

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 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.

Keywords: 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~~skilometres of freshwater remaining in the world's semi-arid
32 and arid regions and this supply is not evenly distributed among two or more countries
33 sharing the same water source. Severe water scarcity is strongest in the Middle East,
34 especially in the Jordan and Nile River Basins. The need for water in these regions is
35 essential for food 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~~river plays a very important role in the agriculture and economic
42 development of these countries. In such a water conflict, the countries are involved as
43 decision makers (DMs) and each can make choices unilaterally. The combined choices of all
44 players (DM) together determine a resolution state or a possible outcome of the conflict.
45 However, instead of unilaterally moving, the DMs may also choose to cooperate or form
46 coalitions. In such environment, Game theory techniques such as the Graph Model for
47 Conflict Resolution, offers a useful and precise language for representing and analysing such
48 disputes.

49 In the water domain, many researchers have attempted to examine conflicts in a
50 game-theoretic framework. Rogers (1969) studied the international conflict over flooding of
51 Ganges and Brahmapurta rivers between India and Pakistan. Dufounaud (1982) used
52 Metagame theory for the negotiations over the Columbia and lower Makong river basin.
53 Becker and Easter (1995) developed a dominant strategy selection for conflict over water
54 diversions from the Great Lakes between Canada and USA. Obeidie et al. (2002) provided a
55 systematic non-cooperative study of a conflict over the proposed export of bulk water from
56 Canada using the graph model. Raquel et al. (2007) developed cooperative solution concepts
57 for weighing the economic benefits versus negative environmental impacts from agriculture
58 production. Fisvold and Caswell (2000) implemented cooperative solution concepts for
59 deriving policy lessons useful for US-Mexico water negotiations and institutions. Supalla et
60 al. (2002) used second price sequential action method for determining the share and prices of
61 water in the Platte River in the USA (Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming). Kucukmehmtoglu
62 and Guldmen (2004) developed a cooperative solution concept for developing stable water
63 allocations among the countries riparian to Euphrates and Tigris between Iraq, Syria, and
64 Turkey. Wu and Whittington (2006) developed a cooperative solution concept for
65 establishing baseline conditions for incentive-compatible cooperation regimes in the Nile
66 basin among Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Eriteria, Ethipoia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania,
67 and Uganda. Madani and Hipel (2007) used the Graph Model for Conflict resolution to
68 provide insight into Jordan River Basin conflict between Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel.
69 Sheikmohammady and Madani (2008a,b) used fallback bargaining, social choice rules,
70 bankruptcy procedures, and descriptive modeling techniques for providing the most likely
71 outcomes of the Caspian Sea dispute among Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and
72 Turkmenistan. Elimam et al. (2008) studied the non-cooperative behaviour of the decision

73 makers involved in the Nile river conflict and determined the most likely outcomes of the
74 conflict using the Graph model.

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

81 | 2. ANALYZING THE JORDAN RIVER BASIN ~~CONFLICT~~CONFLICT

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

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

98 ***Decision Support System***

99 To analyse the Jordan River Conflict, a DSS, called "**conflict Game for dispute resolution,**
100 **conGres**", developed based on the early work of Kassab et al. (2006b; 2009) has been
101 customized for this conflict. As shown on the right side of Figure 2, the DSS integrates three
102 techniques: (1) the elimination method (MacCrimmon 1973) as a multiple-criteria decision
103 analysis technique used to shortlist decision alternatives; (2) the graph model for conflict
104 resolution (Fang et al. 1993) to simulate the actions and counteractions that take place during
105 negotiation; and (3) the information gap (info-gap) theory (Hipel and Ben-Haim 1999, Ben-
106 Haim 2006) to address the uncertainty associated with the stakeholders' preferences. The
107 following steps demonstrate the implementation of the DSS for Jordan River Basin case
108 study, with the goal of identifying the best resolution. Figure 3 shows the main interface of
109 the conGres DSS.

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

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

121

122 ***Step 2: Shortlist feasible solutions***

123 Given 120 decision states, it is important to recognize and eliminate any solution with
124 infeasible combinations of options and then choose and focus on the most promising ones.
125 The advantage of the elimination method provides the ability to eliminate some of the
126 alternatives that do not meet stakeholder threshold values of acceptance. Based on different
127 studies as suggested by Haddadin (2014) and Madani and Hipel (2007), 113 decision states
128 were eliminated (see Table 3). Only seven (7) feasible solutions were selected, therefore
129 producing a short list of feasible alternatives (Figure 5).

130 *Step 3: Understanding stakeholders' preferences*

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

139

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

149 **Syria:** Syria mostly prefers to increase its water share if there is no counteraction by
150 downstream DMs. Syria prefers ~~that~~ other parties ~~do not~~ to increase their withdrawal and it
151 prefers to take counteraction rather than to do nothing in case of a water withdrawal ~~an~~
152 increase by another party. It is also believed that Syria is interested in signing a water treaty
153 only if Jordan and Israel are both involved. Syria prefers a scenario where all ~~If all the~~ parties
154 are willing to signing a water treaty. ~~may be more preferred to Syria because of its steadiness~~
155 ~~to bring peace to the area.~~

156

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

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

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

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

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

180 **3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION UNDER COALITION SCENARIOS**

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

186 The graph model mathematically describes how stakeholders (DMs) interact with one another
187 in terms of negotiation moves and countermoves, based on their preferences. After specifying
188 the stakeholders' preferences, the process examines the stability of the shortlisted solutions
189 with respect to four main stability concepts: Nash (R); General Metarationality (GMR);
190 Symmetric Metarationality (SMR); and Sequential Stability (SEQ), as described in Table 2.
191 For mathematical definitions of the stability concepts, all information can be found in Fang et
192 al. (1993) and Kassab et al. (2006a). Each of the four stability concepts tests a solution from
193 a different perspective. For instance, a decision state is considered Nash stable for one DM if
194 the DM cannot find a more preferred state to move to. When a decision state is found to be
195 stable for all the stakeholders, it represents an equilibrium situation, i.e. a decision state that
196 has high potential of satisfying all parties.

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

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

204

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

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

217 Based on different studies which are suggested by Madani and Hipel (2007) and Haddadin
218 (2014), 113 decision states were eliminated. Only seven (7) feasible solutions were selected,
219 therefore producing a short list of feasible alternatives (Figure 4). The shortlisted solution
220 will be further examined. In this study, various stakeholder preferences on scale (0-100%)
221 were considered, as shown in Table 4.

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

227 The results indicated that among the seven feasible solutions for the first stakeholder
228 preferences, solution one (1) is the best solution with 18300 payoff (see Table 3 and Figure
229 6). The model find all stability concepts (R, SEQ, GMR, and SMR) are in equilibrium status
230 for the best solution. This imply that the peace treaty between Israel and Palestine and a
231 Water treaty between Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon ~~are is the a~~ robust and stable solution.

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

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

243 The results are not stable (Equilibrium) when the parties increased share. All results
244 are stable when decision makers choose the water and peace treaties. ~~The option~~The option
245 of do nothing is the least preferred with the lowest payoff among other options. However, the
246 results suggest that the do nothing ~~option is option is~~ less risky than one nation may decide to

247 increase its share. Therefore, it is more desirable that parties could find the best and stable
248 solution and to have several attempts to reach the preferred equilibrium option.

249 Since stakeholders are not certain about their goals and preferences, as the Jordan may
250 not trust the Syria and Israel for this problem. Therefore, uncertainty analysis associated with
251 stakeholder preferences was performed. Table 3 lists the percentages of the assumed
252 uncertainty for each stockholder's preference values.. The stakeholders are assigned a high
253 value of +10% uncertainty to their preferences. Once the uncertainty level was specified, the
254 DSS then performs a number of experiments (with 100 experiments). It then presents the
255 results in the form of a histogram (see Figure 6).

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

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

267

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

269 Specifying the stakeholders of four countries (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel) and
270 their options results in a total of 240 possible "decision states" ($5 \times 4 \times 4 \times 3$). The 240
271 possible solutions or decision states represent all possible combinations of the stakeholder

272 options. They were shortlisted to 7 solutions and allow consider increasing share and
273 counteractions among stakeholders. The results still suggest that signing water treaty among
274 parties is the best and stable solution . The best solution has achieved equilibrium four
275 stability concepts of R, GMR, SMR, and SEQ. It is also concluded that do nothing solution is
276 not a Nash stable solution, but still better than increase withdrawal and ~~counteraction~~
277 ~~counteraction~~.

278

279 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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

293 The Jordan River Conflict is ~~n-a~~ a good example for interstate water conflict where
294 upstream and downstream parties cannot agree on the amount to be ~~withdraw~~ withdrawn from
295 a common pool aquifer or a river. The results of this study established that the upstream
296 parties would not increase their share of water from the Jordan River, to avoid any possible

297 counter act from the downstream parties. ~~The state where no increasing share of water is the~~
298 ~~easiest option non-cooperative equilibrium for this type of conflict.~~ After agreeing agreement
299 among parties for cooperation, parties can sign water treaties agreements that each part
300 receives a certain amount of water. Such water treaty agreements will be more favourable
301 than counter acting and colluding among parties, and will secure parties right and reduce their
302 concerns.

303 ~~The simplification of modeling make imperfect.~~ This study ~~examined~~ examines the
304 Jordan River basin generic conflict on water ~~as~~ from the socio-political aspect. It ignores
305 other issues such as religious, regional, and environmental factors that may indirectly affect
306 this conflict. This paper is also did not focus on the source of water whether it is a
307 groundwater as a common pool or surface water of the Jordan River. It is only examined the
308 used of the graph model for resolving water in general for this river basin.

309

310 5. REFERENCES

311

312 Becker, N., and K.W. Easter, K.W., 1995. Water diversions in the great lakes basin analyzed
313 in a game theory framework. *Water Resources Management*, 9 (3).

314

315 Ben-Haim, Y., 2006. *Information-gap decision theory: decision under severe uncertainty*. San
316 Diego, CA: Academic Presses Inc.

317

318 Ben-Haim, Y. and Hipel, K.W., 2002. The graph model for conflict resolution with
319 information-gap uncertainty in preferences. *Journal of Applied Mathematics and*
320 *Computation*, 126: 319–340.

321

322 Dufournaud, C.M., 1982. On the mutually beneficial cooperative scheme: dynamic change in
323 the payoff matrix of international river basin schemes. *Water Resources Research* 18
324 (4), 764–772.

325

326 Elimam, L., Rheinheimer, D., Connell, C., Madani, K., 2008. An ancient struggle: a game
327 theory approach to resolving the Nile conflict. R.W. Babcock, R. Walton (Eds.),
328 Proceeding of the 2008 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress,
329 Honolulu, Hawaii, American Society of Civil Engineers, pp. 1–10.

330

331 Haddadin, M. J., 2014. The Jordan River Basin: A conflict like no other. In
332 *Water and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, ed. E. Weinthal, J. Troell, and M. Nakayama.
333 London:
334 Earthscan.

335

336 Fang, L., Hipel, K.W., and Kilgour, D.M., 1993. *Interactive decision making: the graph*
337 *model for conflict resolution*. New York: Wiley.

338

339 Fisvold, G.B., Caswell, M.F., 2000. Transboundary water management: gametheoretic
340 lessons for projects on the US–Mexico border. *Agricultural Economics* 24, 101–111.

341

342 Kassab, M., 2009. *Integrated decision support system for infrastructure privatization using*
343 *conflict resolution*. Thesis (PhD). Department of Systems Design Engineering,
344 University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

345

346 Kassab, M., Hipel, K.W., and Hegazy, T., 2006a. Conflict resolution in construction disputes
347 using the graph model. *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, 132
348 (10): 1043–1052.

349

350 Kassab, M., Hipel, K.W., and Hegazy, T., 2006b. Multi-criteria decision analysis for
351 infrastructure privatisation using conflict-resolution. *Journal of Infrastructure*
352 *Engineering*, 00 (0): 1–11.

353

354 MacCrimmon, K.R., 1973. An overview of multiple objective decision making. In: J.L.
355 Cochrance and M. Zeleny, eds. *Multiple criteria decision making*. Columbia:
356 University of South Carolina Press, 18–44.

357

358 Kucukmehmetoglu, M., Guldmen, J., 2004. International water resources allocation and
359 conflicts: the case of the euphrates and tigris. *Environment and Planning A* 36 (5), 783–
360 801.

361 Madani, K., 2010. Game theory and water resources. *Journal of Hydrology*, 381: 225-238.

362

363 Madani, K., Hipel, K.W., 2007. Strategic insights into the Jordan River conflict. In: Kabbes,
364 K.C. (Ed.), *Proceeding of the 2007 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress*,
365 Tampa, Florida. American Society of Civil Engineers, pp. 1– 10.
366 doi:10.1061/40927(243)213.

367

368 Obeidi, O., Hipel, K. W., and Kilgour, D. M., 2002. Canadian bulk water exports: analyzing
369 the sun belt conflict using the graph model for conflict resolution. *Knowledge*,
370 *Technology and Policy*, 14 (4): 145–163.

371

372 Raquel, S., Ferenc, S., Emery C., and Abraham Jr., R., 2007. Application of game theory for
373 a groundwater conflict in Mexico. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 84: 560–
374 571.

375

376 Rogers, P., 1969. A game theory approach to the problems of international river basins.
377 *Water Resources Research* 5 (4), 749–760.

378

379 Sheikhmohammady, M., Madani, K., 2008a. Bargaining over the Caspian Sea—the largest
380 Lake on the earth. In: Babcock, R.W., Walton, R. (Eds.), *Proceeding of the 2008 World
381 Environmental and Water Resources Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii. American Society of
382 Civil Engineers*, pp. 1–9. doi:10.1061/40976(316)262.

383

384 Sheikhmohammady, M., Madani, K., 2008b. Sharing a multi-national resource through
385 bankruptcy procedures. In: Babcock, R.W., Walton, R. (Eds.), *Proceeding of the 2008
386 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii. American
387 Society of Civil Engineers*, pp. 1–9. doi:10.1061/40976(316)556.

388

389 Supalla, R., Klaus, B., Yeboah, O., Bruins, R., 2002. A game theory approach to deciding
390 who will supply instream flow water. *Journal of the American Water Resources
391 Association* 38 (4), 959–966.

392

393 Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2006. Game Theory, available at:
394 <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/game-theory>.

395

396 UN-ESCWA and BGR (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
397 Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe), 2013. Inventory of Shared Water
398 Resources in Western Asia. Beirut. available at
399 [http://waterinventory.org/sites/waterinventory.org/files/chapters/chapter-06-jordan-
400 river-basin-web.pdf](http://waterinventory.org/sites/waterinventory.org/files/chapters/chapter-06-jordan-
400 river-basin-web.pdf).

401

402 Wu, X., Whittington, D., 2006. Incentive compatibility and conflict resolution in international
403 river basins: a case study of the Nile Basin. *Water Resources Research* 42, W02417.
404 doi:10.1029/2005WR004238.

405

406

407

408

409 **APPENDIX**

410 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

411

412 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.

413

414

415

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

417

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

418

419

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

421

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

422

423

424

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

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

426

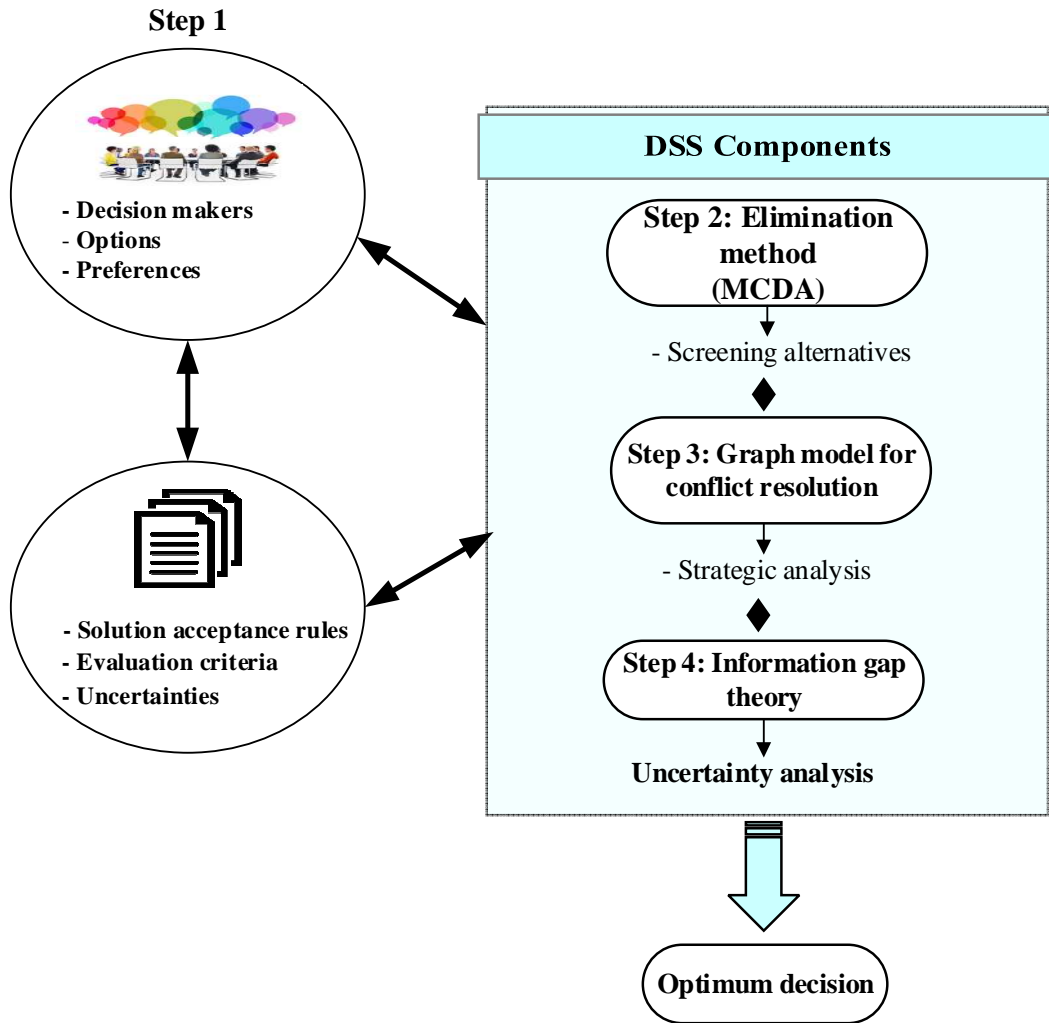
427



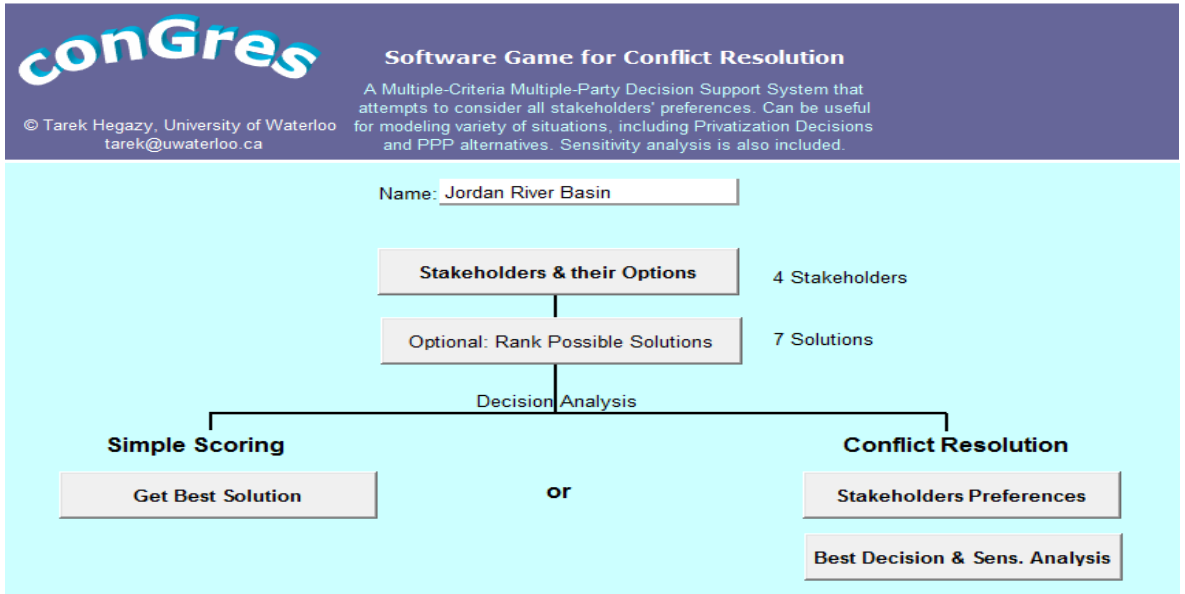
428

429 Figure 1. Jordan River Basin.

430



431
 432 Figure 2. Components of the decision support system (DDS) for water dispute problem.
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441



442

443

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

445

Main Menu StakeHolders and their Options

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

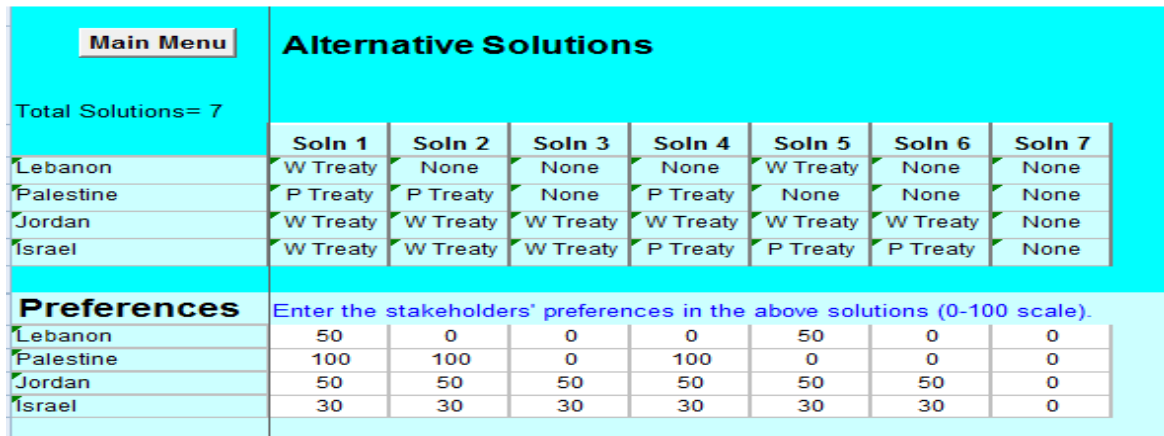
Add Del

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

446

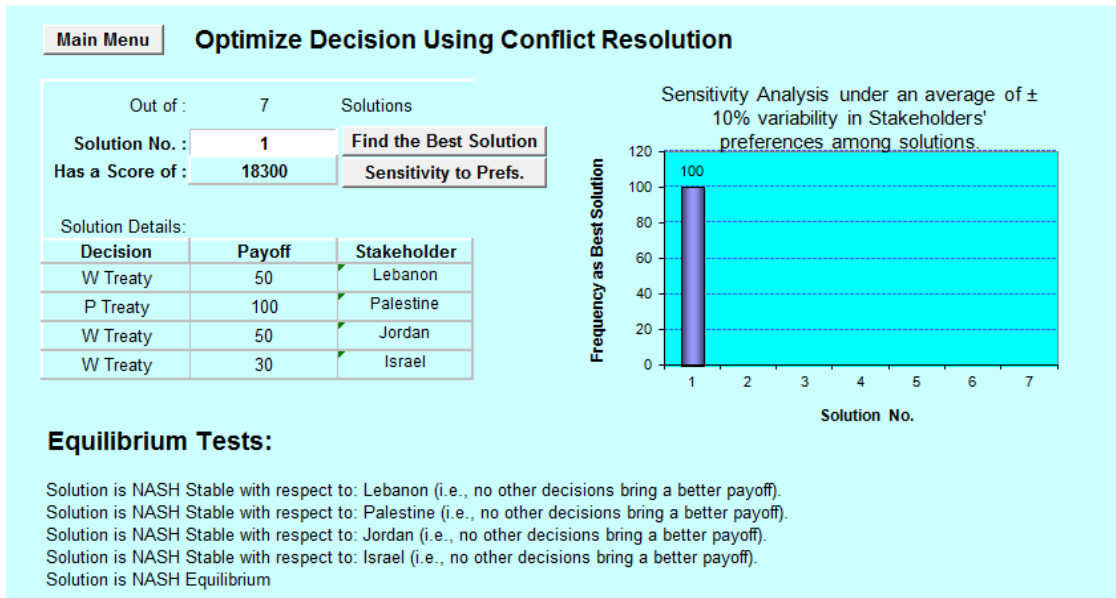
447 Figure 4. Stakeholders and their options.

448



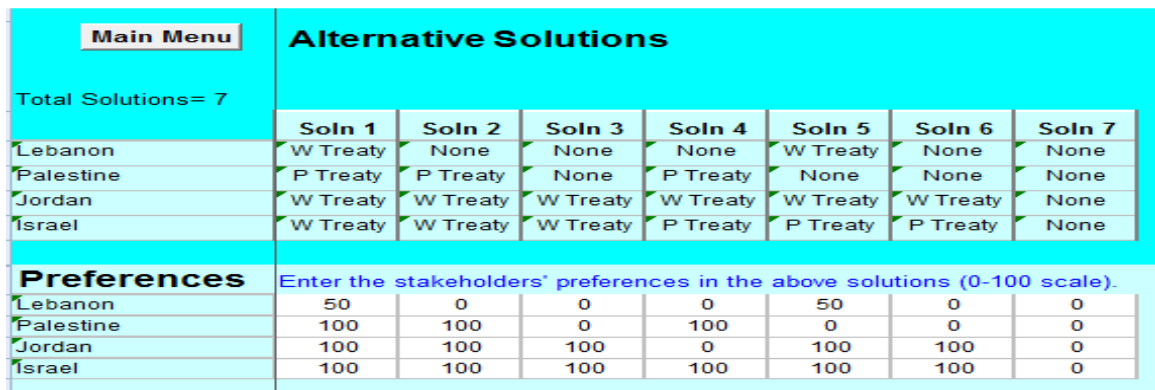
449

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



452

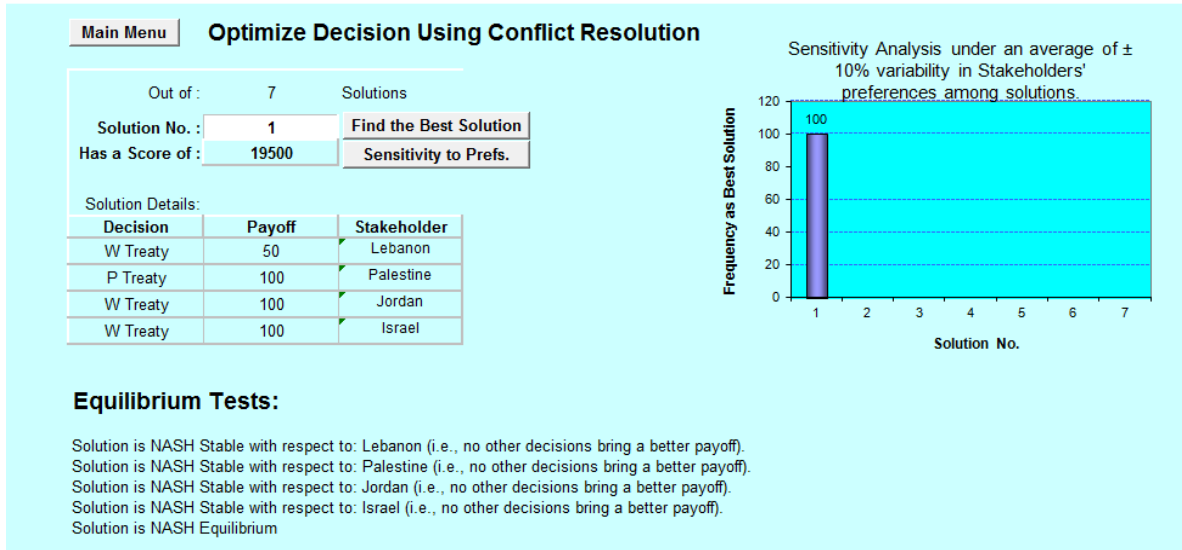
453 Figure 6. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution.



454

455 Figure 7. Shortlisted solutions after elimination for coalition scenario 1, with stakeholders'
 456 preferences set 2.

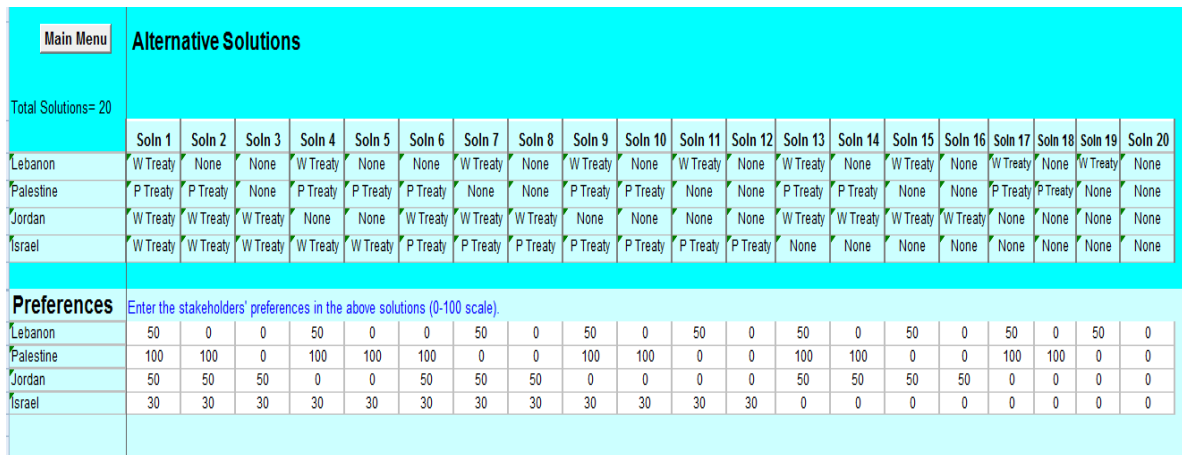
457



458

459 Figure 8. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution with stakeholder preferences of
 460 100% stakeholders preferences are assigned for Israel, Jordan, and Palestine.

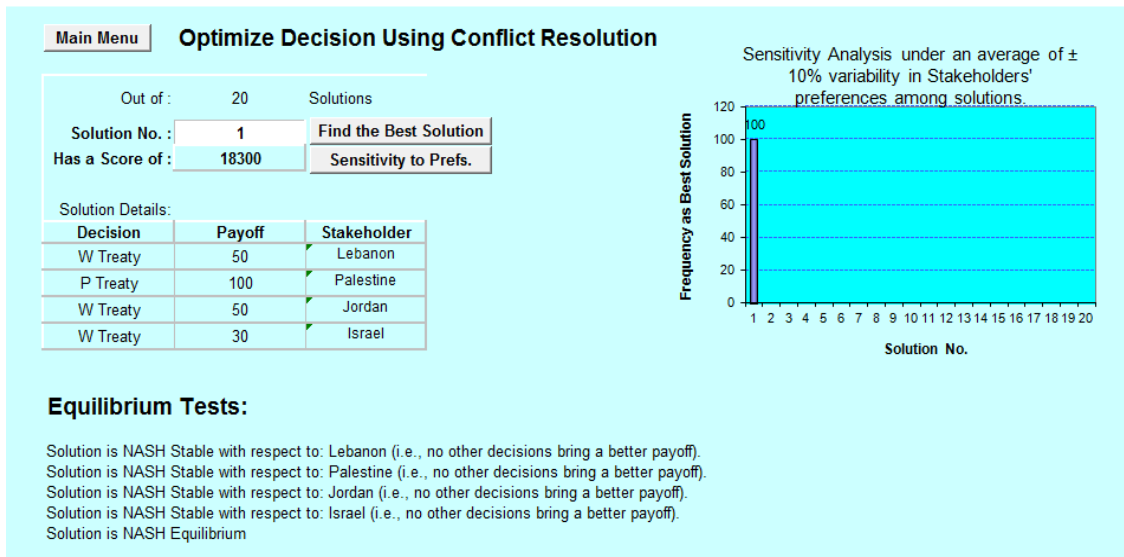
461



462

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

465



466

467 Figure 10. Decision optimisation using conflict resolution for the twenty shortlisted solution

468 when different stakeholders preferences are assigned.