

## MARCH 2024



### top news of the quarter

## Empowering Communities: REDES & BIOPHILIA



REDES, in partnership with Biophilia, is excited to announce a workshop scheduled for March, anticipating 20 participants from Mauritania and Senegal. This collaborative event aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and community building. Furthermore, a local food processing firm will be present to instruct attendees on the processing of indigenous fruits such as moringa and sounp (desert date), in alignment with our mission of promoting sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Biophilia for their support in our nursery project, with the ambitious goal of planting 30,000 trees.

### “TREES OF FRIENDSHIP”



Through our partnership, over 15,000 trees have been distributed to villages in Senegal and Mauritania raising our total trees planted to a whopping **430,000**. These trees, aptly named 'Trees of Friendship' sent to Mauritania, signify more than just a planting initiative; they symbolize a bridge between our countries. In 1989, tensions between herders and farmers nearly escalated into conflict between Senegal and Mauritania. Today, these trees serve as a testament to our shared commitment to peace and cooperation. Thousands have been distributed, with more seedlings taking root in the REDES nursery in Lahel. As these seedlings mature, they will be dispersed to other communities, further strengthening the bonds between us.







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REDES Newsletter

MARCH 2024



Bridging Borders, experiences for  
SUSTAINABILITY across Africa

## REDES AND SLOW FOOD REGIONAL WORKSHOP

February 2nd to 4th, Dakar



Twenty-five participants from 13 African countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Madagascar, and Cameroon) took part in this meeting. In collaboration with Slow Food, the experience fostered an exchange of experiences, expertise, dreams, challenges, and strategies. We also visited the Ndem ecovillage and the Ecolyco projects (a network of schools engaged, among other things, in creating school gardens and green spaces).

## A BLOOMING AND FLOURISHING FOOD FOREST



### A NEW Pledge: A New Piece of Desert to Regenerate

Continuing this work, REDES is embarking on a transformative journey to create a nourishing forest around the community center. We have expanded our efforts by newly fencing an additional 2 hectares of land, aligning with our major objective for **2024: the extension of the food forest**. Our project kicks off around mid-June, an effort to avoid the scorching heat of April and May. As we prepare the soil, gear up or plan for irrigation, and ready the seeds to sew are **seeking volunteers and resources** to help us achieve this ambitious goal.

Over the past months, REDES has continued to expand its nourishing forest with the planting of numerous trees and plants, from the end of December to March. Excitingly, lemon and guava trees have already begun to blossom and bear fruit, while the buzzing of bees and the songs of birds signal a vibrant return to the site.







## ADDITIONAL UPDATES:



### >>> Building a Community Library

REDES has been actively supporting the education system on The Elephant Island (Île Almorphile) by distributing school supplies and constructing classrooms. REDES is currently in the process of constructing a library, which will serve as a focal point for reading and as a transportation hub to surrounding villages. This space will also facilitate meetings between active and retired teachers (local and International) to exchange experiences for the benefit of children in the Senegal River Valley



### >>> Solar Light Installed

With the support of Georg Hansen and Solar Powers, solar light has been installed. This will provide electrical energy for income generating activities.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS**  
**REDES WELCOMES YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**  
**Consider contributing: [REDES DONATION FORM](#)**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Thomas Heuser, Georg and Gudrun Hansen, Lisa Sumner and Marianneopolis Students, Robert Gilman and Context Institute, Karine Fakhry and Biophila, Helen Strong, Maribel Ortega, Jennifer Taylor, Los Portales, Barbara Swetina, Dorota Owen, Miguel Framar, Deb Hansen, Solar Powers, Be the Earth Foundation, Global Ecovillage network Europe, Green Phoenix, Malwa..., Baldur Hoffman, Teachers 4 Schools, Max Siedersberger, Pozo en Africa, Erin Waterman, David Robinson, Mary Adshead, Gerhard Paul and Heilhaus, Howard R. Jean.

