

Questionnaire

(a), (b)

Ministry of environment has addressed resource mobilization to highlight critical needs and a general set of actions in order to set the national framework for enhancing international financial flows and domestic funding for the NBSAP in the 5-year period 2015-2020. (refer to <http://www.biodiv.be/iraq>).

However, the progress of Iraq is still very limited, and the mechanism for evaluating the financial needs for implementation of biodiversity policies and plans has not developed yet.

There is no special budget allocated for NBSAP implementation, mainly because Iraq faced an economic crisis after 2015 with low international oil prices and a poorly diversified economy, vulnerable security situation and political instability. These factors continue to slow economic growth and divert government expenditures for social and economic services to defence against terror, thus negatively affecting annual budget allocations from relevant ministries.

The ministries at central, regional and local levels have contributed (in kind) through the coverage of surveys/missions by providing site teams (e.g. salaries and other logistic expenses). Some ministries have their own funds (for example environment fund in Ministry of environment) that has been used to finance actions ABT using fines and taxes collected as a result of transgressions of Environmental Laws.

External funds from donors or global facilities like GEF, adaptation fund, contribute to support countries including Iraq on projects concerned with biodiversity issues. Refer to Sec I NBT 23 which describes the number of funded projects with specific information of the objectives, period of implementation and the allocated budget.

(c),

Develop a separate target for resource mobilization, including identification of complementary financial mechanisms under the GEF.

(e), (f)

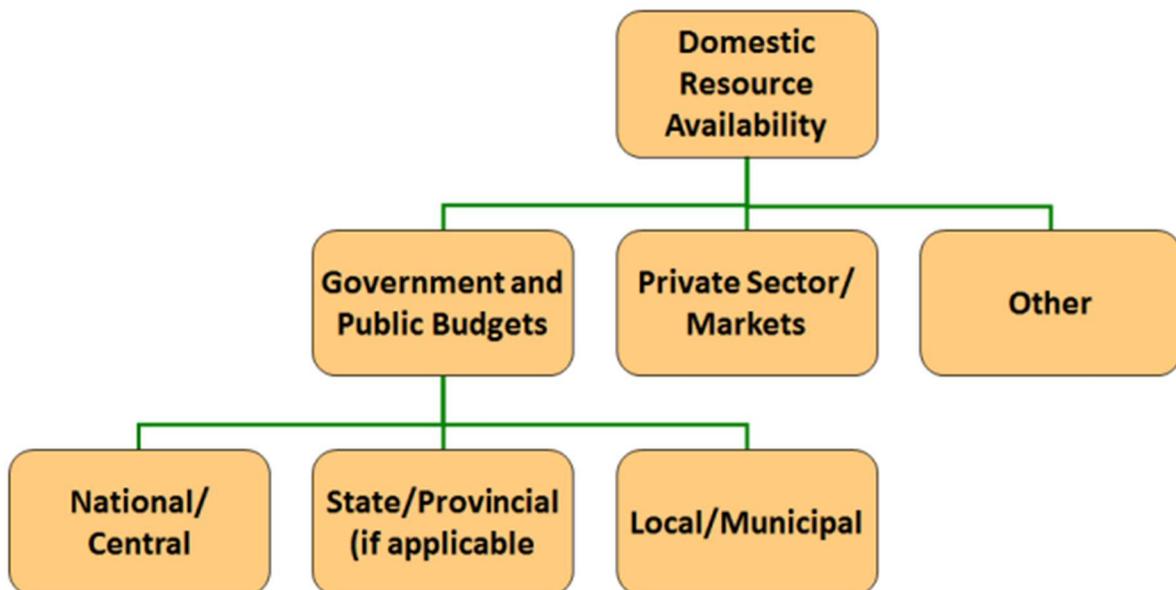
The domestic availability of financial resources in Iraq is provided mainly through governmental budget allocation. Governorates and the municipalities at the local level have also a budgetary share that can be conveyed to target project and

implementation of actions, if they are appropriately integrated into the Governorate Development Plans and aligned with relevant strategic objectives.

The private sector with particular reference to the most productive and flourishing activities, can also contribute budget for the implementation of certain projects and actions that are considered either of interest/importance to the specific stakeholder or that are considered as a sort of mitigation measure to compensate the impact that certain productive activities (like mining and oil extraction) are determining on the environment. Oil and gas extraction companies could be such a source of financing, as well as some of the food processing companies and factories related to the dates production in the Basra Governorate could be potential donors for projects aimed at preserving local diversity of date palm species and agrobiodiversity.

Other domestic sources of financing for the Strategy and its related actions could be national and local NGOs operating in the field of nature and biodiversity conservation on a voluntary basis. In these cases, financing opportunities could possibly be less probable since these not for profit organizations rely frequently on donations and self-financing of activities. However, their contribution to the implementation of the actions and ultimately the Strategy could be granted as ‘in-kind’ support with staffing and technical equipment and/or advice.

FIGURE : CHART OF THE DOMESTIC FINANCIAL FLOWS ACCORDING TO THE REPORTING FRAMEWORK OF THE CBD



(g),

In the NBSAP document, all the actions that have been identified have also been cross-checked with the projects, plans and actions envisaged by the other main national planning documents and existing strategies.

Where common objectives and contact points are found between the NBSAP and the other national plan/strategy considered scenarios could open for a joint implementation of the actions thereby using partially or totally the financial mechanism already in place.

(h),

Regarding the financial mechanism, we propose that Parties submit draft projects that should be based on the key gaps in their national reports and the GEF Manual for submission to the GEF and access to funding on time.