

**CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)**

Act Locally, Think Globally



Activity title:

**“Revision of the Emfve-Mii Community forest Simple
Management Plan”**

Date of Activity: 16th of October 2014

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Participants in the Revision of Emfve-mii Community Forest Simple Management Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) wishes to thank French Global Fund for Environment Small Initiative Programme (PPI-FFEM) of France for financial support. We also thank specially Thomas Bacha for his technical assistance and follow-up given to us in this project. CAMGEW acknowledges help given to her technically by MINFOF-Oku to revise this Forest Management Plan. The participation and contribution of the tradition and Oku council authorities in the revision process was also welcome. CAMGEW is also grateful to the Forest Management Institution(FMI) members for Emfve-mii Community Forest for joining her fully to make the revision process successful.

PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a non profit created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to solve environmental and women's problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in our hands and also that the planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development. CAMGEW seeks to achieve her objectives by liaising with other like minded organizations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in total respect of its constitution. CAMGEW has as vision "Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment and as mission to fight poverty; promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT AREA

Oku is found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The population is English speaking. Oku has the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m. The Oku Community Forest is the first community forest in Cameroon. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannerman's Tauraco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified by IUCN Redlist as endangered. Kilum Mountain with altitude 3011 meters is the second highest mountain in Cameroon, central and West Africa after Mount Cameroon. Honey from Oku Forest is white in colour and is commonly called Oku White Honey. It is cherished nationally. It is certified as a Geographical Indication Product. Oku has a rich culture. Carving is highly practiced in Oku. Oku is a touristic destination.

Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km² with 300km² covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km². The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine, rodents, wood for carving, bamboo which is used locally for construction and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in color.

This Emfve-mii Community Forest has a total surface area of 1217 hectares.

The Emfve-mii Community Forest has the following frontline villages that use this forest Ngvuinkei II, Manchok, Keyon and Ngashie and satellite villages or background villages of this community forest that are not too close to forest include Elak, Fekeng, Mbam, Mbancham, Kfum, and Nkwi. The community forest is made up of 13 compartments; Ebtangembvek, Ebkokenefem, Eygham, Ngehngé, Ngoksebeh, Ngahngah, Kembvekeh, Bamaahkoh, Mbokebal, Ngwakeven, Kenganemem, Mbokelang, Eyfum-kelum.

REVISION OF THE EMFVE-MII SIMPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The legal entity name of this community forest is Emfve-Mii forest Management Common Initiative Group. This entity was established on the 10 of May 2000. The frontline villages that use this forest are the villages of Ngvunkei II, Manchok, Keyon and Ngashie. Satellite villages or background villages of this community forest include Elak, Fekeng, Mbam, Mbancham, Kfum, and Nkwi. The community forest is made up of 13 compartments; Ebtangembvek, Ebkokenefem, Eygham, Ngehngge, Ngoksebeh, Ngahngah, Kembvekeh, Bamaahkoh, Mbokebal, Ngwakeven, Kenganemem, Mbokelang, Eyfum-kelum. This community forest has a total surface area of 1217 hectares.

CAMGEW has planted 17000 *Prunus africana* trees in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest at Compartments 3- Eygham, 4 - Ngehngge, and 5 – Ngoksebeh.

CAMGEW in executing the project titled "*Participatory Oku Community Forest Management through forest regeneration and apiculture for livelihood improvement*" with funds from the French IUCN small grant PPI-FFEM had to develop a management plan for the *Prunus africana* she had already planted in the forest. This was to ensure a sustainable management of these trees.

CAMGEW however had to revise the existing plan which the Emfve-Mii Community forest Common Initiative Group already had. The meeting for the revision of this plan was took place on the 16th of October 2014 in CAMGEW office in Manchok Oku. The meeting was attended by CAMGEW, the FMI committee members, the Chief of Forestry Post for Elak (MINFOF), the Oku Community Radio, the Elak Council and representatives from the Forces of Law and Order, the Traditional Authority and the divisional Office for Oku sub Division.

METHODOLOGY USED

The meeting started at 10:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm. This meeting was attended by 17 persons from CAMGEW, the FMI committee members, MINFOF, the Oku Community Radio, the Elak Council and representatives from the Forces of Law and Order (Genderm), the Traditional Authority and the Divisional Office for Oku sub Division. The old management plan was read and those activities that were considered by the FMI and others participants as good for revision were debated upon. CAMGEW used a participatory approach together with the participants.

Activities that were carried out in the forest, the problem associated to forest use and the solutions to these problems were identified by the participants. These solutions were to be applicable in the revised Simple Management Plan that will be drawn for 5 years.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MEETING

The following activities, problems and proposed solutions were identified by the participants in course of the meeting.

Identified activities carried out in Emfve-Mii Community Forest

→ Firewood fetching	→ Quarrying
→ Bee keeping	→ Farm encroachment
→ Rat trapping	→ Source of water
→ Harvesting of medicinal plants	→ Ecotourism
→ Tool handles production	→ Tree planting
→ Harvesting of Indian bamboos	→ Environmental Education
→ Mushroom collection	→ Seed collection
→ Collection of wild honey	→ Presence of exotic tree species in the forest
→ Rearing of goats and cattle in the forest	→ Collection of iron ore
→ Carving	→ Quarrying

Identified problems in Emfve-mii Community Forest

→ Felling of wet trees	→ Goats enter into water catchments and destroy the sources of community water
→ Destruction of young trees	→ Cutting of fresh trees for carving
→ Destruction of trees for fork sticks	→ Falling trees destroy younger tree
→ Bush fires arising from poor harvesting methods	→ Quarrying destroys vegetation and exposes the forest soil to erosion
→ Destruction of young and wet alpine bamboos for hive construction	→ The is encroachment which is against conservation
→ Destroy young trees while clearing to mount hives around apiaries	→ There is pollution caused by eco-tourists.
→ Over trapping	→ Felling of wet trees
→ Poor harvesting of medicinal plants	→ Destruction of young trees
→ cutting down trees to harvest wild honey	→ Destruction of trees for fork sticks
→ Goats eating young plants and vegetation	→ Bush fires arising from poor harvesting methods
→ Goats and cattle in the forest pound the soil and exposes the top soil to erosion	→ Destruction of young and wet alpine bamboos for hive construction

Proposed Solutions to unsustainable activities

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Patrols in the forests and homes of firewood fetchers→ Seizure of firewood→ Any tree cut defaulter will plant 20 or more native trees depending on the size of the tree per each tree cut.→ Any person found with wet firewood will plant 20 native trees→ Environmental education in schools, radio, churches, Manjong houses, etc.→ Firewood fetchers register in forest users' groups→ Defaulters of bushfires will have to plant between 100-200 native trees in the forest and do follow-up for years→ Do bee farming training on modern bee keeping→ Make available modern bee keeping equipment to farmers→ Fire tracing at the borders between the forest and farms.→ Promote agroforestry with the planting of species like Leucena, Acacia, Calliandra, raphia bamboos etc. in our farms to reduce pressure on forest resources for wood.→ Control and suspend rat trapping some seasons→ Control the harvesting of medicinal plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Form a joint stakeholder task force to catch goats from the forest→ Stop all quarry activities in the forest→ Secure external forest boundaries by knowing the farmers who farm around boundaries, reinforcing the boundaries with native trees, doing sensitisation, and regenerating the encroached area by planting 2 times the area encroached.→ Train eco-guards→ Plant more native trees in the forest→ Remove exotic trees species from forest→ Do training on nursery development and tree planting→ Nursery development→ Follow-up planted trees by weeding and replanting to replace dead ones→ Use socio-cultural activities like football matches, races and dances for sensitisation on forest issues→ Openly denounce through Oku Community Radio of defaulters and appreciation of good works.→ Do training on sustainable medicinal plant harvesting |
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Plan to conserve the forest through solutions to identified problems with a timeline and actor

N°	COMPARTMENT NAME	PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED	SOLUTION	WHO	WHEN
1	Ebtangembvek	Bushfires Goats	Fire tracing sensitisation Removal of animals Patrol Training on bee farming Sanction of defaulters Sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
2	Ebkokenefem	Bushfires Presence of exotic trees Goats	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Sanction of defaulters Tree planting Patrols Training on bee farming sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
3	Eygham	Bushfires Firewood fetching Over trapping Goats Exotic species	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Control of over hunting Sanction of defaulters Fire tracing Patrols Follow-up of planted trees Training on bee farming sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
4	Ngehngé	Bush fires Firewood fetching Over trapping Quarrying Goats	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Control of over hunting Fire tracing	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019

		Exotic tree species Medicinal plan harvesting	Sanction of defaulters Patrols Follow-up of planted trees Training on bee farming Training on medicinal plant harvesting sensitisation		
5	Ngoksebeh	Bush fires Firewood fetching Over trapping Goats Exotic tree species Medicinal plan harvesting	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Control of over hunting Sanction of defaulters Fire tracing Patrols Follow-up of planted trees sensitisation Weeding Training on bee farming Training on medicinal plant harvesting	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
6	Ngahngah	Bush fires Firewood fetching Over trapping Goats Exotic tree species Medicinal plan harvesting	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Control of over hunting Fire tracing Patrols Training on bee farming Prunus inventory Sanction of defaulters Training on medicinal plant harvesting sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019

7	Kembvekeh	Goats Over trapping Bushfires Exotic species Firewood fetching Medicinal plants pollution	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Control of over hunting Fire tracing Patrols Sanction of defaulters Training on medicinal plant harvesting Training on bee farming Prunus inventory sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
8	Bamaahkoh	Goats Over trapping Bushfires Exotic species Firewood fetching Medicinal plants Pollution Wet bamboo exploitation Carving of tools	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Sanction of defaulters Control of over hunting Fire tracing Patrols Training on bee farming Prunus inventory Training on medicinal plant harvesting sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
9	Mbokebal	Goats Bushfires Over rat trapping	Fire tracing Removal of goats Sanction of defaulters Control over hunting Training on bee farming sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, MINEPIA, TA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
10	Ngwakemven	Goats Over rat trapping	Removal f goats Control over hunting	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers'	2015-2019

		Bush fires Exotic trees	Patrols Sanction of defaulters Removal of exotic tree species Training on bee farming sensitisation	Union	
11	Kenganemem	Goats Over rat trapping Bush fires Wet bamboo harvesting	Removal of goats Control over hunting Patrols Prunus inventory Training on bee farming Sensitisation Sanction of defaulters	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, TA, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
12	Mbokelang	Goats and cattle Exotic trees Pollution bushfires	Removal of goats Removal of exotic trees species Tree planting Prunus inventory Patrols and training of eco-guards Sanction of defaulters Training on bee farming sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019
13	Eyfumkelum	Goats and cattle Bushfires	Removal of goats and cattle Patrols Sanction of defaulters Training on bee farming sensitisation	FMI, COUNCIL, MINFOF, MINEPIA, CAMGEW, Grazers' Union	2015-2019

CHALLENGES

- The participants identified the problem of finance for the execution of the activities in the forest such as the removal of exotic trees and the removal of goats. They said doing bee farming training is also expensive and the FMIs do not have funds for these activities.
- The greatest challenge in the revision was the issue of Prunus harvesting which CAMGEW Director said there was need to do inventory on the quantity of Prunus in the forest before thinking of exploitation in the long run but emphasized that CAMGEW is focusing more on forest regeneration and not exploitation.

CONCLUSION

The workshop for the revision of the management plan started at 10 am and ended at 4 pm. This meeting, attended by 17 participants from CAMGEW, MINFOF, Administration, the Traditional Authority, the FMI committee members, representatives of Law and Order, the Oku Community Radio and the Elak Municipal Council was a success with full participation of all members. The meeting held in very peaceful atmosphere. The participants agreed that CAMGEW administration will type and add the changes agreed upon to the existing management plan and give to the FMI Committee members and other stakeholders for review before the final copy is produced.





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WORKSHOP TO REVISE THE SIMPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF EMFVE-MII COMMUNITY FOREST IN OKU OF KILUM FOREST

October 16th 2014

ATTENDANCE LIST

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	Mankoh John Tobi	Emfve Mii	740247724	
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	Ngek Eveline Bonje	Emfve Mii Community Forest	73669969	
	Makong Augustine Chongwan	Emfve Mii Community Forest	78565756	
	Joho Yong	Emfve Mii Community Forest	51029828	
	NKESI WILFRED	Emfve Mii Community Forest	91326578	
	ESSOH ENONG MAZARIN	Forestry Chief of Post - Oku	74908740	
	EKWELE NGONG FERDINAND	staff PLS - OKU	72971111	
	CHATEL KINICOT C. CASTRO	Council Development Officer	75931213	
	Mboh Samuel (Fai Ngumngum)	Emfve - Mii	73055995	
	Ngum Jai Raymond	CAMGEW	72446348	
	KARSIS Emmanuel BINYUY	CAMGEW	75184310	
	Takoh Terence Ngum	Council Officer	94768943	

