

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
between  
**THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
on behalf of the **GOVERNMENT of the STATE of ISRAEL**  
and  
**THE AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (ASEZA)**  
on behalf of the **HASHEMITE KINGDOM of JORDAN**

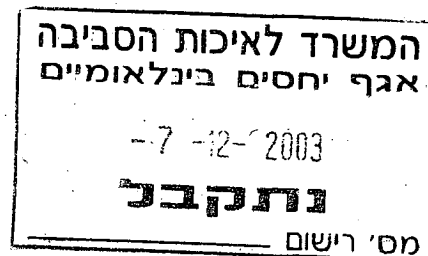
Further to the Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Special Arrangements for Aqaba and Eilat of 18 January 1996, and;

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to confirm the intent of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), on behalf of the State of Israel, and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (hereinafter the "Parties"), to cooperate in maintaining the core elements of a recently initiated ecosystem monitoring and data management program in the northern Gulf of Aqaba, as based upon the trans-boundary Red Sea Marine Peace Park Cooperative Research, Monitoring and Management Program (RSMPP).

The Parties acknowledge that the RSMPP monitoring and data management program is an outstanding foundation on which to build their own Gulf of Aqaba National Monitoring Programs (NMP), and;

Realizing the importance of trans-boundary coordination and cooperation between such NMPs in their efforts to promote the long term sustainable use and conservation of their shared marine resources have agreed as follows:

1. Each Party will commit to funding its own independent long-term NMP.
2. Each NMP will include a common core of environmental monitoring parameters collected with mutually agreed upon scientific methods.




3. Each Party will maintain its own data management system, while also utilizing a permanent and joint data archive for processing, integrating, storing and accessing all data collected as part of the NMPs. All data will conform to the same joint classification protocol as established in the RSMPP, with each separate file having an identical format meta-data file.

4. The Parties will establish a joint Steering Committee that will have the following responsibilities:

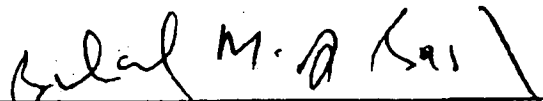
- provide comprehensive recommendations for the implementation of the NMPs;
- review progress and schedule monitoring activities;
- organize joint meetings on a regular basis with all leading personnel involved, to ensure maximum coordination and collaboration in all phases of the NMPs;
- foster the exchange of ideas for effective integration and coordination of trans-boundary Gulf of Aqaba environmental decision-making.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon its signature. Each Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding sixty (60) days from the issuance of written notice to the other Party. However, the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the completion of activities under agreements and contracts concluded on its basis, which may not have been completed by the date of its termination.

Done in Aqaba, Jordan on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2003.

  
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For the Ministry of the Environment  
Dr. Miriam Haran  
Director General

  
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For ASEZA  
Dr. Bilal Al Bahir  
Commissioner of Environment