



**The Rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River (Phase A)
and the Development of the Border Region
Between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel
along the Jordan River**

October 20-21, 2014

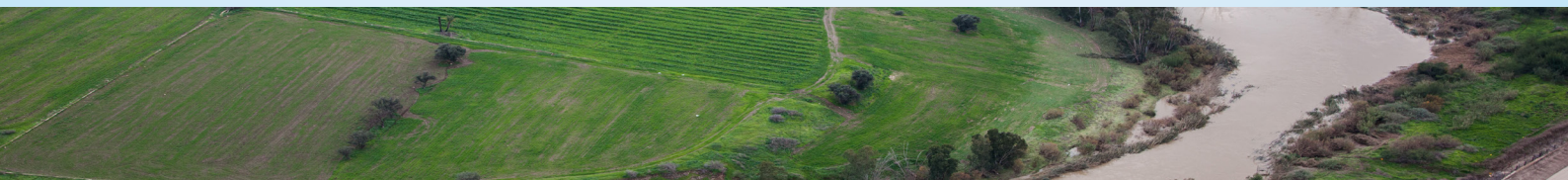
Israel's Lower Jordan Rehabilitation Administration is planning an international conference that will present the master plan for the rehabilitation and development of the Jordan River, promoting river restoration and development of the area for the benefit of nature and society. The conference will be devoted to joint-discussions regarding the optimal ways to restore streams and rivers by learning the lessons of the Jordan River Rehabilitation Project.

The Jordan River is sacred to the ancient monotheistic religions. It is a major water source for the people living on its banks and is the basis for a unique aquatic ecosystem in the region. However, for many years, the Jordan River has suffered from pollution and a lack of fresh water. Only marginal flows have been measured recently in comparison to the historic flow, and sewage has contaminated large sections of the river.

The Jordan's waters have always been needed to quench the thirst of growing populations and to irrigate their crops. Decades of conflict between the riparian neighbors made the river a barrier and while the Peace Agreement between Jordan and Israel led to the building of some bridges, the Lower Jordan River is still largely inaccessible to the public along most of its banks.

The challenges are immense but IT IS TIME TO MAKE THE CHANGE. We must revive the river and create a center for peace and tranquility.

In the spirit of the Peace Treaty between the the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel, the Government of Israel offered an initial budget and fresh water for the rehabilitation and development project, and the Jordanian Government decided on a parallel project on its side.



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Jordan River Rehabilitation Administration

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Jordan River - back to life. now!

What do we wish to achieve?

- The ecological restoration of the river and its surroundings.
- In Stage I, the development of a master plan and its implementation for sustainable development of the Jordan Valley along the international border between Israel and Jordan.

How will we do it?

A. Improve the quality of water in the river:

- Sewage will be treated (the Bitaniya Treatment Facility is almost in the operative stage) and allocated for irrigation.
- Brackish springs will be desalinated and allocated for irrigation.
- Fresh Water - The existing amounts of sewage and brackish water flowing to the river will be gradually replaced with fresh water from the Sea of Galilee.

B. Design a regional development master plan that is relevant for both banks:

- An all-inclusive solution to protect natural resources and ecological corridors
- Mapping and developing catalysts for economic growth for all residents in the region including:
 - National heritage sites Archeological and antiquities sites
 - A landscaping development program that will focus on botany, zoology, water springs, flora and fauna
 - Promoting the Valley as a rural tourist spot and developing tourist infrastructure

What can we expect in the future?

- We look forward to completing the infrastructure needed on both sides of the river.
- The master plans in Jordan and Israel will be completed.
- The master plans will be implemented.



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On The Rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River (Phase A) and the Development of the Border Region Between Israel and Jordan along the Jordan River October 20-21, 2014 - Jordan Valley, Israel

Monday, October 20, 2014 – Kibbutz Nir David, Jordan Valley

08:30-09:15 | Reception and Registration

09:30-12:00 | Guided tour in Israel's Northern Jordan Valley

12:00-12:30 | Coffee Break

12:30-13:30 | Opening ceremony - greetings

13:30-14:15 | Lunch

14:15-15:00 | Presentation of the Master Plan for the Rehabilitation and Development of the Lower Jordan River

15:00-17:00 | Plenary session: Living with Nature - The Conservation and Development of Nature, Regional Planning and Everything in Between

17:15-18:15 | Plenary session: The Vision of the Communities: My Jordan Valley

20:00-22:00 | Gala Cocktail in the city of Beit Shean

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 - Kibbutz Nir David, Jordan Valley

09:30-11:30 | Plenary Session: Rehabilitating Rivers under Scarcity Conditions

11:30-12:00 | Coffee break

12:00-13:30 | Plenary Session: Economic Opportunities in Environmental Restoration

13:30-14:30 | Lunch

14:30-16:30 | Plenary Session: Sustainable and Profitable Agriculture:
The Unique Characteristics of the Jordan River

18:30-21:30 | Festive event at "Old Gesher – Jesir al-Majami"