



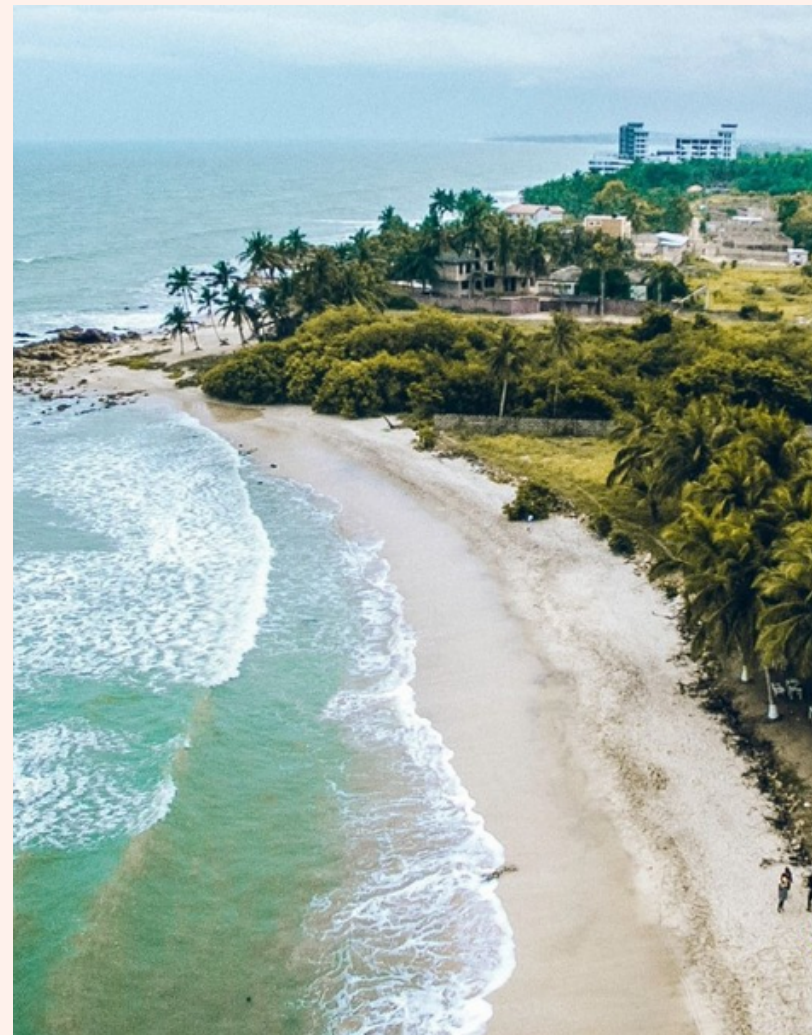
WELCOME TO GHANA: AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRASH CAN

A Presentation on Clothing and E-Waste by Alexis Oppong



What is Ghana?

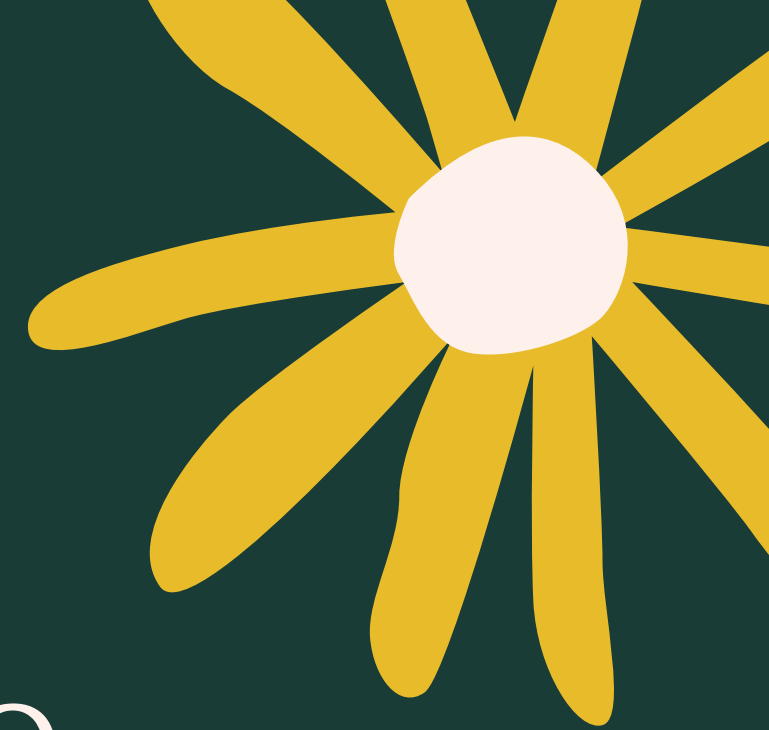
- West Africa
- Golden Coast
- Rich culture and land
- My family heritage





"The US is the biggest culprit, exporting more second-hand clothing than any other country on Earth"

• CBS Mornings, 2021





HOW DOES THIS WORK?

CLOTHING DONATIONS


Various clothing items are donated to be sent to other countries for people to wear. This ranges from Goodwill, other donation services, and just clothes that are waiting to be trashed

THE TRIP THERE

"Some 15 million used garments pour into Accra every week from the UK, Europe, North America, and Australia...An estimated 40 percent are of such poor quality they are deemed worthless on arrival" (Besser, 2021)

THE DISPOSAL METHODS

In Ghana, most waste is disposed of in landfills through the act of burning it, which is disastrous to the environment and causes toxic chemicals and smoke to heavily pollute the atmosphere





E-Waste

Electronic waste includes any electronics that no longer serve a purpose to its users and are sent to be dumped in a landfill. While 20% of the 50 million e-waste is recycled properly, the rest “ends up in landfill, or is disposed of by informal workers in poor conditions,” as stated by the UN (Yeung, 2019)



Agbogbloshie



Health Worries

“There are skin diseases and ailments [at Agbogbloshie], but the worst problem here is respiratory illnesses” states Julius Fobil, a public health professor at the University of Ghana.



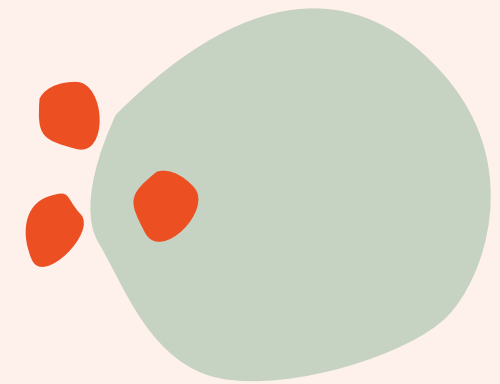
“the generation of textiles in 2018 was 17 million tons...The recycling rate for all textiles was 14.7 percent in 2018, with 2.5 million tons recycled”

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, 2022



So What Now?

How can we move forward as a collective?



BE WARY OF DONATING

Do your research of how certain companies donate their clothing and electronics. Of course buying sustainably is the usual answer however we cannot always guarantee that everything will be 100% sustainable and we can at least control where we donate and how we do so when it comes to getting rid of old clothes. Charities should also have stricter guidelines on what clothing pieces are acceptable for donations and if they can sustain the journey to Ghana for example

LET'S FIND A BETTER WAY TO DISPOSE

As a country, simply dumping our old clothes and electronic waste into another country is a huge issue. We mask it as "giving things away to those who need it" however, most of the time, the clothes are outdated and damaged/too torn to be worn. In Ghana, we need to come up with a more economically safe/sustainable way to dispose of any trash/waste that can no longer be used, without creating a hazardous environment for those surrounding the landfill areas

IN THE SAME WAY WE ARE
STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF
RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABLE
FASHION, IT IS HYPOCRITICAL OF
US TO CONTINUE THIS DEADLY
CYCLE OF DUMPING ANYTHING WE
NO LONGER WANT TO DEAL WITH,
INTO OTHER COUNTRIES.



LET'S DO BETTER. AS A COLLECTIVE
AND AS A COUNTRY. IT'S THE VERY
LEAST WE CAN DO.