

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)



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

CAMGEW offices in Cameroon: **Bamenda (Head office)** at Foncha Junction North West Region (NWR),

Field offices **Oku** – Manchock North West Region, and **Magba** – Ngounso in West Region.

CAMGEW working in 3 Regions (North West, West and Adamaoua) in Cameroon

**Report prepared by WIRSIY EMMANUEL BINYUY (CAMGEW's Director) with support from Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki (CAMGEW's Women Empowerment Officer).**

## **PREFACE**

CAMGEW smiles as 2022 goes away with signs of COVID 19 disappearing. We learned lessons and we started practicing how to work online and use other methods of working out of office to deliver expected results and remain as a team with vision. We grow stronger. There was ecological, economic, cultural, social and psychological regeneration in our projects at the Kilum-Ijim forest area and Cameroon Western Highland Forest in general. Our team worked to make community members learn and share together. CAMGEW continued creating and animating her platforms, networks and getting new partners in 2022. This was done for institutional building and community development. We learned better ways of communicating especially using indigenous and cultural methods. We engaged in the revitalization of indigenous knowledge and cultural practices that conserve nature because people's culture is their identity.

The Anglophone crisis entered its 6<sup>th</sup> year and continued to impact on our activities and the lives of our communities. CAMGEW developed strategies to work in conflict zones and learned how to negotiate access to communities. CAMGEW learned to connect more without physical presence and started making communities know the importance of going back to indigenous ways of living especially communication, medicine, feeding, and standing by/for each other.

CAMGEW is getting into 2023 with lessons learned from 2022 for better performance. 2023 looks positive and we call on our partners, communities, staff and collaborators to be optimistic this year. As was the case in 2022, CAMGEW will work to defend communities' rights and interest on their natural resources and also make them benefit from them. She will continue to make community members climate smart entrepreneurs who protect nature and get their livelihoods from it. CAMGEW has extended her activities to West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon with an office in Magba and these activities will continue in 2023. CAMGEW entered into partnerships with organisations, councils, traditional authorities and gave youths and women opportunities to build their skills through volunteering and internships. CAMGEW worked on forest regeneration, education, patrols and monitoring in Kilum-Ijim forest. In the fields of agroforestry and apiculture, CAMGEW used the value chain development approach and communities were trained on crop and honey production, transformation and marketing. Entrepreneurship was mainstreamed in all these capacity building with start-up materials donated to promote their engagement. Forest/Environmental education or climate literacy activities for children were done in Oku, Bamenda and Magba offices and in Kilum-Ijim forest, Magba, Bankim and Mayo Darle communities.

Bushfire remained a threat and so we engaged communities and stakeholders in bushfire prevention and management through agroforestry, apiculture, sensitization, stakeholder platforms, patrols, fire lining and back burning. CAMGEW shared her bushfire knowledge and skills with communities in West and Adamaoua Regions. CAMGEW did many exhibitions. Internationally she participated in COP2027 in Egypt. In Girl child development she helped girls gain trade skills and knowledge that empowered them. This was same for youths and women. She celebrated some key events like World Bee Day, World Biodiversity, World Environment Day and others. CAMGEW also looks forward to a better 2023. CAMGEW will still use bottom-top and participatory approaches to make things work. She wants to make the earth beautiful for man and nature. CAMGEW thank MIVA Switzerland, French IUCN, Swissland Foundation-Switzerland, UNDP, Equator Prize, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Ashden Prize, Aeon Foundation –Japan for Midori Prize, Critical Endangered Ecosystem Fund –CEPF of Birdlife International, One Earth, Noe – France, OAPI, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, KIWHA, Global Green Grants, CERAF–Nord, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry(MINEPIA), Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, etc. We are particularly grateful to Various Councils and other local administrative authorities for their support. We are proud of FMIs' members and Oku Honey Cooperatives around Kilum Forest, Women Gender Constituency, Women for Women International, Women Learning Partnership, Women Engage for a Common

Future and UNFCCC. Contact our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/camgewcameroon.camgew> or website [www.camgew.org](http://www.camgew.org) to know us.

WIRSIY Emmanuel BINYUY  
CAMGEW TEAM LEADER

## **SUMMARY OF CAMGEW 2022 ACTIVITIES**

- 11,453 native trees of 13 species planted by 87 community members in Kilum-Ijim forest
- 25 forest patrols done mostly by forest users and 7 exchange visits between communities around the Kilum-Ijim forest area
- Forest education done for 10,248 communities and children in Kilum-Ijim forest
- 512 children participate in climate literacy in Bamenda
- 12 journalists working for 12 different ethnic groups trained on climate literacy to carry out 12 different climate literacy radio programmes in their languages at Magba Community Radio
- 1,172 community members sensitized around Kilum-Ijim forest on bushfire prevention and management
- 176 bee farmers trained and 352 beehives donated in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 125 persons trained on beeswax extraction in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 20 women trained on soap (detergent) production and supported with start-ups in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 40 women trained on honey drink production and support with start-ups in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 31 persons trained on bee suit production and supported with start-ups in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 35 persons trained on bee smoker production and supported with start-ups in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 125 persons trained on honey quality control in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- NOWEFAM functions better with quality products (labels, packaging, cartons, renovation)
- 8 exhibitions done to show case CAMGEW activities and learn from others
- 245 farmers trained on agroforestry and supported with start-ups and seedlings
- 23 persons trained on medicinal plant production and transformation and also supported with start-ups in Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- 1 capacity building workshop for 30 multistakeholders on bushfire prevention/management
- 1 capacity building workshop for 34 Kilum-Ijim forest community leader on how to plan, execute bushfire prevention and management strategies
- Production of 1,000 copies of guides, 1,000 posters and 1,000 calendars on bushfire prevention and management ,
- 36 radio programmes done on bushfire prevention/management and role of women in conservation in Kilum-Ijim forest and Cameroon Western Highlands forest
- 10 Kilum-Ijim forest communities supported with bushfire prevention and management tools

- 302 community members carryout fire tracing for 6500 m to prevent bushfire around the Kilum-Ijim forest
- 81 forest community member carryout back burning in areas that were fire traced
- 10 education sessions done by town cryers (traditional method of communication)
- 25 signpost produced and posted around Kilum-Ijim forest peripheries for education against bushfire and other activities that destroys the forest
- 10 community dialogue sessions done in cultural groups to revitalize indigenous knowledge and cultural practices that have conserved the Kilum-Ijim forest for years
- Formation of coalition of Gender promotion actors around Kilum-Ijim forest
- Stakeholder platform created to exchange on women socio-economic and environmental rights around Cameroon Western Highlands Forest
- Launching and following up the signing of online/offline petition to support the socio-economic and environmental rights of women in Cameroon. Handing of 3050 signatures to to Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
- Carrying out of phrase campaign with more than 200 persons participating globally on promotion of gender equality and climate actions
- 6 television talks on the role of women in conservation in Cameroon
- 6 newspapers published on the role of women in conservation in Cameroon
- 10 drama sketches by female youths on women socio-economic and environmental rights and dissemination
- Engagement of 10 conservation and women's rights organization in the promotion of women socio-economic and environmental rights and interest in Cameroon
- Carried out 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence
- CAMGEW engaged in more than 25 events and learning opportunities for personal and institutional building through learning, sharing and skill building



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## 2022 EXECUTION CAMGEW TEAM

S/N	Name	Position	Sex
1	Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy	Director/ Apiculture and Nature Conservation campaigner	Male
2	Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki	Women Empowerment Officer	Female
3	Emmaculate Berinyuy	Assistant Project officer	Female
4	Njioh Benardine	Agroforestry program coordinator	Female
5	Dinyuy Rita	Finance and Administration	Female
6	Kongla Nadashe	Honey Shop Keeper	Female
7	Wirba Sabastain	Tree nursery Development officer	Male
8	Yikpu Terence	Driver	Male
9	Akua Emmanuella	Logistics	Female
10	Tanyu Giselle	Assistant Project Officer	Female
11	Asheri Roland	Assistant Project Officer	Male
12	Wirba Sharette	Honey Shop keeper	Female
13	Ndikaka Basil	Monitory and Evaluation officer	Male
14	Dzela Fomonyuy Nyuymingka	Intern	Female
15	Tchouala Kuete Alita	Volunteer	Female
16	Nsame Petral	Volunteer	Female
17	Tata Jude Nyuylem	Agric technician	Male
18	Nkinin Benoit Suiven	Intern	Male
19	Nkwagoh Myra Nchranjuere Mbah	Intern	Female

# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION OF CAMGEW AND PROJECT AREA

### A. 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 solve 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 Cameroon Western Highland forest area".

CAMGEW from 2012 to 2022 planted **115,899 native variety of** bee loving trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest. She has developed 3 tree nurseries with about 80.000 trees. The survival rate of the trees planted in 2022 was estimated at **80%**. CAMGEW carried out tree maintenance(replacing death trees and doing monitoring yearly. A total of 566 trees of different species were planted during the maintenance. CAMGEW has trained 2057 bee farmers in honey production, honey and its product quality control and bees wax extraction. She has also distributed above 1.822 beehives to trained bee farmers and organized above 1300 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. 1786 youths and women have been trained on entrepreneurship in honey value chain development and other value chains. 178 youths and women trained on bees wax soap, powder soap and candle production, 14 women trained on bees wax balm production and 131 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. 1165 farmers have also been trained on agroforestry techniques and supported. 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 5500 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. Other small bushfires must have occurred but the turnout of bee farmers to tackle it has increased. CAMGEW commitment in community and stakeholder engagement has helped to reduce or management bushfire

through actions like fire tracing, back burning, patrols, sensitization and traditional injunctions. 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 the *Cameroon Western Highland 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 *Cameroon Western Highland Forest*.
- Eco-business operators in *Cameroon Western Highland 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 *Cameroon Western Highlands* are empowered & participate in forest management & community development.
- CAMGEW will have developed projects and sought funds to handle challenges in the *Cameroon Western Highland forest* 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:** *Cameroon Western Highland Forest* and environs. **Opportunities:** Consultancy on Bee farming trainings, Agroforestry and Forest regeneration and governance. 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, Advocacy and Environmental education.

CAMGEW offices: **Bamenda (Head office)** at Foncha Junction, Field offices **Oku** - Manchock, and **Magba** - Ngouso. CAMGEW works in North West, West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon.

## **B. CAMGEW PROJECT AREA - KILUM-IJIM FOREST**

CAMGEW from 2010 to 2020 was focusing only in Kilum-Ijim Forest area and from 2021 she expanded her activities to cover the Cameroon Western Highland Forest area. The Kilum-Ijim forest is the largest remaining forest of the Bamenda Highlands forest. The Cameroon Western Highlands Forest which is montane forest covers the North West Region and part of the West and Adamaoua Regions. The Kilum Mountain Range and the Ijim Ridge are covered with a montane forest called Kilum-Ijim forest that is peculiar in producing Oku White Honey. The Kilum-Ijim forest is part of the Western Highlands forest of Cameroon. The Kilum Mountain is found in two tribes- Nso and Oku which are in Bui Administrative Division in the North West Region of

Cameroon. The Ijim Ridge is found in the Kom tribe in Boyo Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The area around the Kilum-Ijim Forest is one of the most densely populated parts of Cameroon. It is estimated that close to 300,000 people live within a day's walk to the forest. The Kilum-Ijim forest covers an area of 20,000 hectares. Mount Kilum has its peak at 3,011 m with a large crater lake at 2,500m altitude along Cameroon volcanic line and the adjoining Ijim Ridge at 2,000-2,500m. The contiguous Kilum and Ijim Mountain Forests are located between latitude 6°0'N and 6°1'N and Longitude 10°20'E and 10°35'E. BirdLife International created the community forests and divided the Kilum-Ijim forest into 18 community forest. About 44 communities live in the Kilum-Ijim Community Forest. During the period 1987 to 2003 of project execution, there was forest regeneration, environmental education and training on alternative source of livelihoods like agroforestry and bee farming. The Kilum-Ijim forest has a natural setting with about 80% of the population based there made up of natives of Nso, Oku and Kom tribes, some of whom come in from close towns to farm. The Kilum-Ijim region is known nationally for its traditional healers due to the many medicinal plants in the bio-diverse Kilum-Ijim forest. This population is attracted by rich volcanic soils and the near temperate climate that favours crop cultivation. Bee farming is practiced in the forest and Oku White Honey demand has increased after its certification as a Geographical Indication Product.

Kilum-Ijim forest has a rich ecosystem with non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants, alpine bamboos, wood for firewood and carving, spices, additives (colourings, preservatives and flavourings), etc but suffers from forest degradation due to animal encroachment, farming, poaching and unsustainable forest exploitation. Some trees in this forest that produces flowers for Oku White Honey production are *Nuxia congesta*, *prunus africana*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, etc. This forest is predominantly montane, in which trees are too small and inaccessible to be of interest to commercial loggers. These NTFPs could better serve the community and fight poverty if forest income generation activities are promoted and a workable benefit sharing mechanism put in place. The forest has a high potential to improve the living standards of forest people but this potential is under exploited. Many forest people depend on these products for their livelihoods. These services and products cannot be available if the forest is destroyed. With a good forest ecosystem benefit-sharing mechanism put in place the living standards of the local people will improve and they will see the need to engage in forest ecosystem management. Environmental education is important to tackle forest degradation through behavioural change and to instil in young people the spirit to grow and participate in forest management. Protecting the forest will enable it to generate water, fresh air, serve as carbon sink, source of beneficial insects and protect endangered species like *Bannerman's turaco* (an endemic and endangered bird only found in the Cameroon Western Highland Forest region).

### **C. CAMGEW PROJECT AREA –CAMEROON WESTERN HIGHLANDS FOREST**

The Western Highlands of Cameroon consist of a chain of volcanic mountains. These highlands contain the largest remaining patches of afro-montane forest in West Africa. There are about 8 protected areas in the region: Kagwene Wildlife Sanctuary, Bali Ngemba Native administration Forest Reserve, Bafut Ngemba Native Administration Forest Reserve, Mt Oku Plant life Sanctuary, Mbi Crater, Mbembe Forest Reserve, Nkom-Wum Native Administration Forest Reserve, and Kimbi-Fungom National Park. The forests and grasslands here contain exceptional levels of endemism in all taxa. While the highlands are naturally geographically isolated, human activities are increasingly fragmenting, degrading and isolating the remaining forest patches. This area is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened. Some of these threatened species include the Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla deihli*), the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes elioti*), the drill monkey (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) and the Preuss's guenon monkey (*Cercopithecus preussi*). These areas also contain a large number of insects, plants, reptiles and amphibians, small mammals and many bird species. The forests are very important for its people because it is a source of water, fuelwood, medicines, honey and other products and also holds cultural and spiritual importance to the local communities.

## SECTION 2

# FOREST REGENERATION, MONITORING AND CONSERVATION

Considering the fact that Goal **13** and **15** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** calls for urgent action to combat climate change and to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss, CAMGEW is taking local action to fight global environmental problems. CAMGEW has planted **115,899** trees in the Kilum-Ijim Forest and maintained them since 2012. Forest regeneration through planting of native trees and promotion of natural regeneration has remained CAMGEW focus.

Forest regeneration, monitoring and conservation are some of CAMGEW's main activities that are carried out yearly with a global impact. CAMGEW has worked over the years in regenerating and conserving the Kilum-Ijim forest to improve community livelihood, protect biodiversity, promote eco-tourism and fight climate change. Kilum-Ijim forest is a carbon sink. CAMGEW's action in regenerating the Kilum-Ijim forest with native trees of different species is a step in this line.

CAMGEW has used participatory approach in forest management by engaging all stakeholders' especially local people (men, youths and women) in forest regeneration. In July 2021, CAMGEW together with community members planted **17,446** native tree species in the Kilum forest. In July 2022, CAMGEW together with **87** community members (43 Women and 44 Men) planted **11,453** native tree species in this forest. This makes it a total of **115,899** trees planted by CAMGEW since 2012 in the different community forests that make up the Kilum-Ijim Forest. CAMGEW is assisting nature in regeneration and also supporting natural regeneration in the forest. CAMGEW has been regenerating degraded parts of forest. CAMGEW believes that regenerating the Kilum-Ijim forest and engaging in forest monitoring are better ways of restoring the ecosystem. The type of trees planted in Emfve-Mii Community forest in 2022, included *Newtonia camerunensis* that is a Critically Endangered Specie (**IUCN Red list**), *Prunus africana* (Flagship Specie), *Schefflera manii*, *Pittosporium manii*, *Zizygium staundtii*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *croton machrotachyst* and the locally threatened *Carapas grandiflora*. All these tree species are native of this forest.

### A. TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN 2022

Forest regeneration and tree pant planting is a yearly activity of CAMGEW in Kilum Ijim forest. This activity which CAMGEW began in 2011 in Oku has enriched the forest with more than **115,899** trees. These trees are native forest trees of Kilum-Ijim forest with much economic and traditional importance. Prior to this tree planting program, CAMGEW set up and developed three tree nurseries along the forest communities at Manchok, Mbokenghas and Ikal Oku. These tree nurseries have ready trees every year for planting in forest. There are always varieties of trees in these nurseries like *Prunus Africana*, *Bridelia*, *Zysigium*, *Croton*, *Maisa Lanciolata*, *Pittosporium*, *Carapas*, etc. These tree species have various uses like for carving, fuel, medicines, bee loving, etc. They are environmentally friendly trees of Kilum-Ijim forest which serve as watershed, form part of the forest ecosystem and form the forest canopy. Each of these nurseries could have at least 10000 trees but in the recent years due to crisis in the region, CAMGEW has been able to carefully manage the Manchok tree nursery very well. She nursed more than 15, 000 trees in this for planting in the forest. Nursery development remains a yearly activity of CAMGEW because tree planting takes place every year from July to August. From August, nursing of seeds and seedlings continue immediately in preparation for the next year tree planting.



## Objective of CAMGEW Tree Nursery

CAMGEW has the following objective in developing and owning a tree nursery:

- The tree nursery provides CAMGEW with trees for planting in the forest. She has as objective to enrich the Kilum Ijim forest with native and environmentally friendly trees
- The tree nursery serves as a learning ground and research centre for students and community members. In CAMGEW nursery, each tree nursed is identified by its local name, scientific name and various uses of each tree. Many community members have developed their personal nurseries as they learned-by-doing from CAMGEW tree nursery.
- The nursery helps to multiply the number of some endangered species of trees found in the Kilum-Ijim forest. Example of such a tree is *Newtonia Camerunenses* which is classified as Critical Endangered under IUCN redlist.

**Collecting Nursing and transplanting of seedling:** To develop the nursery, we do visit the forest and picked seeds and seedlings of trees like *Zysigium*, *Carapas*, *Maisa lanciolata*, *Prunus africana* to nursed or transplant in the polythene bags.

**Filling of soil and arranging the polythene bags in order:** The soil mixed with organic manure like goat dung, pig droppings, compost manure and fill in polythene bags or nursing trees on bare nursery.



*Community women filling and arranging polythene pots*

**Weeding:** Weeding is done all round the year. This helps keep the nursery clean, welcoming for researchers and environmental education. It keeps the trees healthy.



*Women weeding the tree nursery by communities in a learning-by-doing process*

**Watering:** Trees in the nursery are watered for them to grow. This is done more in the dry season from November to mid March on daily basis.

**Shading during the dry season:** The tree nursery is shaded with palm fronts to reduce sunlight that reaches the nursed trees..

**Environmental and forest education:** In order to continue building nature lovers (in children, women and forest users) community tree nursery visit is encouraged and CAMGEW organize different tree nursery education. Children, women learned the importance of tree nursery in forest regeneration, how to develop and manage a tree nursery, and the role of tree nursery in fighting climate change.



*Environmental education in the nursery with children, women and forest users*

## **B. CAMGEW 2022 KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AREA**

The restoration works were done in the **Emfve-Mii Community Forest**. The trees were planted in **Ebkokenefem** and **Ngehng** compartments.



*Exclusive view of the Emfve-mii community forest from Manchok village*

### **Activity Methodology**

The following activities were planned and carried out by CAMGEW team

- Pre-planting planning meetings were held by the coordination team earlier in July 2022 to plan and discuss modalities related to the tree planting exercise. During the meetings, CAMGEW Oku field team identified the different compartments to regenerate based on the degree of degradation and threat by human activities.
- Forest stakeholders, Security Officers and the Administration (Public and Traditional) were notified of the activity before its actual implementation.
- CAMGEW Staff contacted community members who did the tree planting earlier. Participants came from all the villages adjacent to the Emfve-mii community forest. The various age groups were represented. Women were integrated in the activity to make them know that they have roles to play in forest restoration. In attendance, were also students for field work who wanted to match theory with practicals.



### Presentation of Participants in Tree Planting

Male youths	Female youths	Female Adults	Male Adults	Total
28	28	15	16	87

- In the course of the activity, participants were grouped into 22 Groups of 4 persons each. Through this, community youths and women learned from the elderly and experienced ones who had been planting for the past years. Each group had a leader that coordinated group work and reported directly to CAMGEW Coordination team.
- Evaluation meetings were held daily by the coordinators in the course of meeting and by the end of the activity the weaknesses, strengths, opportunities and threats of this activity was identified.
- Trees that grew naturally (natural regeneration) were maintained during the planting exercise. Exotic plants that impaired the growth of these trees were destroyed/slashed off.
- Paths and holes on which trees were planted were slashed and dug three days before the planting.
- The tree seedlings were planted **5m** apart.
- Potted trees were carried by participants on baskets from CAMGEW's tree nursery in the morning for planting. The trees planted in 2022 were of different species to promote biodiversity. They included Solanecio Manii, Prunus africana, Schefflera abyssinica, Pittosporium manii, Bridelia speciosa, Newtonia camerunensis, Carapas grandifolia etc.
- The coordination team selected and counted the tree seedlings with some community members. Every group that was involved in tree planting had a mixture of these trees for planting in forest..
- Sensitization was done daily on the importance of forest conservation. It was an opportunity for CAMGEW team to raise more awareness on the role of community members in conservation.
- Work started every day at 7:00 am and ended at 2:00 pm.
- At the end of the tree planting session, there was an environmental education session organized to sensitise community members on the importance of the forest.

## Activity Summary

**Identification of the site for planting:** The trees were planted in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest of the Kilum forest. They were planted in **Ebkokenefem** (54ha) and **Ngehng** (87ha) compartments. Many portions of these compartments were bear with no canopy trees and dominated by the fern plant in most cases. The site was identified on the **20<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. The trees were planted at an altitude of **2100M** above sea level on **latitude 6.2457057** and **Longitude 10.50729**. This site was identified during a forest patrol visit by Community members and CAMGEW field staff to check on forest health and activities of forest defaulters.

**Head count of matured tree seedlings in the Nurseries for planting was done on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

**Forest slashing:** The paths on which trees were planted were slashed for three days by 87 participants between the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Of July 2022**. The exotic plants (fern plant one of the exotic plants that could grow up to three meters tall) that could impair the proper growth of the planted trees were cleared off the planting spots. The path cleared was not big to avoid goats from tracing the slashed paths and eating up the planted trees.





*Community members slashing the paths on which trees were planted*

**Digging and Pegging of holes:** After slashing, holes were dug **5 meters** apart and pegged trees were planted. The pegs helped for tree identification for further maintenance. The pegs were made from the peace plants, shrub stems and the exotic tree species like the Eucalyptus tree and carried to the planting site. Peace plants were highly encouraged for use as pegs because they grow through vegetative propagation.



*Community members carrying pegs to the planting site*



*Community member engaged in pegging of holes*

**Transportation of the Trees from the Nursery to the Forest:** The trees planted were gotten from CAMGEW tree nursery in Manchok village. The trees were nursed in 2021. Community members came out early in the morning on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to CAMGEW nursery to carry the different trees species to the forest. Nursed trees on polythene bags were carried to the forest in the bags and baskets for planting.. The polythene bags were taken back to the nursery for re-used. Seedlings with long tap roots like Carapas and Zyzigium were trimmed before planting.





*The Tree planting team*



*Community members carrying trees into the forest*

**Planting Proper:** Trees of different species were planted in the Kilum forest by youths, women and men **on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022**. A participatory approach was used to engage every community member in the process. Over 13 indigenous tree species were planted in the forest. These trees are bee loving and will increase the output of the Oku white honey, they are also good for the watershed, medicine and will also serve as a carbon sink. A total of **11,453 trees** were planted in Kilum forest by **87** community members. Some of the trees produce seeds that are food for different animals. We had bee farmers planting trees to increase bee forage, herbalist planting to increase trees used for medicine, water management committee planting to ensure the sustainability for water flow, traditional authorities planting to protect the shrines and culture, ecoguards planting to conserve touristic site and women planting because forest is a source of food (fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, etc). The traditional authority was represented by the various traditional notables of Oku during the tree planting. These included the representative from the “Kwifon Society” and representatives of the “Manjong” and “Mfu” houses (Men’s clubs) in Emfve-Mii Community area. In the course of planting, **81 stems of Schefflera abyssinica and the fig tree were propagated** in open areas.





The number of women participating in forest regeneration is increasing yearly



CAMGEW Field staff, Community youths, women and Men launch the 2022 tree planting session

### Statistics of the Trees Planted in 2022

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Type of Tree</i>	<i>Number of seedlings Planted</i>
01	<i>Newtonia Camerunensis (CR: IUCN)</i>	605
02	<i>Prunus africana (VU: IUCN)</i>	2000
03	<i>Pittosporium manii</i>	2700
04	<i>Carapas grandiflora (Intensively threatened)</i>	801
05	<i>Syzigium staundtii</i>	3825
06	<i>Maesa lanceolata</i>	48
07	<i>Bridelia speciosa</i>	376
08	<i>Solanecio manii</i>	100
09	<i>Nuxia congesta</i>	89
10	<i>Croton machrotachyst</i>	700
11	<i>Schefflera manii (VU: IUCN)</i>	80
12	<i>Psydrax dunlapii</i>	42
13	<i>Podocarpus manii</i>	87
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>11,453 trees</b>

**Environmental Education:** In the course of tree planting, community members learn how to sustainably manage their forest. Forest education with community members involved talks about forest trees and their germination processes, forest ecology (interaction between plants, animals, soils, litter etc.), vulnerable and endangered species, the importance of forest to man and nature, benefits of Agro forestry, honey production



processes, and bee colonies. In the forest many community members and youths noticed the harm caused by man on the forest like cutting of fresh trees, destruction of endangered *Newtonia Camerunensis* for commercial wood and the effects of bush fires. The community members proposed solutions to forest problems like forest patrols, regular planting of trees, and more environmental education programs. The old people shared much on the benefits they got from the forest when it was not yet degraded and reiterated the need to keep the forest healthy. Bee farmers promise to report any problems they see in the forest as they visit the forest on daily basis to check their beehives.



*Environmental talks during the tree planting exercise*



*Group picture of community men and youths taken after forest education*

### **MAINTENANCE OF TREES PLANTED IN 2021**

In 2021, CAMGEW planted **17,446** trees in the Kilum Forest. After planting 11,453 trees in 2022, CMAGEW administration together with the Field Coordination team saw the need to maintain the trees that were planted. Tree maintenance is a yearly activity. Tree maintenance was done for two days from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Tree maintenance entailed the slashing-off of exotic plants (mainly seasonal) like the fern that over-shadow the planted trees impairing them from receiving sunlight and air to grow. The paths on which the trees were planted were not fully slashed, only specific spots with planted trees were slashed. This was to avoid goats from tracing and eating up the trees. The trees were easily identified because of the pegs that were found close to planted trees. Trees that did not survive the 2021 planting were replaced with matured tree seedlings from the nursery. The survival rate of the trees planted in 2021 is estimated at **80%**. A total of 457 trees of different species were planted during the maintenance. Some trees that were not very healthy had new ones planted by their side. Fast

growing trees like *Pittosporium manii*, *Croton machrotachyst* and *psydrax dunlappi* had attained heights of 2 metres.

### **CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2022 in Kilum-Ijim Forest**

Year	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, Nchiiy, 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, Nchiiy and Bihkov
2019	5500	UNDP/Birdlife through Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund [CEPF]	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Mbai, Emfvemii and Nchiiy Community Forest
2020	6050	CAMGEW	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Emfvemii Community Forest
2021	17446	CAMGEW	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Emfvemii Community Forest
2022	<b>11,453</b>	ONE EARTH/CAMGEW	Varieties of native forest bee forage trees	Emfvemii Community Forest
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED</b>			<b>115,899</b>	



*Group Picture Taken After Tree Maintenance*

## **C. FOREST PATROLS**

### **Introduction to Forest Patrol**

Kilum mountain forest is plagued by many problems ranging from encroachment, deforestation, over hunting to bush fires. Bushfires have led to untold damages to biodiversity in the Kilum-Ijim forest. This had become a yearly and regular event in the Kilum forest especially in the Nchiiy, Mbai, Bihkov and Shinga community forests. Farmers along the forest boundary do not take precautions to avoid fire incidents in the forest. Some of



these fires result from slash-and-burn in farms, burning of grazing land, poor honey harvesting and cigarette smokers who throw lit cigarettes in the forest. Over hunting, cutting of fresh trees for firewood by community members for business purposes etc are some other problems that have devastating effect on the forest.

CAMGEW believes that Forest patrols are an essential element of forest conservation. It is a tool to measure and evaluate the wellbeing of the forest as a whole (including the fauna and flora- biodiversity). The trees that have been planted by CAMGEW from 2012 to 2021 are monitored during these patrols. The patrols are generally done by CAMGEW staff, Forest users who work in collaboration with CAMGEW. Patrol sessions are also often organized to include CAMGEW Field team and community members who are essentially forest users. Through these patrols, the problems that plague the forest are identified, risk areas are also identified and appropriate solutions are brought to prevent any problems that may occur.



Forest monitoring teams made up of CAMGEW staff, forest users and other community members

## Activities carried out during Patrol Sessions

**Identification of forest problems:** During the forest patrols with the community members (mostly forest users), forest problems were identified. The problems identified included the bushfire, falling of fresh firewood in the forest, the cutting of planted trees in the forest and the presence of domestic animals in the forest (goats and sheep). CAMGEW team together with the patrol team also identified the presence of non-native trees in the forest. These trees included both fruit trees such as pear trees and tomato trees and others like Eucalyptus species and cypress. Most of these trees were planted at the periphery of the forest.



Patrols done to check on planted trees, general forest and unsustainable activities like cutting of fresh wood for firewood are monitored





Prunus africana trees planted by CAMGEW in 2013

**Chasing out of animals from the forest:** One of the biggest challenges of conservation in the Kilum-Ijim forest is the presence of domestic animals in the forest. In the Emfve-Mii community forest where the patrols were done sheep and goats were chased out of the forest. This chasing is done regularly by the forest users. These animals eat planted and naturally regenerating trees. In the process of patrolling this year, CAMGEW and the community had as objective to send the remaining animals out of the forest. The owners of these animals were encouraged to remove them from the forest.

**Seed Collection:** During the patrol sessions, it was also an opportunity for CAMGEW staff together with the community to collect seeds to nurse in the CAMGEW tree nurseries. During the process seeds of *Carapas grandiflora*, *Newtonia camerunensis*, *Zysigium staundtii*, and *Pittosporum manni* were collected.



CAMGEW staff together with community members showcasing Carapas seeds collected

**Environmental Education:** CAMGEW team also embarked on an environmental education campaign with forest users and patrol teams. It was an opportunity to train new patrollers in the process. The community members who were participating in the patrols for the first time learned in the process. The new members were called upon to be messengers of CAMGEW's mission.



CAMGEW, forest users and community members on patrol sessions. New Patrollers being trained

In the same line, to reach a wider range of audience, CAMGEW field staff also did a radio programme in the forest to sensitise a wider community. The radio programme was organised on the 8th of May 2022. This was done to commemorate the celebration of the 2022 World Environment Day. The programme was diffused through the Elak Council Radio with an audience of more than 50000 people..

**Identification of forest areas to be regenerated:** Tree planting is one of the regular annual activities CAMGEW carries. To effectively execute this activity, there is a need for better planning. In the process of patrolling this year, CAMGEW decided together with the community to choose sites where the trees would be planted this year and in the coming years. In the process, CAMGEW identified three compartments that needed to be regenerated; Ebkokenefem, Ngoksebeh and Ngehng.

**Results and Findings:** 5 sessions of patrolling were organised in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest. Over 35 people were involved in the patrolling. The total number of people who got involved in the activity per head count was 92 persons.

CAMGEW organised forest patrols with community members

SN	Date	Compartment	Females	males	Youths
1	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Ebkokenefem	1	12	13
2	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Eygham	1	12	13
3	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Ngoksebeh	7	15	18
4	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Ngehng	7	15	18
5	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Ngehng	7	15	18
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>69</b>	

*Many other sessions were carried out by community members which we could not keep records.*

CAMGEW discovered that rate at which various forest rat and other small rodents were trapped was alarming. This is a threat to forest biodiversity that needs to be tackled.

In the course of patrols, CAMGEW discovered that the rate of firewood fetching was alarming in the compartments close to Manchok and Keyon Villages. There was more dry wood in the Nguinkei II village compartments. This dry wood was fresh trees destroyed. During our patrols we noticed that trees that were planted in the past years by CAMGEW were doing fine. Some of the trees have even reached a diameter of 15cm. The survival rates of the trees are also good and encouraging.





*CAMGEW Field staff during patrol session besides some of the trees planted in 2013*

**Challenges:** No sanctions are meted on forest defaulters even when they are caught and brought before the forces of law and order. The only sanctions that are levied on the forest defaulters is passed on by the Traditional Authority in Oku which is the "Kwifon". The sanctions have however no significant as the levies generally vary from 1000FCFA-5000FCA. This has not been able to stop other people from exploiting the forest wrongly.

**Conclusion:** The patrol sessions were great. Community members who took part in the process were able to appreciate the challenges in the forest; they saw the destruction that was caused by man in the forest. They were also able to appreciate the efforts that CAMGEW has been doing in the forest in the field of conservation and forest regeneration. The patrol sessions were also very participative. Many Community members were involved in the process. It was also gender inclusive and a lot of youths were also involved.



Women engaged in Forest patrols in the Emfve-Mii community forest

### Main Threats

- **Encroachment:** some farmers along the forest boundary cultivate across the forest boundary into forest land. Such encroachment is accompanied by the felling down of forest trees to pave way for farmland. CAMGEW is tackling this with education, use of traditional authorities like Kwifon and provision of alternative sources of livelihoods.

- **Presence of goats in the forest:** There are many domestic goats in the forest that eat up and destroy the planted trees especially *Pittosporium manii*. Goats mostly follow the slashed paths to eat up planted trees. These goats come down from the grazing land above the forest (summit) into the forest in search of water especially in the dry season. The paths used by goats to come to the forest need to be closed and enough water made available to animals in the grazing land. The goats that have come to remain in the forest needs to be removed. This needs the collaboration of Grazers Union, tradition, government and other stakeholders like CAMGEW. These goats are owned by community members and are a source of income for the family. These goats eat trees in planted areas. More so, natural regeneration of the Kilum forest is also disturbed by goats. The summit was identified suitable for animal rearing but many people rear their goats just a few kilometers into the forest.
- **Deforestation:** The cutting of fresh wood for tool handles, fencing of farms and gardens by forest users especially *Carapas grandifolia*, *Maesa lanceolata* and *Nuxia congesta* is a challenge in the Kilum Forest.
- **Over hunting :** Many people hunt rodents in the forest and this can led to extinction. They are responsible for seed dispersal and biodiversity in Kilum-Ijim forest. Some rodents feed on others and this food chain needs to be maintained.

### Recommendations

- The bare portions of the Kilum-Ijim forest should be regenerated by Forest Management Institution, Forest Users Groups, NGOs, and Individuals.
- Everyone needs to have ownership and spirit of engagement and appreciation in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation. There is need to keep animating forest platform that bring all stakeholders together.
- Forest Management Institutions should explore opportunities on forest conservation to better execute simple management plans activities.
- The tradition through Kwifon can help engage communities in the use of indigenous knowledge and practices (traditional sanctions and injunctions) in forest conservation. Severe sanctions should be meted on defaulters by Kwifon. Many people violate forest laws on the pretext that nothing meaningful is done to defaulters. They go free as usual
- There is need for more climate literacy programs for communities to conserve the forest.
- CAMGEW and other stakeholders need to continuously engage forest users like bee farmers, herbalists, water management committee, firewood fetchers who visit the forest on daily basis to monitor forest and do reporting on daily and weekly basis.
- To bring about behavioural change in communities adjacent to the Kilum-Ijim Forest, CAMGEW recommends an increase in Environmental education for the young and the old and also provision of alternative sources of livelihood to communities.
- CAMGEW recommends the use of sustainable techniques in farming and apiculture to reduce bushfire, soil degradation and increase production for income generation.
- CAMGEW recommends that the existing forest multi-stakeholder platforms should work closely with grazers to prevent goats from getting access to the forest. Goats pound the soil and prevent natural regeneration and they also eat planted trees. They sometimes push down mounted beehives.
- More youths and women should be engaged in environmental restoration activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2022 season of forest regeneration was successful with a total of **11,453** trees planted on **35** hectares in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest. It is CAMGEW'S desire to nurture nature through sustainable environmental practices like tree planting and to join the global community in the fight against global environmental problems like Global Warming and Climate Change. There was a huge community engagement in forest regeneration, monitoring and patrols. This spirit give hope that the future is bright for Kilum-Ijim forest conservation.

# SECTION 3

## FOREST/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OR CLIMATE LITERACY ACTIONS

### A. ENVIRONMENTAL/ FOREST EDUCATION 2022

Forest/environmental education or climate literacy actions by CAMGEW in the Kilum-Ijim forest communities since 2013 has created much impact in this area and the environs. This has been extended to the Cameroon Western Highlands Forest area in the West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon t has been a key tool in conservation. This has built nature lovers especially within children, youths and women and helped adults to change their negative behavior towards the forest. Cameroon Western Highlands Forest and all forest of the world could be preserved if forest education remains an integral part of conservation. These forest suffers from bushfire [caused by slash-and-burn in farms around forest peripheries, poor method of honey harvesting and cigarette smoking in forest], the presence of domestic animals, the cutting of wet trees for firewood and construction, the encroachment by farmers in the forest, hunting, 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. We are also afraid that the forest and other ecosystems could suffer from poor waste (used plastics, bottles, metals, canned food, etc) management. Firewood fetching recently has been a big treat to this forest. With the Anglophone crisis in the English speaking regions of Cameroon, many businesses collapsed, many young people dropped out from schools and many other institutions closed down frustrating many people. This has caused many people to depend on the forest for a living. Young people also visit the forest almost on daily basis for firewood. As a result, cutting down of fresh trees for wood becomes possible. Some of the forest users are weak and cannot travel long distances into the forest to look for dry wood and so depend on forest periphery to meet their needs. In 2022 CAMGEW took another step forward to intensify CAMGEW environmental and forest education now named climate literacy with community members living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest and also those in Cameroon Western Highlands forest area in general to make them know the importance of protecting this forest and using it sustainably by organising sessions with children, women and community member. CAMGEW also focused on waste management and also the revitalization of indigenous knowledge and cultural practices in these forest areas. She also uses the available local radio station to reach out to many people.

Objectives of Forest Education: CAMGEW has had as objective to protect the environment where ever she finds herself and promote sound environmental practices to build a society free from unsustainable environmental practices. CAMGEW instill in children, youths and women the love for nature and make adults change negative behaviors towards the forest.

Methodology: In 2022, CAMGEW made Environmental education as a regular feature of her activities. CAMGEW organized environmental education sessions with community children, forest users. groups, children, cultural groups, Churches and any where people could gather. She equally used the radio to educate, sensitize and make people understand the need to protect the environment and the forest. There were visits to the forest and CAMGEW tree nursery, where we talk to people on the need to promote green environment. During various trainings organized by CAMGEW like Bee farming, Agro forestry, Honey juice production, Beeswax soap production, environmental education was done. In 2022, CAMGEW reach out to thousands of people. CAMGEW also engaged in waste management by converting waste to wealth.



## a. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

1. **Importance of forest in water supply and the importance of water to people, plants and animals.** In Oku under the Kilum forest, no stream enters Oku but all rivers flow only out from the forest. In the past, streams use to overflow their bounds. Recently due to forest exploitation, streams dried off leading to water shortage. Gardening in the dry season is a big challenge. We need to build nature lovers to reverse the situation and keep water flowing for people, plants and animals. Children and community members learned through forest visits and radio that water is life and forest needs to be protected to have the life from water.



Children and community members learning on importance of forest for water

2. **Honey bee and its importance in pollination.** Honey bee is very common in Kilum forest and many people do not know that it plays a great role in crop production. During the lesson on honey bee, children, women learned about the role of bees in crop pollination and the need for them to protect the honey bee to improve crop yields. Women were called upon to protect bee by engaging in bee farming.



Children sharing and learning about importance of honey bee in pollination and honey production

3. **Role of tree nursery in forest regeneration.** Children and women learn in the CAMGEW tree nursery on nursery development, management, its importance (for fruit trees, agroforestry trees, forest regeneration) and the need to own individual or family nurseries. During this lesson, women learned-by-doing in planting tree seeds in the nursery, weeding and filling soil in polythene pots. Children learned how to weed, water, and how compost manure is produced out of dead leaves from the nursery. Children and community members learned about types of trees nursed and their scientific names.





Children and women learning-by-doing in tree nursery development

4. **Forest regeneration.** CAMGEW forest regeneration education was done during tree planting and also through learning-by-doing in tree planting with communities.



Community members learning and sharing knowledge on forest regeneration

5. **Different types of seasons in Cameroon.** During this environmental education session, children went outdoor to learn the different types of seasons in Cameroon and their characteristics. Children could identify the 2 seasons in Oku like dry and rainy season.. Children identify some characteristics of dry season like hot climate, dry places, crops not grown unlike in the rainy season where places are wet, crops growing, high rain falls etc. They learned that dry season could go longer and become harsher if they cut trees.



Children sharing on characteristics of various seasons in Cameroon



6. **Environmental education through Radio program:** CAMGEW used the Oku Council Radio for forest and environmental education to reach out to a larger audience. This included bushfire sensitization, waste management and destruction of biodiversity by human activities. Many community members appreciated these radio programmes and said that it had a positive impact on the community.



CAMGEW staff in the studio dispensing environmental education

7. **Types of Leaves:** Children learned about types of leaves (simple and compound) and importance of leaves like for food, medicine, packaging (alternative to plastics), decoration, etc. They were able to draw and name various parts of leaves.



Children learning on external parts of a leaf and present drawings on leaves

8. **Forest and the honey bee:** Children learned the importance of honey bee as insect and its importance to the forest and bee keeping. They learned the importance of honey as food and medicine and also how honey from bee farming create jobs and income.



Children learning about the honey bee and its products

## 2022 Environmental education for children/communities in Kilum-Ijim Forest

Dates	TOPIC PER SESSION	PLACE OF ACTIVITY	TOTAL PERSONS	MALE	FEMALES
8 February 2022	Forest for water and Importance of forest for water	Small forest with a stream	16	06	10
28 June 2022	Honey bee and its important in pollination.	CAMGEW Center	20	5	15
16 July 2022	Various types of leaves and their importance.	Oku - CAMGEW Center	31	10	21
29 October 2022	Various seasons in Cameroon	Oku - Field visit	16	6	10
6 August 2022	Forest regeneration.	CAMGEW – Oku-Forest	87	47	40
3 August 2023	Tree nursery development.	CAMGEW tree nursery-Oku	15	5	10
4 August 2022	Tree nursery development and women role in forest regeneration	Oku - CAMGEW Tree nursery Manchok	23	0	23
5 August 2022	Forest and Honey Bee	Oku - CAMGEW tree nursery	40	0	40
8 September 2022- March 2023	Bush fire prevention campaign.	churches, Cultural/social gatherings.	More than 10000 people	More than 5000	More than 5000
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS			10248	5079	5169

### b. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN BAMENDA



Kids Singing Environmentally Friendly Songs while learning the types of seeds



Practical Lesson on types of crops and crop gardening





Children fill Soil In Recycled Plastics



Children learn how to water tree nurseries while playing games and telling stories



CAMGEW celebrate World Environment Day with theme "Only One Earth"



## 2022 Environmental Education for children in Bamenda,, West and Adamaoua Regions

DATE	TOPIC PER SESSION	PLACE OF ACTIVITY	TOTAL PERSONS	MALE	FEMALES
15 January 2022	Children learned-by-doing how to take care of crops in CAMGEW garden during the dry season.	CAMGEW Bamenda	48	21	27
29 January 2022	Children learning about forest for food and fruits through picture presentation.	CAMGEW Bamenda	27	11	16
05 February 2022	Children learned about the connection between forest and wildlife.	CAMGEW BAMENDA	13	08	05
12 February 2022	Children share their thoughts/love for nature during St Valentine period. CAMGEW together with children celebrated nature with creative arts to express how they cherished living together with nature.	CAMGEW- Bamenda	15	8	7
12 March 2022	Children learn the various farming tools through drawing/colouring, videos and games	CAMGEW- Bamenda	15	7	8
09 April 2022	Children learn parts of trees and their importance	CAMGEW Bamenda	18	12	6
16 April 2022	Children's learn about honey bee and its importance to man and nature	CAMGEW Bamenda	16	8	8
23 April 2022	On Mother Earth Day children learn about "Importance of Flowers To Man, Animal, Insects And Nature".	CAMGEW Bamenda	13	8	5
30 April 2022	Children learn about Soils and it's important to man, animals, plants and Nature	CAMGEW Bamenda	17	9	8
07 May 2022	Different types of seeds (monocotyledon and a dicotyledon).	CAMGEW Bamenda	20	14	6
14/5/2022	Recycling Plastic and use in urban gardens in Urban Gardens . Converting waste to wealth.	CAMGEW Bamenda	23	13	10
4th June 2022	Water and its importance to man and nature.	Bamenda	15	6	9
8 June 2022	World Environment Day - 10 community based organisations and the media in a round table discussed best practices and actions to promote women's environmental rights in the Bamenda Western Highlands	Bamenda	10	7	3
20 June 2022	CAMGEW Celebrated African Child Day with theme "Forest And Life" with Children learning about forest stratification and food chain.	CAMGEW - Bamenda	15	6	9
	Identification of various non timber forest products around Bankim for domestication	Bankim	75 women and youths	25	50
22 July 2022	Converting Waste Plastic Bottles to Wealth for Urban Gardening	St Therese School Nkwen - Bamenda	160	60	100
10 December 2022	Importance of trees and how to care for plants in dry season..	CAMGEW Bamenda	12	6	6
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN			512	229	283

## B. USING THE MEDIA TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

**Workshop to empower Community journalist on bushfire prevention education and Radio programs on Bushfire Prevention:** 12 bushfire prevention education were carried out in Magba Council radio for 12 local languages each. This radio is ideal because it receives signal in the West Region, North West Region, Centre Region, Adamawa Region, Center Region and Neighbouring Nigerian communities. It has over 500.000 audiences.



Wirsiy Emmanuel -Director of CAMGEW was welcomed in Radio Magba

To ensure that Journalist communicates forest and CAMGEW activities better, CAMGEW held a workshop with them on the 24th June 2022. This workshop was attended by 12 journalists representing 12 cultural groups resident in West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. These cultural journalists speak various local languages and carryout forest education and bushfire prevention education in local languages. This ability to communicate in various languages made Radio Magba the most listened to radio station by local people in the west, North West, Centre and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon.



CAMGEW having a working session with various Journalists from different ethnic groups forest education.

## C. KILUM-IJIM FOREST BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

### BUSHFIRE RATIONALE

Bushfire around Kilum-Ijim forest area and Bamenda Highland Forest area in general destroy forest biodiversity, water catchments, affect bee farmers by burning their beehives, harm or kill people, prevent research and burn farms. It also destroys the source of livelihoods of forest users like herbalists and water management committees. Bushfire is caused by hunters, grazers, farmers around the forest in slash-and-burn, mentally challenged persons and cigarette smokers. Bushfire has consumed thousands of hives discouraging many people from bee farming. This has a big effect on the conservation of our forest. The people who help in protecting the forest are forest users like bee farmers. Community members who depend solely on bee farming for livelihood had their aspirations destroyed. Bushfires need to be prevented or managed when they occur. Human life and biodiversity matter. Our farms are a source of livelihood. Considering that poverty and unemployment are still with us and considering that we do not want the situation to get worse, we need solidarity which is our own insurance to tackle bushfires. CAMGEW is building community solidarity to help fight bushfire and promote socio-cultural, economic and ecological stability. Bushfires occur from the month of November to early April in the dry season. CAMGEW through her experience working with communities in the Kilum-Ijim forest area since 2010 has much information and capacity to help in the fight against bushfire. CAMGEW keeps working to build stronger communities and support them.

**Sensitization in Social Groups and Gathering on Importance of the Forest Bushfire Prevention and Management Measures:** CAMGEW had massive sensitization campaigns in public places with many community members and could not fill names of everyone in the attendance lists. We had sensitization campaigns in many social and cultural gatherings. We reached out to more than 5000 people. This was during COVID 19 pandemic and we needed to be cautious.

20 sensitisation campaigns were carried out on importance of the forest, bushfire prevention and management measures. This was done in churches, social gathering, traditional groups and in markets.

1172 persons (390Men, 420 Women, 262 Youths, 10 people with disabilities and 70 Indigenous Peoples) were sensitized. This built community solidarity and revitalized their culture and traditional knowledge and practices in forest conservation like traditional patrols and injunctions.



Bushfire sensitisation campaign with communities

**Use of Creative Arts to Prevent and Manage Bushfire:** CAMGEW used the social media for sensitization. Blog messages were developed and made public through Hilltop Voices. Facebook messages were prepared and made public through CAMGEW Facebook page. Whatsapp groups' messages were developed and short bushfire sketches were developed for sensitization. Online radio programme messages were developed and sent out to various local whatsapp groups. Community radio sensitizations were carried out in community radios in Oku and other Radios in Bamenda that reaches Kilum-Ijim forest areas like Abakwa Radio, Ndefcam radio. We

used highly listen radio programmes to deliver messages on bushfire prevention and management. Newspapers were used for sensitisation against bushfire. The following newspaper carried our sensitization messages: Eden Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper, The Gazette Newspaper,

**Training for Kilum-Ijim forest multi-stakeholder platforms on bushfire prevention and management:** CAMGEW brought stakeholders, community leaders and forest users together in a workshop to discuss on bushfire prevention and management. During this training participants learned about causes of bushfire, how to fight them, who to involve and when to fight bushfire. This training was participatory and much indigenous knowledge and practices that have helped protected the forest from bushfire was shared. Bushfire Guide was prepared from information gathered from this workshop. During the training communities also learned and practiced how to prevent COVID 19.

**Working session to prepare a bushfire prevention and management calendar with forest multi-stakeholder platforms in each community:** 23 persons from communities around Kilum-Ijim forest area were trained on how to prepare a bushfire calendar and also identify areas of the forest with high risk to bushfire. During the workshop an action plan was prepared for 2022 bushfire prevent/management. This plan of activities was executed with fire tracing, patrols, back burning and sensitization. Persons who participated in this workshops were community leaders and forest users who went back to put into practice what they learned.

**Production of guides on bushfire prevention and management:** Information gathered from bushfire multi-stakeholder platform training and training on bushfire calendar production resulted in the production of 1000 copies of bushfire prevention and management calendars. 1000 copies of bushfire prevention and management guides were distributed to communities for use in bushfire prevention and management.

**Supporting of forest communities with tools to better prevent and manage bushfire:** Community members needed tools to use in bushfire prevention/management and we jointly identified these tools and bought. Some COVID 19 prevention kits were also bought and distributed to communities. 10 forest communities supported with 50 cutlasses, 50 spades, 50 hoes, 50 rakes, 100 buckets, 100 hand gloves 1000 facemasks

**Carrying out fire lining/tracing of 4m path around the forest by community members with different forest interest:** 302 persons from 8 communities carried out fire tracing. About 6500 metres were fire traced in Manchok, Ngvuinkei II, Bikov, Abuh, Mutteff, Tumuku and other communities around Belo. Bushfire was prevented through practical learning and actions. The clearing of paths to prevent fire crossing was 4 m wide.

**Carrying out back burning after fire lining:** 4000 metres of fire traced area was back burned by 81 persons from 5 communities. Not all areas traced needed back burning and back burning never needed many persons.

**Training on agroforestry techniques to make area traced and closer forest peripheries evergreen to prevent fire crossing into forest:** 86 farmers with farms around forest peripheries were trained in 2 sessions. They learned how to create green belt with native agroforestry plants that also served as food crops, income source and guaranteed job creation. These crops also served in soil conservation from erosion and increase variety of food that could be harvested from farms. The farmers received variety of agroforestry crops to plant in farms as donation from CAMGEW. This helped prevented slash-and-burn from farms that caused bushfires. Many community members came out for the training than we invited and we could not deny them the training

**Carrying out forest patrols to prevent and sensitise on bushfire:** 18 forest patrols sessions were carried out by 150 persons from either Forest Management Institutions' members, forest honey Cooperative members, herbalists, water catchment protection committee members, grazers and other forest users.

**Exchange visit between communities that were strong in bushfire prevention and management with communities that lack the skills:** CAMGEW carried out 7 exchange visits and this involved 91 persons from 9 communities. Exchange visits were within and between villages with persons with experience and skills in bushfire sharing with others. This was also done practically in the field during fire tracing and back burning. CAMGEW recommend that exchange visits should be made a yearly activity with financial support because the

Kilum-Ijim forest is a carbon sink. CAMGEW is also proud that this activity improved on community solidarity as they worked together

**15 days workshop organised with 8 traditional leaders to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned on bushfire prevention:** This workshop took place from the 25th to 30th July 2022 at CAMGEW office in Bamenda, North West Region of Cameroon.



During this visit, cultural leaders shared their experiences on bushfire prevention in 2021. The newspaper agencies and Radio were invited to cover the event. During the workshop participants shared diverse successes, challenges and made recommendations for the way forward. At the end of this workshop these leaders committed themselves to present reports of the workshop to 26 community development associations located in villages in Kilum-Ijim. The findings (successes, recommendations, challenges) shared to community development associations will serve the community and other generations. This report will remain a referral document to the community.

During the workshop, cultural leaders shared the following project successes from the field: From the sharing CAMGEW could see increase in women participation in bushfire prevention in the kilum-Ijim forest area. In 2020, less than 100 women and girls participated in bushfire prevention. In 2021, above 300 women in various forest communities led bushfire prevention activities. This increased women participation and engagement to save the forest and reinforced community ownership of forest resources. Everyone felt belonging.

Another finding is that cultural groups including men's clubs now discuss forest conservation and bushfire prevention during their regular weekly meetings. Localising forest education programs enhances not only knowledge about the forest but also various ecosystem services around them. This is good for conservation. Cultural disciplinary council called the 'Nwerong' in the Bikov community forest as well as in other forest areas passed a communique in a typical cultural communication manner to the community spelling out penalties awaiting anyone who in any way engage in bushfires. This traditional council is the highest authority and disciplinary council highly respected by the local people in the Kilum-Ijim forest area. This council goes out occasionally only in very pertinent issues and their verdicts are never disputed by the local people. Taking part in bushfire prevention proves the level of engagement in forest conservation and how important this activity was to the people.

## Summary of Bushfire activities carried out

TOPIC	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	NUMBER OF MEN	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	NUMBER OF DISABILITIES	NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
Sensitization in Social Groups and Gathering on Importance of the Forest Bushfire Prevention and Management Measures	12 sensitisation campaigns carried out on importance of the forest, bushfire prevention/management measures. More than 3000 persons reached	1172	390	420	262	10	70
Training for Kilum-Ijim forest mulkti-stakeholder platforms on bushfire prevention and management	1 Kilum-Ijim Forest Stakeholder Platform Workshop done	40	9	9	16	2	4
Working session to prepare a bushfire prevention and management calendar with forest multi-stakeholder platforms in each community	1 Working session to prepare a bushfire prevention and management calendar with forest multi-stakeholder platforms in each community	23	6	4	8	2	3
Production of guides on bushfire prevention and management	1000 copies of bushfire prevention and management guides produced and distributed.						
Supporting of forest communities with tools to better prevent and manage bushfire	10 forest communities supported with 50 cutlasses, 50 spades, 50 hoes, 50 rakes, 100 buckets, 100 hand gloves 1000 facemasks						
Carrying out fire lining or tracing of 4m path around the forest by community members with different forest interest	302 persons from 8 communities carried out fire tracing. About 6500 metres were traced in Manchok, Ngvuinkei II, Vekovi, Abuh, Mutteff, Tumuku and some other communities.	302					
Carrying out back burning after fire lining	4000 metres of fire traced area was back burned by 81 persons from 5 communities.	81					



Training on agroforestry techniques to make area traced and closer forest peripheries evergreen to prevent fire crossing into forest	2 Agroforestry training sessions on agroforestry system and provision of agroforestry seeds	86	41	23	22	0	0
Carrying out of 24 forest patrols by Forest Management Institutions members. Forest honey cooperative members, herbalists	18 forest patrols sessions were carried out	150	66	43	32	9	0
Exchange visit between communities that are strong in bushfire prevention and management with communities that lack the skills	CAMGEW carried out 7 exchange visits and this involved 9 communities.	91	52	4	35	0	0
Visibility/communication/knowledge management	Training on bees wax soap production as COVID prevention measure for hand washing.	28	0	8	18		
	*2 students did internship on bushfire and there are internship reports available on bushfire management *2 signboards produced for this project. *500 copies of the booklet on project results, innovations and lessons learnt have been printed and distributed to community members.						
Use of Creative Arts to Prevent and Manage Bushfire	*15 Radio programs were organized *10 education sessions with town cryers carried out by local journalist. *25 forest sign post for forest boundaries *500 posters on bushfire prevention and management						
Monitoring and Evaluation	500 copies of bushfire prevention and management calendar prepared 2 evaluation sessions done						

**Production of bushfire calendar in 3 cultural languages of the Kilum-Ijim:** From the 6th and 12th July 2022, the first workshop towards development of bushfire prevention calendar in cultural languages of the kilum-Ijim forest area was held in Bamenda. This workshop was attended by 6 cultural journalist speaking Lamnso, Oku and Kom languages (languages spoken by ethnic groups around Kilum-Ijim forest) and was facilitated by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy of CAMGEW. This workshop analysed, brainstormed and came-up with monthly forest conservation and bushfire prevention activities in the forest area. CAMGEW provided these journalists with working documents such as bushfire prevention flyers, posters containing various actions communities can engage in to prevent bushfires and bushfire prevention guide produced. During this 6days, various cultural symbols that are unique to each tribe of the kilum-Ijim forest were identified for use during the production. These symbols served as a pole factor and to promote public acceptance of the calendar locally in the kilum-Ijim forest area. Symbols and images like the “Ngonso” in Nso tribe, the peace plant, the gong and town cries, the traditional council symbol, the cutlass and the hoes mean a lot to local people. At the end of the workshop, the participants resolved that all the journalist from three tribes will work with their cultural leaders and development stakeholders in their community and sent in a propose draft of the cultural bushfire prevention calendar. The initiative was welcomed by community stakeholders. We were expecting the calendars to be ready by end of 2022 for use in 2023. The stakeholders saw the calender production in cultural languages as a unifying factor in forest communities. To them this calenders will built bridges of peace and solidarity locally. This was to be realised by end of 2022. The journalists recommended that when the calendars are finally produced they should be distributed through cultural spaces such as cultural festivals, traditional disciplinary councils, during cultural development association meetings. This was to engaged many community members in bushfire prevention and promote discussions on forest regeneration locally.

**Bushfire Prevention Education in Cameroon Western Highland forest area:** CAMGEW office for West and Adamaoua Regions based in Ngounso-Magba organised bushfire education session that involved forest users, farmers, grazers from the 2 Regions. Learning sessions were equally held at CAMGEW project agroforestry demonstration farm. These sessions also enlightened women on the non-timber forest products found in their community that if bushfire is prevented it could be a steady additional source of income for communities especially women and youths. This was a pole factor to engage women in climate actions at grassroot levels. NTFPs could be sustainably harvested and domesticated in the farm land to reduce over exploitation from forest.



Bushfire education sessions in Magba and Bankim in West and Adamaoua Regions respectively



## Visibility/communication/knowledge management

2 students did internship on bushfire in CAMGEW and there are internship reports available on bushfire management and prevention. 500 copies of the booklet on project results, innovations and lessons learn were produced and distributed to community members.



Forest signpost and bushfire calendar for distribution

**Bushfire Monitoring and Evaluation:** CAMGEW produced 500 copies of bushfire prevention and management calendar and shared to community members to help them know the different activities to carryout year round. CAMGEW carried out 2 evaluation sessions with forest community leaders, forest users and stakeholders on what went well, bad and how to do better next time.

## Recommendation

- There is need to promote traditional communication methods and sanctions on fight bushfire
- Fire tracing and back burning should be a yearly activity with either local, national or global support. The forest is a carbon sink that must be protected.
- There is need to develop climate-smart businesses in and around the forest. Green businesses can come from forest like honey and from forest periphery in agroforestry farms. Crop value chain development can bring about community engagement in bushfire prevention.



World Environment celebration with 20 community members through forest patrol with theme “Only One Earth”

## **D. REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES' INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST**

### **Context and justification**

The Kilum-Ijim forest is the largest remaining portion of the Bamenda Highland Montane forest of Cameroon. Communities around this forest have protected this forest for years with their traditional practices, knowledge and systems from generation to generation. The tradition, culture, language, feeding, dressing, house construction, farming systems and health are all related and reflected in the forest. You cannot separate forest people from their forest because the forest is their identity just like their culture that had evolved with them. The introduced conventional conservation methods after colonisation have affected the indigenous knowledge and practices of forest people that have been conserving the forest for hundreds of years. Most of the indigenous knowledge and practices are fast disappearing and the forest is also disappearing. There is need to listen to forest people to promote this indigenous knowledge and practices in forest communities. CAMGEW took necessary actions in this line to promote dialogue among communities involving the young and old and also women and men. This has helped them to continuously use their forest sustainably as they had done in the past. CAMGEW identified community elders knowledgeable in forest, culture and practices to share their traditional knowledge and practices with others. This sharing was broadened to a larger audience of elders and youths to promote a wider sharing. The elderly women share and learn from other women because the traditional knowledge and practices link to the forest are more domestic and feminine as was the case in the past. This is an ongoing activity that will continue in the coming years. This sharing is gradually moving to households in the evenings while dinner is being prepared in form of storytelling, songs, poems, proverbs, rhymes, etc. CAMGEW first started working in Oku.

**Identification of elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing:** CAMGEW identified 10 men and 13 women in Oku to initiate the discussions and exchanges on indigenous knowledge and practices. These persons were identified in consultation with community leaders and also factoring in their age, knowledge and practices in the forest, culture and tradition. They were identified from different villages in Oku to exchange. CAMGGEW team agreed to work with men and women separately.

**Start of sharing and learning in Oku with identified elders on indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing:** The first discussion was held with 10 elderly men on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. A similar discussion was held with 13 elderly women on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. The discussion was initiated on the role of Oku people on forest, land, food, water, tradition, conflict management, marriage, social stratification, medicine, local marketing and many more.

The discussion was open and the sharing was free. We could listen to elders exchange on how the forest provided vegetables and food to everyone. They presented the types of vegetables found in the forest and how they were prepared. Women concentrated on forest usage, family life and food related issues like wild huckleberry known as "kefom" in Oku. Wild bitterleaf were also harvested in the forest. For proteins, Oku people gathered mushrooms, and also hunted rats. Fish was eaten by a few people who generally exchanged with people from Bamte village. Cocoyams ("Biwey" and "kohngwan") and bananas ("kengom ketem") were also eaten in Oku. Pumpkin leaves were not eaten in Oku. It is very recent in 60s that the Oku people started eating them.





Elderly women selected from Villages in Oku exchanging on indigenous knowledge and cultural practices

As concern culture, the Kwifon and the Fon made decisions on the culture and forest. They managed and placed injunction on the forest and other places when there was need to either halt the situation permanently or temporary to find solutions. Community members respected injunctions passed by this authority (Kwifon). Nobody could go to destroy the forest without being sanctioned by the Kwifon. There were however defaulters. These were seriously sanctioned by members of "Kwifon" society known as "Nchindas" because they served as the patrollers. Most of the sanctions that were given to defaulters included warnings and the provision fowls, palm wine, goats, and salt. The severity of the sanctions depended on the degree of the crime or fault. Some people could give out as sanctions up to five goats. This was always the case when it came to encroachment and forest clearing. They monitored the forest and made sure messages reach all villages through traditional methods of communication. This was done through the various Manjongs and Mfuhs which are men's clubs. It was much sharing and learning.



Elderly men selected from villages in Oku exchanging on indigenous knowledge and cultural practices

**Exchanges on traditional knowledge and practices in the ngiri secret:** CAMGEW on the 12 April 2022 facilitated exchanges among leaders of the Ngiri Secret Society of Oku Fondom. Some exchanged on the role of the Ngiri society in promoting the culture and tradition of Oku. The same discussion was initiated as in the first session and much was learned through sharing. Ngiri and Kwifon are the two existing secret societies in Oku with a big role in shaping the culture and tradition of the people. We need to protect our culture and make our societies strong. The discussion went well but we needed to build trust and acceptance since it is one of the existing 2 big secret societies in Oku. CAMGEW could only guide to promote sharing among themselves and with the younger generation to protect indigenous knowledge and cultural practices. Our dream was to initiate



this in all the secret societies and cultural groups in Oku. CAMGEW facilitated special sessions for Ngiri and Kwifon societies to promote discussions among members.

**Broaden women initiated dialogue with elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing:**

On the 11 April 2022, 26 women gathered to share more again on Oku indigenous knowledge and practices. The elderly women involved in the first session were part of this session and shared more with other women. The exchange was so rich and new knowledge also came from the floor. Women never wanted to leave after 4 hours of exchange. The women gathered in Manchok and shared. They shared more about the role of the women in promoting security, preventing conflicts and building solidarity locally. They shared on their role in getting and preparing food for their families and highlighted on forest vegetables and mushroom using palm oil. They shared about the role of women in marriage and in getting new wives. Women shared that the Oku tradition had sanctions imposed on the men or women who violated their spouses. Women societies such as the "kenluu" will get involved in cases where the man maltreated his wife. This society could inflict either corporal or material sanctions on a man that beat his wife. The sanctions ranged from fowls to goats depending on the crimes committed by the man. Same was done to a woman who either beat her husband or refused cooking or made her husband do the domestic work meant to be done by the woman. These practices curbed excesses. In some cases either the woman was ostracized or evicted from social gatherings. This meant much and was a talk of the day and women were brought back to the group when the elderly women could see change. Sex was meant for procreation only.

Food was generally served very late in the evening in the past. Average time for meals in the past was after the night crow of the cock which was generally after 9 pm. The late suppers generally provided opportunities for story telling in families to make children stay awake till food was ready. The stories were generally educational stories to keep children out of societal ills. It was also common for riddles to be said and answered. The staple food eaten was fufu. This was generally prepared from corn or millet. Vegetables available that accompanied the starch food were huckleberry and wild huckleberry know as "kefom". Wild bitterleaves were also harvested in the forest. For proteins, Oku people gathered mushrooms, and also hunted. Fish was eaten by a few people who generally exchanged with people from Bamte village. Cocoyams ("Biwey" and "kohngwan") and bananas ("kengom ketem") were also eaten in Oku. Pumpkin leaves were not eaten until the 60s that the Oku people started eating them. Water was stored in calabashes or clay pots. Smaller calabashes were used to drink water. Streams were free from pollution and leaves of cocoyams were used to drink water from streams. Women discussed also about medicinal trees that are good in inducing sleep especially when one is tired. They discussed about forest trees that treat diseases like *Prunus africana* for malaria, *Pittosporium manii* for treatment of stomach problems, *Maesa lanceolata* for headache and catarrh, Forest mint for inducing sleep. Women told us that many people do not use the forest again for health because indigenous knowledge is disappearing.



Broaden women discussion on indigenous knowledge and cultural practices

**Broaden men's dialogue with elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing:** CAMGEW had to visit the Manjong (men's club) on 28 April 2022 and Mfuh houses on 29 April 2022 to initiate discussions on culture and traditional practices in Oku. These are all men's clubs where the men who attended the earlier session were members. There was discussion among members on the Oku Culture and tradition. In the course of the exchanges the clubs explain their role in the culture and tradition of Oku. They exchanged that the clubs are meant to be messengers to the Kwifon and Fondom. The clubs guaranteed security of the village and communication between villagers or communities and the palace. They explained how they are organised and the differences between the various men's club and their role in protecting the forest. The exchanges with members who attended the first and second sessions was smooth and there was additional information and clarification of more cultural facts. The younger men were part of this session and learned much from the sharing. They thanked CAMGEW for initiating this discussion. Men shared on marriage. They shared how they identified their spouses and fulfilled marriage conditions. The marriage rights involved the whole family with brothers and sisters of both parents participating. This built solidarity and protected marriages one of the elderly men shared.

**Discussion on forest:** The elderly men shared that Oku as a whole was a forest. The people were settled in the forest just like we find the Baka of the East Region of Cameroon today. The forest was their home and they were a settled people. They farmed the land around their settlement. With the growing population they needed more farm land. They cleared the forest around to increase their farm lands. Contrary to neighbouring communities or villages, they did not acquire lands in the savanna. The forest that was cleared was done by men. Men marked or delimited the areas to be farmed, fell the big trees and burnt the rest. These areas became their farmlands. They will divide these portions of land amongst their wives or brothers depending. Women were never directly involved in land acquisition. They could assist their husbands in clearing the forest but they never had direct ownership. Each woman was supposed to get married. Land could be given to unmarried women. Because of the mystery associated with the forest, women were generally not given full access to forest land because men wanted to protect them. Land was a limited acquisition. Land could only be increased by either clearing the forest or by being bought. However, land was not bought in Oku. Land was transferred from an individual to another based on mutual agreements. Most often land will be transferred to another person based on the friendship or relationship shared between the two parties. There were cases where land could be exchanged for a fowl, firewood and palm wine. When you needed land in a particular area you needed to bring a fowl and palm wine to the local landlords to get a piece of land. Some people could give out land to their in-laws either for construction or farming. This mutuality was generally sealed with a ritual agreement that brought family.

In cases where a father had land or it was family land, upon his death, his own portion will be shared amongst his male children. These portions were generally shared to the male children according to what portion was cultivated by which mother. In cases where a man had only one wife; his lands will be shared to his wife's sons. In cases where he had more than one wife, the sons of the different wives will according to their mother's farms receive their portions of land. Special cases were attributed to single mothers and their sons. In cases where a woman was not married, her son will equally have access and right to his grandfather's land. He had this access because any child boy or girl born out of wedlock became the grandfather's child. Conflict was managed at various social or cultural groups depending on the role each group played, and the type of conflicts. These groups were responsible for the management of the entire fondom of Oku like the Kwifon (Oku traditional parliament) together with the Fon warfare, burial rituals, managing household conflicts, ensuring human investment activities were rigorously carried out etc. Some of them had social activities attached to them like Njangi (in Oku it is known as "Ngwaah"). Saving schemes were also made. Church activities have also come and in the process of evangelization it is affecting the respect and honour sacred societies had. Some of these

societies that existed and still exist today are men's societies like the "Mfuh", "Manjong", "Ngeh", "Samba" and the JuJu ("Kekum"). There were also the women overlooking society of "Fembien". Most societies were men societies. To become of a member of a society, one needed to be initiated. Initiation varied depending on the society. Membership was given to men and not boys.



Exchange during discussions with men in the MANJONG House

**Bushfire:** In cases of bushfires outbreak, the "Kwifon" and the men's social groups like the " Mfuh and Manjong" houses sounded their trumpets. These trumpets alerted community members of eminent fire outbreak. Men and women will go to the forest and put out the fire. Sanctions were laid on all community men who did not answer the call to end the fire. The community members who were involved in firefighting usually did fire tracing, used soil or water to quench the fires. The major causes of the fire were either from bee farming or the production of charcoal in the forest in the past.



Exchange during discussions with men in the Manchok "Mfuh" house.

**Exchange visit session organised between villages for a broader discussion:** This came to replace the exchange visit between Oku and Kom elders. The Anglophone crisis made movement difficult between communities especially for the elders. A more broadened session was organised on 31st of August 2022. This session brought 42 men from 7 different groups together (the "Mfuh", "Samba", Ngiri, societies of Manchok , Keyon, Nguinkei II, and Elak villages of Oku) for 4 hours. The men discussed about the various traditional means and systems of communication using the gong and the "ngouk" (a small wooden drum). These practices are being abandoned today by the young generation. These methods were used for communication within the villages. It is becoming difficult for information to reach all as culture is eroded and Oku is faced with challenges of electricity and communication system.



Every community could be considered a village once it owned at least one of the men's social groups either the Manjong or mfuh. Through these men's groups, decisions were made regarding each village and their communities. The leaders of all the groups known as "Baa Manjong" attended every week the Manjong of Elak which is considered as the Fon's Manjong on the day known as " Kemeiywi". From this larger gathering of traditional leaders, decisions about the management of the villages were sent back to the various communities through the men's social clubs. The various Baa Manjong sent the messages out during the day of their village Manjong for transmission to the villagers as they went back home.

Community men leaders appreciated CAMGEW for this initiative to include Manjong into her project. The men's societies are being neglected by all community projects forgetting that they are at the center of information sharing in the villages of Oku as a whole. Information gathered in their social groups could reach every community in less than a week. These groups also stand at the centre of every community development activity as it holds most of the force to do labour activities. Yet they are being neglected. The culture of a people is their identity and there is no way a development activity or project can be sustainable without identifying with its beneficiary community. The discussions changed the mindsets of many people in the communities. Through the discussions, the older men were made to feel more important as their knowledge was shared to the younger generation of men. The outcome of the initial discussions helped us to organize more discussions among other men focus group. The information was carried to their various houses and this ignited certain activities like storytelling to come back to some houses.



Group discussion session with an enlarged Mfuh houses of Manchok, Nguinkei II, Keyon and Elak

**Larger discussion organized with women groups in Oku:** On the 2nd of September 2022, a larger group discussion with women was organised with 64 women from 7 groups coming from Nguinkei II, Manchok, Elak, Nkwi, Fekeng, Jikijem and Keyon villages. The focus group discussions included both old and young women. This was a forum for exchanges that include women issues essentially. The role of "Fembien" was reiterated. This group is a group for women managed by women. The younger generation learned from the older generation. Initiation into these groups was done as the girl child grew. While she accompanied her mother to attend meeting sessions, she gradually learnt the secrets of the society. The girl child stayed very close to the mother. When she became a woman of marriage age, she naturally became a member of the society. All women in the entire village had to be part of the "Fembien". This group looked into the management of households, just like the "Ntehl" which sanctioned men, the "Fembien" brought women together to get solutions to their problems and sanctioned women with bad behaviours while presenting women with exemplary lifestyle as models to the village. These village groups shared experiences and knowledge and also love and solidarity in family management. They shared their huddles and together got solutions.

Through the proper functioning of these groups, gender violence was reduced. While the "Fembien" sanction women who treated their husbands and children wrongly and were generally misbehaved, the "Ntehl"

sanctioned men who behaved wrongly towards their wives and children. These two societies reduced gender based violence and child trafficking in the past.



Women in a larger discussion group learning from each other on indigenous knowledge and cultural practices

**Forest Regeneration as a way of giving back to nature:** CAMGEW initiated discussions with women on how they visited the forest to collect vegetables, medicine, mushrooms and firewood. They presented their baskets carried on their backs as a way they visited the forest to harvest firewood, vegetables or mushrooms. Old mothers shared why the basket was designed and why they carry the basket on their backs instead of their heads or in front. One of the elderly women shared with joy how she use to visit the forest to harvest from nature and that she is happy to go back to the forest in the same way she use to harvest from nature to give back to nature through tree planting. Their baskets served to carry trees. They harvested firewood and/or vegetables from the forest after planting trees as they returned home. The other women listened attentively and also participated. The next day many young people brought their own baskets.

During the tree planting session, there were discussions between men and women of all age. These discussions centred around sustainable forest use and conservation. It was also an opportunity to discuss about the medicinal plants found in the forest. Some tree flowers useful for bee farming and bees' health. The flowers of *Zyzigium* (Ebweiy) were identified as being good for bees' health as it helps reduce fats from bees and make them fly with no problem.. Fruit trees eaten by the endangered bannerman's tauraco (Critically Endangered bird) like *Pittosporium* were also identified.



Women convert their baskets used in harvesting from forest to give back to the forest through tree planting

## WAY FORWARD

- There is need for more focused discussions with specific groups on specific issues like various secret societies. The initiation of discussions about the Oku culture, tradition and practices greatly changed mentalities and mindsets and many young people learned from the old.
- There exist many cultural groups in Oku like the Mfuh, Manjong and Samba and if discussions are initiated in about 10 of them and then exchange visits promoted between them and other groups, this will increase the revitalisation of cultural practices and indigenous knowledge.
- CAMGEW also need to initiate specific discussions on the following:
  - **Sacred sites:** through the discussions it was identified that many sites have been deconsecrated by human activities. Most of the sites that were forested have been cleared and there is need for these forests to be restored and reconsecrated with forest native trees.
  - **Traditional communication and networking:** There is need to get all Men and women societies around this forest engaged in traditional communication methods and systems for information sharing and education. Through these methods, information will reach everyone. It will also strengthen traditional leaders involvement in community forest management.
  - **Herbal medicine and practices:** Indigenous knowledge in the use of medicinal plants was widely practiced in the past. Through the discussions, it was discovered that there is need to encourage the use of native medicinal plants to improve health especially with many uncertainties like COVID pandemic.
  - Forest regeneration with native forest trees that are medicinal and useful to the lives of community members

## TESTIMONY SHARED

NGWANG of NGEH (Manjong) of Keyon (OSCAR NGENGE) called CAMGEW and appreciating the new approach in conservation that has put tradition and cultural practices at the centre. He went further to say that tradition and culture are the identity of the people and should therefore be put first when talking about development. He also told us that Oku is strong and believe much in their culture. They are better organized around their culture and revitalizing past cultural practices and indigenous knowledge is the best way to protect the forest and promote social regeneration. He promised CAMGEW of their continuous support and that the discussion she initiated has continued in his Manjong house. This discussion has made elderly people feel important and useful in front the younger generation. The younger generation has learned to listen and value the elderly. This to him is building trust, acceptance and ownership. He encourage CAMGEW to reach out to all the Manjong houses and use the traditional groups to reach out to more community members to fight against bushfire, indiscriminate cutting of trees and forest encroachment.



# SECTION 4

## ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN ADVOCACY

### A. ADVOCACY ON WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

The aim of this section is to protect women socio-economic and environmental rights and interest.

**CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH(CAMGEW)**  
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P.O. Box 17, Oku, North West, Cameroon

## ONE VOICE FOR WOMEN'S SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

*Reshaping policies*

- DEBATES
- MEDIA TALKS
- ROUNDTABLES
- LEGAL PERSPECTIVES
- BEST PRACTICES
- PETITION.

#CamgewCoalition4genderequality  
#CamgewHerVoiceCounts  
#Camgew.

The Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Award Scale fund is put together by Women Empowerment and Development Program (WEDO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Champions of the Earth to encourage GJCS Winners to scale up their initiatives. This GJCS Scale Fund was Launched in 2021 and first winners announced at COP26 in Glasgow-UK. CAMGEW was one of the first winners of this fund. From January 2022 to June 2022 the following activities were carried out to promote women's socio economic and environmental rights:

**“** This project will advocate for women's socio economic and environmental rights locally and nationally."  
**”**

WE DO

SEVIDZEM ERNESTINE LEIKEKI,  
CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SCALE FUND WINNER

**Formation of a coalition of gender promotion actors:** CAMGEW believes in working as a community to create positive impacts socially, economically and environmentally. In the North West Region of Cameroon, various institutions work on personal spaces. Over the years CAMGEW have interacted with them in diverse aspects. Through this project CAMGEW created a coalition of gender equality promotion actors to work together for the good of gender equality and environment. To create this coalition, the following actions took place:

**3 days round table discussion with 50 stakeholders was held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in Bamenda, North West Region of Cameroon:** There was sharing of best practices on the ground that promote women’s socio-economic and environmental rights and creation of a coalition of gender promotion actors. During this workshop, CAMGEW shared her best practices with the participants on how woman have been instrumental in regenerating the forest and conserving the soil. The 50 pillars of this coalition comprised of 10 community-based organizations, 10 traditional rulers, 5 journalists representing the media, 5 legal practitioners, 5 health personnel and 15 forest users.



Resource persons make presentations on women inheritance and land rights respectively

This workshop was facilitated by CAMGEW team, participants shared best practices, experiences, brainstormed on challenges and proposed a way forward to promote gender equality. These diverse presentations were made around land rights, women inheritance, challenges of widowhood, women and health, women and natural resource management, women and agroforestry and women and culture. The presentation from CAMGEW on women inclusion and participation in forest regeneration in the Kilum-Ijim forest and conservation of the soil, was a remarkable pull-factor for other stakeholders to emulate, rethink and re-strategies their actions in promotion of gender equality and climate action. The cultural leaders during the workshop called for a rethink and STOP gender biased practices existing within culture be it environmental, economic, social or political.

**Resolving to work together for the common good, the workshop ended with:**

- the creation of a coalition of actors on promotion of women’s socio-economic and environmental rights. This hash tag was used on social media to keep voices of all interested persons all over the world promoting gender equality and socio-economic and environmental rights of women. Connect to the coalition with the hashtag #CamgewCoalition4GenderEquality.
- The Creation of a WhatsApp group on women’s environmental rights advocacy and the invitation of stakeholders and interested individuals to join and take part in debates, discussions, talks and learn from diversity of actions. This group was named “CAMGEW WOMEN ADVOCACY GROUP”. As of December 31st 2022, the WhatsApp group had over 210 members. There has been sharing of

opportunities, success stories and organized events by members. Join the group at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjoPOS6meyE8VRZTPC2iW2>

- 10 members of this coalition were nominated to work with CAMGEW to develop an advocacy plan. The draft of the plan was shared in the WhatsApp chat group for inputs by everyone.

CAGEAD presentations emphasized that there is need to promote Resolution 1325 and engage women in peace building processes. She said the conflicts in environmental issues locally which have long existed due to male dominance need women peace builders for an effective inclusion at community level. Through advocacy, lobbying, sensitization, peace education and workshop, CAGEAD has reached out to over 200 women in the forest area to engage them in building sustainable peace in the community.

National Development and Environment Foundation (NDEF) presented on how she engages women and girls in sustainable farming techniques for soil conservation, increase crop production and development of fruit and vegetable nurseries to guarantee food security and increase income of women in crop cultivation. Training women in sustainable farming practices also reduces the incidences of bushfires resulting from slash-and-burn in the farmlands. NDEF said she believes that sustainable agriculture remains the way forward for food security.

GoddyBrown of Health and Natural Clinic presented on the various medicinal plants found in the Bamenda Western Highlands including *Prunus africana*, *Artemisia annua*, ginseng, Moringa, Turmeric, cinnamon, lemon balm and so on. With many tropical diseases and seasonal allergies, these medicinal plants are used by local people especially women as first aid to many health challenges he said. Also, the impacts of COVID-19 especially shortage of medical supplies pushed local people especially in remote areas to rely on their indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants for survival.

Legal practitioners at the venue intervened with legal provisions nationwide that support women's rights. Starting from the constitution of Cameroon to the 1994 Forestry Law which give equal right on forestry use to Cameroonians. Legal practitioners also made mention of the available pro-bono services available for issues related to women's right violations. The office of Cameroon Federation of Female lawyers also offers services protecting women's rights. Participants' attention was called to legal instruments such as the Maputo Protocol, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the Nation Gender Action Plan.

Present during the workshop were representatives of government delegations in the North West Region of Cameroon. This included Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family and Ministry of Social Welfare. These administrative bodies talked about various gender focal points available in all their offices all over the nation and encouraged stakeholders to work with them for the good of women, the environment and mankind. This encouraged collaboration between administration and grassroot organizations in the North West Region of Cameroon. Through CAMGEW Women's Advocacy WhatsApp space, these Ministries share information, opportunities to empower women and girls, make recommendations and gathers actions and worries of grassroots' organizations and forward to the government.

This coalition brought many actors together including the media to talk and promote women's socio-economic and environmental rights. Join the coalition on whatsapp at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CjoPOS6meyE8VRZTPC2iW2>

**Launching of the Online and Off-Line Petition on Women's Socio-Economic and Environmental Rights:**  
On the 9th of March 2022, CAMGEW launched an advocacy campaign on women's socio-economic and environmental rights in the North West Region of Cameroon. This was in a unique debate ceremony titled "Women's environmental rights: How Important"?



**Happy International Women's Day 2022**

**Sevidzem Ernestine**

**CAMGEW**

- Debates
- Media Talks
- Roundtable
- Legal Perspectives
- Women/Girlchild Discourse

**Join Our Coalition to Protect Women's Rights**

**1pm, March 9,  
CAMGEW Office,  
Bamenda**

**To register, visit  
[www.camgew.com](http://www.camgew.com)  
or contact (+237) 674732660**

**What You Will Learn:**  
Topic: Promotion of women's socio economic and environmental rights!!!  
How important???



This debate was moderated by CAMGEW Women Empowerment Officer-Sevidzem Ernestine leikeki and attended by 18 stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Civil Society organizations, students from Bamenda University in Cameroon from Departments of Geography and Planning and Department of Development and Communication studies, the press. During the debate the panel ‘FOR’ stated that ‘.....conservation is a virtue in African culture and African women are the smart solution to sustainable conservation of this virtue...’ They quoted several national and international instruments that support women’s environmental rights and promote gender equality in conservation. Starting from the constitution of Cameroon, the Paris Agreement, the Maputo Protocol, gender equality in Cameroon’s Nationally Determined Contributions and several other national and international conventions that Cameroon is party to. While the panel AGAINST constructively pointed out the short comings of women in our community that are not healthy for the environment, they accepted at the end that ‘.....our women are farmers, eco-business operators, nature lovers and care for the environment with their souls.... We can’t talk about environmental rights without women’s rights..... women that conserve our ecosystems and take care of natural resources deserve a fair consideration in policy making...’ This debate was also timely at that time of the year when the international community was celebrating women (International Women’s Day commemorated every year on the 8th of March). A time of the year too where debates, talk, discussions about women, their achievements, talents, aspirations and so on are discussed nationwide in various spaces. The launch of this campaign at this time of the year attracted more attention on women’s environmental rights and role of women in conservation as a whole.



Participants in the debate ceremony titled “Women’s environmental rights: How Important?”

Speaking to the various media present at the ceremony Sevidzem Ernestine leikeki officially presented the petitions both online and off-line to the general public. The event ended with adoption of a hashtag for the petition created by Coalition of Gender Promotion Actors #CamgewCaolition4GenderEquality. Interesting to the students from the state university of Bamenda was the discussions about women and girls raising their voices on issues related to them. The youths present at the debate developed another hashtag for this advocacy campaign #CamgewHerVioceCounts. To them this second hashtag will remind the public that voices of women and girls ‘.....are voices of positive change and practicality.....’ The general public, human right defenders, feminists, gender equality stakeholders were called upon to sign and use the hashtags to promote women’s voices and women’s socio-economic and environmental rights.



Closing ceremony during the debate ceremony titled “Women’s environmental rights: How Important?”

The media both with a local and national coverage engaged in the process at various levels:

- 6 radio talks were held on the role of women in conservation and the need to promote gender solutions in environmental protection.
- 6 television talks on the role of women in conservation and the need to promote gender solutions in environmental protection
- 6 newspaper write-ups on the role of women in conservation and the need to promote gender solutions in environmental protection



CAMGEW team contacted newspaper agencies with national coverage and regular weekly publications. Online newspaper publications were also engaged. This was to reach out to the maximum audience as much as possible. The media we worked with were: Newspaper agencies (hill top voices, Civil Lens, Edevnews, The Guardian Post), Radio Stations (Abakwa FM, Ndefcam, ABK Radio) and TV Stations ( Home TV, Equinox TV). The media houses talked about women's socio-economic and environmental rights from diverse viewpoints. This engaged the public at large in the discussions about women's rights and their role in climate action.

### **Production of 10 drama sketches by female youths on women's environmental rights and disseminate on social media and television**

These drama presentations were aimed at showcasing the role of women and girls not only in environmental actions but also in nation building and some of those challenges women go through in their daily lives. This took place on the 27th and 28th May 2022. CAMGEW project team lead by Sevidzem Ernestine worked together with script writers, video producers, and communication personnel to develop the story board. This story board took into consideration gender inequality practices common in the North West Region of Cameroon especially in rural area. This included:

- restriction of girl child from education and limiting her potentials to only child bearing, domestic chores, early marriages
- physical/psychological violence within domestic setting leaving negative impacts on women/girl child
- gender discrimination in domestic work



Presentation of drama sketches by female youths on women's environmental rights

This drama was a call to the general public to educate the girl child and give her opportunities to grow and make a difference in the community, value our natural resources, grant equal rights to ownership of land for both male and female, encourage dialogue between male and female within families and promote gender equality. CAMGEW believes that environmental rights are part and parcel of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Environmental rights cannot be upheld without working towards elimination of gender-based violence and domestic violence because educated women and girls build better families. This drama was a clear demonstration of the inter-linkages between environmental rights and other human rights as a whole and the need to live in harmony and promote gender equality for the good of the environment and humanity.

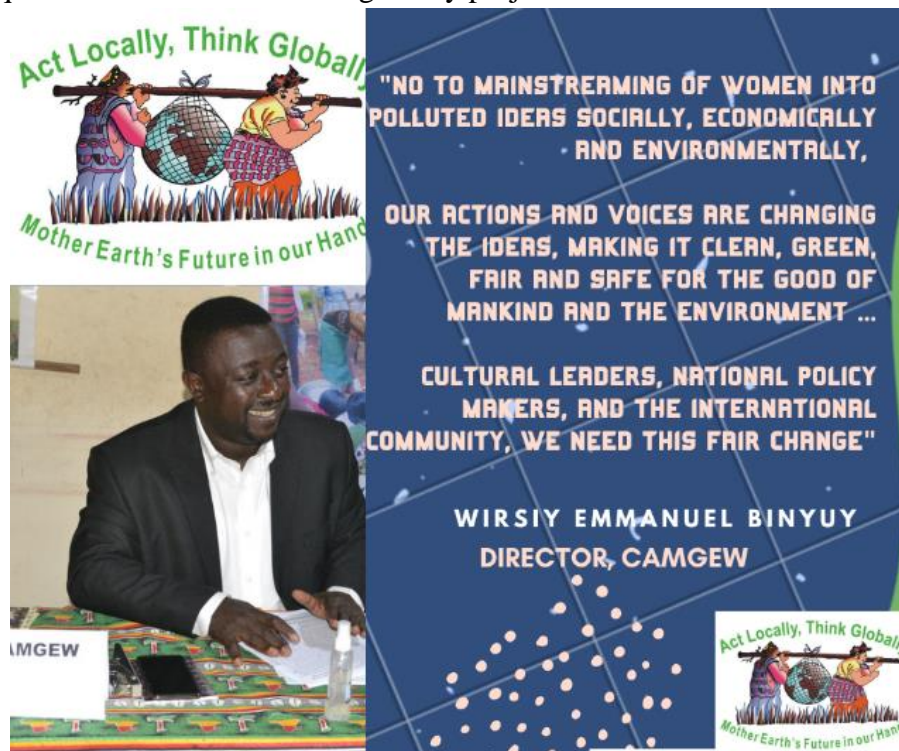
These drama series were uploaded on CAMGEW face book page. This will also ensure sustainability of the message to the public even after the project ends. Follow the dramas at on camgew facebook profile account at <https://www.facebook.com/camgewcameroon.camgew?mibextid=ZbWKwL>



## B. THE PHRASE CAMPAIGN ON GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTION (SDG GOAL 5 AND 13)

CAMGEW's experiences in integrating women in forest regeneration and climate action in the Kilum-Ijim forest area has proven that women are key actors in climate action and should be supported at all levels. CAMGEW believes that environmental rights are incomplete without promoting gender equality and sustainable climate action.

CAMGEW engaged the global community to talk about Sustainable Development Goal 5 and 13. In promoting socio-economic and environmental rights, it is essential to keep in mind that gender equality and climate action is key for mankind to live in harmony with nature. CAMGEW phrase campaign engaged the general public both national and international to raise their voices, hold talks, discussions and debates around gender equality and climate action issues. By creating awareness on social media, networks, during events, radio and newspapers, CAMGEW engaged the global community. This phrase campaign involved an open call to global community to raise their voices to promote SDG 5 and 13 by sending in short quotes which were then designed by project team.



Messages for the phrase campaign from CAMGEW and CAMGEW Director

These phrases were uploaded in various media spaces like Facebook, Twitter, networks, etc. Joining the phrase campaign involved:

- Submission of a personal short phrases, name and picture to the project leader Sevidizem Ernestine by email at leikeki1985@yahoo.com or by WhatsApp on +237 674732660.
- These were followed by graphic designing of the phrase and submission to the owner of the phrase to share on networks, social media and events globally.
- Upload and used project hashtags #CamgewCoalition4GenderEquality and #CamgewHerVoiceCounts. This connected the phrases to advocacy campaign on social media.



Some of CAMGEW staff were part of the phrase campaign

This campaign promoted discussions on SDG 5 and 13 globally. CAMGEW received various invitations to talk about these actions for the promotion of these SDG's. Remarkable were invitations from:

- Tropical Biology Association (TBA) that invited Sevidzem Ernestine as guest speaker during a Master Class for Women Leaders in Conservation in Cameroon
- Women in Nature Network (WiNN): WINN is a global network that aims to connect and empower women to achieve sustainable management and conservation of our Earth's natural resources. Thanks to the phrase campaign in SDG 5 and 13, CAMGEW was invited in a virtual conference to share her best practices on women inclusion in conservation with over 140 participants.
- As of June 2022, over 200 persons had joined this phrase campaign. Various messages were received including messages from activists in Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana.

### **Visit to policy makers to call for policy consideration on women's socio economic and environmental rights.**

By 31st June 2022, CAMGEW had mobilized 3050 signatures from women, youths, forest users and various stakeholders. These signatures were transmitted to the Ministry of Environment, Protection of nature and Sustainable Development in Yaounde through the Regional Delegation of Ministry of Environment, Protection of nature and Sustainable Development for the North West Region on the 3rd of August 2022. 3050 persons signed the petition to call for policy consideration on women's socio economic and environmental rights. This came after 3 months of lobbying. The request for this audience was submitted on the 27th May 2022 at Regional Delegation of the Ministry. Receiving the signed petitions, the Regional Delegate of MINEPDEP, MUE DENIS acknowledged that '.....CAMGEW has been a key stakeholder in environmental work and support the national struggle in integration of women in climate action...' he added that ".....It is my responsibility to table these signatories before the Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and competent policy makers, .... There is no doubt that these signatories will change the long-term struggle in policy development.... we need laws that are accepted by the people especially at the grassroot level..... Women's socio-economic and environmental rights is a priority not only for conservation, but also for development..... am glad this is happening in my area of jurisdiction...." This event made top news in various newspapers, Television and Radio stations in the North West Region and nationally as a whole. Join the petition discussions by using the hashtag #CamgeworkHerVioceCounts.



Handing over of signed petition by 3050 persons to Regional Delegation of Environment, Protection of nature and Sustainable Development in Bamenda

### **Key lessons learned from Implementation of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund project**

- ❖ Women’s environmental rights are inter-related with basic human rights. For environmental rights to be sustainable, we need to address human rights violations on women/girls especially domestic violence, land rights, right to education for girls, elimination of forceful marriages and reproductive health rights.
- ❖ Conservation stakeholders with grass root people have little knowledge about women’s environmental rights and there is need for regular efforts to create awareness about them in Cameroon. CAMGEW believes that regular radio programs, women’s environmental rights capacity building workshops and engagement of leaders in this process will be useful. There is need to encourage community dialogues about women environmental rights.
- ❖ Women and girls are passionate about environmental issues but cultural practices, lack of knowledge to carryout research in this computerized generation restrict them from participation in environmental action. There is need to invest in building capacity of local women in using such tools to access information, learn from the global diversity, share their experiences and create positive impacts.
- ❖ We need to promote actions that promote freedom of speech in environmental issues whereby everyone can be heard and everyone feels free to speak. We realized during this project implementation that women and girls communicate their stories better. They are highly impacted by domestic violence and GBV as a whole. We need to encourage these dialogues that enable women to speak out and stand for their rights (environmental, social, economic, political, etc).
- ❖ Sustainable environmental action promotes women’s’ socio-economic and environmental rights and there is need to build capacity and promote environmental projects and activities that take into consideration environmental rights of women
- ❖ Working with the media was very exciting, educative and yet challenging. During the project implementation we realized that most often the media focuses on what the public want to hear and not what the project is out to deliver. The media is very important in communication but there is need to ensure that the message sent to the public is the intended project information. We realized that conservation actions including efforts to promote women’s environmental rights needs better communication locally. The presence of the media was remarkable.

**Challenges in Implementation of GJCS Scale Fund:** Local communities have little knowledge about using online tools. This was challenging in getting their signatures on the online petition form. However, CAMGEW project team developed off-line petition forms for them. This increased the cost and time in terms of local transportation to mobilize the signatures.



## Recommendations on Women Socio-Economic and Environmental rights activities:

1. There is need to carryout women’s environmental rights education with youths and women in the North West Region and Cameroon at large. During project execution, CAMGEW realized that communities have little knowledge about women’s environmental rights and there is need to sustainable build this knowledge at the grassroot level. This education could be carried out through regular environmental rights talks in community social groups, networks, events and amongst community-based organizations, through posters, media engagement and formation of environmental clubs in schools.
2. Hold capacity building workshops with conservation stakeholders’ especially community-based organizations about women’s environmental rights. This will empower them to promote these rights locally for the good of women, the environment and mankind
3. Build media capacity locally to effectively communicate women socio-economic & environmental rights.
4. Scale-up this project to realize greater impacts. Six mouths seemed short for this advocacy campaign especially in influencing policies nationally.

### Project Direct Beneficiary Data

Activity	Women ≥35	women≤35	men≥35	men≤35	total
Coalition of actors	15	25	7	3	50
Lunch of petitions	5	15	5	5	30
Phrase campaign	80	105	5	10	200
Media	0	1	3	5	9
Handing over of petitions	1	2	4	0	7
Total=	101	148	24	23	296

**Workshop to Engage 10 Conservation and Women’s Right Organisations in The Bamenda Western Highlands On Women’s Environmental Rights.** From the 7th to the 10th June 2022, CAMGEW brought together 10 civil society organisations (CSO’s), the newspaper agency (Hilltop Voices), popular radio in North West Region (Abakwa FM), individual climate activists and the administrative representative from Ministry of Environment, Protection of nature and Sustainable Development in Bamenda Western Highlands to share their various actions, experiences and best practices that promote women’s environmental rights and duties. This workshop was facilitated by Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. These participants discussed what are happening on the ground, what can be done to engage more women to participate, benefit and protect the forest. Among the various presentations, CSO’s shared their activities on the ground engaging women and girls in tree planting, nursery development, plastic reusing, promotion of organic farming, grafting of various fruit trees, advocacy on forest governance and incubation of eco-businesses at the grass roots level. SOPISDEW, a community-based organisation in the Kilum-Ijim forest area shared their plastic reusing activity which engages women to reduce plastic waste by recycling in development of urban gardens.

Munyuy Mercy, a communication and development student from the University of Bamenda presented on the need to conserve the environment and as women and girls, lead environmental protection actions in the various communities. She promotes agroforestry for soil conservation and income generation by nursing various grafted fruits seedlings, vegetables and spices. She markets and sensitise on consuming organic. CAMGEW presentation on forest governance, women participation in climate action, advocacy on women’s socio-economic and environmental rights and bushfire prevention strategies was applauded by the participants. With much curiosity, many demanded for various CAMGEW success story booklets, posters and flyers to guide them to replicate CAMGEW best practices in their work. The media was engaged at every step



Institutions sharing and learning about women forest interest and rights

From groups work, participants made recommendations, propose strategies and actions to promote women's environmental rights locally and nationally. This workshop ended with a draft poster developed on women's environmental rights. This draft was worked on by CAMGEW team to have CAMGEW's Women Environmental Rights Poster. 500 copies of this posters were produced and distributed nationwide to various stakeholders including. Soft copies of this posters were also shared in various women's network such as Women in Nature Network, top 100 African young conservationist network and so on. We wish this poster gets global attention.

### **Media Campaign On Role of Women in Forest Conservation.**

The media was engaged at every step

- 3 Newspaper write ups on women's environmental rights and eco-businesses. This was published by Guardian Post newspaper and NewsWatch, (see scanned copy)
- 3 Radio programs on womens environmental rights, on plastic recycling and eco-businesses and also on bushfire prevention by Abakwa FM radio on the 9th and 10th June and 14th July 2022.
- Television show in women and forest conservation in Equinox TV 17th September 2022
- Abakwa FM radio program in Pidgin English on activities women can carryout to conserve the forest
- Radio hot coco pidgin English interactive program on women and non timber forest products

### **16 DAYS ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASE VIOLENCE**

CAMGEW on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 joined the world on the 16 days activism against gender base violence in Oku. This was celebrated under the theme **NO TO GENDER BASE VIOLENCE**. This was done in CAMGEW center Oku where 12 children join their voices to the world to say no to gender base violence. With their orange color pieces they say to the world no to gender base violence. During the celebration, girls were able to remind themselves the rights of a girl child in the society. They saw the need for their rights to be respected as any other human right.

## SECTION 5

# HONEY VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW is engaged in the development of the honey value chain in Cameroon. The Honey Value Chain has the potential to produce many jobs, income and promote ecological balance. Honey value chain development helps promote climate smart-actions and solutions. Honey production engages bee farmers to fight bushfire, poverty and unemployment. The honey value chain involves honey production, honey/bees wax transformation, quality control and honey marketing. When communities engage in honey production they no longer burn the forest or vegetation because honey produced equal money and through their organization to cooperatives they build solidarity that helps them fight bushfire and promote ecological, economic, social and cultural regeneration.

### A. HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production was done in communities around Kilum-Ijim forest and also in Njimom, Magba and Bankim. Kilum-Ijim forest is found in Bamenda Highland Forest in the North West Region. Njimom and Magba are Sub-Divisions in West Region and Bankim is found in Adamaoua Region. Kilum-Ijim forest, Njimom, Magba and Bankim are part of Cameroon Western Highlands forest area. 5 trainings were done for 176 persons made up of 51 male and 185 females. 352 beehives were donated to trained persons. It was great excitement from those who received this training.



Bee farming training done in Oku of Kilum-Ijim forest



Bee farming training done in Bankim of the Adamaoua Region of Cameroon





Bee farming trainings done in Magba and Njimom Respectively

### Table of CAMGEW Honey Production (Bee farming) Training

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained	Beehives donated	Savon donation
28 - 29 January 2022	Ngvuinkei II in Oku	21	13	8	42	42
4-5 February 2022	Oku	30	9	21	60	60
3 to 5 May 2022	Magba -Ngounso	30	5	25	60	
20 - 22 June 2022	Bankim in partnership with ACHOHOF Family Farm school	30	7	23	60	
22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Njimom	35	10	25	70	
15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Mayo Darle	30	7	23	60	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>176</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>352</b>	

### B. BEES WAX EXTRACTION TRAINING

Bees wax is a product from honey that is very useful in the cosmetic industry. It has other uses. Most bee farmers neglect to extract it from honey chaffs after draining honey. It is disposed as waste despite the fact that it is more expensive than honey. Many honey producers do not know it is useful and not to talk of how to extract it. It is for this reason that CAMGEW did training for communities on bees wax extraction. 3 trainings were done for 125 persons made up of 43 men and 82 women. These trainings were done in the West Region at Magba and Adamaoua Regions (Bankim and Mayo Darle).

### Table of CAMGEW Bees Wax Extraction Training

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained
3 to 4 May 2022	Magba -Ngounso	30	5	25
21 - 22 June 2022	Bankim done in partnership with ACHOHOF Family Farm school	25	4	21
18 <sup>nd</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Njimom	40	13	27
19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Mayo Darle	30	21	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>82</b>



Training on bees wax production in Bankim and Mayo Darle respectively

### C. Bees wax SOAP PRODUCTION

Beeswax is a local available product which has many uses like in production of detergents, candles, oils, and soap. Even though with many uses, many community members do not know the importance of beeswax. At the local level, many bee farmers too do not produce beeswax despite the fact that they have the combs which are used to extract bees wax. Beeswax soap is very beneficial to the family and community at large and needs to be available for community members. Because of the benefits of this soap, CAMGEW trained many women in the Kilum/Ijim communities where beeswax comes to help them convert bees wax to soap. There is need to build local industries so that they meet local needs, create jobs and income. 20 women were trained on soap production in Oku.

**Table of CAMGEW Soap Production Training**

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained	Donated start-up
10 JUNE 2022	Manchok – OKU	20	0	20	Each participant received 1 bucket, a kilogram of bees wax, and 5 litres of kernel oil



Participants learning soap production



Trained women receive their start-ups



## D. HONEY JUICE PRODUCTION TRAINING

Many community members only think that honey can be sold directly to get money but honey could be transformed to meet community needs. Production of honey juice and possibly honey wine is used in community social gatherings to promote solidarity. In Oku, some women now own Honey juice and wine bars where people come to relax. This is creating jobs and income and making community members value the forest. CAMGEW trained 20 women from Oku in honey juice production. The women produced honey juice with different medicinal plants good for health improvement. We are glad we can use our local resources for our good. CAMGEW provided each woman with 5 Liters of honey and a bucket of 10liters as start-up to start their own production.

**Table of honey juice production training**

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained	Donation of start-ups
18 June 2022	CAMGEW –OKU	20	0	20	Each woman received 5 Liters of honey and a bucket
18 JUNE 2022	CAMGEW – OKU	20	0	20	Each woman received 5 Liters of honey and a bucke
TOTAL		40		40	



Participants happily receive their start-up equipments



Trained women selling their produced honey juice

## E. BEE SUIT PRODUCTION

To make bee farming work honey producers need bee suits to protect themselves and produce quality honey. Bee suits have always been imported to the country and this makes them expensive and unavailable. There is need to be creative and innovative and act locally to reduce poverty, build local economy/industry and make things work. CAMGEW started training community members to gain skills in local technology like bee suit



production. 29 dress makers from around Cameroon Western Highland forest area were trained on bee suit production. 11 Dress Makers trained on Bee Suit Production from Kilum-Ijim forest area had 11 Sewing Machines donated to them by a donor to applaud their resilience to the ongoing English speaking community of Cameroon. Every trained person went home with other bee suit producing materials and equipment as donation.



Trained community members receive sewing machines

**Table of CAMGEW Bee Suit Production Training**

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained	Sewing machines donated	Others
25-30 January 2022	Bamenda	11	2	9	11	Other materials and equipment
15 November to 15 December 2023	Bamenda	20	1	19	0	Other materials and equipment
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	



Participants in a bee suit production training session

## F. BEE SMOKER PRODUCTION

CAMGEW trained community members on local technology to start producing their own bee smokers. Bee smoker is needed in bee keeping during honey harvesting. The use of bee smoker promote modern bee keeping and also helps stop many bushfires that resulted from uncontrolled smoke production. This technology gives jobs to community members, increase income and improve honey quality. 35 persons were trained as bee smoker producers. 9 of these persons were women and 26 were men. CAMGEW provided them with Start-Up Materials and Tools



Training on bee smoker production

**Table of CAMGEW Bee Smoker Production Training**

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained	Materials donated
15 November 2023 to 15 of December 2023	Bamenda	25	16	9	Assorted materials and equipment
06-08 July 2023	Bamenda	10	10	0	Assorted materials and equipment
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	

## G. CAMGEW HONEY QUALITY CONTROL TRAINING

There could be honey in large quantities but it will not have a market because of the quality. The quality of honey is determined by the method of harvesting, storage, transportation and packaging. There is also need for traceability to identify where the problem is coming from when some honey is discovered to be of low quality. It is in this line that CAMGEW organised this training on honey quality and traceability in 2022. 125 persons were trained and there were 26 males and 99 women.

**Table of CAMGEW Honey Quality Control Training**

Date	Place	Number trained	Male Trained	Female Trained
09 – 10 May 2022	Magba	30	2	28
27-28 May 2022	Bankim	30	7	23
29-30 August 2022	Njimom	35	10	25
22 – 23 September 2022	Mayo Darle	30	7	23
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>99</b>





Training on quality control especially through honey harvesting, drainage and storage

## H. NORTH WEST BEE FARMERS MESSENGER (NOWEFAM)

CAMGEW has been working on honey value chain development in the Cameroon Western Highlands forest area since 2012. In the protected Kilum-Ijim forest area, CAMGEW as of date has reached out to 6000 beneficiaries in this honey value chain development. This activity promotes community engagement in forest regeneration, bushfire prevention and tree planting both in protected forest and farmlands. This honey value chain also promotes job creation, income generation, gender transformation and women empowerment in forest communities. CAMGEW has trained community members on honey production and organized them to cooperatives for them to benefit from economies of scale and improve honey quality. Honey production increased and there was need for a market for their products. CAMGEW in 2015 saw the need to assist bee farmers convert their honey and honey products to money by linking them to the market in the urban center. This was done by creating North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM) which today is a legalized honey cooperative to assist farmers convert honey and honey products to money. NOWEFAM is a social enterprise that promotes the marketing of products and materials in the honey value chain. She has also engaged in transformation of honey and bees wax. With income realized from NOWEFAM, forest communities plant more trees and engage in bushfire prevention. In 2022, NOWEFAM assisted bee farmers to market over 15 tons of honey. Through NOWEFAM, CAMGEW also carried out many other activities.



Expert team planning on how to make NOWEFAM work



## Activity 1: Development in Honey and beeswax Transformation

CAMGEW honeyshop (NOWEFAM) transformed honey and medicinal plants to medicinal wines. NOWEFAM is known for transformation of honey to beverages. In 2022, these wines were branded to three types: Honey Red Wine, Apis Flera Wine and Apis Royal Wine.

Detergents were also produced from honey and Beeswax in previous years. In 2022, NOWEFAM beeswax soap was branded NOWEFAM Clean. Beeswax hair oil was also introduced and branded NOWEFAM Hair Food. Honey and beeswax-based products are loved by many because of the antiseptic properties. NOWEFAM combines honey, beeswax and medicinal plants to produce soap and powder soap. With the acquisition of equipment, quality and quantity of NOWEFAM products improved in 2022. We are working hard to make these products have the high standards to compete nationally and globally. This will be helping raise funds to make CAMGEW sustainable.



NOWEFAM products with New look

## Activity 2: Improvement in Packaging

CAMGEW team gave technical assistance to NOWEFAM to improve on packaging of products. This improvement was seen in the following products:

- Getting a container with suitable lid for packaging of honey
- Adding clearer information on labels
- Increased the size of honey labels to go round packaging container and designing of one honey label suitable for various honey at NOWEFAM
- Production of a carton packaging for NOWEFAM soap
- Improve on packaging containers for beeswax Vaseline

This was done to help NOWEFAM develop to a full business. Funds used for this activity came from NOWEFAM.

## Activity 3: Renovation of NOWEFAM honeyshop

CAMGEW honeyshop (NOWEFAM) was created in April 2015 with availability of shelves, tables, chairs, signpost and various stationary facilities. In the month of June 2022, NOWEFAM teamed resolved to give the shop a new look in terms of renovating the environment, repainting the shop, repainting the sign post to a more

attractive poll factor and introduce new shelves and positioning to attract more customers. Honey and beeswax have become a competitive eco-business locally and with the capacity of over 15 tons of honey annually, there was need for this investment to maintain customers and improve on sales. This new look was completed on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The money raised from NOWEFAM was useful to bring this changes.



The facial look of NOWEFAM Shop

#### **Activity 4: Collaboration with Small and Medium Size Enterprise Promotion Agency in the North West Region of Cameroon**

In 2022, NOWEFAM worked closely with this agency to diagnose and develop a business plan for NOWEFAM. This agency offers non-financial services to small and Medium size enterprises. This collaboration resulted to timely information on exhibitions and training opportunities for NOWEFAM. Remarkably was the realization of business plan which was handed to NOWEFAM on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. This agency has also been doing follow-up and capacity building of NOWEFAM on quality and standards. We are certain that NOWEFAM is growing to a full business as a sustainability strategy for CAMGEW.

#### **Activity 5: Exhibitions Attended in 2022**

**Eco-Business Exhibition at NOWEFAM Honey Premises on World Environment Day 2022:** NOWEFAM celebrated World Environment Day commemorated on the 8th of June 2022 under the theme 'Only One Earth'. The celebration was characterized by show-casing NOWEFAM products to the public. In Partnership with other eco-buisness operators in the North West Region of Cameroon, NOWEFAM sensitised the general public to consume natural products and incubate eco-enterprises. The following eco-businesses together with NOWEFAM and CAMGEW attended this event:

- Women Ecovillage Change Makers (WECMA) in transformation of medicinal plants and vegetables
- North West Coffee Association (NWCA) in commercialization of coffee
- Leiky Fashion in transformation of plastics and writing papers to jewelry

The exhibition site was visited by above 300 persons who learned about bee farming and nutritive value of natural honey. This event was also covered by the media especially newspapers and Abakwa Radio.

**International Trade fair in Yaounde 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** From the 22nd to 29th October 2022, NOWEFAM exhibited her products at the National Trade Fair at Esplanade de L'Hotel de Ville in Yaounde. This fair was aimed at exposing NOWEFAM products to various stakeholders including the media. NOWEFAM stand was visited by above 400 many including students, businesses and researchers. NOWEFAM was glad for the number of contacts made and fly outs distributed for future contacts.



NOWFAM Stand at the National Trade Fair at Esplanade de l'Hotel de ville Yaounde, Yaounde

**Exhibition on Awareness Caravan for members of Small and medium Size Enterprises in Bafousam 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** NOWEFAM on the 24th and 25th October 2022 attended the 7th Edition of the Awareness Caravan for Members of Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Approved Management Centers with economic actors for the West and North West Region of Cameroon. This took place in Bafoussam, West Region of Cameroon.



NOWEFAM Exhibition at Awareness Caravan for members of Small and Medium Size Enterprises

**Exhibition at the North West Regional Assembly:** On the 18th of November 2022, NOWEFAM exhibited her products at the Regional Assembly in the North West Region at Up-Station, Bamenda. This event commemorated the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Week of Entrepreneurship under the “Theme: Innovation and Revitalization of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem”. Beside natural honey various Made-In-Cameroon Products such as cereals, soy flour, cassava flour, home-made beverages and products from traditional embroidery were exhibited. In his



opening remarks, the Governor of the North West Region emphasized on the importance of this event to the population. Entrepreneurship creates job opportunities and reduces the gap between the rich and the poor, the Governor said. This event gave room and opportunity to celebrate and promote entrepreneurship and encourage productivity. Attending this event too were the officials from taxation especially the Chief of Service for the North West Region. He said the government is working hard to encourage small enterprises in Cameroon especially those from North West, South West and Far North Regions through reduction of taxes. Worthy of note was the presence of the Public Independent Conciliator Representatives who explained their role to observe the function of councils in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon as well as the role of reconciliation between the councils and the citizens.

**Exhibition at Ngaoundere on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022:** This exhibition marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the National Networking Day for actors in the Integrated Program for the Valorization of Agricultural and Agrifood Products in Cameroon. This was organized by the Small and Medium Size Enterprise Promotion Agency that offers non-financial assistance to small enterprises in Cameroon. The purpose of this event was to expose opportunities and skills available in Africa and Cameroon in particular. This occasion was graced by exhibitors from all the ten Regions of Cameroon with different products and services. This event was officially launched on the 9th of November 2023 by the Governor of Ngaoundere and other government officials. During the tour to the exhibition stands, he appreciated NOWEFAM products which included the certified Oku White Honey. Participants at the exhibition raised their various challenges especially the complex procedure in certification of Made-in-Cameroon products.

**Regional Agro Pastoral Show and Trade Fair for The North West, 2022 Edition:** On the 20th and 21st of December 2022, NOWEFAM attended the Regional Agro-Pastoral show and Trade Fair for the North West Region of Cameroon. Participants at the event included farmers from diverse areas of the North West Region of Cameroon. Participants exhibited “Made in Cameroon” farmers’ products which amongst others included honey, fishery products, poultry products, tubers, cereals, consumable oils, coffee, seeds and seedlings. Innovative farmers were awarded for their hard work by the Governor of the North West Region of Cameroon who was present at this event with his entourage. There were many visitors and the exhibitors came to show case their products and some selected ones received prizes for their hard work. NOWEFAM Honey won the first prize in Natural Honey Category. She also received a wheel barrow, watering can, two bee suits, two bee smokers and a plastic bucket during this event.

**Challenges at NOWEFAM:** NOWEFAM encountered the following challenges in 2022

- Lack of a permanent building to host NOWEFAM transformation, storage and packaging unit.
- Getting suitable packaging in Cameroon for honey and transformed products
- Not able to certify NOWEFAM products nationally
- Developing a good communication and publicity plan
- Challenge of capital to invest in the business to make it grow

**CAMGEW team realized the need for:**

- Need to empower women and girls in bee farming technology at grassroots levels. As bee farmers they need bee hives, honey harvesting kits such as bee suits, bee smokers, brush and so on. There is need to promote these bee farming technologies using locally available materials and equipment’s. CAMGEW lacked financial resources towards this.
- Community engagement in bee farming after the training is already proving remarkable. There is need to assist in organizing them through creation of cooperatives. This will give them more strength in marketing. With more income, they will see the need to continue multiplying the bee hives, guard against bushfires and plant more bee loving trees.

**Trained person in apiculture respecting gender and beehives donated**

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER/YEAR																						TOTAL
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		
Gender	M	W	M	W	M	W	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	133	25	44	33	12	17	20	12	51	125	1503
Bee farming trainings in other areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	19	8	43	40	43	31			
Bees wax training in Kilum-Ijim forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	21	43	4	51	9	42	32	16	12	0	0	43	82	429
Beehives donated	200		262		105		225		0		120		238		151		29		0		352		1822
Beehives donated in other areas	0		0		0		0		0		26		0		27		76		11				
Bees Wax soap training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	29	1	65	0	27	0	20	151
Honey Drink/wine training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	22	0	49	0	0	0	40	131
Entrepreneurship training in Honey value chain	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	12	6	29	60	1	96	43	58	94	267	666
Entrepreneurs hip training in other fields	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	N*	0	103	0	0					103

**M = Men**

**W = Women**

N\* means not noted earlier. There is need to take time and calculate this from all trainings done earlier

# SECTION 6

## AGROFORESTRY FOR SOIL CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Agroforestry is a land-use system that integrates trees, crops, people, and/or animals on the same piece of land in order to get higher productivity, greater economic returns and more social and ecological benefits on a sustained basis. CAMGEW refers to this model as agroecology that “transfers the forest to the farmlands” to benefit from social, economic, cultural and ecological regeneration. The transfer of the forest to farms will avoid soil erosion, get firewood, green manure, shade, wind breaks and variety of products from farms like it is done in the forest. Farms need agroforestry systems to conserve soil nutrients and avoid water and soil losses. This could be done by creating various tree canopies in farms like it is found in a natural forest to enable crops benefit from shade, soil conservation and micro-climate necessary for healthy crop growth. Some of the Cameroon Western Highland forest has been cleared for farmland. CAMGEW believes that improving community members’ knowledge on agroforestry techniques or agroecology will provide better land use system. Agroforestry will definitely be imperative in improving the yields of agricultural systems, while also diversifying the products from the system. This will provide food crops every season and discourage slash-and-burn in farmlands that cause bushfires.

### CAMGEW AGROFORESTRY ACTIONS

In 2022, CAMGEW organised 4 agroforestry Trainings for communities around the Kilum Community Forest (North West Region) and 5 trainings in West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon. A total of 310 persons were trained. The first phase involved working in groups to identify challenges farmers face locally. The participants talked about bushfires that destroys crops, high cost of chemical fertilizers and other farm inputs, soil degradation that reduces productivity as years go by, lack of organic crops reducing value in the market, destruction by stray animals, lack of land by women, scarcity of seeds and seedlings during planting season, subsistence farming with few crops for family consumption. With their method of consumption, farmers mostly turn to the forest to get fuel wood, medicinal plants, fruits, vegetables and spices. With over exploitation and bushfires, these forest resources are fast disappearing. CAMGEW agroforestry training model focuses on domestication of forest trees and other trees, shrubs and vegetables to provide nitrogen to the soil and promote organic farming, reduce pressure on the forest to meet local needs (firewood, vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants), provide bee forage, fodder for grazers to feed their animals, diversify various foodstuffs for farmers and local communities and discourage slash-and-burn (cause of bushfires) by farmers in the farmland. The third phase of this capacity building workshop was to brainstorm on how to develop the agroforestry farm for community learning. This trainings also took participants to existing agroforestry farms where various plants in the farm were identified. These included coffee, prunus Africana, various fruits, bee loving trees, plantains, palm trees, bee hives, piggery, vegetables such as bitter herbs, sun flower, pumpkin, okro, tubbers such as cassava, yams, sweet potatoes and so on. After explaining the importance of this farm in forest area including bushfire prevention by avoiding slash-and-burns, variety of cash and organic crops and high possibility of meeting family food demand, the participants left very satisfied.

Farmers received seeds and seedlings of pumpkin, sunflower, okongabong, bitterleave, okro, pear fruit, guava fruit, oranges, lime, plump, aloe vera, mint, elderberry, mulberry, scent plant, lemon grass, leceana, caliandra, prunus



Africana, comfrey, paw-paw, eggplant, goose berry, straw berry, castor etc. These serve as food for man and animals, provide nitrogen to the soil, medicinal purposes and sustain soil biodiversity. Participants were encouraged to plant in their various farmlands, multiply and share to other community members.



Agroforestry lessons in demonstration farms in Manchok and Elak



Participants received agroforestry trees and medicinal plants after training  
**CAMGEW organised training workshops on agroforestry techniques**

Date	Venue	Women	Men	Total
19 - 20 April 2022	Oku in Kilum-Ijim forest	19	9	28
4 - 5 May 2022	Oku in Kilum-Ijim forest	19	7	26
6 - 7 May 2022	Oku in Kilum-Ijim forest	19	5	24
10 - 11 May 2022	Oku in Kilum-Ijim forest	23	2	25
19 - 20 April 2022	Makam - Njimom	27	3	30
4 - 5 May 2022	Ngounso- Magba	21	11	32
22 - 23 June 2022	Bankim	62	13	75
5 - 6 July 2022	Malore -Njimom	25	5	30
16 - 17 August 2022	Njimom	30	10	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>245</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>310</b>

Seedlings of different species like Food tree species and medicinal plants were also distributed also. 40 Kg of Castor seeds were distributed. 10 Kg of Sesbania and 10 Kg of Tephrosia were distributed. Seeds of Castor plant (*Ricinus communis*) to plant in their farms. CAMGEW is encouraging participants to cultivate castor plants. The seeds is used in producing castor oil.



**Distributed seedlings to farmers**

SN	Common name	Quantity	SN	Common name	Quantity
1	Prunus africana	78	7	Fever grass	66
2	Aloe Vera	40	8	Lemon seedlings	26
3	Mango trees	60	9	Anchia seedlings ( Solanum linnaeanum)	56
4	Tree Tomato	76	10	Pepper seedlings	76
5	Pear trees	17	11	Akong-abong	48
6	Mint seedlings	50			
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS</b>		<b>593</b>			



Some seedlings distributed to farmers

**Donation of tools to farmers:** This was done on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022. 75 farmers received 75 cutlasses, 75 hoes and 75 buckets to increase Food Production, raise income, create jobs and better conserve Soils at Kilum-Ijim Forest Peripheries from erosion.

**TEATIMONY:** Njioh Bernadine - CAMGEW staff present at the donation ceremony said she has not seen this type of joy and happiness like the one today in our community for a long time since the Anglophone crisis started.



75 communities receiving 75 buckets, 75 cutlasses and 75 hoes for agroecology in Oku of Kilum-Ijim forest





Women learning by doing how to mix soil with animal dung and fill in pots for tree nursery development



Agroforestry training for women in CAMGEW Agroecological farm in Magba



Women in Magba after on-farm training on agroecology and receive agroforestry seedlings to plant in the farms. This was in CAMGEW Agroecological Farm in Magba



**Celebration of the International Rural Womens' Day:** On the 15th of October 2022, CAMGEW joined the world in celebrating rural women day. CAMGEW celebrated this day under the theme **"Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for Everyone"**. It was celebrated with 12 women engage in agriculture for a living. CAMGEW staff joined women farmers in their farms to celebrate this day through encouragement.



CAMGEW field staff visited rural women in their farms to celebrate Rural Women's Day

For second part of the celebration CAMGEW organized a roundtable discussion and exhibition for rural women in Oku on various locally produced food crops. This involved 25 women coming together on a roundtable to discuss about their achievements and challenges in the field. This was an opportunity for these women to share within themselves knowledge, skills and experience to make sustainable agriculture work. It was also to celebrate their achievements and showcase their products and ability to the world. During this celebration women displayed various organic food products and vegetables cultivated in their farms. They displayed maize, beans, cabbages, cocoyam, pumpkin, carrots, and bananas. Etc. In the course of presentation they said that they could produce more if they get a steady market for the products. Another lady said they produce perishable products which if their roads are secured and peaceful they could grow more because their climate permit the growth of such perishable products. Women happily celebrated their day by singing and dancing, thanking God for making them rural women and equally reciting rhymes and poems that stating that are important because they feed the world.



Rural Women happily celebrating their day

**CAMGEW Trained 23 Community members in Kilum-Ijim forest and its Environs on Medicinal Plant Transformation and supported them to Practice:** On the 7th and 8th October 2022 in CAMGEW office in Bamenda, community members learned how to dry, store, weigh, package and market medicinal plants. They learned how to be creative and innovative by using locally available materials (like bamboo to prepare local dryers) in the process. Different materials and equipment used for transformation were presented to the participants. In the process participants learned how the equipment and materials function. Participants visited the CAMGEW medicinal plant garden and learned about commonly used medicinal plants. The participants also visited the CAMGEW-Honeyshop or NOWEFAM shop where medicinal plants are marketed for demonstration and learning. Each woman received 5 Liters of honey and a bucket to start their own production.

**CAMGEW organised training workshops on on Medicinal Plant Transformation**

Date	Venue	Women	Men	Total
7 and 8 October 2022	CAMGEW - Bamenda	21	2	23
<b>TOTAL</b>		21	2	23

**5 Days’ Exhibition of Women-Led Eco Businesses In The Urban Center To Promote Value Chain Development Of Non-Timber Forest Products.**

From the 7th to 11th June 2022, CAMGEW organised a 5 days’ exhibition of eco-businesses in Bamenda of the North West Region of Cameroon to promote the value chain development of agroforestry and non-timber forest products as a source of livelihood for forest women and incubation of green enterprises locally. This was done to commemorate World Environment Day of the 5th June 2022 under the theme “Only One Earth”. In Cameroon various debates, talks, discussions and events were held within the week of 5th June to 11th June 2022. This exhibition was open to the public to learn more about eco-businesses and incubation of local enterprises from natural resources. The exhibitors presented their story to the public: how they started, how their initiative conserves the environment while generating income, why more women should be involved etc? Amazing to the visitors were presentation from: Present at the event were: WECMA, NOWEFAM,



CAMGEW exhibition site for of Women-Led Eco Businesses

Government representatives especially from Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Small and Medium Size Enterprises and Ministry of scientific Research visited the exhibitors. They shared various services put in place by the government to assist



small and medium size enterprises. This amongst others included development of business plans, trainings on packaging, networking opportunities and various trade fairs organised by the state. With over 500 persons visiting the exhibition side in 5 days, CAMGEW through this activity created more awareness of the opportunities available locally on livelihoods, forest conservation, soil conservation and promotion of gender equality. Carrying out this activity during this week promoted more discussion on women's engagement in conservation, development of value chain of non-timber forest products and participation in growth and development of the country

**Table of Institutions that participated in the Exhibition of Women-Led Eco Businesses**

NAMES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS	
Women Ecovillage Change Makers (WECMA) in transformation of herbal plants to tea and promotion of use of leaves as alternatives to plastics that pollute the environment	Leiky Fashion specialized in transformation of plastics and waste papers to beads for traditional embroidery for production of bangles, necklaces, earrings, rings, anklets, table mats and so on
ETS ASAGS in transformation of cayenne pepper to cayenne pepper tea and oil	Organic Herbal wine by transforming Aloe vera, cinnamon and moringa to wine
Agric Farm CIG into grafting and marcotting of fruits trees and vegetables;	Gift Kamasu is a 25 years old young woman transforming cassava tubbers to cassava flour
North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM) produces honey and beeswax and transforms to beverages, lotions and detergents	Marry Camilan commercialises organic vegetables and fruits from forest area
North West Cooperative Society (NWCA) through Leinyuy Emmiliene who works with coffee farmers and promotes marketing of organic coffee	

**CAMGEW team realized the need for:**

- An agroforestry training center to empower more community members, promote research on indigenous crops and trees and build more people in climate adaptation initiatives
- Need for climate literacy programs at grassroots levels. Most grass root communities have little or no knowledge about climate change and how to conserve their environment.
- Promote exchanges between various farmers and local climate actors. This will promote exchange of knowledge, learning of best practices and strategies to overcome challenges at grassroots levels
- Grassroots women lack knowledge on environmental rights. There is need for more advocacy in this area of climate action at grassroots levels.

**Workshop on Farmer-Grazer and Farmer-Farmer and Farmer- Bee Farmer Conflict management**

This workshop took place in Magba of West Region and had about 35 participants. Farmer grazer conflicts are common in the Cameroon Western Highlands forest area on 5 May 2022. This activity promoted partnership and integration between farmers and grazers and reduce farmer-grazer conflicts locally. These communities in West and Adamawa Regions are host to crop farmers, bee farmers and grazers. Farmer-grazer conflicts are common which sometimes leads to loss of lives and destruction of property. Through REGAIN project CAMGEW sought to improve peaceful existence between farmers and grazers and promote solidarity amongst both farmers.



The community was engaged through, community dialogues and workshops in the project area. Conflict management discussions were also mainstreamed in various capacity building trainings. Attending the conflict management workshops were Administrative authority especially the Divisional Officers, the traditional leaders, representatives of grazers union, leaders of farmer's union, crop farmers, bee farmers, animal farmers and youths.

The following recommendations were made by the participants:

- promote partnership between the farmers whereby crop farmers understands that he/she needs animal dung to grow organic crops and can get from grazers. On the other hand grazers need vegetation from farmers to nourish their animals. Everyone needs each other to grow
- Grazers families can engage in crop cultivation. This will enable grazers to protect their farms against stray animals by confining them. This will benefit the entire community
- Grazers families can be empowered on collection of cow dung to market for crop cultivation. This will limit number of stray animals in the community.
- farmers can develop partnerships with grazers to bring their animals to the farms after harvesting of crops to feed to remaining vegetation. The dung in the farms during this period will increase soil fertility and limit farmers' expenses on purchase of cow dung.
- grazers can develop life fences that will confine the animals and provide fodder for them especially during the dry season when vegetation is scarce
- farmers can also plant nitrogen fixing trees in their farms whose leaves can be used as fodder for animals. This can be harvested by farmers and marketed to grazers.



CAMGEW facilitating Workshop on Farmer-Grazier and Farmer-Farmer and Farmer- Bee Farmer Conflict management

This win-win partnership approach in conflict resolution has been successful in Kilum-Ijim forest area where CAMGEW has worked for many years. Though is a long-term effort, the engagement from this first workshop proved hopeful. At the end of the workshop, the project leader called on participants to be ambassadors of this message in their various communities

# SECTION 7

## CAPACITY BUILDING, EVENTS, PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING, NETWORKING AND 2023 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

### A. EVENTS, PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING AND NETWORKING

#### **Production of REGAIN Project Communication Materials and Awareness Raising**

In the month of February 2022, CAMGEW REGAIN team carried out awareness raising visits for this project in the West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. Information letters were presented to government authorities in Fouban, Njimom, Magba, And Adamawa Region of Cameroon. These information letters presented the organization and project rational as well as project objectives and expected results. Local authorities especially cultural leaders were also informed about this project.

Project communication materials were also produced like flyers, and various banners.

#### **Impact study of the main beneficiaries of CAMGEW activities in Kilum-Ijim Forest**

CAMGEW carried out the impact studies in the Kilum-Ijim communities for 300 community member being 200 women and 100 men who directly benefited from CAMGEW activities in the previous years. This took place from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. The community members located in Simonkoh, Nkwei, keyon, Manchok, Nguienkei, Jikijem, Elak, Mbokenghas were interviewed. This was carried out through one-on-one interviews with the beneficiaries. This impact study was successful thanks to the fact that CAMGEW had gained public acceptance in her area of work, have field office with a passionate team who remain close to community members on a daily basis. CAMGEW holistic approach to promote gender equality in climate action has built trust and reputation in the community. Analyzing the results of the study from June to August 2022. These analyses were done by Sevidzem Ernestine.

**High Level Political Forum On Sustainable Development Space:** The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), through its outcome on "The Future We Want", established the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2012. The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. HLPF in 2022 was held **from 5th July to 15th July 2022**, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council included the three-day ministerial segment and the high-level segment of the Council. This session was held under the theme **"Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**. Our team member Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki Spoke during the 2022 session, sharing our experiences on gender equality and climate action. After this session, CAMGEW became a member of the HLPF online women networking space. This space gives up-to date information about the ministerial role and gender enhancement on climate action around the world.

**COP27 African Feminist Task Force:** The African Feminists Taskforce is a group of African Feminists, mostly advocates with long-lasting engagement with the Women and Gender Constituency, organized with the aim of ensuring that African feminists' voices and demands, aspirations, and visions were centered in COP27 processes and outcomes. This task force is made up of 84 members representing African feminist voices across the continent. This space shared information, opportunities and events related to COP27 and feminists action. Through this space CAMGEW connected to various stakeholders and got timely information about side events and happenings at COP27.

**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Justice (SRHR & CJ) Coalition:** The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Justice (SRHR & CJ) Coalition is a global network of more than 25 organizations committed to collective action and coordinated advocacy to advance SRHR and gender equality in the context of climate change from an intersectionality and climate justice approach. The coalition emerged from the need to create a space where we can break down silos between the SRHR and the Climate Justice organizations and movements, facilitate knowledge sharing, jointly mobilize, and amplify the voices and priorities of grassroots organizations, led by women, youth, girls, the LGBTQIA+ community, and Indigenous people from the Global South, particularly those most affected by climate change and without continuous access to high-quality SRH services. CAMGEW joined this coalition in 2022.

**Women Major Group:** The Women’s Major Group (WMG) was created at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where governments recognized Women as one of the nine important groups in society for achieving sustainable development. The WMG is an official participant in the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development. Other processes use the major group or similar systems, with the WMG active in the processes of the United Nations Environment Program since 1996. CAMGEW through Sevidzem Ernestine became part of this community in 2022 with regular emails received on publications, need for inputs on draft women issue publications and opportunities to support women in climate action.

**Climate Chance Movement:** CAMGEW was represented by Sevidzem Ernestine at the Climate Chance Africa Week of Sustainable Development and Climate Change which took place in Dakar, Senegal 2022. Ernestine received an official invitation from the president of Climate Chance (SMDC) Ronac Dantec to take part in the remarkable conference on sustainable mobility and climate change in Dakar from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. This week brought together the community of African mobility and climate actors, and facilitated exchanges with other international experts. A large number of workshops and plenary sessions were held in order to foster dialogue between different actors on the challenges of sustainable mobility and to strengthen climate action at the local level in Africa. The organizers acknowledged that sustainable mobility must take into consideration biodiversity conservation. It was therefore necessary to invite biodiversity actors at this conference. CAMGEW participation was important. At the end of the conference, the actors of the SMDC adopted the “Dakar Declaration”, a high-level contribution to the COP27 which will take place one month later in Egypt from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Amongst other things, high level African non-state actors and local governments, raised their actions, messages and projects to the front of the international climate scene through a vast call for contributions campaign feeding the Climate Chance cartography for action, which is an essential step in the progress of the roadmaps and concrete actions led by the African sectoral coalitions. CAMGEW through Ernestine took part in various interventions, telling CAMGEW experiences in environmental space.

At the end of this come together, **Climate Chance and Codatu drafted a ROADMAP of African climate actors meeting in Dakar and adopted the DAKAR DECLARATION of non-state actors.** This declaration called for more action and commitment of African climate actors towards more sustainable climate actions in Africa. CAMGEW established a partnership with Climate Chance Movement with Sevidzem Ernestine as CAMGEW focal point for communication.

**Conference of Parties COP27 in Egypt:** United Nations (UN) climate summits are held every year, for governments to agree steps to limit global temperature rises. They are referred to as COPs, which stands for "Conference of the Parties". The parties are the attending countries that signed up to the original UN climate agreement in 1992 known as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 27th edition of the conference took place in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh-Egypt from the 6th to the 18th November 2022 and this was the 5th time in the history of the climate conference that Africa hosted and first time since last 7 years. COP27 was held under the theme “Together for Implementation”. Ahead of the COP27, countries were asked to submit ambitious national climate plans and only 25 countries submitted. COP27 focused on three main areas: Reducing emissions, Securing technical support and funding for developing countries for the above. CAMGEW was represented at this conference in-person from the 10th to the 17th by Sevidzem Ernestine



Leikeki and Sevidzem Emmaculate Berinyuy. This was financially supported by French Development Agency-France and Women Engage for a Common Future International. Ernestine's participation in COP27 was felt in debates, plenary sessions, round tables, negotiation rooms, partnership development and in the media.

As part of pre-COPs activities, Ernestine has worked with WECF and GIZ to publish CAMGEW transformative initiatives especially in agroforestry trainings. This publication was titled 'transformative pathways, .....' Along with other transformative solutions, these initiatives were officially presented to the public in a side event at COP27. This publication was printed in 100 hard copies and distributed to key climate stakeholders at COP27. It was also accessible on UNFCCC newpage, wecf website, GIZ website and a scan code was also generated for distribution of soft copies. On the 16/11/2022, Copies were distributed at the conference center. Find CAMGEW work from page 66 of the publication.

**Guest Speaker at TBA Master Class on Women in Conservation for CSO leaders in Guinea Rain Forest Hotspot:** Ernestine was invited by Tropical Biology Association to share CAMGEW experiences on integrating women and promoting gender equality in climate action. This Master class was meant for women lead community based organisations in environmental space in Cameroon. This took place in May 2022.

**Women In Nature Network: Women In Nature Network (WINN)** was established to build connections between **women** around the world to enhance their abilities to manage their natural resources and to protect the natural environment. With over 285 members, this space promotes learning and actions by women to conserve the environment globally. CAMGEW became member in June 2022.

**GLA exchange Learning Space:** Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA) exchange learning space is a global community of climate actors working on 'forest for a just future program'. CAMGEW has been working with GLA since 2021. This exchange learning space promotes sharing of initiatives and lessons learned during project implementation by various stakeholders.

**One Planet Network Forum:** The One Planet network is a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts, including governments, businesses, civil society, academia and international organisations, that implements the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and works towards achieving SDG 12: ensuring sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

**Workshop on Climate Justice in Buea, South West Region of Cameroon:** Ernestine attended the workshop on climate justice to enhance the capacity of magistrates and lawyers on environmental justice and sustainable development as a resource person on women and climate change. This workshop brought together over 30 magistrates and lawyers in Cameroon and other stakeholders. Presenting on Women and Climate Change, Sevidzem Ernestine - Women Empowerment Officer of CAMGEW emphasized on the need for the judiciary to localize rights on how to combat climate change and promote women's environmental rights, need for policy and environmental strategies on how to localize legal instruments in order to have local women more exposed to the law. This workshop was organised by Foundation for Environment and Development and took place in Buea on the 8th and 9th December 2022.

## **B. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Creation of New Office at Ngounso - Magba in the West Region of Cameroon:** In February 2022, CAMGEW got support from AFD and WECF to replicate her best practices in the West and Adamawa regions of Cameroon. This gave birth to the creation of a new office for CAMGEW. Like in Bamenda and Oku, the office in Magba serve as CAMGEW base for the activities going on in West and Adamawa Regions.

**Development of demonstration agro-forestry farm:** CAMGEW developed an agroecology (agroforestry) learning, demonstration and research farm at Ngounso in Magba within the framework of REGAIN project. Over the years, CAMGEW had trained more than 1000 farmers in agroforestry techniques. This inspired the setting-up

of a demonstration farm to promote continues learning by farmers, students, researchers and various stakeholders on holistic approach that brings about ecological, social, economic and cultural regeneration. This farm had a nursery to nurse various vegetables, improved species of fruits, domestication of non-timber forest products that will be distributed to the communities in the West and Adamawa regions for climate mitigation and adaptation at local levels. More than 25 different native crops were planted in this farm in a forest gardening style.

**Improvement in financial reporting system:** In 2021, CAMGEW developed a financial soft-ware to facilitate financial management of the institution. In May 2022, CAMGEW employed the services of a financial consultant to monitor, recommend and assist in development of CAMGEW financial reports. The consultant works on result driven bases. This improved on financial accountability and transparency

**Visibility:** From January to July 2022, CAMGEW has been working on creating more visibility for her work. CAMGEW facebook page is regularly updated with various activities. CAMGEW also created a twitter account with profile name @CAMGEW to keep the public updated on current activities. Regular webinars and conferences are being attended in various networks to talk about CAMGEW best practices. CAMGEW made sure that every project she did ended with a success story document that was printed and shared with communities and also put in the website. The website was regularly updated and different flyers produced for different external events she attended. Different manuals for trainings and posters were also produced for sharing of knowledge, skills and experiences.

**Development of various administrative documents of CAMGEW:** CAMGEW team worked to develop various administrative documents to guide work ethics and promote professionalism. These administrative documents were developed and adopted:

#### Developed CAMGEW Administrative Documents

Documents Developed	Documents Developed
○ Anti bribery and corruption policy	○ Transparency note
○ Financial internal control policy	○ Sexual Exploitation and abuse policy
○ Four Eye Principle	○ Gender policy
○ Principle of functional separation	○ Principle of minimum information
○ Procurement policy for goods	○

These policies give a professional administrative set up on CAMGEW manual of Procedure document. It also prepares CAMGEW for expression of interest in large grant.

### C. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**African Geographical Indication Training:** CAMGEW through Wirsy Emmanuel did a Certificate Course on African Geographical Indication. This was the second edition of the Africa-GI training involving Europeans, Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) and AfrIPI professionals. It benefited local animators and authorities from the OAPI region. Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo. This training took place in Yaounde, Cameroon, from May 9 to May 19, 2022. CAMGEW attended the course because she has been facilitating the development of Oku White Honey (GI product) value chain. CAMGEW with OAPI is presently developing the Operationalisation Plan for Oku White Honey that will be executed in 2023.

**Training on production of Honey Juice:** In April 2022, Sevidzem Ernestine enrolled on a training offered by Women Empowerment and Food Transformation Initiative on production of honey juice. This training took place online for 7 days. This training improved the knowledge on preservation of honey juice and packaging. Trails on production of honey juice are now on going. There is hope that this product will be introduced in the market come December 2024.

**Training on packaging and labeling:** This training was organized by Regional Delegation of Arts and Culture to empower eco-business stakeholders with skills on product packaging. This capacity building workshop lasted for four days in Bamenda. Attended by 8 persons, standard norms on packing and product handling were presented. Emphasis were also made on product branding. This improved on packaging of CANGEW honeyshop products. After completion of this training, the following recommendations were made:

- ✚ Work more on branding of NOWEFAM products by December 2022
- ✚ Improve on packaging to meet national standards that can permit partnership with supermarkets and hotels nationwide by December 2022
- ✚ Reduce human contact with products during packaging through provision of protective kids, acquisition of appropriate machines and training of human resources in this department by December 2022

**Communication Master class Offered by Tropical Biology Association:** In February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, CAMGEW attended a capacity building workshop organized in by Tropical Biology Association in Douala. This workshop was aimed at empowering conservation stakeholders in Cameroon to better communicate their results and actions to third parties. Communicating these impacts requires the skills in pitching a statement, key tools of communication, consciousness of short clear and precise messages, using the SMART objective tool and using the 5 'W'. The Masterclass for Communicating Conservation Impacts was highly interactive with practical Sessions to help the different participants from various organisations master effective communication with their target audiences. This training took place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Cityzen Hotel Bonamoussadi, Douala Cameroon. This increased our communication skills to tell the conservation story better and communicate better with communities and other target audiences. Presentations were also made on how to use social media to communicate conservation impacts. For CAMGEW, this training was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. This workshop was done by Tropical Biology Association (TBA) - Kenya with support from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) of Birdlife International. RCESD facilitated this to happen in Cameroon.

**Training on climate responsive gender technology:** This training was organized by WECF within the framework of supporting Gender Just Climate Solutions Award Winners with capacity to source for funding for their activities. Organised on virtual space this training brought experts from CTCN to present various technology projects that attract the global community. Emphasis were made on technology that promote gender equality, address climate challenges, reduce the struggles of women, ensure food security and meet basic needs of rural communities. This training was attended by 30 persons.

**CEPF Final Biodiversity Hotspot Assessment Workshop:** CAMGEW was invited to participate in the Guinean Forest of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot (GFWA) workshop that took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Accra, Ghana. This was to showcase the impacts of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Investments in the Guinean Forest of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot (GFWA). CAMGEW was a beneficiary of this funds to protect the Kilum-Ijim forest. The workshop provided a unique platform for civil society organisations (CSOs) working across the hotspot, and with CEPF/RIT, to share their success and lessons learned in conservation from the regions and projects. The workshop also included a training/learning component on biodiversity and climate change, and on how to engage with media. There was much sharing, learning and networking of what was achieved from 2016-2022. This workshop was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel who was project leader.

**Training with UNFCCC on strengthening capacity of SME to engage in climate action:** This training was organized by UNFCCC in October 2022. This came as a result of the COP26 discussions which acknowledged that small and medium size enterprises can play a remarkable role in mitigation of climate change. CAMGEW involvement in development of value chain on honey and medicinal plants makes her a key stakeholder at the grassroot level for incubation of micro enterprises. It was against this rational that Sevidzem Ernestine was accepted to be part of this training. This training took place on virtual space for 5 hours



**Enrolment for Postgraduate Degree Program:** In October 2022, Ernestine enrolled in to a Professional Master's Degree program in Rural Development and Administration at Bamenda University of Science and Technology, North West Region Cameroon. This two years' journey that hopes to be completed in October 2024 will build her capacity to drive community development in her area of work better.

**Acceptance into Women for Environment Fellowship 2023:** Ernestine applied for the Women in Environment (WE) Africa Fellowship and was admitted as 2023 Fellow in November 2022. This will be a 12 months' journey for personal growth and Leadership to commence in January 2023 with weekly online sessions and two in-person sessions in one of the African countries.

**In-services trainings:** CAMGEW organized many in-service trainings for her staff and this was on weekly and monthly basis on different subjects especially on giving back to other members what was learned in invited events.

**Opportunities for students and youths to learn:** CAMGEW has an open policy to receive many students for internship in various areas of her work. Young people who complete from school and need to gain skills through volunteering are always welcome.

#### **D. CAMGEW CHALLENGES 2022**

- The on-going socio-political crisis in the North West region remains a challenge in implementation of planned activities. This situation has been characterized by limited movement, armed confrontation and internal displacement. However, CAMGEW has learned to negotiate access to communities and extend her work to other Regions of Cameroon.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic limited in-person activities. Virtual events were more challenging considering poor internet network in our area. CAMGEW supported staff with internet communication credit to acquire higher bandwidths to attend zoom meetings, webinars and other virtual events.
- 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 and Students on internship:** CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help her better serve the communities and transfer knowledge to their staff. 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 have little running cost. Getting support for CAMGEW running cost will improve her functioning.
- **Equipment support:** CAMGEW has problems of functioning well because of some office items that are not sufficient. CAMGEW needs: 2 cameras, 3 computers (3 laptop), 2 printer and 2 scanners)
- 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 needs mobility means for her new project in the West and Adamoua Regions of Cameroon.** CAMGEW has scale-up her activities in Kilum-Ijim forest to cover the whole of Bamenda Western Highland area that includes North West and Part of West and Adamoua Regions of Cameroon. This is in line with her new strategic plan. CAMGEW vehicle that was partially used when buying is 9 years old and maintenance cost has increase with much disappointments during various journeys.
- **Global inflation** leading to price increase of various items locally and nationally. Prices of fuel, transportation and basic commodities increase. This increase our expenditure unexpectedly.
- **Scientific names and/or English names of most non timber forest products not known.** Rural women identified these products in the local languages. There is need for more research towards this. Provision

for an Agroforestry Training centre could open avenues for such research and empower many local farmers in soil conservation, domestication of non-timber forest products, cultivation of organic crops and tree nursery development to boost forest regeneration

- **Lack of cofunding:** CAMGEW is still searching for co-funding for REGAIN project and her other activities. We hope for the best in the nearest future. This challenge could affect overall product anticipated results.
- Local communities of West and Adamawa Regions host people of diverse cultures. Even though English and French are national languages, many local people speak only their local languages and so our trainings needs local translators.
- There is need to develop a strategy that will bring stakeholders like grazers and then farmers, community leaders to the table to end various conflicts faced by local people in the West and Adamaoua Regions.
- Many community members have no national identification papers.
- Bringing about social, economic, ecological and cultural regeneration especially with the various crises in the nation and locally is challenging but we need to see how to work with nationally internally displaced persons with stories of survivals is important. Counselling and accepting their stories is crucial before empowering them.



Session on development CAMGEW Administrative Documents by Staff

## E. CAMGEW's ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2023

### a. Women Empowerment and Child development

- Continue with counseling services for Bamenda Highland Area community
- Train, organise and support women in solidarity groups in Bamenda Highland Area
- Advocacy to protect women rights and interest around the Bamenda Highland Area
- Carry out trainings on improved personal hygiene, nutrition and health for women and girls.
- Work on the development of the child as future leaders of our communities

### b. Forest conservation

- Develop new strategies and put them to action to fight bushfires, deforestation, encroachment and over hunting that degrades the Cameroon Western Highlands forest
- Sensitize Cameroon Western Highlands forest communities on forest conservation, law and sanctions
- CAMGEW to continue with forest regeneration through nursery development and native tree planting in Cameroon Western Highlands forest and continuous with forest education for communities.

### c. Agroecology Trainings for farmers in Forest Communities:

- Capacity building of communities (farmers and grazers) on agroforestry techniques and donation of agroforestry seeds/seedlings for planting in Cameroon Western Highlands forest Area.
- Agroforestry encourages the development of various food value chains like medicinal plants and engage more women and youths in forest monitoring.
- d. Honey Value Chain Development**
  - Capacity building on honey production and transformation of honey to honey juice, honey wine and bees wax to soap, powder soap, body lotion, candles, etc
  - Capacity building of community members on entrepreneurship in honey value chain
  - Build capacity of community members to engage in 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
  - CAMGEW to increase rolling funds to keep on buying honey from farmers' cooperatives.
  - Sourcing funds to construct the storage and transformation unit of the Honeyshop
- e. Environmental education**
  - Carryout weekly environmental education activities for children in Cameroon Western Highlands forest
  - Developing environmental education materials for children/communities in Cameroon Western Highlands forest Area
- f. Capacity Building in Urban Gardening**
  - Recycling of plastics to tree nursery pots, vegetables and medicinal plants cultivation
  - Techniques to grow organic crops in urban space as alternative income source
  - Reduce plastic pollution by converting waste to wealth
- g. Sharing of Skills and Knowledge with other communities/institutions**
  - Continue sharing skills and knowledge on Honey Value Chain with like-minded or interested organisations nationwide and abroad.
  - Making all information of CAMGEW accessible to public in either hard documents and/or online
  - Building of local networks with other organisations and supporting them
- h. Advocacy and Sharing of Knowledge and Skills**
  - CAMGEW Promotes Women's Ecological and Socio-Economic Rights.
  - CAMGEW brings every forest stakeholder to the table for better debate to increase forest and biodiversity engagement for better decision making
  - CAMGEW mainstream gender in forest biodiversity conservation
  - CAMGEW revitalize Communities' Indigenous Knowledge and Practices for forest conservation
- i. Volunteering and Internships**
  - Give more opportunities for students/volunteers to work or carryout internships and research and Get into partnership with organisations and networks to get volunteers to improve on our work
- j. Organizational development**
  - Building capacities of forest institutions like FMIs, Cooperatives and others
  - Promoting CAMGEW staff development and Improving on CAMGEW communication strategy
  - Improving on CAMGEW infrastructural/material development
  - Promoting project fund raising and improving on Project development
  - Work on Administrative/Financial Procedure document and on CAMGEW financial management system
  - In-service trainings for CAMGEW staff

## GENERAL CONCLUSION

CAMGEW did much in 2022 and this could be seen for activities she carried out despite the challenges from the socio-political crisis in Anglophone Cameroon and COVID pandemic. CAMGEW improved on community solidarity for economic, cultural, ecological and social regeneration. CAMGEW was a true change driver improving community lives and protecting nature. CAMGEW looks forward to a better 2023 year. We wish our



partners, community members and stakeholders a beautiful 2023 while we end the year 2022. You can learn more about us a [www.camgew.org](http://www.camgew.org). Contact our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/camgewcameroon.camgew> and Twitter at [Twitter](#) to know about CAMGEW's activities in the past and in 2020. We will happily welcome your comments to improve

## USEFUL LINKS

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH CELEBRATES WORLD BEE AND BIODIVERSITY DAYS WITH HER PARTNERS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SISwxERggI>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E\\_k1ECBH3ig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_k1ECBH3ig) FOREST REGENERATION FOR CHILDREN FOR BEES  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TwdiXGj3zk> APICULTURE FOR FOREST CONSERVATION  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD5Ljp7brgY> WOMEN FOREST RIGHTS  
<https://www.facebook.com/energyglobe/videos/483309868915796/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bD2fpbvsgQ>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41UmlFAFAgU> CONSERVATION AND HONEY VALUE CHAIN  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To2WzRduuDs>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg> HONEY AND FOREST  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdNOs6lecXo> BEES BEYOND HONEY LONG  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4hMytIS7tc> BEES BEYOND HONEY SHORT  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8QEVj6hBo8>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bz5SMmacMYQ>

## AWARDS

Gender Just Climate Solutions Award Winners 2019:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bz5SMmacMYQ&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://www.wecf.org/nl/gender-just-climate-solutions-award-winnaars-bekend/>  
<https://www.wecf.org/nl/gender-just-climate-solutions-award-winnaars-bekend/>

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (Cameroon), Climate Change Mitigation, UNDP Equator Prize 2019

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDaVjcV\\_CBw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDaVjcV_CBw)

<https://vimeo.com/364895282>

Community Statement: Climate Change Mitigation Category Winners, Equator Prize 2019 PRESENTED BY CAMGEW Sevidzem Ernestine

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqdh\\_xS2rEg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqdh_xS2rEg)

CAMGEW Receives UNDP Equator Prize Award 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCTj6zOVhP8>

CAMGEW GENERAL ACTIVITIES VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>

UNDP Equator Prize Award 2019 New York: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2019/equator-prize-announces-20-winners-for-local-innovative-climate-.html>

UNIDO Prize Award May 2019 on Agrofood and Biodiversity in Rome Italy:

<http://www.unido.it/award2019/3rd-unido-itpo-italy-international-award-ceremony-at-exco-2019/>

OR <https://thefocusonline.wordpress.com/2019/05/20/cangew-wins-unido-itpo-italy-2019-international-award/>

Guardian Post National Award 2019: <https://thefocusonline.wordpress.com/2019/04/15/camgews-biodiversity-eco-community-efforts-yielding-fruits-and-gaining-recognition/>

National Energy Globe Award 2019: <https://www.energyglobe.info/cameroon2019?cl=en&id=334228>

National Energy Globe Award 2018: <https://www.energyglobe.info/cameroon2018?cl=en&id=249436>

OR <http://themedianpaper-yde.blogspot.com/2018/08/biodiversity-conservation.html>