

המשרד להגנת הסביבה



الوزارة لحماية البيئة
Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection

Biodiversity and Human Health - linkages in Israel's Policy

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**CBD Regional Capacity-building Workshop on Biodiversity and
Human Health for the European Region**

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Israel National Strategy on Human Health and the Environment

- Under development – preparation mandated by a **Government Resolution – March 2016**
- **Join responsibility of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environmental Protection**
- **Focus on prevention of environmental hazards to human health**
- **Biodiversity included under themes of spatial planning and of disease vectors (incl. invasive species)**
- **Challenge – integration of actions by the health sector to promote the health benefits of biodiversity**



Israel National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation

- **Inter-ministerial, headed by MoEP, under development .**
- **Effects on biodiversity and consequences for human health are recognized:**
 - ✓ **Intensification of invasive species introductions and increase of vector-borne disease spread.**
 - ✓ **Intensification of wild fires.**
 - ✓ **Threats to water resources quantity and quality (e.g. toxic cyanobacteria blooms).**

Urban planning

- **Urban nature surveys were carried out by 24 municipalities out of circa 100.**
- **MoEP provides financial and professional support.**
- **Mainstreaming into the municipal urban planning system is a pre-requirement.**
- **Collaboration with environmental NGO's and municipal environmental units.**
- **Challenge – generating the linkages with the local government public health sector .**



Israel National Ecosystem Assessment

- I-NEA promoted by MoEP, carried out by Ha'Maarag partnership .
- Assessment of ecosystem services in 6 ecosystems, incl. the urban ecosystem.
- A chapter on ecosystem benefits to human health.
- Substantial knowledge gaps found on the national level (Interim Report, 2016).



Closing the knowledge gaps

- **Regional scale - Carmel MAB Biosphere Reserve ES assessment**
 - ✓ **Health benefits are assessed in a questionnaire**
- **Academic research**
 - ✓ **Urban biodiversity effects on physical and mental health and wellbeing**
 - ✓ **Green spaces effects on pregnancy outcomes**
- **Challenge – securing designated funding**



Thank you

