

Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Syria

Syria reported¹ that the CBD includes a lot of concepts, considerations, and programs aim to reach sustainable use of Biodiversity components, and fair benefits sharing of such components. This can be achieved through incorporating these concepts in development policies of different agricultural, industrial, touristic, and social sectors. Syria has made many steps in this regards, which come within this objective. The presidential legislative decree regulating the Environmental Law No.50 (2002) including mechanisms of carrying out studies of environmental impacts assessment to all development projects (industrial, agricultural, and touristicetc). Such studies should contain impacts on Biodiversity. Some projects were seriously taken, especially those planned to be contracted in places close to some rich sites in Biodiversity. Therefore, such projects were cancelled or their construction locations were changed.

Many of Biodiversity considerations were incorporated in a lot of national policies, legislations, national strategy, criteria and standards of environment impact assessment, partially in agricultural development strategy' articles. And the new forestry law: No.25 (2007).

Incorporation process has made good steps, But not completed yet in all national legislations and laws. However, environmental impact assessment studies being conducted partly cover integration process. Moving from the stage of integration of these considerations in policies, legislations, and laws into application stage may require a long time and efforts. Moreover, there is availability of supporting factors (technical and financial) to achieve this movement process.

Despite all of that, it should be referred to some difficulties facing the comprehensive application of this objective and can be outlined:

- 1- Weak application of main topics of integrated eco-system approach in biodiversity management.
- 2- Economic, social, and financial difficulties encountering local communities.

¹ Syria (2009). The Fourth National Report on Biodiversity in the Syrian Arab Republic, Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Directorate of Biodiversity and PAs, May 2009, 91 pp.

3- Technical, administrative, and financial difficulties encountering national parties responsible for achieving this important more in implementing objectives of CBD.

Thus, national trends (directions) were:

- prepare and execute a national plan for specialized capacity building for introduction and incorporation of Biodiversity concepts in national policies and legislations.
- Develop a legal framework to link Biodiversity with policies of poverty control, focusing on common factors between poverty control and sustainable use of Biodiversity.
- Setting and applying the main lines of integrated eco-system approach in biodiversity management.