



Republic of Iraq



Ministry of Environment

**FIFTH NATIONAL REPORT  
TO THE CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
IRAQ**

**March 2014**





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## FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF IRAQ



As a commitment to meet its obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Iraq has issued the - First for Iraq - (namely the Fourth) Iraqi National Report on Biodiversity back in 2010. Since then, attention was directed towards a presumably more updated, informative and timely publication of the upcoming Fifth National Report on Biodiversity.

For this, the Ministry of Environment was geared up and determined to abide by the timeline set by the CBD secretariat and has mobilized all resources needed for the assignment. Nevertheless, the task wasn't easy at all and encountered several practical obstacles, and it was a race against time for collecting vast and wide array of updates of information, new scientific data, additions and records.

The composition of the task team was a recipe for success. Its efficient, well organized and professional work was evident ever since it's set up in 2012. During the entire period of its preparation, the progress of the Fifth National Report was monitored by resilient timetable that coped with unforeseen difficulties; utilize scattered data to make sound conclusions, and the whereabouts of missing pieces of information.

A consolidated report such as the Fifth National Report on Biodiversity in Iraq demanded not only excellent planning and fair assuming of roles by the team, but also the effective and efficient participatory contribution of tangible spectrum of the society. To achieve desired goals, rehabilitation of the legislative, institutional and financial environment was also equally needed. During the past decade, the Ministry of Environment vigorously motivated the issuance of numerous decisions, directives, and laws that all served promotion of environmental issues in Iraq. Of course, this directly contributed to that works such as the present report come to light in time and in excellent format.

Many events and scientific meetings and workshops, both local and regional, had to be organized prior to the publication of the present report. Most of these activities were timed and directed by close consultation with the global and regional institutions that have provided help and guidance for the process.

The ministry of Environment extends sincere thanks and gratitude to all those parties, institutes and individuals, who closely monitored this output, or have rendered knowhow, assets or information to make this fine product available to decision makers, academics and all stakeholders.

**Engineer Sargon Lazar Slewa,  
The Minister of Environment  
April 2014**

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## PREFACE BY THE TECHNICAL ADVISOR OF MOEI – CBD NATIONAL FOCAL POINT



When the ministerial order to set up a team for writing up the Fifth National Report on Biodiversity was issued in 2012, planning and regular meetings were immediately held to realize the actual challenge of the mission. Wisely composed, the team coordinated works and roles so that the fifth report comes out as an additive contribution, not just a repetitive volume. These visions, however correct, but needed the search for, and concentrate on, new, concise and precise information.

One can only be proud of the task team which was up to expectation and who throughout the preparation period inspired a one unit and one task conductance which lead to the present volume comes to reality.

In the course of work towards this task, several activities had to be organized and designed to absorb views, assess capacities and assign missions to officials and stakeholders of various ranks. These activities were mostly in the form of National and Regional workshops held in the capital Baghdad, and further a field in the autonomous Kurdistan and South provinces.

The rich content and most up-to-date information on biodiversity which can be possibly collected in the given space of time makes the Fifth National Report represents not only a source of reliable information on the status and needs to promote biodiversity issues in Iraq, but also a guideline, in particular, for decision makers, local governments, stakeholders, and researchers across Iraq.

In general, the report dealt with all information on eco-region bases. It is logically divided into what the CBD advised that parts are to deal with providing answers and stimulate discussions on major issues of biodiversity in Iraq. The first part gives an update on biodiversity status, trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. While the second part dealt with aspects of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), its implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. The later and third part assessed the progress towards the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contributions to the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals. However, these major parts were further subdivided into specialized sections exhibiting variety of pictorial and numerical data.

The Ministry of Environment and the scientific community in Iraq, in general, eagerly await the official release of the Fifth National Report on Biodiversity for its paramount importance as major contribution to the issue of Biodiversity for Iraq and the world.

**Project Manager,  
Dr. Ali Al-Lami - MoE Technical Advisor,  
April 2014**

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A special thanks for their support and assistance to:

Diane Klaimi	UNEP-ROWA
Lijie Cai	CBD Secretariat
Edoardo Zandri	UNEP – GEF
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**Ministry of Environment**



*Published by: Iraqi Ministry of Environment*

*On: April 2014*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Iraqi Ministry of Environment would like to express its most sincere thanks and appreciation to all the officers, academics, employees, researchers and institutions for their kind help and cooperation offered to accomplish this important work, and in particular.

Dr. Abdullah Hma, Dr. Farhad Hussain Azez, Dr. Sirbad Ibrahim Mohammed and Dr. Zohair Ibrahim Fetohi at the university of Salah Al-Din, Dr. Terfaa Kamal, Dr. Rezan Omer, Dr. Nessrin Muha Al-Deen Abdul Rahman and Dr. Sherko Ali Mohammed and many other academics at the University of Sulaimania, Dr. Ali Al-Mousawy - University of Baghdad - College of Science - Department of Biology, Dr. Nadia Al-Mudahfar at the Marine Science Center of Basra.

A special thanks to Dr. Mofak Sleman Beh Rawa, Dr. Ezat Yossef Al-Nakshandi, Dr. Delshad Abdul Rahman Mohammed, Dr. Fadel Rashed Mohammed and Dr. Mohammed Yones Fatah at the University of Dohuk.

A special thanks to Dr. Naser Abdulsahib Obaid Al-Jamali - Karbala University - Dean Assistant for Academic Affairs, Dr. Hameed Abed Khashan Al-Farttoosi; Mr. Jafar Musa Saleh Al-Garawy - Karbala University - College of Agriculture. Dr. Ahmed Mehmood Abdul-Lattif - Karbala University - Dean of college of Science, Dr. Najeh Hashem Kadhem, Hassan Jameel Jawad Al-Fatlawee, Bahaa Ahmed Hassan - Karbala University - College of Science - Department of Biology. Mrs. Sahera Khalel, Mr. Abas Abdul Safeh - the directorates of Al- Qadisiya , and to Mr. Hader Mashkor and Mr. Raad Kadem Al –Asadi - he university of Al –Qadisiya.

Our deep gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Kasim Kadhim Alasedi, Dr. Sadiq Kadhum Al-Zurfi, Mohammed Jawad Salih Al-Haydarey, Dr. Nihad Habib Mudlik Al-Azirjawy, Mrs. Ana'am Ali Tesyar - Al-Kufa University - College of Science - Department of Environment. Dr. Arshad Nori Al-Dujaili, Dr. Saleem Khdaer Abid Al-Abas Al-Hadrawy Al-Kufa University - College of Science - Department of Biology. Dr. Alaa Eadan Hasan, Dr. Karim M. Bhiah - Al-Kufa University - College of Agriculture.

Grateful thanks to Dr. Haytham Mouhammed Hamadi Mutlik, Dr. Sabah Naife, Dr. Aliaa Hussein Mizhir Al-Amiry, Dr. Ruqayah Al-Nnomani, Dr. Thaer Mahmood Taha Al-Rubaye - Al-Kufa University - College of Education for Girls - Department of Biology. Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Bermani - Babylon University - College of Science.

A special thanks to all those who assisted and provided us with the information from international sources and organizations including:

- Philip Bubb/ Senior programmers officer/ ecosystem assessment program/ WCMC
- Benjamin Skolinik/ Alliance for Zero Extinction Coordinator/ American Bird Conservancy
- Tim Hirsch/ Deputy Director and Head of Participation Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Secretariat
- Sarah Brooks/ Assistant Capacity Building/ World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)

- 
- Alessandro Galli/ Ph.D Senior Scientist and Director/ Mediterranean- MENA Program Global Footprint Network
  - Shyama Pagad/ Program Manager/ Invasive species Information Management / University of Auckland and Programme officer IUCN Invasive species list Group
  - Anna Drustschinin / Junior Policy Analyst, Environment and Development Co-operation Directorate
  - Jaime Garcia Moreno/ Ph.D Conservation and Partnership Director/ Amphibian Survival Alliance

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