

# BUILDING A RESILIENT AND HOPEFUL KILUM-IJIM FOREST COMMUNITY IN CRISIS



Produced November 2022

# CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)



#### CONTACT

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Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)



Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)



#### CAMGEW TEAM

Name	Position	Qualification
Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy	Team Leader Apiculture and Nature Conservation Campaigner (23 years experience)	MSc. Environmental Restoration
Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki	Forest Social and Women Empowerment Officer [13 yrs experience]	BSc. Common Law.
Dinyuy Rita	Finance and Administration [2 yrs experience]	MSc. Accounting
Njioh Banardine Yafe	Agroforestry Officer (8 years experience)	GCE-Advance Level
Berinyuy Sabastine Wirba	Tree Nursery Development Leader/Logistics Officer (5 years experience)	GCE-Advance Level
Berinyuy Emmaculate	Women's health and Transformation of Bees products (7 years experience)	GCE Advance Level +1 [Trained Medical Nursed]
Kongla Nadasge	Honeyshop Keeper (2 years experience)	Many in-service training and experience in marketing
Akua Emmanella	Honey Stock Managemen	GCE Advance Level
Njodzeka Terence	Driver	Experienced professional driver

This document is produced by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAMGEW acknowledges receiving support for this project from JAC Trust-UK to work with the people of Kilum-Ijim forest that is hit by Anglophone crisis to improve on their lives while protecting their forest. CAMGEW is grateful for this financial support.

CAMGEW recognizes that she received financial, technical and other support from her partners to maintain the Kilum-Ijim forest biodiversity. This special thanks go to French IUCN (PPI-FFEM), GEF Small Grant Program, Future in Our Hands-UK, Swisshand Foundation-Switzerland, Bees for Development – UK, Man and Nature (now Noe) – France, Both ENDS – Netherlands, UNDP, UNIDO, Future Food Institute, Energy Globe, Equator Prize, Midori Prize for Biodiversity from Aeon Environmental Foundation – Japan in partnership with Convention of Biological Diversity, JAC Trust -UK, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Global Green Grants, The Pollination Grant, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund –CEPF of Birldlife International, MIVA Switzerland, Well Grounded, Creative Action Institute – USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The following women institutions have also supported CAMGEW's work: Women Gender Constituency, Feminist and Women's Action Plan Thematic group, Women for Women International and Women Learning Partnership, Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) and Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF). We also got support from Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife(MINFOF), BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, SOPISDEW, ANCO, AMMCO, CERAF - Nord, Tropical Forest and Rural Development, ABOYERD, WECMA, NOWEFAM, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry(MINEPIA), Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, etc. We are particularly grateful for support received from various Councils, Divisional Officers, traditional authorities, Village Heads, MINFOF staff, MINEPIA staff, FMIs' members and Oku Honey Cooperatives around Kilum-Ijim Forest.

#### **PROJECT INTRODUCTION**

**Project title**:Preventing the Departure of Kilum-Ijim forest people by engaging them in livelihood activities that improves lives and protect nature.

Budget for activities: £26,386 OR 20.204.554 FCFA Budge Project leader: Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

Budget duration: January 2022-November 2022

This project was supported by JAC Trust-UK which is an independent charitable foundation committed to supporting vulnerable and marginalized people improve on their lives while protecting or restoring their local environments. Jac Trust fund initiatives that aim to deliver win-win outcomes for both people and planet. It is in this line that CAMGEW developed a project for the people of Kilum-Ijim forest that is hit by Anglophone crisis to improve on their lives while protecting their forest. Many people still live in Anglophone Cameroon (with Kilum-Ijim forest area inclusive) where CAMGEW works. This area is hit by poverty and unemployment and there is fear that the forest could be affected. There is need to protect this community source of livelihood – the forest that provide secured food, jobs and income. This project was conceived and implemented to improve community livelihood, protect the forest and build solidarity as social insurance for survival as a community. CAMGEW noticed that working to improve community livelihood has helped to protect the forest (carbonsink) from bushfire that destroyed the forest in the past. Agroforestry systems developed around the forest has prevented slash-and-burn in farms responsible for bushfire in the forest, soil erosion and reduced food production. The developed agroforestry system by CAMGEW since 2010 around sloppy forest peripheries has created jobs, increased income, conserved soil, prevented slash-and-burn, kept farms evergreen, stored carbon and increased food variety. These variety of food needs to be transformed to prevent postharvest losses and increase jobs and income for communities. CAMGEW also developed apiculture by training Kilum-Ijim forest people on apiculture and providing them with beehives mounted in the forest for honey production. Ownership of beehives in forest makes them engage in forest education and bushfire prevention/management to protect their beehives because honey equals money. When they protect their beehives from bushfire they protect forest.

Developing the honey value chain further creates more jobs and income thereby helping communities stay in solidarity to protect their natural resources.

This project will be executed using these strategies to develop green entrepreneurs that are innovative, creative and think-out-of-the-box to exploit opportunities in apiculture(honey value chain) and in agroforestry (various food value chains). This will prevent forest people departure as they engage them more in apiculture, agroforestry and also add value to produced products through transformation. This will prevent deforestation, community displacement, degradation and livelihood destruction. CAMGEW want to continuously see communities use their natural resources and farm products to create sustainable incomes, jobs, industries and protect the forest.

#### **PROJECT PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

CAMGEW with support from Jac Trust had these activities to carry out:

- 2 Training workshops to be organized for 50 community members on honey production
- 100 beehives to be donated to 50 community members trained on honey production
- 10 community members to be trained on bee suit production and provided with 10 sewing machines plus accessories
- 10 community members to be trained on bee smoker production and provided with start-ups
- 3 training workshops for 75 community members on agroforestry systems
- Donation of 75 cutlasses, 75 hoes, 75 harvesting buckets and agroforestry seeds/seedlings to 75 community members trained on agroforestry systems
- 1 training workshop to be organized for 20 women and youths on transformation on bees wax to soap and lotion
- Donation of 20 kg of bees wax, 100 Litres of Kernel oil and 20 buckets to 20 women and youths trained on bees wax to soap and lotion production
- 1 training workshop to be organized for 20 women and youths on transformation of honey to honey drink
- Donation of 100 kg of Honey and 40 buckets to 20 women and youths trained on honey drink production
- 1 training workshop to be organized for 20 women and youths on transformation of medicinal plants
- Donation of 100 kg of Honey and 40 buckets to 20 women and youths trained on medicinal plants transformation
- Supporting CAMGEW with the following demonstration and training equipments
- Simple dryer for drying of various medicinal plants harvested
- Simple grinding machine for grinding of dried herbs
- Simple oil press extractor (Oil extracting machine to extract oil like castor oil, etc)
- Installation of a simple solar system for energy supply to help CAMGEW function in the absence of electricity

# **ABOUT CAMGEW**

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a not-for-profit organization created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for a solution to environmental and women's issues in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. CANGEW has 3 offices located in Oku and Bamenda in the North West Region and Magba in the West Regionof cameroon. CAMGEW's Vision is "A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices". CAMGEW's Mission statement is "We do environmental protection by strengthening the capacity of community members especially women and young people in eco-businesses and forest regeneration for livelihood improvement in the Bamenda Western Highland Forest area". The Kilum-Ijim forest is 20.000 hectare of forest with 44 communities and a population of above 200.000 that lives within a day's walk to the forest. CAMGEW from 2012 to 2022 planted 115,899 bee loving trees in this forest and developed 3 tree nurseries with about 80.000 trees. Environmental Education is a weekly activity for children and adults in CAMGEW offices in Oku and Bamenda and CAMGEW has reached out to more than 70.000 people since creation to build nature lovers.

CAMGEW has trained above 2200 bee farmers in honey production, honey, product quality control and bees wax extraction and donated above 2100 beehives. Bee farmers have been organized into 6 Honey cooperatives around this forest. Beehives donated to trained bee farmers. Women were allocated at least 30% and youths at least 30% of the positions in forest Honey cooperative to encourage them in apiculture. CAMGEW created a CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP in Bamenda to convert bee farmers honey to money. The Honey shop sell various honey, bees wax, candles, bee suits, bee smokers, honey wine, honey juice, bees wax soap and powder soap, body lotion, etc. 800 youths and women have been trained on entrepreneurship in honey value chain development. 400 youths and women trained on transformation (bees wax to soap, powder soap and candle production) and (honey to honey juice and honey wine production). 21 forest people trained on bee suit and bee smoker production. CAMGEW has succeeded to create 2 Forest multi-stakeholder platforms [one in Oku and

another Nso for Bikov] to exchange ideas on forest issues and assist in decision making. The 7 Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) in Kilum forest that manages community forest have been reorganized by CAMGEW and other stakeholders after more than 10 years that their terms of offices ended. 1200 farmers have also been trained on agroforestry techniques. As of December 2018, about 1580 women had been trained on business skills and 1325 women received financial assistance in the form of loans of about US\$ 5500 monthly as alternative sources of livelihood to the forest. This served as forest microfinance for women. 24 teenage boys and girls had been trained on dress making, shoe making and hair dressing. 20 teenage girls have been trained on recycling plastics and clothing's with African fabric waste to produce jewels, hand bags, belts, etc. More than 3000 women and girls have received counseling to help them make decisions and get out of social challenges. Where necessary they were supported financially through CAMGEW microfinance scheme to better integrate in society. 400 women were also enlightened on the right to legalization of marriage and 200 women on the mitigation measures to physical, psychological and economic violence. 78 teenage mothers had their capacities improved on nutrition for mother and child from locally available food stuff and 190 teenage girls trained on safe sex to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Bushfires reduced from above 7 in 2012 to zero in 2018 and 2019. In 2014, one bushfire alone destroyed many hectares of the forest. In 2017, one bushfire occurred and more than 70 community members mainly bee farmers went to forest to tackle and only less than 5 hectare were destroyed. CAMGEW also trained community leaders and stakeholders on bushfire prevention and management and supported them with basic tools and equipment to use in fighting bushfire. The more we train community members to become bee farmers the more bushfire is prevented and managed. No bee farmer want to see his/her beehive burnt so they prevent bushfire and so help in forest protection because APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = MONEY = FOREST CONSERVATION. CAMGEW Honey shop becomes a CLIMATE SMART SHOP because it is an opportunity cost to forgone bushfire that cause climate change. The market for honey must be available to engage communities to protect forest. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in the hands of men and women, young and old and also that this planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development

# **ABOUT KILUM-IJIM FOREST**

Kilum-Ijim forest is in North West Region of Cameroon and it is part of Bamenda Highland Montane Forest. The forest produces Oku White Honey- certified as Geographic Indication Product which is cherished nationally and internationally. The forest covers 20.000 hectares with its peak at 3011m and a Crater lake called Lake Oku at 2500 m altitude. Kilum or Oku Mountain is the second highest mountain in Cameroon and also in Central and West Africa. It has a rich ecosystem with non-timber forest products like Oku White Honey, stingless bee honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants, spices, etc. Oku White Honey is produced by trees like Nuxia congesta, Prunus africana, Schefflera abyssinica, Schefflera manni.

Only 2 of these products are certified in Cameroon with the other being the Penja White pepper. Much bees wax is extracted from honey locally and sold without transformation. The Kilum-Ijim forest area has a rich culture and is a tourist destination. Carving is highly practiced there. The Kilum-Ijim forest hosts the first community forests in Cameroon. There are 18 community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest and a Plant Life Sanctuary around the Lake surrounding. The forest is the largest remaining habitat for Bannermans turacco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified by IUCN Redlist as endangered. The major threat to the forest is bushfire which destroy forest biodiversity and beehives which is a source of community livelihood. Despite the availability of this rich forest with a huge potential to be unblocked to benefit its people, the forest people still suffer from unemployment, high poverty, gender inequality and lack of basic facilities. There is lack of inclusiveness in the management and benefits from the forest. Forest resource exploitation is dominantly masculine. However, the area around Kilum-Ijim forest is one of the most densely populated in Cameroon: 300,000

people live within less than one walking day from the forests. There is indiscriminate harvesting of forest resources like Prunus africana (flagship specie) and this has dramatically reduced important tree species populations reducing community income sources. The forest is vulnerable to many threats such as encroachment, farmer-grazer conflict, deforestation and bushfires that endanger the ecological balance. The engagement of the community forest management institutions (FMIs) and population in biodiversity protection needs to be guaranteed through conservation actions and livelihood improvement opportunities. The development of beekeeping can reverse the trend by creating new sources of livelihoods for local communities. CAMGEW has been using apiculture as a tool to fight bushfire. She builds capacity building on beekeeping. When community members become bee farmers and own beehives in the forest they prevent bushfire and if bushfire occurs they directly put it off to protect their beehives.

CAMGEW supports the bee farmers to improve the quality of their products and organize them into cooperatives to ensure a better sale and thus increase their revenue. This is same for development of agroforestry system in farms around forest. The agroforestry systems green farms in forest peripheries and prevents slash-and-burn that course bushfire. This also conserves soils and increase food production, income and jobs. CAMGEW is also developing agroforestry crop value chain.CAMGEW also assists them look for a market in urban areas and internationally. There are 18 community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest with 44 villages. Community forests in Kilum Forest: Bihkov, Nchiiy, Mbai, Emfvemii, Kedjem mawes, Ijim and Upper shinga Community forests in Ijim Forest: Juambum, Laikom, Ajung, Yatimuvco, Mbesa, Muteff, Abuh, Mbi, Anyafoma 5, Akeh 1 and Afua/djicham

# TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON HONEY PRODUCTION



For 51 Persons(29 women/22 men) trained

Period of training: 28 and 29 January 2022 / 4 and 5 February 2022



306 cubs of savon distributed



102 Bee Hives donated



**Objective:** To engage many community members in apiculture as a means to fight bushfire around Kilum-Ijim forest and improve on their livelihoods.

### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED ON BEE SUIT PRODUCTION**

11 Dress Makers (9 women/2men) trained

Period: 25th to 30th January 2022 Place: Bamenda



# This is local Technology

11 sewing machines plus accessories donated





### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED ON BEE SUIT PRODUCTION**





Dress makers learned about bee suit colours, texture material



Bee suits are protective wear against bee sting



**Objective:** To promote the availability and affordability of bee suits locally for modern bee keeping and prevention of bee sting.

## **COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED ON BEE SMOKER PRODUCTION**





Bee smoker start-ups/tools donated

#### Period: 06 - 08July 2022 Place: Bamenda

Increase in honey quality



Promote local technology availability and affordability



**Objective:** To keep bees away from honey during harvesting, protect forest from bushfire, promote modern bee keeping and local technology

#### TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

75 persons trained ( 57 Women, 14 Men and 18 Youths) 75 cutlass, 75 hoes and 75 buckets donated

Dates of trainings: 10 and 11 May 2022/ 6 and 7 May 2022/4 and 5 May 2022 Place : Catholic Church Elak-Oku

In agroforestry farmers have enough to eat, Farmers sell and reserve grow Nitrogen fixing trees **Farmers grow** Farmers grow medicinal variety of food plants, fruits, cereals, crops fodder 15

### TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

Farms for fire wood to reduce forest dependency

Agroforestry prevent soil erosion



Variety of seed, seedlings and cuttings donated





Benardine our staff said she has never seen a day like this full of smiles in community members faces since crisis began



**Objetcive:** To make farms evergreen, provide farmers with food varieties and prevent slash-burn in farms that course bushfire

### TRAINING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS ON TRANSFORMATION OF BEES WAX TO SOAP AND LOTION

## Period: 10 June 2022 Place: Manchock Oku



# Approach learning-by doing

20 women trained





20kg of bees wax, 100 litres of kernel oil and 20 buckets donated

**Objective:** To provide detergent for local use and development of local industry with the use of local resources

# WOMEN AND YOUTHS TRAINED ON TRANSFORMATION OF HONEY TO HONEY DRINK



**Objective:** To promote solidarity and income generation through the use of locally available medicinal plants and honey to produce drinks for local consumption

# WOMEN AND YOUTHS TRAINED ON TRANSFORMATION OF HONEY TO HONEY DRINK

Impact felt locally in building income, jobs and community solidarity

We are learning to consume what we produce fromour natural resources



Ambassadors of CAMGEW in environmental and forest protection



Some of the women started producing honey juice the next day after receivingtraining and marketing it

# WOMEN AND YOUTHS TRAINED ON TRANSFORMATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

#### 23 persons (2 males / 21 woman) trained





Place: Bamenda Period : 7 and 8 October 2022 Learning to improvise: Using Bamboos to prepaire local dryers

20

# WOMEN AND YOUTHS TRAINED ON TRANSFORMATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

### Learning visit participants visited NOWEFAM and WECMA marketing sites



**Objective:** To learn how to dry,store, weigh,package, and market medicinal plants

#### **ACQUIRED EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS FOR TRAINING**





CAMGEW acquired training materials/equipment for the transformation of agroforestry products.





#### WHY OUR PROJECT IS DIFFERENT

Creating goods and services locally for use by everyone

Community engage in production and transformation of local natural resources Using locally available resources for good of community and environment

Building entrepreneurs who create green jobs and income

Promoting community solidarity Creating environmental ambassadors

Developing honey and agroforestry crop value chain

Building local technology for community Building entrepreneurs who are creative and innovative

# THE WAY FORWARD

Domestration of Pronus africana on farm boundary for conflict prevention Scale up this project to other parts of Kilum-Ijim forest

Developing value chains of honey and agroforestry Building green entrepreneurs in agroforestry and apiculture sector

Developing an agroforestry and apiculture learning centre

More capacity building on honey and agroforestry crop transformation

Coaching and mentoring services of green entrepreneurs

Planting more

bee loving trees





#### Women Ecovillage Change Makers (WECMA)

NW/GP/040/20/16586 Tel: 678 31 02 69, 674 73 26 60 Email: womenwecma@gmail.com Bamenda, North West, Cameroon



#### WECMA SOCIAL ENTERPRISES OR CLIMATE SMART BUSINESSES TO FIGHT BUSHFIRE

Women Ecovillage Change Makers (WECMA) - cooperative is a dream in this line. Farmers with farms around forest peripheries in Kilum-Ijim forest have been responsible for bushfire in the forest through their slash-and-burn activities over the years. CAMGEW has worked with them to promote and develop agroforestry systems in their farms. Bushfires have reduced drastically in the forest from farms as farmers engaged in agroforestry as environmental ambassadors and also as a source of livelihood. WECMA which is a CAMGEW upshot now helps to develop agroforestry crop value chain. WECMA buys various crops from farmers and sell directly or transform them before marketing. This is to convert farmers products to money for sustainability. WECMA has a shop in Bamenda that sells various teas from medicinal plants, transformed food like pepper and others.\





Lemon Grass {Fever grass tea}



cough andcold



Garlic Extra



Mint powder



Artemesia

Weight loss and general fitness tea





Mint



Ginger powder tea

Moringa tea







Artemisia Extract



Cavenne Pepper Oil



Tea for treatment of





Turmeric tea



Ginsen tea



Scent leaf



#### NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER NOWEFAM

Authorization No: 20/011/CMR/NW/38/204/CCA/002006/002006001 TEL: (237) 678 31 02 69, 674 73 26 60, EMAIL: Nowefam2015@gmail.com. BAMENDA North West Region, Cameroon



#### NOWFFAM SOCIAL ENTERPRISES OR CLIMATE SMART BUSINESSES TO FIGHT BUSHFIRE

NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER (NOWEFAM) is a cooperative and an upshot from CAMGEW. NOWEFAM buys honey from honey cooperatives and then market in urban areas like Bamenda as compensation for protecting the forest. Bushfire destroys both beehives and forest. NOWEFAM converts bee farmers honey to money and this secure forest jobs and income. Bushfire reduced from 7 in 2012 to zero in 2018 and 2019. In 2017 one bushfire occurred and more than 70 bee farmers went up to the forest to put it off and less than 5 hectares of the forest was burnt. In the past it used to occur and burn huge portions of the forest with less interest from the community. Some other bushfire occurs but the solidarity of bee farmers through cooperatives and the fact that their honey equals money and jobs makes them fight the bushfire. Bee farmers have become forest ambassadors. The honey cooperatives and NOWEFAM have become climate-Smart-Shops because they are opportunity cost for the bushfire forgone by bee farmers to save the forest and get honey. NOWEFAM then sell honey equipment and material to promote sustainable bee keeping. NOWEFAM also carries out education to save the bee as pollinator, source of honey and protect the forest while doing marketing. Promoting NOWEFAM is protecting forest as carbon sink and sustaining jobs and income. APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = MONEY = FOREST CONSERVATION. NOWEFAM becomes a CLIMATE SMARTSHOP because it is an opportunity cost to forgone bushfire that cause climate change. The market for honey must be available to engage communities to protect forest.



Bamboo beehives

Beehives transported to

colonisation sites to trap

bees



Bee smoker



Kenyan top bar hives



Bees wax hair oil





Bees wax soap-









Bees wax





Brown honev



Honey Products During the Agro-pastoral show in Bamenda









# **CAMGEW AWARDS**

2020 MIDORI PRIZE AWARD FOR BIODIVERSITY	National Energy Globe Awardfor 2018 AND 2019
2020 RECYCLING HEROS from Global Recycling Foundation	CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP or NOWEFAM Award by FOMBILLION August 2018
Gender Just Climate Solutions Award 2019 Spain COP25	.Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2012 AND 2013 by Teach A Man To Fish – UK
UNDP EQUATOR PRIZE AWARD 2019 NEW YORK-USA	Cameroon National Award for Kilum-Ijim Forest Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Development in Oku, 20 MAY 2014.
UNIDO Prize Award May 2019 Rome-Italy on Agrofood and Biodiversity	World Bank Recognition 2012 for Work done on Kilum-Ijim Forest Governance
Guardian Post National Award 2019 Ebolowa-Cameroon	