



Friends of the Earth Middle East
EcoPeace

ALL ACROSS THE JORDAN: TRANS-BOUNDARY MASTER PLANNING OF THE LOWER JORDAN RIVER BASIN

FoEME's Jordan River Rehabilitation Project 2008-2011

- Identified a **regional rehabilitation strategy**.
- Identified opportunities to transfer water to the Lower Jordan River from the **national water economies**.
- Published a **Roadmap for the Rehabilitation of the Jordan River** demonstrates how the Lower Jordan River can look in the future.
- Advanced **political will and action** to remove pollution and return fresh water resources.



Advancing Regional Political Will

- **Sewage being removed by all sides.** FoEME leveraged a total investment of \$168 million including \$60 million for a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Beit Shean, Israel, \$60 million for a WWTP in the Jordan Valley Regional Council, Israel, \$16 million for a WWTP in North Shuna, Jordan and \$32 million for a WWTP for the city of Jericho, Palestine.
- FoEME received the **first ever commitment to return of fresh water** to the Lower Jordan River from the Israeli Minister of Environment.
- FoEME advocacy led Israeli decision makers to allocate funding and **initiate a Master Plan for the Israeli section of the Lower Jordan River.**
- **PWA** issues letter of support for master planning process.



Stakeholder Involvement

- FoEME's **National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum** is the only active framework dealing directly with the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River which brings together representatives from the Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian governments.
- **Mayors Network** – advancing trans boundary projects together



International Parliamentary Action

- **EU Parliament** passed Resolution supporting regional effort to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River, September 2009
- **US Senate** Resolution supporting regional effort to rehabilitate the Jordan River passed unanimously November 2007
- **Horizon 2020** focus to reduce significant sources of pollution advanced in Jordan Valley.



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A Positive Future for the Jordan?

The significant advances in regional support and action to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River coupled with the urgent condition of the River makes the time ripe for the advancement of a comprehensive transboundary master plan.



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All Across the Jordan: Trans boundary Master Plan for the Jordan River

- Essential to build on the achievements to date
- Project will **lay the groundwork for effective trans boundary water governance** of the Lower Jordan River.
- **Advance dialogue** with decision makers and stakeholders from Jordan, Palestine and Israel to **strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to peace building.**



Project Partners

- **Friends of the Earth Middle East** (FoEME) tri-lateral Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli **environmental peace building** organization.
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) knowledge hub and policy support organ - hosting UNDP Water Governance Facility.
- Global Nature Fund (GNF) – expertise on economic aspects of EU Water Framework Directive



Trans boundary River System

The Lower Jordan River divides into three political areas:

- Israeli:
Sea of Galilee to Yarmouk River
- Jordanian-Israeli:
Yarmouk River to Bezek Stream
- Palestinian-Jordanian:
Bezek Stream to Dead Sea



Target Groups and Beneficiaries

- Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli government ministries and water authority bodies, national decision makers and local government leaders.
- The final beneficiaries are the 300,000 Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli residents of the Jordan Valley as well as faith based communities, tourists etc.
- Wider public if project benefits peace building



Phase I: National Plan Development

- A Palestinian planner will be contracted to create a Master Plan from Bezeq Stream (the Green Line) to the Dead Sea and to participate in discussions to integrate the Palestinian plan with the Jordanian and Israeli plans.
- A Jordanian planner will be contracted to create a Master Plan of the LJR from the Yarmouk River to the Dead Sea and to participate in discussions to integrate the Jordanian plan with the Palestinian and Israeli plans.
- An Israeli planner will be contracted to fill in gaps not addressed in the Israeli master plan (underway) but relevant to the other plans and to participate in discussions to integrate the plan with the Palestinian and Jordanian plans.
- SIWI and GNF provide expertise on National Plan ToRs / other input.



Public Participation in Phase I

- Draft Presentation to National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum“
- SIWI Mid-East Seminar #1
- Draft Presentation to above Forum
- National Conference



FoEME's National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum"

- FoEME's National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum" bring together a wide number of government representatives and experts from all involved bodies in each of the 3 countries.
- Forum meet regularly to comment on FoEME's studies, share information and discuss regional solutions to Jordan River challenges.
- Members of the Forum have become significant partners in mobilizing support to advance policies to return water resources back to the Lower Jordan River



SIWI Mid-East Seminars

- SIWI has been organizing Mid-East Seminars as part of the annual World Water Week on topics specifically related to transboundary water challenges.
- SIWI Mid East Seminars for All Across the Jordan will bring together 15 Palestinians, 15 Israelis, 15 Jordanians and 25 other Middle Easterners to raise the profile of the project and expand stakeholder participation and awareness in the region beyond the Lower Jordan Valley to the entire region.



Phase II: Integration

- EU partners SIWI and GNF will facilitate integration process bringing EU best practices together with contracted planners.
- Planners will participate in a series of integration workshops, sharing drafts and comments with the goal of creating the **first-ever integrated regional masterplan for the entire Lower Jordan River Valley.**



Public Participation in Phase II

- Draft Regional Masterplan presented to National Jordan River Forum
- Draft Regional Masterplan presented to National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum“ at Regional Conference
- SIWI Mid-East Seminar #2



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Phase III: Advancing Support for Adoption

- National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum“ meeting to advance support for regional master plan
- Parliamentary Hearing in each country with national Jordan River Champion.
- Presentations to conferences in the region
- Local exhibitions in Jordan Valley Good Water Neighbors communities
- National Jordan River Forum / FoEME Regional Jordan River Forum“ meeting to advance support for regional master plan
- International Advocacy



FoEME's Strategic Pillars

- **Fair Share between People and Nature:** Master plans balance the needs of people and nature
- **Cross-border Water Justice:** Palestinian riparian rights and fair share of the benefits of a accessible and rehabilitated river central to the master planning process.
- **National Environmental Activism:** encourages the national adoption of Integrated Water Resource Management and other international best practices.



Working together we can make a new future for the Lower Jordan River!



For more information visit www.foeme.org



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