

## Syria



### The Asnober basin

The main watercourse in the Asnober basin is the homonymous river of about 50 km. It constitutes the main water source in the basin and drains an area of nearly 270 km<sup>2</sup>, including the 32 river systems in the mountainous area. The Al-Thawra water reservoir has been designed in the 80s by the Bulgarian company *AGROCOMPLECT* and was built between 1989 and 1995. It is now the central system for current water resources in the basin.

The construction of a **new reservoir** is under consideration: its priority should be the flood control in addition to the water supply increase to the Al-Thawra reservoir.

In this case study, the **tool** used in decision-making was the Water Evaluation And Planning (WEAP) system. It is applicable to municipal and agricultural systems, single sub-basins or complex river systems as well as to demand analyses, water conservation, water rights and allocation priorities, groundwater and stem flow simulations, reservoir operations, hydropower, pollution, ecosystem requirements, and project cost-benefit analyses.

The implementation of the WEAP in the Asnober basin foresees several variables such as scenario development, economic growth and environmental issues. However, the Syrian government is the main decision-maker and gives priority to the security: **the final decisions are made by the Syrian President** at all levels (especially at national level), by the **Security Council** at all levels (especially at county and region levels), and by the **Bath party groups** at local level.

**Stakeholders are not included** in the final decision process.

**Keywords:** modelling, centralized decision-making

**Further readings:** see the NOSTRUM-DSS *Syrian National Report*, available at <http://www.nostrum-dss.eu>  
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<http://www.ics.tieste.it>



### DSS tools and approaches in Syria

*In Syria, DSS were firstly used in policy-making for water management in the pilot project of the Asnober basin, as described in this leaflet.*

*So far, public participation is not considered in the described decision-making process and thus DSS can be applied to bring the technical insights of the WEAP tool to the stakeholders' knowledge.*

