



JoudourSahara

SAHARA-ROOTS FOUNDATION: 15 years of perseverance!



On the 14th May 2008 the Heblies signed at the notary public the Articles of Association for the Sahara-Roots Foundation, with the aim to help against desertification in Southern Morocco.

During our last visit in April 2023, we were complimented by the local authorities for our continued support to the region. That is contrary to many other foreign donors who lose enthusiasm when things don't go their way...

Of course several setbacks crossed our path, but we learned over time that compromise between the players and their cultures resulted in continued and respectful cooperation.

Activities with teachers & students

A combination of Nettoyage, Education and Tree-planting

Halim Sbaï of Joudour Sahara Association had organized several activities together with the elders of Mhamid el Qadim and Lycee Mhamid Al Jadida, including nettoyage, educational activities, roundtable discussions and the signing of a co-operation between Joudour Sahara and Lycee Mhamid Al Jadida. Although the temperature rose above 40 degrees, students, teachers, elders and documentary makers braved the heat to help collect rubbish, film the activities and discuss the problems of the effect of climate change in this fragile area. Due to lack of water, many of the date-palmtrees are dying, something we also noticed while traveling along the Draa river from Agdziz down to M'hamid. We were also able to plant trees (in Groasis waterboxx's) together with elders & children of Mhamid el Qadim



On 28 & 29 April, 2023 we celebrated International Earth Day!!



Lycee Mhamid el Jadida

We were once again welcomed by the new director of the Lycee Mhamid el Jadida to help re-green the school by planting trees in the Groasis waterbox's so that the students at the school could learn how to work with this great invention by Pieter Hoff of Groasis in the Netherlands. By using the waterboxx we can use a lot less precious ground-water. We had also planted trees here between 2015 – 2017 and were happy to see that some of these trees planted had survived. Between 2017 and 2022 we had not been back to the school, and we were now happy to become acquainted with the new director who is very keen on environmental issues. It was also amazing to speak with one of the teachers, who had been a student at this school back in the days when we had worked together with teacher Mohamed Chebaibi. He was very keen on continuing to working with the students of the environmental club at the school!



Continuing the planting of our Green Wall on the Joudour Sahara site



To continue with our pilot project against desertification we planted 120 Acacia trees in 60 Groasis waterboxx's and 60 palm-trees next to the waterboxx's on the Joudour Sahara site. We hope that the palmtrees would also benefit from the water-drip system of the waterboxx's. We had planted larger palm-trees in the past in the waterboxx's but unfortunately they did not survive very well. We also brought "water-spikes" with us and placed these with watering-bottles next to the palm-trees for extra moisture, carefully explaining the use to Habib, our tree-caretaker.

Traditional music groups were also present during these tree planting activities and it was wonderful to have them help us with the planting of so many trees! Next to being great musicians they are knowledgeable farmers!!

Tree-planting at ISTAHT in Ouarzazate

It is always a pleasure to visit Mr Mohamed Khatouch, director of ISTAHT (Institut Spécialisé de Technologie Appliquée Hôtellerie et Touristique Ouarzazate). His enthusiasm in greening this wonderful institute for students is inspirational! We had planted trees on many occasions since 2012 at the institute and have donated some 70 waterboxx's now waiting to be planted. The new part of the institute was recently finished and greening the grounds was now on the agenda! With everything already prepared we managed to place most of the Groasis waterboxx's in record time with the help of Mr Khatouch and his staff, and it was also wonderful to see the many trees that we have planted in the past.



Our activities take place in partnership with:

Playing for Change, Aziza Chaouni Projects, Mohamed Khatouch director of ISTAHT and with the support of the Provincial Council of Zagora, the Provincial Directorate of Waters and Forests, the Department of National Education, the Provincial Council of Tourism of Zagora and the commune of M'Hamid el Ghizlane.

Very special thanks to Halim Sbaï for the organization of our activities in M'hamid, and to our Sahara-Roots team: Ilham Bakal, Anouk Schaedtler and Adriaan Hebly. Together we will continue supporting the South Moroccan community!

And of course a huge thank you to all who have trusted & supported us throughout the years!!

The Sahara-Roots team, Adriaan & Wanda Hebly

