

Game Theory Approach for Jordan River Basin Dispute

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to establish a practical conflict resolution mechanism and applies it to solve the strategic long-term dispute for Jordan River Basin. The paper starts with a brief history of the Jordan River Basin dispute. The paper then presents a game theoretic approach based on the Graph Model technique for conflict resolution, to investigate the Jordan River Basin dispute, considering the complex socio-political aspects involved. The proposed g model of this paper first defines the courses of actions available to all the involved stakeholders along with their preferences among them. Accordingly, the model applies stability and sensitivity analyses to propose an optimum resolution to the conflict and to examine the sensitivity of such resolution to the uncertainty in stakeholders' preferences. In this study, three scenarios were investigated with different coalition possibilities among different countries, as follow: (i) Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan; (ii) Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine; and (iii) Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. The results of the model suggest that the best resolution for all parties is through combined water and peace treaties. The results also indicate that a peace treaty between Israel and Palestine is the best resolution to the conflicts. The application of the Graph model in this paper shows its practicality and ability to provide each decision maker with a simulation environment to examine the actions and counteractions that take place during the negotiation among the different parties.

eywords: water disputes, conflict resolution, graph model, decision support system, multiple criteria decision analysis, Jordan River Basin.

25 1. INTRODUCTION

26 Many regions around the world deal with shortages of water. However, some areas
27 deal more with conflicts over poor and insufficient water supplies and disputes over shared
28 water supplies. In regions where countries compete for access to water, the relations between
29 the countries are to be expected unstable. In regions where water supply is limited, fight and
30 combat sometimes appears to be the only way to resolve the problem. It is estimated that
31 there are 1,250 square kilometers of freshwater remaining in the world's semi-arid and arid
32 regions and this supply is not evenly distributed among two or more countries sharing the
33 same water source. Severe water scarcity is strongest in the Middle East, especially in the
34 Jordan and Nile River Basins. The need for water in these regions is essential for food
35 production in farming.

36 Water systems usually originate and arise in one country and pass through others
37 before reaching the sea or oceans. The rivers and lakes that come off these larger water
38 systems are typically shared by more than one country. The countries where water systems
39 originate try and gain the most control over the water. This is the case along river systems
40 like the Jordan River, where the river originates in Lebanon and passes through Jordan, Syria,
41 and Israel. The river play a very important role in the agriculture and economic development
42 of these countries. In such a water conflict, the countries are involved as decision makers
43 (DMs) and each can make choices unilaterally. The combined choices of all players (DM)
44 together determine a resolution state or a possible outcome of the conflict. However, instead
45 of unilaterally moving, the DMs may also choose to cooperate or form coalitions. In such
46 environment, Game theory techniques such as the Graph Model for Conflict Resolution,
47 offers a useful and precise language for representing and analysing such disputes.

48 In the water domain, many researchers have attempted to examine conflicts in a
49 game-theoretic framework. Rogers (1969) studied the international conflict over flooding of

50 Ganges and Brahmapurta rivers between India and Pakistan. Dufounaud (1982) used
51 Metagame theory for the negotiations over the Columbia and lower Makong river basin.
52 Becker and Easter (1995) developed a dominant strategy selection for conflict over water
53 diversions from the Great Lakes between Canada and USA. Obeidie et al. (2002) provided a
54 systematic non-cooperative study of a conflict over the proposed export of bulk water from
55 Canada using the graph model. Raquel et al. (2007) developed cooperative solution concepts
56 for weighing the economic benefits versus negative environmental impacts from agriculture
57 production. Fisvold and Caswell (2000) implemented cooperative solution concepts for
58 deriving policy lessons useful for US-Mexico water negotiations and institutions. Supalla et
59 al. (2002) used second price sequential action method for determining the share and prices of
60 water in the Platte River in the USA (Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming). Kucukmehmtoglu
61 and Guldmen (2004) developed a cooperative solution concept for developing stable water
62 allocations among the countries riparian to Euphrates and Tigris between Iraq, Syria, and
63 Turkey. Wu and Whittington (2006) developed a cooperative solution concept for
64 establishing baseline conditions for incentive-compatible cooperation regimes in the Nile
65 basin among Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Eriteria, Ethipoia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania,
66 and Uganda. Madani and Hipel (2007) used the Graph Model for Conflict resolution to
67 provide insight into Jordan River Basin conflict between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel.
68 Sheikmohammady and Madani (2008a,b) used fallback bargaining, social choice rules,
69 bankruptcy procedures, and descriptive modeling techniques for providing the most likely
70 outcomes of the Caspian Sea dispute among Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and
71 Turkmenistan. Elimam et al. (2008) studied the non-cooperative behaviour of the decision
72 makers involved in the Nile river conflict and determined the most likely outcomes of the
73 conflict using the Graph model.

74 The objective of this paper is to introduce the graph model for conflict resolution
75 (Fang et al. 1993) and apply it to analyse the different possible coalitions among the countries
76 involved in the Jordan River Basin. To facilitate the analysis, a decision support system,
77 called “conGres” developed based on the early work of Kassab et al. (2009), has been used to
78 implement the graph model approach for the Jordan River conflict. The model helps to select
79 the optimum resolution, considering the uncertainty in decision makers’ preferences.

80 **2. ANALYZING THE JORDAN RIVER BASIN CONFLICT**

81 The area of the Jordan River Basin, including parts of Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan,
82 and the occupied West Bank (represented by Palestine), is primarily an arid region. The
83 Jordan River basin has an area of 18,300 square kilometers (see Figure 1). The river
84 originates and begins in Lebanon and has a total average flow of 1,200 million cubic meters
85 per year. This river system consists of the Jordan and Yarmuk River, which flows from Syria.
86 With the low precipitation and arid climate in this region, water has become the most
87 valuable resource. Most countries in the Jordan River Basin are among some of the poorest
88 countries in the region. Groundwater aquifers are the main source for water supplies to the
89 countries that rely on the Jordan River. The use of water varies throughout the region. Israel
90 uses the greatest amount of water and next in line is Jordan. The occupied West bank
91 (Palestine) uses the smallest amount. The daily amount of water per person in the Jordan
92 River Basin is the lowest in the world (UN-ESCWA and BGR, 2013).

93 Demand on water in the region has been increasing faster than the region's water
94 supply. Also previous records show that the options of the DMs have not changed
95 considerably since the foundation of Israel. This conflict has been existed from earlier times
96 and several temporary rulings have been experienced during this relatively long time period.

97 *Decision Support System*

98 To analyse the Jordan River Conflict, a DSS, called "**conflict Game for dispute resolution,**
99 **conGres**", developed based on the early work of Kassab et al. (2006b; 2009) has been

100 customized for this conflict. As shown on the right side of Figure 2, the DSS integrates three
101 techniques: (1) the elimination method (MacCrimmon 1973) as a multiple-criteria decision
102 analysis technique used to shortlist decision alternatives; (2) the graph model for conflict
103 resolution (Fang et al. 1993) to simulate the actions and counteractions that take place during
104 negotiation; and (3) the information gap (info-gap) theory (Hipel and Ben-Haim 1999, Ben-
105 Haim 2006) to address the uncertainty associated with the stakeholders' preferences. The
106 following steps demonstrate the implementation of the DSS for Jordan River Basin case
107 study, with the goal of identifying the best resolution. Figure 3 shows the main interface of
108 the conGres DSS.

109 ***Step 1: Define Stakeholder and their options***

110 Five stakeholders (DMs) are involved in this conflict: Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan, and
111 Palestine. The mutually exclusive decision options available to each of the DMs are shown in
112 Table 1. In addition to doing nothing, important options are: unilaterally increase own share
113 of water extraction, holding a peace treaty, holding a water treaty, and doing a counteraction
114 against another country that unilaterally increased its share. Considering a scenario with four
115 key DM countries and their options (3 options Lebanon, 4 options for Jordan, 5 options for
116 Israel, and two options for Palestine), the information was entered into the DSS (see Figure
117 4), thus a total of 120 possible decision states were generated ($3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 2$). These 120
118 possible solutions or decision states represent all possible combinations of the stakeholders'
119 options.

120

121 ***Step 2: Shortlist feasible solutions***

122 Given 120 decision states, it is important to recognize and eliminate any solution with
123 infeasible combinations of options and then choose and focus on the most promising ones.
124 The advantage of the elimination method provides the ability to eliminate some of the
125 alternatives that do not meet stakeholder threshold values of acceptance. Based on different

126 studies as suggested by Haddadin (2014) and Madani and Hipel (2007), 113 decision states
127 were eliminated (see Table 3). Only seven (7) feasible solutions were selected, therefore
128 producing a short list of feasible alternatives (Figure 5).

129 *Step 3: Understanding stakeholders' preferences*

130 Before applying the graph model for conflict resolution considering various coalition
131 scenarios among the DMs, it is important to understand and model the stakeholders'
132 preferences. The Preferences of DMs can be ordinal, where each DM ranks the decision
133 states relative to each other, but is not able to specify their exact payoff values. Alternatively,
134 the preferences can be cardinal, where each DM is able to quantify the payoffs of the
135 different states. For the Jordan River Basin conflict, the payoff values are not available and
136 therefore, ordinal preferences have been used. The preferences of each involved DM are
137 discussed as follows:

138

139 **Lebanon:** Due to water shortage in the area, like other DMs, Lebanon likes to increase its
140 withdrawal of the water if there is no opposition (counteraction) by downstream DMs. Thus,
141 any decision state in which an increase in withdrawal will be countered by downstream
142 parties is least desired by Lebanon. Being the upstream nation and having good access to
143 water resources compared to other DMs, Lebanon is not interested in signing any water or
144 peace treaty with downstream nations which limits their access of water from the Jordan
145 River. It is assumed that Lebanon wants to sign a water treaty only if the other riparian Arab
146 countries choose to sign water treaties with Israel, which may lead to bringing peace to the
147 region.

148 **Syria:** Syria mostly prefers to increase its water share if there is no counteraction by
149 downstream DMs. Syria prefers that other parties do not increase their withdrawal and it
150 prefers to take counteraction rather than to do nothing in case of an increase by another party.
151 It is also believed that Syria is interested in signing a water treaty only if Jordan and Israel are

152 both involved. If all the parties are signing a water treaty may be more preferred to Syria
153 because of its steadiness to bring peace to the area.

154

155 ***Jordan:*** Jordan is also mainly attracted in increasing its withdrawal from the river if there is
156 no objection and least prefers any counteractions by others. Jordan does not like other parties
157 to increase their withdrawal from River and it is only interested in signing a treaty with all of
158 the other parties. When share increases by another country, Jordan prefers to react in terms of
159 complaints rather than military means. Jordan prefers to sign a treaty with Israel. However, it
160 likes that other countries to sign the water treaty when its right is protected.

161 ***Israel:*** Israel, like other DMs, wants to increase its withdrawal if there is no counteraction by
162 downstream DMs. Israel would like to sign a treaty with other riparian countries and it does
163 not want the other parties to increase their withdrawals from the Jordan River. In case of an
164 increase in withdrawal by another country, Israel prefers to counteract, which has
165 traditionally been in terms of military actions. It is believed that this country would like to
166 have peace treaty with the Palestine.

167 ***Palestine:*** It is assumed that the Palestine liked to have peace and therefore more access to
168 water. Therefore, Palestine prefer to have peace treaty with Israel.

169 ***Step 4: Accounting for uncertain information***

170 In this step, the uncertainties associated with ambiguity in stakeholder preferences are
171 considered and its impact measured on the final resolution of the conflict. The DSS uses the
172 info-gap theory (Ben-Haim 2006) to furnish the user with the ability to consider such
173 uncertainties. The info-gap method runs a systematic procedure for investigating the
174 robustness of a decision under the uncertainty of the stakeholder preferences (Ben-Haim and
175 Hipel 2002). Info-gap modelling could be interpreted as a comprehensive approach to
176 sensitivity analysis.

177 3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION UNDER COALITION SCENARIOS

178 In this study, the graph model (Fang et al. 1993) has been applied to the conflict. This
179 comprehensive decision technology has been applied to a range of different conflicts,
180 including local and international trade disputes (Hipel et al. 2001). In a recent research
181 (Kassab et al. 2006), the graph model was used to resolve a construction conflict between a
182 contractor and an owner.

183 The graph model mathematically describes how stakeholders (DMs) interact with one another
184 in terms of negotiation moves and countermoves, based on their preferences. After specifying
185 the stakeholders' preferences, the process examines the stability of the shortlisted solutions
186 with respect to four main stability concepts: Nash (R); General Metarationality (GMR);
187 Symmetric Metarationality (SMR); and Sequential Stability (SEQ), as described in Table 2.

188 For mathematical definitions of the stability concepts, all information can be found in Fang et
189 al. (1993) and Kassab et al. (2006a). Each of the four stability concepts tests a solution from
190 a different perspective. For instance, a decision state is considered Nash stable for one DM if
191 the DM cannot find a more preferred state to move to. When a decision state is found to be
192 stable for all the stakeholders, it represents an equilibrium situation, i.e. a decision state that
193 has high potential of satisfying all parties.

194 In this study, the conflict resolution process has been applied under three scenarios with
195 different coalition possibilities among the DMs: (1) coalition among Lebanon, Jordan, Israel,
196 and Palestine; (2) coalition among Jordan, Israel, and Palestine; and (3) coalition among
197 Syria, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. The graph model process was applied to these scenarios
198 separately aiming to obtain the robust and stable solution according to stakeholders'
199 preferences.

200 *Scenario one: Coalition between Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Palestine*

201

202 In this scenario, coalition among four stakeholders are considered, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel,
203 and Palestine. The first stakeholder (Lebanon) has four mutually exclusive decisions:
204 Increase share, counteraction, water treaty, and do nothing. The second stakeholder (Jordan)
205 has the same mutually exclusive decisions. The third stakeholder (Israel) has five mutually
206 exclusive decisions: Increase share, counteraction, water treaty, peace treaty, and do nothing.
207 The fourth stakeholder (Palestine) has two mutually exclusive decisions: peace treaty and do
208 thing. All of these mutually exclusive decisions are explained in details in Table 1.

209 Specifying the stakeholders of four countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine)
210 and their options results in a total of 120 possible "decision states" ($3 \times 2 \times 4 \times 5$). The 120
211 possible solutions or decision states represent all possible combinations of the stakeholder
212 options.

213 Based on different studies which are suggested by Madani and Hipel (2007) and Haddadin
214 (2014), 113 decision states were eliminated. Only seven (7) feasible solutions were selected,
215 therefore producing a short list of feasible alternatives (Figure 4). The shortlisted solution
216 will be further examined. In this study, various stakeholder preferences on scale (0-100%)
217 were considered, as shown in Table 4.

218 The shortlisted solutions obtained by the elimination method were further examined.
219 The stakeholder preferences, based on Haddadin (2014), among the various decision states
220 are as follow (decision preference set 1): Lebanon has 50% preference in a Water Treaty;
221 Jordan has 50% preference in a Water Treaty; Israel has 30% preference in a Water treaty;
222 and Palestine has a 100% preference in a Peace Treaty (see Figure 5).

223 The results indicated that among the seven feasible solutions for the first stakeholder
224 preferences, solution one (1) is the best solution with 18300 payoff (see Table 3 and Figure
225 6). The model find all stability concepts (R, SEQ, GMR, and SMR) are in equilibrium status

226 for the best solution. This imply that the peace treaty between Israel and Palestine and a
227 Water treaty between Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon are the robust and stable solution.

228 Alternatively, the stakeholder preferences were changed among the various decision
229 states are as follow (decision preference 2): Lebanon has 50% preference in a Water Treaty;
230 Jordan has 100% preference in a Water Treaty; Israel has 100% preference in a Water treaty;
231 and Palestine has a 100% preference in a Peace Treaty (see Figure 7). Results indicated that
232 solution (1) still the robust solution with payoff of 19500 (see Figure 8).

233 Furthermore, when reducing the 120 solution to 20 solutions instead of 7 solutions
234 and considering more solutions which includes increasing shares and counteraction, result
235 still suggests the first options (water treaty, peace treaty) as the best solution (Figure 9). The
236 results suggest that the status quo scenario (Do nothing) has received the lowest payoff score
237 and is not Nash (R) stable. However, the solution still less risky than increasing withdrawal
238 by the upstream parties (Figure 10).

239 The results are not stable (Equilibrium) when the parties increased share. All results
240 are stable when decision makers choose the water and peace treaties. The option of do
241 nothing is the least preferred with the lowest payoff among other options. However, the
242 results suggest that the do nothing option is less risky than one nation may decide to increase
243 its share. Therefore, it is more desirable that parties could find the best and stable solution
244 and to have several attempts to reach the preferred equilibrium option.

245 Since stakeholders are not certain about their goals and preferences, as the Jordan may
246 not trust the Syria and Israel for this problem. Therefore, uncertainty analysis associated with
247 stakeholder preferences was performed. Table 3 lists the percentages of the assumed
248 uncertainty for each stockholder's preference values.. The stakeholders are assigned a high
249 value of +10% uncertainty to their preferences. Once the uncertainty level was specified, the

250 DSS then performs a number of experiments (with 100 experiments). It then presents the
251 results in the form of a histogram (see Figure 6).

252 ***Scenario two: Coalition between Jordan, Israel and Palestine***

253 Specifying the stakeholders of four countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine)
254 and their options results in a total of 40 possible "decision states" ($2 \times 4 \times 5$). The 40 possible
255 solutions or decision states represent all possible combinations of the stakeholder options.
256 They were shortlisted to 7 options as described in Figure but excluding Lebanon.
257 Alternatively, the solutions were also reduced to 20 options to consider increasing share for
258 different stakeholders. Interestingly, in both cases, the results suggest that solution one (1) is
259 the best solution after considering the two different stakeholder preferences (0-100%). The
260 best solution is stable with all stability concepts R, GMR, SMR, and SEQ. The results also
261 shows that the do nothing or status quo solution received the lowest payoff values, but is
262 more preferred than increasing withdrawal of water from one party.

263

264 ***Scenario three: Coalition between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel***

265 Specifying the stakeholders of four countries (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel) and
266 their options results in a total of 240 possible "decision states" ($5 \times 4 \times 4 \times 3$). The 240
267 possible solutions or decision states represent all possible combinations of the stakeholder
268 options. They were shortlisted to 7 solutions and allow consider increasing share and
269 counteractions among stakeholders. The results still suggest that signing water treaty among
270 parties is the best and stable solution . The best solution has achieved equilibrium four
271 stability concepts of R, GMR, SMR, and SEQ. It is also concluded that do nothing solution is
272 not a Nash stable solution, but still better than increase withdrawal and counteraction .

273

274 **4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

275 This study introduced the graph model for the water dispute in Jordan River Basin
276 problem. This study clearly proved that the Graph Model for conflict resolution can be used
277 to solve socio-political conflict appropriately. Further, the model can be flexible and
278 simplified all process and consider stability and sensitivity analysis. That is, it eventually find
279 the optimum solution based on stakeholders preferences. Using graph model make it possible
280 to shortlist various decision makers and infeasible solutions. In Jordan River Basin problem,
281 the 120 and 240 solutions were reduced to only 7 feasible solutions. In addition, using
282 conflict resolution with info-gap theory led to solution one (1) as the best solution. After
283 testing three different scenario with different coalition and preferences among parties, results
284 found water treaty between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel produce the robust and stable
285 solutions. It is also established that the current situation is the least desirable solution but is
286 more preferred and stable that increasing the abstraction of water from the upstream parties.

287 The Jordan River Conflict is n good example for interstate water conflict where
288 upstream and downstream parties cannot agree on the amount to be withdraw from a common
289 pool aquifer or a river. The results of this study established that the upstream parties would
290 not increase their share of water from the Jordan River, to avoid any possible counter act
291 from the downstream parties. The state where no increasing share of water is the easiest
292 option non-cooperative equilibrium for this type of conflict. After agreeing among parties for
293 cooperation, parties can sign water treaties agreements that each part receives a certain
294 amount of water. Such water treaty agreements will be more favourable than counter acting
295 and colluding among parties, and will secure parties right and reduce their concerns.

296 The simplification of modeling make imperfect. This study examined the Jordan
297 River basin generic conflict on water as from the socio-political aspect. It ignores other issues
298 such as religious, regional, and environmental factors that may indirectly affect this conflict.
299 This paper is also did not focus on the source of water whether it is a groundwater as a

300 common pool or surface water of the Jordan River. It is only examined the used of the graph
301 model for resolving water in general for this river basin.

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- 399

400 **APPENDIX**

401 Table 1. Decision makers and their Options (Madani and Hipel, 2007).

Decision Makers (DMs)	Options
Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing withdrawal from Jordan River System (Share Increasing) ▪ Counteraction against a country that increased its withdrawal ▪ Signing Water Treaty with other countries (Water Treaty) ▪ Nothing
Lebanon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing withdrawal from Jordan River System (Share Increasing) ▪ Signing Water Treaty with other countries (Water Treaty) ▪ Nothing
Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing withdrawal from Jordan River System (Share Increasing) ▪ Counteraction against a country that increased its withdrawal ▪ Signing Water Treaty with other countries (Water Treaty) ▪ Nothing
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing withdrawal from Jordan River System (Share Increasing) ▪ Counteraction against a country that increased its withdrawal ▪ Signing Water Treaty with other countries (Water Treaty) ▪ Signing a water treaty with the Palestinian Authority (Peace Treaty) ▪ Nothing
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signing a water treaty with the Palestinian Authority (Peace Treaty) ▪ Nothing

402

403 Table 2. Solution concept for conflict resolution.

Solution concept	Description
Nash stability (R)	No other decisions bring a better payoff.
General metarationality (GMR)	If a better option is decided, opponent's counter-actions are safe.
Symmetric metarationality (SMR)	If a better option is decided, opponent's counter-actions are safe and not harmful to opponent.
Sequential stability (SEQ)	If a better option is decided, opponent's beneficial counter-actions are safe.

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407 Table 3. Preferences and best solution for coalition scenario 1, with decision preference set 1.

408

Option	Lebanon Payoff	Jordan Payoff	Israel Payoff	Palestine Payoff	Scores	Best Solution	Equilibria
1	W.treaty (50)	W. treaty (50)	W. treaty (30)	P. treaty (100)	18300	1st (best)	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
4	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (50)	W. treaty (30)	P. treaty (100)	17800	2nd	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
5	W.treaty (50)	W. treaty (50)	W. treaty (30)	P. treaty (0)	17300	3rd	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
2	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (50)	W. treaty (30)	P. treaty (100)	16800	4th	GMR, SMR, SEQ
3	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (50)	W. treaty (30)	P. treaty (0)	15800	5th	GMR, SMR, SEQ

409

410

411 Table 4. Preferences and best solution for coalition scenario 1, with decision preference set 2.

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Option	Lebanon Payoff	Jordan Payoff	Israel Payoff	Palestine Payoff	Scores	Best Solution	Equilibria
1	W.treaty (50)	W. treaty (100)	W. treaty (100)	P. treaty (100)	19500	1st (best)	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
5	W.treaty (50)	W. treaty (100)	W. treaty (100)	P. treaty (0)	18500	2nd	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
4	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (0)	W. treaty (100)	P. treaty (100)	18000	3rd	R, GMR, SMR, SEQ
3	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (100)	W. treaty (100)	P. treaty (0)	17000	4th	GMR, SMR, SEQ
6	W.treaty (0)	W. treaty (100)	W. treaty (100)	P. treaty (0)	16000	5th	GMR, SMR, SEQ

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416 Table 5. Uncertainty and stakeholder preferences with 100 experiments.

Stakeholder preferences	Variability range (0-100%)
Lebanon	±10
Jordan	±10
Israel	±10
Palestine	±10

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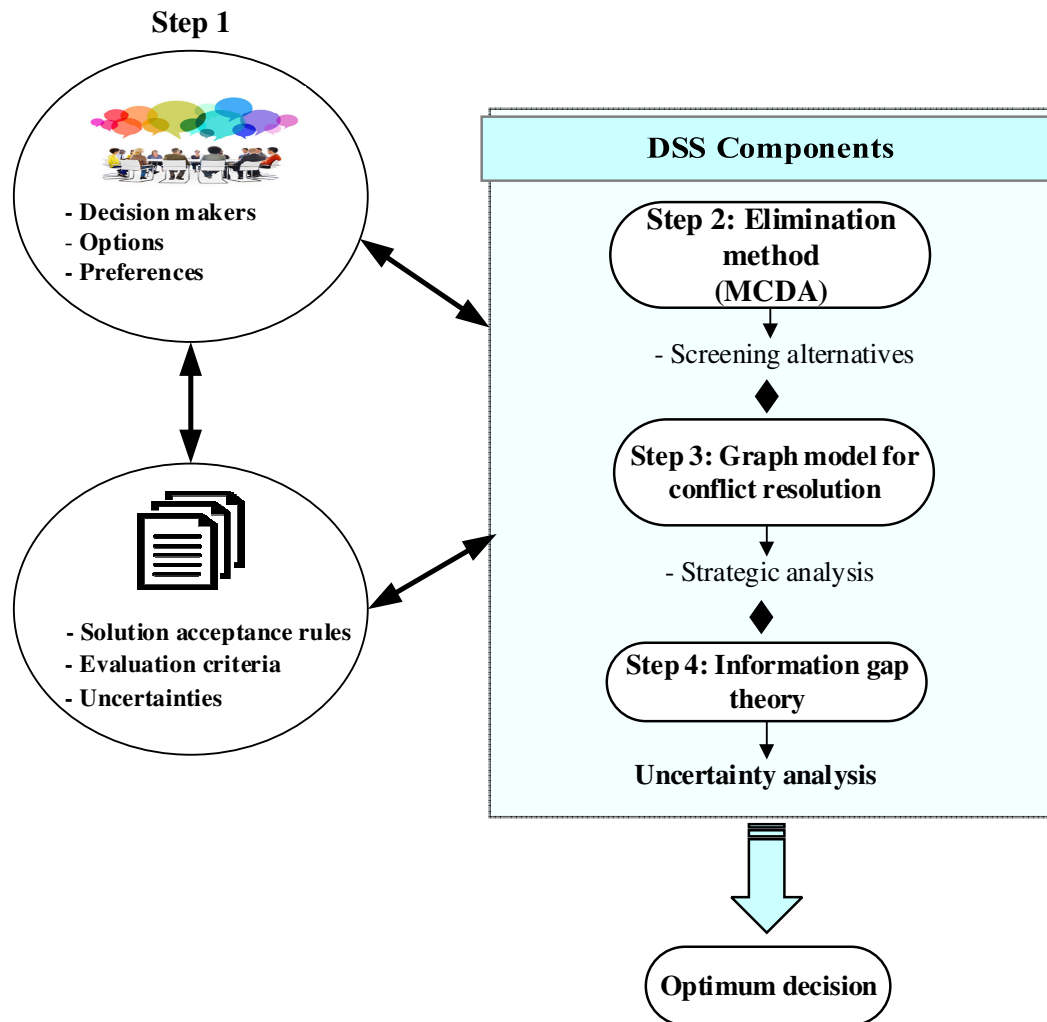
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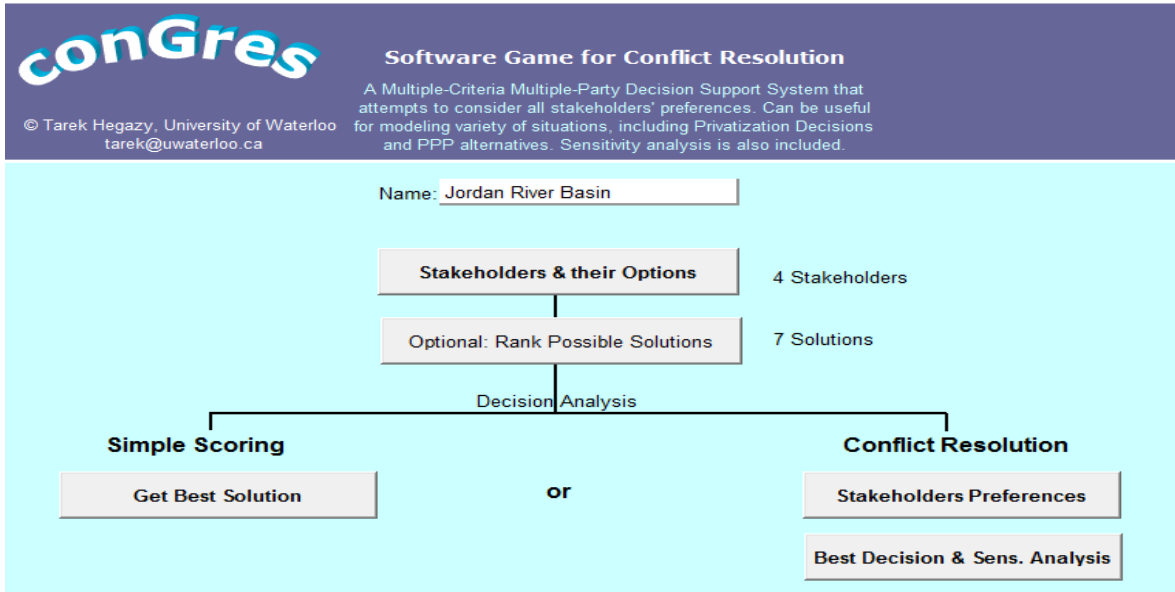
420 Figure 1. Jordan River Basin.

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Figure 2. Components of the decision support system (DDS) for water dispute problem.



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435 Figure 3. Main interface for the decision support system.

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Main Menu **StakeHolders and their Options**

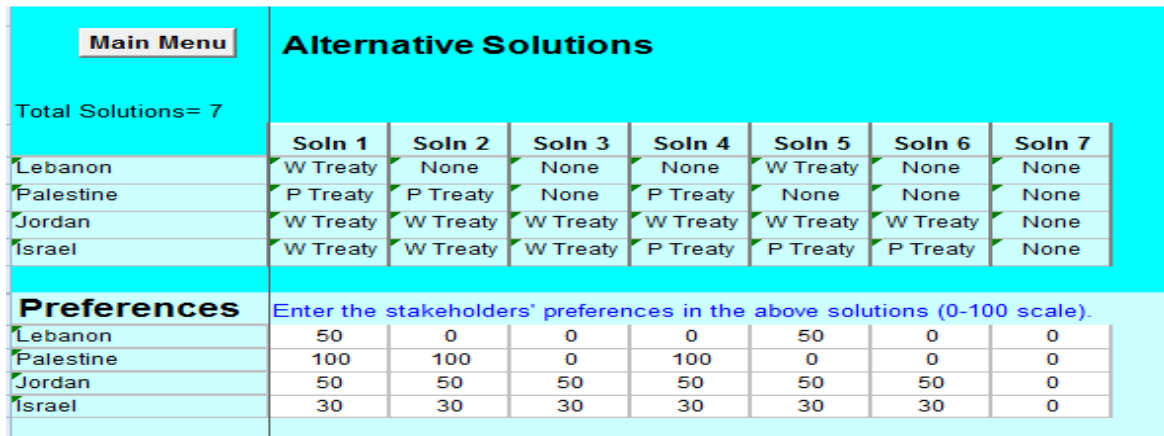
StakeHolders: Use the Add / Del buttons to specify StakeHolders, then enter their **Mutually Exclusive** decision options.

Stakeholder	No. of Decision Options	Option 1 Desc.	Option 2 Desc.	Option 3 Desc.	Option 4 Desc.	Option 5 Desc.
Lebanon	3	Inc share	W Treaty	None		
Palestine	2	P Treaty	None			
Jordan	4	Inc share	Counter act	W Treaty	None	
Israel	5	Inc share	Counter act	W Treaty	P Treaty	None

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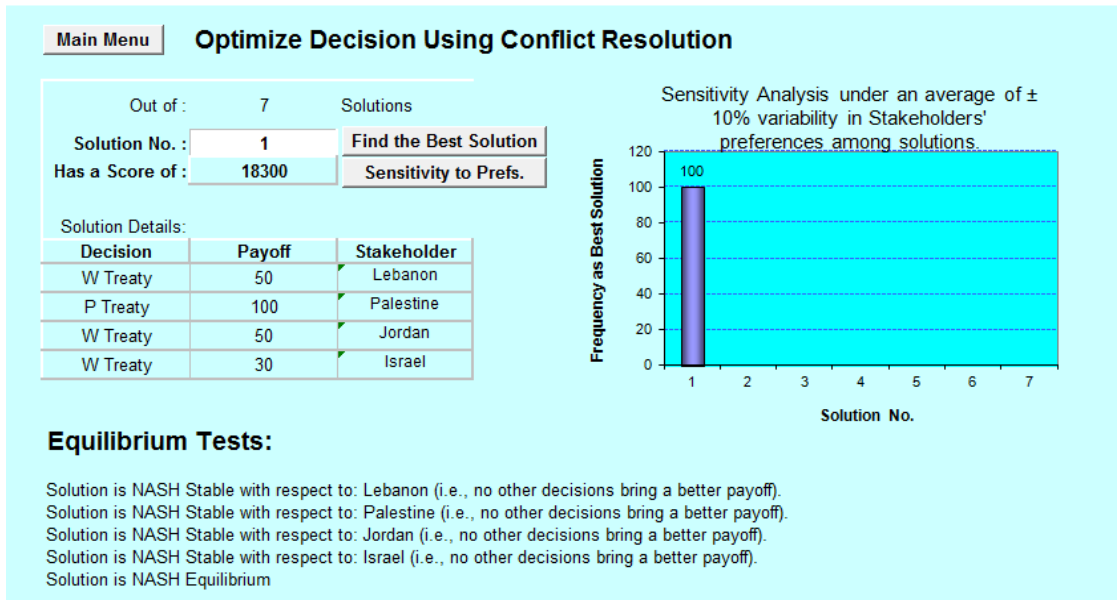
438 Figure 4. Stakeholders and their options.

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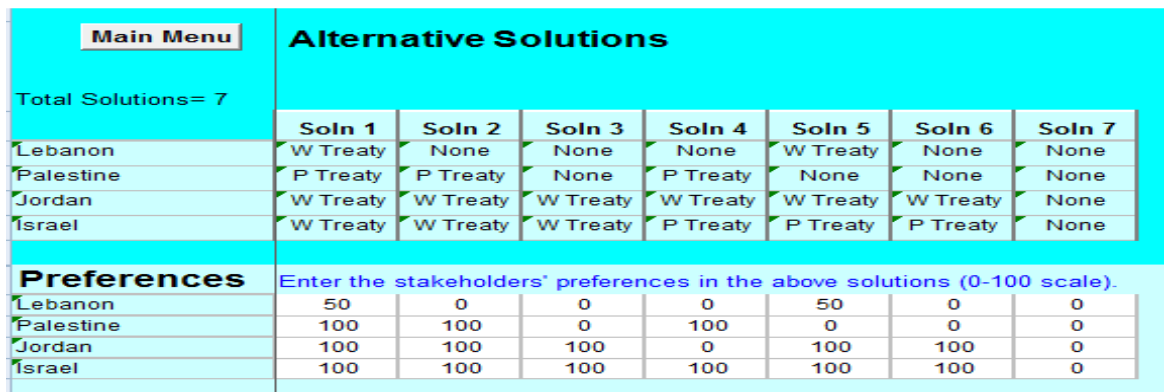
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441 Figure 5. Shortlisted solutions after elimination for coalition scenario 1, with stakeholders' preferences set 1.



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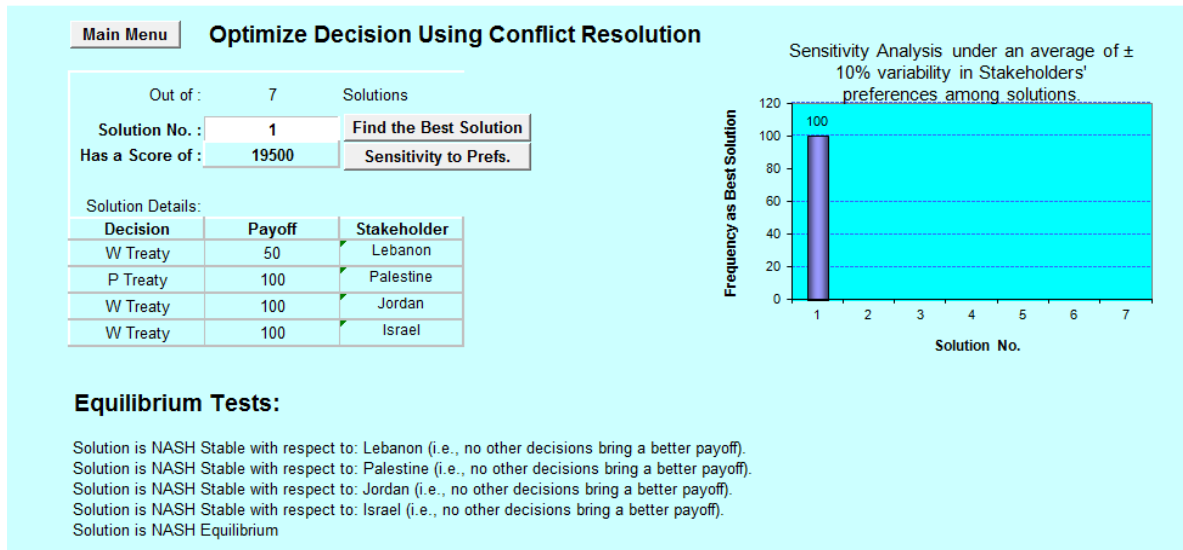
444 Figure 6. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution.



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446 Figure 7. Shortlisted solutions after elimination for coalition scenario 1, with stakeholders’
 447 preferences set 2.

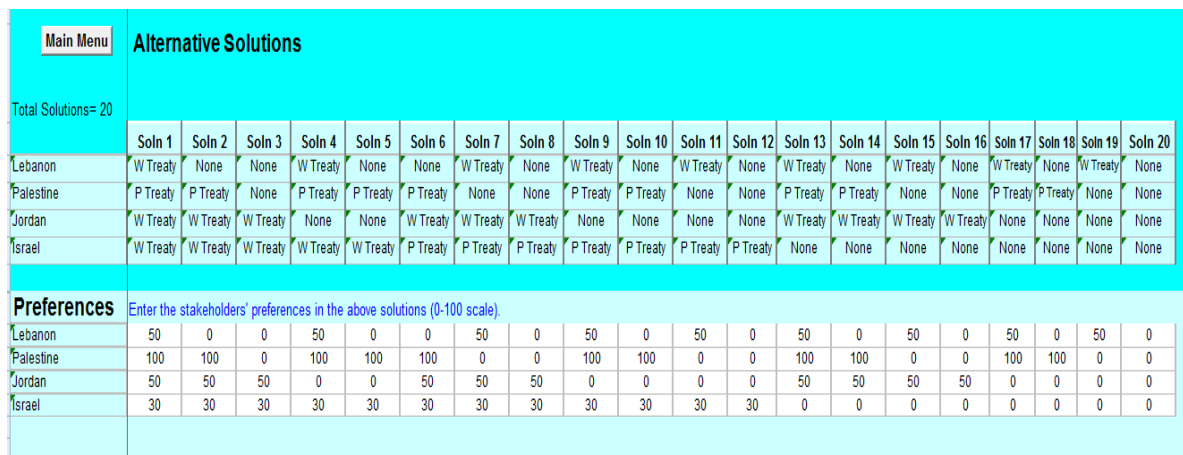
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450 Figure 8. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution with stakeholder preferences of
 451 100% stakeholders preferences are assigned for Israel, Jordan, and Palestine.

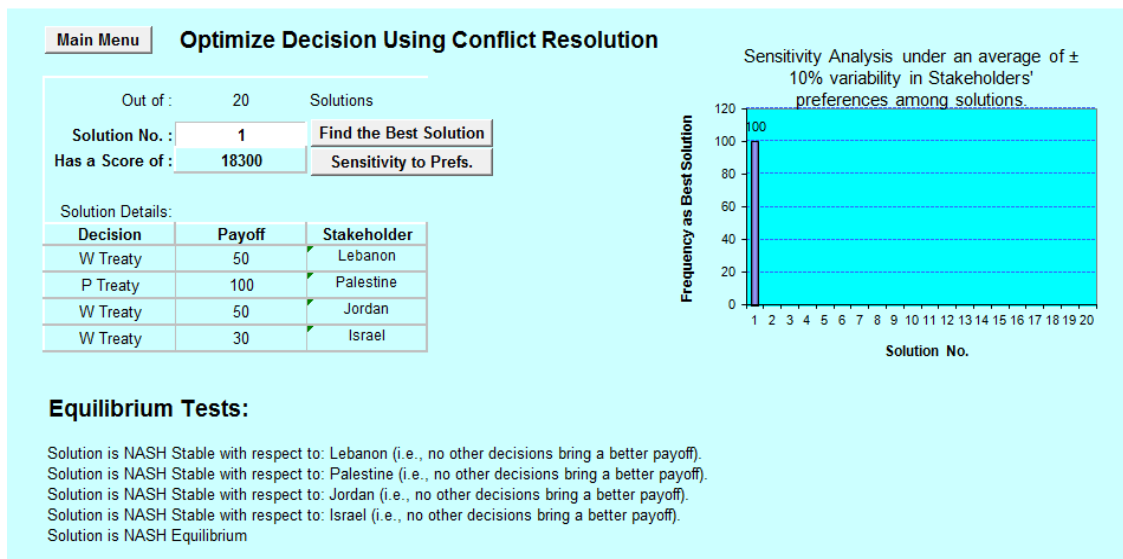
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454 Figure 9. Twenty shortlisted solution after elimination of the non-feasible ones, with different
 455 stakeholder preferences.

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458 Figure 10. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution for the twenty shortlisted solution
 459 when different stakeholders preferences are assigned.