

1st March, 2017

Georg-August Universität Göttingen
Abteilung Holzbiologie und Holzprodukte

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a detailed proposal explaining our work and what we intend to do as part of the celebration of this years' UN day for the environment which falls on the 5th of June.

The above mentioned association since its formation in 1998 has embarked on a number of projects aimed at preserving the environment mainly from indiscriminate felling of trees and solar projects. It has taken it upon itself to embark on a massive tree planting exercise on school compounds where the school children are given free seedlings to plant on their compound and nurture them.

It has also distributed solar lamps and panels to deprive school children aimed at prolonging their study times at home.

As part of its activities scheduled for this year, it intends to embark on a sensitization and awareness day among school children in the Central region, this would bring together about 300 school children from some Junior High schools and senior high schools.

To this end, the association intends to raise a total of GHC 12,300.00 for the organization of this event.

We would therefore like to appeal to your organisation to assist us by making a financial support to enable us raise the total sum in order for us to achieve our target.

We would be happy if our request would be duly considered.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Bondzie,
Secretary

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1. Introduction :

Youth and Environment Club, an environmental organization based in Agona Swedru is into afforestation and specifically planting of trees in Ghanaian schools. Since its formation in 1998, it has embarked on a number of projects and initiatives, paramount among them being the planting of trees in over 80 schools in five different districts within the Central Region of Ghana. The association has also been involved in major solar energy projects such as the ongoing solar lamp and tree planting project or the provision of solar energy and computers for the Nyakrom Senior High School. The association has also seen the importance of computer education and thus has provided computers for some schools in the districts.

2. Background and Rationale:

Environmental degradation and the continuous depletion of forest reserves has been a source of worry for most developing countries with Ghana being no exception. The sustainable development goals (SDG) place a bigger priority on the climate and has set goal 13 as climate action. Efforts made by various stakeholders including governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have mostly proven unsustainable and in cases where some successes have been made, these are very minimal and hence does not bring the needed result required. In Ghana for instance several efforts have been made by governments to embark on massive afforestation projects to regain the lost forest but have all not yielded the desired results. Ghana's rainforest which stood at 8 million hectares is now 1.4 million and this is a worrying situation. The rate at which people fell down trees is still very alarming; air pollution is on ascendency, and very bad farming practices such as application of certain chemicals are still being employed by farmers for the cultivation of crops, and many other human activities which are constantly destroying the environment. Many communities, especially in Africa, are becoming poorer as a result of the effects of these practices. Call has been made on NGOs and civil society organisations to take actions in their communities aimed at ensuring that this menace is reduced or brought to the

barest minimum. It is against this background that we feel such an event aimed at creating awareness in the environment is very important to embark on. Most importantly the target group which is the youth and school children also offers us a bigger opportunity to imbibe in them good environmental practices.

3. Overall goal and specific objectives:

The main goal of this initiative is to create awareness on the environment and to take measures aimed at ensuring that human activities that affect the environment are reduced or brought to the barest minimum.

We also want to develop a group of peers in the junior and senior high schools in the various schools who would be ambassadors and agents of change in their schools and the communities. This group we would like to refer to them as the 'green musketeers' and would be tasked from thence to be agents and ambassadors of the environment. It is our hope that from this event and subsequent follow up activities, we can make young people very conscious about their environment and assist them to take actions that would bring about positive change in the way the environment is treated. The involvement of school children we believe offers a better chance of impacting the communities more and also if the idea of conserving the environment and making it better for its inhabitants is inculcated in them it would go a long way to make the environment better.

4. Expected Results:

Among many other long term results, the expected results of this awareness is to bring up and equip a core group of students from the various schools on how to maintain and preserve the environment by making them aware of the effects of negative human activities on the environment. It is believed that these students who would participate in the awareness day would go out and impact positively on their peers to take actions such as tree planting; environmental cleanliness and other forms of conservation that would improve positively and help address the issue of climate change. The launch of the one-

child-one-tree project at the event would also help to plant more trees in the environment. We believe there would be peer education which would be very impactful than an authority trying to enforce this habit in them.

5. Highlights of the programme:

- i) **Renewable Energy:** Renewable energy is gradually being more encouraged than other sources of energy. The energy which comes from sources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat. Renewable energy often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services. In Ghana the most common and easiest of these is solar energy. Even that, not very much is done in this regard to tap into this abundant and free source of energy.
- ii) **Afforestation:** The rate at which Ghana's forest reserves are being depleted is a source of worry for governments and all the major stakeholders. Efforts are being made but the results are not very impressive. People still cut trees for various purposes. The idea of planting trees is still not very well embraced by all. There is a need to highlight this as a major topic for discussion during the conference.
- iii) **Climate Change:** All over the world, there has been a rapid and spontaneous response towards climate action, in that, activities of man in many forms have negatively affected the atmospheric conditions of the world. The depletion of the ozone layer, the changing weather patterns have all come about as a result of human activity. At such a gathering of school children, there is the need to make known to the participants the implications of these behaviours and the remedy to them.
- iv) **Soil/Land and Environmental Conservation:** Human activities are constantly destroying the nature of lands and soil, activities of small scale mining, popularly

known as galamsey is getting out of hand and the effects on the land is devastating. These activities do not only destroy the land and the soil but also the water bodies which serve as a source of drinking water for many communities. There is therefore the need to highlight the effects of these activities and the possible remedy for them.

- v) **Recycling:** Many homes are constantly complaining about the ways for the disposal of waste they create in the environment. The disposal of waste has been a burden for most MMDAs and a chunk of their budget is directed at ensuring that waste could be managed properly. There are different ways of treating waste such as composting and recycling of materials in the environment. At the conference, these issues would be addressed by experts in the field to show to the school children the proper ways of managing their waste.

6) **Methodology or Project Plan:**

The project is planned into about three phases:

- i. The first one is the implementation of a tree planting project that would see to the planting of about eight thousand seedlings in about 50 different schools spread in five different districts in the Central region of Ghana.
- ii. The second phase would be a visit to the schools to check the progress of the tree planting and also a sensitization on environmental issues and how to keep the environment clean and healthy.
- iii. The last stage would be the conference that would assemble over 300 students from the 30 plus schools to represent their schools as ambassadors for the one-day workshop which the members would be classified as “Green Musketeers”

7) Timeline:

January – announcement on social media and other platforms

February – Sending out of letters for funding to various bodies for sponsorship

March – Sending out letters to the participating schools and speakers

April – Follow-up on the letters for the Grant

May – Visits to schools/speakers/donors on sensitization and preparation towards the day.

June – Grand conference for representatives from all the participating schools.

8) Monitoring and evaluation:

Youth and Environment Club will set in place a proper checklist for all the participating schools to follow and report back in order to know the progress of work. We would do this through the *green musketeers' network* that would be formed after the conference. Also volunteers from Youth and Environment Club would visit the schools from time to time to measure progress and suggest possible interventions in order to ensure success.

9) Communication and dissemination of learning:

To be able to communicate effectively to the general public and the communities, the Youth and Environment Club seeks to use the following means to disseminate results and the impacts made after the conference

- a) Community engagements through forums such as durbars and other forums
- b) use social media – facebook, media houses, banners
- c) Through the organization of debates and quizzes amongst the schools to inquire from them the impact of their learning.

10) Team composition

Ambrose Linson Arthur – Ambrose has many years of experience in community development, he is a retired banker by profession and his involvement in community and advocacy is one that has always resulted in positive impacts in the life of the people. His background gives him a command and makes him astute in accounting issues. He is a traditional chief for the Agona Nyakrom traditional area under the stool name Nana Odom panin (VII) and currently the president of the youth and environment club.

Henry Bondzie – Henry has over ten years' experience as an online as online business developer, marketing specialist, collaborationist and coordinator, and project management and in education as trainer, curriculum developer, and teacher. He has volunteered extensively for many NGO's spanning health, education and forestry. He is the country representative for BYKA Group an emerging organization creating sustainable businesses, he is also the director of African operations for planet startup which is collaboration between USA and Africa. He is also a mentor for the Tony Elumelu entrepreneurship program.

Linda Mowschek — Linda supports the Youth and Environment Club in Ghana as a volunteer for one year. With the experiences of this work, she wants to raise her knowledge in environment protection and tropical rain forests since she is studying Forestry Science and Forest Ecology in Göttingen, Germany. Because of her knowledge in IT, she also helps the organization with creating a website, logo or other medial designing.

Tim Hartje - As an apprenticed gardener with specific working experience, Tim helps with the cultivation of trees in the tree nursery of the Youth and Environment Club in Nyakrom. He shares his knowledge and gives advice for the 'Tree planting & solar lamp project' in planting trees, in an observing position for ensuring a good growing. Raising the awareness for the environment is set as his overall target in this volunteer year.

Dr Samuel Essiamah – Sam has over 40 years' experience in afforestation and tropical rain forests. He has received many awards in this area and he is the brain behind the formation

of the Youth and Environment Club in Ghana. He is currently the project coordinator for School Forests for West Africa, a German based organisation responsible for planting trees in Africa. He brings to the team his numerous experience in afforestation and the environment.

11) Collaborating partners

- a) BINGO Foundation
- b) VNB
- c) School Forests for West Africa
- d) Ghana Education Service
- e) Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA's)
- f) Media Houses - radio, print and television
- g) YALI Network
- h) ERPA

12) Budget:

| S/N | Item | Quantity | Unit Price(GHC) | Total | Remarks |
|-----|---|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Food breakfast, Lunch, snack | 250 ; ; ; | 5.00 10.00 5.00 | 1,250.00 2,500.00 1,250.00 | |
| 2 | Transportation | 250 | | 1000.00 | |
| 3 | Paraphernalia (Bags) | 250 | 10.00 | 2500.00 | |
| 4 | Posters, Banners, Stickers, Brochure | 700 | | 600.00 | |
| 5 | Venue, PA system | | | 500.00 | |
| 6 | Chairs and Table | | | 500.00 | |
| 7 | Honararium for Speakers | 4 | 200.00 | 800.00 | |
| 8 | Stationary, Photocopies | | 300.00 | 300.00 | |
| 9 | Miscellaneous costs | | | 300.00 | |
| 10 | Media- TV/Print | | | 800.00 | |
| | Total | | | 12,300.00 | |

13) Bank Account

Bankinhaber: Schulwaelder für Westafrika e.V.

Bankverbindung: Volksbank Göttingen,

IBAN: DE56 260900500201878000

BIC: GENODEF1GOE

Verwendungszweck: „Umweltkonferenz in Ghana“

Spendenquittungen können auf Wunsch ausgestellt werden. Schreiben Sie dazu bitte eine E-Mail an schulwaelder@yahoo.de

Mehr Informationen zu unseren bisherigen Aktivitäten in Zusammenarbeit mit Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V. sind auf der Homepage <http://schulwaelder.org/> zu finden.