

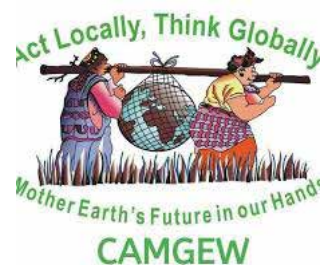
A smiling woman with dark skin, wearing a dark blue beanie and a brown patterned sweater, stands in a lush green forest. She is holding a large bundle of green leaves and sticks. The background is a dense forest with various green leaves.

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Impact report

CAMGEW

www.camgew.org





“Since 2007, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch has helped communities nourish and protect the land around them – putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development.

“In our country’s highland forest area, we empower local people to protect and restore biodiversity, and to make a sustainable living from it. These actions create a circle of positive change: when the forest brings people a better living, they have the resources and incentive to protect it.

“For many centuries, the forest has been at the heart of our communities’ identity. But the Indigenous knowledge and practices that maintain it are fast disappearing, just like the forest itself. So we work hand-in-hand with communities, particularly women and young people, to grow their skills and confidence.

“We use a holistic approach to deliver progress on eight of the world’s Sustainable Development Goals. Our tree planting sessions do not just restore the forest – they show local people the value of nature



protection. With support for beekeeping and the sustainable growing of herbal plants and crops, we raise incomes and also address gender inequality. And by empowering local co-operatives and management committees, as well as cultural leaders, we strengthen communities.

“Our work brings immediate benefits to people and nature – nurturing economic, social, ecological and cultural regeneration. We started our activities in and around the Kilum-Ijm Forest, but success has allowed us to expand across the Cameroon Highlands. And by protecting a global climate sink, our impact stretches around the world. If you would like to support or work with CAMGEW, please reach out to us.”

Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy Director
camgew@yahoo.com

Front Cover Nijoh Bernadine Yafe leads CAMGEW’s tree planting and other activities - from education sessions to livelihoods support - around the village of Oku. This includes co-ordinating training for the community. She’s proud to be a role model for local women.

Above left CAMGEW’s Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki shares knowledge with community members.

Above right Villager Ngum Ernest Nshom plants a tree in the forest.

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Regions of operation: North West, West and Adamaoua

Headquarters: Bamenda

2.6 million trees planted

10,000 people trained in agroforestry, sustainable livestock rearing and agro-ecology

10,000 people supported to earn an income through honey production, processing and marketing

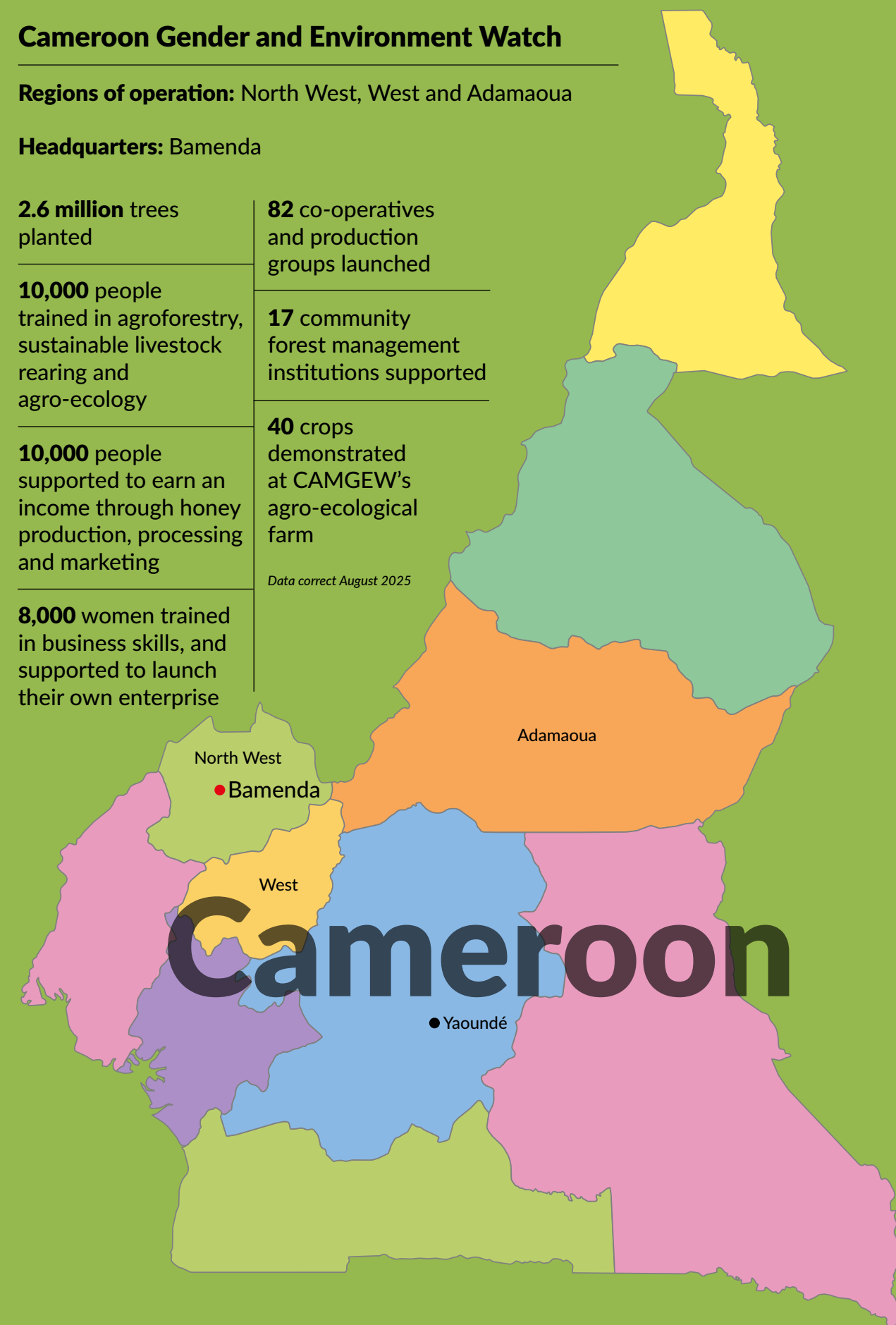
8,000 women trained in business skills, and supported to launch their own enterprise

82 co-operatives and production groups launched

17 community forest management institutions supported

40 crops demonstrated at CAMGEW’s agro-ecological farm

Data correct August 2025





Tree planting and protection

We support communities to protect and restore the forest around them. As well as absorbing carbon, a healthy forest brings many local benefits – such as sustainable incomes, protection from floods and landslides, and better access to water, nutritious food and natural medicine. Environmental education, tree planting events and forest patrols show people importance of caring for nature, and how they can do so.

Since 2012, we have helped communities plant more than 133,000 trees in our region's Kilum-Ijim forest. The mix of species planted supports the health of the forest and local livelihoods – one example is Croton Macrostachyus, which encourages bee colonies, that in turn help pollinate the forest. Others are endangered, such as the *Newtonia camerunensis*, only found in Cameroon.



Education and monitoring

Planting ceremonies are often cultural events, featuring messages from community leaders on the importance of the forest in the area's heritage, as well as singing and dancing. This strengthens people's attachment to the forest.

Communities learn about the forest ecosystem, and how to gather vegetables or create produce from the forest. They are shown how to harvest wood in a sustainable way, and the need to prevent bushfires and prevent damage by destructive livestock such as goats. Events are an opportunity for older people to share traditional knowledge - such as which plants have medicinal properties.

CAMGEW also works with communities, and traditional and government authorities, to monitor illegal activity and help authorities make better decisions about the forest's future. This includes organising patrols that identify issues such as encroachment of farmland into the forest.

Above left Community members with farm tools gifted by CAMGEW.

Above right Ngong John Njong assisting in the gathering tree saplings.

Opposite page Mbilufeyin Michael carries out tree planting in his community.



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Honey is money

For more than ten years, we have helped communities earn a living making honey and related products, such as soap and candles. Bees are an important source of sustainable income for local people, particularly women and those with little access to land.

Our support includes accessible training for communities – on making beehives, establishing and managing bee colonies, how to turn honey and wax into more valuable products, and how to market these products. We also provide equipment and materials, and help people organise themselves into co-operatives. Members work together to share equipment, create local insurance systems, sell collectively for healthier profits, and protect their beehives from bushfires and other threats.

Our REGAIN project has developed three co-operatives benefiting 4,350 people, 80% of whom are women. Our support included helping the co-operatives secure legal status, exchange knowledge, and pitch their products to large-scale buyers with reach across Cameroon.

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Our demonstration farm

Beyond beekeeping, our livelihoods training and support has helped people grow crops including mint, mangoes, tomatoes, peppers, coffee and cocoa – sometimes with plants coming from our own tree nursery. In 2022, we launched our demonstration farm and agro-ecology centre in the town of Ngounso. Our work at this 4-hectare site shows people how to grow and harvest more than 40 crops.

The support we give includes advice on organic farming techniques, such as natural irrigation and soil regeneration, and support for mixed crop cultivation and tree nursery development.

Crops at the centre include sunflower, soya beans, groundnut, plantains, fruits, and medicinal plants. We have also piloted snail farming – the molluscs are valued as a food and for use in the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries.

Above left Bafon Ransom Ndi standing beside his newly made hive.

Above right Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki with community members in the farm.

Opposite page Community member Soh Florence Jise plants a tree.





Inspiring change, resolving conflict

Helping communities understand the value of the forest – and how they can protect and restore it – safeguards its future. As well as carrying out education activities, we work to resolve tensions over land and resources.

In 2024 alone, our education sessions for children reached 1,050 young people. They learned about nature and how to love and protect it through creative, hands-on activities, such as tree planting. We have also arranged workshops and exchange visits for local leaders to discuss forest management, and developed awareness-raising strategies for bushfire prevention with local communities. Other sessions have shown people how to enjoy a better diet by harvesting vegetables from the forest – such as Fenyiak (Garden Egg), Nshem (Pumpkin leaves), and Nsaah (Wild huckleberry).

In our region, like so many around the world, land use can be a source of tension – particularly between crop farmers or harvesters, and those who graze animals. We bring different groups together with



traditional and government authorities to resolve conflict. One affected area is around the town of Mayo Darle, where climate change has increased competition for land. As well as supporting dialogue, we have shared organic fertiliser to improve crop yields.

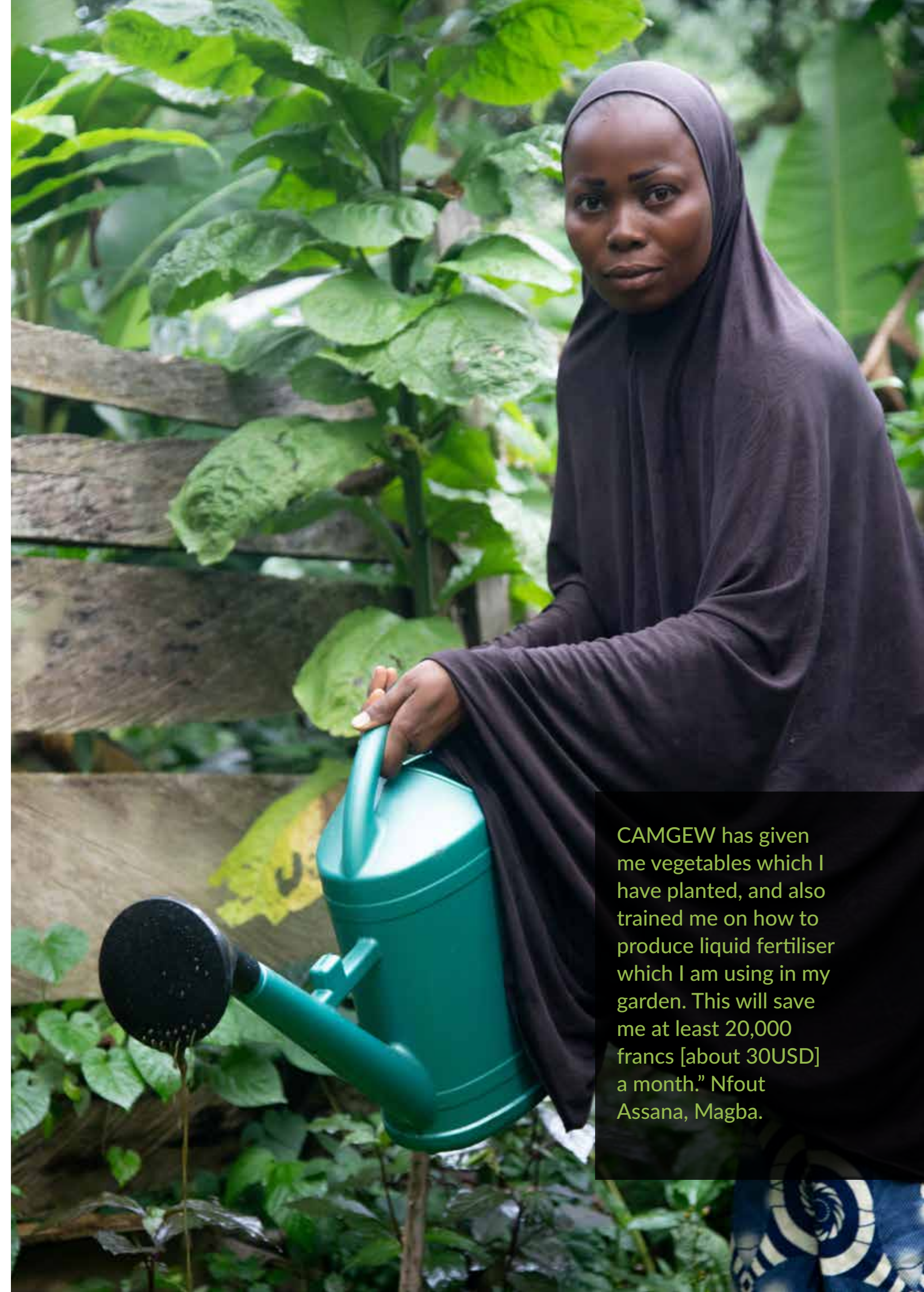
Growing gender equality

Our deep engagement with communities mean we can offer counselling and support to women and girls on gender-related challenges. This support can address land and resource rights, but also other issues such as gender-based violence or coping with stress and trauma. 385 people were supported in 2024. We also run a women's advocacy forum with 350 members, which links with national networks strengthening women's rights.

Girls Cradle is our leadership programme engaging teenagers in environmental issues and boosting their personal development. Participant Augustina Abang said: "Girls Cradle has opened my mind to many things... I realised that successful people need to build on who they are, unblock their talents and keep nourishing their potential."

Above left Zoulaitou Aweyene. receiving vegetable seedlings.

Above right Marie Louise Ghahka has used support from CAMGEW to increase food production – allowing her open her own cafe and shop in Magba, offering 'straight from the farm' organic produce.



CAMGEW has given me vegetables which I have planted, and also trained me on how to produce liquid fertiliser which I am using in my garden. This will save me at least 20,000 francs [about 30USD] a month." Nfout Assana, Magba.

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Sharing knowledge, nationally and globally

We are guided by the needs and priorities of local people – but recognise that many more communities in Cameroon and around the world face similar challenges. So we share our experience and solutions with others. This includes mentoring smaller civil society organisations.

In March 2024, our ‘knowledge and networking fair’ on conservation and women’s rights brought seven government ministries, and 50 civil society organisations from across Cameroon, to Bamenda. The event promoted innovation through workshops and training, and engaged policymakers on critical issues, with media coverage creating wider awareness.

In November 2024, we brought our voice to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. This included presence on a panel at a high-level event in the summit’s NDC Pavilion. The views of local organisations are rarely heard at global climate conferences, so we were delighted to explain the value of our work and the challenges we face. We have also engaged local film-makers to document the challenges our communities face.

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact camgew@yahoo.com

A women’s group supported by CAMGEW plant a symbolic tree.



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Prizes, partners and plans for the future

We are pleased to have won the trust and recognition of numerous international partners. Our award wins include the Midori Prize for Biodiversity, the UNDP Equator Prize, and The International Award for Innovative Ideas and Technologies in Agribusiness from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award.

Our many funders and development partners have included Agence française de développement, World Bank, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), One Earth, Jac Trust, New England Biolabs Foundation, UNDP and Well Grounded, Women Engage For a Common Future, and the Women Empowerment and Development Organisation.

However, we are confident that with backing from new funders our impact could be even greater – through the expansion of our programmes, or the development of a new CAMGEW agro-ecological centre. In particular, we welcome conversations about capacity building support, ensuring that our organisation is as resilient and effective as possible.



Livinus Vekouni is an internally displaced person, forced to leave his home in Mbiame. With tools and training from CAMGEW, he has developed a sustainable farming business in his new home of Magba. This helps him meet his family’s needs, including school fees for his children.

‘Helping communities understand the value of the forest – and how they can protect and restore it – safeguards its future.’

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

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