



TUNISIA

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The National Focal Point team is composed of :

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Responsible for data collection.

The Water Director is :

- **Mr. Mekki HAMZA**,
General Director of Water Resources.

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The National Focal Point (NFP) of Tunisia was created at the end of 1999 at the General Directorate of Water Resources - Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources. Since its creation, the NFP was managed by the Bureau of the Inventory and Hydraulic Research (BIRH) whose missions are: inventory of surface and ground waters, exploration for new resources, monitoring and observation of rainfall and surface runoff, data processing and publication in bulletins and directories.

The main results of Tunisian NFP are: the operation of a national multilingual website (in English, French and Arabic) that includes a virtual library (GED'EAU) allowing access to a set of documents and maps. The website is a unique reference for the water sector in Tunisia. It provides very useful information as regular rainfall data. This water information portal is a dynamic website that uses the standards recommended by EMWIS to facilitate exchanges with other sites within the framework of shared information systems. Taking into account EMWIS studies and recommendations on water data management, a National Water Information System involving several governmental bodies is under development in the framework of 2nd phase of the Investment Plan for the water sector (PISEAU II).

DATA

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area : 162 150 km² • Population (mill) : 10,08 ** • GDP per capita : 2 459 € ** • Water per capita :
450 m³/inhab./year * | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to improved water resource :
TOTAL : 98% *
- Urban : 98,4% (2003)*
- Rural : 36% (2003)* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water withdrawal :
irrigation : 75% *
domestic & industry : 10% * • Access to sanitation :
TOTAL : 75% *
- Urban : 75% * |
|--|--|---|

Sources :

* BIRH

** MEDSTAT 2007



Tunisia

Legal Framework

The main law 75-16 is dated 31 March 1975: the water code. It was amended by Law 2001-116 of 26 November 2001.

Main institution

The Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (MARH) is in charge of water resources (mobilization and use) and agricultural production as well as urban drinking water (National water utility company: SONEDE) and rural drinking water (General Directorate of Agricultural Engineering and Water Operations: DG / GREE, through collective interests groups-GIC). The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is responsible, among others, of impact assessment, water pollution control (National Agency of Environmental Protection ANPE), and urban sanitation (National Office of Sanitation: ONAS).

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
MARH	✓	✓		✓
MEDD	✓		✓	
SONEDE		✓		
DG GREE		✓		✓
ONAS			✓	

The territorial water management : The territorial management is ensured through Regional Commission for Agricultural Development (CRDA) covering the 24 Tunisian governorates (regions).

Inter-ministerial coordination is the task of the Office of Planning and hydraulic balance (BPEH), within the Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources.

Main issues of Water Resource Management

Tunisia has already achieved an important level of waters mobilization and targets 95% for 2011. In the future, the most pressing issues will be water demand management (including irrigation efficiency) and water and soil conservation (fight against pollution, groundwater recharge, and degradation of irrigated districts...)

Water pricing and cost recovery

Water consumption is billed by SONEDE (5 fix prices levels controlled by water counters) or by collective interest groups. In addition, the Bureau of Inventory and Hydraulic Research (BIRH) collects a "polluter pays" tax among industries.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	SONEDE / GIC	> 80%
Industry	SONEDE	100%
Agriculture : Irrigation	MARH / DG GREE	< 50%

Water master plan

Two main strategic options were identified and implemented: the 10 years strategy of water resources mobilization (2001-2011) initiated for the 1st time in 1990, and the long-term strategy (2030).

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