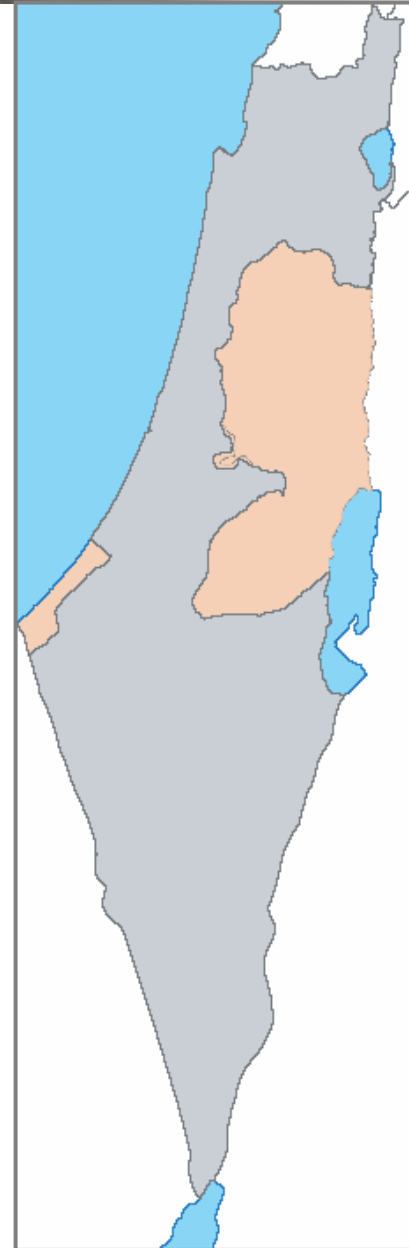


Water for a Viable Palestinian State

Negotiations Support Unit



INTRODUCTION

Main Messages

- 1. The equitable allocation of shared water resources is essential for a viable Palestinian state.**
- 2. Current fresh water allocations between Palestine and Israel (and in the region) are highly inequitable and unsustainable.**
- 3. A negotiated solution that is both “win-win” and sustainable is achievable.**

Water: the Regional Concern



- Jordan – Syria dispute over Yarmouk.
- Lebanon – Israel dispute over Wazzani
- Syria – Israel dispute over Golan Heights
- Israel – Palestinians dispute over shared resources

Overview of Shared Water Resources



- Groundwater: Israel & Palestinians share four aquifers
- Surface water: 5 riparians share Jordan River basin
- Additional Groundwater for Israel: Naqab & Arabah, Carmel, Tiberia, and Western Galilee Basins

Equitable Sharing of Water Resources

- Two-State solution requires establishment of a viable Palestinian State.
- To be viable, Palestine must obtain its “**equitable and reasonable**” share of fresh water (customary international law).
- Solution must be just & sustainable over time.

Without a negotiated, fair and sustainable solution, there should be no expectation of a viable state.

**INEQUITABLE AND
UNREASONABLE ALLOCATION**

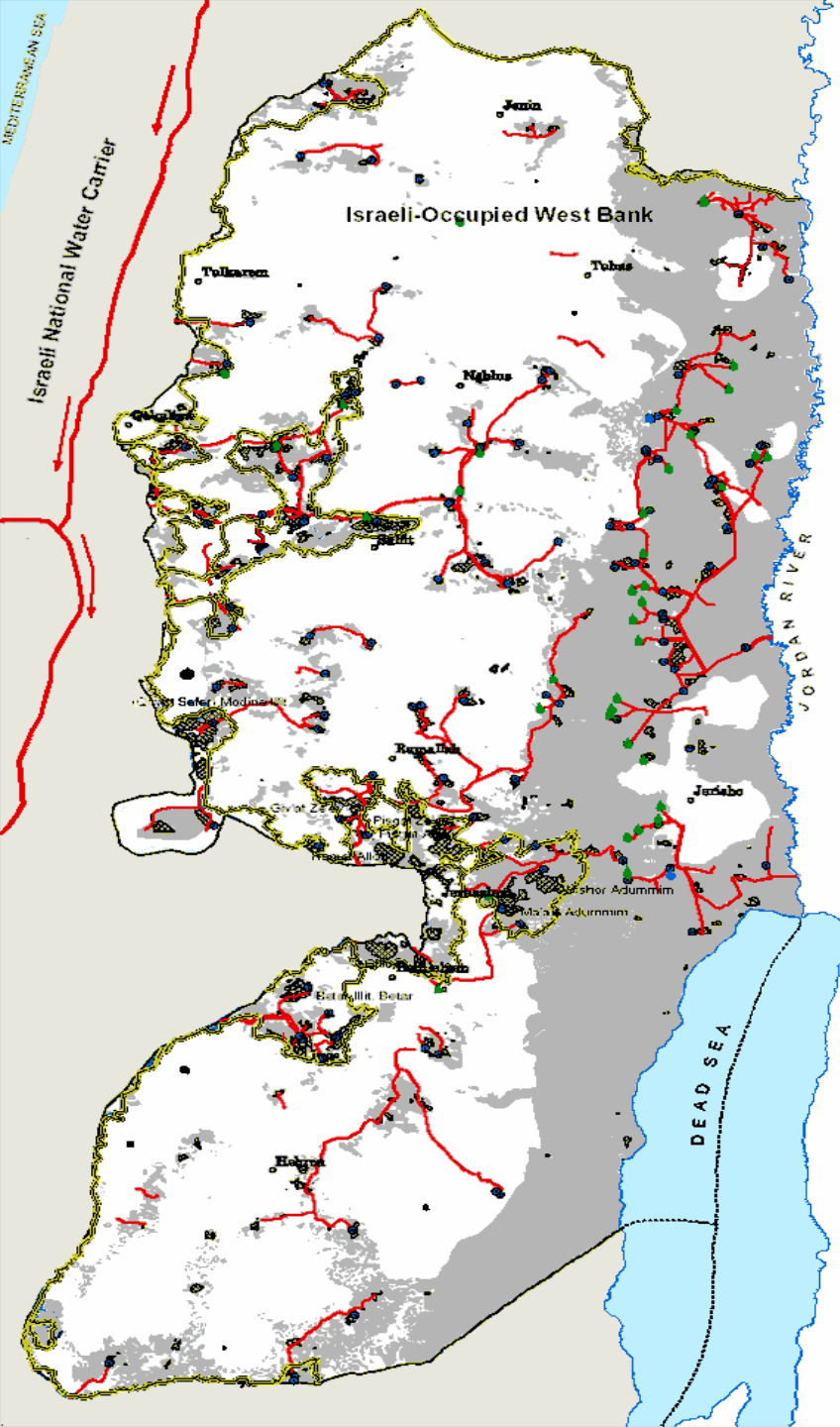
Inequitable Water Control

Transboundary Water Resources between Palestine and Israel (MCM per year)								
Resource	Natural Flow / Recharge	Total Utilization	Palestinian Water Control			Israeli Water Control		
			Volume	% from Total Utilization	% from Recharge	Volume	% from Total Utilization	% from Recharge
Groundwater	1454	1503	251	17%	17%	1252	83%	86%
Jordan River	965	870	0	0%	0%	870	100%	90%
Runoff	215	197	20	10%	9%	177	90%	82%
Total	2634	2570	271	11%	10%	2299	89%	87%

Control of Shared Water Resources



- 1964 National Water Carrier unilateral diversion of Jordan Waters
- 1967 Occupation Military Orders
- Massive increase of Israeli wells capturing Western Aquifer waters
- 1995 Oslo Agreement “Interim” Allocations and the Joint Water Committee



Control: Settlement Water Infrastructure

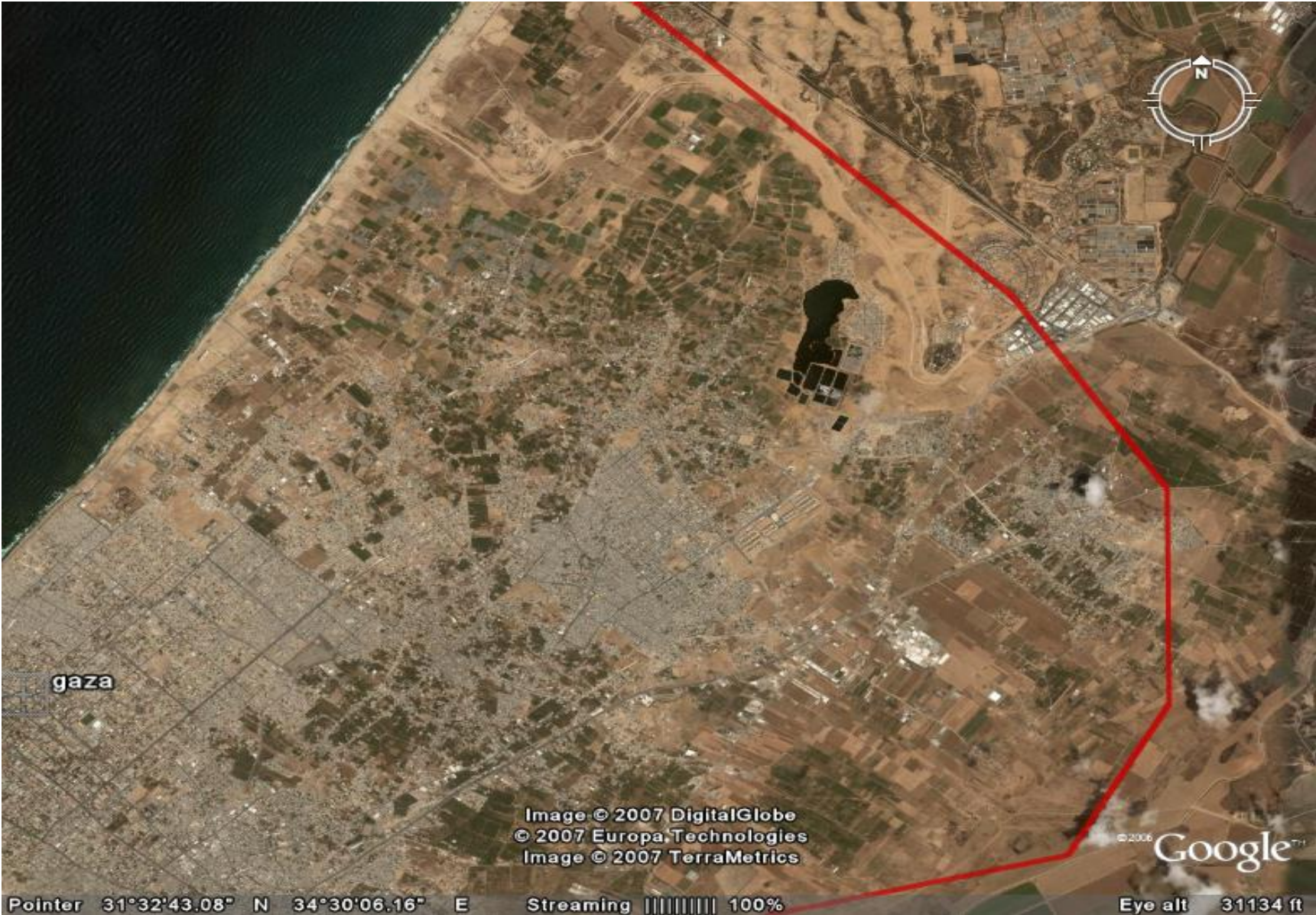
Israeli Well	
Israeli Reservoir	
Israeli Water Pipe	
Israeli Settlement	
Settlement Area	
Wall Route (Feb. 05)	

Control of Gaza Shared Water Resources

- 1.5 million Palestinians (70% below poverty line).
- 60 Mcm/year - sustainable yield
- 150 Mcm/year - abstracted (increased salinization/pollution).
- Israeli restrictions on water and wastewater infrastructure.



Control of Gaza Shared Water Resources



Control of Gaza Shared Water Resources

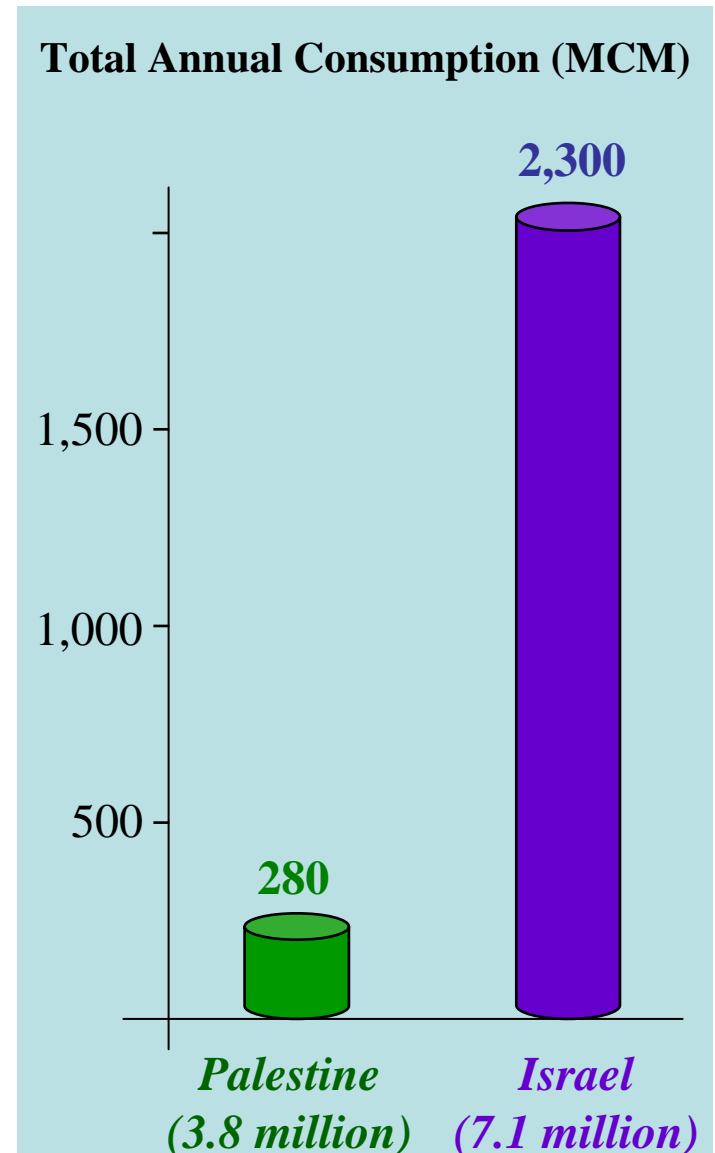


Breach of Sewage Lagoon in Beit Lahia (March, 2007)

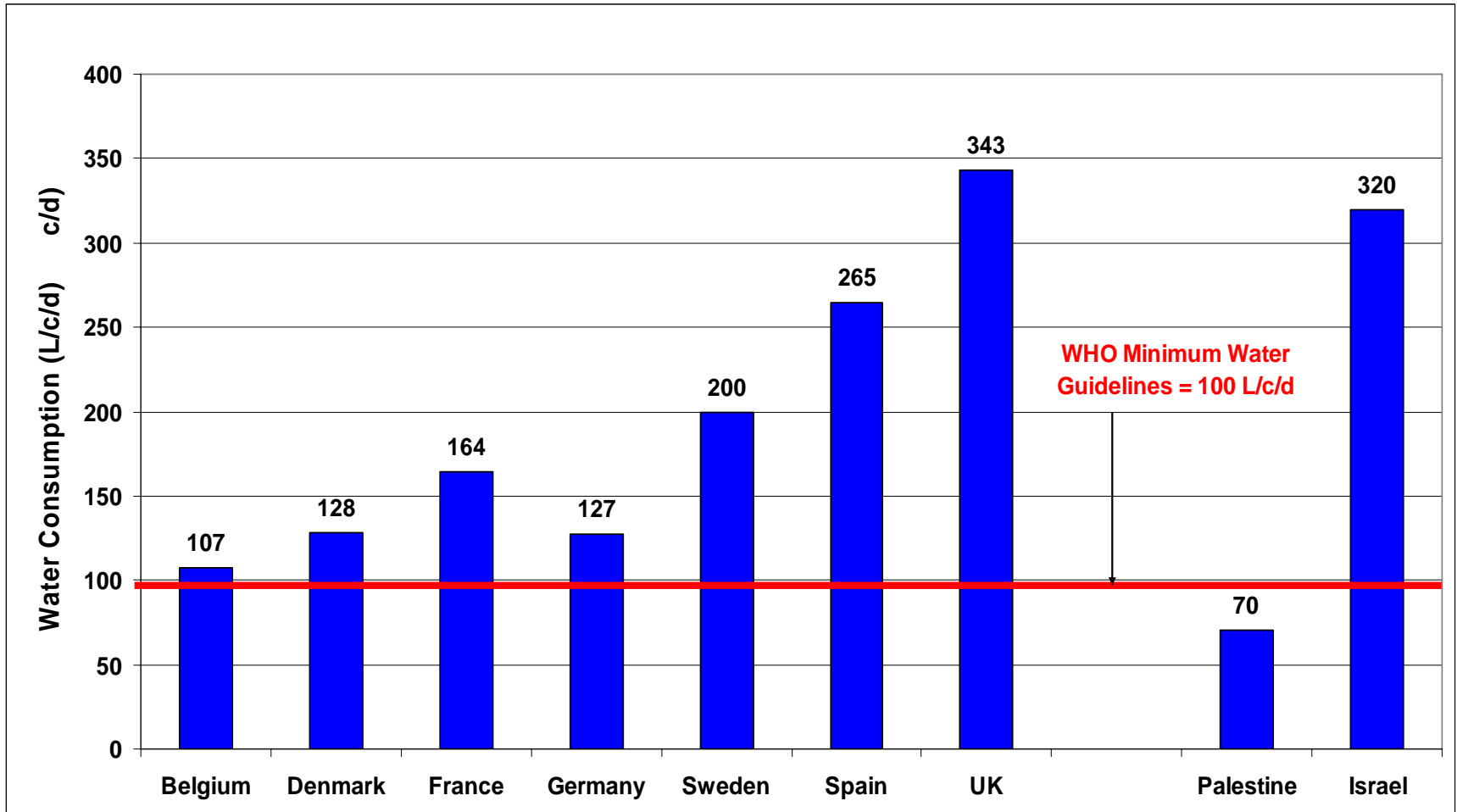
Israeli and Palestinian Water Consumption

On average, Israelis domestic consumption is more than four times Palestinians.

- 70 liters/capita/day vs. 320 liters/capita/day.
- *This is not “equitable and reasonable”!*
- *Cannot be sustained over time*



The Myth of Israeli Water Efficiency

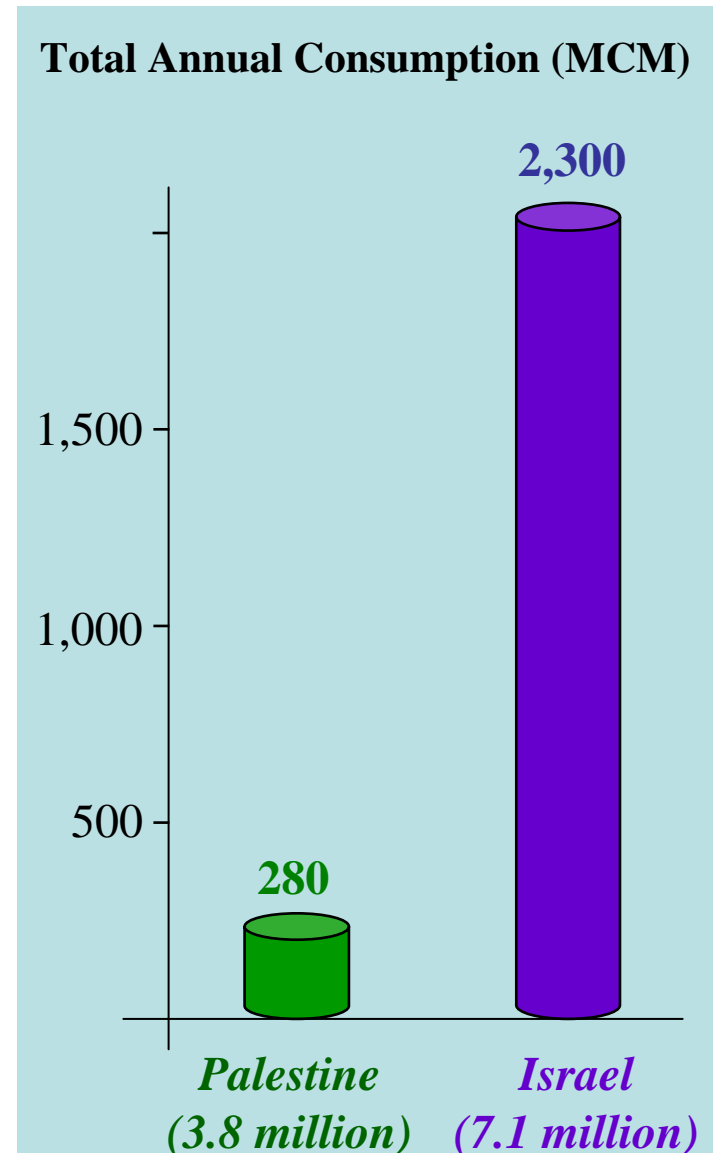


Source: EWA, 2005, Lund University, 2005.

Israeli and Palestinian Water Consumption

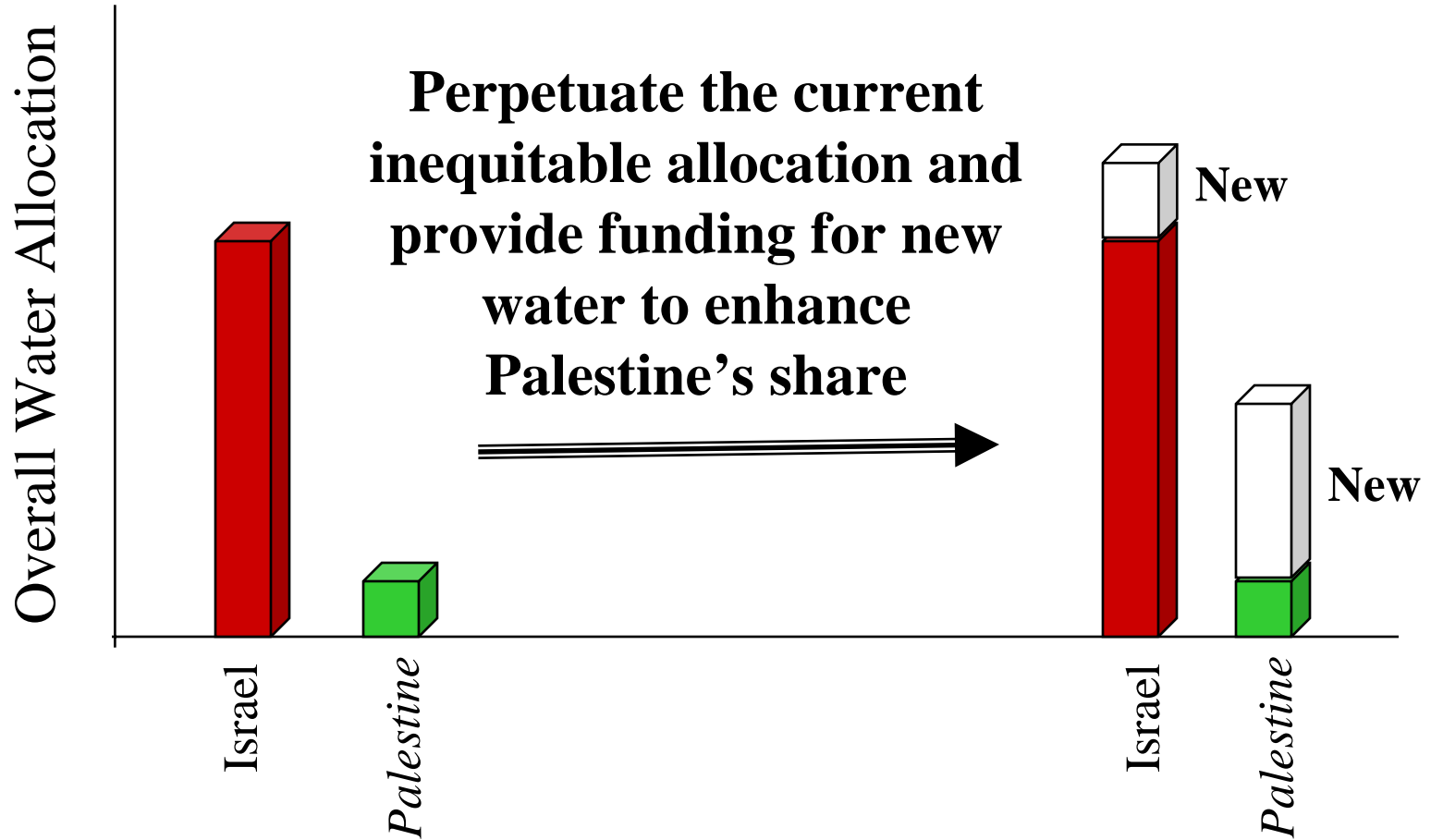
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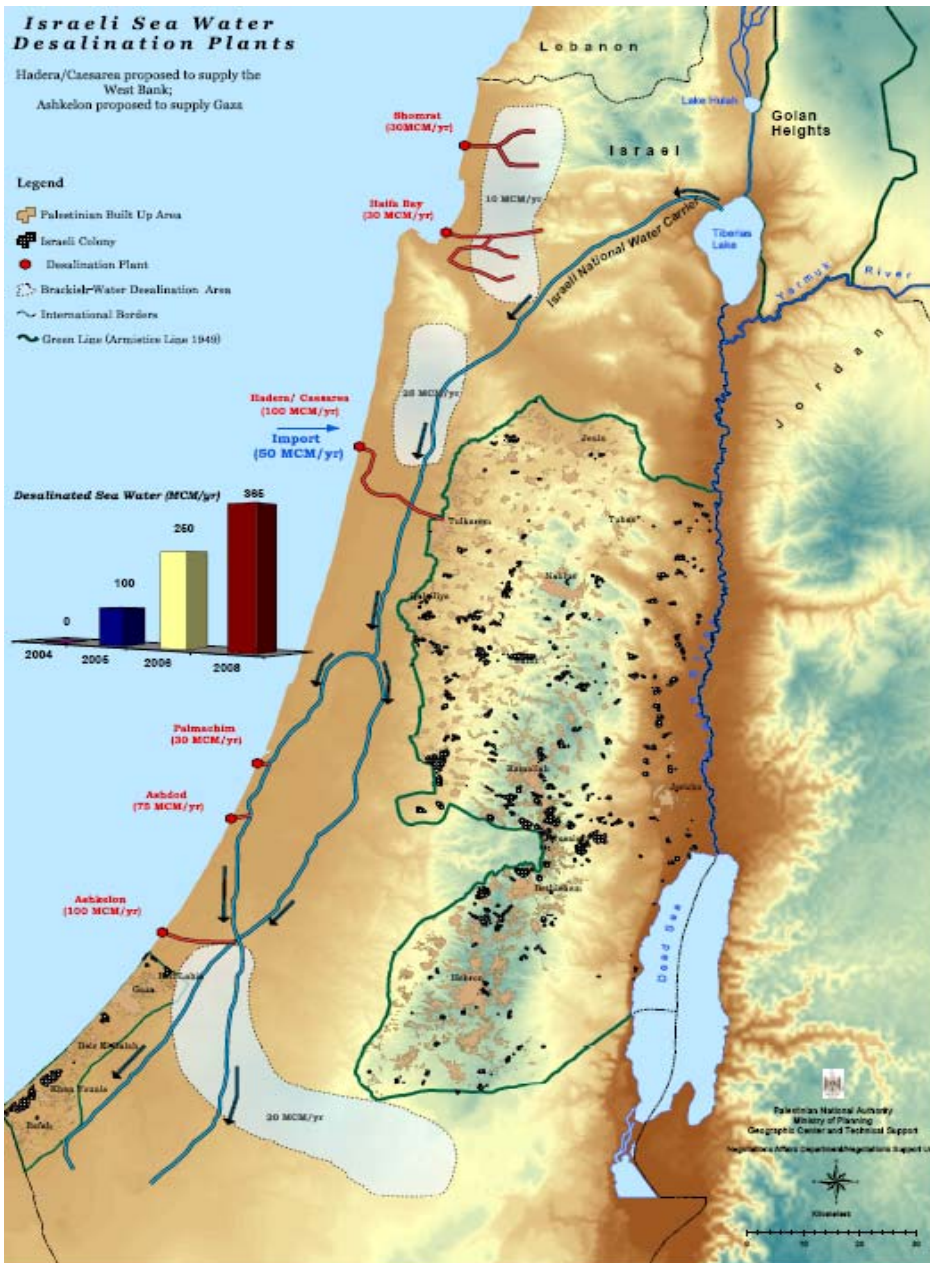


PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI PROPOSALS

The Israeli Solution:

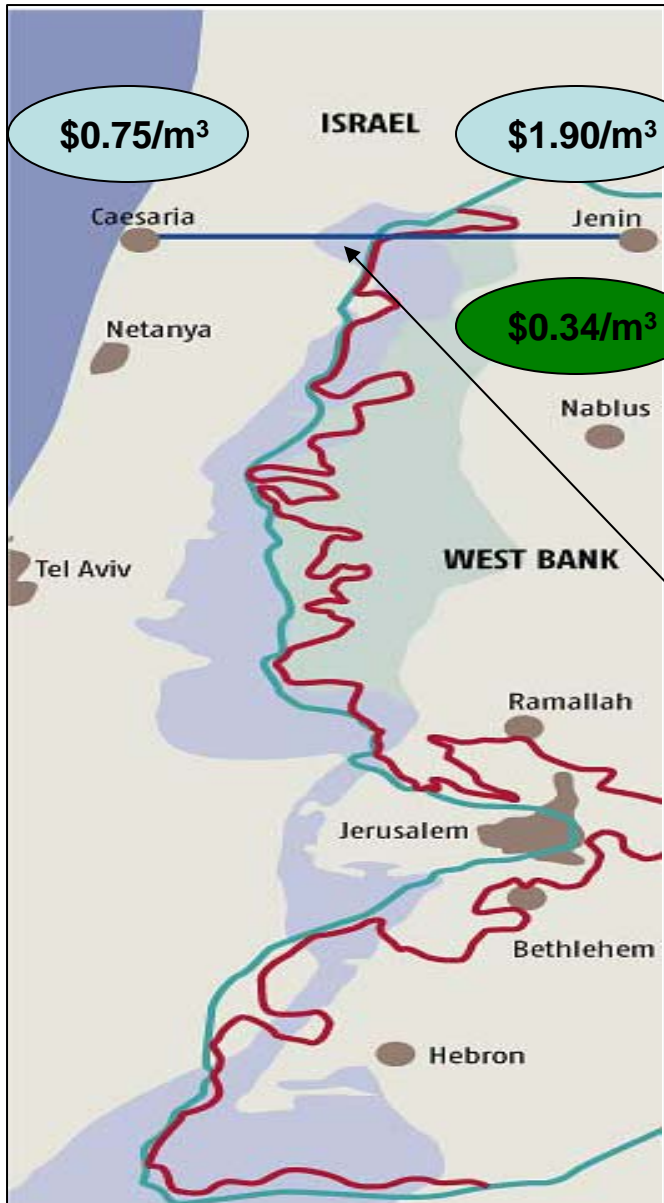


ISRAELI DESALINATION: THE ONLY SOLUTION?



- Israel has attempted to “**Sell**” desalinated water from Ashkelon to Gaza Strip.
- Israeli initiative to develop additional desalinated water for the West Bank from Caesarea.

AVOIDING PALESTINIAN WATER RIGHTS



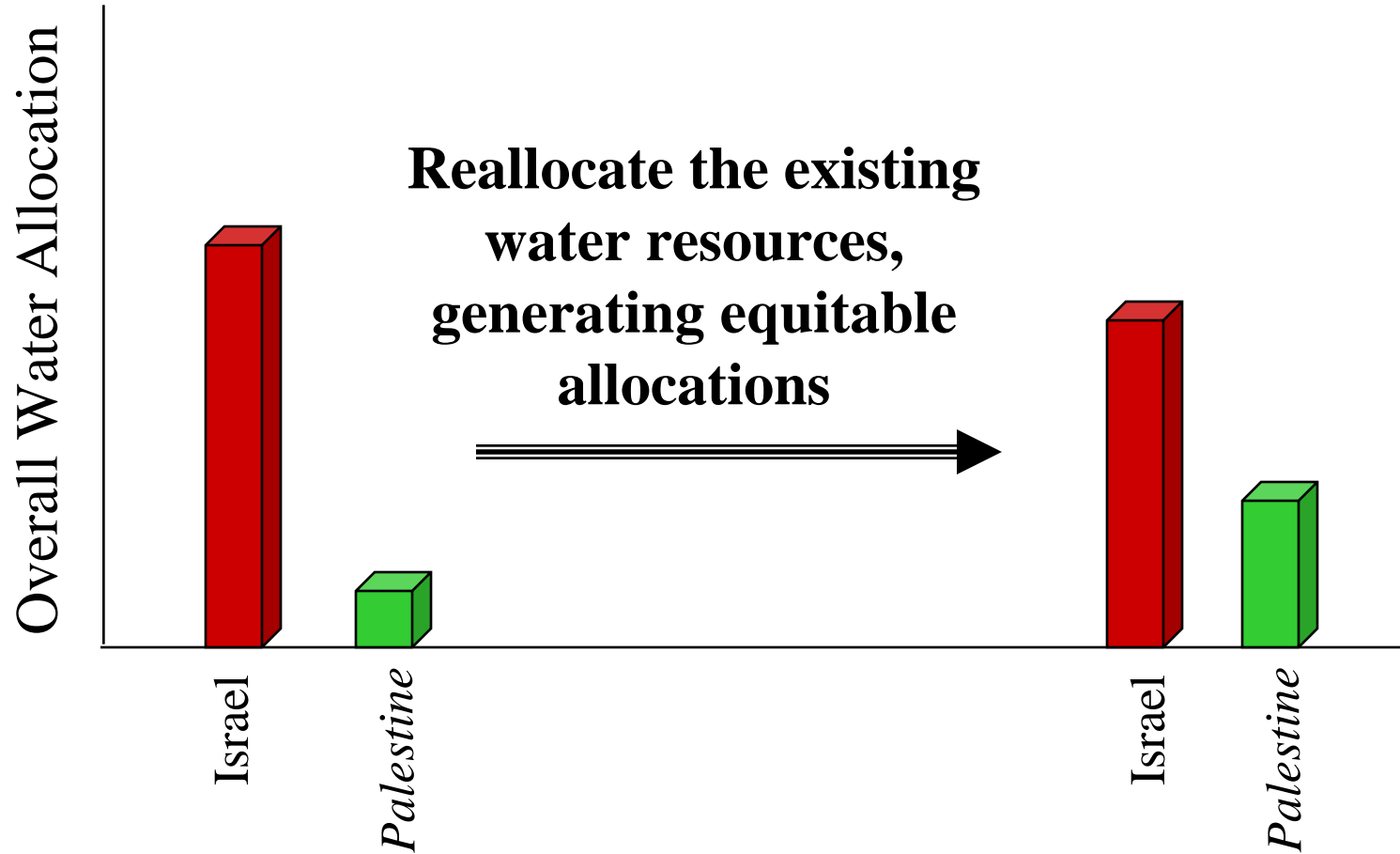
Israeli Desalination Proposal: Who benefits?

1. Caesaria/Hadera Desalination Plant

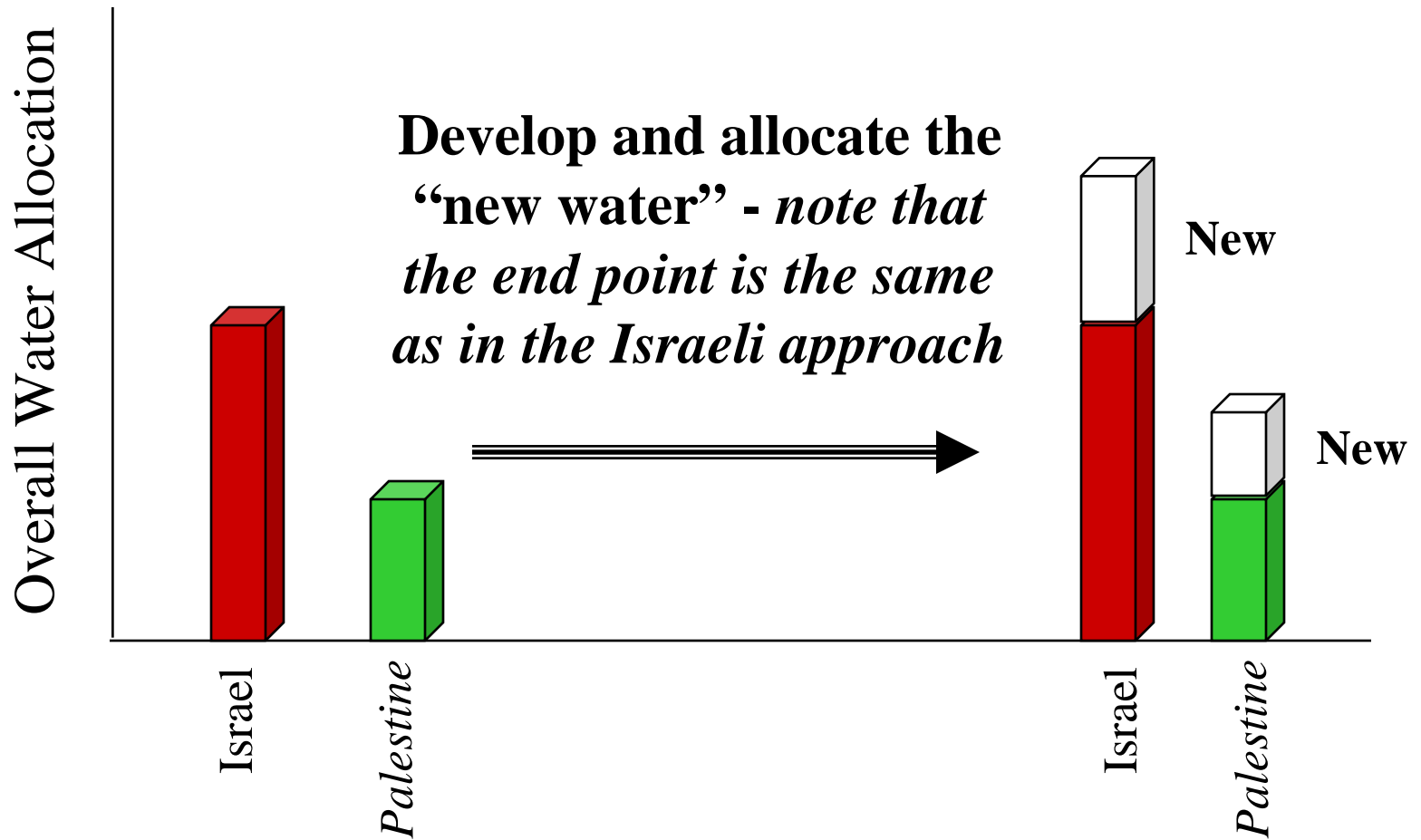
- Neither **technically** nor **economically** good option.
- Avoids addressing Palestinian water rights.
- **Expands Israeli control** over water supply.

Water is pumped 800m up hill from the coast to the mountains.

The Palestinian Solution (1):



The Palestinian Solution (2):

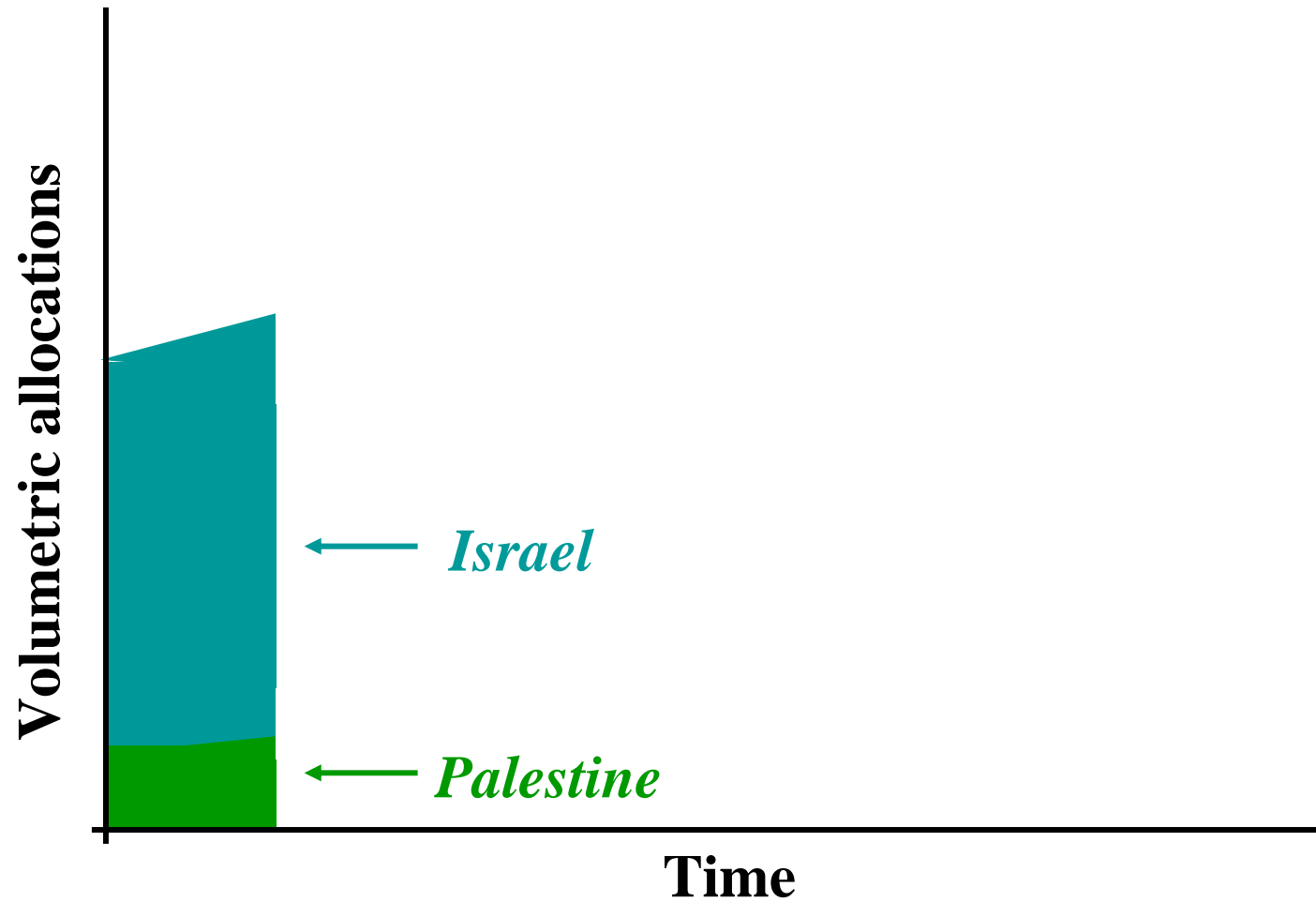


The Positive-sum Outcome

Objective: provide parties an allocation that is equitable and reasonable under international law, and sustainable over time.

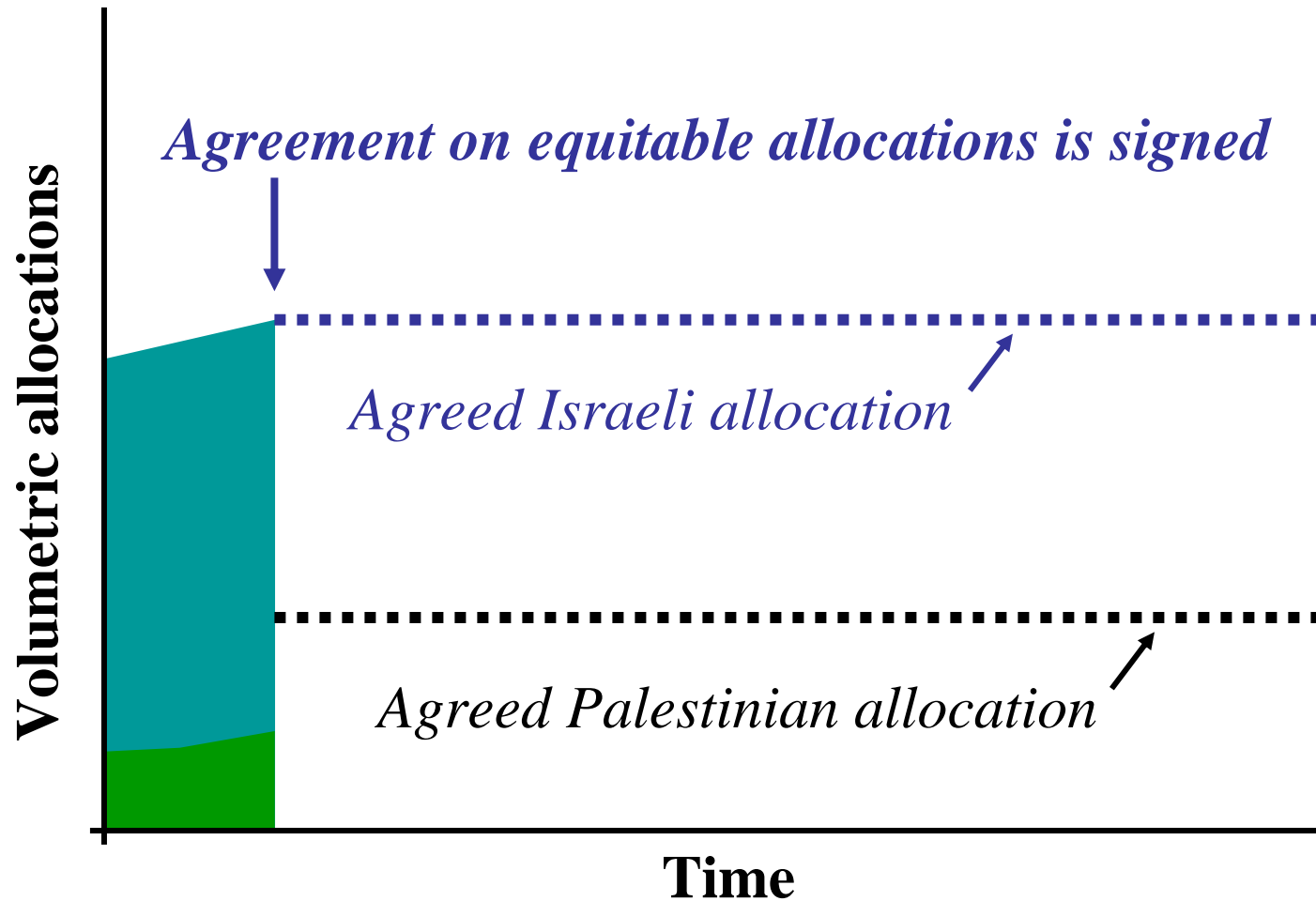
- *Increasing Palestinian water use will take time.*
- *'Transition period' is key to positive-sum solution – increasing Israeli water supplies for Israel while reallocating rightful share of existing resources to Palestine.*

Bilateral Transition: Current Scenario



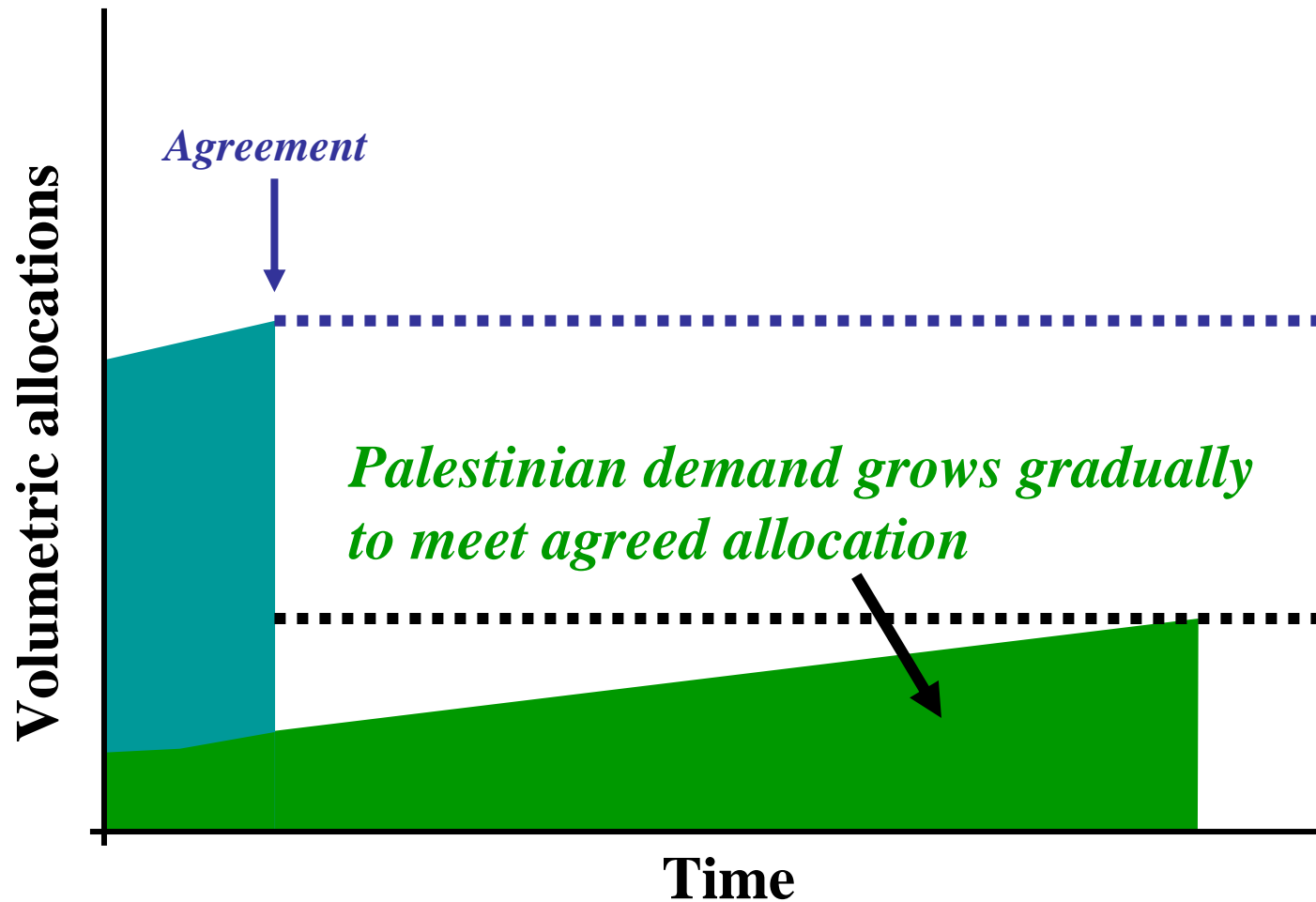
Bilateral Transition: Step 1

Positive-sum Outcome



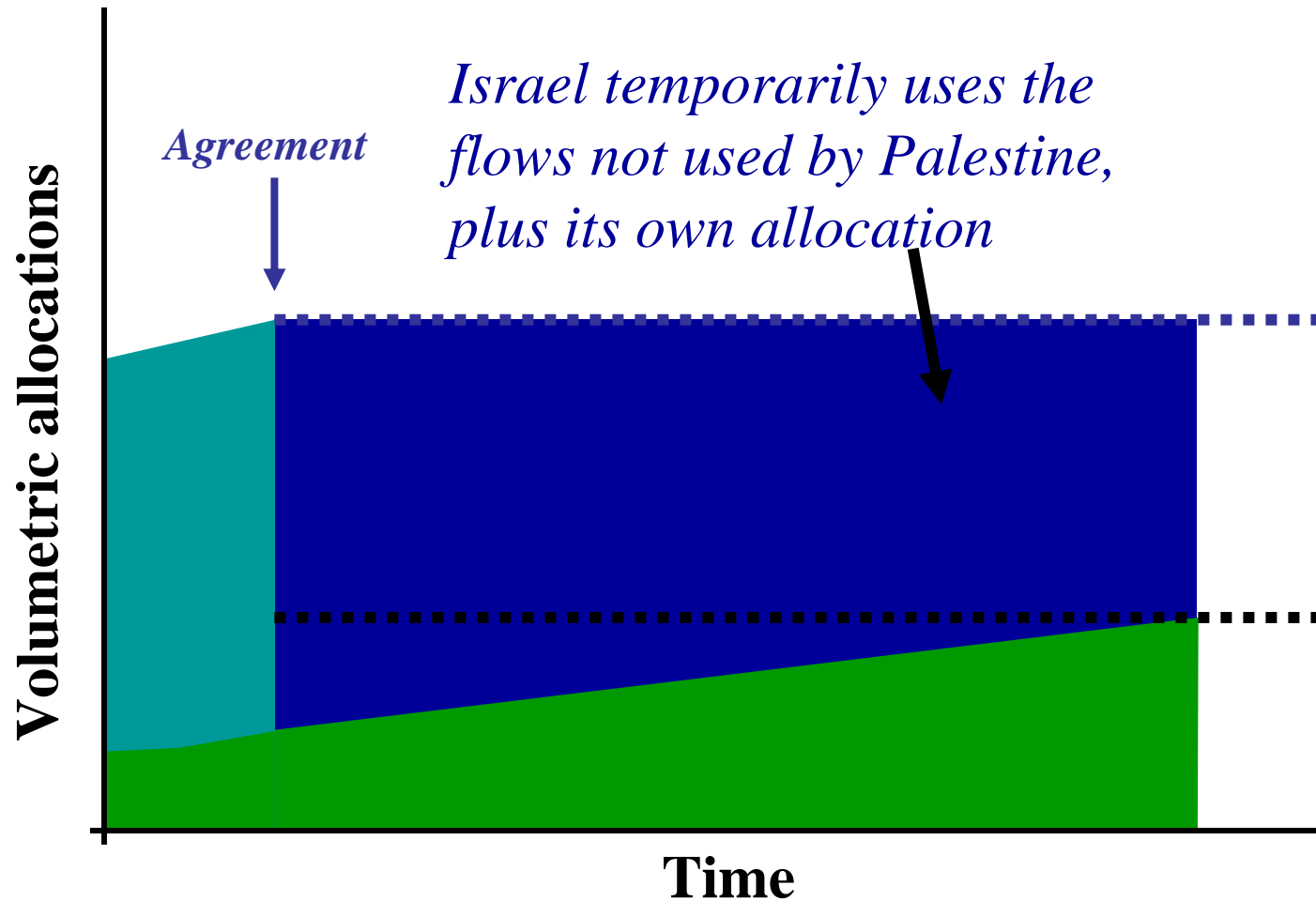
Bilateral Transition: Step 2

Positive-sum Outcome



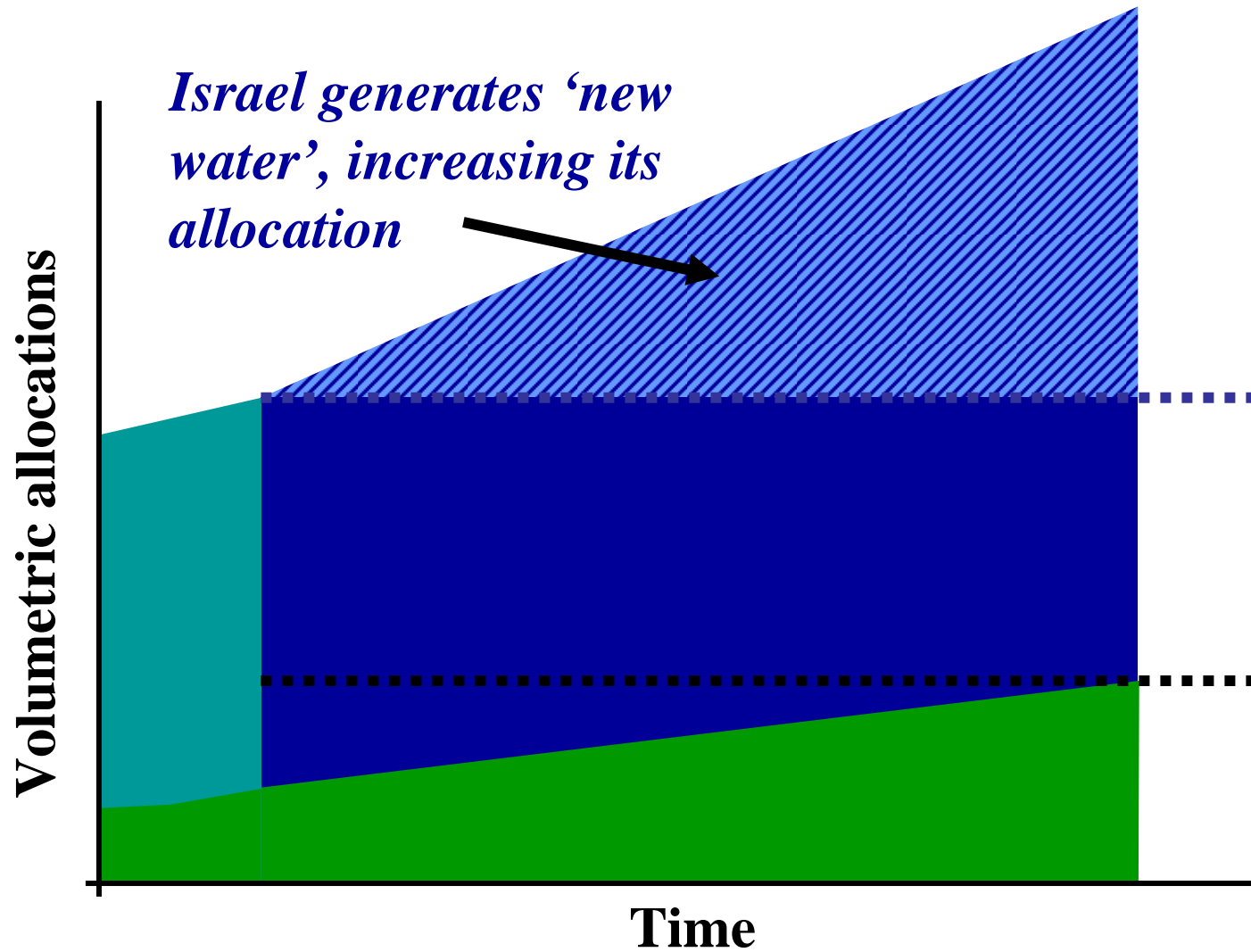
Bilateral Transition: Step 3

Positive-sum Outcome



Bilateral Transition: Step 4

Positive-sum Outcome



Israel Benefits from Palestinian Proposal

- Legalize water usage and resolves key conflict issue.
- Define Israel's water rights and assure "Water Security".
- Gain efficiency through integrated water resource management – jointly managing shared water resources.
- Palestinian support for financing of "New Water" developments **in Israel**.
- Encourages agreement on Jordan River Basin.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- No viable Palestinian State without sufficient water.
- Negotiated agreement must be based on equitable reallocation of shared water resources.
- A fair and reasonable reallocation to Palestinians without harm to Israel

***Water can be used as a vehicle for peace,
rather than as a source of further conflict***



THANK YOU!