

5 ways the US, Europe can push for Israel-Arab environmental cooperation - opinion

President Isaac Herzog has called for regional environmental cooperation during visits to neighboring countries and introduced a visionary concept of a “renewable Middle East.”

By Nimrod Goren, Maya Negev, Ofir Winter / Published: July 17, 2023

Environmental challenges are creating new priorities for countries in the Middle East and the Mediterranean and increasing cross-border cooperation – including between Israel and Arab countries. Such cooperation can assist in tackling climate change through a regional and global lens, can foster regional stability, maintain and expand circles of peace and normalization, and increase prosperity and economic development.

This trend, together with progress in Israel-Arab relations following the Abraham Accords, creates new opportunities for regional environmental cooperation between Israel and its neighbors. However, these opportunities’ full potential cannot be realized prior to a breakthrough toward Israeli-Palestinian peace. Moreover, the composition and policies of Israel’s current government pose additional challenges to Israel-Arab relations and have led existing cooperation to slow down. Nevertheless, and despite being limited in scope, regional cooperative endeavors are taking place and efforts to sustain them are underway.

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Dr. Nimrod Goren is a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute and president of the Mitvim Institute; Dr. Maya Negev is head of the Health Systems Policy and Administration Program at the University of Haifa; Dr. Ofir Winter is a senior researcher at the INSS.

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