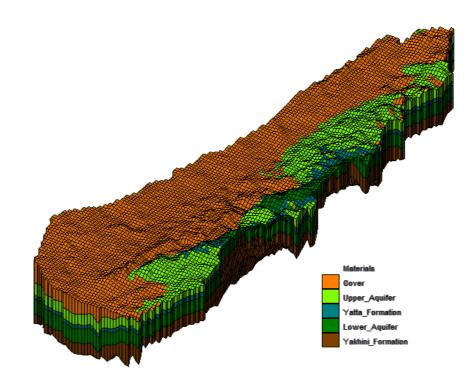
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SUSMAQ Sustainable Management of the Vest Bank and Gaza Aquifers NEKC British Geological Survey Department for International Development Development

West Bank Aquifers-Distribution of Empirical Estimates of Groundwater Recharge by Month



Working Report SUSMAQ-REC # 20 V 0.1

Prepared by:

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The SUSMAQ Project	Recharge Estimation Component is part of the
The aim of the project is to increase understanding of the	SUSMAQ project which aims at developing
sustainable yield of the West Bank and Gaza aquifers under a range of future economic, demographic and land	improved estimates of groundwater recharge to the West Bank Aquifers with emphasis on the Western
use scenarios, and evaluate alternative groundwater	Aquifer Basin. This will be achieved through
management options. The project is interdisciplinary,	developing object oriented model for recharge and
bringing together hydrogeologists and groundwater	studying the hydrochemistry of the aquifers.
modellers with economists and policy experts. In this way, hydrogeological understanding can inform, and be	
informed by, insights from the social sciences. The	
results of the study will provide support to decision-	
making at all levels in relation to the sustainable yield of	
the West Bank and Gaza aquifers. The project runs from November 1999 to October 2004,	
and is a partnership between the Palestinian Water	
Authority, University of Newcastle and the British	
Geological Survey. The project is funded by the United	
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West Bank Aquifers Distribution of Empirical Estimates	Aquifers-Distribution of Empirical Estimates of
of Groundwater Recharge by Month. Working report No.: SUSMAQ-REC #20V0.1 Sustainable Management	Groundwater Recharge by Month". The Recharge Estimation Team welcomes feedback, both
for the West Bank and Gaza Aquifers, Palestinian Water	positive and negative! Please, tell us what you
Authority (Palestine) and University of Newcastle upon	think about the ideas and issues raised in this
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Author:	addresses above. Your feedback will be appreciated and is necessary for updating and
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Summary

This report is a supplement to McKenzie et al (2001; SUSMAQ-REC #4) and describes the determination of monthly recharge values based on the annual calculation method presented in McKenzie et al, (2001; SUSMAQ-REC #4).

1 Introduction

This report addresses the issue of recharge to the aquifers of the West Bank, with particular concentration on recharge to the aquifers that make up the Western Aquifer Basin, prepared by British Geological Survey (BGS) and Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) staff for the Department for International Development (DFID) funded project "Sustainable Management of the West Bank and Gaza Aquifers". It is intended as an addendum to the previous report (McKenzie et al, 2002) that reviewed previous work on recharge and existing data sources, and needs to be read in conjunction with that work. As a baseline for the future development of a detailed process based model of recharge, an existing empirical model was used to estimate annual mean recharge, distributed spatially across the recharge areas of the various aquifers of the West Bank.

Precipitation over the West Bank is concentrated during the winter months, with a small amount of rainfall in October and November, building to a wet period from December to February, tailing off in March and April. The period May to September is effectively dry. It is logical to expect recharge to be similarly concentrated. Other processes affecting flow within the aquifers, such as abstraction, spring flow and outflow to other aquifers, will show different patterns of seasonality. To model the seasonal differences in groundwater level and flow it is necessary to apportion the recharge to the aquifer correctly in time as well as space. This report extends the existing empirical model from an examination of mean annual recharge to an examination of mean monthly recharge.

Other components of the project have developed a process based recharge model, with closer links to climatic variability, terrain, geology and land use. The resulting model should give the best resolution of the variability of recharge. The work outlined in this short report is not designed to supplant this more detailed study.



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