

Reforestation integrated into local life





THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The world's forests are inevitably disappearing. To create agricultural land, to extract wood, to produce charcoal, or simply because of a lack of protection and interest in nature and the environment on which our survival depends.

We are all responsible.

The states of developing countries because they are complicit in this deforestation from which some leaders make huge profits;

Our industrialized nations, because this massive deforestation enriches large multi-national companies with powerful lobbying;

We, ourselves, because we continue to buy a lot of products and materials without caring about their origin or their sustainability.

Graine de Vie celebrates its 14th anniversary in April. Throughout these years we have seen the environment in the countries where we work change, evolve, too often not in the direction we hoped.

By privileging involvement of local communities in all these countries we created an enthusiasm for tree planting and sometimes this success was the start of an effective partnership with national authorities.

Where we intervene, fires are decreasing, forest levels are improving, and more people are asking for tree seedlings to plant them voluntarily. This gives us hope that our action is worthwhile despite the

overall increase of forest destruction.

In Cameroon, an association of women mayors asked us for an alternative to logging, which today is the sole source of funding of the local projects. We have launched a program with them to create carbon credits on the REDD+ market that should provide them with the same income while preserving their communal forests. If the national authorities allow us to launch carbon credit projects on their territory, we will save tens of thousands of hectares of magnificent primary forests.

In the Republic of Congo, where we initiated new projects in 2022, we located large areas to be reforested (10,000 hectares - 10 kilometers by 10 kilometers) that will be able to generate carbon credits, the benefits of which will go back to the local community to improve their living conditions (creation of permaculture schools, help with access to water, green energy, agricultural cooperative projects, fish farming, beekeeping, poultry farming, etc...) These projects will provide the population and especially the new generation with economic reasons to stay in their village.

We began in the DRC by testing the "direct seeding" technique (which we developed in Madagascar and Togo) on four 150-hectare plots in four different regions. The results are amazing: according to species 45% to 80% of the seeds germinated and will become trees if people and nature give them the opportunity to do so. This technique will enable us to consider reforestation of huge areas.

In Madagascar, each year fires are causing more and more damage to the country's remaining forests

without any notable reaction from the authorities. As a result, we have decided to reduce our projects there by one third (from 322 nurseries to 200) in order to invest more resources in the protection and restoration of national parks.

In Burkina Faso, despite the political instability, we initiated projects in the south of the country in 2022 with three nurseries.

In Togo, Benin and Ghana, our local teams have continued to expand our projects.

Everywhere, the authorities recognize our effective approach to raise awareness among the communities by teaching them to plant trees and by providing them with tree seedlings to improve their livelihoods.

More than ever, we must accept the principle that we will only save the last forests of our planet by giving the indigenous communities an economic income equivalent or superior to what they receive by destroying the forests.

"Currently, man is waging a war against nature. If he wins, he is lost."
Hubert Reeves



Frédéric Debouche
Founding President of Graine de Vie

THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



Each of us can take positive action in our own way!

On the one hand, by trying to reduce our carbon footprint while leading healthier and more sustainable life.

On the other hand, by offsetting the residual footprint with planting and financing of planting trees. And if possible, in underdeveloped countries where the trees have a higher carbon capture rate than in developed countries and where trees improve the livelihoods and resources of people who are the first to suffer from the effects of climate change.

This awareness gave birth to Graine de Vie in 2009 with the creation of its first nursery and the plantation of 100,000 trees in Madagascar.

Today we planted more than 50,000,000 trees in 7 African countries.

The cartography, available on our website, showcases different projects of restoration of natural ecosystems through agroforestry, afforestation, restoration and protection of national parks, or restoration of mangroves.

OUR APPROACH

1. Community engagement

Graine de Vie was born from a local initiative to address major deforestation in the northeast region of Madagascar. Ever since, we have continued with this approach. Indeed, we are convinced that communities facing the same geographical and climate characteristics or having the same customs are the best placed to define and implement the solution to the degradation of their natural ecosystem.



Seeing the impact of environmental decline on their way of life and having to adapt to it, generally pushes communities to redefine together their day-to-day conduct. This leads them to become stakeholders. In the same way, the practical knowledge of their land is an indispensable asset to solve the problem quickly and sustainably. Our role is to make all information available to local communities and to create partnerships.

2. Cross-sector partnership

Our teams intervene with different stakeholders (private sector, public sector, scientific community, civil society organizations, ...) to create a synergy

between them and thus provide financial, structural and technical support to their fight against climate change.

3. North-South exchange

People living in underdeveloped countries are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Moreover, trees planted in these underdeveloped countries have a higher carbon capture rate than in developed countries and they improve the livelihoods and resources of people who are the first to suffer from the effects of global warming. For this reason, we are currently implementing our projects in African countries.

4. Gender approach

Although our initial focus was primarily environmental, we quickly realised the enormous impact of our reforestation projects on the lives of local people.

We therefore approach gender equality in different ways by including women and also young people as beneficiaries and actors of our projects, and by considering in particular the place of women in communities strongly characterised by patriarchal organisation.



OUR ACTIONS

1. Local projects and agroforestry

The endogenous approach and the territorial anchoring are the foundations of Graine de Vie's philosophy. This is why the establishment of our local projects is based on a local initiative. The authorities (communal and customary) and the village associations (women, farmers, schoolchildren) contact us after hearing about our activities in the surrounding villages.

Through our exchanges, they understand more and more how the massive destruction of their forests threatens their supply of wood, water, and food. Indeed, in the countries where we are active, 85% of the population survives only with the support of natural resources.

By becoming aware of this, they themselves become the main protagonists of reforestation. Our role is to provide them with a nursery, often in isolated villages, that each year produces 10,000 young plants of cash crops (trees that produce resources for the population), and trees destined for reforestation.



2. Reforestation

Graine de Vie also implements large-scale tree planting projects based on the "direct seeding" technique. This technique, which consists of selecting, treating and planting seeds directly into the soil at the beginning of the rainy season, allows us to reforest large areas quickly and at a lower cost.



3. Restoration and protection of protected areas

Protected areas, such as national parks, special reserves, classified forests and sacred forests, are generally the last remnants of primary forest that must be safeguarded, protected and restored at all costs. By collaborating with the managers of these sites, such as Madagascar National Park or traditional chiefs in Benin, Graine de Vie contributes to the preservation of these natural heritages.

These projects include forest restoration within the parks themselves and the creation of nurseries in the outlying communities. Trees grown in the nurseries provide wood reserves for the local population as well as new livelihood resources through the planting of fruit trees,

coffee, cocoa, cloves, ravintsara, etc...
In Madagascar:

1) **NATIONAL PARK OF MASAOLA**
(13 communes involved - 53 nurseries - Project sponsored by the **PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION**).

In 2018, we concluded a very important partnership with the Masaola National Park Management. Located in the northeast of Madagascar, Masoala National Park, created in 1997, is the largest forest reserve in Madagascar. It covers an area of 240,000 hectares.

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



2) **NATIONAL PARK OF MAROLAMBO**
(4 communes involved - 4 nurseries).

3) **NATIONAL PARK OF MAROJEJY**
(12 communes involved - 12 nurseries - Project sponsored by the **WAKO company**)

4) AMBER MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
(7 communes involved - 12 nurseries - Project sponsored by the **TOTAL ENERGIES FOUNDATION**)

Project initiated in 2012 in the first National Park created in Madagascar.



5) ANDOHAHELA NATIONAL PARK
(3 communes involved - 3 nurseries)

6) NATIONAL PARK OF ANKARANA
(6 communes involved - 6 nurseries - Project sponsored by the **SAEY FOUNDATION**).



7) NOSY HARA NATIONAL MARINE PARK
(1 commune concerned - 2 nurseries - project sponsored by the Luxembourg company

ARENDT & MEDERNACH)

8) RESERVE OF AMBOHITANTELY
(Project sponsored by the **Luxembourg Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development**)

This is the last piece of forest near the capital Antananarivo on the road to the west. In 2021 we concluded a partnership agreement for the reforestation of 1200ha inside the reserve.



9) RANOMAFANA NATIONAL PARK
(2 communes involved - 2 nurseries)

10) ANALAMERANA RESERVE
(3 communes involved - 6 nurseries - Project supported by the **Airport of Liege**)

11) LOKOBE PARK in Nosy-Be (1 nursery)

12) NATIONAL PARK OF KIRINDY MITEA
(2 nurseries - in partnership with the NGO DRY FOREST).

13) MAKAY RESERVE FOREST
(3 nurseries - in partnership with the NGO **NATURE EVOLUTION**)

14) RESERVE OF MAROTANDRANO
(in partnership with the **NGO DURRELL**)
It covers an area of 42,200 hectares in Mandritsara, Mahajanga.

In Benin:

15) SACRED FOREST OF HOUÉGBO in the commune of Toffo

16) SACRED FOREST OF ADJRAKO in the commune of Zè

17) SACRED FOREST OF DASSEZOUN in the commune of Abomey

18) SACRED FOREST OF DJIGBOZOUN in the commune of Abomey Calavi

19) DEHOUZOUN SACRED FOREST in the commune of Savalou

20) CLASSIFIED FOREST OF OUEDO in the commune of Abomey Calavi

21) CLASSIFIED FOREST OF OUESSE in the commune of Ouidah



4. Restoration and protection of mangroves

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

- fish spawn in mangroves which is vital to their reproductive cycle.
- Mangroves are the habitat of many crabs that are necessary for the cleaning of the coastline and serve as food for the population.
- Mangroves protect the coastline and therefore the villages located there against coastal erosion and cyclones.
- Mangroves are the terrestrial ecosystem with the highest capacity to absorb CO₂ (more than forty times higher than temperate forests).

We continued our mangrove restoration programs in 2021:

- East Cape mangrove (six kilometers of mangrove ravaged by fire). We replanted 125,000 tree seedlings that are already producing their own fruit. We have handed over the management of this project to the local authorities. Our work today is limited to replanting and monitoring.



en 2009



en 2020



- The mangrove in front of the famous sugar loaf of Diego Suarez; we have planted more than 20,000 trees in one of the most famous tourist sites of Madagascar.
- The mangrove of the Caiman River in Diego Suarez.
- The mangrove of the saline in Diego Suarez.



- Inside the new Marine Park of Nosy-Hara, we were commissioned by Madagascar National

Parks to restore the entire mangrove.

It is there that we established our first mangrove nurseries which are invaded by the sea at each high tide and which allow us to plant more mature and resistant trees. We have already planted more than 100,000 plants.

- In the city of Vohemar, where we are reconstituting the mangrove located in the center of the city as well as that of the North.
 - Near the French Mountain in Diego Suarez, and in the SOFIA region with an association of village elders.
- We identified several parcels (nearly 300 ha) of degraded mangroves in the SAVA region. The restoration of these is currently subject to certification to carbon offset standards to distribute the benefits to the local communities concerned.

We are continuing the inventory of mangroves to be restored in the DIANA region.



Reforestation with the Malagasy Minister for the Environment

Carbon certification

The creation of certified carbon credits on our reforestation projects is an opportunity for our NGO to develop its projects while granting important funds to the village populations allowing them to initiate development projects (permaculture schools, agricultural cooperatives, access to water, education and health care, solar ovens, development of fish farming, poultry farming, beekeeping, etc...)

Our ambition is to combine our reforestation actions with the improvement of the well-being of the local population and thereby improve the support of the villagers by motivating them to protect the reforested areas.

Several projects led by Graine de Vie are currently being certified in Madagascar, Cameroon and DRC. We are currently working with **CLIMATE LAB** in Ghent who is helping us to obtain certification for our projects.





OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Graine de Vie is now a network of non-governmental organizations in Belgium, Cameroon, Luxembourg, Madagascar and Togo.

In Benin we work in partnership with the local NGO CEDV (Chaque Enfant a Droit à la Vie). Each structure has a board of directors and a multidisciplinary executive team.

Management Board



Graine de Vie Belgium

Jean-François BARTH (Administrator),
Vanessa Wade (Marketing Manager),
Eric VAN DROOGENBROECK (Administrator),
Gauthier WITTAMER (Treasurer),
Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President),
Marc PITTIE (Project Manager),
Edouard LAMBRECHTS (President GDV Luxembourg)



Graine de Vie Luxembourg

René ARNOLDY (Vice-president),
Vincent PRINGIERS (Director),
Marc WILLEM (Director),
Edouard LAMBRECHTS (Chairman),
Carole WINTERDORFF (General Secretary),
Michel VANDEVOIR (Treasurer)



Evelyne
ANDRE
Auditor



Anna
TERLIZZI
Accountant



Nucia
RANDRIANARISON
Coordinator



Ko
FAYE
Social Media Manager

MADAGASCAR: 322 NURSERIES



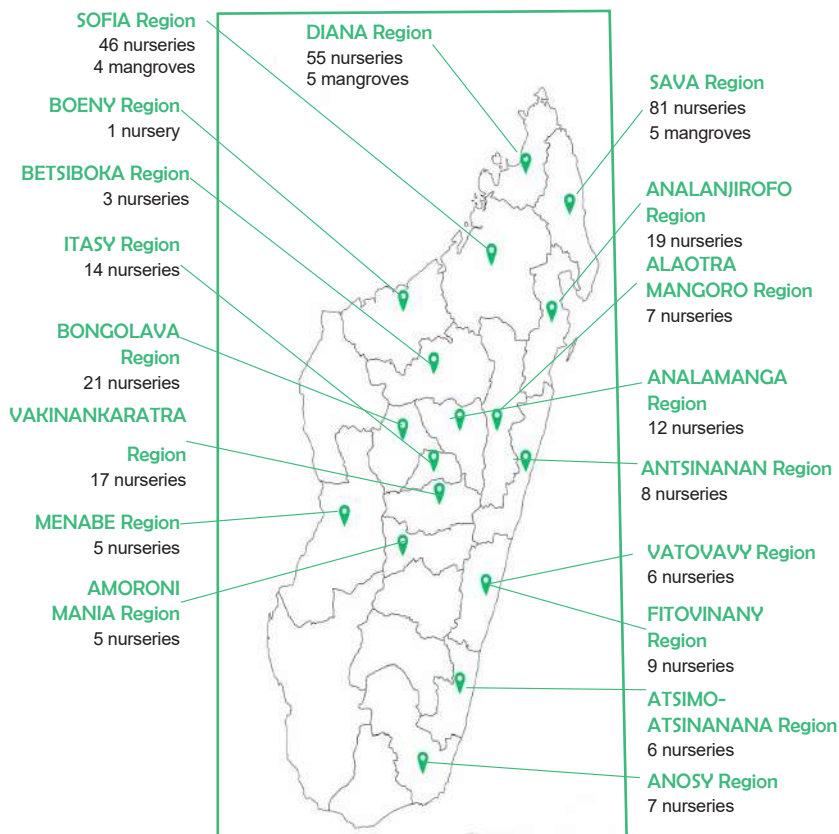
Bezara DAVY (Financial Director); Ialimandimby RAKOTOARIVELO (Project Director); Gérard PONCET (National Technical Director)

Graine de Vie Madagascar is governed by a Board of Directors and an executive team. The latter is composed of a central management team, regional managers, a communication and awareness team, an operational and follow-up team (nurserymen, sector managers) and hundreds of day laborers according to the needs of the projects.

Two of our projects are carried out with the support of the Luxembourg government.



Sava team

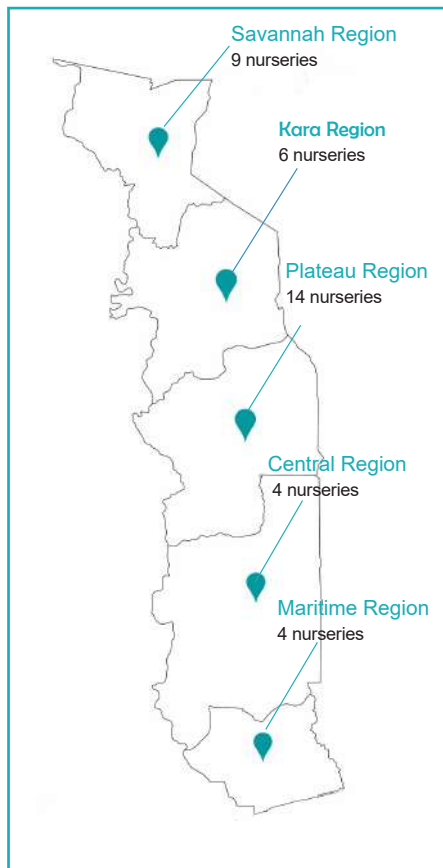


TOGO: 37 NURSERIES

The monitoring and evaluation of our plantation areas are carried out by the University of Kara through its Laboratory of Sanitation, Water Sciences and Environment. We plan to issue plantation certificates through our local partners..



Kevin DEKASSI (Technician), Atsu AGBELEY (Technician), Jeromine ADIKA (Technician), Gérard DOGA (Technical Director), Félicité SAGA (Technician), Blaise MESSAVI (Technician), Jean Paul DOGA (Technician), Honoré KORADZA (Ghana Project Officer)



BURKINA FASO: 3 NURSERIES

A Burkina Faso association contacted Graine de Vie to train their team members in our reforestation methods. After being trained and realizing the importance of multiplying this practice in his country, David Sanou initiated a local team to create and manage 3 nurseries during the year 2022 with the villagers.



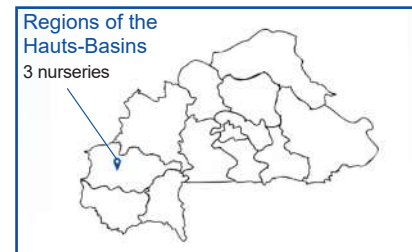
Luc Sanou
Coordinator



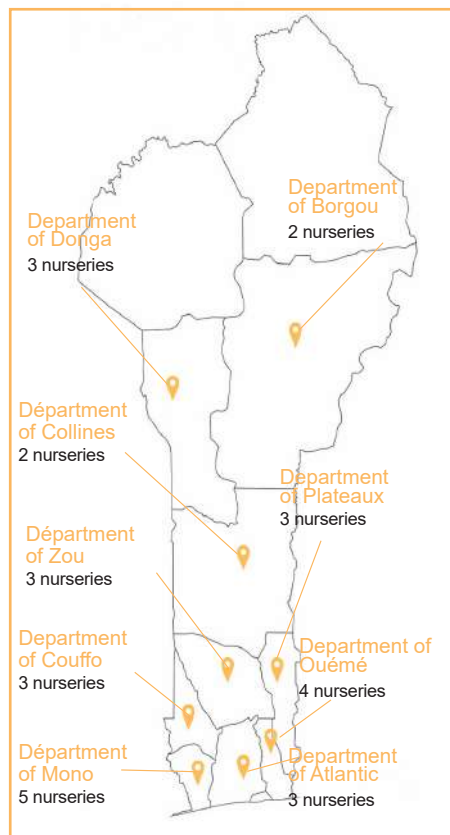
David Sanou
Chief of staff



Arouna Sanou
Responsible for seeds



BENIN: 28 NURSERIES



We were quickly approached in 2019 by a Beninese association called Chaque Enfant a Droit à la Vie (CEDV). They wanted us to initiate with them the same types of projects as in Togo.

Today, we have projects in 28 communes, while the country has 77.

Reforestation actions, information and awareness campaigns are co-organized in schools, with authorities and community leaders.

We also intervene in several sacred and classified forests in order to participate in their protection and restoration

Ignace Djossa (Head of reforestation)
 Patrice TOFFI (President and Founder)
 Angèle HOUEDANOU (General Secretary)



GHANA: 6 NURSERIES

Our team in Togo met with villagers in Ghana who also wanted to benefit from tree seedlings.



We started our projects in this here in March 2021 and currently manage 6 nurseries with a team led by Honoré KORADZA and Charles TORDZRO.



CAMEROON: 15 COMMUNES ACCOMPANIED with the support of the Luxembourg government



Our activities here are supported by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. During our 1st year we were able to achieve the following results:

- raise awareness of sustainable environmental management among 33,729 people during 122 awareness sessions
- create 219 jobs
- distribute and plant 107,221 tree seedlings
- establish collaboration agreements with 15 municipalities
- co-establish management plans for 7 communes

Graine de Vie Cameroun has also created a recycling unit for used pots.

In addition, many partnerships have been set up to carry out major projects during 2023.



With the board members of the Association of Women Mayors (SOFEMA)



François YOBO
Coordinator



Franck MINDJA
Technical Director



Lionel MBALLA
Technician



Léa NDONGO
Technician



Raoul ZINGUI
Technician

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: 604 ha under direct seeding



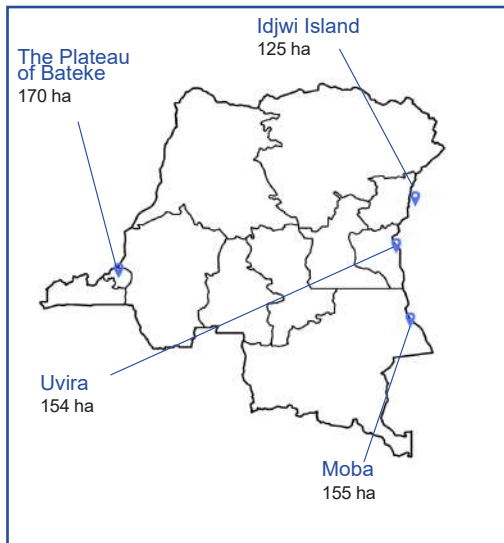
Coordinator RDC:
Xavier ROUGET



IDJWI
Head of branch : Simba Bahati SENDOVER
Assistant : Léonce Bantubalice KINYUNYI



BATEKE
Technical manager : Christian Oritua DUDU
Assistant : Mariamu RAMAZANI Cadette
Technician : Luyingila MBUTA Samuel



UVIRA
Head of branch: Nakabaka KYABA
Raphaël
Assistant : Bienvenu DEBABA



MOBA
Head of branch: Constantin Mbolyo
KITETO
Assistant : Uurbain Mbolyo KITETO

At the request of local communities, Graine de Vie has trained a new team in the Democratic Republic of Congo to adapt its "direct seeding" technique to the Congolese territory. Good practices, local know-how and community involvement enabled us to carry out a pilot stage of a large-scale reforestation project planned for 2023 for an area of 10,000 hectares.



HOW TO HELP US RESTORE THE FOREST?

> YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL

OFFSET THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF AN ACTIVITY

You want to offset a trip, a sporting or professional activity, a family trip, the construction of your house, your car journeys... Nothing could be easier.

Calculate the carbon footprint of what you want to offset by contacting us at info@grainedevie.org

PLANT A FOREST TO OFFSET MY LIFE

For a European, the average ecological footprint amounts to nearly 1,000 tons of CO₂ for his entire life.

By planting about 10.000 trees we compensate the CO₂ generated by our existence (the average life cycle of a tree is 20 years and each tree planted in Madagascar captures at least 5 kilos

of CO₂ annually)

By donating 20€ per month for 125 months, we will plant your forest of 5,000 trees, the forest of your life.

More information is available at:
www.grainedevie.org

MAKE A DONATION OR BEQUEST FOR THE PLANET

Throughout our lives, we benefit from the many riches of our planet.

When organizing your estate plan, why not give back to the Earth a little of what it has given us? Why not pass on a better world to future generations?

How can you do this? By donating or bequeathing a portion of your estate to our association, we will plant the trees you have financed.

Talk to your notary who will explain to you

YOU ARE
AN INDIVIDUAL



that donations and bequests made to a fiscally accredited association, like Graine de Vie, are taxed at a very advantageous rate.

> YOU ARE AN ENTERPRISE

Why not join our movement and reduce the impact of your company by creating a nursery and a new forest in your company's name? It is affordable, deductible, it can improve the image of your company and can also rally your employees around a sustainable theme.

We can also help you establish your company's carbon footprint, which will allow you to reduce the impact of your activities on nature and compensate for the non-reducible part of your carbon footprint.

YOU ARE AN
ENTERPRISE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We would like to thank all of our many generous donors.
As we cannot cite the long list of donors, we would like to give a special acknowledgement to :

Our eco-partners

3R, REVISEURS	IH INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS LTD	NGROUP	ZCHOCOLAT
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D-CARBONIZE	MASER ENGINEERING	WAKO SA	
DLDB SA	MASSE ET FILS	WERELDHAVE BELGIUM NV	
GOODSWITCH SRL	NEXXT IMMO PROMOTION	YELLOW EVENTS SPRL	

Results in 2022



Over 50.000.000 trees planted since 2009



Development of our projects :

- Creation of 32 new nurseries (411 in all)
- Planting of more than 5.000 ha in "direct seeding"



Reinforced integration in the carbon certification process:

- 3 projects undergoing certification in Madagascar
- 1 forest protection project in Cameroon
- 1 reforestation project of 10,000 ha in the Democratic Republic of Congo



New areas of operations:

- Burkina Faso
- Democratic Republic of Congo

Contribution to the SDGs

Graine de Vie's activities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on several levels. We respond to several issues in a transversal way:

- Intervention in developing countries with high poverty rates;
- Improvement of food sufficiency by providing local population with young cash crop trees from our nurseries and by creating food forests;
- Creation of employment to stimulate economic growth for a better quality of life in the intervention areas;
- Reduction of inequalities within and between countries by encouraging the development of landlocked areas on the one hand and bilateral and inter-sectoral partnerships on the other;
- Fighting climate change and its consequences by combining mitigation actions through the CO2 sequestration with community reforestation areas and small-scale agroforestry and adjustment of local agricultural practices with more sustainable and adaptive management practices;
- Protection, restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems by increasing forest areas, promoting the use of agroforestry practices and restoring degraded mangroves.







Contact : info@grainedevie.org
www.grainedevie.org

Till now, more than 50.000.000 trees have been planted in Africa.

It is thanks to your contribution that each year we are able to grow the projects of Grain de Vie and act concretely for the planet and future generations.



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BIC: GEBABEBB

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