



GREEN TO ABUNDANCE
DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT
FOUNDATION (GADEF)

Growing a greener future | 2025 Overview



NEWSLETTER

ABOUT GREEN TO ABUNDANCE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

Green to Abundance Development and Empowerment Foundation (GADEF) is a non-governmental organisation working in the area of environment and climate change. GADEF focuses on forest restoration and conservation, rehabilitation of degraded landscapes, community engagement, advocacy, education, and empowerment.

Our work combines ecological restoration with community-led action, promoting biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

For further enquiries, please refer to the final page for our contact details.

THEMATIC AREAS

GADEF's programmes are structured around the following thematic areas:

- Forest Restoration and Conservation
- Rehabilitation of Degraded Landscapes
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy
- Education
- Empowerment

**Restoring Forests. Empowering Communities.
Building Climate Resilience.**

Ekiti State, Nigeria



2025 was a year of growth, partnerships, and impact for GADEF. Together, we implemented extensive forest restoration initiatives, engaged communities and schools, and strengthened institutional capacity.

We are proud to have planted over 3017 indigenous trees, trained students and volunteers, and expanded our collaborations with local and international partners. In November, GADEF was awarded grants from Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) and West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), which will further strengthen our restoration and community development programmes.

We thank all our partners, volunteers, and stakeholders for their continued support in achieving our mission.

— Mr. Olubunmi Olatilu & Mr. Tope Faboya

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GADEF'S Focus Areas

Forest Restoration and
Conservation
Rehabilitation of
Degraded Landscapes
Community Engagement
Advocacy
Education
Empowerment



KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Hosted the British High Commission visit on 15th January, showcasing GADEF's forest restoration and community initiatives.
- Implemented Memorial Arboretum of Late Emeritus Prof. S.K Adeyoju's planting throughout the rainy season, with different indigenous tree species planted.
- Conducted indigenous seed collection at Arinta Waterfall on 31st March, strengthening GADEF's seed bank.
- Donated tree seedlings and led tree planting exercises at Christ-Led School.
- Participated in the International Day of Forests, donating and planting 150+ seedlings with the Forestry Commission and partner organisations.
- Donated seedlings at the Iroko-Ekiti Palace on 20th May, engaging traditional leadership in conservation efforts.
- Added over 58 new farmers as seed bank contributors
- Trained over 30 Internship students from Ekiti State University (EKSU) and Federal University of Technology, Akure. (FUTA)



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- Featured on Ekiti State Television (EKTV) on 10th July, discussing forestry, restoration, and climate resilience.

- Collaborated with International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on 16th July for seedling donation and planting at the Memorial Arboretum.

- Celebrated GADEF's 7th anniversary on 11th September with a commemorative gathering.

- Participated in the WACSI Capacity Strengthening Training in Lagos from 14th –19th September

- Participated in the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) training for smallholders by African Sustainability Commodities Initiative (ASCI) in Ekiti from 9th - 11th December



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- Planted 517 indigenous tree seedlings during the JDPI planting programme in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Ekiti.
- Hosted a 300-level Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) student field trip on 26th November, providing practical exposure to restoration and conservation activities.
- Secured grant support from the GGF and WACSI in November, strengthening GADEF's restoration and community development programmes.
- Conducted continuous clearing, monitoring, and maintenance of all GADEF's project sites to ensure sustainability.
- Successfully raised thousands of Orogbo seeds into seedlings using the sawdust sowing medium.



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2025 IMPACT SNAPSHOT & PARTNERSHIPS

• FOREST RESTORATION AND BIODIVERSITY IMPACT:

GADEF planted over 1000 indigenous trees of more than 100 species to restore biodiversity and strengthen ecosystem resilience. Priority species included *Azizelia africana* (Apa), *Khaya ivorensis* (African Mahogany), *Milicia excelsa* (Iroko) and *Mansonia altissima* (Mansonia) all of high conservation value. These plantings create a genetic refuge and support long term environmental recovery.

• INNOVATIVE PROPAGATION AND SPECIES CONSERVATION:

Air layering of *Garcinia kola* (Orogbo) improved propagation of this medicinal and culturally important species. The technique enhances survival and regeneration, contributing to conservation of indigenous trees with economic and ecological value.

• LIVELIHOOD INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE:

GADEF registered 58 contractual farmers for in situ and ex situ conservation programmes. The initiative integrates agroforestry with biodiversity protection and livelihood opportunities, supporting sustainable land use and community participation in environmental restoration.

• ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

Over 150 seedlings were donated during the International Day of Forests to schools and community groups. Students and volunteers received hands on training in nursery management and conservation. Testimonials from IT students highlighted experiential learning:

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Akindele Pelumi (FUTA): "Field experience deepened my knowledge of restoration and community environmental action".



Ogunjobi Isaac (EKSU): "Practical skills in nursery management strengthened my understanding of environmental conservation".



• COMMUNITY BASED RESTORATION IN ADO EKITI SCHOOLS:

GADEF engaged schools in Ado Ekiti through tree planting and environmental education. Participating institutions included Christ Led School and Sarajudeen Nursery and Primary School. Seedlings were donated and planted with students to promote environmental stewardship and practical learning.

• STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH:

Grants from Global Greengrants Fund and West Africa Civil Society Institute strengthened restoration programmes and community initiatives. Partnerships with Forestry Commission, Ekiti State, Ekiti State University, Federal University of Technology Akure and Federal University Oye-Ekiti supported research, training and technical capacity building.

• ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

GADEF participated in media outreach to advance public understanding of forestry and environmental sustainability. The organisation appeared on EKTU to discuss forest conservation, biodiversity and climate resilience. The programme highlighted GADEF's ongoing work in ecological restoration and community based environmental action.

Public engagement initiatives complemented field activities by increasing awareness of sustainable land management and the importance of indigenous species conservation.

• COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION:

Partnerships with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture supported seedling donation and joint planting at the Memorial Arboretum. Collaboration with traditional institutions, schools and community groups expanded participation in conservation and stewardship activities.

• INTEGRATED IMPACT:

GADEF's 2025 achievements demonstrate an integrated approach to sustainability. Ecological restoration, community empowerment and strategic partnerships delivered measurable outcomes in biodiversity conservation and environmental resilience. Engagement with Ado Ekiti schools strengthened environmental awareness and youth participation in conservation.

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GADEF's Partners

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

- Expand indigenous forest restoration and regeneration programmes
- Strengthen community-led landscape rehabilitation projects
- Deepen partnerships with civil society, academic institutions, and government
- Scale environmental education and youth engagement initiatives
- Enhance advocacy for climate resilience and biodiversity protection

CONTACT INFORMATION

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