



ISRAEL

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The National Focal Point team is composed of :

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The Water Director is :

- **Prof. Uri Shani**,
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www.emwis-il.org

The Hydrological Service of Israel (HSI), within the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage, has been appointed in the year 2001 as the Israeli National Focal Point (NFP) for EMWIS. The HSI is responsible for monitoring of water resources in Israel (groundwater and surface water, quality and quantity), periodically reporting about the water situation and its trends, undertaking hydrological research.

EMWIS NFP achieved the following results: operating a website in Hebrew & English connected to the sites of the other countries under the EMWIS umbrella, which is now a national and international address for seeking information regarding water topics in Israel. The website features an analytic description of the Israeli water laws and the local water context. It also offers a centralised publication of the various academic education programs related to water, and it increased awareness of regional water problems.

DATA

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area : 20 700 km² • Population (mill) : 7,12 *** • GDP per capita : 15 868 € *** • Water per capita :
275 m³/inhab./year **** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to improved water resource :
TOTAL : 100% **
- Urban : 100% **
- Rural : 98% ** | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water withdrawal :
irrigation : 56% ****
domestic & industry : 44% **** • Access to sanitation :
TOTAL : 98% * |
|--|---|---|

Sources :

* EMWIS NFP in Israel (Hydrological Service of Israel)

** UN-JMP 2004 (Access to water & sanitation considering house connections)

*** MEDSTAT 2006

**** World Factbook 2005 (All qualities and all sectors)

State of Israel

⇒ Legal Framework

Israel's water policy is committed to an integrated approach to water resource management. The core piece of water legislation in Israel is the Water Law Nr. 5719 of 1959, with its comprehensive amendments of 2006. The Israeli government however has neither accessed the 1998 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes nor the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

⇒ Right to Water

The right to water is included in legislation, where it is stated that every person has the right to a water allocation for recognized purposes, subject to the provisions of the Water Law.

⇒ Main institution

Under the ministerial responsibility of the Minister of National Infrastructures, the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage is the main body responsible for water issues in Israel.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
The Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Water Company ("Mekorot")		✓		✓
Water and Sewerage Cooperations and Municipalities		✓	✓	

The territorial water management : In some areas, local water management is ensured through River Authorities and Regional Water Users Associations.

Inter-ministerial coordination is assured by the Council of the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage which is an interagency body.

⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

Water scarcity is the main challenge in Israel. It is acknowledged that water resources derived from precipitation and groundwater are not sufficient to cover the demand of private households, industry and agriculture. Advanced technologies for desalination, waste water reuse, maximization of the efficiency of agricultural irrigation systems and rain management are some of the strategies employed to deal with the water scarcity.

⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	Council of the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewerage	The law does not deal with levels of cost recovery
Industry		
Agriculture : Irrigation		

⇒ Water master plan

A long term (30 years) national water master plan is in progress and will be ready in 2010. In the meantime a transitional national water master plan is implemented.

<http://www.semide.org>

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