

SAHARA-ROOTS FOUNDATION

June 2024: Newsletter



NOS video: Friday 15 March 2024: The centuries old Moroccan oasis is threatened by climate-change

Samira Jadir: NOS (Dutch National TV) Correspondent Morocco

Due to global warming, many oases' areas in Southern Morocco are drying out rapidly. The oasis village of M'Hamid El Ghizlane has largely turned into a desert. Please visit: <https://nos.nl/l/2512892>

During our last visit to Morocco, we also saw the devastating results, not only due to climate-change but apparently also to the misuse of the many solar-panels that are being used to pump up ground water.

2024



2010



Joudour Sahara Culture Center's first three buildings!

In April, the Joudour Sahara construction partner Mr. Said, Mr Lahsan Abid of CERKAS & Halim Sbaï of Joudour Sahara met us in M'hamid to discuss the last steps of the building process of this innovative project. These eco-designed buildings, by Aziza of [Aziza Chaouni Projects](#), will become a pilot project for all to see once it has been completed.

The adobe bricks are now being placed in the amphitheatre to help with the acoustics of the building which will showcase traditional music during the [Zamane Festival](#) between 29 November – 01 December 2024.

The water reservoir, with the classroom on top, received final touches such as plastering of the walls inside the reservoir itself, as well as the classroom, wooden seating area's and covers over the reservoir entrances.

The eco-composting toilet buildings ([GIZ CESAR](#)) have a separate boys/girl's entrance and segregated toilet bowls for waste management and sanitation for composting.

A big thank you to our “Angel Sponsor” from the Netherlands, for her patience and her trust in us! With her support the Joudour Sahara Culture Centre is now well underway!



Adobe bricks in amphitheater



Finishing touch to Waterreservoir



One side of eco-toilet complex

2024 Earth Day activities in Zagora

Our Earth Day activities this year took place in the Youth Centre of Zagora, a place where children of all ages are welcome to join different activities such as computer, sport, English, art and music lessons after the official school hours. About 20 mins drive north of Zagora, we stopped at our “tree-provider” premises to choose different types of trees that we would be planting together with all present during the afternoon activities.

The newly appointed director, Hassan, invited us for lunch in his home and once again we were touched by the generosity that we received. Here we also met Abdulnahim, professor of Environment in Zagora, who later gave a presentation, as did Halim, on the devastating state of the oasis in the Draa Valley, to the public present. The afternoon was filled with tree-planting in 20 x [Groasis Waterboxxes](#) that we donated; to help bring some shade to the newly opened youth centre. Music was provided from members of the Joudour Sahara music school and other musicians from Zagora who now are also connected to the Joudour Sahara Music school. Presentations about lack of water, climate change and the suffering of the oasis and its inhabitants, were given by various members of the community. Our presentation included information on methods we use to “try and turn the clock” using as less water as possible to grow a green wall against desertification!



Our tree-planting project in Bounou, M'hamid area

Thanks to the great efforts of our partners Thomas Duncan (PFC) and Halim Sbaï, and the Canadian Embassy in Rabat, a tree-planting project was started in Dec 23 during the Zamane Festival. [Bounou](#), is a village close to M'Hamid on the banks of the Draa River and has not had any water for several years. Sandstorms are abundant with sand filling the homes. Everyday is a fight for survival and the locals are passionate about their way of life, their roots, and want to continue living here. We found that the locals were very enthusiastic about receiving this project as a start of a “green wall” around their village and the planting activities started under the supervision of Association Ksar Bounou for Development and Social Works Association and in partnership with Joudour Sahara Association and the Dutch Sahara-Roots Foundation.

We were anxious to see how the trees were surviving in their Groasis waterboxx's which help to greatly improve the survival rate of the newly planted trees. This “intelligent water reservoir”, created by inventor Pieter Hoff, captures water from the air through condensation and rain, and provides much better conditions for young trees and plants to survive in this harsh environment. A meeting was planned with the members of Association Ksar Bounou and we were happy to hear that 90% of the young trees had thus so far survived.

But the big challenge will be the scorching hot summer months. Already temperatures had risen much higher for the April month, now at 35 degrees and daily sandstorms are continuous!



Surviving trees Bounou



Palmleaves protecting trees



3000liter watertank

Supporting each other!

Our activities take place in partnership with:

Halim Sbaï: co-founder of Joudour Sahara

Mr Boussaleh and Mr. Lahsan of CERKAS, Ouarzazate

[Aziza Chaouni Projects](#)

[Playing for Change Foundation](#)

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

The commune of Zagora and Bounou

Of course, a very special thanks to Halim Sbaï,

And our Sahara-Roots team: Ilham Bakal, Anouk Schaedtler and Adriaan Hebly.

Together we will continue supporting this South Moroccan community!

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

Wanda Hebly

09 June 2024

