



Madagascar it's not just a cartoon! Computers needed for Schools and IT centres

Appeal for Used Computers

The island of Madagascar, set in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, is bigger than France with 16 million people and is one of the poorest countries in the world. Unlike many African states the poverty is not caused by endless civil wars or wars with neighbours. Just like the cartoon characters in the film the island has been forgotten by the developed world. 50% of the population are under 15 years old, and less than 2% of people in Madagascar currently have the chance to learn to use a computer. They are keen to learn, knowing that computers would bring much-needed chances of development.

The Dodwell Trust is not asking for money, just that when you upgrade your workplace computers please send your old PCs to the computer recycling depot of IT Schools Africa in Cheltenham.

Computers should not be older than 5 years, and should be Pentium 3 or better. Laptops are also welcome. When computers reach ITSA Cheltenham they are checked, wiped clean, re-furbished, and packed into containers for shipment.

IT Schools Africa - a British registered charity - have agreed to donate 10,000 recycled computers to Madagascar during a 7-year project starting January 2008.

The project, through the Malagasy Ministry of Education, ITSA, and The Dodwell Trust, will ship the recycled computers to Madagascar and distribute them to IT training centres nationally, also carry out the training of local trainers to teach basic computer skills to the local school teachers, students, community and women's groups, and members of development associations. They will have further access to use the computers, along with CDs about sustainable development matters.

You can all take part by letting your business friends and contacts know about this need for old computers. We hope that plenty of computers will be sent to IT Schools Africa. They have 3 similar projects in Africa, and it is not guaranteed which project your computers will go to, but the more computers are available, the more Madagascar will benefit.

So if you know of available PC's, or want delivery directions, please contact IT schools for Africa depot in Cheltenham - info@itschoolsafrica.org or ITSA website - www.itschoolsafrica.org

Please help us achieve something.