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**School forests for West Africa e.V.**

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### **SPONSORING REQUEST**

## **GHANA: THE ASSOCIATION "SCHULWÄLDER FÜR WESTAFRIKA" REFORESTS THE RAINFOREST AND DISTRIBUTES SOLAR LAMPS**

**For almost 25 years, the association "Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V." has been working on the reforestation of the rainforest on schoolyards in Ghana and supplies pupils with solar lamps so that they can also do their homework in the evening despite the continuing power cuts. The idea: The pupils from often poor cocoa farming families receive the solar lamps free of charge if they take care of planting and caring for trees under supervision. 75 schools in Ghana participate in this project. The association "Schulwälder für Westafrika" is looking for sponsors to buy solar lamps for the schools.**

The deforestation of the rainforest in Ghana has been progressing for years: 8 million hectares 100 years ago have now turned into 1.4 million hectares of rainforest. The destruction of tropical forests has serious consequences for the climate and biodiversity of the earth. This is why the Ghanaian forestry scientist Dr. Sam Essiamah founded a project in 1995 to plant trees in Ghana's schoolyards. This project led to the development of the now award-winning association "School forests for West Africa e.V." based in Göttingen. Its goals are the reforestation of the rainforest and the sensitization of children and young people for its importance, the creation of an environmental awareness in the participating schools and the increased use of renewable energies, in particular solar power, through the distribution of solar lamps and the installation of photovoltaic systems in schools. Today, "School forests for West Africa" relies on a network of numerous partners and supporters, including the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Lower Saxony BINGO Environmental Foundation, Afrisolar e.V., Villageboom, Erpa Systems, Rapunzel Naturkost, Netzkraft Movement and various schools and world shops in Germany.

The heart of the project is the tree nursery, which the association runs with the help of its local partner, the "Youth and Environmental Club" from Agona Nyakrom in the Central Region in southern Ghana. The pupils take care of the planted trees and in return receive solar lamps in order to be able to compensate for the continuing power cuts in many parts of Ghana. By planting trees, the association makes an active contribution to the reforestation of the rainforest and provides schools with theoretical and practical knowledge on environmental and climate issues. With solar lamps as an incentive, 10,000 trees have already been planted between 2016 and 2018 and 2200 solar lamps have been distributed (as part of the overall project since 2007). This number is to increase: In order to allow even more pupils to participate in this project in the future, families who can afford it are asked to make a small contribution to the "revolving fund" for the solar lamps, from which solar lamps for financially weak families are to be financed.

In order to maintain and advance the work, "School forests for West Africa" is currently looking for sponsors (individuals, companies or institutions) to invest in the solar lamps (price 25 or 35 euros). Support the preservation of the rainforest! A donation is tax deductible. The lamps can be ordered at the association's homepage.

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