

## Starting Plant-for-the-Planet in South Africa – at your School?

Dear principal,

May 21<sup>st</sup> 2011

COP17 is coming closer, and today we would like to present you with a great opportunity to raise awareness about climate change among your students, as well as an opportunity for raising the profile of your school. Plant-for-the-Planet, a students' initiative that was started by then 9 year old Felix Finkbeiner in Germany in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement of children in over 90 countries worldwide, is coming to Durban! Felix and his family are planning to visit Durban in July 2011 and are eager to share their experience, raise awareness about climate change and inspire the South African kids to take the future into their own hands and get active.

### Waking up the new generation

The plan for South Africa is simple and the same as in Mexico last year. At COP16 in Cancun, Plant-for-the-Planet started with some presentations and activities a few months before the COP. Kids got inspired and started planting and preparing. During the two weeks of COP16, children continued to plant for the planet and at the official venue, the "Moon Palace", we planted trees for climate justice together with the delegates, ministers and a president. (see: <http://www.plant-for-the-planet.org/en/node/8985>) The children in Mexico are impressively active since COP16 as can be seen in this short report from May 2011: <http://content.globalmarshallplan.org/ShowNews.asp?ID=2716> In addition to planting trees, the kids are promoting their "3 Point Plant to Save Our Future", which includes 1 - putting fossil fuels into the museum, 2 - global climate justice and 3 - reforestation. In a similar fashion, the children of South Africa can invite the Heads of Government to "Stop talking. Start planting." in Durban at COP17 and draw attention to the severity of the climate crisis and to the real solutions.

We have a great opportunity to empower and inspire a huge number of kids in South Africa this July, but we cannot achieve this without your help on the ground! Felix could come to South Africa in July, and we are **looking for partners in Durban for July 20-24** and in Johannesburg for July 18-20 for realizing Plant-for-the-Planet Academies and training hundreds of new Climate Justice Ambassadors. Would you like to support us in that endeavor?



"For us children forests are our future.(...)  
Old and young, rich and poor, together we can plant billion of trees.  
(...)One mosquito cannot do anything against a rhino, but a thousand mosquitoes can make a rhino to change its direction."

*Felix (13) at the opening of the International Year of Forests 2011*

Speech in the UN General Assembly Hall: <http://www.plant-for-the-planet.org/de/videos>

**Our offers:** 1. **Send some of your most active and interested students** to get trained as Climate Justice Ambassadors in one of the Academies and become part of the global network of Plant-for-the-Planet. The students will then come back with their own action plan for your school and community which can involve everyone.

2. **Host a Plant-for-the-Planet Academy with Felix at your school.** This opens the possibility for the whole school to attend parts of the Academy and raises the profile of your school as the place where the Plant-for-the-Planet movement is born in South Africa. If you consider this option, please get in touch as soon as possible!

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### **What is a Plant-for-the-Planet Academy?**

A one-day event, where children are trained as Climate Justice Ambassadors

Age group: 9-14 years, ideally 10-12 years.

Participants: 80 - 300 Selected kids from about 20 schools

#### **The programme includes:**

Presentation by a child about the Climate Crisis and Plant-for-the-Planet (a Climate Justice Ambassador)

World Game - Experiencing distributive justice in today's world

Video: "The man who planted trees"

Planting trees (depending on local circumstances, only one or many)

Practicing giving a presentation

Brainstorming on activities

Developing an Action Plan

Evening event: Presentation of Action Plans to adults, Ceremony to hand out certificates of new Climate Justice Ambassadors