

Water ecosystems in Iraq reality and challenges

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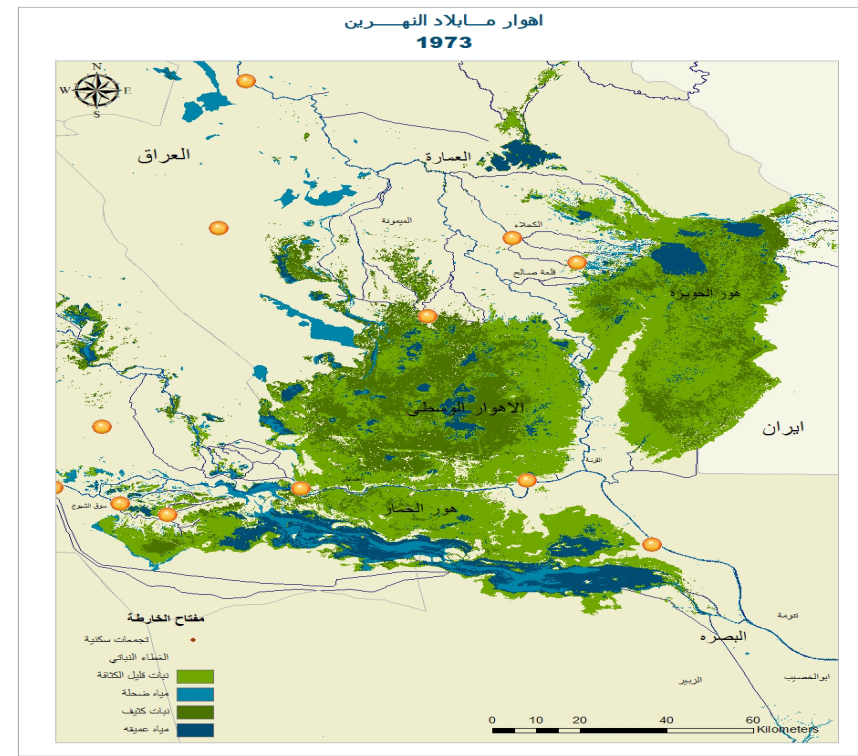
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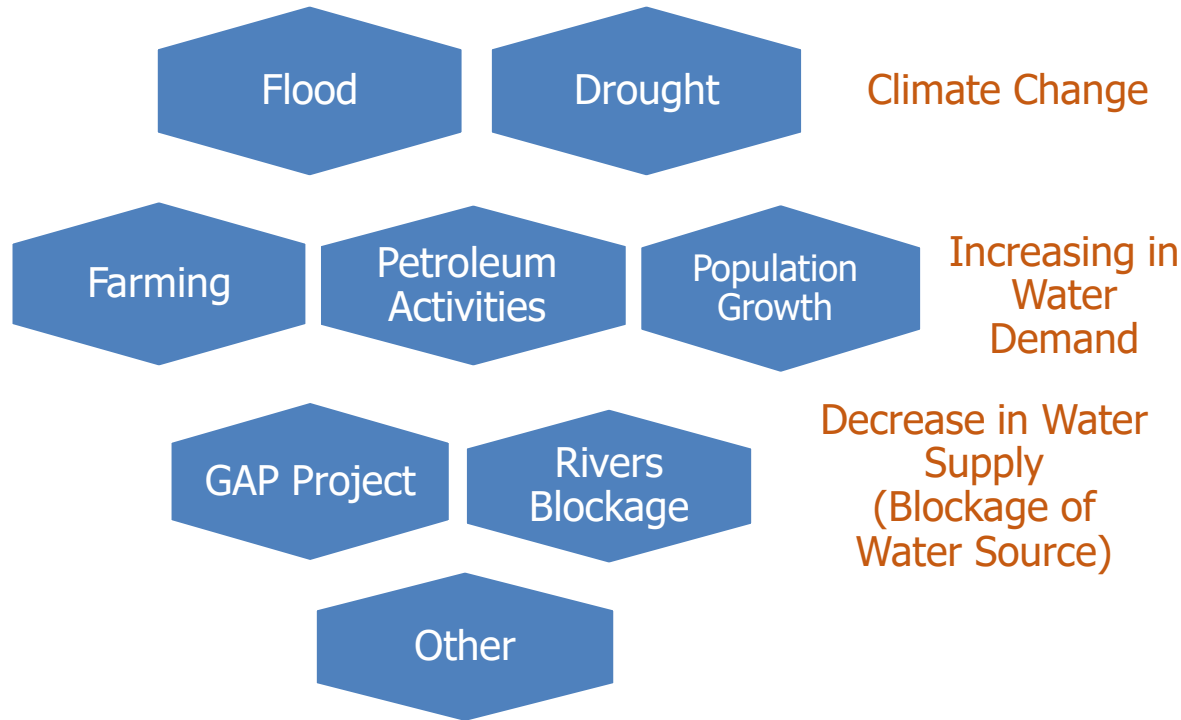
The marshes have been located 6500 years ago in Southern Iraq. It nearly covers 4000 km² during Summer, and extends to (9000-15000) km² during Spring. And, in this case, it covers 3.3% the country's area. The Mesopotamian Marshes represent historical sites, and they're beneficial for their economical, ecological, and humanitarian importance. Marshes are habitats for different kinds of birds during their travel from Middle Asia to Africa.



- A number of anthropogenic factors affect the marshes. And for three decades, these lands have been converted to poor ones and cause a global environmental loss, not only for Asia.
- The UNEP consider them as one of the biggest environmental disasters that have ever been recorded. They're even worse than the drought of Aral sea or the deforestation of Amazon rainforest.



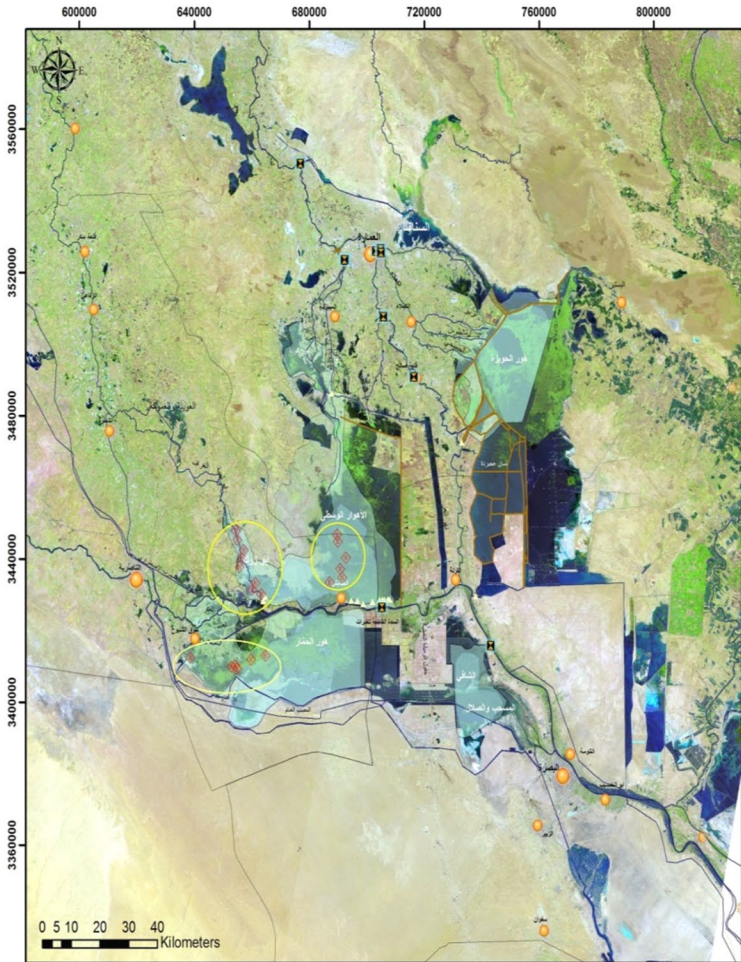
Current Challenges of the marshes



The social and economical realities, biodiversity, the complication in cooperation among stakeholders in the administration of marshes, the lack of adequate legal protection for most marshes, Financial crisis



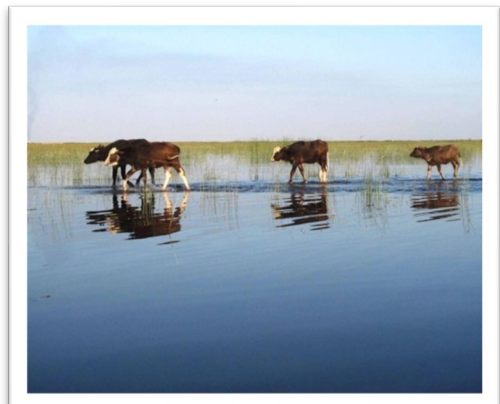
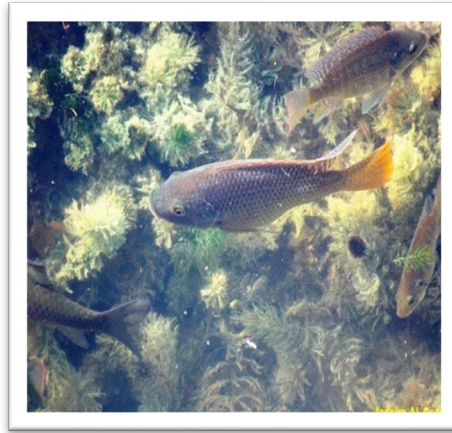
Biodiversity in the Marshes, September 2022

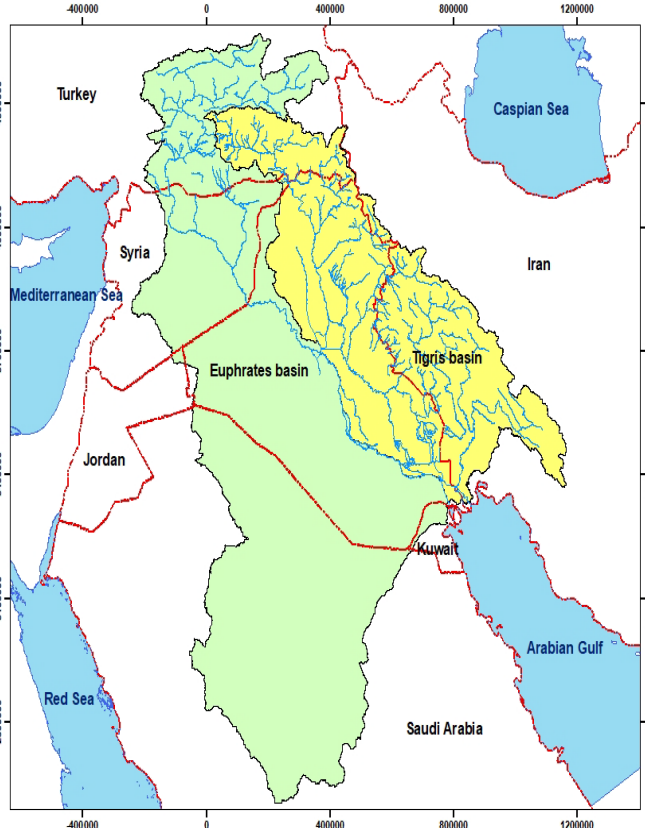


الإحداثيات	
مواقع التنوع الاحيائي	طريق
حوض المنطقة العذبة لتقوت العجس	نهر
حوض المنك لتقوت العجس	سد
حوض الازهار الرئيسية	حوض الازهار الفرعية
حوض الازهار الفرعية	حوض الازهار الفرعية

مواقع التنوع الاحيائي في الاهوار
محافظة ذي قار
3/11/2019

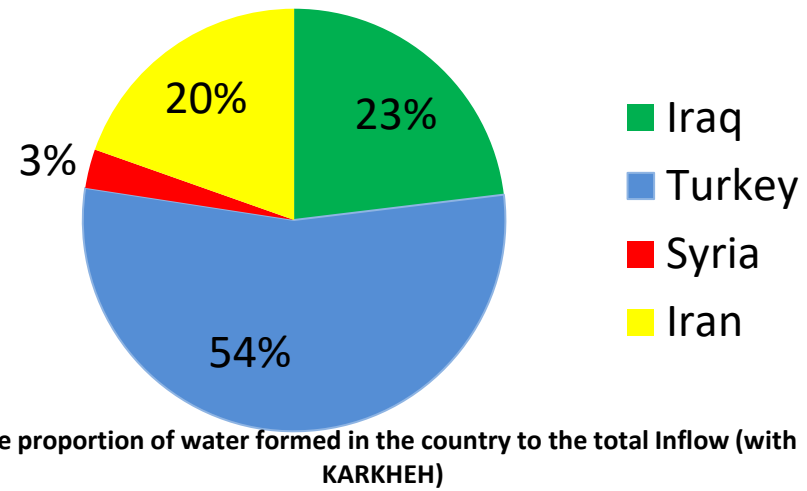
خارطة الاهوار العراقية





Contributions of the riparian countries to the rivers of Tigris and the Euphrates Basins

The water resources system in Iraq consists of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran share the two river basins. Most of Iraq's water depends on flows from upstream countries.



The proportion of water formed in the country to the total inflow (with KARKHEH)

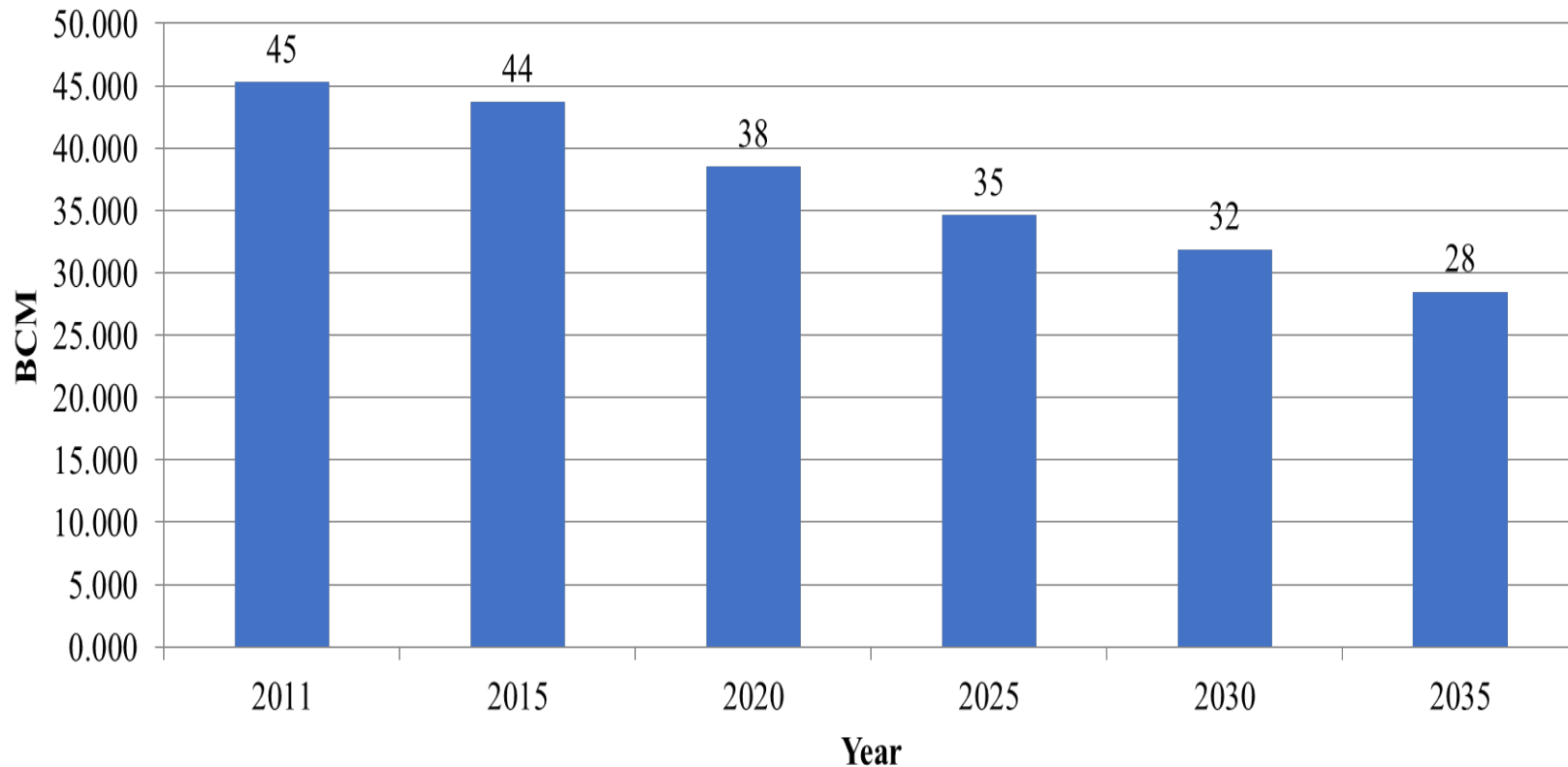
Facts:-

The water formed outside Iraq constitutes the largest part of the available surface water in Iraq, reaching 67%.

The water coming to Iraq has now decreased by 30% (before the start of the development projects by the neighboring countries of Iraq).

However, in case of the countries of the upper rivers continue to implement these projects (in order to achieve the full completion of their plans 100%), the water coming to Iraq will gradually decrease from now until the year 2035 by 35%.

Water entering the Iraqi borders (billion m³)

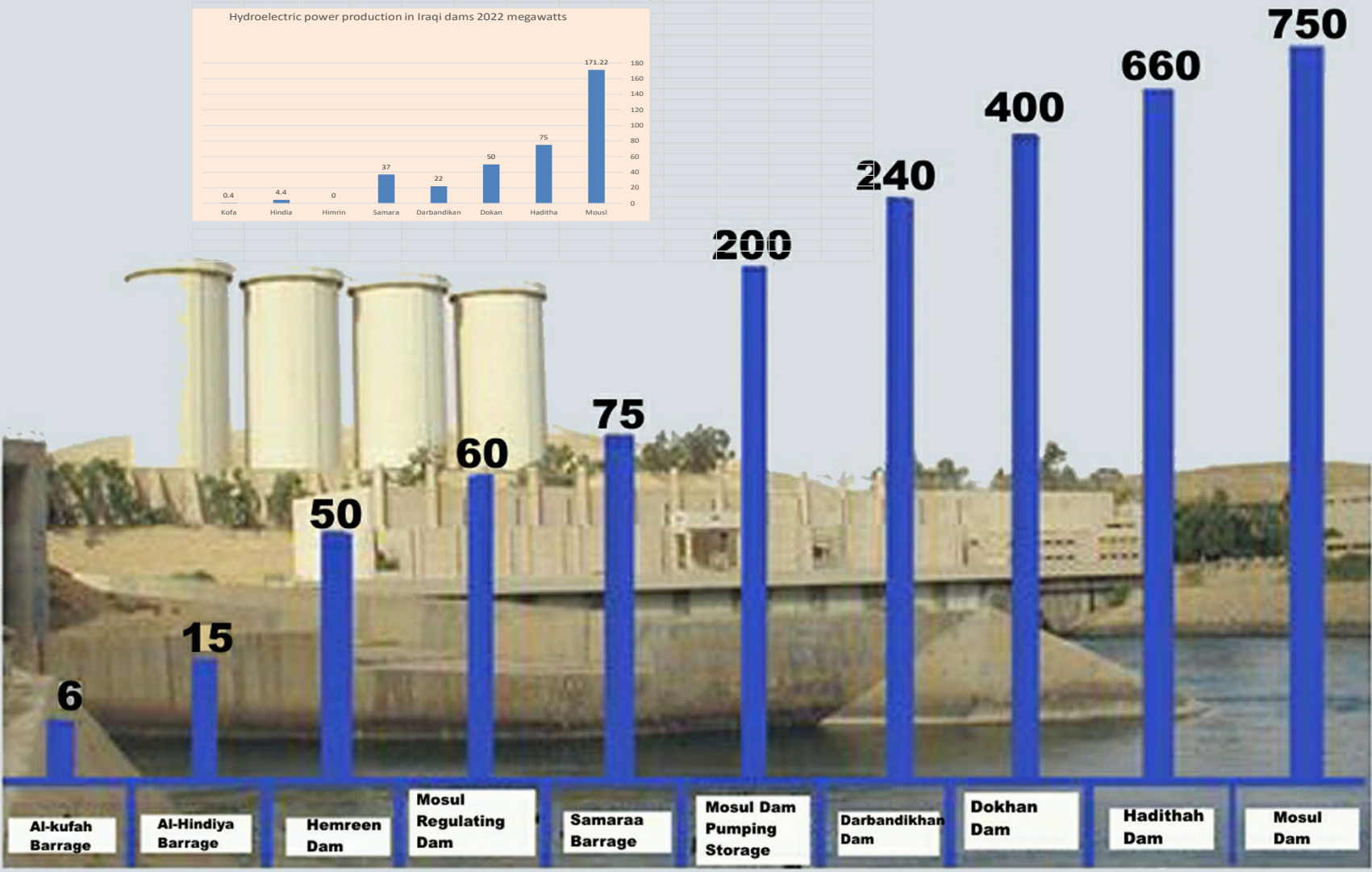
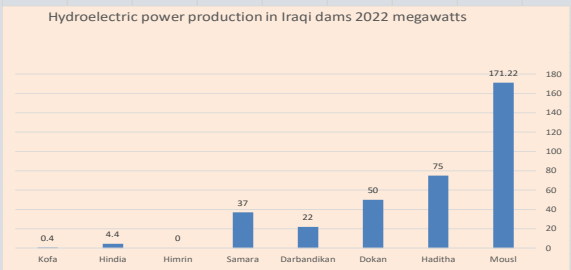


Decreased incoming water due to development in upstream countries

- The countries of the upper Tigris and Euphrates rivers (Turkey, Syria, Iran) establish and develop reservoir, irrigation and hydraulic projects.
- The phenomenon of climate change and global warming was one of the reasons that had a clear impact on the region in general and Iraq in particular

The Power Plant had been installed in Dams and Barrage (MW)

Av_2022 Dams
 171.22 Mousl
 75 Haditha
 50 Dokan
 22 Darbandikan
 37 Samara
 0 Himrin
 4.4 Hindia
 0.4 Kofa



Challenges

- Turkey is still continuing to implement the Economic Development Project for the Southeastern Anatolia Region (GAP).
- Iran also continues to implement dam and irrigation projects and divert some important rivers.
- The construction of dams, irrigation and hydraulic projects in the upstream countries has led to a significant decrease in the water coming into Iraq, in addition to the deterioration of its quality.
- The phenomenon of climate change and global warming was one of the reasons that had a clear impact on water resources in the region in general and Iraq in particular.

Iraq has a strategic plan that aims to achieve water security for Iraq in light of the challenges facing water resources, which have drawn two parallel paths as follows:

First Path

- **Iraq's continuous endeavors to reach agreements with the countries of the two basins with the aim of determining a permanent share of water for each country.**
- **Negotiation with the riparian countries based on cooperation in accordance with the rules of international law:**
- **Equitable and reasonable uses and sharing of water**
- **Obligation not to cause serious harm.**

Second Path

Extensive repair implementation:

- **Rehabilitation of infrastructure for all sectors that use water and improving its efficiency.**
- **Adopting a smart policy to manage water demand with limited water resources available to Iraq.**



THANK YOU

