

**WRRC**  
WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE  
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Technology and Cooperation

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Israeli and Palestinian Waterways Conference

UC Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies.

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[wrrc.arizona.edu](http://wrrc.arizona.edu)

# Technology is part of the solution to water scarcity

Abraham Tenne  
April 2011 Yuma, Arizona

2009

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Arizona, Middle East Water Issues Focus of WRRC Workshop

Arizona, Israel, Palestinian Territories Share Common Concerns

The Arizona-Israeli-Palestinian Water Management and Policy Workshop (AIP for short), a Water Resources Research Center project that was two and a half years in the planning, focused on critical water issues of the three and semi-arid regions. Workshop participants, including managers, NGO representatives, students and scholars from a range of disciplines worked together to tackle water management challenges and to consider solutions as well as build the groundwork for future collaboration on projects and programs. The workshop was conducted Aug. 31 to Sept. 2 in Tucson.

In some ways, this commitment might appear to break new ground for WRRC. With the event, WRRC looked beyond Arizona and the West, its primary geographical areas of interest, to participate in a workshop focusing Middle East water affairs. This view, however, overlooks commonalities among the regions. Arizona, Israel and the Palestinian Territories are semi-arid lands, and they confront similar water concerns. Rather than breaking new ground, the workshop was an opportunity for WRRC to view Arizona and regional water issues in an international or global context.

Further, what was gained at the workshop — the issues, challenges and research needs the participants identified — will benefit other arid and semi-arid regions struggling with similar concerns having to do with water shortages, poor water quality and ineffective governance.

The regions have another shared interest besides a dry climate. Israel and the Palestinian Territories are facing the challenge of sharing groundwater and surface water resources.

Complicating their task are the formidable political issues that trouble the water, and much else in the Middle East. Arizona water affairs, too, are marked by the need to consider and negotiate the claims of sovereign entities, specifically neighboring Mexico and Indian nations. Arizona fortunately does not have to contend with the warring, highly-charged political climate prevailing in the Middle East. It is hoped that the workshop will pay a long-term benefit by promoting peace. By working together to identify research needs and developing an international, collaborative research program, workshop participants were engaged in "science diplomacy," a strategy to promote understanding and peace.

**Special Workshop Edition of Newsletter**

This issue of the *Arizona Water Resource* newsletter provides information about the Arizona, Israeli, and Palestinian Water Management and Policy Workshop. (See page 8 for workshop agenda.) Additional information about the workshop is available at the WRRC web site.

**The Face of Drought**



The Israeli Water Authority used the above photo in a campaign to encourage drought awareness. The campaign included promoting water conservation tips, installing the green meter and distributing water conservation devices. Israeli presenters at the AIP workshop used the striking image to demonstrate the occurrence of drought in their country. Drought was one of the issues of concern shared by all the regions participating in the workshop: Arizona, Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Water Resources Research Center • College of Agriculture and Life Sciences • The University of Arizona

WATER AUTHORITY STATE OF ISRAEL

## CLOSING THE GAP

- ❖ Water saving and efficient use of water.
- ❖ Water wells purification and aquifers water quality improvement.
- ❖ Increasing capacity of waste water treatment and upgrading effluent quality.
- ❖ Desalination.



# Challenges to Cooperation



## Colorado River Basin



# The International Boundary and Water Commission (ibwc.gov)

MX Commissioner  
Roberto Salmon



US Commissioner  
Edward Drusina



# Cooperative framework adopted by the IBWC in August 2009 has guided development of aquifer reports for the Santa Cruz and San Pedro aquifers

Development of the cooperative framework took considerable time.



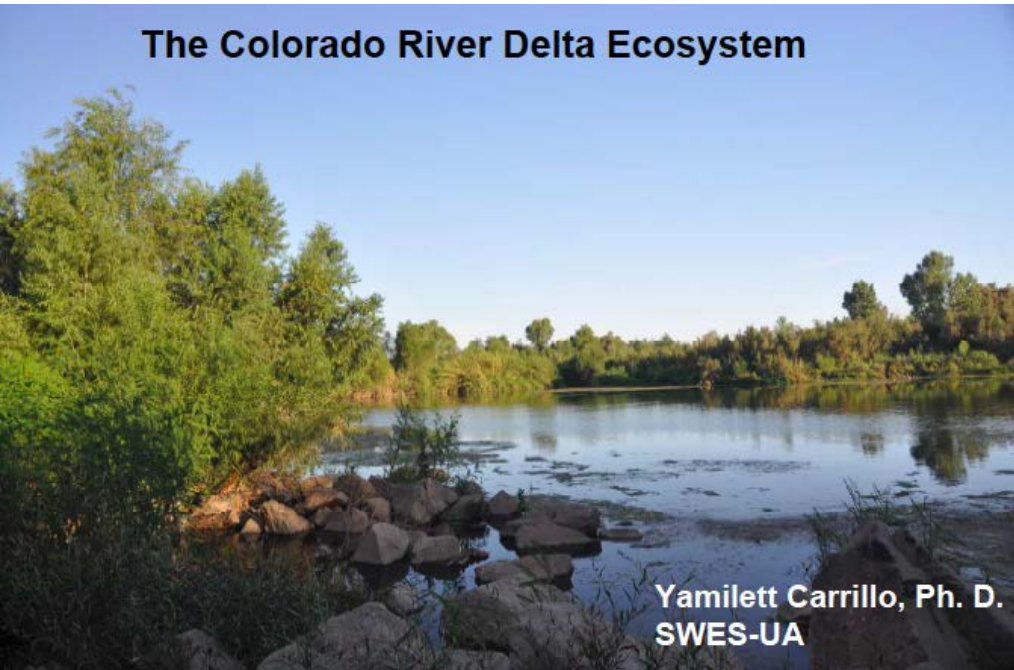
Photo taken 19 August 2009



TAAP Workshop and Binational Advisory Committee meeting

# Minute 319: Historic agreement signed in November 2012 to share Colorado River shortage and surplus and address Colorado River Delta ecosystem

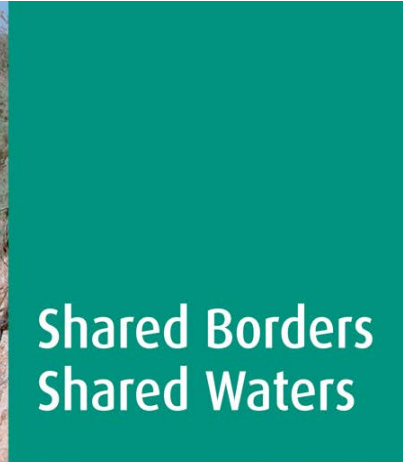
The Colorado River Delta Ecosystem



Yamilett Carrillo, Ph. D.  
SWES-UA




Photo Courtesy of Bryce Emily Megdal




## Israeli-Palestinian and Colorado River Basin Water Challenges


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### פתרון חירום לביוב נחל שכם Emergency Solution for the Sewage from the Nablus Stream

In 2000, the Alexander River Restoration Administration decided to advance, within Israel, the planning and construction of an "emergency project" for the treatment of the sewage from the Nablus Stream. This project, which was completed in 2003, enables the removal of the sewage from the river shared and the...  
בישנת 2000 החליטה אגודת ריקונום נחל אלכסנדר לקדם בתחום ישראל תכנון והקמת של "פרויקט חירום" לטיפול בביוב נחל שכם. פרויקט זה, אשר הושלם בשנת 2003, מאפשר סילוק הביוב מנחל נאבלוס איתו...

