

EcoPeace Middle East

Israeli Water Diplomacy and National Security Concerns

Third Annual Symposium on Water in Israel
and the Middle East:
Transboundary Disputes and Collaborative Solutions

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About EcoPeace Middle East

- **Environmental peacemaking** organization working in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel
- Our **primary objective** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our environment and to promote lasting peace in our region
- **EcoPeace's focus** is on transboundary water resources, including the Jordan River, Dead Sea, and Mountain and Coastal Aquifers
- EcoPeace is **change oriented**; we seek to shift the status quo through bottom up & top down strategies
- Sustainable use of transboundary natural resources

What is Water Security?

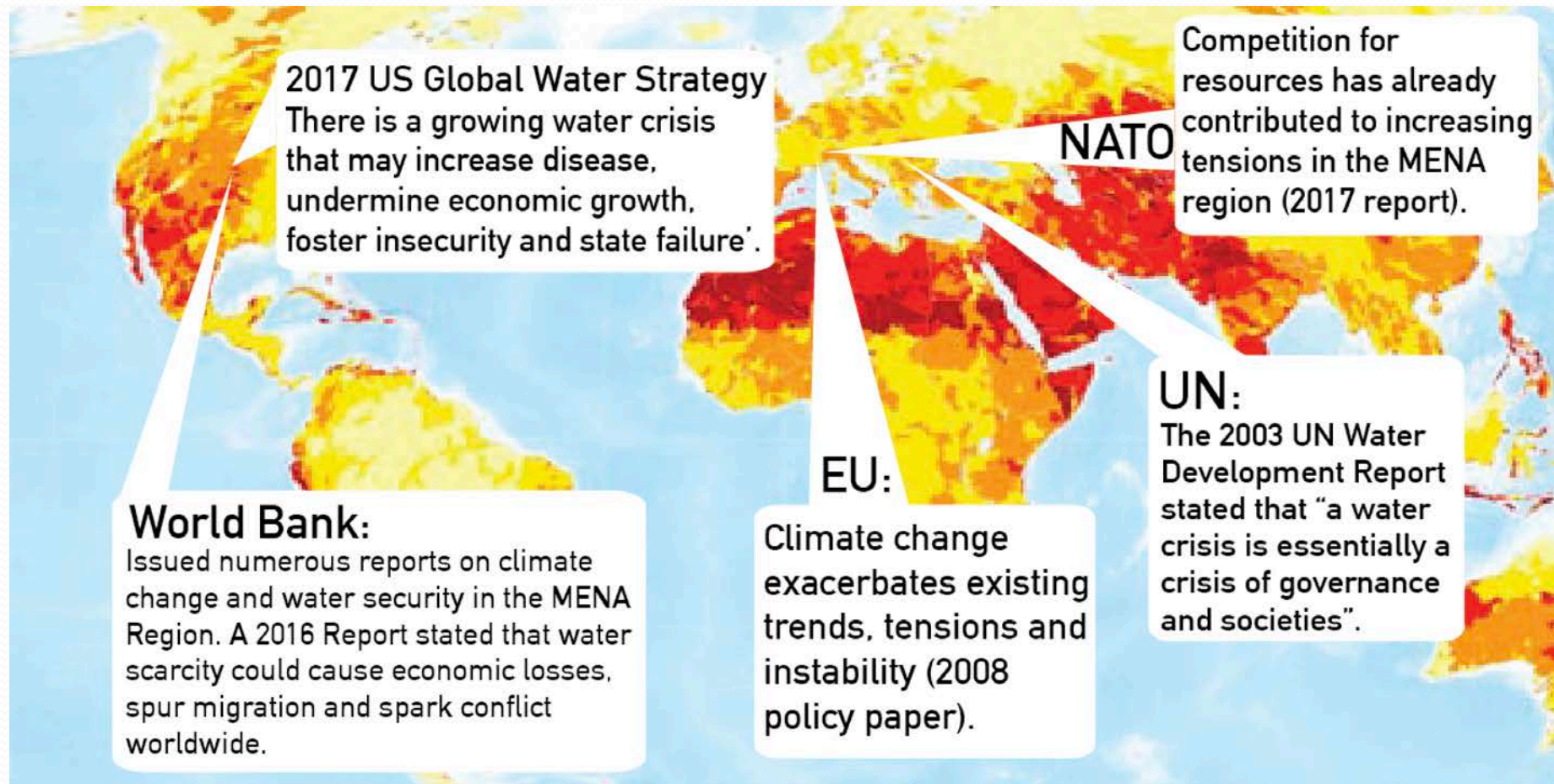


What is Water Security?

Source: UN Water

Water Security and National Security

Concerns: Water Insecurity in the World





An Analysis of Israel's Perspective on Water Diplomacy and National Security: Israeli-Jordanian Water Relations

SETTING: British mandate period of the 1920s till 1948.

DIPLOMACY:

- Early cooperation, construction of the first hydropower station in the region.

SETTING: 1950s, when the two countries were in a *de jure* state of war

DIPLOMACY:

- A shared water security agenda emerged, informal and discreet cooperation: picnic table negotiations

SETTING: 1994 – Peace Process

DIPLOMACY:

- Water relations formalized by the Peace Treaty: creative water-sharing provision with Israel storing water for transfer to Jordan.

SETTING: Recent developments - 2013

DIPLOMACY:

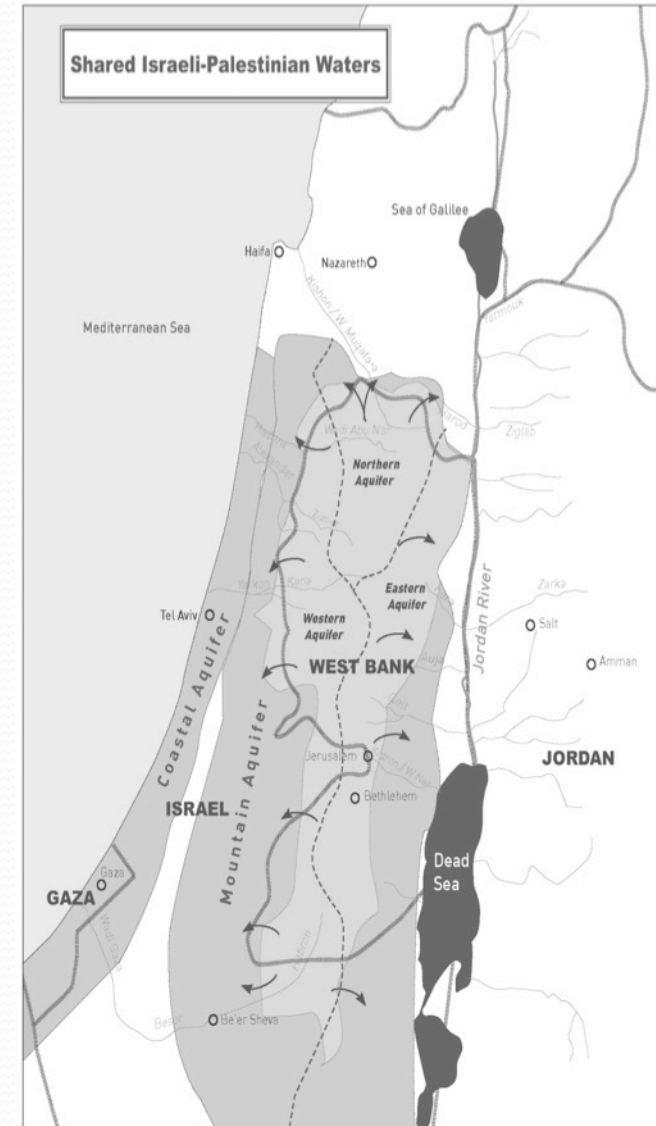
- RSDS: Water was sold to Jordan at a discounted rate.
- Water for the benefit of Syrian refugees

An Analysis of Israel's Perspective on Water Diplomacy and National Security: Israeli-Palestinian Water Relations

SETTING: Yishuv and British mandate period – 1880 till 1948.	DIPLOMACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of water resources to facilitate Jewish immigration to Palestine
SETTING: 1948 – 1967	NO DIPLOMACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State control of all water
SETTING: 1967 – Oslo Accords II, 1995	NO DIPLOMACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control over water resources and unilateralism
SETTING: Oslo Accords - 2012	DIPLOMACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palestinian water needs not met: Eastern Basin only, off setting taxes, building sewage plants on the Green Line• continued degradation of water resources• Collapse of water diplomacy: JWC stops meeting,
SETTING: 2012 - present	DIPLOMACY: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incipient understanding of the importance of water security: 2012 Gaza Crisis, 2015 double water to Gaza, JWC renewal; and RSDS 33 mcm water sale

Current Water-Sharing Arrangement

- 1995 Oslo II accord (Art. 40 on water)
- Joint Water Committee (JWC) – required approval on all water and sanitation projects
- 2017 revised but still needs water extraction approval & CA approval in Area C
- ***Effective Israeli veto on Palestinian access to increased shared water.***
- Israel continues to extract lion's share of Mtn. Aquifer
- JWC arrangement “interim” 5-year agreement btw. Israel and P.A.
- JWC ignores Jordan River water



Source: IWA
Year: 2014

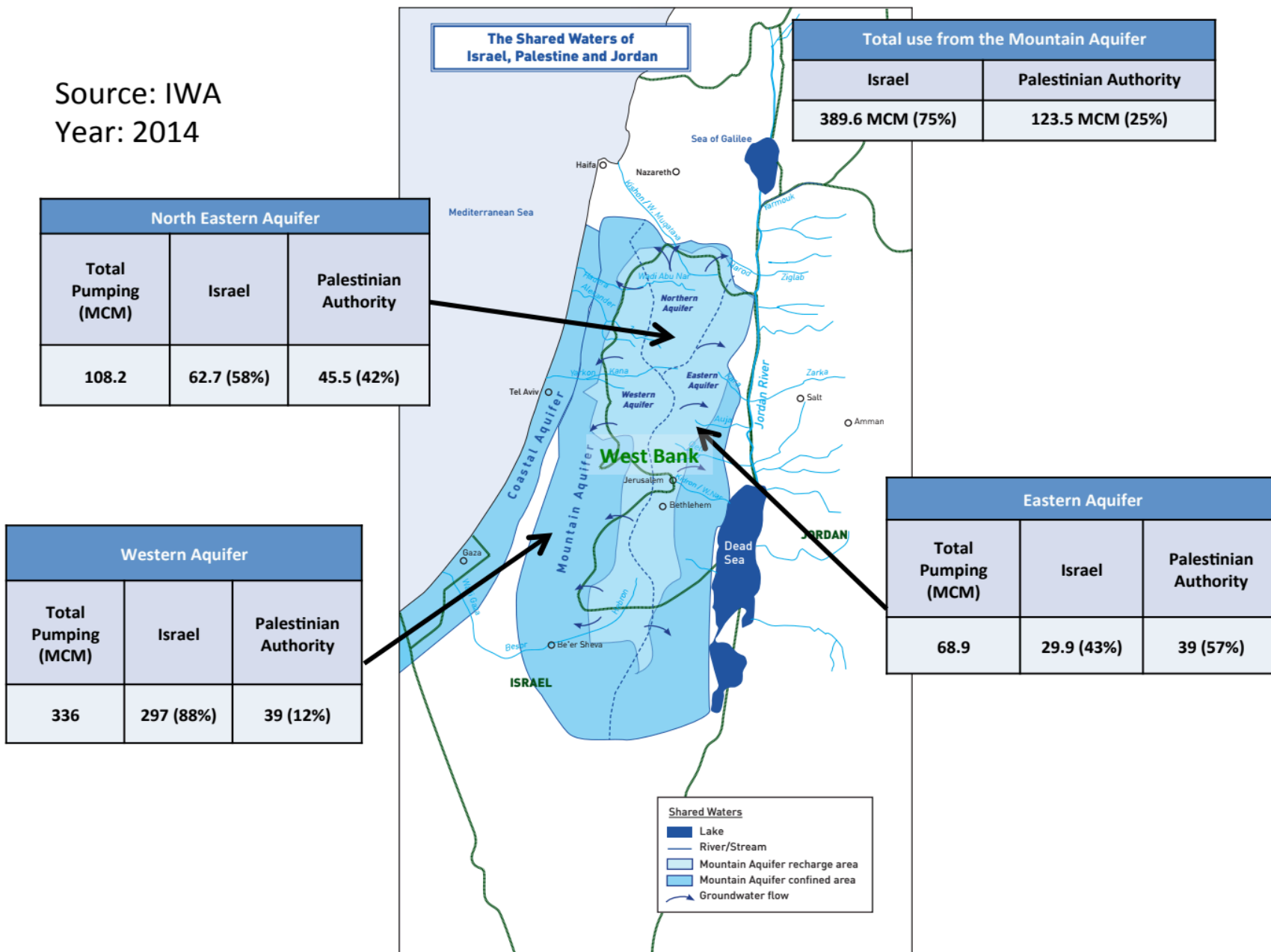


Figure 1: Israel and the PA's use of Mountain Aquifer's water. Source IWA

A thirsty neighbor will never be a good neighbor

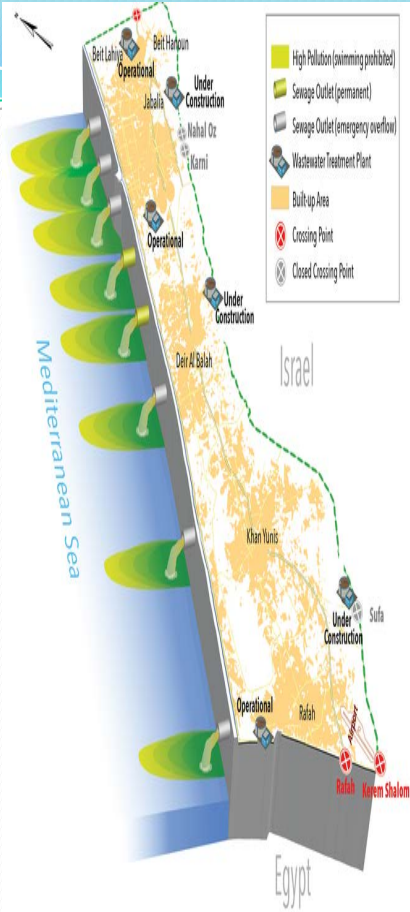


Photograph by Paula Patton



Water Tanks & Water Tankers

Alexander / Zomer



1) Reevaluate the Israeli unilateral tax deductions from Palestinian tax revenue for the cost of Palestinian sewage treatment in Israel.

ACTION:

- Israel deducts the cost for treatment of Palestinian sewage that crosses the 'Green Line' from the taxes it collects on behalf of the PA.
- This measure has proven to be ineffective in preventing cross-border pollution which has been increasing in quantity. **The policy should be re-evaluated.**

WATER AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPACTS:

- The deduction discourages Palestinian municipalities from treating their waste water as well as the donor community from investing in the wastewater sector.
- The lost PA revenue weakens the PA in general, as well as the PWA's ability to be effective in the sanitation sector.

COMPARISON WITH JORDAN:

- A similar requirement exists in the Peace Treaty that each side prevents cross-border pollution by sewage. But no equivalent action, instead cooperation is sought to promote the Jordan River's rehabilitation.

2) Incentivize Palestinian accountability for pollution prevention.

ACTION:

- Allowing more water abstraction on the Palestinian side the Western Basin and reduce Israeli abstractions.

WATER AND NATIONAL SECURITY BENEFITS:

- Palestinians would have an incentive to treat their sewage, and would pay the price directly of polluted water.
- More plentiful water strengthens the PA and the economy, giving them access to cheaper water.

COMPARISON WITH JORDAN:

- Israel supplies Jordan with water at a minimal pumping cost. Israel is willing to replace water to be sold from the Sea of Galilee with increased Israeli desalination.

3) Increase Palestinian Domestic Water Supply

ACTION:

- Promote shared water security by implementing Steinitz's Israeli-Palestinian water parity recommendation: either the Palestinians purchase additional desalinated water from Israel or natural shared water allocations are increased in favour of the Palestinians.

WATER AND NATIONAL SECURITY BENEFITS:

- Recognizing the security dividend will promote a stronger PA, PWA and Palestinian economy.
- The redistribution of natural waters would advance water security for Palestinians, and therefore national security interests of Israel.

COMPARISON WITH JORDAN:

- Full recognition of a security dividend with Jordan. RSDS: sale of 50 mcm of water to Jordan at the discounted price of 1.5 NIS/cubic meter. However, as part of the same agreement, Israel agreed to sell to the PA 33 mcm at the cost of 3-3.5 NIS/cubic meter.

4) Broaden security considerations beyond the military and tactical considerations

ACTION:

- Narrow security concern have hindered progress in advancing a shared water security agenda: 'dual use' materials slowed down the completion of NGEST; restriction in water and sanitation infrastructure in Area C.

WATER AND NATIONAL SECURITY BENEFITS:

- Broadening security considerations to include water security concerns would translate in a improved state of water security, strengthened Palestinian economy and stability.

COMPARISON WITH JORDAN: No parallel policy, because Jordan is a sovereign state.

A change in mindset is needed

Water security is central in achieving social and economic growth, political stability and ultimately peace and security.



States must realize that their own water security, as well as that of their neighbors, should occupy a place on their national security agenda:

- Both parties should stop the rhetoric of blame
- Palestinians should recognize their shortcomings in water management and realize that cooperation with water will serve Palestinian interests
- Israelis should regard water cooperation with Palestinian as of high strategic importance



Damage to shared environment; water insecurity; poverty in the Palestinian Territories, radicalization and more conflict with Israel.

Water Pollution between the State of Israel and the Palestinians

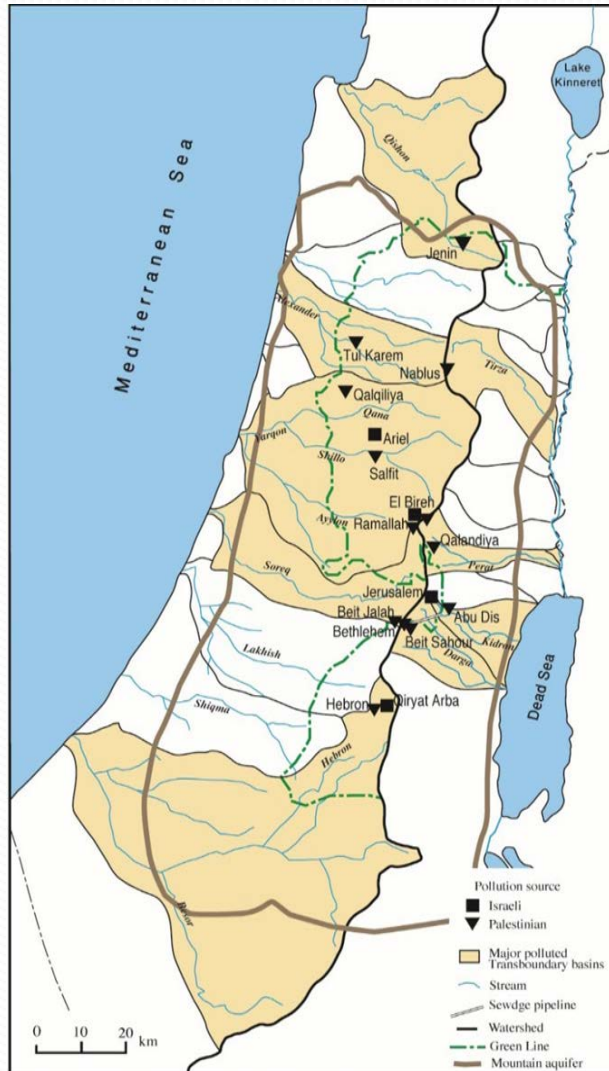


The office of the State
Comptroller and Ombudsman
of Israel

Annual Report 67b
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The Problem

Polluted basins



© Geography dep., Hebrew univ. of Jerusalem, Israel

Water, air, animals
and plants recognize
no political borders

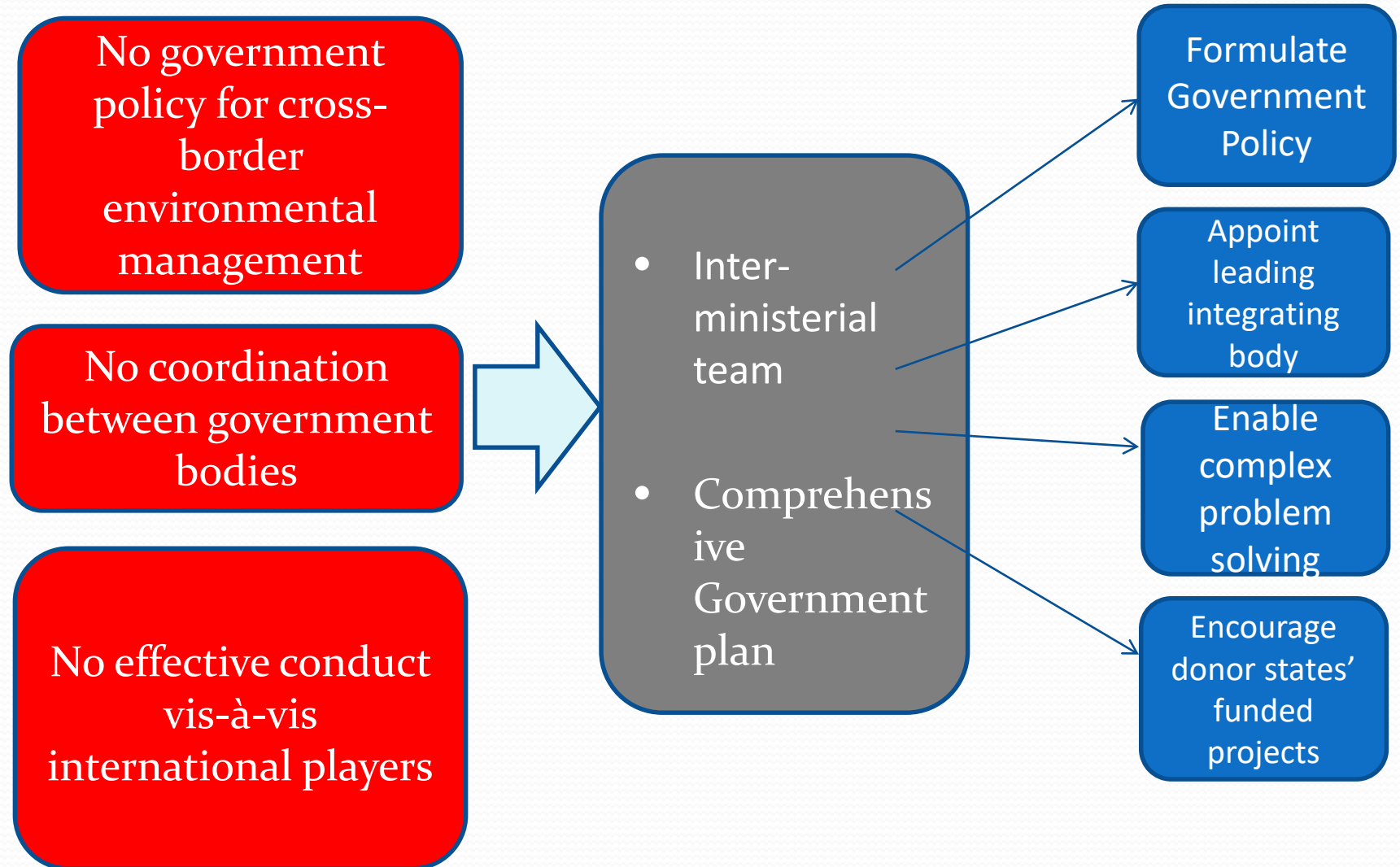
Water pollution is Israel's
severest trans-boundary
environmental hazard

The pollution of groundwater and
streams is a threat to the
population and the environment
in three main aspects:

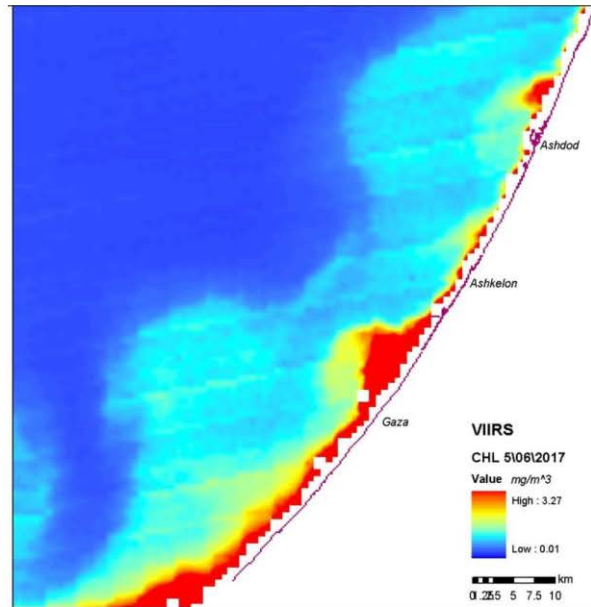
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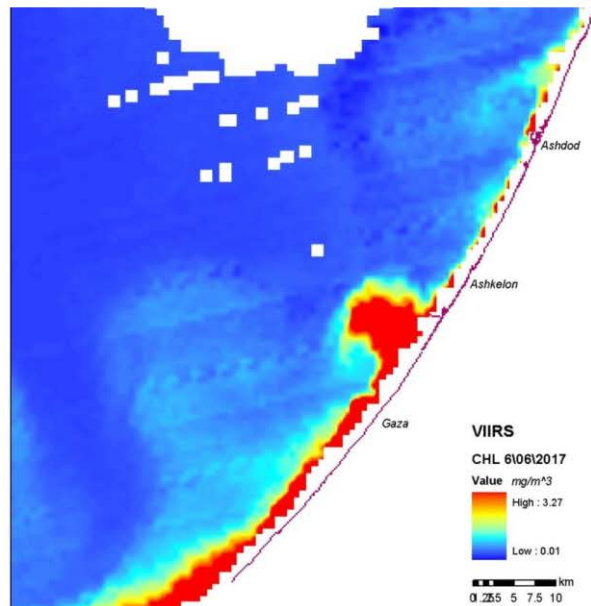
availabl
e water



VIIRS_ June 5, 2017_ Chl-a (not calibrated)



VIIRS_ June 6, 2017_ Chl-a (not calibrated)





אל, מחבר בסאטור פלסטי פנימי שקרבותו הם חשף רצעת עזה. עליו לעשות מה שביטחון על מנת לחנך את האפסחות שסאטור זה יפגע באופן ישיר בחשף עסקי עזה והדחם. פנייה קשה לא פחות מהאיום הביטחוני איתו אם מתמודדים ב- 15 השנים האחרונות.

וכבדים יקרים, אנחנו עומדים על סף משבר תברואתי שאנו מתחשבים בבטחון מדינת. אזור עסקי עזה נמצא בתהליך הבראה. השקט של שלוש השנים האחרונות תאפשר ציודיה דחגורית מרשימה, בניה של בור ספר חדשים, ודיוק התקלאת באזור, אסות חיים ותחשבות ביטחון חזקה. בלא יינתן פתרון יסודי ואחר סווח למשבר התברואתי שמתחיל על סף דלתו, אם עוזרים להתמודד, באספי לאומי המתנהגת והסלים, גם מתחלית, זיהום והחופים, ציהום מי השתיה וזיהום מי התקלאת באזור. באס מקדים תחפה למכה ויפה שעה אחת קודם.

בברכה,

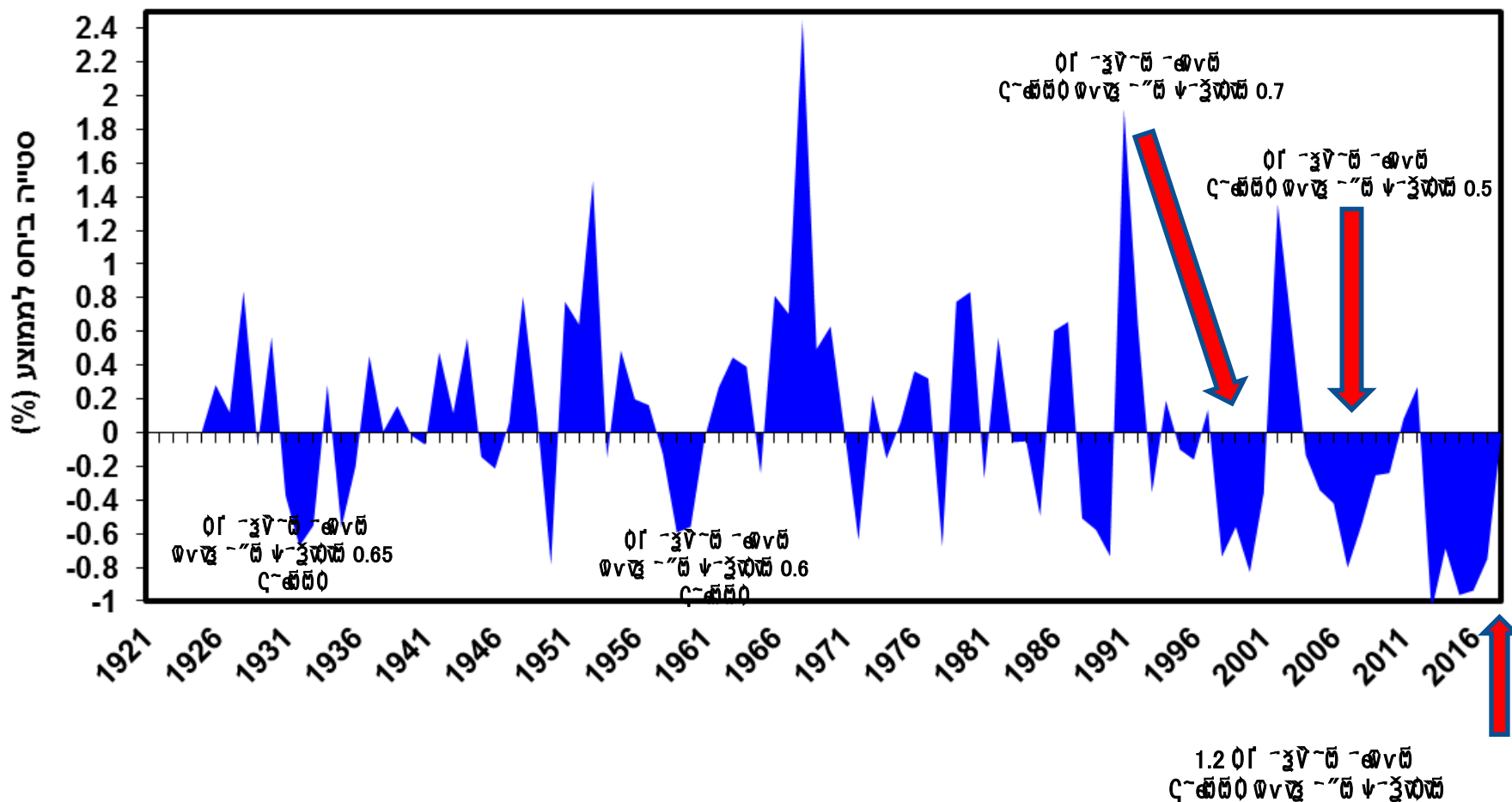
אלון שוסטר גדי ירקוני יאיר פרמל תמיר עידאן אלון חיד

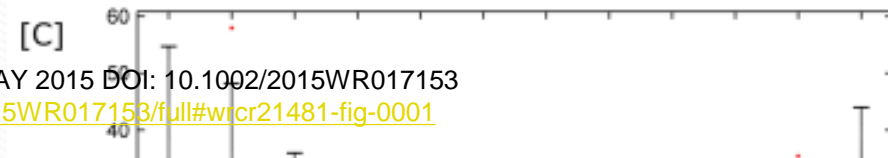
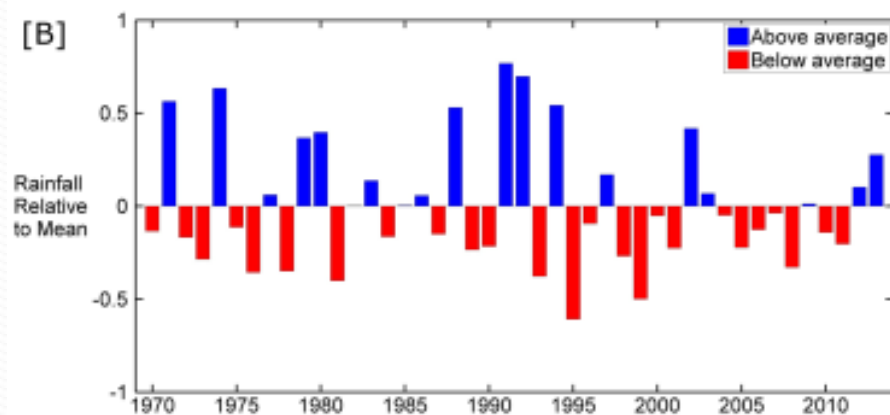
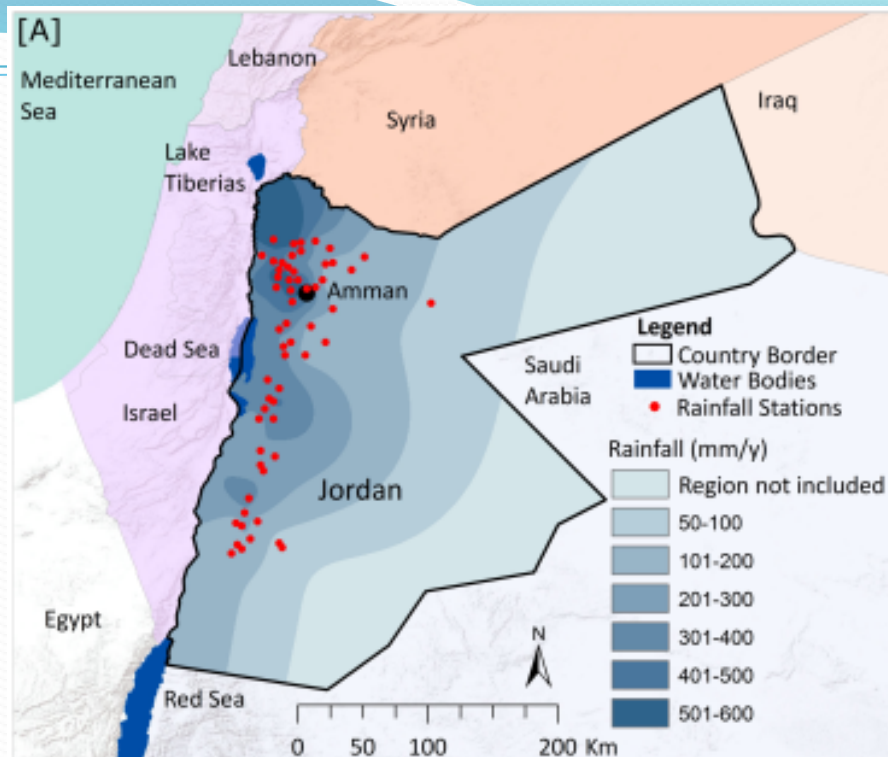
ראש מול"ז שער הנגב ראש מול"ז אשכול ראש מול"ז חוף אשקלון ראש מול"ז שדות נגב ראש עיריית שדרות



נפח מים זמינים בכנרת בכל שנה ביחס לממוצע הרב שנתי נתוני השירות ההידרולוגי

נפח מים זמינים בכנרת





5) Move towards a new Israeli-Palestinian agreement on water

Technological advances in the water sector : water issues are no longer a zero-sum game as they were in 1995.

All or nothing approach  Water First

While the advancement of Israeli-Palestinian water diplomacy will not alone produce peace, it will help build **trust** and **confidence** between the two parties, and between Israel and the region.



Thank You!

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