

# Geolicrafts Ventures

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*Décor and accessories with a story*

After obtaining a special permit, George Akologo takes 25 young men who work for him into forests in Ghana. They are on a quest for the special older trees that provide the wood that is behind the sweetly rich sounds of the djembe drum.



“I use the older type of wood,” Akologo says. “It’s stronger and it is very red. It doesn’t break easily. If you use the younger tree, it will easily crack up.”

Each of his workers has a special skill making drums. Some string the drums, others select and prepare the goat skin, others carve the wood. Each drum from his workshop is the product of their highly skilled work.

About a year ago, at a trade show in California, George began drumming one of his handcrafted drums. A crowd soon gathered, drawn by the beat. “The playing of the drum creates a connection,” he said. “If you start playing, people want to see what’s going on and it makes people happy. The sound is the thing. The djembe is a drum that will make you happy. It brings people together.”

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