

# **Transboundary water co-operation as a tool for peacemaking – challenges and opportunities**

Prepared for the conference on Integrating  
Environment, development and conflict prevention,  
Berlin, 29 March 2007

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## **'Environmental peacemaking' – what are the issues?**

- Functionalist approach
- 'low politics' vs 'high politics'
- Interdependence a key aspect
- Risk of overemphasising the importance of water – water sub-ordinate to other political issues
- Level of focus on security in a river basin key
- Institutional/regime approach – focus on process and development of shared rules and norms.
- Benefit sharing
- Public goods approach
- Hydrohegemony



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## **'Spill-over effects', 'benefit sharing' and public goods**

- Spill-over effects from water co-operation to other political fields?
- Benefit sharing? Beyond the river co-operation?
- Public goods approach
- In the Jordan River Basin rights a key factor – what to do then?
- Positive-Sum scenarios



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## **'Hydro-Hegemony'** **"Water flow uphill to power"**

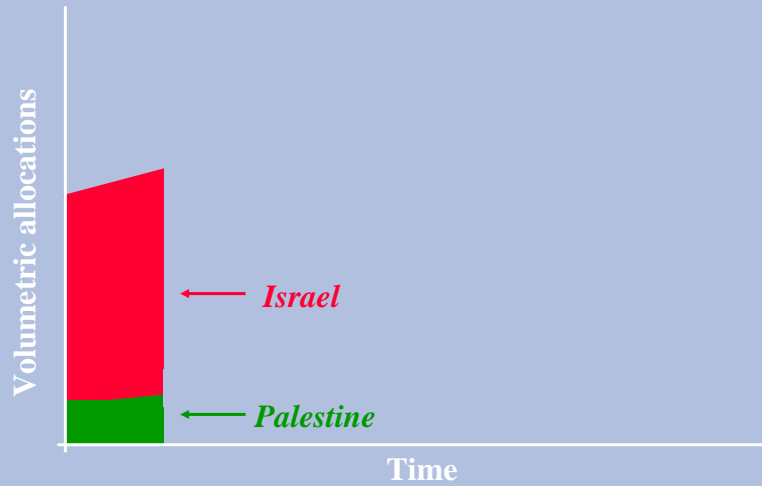
- Politics key – water linked to power
- Powerful states in a river basin seek to reserve transboundary waters for their benefit
- Donors could (and should) work to "level the playing field"



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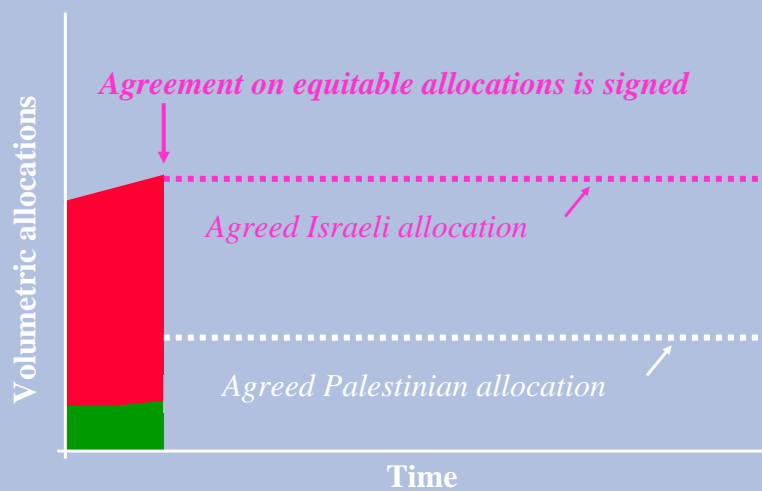
### Bilateral Transition: Current Scenario (from Phillips et al)



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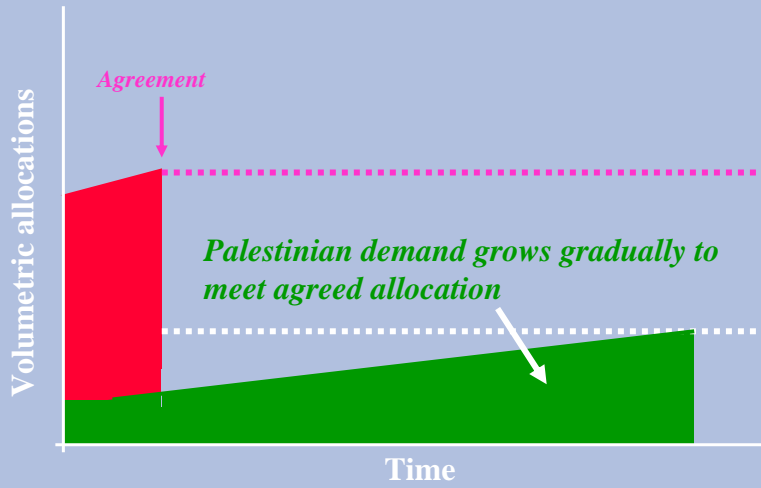
### Bilateral Transition: Step 1



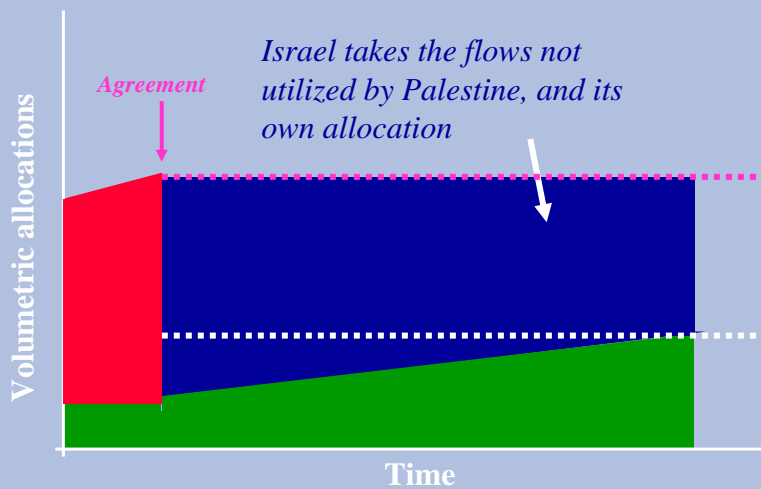
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### Bilateral Transition: Step 2

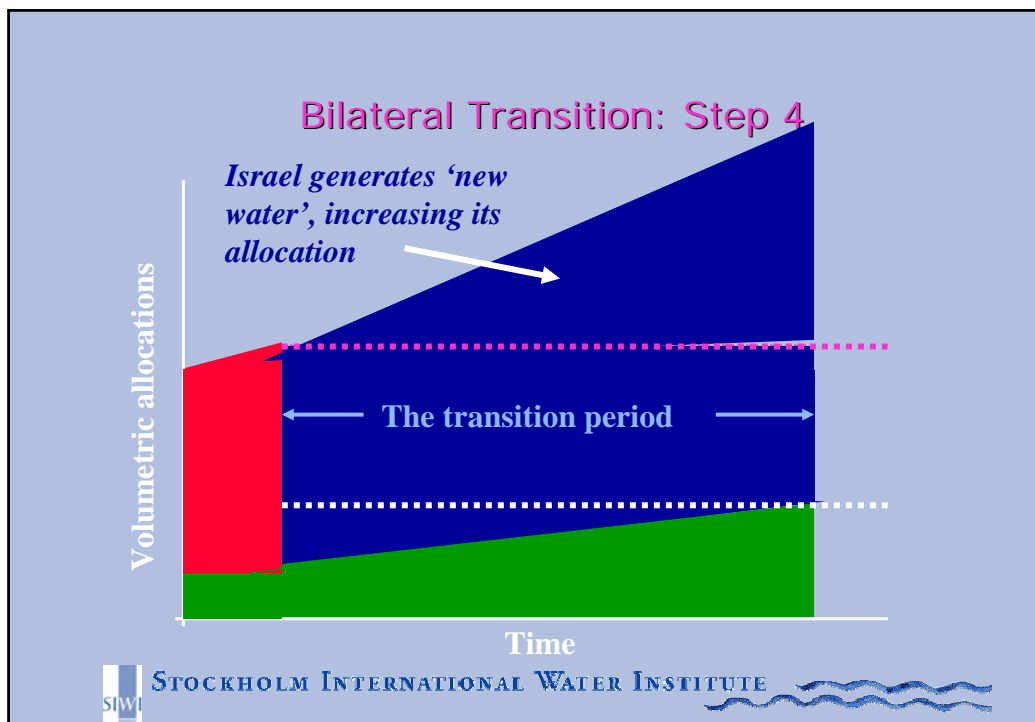


### Bilateral Transition: Step 3



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## Some policy conclusions

- Each basin unique – context matters
- Hydro-Hegemony – need to “level the playing field”
- Water linked to politics – political analysis necessary
- Institutions/regimes matters
- ‘Benefit sharing’ – important but not panacea
- ‘Positive-sum’ outcomes
- ‘Process financing’ key

**Thank you for your  
attention!**



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