Nature’s leverage over peace, stability, and trust in Euphrates-Tigris basin

The increasing significance of the Euphrates-Tigris river basin in a regional environment with diminishing resources and plagued by drought obliges Turkey to lead a cooperative approach for the efficient and equitable management of water.

**Business**

**TRANSBORDAN POWER OF WATERS**

**Nature’s leverage over peace, stability, and trust in Euphrates-Tigris basin**

Turkey should implement proactive hydrodiplomacy, boost trust among riparian states

ALASHKERT, Armenia — A key to conflict resolution and sharing of benefits in the region, the current condition of the water basin should be addressed fully. That highly. In a bid to resolve the situation, both Tigris and Euphrates basin should be managed in a cooperative manner. Turkey, Syria and Iraq should cooperate to minimize any potential risks of environmental degradation and ensure the sustainable management of the basin.

Turkey’s approach towards the basin is to address the challenges and potential conflicts proactively. The country should engage in dialogue with its riparian neighbors to ensure a peaceful and cooperative management of the basin. This can be achieved through the implementation of hydrodiplomacy, which involves the use of water resources as a tool for conflict resolution and trust-building.

**Watercourses to peace, trust and mutual benefit**

**DAMS ON MESOPOTAMIA RIVERS**

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Euphrates</th>
<th>Tigris</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
<td>Adana (1977)</td>
<td>İzmir (1977)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diyarbakır (1960)</td>
<td>Batman (1960)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mardin (1963)</td>
<td>Şanlıurfa (1966)</td>
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<td>Elazığ (1968)</td>
<td>Şırnak (1972)</td>
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**Turkey and Euphrates-Tigris basin facts**

**Turkey**

- The country is the largest landlocked country in the world, with a coastline of around 340 km

**Syria**

- The country has a coastline of around 1,900 km

**Iraq**

- The country has a coastline of around 1,900 km

**Agreement on cooperation for water issues by establishing a water tribunal**

**Triartal crisis summit addressed by Turkish, Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers**

**Major diplomatic developments regarding riparian states in Euphrates-Tigris basin**

- **1977**
  - Launch of the Turkish-Syrian- Iraqi Water Project

- **1983**
  - Establishment of the International Committee for the Waters of the Euphrates (ISEW)

- **1984**
  - Turkey’s proposal of a three-stage plan

- **1987**
  - Syria-Turkey- Iraq informal agreement guaranteeing the right of navigation on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers

- **2008**
  - Agreement on cooperation for water issues by establishing a water tribunal

**Nature’s leverage over peace, stability, and trust in Euphrates-Tigris basin**

Turkey, Syria and Iraq should cooperate to manage the basin effectively to ensure sustainable development and peace. The three countries should work towards a cooperative approach to address the challenges and potential conflicts proactively. This can be achieved through the implementation of hydrodiplomacy, which involves the use of water resources as a tool for conflict resolution and trust-building.

**Conclusion**

Turkey, Syria and Iraq should cooperate to manage the basin effectively to ensure sustainable development and peace. The three countries should work towards a cooperative approach to address the challenges and potential conflicts proactively. This can be achieved through the implementation of hydrodiplomacy, which involves the use of water resources as a tool for conflict resolution and trust-building.