



PLANTING LIFE

HELP ISRAEL'S FORESTS RISE ANEW

Tu Bishvat 2025 marks the second Tu Bishvat since the outbreak of the Iron Swords War. The pain endured is immense: over 1,800 Israelis were killed, more than 22,700 injured, and 251 people were abducted. Residents from over 80 communities remain displaced, awaiting the revival of Israel's northern and southern districts.

In addition to the human toll, nature, too, has suffered. Fires and erosion have scarred our cherished landscapes, leaving behind blackened forests and barren land. During this war, over 23,000 hectares of open land were damaged, including 2,900 hectares of KKL-JNF forests destroyed by fire.

Yet, as Zionists, we recognize the power of hope. By planting, rebuilding, and restoring, we reclaim life itself. This Tu Bishvat, we focus on Planting Life, working to heal the war-torn landscapes of Be'eri Forest in the south and Biriya Forest in the north—two places that once teemed with life and now stand desolate.



BE'ERI FOREST

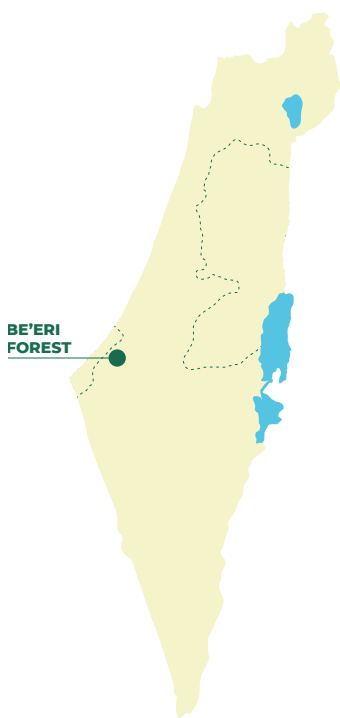
A Landscape and Community in Healing

Be'eri Forest, famous for its stunning crimson carpets of winter anemones and popular cycling trails, has long been a social, cultural, and economic hub of the Western Negev. Each February, thousands would gather for the Darom Adom (Red South) Festival, celebrating its vibrant blooms.

Years of security tensions and the devastation of war have left their mark. The forest bears scars of destruction: stripped soil, torn ground, and destroyed facilities. For now, silence and loss replace the laughter and joy that once filled this haven.

Yet, Be'eri's story is also one of resilience. Danny Ben-David, Head of KKL-JNF's Western Negev Region, stresses that the rehabilitation of Be'eri is not about replanting it, but rather creating the optimal conditions for natural regeneration, a process that is already happening, but will take time.

More urgent, he says, is the need to stabilize and shore up eroded areas, rebuild the surrounding communities, and foster vital partnerships with residents. Danny admits that he has had to start this process from scratch, given that many of his community contacts were murdered in the Oct 7th massacres.





BIRIYA FOREST

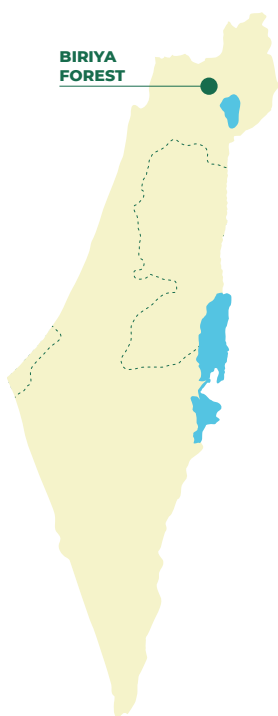
A Vision for Renewal and Growth

Biriya Forest, nestled in the mountains near Tzfat in the Upper Galilee, is a cornerstone of Jewish heritage and natural splendor. Home to the Biriya Fortress, the ancient Naburiya Synagogue, and the tombs of revered Jewish sages, the forest has long been a magnet for pilgrims and hikers.

The fires caused by missile attacks from Lebanon have erased nearly 18 years of restoration work painstakingly carried out by our foresters in the wake of the Second Lebanon War. Blackened earth and dead trees now mark the trails once traversed by dreamers and seekers.

And yet, even as the war continues to cast its shadow, the seeds of renewal are already being sown. Saplings are being nurtured in KKL-JNF's Golani nursery, waiting to aid restoration efforts, which will include natural regeneration combined with careful intervention and the planting of new trees propagated from Biriya's hardiest specimens.

The restoration will focus on the woodlands surrounding the Path of the Righteous and the Biriya Fortress, which we intend to transform into a key tourism hub and gateway for exploring the forest and the surrounding region.



BE PART OF ISRAEL'S RENEWAL

Tu Bishvat symbolizes the Jewish spirit of revival and connection to the land. It is a day of planting not just trees but hope, resilience, and refocusing on the community.

This Tu Bishvat, we invite you to join us in restoring life to Be'eri and Biriya Forests. Together, we will revive ecosystems, rebuild communities, and bring joy back to these cherished landscapes.

Let's work side by side to bring back the music of birds, the laughter of children, and the shouts of joy among the trees.

Let's make tomorrow bloom. Together.
Join the KKL-JNF 2025 Tu Bishvat Campaign