Advancing the SDGs in Midst of Conflict Through Environmental PeaceBuilding

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EcoPeace Middle East
(formerly Friends of the Earth Middle East)

- Environmental peacebuilding organization with long term practical experience in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel
- Our primary objective is to develop cooperative efforts to protect our environment and to promote lasting peace
- EcoPeace’s focus is on transboundary water resources: including rivers, aquifers and oceans
- Fair Share of transboundary natural resources
- Support sustainable regional integrated development
Consequences of Conflict

The Great Water Grab

The Back Door Dump
EcoPeace’s approach

- Top-down and bottom-up approaches to maximize results
- Identification of win-win solutions that speak directly to the self-interests of participants and communities
Working with Community and Municipal Leadership

- Good Water Neighbor (GWN) creates small groups of activist residents, committed to environmental issues.

- The combination of an outspoken adult leadership and a local group of youth water trustees usually leads to willingness from the part of the mayor and municipal leadership.

- Mayors, as politicians, tend to follow the loudest voices. They need to be empowered by their GWN constituency.

- Involvement of mayors increases the legitimacy of GWN in broader community and attracts the attention of national level politicians and media.
Jordan River

- Historic Average annual flow of over 1.3 billion cubic meters supporting a wide variety of habitats/rich biodiversity

Today:
- 92% of flow diverted
- Polluted
- Saline springs
- Sewage
- Closed Border Area
- Minefields, military checkpoints and fences
Research and Science Based Advocacy

Sustainable Development in the Jordan Valley

- Sustainable Urban, Energy and Infrastructure Development
- Effective Jordan Valley Governance
- Ecological Rehabilitation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Tourism and CH Development
- Sustainable Water Management and River Rehabilitation
- Pollution Control and Sanitation

Peace

Prosperity

Security
SDGs Advanced & Rehabilitation Initiated

- Pollution removed; Waste Water Treatment Plants built in Israel, Jordan, Palestine.
- Some Fresh Water – 9mcm released today back to the river
- Governments Adopt NGO Master Plans as theirs in Jordan
- Institutional Changes: Jordan and Israel create sub committee for Jordan River rehabilitation
EcoPeace’s Center of Environmental Peacebuilding

Working towards an Environmental Sustainable, Peaceful, Just and Prosperous Future

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