



# Biodiversity-related MEAs

## Achieving AICHI Targets in West Asia



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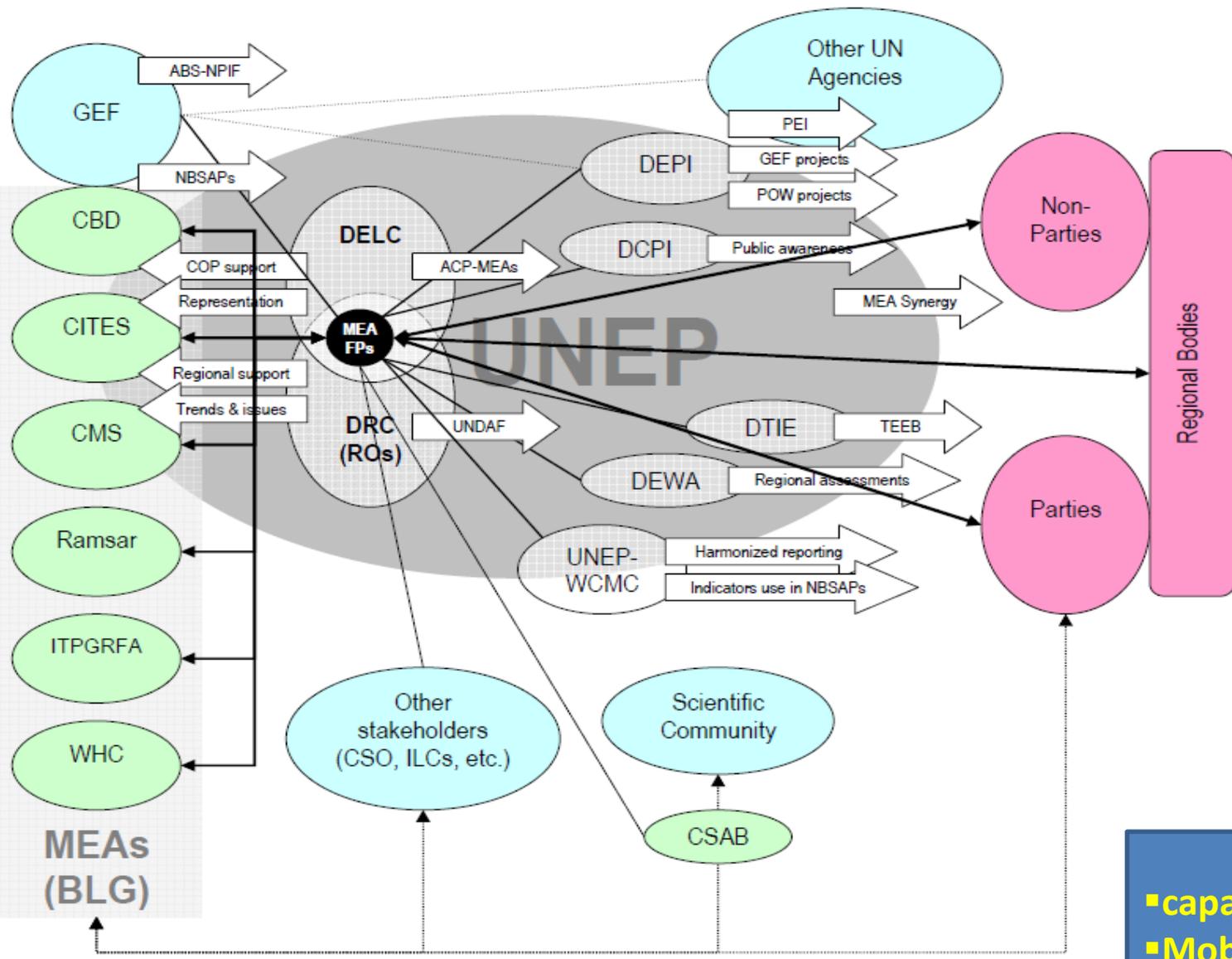
# UNEP's Medium Term Strategy 2014-2017 with regional outputs

*ROWA promotes collaboration and partnerships with organizations to develop relevant programmes to respond to the needs of the region.*

**The Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) has 12 member states:**

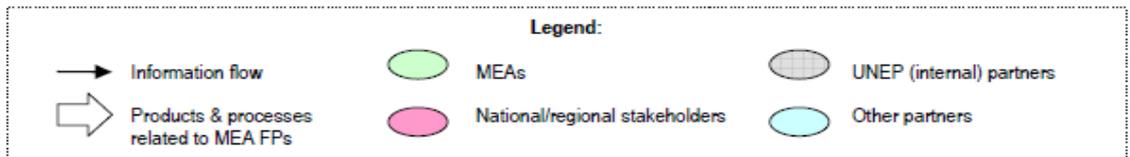
- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
- U.A.E.
- Yemen





guide policy-makers in developing innovative and equitable policies based on sound science

- capacity building
- Mobilizes resources
- Policy guidance
- catalyze partnerships
- advocacy





# DRIVING PROCESSES FOR UNEP'S BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

- Decisions of the UNEP's Governing Body: United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA
- MEA COP and COP MOP decisions, scientific and technical advisory bodies (SBSTTA, STRP, IPBES...)
- Priorities of regional and sub-regional Ministerial Sessions (e.g. League of Arab States and GCC)
- Requests for technical/advisory support from Member States
- transboundary emerging issues: SDS, degraded river basins, illicit wildlife trade, endangered migratory species...



ROPME  
IGOs  
PERSGA  
AOAD  
FAO  
IUCN  
WWF  
ACSAD  
RAED  
IFAW  
UNESCO  
ESCWA  
NGOs  
IGOs  
MEAs  
(CMS)  
UNU  
Academia  
Research,  
Monitoring

# Biodiversity-related Regional Mechanisms

## *League of Arab States: (22 states)*

- *Arab Working Group to review the implementation of MEAs related to Biodiversity and Combating desertification*
- *CAMRE (Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment)*

## *Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) 6 states*

- *Convention on Wildlife (sub regional)*
- *Green Customs initiative*
- *Regional Network to combat wildlife crime (under construction)*





**The Environment Outlook for the Arab Region:** Environment for Development and Human Well-being is the first official, comprehensive, and **integrated assessment of the state of environment in the Arab region**. It is a credible, scientific assessment that provides a base for policy formulation in the region.



- **Natural resources are under pressure from population growth and unbalanced economic growth**
- **Weak environmental institutions**
- **there is disparity between sub-regions resources, economic conditions and infrastructures**

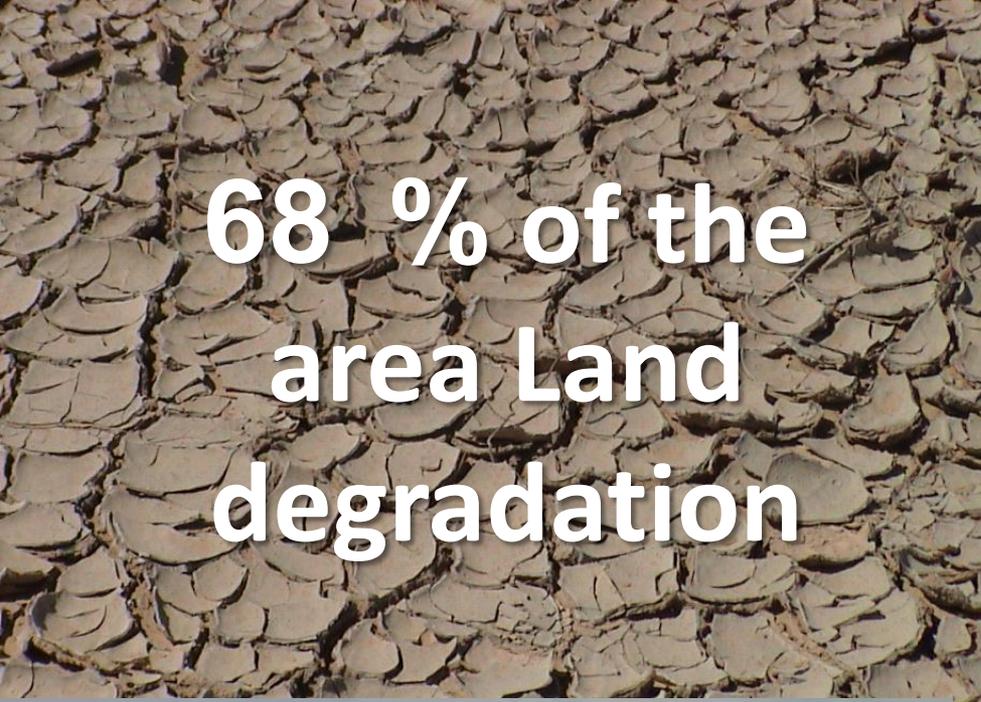
### Policy Options

- **Shift towards green economy strategy**
- **Robust environmental laws and enforcement**
- **Mixed and innovative policies combining land, water and biodiversity**



Environment Outlook for the Arab Region  
Environment for Development and Human Well-being





**68 % of the  
area Land  
degradation**



**14% Of land is suitable  
for agriculture and only  
5% is cultivated**



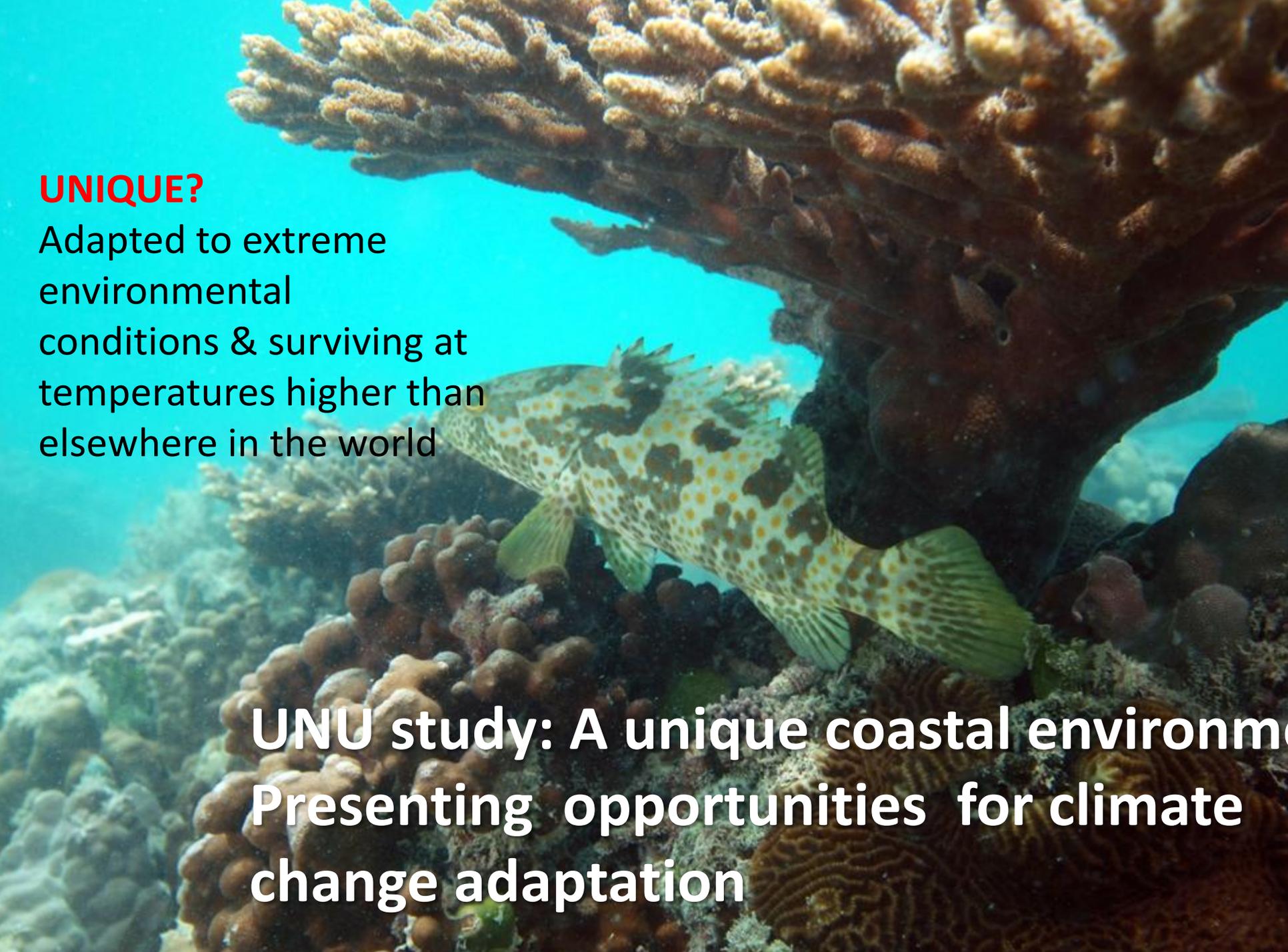


Desalination plants - Gulf contains  
45 % of world capacity

# Low Species Diversity

Species	Gulf	Gulf of Oman	Red Sea
Fish	535	930	1,225
Coral	68	73	220
Mangrove	1	2	2
Seagrass	3	3	10





## UNIQUE?

Adapted to extreme environmental conditions & surviving at temperatures higher than elsewhere in the world

**UNU study: A unique coastal environment  
Presenting opportunities for climate  
change adaptation**



# biodiversity and ecosystem priority issues in West Asia

- Water scarcity
- Wetlands loss
- Marine ecosystem degradation
- Land degradation
- Desertification
- **Biodiversity loss**
- Dust Storms

➤ An regional integrated and coordinated ecosystem approach is needed to manage land, water and biodiversity





**Integrates findings  
of three reports**

**integrated assessments in the Arab region**

**the report emphasizes the need for a new paradigm: one that recognizes that environmental sustainability is the foundation upon which economic health depends.**

**Interventions proposed**

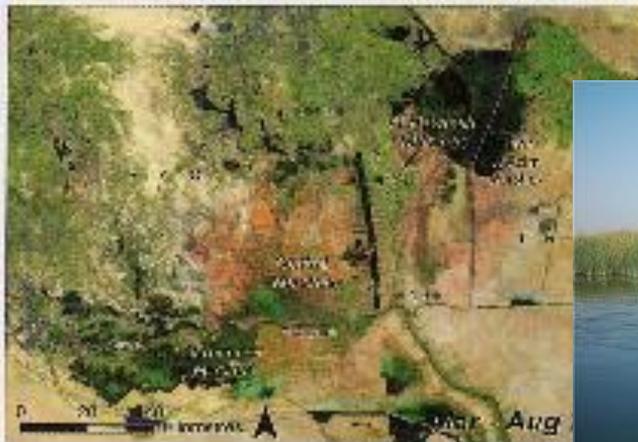
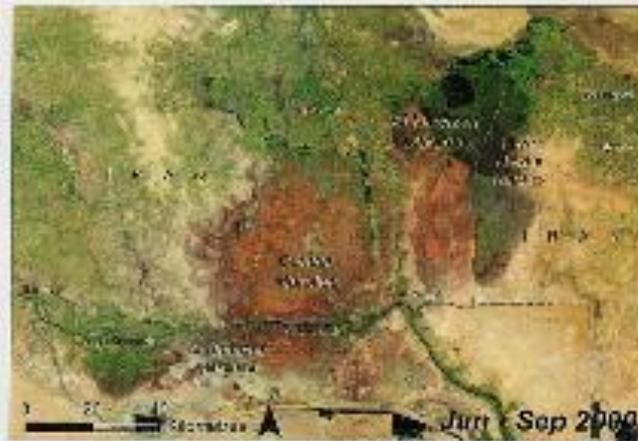
- 1. regenerating the ecosystem;**
- 2. human resources development, both social and economic;**
- 3. institutional reforms**

# Largest wetland in Middle East: Mesopotamian Marshlands

## From wetlands to dry lands



*The Mesopotamian Marshlands, nearly destroyed in the 1990s, have been partially restored but remain at risk*



# Aichi Targets – clustering to form strategies

## Biodiversity mainstreaming **الدمج**



Understand values



Sustainable fisheries



Mainstream biodiversity



Manage within limits



Address incentives



Reduce pollution



Sustainable production



Reduce invasive spp.



Halve rate of loss



Minimize reef loss

## Protection **الحماية**



Protected areas



Prevent extinctions



Conserve gene pool

## ABS **الحصول على المارد الجينية وتقاسم منافعها**



Implement Nagoya Prot.

## Enabling **تمكين**



Revise NBSAPs



Respect and conserve TK



Improve knowledge



Mobilize resources

## Restoration **اعادة التأهيل**



Restore ecosystems



Enhance resilience

# Global Biodiversity Outlook 4



**Specific concern for targets, 8 (pollution), 10 (corals), 12 (preventing extinctions), 5 (habitat degradation)**

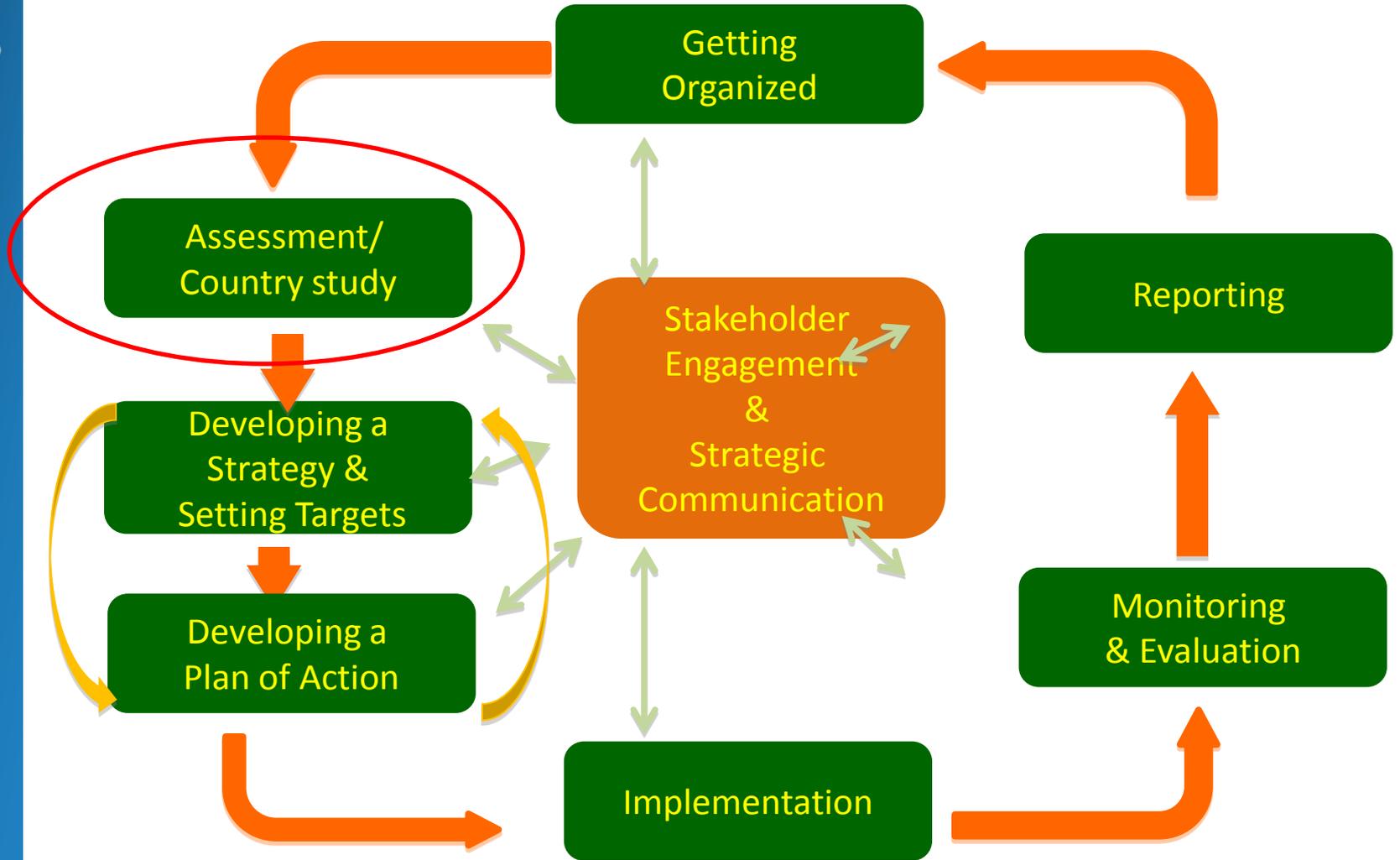
## Target 10: Vulnerable ecosystems (coral reefs)

Element	Current Status	Comments	Confidence
Multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning		Pressures such as land-based pollution, uncontrolled tourism still increasing, although new marine protected areas may ease overfishing in some reef regions	High
Multiple anthropogenic pressures on other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning	Not evaluated	Insufficient information was available to evaluate the target for other vulnerable ecosystems including seagrass habitats, mangroves and mountains	



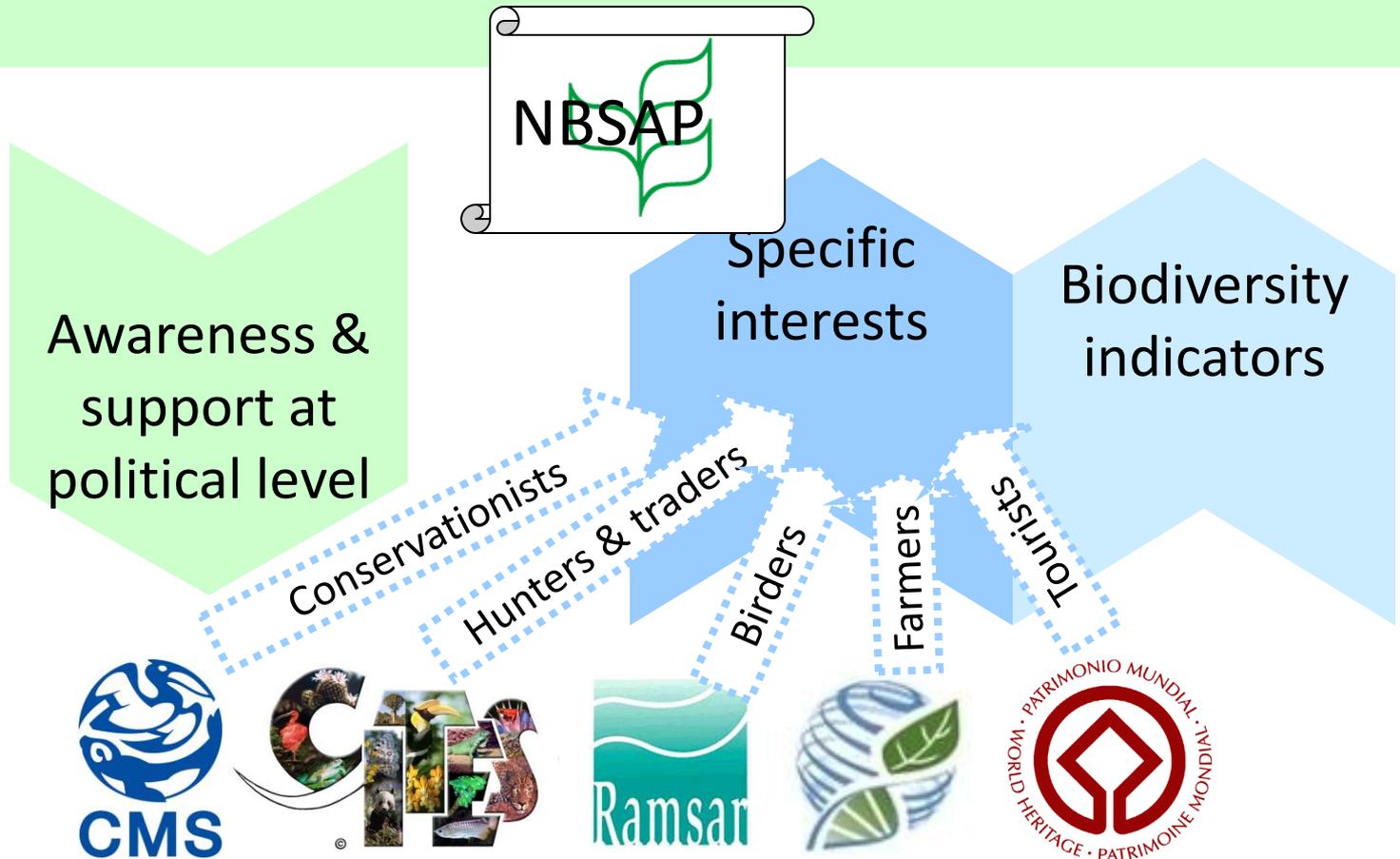


# NBSAP Process Cycle



# Catalyzing information through integrating biodiversity-related Conventions in NBSAPs

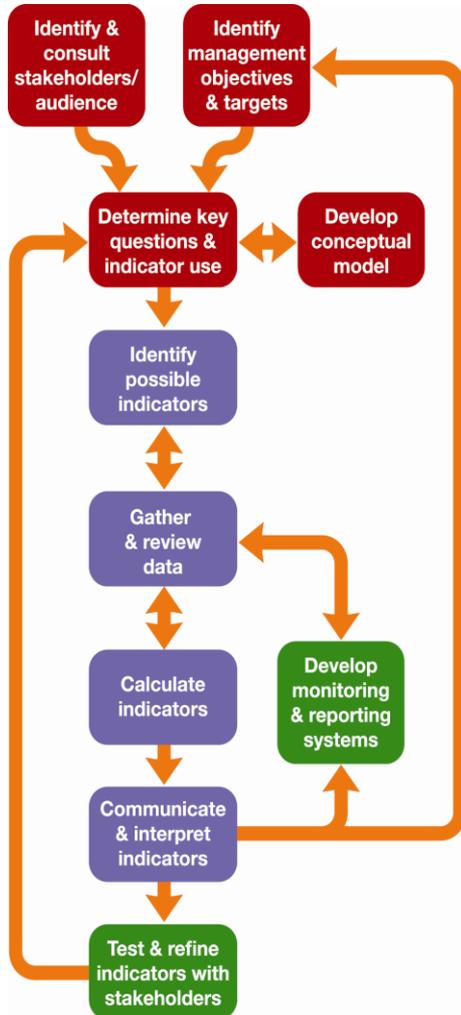
CBD's main mechanism for national implementation  
CBD Decision X/2: Countries to set national targets, and translate into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)





# NBSAP

## NBSAPs Framework for cooperation



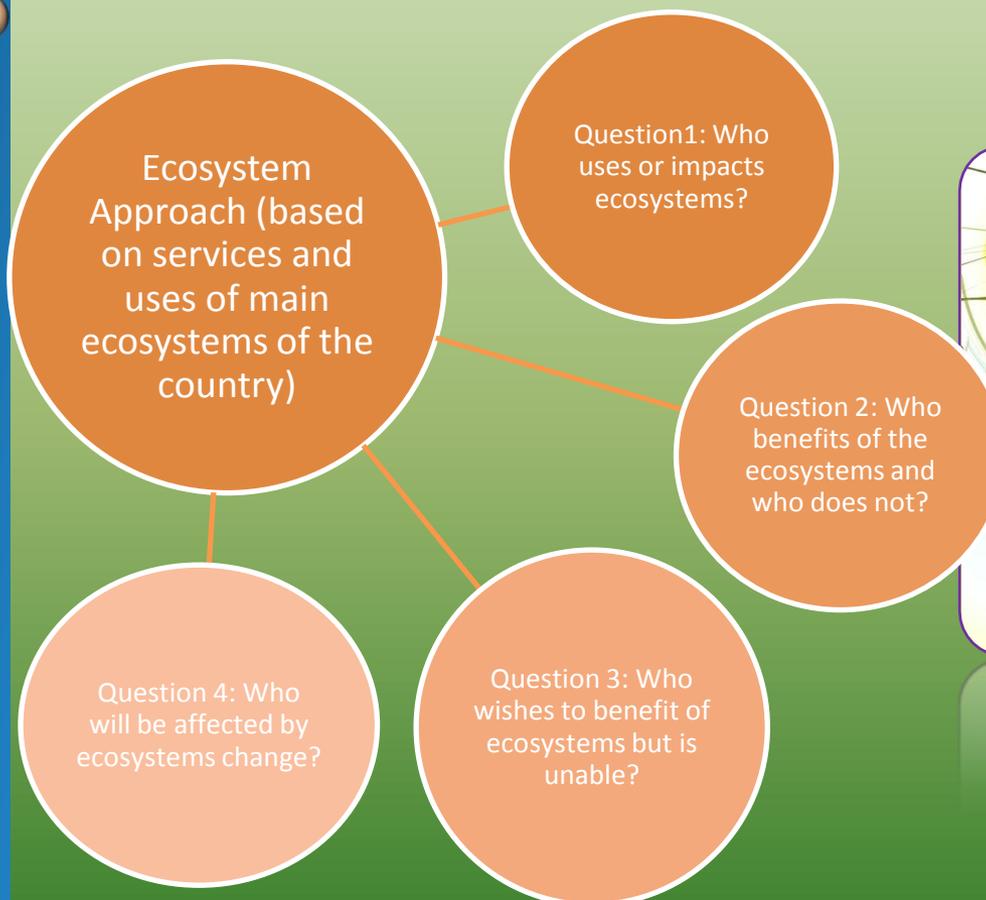
**National NBSAP and indicators workshops: -**  
**Applying the Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework in West Asia**  
**Lessons from UAE, Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq Workshops**

*stakeholder engagement, stocktaking information, assessments*

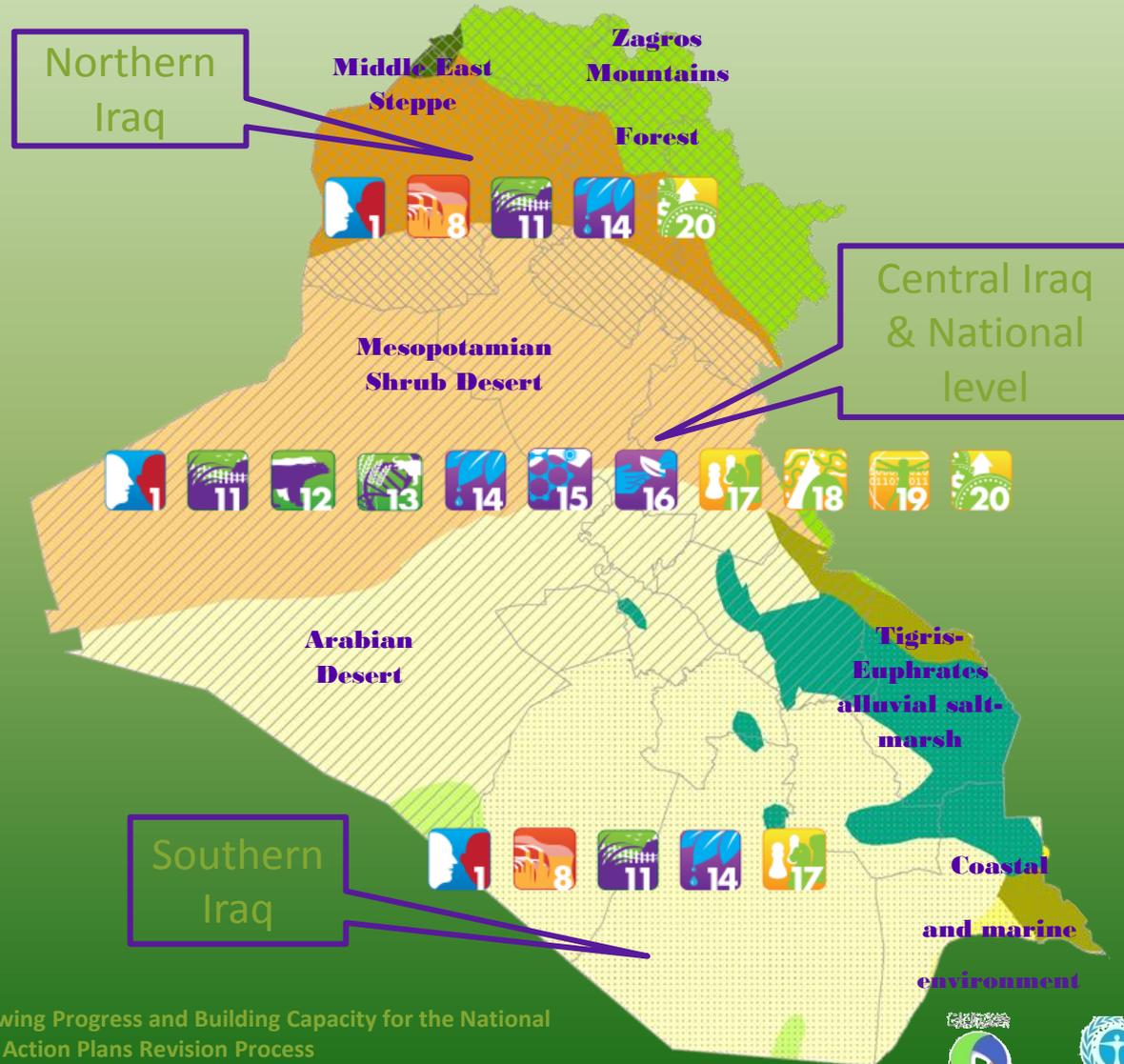
*policies*

*National targets towards filling gaps in info (assessments, maps, data)*

# Stocktaking and Stakeholder identification: method nr.1



# The priority Aichi Targets identified for each geographic area





# FLOW of BIODIVERSITY information

- CBD National reports: Fifth NR, CBD Thematic reports
- Ramsar Information Sheets-wetlands
- Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- CMS species action plans
- CITES species trade database (WCMC)
- ITPGRFA and WHC databases
- BIP Biodiversity indicators
- NBSAP forum
- INFORMEA
- GBIF, IUCN
  - UNDAFs, UN reports, FAO, GEF Projects: scattered info





## Oman's National Plan for Mangrove Conservation and Management

Action	Output	Aichi Target met
Conserving mangroves	Incorporated in National planning	2
Mangrove ecosystems management	Fisheries managed sustainably	6
Mangroves sustainable management	Areas under forestry managed sustainably	7
Conserving mangroves	Increase ecosystem resilience	15
Mangroves are managed by local communities	Engagement of local communities in preserving ecosystems	18



# Bahrain adopts the ecosystems approach



Action	Output	Aichi Target met
Adopting the ecosystem approach to conserve the pearling sites	Incorporated into national planning	2
Conserving the pearling sites	Increase ecosystem resilience	15
Protecting the Pearling sites through sustainable use	Degradation and rate of loss of habitats reduced	5
Sustainable use of Oysters ecosystems	Fisheries managed sustainably	6
Effective management and legislations	Pollution reduced	8
Conserving the pearling sites	multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning	10
Expand Protected areas	Protected Areas expanded	11
Ecosystem restoration and functioning	Essential ecosystem services restored and produced	14
Ecosystem assessemnt	Knowledge sharing	19





# Conclusions

- The NBSAP process in West Asia showed that data was unavailable or cannot be accessed, biodiversity and ecosystems assessments were needed to be generated or shared.
- SGA is an opportunity to strengthen the assessments portfolio in the region.
- The economic growth in the region presents opportunities for PPP partnerships and resource mobilization





# Thank you

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