

## Reforestation integrated into local life



## 2009-2024 : GRAINE DE VIE CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Graine de Vie was founded on 21 April 2009 by a group of friends and family who were concerned about the state of the world and wanted to use this concern to take positive action for the planet.

It very quickly became clear to us that protecting and restoring forests was the best way to combat the effects of climate change, especially if these actions were carried out with the support of local communities. Our strategy of reforestation integrated into local life helps the planet but also gives the concerned African population additional food and economic resources.



Forests are carbon sinks; they naturally capture the excess CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by mankind. Destroying them worsens the situation for our planet, as the destroyed tree releases the CO<sub>2</sub> stored throughout its existence. Yet deforestation contributes around 20% of annual anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (compared with 12% for livestock farming, 3% for the aviation sector and 35% for energy production).

## Changes in the Earth's environmental situation between 2009 and 2024

In 2009, we were worried but hopeful, today we are frightened but not resigned.

Between 2009 and 2024, the environmental indicators show a worrying trend, with an increase of the average global temperature (+0.6°) with record temperature peaks, continued degradation of ecosystems, increased global deforestation, rising global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, a sharp decline in biodiversity, an intensification of extreme weather events, more serious forest fires, more violent tropical cyclones, floods and droughts more violent than ever before.

For years, we have believed that we can continue to exploit the Earth's natural resources without limit and without suffering the consequences.

We are wrong, and nature will not stop reminding us until we take the drastic measures needed to save our environment.

Although progress has been made in promoting renewable energies and in raising global awareness of the climate challenges, this change in mentality is not leading to the efforts that are essential to limit the effects of climate change and preserve the Earth's natural resources.

## Graine de Vie: 15 years of action in review

Despite this difficult context, we have maintained our enthusiasm and developed our activities in 7 African countries (8 including Burundi, where we only have one nursery).



To date, we have planted more than 65 million trees.

We have 354 nurseries producing more than 4,000,000 trees each year, at least half of which are cash crops.

We carry out thousands of reforestation projects ranging from a few acres to 10,000 hectares (MOBA project in the DRC).

We protect and restore 11 protected natural reserves in Madagascar and Benin.

We are restoring mangroves.

We plant several million trees using our 'direct seeding' technique, which involves selecting, treating and planting seeds directly in the soil at the start of the rainy season.

Our impact on local communities is considerable. In all the countries where we operate, people are asking us to plant more trees.

Even though the environmental situation in these countries is still very worrying, we have succeeded in changing attitudes, reconnecting villagers with their environment, curbing bush fires and creating a strong desire for tree planting.



But these successes give us even more responsibility.

In 2009, we were just starting out; today we are recognised as a major, effective and respected NGO.

Thanks to this reputation, we should be able to benefit in the future from some of the considerable funds that will have to be allocated to reforestation by our industrialised countries to reduce their excessive carbon footprint and help people in developing countries to combat the effects of climate change.

## Projects for 2025

Our NGO has become the ‘parent company’ of a consortium of NGOs and associations in Luxembourg, Madagascar, Togo, Benin, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

All these associations have their own independent structures, but operate under the coordination of Graine de Vie, whose mission is to ensure the harmony and balance of their projects.

We plan to create Graine de Vie Switzerland in 2025.

Our nurseries and reforestation projects are developing well in Madagascar, Togo, Benin, Ghana, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon and the DRC.

We intend to set up our first nursery in Senegal in 2025.

We have initiated a pilot reforestation project spanning 10,000 hectares of savannah in Moba, eastern DRC, aimed at generating carbon credits to fund community initiatives and launch new projects.

The first 1,000 hectares have been successfully planted. In 2025, our goal is to plant a further 1,000 hectares and make the project eligible for carbon credits.

In collaboration with Madagascar National Parks (MNP), responsible for 43 key protected areas in Madagascar, we are implementing forest protection and restoration projects. With 10 ongoing projects, we anticipate expanding to new areas in 2025, thanks to the financial support of a prominent Madagascan organization.

Sustaining our current projects and launching new ones depends on securing more financial resources.

A third of these come from private donors, a third from companies wishing to reduce their carbon footprint and a third from international funds or grants from the Luxembourg government.

To enhance our visibility, we need stronger communication. That’s why, in 2024, we revamped our website and adopted a more proactive approach on social media and in the press.

More than ever, we’re at a crossroads, in a world that won’t survive without forests but isn’t doing enough to save what can be saved.

With everyone’s help, we hope to grow and multiply our positive actions for the planet.

Your help in spreading the word and supporting our mission means a lot, thank you!



Frédéric DEBOUCHE  
President and Founder of  
Graine de vie

# OUR ACTIONS

## Participatory and community-focused approach

Graine de Vie's philosophy is rooted in direct collaboration with local communities in their villages. Our projects are developed locally, in partnership with local authorities, traditional leaders, and village groups (such as women's organizations, farmers, and schoolchildren). Often, we are approached by them after they hear about our work in neighbouring villages. They often contact us after learning about our work in neighbouring villages.



Through our interactions, the communities have developed a better understanding of the impact of massive deforestation on their wood, water and food supplies.

Once aware of the issue, the local people assume a leading role in reforestation activities. Our role is to provide them with a nursery producing 10,000 young tree seedlings every year, both for the production of resources (cash trees) and for reforestation (forest trees).

## Raising awareness

We regularly run awareness-raising campaigns to encourage active involvement from the population, engaging people of all ages to maximize awareness.



We organise numerous radio campaigns to publicise our actions and reach as many people as possible.



In Belgium too, we have formed a partnership with NRJ radio stations to broadcast spots to raise awareness.



## Combating bush fires



We provide firebreaks, areas cleared of vegetation or artificial barriers created to limit the spread of fires, particularly in areas prone to bush fires.

# OUR ACTIONS

## Inclusive and gender-equality approach

Although our initial mission was mainly focused on the environment, we quickly became aware of the considerable impact of our reforestation projects on the lives of local people.



We chose to embrace an inclusive approach, placing special focus on gender equality.

With this in mind, we have ensured that women are actively involved, not only as beneficiaries but also as crucial participants in the execution and oversight of reforestation initiatives.

We are convinced that for a reforestation project to be truly sustainable, it must be based on a foundation of social justice and equality, in which every member of the community, regardless of gender or age, feels valued and involved.

## Direct seeding' reforestation

Graine de Vie uses the 'direct sowing' technique to plant trees on a large scale. This method involves selecting, collecting, treating and planting seeds directly in the soil at the start of the rainy season.

It enables large areas to be reforested quickly and cheaply, while guaranteeing a high success rate.



To optimise the chances of success, each type of seed is treated in a specific way, according to its biological characteristics.

Some seeds need to be dried before planting, to preserve their viability. Others, on the other hand, need to be shelled to remove the hard husk that blocks germination.

For some species, the treatment consists of soaking the seeds in cold water to initiate the germination process, while others need to be bathed in boiling water to soften their tough envelopes and facilitate the emergence of germs.

## R.P.P.R. project

I Receive tree seedlings.

I Plant them.

I Preserve them.

I Receive money.

The aim of the R.P.P.R. project is to encourage smallholders and subsistence farmers to replant forest and cash crop trees as part of an agroforestry programme, while generating carbon credits that will be redistributed annually for the benefit of farmers and village communities.

In this programme, Graine de Vie entrusts 400 tree seedlings per hectare to the farmers, who undertake to monitor them and protect the reforested plots against threats (zebus, goats, bush fires, etc...).



They must also replace trees that have not survived and ensure that no trees are cut down for a period of 30 years.

Each year, we check that the trees are in good health and pay the farmers a sum from the carbon credits generated by their trees.

# OUR ACTIONS

## Restoration and protection of protected areas

Protected areas such as national parks, special reserves, classified forests and sacred forests represent the last vestiges of primary forest and must be secured, protected and restored.

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



These projects include forest restoration within the parks and creation of tree nurseries in the outlying communes, providing resources for local people and raising awareness of the importance of preserving these areas.

The planting of fruit trees (mango, avocado, etc.) and economic trees (coffee, cocoa, cloves, ravintsara, etc.) also enriches local resources.

## Restoration and protection of mangroves

Mangroves, these ecosystems between sea and land, play a crucial role in the environmental balance of coastal regions.

They provide a habitat for many marine species, including fish and crabs, and are essential for their reproduction.



They also protect coastal villages from erosion and cyclones, while being the most efficient terrestrial ecosystems for storing CO2 (more than 40 times more than temperate forests).

Graine de Vie is currently running 33 projects to restore these vital ecosystems.

## Carbon certification

The creation of certified carbon credits through our reforestation projects represents a key opportunity to develop our actions while bringing significant income to local populations. These funds enable them to finance development projects such as permaculture schools, agricultural cooperatives, access to drinking water, education and healthcare, and the development of activities such as fish farming, poultry farming and beekeeping.

Our aim is to combine our reforestation efforts with improvements to the well-being of local people, thereby strengthening their commitment to protecting the reforested areas.

Several Graine de Vie projects are currently undergoing certification in Madagascar, Cameroon, Benin and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Together with CLIMATE LAB, headquartered in Ghent, we are pursuing Plan Vivo certification, and with ALLCOT, we are carrying out a 10,000-hectare reforestation project in the DRC.



# HOW CAN WE HELP RESTORE THE FOREST?

## > YOU ARE A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL

### HELP NEUTRALISE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF AN ACTIVITY

Would you like 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.

Visit our website to calculate the carbon footprint you want to help neutralise.

### PLANTING A FOREST TO COMPENSATE FOR MY LIFE

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

For a monthly donation of €20 over 12 years, we will plant your forest of 5,760 trees, the forest of your life.

More information is available at:  
[www.grainedevie.org](http://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

You can 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 to improve your company's image and can unite your employees around a sustainable theme.



We can also help you calculate 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.

## 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, Togo, Benin and the DRC. Each organisation has a board of directors and a multidisciplinary team.

### Graine de Vie Belgique

Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President)



### Graine de Vie Bénin - CEDV

Patrice TOFFI (President)



### Graine de Vie Cameroun

Wolfgang OSSOA (President)



### Graine de Vie Luxembourg

Edouard LAMBRECHTS (President)



### Graine de Vie Madagascar

Gérard Poncet (President)



### Graine de Vie République Démocratique du Congo

Germain KALENGA (President)



### Graine de Vie Togo

Gérard DOGA (President)





## VOLUNTEERS AT THE SERVICE OF A CAUSE

All our members have undertaken to work on a voluntary basis to ensure that all the funds entrusted to us are used entirely for the management of our nurseries and the planting of trees. We sincerely thank them for their vital support.



Anna Terlizzi



Antoine Debouche



Barnabé Lekama



Bernard Saey



Boris Montois



Charlotte Bourret



Christian Ledouble



Christophe Gilliard



David Verly



Didier Gelin



Edouard Lambrechts



Emmanuel Hazard



Eric Van Droogenbroeck



Evelyne André



François Grimonprez



Frédéric Berghmans



Frédéric Debouche



Frédéric Mathot



Gauthier Wittamer



Grégoire Talbot



Isabelle Ingabire



Jacques Meulenbergh



Jean-Benoît Van Bunnan



Jean-François Barth



Jean-Marie Henno



Julia Desmarquest



Ko Faye



Luc Deprés



Marc Pittie



Marc Willem



Michel Flamant



Michel Vandevor



Nucia Randrianarison



Patrick de Briey



Philippe Blondeaux



Philippe Pigeon



René Arnoldy



Robin Duponnois



Sabine Debouche



Valérie Debouche



Vanessa Wade



Vincent Pringiers



Vincent Truyens



Xavier Bricourt



Xavier Rouget

**4,487,325 trees planted  
from our nurseries**



**3,320,814 seeds planted  
direct seeding**



**8 countries in Africa  
host  
our projects**



**33 projects to  
restore  
mangroves**



# 2024 review

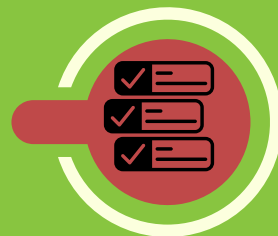
**354 nurseries**



**1,235 people  
employed in  
Africa**



**1 coordinator  
in Belgium**

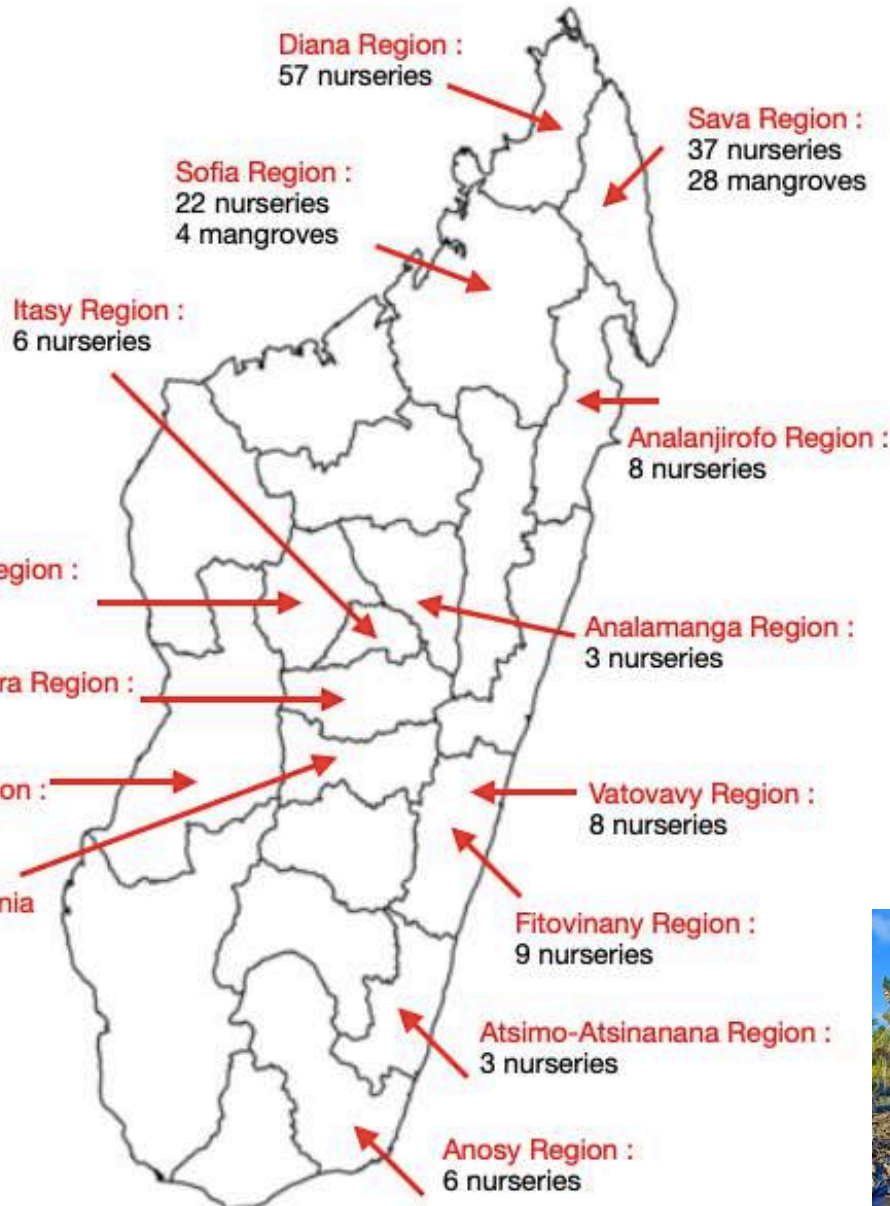


**45 volunteers  
in Europe**



# MADAGASCAR :

2,312,144 trees planted in our 186 nurseries  
32 mangroves



Gérard PONCET  
(National Technical director)



Davy BEZARA  
(Financial Director)



Ialy RAKOTOARIVELO  
(Coordinator)

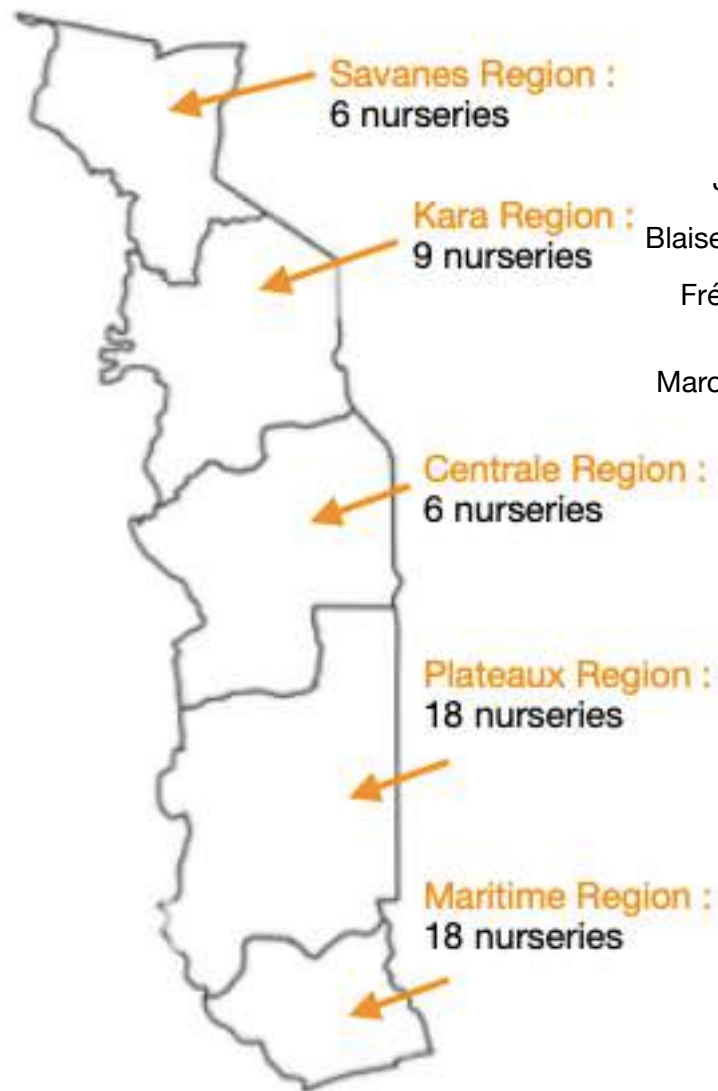


Hervé BAKARIZAFY  
(Projects Director)  
Frédéric DEBOUCHE  
(President Graine de Vie)



# TOGO :

801,711 trees planted in our 57 nurseries

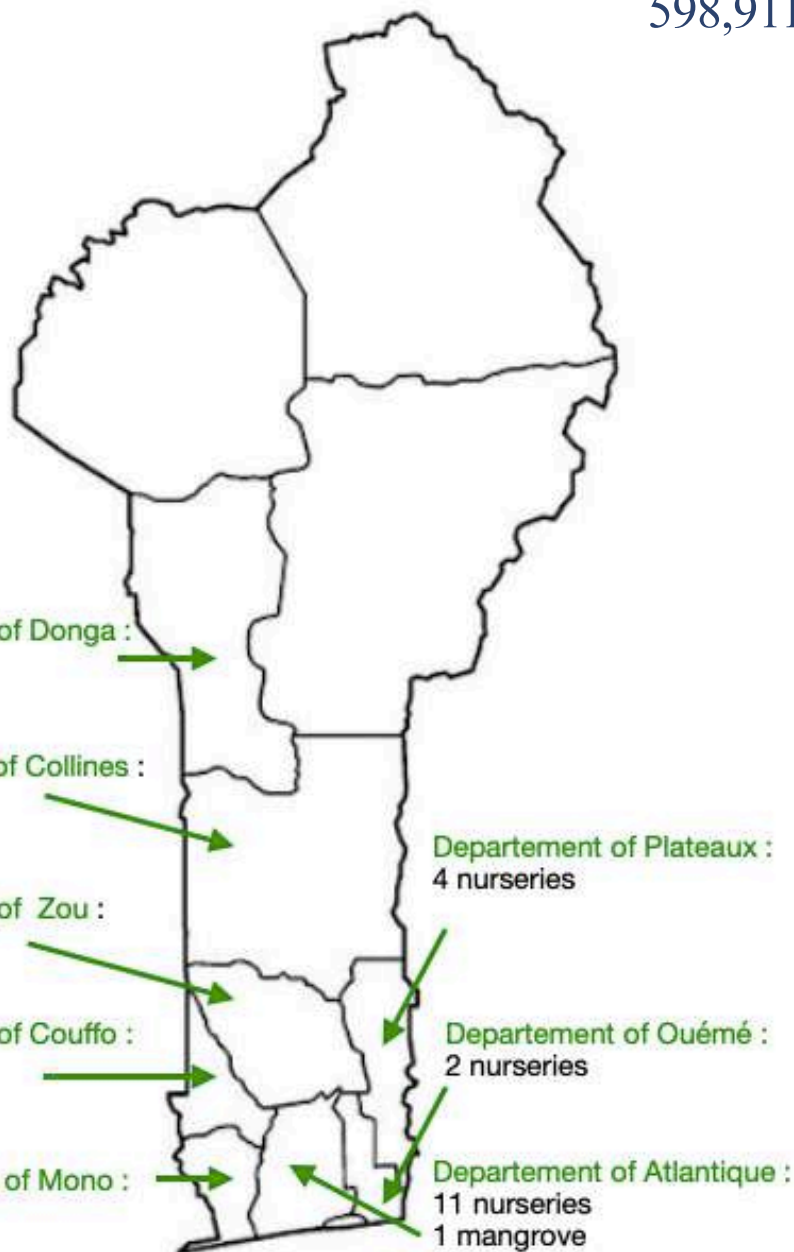


Gérard DOGA (Director)  
Komla TSRI (Head nurseryman)  
Cyrille MISSA (Head nurseryman)  
Jean-Paul DOGA (Head of seed research)  
Félicité SAGA (Head seed technician)  
Blaise MENSSAVI (Head nurseryman northern zone)  
Jeromine ADIKA (Seed technician)  
Frédéric DEBOUCHE (President Graine de Vie)  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



# BENIN :

598,911 trees planted in our 39 nurseries  
1 mangrove



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

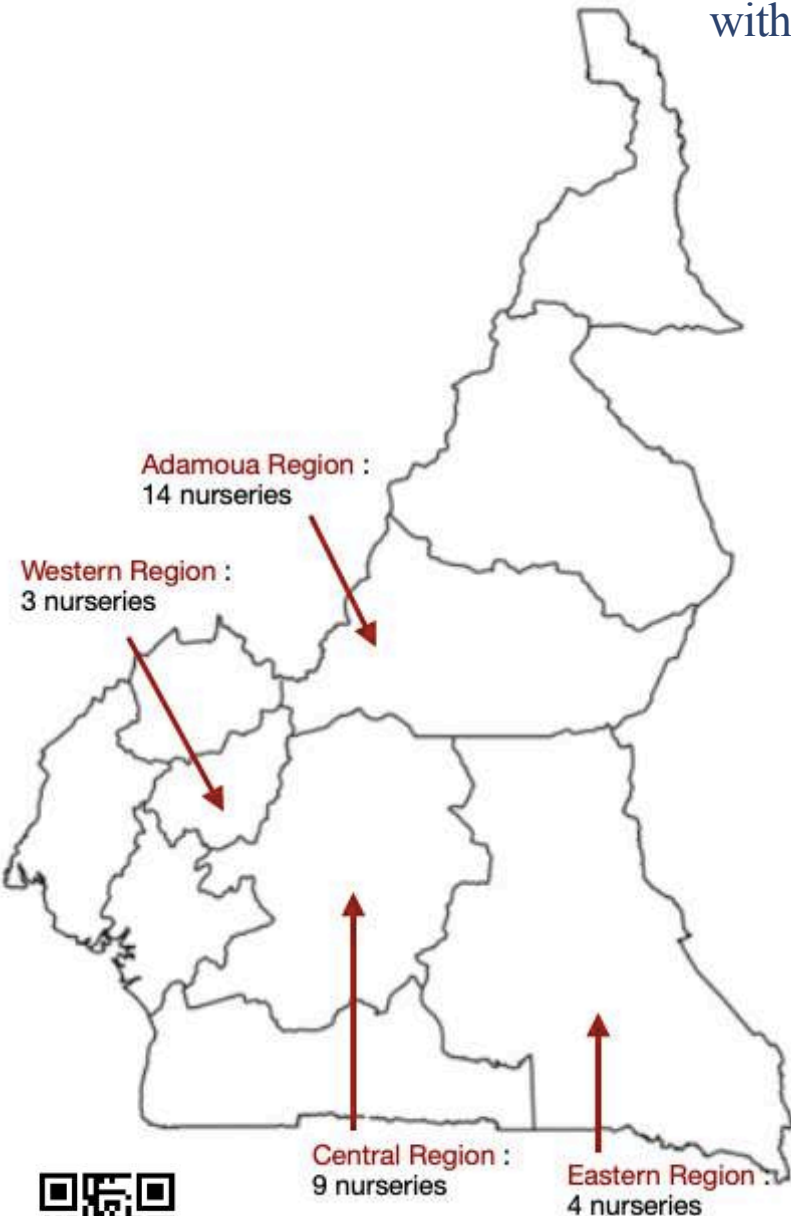


# CAMEROON :

261,782 trees planted in our 30 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

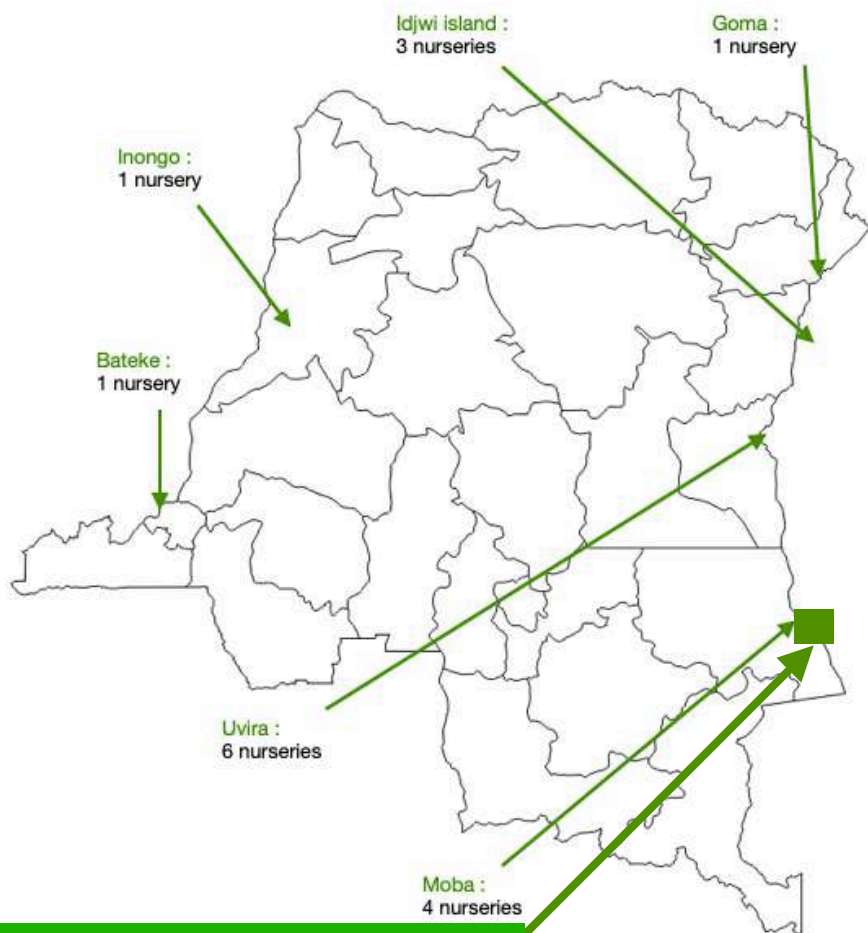


Siméon AKONO (National Technical Director),  
Esther Léa NDONGO (Technical Assistant),  
Raoul ZINGUI (Technical Assistant),  
François YOBOH (Coordinator),  
Lionel MBALLA (Technical Assistant),  
Stéphane ABESSOLO (Administrative and  
Financial Manager),



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO :

257,377 trees planted in our 16 nurseries and 1,000 hectares planted by direct seedlings



**Project: 10,000 hectares with carbon certification**



**BATEKE**  
Christian  
ORITUA DUDU



**IDJWI**  
Simba  
SENDOVER  
Léonce KINYUNYI



**INONGO**  
Raphaël  
NAKABAKA  
KYABA



**UVIRA**  
Bienvenu  
DEBABA  
SANG



**MOBA**  
Constantin MBOLYO  
Urbain KABEZYA



**MOBA**  
Guillaume  
MUNDELE  
MAZOMBWE



**Coordinator RDC**  
Xavier ROUGET



# BURKINA - FASO :

145,400 trees planted in our 15 nurseries



**Hauts-Bassins Region:**  
15 pépinières



Branch manager  
David SANOU



Coordinator  
Luc SANOU



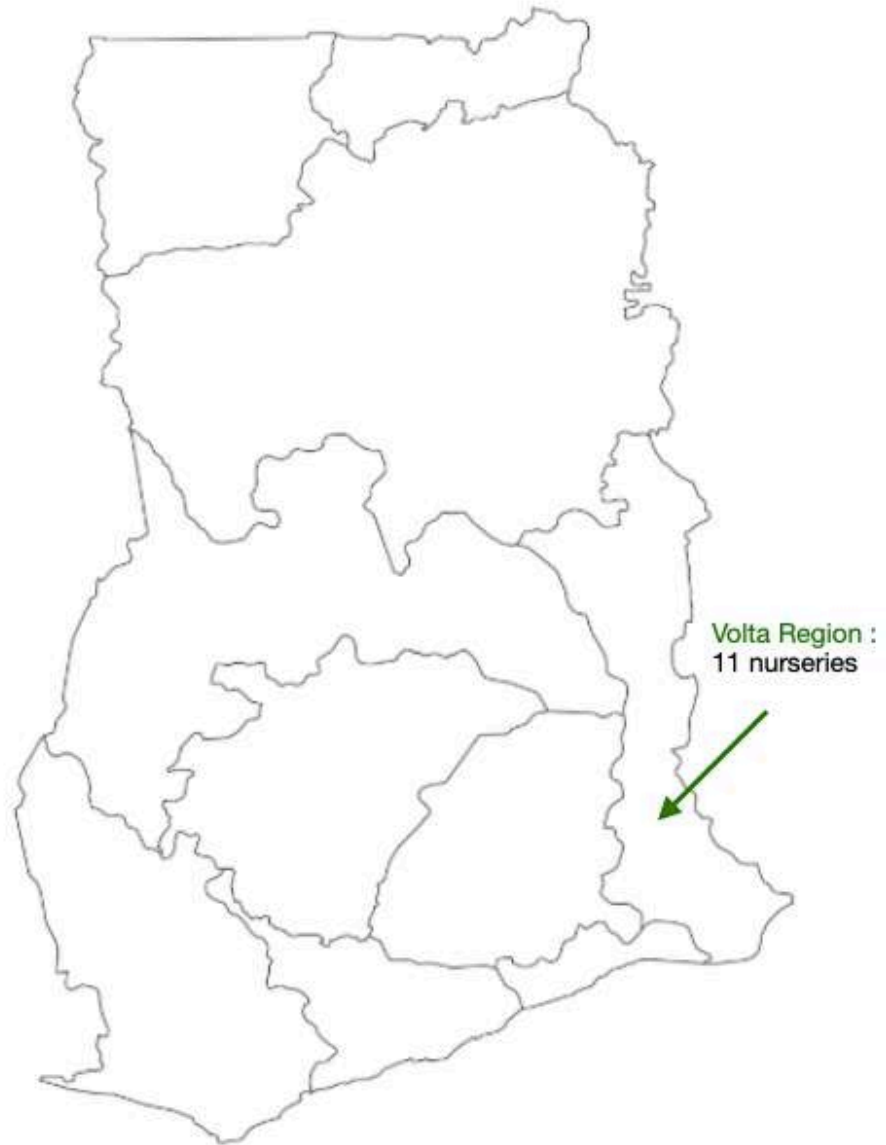
Seeds manager  
Arouna SANOU





# GHANA :

110,000 trees planted in our 11 nurseries



Honoré KORADZA and  
Charles TORDZRO



## 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 EcoPartners:

3R, REVISEURS  
ADA  
ALTER EGO  
ANDERSON WISE  
ARENDDT & MEDERNACH SA  
AUTOBUSSEN CANNAERTS  
AYVENS  
BAMOLUX  
BANK VAN BREDA  
BIOORGANIC EVENTS  
BUY WAY  
CENTURYBOX MAINETTI  
CMS DEBACKER  
COLOR BUSINESS CENTER  
CPH BANQUE  
CYANN  
ENTREPRISE LUCIEN HEINZ  
EVOCELLS  
FERBER GROUP  
FOYER SA  
GALERE  
INTER FUND MANAGEMENT  
ITEOS BELGIUM SA  
KRÉFEL

IXINA BELGIQUE  
IXINA FRANCE  
L'ARBRE À SAVON  
LABGROUP  
LIEGE AIRPORT SA  
MEDICOFI  
MY LOVELY PLANET  
MYNOISE  
NEVEO  
NEXXT IMMO  
NRJ  
OCTA+ENERGIE SA  
ONLY ONE PLANET  
POP-MEDIA  
PRANAROM INTERNATIONAL  
REUNION FLY SERVICES  
RF PROD SPRL  
SAIL AGENCY  
SANKE  
SLEEP WELL  
SOFINDEV MANAGEMENT NV  
SOURIRE A TOUS  
SOYER & MAMET  
TARGAT VIASAT

TONNELLERIE BARON  
UNIVERSITE DE LUXEMBOURG  
WAKO SA  
XLG CO SA  
XYZ FRANCHISING

### **The institutions :**

FOUNDATION CHANCE  
FOUNDATION DE LUXEMBOURG  
FOUNDATION GUNVOR  
FOUNDATION PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO  
FOUNDATION SAEY  
FOUNDATION TOTALENERGIES  
GEMEENTELIJK HULPKOMITE KNOKKE-HEIST  
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,  
CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY OF THE  
GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG  
LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

## 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





Time to Plant

Contact : [info@grainedevie.org](mailto:info@grainedevie.org)  
[www.grainedevie.org](http://www.grainedevie.org)

To date, more than 65,000,000 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**

**Graine de Vie Luxembourg**  
2 rue de Trintange  
L-5465 Waldbredimus  
IBAN : LU 79 0030 8840 8864 0000  
BIC : BGLLLULL

**Graine de Vie Cameroun**  
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Place de la gare routière  
Mbandjock

**Graine de Vie Benin - CEDV**  
03 BP 1181 Cotonou  
Abomey-Calavi

**Graine de Vie Madagascar**  
Voa Aina  
Avaratra Antanimora  
Lot 2 y 53 TER  
Antananarivo 101

**Graine de Vie RDC**  
Avenue Maniema 17  
Lubumbashi

**Graine de Vie Togo**  
Agbe fe kou tsetse  
Agomé kpodzi,  
rue kpalimé  
Atakpamé  
Kloto 1 – Kpalimé