

10 Tree Species for the Graceland Project in Boabeng, Ghana

1. BOMBAX BUONOPOZENSE (Red Kapok Tree, AKATA/AKONKODIE)

A large tree with distinctive buttress roots and striking red flowers.

HABITAT: Evergreen forests, secondary forests, and areas near villages.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- The flowers serve as a cultural indicator (e.g., signaling the Christmas season).
- Kapok fibers are traditionally used for stuffing pillows.
- Promotes the growth of edible mushrooms ("Dommo" and "Sasie").

MEDICINAL USES: The flowers and bark are used to treat rheumatism, fever, and digestive disorders.

2. KHAYA GRANDIFOLIOLA (African Mahogany, KRUBA)

A large, valuable timber tree with a straight trunk.

HABITAT: Dry forests and forest edges.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Produces high-quality timber comparable to genuine mahogany.
- Highly valued for furniture making and wood carving.

MEDICINAL USES: The bark contains bitter compounds and is traditionally used to treat stomach ailments and as a general tonic.

3. CEIBA PENTANDRA (Kapok Tree, ONYINA)

One of the largest trees in West Africa, with a massive trunk.

HABITAT: Secondary forests, often near villages.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Considered a sacred tree in many communities.
- Serves as a center for social and spiritual activities.
- Produces large quantities of kapok fiber.

MEDICINAL USES: The leaves and roots are traditionally used to promote strength and healing.

4. COLA GIGANTEA (Cola Tree, WABIRE)

A medium-sized tree with a dense crown.

HABITAT: Moist forests and agricultural transition zones.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Cola nuts play a central role in traditional customs and ceremonies.
- A symbol of hospitality and respect.

MEDICINAL USES: The seeds have stimulating properties and help combat fatigue.

5. TERMINALIA SUPERBA (FRAMO)

A fast-growing, tall tree with light-colored wood.

HABITAT: Tropical forests and secondary vegetation.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- One of West Africa's most important timber export species.
- Particularly suitable for reforestation due to its rapid growth.

MEDICINAL USES: The bark is used to treat skin conditions and stomach problems.

6. TRIPLOCHITON SCLEROXYLON (WAWA)

A large tree producing light-colored, lightweight timber.

HABITAT: Tropical forests.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- An important species for local house construction.
- Popular for making everyday wooden items.
- Supports the growth of edible mushrooms ("Sasie").

MEDICINAL USES: The bark and roots are traditionally used as a remedy for weakness.

7. AFZELIA AFRICANA (Afzelia, PAPAO)

A large tree with exceptionally hard and durable timber.

HABITAT: Savanna woodlands and dry forest zones.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Produces timber comparable to teak in durability.
- Highly resistant to termite damage.

MEDICINAL USES: Traditionally used to treat inflammation and fever.

8. CARAPA PROCERA (Andiroba Tree, KWAKUO BESE)

A medium-sized tree commonly found near water.

HABITAT: Moist forests and riverbanks.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Produces oil that is highly effective as a natural mosquito repellent (helping reduce malaria risk).
- Widely used in cosmetics and traditional medicine.

MEDICINAL USES: The oil is used to treat skin conditions and relieve pain.

9. PIPTADENIASTRUM AFRICANUM (DAHOMA)

A very large tree with extremely hard timber.

HABITAT: Tropical rainforests.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- The wood is used for bridges, heavy construction, and infrastructure projects.
- One of the largest tree species in the rainforest.

MEDICINAL USES: The bark and leaves are traditionally used to treat pain and infections.

10. ANTIARIS TOXICARIA (KYENKYEN)

A tall tree with a wide range of traditional uses.

HABITAT: Deciduous and primary forests.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- The bark is used to produce traditional bark cloth for clothing.
- Historically significant in many local cultures.

MEDICINAL USES: Traditionally used to treat coughs, pain, and general weakness.