

# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH  
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Website: [www.camgew.com](http://www.camgew.com)

Email: [camgew@yahoo.com](mailto:camgew@yahoo.com); [camgew@gmail.com](mailto:camgew@gmail.com)

Telephone: (237) 75184310 or 97 03 74 17

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

*CAMGEW's authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/ BAPP*

*Report prepared by WIRSIY EMMANUEL BINYUY*

## **PREFACE**

Making the world a better place for the present and future generation is a global concern that CAMGEW is tackling through local action. Increasing access to skill building opportunities helps fight poverty and unemployment. Environmental, social and economic sustainability is the way forward to end climate change, food, economic and energy crisis. This can be achieved if we work as a team locally, nationally and internationally. Recognition of work done locally, nationally and internationally brings about innovation and creativity. CAMGEW has learned a lot in this line while working in the field.

CAMGEW worked in 2012 to keep our mother-earth vibrant through forest regeneration, increase food production through agroforestry and apiculture, creation of opportunities for youths to build their skills through setting of Vocational Training Centre and creation of partnerships locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2012, CAMGEW achieved much, planting 7000 native trees in the Oku Community Forest, training 157 persons in bee farming, constructing and colonizing 200 bee hives to share to trained persons, training groups on agroforestry techniques, organizing a long vacation holiday workshop, starting the Vocational Training Centre (with workshops in barbing, hair dressing, shoe making and dress making) and promoting environmental education.

Our work got recognition from Teach A Man To Fish-UK that gave us an award titled “**Pan African Award For Entrepreneurship in Education**” and the **Minister of Forestry and Wildlife** appreciated the tree planting exercise we carried out. The Minister sent a delegation from Yaounde to visit us in Oku and see our activities. This encouraged us.

We are grateful to the following partners that made it possible for us to do this work: the World Bank, Catholic Relief Services, Both ENDS, New England Biolabs Foundation, Stichting OOK, Teach A Man To Fish, Bees for Development, MINFOF, MINEPIA and all other partners not mentioned.

This 2012 report, presents what was achieved, the challenges encountered and expectations from planned activities in 2013. For exhaustive information about our activities, we gladly refer you to our website; [www.camgew.com](http://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***

***Coordinator of CAMGEW***

## TABLE OF CONTENT

1.0 PRESENTING CAMGEW.....	4
2.0 CHILD DEVELOPMENT.....	4
3.0 BEE FARMING TRAINING.....	5
4.0 OKU FOREST REGENERATION.....	6
5.0 NURSERY DEVELOPMENT.....	8
6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.....	8
7.0 AGROFORESTRY .....	8
8.0 VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (CAMGEW-VTC).....	9
9.0 HOLIDAY WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.....	9
10.0 CAMGEW'S WORK RECOGNIZED.....	12
10.1 THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE RECOGNIZE CAMGEW'S WORK.....	12
10.2 CAMGEW RECEIVES AWARD.....	13
11.0 EVENTS.....	13
11.1 CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN CLIMATE CHANGE, GENDER AND AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP IN LASSIN- NONI SUBDIVISION.....	13
11.2 CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN AFCIG ORGANISED AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE DEVELOPMENT MARKET PLACE.....	14
12.0 METHOD USED IN COMMUNICATION.....	14
13.0 NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERS.....	14
14.0 ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR 2013.....	15
15.0 CHALLENGES IN 2011.....	15
CONCLUSION.....	16

## 1.0 PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a nonprofit created in 2007 with authorization 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 organizations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in respect of its constitution. CAMGEW has as **vision** “Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment.

## 2.0 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW’s interest in child development lies in meeting the needs of orphans and vulnerable children to go to school. This has been done through provision of books, fees and uniforms. CAMGEW provided books to 10 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and paid fees for OVC. This was done with financial resources from CAMGEW members’ contributions.

CAMGEW worked with 8 schools in Oku to promote handiwork and sustainable agriculture. This was to build entrepreneurship skills in primary school children. They learned-by-doing and the proceeds from the sale of farm and handiwork products were used to meet school needs in various schools. Children while doing these gain skills in production, marketing and management.



Field lessons on agroforestry trees



Children learning how to plant trees

### 3.0 BEE FARMING TRAINING

CAMGEW trained 167 persons from groups and institutions in Oku on bee farming. A total of 4 workshops were organised. The training involved bee farming theory lessons; beehive construction and mounting; honey harvesting; honey processing and networking. A total of 51 men, 31 women and 84 youths were trained. These trained groups benefited from colonised hives.

200 beehives were constructed and transported to Mbam-Oku and some parts of Noni for colonisation. 50 beehives have already colonised as of 31<sup>st</sup> 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 by March 2013 more hives will colonise. We expect to have project's produced white honey in May 2013.



- a) Beehive construction trainer, teaching participants how to construct a beehive.
- b) General picture of participants and trainers with the 6 constructed hives in first workshop training.



- a) Participants with bee suits around the beehive ready for harvesting
- b) Participants receive lessons on honey comb and honey production in the forest



Constructed hives transported to Mbam (a rural village 14Km from Oku) for colonization



Boys paid to transport hives from the car in Mbam to the valleys for mounting and for colonization

#### **4.0 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 in the Oku Community Forest. Activities marking the regeneration of the Oku forest started on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 with the launching of tree planting exercise. A symbolic tree was planted 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 for media coverage of the event. Some journalists of the press also participated.



CAMGEW staff working in the nursery



Women transporting tree seedlings to forest for planting



Community leaders launching tree planting exercise

## 5.0 NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW in October 2012 developed an Oku nursery of 10000 native forest trees (*Prunus africana*) to regenerate the Oku Community forest in 2013. CAMGEW has another nursery in Kumbo with 9000 native forest trees (*Prunus africana*).

## 6.0 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.

## 7.0 AGROFORESTRY

CAMGEW in 2012 developed an agroforestry tree nursery of about 5000 trees. This was a bare root nursery. The nursery also served as training ground for pupils and students on agroforestry techniques. These trees were made up of Accacia and Lucaena. The trees were distributed to women farmers to plant in their farms after they received training on agroforestry techniques to help them increase food production and adapt to climate change. These trees can improve on soil fertility, reduce soil erosion, and serve as shade and wind breaks and the wood used as firewood. Some schools received the nursed trees to plant in their farms.



Women receive training on agroforestry and get agroforestry tree seedlings for planting in their farms

## 8.0 VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (CAMGEW-VTC)

CAMGEW-VTC was set and went operational by December 2012. This CAMGEW-VTC which is well furnished trains youths especially school drop outs, graduates from school, single mothers, less privilege persons and children to become useful to the community. Children who suffered from child trafficking will also be given the opportunity to learn a trade.

CAMGEW-VTC has the following workshops:

- hair dressing,
- barbing,
- shoe making and mending and
- tailoring and decoration for men and women

The CAMGEW-VTC is involved in training; service provision; and sales of products and materials in line with services rendered. Presently, sensitization of communities is going on to increase student enrolment in the centre. We are working hard to make it self-reliant.



CAMGEW Vocational Training Centre-Oku

## 9.0 HOLIDAY WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

CAMGEW organized a one month holiday workshop for children and students during the 2012 summer holiday in Oku-Cameroon. Pupils and students learnt-by-doing during this period. All the activities carried out were geared towards teaching a child a trade or teaching a child to fish. Activities carried out for primary school level included the following for girls: marking and knitting for girls. Boys were involved in chair making, mat making and carving. Both sexes did activities that are also talent developing such as drawing, writing poems, songs etc. Environmental education was carried out in the forest and tree nursery for pupils and students. CAMGEW's objectives of organizing workshop were as follows:

- To let pupils and students learn-by-doing various trade such as chair marking, mat making for boys and knitting and marking for girls
- To introduce pupils and students to entrepreneurship
- To give an opportunity to students to practice what they have learn in school
- Make the holiday period useful for pupils, students and teachers.

The entire Oku Community, pupils and students were informed about the holiday workshop through the Oku Community Radio and posters. Posters were pasted in strategic areas such as markets and meeting houses. Announcements were made in various churches. During the morning hours, students and pupils had their class work and after break (11am) outdoor activities took place. CAMGEW took students from school to the CAMGEW nursery for Environmental Education (EE), boys and girls were trained by a hired trainer on chair making, mat making for boys and knitting and marking for girls. Children were trained on drawing, writing poems, rhymes, songs. Environmental talks were carried out also and the workshop ended with a ceremony where prizes were presented to best students in the presence of invited community leaders and members. All these activities are presented in detail below.

### Plan of holidays activities

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>FIELD TRIPS (ENNVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION) (EE)</b>	
EE in the nursery with primary school pupils	20 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
EE in the forest with primary school pupils	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
EE in the water catchment with primary pupils	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
EE in the nursery with secondary school students	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
EE in the forest, water catchment with secondary school students	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>HAND WORK</b>	
<b>FOR BOYS</b>	
Local chair making	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 July
Local Mat Making	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 July
<b>FOR GIRLS</b>	
Knitting	16 <sup>th</sup> throughout till 27 <sup>th</sup> July
Marking	16 <sup>th</sup> throughout till 27 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>GENERAL</b>	
Drawing for both primary and secondary pupils/ students	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Talent, development in writing poems articles, rhymes, songs	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Practical Bee farming training for students	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Field Visit to the Oku Honey Cooperative Society with students	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Field Visit to the Oku Cooperative Union	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
EE talks to students	9 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Closing ceremony price award to the very best articles, poems, songs, drawings etc	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Tree planting exercise in Oku Community Forest	13 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2012



Students trained on bee farming & hive construction



Lessons on nursery development for students



Lessons for children on crop germination



Youths participating in tree planting in forest



Girls learning marking & knitting



Children drawing forest features



Children learning to produce mat from bamboo



Boys learning to produce chairs from bamboo

## 10.0 CAMGEW'S WORK RECOGNIZED

### 10.1 THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE RECONIZE CAMGEW'S WORK

The Minister sent a letter of appreciation to CAMGEW for planting 7000 native trees in the Oku Community Forest and promised to send a delegation to visit our activities. The delegation's visit on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 was a follow-up of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife promise to CAMGEW. The delegation visited CMGEW's activities in the forestry sector in Oku Community Forestry involving tree planting, tree nursery and environmental education. Early in the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the MINFOF delegation with CAMGEW staff visited the planted 7000 native forest trees in Oku Community forest. The team saw the planted trees and observed that the planting of *Prunus africana* respected standards. The team visited the CAMGEW nursery in Oku with about 7000 native forest tree seedling. After visiting the forest, the team visited the Divisional Officer and Oku Council for presentation and we had a useful exchange with the authorities. We then visited the Oku Community Radio to present findings in the Oku forest. Some of the findings included the killing of rats, cutting of young trees, presence of goats in the forest and empty areas without trees in the forest. The radio presentation was aimed at environmental sensitization by high lighting these problems and how they could be solved. The delegation from MINFOF Yaounde made a presentation in the radio on Forestry law as applied to problems discovered in the Oku forest. The team left for Kumbo to visit the 10000 tree nursery of *Prunus africana* seedlings that were ready for planting. The visit ended in Kumbo.



CAMGEW staff and MINFOF delegation in the Oku Community forest

## **10.2 CAMGEW RECEIVES AWARD**

CAMGEW in March 2012 received Pan African Award for Entrepreneurship in Education (Cash prize) from Teach A Man To Fish-UK, recognising CAMGEW's work in promoting entrepreneurship in child development in schools. *This award had a cash prize of US\$ 1000.* The money was used to develop CAMGEW website. This award encouraged us to continue the work we are doing for the good of children.

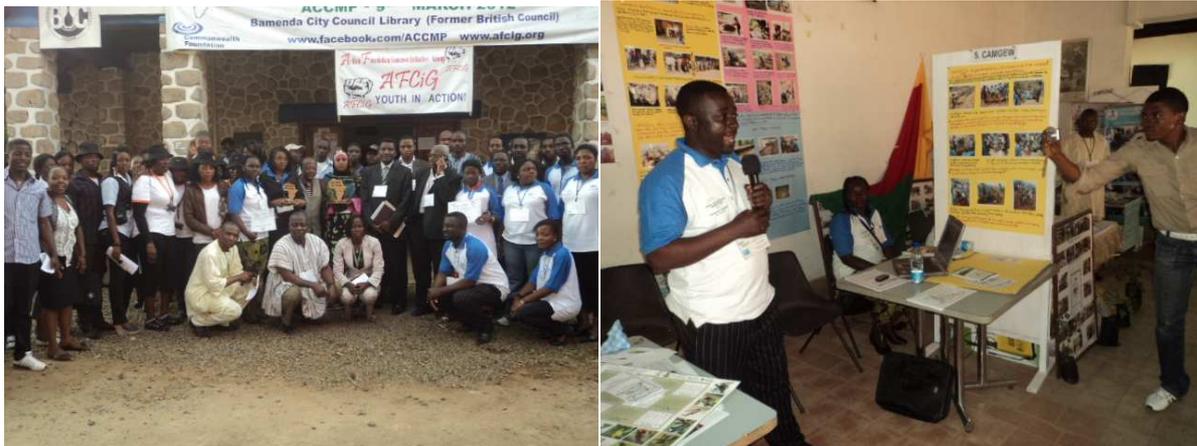
## **11.0 EVENTS**

### **11.1 CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN CLIMATE CHANGE, GENDER AND AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP IN LASSIN- NONI SUBDIVISION**

This workshop titled 'Climate Change, Gender and Agriculture: fight Against Hunger' organised in Lassin-Noni on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 was aimed at bringing together all stakeholders to learn about climate change, gender and agriculture and make resolutions on how to cope with climate change. Presentations were made by various experts in the agriculture, animal and forestry coming from the civil society and government ministries, tradition and local groups. Participants came from Bum, Oku, Misaje and Nkambe close neighbours to Noni. Stakeholders included the Local Administration, Non Governmental Organisations from Oku, Misaje, Nkambe and Noni Sub Divisions, Economic Operators, Fons and Sub Chiefs, Ardos, Cattle owners, farm Landlords and Elites. CAMGEW made a presentation on agroforestry as adaptation to climate change by peasant farmers. The workshop ended when the various stakeholders adopted new habits in order to face the challenges of climate change which currently threaten life on earth.

### **11.2 CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN AFCIG ORGANISED AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE DEVELOPMENT MARKET PLACE**

CAMGEW was one of the 7 organisations that participated in the African Climate Change Market Place organized by Action Foundation (AFCIG) on the 9th of March 2012 at Bamenda City Council Library. The seven organizations that competed were: SIRDEP, PARED, Better World Cameroon, COMINSUD, ERUDEF, CAMGEW and CSDI. PARED came from Ghana and CSDI from Kenya while the rest of the organization were from Cameroon. This was a forum to get climate change actions in the field and exchange innovative and creative ideas. Participants in the competition presented their climate change action in a market place to the public and team of jury made judgment to get the best 2 for prizes. CAMGEW presented on agroforestry, tree planting, biogas technology and bee farming for better forest management. The first prize was taken by CSDI and second prize by ERUDEF. This event was sponsored by Common Wealth Foundation through Action Foundation in partnership with SNV and Care International.



Participants at African Climate Change Development Market Place

## 12.0 METHOD USED IN COMMUNICATION

CAMGEW used the Oku Community Radio, Helenchris Radio-Kumbo and Bui Community Radio to inform and educate the communities. Posters, brochures and the press were used to inform and share information and knowledge.

## 13.0 NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

**STICHTING OOK:** In December 2012, the CAMGEW Vocational Training Centre went operational with funds from OOK. **Stichting OOK project:** Stichting OOK approved a Vocational Training Centre Project for youths in Oku. The centre trains youths on tailoring, hair dressing, barbing and shoe making and mending.

## 14.0 ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR 2013

- Provision of scholarships (books, fees and/or uniforms) for the less privilege children and prizes of excellence to best children and most improved
- Fight cholera in school milieu with women through promoting hygiene and sanitation
- Making vocational centre for youths and single mothers in Oku self reliant
- Technical support in schools on agroforestry and handiwork
- Training women on agroforestry techniques to increase crop yields and adapt to climate change
- Bee farming training for groups in Oku, Bikov and Dom forest(women groups will be highly encouraged)
- Construction of beehives to be colonised and provided to trained groups at reduced cost
- Developing of 10000 native tree nursery to be planted in the Oku Community Forest
- Forest restoration in Bikov, Oku and Dom 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.

- 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
- Youth capacity building through radio programmes and setting of the computer literacy centre
- Fund raising, Kumbo and Bamenda office setting and Staff capacity building

## **15.0 CHALLENGES IN 2012**

- CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active to promote gender balance;
- CAMGEW 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;
- CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help her better serve the communities and transfer their knowledge to the staffs;
- CAMGEW needs to develop her skill in fund raising, project development and organisational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment;
- Areas where beehives are placed for colonisation are prone to bushfire and movement of cattle. Bushfire destroy hives and cattle push hives down from mounted sticks. There is need to clear round the hives and sensitise population against setting bushfire. CAMGEW loose 12 colonised hives in bushfires in some colonisation areas.
- Colonised hives are 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 needs to do ring weeding around the trees when rains start falling in 2013.
- 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.

## **CONCLUSION**

CAMGEW looks forward to a successful year in 2013. She wishes all success in 2013. She invites us all to join her in a strive for a sustainable environment and improved livelihood for all people.