

Multimodal Transport Corridors in the Arab Region

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UNITED NATIONS

الشرق
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



**UNECE Inter-regional workshop on
multimodal transport corridor management**

4 September 2023

Geneva, Palais des Nations



الأمم المتحدة
الاسكوا
ESCWA

Background: ESCWA Region



Beirut, Lebanon



20 Member States
(out of 22 League of Arab States: LAS)

Transport

As backbone of regional connectivity and integration

ESCWA and LAS Framework for Transport Activities (Based on ITSAS, Integrated Transport System in the Arab States)

Components

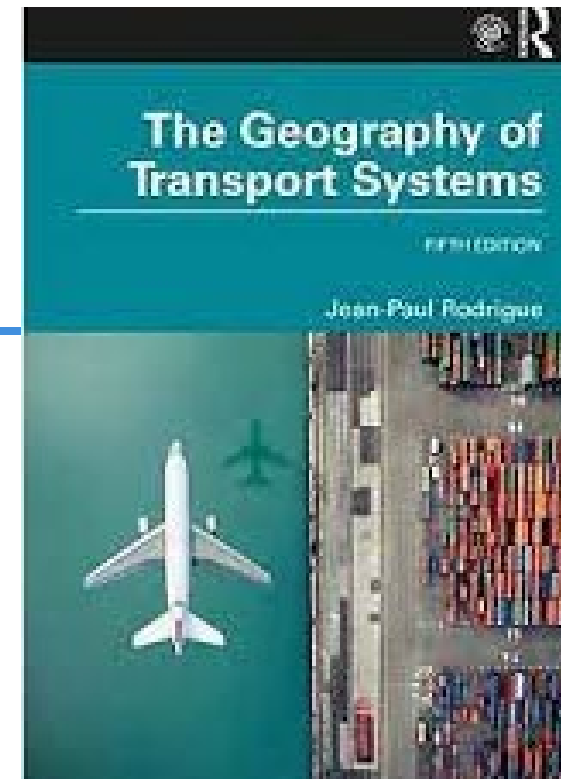
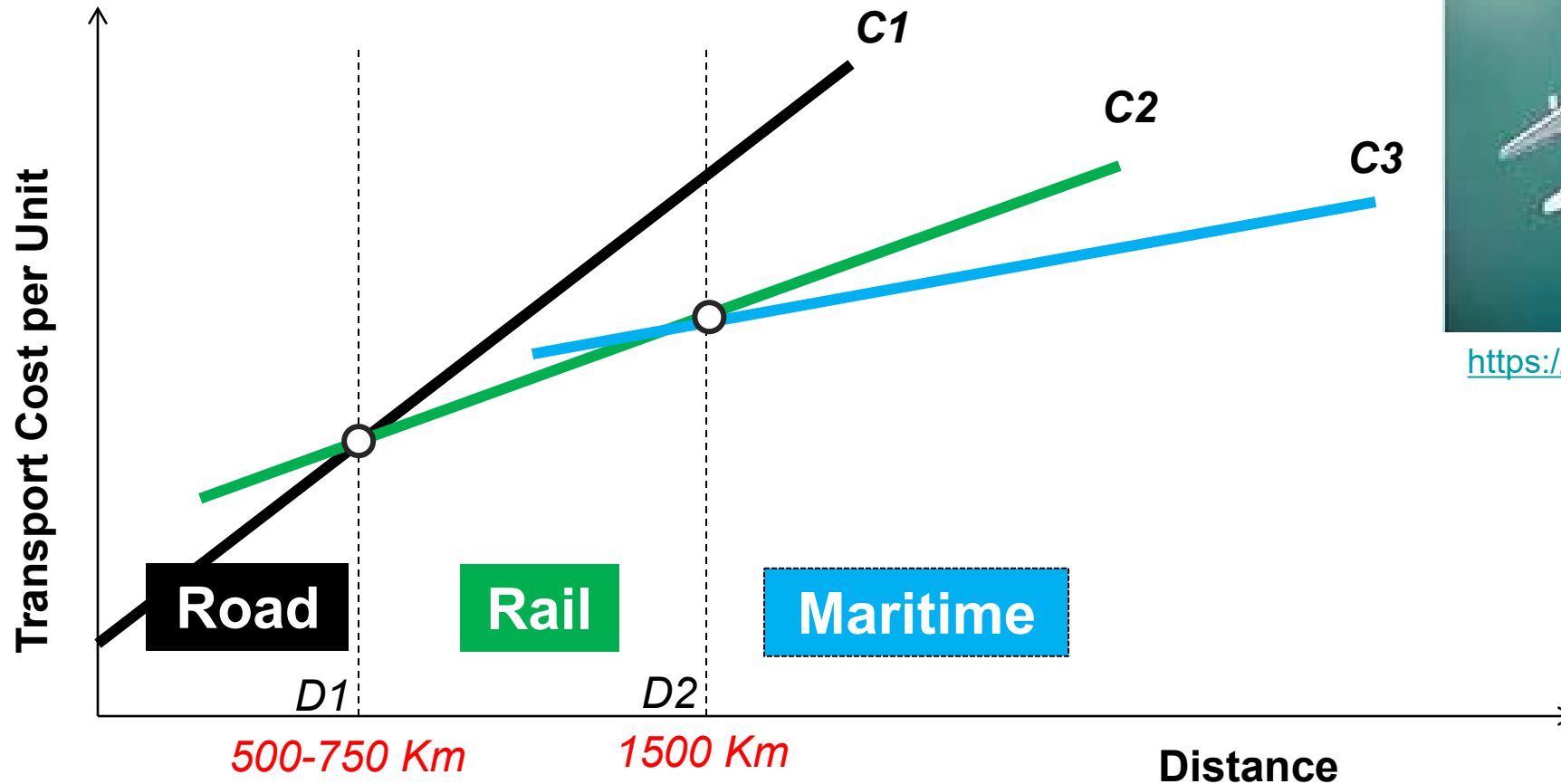
1. Agreement on International Roads in the Arab States (Became LAS Arab Plan for Road Connectivity)
2. Agreement on International Railways in the Arab States (Became LAS Arab Plan for Railway Connectivity)
3. Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Transport Cooperation in the Arab States (Adopted by LAS)
4. Transport and Trade National Facilitation Committees
5. Institutional Frameworks and Legislations Harmonization
6. Road Safety
7. LAS Agreement on Multimodal Transport Between the Arab States.

MAPS



Multimodal Transport :

Complementarity VS Competitivity



<https://transportgeography.org/>



Arab Plan for Road Connectivity

41636 Km

Priorities for North/South and East/West



Extension to Mauritania



الأمم المتحدة

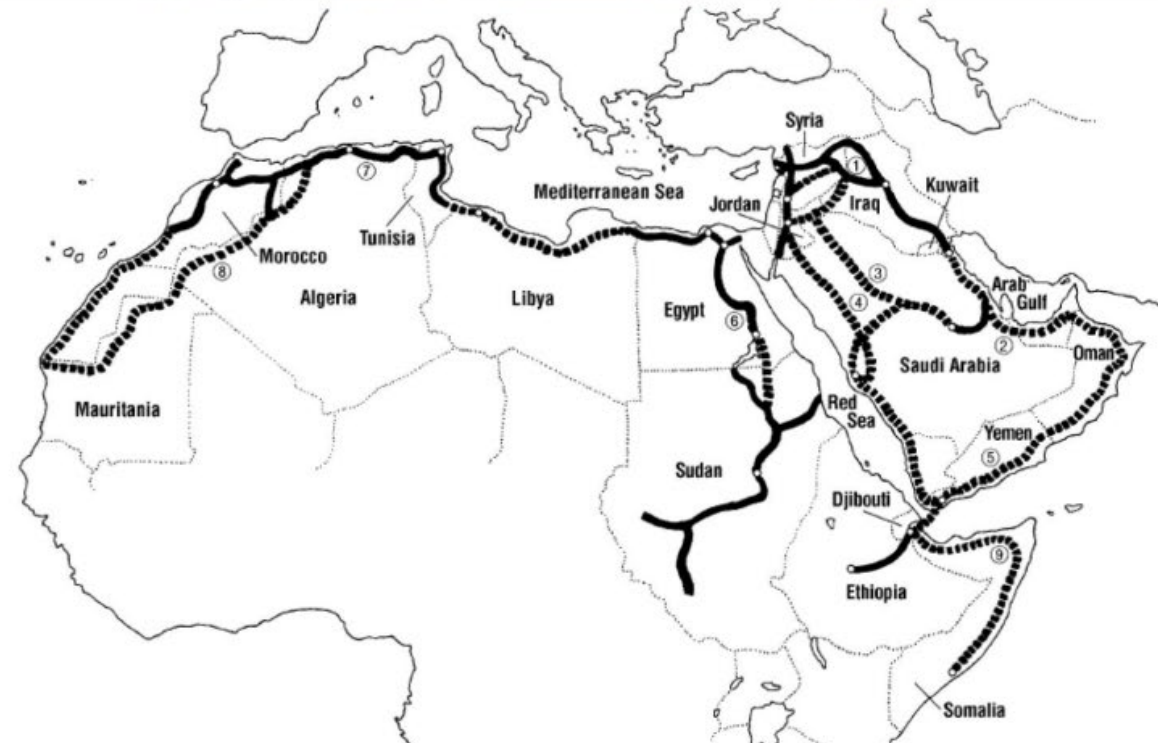
الاسكوا

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Arab Plan for Railway Connectivity

- Total Approved Network : 19528 Km
- Missing Links : 11616 Km
- % missing : 59.5 %

Arab Railway Network Present and planned



Corridors for Vital Connectivity in the Arab Region

Consultation Meeting on 23 April 2018, with support of IsDB

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/corridors-vital-connectivity-arab-region>

Comprehensive Connectivity :

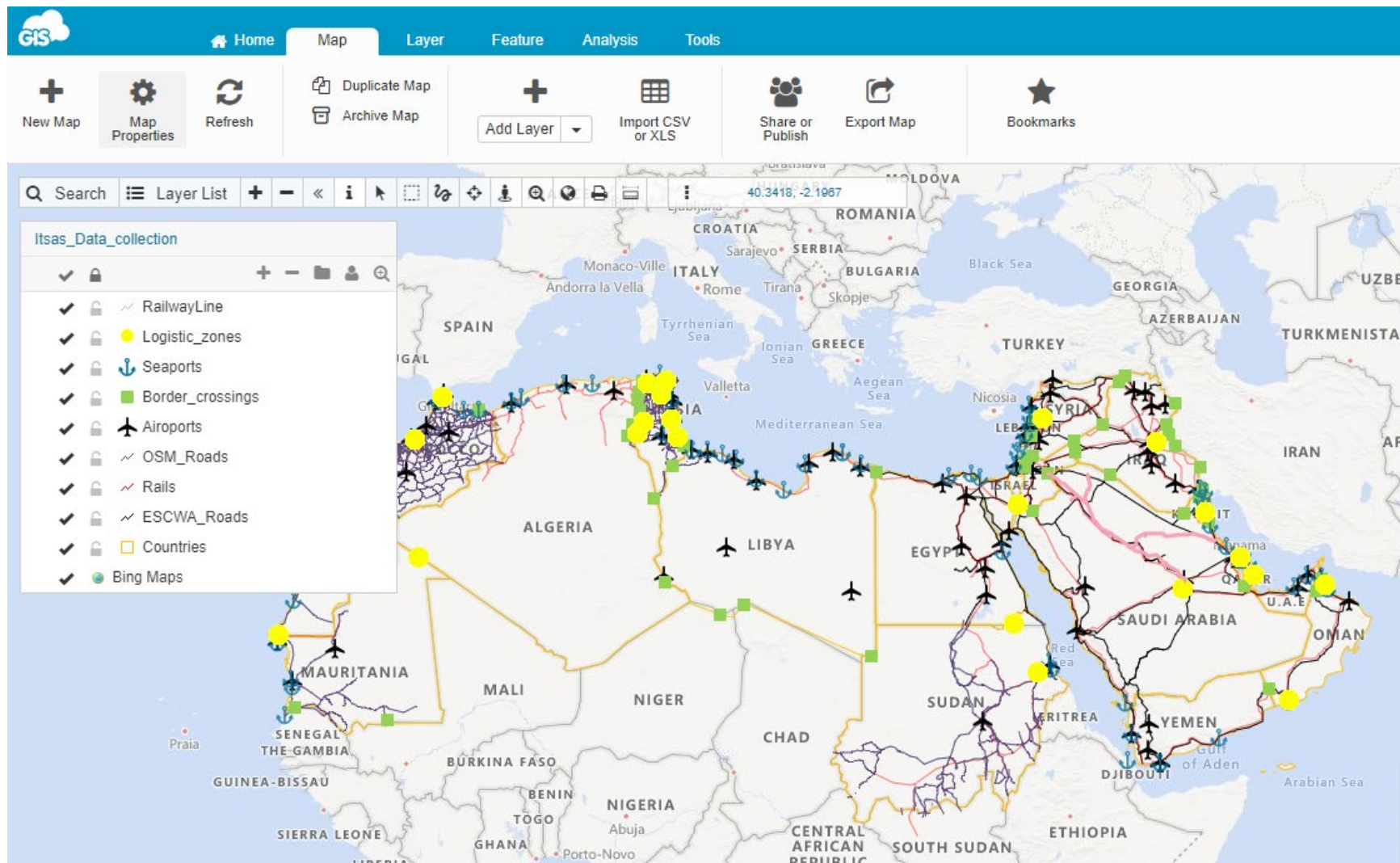
- Transport (Roads, Rails)
- Energy (Electricity, Oil, Gas)
- Telecommunication

- The review of the present status of some networks in the Arab region (transport, electricity and energy).
- The obstacles preventing the inter-connectivity and the integration of Arab networks,
- Ways to overcome these obstacles considering lessons learned from successful cases of connectivity worldwide.
- The benefits of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a tool supporting the analysis of the operation of different networks and to reveal the potential advantages of the inter-connectivity and integration of the networks.
- Possible innovative solutions to neutralize the corridors of vital connectivity from the effects of conflicts and political disputes between Arab countries, and to promote these corridors as triggers of stability and peace contributing to the prevention of future conflicts.



ITSAS-GIS (Supported by IsDB)

Tool for the analysis of transport performance and gaps of the regional connectivity





ESCWA ITSAS-GIS within ITIO

Developed by ECE in cooperation with ESCWA and ECO (IsDB support)

Transport Infrastructure Networks and Nodes



- **Visibility of inter-regional transport connectivity : ECE-ESCWA and Beyond**
- **Addressing gaps and bottlenecks in transport connectivity**
- **Identifying future Inter-regional transport projects**



Gulf Cooperation Council Railway Project

<https://www.gcc-sg.org/ar-sa/CooperationAndAchievements/Projects/Railway/Pages/ProposedRouteMap.aspx>

- 2177 km From Kuwait to Oman
- 220 Km/h for Passengers
- 80-120 Km/h for Cargo
- Turbo-Diesel technology
- Feasibility Study December 2009
- Initial Cost 15 B\$
- Updated Cost 250 B\$*
- Initial dates:
 - Detailed Studied 2014
 - Operation 2018
 - Operation (revisited) 2025



* <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1037771/saudi-arabia>



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Saudi Arabia Railway Program



Project	Length (km)	Proponent	Cost (bn)
North-south	2,800	SAR	\$5.3
Jubail–Dammam railway link	115	SAR	NA
Haramain high-speed railway	450	SRO	\$16
The Saudi Arabia–Bahrain railway	90	SRO	\$4.2
Land bridge	950	SAR	\$7
GCC (Saudi side only)	400	SRO	US\$140

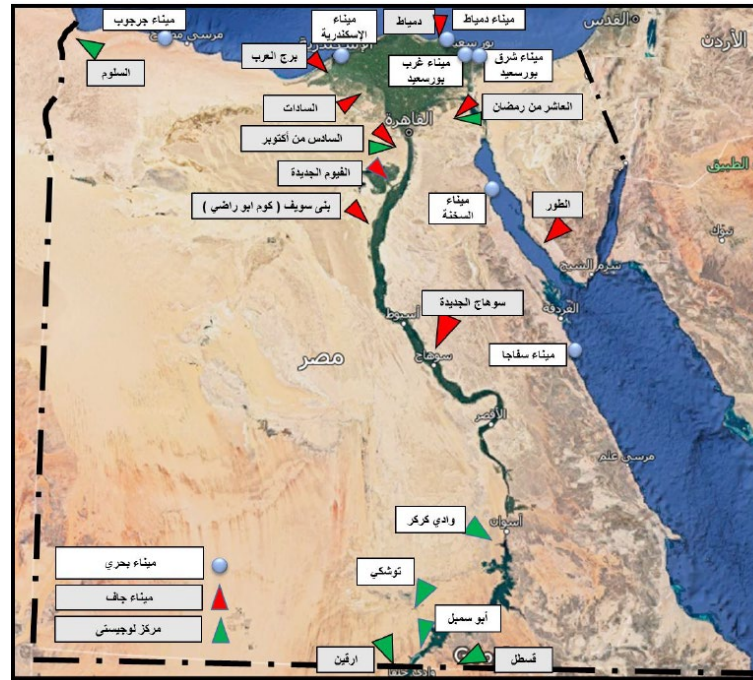
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Egypt North-South Multimodal Transport Corridor

2000 km High Speed Rail



17 Dry Ports & Logistic Zones



7000 Km new National Highways & Connecting Segments

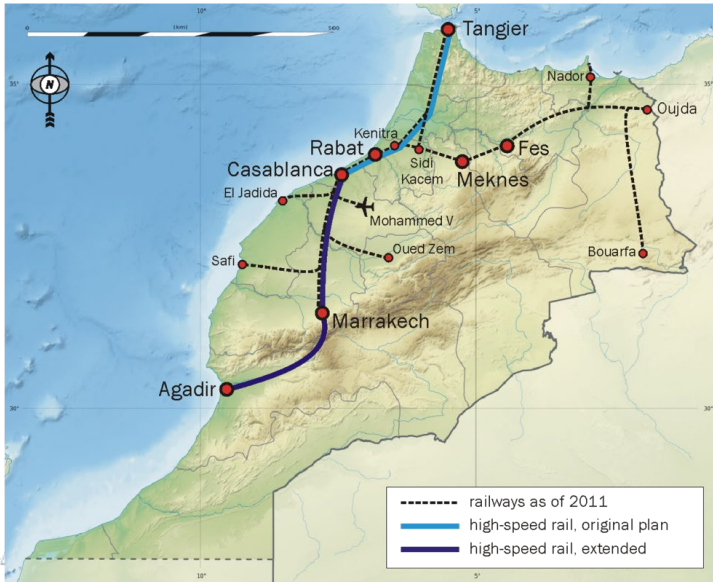


Morocco High Speed Line Tangier- Casablanca

323 Km, 2.2 Billion \$
186 Km High-Speed (320 Km/h)

Al Boraq Trainset
Fully Electric 25 KV 50 Hz

Tanger Med Logistic Hub
9 million containers, 7 million passengers



Summary

Advantages and Challenges for Multimodal Transport Corridors in the Arab Region

Advantages

- Agreements on Transport Connectivity
 - Roads
 - Railways
 - Maritime
 - **Multimodal Transport**
- Maps and GIS
- Projects
 - National
 - Subregional

Challenges

- General/ Geopolitical
 - Conflicts
 - Political Will
- Technical
 - Missing Links of Railways (59.5%)
 - Border Crossings Issues
 - Inter-operability
 - Tariffs of cross-country railways
- Managerial and Institutional of Multimodal corridors
- Financial
 - Cost: Especially for Rail development

