

Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



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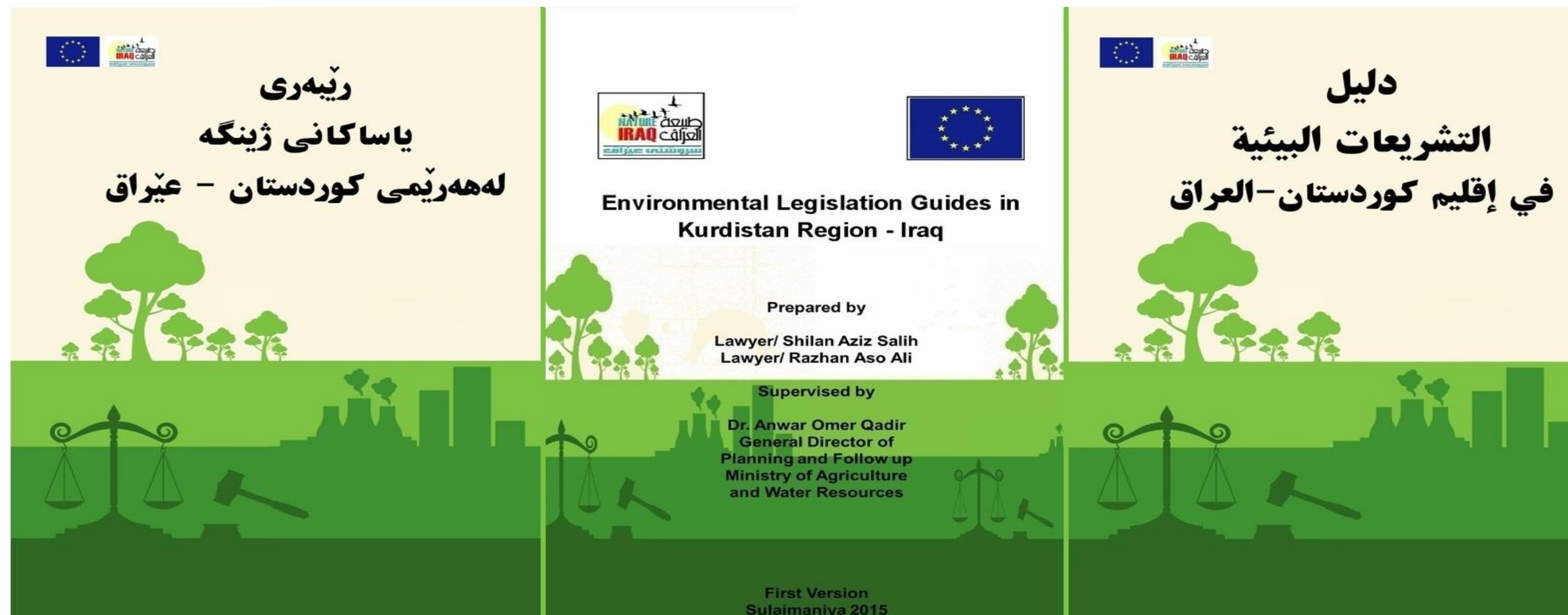
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No.8

March – 2016

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Environmental Legal Guide For Laws in Kurdistan Region & Iraq



The **Iraq Water Keeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project**, a project of Nature Iraq, recently created a user-friendly guide on the environmental laws of KRI & Iraq for the three major components of the environment; water, air, and soil, as well as the living elements of the plant and animal. This guide written in three languages (Kurdish, Arabic and English) explains the basic environmental laws of the country and the region and the rights of its citizens to take action. The 1000 copies printed in both Kurdish and Arabic, will be distributed to at least 500 community and civil society members interested in and/or working in the field of environment and public services.

This guide was prepared by Nature Iraq legal staff: Shilan Aziz Salih & Razhan Aso Ali , under direct supervision of Dr. Anwar Omer Qadir (Director General of Planning and follow up of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources) in KRI.

Nature Iraq began the translation, printing, and publication process of the legal guide under (Iraq Water keeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project) **funded by the European Union**.

Press Conference For The Guide in Sulaimani



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Prepared by: Diary Muhamad Rashid

www. nature iraq .org

On December 21st 2015, Nature Iraq held a press conference at Ramada hotel in Sulaimani, launching the first environmental legislation guide in Iraq under the auspices of Dr.Haval Abu-Bakir, the head of Sulaimani Provincial Council. The guide seeks to present an accurate picture of environmental laws and regulations currently in place in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Iraq as a whole. It addresses a knowledge gap observed within local communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The content of the Official Gazette is indeed not easily accessible to the public, local businesses or local groups and is not written in a language widely accessible to members of the civil society. This often results in insufficient or inexistent compliance with environmental laws for land, air, and water. In this sense, the guide will make the environmental laws and regulations more accessible and understandable to local CSOs, businesses and the general public.

During the conference, copies of the guide were distributed to the attendees. Amongst those, 38 representatives of governmental bodies, as well as important media outlets (i.e. KNN, Gali Kurdistan , Kurdsat and Xendan), were present. Outreach activities will follow to promote the guide and its use. Nature Iraq is hoping that this will pave the way to more achievements with regards to environmental laws advocacy.



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Introduction And Distribution Of The Legal Guide In Erbil



On January 12th 2016, at the meeting hall of the Directorate General of Tourism in Erbil, a presentation was held to announce the launch of the legal guide (Environmental Legislation Guides in Kurdistan Region - Iraq) which was published as part of the (Iraq Water keeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project).

In the presence of representative stakeholders, such as the Environmental Protection and Improvement Board, Environment Directorate of Erbil , Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in KRG , higher education , General Directorate of Municipality , General Directorate of Education , General Directorate of Water and Sewage , General Directorate of Ground Water , Directorate of Forestry Police in KRG), and environmental organizations and concerned individuals in the field of the environment, and the presence Dr. Anwar Omar Qadir (General Director of Planning and follow up in ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in KRG) supervisor of the legal guide .

On the same day, the Nature Iraq staff gave appreciation to Dr. Anwar Omar Qadir, for his endless efforts and continuous support throughout the compilation and publication of the legal guide.



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Introduction And Distribution Of The Legal Guide in Duhok



On February 2nd 2016, Nature Iraq advocacy team held a joint meeting in coordination with Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection (KOARP) at the meeting hall of the Veterinary Directorate of Duhok, with representatives of 27 directorates and decision makers as well as members of the Civil Society Organizations, attending the meeting. The meeting consisted of a briefing about launching the first Environmental Legislation Guides in Kurdistan Region – Iraq where 250 copies of the legal guide in both Kurdish & Arabic languages were distributed to the attendees.

As part of the meeting, an introduction on the goal of the advocacy project in encouraging participation and feedback between Civil Society Organizations, the governmental bodies and the public in the process of developing effective environmental laws and regulations in KRG, Although the final version is published in the Official Gazette, but the laws of Iraq are developed without public input. Overall, the public has no input and rarely even knows when a law is passed or what their rights are under the law.

That is why we held this joint meeting to modify the provisions of article of instruction on Hunting and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds, Number (1) of 2015, this instruction is published in Official Gazette on April 2015.

All attendance were agreed that this instruction No. 1 of 2015 has many legal deficiencies and through the implementation of these instructions cannot control the phenomenon of over-hunting , So the final modified version will be submitted to Protection and Improvement Board in KRG, in order to publish the new version in Official Gazette.

