

## Alon Tal Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, it's now my privilege to introduce you to an extraordinary Israeli environmentalist...

He is a sought-after scholar, who serves as a professor and chair of the public policy department at Tel Aviv University, and has previously taught at Ben Gurion University's Department of Desert Ecology, Stanford's Department of Biology, and Harvard University's School of Public Health...

He is a passionate protector of the environment, who was the founding director of the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, has represented Israel's Foreign Ministry at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and was a founder and chair of Israel's Green Party...

And he is a Jewish National Fund leader, who served for 12 years as a volunteer member of the KKL – JNF board in Jerusalem where he oversaw forestry policy for twelve years. He also worked with JNF to establish The Tal Fund, a grassroots ecological initiative in Israel and is a member of JNF's international board. Alon also founded the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, a JNF partner organization that houses educational and research programs that advance environmental cooperation between Israel and its neighbors in the Middle East.

Ladies and gentleman, please welcome Dr. Alon Tal.