

THE SYRIAN WATER SECTOR

water resources development and management in the country.

Moreover, in the purpose of a countrywide water resources assessment and management, Syria has been divided into seven main water resources management basins or units. The boundaries of those units correspond, in general, with the natural water divides of the hydrological basins, but in some cases, are modified according to the boundaries of the administrative units.

The water resources management units consist of the following basins: (1) Damascus Basin (Barada & Awaj); (2) Orontes Basin; (3) Coastal Basin; (4) Yarmouk Basin; (5) Badia Basin; (6) Tigris and Khabour Basin and (7) Euphrates and Aleppo Basin. Six of these basins, except the Euphrates and Aleppo

Basin, were administrated by six General Directorates instituted by Law No. 17 of 1986. Figure (2) represents the mentioned hydrological Basins.

Euphrates and Aleppo Basin were put under the responsibility of the General Organisation of Land Reclamation (GOLD), established in 1981. GOLD is administrating the basin in cooperation with other two institutions: the General Administration for Development of Euphrates Basin (GADEB) and the General Organisation of Euphrates Dam (GOED).

In early 2005 the Ministry of Irrigation remodelled the institutions by establishing a new commission called the General Commission for Water Resources. The new remodelling has comprised cancellation of the General Directorates of

Hydrological Basins and transition the water sector administration from Basin level to Local Administration level.

Syria is administratively divided into fourteen Mohafaza (Governorates). A Mohafaza is headed by a Mohafez (province governor). Consequently, fourteen Local Directorates for Water Resources Management inherit the seven General Directorates of Hydrological Basins each according to its administrative Governorate borders. Figure (3) represents the 14 Governorates.

At the side of the Ministry of Irrigation additional institutions can be considered as the institutional core of the water sector in Syria; they play also major roles in the management and development of the water sector: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) and Ministry of Housing and Construction (MHC).

MAAR retains a central role in articulating and implementing public intervention related to the production, regulation and distribution of the agricultural goods and activities.

Furthermore, MHC primary responsibility is for domestic water supply and sewerage. In this regard its main tasks include: improving the efficiency of drinking water and wastewater networks, constructing wastewater treatment plans, raising public awareness concerning the rationalisation of water use.

On the other hand, there is

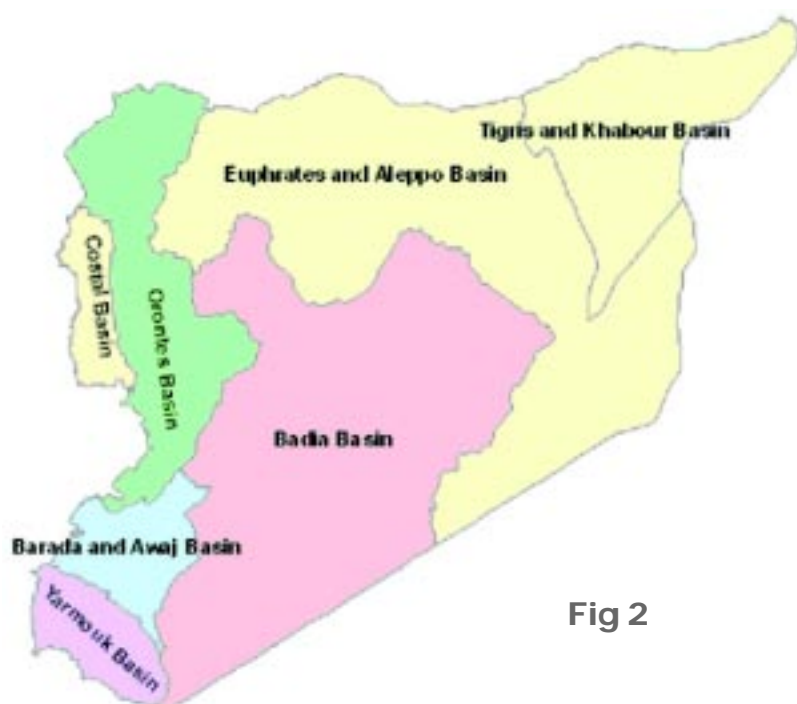


Fig 2