

The Ecological Group for Sustainable Development Sidi Amor

***Promoting Integrated Projects for Local Sustainable Development
in the semi rural area and natural site of Sidi Amor***



« Designed to showcase the potential value of a natural site that is rich in ecological, cultural and touristic potential, our projects would contribute to sustainable development by providing job opportunities and protecting the renewable resources of the site at the same time. »

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Who are we?

We are a non-profit association (also called Groupement de Développement Agricole or GDA) mobilizing a local based community around a central goal: the enhancement of the natural resources of the site. Thus in partnership with public authorities including The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and private entities that share an interest in sustainable development with biodiversity as a core value. The GDA has 30 members who belong to various professional backgrounds, with no less than 20 passionate friends who are actively involved in various volunteer efforts in addition to a network of national and international associations and institutions that infuses the GDA with a plethora of experiences and positive energy.



General informations

The zone of influence for the GDA (about 200ha) is situated at the natural site of jbel Sidi Amor which is located north east of Tunisia, 20 km from the capital Tunis. In accordance with the topographical maps of 1/50000th of Ariana, the area of intervention for the Group is demarcated under the LAMBERT coordinates (Grid kilometers north of Tunisia) 525/512 and 403/393.

The Population of the governorate of Ariana according to the census of 2009-07-01 is estimated at **483,500. Local population around the natural area is about 25.000.**

The Climate along the Mediterranean coast, north of Tunis are moderate; the average temperature is 18°C (64°F). The summer season (May–September) is hot and dry. In the winter months (October–April), the climate is mild with frequent rains. Temperatures at the capital city of Tunis range from 6°C (43°F) to 14°C (57°F) in January, and 21°C (70°F) to

33°C (91°F) in August. Rainfall reaches an average of 500-600 millimeters in the northern part of the country.

Overviews



Projects

Potentials of the site and its vulnerability, because of the **urban proximity** (which is also one of its strengths), have generated the idea among some residents to **protect and enhance the site** through :

1. A management plan for rational and participatory programs for the preservation and valorization of natural and cultural resources and landscapes (equity maintenance, reforestation, conservation and management).
2. A set of sustainable development projects representing opportunities for socio-economic valuations eagerly awaited by local youth.

Examples of actions and « success stories »

1. Actions for conserving water and soil

- Control soil erosion.
- The materialization of an efficient irrigation network and the identification of water resources in the site (recovery of runoff, irrigation drip-drop ... etc...)
- Installing a water irrigating system for residents properties and the forest area

2. The creation of themed Gardens with a wide range of plant species; ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants to help enhance the Biodiversity of the site. The project has a **highly professional nursery** as part of this approach. To our credit, we have already put in place:

- **A Rose Garden** with about 3000 plants and 150 varieties
- **A medicinal garden**: square with a valuable collection of 175 indigenous medicinal and exotic plants
- **Arboreta**: squares dedicated to agro-forestry plots and specialized arboreta. The prime collaboration with the Forest Research Institute (INRGREF) was to install a Korean arboretum (Embassy of Korea collaboration). The overall success of these actions should lead us to realize our dream:

« THE FIVE CONTINENTS FLORAL PARK »

- **Receiving and guiding children and youth with special educational needs** in the field of horticulture and environmental education. (Supervisor program: Mrs Sayda HACHED. Association of Specialized and Integrated Schools (UNESI))

3. The promotion of all sustainable activities that would help the biodiversity of the natural site and natural resources valorisation, such as:

Beekeeping; Recovery of waste from the nearby quarries; Rehabilitation of quarries; Composting; Distillation; Basketry; Development of an eco-tourism model; Promoting high value tourism such as, medical, ecological and cultural tourism; Developing an environmental education programs; Improvement of the recreational potential of the forest; Construction of farmhouses

4. The creation of an Eco-Hamlet that meets international environmental standards and a "village for art and crafts" that would bring together all the activities in an integrated program of vocational training that uses sustainable development techniques with the prime aim of social inclusion of young people. This "village" will be the heart of the sustainable development in the area.

Sidi Amor Rose Garden



Sidi Amor Medicinal Garden

Gallery



A square with a valuable collection of 175 indigenous and exotic medicinal plants. Developing an environmental education program and related projects: medicinal plant nursery; extracting natural remedies.

Committed partnerships and institutional contributions

Local Partners:

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment(DGF§CRDA Ariana and Environment agencies)
The Sylvo-Pastoral Institute of Tabarka

The INRGREF: our partner in the creation of a Botanical Garden with rich plant collections. Also, creating a Korean vegetable garden in partnership with the Korean Embassy..

The School of Architecture of Tunis , The School of Design Den Denand the Centre for Analysis of Building Materials (Ministry of Equipment) and the CCMVV (Ministry of Industry and technology) : Cooperative work for the local materials recovery, rehabilitation and construction techniques using stone and mud to achieve sustainable development and eco-construction.Collaboration for the international meeting held on 27May 2011:Natural and Ecologic Building.

Several rural and professional organisations and local based communities(GDA Northwest)

The Association of Specialized and Integrated Schools (UNESI) for receiving and guiding children and youth with special educational needs in the field of horticulture and environmental education.

(Supervisor program:Mrs Sayda HACHED)

Overseas Partners:

IAMM and CIHEAM (sponsors projects to support the dynamics for developing rural areas in the Mediterranean)

The French Association of Ethno-Botanic "Gardens of the World" and several european gardens (The Provins Rose Garden. La Roseraie de Berty.André Eve Rose Garden. ...)

BASEhabitat-architecturein developing countries. University of Art in Linz. Austria.

CRAterre-The International Center for Earth Construction.School of Architecture of Grenoble(France)

"Voute nubienne"Association:French NGO helping natural building in the Sahel,using Hassan Fathi experience.

The GDA Sidi Amor Steering Committee consists of

Sayda Hached ; Tarek Ferchichi ; Kadhem Mzougui ; Taieb Ben Miled ; Tahar Khadhraoui

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