

# CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

## CAMGEW GREEN ECONOMY PROJECT

LINKING RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

**Presented by**

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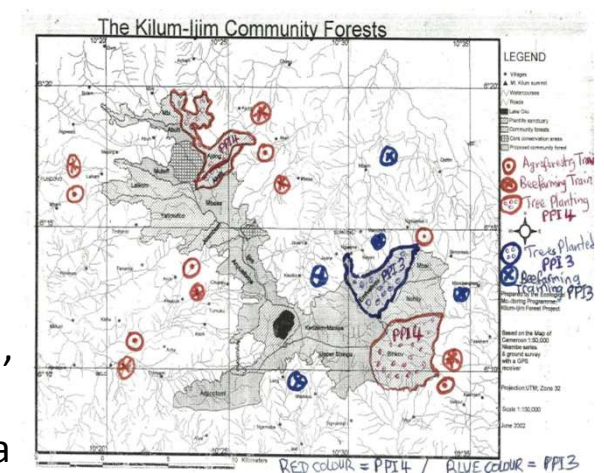
# Who is Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

- CAMGEW is a nonprofit created in 2007
- She tackles environmental and gender issues in Cameroon
- Believes the future of our mother-earth is in our hands
- Her **vision** “Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment
- Her **mission** “To fight poverty; promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development”.



# Where is CAMGEW & Kilum-Ijim

- Kilum-Ijim forest is found in North West Region of Cameroon
- The forest produces Oku White Honey and is part of montane in Bamenda Highland Forest
- It covers an area of 20,000 hectares with peak at 3011m and Crater lake called Lake Oku
- Bannerman's Turaco is an endangered bird with this forest as its remaining largest habitat
- Kilum Mountain is the second highest mountain in central and west Africa
- Rich ecosystem with non timber forest products like Oku White honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants, spices, etc
- Oku White Honey produced by trees like *Nuxia congesta*, *Prunus africana*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Carapas*, *Pittosporum veridiflorum*, *Agauria salicifolia*, *Zyzigium staundti*, *Croton macrotachist*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Newtonia camerounensis*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Psychotria penducularis*,



# Livelihoods Sources For Forest Communities

- Oku White Honey which is certified as Geographic Indication Product
- Bee wax
- *Prunus africana* tree (barks used for prostate cancer medicine)
- Ecotourism
- Firewood
- Other Non Timber Products like mushrooms, vegetables, etc



# What CAMGEW does to balance conservation and marketing equation

- Community Radios to sensitize/inform on forest issues
- Bee farming trainings (572 trained and 517 beehives donated)
- Planted 44000 native trees in the forest
- Environmental education in schools, forest & nursery
- Documentation of success stories (posters, booklets, brochures, etc)
- Sharing through websites, meetings, social gatherings, etc
- Creation of 5 Oku White Honey Cooperatives to improve quality and quantity of honey
- Creation of Honey shop to market bee keepers products



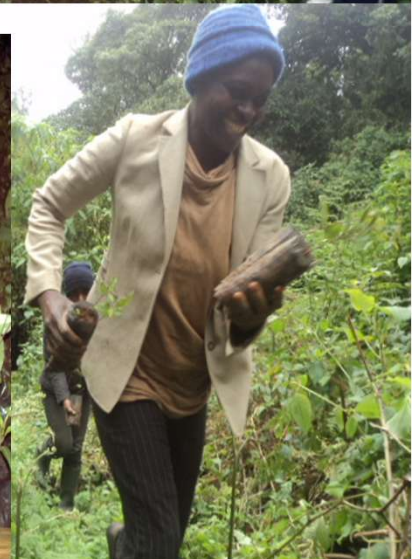
# Why regenerate the Kilum-Ijim forest

- Forest has suffered from bushfires
- Deforestation has been high
- *Prunus africana* barks were poorly harvested and most forest trees died
- Increase source of livelihoods for forest communities
- Join the world to fight climate change through carbon sequestration
- Keep the natural cake for future generations
- Maintain continuous environmental services like water flow
- Ensure the availability of white honey
- Prevent landslide from the Kilum hills



# Why CAMGEW chosed *Prunus africana* to regenerate the forest

- It produces white flowers that are bee loving for Oku White Honey production,
- It is a native tree of Oku forest,
- It is a watershed tree,
- It is income generating because of its medicinal value and
- It is a carbon sink that mitigate climate change.





# Total Trees planted by CAMGEW in the Kilum-Ijim forest

- 44000 trees planted distributed as follows
- 7000 trees of *Prunus africana* planted under the World Bank funded project on forest governance in August 2012
- 3400 trees (3000 trees previewed) of *Prunus africana* planted with MINFOF-Cameroon funds in July 2013
- 6600 trees (6000 trees preview) of *Prunus africana* planted under the French Committee of IUCN funds this August 2013
- 3000 assorted bee loving native forest trees planted in Nchiyy forest with Funds from Konning school with assistance from Both ENDS (All in Netherlands) in 2014
- In 2015, 14500 *Prunus africana* trees to be planted in Bihkov, Akeh and Ajung forests of Kilum-Ijim with funds from French Committee of IUCN
- In 2015, 2000 assorted bee loving trees planted in Nchiyy Forest under Rufford Foundation funds.



# How CAMGEW involve stakeholders do forest regeneration

CAMGEW uses a participatory approach in forest regeneration involving all stakeholders like

- Forest users like hunters, bee farmers, firewood fetchers , Water Management, are involved
- Women are involved
- Administration participated
- Local government
- Traditional authorities
- Youths regenerate the forest and are sensitised to be nature lovers



**2013 tree planting**



**2012 tree planting**



# Nursery Development



**CAMGEW as of now has nursed 35000 trees**





# Community members and leaders going for tree plant





# Tree planting in Kilum-Ijim forest



**Transportation of Prunus seedlings to the Oku Community forest by women**



# Tree planting in Kilum Forest



**All forest stakeholder engage in tree planting(tradition, government, local government, CBOs and community)**



**Community youths participate in tree planting**

# All polythene papers removed from forest





# Environmental education in the Kilum-Ijim Forest

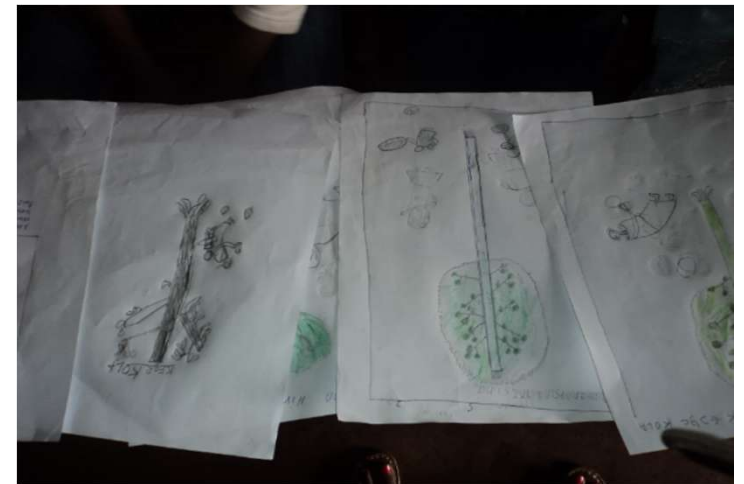
## Why environmental education

- Make young people lovers of forest now and in the future
- Change behavioral patterns of community members that carry out unsustainable activities in the forest
- Indicate and train community members and groups on alternative sources of livelihoods



# Ways CAMGEW carryout environmental education

- In schools (primary and secondary) through forest visits, lessons, produced articles by students like songs, essays, poems, sketches
- In the Oku Community Radio
- In organized community events
- Through publication like posters, brochures, booklets
- Through press like newspapers
- Our website and other websites





# Environmental education in the field





# CAMGEW with Bee farming as a way to promote participatory sustainable forest management

**When community member have beehives in the forest they can no longer**

- Set bushfire in the forest
- Cut trees in the forest for fear it falls on their hives
- Bees scare those who come to destroy the forest as they sting



**In the presence of bushfire all community members (groups) run up to the forest to stop it to avoid destruction of their beehives**

# BEE FARMING TRAINING



Participants learning-by-doing



Beehives carried for colonisation in the valleys before transportation to the forest



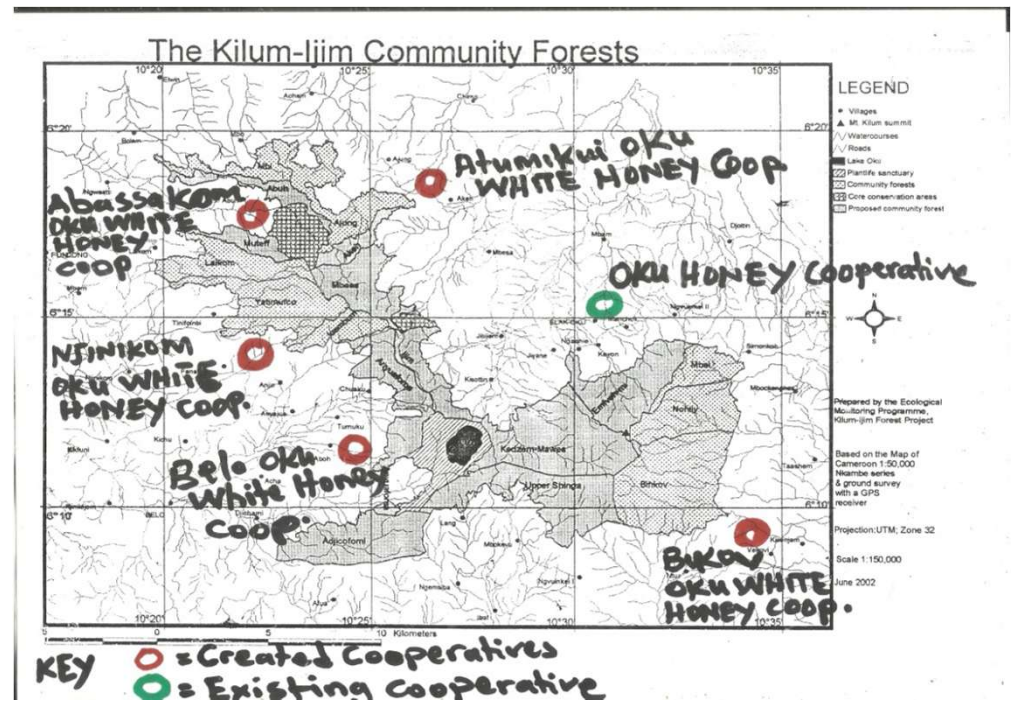
# CREATION OF NEW OKU WHITE HONEY COOPERATIVES AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST

## Existing Cooperative

-Oku Honey Cooperative-Oku

## Newly created Oku White Honey Cooperatives (Informal Not legalised yet)

- Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative
- Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
- Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative
- Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
- Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative



# Supporting Created Cooperative to Function well

- Provide cooperative equipment
- Training on cooperative management
- Assist in legalization process of cooperatives
- Assist in the development of their by-laws and constitution
- Support exchange visit for learning





# CAMGEW Honey Shop in Bamenda Town

Titled: Bee Farmers' Messenger

- Trained bee farmers living in forest areas need a market to sell their products
- CAMGEW buy their products and sell in Bamenda town
- This is to value their forest products so that they value the forest



# Alternative livelihoods to the forest

## Agroforestry



Peasant women farmers trained on agroforestry techniques to improve soil fertility for increase food production and get firewood. They are provided with agroforestry trees.



## Other actions in the Forest

- CAMGEW & MINFOF have been catching goats in the forest that destroy planted trees
- The cutting down of Eucalyptus trees from the forest
- The tradition is strong and has a legal system that takes care of forest defaulters



# HOW CAMGEW TACKLES GENDER

- Women are donated 2 beehives while men get 1 after bee farming training
- Family bee farming promoted to reduce income spend for hiring
- Women occupy at least 2 executive positions in each of the created honey cooperatives
- Sensitization programmes in radio, social groups, etc to encourage women participate in promoting development





# Challenges in balancing conservation and market equation

- Bushfires
- Cutting of fresh trees for firewood
- Traps in the forest to catch rats
- Poor harvesting Prunus
- Domestic animals found in the forest
- Keeping high Honey quality and quantity
- Availability of packaging and storage containers
- Respect of norms
- Bringing stakeholders to the table



# CAMGEW Partnerships to promote Green Economy

## **Local**

- Community based organisations and members like Oku Honey Cooperative Society
- The Council
- The traditional authorities
- Cultural and Development Associations
- Religious groups

## **National**

- The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
- Other NGOs like BERUDA, SHUMAS, CENDEP, GREENCARE,

## **International**

- World Bank, Catholic Relief Services, Both End-Netherlands, Konningschool-Netherlands, French IUCN, New England Biolabs Foundation-USA, Teach a Man to Fish-UK, IDEA WILD-USA, Man & Nature-France, Rufford Foundation-UK, Future in Our Hands-Uk,



# FOREST IS OUR NATURAL WEALTH

for the present and future generation

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION



Rare bird Bannerman's turaco the treasure &  
pride of the Kulum-Ijim Community Forest