



KKL-JNF Forests



Israel's Green Treasure

*"I found a fruitful world because my ancestors
planted it for me. So, too, will I plant for my
children."*

(Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a)



קרן קיימת לישראל
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Forests for the 21st Century

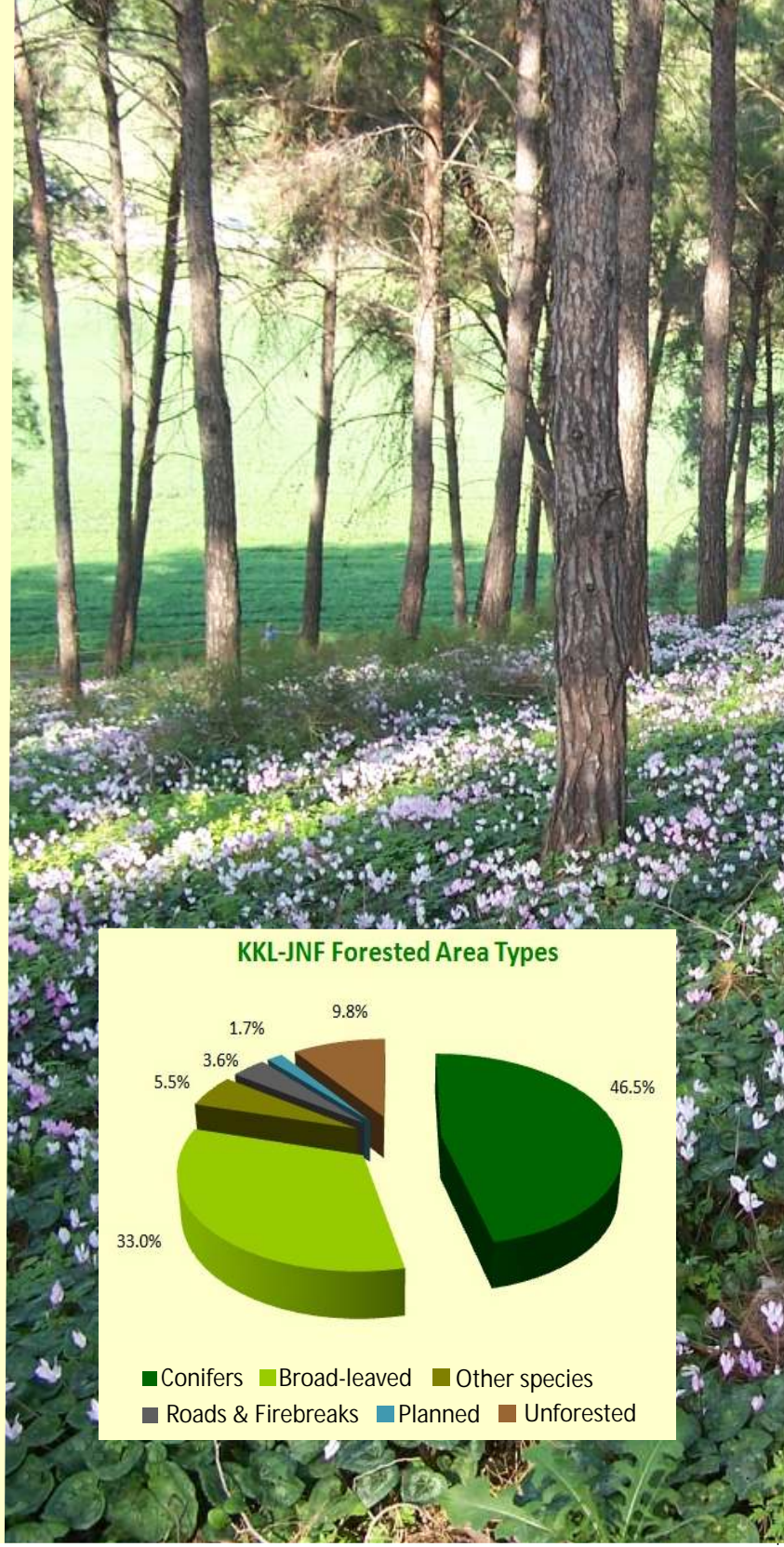
A forest is more than just a cluster of trees – it is far more than the sum of its parts.

Forests are complex ecosystems, home to a myriad of plants and animals.

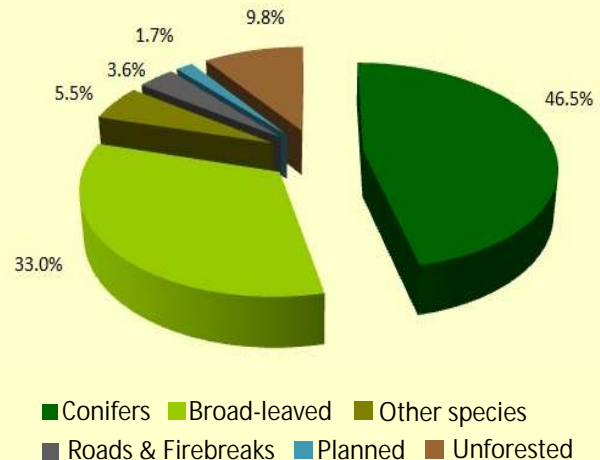
No two forests are the same: young and old, broad-leaved and conifers, temperate and desert – each has a spirit all its own, an individual character.



At KKL-JNF we know the secrets of the forest. When we first started, our goal was to green Israel and we planted large expanses of fast-growing conifers. For years, KKL-JNF was synonymous with Israel's planted pine forests. As awareness of the importance of biodiversity developed our approach to forestry changed. Today's forests barely resemble those of the past; they are varied and open, providing a welcoming home to a broad range of plants and animals, and wonderful recreation for all people.



KKL-JNF Forested Area Types



Trees: The Gift that Keeps Giving

What Do Forests Do For Us?

Forests provide us with many benefits: they are wonderful recreation areas, provide shade in summer, store carbon and improve global climate, provide food and shelter for animals and many goods for medicinal, cultural and spiritual purposes

What Do We Do For Our Forests?

Unfortunately, a lot less than they do for us: many forest ecosystems throughout the world are threatened and sometimes lost by forest habitat degradation. But we have begun to realize what forests really mean to us – and the percentage of forest area designated for the conservation of biological diversity has increased significantly in the last twenty years.





Some Solid Forest Facts

More than 1.6 billion people around the world depend on forests for their livelihoods, e.g. fuel wood, medicinal plants and forest foods.

There has been significant growth in forest products such as herbal medicines, wild foods, handcrafted utensils, and decorative items.

Trees can provide a range of benefits in agricultural systems:

- ♣ fruit trees for nutrition and medicinal trees to combat disease
- ♣ fodder trees that improve smallholder livestock production
- ♣ timber and fuelwood trees for shelter and energy

Trees In The Service Of Humanity

One of KKL-JNF's major achievements is undoubtedly the ratification of the National Master Plan for Forests and Afforestation (NMP22) in 1995. Thanks to this plan, Israel's wooded areas and open spaces are safe from exploitation and misuse. It provides guidelines for the preservation and maintenance of forests and woodlands on close to 400,000 acres (160,000 hectares) of land, side by side with regulated, careful development – a true synthesis of the concept of sustainability.



Saving Our Desert Soils

Savannization

The desert is a unique ecosystem, not normally characterized by forests.

At KKL-JNF we have developed afforestation methods for the desert – savannization – planting single trees or clusters of trees in areas where climatic conditions do not permit woodlands or shrubs to grow without substantial human intervention. Their growth relies on advanced water harvesting techniques that capture runoff rainwater in ridges, depressions, terraces and limans (tree clusters planted in reinforced water catchment basins).

Savannization has an added value, as well: the trees slow down soil erosion, one of the biggest environmental problems in the Negev.

The Tree of Knowledge

Our forests would not be what they are without research – we take our forestry work seriously! We study what to plant and how to match trees with their environments to create new habitats and restore others to their original states.

At KKL-JNF we are committed to forestry research to improve the quality of our trees, to develop environmentally friendly methods of dealing with pests, to prevent erosion and desertification and to create forests that people can enjoy.





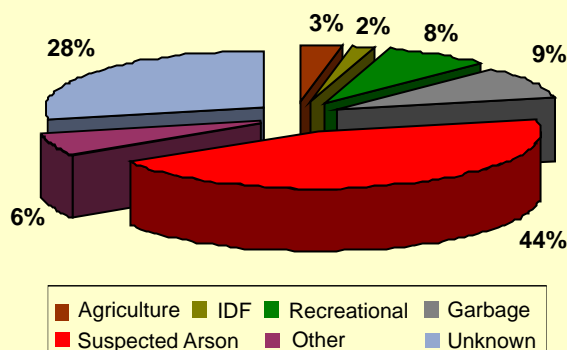
Protecting Our Forest

Forest Management – An Unending Task

Despite our best efforts, forests change – trees grow older, fires break out, and sometimes aggressive pests attack. To keep our forests healthy and thriving we have to battle these elements by maintaining a top-notch firefighting system and early-warning fire network, managing and preserving forests, and rehabilitating burnt areas – in short by continuing to invest in our forests, even when we think our work is done.



Wildfire Causes



Opening KKL-JNF Forests To All

Sustainable Forest Management – The Key to Survival

- ♣ We planted over 240 million trees for the benefit of people and the environment
- ♣ We maintain 100,000 acres (40,000 ha) of natural woodland
- ♣ KKL-JNF forests, among the largest planted forests in the Mediterranean Middle East, are a source of substantial carbon sequestration
- ♣ We developed over 1000 recreation areas in forests that host tens of thousands of visitors
- ♣ We built over 8000 kilometers of forest roads





Meeting The Global Challenge of Climate Change

Sharing Our Forestry Knowledge

Following the UN Climate Change Conferences, 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:

- ♣ 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.





A man was travelling through the desert, hungry, thirsty, and tired, when he came upon a tree bearing luscious fruit and affording plenty of shade, underneath which ran a spring of water. He ate of the fruit, drank of the water, and rested beneath the shade.

When he was about to leave he turned to the tree and said: 'Tree, oh, tree, with what should I bless you? "Should I bless you that your fruit be sweet? Your fruit is already sweet. "Should I bless you that your shade be plentiful? Your shade is plentiful. That a spring of water should run beneath you? A spring of water runs beneath you."

"There is one thing with which I can bless you: May it be G-d's will that all the trees planted from your seed should be like you..."

Talmud, Taanit 5b



Did you know that KKL-JNF together with friends and donors from Israel & abroad ...

- ♣ Planted more than 240 million trees
- ♣ Manages and maintains 40,000 ha (100,000 acres) of natural woodland
- ♣ Contributes to Israel's water economy by building reservoirs and dams to impound runoff, floodwaters and recycled water, providing 50% of the country's water used for agriculture
- ♣ Built 1,000 recreation areas throughout the country, including rest areas and regional parks that host tens of thousands of visitors
- ♣ Creates a bond between people and forests by organizing recreational and cultural activities in nature for all
- ♣ Conserves the environment, rolls back the desert, and creates shady, green sites at army bases and in southern communities
- ♣ Carries out cutting-edge research whose findings are applied to water conservation, sustainable forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, and modern agriculture and shares its expertise with countries around the world
- ♣ Partners with international organizations on environmental issues
- ♣ Reclaimed land for about 1,000 communities countrywide
- ♣ Reclaimed some 100,000 ha (250,000 acres) of land for agriculture
- ♣ Purchased some 260,000 ha (650,000 acres) for communities
- ♣ Constructed 8,000 km of roads and forest routes
- ♣ Educates hundreds of thousands of young people in Israel and abroad, strengthening their bond with Israel and helping the social integration of new olim into Israeli society



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