



The 4th Israeli Conference for Conservation Science - the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, October 2024

## Sunday Oct. 27th, 2024

|       |  |   |   |   |
|-------|--|---|---|---|
| 9:00  | <b>Coffee and registration</b>   |   |   |   |
| 9:30  | <b>Opening remarks (Rothberg Hall)</b>   |   |   |   |
|       | <p><b>Yossi Paltiel</b>, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/> <b>Guy Bloch</b>, Head of the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Science, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/> <b>Uri Roll</b>, President of the Israeli Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology<br/> <b>Gilad Ostrovsky</b>, Chief Forester, JNF-KKL<br/> <b>Erella Hovers</b>, Co-director of the Minerva Center for the Study of Population Fragmentation<br/> <b>Oren Ostersetzer-Biran</b>, Director of the Hebrew University Center for Sustainability<br/> <b>Oren Kolodny</b>, 4th Israeli Conference on Conservation Science Organizing Committee</p> |   |   |   |
| 10:00 | <b>Panel discussion: Present and future effects of the war on conservation (Rothberg Hall)</b>   |   |   |   |
|       | <b>Moderator: Jonathan Belmaker, Tel Aviv University</b>   |   |   |   |
|       | <p><b>Yehoshua Shkedy</b>, Israel Nature and Parks Authority<br/> <b>Tamar Raviv</b>, Ministry of Environmental Protection<br/> <b>Maoz Fine</b>, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem<br/> <b>Gilad Ostrovsky</b>, KKL-JNF<br/> <b>Rona Winter-Livneh</b>, Open Landscape Institute (DESHE)</p>   |   |   |   |
| 11:00 | <b>Coffee break</b>  |   |   |   |
|       | <b>Rothberg Hall</b>   |   | <b>Kaplan Hall</b>  |   |
|       | <b>Session A: Habitat restoration and conservation (Chair: Shani Gleitman)</b>   |   | <b>Session B: Biodiversity and conservation in human-dominated landscapes (Chair: Avi Perevolotsky)</b> |   |
| 11:30 | <b>Shani Gleitman</b>  | Restoring rare plant habitats in israel: An ecological model for hot-spot forest management in the Ilanot-Kadima forests  | <b>Yuval Itescu</b>   | The dark side of conservation: Cemeteries as sanctuaries for urban bats   |
| 11:45 | <b>Karmit Levy</b>   | Comparing impacts of two restoration approaches on wild bee assemblages and their habitat resources in an early successional sandy Mediterranean ecosystem            | <b>Tamir Klein</b>  | Hardcore science for hardcore conservation: Climatic effects in the appeal against Lavan ridge development, Jerusalem |
| 12:00 | <b>Guy Rotem</b>   | Ecological restoration of mining sites: After seven years of research, what have we learned?  | <b>Orr Comay</b>  | Impact of agriculture on desert arthropod biodiversity  |
| 12:15 | <b>Inbal Biberman</b>  | Transforming KKL-JNF's approach to nature conservation: Surveying protected natural values prior to forest management   | <b>Arielle Lofchick*</b>  | The impact of artificial light at night on wild plants and pollination  |
| 12:30 | <b>Anat Tsafrir</b>  | European nightjar population survey in northern Negev forests - spring and summer 2022  | <b>Adam Lampert</b>   | Optimal removal of host plants to slow the spread of invasive insects   |
| 12:45 | <b>Ori Hepner Ucko*</b>  | Surprising widespread <i>Cymodocea nodosa</i> occurrence along Israel's Mediterranean coast and implications for seagrass conservation in a hotspot of climate change | <b>Liron Shani</b>  | Legal alien or invasive species? Emotions, science, and controversies in sabra conservation                           |
| 13:15 | <b>Lunch and poster session<sup>^</sup></b>  |   |   |   |





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|-------------|--|---|--|--|
| 14:30       | <b>Keynote address: Ron Milo, Weizmann Institute of Science (Rothberg Hall)</b>                |   |  |  |
|             | The biomass distribution on Earth and humanity's impact  |   |  |  |
| 15:30       | <b>Coffee break</b>  |   |  |  |
|             | <b>Rothberg Hall</b>   |   | <b>Kaplan Hall</b>   |  |
|             | <b>Session C: Species rehabilitation, relocations and reintroductions (Chair: Noam Leader)</b> |   | <b>Session D: Effects of habitat fragmentation on biodiversity and endangered species (Chair: Keren Klass)</b> |  |
| 16:00       | <b>Ori Fragman-Sapir</b>   | Endangered plant species - propagation and re-introduction challenges   | <b>Keren Klass</b>   | Effects of forest fragmentation on endangered black howler monkeys: Insights from molecular data   |
| 16:15       | <b>Nili Anglister</b>  | Extreme temperatures impede the release success of captive-bred avian scavengers  | <b>Ron Chen</b>  | Pervasive edge effects of human settlements and plantations as revealed in Israel's State of Nature Report 2023                              |
| 16:30       | <b>Noa Lavie*</b>  | Conservation implications of dietary considerations in the critically endangered Acacia gazelle ( <i>Gazella arabica acacia</i> ) | <b>Ohad Peled*</b>   | A network-based approach for mitigating the genetic outcomes of fragmentation  |
| 16:45       | <b>Shir Sassoon*</b>   | Comparative analysis of movement patterns in nesting and rehabilitated sea turtles using satellite tracking data                  | <b>Shlomo Preiss-Bloom*</b>  | Predators, land use and culling interactions shape community trophic dynamics  |
| 17:00       | <b>Gideon Vaadia*</b>  | Tracking Griffon Vultures' use of feeding station to improve conservation practices   | <b>Adi Barocas</b>   | Impacts of artisanal gold mining on giant otter populations and neotropical freshwater ecosystems  |
| 17:15       | <b>Mai Lazarus*</b>  | Designated juvenile surveys identify cobble beds as important nursery habitats for coral reef fishes                              | <b>Yehuda Samuel*</b>  | Movement patterns of the golden jackal ( <i>Canis aureus</i> ) in the Harod and HaMaayanot valleys for improving rabies management interface |
| 18:00-20:00 | <b>Social event</b>  |   |  |  |

^ See below for details on poster sessions

\*Candidates for student prizes





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## Monday Oct. 28th, 2024

|       |   |  |  |  |
|-------|---|--|--|--|
| 9:00  | Coffee and registration   |  |  |  |
| 9:30  | <b>Keynote address: Tamar Zandberg, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Rothberg Hall)</b>  |  |  |  |
|       | From science to policy: The role of nature conservation in sustainable environmental policy |  |  |  |
| 10:30 | Coffee break  |  |  |  |
|       | Rothberg Hall   |  | Kaplan Hall  |  |
|       | <b>Session E: Genetics in conservation<br/>(Chair: Tali Magory Cohen)</b>                   |  | <b>Session F: Big data and broad patterns in conservation (Chair: Alon Rothschild)</b> |  |
| 10:45 | <b>Tali Magory Cohen</b>  | Evolutionary consequences of mercury pollution on avian bioindicators in the Western Amazon  | <b>Alon Rothschild</b>   | Risk analysis from marine infrastructures to birds in Israel   |
| 11:00 | <b>Dvora Low Ramati</b>   | Lost genetic heritage: the wild olive trees of the Atlit Kurkar ridge  | <b>Yaron Ziv</b>   | A new international nature conservation index to assess countries' conservation performance  |
| 11:15 | <b>Noa Y. Kan Lingwood*</b>   | Factors affecting female wild ass ( <i>Equus hemionus</i> ) social associations following a change in water-source distribution  | <b>Aviad Scheinin</b>  | Twenty-five years of Israeli coastal dolphins' population conservation research from inspiration to implementation.  |
| 11:30 | <b>Tom Morav*</b>   | Deep connections: Exploring the genetic connectivity of mesophotic and shallow-water populations of the sponges <i>Axinella polypoides</i> and <i>Ircinia variabilis</i> | <b>Lior Greenspoon*</b>  | The global biomass of mammals since 1850   |
| 11:45 | <b>Sviatoslav Rybnikov</b>  | Gene drives in combating biological invasions: Minimizing the spillover risk by pesticide application  | <b>Ateret Shabtay</b>  | Benthic habitats representativeness in marine protected areas in the territorial waters - existing state and recommendations for the update of the Maritime Policy and Vision document |
| 12:00 | <b>Uri Wolkowski</b>  | Taxonomic and ecological characterisation of the Bubal hartebeest ( <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus buselaphus</i> ) of northern Africa & the Levant                            | <b>Shai Scharfberg</b>   | Ancient agriculture systems in the Negev - mapping, locating and developing tools for preservation and restoration, to promote heritage, cultural and ecological values                |
| 12:30 | Lunch and poster session <sup>^</sup>   |  |  |  |





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|             |  |  |   |  |
|-------------|--|--|---|--|
| 13:45       | <b>Panel discussion: Reclaiming anthropogenically degraded landscapes for nature conservation (Rothberg Hall)</b><br><b>Moderator: Noam Ben-Moshe, Tel Aviv University</b><br><b>Dotan Rotem, Israel Nature and Parks Authority</b><br><b>Anat Tsafrir, KKL-JNF</b><br><b>Gili Tessler, Israel Land Authority</b><br><b>Dror Denneboom, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel</b><br><b>Ron Chen, HaMaarag - Israel National Ecosystem Assessment</b> |  |   |  |
| 14:45       | <b>Coffee break</b>  |  |   |  |
|             | <b>Rothberg Hall</b>   |  | <b>Kaplan Hall</b>  |  |
|             | <b>Session G: Applying insights from animal behavior in conservation (Chair: Yoav Perlman)</b>   |  | <b>Session H: Applications of unorthodox tools in conservation (Chair: Tal Polak)</b> |  |
| 15:15       | <b>Yoav Perlman</b>  | Southbound migration timing and routes of GPS tagged European turtle-doves from Israel   | <b>Tal Polak</b>  | Using machine learning to establish new monitoring method for wild population of Arabian oryx ( <i>Oryx leucoryx</i> )                               |
| 15:30       | <b>Sefi Horesh*</b>  | Integrating empirical and theoretical approaches to investigate the endemic and critically endangered Be'er Sheva fringe-fingered lizard                       | <b>Victor Rina (China)*</b>   | Leveraging large language models for social media image analysis in conservation sociology   |
| 15:45       | <b>Klil Shahar*</b>  | High-resolution tracking of the invasive common myna ( <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> ) in the Negev Highlands  | <b>Re'em Neri*</b>  | Utilizing social media to monitor the endangered Spinetail Devil Ray ( <i>Mobula mobular</i> ) fishery in the Gaza Strip, southeastern Mediterranean |
| 16:00       | <b>Yuval Zukerman*</b>   | Variation in tolerance behavior of the threatened Nubian ibex inside human settlements is shaped by people's behavior  | <b>Yuval Mendelson*</b>   | Using "junk" acoustic data for monitoring the state of coral reefs   |
| 16:15       | <b>Orr Spiegel</b>   | Ageing in nature: Examining lifelong changes in movement and social behavior of griffon vultures ( <i>Gyps fulvus</i> )  | <b>Noam Leader</b>  | Poaching of a priceless gazelle does not pay - demand for ecological restitution through civil lawsuits as a deterrent to illegal hunting            |
| 16:30       | <b>Amir Arnon</b>  | Cascading effects of anthropogenic food on golden jackals ( <i>Canis aureus</i> ) and mountain gazelles ( <i>Gazella gazella</i> ) in a peri-urban environment | <b>Leigh Livne</b>  | Inspiration to implementation: Advancing conservation through catch-and-release shark programme - Israel's in-situ lab                               |
| 17:00       | <b>Closing remarks and awards</b>  |  |   |  |
| 17:30-19:00 | <b>Social event: Beers and snacks on the lawn</b>  |  |   |  |

^ See below for details on poster sessions

\*Candidates for student prizes





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| Poster session<br>Sunday Oct. 27th, 2024 |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| No.                                      | Presenter            | Poster title  |
| 1  | Adi Barash           | The MECO project (Mediterranean Elasmobranch Citizen Observations): Using social media to create a regional database of elasmobranch observations |
| 3  | Dan Bez Golanski*    | Is it hot? Tracking parrotfish behavior during eight marine heatwaves in the Red Sea  |
| 5  | Doron Ashkenazi*     | Seaweeds of the Israeli seas: Exploring ecological and biotechnological potential through species diversity and seasonality                       |
| 7  | Eleanor Diamant      | The importance of biome in shaping urban biodiversity   |
| 9  | Franklin Sargunaraj* | Conservation genetic strategies for the Hula painted frogs ( <i>Latonia nigriventer</i> ) by assessing habitat preference                         |
| 11                                       | Jessica Schäckermann | Wildflower-strips to conserve biodiversity in desert agriculture  |
| 13                                       | Noy Kaminer Bitton*  | Effects of microplastic on a native coastal plant   |
| 15                                       | Roe Ben Nissan*      | Sea level rise implications on land vertebrates' distributions  |
| 17                                       | Rotem Mor*           | Trophic ecology of the invasive marbled crayfish in Israel  |
| 19                                       | Sharon Moscovitz*    | Food fight: Monosex prawns and crayfish as biocontrol agents against pest freshwater snails   |
| 21                                       | Tamar Birman         | Anthropogenic effects on charismatic species' distributions - the case of orchids in Israel   |
| 23                                       | Yafit Brenner        | Integrating philosophy of science and conservation biology in schools as part of a large ecological restoration project                           |
| 24                                       | Yuval Rosenberg      | Biomass movement metric as an educational tool for the Anthropocene   |

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| <b>Poster session<br/>Monday Oct. 28th, 2024</b> |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| <b>No.</b>                                       | <b>Presenter</b>          | <b>Poster title</b>   |
| 2  | <b>Dan Amichai*</b>       | Small and fragmented sites may be preferable for species' reintroduction: using a pop-gen perspective to inform reintroduction strategies |
| 4  | <b>Daniel Idan*</b>       | Open woodland: Detrimental or beneficial?   |
| 6  | <b>Eduardo Arlé</b>       | Non-stationarity in the impact of climate across mammal species ranges  |
| 8  | <b>Enav Vidan</b>         | Prioritizing conservation actions with climate change - the case of Israeli reptiles  |
| 10   | <b>Liran Sagi*</b>        | Burrow deep: How nest site selection protects desert chameleons from climate extremes   |
| 12   | <b>Nicolas Dubos*</b>     | Mapping method and data source matters in conservation  |
| 14   | <b>Ori Shapira*</b>       | The effect of designated pastoral lands on mammals' diversity at Mediterranean habitats   |
| 16   | <b>Rona Winter-Livneh</b> | Ecological evaluation of agricultural landscape within the Tkuma region, following the Gaza war   |
| 18   | <b>Shahar Dubiner</b>     | Eco-op: An information sharing network to promote cooperation between environmental organizations and ecologists in academia              |
| 20   | <b>Tal Schabes</b>        | Impacts of invasive species control on plant functional traits and resource use in endemic <i>Scalesia</i> forests of the Galápagos       |
| 22   | <b>Yonat Gefen*</b>       | Drivers of introduction rate in marine alien species across taxa  |

**\*Candidates for student prizes**