

Project Update: August 2012

In August 2012, the summer surveys for the threat assessment have been wrapping up and over 157 km of river have been surveyed. More survey work will take place on the Lower Lesser Zab in the autumn. Over 230 individual threats have been identified and some basic trends are showing up. Two of the top threats are pollution (mostly sewage and garbage but some industrial and agricultural pollution as well) and gravel mining, which more or less are a constant problem throughout the basin. Overarching this is a general lack of awareness. At the beginning of August 2012, the water keeper organised a Swimmable Water campaign in the Dukan Reservoir, which is located in the Lesser Zab Basin. This is a popular lake during the summer heat in northern Iraq that many people flock to for swimming and fishing. The Swimmable Water Campaign Action took place in early August 2012 and was promoted in the local media. A short video was made about the action (in English): <http://vimeo.com/48366085>

As part of the Lesser Zab Threat Assessment, the Iraq Upper Tigris water keeper identified that municipal garbage is a major threat to the Lesser Zab River in the town of Dukan. Through a joint effort of the water keeper and the Mayor's office in Dukan, a large public event took place on the 15th March 2012. With additional financial support from the First Organizing Center of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, over 75 large rubbish bins were distributed to each house along the right bank of the river and a week later, municipal garbage service was extended to the street residents. This has stopped one important source of garbage to Qashqolly and the Lesser Zab River. Watch the video on this action here: <http://vimeo.com/48864085>

