GREYING FORESTS

By Tilman Botzenhardt

Morocco Overgrazing and felling threaten the last great Argan tree forest (Argania spinosa) in the world, which is a habitat for a large variety of wildlife. The camel and goat herds of nomads are consuming too many of the young plants and in consequence, the forest is ageing at an accelerated pace. An enfeebled forest offers poor protection against heavy rainfall and arid spells – phenomena that are increasing in strength and frequency as a result of climate change. To ensure the survival of the Argan forest the GIZ is engaging with the herders to establish a sustainable method of grazing. Furthermore, targeted water-management aims to shield the forest floor from drying out and eroding.