

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH  
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

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

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## **PREFACE**

Our world needs to understand that systems connect and that we do not need to be system thinkers. The social, economic and ecological systems have a connection and our planet-earth can only be sustained if we look at the earth as a global system. There is need for creative and innovative actions that prevent and manage conflicts while meeting the needs of the earth's occupants and preventing degradation of the universe. The environment needs to be kept healthy for mankind to be healthy. Poverty, hunger and unemployment have stood as major challenges to mankind. Conflicts that have led to wars have made macro and micro economy, environmental, political and social situation worst. We have talked about North-South partnership and South- South partnership to make things better for the developing countries but things are not changing positively as fast as expected. Our continent- Africa has a lot of natural resources but these natural resources have not been able to help Africans get decent jobs, put food on their tables, meet other daily needs and invest in the future. There is need for Africans to think out of the box to come up with innovative and creative approaches that tie with their culture, social, ecological and economic realities to tackle the present challenges of unemployment, poverty, gender inequalities and emanating conflicts. We need to work hard to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, the able and the disable, the people in power and those being ruled, the land owners and those in need of land, the women and the men, etc. How do we develop an inclusive strategy that will make everyone belonging to the society? This is the question CAMGEW has been pondering to answer through her local actions while thinking globally to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have come to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

CAMGEW has resolved to help achieve the SDGs by solving some identified problems locally and nationally. We have been working with peasant women around Kilum forest to change their lives through micro-finance training and financial assistance. CAMGEW has worked with Kilum-Ijim forest communities' members on apiculture and agroforestry; regenerating and conserving their forest; and protecting the rights and interest of their women and girls and green value chain development of forest products. CAMGEW is helping to develop the value chain of their honey called Oku White Honey through organization of bee farmers to cooperatives, provision of equipment, capacity building and converting their honey and bees wax to money in the CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP. Our aim has been to create jobs, organize them, create a secured and inclusive society with solidarity as insurance, protect the forest, increase quantity and quality honey/wax and develop a market for their products. CAMGEW feels she is succeeding in this process but needs ideas, support and contributions from others to fasten this success and take part to make SDGs achieved. CAMGEW is getting into organic coffee production through agroforestry as an option to forest conservation.

The forest can be protected better if the local people find value in the forest and are also provided alternative activities for livelihood to the forest. The more people get involved in apiculture and make a living from the forest the more the security of the forest is guaranteed from rampant bushfire, deforestation and encroachment.

CAMGEW is doing this through her local action but also thinking globally. She call on everyone to find solutions to the following questions below:

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

\*How can we promote every businessman, company, organization and government depending on natural resources to work genuinely in improving livelihoods of poor communities and vulnerable people?

\*How can climate change be made a concern for all with everyone searching solutions through actions?

\*How can we bring all stakeholders to the table to discuss these issues that affect our people and our environment to get lasting solutions?

We all must be a solution to the present problems plaguing our communities locally and our planet globally.

CAMGEW thank the following major partners and others for working with her in 2016: MIVA Switzerland, Both ENDS -Netherlands, French IUCN, Future in Our Hands-UK, Plant a Tree in Africa – UK, Swissland Foundation-Switzerland, Bees for Development – UK, Hub Cymru Africa - UK, Man & Nature-France, Mane-France, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)-UK, Well Grounded, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Groupe SOS – France, AIMF – France, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry(MINEPIA), Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family,

We look forward to a positive 2017 year.

***WIRSIY EMMANUEL BINYUY (CAMGEW Director)***

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# SECTION I

## INTRODUCTION

### CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

**CAMGEW** is a not-for-profit organization created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for a solution to environmental and women's issues in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. **CAMGEW from 2012 to 2017 planted 64000 bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest and trained 818 bee farmers in honey production and bees wax extraction. She has also distributed more than 695 beehives to trained bee farmers. She has organized more than 1000 bee farmers into 5 Oku White Honey cooperatives located around Kilum-Ijim forest. 572 farmers have been trained on agroforestry techniques. As of December 2017 about 987 women have been trained on business skills and 907 women received financial assistance in form of loans. 24 teenage boys and girls have been trained on dress making, shoe making and hair dressing. CAMGEW has also developed 3 tree nurseries with more than 150.000 trees.**

CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in the hands of men and women, young and old and also that this planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development.

**Taking** in to consideration the numerous environmental and gender problems encountered in the world at large, and recognizing that solutions to these problems can only come through concerted action from all concerned persons and citizen organizations, CAMGEW is an initiative in this direction.

**Considering** that the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the 55th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations places environment and gender issues amongst important international concerns, CAMGEW seeks to serve as a means to fill any gaps in Cameroon towards the realization of these cherished goals of protecting the environment and enhancing gender equality.

**Considering** that environment and gender issues are problems that exists worldwide and requires global or local solutions, CAMGEW hereby adopts the principle of equal but differentiated responsibilities in looking for solutions to environmental and gender problems at the local level.

CAMGEW seeks to achieve its objectives based on its credo of Think Globally and Act Locally by liaising with other like minded organizations worldwide. **CAMGEW's Vision:** A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices. **CAMGEW's Mission Statement:** 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. **CAMGEW's Global OBJECTIVE:** An inclusive and sustainably managed Kilum-Ijim forest through forest regeneration and agroforestry for eco-business.

#### **CAMGEW'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

- Local government actors supported and citizens' engagement promoted to ensure effective management of the Kilum-Ijim Forest.
- Eco-business operators in Kilum-Ijim Forest area master the techniques of production to produce good quality and sufficient quantity for the market.
- Eco-business operators have adequate capacity and have increased revenue through the commercialisation of their products.
- Women in Kilum-Ijim are empowered & participate in forest management & community development.
- CAMGEW will have developed projects and seek funds to handle challenges in the Kilum-Ijim area and develop a good system to manage funds.
- CAMGEW will work with like-minded organisations and people to share knowledge, experiences on forest local governance issues and learn from them.

**Area of Action:** Kilum-Ijim Forest and environs. **Opportunities:** Consultancy on Bee farming trainings, Agroforestry and Forest regeneration. Using of honey bi-products for the production of other products like wax, candles, and soaps. **Target GROUPS:** Forest users, Less privileged children and Peasant women.

**What we offer:** Agroforestry training, Bee farming training, Nursery development, Child development, Forest regeneration, Micro-credit schemes for women and Environmental education.

# **SECTION 2**

## **KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

### **1) INTRODUCTION**

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 with native trees of different species is a step in this line to fight against climate change and protect biodiversity. The Kilum-Ijim forest is a huge resource with much potential that needs to be unblocked to meet the needs of communities. It is for this reason that CAMGEW carries out tree nursery development, tree planting, forest monitoring and environmental education.

### **2) TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT**

Nursery development is a fundamental aspect of forest regeneration and environmental education. CAMGEW has developed 3 tree nurseries located in three villages in Oku (Manchok, Mbockenghas and Ikal). These three nurseries have a capacity of more than 150.000 trees. The trees in the nurseries include: *Prunus africana*, *Carapas grandifolia*, *Pittosporium veridiflorum*, *Syzygium staundtii*, *Solanecio manii*, *Croton macrotachyst*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Newtonia Camerunensis*, *Psydrax dunlapii*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Psychotria penducularis* which are all Kilum-Ijim forest native trees. There are some non-indigenous agro forestry trees like *Acacia*, *Mysopsis* and *Leucena* in the nursery that are distributed to farmers to serve as either nitrogen fixing plants, forage, fuelwood, timber etc in farms around Kilum-Ijim forest. These trees in the nurseries are labelled with scientific names, local names and their uses.

CAMGEW nurseries serve as:

- learning grounds for children, schools and community members on nursery development, types of forest trees, need for forest regeneration, etc
- Site for research on endangered species like *Newtonia camerunensis*. This tree is critically Endangered (IUCN Redlist) and knowledge on its propagation, regeneration is lacking.
- 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. CAMGEW has 4 nursery attendants who take care of three nurseries. These attendants water and weed the tree nurseries. Organic manure is also applied in nurseries to improve on fertility and foster growth of nursed trees. In 2017, the fence in Manchok nursery was reinforced with timber to prevent stray animals from destroying nursed trees.

CAMGEW removed all soil in pots in Manchok nursery to refill with new soil mix with manure with funds from Bees for Development. More pots were bought to replace bad ones. This was to promote better growth of nurse trees. The soil was already old after trees were nursed on it many times. This activity was done in December 2017 before the tilling and filling of pots in February 2018 and nursing of seeds in March 2018. *Newtonia camerunensis* has never been successfully nursed and planted before. CAMGEW succeeded to nurse this tree and had more than 2500 seedlings in her nurseries. This is a global success story that the world must know about a tree that is critically endangered with less than 100 of them remaining in protected areas.



*Constructing the fence to protect the Manchok tree nursery (with Newtonia).*

### **3) TREE PLANTING**

CAMGEW has made tree planting a yearly event in Kulum-Ijim forest. She does this with or without external funding. She works with forest communities (youths, women, men, forest users, forest management executives, other forest stakeholders and leaders) to regenerate the forest. She always have nursed trees ready for planting. In 2017, CAMGEW planted trees in Nchiiy community forest and in Emfve-Mii community forest of the Kulum forest. This regeneration activity was carried out without external funding. CAMGEW carried out forest regeneration in the Nchiiy community forest from Monday 10th July to Friday 21<sup>ST</sup> July 2017 and in Emfve-Mii community forest from Monday 17th July to Monday 24th July 2017.

The tress planed included; *Prunus africana*, *Syzygium*, *Croton*, *Psydrax dunlapii*, *Carapas grandifolia*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Pittosporium manii*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Bersama abyssinica*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Psychotria penducularis*, and the endangered *Newtonia Camerunensis* in the forest. Planting many types of tree species at a time in the same forest land has been to avoid a plantation forest and promote biodiversity.



*The forest regeneration by community members*

CAMGEW worked with community youths, some forest users and leaders to do tree planting. The paths in which the trees were planted were slashed and trees planted 5m apart. Youths made up the majority of community members in the activity and they learn-by-doing. The tree planting activity was accompanied by sensitization on the importance of the forest as work was being done in the forest. CAMGEW staff supervised the work to ensure quality.

The tree planting activities involved;

- A planning meeting and identification of sites for tree planting exercise with forest users, forest executives and leaders,
- Clearing of paths, pegging and digging of holes for trees to be planted. The most common plants in the area cleared in Nchiiy forest was fern plants. Narrow paths were open to plant trees to prevent goats from eating the planted trees. Dead trees were replaced in areas planted in the previous years.
- Getting trees from the Manchok and Mbockenghas tree nurseries,
- Carrying of trees to the forest and planting. The youths transported the trees to the forest for planting.
- Crowning ceremony where youths and community leaders and elders exchange ways to take care of trees and CAMGEW team did forest education.

A total of 3313 trees were planted in the forest at Nchiiy and Emfve-mii community forests of Kilum. In Nchiiy Community **1650** trees and **50** stems of schefflera were planted and propagated respectively and in Emfve-mii Community forest **1473** trees seedlings were planted and more than 150 stems of Schefflera and Solanecio manii propagated.

Trees we plant are bee loving. Oku White Honey production is bound to increase from kilum-ijim forest in the coming years with CAMGEW actions. Trees we plant do well but suffer from bushfire, are eaten by domestic animals in the forest or destroyed by individuals preparing sites to place beehives. WE THANK OUR FATHER WHO IS VILLAGE HEAD OF MBOCKENGHAS- OKU FOR ALWAYS SUPPORT HIS CHILDREN IN THE PROCESS



*Community youths ready for slashing in Nchiiy forest*



*Community youths clearing the paths, digging and pegging holes for tree planting in Nchiiy community forest .*



*Community youths uprooting trees from CAMGEW'S tree nursery and transporting to forest.*

**CAMGEW Rescued Critically Endangered Tree (IUCN REDLIST) *Newtonia camerunensis* (Kelane)**

CAMGEW planted 1200 trees of *Newtonia camerunensis* called in Oku - Kelane which is a native tree of Kilum-Ijim forest known to grow only in Cameroon dry tropic at Bamenda Highlands and Bamboutous area. Scientists say it has been difficult to nurse seeds of this tree but CAMGEW succeeded and can have about 3000 seedlings. 1200 tree seedlings were planted this year 2017 in its natural protected area. We are proud we nursed this tree successfully. Working in Kilum-Ijim forest we have seen only 2 of this tree in the forest. Others are found out of protected area around except some in Dom community forest in Noni and Laikom Palace. CAMGEW was lucking to get seeds of this tree in Keyon village forest beside Oku Mortuary. We hope this tree is protected jealously as a legacy for Oku-Kilum forest people and touristic potential. This tree were many in the Kilum-Ijim forest but were all cut down for timber. It is good for timber. This is great news to science and humanity from CAMGEW rescuing a tree specie by planting 1200 more species. We are only afraid of bushfire not to destroy the trees. We planted this tree and others in Emfvemii and Nchiy Community Forest of Kilum forest. The trees were planted in area we earlier planted to replace dead trees among planted ones and space them out not to create plantation forest. This tree was planted among the 3200 trees planted this year 2017.



*Newtonia seedlings being carried to the forest for planting*



*Planting of *Newtonia camerounensis* in the Emfve-mii Community forest of Oku - Kilum*

Trees that did not survive last year were replaced. Stems of *schefflera abyssinica*- a tree responsible for white honey production were cut and propagated by youths in the course of the tree planting. This is to increase the production of white honey in their forest. The traditional and administrative authorities were represented by the Village Head of Mbockenghas village during the activity in Nchiy forest. CAMGEW has propagated more than 3000 trees of *schefflera* in the forest although we know success rate is less than 40% but when they survive they grow faster and to bigger trees within 5 years. CAMGEW does vegetative propagation anytime in the rainy season when she visits the forest.



*Planting of the endangered *Newtonia Camerunensis**



*Community youths planting trees and propagating *schefflera**

### Statistics of the trees planted in Nchiiy forest in 2017.

S/N	TYPE OF TREE	NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED IN EMFVE-MII COMMUNITY FOREST	NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED IN NCHIIY COMMUNITY FOREST
01	Newtonia Camerunensis	763	350
02	Prunus africana	0	50
03	Pittosporium manii	710	500
04	Carapas grandifolia	0	450
05	Syzygium staundtii	0	100
06	Maesa lanceolata	0	200
07	Schefflera stems	60	50
08	Solanecio manii	80	0
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,700</b>

By the end of the tree planting campaign in 2017, CAMGEW planted 3313 trees to the forests. By 2016, CAMGEW had planted 60500 trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest. In 2017, the total number of trees planted by CAMGEW rose to 64000 trees.

### CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2017 in Kilum-Ijim Forest

Year	Number of trees planted	Funding institution	Type of tree planted	Community forest (CF)
2012	7000	World Bank	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	6600	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	3400	MINFOF- (Government) Cameroon	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2014	3000	Koning School through Both-ENDS-Netherlands	Variety of bee loving forest native trees	Nchiiy CF - Oku
2015	3100	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Akeh CF - Ijim forest
2015	4500	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Bikov CF - Kilum
2015	6000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana (3500) Native forest trees (2500)	Ajung CF - Ijim forest
2015	6000	Future In Our Hands - UK, Plant a Tree in Africa -UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Emfve-mii CF
2015	6000	Rufford Small Grants - UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Nchiiy CF - Oku
2016	1500	CAMGEW Initiative	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Bikov Community Forest
2016	3300	New England Biolabs Foundation/CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Kedjem-Mawes
2016	3000	CAMGEW/ PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Emfve-mii CF
2016	1100	Bees for Development - UK /CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Mbessa Proposed Community Forest
2016	1500	Bees for Development - UK /CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin Community Forest
2016	4500	CAMGEW/ PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Nchiiy Community Forest
2017	3133	CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Nchiiy and Emfve-mii Community forests
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED</b>			<b>63813</b>	

#### 4) MONITORING OF PLANTED TREES

CAMGEW has been doing continuous monitoring of planted trees and following-up the health of the forest in general throughout the year 2017. The monitoring has been done continuously by community members who report to CAMGEW team about the general situation of the forest. On bi-monthly bases, CAMGEW team go to the forest to follow-up forest regeneration activities. Forest users enter the forest on daily basis either for firewood fetching, trap control, harvesting of bamboo for construction. These people work in collaboration with CAMGEW team and report every irregularity to CAMGEW. The greatest problems encountered in the forest are bushfires, presence of domestic animals like goats and sheep, cutting down of fresh wood by community members for various uses and over trapping of rats from the forest. CAMGEW sensitise and educate communities on the impact of their negative activities on the forest and the need for behavioural change. CAMGEW report these cases to the local authorities and thus allows justice to take its course.



*CAMGEW staff on routine forest visit to monitor planted trees and monitor tree nurseries.*



*Schefflera abyssinica propagated in 2015*



*Trees planted in 2015*

## **5) FOREST EDUCATION 2017**

Around the Kilum-Ijim Mountain Forest, global problems like global warming or climate change are highly felt as these phenomena have caused the change in seasons with rains either coming earlier or later than expected and water shortages especially during the dry season. The unsustainable exploitation of fauna and flora has caused the reduction and almost extinction of some species. Crop production and bee farming have been greatly affected by these phenomena resulting in low yields and low standards of living.

A major reason why environmental problems persist is due to the lack of awareness about the role of the forest and the responsibility of everyone in the conservation process. Because of the problems associated to the Kilum-Ijim Forest like bushfire (resulting from slash-and-burn, poor method of honey harvesting and cigarette smokers), the presence of domestic animals in the forest, illegal exploitation of *Prunus africana*, unsustainable and unsupervised exploitation of *Prunus africana*, the cutting of wet trees and bamboos (alpine) from the forest for firewood and construction, the encroachment by farmers in to forestland, over trapping of rats (rodents), destruction of young forest trees (for the carving of walking sticks, fencing, tools, folk sticks for mounting of hives, etc), the presence of exotic species in the forest (like *Eucalyptus*, cypress, pears, etc.) and Poor waste management in the forest (plastics, bottles, metals, canned food)etc. CAMGEW sees it important to do environmental education with community members living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest to make them know the importance of protecting this forest and using it sustainably. CAMGEW has resolved to build nature lovers in young people growing up and to change behaviours of older generations that had engaged in unsustainable forest activities to be nature friendly people. CAMGEW carryout different activities to build nature lovers and to bring this change in the old generation.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

**a) Environmental education through Community Radios:** CAMGEW developed Radio programmes on Kilum-Ijim forest management in Community Radios in Oku and Kumbo in 2017.

These radios are listened around the Kilum-Ijim communities and further. The radio programmes promote proper forest management, forest ecosystem benefit sharing, bee farming for forest management, forest law, best practices, alternative livelihood sources to the forest, protection of endangered species in the forest etc. CAMGEW runs environmental education programmes twice weekly in the Oku Community radio weekly and periodically in other radios.

**b) Education of community members during forest visits:** During forest visits, CAMGEW does forest education for community members about forest trees and their germination processes, forest ecology (interaction between plants, animals, soils, litter etc.), forest canopy, the importance of forest to man and nature and the presence of beehives, honey production processes and bee colonies and other social insects. CAMGEW also sensitise communities on environmental services of the forest.



*Lessons on the importance of forest at Ijim Forest.*

**c) Environmental talks during bee farming trainings:** CAMGEW has been doing environmental education during bee farming trainings. This has been one of the major ways by which CAMGEW preach on forest importance to the public.



*Environmental talks during bee farming trainings*

**d) Environmental education with schools:** CAMGEW has been building nature lovers through the pupils and students in schools. CAMGEW offered classroom lessons and outdoor lessons to the pupils and students to better build a world of nature lovers. This makes them resilient in sustainable environmental practices today, tomorrow and throughout their lives.





*Lovers of nature*

**g) Practical environmental education through apiculture:** CAMGEW did environmental education on the importance of apiculture in forest conservation with youths. CAMGEW could tell them that when community members engage in apiculture in the forest their get jobs and revenue from honey they see the reason to protect the forest from bushfire. They community members no longer burn the forest and when fire occur in the forest they rush to put it off. When some children learn about this they did their own beehive construction while their parents where constructing theirs. They carried the beehives to the forest. They might have looked funny but they were gradually leaning how to be bee farmers.



*Community children engage in bee farming after attending forest education lessons*

**h) Production of signpost for community forest education around the forest:** CAMGEW produced signpost to post around the forest to fight bushfire, deforestation, etc



*CAMGEW Director giving lessons on the need to protect the forest from bush fires in Ajung*

### **i) Forest Visit to Learn about Bee Loving Trees**

In 2017, CAMGEW organised two forest visits with bee farmers around Ijim Forest. The forest visits were organised because CAMGEW had discovered that bee farmers in Ijim forest lacked knowledge on bee loving trees in the forest. CAMGEW decided to organise forest learning visits for the farmers. The forest visits organised by CAMGEW for forest communities in Ijim helped bee farmers and bee lovers to know much about bee loving trees and the challenges faced by bees in the forest. The objective of this activity was to increase bee farmers' knowledge on bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest especially on trees that favour the production of Oku White Honey and to do environmental education to inspire the forest users groups, women and youths around the Kilum-Ijim to become lovers of nature.

Bee farmers could see trees like *Nuxia congesta*, *Schefflera manni* and *Schefflera abyssinica* that produce many flowers that are white for the production of Oku White Honey. These trees influence the colour, texture, flavour and taste of the honey. *Zyzigium staundtii* is another tree that helps to reduce fats in bees and produces much flower for honey production too. The other types of trees were seen and lessons given on their nectar and pollen production. Many other trees seen included: *Croton*, *Prunus*, *Solanecio manni*, *Gnadia*, *Dombeya ledermannii*, etc. The farmers learned about apiculture threats like bushfires and their causes (slash-and-burn, poor honey harvesting, cigarettes smoking, burning of dry grass for new vegetation by fulanis, overhunting of rats that help in seed processing for forest regeneration). There is also poor exploitation of the forest resources like *Prunus*, rat trapping and firewood fetching. The bee farmers learned the importance of forest for medicine, wildlife, and ecological benefits like water and fresh air.

CAMGEW hope that this knowledge will help in forest regeneration, honey production, protection of the forest, poverty alleviation and job creation. CAMGEW and the community identified the tree names in English and Kom local language.



***Forest Education with Mutteff community in their Forest during the Forest visit***

CAMGEW staff and team also had the opportunity to visit the beneficiaries Community Forests like the Anyajua Community Forest and the Afua-Djichami Community Forest. CAMGEW discovered that all these community forests had the potentials to produce Oku White Honey as it is the case with Kilum forest. 27 bee farmers learnt about bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest. They learnt on the different trees species that are responsible for the production of Oku White Honey.

***Table: summary on forest education in the Ijim Forest***

SN	VILLAGE	Community forest	DATE OF TRAINING	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
5	Tumuku	Anyajua Community Forest	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	12
6	Afua	Afua-Djichami Community Forest	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	15
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>



***Participants listening to lessons in the forest in Tumuku and Afua***

CAMGEW sensitized community youths and members to become lover of nature around the Kilum-Ijim Forest. CAMGEW sensitized over 1500 community youths, students and members IN 2017.

### **6) CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN 2017**

- Water shortages was experienced in the Manchok and Ikal tree nurseries in 2017. The Ikal tree nursery lacks pipe borne water. This makes the watering process difficult in the dry season. In the Manchok tree nursery, water flow was not very regular and this affected the nursed trees especially

the *prunus africana*. CAMGEW bought large containers that store up to 500 Litres of water for use daily in the nursery.

- Rampant bushfires in Nchiiy and Mbai community forest consume trees, bees, hives, animals and other forest resources. Fire easily catches Nchiiy forest because it's dominated by the fern plant which easily catches fire in the dry season and because farmers along the forest boundary take no precautions to protect against bush fires. Defaulters who have been identified by community responsible for particular bushfires have never been sanctioned and when sent to court of justice they come back home with no action. This has encourage others to engage in risky activities in the forest area knowing that they can go free from sanction with their actions. On the **9th of February to the 13th of February 2017**, Nchiiy forest was set on fire by a farmer around the forest boundary involved in slash-and-burn activities. This incident led to untold damages. Over 600 colonized hives and uncountable number of trees were burnt. It took CAMGEW staff and other community members days to quench the fire in the forest.



***Wild fire in the Nchiiy community forest in February 2017***

- There are many domestic goats in the forest that eat up and destroy the planted trees and other naturally regenerated trees especially *Pittosporium manii* and *Prunus africana*. Goats mostly follow the slashed paths during tree planting to eat up planted trees. Many people from neighboring communities keep their goats in the forest. These goats encroach planted areas to eat trees and prevent forest natural regeneration process. No strict regulations is in place defining the area on which goats should be reared in the forest. The summit was identified suitable for animal rearing but many people rear their goats just a few kilometers into the forest and these goats end up in the forest.



*Domestic goats in the forest*

- The cutting of fresh wood for tool handles or for fencing of farms and gardens by forest users especially *Carapas grandifolia*, *Maesa lanceolata* and *Nuxia congesta*. *Nuxia* is one of the main trees that bees depend on to produce Oku White Honey.
- The illegal and wrong harvesting of *Prunus africana* is a disincentive to youths and other community members who seek to regenerate the forest with this tree. Very young trees are harvested. Most of these trees die after poor debarking.



*Prunus africana* trees harvested wrongly and illegally in Nchiiy community forest boundary line.

- Due to electricity failures CAMGEW could not have regular radio programmes in the community radios like Oku Rural Radio, Bui Community Radio, etc.
- Many forest Users' Groups are not organised. This encourages the unsustainable exploitation of resources in the forest. Fire wood fetchers for example in Community Forests like Emfve-Mii are cutting fresh wood for firewood or for fencing of farms and gardens. This disturbs the regeneration process and is a threat to the fate of trees planted by CAMGEW in 2017 and the previous years.

## 7) 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.
- 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 sees the importance for continuous field based environmental education with forest users, women, farmers, youths and children of school age. Environmental education with schools in and around Oku will help protect the planted trees and instil the spirit of love for nature in school children
- Severe sanctions should be meted on defaulters of forest laws. Many people violate forest laws on the pretext that nothing meaningful has ever been done to previous defaulters. They go scorch-free as usual.
- CAMGEW recommends that youths should be engaged in environmental activities. They are tomorrow's drivers of environmental restoration activities.

# **SECTION 3**

## **APICULTURE IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST**

### **A) INTRODUCTION**

CAMGEW has used bee farming as an important tool to conserve the Kilum-Ijim Forest, improve on the livelihood of forest people, fight poverty and make available the honey (Oku White Honey) and bees wax produced to urban areas and internationally where the market is found. CAMGEW has done this through training to engage more people in bee farming, donation of beehives to trained persons as start-up points, organization of bee farmers to cooperatives and creation of honey shop to sell honey, bees wax and other forest products.

Increasing the number of bee farmers in the forest helps to protect the forest from bushfire which is a big threat to forest biodiversity and conservation. When many forest community members own beehives in the forest the chances of having bushfire in the forest reduces and should bushfire occur many persons will be available to put off the fire with the interest of protecting their beehives and in this way they protect the forest. Another threat that plagues forest communities is poverty and unemployment despite the rich available forest natural resources. Developing the value chain for apiculture through honey production, processing and marketing create jobs and bring income that tackle poverty. Through bee farming activities many Kilum-Ijim forest members now have jobs and increased income.

### **B) BEE FARMING TRAINING ON HONEY PRODUCTION**

CAMGEW organised 4 bee farming trainings on honey production around the Kilum-Ijim Forest in 2017. The trainings were organised in Afua, Ajung, Yang and Tumuku. The objective of the training was to improve on the quality and quantity of Oku White honey produced by the bee farmers around the Ijim Forest. The capacity building also involved exchange visit between the Oku White Honey Cooperatives of the Belo (For Afua, Aboh, Tumuku and Sowi sections), Njinikom (Muloin and Yang Sections), Abassakom (Abuh, Laikom, Mutteff and Mboh Sections) and Atumikuih ( for the Ajung, Akeh and Mbessa sections). The objective of the training was to share knowledge on hive construction between the different sections per cooperative. During the training CAMGEW got a consultant from Oku who trained on hive construction. It was discovered that there was need to improve on hive construction in some communities at Ijim Forest area. CAMGEW from 2012 till 2017 has trained 818 bee farmers.

Objectives of bee farming trainings was 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).

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 were Oku language, Kom Language and Pidgin English and sometimes English in this forest area. The training guides were prepared in English and distributed to all the participants along with writing materials.

The trainings 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.



*Women in Mutteff (left) and Afua (right) doing hive construction*



*Participants learning and improving on their hive construction skills in Ajung*

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. The trainings were done by Bang George, Wirsy Emmanuel

Binyuy and Ngum Jai Raymond with technical assistance from a professional bee farmer from Oku – Tanko Suibu Sintieh who is a member of the Oku Honey Cooperative Society. The trainings were facilitated by Langji Ponda Saah.



*Participants learning and exchanging on hive construction in Afua and Mutteff*



*Future bee farmers in the making Afua: Children learning-by-doing on hive construction*



*Participants listening to facilitators during the Mutteff–Abuh training*



*Group picture of participants during the training in Afua*



*Group pictures of participants during the training in Mutteff (left) and Yang (right)*

### **Table on bee farming training on honey production**

SN	Training Village	Villages Taking Part	Cooperative Name	Date Of Training	Number Of Participants
1	Afua	Afua, Aboh, Sowi and Tumuku	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative	27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	28
2	Ajung	Ajung, Akeh, Mbessa	Atumikuih Oku White Honey Cooperative	January 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> 2017	27
3	Yang	Yang, Muloin, Iso	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative	1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2017	30
4	Abuh-Mutteff	Abuh, Mutteff, Aduk-Mboh	Abassakom Oku White Honey Cooperative	3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	28
	<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>113</b>

### **C) LOCAL BEEHIVE DISTRIBUTION**

In 2017, CAMGEW donated beehives to trained persons as start-ups. The bee farmers trained were members of the newly created cooperatives from various villages. The cooperative leaders and village level bee farmers' leaders coordinated the beehive construction and distribution to their members. The beehives were distributed to 10 villages. CAMGEW believes that ownership of beehives in the forest will help protect the forest. The more beehives in the forest, the more community members care for the forest and the environment. The activity was covered and facilitated by CAMGEW field staff-Ngum Jai Raymond and Langji Ponda Saah. During this activity they had talks with cooperative leaders and bee farmers who are members of the cooperatives on the need to conserve the Kilum-Ijim Forest and remain focused.

**Table on Summary of beehive distribution in Ijim Communities**

SN	Name of beneficiary community	Name of Honey Cooperative	Date of distribution	Number of hives received
1	Afua	Belo -Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
2	Aboh	Belo -Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
3	Tumuku	Belo -Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
4	Sowi	Belo -Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
5	Muloin	Njinikom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	20
6	Yang	Njinikom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	20
7	Mutteff	Abassakom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
8	Abuh	Abassakom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
9	Laikom	Abassakom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
10	Mboh	Abassakom-Oku White Honey Cooperative	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>



*Representatives of bee farmers in Abuh Section of the Abassakom Oku White Honey Cooperative with their donated beehives*



*Representatives of bee farmers in Afua Section of the Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative with their donated hives*



*Representatives of bee farmers in Sowi-Anjin Section of the Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative receive beehives*

## **D) BEE FARMING TRAINING ON BEE WAX EXTRACTION**

CAMGEW organised 2 bee farming trainings on bees wax extraction in 2017. These trainings were organised in partnership with Guiding Hope (an organization based Yaounde specialize on honey value chain development), and Man and Nature (a France based organization working on sustaining natural resources while improving on human livelihood). The trainings were organised in Oku between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2017. The training was attended by 26 participants from the 5 newly Cooperatives and members of the Oku Honey Cooperative.

The 26 participants were trained on methods of honey harvesting that reduces smoke from the honey and methods of wax extraction that will limit the quantity of smoke in bees wax to permit for marketing abroad.

The method of bee wax production used in training was the water bath method. This method was preferred because it is simpler, cleaner and more secured than other methods. This was a new method CAMGEW was adopting contrary from its former Double Boiler method that allowed much smoke in the wax, and stayed a lot on the fire thus changing the colour of the wax.

The training involved theoretical lessons on wax production on the first day and practical lessons on the second day on wax production. CAMGEW and Guiding Hope prepared hand-outs on bee wax production. The lessons were done in English and in Pidgin languages. Certificates were awarded to the participants after the training.

The outcome of the training showed that the water bath method of bees wax production was easier, faster, produced wax with less smoke and could produce more wax. The objectives of the training were

- Provide bee farmers in the Kilum-Ijim forest zone with skills and techniques on improved extraction of quality bee wax for better marketing and promote the production of clean wax at low cost with local alternative methods.
- Allow farmers to share knowledge and techniques and swap skills through a participatory approach



*Participants extracting beeswax during the wax training in Oku*

## **E) LEGALISATION OF CREATED 5 OKU WHITE HONEY COOPERATIVES**

In the later part of the year between the 17<sup>th</sup> of October and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, CAMGEW was involved in the process of legalisation of the 5 newly created Cooperatives. CAMGEW in executing this activity had to contact the presidents and other elected members of the cooperatives to prepare the necessary documents for legalisation. The document were prepared for cooperative

legalisation and deposited at the different Divisional Delegations of Agriculture at the level of the Divisional Chief in charge of Cooperatives and CIGs.

#### **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

- Build up the files for submission for the legalization of the 5 newly created Oku White Honey Cooperatives Oku White Honey Cooperatives.
- Produce location plans for the 5 newly created Oku White Honey Cooperatives Oku White Honey Cooperatives.
- Write applications addressed to the Regional Chief in Charge of Cooperatives and CIGs for the North West Region of Cameroon.
- Make Non Convictions documents for the elected Cooperative members.
- Deposit the files for legalization through the Divisional Chief to the Regional Chief for the section for the registry of Cooperatives and CIGs.

The documents have already been deposited at the levels of the Divisional Delegations of Agriculture for Bui and Boyo Divisions. CAMGEW hopes that the final documents-certificates will be handed to the Cooperatives by early 2018.

#### **F) DONATION OF BEE FARMING EQUIPMENT**

The organisation of bee farmers to cooperative was one step in increasing the quantity and quality of honey and bees wax production. This could not be complete without supporting the cooperatives with materials and equipment to make things work. CAMGEW provided the created cooperatives with materials and equipment. CAMGEW bought and distributed 185 new buckets of 10 litres for harvesting and storage of honey to the 5 created cooperatives. CAMGEW also distributed 50 bee smokers to the cooperatives. The distribution of these equipments was done from the 13<sup>th</sup> of June to the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. CAMGEW use the material distribution as an opportunity to have sensitisation and educative talks on the proper functioning of cooperatives, the roles and responsibilities of bee farmers and the Board of Directors.



*Bee farmers receive Cooperative equipment in Tumuku, Muloïn and Vekovi*

#### **High points of discussion during the meetings:**

- There is need for all the cooperatives to have land for eventual building of cooperatives in the future. Some Cooperatives told CAMGEW that they had acquired land already.
- The materials donated to the Cooperatives like the smokers, bee suits, buckets and drainers are cooperative property. Only cooperative members are allowed to use the materials, non-members are not allowed. The equipment should remain in the Cooperatives except during harvesting when the buckets, smokers and bee suits are to be used by the farmers.

- The cooperative can buy honey products from non-members of the cooperative. This can boost cooperative production. The draining and packaging of the honey should however be done in the cooperative to ensure good conditioning of the products. Cooperative should seek to increase the number of members. All producers are however not obliged to be members of the cooperative. When cooperative buy from non-members they should make sure the persons had received training on apiculture.
- The Board members had to get involved in the marketing of cooperative products. They have to look for additional markets for their products. CAMGEW will always assist in this process. CAMGEW Honeyshop could not buy all the honey produced by all the 5 created Cooperatives. CAMGEW however promised she will continue to search for marketing opportunities for the cooperatives.
- Farmers needed to be aware of the competition in the honey sector. They were encouraged to ensure honey quality in its production, transformation and packaging. Reduction in smoke, absence of dirt, proper storage and reduction in water content in the honey increases honey quality and lead to a better market.
- There were talks on the need for record keeping by all cooperatives. This is good to ensure traceability of the product. This could ensure follow-up of cooperative issues by cooperative members and other partners and create favourable conditions for development of new partnerships that will be advantageous to the Cooperatives. Such partners around the Kilum-Ijim Forest include ACEFA and many others.
- The leaders of the cooperatives were also encouraged to be good leaders. Good leaders encourage others and are not self-centred. Individualism should be avoided. The interest of the cooperative should be placed first as it will help all farmers.
- Bee farmers were reminded of their role in the conservation of the forest. They were encouraged to do forest monitoring and patrols as they go to mount beehives, follow-up beehives and do regeneration of the forest.



*Participants and CAMGEW team exchanging on cooperative management, forest conservation and cooperative engagement in Atumi-kuih and Abassakom Oku White Honey Cooperatives*

**Table showing the distribution of equipment and number of participants present**

SN	Name of Cooperative	Date of distribution	Number of participants	Men	Women	Number of smokers	Number of buckets
1	Atumi-Ikuih	13/06/2017	7	5	2	7	30
2	Bihkov	14/06/2017	9	8	1	10	40
3	Belo (Tumuku)	15/06/2017	14	10	4	10	40
4	Njinikom (Muloin)	15/06/2017	11	11	0	10	35
5	Abassakom	16/06/2017	8	6	2	10	40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>185</b>

**G) COOPERATIVE PRODUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP in 2017**

Despite the bushfires around the Kilum-Ijim Forest in 2017, like in Mutteff, Afua, and Ajung-and Mbessa forests, the newly created cooperatives started producing honey for the cooperatives. In the Ijim site of the forest more brown honey was produced than the white honey. Many farmers never brought their honey to the cooperatives. Much work still need to be done to promote community engagement to the cooperatives. Some other members especially at Bikov who were members of the Oku Honey Cooperative still brought their honey to Oku. The members of Bihkov forest had almost all their bee hives consumed by fire. The same was the case in other cooperatives. This reduced production. Another strong point for the low statistics of honey production in the new cooperatives is that they lacked rolling fund that enable farmers get their money for products when they bring it to the cooperatives. Farmers in this cooperative had to bring their honey to cooperative and wait for it to be marketed before they can be paid. CAMGEW is working hard to get rolling funds to buy farmers products immediately after production to make cooperatives stronger.

**Table: Statistics of Honey Production per Cooperative in 2017**

sn	Cooperative	Quantity Brown Honey	Quantity White Honey in litres	Quantity White Honey in KG
<u>1</u>	Oku Honey Cooperative Society	0	9068	13600 tons
<u>2</u>	Abassakom Oku White Honey Cooperative Society	700	30	45
<u>3</u>	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative Society	250	40	60
<u>4</u>	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative Society	250	45	68
<u>5</u>	Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative Society	0	250	375
<u>6</u>	Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative Society	860	0	0

CAMGEW also got from the cooperative registers the following statistics for their membership. It was discovered that more and more women were getting involved in bee farming around the Kilum-Ijim forest. CAMGEW is thinking of creating Bee Farming Family Farm Schools to encourage more women and youths in the activity. The total membership of the 5 newly created cooperatives is 381 members

**Table: statistics of membership in the 5 newly created cooperatives and the Gender.**

Names	Membership	Women	Location Of Cooperative	Division
Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative	77	18	Akeh	Boyo
Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative	76	13	Mutteff	Boyo
Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative	90	16	Vekovi	Bui
Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative	99	17	Tumuku	Boyo
Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative	39	5	Muloin	Boyo
TOTAL	381	69		

#### **H) THE NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER - NOWEFAM ( CAMGEW HONEYSHOP)**

CAMGEW started a HoneyShop in Bamenda in 2016 to convert bee farmers honey into money. The Honeyshop was called North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM). CAMGEW buys honey from created cooperatives and trained bee farmers to sell in the shop in Bamenda. CAMGEW believes that the conservation of Kilum-Ijim forest sustained when livelihoods of forest communities are improved. Things sold in the Honey Shop include the Oku White Honey, Brown Honey, bees wax, bee suits, bee smokers, local beehives, wood crafts, and food stuffs like vegetable, plantains, fruits, snacks. This is done to improve on the sales of the shop.

To make the Honey Shop function well, CAMGEW engaged in various honey packaging in different quantities. CAMGEW got training resource materials from Bees for Development and these resources are used in the Honey shop to inform, sensitise and educate the population that visit the Honeyshop on apiculture and conservation, importance of honey, the value chain of honey, etc. The Honeyshop is now a resource centre for all persons visiting the shop and for those who want to learn more on bee farming. It also serves as our office in Bamenda. It is clear that the shop has not break even but the number of customers have increased. But if we consider the Shop space that serve as contact point for CAMGEW in Bamenda and as a resource centre which could be factored into site rents then the shop services to the community are above the rents.

Bee farmers now produce large quantities of honey that respects standards. These honeys are of various types. CAMGEW Honey Shop can however not get all of the honey from the producer Cooperatives. The management of the shop needs a larger capital that CAMGEW does not have to buy and store the honey and sale to community members all year round.

In 2017, NOWEFAM came to the edge of breaking even in the sales of the shop. We strongly believe that in 2018 the shop will break even and start making profits.

The challenges that the shop faced this year include;

- The frequent “Ghost Towns” declared in the North West Region of Cameroon due to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon. The shop could not be open in some days of the week. Mondays in the whole of 2017 was generally ghost town days and some other days were also declared ghost towns.
- CAMGEW also recorded some cases of badly drained honey bought from individuals that lead to losses for the Shop. CAMGEW more equipment to test honey quality before buying.
- NOWEFAM faces challenges of packaging honey to different quantities to meet needs of all customers. The packaging containers were not always available in the market. There was no consistency in type of containers in the market. Packaging containers kept on changing. CAMGEW needs funds to engage in packaging containers to improve on standards

The NOWEFAM is located at Foncha Junction opposite the new National Financial Credit (NFC) Bank in the Bamenda opposite the Coffee Cooperative building.



*CAMGEW HONEYSHOP in Bamenda at Foncha Junction opposite the new NFC Bank*

## **I) MARKETING OF HONEY AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR HONEY MARKET IN BUEA**

CAMGEW Honey Shop (NOWEFAM) went operational in February 2016 in the Regional Headquarter of the North West Region of Cameroon-Bamenda. The objective of this shop is to help convert bee farmers honey into money. In the process of converting honey to money there is need for new markets. To this effect between the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, CAMGEW staff –Ngum Raymond, Maishu Emmanuel and CAMGEW Director Wirsiy Emmanuel and Sengka Jude- CEO of Renew Face Coffee went to Buea to introduce and market CAMGEW honey products along with coffee.

The objective of the field trip was to do marketing of CAMGEW honey. In the process CAMGEW;

- Team was able to sell honey during the marketing process for 3 days. It was interesting as the team did marketing in Buea for the first time.
- Team made new contacts and created possibilities of marketing CAMGEW honey in the South West Region of Cameroon. CAMGEW Honey shop had calls from some of the people and institutions to whom honey was sold or advertised requesting for partnership in the business. Some wanted to learn more about honey and its products.

### **CHALLENGES**

- CAMGEW team was very new in the South West. Sales could have been better if they had known Buea and its environs earlier.
- Many people expressed the need to have a taste of the honey before they could buy. We never had a sample for tasting. It made sales difficult.
- The type of honey presented by CAMGEW was new to the customers in the South West. This made it difficult for them to identify it. Some people said it was mixtures and not honey.
- The types of containers CAMGEW packaged its honey was new to the Marketers of honey in Buea. They said they will need new types of containers. The containers we had were like those used in cosmetic products packaging.



*CAMGEW staff selling honey in the University Campus and the Molyko market*

## **J) EXCHANGE VISIT BETWEEN THE NEWLY CREATED COOPERATIVES EXECUTIVE AND THE OKU HONEY COOPERATIVES SOCIETY (OHCS)**

In 2017, CAMGEW organised an exchange visit between the executive members of the 5 newly created Cooperatives and the Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) based in Oku. OHCS is the oldest and experienced Oku White Honey cooperative around Kilum-Ijim forest. The exchange visit was held between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The exchange was done at the premises of the Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) at Manchok-Oku on the First day of visit. The OHCS Manager – Bang George shared knowledge on Cooperative management, record keeping, and the responsibilities of the cooperative Board of Directors, the responsibilities of members in the cooperative and Kilum-Ijim forest and then the advantages of cooperatives to their members. He presented the history of the OHCS. He discussed on the challenges and the successes of the cooperative and the way to overcome the challenges. This was a good ground to get practical knowledge and exchange ideas. Bang George is an experience bee farmer from childhood and has been Manager of the cooperative for more than 20 years. He has received many trainings on various technical and managerial skills. He had much to share with newly created cooperative executives.

On the second day, the participants visited the processing unit of the Oku Honey Cooperative Society. There was a stop at the OHCS honey reception hall, at the honey weighing room and in the processing room. The OHCS manager presented the various cooperative documents at the different rooms to ensure good record keeping, traceability and accountability. The executives of the various cooperatives took notes on how to make things work in their various cooperatives. After visiting the processing unit, the participants had a stop in the OHCS honey sales shop. The different products of the Cooperative (honey, wax, propolis and honey drink) were presented to them.

After the visit at the Oku Honey Cooperative, the participants and the facilitators visited CAMGEW office where they had a meeting with CAMGEW to work on the constitution of each cooperative and the other needed documents. The 2 day workshop was facilitated by Bang George-Manager of the OHCS, Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy- CAMGEW Project Leader and Director, Ngum Jai Raymond- CAMGEW Project Officer and Langji Ponda Saah –CAMGEW Project Officer. The language used during the exchange visit and the restitution meeting were Pidgin and English.

The activity had as objective to

- Share knowledge and learn management skills from the Oku Honey Cooperative Society by the newly created 5 cooperatives
- Have a meeting between the newly created cooperatives and CAMGEW to work on the constitution of each cooperative and the other needed documents

**Table of participants in exchange visit**

SN	Name Of Cooperative	Villages-Sections involved in Cooperative	Women	Number Of Participants
1	Abassakom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Mutteff, Abuh, Laikom, Mboh	1	3
2	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative	Sowi, Tumuku, Aboh, Afua	1	4
3	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Muloin and Yang	0	4
4	Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative	Akeh, Mbessa, Ajung	0	4
5	Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative	Vekovi, Ntur, MWem and Kai	1	4
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>



*Participants in the exchange visit in the Oku Honey Cooperative Society*

**K) BEE FARMING TRAINING FOR FISHERMEN TO BECOME BEE FARMERS AT DIZANGUE OF THE SANAGA MARITIME DIVISION IN THE LITTORAL REGION OF CAMEROON WITH AMMCO BETWEEN THE 8TH TO THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER 2017.**

CAMGEW has been working on apiculture and conservation in the Kilum-Ijim forest since 2011 and has gathered experience that she can share with other organizations. CAMGEW was contacted by African Marine Mammals Conservation Organisation- AMMCO to share her experience in apiculture with fishermen of Dizangue as a complementary livelihood activity. Apiculture has the potential to increase the income of fishermen and reduce pressure on fish or aquatic resources especially on the Manatee population. This project came to support fishermen whose fishing activities have recently not been profitable because of reduction in fish catch and increasing number of fishermen who need employment. Many youths are getting into fishing and the quantity of fish caught is reducing. Lake Ossa where AMMCO works is surrounded by forest and this is favourable to apiculture but apiculture is not popular in the area. There has never been any organized form of bee farming activities like trainings in the area. Honey is harvested only in the wild. There was need to build skills of fishermen in apiculture for them to produce honey and honey products. AMMCO has been working with fishermen to protect marine mammals and is concern about their continuous source of livelihood of these communities. With funds from UNDP-GEF Small Grants, AMMCO decided to work with fishermen in Lake Ossa to develop apiculture as another additional source of livelihood. CAMGEW was contacted by AMMCO to share her skills, knowledge and experience with fishermen and make apiculture succeed in Dizangue. Dizangue area especially around the Lake Ossa is prone with environmental problems associated with anthropogenic activities like over pollution, fishing, and poaching of manatees and other marine mammals. Kilum-Ijim forest have gained livelihoods

from apiculture and this could be the case in Dizangue said Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy – CAMGEW Director and Apiculture and Nature Conservation Campaigner.

The training was done in the Dizangue Council conference room and practical session in the Dizangue Council hall premises. Key participants involved the government forestry officers and village heads. The training was done for 3 days.

The objective of this activity was to;

- Train fishermen in Dizangue around Lake Ossa on apiculture basic skills and techniques (construction of hives, installation, and harvesting and colony management).
- Carryout practical lessons on beehive construction and mounting
- To Increase fishermen knowledge on bee the loving trees Lake Ossa Forest.

CAMGEW and AMMCO organised a bee farming training for fishermen from the villages of 3 Km, Beach, Pongo, and Ekite from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Dadjo Felix Bongjio of CAMGEW (Trainer on hive Construction) was with the fishermen from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 training them on beehive construction. Together with fishermen they constructed 11 bee hives. Training on beehive construction was done in Ekite.

The languages used by CAMGEW and AMMCO in the project activity for training was French and sometimes both English and French. This training involved both theory and practical lessons. This followed our normal format of bee farming training. 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 on beehive construction. All the participants took part in hive construction. Local hollow beehives made from either alpine and/or raphia bamboos were chosen for the practical training to reduce cost of beehive and make it possible for all fishermen to get involved. **CAMGEW discovered that the nest used by fishermen to catch or store fish was similar to a beehive and needed just to be improved upon to get a sustainable and easily constructed beehive.** Comparism was made between the different methods of beehive construction (hives made in Oku, other available beehives and local hive -nests used for catching fish in Dizangue). On day 3 there was forest visit to learn about beehive mounting in the forest and types of forest flowers that produce honey.

The training was done by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Ngum Jai Raymond and facilitated by Ngafack Rodrigue and Wongibe Dieudonne of AMMCO. The other staffs of AMMCO were also involved in the facilitation. The training was done through PowerPoint presentations, practical work and field learning visits and demonstration. The PowerPoint presentation was more illustrative with pictures, figures, drawings, etc to ease understanding. At the end of the training, attestations were handed to the participants.



*AMMCO and Wirsiy Emmanuel presenting the project activity and the importance of apiculture as Livelihood activity*

## RESULTS

- i. 26 fishermen were trained on basic bee keeping skills. These fishermen will be trainers of others as bee farming is introduced in Dizangue.
- ii. 11 beehives constructed by fishermen with the assistance of CAMGEW beehive constructor
- iii. 26 fishermen can now construct local beehives.



*Participants take part in hive mounting and baiting during the training*

CAMGEW and AMMCO staffs were happy with the participation of fishermen in the training and their interaction. The training was successful with the fishermen learning-by-doing and also believing that their livelihoods and incomes can be improved through bee farming. Youths were present and saw new avenues of employment. CAMGEW hope that fishermen convert their knowledge to action by constructing and mounting beehives. Apiculture is now seen by fishermen as an activity that can reduce pressure on fish population and endangered aquatic species. CAMGEW and AMMCO have started a new activity in the Dizangue Sub division. We hope it is going to be a successful one with CAMGEW and AMMCO partnership strengthened.



*Participants presenting their participation testimonials*

# **SECTION 4**

## **AGROFORESTRY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST**

### **A) INTRODUCTION**

The landscape around Kilum-Ijim forest is hilly and forest community depend on it for cultivation of crops and rearing of animals. The terrain is prone to soil erosion from wind and water. This makes soils poor in fertility and reduces food production. The highest altitude of this forest is 3011 m and landslide can be a possibility. Agroforestry systems can prevent soil erosion, provide food for communities and prevent landslides. CAMGEW has engaged in agroforestry activities to support farmers in communities, prevent erosion and landslides from occurring.

### **B) NURSERY DEVELOPMENT**

CAMGEW prepared a nursery of agroforestry trees in 2017 to distribute to farmers to plant in their farms. Some of the trees are good for fodder, alley cropping, shading, soil fertility improvement and food production. Trees like *Maesopsis* (that are good for timber and shade), *Leucena* and *Accacia* (good for alley cropping, fodder, soil fertility and bee forage) and *Prunus Africana* (good for shade, medicine, boundary delimitation). CAMGEW also produced seeds of *Tephrosia* and *Sesbania* for distribution to farmers. More than 60 Kg of seeds were produced and bought from farmers for distribution to other farmers. More than 10.000 seedling of agroforestry seedlings are available in the CAMGEW 3 nurseries for distribution to farmers.

### **C) DISTRIBUTION OF AGROFORESTRY SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS TO FARMERS**

CAMGEW started the distribution of these seedlings to famers in 2017. About 500 trees especially *Maesopsis* was distributed to some farmers. Some 10 women got seeds of *Tephrosia* and *Sesbania* from CAMGEW. CAMGEW will share more seeds to farmers in 2018.

### **D) FOLLOW-UP OF PAST AGROFORESTRY ACTIVITIES**

CAMGEW did follow-up of past trained persons on agroforestry and provided them advise. CAMGEW visited their farms to see how they planted agroforestry trees.

# SECTION 5

## CAMGEW PEASANT WOMEN MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME

### A) INTRODUCTION

CAMGEW has been running a micro-credit scheme for peasant women since 2015. This scheme assist women with business training, organize them into groups, coaching and provide them with small loans to start or expand existing micro-businesses. This is aimed at developing female entrepreneurs who can create jobs, inspire other women and create wealth locally and expand nationally. The first Micro-credit Scheme project (PROMIC 1 meaning Promotion of Micro Enterprise Programme) started in Oku in April 2015 and the second Micro-credit Scheme project (PROMIC 2) started in Kumbo and Jakiri in October 2016. Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri are found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. Our success story in Oku was a motivation factor for the approval of our second project. This micro-credit scheme targets active poor women or individual members of a solidarity group, who like to start, build up or develop micro enterprises as their main occupation. This scheme promotes self-help for steady income generation. This scheme targets active poor women and adolescent girls of communities close to the Kilum forest area between the ages of 18 and 65. Women whose income are below the minimum monthly paid wage in Cameroon (36.270 FCFA) are eligible to apply for a loan, receive training, get loans and be coached to develop or to start-up micro-enterprises in our priority sector of agriculture, trade & commerce. The geographical area is Oku and Noni, Bui Division, North West Region, Cameroon. These are communities around the Kilum forest area. This project is a differentiated action for women as an alternative to forest dependence for livelihood. Women are integrated too in other CAMGEW projects. CAMGEW uses differentiated and integrated approaches to promote gender equality and conserve the Kilum-Ijim forest.

CAMGEW got support from Foundation Open Hand (SwissHand) in Switzerland for this scheme. SwissHand has helped in poverty reduction for hundreds of poor women globally.



*Women after receiving training on business skills handed posters with 2017/2018 calenders on CAMGEW women economic empower*

## **B) APPLICATION, TRAINING AND DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS**

### **1. SENSITIZATION**

Since April 2015 that CAMGEW started the women micro credit scheme, she has continued with information and sensitisation of women about the scheme. CAMGEW project team in Oku and Kumbo raised awareness and did sensitisation to inform peasant women about this opportunity through the local radio stations like Oku Rural Radio and Bui Community Radio, womens social groups, flyers, women cultural groups and through door-to-door sensitisation. Women then came to apply for the loan, received training and got loans. The two trainings were organised monthly one in Oku and the other one in Kumbo or Jackiri area. CAMGEW project team held regular meetings weekly and monthly to look at project successes, challenges and chat the way forward.

CAMGEW believes that community development starts from the family and also that women in many rural families are bread winners. They need to be encouraged and supported to do business as a source of employment and income generation alongside their agricultural activities that is for subsistence. CAMGEW has also encouraged women to increase food production in farms so that they get enough for the family and much too for the market. Our objective has been same to change lives of women. We meet women everywhere like in market places, in dead celebration sites, churches, marriages, and any organized events. We then talk to them about the program and also encourage them to work hard through the credit scheme to move their families out of poverty. CAMGEW equally encourage women who have benefited from the project scheme to also sensitize other women to apply and benefit from the scheme. The more women benefit from our scheme the more we breach the gap between the rich and poor in the community.

### **2. APPLICATION:**

The procedure for a woman to benefit from this scheme starts with filling of an application form design to get enough information from peasant women. This information help CAMGEW to understand each woman and join her develop a good business plan that can succeed depending on her skills, knowledge, experience and motivation. This application form contains information about the woman's identity, her micro business project, her proposed budget and her items that can serve as collateral security. Some women propose kitchen utencils, domestic animals reared, furniture, etc as collateral. This is to make them know that it is important to think of what you will loose if you are not serious. CAMGEW is building them to be entrepreneurs who in a long run should operate in a liberal world to get better loans from bank, save money and get interest. Every month atleast 50 women apply to benefit from CAMGEW micro credit scheme.

### **3. TRAINING:**

Two trainings are done every month. A training is done in Oku and another in either Jakiri or Kumbo Sub Division. The trainings are facilitated by the project coordinators. We prefer using participatory approach than giving lectures. We use bottom-top approach in trainings. In each training there are averagely between 18 to 30 women. Each training run for about 7 hours. These trainings are intensive, covering the following areas of a micro business common in a rural area:

- Steps in becoming a successful entrepreneurs
- Advantages and disadvantages of micro-business
- How to prepare a simple business plan
- Sources of business funding

- Venturing into business. Before you venture into business find out. (Workshop sessions in groups).
- The importance of savings in micro-business. What is savings? Why should we save? When should we save? What are the various forms of savings? Who should save? Uses of savings.
- Loan management. What is a loan? When should we borrow? Where can we borrow from? CAMGEW loan conditions and management.
- Record keeping.

Women can apply to get loans from CAMGEW scheme 3 times. After completing the first training and doing business successfully with some encouraging take off, a woman can apply for the second loan to boost her business by either scaling-up or adding another activity to her started business that is complementary. *For example women involved in the marketing of groundnuts might decide to get another loan to buy a manual grinding mill to provide additional paid services to their customers. Many Irish potato farmers have also engaged in variety of vegetable gardening because the community needs vegetable and spices on daily basis. They sell these vegetables and spices daily to get money for loan repayment while waiting for potatoes to get ready in 4 to 5 months time.* Women can apply for a third loan and after CAMGEW considers that her business has grown and so she can learn how to get bigger loans from bigger micro-finance or financial institutions where she can save money and get interest. CAMGEW still support her with coaching if she needs. The trainings for the different loan applications are different because the businesses are in different stages and faces different challenges that need to be handled differently. 987 women have benefitted from business skill training as of December 2017.

During 2017, PROMIC II project running in Kumbo and Jakiri area had 284 women trained from the villages of VEKOVI, CAMP, NKAR-KUI, FAAKUI, KAI, MELUF, ROOKIKUNG, ROMATANG, MELIM, WAAR, TOBIN, SQUARES, SHUKOV, TADU AND MBOH-NKUI.

Since April 2015, CAMGEW through PROMIC 1 has been training women on monthly bases ranging from 15 to about 35 per month. In 2015 CAMGEW trained 186 women in Oku and in 2016 CAMGEW trained 223 women in Oku on business management. CAMGEW in 2017 have been able to train 260 women. CAMGEW consider the training the most essential part of the program due to the fact that some women after receiving the training do not take the loan but say that their problem was not the money but skills to use to manage the little they have. They end up appreciating CAMGEW for the training they receive. CAMGEW in 2017 organized 24 trainings for women in Oku and Kumbo.

Participants during this entrepreneurial training were between the ages of 18 to 60 years. They were active women who were ready to start or extend an existing micro business in their community



*Microcredit scheme training*



*Business training: a forum where women share experiences and learn from each other*



*Program coordinator and village representation GRACE TANGWA examined various applications for recommendations to the program committee*

The women whose loans were approved by the program committee were then informed of their success by the program coordinator. Before disbursement women signed a contract with CAMGEW, formed a solidarity group with a name, an executive and then set a meeting day. These groups serve as meeting points for women and PROMIC team. From January to December 2017, 12 solidarity groups were formed in different villages in PROMIC 1 based in Oku. In 2017, CAMGEW PROMIC 2 micro credit scheme based in Kumbo loaned out 15.623.000FCFA and PROMIC 2 in Oku loan out 17.540.000FCA to rural women. These women repay gradually after every 30days within 6months with a compound interest rate of 2% every 30days. During trainings women share their successes recorded after taking the loan. Here are some of the successes recorded by CAMGEW women after receiving training and loan from



*Women interacting during trainings and in their various training groups*

During trainings we share participants into groups for a workshop to enable everybody to share their own experience in doing business. Here women discuss amongst themselves in the dialect and write down their points for presentation by the group leaders.



***Women in groups during workshop session***

During training CAMGEW do not focus only on business management but other important health talks are given to the women like calling on young women to do HIV/AIDS tests and other important test like sickle cell before getting into marriage and on mothers to advice their children at home. This was done to help them avoid giving birth to sickle cell children or HIV/AIDS children as experience have shown. Women need to be health and their family needs to be healthy to be happy. Women also learn how to make their marriages successful and make the loan they receive from CAMGEW to be a blessing to their homes and not a point of conflict. Sevidzem Ernestine one of the trainers is a counselor with main focus on building solid homes where mother, father and children work as one and happily. Women are given opportunity to receive counseling on personal basis and as a couple on marital issues.



***Participant having talks with women on pale tic care***

#### 4. LOAN DISBURSEMENTS.

After the micro business training, the committee in charge of this program assesses the applications and approved the visible businesses for disbursement of funds. The approval of the loan usually depends on the business plan of the applicant, recommendation of community members about the applicant, participation during training, good behaviour, being ready to respect the conditions of the program, having valid identity card, ready to put the funds into business, being a peasant woman in the community, and good financial reputation in the community.

PROMIC micro credit scheme has touched the lives of many women and is building future entrepreneurs in most families. In 2017 a Kumbo, a total of 16.505.000FCFA was disbursed to 263 women to either start a new business or extend an existing one.

In 2017 CAMGEW has been able to train 255 women in 12 groups in Oku and disbursed loans to 12 groups of trained applicants every month. CAMGEW also disbursed a sum of 17,540,000fcfa.

#### 2017 STATISTICS ON WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN PROMIC 1 AND PROMIC 2

MONTHS IN 2017	OKU PROMIC 1			KUMBO PROMIC 2		
	NUMBER OF PERSON TRAINED	NUMBER DISBURSED	AMOUNT DISBURSED in FCFA	NUMBER OF PERSON TRAINED	NUMBER DISBURSED	AMOUNT DISBURSED in FCFA
January	19	18	980.000	38	17	860.000
February	19	17	1.135.000	0	19	1.110.000
March	33	32	2.360.000	46	41	1.780.000
April	22	22	1.380.000	34	0	Combine with March
May	20	20	1.210.000	0	32	1.355.000
June	20	20	1.445.000	29	27	1.520.000
July	16	16	1.370.000	25	25	1.730.000
August	15	15	1.340.000	34	34	3.240.000
September	25	25	1.920.000	0	0	Combine with August
October	23	22	1.510.000	34	29	1.600.000
November	24	24	1.570.000	15	15	1.320.000
December	19	15	1.320.000	27	27	1.920.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>17.540.000</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>16.435.000</b>

#### ALL STATISTICS OF KUMBO WOMEN MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME PROMIC 2

GROUP	NUMBER OF WOMEN TRAINED	NUMBER OF LOANS DISBURSED	GROUP	NUMBER OF WOMEN TRAINED	NUMBER OF LOANS DISBURSED
October 2016	36	13	June 2017	0	27
November 2016	0	13	July 2017	25	25
December 2016	12	12	August 2017	34	34
January 2017	38	17	September 2017	0	0
February 2017	0	19	October 2017	34	29
March 2017	46	23	November 2017	15	15
April 2017	34	18	December 2017	28	27
May 2017	29	32			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TRAINED</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>DISBURSED</b>		<b>304</b>

**ALL STATISTICS OF OKU WOMEN MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME PROMIC 1**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER OF WOMEN TRAINED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF LOANS DISBURSED</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>NUMBER OF WOMEN TRAINED</b>	<b>NUMBER OF LOANS DISBURSED</b>
APRIL 2015	12	12	AUGUST 2016	13	13
APRIL 2015	17	15	SEPTEMBER 2016	25	25
MAY 2015	20	17	OCTOBER 2016	25	24
JUNE 2015	20	18	NOVEMBER 2016	18	18
July 2015	19	18	DECEMBER 2016	17	17
AUGUST 2015	23	20	JANUARY 2017	19	18
SEPTEMBER 2015	16	14	FEBRUARY 2017	32	31
OCTOBER 2015	20	15	MARCH 2017	19	17
NOVEMBER 2015	22	15	APRIL 2017	22	22
DECEMBER 2015	18	17	MAY 2017	18	18
JANUARY 2016	17	17	JUNE 2017	20	20
FEBRUARY 2016	13	13	JULY 2017	16	16
MARCH 2016	13	11	AUGUST 2017	16	16
APRIL 2016	23	14	SEPTEMBER 2017	25	25
MAY 2016	18	16	OCTOBER 2017	52	22
JUNE 2016	18	18	NOVEMBER 2017	0	25
JULY 2016	11	11	DECEMBER 2017	19	15
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OKU WOMEN TRAINED</b>			<b>656</b>		
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OKU WOMEN WHO RECEIVED LOANS</b>			<b>603</b>		

**5. DAILY RUNNING OF THE MICRO CREDIT SCHEME. DAILY RUNNING OF THE OFFICE**

In other to keep the program functioning, CAMGEW since 2015 have kept encouraging women to save for their future needs and to extend their businesses. Each day CAMGEW staff of the women's department collects savings from our beneficiaries and motorcycle taxi riders, community members and any other interested person. We equally disburse the savings to the clients when they come for withdrawals. Many women who apply for our loans cannot fill their application forms themselves and the CAMGEW project staff assist. With many beneficiaries from CAMGEW credit scheme, loan collection is almost a daily activity as women come to pay their loans as schedule after disbursement. Sensitization is also a daily activity as women come to receive information about the program.

**TYPES OF BUSINESSES SUPPORTED:** CAMGEW Microcredit Scheme since 2015 has been able to trained women monthly and disbursed such amounts thanks to the fact that women pay their respective loans and the funds continue revolving. CAMGEW Microcredit Scheme wishes to grow big to reach many peasant women. CAMGEW Microcredit Scheme fund various type of businesses including, gardening, hair dressing, callbox (sale of communication credit), cabbage cultivation, petrol business, palm oil, dresses, buying and selling of maize, retailing firewood, buying and selling of cassava, cooking of koki beans, buying and retailing of irish potatoes, sell of meat (cow, goat, and bush meat), grinding meal and petrol, knitting of traditional caps, bananas and pear business, selling of dresses (secondhand), electronics, fruits, Oilment for old people, roosting of fresh fish, readymade dresses, corn beer and beer drinks, farmers shop. Retailing farm inputs like seeds and manure, foodstuff, huckleberry cultivation, petty business to meet basic household needs, pharmacy management, poultry farming, buying and selling of honey, knitting of pullovers and baby sets. (baby wear), tailoring and traditional embroidery.

### C) REPORTING.

Reporting is another important part of CAMGEW women micro finance. CAMGEW got funds from SWISSHAND SWITZERLAND and works together with her to make the project a success. In this light, we prepared monthly and quarterly reports of each training, loan disbursement, loan repayment and follow-up for Swissland. The reports were as follows: activity report, financial report, committee decision, and various financial sheets signed by the participants.

### D) CLIENT FOLLOUP

Visiting of clients in their various business places is an important part of this program most especially in 2017 where the civil uprising in the English speaking regions of Cameroon made businesses very slow. CAMGEW women are involved in micro businesses which require some special skills to function and follow-up to make it work. Failure to manage micro businesses well leads to its collapse. This explains why many micro businesses do start and collapse within a short space of time. These visits permit us give the beneficiaries the necessary advises on overcoming the challenges they are facing in handling various businesses. PROMIC team visited women in their various business sites. These visits were meant for beneficiaries to share their various successes and challenges in their businesses for CAMGEW team to give them technical advice. During these visits the Promic team got the opportunity to monitor the progress women made in their various businesses, advise them on strategies to overcome challenges and encourage family members to give women their full support towards the success of the business.

**Yaa Georgiana retails partially used dresses and has a poultry farm.** During the follow-up visit she was advised to collect fowl dropping daily and retail to crop farmers. This enabled her get additional income. She told the Promic team that the turnover in retailing partially used dresses has been very slow in her community. Market days are held once a week in various villages in Kumbo. The follow-up team advised her to go to various villages on market days and retail her dresses. This has greatly improved the income in her business. Similarly many women were visited in their business sites.



YAA GEORGIANA BERINYUY POULTRY FARM



NTSERI LUKONG RETAILS PALM OIL AND OTHER ARTICLES



*Visiting of women frying puff puff and selling of household needs*



*Visiting of Hair Dressing material shop and Readymade Dress Shop*

### **E) RADIO PROGRAM.**

CAMGEW towards the end of 2017 saw the importance of training women on their responsibilities and duties in our scheme through the radio. CAMGEW also saw the need to make women know about her activities and opportunities available for women to exploit. Many women fail to apply for technical and financial support because of lack of information. The Coordinators of the Microcredit Scheme gave educative talks to women. The talk involved women as entrepreneurs, women as mothers, women as wives, how people look at women in the community, peasant women and their role in the fight against poverty, peasant women and agriculture, the disadvantages of chemical fertilizers to peasant woman, the importance of organic manure to peasant woman, etc.

### **F) CHALLENGES.**

- The civil uprising in the English speaking regions of Cameroon that started in 2016 made businesses to have a low turnover and
- It takes time to change the mindset of a peasant woman to apply for a loan. Most peasant women want to remain in poverty than borrowing from an institution or individual and becoming a debtor. They fear taking loans. They fail to understand that they can start from somewhere to change their life. There is need for continuous sensitization of women to change behaviour.

Women are afraid to take risk. Many women want to stay in their comfort zone. Much work still needs to be done.

- The Microcredit Scheme needs a car and a motorcycle to be able to carry out its activities effectively. Some communities have not benefitted from the scheme because of their distance from the office. The women cannot also afford transportation cost to get to the office and apply and/or pay their loans. This is reducing the impact CAMGEW would have loved to create in the rural villages.
- CAMGEW Promic 2 program is in communities that are about 45-60km away from CAMGEW office. These communities are located in the outskirts of Kumbo with very bad roads and little or no communication networks. This has been a big challenge for Promic team in terms of coordination, reaching out to women and high cost in transportation. PROMIC 2 team hopes to have an office in Kumbo in the nearest future
- The recent civil unrest in the English speaking regions of Cameroon has slowed down business turn over. This situation has been characterized by seat down strikes, lack of internet connection, poor financial services in banks and poor business turn over. This has had a negative effect on the Program. To repay their loans women had to engage in daily savings to be able to pay their instalments every month. Some micro businesses collapsed. This situation contributed in women delaying to pay loans and resulting in much time and money spent in follow-up for recovery. It was time consuming moving to homes to follow-up such cases.
- Women in these areas suffer various ills of domestic violence. Most often this problem is overlooked, denied and the woman suffer in silence. Domestic violence prevents some women from getting loans for business as they fear they might not use the funds for the intended purposes. PROMIC 2 coordinator Sevidzem Ernestine has certificate in Lay Counseling. Through counseling, most community members learned to be proactive in taking decisions that affect their lives. She does this on voluntary basic. CAMGEW lack the funds to carry out women's human right activities and sensitisation against domestic violence.
- The internet was cut from the Anglophone region of Cameroon for more than 3 months and this affected communication with partners.

## **G) TESTIMONIES FROM WOMEN**

**TANJONG GLORY** said she has been able to save for the future thanks to CAMGEW savings scheme. She had no money to be registered under credit union (a legalized microfinance with registration fee) because membership fee there is high but CAMGEW savings scheme help her to buy seeds for her farm and equally pay her child's school fee. The training also helped her to know the importance of saving for the unforeseen and to expand her business. She thanks CAMGEW for the initiative in Oku community.

**KETU GOODNESS** said the loan helped her to invest in capital project. She work hard and bough a motorcycle taxi for the family. She said this CAMGEW money is blessed because when she took the loan anything they were doing with the money was successful. She expresses her joy of belonging to the scheme. To her, every determine peasant woman should not cry of poverty with this scheme around. She called on Oku women to hold the PROMIC program very well because she beliefs that the riches of an Oku woman is in this program.

For the community of **MBOKENGHAS** area, the leaders **LANGJI JOY** thank CAMGEW first for the training. To her the training was the most important thing because there are women amongst them who had bad reputation in the community as far as money was concern but she sees that the training has change them following the way they paid the first and the second loans. Secondly, she said the loan has improved greatly their living conditions as they are able to cultivate their Irish potatoes with organic manure instead of chemical fertilizer making the harvest great with less cost. They are not more the same as before and will never be the same again.

**NEAH MARY NDIFON** said she feels that her life will never be the same since she join this scheme. The loan has helped her to provide basic needs of her family and equally feel belonging in the society. She can also talk when other women are talking because CAMGEW has make her understand that being a rural woman does not mean she is not useful in the community. She thank CAMGEW for all her education to women be it women's right or business management.

**LUKONG MILDRED** also joined the voices of the other people to thank CAMGEW and said the programme is a blessing in her life. Her children can go to school and feed well as she is supporting her husband since she took the loan.

**MBIGHA NELLY** being a young woman she called on young women not to listen to the advice of those lazy young women who will laugh at them for caring buckets of fried edibles round for marketing. She encouraged them and wishes this program could reach to all the parts of the rural areas in the world. To her, CAMGEW has change the life of their family because her mother started benefiting from the programme and she is also having her business thanks to CAMGEW. They are able to buy food, pay fees and provide needs of the household from their business. She encouraged women not to minimize the micro businesses because it does great things in families.

**MNKONG YVETTE** is a housewife from one of the neighbouring villages in Oku - **SIMONKOH**. She has benefited 2 times from CAMGEW Loan scheme. She cultivates Irish potatoes, Huckleberry and Cabbage and carries out both wholesale and retailing of her harvested products. When she came during the second business training to receive the second loan, she shared with the participants how the loan rescued her family. She said that two days before the loans were disbursed; her house roofed with grass got burnt. When she received the loan, she worked hand in hand with her husband and cultivated Irish potatoes for commercialisation. With God's blessings, the yields were as high as she invested 70.000frs loaned on her farm. She harvested the Irish potatoes and sold to the amount of 300.000 FRs. This helped her pay back the loan on the due dates and roofed the new house (the husband struggled to build), feed the family and provide for her children basic school needs. She said this loan strengthened her family bond and made them see the power of team work and solidarity. She shared her story with tears of joy saying that to her CAMGEW is like the mother hen that covers all her chicks under her wings, gives them comfort and protects them from danger.

**NDITO MARTHA** lives in Oku with her family. She invested her loan on retailing palm oil. She shared with other women that this loan scheme brought so much joy to her family. Her daughter had written the national examination for two years without succeeding. But after saving in the CAMGEW saving scheme under the Micro-credit scheme, she used the savings to register for the child's public examination and purchased her school need. She said with joy that her daughter succeeded in the national examination that year. **MARTHA** added that her business has increased greatly. She said previously, she could only buy 20 litres of palm oil but when she attended CAMGEW business training and got the loan, she moved from 20 litres to 80 litres of palm oil. She said the training made her understood the importance of business planning, publicity or marketing and record keeping. She shared the lessons learned during the training

with her family members for sensitisation and that has impacted the attitude of the family members positively in managing her business.

**EUFERENCIA BIY** is a woman from Mbockenghas-Oku. She appreciated the knowledge acquired from CAMGEW business training saying that the orientation and follow-up helped her understand the goodness of organic manure in crop cultivation. She said the vegetables she cultivated with organic manure had a higher market value and increased her customers as most people in her neighbourhood appreciated and trusted her crops. She gets a ready market for her crops. People scramble for her crops in the market and some others place orders in advance and pay. Her experience motivated other women to use organic manure on their farms.

**NSODZEWAI ELFRIDA** is a resident in MELUF, Kumbo. She attended CAMGEW business training in October 2017 but got the loan in February 2017. Despite the non-approval of her loan application by the program committee due to lack of national identification paper, the knowledge she gained during the training changed her life. After the training, she started retailing palm wine in her house. With the knowledge on micro business management, she could have some income that assisted her meet basic needs of her kids. When she got the loan in February 2017, she added equipment and materials for her palm wine business. This made her business unique compared to other palm wine bars in her community. She has gained community trust in palm wine business and now supplies palm wine in quality and quantity during cultural events, death celebrations and retails daily in her shop. She told other women in the second training session that she has successfully shared the knowledge she got from the business training with her family and together with her husband they manage the palm wine business and are able to meet basic needs of the family.

**BIBIANA LAUGHA** is a woman from Kai-Kumbo. She applied for the first loan in December 2017 to start a micro business on retailing banana. Her loan was approved. Her greatest desire was to generate income from her business, repay the loan and save some money. She desired to repay the loan and have some savings that could assist her roof her house. The house leaked in the rainy season. Together with her husband they worked hard, buying raw bananas and plantain from neighbouring villages and transporting to nearby towns during market days for sale. From the profit they made, they repaid the loan. During the evaluation session after completion of loan, the husband was present and said it is quite amazing what little drops of savings every week did to his family. After repaying the loan within six months, the savings from the business assisted them roof a 3bed room house and continued with the business.

**LAIMO PASCALINE** is a woman from VEKOVI in Jakiri Sub Division. She prepares koki beans and retails. During the second business training towards reception of CAMGEW second loan, she told other women that she shared the knowledge from the training with her son. This helped the son start his own business of retailing car fuel. Her son's business has been very successful as he is enlightened about the strategies of managing micro businesses. This business made her son very focused and skillful. She appreciated the knowledge on business publicity and said that she could promote her business in her social groups, during religious gathering and amongst her friends. She witnessed a great increase in profit.

# **SECTION 6**

## **PREVENTION OF GENDER VIOLENCE**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

CAMGEW continued her work on promoting gender balance through counseling, building solid homes, fighting child trafficking, increasing knowledge on legalisation of marriages. This was done in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri areas in 2017. It was a continuation of work that CAMGEW started in 2016.

### **B. COUNSELING SESSIONS**

Sevidzem Ernestine worked on counseling in 2017. This activity was done on voluntary bases with women and girls in communities in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri Sub-Divisions. She works with women in these communities on micro business entrepreneurial training and therefore assist these women with counseling services. Women and girls were received for counseling on cases of health, marital crisis, parent-child misunderstanding, domestic physical and psychological violence, frustration originating from child trafficking, loneliness and stigma from early unplanned teenage pregnancy. 47 counselees were attended to with 3 follow-up sessions per counselee. Mindful of the fact that confidentiality is a key element of counseling; women in these communities go through a lot in silence. Having someone to talk to help them to focus on possibilities and take responsibility of happenings in their lives.

### **C. SENSITIZATION ON WOMENS RIGHT**

Sensitization on women's right was carried in Oku and Kumbo in 2017. This was done in women's social and cultural groups. This sensitization visits focused on the need to respect women and give them equal opportunities, mitigation measures against child trafficking and the need to legalize marriages. Women were encouraged to assist their children especially the girls to get education either formally or in learning a trade. Many families saw this important and 8 girls were sent by their parents to learn a trade. This will help these girls become independent financially in the future. Sevidzem Ernestine has been following-up these girls in different counseling sessions and equally encouraging them to learn their trades with all dedication. 12 sensitization visits were done in various women groups in 2017. CAMGEW through a goodwill person has been able to assist a less privilege girl to learn a trade. This support is linked to an initiative called ACWW-Women Arise.

### **D. RADIO PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN**

CAMGEW identified that women need a lot of support and that their families need to be happy and to live in solidarity. This pushed CAMGEW team to organise special radio programmes in Oku Rural Radio to promote family solidarity as a form of insurance considering that dependency ratio in families is high. We brought out opportunities that women and girls could exploit to build their skills and support their families. CAMGEW sensitised women to apply for CAMGEW-Women Microfinance scheme and get training and financial assistance. CAMGEW encouraged women to support their husbands in apiculture for apiculture is successful as family farming. CAMGEW also encouraged women to be self-reliant than being totally dependent on their husbands for their personal and family needs. CAMGEW encouraged them to get training on modern farming and create or expand their farms. Women were asked to work as a team with their families and build entrepreneurship skills in their children.

# SECTION 7

## COMMUNICATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### A) COMMUNICATION

Various means of communication were used to maintain cordial relationship with the funding partner, community authorities and leaders, the beneficiaries and in the community. CAMGEW organized seminars, workshops and exhibitions to share, learn and listen to others. CAMGEW also produced posters, brochures, booklets to reach out to the communities. These include:

**Language;** English language was used in communicating with Swisshand. During trainings, Pidgin English, Oku local language (for Oku) and Lamnso local language (for Kumbo and Jakiri) are used to reach out to peasant women. This means that coordinators in each area must understand local languages and Pidgin English.

**Telephone;** Telephone calls and messages assisted during mobilisation for the business training, follow-up of women, loan recovery, sharing of information, organisation of exchange visits and reporting. Guarantors were informed by telephone calls and messages on the loan situations of those women they guaranteed.

**Internet;** Emails facilitate reporting, receiving information and technical support from partners and planing of exchange visits. sharing of information, communication through Social media especially facebook and Whatsapp help us to share information through videos, pictures and articles with the outside world for learning and criticisms. CAMGEW has a website too where project information is share.

**Networks:** She was in networks like Cameroon Women Thrive Network, Empowerment Women based in UK and USA, Young Africans Leaders Initiative (YALI), Cameroon Future In Our Hands Network (FIOH Network). CAMGEW share information and learn from members in this networks.

**Postage;** Through postage we sent and receive mails from various partners.

**Radio;** Community radios are used both in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri to sensitise and inform the community members of various opportunities, activities and happenings about the scheme.

**Television;** through the television, we share experience.

**Publications;** flyer, booklets and calenders about the micro credit scheme are produced and shared with partners, beneficiaries, community members, visitors, researchers and the public atlarge. Through these publications we share information, create awareness and sensitise the population on our activities.

**University community:** CAMGEW has been hosting students on internship and research interested in issues of rural women and micro-finance. We have had a student who did her Masters Thesis on micro-finance with case study of CAMGEW paesant women programme. She got an excellent grade.

**CAMGEW Vehicle and Taxi motorcycle;** These are used to visit clients and deliver messages, during trainings and loan collection, follow-up and during outdoor counselling.

### B) VOCATIONAL TRAINING

#### 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 functioned with the following departments

- Dress making and Decoration department: This department has a male trainer with expertise in men's and women dresses. He trains interested persons in these domains. Its 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. Its 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 remained a regular feature of the institution to increase student enrolment and get more customers. This was done through Oku Community Radio, CAMGEW-VTC posters, sensitisation in churches and social gatherings and advertisement of CAMGEW-VTC products in the markets. Despite the enough sensitization made the vocational training centre in 2016 recorded few students than expected.

Since March 2014 CAMGEW-VTC functioned without external support. Our partner Stichting OOK-Netherlands stopped supporting us financially in March 2014. It was challenging to keep the centre running but CAMGEW worked hard to overcome the challenges.

**TRANSFER OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE TO TRAINERS:** CAMGEW transferred ownership of VTC to trainers who received equipment and financial support from CAMGEW to continue running their various departments on individual basis. This was done in August 2016. The trainers took along the remaining students who never graduated to continue training. A series of meetings were held with the students, parents and local board members to arrive at amicable solutions. This yielded fruits. The activities of the centre still continuous but the trainers relocated their departments to Elak market in Oku (with more customers). The dress making and hair dressing departments had a good number of students who could sustain the departments but fee payment was a challenge. The shoe making had 3 students. Many boys leaving primary school become motorcycle taxi riders

and do not want to learn a trade. CAMGEW still follow-up the trainers to make sure they keep support children and women who need skills.

### **CAMGEW-VTC Student enrolment**

<b>Departments</b>	<b>January 2015</b>	<b>Number Graduated in May 2015</b>	<b>June 2015</b>	<b>December 2015</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	<b>June 2016</b>	<b>Number Graduated in July 2016</b>	<b>August 2016</b>	<b>December 2017</b>
Hair dressing	6	5	4	6	7	4	1	1	3
Shoe making	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	1
Dress making	15	8	11	10	11	7	5	2	6
total	24	15	18	19	21	14	8	4	10

CAMGEW does regret handing the VTC to trainers because

- When CAMGEW started the VTC she was the lone structure that tried to institutionalized Vocational training in Oku but today there are many vocational training centre in Oku like Women and the Family Empowerment Centre, Youth Empowerment Centre and with many privately own training centres. CAMGEW has not abandon youths for they have many more institution where they can learn.

- The trainers CAMGEW recruited for VTC continued with training as individuals better off than how they started because they can do record keeping, do training in a systematic way, they gain much public acceptance, they got equipment and material from CAMGEW,
- The 23 students who graduated are doing well. This is a legacy CAMGEW has left behind. They have opened their own workshops in their own villages and are now serving their communities and earning a living. CAMGEW has changed their lives and they are changing lives of other persons in their community. They are now trainers of trainers.
- The recruited 7 staff in the VTC improved their lives and that of their families with finances used to pay their salaries from November 2012 to August 2016. They learned team spirit.
- CAMGEW rendered genuine services to the community and produced and sold produced items to them too. From their heart the CAMGEW team worked and were models for the trainees.

# **SECTION 8**

## **OTHER PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

### **A) CAMGEW Team Attends Training On Excel Basics Organised By Man And Nature**

CAMGEW staff attended a 2 day training on excel organized in Bamenda by Man and Nature. This training was organized between the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The following CAMGEW staff did the training: Wirsiy Emmanuel, Sevidzem Ernestine, Langji Ponda Saah, Ngum Jai Raymond and Sevidzem Immaculate. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of CAMGEW staff on excel use. This was going to facilitate the management of data especially financial data for projects. Man and Nature focused on her green economy project. The training was done through PowerPoint presentations facilitated by Theo Tournebiz of Man and Nature. Emmanuelle Roques of Man and Nature was trainer. This was followed by exercises for participants with assistance from trainer and facilitators. The lessons received included the basics on Excel, basic calculations in Excel and complex calculations.

The trained CAMGEW staff members were happy of the knowledge acquired during the training. This was going to facilitate financial reporting for CAMGEW staff and record keeping especially in the shop. The second day of the training was more of exercises as the participants learnt how to do complex operations like SUMIF function.

### **B) Associated Country Women of the World - UK visit CAMGEW to evaluate the completed project**

Chinje Irene from ACWW visited CAMGEW on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 to evaluate ACWW - UK funded project executed by CAMGEW with activities on women's right to health, nutrition, legal marriage and counseling. This project was executed in Oku and its environs in 2016 with the following objectives:

- Reduce early pregnancies and improve nutrition of the teenage mother and child
- Reduction of sexually transmitted disease
- Reduce child trafficking
- Increase knowledge on legalization of marriages and Computer literacy

This project was executed under the leadership of Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. Irene spoke with some project beneficiaries, checked the project records and left CAMGEW very satisfied with the work that was done. She asked CAMGEW to postulate for another grant from ACWW.



*CAMGEW team receives Chinje Irene from ACWW to evaluate project activities*

### **C) CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES**

CAMGEW through Ngum Jai Raymond and Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy attended the Leadership Training Course organized from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Nkolandom in the South Region of Cameroon. The training course was organized by Well Grounded with financial assistance from UKAid. The training was also attended by 21 participants from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon. There were 6 participants from the CAR and 15 from Cameroon. The training workshop was facilitated by Mireille Kayijamahe of Well Grounded and Fidele Yohbo a consultant. The course had as objectives to train members of CSOs in CAR and Cameroon to become leaders. It also aimed at building the capacities of participants to see the link between their personal passion, their values and the work they do so that it could be a source of inspiration for their collaborators. The training also aimed to increase the conscience of participants on their strengths, success and weaknesses that they can rely on for their personal development. This training had to assist participants to identify the beliefs that have a negative or positive influence on the development of leadership skills within the organization. This training was done to explore the participants' competences and leadership qualities that could affect or impact other colleagues, their teams, organizations and beneficiaries, partners etc. The training was done every day from 8:30AM to 16:30PM and between 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM daily. The first part of the training involved lessons in the day and the evening shift involved activities to recollect and reflect on the lessons offered. The learning process was done through Group work where participants were either paired, divided into groups, or by organization. Learning groups were formed at the end of the first day of training. These learning groups made a recapitulation of the previous day lessons through sketches, poetry, paintings and mimics. Free writing was also done. Through these free writings, participants reflected to get some desired changes they would want; they could also reflect into the past, the present and into the future. The evening sessions had activities like movie watching, craft, retrospect into one's life (chapters of my life) etc. Through these methods and the lessons received the participants were able to bring forth possibilities to develop leadership skills.



*Building Leaders through Leadership workshop*

### **D) CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS LISTENING TO KILUM FOREST STORIES FROM AN ELDER AFTER TREE PLANTING**

CAMGEW has recently searched for ways to do forest education in a way that can be interesting, full of humor and entertaining. She has used some community elders with knowledge on the Kilum-Ijim forest to tell stories about the forest especially on how the forest used to be in the past, how they used the forest, how defaulters were punished, how bushfire was handled when it

occurred, the role of the Fon and tradition in the forest and the work of Birdlife International in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation. CAMGEW found this interesting and it was also appreciated by children and youths. CAMGEW will start using story telling about Kilum-Ijim forest for forest sensitization and education.



*Forest education through story telling*

#### **E) CAMGEW-MIVA VEHICLE PROJECT**

CAMGEW is grateful to MIVA Switzerland for the financial assistance to buy a partially used vehicle (TOYOTA HILUX) in 2014 ending. The vehicle has served CAMGEW in executing various projects in 2015, 2016 and 2017. CAMGEW is taking good care of the gift. Our activities are increasing and we need more means of mobility like another Hilux to be used in the hilly terrain of Kilum-Ijim forest area for women empowerment programme. CAMGEW also need 2 motorcycles to facilitate movement of single staff in the field. CAMGEW will be grateful to have support in this area.



*CAMGEW-MIVA Vehicle bring hope to communities and protecting the Kilum-Ijim forest*

#### **F) MIVA SWITZERLAND TEAM VISIT CAMGEW AND OTHER VEHICLE BENEFICIARIES**

CAMGEW joined BERUDA of Belo to present the vehicles MIVA Switzerland supported them to buy for their various organization in Bamenda on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017. CAMGEW meet Peter from MIVA Switzerland to present the CAMGEW-MIVA vehicle for appreciation. This was done in Azam Hotel in Bamenda. It was the first time CAMGEW meet Peter of MIVA. CAMGEW had the opportunity to present her 2016 annual report and CAMGEW publications to Peter. CAMGEW made a request to

Peter to get another MIVA vehicle to support CAMGEW Women Empowerment Project. It was a great moment spent with the MIVA team and other NGOs.



*CAMGEW and BERUDA Directors presenting their vehicles to MIVA Switzerland*

### **G) CAMGEW ATTENDED 2017 INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY IN LAKE OKU**

CAMGEW staff attended a one day event to celebrate the World Biodiversity Day. This day was celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2017. The event was organised by the Cameroon Ministry of Environment-MINEPDED in partnership with the Ministry of Youths. The day was celebrated in the Lake Oku shores in the presence of the Regional and Divisional Delegates for MINEPDED and Ministry of Youths. Students from the Youth Empowerment Centre in Oku, leaders of Environmental Civil Society Organisations in Oku and Bamenda were present during the event. The theme for 2017 year was ***“Biodiversity and sustainable Tourism”***. The participants went to the peak of the lake to have a better view of the lake; there were also educative talks from the Regional Delegate for MINEPDED and lessons on the formation of crater lakes Ngalim Frankline from the The Greens. Talks on the traditional importance of the lake were made by the representative of the Fon of Oku. The Conservator of the Plant Life Sanctuary of the Kilum-Ijim Forest also made field presentation on the biodiversity hotspot of the lake side area. CAMGEW was represented in the event by Ngum Jai Raymond and Langji Ponda Saah.



*Celebration of the International Biological Diversity Day 2017 in the North West Region- Oku*

## H) REDUCING SMOKE CONTENT IN HONEY PRODUCTION AND BEES WAX EXTRACTION

CAMGEW, Man and Nature-France, Guiding Hope - Cameroon and Oku Honey Cooperative Society jointly organised a honey production and bees wax extraction to get quality honey and bees wax with low smoke content from 2nd to 3rd May 2017. Participants came from bee farmers groups around Kilum-Ijim forest in Sub Divisions of Jakiri, Oku, Belo, Fundong and Njinikom. We had a trainer from the North of Cameroon on practical bees wax extraction. The training took a form of exchange because around Kilum-Ijim forest many farmers use double boiler method to extract bees wax and in the north of Cameroon water bath extraction is used. The two methods were used in bees wax extraction and we could compare to get the best in terms of time saving and quality. We did honey harvesting too. The training ended with participants learning and preferring water bath extraction of bees wax because it reduces smoke from wax, it is time saving and is good for large scale production. The training ended with handing of attestations to participants



*Training on methods of Honey production and bees wax extraction to reduces smoke contamination*

## I) CAMGEW is visited by the new Divisional Officer for Oku Sub Division

The new Divisional Officer for Oku Mr. Orock Benjamin Agbor on the occasion of his contact visit to various services under his jurisdiction as the new Divisional Officer for Oku visited CAMGEW office on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. On this occasion he advised CAMGEW and its staff on the need to continue to help the population of Oku fight poverty and unemployment. He also encouraged CAMGEW team to keep on protecting the forest and promoting gender balance. He advised CAMGEW to have at heart the development of the Community. He promised CAMGEW of his support to make things work.



*The Divisional officer for Oku was accompanied during the contact visit by the Brigade Commander for Oku Sub-Divisional and the Commissioners of Police for Public Security and the Special Branch for Oku.*

## J) LEARNING VISIT BY AMMCO TO CAMGEW IN OKU ON APICULTURE

CAMGEW was visited by the African Marine Mammal Conservation Society (AMMCO) to learn more on apiculture. AMMCO team arrived Bamenda on Sunday 27th August 2017. On Monday 28th August 2017 at 6:00 am together with CAMGEW team they travel using CAMGEW vehicle to Oku. In Oku, AMMCO team learnt on bee farming and other CAMGEW activities like the forest and the Women Micro-Credit scheme. In the process, they learnt how to construct local beehives with assistance from a beehive construction technician in Oku. In the learning process, it was discovered that in Dizangue (where AMMCO is based) there were similar beehive construction materials to those in Kilum-Ijim forest area. This made it possible to do bee farming in Dizangue just like in Oku. At the end of the beehive construction, AMMCO carried the constructed beehive to Dizangue for demonstration and learning. CAMGEW and AMMCO team also visited the Oku Honey Cooperative Society to learn about honey processing and marketing. They had the opportunity to see how organization of bee farmers could increase honey quantity and quality to better serve consumers and create income for bee farmers. They also learned how the cooperative is managed. The manager of the cooperative Bang George who has more than 15 years' experience in cooperative management and is also a bee farmer led a guided tour of the cooperative structure and provided much explanation to AMMCO on the Oku White Honey value chain. It was a great moment that we had with the AMMCO team asking many questions that the manager responded. The AMMCO team left very satisfied from the cooperative and promised more collaboration in the future. The visit lasted from the 27th to 30th August 2017 and was a success as commented by Rodrigue Ngafack - the AMMCO Project Leader. CAMGEW was proud AMMCO promised further collaboration and partnership to promote apiculture in the Dizangue area.



*AMMCO team listening to lectures as hive construction is done*

## K) CAMEROON MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION NETWORK CREATED on June 27, 2017 and CAMGEW is member.

At the initiative of ERuDeF and coordinated by ERuDeF Institute, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and University Researchers working along the Cameroon Volcanic Line, met at the ERuDeF Institute in Buea on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 and established a network called: Cameroon Mountains Conservation Network (CaMCoN). The purpose of the Network is to build capacity, save species and impact lives across mountain ecosystems in Cameroon. After highlighting the challenges of the functioning of CSOs in Cameroon and the gaps in the conservation of mountain ecosystems and people, an executive committee was put in place to ensure the effective functioning of the network. In collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, national and international partners, the network intends to focus on capacity building, research and community livelihoods improvements across Cameroon mountains. Despite the unique biodiversity value of this global ecoregion (Lower Guinean forest) from various taxonomic groups, little conservation investments is given as compared to the Congo Basin forest and the Upper

Guinean forest between which it lies. CAMGEW works in the Kilum-Ijim forest with Kilum Mountain that is part of Cameroon Volcanic line with a series of mountains.



*Members of Cameroon Mountain Conservation Network*

#### **L) FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON VISIT CAMGEW HONEYSHOP IN BAMENDA 6th July 2017**

French Ambassador Visited CAMGEW HONEYSHOP in Bamenda. CAMGEW had the opportunity to explain to him about her work in the Kilum-Ijim forest and the development of the Oku White Honey Value Chain. CAMGEW explained that CAMGEW HONEYSHOP seek to convert Bee farmers Honey and by-products to money to fight poverty, unemployment and forest degradation. Man and Nature - France and PPI-FFEM has supported our Kilum-Ijim forest conservation activities.



*The French Ambassador and team visit CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP*

#### **M) CAMGEW ONLINE FUND RAISING ATTEMPT**

CAMGEW in 2017 tried to become a permanent member in GlobalGiving fundraising platform twice in September and December 2017. This was done for 2 projects: 1) Set Businesses for 24 Trained Teenage Mothers. This project was to these teenage mothers with either a sewing machine, shoe making machine or hair dryer to youths trained in Oku on Hair dressing, Dress making or Shoe making. We need atleast 40 donors to raise US\$ 5000 to succeed and become a permanent member of GLOBAL GIVING and 2) Kilum Forest Youths Plant trees to Get More Honey. We failed to raise US\$ 5000 in any of the periods. CAMGEW also applied to win a project through voting under “1% For The Planet” with Man and Nature – France and failed to win. CAMGEW needs skills in fund raising through online platforms. Should you have skills and find time to share with us we will be grateful.

**N) CAMGEW RECEIVES TRAINING ON ICT IN EXCEL at CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP Bamenda 28-29 November 2017**

Staff from Man and Nature - France supported CAMGEW staff to acquire knowledge on Excel. The training was done in Bamenda at CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP. The skills acquired were to be used in CAMGEW record keeping, CAMGEW HoneyShop, CAMGEW Women Empowerment Programme, project budgeting and finance management. With the team from Man and Nature, CAMGEW did an assessment of the Honeyshop, its challenges and then chatted the way forward. We also had the opportunity to reflect on developing new projects like the organic coffee project. CAMGEW was grateful to the team (Théo Tournebize, Gabrielle Savin and Emmanuelle Roques) from Man and Nature for this support.



*Excel training for CAMGEW staff by Man and Nature staff*

**O) CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN THE CLOSING EVENT OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY CAPACITY BUILDING BY GROUP SOS and AIMF IN CAMEROON 23 November 2017**

CAMGEW was selected among 5 growing institutions to benefit from entrepreneurship coaching by SOS GROUP with funds from AIMF for the CAMGEW HONEYSHOP(North West Bee Farmers Messenger-NOWEFAM) business and CAMGEW Peasant Women Micro-finance Scheme. This coaching was done for one year on business skills, marketing and publicity. November 23, 2017 was closing event and 2 staff from CAMGEW participated. CAMGEW did exhibition of CAMGEW HONEYSHOP products like the various honey and bees wax. CAMGEW is grateful for the technical support Mailys Courtade -project leader provided to CAMGEW in entrepreneurship to make things work using creative and innovative approaches. This was a great learning opportunity and CAMGEW will forever be grateful. The knowledge obtained will always be used to serve humanity and build community change makers.



*CAMGEW participate in closing event for the SOS-GROUPE and AIMF project*

## P) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM ON OKU WHITE HONEY

CAMGEW has been thinking how to develop the organic certification system for farmers products around Kilum-Ijim forest. She had under gone training on organic certification in 2016. Between the 25th and 28th of April 2016, a training workshop was organised in the premises of the Oku Honey Cooperative. The workshop was attended by persons involved in beekeeping activities around Kilum-Ijim Forest.

The training objectives were as follows:

- To train lead farmers who will serve as trainers-of-trainers for other farmers in organic certification
- To develop action plan for organic certification and Internal Control System (ICS)
- To commence the development of ICS manual for organic bee keeping for the selected groups in Cameroon

The workshop was organised within the frame work of a project from the African Insect Science for Food and Health –ICIPE titled “*African reference laboratory (with satellite stations) for the management of pollination, bee diseases and pest for food security*”.

The overall objective of this project was to enhance the contribution of bees and other pollinators to food security and livelihoods in Africa. The **proposed action was to improve** bee products and pollination services through reduced incidence of bee diseases and pests , enhance market access and bee health institution environment. **The goal was to contribute** to reducing the incidence of bee diseases and pests in order to improve honey production and pollination services for income generation. **METHODOLOGY:** The workshop was organised for 4 days from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. It was attended by 17 participants from Oku, Jakiri, Mutteff and Ajung (Fundong), Mulloin (Njinikom), and Belo. The participants from Fundong, Jakiri and Njinikom were mostly coordinators of the newly created Cooperatives (done with facilitation from CAMGEW). The workshop was organised for bee farmer around the Kilum-Ijim who produce Oku White Honey. There were also participants from NGOs working in the Kilum Ijim Forest like CAMGEW and Belo Rural Development Association (BERUDA). Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) were also represented during the workshop.

The teaching- learning method was an interactive one with participants sharing their experiences and linking them to processes of organic certification. The workshop was facilitated by Jack Juma (Programme Manager and Technical Advisor on Organic Standards and Certification) from the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network-KOAN, Dr. Nguku Everlyn (development Coordinator for European Union bee health Project) of the African Insect Science for Food and Health –icipe and Youbissi Annie Florence (Chef Service des Élevages Non Conventionnels, de l’Apiculture et des Animaux de Compagnie-SENCAAC) from the Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries. CAMGEW in 2017 has been reflecting on how to use these organic certification norms in Oku White Honey and coffee certification.

## Q) CAMGEW AND RESEARCH

Tambang Genesis	Leinyuy Saber Emelienne
<p>Tambang Genesis from University of Dschang did research for his Masters thesis 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)” for 7 months and defended. He obtained excellent grade. His work held CAMGEW improve on apiculture training and improvement of community livelihood. He completed his Masters on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Green Economy.</p>	<p>Leinyuy Saber Emelienne a Masters student from University of Bamenda worked with CAMGEW on peasant women micro-credit scheme. Her Masters thesis was titled “ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN THROUGH MICROFINANCE SERVICE - A CASE STUDY OF: CAMGEW PEASANT WOMEN MICROCREDIT SCHEME – OKU”. She worked with CAMGEW for 6 months and defended her thesis with excellent grade. The recommendations from her work is helping CAMGEW look at possibility to make this women micro-finance a success. She completed her course and now hold an Executive Masters in Business Administration.</p>

# SECTION 9

## 2017 CHALLENGES, 2018 PLANNED ACTIVITIES & CONCLUSION

### A) CHALLENGES

#### 1) KILUM-IJIM FOREST

- **Forest management Institution (FMI) and Executive members:** FMIs are not still very active. Some of the executive members 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 goats, cattle and sheep in the forest that pound the forest soil, eat young trees and prevent natural forest regeneration. This prevents the sustainability of the forest.
- **Bush fires:** Bushfires destroy the forest biodiversity. Bushfires results from farms at forest borders that are burnt in preparation for crop planting, it also results from cigarettes smoking in the forest especially in the dry season, burning of dry vegetation in grassland around the forest and poor honey harvesting without bee smokers. CAMGEW is fighting this through citizen engagement in forest conservation.
- **Forest platform:** There is no existing forest platform in Oku and Ijim forest. There is a platform in Bikov forest that is found in Nso land. There is need to create a forest multi-stakeholder platform at each community forest to promote dialogue among all forest stakeholders for a better management of Kilum-Ijim Forest. CAMGEW has a challenge to create this platform for dialogue and participation in forest management.

#### 2) FOREST PRODUCTS

##### 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. 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 its quantity.
- **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 increase assistance for trained persons on Oku White Honey production by providing them with these equipment and materials at a subsidize cost. CAMGEW need support to carry out these activities.

##### b)Commercialization:

- **Marketing of honey and bees wax:** The marketing of these goods is still poor. Those who need them never easily have access to them. They are not available nationwide as expected.

CAMGEW in 2017 improve on the availability of these products to consumers in Douala, Yaounde, Bamenda and internationally to France.

- There is a lot of clandestine commercialization of honey and bees wax from this region. CAMGEW created a Honeyshop in Bamenda to help sell farmers' honey but the shop is still gradually gaining popularity. She needs to learn more marketing skills.
- **Application of norms for honey and bees wax:** The norms set for the commercialization of these products are not respected and this makes it difficult to sell these products at good prices.
- Beehive construction is similar around Kilum-Ijim forest but some communities like Mutteff construct beehives that are not strong to transport bees or that do not have a long lifespan. They need more trainings.

### 3) MICRO- CREDIT SCHEME

- In our peasant women micro-credit scheme agricultural loans need more time and are periodic. The loan period is 6 months and there are some crops that need more than this time. Some crops like potatoes, beans are periodic and many persons who carry out these activities need money at this time and the scheme cannot satisfy them.
- Many peasant women lack identification papers and this makes it difficult to grant them loans. CAMGEW is happy that because of the scheme many women have produced these papers.
- Many women in different areas need CAMGEW assistance in micro-finance but the means available limit CAMGEW to expand. CAMGEW need more support to satisfy more women.
- CAMGEW need an office in Kumbo to manage the Kumbo and Jakiri women micro-finance scheme.

### 4) CAMGEW AS AN ORGANISATION

- **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
- **Volunteers:** CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help her better serve the communities and transfer their knowledge to the staff. CAMGEW needs to develop her skill in fund raising, project development and organizational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment. Volunteers are useful to us. CAMGEW needs volunteers or interns in nursery development, marcotting, grafting, treatment of seeds, micro-financing, child nutrition, gender violence, counseling, apiculture, etc
- **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.
- **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 are not covered. Getting support for CAMGEW running cost will help improve CAMGEW's functioning.
- **Equipment support:** CAMGEW has problems of 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.
- **Need new partners:** CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active.
- CAMGEW needs mobility means to reach out to peasant women during training and follow-up of

their activities. These peasant women that are already organised in groups needs goods in bulk to retail and consume like savon, rice, wheat flour, palm oil, salt, detergents, animal dung for fertilizer, etc. These women need a means to transport their farm products (maize, beans, potatoes, cocoayams, vegetables, honey, etc) to the market. CAMGEW need another TOYOTA HILUX for this purpose. The nature of roads is also a challenge. Given that during the rainy season the hilly terrain become bad and needs a stronger vehicle.

## **B) ACTIVITIES PER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2018**

### **Specific Objective 1: To engage forest communities in the sustainable management of the 7 community Forests in the Kilum in 2018**

- Develop radio program to sensitise, entertain, educate and inform communities on the importance of participating in forest management
- Organize forests users to get engage in forest tracing and patrols to protect the forest
- Set up an intervention mechanism to eliminate bush fires
- Organise communities to participate in nursery development
- Empower community members to advocate for forest defaulters to be sanctioned.
- Construct and equip a Forest Learning Centre (theatre, computer, projections, demonstration, training workshops, lodging, library, office, binoculars,)
- Organize community tree planting sessions in the 7 Kilum Community Forests
- Produce communication materials(posters, newspaper, leaflets, booklets, update website)
- Organize regular community forest visits for education and entertainment
- Organize a Kilum Forest Day (with activities like: Inter-community football and handball competitions, Handball competition, school quiz, Exposes, Film projections, Poems, Drama, Cultural manifestation, Poster presentation, Trade fair by Honey Cooperatives, other forest user groups and FMIs)

### **Specific Objective 2: To improve effective stakeholders' engagement in sustainable management of 7 community Forests of the Kilum Forest in 2018**

- Organise elections for the 7 Forest Management Institutions in Kilum Forest
- Organize trainings for the elected officials of forests institutions( FMIs and Honey Cooperatives) on leadership and management
- Facilitate 2 stakeholder meetings on FMIs' re-organisation and development of election guidelines
- Organize exchange visits between like-minded forest institutions and platforms
- Organize exchange visits between the two stakeholders platform in Nso and Oku
- Create a notice board and a suggestion box in each of the FMIs
- Organize radio programmes on FMIs decisions and work to inform communities
- Create and administer a Kilum-Ijim Forest Facebook page on forest issues to share information on the management of the forest

### **Specific Objective 3: To strengthen the capacity of CAMGEW to better function and effectively contribute to the sustainable management of the Kilum Forest in 2018**

- Hold exchange visits between CAMGEW and like-minded organisations
- CAMGEW staff attends trainings on financial management, leadership and communication.
- Purchase adequate support materials to facilitate our work
- Actively raise funds for CAMGEW and identify new partners to work with
- Develop a communication strategy for CAMGEW
- Develop and submit projects /collaboration proposals with new partners.
- Develop a chart (guidelines) on what CAMGEW can and cannot do: values

**Specific Objective 4: To empower eco-business operators from 7 Community Forests of Kilum to have adequate skills and increased revenue through the commercialization of their products.**

- Organise trainings on bee farming
- Organise trainings on bee wax production
- Organise trainings on Prunus africana harvesting
- Organise trainings on agro forestry techniques
- Marketing of non-timber forest products
- Organise experience sharing /exchange visits between communities'eco-business operators.
- Provide seedlings and bee hives ( on a buy one get one- free model) to new farmers
- Conduct a baseline study on farming and production capacity of non- timber forest products

**Specific Objective 5: Women in the Kilum-Ijim area are empowered and participate in forest management and community development by 2018**

- a) Counseling
- b) Computer literacy
- c) Workshop , sharing of experience on health and nutrition
- d) Organise workshop on women's right
- e) Leadership trainings for women
- f) Micro credit scheme
- g) Sensitise community on issues of women's right violation
- h) Sensitise women on forest management and eco-business

## **A) CONCLUSION**

Job creation, poverty alleviation, gender equality and environmental protection will stand strong in all CAMGEW activities in 2018. CAMGEW looks forward to achieve these successes in 2018. CAMGEW wishes all her partners, would be partners, collaborators, staff, board members, well-wishers and beneficiaries a successful 2018 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 [www.camgew.org](http://www.camgew.org) or [www.camgew.com](http://www.camgew.com).

### **HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT CAMGEW**

- BUY from CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP in Bamenda. We have available brown honey, Oku White Honey, Bumble bee honey, bees wax, bee suits, smokers, local beehives,
- Volunteer with us in any of CAMGEW project
- Fund any of CAMGEW activities in apiculture, forest regeneration, tree nursery development, peasant women microfinance, child trafficking, gender inequality, counseling, food and nutrition, health training, green value chain development,
- Project conception and development

You could also visit the following links

- [Kilum-Ijim forest apiculture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg)
- [Organic coffee farming in Oku: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHKY15LEuos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHKY15LEuos)
- Short video <http://www.dw.com/en/money-for-forest-honey/a-37473719>
- CAMGEW in other documentaries  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCVVzGDXQmw&t=129s>
- CAMGEW FOREST VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TwdiXGj3zk>
- CAMGEW GENERAL ACTIVITIES VIDEO  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>