

# ⵜⴰⴳⴷⵓⴷⴰ AÏT ATTA

NOMADS OF THE HIGH ATLAS



A FILM BY  
**INANC TEKGUÇ & EDA ELIF TIBET**

KARMA MOTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE GLOBAL DIVERSITY FOUNDATION  
INTRODUCING BEN YOUSSEF FAMILY MUSIC BY TUNDE JEGEDE BRAHIM FRIBGANE AIKYO  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY INANC TEKGUÇ DIRECTED AND EDITED BY INANC TEKGUÇ & EDA ELIF TIBET

WWW.KARMAMOTION.COM

2020

arte

# TRAILER



<https://vimeo.com/459866694>

## SYNOPSIS

The Ait Atta tribe preserves their ancestral right of access to the agdal, a communal land management system that dates back hundreds of years in Morocco. The film follows Ben Youssef family's arduous transhumant journey from the desert-like landscape of Nkob to the green pastures of Agdal Igourdane, throughout uneven terrain of steep climbs and descents of the High Atlas mountains. A sensorial ethnographic story on the incredible movement and (im)mobilities of the family and their herd, the film juxtaposes the hopes and constraints, obligations and sacrifices of a family torn apart between their traditions and their need to adapt to modern life. Stretching over the past, present and the future, the film provides an intergenerational perspective on the essence and the very challenges of nomadism within an ever transforming Moroccan society.



*"This is an outstanding account of an endangered culture, a beautifully made poetic film with a long and long after life."  
Tala Hadid, Award Winning Moroccan filmmaker*

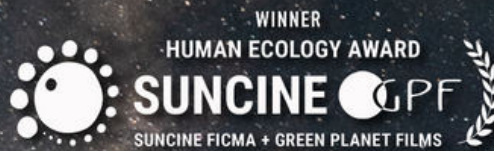
*"This film is an important historical document of an ancient tradition, a true gem of gift to the future generations".  
Peter Biele, Co-Producer of Star Wars.*





# AÏT ATTA

NOMADS OF THE HIGH ATLAS





# FILM MAKERS

INANC TEKGÜC & EDA ELIF TIBET

## CONSULTANTS

SOUFIANE M'SOU  
UGO D'AMBROSIO  
EMILY CARUSO  
GARY MARTIN  
POMMELIEN COSME

## MUSIC

TUNDE JEGEDE  
AIKYO  
BRAHIM FRIGBANE

## TRANSLATORS

NOURI AYOUB  
KARIM ABDELAZIZ  
MOUSTAFA BELAASARI

# Festivals & Screenings 2020-2023

## Awards and nominations

- 2022 Winner, Best Feature Documentary, [Int Fest of Environmental Films Chefchaouen, Morocco](#)
- 2022 Longlisted for Best Feature Documentary, [One World Media Awards, BAFTA, London, UK](#)
- 2022 Winner, Golden Sun Best Documentary Award, [SUNCINE Environmental Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain](#)
- 2022 Winner, Human Ecology Award, [Green Planet Films, USA](#)
- 2022 [Nominated European Anthropological Association \(EASA\) Film Prize Belfast, Ireland](#)
- 2021 Jury's Award & Honorable Mention, [Quetzalcoatl Indigenous International Film Festival, Oaxaca, Mexico](#)
- 2021 Nominated, Best International Documentary Film, [International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade, Serbia](#)
- 2020 Winner, Best Documentary Film of the Month, [Oniros Film Awards New York, New York, USA](#)
- 2020 Nominated, Best Feature Documentary, [Kosice International Film Festival, Kosice, Slovakia](#)
- 2021 Nominated Best Documentary Awards, [London, UK, December](#)
- 2021 Nominated Best Feature Doc Film, [BARCIFF Barcelona Indie Filmmakers Fest](#)

## Screenings & Official Selections

- 2023 ARTE TV screening, Germany and France
- 2023 Ethnografilm Paris, Paris, France
- 2022 Festival International du Film Ethnographique du Quebec FIFEQ, Quebec, Canada
- 2022 German International Ethnographic Film Festival, Göttingen, Germany
- 2022 Film Screening and Roundtable, Cadi Ayyad University Festival, Marrakech, Morocco
- 2022 Harvest Festival, Film Screening and Roundtable, Institute Francais, Marrakech, Morocco
- 2021 Golden Tree International Film Festival, Paris, France
- 2021 International Migration and Environmental Film Festival IMEFF, Ontario, Canada
- 2021 International Documentary Film Awards, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2021 Essex Doc Fest, Essex, UK
- 2021 The S.O.F.A Film Festival, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2021 International Nature Film Festival Gödöllő, Hungary
- 2021 Athens Ethnographic Film Festival, Athens, Greece
- 2021 Moscow International Festival of Visual Anthropology "Mediating Camera," Moscow, Russia
- 2021 Global Lift-Off Screenings, Pinewood Studios in the UK and Raleigh Studios in Hollywood, USA
- 2020 BARCIFF Barcelona Indie Filmmakers Fest, Barcelona, Spain
- 2020 Mediterranean Films Festival, Cannes, France
- 2020 Kosice International Monthly Film Festival, Kosice, Slovakia
- 2020 Kratovo Ethnological Documentary Film Festival, Kratovo, North Macedonia
- 2020 EthnoKino Visual Anthropology Film Screening and Roundtable, Bern, Switzerland



# STARRING



**ZAHRA Ben Youssef**

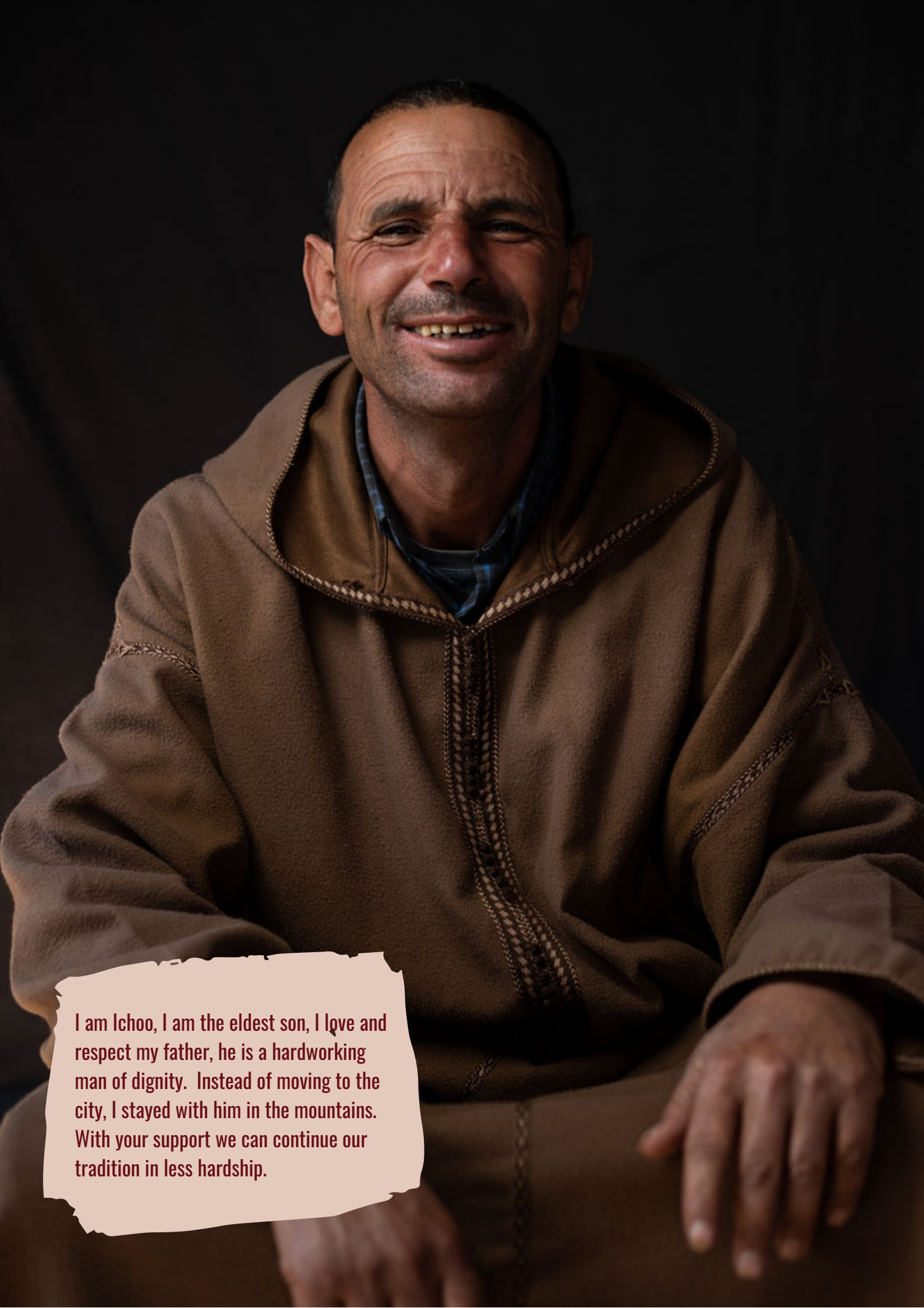


**ICHO Ben Youssef**



**I have seen 88 Ramadans in my life. Since I know myself, I am a nomad. Allah knows only, I will die as a nomad. Nomadic life is very difficult, not for everyone. It is only for the strong, the patient and the resilient.**





I am Ichoo, I am the eldest son, I love and respect my father, he is a hardworking man of dignity. Instead of moving to the city, I stayed with him in the mountains. With your support we can continue our tradition in less hardship.



I am Ichoo's son. I love my father, he is the funniest guy on earth, you can not stop smiling when you are around him. I miss them madly when they are at the mountains.





I am Zahra, 42 years old. Being a nomadic woman is the most difficult thing. My biggest dream is to have my own house one day. I would like my children to pursue their education and become influential people.



I am Izza, mother of all you see in here. My memory is slightly weak these days, but of course I remember the good old days. Oh how painful how difficult yet how beautiful our mountains are. We are blessed but also the ones in difficulty. I am wishing a better future for my kind.





At 80, Brahim has trodden the same rocky path every summer of his life. While Brahim's family continues to travel towards the green agdal pastures through the steep climbs and rocky descents of the High Atlas mountains, Brahim knows that this is a practice at the precipice.





The family and their 1100-strong herd travel—by foot—the 200 km that separates Nkob, south of the mountains, from the Igourdane Agdal high up in the eastern High Atlas.







The reality is, he says, that the decline in cereal and fodder self-sufficiency have transformed local culture. Livelihoods and community cohesion, Brahim observes, are in decline. Young people are turning away from their traditional lifestyles in search of urban jobs that will allow them to survive. The vast repository of traditional knowledge that has nourished the relationships between people and land is disappearing.



A key feature of pastoral agdals is the timing of the opening and closing dates of the pasture in order to allow the vegetation to complete its full reproductive cycle before grazing is opened to herds of animals as varied as goats, sheep, cows, horses and even dromedaries.





In Morocco, pastoral agdals refer to large tracts of land that are generally abundant in water compared to their surrounding areas and are used for grazing or foraging during specific periods of time throughout the year.





In the 1980s approximately 500 families traveled to the Agdal in the summer. In 2018 only 17 families made the journey.





Brahim remembers how from the 1970s onwards, government and development NGOs pushed for Amazigh farmers to replace their traditional rainfed cereal and fodder cultivation with commercial fruit trees, with the aim of reducing rural poverty.











Brahim has seen annual droughts increase dramatically over the past few years. In these dry conditions, young fruit tree saplings can struggle to thrive, meaning farmers have to use fertilisers and pesticides to yield marketable produce.



The agdal practices linked to mobile pastoralism not only help conserve the high biodiversity and ecological values of the High Atlas, but also the cultural integrity of local indigenous communities.





Our research and work focuses on embracing this cultural practice of land use and to highlight the role agdals play in local biodiversity conservation.





# COMMUNITY SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS



1

Enrich and celebrate ancient wisdom, together with your closest and new community members. Starting from your own locale, strengthen community ties and get inspired to enact local & global transformation.





# PODIUM DISCUSSIONS

## 2

Invite your policymaker , sustainability expert or artist for an engaging discussion on how to govern the "COMMONS" . Do receive our film as your meeting point.



# SCREENING LICENSES



3

Support our storytellers at KARMAMOTION whom represent a cohort of interdisciplinary backgrounds from visual anthropologists to agro-ecologists to indigenous tribe leaders, working together for a better world.







# EVENTS

2020-2023





Ait Atta Long Listed for The Best Feature Doc Film by One World Media Awards at BAFTA!



ONE  
WORLD  
MEDIA



FIFEQ  
FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DU FILM  
ETHNOGRAPHIQUE DU QUÉBEC

ACCUEIL PROGRAMMATION À PROPOS NOS PARTENAIRES CONTACT

19-22  
MAI 2022

VOIR LA PROGRAMMATION



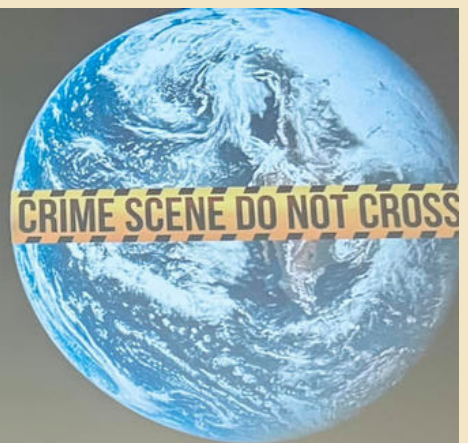


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtfHciwq6qs&t=1s>

Our film Ait Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas has been screened at more than twenty film festivals, racking up an award on Human Rights from Oaxaca Indigenous Film Festival in Mexico , Human Ecology Award by Green Planet films and an award from 28th SUNCINE Barcelona Film Festival Catalunya (known as FICMA) all that came at once in October and November 2021 : Golden Sun Award for Best Documentary Film. The filmmakers have received the award from the hands of Peter Beale (jury member) a producer of many iconic films like Star Wars and the Alien.







**AIT ATTA: NOMADS OF THE HIGH ATLAS**  
by INANC TEKGUC & EDA ELIF TIBET







ethnografilm

profoundly entertaining

Club de  
l'Etoile  
Paris

LE  
CHAT  
GRIS

présente

Ethnografilm

6-10 avril, 2023

S. KAWA





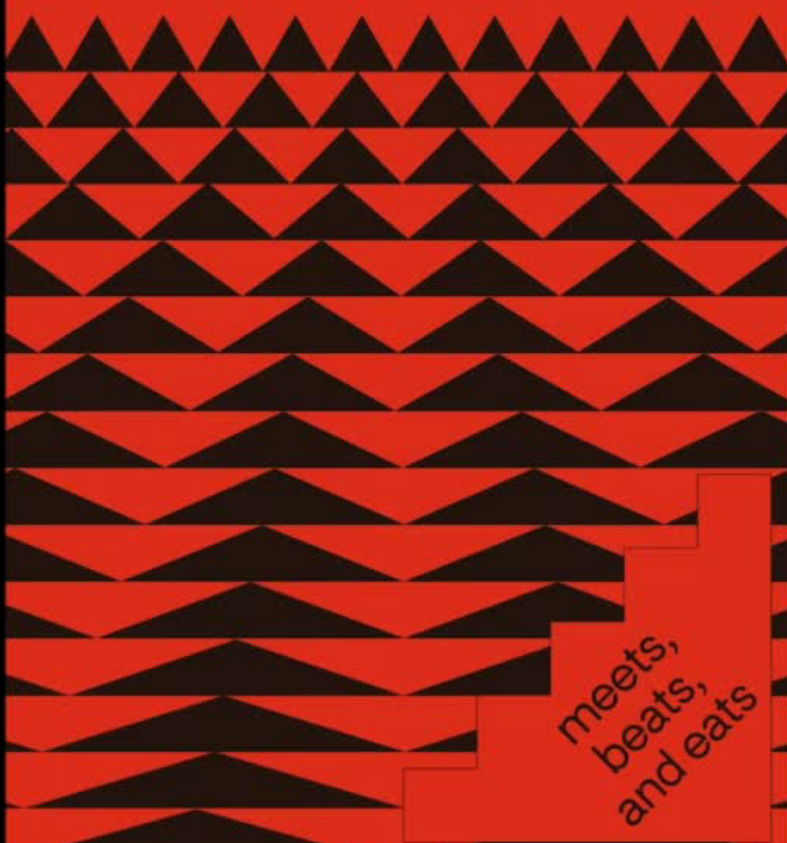


15 Oct

31 Oct

# HARVEST

فستيفال الحصاد  
MARRAKECH



meets,  
beats,  
and eats

Houariyat (live)<sup>1</sup>  
Gj Leith<sup>3</sup>

Guedra Guedra<sup>2</sup>  
Sarra Wild<sup>4</sup>

عضك، اللي  
عضو

bite back.

HARVEST

2000dh (cash only)



at route de Sidi Abdallah Ghiyat  
Palm Orchids

5 – 10 pm  
October 31



## ATLAS

## MARRAKECH



Focusing on the local:

agroecology  
biodiversity  
culture &  
gastronomy

performed and produced  
in the Marrakech-Safi region  
and beyond!

Harvest Festival draws on the tradition,  
present in many parts of the world,  
of holding an annual celebration  
around the time of the main harvest.



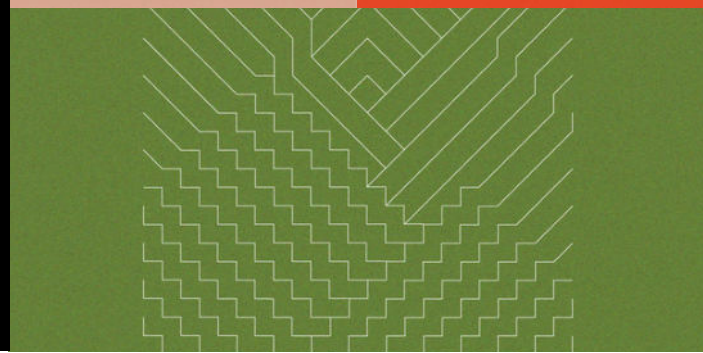
We're a  
collective effort of  
different art galleries, cafés,  
cultural institutes, co-working  
spaces, foundations, hotels,  
incubators, restaurants,  
retailers and riads,  
each responsible for  
designing their own  
participation in the  
celebration!



Harvest festivals celebrate  
abundance and liberty  
in the broadest sense.

Beyond the historical bounty  
of food and seasonal break  
from agricultural work,  
they have evolved to embrace

a sense of community and a recognition of diversity.  
Yallah!

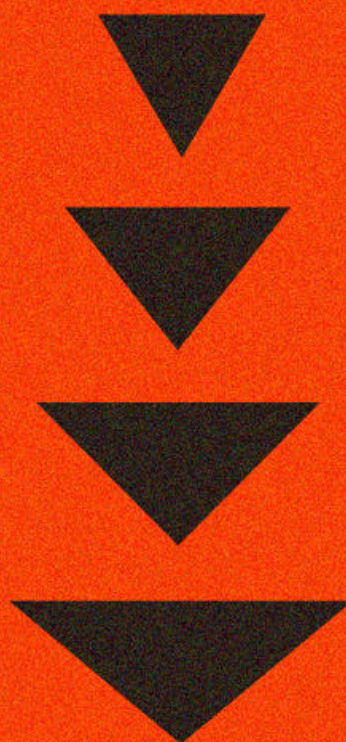




Our  
Our  
Our

 Food  
Heritage  
 Future

Yalla!



15 Oct

31 Oct

**HARVEST** FESTIVAL **لحصاد**  
MARRAKECH

28 OCTOBER 2020

Film screening: Aït Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas, Q&A

Join us for the Moroccan premiere of the documentary film "Aït Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas", directed by Inanc Tekguc and Eda Elif Tibet. The film screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker in conversation with the community members and researchers of Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association.

2pm





Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGiAbw2sj2s&t=5s>

A special screening was organised by Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) and the Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihood Association (MBLA) at the Institute François of Marrakech on 24th of October, as part of the first Harvest Festival curated by Louisa Aaraas (GDF) and Gary Martin (founder of GDF) in collaboration with numerous community members and partners.

Right after the film screening a roundtable took place with Association Nomades Saghro pour le développement delegates Mohamed Rachyd accompanying Icho Ben Youssef (main protagonist of the film) alongside to Dr.Eda Elif Tibet (filmmaker and visual anthropology lead at GDF), Dr.Soufiane M'Sou (MBLA) , moderated by Dr. Abdellah Agrahz (MBLA) and Nessie Reid (Co-Director GDF). From human rights to climate change, education and the future of next generations to the importance of native language in maintaining culture , to collaborative and participatory filmmaking, together we asked; how do we enact societal change and what further could we do in building bridges as we spoke through the power of transformative storytelling, arts , science and cinema.











12

ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ ΕΘΝΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΟΥ  
ΚΙΝΗΜΑΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΥ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ



www.ethnofest.gr

25 NOE  
05 ΔΕΚ

- 25-28 NOE **ΑΙΤΟΡ**
- 29 NOE **Goethe-Institut Athen**
- 27 NOE-05 ΔΕΚ **ONLINE**



17.00 -  
20.30

SPECIAL  
THEMED  
SECTION:  
ROMANTICISM

TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> of NOVEMBER

### ROMANTICISM: CAMERA, ENCHANTMENT AND THE REAL

#### Two-Part Event/ Panel Discussion

This discussion will examine the relationship between anthropology, romanticism and cinema in reference to the films of this year's special themed section. The focus is going to be drawn towards the films *Ait Attia: Nomads of the High Atlas*, *Bosco*, *Half-Elf* and *The Last Austrians* followed by a discussion with the directors.

#### Part A 17.00-18.30

Panel/forum with anthropologists Alexandra Bakalaki (Thessaloniki), Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte (Rio de Janeiro) and Michaela Schaeuble (Bern), chaired by Konstantinos Kalantzis (Thessaly).

#### Part B 19.00-20.30

Panel featuring filmmakers Jón Bjarki Magnússon (*Half Elf*), Alicia Cano Menoni (*Bosco*), Lukas Pitscheider (*The last Austrians*) and Eda Elif Tibet (*Ait Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas*) chaired by Konstantinos Kalantzis (Thessaly).



# GEN IN CONVERSATION



THE PRESENT & FUTURE OF PASTORALISM  
FILM SCREENING & ROUNDTABLE

20 MAY



11:30-14:20 (CEST)

MARRAKECH / ZOOM

Global Environments Network

[global-diversity.org](https://global-diversity.org)

Extensive livestock farming and nomadism are probably amongst those traditional livelihoods that are facing greatest challenges in our times, with a continuous weakening and disappearance of herders, flocks and migration routes, amongst others. Such rich knowledge and practice is being eroded by rapid socio-environmental change and a multitude of factors, many times without taking into consideration how such practices directly connect to sustainability, resilience and adaptability, all of them essential for the many threats we currently face. The High Atlas Cultural Landscapes Programme of the Global Diversity Foundation has been collaborating with transhumant and nomadic populations in the High Atlas for more than 7 years in order to support communal pasture land governance, civil participation, livestock health and traditional cultural practices relating to subsistence mixed agro-ecosystems where livestock is an essential component.

In this GEN in conversation online and on-site event, coinciding with the start of the Marrakech Harvest Festival (Spring 2022), we will be screening the award-winning documentary "Ait Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas", produced by Karma Motion and GDF in 2020. After that, we will have an informal roundtable discussion on the present and future of pastoralism and transhumance with herders, NGO representatives and academics from the Mediterranean basin and beyond. In the discussion, we hope to find similarities and differences between cases, and bring to light strategies and mechanisms that have been successful in maintaining pastoral livelihoods on the move which could be replicated in different contexts, as well as responding to questions from the audience.



# GEN IN CONVERSATION

ANALYSING INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT  
IN SOCIOECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS  
EXPERT WORKSHOP



27 MAY



10:30-13:00 (CEST)

ZOOM

Global Environments Network

[global-diversity.org](http://global-diversity.org)

## Analysing integrated management in socio-ecological systems- Expert workshop

[MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS >](#)

Cultural landscapes are complex socioecological systems, both in theoretical and practical terms. Carrying out integrated management in these landscapes is an endeavour which requires a set of conditions, knowledge, skills, partnerships and a vision worth dissecting amongst practitioners of this kind of management.

In this GEN in conversation online event, coinciding with the end of the Marrakech Harvest Festival (May 2022), we will be reflecting on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that integrated management entails. Through a participatory workshop, we will interact with a variety of NGO representatives, socioenvironmental practitioners and activists, as well as academics interested in exchanging ideas, tools and reflections surrounding integrated management in biocultural and socioecological systems. We will use a situational analysis (using a SWOT matrix), followed by an interactive discussion on how to positively transform and improve the current management systems.

Date: 27th May 2022

Time: 10:30-13:00 CEST

[Sign up here.](#)



The festival will take place from 25 to 29 May 2022



We are looking forward to our next festival in 2022.

We hope that the festival can take place again in the Paulinerkirche in Göttingen, Germany. But last year we learned a lot about the online facilities. Therefore we plan that some parts will be viewable online also. This way, people who are not able to come to Göttingen are able to take part anyway.

The festival is organised by [GIEFF e.V.](#) in cooperation with various [institutions and organisations](#).

We thank all those who contribute to the success of the festival through their support.



## Ait Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas

Inanc Tekguc, Eda Elif Tibet

Inanc Tekguc strives to synergize his photography and videography work with his background in visual anthropology. His interest in community-based conservation and biocultural diversity has taken him to a handful of places around the world to carry out independent research, to do volunteer work or to contribute to projects of various NGOs or researchers. These humble contributions include making short films, visual geo-tagging and community mapping, community training in the use of visual tools, and documenting multidisciplinary research training and workshops.



Eda Elif Tibet is an independent documentary film maker and a visual anthropologist from Istanbul. Eda is the Visual Anthropology Lead of the Global Diversity Foundation (UK) and the Co-founder of KarmaMotion, a non-hierarchical visual anthropology collective run by academics, artists and activists. She holds an Mphil degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Kent and obtained her PhD from the University of Bern. She is currently a post-doctoral researcher leading an applied research initiative Animating the Commons situated at the Critical Sustainability Unit at the Geography Institute of University of Bern. Her research and teaching encompass the relations between postcolonial thought and mobilities, the application of unconventional pedagogies in transformative education for super diverse backgrounds, to social movements and the promotion of participatory action research for building new media narratives for regenerative action. She is the co-founder of EthnoKino a visual anthropology screening program (festival and seasons) and is a core faculty member and mentor at the Global Environments Summer Academy brought by the Global Environments Network taking place at the University of Oxford.





# ETHNOKINO

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THURSDAY

24.09.2020

7PM - APERO

8PM - FILM SCREENING

AIT ATTA: NOMADS OF THE HIGH ATLAS

9.30PM - FORUM

## OUR COMMON(S) FUTURE

A forum discussion on how to govern the commons and enact gender sensitive societal transformation, through engaged scholarship.

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Dr.Eda Elif Tibet

Dr.Timothy Adams

Dr.Sebastien Boillat





Ethnokino in Bern has hosted the premiere of our film with a forum followed right after the screening.



**KARMAMOTION Filmmakers Inanc Tekguc and Eda Elif Tibet joined a forum discussion with researchers from the University of Bern to speak on OUR COMMON(S) FUTURES.**





# Our Common(s) Future Forum



## AÏT ATTA NOMADS OF THE HIGH ATLAS

24  
07:01

SEP



vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/463811614>



# ETHNOKINO



# ANCIENT FUTURES

# THE 8TH SEASON OF ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM PROGRAMME

KINO  In der Reitschule

*u*<sup>b</sup> UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

2020



# ETHNOKINO

## ANCIENT FUTURES



### Kino in der Reitschule

Neubrückestrasse 8, Bern

Q&A with Filmmakers

Kollekte / Bar: 19:30 / Screening: 20:00

(if not indicated otherwise)

[ethnokino.com](http://ethnokino.com)

[facebook.com/EthnoKinoBern](https://facebook.com/EthnoKinoBern)

[Instagram.com/ethno\\_kino](https://instagram.com/ethno_kino)

**EthnoKino is an ethnographic film programme curated by a collective of Bern-based anthropologists.**

This season EthnoKino reflects on the futures that are dreamy, blurry and full of unknowns. Through the vision of the finest examples of ethnographic fiction and non-fiction cinema, we look into the ancient divine wisdom, to the traditional and to the struggles that are for a more just world.

Stretching over the past and present, our journey takes us to the uneven terrain, steep climbs and descents of the High Atlas mountains as we follow a nomadic family thriving through hardship in Morocco (**Ait Atta: Nomads of the High Atlas**). Yet, futures belong to those of the earth guardians who sing in determination. We see how in solidarity a community overcomes disillusionments (**Songs of our Soil**). Following the footsteps of Dr. Gerda Lerner, the Godmother of Women's History, we ask how does knowing our past affect our potential to shape the future? (**Why Women Need to Climb Mountains**). We then hymn into the rituals of resistance, as we learn on the many paths one can take for the Tibetan cause in an intergenerational perspective (**Rituals of Resistance**). In the end, futures can't be predicted without looking into the ancient, we look into an oral story that for the first time is told in the form of a feature film by the Haida of the Canadian Archipelago (**Edge of the Knife**). We dedicate this season for the most unexpected but most anticipated; to our very own, common future.

**KINO** in der Reitschule

**u<sup>b</sup> UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**



# ETHNOKINO



**AÏT ATTA**

**NOMADS OF  
THE HIGH ATLAS**

24

SEP



**SONGS OF  
OUR SOIL**

15

OCT



**RITUALS OF  
RESISTANCE**

29

OCT



**WHY WOMEN  
NEED TO CLIMB  
MOUNTAINS**

12

NOV



**ETHNOKINO  
SHORTS**

26

NOV



**EDGE OF  
THE KNIFE**

10

DEC



**MASTERS IN  
BERN WITH  
NORIENT**

15

JAN





# TERRITORIES OF LIFE ON THE EDGE

**Mediterranean Mountain Pastoral Commons**  
are ever evolving pasturelands conserved by local communities'  
sustainable governance systems

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION](#)

MUSEO VIRTUAL DE  
ECOLOGIA HUMANA







## CONTACT

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INANC TEKGÜC [incagraphy@gmail.com](mailto:incagraphy@gmail.com)

[www.karmamotion.com](http://www.karmamotion.com)



