

CONSULTANT WINS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD BANK GROUP'S DAMAGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR IRAQ

Between June 2014 and December 2017, large regions of Iraq were under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which resulted in widespread destruction of infrastructure and natural resources as well as the displacement of more than 5 million people. In January 2018, the World Bank Group published their report entitled *"Iraq Reconstruction and Investment: Part 2 – Damage and Needs Assessment of Affected Governorates"*. This assessment was unique in terms of its geographical and sectoral scope and aimed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the damage, losses and needs for reconstruction across social, productive and infrastructure sectors as well as cross-cutting sectors, one of which was *"Environment and Forestry"*. Damage within each sector was assessed against a pre-2014 baseline using a combination of direct and remote data-gathering approaches, including analysis of satellite imagery. Dr Kevin Whittington-Jones, CES Executive Consultant, co-authored the chapter on "Environment and Forestry" and assisted in the development of an approach to calculate a financial value for the damage to a wide range of natural resource categories caused by the conflict. It was concluded that conflict resulted in the loss of approximately 47% of the natural forests and contamination of more than 2 million hectares by land mines and hazardous chemicals. He and his co-authors also estimated the financial requirements for restoration of these natural resources and identified priorities for the restoration efforts. In August 2019, it was announced that Dr Whittington-Jones was one of the recipients of the annual World Bank Vice President Unit's Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy (ENB) Award for his contribution to this assessment.