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# A Socio-Ecological Approach to Combat Desertification for a Sustainable Future



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# About EcoFuture

The Mediterranean region is considered a "Hot Spot" susceptible to the threat of climate change. Many regions are prone to desertification, reduced water availability, loss of soil fertility and degradation of the ecosystem services provided.

EcoFuture will use the Jordan Valley as a test case, to develop a climate-change adaptation plan oriented towards improving the socio-economic welfare of the people based on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus methodologies.

EcoFuture will conduct 'Living Labs' activities to engage stakeholders in co-designing a bottom-up approach for a sustainable future in the region.

## Objectives

- ✓ Propose a climate change adaptation plan for the Jordan Valley.
- ✓ Use techno-economic and socio-economic models to assess WEFE Nexus alternatives to improve the welfare of the people.
- ✓ Three demonstration pilots, one in each country, to validate the optimization of the WEFE Nexus.
- ✓ Build synergies across WEFE sectors to investigate interlinkages.
- ✓ Implement capacity building and training programs.
- ✓ Propose methodologies to extend the applicability of the results to other regions in the Mediterranean.



## Pilot Demonstration Sites

Three pilots will be constructed in the Jordan Valley. The pilots will provide living demonstration sites for the optimization of the nexus and for building the necessary regional collaboration.

Common agreed regulations and open local markets will enable trading of local water, energy and food resources which will promote sustainable socio-economic development while preserving the environment.

## Innovative Activities

- 1** Engage stakeholders and policymakers to co-design the pilot demonstrations of the adaptation plan that will ensure a sustainable future for the region.
- 2** Improve the research and innovation capacities of partners and stakeholders.
- 3** Establish a long-term, cross-border cooperation between demonstration sites in Palestine, Israel and Jordan.
- 4** Engage in a strategic dialogue with decision makers of the region on how to implement integrated WEFE management on a regional scale.
- 5** Establish a baseline and shared database of resources for riparian territories of the Jordan River Valley Region including water, energy, agricultural production and ecosystem services.

## Stakeholders

Local farmers, farming organisations & cooperations

Municipalities

Scientists & Practitioners

Government Agencies

International development organisations