

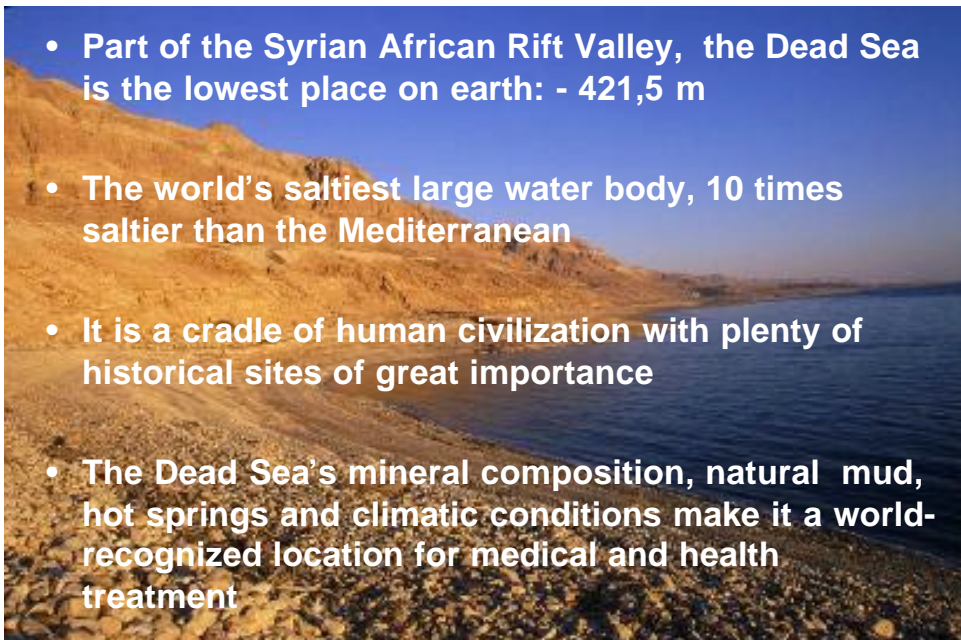


- Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian Environmental Organization
- Furthers environmental cooperation between Israel, Jordan and Palestinian Authority, while promoting a peaceful relationship among those people
- 3 offices: Tel Aviv, Amman, Bethlehem
- Member of “Friends of the Earth International”, the biggest network of environmental organizations

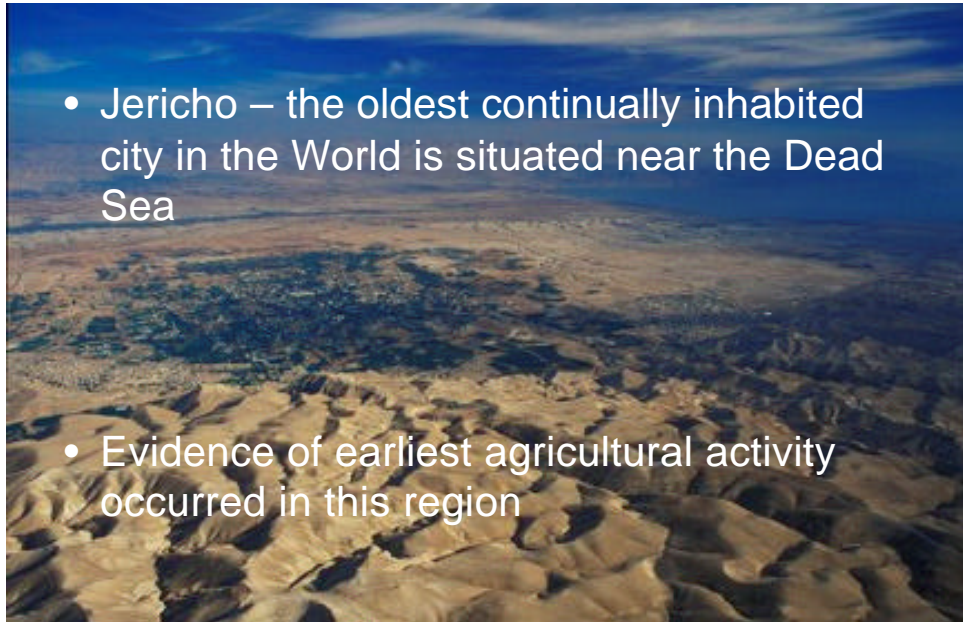


The Uniqueness of the Dead Sea Basin

- Part of the Syrian African Rift Valley, the Dead Sea is the lowest place on earth: - 421,5 m
- The world's saltiest large water body, 10 times saltier than the Mediterranean
- It is a cradle of human civilization with plenty of historical sites of great importance
- The Dead Sea's mineral composition, natural mud, hot springs and climatic conditions make it a world-recognized location for medical and health treatment

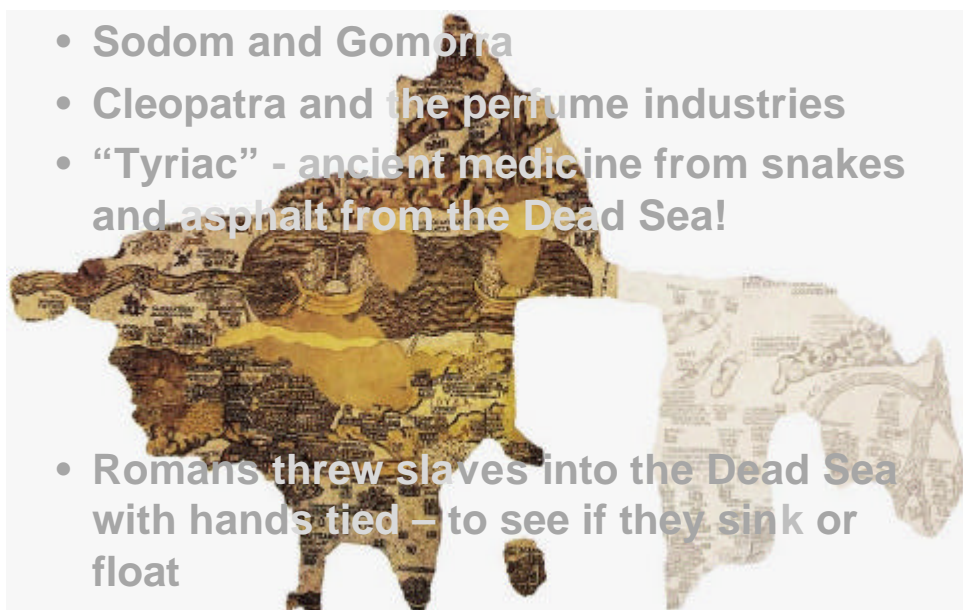


Out of Africa, through the Rift Valley



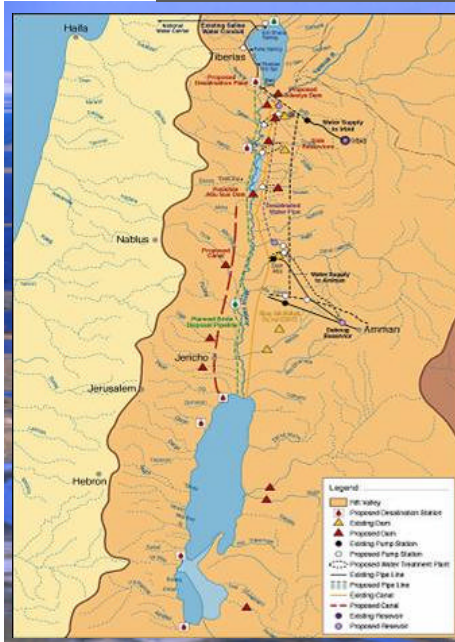
- Jericho – the oldest continually inhabited city in the World is situated near the Dead Sea
- Evidence of earliest agricultural activity occurred in this region

History, legends, myths



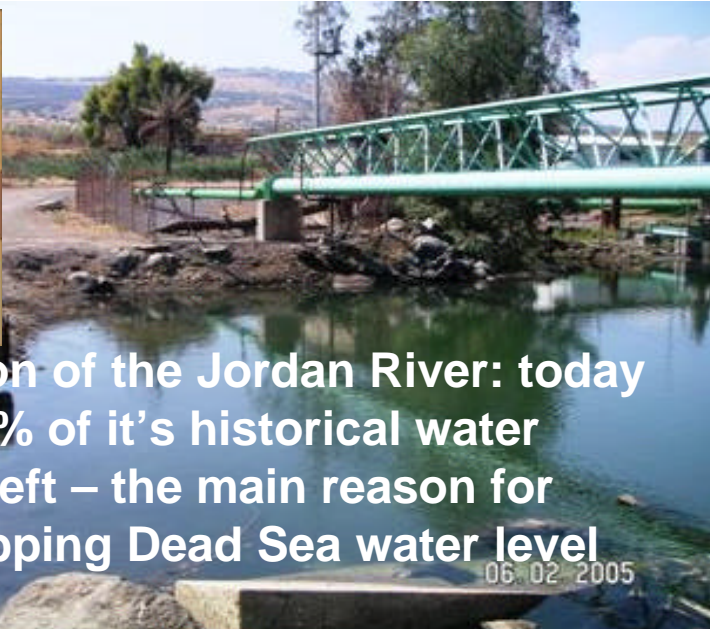
- Sodom and Gomorra
- Cleopatra and the perfume industries
- “Tyriac” - ancient medicine from snakes and asphalt from the Dead Sea!
- Romans threw slaves into the Dead Sea with hands tied – to see if they sink or float

Challenges - Competitions



- Competition between the different nations around the Sea on natural resources
- Competition between the different sectors (Industry, Tourism and Agriculture)
- No Coordination

Competition 1 – Water Sector



Diversion of the Jordan River: today about 5% of it's historical water flow is left – the main reason for the dropping Dead Sea water level

Competition 2 - Industry



Intensive activity of Israeli and Jordanian Mineral Industry – the Southern Dead Sea Basin has turned into industrial evaporation pools

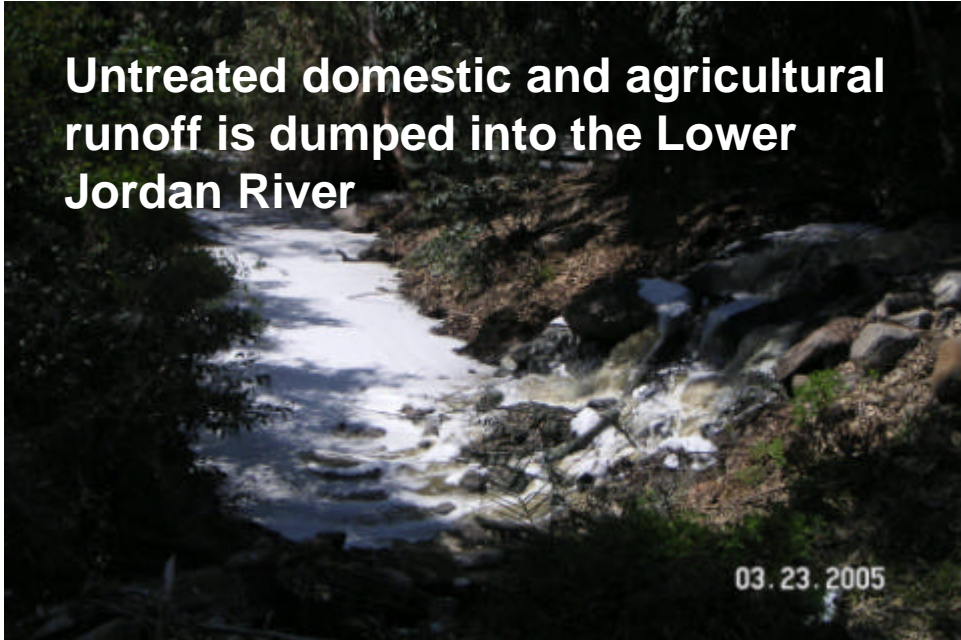
Competition 3 - Tourism



- 50,000 new hotel rooms were planned
- Most development plans were cancelled due to land deterioration (sinkholes)

Destruction of Lower Jordan River

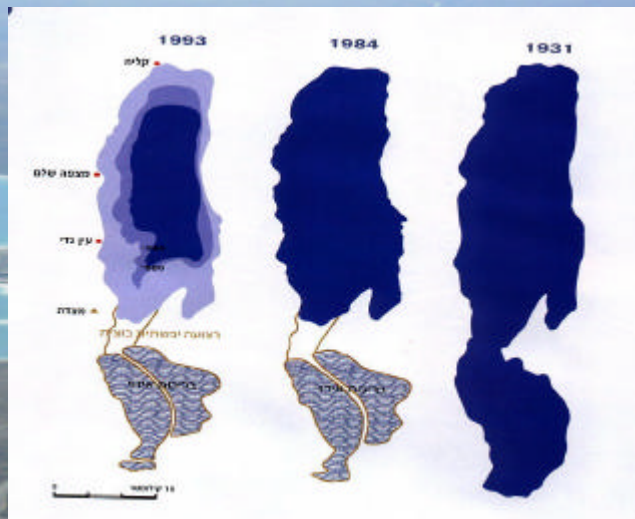
Untreated domestic and agricultural runoff is dumped into the Lower Jordan River



The results without a regional management plan

The Dead Sea has shrunk by a third of its surface area

- From 80 km to 55 km today



“Nature’s Revenge” 1



“Nature’s Revenge” 2



Suggestions for saving the Dead Sea

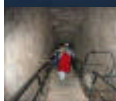
- The Dead Sea is one ecosystem
- The solution has to be a holistic approach, co-ordination and cooperation among all the parties around the lake

UNESCO – a UN Organization offers an excellent solution:

- World Heritage -
- Biosphere Reserve -

UNESCO – World Heritage

- A site with unique values that meets strict criteria
- World Heritage Sites in Israel – Massada, the old city of Acco, the “White City” of Tel Aviv, several sites on the Nabatean Perfume Route and 3 “Tels” (Megiddo, Hazor and Be’er Sheva)
- Such a declaration would bring honor, greater tourism, funding potential, and obligations...



UNESCO – Biosphere Reserve/ World Heritage



- Broad approach to the ecosystem with clear boundaries...
- Our preliminary study suggests:
- Determine outer boundaries according to watershed, viewpoints, and other administrative restrictions
- Determine areas with great natural value – core areas

UNESCO - Biosphere Reserve/ World Heritage



- Determine historical / cultural paths / routes in order to preserve cultural heritage
- Such as: Jesus' path, Herod's palaces, Route of Moses, Nabatean trade routes

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UNESCO – Biosphere Reserve/ World Heritage



- Determine areas for continued industrial development and tourism...

UNESCO – where do we stand?

- In the case of a transboundary site, UNESCO requires a joint management plan and an implementing body
- Israel and the Palestinian Authority support, in principle, the listing of the Dead Sea as a World Heritage site
- Jordan is waiting to see how / if the “Red Dead Canal” will effect the process
- Since the listing of a transboundary site needs the agreement of all the parties, the process is presently “stuck”

FoEME is unique...

- FoEME brings a Bottom-Up approach
- Community project “Good Water Makes Good Neighbors”
- 9 communities along the Jordan River and Dead Sea
- Youth, adults and mayors
- Agreements signed



Summary

- Problems are many and complex; not one solution – not even “Red Dead”!
- Listing a World Heritage Site is a means to an end – it requires an overall management plan and an implementing body





Friends of the Earth
Middle East



Thank You



More information: www.foeme.org