

**Looking for a last-minute gift? Dedicate a donation for the rainforest to your loved ones!**

**Quickly make an environmentally friendly Christmas gift:**

**1. Register your donation [here](#) and transfer your donation to Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V., IBAN.: DE235209000042822809, BIC: GENODE51KSI**

**2. You will receive a donation certificate with the name of the recipient whose gift you have dedicated to the good cause.**

## **School Forests for West Africa e.V.**



## **Review of the year 2020**

Dear members, friends, partners and sponsors of the association,

2020 was not an easy year for anyone, and our association was not exempt: Due to the Corona pandemic, the schools in Germany and Ghana (our main places of activity) were closed for a long time, and some of them are still closed or closed again, so many tree planting and environmental education projects could not take place. The families of the students of our project schools were affected by the pandemic in different ways, especially in Ghana the economy suffered a lot from the lockdown situation. Actually, 2020 would have been an anniversary year for the association: Planting campaigns have been taking place since 1994 and Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V. has been operating as a registered association since 2000, exactly 20 years ago. Unfortunately, we had to abandon our plans to celebrate this anniversary with an event during the Africa Weeks in Göttingen in June and a photo competition.

But despite all the difficulties, we have not been discouraged and have been able to implement some activities. We have also repeatedly received great support from sponsors and partners, which has enabled us to make a lot of progress.

In March, for example, we were very happy to receive the **generous donation** from the runners of the Brocken Marathon! With this money, we were able to finance **solar lamps** for cocoa farmer families in need. Offering sustainable energy supplies and raising awareness for environmental protection go hand in hand. The distribution is still ongoing. Likewise, at the beginning of the year, through our **Christmas fundraising** campaign, numerous students who have been caring for trees for a long time finally received a solar lamp in recognition of their commitment. Thanks to the support of Afrisolar e.V. and the London Odumto Association, **the solar power supply** at Nyakrom Senior Technical High School could also be expanded.

In addition, the company ERPA Systeme once again proved to be a reliable sponsor of its **partner project school**, the Asafo Catholic Basic School. We were also very pleased that the Presby Basic School in Agona Bobikuma had the necessary funds to plant a **school forest** thanks to a private donation. Things are also progressing in our **tree nursery** in Nyakrom: in order to make it financially independent in the long term, the nurseryman grew **coconut seedlings** for sale in spring. A win-win situation: the buyers plant the seedlings and in return have a source of income through the sale of the coconuts, and our local partner, the Youth and Environment Club, can in return use the money raised to purchase the seedlings for tree planting in schoolyards.

Despite Corona, we were able to establish a new **school partnership** between Bawjiase Senior High School and Wilhelm-Busch-Gymnasium (WBG) in Stadthagen. The students of the WBG's environmental group collected donations for coconut seedlings, which the students planted in Bawjiase, as well as for computers, an internet broadband connection and wifi. In

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November, the students had the opportunity to get to know each other virtually and learn about the Sustainable Development Goals together during a digital intercultural exchange day (during the weltwechsel action weeks, organised and financed by VEN). This was the first digital exchange for us, but as the response was very positive, **digital exchanges** and workshops will be a permanent feature of school partnerships in the future.

Further innovations on the digital level: Since February, we can be found on **Instagram** under the name @schoolforests. Our website is also being constantly revised and expanded. You can reach us through the **GoVolunteer** (soon: GoNature) page, if you want to get involved with the association in the future. We are also working on the possibility of being able to receive volunteers in Ghana again, but this depends on how the pandemic develops. Overall, we have greatly expanded our **network** this year and initiated cooperation with other NGOs and initiatives for 2021.

As already mentioned, we had to forego a celebration of the **association's anniversary** - but shortly before the end of the year we produced a film, which we are proud to present to you today: More than a quarter of a century of rainforest protection in Ghana through the project "Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V." is presented in pictures and video sequences. This contribution to the preservation of nature is based not least on your idealistic and financial support over the past years. We would like to thank you very much for this!

You can watch the **film** on our website in the "Association" section: <https://schulwaelder.org/cms/index.php/en/about/>

All in all, we can be very satisfied and look forward to 2021 with great enthusiasm. We hope that this also applies to you and wish you and your families happy holidays. All the best for the new year and stay healthy!

Your School Forests Team

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