



## **Celebration of IYB in Iraq (updated list of activities):**

1. Circulation of IYB logo to the different Iraqi's institutions.
2. A national Committee headed by the CBD NFP and the membership of representatives from relevant ministries, was formed to follow-up and implements the CBD Convention within Iraq.
3. Drafting national legislations on PA in Iraq.
4. Forming a Subcommittee to study accession to Cartagena Protocol and draft national legislations on bio-safety in Iraq.
5. Finalizing ratification to GEF (funding mechanism of the CBD) on 3 February 2010.
6. A national committee headed by the CBD NFP and the membership of representatives from relevant ministries was formed to study the natural areas to be announced as protected areas.
7. Cooperation with UNEP through conducting studies on biodiversity in the Iraqi Marshlands.
8. Preparation of Master Project on Bio-Diversity in Iraq.
9. Launch of Biodiversity surveys programs in Iraq (KBA) with cooperation of Iraq Nature organization.
10. Completion of the fourth national report on biodiversity in Iraq, which has been submitted to the CBD secretariat.
11. Organizing training courses on biodiversity.
12. Preparation a program on protected areas in Iraq.



13. Establishment of a partnership with the environmental authority in United Arab Emirates-Abu Dhabi to protect biodiversity, and launching two protection programs of Houbara bustard and Arabian Oryx in Iraq.
14. Preparation of a questionnaire on the major issues of biodiversity which has been circulated among MoE staff.
15. MoE organized a national celebration on IYB on 20/5/2010; in the presence of HE Minister of Environment and many high profile Iraqi's officials.
16. MoE staff carried official visits to the relevant Iraqi ministries and universities to activate issues related to bio-diversity.
17. The Ministry of culture has been approached, for the purpose of establishing a competition for children and professionals drawings on biodiversity within the platform of the celebration of IYB. It also contributed to organize two exhibitions of Iraqi traditional products one on 20/5/2010, and the other on the sidelines of COP 10 of CBD in Nagoya/ Japan.
18. The CBD NFP presented one hour seminar on CBD issues to the academics of Baghdad University.
19. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities organized some events on the IYB.
20. MoE in coordination with Al- Nahrain University organized on Wednesday 16/6/2010, a special one day workshop entitled "Bio-safety ... concepts ... legislations and accession to the Protocol of Cartagena"
21. The Ministry of Education has been approached, to present a lecture entitled "The biodiversity is our life" to the students.
22. A questionnaire had been circulated to the academics in the universities to realize the process of raising awareness and transfer of responsibility for the



maintenance of biological diversity and taking advantage and unify efforts to achieve the goals of biodiversity.

23. The MoE is now preparing for the biggest project proposal for protection of biodiversity.
24. A symposium was held on 01/08/2010, in the Ministry of Trade, where a lecture was presented on the Convention on Biological Diversity, along with a number of topics, like the approval of the Council of Representatives for accession to CBD and obligations of the acceding countries with reference to the importance of biodiversity in Iraq.
25. Participating in the tenth meeting of Parties to the CBD and the Fifth Meeting of Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (Nagoya conference) / Japan was enhanced by organizing two workshops entitled “Long-term sustainable development and management of the Iraqi marshlands” and “Current status on biological diversity in Iraq” along with an art exhibition of Iraqi products on biodiversity held on the sidelines of the conference.
26. A specialized workshop entitled "the effects of desertification in Iraq," was held on Thursday 23/12/2010 at Al-Nahrain University, organized by our ministry along with the Center for Research of biotechnology/ Al- Nahrain University to discuss the ways to combat desertification in terms of developing strategic plan and forming a committee.
27. A conference entitled "Biodiversity situation in Iraq" was held on 11.25.2010 at the Office of advisors of the Prime Minister, on a joint initiative of the advisers and the Office of Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, whereas a number of lectures were presented. Topics related to biodiversity, including the status of biodiversity in Iraq, the ministry's activities on biodiversity protection, steps taken after Iraq's accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the prospects for future work were discussed.



28. A workshop entitled “2011 Action Plan of the Ministry of Environment for Biological Diversity” was conducted where a lecture, presented by NFP for the CBD and director of the unit of follow-up implementation of CBD’ commitments, tackled the biodiversity in Iraq and its importance, the text of the CBD and its terms plus a number of subjects related to the achievements and activities like (workshops, celebrations for IYB, participating in international conferences and its events, preparation of the fourth national report of the biodiversity in Iraq). The requirements of the implementation of the 2011 plan and funding mechanisms have been also discussed.
29. On the occasion of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Ministry of Science and Technology held in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment on Sunday 26/12/2010, a celebration attend by H.E. Minister of Science and Technology, which included presenting lectures and opening of an exhibition of books.
30. Stamps have been issued bearing the logo of the International Year of Biodiversity referring to the diversity of organisms as symbols of richness of species in our country.
31. A training course has been held for the period 3-5/1/2011 on writing reports and data management.
32. The Environment Directorates in the provinces undertook several activities to celebrate the International Year for Biological Diversity as follows:
  - a) The office of protection and improvement of the environment in the northern region / Directorate of Environment Kirkuk:  
the office in cooperation with the Directorate of Environment of Kirkuk held a celebration included a number of events and activities to define the



importance of maintaining biological diversity plus a number of related lectures.

-The Directorate also issued a Folder entitled (biodiversity) to celebrate the International Year of biodiversity 2010.

**b)** The office of protection and improvement of the environment in the northern region / Directorate of Environment Salah al-Din:

A celebration was held on 25/5/2010 in cooperation with the University of Tikrit, attended by a number of relevant ministries (health, agriculture, veterinary hospital in Salah al-Din, civil society organizations, and other departments), Where lectures on the importance of biodiversity as an economic and social value and its degradations, were presented. Lecturers also tackled three subjects: 1/ Fishing, 2/ Desertification, 3/ all kinds of Pollution.

**c)** The Directorate of Environment of Babylon, in cooperation with the Office of advisor of Environment ministry, held on December 12 – 13/ 2010, a scientific conference on biodiversity in Middle Euphrates area, included a number of lectures presented by the advisor of Environment ministry, and attended by representatives from the directorate of Middle Euphrates Environment and academics from the universities of the Middle Euphrates. The celebration also included a show played by school children, and opening of an exhibition of biological diversity photos.

- There was another conference held for the period 9-10/8/2010, included presenting some lectures on the Biodiversity importance.

**d)** A celebration was held in Al – Qadesiya environment directorate included presenting lectures on biodiversity along with opening of an exhibition of biodiversity photos.



e- An exhibition was held on biodiversity on 1/Nov./2010), in Karblaa province.

f) In Environment Directorate of Diyala:

- An awareness symposium was held with cooperation of agricultural directorate of Diyala on The impact of agricultural pesticides on the environment and biodiversity.
- A symposium on Over-harvesting of trees was held.

g) In Environment directorate of Wassit:

- A symposium was held on 24/03/2010, to raise awareness, included the definition of kinds of pollution with its risks and how to maintain biodiversity, and also tackled the role of the youth in helping reduce environmental pollution and ways of treatments.
- Tree-planting campaign in cooperation with the Municipality of Kut was launched on 04/04/2010.
- A symposium on biodiversity was held on 13/07/2010, by the Directorate of Environment of Wassit, in cooperation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of Wassit. Lectures have been presented on the concept of biodiversity and the threats affecting biodiversity, especially in wetlands (marshes), which their dryness caused diverse birds to migrated, the fisheries and aquatic plants to reduce sharply. Furthermore, other threats to biodiversity, such as over-hunting of fishes and birds, especially the rare ones such as Houbara, falcons, and deer, were discussed. The importance of addressing these problems to find solutions were introduced to the youth sector.
- A workshop has been held in cooperation with the General Authority for guidance and agricultural cooperation in Wasit on 26/07/2010, concerning the dangers of overfishing.



- A meeting was held on 12/22/2010, in Wasit province, on Iraq's accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity where the following topics were addressed:

- a) The strategic dimensions of Iraq's accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- b) Over-fishing: Ways and steps to be taken to stop it in compliance with the Iraqi legislation.