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Institute for Community Partnerships and Sustainable Development

Well, Hello 2022!!

The last couple years really have felt like a flash for us at ICPSD. We are having a hard time wrapping our heads around it already being spring of 2022! We apologize for neglecting our newsletter, but hope you have been staying in touch with us and all we have been up to on social media. We are finalizing our 2021 annual report, so keep an eye out for that! But for now, let's take a look at 2022 so far. From starting this year's seedlings to seasonal fire and staffing changes to new blog content. We hit the ground running in 2022 and have lots to share!

Seedling Class of 2022

We were very happy to be able to join Lolonu again to start our 2022 seedlings. We are so grateful for their partnership and if COVID has reinforced anything, it is how wonderful it feels to be in physical community with our partner organizations again. We are in the process of starting 6000 seedlings this crop, with plans to scale up to 10,000 over the next few years. *insert jumps of joy here*

look forward to being able to collect, save and share the seeds they produce in effort to continue to bolster their numbers and reforest the areas around us.



Fire Mitigation

Holy smokes are we glad we did fire mitigation work this year, because we ended up needing it! The winter months are dry season in Togo and the threat of forest fires is ever-present. To help mitigate risk, we do fire prevention work, clearing grasses and debris to lower the fuel around our growing trees at the out planting site.

Unfortunately, despite our fire prevention activities the beginning of January,

already seeing this in the latest reports from our field staff.



Youth Community Development Program: Partners with Bilimon.

We are excited to announce we have partnered with [Bilimon](#), a Togolese nonprofit founded by Dr. Koffi Emmanuel Noglo. Bilimon challenges youth to think about how they want to shape their lives, and supports them in setting goals for their future. It does this from a lens of community mindedness. Workshops are held to guide students in this process and peer mentors are assigned to support students, meeting with them weekly.

excited to grow this partnership and support the youth as they engage more deeply with themselves, their culture and their society.



Expansion of Youth Facilities

We have talked about the challenges we face with space for our youth program. 60+ students trying to fit into our second office space for lessons, dancing and other such activities has proven challenging. Especially in the heat. As we work to raise funds for additional computers, we face greater space challenges. As a result, we are working on a partnership with the new women's center constructed here in Notsé. They have a spacious meeting room equipped with tables, chairs, and A.C. so our students can meet comfortably for



Thank You Françoise!

Françoise has moved her efforts full time to our partner organisation Style Her Empowered (SHE), where we will still get to see and work with her. We are forever grateful for Françoise's leadership at ICPSD and passion for working with the youth. Her joy, smile and passion for the youth has been such a blessing to ICPSD. We can't wait to see all she will continue to do full-time with SHE.



Get to Know Donné!

a.k.a Donn , our new Togo Office Administrator & Youth Program Coordinator. He may look familiar. That is because Donn  has been with us for several years now as our diligent intern. We are very excited for him to continue the efforts of growing ICPSD and mentoring youth activities.

Donn  grew up in Nots . After finishing high school he trained and worked in computer and electronics maintenance before working in marketing for a small Togolese company called Togo Menthol. His main hobbies are music, reading, swimming and sports, but he is also passionate about travel and discovery. Work, silence and philanthropy are three words Donn  says best describe him. In his new role, he is most excited about planning and supervising youth activities.

"This year I would like to take our Youth Community Development Program to another level and make it a unique empowerment program in our community and beyond." - Diedonne Arfa



Welcome Lydia!



Hanson. Lydia is an attorney living in Driggs, ID while also working on finishing a Master's Degree in Global Environmental Policy from American University. When not lawyering and pursuing a master's, she loves spending time outside, adopting fuzzy friends and curling up with a good book.

Lydia first came in contact with ICPSD while she was getting her undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho. She participated in ICPSD's Experiential Learning Program in partnership with the University's [Alternative Service Break](#) program. She was struck by the grassroots nature of the work as well as the development model.

"Development work is difficult to perform well in a landscape of post-colonialism, and ICPSD does an incredible job of assisting local with respect and integrity. I am happy to be able to work with ICPSD in a different capacity and with a new set of skills."

- Lydia Hanson

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IdahoGives.org
An Idaho Nonprofit Center program

Save the Date!

We will be participating in Idaho Gives 2022.

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