

**ELIC** is a joint initiative between the Israeli Interuniversity Institute of Marine Sciences (IUI) and the Leibniz Association with the aim to build a long-term research collaboration in the Gulf of Aqaba. It is financially supported by the Leibniz Association and continues joint activities based on the Red Sea Programme of the BMBF (1995-2001) and a Memorandum of Understanding between IUI and the Leibniz Association (signed in 2016).

**ELIC** as a networking platform brings together IUI, representing all Israeli (sub) tropical marine scientists and German Leibniz researchers with a wide range of expertise in natural and social sciences, analytical techniques and interdisciplinary research.

The Gulf of Aqaba with its high diversity is exemplary for global problems related to environmental and societal change. Key features of this northernmost tropical reef are flourishing, unique corals and a deep sea with an unusually deep, seasonal mixing. The corals are very resilient to environmental change such as warming of the oceans and acidification and are easily accessible.

**ELIC** will lead to setting up a joint lab on the IUI campus, where ELIC researchers will have the opportunity to undertake joint research activities and as such the lab will offer an excellent infrastructure with immediate access.

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Association



**LEIBNIZ CENTRE**  
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**Eilat Leibniz**  
**IUI Centre (ELIC)**





## Topics & Achievements

ELIC started in the beginning of 2017 as a facilitator for new research cooperation ideas by matchmaking of research interests of Israeli IUI and German Leibniz partners. A broad range of research topics comprising both ecological as well as societal issues is addressed in the framework of ELIC. They range from marine ecology, resilience, dust (enhancement, transport of pathogens, nutrients) and groundwater effects to governance of tourism in the Gulf of Aqaba.

For example, dust transport modelling will help to understand natural and anthropogenic dust variability in Eilat and its consequences for health, climate, and specifically physical and biogeochemical ocean-atmosphere interaction.

Following two strategic meetings in Eilat a measurement campaign took place in Spring 2018, during which Israeli and German partners were working on their joint topics.

## ELIC's longterm goals

ELIC aims at furthering knowledge by doing research and supporting the society by studying the environment, socio-economic questions and ecosystem services. It is envisaged that current joint activities will lead to research projects on a larger scale to foster a close cooperation between Israeli and German partners.

In the long term perspective, education of young researchers, outreach and knowledge transfer will be addressed.



## Involved Partners

Israeli partners are affiliated with the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences **IUI**, which is managed and operated by all research universities in Israel (University of Haifa, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv University, Technion, Weizmann Institute of Science and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

German partners from the following **Leibniz** Institutes take part in ELIC: Leibniz Centre for Marine Tropical Research (ZMT) as coordinator, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research (TROPOS), Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Natural History Museum (MfN), Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), Leibniz Institute for Analytical Sciences (ISAS) and Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics (LIAG).