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Resilient Nations

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

ECO-FRIENDLY BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST



Produced October 2022

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)



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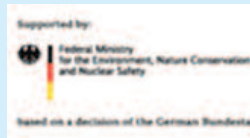
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Ministry of Forestry
and Wildlife (MINFOF)



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 Transforma- tion of Bees products (7 years experience)	GCE Advance Level +1 [Trained Medical Nursed]
Kongla Nadasge	Honeyshop Keeper (2 years experience)	
Akua Emmanella	Honey Stock Managemen	GCE Advance Level

This documents is produced by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki for CAMGEW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAMGEW acknowledges receiving support from GEF Small Grant Program under a project titled “Eco-friendly Bushfire Prevention and Management in Kilum-Ijim forest” to build Kilum-Ijim forest community capacity on bushfire prevention and management. This involved trainings, donation of basic bushfire prevention and management tools, developing of a bushfire prevention and management guide and sensitization materials.

CAMGEW acknowledges gathering some information on bushfire prevention and management from Kilum-Ijim forest community leaders and stakeholders through organized experience sharing sessions. CAMGEW recognizes that she received financial, technical and other support from her partners to maintain the forest biodiversity. This special thanks go to French IUCN (PPI-FFEM), Future in Our Hands-UK, Swissland 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, Green Livelihoods Alliance New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Global Green Grants, The Pollination Grant, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – CEPF of Birdlife International, MIVA Switzerland, Well Grounded, Creative Action Institute – USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife(MIN-FOF), BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, SOPISDEW, ANCO, AMMCO, CERAF – Nord, ABOYERD, WECMA, 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. 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).

BUSHFIRE RATIONALE

Bushfire around Kilum-Ijim forest area and Bamenda Highland Forest area in general destroy forest biodiversity, water catchments, affect bee farmers by burning their beehives, harm or kill people, prevent research and burn farms. It also destroys the source of livelihoods of forest users like herbalists and water management committees. Bushfire is caused by hunters, grazers, farmers around the forest in slash-and-burn, mentally challenged persons and cigarette smokers. Bushfires need to be prevented or managed when they occur. Human life and biodiversity matter. Our farms are a source of livelihood. Considering that poverty and unemployment are still with us and considering that we donot want the situation to get worse, we need solidarity which is our own insurance to tackle bushfires. When we build community solidarity to fight bushfire,we will also be promoting socio-cultural, economic and ecological stability. Bushfires occur from the month of December-March and some times to April (when rains delay) in the dry season. This document should be a source of inspiration to any community leader or member ready to fight bushfire and build stronger community. CAMGEW through executing of this project achieved this results and is readily sharing with you to help in the fight against bushfire. With this same spirit CAMGEW expects you to add your own knowledge, skills and experience to her own and make your community stronger. We are stronger together especially when we are each other's keeper. This can be demonstrated if we end bushfire. CAMGEW will keep on working with you to build stronger communities and support them put food on the table.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title: Eco-friendly Bushfire Prevention and Management in Kilum-Ijim forest

Project number: CMR/SGP/OP7/Y1/ICCA-GSI-COVID/2021/01

Budget for activities: 32 672\$US

Project leader: Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

This project titled “Eco-friendly Bushfire Prevention and Management in Kilum-Ijim forest” is under Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA-GSI) launched in October 2020. ICCA-GSI is a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP- implemented Small Grants Programme (SGP) and funded by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The ICCA-GSI response to COVID-19 support IPLCs to strengthen their short-term coping mechanisms as well as their long-term socio-ecological resilience. Grassroots actions and initiatives are built on indigenous self-determination principles, including indigenous food sovereignty, to nurture healthy, reciprocal relationships with the land, plants and animals. CAMGEW’s project in this line was approved on 23 April 2021 to start in 1 May 2021 and end in 31 October 2022. CAMGEW applied under the thematic category of “Deployment of traditional knowledge of fire management” which look at elevated threats to ICCAs from wildfires linked to climate change and illegal activities left uncontrolled on account of the COVID-19 crisis. This project is developed to control bushfires (i.e. digging firebreaks, employing traditional knowledge of “early burn” techniques) adapted to different savannah and forest ecosystems as well as creating short term green recovery employment.

CAMGEW had to carry out the following activities under this project:

Activity 1.1: 10 Sensitisation campaigns in social groups and gatherings on importance of the forest, bushfire prevention and management

Activity 1.2: Use of creative arts to prevent and manage bushfire [8 radio programs in community radios, 10 education sessions by town cryers, 25 forest signpost, 500 posters produced for bushfire prevention and management measures

Activity 2.1: Trainings for Kilum-Ijim forest multistakeholder platforms on bushfire prevention and management

Activity 2.2: Working session to prepare a bushfire prevention and management calendar with forest multi-stakeholder platforms in each community

Activity 2.3: Production of guides on bushfire prevention and management using traditional ways of fighting bushfire

Activity 2.4: Supporting of forest communities with tools [50 cutlasses, 50 spades, 50 hoes, 50 rakes, 100 buckets, 100 hand gloves] to better prevent and manage bushfire

Activity 3.1: Carrying out fire lining or tracing of 4m path around the forest by community members with different forest interest. This will be a practical way of learning through learning-by-doing with communities. This will be done in community forest with high risk of bushfire

Activity 3.2: Carrying out back burning after fire lining

Activity 3.3: 2 Training on agroforestry techniques for 50 farmers to make the area traced and closer to forest peripheries evergreen to prevent fire crossing into forest.

Activity 3.4: Carrying out of 24 forest patrols by Forest Management Institutions' members, forest honey Cooperative members, herbalists

Activity 3.5: 8 Exchange visit between communities that are strong in bushfire prevention and management with communities that lack the skills

Visibility/Communication/Knowledge management

2 interns (at least 1 woman) involved in the project implementation.

Production of 200 booklet copies documenting project results, innovations and lessons learnt

Production of project sign board

1 Training on bees wax soap production for 25 women and youths as COVID 19 prevention measure. This will be WASH

Monitoring and Evaluation: 2 Project evaluation sessions organised/Continuous project monitoring

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. 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

SENSITIZATION IN SOCIAL GROUPS AND GATHERINGS

1172 persons (390Men, 420 Women, 262 Youths, 10 people with disabilities and 70 Indigenous Peoples) were sensitized. This was done in churches, social gathering, traditional groups and in markets.



5 Women traditional groups sensitised



Traditional groups sensitised

This built community solidarity which is a social insurance. Community members revitalized their culture and traditional knowledge and practices in forest conservation like traditional patrols and injunctions.

CAMGEW had massive sensitization campaigns in public places with many community members and could not fill the attendance lists. Communities were also made to be aware of COVID 19 through barrier measures.



CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

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LET US STOP BUSHFIRE IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST



5, 13



15, 17

HOW TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

Forest patrols



Sensitization in churches, schools, groups

Use modern honey harvesting equipment

Developing green belts around forest

Fig trees planting

Sisal hemp planting

Sweet potatoes

Avoid Anikara, (slash-and-burn) in farms around forest

Communication (radio, town crier)



Fire tracing and back burning

No smoking in and around forest

Engage grazers in pasture improvement



Forest users sign letters of engagement

Agroforestry

Apiculture

Forest education activities

Developing other environmentally friendly activities

Training on bushfire prevention

HOW TO MANAGE BUSHFIRE LOCALLY

use of soil to stop fire

clearing grass or fire tracing to prevent fire from crossing

Fire suppression techniques (control, confine, contain)

use of water to stop fire

digging of trenches to prevent or stop fire from crossing

Turning on radio



Training on bushfire management

Use of town crier for information

Fire line safety and first aid

Use community fire volunteers

Monitoring weather to tackle bushfire

Punishing defaulters



Ministry of Environment, Nature Development and Wildlife (MINEF/WDF) Cameroon



MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (MINEF/WDF)



The GEF Small Grants Programme

USE OF CREATIVE ARTS TO PREVENT AND MANAGE BUSHFIRE

15 Radio programs were organized and 10 education sessions with town cryers carried out by community journalists and traditional masquerades. 25 forest sign post to place on forest boundaries to promote the prevention of bushfire have been done. 500 posters on bushfire prevention and management have been designed, printed and distributed to communities. We learned that indigenous knowledge and practices can be used in fighting bushfires in forest areas.

Newspapers were used for bushfire sensitization like Eden Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper, The Gazette Newspaper,

CAMGEW used the social media for sensitization.

Blog messages were developed and made public through Hilltop Voices

Facebook messages were prepared and made public through CAMGEW Facebook page

Whatsapp groups-messages were developed and sent out.

Short bushfire sketches were developed for sensitization by community journalists.

Online radio program message developed and sent out to various local whatsapp groups

Community radio sensitizations were carried out in community radios in Oku and other

Radios in Bamenda that reaches Kilum-Ijim forest areas like Abakwa Radio, Ndefcam radio

We used highly listen radio programmes to deliver messages on bushfire prevention and management.

TRAINING FOR KILUM-IJIM FOREST MULKTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM ON BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

CAMGEW brought stakeholders, community leaders and forest users together to discuss on bushfire prevention and management. 40 persons (9Men, 9 women, 16 youth, 2 people with disabilities, 4 Indigenous Peoples) participated in the training.



Forest leader share on indigenous knowledge practices



Stakeholders in bushfire training and sharing session

During this training participants learned about causes of bushfire, how to fight them, who to involve and when to fight bushfire. Thus training was participatory and much indigenous knowledge and practices that have helped protected the forest from bushfire was shared. All this learning and sharing was used to produce a bushfire guide for use by communities to fight bushfire. During the training communities also learned and practiced how to prevent COVID 19.

WORKING SESSION TO PREPARE A BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

23 persons (6 Men, 4 women, 8 youth, 2 people with disabilities, 3 Indigenous Peoples) from communities were trained on how to prepare a bushfire calendar
Persons who participated in this workshops were community leaders and forest users who went back to put into practice what they learned.



Forest Community leaders and forest users



Participants in bushfire prevention plan

Community leaders identified areas of high risk to bushfire and prepared a plan of action in each community. This plan of action was executed with activities like fire tracing, patrols, back burning and sensitization.

PRODUCTION OF GUIDES ON BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

BUSHFIRE GUIDE

GUIDE ON BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST IN CAMEROON



Produced : December 2021

1000 copies of bushfire prevention and management guides were produced. These documents have been distributed to communities for use in bushfire prevention and management.

Information gathered from bushfire multi-stakeholder platform training and training on bushfire calendar resulted in the production of 1000 copies of bushfire prevention and management calendars and 500 copies of posters for sensitization.

SUPPORTING OF FOREST COMMUNITIES WITH TOOLS TO BETTER PREVENT AND MANAGE BUSHFIRE

10 forest communities supported with 50 cutlasses, 50 spades, 50 hoes, 50 rakes, 100 buckets, 100 hand gloves 1000 facemasks



Forest communities in Kilum-Ijij forest receive tools to fight bushfire



Forest communities in Kilum-Ijij forest receive tools to fight bushfire

Community members needed tools to use in bushfire prevention and management. Using a participatory approach tools were identified and bought. Some COVID 19 prevention kits were also bought and distributed to communities.

CARRYING OUT FIRE LINING OR FIRE TRACING AROUND THE FOREST TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

302 persons from 8 communities carried out fire tracing.



Fire tracing in Oku community forest



Fire tracing in Vekovi community forest

About 6500 metres were traced in Manchok, Ngvunkei II, Vekovi, Abuh, Mutteff, Tumuku and some other communities. Bushfire was prevented through practical learning and actions

CARRYING OUT BACK BURNING AFTER FIRE LINING

4000 metres of fire traced area was back burned by 81 persons from 5 communities. Not all areas traced needed back burning and back burning never needed many persons.



Back burning in Bikov Community forest



Back burning in Bikov Community forest

This improved on community solidarity as community members worked together. Fire tracing should be made a yearly activity with financial support because the Kilum-Ijim forest is a carbon sink.

TRAINING FARMERS WITH FARMS AROUND THE FOREST ON AGROFORESTRY TECHNIQUES TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

86 farmers (41 men, 23 women and 22 youths) with farms around forest peripheries were trained in 2 sessions on agroforestry system. This create greenbelt that prevent bushfire from farm to forest



Community learn about indigenous trees



Community members receive plants to plants

Farmers learned how to create green belt with native agroforestry plants that also served as food crops, income source and guaranteed job creation. These crops also served in soil conservation from erosion and increase variety of food that could be harvested from farms.

TRAINING FARMERS WITH FARMS AROUND THE FOREST ON AGROFORESTRY TECHNIQUES TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

The farmers received variety of agroforestry crops to plant in farms as donation from CAMGEW.



Group picture of participants in training

This training will help to prevent slash-and-burn in farms around the forest that cause bushfires. Many community members came out for the training than we invited and we could not deny them the training. Most bushfire in forest comes from slash-and-burns in farms



Community member receive plants to plants

CARRYING OUT OF 24 FOREST PATROLS TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

18 forest patrols sessions were carried out by 150 person (66 men, 43 women, 32 youths, 9 Mbororos).



Forest patrols in Oku



Forest patrols in Vekovi

People who came out for forest patrols were Forest Management Institutions' members, forest honey Cooperative members, herbalists, water catchment protection committee members, grazers and other forest users. When we had more than 14 persons in the forest we divided them to 2 groups of patrols.

EXCHANGE VISIT BETWEEN COMMUNITIES TO LEARN AND SHARE SKILLS ON BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

CAMGEW carried out 7 exchange visits and this involved 91 persons (52 men, 4 women and 35 youths) from 9 communities. Anglophone crisis in Cameroon made movement difficult between communities.

Exchange visits were within and between villages. Persons with experience and skills in bushfire shared with others. This was also done practically in the field during fire tracing or fire lining and back burning. CAMGEW recommend that exchange visits should be made a yearly activity with financial support because the Kilum-Ijim forest is a carbon sink. CAMGEW is also proud that this activity improved on community solidarity as they worked together

VISIBILITY/COMMUNICATION/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON BUSHFIRE

CAMGEW did training on bees wax soap production for 28 women (8 women and 18 youths) to help them produce soap for their communities as COVID prevention measure for hand washing.



Forest Women learn bees wax soap production



Participants with donated start-ups for soap production

These women were trained and supported with start-up materials. This was to assist them start businesses for income generation, job creation and the fight against COVID.

VISIBILITY/COMMUNICATION/KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON BUSHFIRE

2 students did internship on bushfire in CAMGEW. They produced internship reports on bushfire management and prevention. CAMGEW has also produced 2 signboards for this project.

500 copies of Success Story booklet on project results, innovations and lessons learnt have been printed and distributed to community members.



Lessons on bees wax soap production



Participant receive donation from CAMGEW



Produced bees wax soap

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

CAMGEW carried out 2 evaluation sessions with forest community leaders, forest users and stakeholders. This was to look at what went well, what went wrong and how to make the future bright in the next project or follow-up activities.



Project evaluation with Ijim forest communities



Project evaluation with Kilum forest communities

CAMGEW decided to use the funds for project monitoring to produce a bushfire prevention and management calendar. 500 copies were produced and distributed to community members to help them know which activity to carry out at what time to prevent bushfire.



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KILUM-IJIM BUSHFIRE PREVENTION CALENDAR

DRY SEASON



ACTIVITIES

Bushfire sensitization in churches, groups, schools, radios

Fire suppression techniques

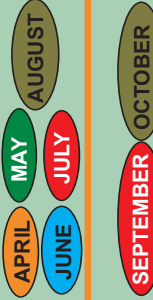
Forest patrols

Training on environmentally friendly activities

Communication for education and information

Regular community meetings to strategize to prevent bushfire

RAINY SEASON



Developing

green belts with sisal hemp, etc.

Agroforestry system in farms around forest

Improve pasture for animals

Bushfire sensitization

Slashing in farms after crop harvested to permit vegetation to develop compost before dry season and avoid slash-and-burn in heart of dry season

Hold planning meeting on bushfire prevention

Bushfire sensitization



Bushfire sensitization

Fire tracing

Back burning

WHO LEAD

- NGOs, Community Based Organizations
- Leaders of FMIs, Water Management Committees, Forest Cooperatives
- Staff of MINFOF, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
- Kwifon or traditional authorities

ACTORS TO PREVENT BUSHFIRE

Forest Honey Cooperatives

Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) for community forests

Various NGOs, Associations CIGs

Grazers unions

Traditional councils

Water management committees

Forest stakeholder platforms

Schools, churches, Youth groups, women groups, training centres

Cultural groups, manjong, chung, etc kikum, etc

Village heads

Ministry of forestry and wildlife

Forest Boundary line farmers

Youth action groups
Women leaders in solidarity groups

Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development

Traditional authorities and kwifon

Administrative Authorities

COMMUNICATION

Radio, Town criers, social media, one-on-one, debate and newspapers

Elected leaders from various institutions

5, 3, 15, 17



Ministry of Environment, Nature Development (MINREPD)



MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE (MINFOF)



The GEF Small Grants Programme



The GEF Small Grants Programme

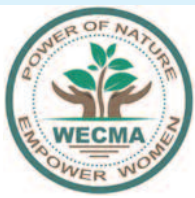


THE WAY FORWARD

- There is need to integrate the use of indigenous knowledge and cultural practice that can help fight bushfire in projects.
- Cultural and social groups should be the bases for sensitization because they have proven to be successful especially during this project execution.
- There is need to promote traditional communication methods and sanctions to fight bushfire
- Fire tracing and back burning should be a yearly activity that should be supported either locally, nationally or globally. The forest is a carbon sink that must be protected.
- There is need for creation and animation of multi-stakeholder platforms locally and nationally to discuss about bushfire.
- There is need to develop climate-smart businesses in and around the forest. Green businesses can come from the forest like the honey and from forest periphery in agroforestry farms. Crop value chain development can bring about community engagement in bushfire prevention and management.
- There is need to promote exchanges that will help communities improve on their knowledge and skills on bushfire prevention and management.

BUILDING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES OR CLIMATE SMART BUSINESSES TO FIGHT BUSHFIRE

Let us support Climate Smart Enterprises because they promote value chains of products that are sustainably produced. Agroforestry system helps conserve the soil and prevent erosion. It increases food production and promote the production of variety of crops that keep animals and man healthy. We are sure of green jobs and income. These goods need to be marketed to help farmers adapt to climate change. Forest bee farmers have conserved the Kilum-Ijim forest as they use bushfire preventive and management strategies to protect their beehives from destruction by bushfire. They do forest patrols, forest education, fire tracing, back burning, forest regeneration to get more forage and have emergency preparedness strategies to tackle bushfire when it occurs. To sustain this strategy there is need to equate bee farmers honey to money and continue with capacity building.



Women Ecovillage Change Makers (WECMA)

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WECMA provides consultancy services



WECMA SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OR CLIMATE SMART BUSINESSE 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}



Tea for treatment of
cough and cold



Garlic Extra



Mint powder



Weight loss and general
fitness tea



Lemon grass



Aloe vera



Ginger powder tea



Artemisia powder tea



Artemisia Extract



Tea for treatment of
cough and cold



Turmeric tea



Artemisia



Mint



Moringa tea



Mint powder tea



Cayenne Pepper Oil



Tea for malaria and typhoid



Ginsen tea



Scent leaf



NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER NOWEFAM

Authorization No: 20/011/CMR/NW/38/204/CCA/002006/002006001

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BAMENDA North West Region, Cameroon

NOWEFAM provides consultancy services



NOWEFAM 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



Bee smoker



Bees wax soap powder and solid



Bees wax soap clean



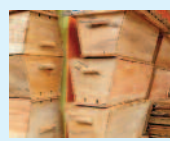
Brown honey



Various honey wine



Beehives transported to colonisation sites to trap bees



Kenyan top bar hives



Bees wax hair oil



Bees wax



Oku White honey



Exhibition of Honey and 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**