

Searching for Environmental Dignity in the Kidron/Nar Basin Description

The Kidron Valley/Wadi Al Nar meanders from Jerusalem through the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea. Some of the world's most famous cultural, religious and historic sites dwell in harmony in the valley, along with ancient tombs, underground watercourses, monasteries and breathtaking desert landscapes. Unchecked development and neglect, however, together with an increase in population, has had major health, environmental, and economic consequences. Today one of the great centers of civilization serves as a conduit for raw sewage and a depository of solid waste.

The Kidron/Nar Master Plan, completed in 2012, identifies the issues, concerns and problems of the basin and recommends solutions. A Master Plan, based on ecological, historical, physical, economic and geographical terms agreed upon by both sides will serve the best interests of the Valley, regardless of present or future political sovereignty issues. There is no alternative to collective action when managing a shared international basin.

Today the Master Plan is being implemented through an Implementation Plan, with several projects in the areas of environmental education, solid waste management, water and sewage treatment, scientific initiatives and more being developed.

Thursday, Nov. 20 10:00-11:30 Old Administration

Speakers

Richard Laster, Professor of Law, Hebrew University; Partner- Laster Gouldman Law Office, *"Introduction to the Kidron/Nar Master Plan."*

Mohammed Nakhla, Geographer and Planner, *"Liason with the Local Communities."*

Rana Khalaf, Principal, Afaq School, East Jerusalem, *"Environmental Education in the Kidron/Nar Basin."*

Avner Goren, Archaeologist and Tourism Expert, *"Spirtual Aspects of the Kidron/Nar Basin."*

Liora Meron & Arie Rahamimoff, Architects and Planners, *"Overview of the Kidron/Nar Master Plan."*