



# International Conference on Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley Conference Proceedings



**November 10-12, 2014  
Kempinski Hotel, Dead Sea, Jordan**

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**The SWIM-JR master plan project is supported by the European Union's Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) Programme.**





## 1. Note of Gratitude

EcoPeace Middle East (formerly known as Friends of the Earth Middle East) would like to recognize and thank the European Union's Sustainable Water Integrated Management programme for their support of the Regional NGO Master Plan [SWIM-JR] Project without which this effort could not be possible. Additional thanks are due to the many international, regional and local experts for their participation in the project's meetings, stakeholder workshops and conferences, including the November 10-12, 2014 International Conference on Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley.

The International Conference on Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley held November 10-12, 2014 was a milestone for the project team. As such additional thanks are due to the hard work of the project team and their supporting institutions including EcoPeace Middle East's teams in Palestine, Jordan and Israel and its partners in the effort from the Stockholm International Water Institute and Global Nature Fund.

The views expressed are those of EcoPeace Middle East and do not necessarily represent the views of our expert team, project advisers, or participants in the project's activities or our funders.





## 2. Executive Summary:

The SIWI / EcoPeace / GNF November 10-12, 2014 "International Conference on Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley" brought together over one hundred and fifty government officials from Jordan, Palestine and Israel, international diplomatic representatives, international development agency representatives, and basin experts.

Click on our [website events page](#) that includes links to the [agenda](#), speeches made by prominent political figures, presentations given, and a [photo album of pictures from the conference](#).

This regional conference was convened in the weeks surrounding the 20th anniversary of the Israeli-Jordan Peace Treaty. While other 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in the region were cancelled due to major political and social rifts between Israel, Palestine and Jordan, the fact that we were able to convene a major regional conference including senior officials from the three parties, including the attendance of two Ministers from Israel, demonstrates a marked success in itself and wide commitment to the regional effort to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River.

H.E. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the [Jordan Valley Authority \(JVA\)](#), initiated a well-received call for action during the conference when, on behalf of Jordan, he invited the Israeli and Palestinian governments to convene a meeting in Jordan to discuss the river's rehabilitation efforts.

From Palestine, the Secretary General of the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) specifically declared PWA support for the master planning effort and accepted the invitation of Jordan to attend such a trilateral meeting.

From Israel MK Ya'acov Peri, Minister of Science and Technology and Amir Peretz, Minister of Environmental Protection participated alongside two other Members of Parliament. The Israeli officials utilized the platform to call for calming of regional tensions and expressed their support for this effort to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River, explicit in their opinion that it must involve also Palestine.

The [NGO Regional Master Planning draft materials](#) presented an advanced planning vision for the Lower Jordan River. This vision is rooted in the use of the Lower Jordan River as a multi-functional water conveyor and requires a major shift from conventional thinking. The plan aims to utilize and reuse river water multiple times at various stages of its flow. Moreover, the vision is based on shared benefits, sustainable development, and fair rights and access to the shared waters of the transboundary Lower Jordan River for all riparians.

Following the conference EcoPeace, SIWI, Global Nature Fund and RHDHV will continue to work to develop the NGO regional master plan while advancing political support through the trilateral regional meeting initiated by H.E. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the JVA as well as aligning donor support with this vision through a series of financing funding meetings. The partners will convene another regional conference in Jordan in May 2015.



### 3. Official Conference Agenda:

**Monday, November 10, 2014**

**12:30-14:00 Conference Registration: Sacrament Hall**

13:00-14:00 Lunch at Obelisk Restaurant

#### **14:00 Conference Opening and Welcomes in Sacrament Hall**

- Munqeth Mehyar, Jordanian Director and President of EcoPeace Middle East
- Dr. Therese Sjömander Magnusson, Director Transboundary Water Management, SIWI
- H.E. Joanna Wronecka, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- H.E. Helena Gröndahl Rietz, Swedish Ambassador to Jordan
- H.E. Eng. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the Jordan Valley Authority, Jordan
- H.E. Member of Knesset Yaacov Peri, Minister of Science and Technology, Israel
- Eng. Yousef Awayes, Director General, International Cooperation & Coordination Unit, Palestinian Water Authority

#### **15:00 The Rehabilitation of the Jordan River as a Catalyst for Regional Economic Development and Peacebuilding**

Opening remarks from Yuval Rabin, Chairman Israel Peace Initiative

Presentation by Nader Khateeb, Palestinian Director of EcoPeace Middle East, Gidon Bromberg, Israeli Director of EcoPeace Middle East and Yana Abu Taleb, Jordanian Deputy Director of EcoPeace Middle East

15:45 Coffee Break

#### **16:15 Regional NGO Master Planning in the Jordan Valley**

Royal Haskoning DHV and national consultant teams

#### **17:15 Question & Answer Session with RHDHV consulting team**

#### **18:00 Rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River: The Israeli Perspectives – A Suggested Plan (Phase A)**

Professor Avital Gasith, Tel-Aviv University, Aquatic Ecologist, Consultant to the Lower Jordan River Drainage Authority

#### **18:15 Introducing tomorrow's thematic working groups as aligned with the regional master plan's strategic objectives**

Dr. Marian Patrick, Programme Manager Transboundary Water Management, SIWI



- 18:30 Closing Remarks**  
Dr. Therese Sjömander Magnusson, Director Transboundary Water Management, SIWI
- 18:45 Sign up for thematic working groups as exiting the conference hall**
- 19:00 Dinner at Kish Terrace Restaurant**
- 20:30 Thematic Working Group Facilitators and Rapporteurs Meeting**  
Location: Larsa 2 Meeting Room

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

- 7:30** Breakfast at Obelisk Restaurant
- 8:30 Conference Registration: Sacrament Hall**
- 9:00 Welcome and recapturing day one's key findings and results**  
Marian Patrick, Programme Manager Transboundary Water Management, SIWI
- 9:15 Address by H.E. Eng. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the Jordan Valley Authority, Jordan**
- 9:30 Address by Shadad Atilili, Minister within the Negotiations Affairs Department and Water and Environment Advisor to the PLO**
- 9:45 ITAIPU Binacional: Moving from Dispute to Sustainability**  
Nelton Miguel Friedrich, Coordination Direction, Itaipu and  
Jorge Habib Hanna El Khouri, Superintendent of Engineering and Corporate University Coordinator, Itaipu
- 10:00 Thematic Working Groups** facilitated by high-level experts to determine the feasibility of the suggested interventions:
- **Pollution Control** - Comprehensive sanitation solutions throughout the basin for a clean basin by 2025.  
**Facilitated by Dr. Iyad Rammal, Specialist, Water Global Practice, World Bank**  
Rapporteur: Malek Abualfailat, EcoPeace Middle East





- **Ecological Rehabilitation** – Reaching Environmental Flow for the LJR by 2050 and use of the River for conveyance 2025-2050  
**Facilitated by Dr. Samer Talози, Professor in Water Resources and Irrigation Engineering, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid**  
Rapporteur: Eshak Alguza'a, EcoPeace Middle East
- **Sustainable Agricultural Development** - Agriculture production based on treated waste water only in the LJR basin by 2025  
**Facilitated by Pieter van der Zaag, UNESCO IHE**  
Rapporteur: Samar Salma, EcoPeace Middle East
- **Sustainable Water Management and River Rehabilitation, and Lower Jordan Basin Governance**  
**Facilitated by Greg Shapland, Middle East and North Africa, Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK**  
Rapporteur: Alain Maasri, Global Nature Fund
- **Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage Development**  
**Facilitated by Abdel Rahman Sultan, EcoPeace Middle East**  
Rapporteur: Mira Edelstein, EcoPeace Middle East
- **Urban and Infrastructure Development**  
**Facilitated by Etra Occhialini, Project Head Jericho Master Plan**  
Rapporteur: Kata Molnar, SIWI

**11:20 All participants return to the Sacrament Hall**

**11:30 Address by MK Amir Peretz, Minister of Environment, Israel**

**12:00 Mr. Ghazi Musharbash, Former Member of Parliament, Jordan**

**12:15 Group Photo**

12:25 Preparation for working group presentation of main points to the plenary for facilitators and rapporteurs

**13:00 Lunch at Obelisk Restaurant**

**14:15 All participants return to the Sacrament Hall**

**14:30 Summary of Feedback from Thematic Working Group Facilitators**  
Facilitated by Dr. Marian Patrick, Programme Manager Transboundary Water Management, SIWI



- 15:30**      **Aligning regional development priorities in the Jordan Valley**  
Facilitated by Dr. Therese Sjömander-Magnusson, Director of Transboundary Water Cooperation Unit, SIWI
- **Dr. Anders Jagerskog**, SIDA
  - **Dr. Iyad Rammal**, Specialist, Water Global Practice, World Bank
  - **Sergio Piccolo**, Head of Cooperation, EU Representative Office, Jerusalem
  - **Björn Druse**, Managing Director, Finance and Administration, SIWI
- 16:45**      **Closing remarks by SIWI**
- 19:00    Dinner at Obelisk Restaurant

### Wednesday, November 12, 2014

- 7:30    Breakfast/ free morning/ check-out by 12:00 noon
- 9:00    **Invitation only – No Regret Actions – Advancing the implementation of the NGO Regional Master Plan:**  
**Facilitated by** Munqeth Mehyar, EcoPeace Middle East Jordanian Director; Nader Khateeb, EcoPeace Middle East Palestinian Director and Gidon Bromberg, EcoPeace Middle East Israeli Director
- 12:45    Lunch
- 13:30    Departure to Bethany Beyond the Jordan Baptism Site
- 15.30    Return to Kempinski Hotel
- 16:00    Bus departs back to Amman

**Note on the Above Agenda:**

The agenda presented above was distributed to all conference participants. However, several changes occurred during the course of the program including the last minute cancellation of the address from Shadad Atilili, Minister within the Negotiations Affairs Department and Water and Environment Advisor to the PLO; the added address by Israeli Member of Knesset Omer Bar Lev and several changes as to the order of official addresses.

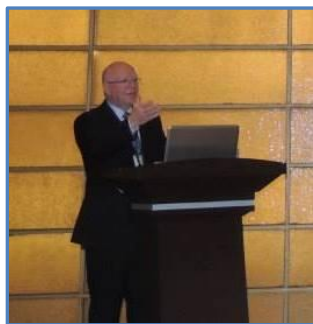


#### 4. Session Summaries:

Monday, November 10, 2014

#### Session I: Conference Opening and Welcomes

##### Munqeth Mehyar, Jordanian Director and President of EcoPeace Middle East



Your Excellency's, Ambassadors, Experts, distinguished guests, Welcome to Jordan. It's a great honor to have you here with us attending one of the most important conferences of this time. Before I go any further I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the European Union for its generous support to the project and to our partners SIWI, the Stockholm International Water Institute, the conveyors of this conference and GNF, the Global Nature Fund for all their support and our consultancy team led by Royal Haskoning DHV, along with the local consultants CORE in Palestine, MASAR in Jordan and DHV Mid Israel. None of this could have happened without the support of our Governments, for them being here

attending the conference to further discuss the plan and make sure that they can implement it and move it forward.

As a Jordanian, I would like to grab this opportunity to thank HE Dr. Hazem Al Naser, the Minister of Water and Irrigation here in Jordan for his long vision giving this initiative an opportunity and making it a priority. H.E Eng. Saad Abu Hamour, Secretary General of Jordan Valley Authority for his leadership and dedication as a Jordanian official to move this plan forward to benefit the people of Jordan and the region.

Since early 1900s, there have been many studies and proposals for the management of the scarce water resource of the Jordan Valley including the River. Ironically, all of these studies and proposals were set on unilateral actions while a regional management and cooperation, ensuring the rightful shares of all the five riparian's from the basin's water and resources should have been adopted. EcoPeace, since its foundation, has focused on conservation and management of shared water resources. The Jordan River, being the most important shared resource, received our utmost attention, we conducted several comprehensive studies in an attempt to understand the root cause for its demise and propose solutions for its rehabilitation.

My colleagues will present to you the proposed NGO regional master plan for the Lower Part of the Jordan River area that extends from the southern part of the Sea of Galilee to the north shores of the Dead Sea, throughout the coming two days. We want to hear from you, we need your expertise, advice and we seek your involvement. That will make us partners in achieving the goal of rehabilitating the Lower Jordan River for the benefit of all our people. Let us all think of the true benefits of rehabilitating the Lower Jordan River! Is it only about allowing more water to flow down the River! Is it about bringing back the 50% of lost biodiversity! Or is it just a project to be implemented by an NGO for donors to look good? Of course not, it's a lot more than that! In addition





to all that I just mentioned, this project is about PEOPLE, it will touch on people's way of life, dignity and prosperity and it will lead our nations to a long lasting real peace.

It is the experience of Eco Peace and its partners that a deeper understanding of the common threats and lost opportunities of unsustainable practices both caused by conflict and occupation but also due to unsustainable management of natural resources across the board is at the heart of advancing both peace and the environment. This gathering here in Jordan presents a rare opportunity to debate, discuss and perhaps start identifying what interventions must urgently be taken to reduce imminent environmental threats and how the interdependent nature of our shared environmental resources especially water and energy can be the catalyst for peace building and not a vehicle of domination.

I am absolutely certain that it takes courage and leadership on all sides to meet the challenges we face. We know that through cooperation between government, NGOs, academia and others we can achieve our goals. After close to nearly two decades of work on this issue I remain more certain than ever that we have no other alternative but to move forward.

Before I conclude I must extend my gratitude and upraise all of you for joining us today despite the difficult time our region is currently going through. This shows commitment and proves to all that through cooperation we can find our way to live in peace. Since my colleagues and I will be addressing you later on today, I would like to extend my thanks to our great team in EcoPeace for their dedication, commitment and hard work to this important project. Let us all work together towards the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River. Thank you

**Dr. Therese Sjömander Magnusson, Director Transboundary Water Management, SIWI [Summary of Comments]**

On behalf of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Director welcomed the participants. SIWI, she said, is engaged in the region to provide a neutral platform to harness the long-term vision of the win-win-win scenario. Her encouraging words aimed to enhance dialogue among the Jordanian, Israeli, Palestinian decision makers towards the cooperative governance of the Lower Jordan Valley. She emphasized that representation of all sides is a sign of commitment to continue the development of the Master Plan that started earlier in 2012.



**H.E. Joanna Wronecka, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [Summary of Comments]**



The Ambassador described the Jordan Valley as an exceptional landscape and history where traditions have been preserved through time by local communities. However, regional cooperation and peace is essential to face current challenges of daily life and economic activities by ensuring proper management of water quality and quantity. This is why the European Union funds this project which aims to design an NGO Master Plan for the Lower Jordan River in the framework of the SWIM Programme. Moreover, the European Parliament passed a Resolution in 2009 supporting the regional effort to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River. She emphasized the importance of the political will to go beyond declarations and take actions through establishing a roadmap for implementing those initiatives that would contribute better to reverse the negative trends.

**H.E. Helena Gröndahl Rietz, Swedish Ambassador to Jordan [Summary of Comments]**



The Swedish Ambassador expressed her concerns during the challenging times in the Middle East, urging support for the non-violent forces to promote democracy, human rights and gender equality. The Swedish government has been supporting and continuously sees the path to sustainable peace and environmental resilience in the region through a regional approach to cooperate over shared waters. This is why Sweden decided to recognize the State of Palestine and increase its bilateral support to Palestine. She reminded the audience of how the Baltic Sea Cooperation over shared natural resources achieved technical, economic and political integration and peace in the past decades. All water resources are safeguarded by the Water Framework Directive adopted by the EU in 2000 to provide good river basin management and transboundary cooperation over shared waters. In this spirit, the Ambassador supports the cooperation in the Lower Jordan River via the development of the NGO Regional Master Plan. Furthermore, the Ambassador announced Sweden's decision to continue its support of EcoPeace's "Good Water Neighbors Project" including community based work to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River. She said that though interdependencies and regional integration are difficult to build but harder to break. She emphasized the need for dialogue for sustainable development that the European Union greatly supports, welcoming the Regional NGO Master Plan for the Lower Jordan River.



**H.E. Eng. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the Jordan Valley Authority, Jordan**



Everyone is looking for sustainable development for the Valley. The valley is excellent for farming, agriculture and attracting investment. Sustainable development means water. The valley is the food basket for Jordan and neighboring communities. It offers the best agriculture due to temperature and unique location. The Jordanian Valley Authority (JVA) started to develop the valley; it was previously composed of small scattered colonies. It was flooded in the winter and snow was reported to have been seen.

Due to climate change, it is no longer promising regarding water. Politics and countries have control over it. The area was home to few villages, now through development, giving incentives, agricultural projects, and finding sustainable water resources done by JVA, the valley is inhabited by at least 700,000 inhabitants from northern borders with Syria and Yarmouk to industrial zone in Aqaba.

As government, we tried to develop the valley as much as possible, we produced agricultural leaflets, sustainable water resources, looking for renewable water resources. We have some dams in the valley. We have shared water resources. We have water coming from the Yarmouk. We have shared water resources with Syria. The shared water resources is controlled by politicians. Since 1987 many challenges happened with the Syrians, we tried through water committee headed by myself but the last contact was in February, 2011, after that no contact was made. We tried with the Syrian government regarding violations on Jordanian water rights. Violations include building wells against what is agreed upon, 5,000 wells from Damascus to Jaber area their border with Jordan. 46 dams are built in the catchment area, the area attracting water to the Yarmouk valley. 46 dams blocking millions of cubic meters.

The Jordan River is the basis for developing the valley and is the source of life. There were violations prior to the peace treaty from all parties. We spoke to the Israelis, there was an exchange of accusations. Jordan diverts only what forms 15% of the rivers waters coming to it from Yarmouk or the valley pouring into the river. Water is mostly diverted by Upper Jordan River, first Israel, Syria, then Jordan. We are not blaming anyone, we know water is precious.

The 1994 agreement with Israel preserved Jordan's water rights. We get 50 million cubic meters per year from Lake Tiberias, what is stored in Lake Tiberias, we get as extra water and not part of our allocated water share. We have a shared water committee with Israel headed by myself. We have dialogue with Israel and told them 5 years ago that we need to look into the Jordan River because it has become degraded ecologically and degraded for tourism and degraded for all aspects. Peace treaty stipulates the need to preserve the river ecologically and its riparian's, in 2011 Israel responded and signed an MOU to rehabilitate the River.

Israelis will implement various projects in various phases. Phase 1 is being implemented, clean water will flow in the river as well as extra water. But settlements still pollute the river by dumping sewage straight into the river. In Phase 1, Israel allowed fresh water to flow into the river in May, 2013 demonstrating that they care for the river.



We intended to organize an international conference along with Israel last month. It was supposed to be joint and I jointly visited the US with Israelis and we met with Senate, Congress, the Wilson Center, UN, World Bank. All participants on the west bank on the first two days should have been hosted by Jordanians on the 3rd day on the eastern bank of the river. We had governmental approval but the war in Gaza prompted us to ask for the conference to be postponed. But the Israelis had commitments with the invitations. Another conference will be held next year to invite Israelis to come to the Jordanian side.

The conference was a success. We want a lot from the Israelis because they have financial capabilities to rehabilitate the river. In the Israeli conference in Nir David, a lot of donors came and everything related to the river was mentioned; diversion, ecological degradation, studies by governmental bodies or NGOs. The conference was about the LJR Israeli, Jordanian borders not the borders with Palestine starting from Bezek to the Dead Sea. There is no official body to talk to for the Rivers rehabilitation.

I cannot rehabilitate the Upper River and leave the 50km bigger border destroyed and polluted. We wish for peace and stability for the three countries because it will lead to stability for the entire region, peace felt by citizen. Easy travel and crossing of borders. We hope that we can all look into the outcomes of the masterplan for the 3 countries.

#### **H.E. Member of Knesset Yaacov Peri, Minister of Science and Technology, Israel [Summary of Comments]**



The Minister emphasized the importance of the Jordan River Rehabilitation Project to work towards increased cooperation between the neighbouring countries and bringing ecological, cultural, touristic and economic benefits in order to improve the lives and welfare of all citizens in the region. As it has been the aim of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Jordan in the past 20 years. He mentioned that Israel's Prime Minister, Netanyahu, has just recently declared Israel's solid obligation to maintaining the status quo in the Temple Mount. He said that this joint effort is essential for the long lasting and stable relations to resolve rising conflict by consensual solutions and focus on shared goals. The escalation of radical terrorist organizations in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip is threatening the stability of the region and lives of citizens. Iran's support to these forces work against the shared vision to protect the welfare and security in the region. The moderate countries including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Emirates, the Palestinian Authority and Israel need to join forces to change this reality of the region and protect the safety of the Middle East. It shall be done through reaching a historic agreement, adopt the framework of the Arab League's Arab Peace Initiative including an agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. He suggested a comprehensive regional conference to discuss ways toward ending the Israeli Palestinian Conflict within this framework. This requires commitment of all countries and joint effort that, he believed, will reach a historic change in the region's reality.

For a full transcription of H.E. Member of Knesset Yaacov Peri's Address please click [here](#).





**Eng. Yousef Awayes, Director General, International Cooperation & Coordination Unit, Palestinian Water Authority [Summary of Comments]**



The Director General expressed his gratitude to Sweden to recognize Palestine as a State. He further thanked the EU for its financial support and SIWI for its implementation support for the SWIM project, all contributors and also to Jordan represented by His Majesty King Abdullah the second, for their care for the Palestinian people. The Director supports any intention strengthening cooperation, based on the shared responsibility to take care, and the right of all people in the region to equally enjoy

the result of any development of the region. In order for the successful interventions, he suggested the following key points to be taken into account:

1. The recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to finally live in their own state.
2. The Palestinian borders should be based on the 1967, the Jordan River creating natural borders in the East.
3. Any security arrangements to achieve final peace should not affect the right of accessibility to the water resources of the Palestinian people living in the region.
4. The Jordan River shall be recognized as one entity, as an international watercourse without separating Upper Jordan River and Lower Jordan River.
5. Palestine is currently denied its right as a riparian to the Dead Sea, which shall be recognized accordingly.
6. Palestinians maintain the right to access the Jordan River and all of its tributaries and to develop West Ghor canal, to take its share from Lake Tiberias (Kinneret/ Sea of Galilee) to meet the growing demand both in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.
7. Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan and Palestine – all of these five shall be recognized as riparians to the Jordan River.
8. The right to, and use of the existing shared water resources shall be allocated equitably and reasonably between the parties, in line with the principles of customary international water law.
9. Independence and viability related to water issues require three elements:
  - Recognition of Palestinian water rights and sufficient quantity and quality of water resources to support a growing and prosperous resident population;
  - An international dispute resolution mechanism; and
  - Management process that encourages accuracy, transparency, accountability and cooperation.

For a full transcript of Eng. Yousef Awayes' Address please click [here](#).





## Session II: The Rehabilitation of the Jordan River as a Catalyst for Regional Economic Development and Peacebuilding

### Opening remarks from Yuval Rabin, Chairman Israel Peace Initiative [Summary of Comments]



Yuval Rabin reflected back on his personal experiences in 1977 when he started his career as an officer based near the Upper Jordan River. His duties at that time revolved around border control protection. He also mentioned some of his memories when they used to remove stones in order to control the flow of the river between both sides. Furthermore, he described the events in May 1995 – his first state visit to Jordan with his father the late Yitzach Rabin to visit the late King Hussein. There, he experienced the spirit of cooperation, respect and admiration at all levels. “With the presence of both the late King Hussein and the late Yitzach Rabin, we could be in a very different place today”. The Peace Initiative has been on the table for over a decade now focusing on regional cooperation. It’s not only a peace process but it enlightens people how important such cooperation can be. The JR is a unique place which is visited by many from

all around the world. The regional cooperation approach is very unique which he thought has the potential to benefit everyone.

For a full transcript of Yuval Rabin's Address please click [here](#).

### Remarks from Nader Khateeb, Palestinian Director of EcoPeace Middle East, Gidon Bromberg, Israeli Director of EcoPeace Middle East and Yana Abu Taleb, Jordanian Deputy Director of EcoPeace Middle East [Summary of Comments]



**Nader Al-Khatib** started by thanking Sweden for recognizing Palestine as a State. He described the region pre and post 1948 when the river became part of the conflict. He described the 3 springs flowing and also provided an extended geographical and geomorphologic description. He also mentioned the historical flow of 1.3 billion cubic meters and the Rotenberg Plant which provided over 30% electricity in the 1950's. There have been attempts for sharing the

basin. It is one basin which cannot be separated, EcoPeace also aims at including Syria and Lebanon in the future of the area and up to the green line.



**Yana Abu Taleb** emphasized the importance of reversing the degradation of the basin to become a habitable place. EcoPeace follows various approaches: a grass root, community based approach aiming to empower various stakeholder groups such as locals including youth groups, adults (including farmers) who face the consequences of environmental degradation, or Mayors to enable them to find shared solutions. Ecopeace also work with governments and religious groups over river rehabilitation. Various studies have been conducted (i.e. Environmental Flow Study) to show the benefits of this work. Some of the success stories are related to pollution control: 2 WWTP in Israel by the Regional Valley Council and Beit Sha'an, 1 WWTP in North Shuneh, and another plant in Palestine, or policy change in Israel. The proposed Master Plan is going to support and continue this work.

**Gidon Bromberg** reminded the audience that the integrated plan stems from the belief that “War never produced water”, instead it is cooperation, equity and collaboration that can make it happen through returning water back into the river as the natural conveyor. It requires the treatment of water in order to let it flow into the Dead Sea. The aim is not solely economic benefits, but also equity and riparian rights. We need to treat the sewage which can then flow back into the Dead Sea, being the warriors to bring life back to the river. Rehabilitation of the Jordan is a model of residents working together to cherish and protect the river. It's the world's river; it is part of human cultural heritage. Peace is desperately needed in our region.

### Session III: Regional NGO Master Planning in the Jordan Valley

#### Presentation by Royal Haskoning DHV and national consultant teams [Summary of Comments]

Royal Haskoning DHV (RHDHV) were hired by the project team to develop an NGO regional master plan for the Lower Jordan River. The [materials presented here to the conference participants](#) are yet in their draft phase. The project's [inception report](#) and [baseline report](#) are available on the EcoPeace website. Furthermore a series of national stakeholder meetings were undertaken in Jordan and Palestine.

For the full presentation of the RHDHV outputs please click [here](#).

To link to the detailed presentation on the WEAP model please click [here](#).

To view the draft materials presented to the conference participants please click [here](#).



## Session IV: Rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River: The Israeli Perspectives – A Suggested Plan (Phase A)

**Presented by Professor Avital Gasith, Tel-Aviv University, Aquatic Ecologist, Consultant to the Lower Jordan River Drainage Authority [Summary of Comments]**



Professor Gasith described the plan as a vision of how to use and redesign the Lower Jordan River. The good neighbor relations shall be realized according to the Israeli-Jordan Peace Treaty. As demand is increasing in the valley, and the current flow is much less than its historical flow, the vision for the river has to be restoration and replenishing the river with high quality water and recovering the aquatic biological habitat. He emphasized that the two master plans shall not be compared. It shall be possible to reverse the process of degradation strengthening peace and coexistence.

To link to the full presentation please click [here](#).

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

## Session V: Day 2 Conference Openings and Afternoon Addresses

**Address by H.E. Eng. Saed Abu Hammour, Secretary-General of the Jordan Valley Authority, Jordan [Summary of Comments]**

His Excellency Saed Abu Hamour, appreciated the effort that was made to have this regional master plan draft done. He agreed there can be incorrect parts requiring debate, but this plan is necessary to advance effective rehabilitation that stems from trilateral cooperation between Jordan, Israel and Palestine. The Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel puts forward an obligation on the rehabilitation.

His Excellency asked the Israeli side to clarify its position about the plan according to their agreement with the Israeli Drainage Authority. He believed that it is the riparians' duty to discuss the plan and provide feedback for the experts to build a 'comprehensive plan implementable'. There are differences in development along the river that needs to be balanced in the basin. Furthermore, he raised the issue of Palestine which hinders joint discussions over shared waters. The cooperation between the three parties requires an official body to represent each side to tackle upstream-downstream connections.

To produce mutually beneficial outcomes there is a need for a comprehensive, trilateral plan considering the entire river from the North of the Yarmuk River down to the Dead Sea. Thus, in the name of Jordan's government and the Water and Irrigation Ministry, His Excellency invited the



Israeli and Palestinian parties to bring this initiative further into a formal, trilateral agreement to secure the rehabilitation plan for the Jordan River. Any donor involvement should come after this step; however it was acknowledged that this important and much appreciated interest from donor's side already exists.

For a full transcript of H.E. Saed Abu Hammour's Address please click [here](#).

### **ITAIPU Binacional: Moving from Dispute to Sustainability [Summary of Comments]**

Presented by Jorge Habib Hanna El Khouri, Superintendent of Engineering and Corporate University Coordinator, Itaipu on behalf of himself and Nelton Miguel Friedrich, Coordination Direction, Itaipu

The two guests from South America joined the conference to inspire the regional parties by telling their story from the Paraná River. This is a story about cooperation over mutual interest and how it can bring benefits to all sides. ITAIPU Binacional was created to manage a power plant between Brazil and Paraguay on the Paraná River, after long period of conflict between the riparians. The project aimed to generate quality electric power with social and environmental responsibility, thus contributing to the social, economic, touristic and technological sustainable development in Brazil and in Paraguay. Mr. El Khouri talked about their regional development approach including ITAIPU's social-environmental programs as the way towards harnessing good water neighbor relations.

To link to a presentation on Itaipu Binacional please click [here](#).

### **Address by MK Amir Peretz, Minister of Environment, Israel [Summary of Comments]**



The Minister started his speech by referring to the river as a symbol of history and hope for the future, a river that connects people around the world as being holy. He believed in an independent Palestinian state, and that peace would make the Middle East to become a prosperous place. It requires the elimination of extremism, and diplomatic cooperation instead of conflict in the framework of the Arab Peace Initiative to reach permanent regional agreement. Peretz called the regional master planning project "a highly important project, it's not only an

environmental project, it is a project that can act as a common ground for everyone in the region who see cooperation in the region as a calling for all of us."

For a full transcript of MK Amir Peretz's address please click [here](#).





### Address by Member of Knesset Omer Bar Lev [Summary of Comments]



The Minister opened his speech by describing the sensitive and tense atmosphere in Jerusalem due to the “political stand-still and freeze and the long discrimination of the Palestinian quarters”. He urged all to listen and focus on Israel’s Prime Minister declarations alone. He acknowledged that these quarters suffer from lack of municipal service or the rule of law, and believed that it is necessary to discuss a political solution between Israel and Palestine. The Good

Water Neighbors Project was mentioned as the flag for transboundary solutions, in the mutual understanding of the common interest of the multilateral utilization of water resources. The Minister put forward the idea that to reach the two-state agreement, the Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas needs to be strengthened to confront Hamas. He thought the agreement would focus on the immediate rehabilitation of Gaza including a development plan and the demilitarization of the Strip to reach ceasefire. Furthermore, it is in everyone’s interest to create stability in the region which is linked to the various ongoing efforts to step up against Islamic fundamentalism which he believed requires brave leadership. The Minister closed his words by emphasizing the importance of both international and regional support for the Good Water Neighbors project.

For a full transcript of MK Omer Bar Lev's Address please click [here](#).

### Session VI: Thematic Working Groups facilitated by high-level experts to determine the feasibility of the suggested interventions:

The conference participants were broken up into thematic working groups to review and give feedback on the interventions proposed in the RHDHV draft materials. The below summaries and linked presentations provide a summary of the comments made by participants during each of the sessions.

#### **A. Pollution Control - Comprehensive sanitation solutions throughout the basin for a clean basin by 2025. Facilitated by Dr. Iyad Rammal, Specialist, Water Global Practice, World Bank**

This group identified that coordination and cooperation among stakeholders may contribute to achieve the goals. This include for example the integration of the National Strategy of Solid Waste Management in Jordan, PPP involvement, time schedule for both implementation and planning, identification of measurable indicators for costs and results, or possible cross-border projects.

For a full presentation of the Pollution Control thematic working group please click [here](#).





**B. Ecological Rehabilitation – Reaching Environmental Flow for the LJR by 2050 and use of the River for conveyance 2025-2050. Facilitated by Dr. Samer Talazi, Professor in Water Resources and Irrigation Engineering, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid**

The group put forward specific suggestions for 3 interventions related to the ecological rehabilitation of the LJR. In the Jordan River Ecological Restoration Project, the group recommends a shift from ‘water volume’ to ‘water value’ approach, the investigation of the limits of desalination capacity in Israel, and determining what are the most efficient and low-cost sources of water. For the Nature Protection Areas and Management Plans, the issue identified is the conflicting interest of conservation and agriculture. And opportunity could be the low-cost data sharing and management tools, and possibly finding links to the next, International Accreditation of the JV intervention that promise high financial benefits.

For a full presentation of the Ecological Rehabilitation thematic working group please click [here](#).

**C. Sustainable Agricultural Development - Agriculture production based on treated waste water only in the LJR basin by 2025. Facilitated by Pieter van der Zaag, UNESCO IHE**

The group suggests that increasing the agricultural value is the most efficient approach, which requires access to land and tenure security, water and markets. To realize this, the private sector can play a role in promoting improved investment, the government could provide enabling policy environment. Monitoring, enforced regulations of water use and pollution control, capacity building are important pillars of this. Opportunities may open up for fair trade of dates, herbs, olive oil- as these are high value and low water intensive crops. The group acknowledges that there are different circumstances in the three riparians: Jordan has an advanced policy to increase water tariffs, Palestine requires an urgent intervention on the ground, while commitment from all parties and an integrative vision is necessary for successful agricultural development.

For a full presentation of the Sustainable Agricultural Development thematic working group please click [here](#).

**D. Sustainable Water Management and River Rehabilitation, and Lower Jordan Basin Governance. Facilitated by Greg Shapland, Middle East and North Africa, Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK**

The group questioned how each individual intervention support to the overall goal of the plan. They see a need to establish phases of implementation and cluster the individual interventions accordingly also to help donors channelling their financial support. They suggest ensuring sustainability criteria, creating interventions related to local community empowerment, and proper financing of common information exchange platforms. Besides, water needs to be addressed as a flow resource and not only as a stock.

For a full presentation of the Sustainable Water thematic working group please click [here](#).



**E. Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage Development. Facilitated by Abdel Rahman Sultan, EcoPeace Middle East**

Tourism shall be an economic pillar that enables the region to remove development barriers. This also requires the regional approach. The group suggests the identification of thematic programs instead of site specific interventions. Maintaining community participation would be central, and advancing Jordanian interventions.

For a full presentation of the Sustainable Tourism thematic working group please click [here](#).

**F. Urban and Infrastructure Development. Facilitated by Etra Occhialini, Project Head Jericho Master Plan**

It has been said that planning short-term actions with long-term visions under such uncertainty that the region faces is a real challenge. There are dire needs for setting priorities, make careful planning, organize communication and exchange (which requires e.g. roads, bridges, etc.). The group recommends strengthening cooperation among institutions, stakeholders and communities, coordinate among local Master Plannings, analyze good practices and already existing plans, while keeping community empowerment and participation in the center of the interventions.

For a full presentation of the Urban Infrastructure Development thematic working group please click [here](#).

**Session VII: Aligning regional development priorities in the Jordan Valley**

**Facilitated by Dr. Therese Sjömander-Magnusson, Director of Transboundary Water Cooperation Unit, SIWI [Summary of Comments]**

Dr. Sjomander-Magnusson welcomed the panel participants thanking them for their support and years of work to advance development in the project area. She specifically recognized the EU which is generously funding the NGO Regional Master Plan project being presented here. Highlighting some of the development challenges in the Jordan Valley; Dr. Sjomander-Magnusson noted the institutional and legal challenges, need for risk assessment, need for transparency to foster an enabling environment for investment, focus should be placed on results orientated investment to build confidence in transboundary/ coordinated decision making, asking what modalities exist and are most relevant for this project area?

**Mark Peters, USAID West Bank & Gaza [Summary of Comments]**

USAID efforts in the Jordan River Valley are determined in coordination with Jordanian and Palestinian government officials reflecting years of experience and discussions and in coordination with other donors and NGOs. He presented USAID target and scope of projects, priorities, knowledge management, and total investment in water, development and sanitation in the West Bank and Gaza and Jordan. He highlighted the importance of discussing the draft NGO regional master plan materials in the context of current development planning the Jordan Valley.

For Mark Peter's full presentation please click [here](#).



**Sergio Piccolo, Head of Cooperation, EU Representative Office, Jerusalem [Summary of Comments]**

Mr. Piccolo spoke to the high level commitment of the EU to finding a solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, noting that the current situation is unsustainable, and highlighting that the new Foreign Minister for the EU came to the region on her first official visit. Mr. Piccolo summarized EU investment in Palestine as estimated at 300 million Euros annually to advancement of issues in the framework of the two state solution including the SWIM financing framework which funds the regional NGO master plan being discussed here. Their aim is to form a critical mass of investment together with German and French colleagues to form joint programming to avoid fragmentation. He noted that water is an overcrowded sector for donors in this region. The problem being not the quantity rather how do you share the water.

**Dr. Anders Jagerskog, SIDA [Summary of Comments]**

The Good Water Neighbors program is the flagship program supported by SIDA in the region. The importance of the program is that it is a transboundary program, not only multi-country, and it aims to build capacity on transboundary water management issues. One of the main challenges in this region is changing mind-sets from zero-sum to win-win. Moving towards an equitable sharing of water resources in the valley can be strengthened through regional planning.

**Dr. Iyad Rammal, Specialist, Water Global Practice, World Bank [Summary of Comments]**

The World Bank works closely with Palestinian partners in wastewater treatment, capacity building and reform management as well as providing specific investments in Jordan. On the regional level the World Bank has supported technical studies of options to halt the decline of the Dead Sea and facilitated the water swap agreement in December 2013 between Israel, Jordan and Palestine. The World Bank welcomes the continued cooperation with EcoPeace Middle East in the Jordan River Valley for practical solutions particularly in the fields of wastewater and sanitation.

The World Bank was pleased to attend a recent meeting in Washington D.C. of EcoPeace Directors and Mayors from the Jordan Valley. We have agreed to look for other ways to support this type of effort by mobilizing support for key investments, sharing of best practices and partnering with EcoPeace on implementing key interventions from the NGO regional master plan.

**Björn Druse, Managing Director, Finance and Administration, SIWI [Summary of Comments]**

Post 2008 has been a period of high market volatility. Donor financing has experienced cut backs so financing of transboundary water programs need to consider other financing arrangements such as PPP, BOTs, Joint Ventures, Trust Funds etc. Mr. Druse gave several examples from other basins that utilized alternative financing modulars and highlighted that regional investments are much more attractive than national level investments.

To link to Mr. Druse's full presentation please click [here](#).



**Dr. Therese Sjömander-Magnusson, Director of Transboundary Water Cooperation Unit, SIWI [Summary of Comments]**

SIWI: What does the regional NGO master plan have to do in order to be attractive for funding?

- Word Bank: The interest and support for the plan in this room needs to be translated into practical/ implementable projects. Approval and adoption of the master plan by the authorities is of the utmost importance. Translating goals into action items is needed.
- SIDA: The draft needs to be better developed in close cooperation with the authorities to foster ownership. More details are needed to move it from pre-feasibility level to operational.
- EU: Consider larger investments as a compliment to smaller scale projects.
- USAID: Provide contextual credibility, art of the possible, prioritization of interventions, sequencing of the projects, balance between politics and actions.
- SIWI: commitment of development partners, identifying alternative financing opportunities

SIWI would be more than happy to act as a platform for trilateral official meeting proposed by H.E. Saed Abu Hammour in his statements earlier today should that be asked for.

**Wednesday, November 12, 2014**

Bethany Beyond the Jordan Baptism Site Study Tour





## 5. Participants List:

<b>SIWI Team Participating</b>		
	Therese Sjömander-Magnusson	Director, Transboundary Water Management
	Rami Abdel Rahman	Manager, Water, Energy and Food Nexus
	Marian Patrick	SIWI
	Kata Molnar	SIWI
	Björn Druse	Managing Director, Finance and Administration
<b>GNF Team Participating</b>		
	Alain Maasri	Head of Water and Living Lakes
<b>EcoPeace Team Participating</b>		
	Nader Khateeb	Director, EcoPeace, Bethlehem
	Munqeth Mehyar	Director, EcoPeace, Amman
	Gidon Bromberg	Director, EcoPeace, Tel Aviv
	Samiramis Kutlo	EcoPeace
	Nassar Abu Jabal	EcoPeace
	Elizabeth Koch-Ya'ari	EcoPeace
	Uri Ginott	EcoPeace
	Yana Abu Taleb	Director of Projects, Amman
	Nancy Haddaden	EcoPeace
	Samar Salma	EcoPeace
	Anwar Abu Hammour	EcoPeace
	Nour Abu Laban	EcoPeace
	Abed Al Kareem Shriateh	EcoPeace
	Eshak Alquza'a	EcoPeace
	Marina Djernaes	Executive Operations Officer, EcoPeace
	Mira Edelstein	EcoPeace
	Guy Etzion	EcoPeace
	Suha Al-Najjar	EcoPeace
	Abed El Rahman Sultan	EcoPeace
	Malek Abualfailat	EcoPeace
<b>Members of EcoPeace's International Advisory Committee</b>		
	Roger de Freitas	IAC
<b>Members of EcoPeace's Regional Board</b>		
	Dr. Alon Tal	EcoPeace Board
	Dr. Alfred Abed Rabbo	EcoPeace Board
	Mr. Muhammad Saed Hmaid Nasser	EcoPeace Board
	Mr. Ashraf Ayyad	EcoPeace Board
	Dr. Muna Hindiyeh	EcoPeace Board
	Ms. Orit Zuaretz	EcoPeace Board
<b>RHDHV Consultancy Team</b>		
	Jeroen Kool	Team Leader





	Saeb Banya	Palestinian Team Leader / geo-political
	Saad al Khatib	Economist/ CORE
	Aard Hartveld	
	Samer Talozi	Jordanian Team Leader / WM Expert
	Gilad Safier	WEAP Expert
	Patrick Huntjens	Governance Expert
	Anan Jayyousi	CORE
	Banan al Sheikh	
<b>Niras consultancy</b>		
	Klas Sandström	Consultant
<b>Jordanian Officials and Stakeholders</b>		
	Saed Abu Hammour	JVA
	Fouad Eijilat	JVA
	Qais Owais	JVA
	Khalil Abssi	JVA
	Zainab Abu Zaid	JVA
	Ayman Abu Jelmeh	MoTA
	Rateb Al-Odwan	WAJ
	Muhammad Kloub	JVA
	Sanaa Qutishat	JVA
	Manar Mahasneh	JVA
	Ahmad Qatarneh	Ministry of Environment
	Hussain Mhaidat	MoMA
	Haitham Adayleh	Ministry of Environment
	Ali Al Suboh	Ministry of Water & Irrigation
	Dia'a Al- Madani	Baptism Site
	Saleh Al Hlalat	JVA
	Nahid Ajlouni	Kings Academy
	Tessa Fairbairn	Kings Academy
	Shadi Gamough	Kings Academy
	Khaldoon Hamdan	Hima for Environment & Management Consulting
	Firas Khlaifat	Hima for Environment & Management Consulting
	Thuraya Hattar	Jordan Environmental Society
<b>Palestinian Officials and Stakeholders</b>		
	Hassan A. H. Jermi	Zubiedan Head of Council
	Jawad Ali Muhammad Shqier	Al Quds University
	Jorgette Elias George Habashy	WEDO
	Akram George Issa Nassar	WSSA
	Hatem L.S. Musallam	MOLG Tubas
	Zahran K.S. Abu-Qubietah	Previous Member of PLC, Previous Mayor of Yatta
	Majed Mahmud Musa Al-Masharfeh	Jericho Governorate
	Imad M.M. El-Alem	
	Khamis Jibril Hasan Al-Kadiri	Kurontol Tourism Company
	Muhammad Al Khateeb	Eco for Medical Equipment & Supplies



	Amer Muhammad Mahmud Sawalha	Al Quds University
	Yousef Awayes	PWA
	Deeb abed alkafor	PWA
	Abd AlAziz M Nofal	MAAN
	Mohammed F.H.Gahnaim	MAAN
	MOHAMAD M.M.SBEHI	MAAN
<b>Israeli Officials and Stakeholders</b>		
	Amir Peretz	Minister of Environment
	Peretz assistant	
	Peretz assistant	
	Peretz assistant	
	Gilly Shem Tov	Spokesperson for the Minister, Ministry of Environment
	Asaf Yazdi	Advisor to the Director General, Ministry of Environment
	Azit Salem	Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment
	Galit Cohen	Deputy Director General, Ministry of Env
	Theo Lahav	Finance Director, Lower Jordan River Drainage Authority
	Ramon Ben Ari	CEO, Lower Jordan River Drainage Authority
	Dedi Swisa	Lower Jordan River Drainage Authority Consultant
	David Lefler	Director General, Environment Protection Ministry, Israel
	Nitzan Horowitz	Member of Knesset, Chairman of Regional Cooperation and Environmental Caucus
	Hadas Molcho	Head of International Relations, Environment Protection Ministry, Israel
	Oded Eran	Ambassador (Ret.), Senior Researcher INSS, Israel
	Yuval Rabin	Chairman, Israeli Peace Initiative
	Yaacov Peri	Minister of Science and Technology, Israel
	Tomer Cohen	Chief of Staff
	Einat Fisher	Political Advisor
	Ofri Eliyahu	Spokesperson for the Minister
	Nachman Shai	Member of Knesset, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Israel
	Shai assistant	
	Omer Barlev	Member of Knesset, Israel
	Barlev assistant	
	Avital Gasith	Ecologist, Prof./ Tel Aviv University, Faculty of Life Sciences and Porter School of Environmental Studies
	Moshe Cohen	Ministry of Environment
	Avi Levi	Ministry of Environment
	Alon Zask	Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environment



	Dani Nevo	Israeli Ambassador to Amman
	Aviva Raz-Schechter	Deputy Director General, Foreign Ministry, Israel
	Itamar Schchar	PR
	Aviva Bar Am	
	Roei Case	Ynet
	Rivki Stern	GEI Consultant
	Alon Gelbman	Kinneret Academic College
	Ron Yitzacki	
<b>International Donors and Development Organizations</b>		
	Linda Epstein	Crown Foundation
	Jason Heeny	Crown Foundation
	Mark Peters	USAID, Senior Technical & Policy Advisor
	Anders Jägerskog	SIDA
	Gunnar Olvik	Development Cooperation, Consulate General of Sweden
	Masaki Itagaki	Representative, JICA Jordan office
	Junji Wakui	Senior Representative, JICA
	Subha Ghannam	Netherlands Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority
	Patrice Moix	WASH Specialist / Swiss Dev Cooperation
	Mr. Hussam AlHudhud	FAO interventions related to water and horticulture intervention
	Inga Navardauskiene	Head of Operations/Delegation of the EU to the State of Israel
	Sophie Collette	EU Programme Manager, Water and Sanitation
	Youssef Qumri - No Badge	Sohie's driver
	Sergio Piccolo	European Commission
	Xavier Ignasi Farrero	<i>Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</i>
	H.E. Joanna Wronecka	Head of the European Union Delegation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
	Iyad Rammal	World Bank, Senior Infrastructure Specialist
<b>International Government Representatives</b>		
	Jorge Habib Hanna El Khouri	ITAIPU's Superintendent of Engineering and Itaipu Corporate University's Coordinator
	Nelton Miguel Friedrich	ITAIPU's Coordination Director
	Jill Renee Smail	US Department of State
	Greg Shapland	Middle East and North Africa   Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK
	Patrick Trolliet'	EU SWIM project Evaluator
<b>Development Organizations Representatives</b>		
	Guillaume Pierrehumbert	International Committee of the Red Cross, Water and Habitat Coordinator
	Benjamin Noury	Maggie White suggested him from SIE-ISW!



	Julie Trottier	Water Expert
	Johannes Stork	GIZ
	David Brooks	Water Expert
	Andrea Iff	Business and Peace Swisspeace
	Mohamed Nejjib Benessaiah	Director , MEDWET
	Saleh Dadjou	Transboundary Conservation SG WCPA IUCN
	Glada Lahn	Chatham House, Fellow sustainable resource use in the Middle East
	Hana Iverson	Media Artist
	Miriam Ozanne	ARUP
<b>Regional Embassy Representatives</b>		
	Ingrid Kollist	US Embassy in Tel Aviv
	Yara Abulaban (on behalf of Elizabeth Hattingh)	Environment Specialist
	Helena Gröndahl Rietz	Swedish Embassy in Amman - Ambassador
	Javier Parrondo	Deputy Consulate General of Spain
	Jill Kruse	US Consulat, Jerusalem
	Miral Al Far	Danish Representative Office in Ramallah, Programme Manager in charge of the Economic Development portfolio
<b>Academics</b>		
	Frank Fisher	MIT
	Pieter van der Zaag	UNESCO IHE
	Etra Occhialini	University of Ferrara
<b>Others</b>		
	Ian Taylor	Elf Energy UAE



## 6. Additional Information

For further information on the Regional NGO Master Plan [SWIM-JR] Project please visit [www.foeme.org](http://www.foeme.org)

Further information including pictures and videos related to the International Conference on Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley held November 10-12, 2014 Publications please visit: [http://foeme.org/www/?module=events&record\\_id=131](http://foeme.org/www/?module=events&record_id=131)

Related documents and publications can be found here:

[http://foeme.org/www/?module=publications&project\\_id=23](http://foeme.org/www/?module=publications&project_id=23)

Or contact our project teams directly at:

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