

2024 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 S-BEND Nkwen, 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

The year 2024 is ended. It was a good year with much achievements by CAMGEW in the North West, West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon. CAMGEW grow stronger through gaining skills in building communities, institutional capacity building and mentorship and coaching. CAMGEW trained communities on livelihood opportunities and created 4 new community cooperatives in agroforestry and honey to promote production, quality improvement and marketing of farmers cooperatives. The year also ended with the creation of CAMGEW Agroecological Platform by CAMGEW in Magba in the West Region to connect farmers, farmers cooperatives and stakeholder for knowledge and skill share. This has built solidarity that has serves as a social insurance for communities.

Community members were trained on honey value chain, agroecology, poultry, urban gardening. CAMGEW also did nature education, advocacy, women empower and child development. Internationally, CAMGEW made her contributions in promoting the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs).

We will be happy that you go through our 2024 annual reports, your comments will help us improve and your appreciation will encourage us to keep doing this work for communities.

2025 looks promising and we are fully ready to engage and make things work. Your support in any way will make us achieve more and make the world a better place.

Wirsiy Emmanue Binyuy

CAMGEW Director

2024 CAMGEW TEAM EXECUTION

S/N	Name	Position	Sex
1	Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy	Director	M
2	Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki	Women empowerment officer	F
3	Emmaculate Berinyuy	Assistant project office	F
4	Dinyuy Rita	Accountant	F
5	Tanyu Giselle	Magba field officer	F
6	Asheri Roland	Store keeper	M
7	Kongla Nadeshe Maimo	Shop keeper	F
8	Njioh Bernadine	Project officer Oku	F
9	Wirba sabastine Berinyuy	Tree nursery development officer	M
10	wirnkar Gideon	Honey packaging staff	M
11	Nsaikila Louisa	Bee suit producer	M
12	Njodzeka Terence	Driver	M
13	Fonge Emilia kibong	Shop keeper	F
14	Wopong Lentina	Manager agroecological platform	F
16	Bih Ashley	Assistant accountant	F
17	Oumarou Sanda	Field project officer Mayor Darle	M
18	Solange Ntala	Marketer	F
19	Tih Yamyor Isabelle	Mayor Darle field staff	F
21	Tarnteh Noella Neh	Marketer	F
22	Fai Blasius	Project officer	M



CAMGEW 2024 Execution Team

SECTION ONE

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 Highland forest area".

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 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 Highland Forest*.
- Eco-business operators in *Cameroon 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 Highlands* are empowered and participate in forest management & community development.
- CAMGEW will have developed projects and sought funds to handle challenges in the *Cameroon 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 Highland Forest* and environs. **Target Groups:** Forest users, less privileged children, climate change affected communities and Peasant women. **What we offer:** Forest regeneration and environmental education, agroecology and agroforestry community strengthening, honey value chain capacity strengthening, Tree nursery development, Child development, women and youth economic empowerment, environmental and socio-economic advocacy

CAMGEW offices:

CAMGEW offices are found in Cameroon. **In Bamenda (Head office)** at Farmers House Mile 3 Nkwen, Field offices **Oku** - Manchock, and **Magba** - Ngouso. CAMGEW has a small office in Mayo Darle of Adamaoua Region. CAMGEW works in North West, West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon.

B. CAMGEW PROJECT AREA –CAMEROON HIGHLANDS FOREST

Geographically, the Cameroon highlands or eco-region encompasses the mountains and highland areas of the broader region between Nigeria and Cameroon, excluding Mount Cameroon (Ndenecho, 2011). Most of the eco-region lies within a narrow rectangle of some 180 km by 625 km, oriented southwest to northeast and originating about 50 km inland of Mount Cameroon (Neba, 2006). At the southern extremity, the eco-region covers the Rumpi Hills, the Bakossi Mountains, Mount Nlonako, Mount Kupe and Mount Manengouba. It then extends northeast towards the Mambila Plateau, with an extension north to the Bamenda-Banso highlands and outliers northeast to Mambila and northwest to the Obudu Plateau of Nigeria (Gvoždík *et al.*, 2020). The main trend of the eco-region continues north-east along the western flank of the Adamawa Plateau to Tchabal Gangdaba with two small outliers further east (Ndenecho, 2011; Gvoždík *et al.*, 2020). The highest point within this eco-region is Mount Oku at 3,011m in the Bamenda-Banso highlands (Zimkus and Gvoždík, 2013; Denys *et al.*, 2014). Most of the remainder is below 2,600m in elevation. At about 800 m to 1,000 m the eco-region grades into lowland vegetation communities of other eco-regions (Ndenecho, 2011). However, in the majority of cases, the lower boundary of these forests is now determined by conversion to agricultural land. Although located in tropical Africa, the main maximum temperatures are below 20°C due to the effects of altitude. At the southern extremity, closer to the coast, rainfall is around 4,000 mm per annum, declining inland to 1,800 mm or less.

These mountains form part of a chain of former volcanoes that stretch inland from the sea. While there are currently no active volcanoes within the eco-region, the effects of volcanism are still present. In 1986, water from Lake Nyos, a crater lake in the Bamenda Highlands seeped into magma channels below and caused a massive explosion that killed 1,700 people and devastated the surrounding countryside (Ajeagah, 2017). Soils derived from these volcanoes are fertile, which makes the land attractive to farmers. Combined with adequate rainfall, this contributes to a high human population density. In White's (1983) phytogeographical classification, these mountain areas fall within the Afro-montane archipelago-like regional centre of endemism that spans the entire continent (Wale, 2019). The elevational stratification that occurs along these mountains is quite distinct. Vegetation consists of submontane forests between 900 and 1,800m, and above this a mixture of montane elements, including distinct montane forests and patches of montane grasslands, bamboo forests and subalpine communities (Ndenecho, 2011). Five species of tree characterize the forested montane zone: *Nuxia congesta*, *Podocarpus latifolius*, *Prunus africana*, *Rapanea melanophloeos*, and *Syzygium guineense bamendae*, and these trees become increasingly covered with an epiphytic flora, especially orchids and mosses, at higher altitudes (Ndenecho, 2011). Other important montane species include *Crassocephalum mannii*, *Hypericum lanceolatum*, *Myrica humilis*, *Philippia mannii*, and *Schlefflera abyssinica*.

Just like Kilum-Ijim, the Cameroon Highlands is rich in non-timber forest products, apiculture potentials with same vegetation as Kilum-Ijim but then challenged by bushfires, low women engagement in conservation, soil degradation, poverty and unemployment.



Figure 1: A Map of the Cameroon Highlands

Source: Thia, (2014).

CAMGEW WORKS IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST: CAMGEW from 2010 to 2021 was focusing only in Kilum-Ijim Forest area and from 2021 she expanded her activities to cover the Cameroon Highland Forest area. The Kilum-Ijim forest is the largest remaining forest of the Bamenda Highlands forest. The Cameroon Highlands Forest which is a 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 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 2500m 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'TN and 6°1'TN 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. 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 forest area 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 produce 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.

SECTION 2

HONEY VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW has been working on honey value chain in the North West, West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon since 2012. She focuses on honey production, quality improvement, transformation, entrepreneurship, organization of farmers and marketing. This is done to increase production, improve quality and permit communities benefit from economies of scale. One of our other goal is to protect nature using the bee. This is done to fight bushfires and protecting the bee as pollinator.

HONEY PRODUCTION

In 2024 CAMGEW trained 295 community members on honey production in Kilum-Ijim forest, West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon and donated 295 beehives to them.

Kilum-Ijim forest is known for the production of Oku White Honey, a product certified as Geographical Indication Product. Under the project titled "REVITALISING COMMUNITIES' INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES IN THE KILUM -IJIM FOREST 2024-2025" with main objective being : To keep the Kilum-Ijim forest intact through resonating community indigenous knowledge and practices that are link to their culture and tradition, CAMGEW organised a bee farming training to have an insight on the traditional methods of bee farming in Oku. This was done on the 12 and 13 of November 2023.

In Honey production 57 persons were trained in Magba and Bankim and they received 57 KTB beehives. In the process of learning they produced 21 beehives. 95% of beehives in Bankim have colonized and they have all added at least 2 more beehives each. In Magba about 60% beehives have colonized and CAMGEW M & E officer is assisting them to colonise more beehives.

STATISTICS OF WORK DONE

REGION	VILLAGE	DATE	WOMEN TRAINED	MEN TRAINED	TOTAL TRAINED	BEEHIVES DONATED
ADAMAOUA	YOLI	15 and 16 January 2024	48	29	77	77
	BOMDO	18 and 19 January 2024	20	25	45	45
	NYALANG	20 and 21 January 2024	34	26	60	60
	MONDIAL	22 and 23 January 2024	28	28	56	56
	CITE IN MBAKIM	07 – 08 March 2024	11	16	27	27
WEST	MAGBA IN MAKOUPA	09 – 10 March 2024	7	23	30	30
NORTH WEST	OKU	12 – 13 November 2024			30	30
	TOTAL		148	147	325	325



Engaging women in apiculture



Participants learning how to make beehives



Participants after bee farming training in Oku



These 3 pictures show the different materials used in wrapping traditional hollow hives in Oku (They include; backs of Indian bamboo, straws of banana and grass)



Participants learning how to produce KTB hives



Participants learning how to use beesuits and bee smoker



Donation of beehives to trained Mapouka Community members



Donation of beehives to trained Mapouka Community members

A. BEES WAX EXTRACTION TRAINING

CAMGEW carried out beeswax training in Mayo-Darle of the Adamawa Region. The participants were trained on how to use hot water bath method in bees wax extraction. The training covered various topics, including the benefits of beeswax, methods of harvesting honey and processing to get beeswax, and its commercial potential. The participants were very excited to gain knowledge in bees wax extraction. They were enthusiastic about applying their newfound expertise to expand their beekeeping businesses and add value to their honey production

Statistic for beeswax training in Mayo-Darle

S/N	DATE	Place of the Training in Mayo -Darle	No of participants		
			Female	Male	Total Participants
01	20 April 2024	Yoli	0	11	11
02	21 April 2024	Mondial	27	11	38
03	23 April 2024	Boumdo	27	23	50
04	26 April 2024	Nyanlang	25	20	45
		Total	79	65	144



Bees wax training Boumdo

Bees wax training Mondial

B. HONEY AND BEES WAX TRANSFORMATION TRAINING

CAMGEW did training on honey transformation in April 2024. This training was done in Mayo Darle in 4 villages (Yoli, Mondial, Nyalang and Boumdo) on how to transform honey to honey juice and bees wax to soap (powder and solid soap), candles and body lotion. The field visit also involved training community members on bees wax extraction.

OBJECTIVE: To promote the production of honey and honey products for enterprise development as climate smart solution

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Trainings carried out on honey value chain in Mayo Darle

Trainings	Number of trainings done	Number of community members trained
4 Trainings for community members on bees wax extraction	4	144
4 trainings for persons on honey transformation to juice	5	221
4 trainings for women/youths on bees wax transformation to body lotion and candles,	5	221
4 trainings for women/youths on bees wax transformation to detergents (solid and powder soap)	5	221

CAMGEW is also proud that there is a local team that does follow-up of her activities on the ground in Mayo Darle. A specialist in honey and bees wax transformation from North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM) was hired to do these trainings. Each trained person received the following after training: 1 litre of Kernel oil, 2 Litres of Honey, a stainless steel bull, one drinking cup, a small container and 1 kg Bees wax. CAMGEW did bees wax training on the evening of Day 2 of the training in each village. Bees wax extraction training covered 2 hours. We agreed on a plan of work.

Statistic for Honey and Bees wax Transformation in Mayo-Darle

S/N	DATE	Place of the Training in Mayo -Darle	No of participants		
			Female	Male	Total
01	19 -20 April 2024	Yoli	31	0	31
02	21-22 April 2024	Mondia	23	9	32
03	23-24 April 2024	Boumdo	27	23	50
04	25-26 April 2024	Nyalang	25	15	40
05	27 April 2024	Mayo Darle Centre	59	9	68
		Total	165	56	221



Honey juice training Boumdo participants drinking produced honey juice



Soap production in Mayo Darle



Soap production training in Boumbo



Soap production training in Nyalang



Soap production in Mayo Darle



Soap production in Mondial



Body lotion training in Mayo Darle

Types and quantity of start-ups donated to trained person on bees wax and honey transformation

ITEMS DONATED	QUANTITY IN YOLI	QUANTITY IN MONDIAL	QUANTITY IN BOUMDO	QUANTITY IN NYALANG	QUANTITY IN MAYO DARLE	TOTAL
Silver bowl	31	32	50	40	68	221
Buckets	31	32	50	40	0	153
0.5 Kg bees wax	31	32	50	40	68	221
1 L Honey	31	32	50	40	68	221
1 L Kernel oil	31	32	50	40	68	221
Drinking cups	31	32	50	40	68	221



Donation in Boumdo



Donation in Mondial



Donation to Youth in Yoli trained in Mondial

C. CREATION OF HONEY COOPERATIVE IN YOLI OF MAYO DARLE

CAMGEW assisted communities of Mondial, Yoli, Nyalang and Boumbo to carry out elections at the level of the 4 villages. Elections were organised at various villages to elect 10 community leaders engaged in honey production. 5 female and 5 males were elected and we also made sure that 30% of those elected were youths. These elections took place on 27 and 29 February and 01 March 2024 in the 4 villages. On the 14 March 2024, 40 elected leaders from the 4 villages (all honey producers) meet at Yoli to elect the Yoli Honey Cooperative Executive leaders, Supervisory board and Advisory board. This was done with 8 executive members occupying positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Vice Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Vice Financial secretary and Vice Financial Secretary. There were 5 persons voted to the Advisory Board and 5 in the Supervisory Board.



Participants at Election of Yoli Honey Cooperative Executive

Cooperatives help in bringing farmers products together for the market. It permits them to invest in equipment necessary for quality improvement. The cooperative promotes solidarity as a social insurance that helps members stand by each other in times of joy and sadness. They use the group to

fight bushfire through sensitisation and bushfire management when it occurs. The cooperative also serves as microfinance for its members to have money before, during and after harvesting. The cooperative will therefore need rolling fund.



Elected executive for Yoli Honey Cooperative



Honey Cooperative Legalised

D. TRAINING OF COMMUNITIES ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MARKETING, COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

CAMGEW team discovered that there were few persons with skills in marketing, entrepreneurship, leadership and management of cooperatives locally. Together with local authorities training was organised locally to build the skills of resource persons in Mayo Darle in these domains. About 11 persons participated in these trainings that took place from 15 to 18 August 2024. After the team had acquired knowledge on these domain. A 2 day training was held in each of the 4 village on marketing, entrepreneurship, leadership and management of honey cooperative coordinated by trained resource persons. At the end of the training there was a restitution meeting on the 21 August 2024 to evaluate the trainings.



Men of the Honey Cooperative



Participants in Boumdo



Participants in mondial.

E. SOME SUCCESS STORIES IN HONEY VALUE CHAIN

Production of Soap: Two groups of women in Yoli Honey Cooperative started producing savon in solid and powder form. They sell the soap locally. They need more coaching and mentorship.



Savon (powder and solid) produced for the market in June 2024



Some Powder soap and solid soap produced by women in Yoli in September 2024
These groups producing have trained 5 more persons on soap production.



CAMGEW field team assist women on how to use soap production molds

Production of bees wax candles: 4 persons trained ave been producing bees wax candles after training.



Candle produced for household lighting by Mr. Ibrahima à Boumdo.

Production of Honey Juice

CAMGEW in September 2024 went round to visit and learn from those producing honey juice and how they use it. She could visit the following persons trained and this is what they have been doing in honey juice production.

EXHIBITION AT THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

On the 22nd of November 2024 NOVEFAM attended an exhibition organized by the small and Medium Size Enterprise for Great Minds Submit at Upstation Bamenda. This event was attended by various organizations and exhibitors from all over Bamenda. NOWEFAM during this event exhibited honey and honey transformed products.



Visiting of stands by general public

CONVERTING CHALLENGES TO SOLUTIONS

- There is a high demand for training in various sections of the honey value chain
- The created cooperatives need honey production equipment and materials like bee suits, bee smokers, boats, harvesting bucket, honey storage containers, refractometer, weighing scale, honey drainers, honey packaging, office
- The cooperative also need infrastructure for production, marketing, storage of honey
- The cooperatives need apiculture demonstration, learning, research and production site
- Raphia bamboos needed for beehive construction are scarce and bee farmers move long distances to harvest the existing ones.
- There is also need for rolling funds to buy honey from cooperative immediately as it is produced so as to make Honey = Money and also enable bee farmers have access to loans before harvesting season to send their children to school.
- There is need to promote local bee technology like bee suit and bee smoker production locally to promote honey quality and local jobs and income generation

SECTION 3

FOREST REGENERATION, RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

SUMMARY

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.

Tree planting is one of CAMGEW'S main activities. It is an important action with a global interest. The Kilum -Ijim Forest has a vital role to play in the mitigation of climate change. Forest conservation is important for watershed protection, promotion of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change. CAMGEW's action in regenerating the Kilum forest with native trees of different species is a step in this line against climate change.

CAMGEW planted 1970 *Raphia* plant in mayo Darle Adamaoua Region and 2562 in Kilum-Ijim forest of North West Region in Cameroon. This *Raphia* plant will help increase bamboos for bee farmers to use in beehive construction and water availability to man, bees and other animals. The plants were distributed to about 210 community members especially bee farmers to plant in their farms. In Kilum-Ijim forest tree planting was done to important for watershed protection, promotion of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change. This was done from 1 to 5th July 2025.

In July 2024, CAMGEW together with community members planted 2968 native tree species of the Kilum forest. CAMGEW planted 4644 trees in Kilum-Ijim forest in 2023 and a total of 122,243 trees have been planted since 2012. In 2022, CAMGEW planted 11000 trees. Since 2012 tree planting is a yearly activity. These native trees are water friendly, medicinal, bee loving, carbon sink which have cultural significance.

A. CAMGEW 2022 KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AREA

TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT: CAMGEW owns tree nurseries that she use to nurse trees for forest regeneration, carryout nature education and also nurse Endangered tree species like *Newtonia camerunensis* that is a critically endangered species under IUCN Redlist. CAMGEW has nursed more than 7000 and planted in the forest by 2023. Developing the nursery: Tree seeds are picked in the forest and nursed inside a fence. eeding is done on weekly bases and watering is done on daily basis in the dry season.

ABOUT KILUM-IJIM FOREST 2024 TREE PLANTING

In July 2024, CAMGEW together with community members planted 2968 native tree species of the Kilum forest. CAMGEW planted 4644 trees in Kilum-Ijim forest in 2023 and a total of 122,243 trees have been planted since

2012. In 2022, CAMGEW planted 11000 trees. Since 2012 tree planting is a yearly activity. These native trees are water friendly, medicinal, bee loving, carbon sink which have cultural significance. Tree planting started in the Kilum-Ijim forest on the 14/07/2023 with full community engagement. There were cultural instruments announcing tree planting in a purely Oku traditional communication style. The town cryer with his gong and traditional attire on displayed, symbolizing a call for community engagement, participation and ownership. Our women, men and youths were out in their numbers signifying their solidarity as a forest community. The community carried tree seedlings from CAMGEW tree nursery to the forest for planting. Elderly women used this session to pass over indigenous conservation knowledge to other women in Kilum-Ijim forest. The tree planting also had traditional notables like the representative of the “Kwifon Society” and the various traditional men’s clubs like “Manjong” and “Mfu” houses in Emfve-Mii Community area. In the course of planting, 406 stems of *Schefflera abyssinica* and Fig tree were cut and propagated in open areas. **2562 trees** were planted in Kilum forest by 30 community members

119681 trees have been planted by CAMGEW in Kilum-Ijim forest since 2012. In July 2024, CAMGEW together with community members planted 2562 native tree species of the Kilum forest A total of 2 hectares was regenerated. The forest regeneration was done to promote regeneration of the forest with traditional medicinal trees and other trees of cultural values. The tree planting activities mainstreamed cultural display with young and old and also men and women working and looking at how life in the forest looked like in the past. Community mobilisation was done with the use of gongs. Men matched with their traditional regalia displayed and sang as they did visiting the forest. It was much entertainment. Women carried their baskets on their backs and waists. Tree seedlings were carried from the tree nursery to the forest in these baskets. The women also used their traditional knives which are used for harvesting in tree planting. These cages are used traditionally in Oku to transport heavy things by men. In farms men will use them to transport beans and corn!!!. Trees of different species were planted in the Kilum forest by youths, women and men.



Community members engage in tree planting in Kilum-Ijim forest.

The main activities carried out during tree planting included a planning meeting for the tree planting exercise, Identification of sites for tree planting, slashing of paths for trees to be planted, Pegging and digging of holes in which trees were planted. Diverse trees were planted. These trees planted included: *Solanecio Manii*, *Prunus africana*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Pittosporium manii*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Newtonia camerunensis*, *Carapas grandifolia* etc. This was to avoid a plantation forest. At the end of the tree planting session, there was community

sensitization on the importance of the forest. The trees were planted in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest of the Kilum forest in Ngoksebeh and Ngehnggeh compartments. Many portions of these compartments are bear with no canopy trees and dominated by the fern plant in most cases. Peace pants are preferred because the grow and it will aid identify planted trees.



Women with their baskets transporting tree seedlings



Men and CAMGEW staff pose with their artisanal cages and transporting peace plants for pegging



CAMGEW field team together with community members Identifying portions of the Ngehnggeh compartment to be regenerated



Community members removing tree seedlings to transport to the forest



Community woman and youth planting trees

The traditional authority was represented by the various traditional notables of Oku during the tree planting. There were representatives from the “Manjong” and “Mfu” houses in Emfve-Mii Community area.

Forest education during forest regeneration: In the course of the tree planting, the youths received forest education on how to sustainably manage their forest. The activities of forest education with community members involved talks on Forest trees and their germination processes. Lessons centered on Forest ecology (interaction between plants, animals, soils, litter etc.), vulnerable and endangered species, forest canopy, the importance of forest to man and nature, Agro forestry, honey production processes, and bee colonies. In the forest many community members and youths saw the harm caused by man on the forest including the cutting of fresh trees especially the Critically Endangered (IUCN Redlist) *Newtonia camerunensis* for commercial wood and the occurrence of bush fires. The community members proposed solutions involving fire tracing, demarcating of forest from grazing land, forest patrols, tree planting, and more environmental education. The saw that the forest is a source of livelihood to be protected.

During the tree planting session, community members together with CAMGEW field team did presentation of different tree species and their importance to nature and man himself.

- Traditional medicines and the importance of forest to the community. The participants learned from the older members. This presentation was done by Pa Nkese Wilfred Bongajum who reiterated the importance of *Prunus* as a medicinal plants and need for community members to plant in the forest and their farms.
- The importance of forest for firewood. The need for harvesting only dry wood was reiterated. Women carried wood on their baskets. This was done as it used to be done in the past.

- The presentation of forest for watershed was done by Nsuh Gladness Nchiaji. She said one of the most harvested tree specie of importance to watershed protection and bees is *Croton macrotachist*. She called on all to only harvest dry wood.
- **The importance of forest for vegetables.** Women learned the importance of forest for vegetables in forest and the need to protect the forest. This was presented by Njioh Bernadine Yafe.
- The cultural and ecological importance of the sustainably management of *Carapas grandifolia* was presented by Kenkoh Ferdinand. He presented the cultural importance of the tree in marriage rites, palace visitations and most importantly for heating (there were no dresses in the past). The destruction of this tree species will lead to loss of this practices. The seeds of this tree is also food for rodents.
- CAMGEW field team member- Ngum Raymond did a presentation on *Newtonia caneroonensis* as Critically Endangered (IUCN Redlist) tree specie. It was the only tree harvested for timber in Kilum-Ijim forest. During the discussions, it was reiterated that community members should get more involved in tree planting and protection of threatened species.



CAMGEW staff presenting lectures on forest and it's importance in the forest.

RESULTS/SUCSESSES: 30 community members were involved in planting 2968 native trees in the Kilum forest . They also planted 406 stems of *Schefflera* and the fig tree in for propagation in the Kilum forest. These trees will serve as a carbon sink thereby mitigating climate change.

Trees Planted in Kilum-Ijim forest in 2024

SN	TREE SPECIES	NUMBER OF TREES
1	<i>Carapas grandifolia</i>	925
2	<i>Syzigium staudntii</i>	612
3	<i>Prunus africana</i>	200
4	<i>Psydrax dunlapii</i>	300
5	<i>Pittosporium</i>	225
6	<i>Newtonia caneroonensis</i>	200
7	<i>Croton macrotachist</i>	50
8	<i>Maesa lanceolata</i>	20
9	Fig stems	30
10	stems of <i>Schefflera</i>	406
	TOTAL	2968

CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2024 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, Nchiyy, Bihkov, Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin, Mbessa Community Forest,
2018	10955	CAMGEW/ New England Biolabs Foundation, PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of native Forest bee forage trees	Community forests: Upper Shingaa, Ijim, Kedjem Mawes, Emfve-Mii, Mbai, Nchiyyand, Bihkov
2019	5500	UNDP/BirdlifethroughCriticalEcosystemPartnership Fund [CEPF]	Varieties of native Forest bee forage trees	Mbai, Emfvemii and Nchiyy 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	11453	ONEEARTH/CAMGEW	Varieties of native Forest bee forage trees	Emfvemii Community Forest
2023	4644	CAMGEW	Varieties of native Forest bee forage trees	Emfve-mii Community Forest
2024	2968	CAMGEW	Varieties of native Forest bee forage trees	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED			120087	

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING

1. Encroachment: CAMGEW is working with farmers along the forest boundary not to encroach in the forest land. This always include the felling down of forest trees.
2. Presence of goats in the forest: CAMGEW has been working with animal farmers to remove domestic goats from the forest. These goats eat and destroy planted and naturally regenerated trees especially *Pittosporium manii*.
3. Deforestation: CAMGEW through sensitization is fighting the the cutting of fresh wood for tool handles or for fencing of farms and gardens by forest users. The most affected tree are *Carapas grandifolia*, *Maesa lanceolata* and *Nuxia congesta*.
4. Illegal Exploitation: Through education CAMGEW is tackling illegal and unsustainable harvesting of *Prunus Africana* which has economic value.



CAMGEW field team with vegetables collected in the forest

CAMGEW EFFORTS TOWARDS CHALLENGES

- The bare portions of the Emfve-Mii Community Forest needs to continuously be regenerated. CAMGEW call on Forest Management Institutions, Forest Users Groups, NGOs/CBOs and Individuals to support in forest regeneration. CAMGEW call on all stakeholders in forest conservation to play their role in conserving the forest.
- CAMGEW continue to work to promote participatory approach in conservation of the forest.
- Forest Management Institutions are encouraged by CAMGEW to better execute forest conservation activities in their simple management plans.
- CAMGEW is working with the various traditional and administrative authorities to implement the ban on bushfires in farms around Kilum-Ijim forest as this destroy the forest. These activities are prevented: lash-and-burn, cigarette smoking around forest and poor honey harvesting as they are sources of bushfire.
- CAMGEW encourages more Environmental education. This needs to be a continuous activity.
- CAMGEW promotes the adoption of modern methods of bee farming by bee farmers in Kilum Forest to prevent bushfire that result from poor honey harvesting.
- CAMGEW is working to see all domestic animals removed from the forest because they pound the soil and prevent forest regeneration, eat up young trees that planted and are regenerating naturally and sometimes push mounted beehives down.
- CAMGEW has continuously work with traditional and administrative authorities to see sanctions meted on defaulters of forest laws. Many people violate forest laws on the pretext that nothing meaningful has ever been done to previous defaulters. They go free as usual. If the government through the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) joins the FMIs in handling these defaulters, forest problems will be curbed.
- CAMGEW work hard to see more youths and women engage in environmental restoration activities. Because they are tomorrow's drivers of restoration works.

The tree planting event was successful with a total of 2562 trees planted on 2 hectares in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest. Kilum forest covers a total surface area of 20,000 hectares; about 9,000 hectares are bare, with no canopy trees. If tree planting is made a yearly event in Kilum forest, the degraded compartments of the forest will be regenerated within a decade. 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.

- **FOREST PATROLS AND USE OF TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS**

CAMGEW field team organised a field based activities on the Promotion of the use of the Kwifon (the highest Oku Traditional Authority) and other traditional authorities (like the Men's societies, Ngele and fembien) for sensitization of farmers with farms around the forest and forest users. During the session the field team together with the representatives of the various community members identified forest problems that are plaguing these compartments of the forest. These problems included encroachment, firewood fetching, the presence of goats in the forest and unsustainable bee farming practices. CAMGEW has been working with the communities around the Kilum Ijim forest since 2011 on improving the livelihoods of the community members living adjacent to the forest while protecting and conserving these resources.

CAMGEW and the Kwifon society in Oku on the 3, 5, and 6th of February 2024, organised 5 sessions on the Promotion of the use of traditional injunctions to protect the forest from bushfires. The Kwifon which is the highest sacred society went out to place injunctions around the forest banning bushfires and dangerous activities in and around the forest during the dry season. These activities include encroachment, planting of exotic trees in and around the forest, enforcing the ban on firewood fetching in the forest and hunting.

These sessions were organised in the forest areas of Kedjem Mawes and Emfve-mii Community Forest. The villages involved included Jiyane, Lui, Ngashie, Keyon, Manchok and Ngvuinkei II.

In the process, injunctions were placed on wood that was fetched, forest areas that were encroached, fences that were constructed in the forest destroyed and trees planted around the forest periphery destroyed and injunctions placed on it .



Ngashie patrol and sensitisation team.

Some Patrol session for sensitisation

SN	Date	VILLAGE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	5th March 2024	Ngvuinkei II	9
2	6th March 2024	Manchock	11
3	7th March 2024	Keyon	9
4	14th March 2024	Ngashie	10
5	15th March 2024	Ngashie, Manchock, Keyon, Ngashie	12
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS		51

Observations during patrols in 2024

- The forest has regenerated following the forest injunctions passed by the Kwifon. Throughout the patrol, no firewood fetchers were found in the forest. Forest users during their forest visits monitor the forest and report to village chiefs.
- The Alpine bamboo compartment of the forest is over exploited. Villages like Shukov, Nyambe, Kai, Mvem and Tanshem (in the Bikov Community Forest) and Mbockenghas, SimonKoh, Chiangka, Lum, Tankiy, Ngvuinkei II, Manchock, Keyon, Elak, Ngashie, Lui (in the Nchiiy, Mbai and Emfve-mii Community Forests) depend on this compartment of the forest for bamboo. This has led to harvesting of young bamboo for production of hives and construction of houses and fences.



Patrol team which included traditional authorities destroy eucalyptus trees and place injunctions in the forest periphery at Ngashie



Injunctions placed on fresh carapas cut down in the forest. Kwifon to own the wood

CAMGEW has kept a beautiful relation with traditional authorities in Kilum-Ijim forest and this has helped in forest conservation. CAMGEW has remain a strong part of the traditional authority to protect the forest and change lives of forest people.

B. FOREST RESTORATION IN MAYO DARLE OF ADAMAOUA REGION TO PROMOTE HONEY VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW planted 1970 Raphia plant (*Raphia sudanica*) to fight the advancement of the Sahel in Mayo Darle of Adamaoua Region of Cameroon. This Raphia plant will help increase bamboos for bee farmers to use in beehive construction and water availability to man, bees and other animals. The plants were distributed to about 210 community members especially bee farmers to plant in their farms. This was done from 1 to 5th July 2025. The Raphia bamboos are needed for beehives construction, and furniture. It will also increase green vegetation that will help fight the advancement of the Sahel. The trees were plant in villages of Tapari, Bomdo, Nyalang, Yoli and Mondial in Mayo Darle. CAMGEW acknowledge the support given by the traditional and administrative authorities. CAMGEW thanks MINEPIA and MINFOF Mayo Darle specially

Planting of Raphia for Honey Value chain Development

Taparé	Yoli	Mondial	Nyalang	Boumdo
260	350	350	470	400
Number of trees planted :		1970		





Raphia plants distributed to farmers to plant in their farms



Survive Raphia Plants in Mondial at Mr Djallo in mondial.



Women engaged in regeneration in Mayo Darle

SECTION 4

FOREST/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OR CLIMATE LITERACY ACTION

INTRODUCTION

Creating awareness, education, empowerment of the community from the newborn, youths and the old through environmental education has been CAMGEW's strategy to fight climate change, increase love for nature, fight forest degradation in Kilum-Ijim forest, conserve and protect the environment and its resources. CAMGEW believe that environmental protection starts with the child and instilling love for nature in children will help them grow with that spirit. The negative behaviour of the old generation toward nature needs to be changed and they need eco-friendly activities for livelihood improvement. Environmental education is a program in CAMGEW which focuses on teaching community children and community members every aspect of environmental protection, conservation, plants, animals, birds and everything that make up or is found in the environment.

This is done in classrooms in schools, with pictures, charts and in action through learning-by-doing. It is also outdoor in the forest, nursery, agroecological farm, in organized trainings, in social and cultural gatherings, radio, social media, website, markets and in write-ups. It is done in French, English and the local language of each community. CAMGEW carried out this programme in Kilum-Ijim forest of North West Region, Magba in the West Region and Bankim and Mayo Darle of Adamoua Region of Cameroon.

In Magba and Bamenda, environmental education posters produced in 2023 served as guide to develop various topics of discussions in all sessions. As an interactive session, participants share best practices, learn new ideas about environmental protection and sustainable behavior, and how they can get involve in conservation. This was done through drawings, arts and craft work, dialogues, focus group discussions, development of poems and songs towards conservation. This activity engaged participants to discuss various environmental challenges around them.

A major reason why environmental problems persist is due to the lack of awareness about the role of the forest. Because of the problems associated to the Kilum-Ijim Forest like bushfire resulting from poor method of honey harvesting and cigarette smokers, the presence of domestic animals in the forest, illegal exploitation of *Prunus africana*, unsustainable and unsupervised exploitation of *Prunus africana*, the cutting of wet trees and bamboos (alpine) from the forest for firewood and construction, the encroachment by farmers in the forest, over trapping of rats (rodents), destruction of young forest trees (for the carving of walking sticks, fencing, tools, folk sticks for mounting of hives, etc), the presence of exotic species in the forest like *Eucalyptus*, cypress, pears, etc. , Poor waste management in the forest (plastics, bottles, metals, canned food)etc. CAMGEW sees it as important to do environmental education with community members living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest to make them know the importance of protecting this forest and using it sustainably.

A. CAMGEW 2024 CHILDREN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CAMGEW engaged in environmental education with children in Kilum-Ijim forest, Magba and Bamenda area to build nature lovers and future generation that will consider nature in their livelihood opportunities.

2024 Children Environmental education statistica

DATE	TOPIC	PLACE OF ACTIVITY	TOTAL PERSONS	MALE	FEMALE
14\1\2024	Waste pollution, causes and impact on the environment	CAMGEW office Bamenda	10	6	4
21\1\2024	Non-timber forest products, forest spices and their importance	CAMGEW Bamenda	17	5	12
21\2\2024	Role of peace plant in forest regeneration	CAMGEW office Oku	30	12	18
09\3\2024	Forest and vegetables	CAMGEW Bamenda	9	6	3
23\5\2024	Hygiene and Sanitation	CAMGEW Magba	19	19	0
27\7\2024	Indigenous medicinal plants , lemon grass	CAMGEW office Bamenda	25	8	17
03\8\2024	Importance of forest and water, use of water	CAMGEW office Bamenda	21	4	17
8\8\204	Forest and birds	CAMGEW office Oku	18	5	13
9\8\2024	Forest and water	CAMGEW OKU	18	7	11
14\8\2024	Forest and medicinal plant	CAMGEW office Oku	22	10	12
14\8\2024	Forest and spices	CAMGEW OKU	20	7	13
15\8\2024	Need for forest conservation	CATHOLIC Mission Elak Oku	18	7	12
24\08\2024	Plastic reduction znd converting waste to cash in vegetables garden	CAMGEW Bamenda	22	6	16
30\8\2024	Forest and medicinal plant	CAMGEW OKU	15	6	9
7\9\2024	Insects and their importance to environment and humans	CAMGEW -Bamenda	25	13	12
28\9\2024	The forest and its resources	INCHAM SANTUARY OKU	35	15	20
11\10\2024	Importance of protecting the environment	CB C MANCHOK OKU	50	0	50
1\11\2024	Importance of Cartoons	CBC MANCHOK	125	68	57
6\11\2024	Importance of Cartoons	CBC NGVUINKEI OKU	230	113	117
23\11\2024	Indigenous Packaging and Preservation	CAMGEW office Bamenda	17	6	11
29\11\2024	Importance Of Syzigium	CAMGEW - OKU	34	12	22
30\11\2024	Forest And Water	CAMGEW Bamenda	11	2	9
6\12\2024	Children environmental Protection as future nature lovers	Platform Magba	33	15	18
11\12\2024	Importance of Prunus africana	CBC NGVUIKEI II OKU	225	110	115
TOTAL			1050	462	588



Environmental education with children of CBC Ngvinkei II on Croton and Prunus Africana



Environmental education with children at Icham Sanctuary



Environmental education session with children on spices and medicinal plants



Community elder explaining the importance of Croton to children at CBC Ngvinkei II and CBC Manchock-Oku



Children learning-by-doing

Cameroon Highlands Bushfire Prevention and Management Actions: Forests play a vital role in biodiversity, carbon storage, and ecosystem services. Bushfires is a threat to biodiversity, human life, human investment and it also ignites conflicts. Understanding and addressing the complexities of bushfires is essential for protecting both natural and human environments. Protecting them from bushfires helps maintain these crucial functions and supports overall environmental health.

CAMGEW Magba Actions on Bushfire: In 2024, CAMGEW in Magba engaged in public education on bushfire prevention and management. This was done through:

1. Production of 1000 bilingual copies of bushfire prevention posters and calendars for distribution in communities. These informative posters and calendars serve for bushfire awareness raising.
2. Bushfire prevention education talks were held in women social groups. These talks included reminders on the danger of bushfires in farmlands and grazing land. This was attended by 90 women in Magba.



Role of women in bushfire prevention and management

Smmary of Bushfire activities carried out in Magba

TOPIC	NUMBE R OF SESSION S	TOTAL BENEFICIA RIES	NUMBER OF MEN	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF YOUTHS	NUMBER OF DISABILI TES	NUMBER OF INDIGENOU S PEOPLE
Role of women in bushfire prevention and management	1	90	3	87	40	0	0

B. REVITALISING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT PROTECT NATURE IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

Working in the Kilum-Ijim forest for the past years has made us see the impact of cultural practices and indigenous knowledge on the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim forest. The cultures of the 3 main tribes (Nso, Oku and Kom) found around this forest have always been very useful in the conservation of this forest. CAMGEW has been organizing discussions/dialogues, field based activities, tree planting and exchange visits between communities to link the Old generation and the new generation of forest people to promote learning and exchanges with each other to keep the forest alive. Kilum-Ijim forest community has protected their forest for years with 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 their forest.

Most of the indigenous knowledge and practices are fast disappearing and the forest is also fast disappearing. There is need to listen to forest people to link indigenous knowledge and practices of forest communities to conservation. This will help to conserve the forest, protect their culture, tradition, indigenous knowledge and

practices and permit them continue to use the forest in a sustainable manner. Man-man relationships, man-nature relationships have greatly deteriorated.

CAMGEW has facilitated dialogue in communities between the old and the young generation and also with resource persons to resonate these cultural practices and indigenous knowledge. This has been going on since 2012.

Exchange Visit Between the Traditional Authorities of Nso and Oku: On the 12th of March 2024, CAMGEW organised an exchange visit between the traditional authorities of Nso and Oku (mostly Manjong, Mfuh, Samba, Ngeh and the Kwifon representatives) to share on the use of traditional injunctions and other traditional methods to conserve the forest. The session was attended by 14 community members including a woman who represents the women society of "Fembien" in Oku. During the exchange visit the following activities were discussed: forest encroachment, bushfire, presence of goats and exotic trees in the forest and fresh wood fetching for Firewood. They jointly agreed to contact the various Councils to destroy the exotic trees in the forest, forest boundaries and protect water catchments. They agreed that they will work with Kwifon to place injunctions against encroachment in forest boundaries. They agreed to work with CAMGEW to plant trees at forest boundaries to also prevent encroachment. They all endorsed the use of patrollers with their participation in forest protection. They also said defaulters should be reported to them for sanction. They agreed to see how the Kwifon could impose an injunction prohibiting rearing of goats in the forest. The Kwifon in the Nso land has been prompt in reacting to problems related to goats in the forest. They work in partnership with the forest Management institution at Bihkov in placing injunctions in cases of destructions caused by goats. The Kwifon in Oku however made a step in 2023 for the first time to handle the issue of goats in the forest. Community members who had goats in the forest were handed ropes as a peaceful way for them to remove the goats from the forest. These goats were removed within a week. The injunction was however not very effective because only the Manchock village was involved. This needed to be replicated and expanded to other parts of the forest. There is need to extend the injunction to other parts of the forest for a better management of the forest. The traditional authorities of both Nso and Oku called on all forest people and institution working for forest people to join them make things work in the conservation of Kilum-Ijim forest.



Conclave at Ngashie and Eysha Ketam of the Emfve-Mii Community Forest Communities on the use of traditional injunctions and other traditional methods to conserve the forest

Action taken to revitalise indigenous knowledge and cultural practices that conserve the Kilum-Ijim forest

SN	Date		Village	Number of Participants	Males	Females
1	14 January 2024	Promoting exchanges on traditional bushfires and other forest threat prevention methods through men's traditional clubs in the Kilum-Ijim forest communities.	Manjong Eybum of Eysha-ketam Manchok	80	80	0
2	3 February 2024	Promotion of the use of traditional injunctions to protect the forest from bushfires. Promoting practical actions.	Jiyame	8	8	0
3	3 February 2024		Lui	8	8	0
4	5 February 2024		Ngashie	8	8	0
5	5 February 2024		Manchok	8	8	0
6	6 February 2024		Ngvuinkei II	8	8	0
7	5th March 2024	Facilitating sensitisation actions of various traditional authorities to end forest threats (in forest and around forest farms) with farmers and forest users.	Ngvuinkei II	9	5	4
8	6th March 2024		Manchock	11	7	4
9	7th March 2024		Keyon	9	5	4
10	14th March 2024		Ngashie	10	4	6
11	15th March 2024		Ngashie, Manchock, Keyon,	12	7	5
12	12 March 2024	Exchange visits between the traditional authorities of Nso and Oku (mostly Manjong, Mfuh, Samba, Ngeh and other traditional representatives) to share on the use of injunctions and other traditional methods to conserve the forest	Manchok (CAMGEW Centre)	14	14	0
13	11 June	Start of sharing and learning with identified elders/resource persons on indigenous knowledge and practices.	Ngashie	30	30	0
14	12 June		Ngvuinkei II	50	7	43
15	13 June		Mbokenkfui	28	28	0
16	16-17 July 2024	Tree planting: Nursing and planting of 2000 forest native medicinal plants for community use	Emfve-Mii Community Forest	34	18	16

17	September 5 -6 2024	Agroforestry: Training 30 community members (trainers-of-trainers) on agroforestry skills for them to transfer important part of the forest to their farms like forest fruits, vegetables, medicine	Mbockenkfui	30	10	20
18	12-13 November 2024	Bee farming: Training 30 community members (trainers-of-trainers) on beehive construction and the need to protect bees by multiplying them and also how bees are important.	Manchok CAMGEW Centre	30	19	11
19	17 December 2024	Broaden women discussion process with elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing on forest and indigenous medicine, vegetables and fruits.	Manchok CAMGEW Centre	30	0	30
20	18 December 2024	Broaden men discussion process with elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing on forest and indigenous medicine, vegetables and fruits.	Mfuh Chiangka	40	40	0
21	19 December 2024	Broaden women discussion process with elders rich in indigenous knowledge and practices to start learning and sharing on forest and indigenous medicine, vegetables and fruits.	Mbockenkfui	32	0	32
	TOTAL			489	314	175

CAMGEW organized a sessions to promote exchanges on traditional bushfires and other forest threat prevention methods among men in 4 villages of Oku through the women's club of Fembien to brainstorm on the different ways of communication to the village members and families as a way of sensitisation. The villages involved included Lui, Ebfon Ebkwaak (Elak), Ngashie and Eysha Ketam (Manchok). The discussions were organised during the traditional Men's club sessions. Together with the Men's club leaders and members, the causes, effects and consequences of bushfires was discussed. The different ways of communicating in cases of a fire outbreak was discussed. The club members saw the need to encourage green belt development, modern bee keeping, pasture improvement, promoting agroforestry and building community solidarity. It was agreed that Fire tracing and back burning should be done 5m apart and in December yearly. It was also agreed that bushfire and firewood harvesting for commercial purposes should be banned in and around the forest. They also said they will get involved in forest monitoring. It was also agreed that everyone do sensitization.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES ON BUSH FIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Through the various organised sessions it was discussed that bushfires could be minimized with a good communication strategy is put in place before, during and after bushfires. The various traditional communication strategies were explored for use in

bushfire prevention. During these discussions the following methods of communication were identified: sensitisation during trainings and gatherings, use of community radios, publications, use of towncrier, use of traditional instruments (like Gongs, drums, etc), the use of social media (whatsapp, facebook, Instagram, tiktok, etc), storytelling, use of various men and women traditional clubs, etc. The training sessions and seminars around the Kilum Ijim forest organised by different organisations and institutions should continuously be used to communicate to the wider community.



Resources persons in Ngvuinkei II and Manjong Ebkom in Mbockenkfui

CAMGEW field team started by identifying community elders/resource persons rich in indigenous knowledge and practices (on forest medicine, vegetables, fruits and storytelling) to start learning and sharing). After identifying these elders in the different communities, the learning and sharing sessions started with the identified elders/resource persons on indigenous knowledge and practices. The sessions were done indoors and outdoor.



Group picture participants from Ngvuinkei II

Forest vegetables: During community learning, vegetables were identified as being very essential to the forest people as a diet. The most stable food in Oku consisted of starch and vegetables. **Kefom** (Forest huckleberry); is eaten as vegetable. It grows wild in the forest. It was and is still the vegetable used during the annual traditional festival of Grass cutting ("Eytem Ebwuiy Kembaa"). This ceremony marks the end of the dry season and the last cutting of grass for roofing. During this ceremony the "Kefom" is prepared and shared to community members who participate in the festival. The "Kefom" is mixed with palm oil and shared by the Fon to community members. The challenge with Kefom has been its difficulty in propagation. The presence of goats in the forest in great numbers has also caused damage to it. Goats love it. It has become scarce in the forest. This was shared by one of the community elders

and many people saw the importance of protecting the Kilum-Ijim forest. Other indigenous vegetables were identified and their importance discussed like **Ketuhtuh** (Cocoyam leaves), **Feniyak** (Garden Egg), **Sebleh** (Okra), **Ebfie**(Nkwi), **Nshem**(Pumpkin leaves), **Keghang** (Bitter leaves), **Kefii**(Wild green) and **Nsaah** (Wild huckleberry). This was interesting with community members happily sharing what they knew about indigenous vegetables and how they were prepared, eaten and when.



Cross section participants at Fai Manjoh's Compound in Ngvinkei II discussing about Forest and indigenous vegetables and fruits



Cross section participants at Fai Mankoh's Compound in Ngashie discussing about Forest and indigenous vegetables and fruits

The biggest challenge with indigenous vegetables today is the use of chemical fertilizer. This has caused a change in the quality and taste of most of the vegetables. This has also led to widespread of diseases in the community. In recent years more and more community members have started propagating vegetables like Kefom through vegetal propagation and seeds. Hopefully we will have more of it.

Forest Fruits: These sessions were also carried out for forest and indigenous fruits and medicines like **Nyomle** (Passion fruit) and **Bakoh**(wild berries). The number of traditional doctors was also very small. Traditional doctors or healers knew themselves and worked together as teams. It was very common to see traditional doctors referring patients to other doctors. In recent years, more people got involved in traditional medicines and new generation doctors are more out for money than the health of the people. Every community member saw the need to address this and protect indigenous knowledge and cultural practices of forest people.



Men pause after the session at Manjong Ebkom in Mbockenkfui discussing about Forest and indigenous medicine

STORY TELLING: Participants shared how story telling was an essential aspect of the Kilum-Ijim forest people's culture. Families lived together. Story telling was the only night entertainment available before the advent of electricity and technology. While the women prepared food in the night stories were told to keep the children awake. It was family time!. The story telling was a forum for educating and advising children and family members on societal ills. Educating children on respect and creation of bonds between parents and teachers was made easy through story telling. Story telling was also done through riddles. The riddles improved on the children and family members reasoning. It was a whole lot of school.



General picture after session in Ngashie village

CONCLUSION

The idigenous knowledge and cultural practices of Kilum-Ijim forest is wealth that need to be transferred from generation to generation. The forest is improtant for economic, cultural, social and ecological regeneration. CAMGEW will continue to facilitate the revitalisation of these indigenous knowledge and cultural practices that protect the forest and change community lives.

SECTION 5

AGROECOLOGY FOR SOIL CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

INTRODUCTION

CAMGEW is engaged in agroforestry or agro-ecology to promote social, economic, ecological and cultural regeneration. Agroecology mean much to communities where she works because it blends cultures, social, food security, health and soil preservation. Promoting agroforestry increases food production, income, jobs and soil conservation. CAMGEW is promoting agroforestry in this line and also to build eco-businesses. This is done through trainings in the field, CAMGEW agro-ecological farm, social media, poster presentation and field visits. CAMGEW agro-ecological farm is a demonstration, research, production and training site.

CAMGEW agroecology 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 crop farmer. The following activities were carried out in agro ecology program in 2024.

In kilum-Ijim forest area, CAMGEW is known for empowering forest communities through ‘....transfer of the forest to the farms...’ as popularly called by the locals. In 2022, CAMGEW expanded this activity to an agro-ecology program embracing a model that revitalize indigenous knowledge in conservation and sustainable agriculture. This was scale-up to Cameroon Highland forest area.

A. DEVELOPMENT OF CAMGEW AGRO-ECOLOGY PILOT PLOT:

CAMGEW agroecological farm was set-up in 2022. This setting up involved a continuous process of learning and experimentation on suitable crops and best agroforestry practices. In 2024, this farm provided learning space for women and children. Located at Ngounso, Magba in West Region of Cameroon, this 4-hectare land demonstrate organic farming, mixed crop cultivation, cash crop production, best agro forestry practices and tree nursery development for farmers. In 2024, soya beans, groundnut, plantains, various fruits, medicinal plants were harvested from the demonstration plot. Heliciculture also known as snail farming, was introduced in the demonstration plot in 2024. It is the process of raising snails for human consumption, cosmetic and pharmaceutical purposes. This involved construction of a snail farm, collection of various snails from the wild, carrying out studies in various types of snails and transformation to snail meat. Beside snail meat, snail shelves and slim is used by cosmetic enterprises and snail shelves is valued by livestock and artists. CAMGEW research identified 2 types of snails in West Region of Cameroon namely: garden snail, also known as Cornu aspersum and the Giant African Land Snail, also known as Achatina fulica. Snails are valued for their nutritional, medicinal, livestock and cosmetic value. The snail farm serves as a learning-by-doing environment on Heliciculture for local community, students and researchers.

The agroecological farm is a farm of 4 hectares with over 40 different useful crops that serve for research, demonstration, learning and production. The farm is 10 minutes work from the platform and all of them are interlinked and promote cultural, economic, social, ecological regeneration.



CAMGEW Agroecological farm tree nursery and harvesting of lemon

Tree nursery and Distribution of agroforestry seeds and seedlings to farmers: CAMGEW nursery at the agro-ecological farm, Ngounso in Magba nursed various native seeds of non-timber forest products and vegetables. These plants are distributed to various farmers. 340 persons received these seeds. These are seedlings of plants that serve the purpose of soil regeneration, food security and carbon sinks.

- **CAMGEW Agroecological platform**

CAMGEW started the development of CAMGEW Agroecological Platform in Ngounso - Magba which is a rented infrastructure. It is by the road site and has pictures on agroecology. The pictures present problems that plague agroecology like bushfires and farmer-grazer conflicts. It also present best practices in agroecology. It is a place where farmers, stakeholders, actors in food value chain and entrepreneurs discuss, exchange and learn about agroecology. It is a place to eat organic food, bring farmers from the CAMGEW 10 created agroforestry cooperatives to share ideas, do story telling, ecological dialogue, create market opportunities and receive training.

CAMGEW Capacity building on Agroecology in 2024

TRAINING	PLACE	DATE OF TRAINING	NUMBER TRAINED	NUMBER OF CUTLASSES DONATED	NUMBER OF HOES DONATED	NUMBER OF BUCKETS DONATED	AGRO-FORESTRY PLANTS
Gardening	Magba in Ngounso	05 – 06 June 2024	25	25	25	25	0
Gardening	Bankim at ACOHOF Family Farm School	12 – 13 June 2024	21	21	21	21	0
Agroforestry techniques	Bankim in Bougam	14 – 15 June 2024	28	28	28	28	300
Agroforestry techniques	Magba in Machoutvi	07 – 08 June 2024	27	27	27	27	508
	Mbockenkfui-Oku	5-6 September 2024	30	0	30		593

B. OKU AGROECOLOGY ACTIVITIES

The slopes of Kilum-Ijim forest are void of trees. The slopes have been cleared for farmland and this has created opportunity for soil erosion that reduces soil fertility and food production. CAMGEW believes that improving community members' knowledge on agroforestry techniques will provide alternative land use systems which will provide potential solutions to addressing land management problems such as land scarcity, erosion, and low productivity, reduce tensions between community members, and assures greater incomes for families.

CAMGEW organised training on agroforestry techniques for farmers to enable them transfer the forest medicinal plants, fruits and vegetable to their farms. The farmers increase knowledge on soil conservation, learn how to nurse trees. This was aimed to increase income, improve health and increase food production. The training was held at Mbockenkfui for farmers from Ngvunkei II, Mbockenkfui, Nkfui, Kfum, and Fekeng.

30 persons participants were trained and supported. They received 30 hoes as tool for farming and 20 traditional baskets for 20 women who participated in the training. They involved youths and women. 593 Seedlings of different species were distributed to participants. Food tree species like mangoes, pears, guava, and Chico include some of the species. Medicinal plants like *Prunus africana*, *Aloe vera* and fever grass were distributed. All plants distributed included *Prunus africana*, Akong-abong, Aloe Vera, Mango trees, Tree Tomato, Pear trees, Mint seedlings, Fever grass, Lemon seedlings, *Anchia* seedlings (*Solanum linnaeanum*), Pepper seedlings



Participants receiving practical knowledge on a technique of agroforestry



Participants with their hoes and baskets

C. MAGBA AND BANKIM AGROECOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

AGROFORESTRY: In Bougam of Bankim and Machoutvi of Magba 55 community members received skills and knowledge on Agroforestry Techniques to enable them conserve soils, increase food production, raise income and create jobs and build community resilience. A total of 55 persons were trained on agroforestry and they received 55 Hoe, 55 Cutlasses and 55 Buckets as start-up. They also learn how to plant Non Timber Forest Products in their farms. In September 2024 CAMGEW distributed 1020 variety of indigenous vegetables, Non Timber forest trees like *Tetrapleura tetraptera*, Bush Mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*) to 60 farmers trained by CAMGEW and their 25 children grown using waste plastic bottles as pots.

On the 27/06/2024, over 50 children in Magba, learned how healthy seeds and seedlings are prepared in a tree nursery for Agro forestry and forest regeneration. This session started with explanations on the importance of tree nursery and practically on preparation of soil and filling of polythene pots.

GARDENING: CAMGEW Empowers 46 community members on Gardening In Bankim (Adamaoua Region) and Magba (West Region) of Cameroon. 21 Community members were trained by CAMGEW in partnership with ACOHOF on Gardening on the 12 and 13 June 2024 at ACOHOF Family Farm School in Bankim and in CAMGEW Agroecological Platform – Magba on 05 and 06 of June 2024. It is our interest to change lives of communities while protecting the environment. The community members learn how to cultivate vegetables, spices and medicinal plants to improve on the livelihood. A total of 46 person were trained on gardening and they received 46 Hoe, 46 Cutlasses and 46 Buckets as start-up

TREE NURSERY: The tree nursery was set with 5000 Forest native trees nursed but they could not do well. Only 1030 did well



Agroforestry seedlings from CAMGEW Nursery in Agroecological Farm distributed to trained farmers in Magba



Farmers in Bankim trained on agroforestry and supported with farming tools



Farmers in bankim trained on gardening and supported with tools



Farmers in Bongam receive Non timber Forest Tree seedlings for planting

D. MAYO DARLE CAMGEW AGROFORESTRY ACTIONS

Creation and Animation of Bushfire Multi-Stakeholder Prevention and Mangement Platform in Mayo

Darle: CAMGEW decided to work with all stakeholders in Mayo Darle to manage bushfires and farmer-grazer conflicts. These conflicts all involve farmers, grazers and bee farmers. Discussing with the various authorities and stakeholders during planning meeting we all agreed to work on the creation of Platform to prevent and manage farmer-grazer and bushfire conflicts. This activity was then agreed to be coordinated by the Divisional Officer (Administrator) for Mayo Darle who could invite forces of law and order (Police and Genderms), Local administration (Mayors), traditional authorities from villages, Specialise services (MINEPIA, MINADER, MINFOF) and also représentatives of farmers, grazers and bee farmers. This activity took place on 13 March 2024.



Participants on Farmer-Grazer and Bushfire Conflict Prevention and Management

Family gardening : CAMGEW visited more than 60 households in Mayo Darle Sub Division in Yoli, Nyalang, Bomdo and Mondial and each family had a small garden for vegetable but they needed more training and support in gardening to improve on family health, nutrition, income and give jobs to women. CAMGEW could only encourage them while hoping to raise funds to help build their capacity. Gardening was done by women. This could be a source of income for women and their children. CAMGEW gave them lessons on-the-site on gardening using animal dung. We are looking for ways to help these women.



Women harvesting vegetables from their garden



Women harvesting vegetables from their garden

Donation of Dung for gardening and solidarity building to end farmer-garzer conflict:

CAMGEW in April 2024 donated 159 bags of cow dung to 107 men and 48 women to promote organic farming, build solidarity in communities, build win-win relation between farmers and grazers and reduce poverty. It also reduced dependency on expensive and unavailable fertilizers. This animal dung was collected by them in their communities from grazing fields. The beneficiaries came from Yoli, Nyalang, Mboumdo and Mondial villages of Mayo Darle in Adamaoua Region of Cameroon. CAMGEW is expecting to see an increase in food production. Communities (farmers/grazers) were sensitized to collect dung and use in their farms or sell to interested persons. This agro-pastoral program was implemented to address the conflict that exist between farmers and grazers in the communities of Yoli, Mondia , Boumdo and Nyanlang. CAMGEW promoted the use of local platforms like the the traditional council to address disputes over land use, water resources and grazing areas. Community members received the animal dung with much joy. They applied in their farms to imcrease crop yields.

Distribution of organic manure

S/N	DATE	PLACE OF THE ORGANIC MANURE DONATION IN MAYO -DARLE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS			NUMBER OF COW DUNG BAGS DISTRIBUTED
			TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	
01	22 April 2024	Yoli	40	29	11	40
02	23 April 2024	Mondia	38	27	11	38
03	25 April 2024	Boumdo	44	27	17	48
04	26 April 2024	Nyanlang	33	24	09	33
TOTAL			155	107	48	159



Donation in Boumdo



Donation in Yoli

Farmer-Grazer Conflict: Framers who benefited from the donated animal dung used it in their farms and above 80% can testify that they witnessed an increase in crop production. Some have discovered a new business to market animal dung. They request for training in gardening. This is an area affected by the Advancement of Sahel but you could see this greenery.

Mayo Darle is affected by the advancement of the Sahel (the advancement of the Sahara Desert). This will help families adapt to climate change and halt advancement of the desert.



Cocoyam farm of the family of Mr Bouba in BOUMDO with cow dung application as manure

E. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Since 2022, CAMGEW expanded her activities in the West and Adamawa Region under the project titled “strengthening Gender Equality for national and international ambitions of climate policies”. An intervention that as of December 2024 has benefited over 4350 persons, 80% of whom are women. These persons benefited from agroforestry capacity building, honey production, beeswax extraction, transformation of honey and beeswax to lotions, detergents, candles, drinks, conflict management workshop. In 2024, these empowered beneficiaries were further organized into farmers cooperatives and empowered on leadership, packaging and knowledge exchange skills.



Various created cooperatives in a come-together experience sharing and learning

Creation of three agro-farmers cooperatives.: Three cooperatives were created, located at Kuwait in Njimom, Ngounso-Magba and in Bankim.



Members of the 3 created cooperatives receive their Legalised Cooperative documents from CAMGEW

Cooperatives also received leadership training through the **container building exercise** that was aimed at enlightening beneficiaries on the characteristics of a good leaders and issues to bear in mind when electing or nominating a leader.

Organising beneficiaries into village groups: REGAIN project has over 4350 beneficiaries located at Njimom, Magba and Adamawa. Organising these beneficiaries into 3 cooperatives required more than just the legalisation papers. It was important to create a situation where all these beneficiaries belong and take active part in the cooperative activities. Organising these beneficiaries into informal small village groups (which is a common practice in grassroot communities in Cameroon) was a big step towards this. After every each empowerment session (trainings, capacity buildings, workshops) participants were encouraged to create beneficiaries village groups to keep sharing and practicing knowledge learned within this project.



CAMGEW train Cooperative leaders on Leadership

Election of cooperatives leaders and naming the cooperatives: Three general assemblies were organised (1 per zone). To come up with a more proactive general assembly:

- In Njimom, 10 persons from each of the five village came together to elect cooperative leaders and come up with a name for the cooperative. So their general assembly was made up of 25 leaders of these village groups and 25 observers from these villages.

- In Magba zone there are 2 village groups, so their general assembly was made up of 10 leaders of these village groups and 10 observers.
- In Bankim zone there are two village groups, so their general assembly was made up of 10 leaders of these village groups and 10 observers.

The following names were adopted at the general assemble as names of the various cooperatives

- Participants in Njimom saw their cultural appellation “pamembouo” to be amazing. It means, land of working hand-in-hand while respecting women’s rights and education. The name of the cooperative at Njimom was agreed as ‘Societe Cooperative Simpliffee D’Agroecologie Pamembouo de Njimom”
- Participants in Magba said the work with REGAIN is a ‘senagamouo’, meaning work that came to open the eyes of the people in community and brought to light the role of women in a community. The name of the cooperative in Magba was thus “senagamouo Agro-Farmers Simplify Cooperative”
- In Bankim, participants said this project has been a ‘Chumofis’ to them. Chumofis refers to that mother that nurtures, disciplines, shields and yet loves like no other. Bankim named their cooperative “Chumofis Agro-Farmers’ Cooperative”

All these names were accepted by the national registrar of cooperatives as original.



Cooperative documents legalised

This processes ended with three cooperatives created namely:

- ‘Societe Cooperative Simpliffee D’Agroecologie Pamembouo de Njimom”
- “senagamouo Agro-Farmers Simplify Cooperative”
- “Chumofis Agro-Farmers’ Cooperative”

Training of cooperative leaders in leadership cooperative management and governance: 30 members from the three cooperative on the roles and responsibilities of cooperative leaders, management techniques and governance. This took place from the 5th to the 12th of April 2024.



Donation of start-up equipment to created cooperatives.

The support was made up of storage containers, bee suits, bee smokers, hoes, honey drainers, cutlasses, traditional baskets, record books and writing materials. This activity was adjusted to suit practical realities of the cooperatives created. CAMGEW believed that supporting farmers with start-ups equipment is important in an empowerment process that addresses challenges of food security and environmental sustainability.

Training on product labelling, packaging and storage: This training was carried out for 15 days (27th June 2024 to 14th July 2024) to empower the cooperative members to present their products to the market. This training took into consideration local realities and available packaging techniques and material. This was an exciting moment for the cooperative members who committed themselves to learn artisanal packaging techniques. Participants had several moments to practice product presentation before clients, practical sessions on how to talk to customers and get feedback and how to negotiate for bigger markets. Participants were drilled on marketing techniques, basic information on a product label, various suitable packages for various products and storage requirements. This was appreciated by the participants. Two weeks after this training, the president of SENAF cooperative testified that “.....we now sale better than previous times. Our products are high in demand because clients feel secured since the packaging is advanced than what is found locally... the comments we receive from clients are encouraging and at the same time we learn new ideas from client’s comments”.



Products done during training on Labeling, packaging and storage



SENAF SCOOPS of Ngounso in Magba use their knowledge to label and package their products

Exchange visit between members of three cooperatives created and invited Women Led cooperative to share experiences: This exchange visits brought together 75 beneficiaries PAMAF, SENAF and Chimofis Agro farmers' cooperatives and members from Women Eco village Change Makers (WECMA) to share their various strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. This took place from the 16th to the 20th of April 2024.



Exchange visits between the 3 cooperatives

WECMA is a women led cooperative with head office in the North West Region of Cameroon working on value chain of non-timber forest products and agric-food. This exchange visit focused on value of various non-timber forest products and opportunities on agric-food value chain. This exchange visit promoted solidarity in terms of access to products from all the cooperatives and collaboration for marketing between the cooperative members. The members also shared their difficulties and got practical approaches for improvement amongst themselves. Posing a questions on accessibility and affordability of packaging materials, WECMA replied "we use plantain leaves and design them using our hands ourselves, OYR Cameroon fabric is also used to create handcraft packaging ideas,We also have various calabashes locally that we get from pumkim fruits... we make good use of them to present our products to the market..."

Exchange Visits between Cooperatives and Marketing Agencies: This exchange visit was aimed to promote exchange of stories and best practices of production, marketing, collaboration, solidarity, knowledge sharing and diversify the minds of grassroots' women on marketing and production strategies. This activity was from 22nd August and 20th September 2024 and it took the following procedures: Planning and awareness raising and Identification of sites to visits.



SENAF Women arrives Handicraft Village in Bafoussam for exchange and learning visit

CAMGEW has long experience with various actors in Cameroon as a result of over 12 farmers cooperatives created from our work. This experience was REGAIN project force to identify actors in the Urban Center of West Region-Bafousam. The urban center was chosen for varied reasons:

- It has diversity of agrifood actors and government supportive structures put in place
- It is a multicultural urban center with enterprises from all 10 regions of Cameroon
- It has empowered women in agric food systems producing, transforming and marketing various agroforestry products
- 90% of our beneficiaries have never gone out of their various rural communities, coupled with the fact that they are not educated, keeps them really unenlightened. It was important for them to visit another area out of their communities and get inspired by what women and youths are doing.

These factors informed CAMGEW REGAIN project team that the urban center of West Region was ideal for this activity.



SENAFwomen exchanging with Coordinator of Handicraft Village

Several visits were made at the Handicraft Village in Bafousam and the hospitality of the Coordinator of this Handicraft Village was remarkable. CAMGEW team worked with Chief of Training at this center to ensure that the exchange visits are carried out hitch free. During this visits there were face-to-face exchange on opportunities, challenges and way forward for women led initiatives, visit to various Handicraft Village Shops,

visit the Medicinal Plant Gardens, visit to livestock farmers, honey marketing agencies, honey processing unit and agroforestry farms for learning.



Exchange visit of various cooperatives in the craft section of the Handicraft Village to learn how to use craft for packaging

TESTIMONY: One of the youths from PAMAF Cooperative said “....I have learned that enterprises can be developed from dry grass which is abundant around us... the most loved part of the visit for me is to see that women are using dry grass and producing various kitchen utensils..am even surprised at the cost of them...it means, beside honey and products from the farm, we can also make use of dry grass.....am so happy coming here...”. In a similar way, women from Bankim were surprised at the high demand of cassava flour in Bafousam. The president of cooperative from Bankim exclaimed “.....the yield of cassava is very high in Bankim this year especially in areas where bee farming is carried out...until we arrived here, we were all wondering what we can do with the cassava..... but we see the high demand and many traders that we meet here have placed orders for cassava flour.....this exchange visit should be an activity for all women to come and discover, I am grateful....”

Indeed, CAMGEW wished to give every woman struggling to move out of hunger and poverty an opportunity like this in coming years. The exchange visit broadened women minds on women led initiatives and handicraft development.

The visits took 15 days scheduled as follows:

	Cooperative	Dates	Number of participants
1	SENAF Cooperative- from Ngounso Magba, West Region of Cameroon	25th to 30th August 2024	50 cooperative member (49 women and 1 man)
2	Chumofis cooperative –from Bankim, Adamawa region of Cameroon	6th to 10th September 2024	16 women
3	PAMAF cooperative- From Koweit Njimom, West Region of Cameroon	16th to 21st September 2024	50 cooperative members (30 women and 20 men)

Training of women on transformation of cocoa to cocoa beverage 29th October 2024: On the 29th and 30th October 2024, 93 women were empowered with skills to transform cocoa to cocoa beverage. Cocoa is locally cultivated by small scale in Cameroon highlands local communities but farmers lack skills to transform to meet their daily nutritive needs. Cocoa beverage is found in local markets however farmers do not have the skills to transform using locally available ingredients and equipment’s. The cost of buying these essential commodities for domestic consumption weighs down on many. Learning these skills was going to improve household health and also provide farmers with agric-food transformation techniques, entrepreneurship opportunities and added

value of cocoa locally. This training made good use of cocoa powder and soy beans which are locally available and cultivated by majority of households.



Training of women from 3 cooperative on transformation of cocoa to cocoa beverage



Cocoa transformed during training to cocoa beverage

VOICES FROM THE GROUND: This training was appreciated by the participants and in the words of Florence Ntahti “I spent a minimum of 5000FCFA (10 USD) to get 450g of this cocoa beverage for my youngest child. My teenage children don’t have the opportunity to consume because it will be costly for the entire family....this training will enable me produce for the entire family at low cost (20USD for 4kg) which can be consumed by my 6 children for over 5months.....”. Kellem Abiarou added that “.....I cultivate and harvest a lot of cocoa from my farm and I only sell because I never knew how to consume locally.....this training had taught me something wonderful..... with skills learned previously on product packaging here at CAMGEW, I will transform my cocoa beans to powder and then produce cocoa beverage, then package nicely and sell.... I see that cocoa beverage is a new line of business for me.....”.

SECTION 6

ENVIRONMENT AND WOMEN ADVOCACY

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

Gender equality and women's empowerment are matters of fundamental human rights and pre-requisite to meeting fundamental Sustainable Development Goals around the world. Women's socio-economic and environmental rights are crucial for achieving gender equality and sustainable development and essential for creating a just and equitable society. In 2024, CAMGEW intervene in advocating for these rights.

- **knowledge and networking fair**

This event took place on the 23rd and 24th March 2024 and brought together 50 organizations in Cameroon in a knowledge and networking fair under the theme "Inspire and Accelerate Positive Change in Gender Equality towards Conservation outcomes". This positive results were due to a collaborative strategy from CAMGEW team engagement.



CAMGEW Communicating on the importance of CSO Networking through publicity documents and radio

A planning meeting by CAMGEW Team was held on the 5th of February 2024. This meeting established the dates for the networking event, mobilization plan and the event theme. The meeting concluded with a firm reminder on the importance of networking events for grass root civil society organizations and need for CAMGEW team to stay focus on discussions related to gender equality and conservation

A google form titled "#CAMGEW Networking Event for Conservation Stakeholders in Bamenda, North West Region of Cameroon-Saturday 23rd and 24th March 2024" was created for this purpose. This online form provided information about the applicant especially areas of intervention in conservation and gender equality. This tool was made public and received 200 applicants. CAMGEW understanding that many women in grassroots communities are not enlightened to online processes also created an offline mobilization list in all CAMGEW offices for interested persons to apply. By 15th March 2024, the offline application form had 100 applicants. CAMGEW received above 300 applications to participate in the networking event. Ministry of Women

Empowerment and the family, Ministry of Environment, nature protection and sustainable development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, Ministry of forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Small and Medium Size Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft, Ministry of Basic Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Arts and Craft were invited and took part in the event.

On the 8th of March 2024, the networking event activities were officially launched in a round table discussion with 20 youths on the theme “Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress” through a female youth round table discussion in CAMGEW head office in Bamenda. On the 17th of March 2024, the project coordinator and 3 volunteers from School of communication held a radio program in one of the renowned radio stations in Cameroon Abakwa FM 99, to talk about this networking and knowledge fair and sensitize the public to attend.

This event had discussions in four thematic panels namely:

1. Panel on youth in conservation
2. Panel on conservation, innovation and gender equality
3. Panel on conservation and women led actions
4. Panel on conservation and land rights

The following pitches were also scheduled at the pitch corner

1. Agro ecology and its contributions to food security
2. “I bleed and I Study” Menstruation hygiene and responsible girls
3. Production of Organic Manure And Wheat Cultivation
4. People Centered approach to the Integration and Conservation of the Natural Base and the protection of Wildlife species
5. Greening Elementary schools through Environmental Education With Children in Schools
6. Organic manure from domestic waste, urban gardening and snail farming
7. Mens clubs and environmental education
8. Water, sanitation and hygiene
9. Bee farming for bushfire prevention
10. Healthy seedlings for sustainable agriculture

On the 23rd and 24th March 2024, 50 civil society organizations answered present at the event venues. These organizations represented civil society, women led eco businesses, and youth lead initiatives all with conservation and gender promotion interventions. These stakeholders represented five regions of Cameroon namely: North West Region, West Region, Adamawa Region, South West Region and Center region of Cameroon.



Participants learning to build partnership and networking in practice

Contributions of CAMGEW 2024 knowledge and Networking Fair to Conservation and Gender Equality:

The Knowledge fair event provided valuable insights and key learnings that can drive innovation and collaboration in conservation and gender promotion. Here are some of the main takeaways from this event:

1. **Networking Opportunities:** This event created a platform for attendees to connect, share ideas, and form partnerships. This led to new collaborations that might not have been possible otherwise.
2. **Sharing Best Practices:** Participants learned about successful strategies and approaches from other attendees. This exchange of best practices helped improve the quality and effectiveness of their own initiatives.
3. **Showcasing Innovations:** Knowledge fair featured cutting-edge technologies, methodologies, and innovations. Attendees discovered new tools and solutions that can be applied to their work. Exciting were presentations at the pitch corner especially on reusing vehicle tyres to produce chairs, menstruation products, snail farming technology, bee keeping technology, grafting of fruit trees, eco-event planning and decoration technology and so on.
4. **Capacity Building:** Workshops, demonstrations, and presentations at the knowledge fair enhanced the skills and knowledge of participants. This capacity building is crucial for implementing new techniques and improving existing processes.
5. **Raising Awareness:** These events highlighted important issues and challenges, raising awareness among participants and encouraging them to take action. They can also educate the wider community about critical topics. Remarkable were the discussions on women land rights where the panel acknowledged that women conserve land better than men and called for policy support, financial support and revision of traditional norms that do not promote women land ownership in Cameroon highlands.
6. **Inspiration and Motivation:** Seeing the achievements and initiatives of others can be highly inspiring. Participants returned to their communities or organizations with renewed motivation and fresh ideas. This was the case of Eco-Innovation and Creation (ECIC), a young organization that shared with CAMGEW 5 months after the networking event, that the event motivated him and strengthened him on how to manage technical and financial partners. The lessons he learned on bee keeping enabled him to get the first financial support to build capacity of youths especially girls on bee keeping using abandoned used tyres for apiary management.
7. **Community Engagement:** This fair fostered a sense of community among attendees, promoting collaboration and mutual support. This engagement lead to more cohesive and proactive approach to addressing common ecofeminist challenges by participating civil society organizations.
8. **Policy Influence:** By bringing together diverse stakeholders and engaging the media, this knowledge fair can influence policy discussions and decisions. They provide a forum for advocating for changes that support sustainable development and innovation.

Overall, this knowledge fair was instrumental in driving progress by facilitating the exchange of ideas, building skills, and fostering collaborations.

Agreed actions to be taken from 2024 networking and knowledge fair

The various panels brought out several areas that needed focus to advance socio-economic and environmental rights of women as follows:

a. AGREEMENTS MADE BY YOUTH;

1. **Educate and Raise Awareness:** Youths will bring their energy and excitement to share information about environmental issues and conservation efforts through social media, school projects, and community events. Education can inspire collective action that can fight cultural norms affecting gender and promoting gender friendly approaches and discussions among themselves.
2. **Participate in Local Initiatives:** This panel agreed that youths should join or start local environmental groups, participate in clean-up drives, tree planting events, and other community-based conservation activities that can significantly contribute to a sustainable environment.
3. **Promote Sustainable Practices:** Youths also agreed to recycle waste items and reduce waste reduction advocate for sustainable practices in daily life, such as conserving water and energy.
4. **Support Conservation Organizations:** Youths agreed to become volunteers in organisations dedicated to conservation. This can help amplify efforts and provide resources for larger-scale projects.
5. **Foster Collaboration:** Youths agreed to build networks with other young conservationists, both locally and globally. Collaborative efforts can lead to more impactful and widespread conservation initiatives.



Youths in a discussion panels

b. AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE PANEL ON CONSERVATION, INNOVATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

It was agreed that there will be the promotion of Integration of innovation in conservation initiatives. By leveraging the power of new technologies and creative approaches, we can better protect our natural world for future generations. This panel agreed on the following actions:

Technological Advancements by promoting

1. Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS): Technologies like satellite imagery and GIS enable precise monitoring of ecosystems, wildlife, and changes in land use.
2. Drones: Drones should be used for wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching efforts, agriculture and farm monitoring and forest health assessments, providing real-time data with minimal human interference.
3. Renewable Energy: Innovations in solar, wind, and bioenergy reduce reliance on fossil fuels, helps to mitigate climate change and its impacts on biodiversity.

Investment in Sustainable Practices

- **Agro ecology:** Innovative farming techniques that integrate sustainable practices can improve soil health, increase biodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change.
- **Water Management:** Advanced irrigation systems and water recycling technologies to help conserve water resources and ensure sustainable use.
- **Circular Economy:** Innovative business models that focus on reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling can minimize environmental impact.



Promoting innovation in the Honey value chain

Scientific Research and Data Analytics

- **Big Data and Artificial Intelligence:** Analyzing large datasets with artificial intelligence can uncover patterns and trends in ecosystems, helping to inform conservation strategies.
- **Biotechnology:** Advances in biotechnology, such as genetic rescue and synthetic biology, offer potential solutions to preserve endangered species and restore habitats.

Policy and Advocacy

- **Smart Policies:** Data-driven policy-making ensures that conservation efforts are targeted, effective, and adaptive to changing environmental conditions.
- **Public Engagement:** Innovative communication strategies, such as social media campaigns and citizen science projects, can raise awareness and build support for conservation policies.

c. ACTIONS AGREED TO BE TAKEN ON WOMEN AND CONSERVATION PANEL

It was agreed that women should be put at the centre of conservation because it is key to achieve sustainable and effective environmental solutions.

Empowerment and Education

- **Access to Education:** Provide educational opportunities for women, focusing on environmental science and conservation techniques.
- **Leadership Training:** Offer leadership and capacity-building programs to enable women to take on decision-making roles in conservation projects.

Policy and Advocacy

- **Inclusive Policies:** Develop and implement policies that promote gender equality and actively involve women in conservation efforts.
- **Advocacy Support:** Encourage and support women-led advocacy groups that work towards environmental protection and sustainable development.



CAMGEW Director presents the raison d'être for the organised CSO Networking event after a successful end

Economic Opportunities

- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Create economic opportunities for women in sustainable industries, such as eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy.
- **Microfinance and Grants:** Provide financial resources and grants to support women's entrepreneurial ventures in conservation.



Community Engagement

- **Local Involvement:** Engage women in community-based conservation initiatives, ensuring their voices and traditional knowledge are integral to project planning and implementation.
- **Peer Networks:** Facilitate the creation of networks and platforms for women to share experiences, resources, and strategies for effective conservation.

Research and Data Collection

- **Gender-Responsive Research:** Conduct research that highlights the role of women in conservation and document their contributions and challenges.
- **Data Utilization:** Use gender-disaggregated data to inform and improve conservation policies and programs.

Awareness and Education Campaigns

- **Public Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of women's involvement in conservation efforts.
- **Education Programs:** Develop and implement educational programs for both men and women, emphasizing the benefits of gender equality in conservation.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Foster partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities to support women in conservation.
- **International Cooperation:** Engage with international organizations to share best practices and resources for integrating gender into conservation strategies.

d. ACTIONS AGREED FROM PANEL ON LAND RIGHTS

Women better conserve land. It's crucial to address traditional norms and bias on land ownership and enhance national policies of gender equality and land rights. Women need consideration in land rights.



Panel on Land Rights in CAMGEW-CSOs Networking Event

B. PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTARY ON CAMGEW GENDER RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

CAMGEW has been working on conservation with a gender lens since creation with over 85000 beneficiaries, 65% of whom are women. With a holistic approach that promotes forest regeneration, agroforestry, agro ecology, local technology, bee keeping and livelihood, women personal development and youth engagement, production of documentary aimed at telling CAMGEW story in 60 minutes and highlight CAMGEW gender promotion approach in conservation work in Cameroon.

This activity gave CAMGEW an advocacy success story documentary, visual for community learning and swift approach to share CAMGEW strategies globally to encourage replication by other actors. Development of this documentary took over 6 months in several processes

Identification of consultants for this work: This was done through a tender. However only two submissions were received due to the remoteness of the communities, need to speak local languages in project areas and complexity of dealing with women who have never had exposure before a camera and the media. Ideal Concepts Company limited was engaged for this process on the 1st of April 2024.

Strategic meeting with consultant and CAMGEW team: This meeting gave the consultants highlights

on the objective of the documentary and key deliverables. The map of our work area was also given to the consultant as well as contacts of all field based team members for facilitation of the interviews.

Gathering of images at field level: This video involved pictures from our past activities in previous years. Together with the consultant, images of various activities were sought out. However, CAMGEW team knew little in past years about quality of pictures especially when it comes to high resolution. Good images for this documentary were hard to find. This enlightened CAMGEW team on the need for high resolution pictures of their work. There was an in-service training on taking high resolution pictures.

Interview of beneficiaries: The documentary captured voices of the beneficiaries and community leaders in the various areas where CAMGEW works. The documentary team filmed grassroots women who never had the opportunity to attend formal education, etc. This was a challenging moment as it took several sessions in several months to build the confidence of local women to speak before cameras and collaborate with the videographer. The preparatory sessions took more than 5 month to get videos ready. Now the women are confident to go to the radio, speak on air, and address other videographers and photographers. We realize that it was not just about making the documentary but also an empowerment process for the women. Girls were also interviewed in this process and women spoke about the added benefits of the project on menstruation education and education of the girl child.



Women learning how to tell their story to the world before the cameroon

Editing and restructuring of information: The consultant had 4 days working session with CAMGEW team to ensure that the information from the field was edited to keep the message of CAMGEW objectives for this documentary. This was couple with day-to-day guidance of the consultant on various images and videos made to ensure they are inline with project and CAMGEW objectives. This discussions informed the documentary production consultant to tell the story better.

Dissemination of documentary: This documentary had been disseminated through the media (Radio and Television), on CAMGEW website and social media as well as through various networks.

The documentary produced had a wide range of positive outcomes:

1. **Awareness and Education:** This documentary highlighted local issues, educate community members about important topics, and provided information on best practices and local technologies in CAMGEW's work. This reinforced community acceptance of CAMGEW.
2. **Community Empowerment:** By showcasing the stories and experiences of Cameroon highlands forest communities, this documentary empowered communities to take action, advocate for their rights and engage in decision-making processes.
3. **Cultural Preservation:** This documentary captured the unique cultural heritage and traditions of rural communities in Cameroon Highlands, maintaining them for future generations.
4. **Economic Opportunities:** Highlighting non timber forest products and economic opportunities that could attract investment for the women and community at large.
5. **Social Change:** By bringing attention to social issues such as gender inequality and environmental challenges, this documentary could drive social change and inspire community-led initiatives.
6. **Networking and Collaboration:** This documentary is ready to connect CAMGEW and rural communities in Cameroon highlands with external organizations, funders, and experts, fostering collaboration and support.
7. **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Documentaries that reach wider audiences, including policymakers, can influence policy decisions and lead to reforms that benefit rural communities.

These outcomes demonstrate the powerful role that this documentary can play in engaging women in environmental activities, the broad holistic approach of CAMGEW interventions, promoting development, preserving culture, and driving social change in Cameroon highlands. See documentary on CAMGEW You-tube channel at <https://youtu.be/d6OI9H7hlcg?si=x2Xk8fKhVd8-O4CE>.

C. PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTARY ON CAMGEW GENDER RESPONSIVE EFFORTS

This 15 minutes documentary was made on successes of women in honey value chain, conflict management and agroforestry in West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. It covered successes of REGAIN project in communities of Njimom, Magba and Bankim. Titled 'The Eco-women Inspiration' this documentary highlighted key achievements of CAMGEW feminist intervention in West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. On the 29th of March 2024, CAMGEW engaged in production of a documentary for project successes. Observations in previous years of the project informed that a video documentary could tell the project story better than literature documentation. This documentary production was completed on the 27th of July 2024 and uploaded in CAMGEW you-tube channel, website and social media handles. It captures the voices of the women in the area, benefits, successes, challenges etc. This work took several steps

Hiring a documentary producer: This was challenging to get an expert due to several factors; project beneficiaries are in the really remote areas with limited accessibility related to bad roads, climate impacts especially landslides, lack of connection for calls and internet, less than 30% project beneficiaries speak official national Cameroonian languages (English and French) requiring a documentary producer who speaks multiple local languages. CAMGEW procurement officer sent out tender notification for this work and after two weeks only two tenders were received. This documentary was originally scheduled to be 5 minutes, but when we discussed with the consultant, the work was extended to 15 minutes. We saw the benefit of highlighting the many thousands of beneficiaries over the years and the people impacted by the work.



Project beneficiaries speak out in the video in Njimom of the Successes of REGAIN Project

The documentary team filmed grassroots women who never had the opportunity to attend formal education, etc. The costs for documentary production was finally more than expected but the extra cost was raised by CAMGEW board of Directors. See documentary on the link [CAMGEW REGAIN PROJECT SUCCESS STORY 2022 TO 2024 \(THE ECO WOMEN INSPIRATION\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6glTtOphV-Y) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6glTtOphV-Y>.

This activity on documentary production proved that CAMGEW's resilience in building self-esteem in rural women who are hit hard by cultural patriarchal norms is yielding fruits. This was demonstrated in their confidence as they spoke on how their engagement in community climate interventions and livelihood opportunities using sustainable approaches. This is helping to break through unsustainable patriarchal norms in local communities. This activities on documentary production can provide the following long term outcomes:

Increased Awareness and Education: this documentaries can continually educate community members and external audiences about CAMGEW interventions in Cameroon leading to better understanding and appreciation of the CAMGEWs needs, efforts, community's needs and strengths.

Sustained Community Empowerment: By highlighting local voices and stories, documentaries can empower local communities in Cameroon to advocate for women socio-economic and environmental rights, engage in decision-making, and take pride in their heritage and achievements.

Continued Social Change: This documentary can influence social attitudes and drive long-term social change by raising awareness about critical issues such as gender equality, climate change, sustainable environmental practices, women health and education of the girl child.

Enhanced Networking and Collaboration: This documentaries can establish and maintain connections with like minded organizations, funders, and experts, facilitating ongoing support and collaboration for community initiatives and CAMGEW aspirations.

Overall, the long-term impact of this documentaries can create a more informed, empowered, and resilient community that is better equipped to face future challenges and seize opportunities.

D. COUNSELING *(for confidentiality purposes, this activity has no pictures and no mention of names)*

Grassroot communities especially women and girls face difficult moments that require moral support, proactive decision taking and coping strategies. In grassroot communities counseling services are difficult to find. By integrating counseling into conservation initiatives in Cameroon highlands, CAMGEW promotes solidarity, improves mental health, and create a more cohesive and supportive community. In 2024, CAMGEW received 385 counselees located in Bamenda, Magba, Njimom and Bankim. In 2024, CAMGEW counseling services supported forest communities in Cameroon highlands in the following ways:

1. **Emotional Support:** Counseling provides emotional support to individuals facing personal or communal challenges related to natural resource management, violations of human rights, Gender Based Violence happenings, land and agricultural conflicts and domestic violence. This emotional backing helps build trust and strengthens community bonds.
2. **Conflict Resolution:** CAMGEW counseling mediate and help resolve conflicts within the community especially farmer-grazer conflicts and conflicts related to education of the girl child. This fostered a sense of unity and cooperation.
3. **Empowerment:** Counseling empowered individuals by building their self-esteem and resilience. Empowered individuals are more likely to contribute positively to their community and support one another.
4. **Community Engagement:** By addressing mental health and well-being, counseling encourages active participation and engagement in conservation and livelihood initiatives in Cameroon highlands.
5. **Coping Strategies:** counseling journey provided strategies for coping with stress, trauma, and other challenges. These strategies enhance the community's overall resilience and ability to face adversity together.

Recommendations on Women Socio-Economic and Environmental rights activities:

Working on socio-economic and environmental rights, CAMGEW recommends the need to promote girls leadership in environmental activities and supporting mainstreaming of environmental education in elementary schools. Educated girls play a crucial role in conservation efforts, bringing numerous benefits to their communities and the environment. CAMGEW see this as an urgent need in Cameroon highlands forest communities. Creating economic opportunities for women in sustainable industries, such as eco-tourism, organic farming, and renewable energy could improve their socio-economic status while promoting environmental conservation.

Project Direct Beneficiary Data

Activity	Women ≥35	women≤35	men≥35	men≤35	total
Networking and knowledge fair	125	85	30	40	280
Documentary production	100	300	50	30	500
counseling	233	127	15	10	385

CAMGEW WOMEN ADVOCACY FORUM: CAMGEW runs a women advocacy forum titled “CAMGEW WOMEN ADVOCACY FORUM” where women socio-economic and environmental rights information and opportunities for learning, sharing, and networking are shared. It is an active space with local,national and international actors and stakeholders engaged in making women and environment rights a reality. It has been existing for about 3 years now. If you are interested to join please contact Tel: +237 674732660 and introduce yourself and you will be added to the group.

E. GIRL AND WOMEN SKILL EMPOWERMENT

Placement of girls in vocational training institutions: In June 2023, CAMGEW placed two teenage girls in vocational training institutions to learn skills in hairdressing and traditional embroidery. In 2024, these girls were supported with basic equipment upon their graduation. Nsai Blessing was supported in June 2024 with Hair Dryers, Make-up Artist box, Nails Dryers and other start-up materials. In December 2024, Nobertha Berinyuy was supported with Sewing Machine and other material for traditional embroidery. This activity was aimed at supporting girls to gain skills. They also received capacity building on entrepreneurship, leadership, building self-esteem and power of positive thinking in the course of their training.



Girls Cradle 2024: In August 2023, CAMGEW started a girls' leadership fellowship named "Girls Cradle". This program was initiated by CAMGEW Women Empowerment officer-Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. The trail phase unblocked girls' potentials and determination to grow and promoted their engagement in conservation work. This program was inspired from several request from parents for CAMGEW to engage their girls in life changing processes.

In August 2024, the second edition of this program was carried out with 30 teenage girls. The girls learned about the growth journey from the comfort zone to the growth zone, the power of positive thinking, menstrual hygiene and reproductive health and rights, girls right to education, promoting a sustainable environment and building self-esteem.



Girls learning to work as a team



Girls who participated in Girls Cradle workshop

In the words of the one of the teenagers Augustina Abang “Girls Cradle have opened my mind to many things...through the growth journey, I realized that successful people need to build on who they are, unblock their talents and keep nourishing their potentials to make the best out of them.....I think every girl should be part of Girls Cradle”. Similarly, Serena Amaigouh said “my best part of this program was the focus game...at first I thought I could do it on my own but I failed. I then realized the power of working together with people who share your vision, it is importance of mindful about who your peers are, the power of remaining focus to my goals and the importance of knowledge... next year, I will inform my friends to attend this attend Girls Cradle in the next edition...am wondering if the next edition could take place village of origin, this will really be good for girls from my own community”.

From 2023 to 2024, 65 girls have been part of this leadership journey. CAMGEW hopes to make this journey and activity for girls during all summer holidays.

F. MENTORSHIP OF GIRLS UNDER NETWORK OF WOMEN LED CSO'S (NEWOLEC) IN CAMEROON

Ernestine joined the network of women led CSO's in Cameroon in September 2024. NEWOLEC an organization regrouping over 100 women leaders of Organizations and has as objective the Socio-economic, professional and personal development of women. Through this network the lives of over 500 young girls have been impacted through empowerment initiatives and mentorship programmes. Ernestine was one of the 50 women leaders who were mentoring young girls in the community on career choices, leadership, personal and professional development, and entrepreneurship and community engagement in 2024.



SECTION 7

CAPACITY BUILDING, EVENTS, PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING, NETWORKING AND 2025 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A. CAPACITY BUILDING

In July 2024, Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki graduated with Msc. In Rural Development and Administration from School of Agriculture in the Bamenda University of Science and Technology.



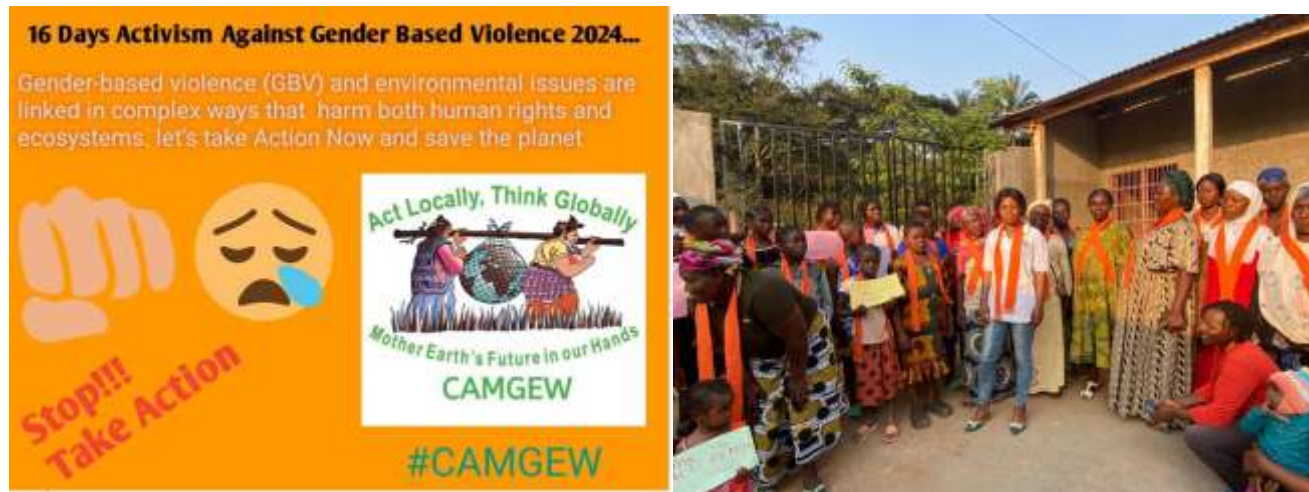
Ernestine graduating with Masters in Rural Development and Administration

This professional masters comes at a time when CAMGEW intensified her efforts in agroecology with extension of interventions from kilum-Ijim in North West Region of Cameroon to West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. CAMGEW is known for her work in improving lives of rural communities and protecting the environment. By studying rural development and administration, Ernestine can play a pivotal role in driving positive change, promoting sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for rural populations. Her studies will strengthen achievement of CAMGEW's global and specific objectives as well as drive mission and vision of the organization.

B. EVENTS, PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING AND NETWORKING

1. Commemoration of 16days activism against gender based violence

CAMGEW launched the 2024 16days activism against gender based violence on social media on the 27th November 2024.



Commemoration of 16days activism against gender based violence

Working on conservation, CAMGEW 15years experience in forest communities in the Cameroon Highlands indicates that gender based violence and environmental issues are linked in complex ways that harm both human rights and the ecosystems. Gender based violence challenges needs to be addressed to realize full sustainability. Within the 16days of activism, across CAMGEW offices, the community especially women and youths were involved in this activism through talks, discussions about GBV in forest communities, role of boys and girls in GBV prevention. Youths also pointed out how GBV affect women in forest communities, women farmers and girls in Cameroon Highlands. These communities joint this activism to call for solidarity to end gender based violence.

2. Mentorship and coaching for young organizations

CAMGEW holistic approach to conservation and livelihood involves empowering community civil society actors and groups for wider impact. This involves coaching and mentorship to young civil society organizations especially those that work at the intersection of gender and environmental initiatives. In 2024, CAMGEW created 4 cooperatives in Njimom, Magba, Bankim and Mayo Darle (West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon). In the North West region of Cameroon several young organizations relay on CAMGEW to build their capacity and emerge powerfully. Some of these organizations include Women Eco village Change Makers (WECMA), Eco-friendly generation (ECOFRIDGE), Voice of Women (VOW), Eco-Creation and Innovation (ECIC), Planet Earth, and Living earth and Livelihood (LELIV). These are young organizations that look up to CAMGEW to be strong and grew. Many students on internship and those that completed internship with CAMGEW have also been relying on CAMGEW for coaching and mentorship. This coaching and mentorship includes strategies on human resources, networking, building synergies, working with a gender lens, public speaking and development of proposals.

3. International day of the girl child

In Cameroon highlands, girls make up a greater percentage of youths. However, greater percentage of them are school drop outs and are also left out of conservation initiatives and livelihood opportunities. To CAMGEW good women leaders are prepared in the youths of today.



Our girls ask for their rights to be protected

Commemorating international day of the girl child from the 10th to the 11th of October 2024, CAMGEW brought 150 girls across all her offices under the theme “Girls Vision for the Future”. In a round table discussion with girls, the need for action to address girls’ challenges in Cameroon highlands especially support to education and skills acquisition, engagement in conservation initiatives, developing girls’ leadership potentials and addressing GBV challenges. These discussions also highlighted girls’ hopes and determination for the future.



Developing the girls’ leadership potentials through training

4. Fossil fuel campaign 18th sept 2024 in Mayo Darle,

The environmental and health impacts of fossil fuels disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities. The Cameroon highlands is not left out of these impacts of fossil fuels.



Grassroot communities asking for better energy sources like solars, improve cookstove and biogas

From the 14th to the 25th of September 2024 CAMGEW had firechat discussions with local community members in Nkwen-Bamenda, Machok-Oku, Ngounso-Magba and in Nyalang in Mayo Darle on fossil fuels and its impacts in local communities. This educative session had discussions on examples of fossil fuels in Cameroon, the impacts of fossil fuels and alternatives to fossil fuels.

In an interactive manner the participants indicated that In Cameroon, the primary fossil fuels used include: Oil and Natural Gas which are used for electricity generation and other industrial purposes. Coal is another fossil fuel present in Cameroon.



The participants identified alternatives to fossil fuels such as solar power, wind power, small hydroelectric energy, biomass energy through improved cookstove, biogas and tidal wave energy. These alternatives offer lower emissions, reduced pollution and the potential for sustainable energy production in forest communities.

5. CAMGEW ATTENDING CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP29)

The **2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference**, also known as **COP29**, took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to November 22, 2024. In partnership with Women Engage For a Common Future and Women (WECF-France) and Gender Constituency, CAMGEW attended COP29 from 11th to 17th November 2024.



At the COP, CAMGEW followed up negotiations on Agriculture and Food systems. In recent years, CAMGEW engaged in agroecology and agroforestry as sustainable climate adaptation in measures in Cameroon highlands. The major occupation in rural communities in Cameroon where CAMGEW works is agriculture with huge contributions to food systems. In Recent years, climate change impacts on agriculture have increased significantly. CAMGEW was therefore interested on how agriculture and food systems are better equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Global Goal on Adaptation focused on the Sharm-el-sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA): The SJWA was reaffirmed, emphasizing the importance of adapting agricultural practices to climate change. It should be noted that so far there was only one formal negotiation track for agriculture and food systems at the UNFCCC, known as

the Sharm-el-Sheikh Joint Work on the Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA). At COP29, the debates on the SJWA were largely around the functions and structure of the Sharm-el-Sheikh online portal, where countries and observers can submit information on how climate action can support agriculture and food security.

On the 13th November 2024, CAMGEW represented Women and Gender Constituency at a high level event in the NDC pavilion titled: Biodiversity NDC's: Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity agendas.



CAMGEW representing Women and Gender Constituency at Biodiversity NDC's on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity agendas.

Among other high level speakers at this panel was the Minister of Environment for Colombia who appreciated CAMGEW interventions and recommendations on promoting bio economy and agroecology as sustainable agricultural climate adaptation interventions.

Other key highlights from COP29 were:

1. **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG):** Developed nations agreed to channel at least \$300 billion a year into developing countries by 2035 to support their climate efforts. However, this fell short of the \$1.3 trillion a year that many developing countries had called for.
2. **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement:** Countries reached a final agreement on the rules for carbon trading under Article 6, including provisions for nature-based removals and rights safeguards.
3. **Loss and Damage Fund:** The newly operational Loss and Damage Fund aims to support regions most impacted by climate change, helping farmers access improved seeds, adopt climate-resilient technologies, and receive training.
4. **Gender and Climate Finance:** Gender-responsive climate finance was a significant topic, with discussions on ensuring that climate finance addresses gender inequalities and supports women's leadership in climate action.
5. **Challenges and Criticisms:** There were criticisms about the lack of new commitments on food and agriculture, chaotic negotiations, and the influence of large agricultural corporations¹.

Recommendations

- CAMGEW has been attending the Climate Conference of parties since COP25 in 2019. However, CAMGEW is not yet an accredited organisation of UNFCCC. Accreditation to attend UNFCCC conference is a challenge for non-accredited organizations like CAMGEW. This is something that CAMGEW will work on and anyone with ideas or with a way to help will be welcome.
- This conference provides a diverse and wider space for networking and building partnerships for CAMGEW. It will be beneficial to CAMGEW for up to three persons to attend the COPs and represent the organization in various spaces.

Ernestine returned to Cameroon on the 17th of November 2024 and looks forward to the next COP. The 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30) will convene in from 10th to 21st November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. It will include the 30th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 30), the 20th meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 20), and the seventh meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 7), as well as the 63rd sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 63) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 63). This should be the COP for at least 4 CAMGEW members.

6. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 14TH 2024

CAMGEW joined to commemorate the 15th of August 2024, the International Youth Day under the theme “From click to progress: Youth digital pathways for sustainable development”. CAMGEW accommodates the key connections between digitalization and acceleration of the progress of sustainable development goals. It’s important to emphasis the crucial contributions of young people in this transformative change. Talks on digitalization were carried out with 200 youths in Oku, Bamenda and magba. These talks highlighted the use of digital tools for positive impacts and growth acceleration.



CAMGEW celebrates International Youth Day with youths in Bamenda

7. WORLD BEE DAY AND WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY 2024

Biodiversity and bees are at the center of CAMGEW conservation work. These days are there crowned as “CAMGEW Twin days”. On the 23rd of May 2024, World Bee Day was commemorated under the theme “Engaging young people as future bee keepers and stewards of the environment” and World Biodiversity Day was commemorated globally under the theme “be part of the plan”. CAMGEW celebrated World Bee Day of 20 May 2024 and World Biodiversity of 22 May 2024 on the 23 May 2024 in all her 4 offices. These 2 days are important days to CAMGEW and communities where she works. Bees serve communities in pollination and production of Honey. Honey and bees wax have been transformed to various products used by communities by CAMGEW. Engaging communities in making money and creating jobs from local technology (bee smoker, bee suit, beehive production) used in honey value chain have created impacts. CAMGEW has driven this change as she uses apiculture to promote biodiversity conservation. Training bee farmers, organizing them and buying honey from them have made them see that Honey = Money. The main forest (Kilum-Ijim forest and Cameroon Western Highland forest) problem is bushfires. When bee farmers own beehives in the forest they no longer burn the forest because Honey = Money. CAMGEW has used this strategy to bring Kilum-Ijim forest bushfire to zero in 2019 and 2020 and in other years when bushfire occur a huge number of bee farmers go to the forest to manage it and this has little or no impact on the forest. The success story on this in Kilum-Ijim forest has led to CAMGEW scaling it up in West and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon. Considering that the forest is fast disappearing and many people are creating farms for food, jobs and income, CAMGEW has been promoting agroforestry now agroecology to make sure that biodiversity is conserve and human needs are made. Agroecology brings about social, ecological, economic, cultural and psychological regeneration. CAMGEW has been trying to balance human – nature equation.

CAMGEW celebrated of this day by sharing her success story on apiculture and agroecology with communities and other institutions. CAMGEW also promoted networking, exhibition and exchange of ideas with institutions to grow richer. This happened in all CAMGEW 4 offices in Cameroon.

a. CAMGEW-BAMENDA World Bee Day & World Biodiversity Day Celebration

The celebrations in Bamenda took place in Blue Pearl Hotel and NOWEFAM Honeyshop from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm with 14 participants from 11 institutions (CSOs & Eco-Businesses) on 23 May 2024. During this special twin event, CAMGEW brought together 11 civil society organizations working at the intersection of bees and biodiversity, livelihood and wildlife. CAMGEW Bamenda carried out 3 activities as follows:

- Roundtable discussion from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at Blue Pearl Hotel
- Exhibition by entrepreneurs involved in Eco-businesses at Blue Pearl Hotel
- Learning visit to NOWEFAM Honeyshop (Climate Smart Shop) as a model Eco-Business to learn about Honey Value Chain Development and marketing. This was at Foncha Junction

The participating organizations shared their experiences on pollinations, enterprise development, significance in Cameroon highland cultures and benefits to the ecosystem. Just like many organizations Eco-Friendly Generation, a young organization shared how crafted fruit seedlings need pollinators like bees to maximize their production. Same experience were shared by living Earth and Livelihoods who applauded that in wheat farmers realize high yields in areas where bee farming is practiced. The Director of CAMGEW of CAMGEW closed this event saying that “Bees are more than just honey and biodiversity protection starts with us”. He urged the participating organizations to intensify their efforts to protect bees and conserve biodiversity



CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

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Email: camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com
P.O. Box 17, Oku, North West, Cameroon

World Bee Day,



MAY 20TH



Theme:

Engaging young people as future beekeepers and stewards of the environment



2024



World Biodiversity Day

May 22th

Theme: Be part of the plan



b. CAMGEW-OKU World Bee Day & World Biodiversity Day Celebration

CAMGEW-Oku had 2 activities for the celebration of World Bee Day and World Biodiversity Day in Oku on 23 May 2024. These activities included Learning Visit to CAMGEW tree nursery at Manchok – Oku and Learning Visit to Kilum-Ijim forest.

Tree nursery visit: 30 persons from Manchok-Oku which is a forest community visited CAMGEW tree nursery at Manchok – Oku to learn how forest trees are nursed and planted back in the forest. They learn the different types of trees nursed, the way they grow, how the trees are taken care of and how they are transported to the forest for planting. The participants learned why there is need to develop tree nursery of forest trees.

Forest Visit: The community members visited the Kilum-Ijim forest at Emfvemii forest compartment. CAMGEW staff presented to participants how community engagement has helped to manage bushfire using apiculture in the Kilum-Ijim forest. They visited the beehive with bees in the forest and learned how bees help in biodiversity, pollination and honey production. They community visited the trees that they had planted with CAMGEW in the past years (2012 to 2023) to monitor their growth. Each community member went to the forest with a native bee loving tree from the nursery and planted to give food for bees in the future. It was symbolic. This forest community learned why the forest must be protected to continue to get water, medicine and attract tourists. Many of the community members saw *Newtonia camerunensis* that CAMGEW had nursed and planted growing fresh and were excited. They know this tree is critically Endangered and CAMGEW together with them have successfully to nursed and planted more 5000 of this tree in the forest. Community members were excited to visit the forest as a group considering that they visit the forest individually as forest users to benefit from forest.



Forest Community members in the tree nursery and at Kilum-Ijim forest celebrating World Bee and Biodiversity Days

c. CAMGEW-MAGBA World Bee Day & World Biodiversity Day Celebration

CAMGEW Magba celebrated World Bee Day and World Biodiversity Day with 24 participants (04 men , 4youths and 16 Women) on 23 May 2024. The following activities were carried out:

- The visit to CAMGEW Agroecological farm by community members around Ngounso
- The learning visit to CAMGEW Agroecological Platform being developed

Visit to CAMGEW Agroecological Farm: CAMGEW team in Magba had a learning session with 24 persons in CAMGEW Agroecological Farm in Ngounso – Magba. Community members learned how to set an agroecological farm and how to convert an unproductive to productive land using natural or biological processes. This is the story of CAMGEW Agroecological farm – it was abandon land considered unfertile. Participants learned how to make their farm land promote ecological, economic, social and cultural regeneration. They also learned about forest gardening, snail farming, nursery development and bee farming as part of agroecology.

Visit to CAMGEW Agroecological Platform: The participants after the farm session moved to CAMGEW Agroecological Platform. In the Platform, CAMGEW is presenting agroecology in picture form for communities to learn. In this platform agroecological products from forest and farms will be marketed and farmers plus community members will use the platform to consume and buy transformed products. It will represent the culture of the people and will bring community members together to relax. This was the first time CAMGEW used the platform to bring many community members together. The Agroecological Platform should go fully operational by July 2024. We expect this platform to demonstrate how man and nature can live together in harmony. CAMGEW will be excited to see this concept developed close to all her offices. It also promotes CAMGEW sustainability strategy. CAMGEW will make this Platform open to communities to organize events.



Participants in the agroecological farm and agroecological Platform

d. **CAMGEW-MAYO DARLE World Bee Day & World Biodiversity Day Celebration**

CAMGEW Mayo Darle celebrated World Bee Day and World Biodiversity Day with 12 participants from 9:00 am – 12 Noon in Mondial Village on the 23 May 2024. CAMGEW just started working in Mayo Darle for the past 2 years. CAMGEW is working on agro-pastoral system and honey value chain development. CAMGEW team in Mayo Darle identified 2 male bee farmers to have a working session with women who just started bee farming after receiving training from CAMGEW. The women learned from the experienced bee farmers how to make bee farming work. The women shared their problems linked to bee farming with CAMGEW team and the 2 bee farmers. The bee farmers and CAMGEW promised to always be available to make bee farming work for women. Women complained that beehives are placed right up on trees and this makes it difficult for them to get involve. CAMGEW responded by saying that modern bee keeping will not need beehives to be on tree tops and that CAMGEW is working to make this happen. CAMGEW also said that bushfire is a big problem and this is pushing bee farmers to put bee hives right up on trees where they cannot be burn by fire. CAMGEW team also asked women to work with their husbands, brothers and male children to help them in beehive mounting and honey

harvesting for now while CAMGEW develop apiculture with time. CAMGEW encourage women to use locally available materials like bamboo and grass in beehive construction. They also learned that they could also buy and sell beehives to those in need. The women learned how to protect bees during honey harvesting. CAMGEW told them that bee lovers avoid the use of chemicals in their farms and capitalize on the use of animal dung for farming. CAMGEW team presented modern bee farming equipment to these women and bee farmers telling them about their advantages in bee keeping.



Mondial Community members in the forest learning about bee farming

8. WORLD MENSTRUAL DAY 2024 IN MAGBA

"My period, my pride, menstruation is a normal fact of life", this was the take home message from CAMGEW session with girls commemorating World Menstruation Day 2024. This was attended by 25 teenage girls in Ngounso-Magba on the 29/05/2024. Commemorated under the theme "Together for a menstrual friendly world" girls shared their challenges related to affordable sanitary kits needed during menstruation, the stigma related to menstruation at the grassroot levels that is affecting their self-esteem. Receiving 1 path each from CAMGEW, the girls acknowledge that this will support them and wish for more support with menstruation kits and menstrual friendly toilets in schools. CAMGEW emphasized on proper disposal of sanitary paths as a significant way to reduce waste pollution from our environment.

9. COMMEMORATION OF MOTHER'S DAY 2024

Working in a multicultural context, CAMGEW realized that mothers are icons that are hardly celebrated and recognized for their role in grassroot communities. In 2024, CAMGEW commemorated mother's day by holding discussion sessions across her offices in Oku, Bamenda, Magba and Mayo Darle. These community discussions aimed to draw attention to issues affecting mothers, such as participation in soil degradation in farmlands, natural resource management, maternal health, childcare, and women's rights. This can lead to increased support and advocacy for necessary changes.

In Nkwen-Bamenda on the 11th of May 2024 in North West region of Cameroon, CAMGEW had discussions on negative impacts of chemical fertilizers on the environment and on health with 30 members of Ko-bang Womens Social Group. This discussion session ended with a skill share workshop on production of organic liquid fertilizer using locally available nitrogen rich plant known as *Tithonia diversifolia*. On the 12th of May 2024, 100 women in Nkwen, Bamenda shared their experiences on environmental challenges and Women's health. This session took special interest was on the impacts of chemicals application in farmlands. These women outlined reproductive health challenges linked to application of chemical fertilizers in crops.



Women cried out "..... We are challenged with various ailments, poor crop yield in our farmlands...'. CAMGEW called on the women to embrace organic crop cultivation and natural products. CAMGEW emphasized on the need to go back to our indigenous way of life, regenerate our indigenous seeds and seedlings, promote organic pest control and indigenous food packaging models. Mother's appreciated this session saying in their words ".....every women needs to think out of the box and look critically into our environmental and health challenges,. This starts with each and every one of us and as mothers of the earth we can be that change..."

10. COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2024

On the 2nd of march 2024 International Women's Day was commemorated on theme "invest in women, accelerate progress". In a round table discussion 25 young women shared their various eco- feminist activities show casing efforts of women to accelerate progress in sustainable development in Cameroon highlands. This session was marked by exchange of knowledge on conservation and livelihood. It engaged female students from state university in the discussions and encouraged them to be ambassadors among their peers.

In Oku, mothers visited the forest for forest monitoring. As farmers with farmlands around forest peripheries, mother can play a significant role on monitoring the health of forest and providing feedback for timely interventions by various stakeholders. During this special visit, emphasis were made on the role mothers in forest community can play in monitoring the health of the forest as they walk to their farmlands daily.

In Magba and Mayo Darle, discussions were held on the impact of the advancement of the Sahel that is introducing hot suns and harsh weather. This climate change impact affects everyone differently. Women spoke about the difficulties in farming in the hot season specifically related to scarcity of water. While they adopt indigenous survival methods in this changing climate they called out for support on irrigation systems to support crop production in the hot season.



11. COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY 2024

Environmental education is a regular activity at CAMGEW to build positive mindsets towards the environment and prepare environmental leaders with required knowledge that will foster conservation. World Environmental Education Day was commemorated on 26/01/2024 under the theme "The journey to a greener future".

This regular activity encourages forest communities to "watch the environment and promote gender equality". Discussing the journey to a greener pasture, 15 participants at the environmental education workshop held in commemoration of this day identified the need to mainstream environmental education in the school system in Cameroon as the way forward. The workshop ended with a call to action by the participants to advocate for mainstreaming environmental education in the education system in Cameroon.

C. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

➤ Organisation Development with Well Grounded

On 27 -28 July 2024, Well Grounded facilitated CAMGEW organisational analysis with the CAMGEW team in Bafoussam. Well Grounded and CAMGEW have been working together since 2014 on various issues from a first organisational analysis (or "OD" as CAMGEW called it), to strategic planning, stakeholder analysis, board governance, roles and responsibilities, to name some. The workshop had the following aims

- to analyse de current situation in terms of organisation development of CAMGEW
- To develop an OD action plan based on the organisational analysis to be used by CAMGEW to improve their internal organisation and to develop OD proposals to receive funding for its implementation
- To share information about the organisation between older and newer members of the team and agree together on their current situation and where they want to go.



The organizational analysis of CAMGEW demonstrated the growth dynamics of the CAMGEW team and the renewed confidence in Well Grounded to accompany them in this organisational growth. In addition to the exemplary leadership exhibited by the founders, it was encouraging to see a willingness amongst the team to embrace learning and continuous improvement, demonstrated through their active participation throughout the workshop.

CAMGEW has ambitious plans to continue expanding into new areas and work with more communities to conserve precious forest areas while improving on the livelihoods of these communities using these forests sustainably. She recognize the need to adapt their strategies and ways of collaborating with communities in accordance with the culture of each community as they move into new areas.

At the end of the workshop, CAMGEW expressed satisfaction with the results and a desire to continue working with Well Grounded on the implementation of the developed OD action plan. Well Grounded is prepared to support CAMGEW on their OD journey, in line with CAMGEW's decision-making process. Further OD support from Well Grounded will include the development of an OD proposal, based on the OD action plan, to be submitted to donors for financial support. Well Grounded accepted that CAMGEW should make a choice of one activity that she will fund.



➤ Improving CAMGEW Staff Reporting strategy

CAMGEW administration requires submission of daily activities by all employees at the end of every month. In previous years, employees have been confused on specifications and structure of these daily reports. This often

resulted to lack of required details on daily task from employees in their reports. In September 2024, staff daily reporting excel tool was developed. This template informs on the day of activity, the results, the statistics, the indicators, the challenges and way forward. This template embraces a result driven approach by all employees in their daily task. An automated financial sheets was also developed for all finance officers in all offices to promote better financial reporting leading to transparency and accountability. This staff reporting strategy clearly informs the administration on work load of all employees, over time duty for any employee and production capacity per employee. Daily reports of all are accessed at the end of every month with constructive comments addressed to the employee concerned. This strategy greatly improved staff output on a daily bases. With these reporting tool, 5 laptops your purchased and 1 desk top. This will enable the team to use the reporting tools, communicate by email and develop timely project proposals.

D. AWARDS

1. CAMGEW in 2024 was part of X-woman championing sustainable solutions in Africa and 25 most influential personality Award

On the 18th October 2024, WeForGood International unveiled the X-Women Championing Sustainable Solutions in Africa, a list that spotlights remarkable women at the forefront of environmental sustainability across the continent. Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki was amongst the 18 women recognized in 2024. WeForGood is a sustainable solution and impact design firm that brings people together to act on causes they care about. We work with change-makers in Africa to design measurable impact and tell change stories to inspire and connect people to the right opportunities for achieving a healthier planet. See more about this ward on the link [WeForGood International Unveils Women Championing Sustainable Solutions In Africa - National Wire](#).

The Hilltopvoices Communications Group Ltd unveiled the nominees for the 25 Most Influential Personalities within the Bamenda III Municipality 2023. The list, which comprises over 50 names, was released on Monday, March 11, 2024. Sevidzem Ernestine was one of the recognized 25 personalities for her role in conservation and women empowerment in Bamenda III, municipality in North West region of Cameroon.



2. Certificate of appreciation from Living Earth and Livelihood

On the 1st of January 2024, Director of CAMGEW and Women Empowerment Officer of CAMGEW received an award of appreciation from Living Earth and Livelihood (LELIV). This was an appreciation for their mentorship and coaching support for LELIV that has enable her to emerge as an impactful women led environmental grassroots organization in Cameroon.



Placement of girls in vocational training institutions

In June 2023, CAMGEW placed two teenage girls in vocational training institutions to learn skills in hairdressing and traditional embroidery. In 2024, these girls were supported with basic equipment upon their graduation. Nsai Blessing was supported in June 2024 with Hair Dryers, Make-up Artist box, Nails Dryers and other start-up materials. In December 2024, Nobertha Berinyuy was supported with Sewing Machine and other material for traditional embroidery. This activity was aimed at supporting girls to gain skills. They also received capacity building on entrepreneurship, leadership, building self-esteem and power of positive thinking in the course of their training.



Nsai Blessing supported by CAMGEW with Hair Dryers, Make-up Artist box, Nails Dryers and other start-up materials.

G. Girls Cradle 2024

In August 2023, CAMGEW started a Girls' leadership fellowship named "Girls Cradle". This program was initiated by CAMGEW Women Empowerment officer-Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. The trail phase unblocked girls' potentials and determination to grow and promoted their engagement in conservation work. This program was inspired from several request from parents for CAMGEW to engage their girls in life changing processes.



Girls' leadership fellowship named "Girls Cradle" complete their training

In August 2024, the second edition of this program was carried out with 30 teenage girls. The girls learned about the growth journey from the comfort zone to the growth zone, the power of positive thinking, menstrual hygiene and reproductive health and rights, girls right to education, promoting a sustainable environment and building self-esteem.



In the words of the one of the teenagers Augustina Abang “Girls Cradle have opened my mind to many things...through the growth journey, I realized that successful people need to build on who they are, unblock their talents and keep nourishing their potentials to make the best out of them.....I think every girl should be part of Girls Cradle”. Similarly, Serena Amaigouh said “my best part of this program was the focus game...at first I thought I could do it on my own but I failed. I then realized the power of working together with people who share your vision, it is importance of mindful about who your peers are, the power of remaining focus to my goals and the importance of knowledge... next year, I will inform my friends to attend this attend Girls Cradle in the next edition...am wondering if the next edition could take place village of origin, this will really be good for girls from my own community”.

From 2023 to 2024, 65 girls have been part of this leadership journey. CAMGEW hopes to make this journey and activity for girls during all summer holidays.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

Women Empowerment and Child development

- Continue with counseling services for Bamenda Highland Area community
- Train, organize 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 children as future leaders of our communities
- Promote child Protection in the Cameroon Highland forest area

Forest and Nature 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.
- Engaging local community Journalists in Cameroon Highland forest area on climate literacy programme
- Forest regeneration in Kilum-Ijimm= forest with 20.000 trees and restoration in other parts of Cameroon Highland forest with 10.000 trees
- Using indigenous knowledge and cultural practices to tackle climate change, bushfire, farmer-grazer conflicts and protect biodiversity.
- Using the social media to do environmental education
- Revitalising indigenous knowledge and cultural practices to have protected the Kilum-Ijim forest for generations

Agroecology Capacity building for farmers in Forest Communities:

- Developing an agroecological platform to connect farmers, cooperatives, farmers groups and stakeholders to learn, share and exchange on agroecological opportunities and challenges.
- 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.
- Restrategising on CAMGEW agroecological approach in the agroecological platform and agroecological demonstration plot.

- Capacity building on various agroecological opportunities for Cameroon Highland forest communities
- Continue the development of food value chain in Cameroon Highland forest area through supporting cooperatives with capacity building (networking, management, leadership and to become trainers-of-trainers), transformation skills infrastructure, materials and marketing

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 Honey shop

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

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

Sharing of Skills and Knowledge with other communities/institutions

- Continue sharing skills and knowledge on Honey Value Chain with like-minded or interested organizations nationwide and abroad.
- Making all information of CAMGEW accessible to public in either hard documents and/or online
- Building of local networks with other organizations and supporting them

Advocacy and Sharing of Knowledge and Skills

- CAMGEW Promotes Women's Ecological and Socioeconomic Rights.
- Bringing stakeholders to the table locally, nationally and internationally to make better decisions on forest issues, gender and women empowerment, agroecology (like farmer-grazer conflict, bushfire), child and youth development, climate change and biodiversity, etc
- CAMGEW mainstream gender in forest biodiversity conservation
- CAMGEW revitalize Communities' Indigenous Knowledge and Practices for forest conservation

Volunteering and Internships

- Give more opportunities for students/volunteers to work or carryout internships and research and Get into partnership with organizations and networks to get volunteers to improve on our work
- Helping young organization grow

Community development programme

- Rural community micro-finance to support microbusiness with capacity building, business plans, loans, coaching and mentorship
- Promoting community literacy to help community members in Cameroon Highland forest area participate in decision making and community development

Organizational development

- CAMGEW Institutional development on communication, staff development, resource management, definition of CAMGEW Vision, Mission, Objective and also shifting CAMGEW from project to programmes.

- Building capacities of forest institutions like FMIs, Cooperatives and others
- 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

2024 was an impactful and busy year at CAMGEW, with remarkable interventions on social, economic, ecological and cultural regeneration. As we strive to results and create impacts in Cameroon highlands, we also hope to emerge as an ideal organization in all dimensions. This will require more commitment in 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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 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=41UmIFAFaGU> 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://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 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/camgeews-biodiversity-yielding-fruits-and-gaining-recognition/			eco-community-efforts-	

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>