

The High Atlas Foundation has planted 121,600 fruit trees in 2011.

The High Atlas (HAF) has announced that it has planted a record number of 121.600 fruit trees during the planting season from January to May 2011, in the Toubkal area and other zones in the Atlas region.



The announcement was made at the end of the season with the planting of almond and walnut 120.00 in nurseries run by the community, close to the Toubkal National Park and 1,600 olive trees in communities ready to Ben Guerir. 320,000 trees have been planted since the launch of the campaign of one million trees in 2006.

Tree plantations benefit the villages by providing a sustainable harvest that contributes to double income household when the fruits become mature trees. Trees protect the mountain and arid communities against erosion, require maintenance and are inexpensive environmentally sustainable because they do not require the use of pesticides and can be replenished by young trees they produce. Finally, the planting of young fruit trees in nurseries run by the community is the most cost effective way to address the main needs in terms of trees in the rural economy of transition in Morocco.

Plantations in 2011 were made possible by the generous donations made to the campaign of one million trees in 2010-2011, conjugated to local land donations for community-managed nurseries and labor. Among the donors there is the Caterpillar Foundation, the Network of Earth Day, Infocore, OCP Group and hundreds of individuals. In 2011, the High Atlas Foundation signed a contract with the Regional Office of Water and Forests in Marrakesh to purchase land reserved for community nursery in the town of Asni in Toubkal, High Atlas Foundation also recognizes the ongoing support of the Ambassador of Morocco to the United States, His Excellency and the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, University Hassan II Mohammedia.

The High Atlas Foundation, founded in 2000 by former volunteers of the Peace Corps, continues to benefit from former volunteers and is grateful to the family and friends of Kate Jeans-Gail and Tom Tolen, who have established funds their memory for the benefit of the Moroccan people.

The High Atlas Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to implement development projects in rural communities of Morocco that local people design and manage, and this in partnership with governments and nongovernmental organizations. The High Atlas Foundation currently supports projects in the fruit belts, drinking water, irrigation, training in participatory development, women's cooperatives and action for young people.

For more information and to view pictures of the Campaign for One Million Trees, please visit www.hihatlasfoundation.org

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