



Perceptions on climate change and water scarcity – experiences from Israel/Palestine

Christiane Gerstetter Ecologic Institute





Context

- Research project on climate change, water conflicts and human security in the Mediterranean area (CLICO, www.clico.org)
- Field research in Israel and Palestine on how climate change will affect human security and conflict, and which policy measures are/should be taken
- Interviews with policy makers, NGOs, academics.... in Israel and Palestine (West Bank)

1 December 2011 2





Background

Physical impact of climate change in Israel and Palestine: droughts & changed patterns of water availability

Long-standing conflict over water between Israel and Palestine, with Israel essentially in control of water allocation for both sides

1 December 2011





Perception of climate change and water scarcity

- Water scarcity and access is a national issue
- Water scarcity requires a political solution which respects Palestinian water rights
- CC does not really matter, the Israeli occupation matters

- Water is part of the conflict with Palestinians, but the one that is the easiest to solve
- Water scarcity is an economic issue
- Water scarcity has a technological solution
- CC does not really matter, Israel prepared for drought





Conclusions

- Perceptions: CC is not a major issue, other factors are more relevant
- Experiences: conflict and distrust, domination/control
- (Likely) behaviour: blaming the other; informed by history of conflict
- Translating into political effects:

efficient adaptation solutions (e.g. co-management, joint infrastructure) not implemented

initial resistance among Palestinians to formulation of national adaptation strategy

1 December 2011 5





Thank you for listening.

Christiane Gerstetter

Ecologic Institute, Pfalzburger Str. 43-44, D-10717 Berlin Tel. +49 (30) 86880-0, Fax +49 (30) 86880-100

christiane.gerstetter@ecologic.eu

www.ecologic.eu

1 December 2011 6