

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)



Email:camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone: (237) 675184310, 697037417

Address: P.O. Box 17 OKU-Bui Division, Cameroon

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

Report prepared by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy (CAMGEW Director), Ngum Jai Raymond (CAMGEW Project Officer) and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki.

PREFACE

The compounded global economic, environmental, political and social crises have presented new challenges for people worldwide and there is need for a change in life style. 2015 was the last year of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nation. Many of the goals were not met but some persons and institutions believed they never worked well because the development of MDGs was not participatory. Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) has been developed to replace the expired MDGs. Development of SDGs was really participatory and many persons and institutions believe they will be more successful than MDGs. CAMGEW joined the world to make sure that SDGs bring the change we expect worldwide. The global food, energy and financial crises are affecting development in the global south and this needs a holistic approach. There is need to raise the capacity of those directly affected by poverty, inequality, ecological destruction and human rights violations. Climate crisis alone threatens human life and now calls for a new development agenda.

Development is a much more comprehensive process that concerns social transformation, people's empowerment, the enlargement of human freedoms, and the development of a country's productive capacities. The term multi-stakeholder process is a necessary process to bring together all major stakeholders in a new form of communication and decision-finding or making on particular issues. This has promoted the recognition of equity and accountability in communication between stakeholders, involving equitable representation of stakeholder groups and their views. Through this participation partnerships and networks relationship have been strengthened between stakeholders. Multi-Stakeholder process promotes dialogue on decision-making and implementation of practical solutions. To achieve this, there is need to involve stakeholders from the civil society, the private sector, and government. Eliminating poverty remains among the world's greatest challenges. Millions suffer from multiple deprivations like poverty, hunger, illiteracy, homelessness, poor health, avoidable death, and vulnerability to shocks. Most of them are in the developing world with a great deal of them women. To be poor is not simply to be short in money and things. Local agricultural and food systems have multiple links to development as it forms the backbone of people's health, economies, and ecologies and culture the world over. It provides food and nourishment, and so is crucial to tackling hunger and poor health. Moreover, it is highly dependent on natural resources, and so has a significant impact on the environment. The developing countries have the natural resources but are poor.

The challenge has been to get our agri-food system working right: to secure sufficient nourishment for people and livelihoods for farmers and rural workers. Feeding the hungry and lifting the rural poor is not just a simple matter of producing more. Natural ecosystems are important for the vital environmental services like soil & water regeneration; air & climate regulation; waste absorption & nutrient recycling.

The questions that CAMGEW has been worried about are:

*How can we make everyone, every company, every business, every organisation and every government factorin the care for environment in their policies and actions?

*How can we promote every businessman, company, organization and government to work genuinely in improving the livelihood of poor communities and vulnerable people?

*How can climate change be made a concern for everyone with everyone searching for solution through action? CAMGEW is acting locally and thinking globally by doing the following to provide answers to the above questions: promoting bee farming locally to improve livelihoods and conserve the forest, forest regeneration for climate change mitigation, vocational training to build entrepreneurs for Cameroon 2035 vision of emergence, agroforestry for soil conservation & increase food production, organising bee farmers to cooperatives for qualitative and quantitative products for the market, child development to build a better future for young generation & vulnerable children, micro-credit scheme for women economic empowerment and Biogas system for biofertilizer and cooking energy (biogas).

CAMGEW thank the following major partners for working with her in 2014: MIVA Switzerland, Both ENDS -Netherlands, French IUCN, Future in Our Hands-UK, Plant a Tree in Africa – UK, Swisshand-Switzerland, Man & Nature-France, Mane-France, Rufford Foundation - UK, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)-UK, Koning School - Netherlands, Teach a Man To Fish -UK, Well Grounded, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, Oku Area Cooperative Union, Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.

WIRSIY EMMANUEL BINYUY (CAMGEW Director)

TABLE OF CONTENT

PREFACE	2
SECTION ONE: KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIO PART I: FOREST REGENERATION	
A) NURSERY DEVELOPMENT	
B) TREE PLANTING EXERCISE	
PART II ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF KILUM-IJIM FOREST	11
SECTION TWO: BEE FARMING IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST FOR CONSERVATION AND	
LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT	17
A) BEE FARMING TRAINING	
C) COLLECTION OF BEE WAX FROM BEE FARMMERS:	
D) BEE FARMING STUDIES:	
	~ 4
SECTION THREE: AGROFORESTRY	
SECTION FOUR: PEASANT WOMEN MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME	
SECTION FIVE: VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME	
SECTION SIX: OTHER PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS	49
A) CAMGEW-MIVA Vehicle project rationale	
B) The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) ProjectC) Workshop on CAMGEW's 3 Years Strategic Planning	
 D) FIOH NETWORK- Cameroon meeting of August 4th, 2015 E) Communication 	
F) CAMGEW Celebrates Cameroon National Youth Day	
G) Bushfire in Nchiiy Community Forest on 11 Feb 2015	
H) CAMGEW Celebrates the Cameroon National Day	
I) Feasibility study visit carried out to resolve forest-grazer problem in Kilum forest	
J) CAMGEW shared experience with the University of Dschang community on JUNE 20, 2015	
 K) CAMGEW signs convention to get financial assistance from French government on the 7th May 	
2015	
L) World land forum 11-12 May 2015	
M) CAMGEW takes part in APIMONDIA 2015, 44th International Apicultural Congress	
N) Reflection Workshop on Improving Collaboration With CSOs On September 24-25th 2015	
0) Man & Nature Project workshop 27-29 th Sep 2015	
P) CAMGEW Visit GLORES in Bafoussam 5 th October 2015	
Q) Visit of Nicolas Salaun from French IUCN on 20 th November 2015	
R) Climate Change Workshop Organised For Peasant Farmers in Oku	
SECTION VIII: 2015 CHALLENGES, 2016 PLANNED ACTIVITIES CONCLUSION	55
A) 2015 CHALLENGES	1
B) PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2016	5
CONCLUSION	55

SECTION ONE

KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

PART I: FOREST REGENERATION

C) NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

Nursery development is part of forest regeneration and environmental education. CAMGEW presently has 3 tree nursery located in three sites in Oku (Manchok, Mbockenghas and Ikal). The nursery at Manchok has been existing since 2011. The nursery at Mbockenghas and Ikal was developed in 2015. These three nurseries have more than 100.000 trees that were ready for planting by December 2015. The trees in the nurseries included: Prunus africana, Carapas, Nuxia, Pittosporum veridiflorium, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staundtii, Solanecio mannii, Croton macrotachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Newtonia camerunensis, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and some agroforestry trees like Acacia, Leuceana, etc. All these trees are native trees of Kilum-Ijim forest. These trees in the nurseries were labelled with scientific names, local names and their uses.

Our nurseries served as:

- learning grounds for children, schools and community members on nursery development, types of forest trees, need for forest regeneration, etc
- Sites where trees are nursed and planted in the forest

These nurseries are fenced with live and dead fences. They are watered and shaded in the dry season. Weeding is done regularly. The 100.000 trees are ready for planting in 2016 but need funding to support the planting exercise. CAMGEW nurseries also need to be sustained after trees are planted.



Seed collection from the Kilum forest for nursery development



Tree nursery development

D) TREE PLANTING EXERCISE

a) METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CAMGEW continued working in the Kilum-Ijim forest. She has been carrying out forest regeneration activities like nursery development with forest native trees, tree planting, taking care of planted trees, carrying out patrols and monitoring activities. Between 2012 and 2015, CAMGEW planted 43.500 trees. Between 2012 and 2014, about 20.000 trees were planted in the Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii forest of Oku Community forest at Kilum. In 2015, CAMGEW planted 23.500 trees in Bikov, Ajung, Akeh, Emfve-Mii and Nchiiy Community forests of Kilum-Ijim forest. The trees were planted with funds from different institutions. CAMGEW got funds from Cameroon government, World Bank, French-IUCN, Rufford Small Grants, Stichting School and Future in Our Hands-UK. CAMGEW and forest communities supported the project with voluntary services. CAMGEW is interested in forest regeneration to promote apiculture, increase carbon sequestration, protect watershed, promote ecotourism, increase income from forest resources like Prunus and keep nature for future generation.

Forest regeneration is an important activity with a global interest. The Kilum-Ijim Forest has a vital role to play in climate change mitigation. Considering that forest conservation is important for watershed protection, promotion of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change, CAMGEW's action in regenerating the Kilum-Ijim forest is to support government's policy for forest regeneration and the United Nation's policy to fight against climate change. CAMGEW from 2nd June to 7th of August 2015 carried out forest regeneration activities in the Kilum - Ijim Forest in Bikov, Ajung, Akeh, Emfve-Mii and Nchiiy Community Forests. These activities included planning meetings with Forest Management Institution(FMI) members and communities, the identification of the sites to be regenerated (this was done by FMI members), the clearing of paths for tree planting, digging of holes, pecking, carrying of trees to the forest and planting in the various Community Forests. CAMGEW during her 2015 tree planting campaign maintained the 20.000 trees planted from 2012 to 2014.There was weeding in the forest where trees were planted in 2012, 2013 and 2014 with funds from PPI-FFEM, Both Ends and the World Bank and Wildlife.

Seedlings were planted 5m apart. The plastics from tree pots were from the forest to keep the forest natural. The tree planting ended with a crowning ceremony that brought forest stakeholders, men, women, youths and other community members together. CAMGEW organized this event to present work done in forest regeneration to the authorities. CAMGEW used this

ceremony to carryout environmental education sessions with community members to build children to become nature lovers and change behaviours of adults from forest degradation to forest conservation.



Tree planting planning meeting Bikov forest



Preparing of paths for tree planting



CAMGEW join the Bihkov Community Forest members to identify an area of their forest for forest regeneration on the 30th June 2015

Year	Number of	Funding institution	Type of tree planted	Community forest (CF)		
	trees planted					
2012	7000	World Bank	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku		
2013	6 600	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku		
2013	3 416	MINFOF- Cameroon	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku		
2014	3000	Koning School through Both-	Variety of bee loving forest	Nchiiy CF - Oku		
		ENDS-Netherlands	native trees			
2015	3400	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France Prunus africana			
2015	4500	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Bikov CF - Kilum		
2015	6000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana (3500)	Ajung CF – Ijim forest		
			Native forest trees (2500)			
2015	5000	Future In Our Hands UK, Plant a	Bee loving trees (some	Emfve-mii CF		
		Tree in Africa -UK/CAMGEW	replaced dead planted trees)			
2015	5000	Rufford Small Grants -	Bee loving trees (some	Nchiiy CF - Oku		
		UK/CAMGEW	replaced dead planted trees)			

Table: CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2015 in Kilum-Ijim Forest



Tree planting with young people in the Emfve-mii forest of Kilum Mountain forest



Nchiiy community child says he want to grow along with his planted tree



Tree planting at Bikov Community forest by community members and their forest executives

b) FOREST REGENERATION THROUGH VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

CAMGEW with Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community forest members cut branches of trees that grow by vegetative propagation like Schefflera abyssinica, fig tree, Solanecio mannii, etc to plant. About 1000 steps of Schefflera, 300 stems of fig tree and 1000 stems of Solanecio mannii were planted in Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community forests. CAMGEW planted these trees using this method in areas where there are fern plants. It has been difficult for regeneration to occur in areas with fern plants. Fern plants cover a large portion of the forest and they developed after bushfire destroy trees in the area. The fern plants indicate acidic soil and their leaves shade tree seedlings from having access to sunlight and wind. The stems and leaves of fern plants are poor in manure even when they die or rot. Planting stems of trees for vegetative propagation promote fast growth and helps fight fern plants. Once the trees grow above the ferns the fern plants die. The stems planted were above the fern and its fast growth attracts birds and rodents that rest on them. The animals' excrete seeds of trees eaten in some areas here and they germinate and form bio-diversed vegetation. Ferns die when other plants or trees grow above them. Regeneration by vegetative propagation has low success rate because the dry season arrives when the root systems developed by the stems is still weak. The dry season is hard and the sun hit hard on the ground evaporating all water close to the root systems causing the stems to die and dry. Some successes have been recorded since CAMGEW started this type of regeneration two years ago. It cost less to do this and we will continue experimenting on the right time to plant and the method of planting.



Forest regeneration by Vegetative Propagation with Schefflera abyssinica in Nchiiy Community Forest

c) MONITORING OF FOREST AND PLANTED TREES

Monitoring of planted trees and the forest has been done continuously on daily basis by community members who report to CAMGEW team. On weekly bases, CAMGEW team go to the forest to follow-up forest regeneration activities (both natural and by man). Forest users enter the forest on daily basis either for firewood fetching, animal trapping, harvesting of bamboo for construction and bee farming activities. These people work in collaboration with CAMGEW team and report every irregularity in the forest. It is for this reason that CAMGEW prefer to use forest users to maintain the trees planted so that they continuing to see CAMGEW as their partner and know that the forest belongs to them. CAMGEW report these cases to the local authorities and thus allows justice to take its course. The community know that the forest is theirs.

d) EXCHANGE VISITS

Bikov Forest Management Executive visited Emfve-Mii forest. A team of 3 members of Bikov Community Forest executive visited the Emfve-Mii Community Forest where CAMGEW started tree planting in 2012 to learn about the maintenance of planted trees and the challenges faced by the forest and the planted trees. This was aimed at gathering skills and experience to better managed the trees planted in their community forest.



Bikov Forest Management Executive visit Emfve-Mii forest

e) TREE PLANTING CROWNING CEREMONY

The forest regeneration exercise took place between the 2nd of June and the 7th of August 2015. A crowning ceremony was organized at the end of each tree planting campaign in the various community forests where CAMGEW had tree planting activities.

The purpose of the crowning ceremony was to popularise CAMGEW's forest regeneration activity to community leaders and sensitize the community members on the importance of conserving the forest for their benefit. CAMGEW made it known to communities that the trees planted were threatened by domestic goats living in the forest and that it was important that the owners remove these goats from the forest.

The crowning ceremony was done in Bikov Community Forest on the 9th of July 2015 with 23 community members including women, youths and the old. The Forest Management Officer (FMO) Lukong Amajoda Foyua for Bikov Community Forest emphasized on the importance of forest conservation and regeneration. In Akeh, the crowning ceremony was done on the 11th July 2015 with 13 people participating. In Ajung the crowning ceremony took place on the 7th of August 2015 with 13 participants. CAMGEW Director Wirsiy Emmanuel gave talks on environmental problems link to the forest, especially on stray animals (goats in Bikov and cows in Ajung and Akeh Community Forests) that pose a threat to planted trees and forest regeneration. The forest stakeholders were given the opportunity to talk to their community as regards forest regeneration and conservation.



Tree planting crowning ceremony at Ajung

E) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CAMGEW did environmental education for children, youths and adults around the Kilum-Ijim forest. This was done in schools, community radios, community groups, local football competition and holiday classes. Community radios used were Oku Community Radio, Kumbo City Radio and Boyo Community Radio. The newspaper used was the "Grasslander" a Community newspaper in Kumbo-Bui division. Children, students and community learned-by-doing in the Kilum-Ijim forest area. They learned how to develop a tree nursery, collect tree seeds from the Kilum-Ijim forest, nurse tree seeds, water nursed trees, weed them, plant the trees in the forest and take care of planted trees. The trees in the nursery were label with scientific names, local names and their uses. Students, children, teachers could be seen around our nurseries in our absence with pens and books learning on their own. Teachers of schools have been using the nurseries to gather knowledge to share with children. CAMGEW organized forest visits for schools, students and community members to learn about the types of trees, their uses, their flowering period, their growth rate, etc. Some schools visited our nurseries like Government Secondary School – Tankiy and Government Primary School – Mbockenghas. The radio audience is vast. Environmental education was done with more than 2000 children. We tackle problems like bushfire, deforestation, farm encroachment into the forest, hunting, etc.

Our aim of doing environmental education was to build children to be future nature lovers and change present behaviours of adults that degrade the forest and make them nature friendly. Man should no longer consider himself a conqueror of nature but part of the mother-earth.



Children weeding nursed trees on polythene pots

School teacher learning about nursery development



Environmental education carried out in the CAMGEW nursery at Mbockenghas for Nchiiy Community



Women learning about nursery development and importance of trees in the forest



Environmental education in the CAMGEW Manchok nursery and in the Kilum Mountain forest

Endangered species of Kilum-Ijim forest

Newtonia camerunensis is native tree specie of Kilum-Ijim forest that is listed in the IUCN Redlist as Endangered. There are very few of this tree existing in the wild. It is only known to be in Kilum-Ijim forest area and parts of Dom Community forest in the North West Region of Cameroon. It is difficult to nurse this tree because it grows very slowly. CAMGEW has tried to domesticate this tree specie and has more than 500 seedlings. It is growing very slow as we noticed reaching a height of less than 10 cm in a year. The bigger trees have been cut down for timber as white wood. The community and children need to

know about this tree specie. We can work hard to rescue this plant. We have about 500 nursed seedlings in our two nurseries. CAMGEW need assistance to rescue this plant.



Newtonia camerunensis is native tree specie of Kilum-Ijim forest that is listed in the IUCN Redlist as Endangered.

f) FOREST CHALLENGES

- 1. The sites which FMI's and community members identified for regeneration in the three community forests were very far from human settlement. It took more time to get to the forest. The roads were not motorable in most cases except the case for Ajung. This delayed work. The community members took more time to get to the forest. Trekking for 5 hours in the case of Akeh Community Forest and 3 hours in the case of Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests. Work time was reduced. Many women could not also be involved because of the distance from the settlements to the forest.
- 2. The forest in the Ijim Ridge is not continuous like in the Kilum. This has encouraged Fulani grazers to settle around the savannah areas in the forest. Their cattle graze into the forest and destroy trees. They set fire on vegetation regularly to get new vegetation and many a times the fire gets into the forest.
- 3. The greatest challenge in the regeneration of the forest is the presence of animals in the forest (goats in Bihkov Community Forest and Cows in Ajung Community Forest). These animals kept by community members in the forest area have been destroying planted trees and other seedlings that are regenerating naturally.
- 4. Farm lands are much close to the forest. Community members still use the slash-and-burn method of farming, and Ankara methods of farming. This exposes the forest to bush fires. There is need for continuous monitoring of the regenerated area and sensitisation on the need to be careful and take care of the forest. Defaulters will need to be punished.
- 5. A great portion of Ajung Forest had been cleared for farmland. After the farmers were pulled out of the forest, this area formerly covered by forest is now covered by fern plants. This area needs regeneration. CAMGEW planted 6000 trees in just a small portion.
- 6. The Forest Management Institutions of community forest in Kilum-Ijim forest are not active and community members have lost trust in them because of embezzlement, corruption or lack of commitment. This has reduced the participation of community members in forest governance and conservation.

g) CAMGEW FOREST SUCCESS

1. CAMGEW has been able to plant 43.500 trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest involving the 3 tribes (Nso, Oku and Kom) and 2 Divisions (Bui and Boyo) in the exercise. The planting involved all stakeholders participating. This has been a great success to CAMGEW.

- 2. CAMGEW has been using a participatory approach in tree planting and this has increased community solidarity. Community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of Kilum-Ijim forest and the need to protect it. CAMGEW made community members feel that the tree planting was done by them by empowering Forest Management Institutions (FMI's) in Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov community forests to do the regeneration. CAMGEW played a supervisory role in the process.
- 3. Through sensitization in Community Radios, many people changed their mentalities. Some people have removed goats from the forest. Community members especially those who took part in the regeneration process are now patrollers as they monitor the trees that they planted with CAMGEW's supervision. Some have been doing monitoring without knowing. Some tell us after visiting the forest that trees are doing well or need weeding.

SECTION TWO

BEE FARMING IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST FOR CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

E) INTRODUCTION

Bee farming, also known as apiculture or bee keeping is the management of bee colonies for the production of honey, bee wax and other honey products; and for the pollination of crops. A place where hives are placed in a position is called apiary, and a beekeeper may also be called an apiarist or apiculturist.

Beekeepers earn their living from the sale of the honey, honey products and beeswax, but the most important contribution of bees to the economy and the environment is their pollination of fruits, vegetables, and pasturage. In some countries, beekeepers are paid for their pollination services.

F) BEE FARMING TRAINING

CAMGEW engaged in bee farming trainings to help protect the Kilum-Ijim forest and improve livelihoods of bee farmers in Kilum-Ijim forest. When community members are trained on bee farming and own beehives in the Kilum-Ijim forest they will no more burn the forest and should bushfire occur in the forest they will rush to put it off to secure their beehives and in so doing they protect the forest. Bushfire is the greatest challenge of Kilum-Ijim forest conservation. The beehives give them Oku White Honey that has a high price and market as it is certified as a Geographical Indication Product.

Objectives of bee farming trainings is to

- Train existing and new bee farmers in Kilum-Ijim on skills and techniques on improved bee keeping (construction of hives, installation, and harvesting; and colony management).
- Help community members to get involve in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation
- Encourage knowledge and skills sharing through a participatory approach between community bee farmers. Trained community members become trainers of trainers.
- Demonstrate low cost-locally made beehives for use by bee farmers to improve their lives
- Increase production of qualitative and quantitative Oku White Honey and honey products to assure a market for bee farmers' products and improve on their livelihoods.
- Help farmers understand the concept and role of Geographical Indication (G.I) in the production of Oku White Honey (quality and standard control system).

Methodology and approach used: CAMGEW did six bee farming trainings in 2015 in villages around the Kilum-Ijim Forest. The trainings were done in Mbessa-Belo, Ajung-Fundong, Vekovi (Tanshem)-Jakiri, Tumuku-Belo, Mutteff-Fundong and Muloin-Njinikom. These trainings were spread around Kilum-Ijim forest to cover areas where the trainings had not been done by CAMGEW. CAMGEW wanted to reach out to more community members living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest. Community members and groups were informed about the training and criteria for selection through announcements in the Oku Community Radio, Kumbo City Radio and the Boyo

Community Radio. CAMGEW also wrote invitation letters to community members in some areas to participate in trainings.

The trainings were done in local languages, Pidgin English and English depending on the area and level of literacy of the people. Participants decided the language for training. The languages used by CAMGEW and its partners (Oku Honey Cooperative Society [OHCS]) and Belo Rural Development Association (BERUDA) were Oku language, Lamnso language, Kom Language and Pidgin English and sometimes English. The training guides were prepared in English and distributed to all the participants along with writing materials.

This training involved both theory and practical lessons to give participants the opportunity to get bee farming principles and try them through learning-by-doing. The principles of bee farming were taught on day one in class. This involved life cycle of a bee; bee colony; beehive; bee products; apiary management, quality control and processing procedures in the Geographic Indication concept on the control system. Additional lessons were given on the types of pests that attack bees in hives, the importance of honey to mankind, types of beehives, method of beehive mounting and the types of honey produce around Oku. There was a plenary session that involved general discussions, questions and information exchange at the end of the first day.

Practical work was done on day 2. Participants went for practical lessons on honey harvesting in apiaries found close to the community. All the participants took part in the harvesting and hive construction while receiving practical lessons. Bee farming equipment and materials provided by CAMGEW were used for training to promote best practices. Local hollow beehives made from either alpine and/or raphia bamboos were chosen for the practical training because it is a commonly used beehive with available local materials. Bang George of Oku Honey Cooperative Society and Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy did the training. Ngum Jai Raymond and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki of CAMGEW facilitated the trainings. Training started each day at 8:00 am and ended at 4:30 pm daily. There was a break at mid day and participants were provided with food and soft drinks.

Results: CAMGEW had as objective to train 180 community members in bee farming. She ended training 225 community members with 59 women participating. CAMGEW also found out that women were more involved in bee farming in Ijim than in the Kilum Forest.

CAMGEW carried out 6 bee farming trainings around the Kilum-Ijim. One of the trainings was done in Kilum for bee farmers and five in the Ijim forest.

place	Sub	Date of training Number of		Men	women
	Division		participants		
Ajung	Fundong	13th-14th November 2015	37	27	10
Bihkov	Jakiri	26-27 th October 2015	32	26	6
Tumuku	Belo	9-10 th December 2015	35	23	12
Mbessa	Belo	15 th -16 th October 2015	49	41	8
Muttef	Fundong	11-12 th December 2015	36	23	13
Muloin	Njinikom	14-15 th December 2015	36	26	10
Total			225	166	59

Statistics of bee farming training in 2015

CAMGEW had to share 100 beehives to trained persons in 2015 but decided to distribute these beehives to created cooperatives in 2016

From 2012 to 2014 CAMGEW did the following trainings in bee farming

AREA OF		NUMBER OF			HIVES
TRAINING	NING DATE		MEN	WOMEN	DISTRIBUTED
		TRAINED			
Elak-Oku	30-31 st January 2012	64	49	15	79
Elak-Oku	17-18 th February 2012	33	28	5	38
Elak-Oku	17-18 th July 2012	31	24	7	38
Elak-Oku	3-4 th August 2012	38	34	4	42
Mbockenghas-Oku	15th - 16th November	32	25	7	43
	2013				
Mboh-Oku	26th-27th November	40	33	7	40
	2013				
Manchok-Oku	10th-11th January 2014	30	20	10	40
Kevu-Lang-Oku 23th-24 th November		24	21	3	32
	2013				
Nkali-Din	28th Feb-1st March 2014	55	48	7	65
TOTAL		347	282	65	417

Statistics of persons trained from 2012 to 2014



Bee farming Training in Mbessa



Bee farming training in Tanshem for Bihkov Community Forest members



Bee farming training at Ajung Community Forests members

G) ORGANISATION OF BEE FARMERS TO COOPERATIVES

CAMGEW has been working in Kilum-Ijim forest since 2011. She is involved in apiculture and forest regeneration. CAMGEW has trained on bee farming and provided those trained with beehives to engage them in bee farming activities. There exists only one bee farming cooperative in Kilum-Ijim forest that deals with Oku White Honey. This cooperative is located in Oku and can only serve some bee farmers. Oku White Honey must be drained within 24 hours using draining system that function on gravity but some areas of the forest are further away from Oku with difficult topography thus a need for other cooperatives to serve bee farmers; get quantitative and qualitative honey; and reduce their distance. CAMGEW while working around the forest saw that many bee farmers out of Oku produce much Oku White Honey but the quality and quantity is poor this has lead to them not getting a market for their products. They lack skills in harvesting, draining, packaging, storage and marketing. CAMGEW decided to solve these problems by organizing them into Oku White Honey cooperatives and support them with bee farming materials. This will continue until 2018. This has been aimed at improving quality, quantity and time for product delivery to buyers and consumers. CAMGEW decided to organized bee farmers into these proposed cooperatives.

PROPOSED NAMES OF THE COOPERATIVES

Names	Villages Location Of Cooperative		Sub-Divisional Location	Division
Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative	Ajung, Akeh, Mbessa	Akeh	Fundong	Воуо
Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Mutteff, Abuh, Laikom and Mboh	Mutteff	Fundong	Воуо
Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative	Vekovi, Mvem, Kai, Ntur	Vekovi	Jakiri	Bui
Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative	Tumuku, Chuaku, Elimighon, Sowi, Juabum, Anjin, Aboh, Ntum, Djichami and Afua	Tumuku	Belo	Воуо
Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Muloin and Yang	Muloin	Njinikom	Воуо

In December 2015, CAMGEW carried out elections at the village level to organized bee farmers into village bee farmers' groups in Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative and Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative. Elections in other villages and cooperatives were to be done in 2016.

Date	Village	No. Participants	Cooperative	
21-12-2015	Vekovi	24	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative	
21-12-2015	Ntur	9	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative	
22-12-2015	Mvem	26	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative	
22-12-2015	Kai	31	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative	
28-12-2015	Mbessa	24	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative	
28-12-2015	Akeh	26	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative	
30-12-2015	Ajung	27	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative	

Information on elections carried out in Fundong and Jakiri Sub Division



DELEGATES ELECTED AT KAI

PARTICIPANTS DURING THE ELECTIONS AT KAI





DELEGATES ELECTED AT AJUNG

PARTICIPANTS DURING THE ELECTONS AT AJUNG

H) COLLECTION OF BEE WAX FROM BEE FARMMERS:

CAMGEW in 2015 helped to collect bee wax from bee farmers producing Oku White Honey to get a better market for their products. CAMGEW could only get about 200 Kg of bee wax. In the course of collection, CAMGEW discovered that bee farmers lacked skill in bee wax production. CAMGEW responded to this by planning a bee wax extraction training in 2016. CAMGEW is negotiating a market for bee wax abroad and hopes to promote fair trade.

I) BEE FARMING STUDIES:

CAMGEW did a study to evaluate the impact of apiculture through French-IUCN (PPI-FFEM) funded project from 2013 to 2015 on the livelihood of persons living around Kilum-Ijim forest and forest conservation. CAMGEW got a postgraduate student called Tambang Genesis Ngek on research in Biodiversity, Green Economy and Climate Change to do this study for his thesis. CAMGEW got the following results with the student:

Village	Number of people trained After receiving CAMGEW training per village	Number of hives received from CAMGEW per village	Number of hives added per village	Total number of hives owned in Nov. 2015	Number of hives abscond per village	Number of trees planted per village	Quantity of honey harvested in 2013 in litres	Quantity of honey harvested in 2014 in litres	Quantity of honey harveste d in 2015 in litres	Total quantity of honey harvested in litres	Total no of trees planted
MANCHOK	44	40	95	135	2	165	2	27	15	44	47
мвон	54	45	387	630	3	597	55	110	195	360	709
MBOCKENGHA S	36	43	568	933	6	709	0	66	25	91	597
KEVU-LANG	46	32	642	1406	8	1044	19	24	34	77	1044
NKALI-DIN	58	60	281	379	13	47	26	204.5	251	481.5	165
TOTAL	236	220	1972	3483	32	2562	102	431.5	520	1053.5	2562

Results on the impact of French-IUCN funded project on apiculture

This research has guided CAMGEW and her partners on the necessary approach to use on apiculture in Kilum-Ijim forest.

CHALLENGE

- CAMGEW had to reach-out to bee farmers in communities for training. The roads were generally bad. The communities were also very enthusiastic about the training workshop but the number of participants budgeted for trainings were 180. CAMGEW trained a total of 225 participants. Many people need this training around Kilum-Ijim forest.
- Colonization is not also an easy task as most areas where colonization takes place in the valleys beside rivers are places where bushfire is common and cattle move around at randomly because of fresh vegetation in the dry season and water.
- Most people in Ijim ridge use Kenyan Top Bar (KTBs) hives in bee farming. These hives do not do well in the forest as compared to local beehives. CAMGEW gets this from local people. They produce little quantity of honey as compared to local beehives. The farmers have not also been used to transporting hives to the forest in Ijim. There is need to train the community members around Fundong, Belo and Njinikom on hive transportation. The community members in Ijim told us that KTB hives colonise fast in the forest but produce very little honey as compared to local hollow beehives
- The presence of goats in the forest has made bee farming a challenging activity. These goats kept by community members in the forest have been destroying planted trees and other seedlings that are regenerating naturally. This has made nectar to reduce in the forest. The goats also destroy the hives by pushing them down causing the bees to leave.
- The nature of roads was also a challenge. Given that it was in the rainy season, the farm roads were bad. Bee farmers face a lot of difficulties transporting hives to the forest and honey back to their houses or cooperative. Women see hive transportation to the forest as a challenging task. CAMGEW could not do the bee farming trainings in the rainy season because of the bad roads to many villages.
- The forest in the Ijim Ridge is not continuous like in the Kilum. This has encouraged Fulani grazers to settle around the savannah areas in the forest. Their cattle graze into the forest and destroy trees. Sometimes they set fire in the savannah to get fresh pasture for their cattle and accidentally fires enter the forest.
- Beehive construction is not similar around Kilum-Ijim forest but some communities like Mutteff construct beehives that are not strong to transport bees when colonized or that do not have a long lifespan. CAMGEW sees the need to help community with weaker beehive construction skills build their skills through exchange visits with other communities that are very good in beehive construction.

SECTION THREE AGROFORESTRY

CAMGEW engaged in agroforestry to help peasant farmers manage the soil at the periphery of Kilum-Ijim forest to get higher crop yields, have variety of crops in farms and prevent wind and water erosion. The Kilum-Ijim forest area has the second highest altitude in Cameroon and communities living around it depend on its periphery for food and livelihood. The peripheries are bear with few trees and this encourages erosion. The farmers depend on the forest for firewood and this is putting pressure on the Kilum-Ijim forest. CAMGEW believes that through agroforestry, farmers can get firewood, fruits, vegetable, timber, honey, etc from their farms. Bees from the forest could get food from flowers of crops in farms when there is scarcity of flowers in the forest.

6 Agroforestry trainings were organized in 2015 for peasant farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest and agroforestry seeds like Tephrosia and Sesbania were distributed. Agroforestry seeds increase soil fertility by preventing erosion and adding manure to the soil. 201 persons (109 men and 92 women) have been trained in 2015 in agroforestry techniques to improve soil conservation and flower production for bees. These trainings were organised at Mbockenghas-Oku, Akeh, Tanshem-Bihkov, Akeh for Mbororos (indigenous people whom we discovered never participated in the earlier organised training in Akeh but are highly involve in bushfires for fresh pasture for their cattle that get into the forest), Tumuku-Belo and Fundong. We included the Mbororos in the training to help improve on pasture for their cattle and increase food availability for their animals. This was to help reduce bushfire burnt to destroy old vegetation and permit the growth of new vegetation for cattle.

More seeds and seedlings will be distributed in March 2016 when rains start for farmers to plant in their farms. Few seeds of Tephrosia about 1000 seeds were shared in Mbockenghas. Seed (leguminous plants) collection has been going on now and some have been nursed like Prunus africana, croton, etc. We are still to collect other types of trees when they are ready

What is agroforestry: Agroforestry is a land-use system that integrates trees, crops, people, and/or animals on the same piece of land in order to get higher productivity, greater economic returns, and more social benefits on a sustained basis. From the name "agroforestry" one could think of agriculture and forestry. In another sense, we could be thinking of how a natural forest can be transferred to the farms. The transfer of the forest to farms will enable farmers avoid soil erosion, get firewood, green manure, shade, wind breaks and variety of products from farms like it is done in the forest. This can be done by planting trees and crops together in the same field. The soil and water of any community must be conserved for the present and future generations. Soil nutrients are tampered with by erosion in farms and this reduces fertility. Farms with no shade and mulching promote evapo-transpiration leaving farms dry. Farms need agroforestry systems to conserve soil nutrients and avoid water and soil losses. This could be done by creating various tree canopies in farms like it is found in a natural forest to enable crops benefit from shade, soil conservation and micro-climate necessary for healthy crop growth. CAMGEW sees that training community members on agroforestry techniques will provide an alternative land use system, which provides a potential solution to address land management problems such as land scarcity, erosion, and low productivity, reduces tensions between community members, and assures greater incomes for families. Income generating activities like bee farming will also be sustained. Agroforestry systems can be categorise as follows:

Functional basis: referring to the major function or role of the system like windbreaks, shade provision, soil conservation, etc gorized as follows:

Structural basis: referring to vertical stratification or tree canopy layering.

Ecological basis: referring to soil conservation practices for sustainable management practices to improved organic matter of the soil and nutrient cycling

Socio-economic basis: referring to either management for subsistence, commercial or intermediate. This will determine management inputs, scale and intensity.

These trainings had the following objectives to attain;

- To train community members on agroforestry techniques which are soil conserving, poverty alleviating and ending hunger.
- Provide community members with agroforestry seeds and seedlings to nurse and/or plant in their farms.

Methodology and activities used during training workshops.

Communities were informed about the training through Oku, Belo, and Fundong Community Radios, Churches, invitation letters, door-to-door announcement, telephone calls, telephone messages and posters. The training was offered in the local languages (Oku for Mbockenghas, Lamnso for Tashem and Kom for Akeh, Tumuku and Fundong communities) and in Pidgin English for Mbororo communities. Trainings started at 8:00 AM and ended at 4:00 PM each day.

The trainings were done for two days. All the trainings started with presentation of the project to the participants, the reasons why CAMGEW was involved in agroforestry, and the importance of agroforestry to communities around the Kilum-Ijim forest. Participants then identified the problems peculiar in their communities. The problems included pest and diseases in farms, erosion, small farm sizes, the lack of chemicals, poor marketing due to low production, monoculture, farmer-grazer problems, bush fires, lack of moisture in farms, crops rotting like cocoyam, cassava and yam in farms, little manure in the farms, strong winds, hail stone etc. The entire training course demonstrated to participants how agroforestry techniques could improve on their livelihoods through increase farm yields and soil conservation in their farms found at the periphery of the Kilum-Ijim forest.

The first day involved training on the principles of agroforestry techniques. It also involved the application of these techniques in soil conservation and increase food production. This included lessons on needs of the community, sustainable land management, trees and global climate change, agroforestry techniques(windbreaks, living fences, alley cropping terraces and contour plantings, firebreaks, and forest gardening), and agroforestry for livestock management, conservation techniques and composting. The training was also adapted to suit the Mbororo Community around Kilum-Ijim forest. The agroforestry training was done for this community to help them feed their animals using pasture, feed themselves by growing crops that will improve their health, use animal dung to cultivate vegetable for marketing and protect the environment through soil conservation and avoiding bushfire.

Practical work was done on the second day of the training. Participants had to be taken to demonstration farms. This was to see the degree of application of agroforestry techniques and share with participants how agroforestry techniques or systems could be used to increase food production, feed animals and conserve the soil in these farms. The construction and use of an "A" frame in contouring in farms was done and farmers trained on how to use this to fight water erosion. The participants' learned-by-doing.

CAMGEW was to collect agroforestry seeds during the dry season between December 2015 and February 2016. These seeds were to be redistributed to farmers at the beginning of the rainy season to plant in their farms.

Place	Sub Division	Date of training	Number of participants	Men	Women
Mbockenghas	Oku	5^{th} and 6^{th} June 2015	55	11	44
Akeh	Fundong	19 th and 20 th October 2015	ber 33		10
Tanshem (Vekovi)	Jakiri	22 nd and 23 rd October 2015	31	24	7
Akeh Mbororo	Fundong	11 th -12 th November 2015	35	25	10
Tumuku	Belo	24th -25th November 2015	30	13	11
Fundong	Fundong	26th - 27th November 2015	17	7	10
GRAND TOTAL			201	109	92



A-Frame training for contouring with Bihkov Community Agroforestry training on forest gardening in Tumuku



Agroforestry lessons on leguminous plants (Sesbania and Tephrosia) with nodules for nitrogen fixing to improve soil fertility in Fundong



Agroforestry training for Mbororos around Akeh for pasture improvement and food production

SECTION FOUR

PEASANT WOMEN MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME

CAMGEW got financial support from Swisshand Foundation in 2015 to assist peasant women technically and financially start or continue small businesses that will empower them financially and improve on their livelihood. CAMGEW team received training on how to manage a cooperative micro-credit scheme from Swisshand in 2014 and part of 2015. CAMGEW formed a management committee for the scheme and this team plus the staff that were to run the scheme received training from Swisshand through distance learning.

CAMGEW has been able to train 193 women on business management, entrepreneurship, record keeping, team building. 207 women applied and 193 received the training. 153 women received loans from CAMGEW ranging from 30.000CFA to 70.000 FCFA to continue or start a business. The committee studies the proposed business plans by women, give advice to them and make decision on projects that are good for funding. All women who applied for loans were accepted to receive training before loans were approved. About 15 to 20 women were trained monthly and between 12 and 15 received loans. The women continued benefiting from CAMGEW's technical advice. Some women have continued saving their money under the scheme. All women who receive loans in a month form a group and give a name to their group. The group meet at least twice a month in CAMGEW's conference room and discuss together. Each group forms its executive and run like any other group in our society. They assist each other and share their successes and challenges in their businesses and lives with each other and learn. They support those in difficulties especially members who fail to pay their loan instalments when it is not their fault. They do group savings each time they meet and assist members. The group is autonomous but CAMGEW look for other opportunities to assist them. Women applied for loan to start restaurant, sell partially used imported dresses, start provision stores, do either vegetable gardening, fruit selling, firewood, etc businesses. Some do gardening, Irish potatoes cultivation, poultry, sell of ICT equipment, etc. Many businesses are growing from all corners in Oku own and managed by women. We are proud. Our committee assess women to benefit using the following qualities: history with loans, business plan, morals and seriousness.

Many women who could not associate with others because they were not financially and socially empowered have found hope. They are now in groups with women of their level and they now learn from each other. Their financial assets are growing. CAMGEW is proud of this. Many women can now go to hospital when sick, take care of their family needs, send children to school, feed their families and make their voices heard.

Our women micro-credit scheme is run like a cooperative with no interest to make profit but to break even so as to pay salaries and cover running cost. The project coordinator visit loan recipients on their business sites, listen to them, advise them on their businesses and share with them success stories recorded by other women. Many women who did not have national identification papers now have them because we put this as a pre-condition for women to get loans. They can now move freely and do business without any hinderance.



Women receiving training on entrepreneurship and business management

Swisshand Visits CAMGEW: CAMGEW received Swisshand Foundation team from Switzerland on November 4th, 2015. Swisshand have been supporting CAMGEW technically and financially to give micro-credit loans to peasant women in Oku since January 2015. Fabiana Kuriki and Peter Bjern came to see what CAMGEW was doing on the ground and visit some peasant women who benefitted from the scheme. It was a great visit as women received them with joy for supporting CAMGEW to help them. The partners had a join session with CAMGEW and beneficiary women to discuss about what was going well, what needed to be improved and the way to do this improvement. Fabiana and Peter received gifts from CAMGEW and women.



Gifts donated by CAMGEW and beneficiary women



Swisshand team received by CAMGEW team and beneficiary women



CAMGEW and beneficiary women with Swisshand team



Swisshand Foundation team visited funded businesses of women in Oku



Swisshand team visit the Oku Community forest in Kilum Mountain to have fun

The Swisshand team gave hope to our women and made them know that there are people out there who care about them. The team said that all what women need to do is to work hard, engage in their businesses and the sky will be their limit. CAMGEW was happy to see a partner in development visit her just when the funded project was less than a year old on execution. CAMGEW learned from what went well and got suggestions on how to correct her weaknesses from the partner.

SECTION FIVE

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

A) PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW-VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC)

CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC) went operational in November 2012 as a programme under Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW). It is a well-furnished centre that trains youths especially school dropout, graduates from schools, single/teenage mothers and less privilege youths to become useful and self-employed community members. It was approved as a Private Vocational Training Centre by the Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training through Order N°055/MINEFOP/SG/DFOP/SDGSF/CSACD of 6th January 2014.

CAMGEW-VTC functions with the following departments

- **Dress making and Decoration department:** This department has a male and female trainer with expertise in men's and women dresses. They train interested persons in these domains. Products and services are sold to the public.
- **Shoe making and Mending department:** This department has an expert on shoemaking and mending. This department trains interested persons in these domains. Products and services are sold to the public.
- **Hair dressing department**: It has an expert who trains interested persons in hair dressing and treatment skills. Hair dressing products like hair oils, other cosmetics and different hair products are available to the general public.

CAMGEW-VTC is involved in training, service provision, and sales of produces and materials in line with the services she renders. Sensitisation of community members has remained a regular feature of the institution to increase student enrolment and get more customers. This is done through Oku Community Radio, CAMGEW-VTC posters, sensitisation in churches and social gatherings and advertisement of CAMGEW-VTC products in the markets.

The year 2015 was a year CAMGEW-VTC functioned without external support. Our partner Stichting OOK-Netherlands stopped supporting us financially in March 2014. It has been challenging to keep the centre running but CAMGEW is working hard to overcome the challenges. The dress making and hair dressing departments have been functioning well with many students enrolled. The shoe making has 3 students. Many boys leaving primary school become motorcycle taxi riders and do not want to learn a trade.



CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC)

Table II: CAMGEW-VTC Student enrolment

Departments	January 2015	June 2015	December 2015
Hair dressing-all girls	4	5	5
Shoe making – all boys	2	3	3
Dress making – all girls	14	15	15
TOTAL	20	23	23

B) CAMGEW-VTC GRADUATE FIRST BATCH OF STUDENTS

CAMGEW-VTC graduated her first batch of students from the hair dressing; shoe making; and dress making and decoration. 15 students graduated. It was a colourful event that took place on the 15th May 2015. More than 700 persons attended the graduation ceremony coming from far and near. CAMGEW prepared graduation robs for the students and this was new in Oku and its environs. The preparation for the graduation was done from various angles. The certificates were prepared and signed by CAMGEW and Delegate of Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training for Bui. The prizes for the best students were donated by community leaders in various areas like traders, Mayors, Administrative officer, His Royal Highness the Fon of Oku, renown dress makers, hair dressers, shoe makers, big businesses men, goodwill persons, etc. The local board did the organisation. Invitation cards were shared out and the Oku Community Radio used for communication. The community hall was used and food was prepared for all invited guest by CAMGEW and students.

The graduation ceremony was merged with CAMGEW open-door-day for 2015. It took place at Oku Community Hall in Elak. CAMGEW did exhibition of VTC products during the graduation ceremony.

It was one of the heavily attended graduation event in Oku. Our students and their parents were proud of their certificates. They congratulated CAMGEW for the work done. Refreshment was done in one place after the graduation and this reduced expenditure for the graduating students who did not have a means to organise separate celebration. The invited guest, community members and authorities visited the exhibition area outside the community hall before, during and after the graduation. The authorities and service heads visited the exhibition area immediately after the handing of certificates.



Graduating students from CAMGEW-VTC in May 2015



Traditional dance "Ogenebo" welcomes the Divisional Officer for Oku, Delegation from MINEFOP-Kumbo, Oku Heads of Services and invited guest before singing of national anthem



Speeches from the Delegate of MINEFOP, Oku D.O and Mayor Elak-Oku Council



Speeches from the Director-CAMGEW, Traditional authority and graduating students



Students receive their certificates from authorities



Graduating Students with their certificates



Exhibition stand for Shoe making, Hair Dressing and Dress making Departments



Exhibition stand for Shoe making, Hair Dressing and Dress making Departments

Challenges of CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre

CAMGEW-VTC is not yet self-reliant because of some challenges like poor sales of CAMGEW-VTC products and services plus low payment of fees by students because of their financial situation. CAMGEW-VTC could not pay her staff salaries and buy the needed training materials regularly. CAMGEW-VTC also engaged in establishing a small poultry to raise funds to support CAMGEW-VTC running cost. This has been successful to an extent but CAMGEW-VTC has been faced with a market for the produce. Visit CAMGEW-VTC video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1 The centre offered courses on basic French, English and mathematics; citizenship; entrepreneurship;

HIV/AIDS; book keeping; business management; hygiene and sanitation; team spirit building; peace building; conflict management; self-confidence and leadership to students to make them suit the job market in 2015. The centre has had an increase in number of students as time goes on.

SECTION SIX OTHER PROJECTS, ACTIVITIESAND EVENTS

S) CAMGEW-MIVA Vehicle project rationale

CAMGEW got a partially used TOYOTA Double Cabin Hilux with financial support from MIVA-Switzerland to assist her improve on lives of people living around the Kilum-Ijim forest and carryout conservation activities around this forest. This vehicle was bought in January 2015 and has been helping CAMGEW change many lives and conserve the forest. CAMGEW received funds for this vehicle in December 2014. CAMGEW had no means of transport of her own to facilitate her activities before January 2015. Working in communities and the forest in Kilum-Ijim area was difficult without a strong vehicle. CAMGEW spent much money in transportation and arrived late for activities due to bad roads and lack of good adaptable car for field work. The donation of a vehicle by MIVA to CAMGEW was timely. The vehicle is helping CAMGEW do field work cheaper, in time and with ease now. We thank MIVA Switzerland for this donation.

CAMGEW's activities are increasing and this vehicle cannot cover all our activities. At some moments CAMGEW still hire vehicles.



Grass transported for community members to use in roofing their beehives.

T) The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Project

CAMGEW got a new project in October 2015 titled 'Oku Counseling and Computer Literacy Centre for Community Development' to empower teenage mothers on how to take care of their children; improve the knowledge of teenage girls in taking active control of their health; reduce cases of domestic violence and child trafficking; and the need for lawful marriages.

This project has computer literacy centre to offer courses on computer literacy, high efficient Internet and communication services and secretarial services like typing, printing, scanning, photocopying at low cost will be available to women and girls to help sustain the centre after funding end. This project enabled women to access information on trainings, scholarships and job opportunities which could be useful to them and their children. The skills in computer literacy will enable women to communicate, exploit opportunities, and become empowered to defend their rights and interests. This also offered counselling sessions to women and teenagers in distress. CAMGEW had to identify teenage mothers, female school drop outs, victims of domestic violence and child trafficking and link them to the CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre to do Hair dressing, Barbing, Shoe making and mending, Dress making and Decoration for men and women for rehabilitation through learning one of the trades or by gaining skills in computer literacy. This will enable them to be useful in the society upon completion.

U) Workshop on CAMGEW's 3 Years Strategic Planning

CAMGEW team started working in partnership with Well Grounded-a nonprofit organization to develop 3 year strategic management plan for CAMGEW. Well Grounded carryout institutional capacity building for civil society organizations. This involved online work sessions and organized training workshop and between the 13th- 14th of July 2015 in Yaoundé where 4 of CAMGEW staff and a board member attended. This workshop helped CAMGEW to get a new vision and mission statements, write her history, fields of interventions and define her values, approaches, opportunities and threats. This was the first step of the strategic plan. This helped CAMGEW understood why she exists, why she engages in the work she does and how she does it. The next session planned for early 2016 is to look at CAMGEW's general objective, specific objectives and activities carried out or to be carried out. This planning is very important now in the existing of CAMGEW for it defines all actions. The new vision and mission statements for CAMGEW are:

Our vision

A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices

Our target groups

CAMGEW serve people in the Kilum-Ijim forest area especially: Forest users, less privileged children and peasant women.

Our Mission

We do environmental protection by strengthening the capacity of community members especially women and young people in eco-businesses and forest regeneration for livelihood improvement in the Kilum-Ijim forest area.



V) FIOH NETWORK- Cameroon meeting of August 4th, 2015

CAMGEW form part of the Future In Our Hands (FIOH) Network-Cameroon that has as objective to promote sustainable development in Cameroon. FIOH Network Cameroon is a partner to FIOH-UK. FIOH Network Cameroon held a meeting on August 4th, 2015 after the last meeting that held on December 18, 2014. The meeting took place at SHUMAS office in Bamenda with the objective to build a common project for funding by FIOH-UK and work on the FIOH Network Cameroon draft constitution. Billian Nyuykighan of SHUMAS presented to members that FIOH Network was granted £1000 to carryout environmental education by FIOH-UK. It was also said that FIOH-UK recommended that the funds be used for concrete actions that will permit all members participate and learn from each other's strength while helping children and adults learn much about environment. This grant was then seen by members as a factor to keep members united and focused. It was also jointly agreed that the project be located in a single area. Factors that members saw important to determine the project site were: accessibility to members and visitors and availability of water and land. Members said they needed a sight at the central point or in a school to make it accessible to many schools, network members and FIOH-UK. It was finally accepted that a school at the periphery of Mezam should be chosen. Members were divided into 3 groups to work on a project each that they deem suitable to be carried out with the budget of £1000 considering the agreed points above. The three proposed projects from the 3 groups were then synthesized into a single approved project by all members. The draft of FIOH Network Cameroon constitution was presented and comments received to improve on its quality.



FIOH NETWORK-Cameroon members

W) Communication

CAMGEW used different methods to inform, sensitise and train Kilum-Ijim forest communities. The Oku Community radio, Kumbo City radio and Boyo Community Radio were used by CAMGEW to inform community members about trainings, sensitisation and share knowledge. The "Grasslander" newspaper was used to publish articles on importance of the forest. CAMGEW website, facebook and networks were used for communication. Telephone, Skype and email were used to reach out to the outer world. Organized seminars, workshops, exhibition were opportunities used to listen to others. CAMGEW also produced posters, brochures, booklets to reach out to the communities.

X) CAMGEW Celebrates Cameroon National Youth Day

CAMGEW team celebrated the Cameroon national youth day with her students of the Vocational Training Centre on the 11th of February 2015. This was done through match pass with staff and demonstration by students on their skills in decoration, dress making, apiculture, hair dressing and shoe making and mending.



CAMGEW team celebrate 2015 National Youth Day

Y) Bushfire in Nchiiy Community Forest on 11 Feb 2015

CAMGEW received sad news that the Nchiiy Community Forest found Kilum forest was on fire on the 11th of February 2015. This happened when community members and CAMGEW team were in the ceremonial ground for the National Youth Day Celebration. A farmer working in a farm at the border to the forest set the fire in his farm and it went into the forest. He was in the farm alone and could not stop the fire when it went wild. The person was identified and the village head of Mbockenghas protected him by taking him to the police station where he was put in the cell and later transferred to Kumbo for justice to take its course. He was released in Kumbo. Many community members still wait for his judgement that has not been done. This has promoted more people to commit the same act. There was pain in community members' hearts that lost their forest above 100 hectares and more than 500 beehives with bees got burnt. A beehive can produce about 7 to 15 Litres of honey yearly with 1 litre or 1.5 Kg of honey sold at 4000 FCFA. CAMGEW lost about 2500trees planted in this forest in bushfire but these trees were replanted in July 2015. Bushfire is common in Kilum-Ijim forest. It is caused by farmers who set fire in farms for slash-and-burn, smokers who throw half cigarettes with fire in the forest, hunters who set fire to catch animals, bee farmers who use poor methods of honey harvesting without bee smokers and grazers who set fire on old vegetation to get new vegetation for their animals with the coming of rains. Bushfire occur in the dry season.



Bee farmers consoled after fire destroyed their beehives A woman still setting fire in her farm after incident the same day

Z)CAMGEW Celebrates the Cameroon National Day

CAMGEW participated in the Cameroon National Day celebration on 20th May 2015 with students and staff. This involved the CAMGEW staff and CAMGEW- Vocational Training Centre staff and students. This was done through match-pass with items like nursed Kilum-Ijim forest tree seedling, beehive, smokers, and bee suit, made shirts, school uniforms, shoes, etc for demonstration on sustainable activities for livelihood improvement. This was to encourage community members to protect the Kilum-Ijim forest and engage in livelihood improvement activities.



CAMGEW match pass demonstrating that livelihoods could be improved through self-employment



Bee farming can improve livelihoods and protect the Kilum-Ijim forest as CAMGEW demonstrated



CAMGEW staff and students after match-pass

AA) Feasibility study visit carried out to resolve forest-grazer problem in Kilum forest

CAMGEW through her Kilum-Ijim forest conservation activities saw the need to carryout feasibility studies on the demarcation of grazing land found at the top of the Kilum Mountain from the surrounding periphery of natural montane forest. Goats leave this grazing land to the forest. Demarcating this grazing land from forest will promote forest regeneration and conservation. To carryout studies in this line, CAMGEW needed to know how feasible this can be done. CAMGEW wanted to protect the forest for it to generate water, fresh air, serve as carbon sink, source of beneficial insects, protect endangered species like Bannerman's turaco (an endemic and endangered bird specie only found in the Bamenda Highland Forest region with Kilum-Ijim having its largest remaining forest), etc. All of these are indirectly beneficial to village dweller. CAMGEW organised a field-based visit with the objective to know the reality that exist between the forest and the grazing land in the Kilum forest and to discuss with the various forest stakeholders in the grazing land and the forest on possible solutions to the forest-grazer problem. Present at the visit that took place on the 28th April 2015 at 6 am were: The Divisional Officer for Oku – Liewontue Patrick Pelopuh, Sub Divisional Delegation of Ministry of livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry (MINEPIA)- Oku - Ndukong Augustine, Grazer's Union Secretary - Oku - Ngum Emmanuel Ngum, Firewood fetcher – Oku – Lukong Hypolite Shang, Oku Community Radio – Mambe Kevin Kongnso, Delegate of Forest Management Institution for Emfve-Mii Forest in Oku - Nkese Wilfred Bongajum, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) –Oku – Ekwele Ngong Ferdinand, Director of CAMGEW – Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Project Officer for CAMGEW – Ngum Jai Raymond.

The following problems were identified in the forest

- Goats were seen living in the forest and eating young trees
- Goats in the grazing land lack water in the savannah to drink and depended on water found in the forest
- The Kilum forest is degraded with trees cut for firewood, tools and many traps set to catch rodents
- Goats move to the forest from savannah for water

• Fences were not found in all forest areas to prevent goats from getting into the forest

The following solutions were proposed

- Owners of goats in the forest were to be identified and convocations given them
- Areas where goats enter the forest were to be identified and solutions proposed
- Areas in the savannah with water opened up to create water ponds where goats could come to drink water instead of going to the forest
- Grazers were to be requested to identify areas where goats use to enter the forest for possible fencing
- Multi-stakeholder meeting was to be held with all authorities to look for a long lasting solution to this problem

These actions were not executed in 2015 because of lack of funds. The grazers were asked to prepare a list of places that domestic animals at the savannah use to get to the forest. The visit ended at 4 pm.



Demarcation between the forest and savannah land with a fence



The Savannah part of the Kilum Mountain with animals



Part of the community stakeholders who participated in field visit

RECOMMENDATIONS

- CAMGEW recommends that all goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural seedlings of Prunus and other tree species. The goats prevent the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will permit young seedlings to grow and increase their rate of survival.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats living in the forest. General patrols carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats. There is a zone of pasture at the top of the forest where they could keep their animals.
- CAMGEW see the need for a project on pasture improvement. This will encourage animal confinement and reduces cases of domestic animals like cattle having to graze in the forest at Ijim forest area and goats in the Kilum Forest area. There is need for pasture improvement for Mbororo communities found around Kilum-Ijim forest area. The Mbororo is an ethnic group that is indigenous. They are one of the two indigenous groups (Pygmies and Mbororo) in Cameroon. The Mbororo keep few cattle and move from one area to another with their cattle. They are less literate and have few opportunities for development. Improving on pasture for their cattle is improving on their living standards

and protecting the forest from bushfire for fresh vegetation. At the top of Kilum forest is a good grazing land that needs pasture improvement, water provision for animals and demarcation of grazing land from forest land. There is need to work on this.

- CAMGEW see the need for a demarcation between the forest and the savannah land at the top of the forest. This will prevent the movement of animals from the top savannah land to the forest. The absence of animals from the forest will promote the regeneration process of the forest.
- More trees need to be planted in the Kilum-Ijim forest. This forest is the largest remaining area of the Bamenda Highland Forest and is also peculiar for the production of Oku White Honey that is certified as Geographical Indication Product. This forest is the largest remaining habitat for many endangered species and known too for its endemism. There is great need for regeneration activities to be made a yearly event in this forest for its restoration.
- There is need for more patrols in the forest to check defaulters and forest regeneration activities.

BB) CAMGEW shared experience with the University of Dschang community on JUNE 20, 2015

CAMGEW was invited by the Department of Geography of the University of Dschang- Cameroon to participate in the Geography week of the Department. The invitation came because CAMGEW had practical knowledge to share with students and the university community. This sharing was done in presentations and exhibitions. CAMGEW made presentation in PowerPoint on Kilum-Ijim forest conservation through forest regeneration, apiculture, environmental education and commercialization of bees wax. CAMGEW made exhibition with posters, pictures, Oku White Honey, Bee wax, Honey Juice and other items produced in the CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre like shoes, sandals, shirts, etc. The University authority was impressed as they saw our presentations and exhibitions complement with geography lessons in the department. We all agreed this will become an annual event. The University and CAMGEW became partners with university graduate and postgraduate students coming for research and internship in CAMGEW. This is the case of Tambang Genesis Ngek- a Masters Research student on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Green Economy who came to CAMGEW and worked on "Evaluation of the Impact of Apiculture on Livelihood Improvement and Forest Conservation in the Kilum-Ijim Forest (Case Study CAMGEW Project Funded by PPI-IUCN)



Exhibition of forest products like honey and Wax and CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre Products



CAMGEW Presents to Geography students and lecturers on Kilum-Ijim Forest conservation through apiculture and forest regeneration



CAMGEW makes poster exhibition to Dschang University Community on her successes and challenges on forest conservation

CC) CAMGEW signs convention to get financial assistance from French government on the 7th May 2015

On the 7th May 2015, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW), working in Kilum-Ijim forest and Tropical Forest and Rural Development (TF-RD) working the Dja reserve on great apes and cocoa signed conventions to get financial support from French Global Fund for Environment small scale grants. This was done at 5:00 pm in the presence of Mr. François Xavier DUPORGE-Secretary General in charge of French Global Fund for Environment (FFEM), Mr. Hervé CONAN-Director of French Development Agency and Her Excellency Madam Christine Robichon-French Ambassador to Cameroon.



CAMGEW signs convention with French Authorities to get financial support to conserve Kilum-Ijim forest

DD) World land forum 11-12 May 2015

In May 2015, over 700 participants met in Dakar, Senegal for the 2015 Global Land Forum on the theme " Land Governance for Inclusive Development, Justice and Sustainability: Time for Action ". The Forum was organized by the International Land Coalition and the Pan African Institute for Consumer Citizenship and Development (CICODEV Africa), in partnership with a National Organizing Committee composed of IPAR, CNCR (Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux), IPAR (Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale

IED Afrique (Innovations Environnement Développement), ENDA, and OXFAM, and in collaboration with the National Land Reform Commission and the Government of Senegal.



World Land Forum event

CAMGEW participated in a site event on the 11th of May 2015 on peer learning on strengthening African Civil Society Organisation. This event was organised by Well Grounded and Maliasili Initiatives with their partners to share experience on organisational devlopment. We left the event learning that civil society organisations are essential for change where they work. We also learned from FODER-Cameroon that what an organisation does, depend entirely on the people within an organisation and their capacities and abilities. CAMGEW left this event seeing the need to develop a strategic plan for the organisation.

EE) CAMGEW takes part in APIMONDIA 2015, 44th International Apicultural Congress

44th International Apicultural Congress-APIMONDIA is a world apiculture event that takes place every 2 years. This event brings together apiculture scientist, researchers, practitioners, apiculture technology inventors, investors, civil society organizations, networks, governments and international institutions to talk and exhibit on the past, the present and the future of apiculture in the world. This was aimed at protecting bee biodiversity, using bees to fight poverty, hunger, unemployment and diseases. Bees are pollinators for our crops and a rich world wild plant heritage. This congress talked about the health of bees, the types of bees, where they are found, the quantity of bees and the where they are used or can be used. About 8000 guests from Africa, Europe, America, Australia and Asia participated in this Congress.

The congress was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel sponsored by APIMONDIA 2015 who found it quite inspiring. He participated in presentation of various actions under taken by researchers, practitioners and governments on the ground. He learned from their success stories, their

challenges and their proposed way forward. It was creative and innovative and this motivated him to work more and continue doing the work he does in a better way. Another action was the presentation Emmanuel made on CAMGEW's activities in the apiculture sector. He shared CAMGEW's successes, challenges and the way forward for others to learn. He had the opportunity to visit the exhibition site and saw new technological developments in apiculture. He participated in symposiums' presentations on beekeeping for rural development from 16th to 19th September 2015. His participation in symposiums also covered portions of beekeeping economy, bee biology, bee health, pollination and bee flora and technology and quality for apiculture.

Exhibition: He had time to visit stands on honey harvesting, draining and packaging equipments. He talked with these inventors and investors. He saw how honey was process to medicine, food, candles, etc and poster presentations. CAMGEW discussed partnership opportunities with manufacturers, investors and researchers.

What Emmanuel brought back home for CAMGEW and his people

- His brain that was richer to be used to continue serving his people
- The documents and contacts that he gathered from participants
- Potential partnerships and networks that he created to share knowledge and experience
- Friends he created in APIMONDIA 2015. Friendship unit people, nations and continents
- The power of team spirit that he saw in APIMONDIA 2015 that made the event successful. He will use this to build a CAMGEW team that is strong.
- The determination that "Yes, we can make it" in Africa because he saw Korea using what they produce like cars and not depending much on the outside world on imports. Korea was like us some years behind.



CAMGEW participate in APIMONDIA 2015



CAMGEW meet potential partners on bee farming in APIMONDIA EXHIBITION SITE

FF) Reflection Workshop on Improving Collaboration With Civil Society Organization On September 24-25th 2015

From September 23-25, 2015 CAMGEW through Wirsiy Emmanuel participated in a reflection workshop organized by Well Grounded and IUCN that focused on improving collaborations amongst civil society groups and also improving relations between these groups and the communities they represent; from CAMGEW's perspective, it was a very welcome initiative. This workshop brought together PPI-FFEM NGO partners and other national and international organizations working on forest governance and other governance issues to share experiences. It was organized more for leaders of NGOs.

This workshop was very interesting with many presentations on best practices. CAMGEW learned how to gain public acceptance from the communities where she works. The workshop helped CAMGEW to understand the best techniques and strategies to use in bringing community stakeholders to the table to discuss forest issues. CAMGEW also learned from the experiences of other national and international organizations on how to bring about the change that she wants to see in communities where she works. For instance, CAMGEW learned from Patrick SAIDI HEMEDI of DGPA in the Democratic Republic of Congo about how to involve policy makers like Parliamentarians so that they make decisions that favour people living in rural communities. The case with the campaign led by SAILD that led to the banning of imported frozen chicken in Cameroon was another good example. CAMGEW learned from this that team work gives force and makes our local actions have a global impact in addressing environmental problems. CAMGEW learned how other organizations have used team spirit or collaborative action to bring about the change that they wanted locally, nationally and internationally.

CAMGEW left the workshop with more confidence, believing that the change she wants to see in her community can be realized with the kind of potential that she saw embedded in participating partners that could be tapped. The workshop helped CAMGEW to know how to collaborate, network and create partnerships that will help her bring the change she want to see in her community like social and environmental justice that are put at the centre of development, benefit sharing, multi-stakeholder platform for decision making and citizen engagement.



Some participants in the reflection workshop Learn more about this workshop at <u>http://www.well-grounded.org/blog-post/2015/10/07/building-potential-put-</u> <u>social-and-environmental-justice-centre-development</u>

GG) Man & Nature Project workshop 27-29th Sep 2015

CAMGEW attended a workshop to plan for the execution of Man and Nature – France funded project for 4 Cameroon NGOs. This workshop was aimed at helping the 4 NGOs know what was expected from them in project execution and the method of reporting that will meet up with the demand of French Development Agency the main funder in reporting.



CAMGEW and other organisations in the workshop

HH) CAMGEW Visit GLORES in Bafoussam 5th October 2015

CAMGEW has been working in partnership with GLORES since her creation. Both organisations work on sustainable development and are both members of Future In Our Hands Network-Cameroon. CAMGEW visited GLORES in Bafoussam to share experience and contribute in the development and construction of GLORES' Rehabilitation Centre in Bafoussam. During this visit, CAMGEW visited the site for construction with technicians and Director of GLORES to assess the suitability of construction site for the project and know the needs. GLORES and CAMGEW share one partner (Future in Our Hands- UK) in common.



II) Visit of Nicolas Salaun from French IUCN on 20th November 2015

French Global Fund for Environment (French-IUCN) through it Small Scale Grants (PPI-FFEM) supported CAMGEW in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation from 2013 to 2016. Nicolas Salaun came to follow-up the implementation of the project on the ground by CAMGEW. He visited project sites like the tree nurseries, the forest where trees were planted like Bihkov Community forest and talked with some project beneficiaries like bee farmers. He had a discussion with CAMGEW team to understand project challenges and what could be done to overcome the challenges. He was impressed with CAMGEW's activity.



JJ) Climate Change Workshop Organised For Peasant Farmers in Oku

Introduction: The workshop was organized on the 15th of January 2015. This workshop was organized in partnership with Mrs. Azong Matilda of the University of Johannesburg South Africa. Matilda is a PhD student from the Department of Geography and Environmental Management of the University of Johannesburg- South Africa. The workshop was attended by 55 farmers from Ngvuinkei II, Manchok, Keyon and Ngashie of Oku. The workshop facilitators were the Director of CAMGEW- Wirsiy Emmanuel, Ngum Jai Raymond-CAMGEW Project Officer, Azong Matilda and the Delegate for Agriculture and Rural Development for Oku Sub Division- Mr. Nkyembeng Charles Nche. Mrs. Azong was carrying out a research project on the vulnerability of rural communities to climate change in the Bamenda Highlands region of Cameroon with focus on the changes and adaptations in community livelihoods in the context of climate and environmental changes. The workshop was aimed at knowing how women were adapting to the changes caused by climate change and variability. The workshop objectives were;

- To discuss with peasant farmers the changes that has occurred in their farming systems and cycles over the years.
- To assess the impact of climate change on gender and agriculture and how women were adapting to the changes.

Methodology and Activity Summary: Prior to the workshop, Mrs. Azong and Ngum Raymond of CAMGEW had carried out a field study along the slopes on which agriculture is practiced in Oku. This was done on the 14th of January 2015 from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM. The farming communities of Manchok, Ngvuinkei, and Keyon were visited. Through this activity, Mrs. Azong was able to appreciate the topography, the water courses and nature of soil. The course of the largest river that flows in Elak area-Emfve River was studied and some interviews with community members made. The outcome was that the river course had reduced in flow rate and size over the years.

On the 15th of January 2015, the workshop on climate change and its effects on agriculture was organised in Manchok at CAMGEW's office. The workshop started with a general presentation of the project that involved the impact of climate change in agricultural practices. After the presentation, the participants were divided into two groups- a group made up of women and another made of men. The group composed of women was facilitated by Mrs. Azong and Mr. Charles Nche. The group comprised of Men was facilitated by Wirsiy Emmanuel and Ngum Jai Raymond. Both groups discussed on the farming trends in the past and now, ownership of land and labour, ownership of crops and sales. After the separate discussions, there was a joint discussion to synthesize the group discussions and findings. This first session was followed by a lunch break. The second session involved discussions on rain fall patterns and the agricultural season. During the syntheses of the group discussions, it was discovered that;

- 1. Women dominated in agricultural activities. Women put more labour and time in farming activities in Oku.
- 2. Land was owned by men in Oku. The correct statement is Women have access to land but majority do not own land as a result of discriminatory cultural practices. A woman could be given a piece of land for farming but that did not ensure her ownership of the land. Their husbands will sell the farmland sometimes without seeking their opinions.
- 3. Family heads who are men had to own land and decide on its distribution because they were polygamous and could get a new wife anytime and this new wife will need land.
- 4. Women were not permitted to plant permanent crops in farms. All permanent crops were property of men (family heads). Ownership of land could be possibly identified through permanent crops.
- 5. Land had to be in the name of men who are polygamous because if one of the women owned land she will only concentrate on her children but if land is owned by the father who own all the children and women, every family member will benefit from it.
- 6. Women carried a lot of farm loads. Food was transported from the farm to the houses by women and in some cases men helped their wives.
- 7. Men did not help women in energy supply for their families (fire wood for cooking). Women in greater cases will come back from the farm and get to the forest to fetch for firewood that will be used for cooking and warming water.
- 8. Food crops were cultivated by women. Men got involved only in cash crop (Coffee) farming. Though women will mostly take care of the weeding, mulching and harvesting of the coffee fruits but they had no access to incomes from coffee.

Despite all these findings, women agreed to the fact that some men though very few helped their wives in farming activities.

Results:

- The workshop revealed that climates had greatly changed in Oku. The changes were affecting farmers adversely. Rains will either come earlier or delay. The example quoted was what happened in 2013 when rains came earlier and some farmers planted and the rains went and did not come back until April. Those that planted later had better yields. In 2014 rains came earlier in February and some farmers planted, the rains remained. Farmers who planted later in March had very poor harvest.
- Men put less time in farming activities that involve food crop. They however put more time in cash crop cultivation.
- Rainfall patterns have greatly changed. This has affected the agricultural cycle. Corn is planted in March and harvesting is done in some communities in Oku between October and December and in some extreme cases in January.
- The cultivation of Solanum Potatoes has become important in some communities. The low productivity of farms planted with corn has caused some farmers to shift from the cultivation of corn to solanum potatoes that have greater yields and provide greater incomes.



Participants in the Climate Change Workshop

<u>Conclusion</u>: The workshop was only the first phase of the research process. The second sessio of the research was to be organized later. CAMGEW hopes that the outcome of this study will be used to better the living conditions of peasant farmers in Oku through adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change in the livelihood activities of farmers.

SECTION VIII

2015 CHALLENGES, 2016 PLANNED ACTIVITIES & CONCLUSION

C) 2015 CHALLENGES

1) Forest management:

- Forest management Institution (FMI) and Executive members: FMIs are not still very active. Some of the executive have not protected the interest of the community in the forest and in forest resource benefit-sharing mechanisms. There has been poor management of forest proceeds, embezzlement and over exploitation of the forest resources. There is need for new elections and organization.
- Domestic animals in the forest: There are many goats, cattle and sheep in the forest that pound the forest soil and prevent natural forest regeneration. The animals also eat forest vegetation especially young trees. This prevents the sustainability of the forest.
- Bush fires: Bushfires destroy the forest biodiversity. Bushfires results from farms at forest borders that are burn in preparation for planting, it also results from cigarettes smoking in the forest especially in the dry season and poor honey harvesting without bee smokers.
- **Forest platform:** There is need to create a forest multi-stakeholder platform to promote dialogue among all forest stakeholders for a better management of Kilum-Ijim Community Forest at each community forest. CAMGEW has a challenge to create this platform for dialogue and participation in forest management.

2) Eco-business

a) Production:

- Application of norms for the Oku White Honey and Prunus Africana: There are norms set for production and commercialization of these products which are not applied either because of ignorance or intentional denial. The quality of these goods are doubted when norms are not respected
- Production capacity: The production of these goods (bee wax, Oku White Honey, Prunus) is still low and there is need to increase production.
- **Bee farmers' support:** Many bee farmers that we work with lack appropriate bee farming equipment. These equipment and materials are used for honey harvesting like bee suits, harvesting containers, knives, bee smokers, Boats, gloves, etc. CAMGEW will need to assist trained persons on Oku White Honey production by providing them with these equipment and materials at a subsidize cost. CAMGEW need support to run this activity.

- b) Commercialization:
 - Marketing of honey and wax: The marketing of these goods is still poor. Those who need them never easily have access to them. They are not available nationwide. There is a lot of clandestine commercialization of honey and wax from this region.
 - Application of norms for honey, wax and Prunus africana. The norms set for the commercialization of these products are not respected and this makes it difficult to sell these products at good prices.
- 3) **Engaging women in management of community activities:** Women have not been very active in decision making on community issues. Their voices are not heard. It is important for women to participate in decision making of the community and occupy leadership positions in the community.
- 4) Funding and networking CAMGEW needs funding for her activities but these funds are not available. CAMGEW needs opportunities through networks to share experiences and opportunities with other institutions and persons while learning from them.
- 5) **Volunteers:** 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 organizational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment;
- 6) **Personnel training:** CAMGEW has a young staff that needs more skills, experience and knowledge to function better and make things work. These staff's capacity needs to be improved in domains like computer skills, information management, communication skills, networking, etc.
- 7) **Office running:** CAMGEW need to cover her office running cost. Many projects executed by CAMGEW cover a small portion of running cost and some parts of the running cost are not covered. Getting support for CAMGEW running cost will help improve CAMGEW's functioning.
- 8) **Equipment support:** CAMGEW has problems functioning well because of some office items that are not sufficient. CAMGEW needs: 2 camera, 2 computers (1 laptop and 1 desktop), 1 printer, 1 scanner and 1 photocopier.
- 9) **Need new partners:** CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active to promote gender equality and equity especially a project on women empowerment.

D) PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

- 1) Local government actors supported and citizens' engagement promoted to ensure effective management of the Kilum-Ijim Forest
 - **a)** Monitoring and field visits: CAMGEW need to carryout monitoring through patrols in the forest to look at best practices and poor activities carried out in the forest. CAMGEW will also need to take care of the planted trees.
 - **b)** Radio programmes on forest management issues: CAMGEW will also use the radio for information to community members on forest training opportunities. CAMGEW will run radio programmes for sensitization, information and education in Oku Community

Radio, Kumbo City Radio, Belo Community Radio, Helen Chris Radio and Bui Community Radio to reach out to community members.

- **c)** Nursery development: Tree nurseries with agroforestry and forest trees will be developed and used as learning grounds. The nursed forest and agroforestry trees will be planted in the forest and farms respectively. CAMGEW will nurse forest trees like Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Schefflera spp, Pittosporium mannii, Newtonia camerunensis, Podocarpus latifolius, Syzygium staundtii, Prunus africana, etc to plant in the Kilum Mountain Forest.
- **d) Weeding of planted trees:** Young trees planted will need special care regularly. CAMGEW will weed them regularly to prevent other vegetation competing with them for manure.
- **e) Tree planting:** CAMGEW will continue with tree planting to regenerate degraded areas of the Kilum-Ijim forest. A variety of trees will be planted to promote biodiversity, Oku White Honey production and other income generating trees.
- f) Environmental education with children and adults: CAMGEW will do in-doors and outdoor environmental education on Kilum-Ijim forest for children in communities and schools. Adults will be involved in this activity in social gatherings and field-based activities.
- **g) Feasibility studies on the state of Prunus in the Kilum-Ijim forest:** This is know the areas being exploited, the benefit sharing mechanism, those involved, areas not yet exploited, method of exploitation, who does the exploitation, the legality, etc
- **h)** Define and implement local inclusive mechanism to control Prunus exploitation. There is a lot of illegal activities on Prunus exploitation that needs to be control and monitored
- i) Monitor, control and increase population of endangered species. CAMGEW discovered some tree species that are listed in IUCN Redlist as Endangered like *Newtonia camerunensis* and needs to be monitored, controlled and its population increased. CAMGEW will like community members to participate in its regeneration and protection
- **j)** Rethink and Define governance on local forest institutions: CAMGEW sees it important to look at the method of organization of executives of forest institutions and also define a new workable method.
- **k)** An inclusive election of forest user groups and FMIs executives: All the groups of people in the community have the same rights to forest decision making process. This includes men, women, youths, forest users (like bee farmers, hunters, firewood fetchers) and people with special needs. CAMGEW sees it important for all of these people to be represented in the executive of the FMIs.
- **I)** Training of executives on forest management: CAMGEW will need to train the newly elected executives of forest institutions on forest management related issues.
- **m)** Creation of platforms of community forest: Platforms will be grounds to discuss forest issues, get solutions, handle challenges, and prevent activities that can disturb the wellbeing of the forest. The platforms will be made of all forest stakeholders both communities, administrative and traditional.

2) Eco-business operators in Kilum-Ijim Forest area master the techniques of production to produce good quality and sufficient quantity for the market

- **a)** Distribution of 100 bee hives
- **b)** 6 Trainings on honey production and 6 trainings on wax production for bee farmers
- c) Forest visits for bee farmers to learn on bee loving trees
- **d)** Exchange visits between bee farmers and bee farmers groups
- e) Organization of bee farmers in village groups and cooperatives.
- f) Promote the participation of women in bee wax and honey production through visit to 14 women groups and 12 radio programmes: Bee farming activities have been considered a masculine activity but it is poverty alleviating
- g) Distribution of 3000 coffee seedlings to 30 farmers
- **h)** Provision of agroforestry seeds to farmers: Farmers will receive agroforestry seeds from CAMGEW to improve on soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase variety of crops harvested from their farms.
- i) 4 Training on agroforestry for peasant farmer: CAMGEW will offer trainings on agroforestry to help farmers manage the soil in the farms at forest peripheries properly.
- **j)** Provision of agroforestry seeds to farmers: Farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest will receive agroforestry seeds to improve on soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase variety of crops harvested from their farms.
- **k)** Control of quality and quantity standards of honey and wax. CAMGEW will need to control the quality and quantity of products she will be buying to sell to other buyers.
- **I) Food advocacy project:** CAMGEW hopes to carryout advocacy to influence cultural and traditional policies that affect food production in Bui Division.
- **m) Biogas technology Development project:** CAMGEW will be working with communities that own cattle like Vekovi in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon to develop biogas systems for cooking energy and teach them how to use biogas slurry as biofertilizer in vegetable gardening and pasture improvement especially in the indigenous Mbororo communities in Oku, Akeh and Noni.

3) Eco-business operators have adequate capacity and have increased revenue through the commercialisation of their products

- **a)** Facilitate the relationship between created Oku White Honey cooperatives and the market
- **b)** Shoe making training for 10 persons in 2016
- c) Dress making training for 26 girls persons in 2016
- **d)** Hair dressing training 18 girls in 2016
- e) Training on forest entrepreneurship for 150 number persons in 5 trainings
- f) 10 Training on management, norms for 150 bee farmers and FMI
- g) 6 Training on leadership for 60 bee farmers and FMI executive members
- **h)** Organisation of bee farmers in 16 village groups and creation of 5 Oku White Honey cooperatives.
- i) 5 Exchange visits between 6 Oku White Honey Oku White Honey Cooperatives

- **j)** Redefine the role of VTC in line with eco-business. CAMGEW sees the need to work on the role of VTC as a professional institution for eco-businesses like bee farming, agroforestry, wax production, etc.
- **k)** CAMGEW will follow-up donated beehives to earlier trained bee farmers to know the quantity of honey and wax produced.

4) Women in the Kilum-Ijim area are empowered and participate in forest management and community development by 2018

- **a)** 60 women receive counseling in 2016
- **b)** 5Computer literacy training/programme for 60 women in 2016
- **c)** 4 organised training workshops to share experience on health and nutrition for 120 women
- d) Organise 4 workshop on women's right for 100 women
- e) 12 trainings carried out on business management under the Women Micro credit scheme for 200 women and at least 150 women receive micro-credit to enable them start small businesses to raise income and support their families.
- **f)** Sensitise community on issues of women's right violation in 8 radio programmes
- **g)** Sensitise women on forest management and eco-business using the radio in 3 radio programmes and 6 training workshops.
- h) Promote the participation of women in bee wax and honey production through visit to
 6 women groups and 6 radio programmes: Bee farming activities have been considered a masculine activity but it is poverty alleviating
- **i) CAMGEW Vocational Training Centre:** CAMGEW will continue with vocational training and will work to develop a market for produced items while increasing the enrolment of students. More sensitization will be done.
- **j) Open-Door-Day for VTC:** CAMGEW will organize an Open-door-day event for fund raising in the CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC) to support VTC poor students and CAMGEW-VTC running cost
- **k) Recycle vehicle tires:** CAMGEW will recycle used car tyres to produce school shoes for children. This will be aimed at fighting poverty and training young Cameroonians on shoe production to get employment.
- 5) CAMGEW will have developed at least one project and seek funds to handle challenges in the Kilum-Ijim area and develop a good system to manage funds
 - **a.** Training on financial management: CAMGEW need skills in managing finances. All our staff needs these skills as some money transaction is done in the field by field staff.
 - **b.** Identify new partners and funders: Most of CAMGEW's activities do not have financial support and are carried out on voluntary basis. There is also need for partners that will help CAMGEW gain strong financial and technical resources
 - **c.** Finalize CAMGEW strategic document: CAMGEW need to finalize her Strategic Management Plan to clearly see what she needs to do in the next 3 years
 - **d.** Share Strategic Plan with some partners: To get the needed technical and financial support CAMGEW will need to share this document with like-minded institutions.

- **e.** Update CAMGEW website: CAMGEW needs to update her website to present her new vision, mission, global objectives and identity.
- f. **Personnel training:** CAMGEW will invest some time and resources to train personnel on computer techniques, information management, advocacy, communication skills and leadership.
- 6) CAMGEW will work with like-minded organizations and people to share knowledge, experiences on forest local governance issues and learn from them.
 - **a.** Identify partners
 - **b.** Reflect on volunteer strategy
 - **c.** Reflect on collaboration with journalists
 - **d.** Being clear about partnership.
 - **e.** Reflect on her communication strategy.
 - f. 3 Exchange visit with like-minded organisation to share knowledge and experience

CONCLUSION

CAMGEW looks forward to a successful year in 2016. CAMGEW wishes all her partners, would be partners, collaborators, staff, board members, well-wishers and beneficiaries a successful 2016 year. She invites everyone to join her to work for a sustainable environment and improved livelihood for all people. Should you want to learn more about CAMGEW visit her website at <u>www.camgew.org</u> or <u>www.camgew.com</u>. You could also visit the following links

CAMGEW FOREST VIDEO: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TwdiXGj3zk</u>

CAMGEW GENERAL ACTIVITIES VIDEO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1