



BAMBOO

BUILDS FUTURE

WHEN EDUCATION
GROWS ON BAMBOO



MADAMFO
GHANA



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TOGETHER FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

»MADAMFO GHANA«

FRIENDSHIP THAT CHANGES LIVES

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FRIENDSHIP THAT CHANGES LIVES

“Madamfo” means *friend* and that’s exactly what we are to the people of Ghana. Through our projects, we create real change: sustainable, collaborative, and as equals.

Our Mission

Sustainable development through personal responsibility for a better future.

Behind Madamfo Ghana are committed individuals who know the language, culture, and challenges on the ground. Founded by Bettina Landgrafe, our work has been shaped and implemented for nearly 25 years by experienced Ghanaian colleagues such as Victor Manu and Sunday Enock Attipoe.



Our Principle

Sustainability in every project.

Respect for people and nature, transparency towards our supporters and a strong local network make our work successful. Together, we build the future.

Our Philosophy

Helping on equal terms.

Our work doesn't start with ready-made solutions, but with listening. The people on the ground know best what they need. That's why we develop each project together with the communities and local decision-makers. We focus on long-term change, not quick fixes.

Our goal

Projects that one day continue without us, because the people manage them themselves.





THE STATE OF GHANA'S FORESTS: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

Ghana's forests are in an alarming condition. Over the past hundred years, forest cover has declined by around 80 percent, only one fifth of the original woodland remains.

The country's rich tropical rainforests vital for biodiversity, climate stability, and resource protection are particularly affected. Every year, around 70,000 hectares of forest disappear, driven by logging, firewood and charcoal production, agricultural expansion, and illegal gold mining.

The high demand for timber especially for furniture and construction accelerates the destruction of natural habitats, leads to soil erosion and alters local climate conditions.

More than a third of the country is threatened by advancing desertification, as the Sahara spreads southward.

Only consistent protection and reforestation measures can stop the degradation of these valuable ecosystems.



PROTECTING FORESTS – SECURING THE FUTURE

We are launching a unique project to use bamboo as a construction and furniture material in Ghana.

Our goal: to gradually replace conventional wood and eliminate its use in our projects.





WATCH OUR
PROJECT FILM:





IN THE PILOT PHASE, ALL SCHOOL FURNITURE AND OTHER INTERIOR ELEMENTS WILL BE REPLACED BY BAMBOO PRODUCTS.



NEXT, WINDOW- AND DOOR FRAMES, AS WELL AS DOORS WILL FOLLOW.



IN THE FINAL STAGE, BAMBOO WILL REPLACE ALL TIMBER USED IN BUILDING STRUCTURES.

Through this, we aim to protect forests, create jobs, and strengthen local value chains. Bamboo grows quickly, can be cultivated sustainably, and processed locally without long transport routes.

The project improves children's learning conditions while contributing to environmental protection, skill development, and long-term sustainability, supported by local partnerships and community-based production structures.







BAMBOO AND REFORESTATION – TWO PILLARS, ONE CYCLE

A complementary system

**Bamboo is not a replacement for trees but
part of an ecological cycle:**

- Bamboo matures for harvest within 3–5 years, while hardwood takes decades.
- While bamboo serves as a sustainable raw material; reforestation remains the ecological backbone of the landscape.

The two projects complement each other:

- Bamboo reduces deforestation.
- Reforestation restores natural balance.



OUR GOAL: BALANCE BETWEEN USE AND CONSERVATION

Through our reforestation project “Sowing the Future”, we plant where forests have vanished, and we replace wood wherever it is used. This holistic approach creates a cycle connecting education, environment, and community.

TWO SIDES OF ONE VISION

- Substitution: Wood is replaced by bamboo, a rapidly renewable, locally available resource.
- Regeneration: Through reforestation with native species (e.g., mahogany, wawa, teak, neem, cashew, mango, acacia, moringa), we promote biodiversity and CO₂ absorption..

LONG-TERM IMPACT

- Reduced pressure on natural forests
- Improved soil quality and water retention
- Habitat for animals and insects
- Climate protection through CO₂ storage





WHY BAMBOO?

In Ghana, bamboo offers ideal conditions to replace wood in furniture production and later also in construction. It is not only environmentally valuable but also creates economic and social opportunities. It is significantly more affordable than wood.





1. ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLINESS AND FOREST PROTECTION

Bamboo grows extremely fast — up to 1 meter per day. After harvesting, it regenerates from its root system — no replanting is necessary. This means: No clear-cutting, no loss of biodiversity, and a direct contribution to CO₂ reduction, since bamboo binds more carbon dioxide than most trees. Wood is simply no longer needed — and therefore, no trees are felled.

2. SUSTAINABLE IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Good furniture is more than comfort, it's a foundation for successful learning. Bamboo furniture is ergonomically adaptable, sturdy, and lightweight. For students, this means: better posture, improved concentration, and a clear signal that their education is valued and supported.

3. LOCAL AVAILABILITY AND VALUE CREATION

Bamboo grows abundantly in Ghana and can be used without long transport routes. We engage local artisans in production, creating new jobs and keeping value creation within the communities. This strengthens local economies and reduces dependency on imports.

4. STABILITY AND SAFETY

Bamboo is stronger than hardwood yet significantly lighter. It is ideal for everyday use in schools, where furniture faces heavy wear and tear.

With modern treatment methods, bamboo becomes resistant to pests, fungi, and moisture. Termites do not eat bamboo, a decisive advantage over any type of conventional wood. This ensures durability and reduces repair and replacement costs.







5. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

A key part of the project is training local craftsmen in bamboo processing. Carpenters, metalworkers, and vocational students will acquire new skills that they can apply beyond furniture, for example, in window and door production or building components.

This creates knowledge transfer and lasting impact far beyond the initial project.

CONCLUSION

Bamboo is raw material, climate protector, job engine, and education booster all in one. Its use replaces tropical hardwood, generates income in communities, and improves children's learning environments.

Thus, bamboo is not just an alternative — it is the sustainable solution for the future.





**“USING BAMBOO DOESN’T MEAN
GIVING UP FORESTS — ON THE CONTRARY:
WE CREATE A BALANCE BETWEEN
USE AND REGENERATION.
ONLY THEN CAN SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT TRULY TAKE ROOT.”**

– Bettina Landgrafe



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