



## Recipients of "Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Protection" Announced

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The selection committee for the "Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Protection," headed by Supreme Court Justice (retired) Jacob Turkel, selected twelve winners for this prestigious prize during its meeting of July 31, 2008. The award is being granted within the framework of Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations.

Members of the selection committee, representing different disciplines, included: Committee Chairman, Justice (retired) Jakob Turkel, Prof. Tamar Dayan of Tel Aviv University, Israeli author Sami Michael, the Director General of the Ministry of Environmental Protection Shai Avital, Naomi Tsur of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, television personality Moti Kirschenbaum and Dov Frohman, founder of Intel Israel. In its decision, the committee gave preference to living candidates and to as many fields of achievement as possible.

The 62 candidates for the award included scientists, public personalities and environmental activists. In relating to the twelve winners, Environmental Protection Minister Gideon Ezra said: "The winners serve as a personal example and model for environmental action. Most of them promoted the subject years before it became 'popular' and of public importance, and they deserve all our congratulations."

### And the winners are:

- **Prof. Hillel Shuval**, born in the USA, immigrated to Israel in 1948 and residing in Jerusalem, heads the Environmental Health Science Department of Hadassah College. He was one of the founders of the government program for environmental protection, advanced the field of health and the environment in Israel for 50 years, served as an environmental researcher and promoted wastewater recycling.
- **Prof. Emanuel Mazor**, born in Germany, immigrated to Israel in 1936 and residing in Rehovot, is a member of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Energy Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science. He published more than 100 master plans with environmental aspects and took an active part in numerous environmental campaigns on open space conservation in general and the Ramon area in particular.
- **Ori Dvir**, born in Israel and residing in Tel Aviv, is a teacher and guide on the geography of Israel. He published numerous articles and books on hikes and trailing maps, hosted radio and television shows on these subjects and spearheaded the Israel National Trail marking project.
- **Prof. Amotz Zahavi**, born in Petach Tikva and residing in the Hatzeva

Field School which he directs, was one of the founders of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and of the Nature Conservation Research Institute in Tel Aviv University. He is a prominent zoology researcher, one of the founders of the field school system in Israel and an activist in several environmental struggles.

- **Yoav Sagi**, born in Israel and residing in Tel Aviv, is the director of the Open Landscape Institute (Deshe Institute), one of the founders of the Nature Conservation Department of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and of the National River Restoration Administration and a member of the National Board for Planning and Building. He is a long-time activist on behalf of open space conservation in Israel.
- **Azaria Alon**, born in the Ukraine, immigrated to Israel in 1925 and residing in Kibbutz Beit Hashita, was one of the founders of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. He is the editor of Encyclopedia of Plant and Animal Life in Israel and has authored numerous books and articles on the protection of flora and fauna.
- **Prof. Uri Marinov**, born in Israel and residing in Herzliya, is a professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management of Haifa University and also serves as an environmental consultant. He is one of the founders of Israel's Ministry of the Environment and served as its first director general.
- **Dr. Yossi Leshem**, born in Israel and residing in Har Gilo in Jerusalem, is one of the founders of the International Center for the Study of Bird Migration in Latrun and has taken an active part in raising awareness of nature protection. He is a lecturer and researcher in Tel Aviv University.
- **Orit Reich**, born in Israel and residing in Kfar Vradim in the Galilee, has been active for the past 15 years in the struggle to prevent and remove asbestos hazards in Nahariya and the Western Galilee. She founded the Association for Quality of Life and the Environment in Nahariya.
- **Yosef Tamir**, born in the Ukraine, immigrated to Israel in 1924 and residing in Tel Aviv, was one of Israel's first environmental activists. As a Knesset member, he advanced many environmental laws, established the umbrella organization for environmental NGOs, Life and the Environment, and remains active in the environmental movement.
- **Prof. Alon Tal**, born in the USA, immigrated to Israel in 1980 and residing in Maccabim-Reut, is a professor in the Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research at Ben Gurion University. He founded the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, Israel's foremost environmental advocacy NGO, and the Arava Institute in Kibbutz Ketura.
- **Bilha Givon**, born in Israel and residing in Omer in the Negev, founded the NGO "Sustainable Development for the Negev" and is dedicated to improving the quality of life and the environment in the Beersheba and Negev area. She has spearheaded numerous environmental campaigns and is a major force in the environmental movement.

The chairman of the selection committee, Justice (ret.) Tirkel has stated that "the committee did its best to have its selections reflect the widest possible range of personalities and fields of achievement and it very much regrets that it was unable to present the award to all of the candidates, since all of them deserved it."

The winners will be granted the award in a ceremony, scheduled to take place in the Caesarea National Park in September 2008, within the framework of a celebration entitled "Israel Salutes 60 Years of Environmental Activity." The ceremony will be honored by the participation of the President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, and the Minister of Environmental Protection, Gideon Ezra, who will present the prizes to the recipients. The award itself will be specially designed by the Israeli sculptor David Gerstein.

**More Links:**

- ["Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Protection" to be Granted during Israel's 60th Anniversary Celebrations](#)