



SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF NATURE IN ISRAEL



THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NATURE IN ISRAEL

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA, CANADA
ON
BIRDING AND GUIDING

WHEREAS the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (“SPNI”) and the Government of Manitoba, Canada (“Manitoba”), hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants”, are committed to promoting closer co-operation between organizations within Manitoba and Israel which share a strong interest in conservation and in raising awareness about habitat loss and the need to protect and preserve the environment;

WHEREAS the Participants intend to engage a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations in both jurisdictions that share a commitment to conservation and environmental protection, including but not limited to (in Manitoba): the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, Ducks Unlimited, the Manitoba Heritage Habitat Corporation, Prairie Pathfinders, Winnipeg Trails Association and the Forks Renewal Corporation; and (in Israel) the International Centre for the Study of Bird Migration;

WHEREAS Israel and Manitoba are natural flight paths for bird migration north and south, with Israel – located in the Great Rift Valley – being along the major migratory flight path between Asia, Europe and the African continent, and Manitoba being along the major migratory flight path between North and South America;

WHEREAS the Participants believe that positive relations can be developed and strengthened through co-operative efforts among people who share an enthusiasm for issues of mutual interest and common concern;

RECOGNIZING the innovative work carried out by the world-renowned ornithologist, Dr. Yossi Leshem, to establish conservation projects in the Middle East has not only helped to protect the environment but has also fostered more positive relations in the region through Dr. Leshem’s Birds as Peacemakers in the Middle East Initiative;

THEREFORE consistent with the laws and existing treaties between their respective countries, the Participants intend to explore and facilitate the development of co-operative linkages between their respective governments and non-governmental agencies interested in environmental stewardship of the environment, habitat and wildlife.

AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

The Participants will, initially, focus their co-operative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding in the specific areas of:

- Birding - Migration and Conservation – recognizing the importance of bird migration and the need to conserve and protect the natural environments necessary for healthy birds.

- Partnership development – based on the sharing and development of knowledge, research, study, and education, with a particular emphasis on youth. Areas of specific focus will be nature conservation and study, environmental education, biodiversity, cross border bird management, and sustainable development. The initial focus will be on ornithology, with particular emphasis on partnerships between the birding needs, agricultural (preservation of crops) and aeronautical safety needs (flight paths).
- Eco-Tourism – the need to recognize and expand eco-tourism in each jurisdiction, to mutually support and promote eco-tourism in each jurisdiction beginning with viewing sites development, ornithological tours, nature guiding, and orienteering (with the aim to expand the focus in future years.)

APPLICATION

The Participants will designate representatives to serve as principal points of contact and liaison to promote co-operation in areas of mutual interest.

The Participants intend for the Director General for SPNI and the Director of Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection for Manitoba to initially and jointly co-ordinate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding under mutually defined timelines and subject to the applicable laws, policies and available resources.

The Participants will ensure that projects carried out or jointly supported under this Memorandum of Understanding will be documented in writing as Annexes to this Memorandum of Understanding and subject to its general terms. Each Annex should specify: the goals of the project; action plans, timelines and milestones; and the respective roles and recommended contributions of each Participant.

The Participants will ensure that any financial, technical or intellectual property rights issues that arise during the course of an activity will be addressed by separate contracts through their identified representatives.

DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

The Participants will resolve any differences or disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of any of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding amicably through mutual consultation and negotiations, without reference to any third party or international tribunal.



STATUS

This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding.

ENTRY INTO EFFECT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date it is signed by the Participants and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from that date.

The Participants may renew this Memorandum of Understanding for an additional five (5) years with their mutual written consent.

The Participants may amend this Memorandum of Understanding upon their mutual written consent. Any such amendments will come into effect on the date determined by the Participants.

Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing the other Participant with at least three (3) months written notice of its intention to terminate.

Signed in duplicate at Jerusalem, Israel on this 13th day of October 2010.

**For the Government of the
Province of Manitoba (Canada)**

Original Signed By

The Honourable Greg Selinger
Premier
Government of Manitoba

**For the Society for the
Protection of Nature in Israel**

Original Signed By

Mr. Avionam Ben Yitzhak
General Director
Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel