

# Iraq Water keeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



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## Participating In The Civil Society Organizations Event In Erbil

Environmental law and advocacy program as part of Nature Iraq, its recently took part in one of the major activities of the civil society organizations; an initiative of the civil society organizations to present their activities in this event which was held in 8 September, 2015. The event was coordinated by Mercy Corps with representatives from United States International Development Agency; Falah Mustafa Head of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Department of Foreign Relations, Rebwar Talabani Kirkuk Provincial Council Chairman; Nawzad Hadi Erbil Governor, Akram Muhammad Director of the None Governmental Organizations as well as over 50 organizations from Sulaimani; Erbil, Kirkuk, and Duhok.

The event involved an introduction of the participating organizations exhibiting their work through distribution of books, magazines, and photographs. Nature Iraq staff also presented the activities that they have undertaken for the past two years as part of the law and advocacy program.



## Support To Civil Society Development In KRG - Halabja

Advocacy project team, on 19 August, 2015

At the hall of province Halabja, under the auspices of Mr. Abdullah Narrowly-Halabja's governor, with direct participation, the Directorate of Environment of Sulaimaniya, Mr. Muhamed Saeed Noori, environmental NGOs, conducted a **joint meeting**, to organize technical consolation with the key stakeholders and the experts on identifying and prioritizing to address environmental challenges in Halabja. The most priority issue was discussed especially about water pollution and how to protect it, we could see that (Zalem River) is an important water sources in the region but unfortunately it is threatened by pollution and deterioration.

During the meeting we had been highlighted the most important causes of water pollution such as, we don't have a special law to protect water recourses', lack of environmental awareness, including using the river for an illegal activities such as washing cars or vehicles in river.

Most people who wash their cars at river don't realize where the contaminated water goes or how much is wasted, they are probably never thought that washing a car at rivers could be a threat to the environment because of Detergents used to wash vehicles can harm fish, wildlife, & aquatic plants. We believe that a combination of education and 'best practice' is generally more appropriate than fines.

We will cooperate with stakeholders to find the best way to closing down the car wash spots and raising awareness at the area at the same time.



## Support To Civil Society Development In KRG - Hajiawa

As part of its ongoing activities, Nature Iraq in cooperation with the "Naseem Organization" in Hajiawa organzaed a **joint meeting** in 11 November, 2015 at the public library of Hajiawa with direct participation of the Director of Hajiawa, Directorate of Environment of Raparin, the environmental NGOs, and Municipality representatives. The meeting comprised two sections; section one was dedicated to the discussion of the environmental related issues in the area such as gravel mining as well as irresponsible garbage and trash dumping at Makok Mountain, a tourist site close to human settlement possibly causing health issues to the locals. Another issue discussed was the low percentage of vegetation in the area which was estimated as 6% only.

The section two of the meeting included finding solutions for the environmental issues. In addition, the meeting looked into the importance of the cooperative work between the government and the NGOs so that together they could tackle down the environmental threats in the area.

