

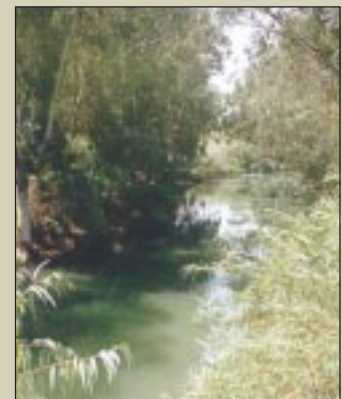
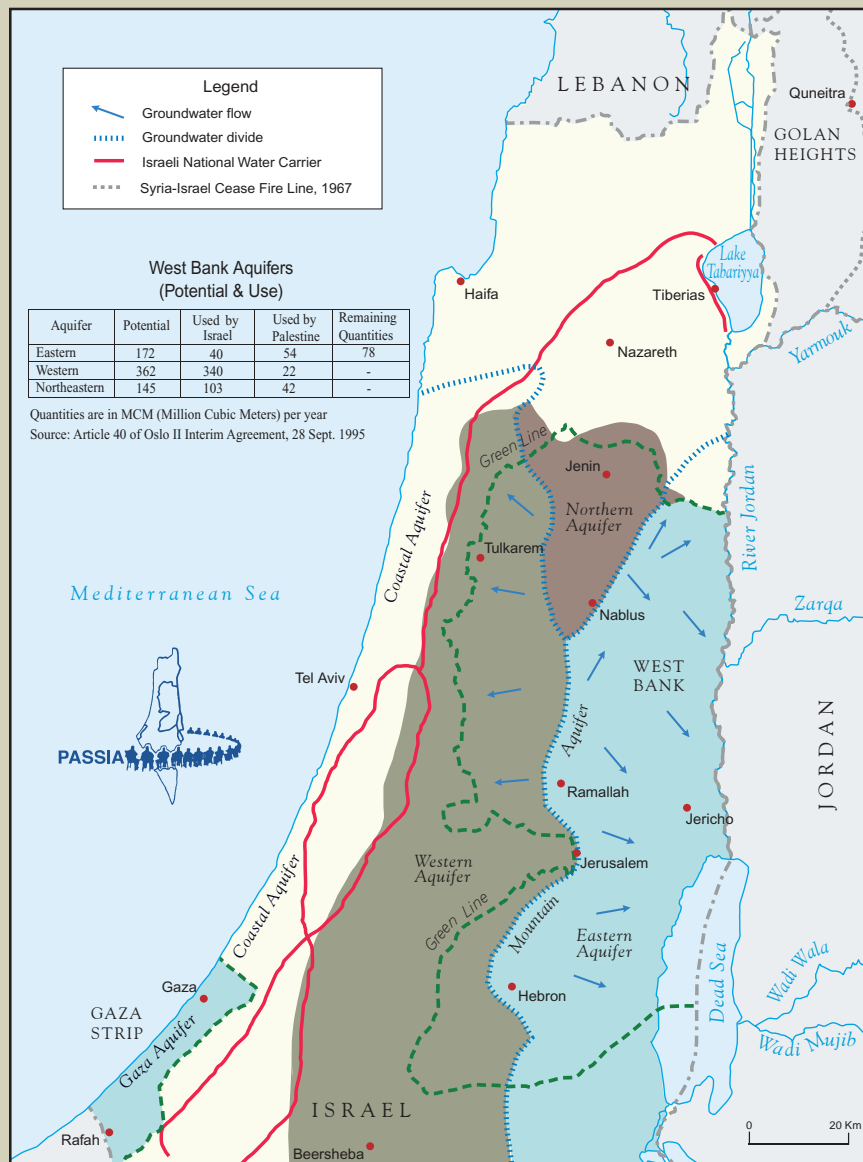
Water Resources in the Region

► Surface Water

The main regional surface water system and the only permanent surface water source for Palestine is the **Jordan River (JR)** and its tributaries (see [Map 2](#)). Five riparians¹ share the waters of the JR, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank (WB). To date, Israel diverts 75% of the river's water before it reaches the West Bank.

The JR derives its waters from three main rivers that originate in Syria, Lebanon and the Occupied Golan Heights (OGH). The **Hasbani River** originates in Syria and parts of it flow into Lebanon with an average flow of 140 mcm/yr. The **Dan** and **Banias** Rivers originate in the OGH and both flow into the Jordan above Tabariyya Lake having average annual flows of 250 and 120 mcm respectively. The **lower JR** is fed from rainfall, groundwater flow and western wadis of the West Bank, Syria and Jordan, and by the Yarmouk River which originates in Syria, borders Jordan, Syria and the OGH with average flows of 420 mcm/yr.

Map 1 - Water Sources



Jordan River



Banias River



Dan River

Adapted from: 'Water and War in the Middle East' Info Paper No.5, July 1996, Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine/ The Jerusalem Fund, Washington D.C.
The Aquifers' boundaries are approximate, Adapted from Gvartzman, 1994

¹ According to international law, a riparian country or state means "that parts of that country/state's territory is located within the river basin area;" in the recent codification of International Law these are referred to as "Drainage Basin States" or "Watercourse States."