



Report on the project activities of the High Atlas Foundation in the Kingdom of Morocco

2020

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Introduction:

This report describes the project activities of the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) in the Kingdom of Morocco. HAF is committed to development initiatives across Morocco that are identified, managed, and for the benefit of local communities. These projects are implemented with the direct support of government, civil, and private partners.

Section 1: Current and new initiatives of HAF:

A. HAF-USAID partnership: In July 2019 the HAF launched 45-month a program with the United States agency of International Development, called Farmer-to-Farmer. This program will bring 70 agricultural experts from the United States in order to assist in capacity-building with 80 cooperatives in the regions of Marrakech-Safi, Beni Mallal-Khenifra, and Oujda. These volunteers will assist in all phases of the agricultural development value chain, including tree and plant nurseries, irrigation and cooperative-building, and commercialization of processed product. Upcoming assignments that directly relate to the areas of the HAF-HCWFFAD partnership are experts in growing nurseries, developing business plans related to carob, fig, pomegranate, and processing of other product, the monitoring of tree growth, cultivation of wild medicinal plants, as well as other areas.

The first volunteer expert completed her two-week assignment which is the development of a business plan of producing pomegranate juice with cooperatives in the Beni Mallal-Khenifra region. The second volunteer assignment is also completed, involving the creation of a business with cooperatives to produce honey. The two business plans are currently being reviewed by the HAF team and will be submitted to USAID in Rabat for potential partnership. The third volunteer assessed and provided recommendations to improve four tree nurseries managed by HAF and local partners, in the Al Haouz and Azilal provinces.

B. HAF-Ecosia partnership: In December 2019, the HAF concluded its second contractual agreement with Ecosia, a German social enterprise based in Berlin, which will enable us to plant 1.2 Million seeds every year for the next two years (2.4 million in total) in 11 nurseries, that are managed by the HAF in 6 provinces (Oujda, Fes, Ifrane, Al Haouz, Azilal, and Taroudant). Included in this program is the installation of solar pumps and the provision to have three staff members monitoring the growth of these trees that will be transplanted in all parts of the kingdom to the land plots of families, cooperative, associations, and schools. We



are currently in discussions with Ecosia regarding them fully funding the endemic fig tree nursery in Ouezzane, which is based on a signed partnership agreement with DREF-Tetouane (Attachment 2) and is the priority new nursery for HAF.

The HAF receives land that is lent in-kind by the following public and civil agencies: the High Commission of Waters of Forests (Marrakech and Tangier), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (located at its Centers for the Protection of Children in Fes and Oujda), the Moroccan public school system (currently in the provinces of Moulay Yacoub, Temara, and Al Haouz), the Al Akhawyne University in Ifrane, the Faculty of Law, Economics, and Social Science in Mohammedia, the University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdullah in Fez, the Moroccan Jewish community (Marrakech and Ourzazate), cooperatives and associations across the country, and various provincial authorities.

The state's contribution of land to local communities forges a mutually satisfying partnership between them and builds confidence between the people and government. The multicultural and interfaith project underscores Moroccan bonds of social solidarity. HAF's nurseries, built at public schools and youth centers, raise the environmental consciousness of citizens of all ages. These endeavors also sensitize young people to the benefits of organic agriculture and deepen their understanding and will for volunteerism and public service. All of this, of course, is in addition to promoting the health and beautification of their education surroundings.

C. HAF-National Initiative for Human Development partnership: In June 2019 the HAF signed a partnership agreement (Attachment 1) for a new fruit tree nursery that is in partnership with the:

- Governorship of Ourzazate
- National Initiative for Human Development
- Regional Director for Waters and Forests and Desertification Control of Ouarzazate
- Moroccan Jewish community of Casablanca
- Territorial Equipment of Ouarzazate
- Director of the Regional Office of Agricultural Investment of Ouarzazate
- Delegate of the Deraa Oued Noun Watershed Agency of Ouarzazate
- Territorial Treasury of Ouarzazate
- Service of Public Expenditures and Territorial Collectivities

This tree nursery which begins construction in December 2019 is on land lent in-kind by the Jewish community of Morocco (see Attachment 2). Nearby the nursery is the sacred burial site of the Hebrew saint David Ou Moche. NIHD granted 500,000 Dirham toward the implementation of this project, HAF contributed 300,000 Dirham, and a generous donation by an individual was 100,000 Dirham. The Cabinet of the Minister of Interior assisted the important partnerships that have enabled this project to be implemented. Approximately 1 million fruit seeds will be planted at this location over the next five years.

D. HAF-Foundation Credit Agricole partnership: This partnership is implementing an almond and walnut organic certification and tree planting project in the Toubkal commune of the Taroudant province, on the southern border of the Toubkal National Park. In 2019, a total of 8,000 trees were planted (6,000 almond and 2,000 walnut with 140 households), and this 2020 planted season 12,000 walnut and almond trees will be planted. Five of the villages in the commune, including 52 households, will secure certification of their walnut and almond



trees. An instructional film on the requirements and procedures for securing organic certification is also being developed to share with farming families of Morocco.

E. HAF-National Endowment for Democracy (NED) partnership: With funding from NED, HAF has partnered with Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez, and specifically with the Faculty of Juridical, Economic, and Social Sciences, since October 2019 to establish and launch the *Clinique Juridique de la Faculté de Droit*, a pro bono legal clinic and experiential service learning program for university law students. Since November 2019, 43 masters and doctorate level law students aged 22 to 35, half of them women, have actively participated in a seven-part training program focused on leadership, participatory communication, emotional intelligence, family mediation and reconciliation, and migration policy in Morocco. Ninety-eight percent of students reported maximum or substantial benefit from the training program. HAF has facilitated among participants a SWOT analysis which has led to the establishment of student-identified and -staffed working groups focused on *partnerships and development; learning and events; marketing and communications; monitoring and evaluation; and a clinic law review.*

Free legal aid will be offered by student clinicians and supervised by university law professors three times per week at the faculty-housed *Clinique Juridique* starting in the spring of 2020. Target clientele entails underserved persons inclusive of families, women, and youth, including migrants, asylum-seekers, and survivors of human trafficking who express legal needs related to Moroccan family law and/or migration policy. With an overarching goal of enhancing collaborative efforts between the academic community and civil society in Fez, students will also work with 10 local associations and engage 20 elected officials and over 100 community members in a series of workshops and meetings focused on democratic participatory advocacy, project, and policy planning.

F. HAF-Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) partnership: HAF and SGRE have been partnered since July 2017 to support drinking water projects and environmental education activities in the Boujdour province, Laayoune Sakya Lhamra region. The successfully completed project included:

- A constructed canal of 520 meters to cool drinking water for nomadic communities and herds; the water originates from the hot spring in Toukb Jrifia, Jrifia commune.
- A constructed drinking water tower in Byar Ahl Atriah, Jrifia commune.
- The installation of a solar pump for drinking water in Om Rjilat, Jrifia commune.
- Built a drinking water tower in Khotot Hbia, Jrifia commune.
- Installed solar power lights beside the four water sources, making the water accessible to everyone who lives in the desert.
- Implemented a campaign to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the environment and reducing waste to positively influence students; we engaged 18 schools in Boujdour (10 primary schools, 4 middle schools, and 4 high schools – totaling 5,132 student participants); 376 fruit trees were planted.
- Advanced sustainable maintenance at beaches, including through installing waste bins in Aouzouat, Toukb Jrifia, Khotot Hbia, Ahl Atriah, Lmsmar, and Om Rjilat.

G. HAF-United Nations Development Program partnership: This project built an association-managed nursery of 21,000 trees (almond, walnut, carob, Argan, and pomegranate), which is now managed by a local cooperative of 14 girls and women, who



received empowerment and participatory training. HAF is also currently building their skills in nursery management. Also built is 900 meters of gabion along the river, and capacities for cooperative development in the village of Tassa Ouirgane in the Al Haouz province, along the northwest border of the Toukal National Park.

- The nursery is with a greenhouse and installed drip irrigation system, a basin, and a 35 meter well supported by a solar pump and 16 panels.
- The community determined, with the support of an engineer from the hydraulic basin agency, the sites and type of the gabions built to prevent flooding from the river and divert the direction of water flow away from agricultural terraces and riparian habitat.
- The field environmental activities were on the subjects of waste management, composting, and how to make natural fertilizers out of bio-degradable waste

H. HAF-Germanwatch partnership: The main goal of the project is the effective cooperation of actors from civil society, science, industry, and government in multi-stakeholder partnerships for a rapid and development-friendly expansion of renewable energies in Africa and especially in Morocco. The first component, with African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and under the mandate of the African Union, is to achieve new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and mobilize the African potential to generate at least 300 GW by 2030. The initiative was launched at the Paris Climate Summit in 2015 and is seen as one of the lighthouse initiatives that will contribute to reaching the targets. This initiative is accompanied by an African civil network that aims to build connections with other stakeholders in business, research, media, and government. This multi-stakeholder partnership advocates an implementation of the AREI that benefits communities.

While Morocco is a leader in the expansion of renewable energies on the African continent, renewable projects in the Kingdom so far tend to be large-scale. The project creates a multi-stakeholder partnership at a regional, national, and international levels that promote decentralization in the energy transition in Morocco. The experiences on the ground from the project's implementation will inform recommendations by the stakeholders for how national energy policies could be improved to enable and promote community-managed renewables.

I. HAF-Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Research of the U.S. Department of State partnership: The purpose of this project is for HAF to provide four sub-grants to civil organizations – two in Morocco and two in Jordan – to increase civic engagement in environmental decision-making. HAF is ultimately seeking natural resource management conducted by local communities, supported through educational workshops, capacity-building, and environmental infrastructure. The results of this program includes increased public awareness and understanding of the Environment Chapter of the free trade agreements with the United States, as it relates to pollution prevention and wildlife protection. HAF conducts activities targeting rural communities, university students, and youth for environmental education and knowledge-sharing.

J. HAF and women's and youth empowerment: The purpose of the Empowerment Workshop is to enable participants to create the life they most want. It is considered one of the foremost personal growth trainings available. In addition, HAF aims to strengthen women as rights holders by providing tools to advocate and act on their needs and goals.



The HAF aims to create agents of social change with rural women. Our empowerment program reduces barriers to manifest women's place as pillars of society. The three activities and their objectives are: 1) the “Imagine“ self-discovery workshop where during the personal growth process, we assist women in finding their voices and achieving their goals. 2) Integrated with “Imagine” is 'Moudawana' family code, a rights-based approach, bringing together women to learn about legal protections and determine ways to further justice. 3) Cooperative-building grows from empowerment gained during the “Imagine-Moudawana” experience and supports the development of women's cooperatives to create greater financial independence, expand networks, and promote change in women's roles in their communities.

The format of the workshop is four full days and each day has 4 modules which are divided into 7 key areas: emotions, relationships, sexuality, body, money, work, and discovery. HAF conducted 24 workshops with 710 women in 9 provinces (Al Haoauz, Azilal, Boujdour, Essaouira, Kelaat Magouna, Marrakech, Mohammedia, Oujda, and Taroudant). The forming of cooperatives, including the legal understanding of personal and public rights, the growing of medicinal plants and other organic fruit and nut produce, or the weaving of wool and reeds in making artisan items to sell, along with the exchange of expertise are explored, depending on the array of regional production options available.

K. HAF’s Sami’s Project with schools: This initiative strives to spread the culture of planting among students at their schools in order to discover and learn innovative agrforestry techniques and to practice them in their communities. The project expands the green and beautification of schools and teaches the students to care for and preserve trees. It raises their awareness of the importance of core values, such as mutual respect and trust through tree planting by students. In 2019, HAF planted with 29 schools in Morocco, including 3,444 fruit tree and 2,582 students (1,207 female and 1,374 male). Since 2012, HAF planted trees at 576 schools in 24 provinces, totaling 53,433 trees planted and involving more than 100,000 students (46,627 female and 54,957 male).

Section 2: Pending opportunity and partnership:

Carbon offset monitoring of tree planted since 2014: HAF is finalizing a project proposal to implement the monitoring data gathering and commercializing of carbon credit offsets generated by the trees planted with farming families in 16 provinces. The proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet of the Minister of Interior in Morocco, whose funding will enable these credits and their value to be retained inside Morocco.

The HAF currently has finalized and pending partnership agreements with public and civil agencies to receive in-kind parcels of land for ten (10) new fruit and forestry tree nurseries located in nine (9) regions of Morocco.

- In a 3-year duration and at a cost of \$2 million, the 10 tree nurseries (below) can grow 11 million seeds to saplings that are then transplanted to farmers’ fields and schools, and monitored and certified for carbon offsets.
- 11 million trees, covering a surface area of nearly 30,000 hectares, generate approximately 470,000 VCUs. At a projected credit price and their sale at \$5.00, then \$2,350,000 gross revenue will be generated annually.



- 35% of gross revenue is required to cover costs related to fieldwork, registration, and certification of the offsets of the trees, as well as commercialization (transactions and arrangements) related to offset sales.
- The annual net revenue - \$1,527,500 - from growing the below 10 new nurseries and monitoring trees toward carbon offset sale, will be invested in agro-forestry and human development in the provinces.
- *HAF planted 2 million trees since 2014; with Ecosia we are planting 2.4 million seeds by 2022 in 11 other HAF-managed nurseries in 7 provinces. With an investment of \$300,000 in monitoring trees for carbon offset sale, the projected gross value of these 190,000 VCUs is \$900,000 annually. HAF seeks to [plant 1 billion trees](#) in Morocco.*

Province	Nursery Land Partner	Tree Varieties	Total Trees	Cost in \$	Coordinates
1. Taroudant	Department of Waters & Forests (Taroudant)	Almond: Prunus amygdalus - Argan: Argania spinosa - Carob: Ceratonia siliqua L. - Cherry: Prunus avium - Cypress: Atlas and Arizona - Fig: Ficus carica - Olive: Olea europea - Pomegranate: Punica granatum or Safri - Walnut: Juglans régia	1.5 million	\$300,000	Lat: 30°29'55.79"N; Lon: 8°52'23.41"O / Alt: 255m
2. Ourzazate (Ighrem n'Ougdal)	Moroccan Jewish Community	Almond, Carob, Cherry, Fig, Pomegranate, Walnut	1.3 million	\$270,000	31°09'44,90`N 7°32'03,22`O Alt: 1979 m
3. Azilal (Imzourhane)	Department of Waters & Forests (Ben-Mellal)	Almond, Argan, Carob, Cypress, Cherry, Fig, Green Oak: Quercus ilex, Olive, Pomegranate, Walnut	1 million	\$200,000	Lat: 31° 57'23.77"N Lon: 6°28'36.10"O Alt: 1902m
4. Al Haouz – (Ijoukak)	Department of Waters & Forests (Marrakech-Safi)	Almond, Argan, Carob, Cedar: Cedrus atlantica, Cyprus: Cupressus atlantica, Cherry, Fig, Grape: Vitis vinifera L., Olive, Pomegranate, Quince: Cydonia oblonga, Walnut	1.5 million	\$250,000	1: Lat: 31° 4'54.78"N Lon: 8° 8'21.17"O Alt: 1021m; 2: Lat: 31° 5'5.34"N Lon: 8° 8'23.46"O Alt: 1016m
5. Fes	University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah	Almond, Carob, Cherry, Fig, Olive	900,000	\$200,000	One-hectare of land lent by University
6. Ifrane (Azrou)	Ain Leuh Public School	Carob, Cherry, Walnut	900,000	\$200,000	One-hectare lent by Ministry of Education
7. Ifrane	Al Akhawayn University	Almond, Carob, Cherry, Walnut	1,500,000	\$300,000	524160,48" E / 325434,22" N / Alt: 1656m; 3.5 hectares
8. Boujdour	Nasr School	Argan, Carob, Fig, Olive, Pomegranate	700,000	\$180,000	6000m2 lent by Ministry of Education
9. Bouarfa -El Hamda	Province of Figuig, Oujda	Almond, Carob, Fig, Lemon, Pomegranate	1 million	\$200,000	32°30'37.58` N / 2°01'56.08` O Alt: 1099m
10. Ouezzane – Fig nursery	Department of Waters & Forests (Tetouane)	Almond, Argan, Carob, Cherry, Fig, Lemon, Olive, Pomegranate, Walnut	1 million	\$200,000	34°47'47,79`N / 5°46'30,69`O Alt: 177m
11. Ouezzane – Fig and carob forest	Ouezzane (Tetouane)	Acacia (gummifera, raddiana, albida and Faidherbia), Carob, Eucalyptus (torquata, gonphocephala, sideoxylon, viminalis), Fig, Olive	320,000 trees	\$1.6 million	Lon: 5.77692890°; Lat: 34.77422487°; 900 public domain hectares, benefits 2300 families

Thank you sincerely for your consideration and partnership.