

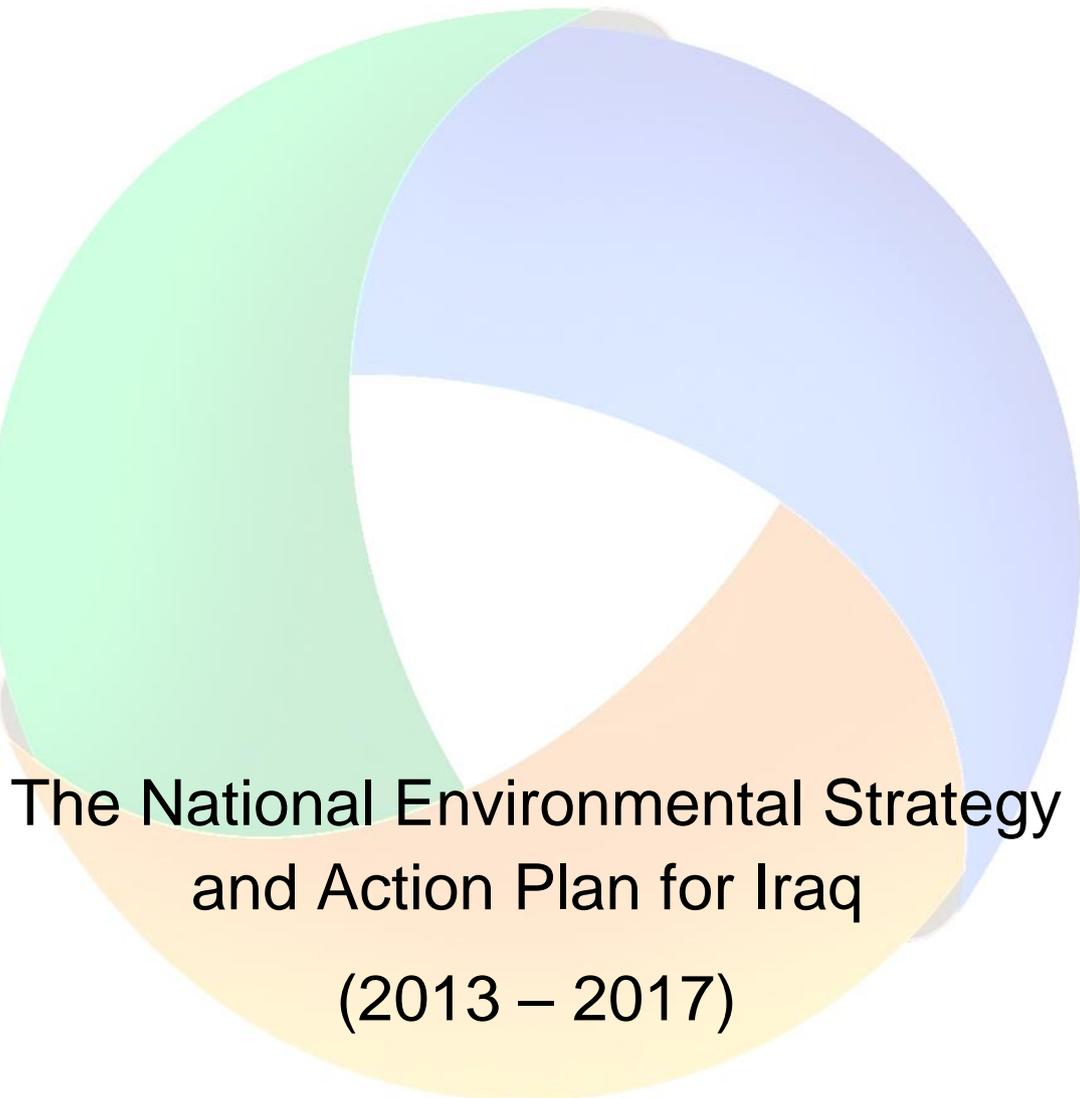


Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Environment



Republic of Iraq



The National Environmental Strategy  
and Action Plan for Iraq  
(2013 – 2017)

This document has been prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization





### Prime Minister Speech

Iraqis today look to upgrading their livelihood to the level of what was described by the country's constitution in its thirty-third article, "Everyone has the right to live in a sound environmental conditions," and it really is what the Ministry of Environment try to achieve and is represented by its sober emblem "environment gives us life, let's care for it". Perhaps this is what distinguishes the relentless pursuit of the government, and all its sectors, to achieve those aspirations and environmental benefits and privileges to live in a healthy, safe, beautiful, sustainable, multipurpose and productive environment.

The country has suffered in the past from a failure in the political and administrative decisions which led to a serious deterioration, and for decades, in the social and living conditions for Iraqis. Those circumstances later shadowed, and still, most of the wealth and environmental features in Iraq, and led to the aggravation of the suffering of individuals from the low level of welfare services associated with local ecosystems, and in conjunction with the weakness and lack of clear commitment to the application of the provisions of the legislation and the environmental laws and regulations .

The development and protection of environmental quality and sustainability for future generations is a national duty, popular, and governmental, with shared responsibilities to achieve it by individuals, organizations and government departments alike. However, this ultimate goal will not come to light without the availability of several factors, not least the proper environmental planning and identifying approaches and environmental policies to be stated in a strategy for the future that is clearly defined and has guaranteed results .

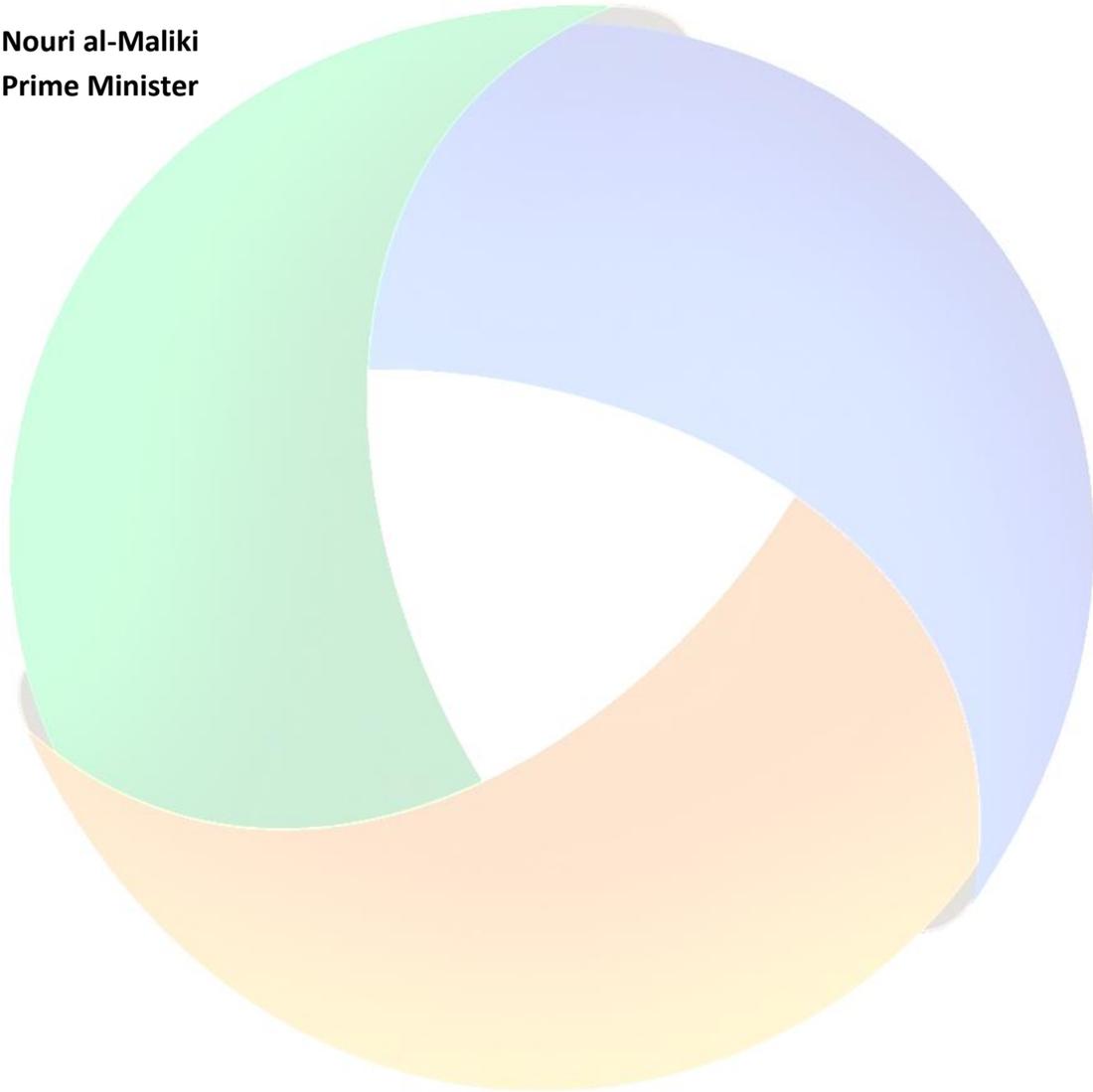
The government, over its past years has tackled the tasks of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources through the issuance of laws and regulations that aimed at that. As well, has ratified many regional and global conventions and protocols which have high content of support to what Iraq sought to achieve for the aspirations and objectives in this area.

We are delighted today to reap the first fruits of scientific work organized and played by the Ministry of Environment for planning and determining priorities, launching the first national environmental strategy specializing in environmental issues. Thereby, achieving the launch of attested work and effective realization of the

Action Plan, all aimed to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and to address environmental problems within the nature of Iraq .

Sincere thanks and appreciation is offered to all who contributed to the completion of this work, calling for God to help us all for the goodness of Iraq and humanity. Peace and mercy and blessings of God.

**Nouri al-Maliki**  
**Prime Minister**





### Minister of Environment Speech

I'm pleased to present the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) for Iraq (2013 – 2017) to both citizens and decision makers in order to take all necessary measures to preserve the environment and ensure safe life and good health for Iraqis.

After the creation of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in 2003, there was a need to develop programs and plans to address the deteriorating environmental situation in Iraq. In order to adopt an accurate technical approach, decisions makers sensed the need for an integrated national environmental strategy in Iraq taking the current situation and future prospects into consideration.

A nation's development and advancement can be truly measured by having future visions based on clearly defined strategies for different social goals and activities. Relations between governments and people are based on a series of commitments which can't be satisfied without previous knowledge of current and future conditions including environmental and strategic planning and long-term plans, as a trait of developed nations, which provide a true opportunity to address the actual and complicated environmental problems. Consequently, it leads to building an integrated national environment corresponding to the aspirations of the state and society. Lack of proper strategic environmental planning and random decision making have caused significant environmental deterioration in Iraq and reflected negatively on public health, ecosystems and living organisms in Iraq.

As everyone knows, Iraq has gone through extremely difficult conditions because of the repeated and continuous wars causing significant damage to all aspects of life. Today, the environment requires a practical reconsideration of the requirements to halt deterioration, protect the environment and biodiversity from pollution, change ways of addressing natural resources to sustainable approaches and activate the role of local authorities and population in planning proper environmental development and management.

NESAP highlights a vital issue, that is "state institutions and society shall adopt a proper and integrated environmental management approach by applying the concepts of sustainable development, encourage cleaner production, use environment-friendly technology and cleaner fuel, implement policies of optimal utilization of natural resources and promote environmental awareness to build a generation well aware of environmental issues."

NESAP aims at providing a distinguished quality guide for state institutions and society for environment protection in Iraq. Previous development plans were based on excluding environment protection projects from the priorities of other ministries and sectors for institutional and financial considerations. This Strategy, however, obliges the bodies concerned (as they have participated in the preparation process) to adopt environment-protection procedures and implement relevant activities during the period (2013-2017).

MoE has adopted an ambitious plan to pursue this task by bringing together its experts, other academic professionals from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and international experts from UNDP and UNEP. The Strategy identifies urgent priorities such as protecting and improving the quality of water, soil and air; preserving biodiversity and marine and coastal environment; minimizing oil, radioactive and chemical pollution and waste in general; and developing the institutional and legislative framework. Furthermore, the Strategy has an implementation plan that includes several programs to protect and enhance the environment over the next five years. We should praise the efforts of the representatives of all ministries in the preparation of the strategic environmental analysis in collaboration with the World Health Organization, which has been one of the important sources that have been relied upon to develop this Strategy.

We extend our gratitude to all parties participating in accomplishing NESAP, especially UNDP-Iraq office, UNEP-West Asia office, MoE experts and academics from the University of Baghdad. Special thanks to head and members of Health and Environment Committee in Iraqi parliament for their valuable comments on this documents. May God grant us all success to do good for our beloved country and serve humanity.

**Eng. Sargon Lazar Slewa**

**Minister of Environment**



### Speech of the Head of Health and Environment Committee at the Iraqi parliament

One of the most important features of progress today is the care and attention a nation may provide to environment. Environment has direct and indirect impact on the human health and also on various social and economic aspects of life in different countries.

Having suffered much from the scourge of wars, Iraq needs diligent and methodical efforts to repair the ravage caused by those wars. Meanwhile, natural changes, most prominently the climate change and drought, have started to negatively affect our environment.

The first step toward improving the environmental conditions is an in-depth analysis of the environmental circumstances in Iraq and the development of adequate strategies and action plans to reform the whole environmental system and protect environment against the so many wrong practices which are unfortunately still prevalent as mentioned in this document.

We highly appreciate the MoE initiative to develop the national environment strategy and the related 5-year action plan. This document, which was developed last year by national experts in collaboration with UNEP/UNDP consultants, provides a realistic strategic analysis of the environmental situations in Iraq.

What distinguishes this MoE strategy prepared is the realistic identification of the priorities of environmental action in Iraq as well as the most important environmental challenges and problems facing the country. The strategy proposes programs and projects to address these problems in order to protect and improve the environment in Iraq. We, as a legislature, are responsible of this sector. We support and adopt this document with a view to providing a good environment worthy of the children of our country. We recommend all parties to cooperate with MoE in implementing its tasks. We also call all individuals, government institutions and NGOs to provide physical as well as moral support to MoE to enable it to fulfill its duties.

God bless

**Dr. Liqaa Alyassin**  
**Head of Health and Environment Committee-Iraqi Parliament**

## Abbreviations

BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNG	Compared Natural Gas
CoR	Council of Representatives
COSIT	Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DNT	NESAP's Development National Team
EFTs	Environment-Friendly Technologies
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPI	Environment Protection and Improvement
EPIA	Environment Protection and Improvement Authority in Kurdistan
EPIC	Environment Protection and Improvement Council
EPICGs	Environment Protection and Improvement Councils in the governorates
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoI	Government of Iraq
HECP	Health and Environment Committee in the Parliament
HECGs	Health and Environment Committee in the Governorates
HR	Human Resources
ID	Iraqi Dinar
IDP	Institutional Development Program
IM	Integrated Management
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IWTPs	Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plants
KRSO	Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office
KVA	Kilovolt-Ampere
LNG	Liquid Natural Gas
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMPW	Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works

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