



Field Day Program
30 October 2022
High Atlas Mountains and
Marrakesh plain

[Look at your itinerary on Google Maps](#)

8:30 Introduction and brief overview of the day (El Olivar Hotel)

9:00 Departure from Hotel

9:45 Dar Tabila site. Presentation by the [Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihood Association \(MBLA\)](#) team.

MBLA supports High Atlas communities in carrying out conservation efforts to restore ecological balance, document and promote traditional conservation practices and support agriculture-based rural economies.

Today's major global climatic change trends, unsustainable use of resources and loss of traditional knowledge, are having a significant impact on this diversity and necessitate immediate action to reverse the devastating consequences. MBLA also strive to ensure the sustainability of agriculture systems by improving agronomic parameters, fostering local crops and seeds in the High Atlas and documenting the traditional practices that adhere to agroecology principles. We work with small farmers to develop governance policies that promote agrobiodiversity conservation and local variety protection.

Located about 75 km from Marrakech, the Dar Taliba dormitory hosts between 120 and 150 girls each year from the isolated douars of the rural commune of Ourika. Withing the boarding school, we have created a 6,000 m² botanical garden in collaboration with ABDBO, which has hosted our environmental education program since 2014. We run interactive workshops designed to develop skills and girls' knowledge of plant conservation, plant use, Permaculture techniques and traditional conservation practices. The girls help with the planting, growing thousands of seeds in the garden greenhouse, which they share with their families, friends and communities. More importantly, the fruits and vegetables harvested are used in the local restaurant in the dormitory, serving to feed the 130 resident students and staff, thus contributing to the autonomy of the latter.

The girls benefiting from these trainings will then be able to transfer this knowledge to their families and communities. The girls of Dar Taliba have been involved throughout the construction process and will continue to participate in the day-to-day running of the gardens, which includes:

- A nursery and a greenhouse for the cultivation and production from seeds of wild species and traditional crops, and the multiplication of aromatic and medicinal plants.

- An aromatic and medicinal garden for the cultivation of species such as lavender, thyme and sage. Plants distributed annually to students and local communities to plant in them and near their households.
- An ethnobotanical garden where students discover the local flora and the landscape of the High Atlas.
- A vegetable garden to grow and supply Dar Taliba's kitchen with fresh vegetables and fruits.

11:00-13:00 Ait Elqag terrasses (3 sites) Presentation by MBLA team and Prof. Abdelghani Chehbouni (UM6P)

In the region of Oukaimeden, the douar of Ait Elqag knows an agricultural activity based mainly on arboriculture, indeed there are apple walnut pear and cherry trees, alongside food crops such as barley, and some legumes. Local farmers use ancestral agricultural means and practices, such as "tawala n'waman": temporary irrigation via a traditional "saguiat" network.



View of High Atlas Mountain terraces, Tagadirt

13:00-13:45 Lunch on site (lunch boxes from hotel)

13:45 Travel to [Al Moutmir](#) site #1 (50 km)

14:45-18:00 Al Moutmir Sites #1 to #3

About Al Moutmir: Launched in September 2018, Al Moutmir is a multiservice offer including innovative and customized solutions to better serve farmers and especially the small ones. This initiative focuses on promoting the best agricultural, technical and governance practices and in particular balanced fertilization as a real lever for improving productivity while preserving natural resources. Al Moutmir includes best in class products and solutions, agricultural extension services (soil testing, training sessions, demonstration platforms, monitoring and support, etc.), user-friendly technological solutions as well as a capacity building program for farmers, rural women, cooperatives and young leaders. It aims at providing farmers with the tools they need to move from a subsistence to a profitable and a sustainable business. The scientific approach is at the heart of Al Moutmir guarantees the sustainability of the initiative.

Site 1: Tahanaout

Crops: Olive trees, Apricots, Livestock

Topics: Climate change impact on olive production, water stress, advisory and decision support systems offered to farmers

Site 2: Tahanaout

Crop: Olive farm

Topics: Impact of weather on olive flowering and yields, deficit irrigation management and related advisory system.

Travel from Site 2 to Site 3 (22 km, 25 min)

Site 3:

Crops: Olive trees and citrus

Topics: Intensive system, impact of recurrent drought. Transition from citrus to olive requiring less water, effect of good management practices on quality and yields

18:00 – 18:15 Travel back to hotel



Itinerary on Google Maps: https://maps.app.goo.gl/AarVRh1rthPVX7XL8?g_st=im