

Reforestation integrated into local life



Annual report 2023

Each of us holds a part of the solution

Since the Kyoto agreements (1997), governments, major international organisations and multinational lobbyists have been meeting once a year at the COP (Conference of the Parties).

This is the 28th COP.

Each one has brought its share of statistics, findings, debates, contradictions, minor advances and conclusions.

Today, humanity knows.

It knows that in less than a century it is responsible for the destruction of half of all marine life, half of the planet's primary forests and the disappearance of several thousand species, most of which existed long before us.



This is known as the "sixth mass extinction", even if it is the first to be blamed on a single species, our own.

It knows that it is emitting too much CO₂ into the atmosphere, and that this is the cause of the climate change that is already causing whole populations to suffer.

And it knows that this awareness has not yet led to a real change of direction, the beginning of a new, more sustainable, fairer world where future generations can live in harmony with nature.



We know, but what can we do about it?

We sort our rubbish, we switch to electric cars and solar panels, we are careful to turn off the lights, sometimes we even get together and demonstrate for a greener world or we organise the reduction of our carbon footprint or that of our company.

But we can do more : we can play a part in protecting and restoring forests.

Trees help to reduce global warming by storing CO₂ from the atmosphere in their trunks, branches and roots.

Some capture several tonnes of CO₂ during their lifetime, thereby offsetting the excess CO₂ generated by human activity (around 40% of man-made CO₂ emissions are not absorbed naturally by oceans and forests).

But there is a terrible downside to this miracle of nature: when forests are destroyed, they themselves become sources of greenhouse gases, as the CO₂ they store is released into the atmosphere.



What's more, the destruction of forests accounts for more than 20% of annual human emissions of CO2 into the atmosphere.

In addition to this essential role in regulating global warming, forests are home to biodiversity and constitute important economic resources for communities that know how to use them sustainably.

Finally, and this is undoubtedly their most important role, forests play an essential part in the water cycle. Without trees, our continents would be arid and desert-like. And that, unfortunately, is the inevitable fate of countries that fail to protect their last remaining forests.



Wherever we carry out our reforestation projects, we find that the destroyed forest transforms its terrain, first into savannah and then increasingly into barren desert, forcing people to emigrate and increasing the pressure on the last remaining forests.



More than ever, forest protection and restoration are crucial to combating the effects of global warming, and you personally have a role to play in helping us plant the forest that will reduce the carbon footprint of your life.



Based on the average lifespan of a European tree, its overall carbon footprint during its lifetime and the carbon capture rate of a tree planted in Africa, we have been able to establish the number of trees that each of us should ideally plant to offset the environmental impact of our lives on earth.

5,760 TREES A FOREST FOR MY LIFE

For 0.50 cents, we plant a tree in Africa.
We plant 7 to 8 million trees a year.

If you can help us, subscribe to our "A forest for my life" programme by paying us 2,880 euros (20 euros per month for 12 years).

By doing so, you will become an active participant in the protection of the environment and you will help communities in developing countries to better resist the effects of climate change by providing them with trees that will improve their livelihood.

It's not a drop in the ocean. It's a gesture of humanity for the planet and its inhabitants. And if many of us do it, we can really improve our world.



Frédéric Debouche
Founding President of Graine de Vie

THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Firstly, by reducing our carbon footprint through a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.

Secondly, by contributing to its carbon neutrality by planting and financing the plantation of trees. And if possible, planting them in developing countries where they have higher carbon capture rate than in our own countries and where they improve the livelihood of communities suffering the most 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 planting of 100,000 trees in Madagascar. Today, we have planted more than 57,000,000 trees in 7 African countries.



OUR APPROACH :

Participatory and community-based approach

Our goal is to actively involve local communities and their authorities. This aims to ensure strong local commitment, ownership of the project by everyone and a lasting impact on the environment.



Information campaigns are conducted regularly to encourage the active participation of the population. All generations are approached to ensure maximum awareness.



Gender approach

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

We therefore approach gender equality in different ways, including women and youngsters as beneficiaries and participants in our projects, and considering in particular the place of women in communities that are strongly characterised by patriarchal organisation.



OUR ACTIONS

1. Local projects and agroforestry

Our projects are based on local initiatives. The authorities (local and traditional) and village associations (women, farmers, schoolchildren) contact us after hearing about our actions in the surrounding villages.

Through our discussions, they increasingly understand how the massive destruction of their forests threatens their wood, water and food supplies. In the countries where we operate, 85% of the population survives solely on natural resources.



By becoming aware of this, they themselves become the main players in reforestation. Our role is to make available to them, in the villages, a nursery producing 10,000 young cash crop tree seedlings each year (trees producing resources for the population) and forest trees for reforestation.

2. Direct sowing reforestation



Graine de Vie sets up large-scale tree-planting projects based on the direct sowing technique.

This technique involves selecting, treating and planting seeds directly in the soil at the start of the rainy season. It enables us to reforest large areas quickly and cheaply.



3. R.P.P.R. projetc

I **R**eceive tree seedlings.

I **P**lant them.

I **P**reserve them.

I **R**eceive money.

R.P.P.R. is a reforestation project designed to encourage farmers to replant forest trees and cash crop trees on their land as part of an agroforestry concept, with the creation of carbon credits that will be paid out annually to farmers and village communities.



Graine de Vie entrusts 400 tree seedlings per hectare to farmers who undertake to monitor the trees planted, to protect the reforested plot (from zebus, goats, bush fires, etc.), to replant trees to replace those that have not survived and to maintain them on their land without cutting them down for a period of 30 years.

4. Restoration and protection of protected areas

Protected areas such as national parks, special reserves, classified forests and sacred forests are generally the last vestiges of primary forest that must be secured, protected and restored at all costs.

In collaboration with the managers of these areas, such as Madagascar National Parks or traditional chiefs in Benin, Graine de Vie helps to safeguard 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...

Madagascar : National Park of Masoala

13 municipalities involved - 53 nurseries
Restoration of over 300 hectares of degraded areas within the Park.

Madagascar : National Park of Marojejy

12 municipalities involved - 12 nurseries
Project supported by **Wako**



Madagascar :

Amber Mountain National Park

7 municipalities involved - 12 nurseries
Project supported by **the Total Energies Foundation**

Madagascar : Analamerana Reserve

4 municipalities involved - 6 nurseries
Project supported by **Liège Airport**

Madagascar :

Reserve of Ambohitantely

Project supported by **Luxembourg's Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development.**

Madagascar :

Nosy Hara National Marine Park

1 municipality involved - 2 nurseries
Project supported by **Arendt & Medernach**

Madagascar : Ankarana National Park

13 municipalities involved - 13 nurseries
Project supported by **the Saey Foundation**



Madagascar : Marotandrano Reserve

Project supported by **NGO DURRELL**

Madagascar :

Andohahela National Park

3 municipalities involved - 3 nurseries

Madagascar :

Ranomafana National Park

2 municipalities involved - 6 nurseries
Project supported by **Tonnellerie Baron**

Madagascar :

Kirindy Mitea National Parc

2 nurseries

In Benin :

Houegbo sacred forest

Adjirako sacred forest

Dassezoun sacred forest

Djigbzoun sacred forest

Dehouizoun sacred forest

Ouedo classified forest

Ouesse classified forest

5. Restoring and protecting mangroves

Mangrove is a group of vegetation that develops in the area between the tides and coastal regions, in the tidal range.

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

- fish spawn in mangroves, which are essential to their reproductive cycle.
- Mangroves are home to large numbers of crabs, which are needed to clean up the coastline and serve as food for the local population.



- Mangroves protect the coastline, and therefore the villages on it, against coastal erosion and cyclones.
- Mangroves are the terrestrial ecosystem with the greatest capacity to absorb CO2 (more than 40 times greater than temperate forests).

Madagascar : Diana Region - Mangaoka
Mangrove restoration project supported by **Labgroup**



Madagascar : Sava Region - Vohémar
Mangrove restoration project supported by **Ixina**



Madagascar : Sava Region - Antalaha
Mangrove restoration project supported by **Bank Van Breda**

Madagascar : Sofia Region - Antsohihy
Mangrove restoration project supported by **Sail Agency**

Madagascar : Sofia Region - Analalava
Mangrove restoration project supported by **Ald Automotive**

Benin: Project to restore 103 ha of mangroves with the creation of orchards and community forests

This project is supported by the **Luxembourg government MECDD**



Benin: Mono river banks project

This project provides for 2 types of action:

- Mitigation by increasing and protecting mangrove forests and the banks of the Mono river to act as carbon sinks and greenhouse gas reservoirs.
- Adaptation actions by supporting local agroforestry to better withstand the repercussions of climate change.

Carbon certification

The creation of certified carbon credits on our reforestation projects is an opportunity for our NGO to develop our projects and at the same time grant significant income for local communities enabling development of their own local projects (permaculture ...) (permaculture schools, agricultural cooperatives, access to water, education and healthcare, solar ovens, development of fish farming, poultry farming, beekeeping, etc.).

Our ambition is to combine our reforestation actions with improving the livelihood of the local population and, in so doing, increase the support of the villagers by motivating them to protect the reforested plots.

Several projects run by Graine de Vie are in the process of being certified in Madagascar, Cameroon, Benin and the DRC. We partner with CLIMATE LAB in Ghent, which is helping us to obtain Plan Vivo certification for our projects



OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Graine de Vie is a network of non-governmental organisations working in the field of reforestation integrated into local life in Belgium, Cameroon, Luxembourg, Madagascar and Togo.

In Benin, we work in partnership with the local NGO CEDV Graine de Vie. Each organisation has a board of directors and a multidisciplinary team.



Graine de Vie Belgique

The team

Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President)



Jean-François BARTH (Administrator)
 Geert BOGAERT (Administrator)
 Edouard LAMBRECHTS (Administrator)
 Marc PITTIE (Projects Manager)
 Eric VAN DROOGENBROECK
 (Administrator)
 Vanessa WADE (Marketing Manager)
 Gauthier WITTAMER (Treasurer)
 Valérie BLACKMAN
 Philippe BLONDEAUX
 Ko FAYE
 Jean-Marie HENNO
 Nucia RANDRIANARISON
 Anna TERLIZZI

Graine de Vie Luxembourg

The team

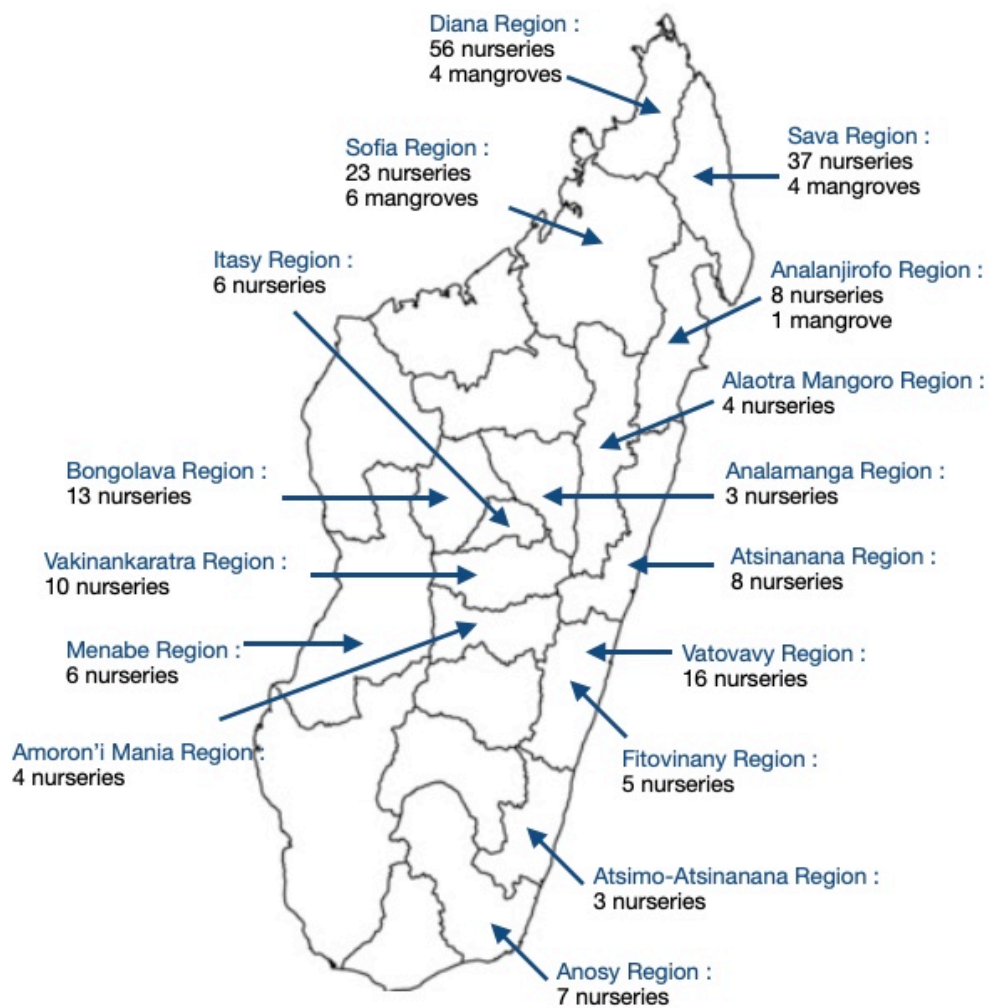
Edouard LAMBRECHTS (President)



René ARNOLDY (Vice-president)
 Frédéric DEBOUCHE (Administrator)
 Julia DESMARQUEST (Administrator)
 Barnabé LEKAMA (Administrator)
 Vincent PRINGIERS (Secretary ad interim)
 Michel VANDEVOIR (Treasurer)
 Marc WILLEM (Administrator)
 Charlotte BOURRET
 Patrick de BRIEY
 Isabelle INGABIRE

MADAGASCAR :

3,185,986 trees planted in our 209 nurseries
15 mangroves

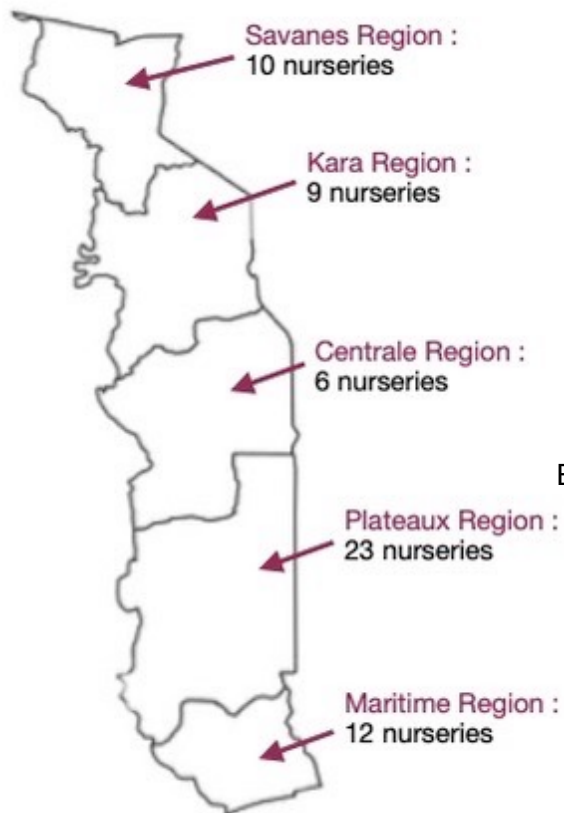


Davy BEZARA (Financial Director)
Ialy RAKOTOARIVELO (Projects Director)
G rard PONCET (National Technical Director)



TOGO :

820,280 trees planted in our 60 nurseries
1,139,357 planted by direct sowing



Gérard DOGA (Director)
Komla TSRI (Head nurseryman)
Cyrille MISSA (Head nurseryman)
Jean-Paul DOGA (Head of seed research)
Félicité SAGA (Head seed technician)
Blaise MENSSAVI (Head nurseryman northern zone)
Jeromine ADIKA (Seed technician)
Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President Graine de Vie)
Kevin DEKASSI (Secretary)
Honoré KORADZA (Ghana Coordinator)
Marc AMEDOME (Project manager, southern zone)



GHANA :

94,660 trees planted
from our 10 nurseries
60,000 planted by direct sowing



Honoré KORADZA
Charles TORDZRO



BENIN :

530,000 trees planted in our 36 nurseries



Ignace DJOSSA (Head of reforestation)
Patrice TOFFI (Founding Chairman)
Angèle HOUEDANOU (General Secretary)

BURKINA - FASO :

52,806 trees planted in our 6 nurseries



Coordinator
Luc SANOU



Branch manager
David SANOU



Seeds manager
Arouna SANOU

Hauts-Bassins Region :
6 nurseries



CAMEROUN :

120,000 trees planted in our 15 nurseries
with the support of the Luxembourg government



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat
et du Développement durable



Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President of Graine de Vie),
Raoul ZINGUI (Technical Assistant),
Édouard LAMBRECHTS (President of Graine de Vie
Luxembourg),
Siméon AKONO (National Technical Director),
Stéphane ABESSOLO (Administrative and Financial
Manager),
Esther Léa NDONGO (Technical Assistant),
Barnabé LEKAMA (GDV Board Member),
François YOBOH (GDV Cameroon Coordinator),
Lionel MBALLA (Technical Assistant),
Franck MINDJA (Team Leader)



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO :

152,760 trees planted in our 13 nurseries and 515 hectares planted by direct sowing



MOBA
Branch manager :
Constantin
MBOLYO
Assistant :
Urbain KABEZYA



INONGO
Branch manager :
Raphaël
NAKABAKA
KYABA



UVIRA
Branch manager :
Bienvenu DEBABA
SANGO



IDJWI
Branch manager :
Simba SENDOVER
Assistant :
Léonce KINYUNYI

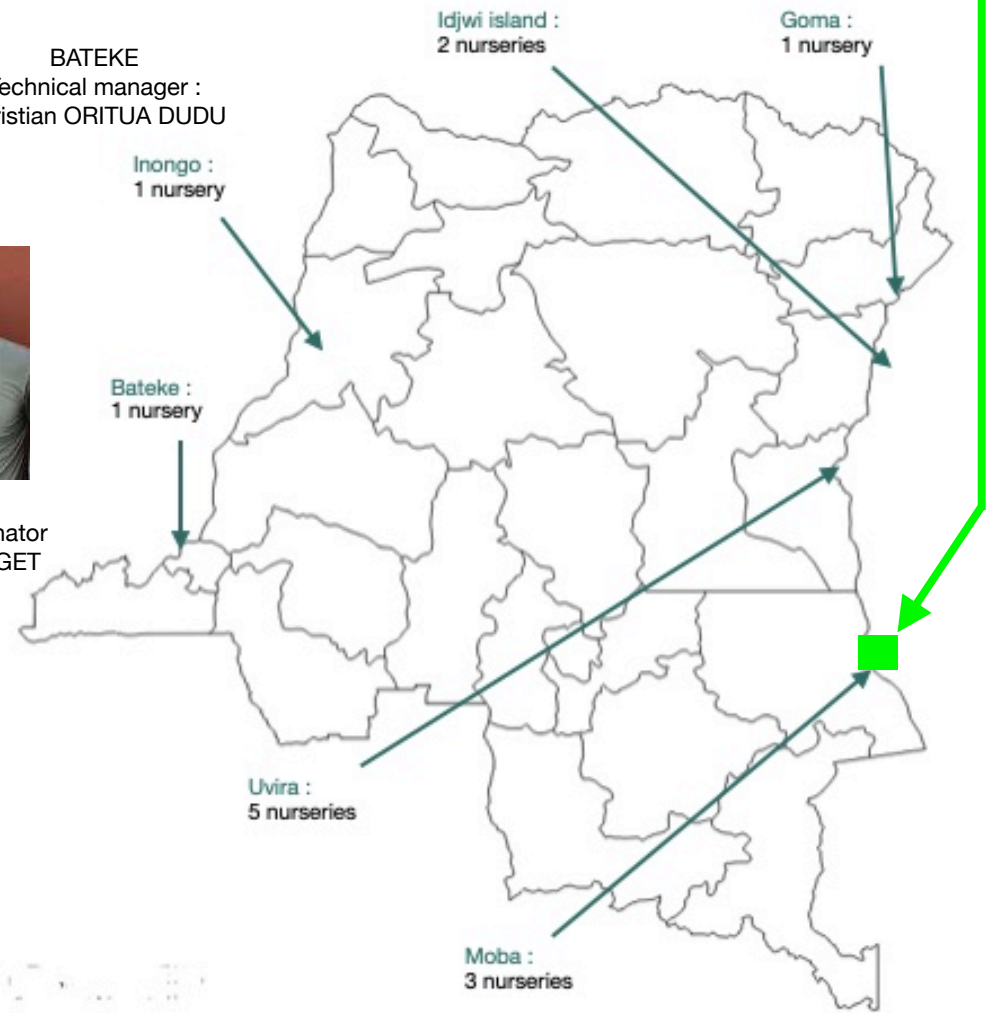


BATEKE
Technical manager :
Christian ORITUA DUDU

Project: 10,000 hectares with carbon certification



DRC Coordinator
Xavier ROUGET



HOW TO HELP US RESTORE THE FOREST?

> YOU ARE A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL

HELP NEUTRALISE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF AN ACTIVITY

Do you want to neutralise the carbon footprint of a trip, a professional or sporting activity, a family outing, the construction of your house, your car journeys...?

Nothing could be simpler.

Calculate the carbon footprint you want to help neutralise on our website.

PLANTING A FOREST TO COMPENSATE FOR MY LIFE

By planting 5,760 trees, we are helping to neutralise the CO₂ generated by our existence.

By donating us the monthly sum of €20 for 12 years, we will plant your forest of 5,760 trees, the forest of your life.

More information is available at:
www.grainedevie.org



MAKE A DONATION OR A BEQUEST FOR THE PLANET

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

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

How can you do this? By donating or bequeathing part of your estate to our NGO, which will plant the trees you have financed.

Talk to your solicitor.

He or she will tell you that donations and bequests made to tax-approved NGO's like Graine de Vie are taxed at a very favourable rate.

> YOU ARE A COMPANY

Why not join our movement and reduce your company's impact by creating a nursery or a new forest in your company's name? It's inexpensive and tax-deductible, since we've received tax approval.

This will help you to improve your company's image and unite your employees around a sustainable theme.



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all our generous donors,
the many anonymous individuals and companies.
As we cannot name them all, we would like to make a special mention of :

Our eco-partners

3R, REVISEURS
ADA
ALD AUTOMOTIVE
ALSICO
ALTER EGO
ANDERSON WISE
APRICO CONSULTANTS SA
ARENDT & MEDERNACH SA
ASTEK GROUPE
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BANK VAN BREDA
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CROWELL MORING LLP
GALERE
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KRÉFEL
L'ARBRE A SAVON
LABGROUP
LIEGE AIRPORT SA
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MASSE ET FILS
METHIS CONSULTING
NRJ
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ONLY ONE PLANET
POP-MEDIA
PRANAROM INTERNATIONAL SA
REUNION FLY SERVICES
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SAILPROOF
SANKE
SAY TREES
SOCOTA
SOFINDEV MANAGEMENT NV
SOURIRE A TOUS
T4M

TERRACYCLE REDEMPTION
TONNELLERIE BARON
VIASAT GROUP SPA
WAKO SA
XLG CO SA
XYZ FRANCHISING
The institutions:
UEM CORPORATE FOUNDATION
GUNVOR FOUNDATION
PRINCE ALBERT II FOUNDATION
OF MONACO
SAEY FOUNDATION
TOTALENERGIES FOUNDATION
GEMEENTELIJK HULPKOMITE
KNOKKE-HEIST
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY OF THE
GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

2023 review

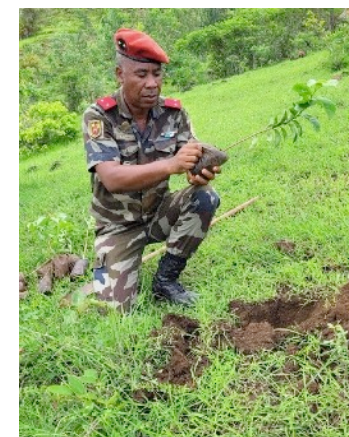
-  4.257.679 seeds planted by direct sowing
-  4.946.492 trees planted from our nurseries
-  7 countries in Africa host our projects
-  349 nurseries
-  1200 people employed in Africa
-  25 volunteers in Belgium and Luxembourg
-  1 coordinator in Belgium
-  1 operational coordinator in DRC

Contribution to the SDGs

Graine de Vie's activities contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals on several levels. We address a number of issues across the board:

- Intervention in developing countries with high levels of poverty;
- Contributing to food security by enabling both men and women to benefit from cash crop tree seedlings from our nurseries and by creating food forests;
- Creating jobs to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in the areas where we work;
- Reducing inequalities within and between countries by encouraging the development of landlocked areas on the one hand and bilateral and intersectoral partnerships on the other;
- Measures to combat climate change and its consequences by combining mitigation actions (through the CO2 sequestration objective of community reforestation zones and small agroforestry farms) and adaptation actions (through the adjustment of local agricultural practices and 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.







Time to Plant

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

To date, more than 57,000,000 trees have been planted in Africa.

Thank you very much!

It's thanks to your contribution that every year we can help Graine de Vie's projects grow and take concrete action for the planet and future generations.

Graine de Vie Belgique
28 Grand Place
7070 Le Roeulx
IBAN : BE 87 0015 8400 0094
BIC : GEBABEBB



Donate

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L-5465 Waldbredimus
IBAN : LU 79 0030 8840 8864 0000
BIC : BGLLLULL

Graine de Vie Cameroun
Fes Enying
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Mbandiack

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03 BP1181 Cotonou
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Avaratra Antanimora
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Lubumbashi

Graine de Vie Togo
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Agomé kpodzi,
rue kpalimé
Atakpamé
Kloto 1 – Kpalimé