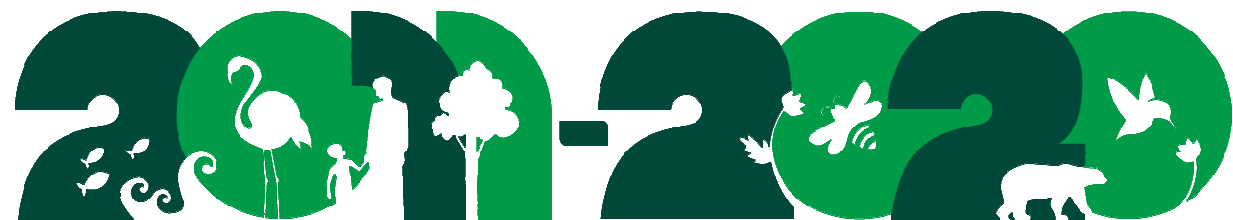# Suggestions for Preparing Part I of the fifth national report

Regional Workshop for Middle East and North Africa on
the Preparation of the Fifth National Report

Doha, Qatar
14-17 December 2013

Convention on Biological Diversity

2011-2020
United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Overall Focus

Assessing the status, trends and threats of biodiversity and implications for human well-being:

- Importance of biodiversity (nationally, regionally or globally)

- Changes in status and trends of biodiversity since the last national report

- Main threats to biodiversity (both direct and indirect)

- Impacts of biodiversity changes for human well-being

- Possible scenarios for future changes

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020

Possible information to include

Question 1: Why is biodiversity important for your country?

- Highlight contributions of biodiversity and related ecosystem services to human well-being, socio-economic developments, livelihoods, poverty reduction etc.

- Where available include estimates of economic and other values of biodiversity

- Use examples of "exceptional" biodiversity and services/benefits it provides.

- Use examples to illustrate the impacts caused by biodiversity loss/decline

Convention on
Biological Diversity

2011-2020
United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Possible information to include

Question 2: What major changes have taken place in the status and trends of biodiversity in your country?

- Focus on changes since last national report but highlight relevant historical data

- Present a general overview of the status of biodiversity using available assessments/studies

- Focus on those ecosystems/species that are nationally important

- Use indicators where possible

- Include case studies that demonstrate significant changes in biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Possible information to include

Question 3. What are the main threats to biodiversity?

- Describe the major threats (both direct and indirect) to biodiversity

- Link the threats to biodiversity with the observed changes in status and trends of biodiversity

Convention on
Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Possible information to include

Question 4. What are the impacts of the changes in biodiversity for ecosystem services and the socio-economic and cultural implications of these impacts?

- Describe the impacts of the changing status of biodiversity on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc.
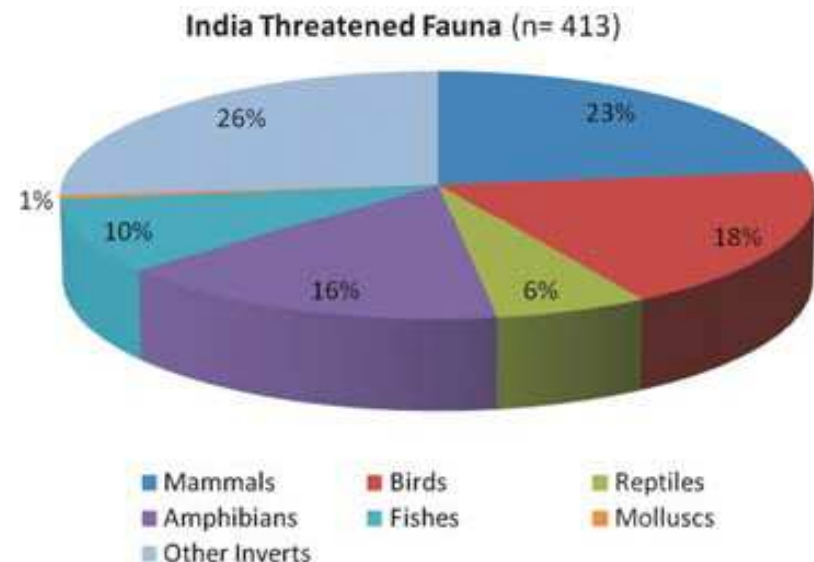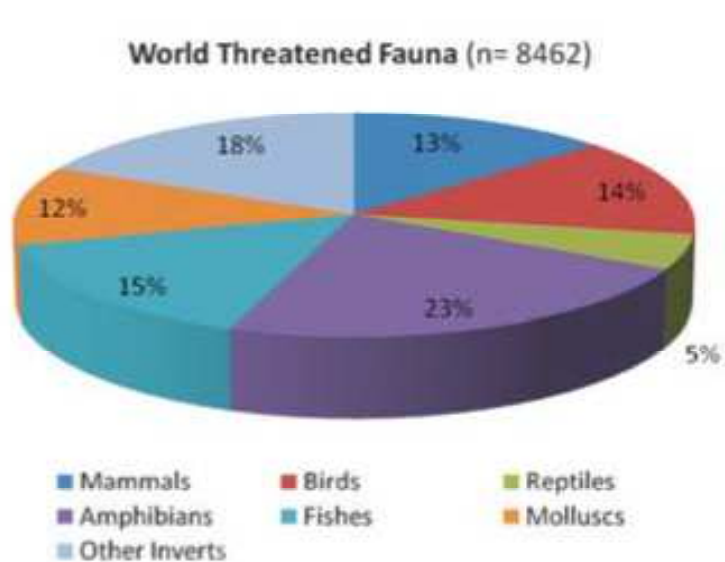- Consider nationally significant ecosystem goods and services

Convention on
Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Possible information to include

Optional Question: What are possible future changes for biodiversity and their impacts?

- Describe possible future scenarios for biodiversity
- Compare what might happen under "business as usual" policies with what might happen with greater investment in biodiversity
- Use scenario analysis models if available
- Describe scientific uncertainties for such analysis

Examples from the fourth national reports

## India - Representation of globally threatened Indian fauna

World Threatened Fauna (n= 8462)

- Mammals: 13%
- Birds: 14%
- Reptiles: 5%
- Amphibians: 23%
- Fishes: 15%
- Molluscs: 12%
- Other Inverts: 18%

India Threatened Fauna (n= 413)

- Mammals: 23%
- Birds: 18%
- Reptiles: 6%
- Amphibians: 16%
- Fishes: 10%
- Molluscs: 1%
- Other Inverts: 26%

Convention on Biological Diversity

2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Examples from the fourth national reports

China – Change in China's Marine Trophic Index
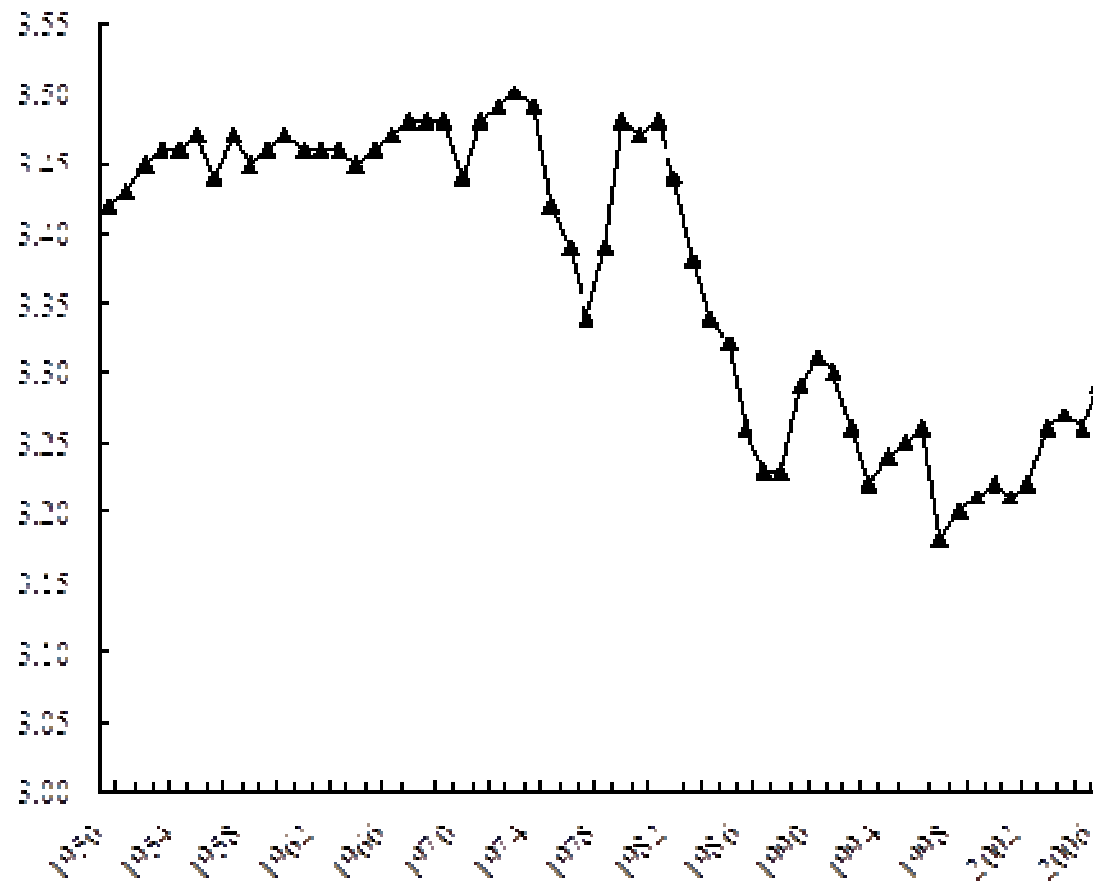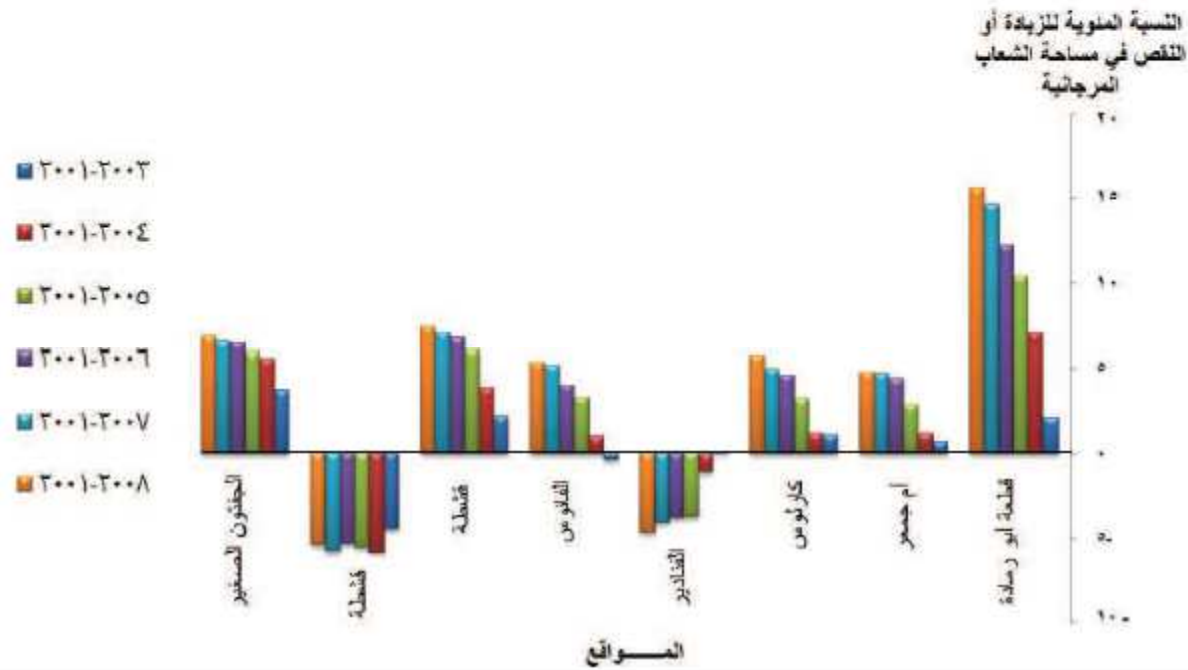
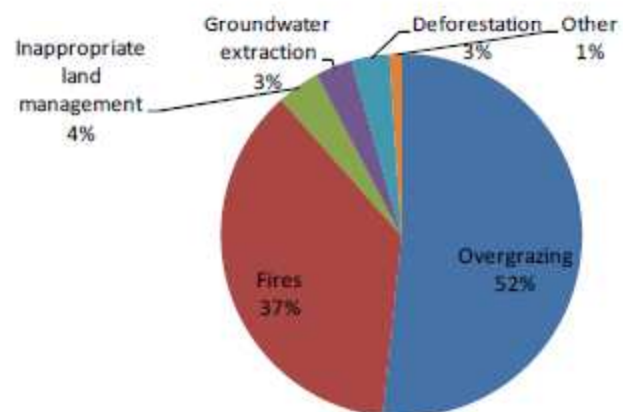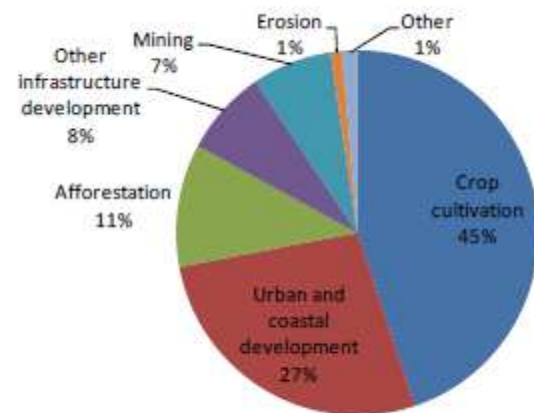التغير في الشعاب المرجانية بمنطقة الغردقة

Examples from the fourth national reports

Lebanon– Causes of plant species decline
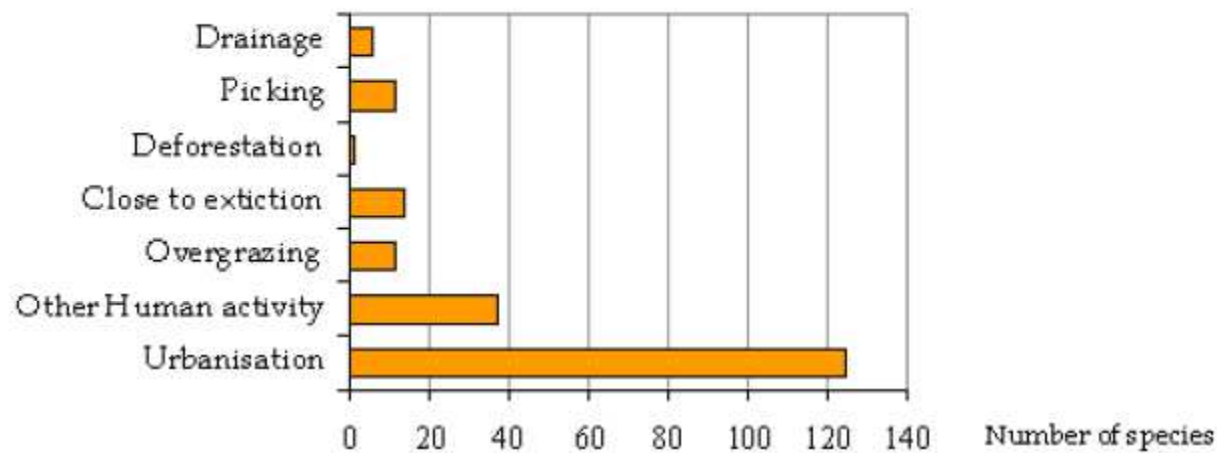
Source: MoA/UNEP, 1996c

Figure 5: Causes of plant species decline.

Figure 1-7: Underlying causes of (a) habitat loss and (b) habitat degradation affecting Red Data Listed plant species in South Africa

Examples from the fourth national reports

Barbados – Summary of Threats and Implications of Biodiversity Loss

Biome/ Ecosystem Type	Threats	Drivers of Threats		Implications
		Direct Drivers	**Indirect Drivers**	
Terrestrial	Land development Grass, pasture, sugarcane fires Introduction of invasive species Agri-chemical use Excessive land clearing Climate change	Pollution Habitat change, loss, destruction Alien invasive species	Unsustainable patterns of consumption & production Population growth & distribution Market failure	Habitat loss Loss of species – endemic, endangered Ecosystem fragmentation Loss of ecosystem benefits Pollution of fresh water systems Soil erosion Food insecurity

Convention on Biological Diversity

2011-2020 United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Examples from the fourth national reports

Trinidad and Tobago: Summary status and trends of key biodiversity-related ecosystem services

Northern Range ecosystem service	Service type – Provisioning/ Regulating/ Supporting	Condition	Trend	Certainty/ Confidence level
Forested ecosystems				
Timber	Provisioning	Fair	Decreasing	High
Non-timber forest products (including wildlife hunting)	Provisioning	Fair	Decreasing	Medium
Runoff regulation and retention (flooding and landslides)	Regulating	Fair	Decreasing (rapidly)	Medium to High
Climate and microclimate regulation	Regulation	Fair	Decreasing	Medium
Soil conservation	Regulating	Fair	Decreasing	Medium
Biodiversity services – wildlife habitat	Regulating and supporting	Fair	Decreasing	Medium
Water cycling and replenishment (for the provision of freshwater)	Supporting	Fair	Decreasing	Medium
Amenity value (recreation and ecotourism)	Cultural	Good	Decreasing	Medium

Examples from the fourth national reports

Trinidad and Tobago – Impacts of Land-sourced Pollution on Various Aspects of Human Well-being

Contaminant or Alteration	Food Security and Poverty Alleviation	Public Health and Safety	Ecosystem Health	Economic and Social Benefits. Uses	Total
Sewage	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
POPs	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Heavy Metals	2.00	2.17	2.17	2.00	8.34
Oils (Hydrocarbons)	2.17	2.17	3.00	2.17	9.51
Nutrients	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.17	10.17
Sediments	2.17	1.75	3.00	2.80	9.72
Litter/Solid Waste	2.17	2.30	3.00	3.00	10.47
Toxic, other Wastes	2.30	2.50	2.30	2.30	9.40
PADH	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	10.00

1 – Low Impact   2 – Medium Impact   3 – High Impact

For each pollutant, the severity of each impact was given a weighted score out of 3. The total severity for each pollutant was then calculated by finding the sum of the scores awarded to the four individual impacts.

Source: IMA and UNEP 2008

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Threats

Ecosystems

Ecosystems		Habitat Change	Climate Change	Invasive Species	Over-exploitation	Nutrients & pollution
Forest	Boreal	↗	↑	↗	→	↑
Forest	Temperate	↘	↑	↑	→	↑
Forest	Tropical	↑	↑	↑	↗	↑
Dryland	Temperate grassland	↗	↑	→	→	↑
Dryland	Mediterranean	↗	↑	↑	→	↑
Dryland	Tropical grassland and savanna	↗	↑	↑	→	↑
Dryland	Desert	→	↑	→	→	↑
Inland water		↑	↑	↑	→	↑
Coastal		↗	↑	↗	↗	↑
Marine		↑	↑	→	↗	↑
Island		→	↑	→	→	↑
Mountain		→	↑	→	→	↑
Polar		↗	↑	→	↗	↑

Overall Suggestions

- Focus on most recent data and provide historical data for context and for illustrating trends

- Focus on analyzing the information more than description

- Focus on nationally important species and ecosystems

- Use cases to help illustrate how actions taken have resulted in changes in biodiversity.

- Draw on all types of data and information

- Use expert/qualitative assessments where data is lacking

- To use existing indicators to assess the status and trends of biodiversity and the threats to it

- To use tools such as tables, charts, figures, graphics for better analysis and communication

Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Reference Materials and Information Sources

- GEO and regional assessments

- Reports by UN organizations (UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, UNDP, etc.)

- Reports by Regional organizations (UNEP ROWA, Arab League)

- Global Biodiversity Information Facility

- GEO BON

- TEEB and its reports

- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

- Reports by NGOs:

    – Living Planet Report

    – IUCN Red List

    -The State of the World's Birds

Convention on
Biological Diversity

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity