



## Dear members, donators and friends of the earth,

since 4 months I am back from Africa. I was in Ethiopia, Kenya, Togo and Ghana. During those seven weeks I experienced many negative feelings and had some bad impressions. I feel very sad about the poverty and helplessness of the local people I visited. On top of that, hearing about the floods in some parts of Africa.

My reaction was "Great, on top of all that", when I heard about it on BBC TV. I thought to myself, that Africa has enough problems already without these floods to cause more damage.

Some villages where we do projects are also involved. In some villages the traffic had to be stopped due to flooded bridges.

Harvests, seedal goods, as well as a hundred thousand planted tree saplings were washed away. In our Techiman and Asubima Project in Ghana, 3 concerned villages have no access anymore. In two further villages seedal goods and harvests have been washed away. Villages, farms, roads etc. are flooded. The reasons for all this are the lack of trees and forests in these areas. Flooding doesn't mean that the soil has enough water, but in fact the soil is so dry, that it can't take in/soak up anymore water. It is therefore our duty to intensify our educative work. The affected farmers have been made aware by the floods, that our Agro-Forestry-System serves to protect the fields from floods.

Some of those farmers that already know our System, are already asking for our support. In the first quarter of 2008 we want to intensify our work in these regions affected by the floods. **Our partner organisation ARU is getting prepared.**



**The African Reforestation Union wishes you all a happy Christmas and a successful new year 2008.**

**Mike Tomfeah**

## End of Aburi Project August 2005

The common project of ARU, the German BMZ (german ministry of economical cooperation and development) and us, the AWW, ended successfully in August 2005. It has now been extended to the neighbouring

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villages according to an information from the ARU. The 50 members of this target group, mostly young people, are still employed and their working places are secured.

Furthermore, a lot of these highly motivated young people have returned to their villages to start up new projects with the youths who were left behind and who were hungry for work. Due to this domino-effect, the number of youths employed could be increased from 50 to more than 140.

Through this they spread successfully our Agro-Forestry-System. In the village Adzanao, where the original education took place, animal stocking was integrated by the project group. The animal stock consists of eight cows and three calves. The cows and calves were bought through the sales income of agricultural products, firewood and water from the newly built wells.

The pineapple farmers could also be convinced. They want to change the infertile fields into Agro-Forestry-Areas. They will plant fruit trees, such as orange- and mango-trees between the existing pineapple fields.

**A heartfelt Thank YOU to all our donators. Without you, this success would not have been possible!**

## ADA Project in the Greater Accra Region

With the support of the German BMZ (german ministry of economical cooperation and development), the ARU and us (AWV), new projects were set up in 3 villages of the Greater Accra Region.

Wells shall be constructed and educative work shall be set up. Approx. Project duration is until December 2008. Also in planning is a second stage, with Agro-Forestry, as well as the Renaturing of streams and the Reforestation of the areas along those streams.



Planning of the ADA Project. In the picture are: the chiefs of the village Kenornya, the council, representatives of the ARU and our chairman Mr. Tomfeah (second from left). The planning, further procedures and the position of the planned wells were discussed. Afterwards our chairman was lead to the relevant areas of the project.

### Asubima/Techiman Reservation Project

Dear members, readers and donators, we, from the Union, wish to express a big Thank You. With your support we were able to finance the necessary 25% equity ratio. The rest of the 75% was contributed by the BMZ. Therefore we also wish to thank the BMZ. Without your support of the 25 % of the funds it would not have been possible to gain the other 75% from the BMZ. Originally we wanted to integrate 1500 Youths (Women and Men) into this project. When the German Ambassador, Mr. Linder, visited the place of the project, the number of youths employed had already risen to 1800. To this day, the number of participants from the 13 villages, has grown to over 2500 people. Moreover, there are seasonal workers. This means less unemployment for the affected regions. **This certainly is a reason for great joy. We can be very proud of this achievement.**

### Lankpam Project in the North of Togo

The Lankpam Project, which we planned to get going years ago, is only starting slowly due to lacking financial funds.

Surely some of you will remember, that years ago my wife and I (Jolante and Mike) wished to receive donations for this project on our wedding, instead of wedding presents.

Through this help of yours and the support of ARU in Togo, the necessary devices could be bought and saplings could be planted.

4 years later to this day, the saplings have grown a lot. The way they grow, our love also grows.



Above, you see a field with groundnuts. In the background there are Leucenea- and mango trees.

### Adaklu-Vodze Project in the Volta Region in the East of Ghana

*Please help us, so that we can build a school, pleaded a chief of the Volta Region to our chairman.*



Part of our target group in Adaklu-Vodze. Without our educative work and support, the trees in the background would have long vanished. This target group is made up of 40 unemployed youths.n.

Vodze, a village in the Volta Region in the east of Ghana with 150 people, is a former german colony.

The village has been straining for the past few years to erect a school building.

Up until now it was sadly not able to do this. In this village there lives a man who is about 100 years old. This man even speaks some german.

"The germans taught us punctuality, diligence and honesty. We still know all this. We have passed on our knowledge to our children, grand-children and great-grand-children. This heritage is not allowed to be lost.

Our region is poor and the young people suffer.

The young people can't help the older ones and we can't help them either. Help from Germany is essential. On our own, without external help, we certainly can't succeed."

The African Reforestation Union (AWV) and our partner organisation in Ghana are continuously in contact with the youths and village people. Our aim is to give work in this Village for 35 - 40 unemployed youth(male and female) in an ecological agriculture and forestry, as well as for animal stock. For the past 6 years there is contact between the village and the ARU.

We hope to start the work at the beginning of next year, together with your help.

## This tree gives us hope



During our initiative "A tree for every household" in the north of Togo, an old man planted a mango-sapling which we had donated.

He cared intensively for the sapling. After 3 to 4 years the tree bore fruit. The old man and his family harvested the mangos for their own use and for selling. Sadly the tree fell down after 15 years due to a big storm. The women of the village wanted to make firewood out of the tree.

Noone believed that the tree would still be able to live on. However, the old man insisted that the donator of the tree should clarify the matter and that the tree should stay put in its place. Thankfully, the tree was left in its place, cared for and now carries fruit again. The tree still serves as a life-giving income source for the family. The old man sadly is dead these past 3 years.

For us, the fact remains, that our educational work is essential.

### None dares to take the causes at face-value.

Hurricanes today, Tsunami tomorrow, Volcanic eruptions the day after, danger of avalanches yesterday, Oceanic storms the day before. Strong rainfalls, which cause flooding, increased temperatures, forest fires and so on...

It has gone so far, that meteorologists have started to give these sad occurrences pet names in their own helplessness. Soon they won't be able to think of anymore names. This is how far it has gone.

The reasons for these natural catastrophes are well known to all of us.

But most people are hypocritical and ask "**Why were there so many natural catastrophes in the past years?**". None involved wants to take the causes at face-value. Today we are aware of the fact, that we are all to blame for the destruction of our own planet on which we live. Even if politicians speak of a first, third and fourth world, there really is only one.

A 83-year old woman once told me at one of my speeches in bavaria (Germany), that one hears loud complaints about global warming and the fault of cars, industries and households. Only quietly one hears about news of wars and the destruction of forests. "Noone talks about the gulf wars and the oil fields which burned there and more. My son, I could give you many more examples" she added and thanked me for our project work.

It is important that we all protect our environment. Every forest is valuable with all its functions. The people living in these forests desperately need education and a lot of support. They can't make it on their own. We are all asked for our support. Without our help they are helpless. It concerns all of us.

For our union and ARU in Ghana this all means a lot of work. It is planned that the farmers take part in Agro-Forestry to prevent deforestation and bush burning. Our support is needed more than ever.

**"The people often make the mistake to think that nature needs us. In truth it is the other way around."**  
M.Y. Tomfeah

### Call for donations

Dear donator, reader and member. In order to carry out our work and to reach our goals, we need your support. This is only possible if everyone joins in. To motivate friends and relatives.

~~The german government has a big interest to leave behind~~ a healthy environment (flora and fauna) for our children. I think we all feel the same.

Please consider the fact that donations are vital for our union. Please show your appreciation by donating.

### Some important Dates in the coming year 2008:

AWV Yearly meeting on the 1.2.2008

Afrika Week in Augsburg

Afrika-Festival in Landshut: 11. - 13. July 2008

More details will follow on our website: [www.afrikawv.com](http://www.afrikawv.com)

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