



## Memorandum of Understanding To Create the Al Bakoura / Naharyim / Gesher Peace Park

### Muaz Bin Jabal Municipality, Jordan – Jordan Valley Regional Council, Israel and Beit She'an Valley Regional Council, Israel

In a regional meeting held on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 the Jordanian Mayor of Muaz Bin Jabal and Israeli Mayors of the Jordan Valley Regional Council and the Beit She'an Valley Regional Council, recognized the value and importance of the protection of the River Jordan flowing between their communities and the potential of creating in the area of Al Bakoura / Naharayim / Gesher a trans-boundary Peace Park.

The mayors hereby declare that in the Al Bakoura / Naharayim / Gesher area it is the intention of the municipalities to create a bird sanctuary, eco-lodges, a visitor's center, nature trails and develop cultural heritage sites, that will serve residents and tourists and safeguard open spaces for nature. The respective mayors see the development of the peace park as a cooperative effort and as a centerpiece of peace building activities between their neighboring communities.

The River Jordan is today heavily polluted and has been turned into a backyard dumping site, causing destruction of the ecosystems that once thrived to the loss of local residents. Today, mayors and citizens of the communities are determined to reverse the situation.

The mayors declare their intention that the Peace Park be the start of a larger rehabilitation project of the River Jordan, as a symbol for sustainable regional development.

We support the role of EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East in helping pave the way to good neighborly relations based on peace and environment.

#### Mayor

#### Muaz Ben Jabal

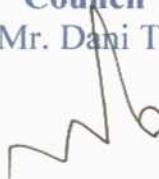
Eng. Abdulla Al Salaman

THE RICHARD & RHODA  
GOLDMAN FOUNDATION

#### Mayor

#### Beit She'an Valley Regional Council

Mr. Dani Tamari



Friends of the Earth  
Middle East



#### Mayor

#### Jordan Valley Regional Council

Mr. Yossi Vardi



Foreign &  
Commonwealth Office