

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE WATER MANAGEMENT CRISIS IN THE EUPHRATES-TIGRIS BASIN

Source n°1 : In 2022, a historic drought hits the “Green Fertile Land” :



Devastating drought has gripped Iraq last year. This satellite image reflects the condition of plants growing throughout the region.

Areas that are brown show where plants were growing less than they usually do. Green areas show better-than-average growth, and tan areas reflect average conditions.

The brown, drought-affected area stretches in an arc from northern Syria to southern Iran. The most affected area is northern Iraq, the country's historical breadbasket, where rain-fed wheat is grown

The drought has also limited water supplies available to farmers through the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which flow into Iraq from Turkey and Syria. The Iraqi government requested that Turkey release more water from hydroelectric dams on the Euphrates.

Source : NASA image created by Jesse Allen, Earth Observatory, using data provided by Inbal Reshef, [Global Agricultural Monitoring Project](#). Caption by Holli Riebeek.

Source n°2 : Iraq is facing an ecological disaster

For thousands of years, Iraq and ancient Mesopotamia have been known as the Land of the Two Rivers, in reference to the Tigris and Euphrates that have long sustained some of the world's oldest civilisations.

Despite this rich and fertile history, Iraq's water sources are drying up due to Turkey and Iran who are building more and more dams, effectively blocking up waters that have historically flowed through the country.

Global warming is hitting this region as well. In recent weeks, Iraq has been hit by dust storms and temperatures up to 52°C. These temperatures have increased water and soil salinity. The declining annual rainfall has led to another problem – food insecurity. Already this year, the lack of water has led the Iraqi government to order farmers to cultivate only half the usual land they would be usually harvesting.

Rising temperatures are a disaster for the marshes of southern Iraq sheltering many populations of endangered species. The marshes represent "one of the largest stopover and wintering sites" for ducks, and for around 200 species of migratory birds.

Urgent action is required to address the lack of potable water and the subsequent risks of forced population displacement.

Source : National Geographic

Source N° 3 : Is the Great Anatolia Project a Panacea or Crisis Multiplier for the Middle East ?

August 5, 2013 By Ilektra Tsakalidou

The Great Anatolia Project, or (GAP), is one of the largest river basin development projects in the world. It includes the construction of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric power plants on both the Tigris and the Euphrates. Upon completion it is expected to provide up to 25 percent of the country's electricity.

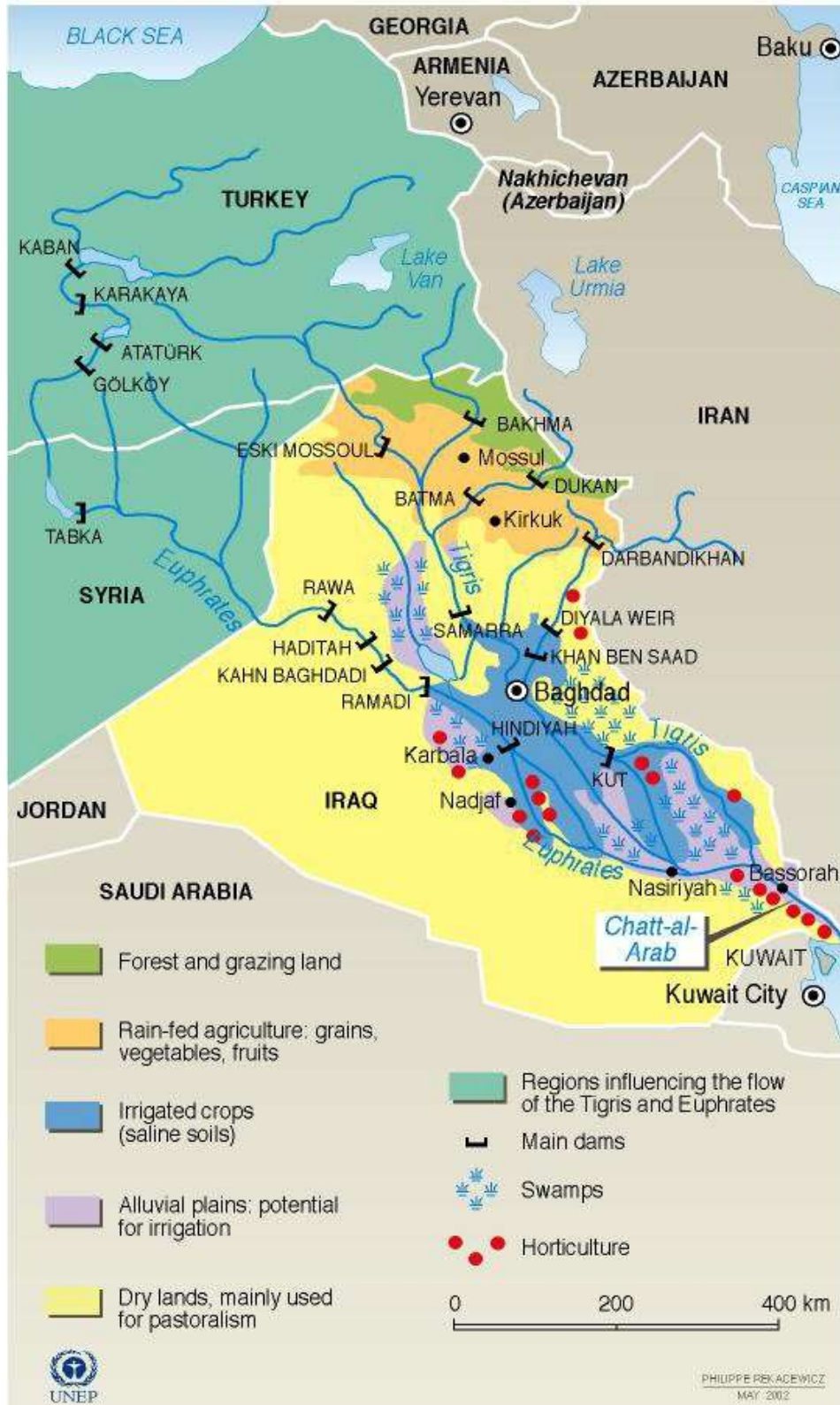
However, it is also a hotbed of controversy. Turkey's Kurdish population, which represent 90 percent of the population living in the area claims that the GAP is simply another effort by Ankara to subvert their ethnic identity. Meanwhile Syria and Iraq argue they haven't been consulted on the project, as experts warn that downstream food security and water supplies will be negatively affected by new dams and reservoirs.

The project is projected to generate up to 200,000 employment opportunities. For the agricultural sector, the GAP is expected to bring two million new hectares of land under irrigation, potentially making Turkey an exporter of agricultural goods. Furthermore, the government is looking to address education and inequality issues, including women and girls' literacy, with the hope that increased participation in entrepreneurial activities follows – all tremendous boons in one of the most economically under-developed areas of the country.

Source : Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program

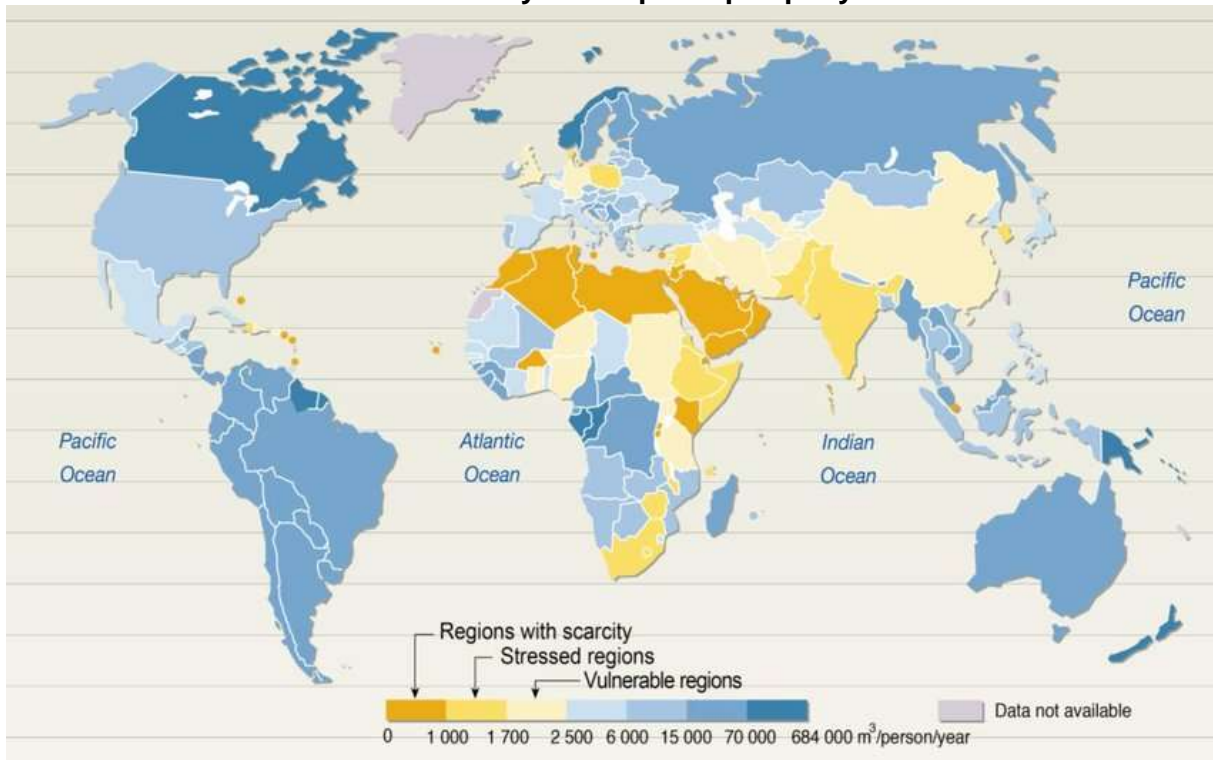
WATER AVAILABILITY IN THE EUPHRATES-TIGRIS BASIN

Turning the Tides Regulation of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers



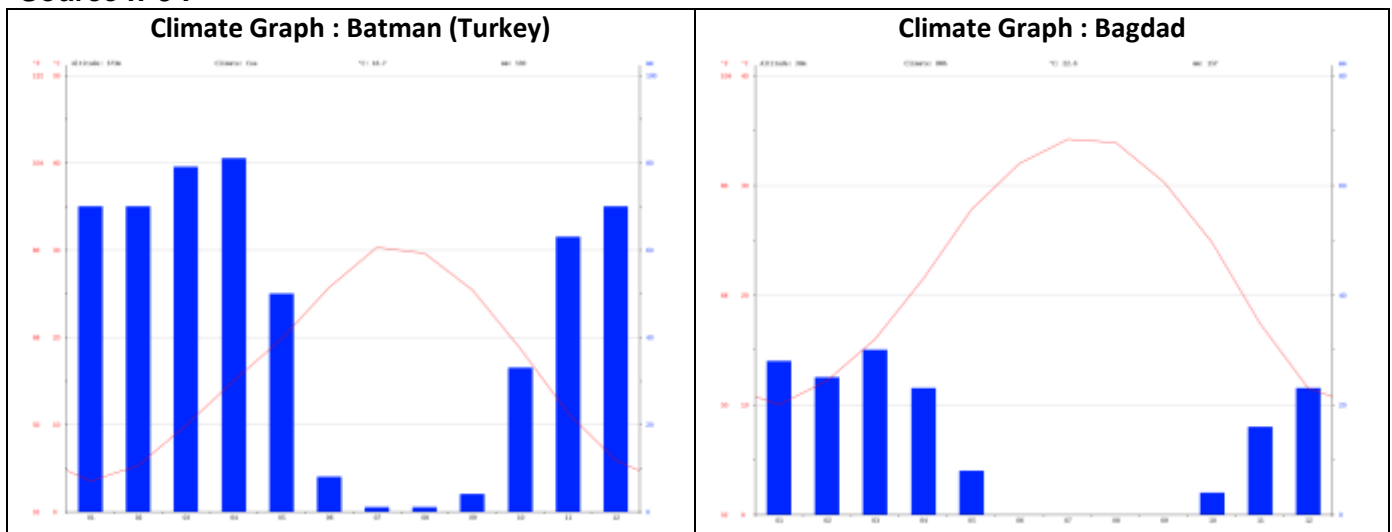
Source UNEP-GRID Arendal

Freshwater availability in m³ per capita per year



Source UNEP-GRID Arendal

Source n°5 :



Source n°6 : Distribution of water between neighbouring countries

Countries	Global water resources (km ³)	Quantity of water from the Tigris originating from (in billion cubic meters/year):	Consumption targets of each country (in billion cubic meters)
Turkey	229	25.2 51.9 % of total	6.8 14.1 % of total
Syria	75	0.00 0% of total	2.6 5.3 % of total
Iraq	26	23.4 48.1 % of total	23 92.5 % of total
Total		48.6 100 % of total	54.4 112 % of total

Source THE TIGRIS-EUPHRATES RIVERS CONTROVERSY, AND THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

https://www.academia.edu/1228006/The_Tigris_Euphrates_rivers_controversy_and_the_role_of_international_law