



IUCN freshwater Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) validation & delineation workshop for the Eastern Mediterranean



Azraq Oasis, Jordan (Kevin Smith)



02-06 December, 2013
Azraq Wetland Lodge, Jordan
Hosted by Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan

Kevin Smith
Freshwater Biodiversity Unit
Global Species Programme
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Donors:













MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

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The **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.





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Introduction

This workshop is part of the project 'Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Priorities for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot', which is funded primarily through CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) and the MAVA Foundation. This project aims to provide information for decision making to benefit conservation of freshwater biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot (Figure 1). This information provision is focused on species IUCN Red List assessments and the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas.

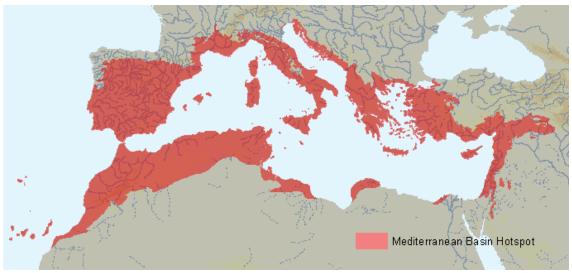


Figure 1. Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

This report is focused on the recent workshop (2-6 Dec, 2013, Jordan) that validated and delineated the freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Eastern Mediterranean region (see Figure 2). The KBAs discussed at this workshop are based on the results of the recent IUCN Red List freshwater species (fish and molluscs) assessments, also undertaken through this project. KBAs delineated by plants and odonates will be identified post this workshop and will be delineated and validated remotely – the reason for not including plants and odonates for this workshop was that very few KBAs were triggered by these species groups as there are few threatened or restricted range species in the region. Therefore we felt it important to focus the limited resources (and space available at the RSCN lodge) for fish and mollusc exerts. The IUCN Red List assessment review workshop, upon which this KBA analysis is based, was held in April 2013 (see the IUCN Red List assessment review workshop for the Eastern Mediterranean region report).

What is a KBA?

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. It uses a quantitative threshold based approach to assessing extinction risk of species (IUCN 2012). KBAs arose through the need to similarly identify sites of global significance for biodiversity. Initially for birds (Important Bird Areas) and plants (Important Plant Areas) a set of standardised criteria and thresholds were developed to identify sites in a justifiable and transparent way. The criteria used to identify KBAs are based on Vulnerability of a site (which is the probability that the site will be lost in the future), and irreplaceability of the site (that is the spatial option available – in other words if it is lost from here where else could it be preserved), see below for a summary of the KBA criteria and





thresholds for freshwater taxa (for more detail on the criteria, thresholds and methods used to see Holland *et al.* (2012)). So we see the most extreme example of these in sites such as those that qualify as an Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site, these are single sites which contain an Endangered or Critically Endangered species that occur nowhere else on earth.

Criteria used to identify a freshwater KBA (Holland et al. 2012)

Criterion 1: A site is known or thought to hold a significant number of one or more globally threatened species or other species of conservation concern.

Threshold: The presence of one or more CR, EN or VU species will trigger the site as a potential freshwater KBA.

Criterion 2: A site is known or thought to hold non-trivial numbers of one or more species (or infraspecific taxa as appropriate) of restricted range.

Threshold: A threshold value of 20,000 km2 should be applied for crabs, fish and molluscs and a threshold value of 50,000 km2 applied for odonates.

Criterion 3: A site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species that are <u>confined to an appropriate biogeographic unit</u> or units.

Threshold: To trigger qualification at least 25% of the total species from a specific taxonomic group must be restricted to the freshwater ecoregion in which the catchment is located.

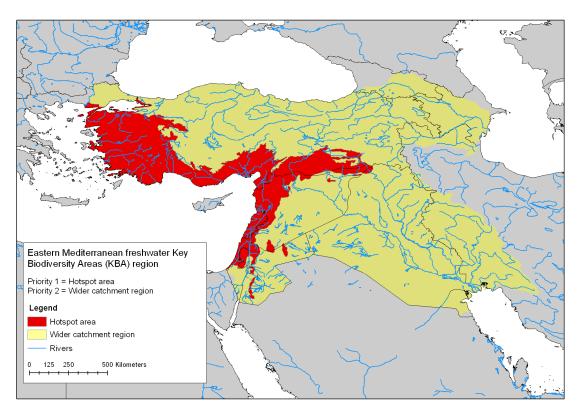


Figure 2. Eastern Mediterranean region showing the Hotspot and wider project region





Workshop content

The workshop was held over five days. The first session focused on an introduction to the project (see Annex 1 for the presentation) and IUCN KBA criteria and process. Then the group reviewed the analysis undertaken to show the number of times each sub-basin is triggered as a potential KBA based on the IUCN Red List species data (Figure 3). This analysis shows that most sub-catchments are triggered as KBAs (mostly due to wide ranging threatened species), therefore a prioritisation process was agreed with the participants to firstly focus on the potential Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (i.e. those sub-catchments containing highly threatened species endemic to that sub-catchment/lake), and to then assess/validate sub-catchments with the highest numbers of trigger species.

The group then split into two sub-groups (Levant & Turkey) and discussed each KBA one by one. For each KBA the following attributes were discussed:

- Site boundary delineation to determine if the KBA should be delineated as the single subcatchment or merged with adjacent catchments to from a more logical management unit
- Name the KBA site based on major rivers or lakes in the KBA catchment
- Identify focal areas + management zones (focal areas are often the areas where the species is found within the sub-catchment)
- Confirm presence of KBA "trigger" species
- Confirm/complete list of KBA overlap with existing protected areas + management focus
- General site text description
- Identify main threats & habitats
- Propose conservation actions + scale of action
- Propose organisations to "champion" each site



KBA working groups





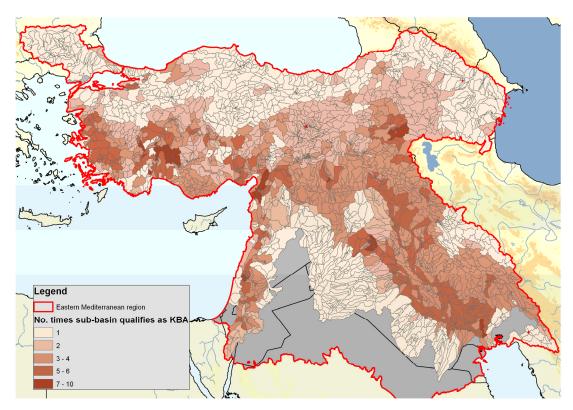


Figure 3. Number of times each sub-basin is triggered as a potential KBA based on the IUCN Red List species data

Participants

The participants were identified through the expertise of the relevant IUCN specialist groups, participants to the previous IUCN Red List assessment review workshop and RSCN. At the workshop we needed expertise on the species that were triggering the KBAs (fish and molluscs) but also expertise on general site conservation within the region identification of threats, conservation measures and site champions.

There were 15 participants at the workshop (listed below), providing a good spread of taxonomic, conservation and geographic expertise. Unfortunately Engin Yilmaz of Doğa Derneği, Turkey fell ill a few days before the workshop so could not attend, however his colleague Süreyya İsfendiyaroğlu was already attending the workshop. In addition a number of others were also invited who could not attend including Ramsar Focal Points (Mr Fayez Karimeh, Ministry of Irrigation Syria; Mr Serif Hizli, Directorate of Nature Conservation & National Parks Turkey; Ms Lina Yamout, Ministry of Environment Lebanon); Bassima Khatib Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon; Dr. Manal Nader Environment Institute, Lebanon.





Workshop Participants:

Fishes:

<u>Dr. Jorg Freyhof</u>, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, Germany. IUCN Freshwater Fish Specialist Group Regional Chair for Europe.

<u>Prof. F. Guler Ekmekci,</u> Hydrobiology Section, Biology Dept., Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. <u>Dr. Nashat Hamidan</u>, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan.

Molluscs:

<u>Dr. Ümit Kebapçi</u> Department of Biology, Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Burdur, Turkey.

<u>Dr. Manuel Peixoto de Magalhães Lopes Lima</u>, CIIMAR – Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research, University of Porto, Portugal.

Dr. Dirk van Damme, Gent University, Belgium

Prof. Zuhair Amr, Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan.

Conservation management:

<u>Süreyya İsfendiyaroğlu</u>, Doğa Derneği, Turkey
<u>Haiffa Abdulhalim</u>, IUCN Regional Office for West Asia, Jordan
<u>Cagri Gocek</u>, WWF Turkey
<u>Laith El Moghrabi</u>, Consultant, Jordan

IUCN (facilitators):

Mr. Kevin Smith, Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN Global Species Programme, Cambridge, UK. Dr. Savrina Carrizo, Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN Global Species Programme, Cambridge, UK. Ms. Violetta Barrios, Mediterranean Species Programme, IUCN-Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain.

RSCN:

Khaled Younis, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan







Participant group photo left to right, back row: Nashat Hamidan; IUCN ROWA colleague; Süreyya İsfendiyaroğlu; Ümit Kebapçi; Jörg Freyhof; Violetta Barrios; Laith El Moghrabi; Guler Ekmekci; Kevin Smith. Front row: Haiffa Abdulhalim; Savrina Carrizo; Dirk van Damme; Manuel Lima; Cagri Gocek.

Results (provisional)

At the workshop the participants delineated and validated 69 separate freshwater KBAs (Figures 4, 5 & 6), most of these are along the Mediterranean coastal basins of Turkey and the Levant, or along the lower and middle stretches of the Tigris. An example of the worksheet completed for each KBA can be seen in Annex I.

Figures 7, 8, and 9, show the number of KBA trigger species (fishes and molluscs) validated for the KBA during the workshop. The highest number of trigger species (provisional/draft results) are found in the Egrdir Lake, Lower Asi Drainage, and Lake Beysehir and Catchments KBAs, all within Turkey (Lower Asi is also with Syria).

The number of KBA trigger species covered by the resulting KBA network is 107 freshwater fish species (of which 91 are threatened; 83 qualify as restricted range species, and 7 qualify as biome restricted species) and 61 mollusc species (of which 47 are threatened, 50 qualify as restricted range species, and 10 qualify as biome restricted species) (see Annex II).

Next steps

The next steps in the project will be to tidy the data from the workshop, for example making final edits to trigger species for the KBAs, and incorporate the KBAs identified from the odonata and aquatic plants. Once this has been done a consolidation with existing (terrestrial) KBAs (for example Important Bird Areas) can be undertaken and then the results will be uploaded to the World Biodiversity Database (WBDB).





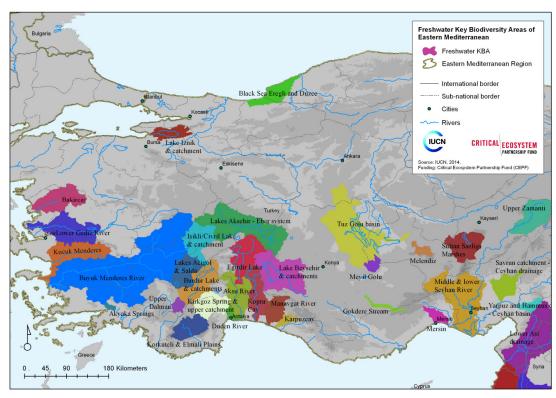


Figure 4. Freshwater KBAs for fishes and molluscs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (WEST)

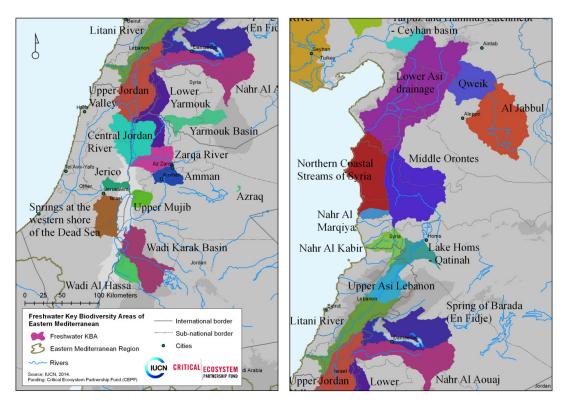


Figure 5. Freshwater KBAs for fishes and molluscs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (CENTRAL)





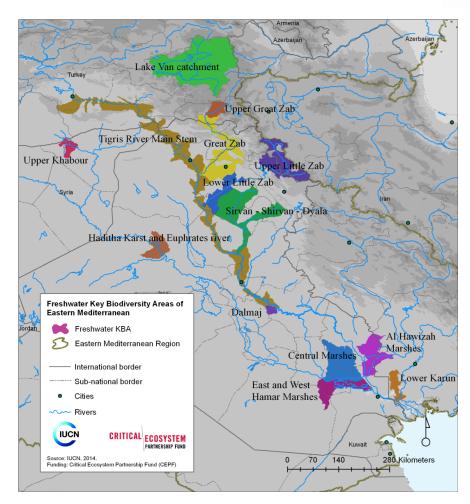


Figure 6. Freshwater KBAs for fishes and molluscs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (EAST)





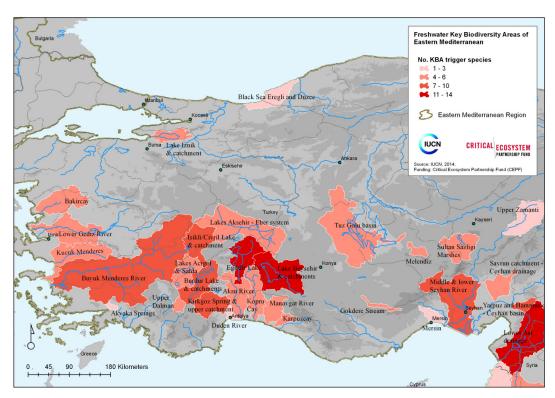


Figure 7. KBA trigger species (fishes & molluscs) for the freshwater KBAs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (WEST)

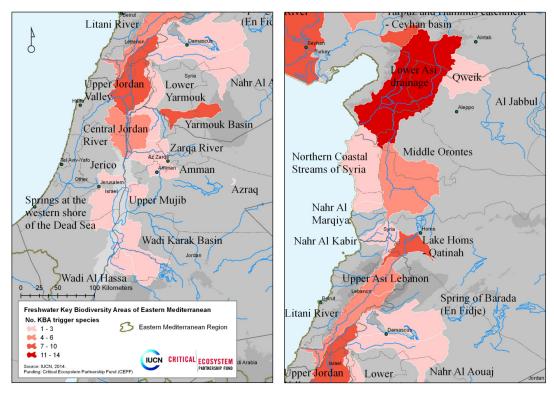


Figure 8. KBA trigger species (fishes & molluscs) for the freshwater KBAs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (CENTRAL)





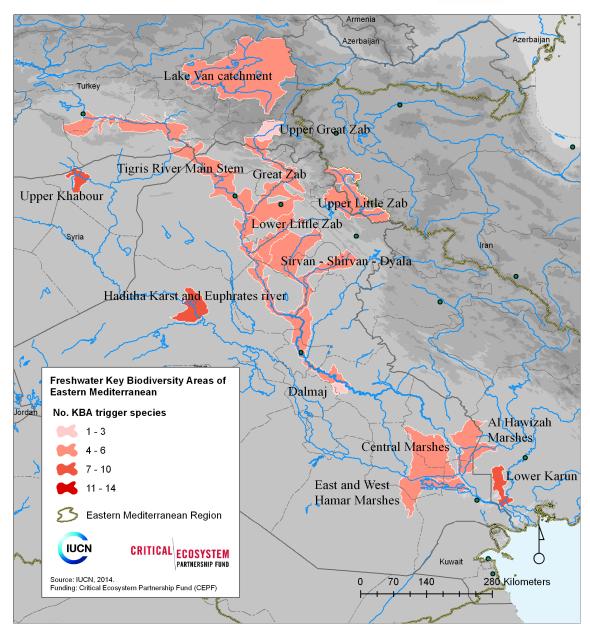


Figure 9. KBA trigger species (fishes & molluscs) for the freshwater KBAs – Eastern Mediterranean Region (WEST)

References

Holland, R.A., Darwall, W.R.T. and Smith, K.G. 2012. Conservation priorities for freshwater biodiversity: The Key Biodiversity Area approach refined and tested for continental Africa. *Biological Conservation* 148(1):167-179

IUCN. (2012). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. Second edition. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN. iv + 32pp. http://jr.iucnredlist.org/documents/redlist_cats_crit_en.pdf





Annex I. Example of KBA data sheet.

HYBAS ID	COUNTRY
2080703920	Turkey

SITE PROFILE	
National Site Name	Savrun catchment (Ceyhan drainage)
English Name	
KBA delineation	Catchment
Focal area delineation	No
Site description	Permanent streams flowing into the middle part of the Ceyhan River.
Management required at catchment scale	Catchment
Management required at focal area within catchment	No

TRIGGER SPECIES						
HYBAS ID	BINOMIAL	Criterion1	Criterion2	Criterion3	Group	Notes
2080703920	Capoeta erhani	NA	7329.892258	NA	Fishes	Endemic to wider Ceyan catchment
2080703920	Cobitis evreni	EN	3993.285128	NA	Fishes	Endemic to wider Ceyan catchment
2080703920	Hemigrammocapoeta culiciphaga	NA	15665.31008	NA	Fishes	
2080703920	Potomida littoralis	EN	NA	NA	Molluscs	
2080703920	Unio crassus	EN	NA	NA	Molluscs	
	Unio terminalis	VU			Molluscs	New (unpublished

PROTECTED AREAS						
HYBAS ID	COUNTRY	NAME	DESIG	DESIG TYPE	GOV TYPE	Management Focus
2080703920	TUR	Cocak Cehennemdere	Game Reserve	National	Federal or national ministry or agency	
		Savrun	Game Reserve			

SITE CHAMPIONS	
Cukurova University	
Sutcu Imam University	
Ministry of Forestry and Water	

HABITAT	YES NO	Notes
5 WETLANDS INLAND		
5.1 Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks(includes waterfalls)	yes	





15 ARTIFICIAL AQUATIC			
15.1 Water Storage Areas (over 8ha)		yes	
13/2 Water Storage Areas (over only)		, c.	
THREATS		YES NO	Notes
1.RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT		·	
1.1 Housing & urban areas			
1.2 Commercial & industrial areas		yes	Cement
1.3 Tourism & recreation areas			
2 AGRICULTURE & AQUACULTURE			
2.1 Annual & perennial non-timber crops		yes	
2.2 Wood & pulp plantations			
2.3 Livestock farming & ranching			
2.4 Marine & freshwater aquaculture			
7 NATURAL SYSTEM MODIFICATION			
7.1 Fire & fire suppression			
7.2 Dams & water management/use		yes	
7.3 Other ecosystem modifications			
9 POLLUTION			
9.1 Domestic & urban waste water			
9.2 Industrial & military effluents		yes	
9.3 Agricultural & forestry effluents		yes	
9.4 Garbage & solid waste			
9.5 Air-borne pollutants			
9.6 Excess energy			
11 CLIMATE CHANGE & SEVERE WEATHER			
11.1 Habitat shifting & alteration			
11.2 Droughts		yes	
11.3 Temperature extremes			
11.4 Storms & flooding			
11.5 Other impacts			
ACTIONS	Current	Recommended	Notes
1 LAND/WATER PROTECTION	- Current	- Heconimenaea	
1.1 Site/area protection			
1.2 Resource & habitat protection			
2 LAND/WATER MANAGEMENT			
·	Voc		For whole Couhes
2.1 Site/area management	yes		For whole Ceyhan catchment
2.2 Invasive/problematic species control			
2.3 Habitat & natural process restoration		yes	





Annex II. KBA trigger species (provisional)

Species	Criterion 1 Threatened species	Criterion 2 Restricted Range	Criterion 3 Biome Restricted
Fishes	·		
Acanthobrama centisquama	Thr.		
Acanthobrama tricolor	Thr.		
Alburnus attalus	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus baliki	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus battalgilae	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus demiri	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus nasreddini	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus orontis	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus qalilus	Thr.	RR	
Alburnus tarichi		RR	
Alburnus timarensis	Thr.	RR	
Aphanius danfordii	Thr.	RR	
Aphanius dispar ssp. richardsoni	Thr.		
Aphanius mesopotanicus	Thr.		
Aphanius sirhani	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Aphanius sureyanus	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Aphanius transgrediens	Thr.	RR	
Barbus ercisianus		RR	
Barbus grypus	Thr.		
Caecocypris basimi	Thr.	RR	
Capoeta antalyensis	Thr.	RR	
Capoeta barroisi	Thr.	RR	
Capoeta caelestis		RR	
Capoeta erhani		RR	
Capoeta kosswigi		RR	
Capoeta mauricii	Thr.	RR	
Capoeta pestai	Thr.	RR	
Capoeta turani		RR	
Carasobarbus kosswigi	Thr.		
Chondrostoma beysehirense	Thr.	RR	
Chondrostoma fahirae	Thr.	RR	
Chondrostoma holmwoodii	Thr.		
Chondrostoma kinzelbachi	Thr.	RR	
Chondrostoma meandrense	Thr.		
Cobitis battalgili	Thr.	RR	
Cobitis bilseli	Thr.	RR	
Cobitis evreni	Thr.	RR	
Cobitis levantina	Thr.	RR	
Cobitis phrygica	Thr.	RR	
Cobitis splendens	Thr.	RR	





pecies	Criterion 1 Threatened species	Criterion 2 Restricted Range	Criterion 3 Biome Restricted
Cobitis turcica	Thr.	RR	
Garra ghorensis	Thr.	RR	
Gobio battalgilae		RR	
Gobio gymnostethus	Thr.	RR	
Gobio hettitorum	Thr.	RR	
Gobio insuyanus	Thr.	RR	
Gobio intermedius	Thr.	RR	
Gobio maeandricus	Thr.	RR	
Gobio microlepidotus	Thr.	RR	
Haplochromis flaviijosefi			
Hemigrammocapoeta culiciphaga		RR	
Hemigrammocapoeta nana	Thr.		
Knipowitschia ephesi	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Knipowitschia mermere	Thr.	RR	
Luciobarbus esocinus	Thr.		
Luciobarbus kottelati	Thr.	RR	
Luciobarbus longiceps	Thr.		
Luciobarbus subquincunciatus	Thr.		
Luciobarbus xanthopterus	Thr.		
Mesopotamichthys sharpeyi	Thr.	RR	
Mirogrex terraesanctae		RR	
Oxynoemacheilus anatolicus	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus atili		RR	
Oxynoemacheilus ercisianus	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus eregliensis	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus galilaeus	Thr.		
Oxynoemacheilus germencicus	Thr.		Biome R
Oxynoemacheilus hamwii	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus insignis	Thr.		
Oxynoemacheilus leontinae		RR	
Oxynoemacheilus mediterraneus		RR	
Oxynoemacheilus mesudae	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus panthera	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus phoxinoides	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus seyhanensis	Thr.		
Oxynoemacheilus seyhanicola	Thr.	RR	
Oxynoemacheilus tigris	Thr.	RR	
Oxynomacheilus eregliensis	Thr.		
Pseudophoxinus alii	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus anatolicus	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus antalyae	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Pseudophoxinus burduricus	Thr.		
Pseudophoxinus crassus	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus drusensis	Thr.	RR	





Species	Criterion 1 Threatened species	Criterion 2 Restricted Range	Criterion 3 Biome Restricted
Pseudophoxinus egridiri	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus elizavetae	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus fahrettini	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus hasani	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus hittitorum	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus kervillei	Thr.		
Pseudophoxinus maeandri	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus maeandricus	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus syriacus	Thr.	RR	
Pseudophoxinus zekayi	Thr.	RR	
Salmo labecula	Thr.	RR	
Salmo opimus	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Salmo platycephalus	Thr.	RR	
Seminemacheilus ispartensis	Thr.	RR	
Seminemacheilus lendlii	Thr.		
Squalius cappadocicus	Thr.		
Squalius carinus	Thr.	RR	
Squalius cii		RR	
Squalius recurvirostris	Thr.	RR	
Tristramella simonis		RR	
Tylognathus festai	Thr.		
Typhlogarra widdowsoni	Thr.	RR	
Vimba mirabilis		RR	Biome R
Molluscs			
Anodonta pseudodopsis	Thr.	RR	
Anodonta pseudopsis	Thr.	RR	
Belgrandiella cavernica	Thr.	RR	
Belgrandiella libanica	Thr.		
Bithynia pesicii	Thr.	RR	
Bithynia pseudemmericia	Thr.	RR	
Bithynia yildrimii	Thr.	RR	
Bythinella occasiuncula	Thr.	RR	
Bythinella turca	Thr.	RR	
Dreissena iconica			
Falsibelgrandiella bunarica		RR	
Falsipyrgula barroisi	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Falsipyrgula beysehirana	Thr.		
Falsipyrgula pfeiferi	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Graecoanatolica brevis	Thr.	RR	
Graecoanatolica conica	Thr.	RR	
Graecoanatolica dinarica	Thr.		
Graecoanatolica kocapinarica	Thr.	RR	
Graecoanatolica lacustristurca	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Graecoanatolica pamphylica	Thr.	RR	





pecies	Criterion 1 Threatened species	Criterion 2 Restricted Range	Criterion 3 Biome Restricted
Graecoanatolica tenuis	Thr.	RR	
Gyraulus argaeicus	Thr.	RR	
Gyraulus bekaensis	Thr.	RR	
Gyraulus huwaizahensis			
Gyraulus nedyalkovi	Thr.	RR	
Gyraulus pamphylicus	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Heleobia contempta		RR	
Hydrobia anatolica	Thr.	RR	
Hydrobia soosi		RR	
Islamia anatolica	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Islamia bunarbasa	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Islamia pseudorientalica	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Kirelia carinata	Thr.	RR	
Kirelia murtici	Thr.	RR	
Leguminaia saulcyi	Thr.	RR	
Leguminaia wheatleyi		RR	
Margaritifera homsensis	Thr.	RR	
Melanopsis ammonis	Thr.	RR	
Melanopsis buccinoidea		RR	
Melanopsis dircaena	Thr.	RR	
Melanopsis germaini	Thr.	RR	
Melanopsis infracincta	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Melanopsis khabourensis	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Potomida littoralis	Thr.		
Pseudamnicola geldiayana	Thr.	RR	
Pseudamnicola solitaria	Thr.		
Pseudobithynia kathrinae	Thr.	RR	
Pseudobithynia levantica	Thr.	RR	
Pseudobithynia pentheri		RR	
Pseudorientalia natolica	Thr.	RR	
Pyrgorientalia zilchi			
Sadleriana byzanthina		RR	
Stagnicola tekecus		RR	
Tefennia tefennica	Thr.	RR	
Theodoxus altenai	Thr.	RR	Biome R
Theodoxus cinctellus		RR	
Theodoxus euphraticus		RR	
Torosia proschwitzi		RR	
Turcorientalia anatolica	Thr.		
Unio crassus	Thr.		
Unio terminalis	Thr.		