

## Amedi & Sulav (IQ008)

Dohuk – 37.108056°N 43.480833°E

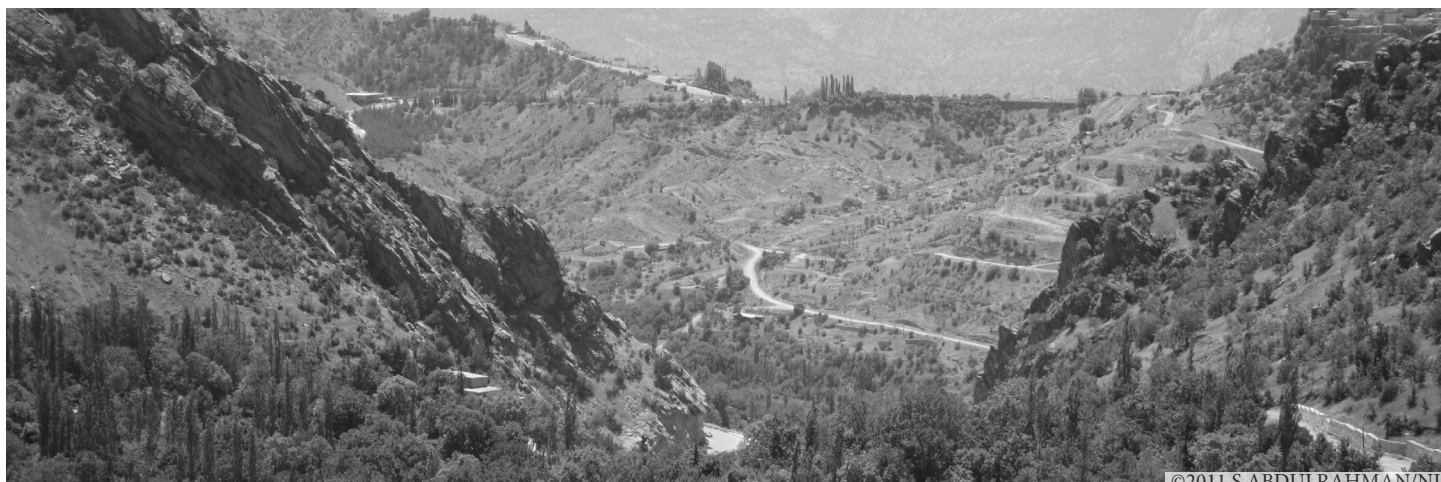
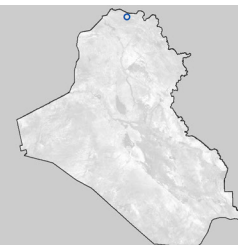
IBA Criteria: **A1 and A3**

IPA Criteria: **A4 and B1**

Area: **6037 ha** - Altitude: **873-1563 m**

Ecoregion: **Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe (PA0446)**

Status: **Unprotected**



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**Site Description:** Evans (1994) listed the area as an Important Bird Area (IBA003). The KBA surveys looked at two main areas here around the town of Amedi and the Sulav Resort. The main habitat types were oak woodlands and mountain riverine forest. The site is located in the Zagros Range and the geology is siltstone and sandstone. The soil type is sandy clay.

Amedi is an ancient town and historical site with about 34 archaeological features, some of which go back to the time of the Assyrians, Medeans, and different Kurdish periods. The town sits atop a rocky promontory approximately 1 km x 500 m in size and the surrounding areas features cliffs and gorges, including a ridge running east to west to the north of the town, a valley to

the south and another east-west ridge at the southern extent of the site.

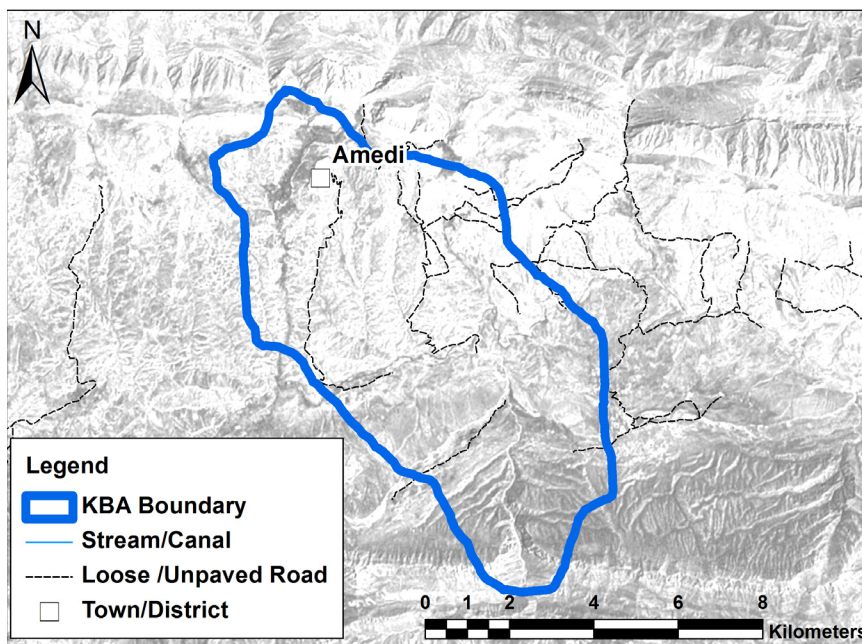
The Sulav area is situated on the south-facing slope of the ridge to the north of Amedi, which descends from rocky cliffs with thin scrubs to oak and juniper shrub forest that has a rocky and grassy floor. Numerous springs and cascading streams flow from here into the valley to the south, many lined by mature walnut trees, and the resort area is located just northwest of Amedi. There are many vineyards and orchards throughout the area. One of Saddam's former palaces is located inside the western edge of the delineation as well.

Important Bird Area Criteria	Observations made 2007-2010.	
<b>A1. Globally threatened species</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Wintering/ Passage</b>
Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> (Summer visitor)	1 pair (2009-2010)	
<b>A3. Biome-restricted species</b>		
<b>Mediterranean biome</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Wintering/ Passage</b>
Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i> (Summer visitor)	30 pairs (2008-2010)	
Sombre Tit <i>Poecile lugubris</i> (Resident)	100 pairs	
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i> (Resident)	50 pairs (2008-2010)	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i> (Summer visitor)	20 pairs (2008, 2010)	
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> (Summer visitor)	90 pairs (2008)	
<b>Important Plant Area Criteria</b>		
<b>A4. Site contains national endemic, near endemic, regional endemic and/or regional range-restricted species or infraspecific taxa</b>		
<b>Note: *historically recorded</b>		
Endemics at this site include: <i>Campanula mardinisis</i> , * <i>Centaurea foreolata</i> , <i>Cousinia leatherdalei</i> , <i>Eryngium hainesii</i> , <i>Linum velutinum</i> , * <i>Michauxia nuda</i> , and <i>Onosma albo-roseum</i> var. <i>macrocalycinum</i> ;		
Near endemics at the site were: * <i>Grammosciadium cornutum</i> , * <i>Salvia kurdica</i> , and * <i>Stachys kotschyii</i>		
<b>B1. Site is a particularly species-rich example of defined habitat type</b>		
Mountain Forest- Mountain Riverine Forest habitat type and Mountain Forest Vegetation- Oak Forest- Lowest and Medium Zones habitat type.		

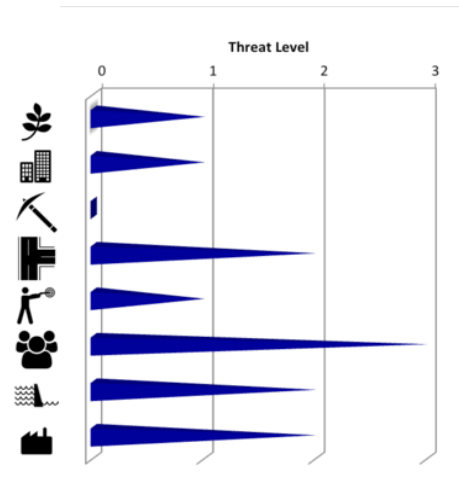
**Additional Important Bird Observations:** A total of 74 species were recorded. The site also held three Irano-Turanian, one Eurasian Steppe and Desert and one Eurasian High-Montane biome-restricted species. Eastern Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza semenowi* is Near Threatened.

**Other Important Fauna:** Mammal data were collected in 2010 only. One local reported a sighting of the globally endangered Persian Fallow Deer *Dama mesopotamica* in 2006, but this remains unverified. Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus* was observed, which though a least concern species has a declining population trend and is heavily persecuted for the pet trade in Iraq. There are streams and rivers in the area but no fish survey was conducted.

**Additional Plant & Habitat Information:** This site contains a good population of pistachios *Pistacia eurycarpa*, which are economically and culturally important. It also held species important as genetic resources species such as *Avena fatua* and *Poa bulbosa*



**Conservation Issues:** Tourism intensification was considered a very high threat to the area. Sulav is a major resort and the entire area is relatively close to Dohuk, so many people come for picnicking, resulting in the accumulation of garbage and potential sewage problems. A lot of the streams in the resort and picnic areas have also been hardened. Road construction has continued over a large area of the valley during recent years but most other development is focused in the towns and resort areas.



**Recommendations:** Several endemic and near endemic plant species as well as important bird species occur here and the claim that Persian Fallow Deer might be found in this area warrants more detailed surveys. Given the popularity of this area, its cultural importance and its proximity to the town of Dohuk, tourism and recreational use of this area will be one of the most important issues to address. Tourism plans are in place for the area but it is recommended to incorporate more protection for natural resources. The Gara Mountain & Garagu (IQ007) KBA site is located just to the southwest of this area and thus some integrated management planning for these two sites would be advisable.