

EcoPeace Middle East: Citizens Diplomacy for Peace

Munqeth Mehyar, Nader Khateeb, Gidon Bromberg, Directors

EcoPeace Middle East

Woodrow Wilson Center

October 17, 2014



About EcoPeace Middle East

(formerly Friends of the Earth Middle East)

- **Environmental peacemaking** organization working in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel
- Our **primary objective** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our environment and to promote lasting peace in our region
- **EcoPeace's focus** is on transboundary water resources, including the Jordan River, Dead Sea, cross-border streams, and Mountain and Coastal Aquifers
- EcoPeace is **change oriented**; we seek to shift the status quo
- Fair Share of transboundary natural resources

How We Work

- Top-down: research, lobbying, advocacy
 - Dead Sea
 - Jordan River
 - Model Water Accord
- Bottom-up: community-led, grassroots efforts
 - Good Water Neighbors



Citizen Diplomacy: Good Water Neighbors (GWN)

- Started in 2001
- Partner communities sharing a common water source
- Partner with municipalities, schools, and community centers



Growth of GWN



2002:
11 communities



2010:
28 communities

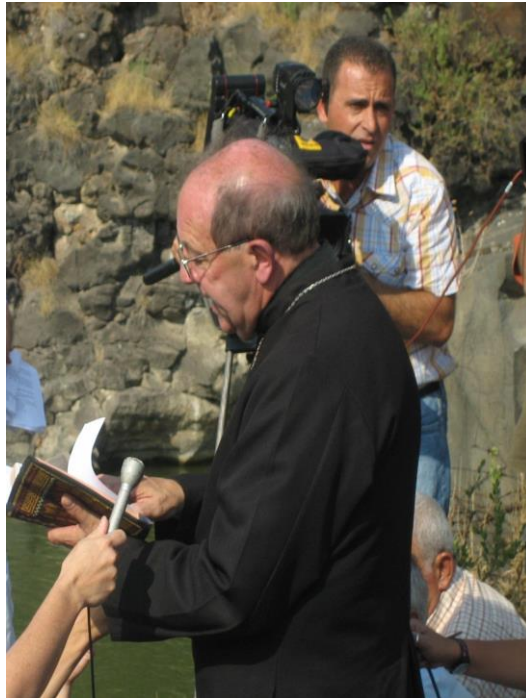
2014:
Watershed
Approach

Who we work with

Youth



Community members



Mayors and
Municipal officials



Youth Water Trustees

- WaterCare Curriculum
- Cross-border visits and workshops
- Ecological gardens



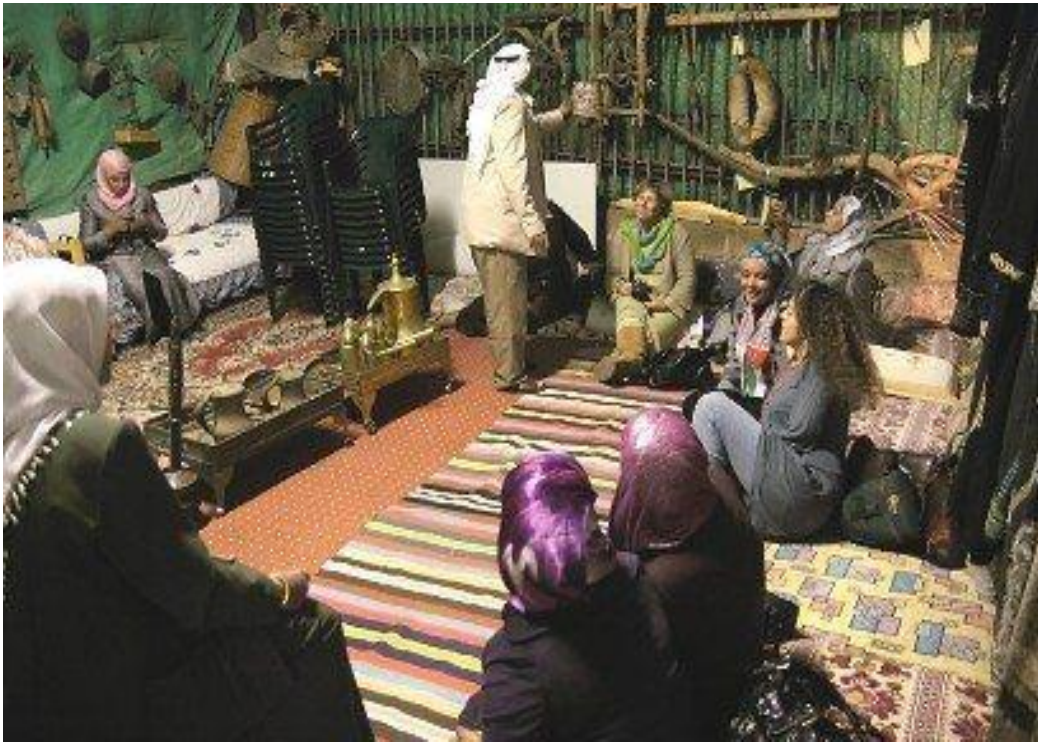
How we work:

Advancing Local Priority Projects

- Identifying priority initiatives
- Development project briefs for each priority initiative
- Building support for projects



Community Leadership



- Neighbor's Path Tours
- Meetings between residents
- Engagement with decision-makers
- Media tours and site visits

Municipal Leadership

- Cross-border visits and activities
- Signing MoUs for joint programs, events, and campaigns to benefit all communities



Some of Our Successes



Water released into
Jordan River



Model Farm



Sewage treatment
Baqa al-Gharbiya /
Baqa al-Sharkiya



Eco Education Centers

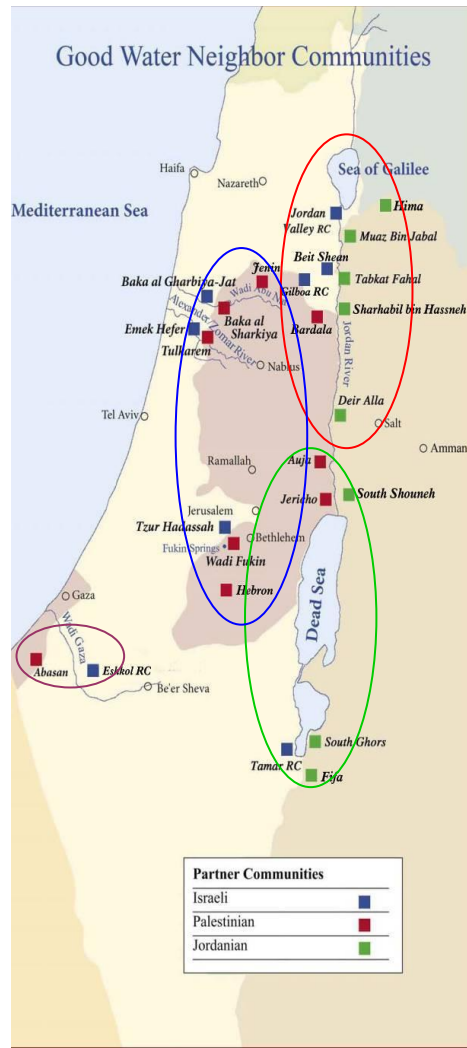
EcoPeace Middle East has helped leverage over \$450 million for water-related projects in GWN communities

Cooperation Beyond Water

- Protect Battir Terraces
- Work with Woman's Centers
- Partner with Bissinus – tour operators, tour guides, hotels and restaurants



Citizens' Diplomacy: Sister City Partnerships



Add now Mayors of NYC, Chicago and LA?



EcoPeace Middle East

Working towards a cooperative future



EcoPeace
Middle East

For more information, visit:
www.foeme.org