

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



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PREFACE

Making the world a better place for the present and future generation is a global concern that CAMGEW is tackling through local action. Increasing access to skill building opportunities helps fight poverty and unemployment. Environmental, social and economic sustainability is the way forward to end climate change, food, economic and energy crisis. We have been unable to change these crises situations so we are challenged to change ourselves. CAMGEW works hard to be the change that she wants to see in the world and in order to do this; she has resolved to promote team spirit locally, nationally and internationally. Recognition of work done locally, nationally and internationally brings about innovation and creativity. CAMGEW has learned in this line while working in the field. CAMGEW's work was recognized by World Bank and His Royal Highness the Fon (king) of Oku in 2013. We have learned to be leaders that create more leaders than followers to change the world.

CAMGEW worked in 2013 to keep the earth alive through forest regeneration; increase food production through agroforestry and apiculture; creation of opportunities for youths, single mothers and less privilege to build their skills through Vocational Training Centre and creation of partnerships locally, nationally and internationally.

In 2013, CAMGEW achieved much, planting 10.000 native trees in the Oku Community Forest; training 98 persons in bee farming; constructing and sharing 115 bee hives to trained persons and training groups on agroforestry techniques; running a Vocational Training Centre (with workshops in barbing, hair dressing, shoe making and dress making) and promoting environmental education. CAMGEW realized this because she set goals with a plan and deadlines. CAMGEW has decided to build the capacity of Cameroonians both young and old by training them on how to fish than to give them fish. Men are only as good as their technical development allows them to be said George Orwell.

We are grateful to the following partners that made it possible for us to do this work: French Global Fund for Environment-IUCN through PPI-FFEM, New England Biolabs Foundation-USA, Stichting OOK-Netherlands, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Ideal Wild-USA and Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands and Both ENDS-Netherlands for financial and material support. We are grateful to the Divisional and Regional Delegations of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training in Kumbo and Bamenda respectively for their technical support to CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre. We are also grateful to these personalities for supporting our work in 2013: Divisional Officer-Oku, His Royal Highness - the Fon of Oku and other traditional Authorities, the President of Oku Cultural and Development Association (OCDA); the Sub Divisional Delegate of MINEPIA-Oku; the Manager of Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS) and other CBO'S like OREP, SOPISDEW, Oku community Radio, City Community Radio-Kumbo, Bui Community Radio and all other persons/institutions who assisted directly not mentioned for their assistance.

This 2013 report, presents what CAMGEW achieved, the challenges she encountered and her expectations from planned activities in 2014. For exhaustive information about our activities, we gladly refer you to our website; www.camgew.com, and when you visit our website, feel free to contact us with your criticisms, suggestions, and support to any posted projects and request to be a volunteer for any of our activities. Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other as John Fitzgerald Kennedy said. CAMGEW is also ready to liaise with like-minded organisations worldwide to meet her set objectives and to prepare a favourable environment for this to happen, CAMGEW has resolved to function according to her core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in respect of its constitution. All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual as Albert Einstein said.

WIRSIY Emmanuel BINYUY (MSc.)

CAMGEW Coordinator

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAMGEW – Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

CBOs – Community Based Organizations

FFEM – French Global Fund for Environment

GEF – Global Environment Facility

GPS – Geographical Positioning System

IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature

MINEPIA – Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries

MINEFOP – Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training

MINFOF – Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

NEBF – New England Biolabs Foundation

OCDA – Oku Cultural and Development Association

OHCS – Oku Honey Cooperative Society

OREP – Oku Reserve Protection

PPI-FFEM – Small-Scale Initiatives Program of Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial (FFEM)

SOPISEW – the Society for the Promotion of Initiatives in Sustainable Development and Welfare

VTC – Vocational Training Centre

1.0 PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a nonprofit created in 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to tackle environmental and gender issues 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 like-minded organizations worldwide. She has resolved to function according to core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in 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.

2.0 CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CAMGEW through sustainable agriculture programme in schools in Oku has train children on sustainable agriculture. CAMGEW has been working with 9 schools owned by Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist and Government after selecting their schools from those that applied for the school programme. Crops that have been cultivated are carrots, huckleberry, garlic, onions and tomatoes. Schools made these choices based on the crops suitability to their school soil. This project has as objective to give children the opportunity to learn-by-doing in practicing integrated organic agriculture. Carrying out sustainable agriculture instill in children the spirit to grow up and take agriculture as a profession. The farm products are sold and money raised is used to buy school didactic materials. This has been important because Oku is a poor area and schools lack basic school needs. Children mostly end school after the primary level and remain unemployed. Promoting self-reliant activities in this rural area helps fight poverty and sustain the environment. Through activities of seed collection, seed nursery, tree planting, soil tillage, crop cultivation, weeding, harvesting, crop preservation and agribusiness children developed skills in food production chain. This project helps children learn how to water crops during dry season, the process of germination and pollination, Seed dispersal, bushfires or slash-and-burn for agriculture and its problems; pesticides and its impacts on agriculture, ecosystems and human health; importance of mixed farming and crop rotation; trees that are not good in the farm like Eucalyptus trees because of its high affinity for water and roots system; process of photosynthesis; types of crops and benefits of zero-grazing/cut-and-carry systems.



Children learn-by-doing in school farms



Children learn-by-doing in school farms

CAMGEW also executed a project titled **“Engaging local people in the management of Kilum community forest for improved livelihoods”** funded by Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands and administered by Both ENDS-Netherlands. This project included field lessons with children and youths in the Oku Community Forest where they received lessons on the importance of the forest, problems that plague the forest, how these problems could be solved and how every community members can participate in its management and regeneration. Youths and children also had class lessons on forest issues and made visits to various institutions that depend on the forest to provide service to the public, fight poverty and unemployment. Visits were made to Oku Honey Cooperative Society to learn about bee farming, honey process and honey marketing. Children and youths received training on bee farming. Students and youths visited the Oku water catchment in the forest and learn how water is collected from the forest, channeled to water treatment tank and the process of water treatment and distribution to the Oku community. Students and children were then allowed to produce drawings, sketches, poems, reports, essays, conversation, etc on Oku Community Forest. Their works raised Oku Community Forest problems and solutions. The best articles were selected and a booklet was produced from it. Students and pupils received prizes in form of books and writing materials for the best articles. These articles in this booklet are very interesting and educative. We encourage community members and other children and youths to read.

CAMGEW is proud that teachers of primary and secondary schools were part of these activities. The knowledge and skills teachers got will improve on the way they will offer biology, environmental education, geography and nature studies lessons.



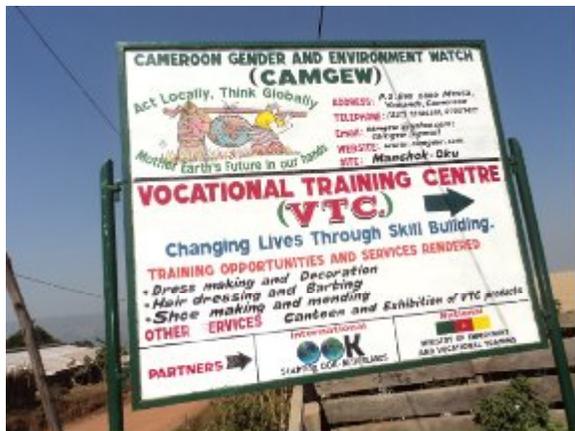
Environmental education in the forest

3.0 CAMGEW-VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC)

CAMGEW-VTC went operational in January 2013. CAMGEW-VTC is well furnished and trains youths (especially school drop outs), graduates from school, single mothers, less privilege persons and children to become useful to the community. Children who suffered from child trafficking have also been given the opportunity to learn a trade. CAMGEW-VTC has the following training workshops:

- Shoe making and mending and
- Dress making and decoration for men and women
- Hair dressing,
- Barbing,

CAMGEW-VTC is involved in training; service provision; and sales of products and materials in line with services rendered. Sensitization of communities has been going on to increase student enrolment in the centre and get more customers. We are working hard to make the CAMGEW-VTC self-reliant. The Centre now has 25 students. The approval of CAMGEW-VTC is ongoing in the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP).



CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC) Presentation

The 18th May 2013 was the CAMGEW-VTC Open-Door-Day. This day had as objective to make known the services rendered by CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC) to the public especially youths. CAMGEW-VTC created awareness on the training opportunities offered to the public and services rendered. The young, the old; and the traditional and administrative authorities participated in the event. Three local musicians animated during the event. The musicians were youths. CAMGEW discovered many talents in youths who interpreted music while dancing. The administrative authority cut the ribbon inaugurating the CAMGEW-VTC while there was continues display by the musicians, the VTC trainers continued working in their various workshops and members of the public visited them and asked questions. The Oku Community Radio was present and did coverage and this event has been rebroadcasted many times over the radio for sensitization. The students of the VTC who were all uniformly dressed amazed everyone when they came up with a welcome song and made some speeches. All of us were happy because they believed much in the training that CAMGEW-VTC offered and the VTC itself. CAMGEW received many promises from the public. CAMGEW-VTC appealed for support from those who attended the event, to help students with no means to support the running of the VTC. Funds raised during this event helped pay fees for 4 students partially.



VTC students' presentation



Some of VTC staff



Youths animating



Oku Divisional Officer inaugurate VTC

National Day was celebrated by CAMGEW team on the 20th May 2013. CAMGEW-VTC took part in the Cameroon National Day celebration through match pass and demonstration. Her intention was to show her patriotism to her fatherland and use the match pass to advertise the services and products of the VTC to the public. To participate, CAMGEW prepared some sign posts with the names of various CAMGEW-VTC training workshops and other activities carried out by CAMGEW. The students and teachers matched in their uniforms. CAMGEW-VTC's match pass was demonstrative. The trainers and students matched with items that they produced on their hands. There were shoes, uniforms for elementary schools and the hair dressing department carried along to prepared hair products and tools. Our match pass attracted much attention and we were proud.



National Day celebrations

4.0 BEE FARMING TRAINING

CAMGEW trained 98 persons from groups and institutions in 3 villages (Mboh, Kevu and Mbockenghas) of Oku on bee farming. A total of 3 training workshops were organized. The trainings involved bee farming theory lessons; beehive construction and mounting; honey harvesting; honey processing and networking among farmers. Each person trained, received a beehive from CAMGEW. A total of 17 women were trained. To encourage women in bee farming, CAMGEW gave women participants' two beehives instead of one received by men. Women were encouraged in bee farming because honey harvesting is done by two persons and has been considered a men activity. Men always hire a second person to do honey harvesting and this reduces honey revenue for the family and if women could participate, a couple could do the honey harvesting and will not need to hire another person. This will increase family income and alleviate poverty. CAMGEW decided to give the beehives to persons and groups to colonize because of the many challenges she faced to colonize beehives for trained persons. She colonized many hives in one position and the hives suffered from bushfires and the cost of taking care of hives was high. Individuals or groups could better take care of their hives than CAMGEW because they will be learning in the process. They will know their hives and manage it themselves. CAMGEW decided to move to the hinterlands like Mboh, Kevu and Mbockenghas to do training because of high transport cost involved in bringing participants to Elak (central Oku), the risk involved and the poor communication that makes it difficult to communicate with persons from these areas. CAMGEW also wanted to meet the farmers on the ground and train them while learning too from their skills and experiences. CAMGEW learned much on bee farming from indigenous knowledge and has integrated this knowledge in training offered to other communities to improve bee farming.

Ownership of hives by people in Oku pushes them to avoid bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as source of income. Bee farming gives community members a source of livelihood from the sale of honey and makes them see the importance to protect the forest. Oku White Honey has already been certified as a Geographical Indication Product by African Intellectual Property Right Organization and it is hoped that the market for this honey will be increased and secured.



Bee farming lessons



Beehives to distribute to trained groups



Beehives to distribute to trained groups



Honey harvesting practical training

5.0 FOREST REGENERATION PROGRAMME

CAMGEW received grants from the Cameroon Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF) and French Global Fund for Environment through the small grant PPI-FFEM of French IUCN to regenerate the Oku Community Forest in July 2013 with 3000 trees and 6000 trees of *Prunus africana* respectively. This project had as objectives to plant this native forest tree in the Oku Community Forest at Emfvu-Mii compartment. Funds from French Global Fund for Environment were used to execute a project titled “Participatory Oku Community Forest Management through forest regeneration and apiculture for livelihood improvement”. The choice of planting *Prunus africana* was made for forest regeneration because it is native tree specie of the Oku Community Forest, it is watershed friendly, it is bee loving, medicinal and income generating as it is used in pharmaceuticals to produce treatment for prostate cancer. The MINFOF had as objectives to regenerate the Oku Community Forest and to sensitize communities about environmental issues in this Forest. The French Global Fund for Environment objectives was to promote apiculture in the Oku Community Forest, to promote the regeneration of this Forest and finally to sensitize communities on environmental issues link to this Forest.

Considering that the participation of forest communities in forest management is part of forest governance, CAMGEW through these projects engaged local people to participate in the forest regeneration activities. The participation of the community in tree planting was intended to make them avoid the destruction of the forest through bush fires, ownership of domestic animals like goats in the forest and the cutting of fresh trees for firewood from the forest. Environmental education was done during the tree planting activities and this happened in schools, on sites of regeneration, in communities and through Oku Community Radio. A participatory approach was used in the execution of this project. This involved MINFOF, MINEPIA, administrative and traditional authorities, the media, various community based organizations like SOPISDEW, OREP, GROUP SUSA and community members. CAMGEW ended up planting 3416 trees under the MINFOF project and 6600 trees under French Global Fund for Environment project. CAMGEW was shocked, after realizing that some of the 3416 seedlings of *Prunus* planted under MINFOF project in the forest were being eaten by domestic goats kept by community members in the forest. CAMGEW did an evaluation of the damaged trees with the Chief of Forestry for MINFOF - Oku and discovered that about 1062 seedlings were totally eaten or destroyed by goats in the forest. CAMGEW together with MINFOF-Oku organized to catch the goats with the participation of community members. 6 goats were caught and carried to the Oku Council. A radio programme was organized in this line for sensitization of community members to remove their goats from the forest. Some community members had to remove their goats from the area where tree planting was carried. CAMGEW had to replace the 1062 destroyed trees in the forest with the technical assistance of MINFOF-Oku. This was additional work and expenditure that was not previewed with received funds. CAMGEW covered this extra cost. All planted trees are doing well now. Considering that these trees produce white flowers that produce Oku White Honey, bee farmers in Oku with their cooperatives participated fully in tree planting. Oku White Honey has been certified as a Geographical Indication Product and it is hoped that the market for this honey will be increased and secured.

Ownership of hives by people in Oku pushes them to avoid bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as source of income.



Men ready for clearing



Women transport seedlings to the forest

Tree Planting Crowning Ceremony: CAMGEW ended the tree planting activities for 2013 forest generation with a crowning ceremony on 28th August 2013. 10.016 trees were planted in the forest in 2013 with funds from French Global Fund for Environment (PPI-FFEM) and Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. 7000 trees planted in 2012 with funds from World Bank were also followed-up. This ceremony was attended by the Divisional Officer for Oku Sub Division, MINFOF-Oku, the local authorities; Heads of services and community based organizations in Oku, Oku Community Forest stakeholders, traditional Authorities, the Oku Community Radio, and City Community Radio-Kumbo. The occasion started at 9:00 AM. By 9:30 AM speeches were made by the various forest stakeholders and the Divisional Officer.

The purpose of the crowning ceremony was to make known the work done by CAMGEW on forest regeneration to the community leaders and to sensitize the community members on the importance of conserving the forest for the benefit of the community. The community members were made to understand that trees planted in the forest were threatened by goats living in the forest and that the owners needed to remove them.



Symbolic tree planting by Forest stakeholders in Oku

A welcome speech was made by CAMGEW Director, Wirsy Emmanuel with much focus on the problems linked to the forest that needed to be solved especially stray goats in the forest that pose a threat to planted trees and

forest regeneration. The forest stakeholders were given the opportunity to talk to the community as regards forest regeneration and conservation. Speeches came from the following: The Chief of post for Forestry MINFOF-Oku, the representative of His Royal Highness -the Fon of Oku, the home branch President of OCDA, the Coordinator of SOPISDEW and the Director of CAMGEW. Here are excerpts of speeches made:

- The representative of the Fon of Oku, Shufai Ndifon Soom who doubled as OREP President called on the community to preserve the forest and reiterated the position of the forest in their tradition. He said there is need to conserve the forest for posterity. He also said, there are traditional sanctions for forest defaulters because the Oku tradition cannot accept the forest to disappear.
- The OCDA, Oku President on behalf of the community called on all to understand that the people in Oku depend directly on the Oku Community forest and its many resources to promote development. He said, the culture of Oku also depend on the forest and there is need to protect the forest because forest services goes beyond Oku. He asked all persons keeping goats in the forest to remove them.
- The Chief of Forest Post (MINFOF) in Oku called on all the grazers to remove their goats from the forest. He said any goat found in the forest will be caught and the owner will pay for any damage caused by the animal. He also said there were still illegal exploiters of *Prunus africana* in Oku despite the ban passed by ministerial order in 2007. He called on the community members to be very vigilant. He said any person caught trafficking *Prunus* will answer in court. He reiterated on the penalties for forest defaulters violating forest laws pointing out that imprisonment ranges from 6 months to 5 years and fines goes up to 5000000 FCFA.
- The Coordinator of SOPISDEW called on all the youths to be vigilant and report those destroying the forest to the authorities. He called on youths to develop the spirit to be lovers of the forest in order to protect it for future generation. He also called on every forest user to protect the trees planted.
- To crown the speeches, the Divisional Officer (Government Administrator) for Oku said that the law will prevail and that Cameroon is a state of law. He went further to say that any person found guilty of any offense was going to answer before a court of justice. He called on each and everyone in the Oku community to jealously preserve the forest. He thanked CAMGEW for her initiatives aimed at preserving and regenerating the Oku Community Forest.

The occasion ended with symbolic planting of 4 *Prunus africana* tree seedlings by various stakeholders as follows: Divisional Officer for Oku accompanied by all stakeholders, the community women and all stakeholders, the community youths and OCDA with the traditional authorities. This was aimed at encouraging every community member to participate in forest regeneration and conservation. This symbolic tree planting exercise was facilitated technically by the Chief of Post for Forestry (MINFOF) -Oku and the Conservator of the Plant Life Sanctuary-Oku present in the forest to mark the end of the regenerating activities for 2013. Journalists from Kumbo City Radio, Bui Community Radio and Oku Community Radio covered the event. The occasion ended at 2:30 PM. This crowning ceremony marked the end of CAMGEW's 2013 tree planting season.

6.0 TREE NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW in January 2013 developed a nursery with 10.000 native forest trees (*Prunus africana*) in Oku to regenerate the Oku Community forest in 2013. CAMGEW had another nursery in Kumbo with 9.000 native forest trees (*Prunus africana*). More than 10.000 trees were selected from these nurseries and planted in the Oku forest. CAMGEW started developing another nursery of 11.000 trees in December 2013 in Oku in preparation for forest regeneration in 2014 when funds are raised.

7.0 PERSONNEL CAPACITY BUILDING

WIRSIY Emmanuel Binyuy, an environmentalist working in Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) attended a capacity building course under Global Environment Summer Academy (GESA) of Global Diversity Foundation in the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern, Switzerland. GESA takes place annually to broaden and deepen the knowledge, networking and communication of postgraduates and midterm professionals. This program was aimed at promoting peer-to-peer learning for emerging change makers and involved 18 young people from different countries and different backgrounds. Young students and professionals from around the world were trained to be future environmental leaders in academics, civil society organizations, private sector and government institutions. This was a rich course that developed our critical thinking minds in promoting equity, social justice and ecological sustainability. GESA spanned local to global scales and diverse ecosystems, exploring the most critical contemporary environmental issues from multiple perspectives including bio-cultural diversity, environmental history, political ecology, sustainability studies and personal activism.

The course took place from the 27th July to 18th August 2013. Wirsiy had support from New England Biolabs Foundation (NEBF) to cover his air transport, local cost for visa application and part of living expenses in Switzerland worth US\$ 1800. Emmanuel also received support from Global Diversity Foundation to cover living expenses, tuition and accommodation cost for the course. Emmanuel and the CAMGEW team are very grateful to NEBF and Global Diversity Foundation for giving them the opportunity to build his capacity and that of CAMGEW. This knowledge and skills obtained will be used to serve humanity and protect our mother-earth for ourselves and posterity.

Njine Pamela who worked with CAMGEW was sent to Japan in the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) by our organization to build her skills on leadership, sustainable agriculture and rural development from March to December 2013. She is back and is serving her community-Oku. CAMGEW is grateful to the Asian Rural Institute that trained her and institutions that supported her financially to attend this course.

JAI Raymond Ngum and Kelese Eric under CAMGEW attended a 3 day training in Yaounde-Cameroon from the 22rd to 25th July 2013 on project development and management sponsored by French Global Fund for Environment and IUCN-Cameroon. This training was aimed at giving them skills to better develop and execute projects especially that funded by French Global Fund for Environment under IUCN-Cameroon.

CAMGEW Vocational Training Centre capacity building

Technical and financial support from our partner: Our partner, Stichting OOK has been supporting us in capacity building to improve on our management skills of the CAMGEW- Vocational Training Centre (VTC) from conception of the project in 2012. This capacity building has been going on every month end after we submit monthly activity and financial reports. OOK reads the reports and discuss with us difficulties and successes from the reports and we jointly seek for the way forward. It has always been on these bases that new activities for the centre project are determined and new monthly objectives and expected outcome are set. This follow-up has made CAMGEW-VTC stronger and other CAMGEW projects have benefited from this capacity building. We are grateful to OOK.

Technical support from Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP): The Kumbo Delegation of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP) has also supported CAMGEW-VTC technically in 2013 to offer better training to students. MINEFOP organizes regular training sessions on record keeping, reporting, examinations, fund raising, etc. CAMGEW is also grateful to the Kumbo Delegation of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training for the continuous technical support.

8.0 METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

CAMGEW used these methods in 2013 to inform, sensitize, educate and share experiences with communities: Oku Community Radio, Helenchris Radio-Kumbo and Bui Community Radio - Kumbo; **posters** on tree planting and Vocational Training Centre were developed; **brochures** on VTC and forest projects were produced; **success story booklets** of projects were produced; CAMGEW website and other websites and newspapers publications were used. Training workshops, open-door-days and social group visits for sensitization were used to inform and share information and knowledge. Events like National and Youth days celebration were used for sensitization and demonstration. Field visits in the Oku Community Forest for forest education have been organized for students of CAMGEW-VTC, Government Secondary School-Mboh in Oku, Catholic Youths of Elak Parish in Oku, Government Bilingual High School-Tolon in Oku, Secondary School-Nkwen in Bamenda, High School-Elak in Oku, Saint Pual Comprehensive High School Bamenda and others.

9.0 CAMGEW RECEIVES EQUIPMENT FROM IDEAL WILD-USA

CAMGEW received support in form of equipment from Ideal Wild -an organization based in the USA. These equipment included digital camera, computer, projector and GPS. The equipment finally arrived CAMGEW safely from the USA. CAMGEW is very grateful for this donation that has been helping her serve the community better.

10.0 EVENTS

Youth empowerment event

CAMGEW in partnership with Oku Delegation of Ministry of Youths-Cameroon and the Oku Council organized a youth event on Saturday 27th October 2013 in Oku. This event had as objectives to promote self employment, volunteerism, and leadership amongst youths. Presentations were made on these topics by representatives from the Oku Council on volunteerism, senior staff from Government Technical High School- Oku on youth and leadership, Oku District Hospital on health, Tah Kenneth on youth and partnership and CAMGEW on Youths and Oku Community Forest. There was exhibition from local training enterprises like car maintenance, Dress making, shoe making, etc. The attendance and active participation of youths made us happy to make this a yearly event.

World Bank project evaluation

CAMGEW received the World Bank evaluation team in May 2013 that came to evaluate the World Bank funded Forest governance project in Oku Community Forest. This project started in January 2012 and ended in December 2012. The evaluation lasted for 3 days. CAMGEW got this project after winning the Development Market Place Competition organized by the World Bank. The project CAMGEW submitted in July 2011 was titled 'Oku Community Forest Management for Benefit Sharing'. The execution ended in December 2012. The project nursed and planted 7000 trees in the Oku Community forest. This project also trained 157 persons from groups (especially women groups) and schools on bee farming, provided them with 200 colonized beehives at subsidized rates. Considering that the participation of forest community in forest management is part of forest governance, CAMGEW through this project engaged local people to own beehives in the forest after receiving training for them to better manage their forest. Ownership of hives by people in Oku pushes them to avoid bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as source of income.

The evaluation team visited the forest to see planted trees and the mounted hives in the forest. The team also interviewed project beneficiaries like trained bee farmers, those who took part in tree planting and community leaders. The team interviewed CAMGEW project staff and verified project records and reports. The team left satisfied through comments they made. About 1112 trees planted under the World Bank project had died during the year. Some of these trees were either destroyed by goats in the forest or must have died naturally.



World Bank Project Evaluators visit CAMGEW forest regeneration project

World Bank Governance event

The World Bank organized an event on 29th October 2013 to end the 15 governance projects that they funded in Cameroon. The results of these projects were presented to the public in Hilton Hotel-Yaounde Cameroon. This event brought together all the 15 projects that won the competition in July 2011. CAMGEW project that she presented was title 'Oku Community Forest for benefit sharing' and involved activities on bee farming and tree planting in the forest using participatory approach. Members of the public visited the various stands to see results of project findings. The World Bank issued letters of recommendations and certificates of recognition to all winners. Governance lessons were presented by project winners to the public with examples from their field findings for replication and expansion.



CAMGEW Director receives Certificate of Recognition from World Bank Cameroon Country Director

French Global Fund for Environment and Global Environment Facility (GEF) event

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme and Small Scale Project Initiative of French Global Fund for Environment (PPI-FFEM) organized an exchange event that could be called Development Market Place event. This event brought together more than 40 organizations from all parts of Cameroon. These organizations had projects funded by GEF and PPI-FFEM with the aim of fighting poverty and creating employment. This event took place at the Chambers of Agriculture-Yaoundé, Cameroon from 16th to 18th December 2013. The event involved exhibitions, exchange ideas among organisations, marketing of forest and environmental products and conferences on various thematic areas like protected forest. CAMGEW created new contacts, partnerships and learned much from the skills of others.

Workshop on dialogue among stakeholders in the energy sector in Cameroon

CAMGEW attended this workshop on dialogue among stakeholders in the energy sector in Cameroon at Hilton Hotel, Yaoundé on the 4th December 2013. The workshop had as objective to look at possibilities of ameliorating energy access at affordable cost and how renewable energy could be promoted to be efficient. There was dialogue between stakeholders to improve on energy policy and engage non government stakeholders in energy development through access to information. The workshop ended with a declaration and recommendations to improve on the energy sector in Cameroon. The workshop was organized by Ministry of water and Energy, Cameroon Energy Sector Regulation Agency (ARSEL), Practical Action, Alliance for Rural Electrification and European Union Initiative for Energy.

Workshop on Oku Community Forest Management Strategies For Livelihoods

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) organised a workshop on the Oku Community Forest Management Strategies for Livelihoods on Friday 25th October 2013 at CAMGEW office in Oku. This workshop was organised with funds from Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands and the funds were administered by Both ENDS. This project plan had as objective to come up with a multi-stakeholder platform that will work on forest management strategies in Oku community forest. This was done by identifying forest stakeholders to be invited to develop these management strategies in a form of workshop. During the workshop a description of the relation between ecology and livelihoods was done. This was done in a hierarchy of livelihoods and resulted in a plan to develop these livelihoods.

To develop this plan, CAMGEW started with literature review and field interviews with resource person to get useful information to prepare for the workshop. CAMGEW had also identified forest stakeholders to be invited for the workshop. Some local resource persons were invited to join CAMGEW staff facilitate the workshop. Resource persons included representatives of Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in Oku from Kevu and Elak, the manager of Oku Honey Cooperative Society and the traditional authority. All participants identified problems existing in the forest, livelihood opportunities offered by the forest, problems affecting these livelihood opportunities in the forest, how these livelihood opportunities could be improved and how to engage community members participate in the management of the forest. The workshop started from 8 am in the morning and ended at 6 pm in the evening. Three break periods were provided to participants. The following livelihoods from the forest were identified in order of importance: Bee farming, *Prunus africana* for income generation, firewood and Indian bamboo fetching, hunting rats, ecotourism, medicine (tradition), food (vegetable, mushrooms), carving, minerals (iron ore) and musical Instrument (xylophone, flutes, trumpets, etc). The workshop participants then went on to identified forest problems linked to these livelihoods and the actions to resolve problems. The timeline, stakeholders involved, methods used and beneficiaries were identified.



Participants in the workshop on Oku Community Forest Management Strategies for Livelihoods

11.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

- **Forest regeneration:** CAMGEW will continue the regeneration of the Kilum Mountain Forest by working in many community forests like Upper Shinga and Bihkov forest compartment.
- **Nursery development:** Develop a nursery of 10.000 native trees to be planted in the Kilum Mountain Forest
- **Promote apiculture in Noni and Kilum communities:** CAMGEW will continue bee farming training in Kilum Mountain forest communities and will include Din - Noni in the programme. Women groups will be highly encouraged. CAMGEW will construct hives to donate to trained groups and persons.
- **CAMGEW Vocational Training Centre:** CAMGEW will continue with vocational training and will work to develop a market for produced items while increasing the enrolment of students. CAMGEW will continue to work to get CAMGEW-VTC approval by Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. More sensitization will be done.
- **Open-Door-Day for VTC:** CAMGEW will organize an Open-door-day event for fund raising in the CAMGEW-VTC to support VTC poor students and CAMGEW-VTC running cost
- **Recycle vehicle tyres:** CAMGEW will recycle used car tyres to school shoes for children. This will be aimed at fighting poverty and training young Cameroonians on shoe production to get employment.
- **Agroforestry project:** CAMGEW will work with community groups in Oku and Noni to develop agroforestry systems in the farms to increase soil fertility, conserve the soil, adapt to climate change and reduce dependency on chemical fertilizer.
- CAMGEW will provide technical support to schools in Oku and Noni on agroforestry and handiwork.
- **Scholarships:** CAMGEW will provide scholarships (books, fees and/or uniforms) for the less privilege children and prizes of excellence to best children and most improved ones.
- **Demonstration farm:** CAMGEW will develop an animal demonstration farm. This farm will help CAMGEW raise funds to improve on the functioning of CAMGEW-VTC.
- **Food advocacy project:** CAMGEW hopes to carryout advocacy to influence cultural and traditional policies that affect food production in Bui Division.

- **Biogas technology Development project:** CAMGEW will be working with communities that own cattle in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon to develop biogas systems for cooking energy and biofertilizer to be used for vegetable gardening for these communities especially bororo communities.
- **Radio programme:** CAMGEW will run radio programmes for sensitization, information and education.
- **Environmental education:** CAMGEW will continue with environmental sensitization in forest communities through Oku Community Radio, schools and social groups on forest issues and on the need to stop the use of plastics. CAMGEW will support the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development in the fight against the use of plastics through sensitization of the population on the need to stop the use of plastics and present alternatives to plastics.
- **Personnel training:** CAMGEW will invest some time to train personnel on computer techniques, information management, advocacy, communication skills and leadership.
- **Forest studies:** CAMGEW needs to carryout various studies and research to improve on sources of livelihoods of communities in the Kilum-Ijim forest like studies on the quantity of honey and wax produce around Kilum-Ijim forest and project its future production; prepare a management plan for Prunus africana in areas she has planted in the forest; carryout research on the trees that flowers in the forest in the rainy season when many bees leave forest hives perhaps because of lack of floors; carryout research on what causes bees to leave hives; determine the rate of beehive colonization in various colonization sites and in the forest; etc. CAMGEW will need funds to do this work.

12.0 CHALLENGES

- **CAMGEW-VTC:** Our Vocational Training Centre needs to be self reliant. Our partners for this project will be leaving us in March 2014 after supporting us in buying VTC equipment and material and financially supporting the running of the VTC for 13 months. We thank Stichting OOK for helping us. We still need support to become self reliant in training students and functioning. CAMGEW-VTC need more sensitization to get more students. We also need to work to increase the number of customers. CAMGEW-VTC will welcome support in any form from any person of good will or organization.
- **Training materials for CAMGEW-VTC:** The VTC needs material to train students. The students lack material for training on variety of fashions.
- **Forest platform:** There is need to create a forest multi-stakeholder platform to promote dialogue among all forest stakeholders for a better management of Oku Community Forest.
- **Bee farmers' support:** Many bee farmers that we work with lack appropriate bee farming equipment. These equipment and materials are used for honey harvesting like bee suits, harvesting containers, knives, bee smokers, Boats, gloves, etc. CAMGEW will need to assist trained persons on Oku White Honey production by providing them with these equipment and materials at a subsidize cost. CAMGEW need support to run this activity.
- **Agroforestry project:** CAMGEW hope to expand her agroforestry programme to other areas of Oku and extend to Noni to improve soil fertility and conserve the soil.
- **School project:** CAMGEW has been running school farm project in some few schools in Oku for 3 years. Children have been learning how to carryout farming by doing in this programme. Money raised from this programme has helped to support schools fight poverty. CAMGEW is interested to expand this programme to other schools in Oku and Noni.
- **Scholarship scheme:** Many students and children are vulnerable or orphans needs support to pay for their education by buying books, clothes, feeding and paying fees. Competition needs to be promoted in schools. For CAMGEW to do this as she did in the past she needs your support.

- **Transport means:** CAMGEW needs a strong vehicle for transportation like a TOYOTA Hilux to better serve the community without human resource wastage. CAMGEW spends much money in hiring strong vehicles to access all villages where she works. Many a times, we are late for programmed activities because of lateness of hired vehicle arrival.
- **Volunteers:** CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help her better serve the communities and transfer their knowledge to the staffs. CAMGEW needs to develop her skill in fund raising, project development and organizational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment;
- **Personnel training:** CAMGEW has a young staff that needs more skills, experience and knowledge to function better and make things work. These staff's capacity needs to be improved in domains like computer skills, information management, communication skills, networking, etc.
- **More environmental education:** This will tackle the unsustainable harvesting of forest resources like firewood fetching through fresh wood and over hunting.
- **Office running:** CAMGEW need to cover her office running cost. Many projects executed by CAMGEW cover a small portion of running cost and some parts of the running cost are not covered. Getting support for CAMGEW running cost will help improve CAMGEW's functioning.
- **Equipment support:** CAMGEW has problems functioning well because of these items that are absent: 2 camera, 2 computers(1 laptop and 1 desktop) and 1 printer.
- **Need new partners:** CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active to promote gender equality and equity especially a project on micro-credit scheme for women.

CONCLUSION

CAMGEW looks forward to a successful year in 2014. CAMGEW wishes all her partners, would be partners collaborators, staff, board members, well wishers and beneficiaries a successful 2014 year. She invites everyone to join her to work for a sustainable environment and improved livelihood for all people.