

Newsletter

02/2024



◆ Support for the Stay of our South Partner in Germany

Without our partner organization, the Youth and Environment Club in Nyakrom, the projects in Ghana and the school partnerships would not be possible. We would especially like to acknowledge Henry Bondzie, who has been working as a volunteer secretary and coordinator since 2012. In order to gain experience in the field of environmental education also in Germany, we plan to invite him in the spring of 2025 for four to six weeks. We would be very grateful for financial support for his stay (reference: Henry). In case of visa issues, the funds would benefit other projects.

◆ Three-Month Stay of the Association's Chairman in Ghana

Dr. Sam Essiamah, Chairman of "Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V.", will travel to Ghana at the end of November for three months to review the local projects and plan the next steps with the local partner, particularly the expansion of the environmental education center.

◆ Internship Opportunities in Germany for Ghanaian Professionals

We are looking for internship placements in Germany in the administrative or healthcare sectors for three young Ghanaians. The funding will be provided by the African-German Youth Office. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us!

◆ No Cooperation with CERATH

Unfortunately, a collaboration with the Ghanaian NGO CERATH will not take place, and therefore no "People's forest" will be established in Ochiso. Part of the land will now be sold, and the proceeds will go towards the environmental education center.

Environmental Destruction Due to Illegal Mining in Ghana Increases

Illegal gold mining in Ghana, known as "Galamsey" (from the English phrase "gather them and sell"), has severe consequences for the environment and society. Pollution of water bodies

and soils with toxic mercury and arsenic poses a threat to health and reduces agricultural productivity. Over the past 20 years, more than 78,000



hectares of land have been destroyed by mostly illegal small-scale mining activities. Water pollution has risen so significantly that the Ghana Water Company has been forced to reduce the drinking water supply along the southern coast by a shocking 75%. Despite the negative consequences, short-term economic benefits continue to attract many people, including increasing numbers from neighboring countries and China. Organizations and activists are urging the government to take action against Galamsey, but there are no sustainable solutions to address poverty and unemployment, which drive many young people into these illegal activities.

Test your knowledge about the rainforest!

[Here](#) you can find a quiz in German created by Städt. Theodolinden-Gymnasium in Munich.

