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IBAN.: DE235209000042822809, BIC: GENODE51KS1



Review of the year 2021

Dear members, friends, partners and sponsors of the association “School forests for West Africa”,

This year, too, the work of the association was often determined by the corona pandemic. We would have gladly started projects again with the partner schools in Germany and Ghana and exchanged ideas with the students concerning, for example, tree planting or environmental education.

Despite the difficult circumstances, we were still able to implement some projects. Thanks to the support of the Niedersächsische BINGO-Umweltstiftung in January 2021, the primary school teachers in Ghana received **teaching and learning materials on environmental topics** as part of a training course. These materials were very well received by the teachers and students, as our team member Selma confirmed after her visit to Ghana in July. We are very happy about this positive response and plan to continue this project with colouring books in 2022.

The company ERPA Systeme has again supported its **partner school**, the Asafo Catholic Basic School, this year and enabled the fencing of the school grounds to protect endangered tree species and the setting up of benches under the shady trees. Thanks to another generous donation of 2000 € the school will also be able to build a new toilet block in 2022. We are very grateful for their continued support!

The great, long-term commitment of the students of the primary school “Am Sonnenbrink” in Stadthagen and of its Ghanaian partner school, the “Bremam Esiam Roman Catholic Primary School” in the Central Region, was recognized and the students were selected as **“Rainforest Protector of the Month March 2021”** by “Abenteuer Regenwald” (Adventure Rainforest). As part of this school partnership, a large number of planting activities have already been carried out and solar lamps have also been donated for the Ghanaian students so that they can do their homework in the evening in healthy, bright light, among other things.

We were also very pleased about the article on the website of "Afrika-Junior" in April 2021, in which the project "School forests for West Africa" was reported under the heading "Schoolyards in West Africa - about planting trees and environmental protection".

The association achieved further public recognition in September. We were very proud and honoured when we learned that Dr. Sam Essiamah received the **Volunteer Award 2021** in the category "Exceptional Commitment" from GoVolunteer! Through our contact with GoVolunteer and GoNature last year, we already had several opportunities to present the association to a wider public, such as on the GoNature blog in November. In this way we can find new volunteers.

Furthermore, as a former student of the University of Göttingen, an article about Dr. Sam Essiamah was published on the Alumni Göttingen website under the title "Alumnus Sam Essiamah and the reforestation of schoolyards in Ghana".

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We hope that this great public attention and presence in the media will lead to further supporters of the association's work. Since November we have also been present on the **donation platform [betterplace.org](http://www.betterplace.org)** (www.betterplace.org/p100915), which we hope will enable us to reach a broader audience.

Despite the pandemic, a **school partnership** between the Otto Hahn School (secondary school) in Wunstorf and the Nyakrom Senior High School was initiated. Thanks to this new school partnership, the students of the Otto Hahn School were able to take part in the **Ghana Green Day** on June 11, 2021 via Zoom. The local Youth and Environment Club, together with students from the Swedru Senior High School and Nyakrom Senior High Technical School, planted around 1000 seedlings of several tree species on the school grounds during the Ghana Green Day.

In addition, thanks to the still young school partnership between the Wilhelm-Busch-Gymnasium in Stadthagen and the Bawjiase Senior High School and in cooperation with the sports club SW Enzen, more than 60 footballs were sent to Ghana and distributed to several project schools to provide an additional incentive for tree planting. Last year, the students were able to get to know each other digitally as part of the “World Change Weeks” and exchanged their ideas on a sustainable way of life.

We used the short relaxation phase of the pandemic in summer and took part in the climate protection days in Göttingen in June. At our stand, we were able to inform the public about the club's activities with posters, a new flyer and locally produced items from Ghana.

Another important milestone was the **opening of the association's office** in the Göttingen Environment and Nature Conservation Centre, which provides ample opportunities for exchange. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members as well as the company Erpa for making the rental of the office possible in terms of co-financing! We look forward to your visit at Geiststraße 2 in Göttingen - office hours are always on the 1st Friday of the month from 3pm to 6pm!

Unfortunately, this year we also had to say goodbye to a good friend and supporter from the very beginning: Mr. Bernard Antwi-Sey. Mr. Sey was the first gardener who could raise all the trees with his magic hands and whose work was integral for the successful implementation of the project.

In retrospect, 2021 was again a year marked by the pandemic, but we were able to achieve a lot with our combined efforts and thanks to your support! Thanks to a new partnership with the Shift company and the donation of two Shiftphones, we will be able to establish even closer contact between the students in Ghana and Germany in 2022!

We are now looking forward to the new year with great enthusiasm. We hope that this also applies to you and we wish you and your loved ones happy holidays. All the best for the new year 2022!

Your school forests team