

## IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

### Basic Information

Title of case study			
Iraq: Traditional Agriculture by Marsh Arabs in the Southern Marshes			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
wetlands, fishery			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		March 2012	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	<a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf</a>		

### Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Iraq									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
<a href="https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@31.2954962,46.3168557,8.75z?hl=en">https://www.google.co.jp/maps/@31.2954962,46.3168557,8.75z?hl=en</a>									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Iraq's southern marshes are located at the point where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet, spreading over the so-called "Fertile Crescent." Almost the whole area of the country has a desert climate. Even in this hot, dry climate, the streams of the Tigris and Euphrates maintain the southern marshes. "Marsh Arabs" is the name the Westerners gave to the people who live around the southern marshes in Iraq.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
The Marsh Arabs are engaged in traditional agriculture and fisheries. They earn a living mainly by cultivating rice, wheat, and other grains as well as date palms and other fruit, raising cattle and buffalos, and catching fish and shellfish. Their settlements are located on the edges of the marshes, or stand on artificial floating islands that are regularly reinforced with reeds and mud.									

## Contents

Status ( <i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i> )	Completed	Period ( <i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i> )	03/2012
Rationale ( <i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i> )			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives ( <i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i> )			
This chapter provides an overview of the marshes and their traditional use in the area.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and other international organizations, positioning the present condition of Iraq's southern marshes as an important environmental and humanitarian issue, are implementing collaborative projects aimed at not only restoring the marshes to their original state, but also improving the overall living environment of the Marsh Arabs.			
Lessons learned ( <i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i> )			
Due to the cooperation of people in Iraq and abroad in recent years, the total area and vegetation cover of the southern marshes are being substantially restored, but on the other hand, new problems are emerging. In some areas, water introduced again to restore the marshes has in turn raised the concentration of salt and pollutants, preventing the ecosystem from recovering.			
Key messages			
In order to prevent such pollution, education of the fishermen is also considered necessary. Moreover, wetlands in southern Iraq also suffered water shortage according to the significant human demand for water. Not only this water shortage, but other problems such as the maintenance of public order in Iraq to carry out various projects, the allocation of water resources between farmers who have settled on the reclaimed land and the future of UNEP's projects to restore the marshes are also left unresolved.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities ( <i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i> )			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding ( <i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i> )			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

## Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●		■		■	■	■	■		
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■			■				■	■	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

■				■	■			
		■			■			