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Issue 97

ORSAM WATER BULLETIN

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New EU project to improve Turkey's flood preparedness

A two-year EU funded project, carried out with French and Romanian specialists, will work with Turkey's Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs to decrease flood-related deaths and material damage by harmonising Turkey's technical and institutional capacity with EU standards.

"This particular project is important for the accession negotiations as the EU Flood Directive will lay the necessary foundation in Turkey to prepare and avoid possible tragic results of flooding events in future," Gurdogar Sarigul, sector manager for environment, sustainable development and climate change in the EU delegation to Turkey, told *SETimes*.

Through workshops, seminars and field visits, the project will promote co-operation and sharing of practices among the parties. The first pilot region for the project will in the western basin of Black Sea area.

Sarigul said co-operation between the EU and Turkey started in 2006, when the EU provided nearly 9.6 million euros following floods in southeastern Anatolia. The EU has also supported co-operation between Turkey and Bulgaria to develop an early warning system on the Martisa/Meric River.

After earthquakes, floods are the second greatest natural disaster both in terms of human loss and economic costs. According to EU data, every year floods cause at least 80 million euros in damage in Turkey. Between 2002 and 2012, 484 floods occurred in Turkey resulting in the death of 229 people.

The Black Sea region, the Mediterranean, southeast Anatolia and Thrace are all prone to floods.

In July, a flash flood in the Black Sea province of Samsun killed nine and injured 21, inundating housing built by the government's Housing Development Administration of Turkey. Locals complained that they received no warning from the government and questioned the safety and flood preparedness of government housing.

Ismail Ozkanli, a resident from the eastern Black Sea city of Rize, witnessed several large floods in the region that caused damage to his pharmacy.



"I know very well the main reasons of those floods: over-precipitation, unplanned urbanisation diverting the flow of rivers, and the increased amount of fertilizer thrown on the soil, which decreases its permeability," Ozkanli told *SETimes*.

To increase Turkey's disaster response capacity, the aim of the EU-funded project is to transfer the experiences and good practices of member countries, in this case France and Romania, to candidates like Turkey.

The co-operation between Romania and Turkey is of particular importance as both countries, bordering the Black Sea, are vulnerable to flooding.

Romania witnessed severe floods in 2005, 2010 and 2012, with more than 50 people losing their lives. Two years ago, when a deluge struck northern Romania, the damage caused equaled about 0.6 percent of the country's GDP.

Dumitru Stanilescu, a pensioner living in the northern town of Dorohoi, said the floods were a wakeup call for the authorities and locals.

"Local authorities thought this would never happen to us," he told *SETimes*. "While we, the citizens, learned such an important life lesson: it can happen to us and do not count on authorities solely. Many of us had never even thought of insuring our homes before the floods. Well, at least we started considering that after the floods swept away what little we had."

As of last month, Romanians are required to insure their homes against natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides.

The Romanian Ministry of Environment told *SETimes* that Romania joined the EU project in Turkey because it has experience accessing EU funds for flood management, which resulted the modernisation Romania's flood mitigation and prevention systems.

"The project [with Turkey], which started on August 1st, and will deploy over a period of 24 months, envisages enhancing juridical capacity and improving technical and institutional capacity, implementation of the flood directive in a pilot basin and preparation of a National Implementation



Plan for the Flood Directive. Romania, through its 10 experts, will be responsible for the second component of the project, but will take part in all the other activities," the Romanian Ministry of Environment said.

Turkey committed to harmonise its legislation with the EU since the opening of accession talks in October 2005, while the accession talks on the environment chapter started in December 2009.

According to Buket Bahar Divrak, conservation manager of the World Wildlife Fund's Ankara branch, one of the key components of accession talks has been centred on the EU's floods directive. The directive aims to reduce and manage the risks posed by floods on human health, cultural heritage, economic activity and the environment.

Divrak said that since Romania became an EU member in 2007, it has implemented the required changes according to the EU's flood directive, identifying flood risks throughout the country.

"Beyond the conventional methods being used up to now to prevent floods, authorities are now obliged to initiate a much more comprehensive analysis by preparing flood risk maps specific to each basin and to identify tailor-made preventive measures," Divrak said, adding that during the harmonisation process, Turkey will also learn how to efficiently plan land use and protect vegetation cover

"New EU project to improve Turkey's flood preparedness", 09/10/2012, online at: http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2012/10/09/feature-04

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✤ Akre trategic Water Project started

The project is expected to supply water for 25 years and put an end to consumption of underground water

The KRG Ministry of Municipality and Tourism signed a contract with three Iranian companies to start Akre Strategic Water Project which is planned to solve the water problem in the area for 25 years.

The projectis to be completed in 2 years, and will provide Akre and some villages around with water from Upper Zap River.

Dlishad Shahab the Minister of Municipality and Tourism, along with the Republic of Iran consul in Irbil and other KRG officials, stated that at the former Iraqi regime era, people of the Kurdistan Region were only consuming groundwater; which decreased the levels of ground water.

Depending on river sources instead of ground water sources is now the strategy of the KRG. "Ground water should be saved for our coming generations." Shahab said in a press conference held in Irbil on October 1st, adding that in the first stage, the government will provide such water projects for the cities then districts and sub districts.

The KRG has allocated about IQD 90 billion to the project which will bring water from Upper Zap River to Akre and isexpected to solve water problems in the area for the coming 25 years. The projectis due to supply water to 120 -- 140 thousand people in the first stage. After the completion of the project, all the water wells, which are about 80 in Akre district, will be closed.

HuseinUzaimy, The Islamic Republic of Iran consul in Irbil stated that the company is one of the most famous companies in Iran and has constructed a large number of such projects in Tahran city. In response to one of the journalists, question regarding having left a project by an Iranian company half finished in Akre, the consul said that he hasn't been informed, and stated that if they've been informed they will investigate such problems.

The project and is due to be finished in 630 daysby three Iranian companies of Omrab, Evyol and



Hardam. After the completion of the project, it will supply 3000 cubic meters of water to Akre city and 17 villages around from the Upper Zap River. The project will be able to supply the area with water until 2035.

In his visit to Bardarash District, The KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani decided that no ground water should be used any more and instead, the KRG will provide other sources of water, as indication of bringing water from Upper Zap River through a strategic project expected to be announced soon in the district, putting an end to the consumption of ground water in the area.

"Akre trategic Water Project started", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.kurdishglobe.net/display-</u> article.html?id=3A83056270553F79591D09BB6CF86CC3

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* Latest cholera in iraqi kurdistan: polluted local lake remains problem

Cholera in Iraqi Kurdistan has caused four deaths and put thousands in hospital. It's the third outbreak in ten years and locals are asking why nothing is being done about pollution in a local lake that's thought to be causing the disease.

Although health officials in the semi-autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan say they're not going to announce an official public health emergency, there is no doubt that locals have felt like they've been having one for the past fortnight. In particular the people of Sulaymaniyah are concerned - their city is the one most affected by a new cholera outbreak.

Official figures from Iraqi Kurdistan's Ministry of Health indicate that there are more than 1,800 cases of patients with diarrhoea and vomiting being treated in Sulaymaniyah's hospitals. By Oct. 8, local hospitals themselves confirmed 202 definite cases of cholera out the potential 1,800 cases, with a suspected four deaths resulting.

The cholera outbreak, the second in five years in the region, seems to have started with patients in Sulaymaniyah presenting symptoms on Sept. 26. Other cases have since been reported in cities further away such as Kirkuk, where there are around 15 cases.

Cholera bacteria are spread through contaminated food or water and the disease usually spreads further when infected faeces get into drinking water. Once infected, patients die of dehydration due to sudden and copious vomiting and diarrhoea.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, Lake Dukan, about 60km west of Sulaymaniyah is suspected to be the cause of the spread of cholera. Lake Dukan is one of the biggest lakes in Iraq and its reservoirs provide drinking water for more than 1.5 million people in surrounding areas. Some water purification plants in Kirkuk also use Lake Dukan's water.

And as the outbreak began, an announcement by the chief of Sulaymaniyah's Health Department, Miran Mohammed, confirmed that cholera bacteria had been found in samples taken from the lake.



Additionally almost all of the sewage from surrounding areas ends up in Lake Dukan. Water department officials say that all the lake water that is pumped back to Sulaymaniyah's householders is treated and has chlorine added to sterilize it.

"But some people also use water from local wells alongside water from Lake Dukan," Amanj Jalal, a spokesperson for Sulaymaniyah's water department told NIQASH. "We cannot rule out the possibility that the wells are the source of the outbreak. We're ensuring that the water we provide is sterilized and we're also adding more chlorine to the water."

"We have also asked people not to consume raw vegetables at the moment because there's higher risk of getting infections there too," added health chief, Mohammed; raw vegetables and shellfish are also known to harbour cholera bacteria.

And while this week, Mohammed continued to say that the situation is under control, the figures don't really add up as dozens head to local hospitals with cholera symptoms daily.

This is not the first time that Iraqi Kurdistan has had to deal with a cholera outbreak. An initial outbreak occurred in 1998, the second in 2002 and the most recent in 2007. The latter was the worst with around 12,000 patients admitted to hospital, 4526 confirmed to have cholera and 19 deaths as a result.

Even back then health experts were warning that Iraqi Kurdistan's dirty water was to blame and that there would be further outbreaks if the problem wasn't solved somehow.

"Locals have drilled around 13,000 wells in and around the city of Sulaymaniyah," the region's Minister of Health, Rekawt Hama Rashid, said. "Some of these wells might be the source of the disease and they should be put under government control." Lake Dukan's waters also needed further scrutiny, he added.



Additionally the sewage systems were also to blame for the outbreak. "But reorganizing the sewage systems in Iraqi Kurdistan's cities requires an investment of around US\$2 billion and a lot of time," Rashid said at a special session of Iraqi Kurdistan's Parliament held 12 days after the cholera was first detected. The session was heavily criticised for coming so late after the outbreak started.

Other local officials also blamed farmers who they suspected of irrigating crops with untreated water in some areas around Sulaymaniyah.

"latest cholera in iraqi kurdistan: polluted local lake remains problem", 11/10/2012, online at: http://www.niqash.org/articles/?id=3139

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Securing water from border rivers

Iran jointly uses water of border rivers such as Aras, Hirmand, and Atrak with neighboring countries through inking memoranda of understanding, said caretaker of Energy Ministry's Water and Wastewater Department (ABFA).

Alireza Daemi told Mehr News Agency Atrak River is located between Iran and Turkmenistan, while Aras River is jointly used by Iran and Armenia and Azerbaijan. Atrak is 500 kilometers long and does not always reach Husseinqoli Bay in Mazandaran province, because it sometimes does not receive adequate intake from other rivers.

He named Hirmand, Hariroud, and Sistan as border rivers with Afghanistan.

Daemi also said that some border rivers have problems. "For example, Aras River has problems in terms of water quality."

In September, Energy Minister Majid Namjou said that a large number of projects are being implemented in the water sector nationwide.

"Once all the projects become operational, water industry will witness a significant development," he said quoted by IRNA.

The minister added that several giant water projects were implemented during the past Iranian year (ended March 19) which was unprecedented.

"Inauguration of new dams helped increase water reserves by 12.5 billion cubic meters,' Namjou said

"Securing water from border rivers", 10/10/2012, online at: http://www.zawya.com/story/Iran Securing water from border rivers-ZAWYA20121010045859/

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✤ 2 billion cubic meters of water transferred to Lake Urmia in a year

TEHRAN, Oct. 10 (MNA) – During the last Iranian calendar year (March 2011-March 2012) about 2 billion cubic meters of water were transferred to Lake Urmia, Environment Protection Organization Director Mohammad Javad Mohammadizadeh told reporters on Wednesday.

However, due to frequent droughts and a warmer climate in the current year, which was 2 degrees higher in comparison to previous years, there were more vaporization in the lake, Mohammadizadeh stated.

He added that currently only a third of the lake is filled with water and the rest is dry.

Mohammadizadeh also stated that the organization is making efforts to convince the Energy Ministry to allow more water flow from dams into the lake.

The Urmia Lake is a salt lake lying in the northwestern Iran and is home to various migratory birds including flamingos, pelicans, spoonbills, ibises, storks, avocets, stilts, and gulls. The lake is located between the provinces of East Azarbaijan and West Azarbaijan. It is the third largest salt water lake on earth with a surface area of approximately 5,200 square kilometers.

Experts say construction of dams on rivers feeding the lake and also droughts have significantly decreased the annual amount of water Urmia Lake receives. They also say that the construction of a bridge across the lake has upset its ecological balance.

"2 billion cubic meters of water transferred to Lake Urmia in a year", 10/10/2012, online at: http://www.mehrnews.com/en/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1717166

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* Iran invites Indian companies to set up power projects

New Delhi: Iran on Wedneday invited India to set up power projects in the oil-rich nation as it is encouraging private investment in the sector. According to a statement by FICCI, Iranian Minister for Power, Majid Namjoo said India's private corporate sector should step up its presence in Iran by taking advantage of the structural reforms that have recently seen privatisation of 100 energy-related companies.

Addressing a meeting organised by the industry body, Namjoo said the sanctions against Iran were directed at the government-level and had nothing to do with the private sector. "We are paying greater attention to facilitating the private investments and that creates a big opportunity for Indian companies to step in," he said.

Iran's Ministry of Energy currently has cooperation agreements with 23 companies and it is trying to make its companies competitive in terms of prices and quality. "It is here that we are looking for cooperation with India," he added. The Iranian Minister was accompanied at the meeting by Ismail Mahsouli, Acting Minister for International Affairs, Mohammadreza Attarzadeh, Advisor to the Minister for Water Resources and Water Waste Management, Yousof Armoudli, Managing Director of Renewable Energy Organisation of Iran (SANA).

Ismail Mohseni Kabir, Deputy Head of Tavanir for Grid Planning and Development and Rezazadeh, Managing Director of Water Resources and Power Development Company and other senior officials from the government of Islamic Republic of Iran were also present at the meeting. "Iran is a potential destination for investors wanting to participate in power generation projects, especially renewable energy," RV Kanoria, President of FICCI, said.

"Iran invites Indian companies to set up power projects", 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://ibnlive.in.com/news/iran-invites-indian-companies-to-set-up-power-projects/299815-3.html</u>

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***** Iran, India to cooperate on construction of small power plants

The official news agency of Iran (IRNA) has issued following news: Deputy Minister of Energy for Water and Hydroelectric power stations Ali Reza Daemi said on Monday Iran and India will cooperate to construct small hydroelectric power plants.

He made the remarks in a joint meeting of visiting Indian trade and industry delegation with managers of Iranian water department in Tehran.

Daemi said India enjoys major experience in construction of hydroelectric power stations with international technology.

He said that Iran is well-known in dam constructing capabilities in the world, adding that Iranian Ministry of Energy is willing to develop cooperation with India to build small power plants.

The deputy minister said Iran is also keen on cooperation with India to establish large agro-industry complexes

"Iran, India to cooperate on construction of small power plants", 10/10/2012, online at: http://www.hydroworld.com/news/2012/10/10/iran-india-to-cooperate-on-construction-of-small-power-plants.html

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Syria, Iran And The Last Minute Policies

Newly leaked documents reveal that the Syrian intelligence department was working out a plan to destabilize Jordan. The Syrian plan comes at a time when Israel is trying to pass the blame on Jordan for non-resolution of the Palestinian problem and Iran is messing with Jordan's internal security. We all remember when Jordan was desperately in need to execute the Disi Water Conveyance Project in 2001. Sadly, Jordan suffers from water shortage, thanks to the water policies of Assads (the father and the son), that led to wastage and benefited only Israel. According to a senior Syrian official, water was a strategic issue for Assad in dealing with Jordan. At the end the Syrian coercive tactics forced Jordan to come to an agreement with Israel to get water during the summer.

Jordan

Even Col. Qaddafi interfered in 2001 when he visited Jordan. He stipulated certain protocols to be in line with his tents, women, and body guards. He asked for meeting women to lecture them about their issues and his Green Book. I met one of his confidantes who told me that it would be foolish to expect that Libya would support transferring water from Disi to Amman. Back then, Qaddafi asked the Jordanians to name the first well after the name the "Alfatih of September."

Jordanians did not reject his demand but then he insisted that his book becomes a text book in schools and universities. Jordan rejected this demand and accordingly Qaddafi packed his tents and left.

A few days later Iran stepped in and volunteered to help build the project to transfer water from Disi to Amman provided that the implementation of the project would be by Iranian experts. Tehran talked about five years to complete the project and therefore it asked for accommodation for Iranian technicians and engineers. Iranians suggested that the accommodation be near the grave of one of the Prophet's companion — Ja'far Al Tayar — who was killed in the battle of Muta. Jordanians realized that the issue was not about water as such but about having religious influence. Iranians also suggested rebuilding the graves of all companions of the Prophet and here we are talking about more than 30 graves. A delegation from Karak — a southern city in Jordan — sought a meeting with the king. In the meeting they made the case that Iranians would make a negative impact on the people of



the city. According to them, Iranian rituals will be there and money would be used to bring people closer to Hezbollah. After this meeting, the king decided not to hand over the project to the Iranians.

In Jordan, some people are socially linked to Syrian and Lebanese cities. Therefore, many Jordanians study in Syria or are married to the Syrians and Lebanese. In this area, the ideology of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Baath Party is common. But those people confirm that the Syrian regime is not looking for social ties as much as it is looking for agents.

Sometime ago, people talked about a Syrian-Iranian scheme to destabilize Jordan. Just three months ago, Amman turned down requests from the deputy of Iranian intelligence chief to visit Amman. King Abdallah of Jordan did not attend the nonaligned summit held in Tehran. Instead, he sent his uncle Prince Hassan to replace him. Just before Prince Hassan's visit, some members of Hezbollah were arrested with some weapons. In addition to that, there have been some arms smuggling from Iraq into Jordan. Tehran has infiltrated Hamas with members of another organization named Palestinian Hezbollah. As Hamas has no presence in Jordan, some of its members became members of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood. Just a few days ago, Amman revealed that it had arrested three members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard with Turkish passports. Additionally, Amman arrested some Iraqis who were recruited by Tehran. Today, Iran is supporting — through traditional Iraqi trends — some Jordanian tribes to stir disorder in the country.

The Iranian scheme is exposed especially after Amman arrested an officer from the Syrian intelligence who was among the refugees. Amman also arrested some of the arms dealers, seized millions of dollars and managed to identify those who blew up fifteen times the gas pipeline that connects Egypt to Jordan.

The problem is that Tel Aviv has been promoting through its media the end of Jordan. But it does not say anything about the internal crisis within Israel, about the Salafi and Muslim Brotherhood or about its future in the region. Some analysts say that the Muslim Brothers might not stay in power more than one term in view of the existence of a Salafi current with strong structure and social presence.

Some of the events that are caused by intelligence agencies to gauge a policy sometimes backfire. An Arab youth is dynamic and aware and deals with everything properly. He knows that the Muslim



Brothers are power seekers and also that the Salafi currents are purer and more influential. He also knows that the West is attaching importance to the role of the Arab youth to carry out its plans on their behalf. The same thing happened in Yemen and the Yemeni president sent Iran a message not to interfere in the internal affairs of his country.

Tehran is yet to understand that the Syrian revolution came after almost 40 years of repression. The Syrian citizens feel humiliated with the interference of the Iranians in the Syrian affairs. In the Syrian Foreign Ministry, some officials complain of Iranian hegemony. Additionally, the people of Deraa complained about the presence of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard camp near their city. The question is how Iran can control the Arab tribes when it cannot control the Shiite Arab tribes in Iraq?

Today, Iran is carrying a sectarian product that should be employed to serve an Iranian-Western agreement. In the name of religion, revolution and resistance, Iran is trying to control the street at a time when it is being rejected by the people. Not surprisingly, both Iran and the West contribute to mobilizing the radicals while the Muslim Brothers still think that they are in the middle of making the caliphate state and restoring the place of Istanbul.

"Syria, Iran And The Last Minute Policies – OpEd", 13/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.eurasiareview.com/13102012-syria-iran-and-the-last-minute-policies-oped/</u>

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* Mediterranean Footprint Report

AFED participated in the launching of the Mediterranean Footprint Report at the UNESCO office in Venice. The report was produced by the Global Footprint Network (GFN), who are AFED's partners for the report on Ecological Footprint in Arab Countries. AFED Secretary General Najib Saab presented an overview on the state of natural resources in the Arab countries of the Mediterranean basin.

Mathis Wackernagel, President of GFN, said that "Long ignored by decision-makers as irrelevant to economic planning and national prosperity, resource limitation is now a critical factor that determines a country's success in the 21st century." Economic activities depend on access to ecological services and natural resources. However, the Mediterranean region's access to essential ecological assets has never been as precarious as it is today. According to Global Footprint Network's analysis, the region now uses approximately two and a half times more natural resources and ecological services than what its ecosystems can provide. According to GFN, this ecological deficit is dangerous, as it will erode Mediterranean countries' economic security and their capacity to guarantee the well-being of their citizens.

The report revealed that, from 1961 to 2008, the Mediterranean's per capita Ecological Footprint increased by 52 percent, while per capita biocapacity in the region decreased 16 percent. The average Mediterranean resident now has an Ecological Footprint of 3.1 global hectares (gha), but only 1.3 gha per person are available in the region. In less than 50 years, the growing gap in supply and demand created a 230 percent increase in the region's ecological deficit. By 2008, only 40 percent of the region's Ecological Footprint was met by local ecological assets. The deficit has been met by depleting local stocks and overloading global carbon sinks, as well as importing resources such as food and energy from outside the region .

The report concluded that the widening gap between demand and supply makes the stability of the region highly dependent on the availability of ecological assets outside the Mediterranean region, as well as its ability to pay for accessing the resources and services they produce.

Many of the participants in Venice meetings will join AFED's conference next November in Beirut, to follow up on resource status in the Arab countries, in relation to that of the Mediterranean basin.

"Mediterranean Footprint Report", AFED, 12/10/2012, online at: http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6071

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Solution case Israeli court orders IMI head to testify in groundwater-pollution case

Although the groundwater and surface water pollution was discovered about 20 years ago, this will be the first time IMI executives will be forced to testify.

By Zafrir Rinat | Oct.10, 2012'

The head of Israel Military Industries has received a court order to testify about the worst groundwater pollution in Israel, which geological surveys have shown to be connected to IMI's operations in the Ramat Hasharon area.

Although the groundwater and surface water pollution was discovered about 20 years ago, this will be the first time IMI executives will be forced to testify. No date has been set for the court appearance of the current CEO, Avi Felder, or his predecessor, Shlomo Milo, who has also been ordered to testify at the Central District Court.

"After I examined the request and the responses of the parties, I reached the conclusion that the testimony of the people who did and do hold senior positions in IMI, or are and were associated with the matters at hand, could be important," said Judge Achikam Stoler in his ruling. Some of the polluting agents include explosives and rocket fuel, the geological surveys have shown.

Responding to a complaint that the request for the executives' testimony was filed late, Stoler said there was no choice but to accede to the request for their testimony, despite the timing of that request.

The testimony will be part of a lawsuit by the Ramat Hasharon municipality seeking NIS 90 million from IMI and the state to compensate for expenses the city incurred in building pipelines from the national water carrier rather than continuing to use local wells that were found to be polluted.

That sum is separate from the NIS 11 million the government agreed last week to allocate to review various pollution-treatment technologies. The government has also committed to paying NIS 600 million to treat the pollution, but the treasury has yet to decide which ministries will have to foot the bill, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.



The lawsuit was filed two years ago by Ramat Gan lawyer Gidi Frishtik, who argues that the testimony of Felder and Milo is necessary because, between the two of them, they are closely acquainted with IMI's activities since 1995.

The state and IMI's lawyers opposed having Felder and Milo testify in court, arguing that their testimony would not provide relevant information, which would instead be provided by the experts who dealt with environmental issues.

"Israeli court orders IMI head to testify in groundwater-pollution case", Haaretz, 12/10/2012, online at: <u>http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6065</u>

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WATER RESEARCH PROGRAMME -Weekly Bulletin-

* New Galilee desalination plant meets opposition

Residents of Matte Asher Regional Council in western Galilee mount protest in attempt to prevent building of new desalination facility on agricultural land

Ynetnews Published: 10.08.12

Residents of the western Galilee are trying to prevent the construction of a new desalination plant on the beach in Shavei Zion, Ynet has learned.

The plant is supposed to be built on appropriated agricultural land, between Kibbuz Lohamei HaGetaot and Shavei Zion, as part of a new industrial zone planned for the area, which will stretch across some 50 acres.

The area's residents have garnered the support of the Matte Asher Regional Council – under whose jurisdiction the new industrial zone will fall – for the fight, as well as the support of the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel, the Zalul Environmental Association, Green Trend Israel and the Forum for the Preservation of Israel's Beaches.

"This new industrial zone, that is set to appear virtually out of thin air, will be a polluting, fuming and noisy industrial monster, located just 350 yards from residential neighborhoods and bordering an area earmarked by the State for maritime preservation," the Shavei Zion preservation campaign said in a statement posted on its website.

The campaign said that the residents are "willing to mount an unwavering fight" and that they will not relent in their protest until the project is cancelled.

"We will never break the law, but we will do everything to prove to the State and the zoning authorities that we are determined to stop this environmental catastrophe," the website states.

"Other desalination projects were formed in existing industrial zones, and only the one in our area will take over an agricultural field, across from residential buildings."



The campaign added that the recommendation to build the desalination plant in its current location "Is a threat to the quality of life, nature and the environment in the area."

The residents' protest so far included several protest rallies, but this weekend they will hold a swimming event, meant to raise awareness to the issue. The swim will be held on Saturday, October 13, at 8 am.

"New Galilee desalination plant meets opposition", YNET, 12/10/2012, online at: <u>http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6055</u>

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* Agricultural water quotas to increase

Water Authority to increase water quotas allotted to agriculture by 25 million cubic meters; similar quantity allocated for river restoration projects

Chen Pundak, Calcalist Published: 10.11.12

The Water Authority has granted a petition by the Israel's Farmers Federation for increased water quotas in 2013, approving an additional 25 million cubic meters for agriculture.

Following the approval, agricultural water quotas will increase from 455M/m³ to 480M/m³. Success Israeli irrigation expert wins World Food Prize / Associated Press Scientist Daniel Hillel developed irrigation system which revolutionized agricultural practices in more than 30 countries Full story

The Water Authority also appropriated 25 million cubic meters for the restoration of dried riverbeds.

The Water Authority said that the appropriations were made possible due to a significant increase in the quantities of desalinated water; as well as increased water efficiency and consumption by the public.

The authority further noted favorable quantities of graywater production, which is used exclusively in agriculture.

Israel currently has three water desalination facilities, with a fourth set to become operational in 2013. The Water Authority predicts it will be able to double its graywater production capacity.

But these improvements do not necessarily spell a decrease in water prices for the end-consumer in the private sector.



The Water Authority believes it will have no choice but to raise water rates again, this time by up to 5%, although the decision is not final. Water rates were increased by 1.7% in July.

"Agricultural water quotas to increase", YNET,12/10/2012, online at: http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6053

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* Kinneret at highest October levels in six years

This year's early rains encourage water officials; water level stands at 212.345 meters below sea level.

As rain begins to dampen the streets of central and northern Israel this fall, experts find the water level of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee) to be encouraging – but with no correlation to the recent bouts of early seasonal rainfall.

On Tuesday morning, the Kinneret water level stood at 212.345 meters below sea level, the lowest that it has been at this time of year since 2006, when it stood at 211.990 meters below sea level on October 10 of that year, according to Water Authority data. The water level is significantly above the feared "black line" – the historical minimum of the lake, 214.87 meters below sea level – and it is also above the bottom red line, which stands at 213 meters below sea level.

On approximately October 9 from 2011 through 2006, respectively, the Kinneret water levels stood at 213.455, 213.745, 214.270, 214.1 and 212.41 meters below sea level, according to Water Authority data.

"This situation occurs due to three reasons – the first one is that we had an average winter, after seven drought years," Water Authority spokesman Uri Schor told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday evening. "The second is the Water Authority policy – that we pump much less from Lake Kinneret than in other years." In 2011, the Water Authority pumped 190 million cubic meters of water from the Kinneret; in the prior decade, an average of 300 million cubic meters of water were pumped annually, according to Schor.

The third reason is the dramatic increase of desalinated and recycled water use throughout the country, he explained. "Those three reasons made it possible for us to leave more natural water in the resources, and at Lake Kinneret we are about one meter higher than last year," Schor said.

While this news is encouraging, there are still many steps to be taken to further improve the Kinneret's situation, says Schor.



"We are still only about 65 centimeters above the red bottom, and that's not the best situation," he said. "The ideal situation would have been if at this time of the year we would be one meter higher. So we have still a lot to reach for."

On Monday, Tel Aviv received about 6 millimeters of rain, Haifa about 10 millimeters and northeastern areas about 7 millimeters, according to data from the Israel Meteorological Service.

This year's early bouts of rain have naturally encouraged the country's water managers, even if none of the precipitation thus far amounted to anything significant, Schor added.

"We hope it's a sign for a very good year," he said."If we have an average year plus continued used of desalination and recycled sewage, we will be able to recover more of the natural sources. But we must also take into consideration that all of us need to continue using the water wisely, without wasting it."

"Kinneret at highest October levels in six years", Jerusalem Post, 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6040</u>

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> Najjar calls for sustainable solutions to address groundwater depletion

AMMAN — Ten of the Kingdom's 12 aquifers are overexploited, which is projected to further limit water supply, deteriorate groundwater quality and harm the country's fragile ecosystems, a senior government official said on Monday.

Decreasing water amounts due to changing climate patterns, coupled with a growing population and an expanding economy are causing an imbalance between the water demand and supply formula in Jordan, Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Najjar said at the opening of a regional workshop on groundwater governance.

"Our demand for water outstrips supply by 200 per cent... In fact, the demand for water is expected to double by 2030... 53 per cent of our water supply depends on groundwater resources," Najjar added.

Highlighting the need to come up with sustainable solutions to address groundwater depletion, he noted that groundwater abstraction is more difficult to control than surface water resources because it can be extracted from private properties.

"Furthermore, it is not always apparent when an aquifer is overexploited because the decreasing water table is in many cases not immediately discernible," Najjar said, noting that this makes it difficult to link groundwater depletion to deterioration in ecosystems.

UNESCO's Fourth World Water Development Report, released earlier this year, projected that Jordan's population may exceed 7.8 million by 2022, raising water demand to 1,673 million cubic metres (mcm), and pushing the annual water deficit from the current 457mcm to 659mcm within a decade.

During the three-day workshop, experts and policy makers from 15 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region will discuss how institutions can be better equipped to deal with risks and uncertainties caused by climate change, population growth, urban-rural tensions and groundwater pollution.



Organised by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the event seeks to build awareness on the need to institutionalise sound management of groundwater resources in order to prevent and reverse the global water crisis, according to organisers.

UNESCO Representative in Jordan Anna Paolini noted that the Near East region is suffering from scarce water resources, which are facing further restraints due to increasing demand, growing population, social and economic changes and decreasing rainfall.

"In such a scenario, formulating good water governance strategies is key for future sustainable development," Paolini said.

The regional workshop on groundwater governance is part of the "Groundwater Governance: a Global Framework for Country Action" project.

The final outcome of the project will be a global "Framework of Action," which consists of a set of effective governance tools that will foster the evaluation of groundwater as key natural resource, according to UNESCO.

"Najjar calls for sustainable solutions to address groundwater depletion", Jordan Times,11/10/2012, online at: http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6037

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Protecting Ground Water

The "Protecting Groundwater" project aims to promote sustainable management of water resources and alleviate pollution of groundwater in Mediterranean Basins.

In November 2011 a new project for protecting groundwater in the Mediterranean Basin was established. FoEME is teaming up with the province of Malaga, Spain in order to promote sustainable groundwater resources in the Mediterranean Basin. The project is funded by the European Commission's ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument).

Communities in the Jordan Valley, Palestinian Authority and in some communities in Israel lack the necessary sewage treatment facilities and suffer from pollution due to cesspits. Malaga in southern Spain struggles with huge discharges of waste water from both industry (e. g. animal farming) and agricultural sewage into the ground water aquifer.

Click on the links for more specific project programming in Israel, in Jordan, in the P.A., and in Spain.

For many years, FoEME has been developing experience and best practices related to ground water issues. The lack of awareness and the capacity to deal with the sources of pollution to groundwater are the main challenges of this project.

To address this need, the project partners will set up a collaborative training program for municipal staff from selected Mediterranean Basin municipalities.

By (means):

- Improving technical and administrative skills in selected local and regional municipalities
- Promoting joint awareness campaigns on common challenges regarding the pollution of groundwater across the Mediterranean Basin

Measures (program):

• Monitoring and Mapping Hazards, from Data collection to wised Information (Evaluation of and Risks to GW)

• Using Hazards maps and Risk Models as Instrument to Support Decisions Makers -



• Prevention and reduction of risk factors for environment, and enhancement of natural common heritage

Other objectives:

• Building a broad and collaborative network of Mediterranean Basin municipal staff who can share knowledge and experiences on the protection and management of natural groundwater sources

• Creating commitment within the selected Mediterranean Basin municipalities to improve environmental performance within their jurisdictions using best practice guidelines

Expected results:

- GIS maps of hazards and pollution
- Spatial hydrological model calculating the excepted risk to groundwater from different hazards in watershed
- Hazard Reduction and Prevention Guidelines
- Trained municipal workers
- Mediterranean network of skilled municipal workers
- Municipal hazards audit report and implementation report
- Increasing public awareness through dissemination of the project

Final beneficiaries:

• Local populations from 28 municipalities participating in the project (1,480,000 residents);

• All other residents in Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Spain who consume water from the same water sources

This project document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

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[&]quot;Protecting Ground Water – Friends of the Earth Middle East",11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6035</u>



The Water Regime in the West Bank

For more than 44 years, the Israeli Occupation has violated the Palestinian right to the equitable and reasonable utilisation of shared water resources. Following the 1967 War, Israel initiated its occupation of the Palestinian territory and swiftly imposed military orders to achieve ultimate control over land and water resources. These orders dissolved the legal system that existed before 1967, which consisted of Ottoman, British, Jordanian (in the West Bank), and Egyptian (in Gaza) laws. Today, the administration of water resources in the West Bank is under Israeli control, with almost 2,000 military orders and proclamations forming the foundation of the Occupation. These orders are further reinforced by the demolition of Palestinian infrastructure, the expansion of Israeli settlements, and the construction of the Segregation Wall.

Water resources in the oPt consist of groundwater resources, the West Bank's aquifer System, and the coastal aquifer, in addition to the Jordan River system. Israel controls almost all the Palestinian water resources and is exploiting around 89 percent of the available water, leaving only 11 percent to the Palestinians. Moreover, since 1967, Palestinians have been denied their right to access and utilise their share of the Jordan River system. Over the last decade, the water Palestinians are able to pump from the West Bank aquifer system has been declining. The total amount dropped from 138 million cubic metres in 1999 to 93 million cubic metres in 2009. Moreover, the Gaza coastal aquifer has been over-pumped at the rate of more than 155 million cubic metres annually, around 300 percent of the safe yield. The result is the groundwater table has been lowered below sea level and saline water has begun to enter the aquifer.

Water Access Violations

The 1995 Oslo Accords divided the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) into three areas: A, B, and C. Area A, which is mainly fragmented urban centres, was placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Area B was placed under PA civil administration but is under Israeli security control. Area C, which covers the Jordan Valley region and the settlements, remained under full Israeli control, especially with regard to issues of security, planning, and zoning. This division was only intended to last until a final status agreement was reached within five years. With the collapse of negotiations in 2000, approximately 36 percent of the West Bank had been categorized as Areas A



and B, with an additional 3 percent of land designated as nature reserves. This left 61 percent of the West Bank as Area C. Approximately 150,000 people live in this zone, with around 18,500 in small, sedentary villages, and 27,500 residing in Bedouin and other herding communities.

Water projects and infrastructure within Area C require an official permit from the Joint Water Committee (JWC) and the Israeli Civil Administration. This is a long, bureaucratic procedure, which often results in permission being denied. Projects executed without prior approval are demolished by the Israeli military. Recently, there has been a significant increase in these demolitions. Between 2009 and 2011, the Israeli military demolished 173 water, sanitation, and hygiene structures, including 57 rainwater collection cisterns, 40 community wells, irrigation equipment vital for food production, and at least 20 toilets and sinks. This has affected an estimated 14,937 people. Palestinian water structures that have been destroyed include storage and rainwater cisterns, wells, springs, water tanks, and agricultural ponds. Some of these structures were demolished under the pretext that they were constructed without obtaining the relevant Israeli permit, but many were demolished without reason. This aggressive policy is intentionally restricting, displacing, and eliminating Palestinians from specific areas of the West Bank. These are areas of particular strategic interest to Israel, usually because they are designated for the expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure.

Israeli settlements

Israel carries out a policy of territorial expansion that aims to appropriate land and water resources. This policy is reflected by the strategic location of Israeli settlements and settler activity in the West Bank. The Israeli government has invested heavily in settlement construction, expansion, and defence. Settlement construction and expansion in the West Bank is considered illegal under international law. Nevertheless, there are currently 179 settlements with more than 628,000 settlers (civilians) in the total area occupied by Israel, including 257,000 in occupied East Jerusalem. Israel land confiscation policy, which is based on security reasons and military needs, is intended to furnish the Israeli settlers with territory they can build and live on, and eventually transfer as many civilians as possible into the oPt. This is the process through which Palestinians have lost more than 50 percent of their land.

In addition, Israeli settlers have established 232 illegal Israeli settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank. Outposts are built without official permission, but receive support and assistance from



Israeli government ministries. In order to supply water to the settlements, Israel has developed wells in the West Bank (largely in the Jordan Valley), and a water network that is linked into the Israeli national network. The discrimination in water allocation is evident when comparing the daily water consumption between the Palestinians and the illegal Israeli settlers. This is a violation of Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that prohibits an occupying power from discriminating against residents of an occupied territory. The average rate of water used by the settlers is more than 350 litres per capita per day, while Palestinians in the rural communities in the West Bank survive on less than an average of 73 litres per capita per day. In some cases, the per capita water use does not exceed 20 litres per day.

In recent years, water springs in the vicinity of Israeli settlements throughout the West Bank have become the target of settler activities that eliminated or put at risk Palestinian access to these springs. A report published by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs identifies a total of 56 such springs, the large majority of which are located in Area C on land recorded by the Israeli Civil Administration as privately owned by Palestinians. Thirty of these springs were found to be under full settler control with no Palestinian access to the area. At 22 of these sites, almost three-quarters, Palestinians have been deterred from accessing the spring by acts of intimidation, threats, and violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers. As for the remaining eight springs under full settler control, half of them have been blocked by physical obstacles, including the fencing off the spring area, creating its de facto annexation to the settlement. The other half have been isolated from the rest of the West Bank by the Segregation Wall and have subsequently been designated as a closed military zone. The other 26 springs are at risk of a settler takeover. This category includes springs that have become the target of regular tourism activities from settlers and regular patrols from settlement security. The inability to access or use springs has significantly undermined the livelihoods and security of Palestinians living in affected communities. Many farmers have been forced to either cease cultivating their land or face a reduction in productivity. This also has increased the expenditure for herders and households who are forced to purchase water that is brought in through pipes and tankers. Many other springs and related water infrastructure that are utilised by Palestinians are also subject to malicious attacks and vandalism from settlers



Israeli settlements are also a major cause of environmental pollution in the West Bank as untreated and unregulated wastewater is allowed to flow from the settlements onto communities and agricultural land. This is the case in Salfit, where local residents have witnessed the contamination of their agricultural lands and water resources and have contracted serious diseases, including cases of cholera. The Barkan settlement, near the Qana Valley, has the largest industrial complex of the Israeli settlements, and waste from industrial activity is dumped onto sites surrounding Salfit. In November 2011, wastewater from the Revava settlement near Salfit completely destroyed 20 olive trees and flooded a further 100 trees in Palestinian land surrounding the settlement.

The Segregation wall

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak approved the first proposal to build a "security barrier" (the Segregation Wall) in November 2000. Two years later, construction started west of Jenin. The wall is still under construction, and when completed, its length will total approximately 774 kilometres. The Wall is composed of barrier trenches, exclusion zones, electric fences, and thick concrete slabs stretching 8 metres high. The route of the Segregation Wall deviates substantially from the from the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line), cutting deep into the occupied West Bank. The map highlights the path of the Wall in the occupied West Bank. In 2004, the International Court of Justice declared the construction of the Wall, and the associated Israeli regime in the oPt, as illegal under international law.

Construction of the Segregation Wall has created Seam Zones that lie between the Segregation Wall and the Green Line. The Seam Zones include 238 square kilometres of agricultural land and 28 groundwater wells, 19 from the governorate of Qalqilya and 17 from Bethlehem. The total yield of the isolated wells is 4 million cubic metres per year, which constitutes more than 30 percent of the Palestinian share in the western aquifer as stated within the interim agreement. The map attached to this report also highlights the Palestinian wells and springs that were segregated by the construction of the Wall. Jayyus village, for example, lost two-thirds of its land (9,200 dunums) and six groundwater wells following construction of the Wall. As a result, the quantity of water available to the village has been drastically reduced to 23 litres per capita per day. Prior to construction of the Wall, Jayyus was a leading agricultural area with some of the most productive land in the West Bank.



WATER RESEARCH PROGRAMME -Weekly Bulletin-

The appropriated groundwater wells cannot be replaced because Palestinians are restricted from drilling new wells in the West Bank. The implementation of the unilateral Israeli separation policy, especially the construction of the Segregation Wall, does not only damage Palestinian lands and water resources, but it also directly harms and destroys the social life and cultural heritage of the villages that have been separated from each other or from their agricultural lands.

In conclusion, the Israeli water regime in the West Bank is a system of apartheid that severely discriminates against Palestinians. Israel should end all administrative demolition of water and sanitation infrastructure. Furthermore the government of Israel should allow Palestinians to develop large-scale infrastructure in the West Bank to allow for sustainable long-term solutions to existing needs. Finally, the government of Israel should end policies and practices that are illegal under international law and harm the livelihoods of Palestinian civilians

"The Water Regime in the West Bank – This Week in Palestine", 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://mideastenvironment.apps01.yorku.ca/?p=6033</u>

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* Agricultural water quotas to increase

Water Authority to increase water quotas allotted to agriculture by 25 million cubic meters; similar quantity allocated for river restoration projects

The Water Authority has granted a petition by the Israel's Farmers Federation for increased <u>water</u> <u>quotas</u> in 2013, approving an additional 25 million cubic meters for agriculture.

Following the approval, agricultural water quotas will increase from 455M/m³ to 480M/m³.

The Water Authority also appropriated 25 million cubic meters for the restoration of dried<u>riverbeds</u>.

The Water Authority said that the appropriations were made possible due to a significant increase in the quantities of <u>desalinated water</u>; as well as increased water efficiency and consumption by the public.

The authority further noted favorable quantities of <u>graywater</u>production, which is used exclusively in agriculture.

Israel currently has three water desalination facilities, with a fourth set to become operational in 2013. The <u>Water Authority</u> predicts it will be able to double its graywater production capacity.

But these improvements do not necessarily spell a decrease in water prices for the end-consumer in the private sector.

The Water Authority believes it will have no choice but to raise water rates again, this time by up to 5%, although the decision is not final. Water rates were increased by 1.7% in July

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"Agricultural water quotas to increase", 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4289375,00.html</u>

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✤ Palestinian Authority: Israel violating Oslo deal on water prices

The Palestinians never thought they'd still buy water from Israel 17 years after the interim accord. But they do, and are still subjected to Jerusalem's arbitrary pricing regime. Two pipes for two peoples, part 2.

This past summer, Palestinian water authority officials were hoping that the water crisis would ease up in the Hebron area and the Gaza Strip, after an agreement was reached over the purchase of additional water from Israel.

However, their hopes were dashed when it emerged that Israel is simultaneously seeking to raise prices, not just for the additional amount, but for all the water it sells to the Palestinians, deviating from the price update formula determined in the Oslo Accord. According to the Palestinians, the Israelis are trying to exploit their weak situation and the growing public bitterness over the water shortage.

When the Interim Agreement was signed between Israel and the PLO in 1995, the Palestinians never imagined that they would still be buying water from Israel 17 years later. However, today, not only must they buy water - because some of their existing wells have dried up and their new drillings are not yielding as much water as anticipated - but a unilateral water price increase will further burden their budget, already in crisis.

The Palestinians feel this is a unilateral breach of the agreement's water clause, while Israel refuses to change other terms, such as drilling locations. Drilling wells in the western aquifer would significantly improve the Palestinian water economy and reduce dependence on Israel.

The Palestinians claim the price Israel is asking - 3.74 shekels per cubic meter of water in the West Bank, and 3.55 shekels per cubic meter in Gaza (not including VAT), instead of 2.64 shekels and 2.38 shekels respectively - is patently unreasonable.

Moreover, the price was not determined according to the same criteria used to set prices for water companies in Israel. If Israel does indeed charge the new rates unilaterally (for the approximately 57



million cubic meters it currently sells the Palestinians each year), this would amount to an additional annual expense of some 60 million shekels for the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority is also concerned that Israel will move ahead with the threat it voiced at hearings of the joint water commission, to seek retroactive payment of the difference between the high rate and that paid from 2004 to date - a sum of around half a billion shekels.

Water Authority spokesman Uri Schor told Haaretz in response that "according to the signed agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel, the price of water for the Palestinians must be for the full real cost" and that water prices have increased considerably for Israeli residents as well. He said the retroactive payment will be discussed by the two parties. "Even when the water prices for the Palestinian Authority are revised, they will still be lower than the water rates for Israeli communities and companies in Israel and in Judea and Samaria," Schor said. "The average price for Israeli companies is 3.80 shekels per cubic meter. For example, the water price for Ariel is 3.645 shekels, for Kiryat Arba, 3.80; Kafr Qassem, 3.98; for Jerusalem, 4.01, for Netanya, 3.86 shekels per cubic meter."

However, Palestinian Authority water officials say the base price stipulated in the Oslo Accord was set already then as the full real cost price. The new high price that Israel is threatening to impose on them includes a subsidy for the Israeli agricultural sector (around one shekel per cubic meter), which every Israeli pays. The Palestinians are wondering why they must subsidize Israeli farmers.

The Palestinians also note that there are two different rates for Israeli water companies: one is low, for basic consumption of up to 3.5 cubic meters per person per month, and the other is for amounts above that. On the other hand, Israel sets only one price for the Palestinians. For example, the basic rate for the company that supplies water to the settlements of Ariel and Karnei Shomron is 1.556 shekels per cubic meters and the higher rate is 5.734 shekels. The company in Givatayim buys water for rates of 1.408 shekels and 5.678 shekels per cubic meter. The Palestinian Water Authority is convinced that after a calculation of basic Palestinian water consumption they would not have to pay more than the basic rate.

This past July, the sides agreed to a temporary new rate - 3.44 shekels per cubic meter - for an additional five million cubic meters of water annually for Gaza - a supplement which was already



provided for in the Oslo Accord but was not actualized due to disagreements and neglect on the part of the Palestinian Authority. The supplement, small as it may be, is significant for Gaza, where around 90 percent of the water is not potable before being purified, a fact which increases the cost considerably.

According to Israeli officials, the price set for the water supplement is lower than the actual cost -3.74 shekels - but the Palestinians say it is too high, but because of the extreme humanitarian necessity, they were forced to agree to it. Israel argues that the real cost is the one charged for desalinated water (the Oslo Accord states that the supplement for Gaza will in the future come from desalinated water), but the Palestinians claim that the supplemental quantity is actually desalinated water diluted with cheaper water from the National Water Carrier, and should therefore cost far less. The parties agreed to conclude negotiations over the final price within a year.

Over the last two years, there have also been negotiations over an additional 5,000 cubic meters per day for the Hebron and Bethlehem area, solely for the summer months, due to the severe water shortage there. During the negotiations, Israel lowered the temporary rate from 3.80 shekels per cubic meter to 3.55 shekels. It took an additional meeting, between Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayad and the coordinator of government activities in the territories, Maj. Gen. Eitan Dangot, to lower it to NIS 3.50. Palestinian water officials say that on July 18, on the verge of the agreement's signing, they were stunned to find out that Israel had reneged on the preliminary agreement and asked that the new temporary rates for Gaza and Hebron be applied immediately to all the water it sells to the Palestinians.

Afterward, Israel conditioned this supply of water on Palestinian Authority consent to a new rate within a few months. The Palestinians refused and the head of the Palestinian Water Authority, Dr. Shaddad Attili, described this as "Israeli extortion that is attempting to impose a new situation while exploiting the severe water crisis."

Uri Schor vehemently rejects this argument. In his response to Haaretz, he said the Israeli Water Authority made a technical effort to enable the addition of "substantial quantities of water to Hebron and Bethlehem" requested by the Palestinians. He said "the joint water committee met on July 18 and the protocol was agreed to for the additional water supplement, its temporary price and the need to



determine the set price and the overall cost by the end of October 2012. The accusation (of extortion) is completely unfounded. The Palestinian Authority's refusal to update the water prices is resulting in residents of the State of Israel paying for and subsidizing the water transferred to the Palestinian Authority. Despite the agreement (which was with the consent of both sides), the Palestinians declined to sign the protocol and are conditioning their signature on a meeting to discuss and finalize 15 other complex matters which it was agreed in advance would be discussed separately."

The "substantial" additional quantity of water for Hebron and Bethlehem is around 600,000 cubic meters for a period of some four months. Palestinian Water Authority officials say this is a minuscule amount, especially when compared to the increased allocation of 25 million cubic meters of potable water for Israeli farmers for 2013. The basic rate Israeli farmers pay is also much lower: 1.823 shekels per cubic meter, 2.082 shekels, and 2.606 shekels (not including VAT).

The Palestinians confirm that they are conditioning talks over the new rate on resolution of issues they had raised in the joint water committee. One of them is deducting funds they say Israel owes them for exaggerated calculations of water quantities in Jerusalem, and Israeli use of treated water from Palestinian communities. Palestinian water officials say the experience of the past 17 years indicates that if they agree to discuss just one issue, at Israel's convenience, discussion of the other, vital interests of the Palestinians will drag on and be postponed indefinitely.

"Palestinian Authority: Israel violating Oslo deal on water prices", 11/10/2012, online at: http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/features/palestinian-authority-israel-violating-oslo-deal-on-waterprices.premium-1.469290

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* Israeli environmentalist Bromberg highlights water challenges

Gidon Bromberg, executive director of Friends of the Earth Middle East, presented the film "Last Call at the Oasis" and discussed his organization's efforts to address critical water shortages in the Kinneret, Jordan River and Dead Sea on Oct. 7. His talk was part of Case Western Reserve University's Siegal Lifelong Learning Program. Produced by the producers of "An Inconvenient Truth," "Last Call at the Oasis" highlights water challenges around the world.

FOEME, which grew out of Bromberg's masters in law thesis, is the only continuing organization to include Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians on its board of directors. With offices in Tel Aviv, Bethlehem and Amman, Jordan, a full-time staff of 80 and a \$5 million annual budget, it offers programs that stress the commonality of water, crossing political boundaries between Israel, Jordan and the West Bank/Gaza. Its water trustee program focuses on student participation, particularly in harvesting rainwater. One such program in Beit She'an partners with the Cleveland Jewish community under the Partnership 2000 effort.

Bromberg reported that the Kinneret and Dead Sea are at critically low levels and the Jordan River is little more than a small creek of sewage. But he also noted progress in the pending construction of a sewage treatment plant in Jordan with USAID assistance, of a plant in Jericho under way with help from Japan, and plans for another sewage treatment plant in Israel to which Israel has committed \$60 million. At the same time, he said cooperation among Syria, Lebanon and Israel on water issues is virtually nonexistent as the first two countries prohibit collaboration with the third. Bromberg also discussed plans for a joint Israeli-Jordanian "Peace Park" north of Beit She'an that would straddle both sides of the Jordan River. Two of its four gates would be accessible from Jordan, the other two from Israel.

"Israeli environmentalist Bromberg highlights water challenges", 10/10/2012, online at: http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local/article_d6569524-1313-11e2-a9ef-0019bb2963f4.html

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✤ WAZA app to act as water pollution detector

Popular smartphone navigation app to tell users if lakes, rivers they come across are polluted, polluter's identity. Venture aims to pressure authorities to increase enforcement

The popular WAZE smartphone navigation app recently introduced a new feature – a <u>water</u> <u>pollution</u> detector.

The feature aims to tell users if the lake or river they pass by or intend on swimming in while hiking or camping across <u>Israel</u>, suffers from pollution.

The feature is the brainchild of the app's architects and Zalul Environmental Association, which is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Israel's seas, rivers and lakes.

WAZE users passing by a polluted waterway see a pop-up window on their smartphomes' screens, telling them it is polluted and naming the parties known to be responsible for the pollution.

Zalul said that the campaign is meant to raise the public's awareness to the growing problem of river pollution in Israel.

The feature, launched just before the High Holidays, has so far sent out over 120,000 alerts to users, and had recorded 820,000 "points of exposure."

Zalul Spokesman Rami Sadeh said that according to the group's data, none of Israel's 14 rivers flowing into the Mediterranean Sea are unfit for swimming.

Zalul said that the campaign also aims to increase pressure on the Energy and Water Ministry and the other relevant authorities to stop giving industries permits to pump waste into Israel's rivers, as well as demand increased enforcement against polluters.



Zalul CEO Maya Jacobs added that river pollution "Is an ongoing failure by the government, local authorities and private companies, which see rivers as a sewage pipeline and not a unique public asset.

"The majority of Israel's rivers and lakes are polluted with swage that is drastically harming the environment and risk the public's health."

Zalul's job, she added, "Is to remind the public that it has the right to demand clean rivers and demand that the government see to it."

The Water Authority offered the following comment: "Israel is one of the world's leaders in the field of wastewater recycling and reclamation.

"This action is subject to very clear guidelines as to the quality of water that can be re-pumped into waterways." The treated wastewater reintroduced into Israel's rivers and lakes, the Water Authority said, "Meets these strict guidelines."

Without the reintroduction of treated water to rivers, the Water Authority said, "Many of Israel's rivers would simply dry up."

"WAZA app to act as water pollution detector", 10/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4289545,00.html</u>

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✤ Jordan Struggles to Absorb Refugees

ZAATARI, <u>JORDAN</u> — In Zaatari, one of the largest camps for Syrian refugees in the Middle East, hundreds of girls sat this week in makeshift school tents provided by <u>Unicef</u>. In one, third graders were learning basic addition and subtraction. In the next tent, fourth graders brushed up on their Arabic vocabulary.

"No one can predict how long this will last, but all the focus seems to be on the conflict itself, in <u>Syria</u>," Anthony Lake, executive director of Unicef, said on a visit to Jordan. "We need to look behind the headlines to the human reality, within Syria but also in neighboring countries."

Unicef is a key provider of schools and health care in the refugee camps. Mr. Lake, a former national security adviser in the Clinton administration, said providing aid, both for refugees and the communities hosting them, might prove crucial to maintaining stability in the region.

"If we don't help, with much greater attention to the burden being placed on governments here and the local communities, then you could see over time more difficulties in the surrounding countries, which will have an impact on the whole region," he said.

The burdens are huge and growing. The latest estimates by the United Nations put the number of Syrian refugees at more than 300,000 in Jordan, <u>Lebanon</u>, <u>Turkey</u> and <u>Iraq</u>, up threefold from estimates in July. More than half of the Syrian refugees in Jordan are under 18 years old.

Last week, Unicef opened 14 school tents in the Zaatari camp, which now houses about 30,000 refugees just 15 kilometers, or about 9 miles, south of Jordan's border with Syria. Thousands of more Syrians are scraping together an existence outside the camp.

"The underlying problem is they miss their homes in Syria and they don't know what the future holds for them," Mr. Lake said Monday in an interview.

During his visit this week Mr. Lake met with government officials and refugees and visited the makeshift schools inside the Zaatari camp.

The flood of refugees is straining the limited resources of both the Jordanian government and aid agencies. Jordan has witnessed waves of refugees in the past, but this one is particularly dire.



The savings of Syrians renting apartments outside the camps are drying up and tents will be increasingly inadequate to house those inside the camp as winter approaches.

"Many of them have left Syria with just the clothes on their back," Mr. Lake said, "but those clothes are suited for hot weather and we face an even bigger task of turning tents into prefabricated buildings and schools."

In a dusty haze last week, construction workers could be seen building more permanent structures. A few white prefabricated buildings were standing behind a large fence. Trucks filled with water — a scarce commodity in Jordan — were entering the camp.

Water is being trucked in from local wells, but aid organizations plan to begin drilling a new well and develop a water system that will serve the camp in order to prevent taking scarce water from the host community.

Jordanian teachers at the camp are struggling to cope with the large numbers of children and their needs.

"There are currently 60 children in my class," said Manal Isaa, a Jordanian teacher at the camp, "And it is extremely crowded, but there are plans to split them into two classes."

Girls from a third grade class darted in and out of the tent classroom, others raised their hands every time their teacher asked them a question. Some sat quietly, drawing homes they left behind in their new notebooks.

There are 1.2 million people who have left their homes but remain in Syria, according to U.N. figures. Hundreds of Syrians cross the country's borders with Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan daily, according to the United Nations.

Some 2,300 children already attend the Zaatari camp school. More than 17,000 Syrian children are registered at schools across Jordan.

"It is difficult to prepare for class," Ms. Issa said, "and we are trying to cope as best as we can in this environment in order to create a sense of normalcy for them."



Dozens of boys at the camp stood with their faces pushed against metal gates, waiting for their turn to attend classes. The school operates on double shifts — girls in the morning, boys in the afternoon.

This month, Unicef also began installing prefabricated classrooms in five public schools in the border town of Ramtha — an impoverished city across the border from Dara'a, birthplace of the rebellion. Ramtha has become a haven for Syrians.

The Jordanian education system is known for its rigor and some refugees may find themselves academically behind and will need to go to less demanding informal schools run by charities, experts say.

Some of the <u>Iraqi refugees</u> who fled the violence in their country and emigrated to Jordan could not cope with the public school system, and many turned to informal schools outside the system.

"There is only one school in Jordan that has 1,500 students, so the Zaatari camp school is suddenly the largest school in Jordan and we are not used to managing large schools," said Curt Rhodes, founder and director of Questscope, a private British aid organization that works in the Middle East. "I don't know if anyone has long-term thinking right now but we need to assess alternatives to kids who also drop out, because I have had my own experience with Iraqi children who dropped out from the formal system."

At the beginning of the conflict, many Syrians took shelter with relatives in Ramtha and other border towns, but with their own economic conditions growing increasingly tough, Jordanians are becoming wary of hosting yet another long-term wave of refugees.

In a poll conducted by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan two months ago, 65 percent of Jordanians opposed allowing any more Syrian refugees to enter the country, while more than eighty percent of those surveyed said Syrian refugees were straining the country's water and energy resources.

The majority of those in favor of closing the borders were from low-income families.

Although aid agencies say they are trying to steer funds to poor Jordanians, foreign assistance is only slowly trickling in, leaving many in need.



The U.N. aid agencies and others have issued a funding appeal for nearly \$500 million for the region. The United Nations projects that the number of refugees outside Syria could reach 700,000 by the end of the year.

"Jordan Struggles to Absorb Refugees", 10/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/11/world/middleeast/jordan-struggles-to-absorb-refugees-from-syria.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0</u>

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Egypt: Irrigation Minister - Nation Did Not and Would Not Export Nile Water to Any Country

In the first official comment on statements made by Ethiopia's ambassador in Khartoum who accused Egypt of planning to export Nile water to Israel, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Dr. Mohamed Baha'a-Eddien said that Egypt did not and will not export Nile water to Israel, Palestine or any other country simply because Egypt is suffering at the moment, from water shortage of around seven billion cubic meters annually.

The minister reaffirmed Egypt's full commitment to international laws and traditions that regulate matters relating to distribution of River water that prohibits channeling water to any country outside the Nile basin.

"Egypt: Irrigation Minister - Nation Did Not and Would Not Export Nile Water to Any Country", 08/10/2012, online at: <u>http://allafrica.com/stories/201210081313.html</u>

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***** Ethiopia wants end to Egypt, Sudan meddling over Nile dam

ADDIS ABABA: With the visiting committee tasked with examining Ethiopia's planned Renaissance Dam project and its effect on the Nile River, Ethiopian citizens are becoming increasingly agitated with Egypt and Sudan's continued refusal to allow the country to build what will be Africa's largest dam.

"I think this is just disgusting what they are doing," university student Jihad Mohamed told Bikyamasr.com. He said that if Khartoum and Cairo continue to block efforts by Ethiopia to develop their own natural resources, "we will gather and protest against their embassies."

He is one of many in Ethiopia who feel that the continued refusal to allow the dam project to take off by their northern Nile partners is creating unnecessary tension between the two countries.

"We are going to build the dam and they have to understand that. It is just as monumental as Egypt's Aswan dam, so why are they making a big deal over this when studies show it won't affect their share," he added.

His friends said they were prepared to take action if the government does not, arguing that this "meddling in Ethiopia's affairs must end."

The Nile Tripartite Committee this week is in the country to study the impacts the dam will have along the country's Nile River.

The International Panel of Experts (IPoE), consists of six experts from Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan, and another four international experts.

The experts committee, so far in its study has hinted that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will have no negative impact to down stream countries; Egypt and Sudan.

However, its final findings and recommendations on the impacts of the controversial project will be submitted to the governments of the three countries in less than 9 months.

Ethiopia launched the construction of the Renaissance Dam after Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya and later Burundi signed the Entebbe agreement In April 2010, to reverse colonial era treaties seeking equitable water utilization on Nile water.

While Cairo denied any intention of attacking the dam, the country's Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Mohamed Bahaa el-Din said on Saturday that his country was maintaining its concerns about the construction of the Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia.



He did say that officials at the Ethiopia foreign ministry "assured Egypt and Sudan that in case there was any impact on their water quota to the dam, other projects will be carried out to collect lost water and cover shortages."

It is the latest in the ongoing battle for the world's largest river's water, with Egypt and Sudan continuing to remain obstinate in amending any of the colonial treaties that guarantee their countries with a lion's share of water from the Nile.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month called on Ethiopia to slow its construction and planning for the dam, citing economic concerns for the country.

Whistleblower site Wikileaks released documents this month that revealed Egypt and Sudan had been planning to attack an Ethiopian dam project to "protect" their rights over Nile water based on colonial era treaties.

In documents revealed by Wikileaks, the Egyptian and Sudanese government appeared ready to develop a launching pad for an attack by Egypt against the dam.

Wikileaks has leaked files allegedly from the Texas-based global intelligence company, Stratfor, which quote an anonymous "high-level Egyptian source," which reported that the Egyptian ambassador to Lebanon said in 2010 that Egypt "would do anything to prevent the secession of South Sudan because of the political implications it will have for Egypt's access to the Nile."

Ethiopia's massive dam project has seen much concern from Cairo and Khartoum, who fear the establishment of Africa's largest dam would affect previous colonial deals on Nile water-sharing.

It is to be built some 40 kilometers upstream from Sudan on the Blue Nile.

But even before the official announcement of Ethiopia's prime minister's passing on August 20, Egyptian officials told Bikyamasr.com that they believed a post-Meles region could bring forth new negotiations and compromise over Nile water.

An Egyptian ministry of water and irrigation told Bikyamasr.com last month, two weeks before Zenawi was pronounced dead, that with the combination of Egypt's new President Morsi and the potential of seeing a new leader in Ethiopia, they hoped the tension over Nile River water could be resolved.

"While this can in no way be official policy at this point, I believe that there would be more maneuvering with a new leadership in Ethiopia because there would be the ability to communicate and not be seen as antagonistic," the official said, adding that they were not authorized to speak to the media.



"Let us be frank about the situation between Egypt and other Nile countries," the official continued. "We in Egypt have not been the best at compromise so I think overall, there is so much that can be done to help bring countries together, and Ethiopia has been a leader in its criticism of Egypt so starting there would be good."

With the Nile comes a new set of issues, and with Egypt holding onto a lion's share of water from the world's largest river, upstream countries such as Ethiopia have taken it on their own to begin building dams and other water related endeavors, much to the anger of Cairo.

However, officials hope that solutions can be had in the new post-revolution Egypt that could see the growing tension between countries along the Nile reduce.

"While Egypt never wants to mingle in another country's affairs, a new leadership in Ethiopia would go a long way to changing how things are run, just like it has in Egypt," the official added

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⁶⁶Ethiopia wants end to Egypt, Sudan meddling over Nile dam", 12/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.bikyamasr.com/79842/ethiopia-wants-end-to-egypt-sudan-meddling-over-nile-dam/</u>



Seast Africa: Tripartite Committee On Blue Nile Dam Meets in Ethiopia Capital

Addis Ababa — The Nile Tripartite Committee held a meeting on Monday in Addis Ababa to continue its study on the possible impacts of Africa's biggest dam which is under construction along the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia.

Blue Nile Map

The Nile Tripartite Committee, now named the 'International Panel of Experts (IPoE), is composed of six experts drawn from Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan, and another four international experts.

The experts committee, so far in its study has hinted that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will have no negative impact to down stream countries; Egypt and Sudan.

However, its final findings and recommendations on the impacts of the controversial project will be submitted to the governments of the three countries in less than nine months.

The committee officially launched its study on 8 May and shortly after paid a visit to the construction site located near Ethiopia's border with Sudan. The group held its first meeting on 6 June 2012 in Cairo.

Following protests from Sudan and Egypt over the construction of the Renaissance Dam the late Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, proposed the establishment of the Tripartite Committee, as a good will gesture to build trust among riparian countries.

The committee is expected to clear up doubts and come up with a unified stance of the three countries after assessing the positive and negative effects of the dam. Ethiopia intends to use the its dams to become a regional energy exporter.

Egypt whose economy is highly dependent on the Nile and, had repeatedly warned against building any dams along the Nile river, raising fears potential conflict between with Ethiopia.



According to US cable published by whistle-blowing organisation Wikileaks, Cairo had reached an agreement with Khartoum to build air base in Sudan's western Darfur region to strike the Ethiopia Dam facility, a claim Egypt denied.

Egypt and Sudan who under colonial era agreement benefit from the lions share of the Nile's water, argue that construction of the \$5 billion Ethiopian dam on the Blue Nile, will reduce the flow of the water and could have an impact on water levels.

Ethiopia which is a source to over 80% of the Nile's waters, however, insists that the construction of the massive dam won't have negative effects and says instead benefits down streamers by preventing flooding and an increase in silt.

Addis Ababa also says that the dam reduces evaporation because it is built in a less humid gorge.

Ethiopia launched the construction of the Renaissance Dam after Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya and later Burundi signed the Entebbe agreement In April 2010, to reverse precolonial era treaty seeking equitable water utilization on Nile water.

"East Africa: Tripartite Committee On Blue Nile Dam Meets in Ethiopia Capital", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://allafrica.com/stories/201210100054.html</u>

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✤ AfDB grant to help Zambia reformulate small dams approach

The African Development Bank (AfDB) approved an African Water Facility (AWF) grant of €950 000 for Zambia, which will be used to modernise and update the guidelines that govern and promote investments in multipurpose small dams.

The aim is to help in the selecting of potential dams using criteria based on community interest and environmental protection, and to build the confidence of potential development partners.

The Zambian government will develop, test and adopt updated guidelines, which will be used as a framework for programming and designing the financing, construction and operations of multipurpose small dams, the AfDB says in a statement.

The dams are expected to directly improve the lives and livelihoods of an estimated 90 000 people and about a million people living in rural areas will benefit indirectly from them, enhancing water security in more vulnerable parts of the country, the bank says.

This project should result in attracting the significant investments required to proceed, it adds.

"The urgent need to build additional small multipurpose dams in the country comes as increasing hydroclimatic variability, owing to climate change, has intensified water stress, particularly in the drought-prone areas of the eastern, central and southern provinces," the bank adds.

The small dams will help to sustain the lives and livelihoods of local communities by securing access to water for domestic use and agriculture, with the aim to increase the agricultural yields of smallholder farming, as well as fish and livestock farming, and of various water-dependent activities, such as miniature hydropower systems, brickmaking, tree growing and food processing, the bank explains.

The small dams will also be useful instruments for climate change adaptation, as they attenuate the impact of flooding, it notes.



"The AWF is fully committed to supporting projects such as this one, which propose water solutions poised to build resilience to climate change, increase food security and support socioeconomic development," says AWF coordinator Dr **Akissa Bahri**.

"Heavily hit by climate change, Zambia will greatly benefit from the improvement of its water storage capacity as a way to adapt to increasingly unpredictable rainfalls – one of the main sources of water for people living in the regions targeted by this project."

In addition to the delivery and testing of the guidelines, another important attribute of the project is its contribution to design planning and the mobilisation of funds to serve as a springboard to scale up water development programmes, such as the national Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and the Water Efficiency Implementation Plan.

The project will be implemented over 36 months from the date of grant signature.

"AfDB grant to help Zambia reformulate small dams approach", 12/10/2012, online at: http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/950-000-afdb-grant-for-multipurpose-zambian-dams-2012-10-12

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* Kenya: Water Is the Next Global Problem

The world is on the verge of the greatest crisis it has ever faced. Worsening water security will have irreversible consequences on ecosystems, livelihoods and the global economic system.

The ever-expanding water demand by the world's growing population and economy has made water scarcity a reality in many parts of the world. We are witnessing severe damage to livelihoods, human health, and ecosystems.

It is predicted by most accounts that by 2013, global water requirements would increase by 40% above current accessible and reliable supply.

In the next two decades, global demand for fresh water will vastly outstrip reliable supply in many parts of the world, especially in the developing world.

We are exerting heavy pressure on river basins and underground aquifers. Moreover, climate change is predicted to escalate scarcity in water-stressed regions.

Global warming is expected to accelerate melting of glaciers and snow cover upon which over a billion people depend on for their water.

The world is increasingly turning its attention to the issue of water scarcity. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) of the USA recently released a report entitled Global Water Security, which posits that water supply issues around the globe will lead to economic instability, civil and international wars, and even the use of water as a weapon in the next several decades.

Predictions by the US government and the United Nations show that by 2030 over 30% of the world population will be living in river basins that will have to cope with significant water stress, including many of the countries and regions that drive global economic growth.

For instance, water tables in many countries, including the USA, India and China have dropped significantly in the last 20 years, indicating that we have exceeded our renewable water budget and are unsustainably mining the resource.

Because of increasing water scarcity, India's "green revolution" is being reversed; crop yields in northern India have fallen in some areas by 15-20%. Desertification and drought are hurting farmers in northern China, and both India and China are now significant importers of grain.

Many regions already experiencing water stress will become more stressed. Water stress may contribute to the risk of instability and state failure, particularly when combined with poverty, environmental degradation and governance incapability. More importantly, regional tensions over shared river basins are likely to rise. The Nile Basin is a case in point.

Under British colonial rule, a 1929 treaty reserved 80% of the Nile's entire flow for Egypt and Sudan. 75 percent of Egypt's water is used for agriculture, most of it wasted by inefficient, old-fashioned irrigation practices.



Investors from China, India and the Persian Gulf region have expressed interest in underwriting enormous agriculture projects in Uganda and Ethiopia. Increased upstream water use in the Nile Basin is a potential tinderbox for regional conflict.

According to the Global Water Security report, transnational water basin agreements often do not exist or are inadequate. For example, the report concludes that mechanism to the govern the Brahmaputra basin and Amu Darya basin (shared by is "inadequate," and those governing the Tigris-Euphrates, the Nile, and the Mekong is "limited, while the governance of the Indus and the Jordan rivers is moderate.

While climate change will undoubtedly have an increasing impact on water availability and food production over the coming decades, there are many other factors including urbanization, changing diets that will increasingly impact water availability.

The growing water gap between supply and demand is likely to have major ramifications for our planet. Urgent national and global action is needed to avert what is evidently an imminent crisis. What we need is a Blue Revolution. Actions needed to underpin a Blue Revolution must include:

Access to high quality data and monitoring networks for water planning and management. Data is critical for water allocations and also a dynamic picture of the impact of climate change and additional water use on the water resources and the environment.

If you can't measure it you cant manage it; Reform of water governance by improving determination of water rights and allocation systems, including innovative systems for valuation, pricing and trade to water productivity;

Managing agricultural water demand by increasing in irrigation efficiency, growing drought-resistant crops and improving soil water holding capacity in rainfed systems;

Managing urban water demand by increasing recycling and reuse, renovating infrastructure to reduce urban water losses, which averages 40-60% in many cities and demand management strategies including technology and pricing;

Promoting participatory watershed management and market efficiency for environmental stewardship through coupling water resource management with payments for ecosystem services.

We must act to solve the complex and related problems of water security, food security and global sustainability. And time is of essence!

"Kenya: Water Is the Next Global Problem", 09/10/2012, online at: http://allafrica.com/stories/201210100155.html

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* India PM holds Cauvery river water-sharing talks

Indian PM Manmohan Singh has held talks with Karnataka state leaders on a dispute over watersharing with Tamil Nadu state.

The leaders told him about the "grim" situation in the state and "requested him to resolve the problem soon".

There have been days of protests in Karnataka over a court ruling ordering the release of water from the Cauvery river to Tamil Nadu state.

Both states say they need the water for millions of farmers in the region.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court which was to hear an appeal against the order on Monday has deferred the hearing.

Mr Singh had called the Karnataka leaders to Delhi for talks after the dispute led to tension in the state.

Train and bus services have been partially disrupted by protesting farmers.

Karnataka was recently forced to release water after the Supreme Court censured it for not complying with an order from the Cauvery river authority, headed by Mr Singh, to release 9,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water to Tamil Nadu each day until 15 October.

The Cauvery originates in Karnataka and flows into Tamil Nadu. The dispute over sharing its waters dates from the 19th Century during the British rule.

"India PM holds Cauvery river water-sharing talks", 08/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-</u> 19867523?utm_source=Circle+of+Blue+WaterNews+%26+Alerts&utm_campaign=e68cb1720b-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email

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Age-Old Fixes for India's Water

INDIA'S monsoon rains are retreating this week, a delayed end to a yearly wet season that has become <u>ever more unpredictable</u> as a result of global warming. Of all the challenges that face India, few are more pressing than how it manages water. In vast cities like New Delhi, where showers and flush toilets have become necessities for a rapidly expanding middle class, groundwater has been depleted. New Delhi once had many ponds and an open floodplain to absorb the monsoon and replenish aquifers; now the sprawling city has more concrete and asphalt than it has ponds and fields to absorb water.

India's capital has come to rely for half its water on dams in the Himalaya range that capture monsoon runoff. But the dams disrupt the ecology of the Himalaya, South Asia's precious watershed. Much of the waste from New Delhi's overwhelmed sewage treatment system ends up in the Yamuna River, one of the main tributaries of the Ganges, which winds down from the Himalaya and flows 1,500 miles across India to the Bay of Bengal. Combined with under-regulated industrial effluents, urban waste has turned India's mythic and misused rivers into cesspools.

In the countryside, where a vast majority of Indians still live, a combination of free electricity and inadequate regulation has led farmers to deplete untold groundwater supplies. In some places the water table is so low it no longer helps sustain roots, so even more water must be pumped up. In addition, soils have been degraded by chemical fertilizers, so they require even more water.

But in some parts of India, communities are turning to "rainwater harvesting," capturing rainwater in ponds and allowing it to percolate into the ground to feed wells and springs. Such techniques were once commonplace throughout the South Asian subcontinent, where rain falls for only a few months in the summer monsoon, and often not at all for the rest of the year. Now villagers are returning to these ancient methods to secure the future.

In northwest India, near Almora, a town of 40,000 in the Himalayan foothills, farmers are restoring ponds that have fallen into disuse in order to once again replenish groundwater and feed springs. They are also digging new ponds to use for irrigation and fish culture. In one village near there, I visited a one-room preschool — a balwadi, or child's garden — where mothers in brightly colored saris told me that they needed a toilet so that the kids wouldn't have to run to the woods to relieve



themselves. I took that to indicate that this area, while still poor, was progressing; the rural villagers expected to have some form of indoor toilet. However, there isn't enough water for full plumbing — and there is barely enough in the town itself, where many people have plumbing, but the river cannot satisfy all the needs of both the town and irrigation systems in farms nearby.

India's challenges — how to keep the economic engine moving while making government more effective and efficient; how to raise hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while protecting the environment — are staggering. Efforts like Almora's hold great promise, and more are needed.

Even though much of the water resource planning in India looks anachronistic given what we now know, a large contingent in government and engineering circles still advocates big, highly engineered, concrete-based solutions: large dams and deep reservoirs to generate electricity, urban water and sewer systems like those in the West. Many of these projects address the needs of industry and city dwellers, but some of the big dams and concrete canals proposed are meant to sustain rural areas, and many Indian water specialists say they'll do more harm than good.

In a region known as Bundelkhand, for example, a drought has driven farmers to desperation: part of the year they go sleep on the streets of New Delhi by night and build new high-rises there by day. The solution proposed for Bundelkhand is to dam a river to the east and transport its water through a long concrete canal. So far it has not been approved, thanks in part to the opposition of people who say the proposal is foolish, expensive and disruptive. They contend that the region can gain as much or more by going back to its traditional rainwater harvesting: ponds, small dams and an older, more sustainable style of farming.

In the Indian state just west of there, Rajasthan, some villagers have already gone back to the style of rainwater harvesting their ancestors practiced. In the hilly topography of eastern Rajasthan — part of an ancient mountain range that long predates the upthrust of the Himalaya — villagers built small damlike obstructions so that water could be trapped in depressions. Within a short time the groundwater table rose, a dead river became perennial again, and the land was green.

These successes hold lessons even for the megacities. In recent years, environmental groups in New Delhi have advocated the harvesting of rainwater from the roofs of houses and high-rises; the effort has begun, though not yet on a scale large enough to halt the destructive dam building.



WATER RESEARCH PROGRAMME -Weekly Bulletin-

For a long time now, centralized solutions for India have appeared to New Delhi's bureaucracy as easier to manage than local initiatives. It would of course be naïve to think a return to indigenous ways is the only answer in a country that is on track to become the world's most populous within a decade or so. But for millenniums, the distinct regions of the subcontinent developed ingenious ways to manage their water, and they prospered. Retrieving those methods, perhaps reinventing them, could give rural Indians some control over their destinies, even in the face of the wrenching changes wrought by globalization and the continued warming of the planet.

"Age-Old Fixes for India's Water", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/09/opinion/age-old-fixes-for-indias-water.html?_r=1</u>

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* India's dams cause concern

South Asian Network of Dams, Rivers and People (SNADRP), along with six other organisations of South Asia, including India, said that the undemocratic and unsustainable construction of dams has a huge impact on rivers and other associate ecosystems. Dams are constructed on Indian rivers and this is threatening the river biodiversity, said the network.

"India is on a dam building spree, threatening rivers in some of the most ecologically and culturally critical regions in the Western and North Eastern Himalayas and Western ghats," said the SANDRP. The network says there is no strong law or framework to protect river biodiversity. At least 12 dams are coming up in biodiversity hotspots of the Western ghats submerging 6,000 hectare of rich forest in Maharashtra.

The studies in Krishna estuary from Srikakulam to Hamsaladevi indicated that dams constructed upstream and the Prakasam barrage in Andhra Pradesh have diverted all the river water for irrigation, industrial and urban uses. The upper part of the estuary runs dry in summers and now has saline conditions due to lack of fresh water. Freshwater fish species are the worst hit.

⁶⁶India's dams cause concern", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/hyderabad/india%E2%80%99s-dams-cause-concern-492</u>

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* The Race to Harness Himalayan Hydropower

Spend a day in Kathmandu, Nepal's sprawling capital of four million people, and you'll quickly notice what has long been a fact of life in this landlocked Himalayan country, and many other South Asian nations – no reliable electricity supply exists. Up to eight times a day, neighborhoods throughout the city suffer rolling power cuts due to load shedding, causing residents and businesses alike to either carry on in the darkness or rely on expensive, diesel-consuming generators to keep the lights on. Although the country's civil war ended in 2006, carrying the promise of restored domestic stability and accelerated economic development, Nepal's economy has remained hamstrung by an inconsistent energy supply, with only 40 percent of the population having access to electricity. This situation persists despite the fact that the country sits on top of a virtual goldmine – an <u>estimated 80,000 megawatts</u> (MW) of untapped hydroelectricity, of which it has harnessed a scant 700 MW.

Nepal's great untapped hydropower potential has not gone unnoticed. Neighbors India and China actively have courted the country for years, seeking dam construction contracts and energy export deals to help meet their own soaring domestic energy needs. But while some Nepalese hydroelectric projects have moved forward, some of the country's more ambitious hydroelectric development plans have been <u>delayed or scrapped</u> altogether since 2006, owing to Nepal's notoriously fractious internal politics and persistent social unrest near proposed dam-construction sites in rural areas formerly sympathetic to the Maoist insurgency. One reason for the impasse surrounding many major hydroelectric projects is that Nepal has long been wary of foreign meddling in its internal affairs, which has meant that Indian and Chinese efforts to bankroll major infrastructure projects are automatically viewed with suspicion.

India and China have become locked in competition to ink construction contracts in Bhutan and Burma as well, two countries similarly spanned by the Himalaya that possess substantial undeveloped hydroelectric resources. Bhutan and Burma have both embraced the idea of heightened hydroelectric development, reflecting a different attitude than Nepal's regarding both energy infrastructure and foreign contractors. Bhutan would benefit greatly from increased domestic power production, given that it now uses only <u>390 MW of its 30,000 MW hydropower potential</u> (or 1.3 percent). Even at that modest level of development, hydropower has already emerged as one of the mainstays of the Bhutanese economy, alongside tourism. However, the country currently lacks the



technical resources to further bolster its hydroelectric capacity, a vacuum that state-owned Indian energy firms have rushed to fill. Indian firms have competitive advantage over in China in this regard, as Chinese-Bhutanese relations have remained tense over the years due to persistent quarreling over contested border areas. As a result, many of the country's high-profile hydroelectric projects – such as the <u>2,500 MW Sankosh River Hydropower project</u>, slated to become the world's fifth tallest dam upon completion in 2016 – are contracted to Indian companies.

Burma, meanwhile, represents one of the last major untapped sources of hydroelectricity in South Asia. From Burma's point of view, developing energy resources in the country's mountainous north - where many proposed hydroelectric sites lie - is strategically important for two reasons. Firstly, developing some of the country's estimated 40,000 MW of hydroelectric potential would help shore up domestic energy supply in this country of 54 million, which is slated to grow to 61 million by 2025, and nearly 71 million by 2050. Currently, Burma has harnessed only 2,440 MW, or six percent of this potential. Secondly, excess hydroelectricity produced in this region could be sold to consumers in adjacent Yunnan province (China) and Assam state (India), two economically underdeveloped regions bordering Burma that would benefit greatly from a more reliable energy supply.

Looking forward, it is undeniable that the economies of Burma, Bhutan, and Nepal will benefit greatly from capitalizing on the hydroelectric potential within their borders. Not only will harnessing the reliable, renewable power of the rivers shore up the domestic energy security of each country, but enhanced production of hydroelectricity would also provide an incredibly lucrative export commodity to be sold to India and China deep into the 21st century. Despite these many benefits, however, hydroelectric development in this politically and ecologically sensitive swath of South Asia carries with it significant risk in terms of human and environmental security, and therefore must be undertaken with great caution.

Poor planning and execution of hydroelectric projects run the risk of agitating populations in the vicinity of dam sites and exacerbating preexisting social and political unrest, as evidenced by the suspension of construction of the Chinese-backed \$3.6-billion Myitsone dam in Burma due to ongoing protests in 2011. Across South Asia, one of the primary causes of dam-related unrest has been the collective failure of host country governments and foreign contractors to sufficiently consult with affected populations during both the planning and construction phases of hydroelectric



infrastructure. Preemptively reaching out to these populations and finding ways to make them stakeholders in dam projects is crucial, because the alternative - forcible relocation from river valleys slated to be flooded to accommodate new reservoirs, and the attendant loss of valuable arable land and ancestral territory - is an understandable driver of public protest and political instability.

The drastic land-use changes necessitated by dam construction and reservoir flooding can also pose serious threats to sensitive riverine ecosystems. By disrupting a waterways' natural flow, dams trap nutrient-rich sediment flushed from the Himalaya that would otherwise flow downstream to improve soil fertility, and build up land mass in river deltas that serve as protective buffers against storm-induced tidal surges. Additionally, it is speculated that new large-scale dams and reservoirs can even impact the seismic stability of the earth underneath these sites. In the case of Bhutan's Sankosh dam, for instance, fears of "reservoir-induced seismicity" are prevalent, as the weight and concentration of water behind new dams can arguably trigger localized earthquakes (as is thought to have happened in the case of a devastating earthquake in China's Sichuan province in 2008).

Even in light of these concerns, the development of Burma, Bhutan, and Nepal's hydroelectric resources in the context of an energy-hungry Asia is likely a matter of when, not if. Despite this inevitability, it is in the enlightened self-interest of host country governments and Indian and Chinese energy firms to plan and carry out these projects as sensitively as possible, taking into account (and being responsive to) the environmental and livelihood impacts in areas adjacent to and downstream from dam sites. Overlooking these concerns to quickly bring new hydroelectric infrastructure online may help satiate India and China's hunger for new energy streams in the short-term, but at the risk of inducing long-term environmental damage and domestic instability in the host countries that may not prove so easy to reverse.

"The Race to Harness Himalayan Hydropower", 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2012/10/race-harness-himalayan-hydropower/</u>

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✤ Water, water, everywhere...

Water, water, every where/Nor any drop to drink. This is verse from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's The Rime of the Ancient Mariner seems like a prelude to the water sharing problems dogging the world. The long poem's reflection, particularly ebbing in the Cauvery issue is now at its peak, like it does every summer.

The Cauvery water sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is one of the many water disputes in India and the world. The other two parties in this dispute are Kerala and Pondicherry. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka are caught in a triangle over the sharing of Krishna waters.

The same states along with Madhya Pradesh and Orissa dispute over the Godavari waters. The Ravi-Beas dispute is between Punjab and Haryana, two agricultural surplus states that provide large quantities of grains to the rest of India.

Narmada River is the bone of contention between Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Similar water sharing issues bubble at the Mahadayi and Vasandhara rivers too. Dispute settling mechanisms like Acts and Tribunals, methods of resolution including political interference and constitutional provisions applied during negotiations have so far yielded partial or no results in resolving water disputes.

Declaration of water as a national property might settle inter-state water squabbles. What about the same issue of water sharing between countries?

Water systems usually arise in one country and pass through others before reaching the sea or oceans. Rivers and lakes that come off these larger water systems are typically shared by more than one country. The states where these systems originated tend to try and gain the most control over the water, like the Nile and the Jordan River.

Chinese efforts to divert water resources of the Brahmaputra away from India, has worsened situations that have remained tense since the 1962 Indo-China war.



Israel and Palestine have a traditional history of fighting over water — conflicts over the Tigris and Euphrates. Some experts believe the only documented case of a 'water war' happened about 4,500 years ago, when the city-states of Lagash and Umma went to war in the Tigris-Euphrates basin.

There is tension between India and Pakistan over hydroelectric projects in Leh and Kargil, which will affect the flow of water from the Indus and Suru rivers.

India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers. Despite setting up a Joint River Commission for water management in 1972, tension between the two countries on how to share resources recently came to a head in a dispute over the Teetsa River. Whether in South Asian countries or between Middle East provinces, water issues hold up peace talks and pose graver conflicts.

In March 2012, a classified US report listed India's three major river basins — Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra — among the top 10 world water conflict zones in ten years from now. "Beyond 2022, use of water as a weapon of war or a tool of terrorism will become more likely, particularly in South Asia (India), the Middle East and North Africa," the report based on National Intelligence Estimate on Water Security stated.

A new of genre of water journalists address the delicate issue of corruption in the water sector and sustainable practices for water conservation, particularly in countries like West Africa.

"Water too often is treated as a commodity, as an instrument with which one population group can suppress another," according to Ignacio Saiz, Centre for Economic and

Social Rights.

Solution to water conflict and ultimate co-operation between warring segments is required as water is projected to become scarce and amicable trans-boundary water distribution will also address issues of global warming and climate change at the higher level.

Otherwise, water will remain a powerful weapon of mass conflict to settle other bubbly episodes, outside the purview of environmental issues and the natural resource will never be considered as the world's water!



WATER RESEARCH PROGRAMME -Weekly Bulletin-

Mark Twain's quote of "Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over," does not seem to be exaggerated, despite Twain's biographer debating the authenticity of this scholarly certitude.

"Water, water, everywhere...", 14/10/2012, online at: http://postnoon.com/2012/10/14/water-water-everywhere/80011

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Experts warn China's fifth Mekong dam will have a "devastating" impact

Beijing just finished a plant capable of generating 24,000 GW in Yunnan province. A US study indicates it will cause "huge damages" to agriculture, fishing and human life. The river flow might be altered and seawater might flood its delta.

Hanoi (AsiaNews) - China has secretly built d its fifth mega hydroelectric dam (Noa Trác Độ) on the Upper Mekong. The project was set to be completed by the year. However, environmentalists fear it will further upset the region's environment and affect the lives of some 60 million people and their descendants. The warning comes from the Washington-based Stimson Center, which noted that the Nuozhadu Dam in China's Yunnan province, together with four dams built previously, has already altered the hydrology as well as the plant and animal life of the 5,000-km river.

Once it becomes operational, the dam will generate about 24,000 GW of electricity per year, a godsend for Beijing, which has been seeking new sources of power to fuel its industrial production. Some 50,000 people were forced from their homes to give way to the project. At the same time, the environment and the communities in various nations living downstream from the dam, as far as the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, are under a serious threat.

The study by the Stimson Center indicates that the dam will cause "huge damages" to Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and even Vietnam. For experts, it will change the river's flow, with a huge negative impact on agriculture downstream. This will be the case especially for the Lower Mekong region, in Vietnam, where seawater will invade ever-larger areas of the delta.

Milton Osborne, an Australian expert at the Lowy Institute, said that the impact of China's fifth dam on the Mekong would indeed be "devastating" despite Beijing's claims that "only 13.5 per cent" of the water in the Mekong as a whole flows through China. However, during the dry season, that goes up to "40 per cent" of the river's volume overall, according to Osborne.

Discussions over the consequences of existing and future dams on the Mekong have gone on for years since **millions of people depend** on the river for fish, water and transportation.



Some 12 hydroelectric dams are planned for the lower Mekong, which flows through Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. However, China's existing and future dams are the most worrisome since the Mekong originates in that country and covers a long stretch in it.

What is more, when it comes to its dams, Beijing has been accused of lack of transparency, even though international law requires that it provide information about its dams to all the countries that could be impacted.

"Experts warn China's fifth Mekong dam will have a "devastating" impact", 08/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Experts-warn-China%27s-fifth-Mekong-dam-will-have-a-devastating-impact-26025.html</u>

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* Uzbek President Recruits Kazakhs and Turkmens Against Russians, Tajiks and Kyrgs?

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN — Uzbek President Islam Karimov is trying to create an anti-Russian, anti-Tajik and anti-Kyrgyz water and energy coalition in the region, a prominent Uzbek online analyst and commentator claimed following Karimov's visit to Turkmenistan at the beginning of this month.

"The Uzbek leader has no choice but [to quickly] create something like an anti-Russian, anti-Tajik and anti-Kyrgyz water and energy coalition," Yadgor Norbutayev wrote last week in Fergananews.com. "Karimov recently went to enroll [Kazakh President Nursultan] Nazarbayev in it and it is now [Turkmen President Gurbanguly] Berdymukhammedov's turn to be enlisted."

During Karimov's visit to the Turkmen capital, Ashgabat, on October 1 and 2, the two leaders signed a joint statement that reads: "The leaders of the states stressed the necessity to address the issues of the use of trans-boundary rivers in Central Asia on the basis of universally recognized norms and principles of international law, taking into account the interests of all regional countries Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan emphasize that no action affecting the natural flow of trans-boundary rivers in the region, including the implementation of projects on construction of new large hydraulic structures, can be made without consent of all parties concerned."

According to Norbutayev, Karimov is preoccupied with preventing construction of the Kambarata-1 and Rogun hydropower plants in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The plants will be located on the trans-boundary Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers, and downstream countries are concerned that the structures could block the normal flow of water, which is critical to the population and irrigated agriculture in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

But Karimov does not believe he will be able to prevent construction of the plants, according to Norbutayev, who added that the Uzbek leader will not really confront the Russians, due to the presence of a large number of Uzbek migrant laborers in Russia that could be used as a bargaining chip in talks between the two countries.



Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have been less outspoken on the dam projects, even though Karimov has been trying to urge his counterparts in those countries to take a more active position on the issue for several years.

At the beginning of September, Karimov made an official visit to Kazakhstan, where he predicted future water wars in Central Asia.

Kazkah President Nazarbayev supported his colleague but was more diplomatic, sending "brotherly greetings" to neighbors upstream.

"Uzbek President Recruits Kazakhs and Turkmens Against Russians, Tajiks and Kyrgs?", 08/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.ooskanews.com/daily-water-briefing/uzbek-president-recruits-kazakhs-and-turkmens-against-russians-tajiks-and-kyrgs</u>

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* Troubled waters in Lake Malawi

Malawi and Tanzania have never really agreed on who owns Lake Malawi, but it hasn't really mattered until now. What's changed? For the first time, there's something under those placid waters that both countries think is worth fighting for. By SIMON ALLISON.

There can rarely have been a more incongruous location for a diplomatic spat than Lake Malawi. The lake is one of Africa's most beautiful spots, with its tranquil, turquoise surface and picturesque islands. Tourists love it, drawn by the white sandy beaches and abundance of fresh seafood, and Malawians are inordinately proud of their national landmark.

Only one problem: Tanzanians are quite proud of it too. The lake straddles the borders of three countries – Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. The lion's share of the lake falls in Malawian territory, while Mozambique gets some too. Tanzania, however, gets nothing; under the terms of an 1890 Anglo-German treaty, the border between Malawi and Tanzania runs along the Tanzanian shore, denying Tanzania any access to the lake's waters.

This has been an area of dispute between the two countries ever since they achieved independence in 1963. Although Tanzanian fisherman were permitted to continue to use the lake under the terms of the treaty, Tanzania wants full control of what it thinks is its rightful share. Malawi, naturally, disagrees.

Although it has occasionally strained relations, the issue of who owns Lake Malawi has never really been a problem – until now. Something has changed, and that something is the unconfirmed but promising potential for huge oil and gas reserves buried under its shores. Conditions for this are thought to be ideal: "There is enough geological evidence suggesting the existence of thick sedimentary rock sequences and structures capable of trapping oil under Lake Malawi," said Ibibia Worik, legal advisor to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

To explore this potential, Malawi last year granted a licence to Surestream Petroleum, a British company. Suddenly, the dispute over Lake Malawi – fuelled by national pride more than anything else – became a lot more serious. Real money is at stake. Tanzania, naturally, wasn't too happy about this development, and made its displeasure clear. One senior official threatened military action if the problem was not resolved to his country's satisfaction.



This year, a series of high-level meetings between the Malawian and Tanzanian governments have attempted to reach some kind of mutually agreeable compromise. They failed. Last week, Malawi's President Joyce Banda declared the negotiations dead in the water (excuse the pun).

Said Banda: "When I was leaving the country for the UN, I thought the issue with Tanzania was sorted out and that we were going to pursue dialogue. However, in the period I have been away, Tanzania launched a new map (showing parts of Lake Malawi as belonging to Tanzania)...We have been informed by Tanzania that our boats should stop sailing on the lake otherwise they will blaze them up." As a result of these alleged threats, Banda has cancelled a planned visit to Tanzania later this month.

Instead, she is going to take the matter up with the International Court of Justice. "The issue has gone too far and Malawi will seek international help to ensure that justice prevails," the president added. Tanzania too has indicated in the past it is happy to accept international arbitration, although on Saturday it specified that it would prefer mediation from a former African head of state. Both options seem like sensible – and peaceful – solutions, which is an encouraging sign. Also, the fact that both countries are willing to seek outside help indicates they both think they have a strong case.

Malawi's is simple. It will argue that the terms of the treaty are quite straightforward and leave no room for dispute. Further, it will point to the African Union's repeated commitment to colonial-era boundaries as proof of its borders' legitimacy. This commitment was even affirmed in the continental body's founding charter – of which Tanzania is a signatory.

Tanzania has a more complex case to make. From the government's statements on the issue we have a pretty good idea of what they will argue, however. First is the issue of international norms: where a lake divides two countries, it is customary for the border to pass in the middle of the lake (just look at a map of Africa to see the truth of this argument. Lake Malawi is clearly an aberration). Second, Tanzania deserves a share because Tanzania's rivers provide a large part of the lake's water. Third, the current borders are untenable because of the constantly-shifting tides. Because the border is along the shore, this means it too changes with the tides.



WATER RESEARCH PROGRAMME -Weekly Bulletin-

Given what is at stake, the decision has the potential to change the destiny of both countries – and of Lake Malawi itself. Whatever happens, one suspects that once the verdict is in, and the drilling commences, it won't be quite as tranquil as it was before. DM

"Troubled waters in Lake Malawi", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://dailymaverick.co.za/article/2012-10-08-trouble-waters-in-lake-malawi</u>

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* Food prices expected to rise after second wettest summer on record

The second wettest summer on record has blighted UK harvests and will lead to food price rises, farmers and retailers have warned.

Wheat yields in England are down by almost 15% on the five-year average, the National Farmers' Union (NFU) reported, with some areas in the west of England suffering worst from the summer rain.

The world price of grain has already been rising in recent months following a heatwave in Russia and the <u>worst drought in 50 years in the US</u>, which destroyed 45% of corn and 35% of the soya bean crop.

Richard Dodd of the British Retail Consortium said: "There certainly are price pressures in the system, which are coming from poor wheat harvests in this country but also in the other big wheat producing countries.

"The most recent figures are that wheat prices are up something like 29% compared with a year ago.

"Our own figures for the shop price inflation for food show that it has been very, very stable – it has been 3.1% for the last three months which is actually a two-year low. There is no food price explosion going on but there are pressures in the system that will work through.

He added that a "fiercely competitive retail market" was also helping to protect customers from the worst effects of price pressures.

After <u>hosepipe bans earlier in the year</u>, the dramatically wet summer – the wettest since 1912 according the Met office records – has also retarded the growth of fruit and vegetables and <u>brought</u> <u>lower yields</u> and quality overall.

Morrisons' Martyn Jones told the BBC that carrots would be less sweet and volumes of some food were down around 25% across most root crops.

The NFU president, Peter Kendall, said: "There are many farmers who are down 25% to 30% on the wheat crop. In some cases you looked from the outside and you thought, this crop will do over four tonnes to the acre – and it's been struggling to do three and some cases two tonnes to the acre."

"It's been soul-destroying for the farmers growing the crops," he said.



Kendall added that the increase in the global price of wheat by 30% over the past year was also putting pressures on pig and poultry farmers, who rely on grain to feed their livestock

"The challenge for the pig and poultry market is trying to make sure that retailers pay a fair price, because in pigs 50% of the cost is grain, poultry it's 60% – and these farmers at the moment, because the prices haven't responded yet, they're actually saying I'm not going to fill my sheds with poultry or pigs any more."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, <u>Tim Lang</u>, professor of food policy at London's City University, said there were deeper structural issues to global food market price rises that politicians were not taking seriously and which were hurting the poor disproportionately. Lang said the poorest 10% of households in the UK had seen a drop in food affordability of 20% in the last eight years and that this was also a "disaster for public health" as the price of healthier produce such as fruit had risen by 34% in the last five years.

Lang, who coined the phrase "food miles" said, "most analysts think the long drop in food prices, of affordability is over. We are now in a new world, a world of new fundamentals, not just bad weather this year but a long-term squeeze."

He added that issues such as water stress, climate change, urbanism and market speculation meant that, "the old imperialist British view that we can just get food and that others will feed us is probably over".

"Food prices expected to rise after second wettest summer on record", 10/10/2012, online at: https://apps.facebook.com/theguardian/environment/2012/oct/10/food-prices-rise-wettest-summer

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* Make Water A Priority: Former Government Leaders Call on UN Security Council

Water issues have surged to global prominence recently, but better management, new partnerships, and more investment is needed to protect human health, prevent conflict, and ensure economic and environmental vitality. These are a few of the conclusions from the InterAction Council (IAC), a public-policy group comprising 40 former heads of state and government, including former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

The group's recommendations to government leaders and international institutions are accompanied by a series of essays on the global water crisis in a book being released September 11 by the United Nations University. The book concludes the IAC's global water security assessment, which began with a meeting of experts in Toronto in March 2011.

The most worrisome scenario the experts contemplated is that the world's demand for water — to grow food for another 3 billion people by 2050 and to support rising affluence — will run up against resource limits and lead to violent conflict, especially in areas where water is already scarce or where political tensions are tightly wound.

Research has shown that, in the 20th century, cooperation was the far more common outcome, but the old hydrological balance is shifting: in many areas, water supplies are declining because of both natural and man-made climate changes; in others, precipitation that used to fall as snow is now coming as rain, meaning that a natural storage system is being lost.

So in the years ahead, some argue, human relations may not necessarily follow familiar patterns.

Just last month, 53 people died in Kenya from clashes between two rival ethnic groups in a yearslong dispute over water and access to grazing land.

"The future political impact of water scarcity may be devastating," said former Jean Chrétien, Canadian Prime Minister and IAC co-chair, in a statement. "Using water the way we have in the past simply will not sustain humanity in future. The IAC is calling on the United Nations Security Council to recognize water as one of the top security concerns facing the global community."

Leaders Seeking Leadership

Founded nearly three decades ago, the InterAction Council does what the political process often hindered its members from doing while in office — focus on long-term problems that have global consequences.

The council emphasizes three themes: peace and security, economic systems, and ethical standards. Water, as the book makes clear, touches all three.



Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Prime Minister of Norway, writes in the book's foreword that systems for managing water have not kept pace with hydrological, economic, and demographic changes.

"We are not facing water scarcity so much as we are facing water governance issues," she writes.

At the same time, the water management systems that do exist are often not democratic. Many stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other countries in shared river basins, do not have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Bob Sandford, a water policy advisor to the IAC, believes that there is a leadership vacuum, because water management is fragmented between groups and sectors.

"The Security Council can underscore the importance of thinking about water in the context of economic and national security," he told Circle of Blue.

Yet there are significant limits to the Security Council's influence. The council can bring attention to a problem, but doing something about it is more difficult. Some council members — Russia and China in particular — even question whether it is the proper place within the U.N. system to address topics such as water or climate change, which fall outside of the traditional, military-centered view of security.

"Turning attention from the Security Council into practical action is a challenge because of the tool set they have," explained Geoff Dabelko, the director of environmental studies at Ohio University and the former director of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center, a think tank partly funded by Congress.

Dabelko, who is not affiliated with the IAC, told Circle of Blue that the typical Security Council instruments — economic sanctions, peace-keeping forces, and military action — are not well-suited to address water issues.

First Time, But Nothing New

The most vigorous arguments for why the Security Council should consider water came during a July 2011 meeting on climate change. Representatives from more than 50 countries and multinational organizations told the council that the effects of climate change would be felt through water scarcity and poor harvests.

Pedro Serrano, then the acting head of the European Union delegation, said that "access to water and water availability may be both a great human security threat and a threat to regional stability, which may lead to serious disputes."

If the Security Council has heard this story before, then the IAC has also preached it. For the IAC, too, is treading on somewhat beaten ground.



InterAction Council

Sandford points out that this is the first time the group of former world leaders has identified water as a stand-alone global issue. However, in a 1990 report titled*Ecology and the Global Economy*, the IAC included a set of water recommendations that were quite similar to those submitted this week.

More than two decades have passed with only moderate progress on things like integrated management and better pricing, which might cause some to despair. But Sandford says the right moment for action may just now be coming along.

"It's a matter of timing," he said. "Water is rising very quickly on government agendas, because the range of effects is much greater now."

Even rich countries like the United States, which released a water security assessment in March, now view water scarcity as a matter of national security.

"For the first time in my career in water," Sandford added, "the log jam is starting to break."

"Make Water A Priority: Former Government Leaders Call on UN Security Council", 09/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/2012/world/former-government-leaders-call-on-un-security-council-to-make-water-a-priority/</u>

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Setter Land, Water Management Needed to Fight Hunger, Group Says

Smarter use of land, water and energy is needed for the world to continue to make gains against hunger, the International Food Policy Research Institute said today as it released its annual Global Hunger Index.

The gauge shows 20 countries with levels of hunger that are "extremely alarming" or "alarming," down from 26 last year and 43 in 1990 when the institute began compiling the index. Burundi, Eritrea and Haiti scored the worst, while the Democratic Republic of Congo, a perennial poor performer, didn't have enough data to be ranked. The bulk of low-scoring countries are in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

"Demographic changes, rising incomes and associated consumption patterns, and climate change, alongside persistent poverty and inadequate policies and institutions, are all placing serious pressure on natural resources," the Institute said in the report. "There is enough planet for all of us -- if we don't waste it."

The worst U.S. drought in more than 50 years pushed the price of corn, the country's most valuable crop, to a record \$8.49 a bushel in August. Soybeans reached an all-time high last month while wheat touched its highest levels since 2008 in July. World food prices saw their biggest monthly increase since 2009 in July and are up 2.4 percent for the year.

Food Riots

The higher prices have destabilized family food budgets and increased hunger over the past five years. A 40 percent run-up in global costs pushed as many as 150 million people into extreme poverty in 2007 and 2008, while record-high prices in 2011 touched off food riots in North Africa and the Middle East, the report said.

Spending on agricultural research needs to increase, focusing on investments that reduce hunger and malnutrition, such as in better-yielding seeds and education for women, which lowers birth rates, the institute said in the report.



"Eradicating hunger in the near and medium term is a complex, multifaceted challenge," the report said.

The most progress in reducing hunger since 1990 has been in Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Niger and Vietnam, according to the report. The index is calculated using the proportion of a country's population that is undernourished, the prevalence of underweight children and the child mortality rate, with a focus on developing nations.

Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, two other anti- hunger organizations, collaborated in publishing the report.

"Better Land, Water Management Needed to Fight Hunger, Group Says", 11/10/2012, online at: <u>http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-10-11/better-land-water-management-needed-to-fight-hunger-group-says</u>

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✤ "Govt urged to act invaders of water source

Karatu. Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) MPs has urged the government to stop people invading Qang'dend water source in Mang'ola, Karatu District. Three Chadema MPs Israel Natse (Karatu), Rose Kamili (Hanang) and Pauline Gekul (Babati) say the government must urgently act on the matter before it worsens.

They said this at a rally organised at Jobaj village on the shores of Lake Eyasi. The Chadema MPs said Qang'dend was an important source of water supply in the area not only for domestic use but also for irrigation of Mang'ola onion farms.

"We are worried if the authorities won't act urgently to protect the water source, people may be forced to take the law into their own hands and the consequences will be far reaching," remarked one of them. Recently, Karatu District Commissioner Felix Ntibenda had ordered the arrest and prosecution of people suspected to be behind the destruction of the water source. However, after they were apprehended, they were later released.

Unconfirmed reports said people suspected to be behind the invasion of the dependable water source were officials of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in Karatu District or Arusha Region. Qang'dend is the main source of water supply for seven villages in the Lake Eyasi Basin, that is Qang'dend itself, Mbuga Nyekundu, Jobaj, Mang'ola Barazani, Laghangareri and Malekcheand.

Mr Natse urged all political leaders in the area to bury their differences and protect the water source, which remained the most reliable source of water not only for the onion farmers but also for hundreds of livestock keepers living there.

Ms Kamili, who is also Chadema shadow minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, said regulations on water sources prohibited the construction of any structure within the radius of 60 metres. She said a similar problem happened in her home district of Hanang where onion farmers encroached the shores of Lake Bassotu.

However, they were later evicted because they interfered with the ecology of the fresh water body. Karatu district Chadema chairman Moshi Darabe, who is also the chairman of Qang'dend



village, said he had for the last three months tried to sensitise residents on the need to protect the water source but received little cooperation from the government. Ms Gekul complained the matter had been politicised. She called on the relevant authorities to ensure the people behind the destruction of the water source were taken to court.

"Govt urged to act invaders of water source", 08/10/2012, online at: <u>http://thecitizen.co.tz/news/-/26347-govt-urged-to-act-invaders-of-water-source</u>

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