

## **Red-Dead Sea Canal: World Bank allocates \$0.5 million for feasibility study for the project**

Galit Shafir, Calcalist [Yediot owned economic daily], July 31, 2008

The World Bank will finance a survey in 25 countries around the world to examine public attitudes regarding the importance of the Dead Sea. The project will cost \$200,000 and include ten thousand respondents. The survey will be undertaken over the internet. The project will last six months and the results will be published during the first half of 2009. Calcalist has learned that a company with a branch in Israel has been selected for the project and a contract will be signed shortly.

World Bank representative Alexander McPhail announced the day before yesterday that the World Bank has raised \$ 10.5 million for a feasibility study for the Red-Dead Sea Canal project. However, Nir Papai, head of the Conservation, Environment, and Nature Division in the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, warned: "The studys they want to undertake relating to the project are superficial. In any environmental project you run different imaging models for the project in order to examine its ramifications on the marine environment."