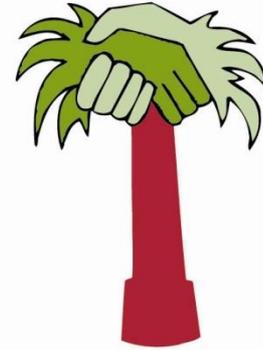




Friends of the Earth Middle East
جمعية أصدقاء الأرض الشرق الأوسط
ידידי כדור הארץ המזרח התיכון



Lower Jordan River Rehabilitation Project

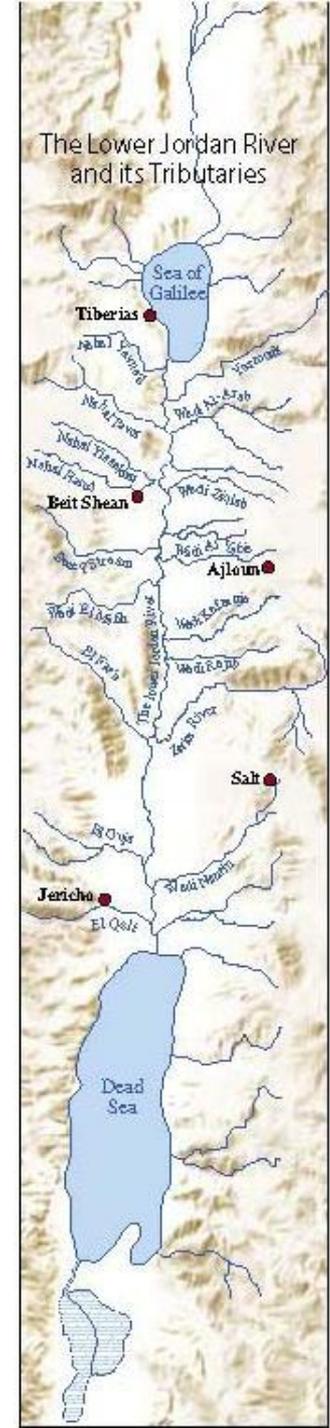
Lower Jordan River - Overview

The importance of the Lower Jordan River could not be underestimated:

- It is a unique wetland ecosystem in the arid Mediterranean climate;
- It's located in the Great Rift valley which is the major migratory route for the bird migration (Europe – Africa)
- It has a profound place in human history from a cultural and religious point of view

However, at present the Lower Jordan river is in an abysmal state: the flow reduced from 1.3 billion cubic meters to mere 70 million, and it is extremely polluted by the discharge of raw sewage and saline springs directly into the river.

In addition the reduction of the flow severely affects the Dead Sea, which is shrinking at the alarming rate



Project Description

- Taking into consideration the above mentioned issues, FoEME (in Jordan, Israel and Palestine) has embarked on an ambitious project – the Lower Jordan River Rehabilitation.
- The aim of the project is to both identify savings in the national economies of the three neighboring countries which could be transferred to the Lower Jordan River and provide the decision makers with the tools of enabling such transfers through creating the political will to make them happen.
- The methodology applied is the "wedges" concept. A strategic tool developed to breakdown large complicated problems into more isolated and manageable "wedges". This concept is applied to the Jordan River Rehabilitation Project during the Transboundary Diagnosis Analysis. The tool can help researchers and policy makers alike identify the percentage of water that could be saved in each sector of the water economy in each country that could be transferred back to the River Jordan.

Project Components

1. **Barriers to Water Reform**: Conduct review of the historical, cultural and political barriers to water reform in the Lower Jordan River Valley. The study has identified the barriers to the water reform in the national economies in the three countries: which could be categorized as political, cultural, legislative, and historical: e.g. in Jordan – overlap of jurisdiction between the different institutions in water management issues.
2. **Environmental Flow study**: Regional study to propose the range of environmental flows necessary to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River ecosystem. During the study, water samples analyses from the Jordan River were conducted, as well as the riparian habitats were assessed. Based on the findings of the study, the amounts and quality of water needed were identified. The study applied the integrated approach taking into the consideration not only the river itself but management of the adjacent riparian habitat.

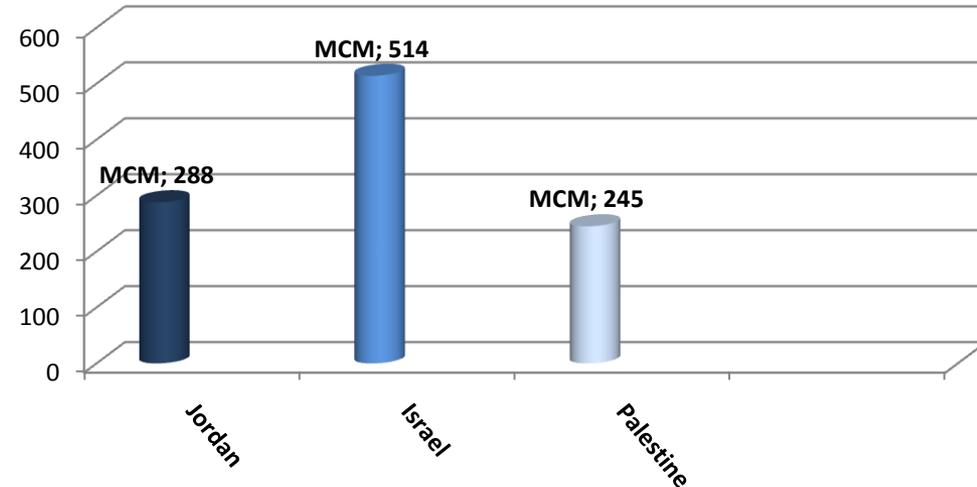


Project Components (Cont-d)

3. Transboundary Diagnostic

Analysis: The study comprises identification of existing and possible opportunities for water savings in the national economies of the three countries ("wedges") to transfer fresh water resources to the river, looking specifically at the agricultural, domestic and municipal water sectors on supply and demand sides. The cost-efficiency of the proposed savings was estimated compared to the marginal cost of fresh water production in each country.

Summary of Water Savings "Wedges" in Jordan, Israel and Palestine (MCM)



4. Strategic Action Plan: Create the political will to rehabilitate the River using the three above mentioned studies and come up with a management plan

