

Blue Peace Middle East: Regional Platform for Water Cooperation



Region
Middle East

Partners
Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)

Background information
The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative contributes to peace building by stimulating political and technical dialogues about water and supporting concrete regional projects, data sharing and capacity-building activities in Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Turkey and, to a limited extent, Syria. The initiative is regionally owned since 2019.

Beneficiaries
Regional and local water institutions, public organizations, agricultural units and water users

Costs
CHF 520,000

Duration
01.03.2019 – 31.12.2020

Contact
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In the Middle East, the dire situation of water resources demands stronger regional exchange and cooperation than ever before. Blue Peace Middle East Initiative is the only regional platform engaging six countries around water issues.

Since January 2019, the initiative is led by collective leadership representatives from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, and, to a more limited degree, Syria. The Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) has been designated by concerned parties to function as the Coordination Office for the Blue Peace in the Middle East Initiative for two years 2019-2020. The aim of this project is to support the new structure of the Blue Peace Initiative, including the work of the Coordination Office, the Management Committee and the creation of a regional Policy Advisory Committee. Moreover, the regional network of water institutes and representatives will work jointly on the theme of water-use efficiency in agriculture in order to strengthen food security in the region by stimulating the knowledge exchange and capacity building, and enhancing dialogue among countries

The initiative's new three-tier structure comprises the following bodies:

- The top-tier Policy Advisory Committee is made up of influential regional political leaders and chaired by HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan
- The second-tier Managing Committee works with support institutions to identify thematic areas of concern (TAC) and set priorities in the field of water resources management.
- On the third tier, the Coordination Office supports the Managing Committee in facilitating planned activities.



The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative was initially established in 2011 as part of a partnership between the Mumbai-based Strategic Foresight Group, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Development Cooperation (SIDA).

Under this new structure, the Blue Peace Initiative continues to develop peace-building and collaboration activities in the region and to create spaces for dialogue between countries, water institutions, decision makers and experts.

The TAC will be studied by nominated national experts depending on the theme (National Focal Points) and by Managing Committee Members. A regional working group will disseminate information on technologies and best practices for optimal agricultural water-use efficiency.

Additional information:
www.bluepeaceme.org
www.bluepeacemiddleeast.org
www.bluepeaceinitiative.org