

Cameroon Gender and EnvironmentWatch (CAMGEW)



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FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



PPI



Cameroon Gender and
Environment Watch

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

THE KILUM-IJIM FOREST CHANGE MAKER

In Conservation, Child Education, Women and Youth Empowerment



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT



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CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

CAMGEW is a not-for-profit organization created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for solutions to environmental and women's issues in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon.

CAMGEW from 2012 to 2019 planted 80.000 bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest and trained 1.018 bee farmers in honey production, honey and its products, quality control and bees wax extraction. She has also distributed above 895 beehives to trained bee farmers and organized above 1000 bee farmers into 5 Oku White Honey cooperatives located around this forest. She created a CAMGEW HONEYSHOP also called North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM) in Bamenda to convert bee farmers honey to money. 18 youths were trained in 2018 on entrepreneurship in honey value chain development for 3 weeks and are now active in the honey value chain. CAMGEW has succeeded to create 2 Forest multi-stakeholder platform to exchange ideas on forest issues and assist in decision making to conserve the forest. 7 Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) in Kilum forest that manages community forest have been reorganized by CAMGEW with local authorities after more than 10 years that their terms of offices ended. 772 farmers have also been trained on agroforestry techniques. As of December 2018 about 1.580 women had been trained on business skills and 1.325 women received financial assistance in form of loans about 3 000 000FCFA (US\$ 5500) monthly as alternative sources of livelihood to the forest. 24 teenage

boys and girls had been trained on dress making, shoe making and hair dressing. She has also developed 3 tree nurseries with 100.000 trees. She is working hard now to develop the honey value chain in and around Kilum-Ijim forest area.

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.

CAMGEW seeks to achieve its objectives based on its credo of Think Globally and Act Locally by liaising with other like-minded organizations worldwide. CAMGEW's Vision: A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices. CAMGEW's Mission Statement: 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 Kilum-Ijim forest area. CAMGEW's Global OBJECTIVE: An inclusive and sustainably managed Kilum-Ijim forest through forest regeneration and agroforestry for eco-business.

CAMGEW'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Local government actors supported and citizens' engagement promoted to ensure effective management of the Kilum-Ijim Forest.
- Eco-business operators in Kilum-Ijim Forest area master the techniques of production to produce good quality and sufficient quantity for the market.
- Eco-business operators have adequate capacity and have increased revenue through the commercialisation of their products.
- Women in Kilum-Ijim are empowered to participate in forest management and community development.

- CAMGEW will have developed projects and seek funds to handle challenges in the Kilum-Ijim area and develop a good system to manage funds.
- CAMGEW will work with like-minded organizations and people to share knowledge, experiences on forest local governance issues and learn from them.

Area of Action: Kilum-Ijim Forest and environs.

Opportunities: Consultancy on Bee farming trainings, Agroforestry and Forest regeneration. Using of honey bi-products for the production of other products like wax, candles, and soaps. Use of honey to produce honey juice and honey wine.

Target Groups: Forest users, less privileged children and Peasant women.

What we offer: Agroforestry training, Bee farming training, Nursery development, Child development, Forest regeneration, Micro-credit schemes for women and Environmental education.

EARLIER WORKS OF CAMGEW

CAMGEW was created in October 2007. From 2008 to 2010, CAMGEW did environmental education in primary schools of Limbe, South west Region of Cameroon on the various ecosystems through field lectures in Atlantic Ocean beach, rivers, Botanic garden, wildlife Centre, plantation agriculture, sustainable agriculture and waste production and management. This was supported by USA based - New England Biolabs Foundation. In 2008 and 2009, CAMGEW developed a tree nursery of *Prunus africana* in Kumbo and the trees were later planted in Kilum-Ijim forest. From 2009 to 2012 CAMGEW received training in SHUMAS BIOFAM -Kumbo on biogas technology and the use of biogas slurry as organic manure for vegetable gardening. From 2007 to 2011, CAMGEW did humanitarian work in orphanages, schools, rehabilitation centres and hospitals of West and Centre Regions of Cameroon. From 2010, CAMGEW became focus on works around Kilum-Ijim forest area.

PRESENTATION OF KILUM-IJIM FOREST

The Kilum Mountain Range and the Ijim Ridge are covered with a montane forest called Kilum-Ijim forest that is peculiar in producing Oku White Honey. The Kilum-Ijim forest is part of the Western Highlands of Cameroon commonly referred to as the Bamenda Highlands. The Kilum forest is found in two tribes- Nso and Oku which are in Bui Division in the North West Region of Cameroon. The Ijim Ridge is found in the Kom tribe in Boyo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon.



Position of Kilum-Ijim Forest in Cameroon

The Kilum-Ijim Community forest covers an area of 20,000 hectares and is located Mount Kilum with its peak at 3,011m and the adjoining Ijim Ridge (2,000-2,500m). BirdLife International created the community forests and divided the Kilum-Ijim forest into 18 community forest. About 44 communities live around the Kilum-Ijim Forest area. The contiguous Kilum and Ijim Mountain Forests are located between latitude 6°0'N and 6°1'N and Longitude 10°20'E and 10°35'E. The highest altitude of this mountain forest is at 3,011m with a large crater lake of diameter 100 Km² called Lake Oku at 2,500m altitude found along the Cameroon Volcanic line. The Kilum-Ijim forest has a natural setting with about 80% of the population based there made up of natives of Nso, Oku and Kom tribes, some of whom come in from close towns in these tribes to farm. The Kilum-Ijim region is known nationally for its traditional healers due to the many

medicinal plants in the bio-diverse Kilum-Ijim forest.

The area around the Kilum-Ijim Forest is one of the most densely populated parts of Cameroon. It is estimated that close to 300,000 people live within a day's walk to the forest. This population is attracted by rich volcanic soils and the near temperate climate that favours the cultivation of crops such as coffee, beans, maize, Irish potatoes and a wide variety of vegetables (onions, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots etc.). Potatoes and beans are exported to other parts of the country as well as to neighbouring countries like Central African Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, etc. These crops are gradually replacing coffee as the main cash crop of the area because of the dramatic decline in coffee prices in the mid-1980s. Infrastructure in the area is generally poor. Farm-to-market roads are poor and make evacuation of farm produce very difficult. Bee farming is practiced in the forest and demand for Oku White Honey has increased after it was certified as a Geographical Indication Product. This certification was done in 2013 by African Intellectual Property Right Organisation with funding from French Development Agency. Other honeys are produced in and around the forest too apart from Oku White Honey like stingless bee honey and brown honey. Kilum-Ijim forest has a rich ecosystem with non timber forest products like honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants (like *Prunus africana*, *Pittosporum veridiflorum*, *Agauria salicifolia*), alpine bamboos, wood for firewood and carving, spices, additives (colourings, preservatives and flavourings), etc but suffers from forest degradation due to animal encroachment, farming, poaching and unsustainable forest exploitation. Some trees in this forest that produces flowers collected by bees to produce Oku White Honey are *Nuxia congesta*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Schefflera manii*, etc This forest is predominantly montane, in which trees are too small and inaccessible to be of interest to commercial loggers. These non-timber products like honey and medicine could better serve the community and fight poverty if forest income generation activities are promoted and a workable benefit sharing mechanism put in place. The forest has a high potential to improve the living standards of local people but this potential is under exploited or unblocked. Many forest people depend on these products for their livelihoods. These services and products cannot be available if the forest is destroyed. With a good forest ecosystem benefit-sharing mechanism put in place the living standards of the local people will improve and they will see the need to engage in forest ecosystem management. Environmental education is important to tackle forest degradation through behavioural change and to instil in young people the spirit to grow and participate in forest management. Protecting the forest will enable it to generate water, fresh air, serve as carbon sink, source of beneficial insects and protect endangered species like Bannerman's turaco

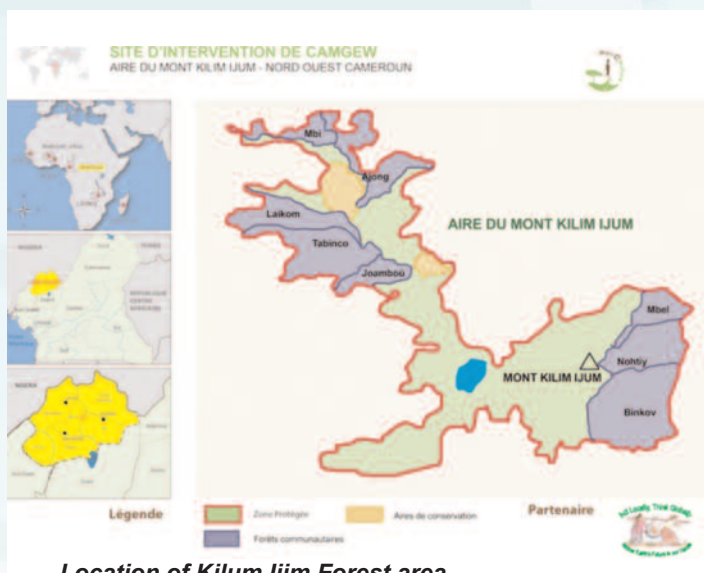
(an endemic and endangered bird only found in the Bamenda Highland Forest region with Kilum-Ijim having its largest remaining habitat), etc all of which are indirect benefits to village dwellers.

The Kilum-Ijim Forest has had a long history of indigenous and traditional management. The population uses the forest heavily to get a wide variety of products and services. Most water courses in the area originate from the forest. In addition, the forest has significant cultural and spiritual values to the local population. Community forest management in the Kilum-Ijim area has been enabled through the support of an institutional three-way partnership among the traditional authorities (represented by the Fon, Kwifon and village heads), the local communities (represented by user groups) and government. Traditional authorities would have the role of coordinating the activities of the user groups and of resolving conflicts between user groups or members of the same user group. The government also plays this role of coordination and conflict resolution role as well as the other key role of creating the enabling policy environment for community forestry through legislation and technical assistance. The government manages the Plantlife Sanctuary around lake Oku.

There are 18 community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest with 44 villages.

Community forests in Kilum Forest: Bihkov, Nchiyy, Mbai, Emfvemii, Kedjem mawes, Ijim and Uppur shinga

Community forests in Ijim Forest: Juambum, Laikom, Ajung, Yatimuvco, Mbesa, Muteff, Abuh, Mbi, Anyafoma 5, Akeh 1 and Afua/Djichami



Location of Kilum Ijim Forest area

A. FOREST CONSERVATION

1. KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION

CAMGEW has

- 3 tree nurseries with about 100.000 native forest trees of 12 different types. *Prunus africana*, *Carapas grandifolia*, *Pittosporium veridiflorum*, *Syzygium staundtii*, *Solanecio manii*, *Croton macrotachyst*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Newtonia Camerunensis*, *Psydrax dunlapii*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Psychotria penducularis*, *Bersama abyssinica*,
- Planted 80.000 native forest trees of 14 different types which are bee loving, medicinal, economic, watershed friendly in Kilum-Ijim forest
- Planted above 4.000 native forest trees(fig tree, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Solanecio manni*) through vegetative propagation
- Planted 3.300 *Newtonia camerunensis*-a native tree that is Critically Endangered (IUCN Redlist) in Kilum-Ijim forest
- Above 10.000 young and old people have learned about forest regeneration in the tree nurseries and forest
- Carried out exchange visits on forest regeneration to share experience like with ACREST working in Mount Bamboutos
- Bee farmers trained by CAMGEW have also planted above 20.000 trees in their apiary in the forest to get more flowers.



Exchange visit on forest regeneration with ACREST



Community tree planting in Ijim community forest



Oku Community leaders launching forest tree planting



Forest regeneration for watershed protection



Women carrying trees for planting



Tree nursery development



Community members engaged in tree planting



Children help in seed collection for the nursery



I can plant then you can also plant



Transporting trees for planting in the forest



Tree nursery with trees ready for planting



Children learning-by-doing in tree planting

2. FOREST MONITORING AND FOREST THREAT PREVENTION IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

CAMGEW carries out;

- Forest patrols
- Fire tracing around the forest with communities
- Identification of forest defaulters for sanction
- Sensitisation to prevent and manage forest threats (through radio, posters, signpost, booklets, trainings, schools, etc)

CAMGEW works with;

- Forest Management Institutions (FMI)s of various community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest
- Forest user groups like bee farmers, firewood fetchers, rat trappers and herbalists to know the daily state of the forest
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)
- Traditional authorities
- Grazers' Union

Bushfires reduced from above 7 in 2012 to zero in 2018 and 2019. . In 2015, one bushfire alone destroyed more than 1000 hectares of the forest in Bikov community forest. In 2017, one bushfire incident occurred and more than 70 community members in Nchiiy community forest mainly bee farmers went to forest to manage the fire and less than 5 hectare of forest was destroyed. 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 get involve in bushfire prevention and this helps in forest protection because

APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = MONEY = FOREST CONSERVATION.



CAMGEW team following up planted trees in the forest



Community members from Bikov with CAMGEW team on forest monitoring



Bee farmer helps in forest monitoring



Community elders who believe in forest regeneration



Oku community leaders strongly engage in forest monitoring



Forest regeneration through vegetative propagation



Oku community leaders strongly engage in forest monitoring



Mbororo community in Ijim participate in forest regeneration and monitoring

3. ORGANISATION OF FMIs AND CREATION OF FOREST STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS

- CAMGEW in partnership with local authorities and forest stakeholders re-organized 7 Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) through facilitation of elections for new executives
- CAMGEW created Forest Stakeholder Platforms in Kilum forest in Oku and Bikov (Nso). Platforms meet monthly (Oku = last traditional Sunday of the Month and Bikov = 17th of Every month) to discuss forest issues
- Organisation of exchange visits between FMIs and also between forest communities in Kilum-Ijim forest
- Build capacities of FMIs to function better
- Citizen engagement through radio programmes, posters, suggestion boxes, notice boards, newspapers, interviews, facebook page, whatsapp



Bikov forest stakeholder platform



Oku forest stakeholder platform in a learning process



Oku forest stakeholder platform on a monthly come together



FMI members share ideas to improve on forest management



FMI members after learning session on leadership and management of the forest



Bikov forest community leaders



Bikov FMI elected members

4. AGROFORESTRY FOR SOIL CONSERVATION AND FOOD PRODUCTION AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST

- 821 farmers trained on agroforestry techniques for soil conservation, crop production and animal rearing (491 men and 330 women trained). These farmers have planted various trees to meet their various needs
 - Provision of agroforestry seeds and seedlings to increase food production, build contours, wind breaks, alley cropping, shade and promote forest gardens
- Seeds like Bracharia, Accacia, Leuceana,
Seedlings like Maesopsis, Prunus, medicinal plants, vegetables, tubers, etc
- Agroforestry system training is done separately for coffee farms, food crop farms and animal farms
 - In agroforestry systems CAMGEW prioritise local and indigenous crops



Women in agroforestry session



Civil society organisation sharing knowledge on agroforestry



Women receive agroforestry seedlings for soil improvement



Akeh Mbororo women trained on agroforestry systems in farms



Mbororo women trained on medicinal, tuber and vegetable crop cultivation



Training on A-frame for farm contouring



Exchange visit with ERUDEF and Virginia Tech University



Training on Nitrogen fixing plants for soil fertility



School children harvesting vegetable from school farm



Mbororo women trained on how to use animal dung in farms



Mbororo men trained on how to cultivate indigenous crops for cattle pasture improvement

5. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

Environmental education is done to build future nature lovers especially in children and youths and change negative behaviours towards the forest especially in older generation.

CAMGEW has reached out to more than 100.000 persons around Kilum-Ijim forest. This has been done as follows;

- Field-based environmental education in the tree nursery and forest
- Environmental education using the media like facebook, newspapers, CAMGEW website, other websites, various blogs, televisions and radios.
- Environmental education in gatherings like schools, njangi groups (social group), manjong houses (traditional men's clubs), women groups, various organized trainings, youth groups etc
- Environmental education using other methods like posters, booklets, signposts, notice boards, arts and crafts, sketches, sports, etc



Children learn the importance of forest animals



Children learn the importance of trees in the nursery



Children ready for tree planting



Youths learning about nursery development



Children in a story telling session about the forest



Community members learn how to plant trees



Children learn about honey and bees wax as forest products



PSS Nkwen students on exchange visit to learn forest regeneration



Children going to the forest for forest education



Community children on forest education in Mbo (Fundong)



Community children on forest education in Oku



Community children on forest education through ICT

B. APICULTURE FOR CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD

CAMGEW uses bee farming to create jobs and increase community income. When bee farmers are trained and own beehives in the forest, they will fight the major forest threat which is bushfire. They will prevent and manage bushfires while being ambassadors. This is because burning the forest burn their beehives. They then protect the forest since **APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = MONEY = FOREST PROTECTION**.

1. HONEY PRODUCTION AND BEE WAX EXTRACTION

- 991 Bee farmers have been trained on honey production (816 men and 175 women trained)
- 244 community members trained on bees wax extraction (210 men and 34 women trained)
- 930 local beehives donated to some trained bee farmers (women received 2 beehives and men 1 beehive) NB. Not all projects donate beehives and some projects handed beehives to groups.



Learning-by-doing on bee hive construction in Afua



Mutteffe



Learning-by-doing on bee hive construction in Din



Learning-by-doing on bee hive construction in Tumuku



Beehive lid construction



Bee farming training in Ajung



Bee farming training in Oku



Engaging women in bee farming



Bee farming training on honey harvesting



Bee farming is our way of life



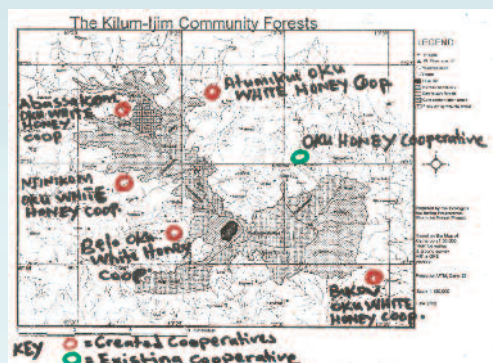
Bee farming training on bees wax extraction



Bee farming training on honey production

2. ORGANIZATION OF BEE FARMERS AND DONATION OF MATERIALS

- Bee farmers have been organized at village level around Kilum-Ijim forest
- Bee farmers from village levels now form 6 legalised cooperatives (5 newly created and 1 existing).
- 4 training workshops have been organized for 93 bee farmers on quality control for honey and bees wax
- Honey cooperative leaders have been trained on cooperative leadership and management
- Created cooperatives received 10 honey drainers (2 each), 140 beesuits, 79 bee smokers, 5 calculators, 5 weighing scales and 290 buckets for honey harvesting and storage



Location of Honey Cooperative around Kilum Ijim forest



Abassakom Honey Cooperative leaders



Atumukui Honey Cooperative leaders



Bikov Honey Cooperative leaders



Njinikom Honey Cooperative leaders



Donation of materials to Honey Cooperatives



Donation of materials to Abasakom Honey Cooperatives



10 Honey drainers for created Cooperatives



Donation of materials to Atumukui Honey Cooperatives



Laikom bee farmers group



Donation of materials to Njinikom Honey Cooperatives



Donation of materials to Belo Honey Cooperatives

3. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE SHARING ON CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION ON HONEY VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW has done the following;

- Promote exchange visits between bee farmers groups and also between honey cooperatives
- Promote exchange visits between cooperatives with North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM) and North West Bee Farmers House
- 18 young people trained to engage in entrepreneurial activities in honey value chain development
- Experience sharing in APIMONDIA (World Honey Congress) in South Korea, 2015
- Experience Sharing with Ghanian Civil Society organisations on Apiculture and Conservation in Accra-Ghana, 2016 in partnership with Man and Nature - France
- Apiculture training for 25 fishermen in Dizangue to do bee farming as additional income source since fish is becoming rare and much pressure is on threatened marine mammals. This was thanks to partnership with AMMCO in 2016
- One year training with SOS GROUP with funds from AIMF of CAMGEW on Honey Marketing Strategies 2017
- Experience and knowledge sharing with communities surrounding Campo-Man National Park to use bee farming to fight human-elephant conflict to improve livelihood. 25 community members were trained.
- Experience sharing with Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS) to introduce apiculture in Korup National Park



Sharing skills during Kilum forest day in Bamenda



Learning about bee farming equipment in APIMONDIA -South Korea



Presenting various honey during PPI 10th anniversary in Limbe



PSS Nkwen exchange visit to learn about bee farming in Oku



CAMGEW Sharing knowledge with students of Dschang University



Exchange visit at CAMGEW honeyshop with Korup Rainforest Conservation Society



CAMGEW participate in the National Apiculture Platform in Bafoussam



CAMGEW participate in APIMONDIA (World Honey Congress) in South Korea 2015



CAMGEW shares experience on apiculture with Ghanaian Civil Society Organisations



4. NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER – NOWEFAM CAMGEW-NOWEFAM OR CAMGEW HONEYSHOP

- HONEYSHOP converts bee farmers honey and honey products to money
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM buy honey and honey products from honey cooperatives
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM sales Oku White Honey, brown honey, bees wax and stingless bee honey
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM makes available to interested bee farmer bee suits, bee smokers, beehives, crafts, and information on apiculture.
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM also has soap and detergents produced from bees wax,
- You could place a command for honey juice, honey wine and other honey related products
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM serves as a resource centre for demonstration, learning and practice on apiculture. There are learning materials.

CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP is a **CLIMATE SMART SHOP** and is a social enterprise. Bushfire has reduced around Kilum-Ijim forest thanks to engagement of community members in bee farming. They have placed beehives in the forest that produces honey and now engage in forest protection because honey equals money and jobs. Failure to buy honey leads to more bushfires. The honeyshop is an opportunity cost to forgone bushfires by communities



Presentation of honey products in the honeyshop

**Honeyshop
LOCATION**

**Foncha Junction in
the Coffee Cooperative
building opposite
the NFC Bank**



Local beehives



Local bee smoker



Promoting safety and hygiene through apiculture



CAMGEW honeyshop



Bee suits



CAMGEW honeyshop products



Bees wax

C. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1. CAMGEW AND PEASANT WOMEN MICRO-FINANCE

This project is being carried out in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri Sub Division for peasant or rural women farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest. Some of them engage in slash-and-burn that sometimes lead to bushfires. Developing agroforestry systems in farms prevents this. Micro-finance help give women alternative livelihood and reduce forest encroachment. It helps develop the value chain of agroforestry products.

- 1580 peasant women trained on business skills and organized into groups
- 69 trainings organized for peasant women from April 2015 to July 2018
- 1325 peasant women received micro-loans ranging from 30.000 to 120.000 FCFA (for 28 – 35 women) totally 3.000.000 FCFA or US\$5500 monthly. This create jobs and income for women/communities
- Organised women in groups receive coaching while doing their business from CAMGEW technical team.
- Groups hold regular meetings to share experiences from their various businesses. The groups promote solidarity as a community insurance (being each others keeper). This is developing women entrepreneurs and models in the food value chain at community levels.



Women in group learning on developing a microbusiness



Beneficiary receiving coaching from CAMGEW



Participant in microfinance training presenting her business plan



CAMGEW visits beneficiary at her business site



Participant sharing experience in microbusiness



Women in group learning on developing a microbusiness



Melim

Women receiving training in microfinance



Kai



CAMGEW partner SwissHand Foundation field visit



Women in group learning on developing a microbusiness



Women receiving lessons on the importance of being organised in groups



Beneficiary from CAMGEW microfinance beside her business

2. CAMGEW GENDER, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Above 500 women counseled on domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and importance of building strong families
- 66 women trained on the importance of legalisation of marriages (30 Mbororo women/teenagers and 36 other women)
- 78 teenage mothers trained on importance of improved nutrition for mother and child (36 mbororo women/teenagers and 42 other teenagers)
- 104 teenage mothers trained on personal hygiene and mother and child-care.
- 72 women and teenage girls trained on goodness of healthy living and balance diet



Women and teenagers being trained on the use of locally available food stuff in preparing a balance meal in Akeh and Oku



Women in group learning on developing a microbusiness



Health expert presenting on teenage girls personal hygiene and mother and child care



Women's right lessons on the importance of legalisation of marriage with Mbororo women



Women and teenagers learning-by-doing on the use of locally available food stuff in preparing a balance meal in Akeh and Oku



Women and teenagers learning-by-doing on the use of locally available food stuff in preparing a balance meal in Akeh and Oku



Women and teenagers learning-by-doing on the use of locally available food stuff in preparing a balance meal in Akeh and Oku

D. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

1. CAMGEW AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Vocational Training Centre was created in 2013 by CAMGEW to build skills in youths so as to change their lives and make them useful to the community.

- 24 teenagers trained on dress making and decoration (13), shoe making and mending (4) and Hair Dressing (7). 20 women and 4 men trained.
- 10 community members (volunteers) were recruited and trained to serve as trainers and support staff. They trained trainers-of-trainers in the centre.
- Open-door-day events organized yearly from 2013 to 2016
- 2 Graduation ceremonies were organized to hand end of training attestations and prizes to graduating youths to promote excellence.
- More than 40 youths enrolled in the VTC.
- The train teachers and graduates have continued with the training in the community in the various domains.



Youths learning-by-doing in shoe making



CAMGEW VTC participating in Youth Day Celebration



Youths learning dress making and decoration



Youths in CAMGEW-VTC presents their work to the public during Youth Day Celebration



CAMGEW-VTC youths and their teachers participating in Youth Day Celebration



Shoes produced by CAMGEW-VTC



Shoes produced by CAMGEW-VTC



Community members participating in Youths graduation from CAMGEW-VTC



CAMGEW team leader with some youths after Youth Day Celebration



CAMGEW-VTC youths and their teachers participating in Youth Day Celebration



CAMGEW team leader with some staff after Youth Day Celebration

E. CHILD DEVELOPEMENT

1. CAMGEW AND PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOLS OF OKU SUB-DIVISION

- 346 Children received prizes of excellence in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 academic years

11 Schools that received prizes to promote excellence; Government School Keyon, Government School Oku Palace, Government School Simonkoh, Government School Nguvinkei II, Catholic School Kesotin, Catholic School Elak, Catholic School Simonkoh, Catholic School Mbkenkwi, Cameroon Baptist Convention School Elak, Cameroon Baptist Convention School Kesotin, Presbyterian School Ngashie

- 290 children received scholarships (books, fees and/or uniforms). Many received either 2 or 3 of these items. Children from 8 schools received scholarships

G.S Keyon, CS Mbokenkwi, PS Ngashie, G.S Oku Palace, G.S Nguvinkei II, G.S Fekeng, CS Elak, G.S Manchok,

- CAMGEW donated didactic materials to schools
- Prizes of excellence were given to the best 3 children and the most improved child in each class. This was done for 8 schools.

G.S Keyon, CS Mbokenkwi, PS Ngashie, G.S Oku Palace, G.S Nguvinkei II, G.S Fekeng, CS Elak, G.S Manchok,



Schools receive handiwork materials



CBC school Elak pupil receive price of excellence



Oku schools receive materials from CAMGEW to promote excellence



CAMGEW donates handiwork and agricultural materials to schools in Oku to promote excellence



Children in GS Keyon receives prizes of excellence



Pupil in PS Ngashie Oku receives prize of excellence



Catholic school Kesotin receive agricultural tools



CBC school Kesotin receive agricultural tools



Catholic school Simonkoh receive agricultural tools



Children in CS Elak children receives prizes of excellence



Head teachers from 12 schools in Oku collect prizes for children



PS Ngashie school receive agricultural tools

2. CAMGEW AND CHILDREN LEARNING-BY-DOING IN OKU SUBDIVISION

- 8 schools benefited from watering cans, wheel barrows, cutlasses, spades, hoes, buckets, weighing scales, dig axe, measuring tapes, etc

G.S Simonkoh, CS Mbokenkwi, PS Ngashie, G.S Oku Palace, G.S Nguinkei II, CBC Kesotin, CS Kesotin, CS Simonkoh

- 21 schools benefited from knitting and marking materials especially for girls.
- Children learn-by-doing in agriculture, arts and crafts, local furniture from bamboos
- Above 1500 children benefitted from skill share in a learning-by- doing project
- 40 children got drinking bottles to promote hygiene and sanitation in schools



Children learning-by-doing in mat production from rafia bamboo



Children learning-by-doing in mat production from rafia bamboo



Children produce various items from rafia bamboo



Children learning how to produce chairs from rafia bamboo



Children produce chairs from rafia bamboo



Children learning how to do gardening



Children learning how to till the soil



GS Oku Palace Children learning needle work



CBC Elak Children learning needle work



CS Elak Children learning needle work

G. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

CAMGEW has improved on the following but still needs more skills

- Building capacities of forest institutions like FMIs, Cooperatives and others
- Promoting CAMGEW staff development
- Improving on CAMGEW infrastructural/material development
- Promoting project fund raising
- Improving CAMGEW communication strategy
- Improving on Project development
- Improving on the facilitation of forest stakeholder platforms
- Improve on CAMGEW financial management.
- Development of a complete strategic plan.



Institutional capacity building training by WellGrounded



Training on creative environmental leadership, collaboration and system management by Creative Action Institute-USA

TRANSFERING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS



AMMCO from Dizangue receive beehive from CAMGEW in Oku



Transferring Agroforestry skills to young generation



Transferring of forest regeneration skills



Learning from CAMGEW experience



Youths learning-by-doing in honey marketing techniques



Learning on forest stratification



Transferring tree planting skills to children



organisation learning to work as a team in project development with support from PPI-FFEM staff

F. KILUM-IJIM FOREST AREA CHALLENGES

- Poverty still hit hard and there is need for more income generation and livelihood opportunities
- Unemployment is high and we need to develop sustainable jobs for communities through developing natural and agricultural activities
- Soil erosion is high because of hilly topography and there is need for soil conservation to secure food production and adapt to climate change. Landslides can be possible if there is no proper land use.
- Preventing bushfires considering that it results from poor honey harvesting methods, Slash-and-burn in forest surrounding farms, burning of grazing land and smoking in and around the forest.
- Lack of enough skills in agriculture and also in adding of value to produced crops to increase income
- Gender disparity is still high in socio-economic, environmental and cultural activities
- The honey value chain is not yet developed. The Oku White Honey, brown honey and stingless bee honey are some honeys produced in and around forest area. Their strong potential in job creation and income generation needs to be unblocked
- Many domestic animals are still found in the forest instead of grazing land and they prevent forest regeneration.
- Farmer-grazer conflict is still common and this create social conflicts and reduce food production
- Climate change hit hard. Due to the irregular arrival of annual rainfall around Kilum-Ijim forest bees are confused and it is affecting honey and food production. In 2018, rains came early and trees developed

vegetation instead of flowers as expected. Honey production reduced by about 40%. The period of honey harvesting was unclear because as bee farmers waited for flowers to be produced more vegetation developed under heavy rainfall instead of flowers. Continuous rainfall washed nectar from flowers and prevented movement of bees. Contrary bee farmers who harvested earlier at early April were better off though in tears than those who harvested at the end of April and in May which is the usual right time. This has been occurring over the years too. Bee farmers need alternative actions to adapt and/or mitigate climate change like engaging in agroforestry, organic coffee and *Prunus africana* (economic) trees cultivation.

- It is becoming a worry as prices of Oku White Honey continue to rise. Oku White Honey prices have been increasing after certification as Geographical Indication Product in 2013 for the good of forest people. In 2012 the price per Kilogram was 2500FCFA, 2013 - 3500FCFA, 2014 to 2016 - 4000FCFA, 2017 to 2018 4500FCFA and from 2019 the price is 5000FCFA. This is local prices, prices are higher in different towns and countries. The price of other types of honey produced like brown honey and stingless bee honey do not follow the same trend. Many local people can no more consume the product because of cost. Will this push many to get into bee farming as CAMGEW expects? Is this a good market trend? Will this make many people value the forest locally or will it push local people to say production is not for local consumption despite its health benefits? Will it push consumers to look for alternatives? These are questions to be answered.

CAMGEW VIDEOS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

AWARDS

- National Energy Globe Award 2019: •
- UNIDO Prize Award 2019: On biodiversity and Agribusiness in Rome-Italy
- Equator Prize Award 2019: New York-USA
- Guardian Post News Paper: National Award 2019: Cameroon
- National Energy Globe Award 2018:
- Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2012 by Teach A Man To Fish - UK
- Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2013 by Teach A Man To Fish – UK
- Cameroon National Award for Kilum-Ijim Forest Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Development in Oku, 20 MAY 2014.
- World Bank Recognition 2012 for Work done on Kilum-Ijim Forest Governance
- CAMGEW-NOWEFAM or CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP award from UPKONTRI FORUM ON NATURAL HEALTHCARE August 2018.

VIDEOS

- Kilum-Ijim forest apiculture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg>
- Organic coffee farming in Oku:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHKY15LEuos>
- Short video <http://www.dw.com/en/money-for-forest-honey/a-37473719>
- CAMGEW in other documentaries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCVVzGDXQmw&t=129s>
- CAMGEW FOREST VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TwdiXGj3zk>
- CAMGEW GENERAL ACTIVITIES VIDEO
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>



CAMGEW Staff receive award of excellence for their contribution in CAMGEW Vocational Training project



World Bank certificate of recognition on forest governance.2012



UNIDO prize award for biodiversity and agribusiness (Rome 2019)



National award on Kilum Ijem forest conservation and livelihood improvement 2014



Guardian Post National Awards on Eco-community and Biodiversity Awards 2018



Community recognition of work done to promote school excellence41

