

Acacia in the Arava: past, present and future

Dead Sea-Arava Science Center, Central Arava Branch, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

Tentative Time Table:

09:30 Welcome coffee

10:00-10:15 Welcome notes: Ezra Ravins (regional council), Dr. Hanan Ginat (DSASC),  
Ami Uliel (KKL)

10:15-12:15 Morning session

12:15 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00-14:30 Afternoon session

Tentative program (10:00 – 15:00, updated 05/09/2011)

1. Genetic variations and phenotypic plasticity in two isolated populations of *Acacia raddiana* in the Negev Desert. **Prof. Avi Golan-Goldhirsh, Ben Gurion University**
2. Geohydrological aspects of Acacia the Arava. **Dr. Hanan Ginat, Dead Sea-Arava Science Center.**
3. Monitoring drought stress in acacia trees by remote sensing, in light of a series of dry years in the Southern Arava valley. **Sivan Isaacson, M.Sc., Ben Gurion University.**
4. Reintroduced herbivores facilitates Acacia germination and growth. **Tal Polak, M.Sc, Ben Gurion University.**
5. “Adopt an Acacia” project in the central Arava - how a small environmental project changed the way that we treat the ecosystem in the region. **Oded Keynan and Adi Rapport, Dead Sea-Arava Science Center.**
6. Acacias as keystone species in Extremely Arid Environments. **Dr. Benny Shalom, Nature and Parks Authority.**
7. Acacias as Hot Spots for fauna in the Arava desert – Reptiles as a test case. **Dr. Boaz Shacham, Hebrew University.**
8. Ecological survey of Acacias in the Arava – preliminary results. **Dr. Amir Perelberg, Landscape Survey & Evaluation Unit, Open Landscape Institute.**

9. שיטים בערבה - ממרחבים פתוחים ובתי גידול ייחודים - לטיפוח עציצים בערבה, שי טחנאי – רכז שמירת טבע וסביבה החלה"ט מחוז דרום.

10. Abiotic tolerance mechanisms of Acacia spp. and other trees - Root systems: the forgotten half?. **Dr. Shimon Rachmilevitch, Ben Gurion University**

11. Recent Acacia's Projects in the DSASC/AIES, **Dr. Ilan Stavi, Dead Sea-Arava Science Center and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.**

12. Preserving genetic diversity of Israel's plants for the future generations – introducing Volcani's Seed Bank – implications to conservation efforts in Acacias. **Dr. Alon Singer, Seed Testing Laboratory, ARO- Volcani Center.**