ISRAEL

Source: esri

General

Israel - officially the State of Israel - is located on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has land borders with Lebanon in the North, Syria in the Northeast, Jordan in the East, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the East and West, respectively, and Egypt in the Southwest. Israel has an area of 2.21 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 8.7 million, which means 3.94 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

Despite its small size, temperatures in Israel vary widely, especially during the winter. Coastal areas, such as those of Tel Aviv and Haifa, have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers. The area of Beersheba and the Northern Negev have a semi-arid climate with hot summers, cool winters, and fewer rainy days than the Mediterranean climate. From May to September, rain in Israel is rare.

Israel is located in the Levant area of the Fertile Crescent region. It is home to a variety of geographic features, from the Negev Desert in the South to the inland fertile Jezreel Valley, mountain ranges of the Galileo, Carmel and towards the Golan in the North. The coastal plain on the shores of the Mediterranean is home to most of the nation's population. East of the Central Highlands lies the Jordan Rift Valley, which forms a small part of the Great Rift Valley. The Jordan River runs along the Jordan Rift Valley, from Mount Hermon through the Hulah Valley and Lake of Galileo to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the surface of the Earth. Further south is the Arabah, ending with the Gulf of Eilat, part of the Red Sea.

Existing polders

According to the Group Polder Development (1982) polders exist north of Lake of Galileo. With a surface levels of 190 - 210 m-MSL this are most probably the lowest polders on Earth.

Characteristic data on the polders in Israel are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World Population Prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Israel

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Polders north of Lake of Galileo			RLL	32º 54' N	35º 37' E	-210	Agriculture
Total							

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake