.

unique breeding area is located completely within Iraq or the eco-region “Tigris Euphrates alluvial salt marsh”, the largest part of which is located inside Iraq. Additionally the protection of the habitats and species will also contribute to achieve a better conservation status for those species listed under the CITES convention, such as the endangered Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) (CITES Appendix I), or the Spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastix aegyptia*) (CITES Appendix II) or the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) (CITES Appendix I).

The Project is aligned with global PAs principles since it will contribute to poverty reduction, traditional knowledge preservation, improving of regional economies, preserving species for future medicine research and development of sustainable tourism, with a particular focus on livelihoods provision through the promotion and preservation of sustainable fishery in the pilot PA of Dalmaj. This component of the Project is also corresponding to UNEP’s strategic focus 2014-2017, sub-programme 3, Ecosystem Management, EA/1: “Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems”.

The Project will strengthen the institutional and legislative framework for Protected Areas through capacity building and provision of technical tools to enable enforcement of legal requirements nationally; this will allow aligning Iraq with the regional and international context and will have a global significance related to the harmonization of legislative frameworks and tools that allow conservation, in accordance with Aichi Target 11⁷, “strengthen enabling policy environments and sustainable finance” and GEF objective 1-c⁸: “the protected areas system shall retain adequate individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they can achieve their conservation objectives”. Also the capacity building at the national and local level is one of the components of GEF objective 1, as a tool to support effective management of individual protected areas and protected area systems.

The establishment of Teeb pilot PA will contribute to the overarching objective of providing a successful story of ‘ecosystem management for development’. Within the framework of the previously mentioned UNEP’s strategic focus 2014-2017, sub-programme 3, Ecosystem Management, the overall objective of “promoting a transition to integrate management of land, water and living resources to maintain biodiversity and provide ecosystem services sustainably and equitably among countries”, seem to be particularly tailored to the function of Teeb pilot area. The expected accomplishment 3 (EA3) targets the integration of services and benefits derived from the ecosystems with the planned developments; while the trans-boundary nature of this PA could provide the opportunity of testing the equitable share of ecosystem services among countries and the joint management of natural resources.

2.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

Some of the most common and widespread threats in Iraq include unsustainable fishing and hunting, land mines, oil extraction and mining activities, desertification, agricultural pollution and runoff, infrastructures construction. The national reports and initial results of the ongoing NBSAP project⁹ also highlight that there are considerable obstacles for biodiversity conservation in general. These are mainly related to stakeholders outreach and involvement, jurisdictional disputes, lack of legislation, difficulties in the legislative process, difficulty in raising awareness, funding availability, capacity building, and security constraints.

In the 4th National Report to the CBD and in the PoWPA Action Plan the “urgent need for global involvement and commitment in order to overcome these obstacles” is emphasized. In the above context, the major barriers to effective establishment and management of Protected Areas in Iraq include¹⁰: weak or absent legal *frameworks*;

⁷ Ref. “Resource requirements for Aichi Target 11-Protected Areas – Progress report for the High Level Panel Meeting”; UNDP/CBD; 2012

⁸ Ref. “Biodiversity Strategy for GEF-5”

⁹ Ref. NBSAP Stocktaking and Baseline Assessment; Stakeholder consultation report

¹⁰ Ref. POWPA Action Plan of Iraq, 2012

lack of financial mechanisms to establish and sustain a network of PAs; lack of national technical expertise on PA design and management; lack of coordination between ministries (horizontal) and between national local government (vertical); lack of adequate baseline information; sub-optimal law enforcement capacity; lack of trans-boundary coordination; very limited public awareness on the importance of PAs and Biodiversity conservation.

2.4. Institutional, sectoral and policy context

2.4.1 National policies

The Constitution of Iraq (2005) includes protecting environment and biodiversity among the fundamental principles of the country. Article. 33 of the Iraqi Constitution¹¹ reads: “*First: Every individual has the right to live in safe environmental conditions. Second: The State shall undertake the protection and preservation of the environment and its biological diversity*”.

The Iraqi institutional system hierarchy (MoE, HECP¹², EPIC¹³, EPIA¹⁴ and EPICGs¹⁵) is directly responsible for promoting the environmental conditions in the country. From a strategic perspective, this institutional hierarchy seeks to achieve many goals, including sustainable utilization of natural resources and strict enforcement of the technical conditions and specifications of environmental activities under a semi-integrated umbrella of modern environment laws and regulations.

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Iraq was established in 2003 and it is the government institution responsible for environment protection and improvement. MoE currently has a large and complex organization structure (shown in the graph below). One of the environmental issues that the ministry deals with according to the law is Ecosystem and Biodiversity conservation, protecting the natural and cultural heritage, and establishing and managing the protected areas in the country in coordination with relevant institutions. In addition, the MoE is the responsible body in Iraq on implementing the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, CMS in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

The MoE will be responsible for project execution through its dedicated departments that will ensure coordination with other relevant institutions to implement its components and activities. The MoE will also exhibit strong coordination and collaboration with the Environmental Directorates in each of the three governorates of Missan, Wasit and Al-Qadissiya in which the two pilot sites are located.

For administrative purposes, the country is divided into eighteen governorates, of which three (Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah) are in the northern region (Kurdistan) and the other fifteen are in the central and southern Iraq (Baghdad, Babel, Ninawa, Diyala, Salah Aldin, Karbala, Wasit, Al-Anbar, Kerkuk, Al-Najaf, Al-Qadissiya, Thi-Qar, Maysan, Al-Muthanna, Al-Basrah). Governorate Directorates and Units perform activities related to supervision, monitoring and conservation of Biodiversity. However among these, the capacity to manage Protected Areas is very limited, and the MoE has very limited capacity to effectively implement its challenging mandate, especially with regards to establishment and management of an effective National Network of Protected Areas.

National Development Planning. The following policies relevant to PAs exist or are in the process of being finalised: the National Development Plan 2013-2017; the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan of Iraq 2013-2017; and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The National Development Plan 2013-2017. The National Development Plan 2013-2017 was launched by the Ministry of Planning in January 2013 and is the result of a collaborative drafting process between the ministries and provincial institutions. The economic, social and environmental challenges that the 2013-2017 National Development Plan is up against are not very different from those faced by the previous 2010-2012 National

¹¹ Ref. Iraqi Constitution, 2005

¹² Health and Environment Committee in the Parliament

¹³ Environment Protection and Improvement Council

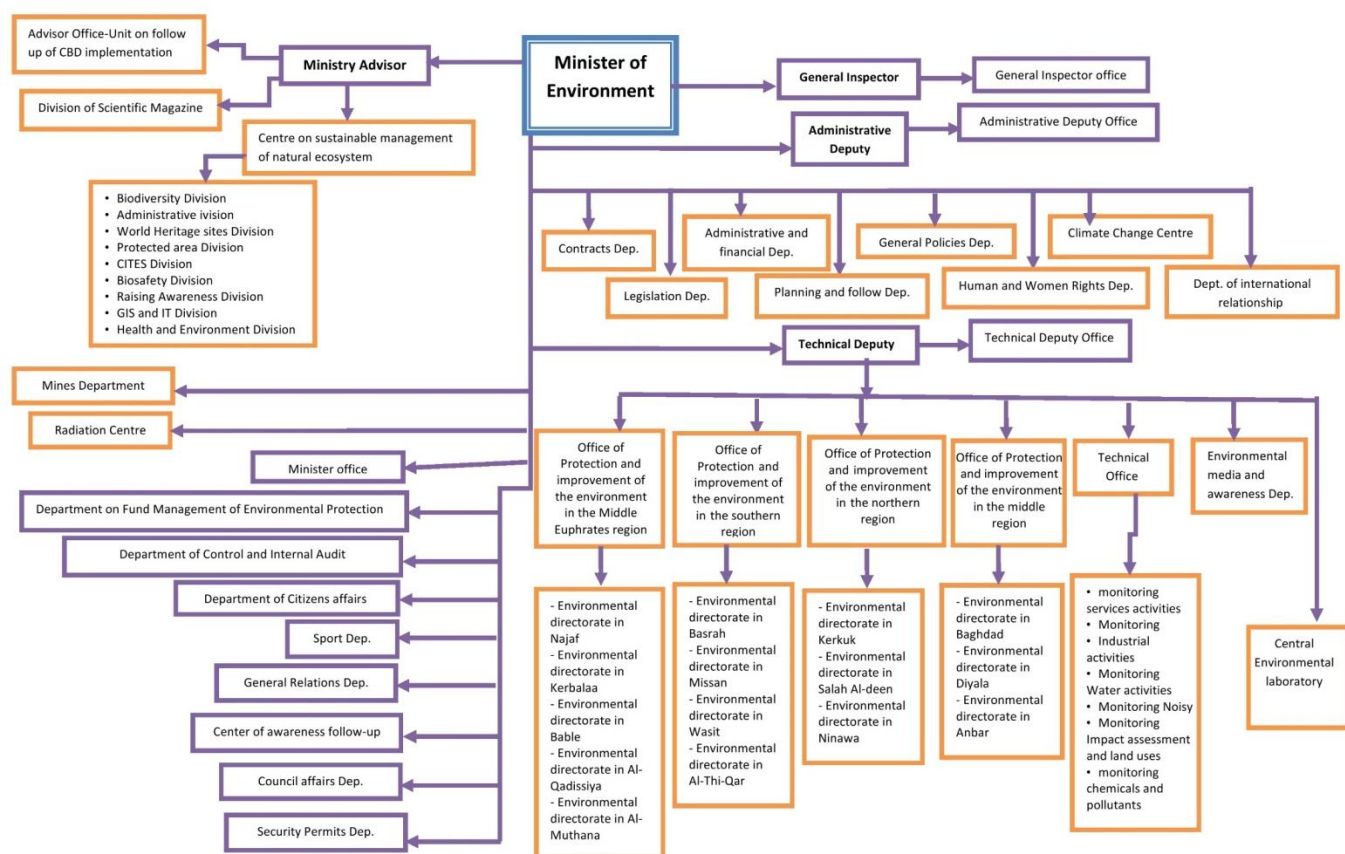
¹⁴ Environment Protection and Improvement Authority in Kurdistan

¹⁵ Environment Protection and Improvement Councils in the governorates

Development Plan. The development model of the NDP is based on five supporting principles: 1) diversification of non-oil production structure; 2) Strengthening decentralization; 3) Green investment; 4) Empowerment and Equal Opportunity; and 5) Secure, protected work and better quality of life. The vision of the NDP 2013-2017 is for “A safe, stable country where citizens enjoy civil, economic, social and environmental rights, aspire to build a diverse and competitive national economy, possess the keys to advancement in all scientific, cultural and intellectual fields; where everyone participates in a federal, decentralized, socially-integrated system that provides fair opportunities for development, in which the private sector and civil society are active partners and environmental sustainability represents an approach toward achieving a green economy”. The NDP delineates 3 main Goals: Economic, Social and Environmental. Although no specific objective is set for Protected Areas, three out of the eight objectives associated with the Environmental Goal are relevant for the establishment of a Protected Areas network in Iraq: i) Preserve biodiversity by developing natural grasslands, adopting developed methods of environmental management and threatened ecosystem maintenance to guarantee biosecurity; ii) Promote the spirit of citizenship and environmental awareness; and iii) Strengthen environmental management and environmental tracking and monitoring.

The *National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan of Iraq 2013-2017* (NESAP) was developed by the Ministry of Environment in a joint effort with UNEP and UNDP and launched in June 2013. The document addressed all environmental issues and concerns in Iraq and provides for actions and objectives within the time frame set. Many cross-cutting themes of the NESAP are addressing biodiversity concerns and issues that will be covered and developed also in the NBSAP of Iraq. 10 strategic objectives have been set in the strategy; for each of them various indicators and projects have been defined, including Biodiversity. Specifically, Strategic Objective 5 is addressed to “Protection and sustainable use of biodiversity”.

Figure 4: Functional Organization of the Ministry of Environment



2.4.2 Design of a national Protected Areas System.

In the NESAP, the systematic establishment of a national PA system is planned, and under Strategic Objective 1 Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in which two specific projects are set: (a) Component 1 Local Species - Program 5.1 Biodiversity Protection includes activity 5.1.1. on establishment of the National Network of Natural Reserves; (b) Component 2 Keeping samples of Iraqi organisms - Program 5.2 Biodiversity Protection includes activity 5.2.3 Establishment of Nature Reserves.

The POWPA Action Plan of Iraq was submitted to the CBD in May 2012 and provides additional information on existing and proposed Protected Areas of Iraq, to be fully established by the year 2020. In its Action Plan, Iraq has committed to addressing 5 main Goals of the PoWPA, as listed in table 6 below.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the CBD Convention, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), has drafted a preliminary document which takes into account relevant information provided for in the Key Biodiversity Areas work and the list of proposed sites to be declared as Protected Areas. A list of 18 proposed sites is under evaluation by the National Committee for Protected Areas.

Table 4: Iraq POWPA Goals and Targets

GOAL OF POWPA	TARGET
Goal 1.1 To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals	By 2010, terrestrially / and 2012 in the marine area, a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected area system is established as a contribution to (i) the goal of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the World Summit on Sustainable Development of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; (ii) the Millennium Development Goals - particularly goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability; and (iii) the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
Goal 1.4 To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management	All protected areas to have effective management in existence by 2012, using participatory and science-based site planning processes that incorporate clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programmes, drawing upon existing methodologies and a long-term management plan with active stakeholder involvement.
Goal 1.5 To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas	By 2008, effective mechanisms for identifying and preventing, and/or mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas are in place
Goal 3.1 To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas	By 2008 review and revise policies as appropriate, including use of social and economic valuation and incentives, to provide a supportive enabling environment for more effective establishment and management of protected areas and protected areas systems.
Goal 3.2 To build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas	By 2010, comprehensive capacity building programmes and initiatives are implemented to develop knowledge and skills at individual, community and institutional levels, and raise professional standards

The Ministry of Environment with technical and financial support from the GEF and UNEP, are executing the enabling activity project “*First NBSAP for Iraq and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD*” that started in November 2012 and is expected to end in June 2015. By August 2014, the process of drafting the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and its implementation strategy was on-going, and relevant achievements have been attained as part of the overall biodiversity target setting and stakeholder consultation process. In the setting of the national targets, Iraq has addressed the main elements of the Aichi Target n.11 “*By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and*

equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”.

2.4.3 Framework of the CBD’s Strategic Plan 2020 and Aichi Targets

The Iraq Fifth National Report (March 2014) and the draft NBSAP outline 23 National Targets set for biodiversity protection, conservation of ecosystem functions and services for human well-being and sustainable use of natural resources. The National Targets of Iraq were developed in the framework of the CBD’s Strategic Plan 2020 and Aichi Targets as shown in table 7 below.

Aichi BD targets that the project will contribute to include Target 1 - Awareness increased, Target 5 - Habitat loss, Target 11 - Protected Areas, Target 12 - Threatened species and Target 14 - Ecosystem services

Table 5: Aichi Targets vs Iraq national targets

<i>CBD Strategic Goal</i>	<i>Aichi Target</i>	<i>Iraqi Target</i>
A	<i>Target 1 - Awareness increased</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By 2020, 25% of urban and rural people have awareness of the status of biodiversity, its benefits for people, the pressures that affect it, and the actions they can take for its conservation and sustainable use 2. By 2020, 50% of policy makers and planners have awareness of the status of biodiversity, its benefits for people, the pressures that affect it, and the actions they can take for its conservation and sustainable use 3. By the end of 2015 a national survey of tools used for public awareness of biodiversity is completed. 4. By 2020 the use of tools (films, publications, educational programmes, guidance materials, and training) for raising awareness of biodiversity is improved with locally defined, area based and targeted awareness programs (e.g. governorate level)
B	<i>Target 5 - Habitat loss</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. By the end of 2020 a GIS database of the extent, condition (i.e. healthy or degraded) and protection status of the natural (not altered by human intervention), semi-natural and human modified habitats of Iraq has been developed. 6. By the end of 2020 the reasons for loss and degradation (i.e. the species that used to be present in that habitat are not there anymore, and the services that the people expected or used are reduced or absent) of each of the natural (not altered by human intervention), semi-natural and human modified habitats of Iraq have been identified to inform conservation actions. 7. By the end of 2015 the main pressures on forest ecosystems are identified and studied 8. By the end of 2020 legislation to address the main pressures on forest ecosystems and native forest species is issued, promoting sustainable management, restoration and conservation.
	<i>Target 8 - Pollution reduced</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. By the end of 2020, about 1,000 square km of desertified shrubland grassland is restored 10. By end of 2016 a national monitoring programme is established for identification of the main sources and diffusion paths of chemical and physical pollutants in the

<i>CBD Strategic Goal</i>	<i>Aichi Target</i>	<i>Iraqi Target</i>
		natural ecosystems and the effects of pollution on natural ecosystems
	<i>Target 9 - Invasive and alien species</i>	11. By the end of 2018 environmental standards are issued and enforced for prevention and control of priority pollutants in the natural ecosystems (not altered by human intervention). 18. By the end of 2016 legislation is enacted to control the introduction and diffusion of non-native species into the natural environment
C	<i>Target 11 - Protected Areas</i>	19. By the end of 2020 the list of invasive species of Iraq and their impacts and invasion pathways has been published. 12. By the end of 2014 a decree is issued for the establishment of protected areas in Iraq 13. By the end of 2014 at least three training workshops on PA management have been conducted 14. By the end of 2015 a study and GIS maps of the most sensitive habitats (i.e. under high level of threats and containing high numbers of globally threatened species) have been developed.
	<i>Target 12 - Threatened species</i>	15. By the end of 2020 ten new Protected Areas have been gazetted and established 20. By the end of 2020 the list of threatened species of Iraq has been published and an action plan for the conservation of priority species is produced
D	<i>Target 14 - Ecosystem services</i>	21. By 2020 legislation for the conservation of threatened species is issued and enforced 16. By the end of 2016 a national assessment is published of the state of provisioning, regulating and cultural services supplied by natural ecosystems and their importance for rural and urban people and on management options to be developed for the sustainable supply of ecosystem services 17. By the end of 2018 a national strategy/sub-national strategies are established for the sustainable management of ecosystems to supply important ecosystem services for rural and urban people
E	<i>Target 18 - Traditional knowledge</i>	22. By the end of 2020 a survey of indigenous and local communities' traditional knowledge, use and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is published.
	<i>Target 20 - Financial resources for implementation</i>	23. By 2016 a Resource Mobilization Plan for implementation of the NBSAP is established and implemented

In Iraq there are several national inter-ministerial Committees established to support the Government in developing policies, planning and reporting on different environmental fields. For Protected areas, three national committees are relevant: i) the “National Committee for Protected Areas” , ii) the “Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee” and the recently established “National World Heritage Committee”.

The National Committee for Protected Areas: A National Committee for Protected Areas was established in 2008 for planning and management of a network of Protected Areas in Iraq. The composition of this inter-ministerial Committee is detailed in the new Regulation on Protected Areas N.2 of 2014: it is formed by the representatives of the Ministries of Environment (Leader), Water Resources, Agriculture, Higher Education & Scientific Research, Science & Technology, Tourism & Antiquities, Municipalities & Public Works, and

Education. NGO representative on the committee is nominated by the NGOs Department in the General Secretariat of the Ministers Council.

The Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee (RAMSAR Convention): The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was ratified by Iraq in October 2007 and entered into force on February 18th, 2008. The National Focal Point of the Ramsar Convention is the Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW) of the Ministry of Water Resources. An Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee (INMWC) was established in 2008 to assist the Government of Iraq in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. This national inter-ministerial Committee is led by the Ministry of Water Resources and its members include representatives of: Ministry of Water Resources; Technical Advisors; Members from Governorate Councils of Missan, Basrah and ThiQar; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Science & Technology; The Iraqi Media Body; Nature Iraq as NGO representative.

The National World Heritage Committee. The National World Heritage Committee was established in 2014 in order to follow up with the ongoing UNEP-UNESCO project for the declaration of the Mesopotamia Marshlands as UNESCO World Heritage site and to develop a tentative list of cultural and natural sites that have the characters to be nominated as World Heritage sites. This National Committee is led by the Ministry of Environment and includes representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiques and Ministry of Culture.

Regulation on Protected Areas. A new Regulation on Protected Areas was passed in December 2013 by Decision of the Council of Ministers N.139 of 2014. The new regulation assigns the National Committee for Protected Areas the duties to identify and evaluate sites to be proposed as Protected Areas according to national, regional, trans-boundary, and governmental or non-governmental types, as well as outlining the management structure of Protected Areas, evaluate and approve the PA Management Plans and reporting about PA implementation. The MoE is the designed authority that declares Protected Areas, based on the initial proposal of the National Committee for Protected Areas, the opinion of the Environmental Protection Commission and the final approval of the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet).

Protected Area (PA) Governance: in 2014, a specific Regulation on natural Protected Areas was passed by the Ministers Council, which delineates the institutional framework for management of PAs, based on the Ministry of Environment Law n.37 of 2008 and the Environment Protection Law n.27 of 2009. According to the latter, the Ministry of Environment has full legal jurisdiction on Protected Areas. The Ministry of Water Resources has jurisdiction on water bodies, including wetlands and marshlands, and is the National Focal Point of the Ramsar Convention, and therefore has the competence on the identification, establishment and management of the Ramsar Sites. Although one national protected areas has been gazzeted (the Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park in 2013) and one Ramsar site designated (the Hawizeh Ramsar site in 2007), few management and protection measures are actually implemented, and substantial effort is needed to enact the existing regulations and execute the National Plans for establishment of an effective network of Protected Areas in Iraq. In 2008, a Provincial Committee was established in Thi Qar governorate for following up on the Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park project, which is now leading local implementation in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Water Resources. The proposed Mesopotamian Marshlands National Park is the only site that was more comprehensively studied in recent years. A preliminary overview of environmental problems, biodiversity status as well as evaluation of challenges and priorities for action emerged from key reference documents of the Ministry of Environment¹⁶.

Management of established Protected Areas: In 2008 the Management Plan for Hawizeh Marshes Ramsar Site was prepared by Nature Iraq for the Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee. In 2010, the Management Plan was updated upon request of the INMWC. In April 2010 the Hawizeh site was placed on the Montreux Record of the Ramsar Convention. The Hawizeh Marshes Ramsar Site is managed by the CRIMW. Upon invitation of the MoWR, a team of experts of the Ramsar Secretariat made a field visit in Hawizeh Marshes in February 2014 and advised on the site's management based on field observations and meetings with national

¹⁶ Ref. CBD 4NR, 2010; POWPA Action Plan, 2012; KBA Inventory of Iraq *in press* 2014.

institutions, local communities and private sector¹⁷. The management planning for the recently established Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park in the Central Marshes of southern Iraq is still ongoing and a local Committee was created, including representatives of relevant Ministries and local Government as well of NGOs and local communities.

Existing Protected Areas Coverage

Existing Protected Areas Coverage. According to current information, the total extent of existing natural Protected Areas of Iraq is 284,022 ha (2,840 km²) corresponding to 0.65% of total land area of Iraq (43,831,700 ha). No protected areas are established in the sea territorial waters of Iraq. Table 8 below summarizes key data on existing protected areas (source: adapted from POWPA Action Plan of Iraq, 2012¹⁸).

Table 6: Protected Area of Iraq by type, number coverage and their ecoregions

PROTECTED AREA TYPE	NUMBER	AREA	ECOREGIONS
National Protected Areas			
National Park	1 established (Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park, established 24/07/2013)	141,615 ha (1,416 km ²)	Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh (PA0906)
Other types of PA	1 proposed (Barzan Tribal Protected Area “Hima” in Kurdistan)	4,707 ha (47.07km ²)	Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe (PA0446)
International Protected Areas			
Ramsar Sites	1 established (Hawizeh Marshes – Ramsar site n. 1718 designated 17/10/2007)	137,700 ha (1,377 km ²)	Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh (PA0906)
TOTAL	3	284,022 ha (2840 km²)	2

2.5 Stakeholder analysis

The institutional framework for developing a Protected Area Network in Iraq is complex, as several institutions are involved in key phases of the decision making and the implementation process. During the preparation of the Project Document a detailed analysis of stakeholders was conducted, aimed at identifying and characterizing key stakeholders that need to be involved in project execution. In table 9 below, a summary of key stakeholders is provided, with the analysis of the level of interest (potential benefits or impacts, land ownership rights, use of resources, skills and technical capacity, traditional knowledge, etc.) and the level of influence (institutional, economic, political, social, etc.) that might encourage them either to actively participate in the project or to adversely affect it by creating obstacles or generating conflicts/disputes on the Protected Areas

¹⁷ <http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2014-iraqi-marshes/main/ramsar/>

¹⁸ Ref. PoWPA Action Plan of Iraq, 2012 <http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/country/?country=iq>

Table 7: List of Stakeholders and their levels of interest/influence

STAKEHOLDERS	LEVEL OF INTEREST	LEVEL OF INFLUENCE
	L = Low, M = Medium, H = High	
INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS		
CBD Secretariat	H	H
CBD PoWPA Focal Point	H	H
RAMSAR Secretariat	H	H
UNESCO	H	H
UNEP	H	M/H
IUCN	H	M
BirdLife International, Medwet and other international NGOs	H	M
International Oil Companies	M	M/H
European Union / Donors (US, IT, CAN, DE, JP, etc.)	M	M
CAMRE (Council of Arab Ministries of Environment) / AEF (Arab Environment Facility)	M/H	M/H
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS		
Ministry of Environment	H	H
Ministry of Culture	H	H
Ministry of Water Resources	M/H	H
Ministry of Agriculture	M/H	H
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities	M/H	H
Ministry of Oil	M/L	H
Ministry of Planning	M/L	H
Ministry of Finance	M/L	H
Ministry of Higher Education	M/L	M/H
Ministry of Interior	M/L	M/H
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	M/L	M/H
Ministry of MPW	M/L	M/H
Ministry of Science & Tech.	M/L	M/H
University / National Research Centers	H	M
National Associations (Hunters, Fishermen, ...)	M/H	M
National NGOs (Nature Iraq, ...)	M/H	M
National media	M	M
REGIONAL / PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS		
Environmental Board of Kurdistan (KRG)	H	H
Ministry Natural Resources and Minerals (KRG)	M/L	H
Governorates:		
Governorate Councils	M/L	M/H
Dir. Environment	H	M/H
Dir. Agriculture	M	M/H
Dir. Water Resources	M	M/H
Dir. Planning	M	M/H
Dir. Oil (National Oil Companies)	M	M/H
Dir. Finance	M	M/H
Dir. Tourism	H	M/H
LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS (2 pilot sites)		
DALMAJ		
Governorate of Qadissiya	M/H	M/H
Governorate of Wasit	M/H	M/H
Municipalities	L	L
Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW)	H	H
International Oil Companies (CNCP – Al Adhab Oilfield)	M/L	H
Env. Police / Military forces	M/L	H
Local NGOs (Friends of Dalmaj, ...)	H	M/L
University of Al Qadisiya	M	M

STAKEHOLDERS	LEVEL OF INTEREST	LEVEL OF INFLUENCE
	<i>L = Low, M = Medium, H = High</i>	
Local media	M/H	L
TEEB OASIS		
Governorate of Missan	M/H	M/H
Municipalities	L	L
Center for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and Wetlands (CRIMW)	M	M
International Oil Companies (CNOOC/TPAO – Missan Oilfields)	M/L	H
Env. Police / Military forces	M/L	H
Local NGOs	H	M/L
University of Wasit	M	M
Local media	M/H	L

The following questions were used for stakeholder analysis:

- How is this stakeholder involved in the development of the PAN project?
- What are the potential benefits of involving this stakeholder in the project?
- What benefits can this stakeholder get from project implementation?
- What are the potential adverse impacts of the project on this stakeholder?
- What are the potential conflicts/obstacles/risks of involving this stakeholder in the project?
- Can this stakeholder support the project with resources (personnel, equipment, facilities, etc.)?
- Can this stakeholder support the PAN project with funding or co-financing?
- Can the stakeholder support the project with other means (e.g. volunteering, special skills or technical capacities, communication, etc.)?

A stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted in order to identify key stakeholders and interest groups and outline a strategy for stakeholder participation in the PAN project, as shown in figure 5 below.

Stakeholder engagement is a pillar of sustainability of the PAN of Iraq, and will be pursued during the project execution and beyond. Despite the difficult situation of the country, the Iraqi Government and the MoE are committed to promoting a participatory approach for environmental and biodiversity protection as a vital and critical element of social cohesion and of future economic development of Iraq. In this view, the support of regional and international organizations (UNEP, IUCN, WCMC and other regional organizations of the Middle East area like CAMRE) will strengthen the effort of national institutions towards biodiversity protection and sustainable use of resources in Iraq. Promoting project ownership of key national and local stakeholders through strong stakeholder engagement will enable the MoE to carry out activities in country, identify and solve conflicts that could arise in the planning process and establishment of Protected Areas and ultimately achieve the project objectives

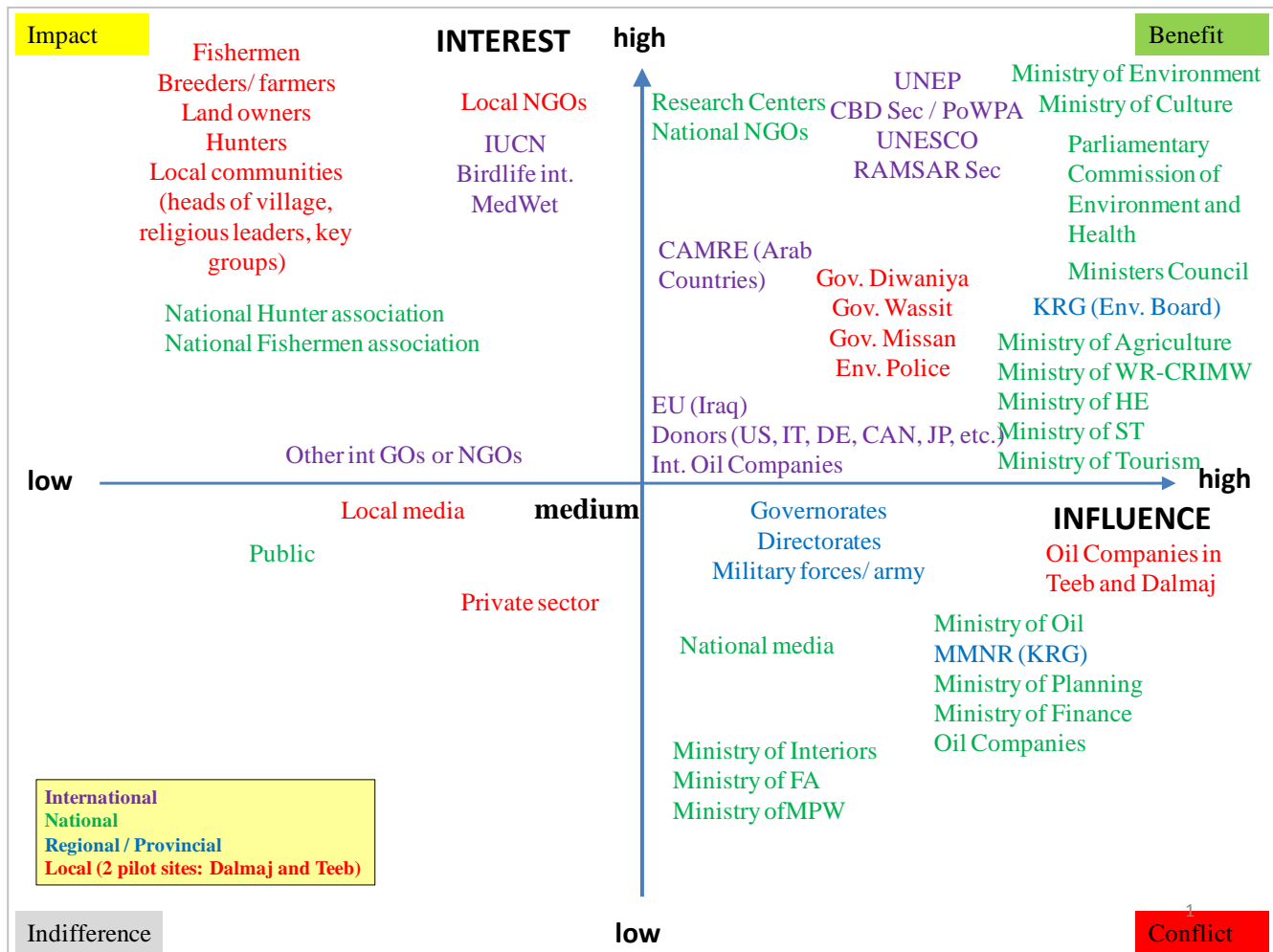
During the initial stage of project execution, the stakeholder analysis will be used for stakeholder engagement planning in order to carry out project activities with a participatory approach from the first steps until completion, and promote ownership of the PAN at all institutional levels.

Stakeholder engagement will be achieved through the following initiatives:

- Use of existing institutional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making (National Committee on Protected Areas, national and local technical committees, established Protected Area Management Authorities according Regulations on PAs etc.);
- Holding national workshops, aimed at involving key stakeholders in the PAN planning and decision making process from the earliest stages of project implementation, as well as in the PAN implementation at the two selected priority sites;
- Holding local workshops and use targeted multi-media communication tools for involvement of consultation and engagement of local government and communities and relevant groups,

- including involvement of vulnerable groups of local communities (women, young people, unemployed) in the PAN implementation at the two selected priority sites;
- On the job training activities, in order to promote awareness on biodiversity, knowledge sharing and establishing networking and communication between local, national and international entities;
- Promoting specific on site activities for establishing a favorable environment and empowering local communities and involve other stakeholders (NGOs, scientific community, private sectors etc.) in the PAN implementation at the two selected priority sites

Figure 5: Stakeholder map (Interest/Influence)



2.6. Baseline analysis and gaps

2.6.1 Institutional and legislative framework for Protected Areas

Since the establishment in 2003, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Iraq has devoted a lot of effort in addressing many environmental challenges including severe pollution, misuse of land resources and biodiversity loss and habitat degradation. Despite the huge gap due to decades of isolation of Iraq from the international and

scientific community, substantial lack of environmental protection policies during 30 years of dictatorship, and institutional weakness of being a new institution with a jurisdiction conflicting with other traditional institutions; the effort of the MoE to recover the difficult environmental situation has been focused on aligning Iraq to the international standards and on institutional cooperation. In this context, the fundamental financial support of international donors and technical assistance of international organizations (UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, IUCN, and many others) to the Government of Iraq and to the Ministry of Environment have been a pillar of the ongoing institutional and legislative reform.

Since 2008 several international agreements have been signed and ratified by Iraq: the Ramsar Convention in 2008, the CBD and UNFCCC in 2009, the UNCCD in 2010, CITES in 2012.

Several projects have been developed to support the MoE in developing national policies, strategies and plans for environmental protection and sustainable development: the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan of Iraq launched in June 2013, was developed in a joint effort of MoE with UNEP and UNDP. Two ongoing projects for the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Iraq and the National Capacity Self-Assessment are funded GEF through UNEP.

However, many gaps and weaknesses are still present in the institutional and legislative framework. In developing new environmental strategies, the MoE is often overlapping the jurisdiction of other line Ministries and with regional or local government institutions. Within this general context, the institutional and legislative framework for Protected Areas has been addressed through a specific Regulation on Protected Areas that was passed by the Ministers' Council in December 2013, after 5 years of technical debate and a lengthy authorization procedure. The new Regulation on PA delineates the institutional framework and procedure for proposing, evaluating and establishing natural Protected Areas. The central role is assigned to the National Committee for Protected Areas (NC-PA). The NC-PA includes representatives of the main institutions that are involved in PA planning and management, and works in coordination with other National Committees that have competence on biodiversity and environmental protection, namely the NC for CBD and the NC for Wetlands, and with the support of the National Center for Biodiversity of the MoE. The NC-PA also includes representation by the affected communities. In addition, the regulation also sets rules on community participation and compensation.

Although, the new regulation has marked a significant advancement in the institutional process of planning, establishing and managing Protected Areas, the process needs to be enforced through proper coordination of several institutions involved, development of procedures, methodologies, and tools with adequate training and capacity building, establishment of demonstration projects for implementation of PA management, testing of institutional coordination mechanism and allowing wide stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, the financial sustainability of the PA system has to be planned and taken into account.

2.6.2 Baseline Assessment of Biodiversity.

The final Key Biodiversity areas (KBA) Inventory of Iraq (publication *in press* by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Iraq) provides a wealth of vetted data. The effort made by the MoE and Nature Iraq helped to establish national and local capacities to undertake well organized field surveys on biodiversity and use rapid assessment techniques and methodologies. The survey work itself has helped to gain a better understanding of both Iraq's wealth of resources (environmental and human) and the threats that face the country (unsustainable development, pollution, habitat destruction, declines in health and loss of species). Both the MoE and Nature Iraq have benefitted greatly from these field survey activities in the baseline scenario (without the GEF project), in addition to the basic information provided by the Iraqi Organization for Conservation of Nature (IOCN). It is envisaged that these efforts will continue, with support by national and local government, national and international NGOs and international donors. The main related GEF intervention is the Enabling Activities project "*First NBSAP for Iraq and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD*" developed by the MoE with the support of UNEP-ROWA.

The baseline information provided by the KBA inventory provide an effective basis to design a national PA system, and identify sites that hold: one or more globally threatened species; one or more endemic species which are globally restricted to the site or surrounding region; significant concentrations of a species (e.g. important

migratory resting areas, nesting sites, nurseries or breeding areas); and/or globally significant examples of unique habitat types and species assemblages.

Building on the results of the KBA project, the MoE has prioritized sites for protection and conservation planning, expanding the first list of 10 proposed Protected Areas that were included in the POWPA Action Plan of Iraq of 2012 by adding 11 proposed sites that are currently under evaluation. However, the KBA work conducted so far still has many gaps: for example, many areas in the country have not been surveyed yet and the surveys have not covered all season cycles. In addition, surveys have so far been very strongly focused on birds, which are one of the best indicator *taxa* for biological diversity, however other *taxa* deserve more focus and they will require different survey methodologies.

2.6.3 Selection of two priority sites for PAN implementation as pilot sites

The areas of **Dalmaj Lake** and marshes and **Teeb oasis and wetlands** were selected as priority sites for the implementation of the network of Protected Areas of Iraq because they have distinctive ecological and biodiversity values, as well as very specific socio-economic assets, and they provide the opportunity of addressing existing and emerging threats on biodiversity and ecosystems, enforcing institutional coordination and testing stakeholder engagement mechanisms in the process of establishing the PAN of Iraq (see fig.6 below).

Once declared protected areas, Dalmaji (92,000ha) and Teeb (119,200ha) will add 211,200ha to the current 284,022ha as area coverage under protected areas of Iraq.

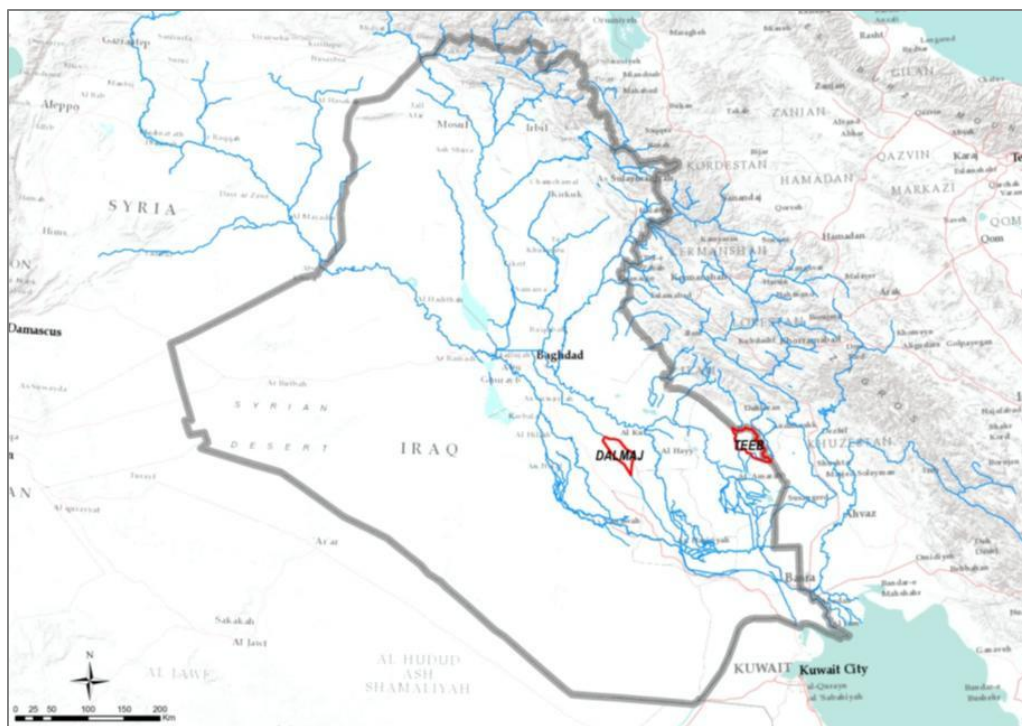


Figure 6 – Location of Dalmaj and Teeb areas selected as PAs of Iraq

At the time of PIF development of this project (July 2012), the two priority sites of Dalmaj and Teeb were agreed on by the MoE with the National Committee for Protected Areas and the National Committee for Biodiversity. These two areas are identified as priority sites for PA establishment not only in consideration of the important natural features they host, but also for other strategic reasons: i) both sites are known with their considerable richness in biodiversity, and any conservation/protection action on these proposed areas means protection of a considerable number of threatened and endemic species in the country; ii) they are placed in a

position that will favour the future expansion of the structure of protected areas, providing stepping stones for linking desert/semi-desert habitats with marshlands habitat; iii) Teeb area holds a big population (may be the highest on national level) of Goitered Gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) along with other vagrant fauna species that move over the borders between Iraq and Iran. This might provide potential action for trans-boundary conservation planning between the countries; iv) the two sites are encompassed in three Palearctic ecoregions of Iraq: the *Tigris-Euphrates alluvial salt marsh* (PA0906), the *Arabian desert East Sahero-Arabian xeric Shrublands* (PA1303) and the *South Iran Nubo-Sindian desert and semi-desert* (PA1328). The location of the sites in Iraq is shown in Figure 6 above and general information on the sites is provided in **Appendix 17**.

Dalmaj area was originally designed as an evaporation basin along the Main Outfall Drain (MOD) that was created in a natural depression in central Iraq. The wetland extension, taking into account the provisional delineated boundary, corresponds to about 92,000 ha. The water flow regime and hydraulic regulation structures of the basin are managed by the Ministry of Water Resources. Over the past decades a large complex of wetland and lake ecosystem originated within the basin, becoming a biodiversity hotspot in central Iraq that, in the less disturbed parts of the wetland provides important nesting areas for resident and migratory water birds species including the globally threatened Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) and the Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). Dalmaj Lake is used for farming the endemic species of fish *Barbus sharpeyi* (commonly called *bunni* in Iraq) that is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture to a private fish farm and hatchery and the fishing activity within the area is fully controlled. The produced fish is very appreciated and sold in the whole of Iraq for its high commercial value; many of the fingerlings produced by the hatchery are released in the lake, contributing to increasing the natural population. The site is listed in the KBA inventory of Iraq and has been surveyed by Nature Iraq since 2005. In agreement and with the support of the owner of the fish farm, a local NGO “Friends of Dalmaj” carries out regular environmental volunteer monitoring and field surveys on biodiversity, with a primary focus on birds.

Teeb Oasis area is located to the south-east of Iraq, at the border with Iran, where the Teeb river flows southward through a hilly desert area and forms a large oasis and wetland complex in the natural depressions and valleys. The area extension, as from the provisional delineated boundary, is about 119,200 ha. This area is ecologically varied and rich of habitats and species, including the globally threatened Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*), the Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) and the Desert Monitor lizard (*Varanus griseus*). The area is very large and few settlements are present, but it is economically very strategic due to the presence of giant oilfields that have been recently awarded for exploration and production to a consortium formed by the Chinese CNOOC, the Turkish TPAO and the national Missan Oil Company. The south of Iraq has over 70% of the huge national oil and gas reserves and the oil and gas exploration and production activities are at the core of the development of the country in the future decades. At the same time, there is growing concern for the increasing threats on ecosystems and biodiversity that are related to the massive development of this sector in highly vulnerable areas like deserts and wetlands. The coexistence in Teeb area of high potential for biodiversity conservation and strategic economic value of oil exploration and production activities has been considered a good opportunity for developing a new partnership between the MoE, the Ministry of Oil and the International and National Oil Companies for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of natural resources in the development of the Oil and Gas sector. More details about Dalmaj and Teeb areas are provided in **Appendix 17**.

Public Awareness. Lack of knowledge on values of biodiversity and importance of ecosystems services and functions and the weak understanding of the importance of protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystems is among the root causes of lack of effectiveness of environmental policies in Iraq. The MoE has undertaken many initiatives for raising awareness among national institutions and supporting mainstreaming of biodiversity protection within sectoral policies and plans. Many initiatives have been developed also for increasing public awareness on biodiversity and environment: for example, the declaration of 2014 Year of Environment in Iraq with many related events organized by the MoE. From the experience gained in the establishment of the existing Protected Areas (the Hawizeh Ramsar site and the Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park), it is evident that this issue is very critical for the success of the project and needs to be addressed with a specific awareness and outreach strategy and with development of concrete tools and materials specifically aimed at awareness raising

within different groups: the national and local institutions, the scientific community, the local communities within and in the surroundings of the new Protected Areas, and the wider public.

2.7. Linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions

2.7.1 UN agencies work in the country and in the region

The MoE and other relevant ministries are coordinating with and building upon the results of: the UNEP-UNESCO ongoing work to designate the Mesopotamian Marshlands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the UNEP-supported Iraqi Marshlands Observation System (IMOS) and the follow-up to the completed Marshlands Project; the Green Belt Project; UNEP/DTIE/IETC Marshlands project; UNAMI-UN Assistance Mission in Iraq; Iraq UNDAF process; the Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative (CIMI); the World Bank on the Iraq Emergency Environmental Management Project (EEMP); the UNDP projects in the Iraqi Marshland areas; the UNDP-UNEP-WHO Environmental Strategy for Iraq; partners in Neighbouring countries concerned with the conservation of the Iraqi Marshlands and the Gulf (Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states). Other relevant ongoing initiatives relevant for biodiversity protection in Iraq, that the project will coordinate with, include: the UNEP/ROWA, UNDP, MoE - “*First National Communication Report of the UNFCCC*”; the Designation of the Southern Mesopotamian Marshlands as a World Heritage Site; Nature Iraq / BirdLife International / Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh - Centre for Middle eastern Plants / Darwin Initiative, MoE - 3 year Environmental Education programme; UNEP/ROWA, UNDP and MoE: State of Environment Report; the GEF funded project for Iraq on *National capacity self-assessment for global environment management*.

2.7.2 GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

In 2009 Iraq ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and became the 192nd party. In spite of the short time after the ratification, the Iraqi MoE has devoted a lot of effort in implementation of the CBD and in the ratification of relevant Protocols, and has been very active in the international events and COPs and in meeting the deadlines for the publication of two relevant national reports (the 4NR in 2010 and the 5NR in 2014) as well as other reporting obligations. Although information about the status of biodiversity in the country is still limited, the unique eco-geological location of Iraq makes it one of the most important ecosystem and biodiversity-rich centres in the region. **As this is the first GEF biodiversity project for Iraq, emerging from the NBSAP priorities, its primary objective is to support CBD targets and align the country’s BD conservation agenda within the framework of ongoing development recovery and rebuilding process that is currently underway.** The project is fully consistent with GEF5 Focal Area Strategies, in particular Objective One: “*Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems*” The project will support initial steps for establishment of an effective and sustainable Protected Areas Network (PAN) through profiling, listing and categorization of potential protected areas important for conservation and sustainable use of critical biodiversity assets in Iraq. The project will develop a costed PAN strategy and enhance capacities for effective management of protected areas.

2.7.3 GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNEP’s comparative advantages in the GEF are aligned with its mandate, functions and its 2014-2017 Medium Term Strategy and its biennial Programme of Work (2014-2015) – see: www.unep.org . Thematically the project is fully aligned with UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy, and mainly with Sub-programme 3 on Ecosystem Management. Furthermore, the project fits within the new five-year Strategic Cooperation Agreement signed in January 2014 by the Government of Iraq and UNEP to promote environmental peace-building and to bolster Iraq’s capacity to overcome its many environmental challenges.

Besides the comparative advantages and associated areas of expertise that UNEP will bring as IA and MoE partner in the project, in the case of Iraq UNEP also has an established and recent track record of country-based projects in support of the Iraqi Marshlands and of the implementation of MEAs in Iraq.

In 2009, a joint project "*Natural and Cultural Management of the Iraqi Marshlands*" between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations for Culture, Education and Science (UNESCO) with the Iraqi Ministry of the Environment was launched in order to establish and implement a longer-term sustainable management framework in the Iraqi Marshlands. This new initiative addresses priority needs for the management plan of the area that reflects the unique historical, cultural, environmental, hydrological, and socio-economic characteristics of the area, by utilizing the World Heritage inscription process. Through UNEP's and UNESCO's involvement, the project provided guidance and support to Iraqi stakeholders on how to develop a sustainable preservation and management plan in accordance with criteria for the inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It also helped to implement some key practices for resource efficiency and sustainable production/consumption included in the management plan on a pilot basis. In addition, the project helped to build capacity and raise awareness among the local population to ensure their participation for site preservation and ecosystem management. One of the major outputs of this project required communicating and getting guidance from the global and regional advisory bodies such as UNEP, IUCN- World Heritage Centre and the Office of UNESCO in Iraq, as well as cooperation with the regional Arab Center for World Heritage in Bahrain. The work with respected experts has resulted in establishment of a cooperation base at the regional and global level, which let the experts know what Iraq has of natural and cultural inventory as well as with the national team, which acquired a variety of experiences working with such respected actors. Several workshops have been organized in a collaboration between the Ministry of Environment in Iraq and international agencies (UNEP, UNESCO, IUCN) and participation of other national key stakeholders. Within these workshops, the govt of Iraq and local communities have learnt how to apply the World Heritage concepts clarifying the nomination process for the World Heritage List and the aim of the inclusion of sites on the list. Also, a program to build national capacity for the preparation of management plans for protected areas had been adopted. Important studies have been conducted within this project, like: "Archaeological survey of the Marshlands of southern Iraq", "Survey of Bibliography", "Biodiversity and Ecosystem management in the Iraqi Marshlands – Screening Study on Potential World Heritage Nomination", "Regional Red List Assessment of Selected Species in the Iraqi Marshlands", "Development of a Management Planning Framework for Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Iraqi Marshlands", in addition to the Nomination Dossier for Inscription of the Iraqi Marshlands on the World Heritage list "The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities".

Within the context of Iraqi reconstruction, another project has been implemented in collaboration between Ministry of Environment and UNEP. This Project "Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands" has received the 2007 UN 21 Award Commendation in the category of "field project." It is one of the 15 United Nations projects selected at that year for the UN 21 Awards. The purpose of the project is to support sustainable management in the Iraqi Marshlands, which provided immediate assistance to marshland communities and Iraqi ministries focusing primarily on initiatives on the ground.

In addition, Iraq currently has three World Heritage sites, namely Hatra (1985), Ashur (Qal'at Shergat) (2003), and Samarra Archaeological City (2007), all of which are cultural sites. UNESCO has continued to provide support to Iraq for cultural management in the post-conflict period, resulting in the successful inscription of the Samarra site in 2007. Such achievements show that the capacity for cultural management is starting to be re-built inside Iraq,

In the execution of the project this GEF project, UNEP Regional Office for Western Asia (ROWA) based in Bahrain will also serve as a coordination hub and support centre for project activities, ensuring greater synergy and coordination with all relevant UNEP activities in the region. The total value of this UNEP input as in-kind contributions is estimated at approximately 100,000US\$ over the project period. UNEP is responding to the country's demand for accessing GEF projects and providing requested services that match its GEF comparative advantages, and building on its mandate. In addition, during the project preparation phase, the project team worked closely with the MoE to facilitate and support the dialogue with line Ministries of Iraq as well as other

donors and partners, so as to enhance support for BD conservation in Iraq and secure additional Government and third-party co-financing for the project.

2.7.4 Role of UNEP-ROWA

UNEP-ROWA will ensure consistent backstopping, supervision and support to the MoE and to the National Project Team for all aspects of project implementation and M&E, both in country and in terms of regionally-based activities in Jordan and Bahrain.

Section 3: Intervention strategy

3.1. Project rationale, policy conformity and expected global environmental benefits

3.1.1 Project rationale

The key Project rationale is to provide necessary resources to start the implementation process of the national system of Protected Areas.

The project is aimed at addressing the weaknesses of the existing institutional and legislative framework, analyzing the root causes and barriers in a systematic way and supporting Protected Areas management in Iraq. The project will provide support and backstopping the MoE and its technical and financial partners in the ongoing efforts to achieve high level of biodiversity protection and implementing a coherent and representative network of Protected Areas in Iraq. In essence, the project will support the transition phase in the protected area process from design/establishment of sites into the planning/initial operation of a national system of Protected Areas.

3.1.2 Policy conformity and expected global environmental benefits

In the POWPA Action Plan of 2012 the MoE allocated a provisional budget of 670,000 USD for the establishment of 10 Protected Areas, including the proposed Protected Area at Dalmaj site. Furthermore, the Project benefits from and capitalises on the existing investment and achievements by GoI and partners from past and ongoing environmental projects. Total investment in existing and proposed Protected Areas to date (2005-2014) is estimated at 5 million USD. This is considered a conservative estimate of investment to date and does not include significant local Governorate's in-kind contribution including staff and contributions from the private sectors. This investment has succeeded in the design, establishment and initial operation of Protected Areas of Iraq including:

- Establishment of the Hawizeh Marshes Ramsar site (2008);
- Establishment of the Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park (2013);
- Nomination of the Marshlands as UNESCO World Heritage site (2009-2014)
- Issuing of the Regulations on Protected Areas (2013);
- capacity building on PA management for MoE staff;
- extensive monitoring programme and rapid assessment of the KBA of Iraq (2005-2011);
- initiatives for raising public awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- participation to regional trainings, technical meetings and COP/MOP meetings of international Conventions (Ramsar, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC) and national reporting.

The GEF project will help put in place critical professional capacity at national level, to support MoE's mandate in biodiversity conservation and protected areas management, setting priorities and piloting on-ground conservation action for the establishment of the first National Protected Areas, based on existing and new site-specific baseline studies.

The proposed alternative scenario - with the GEF project - will support the design and initial steps for the establishment of a viable national network of Protected Areas, contributing to the ongoing transition process by:

- Supporting the MoE’s capacity to effectively design, plan and manage a network of Protected Areas, in coordination with other national institutions and in line with the requirements of international policies and strategies on biodiversity protection;
- Widening the baseline knowledge on key ecosystem services and functions and biodiversity values through assistance and capacity building on biodiversity assessment;
- starting implementation of the PAN of Iraq by establishing two new PAs and thus increasing the national Protected Areas coverage and the number of species of global importance that will be under effective conservation management in the country and
- providing a testing ground for methodologies, tools and stakeholder involvement mechanisms, thus creating a model to be replicated in other sites of the future Protected Area Network of Iraq
- supporting the MoE in raising public awareness on the value of biodiversity and the importance of maintaining ecosystems and their services for human well-being into national planning processes and achieving sustainable use of biodiversity resources in the country.

The project has also relevance in achieving specific national goals for protection of biodiversity within the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that are fully matched with priorities and goals of international strategies for biodiversity, particularly the CBD Strategic Goal 17 and Aichi Targets 11), the strategy of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and the GEF5 Focal Area Strategy on Biodiversity, in particular Objective One: *“Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems”*. The project will also contribute to the achievement of strategic objectives of international and national strategies, namely: the MDG-7 for environmental sustainability, the national strategies for poverty reduction, the national strategy for mitigation of Climate Change effects and long term adaptation, and for combating desertification in Iraq.

3.1.3 Global environmental benefits:

This project will be the first proper GEF project in Iraq apart from the enabling activities.

The project will generate significant Global environmental benefits (GEBs) through actions both at the national and site level. At the national level, by advancing the preparations for a comprehensive and viable PA Network for the country, the project will set the stage for the long-term preservation of a vast set of globally important species and habitats in one of the most BD rich countries in the region. At the local level in the two pilot PAs, the project will ensure the protection of 8 species of global importance and marshlands and desert Shrublands as habitats of global and regional importance.

3.2. Project goal and objective

3.2.1 Project Goal

The primary Goal of the project is biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Iraq.

3.2.2 Project Objective

The project objective is to: *“Develop and start implementing the plan for the establishment of a national Network of Protected Areas in Iraq”*.

3.3. Project components and expected results

The main objective of the project will be achieved through three main components that have been structured according to three key challenges that the MoE has to address in order to create a coherent and representative Protected Area System in Iraq: 1) need for setting up a structured and functional process for designing, planning and establishing the national system of Protected Areas in Iraq and strengthening the institutional and legislative framework for Protected Areas through capacity building and provision of technical tools to enable enforcement

of legal requirements and international best practices, including extensive stakeholder consultations in all stages of the decision making and implementation process; 2) need to establish a Protected Areas Network in two selected priority sites in Dalmaj and Teeb through provision of essential infrastructures and support to the designated Protected Area Management Authorities, including stakeholder consultations and active involvement of the local communities; and 3) need for increasing public awareness through development of specific outreach and communication materials, media and tools.

The first year of the project period will be devoted to designing and planning of PAN, setting up of procedures for PA implementation and declaration of the two selected priority sites as Protected Areas with an important effort on baseline assessment activities, and the following three years will be used for PAN implementation, capacity building and institutional coordination, as well as communication and outreach activities, including regular evaluation of effectiveness of project activities with appropriate adaptive responses by the Project Project Team.

Component 1: Design of Protected Areas System and institutional strengthening.

Component 1 focuses on providing resources required for preparatory activities, designing and planning of the national Protected Area Network, establishment, management and evaluation of the Protected Area Network of Iraq (PAN), including consistent capacity building and extensive stakeholder consultations throughout all project phases.

The expected **outcomes** of this component are two, namely: 1) the Protected Areas Network (PAN) for Iraq is designed and PAN implementation is planned on the base of a site specific baseline assessment, including detailed evaluation of costs and related resource mobilization plan; and 2) required national professional capacity is in place to enforce legislation on Protected Areas and support all steps in the process of development of the national PA Network.

Under this component, six main **outputs** will be produced as shown in Figure 77

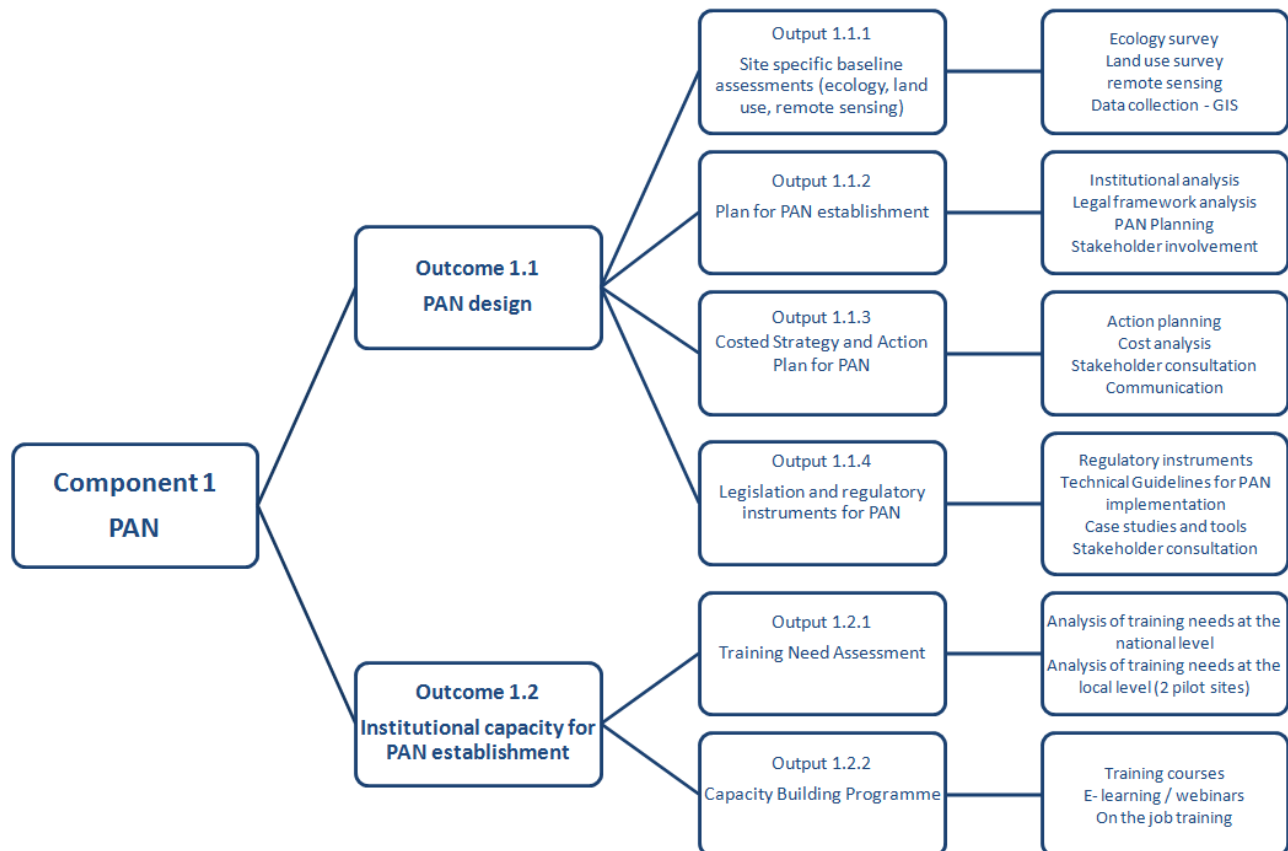


Figure 7 Component 1: Main Outcomes and expected Outputs

Outcome 1.1: The Protected Areas Network (PAN) for Iraq is designed. Existing information and prior studies in the country, the Inventory of the Key Biodiversity Areas of Iraq (*in press*), specific Protected Areas objectives, NBSAP goals and targets and action plan for implementation, international best practice, and relevant regional examples in PA management will be reviewed as the basis for plan development. Four main Outputs will be produced:

Output 1.1.1. Site specific baseline ecological and land-use surveys and data collection through ground surveys and remote sensing conducted at priority sites, to support the development of the first national network of Protected Areas. This output will build on the already identified “Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of Iraq” (*in press* by MoE and Nature Iraq - the result of 7 years of extensive field work) and the initial results of the ongoing project for the development of the NBSAP of Iraq (Biodiversity assessment and stocktaking; stakeholder analysis and consultation process). Baseline PA monitoring systems will be established and piloted at two selected sites of **Dalmaj area** in Wasit and Qadissiya Governorates and **Teeb area** in Maysan governorate (see the location of the sites in Iraq in the map of fig 6 above). All the available recent studies and monitoring reports, as well as experience and best practice on Protected Areas management at regional level will be gathered and used in the baseline assessment. The baseline assessment and design of PAN will be carried out by the Project Team, with the technical assistance and support of national and international expert/ consultants, through: i) site visits at the two selected pilot areas (Dalmaj and Teeb); ii) field surveys for assessment of ecology/ecosystem services and land use and collection of ground data on local communities and resources management; iii) remote sensing analysis of high resolution satellite images with full coverage of the two pilot areas; and iv) development of a structured GIS geo-database for the PAN of Iraq.

Output 1.1.2. A detailed plan for the establishment of a national Network of Protected Areas is developed. This will be done with the technical assistance and support of national and international experts/ consultants, including institutional set-up and supporting legal framework. The development of the PAN Plan will be based on a comprehensive legal, institutional and stakeholder analysis. The PAN Plan will be formulated in line with the existing national strategies and plans and according to the international guidelines and best practices (i.e. CBD, UNEP, IUCN, and WCMC). This task includes the organization of four national workshops for key stakeholder involvement in the PAN planning process. Two national workshops will be focusing on PAN planning: the first workshop, to be held at the beginning of the first year, will be aiming at setting up of the PAN planning process and decision making; the second workshop, to be held in mid-fourth year and will be aiming at assessing the effectiveness of the PAN Plan and reviewing the PAN Plan implementation and analysis of lessons learnt. In addition, two national workshops will be held at the end of the first project year for developing the PA Management Plans of the two new Protected Areas of Dalmaj and Teeb as pilots.

Output 1.1.3. A costed Strategy and Action Plan for the institutional, legal and operational set-up of a national network of Protected Areas is developed. This will be done in consultation with all stakeholders under the leadership of the MoE with the oversight of the National Committee for Protected Areas. During the first year a short term Costed Strategy and Action Plan will be developed to be implemented within the next 3 years of the project duration. This short term PAN strategy and action plan will be focussing on the detailed proposal for the legal and institutional set-up, financing mechanisms, operational and management guidelines for the first two sites to be established as milestones of the future national Network of Protected Areas of Iraq at the end of the fourth year

Output 1.1.4. The enforcement of existing legislative framework on PAs is supported through technical guidelines, PAN case studies and specific toolkits on PA management.

Outcome 1.2: A specific Capacity Building Programme for PA Management is developed and effectively implemented. This will ensure that the required national professional and technical capacity is in place to support all steps in the process of development of the PA Network in Iraq.

Output 1.2.1. A Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for staff of MoE and line Ministries at central (institutional) level as well as local level (at the two priority sites covered in component 2), and also other strategic partners, is

carried out within the first project year, providing the basis for an integrated training and institutional strengthening programme to be developed throughout the project period.

Output 1.2.2. A Capacity Building programme is developed and effectively implemented throughout the project. This result will be achieved through the delivery of applied training according to the priority areas identified in the Training Needs Assessment (Output 1.2.1). The institutional capacity building will be enhanced through establishing inter-sectorial collaboration mechanisms for the development of the PA network. Special attention will be given to an integrated planning at the ecosystem level as well as to an enhanced inter-regional and inter-ministerial coordination. In order to develop on site staff technical capacity for monitoring and assessment of habitats and biodiversity and evaluation of ecosystem functions, training on the job will be provided to local staff of the new PAs in Dalmaj and Teeb as pilot sites, with the support of national and international Consultants. In addition, in order to expand the capability of MoE to reach a large participation, a series of webinars will be organized on specific themes related to PA planning and management.

Component 2: Protected Areas Network implementation.

The project's **Component 2** corresponds to the core project financing and co-financing resources investment required for enabling implementation of the national Protected Area Network of Iraq in two selected priority sites, Dalmaj and Teeb, including the declaration of these sites as Protected Areas according to the recent Regulation issued by the MoE, the definition of the management structure and establishment of essential infrastructures at the sites. The priority sites will provide demonstration of PA planning, establishment and management process and constitute an operational model to be replicated in future Protected Areas of the national system. This component builds on the results of component 1, and runs parallel with component 3.

The expected outcome of this project component is the start-up of PAN implementation through the establishment of two priority Protected Areas at Dalmaj and Teeb sites. Three Outputs will be produced, as shown in figure 7.

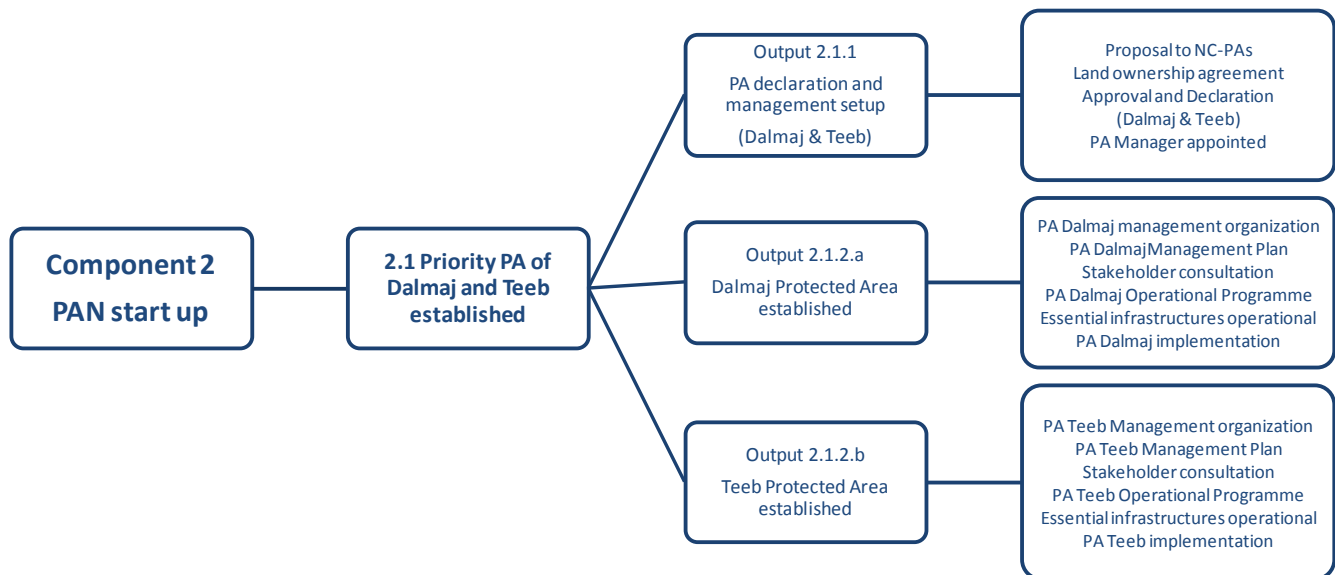


Figure 8 Component 2: Main Outcomes and expected Outputs

Outcome 2.1: PAN implementation is started with the declaration of Dalmaj and Teeb as Protected Areas. This will be done according to the procedure defined in the new PA Regulation of MoE issued in December 2013.

A justification of why these two sites were selected as pilot sites is well explained in section 2.6.3 above and the location of the sites in Iraq is shown in Figure 6 above and general information on the sites is provided in **Appendix 17**.

Output 2.1.1. Declaration of two new Protected Areas in (1) **Dalmaj area** in Qadissiya and Wasit (provisional delineated area of 100,000 ha) governorates and (2) **Teeb area** in Maysan governorate (provisional delineated area of 124,000 ha). This task entails the preparation and submission of the detailed proposal for the declaration of Dalmaj and Teeb sites as Protected Areas, including PA delineation and identification of staff management, and related institutional steps, according to the new Regulation on Protected Areas of MoE. The Project Team will start the declaration procedure with the National Committee for Protected Areas, and will follow it for up review by the Commission for Environmental Protection and the final approval of the Ministers' Council. The formal declaration of Protected Areas is expected to be completed within the first year of the project.

Output 2.1.2.a. Dalmaj Protected Area is established/gazetted. This site is listed as proposed PA within the POWPA Action Plan of Iraq (2012) to be implemented by 2020. The establishment of the Protected Area will entail the designation and organization of the Management structure and assignment of staff, the preparation of PA Dalmaj Management plan and related Operational Programme to allow for provision of essential infrastructure and equipment at the PA headquarters. It is all about management start up within the timeframe of the project under the supervision of MoE. Appropriate stakeholder consultations and initiatives for involving the local communities will be carried out through all the phases..

Output 2.1.2.b. Teeb Protected Area established. The essential infrastructure and equipment will be provided at the PA Teeb headquarters, the staff will be put in place and made operational. Also the management plans and operational programmes for the PA Teeb will be developed and effectively implemented under the supervision of MoE, involving key stakeholders and local communities. Teeb oasis and wetland is partially encompassed within the Missan Oilfields concession that is developed by the CNOOC/TPAO/SOC consortium (the concession for the development of the Missan oilfields was awarded by the Ministry of Oil in 2010). The existence of oil operations at the site has been considered as an opportunity for establishing a cooperative approach with the private sector (International Oil Companies) towards conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems inside and around oil concessions. The establishment of the Protected Area will entail the designation and organization of the PA Management, the preparation of PA Teeb Management plan and related Operational Programme for implementation within the timeframe of the project. Appropriate stakeholder consultations will be carried out at all phases of the PA Teeb establishment.

Component 3: Public Awareness.

Lack of public awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and on environmental issues in general, and the low level of understanding of the objectives related to biodiversity conservation by Iraqi institutions is identified as a critical barrier that is negatively affecting the ability of the MOE to fulfil its mandate and limiting its ability to engage in an effective dialogue with other sectoral ministries and stakeholders. **Component 3** of the project focuses on resources required for achieving a substantial awareness creation within the involved institutions and in targeted groups about the importance of biodiversity protection and contribution of Protected Areas to sustainable development of the country. This component of the project is therefore focused on removing the existing communication barriers by enhancing the MOE's capacity to effectively communicate the value of PAs and actively involve key stakeholders in the debate on PA establishment and environmental issues in Iraq. The project will also support the MOE by further enhancing its capacity in communication and awareness raising (with a specific focus on decision-makers) and stakeholder involvement at all levels (i.e. central/local) during PAN development process.

Outcome 3.1: The level of understanding, consensus and awareness within relevant government sectors, other stakeholders including the wider public on the social, economic, ecosystem services, and environment conservation values is enhanced within relevant government and non-government sectors in the country. A Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy and related tools and materials are developed and disseminated among target groups. Three main outputs are envisaged, as shown in figure 9.

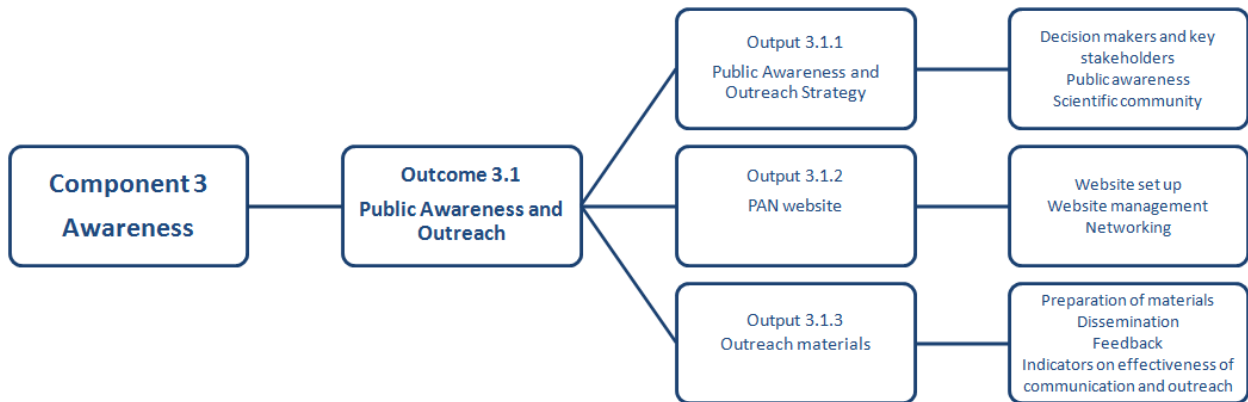


Figure 6 Component 3: Main Outcomes and expected Outputs

Output 3.1.1: Public awareness and outreach strategy developed and implemented, to publicize and support the main objectives and values of the PAN within (a) other relevant line Ministries and government bodies, with a focus on decision-makers, and (b) the wider public including local community groups.

Output 3.1.2: The MoE website will be developed to include/enhance a section dedicated to the Protected Areas Network of Iraq that will be managed and maintained by the MoE. The website design will include networking with other important websites. A webGIS system will be designed for dynamic visualization of spatial information of the PAN and eventually allow for collaborative population of the PAN GIS database with field data and relevant spatial information loaded by PA Management staff and other authorized users.

Output 3.1.3: Targeted thematic outreach materials and technical toolkits (electronic and/or printed) are developed and published to support the public awareness and outreach strategy (Output 3.1.1). This component will take stock of existing awareness and education efforts (e.g. two education publications in Arabic: “*Birds of Iraq*”, the “*Children’s Birds of Iraq*”, and the “*Hunter’s Guide for Responsible Hunting*”. These were published by Nature Iraq and widely disseminated) and it will complement the efforts started during the NBSAP and all other components of the project.

3.4: Intervention logic and key assumptions

3.4.1 Intervention logic

The basic intervention logic of the project is to provide core and strategic resources necessary for supporting the MoE in the ongoing transitional process to a structured and coordinated decision making process of establishing a national system of Protected Areas. The project is founded on a participatory approach that requires strong institutional coordination and extensive stakeholder consultations in all project phases, in order to strengthen institutional capacity and build consensus on the main objectives on protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and provide demonstration of an effective PA planning model to be applied in establishing the future Protected Areas Network of Iraq. Furthermore, the project is aimed at starting the PAN implementation in Iraq by establishing essential infrastructures for starting PA management at two priority Protected Areas while the endowment is being secured through GEF funding and co-financing from national and local partners.

3.4.2 Theory of change

The theory of change is well illustrated in figures 10 to 14 below in which figure 10 covers the problem tree, figure 11 covers the objective tree, figures 12 to 14 cover the activities, outcome and effects of the project components.

3.4.3 Key Assumptions

The following main assumptions have been made in the design of this project: i) despite the current political instability and critical security situation in Iraq, the ongoing commitment to the project by the Government of

Iraq and its supporting partners is granted; ii) the project is of high national importance and has also international relevance, therefore national decision makers will be responsive to PA planning and coordination by MoE and will support the project with the required co-financing resources; iii) 4 years (48 months) time is sufficient to secure the agreed targets of the endowment for the PAN of Iraq; iv) International experts that will be contracted to support the national Project Team will be available to travel to Iraq and assist the team in field activities.

PROBLEM: insufficient capacity to plan, establish and manage a Protected Areas system

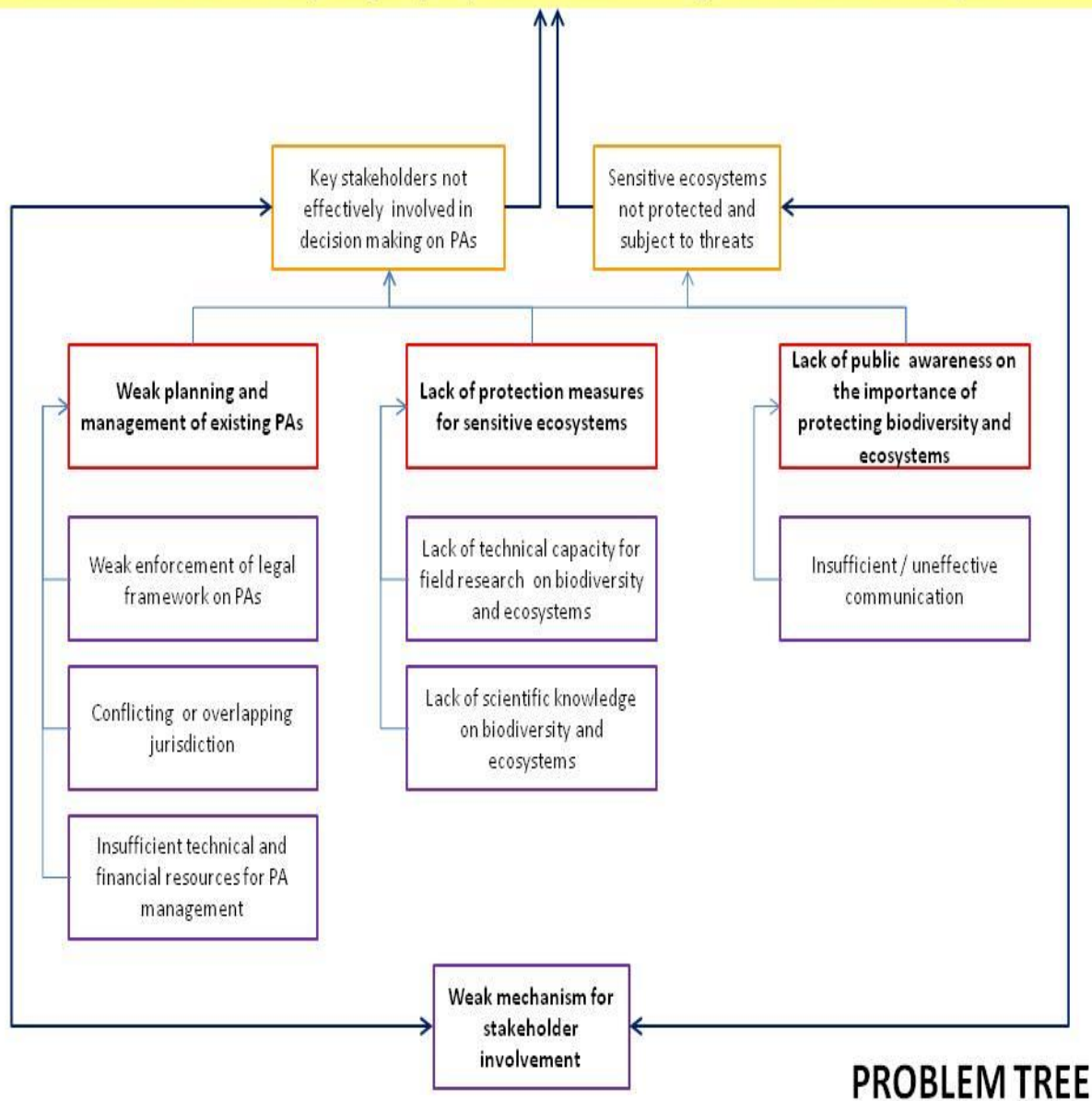


Fig. 10: theory of change – problem tree

OBJECTIVE: Develop and start implementing the plan for the establishment of a national Network of Protected Areas

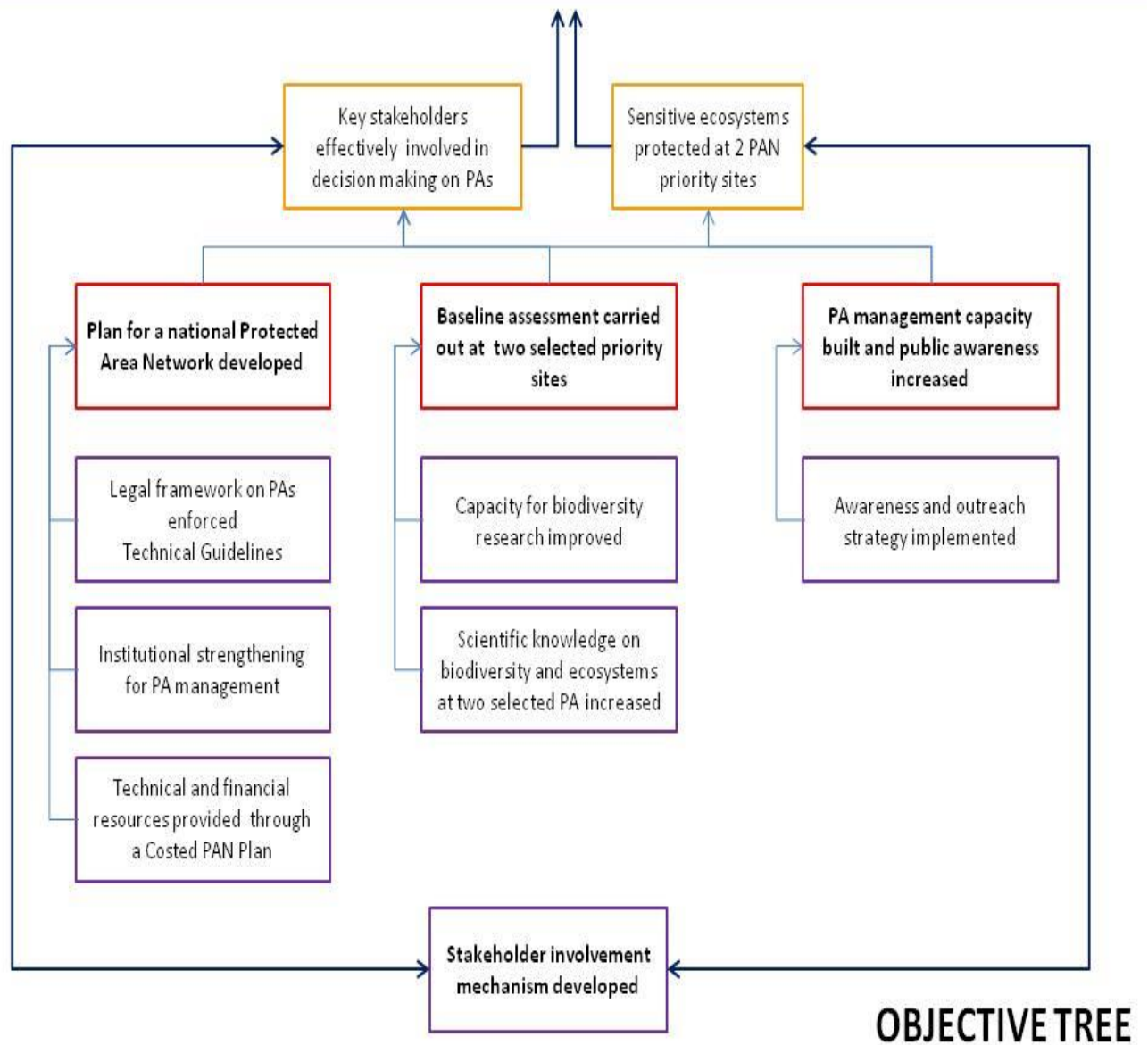


Fig. 11: theory of change – Objective tree

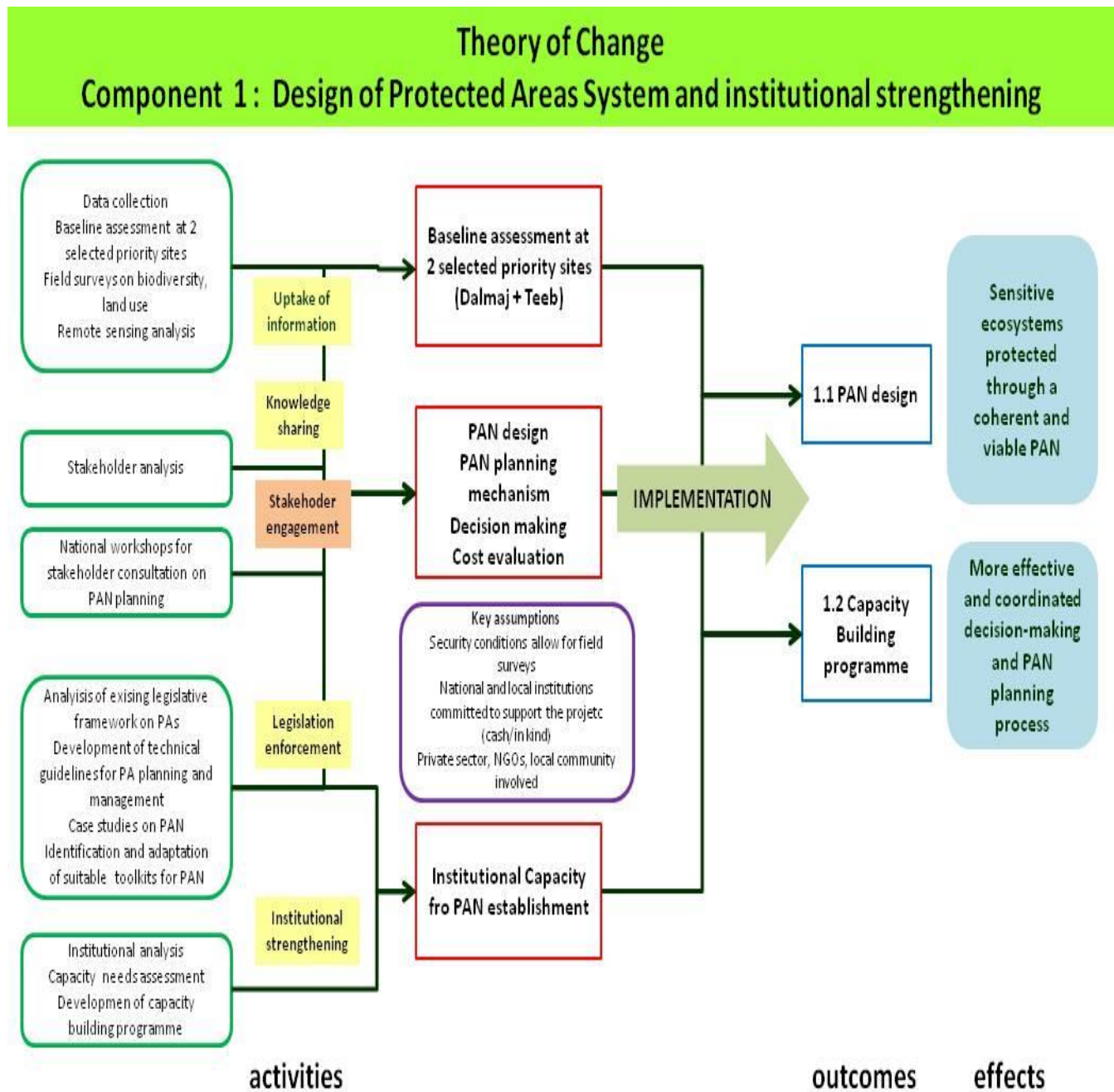


Fig. 12: theory of change – Actives, Outcomes and effects for component 1

Theory of Change

Component 2: Protected Areas Network implementation

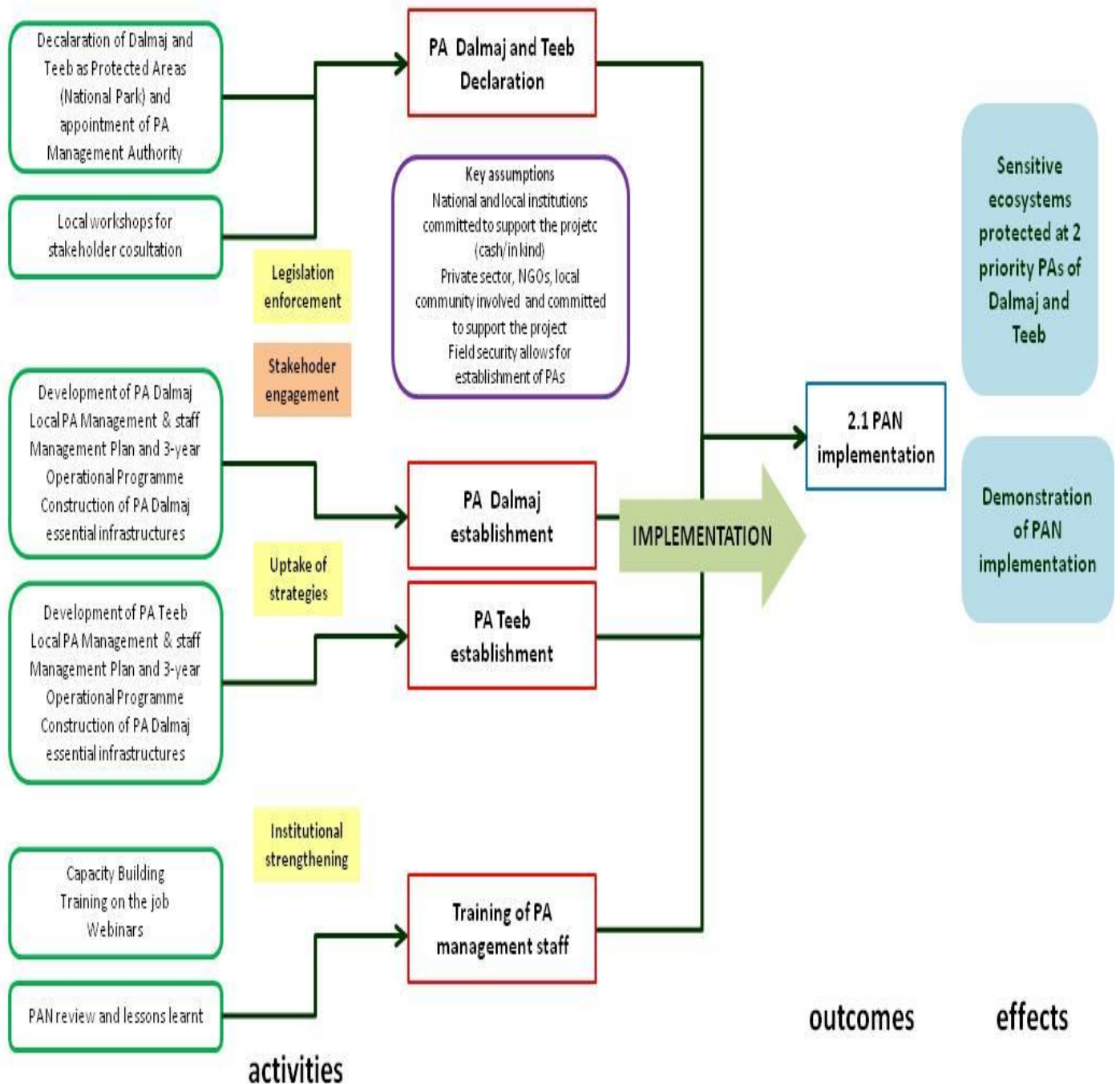


Fig. 13: theory of change – activities, outcomes and effects for component 2

Theory of Change

Component 3: Public Awareness and Outreach

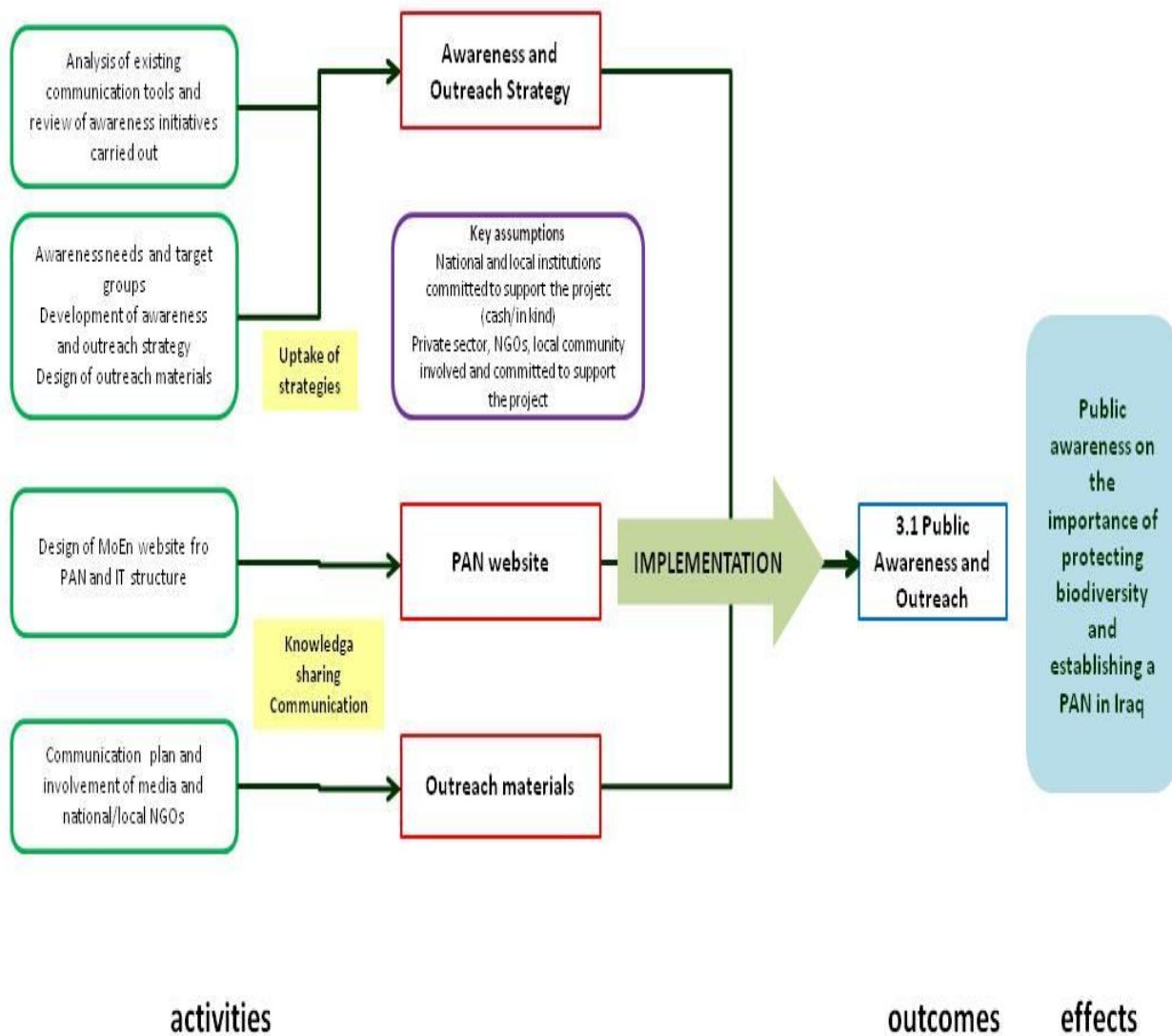


Fig 14: Theory of change – activities, outcomes and effects for component 3

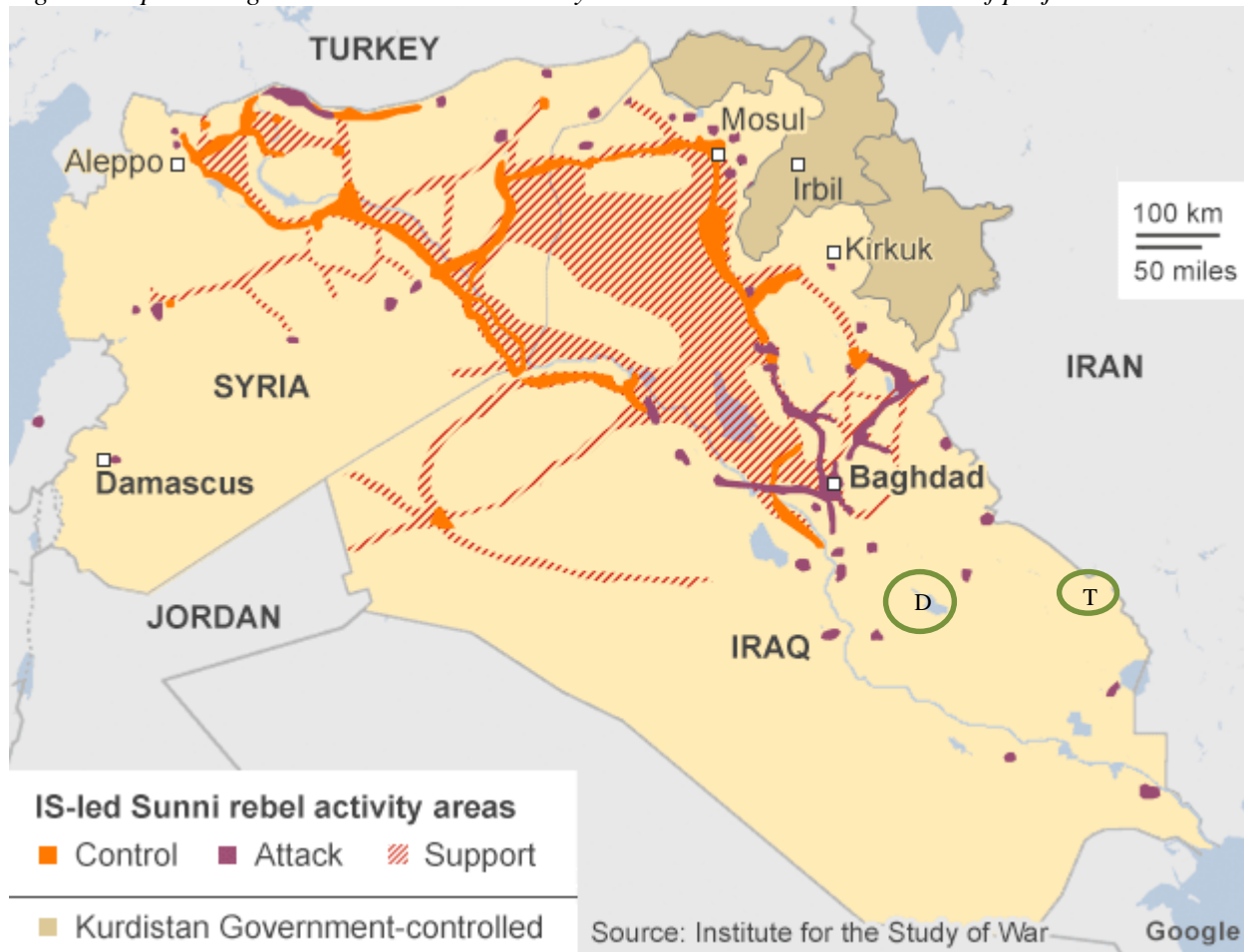
3.5: Risk analysis and risk management measures

3.5.1 Project Risks.

There are a few constraints and risks that can compromise an effective implementation. Insecurity due to ongoing conflict by ISIS poses the major risk. However, this conflict is in the north of the country while the project sites are located in the south of Iraq (see map in figure 15 below for location of project sites) which is a peaceful zone and so it is envisaged that this risk will not affect implementation of the project. As can be seen from the map below the conflict is from Baghdad northwards and is far away from the project sites (marked in green circles labelled D and T) which are located deep in the south.

The project will be implemented and executed in conjunction with UNEP ROWA based in Bahrain that will ensure consistent backstopping and support to the National Project Team for all aspects of project implementation and M&E, both in country and in terms of regionally-based activities

Fig 15: Map showing IS-Led Sunni Rebel activity areas in relation to the location of project sites



Project sites in green circles: D = Dalmaji and T = Teeb

3.5.2 Risks management measures

These risks and associated mitigation measures have been taken into account in project design, and are summarized in table 10 below.

Table 8: Project Risks and Mitigation Measures

RISK	RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>1. There is very limited professional capacity in Iraq to support the implementation of technical project activities.</p> <p>The UN Security Phase status of Iraq results in limitations for travel to Iraq and participation to field activities by international consultants. This results in much higher-than-normal operational costs for all project meetings, workshops and trainings, due to special arrangements and security measures to be undertaken whenever there is participation of international staff involved in implementation of site-level surveys within Iraq (a requirement due to the nature of activities involved and the limited availability of Iraqi trainers).</p> <p>In some cases project workshops might have to be held abroad (in Jordan or Turkey)</p> <p>There are significant delays and difficulties for Iraqi citizens in obtaining visas to travel to countries abroad (but not in neighboring countries such as Jordan or Turkey)</p>	<p><i>medium/ high</i></p>	<p>The project takes into account and is designed to address all these risks through the following main mitigation actions:</p> <p>The Project Management capacity of the Iraqi MoE has improved in developing the ongoing GEF funded projects carried out with UNEP-ROWA</p> <p>The project will be implemented by MOE in conjunction with UNEP ROWA</p> <p>The project sites are located in none conflict areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of adequate national professional and technical capacity through formal and informal (on-the-job) training for Iraqi nationals to support the PAN development process - project activities are nested in well-established national government and non-government institutions that are equipped to execute the project at the national level as demonstrated through the successful execution of the first NBSAP (ongoing) - On-the-job capacity building is to be carried out largely through the sustained presence in Iraq of a team of full-time advisors to the MoE - Workshops and training need to be done by a) international experts from neighboring countries invited to share their experience of PA management in existing protected areas, and (b) using internet based tools for allowing participation of national trainees (video-conference, webinars, e-learning courses) <p>In general, given the above considerations and considering the project implementation set-up mainly through experienced local partners, the risks of carrying out the field activities related to the PA implementation in the two target areas are considered acceptable, and the chances that these activities cannot be carried out is relatively small.</p>
<p>Relevant stakeholders for the PAN development processes have very limited understanding and awareness of the environmental and BD conservations issues at stake. This is (and will continue to) limit severely the efforts of MoE to uphold BD conservation issues in the Government's agenda. The MoE is also constrained in terms of its ability to foster mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation issues and environmental concerns into other sectors and Ministries.</p>	<p><i>medium/ high</i></p>	<p>This is a constraint and risk that will be addressed through a significant budget allocation for stakeholder consultation, awareness raising, consensus building and communication-related activities. These tasks are outlined as Component 3 of the project, and will be designed to provide cross-cutting support to Components 1 and 2.</p>

RISK	RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES
Political instability and frequent changes in government might negatively affect the level of political commitment towards biodiversity conservation	<i>medium</i>	The design of the project will take this risk into account by: (a) focusing on the development of broad-based technical, professional and institutional capacity within the MOE. This may partly compensate for the possible temporary lack of high-level political support, and technical staff can sustain the process of PAN development. In addition (b) Through an active consultation, awareness and outreach program (component 3), the project will develop a broader base of understanding, consensus and support within other ministries and stakeholders (with a special focus on decision makers), thus increasing the level of political support for the BD conservation agenda and PA establishment in the country
The concept of Protected Areas “ <i>Mahmial</i> ” is often initially met with resistance and prejudice by stakeholders and local communities. This is expected to constrain the initial efforts of the MoE towards discussing and establishing a PAN	<i>medium</i>	Same as above: the combination of increased national capacity and broad consultative and awareness efforts is expected to mitigate this anticipated problem by removing critical barriers and building consensus and understanding of BD conservation issues among all key stakeholders involved in the PAN development process. The project will also take stock of the participatory and community based “Hima” approach to PA management as approved at the IUCN congress in Jeju (2012), ref.: http://www.spnl.org/jeju-declaration-adopted-to-promote-green-growth/
Lengthy processes of approval and activation of legislation	<i>medium</i>	The project will have limited influence over this higher-level institutional and governance issue. However some steps will be taken to save time on other elements of the process and thus mitigating this problem, including: starting with a review of existing PA legislation in neighboring countries so as to save time and take advantage of suitable example already in place and in the Arabic Language; deploying a full-time technical assistance team to support the project and MoE with a mandate to follow-up consistently on all steps of discussion of legislation and institutional set-up; supporting the preparation and discussion of legal and institutional set-up with a targeted consultation and awareness outreach campaigns focusing on decision-makers and other government departments represented in the Cabinet and members of parliament
Difficulties in implementing project recommendations and enforcing legislative provisions	<i>medium</i>	This is a longer-term risk that may affect the long-term impact and sustainability of project activities. This issue is bound to remain largely outside of the project’s influence due to the limited budget and time-frame of the project. However GEF support will focus on removing main initial barriers to lay-out solid foundations for a PA network in the country, by: (a) building essential national capacity; (b) raising the level of understanding and buy-in with other government sectors and society at large; and (c) putting in place the necessary technical, legal and institutional instruments to support PA management. These initial building blocks can be subsequently developed and expanded upon through Government efforts and other Donor-assisted projects.

3.6 Consistency with national priorities or plans

The project supports achievement of CBD Aichi Targets 11 and 12, and addresses the national priorities emerging from the first NBSAP Stocktaking and Assessment exercise, with particular reference to national Priority 2, under Recommendation 4: “Establish pilot protected areas in line with PoWPA priorities, as a basis for the development of national PA management capacity through on-the-ground conservation action and associated training for building capacity for national staff”; and the priorities set forth in the CBD PoWPA Action Plan for Iraq (2012), with particular reference to Priority 2 “Establish 10 new PAs by 2020”.

Also, the project fits within the UNDAF 2011-2014 for Iraq, supporting its Key Development Outcome 3 and specifically Outcome 3.1: “*The Iraqi state has institutionalized policy and operational framework for the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources*”, which in turn supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal no. 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

In addition, the project is fully consistent with the 5-year UNEP-MoE Strategic Cooperation Agreement 2014-2018, launched in January 2014, focusing on supporting the implementation of priority actions of the NESAP, in line with the UNEP Programme of Work (POW), specifically under *Component D. Biodiversity, Biosafety and Invasive species*.

3.7. Incremental cost reasoning

The GEF funding will complement the national baseline investment by the MoE as well as parallel donor co-financing. GEF-funded activities will focus on removing critical barriers in terms of national institutional and management capacity, availability of baseline data and analysis thereof, and levels of awareness and understanding of the importance of Protected Areas and BD conservation issues in the country. The project provides incremental support towards the establishment of the initial steps for establishment of a viable Protected Areas Network. Without the GEF funding, the current baseline activities on biodiversity conservation by the Government of Iraq would not be sufficient to create such a nationally-owned PAN and PA management capacity. Without the GEF’s timely and focused support, Biodiversity conservation would remain at the periphery of the Government’s agenda due to critical lack of capacity for mainstreaming BD into national and sectoral policies and plans and understanding of BD conservation issues. PA establishment and management would inevitably continue to be marginalized in the development processes, leading to further loss and deterioration of the most significant and globally important biodiversity assets of the country. The project will also generate global environmental benefits in the biodiversity focal area by enhancing and speeding up the process of enforcing the required legislative and management measures and associated institutional and management capacity to protect globally significant species and ecosystems. The PAN strategy for Iraq will directly contribute to the CBD strategic objectives and in particular to the conservation of the biological diversity of the Iraqi marshlands as a freshwater ecosystem of global importance. Through adopting the principle of ecosystem approach to conservation, the project will also generate co-benefit in the climate change, land degradation and the international waters focal areas.

3.8. Sustainability

The results of the PAN project will set the foundation of a permanent effective system for PA planning and management in Iraq, based on the existing legislation and institutional framework of the country.

The project of the Protected Area Network of Iraq has been designed to ensure the financial, institutional and social sustainability of its conservation outcomes. The long-term economic fundamentals for the PA system are conditional on improvements in PA planning, management and monitoring procedures that are foreseen in the institutional and legislative framework but are not fully implemented. The technical assistance of international organization like UNEP-ROWA, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and international experts will provide a solid base for planning, decision making and implementation of the PAN of Iraq. In order to maintain the system beyond the project completion, in Component one a double planning step is foreseen: a short term PA Plan will be developed through a participatory approach in Year 1 that will cover the time span of the project. At the end of Year 3, the PAN Plan will be reviewed and expanded to a medium term PAN Plan to be implemented over next

10 years. In this way, the project will start a process that will provide beneficial effects and outcomes beyond its completion.

The Government of Iraq will support the managing cost the PA system. In the costed PAN Plan the financing provisions for the PAN implementation will be detailed and included both in the MoEn annual budget and the budget of line Ministries that will be involved in the PAN planning and implementation according to the PA Regulation issued in 2014. Furthermore, the financial sustainability of the PAN will be pursued through developing the knowledge of economic value of ecosystem services and functions in Iraq, establishing new financial mechanisms and resource mobilization strategies both at the national and local level and increasing operational efficiencies that will promote cost effectiveness of the overall Protected Areas management system.

In line with the requirements of MEAs and international best practices, the PAN planning will be designed on mainstreaming of biodiversity protection into existing sectoral policies, in order to address cross-cutting issues and avoid duplication/overlapping of planning provisions. Furthermore, the project will also seek to expand linkages between management authorities and national and local governments, civil society and private sector, international conservation agencies and donor bodies. This will help to generate new investments in PAs and increase economic benefits of the PAN. Also a future growth in the tourism sector is expected to improve the fundamentals for achieving financial sustainability of PAN over the longer-term.

Institutional sustainability will be addressed mainly through Component 1, which will seek to rationalise institutional arrangements, including administrative and operational management systems within the MoEn, the National Committee for Protected Areas and other involved line Ministries and strengthen their technical, legal and institutional adaptive capacity and expertise. Training offered throughout the project execution will enhance the PA management capacity and support for policy and regulatory reform that will create a better enabling environment for encouraging private and community participation in PA management. A strong contribution will also be provided by the Outcomes of Component 3 aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the benefits associated with protecting ecosystems and natural resources at all levels (i.e. from community members at the local level to policy-makers at national level).

The civil society based NGOs, in particular, are expected to play a major role in supporting the implementation of new PAs in Dalmaj and Teeb sites, and providing direct and indirect support to the parks services. This is expected to make a major contribution to operational performance in the medium-longer term. Social sustainability is addressed through the execution of a comprehensive Stakeholder Involvement Plan, which identifies stakeholder interests and possible conflicts and responsive mitigation measures, to assure strong and effective stakeholder participation. The new partnerships and collaborative management arrangements being fostered will improve the stake of communities and the private sector in PA management, building a sense of ownership that will reinforce the commitment of involved stakeholders to carry out initiatives for biodiversity conservation and continue supporting the development of the PAN of Iraq beyond the duration of the project lifetime, and the long-term political and financial commitment of policy-makers to provide enabling investment environments for scaling up of successful adaptation measures.

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3.9. Replication

The project is aimed at achieving minimum standards of effectiveness management across the PA system. A key thrust of the project is to ensure that international experiences and good practices are replicated across the design and planning of the PAN of Iraq.

The initial steps and plans for a National PA network and particularly the experience generated from the two pilot sites of Dalmaj and Teeb sites will also provide the basis for the subsequent up-scaling of project achievements at the national level, both geographically and habitat-wise, by the same group of stakeholders involved in this initial GEF project (which is the first ever GEF project in Iraq apart from enabling activities).

Extensive training and capacity building will be undertaken at the systemic and institutional levels, by *inter alia* strengthening policies, increasing management committees and technical staff skills in managing all aspects of the PAN implementation. Interventions will support operational efficiency through upgrade management systems at two demonstration sites of Dalmaj and Teeb. New management approaches will be tested with a view of enhancing management options which will ensure that future interventions in the Iraq PAN implementation meet national and international goals and standards. In effect, the demonstration sites will provide laboratories for testing new approaches, with the intention that practices can then be replicated system-widely in the PAN of Iraq. Key aspects for the demonstrations are the collaborative management between MoE, line Ministries, local governments and local communities, public-private partnerships for biodiversity conservation in PA management.

This will enhance the potential for replicating good management practices system wide. By establishing a good enabling environment to replicate good management practices, the project interventions will be continued and maintained into future programmes and activities after the project duration; and will be more likely replicated and/or up-scaled. Attention will be paid to addressing constraints to replication, including providing information on the costs and benefits of different management approaches, improving information exchange, sustaining constructive and cost-effective stakeholder involvement and developing lessons learnt.

The Project Steering Committee and the Project Team will assume responsibility for actively ensuring the replication of good practices across the PA network. The Project Team will assume day-to-day responsibility for monitoring roll-out of the replication strategy. Achievements will be documented in Project Implementation Reviews.

3.10. Public awareness, communications and mainstreaming strategy

Presently, public awareness on the importance of biodiversity protection and sustainable use is very low in Iraq. Creating awareness and sensitising decision-makers and planners on biodiversity conservation is an important component of the project.

Component 3 is dedicated to dissemination of project results to inform the future PAN of Iraq. Awareness creation and lessons' dissemination workshops will be conducted at all levels (i.e. national, local and community level). The MoE website will be upgraded with a section dedicated to PAN information and webGIS functionalities. Additionally, the project results will be disseminated using a wide range of communication channels and tools (e.g. media, targeted multimedia communication materials and the project website) in the local language and English. UNEP will also facilitate global dissemination of the project's results on the international websites and information sharing platforms (e.g. UNEP website, CBD website, IUCN website, IW learn, WCMC-WDPA, PA Management forums, etc.).

Mainstreaming of the PAN design and mainstreaming it into national and local level planning will be addressed by all project outcomes.

3.11. Environmental and social safeguards

The overall project goal is to ensure biodiversity protection and conservation of ecosystems through design and initial implementation of a viable, representative and coherent network of Protected Areas in Iraq. Project activities are not expected nor anticipated to generate significant negative environmental impacts.

Environmental Impact Assessments will be undertaken, if needed in accordance with the national environmental legislation of Iraq, prior to the execution of any major works requested for project execution, and particularly in Project Component 2 – PAN implementation, in order to ensure that any impacts on the environment is minimized through appropriate mitigation measures.

As regards social safeguards, the new Iraq Regulation on PA delineates the institutional framework and procedure for proposing, evaluating and establishing natural Protected Areas. The central role is assigned to the National Committee for Protected Areas (NC-PA) which includes representatives of the main institutions that are

involved in PA planning and management, and shall work in coordination with other National Committees that have competence on biodiversity and environmental protection. It also includes representation by the affected communities. In addition, the regulation also sets rules on community participation and compensation.

In addition, the project is in direct connection with government strategies and plans to promote biodiversity protection and sustainable development of the country, in line with the requirements of the main MEAs, and specifically the CBD. Local government and communities residing in the project sites have been consulted in the project preparatory phase as well as this project formulation process, in order to start a participatory process that will be maintained throughout the project phases. Local authorities, who have been consulted during the project preparation, will continue to play a key role in ensuring the project activities remain well-grounded with local realities.

The PAN planning process (Component 1) will involve key stakeholder at national and governorate level and will include a wide range capacity building assessment, aimed at promoting integration of PAs into the national and provincial planning framework. The PAN implementation at two pilot sites of Dalmaj and Teeb will (Component 2) will create a living lab for addressing the existing social, financial and organisational difficulties and obstacles to establishment of effective management structures in Protected Areas. Under the supervision of UNEP-ROWA and with the support of a strong team of experts from international organizations (UNEP, IUCN, WCMC and others) the national Team will bring about a new ambitious model of shared management of PAs according to international guidelines and best practices, with the aim of promoting local ownership, active participation of local communities and enhancement of benefits and tradeoffs of multi-purpose management. Through involvement and participation of local communities in the PAN planning and implementation activities since the early stages of execution, the project will promote empowerment of local communities in Protected Areas management. A specific attention will be devoted to vulnerable groups (women, young and unemployed people from local communities) and targeted activities on promoting gender equality and addressing poverty will be carried out in establishing the PA management structure at the two pilot Pas in Dalmaj and Teeb priority sites. These will include, but not be limited to participation in training on the job initiatives and field activities and targeted communication/awareness activities.

In each of the two project sites, Intervention Area Coordination Teams will be established, that will include local institutions and stakeholders such as community leaders, farmers, extension agents, researchers and local Government representatives. These will be responsible for monitoring of project activities at community level and providing information regarding social and environmental impacts and on efficient use of the material resources of the project in areas of their influence.

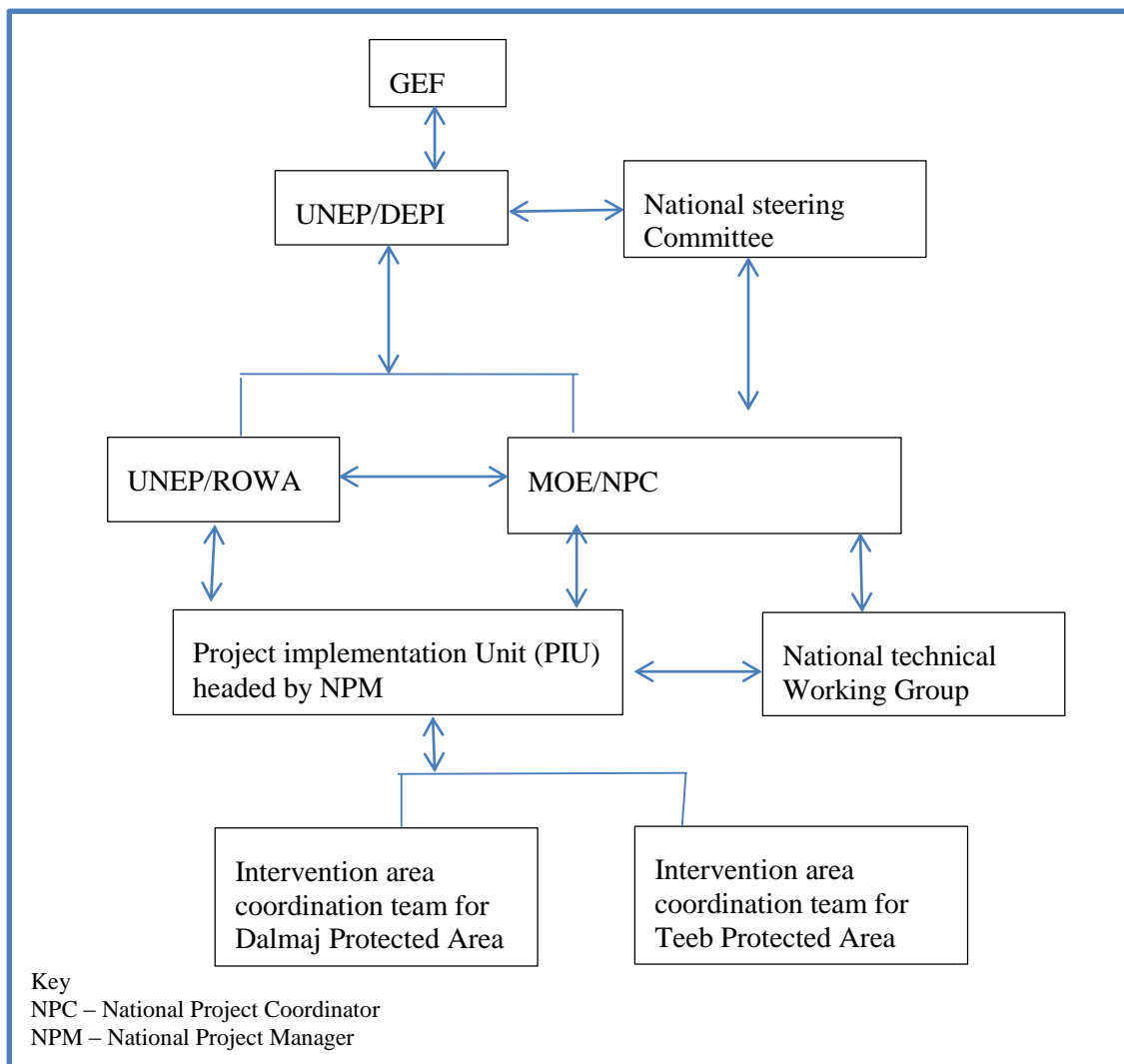
3.13 Lessons learnt of previous projects:

In the last 10 years Iraq has experienced implementation of several important projects, mainly through cooperation initiatives. Despite several challenges that Iraq was facing - like weak institutional capacity; lack of effective and ad hoc legislation and its enforcement to address environmental emergencies and needs, lack of dedicated staff with suitable competence – the country has been able to achieve great improvement by conducting capacity building programs; developing and updating the legislations; developing new plans and strategies like NESAP and NBSAP and integrating it into the national plans to strengthen the institutional capacity. Through UNEP/GEF projects, the MoEn is currently improving and building capacity of its staff in many biodiversity-related fields, in order to be able in the short-term time horizon to completely fulfil its obligations. Holding workshops, bi-literal meetings, the exchange and face-to face discussion, consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders as well as improved collaboration will be key to overcoming present challenges. It has provided an opportunity of learning and getting to know new things and also the perfect platform to spread awareness about biodiversity among crucial stakeholders for policy planning and mainstreaming issues.

Section 4: Institutional Framework and Implementation Arrangements

The Project will be implemented over a period of four years (48 months) beginning in early 2015. Project activities will be executed by the Ministry of Environment of Iraq (Executing Agency) with the support of UNEP regional office for west Asia (ROWA). As the Government Executing Agency, the MoE will be responsible for project coordination and management, and monitoring adherence to the work plan, which forms the basis for project execution.

Figure 7: Project organization scheme



Implementing Agency. UNEP/DEPI will be the GEF Implementing Agency and will manage the project according to the GEF Project Cycle. The regional office of UNEP for Western Asia - UNEP-ROWA will be accountable to GEF for project delivery and will have ultimate responsibility for supervising project development, guiding project development activities and contracting staff if requested by the MoEn. UNEP-ROWA will ensure technical support and supervision of the project through the assigned Task Manager, Fund Manager and other technical staff by providing the MoEn with technical and administrative backup assistance

throughout the project duration. UNEP-ROWA will participate in PAN design and consultations as well as contribute to the preparation of the project workplan. Specifically, UNEP-ROWA will:

- disburse funds to cover (according to the Budget breakdown by component and UNEP Budget Lines shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2);
- provide project oversight, including participation in the PSC if and as required, by ensuring the required technical and administrative support to the PM and the National project Coordinator of the Ministry of Environment of Iraq to execute the project;
- provide in kind co-financing for supporting the MoEn in developing specific activities related to PAN planning, legislative framework analysis, institutional strengthening and capacity building according to the project workplan and budget breakdown provided in **Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 5**;
- develop the project monitoring and evaluation activities, according to the M&E Plan

UNEP ROWA will oversee the deployment and capacity building of a full-time technical national team in-country to backstop project implementation with the MoEn. The UNEP-ROWA will ensure consistent backstopping and support to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for all aspects of project implementation and M&E, both in country and in terms of regionally-based activities in Jordan and Bahrain.

Participation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and of the UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Center – WCMC in the project will ensure that the PAN is developed according to the international guidelines and best practices. Specifically, IUCN and WCMC experts will supervise and provide constant technical support the National Project Team lead by the MoEn throughout the project execution. IUCN and WCMC experts will provide highly qualified scientific and technical guidance for effective PAN planning and implementation at the selected priority sites of Dalmaj and Teeb, capacity building and awareness raising, and on the job training for PA staff.

Project Steering Committee. The Project will be guided by a Steering Committee (NSC) composed of the National Committee for Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment (the chair), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Municipalities and General works, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific researches, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Local Governments and NGOs and the National Project Coordinator and the National Project Manager and UNEP.

The NSC will meet regularly twice a year and whenever necessary. The NSC is responsible - among others - to adopt the project's strategic decisions, reports and approve annual work plans, budgets and financial procurement, as well as control of the use of financial resources.

The PSC will meet annually to oversee the project execution and monitor the conformity with the approved project workplan and to review and approve the project deliverables. The PSC will have the following roles:

- Provide strategic advice to the project Team on the implementation of project activities to ensure the integration of activities with national policies and sustainable development objectives
- Ensure coordination/complementarities between the Project and other ongoing activities in the country
- Ensure inter-agency coordination
- Ensure full participation of stakeholders in project activities
- Provide policy guidance and technical backstopping to the project.
- Approve reports and approve annual work plans, budgets and financial procurement, as well as control of the use of financial resources

Executing Agency. The Ministry of Environment of Iraq (MoEn) will be the national Executing Agency. The project execution will be supervised by the Vice Minister of Environment and GEF Focal Point assisted by the Project Coordinator (PC) who will oversee the work of the PM.

National Technical Working Group (NTWG). The National Project team will be located within the Biodiversity Center of the MoEn, and will be formed of 8 designated staff of the MoEn (4 from the MoEn Technical

Directorate, 1 from the Administrative Directorate, 3 from the Governorate Directorates of Qadissiya, Wassit and Missan). It will work as the Technical expert working group of the project, will meet quarterly and will provide technical and financial guidance to the PIU.

National Project Coordinator (NPC). The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be a senior staff designated within the MoEn. He/she will liaise with the NSC and the National Technical working group and will oversee the work of the NPM. The National Project Coordinator is responsible for organizing and preparing the documentation regarding decisions to be taken at meetings of the National Steering Committee (NSC). His/her role is to periodically review work plans and procurement activities and submit reports to the NSC for approval, control and monitoring financial and administrative implementation of the Project.

Project Implementation Unit (PIU): Project implementation will be coordinated through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) headed by a Project Manager who will also be a secretary of the National Steering Committee. The PIU will host all project staff including support staff and consultants

The national project Manager: The project will be managed by a designated Project Manager who will lead and manage a National Project Implementation Unit. The Project Manager will also be responsible of coordinating stakeholder involvement. The NPM will plan, coordinate and oversee the activities of the project as per the Results Framework given in **Appendix 4** and the workplan and timetable provided in **Appendix 5**. The PM will lead and manage the organization of project tasks executed by the National Project Team with the support and technical assistance of the NPC, monitor the achievement of project results and take appropriate corrective actions as needed, develop the required project reporting and liaise with the UNEP/DEPI and UNEP/ROWA. He/she will support the IA in following the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan given in **Appendix 7** and ensure that the reporting requirements and responsibilities summarized in **Appendix 8** and in the Results Framework and key Deliverables provided in **Appendix 4** are fully met in the project execution over the project time frame.

At the local level: In each of the two intervention areas, Intervention Area Coordination Teams will be established, directed by an Intervention Area Coordinator and made up of the principal stakeholders in each area. These include institutional representatives of the governorate delegations, scientific and academic institutions, and organizations representing the local interests of stakeholders, including specialists in the local areas involved in the project and representatives of local communities in each site.

Concrete actions at local level will be carried out by Intervention Area Coordination Teams, which will include local institutions and stakeholders such as community leaders, leader farmers, extension agents, researchers and local Government representatives. Intervention Area Coordinators, together with their work teams, will be responsible for developing annual plans, for carrying out the activities which these specify, for monitoring and informing the operational staff of each project regarding impacts on the environment and for ensuring the efficient use of the material resources of the project in their area of influence. The close links between the PIU, the technical working group and the local teams at Intervention Area/Site levels will be maintained through periodic visits to the intervention areas, technical and financial audits, scientific and technical activities, and the transmission of information and periodic joint meetings of the project team, which should be held twice a year. The constant exchange and flow of information, including the dissemination of activities carried out and lessons learned, will be made effective through a virtual network which will link the Local Coordination Teams, the PIU and key stakeholders.

Section 5: Stakeholder participation

The MoEn in Iraq oversees or operates a number of biodiversity-related initiatives in the country. Representatives from relevant partners and stakeholders will be involved in project activities through (a) participation in the “National Committee for Protected Areas” and the “Iraq National Marshes and Wetlands Committee”, (b) becoming members of the GEF Project Steering committee and (c) taking part in the wide range of consultative processes and discussion workshops planned in the framework of the project.

As anticipated in section 0, a wide range of stakeholders are involved in biodiversity conservation. Stakeholder involvement is a pillar of the project, both at the PAN system level and at the site level. Line Ministries and local Governments are key decision-makers, and they will be involved in planning and establishing the PAN. Key to the project is the National Committee for Protected Areas that will be designated as the Project Steering Committee. Local Governments and local communities are vital for the success of the project for their knowledge of local situation at the pilot sites, therefore the field activities to be developed at the selected priority sites of Dalmaj and Teeb will provide occasions for on the job training of local staff and collaboration with local NGOs that are active in biodiversity monitoring and conservation. At the same time consultation workshops and public awareness initiatives will be organized locally for raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and wise use of ecosystems. It is important that the various outputs that will be delivered under the various project outcomes fully integrate the expertise available in the country and improve on what is presently available, whilst also providing a platform for knowledge exchange and mutual learning. In this regards, the national scientific community will be involved where necessary and possible through collaboration of national experts that will bring their scientific and technical background and expertise into the project. The support of private sector, and particularly Oil Companies, will be sought in order to create a collaborative relationship and open the way to active contribution of the private sector to the achievement of the final results of the PAN project. Finally, the importance of media has been taken into consideration, especially in component 3 of the project, in order to actively collaborate for awareness raising and dissemination of the materials that will be produced during project execution.

An overview of how key stakeholders will participate in the project is presented in the following table.

Table 9: Stakeholder involvement

Stakeholder	Project Outcomes				Role
	1.1	1.2	2.1	3.1	
NFP CBD- PoWPA	X	X	X	X	Decision-maker
Ministry of Environment	X	X	X	X	EA, Project Manager, Project Team
National Committee for Protected Areas	X	X	X		PSC
Ministries	X	X			Decision-maker
Governorate Councils	X	X	X		Decision-maker
Governorate Directorates		X	X		Decision-maker
international Organizations (IUCN, WCMC, UNEP, UNDP, etc)	X	X	X	X	Project partner
Iraqi Universities					National experts
Environmental Police		X	X		Surveillance, support to local activities
National and local NGOs (IOCN, Nature Iraq)	X	X	X	X	Project partner, support to local activities, financial support
Local Communities in Dalmaj and Teeb		X	X		Collaboration, support to local initiatives
International Oil Companies			X		Collaboration, financial support
Media (local and National)				X	Collaboration, support to local initiatives

Section 6: Monitoring and evaluation Plan

UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The National Project Manager and partners will participate actively in and support the process.

The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in January 2017 as indicated in the project milestones). The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools.

The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget as shown in annex 7.

Section 7: Project Financing and Budget

7.1 Overall project budget

The overall project budget is presented in detail in **Appendix 1** (Budget by project components and UNEP budget lines) and **Appendix 2** (Co-financing by source and UNEP budget lines). Project Component costs, yearly and total costs are indicated by columns against each item and correspond to project outputs as indicated in **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

Table 10: GEF TF and Co-financing Budget by Project Component

PROJECT COMPONENT	PROJECT COMPONENT	TOTAL	GEF TRUST FUND	CO-FINANCING	GEF YEAR 1	GEF YEAR 2	GEF YEAR 3	GEF YEAR 4	TOTAL
Project Component I Design of PA system and institutional strengthening	Project Outcome I.1 - PAN designed								
	Output 1.1.1 - Baseline assessment	\$ 282,825	\$ 97,000	\$ 185,825	\$ 97,000				\$ 97,000
	Output 1.1.2 - PAN establishment Plan	\$ 123,325	\$ 46,800	\$ 76,525	\$ 23,400	\$ 23,400			\$ 46,800
	Output 1.1.3 - Costed Strategy for PAN Plan implementation	\$ 93,575	\$ 49,200	\$ 44,375	\$ 16,400	\$ 32,800			\$ 49,200
	Output 1.1.4 - Legislation	\$ 112,400	\$ 70,000	\$ 42,400	\$ 23,333	\$ 46,667			\$ 70,000
	Project Outcome I.2 - Capacity Building								
	Output 1.2.1 - Training Needs Assessment	\$ 8,125	\$ 4,800	\$ 3,325	\$ 4,800				\$ 4,800
	Output 1.2.2 - Capacity Building Programme	\$ 321,615	\$ 236,365	\$ 85,250		\$ 78,788	\$ 78,788	\$ 78,788.33	\$ 236,365
	Sub-Total Component I	\$ 941,865	\$ 504,165	\$ 437,700	\$ 164,933	\$ 181,655	\$ 78,788	\$ 78,788	\$ 504,165
Project Component II PAN implementation	Project Outcome II.1 PAN implementation (2 Pilot sites)								
	Output 2.1.1 - Declaration of Pilot sites as Protected Areas	\$ 405,550	\$ 60,800	\$ 344,750	\$ 60,800				\$ 60,800
	Output 2.1.2.a - Implementation of PAN (PA Dalmaj)	\$ 1,623,835	\$ 211,000	\$ 1,412,835		\$ 70,333	\$ 70,333	\$ 70,333	\$ 211,000
	Output 2.1.2.b - Implementation of PAN (Teeb)	\$ 976,210	\$ 144,900	\$ 831,310		\$ 48,300	\$ 48,300	\$ 48,300	\$ 144,900
	Sub-Total Component II	\$ 3,005,595	\$ 416,700	\$ 2,588,895	\$ 60,800	\$ 118,633	\$ 118,633	\$ 118,633	\$ 416,700
Project Component III Public Awareness	Project Outcome III.1 - Public Awareness								
	Output 3.1.1 - Public Awareness & Outreach Strategy	\$ 16,825	\$ 14,000	\$ 2,825	\$ 14,000				\$ 14,000
	Output 3.1.2 - Website	\$ 156,130	\$ 23,600	\$ 132,530	\$ 5,900	\$ 5,900	\$ 5,900	\$ 5,900	\$ 23,600
	Output 3.1.3 - Outreach Materials and technical Toolkits	\$ 364,050	\$ 160,000	\$ 204,050		\$ 53,333	\$ 53,333	\$ 53,333	\$ 160,000
	Sub-Total Component III	\$ 537,005	\$ 197,600	\$ 339,405	\$ 19,900	\$ 59,233	\$ 59,233	\$ 59,233	\$ 197,600
Project Management M&E	Project Management	\$ 137,950	\$ 73,900	\$ 64,050	\$ 18,475	\$ 18,475	\$ 18,475	\$ 18,475	\$ 73,900
	Mid and Terminal Evaluation	\$ 57,950	\$ 38,000	\$ 19,950		\$ 12,667		\$ 25,333	\$ 38,000
	Sub-Total PM - M&E	\$ 195,900	\$ 111,900	\$ 84,000	\$ 18,475	\$ 31,142	\$ 18,475	\$ 43,808	\$ 111,900
	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$4,680,365	\$1,230,365	\$3,450,000	\$ 264,108	\$ 390,663	\$ 275,130	\$ 300,463	\$1,230,365

7.2 Project co-financing

The co-financing committed for the project includes commitments from the Government of Iraq and the Ministry of Environment as summarized in the letter from the GEF Operational Focal Point. The GEF Agency (UNEP) is also committed to provide co-financing to the project. A summary of the co-financing for the project is indicated in Table 11 below

Table 11: Co-financing Sources by type

Name of co-financer	Classification	Type	Amount (USD)
Ministry of Environment	National Government of Iraq	Cash	2,800,930
	National Government of Iraq	In kind	549,070
GEF Agency (UNEP)	GEF Agency (UNEP)	In kind	100,000
Total			3,450,000

During the PAN implementation phase of the project, the Ministry of Environment will seek to raise contributions from a range of national, regional and international partners, private companies and NGOs (i.e. IUCN, BirdLife International); regional partners including CAMRE; and national partners including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, The Ministry of Culture, the Governorate of Qadissiya, Wassit and Maysan, the private sector and national NGOs (i.e. Nature Iraq, Iraq Organization for Conservation of Nature – IOCN, “Friends of Dalmaj”).

7.3 Project cost-effectiveness

The cost effectiveness of the project is illustrated both by its capitalization on the existing investment (estimated at 5 Million USD as explained in section 0) and its leverage of co-financing (est. \$ 3,450,000). By the end of the Project the GEF investment will represent approximately 27% of the project costs since inception. However, the GEF funds are critical since the timing of their delivery enables the Iraqi MoE and project partners time and resources to secure the initial steps of the PAN design and implementation. The GoI has plans for substantial investment in the establishment of Protected Areas in Iraq. Now, supported by the Project, the design of a viable network of Protected Areas and its management system also exemplifies cost effectiveness in that the GEF investment is leveraging support for the long term sustainable financing of the PAN.

Cost effectiveness is also enabled through the range of coordinated initiatives for biodiversity protection in the framework of international Conventions (CBD, UNESCO, Ramsar). The GoI continues to foster shared learning and focus on cross-sectoral mainstreaming.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Budget by project components and UNEP budget lines

ANNEX F-1 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET LINE (GEF FUNDS ONLY US\$)														
Project title:			Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network											
Project number:			GFL/5392											
Project executing partner:			Ministry of Environment of Iraq											
Project implementation period: 48 months			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)							*Insert actual year				
From:	Jan 2015		Add additional components/activities as required							Add additional years as required				
To:	Dec 2018									Expenditure by calendar year				
UNEP Budget Line		1.1								1.2	2.1	3.1	PM	E&M
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT		\$ 800	\$ 400	daily fee									
	1100	Project personnel												
	1101	Chief Technical Advisor					4,000		4,000	1,333	667	667	1,333	4,000
	1102	Technical Officer	24,000	12,000	12,800	13,600	14,400		76,800	25,600	12,800	12,800	25,600	76,800
	1103	Finance and Budget Officer					12,000		12,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	12,000
	1104	sub-Programme Officer (Env. Management)					8,000		8,000	2,667	1,333	1,333	2,667	8,000
	1105	Administrative Office (UNEP-ROWA)					4,000		4,000	1,333	667	667	1,333	4,000
	1106								-					-
	1199	Sub-total	24,000	12,000	12,800	13,600	42,400	-	104,800	34,933	17,467	17,467	34,933	104,800
	1200	Consultants (SSA) including expenses												
	1201	PAN design (methodology, baseline, implementation, monitoring and evaluation)	69,600		70,500		35,400		175,500	58,500	58,500	58,500		175,500
	1202	PA legislation (technical guidelines & tools)	22,000		10,400				32,400	32,400				32,400
	1203	Field surveys and capacity building (baseline assessment)	50,365						50,365	50,365				50,365
	1204	TNA, Capacity Building, Awareness and Communication		90,900		44,000			134,900	67,450	33,725	33,725		134,900
	1206	External consultant Mid-term and Terminal					16,000		16,000		8,000		8,000	16,000

		<i>Evaluation</i>												
	1299	Sub-total	141,965	90,900	80,900	44,000	35,400	16,000	409,165	208,715	100,225	92,225	8,000	409,165
	1300	<i>Administrative Support</i>												
	1301								-					-
	1399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1600	<i>Travel on official business (UNEP staff)</i>												
	1601	<i>International travels to Iraq</i>	11,100				6,900		18,000	9,000			9,000	18,000
	1602	<i>International Travel to Jordan or Turkey</i>		2,500					2,500			2,500		2,500
	1699	Sub-total	11,100	2,500	-	-	6,900	-	20,500	9,000	-	2,500	9,000	20,500
1999	Component total		177,065	105,400	93,700	57,600	84,700	16,000	534,465	252,648	117,692	112,192	51,933	534,465
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT													
	2100	<i>Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies) including expenses</i>												
	2101	<i>IUCN - PAN (baseline, PAN planning, PA establishment, capacity building)</i>	90,700	85,600	80,000	44,000			300,300	75,075	75,075	75,075	75,075	300,300
	2102	<i>WCMC (data management, indicators, capacity building)</i>	20,000	12,000					32,000	16,000	16,000			32,000
	2199	Sub-total	110,700	97,600	80,000	44,000	-	-	332,300	91,075	91,075	75,075	75,075	332,300
	2201								-					-
	2299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2300	<i>Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)</i>												
	2301								-					-
	2399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2999	Component total		110,700	97,600	80,000	44,000	-	-	332,300	91,075	91,075	75,075	75,075	332,300

30	TRAINING COMPONENT												
	3200	Group training											
	3201							-					-
	3299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3300	Meetings/Conferences											
	3301	international Workshop n.7 (Amman or Istanbul)		20,000				20,000			20,000		20,000
	3302	License webinars (6)		2,500				2,500		2,500			2,500
	3303							-					-
	3399	Sub-total	-	22,500	-	-	-	22,500	-	2,500	20,000	-	22,500
3999	Component total		-	22,500	-	-	-	22,500	-	2,500	20,000	-	22,500
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT												
	4100	Expendable equipment											
	4103							-					
	4199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4200	Non-expendable equipment											
	4201	PA Dalmaj (essential infrastructure, equipment)			150,000			150,000		50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
	4202	PA Teeb (essential infrastructure, equipment)			85,500			85,500		28,500	28,500	28,500	85,500
	4203							-					-
	4299	Sub-total	-	-	235,500	-	-	235,500	-	78,500	78,500	78,500	235,500
	4300	Premises											
	4301							-					-
	4399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4999	Component total		-	-	235,500	-	-	235,500	-	78,500	78,500	78,500	235,500
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT												
	5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment											

	5101								-					-
	5199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5200	<i>Reporting costs</i>												
	5201	<i>Outreach materials and publications</i>				69,200			69,200		23,067	23,067	23,067	69,200
	5202								-					
	5299	Sub-total	-	-	-	69,200	-	-	69,200	-	23,067	23,067	23,067	69,200
	5300	<i>Sundry</i>												
	5301								-					-
	5302													
	5399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5400	<i>Hospitality and entertainment</i>												
	5401								-					-
	5499	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5500	<i>Evaluation</i>												
	5501	<i>Mid-term evaluation</i>						14,400	14,400		14,400			14,400
	5502	<i>Terminal evaluation</i>						22,000	22,000				22,000	22,000
	5581								-					-
	5599	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	36,400	36,400	-	14,400	-	22,000	36,400
5999	Component total		-	-	-	69,200	-	36,400	105,600	-	37,467	23,067	45,067	105,600
99	GRAND TOTAL		287,765	225,500	409,200	170,800	84,700	52,400	1,230,365	343,723	327,233	308,833	250,575	1,230,365
Previous Budget (Rev.														
Variance (As at Rev.			287,765	225,500	409,200	170,800	84,700	52,400	1,230,365	343,723	327,233	308,833	250,575	1,230,365

Appendix 2: Co-financing by source and UNEP budget lines

ANNEX F-2 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF BUDGET AND CO-FINANCE BUDGET (TOTAL GEF & CO-FINANCE US\$)									
Project title:			Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network						
Project number:			GFL/5392						
Project executing partner:			Ministry of Environment of Iraq						
Project implementation period:				If more than 4 sources of co-finance, add columns				* Name of Institution providing co-finance	
From:		Jan 2015	GEF TF Cash	Government of Iraq		GEF Agency (UNEP)		Total	
To:		Dec 2018		Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind	Cash	In-kind
UNEP Budget Line			A	B	C	D	E	A+B+D	C+E
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT		staff daily fees	110	100	50			
	1100	Project personnel						-	-
	1101	UNEP staff	104,800					104,800	-
	1102	National Project Manager (MoEn)			94,820			-	94,820
	1103	National Senior staff			40,200			-	40,200
	1104	National Junior staff			154,050			-	154,050
	1105	PA Dalmaj Staff			130,000			-	130,000
	1106	PA Teeb Staff			130,000			-	130,000
	1107							-	-
	1199	Sub-total	104,800	-	549,070	-	-	104,800	549,070
	1200	Consultants							-
	1201	Consultants (SSA) including expenses	409,165					409,165	-
	1202	National Consultant PAN		72,000				72,000	-
	1203							-	-
	1299	Sub-total	409,165	72,000	-	-	-	481,165	-
	1300	Administrative support							

								-	-
	1301							-	-
	1399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1600	Travel on official business						-	-
	1601	international travel (Jordan, Turkey) UN staff	2,500					2,500	-
	1602	international travels to Iraq UN staff	18,000					18,000	-
	1603	travels of Iraqi staff		137,250				137,250	-
	1604							-	-
	1699	Sub-total	20,500	137,250	-	-	-	157,750	-
1999	Component total		534,465	209,250	549,070	-	-	743,715	549,070
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT								-
	2100	Sub-contracts (for cooperating agencies)							-
	2101	(MOUs) IUCN and WCMC	332,300					332,300	-
	2102							-	-
	2199	Sub-total	332,300	-	-	-	-	332,300	-
	2200	Sub-contracts (for supporting organizations)						-	-
	2201							-	-
	2299	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2300	Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)						-	-
	2301							-	-
	2399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2999	Component total		332,300	-	-	-	-	332,300	-
30	TRAINING COMPONENT							-	-
	3200	Group training							

								-	-
	3201	Training courses		14,300				14,300	-
	3202	Field survey training		60,000				60,000	-
	3203	Education programmes		30,000				30,000	-
	3299	Sub-total	-	104,300	-	-	-	104,300	-
	3300	Meetings/Conferences						-	-
	3301	international Workshop n.7 (Amman or Istanbul)	20,000					20,000	-
	3302	webinars (6)	2,500					2,500	-
	3303	National Workshops		103,880				103,880	-
	3304	National Project Meetings		5,000				5,000	-
	3305							-	-
	3399	Sub-total	22,500	108,880	-	-	-	131,380	-
3999	Component total		22,500	213,180	-	-	-	235,680	-
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT							-	-
	4100	Expendable equipment						-	-
	4101	Field work materials		10,000				10,000	-
	4199	Sub-total	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-
	4200	Non-expendable equipment						-	-
	4201	PA Dalmaj infrastructures	150,000	1,000,000				1,150,000	-
	4202	PA Dalmaj equipment		120,000				120,000	-
	4203	PA Teeb infrastructures	85,500	414,500		100,000		600,000	-
	4204	PA Teeb equipment		225,000				225,000	-
	4205	Land acquisition Dalmaj (2 ha)		200,000				200,000	-
	4206	Land acquisition Teeb (1 ha)							

				100,000				100,000	-
	4207	MoEn webGIS server		115,000				115,000	-
	4208	Multimedia room MoEn		50,000				50,000	-
	4299	Sub-total	235,500	2,224,500	-	100,000	-	2,560,000	-
	4300	Premises						-	-
	4301							-	-
	4399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4999	Component total		235,500	2,234,500	-	100,000	-	2,570,000	-
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							-	-
	5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment						-	-
	5101							-	-
	5199	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5200	Reporting costs						-	-
	5201	Outreach materials and publications	69,200	144,000				213,200	-
	5202							-	-
	5203							-	-
	5299	Sub-total	69,200	144,000	-	-	-	213,200	-
	5300	Sundry						-	-
	5301							-	-
	5399	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5400	Hospitality and Entertainment						-	-
	5401							-	-
	5499	Sub-total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5500	Evaluation							

								-	-
	5501	Mid-term evaluation	14,400					14,400	-
	5502	Terminal evaluation	22,000					22,000	-
	5599	Sub-total	36,400	-	-	-	-	36,400	-
5999	Component total		105,600	144,000	-	-	-	249,600	-
99	GRAND TOTAL		1,230,365	2,800,930	549,070	100,000	-	4,131,295	549,070

Appendix 3: Incremental cost reasoning

See Section 3.8: Incremental cost reasoning.

Appendix 4: Logical / Results Framework

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
Project Objective: Develop and start implementing the plan for the establishment of a national Network of Protected Areas	(a) Number of protected areas established { Baseline:0 Target: 3} and (b) % of the total area of Iraq with protected ecosystems [Baseline: 0.65% Target: 1.13%	There is one Protected Areas in place Coverage of protected areas is 0.65% of total area of Iraq Total area of Iraq = 43,831,700 (100%) Current area under protected ecosystems = 284,022ha (0.65%)	The target is to have two New protected areas declared/gazetted making a total of 3 PA by the end of project period The target is to increase the current area under protected ecosystems from 284,022ha (0.65%) to 495,222 (1.13%) Because Dalmaji and Teeb sites area = 211,200ha (0.48%)	Project reports National Reports of Iraq to MEAs GOI gazette	Assumptions: Political instability will not affect the execution of project activities and achievement of project objectives: national decision makers are committed to the project and responsive to PAN project requirements International and national partners are committed to support the project with requested resources and co-financing 48 months is sufficient for achieving the expected results Risks: If the security situation worsens, it may affect the timing of activities in Iraq (workshops, field surveys, stakeholder consultation events etc.) and limit the travels to Iraq by international consultants	Ecosystem Management (EM)
Project Outcome 1.1	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
1.1 The first Protected Areas Network for Iraq is designed. Existing	1) Number of MoE regulations on PAs approved by NCEP and	A recent regulation of MoE defines the procedure for establishment of PAs	Existence of a coherent and coordinated design and costed PAN Plan	Project deliverables Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of the	Assumptions: National decision makers responsive to PA planning	EA.1 / EA.3

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
information and prior studies in the country, Inventory of the Key Biodiversity Areas of Iraq, NBSAP results, international best practice, and relevant regional examples in PA management are reviewed as the basis for the plan.	Ministers Council or 2.Number of initiatives on PA prepared by MoE submitted to NCEP and council of ministers 2) Number of stakeholders involved by MoE in the PA procedure design process (and 3) Mio of USD allocated to the PAN Plan of Iraq by MoF).	Declaration of PAs is based on proposals that are evaluated by the NC-PA and MOE and approved by NCEP and Ministers Council on a case by case basis The planning and design mechanism for establishing a coherent and representative network of PAs is weak and not effective Stakeholder participation for PA established mechanism is not regulated and well established	of Iraq At least 15 key Stakeholder groups involved in the PAN design process	National Committee for Protected Areas of Iraq Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations National Reporting to the CBD Secretariat (SP2020/Aichi Targets, POWPA)	and coordination by MoE	
Project Output 1.1.1	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	PoW Output Reference Number **
1.1.1 site-specific baseline ecological and land-use surveys and data collection through ground surveys and remote sensing are conducted at priority sites, to support the development of the first national network of Protected Areas.	i) number of sites with GIS and remote sensing analysis complete; ii) number of evaluated sites for inclusion in MoE PA list A GIS database is built and operational	Current = None Current = 1 There is no GIS data base on PA management system	Target number of sites with complete GIS and remote sending = 2 Sites for PA list inclusion = 3	Project deliverables: – TR_I.11.1 – TR_I.11.2 GIS database and maps Field Technical Reports/data records Project reports (M&E)	Assumptions: The required baseline data are available for the project The field activities in Dalmaj and Teeb will be completed within the first 2 years Given the limited technical capacity of local staff, the support of international experts is provided for developing field activities and baseline assessment in two priority sites of Dalmaj and Teeb Risks: Security conditions may obstacle the organization of field works and survey activities in Iraq.	EA.1/Output 1. Methodologies, partnerships and tools to maintain or restore ecosystem services and integrate the ecosystem management approach with the conservation and management of ecosystems EA.3/Output 3. Technical and capacity building support to: exchange

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
					Authorization procedures required for field work may require long time to be completed	knowledge, assess the impacts of alternative development options; and make science usable for effective management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Project Output 1.1.2	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
1.1.2 A detailed plan for the establishment of a national network of protected areas, including institutional set-up and supporting legal framework. Recent KBA studies, as well as experience and best practice on Protected Areas management at regional level is gathered and used as the basis to develop the plan	i) National PAN plan drafted and submitted for approval ii) Number of Framework documents for PA establishment and management submitted for NCPA for approval.	2 existing Protected Areas (Hawizeh Ramsar site, 2008; Mesopotamia Marshlands National Park, 2013) 10 new PA are planned by 2020 within the Action Plan for POWPA implementation in Iraq Within the NESAP (2014), specific actions are identified for establishing a PA network in Iraq In 2014 the MoE updated the List of proposed PAs of Iraq by including 11 additional sites that are under evaluation	i) one national PAN plan drafted by year 3 ii) two management plans developed for Dlmaj and Teeb PAs	Project deliverable TR_I.12 Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of the National Committee for Protected Areas of Iraq Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations	Assumptions: The planning process is completed in the first year of the project to allow for sufficient time (3 years) for PAN implementation Risks: PAN Plan approval process may require long time to be completed by MoE	
Project Output 1.1.3	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
1.1.3 A costed Strategy and Action Plan for the institutional, legal and operational set-up of a national network of Protected	i) 10 years PAN budget including funding sources drafted and submitted to MoF; ii) number of consultation events conducted	A budget of 670,000 USD was allocated by MoE for establishing 10 new PAs within the National AP for POWPA (2013-2020)	End of project Target: Existence of a Costed Strategy for PAN Plan PAN implementation & AP (10 years) Mid-Point Target: Costed Strategy for	Project deliverables: – TR_I.13.1 – TR_I.13.2 Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of the National Committee	Risks: Costed Strategy for PAN Plan approval process may require long time to be completed by MoE	

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
Areas is developed in consultation with all stakeholders and under the leadership of the MOE			Existence of a PAN Plan implementation & AP (3 years – during the project execution) Number of stakeholder consultation events	for Protected Areas of Iraq		
Project Output 1.1.4	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
1.1.4 Essential new legislation required for the establishment of a PAN in Iraq is drafted and included in the national legislative system	i) Number of technical guidelines on PAN and PA management issued [Baseline: 0 Target: 5] ii) Number of PAN case studies presented [baseline: 0 Target: 5] ii) Number of existing toolkits for PA adapted to meet Iraq unique conditions. [Baseline 0 Target: 1]	Number of technical guidelines on PA issued = 0 Number of PAN case studies presented = 0 Number of existing toolkits for PA adapted to meet Iraq unique conditions = 0	2 Technical guidelines on PAN issued 3 Technical guidelines on PA management issued 5 PAN case studies presented to the NC-PAs 1 toolkit for PA management issued	Project deliverable TR_I.14.1 TR_I.14.2 TR_I.14.3 Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of the National Committee for Protected Areas of Iraq Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations National Reporting to the CBD Secretariat (SP2020/Aichi Targets, POWPA)		
Project Outcome 1.2	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
1.2 The required national professional capacity is in place to support all steps in the process of development of the first comprehensive PA Network in Iraq	A Capacity Building Programme for PA Management in Iraq is developed and effectively implemented a) Number of partners contributing to the capacity building programme and Number of UN agencies contributing to develop	Several capacity building initiatives carried out by UNEP, IUCN, UNDP and other UN Agencies within past and ongoing projects National capacity building programme of MoE (NESAP) includes some training initiatives	Capacity Building Programme for PA Management developed and effectively implemented by year 4	Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations		EA.3

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
	MoE capacity; b) Number of ministries seconding staff to participate and number of staff participating in regional capacity building initiatives for PA management and MEAs.	addressed to PA management Participation of Iraqi MoE and other Ministries to regional capacity building initiatives for MEAs				
Project Output 1.2.1	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	PoW Output Reference Number
1.2.1 A Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for staff of MOE at central (institutional) as well as local level (at the two priority sites covered in component 2), and involving other strategic partners, is carried out at project inception, providing the basis for an integrated training and institutional strengthening programme	Training Needs Assessment Report developed	Ongoing GEF funded Project “National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management – Iraq” developed by MoE and UNEP-ROWA to be completed in 2016	Training Needs Assessment for PAN completed by end of year 1	Project deliverable TR_I.21 Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations		EA.3/Output 3. Technical and capacity building support to: exchange knowledge, assess the impacts of alternative development options; and make science usable for effective management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Project Output 1.2.2	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
1.2.2 The Capacity Building programme is implemented (on the basis of 1.2.1), covering top priority areas (ref section	a) Number of capacity building initiatives for MoE carried out by project partners (international agencies);	National capacity building programme of MoE (NESAP) Several capacity building initiatives carried out for capacity	Capacity Building Programme effectively implemented Number of capacity building initiatives:	Project deliverable TR_I.22 Project reports (M&E) Capacity Building initiatives organized	Risks: Security conditions may obstacle or delay the organization of workshops in Iraq	

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
<p>A.1.3), some of which are already pre-identified by the MOE.</p> <p>The Training Programme will entail a combination of on-the-job and formal training carried out in collaboration with national conservation NGOs and regional conservation training institutions</p>	<p>b) Number of training materials/ kits for PA management validated.</p> <p>c) number of MoE staff participating in PA trainings</p>	<p>building of Iraqi institutions by UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, Ramsar Secretariat, and other International and national NGOs (BirdLife International, Nature Iraq)</p> <p>Participation of Iraqi MoE and other Ministries to regional capacity building initiatives for MEAs</p> <p>Capacity Building Strategy to be developed as a result of the Project “National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environment Management – Iraq” developed by MoE and UNEP-ROWA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 international workshop on PAN - 6 national workshops on PAN - 4 training courses - 2 Training on the job initiatives in Dalmaj and Teeb PA areas - 6 Webinars on PA management <p>Type and number of training materials (presentations, exercises, site visits, assignments etc.)</p>	<p>and completed</p> <p>Reports/minutes of the workshops, trainings and webinars</p> <p>Materials for workshops, trainings and webinars and participants feedback</p>	<p>Security conditions may obstacle or delay the organization of on the job training initiatives at Dalmaj and Teeb</p> <p>Security measures to be adopted might increase the cost of capacity building initiatives and prevent participation</p>	
Project Outcome 2.1	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
2.1 Protected Areas Network implementation is started, with the establishment of two priority Protected Areas	<p>i) number of protected areas created and operational;</p> <p>ii) Number of Local PA Management Committees composed by at least 30% women established according to PA regulations;</p> <p>iii) Number of PA management plans approved and fully funded</p> <p>iv) number of staff</p>	<p>Local PA Management Committee for existing Protected areas not yet created and operational</p> <p>PA Management Authority not formally established for existing Pas, according to the recent Regulation on PAs</p> <p>Lack of coordination (horizontal/vertical) between the local PA Management</p>	<p>2 new protected areas established in Dalmaj and Teeb priority areas</p> <p>2 Management Plans approved, financed and effectively implemented</p> <p>Additional Coverage of at least 200,000 ha of unprotected ecosystems</p>	<p>Project deliverables</p> <p>Project reports (M&E)</p> <p>Reports/minutes of the National Committee for Protected Areas of Iraq</p>	<p>Assumptions:</p> <p>The PA declaration be completed within the first 12 months.</p> <p>National and local decision makers responsive to PA planning and coordination by MoE</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>PA declaration procedure may require long time to be finalized</p>	EA.3

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
	seconded to or hired for PA management.	Committee and the national Authorities (MoE, MoWR, MoA, NC-PA)				
Project Output 2.1.1	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	PoW Output Reference Number
2.1.1 The essential infrastructure, staff, equipment and outline management plans for the 2 priority PAs of (1) Dalmaj marshes in Qadissiya (100,000 ha) and Wasit governorates and (2) Teeb area in Maysan governorate (124,000) are established, serving as an initial model for other PAs in the country	i) Number of PA model management plans aligned to the PAN [baseline:0 target: 2]; ii) Number of analysis of infrastructure, staff and equipment outlined in the PAs model management plans to provide feedback to the PAN [baseline:0; target:2]	The KBA inventory of Iraq provides a provisional delineation and preliminary assessment of Dalmaj and Teeb areas as proposed PA List of 10 proposed PAs of Iraq (POWPA AP Iraq, 2012) In 2014 the MoE updated the List of proposed PAs of Iraq by including 11 additional sites that are under evaluation	2 new PA established in the selected priority areas of Dalmaj and Teeb	Official Act of Declaration of PA Dalmaj Official Act of Declaration of PA Teeb Reports/minutes of the National Committee for Protected Areas of Iraq Reports/minutes of stakeholder consultations	Assumptions: The PA declaration be completed within the first 12 months National and local decision makers responsive to PA planning and coordination by MoE Risks: PA declaration may require complex procedures and long time to be completed	EA.3/Output 3. Technical and capacity building support to: exchange knowledge, assess the impacts of alternative development options; and make science usable for effective management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Project Outcome 3.1	Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
3.1 The level of understanding, consensus and awareness within relevant government sectors, other stakeholders including the wider public on the social, economic, ecosystem services, and environmental	i) number or (%) of people mentioning in a survey on high level of understanding on the objectives and values of the PAN; ii) frequency of appearance on media and number of articles in the local media on PA (iii) % of national budget allocated to PA	The level of understanding, consensus and awareness within relevant government sectors, other stakeholders including the wider public on the social, economic, ecosystem services, and environmental conservation values	Public awareness and outreach strategy developed and implemented PAN website developed and maintained Targeted thematic outreach materials and technical toolkits developed and	Project deliverables Project reports (M&E) Awareness raising initiatives organized and completed		EA.3

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
conservation values provided by a viable PA network is enhanced	management by government due to increased understanding	provided by a viable PA network is generally low	published			
Project Output 3.1.1	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	PoW Output Reference Number
3.1.1 Public awareness and outreach strategy developed and implemented, to publicize and support the main objectives and values of the PAN within (a) other relevant line Ministries and government bodies, with a focus on decision-makers, and (b) the wider public including local community groups	i) Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy for the PAN in place ii) number of outreach materials published and disseminated through appropriate media; iii) number of technical toolkits available for download on PAN website iv) Number of stakeholders consulted v) number of inputs from govt; NGOs, private sector, etc	There is no public Awareness and Outreach Strategy for the PAN for Iraq	One Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy for the PAN in place by end of project At least 15 stakeholder groups to be consulted	Project deliverable TR_III.11 Project reports (M&E) Reports/minutes of the National Committee for Protected Areas related to Public Awareness and Outreach strategy for the PAN Reports/minutes of stakeholders consultations		EA.3/Output 3. Technical and capacity building support to: exchange knowledge, assess the impacts of alternative development options; and make science usable for effective management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Project Output 3.1.2	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	
3.1.2 MOE website developed to include/enhance the section on Protected Areas, managed and sustained by the MOE.	i) MoE website with PA dedicated pages; ii) number of times the website is updated [baseline = 0; target = 16]; iii) number of MoE staff trained to maintain the website	The MoE website is existing but with no PAN page	i) Target will be set during project implementation ii) updates to be made quarterly iii) At least 3 staff members to be trained	Project deliverable TR_III.12 Project reports (M&E)		
Project Output 3.1.3	Output Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	

Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UNEP MTS reference*
			Milestones			
3.1.3 Targeted thematic outreach materials and technical toolkits (electronic and/or printed) are developed and published to support the public awareness and communication strategy (3.1.1)	i) Number of outreach materials developed, published and available for download in MoE homepage; ii) number of technical toolkits developed and available for download in MoE homepage and also available to end users	Awareness campaigns and events organized for the celebration of 2014 Year of Environment in Iraq Some local initiatives for awareness raising on objectives and values of Protected Areas have been carried out within past and ongoing projects by national and international organizations and NGOs (UNEP/UNDP, IUCN, BirdLife International)	Outreach materials and toolkits published and disseminated:	Project reports (M&E) Outreach materials published Technical toolkits made available to users Users feedback on technical toolkits Pan web page		
* UNEP 014-2017 MTS (2012) ** UNEP POW 2014-2015 (2013)						

Appendix 5: Workplan and timetable

PROJECT COMPONENT	PROJECT COMPONENT	PROJECT YEAR 1				PROJECT YEAR 2				PROJECT YEAR 3				PROJECT YEAR 4			
	PROJECT START	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Project Component I - Design of PA system and institutional strengthening	Project Outcome I.1 - PAN design																
	Output 1.1.1 - Baseline assessment				◆												
	1.1.1.1 - Preliminary site visit																
	1.1.1.2 - Data collection and GIS																
	1.1.1.2 - Field Surveys																
	1.1.1.3 - National Workshops	●		●	●							●					
	Output 1.1.2 - PAN establishment Plan				◆												
	Output 1.1.3 - Costed Strategy for PAN Plan implementation								◆								
	Output 1.1.4 - Legislation								◆								
	Project Outcome I.2 - Capacity Building																
Project Component II - PAN implementation	Output 1.2.1 - Training Needs Assessment				◆												
	Output 1.2.2 - Capacity Building Programme				◆												
	Project Outcome II.1 PAN implementation (2 Pilot sites)																
	Output 2.1.1 - Declaration of Pilot sites as Protected Areas				◆◆												
	2.1.1.1 - Consultation Workshop					●●											
Project Component III - Public Awareness and Outreach	Output 2.1.2.a - Implementation of PAN (PA Dalmaj)					◆											◆
	Output 2.1.2.b - Implementation of PAN (Teeb)					◆											◆
	Project Outcome III.1 - Public Awareness and Outreach																
	Output 3.1.1 - Public Awareness & Outreach Strategy		◆														
	3.1.1.1 - International Workshop (Amman)											●					
	3.1.1.2 - Training courses					■						■			■		■
	3.1.1.3 - On the job training							■	■								
Project Management Monitoring & Evaluation	3.1.1.4 - Webinars						□		□		□		□		□		□
	Output 3.1.2 - PAN Website				◆												
	Output 3.1.3 - Outreach Materials and technical Toolkits																
	PM - M&E																
	Kickoff meeting	●															
	Project Inception	⊙															
	Project Mid Term Evaluation (MTE)								⊙								
Project Management Monitoring & Evaluation	Project Terminal Evaluation (TE)																⊙
	PSC quarterly coordination meeting		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Quarterly progress review																
	Yearly Progress Review				◆				◆				◆				
	Final Report																◆
	Closing Meeting																●
	END OF PROJECT																
	Key of symbols																
◆	Project deliverable (Report)																
●	Workshop																
■	Training course																
□	Webinar																
●	Project Coordination Meeting																
⊙	Project M&E																

Appendix 6: Key deliverables and benchmarks

Component/Outcome/Outputs	Activities	Deliverables	Benchmarks
Component I - Design of PA system and institutional strengthening			
Project Outcome I.1 - PAN design			
Output 1.1.1 - Baseline assessment	Preliminary site visit	TR_I.11.1 General Baseline and PAN design	Year 1, Q2
	Data collection and GIS		
	Field Surveys		
	National Workshops		
	PAN Baseline assessment	TR_I.11.2 Final PAN report	Year 1, Q4
Output 1.1.2 - PAN establishment Plan	PAN Plan	TR_I.12 PAN Plan	Year 1, Q4
Output 1.1.3 – Costed Strategy for PAN Plan implementation	Costed PAN Implementation Strategy & AP - 3 years	TR_I.13.1 Costed PAN Implementation Strategy & AP - 3 years	Year 2, Q4
	Costed PAN Implementation Strategy & AP - 10 years	TR_I.13.2 Costed PAN Implementation Strategy & AP - 10 years	Year 2, Q4
Output 1.1.4 – Legislation	Technical Guidelines	TR_I.14.1 Technical Guidelines on PAN and PA Management	Year 2, Q4
	PAN Case Studies	TR_I.14.2 PAN Case Studies	Year 2, Q4
	PAN Toolkit	TR_I.14.3 PAN Toolkit	Year 2, Q4
Project Outcome I.2 - Capacity Building			
Output 1.2.1 – Training Needs Assessment	Training Needs Assessment	TR_I.21 Training Need Assessment	Year 1, Q4
Output 1.2.2 – Capacity Building Programme	Capacity Building Programme	TR_I.22 Capacity Building Programme	Year 1, Q4
Component II - PAN implementation			
Project Outcome II.1 PAN implementation (2 Pilot sites)			
Output 2.1.1 – Declaration of Pilot sites as Protected Areas	PA declaration and management setup (Dalmaj & Teeb)	TR_II.11.1 Dalmaj PA Management Plan	Year 1, Q4
		TR_II.11.2 Teeb PA Management Plan	Year 1, Q4
Output 2.1.2.a - Implementation of PAN (PA Dalmaj)	Implementation of PA Dalmaj	TR_II.12.1 Operational Programme for Dalmaj PA implementation	Year 2, Q2
		TR_II.12.3 Report on PA Dalmaj implementation	Year 4, Q4
Output 2.1.2.b - Implementation of PAN (PA Teeb)	Implementation of PA Teeb	TR_II.12.2 Operational Programme for Teeb PA implementation	Year 2, Q2
		TR_II.12.4 Report on PA Dalmaj implementation	Year 4, Q4

Component/Outcome/Outputs	Activities	Deliverables	Benchmarks
Component III - Public Awareness and Outreach			
Project Outcome III.1 - Public Awareness and Outreach			
Output 3.1.1 - Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy	Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy	TR_III.11 Public Awareness and Outreach Strategy	Year 1, Q4
	International Workshop (Amman)		
	Training courses		
	On the job training		
	Webinars		
Output 3.1.2 - PAN Website	PAN Website	TR_III_12 PAN Website Report	Year 1, Q4
Output 3.1.3 - Outreach Materials and technical Toolkits	Outreach Materials and technical Toolkits		
Project Management	Project Inception	Inception Report (IR)	Year 1, Q1
	Project Mid Term Evaluation (MTE)	Project Mid Term Review	Year 2, Q4
	Project Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Project Terminal Review	Year 4, Q4
	Quarterly progress review	Quarterly progress report (MR)	Quarterly
	Yearly Progress Review	Yearly Progress Report (YPR)	Yearly
	Final Reporting	Final Report	Year 4, Q4

Appendix 7: Costed M&E plan

Template for Costed M&E Workplan (to be inserted in the CEO endorsement template)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Kickoff Meeting	PM, PSC, NPT, IC	\$6,350	\$5,625	Within 1 month of project start-up
Inception Report	PM, NPT, IC	\$6,000	\$9,875	1 month after project inception meeting
Half yearly Progress Reports to UNEP	PM, PSC	11,750	\$21,425	Within 1 week of the end of reporting period
Project Steering Committee meetings				Quarterly
Reports of PSC meetings				Quarterly
PIR	PM, NPT, IC	\$25,000	\$30,000	Annually, part of reporting routine
Audit				Annually
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level				Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents				Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Co-financing report	PSU, EC, PM	\$0	\$5,725	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period
Mid Term Review/Mid Term Evaluation (MTR/MTE)	UNEP Task Manager/UNEP Evaluation Office	\$19,400	\$9,975	At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP Evaluation Office	\$28,000	\$9,975	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Project Final Report	PIU, NPC	\$5,000	\$4,000	Within 1 month of the project completion date
Total M&E Plan Budget		\$101,500	\$96,600	

PM Project Manager
 PSC Project Steering Committee (NC-PAs)
 NPT National Project Team
 IC International Consultant
 PSU Project Support Unit
 EC External Independent Consultant

Appendix 8: Summary of reporting requirements and responsibilities

<i>Type of M&E activity</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>
Project Kickoff Meeting (in Baghdad)	Project Steering Committee (NC-PAs) Project Manager National Project Team 2 International Consultants	Within 1 month of project start-up
Inception Report	Project Manager National Project Team International Consultants	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	Project Manager National Project Team International Consultants	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually (within the PIR)
Project Steering Committee meetings	Project Manager National Project Team National Committee for Protected Areas	Quarterly
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Manager	Quarterly
Project Quarterly Financial Report	Project Manager National Project Team Technical Support Unit	Quarterly
Project Interim Report (PIR)	Project Manager National Project Team International Consultants	Yearly
Annual Project Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Manager National Project Team International Consultants	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period
Co-financing report	Project Manager National Project Team Technical Support Unit	Yearly, within 1 month of the PIR reporting period
Project Final Report	Project Manager National Project Team International Consultants	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Project Closing meeting (in Baghdad)	Project Steering Committee (NC-PAs) Project Manager National Project Team 2 International Consultants	Within 1 month of the project completion date
Mid-term Evaluation	TSU Project Manager External consultant	Within 3 months of mid-term project implementation (24 months)
<i>Terminal Evaluation</i>	TSU Project Manager External consultant	Within 3 months of end of project implementation (48 months)

Appendix 9: Standard Terminal Evaluation Term of Reference

The UNEP Project Document does not need to have a standard TOR template in annex **Standard Terminal Evaluation ToR template** should be obtained from the Evaluation Office to make sure the latest version is used at the time of Terminal evaluation.

Appendix 10: Decision-making flowchart and organizational chart

See Section 4: Institutional Framework and Implementation Arrangements.

Appendix 11: Terms of Reference of PSC and key project personnel

PAN MSP: Iraq National Protected Areas Network Medium-Sized Project
NEA: National Executing Agency
PM: Project Manager
PSC: Project Steering Committee
NC-PA: National Committee of Protected Areas
NPT: National Project Team

Project Steering Committee (PSC):

The National Committee of Protected Areas in Iraq will act as Project Steering Committee for the project. In addition to its duties regarding protected areas establishment in the country according to the law, the committee will supervise and work together with the PM and NPT to insure a proper implementation to the PAN MSP, and meet at least on a quarterly basis with the following duties :

- Develop a common understanding of what is needed to implement the PAN MSP;
- Assist in mobilising necessary expertise, as needed, for the proper execution of the PAN MSP outcomes;
- Assist in mobilising available data and ensure a constant information flow between all concerned parties;
- Allow for effective communication and decision-making between the project manager and other actors;
- Support in establishing and maintaining links with other related national and international programmes and initiatives;
- Provide overall policy advice on the implementation of the PAN MSP;
- Review and advice on the main outcomes of the project;
- Ensure that information on the implementation of the project as well as the outcomes are brought to the attention of local and national authorities for follow up;
- Monitoring project progress.
- Provide guidance to Project Manager on needed changes or revisions of project

Project Manager (PM):

Title of Position: National Project Manager

Position Location: MoE (Baghdad)

Reports to: PSC and UNEP Task Manager

Tasks:

- Be responsible for all aspects of project management
- Act as Executive Secretary to the Project Steering Committee
- Organize PSC meetings
- Prepare and submit to the PSC, regular progress report
- Prepare detailed project workplan and budget with NPT and UNEP
- Define the operational, administrative and financial working procedures of the NPT, and Clarify the roles and responsibilities of NPT members

- Prepare and oversee the development of Terms of Reference for the project components, Project Site Teams, consultants and experts, with a support from UNEP
- Organize, contract and manage the consultants and experts, and supervise their performance;
- Manage the PAN MSP finance with close collaboration from the financial officer in NPT, oversee overall resource allocation and where relevant submit proposals for budget revisions to UNEP
- Manage the overall PAN MSP ensuring that all the activities are carried out on time and within budget to achieve the stated outputs; and all the project deliverables have been well developed, completed and submitted
- Coordinate, manage and monitor the implementation of the project conducted by the local and international experts, consultants, subcontractors and cooperating partners; this includes planning, initiating and managing national project outcomes/activities according to the project document and the procedures in the official UNEP Operational Guidelines
- Ensure effective communication with the relevant authorities, institutions and Government departments and international bodies e.g. by organizing stakeholder consultations and facilitating stakeholder meetings in close collaboration with the PSC and UNEP
- Coordinate and oversee the preparation of the outputs of the PAN MSP
- Maintain regular communication with the responsible officer of the UNEP
- Prepare and submit to UNEP, regular progress and financial reports.

Qualifications and Experience Required:

- University degree or equivalent qualification in environmental science or related field;
- Familiarity with the CBD PoWPA and its goals and objectives, and UN-implemented projects;
- At least 5 years of Project Management experience in similar projects;
- Team work skills; leadership as well as strong management; excellent organisational and interpersonal skills; computer skills; strong communication and presentation skills; high flexibility and capacity to work under pressure.
- Full command of the English language is mandatory.

Appendix 12: TOR for key experts

The UNEP in collaboration with the PM will prepare the terms of reference based on the individual needs of specific project components.

National consultants (external experts of NPT of MoE):

Title of Position: Various disciplines

Position Location: Variable

Reports to: PM and PSC

Major functions:

The role is to contribute to implementation of PAN-MSP outcomes/activities, according to the requirements of the project workplan, under the supervision of the PM.

Currently foreseeable roles include (but are not limited to):

- Communications Specialist
- Environmental Economist
- GIS Expert
- Investment Consultant
- Legal Expert
- Wetland Specialist

The PM in collaboration with UNEP and with the National Project Team will prepare the terms of reference for each National Consultant, based on the specific technical needs of the project components, including field activities at the pilot sites if so requested.

Good knowledge of the English language is requested.

International consultants (external experts of UNEP):

Title of Position: Various disciplines

Position Location: in country and in Iraq

Reports to: PM and UNEP

Major functions:

The role is to assist the PM and UNEP in the implementation of PAN-MSP outcomes/activities, according to the requirements of the project workplan, under the coordination of the PM.

Currently foreseeable roles include (but are not limited to):

- Biology Conservation Planner
- Biodiversity assessment specialist
- Desert Ecologist
- Wetland ecologist
- Remote sensing and GIS expert
- Environmental Economist
- Legal Expert
- Investment Consultant
- Communications Specialist

The UNEP in collaboration with the PM will prepare the terms of reference based on the individual needs of specific project components including activities at the pilot sites.

Good knowledge of the Arabic language is a preferential requisite.

Appendix 13 : Co-financing commitment letters

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
ADVISOR OFFICE



جمهورية العراق
وزارة البيئة
المستشار الفني

No :
Date : / / 201

العدد : م ش و /
التاريخ : ٢٠١٤ / ١١ / ٢٤


Dear Dr. Naoko Ishii,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Iraq, I am pleased to support and endorse the national project "Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network" proposed through our ministry for funding by Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project is aligned with the work of the ministry and complements the ministry's activities on biodiversity protection.

The Ministry of Environment, who intends to be the National Executing Agency in the Medium-Sized Project (MSP), is pleased to confirm a total co-financing of US\$ 3,350,000 of which US\$ 2,800,930 will be in cash and US\$ 549,070 will be in-kind contributions. The co-financing will be used to support a range of project activities. Moreover, the Ministry of Environment seek the financial support of the national and international NGOs and donors

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration

Yours sincerely,


Qutaiba Ibrahim Turki
Minister of Environment, GEF PFP
Republic of Iraq
November, 24, 2014

CEO and Chairperson
The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
1818 H Street, NW, Mail Stop P4-400
Washington, DC 20433 USA
Tel: (202) 473-0508
Fax: (202) 522-3240/3245
Email: secretariat@thegef.org



E-mail: ministry-advisor@yahoo.com
Tel: (07718252999)

رقم الهاتف : (٠٧٧١٨٢٥٢٩٩٩)



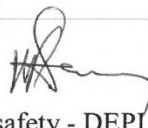

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



MEMORANDUM

To:	Brennan Van Dyke GEF Coordinator, UNEP	Date:	28 January 2015
From:	Mohamed F. Sessay  Chief, GEF BD/LD/Biosafety - DEPI		
Through:	Mette Wilkie  Director - DEPI		
Cc:	Mohamed F. Sessay Chief, GEF- DEPI	Ref:	LoE/NPA Iraq/1069

Subject:	Co-financing letter for the project "Initial Steps for Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network in Iraq" GEF ID 1069
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We are pleased to confirm our support towards implementation of the above mentioned GEF project (GEF ID 1069). The UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) is working very closely with the Ministry of Environment of Iraq and other relevant environmental agencies involved in the project towards establishment of protected areas in Iraq.

The approximate total value of the in-kind co-financing to be provided by UNEP for this project over the 4 year project period will amount to USD 100,000.

We remain at your disposal for any additional information

Appendix 14: Endorsement letters of GEF National Focal Points

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
ADVISOR OFFICE



جمهورية العراق
وزارة البيئة
المستشار

NO : 264
DATE : 5/3/2013

المعد : م ش و /
التاريخ : / /

Dear Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller

Subject: Endorsement Letter for the project: "Initial steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network, Iraq"

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for the Republic of Iraq, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by The Ministry of Environment and its partners. I request the GEF Agency to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

Total financing (from GEFTF) being requested for this project is US\$ 1,500,000 inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG) and Agency fees for project management cycle services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for the Republic of Iraq is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Fee	Total
GEFTF	UNEP	BD	50,000	1,319,863	130,137	1,500,000
Total GEF Resources			50,000	1,319,863	130,137	1,500,000

I consent to the utilization of the Republic of Iraq's allocations in GEF-5 as defined in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).

Sincerely,


Dr. Ali Al-Lami

MOE Advisor, GEF Operational Focal Point
Ministry of Environment of Iraq
March, 5, 2013

To: Ms Maryam Niamir-Fuller
Director, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination Office
UNEP - PO Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
email: maryam.niamir-fuller@unep.org
tel: (254 20) 762-4166, fax: (254 20) 762-4041
www.unep.org

Copy to:
Convention focal point for UNCBD:

E-mail: ministry-advisor@yahoo.com
Tel: (7173721 - 7177828)

رقم الهاتف : (٧١٧٣٧٢١ - ٧١٧٧٨٢٨)

Appendix 15: Draft procurement plan

The GEF funds will be disbursed through contracts or Letters of Agreement between the Executing Agency and the individual consultants, in accordance with national rules and procedures for procurement for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

The national partner institutions will contribute to the outcomes based on their respective expertise and financial capabilities.

Fund allocations, by project outcomes, will be finalized during the inception phase of the project, depending on the final allocation of tasks between partners.

The table below specifies the areas of expertise and Technical Assistance (TA) consultancies (including both international consultants and institutional staff).

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/day</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>Area of expertise</i>
<i>Local</i>			
1. <i>National Project Manager</i>	115	172	Project management Planning, coordination and supervision of project activities Project Deliverables Project reporting (M&E)
2. <i>National Senior Staff</i>	100	225	Ecology Planning Environmental Legislation for biodiversity/PA Financial Evaluation and Management Procurement Communication and capacity building Project Deliverables
3. <i>National Junior staff</i>	50	616	Ecology/Biology Planning GIS and information management Financial management, accounting and reporting Communication and media management Project Deliverables
<i>International</i>			
1. <i>UN Expert (UNEP, IUCN, WCMC, ..)</i>	800	109	UNEP Project Management Financial Management and Reporting Biodiversity Conservation Planning Legislation for Protected Areas Ecology, ecosystem services evaluation Assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems Training and institutional capacity building Communication and outreach
2. <i>International Senior Expert</i>	400	133	Biodiversity Conservation Planning Ecology, ecosystem services evaluation Financial Evaluation and Management of PA Environmental Legislation for biodiversity Training and institutional capacity building Field survey on biodiversity and ecosystems GIS & Remote sensing Communication and awareness

Appendix 16: Tracking Tools

GEF-5 Focal Area Biodiversity Tracking Tools - Objective 1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems (see separate excel 3 spreadsheets):

- Basic Info on targeted Protected Areas
- Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)
- Financial Sustainability Scorecard (FSS)

Appendix 17: Summary of key information on Pilot Sites

Site Name	Coordinates (approximate center of the area)	Site Type
DALMAJ	32°9'39,36''N 45°25'24,13''E	Artificial lake and marshland

General features

The Dalmaj lake and marsh is located in southern Iraq and it is shared between the two provinces of Qadissiya and Wasit; the province boundary cuts the lake surface approximately in its center. The wetland extension, taking into account the provisional delineated boundary, corresponds to about 92,000 ha. The type of boundary applied largely follows artificial and man-made features, such as the Main Outfall Drain (MOD) course on the western side; and the outflow canal of the lake on the south-eastern side. The eastern boundary has also a regular shape and follows mainly the main irrigation canal present on this side and the unpaved roads that separate the lake from the eastern agricultural area.

Dalmaj area was formerly a natural depression, currently is fed by the MOD which forms the inflow and the outflow of the lake via inlet and an outlet regulators.

The intermittent character of the water presence inside the wetland area, allows the formation of temporary shallow ponds with marsh vegetation, while, especially in the southern part of the lake the water level is higher and the terrain always inundated. The surrounding landscape is characterized by the presence of sandy soils and dunes on the western side of the wetland; while on the eastern side there is a wide agricultural area. The main habitat types that can be recognized inside the wetland are: inland standing and running water, marsh vegetation and aquatic communities; and desert shrub and sandy dunes vegetation as terrestrial habitats are concerned.

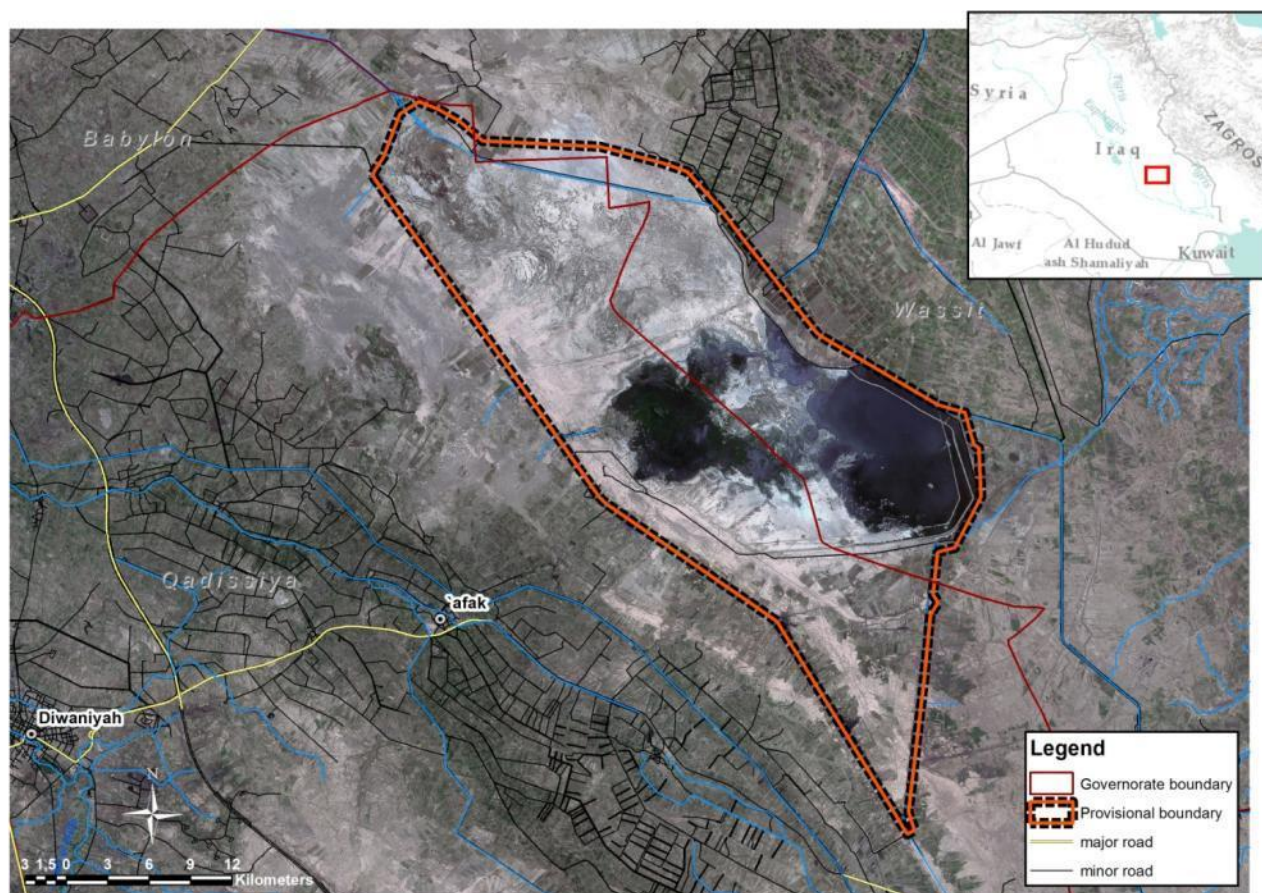


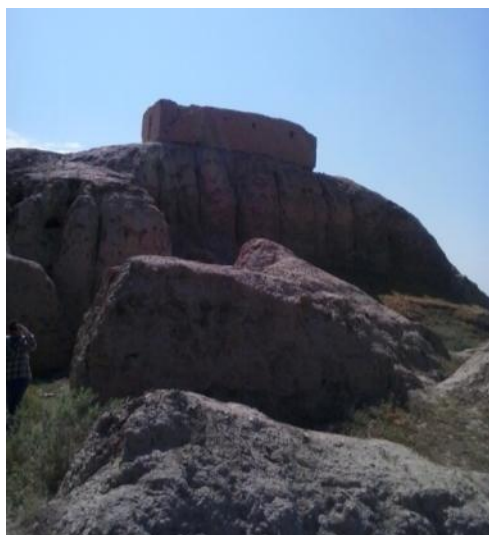
Figure 8 Map of Dalmaj site (Background Image: Landsat 2000)



Desert landscape on the western side of the wetland



Marsh landscape in Dalmaj



The ruins of Nippur



Figure 9 Photos of Dalmaj wetland (Source: Nature Iraq)

Main values and services of the site

Dalmaj wetlands have been evaluated as areas of important natural values within the framework of the Key Biodiversity Areas assessment and the priorities emerging thereof. This KBA site has been proposed as future protected area under Priority Activity 2 of the PoWPA of Iraq¹⁹ as the most representative of the eco-region Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands (PA1303). The priority given at this site is also justified in the combined presence of various habitats and the related target species and activities that are adding up to the diversity of the site. The presence of deeper

¹⁹ available at: <http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/country/?country=iq>

water bodies, ponds and marsh vegetation provides suitable habitats to various waterbird species; the desert ecosystem is also providing a suitable habitat for important species such as the Asian Houbara²⁰ (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*), while on a human perspective the fish farms, the agricultural areas and the desert surroundings for the Bedouin nomadic people are also providing essential services for human well-being.

Natural Values

The natural values of Dalmaj are strictly related with the diversity of habitats and activities that are found in the area and its surroundings. Main habitats of the site are the large lake and marshlands with associated mudflats surrounded by terrestrial semi-desert habitats. A large portion of the surrounding terrestrial habitats is occupied by farmland. Important bird species recorded at the site include the endangered and endemic Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*), the Vulnerable Marbled Duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) and the near-threatened Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), while the desert habitat is characterized by the presence of the Vulnerable Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*). Other important bird species include the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) (VU), the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) (EN), and the Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*). The presence of important mammal or other fauna species has not been the subject of a comprehensive survey, but many species have been either seen or reported by locals such as: badgers, striped hyenas, otters, wild cats, desert monitor; the presence of typical desert herbivores such as gazelles need to be further investigated.

Regulating functions (hydrology and climate regulation)

Dalmaj wetland is artificially created inside a natural depression; as such some of the steps of the natural hydrological cycle are absent or human-driven. However the value of Dalmaj as important water reservoir in a desert dry area is undeniable; and especially in a region where climate change effects are particularly serious. It is worth to mention that a proper and improved wetlands management is a mean of naturally combating the onset of climate change. The significant current emissions of CO₂ from increasing areas of unsustainably managed wetlands can be curtailed through rehabilitation and proper management of wetlands.

Social and economical values

The social and economical value in Dalmaj and its surroundings are many and diversified. Inside the lake there are private owned fish farms (in the southern part) whose principal production is the Bunni fish (*Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi*). This species is endemic to the Tigris-Euphrates basin and it has a high commercial value. The fish farm releases many fish in the lake providing therefore an important source for recovering the lake fish stock. Thanks to the presence of this private owned fish farm, the forbid of fishing with illegal methods is actually enforced. This successful activity contributes therefore to local livelihoods by populating the lake with commercially valuable fish species; creates revenue for the fishery owner and additionally preserves the area from dangerous fishing practices. Local tribes belonging to the Ma'dan people (marsh Arabs) are present inside the marsh areas of Dalmaj and are using the marsh vegetation (reeds) for their traditional buildings and for raising the water buffalos. On the western side of Dalmaj there are also scattered Bedouin tents in the middle of the desert-shrub area that is used by the Bedouin tribes to provide livelihoods for themselves (shrub wood are used for cooking and heating) as well as providing food for their cattle. On this same side of the wetland there are numerous ruins and archaeological sites, among which the site of Nippur is certainly providing an excellent example of archaeological values found within an extremely interesting natural landscape. On the eastern side of Dalmaj there is a wide agricultural area that provides suitable habitat for a number of fauna species and also food for local people; though this area is scarcely populated.

Criteria for selection

The criteria against which Dalmaj area has been assessed are referring to the KBA framework²¹. The preliminary assessment has highlighted the possible presence of the following criteria.

IBA criteria (Important Bird Areas): A1. Globally threatened species:

5 globally threatened species were recorded between 2005-2011 and namely the Lesser white-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) (VU), the Marbled Duck (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*) (VU), the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)

²⁰ Taxonomic note: *Chlamydotis undulata* and *C. macqueenii* (del Hoyo and Collar 2014) were previously lumped as *C. undulata* following Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993).

²¹ Supported by: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), BirdLife International, Plantlife International, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and over 100 national/regional civil society and governmental conservation agencies.

(EN), the Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*) (EN), the Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) (VU)

A2. Restricted-range species: 2 species recorded and namely the Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*) and the Basra Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus griseldis*).

A3. Biome-restricted species: 9 species of the biome Sahara-Sindian desert.

A4. Congregations: (i) A4i. 1% or more of biogeographical population of a congregatory waterbird species (Marbled Duck); (ii) A4ii. 1% or more of global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species (Dead Sea sparrow); (iii) A4iii. Holding congregations of 20,000 waterbirds or 10,000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species (one species)

Threats

Main threats that have been recorded for this area are related to the water shortage and high salinity as water presence and quality are concerned; human introduced threats relate to the heavy hunting of the Asian Bustard with Falconry methods (often completely unregulated and illegal) and to the possible expansion of agriculture in the surrounding area, with the potential introduction of pollutants and increase in water salinity. Another threat can be identified in the increased reported presence in the fish catch of the non-native and invasive species *Tilapia zili*.

About 23 km northeastwards from the wetland there is the Chinese managed oil field of Ahdeb; this could pose threats to the natural area and its presence shall be possibly taken into account into future management plans and/or agreements.

For the rest, the area has retained the majority of its natural habitats and has not been affected by many human activities for at least the last decade; this gives an additional value for the establishment of a protected area.

Proposed conservation actions

Establishment of the legal and management framework for the site to be gazetted as a formal Protected Area. Rapid baseline surveys to identify and map biodiversity values covering key indicator *taxa* within the PA, and define major land uses and socio-economic activities in the buffer zone.

Development of an outline Zoning Plan. Preliminary boundary demarcation of the new PA. Participatory development of a first outline Management Plan, and its approval by regional and national authorities. Recruitment and training of local PA staff, and provision of essential infrastructure and equipment. Development of a sustainable financing plan for the PA. Capacity development and strengthening of the existing local conservation group “Friends of Dalmaj”, as a key partner in PA management and community liaison. Awareness and educational programs with local communities and hunters, focusing on the alternative multiple values ecosystem services of the site and on the biodiversity conservation and potential economic importance of the new protected area. Set-up of a simple and effective ecological monitoring program, with a focus on key biodiversity indicator species, main threats to the PA and on water quality and water levels. Law enforcement to reduce poaching and illegal hunting practices, and a feasibility study for the possible establishment of a surrounding controlled hunting reserve which could generate sustainable revenue for local communities

Site Name	Coordinates (approximate center of the area)	Site Type
TEEB	32°16'44,58"N 47°22'31,56"E	Natural desert oasis and wetlands

General features

Teeb area is located in the most eastern part of Maysan province, southern Iraq, at the border with Iran. The major city in the surrounding is Amarah, the province capital, located at about 52 Km in south-western direction from the approximate center of the proposed area. The city of Ali Al Gharbi is located at about 66 Km in north-western direction from the same approximate area center. The area extension, as from the provisional delineated boundary, is about 119,200 ha. the provisional boundary completely follows the Iraq-Iran border on its eastern most side; on the southern and western side the border is framed with very regular shape following partly existing roads and trying to include Dwerege and Teeb rivers. The provisionally delineated area encompasses a very wide surface where different habitats and features can be recognized.

Along the Iraq-Iran border and especially in the northern part, there is a bare area (rocky desert) that features mountainous and hilly reliefs, in the southern area scattered desert vegetation is also present; in the central and western part of the area, and especially along the Teeb river and further inside the center of the area, there are patches of marginal agriculture; in the south western part of the area there is a bare zone with sparse vegetation and in the southern most corner of the provisional boundary there is a temporary wetland and wadi surrounded by sparsely vegetated areas. As such, the provisional delineated area has a great variability of habitats and features that make it suitable to be proposed for protection. At the same time inside and in the surrounding of the area there are many oil fields both explored and unexplored; and this, while posing consistent threats to the integrity of the natural habitats, can also represent an opportunity of fund-raising for the future protected area.

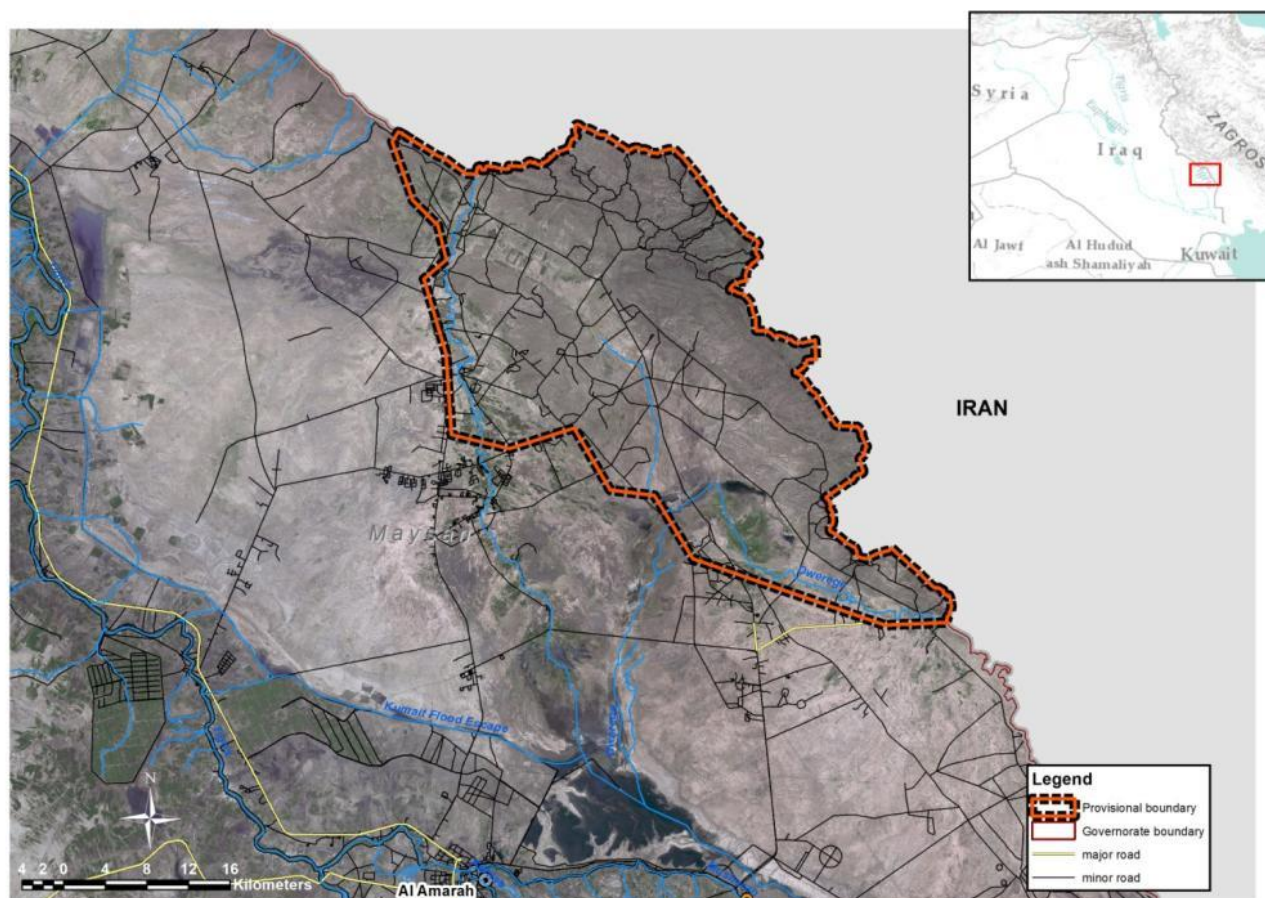


Figure 10 Map of Teeb site (Background Image: Landsat 2000)

Main values and services of the site

Teeb has been evaluated as area of important natural values within the framework of the KBA assessment and the priorities emerging thereof. This area was initially not included in the 10 proposed sites for protected areas of the PoWPA document. The criteria for selecting the sites in the PoWPA document took into account the natural values and the priorities emerging from their evaluation, trying to select one or more potential protected area for each eco-region represented in Iraq (depending also on the extension of the eco-region at country level). The area includes two eco-regions: South Iran Nubosindian desert and semi-desert, and Tigris-Euphrates Alluvial Salt Marsh. For the eco-region “South Iran Nubosindian desert and semi-desert” another protected area was selected “Khor Az-Zubayr”. However it later appeared that, based on additional information, the Teeb area better represents this ecoregion than Khor Az-Zubayr. Therefore, considering that the PoWPA provided a provisional list of potential sites that had been firstly selected as a result of KBA assessments, that many other sites were surveyed and showed to contain equally important natural values and that the focus of this project is to establish a future “network structure” of PAs, at this time the “Teeb” area has been considered more representative of the eco-region in which it is located and more suitable to the purpose of providing a first “networking” of the existing and planned PAs. Teeb area overall (considering the provisionally delineated boundary), is very wide. As already mentioned there are many different habitats in there with a prevailing of desert bare areas with scattered vegetation or desert shrub. A temporary wetland and a wadi system are present in the middle-southern part of the site providing extremely important water resources to animals and people, besides favoring the seasonal blooms of herbs and shrubs that are important for grazing and local livelihoods. The oasis system in the northern part of the site is also providing essential services, especially to local people.

Natural Values

Teeb area hosts an important desert habitat pertaining to the critical/endangered “South Iran Nubosindian desert and semi-desert” eco-region. An oasis is present inside the area as well as seasonal streams (“wadis”) adding value to this area both from a naturalistic point of view and for the ecosystem services the area can provide to humans. Due to the presence of water and its position along an important migration route, Teeb area also represents a stepping stone for the migration of many passerine and other bird species.

Some important bird species are recorded in this area, of which several are vulnerable, like the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), and Asian Bustard²² (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*). Other species include the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Iraq Babbler (*Turdoides altirostris*), and the Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*). The area is also known as an important stop over site for migratory birds. The area harbors a significant population of Goitered Gazelles (*Gazella subgutturosa* - sub-species not known), and it is also important but not yet well studied for the wide range of plant species present.

Regulating functions (hydrology and climate regulation)

In the lower part of the site there is a seasonal wetland site which is part of the Sanaf wetland complex. This wetland receives water during the rainy season in winter from uplands in Iran located to the east, northeast, and north, which has made the area important for very large numbers of passage waders using the shallow mudflats and very large numbers of ducks. The wetland takes water from the rivers Teeb and Dwerege, flowing from Iranian mountains, particularly during floods. Both the wetland in the south and the oasis in the northern part of the site are extremely important water sources in the middle of a desert area; and especially in a region where climate change effects are particularly serious.

Social and economical values

The social and economical values in Teeb and its surroundings are various and some of them conflicting. In the southern and eastern part of the site there are many oil extraction activities and infrastructures related with the oil fields of Burzogan and Jabal Fauqui. These activities, while providing employment opportunities and possible income growth for local workers are also threatening the natural resources and the already scarce water presence in such a desert area. The sparsely vegetated areas with seasonal herbs and shrub cover provide essential resources for local herds as well as for the other wild herbivores that might be present in the area (Gazelle sp.). Marginal agricultural areas are also present mostly on the western side of the site and along the Teeb river; and these areas are also extremely important to support small scale agricultural activities and incomes for locals.

²² Taxonomic note: *Chlamydotis undulata* and *C. macqueenii* (del Hoyo and Collar 2014) were previously lumped as *C. undulata* following Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993).



Desert landscape on the northern side of the oasis



Wadis and hills close to the Iranian border



*The Asian Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) and the Spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastix aegyptia*), typical species of this area*

Figure 11 Photos of Teeb area (Source: Nature Iraq)

Criteria for selection

The criteria against which Teeb area has been assessed are referring to the KBA framework²³. The preliminary assessment has highlighted the possible presence of the following criteria.

IBA criteria (Important Bird Areas):

A1. Globally threatened species: globally threatened species were recorded between 2005-2011 and namely the Lesser white-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) (VU), and the Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) (VU).

A3. Biome-restricted species: 10 species of the biome Sahara-Sindian desert.

A4. Congregations: A4iii. Holding congregations of 20,000 waterbirds or 10,000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species (>30000 waterfowl species).

²³ Supported by: IUCN, BirdLife International, Plantlife International, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and over 100 national/regional civil society and governmental conservation agencies.

Threats

Main threats that have been identified in the area refer to the existing and future oil development and infrastructure building, to the presence of war residuals and mine fields close to the Iranian border, overgrazing, poaching, drought and waste management issues.

Proposed conservation actions

Essential initial steps include the establishment of the legal and management framework for the site to be gazetted as a formal Protected Area. Rapid baseline surveys to identify and map biodiversity values covering key indicator *taxa* within the PA, and define major land uses and socio-economic activities in the buffer zone. Development of an outline Zoning Plan. Preliminary boundary demarcation of the new PA. Participatory development of a first outline Management Plan, and its approval by regional and national authorities. Recruitment and training of local PA staff, and provision of essential infrastructure and equipment. Development of a sustainable financing plan for the PA. Establishment of coordination mechanisms with the Iranian authorities to release the same natural share of water to the area through the main seasonal rivers (Al-Teeb and Chlaat). Coordination with locally active oil companies and working with them on the set-up of a monitoring program that targets the oil-spills and to adopt eco-friendly methods in the oil extracting industries. Awareness and educational programs with local communities and hunters, focusing on the alternative multiple values ecosystem services of the site and on the biodiversity conservation and potential economic importance of the new protected area. Set-up of a simple and effective ecological monitoring program, with a focus on key biodiversity indicator species, main threats to the PA and on water quality and water levels. Law enforcement to reduce poaching and illegal hunting practices, and a feasibility study for the possible establishment of a surrounding controlled hunting reserve which could generate sustainable revenue for local communities, while maintaining a conservation focus on globally important species such as the Gazelle, Houbara, and Lesser White-fronted Goose.

Annex 18: Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

As part of the GEFs evolving Fiduciary Standards that Implementing Agencies have to address ‘Environmental and Social Safeguards’. To fill this checklist:

- STEP 1: Initially assess E&S Safeguards as part of PIF development. The checklist is to be submitted for the CRC.
- STEP 2 : Check list is reviewed during PPG project preparation phase and updated as required
- STEP 3 : Final check list submitted for PRC showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

UNEP/GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Checklist

Project Title:	Initial Steps for the Establishment of the National Protected Areas Network - Iraq		
GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number	GFL/5392	Version of checklist	Rev.0
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation	Date of this version:	11/10/2014
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Jane Nimpamya Programme Officer GEF Biodiversity/Land Degradation/Biosafety Unit Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)		

In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.

Section A: Project location

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Is the project area in or close to -		
- densely populated area	NO	
- cultural heritage site	NO	
- protected area	YES	Two priority sites for PAN establishment identified
- wetland	YES	Dalmaj wetland identified as priority site for PAN establishment
- mangrove	NA	Not applicable in Iraq
- estuarine	NA	
- buffer zone of protected area	NA	
- special area for protection of biodiversity	YES	Proposed Key Biodiversity Areas of Dalmaj wetland and Teeb oasis identified as priority site for PAN establishment
- Will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	NO	
<i>If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.</i>		

Section B: Environmental impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	YES	The project is aimed at designing and planning a national Network of Protected Areas in Iraq
- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	NO	
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	NO	
- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	NO	
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	NO	
- Will project cause soil erosion and siltation?	NO	
- Will project cause increased waste production?	NO	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	NO	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	NO	
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	NO	
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	NO	
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section C: Social impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	Comment/explanation
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	YES	
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	YES	
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	NO	
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	YES	Stakeholder participation is a pillar of the project for the PAN of Iraq
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	YES	The project is aimed at institutional strengthening for the establishment of a coherent and viable Network of Protected Areas in Iraq
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?	YES	The project is aimed at increasing the beneficial uses of land in the Protected Areas Network of Iraq
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	NO	
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	NO	
- Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	NO	
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	NO	
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	NO	
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working	NA	

environment for workers employed as part of the project?		
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	NO	
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	NO	
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	NO	
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	NO	
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	NA	
<i>Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.</i>		

Section D: Other considerations

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	<i>Yes/No/ N.A.</i>	<i>Comment/explanation</i>
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	NO	
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	YES	The Ministry of Environment has a EIA Department
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	NO	The project is aligned and coordinated with national policies, strategies and plans for biodiversity protection in Iraq
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	YES	The project will set the ground for the establishment of a national PAN in Iraq that will have POSITIVE impacts on the environment and contribute to the sustainable development of the country
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	YES	GEF-BD tracking tool will be used to monitor the project results