

There is no life without water.

"Albert Szent-Gyorgyi"



Groundwater monitoring in Jordan

Fast growing population, urbanization, food security policies and the expansion of development and economic activities are exerting pressure on available water resources in Western Asia.

The galloping rise in demand associated with the rapidly changing patterns of water use indicate that the availability of water can no longer be taken for granted, and water use in the immediate future will be governed by increasing scarcity in various parts of the ESCWA countries. The majority of ground and surface water resources in the region are shared. Hence, integrated management, improved dialogue and protection of these resources are of paramount importance to all ESCWA countries.

The 14 ESCWA Member Countries



ESCWA-BGR Cooperation, 2011

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Research, Fieldwork and Dialogue

ESCWA-BGR Cooperation

Research:

Taking inventory of shared water in the region

Fieldwork:

Monitoring program on shared water resources

Dialogue:

Supporting regional dialogue in the water sector



ESCWA - BGR Cooperation

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is one of the five United Nations Regional Commissions for economic and social issues, which are part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR) is the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources. It is the central scientific authority providing advice to the Federal Government in all geo-related issues.

Cooperation between ESCWA and BGR began in 1992. It seeks to enhance collaboration on shared water resources between ESCWA member countries. The cooperation also promotes the integrated management and protection of water resources.



ESCWA-BGR project team



Afrin River, Syrian Arab Republic

Research: Inventory of Shared Water Resources in Western Asia

This soon to be published inventory is the first of its kind. Maps and detailed basin descriptions for over 30 shared groundwater and surface water basins in Western Asia comprise the body of this reference work. It also covers shared sub-basins.

The inventory focuses on basin hydrology and hydrogeology. It describes the use and development of basins and reflects on water cooperation and management.

The inventory will:

- Raise awareness among decision makers and the general public
- Improve the water knowledge base and facilitate access to information
- Support regional dialogue and policy making for shared water resources

Fieldwork: Monitoring Program on Shared Water Resources

The ESCWA-BGR Cooperation assists member countries in obtaining base information and more comprehensive, reliable data on their shared waters. The program contributes to national water resources planning and helps inform dialogue among riparians.

We are currently assisting three member states upon their request:

- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Syria



Dialogue on water

Dialogue: Supporting regional dialogue in the water sector

Over the years, we have addressed technical, legal and institutional aspects of shared water management in regional and national conferences and workshops. A significant advance in dialogue development began in July 2010 when the Arab Ministerial Water Council invited ESCWA, in partnership with the League of Arab States Center for Water Studies and Arab Water Security, in cooperation with others, to prepare a draft legal framework on shared water within the Arab Region. The ESCWA-BGR cooperation supports this drafting process.