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IALC Sponsors Israeli Fellow at New Mexico State University

September 30, 2002 – Las Cruces, NM – An Israeli student from Ben Gurion University has begun a month-long fellowship at New Mexico State University, one of the founding members of the International Arid Lands Consortium.

Arnon Amir Israel was selected to work with Dr. Mark C. Anderson, Associate Professor at the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico University. Mr. Israel is focusing his time on researching the ecology and restoration of black-tailed prairie dogs, a keystone species in grassland ecosystems. Because it contains portions of several of the five types of desert regions found in the United States, New Mexico State University is especially well suited for arid lands research.

The **International Arid Lands Consortium Peace Fellowship Program** was created to benefit U.S. and Middle East environment and society, in keeping with the IALC's goal of supporting and researching methods of ecologically sound desert management. The program promotes opportunities for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to conduct arid lands research and contribute to the Middle East Peace process.

Selected students from IALC member institutions spend one month or more working in the field with eminent scientists on projects sponsored by the Consortium. This exchange between American universities and researchers in the Middle East fosters an environment in which young people can grow intellectually and contribute to understanding among Israeli, Arab, and U.S. participants. Students are expected to conduct their research in a country other than their home country. Graduate students will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

IALC Member Institutions include: *The University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.*

Students chosen to participate in the IALC Peace Fellowship Program have demonstrated interest in sustainable development of arid lands. The exchange is an opportunity for them to contribute to the success of projects that include desertification, water management, and reforestation. During their fellowships, the students focus on practical knowledge and application of research. Participation brings with it the possibility of published work in a scholarly journal and provides a challenging academic environment.

The IALC Peace Fellowship Program is made possible in part through a grant from the Archer Daniels Midland Foundation and the USDA Forest Service.

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The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations. IALC members include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.