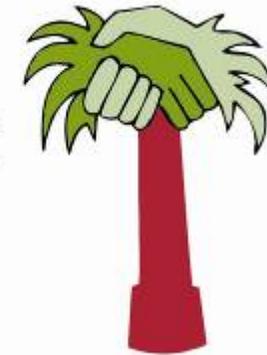




Friends of the Earth Middle East
جمعية أصدقاء الأرض الشرق الأوسط
ידידי כדור הארץ המזרח התיכון



All Across the Jordan: Trans-boundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin

SWIM Launching Workshop
December 8, 2011

Friends of the Earth Middle East

- **Friends of the Earth Middle East** is a tri-lateral Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli **environmental peacemaking** organization.
- Our **mission** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. Advancing both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region.



FoEME – How We Work:

“TOP DOWN” - Research / Lobby / Advocacy

- Jordan River
- Dead Sea
- Mountain Aquifer
- Climate Change
- Fair Water Accord



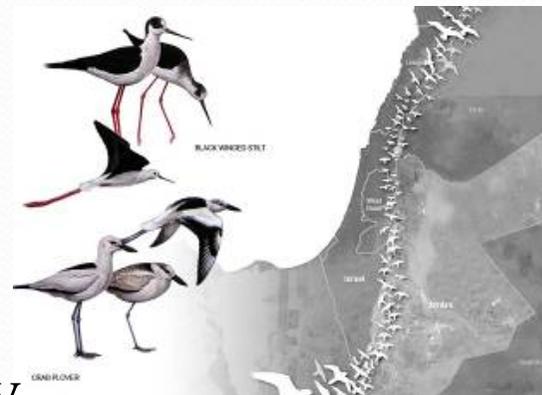
“BOTTOM UP” - Community / Grass Roots

- “Good Water Neighbors” – 29 communities; 11 in JRV

This combination of lobby activities & community work has proved extremely successful...

The Lower Jordan River

- Rich Cultural, Historical heritage
- Holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims
- Unique Eco-System
- Meeting point for flora and fauna of three continents
- Migratory flyway for 500 million birds twice annually



The Historical Lower Jordan

- Average annual flow of over **1.3 billion cubic meters** including:
 - Sea of Galilee: 540 mcm
 - Yarmouk: 480 mcm
 - Side Wadis: 280 mcm
- Supports a wide variety of habitats/ rich biodiversity



The Jordan River Today

- **Fresh Water Diverted:**
An estimated **97%** of the flow is diverted by Israel, Jordan and Syria (just 20-30 mcm/year remaining)
- **Polluted:** Saline water, raw sewage and polluted fishpond water discharged



FoEME's Jordan River

Rehabilitation Project 2008-2011:

- Developed 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.



Regional Rehabilitation Goal:

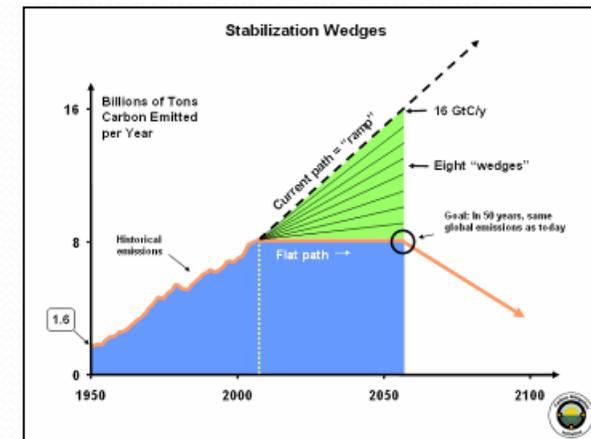
Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli researchers worked together to identify regional goal:

- 400-600 mcm annually, one minor flood
- Salinity level less than 750 ppm; primarily fresh water with only the highest quality of effluents allowed up to 25% of the LJR's base flow
- This strategy would remove most of the disturbances, restore the river's structure and function, allow biodiversity to recover and achieve a fair to high ecosystem integrity.



Economic Analysis of Policy Options for Water Conservation

- Identified 914 million cubic meters of water that can be saved/produced in Israel, Jordan and Palestine at *less* than the marginal cost of water .
- Part of which, from Israel and Jordan, can be utilized to meet the rehabilitation goal for the Lower Jordan River and to restore Palestinian water rights.



Stakeholder Involvement:

- FoEME's Informal **Regional Advisory Committee** 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 transboundary projects together



Advancing Regional Political Will:

- **Sewage being removed by all sides.** FoEME helped leverage 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** issued letter of support for master planning process.



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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Raising Public Awareness



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.





All Across the Jordan: Transboundary Master Plan for the Jordan River

- Project will lay the groundwork for **effective transboundary water governance for integrated water resource management** of the Lower Jordan River.
 - Involve decision makers and stakeholders from riparian countries will **strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to peace building.**
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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.
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Public Participation in Phase I:

- Draft Presentation to Informal National Advisory Committee
- SIWI Mid-East Seminar #1
- Draft Presentation to Informal Regional Advisory Committee
- National Conference





FoEME's National and Regional Informal Advisory Committees:

- FoEME's non-formal committees bring together a wide number of government representatives and experts from all involved bodies in each of the 3 countries.
 - Committees meet regularly to comment on FoEME's studies, share information and discuss regional solutions to Jordan River challenges.
 - Members of the Advisory Committees have become significant partners in mobilizing support to alter policies concerning the Lower Jordan River
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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 Easterns 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.
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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.**



Political Will in Phase II:

- Draft Regional Masterplan presented to Informal National Advisory Committee
- Draft Regional Masterplan presented to Informal Regional Advisory Committee
- Regional Conference
- SIWI Mid-East Seminar #2





Phase III: Advancing support for adoption:

- Informal National Advisory Committee meeting to advance support for regional masterplan
 - 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
 - Regional Advisory Committee meeting to advance support for regional masterplan
 - International Advocacy
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**Working together we can make a new future
for the Lower Jordan River!**



**For more information visit:
www.foeme.org**
