

Reforestation Collaboration Agreement



Village tree nursery being tended to by local women
(Photo by Erik Patel)

As mentioned in the newsletter’s introductory article, reforestation will be an important component of DLC’s SAVA Conservation initiative. We intended to carry out reforestation efforts ourselves by working with local villagers, focusing on zones that border the important protected areas. However, in the very early stages of the project, we learned that a Belgian NGO, Graine de Vie (Seed of Life), has been working for several years already, exclusively on reforestation, in the SAVA and adjoining Masoala area. Erik and Lanto visited Graine de Vie (GdV) tree nurseries and reforestation sites, and met with the director and personnel of GdV. We learned that GdV is

quite a dynamic organization that is quickly expanding its operations, including to some of the sensitive zones around protected areas. Although they have only been working in the region since 2009, they have already planted around 500,000 trees at 5 different sites in

northeastern Madagascar, and expect to surpass the million tree mark later this year! Most importantly, GdV is working closely with local villagers – each village that participates in the reforestation (and there are many on the waiting list) is required to sign a ‘dina’ which is a locally enacted law that prohibits all burning in the reforestation areas. Such assured protection and village cooperation is an essential part of reforestation in Madagascar. Rather than duplicate the work of GdV in the area of reforestation, we have entered into an agreement of collaboration. DLC-SC will support 3 village tree nurseries and subsequent reforestation, at sites in the Marojejy National Park peripheral zone. Erik and Lanto will be



Sign at one of the village tree nurseries which at the bottom states "to protect the environment is expensive - to do nothing is much more expensive!"
(Photo by Erik Patel)

able to monitor the progress of the nurseries, and will have input into the species of trees planted. We will keep you updated on this exciting aspect of the project!

Collaborative inspections of GdV's nurseries and reforestation.



From left: Gerard Poncet (GdV, Madagascar Chief), Dorian Andrindrainy (MBG), Désiré Rabary (Simpona), Erik Patel (DLC), Frédéric Debouche (GdV, President and Founder)
(Photo by Dylan)