

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

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Preface

Climate change, food, energy and economic crisis are greatest challenges that plague the globe today. Hunger, poverty, rural livelihoods, nutrition, and human health are critical issues linked to these crises that need to be addressed in ways that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Although, we are worried about all these and seek solutions to these crises there is need for the rights of the future generation to a healthy planet to be protected. Creative and innovative initiatives that can address these challenges and help meet the United Nation's set Millennium Development Goals and make Cameroon an emerging nation by 2035 is what is needed now.

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is an initiative that works to address these challenges in Cameroon and keep the planet healthy. CAMGEW has been turning ideas to action and this is helping fight poverty, hunger and joblessness while bringing gender balance, improving the welfare of children and protecting the environment. CAMGEW share knowledge, skills and experience with communities to promote community empowerment and leadership in domains of environmental protection, education, social welfare and gender balance.

CAMGEW achieved much in 2011 like in 2010 in the above mentioned areas. In 2011, she worked more on children's development. CAMGEW provided scholarships (books, uniforms and fees) to more than 300 children. CAMGEW gave prizes of excellence to close to 350 children to promote academic excellence in schools. Farm tools and handiwork materials were provided to 21 schools and some of these schools receive technical support in these areas. CAMGEW worked too to promote hygiene and sanitation in schools. This work was done with financial support from Stichting OOK-a Netherland based charity. CAMGEW nursed 10000 trees of *Prunus africana* and these trees are ready for planting. Some agroforestry trees were nursed and distributed to women farmers to improve soil fertility, prevent soil erosion, and provide shade to crops. CAMGEW continued work on biogas technology as a source of biofertilizer for vegetable gardening.

CAMGEW is grateful to every person and organisation that supported her technically, financially, morally and materially to change lives of people and community in 2011. Special thanks go to our funder especially Stichting OOK. CAMGEW is moving forward and this is clear from the increasing number of activities she is carrying out in communities that are changing lives. In 2011, CAMGEW won the World Bank organised Development Market Place Competition organised in Cameroon on governance in the forest, health and education sectors. CAMGEW 's project is titled 'Oku Community Forest Management for Benefit Sharing'. It will be executed in 2012. Stichting OOK approved and started raising funds for a Vocational Training centre in Oku.

This 2011 annual report presents in brief what was achieved by CAMGEW in 2011, her challenges and expectations from the planned activities in 2012. For more exhaustive information about our activities, we gladly refer you to our website; www.camgew.com, and when you visit our website, 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.

WIRSIY Emmanuel BINYUY
Director of CAMGEW

TABLE OF CONTENT

1.0	PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW.....	4
2.0	CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.....	4
2.1	Scholarships.....	4
2.2	Prizes to children to promote academic excellence.....	5
2.3	Schools benefit from farm and handiwork materials.....	7
2.4	CAMGEW technically support schools in farm work.....	9
2.5	CAMGEW technically support schools in handiwork activities.....	11
2.6	Hygiene and Sanitation in schools.....	14
3.0	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.....	15
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.....	16
5.0	CAMGEW DEVELOPED A TREE NURSERY.....	16
6.0	CAMGEW AGROFORESTRY PROJECT.....	17
7.0	PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUTT IN THE RADIO.....	17
8.0	NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERS.....	17
9.0	INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING.....	18
10.0	ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR 2012.....	18
11.0	CHALLENGES IN 2011.....	19

1.0 PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a non profit created in 2007 with authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to solve environmental and gender 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 like minded organisations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in total respect of its constitution. CAMGEW has as **vision** “Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment.

2.0 CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CAMGEW developed and implemented a programme that promotes creativity and innovation to tackle poverty and unemployment in the rural areas through life skill (professional) training of primary school children. This programme makes children useful and self reliant to the society when they leave school (dropping out or completing). This programme was executed from January to December 2011. It was funded by a Netherlands based non profit called Stichting OOK. CAMGEW also promoted academic excellence in schools by giving prizes to the best performant and most improved children in school. CAMGEW gave scholarships to less privilege children, provided handiwork and farm tools and materials to support handiwork and farm activities in schools. CAMGEW worked in collaboration with Inspectorate of Basic Education and the Social Centre in Oku to execute this programme.

2.1 Scholarships

CAMGEW provided 300 scholarships to children in the form of books, pens, pencils, sewing of uniforms and payment of fees. These scholarships were granted to vulnerable children through the Social Centre in Oku that works with vulnerable children.



Teachers, PTA members and school authorities assemble to get scholarships for their schools



CAMGEW provide uniforms to 40 children in need in schools



2.2 Prizes to children to promote academic excellence

CAMGEW gave 346 prizes to the best performant and most improved children in schools in Oku during the last academic year (2010/2011). CAMGEW discovered that many children dropped out from school because they were not encouraged to stay in schools. These prizes promoted competition. CAMGEW gave prizes to the first three children and the best improve child in each class. The prize to the most improved child was to encourage those who worked hard but never occupy the three top positions in each class after each term examination.



Handing over of package prizes to Head Teachers of the 11 schools at the Oku Inspectorate of Basic Education



Boy at Catholic School Mbokenkwi and girl at Catholic School Elak receiving prize of excellence



Girls in Presbyterian School and Cameroon Baptist Convention School receiving prizes respectively



Children in Cameroon Baptist Convention School Elak and Catholic School Elak who received prizes of excellence



Children in Government School Keyon who received prizes of excellence

2.3 Schools benefit from farm and handiwork materials

CAMGEW promoted a system of education where children learn-by-doing. To do this, CAMGEW provided 21 schools with agriculture and handiwork materials and tools. These materials included wheelbarrows, spades, hoes, cutlasses, wrecks, diggers, saws of various types, hammers, carving knives, watering cans, sprayers to tackle pests, buckets, scales for weighing produce, business calculators, books for record keeping, locks, loins for marking, threads of various types, knitting pins, needles, polythene pots for tree nursing, etc. These items were worth Three Million Two Hundred thousand francs CFA (3.200000FCFA) or 5000 Euros.



CAMGEW Director present donated materials to authorities and greets beneficiaries of the donation



Children and school authorities excited with donated goods to their schools



Pictures of the presentation of donated materials to various schools



CAMGEW acknowledges Stichting OOK in goods and present donation to schools



There was dancing by children in Catholic School Mbokenkwi to welcome their farm tools and handiwork materials



CAMGEW also received carved article from Government School Ngvunkei II and Presbyterian School Ngashie as their form of thank you.

2.4 CAMGEW technically support schools in farm work

Tools and materials provided by CAMGEW helped children to learn-by-doing during agriculture training periods in schools. 8 schools received farm tools and farm materials. CAMGEW provided schools that received the materials with some technical support in organic agriculture that is environmentally friendly. CAMGEW has worked with schools to promote entrepreneurship in education through sustainable agriculture. Schools learn how to use farm tools, seeds and other farm materials to help children to be useful and raise money from produced crop to buy school needs. CAMGEW worked with schools to build their capacity to produce crops sustainably, harvest, store, sell (agribusiness) and make scale of preference on the type of school need to meet with raised funds. Children were involved in all these process and it helped instilled in them entrepreneurship skills.



Teachers and children working in the school farm



Children working in the school farm



Children working in the school farm



CAMGEW staff assisting teachers and children in the farm



Girls in the farm

2.5 CAMGEW technically support schools in handiwork activities

Tools and materials provided by CAMGEW helped children to learn-by-doing during handiwork training periods in schools. 21 schools received handiwork tools and materials. CAMGEW provided schools that received the materials and tools with some technical support in handiwork. Children were taught how to use local materials like bamboos and wood to produce useful furniture for their community. Boys learned how to produce chairs, baskets, brooms, toys, etc from raphia bamboos. Some boys learned how to carve from wood. Drawing and painting materials were provided to children and they were trained on how to paint. Girls also learn how to make dresses and decorate homes. Marking was also done. The produced items by children were sold by school authorities and money raised used to solve pressing school need. This helped fight poverty in the school milieu and build entrepreneurship skills in children.



This girl produced this bag in Catholic School Elak



Boy carved a man in Presbyterian School Ngashie (Ngashie area is known for carving)



A female teacher teach children how to mark



Girls learning how to mark



Children in Government School Oku Palace involve in chair production



Children in Government School Oku Palace involve in chair production



Children use bamboo to produce chairs, baskets, cupboards, etc



Children in Government School Oku Palace produce brooms from palm front



A boy of Catholic School Mbokenkwi produces a local beehive from local material

2.6 Hygiene and Sanitation in schools

CAMGEW worked to promote hygiene and sanitation in schools in Oku and Yaounde. CAMGEW provided drinking bottles to school children as prizes to promote excellence in Oku and Yaounde. This was CAMGEW's way to fight cholera outbreak in Cameroon. CAMGEW believed that through the handing of these bottles to children, other parents could be spurred to provide their children with drinking bottles.



Prizes handed to some children



Refuge Bilingual Primary and Secondary School Yaounde

3.0 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

CAMGEW celebrated the March 8th, 2011 World Women's Day in a special way. CAMGEW women team went to Refuge Bilingual Primary and Secondary School and gave a talk to girls of primary and secondary schools. The talk encouraged them to work hard to become experts in science and technology. Girls were taught leadership qualities that will make them better leaders who believe in themselves.

CAMGEW bought food stuff and toys, these goods were handed to the Saint Kizito Orphanage at Nkolbissong, Yaounde. CAMGEW shared motherly love with the less privilege. The CAMGEW team arrived at the orphanage at 11am and spent the rest of the women's day with children. The CAMGEW team left at 5:30pm.



CAMGEW women team in a school in Yaounde encouraging girls to get involve in science and technology



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CAMGEW was involved in environmental education for community and schools in Oku. CAMGEW used the Oku Community Radio to create awareness on the importance of the forest, it challenges and possible solutions to these challenges. Environmental education was done in schools through outdoor lessons in the fields with flowers, forest in Oku and farms on soil conservation methods.

5.0 CAMGEW DEVELOPED A TREE NURSERY

CAMGEW developed a 10000 tree nursery of *Prunus africana* in Kumbo. This tree nursery was developed with funds raised from CAMGEW's members' contribution. At the end of December 2011, the trees were ready for planting. CAMGEW is fund raising to plant the trees in one of the water catchments in Kumbo. If CAMGEW fail to get funds she will sell the trees to any organisation or person that is interested.



CAMGEW nursery in Kumbo

6.0 CAMGEW AGROFORESTRY PROJECT

CAMGEW developed an agroforestry tree nursery of about 1000 trees. This is a bare root nursery. These trees were made up of Accacia and Lucaena. Some of the trees were distributed to women farmers to plant in the farms. The trees improve on soil fertility, reduce soil erosion, serve as shade and wind breaks and the wood used as firewood.

7.0 PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT IN THE RADIO

CAMGEW lacked the means to carryout concrete activities in the following areas but decided to use the radio to inform communities on the role of these activities in promoting community development.

- CAMGEW finished research on biogas technology development for biofertilizer, biopesticide and cooking energy using animal dung. The results were positive in poverty alleviation and promoting a green economy. CAMGEW has not had funds to implement concrete project in this line but popularized the technology through radio in Oku. CAMGEW is looking for support to develop this technology.
- CAMGEW has used the Oku Community Radio to empower women on income generation, agribusiness skills and their role to stop child trafficking
- CAMGEW has used the radio to show the link between women, water and agriculture for income generation
- Teachers were sensitized on how they can use bee keeping to promote entrepreneurship in education and raise funds to fight poverty in schools
- Radio programme was done on agroforestry for community engagement in the fight against climate change, poverty, food and energy crises.

8.0 NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

World Bank Project: In July 2011, CAMGEW won the World Bank organised Development Market Place Competition organised in Cameroon on governance in the forest, health and education sectors. CAMGEW's project is titled 'Oku Community Forest Management for Benefit Sharing'. This project is to train community groups on bee farming and provide them with 200 colonised beehives at subsidised rates.

The project will nurse and plant 7000 trees in the Oku Community forest. Considering that the participation of forest community in forest management is part of forest governance, CAMGEW through this project will give local people the opportunity to own beehives in the forest after receiving training for them to better manage the forest. CAMGEW believe that ownership of hives by people in Oku will push them to guide against bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as source of income. Bee farming will give them a source of livelihood. Oku white honey is already being considered as a Geographical Indication Product and it is hoped that the market for this honey will be secured. CAMGEW is presently executing the project. Catholic Relief Services will execute the project on behalf of the World Bank. CAMGEW will work with Sub Delegation of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife-Oku, MINEPIA-Oku, Oku Council, Oku Community Radio and Oku Honey Cooperative Society.

New England Biolabs Foundation grant: CAMGEW also received a grant from New England Biolabs Foundation in December 2011 to provide technical assistance to some schools in Oku on agroforestry.

Stichting OOK project: Stichting OOK approved a Vocational Training Centre Project for youths in Oku and started with fund raising. According to the project timeline, the training centre should go operational by May 2012. The centre will train youths of tailoring, hair dressing, barbing and shoe making and mending.

Bees for Development-UK approved their support to CAMGEW with training materials on bee farming training activities in Oku. The training materials were sent by post to CAMGEW in December 2011 and it is expected to arrive by ending February 2012.

9.0 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

CAMGEW carried out institutional capacity building through in service training of staff and members on agroforestry, project writing and management, fund raising, gaining public acceptance, creation of partnership, in service conflict management and leadership and community development.

Some CAMGEW staff did Certificate courses through distance learning on agroforestry with Trees for the Future-USA; and Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution with United State Institute of Peace-USA. By the end of 2011, it was decided by CAMGEW board of Directors that an office be set in Oku where the projects of Stichting OOK are going on and the World Bank project will be going on in 2012.

10.0 ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR 2012

- Provision of scholarships (books, fees and/or uniforms) for the less privilege children;
- Provision of prizes of excellence to best children and most improved
- Fight cholera in school milieu with women through promoting hygiene and sanitation
- Technical support in schools on agroforestry and handiwork in schools/
- Developing a vocational centre for youths and single mothers in Oku
- Training women on agroforestry techniques to increase crop yields and adapt to climate change
- Bee farming training for groups in Oku (women groups will be highly encouraged)
- Construction of 200 beehives to be colonised and provided to trained groups at reduced cost
- Developing of 7000 native tree nursery to be planted in the Oku Community Forest
- Developing a poultry to promote income generation to support CAMGEW activities;

- Biogas systems development for energy, biofertilizer and biopesticides for use by women peasant farmers.
- Campaign against child trafficking in Centre and North West Region especially the girl child that is always a victim.
- Provision of biosand filters to women in Riba and other areas with lack of clean water sources
- Provision of watering cans and watering tubes to peasant women groups involve in vegetable gardening at the suburbs of Kumbo to promote availability of portable water for agriculture. Vegetable gardening fetches a lot of money during the dry season when there is little water. This activity is mostly carried by women but they always lack materials and equipment to engage it this and fight poverty and unemployment;
- Wetland protection for peasant women farming. The Ndop plain has a large wetland where women used to farm corn, rice, bean, vegetable, etc at all times because of the availability of wet soil. Trees that made this area wet have fast disappeared and land has become very dry in the dry season for these crops to be cultivated by women as usual. There is need to plant more water loving native trees in the farms of peasant women farmers. These trees planted by women will help provide water for women farmers and increase agricultural yields.
- Provision of clean water to women and their children;
- Women participation in the planting of watershed protecting trees in watersheds to secure the availability of water from water catchments;
- Environmental education through the Oku Community Radio
- CAMGEW's involvement in food crop farming like corn, beans, groundnuts and potatoes,
- Youth capacity building through radio programmes and setting of the computer literacy centre
- Working with the old people
- Agroforestry nursery development to provide peasant women farmers with soil conservation, erosion control and shade provision trees
- Fund raising
- Website development
- Oku office setting
- Staff capacity building

11.0 CHALLENGES IN 2011

- CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active to promote gender balance;
- CAMGEW still lack equipment like computers, printers, digital camera and service car;
- CAMGEW needs opportunities to build the capacity of her members in various domains to make the organisation strong to serve humanity and the environment;
- CAMGEW needs to secure funding for the execution of started activities and new projects that are being developed;
- CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help the her better serve the communities and transfer their knowledge the staff;
- CAMGEW needs to develop her skill in fund raising and project development;
- CAMGEW is faced with problems of organisational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment;