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## **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Tadmamt Plant and Tree Nursery**

Our partners at the High Atlas Foundation (HAF) have obtained permission from local and national authorities, and arranged for land to be lent to the production of plants and trees in the Tadmamt nursery, situated near Toubkal National Park, in the High Atlas Region of Morocco as well for the creation of community nurseries in Imegdale commune of El Haouz province and Ait M'hamed commune of Azilal province.

The establishment of these nurseries serves the first goal of the CEPF small grant: “to increase income from sustainable harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) and develop alternative livelihoods – the cultivation of fruit trees and MAPs – in communities adjacent to high-priority key biodiversity areas. Establishing community nurseries will enable terrace cultivation and enrichment planting of selected medicinal roots, providing a direct benefit for the livelihoods of rural families.” *Ex situ* cultivation of MAPs in nurseries also supports plant conservation goals, as detailed in the project description. As explained categorically below, there are no foreseeable negative environmental impacts of this installation.

**Site preparation:** The site granted is open land, and no trees will be cut in its establishment. Construction of community greenhouses will require minimal disturbance of the terrain, as these dirt-floored hoophouses covered in polyethylene plastic sheeting will be anchored by a series of posts, rather than a full foundation.

**Erosion control:** While local terrain is often steep, the nursery site is a level terrace, so that soil loss due to slope runoff during cultivation will be minimized or absent.

**Plant production:** The nursery will produce medicinal and aromatic plants, fruit and nut tree seedlings, and orris rhizomes for use and distribution to project participant households with available land and labor. HAF does not use plastic bags in its nurseries, eliminating the need for management of this potential waste stream.

**Agrochemical use:** The production system in the nurseries is to be entirely organic. Neither chemical pesticides nor fertilizers will be employed, so there will be no health risk to nursery workers, surrounding residents, site soil quality, or water sources.

I hereby certify that I have visited the site assessed, and that the information provided herein is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Gary J. Martin PhD, Executive Director