Local Actions for a Global Challenge

Mexico 2006
4th World Water Forum

Synthesis Session on Transboundary Water Management:
Regional Consensus as a driving force for Progress and Development

Transboundary Basin Management in the Middle East

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Water Commissioner
Israeli Co-Chairman of Joint Water Committee

Mexico City March 18,

Water Commission

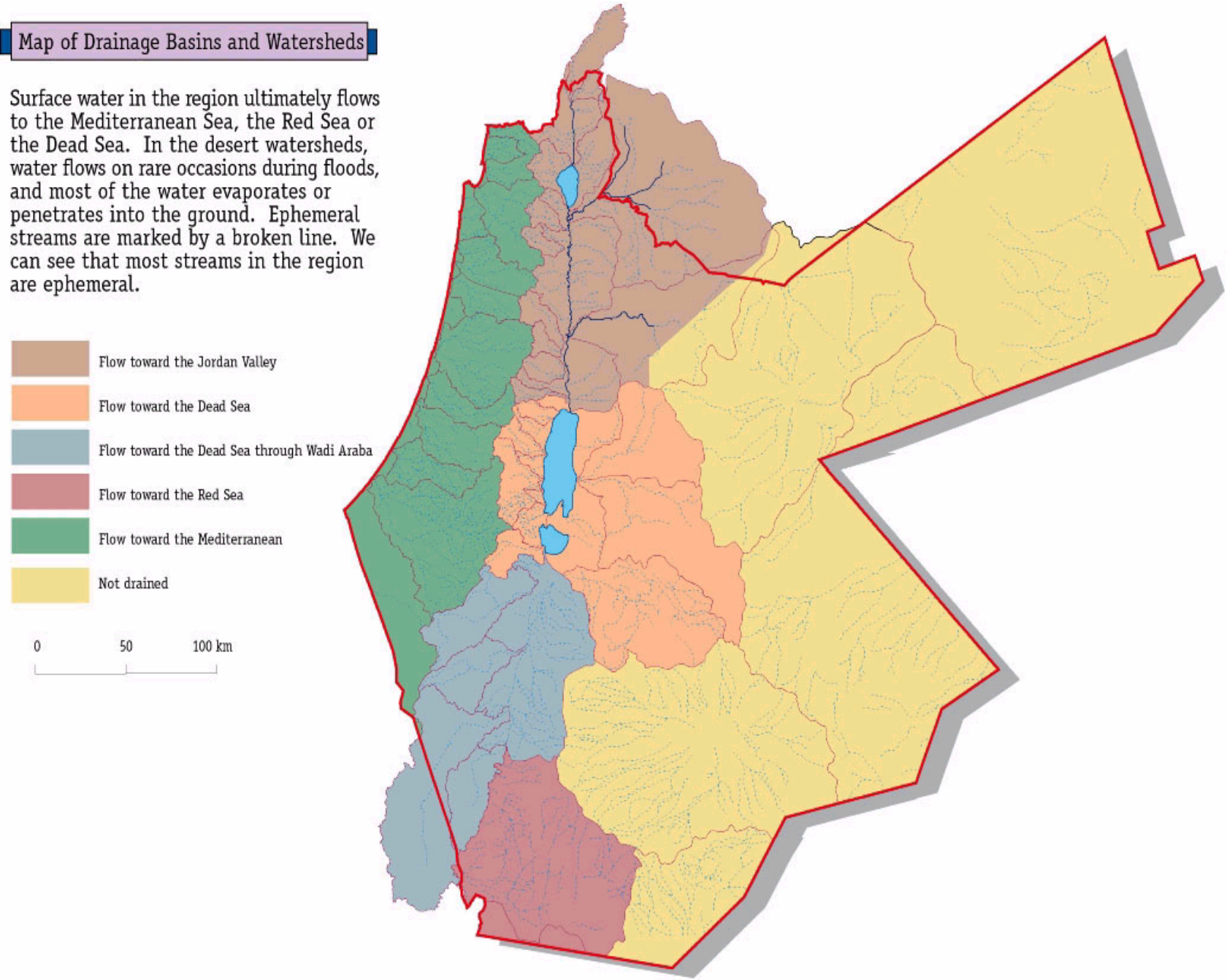
I.N.B.O.
International Network of Basin Organizations

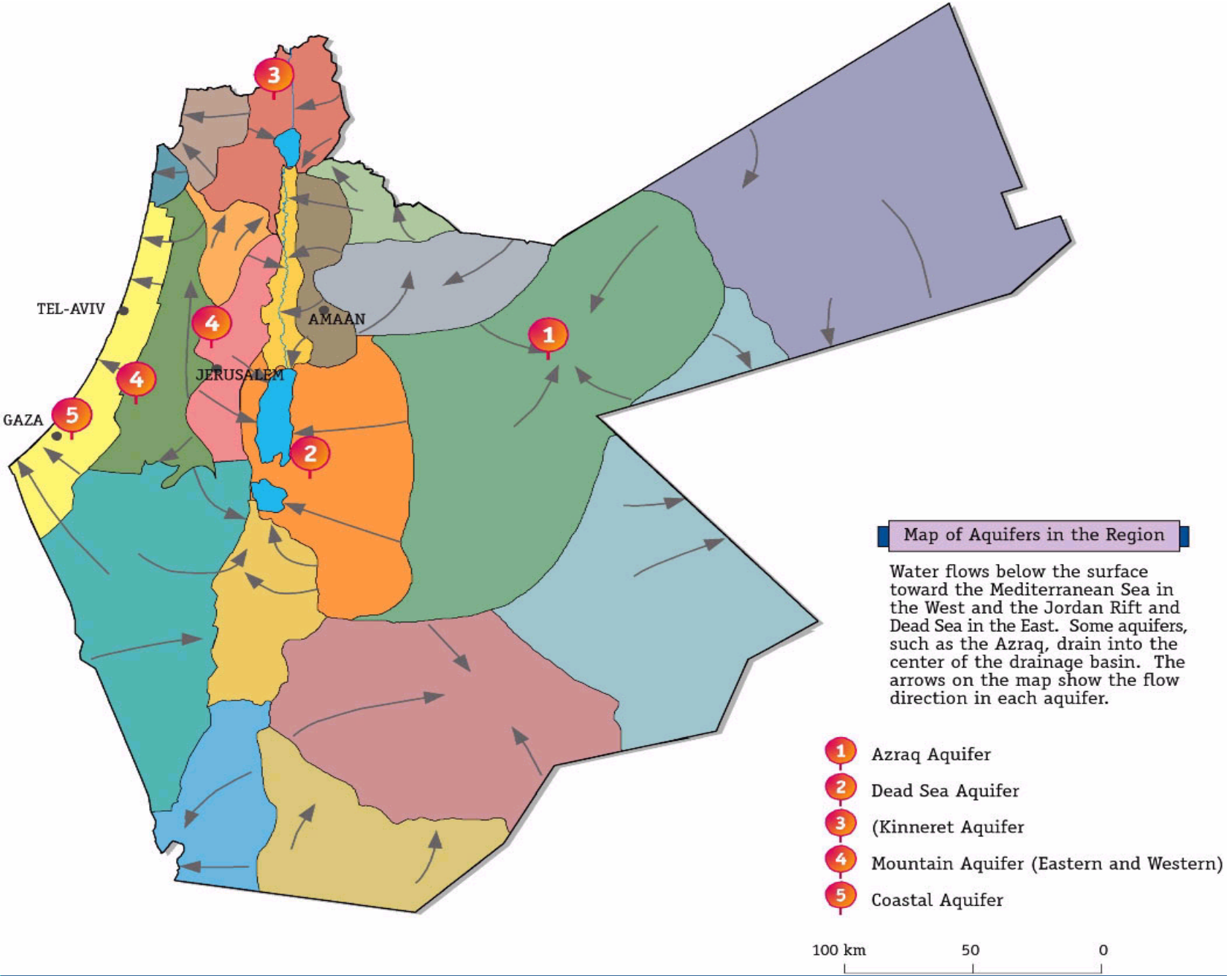
Montréal

Office international de l'eau

Map of Drainage Basins and Watersheds

Surface water in the region ultimately flows to the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea or the Dead Sea. In the desert watersheds, water flows on rare occasions during floods, and most of the water evaporates or penetrates into the ground. Ephemeral streams are marked by a broken line. We can see that most streams in the region are ephemeral.

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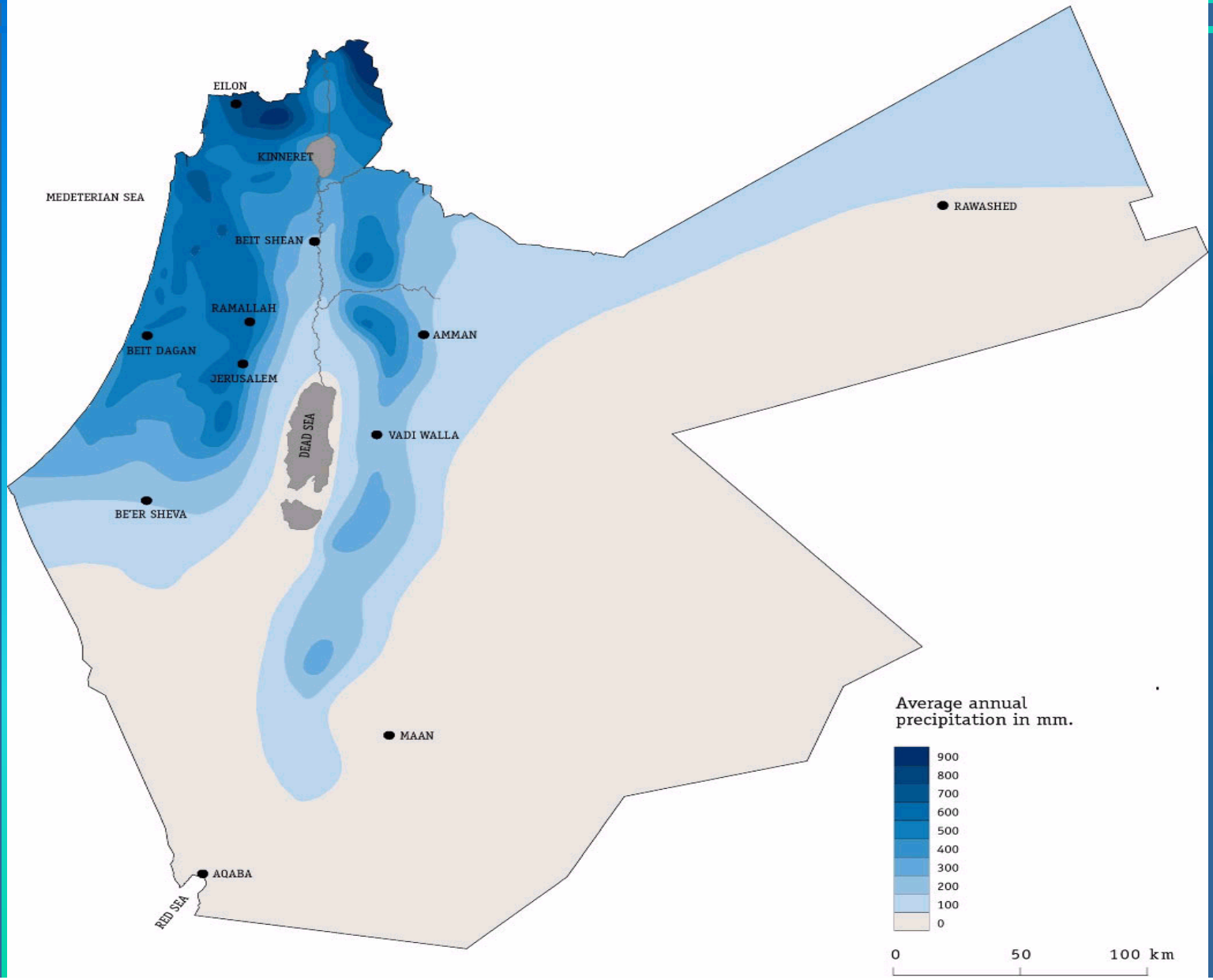
Map of Aquifers in the Region
Water flows below the surface toward the Mediterranean Sea in the West and the Jordan Rift and Dead Sea in the East. Some aquifers, such as the Azraq, drain into the center of the drainage basin. The arrows on the map show the flow direction in each aquifer.
1 Azraq Aquifer
2 Dead Sea Aquifer
3 (Kinneret Aquifer
4 Mountain Aquifer (Eastern and Western)
5 Coastal Aquifer
100 km
50
0

Treaty of Peace – Jordan and Israel
26 October 1994

Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement
28 September 1995

The Water Issue is an integral part of the whole agreement and is a part of constellation of issues, such as security, borders etc.

Quantity of rain in region decreases as we travel eastward and southward. In fact, 70% of the region is defined as a desert, receiving a meager 50 mm to 200 mm of rain per year. In the rest of the region, precipitation is 300 mm to 750 mm per year and only on mountaintops in the northwestern areas is there more rainfall.



Water Demand in the Region 2020

Population 24 M (Jordan, Palestinians, Israel)

Demand 5.1 BCM/Year → 2.6 BCM/Year Agricultural
→ 2.1 BCM/Year Domestic
→ 0.4 BCM/ Year Industrial

Resources 5.1 BCM/Year → 1.1 BCM/Year Recycled effluents
→ 2.65 BCM/Year Natural resources
→ 1.35 BCM/Year Manufactured water

→ Additional 80 MCM/year

- There is not enough water (redistribution of shortages is not a solution).
- Development of additional water resources is essential (recycling sewage effluents and desalination).
- Commitment not to harm the water resources of the other.

- Maintenance of existing usage.
- Explicit reference to “future” water.

- Mutual assistance in alleviating water shortages.
- Each party operates facilities on the sovereign territory of the other

- Joint Water Committee (JWC), Joint Technical Committee and sub-committees, operating on a regular basis.

- Operation of special "JSET's" – Joint Supervision and Enforcement Teams.

- Multilateral activity – informal, assisting and bilateral activity. Enhancement of data availability, water resources management and preservation, principles of regional cooperation.

- Comprehensive settlement of all water problems between both sides.
- The solution must be *"practical, just and agreed"* and the development of water sources in either country should not harm the water resources of the other.
- Shared resource is managed by one party. The other party has the right to water allocations independent from the hydrological situation.

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