

SUCCESS STORY

Project: 'Oku Community Forest for benefit sharing' funded by World Bank and administered by Catholic Relief Services'

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone: (237) 75184310, 97 03 74 17

Address: P.O. Box 2600 Messa, Yaoundé, Cameroon

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

CAMGEW – Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

CDVTA – **Community Development volunteers for Technical Assistance**

GROUP SUSA – Sustainable Agriculture Common Initiative Group

MINADER – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MINEPIA – Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries

MINFOF – Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

OCDA – Oku Cultural and Development Association

OHCS – Oku Honey Cooperative Society

OREP – Oku Reserve Protection

SOPISDEW – The Society for the Promotion of Initiatives in Sustainable Development and Welfare

Acknowledgement

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) wishes to thank Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Bank for giving her technical and financial assistance respectively to do this work. CAMGEW is also grateful to the Oku Council; Divisional Officer for Oku-Lieuwotue Patrick; Traditional authorities; Mr Nformi Nestor-Chief of Post of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for Oku for his technical support in nursery development and tree planting; Fofuleng Esao-Sub Delegate of Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Animal Industry (MINEPIA) for Oku; Fai Ndishangong- Home based Oku Cultural and Development Association (OCDA), Bang George-Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) manager for the technical support on apiculture, Oku Community Radio for communication; community based organisations like OREP, SOPISDEW and GROUP SUSA in Oku; and all other persons who assisted directly or indirectly for being very resourceful and collaborative in the course of this project. CAMGEW acknowledge receiving bee farming training materials from Bees For Development- UK. This material helped us greatly in training.

Many thanks go too to the CAMGEW team Wirsy Emmanuel Binyuy-Project leader; Njine Yufenyuy Pamela – Project assistant; Ngek Divine-Nursery Caretaker; Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki – member, Eric Kelese – Volunteer; Wirdin Benice-Volunteer and Fai Chiatch Alfred that never spared any efforts in realising this project.

A word from Project leader

CAMGEW has prepared this success story booklet to share project successes and challenges to the public. We learn much by doing in this project and there is a high possibility of replication and scale-up of its activities. It will be our joy to learn that this project idea has been replicated in other areas. We are ready to provide more information on this project to anyone to use and to assist in field work. We are also open to create partnership with anybody or institution interested in this work. We will gladly welcome support to continue this work in Oku and in other areas. Feel free to contact us for detail information. We have bee farming training manuals that we prepared and we are ready to share with you.

We feel satisfied that through this project we have contributed to fight climate change through tree planting and poverty alleviation through bee farming. We think globally and act locally.

Your comments to this document are welcome because we are working to overcome the challenges encountered in this project. This document is open to use by anyone but remember to acknowledge us when using it.

I wish to thank all the CAMGEW staff that helped to realise this project specially. After executing this project I feel personal strong. I have grown in knowledge, skills and experience. CAMGEW is stronger in carrying out bigger projects than this one.

Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

Project Leader / CAMGEW Director

PRESENTATION OKU

Oku is found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The population is English speaking. Oku has the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku. The Oku Community Forest is the first community forest in Cameroon. 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. Kilum Mountain is the second highest mountain in Cameroon after Mount Cameroon. Honey from Oku Forest is white in colour and is commonly called Oku White Honey. It is cherished nationally. It is being processed to become a Geographical Indication Product. Oku has a rich culture. Carving is highly practised in Oku. Oku is a touristic destination.

INTRODUCTION

Presentation of CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a non profit created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to solve environmental and women's problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in our hands and also that the planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development. CAMGEW seeks to achieve her objectives by liaising with other like-minded organizations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in total respect of her constitution. CAMGEW has as **vision** "Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment and as **mission** to fight poverty; promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development.

Brief presentation of project

CAMGEW won the World Bank organised Development Market Place Competition in Cameroon on good governance in the forestry, health and education sector in July 2011. The project CAMGEW submitted was titled 'Oku Community Forest Management for Benefit Sharing'.

The project objectives were as follows:

- Promotion of apiculture for participatory forest management. Community ownership of beehives in forest push them to protect their beehives from bushfires and harm thereby avoiding forest degradation and thus participating in forest management;
- Increase number of trees in the Oku Community Forest through participatory tree nursing development and planting and
- Increase awareness on various benefits from the forest that can help population fight poverty while protecting the forest

The project was to nurse and plant 7000 trees in the Oku Community forest. This project had to train 120 persons from groups (especially women groups) and schools on bee farming, provide them with 200 colonised beehives at subsidised rates. Considering that the participation of forest community in forest management is part of forest governance, CAMGEW through this project engaged local people to own beehives in the forest after receiving training for them to better manage their forest. Ownership of hives by people in Oku pushes them to avoid bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as source of income. Bee farming gives them a source of livelihood from the sale of honey and makes them see the importance to protect the forest. Oku white honey is already being considered as a Geographical Indication Product and it is hoped that the market for this honey will be increased and secured.

CAMGEW was not only interested to train those who are involved already in bee farming, she was interested to have new groups who know nothing about bee farming trained and provided with colonised bee hives that will give them a source of livelihoods and make them see the need participate in the protection of the forest.

In a long run, CAMGEW hopes to continue to work with trained groups in a network to maintain and increase their number of beehives in the forest, assist in honey harvesting, processing and marketing.

SUCCESS STORY FROM PROJECT OBJECTIVE ONE

Objective 1: Promotion of apiculture for participatory forest management. Community ownership of beehives in forest pushes them to protect their beehives from bushfires and harm thereby avoiding forest degradation.

BEE FARMING TRAINING

CAMGEW estimated to train 120 persons from groups and institutions in this project and a total of 166 persons were finally trained.

Number people trained in each workshop

Workshop No.	Period of workshop	Total number of participants	Total number of men	Total number of women	Total number of youths
1	30 th – 31 th January 2012	64	33	15	16
2	17 th -18 th February 2012	33	06	05	22
3	19 th -20 th July 2012	31	04	07	20
4	3 rd – 4 th August 2012	38	08	04	26
Grand total		166	51	31	84



Theoretical lessons presented by trainers on bee farming



Lessons offered by trainer (in bee suit) on procedure of honey harvesting



Beehive construction trainer teaching participants how to construct a beehive.



Participants' learning-by-doing



Participant participating in the tying of beehive with grass



Group 2 participants in first training with their finished beehive



Group 3 participants in first training participants with their completed beehive



General picture of participants and trainers with the 6 constructed hives in first workshop training.



Participants with bee suits and smoker around the beehive ready for harvesting



Beehive with bee combs



Participants with honey combs after harvesting



Participants receives lessons on the use of smoker in honey harvesting



Participants receive lessons on honey comb and honey production in the forest



Lessons on honey processing (Trainer with wax a by-product of honey)

CONSTRUCTION AND COLONISATION OF 200 BEE HIVES

200 beehives were constructed and transported to Mbam-Oku and some parts of Noni for Colonisation. 50 beehives have already colonised as of 31st December 2012. Poor colonisation rate is blame to the late arrival of project funds that led to late start of project. Hives were constructed when the good period for colonisation had elapsed and this affected the colonisation rate. We are optimistic that from December 2012 to March 2013 more hives will colonise. We expect to have project's produced white honey in May 2013. We hope to have atleast 400 litres of honey from Oku Community Forest.



Beehives transported to Noni (hot area) for colonisation before transportation to Oku Forest for mounting



Beehives transported by head for mounting in colonisation site

SUCCESS STORY FROM PROJECT OBJECTIVE TWO

Objective 2: Increase number of trees in the forest through nursing and planting.

Oku Forest regeneration

7000 tree nursery was developed in January 2012 starting with terracing, fencing, filling of polythene pots with fertile soil, getting seedlings and transplanting. A shade was prepared to protect young seedlings from sun. Seedlings of *Prunus africana* were nursed and transplanted in pots. Watering was done in the dry season. *Prunus Africana* was chosen as a tree to be nursed and planted because

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

In August 2012 more than 100 community members and leaders participated in tree planting. Activities marking the regeneration of the Oku Community Forest (OCF) started on the 13th of August with the launching of tree planting exercise with the planting of a symbolic tree by the Divisional Officer for Oku, Sub Delegate of MINFOF, Traditional authorities, CBOs and CAMGEW staff. The tree planting exercise took place for 15 days involving clearing, transportation of seedlings to the forest and planting. The various authorities took part in planning meetings and field visits to identify the site in the Oku Community Forest for the tree planting exercise. On the 14th August 2012 a delegation of six people representing community leaders visited sites of the Oku Community Forest and finally concluded to carryout tree planting at compartment III of Emfvu-mii Forest Management Institution (FMI). The regeneration exercise ended on the 29rd August 2012 when the Divisional Officer for Oku Sub Division together with the Oku Community Forest stakeholders participated in the tree planting proper at the Oku Community Forest. 7000 trees, mainly *Prunus africana* were planted. The Oku Community Radio, Bui Community Radio and HelenChris Radion were invited to do media coverage of the event. Some journalists of the press also participated.



CAMGEW model nursery of 7000 Oku Community Forest native tree (*Prunus africana*)



CAMGEW staff working in the nursery



Tree seedlings carried from nursery to the Oku Community forest for planting



Women transporting tree seedlings to the forest for planting in August 2012



Community leaders going to the forest to lead tree planting

(First from left Director of CAMGEW Wirsy Emmanuel, Second is Home President of OCDA Fai Ndishangong, third is Divisional Officer for Oku- Liewotue Patrick, fifth is Sub Delegate for MINFOF for Oku-Nformi Nestor and sixth is Fon of Oku's representative Shu Fai Ndifon Soom)



Community members going for tree planting in the forest



CAMGEW staff and Oku Youths participating in Oku community Forest regeneration



Community leaders launching tree planting exercise

SUCCESS STORY FROM PROJECT OBJECTIVE THREE

Objective 3: Increase awareness of various benefits from the forest that can help population fight poverty while protecting the forest.

Environmental education

Environmental sensitisation was carried out through Oku Community Radio, during holiday workshops and field visits to the forest with schools and community members. The population in Oku was sensitised on the importance of the forest, ways to conserve it, services that forest render to humanity, forest as carbon sink that mitigate climate change, forest for ecotourism, etc. Radio programmes were carried out in the Oku Community Radio twice every week on Mondays between 9 am to 10 am and Wednesdays from 4 pm to 5 pm by CAMGEW staff. The radio programmes were disturbed sometimes by power cuts. CAMGEW got support to carryout environmental education in schools to instil in students the need to grow up with love for forest in Oku from another partner. This made our forest education programme for children and students strong. CAMGEW worked in partnership with Useful Holiday Workshop organisers for students in Oku to support outreach activities in the forest sector. 250 students and pupils attended our outreach forest education.



Students and teachers from PSS Nkwen and St Paul College in Bamenda come for field work in Oku forest and CAMGEW nursery with CAMGEW invitation.



Visiting students from schools in Bamenda receiving lessons on beehive construction and bee farming.



Children on holidays receiving lessons on nursery development and forest regeneration



Children learning how to draw forest features in forest education lesson during holiday workshop



Drawn forest features by pupils during holiday workshop



Nature education for students on importance of forest to water in Oku water catchment in the forest



Nature education with children in the forest



Students learning the importance of forest to man for drinking water



Environmental education with children in the Oku Community Forest during holidays

Project Challenges

The following challenges exist as this project ends

- Colonisation rate of beehives is not so good and many hives are still uncolonised. The hives need to be continuously taken care of.
- Areas where beehives are placed for colonisation are prone to bushfire and movement of cattle. Bushfire can destroy the hives and cattle easily push down the hives. There is need to clear round the hives and sensitise population against setting bushfire. CAMGEW loose 3 hives in a bushfire in one of the colonisation areas.
- Colonised hives have been transported by head from Colonisation areas more than 15Km from Oku to the Oku Community Forest. This activity is energy consuming. There is need for an adapted vehicle to carry colonised hives from colonisation zones to the forest. This vehicle will serve other bee farmers in Oku too.
- Planted trees need to be taken care of next year. CAMGEW need to clear around the trees when rains start falling.
- There is need to create a forest multi-stakeholder platform to promote dialogue among all forest stakeholders for a better management of Oku Community Forest.

These challenges can be overcome if there are funds.

Reflection on the way forward

- As concerns forest regeneration, the Minister of MINFOF wrote to CAMGEW congratulating her for the tree planting activity and sent a delegation from his Ministry that came to the field and visited the planted trees. We are looking forward to him to support us take care of planted trees and to make tree planting in Oku Community Forest a yearly exercise by CAMGEW.
- CAMGEW is thinking of placing colonised hives in the area where tree planting was done to increase the interest of groups in taking care of planted trees as they take care of their colonised hives. This is also good for CAMGEW because CAMGEW will get concrete statistics on honey production and amount of bees leaving hives, for research purposes
- CAMGEW is thinking of keeping some hives to raise funds to take care of other uncolonised hives.
- Fund raising is going on to get funds to continue with the tree planting exercise and apiculture. Your support will be appreciated.
- CAMGEW will form a network of bee farmers especially with trained persons on bee farming to facilitate the sale of honey produced from hives provided to them.

PROJECT CLOSING REMARKS FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

- The Oku Home Base President of OCDA thanked CAMGEW for this great work and told CAMGEW that she is an arm of OCDA. He called on CAMGEW to keep up with the development work while respecting the tradition of Oku. He promised to convey this message to OCDA.
- The representative of His Royal Highness the Fon of Oku, Shu Fai Ndifon Soom told CAMGEW that the tradition has a high stake in Oku forest conservation and the

traditional authority is grateful with CAMGEW's efforts to regenerate and maintain the Oku forest for the present generation and the future generation. He said the Oku man holds the Oku forest in high esteem and the culture of the Oku people relies on the forest. He ended by saying that the traditional authority supports our programme to regenerate the forest.

- The delegate of OREP working on Oku reserve protection also called on everyone to own small forest around their homes to reduce dependency on the Oku community Forest. He said OREP is prepared to work together with CAMGEW.
- The Secretary General of Oku Council applauded the work of CAMGEW to protect the Oku Forest and said the council has engaged in the cutting down of Eucalyptus trees from the Oku Community forest.
- The Sub-Delegate of MINEPIA- Oku said the bee farming trainings organised by CAMGEW has had a multiplier effect with many trained persons and groups training others and more hives constructed to add to those constructed by CAMGEW. The Delegate reiterated the need for statistics on the number of hives in the forest, the number of women and youths involved and the quantity of honey produced. This statistics he said is important in decision making processes by government and other development agencies especially now that Oku White Honey is being processed to be a Geographical Indication Product by Intellectual Property Right Organisation. This he said will increase the market for the Oku White Honey. He also said there was need to try the performance of the modern hives like Kenyan Top Bar in the Oku forest. This will be innovative, he said. He said demarcation is needed to separate farmland from grazing land and forest land. He called on all stakeholders in the forest sector to work as one.
- Yah Nying, a female traditional leader called on women not to be timid. She said, there is need for them to put the knowledge and skills acquired on bee farming into practice. She called on women to get involved in hive construction, mounting, honey harvesting, processing and marketing. This, she said is important in promoting transparency and accountability through participation as women will be sure of their records on honey quality and quantity obtained from their bee farms.
- Chung Hilda, a female animal health expert asked women to increase their frequency of visiting their beehives in order to get use to with bees. She also added that women should use bee suits for protection while visiting their hives.
- The Divisional Officer for Oku had this to say;
 - Beehive construction was a success because many trained persons have transferred knowledge and skills acquired to other members and groups and more beehives have been constructed and colonised by various groups;
 - Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) should work with CAMGEW to set standards locally to maintain the hygienic condition of honey;
 - OHCS and CAMGEW should work together to see how to develop a local certification process for honey produced by various groups and persons in order to distinct it for proper marketing and avoid conflict;
 - He congratulated CAMGEW for working with the state of Cameroon, other stakeholders and also for supporting government's action to conserve the forest and fight poverty;

- He said there is need for everyone (tradition, government, council and community) to work on one platform especially in the forestry sector.
- He ended by saying that everyone should be ready to make local contribution to every project in the community to promote a participatory approach in development.

Voices from the ground

Tatah Basilius is leader of GROUP SUSU, a common initiative group in Oku that attended a bee farming training workshop. He says the workshop was useful and the knowledge and training materials obtained from training have been shared with group members. He also says skills and knowledge gotten from training on hive positioning during mounting helped the group to easily colonise 3 more hives. He presents one major worry which is the lack of local distinction of produced honey by various groups that brings disorder in the honey production sector. (Bee farming training)

The delegate of Kesotin Mix Farming Group says knowledge and material obtained from bee farming training was shared with other group members and that three other group members have received training from trained members on bee farming. He added that three other groups in Kesotin have been trained (Training of trainers) by trained members of their group on bee farming. He ends by saying that they have used skills obtained to construct 9 hives which are being colonised to be placed in the forest.

(Bee farming training)

Tah Kenneth, leader of SOPISDEW representing students and teachers on Long Vacation Useful Holiday Workshop says 32 students attended the bee farming training workshops organised by CAMGEW. He told CAMGEW that the students acknowledged that knowledge gain from workshop was useful and applicable to school work especially linking bee farming to participatory forest management and division of labour in a social insect family. Students are now willing and ready to construct and own bee hives. Teachers attending training learned much and are now ready to share knowledge and skills obtained with students during their lessons. Kenneth lamented that many students were willing to attend the bee farming training but a limited number was approved by CAMGEW to participate. The partnership with CAMGEW to make the long holidays a useful one for students and pupils in Oku was a fruitful one and yielded fruits. I hope this happen next long vacation. (Bee farming training)

Tah Kenneth, leader of SOPISDEW representing students and teachers on Long Vacation Useful Holiday Workshop says 37 students and 15 teachers took part in tree planting exercise organised by CAMGEW. He says the money received as payment for the exercise helped the students and teachers to prepare for the start of a new school year. (Tree planting)

Mr Mbendam Isaac of CDTVA Club in Makejolak-Mbam Oku says 3 members from their group took part in tree planting exercise and money received as pay for the exercise came at the right time when the school year was starting. He says the money was used to buy books, uniforms and pay fees for their children. Some of our children took part in the planting exercise and the money they received was also useful he said. I can say about 90 persons took part in the tree planting but they money they were paid had a multiplier effect. I will be right to say that more than 500 persons of the community benefited directly or indirectly from money received from CAMGEW, said Isaac. (Tree planting)

Ful Honorine of CDTVA says knowledge and material obtained from bee farming training was shared with other group members and that 80 group members from their group received training in the group's organised workshop on bee farming training. Other groups and persons from our community have been trained too by us (Training of trainers). Our trained members were resource persons in CDTVA organised bee farming training for CDTVA Clubs in Oku. (Bee farming training)

Delegate of OREP says knowledge and material obtained from bee farming training has been shared with other group members and OREP branch at Ichim has had 10 hives colonised and OREP Oku branch having 4 hives colonised. (Bee farming training)

Fuh Honorine Neyidon (student): It was my first time to participate in a tree planting exercise. I did enjoy it. It is important for the population in Oku to participate in keeping this forest green. The planted trees should be considered a treasure for us now and future generation. We need to take care of the planted trees. I will like to thank CAMGEW for the money they gave me when I participated in the tree planting. It helped me to buy my school needs. (Tree planting)

Ngum Richard Bafon (student). The tree planting exercise was a good opportunity that I never missed. I planted trees myself and noted the positions of those trees. I learned many things. I will always visit the trees I planted whenever I visit the forest. I pray nobody tamper with them. I am proud I did this. The funds I received as reward for planting trees were handed to my parents. I know they used the money to buy my books. (Tree planting)

Ngong Nancy (student) : During the environmental education in Useful Holiday Workshop last long vacation in 2012, I learned somany good things regarding my community's natural resources which i had little knowledge on. I learned how to nurse trees, promote agroforestry as alternative to dependency on forest resources and planting of trees. All this learning was done in the field. I learned how to be a good leader. The holiday activities were beneficial to students and the community. I appreciate CAMGEW's work to our community and I wish to call on the youths to collaborate with CAMGEW as there is a saying that goes thus « One hand can not tie a bundle ». if we work as one in Oku our community and its environment will be a place to be. Many more years to CAMGEW. (Environmental education)

Ngek Eveline Bonje of CBC School Elak Kitchen Njangi

Three members of my group attended the bee farming training. The knowledge and manuals was shared with other group members. I am proud that 3 members of our group-all women now own hives in the forest. (Bee farming)

Testimonies from beneficiaries

Basilius F. Tatah Delegate of Sustainable Agriculture CIG(Group SUSA) Oku

Infact your bee keeping trainings have re-instilled hope and confidence in our bee farming activities. The skills and techniques obtained are evident in rapid colonisation of our recently and previously mounted hives, promising an increase in our production/income thereby giving us an indispensable reason to conserve and protect our forest for more benefits. We are producing more beehives to mount in the forest using this new gained techniques to increase honey production .We are waiting to receive our own share of the hives that CAMGEW is colonising to share to trained groups. The handouts given to us during this workshop have remain a useful tool that I visit to remind myself of the techniques of bee farming and the link between bee farming and forest conservation.

This project brought by Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) has brought us hope in our forest. Our group will have more money from honey production and help in preserving the forest (from bushfire and deforestation) to protect our hives.

Ghanghe Mary Keng

Delegate of Future In Our Hands (FIOH) Oku

FIOH is grateful to CAMGEW for the training she gave them on bee keeping, honey harvesting and processing. We learned how to use materials that are locally available to make beehives. These locally available material were seen by us to be useless. We have learned how to use them to produce bee hives.

Our group thought bee farming was an exclusively men activity. Through CAMGEW's organised bee farming training and follow-up activities we have realised that women could be bee farmers. We have constructed 2 bee hives that are pending colonisation while waiting for those to be given by CAMGEW.

How we wished this project had been there earlier like 10 years ago. We learned the importance of the forest to bee farming especially to the Oku White Honey that is cherished by the world now. When we discovered that women could do bee farming, we engaged in bee farming and had to take part as women in tree planting exercise organised by CAMGEW to regenerate the Oku community forest with 7000 native trees to sustain apiculture activities in the forest. Now we see the pains it takes to have a grown up tree in the forest and for this reason we have seen the reason to participate in conserving the Oku forest. Honey will give our group money and this money will help each of us send our children to school and buy our needs. Therefore in order to have the honey continuously we must protect the forest.

Ngek Eveline Bonje

My daughter attended one of the four trainings on bee farming organised by CAMGEW and developed a lot of interest in bee farming. She sees a good business in bee farming and hope to engage in this activity. She is still in secondary school. I have advised her to study hard in order to develop bee farming and honey business in Oku in the future. I told her knowledge is power. Three of my children took part in tree planting exercise. I was marveled with what they learned in the exercise as they discussed in the evenings after each day activity. They learned much on the importance of the forest and its problems. How I wish all children in Oku took part in this tree planting exercise. It was a good learning opportunity for my children. I thank CAMGEW for organising this tree planting exercise. The money my children raised from these activities helped us prepare them for the school year. CAMGEW's activities have alleviated poverty in Oku and we thank CAMGEW for making us see the importance of our forest and a need to participate in its management.

A voice of a CAMGEW team member

WIRDIN BENICE MOSONI I visited part of Kilum forest and was worried with the state of the forest. There were many spaces in the forest without trees. This visit was done with other CMGEW staff. I am a lover of nature and Oku is known worldwide for its forest, crater lake and white honey. I am interested in seeing this forest remain there for posterity. I was happy to have taken part as CAMGEW worker in the planting of 7000 native trees in the Kilum Mountain forest. I personally participated in the tree planting and it was a wonderful experience to plant trees in such a large scale. I have been part of the team monitoring the planted trees and the trees are doing well. The surroundings of the trees need to be cleared when thr rains comes. I am happy that I am part of this initiative. **A voice of a CAMGEW team member (Tree planting)**

NJINE YUFENYUY PAMELA

Working with CAMGEW as project assistant have been self satisfying. I facilitated the bee farming trainings, beehive construction, tree planting exercise and environmental education in this project. In the process, I learned much and my experience and skills have improved greatly. As a woman, I see my self stronger and able to handle bigger projects than this. My leadership skills have grown. I have been able to complement my knowledge from school as livestock technician with practical action through activities carried out in bee farming. I am happy to have been part of this project and part of CAMGEW. **A voice of a CAMGEW team member**

Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki

As volunteer, working with CAMGEW under Oku Forest Governance Project, I learned a lot especially in terms of governance. This project broadened my mind on community participation in forest governance.

The practical experiences gathered while working with the Oku community during the various bee farming trainings and tree planting has shown that participatory governance is a vital element of development. It was a great opportunity for me to take part in this project.



THE WORLD BANK





**Cameroon Gender and
Environment Watch**



Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III
en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden

- Bee farming and forest regeneration was funded by World Bank and administered by Catholic Relief Services
- Environmental education with children and youths in the forest was funded by Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands and administered by Both ENDS-Netherlands

This booklet is prepared with funds from World Bank administered by Catholic Relief Services