

# Getting groundwater water back into the environment is a very political process:

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WORKSHOP ONGROUNDWATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMPARATIVE  
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY DIMENSIONS  
LESSON FOR INDIA



Getting groundwater water back into the environment is a very political process: farmers have been key agents in achieving ground water stewardship in Israel

WORKSHOP ON GROUNDWATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY DIMENSIONS  
LESSON FOR INDIA





# The Jordan Basin

Shared by

Israel  
Jordan  
Palestine

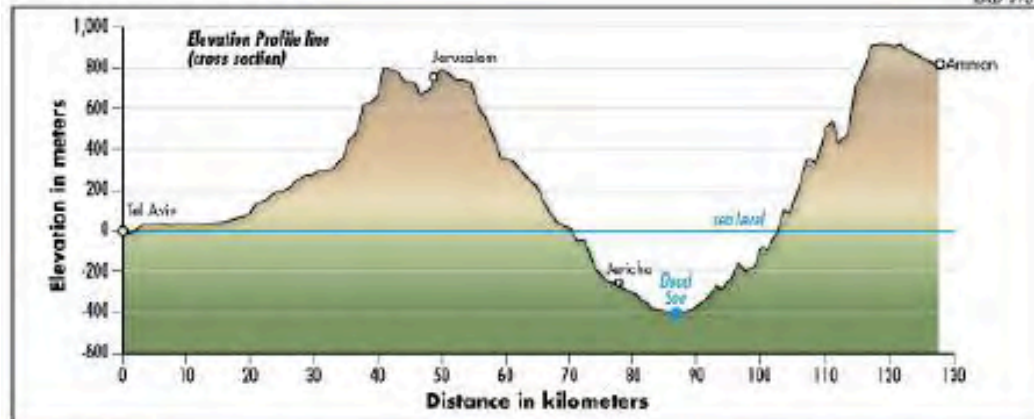
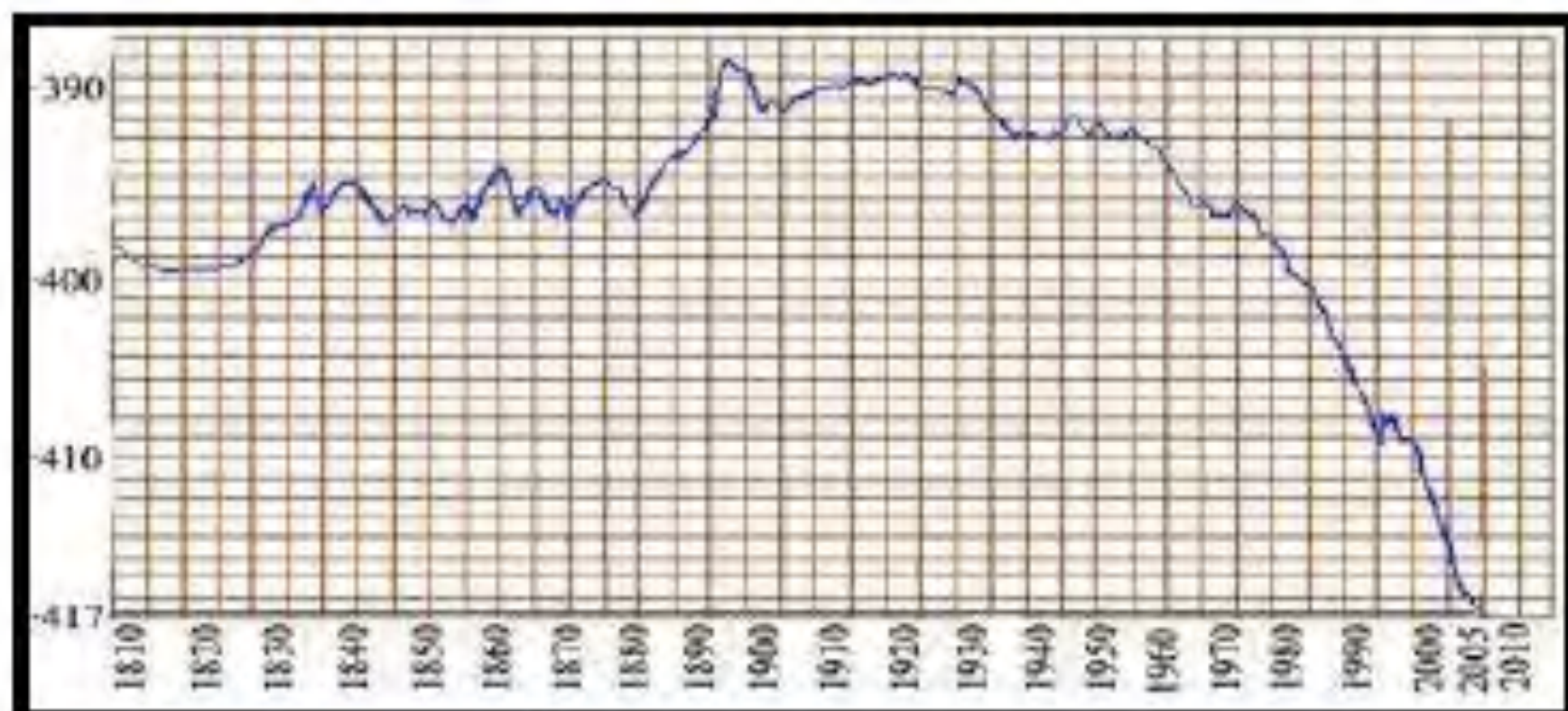


Figure ES.1: Drop of the Dead Sea Level (meters below sea level vs. time in years)



Source: Figure ES.2, ERM (2011).

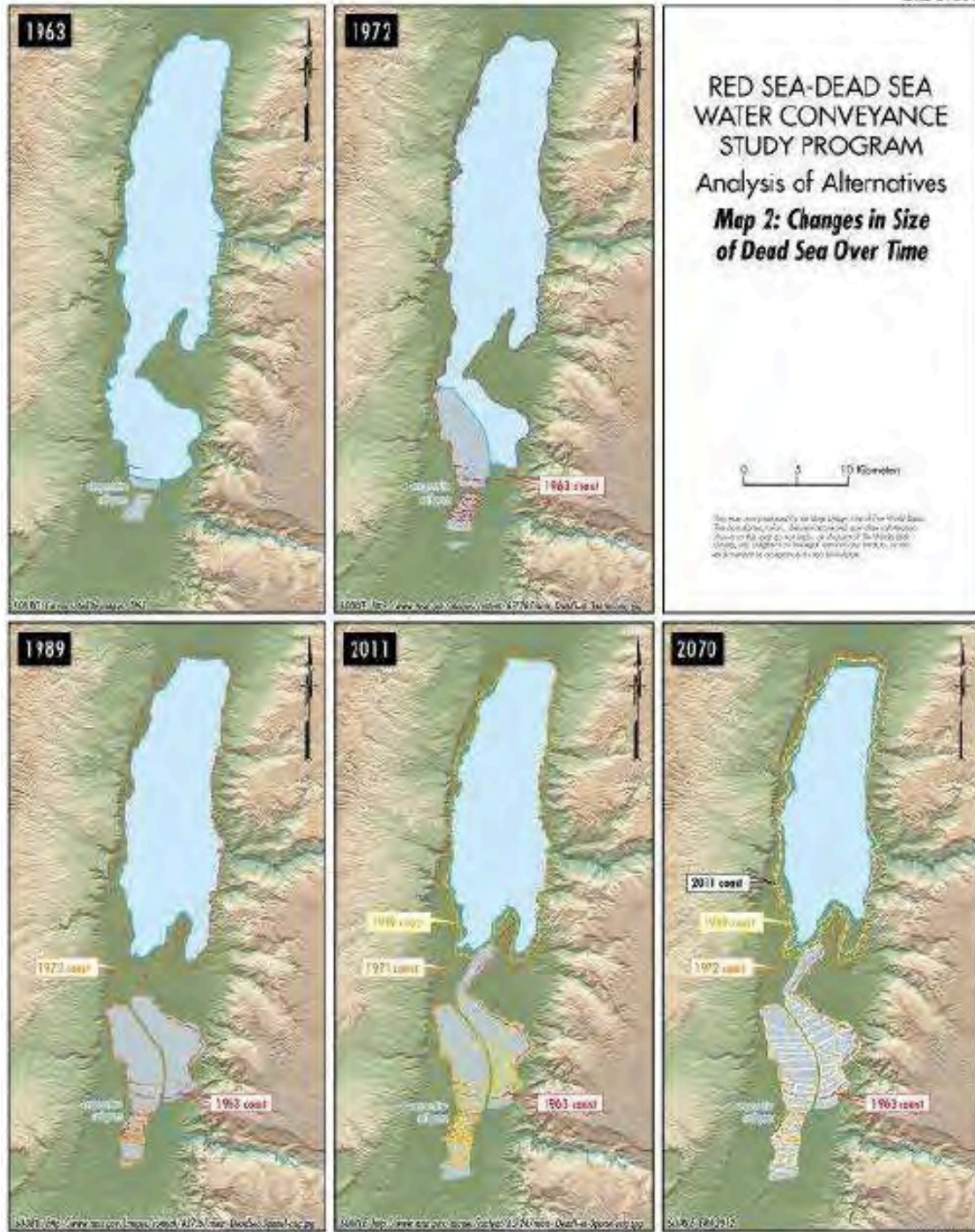
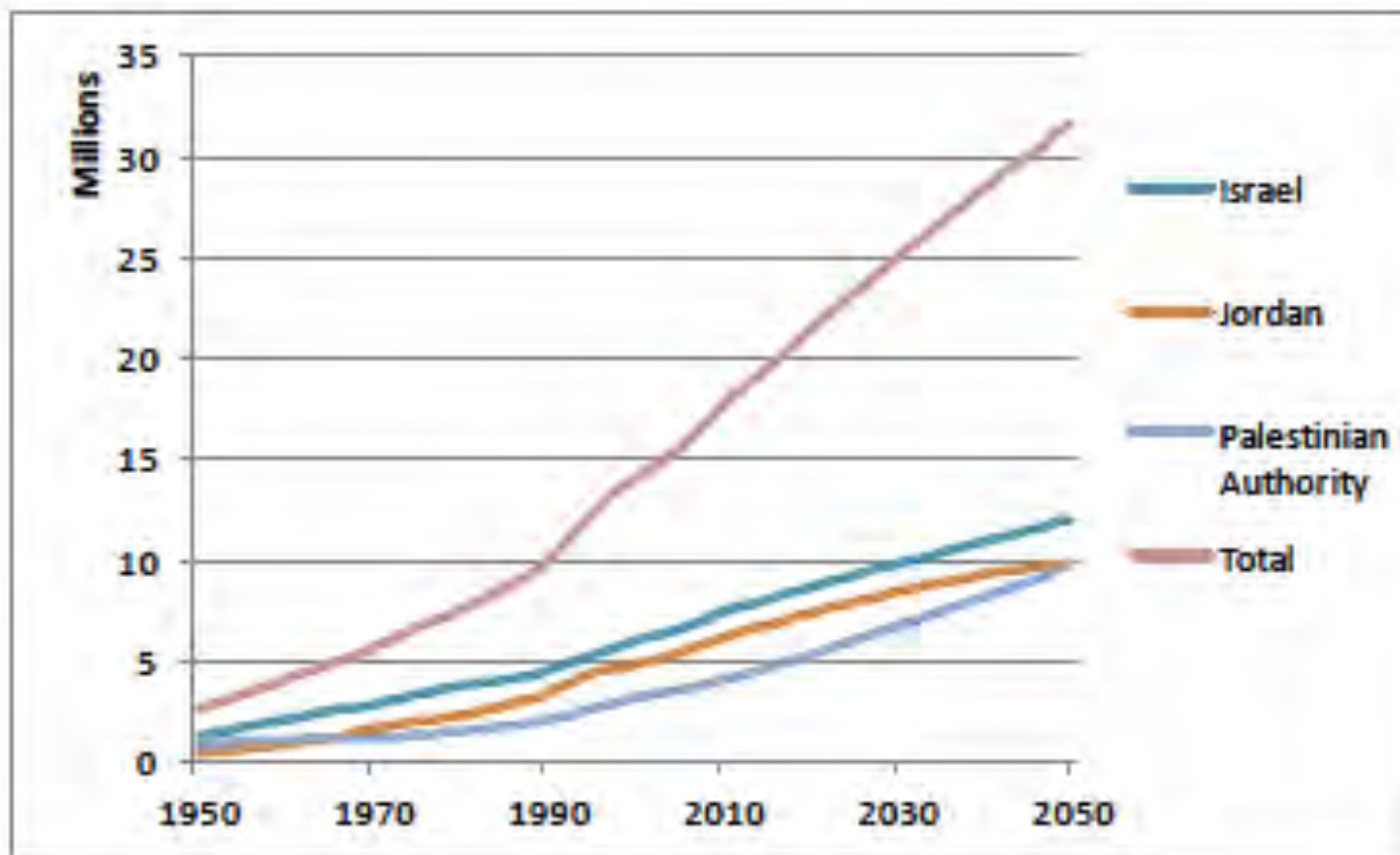
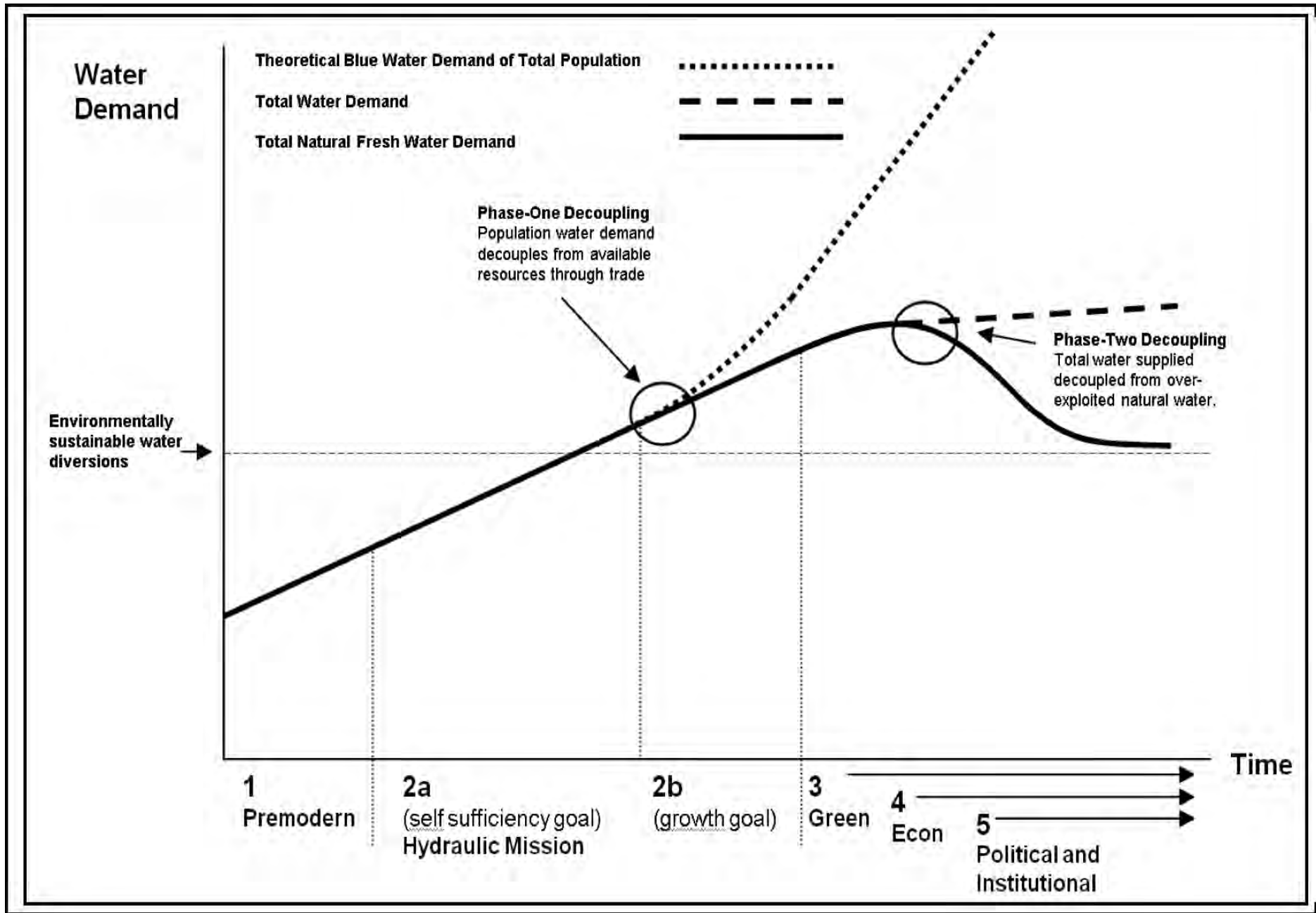


Figure ES.2: Population (million) Trends and Projections for Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority for the Period 1950–2050



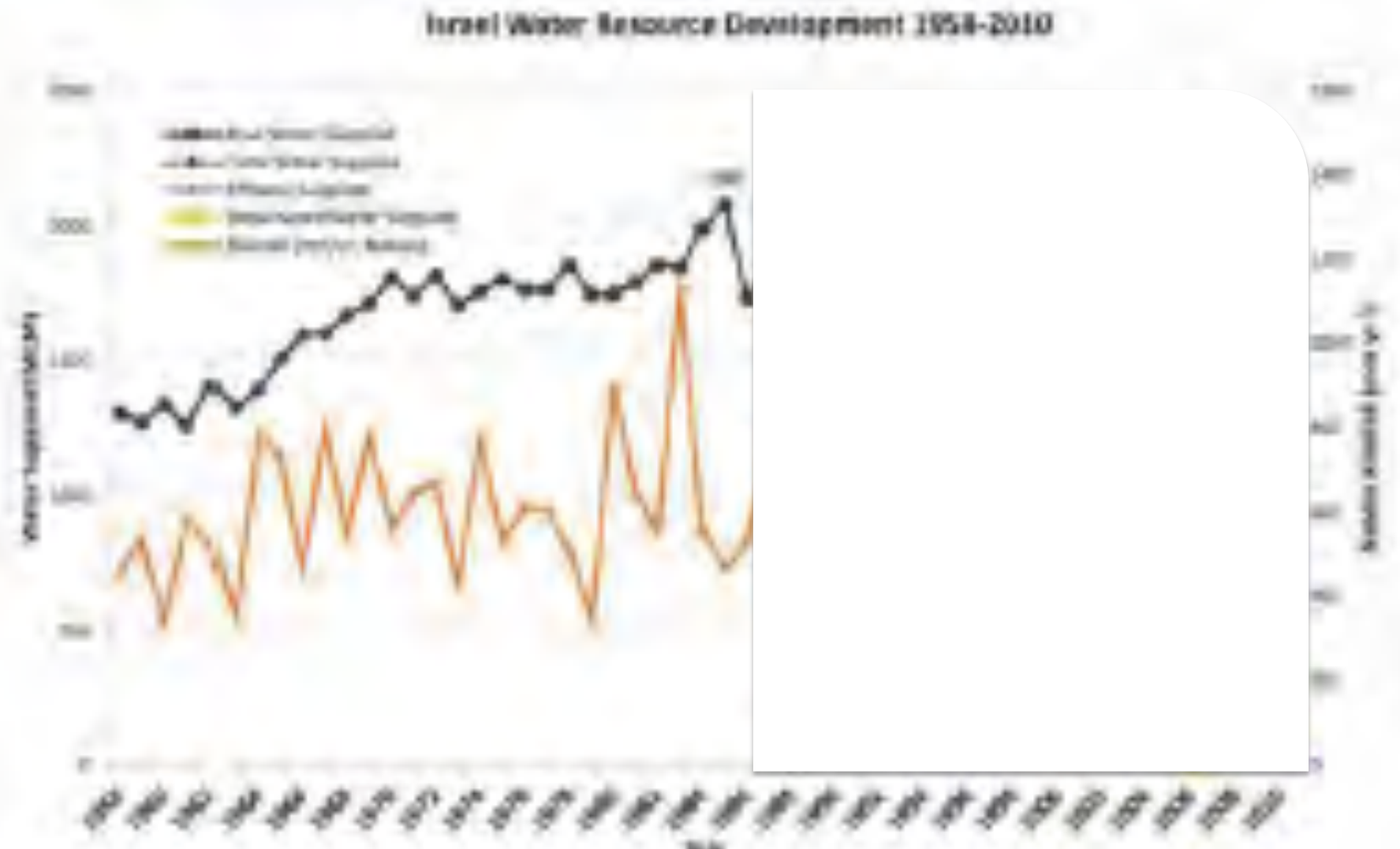
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: World Population Prospects DEMOBASE extract, 2011.

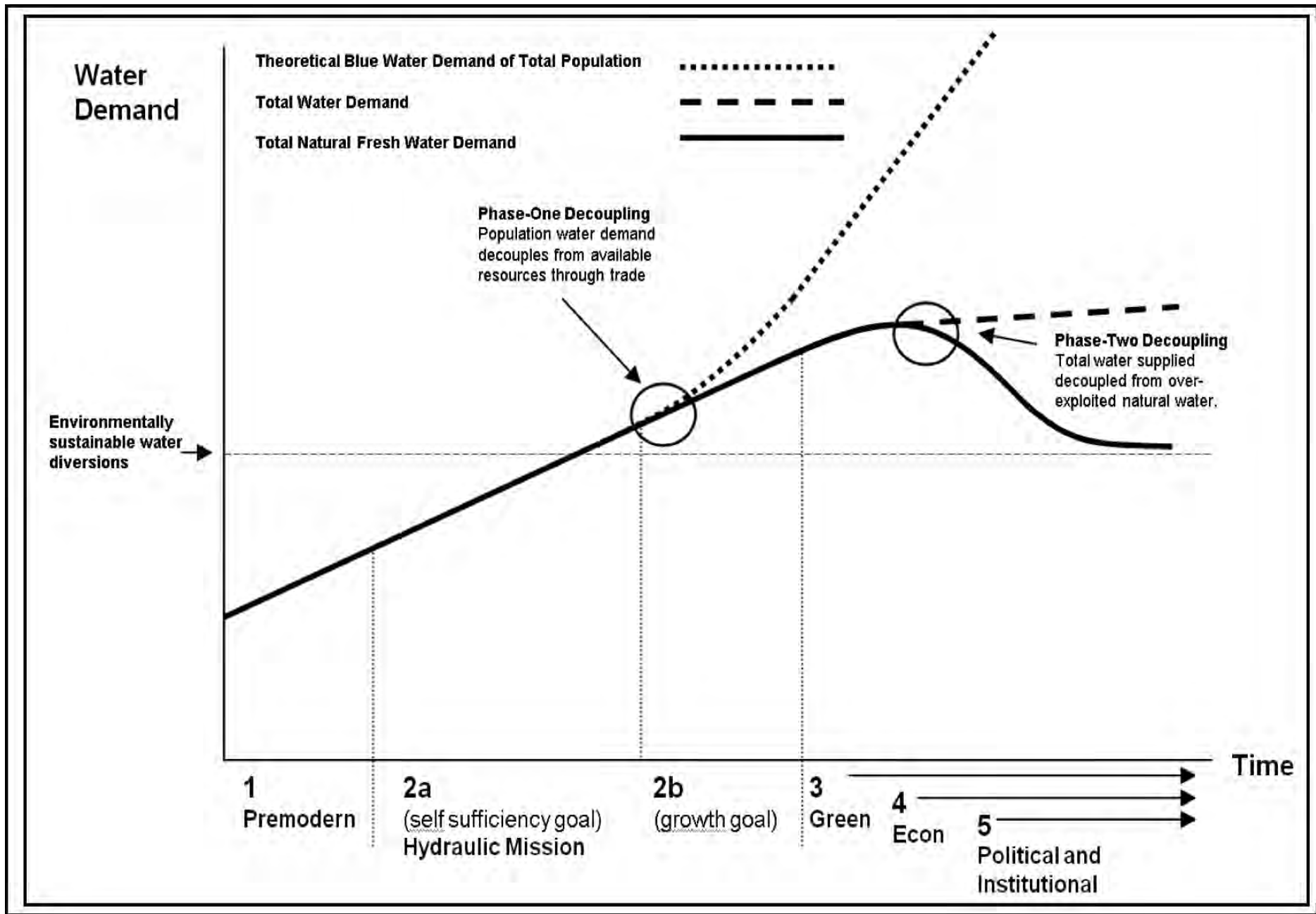


Source: Michael Gilmont 2012



**Figure 10.2: Total Water Supply of Israel 1958-2010**



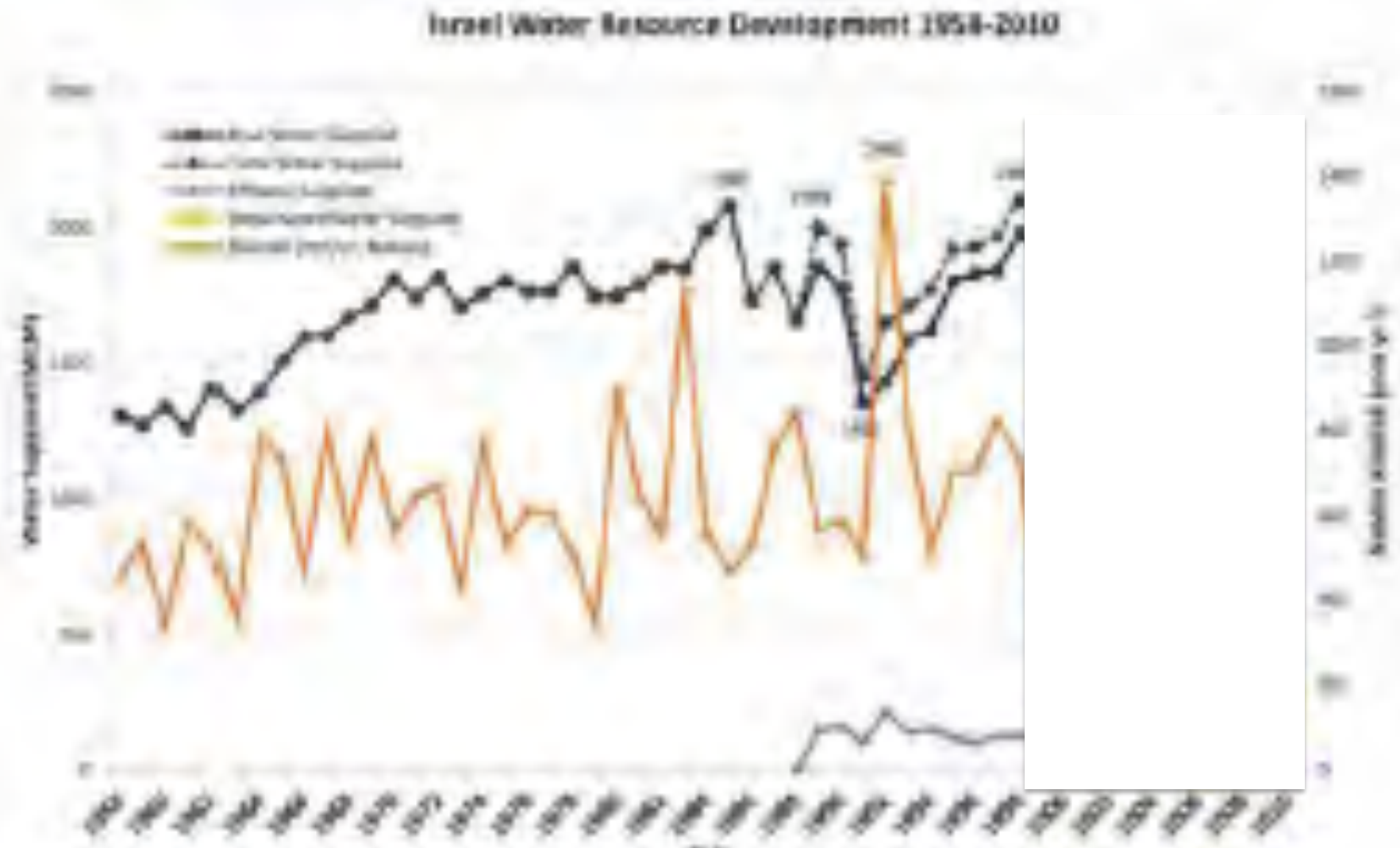


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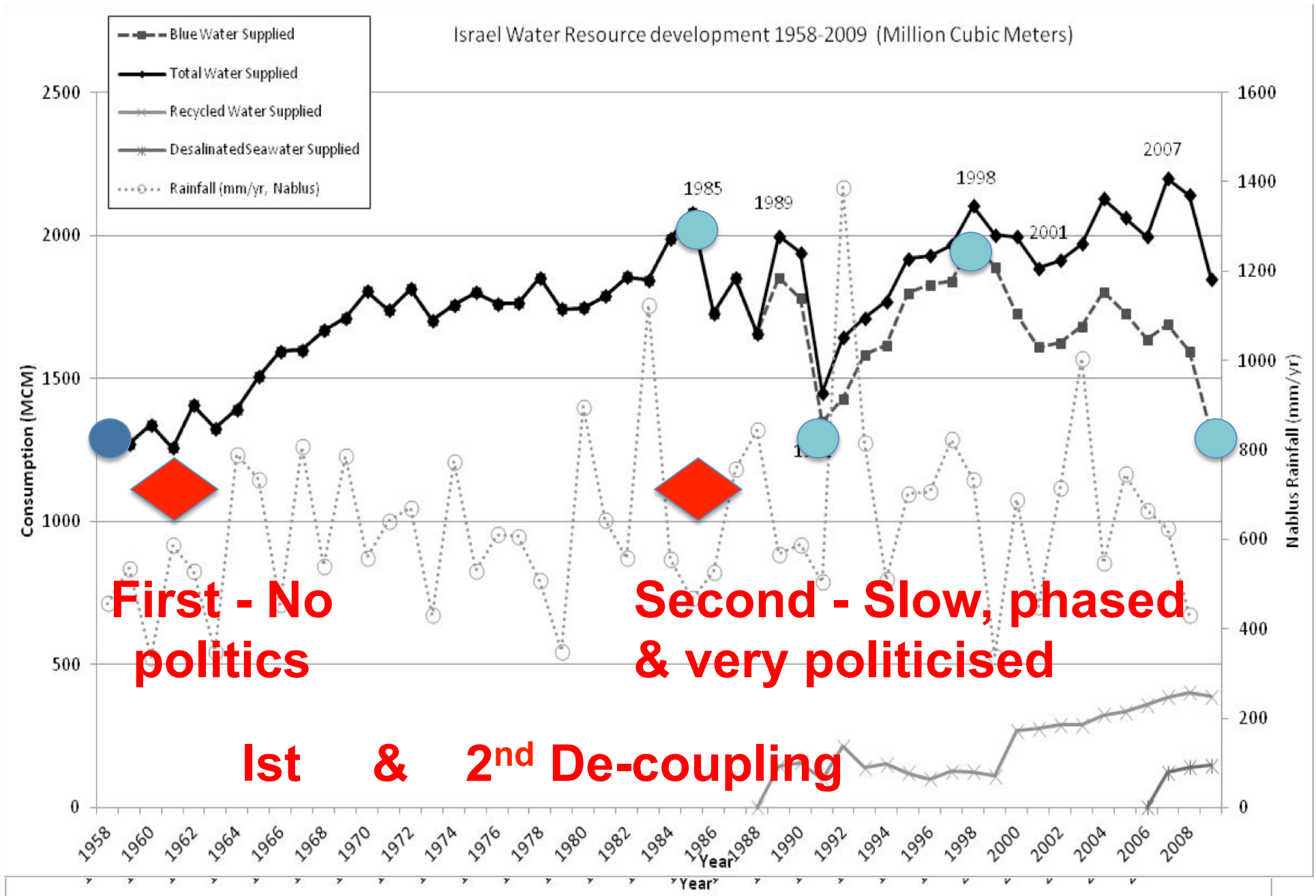
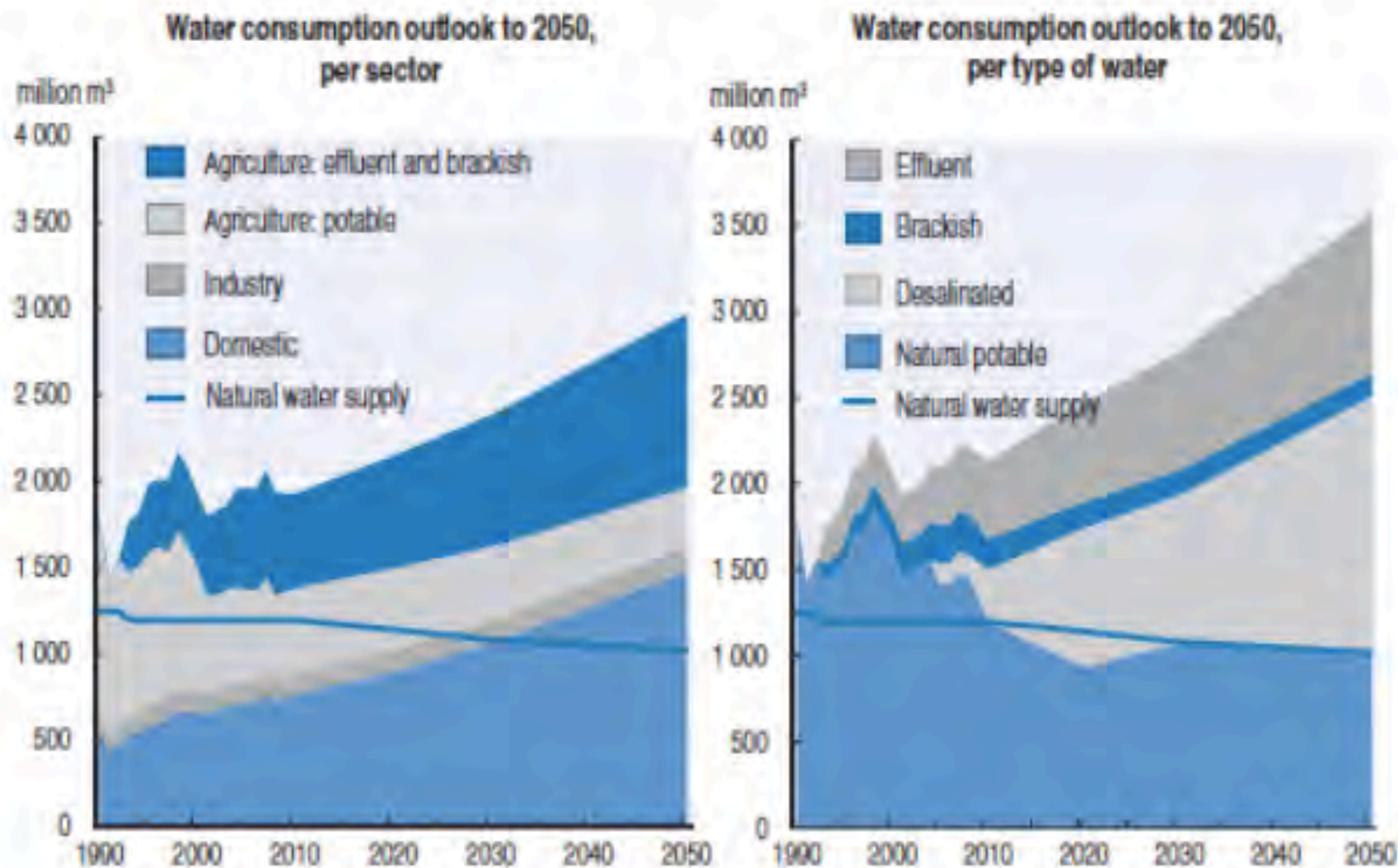
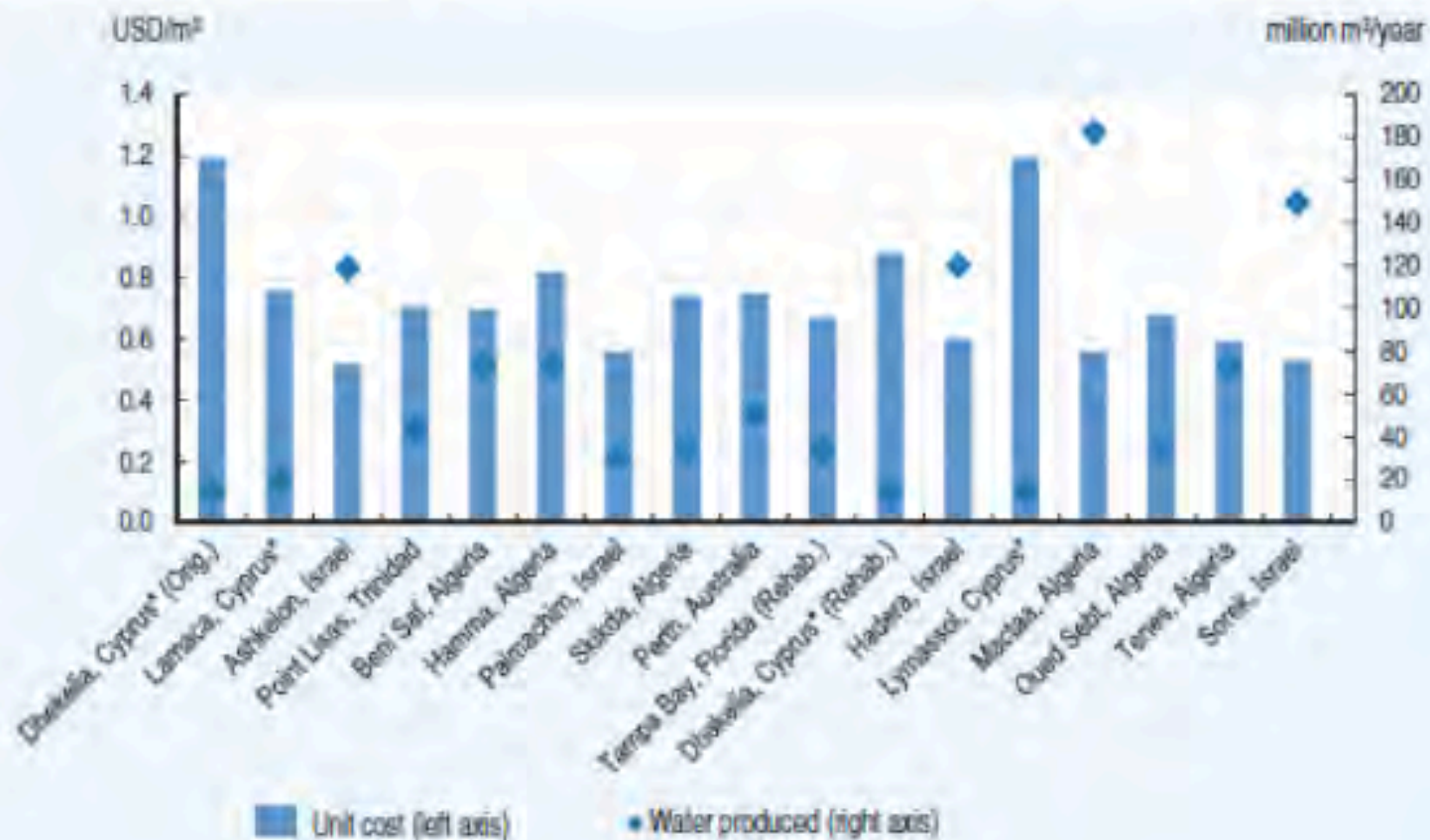


Figure X.X Israel water consumption outlook to 2050



Source: Israel Water Authority, Planning Department. Cited in OECD, 2012, Environmental Performance Reviews - Israel, Paris: OECD,



(a) The plants are ordered from left to right by operation date between 1997 and 2010

Source: Israel Water Authority, Planning Department. Cited in OECD, 2012, Environmental Performance Reviews - Israel, Paris: OECD,



## Some important messages

- 1 Blue water, especially groundwater cannot look after itself – unlike green water – which looks after itself.
- 2 It seems to be in an invisible store. We can use last year's recharge and the recharge from the year before. We can even use next year's recharge.
- 3 Putting water back in to the environment requires that farmers livelihoods be considered. Compensation!!!
- 4 In Israel farmers have been at the heart of the development of groundwater and have been deeply involved in the water policy reforms of the past 3 decades.

## **Some important messages**

5. In seriously water scarce regions manufactured and recycled water can be mobilised in volumes that are as great - or greater than - the natural water groundwater that has become over-allocated.

# Thank you

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See

Gilmont, M., 2014, Decoupling dependence on natural water: reflexivity in the regulation and allocation of water in Israel, in *Water Policy – in press*.