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## -- Ask today's Expert: Akefetey Mamo

Felix Finkbeiner (11) is from Starnberg, Germany. Born and raised in Bavaria, he is currently attending the Munich International School. Felix became involved in environmental issues when he researched climate change for a class presentation and learned about Wangari Maathai, a woman who deeply inspired him. Upon finishing the presentation, he proposed, "Let's plant millions of trees worldwide, a million in each country of the world. In 2007, Felix co-founded the student initiative Plant-for-the-Planet. The goal of Plant-for-the-Planet is not only reach the goal of planting 1 million trees in Germany, but also to inform and educate other children about climate justice and to inspire the planting of trees in all the other countries.

Plant-for-the-Planet has since its initiation planted almost 300,000 trees; over 500,000 have been pledged. Several Plant-for-the-Planet Academies have taken place to further educate children all over Germany and train them to become climate ambassadors. Participants in these Plant-for-the-Planet Academies then give speeches and motivate others to advocate for climate justice, thereby contributing greatly to the spread of climate awareness. Since the launch of Plant-for-the-Planet, Felix has received numerous prizes for his work to prevent a climate crisis and promote climate justice, such as the award for youngest utopian from the site [www.utopia.de](http://www.utopia.de). In October, Felix will receive the Bavarian State Award for Health and Environment. He has been a member of the UNEP Tunza Junior Board, representing Europe, since 2008, and he will continue to promote Plant-for-the-Planet and climate justice at the UNEP Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment in 2009.