
SAHARA ROOTS FOUNDATION

Highlights in 2018



2018 has once again been a wonderful year for the Sahara-Roots projects:

1) We received a fantastic donation of 30 waterboxx's from Groasis as we are one of the projects that Groasis supports. Have a look at : <https://www.groasis.com/en/donate/planting-trees-at-the-saharan-desert-in-morocco>

2) In November the Sahara-Roots team was once again off to Morocco to check on our tree projects and to prepare our new "Green Wall" tree -planting project that we hope to start on International Earth Day in April 2019 with the planting of 300 Groasis waterboxx's.

3) On arrival in M'hamid in November 2018, we were happy to see that the "*Green Gateway to the Sahara*" project was still developing nicely since our last visit in April 2018, in spite of the long hot summer in Morocco. We carefully checked the number of trees as well as their growth and saw that the trees and shrubs that had been planted over a period of two years, were growing really well in their wadi's.



2016



2018

4) NOV: 90% survival of planted trees in the “Green Gateway to the Sahara” project!

Unexpected rainfall had arrived early in the region and this of course helped the growth of little plants and grasses growing around some of the waterboxx’s. The seeds had been in the ground already and were now not only aided by the rain but also by the moisture that gathered around the waterboxx’s. The advantage of the wadis/trenches is that rainwater can be collected in an area where the trees have been planted and thus have more time to actually soak into the ground and hopefully replenish the ground water.

We collected data about the growth of the shrubs and trees and we have now compared these results with those that we had made in April 2018. We have now estimated that 90% of the trees and shrubs have survived:

10x Parkinsonia, 2 x Jacaranda, 3 x pepper tree, 15 x olive tree, 3 x bouganville, 7 x rosemary, 4 x eucalyptus, 7 x oleander, 9 x pomegranate, 9 x tamarisk, 3 x Mimosa, 20 x acasia and 22 x palmtrees making a total of 114 trees surviving.

5) Unfortunately we were not able to visit the school projects during this visit due to the fact that it was vacation time. But we look forward to seeing the results when we return in April 2019!

During the summer months we were contacted by Karin Sluis of IYoga, to see if there would be a possibility to help her in her quest to plant trees in the Sahara with the use of the Groasis Waterboxx® plant cocoons.

Karin will be travelling to M'hamid in early 2019 to actually plant a number of trees herself! Thank you so much for your wonderful support!

Yoga voor bomen in de Sahara

"Hoopvolte projecten die de wereld een stabiler maken maken. Daar weet ik helemaal bij van", vertelt Karst Shin, eigenares van Yoga. "Ik zag drie jaar geleden in het televisieprogramma 'Tegenlicht' een reportage over de 'Creative Waterbom'. Het daarin maakte we met het gezin een studio in Marokko. Ik vond het bijzonder wat daar gebeurde. De verrijking

[illegible]

De boeren die strikte door Yings werden geplaatst, werden vervolgens verzorgd door een lokale boerencoöperatie. Daarnaast was de werkdagse inkomten een vast bedrag. Elke boer was anders getuigd met de naam van een dierdier. Daar foto's waren het mogelijk gemaakt de groei van de eigen boeren te volgen.

De werkdagse inkomten werden gegeven bij Yings aan de boerenvereniging van Hengsheng. De eerste werkdag is het mogelijk te vinden. Opgeven via infolying-mo



In the book Le Petit Prince from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, we can read the following: “The desert is beautiful,” the little Prince added. And it was true. I’ve always loved the desert. You sit down on a sand dune. You see nothing. You hear nothing. And yet something shines, something sings in that silence..... “What makes the desert beautiful,” the little prince said, is that it hides a well somewhere....”

7) A small “man-made oasis!”

After 8 years we now have a small “man-made oasis” with tamarisk, parkinsonia, acasia, palmtrees and olive trees growing around Bivouac Le Petit Prince the desert of M’hamid in Morocco (<http://www.bivouaclepetitprince.com>) Of course without the presence of a water-well we could never have grown the trees!

So, when you visit Bivouac Le Petit Prince just reflect, as you sit in the shade of the trees: eight years ago they were not there! The tree-planting project around Bivouac Le Petit Prince started in 2011 when we first introduced the Groasis Waterboxx which was invented by Mr Pieter Hoff of The Netherlands. (www.groasis.com).

The Sahara-Roots Foundation worked together with Halim & Ibrahim Sbaï (both Founders & directors of the Taragalte Festival) and with L’Association Zaila, M’hamid and we are grateful that together we were able to start the battle against the encroaching sand by using this new invention.



2011



2018



2011



2018



8) In August we received the sad news that the inspiring singer Khaira Arby of Mali had passed away. We had the pleasure of hearing her sing for the first time during the Taragalte Festival of 2011 in M'hamid El Ghizlane, Morocco. It was also a very moving moment to hear her sing during our tree-planting ceremonies in which we also planted trees together with her. The tamarisk tree that she planted is still growing strong to this day at Bivouac Le Petit Prince.

9) 14th of May 2018: 10 years Sahara Roots 2008 - 2018!

It is with great pleasure that we can inform you that the Sahara-Roots Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary!! We are very proud of what we have accomplished but we realize that we never could have achieved this all without the support of so many people in so many different ways. For this we are truly grateful.

10) May 2018: Greening the sports fields at Sidi Ahmed Benacar Lycee in Zagora

By Biology teacher Adil Moumane:

“Planting, replanting and teaching environmental issues! After receiving 10 new Groasis Waterboxx® plant cocoons from Wanda Hebly, Sahara Roots to help with “greening” the sports field area, the new trees and waterboxx’s were planted with the help of Sport's teachers ياسين باداس and Nasira . And also we planted for the first time inside the oasis of Beni Zoli in the High School with the help of teacher of biology Ahmed Karmoui. Thank you to everyone who helped this project. A great job done by all! “

We also received great photos from Adil!



11) Minimum use of water and a maximum of effort

In April we visited Mr. Mohamed Khattouch, the director of the Institute [de Technologie Hoteliere et Touristique \(ISTAHT\)](http://www.istaht.org) in Ouarzazate. The school is developing in many ways to become an “Eco School” and this was visible as we visited the school grounds now with herb gardens and newly planted trees in the waterboxx’s throughout the school. This really has also become a pilot-project to show students and visitors that with a minimum use of water and a maximum of effort, you can receive wonderful results!



On our website www.sahara-roots.org you will find lots of information about our work during the past 10 years and we hope that you will continue to support us (in whatever way) in helping to make this wonderful world we live in, just a little greener!!

We look forward to continuing the work on our projects, both ongoing and new.
And we wish you all a **HEALTHY & GREEN** 2019!

Wanda Hebly,
Sahara Roots Foundation
23 December 2018