

History

The idea for “**Macolline**” came from an exhibit in Zurich zoo in Switzerland called *Masoala* (eyes of the forest) *Kely* (small). This exhibit is an exact reproduction of the climate, including flora and fauna, found in the Masoala Peninsula within a one hectare greenhouse. To this day, Swiss botanists still come to Masoala to harvest seeds. If it is possible there, then why not here when we already have the natural temperature, hygrometry and the seeds of native tree species?



Today

At *Masoala Kely* of Zurich, seedlings of our trees are sold as ornamental plants. Here, on “Masoala Hely” we collected and cared for the seeds, created a plant nursery, and planted, demonstrating that reforestation is possible, but simply planting seeds is not enough. The care and follow-up work necessary at **Macolline** has created jobs for two nearby villages that are home to recovering leprosy victims. This wonderful seed granary, which has been recognized by all the experts who have visited, provides easy access to seeds that can be selected and easily sent to all over the world because of Macolline's close proximity to Antalaha. So, it became a new style of nursery where recovering lepers and the other people from Jules and Belfort villages work and have been healed.

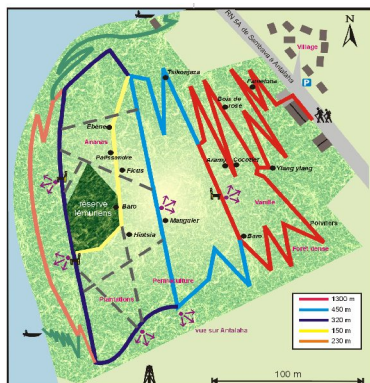
Macolline is a type of reforestation project with 10s of thousands of trees representing 2500 native species (precious and semi-precious). More than 500 of these species produce seeds. There is still a great inventory of plants, some endemic others introduced by colonists, to be made. Found here are many adult fruit



trees, spices (cloves, pepper, chilli pepper, cinnamon...), and medicinal plants. The fauna is also very diverse with chameleons, insects, butterflies, reptiles, lemurs....

“Masoala Hely” provides a simple destination for travellers who cannot reach Masoala reserve or simply for all tourists of solidarity who would enjoy a walk in a type of open-air museum recreating the Malagasy forest. The pleasant circuit around **Macolline** was created with some variants: trekking, a dugout canoe ride, botanical nature trail, and the possibility to finish at the surrounding beaches that are protected by a coral barrier permitting year-round swimming.

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Situated 3 km from Antalaha, a little city that gains importance everyday, **Macolline** provides the possibility to discover nature and to experience solidarity tourism:

- sustainable management by locals,
- based on the sensitization of the population and the traveller,
- and bound to a mutual enrichment filled with natural and cultural diversity.

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* *hely* : small in dialecte betsimisaraka (east coast)
* *kely* : small in dialecte merina (highlands)