

**Obrobibini  
Peace  
Complex**

## **Annual Report 2021**



**English**





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## Foreword

Dear Reader,

Democracies around the world are under pressure, more and more authoritarian regimes are taking over military coup after military coup, blinded mobs are storming their own government buildings in so-called progressive countries, and if a ship sways in a canal for a few days, the entire economic and financial system is shaken – what is wrong with the people of this world? Whether it's Lukashenko or Putin, Trump or the Taliban, maybe even our own neighbour, something is wrong with us, it's not the way it should or could be.



Dr Christian Andres  
President OPC Switzerland

Not only people, but also nature is going crazy; the unprecedented floods in Europe in the summer of 2021 bear witness to this. But it's not just in the north, the effects of climate change had as much of a grip on the weather in the south last year as Corona had on the headlines in the north. But fortunately, there is hope. Not only for us, who are already actively living the solution as best we can, but also for all those with whom we are in direct or indirect contact, for whom we cultivate good thoughts or pray. Whether on the ground in Ghana or at home in Switzerland, it is clear that we inspire and motivate people to be an active part of the solution through our authentic approach.

So now the EU classifies nuclear power and fossil gas as sustainable. Really!?! This shows once again how blurred the term sustainability already is. Sustainability is no longer enough, because we already have a big problem that needs to be solved, not simply preserved! What we need is regeneration, we need to create more resources today than we consume, we need more syntropy and less entropy. Climate change is man-made, and so are the solutions. A key aspect of this is humility. We don't need food shipped all over the world, only for it to be available all year round in the refrigerated supermarket against every rule of seasonality. What convinces are products with authenticity and content, not mere standards and labels.

So let's be authentic and follow the path of our hearts. It may not be the easiest path, nor the path of least resistance, but it is the sensible path that leads to the solution, to the goal. That the resulting radiance is inspiring is shown by the great trust our partners have in us, e.g. from the Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship, which recently reserved \$400,000 for us to train regenerative leaders. Read more in the section „Press review“.

Without your great support, dear reader, none of this would be possible. For that, I thank you! The annual report will give you an insight into our projects – and into the variety of challenges we continue to face day by day.

Yours sincerely,

Researcher and farmer Dr Christian Andres  
President OPC Switzerland



# Report of the Board of Directors

## We are making mighty progress, Corona notwithstanding

### Project „Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Social Entrepreneurship and Circular Economy“ in Busua

In 2021, we continued to focus on building the sustainable infrastructure of our learning centre. At the beginning of the year, with the help of a professional architect, we drew up an overview map (see Annual Report 2020), in which we divided the centre into four sectors: Farm, Commercial Section, Administration and Accommodation, and the Educational Section. These four sectors fit very well with the four dimensions of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) that one should cover in order to be a complete ecovillage: ecological (mainly the farm), economic (mainly the commercial section), social and cultural (mainly the educational section), and of course cross-dimensional aspects relevant to the whole system (mainly the administration and accommodation). In this respect, GEN offers us a great framework in which we can embed ourselves and which allows us to tell a holistic story.

On the farm, we have completed our second house with five rooms, built almost exclusively with natural materials, a magnificent specimen of a building. We have also expanded and professionalised our mushroom farm with two new mushroom houses and a composting platform. We have roofed over the food centre and with one of the last new buildings on the farm, the herbal clinic, we have added another completely new building. Now we are still building the workshop, which should be the last major structure on the farm.

In the commercial section, the focus continued to be on the sustainable palm oil value chain. This year, we covered the biogas plant (biogas for cooking and liquid fertiliser for agriculture) that was built at the end of 2020 and sunk into the ground, with the construction of a soap factory. The now covered mill for sustainable palm oil supplies about 1,000 litres of sustainable palm oil per day, which we process into about six tonnes, or about 25,000 bars, of soap with the addition of other ingredients. The resulting added value generates local jobs and sustainable profits, which we can reinvest in the project and the organisation. We have also built a weighbridge to efficiently handle the delivery of palm oil fruits and started building a shop where we can also directly market all the products we make.

In the educational section, we only started construction in 2021. It includes two very important buildings, namely the school and the event centre. The school with two large classrooms developed into a beautiful building and we are looking forward to setting it up soon and probably starting the first training modules in 2022. Our target group is graduates who already have a basic academic education, but who still lack certain skills and frameworks to start their own business. The event centre with its 240m<sup>2</sup> is by far the largest structure of our centre. Originally planned as a conference centre, it is now developing into a multifunctional building







that can be used not only for conferences but also for other events such as festivals, concerts, weddings, etc. We have built the foundation incl. stage, backstage and basement compartment, as well as the columns, and look forward to moving forward with the event centre as one of our main building projects in 2022.

In the administration and accommodation section, our workshop has been actively used to develop further infrastructure. Now that the construction of the administration building right next to it is complete and we are holding more and more meetings in the spacious offices, we will convert the workshop into a reception and move the activities in the workshop to the farm. Last but not least, we also made great progress on the construction of our slightly more solid, three-storey guesthouse. Besides the foundation, more floors were built month by month, at first only the staircase with the main distribution tank, but then little by little the floors and ceilings of the three floors. The view from the top floor (future rooftop bar) of the sea and surrounding landscape is stunning, epic sunsets are guaranteed!

Energy-wise, we continued to be completely off-grid in 2021. Unfortunately, grid power has been delayed to this day, which is why we have not yet been able to put the commercial section into operation.

Of course, we continued to operate organically certified agriculture in 2021. Besides lots of vegetables, salads, fruits and herbs, we were again able to harvest and process staple foods, mushrooms, honey and of course our main crop, the nuts of the sustainably grown oil palms. The trees in the agroforestry system also produced their first yields. With freshly harvested, natural food as daily medicine, and with beneficial herbal teas directly from our medicinal garden, people and animals are healthy and resilient. Thus, malaria and other adversities have little chance at OPC, which is also noticeably arousing more and more interest from our neighbours, who come to fetch clean water from us every day.



## **Project „Competence Centre for Sustainable Agroforestry“ in Mankessim**

After cultivating the land for the first time in 2020, the focus in 2021 was on consolidating cultivation and processing. In maize, we continued to struggle with the fall armyworm, but it was not quite as bad as in 2020 and we ended up with a satisfactory harvest. During the year, when we had planned to plant most of the trees for the agroforestry system, we decided to wait until we had completed the planning of the agroforestry system in a really good and solid way and had prepared the soil sufficiently.

We were able to test and further develop the small factory for the production of Garri (coarse cassava flour), which was completed in the first half of the year, by harvesting our own cassava. We produced about two tons of Garri and now have enough experience to work out a concrete business model in this area as well. In order to prevent the sometimes massive erosion caused mainly by heavy rains, we have increased the cultivation of pineapple in 2021. This crop allows us to create a little time to plan the further development of the farm well and to implement it step by step, and at the same time generates significantly more profits than the more subsistence-oriented crops of maize and cassava. We have also gained initial experience in the organic cultivation of vegetables.

Furthermore, the focus is not only on pure production, but on building a centre of excellence that promotes holistic reforestation practices and agroforestry as a way to promote sustainable lifestyles for people in harmony with nature. In such a learning centre, research and extension activities can be combined with exchange of experiences so that the project can ultimately benefit as many people as possible and proactively contribute to the transformation of the agricultural system towards regenerative practices. Discussions with initial institutional donors were partly positive, which led to initial contributions also for this project, and accordingly to a reduction of the pre-funding by the OPC President (see section „Financial report“).

For such a long-term project, use rights are of course central. After completing the paperwork for the registration of the land in 2020, we held talks with the landowners in 2021, which led to the successful conclusion of a lease agreement for 11 years until the end of 2032. We will have further discussions with the landowners and surrounding communities about a partnership of equals during 2022. Because this process has been somewhat protracted, we have been rather reluctant to develop infrastructure for the centre in 2021, besides the construction of the Garri factory.

## **Development of the association, strategic and institutional goals**

We are very happy to have found in 2021 with the former Vice-President and founding member Benjamin Andres a not only very competent but also passionate person for the newly created position of Managing Director of OPC Switzerland. After years of voluntary work, we dared to take this step because we were convinced that on the one hand it would be financially worthwhile and on the other hand now is a favourable time to professionalise our organisation step by step. In addition to the operational management of the association, one of Benjamin's main tasks is fundraising and the strategic development of the association. We thank Benjamin for his voluntary work and look forward to sustainable growth in the coming years. So far, we are very enthusiastic about the newly defined cooperation with Benjamin. In addition to the voluntary work of the board and the association members, who are duly thanked here, we again involved a BNF intern and other volunteers in our work in 2021.

With the gradual professionalisation, a necessity that had already become apparent in recent years is now coming more into focus, namely the topic of rebranding. We are now taking the idea of founding an umbrella organisation, which was already mentioned in 2019, out of the drawer again and are discussing with our advisors what could be a sensible way to exploit the potential that definitely exists in the area of branding and marketing. You can read more about this in the section „Obrobibini Peace Complex becomes UP“.

Through the rapidly progressing construction of our learning centre in Busua and the further development of the competence centre for agroforestry in Mankessim, we have been able to help more people in Ghana to improve their income. We currently employ 20 people on a permanent basis, plus 20 - 30 contractors depending on the projects and an experienced consultant for all the construction projects. 40 - 50 people have a direct income through our projects, which directly supports about 400 - 500 people to cope with their daily life. In 2021, four young people from Switzerland and Italy did an internship in Busua, as well as the American woman already mentioned in the 2020 annual report completed her master's thesis. You can read about the experiences of some of these people in the sections „Stories of people involved“ and „Everyday peace in the ecovillage: unity and strength through diversity“.

We placed a special focus on education and networking in 2021. In Ghana as well as in Switzerland, new alliances were formed in the areas of education and social entrepreneurship. The expansion of our network of partner organisations brings promising prospects for the future. In Ghana, Corona was only a side issue in 2021, so we were able to organise larger events on sustainable food and farming systems in three of the largest cities in Ghana (Accra, Kumasi and Bolgatanga, read more in the section „Focus topic“). In addition, we became part of a new project of the r4d programme to implement research results for increasing soil fertility on agricultural soils in Ghana, and organised an exchange between German and Ghanaian high school students on sustainable food and farming systems. In addition, the President again gave a lecture on OPC at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen (online).



# Report of the Executive Board

## 2021, a year of professionalisation

### Association life, first employment in Switzerland and new ways in fundraising

After a (too) long break, the measures enacted by the federal government allowed us to organise association activities again. Thus, in spring, some members met in person for the implementation of a successful crowd-funding campaign in cooperation with our partner organisation GlobalGiving (see section „Financial report“). We also hosted our first charity gala in December. The help of various members and volunteers made this event possible in the first place. The President, Dr Christian Andres, was also present with his partner from Ghana, welcomed all guests personally and reported on the great progress of the projects in Ghana. The event was a great success.

After many appointments in Ghana over the last few years, we also celebrated the appointment of our first staff member in Switzerland last August. We also filled several newly defined positions with existing members of the association. Angela Wyss took over the position of Social Media Manager and Maurice Riedel the position of Event Manager. The resources and expertise thus tapped contribute to the further professionalisation of OPC. One of the main successes that we were able to achieve with the new appointments in 2021 was the organisation of a fundraising run with eight different schools in Switzerland and Spain as part of „Giving Tuesday“. Around 500 children got involved, learned about the climate crisis and ran for a good cause. You can see some impressions in this thank you [video](#) (Swiss German).



Benjamin Andres,  
Managing Director of OPC Switzerland



# Development of the association

## Obrobibini Peace Complex becomes UP



In last year's annual report (2020), we explained the name and meaning of Obrobibini Peace Complex in detail under this section of the association's portrait. Shortly after the founding of the association in spring 2018, we realised that our name and our face, our brand, is probably not the most universally applicable tool. Obrobibini, who can pronounce it correctly – especially in Switzerland – what is the Peace all about and then the whole thing is also Complex. Of course, we had thought a lot before we chose this name, in fact the name came to us rather than us choosing it. But in reaching out to an ever-widening circle of supporters and interested parties, we always had to invest more than the average to explain ourselves. Now, as we are pushing the professionalisation of the organisation step by step, it is time to take up and implement these repeated signs and wake-up calls from our environment. With UP ([www.up-development.org](http://www.up-development.org)) we have already found our new name, and are still in the middle of the rebranding process. The association is getting a new face, a new brand is being created. We want to implement this process professionally with the help of experts in 2022 and bring it to a successful conclusion.

The goal of the rebranding is a functional brand that can be used in different ways. From fundraising in Switzerland with different target groups, to global networks such as WWOOF or the Global Ecovillage Network, to professional offers for consultancy mandates, everything should be covered appropriately with our new face. It should be aesthetic and comprehensible, a harmony of colours and shapes that runs through our entire outward appearance as well as in our processes, working methods and documents on the inside. Whether one visits our homepage, looks at one of our social media channels, or receives a protocol, the recognition effect should be guaranteed. Long story short, we want everything to come from the same mould.

Another factor we are covering with the rebranding is the decoupling of OPC Ghana from our organisation in Switzerland. During 2021, we learned that it does not make strategic sense to have two organisations with the same name in different countries. The reason for this is that it is difficult for OPC Ghana to act as an independent organisation and, for example, to get funding in national programmes. We have tried to do the latter several times in 2021 and have not been successful so far. This is not surprising, because if you google OPC, you end up on the website of OPC Switzerland. If you then study the annual report, you realise relatively quickly that OPC Ghana is substantially supported by OPC Switzerland, and therefore the conclusion is obvious that others probably need the money more than OPC Ghana. Especially with regard to the creation of local ownership and the institutional and economic sustainability of the project, we are therefore striving for an independent OPC Ghana in the medium term, which is no longer dependent on our organisation in Switzerland; at least not for the training and operation of the learning centres that we are currently setting up.



# OPC Switzerland

## Board (honorary)



Dr Christian Andres (President)

**Dr Christian Andres** is the founder and president of OPC Switzerland, and honorary Executive Director of OPC Ghana. He has a PhD in tropical agroforestry. His research focuses on sustainable production systems for cocoa and oil palm to combat climate change. In addition to his research work for ETH Zurich and OPC's projects, he does consultancy work for other organisations who highly value his expertise for the implementation of their respective projects. In 2021, he completed his MBA in Social Entrepreneurship with special distinction (Roxbourg Gold Medal). His core competencies are tropical agroforestry, organic farming, communication and coordination, project management, networking and fundraising, as well as sports and spirituality/meditation.

**Sandra Heiniger** is the accountant of OPC Switzerland and mother of two children. She is a qualified accountant and completed her training in business administration in Switzerland. Her core competences are accounting and sports.

**Maurice Riedel** has been supporting the fundraising team of OPC Switzerland on a voluntary basis since December 2020. He has already been to the projects in Ghana twice for a few weeks each time. As Event Manager of OPC, he organises various events in Switzerland. He is an entrepreneur in the agricultural sector and his encounter with OPC inspired him to focus his activities more on social and sustainable values. His professional skills include communication and coordination, project management, networking and languages. His hobby is American football, he plays for the Zurich Renegades.

**Nicolas Stöcklin** evaluated and projected a water filter system to treat groundwater into drinking water before leaving for Ghana in January 2020. He then spent a few weeks in the projects in Ghana, focusing on the construction of the filter system in Busua. Since 2022, Nicolas has helped produce the OPC newsletter and serves on the board. He works as an environmental engineer in the field of wastewater treatment/water pollution control. Energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy are an important part of this. Nicolas sings in a choir project and enjoys sports.



Maurice Riedel (Vice-President)



Nicolas Stöcklin (Actuary)



Benjamin Andres (Managing Director of OPC Switzerland)

## Management

At the end of August 2021, we hired the former Vice-President and founding member of OPC, Benjamin Andres, as Managing Director of OPC Switzerland on a part-time basis, a milestone in the development of OPC. His tasks are the operational management of the association and especially fundraising, as well as the continuous professionalisation of the organisation. In addition, he wants to give more impetus to the life of the association after Corona, actively use and involve our resources and thus promote the feeling of togetherness beyond our current project country Ghana. Benjamin is a sports teacher and did his bachelor's degree in business administration and sports in Switzerland. His core competencies are communication and coordination, networking, fundraising, teaching and sports.



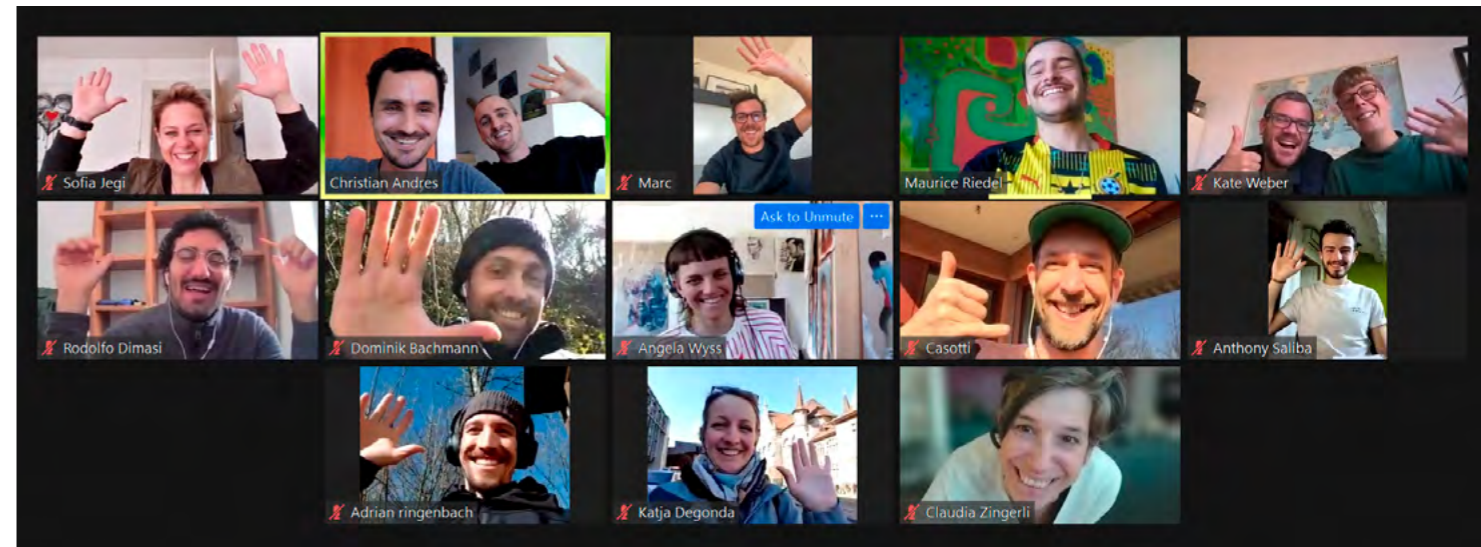
Angela Wyss (Social Media Manager)

## Active members of the association (voluntary)

During the year, we created two clearly defined positions that were filled by association members: Social Media Manager and Event Manager. We are looking forward to creating new momentum in the respective areas with Angela Wyss and Maurice Riedel (also new Vice President) in 2022. Akwaaba!

## Membership base

In 2022, 23 new members joined and the association now counts 63 members. Details about the association and its activities can be found in the „Report of the Board of Directors“. The experiences of a new member in 2021, Claudia Zingerli, as well as other members of the association, members of the management in Ghana, interns, a student, partners and a donor can be read in the section „Stories of people involved“.



Members of OPC Switzerland at the General Assembly 2022 (online via Zoom)





Dr Christian Andres (honorary Executive Director)

# OPC Ghana

## Management



Moses Awiagah (Board Secretary and Head of Construction Projects Busua)

**Moses Awiagah** is Board Secretary and Head of Construction Projects in Busua. He graduated with a degree in agricultural sciences from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and worked at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) with the President of OPC Switzerland as part of his doctoral thesis. His ability to put himself at the service of others and his gift for understanding people from different backgrounds make him a great team player. His core competencies are agriculture and project management.



Justice Cudjoe (HR and Farm Manager Busua)

**Justice Cudjoe** is the HR and Farm Manager in Busua. He graduated from Agona High School (Senior High School) and trained as a Certified Ecovillage Designer (Gaia Education). In 2021, he completed his MBA in Social Entrepreneurship with special distinction (Roxbourg Gold Medal). Before joining OPC, he worked at the Ecolodge „Escape3Points“ and Trinity Yard School. Justice represents the Global Ecovillage Network Ghana in the Western Region. He describes himself as hardworking, results-oriented and enthusiastic. His hobbies are gardening, travelling and reading.



Israel Ashitey (HR and Logistics Manager Mankessim)

**Israel Ashitey** is the HR and Logistics Manager in Mankessim. He is a qualified mechanical engineer and works as a local project coordinator as well as a mechanic and driver. He is passionate about preserving people’s cultures and traditions. Israel likes meeting new people, listening to good and informative music, hiking, cycling, sometimes cooking and learning from different cultures. His core skills are mechanics, spiritual philosophy and project management.

**James Henry Dzade** is the Farm Manager in Mankessim. He graduated from Sankore High School (Senior High School) and worked as a cocoa trader and teaching assistant for the community school before joining OPC. Since 2018, he has been involved in Dr Christian Andres’ research as a field assistant, and since 2020, he has also been working as a Farm Manager in OPC’s projects. His hobbies are reading books, music, spreading the gospel and motivating people.



James Henry Dzade (Farm Manager Mankessim)





Thomas Cudjoe (lead carpenter)

## Construction workers Busua

**Thomas Cudjoe** graduated from Busua Junior High School and did his apprenticeship as a carpenter in Takoradi. After graduation, he worked at various places in and around Busua. He describes himself as hardworking and has a good personal relationship with people. His hobbies are watching football and listening to music.

**Theophilus Bunyan** finished secondary school in Busua and completed a carpentry apprenticeship in Takoradi. He worked for Linktop and Ghana Norway Investment Ltd, both property development companies. He describes himself as sincere, hardworking, positive and willing to learn. His hobby is watching football.

**Daniel Attah** finished secondary school and completed a masonry apprenticeship in Busua. He works in and around Busua as a mason. In 2021, he joined Samuel Amissah for a one-year training course to learn masonry with earth bricks. He describes himself as respectful, humble and hardworking. His hobbies are listening to music and watching football.

**Francis Andoh** graduated from the Senior High School at the National Vocational Institute in Esiama, where he studied the theory of masonry. He later learnt the practice from his uncle in Agona. At times he worked for BB Olis Company in Tema. Today he works in and around Agona as a mason. He describes himself as hardworking, respectful and dedicated. His hobbies are playing football and listening to music.

## Workers

**Sibiri Son** is from Burkina Faso. He did not benefit from schooling, but can still read and write. In Burkina Faso, he worked as a tourist guide under the Ministry of Tourism and as a comedian. He describes himself as hardworking, humble and selfless. He also respects everyone, which makes it easy for him to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds. His hobbies are listening to music and playing the guitar.

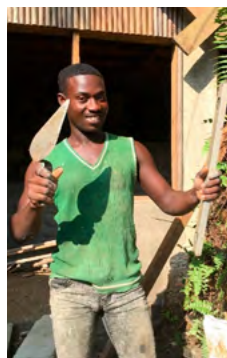
**Florence Kenyenso** completed her primary education in Nkwanta in the Oti Region. After graduation, she gained admission to Nkwanta Senior High School where she completed a home economics course. She describes herself as hardworking and conscientiously devotes herself to the tasks assigned to her. At the same time, she is modest and rather reserved. Her hobbies are listening to music and watching football.



Theophilus Bunyan (lead carpenter)



Samuel Amissah (lead mason, earth brick)



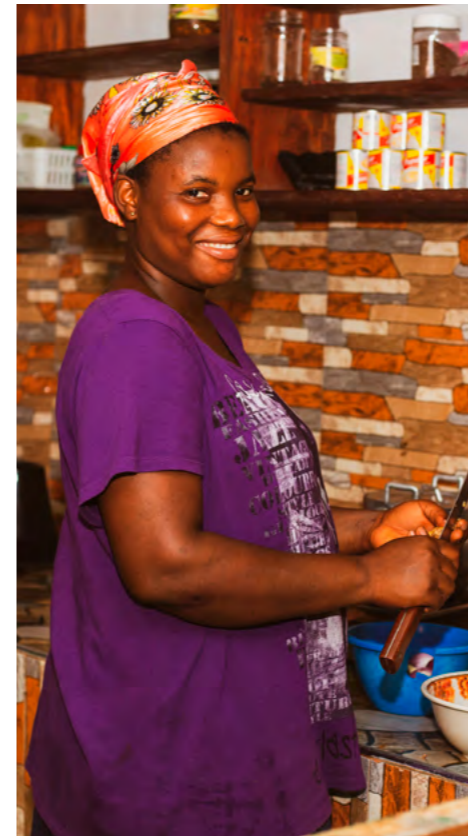
Daniel Attah (lead mason, further education earth brick)



Francis Andoh (lead mason, foundations, columns and beams)



Sibiri Son (Mankessim agriculture)



Florence Kenyenso (Busua cook)

**Joseph Baidoo** finished secondary school in Busua. He then worked in Kumasi as a mason's assistant for two years and in Takoradi as an engineering assistant for one year. Since March 2021, he has had a casual job at OPC, where he is mainly involved in mushroom cultivation. His hobbies are watching football and listening to music.

**Daniel Quaicoe** started secondary school in Busua but never finished. He then started an apprenticeship as a bricklayer, but could not complete it either. From 2009, he worked at Busua Beach Resort as a steward and later became one of the cooks. Due to Covid-19, he lost this job but then found a job at OPC in November 2021. His hobbies are watching football and listening to music.

**Peter Benjaw** finished secondary school in Busua. He then lived with his aunt, who was in the military at Burma Camp in Accra, for five years. In 2015, he returned to Busua and started selling ice blocks to fishermen. He later got a job at Scorpion Lodge in Busua. Due to the pandemic and the resulting closed borders, tourists stopped coming in large numbers, which led to his dismissal. He then got a job at OPC from April 2021. His hobbies are playing table tennis, watching football and playing cards.

**Frederick Cudjoe** never had the benefit of schooling, he is illiterate. He has been a farmer for over 20 years and has spent his whole life in Busua. At OPC, he got a job from April 2021. His hobbies are football and watching movies.

**Isaac Botwe** graduated from secondary school (Senior High School) in Mankessim and studied agricultural science in Winneba. He has been involved in agricultural extension, veterinary and poultry farming since 2019 and has been working as an agricultural manager since 2020 and qualified for the local selection of the Best Farmers Awards (annual election of the best farmers at local, regional and national levels in Ghana).

**Henry Korda** graduated from the University of Energy and Natural Resources in Sunyani with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering, and did an internship as an environmentalist. He describes himself as motivated, success-oriented, dedicated and determined to achieve his goals and dreams. Henry is humble when it comes to learning new things to build and grow his skills, and is results-oriented. His hobbies are reading, researching and writing.



Joseph Baidoo (Busua mushroom cultivation)



Daniel Quaicoe (Busua building maintenance)



Peter Benjaw (Busua agriculture)



Frederick Cudjoe (Busua agriculture)



Isaac Botwe Turkson (Mankessim, agriculture)



Henry Korda (Management Assistant)





The teams in Busua (top) and Mankessim (bottom) in December 2021

# Project work

## Focus topic

### Food System Caravan - A journey through West Africa in the name of sustainable food and farming systems

#### Food System what? How it came about.

It all started with a crazy idea: eight weeks through West Africa with local transport to meet the country and people who have been working on exciting projects in the field of sustainable and ecological food and farming systems since 2012. The synthesis project „Food Systems Caravan“ of the Swiss programme „r4d“ (research 4 development; jointly funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)) aimed to document the products and solutions of these projects and make them accessible to a broad public. The donors thought it was a good idea, and so in 2019 Fernando Sousa from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and Sara Baga (freelance filmmaker) travelled through five West African countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin and Nigeria), visiting projects, organising conferences and producing a film in a packed programme. Then in 2020 there was a follow-up project to bring the results of the Food System Caravan to the people in the five countries mentioned. This is where we at OPC came in. We were mandated to translate the film into the local language and take it to high schools with agricultural classes, farming communities and local and national decision-makers (academics, politicians and civil society representatives).

#### OPC’s own Food System Caravan in Ghana 2020 and 2021



In 2020, we translated three shorter technical videos available on the project website into the local language Twi. This was necessary to bring the content shown in the videos closer to the target audience of farmers in five communities, as well as to agriculture students in two senior high schools. With the translated videos (available [here](#) (IFWA project), [here](#) (Orm4Soil project) and [here](#) (YamSys project)) we visited farming communities in Krofu and Nkwanta (Central Region), in Alavanyo and Abofrem (Western North Region) and in Busua (Western Region). We also visited classes of agricultural students at Mankessim Senior High School in Mankessim (Central Region) and Baidoo Bonsoe Senior High School in Agona (Western Region). The selection of farming communities and senior high schools was largely influenced by OPC’s own projects. In total, about 200 farmers and 100 students were involved in the activities.





Participants in the screening of short videos in November 2020 at Mankessim Senior High School (top) and in the farming communities of Krofu (bottom),

Nkwanta (top) and Abofrem (bottom).



Through the organised events, the students learned new things about sustainable and organic food and farming systems that were not part of their curriculum. The farmers endorsed most of the content shown in the videos and shared their knowledge about traditional farming methods practiced by their ancestors. According to the farmers, this knowledge has been lost in the last generation because conventional farming has taken over, which simplifies farming and has many hidden disadvantages that are not immediately visible. The main points of discussion were the need for proper management of locally available organic resources, the elimination of excessive burning practices on farms, and the need to diversify farming activities, practice crop rotations and use locally adapted crop varieties and livestock breeds. The lively discussions following the video presentations showed that there was much to learn from each other to advance sustainable and organic agriculture in Ghana.

In 2021, we organised screenings of the longer documentary film titled „The Green Vein“ (see trailer) with various stakeholders including farmers, students, policy makers, academics, extension workers, farmers' organisations and others in the three major cities of Accra (Greater Accra Region), Kumasi (Ashanti Region) and Bolgatanga (Upper East Region). Colleagues from AgroEco (Luis Bolk Institute) took the opportunity to discuss the final draft of the National Organic Action Plan for Ghana with the same group of stakeholders, which resulted in a nice synergy for the further development of the organic sector in the country. After a general introduction by Dr Christian Andres, which focused on OPC, Food System Caravan and agroecology in general, the documentary was screened. Following the screening, we discussed specific issues in a moderated panel discussion with one representative each from farmers, students, policy makers and academics. In total, 135 participants took part in these meetings.

Media coverage of the documentary screenings in 2021

- [Agric Production: Farmers Implored To Use More Organic Fertilizers \(Kumasi event, TV, online\)](#)

<https://utv.peacefmonline.com/pages/videos/202106/45418.php>

- [Stakeholders meeting on food system caravan held \(Bolgatanga event, print, online\)](#)

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1089589/uer-stakeholders-meeting-on-food-system-caravan.html>

- [Stakeholders meeting on Food System Caravan held in Bolgatanga \(Bolgatanga event, print, online\)](#)

<https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/general/stakeholders-meeting-on-food-system-caravan-held-in-bolgatanga/2021/>



## And now?

We participated in the r4d Science Fair West Africa in Benin in October 2021, which gave us the opportunity to meet with the organisations that had organised similar activities in the other four countries of the Food System Caravan. We also visited selected agroecological projects in Benin, thus taking the first step in the planned establishment of an agroecological network in West Africa. The task of this network is to initiate the necessary processes with the respective stakeholders so that agroecology becomes system-relevant in West Africa. We are working on this idea in our current project proposals. The vision is big, so let's all pitch in for a world with less pesticides, more healthy soils and wholesome foods that allow us to systematically build the health we need to reach our full potential.

„Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose“ (Janis Joplin). May all find peace and happiness through the power of virtue we have created by participating in this project.

Dr Christian Andres  
President (Switzerland) and honorary Executive Director  
(Ghana) of OPC





Impressions from the documentary screenings in June 2021 in Accra (top left), Bolgatanga (bottom left) and Kumasi (right).



## Everyday peace in the ecovillage: unity and strength through diversity

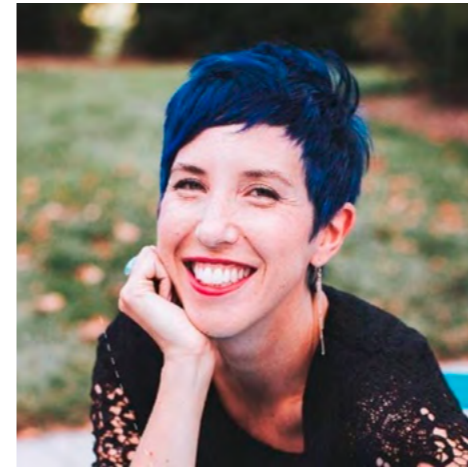
Two personal experiences motivated me to choose OPC as a case study. Firstly, I wanted to further explore the ecovillage approach after a five-week voluntary service in the Glarisegg ecovillage in Steckborn, Switzerland. I had never seen a community function and address human needs so well. Secondly, I wanted to study a place where there was a diversity of people from different backgrounds and cultures, as tensions between races and ethnicities were increasing in my home country after the death of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. I was immediately interested in Obrobibini Peace Complex, especially when I understood the meaning of the name! After talking to Christian, I was delighted when we decided together that we were a good fit for research. I also decided to compare OPC's peace practices with those of another ecovillage in the urban context of Los Angeles, California.

After analysis, it was very interesting to discover very similar practices in both ecovillages, even though they have taken very different forms due to the different contexts - urban and rural, global north and global south, newly established villages and decades of practice. The fact that both are committed to the values of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN, <https://ecovillage.org>), may be one reason for this.

I identified five key practices: social cohesion, dialogue, boundary setting, yielding to the local and inner peace. The main findings suggest that developing social cohesion through a clearly articulated goal and meaningful daily social interactions is most important. I could see how much every individual I interviewed believed in the Obrobibini message. Through a clear vision and time spent together working side by side, during breaks and weekends, this small community can easily build bonds, even with people from diverse backgrounds. Sometimes this requires changing prejudices or attitudes, which takes time and conscious understanding. If members do not embrace this vision of unity, or do not feel connected to each other, this can cause other peace-building efforts to fail.

Dialogue is the most versatile and transformative method for deepening understanding and promoting peace. Ongoing training and weekly meetings give every member the opportunity to be heard and to contribute their knowledge and strengths. In dealing with conflict, the dialogue with its pluralistic community background naturally takes many forms of mediation. For example, there is the local custom of enlisting the help of a third elder, as well as a more direct, personal approach. The important thing is to allow plurality.

Distinction protects the ideas behind the vision, including behaviour that is consistent with their values. In a small village like Busua, where interaction between 'members' and 'non-members' takes place on a daily basis, OPC membership is blurred. Through employment, membership represents the organisation and what it stands for. However, in a place where resources are scarce, membership can be a source of tension. The leadership needs to manage conflicts that may arise because of this.



Alli Van Roekel (Master's graduate from the Arctic University of Norway)



Submitting to local customs and culture is an important peace-building practice at OPC, especially when the organisation is being built from scratch and the leadership and funding come from another country. Although it can be frustrating, this can make the difference between an NGO that fits into the local culture and thus endures, and one that does not and leaves a trail of disappointment, as is often the case in Busua.

Inner peace, practising compassion for oneself and for others, was also evident in the conflict resolution techniques of the OPC members. Waiting to react, and allowing oneself to find inner peace before reacting to conflict, can be a very powerful peace-building tool. Inner peace also helps members to rise above the conflict or story and feel connected at a higher level.

Because of these deliberate peace-building practices, OPC has undoubtedly brought about change for both individual members and the larger community. Violence against tourists has decreased, and where there used to be resentment and fear, there has been a growing openness among locals towards white visitors and residents. The Swiss participants were very appreciative of what they learned from Ghanaian culture, including the style of education and attitudes to life in general. Individual members shared their experiences and appreciation of how OPC has helped them develop personally and professionally in ways they never thought possible.



# Stories of people involved

## Israel Ashitey, Co-Founder and Member of the Management Board OPC Ghana

In Africa, and especially in Ghana, knowledge about the global climate problem is very low. Very few people seem to be interested in the alarming situation. Moreover, the farmers here use a lot of pesticides, which poisons people and the environment. For example, mushrooms no longer grow on the rotting tree trunks in the fields, we no longer find snails and other animals that used to be abundant. I find this situation very sad.

Through OPC I have learnt that we can also do agriculture in a biological way with a holistic approach. As a mechanical engineer, sustainable mechanisation is also close to my heart. In doing so, we should not rationalise too much, as has happened in agriculture in western cultures, but complement local knowledge with appropriate use of machinery and make it flourish. We must not make ourselves dependent on a system that ends up giving us a leg up. I love my work because it gives me the opportunity to share my knowledge and thus train some people.

I see my work at OPC as a great privilege, indeed a calling, to actively create a platform to inform and educate the local youth to take responsibility to preserve life and our precious environment that we are blessed with. We should teach the younger generation that we should all embrace agriculture in its purest, organic form. I am sure we can change the current limited mindset, we just have to keep at it, have a strong faith and never give up, even if it is not easy and will continue to not be the path of least resistance.

## Rodolfo Dimasi, Trainee

Last year I decided to join the magical OPC team in Busua, a small village in Ghana. This decision was a big challenge for me and the first time I was so far away from my hometown. At first sight I was quite scared because of the climate and the unknown place, but then the OPC team embraced me like a big family.

I am currently studying „Agri-Food Economics“ at the Catholic University of Cremona. Thanks to OPC, I had the opportunity to work in a real environment for the first time, to make up for my lack of practical experience and to broaden my knowledge. In my opinion, it is always important to compare yourself with other people and learn from them.

Today I am glad that I spent this time at OPC because I met different people who gave me a lot during this adventure: love and support. They also helped me integrate into the local community and make new friends. Working at OPC in contact with nature helped me strengthen my relationship with the environment and at the same time appreciate what our planet has to offer us.



## Katharina Weber, Permaculture Intern

With my stay in Ghana, I was able to fulfil a childhood dream, because even as a teenager I wanted to travel to West Africa and live there for a while. In September 2021, the journey finally began. I was welcomed warmly and openly, and quickly became part of the OPC family. Together we sowed, weeded, cooked, ate and laughed, the atmosphere at OPC is unique. This happy culture left a deep impression on me. The physically rigorous work is done with joy and gratitude. Something that I think is often neglected in our cultures.

The time in Ghana was not all easy for me. For example, the climate and the hygienic conditions were challenging. This taught me to be more patient and mindful. The many conversations with the OPC family have taught me the differences, but also the similarities of our cultures and ideologies. We have so much to learn from each other, and that is exactly what OPC facilitates: a cross-cultural exchange, learning and growing together to make the world a little bit better. Together we are more than the sum of our parts.

At OPC, you can also just be, observe what is happening around you and also within yourself. I have grown through my experiences in Ghana. I am very grateful for this experience and hope to carry this inner peace with me throughout my life.

## Henry Korda, Trainee Herbal Medicine

In recent years, my deepest wish has been to move to a stimulating environment where nature is at the forefront, there is positive energy, optimistic people and opportunities that will enable me to achieve my goals. Although I recognised my potential early on, I had not yet discovered the medium that would help me to develop to my full potential. This was a big challenge for me for a while.

In this situation, I was fortunate to find OPC. OPC's systematic approach to helping young people realise their potential gave me hope. I am a young person with urge to succeed on the path of self-realisation. For me, there is no higher goal in life than self-actualisation. Knowing who you are, what your abilities are, and what you can achieve or accomplish is priceless. OPC teaches me to recognise who I am and what I can do to create opportunities for myself and others. I have a vivid picture of my success in the coming years, a result of my developing skills and capacities through OPC.

Change comes through a renewal of the mind, and that is what OPC has enabled me to do. The experiences I have had so far in these few months at OPC have shaped my personality, changed my thoughts and enabled me to think more positively about others. I have been trained, coached and inspired both directly and indirectly through OPC's activities. Now I am facing a world of unlimited possibilities. Thank you for that and for all that is to come.





## Alli Van Roekel, MSc Student (Peace and Conflict Transformation)

In 2019, I moved to Norway from the United States to pursue a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Transformation. I wanted to find out how people create peaceful environments in their everyday lives. I chose the ecovillage approach to peace as my focus. Also, I wanted to study a place where there is a diversity of people from different backgrounds and cultures, so OPC was an obvious choice. I was very pleased when we decided that we were a good fit for research.

I conducted a total of six interviews with OPC members to find out how they experience daily peacebuilding in their village. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, I was unable to travel to OPC to conduct the interviews in person, but the passion and connection of the members was evident even through the computer screen and despite translators.

Language barriers, cultural differences and a long history of conflict can lead to basic attitudes that are difficult to change. My research has shown that OPC is able to break these entrenched patterns through consciously chosen practices and the promotion of a unifying vision. OPC's peacebuilding approach has changed me personally. The desire to learn from each other and the respect for each other's strengths have inspired me. I have also been impacted by the patience members show in the face of the challenges of working with a diverse team. In my own life, I try to be more patient in dealing with conflict. OPC has taught me to see difficulties as opportunities for personal growth, you never lose, you only learn. I hope to visit OPC in person one day, because I know I can learn a lot more if I can be there for a while.

## Angela Wyss, active member of the association (Social Media Manager)

So many areas and experiences come together that brought me to OPC. Starting with an aid project in Madagascar in 2004, where Christian Andres and I were involved together. In 2007, I was in Ghana for the first and only time so far. During my studies to become a fashion designer, I was able to pursue my passion for colours, shapes and expression. In addition, my fascination with meeting people and working together has increased over the years.

It is not only in fashion that the body is at the centre. How do we deal with our body, what do we use it for, how do we ensure the balance between body, mind and soul. Through my yoga teacher training I was able to educate myself in such questions. Now is the time to get active, I am looking forward to using my knowledge and experience in the design field for OPC. I also want to travel to Ghana again soon, visit this wonderful country with its incredible abundance of colours and shapes, and finally discover OPC on the ground.



## Claudia Zingerli, active member of the association

The first images and explanations about OPC entered my consciousness in March 2020 through the rough cut of the film „La Veine Verte“. I knew immediately that I needed this place, and soon! As the scientific coordinator of the r4d programme, I had long been concerned with questions of sustainable development and food systems in West Africa in the accompaniment of a wide variety of research, synthesis and implementation projects. The daily work routine in the isolated home office had become even more condensed during the pandemic. OPC became a place of longing, where I wanted to reflect and expand insights, and at the same time experience tranquillity.

Litter is everywhere in the bushes and mangroves around Busua. Beach and water are polluted by chemicals and (micro-)plastics. Human existence in this world is marked by contradictions. In the local context, OPC is a counterpoint with charisma, a place of power and a showcase for sustainable and regenerative development.

My time in Busua in October 2021 is associated with multi-layered feelings and memories; localisation in a globalised world, sense of community in a group of strangers, sustainability of visions and concrete activities, humility in the face of the great challenges of our time. OPC, the place of longing continues to have a lasting effect on me. Yoo!

## Maurice Riedel, active member of the association

As a person who attaches a lot of importance to his social network, it was very special for me to arrive in Busua village for a second time. So many beaming faces, happy to see me! In the first conversations I sense that the joy of many people can rather be described as hope. Hope that their difficult economic situation will improve because of my appearance. If my friends at home were only happy about my presence out of self-interest, I would probably be offended. Even though I can understand it and do not hold it against anyone, I would be lying if I said I was not in this case. This situation also makes it difficult for me to truly befriend and build deep relationships.

Arriving at the OPC property after a short walk, many things are different. Not the beaming faces, but the content of the conversations. At OPC, a framework has been created in which people can meet at eye level. This is where authentic, sustainable and cross-cultural connections are made. I am very reassured to know that this framework is constantly expanding and becoming accessible to more and more people.





## Hisko and Jeannette Baas, Partner (Managing Directors Asjeba Group)

We have too many degraded soils in this world. With our foundation, we want to address this problem in a progressive and entrepreneurial way through agroforestry projects. Profits will be used to lease the land on behalf of the local population for a local foundation (the leased land will later be bought by a local foundation), to finance infrastructure improvements and to support social engagement. The first projects will start in 2022 in Techiman, Ghana. In this regard, Asjeba is very pleased to announce a close collaboration with OPC at various levels.

Asjeba's philosophy is to achieve sustainable land management while creating an environment where local people have a better future for themselves and their children. Our approach includes selecting areas affected by soil degradation, rehabilitating degraded soils through the use of biological fertilisers and soil carbon enhancement, and improving land use planning. Our unique combination of oil-producing trees and shrubs, as well as food crops is able to regenerate soils and restore water cycles while providing an industry-standard return on investment and more.

Asjeba puts people at the centre of consensus building. Planting is done in collaboration with agricultural universities, and thus constantly accompanied by applied research. We are convinced that OPC is the right partner for us, and we are looking forward to finally going into practice after a long preparation. Let's do it!



## Flurin Müller, donor and advisor

When Christian and Benjamin first presented OPC to me in July 2018, I was hooked on their project. At that time, the vision of creating a centre of excellence for vocational training, social entrepreneurship and circular economy in Ghana existed only on paper, but their enthusiasm was contagious. Until then, I had not proactively and comprehensively supported any non-profit projects, as I always lacked direct access and thus authenticity. With OPC this was different. The clear goal and the opportunity to contribute my entrepreneurial experience persuaded me to contribute some of the start-up capital.

What has happened since then continues to amaze me. The team behind OPC has managed to realise most of the complex and challenging project in just a few years. What is fascinating is that the plans described in the summer of 2018 correspond pretty much exactly to what OPC has created to date – something that is otherwise rarely seen in entrepreneurship. For me, the whole thing is a very good example of what you can achieve with comparatively little capital if you pursue a heartfelt project with a lot of passion and tireless commitment.

I am pleased to be able to continue to support OPC and I am extremely excited about what is in store for us!







## Activities and impressions

2021	January	Ground-breaking ceremony for administration building and guesthouse in Busua
		Completion of roof works for sustainable palm oil mill in Busua
February		Completion of roof works for food processing centre in Busua
March		Completion of new mushroom houses in Busua
		Ground-breaking ceremony for herbal clinic and school in Busua
		Delivery of weighbridge in Busua
April		Completion of roof work on administration building in Busua
		Installation of weighbridge in Busua
May		Completion of staircase of guesthouse with main distribution tank in Busua
		Production of approx. two tons of Garri (coarse cassava flour) in Mankessim
June		Successful completion of part 2 of the Food System Caravan Dissemination Tour
		Ground-breaking ceremony for soap factory and shop in Busua
		Start of roof work on school in Busua
July		Completion of gate house in Busua
		Completion of the roof of the school in Busua
		Start of roof work on herbal clinic in Busua
August		Ground-breaking ceremony for the event centre in Busua
		Completion of the roof of the herbal clinic in Busua
		First employment (CEO, 40%) in Switzerland
September		Completion of residential building in Busua
		Completion of administration building in Busua
		Cultivation of two hectares of vegetables in Mankessim
October		Maize harvest in Mankessim
		Cultivation of three hectares of pineapple in Mankessim
		Start of roof work on soap factory and shop in Busua
November		Completion of interior decoration of residential house in Busua
		Completion of foundation for event centre (240m <sup>2</sup> ) in Busua
		Successful fundraising run on Giving Tuesday in Switzerland
December		Completion of herbal clinic in Busua
	35	Successful charity gala in Switzerland





Impressions of the construction in Busua; residential house and herbal clinic (top), weighbridge and gate house, as well as mill for sustainable palm oil and soap factory (upper middle), staircase guesthouse with main distribution tank and administration building (lower middle), school and foundation event centre (bottom).



Impressions from agriculture and outreach work in Busua; sterilising the mushroom substrate and packing the mushrooms (top), harvesting the sustainable palm oil crops and dynamic agroforestry system after tree pruning (top centre), working in the vegetable garden and thriving mixed crops (bottom centre), on local radio and exchanging with German high school students in Agona (bottom).





Impressions from agriculture in Mankessim; peanut harvest and vegetable cultivation (top), cassava harvest and Garri production (upper middle), biochar production and maize harvest (lower middle), land preparation for pineapple cultivation and conclusion of lease agreement (bottom).

# Financial report

## Annual financial statement OPC, financial year 2021

Closing balance sheet as at 31.12.2021

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>118'308</b>
Bank balances ABS	234
Pass-through account Andres Christian	43'111
Postal account	115'008
Transit account	380
Receivables from deliveries and services (debtors) general	-40'425
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-179'406</b>
Christian Andres private prepaid 2017-2020	-186'528
Equity	7'122
Profit or loss	-61'098



## Income statement per 31.12.2021

Operating income from deliveries and services	247'914
Income from membership fees	4'900
Income from donations and collections	83'014
Institutional donors	160'000
Losses from receivables	-21'264
<b>Total CHF</b>	<b>226'650</b>
Personnel expenses Switzerland	-16'444
Salary expenses	-13'260
BVG	-1'380
Accident/health insurance	-1'022
Various social benefits	-282
Further education	-500

Other operating expenses, Depreciation, amortisation and impairment as well as financial result	-271'304
Expense Switzerland	-6'026
Cost of materials, merchandise, services and energy	-20
Fees and charges	-621
Property insurance	-286
Telephone/Porti/Internet	-1'056
Club expenses	-1'796
Promo/Advertising	-591
Office material	-1'139
Bank charges	-517
Mankessim, Competence Centre for Sustainable Agroforestry	-45'311
Inputs	-10'157
Machinery	-1'277
Buildings	-234
Labour	-654
Miscellaneous	-15'957
Logistics	-2'442
Land lease	-14'542
Consultancy	-48



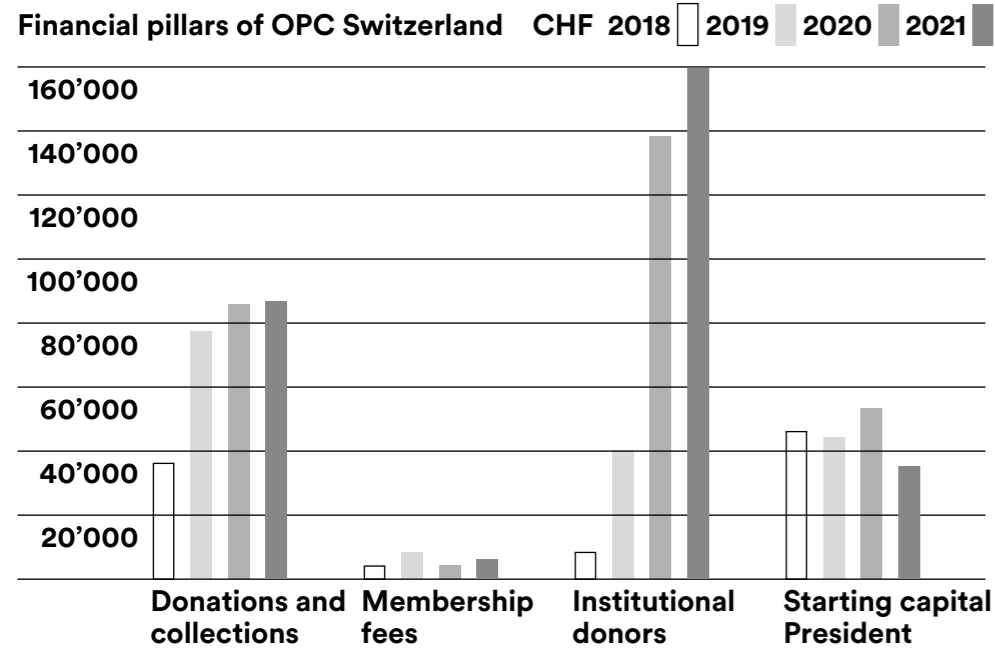
<b>Busua, Training Centre for Sustainability</b>	<b>-219'967</b>
<b>Wages and cost of living Ghana</b>	<b>-35'536</b>
<b>Learning platform</b>	<b>-42</b>
<b>Water system</b>	<b>-259</b>
<b>Residential building</b>	<b>-9'771</b>
<b>Administration building</b>	<b>-16'829</b>
<b>Mushroom cultivation</b>	<b>-3'013</b>
<b>Power supply</b>	<b>1'397</b>
<b>Office expenses</b>	<b>-140</b>
<b>Factory for sustainable palm oil</b>	<b>-25'253</b>
<b>„Food System Caravan“</b>	<b>-2'296</b>
<b>Road network</b>	<b>-463</b>
<b>Farm</b>	<b>-500</b>
<b>Materials</b>	<b>-2'235</b>
<b>Food processing centre</b>	<b>-5'759</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>-23'742</b>
<b>Soap factory</b>	<b>-29'851</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>-397</b>
<b>Biogas plant</b>	<b>-139</b>
<b>Guesthouse</b>	<b>-27'685</b>
<b>Waste water treatment plant</b>	<b>-1'532</b>
<b>Gatehouse</b>	<b>-1'401</b>
<b>Herbal clinic</b>	<b>-16'571</b>
<b>Event centre</b>	<b>-14'824</b>
<b>Total CHF</b>	<b>-61'098</b>





## Fundraising and financial situation

The three financial pillars of OPC are donations and collections (83,014 CHF, 2020: 82,888 CHF), member contributions (4,900 CHF, 2020: 2,652 CHF) and funds from institutional donors (160,000 CHF, 2020: 139,179 CHF). In total, around 247,914 CHF (2020: 224,719 CHF) were available for OPC's development work in 2021. The funds from institutional donors were granted in response to specific project applications and came from eight foundations (once 5,000 CHF, four times 10,000 CHF, once 15,000 CHF and twice 50,000 CHF). One of the eight foundations earmarked the contribution for the development and testing of initial curricula.



Financial pillars of OPC Switzerland and President's starting capital 2018 - 2021

In 2021, in addition to cultivating existing contacts, we again focused our fundraising efforts on foundation fundraising and on a new initiative with the fundraising run at various schools. Fundraising in the foundation segment went well in 2021, given the circumstances. Not only were we able to convince some of the foundations that had already made a contribution in 2020 to support our projects, but we were also able to bring two more foundations on board and thus increase the contributions made by 15%. In addition, we received two commitments for larger amounts spread over several years, which is very advantageous for us. Some of the institutions that support us financially are mentioned in the section „Recognition, thanks and awards“ with their consent.

## Site plan Vocational Training Center, Busua



### Legend to site plan

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| a Reception   | ■ Building completed          |
| b Administration  | ■ Building under construction |
| c Guest house (part I)  | ■ Clearance completed         |
| d Mill for sustainable palm oil   |                               |
| e Weighbridge   |                               |
| f Biogas plant  |                               |
| g Gate house  |                               |
| h Shop  |                               |
| i Incubation house (mushroom farm)  |                               |
| j Fruiting house (mushroom farm)  |                               |
| k Composting platform (mushroom farm)   |                               |
| l Living house farm   |                               |
| m Water tower   |                               |
| n Meeting platform, staff kitchen, store room, sleeping room  |                               |
| o Food centre (processing, workshops, canteen, restaurant, catering) - outside kitchen under construction |                               |
| p Compost toilet  |                               |
| q School  |                               |
| r Herbal clinic   |                               |
| s Gardenhouse   |                               |
- 
- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Guest house (part II)      | Six self-contained rooms, 3-storey building and rooftop bar, 10-30 people |
| 2 Car park (Admin/education) | Canopy, six lots  |
| 3 Workshop                   |   |
| 4 Conference centre          | Max. 150 people, 1-storey building (one big room)                         |
| 5 Sanitary facilities        |   |





## Outlook

### Project “Competence Centre for Sustainable Social Entrepreneurship and Circular Economy” in Busua

In 2022, we will largely complete the construction of the centre’s infrastructure. On the attached map you can see at a glance what we have already built and where we are still working on. In addition, we will slowly transition into the operation of the centre, further develop our curricula and conduct the first test courses in social entrepreneurship.

### Project “Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Agroforestry” in Mankessim

2021, we have gained initial experience in pineapple cultivation as well as with social enterprises for the production of Garri (coarse cassava flour) and for threshing, drying, storing and processing maize. Based on this, we will expand pineapple cultivation, as well as plan the first steps for processing the pineapple. In addition, we want to plan well the planting of the agroforestry rows with different fertiliser- fruit- wood- and medicine trees, so that we can implement this in 2023. Besides production, the medium to long term vision of this project is to establish a research and extension centre for ecological and sustainable agroforestry.

### Development of the association, strategic and institutional goals

In 2020, we were still convinced that we had found a suitable umbrella organisation for our organisation in the Global Ecovillage Networks (GEN, <https://ecovillage.org>). However, in the course of the year and through professionalising the organisation, it became necessary to rename OPC in Switzerland and to separate OPC Ghana from OPC Switzerland. You can read more about this in the section “Obrobibini Peace Complex becomes UP”.





## Recognition, thanks and awards

On behalf of the association, we would like to thank our donors, members and institutional funders for their trust in OPC and their reliable support of our work. The following institutions have already donated more than 1,000 CHF to OPC Switzerland (total 2018 - 2021):

### Institutional donors

- Solidaritätsfonds der Allgemeinen Baugenossenschaft Zürich
- Accordeos Stiftung
- Däster-Schild Stiftung
- Fondation DAVAC
- Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz
- Margarethe und Rudolf Gsell-Stiftung
- S. Eustachius Stiftung
- Stiftung Das Hungernde Kind
- Stiftung Mutter Bernarda Menzingen
- Schweizer Botschaft in Ghana
- Schweizer Nationalfonds (SNF)
- Starr International Foundation
- Verein Solisdarität

We would also like to thank other institutions that have financially supported OPC Switzerland:

- Temperatio-Stiftung
- Global Ecovillage Network



We thank our partners for the good cooperation:

- Acopps and Amoppa
- Asjeba Group
- AY Media
- Baidoo Bonsoe Senior High Technical School, Agona
- Biosorra
- Centre for No-Till Agriculture
- DAS Biogas & Construction Ltd.
- Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA)
- Ecological Organic Agriculture Platform of Ghana (EOAP-G)
- Escape3Points
- Global Ecovillage Network
- Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen (JLU)
- Millar Institute for Transdisciplinary and Development Studies
- PGS Ghana
- Rosh Pinnah Ventures
- Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship (RISE)
- Schweizer Nationalfonds (SNF)
- Slow Food Deutschland gUG
- Soil Research Institute (CSIR-SRI)
- Solidaridad
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- Takoradi Renewable Power Resources
- The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
- Technik ohne Grenzen
- University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani
- University of Ghana
- WWOOF







And last but not least, we would like to thank all our active association members, volunteers, our intern and a BNF trainee:

**Active association members 2021 (without board)**

- Angela Wyss
- Benjamin Trüb
- Dominik Bachmann
- Giuseppe Eggimann
- Katharina Weber
- Katherine Schmid
- Lars Hegland
- Maurice Riedel
- Noah Silvani
- Robin Schwitter
- Rodolfo Dimasi

**Volunteers**

- David Streuli
- Felix Ofori
- Fernando Sousa
- Esther Elizabeth Padilla
- Evans Kofi Bergye
- Flurin Müller
- Gian Reto à Porta
- Randall Barriga
- Victoria Feuillerat

**Interns**

- Prince Henry Essien (SNV)

**BNF trainee**

- Yunwen Gu (Tourism)

Through the successful cooperation, we continue to be a permanent partner of GlobalGiving (“Vetted Partner”).



Award at GlobalGiving earned through successful collaboration



## Press review

### Roxbourg HYPR Accelerator provides \$400,000 for regenerative leadership training at OPC

(February 22, 2022) <https://www.roxbourg.com/opc>

Can the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices – which include regenerating soils, increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing ecosystem services and increasing resilience to climate change – create new opportunities for the world’s 600 million farming families?



OPC and Roxbourg HYPR Accelerator are taking the first step towards a strategic partnership that will enable regenerative leaders recommended by OPC to receive \$400,000 in grants and scholarships to complete their 100-day Roxbourg HYPR Acceleration programme leading to the Humanitarian.MBA degree at the Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship (RISE).

#### Why?

OPC is led by Christian Andres, a Roxbourg scholar and graduate of the Roxbourg Humanitarian.MBA programme, where he won the Roxbourg Gold Medal. In short, Christian is a mentor, a leader who serves as an advisor and coach to students and Roxbourg team members. He has experienced Roxbourg from different angles and recommended his team members for scholarships at Roxbourg.

#### What is it exactly?

Imagine a world where sustainable innovators and regenerative leaders are able to collaborate, learn, experiment, test and bring new ideas to life in months rather than years, as part of a community where everyone can both learn and teach how to innovate on their own farm or in their own community.

#### And how does this work?

The OPC team can nominate anyone, anywhere in the world, for the 100-day Acceleration Programme. The Roxbourg Scholarship Committee will award the \$400,000 to up to 100 students recommended by OPC.

## About OPC

Christian Andres is the founder of the Swiss-based association OPC, which implements projects in Ghana, including the establishment of a centre of excellence for sustainable social entrepreneurship and circular economy, and a 20-hectare organic agroforestry farm. Christian is a post-doctoral researcher at ETH Zurich in the field of sustainable cocoa production systems. From 2011 to 2019, Christian worked at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), where he compared organic and conventional cocoa production systems in Bolivia in terms of their agronomic, economic and ecological performance. From 2015 to 2018, he did his PhD on the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease in Ghana. As part of his post-doc, he continues to work on dynamic agroforestry systems with cocoa in Ghana. Learn more at [Obrobibini](https://obrobibini.org).

## About Roxbourg HYPR Accelerator

Alexandre Srivastava, who is currently studying architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, is the co-founder of the Roxbourg HYPR Accelerator and the Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship (RISE), which are sister initiatives of GoodFestival and co-founded by Rajiv Srivastava as part of Majamba SARL in Vaud, Switzerland. Roxbourg targets sustainable, regenerative, humanitarian or social innovators leading start-ups or established organisations. The Roxbourg HYPR Acceleration Programme offers a complete package of benefits, ranging from scholarships for the Humanitarian.MBA programme to support for professionals to gain accreditation through the SwissMBA.Org programme and an invitation to the Roxbourg Fellowship. Through the Roxbourg Grants & Scholarship programme, we aim to award Roxbourg scholarships to support regenerative and humanitarian projects around the world. Learn more at [Roxbourg](https://Roxbourg.org).

Contact: [spaa@roxbourg.mba](mailto:spaa@roxbourg.mba) / [info@obrobibini.org](mailto:info@obrobibini.org)





## Donation information

### Your donation arrives!

We would like to thank you very much for the trust you have placed in OPC with your donation. Without your generosity we would not be able to help the people in Ghana so substantially! It is all the more important to us that the funds entrusted to us are used sparingly, appropriately and effectively. A well-known logo in Switzerland, which increases the confidence of donors in NGOs, is the seal of approval of the Zewo Foundation. Although we are still among the smallest of the small in the categories of charitable organisations of the Zewo Foundation, despite the great growth of the last few years, the Board has decided to now take concrete steps so that we will receive a seal of approval from the Zewo Foundation in the course of 2023. Especially in the course of professionalising our organisation, the effort and costs involved are now worthwhile. Having grown as a family association, we are now at the threshold where we will no longer be able to fully guarantee the exceptional proximity to almost all our donors. Thus, the acquisition of the Zewo seal of approval is indicated as a strong argument for a continued solid basis of trust on the part of our supporters.

### Donate for special causes

If certain topics are particularly close to your heart, we have grouped sub-projects that belong to one topic in terms of their orientation and objectives under one keyword each. If you would like to support the work on such a topic, please indicate one of the following keywords in your transfer:

- Employment
- Education
- Renewable Energy
- Children and youth
- Herbal Medicine
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Construction
- Water

We guarantee that your donation will then benefit sub-projects with exactly this theme.

### Donations without earmarking

The majority of our donations are without specific earmarking. These donations enable us to provide aid wherever it is needed. This is about the health of future generations by improving their environment: clean water, good nutrition and education. If you would like to support the work of OPC in general, please indicate the keyword "general" on your bank transfer, or simply leave the message line blank.

### Supporting membership

If you want to support the work of OPC in the long term and keep the administrative costs of your donation low, become a sustaining member! As a sustaining member, you support OPC with a fixed monthly or annual donation, the amount of which you determine yourself. By doing so, you give us reliability with which we can plan.

More information at:  
<https://obrobibini.org/member.html>





## Central donation account

Obrobibini Peace Complex  
IBAN: CH57 0900 0000 1500 1815 6  
BIC: POFICHBEXXX  
PostFinance  
Konto-Nr. 15-001815-6

## Online donations

You can of course also donate online:  
[www.obrobibini.org/donate.html](http://www.obrobibini.org/donate.html)

If you have any questions about donations, please feel free to contact us:  
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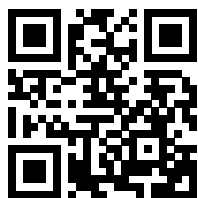
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