

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

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Preface

Gender and environmental issues are amongst the important international concerns. The Millennium Development Goals adopted by the 55th session of the United Nation's General Assembly lay much emphasis on this. Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is working towards achieving these set goals and enhancing gender equality by acting locally while thinking globally. She integrates gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. This is the third annual report of CAMGEW since her creation in October 2007. CAMGEW is moving forward with increasing partners created locally, nationally and internationally. CAMGEW's dream to give women and their children a better life in a better environment is gradually happening. The future looks bright if the same effort that is put by members and partners is maintained or better still improved in the execution of her activities in 2011.

Taking in to consideration the numerous environmental and gender problems encountered worldwide, and recognising that solutions to these problems can only come through concerted action from all concerned persons and citizen organisations, CAMGEW is an initiative in this direction. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in the hands of men and women, young and old and also that this planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development.

CAMGEW recognises sufferings of women and their children nationally and world-wide. Women and children lack access to basic facilities. Their activities are affected by climate change and other environmental crisis and it is for these reasons that CAMGEW is working and putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development. CAMGEW is using sensitisation, lobbying and advocacy to influence development. CAMGEW is putting much effort to take part in the provision of basic amenities like water, energy, food and education to women and their children.

This 2010 annual report presents in brief what was achieved by CAMGEW in 2010, her challenges and expectations from the planned activities in 2011. For more exhaustive information about our activities, we gladly refer you to our website; www.camgew.com, and when you visit our website, please feel free to contact us with your criticisms, suggestions, and support to any posted projects and request to be a volunteer for any of our activities. CAMGEW is also ready to liaise with like minded organisations worldwide to meet her set objectives and to prepare a favourable environment for this to happen, CAMGEW has resolved to function according to her core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in total respect of its constitution.

ALL what was achieved in 2010 and other years would have not been possible without the financial, moral, technical and material assistance from you our partners, members and well wishers. We say thank you and promise to continue striving to better serve humanity by making life better for all especially women, their children and the environment.



Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy
CAMGEW's Director

1.0 PRESENTING CAMGEW

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 our hands. CAMGEW believes that environmental and social justice must be put at the centre of every development.

CAMGEW has the following mission, and objectives:

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.

2.0 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

2.1 Institutional equipment and material

CAMGEW never bought any new equipment in 2010. With support from a funded project by New England Biolabs Foundation and from members' contribution, she was able to buy stationeries for use in the office. CAMGEW has no office as of now, she functions from a member's house with limited space.

2.2 Human capacity building programme

CAMGEW did a lot this year to build the capacity of her members in various domains to make her strong in project conception, writing, fund raising, execution, monitoring and evaluation. In partnership with ASSEJA, two of CAMGEW members; Wirngo Juillete and Sevidzem Ernestine, all women received continuous training on how to engage in campaigns against child trafficking in 2010. This involved learning skills on how to identify trafficked children and measures to take to protect and help them. This involved preventive and mitigation measures. Another female member, Ndeh Clarisse, went for a six months training on habitat restoration and environmental education in Washington, USA, under Atlas Corps programme. The training started in June 2010 and was to end in December 2010. Wirsy Emmanuel did six months research in partial fulfilment for the award of a Masters Degree in Environmental Restoration. This research focused on the assessment of the effectiveness of biogas slurry as bio fertilizer for vegetable gardening. In the course of this research in Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS)' Integrated Organic Farm (BIOFARM), he learned much on the functioning of biogas systems, agro forestry and integrated organic agriculture. The research results will go a long way to popularize biogas systems for energy and agricultural use by poor peasant farmers' communities especially women. This will help in the fight against deforestation, human drudgeries of moving long distances to fetch firewood, in house

pollution by smoke, provide fertilizer that is environmentally friendly and economical, and finally engage peasant farmers in the fight against climate change. Wirsiy Emmanuel also did a distance learning certificate course on agro forestry with “Trees for the Future” based in Maryland, USA, from April to July 2010, and obtained an Agro forestry Certificate in August 2010. CAMGEW is now able to work in partnership with this institution to train local groups on agro forestry. CAMGEW is qualified to get tree seeds from this organisation to set a nursery. All these trainings received are giving CAMGEW the opportunity to grow and get the reputation that she needs.

2.3 Training workshops/conferences

CAMGEW was represented in many workshops, conferences and seminars and those that she learned many new issues are these ones below.

On February 2, 2010 CAMGEW attended a conference that marked the celebration of World Wetlands Day under the theme “Wetlands, biodiversity and climate change” in Yaoundé Cameroon. From presentations and videos made by NGOs working on wetlands management, livelihoods of people living there and the realities of Climate change in Cameroon, CAMGEW learned much on climate change and wetlands.

In June 2010, CAMGEW also represented in a three day workshop that brought together civil society organizations and the pygmy population (indigenous and forest people) to reflect on the Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and its application in the tropical rain forest of Cameroon. This was organized by Forest Peoples Programme and Centre pour l’environnement et Developpement (CED). CAMGEW learned how REDD could apply in the case of Cameroon.



Participants in the Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) workshop

On February 26th 2010, CAMGEW was also represented in a training workshop on entrepreneurship, project development and fund raising organised by Centre for Entrepreneurship (CFE) in partnership with the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon. This workshop had as objectives to promote creativity and innovation in young Cameroonians and also instil in them the spirit of enterprising and job creation to fight poverty and unemployment.

CAMGEW’s interest on Environmental Impact Assessment pushed her to take part in an Environmental Impact Evaluation training workshop in February 26, 2010 organised by the Cameroon’s Ministry of Public Works’ Environmental Protection Unit and the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon. This workshop drilled CAMGEW through presentations and field work on the importance of EIA, its application and the procedures involved.

3.0 PARTNERSHIPS CREATED

In 2010, CAMGEW created some partnerships locally and internationally. These partnerships now promote collaboration in information sharing, fund raising and capacity building. These partnerships are helping CAMGEW grow in knowledge; skills and experience through information sharing, exchange visits and fund raising to better protect the environment and serve women and their children.

3.1 International partners

CAMGEW entered into partnership with a Berlin, Germany based non profit-Changing Rural World e.V (CRW). to share information. CRW is also trying to help CAMGEW in project fund raising. CAMGEW went into collaboration with "Trees for the Future" Maryland, USA when one of her members completed the Long distance learning certificate course with her. "Trees for the Future" is ready to supply CAMGEW with tree seeds to set a tree nursery through their Cameroon representative. CAMGEW is planning to set a tree nursery in 2011 with seeds from "Trees for the Future". Tree seedlings will go to improve on soil fertility, provide firewood, shade to crops, prevent soil erosion and serve as wind breaks in farms. The partnership between CAMGEW and Stichting Onderwijs en Ontwikkeling voor Kinderen (Stichting OOK),, Netherlands created in 2009 has resulted in a successful project development and funds raised. The funds will provide scholarships, support excellence and life skill training for children in primary schools in 2011, in Oku of North West Region, Cameroon. The money raised from produced items by children will be used to buy school didactic materials and support the payment of teachers recruited by Parent-Teachers Association. This project was developed after CAMGEW discovered that many children in Oku end education at primary school level. When they leave school they lack skills in trades that can make them self reliant. This pushes many of them to deviant activities. CAMGEW therefore decided to develop a project proposal in partnership with Stichting OOK, to promote life skill learning in primary schools so as to give children skills in certain trades that will make them useful to the society and even push them to forge ahead with education by using money raised from self reliant activities to advance studies. CAMGEW has also continued working with Ease Conservation Cameroon, Yaoundé on environmental education for children.

3.2 National partners

The partnership between CAMGEW and SHUMAS has been very fruitful. SHUMAS has been building the capacity of CAMGEW's personnel in integrated organic agriculture, agroforestry and biogas systems for energy and agriculture. SHUMAS also provided CAMGEW with research assistance. CAMGEW has also worked closely with Cameroon Women In Action Society (CAWAS)-a charity to reach children in need. CAWAS has as objective to show motherly love to the less privilege children in Cameroon and help improve on the lives of women in Cameroon. CAMGEW hopes to reach less privileged children in Cameroon by working together with CAWAS. Our contributions in cash and kind and training workshops to orphanages, prisons, street children and hospitals will help to improve the lives of these children and mothers in need. In collaboration with CAWAS-a purely women's group, CAMGEW will also be able to help many other women.

Just to name a few CAMGEW has continued working with Better World Cameroon, Future In Our Hands-UK, Cameroon Ecovillage, Ease Conservation Cameroon and with administrative, local and traditional authorities.

4.0 EXCHANGE VISITS

On the 24th of May 2010, SHUMAS and CAMGEW visited Institute Nationale Evangelique Des Enfants Deficient Auditifs et Visuels (INEDAV), Cameroon in Obala, Centre Region of Cameroon. INEDAV works with deficient children especially the deaf ones to build their capacity to be responsible citizens through formal education and professional training. Reverend Pastor Bikond André Christophe and his wife, all disabled (deaf) are heading

INADEV. The visit had as objective to get acquaintance with INEDAV activities, their successes, challenges and problems faced. SHUMAS was represented by Ndzerem Stephen and CAMGEW by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy.



The first picture presents Emmanuel, Pastor Bikond and Stephen while the second picture shows deaf children making prayers before meal.

Rev. Pastor Bikond André Christophe and his wife in the presence of some deaf children received SHUMAS and CAMGEW representatives. SHUMAS and CAMGEW were impressed with this initiative for the deaf by the deaf. CAMGEW has been reflecting on how to partner with INADEV and make things work for this set of children.

CAMGEW on Monday 5th of April 2010 visited Global Rehabilitation Services (GLORES) based in Bafoussam, Cameroon. GLORES works to correct bone deformities in children. CAMGEW was impressed with the commitment of GLORES and the impact of her works.



The first picture presents Emmanuel of CAMGEW and Wirngo Alfred of GLORES in a discussion and second shows Alfred at work.

CAMGEW has opted to make many people know about GLORES and to identify children with these bone deformities and link them to GLORES.



CAMGEW's exciting discovery of GLORES' success stories where a child legs were corrected

5.0 PROJECTS, RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES DONE

5.1 Environmental education

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) executed a project entitled “Promoting the understanding and illustration of various Ecological Systems for Primary School children to create environmental awareness in Limbe, South West Province, Cameroon” with support from New England Biolabs Foundation (NEBF) from January 2010 to December 2010. This project tied with CAMGEW’s objective to promote environmental protection and awareness in Cameroon amongst children. The project helped in instilling the spirit of care for the environment in children as they grow up. School children had field visits with their teachers and CAMGEW to the Limbe Botanic Garden, Limbe Wildlife Centre and beaches at the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, river ecology, and monoculture and organic farms where they had onsite lectures.



Primary school children for environmental education the Limbe Wildlife Centre and the oil palm plantation

The children were taught on ecological processes in each ecosystem like ocean (plankton types as fish food, low and high tides, importance of beaches, beaches and ecotourism, types of ocean vegetation and their adaptation etc), Zoo (why animals are kept in zoos, types of animals, what they eat, when they are active, nocturnal or not, where they live etc), Botanic Garden (types of plants, ornamental, medicinal, cultural and economic value, their position in the forest, the role of the forest for water, food, animal habitat, pollination and regeneration, deforestation and its impacts), types of agriculture (monoculture for example plantations with pesticides problems and its impacts on biodiversity and human health),



Conservator of Limbe Botanic Garden joined CAMGEW to celebrate the youth week with school children and their teachers in the garden.

The participation of teachers in outdoor environmental lessons improved their capacity to make environmental education more successful and interesting for children. Some training materials were produced and distributed to teachers to help them improve on environmental education lessons.

5.2 Fight against child trafficking

CAMGEW joined Association for children, young people and future (ASSEJA), Cameroon that received support from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to fight against child trafficking. This project started with CAMGEW receiving training in ASSEJA with other identified groups in November 2009 on how to make a campaign against child trafficking and identify victims. This project had as objective to sensitize the public on the ills of child trafficking, identify victims and rehabilitate them. CAMGEW was involved in the sensitization of the public and the identification of victims. In this project CAMGEW sensitized the communities through social gatherings on the need to protect children and the role of the law to persons involved in child trafficking. Through this sensitization campaign CAMGEW identified some trafficked children that needed rehabilitation. These identified children were taken to ASSEJA where they were registered and interviewed to know the type of rehabilitation they needed. Identified victims who were mostly girls are now learning trades like tailoring and some boys, motor mechanics. ASSEJA paid for their apprenticeship fee. CAMGEW was proud to have taken part in this project that made her come closer to children in need.

5.3 Research on biogas slurry as biofertilizer for vegetable gardening

CAMGEW carried out research to assess the effectiveness of biogas slurry as biofertilizer for vegetable (huckleberry) gardening through the SHUMAS Integrated Organic Farm (BIOFARM) Centre in Kumbo. This research was carried out by a CAMGEW staff in partnership with SHUMAS. SHUMAS gave some support for the research. This research started in October 2010 and was to end in January 2011.



First picture present biogas system linked to piggery, second biogas slurry being removed from its chamber and third dried biogas slurry

The results of the research presented in a report form will be available by April 2011. The research had as objective to standardize the quantity of biogas slurry to be used as biofertilizer for huckleberry cultivation. Huckleberry has a high market demand in Cameroon and can be a source of income for poor peasant farmers to fight poverty.



First picture present biogas slurry weighing for use as biofertilizer and the second biogas slurry applied as biofertilizer in research plot

This research will go a long way to popularize biogas systems for energy and agriculture use by poor peasant farmers' communities and help stop deforestation, human drudgeries of moving long distances to fetch firewood, in-house pollution by smoke from firewood, provide fertilizer that is environmentally friendly and integrate peasant farmers in the fight against climate change.



Pictures present huckleberry in research plot and harvested vegetable being weighed

Wirsiy Emmanuel of CAMGEW will use the results to complete his Masters Degree course on Environmental Restoration. CAMGEW is now looking for support to popularize the results to peasant communities by building demonstration biogas systems for energy and biofertilizer.

5.4 Scholarships awarded

CAMGEW used part of funds raised from membership contributions to pay school fees of three less privileged primary school children in Oku of Bui Division in 2010.

5.5 Feasibility studies

CAMGEW carried out some feasibility studies in Cameroon. These feasibility studies were carried out in the following areas:

- In Kumbo, members of some peasant farmers' women groups were contacted by CAMGEW to find out from them problems they face related to agriculture. CAMGEW also visited their farms. CAMGEW through discussion with them discovered that they needed better farming methods; farmers input like tools and agroforestry techniques that will improve their soil fertility, provide for firewood as firewood is already expensive to buy and give them the opportunity rear a few animals like goats, sheep, rabbits in confinement that will be fed with vegetation provided by agroforestry practices in farms. Some of them told us that they sold their crops immediately as they harvested because they lack means to preserve them. This was also done to raise money to meet their basic needs. They let us know that when they sell immediately after harvest the prices are so bad and some months after the food crops become so expensive even for them to buy.



Peasant farmers women's group representative based in Kumbo

The women told us that if they had a way to keep their crops longer they will do so and sell them when prices go up. One other woman told us that she was obliged to sell to pay school fees for her children. CAMGEW quickly saw that these women needed a microcredit scheme, capacity building in agribusiness that will increase their bargaining power and skills on food preservation.

- CAMGEW made a trip to Oku and worked with some women and schools. CAMGEW came to see the potential of the community forest present in Oku in bee farming. CAMGEW saw that women groups could engage in bee farming by producing beehives and mounting them in the forest. Honey has a high market. Once as the bee hive is colonised in the forest it needs no extra care. It has a long life span. Women could also be sure of the market in time as the Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) can pay honey immediately after harvest or even pay up-front. The OHCS also provide harvesting equipment and materials to her members and once as women groups get membership they will be sure of these benefits. Women can also benefit from profit once the cooperative makes profit. Women could decide to process their honey and sell the pure honey while using honey by-product-wax to produce candles, lotions and medications. This has a high market too. For this to happen, women need training in honey transformation. CAMGEW identified that in partnership with OHCS women's capacity programme could be developed in this line. This can alleviate poverty and improve on the standards of living of women. The forest is so vast and permits this activity in large scale. Community members are free to carryout bee farming in the forest. Bee farming will also go for benefit sharing for the environment and population. The forest will be protected from bushfires and deforestation because if this does not take place they will have no honey and no money. The local population's interest now will be to protect their beehives through the protection of the forest from harm. In so doing, the forest will be able to generate water and fresh air which are indirect benefits to village dweller considered common goods. Preserving the forest will mean acting locally while thinking globally to tackling climate change
- In Riba, a small community in the out skirt of Kumbo in Bui Division, CAMGEW noticed that the population get their drinking water from a river that flows a distance from settlement. Most of those who fetch water are women and their children. This water, when fetched, is not purified before drinking. This river is used by grazing animals and people up stream. This area is purely a farming area and people use chemicals in farms. CAMGEW saw the need for purification of water before drinking and

in this light CAMGEW sees the need to provide these people with bio sand filters that will purify water before drinking. It is a simple and cheap technology.

- CAMGEW discovered that most grazing lands in the out skirt of Kumbo become totally dry in the dry season and animals lack pasture for grazing. Animals like cattle, goat, sheep move around fending for pasture. Most of this pasture is found in valleys with wetland or river banks. These areas are also cultivated by farmers for vegetable production in dry season. This is an activity of women. Farmer-grazer conflicts are common here. In these areas animal owners do not know of trees that could be planted and their leaves used to feed animals like *Luecena leucocephala*, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Sesbania* and *Accacia*. These trees could be planted to serve as fences and their leaves used to feed animals in confinement in the dry season. The trees are rich in nutrients. CAMGEW saw the need to prepare a nursery of these trees and through a sensitisation campaign to animal farmers they will come to know about this and come to get the tree seedlings for planting. CAMGEW hopes to provide some seedlings to be planted too by women in their farms so that these trees could enrich their soils in nutrients, act as shade to crops, hold the soil intact against erosion and the leaves harvested to feed animals they rear in confinement.

5.6 Other projects carried out

CAMGEW took children and youths to the Zoological and Botanic Garden in Yaoundé. CAMGEW also took part in the celebrations of Earth Day, Environment Day, Rivers Day, and some national days like Youth week celebrations.

6.0 WHERE CAMGEW GOT SUPPORT IN 2010

In 2010 CAMGEW got support for her activities from

- New England Biolabs Foundation, USA
- Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) supported CAMGEW in activities jointly carried out
- CAMGEW's membership contributions and registration fees
- CAMGEW members voluntary services

7.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FOR 2011

CAMGEW carried out a need assessment in various communities and the following activities were prioritise to be executed in 2011 to better protect the environment and help improve the living standards of women, their children and families.

7.1 2011 already funded activities

- Life skill training for primary schools children in Oku. This project involves providing agricultural inputs to 5 schools in Oku and drawing, craft work, knitting and marking materials to children to use and gain skills in these sectors. The skills gained through learning by doing will the children to be productive so as to improve their lives during and after school. CAMGEW discovered that many children end formal education after primary school and lack life sustaining skills meanwhile others wished to continue schools but lack the means to raise money to continue. This project is an initiative to make this happen. In agriculture wheel barrows, hoes, cutlasses, seeds, watering cans, spades, buckets and many more agricultural materials will be supplied. This project has been supported by Stichting OOK, Netherlands.

This project will need voluntary services of CAMGEW to train the children in these various sectors. The challenge in this project is that salaries and running cost of CAMGEW has not been covered.

- CAMGEW has been able to secure scholarships for about 250 children in Oku. Preference for the award will be given to the girl child who is less privileged. This project has been supported by Stichting OOK, Netherlands.
- Some money has also been secured to promote excellence for most performant and improved primary school children in Oku. Preference too will still be given to the girl child who is less privileged. This project has been supported by Stichting OOK, Netherlands.

7.2 2011 activities to be supported by CAMGEW

CAMGEW is ready to support the following activities but additional support from any other source will give these activities more weight

- Women's day celebration by visiting and giving to children in orphanage and encouraging young girls in school to be interested in science and technology.
- Celebration of other important days like World Environment day, Earth day, Rivers day, Rural women's day, Ozone day, World Wetlands day, Youth week African Human Right day, African day of the child, etc
- Exchange visits with partner institutions locally;
- Attending of workshops, seminars, conferences,
- Visiting children and women in need in hospitals, orphanages, prisons, and streets and supporting them with basic needs.

7.3 2011 projects and activities planned in need of support

CAMGEW is still searching for opportunities to raise funds for these activities below. Your financial, material and technical support will be appreciated. All feasibility studies for projects carried out are planned projects that need to be developed and executed.

➤ Capacity building

- Organising trainings for CAMGEW staff on project writing, fund raising, creation of partnerships, etc
- Agroforestry training for farmers groups to be carried out in partnership with Trees For the Future;
- Training for women on hygiene and sanitation in Riba, Bah and other areas in need with poor water for drinking;
- CAMGEW staff will take free online certificate courses offered by United States Institute of Peace in Conflict Analysis, and Negotiation and Conflict Management;

➤ Projects and activities

- Provision of bio sand filters to women in Riba and other areas with lack of clean water sources
- Campaign against child trafficking in Centre and North West Region especially the girl child that is always a victim.
- Women literacy programme
- Promoting income generation activities for women like bee farming for honey and wax, improved agricultural techniques, bargaining skills and food preservation techniques for women;

- Radio programmes developed and broadcasted weekly on topics like agroforestry, women and water, women and income generation, child trafficking, environmental education, youth and development, etc
- Biogas systems development for energy, biofertilizer and biopesticides for use by women peasant farmers.
- Setting a tree nursery of agroforestry trees for distribution to women farmers to plant in their farms to improve soil fertility, provide shade, serve as wind breaks and leaves serve as forage for animals. Some of the trees-forage will be distributed to animal rearers to plant in their grazing lands;
- Environmental education for children and youths in Yaoundé and Oku. This will involve visits to the Yaoundé zoo, bird watching for environmental education in Oku community forest, organic agriculture in Oku,
- Tackling of cholera in affected areas in Cameroon through sensitisation and distribution of guides on how to prevent cholera and other water born diseases
- Organisation of workshops on creativity and innovation for youths to help them tackling unemployment and poverty
- Bee farming for primary education in Kilum-Ijim community forest
- Ecotourism for environmental education for schools and community in Kilum-Ijim community forest
- Kilum-Ijim community forest conservation for benefit sharing between the environment and local people.

8.0 CHALLENGES FACED BY CAMGEW

- CAMGEW needs institutional capacity building. This also involves staff capacity building in project writing, fund raising, creation of partnerships, book keeping, etc;
- CAMGEW staff lack salaries. Services provided by CAMGEW are on voluntary basis.
- CAMGEW lacks running cost to pay rents, bills and get working materials like stationeries, communication, etc
- CAMGEW needs more partners nationally and internationally to share in their experiences, skills and knowledge in order to grow. Financial and material support from these partners will also be welcome.