

Project Update: October 2015

Between July and September 2015, we have made several site visits to two dam construction sites (Suqawshan Dam and Basara Dam) and two active gravel mine sites (Shanw Mine near Goptapa village and gravel mines serving the Basara Dam), in Kurdistan, northern Iraq. Three volunteers participated in the site visits and helped with photographing/ filming during interviews and Odonata surveys. Local residents are expressing dissatisfaction with the presence of these industrial sites within their communities.

"This area used to be a very nice picnicking area, but since then all these gravel mines have starting damaging the area and the trees have all been cut down," stated Mohamad Yusef, a Goptapa resident. "People can no longer enjoy the area and it is very dangerous for swimming and fishing. This is not natural, it is man-made damage."



Old photo from 2004, Kanybee goptapa, Gravel mine area.



Nabil Musa, Surqawshan Dam.