



Global
Diversity
Foundation
A world of difference

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

GLOBAL DIVERSITY FOUNDATION





A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*"Even if I knew that
tomorrow the world would
go to pieces, I would still
plant my apple tree."*

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we move into the global unknown during this Spring of 2020, it feels rather surreal to write about Global Diversity Foundation's 2019 successes and stories. It reminds me how blithely unaware we were of what the new year would bring. As I write from rural Italy in early April 2020, our collective confidence has been suspended: we simply do not know what the future will look like, whether tomorrow, at year's end, or in five years' time. Those of us in the environmental field understood that increasingly shocking climactic events and anthropogenic transformations would imminently upend 'business-as-usual' around the world. Few of us had imagined that our first undeniably shared global experience of these shocks would be a pandemic. I write today with no special understanding of how this pandemic will impact our collective efforts to sustain and protect environments, enhance the wellbeing of communities and support environmental changemakers. I sincerely hope that it proves to be the clarion call we need to truly globalise the movement for radical change.

Even given the current context, at GDF we look back on 2019 as one of grounding, focusing and consolidating our work across our programmes. We are delighted to have expanded and cemented our fantastic team over the course of the year. We recruited Omar Saadani, Mohamed Ouknin and Fatema Wahmane, who joined our field team in Morocco, and GDF Finance and Administration Manager Manish Panjabi and Global Environments Network Member Coordinator Corinne Cariad in the UK. We also said goodbye to some cherished team members whom we are lucky to count as firm friends: Christina Ashford, Abdeddaim El-Hajjam, Hajar Salamat, Jamila Boussata and Fatima Chaari.

Our High Atlas Cultural Landscapes Programme is the flagship initiative of our Mediterranean Regional Programme. In 2019 we launched a new project that supports the resilience of High Atlas agroecosystems, with the generous support of the Open Society Foundations. This allowed us to expand our work to promote and support traditional agroecological practices and local agrobiodiversity, and develop equitable high-value niche markets for High Atlas cultural products in the region. GDF fostered the creation of a Marrakech-based social enterprise, EthnoBotanica, which acts as a retail and trade hub for High Atlas cultural products; response has been heartening.

This year we were also able to sow the seeds for the Biocultural Education and Youth Programme in the High Atlas. This programme



supports intergenerational knowledge transfer and provides opportunities for younger generations to make a living from the unique cultural landscapes their communities have tended for millennia. Handing over to the next generation of planetary stewards is something we hold close to our hearts: in 2019 we launched a training and strengthening programme for our local partner, the Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association. Run by young, up-and-coming Moroccan scientists and practitioners, the goal is for MBLA to manage the High Atlas Cultural Landscapes Programme with full autonomy by 2025.

Our Global Environments Network has gone from strength to strength under the dedicated leadership of GEN Director Nessie Reid. Having renewed our vision for the Network, Nessie is focusing efforts on mentoring, collaborations, engagement, events, and research and practice. We were thrilled to support the tireless work of seven GEN members to organise the second Latin American Regional Academy (ALLSA 2019), held in Peru last September on the theme of food systems resilience in Latin America. That GEN alumni, with limited support from us, so successfully took up this challenge sustains our vision that GEN members will lead the charge to amplify and extend the Network's impact. Our first GEN partnership — the HAWAPO project, which is a collaboration with GEN member Dr. Eglée Zent and her husband, Dr. Stanford Zent, stewarded by GDF North America Director Dr. Susannah McCandless — continues to demonstrate the success of this approach. The partnership channels generous donor support to well-organised Jotï, Eñepa and Piara Indigenous communities, supporting their actions to alleviate malaria in three remote Amazonian communities in Venezuela, promoting cultural continuity and wellbeing.

We are profoundly grateful to all who made it possible for us to help protect our planet's biocultural diversity and support the communities and individuals who are working on the frontlines of this endeavour. We thank MAVA Foundation, Darwin Initiative, Open Society Foundations, Salvia Foundation, Semester at Sea Chapman Impact Fund, Rolex Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation and A-Team Foundation, as well as a generous anonymous donor and many individual donors for their ongoing support.

I sign off with the conviction that we will continue to build and extend our efforts. We believe that, with your dedicated support, what is happening in the world at this moment will give us more tools, yield greater clarity and insight, and open new avenues to deepen and expand our necessary work on the frontlines of environmental and social change.

In solidarity and hope,

DR. EMILY Z. CARUSO
Director, GDF-UK

Our Work

Through our High Atlas Cultural Landscapes (HACL) Programme, we seek to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem function and enhance sustainable land-based economies and community wellbeing in the Moroccan High Atlas. In close collaboration with our key implementing partner, Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA), we adopt an approach based on participatory actions, documentation and research, partnership building, capacity building and dissemination.

In 2019, we broadened our project activities and scaled up our integrated biodiversity conservation programme by expanding to a new project site in the rural commune of Oukaïmeden. We produced a short film highlighting our HACL programme and the importance of *agdals* and cultural practices in the conservation of important plant areas, sustainable livelihoods and the wellbeing of rural communities of the Moroccan High Atlas.

Strategies We Adopt

Our approach is founded on the principles of free, prior and informed consent, community ownership and participatory decision-making. **The following core strategies help us achieve our vision:**



Participatory actions to sustainably manage biodiversity, maintain traditional practices, strengthen local governance systems and enhance local livelihoods.



Dissemination and scaling up of our model across the region.



Documentation and research on biodiversity and local ecosystems, traditional resource management and agroecological practices, communal governance, policy frameworks, and markets for local products.



Capacity-building for all stakeholders, with a focus on training of community researchers and capacity-building workshops for community members across all programme areas.



Partnership-building with stakeholders and collaborators at all scales.

LOCAL PRODUCT COMMERCIALISATION

Through our local product commercialisation programme, we carry out market analyses, develop business plans, and build connections for the equitable trade of community-based, biocultural products in niche markets in Marrakech and beyond.

In 2019, we participated in the creation of EthnoBotanica, a Marrakech-based social enterprise that supports community cooperatives and small-scale producers to sell their cultural products at a profit in high-end urban niche markets. The EthnoBotanica boutique offers a wide variety of locally-sourced products, such as *couscous* from the women's cooperative with whom we collaborate with in the rural commune of Imegdâl.

To support High Atlas communities in the commercialisation process of local products, we provided targeted capacity building to 52 cooperative members in Imegdâl and Aït M'hamed to improve their skills in cooperative management. In collaboration with our partner MarocSolidaire, participants received training in how to promote local products, such as couscous and aromatic and medicinal plants, and learned best practices about the administrative and financial management of cooperatives in Morocco.

Photo: Thaïs Martin



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We document, assess and monitor biodiversity in the High Atlas and implement *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation actions to halt loss of biodiversity.

In 2019, our teams collected, identified, mounted and stored 300 herbarium specimen vouchers and 100 seed vouchers from the High Atlas in the community and regional MARK Herbaria. These activities support conservation and recovery of wild and domesticated plant species. In April, we organised an intensive four-day

capacity building workshop on ecological and participatory soil monitoring for the GDF-MBLA team. We developed a protocol for our High Atlas Cultural Landscapes Programme, to monitor the impact of cultural practices and project actions on biodiversity, ecosystem health and community wellbeing.

In June, our team also received a two-day training on butterfly monitoring in order to include butterflies in our bi-annual ecological monitoring processes. We are now tracking butterfly populations in a changing environment in Imegdâl, Aït M'hamed and Oukaïmeden.



CULTURAL PRACTICES

We identify, document and promote cultural practices that maintain High Atlas biodiversity. Understanding these practices is fundamental to the collaborative development of socially and ecologically appropriate biodiversity conservation and landscape management approaches.

In March 2019, we published [a report on our research on Cultural Practices of Conservation in the High Atlas](#). Between 2016 and 2019, we trained and supported local researchers as they conducted over 300 interviews and 15 focus groups with community members to identify cultural practices and describe those that are still actively maintained. We documented more than 20 distinctive practices, including local biocultural systems used to sustain soil, water, plant life, food production, wellbeing, social cooperation and other aspects of rural life. We also collected data on how plants are used, allowing us to identify plants important for local livelihoods, such as fringed lavender (*Lavandula dentata*).





Meet Fadma, a keen community researcher

By 2014, Fadma Ait Iligh had completed her studies in Geography at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, and a two-year experience working for an association in Imegdâl to increase literacy amongst rural women. That same year, she started working as a community researcher with Global Diversity Foundation and Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association at our project site in Imegdâl.

From the start, Fadma has shown great commitment to her role, which includes leading focus groups, organising community events, carrying out interviews, and collecting seeds and plants for conservation at the regional and local herbaria, as well as in seed banks.

"Through my fieldwork, I quickly learned to adapt to the life and natural environments of local communities," she says.

"During interviews on traditional plant uses, I also learned various health treatments based on medicinal and aromatic plants, as well as traditional foods and recipes."

Fadma is also actively involved in the development of community-based action plans in each commune to address key socioeconomic, management and biodiversity issues. Through these plans, we are identifying important employment and training opportunities for local youth. "One of the main challenges in these rural High Atlas areas is the lack of job opportunities," Fadma emphasizes. "Therefore, it's so important to support and collaborate with the local community to launch income-generating projects, especially for the benefit of young men and women, to reduce migration to the cities."

An Amazigh woman herself, Fadma feels a strong connection to the nature of the High Atlas region, and the local culture. "I love the people, and the simplicity of life in the High Atlas. What motivates me in my work is that we work towards the conservation of plants and landscapes, and at the same time we study and document traditional cultural practices such as *Azzwui*, *Tawala n'waman* and *Azzyn*," she says. "The combination of these elements is essential to contribute to sustainable development initiatives for future generations."

"What I love most about working with local communities is meeting people of diverse ages and backgrounds, and discovering the different customs and practices among people who live in different environments."

AGROECOLOGY

Through a participatory approach, we assess and improve agronomic parameters (soil quality, agricultural productivity, nutrient cycles, water flows, and microclimatic conditions) to enhance agricultural productivity, livelihoods and community wellbeing.

We carried out an in-depth agroecology assessment in June with project partners Deafal and Rockin Soils, to develop a programme for Farmer Field Schools. Based on the assessment, we organised our first Farmer Field School in December in the rural communes of Imegdal and Aït M'hamed, with a focus on soil fertility. During the two-day training sessions, 106 Amazigh farmers and community members learned how to assess soil quality, how to make a healthy compost and liquid organic fertiliser, and more. The second edition of our Farmer Field School in 2020 will focus on plant nutrition and health.

BIOCULTURAL EDUCATION

We engage students in local biodiversity conservation efforts and offer opportunities for them to learn and use Amazigh indigenous plant knowledge and practices.


At the Dar Taliba boarding school for girls in the Ourika Valley, we carried out 44 garden training sessions for 143 Dar Taliba students on seed collection, making plant cuttings, composting, organic fertiliser, indigenous plant knowledge and sustainable harvesting techniques, amongst other topics. In October, the Dar Taliba students participated in an exciting exchange with a group of 18 Semester at Sea (SAS) students. This group of international students spent the day at Dar Taliba participating in a weekly garden training with the students in residence. The exchange was aimed at empowering the Dar Taliba girls and encouraging them to share their experiences and transmit their knowledge and skills with a group of students with whom they would usually not have the opportunity to interact.

In addition to our long-term engagement with the girls, we organised intergenerational workshops with youth and community elders to ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge on local plants and land use practices during the now-annual biocultural diversity fair in Aït M'hamed. We will expand on these activities in 2020 to encourage knowledge exchange among all age groups.



2019 by numbers


HIGH ATLAS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME



2,000 roots of Mount Atlas Daisy (*Anacyclus pyrethrum*) planted in Aït M'hamed.

Distribution of 16,102 plants to local community members in Imegdâl, benefiting 472 households in 19 different villages. Residents will plant them in designated wild areas and semi-cultivated terraces to **boost wild populations** and **reduce harvesting pressure**.

First annual health caravan in Imegdâl: a medical team of 40 people carried out 400 free medical consultations for women, children and men, and distributed over 1,000 free prescription medicines.



Completion of 23 conservation assessments of key plant species in the Moroccan High Atlas, such as wild ash (*Fraxinus dimorpha*). All have been submitted to IUCN for publication following the completion of multi-year fieldwork.

Training for 106 Amazigh farmers on soil health and fertility in Imegdâl and Aït M'hamed.

A new project site in Oukaïmeden

Over the past five years, we have successfully established three thriving community nurseries in Ourika, Imegdalen and Aït M'hamed, in collaboration with our local partner Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association. The community plant nurseries support the cultivation and enrichment planting of locally-selected endemic, useful and threatened tree crops and plants to boost wild populations and reduce harvesting pressure on these species.

Expanding on our collective efforts, in 2019 we launched our integrated programme in the rural commune of Oukaïmeden, 75 km south of Marrakech, where we established a fourth community nursery. Currently, we are cultivating 26 endemic, endangered and valuable plant species, including sweet marjoram (*Origanum majorana* L.) and fringed lavender (*Lavandula dentata* L.). Although we started cultivating only recently, we expect the total production of plants and trees in the nursery to grow to around 60,000 plants per year, starting in 2020.

In April 2019, we organised our second annual biocultural diversity fair during the Moussem Festival in Aït M'hamed. During this three-day event, we convened five workshops on wild plant species, local gastronomy and traditional recipes, local agroecological practices, traditional beekeeping, and raising awareness on local biodiversity and conservation among primary and high school students.





GOVERNANCE & POLICY

We collaborate with community representatives from all over Morocco to analyse and identify challenges related to community governance systems.

In collaboration with MBLA and partner communities, we participated in the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) through meetings and workshops at the national, regional and local levels. We are currently actively involved in the creation of the Moroccan Community Conserved Areas (MCCA) Consortium, aimed at strengthening territorial governance and supporting the global recognition of national ICCAs, such as Igourdane and Imegdâl.

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

We empower migrant communities by facilitating livelihood opportunities and fostering intercultural spaces that highlight the value of diversity.

Vibrant West and Central African communities exist in multiple Moroccan cities, including Marrakech. While these communities are well established, their ties to the host population remain limited. A 2018 study carried out by the International University of Rabat found that at a national level, 84% of sub-Saharan immigrants socialised mostly with individuals of their own countries or of other sub-Saharan countries, and that 50% had no significant social ties with Moroccan nationals. Through its Global Migrants Project, GDF aims to build inclusive communities in which all individuals, including migrants, are welcomed and empowered to shape their own futures. In Marrakech, GMP pursues this goal through Afrikech, a series of intercultural events in which local and migrant communities can meet and interact. Over the course of 2019, the project worked with private sector actors to reduce the isolation of these communities, organising three intercultural markets in which 12 West and Central African artists and artisans could network and sell the goods they produced.



Cissé, member of Global Diasporas (the local partner of GDF) and a key organiser of Afrikech. Photo: Edward Martin

Tarik and Muntha blend artistic traditions, adding vibrancy to Marrakech's cultural scene

Tarik and Muntha created the musical group Ptit Baobab. Tarik is Moroccan, from the city of Casablanca. He comes from a family of musicians, but only started playing when he was away from home, studying in France. Upon returning to his native country, he kept on playing music while also pursuing his career as a graphic designer.

Muntha is a *griot*, from the Casamance region of Senegal. In many countries of West Africa, griots are the guardians of their community's oral histories and musical traditions. Traveling is key to Muntha's role as a griot, as it allows him to discover diverse rhythmic styles and to deepen his own knowledge of music. As such, he considers it a central aspect of his personal development.

Coming to Morocco allowed Muntha to discover rich musical traditions different from his own. But living in a country he did not know also made him vulnerable. Muntha found himself working for individuals who often refused to pay him,

leaving him in great economic precarity. After hearing about plans for the first Afrikech event, Muntha offered to play the djembe (a West African musical instrument) at the event. While he was performing, Tarik emerged from the crowd and started playing alongside Muntha. The two individuals both played at the second edition of Afrikech, and subsequently formed Ptit Baobab.

The group rapidly gained popularity within Marrakech. Tarik's professional experience as a graphic designer meant that he knew how to market the newly-formed group. The creative combination of Muntha and Tarik's different rhythmic traditions meant that Ptit Baobab developed an innovative style previously unknown to the local community. Since its creation, the group has played at multiple local events and venues, providing a source of income to both members, as well as to migrant musicians who join the group for particular events.

PROMOTING CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Through a Mediterranean partnership funded by MAVA Foundation, we are raising awareness of the ecological value and economic importance of cultural landscapes in key Mediterranean ecoregions.



We launched the [#RootedEveryday](#) campaign with our Mediterranean partners at the beginning of 2019. This conservation campaign highlights the natural abundance of the Mediterranean, where generations of communities have prospered while traditionally tending habitats rich in flora and fauna. RootedEveryday announced the Mediterranean's first environment-themed short story competition — [#MedStoryPrize](#) — which called for inspiring stories that celebrate the rich biodiversity and culture found in the Mediterranean. As part of MedStoryPrize, [we worked with schools in Morocco](#) to engage students in composing stories for the creative writing competition. The campaign resulted in the development of a free eBook, featuring new Mediterranean tales drawn from a rich cultural past. The [#MedStoryPrize eBook](#) is also a reminder of the urgent call to protect our land and sea. In 2020, RootedEveryday will launch the [#MedFoodHeroes](#) campaign, to celebrate Mediterranean Food Heroes from the ecoregions within our partnership.

In October 2019, we hosted our Mediterranean partners in the Moroccan High Atlas as part of the [Mediterranean Community Exchange](#) on Biocultural Diversity Monitoring, together with the Global Environments Network and IUCN Med. The event was an excellent occasion for all partners to dialogue and reflect on the impact of cultural practices on sites of high biodiversity in the region. 34 participants from 18 organisations, including the 11 organisations of the Mediterranean partnership, joined the event.



CONNECTING CHANGEMAKERS

The Global Environments Network (GEN) fosters learning, mutual support and collaboration for those working on the frontlines for social and ecological justice and wellbeing. GEN supports transformational peer-to-peer learning and has a unique ethos and philosophy of learning and transformation.

In 2019, the Network's efforts to boost member engagement reached new heights with the appointment of a dedicated member coordinator, Corinne Cariad. We carried out comprehensive research to develop the GEN Member Engagement Feasibility Study. We focused on the potential of different social media platforms, including LinkedIn, as effective communication platforms, and developed mentoring schemes. We intensified outreach by increasing the circulation of GEN in Action newsletters, exclusively for members, to share calls for action and collaboration, and celebrated members' achievements through periodic GEN Community newsletters. We continued to use one-to-one video calls to keep in regular contact with individual members, which created opportunities for reciprocal mentoring and provided crucial input on members' needs.

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Bringing together participants from neighbouring countries to witness compelling case studies of environmental resilience, ecological restoration and community adaptation to change.

Photos: Alexis Suarez

Using a transdisciplinary approach, facilitators from different academic, research and practice backgrounds guided the Latin American School for Food Systems Resilience in concert with the Peruvian NGO ANDES and local community members from *El Parque de la Papa*, the Potato Park. Held from 14 to 25 September 2019, the event promoted innovative processes to advance the sustainability and the resilience capacity of local food systems among the 24 young Latin Americans in attendance. Participants explored a pluriversal approach: cooperative learning, participatory mapping, community interviews, and Indigenous methods of information gathering. They also used tools such as storytelling, conceptual graphics, the *yupana* (an abacus used to perform arithmetic operations), and farmer field schools. During field visits, participants had opportunities to reflect with hosts from the Potato Park and draw on these tools to jointly analyse challenges facing local producers, backed by the experience and evidence from their respective knowledge systems and ways of working.

PARTNERSHIPS

GEN Partnerships involve supporting individuals and organisations whose values and missions are aligned with those of GEN, via informal, often in-kind collaborations. Selected partnerships support existing projects and ideas, contributing to their development and implementation.

As an official partner of the Flourishing Diversity Series (London, September 2019), GEN led the Gaia Spirit Movement and facilitated sessions at the Flourishing Diversity Summit: a unique opportunity to listen, dialogue and participate with Indigenous leaders from across the world. In October, the Network supported the Land Workers' Alliance — the chief organisers of the Farming, Food and Climate Movement Building Day and Public March (London, October 2019) — by facilitating a networking session, chairing a session on veganism and agroecological farming and helping to organise the Movement Building Workshop and the March.



Photo: Land Workers Alliance



Photos: Egleé Zent

February of 2019 brought the successful delivery of 3,300 insecticidal nets and accompanying antimalarial medications and medical supplies, a response to the scrupulously detailed requests of Jotĩ, Eñepa and Piaroa Indigenous communities who organised to face a malaria epidemic in the Venezuelan Amazon. We are happy to share reports on Drs. Egleé and Stanford Zent's dedicated efforts in partnership with these communities and their allies to alleviate malaria. GDF-US is particularly proud to have supported this initiative, which supports both cultural continuity and continued territorial sovereignty by promoting health. We were humbled and delighted to learn that, in concert with community actions, the project meant that Jotĩ, Eñepa and Piaroa experienced very few cases and no reported deaths from malaria in 2019. The communities are now developing systems to monitor malaria and other illnesses and report out to project partners, using phones to record data, and radios to transmit critical information on health and community security.



A growing network of environmental changemakers

In 2019, two regional events increased GEN membership in the regions of Latin America and the Mediterranean: the second Latin American Regional Academy, held in Peru, and the first Mediterranean Community Exchange, held within the umbrella of the MAVA-M6 Partnership, in Morocco. This now brings the total number of countries represented in these two regions to:

15

IN LATIN AMERICA

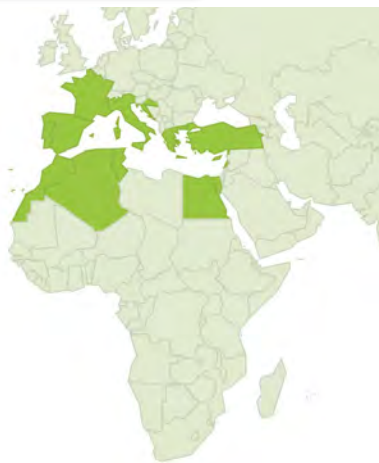
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela



14

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey





Reflections from Patricia, an environmental changemaker

Patricia Lorena Gonzales Grande, from Venezuela, attended the Latin American School for Food Systems Resilience (ALLSA 2019), held 14–25 September 2019 in Cusco, Peru, thanks to a scholarship from the A-Team Foundation. She is a graduate student at the State University of Santa Cruz, studying molecular genetics.

Attending ALLSA 2019 was both a wonderful challenge and incredible opportunity. My greatest apprehension leading up to the event was the fear of not fitting into the profile of the Academy, given my diverse professional experiences. I was not sure if ALLSA would adopt an academic and formal approach, or, be more relaxed and participatory.

The activities at ALLSA made me question myself. What do I want to do? Which problems around me do I consider a priority? How can I provide solutions to the issues that affect me and my community? ALLSA marked a turning point in my worldview, not only in the workplace, but also in my personal sphere.

One of the most important teachings at ALLSA, for me, was understanding the importance of reflecting on my values, opinions, prejudices and paradigms, and the need to continually review my prejudices to dominate them, and ensure they are not what dominate and guide me. Change is possible. Our grains of sand may be tiny, yes, but they are invaluable and irreplaceable. Everyone can generate positive changes that not only affect us but also the environment in which we operate.



Photos: Alexis Suarez



"What excites me most is co-building possibilities, alternatives and desires to improve the quality of life for people and for families. ...Above all, to rebuild their relationship with nature, to ensure a more harmonious, simple and sustainable relationship with their environment."

~ Guillermo Villalobos, Bolivia


(Comments by Guillermo (above) and Ana (below), ALLSA 2019 participants, have been translated from Spanish)



"What gives me hope and motivation is to have met so many people committed to their communities, agroecology, food sovereignty, healthy eating and traditional knowledge. It gave us the feeling that we are not alone, that we are many and in many parts of America and the world: those who desire and fight for more just and sustainable food systems, who are in harmony with nature and with people."

~ Ana Molnar, Argentina


Photos: Alexis Suarez



// I have learnt that we (the indigenous community) are not alone in our struggle to protect our culture, our lands and territories and in fighting inequalities. This gives strength to the women in my community to continue fighting for their spaces and participating in the decision-making processes in the community."

~ Milka Kuto, Kenya

(Milka and Wenjing shared their messages with the Global Environments Network a year after attending the Global Environments Summer Academy 2018)



// Reading about diversity and inclusion in my study and research is one thing. Meeting people who are holding this value to heart and applying it to my day-to-day work and life is a totally different, and truly inspirational experience. This is how GESA has impacted on me at a personal level."

~ Wenjing Xu, China

On exchanging ideas and communicating lessons learned: the benefits of peer-to-peer learning

"...meeting new people and establishing new networks..."

"...visiting field sites and community members..."

"... learning about similar and shared concerns..."

"...the 'structured flexibility'..."

"...delving deeper into themes and the opportunity for everyone to share their views..."



OUR PEOPLE

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Media Consultant

MARINA AMAN SHAM
Communications Coordinator

CARLOS DEL CAMPO
GEN and GDF Digital Strategist

ROWAN HOWARD-WILLIAMS
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EDA ELIF TIBET
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GARY MARTIN
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MOHAMED EL HAOUZI
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AHMED BENDELLA
Legal and Policy Advisor

JAMILA BOUSSETTA
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RACHID AIT ALHADJ
Community Researcher Nursery Keeper Oukaïmeden

YOUSSEF ROCHDI
Community Researcher Oukaïmeden

HAMMOU MALIH
Community Researcher Nursery Keeper Ait M'hamed

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HASSAN OUCHAHA
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FATEMA WAHMANE
Community Liaison & Dar Taliba Focal Point

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*2019 appointments



Our People, Our Strength

INTRODUCING A FEW OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS AND THE WORK THEY DO

Community researcher Touda and Field Scientist Soufiane make a great team running project activities in Aït Mhamed (Azilal Province). "My work and experience as a Field Scientist this past year made me feel optimistic about the future of community-conserved areas in the High Atlas," says Soufiane. "We actively participate in the national dialogue to set up and strengthen the Moroccan Community Conserved Areas Consortium. The MCCA Consortium will make it possible to strengthen support for these areas and their recognition at national and international levels, as well as facilitating communication and exchanges between peers." Touda has played a key role in achieving these objectives, firstly, as a community researcher, in the documentation and characterization of community-conserved areas; and secondly as an active member of the local community, which enabled us to create strong links with the various institutional actors in the Azilal region."



Laila (below, right) is our Dar Taliba training facilitator and a permaculture expert with Radiant Design. An Amazigh woman herself, with a similar rural background to the Dar Taliba students, she has been working with the girls for three years, since the very beginning of our school garden training programme.



Mohamed (above) is one of our community researchers in Imegdâl. He joined our team two years ago and is originally from a small village in the Imegdâl commune. "In the High Atlas, and here in Imegdâl, we work to protect local biodiversity and promote well-being. We are working to cultivate the spirit of environmental citizenship among our indigenous Amazigh communities."

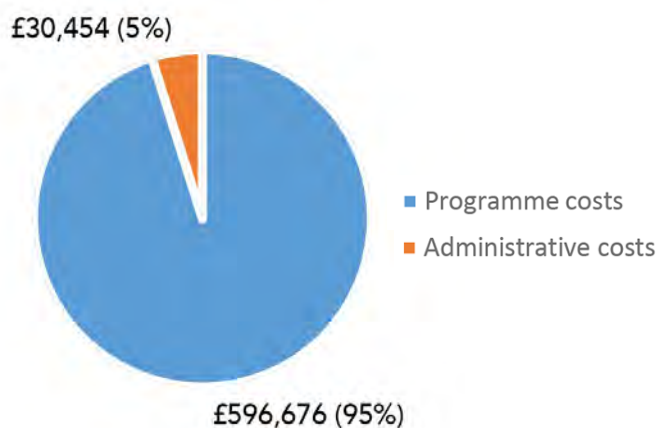
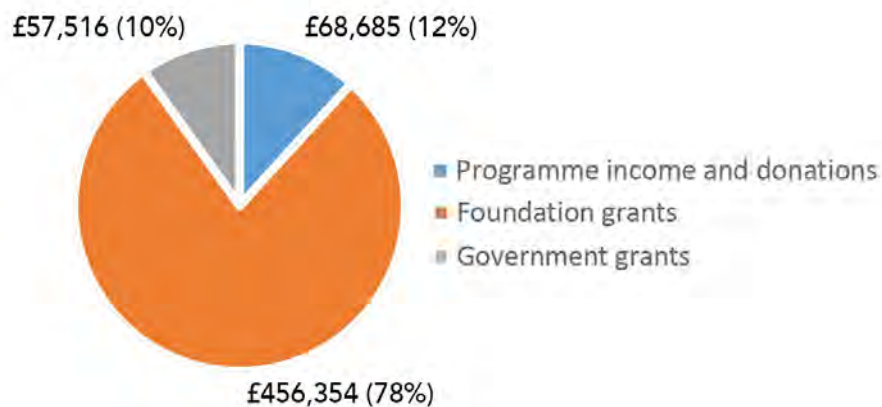


Al Housseine and Abdelmalik (above) have been working at the Dar Taliba school garden project since the very beginning. They ensure the daily management of the garden, provide support for the Dar Taliba students during their weekly trainings, and take care of all the plants, vegetables and fruit trees while the girls are in class.

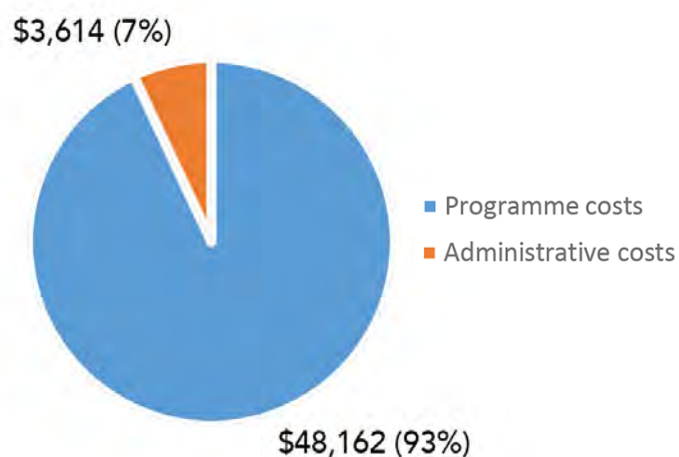
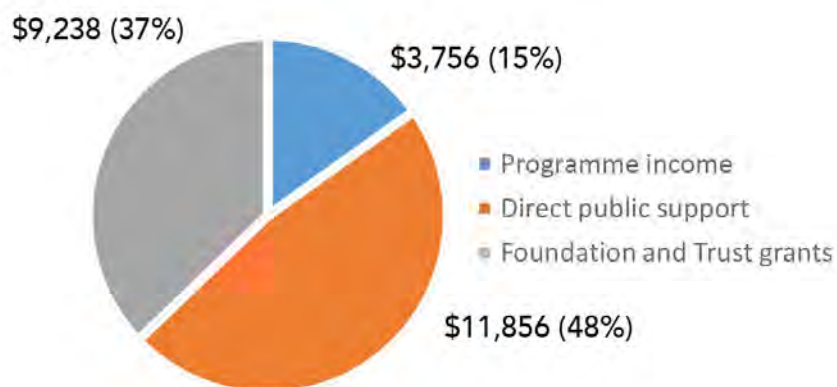


Since taking up her role as member coordinator for the Global Environments Network in September, Corinne has been actively communicating with members to discover ways in which the Network can better support them, and following up on specific requests. "Connecting with members from around the world is inspiring. I am privileged to learn about the incredible and varied work they are doing towards maintaining and improving the environment and lives of their communities," she says. Corinne works closely alongside Nessie and Marina to develop and implement support for members and plan GEN events. Corinne says, "Working alongside deeply caring and committed team members makes this work a pleasure. We are excited to be improving our communication with our members and building on the connections made at GEN academies and events."

Global Diversity Foundation UK (Oct 2018–Sept 2019)



Global Diversity Foundation US (Jan–Dec 2019)



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