



EcoPeace
Middle East

ASSESSING AND COMMUNICATING THE GEOPOLITICAL BENEFITS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

**UNECE Expert Workshop: Beyond Water
January 28-29, 2015
Tallinn, Estonia**

About EcoPeace Middle East

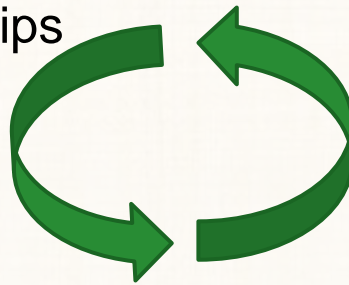
- **EcoPeace Middle East** is a tri-lateral Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli environmental peacemaking organization.
- Our primary **objective** is to promote cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage and to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region.
- **Dual approach – synergy between bottom-up and top-down tactics to reach shared objectives.**
- Promoting economic and geo-political benefit sharing.



Identifying TWC geo-political benefits

Bottom Up:

- Exposure to new information: the water reality in my neighbors' community
- Trust-building
- Transboundary partnerships around shared benefits.
- Goal oriented dialog
- Sustainable development
- Problem solving
- Social Transformation
- Next generation leadership development



Top Down:

- Exposure to new information: Knowledge services – regional assessments and policy advice on transboundary water resources
- Broadening scope of cooperation (depth and time)
- Expanded, institutionalized, long-term cooperation
- Reducing tension
- Conflict mitigation and resolution
- Ad-hoc political coalitions
- Improved domestic water governance
- Leveraging resources

Assessing TWC geo-political benefits

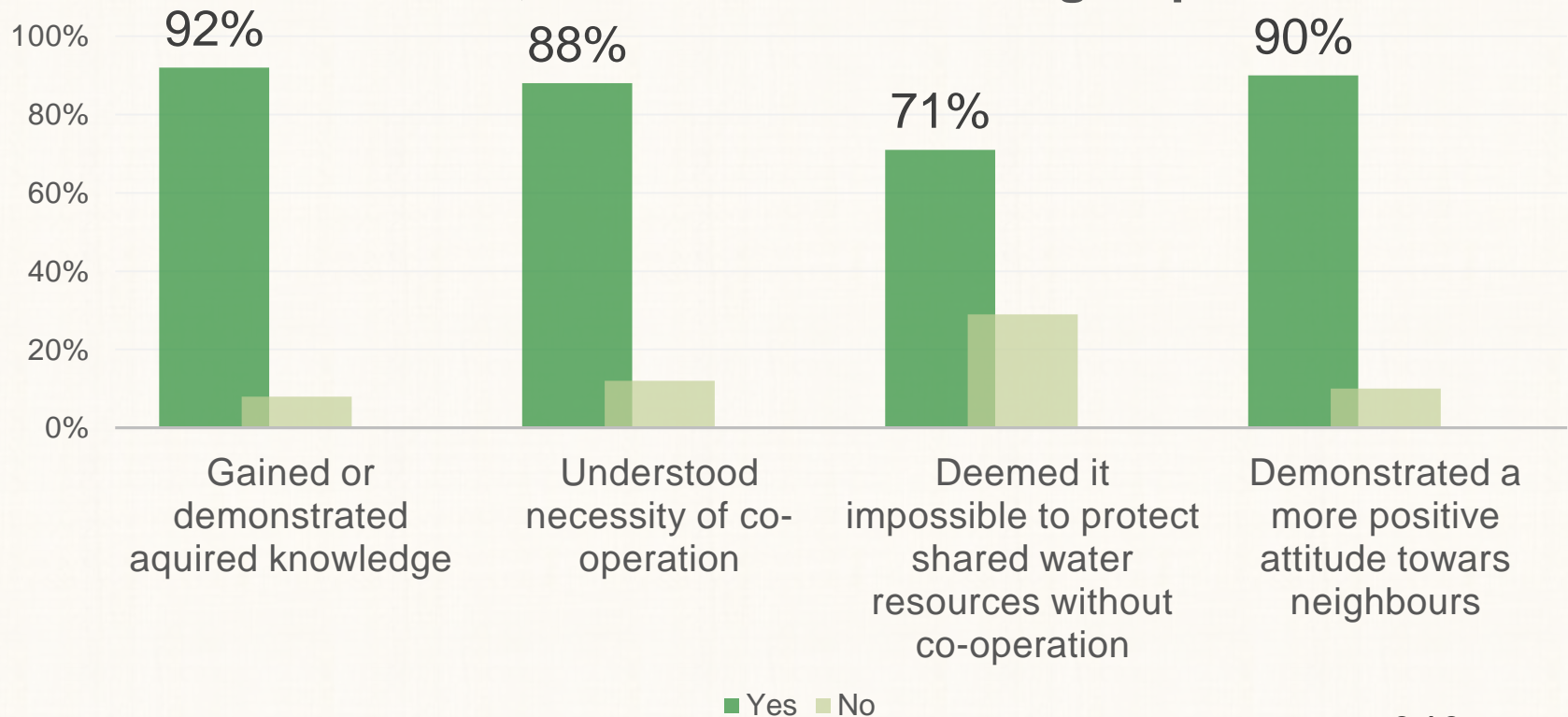
External evaluation of programming examined trends and attitudes on a series of themes.

- The alignment between the expected goals of the project and the beneficiaries to the goals that were achieved.
- The activities that the project undertook, and their ability to achieve the project's objectives.
- The project's effectiveness and relevancy, and its ability to bring about the desired impact of environmental peace building.
- The capacity of the project for sustainability.

Methodology: Interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, observation; sample of 646 beneficiaries and stakeholders from region.

Assessment Results

EcoPeace Approach deemed: Relevant, Effective and Strong Impact:



n = 646

Full evaluation:

http://foeme.org/uploads/GWN_concluding_evaluation_report_August_2014_FINAL.pdf

Presenting geopolitical benefits to stakeholders:

General Public: trilingual website; multi-language regional publications and policy briefs; medias

National Decision Makers: conveying national and regional meetings and workshops; elite peers and mainstream policy institutions; access and exposure to international community; study tours and exchanges.

National Water Community: transboundary tours and exchanges; development of open access planning tools

Local Stakeholders: access and exposure to national and international discussion; public events; educational programs; study tours; professional development; resources for specific groups (youth, teachers, faith leaders etc.).

EcoPeace Middle East's experience:

TWC driven by shared benefits results in:

- **Environmental Rehabilitation:** WWTPs being advanced in Israel, Jordan and Palestine, Israel commits to first ever return of fresh water to the Lower Jordan River, regional master planning underway
- Fostering a shift in momentum from domination to **interdependence**
- Serves as a **catalyst** for reduced tension, broader cooperation activities and social transformation
- Builds and establish mechanisms and habits for cooperation and partnership
- Contributes towards advancing water agreements, water governance
- Initiates the “**unfreezing**” process to overcome the psychological barriers to conflict resolution present in intractable conflict (reevaluation of information, openness to new information, acceptance of new ideas)
- Help insulate against humanitarian crises in times of political turmoil

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Working towards a shared future



For more information visit:
www.foeme.org