Between Two Dams: Degania and Alumot

The water in this section of the Jordan River flows from the Sea of Galilee through the Degania Dam, and continues for just 3 km to the Alumot Dam. The “Salt Conduit” also moves along this path, bringing brackish water from the Dead Sea into the Lower Jordan River, thus turning the Sea of Galilee into the largest surface reservoir in Israel.

From the 1960’s onward, a substantial amount of water from the Lower Jordan was diverted to the National Water Carrier. Unfortunately, the remaining water is not enough to sustain the river’s natural ecosystems.

Alumot Dam is the point at which fresh water ceased to flow through the Lower Jordan River. Since 2013, however, the Israeli Water Authority has agreed to a comprehensive government plan to ecologically rehabilitate the river, and for the first time in 49 years, is allowing a small amount of water to naturally flow from the Sea of Galilee into the Lower Jordan River. Authorities in the region established a centralized sewage treatment facility in 2012 which discharges the partially treated effluents back into the river.

This is the third station of the “Jordan River Neighbours’ Path”, a trail that follows the major changes in the water management of this area over the past 50 years and its effects on the Lower Jordan River and the Yarmuk river. This trail was established in 2007 in the framework of EcoPeace Middle East’s “Good Water Neighbours” project. This Neighbors’ Path is one of 25 paths that deal with the issue of water and peace building between Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian communities that share a common water resource.

For more information visit: www.ecopeaceme.org

For more information visit: www.ecopeaceme.org