
SAHARA ROOTS FOUNDATION

“Patience is needed unfortunately!”



Due to the worldwide Corona crisis we will unfortunately not be travelling to Morocco in April 2020 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of International Earth Day. I am happy that we can look back on a wonderful journey to M'hamid last February with a group of teachers. We also had the chance to see the Joudour Sahara Culture Center site as well as to plant some trees!

The “Green Gateway to the Sahara“, our botanical garden project and the “Green Wall” project looked green and amazing! Trees, shrubs and plants were growing well and our tree caretaker Habib had also planted different types of wheat and vegetables, making the most of the moisture around the [Groasis Waterboxx's](#) planted in the ground.



lyoga plants waterboxxes and trees again

During our visit we were also able to help organize a planting session for Karin Sluis of [lyoga](#) in Hoogkarspel (NL). Once again Karin has donated 94 Groasis Waterboxx's with trees & shrubs including a year's maintenance (incl water). She travelled to Morocco with a yoga group for a desert tour and also planted these waterboxx's with her group. The waterboxxs had luckily arrived in M'hamid on time (a big thank you to [Aziz El Bakassi](#), the agent of Groasis in Morocco). Our partner [Halim Sbai](#) purchased trees and shrubs to be planted on the site of the Botanical Garden and prepared the land (and water) for the planting. It was a great success judging from the photos that we received from Halim afterwards! Thank so much Karin for your generous support!



Continuing the “Green Wall”

The trees that we planted for our “Green Wall” project in April 2019, were also growing well. We had been looking forward to continuing the planting of the wall in April 2020, especially now that we have received a big donation of a substantial number of Groasis Waterboxx’s from Guus de Wolf of [Riendewolf BV](#) Outdoors Sports (NL). With this project we have made a start to help build a green wall around the Joudour Sahara Culture Center (JSCC) site and will continue to extend this wall around the village of Zaouia to help stop the desertification of the village. We are very grateful for this wonderful donation and we will continue planting this Green Wall as soon as the Corona crisis is over, hopefully in September 2020.



The main products for Groasis are the Waterboxx® and Growboxx® plant cocoon. The Waterboxx® and Growboxx® plant cocoon support plants and trees to survive in difficult circumstances without using groundwater or electricity. Both boxes collect water by catching rainwater.

The Waterboxx plant cocoon produces and catches water from condensation and subsequently distributes the collected water over an extended period, to the tree growing in the center of the Waterboxx®.



Construction of Seguia

Walking over the site, I could see that progress was being made to start our wonderful project, thanks to a great donation from a philanthropist in North-Holland: the building of an innovative water reservoir for all the planting projects of the [Joudour Sahara Culture Center](#) (JSCC). Stones, cement and wrought iron fencing were a reminder that the construction of the seguia (water channel) would soon be underway. This channel will bring water from the municipal water channel to our water reservoir. Two weeks after returning to the Netherlands, the seguia was constructed!





This past week Halim has been clearing the JSCC site of lots of sand and rubbish so that the next steps of construction of the waterreservoir can start. We will now have to wait until the period of “social distancing” (also in M’Hamid!!) becomes more lenient to enable the constructors to work side by side to build our water reservoir.

We should also use this opportunity to thank all other sponsors for helping us to continue with our projects, which now have to wait a few months until the “air is clean” again!

Hopefully for us (and for the whole world) this will be soon. Stay safe everyone!

29th March 2020

The Sahara-Roots Foundation team

Wanda (& Adriaan) Hebly