

# Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



As part of our yearly activities, the Iraq Upper Tigris Waterkeeper has done a number of environmental activities. One of the activities was cleaning trash around the Dukan Lake and its surroundings areas that is dumped in the water by picnickers, especially during spring and Nawroz, and residents living upstream. Every year during the winter, the water level in the lake rises and the water flow draws with it the toxic and unsightly wastes that washes up on the lake shore. The Iraq Upper Tigris Waterkeeper acts with the help of volunteers from different backgrounds to promote the cause of clean water and healthy rivers in Kurdistan. The typical garbage that we

find in the lake are: plastic bottles, glass, plastic foams, household litter ...etc. Since a plastic bottle takes about 200 years to biodegrade it poses serious threats to the Lake ecosystem throughout its lifespan

For this one activity we were able to collect 40 trash bags full of garbage from around the lake and the event was later the topic of an documentary film by the Kurdsat local media (in order to reach a larger audience through the media and social media, we make documentary films about many of our activities). Our motto for this activity was "Like you don't leave your child behind, do not leave your trash."



## Giving Identity to 20 Aged Trees

Nature of Kurdistan Organization is a local NGO based in Darbandikhan district. In connection with their environmental activities, they are identifying and documenting 20 of the oldest trees in the district and giving them a greater identity with the aim of protecting these trees from being cut down. In Kurdistan there is no tools to help indicate the age of the living trees, as a result, it was not possible to detect the exact age of the trees but through help from



the Kurdistan Environmental Protection and Improvement Board, Sulaimani Directorate of Environmental Protection, Sulaimani Directorate of

Forestry, gardening section, we were only able to come up with a close approximation for the age of the trees. We hope that this activity

marks the beginning of many environmental activities in the region by this organization to protect and improve the environment of Kurdistan.

If you have any activity and you want to share it with others do not hesitate to send it to us:  
<http://www.natureiraq.org/waterkeeper-law-and-advocacy-program.html>