



CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

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CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008



INTRODUCTION

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a not-for-profit institution created in October 2007 with authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for solutions to 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 the hands of men and women, young and old and environmental and social problems can only be solved in a participatory approach.

This is the first end of year report produced by CAMGEW since it was created in October 2007. CAMGEW as any young growing institution went through a lot of challenges this year 2008 and learned so much from them. CAMGEW's carried out some activities like buying some institutional materials, writing some projects, building staff capacity and trying to put up a strategic plan for CAMGEW. This annual report will be improved upon every year. As years go by CAMGEW's founders, other members who will join later and her staff will strive to make sure that CAMGEW better serves the society and make life better for all especially women and their children and for the environment by acting locally and thinking globally. CAMGEW has as vision, mission, and objectives the following.

VISION:

Enhancing gender balance for the promotion of holistic, adoptive and innovative approach towards peoples cultural, ethical, moral and spiritual values for sustainable development.

MISSION:

To fight poverty, promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote cultural conservation practices which are sustainable;
2. Promote gender balance and women empowerment and emancipation from her drudgeries;
3. Promote affordable, reliable and accessible modern energy technology which is sustainable, efficient, effective and possibly renewable to be at the reach of women to reduce their sufferings;
4. Promote the participation of women in decision making processes and enhancing accountability and transparency to reign in the society in all domains;
5. Promoting the availability of food, portable water, shelter and education for women, their children and family;
6. Providing and seeking of sources of livelihood for women and children;
7. Encouraging agricultural, economic, cultural and social diversification.

The area of operation covers the national territory and head office is based in Yaounde, Centre Province, Cameroon.

ACTIVITIES CAMGEW CARRIED OUT IN 2008

In the beginning of the year 2008 CAMGEW organised board of directors and executive meetings every two months and contributed both materially, financially and time wise to make sure that CAMGEW starts up in a good footing. These activities were carried out:

1) Institutional material

CAMGEW members bought stationeries like writing materials like pens; pencils; financial and report writing registers. A good office table and chair was also prepared for the organisation. One of our members accepted to host CAMGEW in his house by providing CAMGEW with a room to function while waiting that CAMGEW gets a good stand and get an independent site. The stamp and letter head of CAMGEW was designed. A HP small office printer was bought for CAMGEW and this printer was used in printing CAMGEW documents from a computer that was borrowed to CAMGEW. Most of these materials were provided to support CAMGEW were in kind. There was little payment of money directly to CAMGEW in form of members contributions.

2) Staff capacity building

Staff capacity building remains a priority for CAMGEW and the board of directors are looking for opportunities that their staff could exploit to be up to the task in their various positions. It was for this reason that CAMGEW through one of the Board of Directors supported her gender and sociology expert, Wirngo Juliette to undergo training on various computer programmes that CAMGEW need to function better. The training programme covered the period from January to June 2008 on part time basis. CAMGEW is proud Juliette can now serve her better with the computer skills she acquired.

3) Project writing

CAMGEW discovered that the members contributions were insufficient to run the institution and saw the need to write up project proposals on issues she will like to address and approach funding bodies for support. These project proposal needed to be prepared by somebody who is versed with project writing and who hard written projects that had succeeded to attract funding. Wirsy Emmanuel was better placed to help the institution in this task. The board of directors approached him and asked him for support and he generously accepted to do this for free. A number of proposals have been developed and CAMGEW succeeded to get funding for one of the projects. It was with great joy that CAMGEW received the news that her project was funded. Some grant making institutions were approached for funding but good news have been received. The written project proposals are great assets of CAMGEW.

3.a Written project proposals

No.	Project title	Project site
1	Using the Savannah Botanical Garden (SABOGA), to promote practical lessons on Environmental Education in Primary and Secondary schools in Bamenda of the North West Region of Cameroon	Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon
2	Sensitisation and Empowerment Campaign to put an end to the Girl Child Abuse, Illiteracy and Marginalisation in Bui Division of Cameroon.	Bui Division, Cameroon
3	Linking poor rural women of Oshie and Ngei villages of North West Region, in Cameroon to microfinance, providing them with agric business skills, farming techniques, crop preservation methods and breaking farm-to-market road barriers.	Oshie and Ngei, Momo Division, North West Region
4	Promoting the understanding and illustration of various Ecological Systems for Primary School children to create environmental awareness in Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon	Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon
5	Using Jatropha (biofuel) crop as life fence for demarcation to resolve farmer-grazer problems and promotion of eco-agriculture for poverty alleviation, income generation and environmental protection in the rural village of Oshie in Momo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon.	Oshie, Momo Division, North West Region, Cameroon.
6	Integrated solid waste management in Kumbo Municipal Council in the	Kumbo, North West

	North West Region of Cameroon.	Region, Cameroon
7	Protection and research on the endangered Bannermans turacco bird in the Kilum Ijim forest of Bamenda highland forest region, Cameroon	Kilum-Ijim, North West Region, Cameroon
8	Promoting environmental, socio-cultural and traditional events and site visits for tourism to improve on children's understanding of school curriculum and instilling in them that duty of care for the environment and the protection of their culture	South West Region, Cameroon
9	Informal environmental education to protect the endermic and engandered Bannermans turacco bird in the Kilum Ijim forest of Bamenda highland region (shared by Nso, Oku and Kom tribes) population of the NORTH WEST REGION, CAMEROON	Kilum-Ijim, North West Region, Cameroon
10	Using the radio and the Zoological and Botanical Garden in Yaounde to sensitise the public, children and students on the need to sustainably manage forest resources in Cameroon.	Yaounde, Centre Region, Cameroon
11	Institute conservation of bannerman's turaco in the Kilum-Ijim Community Forest and girl child empowerment programme	Kilum Ijim Community Forest, North West Region, Cameroon

These are the project proposals that have been prepared and some of the project proposals have been presented to some grant making institutions. For now one of these project proposals succeeded to attract funding. This project is titled "Promoting the understanding and illustration of various Ecological Systems for Primary School children to create environmental awareness in Limbe, South West Province, Cameroon" and was funded by New England Biolabs Foundation with the sum of US\$ 7000. This project started in May 2008 and is to end at April 2009.

Presentation of the funded project on execution

CAMGEW succeeded to obtain funding from New England Biolabs Foundation in May 2008 for environmental education in schools. This project is titled "Promoting the understanding and illustration of various ecological systems for primary school children to create environmental awareness in Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon" and was funded with the sum of US\$ 7000. The project started in May 2008 and is to end at April 2009. This project had the following goals to attain

- Engaging school children to protect and value the various ecological systems in Limbe as they grow up.
- Using the school children to create environmental awareness on the threats that face the various ecosystems and the way to solve them
- Improving on the capacity of primary school teachers to teach environmental education in school using local examples and making it lively.
- Encouraging the girl child to pursue studies in sciences, especially science of the ecology.
- Improving on the performance rate of primary school children on environmental education (EE) in schools and their communication skills.

CAMGEW started this project by producing an environmental education guide for teachers of the primary schools in Limbe that reflected the various ecosystems that exist in Limbe. This guide was aimed at helping primary school teachers improve their skills on how to teach environmental education in schools using outdoor environment and local examples that can be seen by children. In the past CAMGEW had noticed that local environmental issues are not used to teach environmental education in schools. This

guide was distributed to teachers in Limbe. These guides were prepared to help teachers make environmental education lessons more pragmatic, effective and successful.

CAMGEW before the end of the year had created partnership with the government educational authorities and had started working with schools in Limbe on aquatic ecosystems like rivers and Atlantic Ocean studying the types of living organisms in fresh and marine waters, how they feed themselves, where they are found in water (floating, inside water or at the sides of the waters) and their importance to the ecosystems and mankind.



This project will end in April 2009.

Other activities carried out by CAMGEW in the course of the year 2008

- During holidays CAMGEW made presentations in various organised holidays classes in Yaounde to create awareness on environmental problems that affect the Cameroon society. Much focus was placed on the forest.
- CAMGEW visited the Handicap Centre here Yaounde to present some basic needs like savons and hygienic papers to the less privilege children

ATIVITIES PROGRAMME FOR 2009

- Continuation of environmental education programme in Limbe
- Organising field visits for the public to various conservation sites like zoos, parks, gardens, community forest and reserves to bring about a positive behavioural change towards the environment
- Searching for funding for our activities
- Offering prizes for the most performant gild children in schools to promote academic excellence
- Developing of CAMGEW website
- Fight against girl child trafficking
- Renting an office for CAMGEW
- Capacity building of CAMGEW staff
- Creating partnerships and networks
- Celebrating important global days like world environment day, Earth day, rivers day, ozone day etc

- Developing handouts to create public awareness on the need to protect the gorillas especially as 2009 is declared WORLD GORILLA YEAR.
- Making sure that CAMGEW help at least 5 girl children in a rural area in Bui Division of the North West region to pay their school fees and provide for their basic school needs this coming school year starting in September 2009
- Visiting and providing for the less privilege children

CHALLENGES OF CAMGEW 2008

- CAMGEW still lack some basic working materials like computers and digital camera to snap pictures of all her activities. This is a big problem to us most of our activities do not have photos
- CAMGEW do not yet have an office of her own
- There is need for capacity building of CAMGEW staff especially young staff with little experience
- CAMGEW need institutional support in form of office running cost and wages for staff

CAMGEW members are reflecting on these challenges and thinking of possible methods to raise funds handle these challenges.

CONCLUSION

CAMGEW is moving forward although slowly and with challenges. The spirit and zeal to keep on moving is there. CAMGEW believes she can and so will continue to work harder. CAMGEW sees the future bright and will strive to make sure that this is made a reality. CAMGEW will also like to thank all who help her this year 2008 to make things work. We all look forward for a better cooperation, networking and partnering in 2009 with you and with other news partners.