





Receation activity on the jordan canals

Interest groups activities at the stream

Receation activity on Lake Hula for locals and visitors

Additional organizations operating in the space:

activism, knowledge documentation, and local heritage.

experience in this field has been recognized.

5 year budget assessment

Mentoring tourism entrepreneurs

Regional and national branding and marketing

Infrastructure for bringing water to agricultural fields

Mentoring farmers

tourism and management of open space in the heart of the Hula Valley.

Town Square Academy and Citizen Science programs

capability in rehabilitating and managing valuable open spaces, in education, in research and in leadership:

body operating since 2005. It will be responsible for determining the character of existing activity in the streams.

public access. The authority has an annual budget of 100 million and is experienced in managing projects of the proposed size.

The suggested model for sustainable management of the space includes organizations operating in the field with the experience and proven

Management: The "Streams and Open Space Administration," including the Upper Galilee and Mevo'ot Hermon regional councils, is a multi-participant

Implementation: The Kinneret Drainage and Streams Authority, with vast experience in rehabilitating and regulating water systems in the Jordan Basin,

will be responsible for implementation. The authority has proven its ability to connect between physical rehabilitation and community and education. In

2008, it led passage of an amendment to the "Kinneret Beaches Law" (Sea of Galilee) creating and regulating quiet, green beaches with an emphasis on

Community involvement: Community collaboration will be coordinated by the community department of the Kinneret Drainage and Streams Authority

together with the Eastern Galilee Cluster, a regional body of Upper Galilee and Golan municipal authorities for advancing a regional perspective and

strategic cooperation, as well as the Hula Valley Community Forum for Planning that will be established. The Upper Galilee Regional Council has proven

experience in overseeing activity at the sources of the Jordan and in advancing projects for rehabilitating sites along the streams. Its environmental

department established "Guardians of the Stream," with thousands of volunteer students and residents participating in educational and field activities.

Jewish National Fund (JNF) is a national public body managing large open spaces with the organizational capacity to implement large scale projects. JNF is deeply connected to the Hula Lake, from its drainage to today; it maintains large areas of the Hula lands rehabilitation project and is responsible for

Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) is a government body with management and enforcement authority, entrusted with preserving Israel's natural

Tel-Hai College has expertise, knowledge, and experience in community-academia partnership. Every year, since 2011, hundreds of residents and tens of

researchers volunteer in the framework of the Academy in the Square, and the organization has gained experience in citizen science, social-environmental

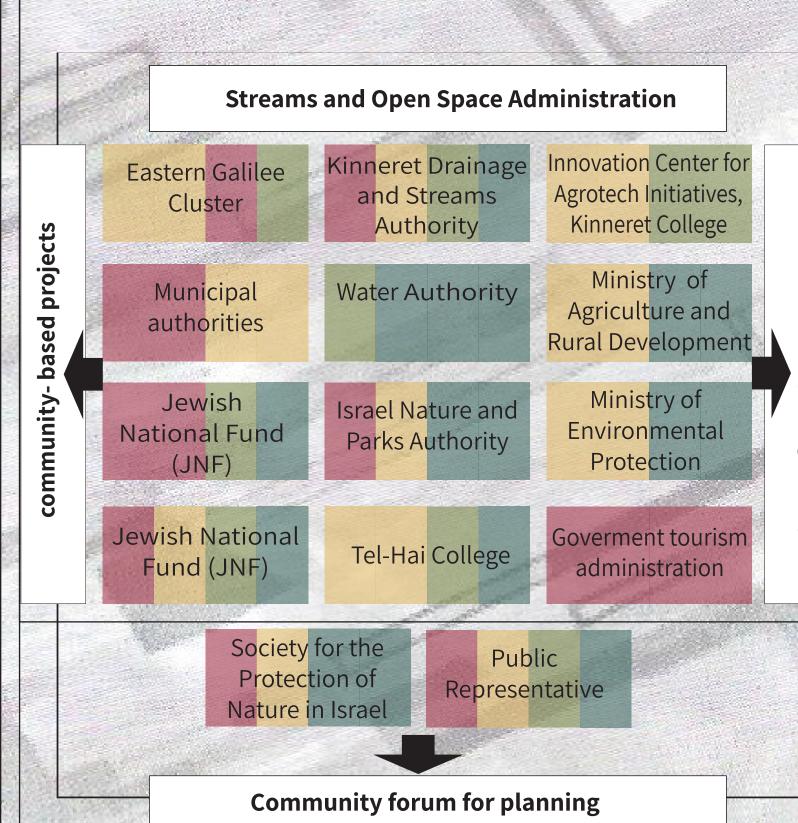
Kinneret Innovation Center for Agrotech Initiatives, Kinneret College, is grounded in the interface between academia and industry. Companies and

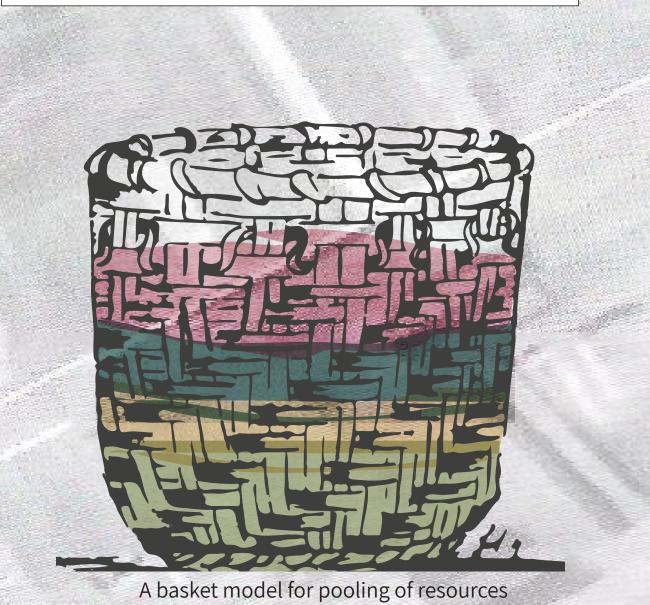
greenhouses for innovation. Some of the tourism initiatives in the Hula Valley are assisted by apps and other tech initiatives, and Kinneret College's

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) is a non-profit environmental organization that focuses on protecting and preserving Israel's

organizations with vast knowledge operate in the center, which integrates human resources and academic knowledge to assist companies in becoming

assets. The INPA has rich experience in natural resource management, rehabilitation, and providing visitor services at the Hula Nature Reserve.





A SONG OF EARTH AND PEOPLE restoring nature to the Hula Valley waterways and its marginalized communitie

The beauty of the Hula Valley lies in its natural features and water landscapes. Together they constitute a unique ecosystem of national and world importance. Rehabilitation of the Jordan River system in the Hula Basin is an opportunity to renew the covenant between humans and nature and, through it, to deepen the covenant between fellow human being

1990s project to rehabilitate the peat lands signaled the beginning of a change in attitude toward the ecological damage it sustained. Some of the swampland was reflooded, the Agamon HaHula (the "Little Hula Lake") was created, and a high water table began to be maintained by a system of agricultural canals. The proposed project aims for a deeper, more just restoration of the Hula Valley: affirmative action for valley communities alongside continued ecological rehabilitation. The project aims to affect the entire valley, with a focus on development towns (Hatzor HaGlilit and Kiryat Shmona) and minority villages (Tuba-Zangarriye and Ghajar) that did not gain land or water from the drying of the lake, whose local heritage is typically marginalized and whose ties to nearby natural springs have

in all stages of the process, from planning to implementation through long-term maintenance, will create a platform for collective partnership in managing the valley's treasures – a significant step toward creating shared space and one in which all can develop a sense of place. The communities of the Hula Valley are a mosaic of Israeli society – ultra-Orthodox, Orthodox, and traditional communities in the development town of Hatzor HaGlilit live alongside secular communities in Rosh Pina; secular and traditional communities share space in the towns of Yesod HaMa'ala and Metula; moshavim and kibbutzim of the regional councils Mevo'ot Hermon and Upper Galilee live alongside the urban residents of Kiryat Shmona; and the Arab communities include the Bedouin of Tuba-Zangariyye and the Alawite in Ghajar. Today, spheres of joint activity are rare and conflicts between socio-economically weaker and stronger communities are common. In response to this reality, the project proposes a comprehensive educational and academic effort designed to connect all communities to the heart of the initiative, including marginalized communities.

The guiding principle in choosing the Hula Valley is the potential for combined environmental and human benefit from rehabilitation of the Jordan River canals and reflooding of the Hula Lake. Participation of the diverse communities

The Hula Valley contains the highest terrestrial biodiversity in Israel, but large numbers of visitors burden its sensitive ecological systems. Development of new recreational areas and promenades will assist in dispersing the crowds. In addition, climate change has reduced average rainfall and raised drought risk on the one hand, and brought about events of extreme rainfall on the other. Flood events affecting wildlife, farmers, and residents heighten the need to strengthen the economic resilience of communities in the valley. Integrative management of the Upper Jordan River basin – aimed at efficient, multipurpose use of the Jordan River and its sources that attends to local and national needs – will enable the basin to provide a spectrum of ecosystem services: natural, clean flow downstream; conservation of ecological systems; recreational water tourism; agriculture; and cultural and educational connections throughout the valley.

the covenant between fellow human beings.

ideal in a top-down fashion – now is the time for a multicultural, bottom-up vision of the future.

A central issue of the proposed initiative is coping with the diverse interests and needs of the different diverse stakeholders, while recognizing the inherent opportunities existing in creatingof a beneficial, sustainablen interface integrating that integrates benefits between communities, and nature, agriculture, and ecotourism that is beneficial, sustaining, and long-term.

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| The social challenge: To empower marginalized communities living on Israel's northern firing line through use of community capital for planning and developing new social, educational, and business initiatives aligned with the project's goals. | The ecological- environmental challenge: To sustain the valley's unique and fragile ecosystem by addressing degraded aquatic habitats; inadequate ecological corridors; reduced flow of natural spring water into the basin; restoring the Hula Lake at its historic site; shelter scarcity for the 500 million birds migrating annually between Europe and Africa; and extensive flooding in the basin. | The agricultural challenge: Fulfilling the potential of water for crop irrigation while reducing peat erosion. | The tourism-employment challenge: Easing visitor pressuon the Jordan River's ecological sensitive northern headwaters by adding recreational sites and developing ecotourism initiative |
| Community | Naturo | Agriculture | Tourism |

The management challenge: Creating an administrative body that will be an effective platform for regional collaboration. Challenges include uniting public bodies currently operating separately; generating active participation of all communities in the Hula Valley in a thinktank mechanism; and developing an implementation and enforcement mechanism for effective development, preservation, and maintenance of the space.

GLOCAL (global to local) benefits

Global Global effect on biodiversity Habitat conservation

Wildlife and flora conservation An important global stopover for migrating birds

National.

A major contribution of water to Israel's water sector

Significant agricultural production that contributes to

activities year-round to populations from all over Israel A varied landscape that

changes with the seasons

Local ·-----

Fertile ground for a variety of activities suited to the diverse communities of the valley

The journey of your watershed is right out your window -

among the hills and valleys that surround you...

The watershed way is a middle way,

somewhere between mind and planet.

Confluence lake

with islands

Characteristic cross-section of the confluence lake

singing a local song,

somewhere close by.

Beautiful open spaces for recreation, free of charge, that welcome all communities



The collective benefits of such an enrichment of diverse ecological and social habitats will be far and above

its contribution to each separate community:

The project will establish hydrobiological connectivity between the Agamon, Hula Nature Reserve, valley canals and their confluence, and the Jordan River system, increasing their **ecological value** a hundredfold, in addition to strengthening the ecological connection between the Galilee and the Golan Heights.

The project offers **social and educational benefits** for diverse peripheral populations. Initially, each community will connect to the section of stream or lakeside for which it is responsible. Subsequently, the communities will be connected to one another through regional events and collaborative science and educational projects, which will also provide additional sources of income. The physical investment in the space is a practical step in supporting the declining agricultural sector in general, and in strengthening its resilience in the face of extreme weather conditions. In addition, restoration of bodies of water will generate business initiatives and employment for diverse non-agricultural communities. Branding the entire valley (and not only the Hazbani, Dan, and Banias reserves) as recreational space will help everyone, from Kiryat Shmona to Tuba-Zangarriye, benefit from increased tourism throughout the year.

The project will enhance the area's natural beauty and serve as catalyst for communal activism and contribution to a national project. We believe that students and volunteers of all ages from Israel and abroad will take part in restoring balance to the human-nature relationship: working in the botanical center, ringing birds at the Agamon HaHula, cleaning the streams, learning about local history, making traditional Bedouin crafts, and becoming agents of change in their own communities.

The proposed project integrates and strengthens diverse initiatives of the Hula Valley Basin, some of Authority, Jewish National Fund, government ministries, the Water Authority and more.

The eco-hydrological project is the restoration of the Hula Lake at the confluence of the Jordan River canals, creating ecological and economical touristic value and as an overflow reservoir for flood regulation. At the confluence of the eastern and western canals, a lake spanning over 2,500 dunams will be created on the site of the former lake by releasing water currently being pumped from natural springs on the slopes of the Golan Heights. It will be a platform for ecological rehabilitation of a lake habitat with water at changing depths of up to 2.5 meters - depths currently lacking in the Hula and the Agamon. The lake will also be a recreational area for swimming and boating.

The eastern and western Jordan River canals are engineered canals, 30 kilometers in total length, beginning at the meeting of the sources of the Jordan (Hazbani, Dan, and Banias streams). They join to form the stream channel of the Jordan, flowing south out of the Hula Valley through a deep canyon that spills into the Sea of Galilee. The canal morphology will be altered from straight to structurally complex, creating rocky meandering streams with diverse ecological niches. The space will be transformed into a scenic stream landscape, a recreation site with promenades and facilities integrated with sensitivity into the natural

A socio-economic model of collaboration will be used to implement the initiative. Each community will adopt a section of stream and become involved in planning, execution, and supervision of project areas, fostering connection to the natural space being created. Moreover, the size and location of sections will be allotted by affirmative action, with the goal of reducing the sense of injustice present among residents section and at each project stage will be made according to the needs and worldview of each community. Community ambassadors will be hired to manage community projects, and the communities will be invited to participate in the Hula Valley Community Forum for Planning. This model of participating in significant processes in one's living environment is adaptable to community preferences and hence can be exported as a model to a variety of settings.

Collaboration with academia - Tel-Hai College, MIGAL (Galilee Research Institute), and Northern Research and Development - in the fields of natural and social sciences and the humanities will be fostered by creation of a Citizen Science Model under the leadership of Tel-Hai College. The model will include academic courses, research groups in collaboration with the community, Town Square Academy courses, and research and evaluation of the entire project.

Collaboration with the Botanical Center for support and protection of rare and endangered plant species in the Hula Valley. The center will unite several complementary initiatives under one roof for community educational activity: Nursery and sanctuary for preservation of rare plant species and for propagation of native plants and their Community education center: residents, school, pre-army academy and college students, returning soldiers, prisoners, and elders will be integrated into regular operation of the botanical center.

Establishment of an Interactive Museum of Bedouin Heritage: In addition to the plants and animals that became extinct with the drying of the Hula Valley, traditional lifeways that connected humans to their environmental surroundings were lost. A museum conferring public recognition to Bedouin heritage will be established in Tuba-Zangarriye, with a promenade connecting it to a satellite museum station of Bedouin crafts at the lakeshore.

• Integration of special needs populations in the nursery and plant sanctuary.

Expanding community education on streams and springs at the Hula Valley margins. The "Guardian of the Stream" program currently operating in 24 area elementary schools and 11 high schools will be expanded to include groups of activists from Hula Valley communities

The initiative suggests an **innovative approach** for managing a multi-purpose hydrologic-communal project, flexible in its applications and influencing diverse target populations and scales: from the community, to the region, to the nation and beyond. This project is GLOCAL (global + local) in its essence.

The project is multi-purpose, providing solutions to dilemmas of nature, hydrology, drainage, agriculture, tourism, education, heritage, academia, and community. It does so through comprehensive treatment of the complex interface between them, and between the communities, non-profit organizations, and researchers involved in the

The project develops an integrative management model of different public bodies collected under one roof. The area being managed is a large open space, characterized as a diverse and valuable ecological cell. The planning and implementation processes will be just, bottom-up and sustainable in the long term, harnessing diverse communities that together will achieve environmental and social restoration in the Hula Valley - for themselves, and for the entire

