

# Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



This Project is Funded by European Union



Water Right Foundation

Partnership



Implemented by NI

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## Special Educational Project on Environment



Environmental Law and Advocacy Project is a four year project of Nature Iraq. The Project found it vital to conduct a specific educational project on environment for some primary school within and outside Sulaimani city particularly the stages 1 to 3. April the 11th was the starting day of this project. Choosing such a targeted group as the primary schools is because children in these selected stages are active and energetic. They have a great ability to learn and can have a positive impact on their families and friends.

A briefing on the project in the current time and future plans:

In the beginning of April the idea of an educational project for primary schools was negotiated. Then, the idea was developed through collecting some pictures that can represent (environment in general, family, education, water resources, climate, and etc.). With the help of some designers, these pictures were refined and clearly and simply redesigned so that children can better understand and learn from them. For each picture, a clear, easy and educational paragraph about the content of the picture was added so that when the children color these pictures they can learn and reflect upon it in the hope of teaching them about the importance of environment. After working designing this project for about 45 days, the pictures were printed in the form of a copybook under the title of "Friend of Environment".



Apart from the copybook, a set of coloring pencils as a complement of the copybook with pictures was given to the pupils. As part of the Advocacy project, a bag full of environmental guidance, information, and children stuff that has less nylon and can be reused was given to the pupils in the selected primary schools. The project is done in a number of stages. On April the 11th the project started with distributing these copybooks in the selected primary schools both within and outside Sulaimani city in a number of days. In the first stage of the project the representative of the general director of Sulaimani education attended who also helped in the selection of these primary schools. In the second and third stages of the project, there will be monitoring on those schools who have been given "Friend of Environment" to see what these pupils have learned from it. Then, workshops and presentations will be held for the teachers in those schools in the hope of having more activities and developing the project in the future.

It is worth mentioning that financially the project was supported by the Environmental Law and Advocacy Project of Nature Iraq which is also supported and funded by the European Union. Furthermore, General Directorate of Sulaimani Education reemphasized their whole support of this educational project and valued it as the first educational project conducted about environment from such an early stage in education and emphasized their support for the future stages of the project.

## Joint Meeting in Sulaimani Palace

The Environmental Law and Advocacy Project of Nature Iraq held a joint meeting with some environmental organizations, experts in environmental issues as well as Aso Zand, the Chief in charge of Kurdistan Green Party. Each Organization had 15 minutes to discuss their activities and projects and their practical impacts and outcomes. The Advocacy Project representative also discussed the project's works and activities of the last three years and did explain to the attendants the plans and projects of 2017. Zand also shared and talked about his organization's experience and activities in Sweden on environmental issues.

He also talked about the role of Sweden government on environment as well as engaging experts in decision-making and drafting the environmental laws through different meetings and campaigning.

The attendants discussed the environmental issues or problems environment faces in Kurdistan. They also talked about the passive role the government plays especially in such a sophisticated and terrible economic condition that Iraq and Kurdistan is facing. The attendants emphasized the importance of working of the NGOs together to force the government and the policy makers through working on raising awareness of the individuals in the community as well as the role of media in such regards.



Joint meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

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Moderator of the Newsletter: Diary Muhamad Rashid / Advocacy Project

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## Advocacy Project Joint Meeting in Erbil

Advocacy Project Team in Nature Iraq organization continuously investigate and follow up all laws, instructions, and guidelines issued by the legislative order regarding to environmental matters. The team is also always trying to make sure that the NGOs and people are participated in the drafting and issuing the environmental laws. There is and always have been attempts and works done to build up cooperation between the organizations (NGOs) and the policy makers in drafting and writing the environmental laws.

When the instruction number (1) of 2015, pertaining to (Hunting and

Conserving Wild Animals and Birds) was published in the official (Kurdistan Gazette), the advocacy team of the project had some notes regarding the instructions. Two meetings were held both in Sulaimani and Duhok to record different opinions and suggestions and the representatives of the environmental organizations, higher education, forest police, and expertise in animal rights and reservation attended the meeting. With the important notes on the laws, Samad Mohammed (the Judge) was notified that the law isn't well drafted and issued and can't be applied with such nature. For this reason another joint meeting was held in 22-1-2017 among the Environmental Restoration and Protection Unit (and Samad Mohammed as deputy minister attended), a number of environmental organizations in Erbil, Erbil Environmental office, Teachers of Higher Education, and the University of Hawler in the Meeting Hall in the Environmental Restoration and Protection Unit.

**The aim of the meeting** was to discuss the points and articles of the guideline and to hear the response of Samad Mohammed on the notes already taken. Then, because the content and the drafting of the guideline had problems, at the end of the meeting Samad Mohammed decided that:

- The revision of the guideline and a formal issuing of it for the second time.
- Taking into account all the notes, suggestions and opinions of the organizations already taken.
- Rewriting of the draft will in the general meeting of Environmental Restoration and Protection Unit with the attendance of Nature Iraq Organization as well as inviting environmental organizations and policy makers.



Joint meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2017

## Some Activities Of The Project During Winter (2016-2017)



7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

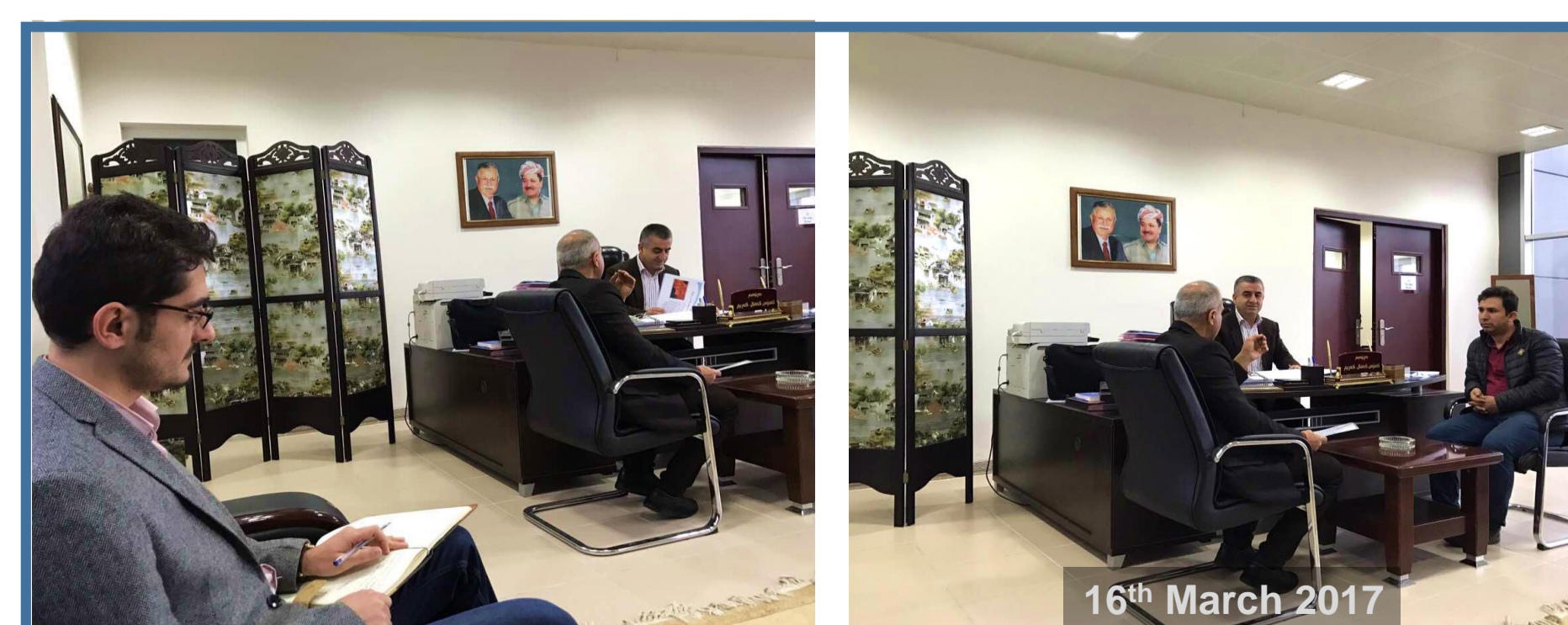
Pressurized Irrigation System-Field Problems and Effective Solutions Seminar by Hunter Company in faculty of Irrigation-Univ of Sulaimani



@ Family Mall in Sulaimani

25<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Earth Hour event is held annually encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour



16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

We're as a member of Transparency and Accountability Campaign, visited the head of quality control in Sulaimani on importing Hybrid Cars



Participated in the Planting Trees Campaign in Razyana Park. Supervised by Zaitun Org & Sulaimani Directorate of Environment on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

For more news about the Project, visit: [www.natureiraq.org](http://www.natureiraq.org) > Projects > WaterKeeper Law and Advocacy Program