

Starting off cooperation on Jordan River Basin

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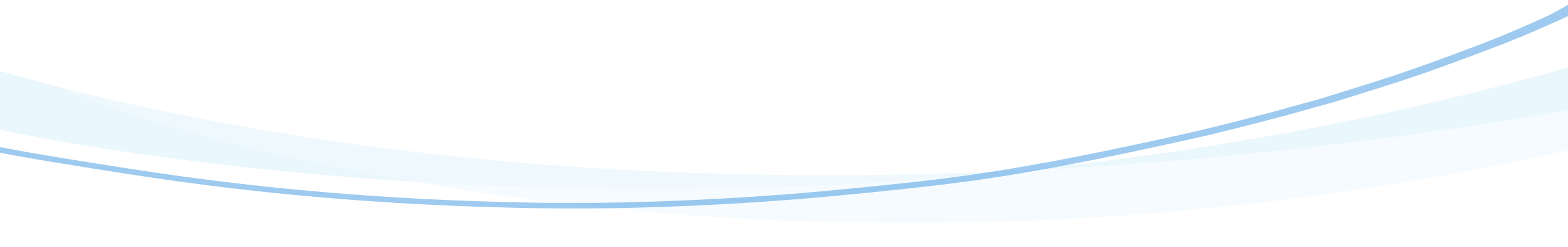


Introduction

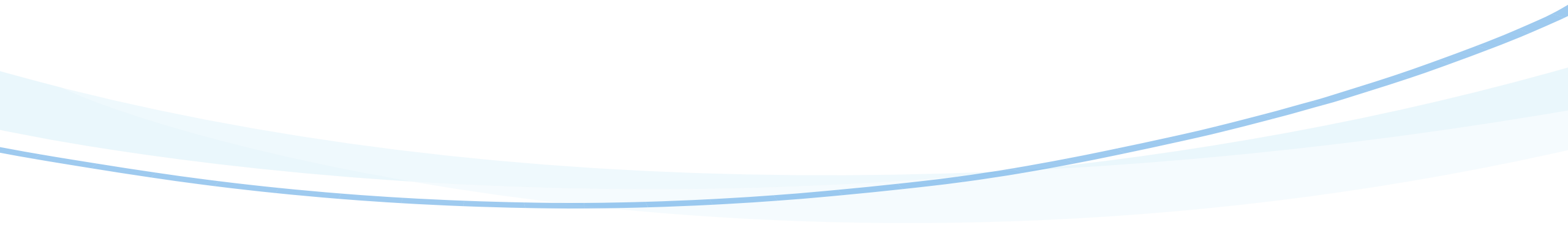
- Trans-boundary water management is of high importance in Jordan because it comprises almost 40% of water resources.
- Both Surface and Ground water resources are subject to trans-boundary water management.
- Jordan had arranged agreements with three riparian states: Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Israel.
- Not all agreements are fully operational.




Rationale for Cooperation

- The limited water resources was the main trigger for cooperation. Jordan suffers from being amongst the poorest countries in water resources; the second by some measures.
 - It is one of the most important national plans to achieve water security parallel to economic and political stability.
 - Motive towards achieving SDG Agenda: leaving no one behind; by 2030.
 - Building a robust system to climate change.
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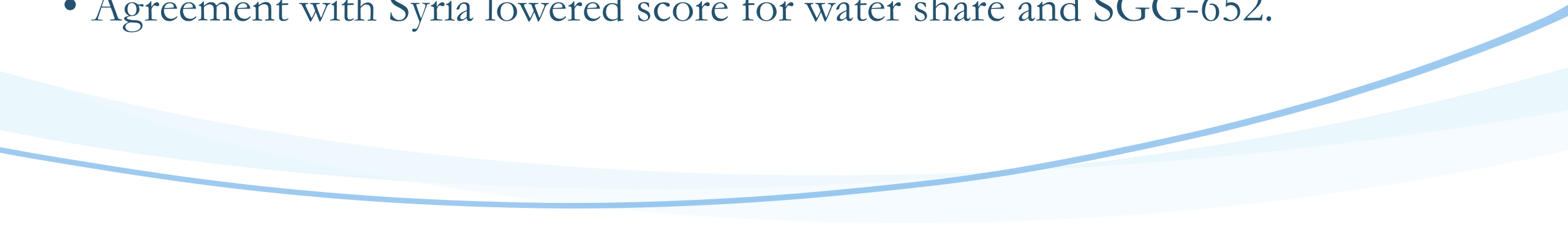
Processes

- The first step usually starts by creating a communication framework through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.
 - Next step arranging technical committee meetings from both sides to discuss the feasibility of utilizing the shared water resources.
 - Report these findings to the Ministerial level from both sides for decision.
 - Arrange agreement items and annexes.
 - Sign, implement and review for feedback.
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Challenges

- One of the main challenges in the agreement management is how to get consensus on the share of each country for a fair decision.
 - The level of involvement of technical staff and quality management subject matter on a mutual and continuous basis.
 - Environment and Hazard management.
 - Responsibility and continuity.
 - Effect of political issues, signature of an agreement is something, and operational status is another thing.
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Results

- The overall share obtained from trans-boundary resources is still relatively low.
 - The score of SDG-652 is around 23% because agreements are not fully operational on a set of aquifers and basins.
 - The most detailed agreement is that signed with Israel, with details on shares, quality parameters, joint technical meetings and visits, and frequency of meetings.
 - Agreement with Syria lowered score for water share and SGG-652.
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Conclusions

- Need to expedite SDG652 towards 2030 agenda, support needed.
 - Phase review of agreements.
 - Capacity building on negotiation skills and contractual issues.
 - Refresh political channels to get water shares.
 - Setting trans-boundary and IWRM as priorities adding to the solutions to water resources deficit (about 30%), and increase the water share per capita (currently (65) l/day/person).
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