

Advancing the SDGs in Midst of Conflict Through Environmental PeaceBuilding

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EcoPeace Middle East

(formerly Friends of the Earth Middle East)

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

Consequences of Conflict

The Great Water Grab

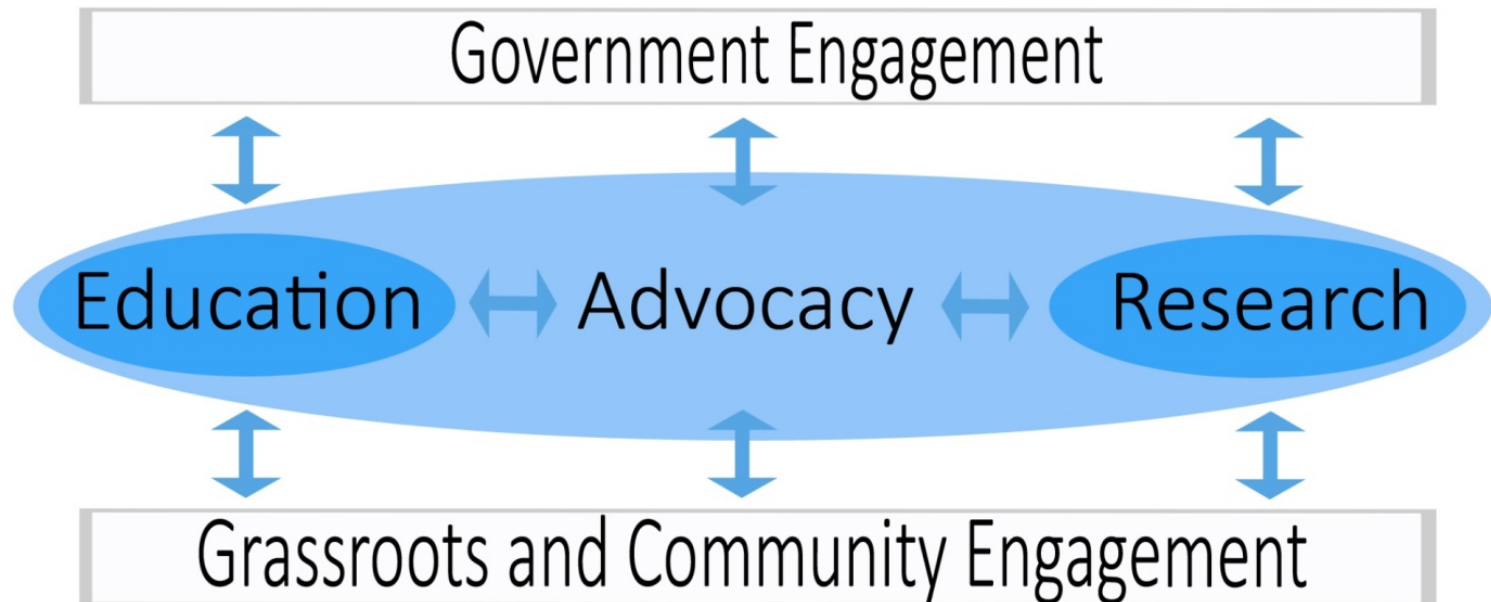


The Back Door Dump



EcoPeace's approach

- **Top-down and bottom-up approaches to maximize results**
- **Identification of win-win solutions that speak directly to the self-interests of participants and communities**



Working with Community and Municipal Leadership

- **Good Water Neighbor (GWN) creates small groups of activist residents, committed to environmental issues**
- **The combination of an outspoken adult leadership and a local group of youth water trustees usually leads to willingness from the part of the mayor and municipal leadership**
- **Mayors, as politicians, tend to follow the loudest voices. They need to be empowered by their GWN constituency**
- **Involvement of mayors increase the legitimacy of GWN in broader community and attracts the attention of national level politicians and media**



Jordan River

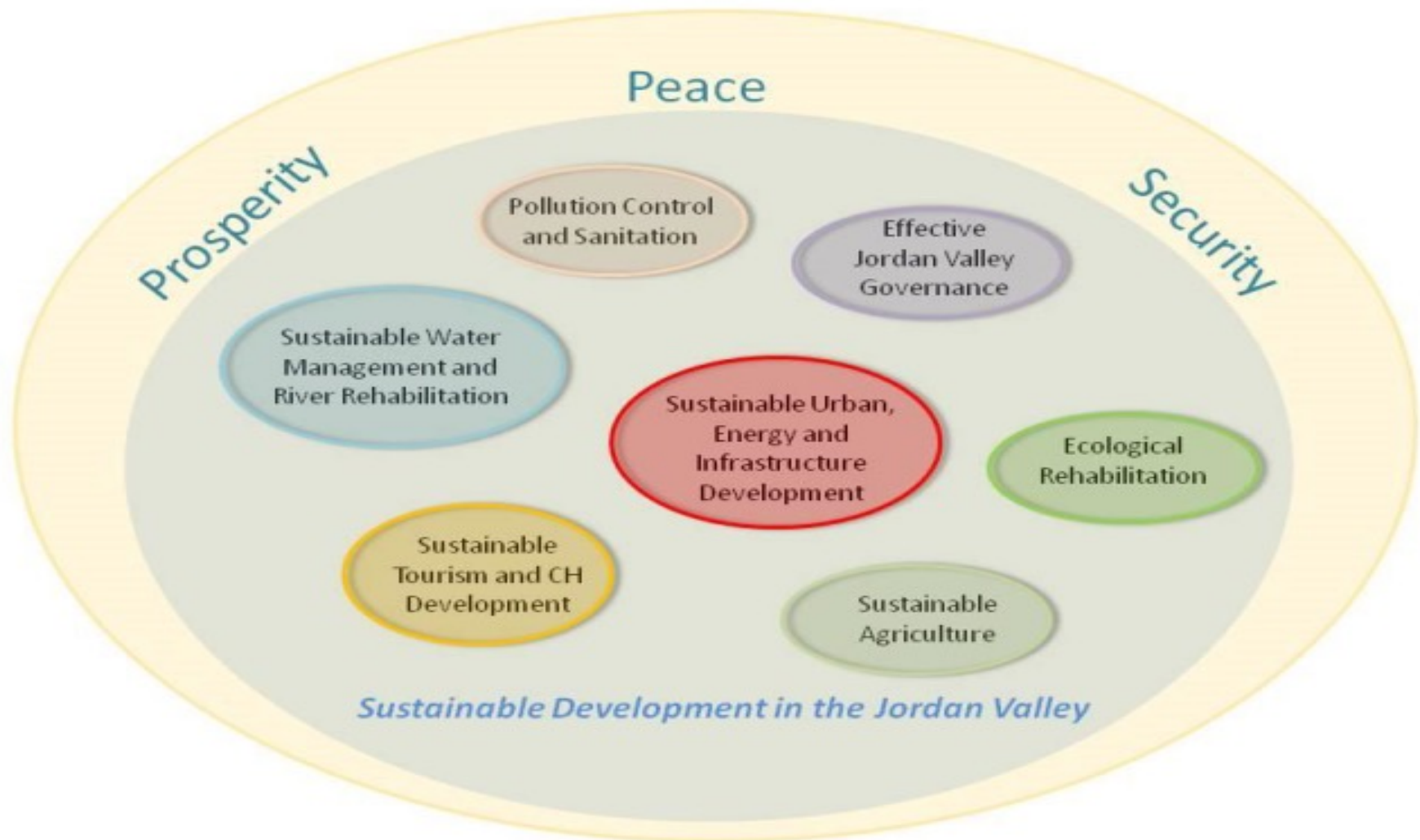
- **Historic Average annual flow of over 1.3 billion cubic meters supporting a wide variety of habitats/rich biodiversity**

Today:

- **92% of flow diverted**
- **Polluted**
- **Saline springs**
- **Sewage**
- **Closed Border Area**
- **Minefields, military checkpoints and fences**



Research and Science Based Advocacy



SDGs Advanced & Rehabilitation Initiated

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



EcoPeace's Center of Environmental Peacebuilding

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



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