



JoudourSahara

SAHARA-ROOTS FOUNDATION

Tree-planting, music & construction



During our journey to Morocco between 28th Nov and 6th of Dec 2023 we attended the [2nd Zamane Festival](#) in M'hamid. We also planted numerous trees, as part of a project that [Joudour Sahara](#) received from the Canadian Embassy in Morocco. And of course, we were really looking forward to seeing the developments of the construction that was now taking place on the Joudour Sahara site, consisting of a water reservoir, an amphitheater and an eco-toilet building.

During this festival more than 100 musicians and dancers from different cultures performed, including international musicians from [Playing for Change](#) (PFCF): Roberti Luti and Luke Winslow King, members of Tariti and musicians from various PFCF programs.

Canadian Embassy supports tree-planting in Bounou

Thanks to the great efforts of our partners Thomas Duncan (PFC) and Halim Sbaï, the Canadian Embassy in Rabat became the main sponsor with a donation of 150,000 dirhams, for a tree planting project in [Bounou](#), a village close to M'Hamid on the banks of the Draa River. Sahara Roots is partner in this project with an “in-kind” donation of 520 [Groasis Waterboxx's](#) in which approximately 1000 trees will be planted. With the help of our Joudour Sahara tractor, which now has a water tank on wheels plus attached garden hose, it was much easier to supply our waterboxxes with water. The tractor investment has generated money in the past year by renting it out, with which a plow was purchased.

During a beautiful ceremony, we were able to plant about 200 small trees in 100 Groasis waterboxx's on the first day. We were joined by the local resident's Ksar Bounou Association, led by Mr. Mohammed Al Montasser, his colleague's and numerous schoolchildren, visitors and musicians who joined the Zamane Festival. On the 2nd & 3rd planting day, another 90 waterboxx's were planted and we visited the local Kasbah which is threatened by the encroaching sand. The remaining 330 WB will be planted in the coming months.



Tree-planting on the Joudour Sahara site

During this visit it became clear to us that we had unfortunately been planting the wrong kind of trees (acasia) for this part of the Joudour Sahara site.

It also became clear to us that due to lots of construction for the Joudour Sahara Culture Center & Music, that tree-planting is difficult. Bulldozers, trucks & tractors are the priority currently, so we decided to use most of our waterboxxs for the tree-planting activities at Bounou.

However, we did manage to plant some trees that we had brought with us from Ouarzazate, alongside the outer wall and next to the small palm trees that had already been planted. We hope that the palm trees will benefit being close to water available from the waterboxx's. We are still experimenting with this as we have found that palm trees do not do well inside the waterboxx's. There are now 170 trees growing on this site surviving without the use of waterboxx.. These still need the occasional water otherwise they will not survive because of lack of rainwater.



Joudour Sahara Culture Center is becoming a reality!!

After several “hiccups” we were happy to see that the innovative water reservoir, the amphitheatre & the eco-toilet are now well underway. With our construction partner Mr. Said explaining the whole process to us, we were beginning to understand the complexity of this project. Being a sustainable eco-design by Aziza of [Aziza Chaouni Projects](#), the buildings are mostly made of natural products and are built in a traditional way. It was incredible to see the “mosaic” work of the stone walls and the actual depth of the amphitheatre.

We feel very proud to be a partner in this project and we are very thankful to our “Dutch Angel Sponsor” for her trust in us and for her financial support in helping us build this dream project become reality!

We will continue building throughout 2024 so that the children of the Joudour Sahara Music School, which is part of this project, will finally be able to have their music lessons, (supported by PFC) in these newly built spaces!



Waterreservoir with classroom



Climbing amphitheater steps



Mr. Said explaining



Toilet complex

Supporting each other!

During our stay in M'hamid we met with Thomas Duncan of [Playing for Change](#) (PFC), one of our partners in the Joudour Sahara Project (JS). He informed us that PFC has signed an agreement with a US company "Behringer" who will double the donations received by PFC till the end of 2024.

We have decided to support PFC by transferring all monies for our tree-planting activities and for the Joudour Sahara project via Playing for Change to the Joudour Sahara Association, so that our funds will be doubled for the benefit of the PFC music activities.

Our activities take place in partnership with:

Halim Sbaï: co-founder of Joudour Sahara

Thomas Duncan: co-Founder of Joudour Sahara & of Playing for Change,

Aziza Chaouni: co-Founder of Joudour Sahara & of Aziza Chaouni Projects,

Mohamed Boussaleh of CERKAS, Ouarzazate

Provincial Council of Zagora, the Provincial Directorate of Waters and Forests,

Department of National Education, the Provincial Council of Tourism of Zagora

The commune of M'Hamid el Ghizlane and Bounou

Of course, also a very special thanks to Halim Sbaï,
and our Sahara-Roots team: Ilham Bakal, Anouk Schaedtler and Adriaan Hebly.
Together we will continue supporting the South Moroccan community!

A huge thank you to all who have trusted & supported us throughout the years!!

The Sahara-Roots team, Adriaan & Wanda Hebly

10 JAN 2024

