

2019 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

2019 has come and gone. It was a challenging year with the socio-political crisis in the Anglophone Region of Cameroon where CAMGEW is based. This crisis played on the work of our organization. CAMGEW learned to work in crisis situation making sure that she contributed to meet globally set Sustainable Development Goals. She developed resilience and also change strategies to meet her set objectives. She worked on developing the Oku Honey Value chain through planting trees for bees through Forest Management Institutions of various Community Forest in Kilum, training of members of Kilum-Ijim Forest Honey Cooperatives on honey production and bees wax extraction and assisted in honey/honey products and materials marketing. She also learned to be innovative and creative by engaging in transformation of honey to honey juice and honey wine and transformation of bees wax to soap, powder soap, candles and lotion. Considering that the Anglophone crisis displaced many people especially youths and women from Kilum-Ijim forest area, CAMGEW had to engage in the improvement of the livelihoods of these people out of forest area. CAMGEW engaged in training them on livelihood opportunities like production of soap, powder soap, fashionable items from recycle materials and entrepreneurship to give them new opportunities for job creation and income generation. They were also supported with start-ups to begin businesses. Forest people who remained home [in forest area] despite the crisis were supported on the spot through trainings and assistance. CAMGEW supported them with food like palm oil for cooking. Children were feed in the CAMGEW Learning Centre in Oku after each activity with them. CAMGEW Learning Centre became a Child-Friendly Space where children in this crisis zone could come to play and learn despite the absence of schools and the presence of crisis. The children learned-by-doing the following: gardening, environmental education and arts and crafts. At the end of activity they learn how to cook and the food they cooked was eaten by everyone before they went home. Women who were part of CAMGEW Peasant Microfinance became disperse because of crisis and those that remained in the forest area together with CAMGEW changed the strategy of working. They could identify their needs as a group like food and basic needs that had become expensive in the community because of the crisis and CAMGEW bought them from Bamenda and send to them when roads were open. The women benefitted from economies of scale and shared goods among themselves to pay while selling some to the community. The community had goods available to them thanks to trained women who were now in groups. The members of the groups got the goods at lower prices compared to local cost. They functioned like cooperatives. The group money has been revolving. CAMGEW continues promoting and reinforcing solidarity in forest people and forest groups as a local insurance. CAMGEW continued with counseling services for women, youths and other community members who were in distress to help them make better decisions that made them better people. Yes, we have continued to change lives and the Kilum-Ijim forest has been protected. CAMGEW has lived with the crisis and has kept the promise by working to meet her set objectives

2020 is another year that is coming and like we worked to tackle the 2019 challenges, CAMGEW remain strong and optimistic that she will continue to better protect the Kilum-Ijim forest and also improve on people's lives.

CAMGEW thank MIVA Switzerland, French IUCN, Future in Our Hands-UK, Swissland Foundation-Switzerland, Bees for Development – UK, UNDP, UNIDO, Future Food Institute, Energy Globe, Equator Prize, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, The Pollination Grant, Critical Endangered Ecosystem Fund –CEPF of Birdlife International, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, SOPISDEW, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry(MINEPIA), Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, etc. We are particularly grateful to Various Councils, Divisional Officers, Village Heads, MINFOF staff, MINEPIA staff, FMIs' members and Oku Honey Cooperatives around Kilum Forest, Women Gender Constituency, Feminist and Women's Action Plan Thematic group, Women for Women International, Women Learning Partnership, Women Engage for a Common Future and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2019

- 108.000 trees nursed in CAMGEW 2 tree nurseries around Kilum-Ijim forest
- 5500 native bee loving trees planted in Kilum-Ijim forest
- 4.433 children, youths and adults received environmental education around Kilum-Ijim forest
- 77 persons [44 men and 33 women] trained on honey production around Kilum-Ijim forest
- 74 persons [42 men and 32 women] trained on bees wax extraction around Kilum-Ijim forest
- 151 local beehives distributed to trained bee farmers as start-up around Kilum-Ijim forest
- 42 women and youths [22 female and 20 males] trained on honey juice and honey wine production to promote transformation of honey and honey products to basic community needs
- 47 women and youths [39 female and 9 males] trained on bees wax soap and bees wax powder soap production to promote transformation of honey and honey products to basic community needs
- 89 women and youths [60 female and 29 males] trained on entrepreneurship in honey value chain development to become entrepreneurs who create jobs and wealth from honey value chain.
- 25 persons [8 women and 17 males] around the Campo-Man National Park trained on apiculture to use to tackle human-elephant conflict
- 20 displace teenage girls by the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon benefit from personal development capacity building on entrepreneurship, fashion design, counseling, self-confidence, hygiene and sanitation and received start-up materials
- 65 women and girls trained on detergent [powder soap and bleach] production
- 18 women trained on the production of body lotion [Vaseline]
- CAMGEW received a number of awards
 - Gender Just Climate Solution Prize in Spain during Climate Change conference
 - UNDP Equator Prize in USA during UN General Assembly
 - UNIDO-ITPO International Award in Rome-Italy
 - National EnergyGlobe Award
 - Guardian Post National Award

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION OF CAMGEW AND PROJECT AREA

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (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's Vision is "A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices". CAMGEW's Mission statement is "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 from 2012 to 2019 planted 80.500 bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest. She has developed 3 tree nurseries with about 100.000 trees. CAMGEW has trained 1.388 bee farmers in honey production, honey and its product quality control and bees wax extraction. She has also distributed above 1.354 beehives to trained bee farmers and organized above 1200 bee farmers into 5 Oku White Honey cooperatives located around this forest. Women were allocated at least 30% and youths at least 30% of the positions to encourage them in apiculture. She created a CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP in Bamenda to convert bee farmers honey to money. The Honey shop sales various honey, bees wax, candles, bee suits, bee smokers, honey wine, honey juice, bees wax soap and powder soap, body lotion, etc. 142 youths and women have been trained on entrepreneurship in honey value chain development. 74 youths and women trained on bees wax soap, powder soap and candle production and 42 youths and women were also trained on honey juice and honey wine production. CAMGEW has succeeded to create 2 Forest multi-stakeholder platforms [one in Oku and another Nso for Bikov] to exchange ideas on forest issues and assist in decision making. The 7 Forest Management Institutions (FMIs) in Kilum forest that manages community forest have been reorganized by CAMGEW and other stakeholders after more than 10 years that their terms of offices ended. 772 farmers have also been trained on agroforestry techniques. As of December 2018, about 1580 women had been trained on business skills and 1325 women received financial assistance in form of loans about US\$ 5500 monthly as alternative sources of livelihood to the forest. This served as forest microfinance for women. 24 teenage boys and girls had been trained on dress making, shoe making and hair dressing. 20 teenage girls have also been trained on recycling plastics and clothing's with African fabric waste to produce jewels, hand bags, belts, etc. More than 1076 women and girls have received counseling to help them make decisions and get out of the social challenges. Where necessary they were supported financially through CAMGEW microfinance scheme to better integrate in the society. 400 women were also enlightened on the right to legalization of marriage and 200 women on the mitigation measures to physical, psychological and economic violence. 78 teenage mothers had their capacity improved on nutrition for mother and child from locally available food stuff and 104 teenage girls trained on safe sex to reduce sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Bushfires reduced from above 7 in 2012 to zero in 2018 and 2019. In 2014, one bushfire alone destroyed more than 1000 hectares of the forest. In 2017, one bushfire occurred and more than 70 community members mainly bee farmers went to forest to tackle and only less than 5 hectares were destroyed. The

more we train community members to become bee farmers, the more bushfire is prevented and managed. No bee farmers want to see his/her beehive burnt so they prevent bushfire and so help in forest protection because APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = MONEY = FOREST CONSERVATION. CAMGEW-Honeyshop becomes a CLIMATE SMARTSHOP because it is an opportunity cost to forgone bushfire that cause climate change. The market for honey must be available to engage communities to protect forest. 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 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 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 sought funds to handle challenges in the Kilum-Ijim area and develop a good system to manage funds.
- CAMGEW will work with like-minded organizations 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.

AWARDS

Gender Just Climate Solutions Award 2019 COP25 Madrid-SPAIN	Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2012 AND 2013 by Teach A Man To Fish – UK
UNDP Equator Prize Award 2019 New York-USA:	Cameroon National Award for Kilum-Ijim Forest Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Development in Oku, 20 MAY 2014.
UNIDO Prize Award May 2019 Rome-Italy on Agrofood and Biodiversity in	World Bank Recognition 2012 for Work done on Kilum-Ijim Forest Governance
Guardian Post National Award 2019 Ebolowa-Cameroon	CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP or NOWEFAM Award by FOMBILLION August 2018.
National Energy Globe Award for 2018 AND 2019	

PROJECT AREA

Kilum-Ijim forest is in North West Region of Cameroon and it is part of Bamenda Highland Montane Forest. The forest produces Oku White Honey- certified as Geographic Indication Product which is cherished nationally and internationally. The forest covers 20.000 hectares with its peak at 3011m and a Crater Lake called Lake Oku at 2500 m altitude. Kilum or Oku Mountain is the second highest mountain in Central and West Africa. It has a rich ecosystem with non-timber forest products like Oku White honey, stingless bee honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants, spices, etc. Oku White Honey is produced by trees like *Nuxia congesta*, *Prunus africana*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Schefflera manni*. Only 2 of these products are certified in Cameroon with the other being the Penja White pepper. Much bees wax is extracted from honey locally and sold without transformation. Kilum-Ijim forest area has a rich culture and is a touristic destination. Carving is highly practiced there.

The Kilum-Ijim forest hosts the first community forests in Cameroon. There are 18 community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest and a Plant Life Sanctuary around the Lake surrounding. The forest is the largest remaining habitat for Bannermans turacco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified by IUCN Redlist as endangered. The major threat to the forest is bushfire which destroy forest biodiversity and beehives which is a source of community livelihood.

Despite the availability of this rich forest with a huge potential to be unblock to benefit its people, the forest people still suffers from unemployment, high poverty, gender inequality and lack of basic facilities. There is lack of inclusiveness in the management and benefits from the forest. Many forest resources exploitation is more masculine.

However, the area around Kilum-Ijim forest is one of the most densely populated in Cameroon: 300,000 people live within less than one walking day from the forests. There is indiscriminate harvesting of forest resources like *Prunus africana* (flagship species) and this has dramatically reduced important tree species populations reducing community income sources. The forest is vulnerable to many threats such as the encroachment, farmer-grazer conflict, deforestation and bushfires that endanger the ecological balance.

The engagement of the community forest management institutions (FMIs) and population in biodiversity protection needs to be guaranteed through conservation actions and livelihood improvement opportunities. The development of beekeeping can reverse the trend by creating new sources of livelihoods for local communities. CAMGEW has been using apiculture as a tool to fight bushfire. She builds capacity building on beekeeping. When community members become bee farmers and own beehives in the forest they prevent bushfire and if bushfire occurs they directly put it off to protect their beehives. CAMGEW supports the bee farmers to improve the quality of their products and organize them into cooperatives to ensure a better sale and thus increase their revenue. CAMGEW also assist them look for a market in urban areas and internationally.

There are 18 community forests in Kilum-Ijim forest with 44 villages.

Community forests in Kilum Forest: Bihkov, Nchiyy, Mbai, Emfvemii, Kedjem mawes, Ijim and Upper shinga

Community forests in Ijim Forest: Juambum, Laikom, Ajung, Yatimuvco, Mbesa, Muteff, Abuh, Mbi, Anyafoma 5, Akeh 1 and Afua/djichami

CHAPTER TWO

FOREST REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

A. TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT 2019

Tree nursery development is a primary feature of CAMGEW's activities in forest regeneration and environmental education. CAMGEW in 2019 developed 2 tree nurseries located in two villages in Oku (Manchok and Mbockenghas). These trees nurseries have about **100.000** native bee loving trees of the Kilum forest. CAMGEW concentrated on native bee loving trees of the Kilum forest to avoid introducing foreign tree species into the forest ecosystem and also to increase bee forage. The trees in the nurseries were labelled with scientific names, local names and their uses. Some of the trees were agroforestry trees like *Maesopsis*, *leucena* and *Tephrosia* that were also nursed to promote sustainable agriculture [agroforestry] around the Kilum-Ijim forest peripheries to increase food production and manage soil erosion. Seeds and seedlings of these trees are often distributed to forest community members to plant in their farms for improved yields, checking erosion, increasing food, and providing timber.

CAMGEW tree nurseries served as:

- learning grounds for children, students and community members on nursery development, types of forest trees, need for forest regeneration, etc
- sites where trees are nursed and seedlings transplanted in the forest

Tree Nurseries types

CAMGEW developed two types of tree nurseries in 2019.

- a. **The bare root tree nursery:** Tiny and numerous seeds like *Maesa lanceolata*, *Pittosporium manii* and croton were difficult to nurse directly on polythene pots. They were nursed on nursery beds and the seedlings transplanted on nursery pots later after germination.
- b. **Potted tree nursery:** Most trees in CAMGEW's nurseries are on polythene bags or pots. Sizeable seeds like Carapas, prunus, Syzygium, and Newtonia seeds were nursed directly on nursery pots.

Tree nursery management:

The soil was enriched with organic manure like fowl, goat and cow droppings and put into polythene bags and on tree nursery beds. This activity was done by community women and assisted by their children and youths. Community women, children and youths learned by doing on nursery development. Over 50, 000 nursery pots were filled in CAMGEW tree nurseries in Mbockenghas and Manchok in 2019. The tree nurseries' fences were reinforced to prevent stray animals like goats, cows and pigs from destroying the trees nursed. The fencing was done with tree slabs and life fence using agroforestry trees like *leucena*, *tephrosia* and *sesbania*. To engage the community to value the tree nursery, nursery/environmental education is done regularly with community children and youths. Community children and youths learned-by-doing to develop and manage tree nurseries. Children learned the various types of trees, their germination processes, their scientific and local names, how to plant potted trees, and their flowering seasons.



Bare root nursery in Mbockenghas

Seed collection: Seeds for tree nursery development were collected from the forest and forest vicinities by children and youths during forest education activities.



Pittosporium manii seeds and croton machrotachyst seeds collected and dried



Community children and youths learning-by-doing in transplanting trees in nursery

Over 400 Community children learned how to develop and manage tree nurseries

Challenges: Trees like schefflera abyssinica, Nuxia congesta and Newtonia Camerunensis did not germinate after planting. Their germination processes are not mastered. The numbers of these trees in the forest are reducing. Birds and animals have been involved in natural regeneration but the animals are disappearing.

Experimental: I extracted some young Schefflera shoots from a matured Schefflera tree with a sharp blade. These little shoots were propagated on polythene pots in the Mbockenghas tree nursery and they germinated to form Schefflera seedlings. I suggest that this experiment be retried elsewhere to confirm if this could be a good way of propagating this tree.-----PondaSaah

Statistics Of Trees Nursed In 2019

S.N	Type of Tree	Tree Nursery	Type of tree	Seedlings Nursed
01	<i>Prunus africana</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	25.000
02	<i>Pittosporium manii</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	20.000
03	<i>Carapas grandifolia</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	10.000
04	<i>Syzygium staundtii</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	15.000
05	<i>Maesa lanceolata</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	20.000
06	<i>Bridelia speciosa</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	9.000
07	<i>Croton Machrotachyst</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	8.000
09	<i>Schefflera abyssinica</i>	Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	500
10	<i>Polysias fulva</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Native forest bee loving tree	500
11	<i>Mysopsis</i>	Mbockenghas	Agroforestry tree	1000
12	<i>Leucena</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Agroforestry tree	10.000
13	<i>Tephrosia</i>	Manchok and Mbockenghas	Agroforestry tree	10.000
	GRAND TOTAL			129.000

B. COMMUNITY TREEPLANTING IN KILUM FOREST

Introduction

Planting of native and bee loving trees in the Kilum forest has a local, national and global interest. These trees fight climate change globally, increase bee forage, water supply and biodiversity. Natural regeneration needs to be assisted with human led regeneration. Forest conservation is important for watershed protection, conservation of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change. From 2012 to 2017 CAMGEW planted 64000 trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest. In 2018, CAMGEW planted 10,957 trees and in 2019 CAMGEW planted 5000 trees in Nchiyy, Mbai and Emfve-Mii community Forests of Kilum Montane Forest. By 2019 ending, about 80.000 trees have been planted in the forest.

Tree planting Activities

CAMGEW from **30th July to 10th August 2019** carried out forest regeneration in the Nchiyy, Mbai, and Emfve mii Community Forests of the Kilum Forest. The tree planting activities involved planning meetings for tree planting exercise, identification of sites for tree planting, slashing of paths for trees to be planted, digging of holes, pegging of the holes, carrying of trees to the forest and tree planting;

Planning Meeting and Site Identification: CAMGEW had planning meetings with the executive members of the various FMIs in their communities. This was to discuss about tree planting exercise. It was agreed that the FMIs and the community will do the planting under the supervision of CAMGEW staff. By **July 15th 2019**, sites for tree planting in all community forest were identified.

Forest Slashing: The paths on which trees were planted were slashed two weeks before the planting. This was done on the **29th and 30th July 2019 in Mbai, August 1st and 2nd 2019 in EmfveMii and on Thursday 8th And Friday 9th August 2019 in Nchiyy**. The exotic plants like Eucalyptus trees and ferns

that impair the proper growth of the planted trees were cleared off or destroyed. Fern plant grew as tall as three meters. The clearing was done to open a small path for tree planting so as to avoid goats from using the paths to eat planted trees. The slashing was done by FMI executives together with forest users, community youths and men.



Community members slashing the paths on which trees were planted

Digging and Pegging of Holes: After the slashing of the paths, holes were dug 5 meters apart and pegged. Trees were later planted in these holes. The pegs help in the identification of paths and the trees for future maintenance. The pegs were made from the exotic Eucalyptus tree.



Pegging of holes using Cutting of the exotic eucalyptus

Uprooting and Transportation of the Trees from the Nursery to the Forest: The trees planted in forest were gotten from CAMGEW's tree nurseries in Mbockenghas and Manchok all in Oku Sub Division. Trees uprooted from the nurseries were carried into the forest by community members.



Transportation of the Trees to the forest on motorbike and by head

PLANTING: Trees of different species were planted in the Nchiiy, Mbai and Emfvemii community forests of the Kilum forest by the by FMIs together with community children, youths, women and men of Kilum forest communities. A participatory approach was used to engage every community member in the

tree planting. The trees planted were bee loving to increase the production of Oku White Honey. These trees are also good for the watershed and serve as a carbon sink. *Newtonia camerunensis* registered in the IUCN Redlist as Critically Endangered tree species was one of the tree species planted. A total of 5000 trees were planted in these community forests by community members who learn-by-doing in the process.



A community elder teaching the child how to plant a potted *Newtonia camerunensis* tree

Statistics of the Trees Planted in 2019

Name Of Community Forest	Date Of Planting	Number Of Participants	Villages Concerned	Number Of Trees Planted
Nchiiy Community Forest	Saturday 10th August 2019	26	Mbokenghas And Tankiy	2,800
Mbai Community Forest	Wednesday 31st July 2019	23	Simonkoh, Ntowel, Lum, Nkwi And Tankiy	1,500
Emfve-Mii Community Forest	Saturday 3rd August 2019	44	Ngvinkei II, Manchok, Elak, Keyon, Lui And Ngashie	1,200
GRAND TOTAL		93		5,500

Statistics of the Tree Species Planted In Kilum Forest in 2019

S/N	Type of Tree	Number of trees Planted	S/N	Type of Tree	Number of trees Planted
01	<i>Newtonia Camerunensis</i>	78	06	<i>Maesa lanceolata</i>	400
02	<i>Prunus africana</i>	1500	07	<i>Bridelia speciosa</i>	500
03	<i>Pittosporium manii</i>	900	08	<i>Croton Machrotachyst</i>	527
04	<i>Carapas grandifolia</i>	700	09	<i>Fig tree</i>	39
05	<i>Syzygium staundtii</i>	800	10	<i>Schefflera abyssinica</i> (by stem propagation)	56
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED		5,500			



The tree planting teams

CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2019 in Kilum-Ijim Forest

Year	Number of trees planted	Funder	Type of tree	Community forest
2012-2017	63633	CAMGEW, World Bank, PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France, MINFOF- (Government) Cameroon, Koning School through Both-ENDS- Netherlands, Future In Our Hands - UK, Plant a Tree in Africa –UK, Rufford Small Grants – UK, New England Biolabs Foundation, Bees for Development - UK	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Community forests of Upper Shingaa, Ijim, Kedjem Mawes, Emfve-Mii, Mbai, Nchiyy, Bihkov, Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin, Mbessa Community Forest,
2018	10955	CAMGEW/ New England Biolabs Foundation, PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Community forests: Upper Shingaa, Ijim, Kedjem Mawes, Emfve-Mii, Mbai, Nchiyy and Bihkov
2019	5500	UNDP/Birdlife through Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund [CEPF]	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Mbai, Emfvemii and Nchiyy Community Forest
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED			80,088	

Environmental Education: In the course of the tree planting, environmental education was done to make forest community members know the importance of the Kilum-Ijim forest and why it is important to protect it. This was aimed building nature lovers. The children and youths learned various native tree species and their specific importance, their roles in climate change mitigation and how to sustain it. In the forest, community members especially youths saw the harm caused in the forest like cutting of fresh trees and the occurrence of bush fires. Youths opted to be forest ambassador by engaging in forest regeneration and apiculture.



Community child in Nchiy says he wants to grow in a green world

Monitoring of the planted trees: The planted trees were monitored and maintained by the Forest Management Institutions' with the supervision of CAMGEW. The trees were weeded and those that did not survive were replaced during planting season. The patrollers of the FMIs and Forest Guards as well as CAMGEW Staff did regular patrols to check on forest health and the health of the planted trees. The forest users like bee farmers, firewood fetchers, rat trappers and herbalists helped CAMGEW in forest monitoring and maintenance as they visit the forest on daily basis. They reported to CAMGEW all successes and challenges they discover in the forest.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL/ FOREST EDUCATION 2019

Introduction

Forest education is a key tool in conservation. This builds children and youths to become nature lovers and help adults to change their negative behaviour towards the forest. Kilum-Ijim forest and all forest of the world could be preserved if forest education remains an integral part of conservation. A major reason why environmental problems persist is due to the lack of awareness about the role of the forest. The Kilum-Ijim forest suffers from bushfire [caused by slash-and-burn around forest peripheries, poor method of honey harvesting and cigarette smokers in forest], the presence of domestic animals in the forest, illegal and sometimes 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 the forest, 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. 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.

Objectives of Forest Education: The objective of the Environmental Education is to see a society free from unsustainable environmental practices. This is to inspire the Forest Users, women, children at home and/or schools and youths around the Kilum-Ijim to become lovers of nature. CAMGEW instill in children and youths the love for nature and make adults change negative behaviours towards the forest.

Methodology: Environmental education is a regular feature of CAMGEW's activities. CAMGEW organized environmental education sessions with community members, forest users' groups, children and

youths around the Kilum-Ijim Forest. This is done through theoretical and practical lessons and field visits. It is done in class, tree nursery, forest, social and cultural gatherings, radio, social media and also during various trainings. This is also mainstreamed into bee farming, agroforestry, women microfinance and tree planting trainings. Forest education is also done during forest regeneration processes like planning, slashing, transportation, planting, crowning ceremony and monitoring.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITY IN 2019

KILUM FOREST DAY IN OKU – 2019: CAMGEW organized the Kilum forest day celebration in 2019 under a project titled “*Citizen Engagement in the Conservation of Kilum Mountain Forest*”. Many interesting activities were organized and they attracted community members. The events organized in Bamenda and Oku had the following reasons:

- To serve as an opportunity for environmental education
- To engage the population in sustainable environmental practices like bee farming, tree nursery development, agro forestry techniques and reforestation
- To serve as a forum for sharing experiences and defining pertinent strategies towards the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim forest.

The activities that marked the celebration of the Kilum Forest Day in Oku included children forest competitions and collective Games like Handball competition and Football competition

Collective Games: CAMGEW organized games amongst Kilum forest communities. The games organized were Football and Handball competitions in the Mbockenghas and Simonkoh play grounds of Nchiyy and Mbai community forests. During these games, community members were made to know the benefits of living in a healthy environment and the dangers of unsustainable environmental practices like bushfires, deforestation, land, and water and air pollution. Community members present at the game learned about the importance of Kilum-Ijim forest and the best environmental practices. Environmental sensitization was done by CAMGEW staff *LANGJI Ponda SAAH*. This attracted many villages and CAMGEW could see the spirit of solidarity reign among communities. Every community wanted to present the best and win the community. CAMGEW message was clear, that more community members engage in forest conservation to benefit from ecosystem services, jobs and income opportunities.



CAMGEW staff talks to game participants about the importance of Kilum-Ijim forest and how to protect it



CAMGEW staff with the football and handball teams on the day of the finals

The finals of this competition were played in Mbockenghas playgrounds on Sunday **26th May 2019**. The contesting teams were *Mbockenghas Football Club* and the *Simonkoh Young Stars* for football, and *Elegant Filles* and *Ebdzeetang Girls* for Hand ball. First and second prices were awarded to the best two teams in each competition. The prices were handed by CAMGEW team and forest users' representatives.

KILUM FOREST DAY CELEBRATION IN BAMENDA: The day was named “Kilum-Ijim Forest Demonstration and Experience Sharing Day”. CAMGEW brought students, organizations, entrepreneurs, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry [MINEPIA] Bamenda III, CAMGEW friends, and CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP customers together to participate in the Kilum Forest Day celebration in Bamenda on Saturday 27 April 2019. The event was organized to demonstrate the various livelihood opportunities available in the Kilum-Ijim forest area that can create jobs and income. This had as objective to show why we must keep the Kilum-Ijim forest alive. CAMGEW made participants understood the importance of conserving the forest. There was demonstrations of agroforestry plants of different types and uses by National Development Foundation (NDEF Cameroon) that were good alternative livelihood sources to the forest, Beehive construction was done by Bikov Community Forest member [bee farmer] of Kilum, Herbal medicine by Vally and You, use of barks of trees for various purposes and also demonstration on Honey Harvesting by a member of Nchiiy Community forest of Kilum. We had presentation of various honey and honey products by CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP [NOWEFAM]. This was done to present opportunities in the forest and alternative activities to the forest that can create income and jobs. Presentation and serving of coffee was available too from Sun Rise Enterprise. Participants were served with coffee as another livelihood activity. The CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP also serves as a resource centre and many participants learned much about apiculture and nature conservation. We had demonstrations with explanations that led to question and answer session for sharing experiences and defining pertinent strategies towards the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim forest. A participatory approach was used. It was a great event with more than 150 persons who either came to learn, see and/or buy the various demonstrated items. Many participants followed the event to the end. We could see exchange of contacts among participants and many participants came closer to CAMGEW asking either to get more information, training and consultancy services.



Presentation of various forest livelihood activities



Presentation of agroforestry trees as livelihood activities

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITH CHILDREN IN CAMGEW LEARNING CENTRE:

CAMGEW field staff organized weekly Environmental Education sessions in CAMGEW Learning Centre with community children. During such sessions, children were offered Environmental lessons accompanied by questions and answers. The lessons were made practical to attract children and increase their understanding.

Environmental education lessons were developed on the following topics: *leaves, roots, birds, trees, seeds, forest animals, soils, insects, global warming, climate change, droughts, pollution etc.* These topics were simplified with teaching aids for children understanding.



Children learning about types forest leaves and their trees



Children learning about types forest leaves and their trees

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION VISITS TO CULTURAL PLATFORMS (“Mahjong” Houses):

Manjong houses are men’s clubs which are cultural gatherings where community men meet on a weekly basis to entertain themselves and to discuss issues related to the development of their communities. Community men going to attend this club are often dressed in traditional regalia and hats. It is a means through which traditional authorities pass their messages to the population through community men. Messages passed through these houses are conveyed to the population who place much value to them. CAMGEW found out that engaging the men of these manjong houses in conservation discussions was a means to reach out to a larger audience. CAMGEW staff PondaSaah and Sebastien Berinyuy visited the Manjong gatherings in *Manchok, Mbockenghas and Elak-Oku* on the *3rd March 2019, 14th May 2019 and 16th June 2019* respectively. In these gatherings, they preached on the importance of the Kilum forest and how to preserve the forest. CAMGEW called on the Manjong/Tradition authorities to use their powers to stop the destruction of the Kilum forest by some of the community members.



Manjong leaders with CAMGEW staff in front of the Manjong house in Mbockenghas



Mahjong leaders with CAMGEW staff in the Elak Mahjong gathering

Each of these visits ended with the drinking of palm wine by all men present, singing and dancing of vocal/traditional music produced by striking of “mahjong machetes” together and hitting of local drums made of wood and animal skin. Traditional leaders in these gatherings appreciated CAMGEW’s endeavors in the conservation of the Kilum forest. They said that the forest is the core of all their traditional engagements and they will do everything possible to join hands with CAMGEW to conserve it for posterity.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DURING TREE PLANTING EVENTS: During forest regeneration processes [planning, slashing, transportation, planting, crowning ceremony and monitoring], CAMGEW sensitised the community members involved in the activity to become lovers of nature by promoting good forest practices- Most of the community members involved in regeneration were forest users like bee farmers.



Environmental Education during Tree Planting

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 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 preached on forest importance to the public. When bee farmers own beehives in the forest they do not burn the forest. They turn to be forest ambassadors. They fight bushfire and carries out sensitisation to prevent its occurrence.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CAMGEW TREE NURSERIES: Theoretical and practical lessons were taught to community youths and children on nursery development and tree planting. These lessons involved lessons on fencing, filling of pots, enriching soil with manure, watering and shading.



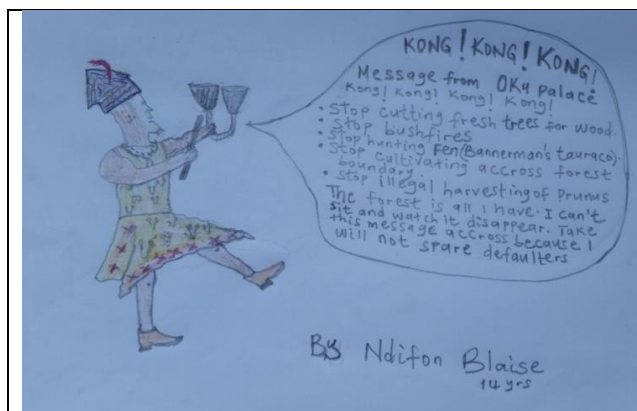
Environmental Talks in CAMGEW Nurseries

FOREST VISITS WITH COMMUNITY YOUTHS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN: During forest visits, CAMGEW sensitise community members about forest trees and their germination processes, forest ecology (relations between plants, animals, soils, litter etc.), forest canopy, the importance of forest to man and nature and the presence of beehives, honey production processes, bee colonies and other social insects.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITH COMMUNITY CHILDREN: This was done through the development and presentation of environmental poems, rhymes, conversations, illustrations, quotes, short essays and lyrics of environmental songs by community children and youths around the Kilum forest. CAMGEW staff did environmental education with community children and youths. This built a world of nature lovers. These trained children have been advocating for a society free from unsustainable environmental practices like deforestation, bush fires and pollution of land, air and water bodies. With inspiration from CAMGEW, many of these children and youths around the Kilum Forest developed environmental poems, rhymes, conversations, illustrations, quotes, short essays and lyrics of environmental songs. These articles demonstrated that community children and youths understood the importance of their forest, the reason to conserve it and the activities that they could carry out that were forest friendly and livelihood improving. CAMGEW compiled these articles into a booklet while maintaining the originality of the writings of the children. The booklet is now an Environmental education tool with the work of community children. The booklet shows the beauty of nature and the benefits of living in a healthy environment. It also summarizes the Forest/Environmental problems cause by man and shows how man suffers from these problems.

The messages the children passed out through produced articles can be summarized in a few words *“Refrain from unsustainable environmental practices like deforestation and pollution, its effects are evil and devastating and fall back on man”*

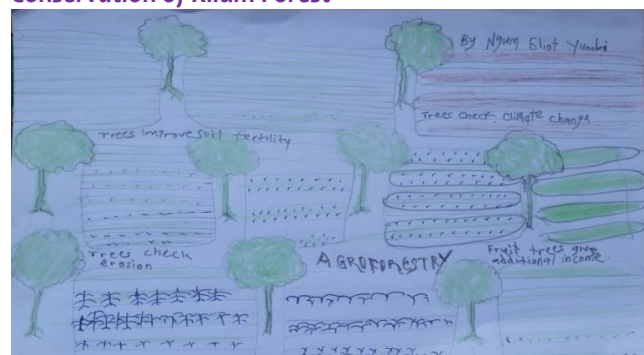
Some of the authors of these writings were invited and given the chance to present their poems in occasions organized by CAMGEW during The Kilum Forest Day in Oku. 10 best write-ups were selected and the authors awarded prizes by CAMGEW. Below are some of the paintings and a poem developed by community children;



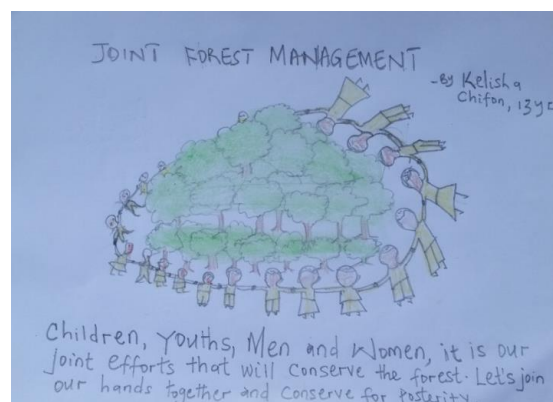
An illustration of the Role of the Tradition in the Conservation of Kilum Forest



An illustration of forest problems



An Illustration of Agro Forestry: Integration of Trees in Farms



Joint Kilum Forest Management

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN BAMENDA

1-Plastic Reuse for gardening: Considering that plastics caused much harm to the environment, CAMGEW team decided to recycle plastics like waste buckets and tires by filling them with soil and planted flowers and medicinal plants in front of CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP [learning, marketing and demonstration centre]. This was to serve as practical demonstration and learning centre for community members and visitors to the Honeyshop. This was done by Soh Eric, Fonyuy Kizito and Sevidzem Emmaculate.



Planting flowers in front NOWEFAM (honeyshop)

Environmental lessons with children in Bamenda: Environmental education was organized for children in New-Layout quarter, Bamenda. CAMGEW has been doing environmental education around Kilum-Ijim forest area for the past years. She discovered that it is also important to extend the activity to cities like Bamenda. Due to the socio-political crisis hitting the English Speaking Regions of Cameroon many families have been displaced from Kilum-Ijim forest area to towns like Bamenda where the situation seems better than the villages. The children were trained to be nature lovers. CAMGEW did 3 sessions of environmental education with children from Kilum-Ijim forest and other children residing in New Layout quarter, Bamenda. The children learned about effects of water pollution, importance of trees to the environment and plastic pollution. They learned how to add value to plastics waste in our environment. 33 children benefited from these lessons in Bamenda.



Environmental education with children

CIRCULARS, BROCHURES, CALENDARS AND SIGNBOARDS: CAMGEW developed Circulars, brochures, calendars and sign boards for Kilum-Ijim forest sensitisation. These items were distributed for awareness raising. Signboards have been placed on the various entrances into the forest and public areas.



Sign boards intended to caution defaulters

SOCIAL MEDIA: CAMGEW has also up dated its website for a wider community and public to benefit from CAMGEW activities in environmental protection, apiculture, forest education and forest regeneration. CAMGEW Facebook, Whatsapp, LinkedIn and YouTube have also been used for wider community sensitisation.

STATISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2019

S/N	ACTIVITY	VILLAGES CONCERNED	PEOPLE SENSITISED
01	Sensitization through collective games(Football and handball)	Simonkoh, Mbockenghas, Tadu, Tankiy, Chiangka, Shuukov	3000
02	Learning events in CAMGEW learning centre	Manchok	400
03	Sensitization visits to cultural platforms (mahjong houses)	Manchok, Elak And Mbockenghas	323
04	Sensitization during forest visits/tree planting/fire tracing	Mbockenghas, Ngvuikei II, Simonkoh, Nkfui, Vekovi, Tashem, Wvem Kai, Faahkui	102+61+13= 176
05	Sensitization during bee farming trainings (bee colony management and wax extraction)	Nkfui, Ngashie, Elak, Manchok, Lui, Keyon, Fekeng, Mbam, Bow, Ngvuikei II,	152+149=301
06	Sensitization: nursery development events	Mbockenghas And Manchok	200
07	Environmental education in Bamenda	Bamenda – New Layout	33
	GRAND TOTAL		4,433

FIRE INTERVENTION MECHANISM

To prevent and manage bushfires, fire intervention teams were set up in each FMI. They were responsible for checking the activities carried out by boundary line farmers and forest users. Should bushfire occurs they alerted other community member to come to extinguish the fire once it occurs. CAMGEW also engaged in fire tracing during the dry season in the Months of November and December 2019. Community members of various community forests in Kilum have been engaged in fire lining and this has helped to prevent bushfires.

2019 FOREST PATROLS AND MONITORING

There was continuous monitoring of the Kilum forest to check against forest degradation in 2019. These patrols were done by the CAMGEW staff, the FMIs and the Forest Users Groups of various communities. The patrols were done in the forest and around forest peripheries. A harmonious relationship between plants, animals and man is responsible for a balanced ecosystem. Forest users like bee farmers, herbalist, rat trappers and firewood fetchers visit the forest on daily basis and so help CAMGEW know the state of the forest and planted trees. CAMGEW works with them to maintain planted trees. CAMGEW consult them too to get their proposed solutions to problems that affect the forest. The Forest Management Institutions [FMIs] made up of elected community members also manage the Kilum Community forest. They assist in patrols and forest monitoring. CAMGEW team makes patrols in and around the forest on a weekly basis to check against forest problems. This at times is done together with patrollers of the FMIs. Defaulters of forestry laws are often identified and brought for justice in the competent authorities or to the Forest Stakeholder Platform. Individuals who are lovers of nature also join the forestry administration to check against illicit acts in the forest. No bush fire incident was recorded in 2019. It is thanks to patrolling and cautioning of individuals that the rate of forest degradation in and around the Kilum forest has reduced. Illegal exploitation of *Prunus africana*, over hunting, deforestation, bushfires, encroachment into forest land, etc has been under control due to the regular forest monitoring put in place by forest stakeholders.



CAMGEW staff checks on planted trees of 2013

STRENGTHENING THE FOREST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS [FMIS]

Community Forest management is vital for the wellbeing of the forest and in the improvement of livelihoods of the community members. A sustainably managed forest will ensure that the community members benefit directly and indirectly from their forest. CAMGEW in its vision for a sustainably managed Kilum-Ijim Forest through its project titled “Citizen Engagement in the Conservation of Kilum Mountain Forest” reorganised and empowered the executive members of the seven Community Forests of the Kilum forest. CAMGEW has been playing a vital role in the strengthening of the newly restructured forest management institutions of the Kilum forest. She did the following in 2019:

- CAMGEW has been continuously building the capacity of persons elected into the various positions of the various FMIs.
- CAMGEW initiated ***Forest Platform Meetings*** which are attended by all the FMI executive members and were held monthly. During these meetings, CAMGEW staff share experiences with participants on ***Organisational Development, Project Conception, Development and Execution, Conflict Management, Financial Management etc. The meetings hold once monthly bringing forest stakeholders together.***
- CAMGEW from time to time organised *Bee Farming Trainings* for the FMIs and their communities to engage them in apiculture. Bee farming is a lucrative activity around the Kilum forest and is an indirect conservation strategy. Bee farmers
- CAMGEW supported the FMIs in July 2018 with over 10,957 trees and in 2019 with **5000** trees which were planted in the Kilum forest. The cost of planting and monitoring of these trees was also covered by CAMGEW.
- To give room for ideas and proposals which can help the FMIs function better, CAMGEW supported the FMIs with *10 Suggestion Boxes and Notice Boards. The suggestion boxes were aimed at collecting community comments about the forest.*
- CAMGEW is continuously seeking for sources of funding to better address problems of these community forests as well as improve on the livelihoods of forest people.



CAMGEW produced and shared suggestion boxes to various communities to promote community participation in Kilum forest conservation

EXCHANGE VISIT BETWEEN FORESTS MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS OF KILUM FOREST

CAMGEW initiated and facilitated the exchange visit between Bikov, Nchiy and Mbai Community forest. Bikov Community forest hosted the other 2 community forest to share their experience with them. The management of the Bikov community forest has been very effective and experienced since its creation in 1999. The newly elected members of the Nchiy and Mbai Community Forests Management Institutions saw the need for an exchange visit with the Bikov FMI. This meeting served as a platform for the sharing of experiences in the management of the forest. 36 participants from the various FMIs were present in the meeting. Christopher Ngoran-The Delegate for the Bihkov FMI said the work is full of sacrifice and passion because it's not for pay while sharing experience. He listed the activities they carry out annually which included the following: *Nursery development, Tree planting, Patrolling, Fire tracing and "back burning, Removal of the exotic eucalyptus trees and forest education.* To realise all the above activities, he shared that they hold monthly meetings to discuss about forest issues and the way forward. The Bikov Community meet every 17th day of the month at their FMI building at Tashem. They had developed a small saving/credit scheme to create a bond between members of the institution and all villages that make up their FMI..



Group picture taken by participants during platform meeting in Bikov FMI

Langji Ponda Saah- the Forest Management Officer for the Nchiy Community Forest thanked the Bihkov FMI for their collaboration. He said a problem in any Community Forest is a problem to all the Community Forests. He further said the meeting is the starting point for the Forest Management Institutions and CAMGEW to work together to bring forth initiatives that will better protect the Kilum forest. He elaborated on the fact that the FMIs have to be proactive and work as a team.

CHAPTER THREE

HONEY VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

CAMGEW in 2012 while working in Kilum-Ijim forests discovered that there were many bushfires occurring yearly in the forest that destroyed biodiversity. In 2012, there were above 7 bushfires that destroyed huge portions of the forest with little community concern. CAMGEW since 2012 tackled bushfire using apiculture. CAMGEW discovered that apiculture could create jobs, raise community income and protect forest. She also discovered that when forest people own beehives in forest they no longer burn the forest and if bushfire occur in the forest they will put it off to their beehives and this helps protect forest. CAMGEW then engaged in training communities on apiculture and provided them with beehives as starter. Many found it lucrative and increased their beehives pulling more persons. When honey production increased a market was needed. The honey produced had poor quality because of lack skills and materials and there was no market. Honey quality and quantity determines the market. Community members were poor and unemployed and apiculture was now a source of hope. CAMGEW now found a way to protect the forest through community engagement. She needed a market for their products to save the forest and improve community livelihoods. Conservation without community livelihood improvement is a sham and so there was need to balance the marketing and conservation equation. CAMGEW then organized the bee farmers to cooperatives. The cooperatives received material, technical and financial support. The cooperative leaders were trained on management, governance and leadership. This organisation increased community trust, solidarity and peace. CAMGEW then created the CAMGEW-Honeyshop to help in marketing their products and also serve as a resource centre. Bushfires have reduced to zero in 2018 and 2019. In 2017, there was one bushfire in Nchiy forest of Kilum that occurred and more than 70 bee farmers acted promptly to stop the fire before it caused harm. CAMGEW had to get into honey value chain development engaging youths and women in honey and bees wax transformation.

CAMGEW did trainings in the following:

- Training on honey production
- Training on bees wax extraction
- trainings on honey harvesting and post honey handling and processing
- trainings on honey packaging and commercialization
- trainings on honey juice and honey wine production
- trainings on production of detergents[soap and powder soap], candles and body lotion from honey and bees wax
- creation of a honeyshop to assist bee farmers in the commercialization and publicizing of their produce and emphasizing on the improvement of the quality of the honey produced by the farmers

BEE FARMING TRAININGS 2019

CAMGEW in 2019 trained Kilum-Ijim forest community members in bee farming on honey production. These trainings were gender inclusive. This was done in partnership with Oku Honey Cooperative Society. CAMGEW also shared her experience in apiculture with other communities through exchange visits. CAMGEW trained on honey and bees wax transformation to community basic needs and supported trained persons to start their various businesses. Honey was transformed to honey juice and wine and bees wax was transformed to soap, powder soap, Vaseline and candles. Trainings were organized to build entrepreneurs in these sectors. CAMGEW assisted farmers and trained entrepreneurs to sale their honey, honey products and transformed products from honey and bees wax through CAMGEW-Honeyshop - North West Bee Farmers Messenger [NOWEFAM]. CAMGEW was concern about honey and bees wax quality and so she organized trainings for bee farmers and entrepreneurs on honey quality control.

Trained person in apiculture respecting gender and beehives donated

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER/YEAR																
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL
Gender	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	
Bee farming trainings	167	31	98	17	95	17	225	59	0	0	86	26	158	25	44	33	1081
Bees wax training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	21	43	4	51	9	42	32	318
Beehives donated	200		262		105		225		0		120		238		151		1101
M = Men		W = Women															

Methodology/Approaches Used During Trainings In 2019

- To engage everyone in bee farming, the young and the old, the male and the female invited for the trainings-. Many people around the Kilum forest had considered bee farming as a masculine activity meant for the elderly. Women and youths were encouraged during sensitization to get involved. Women make up the large portion of the population. CAMGEW promoted ‘family bee farming’ in the process.
- The languages used by CAMGEW and her partners in the training were determine by participants. The languages used were Oku, Lamnso, Kom, Pidgin English and sometimes English.
- 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 honey handling were taught on day one in class.
- To motivate participants and to easily integrate them into the activity, each participant was supported with start-ups..
- Practical work was done on day 2. During practical lessons, two methods are often demonstrated.
- The practical and theoretical lessons involved the use of bee suits, modern smokers, moss herb, honey drainers in honey production. Charts, bold pictures, videos, training manuals, pens and booklets, honey, beeswax, and calendars. ***Questioning, Illustration/Demonstration and Answering** was thus, the main methodologies used to ensure better understanding by the participants.*
- It was more pragmatic as everyone had the opportunity to learn-by-doing.

a. TRAINING ON HONEY PRODUCTION

The training on honey production involved hive construction, colonization, colony management, honey harvesting and honey handling. In 2019, five training sessions were organized for bee farmers around the Kilum forest on honey production. These trainings saw the participation of over 152 youths, women and men who came from the different villages of Oku. The trainings were held at the Oku Honey Cooperative Society building in Elak Oku. CAMGEW promoted the traditional hollow beehives because traditional hollow are convenient around KilumIjim forest. The materials for this beehive construction are locally available, cheap and construction technique can easily be learned. The beehive materials included dry bamboos, small cypress stems for the rings, dry grass and fresh bamboo for tying ropes. The topics discussed during training included: how to prepare construction materials, bee keeping calendar, beehive colonization and bee colony management, harvesting techniques and tools, processing procedures, labeling-packaging-distribution, maintaining the quality of honey and the dangers of contamination of honey.



Community Women Learning By Doing



Hives Produced By Four Groups during Training



Some Group Pictures Taken By Participants



Group pictures taken by the end of training



Woman join husbands in bee farming after training

2019 CAMGEW Bee Farming Trainings on Honey Production

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MALES	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	MATERIALS DONATED
BEE FARMING TRAININGS ON HONEY PRODUCTION	5TH-6 TH November 2019	Oku	22	10	12	13	1 beehive and training manual per participant
	7th-8 TH November 2019	Oku	23	13	10	8	
	26th-27 TH November 2019	Oku	32	10	22	18	
	TOTAL		77	33	44	39	

b. TRAINING ON WAX PRODUCTION

Practicing bee framers were trained on bees wax extraction techniques. This was done to create a source of income and jobs for forest communities. Bees wax is the creamy coloured substance used by bees to make honey combs. Most of the bee farmers around the Kilum-Ijim forest never had skills to extract bees wax as honey product. The honey chaffs were wasted after honey was drained. Gaining skills on bees wax extraction enabled them extract bees wax which gave additional income.

The training objectives were to;

- Provide bee farmers in the Kilum-Ijim forest zone with skills and techniques on quality bee wax extraction (free from smoke)

- Promote the extraction of clean bees wax using a low cost method.
- Allow experience bee farmers to share knowledge with other bee farmers through swapping.
- Help bee farmers understand the use of bee wax

The bee farmers were learn-by-doing to make good quality wax.

BEE WAX EXTRACTION FROM HONEY CHAFFS:

Participants learned that there exist many methods of extracting bees wax. These included the Solar Wax Extraction method, the Hot Water Bath Extraction, the Metal Foil Extraction method and the Double Boiler Method. Two methods of bees wax extraction were demonstrated during training to produce good quality wax. These methods were easy to use around Kilum-Ijim forest. They were applicable locally.

The 2 methods were the Double Boiler Method and Hot Water Bath Method-Participants learned the following:



Participants in bees wax training

Each participant who attended the wax extraction training received a 5litre of oil and a bee hive to motivate them engage in bee farming.



Bees wax extracted from both methods during training.

2019 CAMGEW Bees wax Extraction Training

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MALES	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	MATERIALS DONATED
BEES WAX EXTRACTION TRAINING	14-15 November 2019	Elak-Oku	41	22	19	15	1 beehive and training manual per participant
	28-29 November 2019	Elak-Oku	33	20	13		
	TOTAL		74	42	32	39	

Uses of Bees Wax

- 1. Food:** Making cheese, common ingredient of natural chewing gum and glazing agent to prevent the water loss from some fruits and foods.
- 2. Cosmetics:** Use to produce skin care cosmetics like lip balm, lip gloss, hand creams and moisturizers, hair pomades, moustache stimulant etc; used in making candles and in making furniture and shoe polish.
- 3. Pharmaceuticals:** Used in surgical bone repair to control bleeding; in making adhesives and In Oku, it is used by the various elderly people's groups to produce an anesthetic that relief pain.

A. Transformation Of Honey And Beeswax (UNDP ERM SGF PROJECT)

CAMGEW engaged in the transformation of honey and bees wax from Kilum-Ijim forest. This was done to help create jobs, income, build local industry and meet community basic needs. CAMGEW did capacity building in these domain targeting youths and women. The more we engaged community members in apiculture and developed the honey value chain the more the honey is produced by bee farmers and the more this honey is converted to money and the more forest is protected. Bushfire which is the major threat to the forest become a community problem that is tackle in solidarity. The community saw the need to remain engaging in bushfire prevention and management to protect their beehives. This created more jobs from the honey value chain. Honey was available to produce honey juice and honey wine. This in 2019 brought people together and promoted solidarity as local insurance. Bees wax was converted to soap, powder soap, candle [for lighting for children studies] and lotion. These items were needed locally and supported the development of local industries. The trained persons on transformation are also trained to be entrepreneurs [creative and innovative in business development] for job creation, service provision and income generation. This made this statement right *APICULTURE = JOBS = HONEY = BASIC NEEDS = MONEY = FOREST CONSERVATION*.

Transformation of honey to Honey juice and Honey wine: This training was carried out in the month of October 2019 in partnership with Belo Rural Development Agency (BERUDA) did the practical training. Participants learned about health benefits of honey and the characteristics of good honey. In a participatory approach medicinal plants were identified that could be used in producing honey juice/wine. At the end of the training participants consumed the produced honey juice with happiness. The first training was carried out on the 16th and 17th October 2019 with 16 Participants. This was start-up materials.

Persons Trained on Honey Juice, Honey Wine and Beeswax Candle

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	NUMBER OF PERSONS	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MALES	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	MATERIALS DONATED
2 DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON HONEY JUICE AND HONEY WINE	16 – 17 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	16	7	9	7	3.5 Litres of honey plus training manual per participant
	23 – 24 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	26	15	11	17	
	TOTAL		42	22	20	24	



Participants trained on Honey Juice and Honey wine production



Yah Ernesta from Manchok village -Oku of Kilum forest receive Honey as start-up material for honey juice and wine production

TRANSFORMATION OF BEESWAX TO SOAP, POWDER SOAP AND CANDLES:

Beeswax transformation training targeted women and youths from Kilum-Ijim forest area. Participants were trained on how to use bees wax to produce soap, powder soap and candle. It was amazing to see the collaboration of these trainees to transform bees wax to locally useful products. Inquisitive enough most of them asked what inspired CAMGEW to empower community members into to what they describe “...a life changing venture”. Aishatou Adamou an indigenous Mbororo female participant displaced from the Kilum-Ijim forest community of Shukov in Nso by Anglophone crisis told CAMGEW team that she had never thought that soap, powder soap and other detergents could be produced just with ingredients and equipment found in their community. She said these skills will enable her raise income for herself, train other women and girls and change the lives of many Mbororo women in her community. NGAH Brendaline SUIKA from the Nso forest community of Vekovi told the participants that her husband is a bee farmer, but she never supported him during beeswax extraction thinking that beeswax could not help people locally. She said her love for apiculture has increased as she can actively transformed beeswax to soap, powder soap and candles. CAMGEW partnered with Bello Rural Development Association (BERUDA) to carry out this training.

Persons Trained on Soap and Powder Soap

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MALES	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	MATERIALS DONATED
2 DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SOAP and POWDER SOAP	16 – 17 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	22	16	6	17	1.5 Kg of bees wax and 5 Litres of Kernel oil plus training manual per participant
	23 – 24 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	25	22	3	22	
	TOTAL		47	38	9	39	



Bees wax Soap and powder soap production during training workshop



Tatah Solange from Oku receives start-up material for bees wax soap and powder soap production

Elisabeth Nayan from Vekovi receives start-up material for bees wax soap and powder soap production

Production of Beeswax Candles: Candles are used locally in many ways: for lighting, during happy events such as Christian baptism, during prayers, during Easter and in challenging moments such as during funerals. Most importantly candles are used as alternatives to electricity to get light during dark.

This is an alternative for lighting used by children to study. 89 people were trained on production of beeswax candles. The ingredients and equipment are locally available as affordable. During this training, participants were encouraged to be creative in identifying their candle molds from resources around them like recycling plastic bottles, cups, water pipes, Indian bamboo and so on. This session was exciting and educative.

Bees wax candle Training

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TOTAL PERSONS	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF MALES	NUMBER OF YOUTHS
2 DAY TRAINING ON BEES WAX CANDLE PRODUCTION	16 – 17 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	38	23	15	24
	23 – 24 OCTOBER 2019	BAMENDA	51	37	14	39
	TOTAL		89	60	29	63



Training on bees wax candle production

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 CAMGEW-Honeyshop is still called North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM). CAMGEW-NOWEFAM buys honey from created cooperatives and trained bee farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest to sell in Bamenda. CAMGEW believes that the conservation of Kilum-Ijim forest can be sustained when livelihoods of forest communities are improved. Things sold in the Honey Shop include the Oku White Honey, Brown Honey, stingless bee honey, bees wax, bees wax soap, bee suits, bee smokers, local beehives, wood crafts, etc.

To make the HoneyShop function well, CAMGEW engaged in honey packaging to different quantities. CAMGEW also bought and sold different types of honey (stingless bee honey, brown honey and Oku White Honey). CAMGEW engaged in the selling of bee suits, smokers, bees wax, craft, etc to increase access to quality bee farming materials/equipment to bee farmers. CAMGEW got training resource materials from Bees for Development and these resources are used in the Honeyshop to inform and educate the population that visit the honeyshop on the importance of honey, bees and the forest to man and nature. The Honeyshop is now a resource centre for all visitors and for those who want to learn more on bee farming.

CAMGEW and the search for honey market: CAMGEW during this period worked to secure honey in a large quantity to cover the 2018 and 2019 year. To improve honey sells at the Honeyshop, CAMGEW has been doing publicity about the honeyshop and its products. She now sale honey in Douala, Yaoundé, Dschang, Kumba and these buyers do retail. CAMGEW has continues to search for a market for bees wax both locally and internationally. The Honeyshop showed signs of break-even in 2019. We hope to buy too a good quantity of Oku White Honey this 2020. The honeyshop is the opportunity cost for bushfire prevented or managed by bee farmers. We have to keep on buying and selling their honey to protect forest.

THE REGIONAL AGRO-PASTORAL SHOW

CAMGEW-NOWEFAM participated in the Regional Agro-Pastoral Show in Bamenda between 19th and 20th December 2019. The Agro-Pastoral Show is a yearly activity organized by the Cameroon Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In 2019, it was organized under the patronage of the Governor of the North West Region H. E Adolf Lele Lafrique. This activity helps local farmers and related enterprises to showcase their agricultural products to the public. Participants came from all the 7 Divisions of the North West Region. It was an opportunity for NOWEFAM to market her products, share experience in apiculture with other institutions and farmers and also do publicity. Above 400 persons visited NOWEFAM stand. More than 4000 persons participated.



Figure 6 CAMGEW exhibition table during the show



Sharing knowledge with participants of the show about CAMGEW honey, honey product and bee farming equipment

CAPACITY BUILDING ON HONEY VALUE CHAIN

CAMGEW benefited from a number of trainings to improve on the Honeyshop and train more young people and women in the honey value chain development. CAMGEW received the following trainings:

- **Capacity building on Packaging, Labelling and Marketing Strategies for Honey:** CAMGEW Honeyshop (NOWEFAM) staffs received training on honey packaging, labelling and marketing strategies for honey. It was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel, Sevidzem Ernestine, Soh Eric and Berinyuy Emmaculate. **During this training we agreed on packaging and storage containers to be purchased.**
- Capacity building on **Labels and visibility materials for the honeyshop.** CAMGEW team learned how to produce labels of various sizes for Honeyshop products. Flyers, posters, roll-ups and banners on health benefits of honey, about bees and forest were also produced. CAMGEW team also learn how to diversify her products and this led to development of new products like beeswax soap, beeswax powder soap, beeswax candles, honey wine, beeswax Vaseline, turmeric powder, ginger powder, cinnamon, cocoa powder, castor oil and various medicinal teas for pile, prostrate and typhoid. These added products are consumed with honey.
- CAMGEW team plus Honeyshop keeper also received practical lessons on honey quality
- Sevidzem Ernestine received training from Azah Delphine on transformation of beeswax to soap and powder soap. This training that lasted for 6hours looked at the benefits of beeswax in detergents and body lotion, safety tips in home production and the use of locally available ingredients. At the end of the training, 54 cubes of soap were produced and 5litres powder soap was produced.

CAMGEW USED APICULTURE TO TACKLE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT AROUND THE CAMPO-MAN NATIONAL PARK - SOUTH REGION

CAMGEW with support from Agricultural and Bio-conservation Organization for Youth Empowerment and Rural Development (ABOYERD) did a 3 day capacity building training workshop from July 1-3, 2019 for forest people living around the CAMPO-Man Park. This training was done to help end Human-Elephant conflict. Elephants do not like bees and training local people to engage in apiculture was another way of tackling human elephant conflicts. Apiculture is a source of livelihood. 25 community members from CAMPO-Man Park surrounding villages were trained and supported with apiculture equipment. 13 beehives were constructed by participants and trainers in a process of learning-by-doing. The beehives were constructed using different local materials available locally like alpine bamboo and raphia bamboos, rattan, etc. The community engagement was strong as they worked as a team. Members were divided in groups to install 4 beehives in the forest with supervision. Community members said they had all the local materials to engage in bee farming and the technique was simple. We left when all community members promised us to produce at least 250 beehives within four months. One thing that gladdened our hearts was the huge quantity of bees in the locality. The more bee colonies are produced, the more community members are safe from elephants. Elephants come to the surrounding villages and destroy crops. We appreciate and thank ABOYERD and other local partners for helping CAMGEW contribute in local development and to tackle human-elephant conflict around the Campo-man National Park.

Bee farming training for Villages around CAMPO-Man Park to tackle Human-Elephant conflict

Place of training	Date	Total number trained	Number of women/Girls	Number of Men/Boys	Number of youths
Nkoelon in Campo-man National Park	July 1-3, 2019	25	8	17	15
TOTAL		25	8	17	15



Figure 8 Training on bee farming around the Campo ma'an national park



Trained community members received bee farming equipment

Exchange visit between Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS) and CAMGEW in Bamenda. KRCS of Mundemba in Ndian Division of South West Region had an exchange visit with CAMGEW in Bamenda at the CAMGEW-HONYSHOP on April 17, 2019. 6 members of KRCS learned about bee farming in the Kilum-Ijim forest especially on beehive mounting, apiary management, traceability, honey harvesting, organisation of bee farmers to cooperatives and handling of honey and its products and marketing. It was all about Honey value chain development. This was done through demonstrations, PowerPoint presentation, videos and visiting of the honeyshop. It was a great day. KRCS left very satisfied as they wanted to introduce bee farming as a source of livelihood to communities around the Korup National Park. They also had an opportunity to learn about CAMGEW PEASANT WOMEN MICROFINANCE in Kilum Forest area. CAMGEW is happy sharing her experience, knowledge and skills with other organisations and communities.



Exchange visit of Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS) at CAMGEW-HONYSHOP

Workshop on the Integrated Program for the Valorisation and Transformation of Farm Products and Agri-food. (TRANSFAGRI)

CAMGEW attended a workshop on the Integrated Program for the Valorisation of Farm Products and Agri-food (TRANSFAGRI) organized by Centre for Scientific Research and Innovation - North West in Bamenda. The workshop was organized for Farmers, Small and Medium Size Enterprises in the Region on December 12, 2019. This workshop had as purpose to share knowledge with participants on how to effectively develop the value chain of various agricultural products to promote sustainable development in the Region. Most of the farmers and enterprises suffer from financial crisis to speed up regional economic development. Through the TRANSFAGRI program farmers and agricultural institution learn they were eligible to have financial loans to sustain their agricultural and transformation activities. CAMGEW and other participants exhibited their products to the public. Food products and transformed agricultural products were displayed by individual farmers and enterprises. CAMGEW exhibited honey and honey product (beeswax soap, beeswax powder soap, beeswax candles, beeswax Vaseline and honey drink). She also distributed her activity booklets, flyers and posters to share knowledge with other participants about her work around Kilum-Ijim forest. The organizers and the participant were happy to learn about CAMGEW strategy in developing the honey value chain around Kilum-Ijim specially the transformation of honey and honey products.



Sharing knowledge with participant on honey/honey products during the TRANSFAGRI program.

CHAPTER FOUR

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTION

Women and girls form the back born of each society and therefore needs capacity building and some consideration. CAMGEW work to promote gender equality. In 2019, marked with the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon that affected her target intervention area – the Kilum-Ijim forest area she focused on working with displaced women, girls and youths based in Bamenda from this area. These target groups are marginalized and have continued to suffer more with the outbreak of the crisis.

A. WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women Micro Finance (Promotion of Micro Enterprise Programme - Promic)

CAMGEW has been running a micro-credit scheme for peasant women since 2015. Micro finance project assisted women with business training, organized them into groups, provided coaching to them and financial assistance in form of loans to start or expand existing micro-businesses. This project had as objective to develop female entrepreneurs who can create jobs and wealth by starting locally and inspire other women and community members. This project had also as objective to build solidarity among peasant women as a source of local insurance for communities around the Kilum forest. The first Micro-credit Scheme project (PROMIC 1 meaning Promotion of Micro Enterprise Programme) started in Oku Sub Division in April 2015 and the second Micro-credit Scheme project (PROMIC 2) started in Kumbo and Jakiri Sub Division in October 2016. Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri are found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. This micro-credit scheme targeted active peasant women or peasant women in solidarity groups who could start, build up or develop micro enterprises as their main occupation. Peasant women close to the Kilum forest area between the ages of 18 and 65 who earn less than the minimum paid wage [$>38.000\text{FCFA}$] in Cameroon were the target group for this project. This scheme promotes self-help for steady income generation. These women apply for a loan, receive training, get loans and are coached to develop or to start-up micro-enterprises in our priority sectors of agriculture, trade & commerce. 95% of activities supported were those that develop food value chains of local crops. CAMGEW got technical and financial support from Foundation Open Hand (Swisshand) based in Switzerland. This project is coordinated by Njioh Banardine Yafe and Sevidzem Ernestine for Oku and Kumbo sub Divisions respectively.

CONCRETE ACTION: Since April 2015, 1580 women have been trained on business skills and organized into groups and 1325 of these women have received financial assistance (micro-loans) about US\$ 5500 or 3.000.000 FCFA monthly since the beginning of this peasant women microfinance programme.

CAMGEW has been training women on monthly bases. 15 to 35 peasant women are trained monthly. In 2015, CAMGEW trained 186 women in Oku, in 2016 CAMGEW trained 223 women, in 2017 she trained 260 women and in 2018 she has been able to train just 275 women because of Anglophone crisis

in Cameroon. In 2018 a total of 15,050,000FCFA (US\$ 27.363) was disbursed to 237 women to either start a new business or extend an existing one in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri.

As of December 2018, 1580 women had been trained on business skills and 1325 women received financial assistance in form of loans about US\$ 5500 monthly as alternative sources of livelihood to the forest. The trained women were organized into more than 40 groups and they have continued to receive coaching from CAMGEW project team.

Activities Carried Out in 2019:

Business coaching: Women who were trained and supported financially in the past years [2015 – 2019] received business coaching. They were followed up in their business sites and homes. Businesses such as retail of foodstuff, vegetables, fish, meat, food spices, detergents, second hand clothing, honey and beeswax were carried out by most women. Those who did food cultivation and animal rearing like potatoes, vegetables, fowl rearing, etc also benefited from coaching. The program coordinators encouraged the women to see challenges as stepping stones towards success and work with them to develop new strategies of marketing their products. Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri are situated in the Anglophone Zone of Cameroon where the socio-political crisis had affected businesses. Despite the Anglophone crises in our area of work, women remained optimistic and are working hard to identify a market for their products in other towns. Most children of these women relocated to other towns and are working with their mothers to market their products. During crisis food is generally scarce and expensive. Most of our beneficiaries developed agricultural and foodstuff related businesses. Together with their children found new avenues of marketing in other towns nationwide. This is a case with one of our beneficiary based in Kai [a rural community around the forest] who cultivate vegetables especially huckleberry. She cultivates and sends to her daughter in Bamenda [urban area] to sale where the market is readily available.

Building solidarity amongst women: Beneficiaries of this scheme in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri were encouraged to form social groups. As of 2018, more than 45 social groups of women were already created in every community where women were trained with facilitation from CAMGEW. Through these groups women stand by each other in times of sorrow, happiness and joy. The groups also have a savings scheme where members save weekly and use the funds to educate their children, pay medical bills and make up with basic needs. Women in solidarity during the meetings, repay their loans, share challenges and successes in their various businesses, advertise their products, learn from each other and encourage other women in the community to join their groups and benefit from the strength of unity and solidarity. This solidarity has proven to be insurance for the community especially with the crisis. CAMGEW-PROMIC team is happy that despite the challenges, women remain positive and are hoping that this scheme should continue training and assisting women and girls.

Loan Recovery: Training on micro businesses and loans distribution were lastly done in March 2018 around the forest area. PROMIC team has been carrying out recovery of the loans which are long overdue. In Kumbo and Jakiri Sub Divisions, all loans have been repaid by the beneficiaries. In Oku Sub Divisions, loan recovery has been a gradual and diplomatic process considering the effects of the Anglophone crisis on business turn over. However, recovery is still going on and we are hoping that the response remains positive even though it is slow. This goes on with coaching and encouragement of women never to give-up despite the challenges. CAMGEW is presently doing one-on-one training for those with challenges and that come for assistance. CAMGEW has encouraged the groups to remain in solidarity.

The Way Forward For Women Micro-Finance Project.

The Anglophone Crisis: The insecurity situation rendered business trainings and loan disbursement difficult for CAMGEW team. In our office in Bamenda, many women from our project zone visited the

program coordinator with the hope that this program will continue to serve many more women and girls. One of their concerns was the scarcity and high prices of basic commodities. Business trainings and loan disbursement remained a challenging point during crisis. But assisting these affected women get basic commodities will help many households. Previous beneficiaries of the micro credit scheme were organized into groups in various communities in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri. Despite the crisis, these groups remained a unifying factor for them. They meet once every week to share challenges, successes and the way forward. These groups gave hope to women who remained back in forest area without leaving to nearby towns because of the conflicts. PROMIC team recommended to CAMGEW hierarchy in 2019 that it was still possible to support these affected communities with basic needs. The action proposed entailed buying of basic commodities from the urban town at affordable prices and supply to various created women groups around Kilum forest area. Women groups repay these commodities within 1 month and make a new order. This was because basic commodities are scarce locally and the scarcity leads to high prices. When groups bought in bulk from towns they benefited from economies of scale as they share among members and sale to community members. As a group these women could sale to other community members at affordable prices and at the end of the month, they repay the commodities back into the scheme and share the profit raised amongst group members. The basic commodities requested included rice, vegetable oil, palm oil, table salt, sugar, savon, flour and female sanitary pad. CAMGEW hierarchy approved this and funds have been release to revolve among interested and trusted groups. This strategy has helped women and communities have basic needs at affordable prices and at all times. This has motivated many groups to stay in solidarity.

Supply of basic commodities to promic women groups

S/N	Location of women's group	Number of members in each group	Commodities supplied	Average amount of revolving fund per month in each group in FCFA
1	Bongkisheri at Vekovi market area	80	Rice, vegetable oil, flour, salt, magi, savon, sanitary pad,	300.000
2	Bonga-tati at Camp Vekovi	40	Rice and vegetable oil	120.000
3	Romatang women at Mellim	65	Vegetable oil and savon	100.000
4	Rookikung women at mellim	38	Vegetable oil and sanitary pad	60.000
5	Shukov women	55	Vegetable oil and rice	100.000
	Total	278		680.000

The demand for training and support by internally displaced women in the urban centre: Some women and girls from Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri are displaced from their community and have settled in Bamenda town where CAMGEW has another office. They visit the program coordinator in CAMGEW office in Bamenda hoping to receive business trainings and loans to continue their businesses and make a living. Our displaced women in the urban town of Bamenda still have their entrepreneurial spirit. They have found other micro businesses in the urban centre and with the trainings they received, they are able to raise income for themselves and their families.

CAMGEW is proud of the commitment and dedication of women to make things work. The impact of our business trainings in the previous years has been greatly felt by most families in Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri Sub Divisions. Children and husbands learned from these women and with this knowledge are able to develop small business in other areas where they are displaced. This has improved family solidarity. In Bamenda, Children of many women especially the girls visit the Program Coordinator in CAMGEW Bamenda office to benefit from training, financial assistance and coaching despite being displaced.

Some Strategies used by CAMGEW clients to keep their Businesses Running.

YOFFENDEH VICTORINE: a traditional dress marker added a new activity like baby wear production and decoration to her business. This diversified and increased her income. She also had many apprentices especially now that there has been no school. She encouraged parents to keep their children busy in learning a trade with her on traditional dress making and baby wear production.

Mrs MNKONG MINNET: She is a hair dresser who because of crisis she decided to offer door-to-door services to her clients and keep them close to her. This helped to keep her costumers' hairs neat.

NGUM MERCY: She is a Corn beer seller who transferred the business site to her house that is far from the road where socio-political crisis that sometimes go with armed conflict is common. Many men have continued to drink and remain in solidarity. Because of the crisis men became less busy and so came to drink. She continued to make money from her business.

MAMA FEGHA EVELYN decided to run a grinding mill for cereals and also sell animal feed. These activities to her are needed locally and so she cannot go out of business.



Mama Fegha Evelyn sells feed for animals beside the grinding meal

B. TEENAGE GIRL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In September 2019, CAMGEW was supported by The Pollination Project (TPP) to work with 20 internally displaced teenage girls. This project was entitled 'Changing lives of Internally Displaced Teenage Girls through Empowerment on Ankara Designs and Personal Development in Bamenda, Cameroon.' The project was carried out in CAMGEW HONEYSHOP conference hall in Bamenda under the coordination of Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. This project was implemented for six months from October 2019 to March 2020. Teenage girls are also affected socially, morally and economically by the socio political crisis in Cameroon. CAMGEW realized they needed sustainable skills for their personal development. They also needed skills to generate income and fight unemployment especially

as they transit to adulthood. It was in this light that CAMGEW sought the support of The Pollination Project Grant to empower 20 internally displaced teenage girls in Ankara works and personal development. This project gave us the opportunity to learn how to start small and grow big. CAMGEW co-finance this project financially, materially and with time. This project had the following objectives:

1. To empower teenage girls on production of Ankara designs and provision of start-up materials
2. To promote personal development for girls that will enable them maximize their potentials and become better individuals



Young girls empowered with skills on traditional embroidery to recycle waste to fashion

Activities Carried Out in 2019

Creation of a stakeholder platform on girl child development: On October 5th, 2019, CAMGEW brought together representatives of community based organizations working on the development of the girl child in Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. The stakeholders looked at the various ills suffered by internally displaced teenage girls in Bamenda and the need to sustainably assist them socially, morally and economically. At the end of this meeting, stakeholders took up various roles to work with CAMGEW to attain the desired project results. These organizations were:

- Cameroon Women in Action society (CAWAS) was to carryout entrepreneurship training
- Sustainable Women's Organisation (SWO) was to carryout workshops on building self-confidence, self-esteem, developing positive thinking and self-discovery
- Social Welfare Commission of St Paul's Quasi Parish Nkwen was to assist in counseling
- Humanitarian Assistance Services (HUMACARE) was to assist in counseling
- Sustainable Action for Community Development (SACODEV) was to present on Gender based Violence especially sexual violence, physical and economic violence perpetuated on teenage girls
- United Youth Organization (UYO) was to carryout the training on Ankara (transforming African fabric to designer earrings, fans, handbags, hair bands, bangles etc.)

- CAMGEW team was to coordinate the project, carryout counseling, business coaching, empowered the teenage girls on hygiene and sanitation especially menstrual health and carried out environmental education.

The beautiful thing about this project was the team spirit among small NGOs to make things work even with/without funding.



Stakeholder platform on Girl Child Social, Moral and Economic Development

Identification and mobilization of internally displaced teenage girls: Stakeholders worked together to identify vulnerable internally displaced teenage girls in Bamenda North West Region, Cameroon. They created a mobilization form named ‘Internally Displaced Teenage Girl Assessment Sheet’ which was used to identify most vulnerable teenage girls displaced in need of assistance. From the 8th – 20th October 2019 stakeholders worked with various cultural groups especially those from Kilum-Ijim forest area in Bamenda and through door-to-door sensitization to identify the 20 teenage girls really in need displaced by Anglophone crisis.

Preparation of training manuals and training materials: CAMGEW through her TPP Program Coordinator facilitated the development of the training manual by all the stakeholders and prepared materials required for the training. This took place from the 22nd - 27th October 2019. The manual covered presentations on entrepreneurship, Gender Based Violence especially mitigation measures of sexual violence, physical violence and economic exploitation of teens, hygiene and sanitation especially menstrual health of the girl child, personal development of teens and Ankara training guide. Purchase of all training stationeries and materials was also carried out. This included writing materials, preparation of training hall, motivational videos and inspirational games, items for visual art, projector and speakers and start-up materials that were to be distributed at the end of Ankara training. The program of activities was also developed and shared with all stakeholders.



Teenagers on entrepreneurship, Gender Based Violence and hygiene/sanitation training

Training on entrepreneurship: CAMGEW in partnership with Cameroon Women in Action Society (CAWAS) empowered internally displaced teenage girls with entrepreneurship skills to make them innovative and creative in job creation and income generation. This was carried out from the 29th to 30th of October 2019 for 5 hours daily. The interactive session was facilitated by the representative of CAWAS Leinyuy Saber Emillienne. She enlightened the girls on business plan, business promotion, record keeping, and the power of creativity in business and community development.

Personal development workshops: This workshop was carried out from the October 30th to November 02, 2019 and 17th to 19th December 2019. This was carried out in partnership with Sustainable Womens Organisation (SWO) represented by Tebi Honorine. Sevidzem Ernestine of CAMGEW and Tebi Honorine facilitated personal development workshops on building self-esteem and self-confidence, developing positive strength and talents, improving emotional intelligence and self-discovery.



Training on personal development -building self-esteem; self-confidence; and positive strength and talents

Hygiene and Sanitation: Emmaculate Berinyuy is a trained medical nurse working with CAMGEW. She enlightened the girls on hygiene and sanitation especially managing menstruation. She told the girls that menstruation is a natural happening. She said personal hygiene is very important to the health of a female especially during menstruation. She emphasized on the proper use and discard of sanitary pad. Practical demonstrations were carried out on cleaning and storage of reusable pads.



Training of teenagers on managing menstruation

Personal development workshop: Personal development workshops included brainstorming, group work, videos, presentations, the use of visual arts and drama. Teenage girls during these workshops shared their experiences with the socio-political crisis in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon. Ngua Lydia, a 13 year old teenage girl shared during the workshop how she witnessed the burning of their family house and burning of her parents during the crisis. She said at the end of these workshops that she still see hope in the future. Since then after attending this training she became happier. Her optimism has been admired and has been an inspiration to many girls who suffered the same impact of the Anglophone crisis. Personal development workshop enabled the girls to look into the future with hope and awaken their desire to work towards a brighter future. IVORITA ENGOZEH a 15 years old teenager shared with other participants that she often remains indoors during menstruation with the feeling that she is unclean. She said after the training she feels confident to move on with her activities during menstruation. She feels more confident and hopeful as she puts it ‘.....my tomorrow is already better, I can see that...’



Teenage Girls after Personal Development Training full of hope

Training on Ankara: CAMGEW partnered with Talikong Loveline from United Youth Organisation [UYO] -Inclusive Empowerment and Mentorship Training Centre to train on Ankara works. These 20 girls were empowered to be trainer-of-trainers. This training was carried out from the October 29th to the November 29th 2019. This training empowered girls economically and built their skills to transform abandoned items such as fabrics especially African fabrics and plastic into locally useful products. This

practical session ended with teenagers building skills on Ankara products, income generation tactics, inspirational creativity and appreciation of the rich potentials of local products. At the end of the training teenage girls produced hand fans, earrings of various shapes and sizes, belts, bangles, hair ban, handbags, rings, shoes etc.



Teenage Girls after Training on ankara

Provision of start-up materials: Trained girls were supported with material to start up their own Ankara design ventures. This took place on the 2/11/2019. This was to encourage creativity and innovation.



Teenage girls receive start-up materials after gaining skills on Ankara

Counseling and business coaching: Counseling was carried out for 276 persons (109 teenage girls, 103 women, 27 couples and 37 men). 70% of these counselees were internally displaced persons caused the socio political crisis in our area. From observation of our 20 teenage girls that benefited directly from TPP grant, counseling helped in building self-confidence and positive thinking. These services have helped in influencing the adaptability and productivity of conflict affected persons. Daily follow-up and business coaching of direct beneficiaries of our project was also carried out. This helped our teenage girls evolve as entrepreneurs and better individuals.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- 20 teenage girls who benefited from TPP grant have evolved as entrepreneurs. CAMGEW had limited resources to assist them materially. There is need to assist them set up their workshops to train more teenagers and raise more income to sustain their lives.

- More than 100 internally displaced teenage girls in need were identified but CAMGEW could only work with 20. CAMGEW had limited resources to reach out to all of them. CAMGEW see the need to create an empowerment centre to assist many teenage girls get out from socio political, economic and moral challenges.

Economic Empowerment of Internally Displaced Women and Girls (In Partnership with St Paul's Quasi Parish Nkwen, Bamenda

In the months of July to December 2019, CAMGEW partnered with the Catholic Social Welfare Commission of St Paul's Quasi Parish, mile 3 Nkwen Bamenda to empower women and girls in production of Powder soap, bleach and body lotion (Vaseline). This was in response to the concerns of the Parish Priest to assist internally displaced persons due to socio-political crisis in the English Speaking part of Cameroon gain skills in income generative activities that can enable them create jobs and raise income for themselves. In this partnership, the Catholic Social Welfare Commission was to identify the beneficiaries and provide training space in the church premises. CAMGEW offered these trainings on voluntary basis and also provided materials for the trainings.

Training on powder soap: This training was carried out from the 20th - 23rd July 2019. It was attended by 41 teenagers, single mothers, widows and internally displaced women from neighboring villages where the Anglophone crisis hit hard. This training started at 9 am with SEVIDZEM Ernestine as trainer. Opening the workshop she said that **“women need to support each other, drop their fears and torch the depth of their own nature, creativity and power”**. This interactive training started with the identification of the benefits of powder soap to women and their family. It also looked at the various income generating opportunities hidden behind it. The first phase of this training ended after the practical session that had various locally available ingredients brought together in one smooth mixture. At the end of day 1, the trainer congratulated everyone. AMBE Dorothy, the Team leader of social welfare Commission of the parish told the participants that opportunities like this comes once in a while and called on all to exploit it. Day 2 of this training was on the 23rd of July 2019. Starting at 9am, participants took part in transforming of soap paste to powder. This interactive session was very amazing as participants sang songs of joy upon seeing the outcome of the product. EVELYN MBEH told other participants that as a young mother of 5, she spent a lot of money in buying powder soap during laundry. She said that this knowledge will be of great help for her family. She said they will produce powder soap for local consumption and income generation.

Training on powder soap for girls

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TARGET PERSONS	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Training on powder soap	20 th - 23 rd July 2019	St Paul's Quasi Parish, mile 3 Nkwen Bamenda	Teenage Girls, Single mothers, Widows and Internally Displaced Women	41
	TOTAL			41



Training on powder soap for Teenage girls and single mothers displaced by Anglophone crisis

Training on bleach: bleach is a chemical detergent used chiefly in inanimate objects to destroy or inhibit the growth of harmful organisms. This training was carried out on the 14th of August 2019 and was attended by 24 women and girls. The first phase of the training included theoretical knowledge on the importance of bleach, safety tips in producing and handling bleach and storage precautions. The second phase of the training included practical's on bleach production. This interactive session ended at 1pm with participants expressing their gratitude.



Participants in the learning process



Participants trained on bleach

Training on bleach

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TARGET PERSONS	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Training on bleach	14 th of August 2019	St Paul's Quasi Parish, mile 3 Nkwen Bamenda	Girls and Women,	24
	TOTAL			24

Training on body Lotion (Vaseline): This training was facilitated by SEVIDZEM Emmaculate on the 28th September 2019 and was attended by 18 women. Petroleum Jelly still called Vaseline is widely recognized as the highest or the best body cream especially in the dry season. Vaseline is needed to get the skin back to its oily nature. Nursing mothers also use it to lubricate the baby's skin especially to prevent rashes, dryness and bacterial infection. At the end of the training women especially mothers appreciated CAMGEW team for making them gain skills. NGWAIN Janice, a mother of 3 said her children suffered from skin dryness every dry season because she cannot afford for Vaseline. She said she could never imagine that the costly Vaseline in the market could be produced locally at affordable cost. She appreciated this training and encouraged CAMGEW team to reach out to many women with this knowledge.

Training on body Lotion (Vaseline)

TYPE OF TRAINING	DATE	PLACE OF TRAINING	TARGET PERSONS	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Training on body Lotion (Vaseline)	28 th September 2019	St Paul's Quasi Parish, mile 3 Nkwen Bamenda	Women,	18
	TOTAL			18



Young girls and mothers displaced by Anglophone crisis trained on body lotion

Counseling for women and girls in St Paul's Quasi Parish, mile 3 Nkwen Bamenda: counseling was done between the months of October to December 2019 for 57 persons especially those affected by the socio political crisis. This included indoor counseling at CAMGEW honey-shop and outdoor counseling was carried out in homes. Counseling helped conflict affected persons look into the future with hope and take proactive decisions on issues concerning their wellbeing.

ORGANIC GREEN SPICES CULTIVATION AND BALANCE FOOD PREPARATION WITH GREEN SPICES

CAMGEW for the past years have had the interest on the health of children, teenage girls and women. She has been working hard to see children, teenage girls and women's rights fully respected in the communities around Kilum-Ijim forest area. Women have the necessary food which are cheap and affordable around them and their community but are ignorant of their importance in preparing a balance meal. Most women often use available food stuff poorly to prepare nutritional meals. They also lack skills in their cultivation. They have access to organic manure from household organic waste and animal dung but some still depend on chemical fertilizers that are expensive, non-available and environmentally unfriendly. CAMGEW has as vision to protect the environment for a healthy body and a healthy biodiversity. CAMGEW trained 25 women and girls on the cultivation of green spices with organic manure for a healthy body and healthy soil. This workshop session took two days, the first day for the practical demonstration of the spices cultivation and the second day for a balance food preparation with green spices and talks on health benefit of green spices. Common meal rice was chosen for the food preparation.



Organic green spices cultivation with community children and women

Community children, teenage girls and women learning-by-doing in the preparation of a balance meal using local food spices. They also learned and shared knowledge on the health benefits of food spices.



Sharing with community women and children the health benefits of green spices

GIRL CHILD EDUCATIVE TALKS ON SELF DEVELOPMENT

CMAGEW in 2019 organized training for Kilum-Ijim forest youths in Oku on how to create jobs and generate income from the Kilum-Ijim forest. This was done in Oku through the Catholic Youth Movement organized Parish Youth CAMP which brought youths all over the whole community of Oku.



Educative talks given to girls on personal or self development

Teenage Girls Capacity building workshops on Personal Development and Income Generating Activities ".

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) in partnership with Cameroon Women In Action Society (CAWAS) and other partners organized a 5 days teenage girl Personal Development and Income Generating Activities workshop. The theme for the workshop was " Capacity building and Income Generating Activities ". The event took place in Bamenda at Step By Step School Hall. The workshop took place from the 13th to 17th August 2019 with 100 teenage girls participating. During this workshop, the girls received lessons on leadership with key point "Knowing the way, going the way and showing the way". Other lessons given by skilled persons were on setting life goals, entrepreneurship skills, building and improving self-esteem. Income generating activities such as production of pea nuts, Ankara and powder soap locally were skills teenage girls obtained. CAMGEW is proud to have trained teenage girls on powder soap production and donated some prizes to promote excellence. We look forward to see this partnership grow stronger to change lives in our communities.



Teenage Girls Capacity building workshops

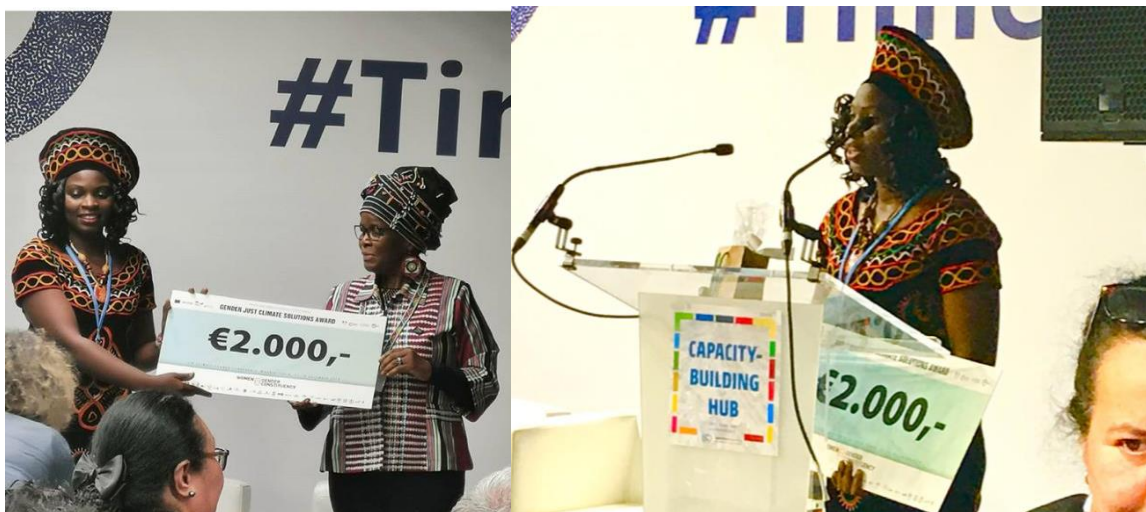
CHAPTER FIVE

AWARDS, EVENTS AND STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

A. AWARDS

1. CAMGEW Wins Gender Just Climate Solutions Prize

CAMGEW Staff Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki won the Gender Just Climate Solutions Prize on the December 9, 2019 in UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in Madrid-Spain. The Award celebrates gender-just solutions- that aimed at supporting and scaling- up innovative initiatives that put equity and sustainability at heart. CAMGEW won this award under the transformational category and this was handed to her on the 9th of December 2019 during the 25th Climate Conference of Parties (COP25) in Madrid Spain.



Ernestine receives Gender Just Climate Solutions Prize

Talking during the press conference Ernestine said women's participation in climate actions cannot be left out in seeking sustainable solutions to climate crisis.



Ernestine share CAMGEW's Gender Just Climate Solutions in a Press Conference

After the press conference many shareholders invited Ernestine to the Gender Market Place on the 10th December 2019 where she had the opportunity for networking and sale CAMGEW's work to the climate stakeholders.



CAMGEW engages in networking to get new partners

2. CAMGEW wins the UNDP Equator Prize Award 2019 in New York, USA

CAMGEW was among the 22 organisations that received the Equator Prize in New York - USA on September 24, 2019. The winners were selected from a pool of 847 nominations across 127 countries. The organizations represented 22 local and indigenous communities from across the world. The winning organizations showcased innovative, creative, nature-based solutions for tackling climate change, environment, poverty and unemployment. Winners came from Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Micronesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Tanzani, Guinea-Bissau, Australia and Vanuatu. The projects were assessed based on their innovation, scalability, replicability, resilience, adaptability, self-Sufficiency, reduced inequalities, social inclusion and gender equality. CAMGEW team was represented in the ceremony by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy who is Director/Apiculture and Nature Conservation Campaigner and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki who is Social and Forest Officer. CAMGEW got the award because of her work in Kilum-Ijim forest that has reduced bushfire from 7 in 2012 to zero in 2018 and 2019. This initiative engaged Kilum-Ijim forest community to conserve the forest through apiculture, forest regeneration, forest peasant women microfinance, agroforestry for soil conservation and food production, social support to persons in need and forest education. This created jobs and increased community income. Ownership of beehives in the forest engaged communities in fighting bushfire to protect their beehives and so protecting the forest.

CAMGEW spent 1 week with Equator Prize team learning communication skill, networking, lobbying and campaign skills. Winners were given the opportunity to tell their stories, develop their skills on 'elevator pitches', attend events for networking. September 24, 2019 was the grand award ceremony.



CAMGEW team receiving Equator Prize Award in New York, USA



CAMGEW share her story with other winners and the Equator Prize team

3. CAMGEW wins 2019 National EnergyGlobe Award

CAMGEW won the 2019 National Energy Globe Award on Conservation of Kilum-Ijim forest through Oku White Honey Value Chain Development. In 2018 CAMGEW still got this award. We are targeting the Global Energy Globe Award next year. Energy Globe Award team is based in Austria.



The Energy Globe Award for 2018 and 2019

4. CAMGEW wins the 2019 UNIDO ITPO Italy International Award

In a ceremony on 15 May 2019 at EXCO 2019 in Rome, Italy CAMGEW received the 2019 UNIDO ITPO Italy International Award. The International Award 2019 “Innovative Ideas and Technologies in Agribusiness” for developing countries was organised by UNIDO-ITPO, Future Food Institute [FFI] and other partners. Among 440 ideas and innovative technologies, 8 projects were awarded. CAMGEW won on “Agrofood and Climate Biodiversity Category”. Our project involved the development of Honey Value Chain in/around Kilum-Ijim Forest that has reduced bushfires, increase community engagement in forest management, created more jobs, increase community income and provided better quality honey to consumers. The award is dedicated to the staff of CAMGEW and CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP called North West Bee Farmers Messenger [NOWEFAM], CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP customers, her partners, bee farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest and all putting efforts to conserve Kilum-Ijim forest. CAMGEW from the award is benefiting the following project’s promotional strategy, ad hoc promotional activities and FFI network to gain visibility and the opportunity to test the idea in other places.



Wirsiy Emmanuel receives UNIDO Award for CAMGEW in Rome-Italy

5. CAMGEW Receives the Guardian Post National News Paper Award

The Guardian Post National Daily News Paper Award was handed to CAMGEW in Bamenda on February 28, 2019. This Award for 2018 Year was titled “**ECO-COMMUNITY AND BIODIVERSITY NATIONAL AWARD**”. The Guardian Post Newspaper is the lone National Daily English Newspaper in Cameroon. We are grateful for this recognition of our work in Kilum-Ijim forest Conservation.



Guardian Post Newspaper team hands CAMGEW Award

B. EVENTS

1. CAMGEW shared her experience with Civil Society Organizations of North Africa in Morocco, 19 - 21 November 2019

CAMGEW through WIRSIY Emmanuel BINYUY shared her experience on Kilum-Ijim Forest conservation in a North Africa regional workshop held in Casablanca - Morocco for 43 civil society organizations from 4 countries in North Africa [Tunisia, Algeria Lybia and Morocco]. This was done to promote exchange of experiences and to strengthen regional capacity of civil society organizations in conservation. It was a great learning opportunity organized by MAVA FOUNDATION, IUCN FRANCE, Moroccan Department of Water and Forest and other organisations.



Participants at North Africa Regional workshop on conservation in Casablanca - Morocco

2. CAMGEW attended a capacity building training on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Monrovia – Liberia, 29th-31st October 2019

Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy attended capacity building workshop on biodiversity Mainstreaming organised by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) of Birdlife International in partnership with Flora and Fauna International. The workshop focused on Guinean Forests of West African Hotspot. CEPF present and past grantees (Project Leaders of organizations') came together with their partners to

- to know one another and share valuable learning across the hotspot
- to strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming capacity across the Hotspot and
- to provide feedback for the CEPF mid-term assessment

The training ended with all grantees networking and becoming stronger in biodiversity mainstreaming. The workshop took place in The Cape Hotel, Monrovia – Liberia



Participants in a workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Liberia

3. UNDP –Early Recovery and Social Cohesion project Award

In July 2019, CAMGEW got the UNDP Early Recovery Mechanism Small Grants Facility grant project entitled ‘Developing the Honey Value Chain for Kilum-Ijim Forest Conservation and Livelihood Improvement’ to promote Social Cohesion for the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. She also received training on project reporting, financial management and use of UNDP Logo.

4. Regional Training Workshop on Project Implementation in Sao Tome & Principe, February 21 to 24, 2019

CAMGEW through Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy participated in this training that was organised by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) under Birdlife International for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot. It was organized for CEPF project implementation teams. It was full of learning, experience sharing and exchange. We visited an organic cocoa farm and chocolate factory, the botanic garden and the national park for learning too.



Participants of Regional Training Workshop for Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot

C. CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Training on child protection in emergencies

This training was offered by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the host institution Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). Sevidzem Ernestine represented CAMGEW in the training from 29th to 31st May 2019 that introduced participants to CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES and the CHILD PROTECTION MINIMUM STANDARDS. This was to engage participants to use these skills in their daily work at the community level. Child protection in emergencies refers to the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children in times of emergency caused by natural or manmade disasters, conflicts, or other crises. Child protection minimum standards refer to a common agreement of what needs to be achieved and the adequate quality of child protection during emergency situations. These standards are: Humanitarian actors avoid exposing children to increase danger or abuse of their rights, ensure peoples access to impartial assistance, protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and cohesion, assist children to claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse, strengthen child protection systems, strengthen children’s resilience in humanitarian action and to coordinate and monitor humanitarian actions on children.



Training on child protection in emergencies

2. Training with Swiss Peace on conflict analysis and role of women

CAMGEW has been empowering forest communities on forest conservation, apiculture, agro forestry and sustainable agriculture, women's rights and teenage development. CAMGEW cannot be indifferent to the impacts of the socio political crisis in the English speaking Regions of Cameroon that had resulted to loss of lives, displacements of thousands of persons, restriction to education and movement, destruction of homes and property and an unsecured working environment. CAMGEW believes that she can contribute to building peace through mainstreaming peace initiatives in her activities. She acknowledges that women are the bedrocks of peace in crisis situation. It was in this light that SEVIDZEM Ernestine LEIKEKI joined 29 women leaders in North West Region of Cameroon at Talotel Hotel in Bafoussam, Cameroon for a workshop in conflict analyses and how women can contribute to peace processes to end the present crisis in Cameroon. This workshop was organized by SWISS PEACE in partnership with South West North West Women's Task Force, Cameroon.



Participants in workshop on conflict analyses and how women can contribute to peace processes

3. Mentoring with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTNC)

CAMGEW through Sevidzem Ernestine attended the Mentoring workshop on the 11th and 12th December 2019 offered by WECF and CTNC in Madrid, Spain during the Climate of Parties Conference (COP25) week. This workshop increased the capacities of women in promoting gender just solutions to climate crisis through project writing, elevator pitches, Advocacy, networking and social media campaign.



Capacity building workshop for women in promoting gender just solutions to climate crisis

This training had 24 gender and climate action stakeholders from 18 countries participating. Ernestine shared CAMGEW experiences working on mainstreaming women in conservation in the Kilum-Ijim forest.



Participants of a capacity building workshop for women in promoting gender just solutions to climate crisis

4. Development of E-learning agroforestry course with UNDP Learning for Nature

Sevidzem Ernestine and Wirsiy Emmanuel have been working with UNDP Learning for Nature Programme to develop an E-learning course on Agroforestry with CAMGEW best practices as the case study. This course has been structured in 2 modules and UNDP will launch it to the public in by March 2020.

5. Training with Sustaining our life

Sustaining Our Life is a USA based organization that works with individuals and groups to create awareness on the emotional damage that interferes with thinking about and acting to end environmental degradation. From October 2019 to December 2019, 3 CAMGEW staff have been receiving capacity building training on active listening and evaluation counseling during project execution.

6. Training with OCHA on Humanitarian Response Plan

This training took place in Bamenda on November 15, 2019. It had as objective to improve knowledge of civil society personnel as humanitarian actors. Emphases were laid on the importance of communication and coordination amongst humanitarian actors. There was capacity building on an internal coordination approach towards humanitarian actions and establishing a reporting system to access incidents. Participants were called upon to remember that humanitarian access is a means to fulfill the broader goal of improving humanitarian conditions of people in need of assistance and protection. This training was attended by 21 organizations that benefited from UNDP social cohesion projects in the North West Region of Cameroon.

7. Training Workshop on Faith in the Commonwealth Trainer's Network in the North West Region.

Faith in the Commonwealth is a joint initiative of the Commonwealth secretariat and Khalili Foundation. It focuses on cross cultural literacy and respect for different world views situating individuals in global challenges presented by the 21st century and giving tools to understand how to act as catalyst for change. This training took place in Bamenda from 5 – 9 March 2019 under the theme “Together let us promote global citizenship and religious literacy”. CAMGEW was represented by Soh Eric Sentie in this training. He learned skills and built his confidence to be a leader and agent of change in communities. These skills were obtained to lead peer based learning among young people and explore common understanding and respect for different views and beliefs. CAMGEW also participated in an exhibition on the 9th March 2019 where various organization exhibited their products. CAMGEW made an exhibition of her honey products. More than 100 persons participated. It was organized in partnership with four NGOs in the North West Region, United Youth Organization, SIRDEP, CHELTON Foundation and SOPISDEW Cameroon. CAMGEW learned about social cohesion, peace building, facilitating interfaith and intercultural dialogue and practical application of program learning in facilitating and designing of community based projects through the participatory approach.



Participants learning to build confidence



CAMGEW participate in exhibition



CAMGEW staff receive attestation

CHAPTER SIX

CHALLENGES, 2020 PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND CONCLUSION

CHALLENGES

- **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 knowledge to their staff. CAMGEW needs to develop her skills in fund raising, project development, institutional building and organizational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment. Volunteers are useful to us. CAMGEW needs volunteers/interns in nursery development, marcotting, grafting, treatment of seeds, microfinance, child nutrition, gender violence, counseling, apiculture, etc
- **Personnel training:** The Staff of CAMGEW is young and in need of more skills, experience and knowledge to function better and make things work. This staff needs skills in domains like computing, information management, communication, 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: 3 cameras, 3 computers (1 laptop and 1 desktop), 1 printer, 1 scanner and furniture to set an office in bamenda
- **Need partners:** CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender sector strong and active.
- CAMGEW needs to look for more creative and innovative ways to continue creating jobs to forest people especially on the honey value chain development
- CAMGEW also needs skills to work in conflict or crisis situation especially now that the Socio-political crisis affecting the North West and South West Regions where CAMGEW works is not ending soon. CAMGEW need to learn more skills to work with the displace population from Kilum-Ijim forest area and those still based in the forest area.
- **CAMGEW needs mobility means** to reach out to peasant women during training and followup of their activities. These peasant women that are already organized in groups needs goods in bulk to retail and consume like soap, 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, cocoyam, 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.
- The kilum-Ijim forest is still plagued by many forest problems like bushfires, deforestation, encroachment and over hunting that degradates forest wealth

- Crystallization of Brown Honey: this has been a big challenge. Crystallize honey is not at all bad honey but locally clients are not aware. They feel that crystallized honey has other additives. This dropped down our sales remarkable between the months of October to December 2019. There is need to continue sensitizing our clients on crystallization of honey and seek technology to decrystallise honey naturally.

Kilim-Ijim forest area is one of those areas in the North West Region where the impact of the socio political crisis is high on the people. This situation is characterized by restrictions to movement, confrontations between the military and the armed groups, kidnapping of persons, destruction of property, little or no internet connection, poor communication network, frequent electricity disruption, displacement of many persons to urban zones like Bamenda and the security of persons unguaranteed. One of the characteristic of the conflict in the English speaking part of Cameroon is Sit-in-strike that affected the planned activities. This has been a challenge in carrying out trainings as most often trainings are planned and postponed. We only hope for a return of peace in the Regions. Due to this challenging situation, CAMGEW had to negotiate her way to access target population in the Kilum-Ijim forest. It has been a challenge on work activities on days like Mondays, sit down days (ghost town days)

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2020

Women Empowerment

- Empower 100 internally displaced teenage girls on personal development and hygiene.
- Continue with counseling services for Kilum-Ijim forest community
- Train and disburse loans in women solidarity groups in Bamenda
- Support our organized women with basic commodities to retail and pay back monthly
- Train female youth groups and support with commodities for retail in Bamenda
- Train women on urban gardening and support with start up to pay back within 6months
- Advocacy to protect women rights and interest around Kilum-Ijim forest
- Carry out trainings on improved nutrition for women and girls.
- More financial, material and moral support to women, girls and children.

Forest conservation

- Develop new strategies and put them to action to fight bushfires, deforestation, encroachment and over hunting that degrades the Kilum-Ijim forest wealth
- Improve on the working condition of patrollers of the Forest Management Institutions work entirely on voluntary basis. Patrollers need rain coats, rain boots, machetes; phones and communication credit to better do their job.
- Work with local authorities to see how defaulters of forest laws are penalized accordingly and how to sensitise forest community on forest law. This is because defaulters do not get punished for the crime and this demoralizing the patrollers. Some people defy forest laws on the pretext that nothing has been done to the previous defaulters.
- Sensitize Kilum-Ijim forest communities on forest law and sanctions for defaulters.
- CAMGEW work in partnership with all stakeholders in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation and livelihood improvement

- CAMGEW to continue with forest regeneration through nursery development and native tree planting in Kilum-Ijim forest
- Bee farmers adopt modern methods of bee farming in Kilum Forest to prevent bushfire that result from poor honey harvesting
- CAMGEW continue with forest education for children, youths and adults
- Do more sensitization on the importance of bees and forest and on methods to save them

Honey Value Chain Development

- Train 100 young people and women on the transformation of honey to honey juice, honey wine and bees wax to soap, powder soap, body lotion, candles, etc
- Train 100 community members on entrepreneurship in honey value chain so that they develop various businesses in the sector
- Build capacity of community members to engage in the production of bee farming technologies/equipment like bee suits, bee smokers, honey drainers, bees wax extractors, multiplication of queen bees
- Train more bee farmers and controllers on traceability and honey and bees wax quality control
- Capacity building on packaging and marketing of honey, bees wax and their transformed products
- Engage 150 more youths and women involved in apiculture and honey/honey products transformation.
- CAMGEW to continue the development of the honey value chain through capacity building on modern bee keeping, honey/honey products transformation and entrepreneurship. CAMGEW to work on organization of bee farmers to cooperatives and the marketing of their products.
- CAMGEW to increase rolling funds to keep on buying honey from farmers' cooperatives.

New Areas of intervention

- Promoting biodiversity conservation in the Western Highlands of Cameroon
- Developing the Honey Value Chain in the Western Highlands of Cameroon

Organizational development

- Building of CAMGEW organizational strategic plan
- Staff capacity building in the honey value chain development
- Support our organization with office space
- Improve on our communication strategies
- Improve on our financial management system
- Administrative and Financial Procedure document

CONCLUSION

CAMGEW adopted a participatory approach in her environmental restoration activities in 2019 which saw every community member around the Kilum Forest identifying his/her personal interest in the forest. By this approach, CAMGEW was able to meet her set objectives by working on socio-economic and environmental aspects of the community. CAMGEW worked hard to change community lives positively in creative and innovative ways. CAMGEW looks forward to a better year 2020. You can learn more about us a www.camgew.org. We will happily welcome your comments to improve on our work.