

COMBATING DEFORESTATION

The Foundation is stepping up its support for local and international initiatives in favour of sustainable rainforest management. It is also pursuing its efforts to combat deforestation by working with partners on ongoing projects in South-east Asia, the Amazon and the Congo Basin, with particular emphasis on socially and scientifically innovative solutions.

- *Khaya senegalensis* (a much sought-after species of African mahogany) is being intensively felled. Policies are in place to reduce illegal use of this tree species but the practical means of tracing the origin of the wood are lacking. Bioversity International is developing monitoring systems taking into account the taxonomy of African mahogany species as well as the origin of *Khaya senegalensis* identified from its DNA. The data will also be used as the basis for a conservation strategy for Beninese species, which could benefit the entire region.
- The Rainforest Foundation Norway project, the first of its type in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is an approach to conservation based on the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples. It aims to create synergy between biodiversity preservation and the traditional practices of the communities who depend on the forest. The project promotes the sustainable management of the natural resources found in the Itombwe Mountains, based on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- The goal of the project conducted by the Green Belt Movement founded by Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize 2004) is to restore cultivable land and forests in Kenya, and improve living conditions for rural populations by preserving local biodiversity and supporting workers' initiatives.



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FOCUS

MONTE CARLO BEAUTY AND THE LUKI BOTANICAL GARDEN: SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR NETWORKING



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A few hundred miles from Kinshasa, in the Experimental Botanical Garden it has created within Luki Biosphere Reserve, the Biotechnology for Sustainable Development in Africa (BDA) Foundation trains young Congolese entrepreneurs in the production of value-added plants as part of an eco-responsible approach to agriculture that is compliant with the international quality standards of the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and food industries. The newly built processing and packaging centre with its own quality control lab means entrepreneurs can export the plants they produce internationally.

In the Principality, Wood Charter signatory company Monte Carlo Beauty, develops beauty care products made from ingredients selected for their effectiveness and kindness to skin. The company's creator, Vanina Broens, grew up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, conscious of the country's rich biodiversity, had the idea of creating products using Congolese fairtrade raw materials. Thanks to the Luki programme, her dream is now a reality. By joining the BDA Foundation's Botanical Alliance for Sustainable Supply (BASS), Monte Carlo Beauty is committed to buying raw materials from Luki-trained entrepreneurs.

Through the Luki programme, the BDA Foundation is contributing to the economic, social and environmental development of the region, by creating employment, fostering women's independence, building infrastructure, preserving biodiversity, and practising sustainable agriculture and reforestation.