



CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

Authorisation N°.000998/RDA/J06/BAPP

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009



Children singing songs and dancing during CAMGEW's World Rivers Day celebration

INTRODUCTION

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a not-for-profit initiative created in October 2007 with authorisation 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 sees the future of our mother planet- earth in the hands of men and women, youths and the old. CAMGEW believes that environmental and social justice must be put at the centre of every development.

This is the second annual report of CAMGEW since her creation in October 2007. CAMGEW is fast growing and this can be demonstrated from the activities she carried out in 2009. CAMGEW demonstrated to a higher degree that the future is bright through her engagements. She made herself known more this year as an actor in promoting sustainable development, partnership, education and self reliance. CAMGEW was able to improve on institutional capacity, staff capacity building, sharing of information, project development and project execution. The founders of CAMGEW, staff and new members, demonstrated a spirit of positive thinking and team work that made CAMGEW move to this present level. This could not be possible without assistance (financial, moral and material) from partners, members and well wishers. CAMGEW strives to better serve humanity by making life better for all especially women, their children and the environment. CAMGEW has the following vision, mission, and objectives:

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, potable 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.

CAMGEW's ACTIVITIES IN 2009

1) Institutional material

CAMGEW developed and launched her website in December 2009. CAMGEW staff took two months to prepare the information that was needed to build the website. This information was then given to the website designer who organised it and designed the website. The website was launched in December 2009 and feed back from the public has been positive. CAMGEW received some comments from the public on the website and these comments have been used to improve on the website. CAMGEW can now communicate better with all people locally, nationally and internationally using her website. This will help her share knowledge, skills and experiences and success stories for replication in other parts. She will also

present her needs, challenges and problems to the public through this website. This will enable her to learn from others who must to break through these challenges and difficulties through sharing.

2) Creation of partnerships

CAMGEW created partnerships with institutions that exist nationally and internationally. CAMGEW in May 2009 entered into partnership with Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) a development non profit organisation that helped in building the capacity of her staff on integrated organic farming and biogas plant design and operation. CAMGEW also created partnership with ASSEJA another non profit organisation in Cameroon in November 2009 with head quarters in Yaoundé to work on child trafficking through identification and rehabilitation of these children in Yaoundé. Partnerships were also created with other national organisations like CENDEP, Nature Cameroon, Ease Conservation Cameroon, Cameroon Ecovillage. The partnership that was created with Better World Cameroon was reinforced in July 2009 when CAMGEW staff visited and discussed with her. CAMGEW also created partnership with a Netherlands based NGO called BIS that work to improve on children's welfare. Through this partnership CAMGEW will improve on the welfare of children in Cameroon. CAMGEW is still creating many more partnerships now.

3) Staff capacity building

Capacity building in Strategic Humanitarian Service (SHUMAS)

CAMGEW staff went for capacity building in SHUMAS' Integrated Organic Farming Demonstration Centre (BIOFARM). This BIOFARM is a demonstration centre for local peasant farmers and also an institution that trains these peasant farmers on modern techniques to improve on crop and animal yields without using chemicals like pesticides and inorganic fertilizer that are harmful to the environment and have become so expensive. SHUMAS also trains them on renewable energy like biogas production from animal dung. Wirsiy Emmanuel and staff in CAMGEW went for capacity building in SHUMAS' BIOFARM on integrated organic farming and biogas production and design. He learned modern techniques of animal rearing, pasture improvement, agroforestry, vegetable cultivation, crop nursery, compost manure preparation and use and crop production. He also learned much on biogas production for cooking and heating in poultry and the utilization of its by-products for soil enrichment and pest management. CAMGEW engaged in this training because she is interested in carrying out similar activities in the future. She is presently searching for opportunities that can help her start a biofarm to fight food crisis; unemployment and poverty through the training of peasant farmers on organic farming. Synthetic fertilizers that are commonly used have grown so expensive against the affordability of local farmers. There is a growing need in our community to consume chemical-free farm products and preserve the soil and biodiversity from chemical impacts and join in the fight against climate change by acting locally and thinking globally.



CAMGEW staff on training in the SHUMAS' BIOFARM Centre

Training workshop on Hygiene and Sanitation

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch participated in a Hygiene and Sanitation Training Workshop in Kumbo organized by a USA based Thirst Relief International in partnership with their locally based partner Life and Water Development Group-Cameroon from June 22 through 24, 2009. Wirngo Juliette, a CAMGEW staff attended this training workshop. This workshop trained participants on disease transmission and prevention, water treatment, treating childhood diarrhoea, nutrition and common local diseases. CAMGEW learned much about problems related to water borne diseases and simple methods to treat water locally. There was a field trip to Mboh village (close to Kumbo) which was very interesting. This workshop made CAMGEW to know more about problems in rural areas around Kumbo where she is interested in carrying out her activities.



Participants in the Hygiene and Sanitation Training Workshop

Training workshop to fight child trafficking

CAMGEW attended a training workshop on the sensitization and creation of vigilance committees in ASSEJA's head office in Yaounde to fight against child trafficking and identify trafficked children from the North West and South West Region in difficulties in Yaounde for rehabilitation and insertion into the society. The meeting which took place on the 28th of November 2009 was organized by ASSEJA under a child trafficking programme funded by Catholic Relief Services. CAMGEW has join ASSEJA through one of the committees created to sensitize the public on children's rights and the need to fight against child labour and child trafficking. CAMGEW together with members of her committee are sensitizing the public too on the national and international laws that protect children. The knowledge, skills and experience gotten from sharing with groups, communities and resource persons is building CAMGEW's capacity to prepare a brighter future for children in Cameroon.



CAMGEW in a training workshop on child trafficking in ASSEJA

4) CAMGEW board of directors meeting

In July 2009 a board of directors meeting was held at Madagascar, Yaounde. The aim of this meeting was to admit new members in to CAMGEW and elect the new executive members of CAMGEW to run the affairs of the organization. A plan of action of CAMGEW for the rest of the year was discussed and adopted. During the meeting it was accepted that a website and postal box should be created for CAMGEW. Members also decided that CAMGEW should create more partnerships and make herself

known locally, nationally and internationally. The issue of getting an office for CAMGEW remained pertinent but no solution was arrived. Members also accepted to pay their membership dues regularly to help CAMGEW meet up with other cost in running the organization. Membership dues were accepted to be paid in cash or through services rendered or material support to the organization that could be evaluated and converted to monetary terms. The membership dues were fixed at 5000FCFA and members were encouraged to give more if they have to make CAMGEW move forward and serve humanity and the environment. The staff and members of CAMGEW were called upon to do much on fund raising and project development to meet the financial challenges that plague CAMGEW. The next board of directors meeting was fixed for March 2010.

5) Feasibility studies carried out for project proposal development

CAMGEW traveled to Oku in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon in May 2009 and carried out feasibility studies on activities to develop for the benefit of children, women, the forest and wildlife. Oku has the first developed community forest in Cameroon that is rich in bird diversity and endangered and endemic birds and wildlife like Bannerman's turaco. This forest was developed by Birdlife International. Many children here end school after primary education and there are many children too orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The main activity is agriculture and there is the practice of slash-and-burn of the forest for agriculture. CAMGEW discovered many activities in Oku that she could carry out to protect the environment, improve on agriculture and improve on children's welfare. CAMGEW has developed some project proposals to solve these identified problems. These proposals are available now. CAMGEW's staff also visited some villages at the periphery of Kumbo to carry out similar studies and came out too with a list of problems that she needs to address. These activities include the reintroduction of school gardens to encourage out door learning and to bring children closer to agriculture which is the main occupation of Bui Division.



There are also many other projects that have been developed that involve sensitization, advocacy and lobbying on environment, women empowerment and children's welfare. Some also exist on education of children and the provision of services to the less privilege people.

6) Events involved

CAMGEW celebrates world rivers day

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) celebrated the World Rivers Day with primary school children of CENETECH in Nkolbisson in the outskirts of Yaoundé (capital of Cameroon). The Rivers Day was on Sunday 28th of September 2009, but CAMGEW celebrated it with children on Monday 29th of September 2009. CAMGEW prepared a quiz on rivers for classes four, five and six. The best six children who came from the three classes received prizes made up of exercise books, pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners. It was CAMGEW's way to commemorate the World's River Day. The prizes were

handed to children who produced the best answers to the quiz on the 6th of October 2009. It was a great day in CENETECH with children singing songs of joy and dancing. The correction to the quiz was handed to the school authority to discuss with children. CAMGEW felt satisfied building future environmentalists and citizens that will live in harmony with nature. CAMGEW's widow's mite (whole hearted gift) in form of prizes was received by children and school authority with a lot of heart felt satisfaction.



World rivers day celebration and handing of prizes to children

CAMGEW attended workshop on climate change

CAMGEW attended a climate change workshop in Bandjoun close to Bafoussam in the West Region of Cameroon on World Wide Views on Global Warming on September 2009. This workshop had as main objective to get grass root views on what should be done about global warming in the global climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. CAMGEW participated fully as a grassroots organization and came out with views that were made known to world political leaders and decision makers for consideration in decision making on climate change in Copenhagen.

7) Funded project

CAMGEW continued with the execution of the project titled "Promoting the understanding and illustration of various ecological systems for primary school children to create environmental awareness in Limbe, South West Region, Cameroon" that was funded in May 2008 with the sum of US \$7000 by New England Biolabs Foundation. The project execution started in May 2008 and was to end in 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 schools 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 the area. 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 were not sufficiently used to teach environmental education in schools. This guide was distributed to teachers in Limbe to help them make environmental education lessons more pragmatic, effective and successful.

CAMGEW before beginning the execution of the project created partnership with the government educational authorities and schools. Children learn much 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.

CAMGEW continued working with children till the end of April 2009 when she prepared a detailed project report for New England Biolabs Foundation and also shared it with other partners.



Children learning more on environment out doors

8) Other activities

CAMGEW also carried out these activities on regular basis

- ❖ Project writing and developing existing project to adapt to the demand of various funding bodies;
- ❖ Voluntary services has been offered by members of CAMGEW when need be to make things work better;
- ❖ Creation of new partnerships, searching for funding opportunities and volunteers in her field of action to improve on her activities.

9) Good news

At the end of December 2009, CAMGEW received funding from New England Biolabs Foundation of \$ 5000 to continue with the environmental education project in Limbe for the next one year. The amount reduced drastically because of the world financial crisis.

10) Challenges and problems to overcome in 2010

- 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 as most of our activities do not have photos because this handicap;
- CAMGEW do not yet have an office of her own. She functions from a members house;
- CAMGEW has not got funds to execute identified projects;
- CAMGEW staff has stipends because they do not have enough money to pay salaries;
- There is need for capacity building of CAMGEW staff especially young staff with little experience;
- CAMGEW needs institutional support in form of office running cost, equipping of office and wages for staff.

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

ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR 2010

- 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 opportunities for CAMGEW activities and salaries of staff;
- Offering prizes for the most performing school children especially the girl children to promote academic excellence in areas where poverty is high and there is low scholarisation like Oku and peripheries of Kumbo in the North West Region
- Continue the fight against child trafficking;
- Renting an office for CAMGEW;
- Capacity building of CAMGEW staff;
- Creating more partnerships and networks locally, nationally and internationally;
- 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 environment and wildlife;
- Making sure that CAMGEW help at least 20 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 2010;
- Visiting and providing for the less privilege children.

CONCLUSION

CAMGEW has again moved forward this year as compared to last year. The movement is slow but steady. The spirit and zeal to keep on moving is increasing. CAMGEW sees the future to be bright if she continues to use the experience she gathers to tackle the challenges that she faces to build the future. CAMGEW is grateful for all the assistance in all forms she received last year from partners and well wishers that helped her work towards attaining her objectives in 2009. She is also grateful for all the organisations that accepted to work with her in 2009 to make things work better for humanity. We all look forward for a better cooperation, networking and partnership with you and new partners this 2010.

The executive

NAMES	TITLE	PROFESSION	SIGNATURE
WIRSIY Emmanuel Binyuy	President	Environmentalist	
Youngeh Peter Mawo	Secretary	Environmentalist	
MIMSHEH Vivian Sango	Treasurer	Anthropologist	
WIRGO Juliette Maayenin	Financial Secretary	Gender and Sociologist	
MEH Innocent Ettia	Adviser	Teacher	