

# Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



No. 1

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## Summary of the Project

The Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project brings together government officials, civil society organizations, and community representatives to increase engagement with the Kurdistan Region's environmental laws. A series of trainings and meetings as well as the creation of a website, newsletter, and set of multi-lingual guides on the environmental laws of the Region, bring together these diverse groups through the common interest of preserving water resources and ensuring a clean and healthy future for the next generation.

### • Choman-Rawanduz River Kayak Expedition:

Nature Iraq's Waterkeepers Iraq program carried out the Choman-Rawanduz River Expedition in May of 2014, with a team of professional kayakers, river advocates and a videographer. The expedition started on 9 May and completed successfully on 18 May. The expedition was an opportunity to promote and celebrate Iraq's amazing wild rivers and raise awareness about the threat they face.

Two outreach and educational events occurred near the town of Choman and at Kawlokan Village as well as along the route of the trip. A video of the expedition is being prepared from footage obtained during the trip, which will be used for promoting wild and scenic river protection in Iraq as a whole.

For more details see: [www.iraqwaterkeeper.org](http://www.iraqwaterkeeper.org)

### NEXT STEPS:

- We will hold joint meetings with the Environmental Protection and Improvement Board of the Kurdistan Region, KRG Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources as well as the Protected Areas Commission, and local district offices. These joint meetings between CSOs and agencies responsible for rule making will discuss ways in which the public can be better informed and more involved in the development of environmental laws and regulatory policy.
- We will work with our 35 local partners in implementing the skills covered in the first training.
- Trainings on inspections and the role for NGOs, These workshops will cover all aspects of the inspection process, will include hands-on exercises at real sites that are a threat to public health and create a dialogue between Civil Society Organizations representatives and enforcement staff on how to increase cooperation.

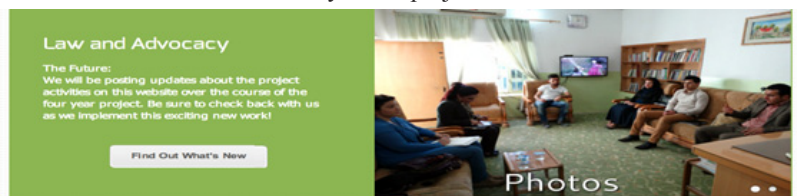
## Our Activities

- The website is online:

Our website focuses on promoting information sharing within Iraq and also connecting to the wider international advocacy community about activities and events on environmental protection in the Kurdistan Region.

<http://www.natureiraq.org/waterkeeper-law-and-advocacy-program.html>

If you have an environmental activity and you want to share it with others, do not hesitate to send us a summary of the project.



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nature Iraq, in partnership with the Water Right Foundation, has a new initiative under its Waterkeepers Iraq program. Over the next four years, the Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project, funded by the European Union, will seek to facilitate a culture of civil society and environmental protection in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

### Summary of the Project

The Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project will bring together government officials, civil society organizations, and community representatives to increase engagement with the Kurdistan Region's environmental laws. A series of trainings and meetings as well as the creation of a website, newsletter, and set of multi-lingual guides on the environmental laws of the Region, will bring together these diverse groups through the common interest of preserving water resources and ensuring a clean and healthy future for the next generation.

For a more detailed explanation of the project, please see the [Waterkeepers Iraq](http://www.waterkeepersiraq.org) website here.

### THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY



The Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project is funded by the European Union.

### SUPPORTING PARTNERS

- Trainings with Civil Society Organizations:

Over the last several months, the Waterkeeper Law and Advocacy team met with several local environmental CSOs. Based on their level of education, profiles, civic service, and activities, we selected 35 local organizations (19 in Sulimaniya, 12 in Erbil, 4 in Duhok) to be a part of the project.



We will work with these 35 partner organizations over the next four years to increase their advocacy effectiveness in seeking to protect the environment of Kurdistan. We carried out the first training in June, which covered information on identifying priority environmental threats, strategic planning, developing strategies and action work plans, determining indicators of success, and analyzing results.