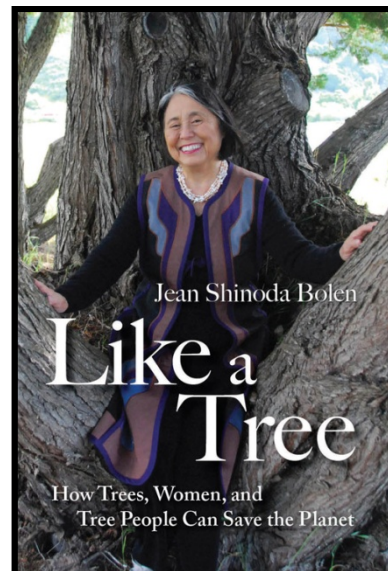


Conari Press and Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen, supporting school-based tree planting with Earth Child Institute in Togo, West Africa through sale of *Like A Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People can Save the Planet*

US-based book publisher and author of *“Like a Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People Can Save the Planet”* support the planting of trees by children in Togo.

Conari Press and Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen are innovating change by contributing US\$1 for each hardcover edition of [“Like A Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People Can Save the Planet”](#) to Earth Child Institute’s Power of One Child + One Tree = A Sustainable Future for All campaign at Yanfouom secondary school in Togo. To date, early proceeds from “Like a Tree” have enabled planting of more than 1000 trees as well as life-skills based environmental education which empowers community based adaptation to climate change in Northern Togo.

YANFOUOM which means ‘wisdom’ in the local language of Moba in Northern Togo is the name of a grammar school (middle to secondary) in Dapaong, that was founded by Mrs. Moni Martine Sinandja, a woman with a passionate drive to create an opportunity for 42 local girls between the ages of 10 and 18 to go to school in October of 2000. Today, the school has grown today to 298 students, of which 168 are girls.



The school director told us that “At the beginning of the school, we have found it important to put in place an environmental club because we are near the desert so children must be aware of that and change their behaviour.” The school is affiliated with a biological agricultural center 7kms from Dapaong where they train school drop-outs on biological farming. Founded in 2004 with support from donors based in France, and sustained since 2009 with support from Earth Child Institute, the school garden is cared for by an environment club, comprised of 20 to 30 students, half of them being girls. Club members primarily plant cacias, mango and moringa trees for their drought tolerant, nutritional and medicinal value.



“S/He who plants a tree, plants a hope.”

Trees are planted, nurtured and then sold to generate sustainable income to the school. Neighboring primary schools and community members buy young trees from Yanfouom because of their low prices and high quality, compared to commercial nurseries. Members of the environmental club work to sensitize the children in the school on the importance of trees and why it is important for them to protect the environment and to change their behaviors. They have found special interest and commitment from girls who are very motivated, often more than boys, making this project especially compatible with the message of “Like A Tree,” nurturing a win-win-win scenario for all stakeholders. Thereby helping the author and publisher to sell more books, helping the school to plant more trees and educate more girls and helping ECI to meet one child + one tree campaign goals.

Like A Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People can Save the Planet is available wherever books and ebooks are sold

Earth Child Institute (ECI) info@earthchildinstitute.org is an international not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based at the United Nations in the United States of America and is a civil society observer to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), advocating with and for the rights and capacities of children. ECI’s cornerstone campaign is called 2.2 Billion: The Power of One Child + One Tree = A Sustainable Future for All seeks to empower and mobilize the world’s 2.2 billion people under the age of 18 to reforest Mother Earth.