Peacebuilding & Dialogue in the Middle East

IPC Alternative Weeks Programme

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Spring 2019

Demonstrators including Israeli and Palestinian activists take part in a demonstration in support of peace near Jericho in 2016. (photo credit: REUTERS)

Program Description

The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the longest and most intractable conflicts in the world and probably the most controversial

The Peacebuilding & Dialogue in the Middle East Alternative Weeks Programme introduced students to the history of this conflict from the emergence of Zionism and Arab nationalism in the nineteenth century up to the present day

The course examined the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole (i.e. the conflict between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab states) as well as paying particular attention to the Israeli-Palestinian dimension since this is at the very heart of the conflict

PRO-PEACE DEMONSTRATORS take part in a march in October 2017. (photo credit: REUTERS)

Program Description (cont.)

In addition to covering the history of the conflict and the major issues currently preventing its resolution, the programme also provided an intensive introduction to peacebuilding and non-violent activism

Throughout the programme, students gained hands-on knowledge about past and present forms of non-violent activism in the Middle East and around the world and current movements taking place today

Project Outputs

1

Art Installation: IPC "Wall of Peace"

2

Audio Recording: "Voices from Israel and Palestine"

3

The Jordan River Valley: A Case Study in Environmental Peace-making

3. The Jordan River Valley

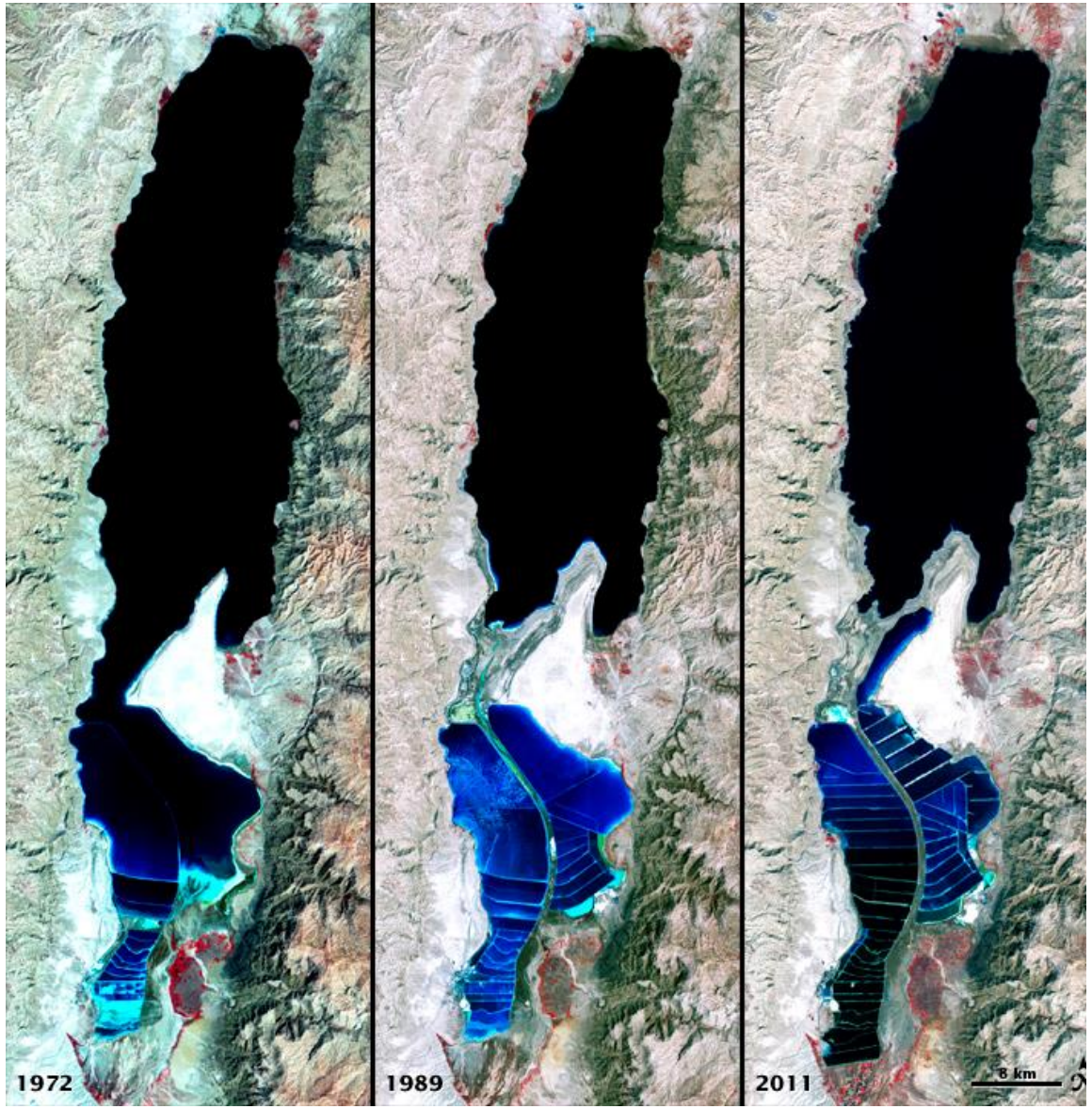
A Case Study in Environmental Peace-making

DEBATE:

Should the governments of Jordan and Israel, in combination with international agencies, build a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea?

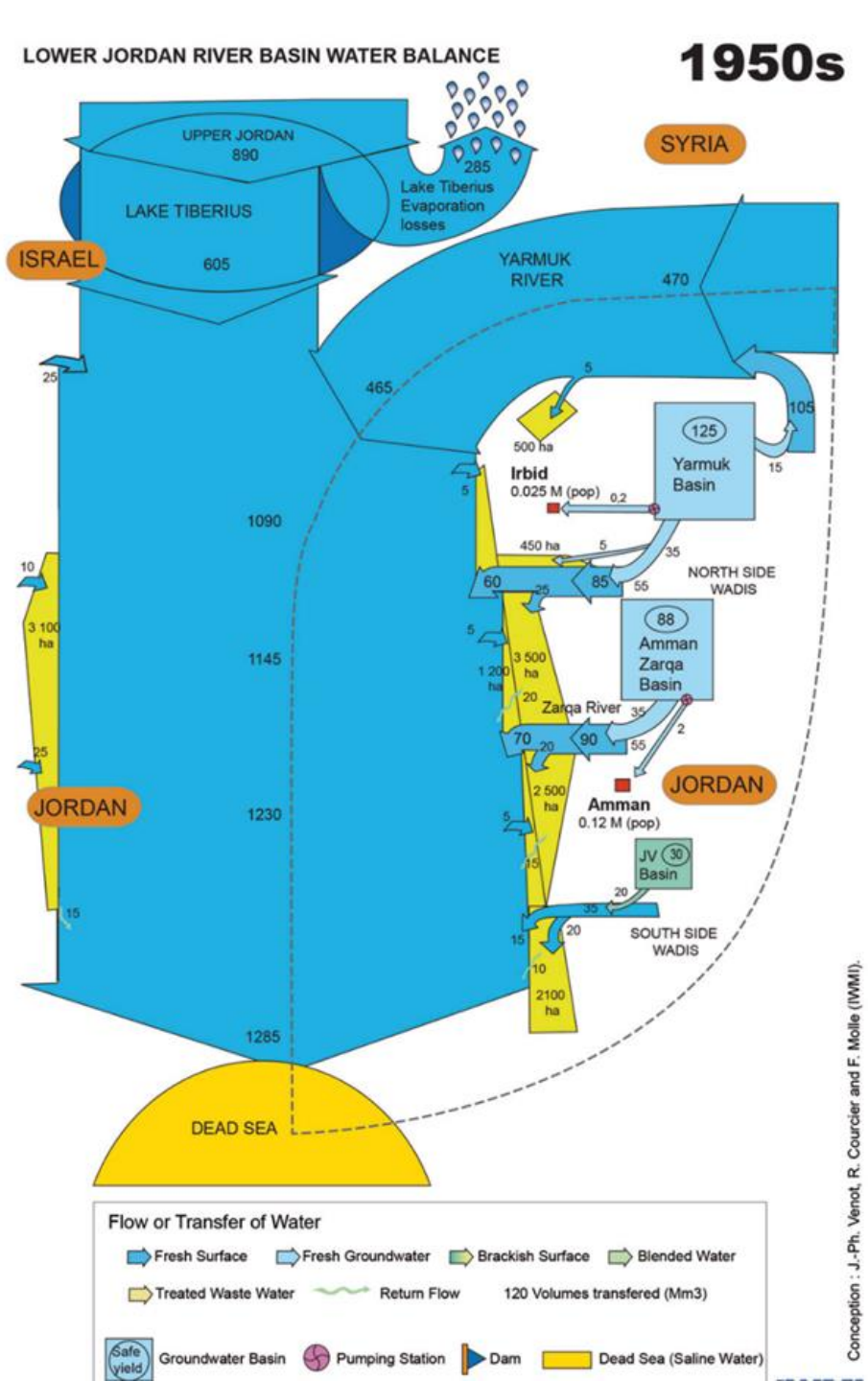
Background: The Dead Sea

- Water level of Dead Sea shrinking at rate of more than one meter (3 feet) per year
- Since 2000, surface area has shrunk by about 30%
- Shrinkage largely due to **diversion of over 95%** of Jordan River - the main source of water to the Dead Sea



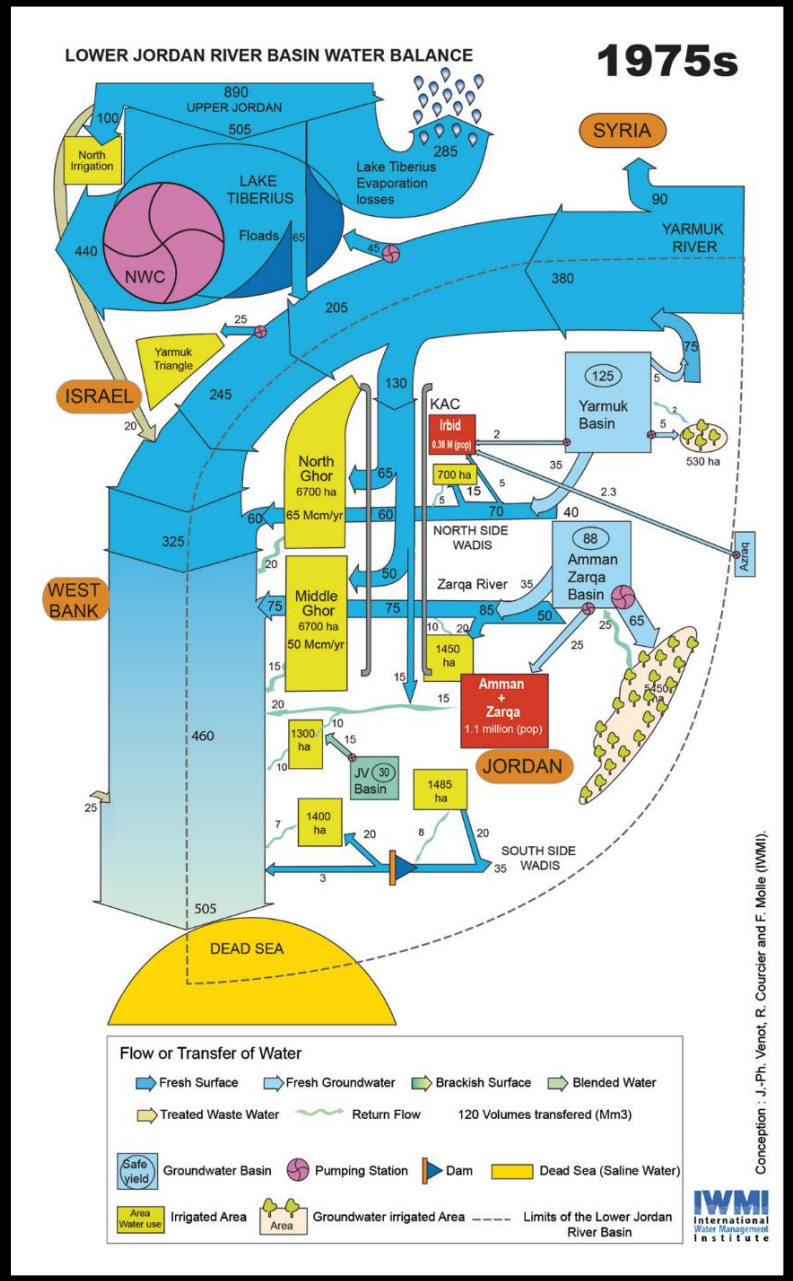
Views in 1972, 1989, and 2011 compared. NASA's Earth Observatory.

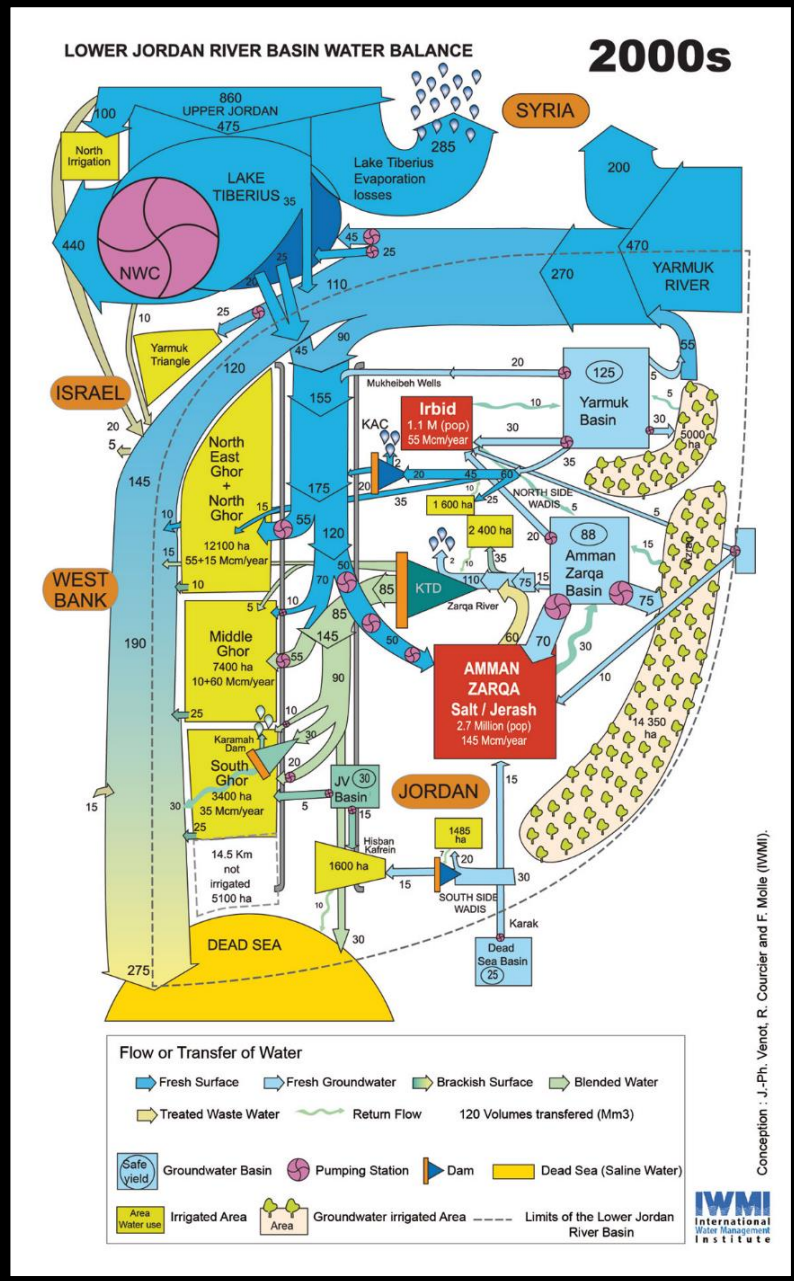
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCtUc-BwyYs&t=0s&index=20&list=PLmNxIZmnLhqCRe1cRfjA6_L9wJuU4D2fv



The Dead Sea

- In early 1950s, around **1.5 billion** cubic meters of water flowed from Sea of Galilee to Dead Sea every year
- However, since that time, dams, canals, and pumping stations built by Israel, Jordan and Syria have diverted the water for crops and drinking
- Result → flow of water now reaching Dead Sea reduced to approx. **100 million** cubic meters per year
  - mainly brackish water and sewage


LOWER JORDAN RIVER BASIN WATER BALANCE
1975s
890
UPPER JORDAN
505
100
North Irrigation
LAKE TIBERIUS
Floads
NWC
440
Lake Tiberius Evaporation losses
285
SYRIA
90
YARMUK RIVER
380
205
Yarmuk Triangle
245
ISRAEL
20
130
KAC
Irbid
0.36 M (pop)
700 ha
125
Yarmuk Basin
530 ha
North Ghor
6700 ha
65 Mcm/yr
NORTH SIDE WADIS
Zarqa River
88
Amman Zarqa Basin
Middle Ghor
6700 ha
50 Mcm/yr
1450 ha
Amman + Zarqa
1.1 million (pop)
WEST BANK
JORDAN
325
460
1300 ha
JV 30 Basin
1485 ha
1400 ha
SOUTH SIDE WADIS
505
DEAD SEA
Azraq
Flow or Transfer of Water
Fresh Surface
Fresh Groundwater
Brackish Surface
Blended Water
Treated Waste Water
Return Flow
120 Volumes transfered (Mm3)
Safe yield
Groundwater Basin
Pumping Station
Dam
Dead Sea (Saline Water)
Area Water use
Irrigated Area
Area
Groundwater irrigated Area
Limits of the Lower Jordan River Basin
Conception : J.-Ph. Venot, R. Courcier and F. Molle (IWMI).
IWMI
International Water Management Institute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Lake Tiberius Evaporation losses
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SYRIA
200
470
YARMUK RIVER
270
Yarmuk Triangle
ISRAEL
Mukheibeh Wells
125
Yarmuk Basin
KAC
Irbid
1.1 M (pop)
55 Mcm/year
5000 ha
NORTH SIDE WADIS
1 600 ha
2 400 ha
88
Amman Zarqa Basin
KTD
Zarqa River
North East Ghor + North Ghor
12100 ha
55+15 Mcm/year
WEST BANK
AMMAN ZARQA
Salt / Jerash
2.7 Million (pop)
145 Mcm/year
Middle Ghor
7400 ha
10+60 Mcm/year
14 350 ha
Karamah Dam
South Ghor
3400 ha
35 Mcm/year
JV 30 Basin
JORDAN
1485 ha
Hisban
Kafrein
1600 ha
14.5 Km not irrigated 5100 ha
SOUTH SIDE WADIS
Karak
Dead Sea Basin
25
DEAD SEA
190
275
Azraq
Flow or Transfer of Water
Fresh Surface
Fresh Groundwater
Brackish Surface
Blended Water
Treated Waste Water
Return Flow
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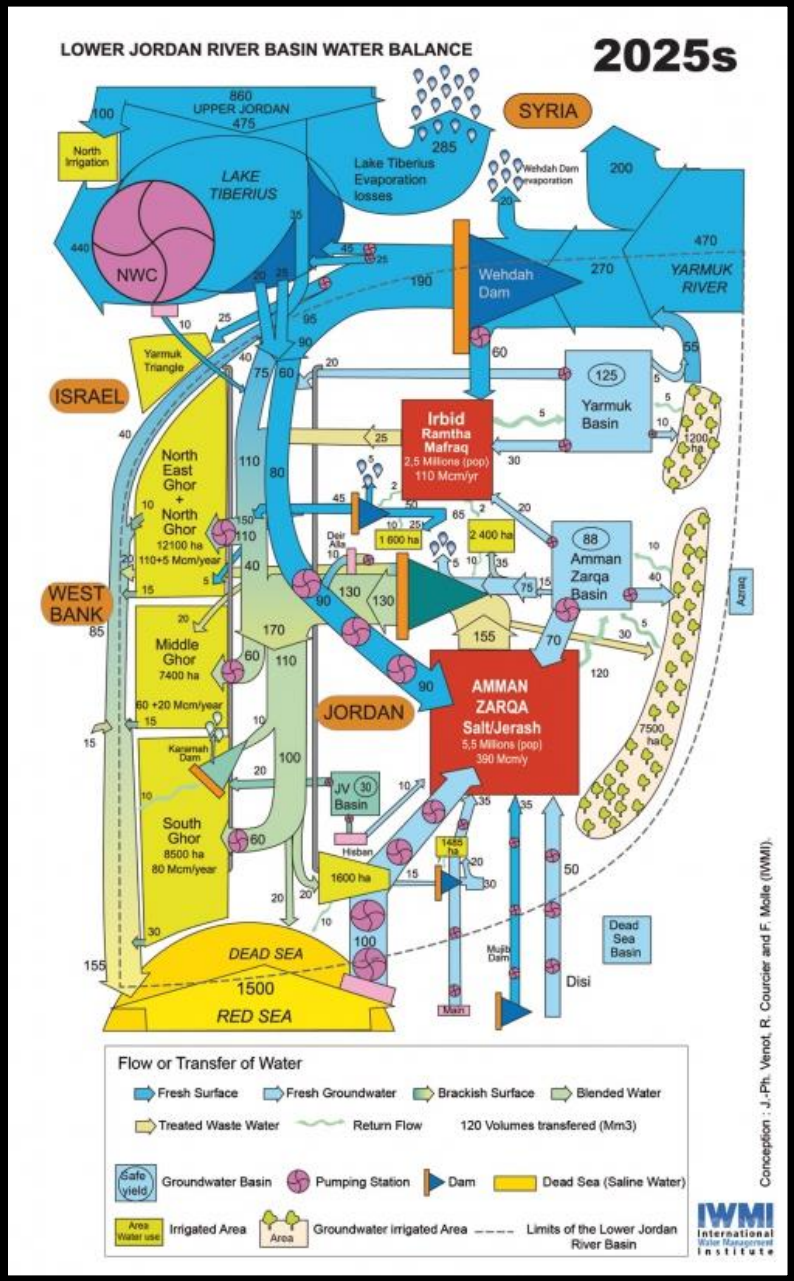
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JORDAN
AMMAN ZARQA
Salt/Jerash
5,5 Millions (pop)
390 Mcm/y
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7400 ha
60 +20 Mcm/year
Karamah Dam
South Ghor
8500 ha
80 Mcm/year
JV 30 Basin
Hisban
1485 ha
1600 ha
7500 ha
Mujib Dam
Dead Sea Basin
Disi
Wadi
DEAD SEA
1500
RED SEA
155
Azraq
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Fresh Groundwater
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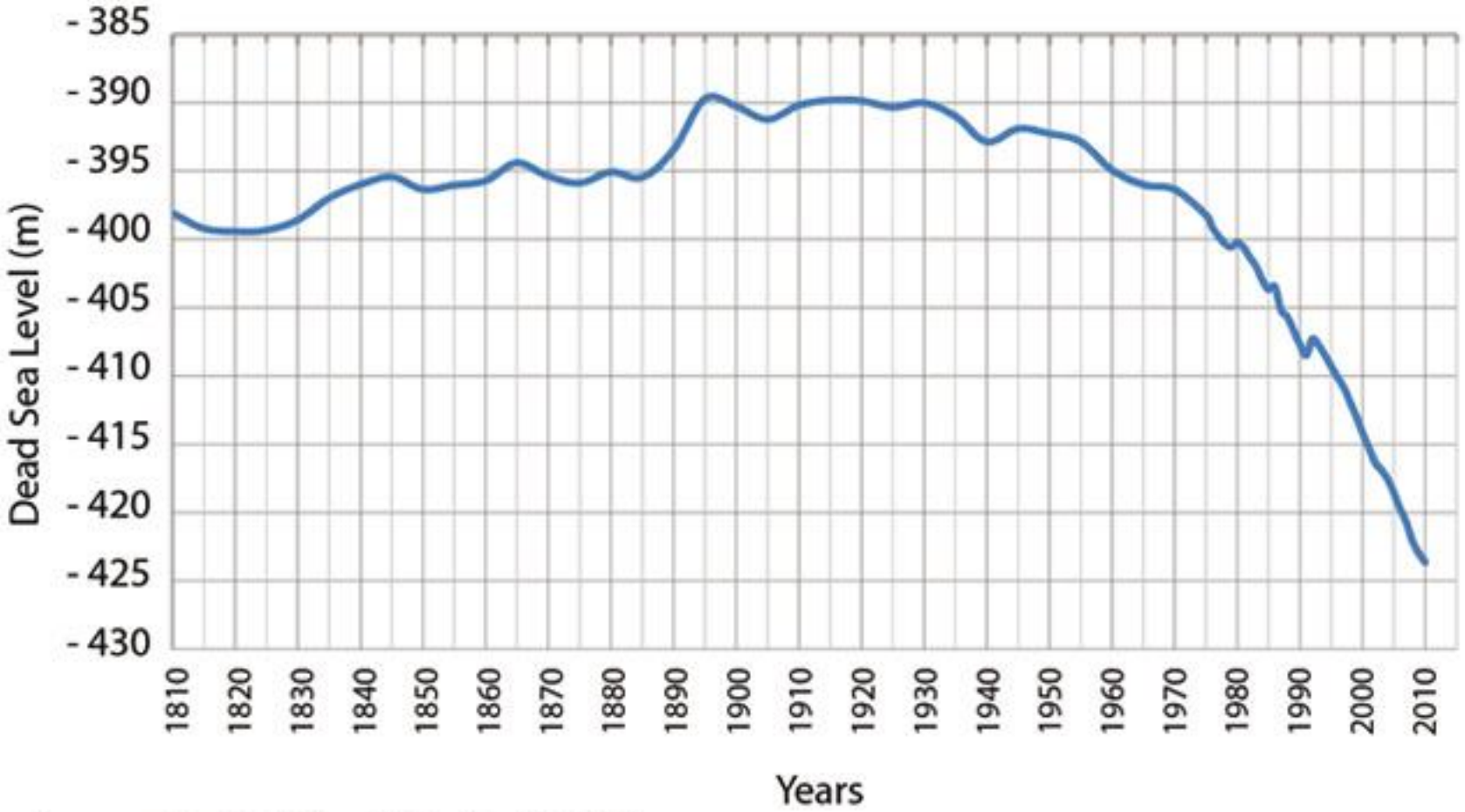


(source : Allan T., Malkawi A.H., Tsur Y., 2010)

The decline of the Dead Sea has created major environmental problems, including…



Decline in local flora and fauna

Endangered species in the Dead Sea region: (left to right) Nubian Ibex, Arabian Leopard, and the Dead Sea Sparrow. Images courtesy of Birdfinders.com, Eyal Bartov via flickr, and Dr. Feldstein.

Sink holes

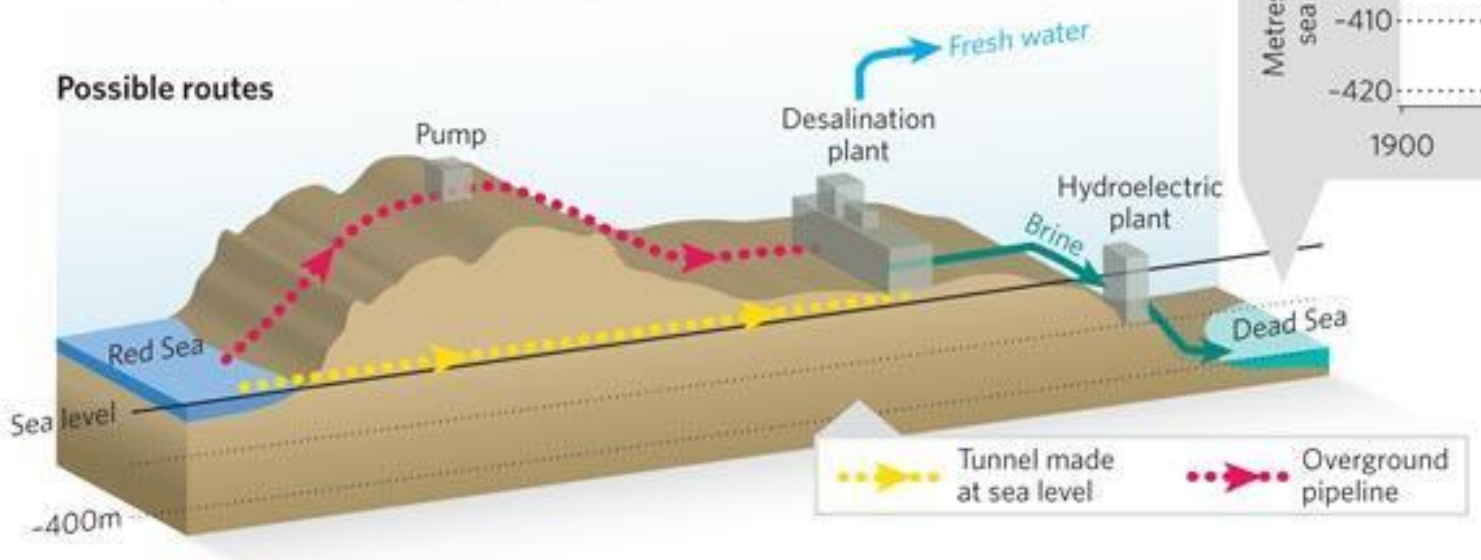
Receding shoreline

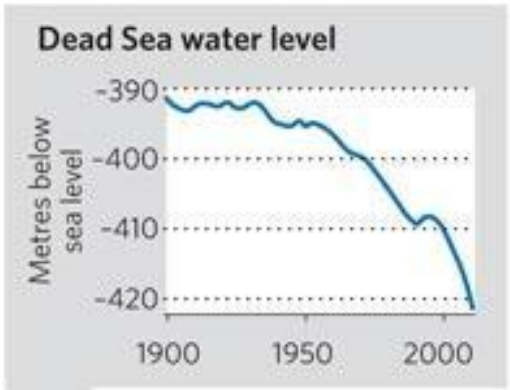
Project proposal: the Red-Dead Canal

- Aka:
  - Two Seas Canal
  - Red Sea–Dead Sea Conveyance
  - The Peace Conduit
- A planned pipeline that would run from the coastal city of Aqaba by the Red Sea to the Dead Sea
- If constructed it would:
  - Provide much-needed potable water to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, including Gaza and the West Bank
  - Stabilize the water level of the rapidly-evaporating Dead Sea
  - Generate electricity to support the energy needs of the project

SAVING THE DEAD SEA

With the Dead Sea shrinking, plans are developing to refill it by connecting it with the Red Sea. Various routes are being considered, but all of them would flow downhill, providing an opportunity for hydropower. The electricity could be used to run a desalination plant that would supply the region with fresh water.

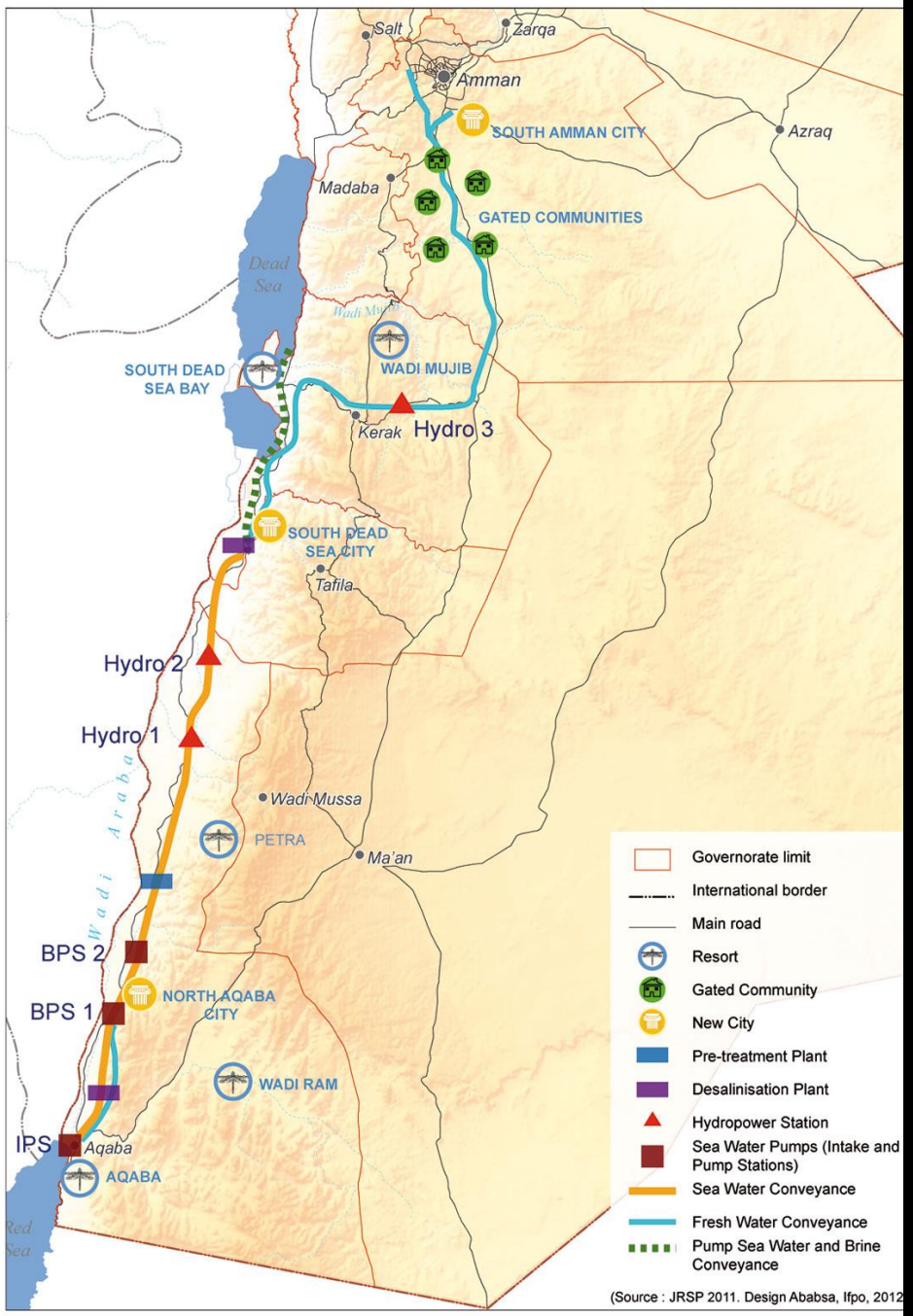





The Dead Sea - Red Sea Project
The cost: About $10 billion
The goal: Stabilizing the sea level of the Dead Sea, supplying electricity and water to countries in the region and promoting regional cooperation
The dangers: Changing the sea level of the Dead Sea, the development of calcium sulfates and algae and increasing the salinity of water aquifers in the Arava
Dead Sea
Point at which water will flow into the Dead Sea
Israel
Facility for producing electricity
Desalination facility
Facility for producing electricity
Petra
Pumping station
Jordan
Eilat
Pumping station
Red Sea
Dead Sea
Photograph: David Shankbone

The Red-Dead Canal

- The proposed project would be carried out by Jordan and would be located entirely within Jordanian territory
- It would be financed by the Jordanian and Israeli governments along with a number of international donors



Phase One

- Currently projected to break ground in 2021
- Estimated to cost $1.1 billion USD
- Supposed to start in 2017, but stalled due to diplomatic tensions
  - Shooting of 2 Jordanians by an Israeli in Amman, Jordan in July
  - US President Trump's decision in December to move the US embassy to Jerusalem
- Jordanian government currently in process of shortlisting consortiums and waiting for final feasibility study, after which international funding would follow

DEBATE:

Should the governments of Jordan and Israel, in combination with international agencies, build a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea?

Presented by the Peacebuilding & Dialogue Group, Spring 2019

- End -