We believe in African dynamics to shape the continent’s future. Because we are committed to changing the “discourse on Africa”, we support our African partners’ ideas, and implement initiatives and programmes that respond concretely to their challenges. To achieve this, we work in favour of peace, the environment and health.

Jean-Yves Ollivier

Founding Chairman
Peace

There is an urgent need to help resolve international and internal conflicts, often involving a multiplicity of local actors across Africa and beyond. Expertise, agility and trust are needed to pave the way for international mediation, successfully end conflict, secure the release of hostages and build lasting peace at international, regional and local levels.

Environment

In Africa and elsewhere, populations depend on the climate, water, the natural environment, wildlife and diverse environmental services to lead healthy, happy and prosperous lives. Building coalitions with governments, technical experts, civil-society organisations and local communities provides a basis for protecting ecosystems, resources, biodiversity and communities, and to foster the development of human communities. This is the purpose of the Congo Basin Blue Fund.

Health

People’s health and well-being is far more than just the absence of disease or disability. It is about ensuring that each individual reaches his or her full potential, by opening up access to high-quality medicines and medical treatment, combatting falsified medicines, and supporting public and private health initiatives that transform people’s lives. The Lomé Initiative was launched to safeguard this right.

The Foundation believes in Africa’s huge potential and has a proven track record of promoting and supporting African initiatives to resolve conflict, protect the environment, and improve people’s health and well-being.
Our vision
To empower African populations and leaders across the public, private and civil-society sectors to co-develop lasting solutions to Africa’s key challenges.

Our mission
To promote and support African initiatives in:
- Peace – including resolving international and internal conflicts;
- Environment – including protecting ecosystems, biodiversity and communities;
- Health – including protecting and improving people’s health and well-being.

Our method
Our approach is to put African populations and their leaders at the heart of actions that concern them to ensure they make a lasting impact. To do this, it is based on several pillars: mutual trust, confidentiality, diplomatic agility and the ability to adapt to circumstances and meet changing needs.

The spirit of Brazzaville
The Foundation takes its name and inspiration from the Brazzaville Protocol, signed in 1968 in the Congolese capital at the invitation of President Sassou N’Guesso. A key moment in the history of modern Africa, this was an example of negotiations led by Africans themselves, leading to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Southern Africa. They paved the way for Nelson Mandela’s release, Namibia’s independence and the end of Apartheid. During this process, Jean-Yves Olivier played a major role, as an international mediator, throughout this process.

Royal patronage
Rallying for Africa

HRH Prince Michael of Kent’s father, Prince George, Duke of Kent, was the fourth son of King George V. His mother, Princess Marina, was the daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece and of Grand Duchess Helen Vladimirovna of Russia. Prince Michael has formally represented Queen Elizabeth II on numerous occasions, at home and abroad. A qualified Russian interpreter, also fluent in French and with a working knowledge of German and Italian, Prince Michael was awarded the Russian Order of Friendship in 2009. Prince Michael runs his own consultancy business, and heads up a number of international charities and organisations including RoadSafe (the major international road safety charity) and the Royal Life Saving Society (reducing the number of drowning incidents worldwide).

Message from HRH Prince Michael of Kent
In 2014, Jean-Yves Olivier, whose vision was to create an organisation that would bolster concrete initiatives in peace and conservation in Africa, created the Brazzaville Foundation and I agreed to grant it my patronage. The Foundation is aware that there are pressing challenges for the continent’s future and its people.

Today, I am immensely proud of the work accomplished by the Foundation, and I would like to pay tribute to the heads of state and members of government who have personally committed themselves to ambitious projects such as the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund, in order to find sources of prosperity that respect the environment, as well as to the Lomé Initiative to combat the trafficking of falsified medicines.

Public and private partners at every level, together with their supporters involved in our various projects, have made vital contributions to the Foundation’s work, and for this we are very grateful.

I invite the readers of this anniversary report to support the Foundation’s objectives and to help bring about lasting and positive change.
The Board of Trustees

The Brazzaville Foundation is governed by an experienced Board of Trustees chaired by our Founder, Jean-Yves Ollivier. Each member has been chosen for his or her commitment to African progress and expertise in a field relevant to the Foundation’s work. All board posts are voluntary.

Jean-Yves Ollivier
Founding Chairman

Jean-Yves Ollivier has had a career as a commodities trader in China, the Middle East and Africa and has been personally involved in international negotiations, particularly on professional contracts of the service of peace. Keen to act in the field of philanthropy, he created the Brazzaville Foundation in 2015 and is its main donor. He has received several French and African decorations, including the insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of Good Hope awarded by President Nelson Mandela.

Charles Carr
Trustee, Trustee

Founding Partner of C&F Partners and a specialist in risk consulting, Charles Carr has 25 years of global experience advising clients on, i.a., financial crime, anti-money laundering, sanctions, regulatory compliance and fraud investigations. He has assisted financial institutions and governments worldwide with economic crime-prevention initiatives and financial intelligence functions.

Nicholas Chance
Trustee

Nicholas Chance saw active service with the Royal Green Jackets during the 1980s “Confrontation” in Borneo. He passed the Civil Service Selection Board for the Foreign Office, before joining the Financial Times focusing on regulatory compliance and fraud investigations. He has been chosen for his or her commitment to African progress and expertise in a field relevant to the Foundation’s work. All board posts are voluntary.

Kishore K. Sakhrami
Trustee

During his career, Kishore Sakhrami has advised corporate clients and high-net-worth individuals on taxation, corporate structuring, accounting, regulatory and trust-related matters. He is a Director and Co-owner of Greater Asian Advisors Ltd and is licensed to provide trustee and corporate services in Hong Kong. He is also a Director of The Amber Foundation and The Zubin Foundation.

Martine Chayriguès
Trustee

For 20 years, Martine Chayriguès worked in the French defence industry, e.g. for SOFREES, PROGIAT and GIAT Industries, specialised in communications and marketing. In 2002, she became Deputy Chairman of the Centre for European Policy Studies, a think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs. She was later CDC’s Head of Communication, Institutional Relations and Sponsorship.

Tim Perry
Trustee

Founder and Senior Partner at Spring Law, Tim Perry specialises in disputes, intelligence acquisition and investigations. His expertise includes London High Court advocacy and advisory. He previously worked as a corporate lawyer at Simmons & Simmons, specialist in litigation at Denton Wilde Sapte, then Head Group Counsel for a listed company managing the group’s legal department internationally.

Richard Amahyi
Chief Executive

Richard Amahyi has a long record as a leader of international NGOs and has co-designed peace programmes in the African Great Lakes Region, the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia. Youth Policy consultant at the World Bank and Public, and General Affairs consultant at the OECD. He served as a Board Member of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and Vice-President of the Conferences of NGOs at the UN.

The executive team

The executive team is based at the Foundation headquarters in London. It provides technical support to the partners in running the programmes and assists the Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees.

Ariane Allin
Chief Operating Officer

Ariane Allin joined the Brazzaville Foundation team in August 2019 as Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive. During her studies in political science and humanitarian action and development, she worked in Malawi and Ivory Coast as Project Officer focusing on education and health issues (2015-2016). She has been Chief Operating Officer since August 2020.

Acknowledgements

The Brazzaville Foundation would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to former members of the Board of Trustees for their dedication to our cause and valuable contributions of their expertise and time in support of our work.

Lloyd Timothy Bell (2014-2018)
Oliver Scott (2018-2020)

Towards a multidisciplinary and multicultural team

This year 2020 saw several changes to the professional team based in London. This transformation included integrating young African executives and new skills. As of 1 December 2020, in addition to the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, the team included:

- Mikaël Oliveira, Communications Manager, responsible for monitoring and implementing the communication strategy (branding, digital ecosystem, corporate communications);
- André Malong, Project Officer, working on the Young African Talent programme;
- Nathaniel Moatti, Project Officer, intern working on the African Talent programme.

A Lomé Initiative Programme Manager is currently being recruited.

We warmly thank the following members of the team who worked under the leadership of Sir David Richmond:

Ms Sarah Gouia, Project Coordinator (2016-2019);
Ms Kim Doyle, Director of Programmes and Partnerships (2018-2020); Ms Sarah Gouia, Lomé Initiative Programme Manager in charge of legal issues (2019-2020).

Sir David Richmond
Former Chief Executive

Sir David Richmond served as the first Chief Executive of the Brazzaville Foundation from 2015 to June 2020, and we are grateful for his dedication and enlivening contributions to the Foundation’s cause. A former British diplomat with more than 30 years’ experience in international affairs, he oversees postings including Baghdad, Sana’a, New York and Brussels. Formerly the Foreign Office Director General for Defence and Intelligence and a member of the Foreign Office Board, he is Chairman of the British Lebanonese Association.

We warmly thank the following members of the team who worked under the leadership of Sir David Richmond:

Ms Béatrice Hill, Project Coordinator (2016-2019);
Ms Kim Doyle, Director of Programmes and Partnerships (2018-2020); Ms Sarah Gouia, Lomé Initiative Programme Manager in charge of legal issues (2019-2020).
The Advisory Board

The Advisory Board comprises a panel of leading personalities committed to mediation and negotiation, and international experts working in the Foundation’s fields of action. Their role, which is voluntary, is incompatible with political mandates.

Olusegun Obasanjo
Olusegun Obasanjo’s military career included UN peacekeeping missions and overseeing the restoration of civilian rule in Nigeria in 1979. After twice being elected President, he was ECOWAS’ Special Envoy to the Ivory Coast, head of AU electoral observation delegations, and the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Great Lakes.

Kabiné Komara
Kabiné Komara has previously held top-level posts as Guinea’s Prime Minister. Director of the African Export-Import Bank in Cairo, and High Commissioner of the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (GOMS). Expatriated in economic planning and cooperation, Mr Komara also has experience in the mining sector.

Kgalema Motlanthe
Kgalema Motlanthe has served as President of South Africa. He now heads the Motlanthe Foundation committed to education and human rights, and fosters social change nationally.

Dr José Ramos-Horta
1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr José Ramos-Horta is renowned for his efforts to find a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in Timor-Leste. After serving as Timor-Leste’s President, he became a founding member and later Secretary General of the Ugandan National Resistance Movement. He has a proven track record, i.e., in conflict resolution and in combating AIDS.

Amama Mbabazi
A lawyer by profession, Amama Mbabazi has held top governmental posts in Uganda, including Prime Minister. He played a key role in resisting dictatorship and was a founding member and later Secretary General of the Ugandan National Resistance Movement. He has a proven track record, i.e., in conflict resolution and in combating AIDS.

Dr Aminata Touré
A distinguished former French judge internationally known for his work on antiterrorism cases, Jean-Louis Bruguérire has played a key role in investigating high-profile terrorism. Amongst his various commitments, he is a member of the Chertoff Group’s Advisory Board and helps the Foundation in its work on falsified and substandard medicines.

Jean-Louis Bruguérire
A former Minister of Education and President of the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly. In his long, distinguished diplomatic career, he has been, i.a., Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast, Secretary General of the OAU, Ivory Coast’s Permanent Representative to the UN, and President of the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly. In 2000, he was appointed UN Special Envoy for the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

Pär Stenbäck
A former Minister of Education and President of the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly. In his long, distinguished diplomatic career, he has been, i.a., Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast, Secretary General of the OAU, Ivory Coast’s Permanent Representative to the UN, and President of the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly. In 2000, he was appointed UN Special Envoy for the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

Amara Essy
Amara Essy is a member of the Global Leadership Foundation. In his long, distinguished diplomatic career, he has been, i.a., Foreign Minister of the Ivory Coast, Secretary General of the OAU, Ivory Coast’s Permanent Representative to the UN, and President of the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly. In 2000, he was appointed UN Special Envoy for the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

Jan Kohout
Jan Kohout, a Czech diplomat, researcher in international relations and former Foreign Minister, has extensive international experience, serving as Ambassador to the EU, Director of the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Head of the Czech Republic’s Permanent Mission to the UN, and to the OSCE in Vienna.

Cécilia Attias
Cécilia Attias has held various posts in ministerial cabinets and at the National Assembly in France. While First Lady in 2007, she was involved in successful hostage negotiations in Libya. As President and Founder of the Cécilia Attias Foundation for Women, a communications expert, she fosters positive change for women worldwide.

Ruben Vardanyan
Armenian philanthropist and entrepreneur Ruben Vardanyan served as CEO and Chairman of the Board at Troika Dialog, a leading investment bank in Russia and the CIS. He co-founded the Initiatives for Development of Armenia (IDea) and is Co-Founder and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Board of Moscow School of Management Skolkovo.

Dr Sundeep Waslekar
Dr Sundeep Waslekar is President of The Strategic Foresight Group, an India-based think tank advising governments and institutions on managing geopolitical, security, and technology. He is also a senior executive at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in Stockholm. He has mediated between India and Pakistan and among water authorities in Africa and the Middle East.

Dr Ilmas Futehally
Mr Ilmas Futehally co-authored “Big Questions of Our Time”, and is Co-Founder and CEO of The Strategic Foresight Group, a global think tank advising governments and institutions in 60 countries. Experienced in conflict resolution, her diplomatic initiatives include working to transcend water conflicts and assessing the impact of conflicts.

Dr Philipp von und zu Liechtenstein
As Chairman of the LGT Group, Prince Philipp von und zu Liechtenstein manages his family’s fortune and supervised the international expansion of the LGT Bank. On top of his international banking activities, he is a governor of the European Financial Forum in London and a founder member of the European Centre of the Austrian Economics Foundation (ESCER).

Dr Jean-Paul Delevoye
Former French minister and mediator of the republic, and ECOFAC Chairman in France, he served on the Advisory Board until 2011.

Xavier Guerard-Hermès
Former Chairman of the Guerard-Hermès Foundation for Peace, he served until 2019.

Acknowledgements

Jean-Paul Delevoye
Former French minister and mediator of the republic, and ECOFAC Chairman in France, he served on the Advisory Board until 2011.

Xavier Guerard-Hermès
Former Chairman of the Guerard-Hermès Foundation for Peace, he served until 2019.
Supporting an African dynamic

As a civil society actor and philanthropist, Jean-Yves Ollivier has, since the mid-1980s, built up his expertise as an international mediator that he has independently put at the service of sensitive negotiations in Africa and the Middle East: the release of hostages in Lebanon, prisoner exchanges and assistance in conflict resolution. The “Ollivier method”, consists in enabling irreconcilable issues to be brought to the table in complete neutrality. Since creating the Brazzaville Foundation in 2015, with a number of leading personalities among his friends who shared the same vision of development, Jean-Yves Ollivier has extended this peace mediation capability in support of programmes that tackle major challenges affecting the future of the African continent.

What led you to create the Brazzaville Foundation?

From de Gaulle to Mandela, the name “Brazzaville” has been imbued with symbolism. In 1940, General de Gaulle established the capital of Free France in Brazzaville. In 1944, he delivered a speech opening the way to the emancipation of the African peoples, heralding the end of colonisation. Finally, in December 1988, it was also in Brazzaville that the eponymous agreements were signed that led to the resolution of conflicts in Southern Africa, paving the way for Nelson Mandela’s release, the independence of Namibia and the end of Apartheid. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this peaceful settlement, my friend Denis Sassou N’Guesso, current President of the Republic of Congo, called for the spirit of these agreements to be kept alive. Together with several leading personalities among my friends, I responded to this call by creating the Foundation.

Do you have any new plans?

Of course, and it’s this optimism that drives my action and that of the Foundation. Africa has a great future ahead of it – I’m convinced of this. This report tells the story of how programmes such as the Congo Basin Blue Fund and the Lomé Initiative against falsified medicines are part of an African dynamic that gives grounds for optimism. It’s to strengthen this dynamic that we’re inviting others to join us.

Are you optimistic about Africa’s future?

Of course, and it’s this optimism that drives my action and that of the Foundation. Africa has a great future ahead of it – I’m convinced of this. This report tells the story of how programmes such as the Congo Basin Blue Fund and the Lomé Initiative against falsified medicines are part of an African dynamic that gives grounds for optimism. It’s to strengthen this dynamic that we’re inviting others to join us.

What legitimacy does the Foundation have to act?

Our legitimacy stems from the requests to intervene that we receive from states or leading African personalities.

Is it your ambition to develop African leadership?

The Foundation not only works with political leaders but also engages with decision makers from the private sector and representatives of civil society. As an NGO, its vocation is to help civil society fulfil its aspirations. The question of leadership is all the more important in Africa because its demographic base is extremely young, and we need to think about the human capital that’s in the process of being formed. This is one of the parameters that we take into account when designing the programmes we support.

What guides your action?

Peace, because only peace can ensure that nations prosper and develop. We encourage African alliances, initiatives and partnerships that bring concrete responses to the continent’s major challenges in the fields of peacekeeping, improving public health and preserving African biodiversity.

"If there are any miracles in politics, South Africa experienced one when Nelson Mandela was released. Apartheid ended, without bloodshed, and the country’s future was negotiated among the involved parties, South Africans themselves, without outside interference. What was the key to this success? One word: ‘Brazzaville’, meaning an African initiative, a series of negotiations and a peace agreement in Southern Africa that paved the way for the reconciliation that Mandela had dedicated his whole life to," says Jean-Yves Ollivier, who was awarded the Order of Good Hope, South Africa’s highest honour for foreign dignitaries. In 1987, he was made an Officer by Pik Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and then a Grand Officer by President Nelson Mandela in 1995.
African youth’s idea of its future

A survey undertaken by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, partner of the Brazzaville Foundation, revealed that young people are “very enthusiastic” about tackling Africa’s challenges head on. The 4,200 young people surveyed, aged 18 to 24 from 14 countries, are convinced that the continent is heading towards an era of success fuelled by technology and entrepreneurship. The African Youth Survey, the largest of its kind, indicates that there is a growing belief in the concept of “Afro-optimism”, which combats persistent negative stereotypes of the continent.

How do you see the Foundation’s prospects?
As far as organisation is concerned, we need to maintain frugal, agile and efficient operations, while also extending our capacity for action with partner states. We want to better embed our programmes in Africa by inviting young African talent to join us. Finally, we remain attentive to our partners’ expectations and needs, in order to ensure that our programmes make a greater impact.

What about the existing programmes?
In partnership with the Congo Basin Climate Commission, we’ll support advocacy for the Congo Basin and marketing for the Blue Fund in preparation for the Glasgow Climate Change Conference in 2021. When it comes to combating falsified medicines, we’re working with the health ministers of the six signatory countries to get ready to implement the recommendations of the legislative audit conducted in 2020, now that we’ve identified gaps in the pharmaceutical supply chain. We’re also considering extending the Lomé Initiative to other countries. We’re planning to attend the World Health Assembly in May 2021 to encourage initiatives and to report back. We want to involve African youth in seeking solutions, by organising an awareness-raising campaign and a forum to which we’ll invite those proposing solutions. We also hope to accompany a major project on the issue of democratic governance in Africa. To make a lasting impact, we need to respond to the continent’s changing needs.

Looking forward

Responding to the continent’s changing needs

Interview with Richard Amalvy
Chief Executive

During your discovery phase, following your arrival, which aspect struck you most?
The efficiency of the philanthropic infrastructure. The Foundation’s cost-effectiveness is exemplary.

What reasons lie behind producing this report?
It’s a way of celebrating the work accomplished and paying tribute to everyone who’s contributed to it. It’s also customary to report to beneficiaries, donors and monitoring bodies. But beyond the question of accountability, it’s also a matter of advocacy and fundraising.

How do you see the Foundation’s prospects?
As far as organisation is concerned, we need to maintain frugal, agile and efficient operations, while also extending our capacity for action with partner states. We want to better embed our programmes in Africa by inviting young African talent to join us. Finally, we remain attentive to our partners’ expectations and needs, in order to ensure that our programmes make a greater impact.

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Fostering young African talent

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the demographic composition of the continent is predominantly young, with those under 35 accounting for nearly 60% of the population. As a resource and a lever for development, they face various obstacles: insufficient skills and a low rate of integration into the professional world; problems in capitalising on and promoting their qualifications; discriminatory behaviour linked to certain cultural practices that take precedence over skills when it comes to recruitment.

The private sector struggles to identify and attract young specialised graduates, because they are more attracted to administrative careers. What is more, African countries suffer from the phenomenon of the brain drain, which sees young talent leaving to study and work abroad, making it unavailable to national administrations and African companies.

The Brazzaville Foundation is launching a “Young African Talent” programme to identify, promote and develop these young people and improve their employability.
In constant dialogue with its partners, the Brazzaville Foundation is envisaging new initiatives on the issues of migration and democratic governance. The key to success is to accompany the actors of change at their own pace.

Taking stock of African best practices
Under the chairmanship of the Congolese head of state, Denis Sassou N’Guesso, the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CBCC) has established exemplary governance. The Blue Fund’s financing mechanism has been voluntarily defined on the basis of five “As”:
1. a mechanism created by 17 African countries;
2. co-financed by Africans;
3. a multi-country fund located in Africa;
4. managed by African and international experts;
5. to create a sustainable economic, social and environmental model for Africa.
Initiator of the Blue Fund, the Brazzaville Foundation remains one of its technical partners and is committed to driving advocacy for the CBCC and marketing the Blue Fund in the run-up to COP26, scheduled for November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Nurturing Afro-optimism
The Blue Fund’s governance model, based on the primacy of African competence, is promising and can be adapted and replicated to manage other programmes that are crucial for developing African countries, whether within a national framework or within a framework of cooperation between states. The Brazzaville Foundation’s vision is to strengthen African leadership, enabling people and their leaders, in all sectors, to exercise their capacity to find solutions to the problems that concern them. It is this conviction that makes it possible to nurture Afro-optimism that respects African cultures.

Inventing governance suited to the continent’s needs
Democratic transitions need time to find a basis for agreement and to make legislative adaptations to enshrine them, particularly when it comes to the status of former heads of state. In 2021, the Brazzaville Foundation will launch an initiative to help democracy take root in Africa by identifying the type of governance best suited to the continent’s needs. This initiative corresponds to one of the aspirations of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, which addresses the issue of governance in terms of democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.

Tackling migration issues
Among the challenges affecting young people and their future is that of intra-African migration and migration to Western countries. Keeping departures in check by addressing the issue of democratic governance and employment is one of the keys to fostering development. Countries also need to unify policies and approaches to combat criminal trafficking linked to the migration phenomenon, particularly in the countries of the Sahel. The creation of a common monitoring and regulatory body could be supported by the Brazzaville Foundation.

Looking forward
Empowering African actors of change

The Africa we want
Agenda 2063 is the framework that was adopted in 2015 by the 25th African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government. It is based on seven aspirations:
1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
2. An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance.
3. An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
4. A peaceful and secure Africa.
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, values, ethics and a common heritage.
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.

The Brazzaville Foundation’s programmes help implement Agenda 2063, in order to fulfil the continent’s vision of its future: “the Africa we want”.

Youth’s belief in Afro-capacity
Kgalema Motlanthe
Former South African President, Member of the Brazzaville Foundation’s Advisory Board

I am encouraged by African youth’s shared vision of a pan-African identity and love of their fellow human beings that transcends colour, creed, class or nationality. I am also very encouraged by their Afro-optimism, underscored by their belief in Afro-capacity.
Finding solutions through partnerships

Our solution-focused programmes, co-developed with our partners in the fields of peace, environment and health, aim to help African populations and leaders find solutions to their key challenges and make a real difference in people’s lives.

A more sustainable future for all
Designed to support the African Union’s Agenda 2063, our programmes also contribute to reaching the UN’s sustainable development goals (SDGs). Set in 2015 by the UN General Assembly, these goals serve as a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.

Environment
SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation
SDG 13 – Climate action
SDG 14 – Life below water
SDG 15 – Life on land

Partnerships
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals
SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions
SDG 3 – Good health and well-being

Partnering with the United Nations System
Since July 2018, the Brazzaville Foundation has held special consultative status with the United Nation’s Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) and is, therefore, a member of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO). Consultative status provides NGOs with access not only to ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human-rights mechanisms of the UN, to ad hoc processes on small arms, as well as to special events organised by the President of the General Assembly.

Finding solutions through partnerships

African partnerships in the three key programmes

Peace
International mediation
Ivory Coast (conflict prevention),
Guinea Bissau,
Libya (conflict resolution),
Central African Republic (hostage mediation),
Democratic Republic of Congo (political mediation).

Environment
Congo Basin Blue Fund
Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad,
Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya,
Morocco, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe,
South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

Health
Combatting falsified medicines

Representing the Brazzaville Foundation
Guinea: Kabiné Komara, Ivory Coast: Amara Essy,
Mali: Dr. Joyce Banda, Mozambique: Jean-Yves Olivier,
Nigeria: Olusegun Obasanjo, Senegal: Dr. Aminta Traoré,
South Africa: Kgalema Motlanthe and Dr. Naledi Mathews Phosa,
Uganda: Amama Mbabazi.

(See the complete list of members on pages 10 and 11.)
From initiatives to partnerships and results

2014

14 August, London, UK
Incorporation of the Brazzaville Foundation at Companies House

2015

27 February, London, UK
Registration of the Brazzaville Foundation approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

2016

27 November, Baboua, Central African Republic
Successful negotiation for the release of Polish priest Mateusz Dziedzic, held hostage by the Democratic Front of the Central African People’s Party (FDPC).

2017

26 May, New York, United Nations HQ
This film is about Jean-Yves’s role in resolving conflict in Southern Africa.

2018

4 September, Paris, France
International webinar “How to fight against the traffic of falsified medicines and falsified and substandard medicines in Africa

2019

12-14 June, Marrakesh, Morocco
Discussion on future actions in the fight against trafficking in falsified and substandard medicines in Africa

2020

3 September, Paris, France
Lomé Summit preparatory meeting

Peace

11-13 May, Dakar, Senegal
Intra-Libyan dialogue

Environment

11-13 May, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Mediation for a political transition alongside the special representatives of the UN, AU, EU and USA. Jean-Yves Olivier intervened to try to resolve the political crisis following the departure of President Kabila.

Health

12 March, Rabat, Morocco
Ad-hoc coordination meeting for the Blue Fund’s detailed feasibility study

Peace

11-13 May, Dakar, Senegal
Intra-Libyan dialogue

Environment

16 November, Marrakesh, Morocco
Launch of the Congo Basin Blue Fund

Health

28 March, London, UK
Symposium “Medicines that Lie” with the Harvard Global Health Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Peace

29 April, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo
First Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Congo Basin Climate Commission

Environment

21 October
Call for tenders to assess the feasibility of the Congo Basin Blue Fund

Health

21 October
Declaration to take action on falsified and substandard medicines.

Peace

27 November, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo
Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund

Environment

13 September, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo
International meeting of experts leading to a common proposal to reorient the basis of the sub-region’s economy through the innovative exploitation of the basin’s renewable water resources.

Health

21 October
Intra-Libyan dialogue

Peace

14 August, London, UK
Incorporation of the Brazzaville Foundation at Companies House

Environment

April, The Strategic Foresight Group, India
Concept paper for the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund by Dr Sandeep Waglekar, member of the Foundation’s Advisory Board

Health

21 October
Cases of the United Nations archives
This film is about Jean-Yves’s role in resolving conflict in Southern Africa.

Peace

27 February, London, UK
Registration of the Brazzaville Foundation approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

Environment

26 May, New York, United Nations HQ
The documentary Plot for Peace added to the supporting the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)

Health

21 October
Cases of the United Nations archives
This film is about Jean-Yves’s role in resolving conflict in Southern Africa.

Peace

27 November, Baboua, Central African Republic
Successful negotiation for the release of Polish priest Mateusz Dziedzic, held hostage by the Democratic Front of the Central African People’s Party (FDPC).

Environment

21 October, London
The Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Stop Ivory, an NGO supporting the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)

Health

27 February, London, UK
Registration of the Brazzaville Foundation approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

Peace

21 October, London
The Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Stop Ivory, an NGO supporting the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)

Environment

26 May, New York, United Nations HQ
The documentary Plot for Peace added to the supporting the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI)

Health

21 October
Cases of the United Nations archives
This film is about Jean-Yves’s role in resolving conflict in Southern Africa.
“Getting people talking about the irreconcilable” is the “Ollivier Method’s” mantra. The Brazzaville Foundation’s Founding Chairman experimented with this approach to conflict resolution in Southern Africa in the late 1980s and within the framework of intra-Libyan dialogue. Thanks to the work of its Founder and eminent members of its Advisory Board, the Foundation is well-known for being a civil-society diplomatic advocate. 

**Milestones**

**1980s**
Jean-Yves Ollivier tried out his approach to international mediation.

**2014**
The fledgling Brazzaville Foundation took part in the negotiations that led to the release of hostages in the Central African Republic.

**2015**
The documentary *Plot for Peace*, about the role played by Jean-Yves Ollivier in resolving conflicts in Southern Africa, was included in the United Nations’ archives.

**2017**
He intervened, alongside the special representatives of the UN, AU, EU and USA, to try and resolve the political crisis following the departure of President Kabila.

**2018**
Organisation of intra-Libyan dialogues in Dakar.

**2020**
Through its Chairman, the Brazzaville Foundation contributed to discussions to mitigate the risk of civil war in Ivory Coast.

Watch the interview of the Advisory Board members.
Peace focus

Hostage mediation in the Central African Republic

Father Mateusz Dziedzic, a Polish priest, had been living in the Central African Republic since 2009. He held pastoral responsibilities there and ran nursery schools. On 12 October 2014, he was kidnapped along with 25 other hostages near the Cameroonian border by members of the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDCP). At that time, rebels regularly seized Central African and Cameroonian nationals. Together with other international mediators, the Foundation’s negotiators made contact with a Central African Republic rebel group to secure, after 44 days of captivity, the release of the hostages, including Father Dziedzic.

A path towards reconciliation

Karim Meckassoua
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic

There was a grave risk that, in the absence of a negotiated solution, the Polish priest and his 25 unfortunate companions, 10 Central African citizens and 15 Cameroonians, would be handed over to Nigerian radicals and the terrorist group Boko Haram. The concerted approach involving the Brazzaville Foundation, the President of the Republic of Congo and the Polish, French and European authorities shows that having a path towards reconciliation and peace is possible in the Central African Republic.

Remembering Plot for Peace

The filmmaker managed to track down Jean-Yves Ollivier – Monsieur Jacques’ real name – and convince him to tell his story. In order to reach the broadest audience, Mandy decided to put together an international crew, among them Spanish director and editor Carlos Agulló, script writer and historical advisor Stephen Smith and many other professionals from various countries. The result is a documentary that has been selected at numerous international festivals and has, so far, been released in commercial cinemas in France, the UK, the USA and Spain. The documentary was screened on 26 May 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters. Following the projection, the United Nations added Plot for Peace to its official archives.

Facilitating intra-Libyan dialogue

The Libyan conflict began in 2011, following the popular protest movement which led to Colonel Gaddafi’s fall from power. Two civil wars followed in succession, in 2011 and 2014. Despite the United Nations’ efforts, the situation became all the more complex as internal divisions were exacerbated by the involvement of many external players, from both the Arab and Western worlds. A ceasefire was finally reached on 21 August 2020.

On 11-13 May 2018 in Dakar, the Foundation brought together opponents from all political backgrounds to initiate an intra-Libyan dialogue aimed at getting them to meet for the first time. It was an informal meeting, based on the “Ollivier method”, intended to create a climate of trust: sitting, working, eating lunch and even praying together. The preparatory work had required long months of civil diplomatic efforts.

President Macky Sall and Moustapha Niassé, Speaker of the Senegalese National Assembly and former UN Special Representative, played the role of facilitator. The key to the meeting’s success lay in the fact that it broke through an important psychological barrier, namely in getting the idea of reconciliation accepted.

Overcoming contradictions to envisage the future

Macky Sall
President of the Republic of Senegal

It is all about dialogue, enabling parties in conflict to come together under one roof, exchange the major contradictions, and grasp how to overcome these contradictions and envisage the future. This step was important because it involved brothers who until then had only communicated using weapons, and who are now able to talk to each other.

The participants at the intra-Libyan dialogue meeting in Dakar.
Preserving the Congo Basin

The Congo Basin encompasses an enormous region of Central Africa and is a complex ecosystem rich in biodiversity and valuable resources, including freshwater and forests. It is second only to the Amazon Basin as a carbon sink, so is often called the planet’s second “lung”.

Milestones

2016
Congo Basin Blue Fund
The feasibility study for the Blue Fund was presented by the Brazzaville Foundation, which initiated it, at COP22 in Marrakesh. The Fund, initiated by the Foundation, was launched by President Denis Sassou N’Guesso (Republic of Congo) at COP22 in Morocco.

2017
Congo Basin Climate Commission
The CBCC was established in Brazzaville by the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the East African Community (EAC).

2018
CBCC Summit
The CBCC’s first Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in Brazzaville. Jean-Yves Olivier was appointed one of the four goodwill ambassadors for the Fund.

2020
CBCC meeting
At the 4th meeting of the steering committee of the Congo Basin Blue Fund’s feasibility study, the Brazzaville Foundation confirmed its support for a 2nd technical contribution in terms of advocacy for the Congo Basin and marketing to promote the Fund internationally.
The Congo Basin’s natural heritage represents a key asset for local economic development and a source of benefits, especially for poor people whose livelihoods depend on natural resources.

What makes the Congo Basin special?
With more or less continuous forest cover, the Congo Basin hosts more than 10,000 varieties of tropical plants and extensive wetlands. Its lowland forest, for instance, is the most species-rich forest in Africa and hosts many endemic species. This region is home to the Ngié-Tumbi-Maindombe Complex – a 6,569,624 hectare site recognised by the Ramsar Convention as the world’s largest Wetland Site of International Importance – and contains the largest body of freshwater on the African continent.

As a major storehouse for CO₂, the region’s rivers and lakes help reduce the impact of climate change; forests filter and purify water, and vegetation prevents flooding. A wide variety of domestic and commercial crops is grown in the area, including cassava, oil palm and rice, and fishing is a major source of income. The basin’s valuable environmental resources and services thus sustain the livelihoods of millions of people.

Building the blue and green economies
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines the green economy as “low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive”. The World Bank defines the blue economy as “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems”. This definition can be extended to include rivers, tributaries and wetlands, and a broad range of related economic sectors and policies. The blue and green economies relate closely to the UN’s SDGs and are becoming an integral part of public policy and private investment decisions worldwide.

Nature and local populations are impacted not only by political instability, but also threats like illegal logging, forest fires, plantations, hunting, population growth and mining that cause deforestation and biodiversity depletion. There is a very high economic dependence on forest resources and a lack of other viable sources of income.

To overcome these challenges, numerous local, national and international initiatives are underway to protect the Congo Basin and to use and manage its resources sustainably. Held on 13 September 2016 in Brazzaville, a first international meeting of experts enabled the drafting of a common proposal to redesign the basis of the sub-region’s economy through the innovative exploitation of the basin’s renewable water resources. This proposal led to the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund – an ambitious sustainable development initiative launched by the Brazzaville Foundation with the aim of mitigating the harmful effects of exploiting the Congo Basin’s forests and limiting, de facto, climate disruption by promoting the development of alternative economies using the renewable water resources of the Congo River and its tributaries.

Redesigning the region’s economy
The World Climate Change Conference (COP22), held in Marrakesh in November 2016, brought together world leaders committed to bringing about lasting change. The President of the Republic of Congo, HE Denis Sassou N’Guesso, emphasised the importance of the Congo Basin in reducing global warming and proposed the launch of the Blue Fund to fight against climate change and poverty. Together with his Gabonese and Rwandan counterparts, he sponsored the Foundation to enable Jean-Yves Ollivier to present the project in a plenary session. Extensive groundwork had previously been undertaken by the Indian think tank The Strategic Foresight Group, which produced the concept paper for the creation of the Blue Fund.

The Brazzaville Foundation followed up by convening an international meeting of specialists on environmental issues and representatives of regional organisations. They drew up a joint proposal to reorient the region’s economy by finding innovative uses for the basin’s renewable water resources.
The Blue Fund is a financing mechanism managed and supported by 17 Central African countries and intended to preserve biodiversity in the Congo Basin sub-region. The Fund’s operations, legal structure, governance and management model, based on the recommendations and the initial investment plan developed during the detailed feasibility study, were presented during COP25. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical, financial and logistical support throughout the study’s preparatory phases by mobilising its network of international experts as well as its offices in Rabat and Brazzaville. The Centre 4C Maroc, the Moroccan platform for climate change information on African and international levels, also played a major role in financing the project.

Building a coalition
The Congo Basin Blue Fund became a highlight of the African Action Summit, organised on the sidelines of COP22. The Kingdom of Morocco played a vital role in helping to build a coalition around this initiative. HM the King of Morocco gave a speech in support of setting up the Fund. The next step was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund, which took place on 8-10 March 2017 in Oyo, Republic of Congo.

The state signatories are Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Morocco, Rwanda and Chad. Their shared goal is to mobilise the necessary resources to finance the implementation of programmes and projects contributing to sustainable development and to building the blue and green economies.

A factor of peace and economic cooperation
Dr Sundeep Waslekar
President of The Strategic Foresight Group India, Member of the Brazzaville Foundation’s Advisory Board

Water is often a source of competition and conflict. However, through collaborative management underpinning collective protection, it could become a factor for peace and cooperation. If the Fund achieves its goals, it will help mitigate climate change, create new employment opportunities linked to river-related activities, and promote collective security in a region marked by instability.

Sectorial programmes to support climatic and economic transition
The Blue Fund’s programmes aim to bring about a climatic and economic transition using two main levers: strengthening technical capacities; strengthening financial capacities by mobilising both private and public funds. The three priorities identified are:
- sustainable development – encompassing the environment and socio-economic development;
- climate – including adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer;
- politics – regional integration.
The Congo Basin’s peatlands cover nearly 150,000 km². They form one of the largest carbon reserves on the planet and contribute to climatic balance. Scientists estimate that they alone store nearly 30 billion tonnes of CO₂, constituting a reserve equivalent to the totality of human CO₂ emissions over an entire year.

Following the presentation of the Fund’s feasibility study on 2 December 2020, the CBCC entered its operational phase. Which are the key challenges? To ensure that the governance bodies are functional, all countries have to ratify the protocol establishing the Congo Basin Climate Commission and provide funding that will enable the Fund to function properly. We also need to ensure regional readiness with the Green Climate Fund, which will enable funds to be raised for the Blue Fund, the CBCC’s financial vehicle. The investment plan is based on a portfolio of 254 projects proposed by the states, within the framework of 24 sectoral programmes. To implement this plan, the key challenge is to recruit the development bank that will manage the funds on behalf of the member states.

What do you expect from technical and financial partners, especially the Brazzaville Foundation?

Our partners work alongside us on advocacy with other institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), various bilateral donors and sovereign wealth funds. We count on the commitment of our goodwill ambassadors, including Jean-Yves Ollivier, to achieve this. We also need technical support to strengthen our capacities in accordance with the five “As”. The Brazzaville Foundation, which shares this concept, can help us to do so.

The Congolese government and the Brazzaville Foundation are awarding the CBCC’s inaugural Prize for Environmental Solidarity, the Prix d’Excellence, which aims to reward the efforts of individuals and missions committed to the preservation and protection of the Congo Basin’s biodiversity. The award will be presented during the Foundation’s “Congo for Conscience” conference, which will take place in Brazzaville on 30 November 2022.

The Blue Fund partnership

The Foundation was the initiator of the Congo Basin Blue Fund at COP22 in Marrakesh. Members of its Advisory Board, experts in the field, drafted the idea project which made it possible to bring partners together and then launch the feasibility study for the Fund. Today, the Foundation supports advocacy and fundraising activities for the CBCC.

Political leadership

The Congo Basin Climate Commission (CBCC) is supported by the African Union: The Blue Fund is the Commission’s financial instrument.

Countries involved in the project

The Blue Fund’s Goodwill Ambassadors

In April 2018, during the first CBCC Summit, the heads of state and members of government designated four goodwill ambassadors for the CBCC and the Blue Fund: Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment; Jean-Yves Ollivier, Chairman of the Brazzaville Foundation, Maria de Fatima Monteiro Jardim, former Minister of the Environment of Angola; and Lokua Kanza, a musical artist.

The CBCC relies on several technical and financial partners

An exemplary African project: Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, and H.E. Jean-Yves Ollivier, the Foundation’s chairman, are among the leaders of the Blue Fund.
Protecting African elephants

The Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) – launched by Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tanzania – brings together 21 African states, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, the private sector and private citizens to protect African elephants by stopping poaching and the illegal ivory trade. To find a lasting solution to this problem, the EPI incorporates the needs of people who live alongside the elephants and strives to mitigate and prevent human-elephant conflict. This partnership enables the development of national action plans that protect elephants, while enabling the people who live alongside them to prosper.

Avoiding conflict between elephants and people

“The challenges our African member countries face are enormous and diverse. In those countries where elephant populations are stable or increasing, governments are quite rightly preoccupied with growing conflicts between elephants and people. In others, we are still very focused on the scourge of ivory poaching. In several, the concern is how to protect small, relict elephant populations that are on the verge of extinction.”

John Stephenson, CEO Stop Ivory, and Keith Roberts, Executive Director of Wildlife Trafficking for Conservation International.

Thank you!

John Stephenson
CEO, Stop Ivory
Partner of the Brazzaville Foundation

I would like to thank everyone at the Brazzaville Foundation both for the work that you do and for your formal partnership.

Environment focus
The trafficking of falsified and substandard medicines (FSM) poses a serious threat to individuals, families, communities and nations by blocking access to high-quality, affordable medicines. African governments and other key stakeholders in the public and private sectors and in civil society are working together to tackle this major public-health scourge and provide essential medicines and high-quality health care to patients.

Milestones

2017
Oyo launch
The Foundation announced the launch of an initiative on falsified medicines following a Congo Basin Blue Fund meeting.

2018
London Symposium “Medicines that Lie”
The Foundation brought diverse stakeholders together to explore global health priorities.

2019
Marrakesh & preparatory meetings
The Foundation organised a series of meetings to prepare future actions to combat trafficking in FSMs in Africa.

2020
Lomé Summit
The Foundation organised the Lomé Summit, at which six heads of state and government signed a political declaration pledging to combat the trafficking of falsified and substandard medicines.

Lomé Initiative follow-up
The states mandated the Foundation to support the implementation of actions following up the Lomé Initiative, including a legislative audit and research on the pharmaceutical supply chain.
The effects of corruption on the pharmaceutical supply chain

The challenge of falsified and substandard medicines

African countries share some key vulnerabilities, such as their low level of pharmaceutical production (70% of medicinal products are imported), underdeveloped or leaky distribution channels, and the multiplicity of stakeholders involved in healthcare provision, which limits governmental control over medicinal products entering and flowing through their markets. Falsified medicines are deliberately fake products manufactured, supplied and sold by criminals to unsuspecting consumers. Substandard medicines may result from faulty manufacturing or quality-control processes, and/or from poor or corrupt product distribution.

A clear link with organised crime

Intelligence services and law enforcement agencies have identified a clear link between the trafficking of falsified medicines and organised crime. FSMs are smuggled onto markets using the same routes and methods as drug, weapon or human trafficking. Transnational organised crime also funds terrorism, destabilising countries and weakening state structures. The most commonly reported FSMs are antimalarials and antibiotics. Wherever FSMs are widely available, they contribute to preventable deaths, illness, the spread of disease and antibiotic resistance. The fight against FSMs is, therefore, both urgent and vital.

Closing gaps in the pharmaceutical supply chain

To combat trafficking in FSMs, it is essential to first understand how the pharmaceutical supply chain works from local to international level. Patients can access FSMs in three ways:

- via the official distribution channel (e.g. public/private hospitals and health centres, private pharmacies) – points of vulnerability in the medical supply chain need to be identified;
- via illegal markets (e.g. street sellers) – it is important to identify how FSMs come onto the national market;
- via the Internet – the crime is transnational, so legislation has to be coordinated internationally.

Supply chain vulnerability

Dr Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti
Regional Director, Africa
World Health Organisation, present at the Lomé Summit

As the African Region is particularly vulnerable, we need to join forces to prevent these products from entering our pharmaceutical supply chains. Strong legal instruments are needed to criminalise all transactions involving these products. Legal instruments should be applied synchronously with other strategies to protect public health.

The Brazzaville Foundation’s health programme focuses on raising awareness of the threat posed by FSMs and on providing technical support to the various stakeholders engaged in improving healthcare provision throughout Africa.

 santé
Towards The Lomé Initiative

The signing in March 2017 in Oyo, Republic of Congo, of the Congo Basin Blue Fund Memorandum of Understanding also marked the launch of an initiative against falsified medicines, announced by the Brazzaville Foundation. It was followed by several events leading up to the Lomé Summit in January 2020, when the governments of the Republic of Congo, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Uganda signed the political declaration in which they made a commitment to combatting FSMs.

Instilling a sense of urgency
As a first step in the fight against FSMs, the President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou N’Guesso, called upon the United Nations at its 72nd annual General Debate to lead a global battle against their proliferation, warning the UN General Assembly that Africa was particularly vulnerable. The Foundation, in partnership with the Harvard Global Health Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, heeded this call, inviting diverse stakeholders to the “Medicines that Lie” conference, held on 28 March 2018 at the Wellcome Trust in London, to explore global health priorities. The participants confirmed that it was now crucial to tackle the serious public-health crisis caused by FSMs, which affect every country worldwide but in particular many low-income countries. It is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa where between 30% and 60% of the medicines in circulation are believed to be falsified or substandard.

Raising awareness among various stakeholders
At the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2018, the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) and partners, including the Brazzaville Foundation, announced a new campaign to raise awareness of the importance of quality medicines in improving people’s health. Subsequently, the first-ever dedicated academic conference on “Medicine Quality & Public Health” took place in Oxford, in September 2018. The Brazzaville Foundation participated alongside people from diverse sectors working in this field, such as public health, national regulatory authorities, pharmacy, biomedical, chemistry, law, ethics, cultural and social sciences, the pharmaceutical industry, international organisations, NGOs, national procurement centres, and internet and pharmaceutical forensics. It became clear that a cross-sectoral approach was the only way to tackle this multifaceted problem.

A health emergency
Africa’s demographic and economic situation makes for a lucrative market for the criminal traffickers of falsified medical products:

- 42% of all products recovered were found in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- the lack of control means that all medical products are at risk of containing substances that are either toxic or unsuited to the patient’s condition (in March 2019 in Cameroon, an antidiabetic product was found in hypertension medicine, following cases of hypoglycaemia in numerous patients);
- hundreds of thousands of Africans are estimated to die from falsified medicines each year;
- every year, it is estimated that 122,000 children under five in Sub-Saharan Africa die due to poor-quality antimicrobials.
Coordinating action across sectors

To discuss its future actions to combat the trafficking of FSMS in Africa, the Brazzaville Foundation organised a follow-up meeting in Marrakesh on 12-14 June 2019. Over 30 participants, including many on the front line in the fight against fake medicines, agreed on the need for legislation to criminalise the traffic, on the imposition of stricter penalties and on a new broader and tougher approach to enforcement involving closer collaboration among police and customs officials, and among states.

**Trafficking is not criminalised**

Jean-Louis Bruguière
Former counterterrorism judge, Member of the Brazzaville Foundation’s Advisory Board

Today, the porosity between transnational organised crime and terrorism is well established. Terrorist organisations, particularly in the Sahel, are fed financially by trafficking of all kinds, particularly counterfeit medicines. The fundamental problem today is that this traffic is not criminalised, because there is no specific incrimination, no criminalisation.
Taking concrete and coordinated action

All follow-up activities are now governed by the political declaration signed by the participating states. As the first action of the Lomé Initiative, the governments supported by the Brazzaville Foundation agreed to work on legislation criminalising the trafficking and sale of FSMs. Thanks to Kishore Sakhriani, a Canadian businessman who became a trustee of the Foundation in 2020, contact was made with the international law firm Allen & Overy, which agreed to support the audit of existing legislation. This audit was carried out during the year 2020 in order to identify gaps and make recommendations on new and additional legislation. Recently completed research on the pharmaceutical supply chain has helped identify weak points from local to international levels. The recommendations currently being drafted also take into account guidelines from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on this topic.

The Foundation also approached the Secretariat and the Committee of the Parties to the Medicrime Convention of the Council of Europe to help secure the adhesion of the Initiative’s signatory countries to this international agreement. On 2 December 2020, Professor Moustaïf Mijiyawa, Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Togo, and Richard Amalvy, Chief Executive, were heard during the third plenary meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Medicrime Convention.

The health crisis caused by Covid-19 prevented the organisation of seminars to report on the results of the legislative audit and those of the pre-study on the pharmaceutical supply chain, which will be presented to the ministers concerned during the first half of 2021.

The effects of corruption on the supply chain require action involving several ministerial departments within countries and the strengthening of international cooperation. Indeed, the work undertaken in 2020 has shown that, while falsified medicines constitute a public-health issue, they also concern justice and the rule of law at regional level.

In 2021, the Brazzaville Foundation will continue to provide technical support to ministries responsible for public health, as well as to the ministerial departments that have a role to play in this combat. The urgent need to succeed calls for this initiative to be extended to other signatory countries, as well as to other public- and private-sector stakeholders committed to the same goal. An engagement campaign will be organised to consult young people in order to raise awareness and encourage them to take action.

Strong regulation and political commitment to ensure access to quality medicines
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organisation, present at the Lomé Summit
Substandard and falsified medical products are a shared problem. We must work together on shared solutions. With strong regulation and political commitment, we can ensure all our brothers and sisters in Africa have access to the medicines they deserve. We appreciate the emphasis in the Lomé Declaration on criminalising the trafficking of falsified medicines. This is an important element of our fight. Two of the 12 actions in WHO’s strategy relate to tightening legal frameworks to fight the criminals who traffic them. Strengthening the legal response to substandard and falsified medicines is important, but we must also do more.

Directly reaching the most vulnerable populations
Dr Aminata Touré
Former Prime Minister of Senegal, Member of the Brazzaville Foundation’s Advisory Board
We hope that the Lomé meeting will allow us to raise awareness among our populations, especially young people and women, who should understand that this phenomenon constitutes a direct attack on the lives of many of our populations, especially the most vulnerable. It is an endogenous initiative that calls for the legislative frameworks of the countries themselves to be modified and their cooperation to be strengthened.

A new era for Africans
HE Omar Hilale
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, Vice-President of Unicef’s Executive Board, present at the Lomé Summit
The Lomé Summit marks the beginning of a new era for Africans, as their leaders commit to improving health care for all. I call upon the media all over the world to report on this murderous trafficking. Given the considerable scale and complexity of the issue, it is crucial to shine a light on what is at stake.

Establish more comprehensive laws
Eve Giles
Partner at Allen & Overy
Allen & Overy is delighted to be involved in the Brazzaville Foundation’s important work on the Lomé Initiative and its efforts to establish more comprehensive laws to help to prevent the transport and sale of falsified medicines in Africa. Covid-19 has only underscored the need for this important initiative.

The Lomé Initiative partnership
Since developing the Lomé Initiative, the Brazzaville Foundation has been coordinating it from a technical standpoint. It serves as an intermediary among the various stakeholders (intergovernmental organisations, private sector and civil society), consolidating the impact of the decisions made by committed African governments.

The Lomé Initiative brings together the following following countries:

- The Republic of Congo
- The Republic of Ghana
- The Republic of Senegal
- The Republic of Togo
- The Republic of Uganda

ALLEN & OVERY
The law firm Allen & Overy carried out the legislative audit during 2020.

Brazzaville Foundation
Managing our resources wisely

The Brazzaville Foundation is a philanthropic organisation that complies with the rules of good management. The procedures put in place ensure that the sources of funding at its disposal create value through the actions undertaken with its partners in programme countries in Africa.

An agile philanthropic infrastructure

The Brazzaville Foundation collects rather than distributes funds. It does not grant funding to third parties. It works by appealing to the generosity and trust of public and private donors to support programme countries by ensuring that the financial resources collected have strong transformative potential.

Since 2015, the Foundation’s way of working has aimed to create maximum value and impact in programme countries, which raised GBP 497,342. The members of the Advisory Board and the Trustees play a prominent role in sourcing funds and resources for activities.

As of 2020, the challenge is to increase the percentage of expenditure related to charitable activities, which in the 2020 accounts was 59%.

Diversification of revenues

For the first five years, Jean-Yves Ollivier, Founding Chairman, was the main donor. His donations and programme support made up 60% of the income amounting to GBP 1,575,769, and were fundamental in establishing the Foundation and launching its actions. Other private donors contributed GBP 542,681.

The Republics of Niger, Senegal and Togo contributed GBP 502,956 to support the implementation of the Lomé Initiative. The Republic of Congo’s contribution, received in April 2020, will appear in the 2020 accounts. These sums are reinvested in joint actions to combat falsified and substandard medicines.

Expenditure management

Over the same period, financial resources have been allocated to achieving the Foundation’s corporate purpose: 59% of expenditure has been allocated to programmes and services provided to beneficiary partners in the areas of peace, environment and health (see programmes and projects on page 49). Operating costs represent 29% of expenditure. These should be considered as being indirectly related to programme support and as helping to stabilise the philanthropic infrastructure. Fundraising costs amount to 9% for the period, and 3% of these costs relate to the Foundation’s governance and general operations.

From 2021, the goal is to reduce support costs in order to increase the percentage of expenditure related to implementing programmes. The Foundation’s office move in December 2020 is one of the actions aimed at reducing support costs.

An ethical domiciliation

In December 2020, the Foundation moved its headquarters to The Foundry, a former factory located in Vauxhall (London), home to 30 NGOs working on social justice and development issues. The owner, The Ethical Property Company, considers ethical criteria to be important when choosing new charity and private-sector organisations. This is an example of the Foundation sharing a vision with the business community.

The Brazzaville Foundation has been invited to Lomé (Togo) by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA), to participate in a consultative forum on strengthening corporate governance and financial investment by promoting sound anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing practices in West Africa. Philippe Jonnart, Friend of the Foundation, and Oliver Scutt, Trustee, attended the forum. The latter spoke on the 10th panel on ‘Proliferating Financing in West Africa: Typologies and Best Practices’.

Strongening financial governance in Africa

In June 2019, the Brazzaville Foundation was invited to Lomé (Togo) by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA), to participate in a consultative forum on strengthening corporate governance and financial investment by promoting sound anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing practices in West Africa. Philippe Jonnart, Friend of the Foundation, and Oliver Scutt, Trustee, attended the forum. The latter spoke on the 10th panel on ‘Proliferating Financing in West Africa: Typologies and Best Practices’.

Key figures since 2015

All the information contained in the figures comes from the annual accounts filed and available on the website of the Charity Commission, the monitoring and regulatory body for NGOs in England and Wales. Income and expenditure for the period 2015-2020 are characterised by regular donations from private individuals and legal entities, aimed at setting up and stabilising the Foundation’s philanthropic infrastructure and at initiating and supporting a range of activities in the fields of peace, environment and health.

In accordance with charity management practice in England, the accounting years for the period 2015-2020 began on 1 April and ended on 31 March. The years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 have been analysed for comparative purposes. Accounts for the year 2020-2021 will be filed in March 2021. The Board of Trustees recently approved a change to the financial year, adopting the calendar year from January 2021.

Control and audit functions

Each year, charities are required to prepare their accounts and make them available to the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The preparation of the accounts and accounting is carried out by Timbers Accountants Ltd, which is the firm mandated by the Foundation since it was established in 2015. Since 2017, the annual audit has been carried out by Hicks and Company, before being submitted to the Charity Commission.

Five-year financial analysis 2015-2020 (GBP k)

Income and expenditure for the period 2015-2020 began on 1 April and ended on 31 March. The years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 have been analysed for comparative purposes. Accounts for the year 2020-2021 will be filed in March 2021. The Board of Trustees recently approved a change to the financial year, adopting the calendar year from January 2021.
The Brazzaville Foundation acts by setting up concrete programmes, co-developed with clearly identified African operators. These programmes aim to develop the innate capabilities of African countries in the fields of peace, environment and health. The financial resources come from donors who share this ambition.

Giving donations transformative power
In partnership with donors and beneficiaries, the Brazzaville Foundation ensures that donations produce the expected results within the framework of programmes co-developed with beneficiary partners. Donations are subject to formal contracts.

Complying with international standards of due diligence and accountability
In order to comply with the highest standards, the Foundation has put in place administrative and accounting procedures to manage and monitor donations. These rules of transparency, diligence and accountability ensure that donor wishes are respected within the framework of signed contracts.

Creating sustainable value for Africa

Engaging with responsible partners (CSR and ESG)
By basing itself on the principles of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and by including environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria when designing its programmes, the Foundation enables public and private donors to find a way of putting CSR into practice and contributing financially to the success of any planned action. The programmes supported by the Foundation thus enable public and private donors to meet their CSR and ESG goals.

Programmes and projects
Donors can support projects in the following areas:

1. Preserving the Congo Basin
   - Advocacy for the Congo Basin and technical support to top up the Congo Basin Blue Fund:
     - combating climate change;
     - combating deforestation;
     - establishing the blue and green economies.

2. Combating falsified medicines
   - Advocacy to raise awareness of the problem of the proliferation of falsified medicines and technical support to governments that are signatories to the Lomé Initiative to combat this trafficking:
     - improving public health;
     - distributing quality medicines;
     - combatting criminal trafficking and terrorism.

3. Supporting Young African Talent
   - Identifying and developing young African talent to build capacity in the public and private sectors and put a halt to the brain drain.

4. Working for Peace
   - In addition, there are ad hoc actions for conflict prevention and resolution requiring discretion and diplomatic agility.

Promoting post-Covid-19 recovery
Martine Therer
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Morocco
The Congo Basin Blue Fund is a programme designed by experts from the Brazzaville Foundation, now fully managed by the Congo Basin Climate Commission.

In everything we do, Africa is the be-all and end-all of what we are undertaking. Throughout the process, the spirit of Brazzaville – “dare to see in your enemy the special friend he could be” – guides our work.

Cécilia Attias
President of the Cécilia Attias Foundation for Women
Member of the Brazzaville Foundation’s Advisory Board
Penalising the traffic of falsified medicines opens the way to a new era. That of the dignity of care. That of respected rights. That of the emergence of a strict framework designed to offer a safer health environment to Africans.

The Lomé Initiative aims to reduce trafficking in falsified medicines. It is coordinated on a political level by the ministers of health of the signatory countries, with technical support from the Brazzaville Foundation.

The Congo Basin Blue Fund is a programme designed by experts from the Brazzaville Foundation, now fully managed by the Congo Basin Climate Commission.
Supporting the Brazzaville Foundation’s programmes

By supporting the Brazzaville Foundation’s programmes, donors and pro bono partners sustainably strengthen the creation of social and environmental value for the African continent and its people. Of the Brazzaville Foundation’s resources, 80% come from major donors without whose generosity it could not act.

Financial support
Over the last five years, the financial commitment of a small number of private and public donors has enabled the Foundation to implement ambitious programmes that have a high social and environmental impact. In order to develop its activities, it is launching a funding-diversification campaign in 2021.

Pro bono support
Apart from making financial contributions, various forms of partnership can be envisaged to support the Foundation and its programmes:

- relaying the Foundation’s actions and messages;
- partnership in kind – providing material, human or technical resources;
- skills partnership – providing skills, particularly in the form of staff, support in setting up and implementing projects, and short- or long-term technical support.

Contact us
If you are interested in supporting the Foundation’s programmes, or if you would like more information on how to become a partner, please contact us at: partnerships@brazzavillefoundation.org

The Young African Talent programme aims at building capacity in the public and private sectors.

Pro bono partnerships

- The Republic of Congo: Event management
- The Republic of Niger: Technical expertise FSMs, 2019
- The Republic of Senegal: Inter-Libyan Dialogue, 2018
- The Republic of Togo: Organisation of the Lomé Summit, 2020

Knowledge partners

- Richard Attias and Associates: Event management, 2020
- Vae Sols: Public Affairs
- Norton Rose: Governance Review of the Foundation, 2020
- RED.C: Public Affairs
- Allen & Overy: Legislative Audit, Lomé Initiative, 2020

Giving from the United States of America

Through a partnership with the King Baudouin Foundation United States, donors residing in the USA can support the Brazzaville Foundation by making tax-deductible donations. Please contact us for more information.