Israel Water Sector
Regional Cooperation
In the Middle East it is a well known reality!
Bilateral Relations
The Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel
The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement of September 28, 1995, signed in Washington, including the “Water Agreement” (Annex 3, Appendix 1, Article 40), clearly stipulates the manner in which the parties must act in the field of water in the West Bank.

This is an international agreement which was not only signed by Israel and the Palestinians but also witnessed by the United States, Russia, the European Union, Norway, Jordan and Egypt.

Both parties are bound by the principles set forth in this agreement.
Main Points of the Water Agreement

1. Palestinian Water Rights in the West Bank are recognized and shall be negotiated in the permanent status agreement.

2. Both sides recognize the necessity to develop additional water for various uses.

3. Maintaining the existing quantities of water utilization, while taking into consideration the quantities of additional water for the Palestinians from the Eastern Aquifer.

4. Future additional needs of the Palestinians in the West Bank are estimated to be between 70-80 MCM/year. Within this framework, both sides recognize the necessity to make available to the Palestinian (WB) during the interim period, a total quantity of 23.6 MCM/year (out of which 5 MCM for the Gaza Strip).

5. Each side shall take all necessary measures to prevent any harm, pollution, or deterioration of water quality of all water resources.

6. Both sides shall establish Joint Supervision and Enforcement Teams which shall operate, in the field, to monitor, supervise, and enforce the implementation of Article 40.

7. In order to implement their undertakings, the two sides will establish a permanent Joint Water Committee (JWC).
Israel fulfills its obligations according to the Water Agreement and beyond:

- Israel has made available approximately 70 MCM/year of water to the Palestinians in the West Bank during the interim period, even though the Water Agreement allocates a much smaller quantity of only 23.6 MCM/year (for the West Bank).

- Israel, in 2014, supplied the Palestinians with 60 MCM of water which is far beyond its obligation in the Water Agreement (31 MCM).
**Water Supply by Israel to the Palestinian Authority - Obligation vs. Implementation**

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**Total Obligation in accordance with the Agreement (MCM)**

30.97 MCM
Activities of the JWC

- The JWC is the agreed joint body which was established to implement the Water Agreement.
- The JWC is co-chaired by the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli water authorities and includes representatives from both sides.
- The JWC has four sub-committees for water, wastewater, hydrology and pricing.
- The JWC and sub-committees convene regularly; interaction between the sides is on a daily basis.
- Most of the Palestinian as well as Israeli project applications which are brought before the JWC are approved. The few applications which are not approved are in contradiction to the Water Agreement.
- The JWC initiated a fast-track mechanism for the approval of urgent projects within 21 days.
- Currently there are many Palestinian projects which were approved by the JWC but not yet implemented, including 25 wells.
Palestinian Wells
Approved by the JWC since the Agreement (1995)

Drinking Water - 70 Wells,
(Incl. 13 substitute wells)

Agriculture - 11 Wells

Monitoring - 22 Wells

Purpose of Wells (2014)

Note: in addition, 110 Palestinian wells in the eastern and western basins of the aquifer were approved for upgrade and rehabilitation.

Prepared by Prof. Haim Gvirtzman

Disclaimer: This map is provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered authoritative.
Over 250 unauthorized wells were drilled by the Palestinians in the West Bank. These unauthorized wells may ruin the shared aquifer as they almost completely ruined the one in Gaza and cause an ecological disaster.

The water extracted from these wells is on account of the authorized Palestinian wells.
Bilateral Relations

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State Israel
Water and the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty
October 1994

Basic Stipulations

- There is not enough water
- Development of additional water resources is essential
- Practical solutions are needed
- Maintaining of existing uses (Annex II)
- Mutual assistance in alleviating water shortages

Precedents

- Each party operates facilities on the sovereign territory of the other
- Explicit reference to “future” water
Water and the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty
October 1994

Water related matters (Annex II)
- Allocations
- Storage
- Water Quality and Protection
- Ground Water in Ha`arava / Wadi Araba
- Notification and Agreement
- Co-operation
- Joint Water Committee
Israel annually transfers the following quantities of water to the Kingdom of Jordan:

- 10 MCM during winter;
- Israel agrees to "store" for Jordan up to 20 MCM annually. Jordan allows Israel to pump water from the Yarmouk during the winter and Israel returns the quantity it pumped during the summer;
- Since 1997 Israel transfers a temporary interim quantity of 25 MCM pending the construction of a desalination plant in the Jordan Valley; and
- Since 2010 Israel sells to Jordan at desalinated water price up to 20 MCM. This quantity will increase to a maximum of 50 MCM provided that the Aqaba Desalination Plant comes on-line and supplies Israel with not less than 35 MCM of desalinated water.
Paving the Path to Regional Solutions

Resolving problems in the spirit of cooperation and good neighboring.

Honoring bilateral agreements and donors efforts and finance for stabilizing the water sector.

Implementing the vital water and wastewater treatment projects and enforce uncompromisingly illegal acts.

Acting towards clean environment: sewage treatment and effluents reuse.

Taking actions for building administrative and economic structures to prevent funds lose and water spend.

Strengthening technical cooperation and capacity building.
Regional Cooperation
Red Sea Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project
The shrinking of the Dead Sea

1960
- 390 m
~1020 km²

2006
- 420 m
~ 635 km²

2050
- 550 m
~ 520 km²

Computer projection
Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel agree to initiate the RSDS FS

May 9, 2005

9 May 2005

Mr. Christianne J. Poortman
Vice President
Middle East and North Africa
The World Bank, Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Poortman:

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment of the Red Sea – Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project have been prepared and finalized with technical assistance from the World Bank. We are pleased to inform you that the three beneficiary parties, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Israel, and the Palestinian Authority are satisfied with and are in agreement with content of the Terms of Reference.

A copy of the final Terms of Reference is herewith submitted to the World Bank for due diligence review and eventual endorsement. Upon completion of the World Bank due diligence process, we plan to jointly announce finalization of the Terms of Reference and outline the next steps leading to financing and implementation of the Feasibility Study and the Social and Environmental Assessment. This announcement will take place at a special session of the World Economic Forum – Dead Sea, on May 22, 2005. We are pleased to note that you will be present at this event.

We request the World Bank to coordinate donor financing and to manage implementation of the Feasibility Study and the Social and Environmental Assessment as stipulated in the TOR. We understand that the World Bank Policies and Guidelines regarding the Safeguards, financial, and procurement aspects of conducting the Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment will apply.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the World Bank in studying the feasibility of this important project.

Signed on the 9th day of the month of May, 2005.

For the State of Israel
His Excellency
Benjamin (Fouad) Ben-Eliezer
Minister of National Infrastructure

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
His Excellency
Raed Abu-Soud
Minister of Water and Irrigation

For the Palestinian Authority
His Excellency
Ghassan Al Khateeb
Minister of Planning

Attachment: Final TOR and Minutes of Meeting.
- Pump ~ 2 BCM from the Red Sea

- Get ~ 0.9 BCM fresh water from desalination (majority to Jordan and minority to PA and Israel.

- Discharge the outcome brine (~1.1 BCM) to the Dead Sea and stabilize its water level
Feasibility Study Results

Conclusions:

- Pipeline is preferred over tunnel due to the stages approach (operational profit and pilot).
- Total cost of a full project is $10 billion, (55% commercial).
- Appropriate engineering solutions to leakage or a catastrophic pipe break were suggested.
Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel sign MOM to implement RSDS-Phase I

December 9, 2013
Pilot/Phase 1 Project:

- will produce drinking water faster.
- will enable the exploration of the impact on the Dead Sea at field scale.
- Will initiate the project through a careful step, in order to minimize the environmental risks.
Jordan and Israel sign RSDS Water Project (Phase I) Bilateral Agreement

February 26, 2015

The project involves the construction of a 65- to 80-million cubic meter capacity desalination plant in Aqaba, from which Israel will buy some 35 m.cu.m. of water annually for its South, with Israel paying $1.2 billion over 15 years.

In return, Jordan will buy an additional 50 m.cu.m. of water annually from Lake Kinneret, roughly doubling its current allocation to quench its increasingly thirsty north.

In addition, the agreement entails the construction of a 200-kilometer pipeline to carry brine from Aqaba plant to the shrinking Dead Sea.
Multilateral Cooperation
Regional Frameworks
Executive Action Team (EXACT)
Multilateral Working Group on Water Resources

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector

Sustainable Water Integrated Management
Sharing Israeli Experience & Knowledge

Capacity Building – Professional Courses on Desalination and Water Reclamation for Jordanian and Palestinian Water Managers
Water is a matter of deeds, not words!