

Drylands, Deserts & Desertification
7th International Conference

Session:
Cross-Border Research and Cooperation
“Coproducting Science and Sanity”

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Personal history

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

1999–2001

Transborder study of ecosystem services in the Arava Valley / Wadi Arava

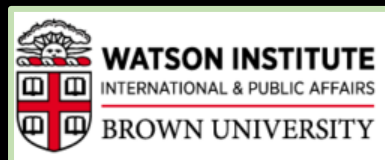
2010–2011

Valuing Ecosystem Services Through a Multi-National, Multi-Cultural Lens

2018–2022

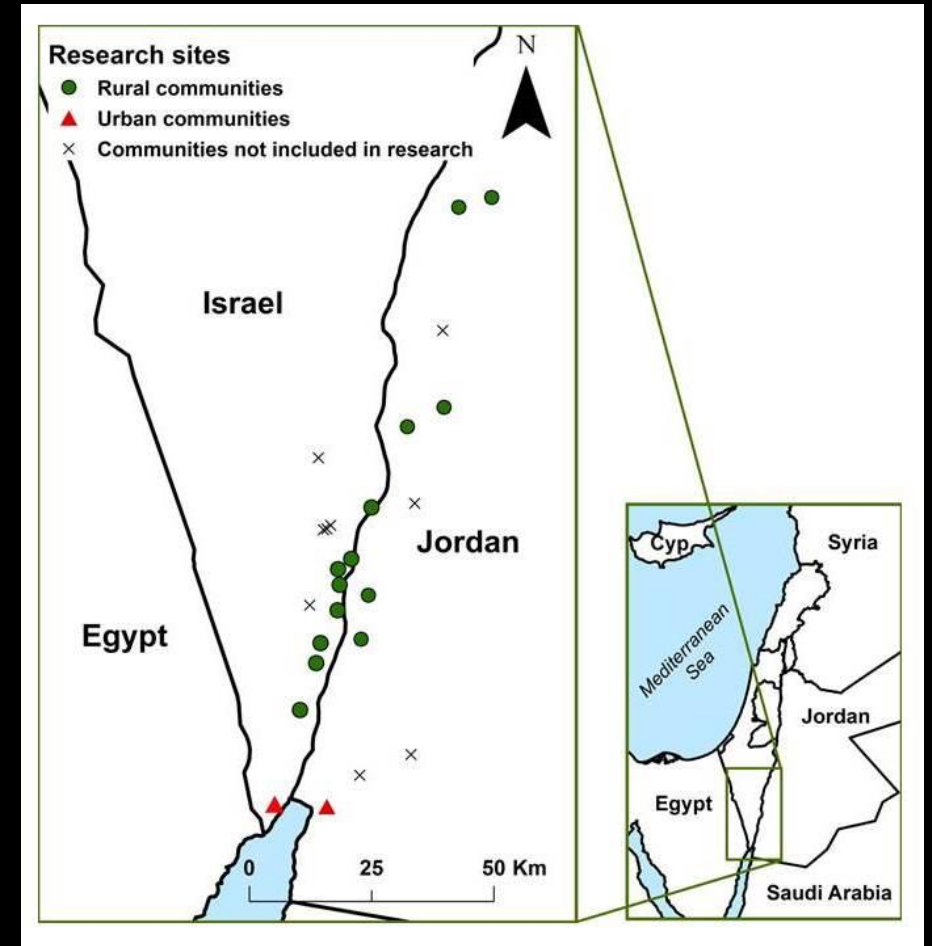
Middle East Environmental Futures (MEEF) Project

Narratives of Cooperative Ecological Science: The Case of Israel and Jordan



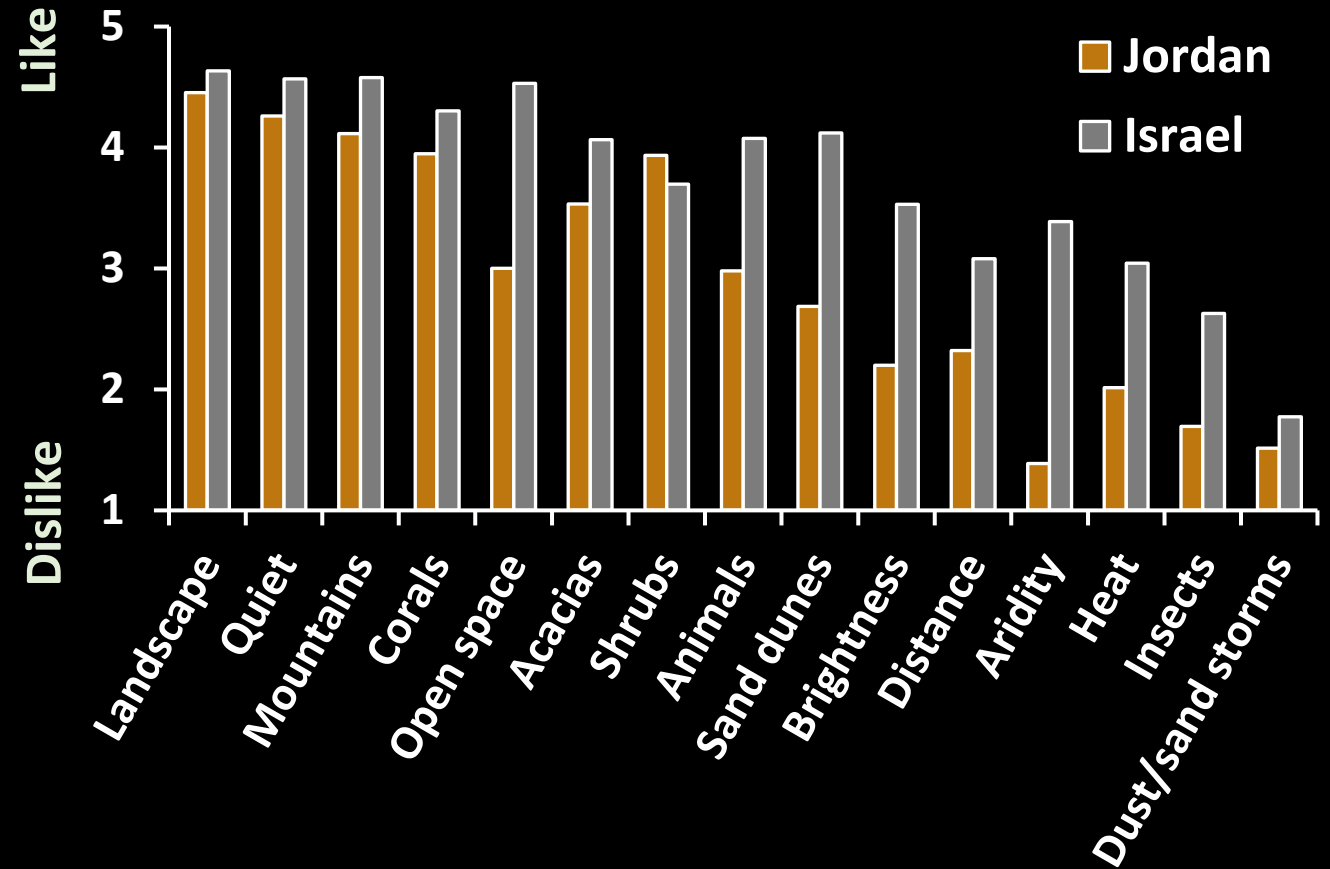
Research question

How do communities on two sides of an international border benefit from arid ecosystem services similarly and differently?



Findings

- People utilize the desert's ecosystem services in very different ways
 - Recreational activities
 - Resource consumption
 - Disservices
- Some similarities – particularly in cultural values and aesthetic tastes



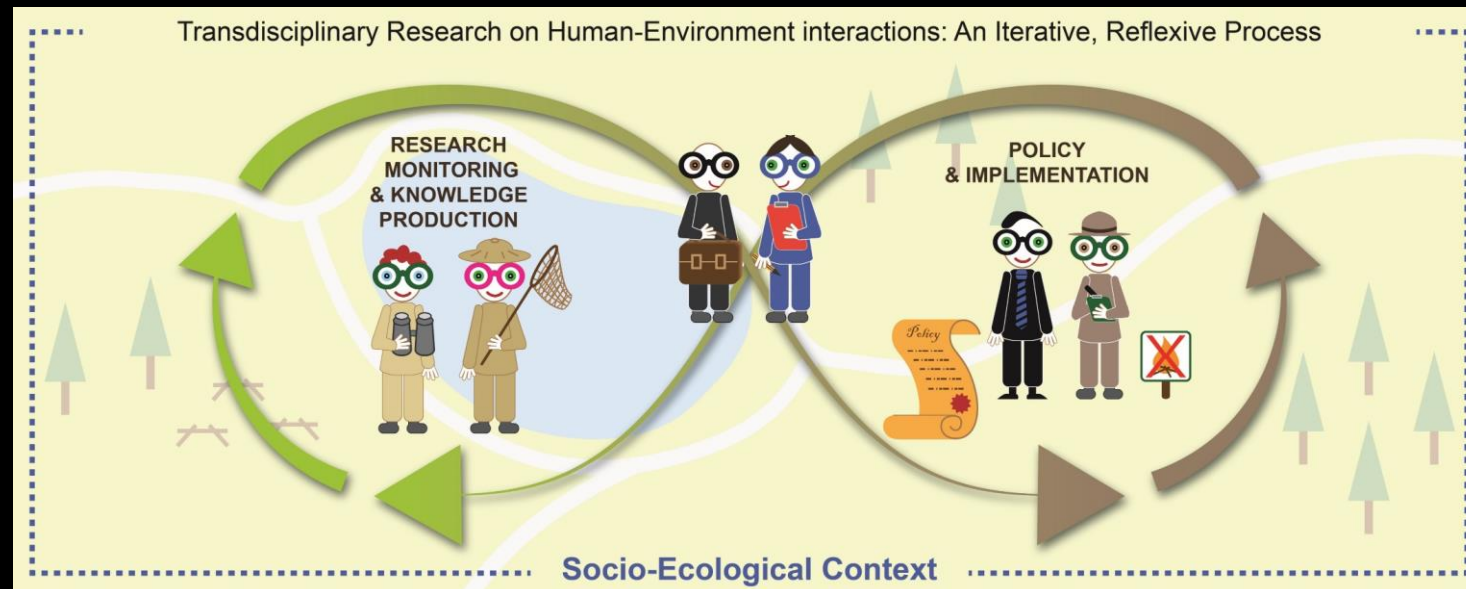
Sagie, H., et al. (2013). Cross-Cultural Perceptions of Ecosystem Services: A Social Inquiry on Both Sides of the Israeli-Jordanian Border of the Southern Arava Valley Desert. *Journal of Arid Environments*. 97:1-11.

Orenstein, D.E. and E. Groner (2014). In the Eye of the Stakeholder: Changes in Perceptions of Ecosystem Services across an International Border. *Ecosystem Services*. 8(2014):185-196. 2014

Katz-Gerro, T. and D.E. Orenstein (2015). Environmental Tastes, Opinions and Behaviors: Social Theory in the Service of Ecosystem Service Assessment. *Ecology and Society*. 20(3): 28. 2015.)

Leveraging research for broader cooperation

- Questions involving transnational comparisons will always be scientifically interesting
- Socio-ecological questions adds a whole-systems perspective, stakeholder engagement and broader societal cooperation

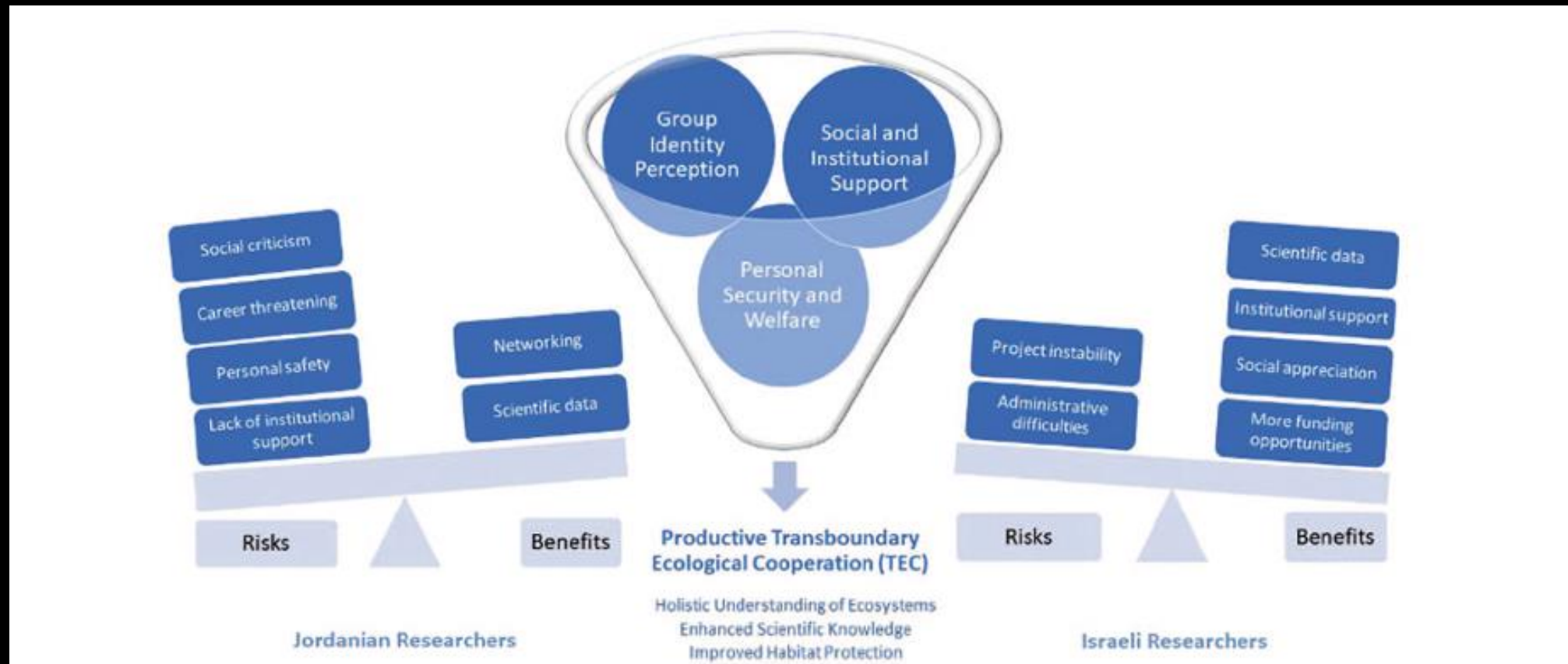


The nature of Palestinian/Israeli collaborative research



The nature of Jordanian/Israeli collaborative research

Decategorization / Recategorization • Epistemic communities



“For me, science does not have borders. When I work with another person, I think about their ideas, I don’t think about their nationality.”

---- Jordanian researcher

