



Environmental work sometimes seems endless, almost like trying to stop a flood by sticking a finger into the dam. But at KKL-JNF we are optimistic – we believe that by working with our environment and improving it we will have a better world to leave to our children than the one we received from our forefathers.

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Think Environment - Think KKL-JNF







When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. ~John Muir, American environmentalist

"In the hour when the Holy One, blessed be He created the first human being, He took him and let him pass before all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: "See my works, how fine and excellent they are! Now all that I have created, for you have I created it. Think upon this and do not destroy and desolate My World, for if you corrupt it, there is no one to set it right after you." Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28



Global warming • desertification • groundwater pollution • carbon sequestration • sustainable development • Biodiversity

What do all these mean?  
Join us and learn how KKL-JNF  
contributes to environmental quality  
in Israel and the world over.



## *Climate Change – Mitigating Where We Can – Adapting Where We Must*

Following the UN Climate Change Conference in 2009 (COP 15) KKL-JNF updated its environmental policy to contribute to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We will continue the essential work we are already doing and improve it:

- KKL-JNF forests, among the largest planted forests in the Mediterranean Middle East, are a substantial source of carbon sequestration.
- Studying the effect of desert afforestation (Yatir Forest) on carbon sequestration.
- Planting trees to prevent soil erosion, conserve soil and reduce soil carbon emissions.
- Sharing our knowledge with developing countries helping them implement more environmental methods of forestry and farming.
- Developing strategies to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change: green construction, solar and other alternative energy sources.





## *Environmental Forestry – Planting for the Environment*

One of KKL-JNF's major achievements is undoubtedly the ratification of the National Master Plan for Forests and Afforestation (NMP/22). Following four years of intensive study and mapping of Israel's vegetation KKL-JNF formulated a plan that combines protection and conservation of vegetation resources, forests and woodlands in Israel and the maintenance of developed forest areas as infrastructure for public recreation. Ecological considerations play a major role in KKL-JNF's current afforestation policies:

- Natural ecosystems are studied and native species used whenever possible, to determine the best type of tree for each habitat.
- KKL-JNF's unique savannization program focuses on restoring and managing areas that have undergone desertification.
- Perfecting methods of rehabilitating forests following wildfires.
- Developing the field of community forests to involve people with caring for forests near their home.





## *Water Management – Making the Most of the Little We Have*

Israel, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, suffers from a serious water deficit. This is aggravated by the pollution of many of our streams and springs. KKL-JNF plays a major role in improving Israel's water situation:

- Developing reservoirs to harvest floodwater and enrich groundwater.
- Establishing hundreds of water treatment facilities to impound purified wastewater and use it for irrigation.
- Leading river rehabilitation in Israel to restore aquatic habitats for plants and animals and create new recreation areas for people such as the Alexander River Demonstration Project and rehabilitating springs.
- Implementing advanced environmental water purification techniques such as constructed wetlands and a unique bio-filtration system for urban runoff.



## *Environmental Education – To Know Your Environment is to Care for It*

According to a long-standing agreement between KKL-JNF and Israel's Ministry of Education we are responsible for education "in the field", designed to further love and knowledge of the country and its environment. Our environmental education activities are varied and reach people of different backgrounds, ages and interests:

- KKL-JNF operates 5 Field and Forest Educational Centers (FFEC) throughout Israel that aim at fostering the bond between young people and Israel's nature, landscapes, history, and heritage.
- "MAOF" – the Hebrew word for vision – is the acronym for KKL-JNF's innovative environmental program aimed at new immigrant students and peripheral communities.
- KKL-JNF organizes youth groups that participate in environmental activity and arranges teacher study days that focus on our work in the environment.
- KKL-JNF operates a recycling educational center at the Duda'im Landfill and is planning additional centers in the future.





## *Biodiversity – the Variety of Life on Earth*

For us at KKL-JNF biological diversity is a major issue. We have progressed tremendously since our early days and now use afforestation methods geared at encouraging biodiversity. Many of our other projects encourage biodiversity as well:

- Development of sustainable forest parks and biosphere parks.
- Restoring threatened tree species, such as the Tabor oaks, to their natural habitat.
- Developing parks and forests to suit a broad variety of plants and animals.
- Preserving native tree species as a gene bank for future generations.
- Protecting seasonal winter pools – an essential habitat for amphibians and various crustaceans and insects.





## *Cultural Diversity – People's Contribution to the Environment*

Cultural diversity needs to be preserved as much as biodiversity. Actually in many cases the two types of diversity are closely linked. The Land of Israel has been settled by many different peoples each with their own culture and traditions, and KKL-JNF is active in preserving and restoring many of the remains of ancient and more modern societies. This includes:

- Restoring and preserving the complex system of ancient agricultural terraces and irrigation methods such as is found in Sataf in the Jerusalem Hills.
- Preserving ancient trees venerated by many different ethnic groups in Israel.
- Integrating local customs in many of our educational activities.
- Preserving archaeological and heritage sites.



## *Promoting Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture – Farming for the Future*

In Israel we take great pride in our farming heritage, but at KKL-JNF we know how easily agriculture can harm the environment. Uncontrolled pesticide use, habitat destruction and farmer-wildlife conflicts are only a few of the fields we are involved in. KKL-JNF believes that farming can go hand-in-hand successfully with good agricultural practices. We work with farmers on all levels:

- Supporting R&D Stations to develop integrated pest management schemes.
- Promoting pesticide-free farming schemes such as the Clean Arava Project.
- Finding innovative solutions to farmer-environment conflicts, such as the Crane Feeding Project in the Hula Valley.