



SOWING THE FUTURE -
MORE THAN JUST TREES

PROJECT BUDGET:

6 GHANAIAN CEDIS
OR 1 EURO PER SEEDLING.



WITH OUR PROJECT:

SOWING THE FUTURE – MORE THAN JUST TREES,

which was launched as a Christmas project in 2019, we counter the threatening exodus of the young population with a project that will create **new growth** and **prospects for staying**.

This project provides help for self-help – like all projects that are realized by Bettina Landgrafe's association, staff members and project coordinators. The project mainly focusses on the **reforestation in the northern savannah zone of Ghana**.

However, there is so much more to it: with a manageable project budget, it also counteracts desertification, rural exodus and eventually the radicalisation of the population by Muslim extremists - because it creates better overall livelihoods, integrates educational and health services and improves the local environmental conditions. In other words, it is **a sustainable project in which your donation will help provide valuable help in the long term**.

Support that is worth seeing. Take a glance at the current donation status on our **donation ticker** at <https://madamfo-ghana.de/spendenaktion/>.





THE BIG CHALLENGE:

PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH INSTEAD OF RURAL EXODUS

The high export demand for agricultural commodities such as cocoa, palm oil, cashew and other aliments¹ has led to a large-scale conversion of forests into agricultural land in the northern regions of Ghana. As a result, Ghana has lost more than 30% of its forests since the early 1990s – with severe consequences for the daily life of the people.

With the project Sow the Future, Madamfo Ghana counters the threatening exodus of the young population and simultaneously creates new growth and prospects for staying. The first phase of the project aims at planting over 50,000 trees.

Children and young people from selected institutions are involved in the reforestation project, as are their families, the local forestry industry and the most important local decision makers. That creates cohesion.

But the collaborative character of the project also has additional effect: it counteracts the feeling of dependence. And that deprives terrorism of its breeding ground and prevents the radicalisation of the rural population by Islamist extremists.

FOUR OBJECTIVES

A JOINT PROJECT OF HIGH BENEFIT

Planting local trees in the savannah is of great benefit to the communities involved. The trees provide shade, mitigate the effects of climate change, contribute to the development of micro-organisms in the soil and are very useful for generating income. That applies in particular to tropical timber such as teak, rosewood and mahogany, but also to other useful trees – from mango trees and cinnamon cassava to eucalyptus and moringa trees.

The special feature of the project: the land on which the seedlings are planted belongs to the participating schools and other governmental institutions. Once the planting project is completed, the trees automatically become property of the communities, the district school board or the district assembly – and that will prevent unforeseen land disputes.

By initially including 100 schools, the project reaches more than 20,000 children and young people between 5–17 years and their families. They take part in school activities, such as watering the plants in the tree nurseries or planting the seedlings once they are tall enough. If the tasks that have to be done are too dangerous for the children, their parents get involved – and in addition to that, the communities have agreed on providing unskilled labour to carry out practical work if necessary.



PROJECT OBJECTIVE 1: REFORESTATION

To mitigate the threat of desertification and the associated rural exodus.



PROJECT OBJECTIVE 2: EDUCATION OFFENSIVE

Additional educational activities to raise awareness of the importance of environment and climate protection.



PROJECT OBJECTIVE 3: GENERATION OF INCOME

Development of new perspectives to generate income, especially for young women and girls – following the support project for the porter women of the Kumasi Central Market:
<https://madamfo-ghana.de/project/nothilfe-fuer-die-traegerinnen-in-kumasi/>



PROJECT OBJECTIVE 4: ACTIVE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

With the long-term perspective of increasing the proportion of forests to increase CO₂ binding and oxygen production.

THE NEXT STEPS:

HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

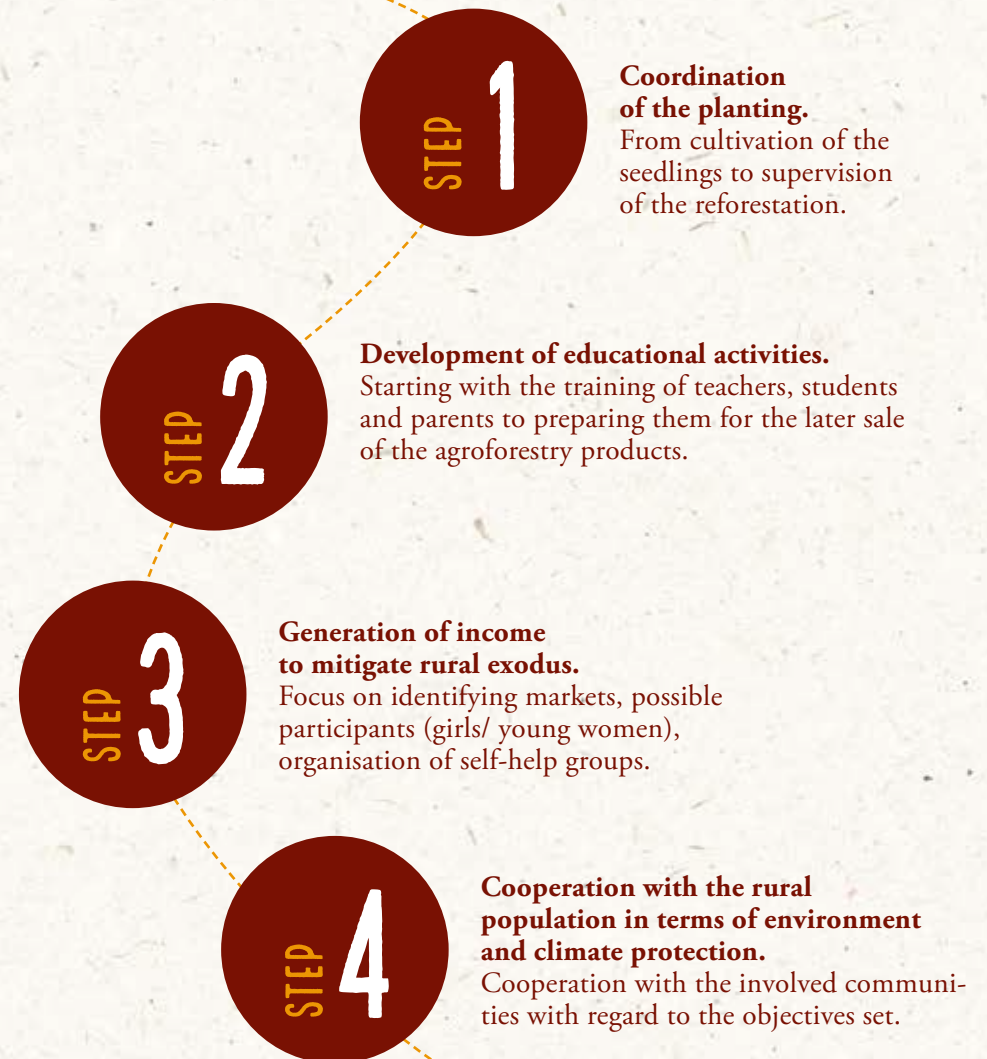
Finding solutions – together with locals and the involvement of all population groups – is fundamental to the success of our reforestation project. Involvement in such a way that, after a while, the project can exist and permanently improve the quality of the life of the local population without the help of Madamfo Ghana. We achieve that through the commitment, the experience and the reliability of our employees on site. They are also familiar with the local language and the cultural background of the people.

A DECISIVE FACTOR FOR OUR SUCCESS:

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project managers check the location of the selected parcels for the seedlings before setting up the tree nurseries and forest plantations. The tree nurseries on site are build specifically to facilitate planting and to ensure the production of high-quality seedlings.

The decentralised services of the Ghanaian Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Forestry, the local regional directorates and the school directors will be involved in the development of the parcels.



OTHER SUCCESS FACTORS

- The project is in accordance with the strategies and measures to promote productive and sustainable forest plantations by the private sector and the government, as well as with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, 17



- It meets the criteria of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and
- it is in accordance with the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II (GSGDA II).

Planting period	Dry season	Rainy season
Period	ca. end of December until mid of April	ca. mid of May until end of September
Plant location	Tree nursery	Tree plantation
Planting process	Cultivation of seedlings up to a size to 30-35 cm	Replanting of the seedlings to the outdoor areasing

OUR AMBASSADOR

As a geographer, I was able to see the situation on site for myself. 28 years ago, we mapped tree populations in West Africa – and now the rainforest has almost disappeared.

Sowing the future – harvesting perspectives is the motto of the project that tackles the problems at their roots. Planting trees is absolutely necessary and useful in a region that is already affected by climate change.

The action of Madamfo Ghana – the friends of Ghana – is a matter that is truly dear to my heart. Madamfo has developed a concept that gives the rural population of northern Ghana perspectives so that they can shape their future and tackle the causes of rural exodus.



NATALIE RETZLAFF

Ambassador for the Madamfo Ghana project “Sowing the Future“ and wife of the German Ambassador in Ghana.



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