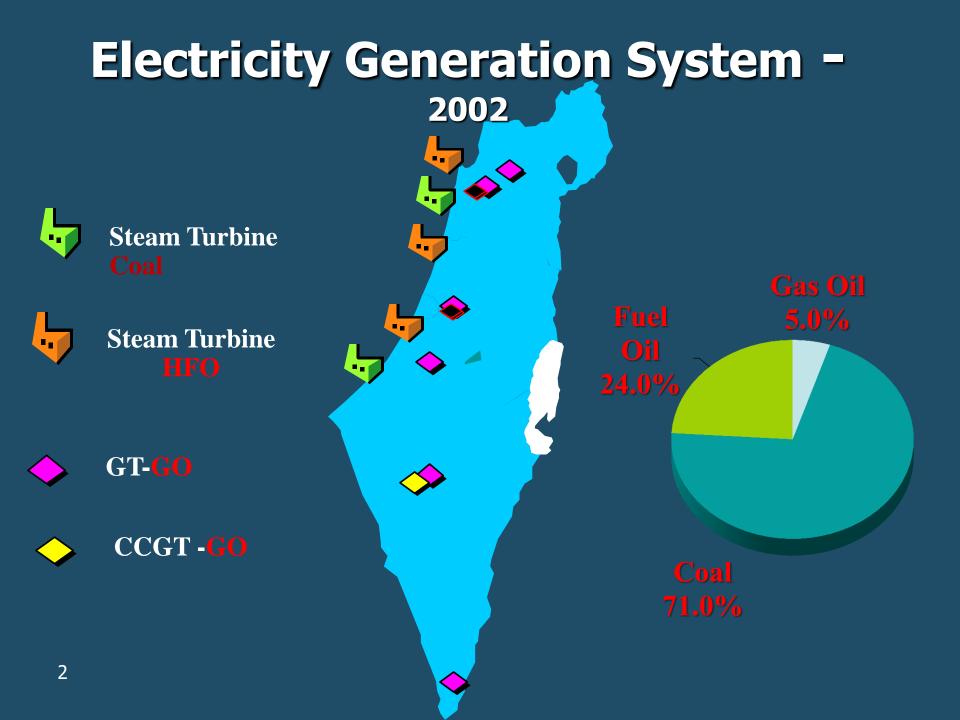
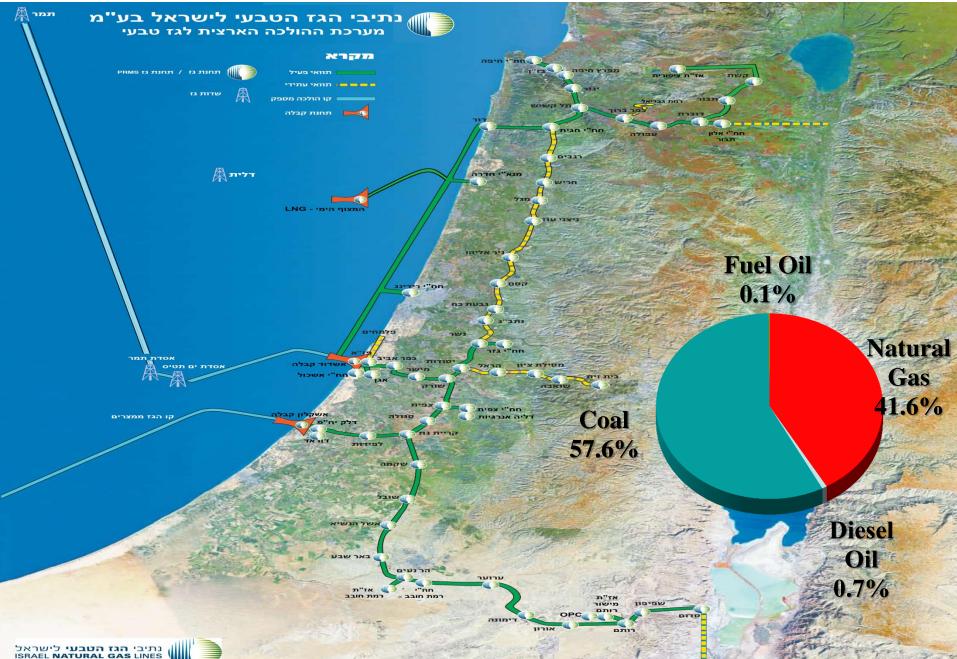


# REGULATION IN THE ISRAELI PETROLEUM SECTOR: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE FOR INVESTORS





### The Israeli Transmission Network



# **REGULATION HAD TO CATCH UP FAST**





# The Regulatory Status Prior to the Tamar Discovery: Under-Regulation

Licensing regime	The Petroleum Law, 1952 set out basic rules. "drill or drop" principle.
Transfer of rights	No detailed rules regarding transfer of rights. No limitations on indirect transfers.
Requirements for acquisition of rights	Basic requirements regarding professional experience and financial capacity of license holders.
Environmental Regulation	Basic provisions in the Petroleum Law.
Guarantees	PT Law requires a guarantee for damages.
Taxes	Royalties (of 12.5%) as per the PT Law
Export	The PT Law allows export. No detailed regulation.
Local regime outside of EEZ	No laws or regulation.
Requirements for acquisition of rights Environmental Regulation Guarantees Taxes Export	<ul> <li>No limitations on indirect transfers.</li> <li>Basic requirements regarding professional experience and financial capacity of license holders.</li> <li>Basic provisions in the Petroleum Law.</li> <li>PT Law requires a guarantee for damages.</li> <li>Royalties (of 12.5%) as per the PT Law</li> <li>The PT Law allows export. No detailed regulation.</li> </ul>

# The Regulatory Status during 2009-2015: Chaos

Licensing regime	Update of PT Law by means of draft Guidelines or Regulations, subject to frequent changes.
Transfer of rights	Several draft guidelines and regulations. Detailed limitations imposed on indirect transfers.
Requirements for acquisition of rights	Several draft guidelines and regulations. Detailed requirements for professional experience of the Operator and financial capacity of license holders.
<b>Environmental Regulation</b>	Draft environmental and work safety guidelines
Guarantees	Draft guidelines regarding a guarantee for damages and a performance guarantee – "drill or pay" principle.
Taxes	New taxation: the Petroleum Profit Taxation Law (2011).
Export	New Limitations imposed by Gov on the export of gas (2013)
Local regime outside of EEZ	An opinion by the Deputy Attorney General (2013). Introduction of the Marine Areas Bill (2014)

# The Regulatory Status Today: Stability and Over-Regulation?

Licensing regime	Final Guidelines and Regulations.
Transfer of rights	Final guidelines and regulations. Detailed limitations imposed on indirect transfers.
Requirements for acquisition of rights	Final detailed regulations regarding the experience of the Operator and financial capacity of license holders.
<b>Environmental Regulation</b>	Final detailed environmental and work safety guidelines – for petroleum and natural gas offshore exploration and production activities.
Guarantees	Final guidelines which added a performance guarantee .
Taxes	PT Law and the Petroleum Profit Taxation Law. No change
Export	Government decision on the export of gas by Gov. No change
Local regime outside of EEZ	An opinion by the Deputy Attorney General. The Marine Areas Bill (2014) – still pending

## **The Current Regulatory Status – Gas Contracts**

### Gas sales: to date not regulated, but:

- Price control. Lease holders and natural gas marketing companies must submit reports regarding profits from sale of natural gas.
- GSPAs subject to approval of Anti-trust Commissioner.
- New Contracts with Tamar/Leviathan are subject to the prices alternatives stipulated in the Natural Gas Framework for a certain period of time.
- □ Sales for Export of gas: subject to conditions of Export Decision.
- □ Interference in gas allocation between consumers.
- Indirect interference by electricity regulator in gas price provisions and terms:
   Frequent changes to EA decisions regarding recognition of gas prices, changes in recognised indexation, changes in regulation.



# THE RIGHT BALANCE FOR PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN THE UPSTREAM PETROLEUM SECTOR

- □ Regulation in the E&P Sector Clear and not too cumbersome
- □ Maintaining a stable regulatory framework;
- □ Sanctity of contracts;
- □ Encouragement/ incentives for owners of small reservoirs
- Development of the local market and of the export market
- Multilateral investment treaties, such as the Energy Charter or bilateral investment treaties







# Thank you www.meitar.com



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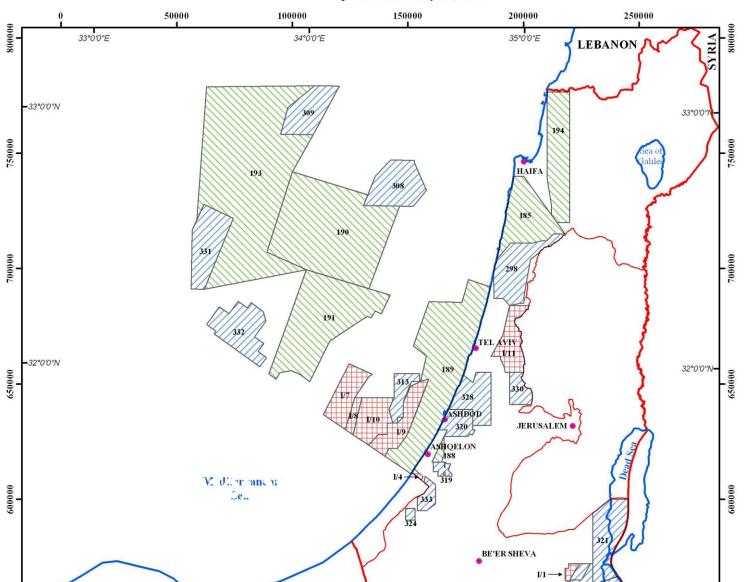
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**Oil and Gas Section** 

**Ministry of National Infrastructures** 

#### State of Israel Petroleum Rights



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State of Israel

