

## **The Dead Sea Drainage Authority**

### **Overview**

The Dead Sea Drainage Authority is an independent statutory corporation operating under the Drainage and floods Protection Law, 1957. The purpose of the Drainage Authority is to protect human life and national infrastructures against flood damages in the Dead Sea drainage basin. In addition, it is also responsible for environmental reclamation of rivers\* landscape and nature values, as well as environmental development for the benefit of the public.

*\* In an arid region it is customary to name a river channels in terms of a Wadi creek or Wash.*

### **Jurisdiction**

The Dead Sea Drainage Authority basin stretches from Nahal Zin near the town of Mitzpeh Ramon in the south to the Og Wadi in East Jerusalem in the north. The Drainage Law does not apply to the Judea and Samaria Area (west bank) and therefore this area is not within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

The Dead Sea Drainage Authority jurisdiction covers an area of 3,000 square kilometers. The main catchment basins are (north to south): Og, Kidron, Arugot, Hever, Tze'elim, Yaelim, Zohar, Haymar and Zin. The catchment basin of Nahal Zin accounts for about half of the area of the Drainage Authority and contains sub-basins such as Tamar, Peres, Hatzerah, Hatira, Hava and others.

The Drainage Authority jurisdiction includes six local authorities: Jerusalem, Arad, Tamar, Mitzpe Ramon, Ramat Negev and Arava. The first four municipalities are members of the plenum.

### **Areas of Activity**

- Management, control and supervision of all drainage systems in the entire drainage basin.
- Implementation of maintenance operations of drainage system basin.
- Reinforcement of river banks.
- Rehabilitation and development of water catching and exploiting runoff.
- Conservation and improvement of soil and prevention of soil erosion from agricultural areas.
- Subsurface drainage of agricultural fields in Salt Marsh area to reduce the level of groundwater and salinity of the land.
- Regulation of drainage for the protection of settlements, agricultural areas and infrastructure - construction of catchment facilities for runoff.
- Monitoring, supervision and treatment of river pollution factors.
- Rehabilitation and regulation of national and regional streams.
- Development of nature and tourism sites in the streams basins and along them, including: entry facilities for streams, development and rehabilitation of different sites, restoration and maintenance of service routes.
- Preparation of long-term development plans, and plans for rehabilitating and regulating streams and installations.
- Educating children, youth and adults about nature and environment in streams and their environs.

**For more information, you are welcome to contact us via**

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