



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: September 30, 2008

Re-submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID¹:

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority

PROJECT TITLE: Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program

GEF AGENCY(IES): World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):

GEF FOCAL AREA (S): International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): Strategic Program SP-3:

Balancing Overuse and Conflicting Uses of Water Resources in

Surface and Groundwater Basins that are Trans-boundary in Nature

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Study Program

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	Nov 2008
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Jan 2009
GEF Agency Approval	Jan 2009
Implementation Start	Jan 2009
Mid-term Review (if planned)	n/a
Implementation Completion	May 2010

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK (Expand table as necessary)

Project Objective: To support the Study Program for the proposed Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance								
Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA**	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing*		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$)
				(\$)	%	(\$)	%	
1. Feasibility Study	STA	Investment options	Reports	2,000,000	26	5,700,000	74	7,700,000
2. Environmental and Social Assessment	STA	Environmental and Social Safeguards	Reports	0	0	3,700,000	100	3,700,000
3. Analysis of Alternatives	STA	Investment options	Reports	800,000	100	0	0	800,000
4. Public Consultation	TA	Stakeholder input	Reports	200,000	50	200,000	50	400,000
5. Panel of Experts	STA	Advisory Support	Reports	400,000	67	200,000	33	600,000
6. Project Management				100,000	13	700,000	87	800,000
Total Project Costs				3,500,000	25	10,500,000	75	14,000,000

* List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively to the total amount for the component.

** TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & technical analysis.

B. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Project Preparation*	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF		3,500,000	350,000	3,850,000
Co-financing	1,000,000	10,500,000		11,500,000
Total	1,000,000	14,000,000	350,000	15,350,000

* Please include the previously approved PDFs and planned request for new PPG, if any. Indicate the amount already approved as footnote here and if the GEF funding is from GEF-3.

¹ Project ID number will be assigned initially by GEFSEC.

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (including project preparation amount) **BY SOURCE and BY NAME** (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Amount
Project Government Contribution	In-kind	600,000
GEF Agency(ies)	In-kind	400,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	Grant	10,500,000
Multilateral Agency(ies)		
Private Sector		
NGO		
Others	Grant	
Total co-financing		11,500,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) SHARE AND COUNTRY(IES)*

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
Total GEF Resources						

* NO need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

- A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:** Water in the Jordan River Basin is a scarce resource, the availability of which is far below the competing demands for water for all purposes. The population growth rate in the region is one of the highest in the world. The amount of water reaching the Dead Sea is substantially declining, causing the sea level to drop at an alarming rate. Currently, upstream extractions for drinking water and economic activities have reduced inflow to the Dead Sea significantly; its level has fallen nearly 20 meters since the 1960s and is continuing to fall at a rapid rate of 1 meter per year, causing serious economic and ecological impacts. The soil matrix around the Dead Sea is collapsing as the sea level falls, causing sinkholes. Groundwater resources are being lost at an ever higher rate as the fresh/salt water interface recedes. The main challenge is to find a way to arrest the drop in the Dead Sea and restore it to previous levels, while at the same time addressing the growing demand for water. The conveyance of water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea has been identified by the Governments of Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority for detailed investigation through a comprehensive Study Program. The Study Program includes a Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment supported by a public consultation process. The Study Program will include, consistent with its terms of reference, an independent and transparent examination of alternatives, including enhanced management of the lower Jordan River and increased water-use efficiency. It will also support examination of the potential establishment of the Dead Sea Region as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:** The Dead Sea has been a centerpiece in the history of many cultures and religions for centuries. The national priorities of the three parties involved include water security and integrated management of the sector. Dialogues with the Bank are ongoing with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority as part of their respective sector reform. The outcome of the Study Program will advance these dialogues. The Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance concept, if proven feasible from an economic, technical, environmental and social perspective, could well provide a practical framework for better water management and cooperation between the parties to bring about major positive changes in the region. Global interest in this potential project, as well as the sustainability of water resources in the region, depends greatly on the degree of cooperation demonstrated by all involved.

- C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:** The GEF project is designed to support multi-country cooperation at the scale of transboundary water resources. As such, the proposed project conforms to the GEF International Waters Strategic Objective SO-1 on fostering international, multi-state cooperation on priority transboundary waters concerns, in this case resulting in a Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment for a proposed action to reverse the degradation of the Dead Sea. The project will also address the GEF Strategic Program SP-3 that aims at Balancing Overuse and Conflicting Uses of Water Resources in Surface and Groundwater Basins that are Transboundary in Nature. Various alternatives will be examined to address the use of water resources in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority that affect the Dead Sea. The three parties have jointly requested the World Bank to coordinate the Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment, thereby already displaying the collaboration envisioned by Strategic Objective 1 for this GEF focal area.
- D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:** The World Bank is working closely with the Governments of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority on a variety of activities involving sector studies, investment operations and technical assistance activities linked to sustainable development. It has also undertaken, with the support the GEF and other parties, activities to promote environmental management in Jordan and in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Bank is currently working with PERSGA on a proposal to GEF for a second phase of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Program.
- E. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :** The Dead Sea is widely recognized as an important global public good and the Study Program will examine measures that may be cooperatively undertaken by Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority to address the degradation of this fragile resource. The transboundary nature of the Dead Sea justifies the GEF support, and the incremental resources from the GEF will support: a Study Program that would allow decision makers and the public to better understand the need for the environmental rehabilitation of the Dead Sea; and a structured process for examination of a proposed action and its alternatives. GEF support will also allow for examination of the potential for establishing the Dead Sea Region as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:** The Study Program is the only current example where the Governments of Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority are publicly working together. The process that has resulted in the Study Program has been on-going since 2003, and despite the Region's often difficult political conditions has managed to make steady progress. The inherent complexity of this regional, multi-faceted Study Program poses potential development and reputation risks. Political tension and volatility in the region makes this a significant activity with both risks and benefits, however, the potential benefits far outweigh the risks. Environmental, social, and economic implications of the concept can be significant. With the technical assistance and oversight of the World Bank, preparation of the Study Program is taking a proactive, transparent, and cautious approach. The Governments of Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority will continue to be involved throughout the study period through the Study Technical Steering Committee, to be chaired by the World Bank. Given the high profile and public interest in the Study Program, the following additional steps are being undertaken to better manage risks: a communication strategy has been developed to manage external relations and internal coordination; and, a Study Program web site has been launched to provide timely and accurate information to the public. An independent panel of international experts will provide advice on the Study Program to the Technical Steering Committee. The Feasibility Study and the alternatives analysis will specifically address the potential impact of climate change and minimize the risk by taking climatic variability and change into account.
- G. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:** The Study Program has been designed to include a detailed evaluation of the costs associated with the proposed action and alternatives. The outcomes of this work will be integrated into the Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Assessment, thus providing decisions makers and the public with information on potential investment and operation and maintenance costs so that cost effective options may be identified. The Study Program will also include a review of institutional arrangements for cooperative implementation and operation of the proposed Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance.
- H. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:** Since 2002, the World Bank has worked on a sustained basis on the development of the Study Program at the request of the Governments of Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority. This has included supporting cooperative preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Study Program, mobilization of financial resources from donors and establishment of a Bank administered multi-donor trust fund.

The World Bank has established a Task Team for the Study Program and has two senior experts serving as members of the Technical Steering Committee.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

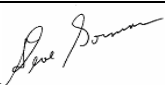
A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

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B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
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