

Towards concerted sharing: Development of a regional water economy model in the Jordan River Basin

The project entitled, “Towards concerted sharing: Development of a regional water economy model in the Jordan River Basin “, was given a kick start in Mid-2012 and is expected to be completed by the Mid-2015. Funding for the project is primarily coming through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). In December, 2012, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Centre for World Food Studies of VU University (SOW-VU) signed an Agreement (SIDA Contribution No: 52030161, 2012) to support the Concerted Sharing Project during the period 2012 –2015. SIDA granted SOW-VU a total of SEK 7 700 000, of which 5 000 000 became available for disbursement upon signature of the Agreement and a request for payment by SOW-VU. The SEK 2 700 000 shall be made available for disbursement on February 28, 2014.

The Concerted Sharing Project, is co-financed with contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and the project participants: Al Quds University (AQU), the Lebanese Research Team (LRT), Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and a regional partner, the Arab Center for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).

Administrative level 0 (CN)

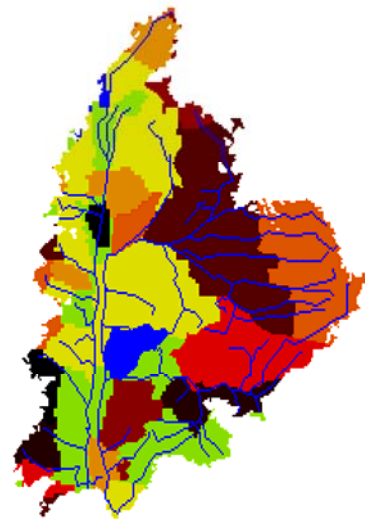


Figure 1: Base map of districts and rivers.



Figure 2: Participants of the kick off meeting in Amman

The scope of the projects aims ultimately at developing a mathematical water economy model which can be used by research institutions of the partner countries for building water use/needs projections, environmental forecasts, socio-economic impacts, etc. Work on this project involves building various databases of climatic factors, watersheds, and aquifers, amongst others. It also aims at developing zonal maps of water consumption vs. available water resources in conjunction with the socio-economic model that is part of the overall project ultimate model.

outcomes of this endeavour will further help researchers better refine their findings, policy makers better couch their decisions, and countries involved better plan their resources towards achieving national development objectives.



Figure 3: Farmer in Jordan Valley

Project partners have already put in place a working agenda and have identified particular segments of the work where each partner would contribute to the project. Alternatives were sketched out by each participating institution as possible venues towards ultimate contribution for completion of the project. Deadlines and deliverables have been identified and set for each partner, and a working agenda was put in place by each partnering institution.

Outcomes of this ongoing effort will be disseminated by means of regular workshops, seminars, materials across academic curricula, through the news media and by getting policy makers at the higher level involved in the process. Once the project is complete, awareness of the