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Hydrology and Earth System Sciences
Discussions

Interactive comment on "Trends and future challenges of water resources in the Tigris–Euphrates Rivers basin in Iraq" *by* I. E. Issa et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This manuscript focuses on the evaluation of the reality of the current situation and future challenges of water availability and demand in Iraq. This topic is attractive and important. However, there are two main concerns. First, the innovation and specialization of this study is not clearly. Since there have been some similar researches in the Tigris–Euphrates Rivers Basin, it is important to prove the specialization and importance of this study clearly, and explain how this study could make distinctive means to future researches or management. Second, the method and results are not rigorous enough. Substantial revision is required before consideration for possible publication.

Some specific comments are as follows.

1. Page14618-14620. In the abstract and introduction parts, the author explained the necessity to know the water resources trends by listing a series of conventional work. But the difference of the present study and those conventional studies is not explained. The innovations of the case (Iraq) or the new method could be expressed with more words.

2. Page 14620. The introduction for the study area might be too much.

3. Page 14624. Compared with the Section 2 (study area), the Section 3 (data and methodology used) did not provide enough information on the method, especially the generation of the trend lines. Since it is a new method, some details of it will be helpful for readers to understand it.

4. The results part (Section 4) seems a little simple. It looks like a simple description of the tables and figures. The authors could consider adding more discussions on the natural and social reasons of the water trends and the advices for future management.

5. Page14625. The method used to compute the water demand is imprecise and does not consider the precipitation and evaporation. The authors should prove its rationality.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 10, 14617, 2013.