

Localisation for Resilient Health Systems

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Who we are

- Environmental Peacebuilding organization
- **Primary objective** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environment, **improve our people health**, and to promote lasting peace in our region
- Change the Water model: Water and Sanitation Crisis
- Working for 27 years in Jordan/Palestine/Israel



Water Cannot Wait

Inequality in Current Israeli – Palestinian Water-Sharing

- 1995: Oslo II, an interim agreement (for 5 years): recognised the Palestinians' right to water and promised them greater access to the region's water resources.
- Now in its 27th year

Main outcomes

- Unequal, outdated allocations
- Pollution due to area divisions (A,B,C etc.)
- Severe shortage of water



Transboundary Streams Polluted with Sewage



Ariel & Salfit



Kishon River

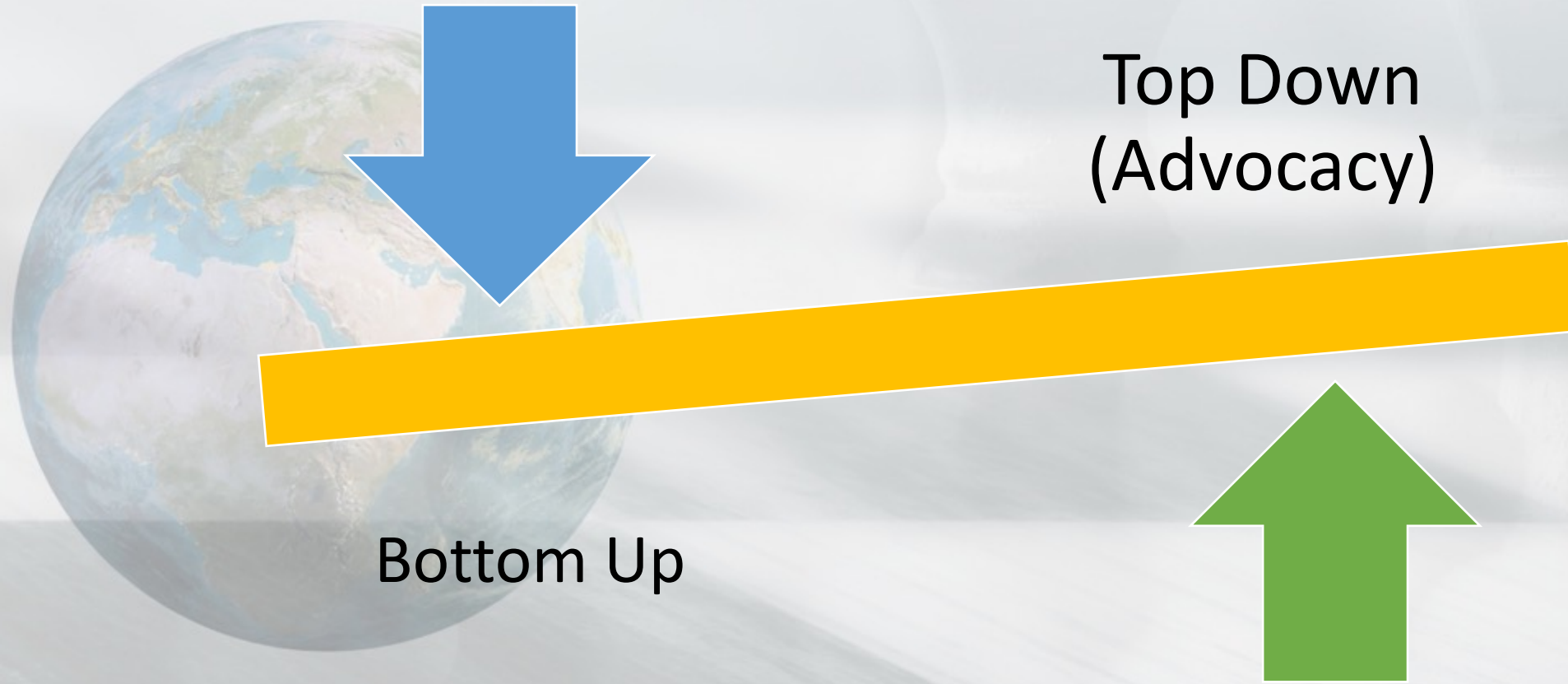


Wadi Al Samen Stream - Hebron



Alexander / Zomer Stream

EcoPeace ME Approach





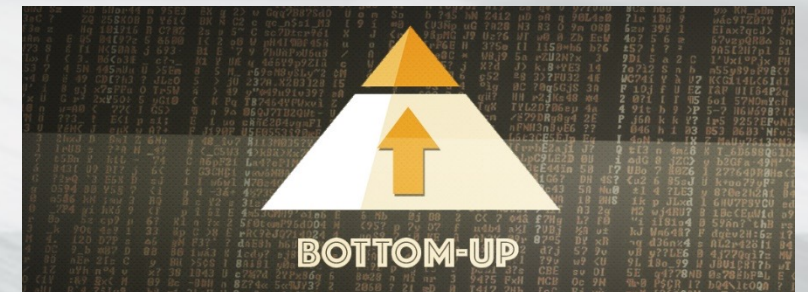
Top Down Approach

- Top-down advocacy approach of financial and political resources to create the synergies for cooperation, to contribute to planning and building the institutional structures and regional governance needed to mitigating and adapting climate change and the water, energy & food security risks.
- Advocate for the need to reach new water arrangements that would better meet the three countries needs.

EcoPeace Bottom Up Approach

EcoPeace has a long history of working in the Middle East on mobilize residents, through a bottom up approach

- ✓ Improving water, sanitation, and energy supply
- ✓ Raise awareness about the importance of wastewater treatment & re-use and renewable energy
- ✓ Youth education and community involvement.



Gaza Case:

The Gaza Strip (a part of the Palestinian Territories) is an approximately 40km by 10km strip along the eastern Mediterranean Sea located between Israel and Egypt with an estimated population of 2 million with almost zero humanitarian services .

Due to the blocked, siege and wars on Gaza electricity, water and sanitation crisis in the Gaza Strip have developed and not only threatens the health of the Palestinian population of Gaza, but could lead to even further regional instability.

Gaza water and sanitation challenges

- Shortage of potable water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene
- Lack of wastewater sanitation makes 108,000 cubic meters of untreated sewage flow daily from Gaza into the Mediterranean Sea, creating extreme public health in Gaza and neighbors (Israel and Egypt).
- **Groundwater Contamination** (landfill, waste disposal decay, fertilizers, sewage) in the Gaza Strip is one of the most serious environmental problems.
- Water-related health diseases.



Gaza water and sanitation challenges

Relationship between Gaza's water and sanitation problems and its energy challenges.

- ✓ Waste Water Treatment Plants
- ✓ Desalination Plants



Intermittent Water Supply



Gaza Water and Sanitation Regional Crisis

The EcoPeace methodology was employed through bottom up and top down interventions based on self interest and mutual gain.

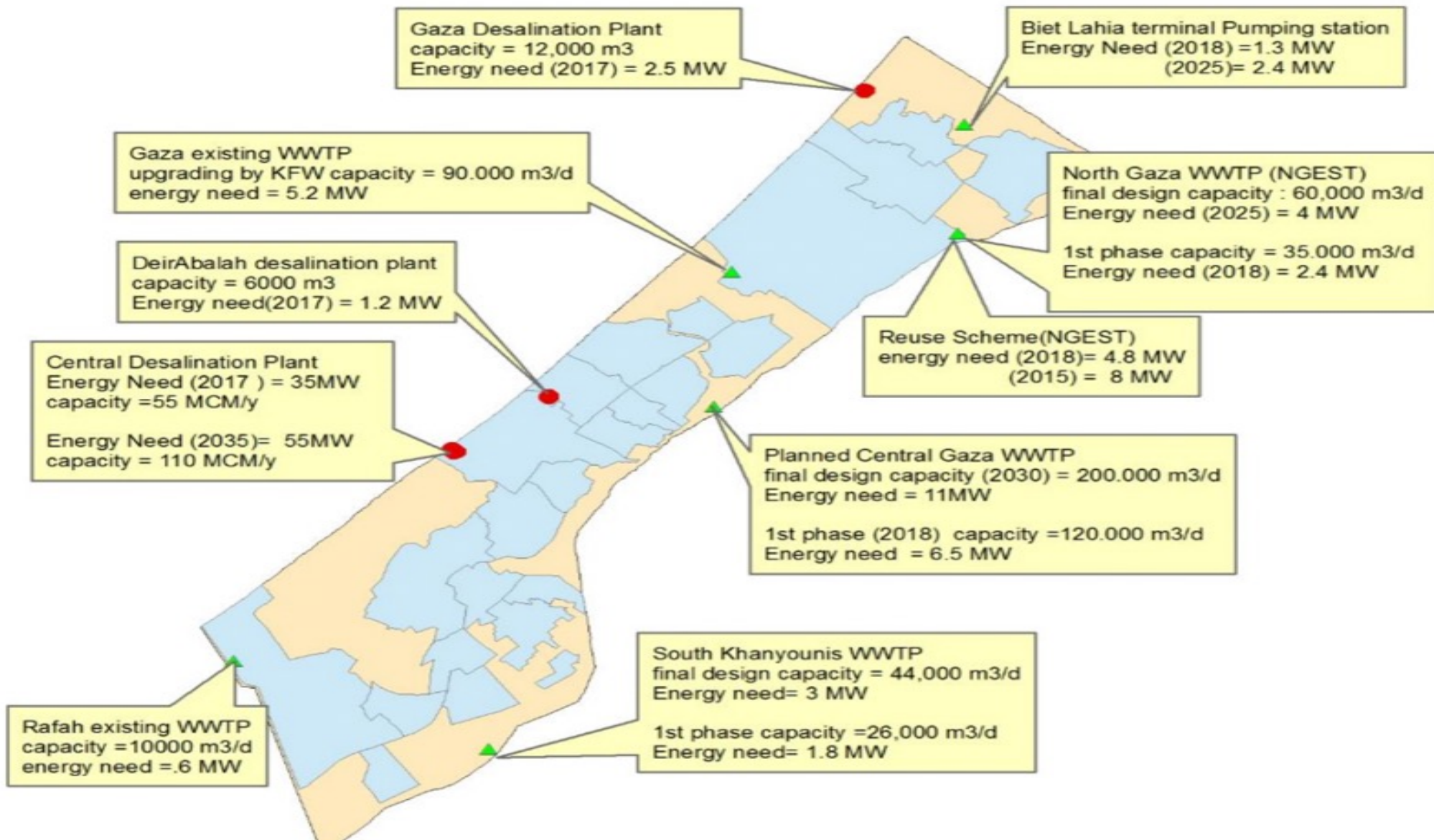


EcoPeace Intervention

EcoPeace was approached by the World Bank to help overcome challenges to complete North Gaza WWTP /NGEST, the first modern sewage treatment plant in Gaza— particularly, impediments to the import of cement into Gaza due to Israel’s ongoing military blockade and the potential dual-use of cement by Hamas to build tunnels into Israel.



Figure 5. Needs of major water and wastewater facilities until 2030



EcoPeace Intervention

- EcoPeace's proposed strategy was to look at Israel's self-interest in the construction of a WWTP in Gaza. EcoPeace used a simultaneous top-down and bottom-up approach, leveraging technical and scientific expertise, high-level political access and grassroots community networks to unlock Israeli agreement to cement imports for the project.
- EcoPeace revealed that raw sewage released from Gaza into the shared Mediterranean Sea was responsible for the closure of Israel's desalination plant at Ashkelon, threatening 15% of Israel's domestic water supply.



Untreated Waste Water Flow to the Sea



EcoPeace Intervention

- This information and through EcoPeace reach to the Israeli media, while organizing tours and town-hall meetings highlighting the health and water security risks to Israelis from failure to complete the Gaza WWTP project.
- Bottom-up efforts ultimately led to a letter to the Israeli PM by all Israeli mayors on the Israeli side of the Gaza urging completion of NGSET, while top-down advocacy led to a statement made by the Israeli PM recognizing that the sanitation crisis in Gaza was a health and water security risk to Israel. In addition to the competition of NGEST, additional modern WWTP have since been completed within a 4-year timetable.

EcoPeace Intervention

Water Authority officials and later Ministers including the Israeli Prime Minister reflected a change in mindset: understanding the interdependencies involved and changed policies that led to the building of modern sanitation infrastructure and increased water supply in new found cooperation.





<https://ecopeaceme.org/>

Blue **Green** Deal

Green Blue Deal for the Middle East – Urges Action in 4 Key Areas:

- Jordanian/Palestinian/Israeli cooperation to improve adaptive capacities on water and renewable energy security by creating a water and renewable energy exchange
- Advancing Israeli/Palestinian natural water reallocations and water management
- Rehabilitating the Jordan River and its once rich biodiversity through investments in region-wide climate-smart initiatives and creation of green jobs
- Promoting public awareness and education programs—particularly directed toward youth—on resilience diplomacy in the water and climate fields as a means of conflict resolution and peace building.





¡Thank You!



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Green Blue Deal for
the Middle East