

Expected Future of Water Resources within Tigris-Euphrates Rivers Basin, Iraq

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Abstract

Iraq is one of the riparian countries within basins of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East region. The region is currently facing water shortage problems due to the increase of the demand and climate changes. In the present study, average monthly water flow measurements for 15 stream flow gaging stations within basins of these rivers in Iraq with population growth rate data in some of its part were used to evaluate the reality of the current situation and future challenges of water availability and demand in Iraq. The results showed that Iraq receives annually 70.92 km³ of water 45.4 and 25.52 km³ from River Tigris and Euphrates respectively. An amount of 18.04 km³ of the Tigris water comes from Turkey while 27.36 km³ is supplied by its tributaries inside Iraq. The whole amount of water in the Euphrates Rivers comes outside the Iraqi borders. Annual decrease of the water inflow is 0.1335 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and 0.245 km³·year⁻¹ for Euphrates. This implies that the annual percentage reduction of inflow rates for the two rivers is 0.294% and 0.960%, respectively. Iraq consumes annually 88.89% (63.05 km³) of incoming water from the two rivers, where about 60.43% and 39.57% are from Rivers Tigris and Euphrates respectively. Water demand increases annually by 1.002 km³, of which 0.5271 km³ and 0.475 km³ are within Tigris and Euphrates basins respectively. The average water demand in 2020 will increase to 42.844 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris basin and for Euphrates 29.225 km³·year⁻¹ (total 72.069 km³·year⁻¹), while water availability will decrease to 63.46 km³·year⁻¹. This means that the overall water shortage will be restricted to 8.61 km³.

Keywords

Iraq, River Tigris, River Euphrates, Water Resources of Iraq

1. Introduction

Scarcity of water resources in the Middle East is one of the most important problems since the last century due to the increase of the demand and climate changes [1]-[7]. Historically, water had played a vital role at the dawn of the first civilization in the life of human kind. The first development of water resources and land goes back to the beginning of 5500 BC in the basin of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers known as the Mesopotamian. The Sumerians and Babylonians used water of Euphrates River to irrigate their fields and cities by systems of canals [4].

Iraq started in 1950 planning for the construction of irrigation and flood control systems by the Board of Development created by the Kingdom of Iraq. Primarily, it was to protect Baghdad, the capital, and other major cities from flooding. The first big dam (Dokan) was constructed in 1959 on the Lesser Zab River. This was followed by the construction of other projects where many dams were constructed for irrigation and power generation purposes. In addition, a system was established on the River Euphrates to control its flood. This system includes Ramadi barrage and the Habbaniye Lake. Other systems on the Tigris River including regulators, canal systems, Lake Tharthar project and the Samarra dam were constructed [8] [9].

In the modern history, Iraq until 1970 was considered rich in its water resources due to the presence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In mid-seventies Syria and Turkey started to build dams on the Euphrates River; therefore, its flow decreased due to water impounding of some of the new reservoirs [3] [10]. This fact forced the Iraqi Government to speed up building as much as they can from the planned hydrological projects. For this reason, 1970 to 1990 was the best period of the development of Iraq's water systems. The process stopped in 1990 due to the first Gulf War and UN sanctions. Through the last fifty years period, from 1960 to the end of the twentieth century, there was a change in the supply and demand situation. **Table 1** summarizes the hydraulic structures on the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers.

In 1977, the Turkish Government started to utilize the water of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers through the South-eastern Anatolia Project (GAP) [3] [10]. The project includes 22 multipurpose dams and 19 hydraulic power plants which are to irrigate 17103 km² of land with a total storage capacity of 100 km³ which is three times more than the overall capacity of Iraq and Syrian reservoirs [3] [10]. Eight of these dams are to be constructed on the River Tigris, only three were built (two in 1997 and one in 1998). The irrigation projects within the GAP will consume about 22.5 km³·year⁻¹ after completion [3] [4] [10]. In addition, recent studies indicated that there will be more increase in the water demand in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region). In 2050, water demand will reach up to 393 km³·year⁻¹. This indicates that the water shortage will be 193 km³·year⁻¹ of which 22% due to climate change and 78% to changes in population growth and economic development factors [6]. Furthermore, the studies on the Tigris-Euphrates Western Iran region show a total groundwater loss of nearly 144 km³ during 2003 to 2009 [7]. The reduction of flow in the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq is considered to be a national crisis and will have severe negative consequences on health, environmental, industrial and economic development [4] [7] [10]. In view of the above, it became necessary to know the water resources trends in the Tigris-Euphrates rivers basin within Iraq. In the present study the current and future water situation (availability and demand) was evaluated using a new method. The method applied for that purpose was the use of monthly water discharges measurements for 15 stream flow gaging stations on the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers inside Iraq. Population growth data with annual water consumption per capita were used for the southern region of Iraq beyond the gaging stations. The water discharge measurements were used in the calculations due to the fact that it takes into consideration the water consumption due to different uses, infiltration and evaporation losses as well.

2. Study Area

2.1. Hydrology of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers Basin

The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers are the two important and greatest rivers of western Asia. The rivers originate from the same region in Turkey about 30 km from each other. The region is characterized by its cool and humid climate with a rugged land of high mountains and deep gorges. From there, the two rivers flow separately onto a wide, flat, hot, and poorly drained plain. In their middle path, the twin Rivers diverge hundreds of kilometers apart and join together near Qarmat Ali about 160 km above the head of the Gulf, forming the Shatt al-Arab (**Figure 1**). The upper basin of the rivers is characterized by the rock and mountain gorges of Anatolia

Table 1. The constructed dams in the basin of the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers.

Name of dam	Country	Use	Date of operation	Height (m)	Storage capacity (km ³)	Water surface area (km ²)	Hydropower (MW)
Major dams in the River Tigris basin							
Batman	Turkey	HP,I	1998	71	1.18	49.2	198
Devegecidi	Turkey	I	1972	33	0.2	32.1	—
Cag-cag	Turkey	HP,FD	1968				14
Dicle	Turkey	HP,I	1997	75	0.60	24	110
Goksu	Turkey	I	1991	46	0.06	3.9	—
Kralkizi	Turkey	HP	1997	113	1.92	57.5	90
Al-Adheem	Iraq	HP,I	1999	—	1.5	—	—
Derbendikhan (Diyala)	Iraq	I	1961	128	3	114	—
Dibbis (L. Zab)	Iraq	I	1965	22	0.05	32	—
Diyala	Iraq	I	1969	12	—	—	—
Dokan (L. Zab)	Iraq	HP,I	1959	116.5	6.8	270	400
Hamrin (Diyala)	Iraq	I, FC	1981	40	3.56	450	50
Mosul	Iraq	HP,I,FC	1986	113	11.1	380	750
Samarra-Tharthar	Iraq	FD, I, HP	1956	—	72.8	2170	87
Dez	Iran	HP,I	1962	203	3.46	—	520
Karkheh	Iran	HP,I,FC	2001	128	7.8	—	400
Karun	Iran	HP,I	1977	200	3.14	54.8	1000
Marun	Iran	HP,I	1998	165	1.2	25	145
Major dams in the River Euphrates basin							
Ataturk	Turkey	HP, I	1992	166	48.7	817	2400
Birecik	Turkey	HP, I	2000	53	1.22	56.3	672
Karakaya	Turkey	HP	1987	158	9.58	268	1800
Karkamis	Turkey	HP, FC	1999	21	0.16	28.4	189
Keban	Turkey	HP	1975	163	31	675	1330
Baath	Syria	HP, I, FC	1988	—	0.09	27.2	75
Tabaqa	Syria	HP, I	1975	60	11.7	610	800
Tishrine	Syria	HP	1999	40	1.9	166	630
Upper Khabur	Syria	I	1992	—	0.99	1.4	—
Al Hindiyah	Iraq	FD	1913(1989)	—	—	—	—
Haditha	Iraq	HP,I	1988	57	8.2	503	660
Fallujah	Iraq	I	1985	—	—	—	—
Ramadi-Habbaniyah	Iraq	FC	1956	—	3.3	426	—
Ramadi Raazza	Iraq	FC	1951	—	26	1810	—

HP: hydropower; I: irrigation; FC: flood control; FD: flow division. Source: [8] [9].

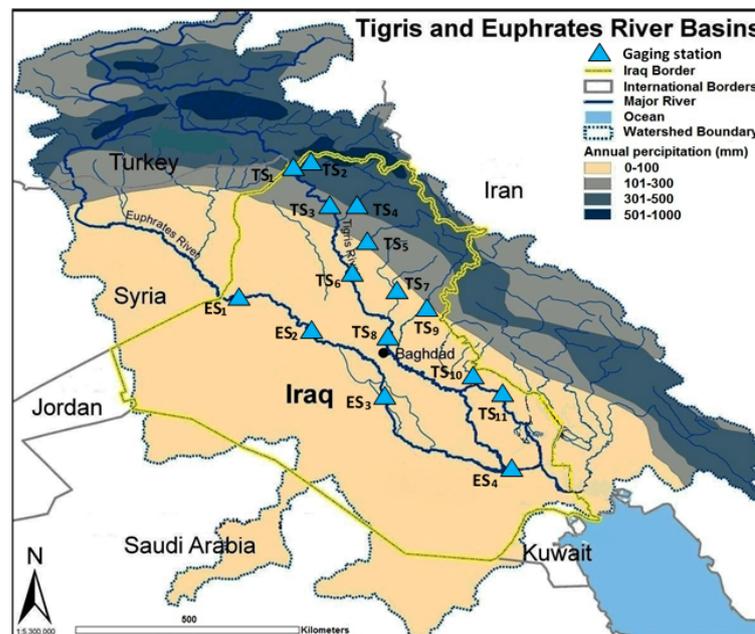


Figure 1. General layout of the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers and locations of stream flow gaging stations.

and the high plateaux of Syria and Iraq. The climate of the catchment area may be regarded as being similar to a Mediterranean climate except some differences due to the presence of a mountainous region which is located within the Turkish territory. The climate is a hot-dry summer and cold-rainy winter with occasional snowfall taking place in the mountain region. The precipitation in Mesopotamian basin occurs between October and May. The annual precipitation over the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers basin ranges between 100 and 1000 mm annually (Figure 1) [10]. The heaviest precipitation occurs from December to February. Generally, snow melting begins in February causing higher discharges during spring flows (March to May or early June). Low water discharges are usually during the hotter and drier summer months (July to October). During this period the main source of the rivers runoff is groundwater. The average monthly temperatures range between 6°C in January to 34°C in July but the temperatures decrease towards the north [3] [10]. The flow discharges vary to 10 times between flood season that occur during winter and spring due to the rain and snow melt and dry period during summer and part of autumn. Table 2 shows the details of contributions for riparian countries in the rivers basins.

2.2. River Tigris

River Tigris is the second-largest river in western Asia. The main source for the Tigris River is Hazar Lake (elevation 1150 m a.s.l), which is located in the south eastern region of Turkey. The lake is surrounded by the Taurus mountain chain where its height reaches 3500 m. The headwaters of the Tigris River begin in the small mountain lake of Jazar Golu in Turkey; 30 km from the upper catchment of the Euphrates. The River flows in the hilly regions located to the south western portion of the mountainous area connecting Turkey, Iran and Iraq. The River Tigris flows directly towards Iraq and the Mesopotamian Plain with only a small part that is parallel alongside the Syrian border. The River crosses the Iraqi border at Faish Khabur village which is located about 400 km from the main sources [3] [10]. Eight major tributaries feed the Tigris River from the left bank three in Turkey before entering Iraq which are Batman, Garzan and Botan and five in Iraq are Khabur, Greater Zab (partly beginning in Turkey), lesser Zab, Uzaym and Diyala rivers (Figure 1). The tributaries in Iraq flow down from the north east of Iraq (Zagros Mountains) and join to the main river before Baghdad city [10]-[12]. The river drains an area about 375,000 km² which is shared by Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran (Table 3). The total length of the river is about 1862 km; only 21% of the length of the Tigris lies in Turkey and remainder lies in Iraq. According to most of previous studies; the mean annual flow of the Tigris from Turkey before it enters Iraq is ranging from 20 to 23 km³·year⁻¹. During its passage in Iraq the river receives from all of the above tributaries an additional amount of water that reaches 25 to 29 km³·year⁻¹ [10] [13]. The most significant features of the

Table 2. The contributions in the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers basin for riparian countries.

Tigris-Euphrates Rivers	Turkey	Iraq	Syria	Iran	Total
Discharge km ³ ·year ⁻¹	65.7	6.8	0.5	11.2	84.2
Discharge (%)	78.1	8.1	0.5	13.3	100
Drainage Area km ²	170,000	469,000	77,000	37,000	819,000
Drainage Area (%)	20.5	46.0	9.0	19.0	94.5
Rivers Length (km)	1630	2478	754	—	4862
Rivers Length (%)	33.5	51.0	15.5	—	100
Irrigable lands km ²	24,270	40,000	9500	—	73,700
Irrigable lands (%)	33	54.2	12.8	—	100

Source: [8] [13].

Table 3. Characteristics of the Tigris River basin.

Tigris River	Turkey	Iraq	Syria	Iran	Total
Discharge km ³ ·year ⁻¹	33.5	6.8	0.0	11.2	51.5
Discharge (%)	65.0	13.2	0.0	21.8	100
Drainage Area km ²	45,000	292,000	1000	37,000	375,000
Drainage Area (%)	12.0	54.0	0.2	33.80	100
River Length (km)	400	1318	44	—	1862
River Length (%)	21.0	77.0	2.0	—	100

Source: [8] [13].

River Tigris basin are given in (Table 3).

The mean annual flow of the Tigris River at Mosul city prior to 1984 was 22.2 km³ and dropped to 17.7 km³ [10]. The annual hydrograph for Tigris River starts from October to September. The highest mean monthly discharge takes place during April and the driest month is generally September (Figure 2).

2.3. River Euphrates

Euphrates is the longest river in western Asia. The majority of the water resources of the Euphrates are located in the Turkish territories of Anatolia. The river rises near Mount Ararat at heights of around 4500 m near Lake Van, the Euphrates is formed from two tributaries, the Murat-Su and the Kara-Sue (or Frat-Sue). The River flows southward to 160 km of the Mediterranean with average slope 2 meters per kilometer before it turns left into Syria to continue in a south-east direction, almost straight towards Shatt Al-Arab River [3] [4] [10] [13].

After the river enters the Syria's borders at Jarablis, within Syrian territories by two small tributaries join the river. They are Balikh and the Khabur Rivers that contribute with small amount of water to the Euphrates River (Figure 1). Euphrates enters Iraq at Hasaibah. Its annual flow at the Iraqi border is of the order of 28 to 30 km³·year⁻¹ [14] [15]. In Iraq, 360 km from the border, the river reaches a giant alluvial delta at Ramadi where the elevation is only 53 m a. s. l. From that point onward, the river traverses the deserted regions of Iraq, losing part of its waters into a series of desert depressions and distributaries, both natural and man-made. Euphrates has number of small tributaries in the central and southern parts of Iraq for irrigation purposes. No tributary contributes water into the river within Iraqi territories (Figure 1). The Euphrates has a very gentle gradient in Iraq. The characteristics of Euphrates basin tabulated in Table 4.

The most significant features of the Euphrates River at Hit and Haditha cities for the period 1932-1997 illustrate in Figure 3.

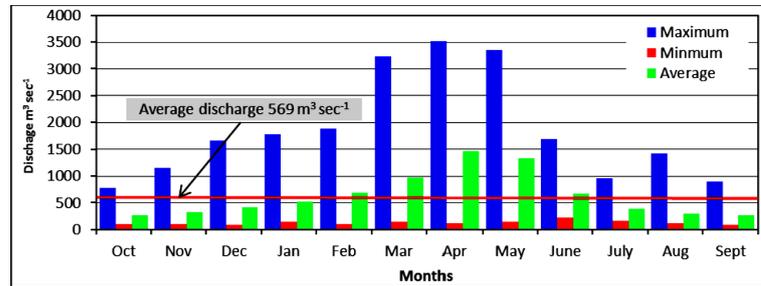


Figure 2. Monthly (mean, minimum and maximum) discharge of Tigris River at Mosul dam site (1931-2011).

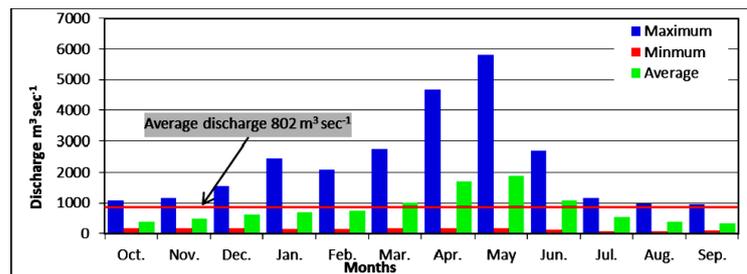


Figure 3. Monthly (mean, maximum and minimum) discharge of Euphrates River at Hit site (1932-1997).

Table 4. Characteristics of the Euphrates River basin.

Euphrates River	Turkey	Iraq	Syria	Total
Discharge km ³ ·year ⁻¹	32.2	0.0	0.5	32.7
Discharge (%)	98.5	0.0	1.5	100
Drainage Area km ²	125,000	177,000	76,000	444,000
Drainage Area (%)	28.0	40.0	17.0	85
River Length (km)	1230	1060	710	3000
River Length (%)	41.0	35.0	24.0	100

Source: [8] [13].

3. Data and Methodology Used

The water discharges records (Table 5) are very important to study the potential water supply and demand. For these purposes; the averages monthly discharges for 15 stream flow gaging stations within Tigris-Euphrates Rivers basin in Iraq were used to evaluate the reduction in water availability and increasing water demand. These stations are 11 on the River Tigris (TS) and its tributaries and 4 on the River Euphrates (ES) (Figure 1 and Table 5). The data of these stations were adopted from Al-Shahrabaly [16] and Saleh [17]. The water discharges data were used to generate the Trend lines of the discharge versus time using excel program. The Trend lines were then used to estimate the reduction in water availability using their slopes. The increases of the demands however, were computed using Trend lines of water consumption for different regions within Tigris-Euphrates basin inside Iraq. The Trend lines of the demands were generated by differences in discharges measurements for successive stations along the same river. The areas in the south, where no gaging stations exist (see Figure 1, below gaging stations ES₄ and TS₁₁), the demands were computed using the population growth rates. This was carried out in 4 governorates in the southern part of Iraq (Al-Kut, Al-Amarah, An-Nasiriyah and Al-Basra) having 2616 m³·year⁻¹ annual water consumption per capita. The population growth rate data was provided by [18] (Figure 4) while the water withdrawal per capita was estimated by [19].

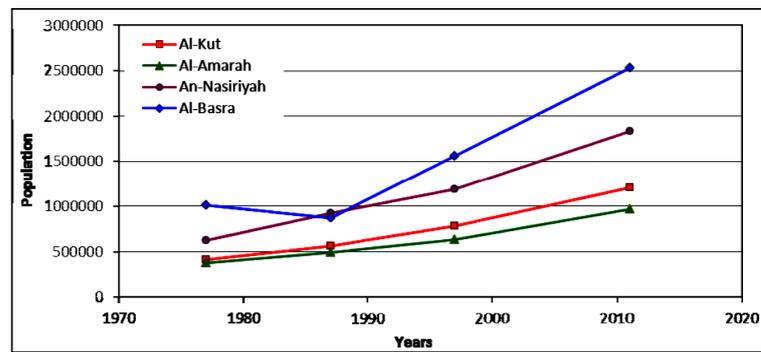


Figure 4. Population growth distribution for Al-Kut, Al-Amarah, An-Nasiriyah and Al-Basra.

Table 5. Details of stream flow-gaging stations.

Station	Location		Catchment area up station (km ²)	Period of record		Discharge (m ³ ·sec ⁻¹)			Average yearly inflow Km ³
	Northing	Easting		From	To	Ave. yearly	Max.	Min.	
Tusan (TS ₁)	37°04'00"	42°23'00"	46,700	Jan. 1958	Sep. 1975	666.42	3040	54.40	21.016
Zakho (TS ₂)	37°08'00"	42°41'00"	3500	Nov. 1958	Sep. 1989	63.84	413.20	4.37	2.013
Mosul (TS ₃)	36°37'57"	42°49'03"	54,900	Oct. 1931	Sep. 2011	569.75	3514	87.70	17.96
Eski-kelic (TS ₄)	36°16'00"	43°39'00"	20,500	Jan. 1932	Sep. 2004	401	1781	33.80	12.646
Altun-Kupri (TS ₅)	35°45'41"	44°08'52"	15,600	Nov. 1931	Sep. 2004	221.53	1270	19.8	6.986
Beiji (TS ₆)	34°55'45"	43°29'35"	107,600	Apr. 1931	Mar. 2005	1295.94	6988	200	40.87
Injana (TS ₇)	34°30'00"	44°31'00"	9840	Oct. 1945	Sep. 1997	25.48	423.90	0.00	0.803
Baghdad (TS ₈)	33°2'34"	44°20' 32"	134,000	Mar. 1930	Sep. 2009	979.26	5233	170.7	30.882
Diyala (TS ₉)	35°06'01"	45°42'02"	29,700	Jan. 1930	Sep. 1991	180.12	1497	29.50	5.68
Gharraf (TS ₁₀)	32°31'55"	45°47'25"	—	Dec. 1940	Mar. 2005	219.89	495.30	0.00	6.934
Kut (TS ₁₁)	32°2'00"	45°50'00"	166,200	Oct. 1931	Sep. 2005	815.50	5792	65.30	25.72
Husaybah (ES ₁)	34°25'20"	41°00'38"	205,000	Oct. 1973	Sep. 1997	708.30	2760	85.00	22.34
Hit (ES ₂)	33°36'23"	42°50'14"	264,100	Oct. 1932	May.1997	802	5797	71.5	25.292
Hindiya (ES ₃)	32°43'01"	44°16'01"	274,100	Oct. 1932	Sep. 1999	551.62	3382	38.3	17.4
Nasiriya (ES ₄)	31°03'01"	46°14'01"	325,000	Oct. 1950	Sep. 1988	430	1810	29	13.5

TS-Stream flow gaging stations on River Tigris. ES-Stream flow gaging stations on River Euphrates.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Water Availability

The water discharge data for stream flow gaging stations that were previously mentioned were analyzed and used to estimate the average annual reduction in the inflow due to the increase of the demand as well as the consequences of climate change. To compute reduction in the inflow; the average monthly discharge of 8 main stream flow gaging stations were used on River Tigris (TS₃, TS₆, TS₈ and TS₁₁) and River Euphrates (ES₁, ES₂, ES₃ and ES₄) (Figure 1). The data of these stations were used to develop the Trend lines using excel program (Figure 5). The slope of these lines were used to estimate the annual flow reduction with time (Table 6). The results showed that the percentage reduction in the inflow rate is increasing with time for both Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The reduction steadily increases downstream the River Tigris while it oscillates downstream the

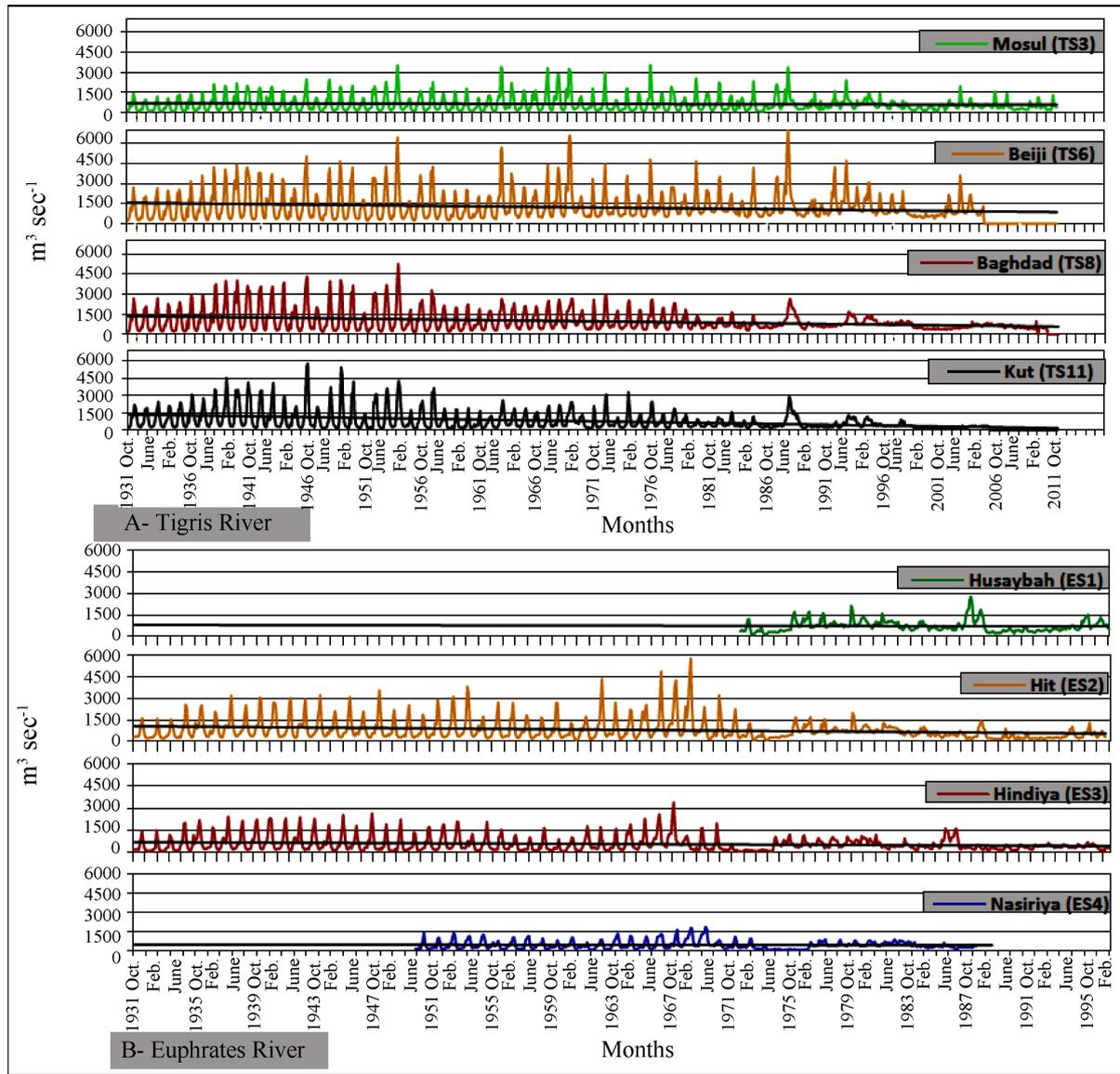


Figure 5. Average monthly inflow of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers for main stream flow gaging-station.

Table 6. Annual reductions in water inflow of main gaging stations.

Station	Average annually inflow		Average annual water reduction		Annual percentage reduction %
	$m^3 \cdot sec^{-1}$	km^3	$m^3 \cdot sec^{-1}$	km^3	
Mosul (TS ₃)	569.75	17.96	1.35	0.0426	0.2372
Beiji (TS ₆)	1295.94	40.87	8.64	0.272	0.666
Baghdad (TS ₈)	979.26	30.882	9.73	0.307	0.994
Kut (TS ₁₁)	815.50	25.72	14.73	0.464	1.804
Husaybah (ES ₁)	708.30	22.33	1.57	0.0495	0.222
Hit (ES ₂)	802	25.292	7.72	0.243	0.961
Hindiya (ES ₃)	551.62	17.40	4.02	0.127	0.730
Nasiriya (ES ₄)	430	13.5	1.452	0.0458	0.339

River Euphrates. This is due to the fact that some water is diverted from Tharthar depression inside Iraq to the River Euphrates to overcome the water shortage downstream that river [15].

To find out the reduction of flow rate entering Iraq from neighboring countries, the Trend line of average monthly discharge data for station (TS₁) of the River Tigris (near Turkish-Iraqi border) was used to compute the reduction from Turkey. Stations (TS₂, TS₄, TS₅, TS₇, TS₉ and TS₁₀) were used for the tributaries of the River Tigris. For the River Euphrates however, the Trend line for data station (ES₁) was used which is close to the Syrian-Iraqi border (Table 7). The results revealed that Iraq receives annually 45.4 and 25.52 km³ of water form Tigris and Euphrates respectively. River Tigris receives its water from two sources, 18.04 km³ from Turkey and 27.36 km³ from its tributaries inside Iraq.

The annual reduction of the flow of the River Euphrates was 0.245 km³·year⁻¹ while for the River Tigris it was 0.1335 km³·year⁻¹ (0.04566 km³ for Turkey and 0.0879 km³ from its tributaries). The reduction of flow in the Tigris River is less than that of the River Euphrates by 0.1115 km³·year⁻¹. This is due to the fact that there are many dams constructed on the River Euphrates within Syria and Turkey [3] [10]. This implies the annual percentage reduction of inflow rates for Rivers Tigris and Euphrates are 0.294 and 0.960% respectively.

4.2. Water Demand

The water demand increases due population growth, economic development and environmental considerations. In this study the water demand for Iraq was computed using difference in the annual inflows for successive stream flow gaging stations on the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers. In some parts (downstream the last stations) it was computed depending on the population growth rates with annual water withdrawal per capita. To complete the calculations the basin was divided into 8 zones, 4 on the Tigris basin (RT₁, RT₂, RT₃ and RT₄) and 4 on the Euphrates basin (RE₁, RE₂, RE₃ and RE₄) depending on the location of the stream flow-gaging stations (Table 8). The differences in the annual water inflows for successive stations within these zones were used to generate the Trend lines that were used to estimate the increase in the water demand (Figure 6). The study used annual inflow for estimating the demand to reduce the error due to lag of discharge between successive stations. Furthermore, the effect of precipitation and losses due evaporation and infiltration in the sub-catchment area of these zones were automatically included with the human water consumption when using annual water discharge records of two successive gaging stations.

Figure 6 shows the annual difference rates in the water inflow of the successive stations that represents the annual water demand (water consumed) for zones (RT₁, RT₂, RT₃, RE₁, RE₂ and RE₃). The Trend lines of the above relations showed the demand increased with time and the annual increasing rates of demand for these zones are tabulated in Table 8. The demand details for the remainder zones (RT₄ and RE₄ down stations TS₁₁ and ES₄ respectively) were estimated using population growth data (Figure 4) and water withdrawal per capita for Iraq 2616 m³·year⁻¹ (Table 8).

The calculations results for all zones showed that the average-yearly demand for Iraq is 63.05 km³·year⁻¹ while Iraq receives annually 70.92 km³·year⁻¹. The demand is shared by the two river basins where it reaches 38.10 and 24.95 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and Euphrates Rivers respectively. The overall annual increase of the demand is 1.002 km³·year⁻¹ (0.5271 for and 0.475 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and Euphrates basins respectively). This implies that the consumption is 88.89% of total incoming water (60.43% and 39.57% for Rivers Tigris and Euphrates respectively).

Table 7. Water availability and inflow reductions for Tigris-Euphrates Rivers.

River		Average annually inflow		Average annual water reduction		Annual percentage reduction %
		m ³ ·sec ⁻¹	km ³	m ³ ·sec ⁻¹	km ³	
Tigris	Turkey	572	18.04	1.448	0.04566	0.253
	Tributaries from Iraq and Iran	867.46	27.36	2.787	0.0879	0.3213
	Total	1439.82	45.4	4.235	0.1335	0.294
Euphrates		802	25.52	7.777	0.245	0.960
Total		2241.81	70.92	12.012	0.3785	1.254

Table 8. Water demand for Tigris-Euphrates basin in Iraq.

Region name	Region boundary (between)	Average yearly demand		Increasing yearly demand		% demand from total demand	% annual increasing in demand
		m ³ ·sec ⁻¹	km ³	m ³ ·sec ⁻¹	km ³		
RT ₁	TS ₆ -----TS ₁	100.4	3.166	0.7	0.0221	5.02	0.698
RT ₂	TS ₈ -----TS ₆	258.4	8.15	4.89	0.154	12.92	1.89
RT ₃	TS ₁₁ -----TS ₈	612.5	19.32	4.013	0.1265	30.64	0.655
RT ₄	Down TS ₁₁	236.65	7.463	7.12	0.2245	11.84	3.01
RE ₁	ES ₂ -----ES ₁	141	4.447	3.414	0.1077	7.05	2.422
RE ₂	ES ₃ -----ES ₂	331.6	10.46	4.042	0.127	16.6	1.214
RE ₃	ES ₄ -----ES ₃	224	7.06	4.66	0.147	11.2	2.081
RE ⁴	Down ES ₄	94.65	2.985	2.96	0.0933	4.73	3.125
Total	Iraq	1999.3	63.05	28.42	1.002	100	1.42

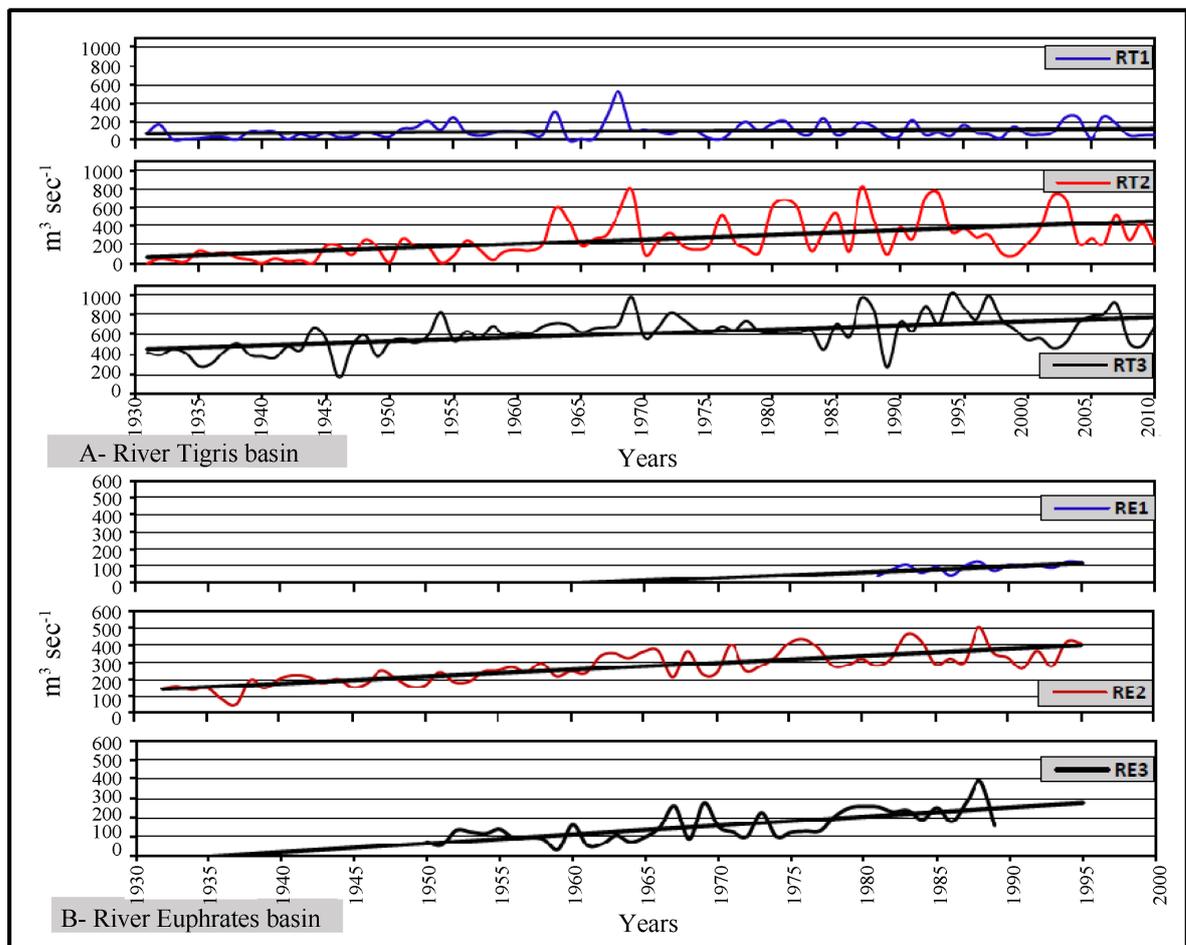


Figure 6. Average annual demand of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers basin in Iraq.

The potential water demand and water availability were compared with previous studies of Klot [20], Kolars [21], Altinbilek [22], Beaumont [23] and UN [24] (Table 9). The results showed that the average water demand in Iraq in 2020 will increase to 72.069 km³·year⁻¹ (42.844 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and Euphrates 29.225 km³·year⁻¹

Table 9. Potential water demand on the Tigris-Euphrates basin in Iraq for the period after 2020. (Note: Beaumont [23] used two annual water tariffs 13,300 m³·ha⁻¹ and 15,000 m³·ha⁻¹).

River	Kolars (1994), (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)	Kliot (1994) (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)	Altinbilek (1997), (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)	Beaumont (1998), (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)	UN (2010), (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)	Current study, (km ³ ·year ⁻¹)
Tigris	29.20	40.00	31.90	38.2 to 61.0	----	42.844
Euphrates	17.00	16.00	15.50	25 to 28.1	----	29.225
Total	46.20	46.00	47.4	58.2 to 89.1	77	72.069

respectively). On the contrary, the amount of available water will decrease to 63.46 km³·year⁻¹ (44.06 km³·year⁻¹ and 19.40 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and Euphrates respectively). The total water deficit of Tigris-Euphrates Rivers basin will be 8.61 km³·year⁻¹. Water shortages will be of 9.83 km³ on the Euphrates River basin at 2020. On the contrary the Tigris River will experience a surplus of 1.221 km³ (Table 9). These figures are calculated assuming that there will be no dams constructed on both rivers in future. In case these are considered then the water availability after 2025 will be 9.16 and 8.45 km³ for Tigris and Euphrates respectively (UN, 2010). In addition, restoring the marshes was not considered.

5. Summary and Conclusion

The average monthly inflows for 15 stream flow gaging stations on the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates inside Iraq were used to estimate water availability and its rate of reduction. Furthermore, these data with population growth and water consumption per capita were used to compute the demand and its increase. The results showed that the total water availability in Iraq from these rivers is 70.92 km³·year⁻¹ of which are 45.4 km³·year⁻¹ and 25.52 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, respectively. Iraq receives annually an average of 18.04 km³·year⁻¹ of water at the Turkish-Iraqi border from the River Tigris. Inside Iraq, the tributaries of the River Tigris supply another 27.36 km³·year⁻¹ annually. The rate of reduction of inflow for River Tigris is 0.1335 km³·year⁻¹ (0.294%) which is less than Euphrates 0.245 km³·year⁻¹ (0.961%) The average water demand in Iraq is 63.05 km³·year⁻¹. About 38.1 km³·year⁻¹ is for the River Tigris basin and 24.95 km³·year⁻¹ is for the Euphrates basin. The rate of demand in Iraq is increasing annually by 1.002 km³·year⁻¹ (0.5271 km³·year⁻¹ for Tigris River basin and 0.475 km³·year⁻¹ for Euphrates basin). In addition, the water inflow at 2020 will decrease to 63.46 km³·year⁻¹ and the demand will increase to 72.069 km³·year⁻¹.

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