



LET'S MOBILISE FOR NATURE



*Frédéric
Debouche and
Gérard Poncet,
Founders of
Graine de Vie*

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, the whole of humanity mobilised together. However, an already known and extremely critical crisis is threatening our existence yet the attention to it is lost in general indifference.

Global warming, destruction of half of marine life and half of primary forests, air pollution, erosion and chemical pollution of soil, disappearance of thousands of animal and plant species, loss of water resources, etc. The balance sheet of systematic aggression of humans on our environment during the last fifty years is more than catastrophic: we are all guilty.

If we reprimand our leaders today for lack of foresight and anticipation for the Coronavirus pandemic, what will we say in a few years to our children about the lack of our collective and individual discernment about the environmental disaster they will have to face?

Let us not put our heads in the sand. The consequences of our repeated attacks against our surrounding and unique habitat, the Earth, is already having much more dramatic consequences than the Coronavirus pandemic.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) nearly one in four deaths in the world is caused by the fragility of our environment: air, water and soil pollution exposure to chemical substances, climate change, UV radiation, etc. Many researchers consider that pandemics, like other ecological disasters, are the responsibility of our civilization, they are the consequences of an economic system based on systematic destruction of nature.

Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic calls for major efforts to reduce the number of victims, each life is precious. But it's not apt to compare the extent of these efforts to the weakness of measures put in place to actively fight against global warming. Today global warming claims, and will continue to claim, many more lives than the Covid-19 virus.

Furthermore, while our attention is focused on the pandemic, certain part of the population benefits from the situation to accelerate actions of massive destruction of our planet, and particularly destruction of its forests. 2020 will be remembered as the year of record number of forest fires. In Amazonia, Australia, Siberia, California, Africa, forest fires, too often intentional, have amplified climate change.

When burning, forests released large amounts of carbon trapped in its trees. And the loss of forests will further limit future capacity of the forests to absorb the excess carbon dioxide generated by human activity.

This bad news was somewhat offset by the fact that the global economic slowdown of 2020 caused global CO₂ emissions to fall by 7% (after a record year in terms of emissions in 2019). However, this drop will not be enough to keep the signatory states of the Paris Agreement on track with their climate commitments. The objectives of the COP21 are to limit the rise in

temperatures to between 1.5°C and 2°C by 2050. The real bad news is that the year 2020 was the hottest year ever recorded in many regions, with average temperatures already 1.4 degrees higher than the average temperatures we recorded in 1990.

The end of the year was also marked by the decision of the 27 Member States of the European Union to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 55% (compared to 1990 levels) in 2030. While this agreement is positive, it is nevertheless criticized for its unambitious objective and its difficulties of implementation.

We are definitively at crossroads and Covid-19 crisis puts us in an unprecedented situation of reflection in relation to our excess and its strain on the nature. What we'll do now should become an engine to accelerate a radical change toward a world which is less unjust, and which becomes a sustainable vector of peace and happiness.

Billions of dollars will be distributed to rebuild our economy.

Fair distribution of this financial manna is a unique opportunity to reorient our economy and try to repair our past errors.

The new world put in place after the pandemic will depend on each and every one of us. It is up to us to choose now what we want for our children tomorrow.

"You must be the change you want to see in the world".
- Gandhi.

Frédéric Debouche - President of Graine de Vie

THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Each one of us can act positively in his or her own way!

On one hand, by trying to reduce our carbon footprint with leading a healthier and more sustainable life. On the other hand, by compensating the residual of our footprint with planting and financing the plantation of trees. Trees planted in developing countries and in warm climate have higher carbon capture rate than those planted in northern hemisphere. Planting there improves life resources of local population who are the first to suffer from the effects of climate change.

Graine de vie - forest protection and restoration - humanitarian activities.

Raising awareness was at the foundation basics of Graine de Vie in 2009 when we created our first nursery and planted 100,000 trees in Madagascar.

This choice is strategic because Madagascar is one of the countries



Reforestation efforts to protect natural water sources supplying the city of Diego Suarez

where reforestation is very systematic (5th poorest country in the world on the IMF list), and which will suffer more than others if nothing is done (3rd most exposed country to the effects of global warming on the IPCC list).

Further, Madagascar is one of the most deforested countries in the world, one of the countries with the largest area available for reforestation and one of the countries where the rainfall rate still allows for large-scale reforestation.

In eleven years, Graine de Vie has become one of the leaders of reforestation in Madagascar:

35,000,000 trees planted, 218 nurseries in 16 of the 22 regions of a country larger than France, 9 mangrove restoration projects, 12 projects for the protection and reforestation of Malagasy National Parks.

This balance sheet must be increased by millions of trees which have not been destroyed thanks to the awareness activities of our teams spreading the

message of importance of forest protection. Our activities extend to 151 communes where we have one or more projects (nearly one-fifteenth of all Malagasy communes).

Our environmental actions include large social elements which benefit local population:

- 1) Half of the trees we plant are cash crop trees producing resources for the daily life of the inhabitants (fruit trees, coffee, cocoa, avocados, essential oil trees, etc.).
- 2) We employ only local workers and provide daily wages to thousands of people during all phases of tree plantation: nurserymen, fencing, harvesting seeds, digging seeds, soil work, potting, transplanting and transporting the plants, digging the wells, etc.
- 3) We organise on-going nation-wide campaigns to raise public awareness about the need to protect and restore forests to ensure a better future.

4) We dedicate 5% of our resources to local humanitarian projects. In 2020, while the Covid-19 crisis paralysed Madagascar, our teams distributed 100,000 free meals in poorest neighbourhoods of Antananarivo, the Malagasy capital.



Distribution of school kits to children of the communes which help us to reforest in Togo

The bushfire disaster

In Madagascar bush fires, mainly from slash-and-burn farming, have caused the destruction of 400,000 hectares of forest (official source).



Even with the continuation of Madagascar State's 2020 extensive reforestation programme (initiated in

2019), the total number of trees planted by the State and the NGOs will compensate only for a fraction of the actual forest destruction.



The President of Madagascar planting one of our trees as part of the national reforestation plan initiated in 2019.

To address the issue and accelerate the reforestation efforts, six years ago Graine de Vie introduced a direct seeding method. The method involves sowing seeds directly into the soil. Selected species of trees destined for reforestation are prepared in our nurseries, then, in the early rainy season, they are planted directly in the soil and ending up growing into hundreds of millions of trees.



Direct seeding plantation in the Antsirabe region



Distribution of two million seeds to communes of the Amorony Mania region for our first major test of direct seeding in this region.

Nevertheless, it is imperative that the Malagasy authorities take immediate action to ban bush fires, simplify the forestry code, repress the committed crimes with impunity against the environment, protect the country's parks and natural reserves against illicit cutting and burning, mobilise the army to protect parks and nature reserves during the bushfire season, and impose an obligation on all landowners to plant and protect their trees.

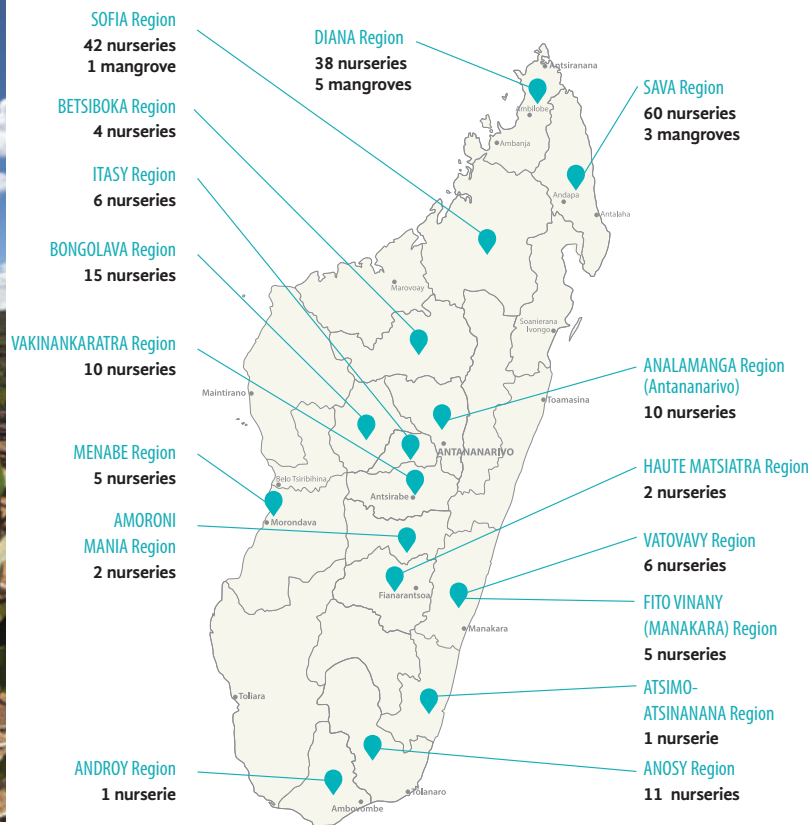
Unfortunately, the developing countries are unable to cope with the problem alone because of high demand for natural resources and the immense pressure applied by many external buyers.

It is imperative that industrialized nations intervene to help the developing countries to fight effectively against forest fires by giving them the technical and material means.

It is the only price to pay to save the forests of our planet.



218 NURSERIES IN MADAGASCAR



GRAINE DE VIE, AN EXPORTABLE BUSINESS MODEL

In 2019 we tested our business model in Togo and continued our expansion strategy in 2020 with the same model applied to our first nurseries in Benin and Cameroun.

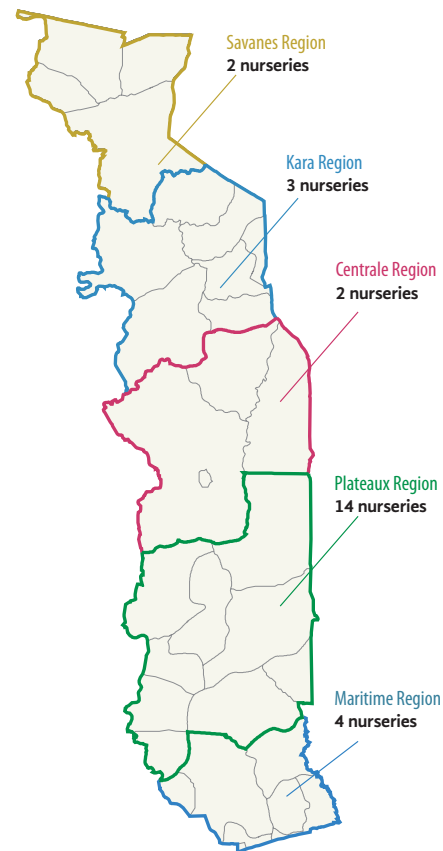
TOGO: 25 NURSERIES



The project initiated by Graine de Vie in Togo in 2019 included delivery of forest protection and restoration awareness raising sessions in 116 local communes. In each commune we create a nursery producing cash crop trees year after year and we continue to develop our direct seeding technique to support our reforestation efforts in the country.

Half of the trees planted will be cash crop trees distributed free of charge to local population providing them with new source of food and income.

The other half will be forest trees destined to be used by the locals to fulfil their daily need for wood (construction, heating, cooking, etc.). Our objective is to prevent the villagers from using wood from trees growing in natural reserves and national parks.



SITE MAP: 25 nurseries in Togo

BENIN : 6 NURSERIES

Neighbouring country of Togo - we were quickly approached by Beninese associations to help them initiate projects alike those we have in Togo. Our presence in Benin began in 2020 with the creation of 6 nurseries.



Potting by the village women in Benin

CAMEROON: 2 NURSERIES

At the initiative of a Cameroonian association, Graine de Vie team travelled to Cameroon in November 2020.

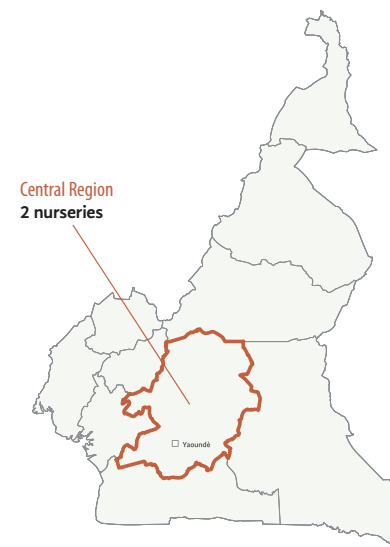
We visited a dozen communes in the central, western and southern parts of the country and met with the local authorities (mayors and chiefs).



Our branch manager, Franck, trained by our manager in Togo, has already created two nurseries in the communes of Mandjok and Kiki.



First nursery in Cameroon, commune of Mandjo



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE NGO

Structure in Europe



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Technical Director



François Yobo
Project Coordinator

Our activities are articulated around two axes:

- 1) Awareness and sustainable development
- 2) Carbon compensation

1. Awareness and sustainable development

These are projects that enable us to develop populist enthusiasm for tree planting by providing locals with trees which can be used for food or as source of income for their families (fruit trees, coffee, cocoa, clove trees, etc....)

Nursery in Antananarivo producing 700,000 tree plants every year on a piece of land that the association AKAMASOA of Father Pedro puts at our disposal. From December to the end of January, thousands of people and associations line up to receive trees that they will plant in and around the capital Antananarivo.



Nurseries in the main areas of the regions

When Graine de Vie begins activities in any new region, a central nursery is created in a principal area of that region. Central nurseries produce from 50,000 to 700,000 tree seedlings each year. Seedlings are then distributed to local associations active in protection and restoration of the forest. Graine de Vie assists these associations during transplantation of seedlings and performs annual inspection to ensure the proper state of the planted trees.

These central nurseries serve as a venue for training of the local nurserymen, education of pupils and as a springboard for all projects in the region.



Nurseries in the Communes

The basis of Graine de Vie's philosophy is to work directly with local population in the villages. In the countries where we are present, 85% of the population relies on natural resources to stay alive. However, the same inhabitants of impoverished communities are those who destroy forests to survive. Therefore, they are the primary targets of our awareness activities as eventually they become protagonists for our reforestation efforts. We begin with help of authorities and village associations (women, elders, farmers, schoolchildren) and organise palavers where we explain how the massive destruction of their forests threatens their supply of wood, water and food. Then, we propose to reverse the trend: we distribute (free of charge) cash crop seedlings for them to plant on their own and in exchange we ask that they help us plant the equivalent number or trees in reforestation zones, where we plant with the direct seeding method. If we provide 10,000 cash crop seedlings produced in local nursery, the villagers will plant with us 10,000 trees in reforestation zones. It is a win-win offer.

This system is transposable to most African countries. We have 165 tree nurseries of this type in Madagascar, 25 in Togo, 6 in Benin and 2 in Cameroon.



Typical nurseries in a commune producing 10.000 plants each year.

Tree nurseries in schools

We are developing a **nursery creation programmes for school playgrounds**. Each of such nurseries produces **500 tree seedlings annually**. Graine de Vie trains one volunteer teacher per school who is then provided with materials, tools, pots, seeds, and technical assistance. During the environmental education classes children are taught how to conceive young trees, see them growing in the nursery throughout the school year and then replant the seedlings into the soil with their parents and teachers. Further, in 2019, we have produced and distributed an awareness-raising film specifically designed for Malagasy schoolchildren. We also engaged an educator who visits schools around the country to discuss with pupils the importance of forests for now and for the future. In 2020 we concluded an important partnership with the Ministry of Education. The partnership enables us to create 20 new nurseries in schools and provide two million seeds to be planted by the children using our direct seeding technique.



Pupils participating in the village reforestation, after the awareness class.



Plantation day celebrating the announcement of our partnership the Ministry of Education. The Minister of National Education (blue shirt) and the Minister of Environment (white shirt)

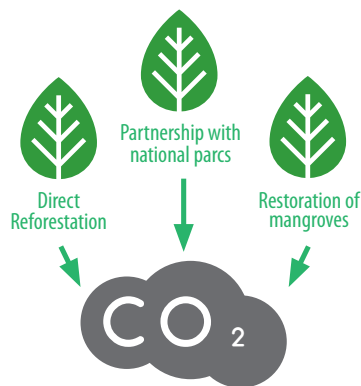
2. Carbon Offsetting

Carbon offsetting is achieved through large-scale reforestation projects where nurseries and tree plantations are managed directly by Graine de Vie.

Large-scale reforestation projects

In 2010, we began our first major reforestation project in the northeast of Madagascar south of the city of Antalaha on the Ampohibe site. The project entails reforestation in excess of **10,000 hectares** and requires creation of **four nurseries in three different communes**. More than 2,000,000 trees were planted with a success rate of above 60%.

We are in the process of initiating similar projects in other regions, notably with the help of the Malagasy army.



Partnerships with Madagascar National Parks (MNP) – 12 programs



Madagascar's national parks are the last remnants of the extraordinary primary forest that covered the country less than two centuries ago. Today, this forest area has been reduced by more than 85 percent. It is therefore essential to secure, protect and restore these national parks. Graine de Vie designed several projects in partnership with MNP to address the issue. These projects include forest restoration within the parks and creation of tree nurseries in outlying communities to provide wood reserves for the local population, delivery of awareness activities for the locals and distribution of free cash crop trees: fruit trees, coffee, cocoa, clove trees, Ravensara, etc.

1) MASAOLA NATIONAL PARK

In 2018, we signed a particularly important partnership with the Masaola National Park. Located in the North-East of Madagascar, the Masoala National Park, created in 1997, is the largest forest reserve of Madagascar. It spans over 240,000 hectares of land.



It is registered on the list of the UNESCO world heritage for its exceptional biodiversity (the Masoala forest alone contains nearly 1% of the world's plant and animal species).

In 2020, thanks to the generous backing of the PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION, we expanded our activities: we created tree nurseries (27 operational nurseries) and reinforced reforestation programmes in all peripheral communes of the park.



2) MAROLAMBO NATIONAL PARK

Project initiated in 2018 with the creation of 4 nurseries around this Park.

3) MAROJEY NATIONAL PARK

This project began in 2010 and since then the Park's bush fires caused by inhabitants of 12 peripheral villages were reduced considerably.

4) NATIONAL PARK OF THE MOUNTAIN OF AMBER

Project started in 2012 in the first National Park created in Madagascar: seven municipalities involved. In 2019, thanks to the generosity the TOTAL FOUNDATION, we created additional nurseries and increased reforestation programmes in all the peripheral municipalities of the Park.



5) ANDOHAHELA NATIONAL PARK

Project commenced in 2014: four communes involved.

6) ANKARANA NATIONAL PARK

Project launched in 2016: four communes involved.



Graine de Vie team with the park's staff.

7) NOSY HARA NATIONAL MARINE PARK

Project established in 2015; it includes restoration of the important mangrove of the Park and the surrounding hills: already 80,000 trees planted.



Restored mangrove of Nosy-Hara Marine Park

8) AMBOHITANTELY RESERVE

Project initiated in 2016. It is the last part of forest near the capital Antananarivo on the west road.



Nosy-Hara

9) RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK

Project got under way in 2019 with the creation of 2 nurseries around this Park.



10) ANALAMERANA RESERVE

Project inaugurated in 2019 thanks to the generous sponsorship of the LIEGE AIRPORT. The project foresees plantation of 120.000 trees annually in and around the Reserve.



11) LOKOBE PARK IN NOSY-BE

Project created in 2020 and with the aim of constructing a nursery of indigenous trees for transplantation inside the Park.

12) KIRINDY MITEA NATIONAL PARK

Project initialized in 2020 with the partnership of the NGO DRY FOREST with the creation of 2 nurseries.

Restoration of mangroves

Mangroves are essential to the environmental balance of coastal regions for several reasons:

- Fish spawn in mangroves which is **essential to their reproductive cycle**.

- Mangroves are the habitat of many crabs necessary **to clean the coastline and to serve as food for the population**.

- **Mangroves protect the coastline**, and therefore the nearby villages, **against coastal erosion and against cyclones**.

- Mangroves are the terrestrial **ecosystem with the highest capacity to absorb CO₂ (40 times more than temperate forests)**

In 2020, we continued our mangrove restoration programmes:

- The East Cape (Cap Est) mangrove where six kilometres of mangrove were ravaged by fire. We have replanted **125,000 tree seedlings** that are already producing their own fruit (photo right). The management of the project is now transferred to the communal authorities. Our work is limited to replanting and surveillance.



Cap Est mangrove in 2009



- The mangrove in front of the famous Diego Suarez Sugar Loaf, one of the most famous tourist sites of Madagascar: Graine de Vie planted over 15,000 trees.

- The mangrove of the saline in Diego-Suarez.



In 2020

- Inside the new Marine Park of Nosy-Hara, we have been commissioned by Madagascar National Parks to restore the whole mangrove which is invaded at each high tide of the sea. It is in there that we created our first mangrove nurseries where we plant more mature and more resistant trees. To date we planted more than 80,000 plants.



- In the City of Voahemmar, where we are reconstituting the mangrove located in the centre and north of the city

- Near the French Mountain in Diego Suarez and in the SOFIA region with an elder's association of nearby villages.

HOW TO HELP US TO RESTORE THE FORESTS?

YOU ARE AN
INDIVIDUAL

> YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL

OFFSETTING CARBON FOOTPRINT OF AN ACTIVITY

You 'd like to offset a journey, sport or professional activity, family trip, house construction, your car drives, etc. Nothing could be easier. Use the carbon calculator on our website to calculate carbon footprint of any activity you wish to offset: www.grainedevie.org

PLANT A FOREST TO OFFSET MY LIFE

For a European resident, the average lifetime ecological footprint is estimated at 1.000 tonnes of CO₂.

By planting 10.000 trees we compensate for all CO₂ generated by our lifetime existence: the average life

cycle of a tree is 20 years and each tree planted in Madagascar captures minimum of CO₂ annually. The average cost of a tree planted by Graine de Vie is of 0.25€.

With recurring Graine de Vie donation of 20€ for 125 months, you will plant a forest of 10,000 trees, the forest to offset your lifetime on Earth.

For more information visit: www.grainedevie.org

MAKE A DONATION OR BEQUEST FOR THE PLANET

Throughout our lives, we take advantage of the many riches of our planet. When organising your estate planning, why not give back to Earth a little of what it has given us? Leave behind a better world for future generations.

How can you do this? By donating or bequeathing a part of your heritage to our NGO to plant your trees or to create your own forest.

Discuss with your notary and estate planner who can provide information about the very favourable inheritance tax advantages of donations and legacies to authorised charities like Graine de Vie.



YOU ARE AN ENTERPRISE

Why not join our cause and reduce the CO₂ impact of your business by creating a nursery and a new forest in your company's name?

Graine de Vie can assist you to calculate your company's carbon footprint. You can then determine what can be done to reduce it and how much you can offset. Offsetting CO₂ with Graine de Vie is inexpensive and tax-deductible. You can offset all or selected business activities and processes to achieve your corporate social responsibility objectives and to rally up employees around a common cause.

YOU ARE AN
ENTERPRISE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We would like to thank all our generous donors.
As we cannot cite everyone, our special gratitude to:

ACBW
AEROPORT DE LIEGE
ALD AUTOMOTIVE
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APRICO
ARENDT ET MEDERNACH
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Municipalities

BRAINE L'ALLEUD
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LA HULPE
MONT-SAINT-GUIBERT
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WAVRE

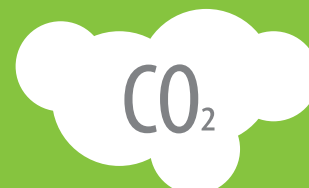
Charities

FONDATION TOTAL
FONDATION PRINCE ALBERT II DE MONACO
FONDATION DE LUXEMBOURG

Graine de Vie in numbers

 144
Number of tree species planted

 896
Number of reforestation sites


= 175.000 tonnes
of CO₂ offset each year

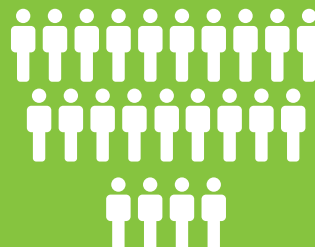
Number of tree nurseries

218 in Madagascar

 6 in Benin

2 in Cameroon

25 in Togo



= 17.500 people

The ecological footprint emitted by each European averages at 10 tonnes annually. Our trees compensate the CO₂ emitted by 17.500 Europeans each year.

 9
mangrove restorations

12 
projects of
protection and
reforestation of
National Parks

 35.000.000
Trees planted since 2009

2020 Key Achievements

-  **Positive development of projects in Togo:** 25 nurseries to date.
-  **New projects initiated** in Benin and Cameroon..
-  **Improvement** of our operational structure.
-  **Official recognition** from the Luxembourg authorities obtained by Graine de Vie Luxembourg.
-  **Expanding and improving** our projects' reporting.
-  Partnership with **the Malagasy Ministry of National Education** to permit each school child to plant a tree.
-  More than **ten million trees planted** in 2020 alone.
-  **Partnership** for the restoration of Lokobe Park and Kirindy Mitea Park.





Contact : grainedevie@outlook.be
www.grainedevie.org



To date, we planted more than 35,000,000 trees in Africa.
We would like to say: Thank you!

Because of your generous contributions each year Graine de Vie can continue further development of projects and take concrete actions for the planet and our future generations. We provide work to hundreds of people in Africa but our teams in Europe are made up exclusively of volunteers.

If you have skills and time to get involved in saving our planet, contact us at: grainedevie@outlook.be

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