

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH
(CAMGEW)

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

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PREFACE

Our world needs creative and innovative actions to make it a better place for all its occupants. The environment needs to be kept healthy for mankind to be healthy. Poverty, hunger and unemployment have stood as major challenges to mankind. The economic, environmental, political and social conditions are not making things better. We have talked about North-South partnership to make things better for the developing countries and we have also promoted south-south cooperation too but things are not changing positively as expected. Our continent- Africa has a lot of natural resources but these natural resources have not been able to help Africans get decent jobs, put food on their tables, meet other daily needs and invest in the future. There is much disparity between the rich and the poor, the able and the disable, the people in power and those being ruled, the land owners and those in need of land, etc. How do we develop an inclusive strategy that will make everyone belonging to the society? We just hope that as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been developed to replace the expired MDGs things will be getting better globally.

CAMGEW while looking forward to the SDGs to solve these problems has also decided to participate to make this a reality. We have been working with peasant women to change their lives by training them on business skills and giving them loans; training Kilum-Ijim forest members on apiculture and agroforestry; regenerating and conserving their forest; and protecting the rights and interest of their women and girls through improved nutrition, health and legal marriage. CAMGEW has helped to develop the value chain of their honey called Oku White Honey through organization of bee farmers to cooperatives, providing them with equipment, capacity building and converting their honey and bees wax to money. Our aim has been to create jobs, organize them, create a secured and inclusive society with solidarity as insurance, protect the forest, increase quantity and quality honey/wax and develop a market for their products. CAMGEW feels she is succeeding in this process but needs ideas, support and contributions from others to fasten this success and take part to make SDGs achieved.

The forest can be protected better if the local people find value in the forest. The more people get involved in apiculture and make a living from the forest the more the security of the forest is guaranteed from rampant bushfire, deforestation and encroachment.

CAMGEW is doing this through her local action but also thinking globally. She is worried if everyone globally can be concerned about these questions.

*How can we make everyone, every company, every business, every organisation and every government factor-in the care for environment in their policies and actions?

*How can we promote every businessman, company, organization and government depending on natural resources to work genuinely in improving livelihoods of poor communities and vulnerable people?

*How can climate change be made a concern for all with everyone searching solutions through action?

*How can we bring all stakeholders to the table to discuss these issues that affect our people and our environment to get lasting solutions?

We want to see our country Cameroon emerge by 2035 and we therefore call on all to come together as one to realize this vision.

CAMGEW thank the following major partners and others for working with her in 2016: MIVA Switzerland, Both ENDS -Netherlands, French IUCN, Future in Our Hands-UK, Plant a Tree in Africa – UK, Swisshand-Switzerland, Man & Nature-France, Mane-France, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)-UK, Well Grounded, New England Biolabs Foundation –USA, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, BERUDA, Oku Honey Cooperative Society, Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry(MINEPIA)

We look forward to a positive 2017 year.

WIRSIY EMMANUEL BINUY (CAMGEW Director)

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

CAMGEW is a not-for-profit organization created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for a solution to environmental and women's 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 the hands of men and women, young and old and also that this planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development.

Taking in to consideration the numerous environmental and gender problems encountered in the world at large, and recognizing that solutions to these problems can only come through concerted action from all concerned persons and citizen organizations, CAMGEW is an initiative in this direction.

Considering that the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the 55th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations places environment and gender issues amongst important international concerns, CAMGEW seeks to serve as a means to fill any gaps in Cameroon towards the realization of these cherished goals of protecting the environment and enhancing gender equality.

Considering that environment and gender issues are problems that exists worldwide and requires global or local solutions, CAMGEW hereby adopts the principle of equal but differentiated responsibilities in looking for solutions to environmental and gender problems at the local level.

CAMGEW seeks to achieve its objectives based on its credo of Think Globally and Act Locally by liaising with other like minded organizations worldwide. CAMGEW therefore resolves to function according to its core values of honesty, engagement and dedication in total respect of its constitution.

CAMGEW's Vision: A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices.

CAMGEW's Mission Statement: 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 Kilum-Ijim forest area.

CAMGEW's Global OBJECTIVE: An inclusive and sustainably managed Kilum-Ijim 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 Kilum-Ijim Forest.
- Eco-business operators in Kilum-Ijim 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 the Kilum-Ijim area are empowered and participate in forest management and community development.
- CAMGEW will have developed projects and seek funds to handle challenges in the Kilum-Ijim area and develop a good system to manage funds.
- CAMGEW will work with like-minded organisations and people to share knowledge, experiences on forest local governance issues and learn from them.

Area of Action: Kilum-Ijim Forest and environs.

Opportunities: Consultancy on Bee farming trainings, Agroforestry and Forest regeneration.

Using of honey bi-products for the production of other products like wax, candles, and soaps.

Target GROUPS: Forest users, Less privileged children and Peasant women.

What we offer: Agroforestry training, Bee farming training, Nursery development, Child development, Forest regeneration, Micro-credit schemes for women and Environmental education

SECTION 2

KILUM-IJIM FOREST REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A) FOREST REGENERATION ACTIVITIES

Forest regeneration is an important activity with a global interest. The Kilum-Ijim Forest has a vital role to play in climate change mitigation. Considering that 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-Ijim forest is to support government's policy for forest regeneration and the United Nation's policy to fight against climate change.

CAMGEW is interested in forest regeneration to promote apiculture, increase carbon sequestration, protect watershed, promote ecotourism, increase income from forest resources like Prunus and keep nature for future generation.

B) NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

Nursery development is a fundamental aspect of forest regeneration and environmental education. CAMGEW has developed 3 tree nurseries located in three sites in Oku (Manchok, Mbockenghas and Ikal). These three nurseries have a capacity of more than 200.000 trees. The trees in the nurseries included: *Prunus africana*, *Carapas grandifolia*, *Pittosporium veridiflorium*, *Zysigium staundtii*, *Solanecio mannii*, *Croton macrotachyst*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Newtonia camerunensis*, *Psydrax dunlapii*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Psychotria penducularis* and some agroforestry trees like *Acacia*, *Leuceana*, etc. All these trees are native trees of Kilum-Ijim forest. These trees in the nurseries were labelled with scientific names, local names and their uses to promote learning on the type of forest trees.

There are also non-native or exotic trees in CAMGEW nurseries like *Mysopsis* and fruit trees like Tree tomatoes that are nursed. They are nursed to distribute to community members to plant in their farms for food or timber. CAMGEW will like to reduce the effect of eucalyptus in the forest and in community watersheds by planting environmentally friendly trees like *Mysopsis* in farms to replace eucalyptus.

CAMGEW nurseries served as:

- Learning grounds for children, schools and community members on nursery development, types of forest trees, importance of forest regeneration, etc. Children and youths learn-by-doing in the nursery on nursery development.
- Sites where trees are nursed and planted in the forest

These nurseries are fenced with live and dead fences. They are watered and shaded in the dry season. Weeding is done regularly. Seed gathering is done together with community members and children during forest visits and education.



Community youths participate in the development of bare root nursery in the Mbockenghas tree nursery and the Ikal tree nursery.



CAMGEW develop potted tree nursery at Ikal .

C) TREE PLANTING EXERCISE

FOREST REGENERATION THROUGH TREE PLANTING

CAMGEW has been carrying out forest conservation activities like nursery development with native forest trees, tree planting, taking care of planted trees, carrying out forest patrols, forest education and monitoring activities. Between 2012 and 2015 CAMGEW planted 43.500 trees in the Nchiyy and Emfve-Mii forest of Oku Community forest at Kilum. In 2015, CAMGEW planted 23.500 trees in Bikov, Ajung, Akeh, Emfve-Mii and Nchiyy Community forests of Kilum-Ijim forest. In 2016, CAMGEW planted 5900 trees in the Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin Community Forest, Proposed Mbessa Community Forest and Kedjem-Mawes Community Forest. CAMGEW replanted trees that were burnt in 2016 at the Akeh and Bikov community forest. The funds from the French Global Fund for Environment meant for planted trees maintenance were used to replace dead trees in the Bikov, Nchiyy and Emfve-Mii Community Forests. More than 100.000 seeds of *Prunus africana* were also distributed to Forest Management Institutions around the Kilum Ijim Forest like Ajung, Akeh, Mbessa and Bihkov Community Forests for nursing and also planting directly in the forest. These seeds were planted in those portions of the forest that were burnt by bush fires in February 2016. CAMGEW from 17th May to 7th July 2016 carried out forest tree planting activities in the Kilum - Ijim Forest at Bikov, Ajung, Akeh, Emfve-Mii, the Kejem-

Mawes, Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin, proposed Mbessa Community Forest, and Nchiyy Community Forests. These activities included planning meeting for the identification of the sites to be regenerated (this was done by FMI members), the clearing of paths for tree planting, digging of holes, pecking, carrying of trees to the forest and planting in the various Community Forests. Seedlings were planted 5m apart. The plastics from tree pots in case of potted trees were removed from the forest to keep the forest natural.

D) PLANT TREES IN BAFOUSSAM:

CAMGEW also planted over 500 trees in the construction site of GLORES rehabilitation centre in Bafoussam with funds from Plant a Tree in Africa to create a friendly environment for handicap children on treatment. CAMGEW planted trees like: *Prunus africana*, *Pittosporium*, ornamental palms, shade trees, fruit trees like mangoes, Plums and oranges in the centre.



Variety of trees planted at GLORES site and CAMGEW team Leader-Wirsiy Emmanuel planting an Avocado fruit tree.



CAMGEW engages talks with indigenous Mbororo on the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim Forest for posterity



Community youths take part in tree planting in the Kilum Forest.

CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012-2016 in Kilum-Ijim Forest

Year	Number of trees planted	Funding institution	Type of tree planted	Community forest (CF)
2012	7000	World Bank	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	6600	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	3400	MINOF- (Government) Cameroon	Prunus Africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2014	3000	Koning School through Both-ENDS-Netherlands	Variety of bee loving forest native trees	Nchiyy CF - Oku
2015	3100	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Akeh CF - Ijim forest
2015	4500	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana	Bikov CF - Kilum
2015	6000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana (3500) Native forest trees (2500)	Ajung CF - Ijim forest
2015	6000	Future In Our Hands - UK, Plant a Tree in Africa -UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Emfve-mii CF
2015	6000	Rufford Small Grants - UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Nchiyy CF - Oku
2016	1500	CAMGEW Initiative	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Bikov Community Forest
2016	3300	New England Biolabs Foundation/CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Kedjem-Mawes
2016	3000	CAMGEW/ PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Emfve-mii CF
2016	1100	Bees for Development - UK /CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Mbessa Proposed Community Forest
2016	1500	Bees for Development - UK /CAMGEW	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Yang-Tinifoinmbi-Muloin Community Forest
2016	4500	CAMGEW/ PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Varieties of Bee loving trees	Nchiyy Community Forest

Grand Total Number of trees planted by CAMGEW: **60500 trees**

Types of trees planted: Prunus africana, Syzygium, Croton, Psydrax dunlapii, Carapas grandifolia, Schefflera abyssinica, Pittosporium mannii, Maesa lanceolata, Bersama abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria pendularis, and the endangered Newtonia camerunensis in the forest.



Kejem-Mawes and Mluoin community children plants trees and says they will like to see the tree in 20 years.

E) FOREST REGENERATION THROUGH VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

CAMGEW with Nchiyy and Emfve-Mii Community forest members cut branches of trees that grow by vegetative propagation like Schefflera abyssinica, fig tree and Solanecio mannii to plant in the forest. About 800 stems of Schefflera and 300 Solanecio mannii were planted in Nchiyy and Emfve-Mii Community forests. CAMGEW planted these trees through vegetative propagation using tree stems in areas where there are fern plants. It has been difficult for regeneration to occur in areas with fern plants but easier to do so through vegetative propagation. Planting stems of trees for vegetative propagation promote fast growth and helps fight fern plants. Once the trees grow above the ferns the fern plants die. The stems planted were above the fern and its fast growth attracts birds and rodents that rest on them. The animals' excrete seeds of trees eaten in some areas and the seeds germinate and form biodiversed vegetation. Regeneration by vegetative propagation has low success rate because the dry season arrives when the root systems developed by the stems is still weak. The dry season is hard and the sun hit hard on the ground evaporating all water close to the root systems causing the stems to die and dry. Some successes have been recorded since CAMGEW started this type of regeneration three years ago. It cost less to do this and we will continue experimenting on the right time to plant and the method of planting.



Community youths cutting, transporting and propagating Schefflera abyssinica in Nchiyy forest

F) MONITORING OF FOREST AND PLANTED TREES

Monitoring of planted trees and the forest has been on regular basis. On daily basis by community members who report to CAMGEW team. On weekly bases, CAMGEW team go to the forest to follow-up forest regeneration activities (both natural and by man). Forest users enter the forest on daily basis either for firewood fetching, animal trapping, harvesting of bamboo, harvesting herbs, harvesting vegetables and bee farming. These people work in collaboration with CAMGEW team and report every irregularity in the forest. It is for this reason that CAMGEW prefer to use forest users to maintain the trees planted so that they continue to see CAMGEW as their partner and know that the forest belongs to them. CAMGEW report irregular activities to the local authorities and thus allows justice to take its course.



CAMGEW staffs on routine check monitor planted trees and check forest boundary lines marked with Prunus africana trees. The circumferences are measured by staff.

G) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CAMGEW did environmental education for children, youths and adults around the Kilum-Ijim forest. This was done in schools, community radios, community groups, local football competition and holiday classes. Community radios used were Oku Community Radio, Kumbo City Radio, Bui Community Radio and Boyo Community Radio.

Children, students and community learned-by-doing in the Kilum-Ijim forest area. They learned how to develop a tree nursery, collect tree seeds from the Kilum-Ijim forest, nurse tree seeds, water nursed trees, weed them, plant the trees in the forest and take care of planted trees. The trees in the nursery were labeled with scientific names, local names and their uses. Students, children and teachers could be seen around our nurseries in our absence with pens and books learning on their own. Teachers of schools have been using the nurseries to gather knowledge to share with children. CAMGEW organized forest visits for schools, students and community members to learn about the types of trees, their uses, their flowering period, their growth rate, etc. Some schools visited our nurseries like Government Secondary School – Tankiy and Government Primary School – Mbockenghas. The radio audience is vast. Environmental education was done with more than 2000

children. We tackle problems like bushfire, deforestation, farm encroachment into the forest, hunting, etc.

Our aim of doing environmental education was to build children to be future nature lovers and change present behaviours of adults that degrade the forest and make them nature friendly. Man should no longer consider himself a conqueror of nature but part of the mother-earth.



Forest and Nursery Education for the Mbororo close to Ijim Forest and students respectively.



School children receive booklets on environmental education. The booklet was produced with articles written by the children



Community youths learning-by-doing in CAMGEW nurseries

H) ENDANGERED SPECIES OF KILUM-IJIM FOREST

Newtonia camerunensis is native tree species of Kilum-Ijim forest that is listed in the IUCN Redlist as Endangered. There are very few of this tree specie existing in the wild. It is only known to be in Kilum-Ijim forest area and parts of Dom Community forest in the North West Region of Cameroon. It is difficult to nurse and added to this it grows very slowly. CAMGEW has tried to nurse this tree species and has more than 1000 seedlings ready for planting.



Newtonia camerunensis is native tree species of Kilum-Ijim forest that is listed in the IUCN Red list as Endangered.

I) RESTITUTION AND REVISION WORKSHOP OF THE SIMPLE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AKEH COMMUNITY OF THE KILUM-IJIM MOUNTAIN FOREST

The meeting was held on 14th October 2016 with persons attending. The participants came from CAMGEW, the FMI committee members, the Fundong Council and representatives of the Traditional Authority. CAMGEW worked on the management plan with Akeh FMI members in an earlier close workshop and partitioned various task in the plan as assignment for research to be presented during the workshop day. This was done and on the restitution workshop day where the old management plan was presented and those activities that were considered by the FMI and others participants as good for revision were debated upon. 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. The findings from assignment were presented and this helped to add facts to the debate. The new management plan was developed to be executed for the next 5 years and CAMGEW and some FMI members were assigned to make the necessary adjustment in the plan before getting the final copy. CAMGEW used a participatory approach to revise the management plan.



Participants in the Revision of Akeh Community Forest Simple Management Plan

I) FOREST BUSHFIRE

CAMGEW lost over 10000 trees she had planted to 2 bush fires that occurred in March 2016. These fires were caused by farmers involved in slash-and-burn activities in their farms. The farmer involved in the bushfire was known in Bikov and the community has been engaged in handling the crisis. In Akeh and Ajung community forest the person who set the fire was not known. The 4500 and 2000 out of the 6000 trees planted in Bikov and Ajung Community Forests' respectively were burnt by fires caused by farmers.



CAMGEW team in the Bikov Community Forest to evaluate and access the destruction caused by the bush fires in 2016

K) CAMGEW FIGHTS BUSHFIRE IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

CAMGEW produced 25 signposts with messages to fight bushfires and posted them around the forest as dry season arrives. The sign post were put at the Kilum-Ijim forest peripheries around Oku, Jakiri, Belo, Njinikom and Fundong SubDivisions. Some of our present/future partners working on landscape project feasibility visited us when we were about visiting the forest to post some and we jointly did it. We handed those of Bikov Community Forest during their monthly plateform meeting in Tashem at Jakiri SubDivision for posting.



Handing of forest signpost to forest communities and nailing them on forest peripheries to tackle bushfire

L) CAMGEW FOREST SUCCESS

1. CAMGEW has been able to plant 60.500 trees in the Kilum-Ijim forest involving the 3 tribes (Nso, Oku and Kom) and 2 Divisions (Bui and Boyo) in the exercise. The planting involved all stakeholders participating. This has been a great success to CAMGEW.
2. CAMGEW has been using a participatory approach in tree planting and this has increased community solidarity. Community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of Kilum-Ijim forest and the need to protect it. CAMGEW made community members feel that the tree planting was done by them by empowering Forest Management Institutions (FMI's) in Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov community forests to do the regeneration. CAMGEW played a supervisory role in the process.
3. Through sensitization in Community Radios, many people changed their mentalities. Some people have removed goats from the forest. Community members especially those who took part in the regeneration process are now patrollers as they monitor the trees that they planted with CAMGEW's supervision. Some have been doing monitoring without knowing. Some tell us after visiting the forest that trees are doing well or need weeding.

SECTION 3

BEE FARMING OR APICULTURE IN KILUM-IJIM FOREST

A) INTRODUCTION

Bee farming is an important activity in the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim forest. CAMGEW has used it to conserve this forest, improve on the livelihood of forest people and make available the honey (Oku White Honey) and bees wax produced to urban areas and internationally. CAMGEW has done this through training to engage more people in bee farming, donation of beehives to trained persons as start-up points, organization of bee farmers to cooperatives and creation of honeyshop to sale honey, bees wax and other forest products.

Increasing the number of bee farmers in the forest helps to protect the forest from bushfire that is a big threat to forest conservation and its biodiversity. When many forest community members own beehives in the forest the chances of having bushfire in the forest reduces and should bushfire occur many persons will be available to put off the fire with the interest of protecting their beehives. Another threat that plague forest communities is poverty and unemployment despite the rich available forest natural resources. Developing the value chain for apiculture through honey production, processing and marketing create jobs and bring income that tackle poverty. Through bee farming activities many Kilum-Ijim forest members now have jobs and increase income.

B) ORGANISATION OF KILUM-IJIM BEE FARMERS TO VILLAGE GROUPS, SECTIONS AND COOPERATIVES

CAMGEW has been working in Kilum-Ijim forest since 2011. She is involved in apiculture and forest regeneration. CAMGEW has trained on bee farming and provided them with beehives to engage in apiculture. There exists only one bee farming cooperative in Kilum-Ijim forest that deals with Oku White Honey. This cooperative is located in Oku and can only serve some bee farmers. Oku White Honey must be drained within 24 hours using draining system that function on gravity but some areas of the forest are further away from Oku with difficult topography thus a need for other cooperatives to serve bee farmers; get quantitative and qualitative honey; and reduce their distance. CAMGEW while working around the forest saw that many bee farmers out of Oku produce Oku White Honey but the quality and quantity is poor. This is affecting the marketing of their products. They lack skills in harvesting, draining, packaging, storage and marketing. CAMGEW decided to solve these problems by organizing them into Oku White Honey cooperatives and support them with bee farming materials. This organization will facilitate training, value chain development and increase honey quality and quantity for better marketing respecting timely delivery to buyers and consumers. CAMGEW decided to organized bee farmers into these proposed cooperatives. For CAMGEW to carry out this organisation, she did mobilization of farmers. The first phase started in forest communities of Bikov on the 18th and 19th December 2015. The second phase took place between the 4th and the

7th January 2016 in the forest communities of Belo, Njinikom and Fundong. These communities were Tumuku, chauku, Elimighon, Sowi, Juabum, Anjin, Aboh, Ntum, Djichami and AFUA Belo, Mulion and yang in Njinikom and mutteff, Abuh, Liakom and Mboh in Fundong.

PROPOSED NAMES OF THE COOPERATIVES

Names	Villages	Location Of Cooperative	Sub-Divisional Location	Division
Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative	Ajung, Akeh, Mbessa	Akeh	Fundong	Boyo
Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Mutteff, Abuh, Laikom and Mboh	Mutteff	Fundong	Boyo
Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative	Vekovi, Mvem, Kai, Ntur	Vekovi	Jakiri	Bui
Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative	Tumuku, Chuaku, Elimighon, Sowi, Juabum, Anjin, Aboh, Ntum, Djichami and Afua	Tumuku	Belo	Boyo
Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative	Muloin and Yang	Muloin	Njinikom	Boyo

In December 2015, CAMGEW carried out elections at the village level to organized bee farmers into village bee farmers' groups in Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative and Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative. Elections in other villages and cooperatives continued in 2016.

Summary: Organisation of Bee Farmers to Village Groups, Sections and Cooperatives in 2015

Date	Village	No. Participants	Cooperative
21-12-2015	Vekovi	24	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative
21-12-2015	Ntur	9	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative
22-12-2015	Mvem	26	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative
22-12-2015	Kai	31	Bihkov Oku White Honey Cooperative
28-12-2015	Mbessa	24	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative
28-12-2015	Akeh	26	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative
30-12-2015	Ajung	27	Atumukui Oku White Honey Cooperative

Summary: Organisation of Bee Farmers to Village Groups, Sections and Cooperatives in 2016

Date	Village	No. Participants	Cooperative
08-01-2016	Mutteff	21	Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
08-01-2016	Abuh	15	Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
08-01-2016	Laikom	12	Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
09-01-2016	Mboh	26	Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
09-01-2016	Tumuku	32	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
11-01-2016	Sowi	22	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
11-01-2016	Aboh	25	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
12-01-2016	Afua	20	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
13-01-2016	Muloin	22	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative
13-01-2016	Yang	17	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative
TOTAL BEE FARMERS		212	

Summary organisation of section into cooperatives

Date	Village	No. Participants	Cooperative
24-01-2016	Akeh	15 Representative	Atumikui Oku White Honey Cooperative
25-01-2016	Vekovi	20 Representative	Bikov Oku White Honey Cooperative
28-01-2016	Mutteff	20 Representative	Abasakom Oku White Honey Cooperative
29-01-2016	Muloin	10 Representative	Njinikom Oku White Honey Cooperative
30-01-2016	Tumuku	20 Representative	Belo Oku White Honey Cooperative
TOTAL BEE COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE		85 REPRESENTATIVE FOR ELECTION MEMBERS	



Delegates at Mboh



Participants during the election



Delegates elected at MULION-NJINIKOM



participants during the elections



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT BIHKOV



PARTICIPANTS DURING THE ELECTIONS



Delegates at Liakom



Participants during the elections

C) BEES WAX

Bee wax is the creamy coloured substance used by bees to make honey combs. Very pure bee wax is white but the presence of pollen and other impurities causes it to become yellow. Bee wax is a valuable product which can provide a worthwhile income in addition to honey (1 Kg of bee wax worth more than 1 Kg of honey). Bee wax does not require careful packaging like honey and this simplifies transportation and storage. In areas where honey is produced and consumed locally and where there is no local use of bee wax, it is often discarded. CAMGEW discovered that much of the honey chaffs (combs) were not processed to bees wax by bee farmers after honey extraction. Some community members decided to buy the combs and extract bees wax for sale. All bees wax is collected through village bee farmers groups and channeled to the honey cooperative for marketing. This increases income and improves on livelihoods. In some countries, bees wax is more valuable than honey because of its high demand in the world market. CAMGEW trains bee farmers in bees wax production to increase income from their forest use.

Bees Wax Training

Objectives of the trainings

- Provide bee farmers in the Kilum-Ijim forest zone with skills and techniques on improved extraction of quality bee wax for better marketing and promote the production of clean wax at low cost with local alternative methods.
- Allow farmers to share knowledge and techniques and swap skills through a participatory approach

Methodology used during the trainings

The method of bee wax production used in training was the double boiler method. This method was preferred because it is simpler, cleaner and more secured than other methods.

The training started every day from 9:00 am and ended at 2:00 pm. The training involved theoretical lessons on wax production on the first day and practical lessons on the second day on wax production. CAMGEW prepared handouts on bee wax production. The lessons were taught in English and in the local languages. In Mutteff, Muloine and Tumuku it was done in Kom and Lamnso in Vekovi and in Lang it was done in Oku.



Group pictures of participants in Tumuku and Lang

CAMGEW used a participatory approach in trainings. 116 community members were trained in 8 workshops. 21 women and 95 men received the trainings on wax production around the Kilum-Ijim forest.

Summary of participants during the training

SN	Date	Place	Number of participants	Women	Men
1	9 th and 10 th march 2016	Akeh	23	8	15
2	15 th and 16 th March 2016	Vekovi	12	1	11
3	21 st and 22 nd March 2016	Mullion	13	2	11
4	23 rd and 24 th March 2016	Tumuku	12	0	12
5	25 th and 26 th March 2016	Mutteff	14	2	12
6	31 st March and 1 st April 2016	Lang-Oku	20	0	20
7	19 th June an 20 th June 2016	Ngvinkei II-Oku	8	5	3
7	21 st June and 22 nd June 2016	Manchok-Oku	14	3	11
Total			116	21	95

D) DONATION OF BEE FARMING EQUIPMENT

The organization of bee farmers to cooperative was one step in increasing the quantity and quality of honey production. This could not be complete without supporting the cooperatives with materials and equipment to achieve this. CAMGEW provided the created cooperatives with materials and equipment. CAMGEW distributed 10 honey drainers to the 5 created Oku Honey

Cooperatives. The equipment was distributed alongside the training on cooperative management trainings to reduce logistical cost.

Dates of distribution of equipment

NUMBER	DATE	VENUE
1	3-MAY 2016	VEKOVI
2	4-MAY2016	AKEH
3	8 MAY 2016	MULOIN
4	6-MAY 2016	TUMUKU
5	7-MAY 2016	MUTTEFF

Tableau 1 : Equipment distributed and their uses

MATERIAL	USE	NUMBER
Honey drainers	Use for Draining Honey	10
Bee Suits	Protective dress use for honey harvesting	100
Big buckets	Use for honey storage	5
Small buckets	Use for Honey collection	25



Honey Drainers for distribution



Material donated to Atumukui Oku Honey Cooperative

E) TRAINING ON COOPERATIVE LAW AND MANAGEMENT

CAMGEW did 5 trainings with the 5 created cooperatives on cooperative management with 114 persons trained. This involved task description for elected members of the cooperative and the running of the cooperatives. The elected members of cooperatives received handouts on cooperative management. The lessons received on task description and the functioning of cooperatives in addition to the handouts was aimed at helping them develop their various cooperative constitution and by-laws. CAMGEW worked with each cooperative board of directors to advance on the development of their constitution and by-laws. Each cooperative received training on cooperative management for one day.

A manual on cooperative law and management was prepared by Sevidzem Ernestine. This manual was prepared within the framework of the national strategy to disseminate and facilitate the understanding of the OHADA Uniform Act on the Right of Cooperative Societies adopted on 15 December 2010 by the States parties of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), to which Cameroon belongs. The specific aim of the Manuel was to facilitate the understanding of the content of the Act and to help bee farmers function within the national law in the creation, running and conduct accepted by the different economic and social actors all over the nation. Copy of this guide was gotten from the Registrar of Cooperatives Regional offices in Bamenda North West Region, Cameroon. Ernestine worked on the copy from the registrar of cooperative, summarizing it to the level of peasant farmers. This was meant to facilitate understanding. The Manuel handed to farmers contained the following legal regulations:

- Required information on constituent file to declare a cooperative registered in Cameroon
- The various organs in a cooperative society and the functions of the various organs
- Duties of the Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee and management committee
- General provisions in managing a cooperative ranging from the financial year and daily management of financial transactions, the use of reserves, how a cooperative can invest and properly manage that investment, the importance of personnel code or internal rules and regulations and settlement of disputes.

This activity was done alongside with the donation of bee farming equipment to the various cooperatives.

Summary of trainings on cooperative management: Number and place of training organized

PLACE	DATE OF TRAINING	NUMBER OF TRAINED PERSONS	TYPE OF TRAINING
VEKOVI	3-MAY 2016	22	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
AKEH	4-MAY 2016	12	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
TUMUKU	6-MAY 2016	18	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
MUTTEFF	7-MAY 2016	40	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
MULOIN	8 MAY 2016	22	COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT
TOTAL		114	

F) CREATION OF HONEYSHOP

CAMGEW started a HoneyShop in Bamenda to convert bee farmers honey into money. The HoneyShop was called North West Bee Farmers Messenger (NOWEFAM). CAMGEW buys honey from created cooperatives and trained bee farmers to sell in the shop in Bamenda. Conservation of Kilum-Ijim forest is incomplete when livelihoods of forest communities are not improved. Trainings of community members in apiculture, providing them with beehives to encourage them and organizing them to cooperatives helps increase honey quantity and quality. Ownership of beehives in the forest tackles the biggest challenge of the forest which is bushfire. When community own beehives in the forest they can no longer burn the forest but take part in bushfire prevention. When bushfire occurs they put it off. The bee farmers plant bee loving trees in forest to increase flowers. The cooperatives and bee farmers are found in rural area with little market opportunities. Conservation will be incomplete if bee farmers honey can not be converted

to money. This can lead to conservation failure with bee farmers not interested in conservation because their honey has little value. NOWEFAM sale farmers honey and bees wax to make them vale their forest.

Things sold in the HoneyShop: Oku White Honey, Brown Honey, bees wax, bee suits, bee smokers, local beehives, wood crafts, sale of telephone credit,

Things sold in the shop to help increase shop income: vegetable, plantains, fruits, snacks,

To get customers CAMGEW does advertisement, door-to-door sensitization in restaurants, hotels, shops, offices, etc.

The Honeyshop is located at Foncha Junctin opposite National Financial Credit (NFC) Bank or Jianna Hotel in the Coffee Cooperative building. NOWEFAM faces challenges of packaging honey to different quantities to meet needs of all customers. Our Honeyshop is not yet known by many people in Bamenda and this plays back on sales.

The shop is still to break even since creation in March 2016.



CAMGEW HONEYSHOP in Bamenda at Foncha Junction opposite NFC Bank

SECTION 4

AGROFORESTRY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND PASTURE IMPROVEMENT AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST

A) AGROFORESTRY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

CAMGEW distributed more than 900.000 seeds of trees like Leucena, Tephrosia and Sesbania to over 139 farmers including 38 women who farm around the Kilum Ijim Forest. These seeds are good in soil nitrogen fixing, erosion control, providing shade for crops, good for firewood, fodder and fencing. Farms around the Kilum-Ijim forest are on sloping terrain and are prone to erosion leading to poor food production. Our interest has been to promote sustainable soil management around Kilum-Ijim forest for livelihood improvement. Farmers grow crops like coffee, potatoes, beans, huckleberry, cabbage, yams, corn, etc and these crops needs fertile soil, shade and wind breaks. These seeds when nursed and planted properly using the knowledge gotten from our agroforestry training will bring smiles on farmers' faces.

B) AGROFORESTRY AND PASTURE IMPROVEMENT FOR AKEH MBORORO COMMUNITY:

CAMGEW also bought about 60 Kg of bracharia seeds and distributed to 23 Mbororo men rearing cattle. They also benefited from seeds of Leucena, Tephrosia and Sesbania for their farms and to use as fodder for animals. The distribution of bracharia seeds was aimed to tackle farmer-grazer problems. Cattle lack food in the dry season because the hills have poor vegetation. CAMGEW trained the Mbororo men and women in Akeh on agroforestry for pasture improvement earlier. They were advised to prepare a portion of their land (till and fence) and plant the bracharia seeds to get improved pasture. The bracharia could be harvested when matured to feed animals especially in the dry season when fodder is scarce. This will reduce movement with animals over long distances in search of pasture that waste time, energy, open animals to pest and loss of weight.

Table: Seed distribution to farmers around the Kilum-Ijim Forest

SN	Date	Place	Number of participants	Women	Men
1	9 th march 2016	Akeh	23	8	15
2	15 th March 2016	Vekovi	12	1	11
3	21 st March 2016	Mullion-Njinikom	13	2	11
4	23 rd March 2016	Tumuku-Belo	12	0	12
5	25 th March 2016	Mutteff- Fundong	14	2	12
6	1 st April 2016	Lang-Oku	20	0	20
7	8 th May 2016	Akeh-Mbororo Community	45	25	20
Total			139	38	101



Distribution of seeds in Muloin-Njinikom and Vekovi-Bikhov community



Distribution of seeds to Mbororo community of Akeh

SECTION 5

CAMGEW - VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

A) PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW-VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC)

CAMGEW-Vocational Training Centre (VTC) went operational in November 2012 as a programme under Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW). It is a well-furnished centre that trains youths especially school dropout, graduates from schools, single/teenage mothers and less privilege youths to become useful and self-employed community members. It was approved as a Private Vocational Training Centre by the Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training through Order N°055/MINEFOP/SG/DFOP/SDGSF/CSACD of 6th January 2014.

CAMGEW-VTC functioned with the following departments

- Dress making and Decoration department: This department has a male trainer with expertise in men's and women dresses. He trains interested persons in these domains. Its products and services are sold to the public.
- Shoe making and Mending department: This department has an expert on shoemaking and mending. This department trains interested persons in these domains. Its products and services are sold to the public.
- Hair dressing department: It has an expert who trains interested persons in hair dressing and treatment skills. Hair dressing products like hair oils, other cosmetics and different hair products are available to the general public.

CAMGEW-VTC is involved in training, service provision, and sales of produces and materials in line with the services she renders. Sensitisation of community members remained a regular feature of the institution to increase student enrolment and get more customers. This was done through Oku Community Radio, CAMGEW-VTC posters, sensitisation in churches and social gatherings and advertisement of CAMGEW-VTC products in the markets. Despite the enough sensitization made the vocational training centre in 2016 recorded few students than expected.

Since March 2014 CAMGEW-VTC functioned without external support. Our partner Stichting OOK-Netherlands stopped supporting us financially in March 2014. It was challenging to keep the centre running but CAMGEW worked hard to overcome the challenges. CAMGEW transferred ownership of VTC to trainers who received equipment and financial support from CAMGEW to continue running their various departments on individual basis. The trainers took along the remaining students who never graduated to continue training. A series of meetings were held with the students, parents and local board members to arrive at amicable solutions. This yielded fruits. The activities of the centre still continuous but the trainers relocated their departments to Elak market in Oku (with more customers). The dress making and hair dressing departments had a good number of students who could sustain the departments but fee payment was a challenge. The shoe making had 3 students. Many boys leaving primary school become motorcycle taxi riders and do not want to learn a trade.



CAMGEW-VTC Vocational Training Centre (VTC)

CAMGEW-VTC Student enrolment

Departments	January 2015	Number Graduated in May 2015	June 2015	December 2015	January 2016	June 2016	Number Graduated in July 2016	August 2016
Hair dressing	6	5	4	6	7	4	1	1
Shoe making	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	1
Dress making	15	8	11	10	11	7	5	2
total	24	15	18	19	21	14	8	4

B) GRADUATION CEREMONY OF 11TH JUNE 2016

The graduation ceremony of 11th June 2016 started with a planning meeting by the local board of CAMGEW VTC on 3rd May 2016. Another planning meeting was organised between CAMGEW staff, students and their parents/guardians of students on 4th June 2016. The planning meetings prepared for a successful graduation of 8 students. These students obtained certificates. It was attended by more than 500 persons. CAMGEW and VTC Board Members had an evaluation meeting of the graduation on 15th July 2016.



The graduated students in the VTC rob.

The graduation was done in the Oku community hall. The graduation was prepared by CAMGEW and students. The certificates were prepared and signed by CAMGEW and Delegate of Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training for Bui. The prizes for the students were prepared by CAMGEW and staff. Food was prepared for all invited guest by CAMGEW and students.

C) RECOGNISING OUR COMMITTED VTC STAFF DURING GRADUATION CEREMONY

During this ceremony CAMGEW also gave certificates of merit to distinguish staff. Babah Gideon and Dom Mirabel of the dress making and hair dressing departments respectively were awarded certificates for their commitment and sacrifices to make CAMGEW-VTC work.



Babah Gideon and Dom Mirabel receiving awards from the DO for Oku

Our students and their parents were proud of their certificates when they received them. They congratulated CAMGEW management for the work done. Refreshment was done in the Women Empowerment Centre-Oku.



VTC Staff, graduating Students and Director



VTC Staff, Students, Board President and Director

The success of this ceremony was thanks to the efforts of Divisional officer Oku, the Director Women Empowerment Center Oku, the VTC Board of Directors, CAMGEW Director Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and his team and graduating students to make it work.

D) WHY CAMGEW DOES NOT REGRET CLOSING THE VTC

CAMGEW does regret handing the VTC to trainers because

- When CAMGEW started the VTC she was the lone structure that tried to institutionalized Vocational training in Oku but today there are many vocational training centre in Oku like Women and the Family Empowerment Centre, Youth Empowerment Centre and with many privately own training centres. CAMGEW has not abandon youths for they have many more institution where they can learn.
- The trainers CAMGEW recruited for VTC continued with training as individuals better off than how they started because they can do record keeping, do training in a systematic way, they gain much public acceptance, they got equipment and material from CAMGEW,
- The 23 students who graduated are doing well. This is a legacy CAMGEW has left behind. They have opened their own workshops in their own villages and are now serving their communities and earning a living. CAMGEW has changed their lives and they are changing lives of other persons in their community. They are now trainers of trainers.
- The recruited 7 staff in the VTC improved their lives and that of their families with finances used to pay their salaries from November 2012 to August 2016. They learned team spirit.
- CAMGEW rendered genuine services to the community and produced and sold produced items to them too. From their heart the CAMGEW team worked and were models for the trainees.

SECTION 6

CAMGEW PEASANT WOMEN MICRO CREDIT SCHEME

A) INTRODUCTION

CAMGEW has been running a micro-credit scheme for peasant women since 2015. This scheme assist women with business training on how to start a business, organize them into groups and provide them with small loans to start businesses. The first micro-credit scheme project (PROMIC 1) started in Oku in April 2015 and because of the success story recorded in 18 months our organization received another grant to start another new micro-credit scheme for peasant women in Kumbo and Jakiri (PROMIC 2) in October 2016. Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri are found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. This women economic programme help peasant women fight poverty, create employment opportunities and belong to social groups.

These programme (PROMIC 1 and PROMIC 2 projects) have enable many peasant women to carry out micro enterprises. The loan is given only to active peasant women or to members of peasant women solidarity groups in need to start or expand their existing business. The women we work with have these characters: good business focus, ready to learn, morally good and ready to keep records of their businesses. The loan is given at an interest rate of 2 percent per thousand and is repaid in maximum of 6 months. The peasant women do not pay for training and follow-up. The loan amount ranges from 30.000 FCFA to 120.000 FCFA. The trainings and follow-up activities are done for free. To get a loan women must attend training. About 17 to 20 women were trained every month and 500 women have benefited from this scheme by December 2016. CAMGEW micro credit scheme operated in 2016 under the following activities.

B) CAMGEW-MICRO CREDIT ACTIVITIES

CAMGEW linked the micro-credit scheme to her women human right project. After counseling women in distress and solving their problems. CAMGEW supported them with micro-credit training and provided them with a loan to start a business and keep on with a positive life.

CAMGEW-Micro-credit scheme activities

CAMGEW micro credit scheme activities	
Daily running of the programme.	Follow-up of businesses of trained women and provision of technical assistance
Sensitization of community peasant women about this opportunity	Follow-up to recover delayed loans
Micro business training	Saving scheme for community members
Loan disbursement	

Encouraging women to save: Under CAMGEW micro credit scheme, we introduced savings scheme to encourage women to save for their future needs and to enable them pay their loans with ease. CAMGEW savings scheme is opened to all persons. CAMGEW made savings opened to the public because other existing micro-finance institutions ask a large amount of money to create an account and many peasant people cannot afford. With 500 FCFA you can start saving with in our scheme and you can save any amount even as small as 25 FCFA. Our saving scheme have helped women pay back our loans and some community members to start saving schemes to get money to open accounts in micro-finance where they can get bigger loans and save to get interest. Our schemes have helped other community members save money to start businesses. Withdrawal of money from our saving scheme by community member is done at any time. CAMGEW has an account with Manchok Credit Union where all funds are kept.

Our daily running involves daily collection of savings, filling of application forms, repayment of loans by clients, monthly trainings, follow-up of beneficiaries and quarterly reporting to our partner. CAMGEW assist peasant women in filling their training and financial request application forms because few of them can read and write.

Sensitization of clients. CAMGEW staff use the community radio, door-to-door visits, field visits, social gatherings, death celebrations, handouts and markets for sensitisation. We sensitize women to know about the programme and equally make them see the need to assist in their families' wellbeing through micro businesses.

Micro business training. Throughout 2016, CAMGEW trained 12 group of women on micro business management in Oku and 3 groups in Kumbo. This was done with the help of CAMGEW micro business training guide for women.

The 7 hour training always takes a form of discussion forum for peasant women who applied for training and/or to get a loan from CAMGEW for their businesses. During the training women also shared their business experiences, skills, challenges and the successes recorded for started businesses. 2016 some peasant women received loans from CAMGEW.

The training guide with modules,

*Steps in becoming a successful entrepreneur. (business and family)	*Savings. What is savings? Why should we save? When should we save? What are the various forms of savings? Who should save? Uses of savings.
*Micro businesses. (advantages of micro businesses, the satisfaction of starting small and growing big)	*Loan management. What is a loan? When should we borrow? Where can we borrow from? CAMGEW loan conditions and management.
*How to use the computer for your business	*Record keeping
*Sources of business funding.	*Business promotion strategies and advertisement
*How to prepare a simple business plan-financial plan sessions in groups).	*Venturing into business. Before you venture into business find out. (workshop
*Simple costing/Price determination	



Kumbo Peasant Women Micro-Credit Scheme Training

The table of CAMGEW loan disbursement in 2016 in Oku

Month	Total number of persons trained per month	Total number of loans disbursed per month	Total amount disbursed
January	19	17	920,000
February	19	15	755,000
March	13	13	640,000
April	20	14	950,000
May	16	16	820,000
June	17	18	1,110,000
July	11	11	660,000
August	20	13	750,000
September	18	25	2,030,000
October	24	24	1,460,000
November	24	18	1,530,000
December	11	17	1,120,000
Total	212	201	12,745,000 Or 19458 Euros

The table of CAMGEW loan disbursement in 2016 in Kumbo

Month	Total number of persons trained per month	Total number of loans disbursed per month	Total amount disbursed
October	36	12	720,000
November	0	12	670,000
December	12	12	690,000
Total	48	36	2.080.000

CAMGEW was able to train 260 peasant women in business skills and provide small loans to 237 peasant women. CAMGEW gave out loans worth 14.825.000FCFA to women in 2016. In 2015 CAMGEW trained 193 peasant women and 153 women received loans ranging from 30.000CFA to 70.000 FCFA. From the beginning of project till 2016 CAMGEW has trained 483 peasant women in business skills and provided loans to 390 peasant women.



Women in group work on how to make business work

Women get basic knowledge on computer

Women applied for loan to do restaurant business, sell partially used imported dresses, start provision shops, do vegetable gardening, fruit sellin, firewood selling, Irish potatoes cultivation, poultry, sell of ICT equipment, etc. Many businesses are growing all over in Oku and Kumbo and they are owned and managed by women. We are proud of our work. Our loan selection committees assess women to benefit using the following qualities: history with loans, business plan, morals and seriousness.

Some women received training and opted to receive loans in a different month. Some women received training and never saw the need to receive our money as they discovered where they had problems in their started businesses.

After training we could not also give loans to all women because

- Some women after receiving training discovered that they needed knowledge and not money to continue started businesses. So they never receive our micro loan. Some of them had money they could invest in business but lack orientation.
- CAMGEW refused to give some peasant women loans because they had no valid identification papers. Our programme has pushed many women to own identification papers.
- Some peasant women had poor records of borrowing and paying back money. Some similar schemes had existed earlier and some women took money and never paid back.
- Some peasant women had poor business plans that needed time to work on. In this case we worked with these woman to develop their plans before giving loans.
- Late coming (punctuality) during trainings and lack of focus was a determining factor to get a loan.

Within the year, there were some women who did not respect the payment of their loans within the six month as programmed. They fail to pay the installments as per the amount they received. Considering too that it is a loan which they have to pay in time to permit other women benefit, we therefore did follow-up. One of the greatest challenges we faced: is recovery of money from recalcitrant beneficiaries. It takes time and financial resources. We work with community

leaders, village heads, councilors representing villages in councils, traditional leaders, the police, the gendarmes, community based organisations or groups and the Divisional Officers to make our schemes work especially in loan recovery.

LOAN DISBURSEMENTS. In 2016, CAMGEW trained 12 group of women on micro business management in Oku and 3 groups in Kumbo. After each training the committee meets to approve loans. Loan approval depended on business plan, recommendation by community members about the applicant, participation during training, good behavior, respect of the loan scheme conditions, having valid identity card, ready to participate in the training and much concentration.

Testimonies:

Mama NGINDA HENRIATTA who sales corn beer in Oku says she does not borrow corn to prepare corn beer before paying. She can buy a bag of corn at once which was not the case in the past. Her children can go to school thanks to her business. She made this statement “CAMGEW is that husband that came for singles like her”.

CHUNG GLADYS says since she joined CAMGEW her live has never been the same. The living condition in her family has equally improved. Her children have never been sent away for school fees. She has been able to pay her children’s fee from the profit of her business and also feed them too.

NGOKSE MABEL thanked CAMGEW for their initiative in the lives of Oku women. To her it seems her mother and father lives in CAMGEW. At each market day she sells shoes and the profit is used to buy food and other needs of the family.

DIOM ELIZABETH being the first beneficiaries of the project she shared her joy of benefiting from the program. She said when she came to MANCHOK she had not enough to eat and not to talk of money for other issues. The loan helped her very much to be able to pay her children’s school fees, buy food for the children and meet other needs. Now she is feeling as a great woman.

Mrs. WAMBENG ANITA in the training on record keeping she shared that for her as a business person on farming, to know the quantity of Irish potatoes harvested in her farm, when harvesting she note each bag of Irish potatoes harvested by keeping one seed of Irish potatoes in a separate basket which she calls record keeping container. At the end of harvesting the whole farm, she will then count the number of seeds in her container and will then evaluate how much she planted, what about her labour, how much she will sell, what profit is expected and can she continue with the activity.

SECTION 7

WOMEN's RIGHT TO HEALTH, NUTRITION, LEGAL MARRIAGE AND COUNSELLING

A. INTRODUCTION

CAMGEW got funds from Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) - UK to execute activities on women's right to health, nutrition, legal marriage and counseling. This project was done in Oku and its environs in 2016.

The objectives of this project were as follows

- Reduce early pregnancies and improve nutrition of the teenage mother and child
- Reduction of sexually transmitted disease
- Reduce child trafficking
- Increase knowledge on legalization of marriages and Computer literacy

This project was executed under the leadership of Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki.

B. SENSITIZATION OF LOCAL POPULATION

Sensitization and awareness raising programmes were organized in the Oku Rural Radio, women groups, social gatherings, vocational training centres and in some cases door-to-door visits in 2016. Remarkable were visits to Oku Women's Empowerment and Family Centre and indigenous Mbororo youths located in the outskirt of Oku with many of them found in Akeh.

Oku Women's Empowerment Centre works to empower women and young girls socially, morally and economically. This centre had teenage girls and teenage mothers enrolled to acquire life skill training for self-reliance. The Director of this institution Madame MESSI Gladys said that handling teenage crisis had been one of the challenging areas in her work. She quoted that sexual health, moral behavior and mother and child care were some of the areas of concern in her institution, Oku and its environs in general. She said her teenagers will be part of this project for the project activities will change their lives. Mbororos are an indigenous and Muslim community. They are located on the out sketch of Oku with many of them found in Akeh. They are mostly grazers and their homes are largely (about 90%) polygamous. Mbororos are one of the 2 vulnerable indigenous groups (pygmies and mbororos)' in Cameroon. Mbororo girls are known for high birth rates and low literacy rates. Their girls are prepared for marriage and child bearing and their religion does not accept the use of artificial contraceptives and family planning. The project leader visited UMAROU JULIE, an educated and enlightened Mbororo community man, to talk about this project and to look for avenues of working with the Mbororo women and girls. He was very happy to receive the CAMGEW team saying that his community is less enlightened on various issues affecting their lives and promised his support to engage his community.

C. COUNSELING SESSIONS

CAMGEW did counseling on daily bases. Women and girls were received for counseling on cases of health, marital crisis, parent-child misunderstanding, stigma and rejection by family, marital misunderstanding by young couples, domestic physical and psychological violence, frustration originating from child trafficking, loneliness and stigma from early unplanned teenage pregnancy. **250 counselees were attended to with 3 follow-up sessions per counselee.** Mindful of the fact that confidentiality is a key element of counseling; women in this community go through a lot in silence. Having someone to talk to helped them to focus on possibilities and take responsibility of happenings in their lives.

D. IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD TRAFFICKING:

In Oku and around Kilum-Ijim forest, several women suffer violence within the confines of a home and young girls often fall victims of child trafficking. Most of these women and girls suffer in silence as the problem is often under looked, excused or denied. Early January 2016, CAMGEW had 2 radio programs on this issue sensitizing the entire community about the effects of domestic violence and child trafficking to women and girls. She emphasized during the radio program that noticing and acknowledging the signs of an abusive and exploitative relationship are the first step to ending it. She encouraged women and girls in such relationships to speak-out. Female stakeholders in Oku community and its environs were involved in the identification process and wide sensitization for communities that recognizing and accepting an abusive and exploitative relationship are the first steps in ending these ills. This helped in changing mentality of women as some of them began to speak out. In 2016, 20 women and girls were identified as victims' human right violations. Child trafficking has several consequences on the girl child ranging from low education, reduced opportunities, prostitution, death and frustration. Parents were encouraged to assist their children learn a trade to become self-reliant in the future.

E. COMPUTER LITERACY:

CAMGEW created a computer resource centre for women to gain skills on computer and access information through the internet. ICT is a new world full of opportunities like trainings, scholarships, fellowships and grants. The computer training centre was opened on the 27TH January 2016. This centre was used for women empowerment where women acquired knowledge on basic computer software skills. CAMGEW linked this centre up to one of her women program on micro-credit scheme. Computer literacy was included as one of the modules in the micro credit scheme training manual. This centre also had a postboard where job opportunities, trainings, scholarships, conferences, national recruitment announcements were made available to women and girls. This notice board was visited by many community members in Oku. Children around CAMGEW office have been coming and learning basic computer skills.



Setting up of the computer literacy centre

F. TRAINING ON NUTRITION WITH TEENAGE MOTHERS:

CAMGEW did 3 training workshops on nutrition for mother and child with 114 teenage mothers participating. Day 1 of the workshop involved theoretical lessons on the different classes of food that make up a balanced diet and the importance of breast milk to their babies. Breast milk is the best food for babies as it contains all classes of food nutrients in the right quantity needed by babies. Breast milk is available, cheap (not paid for) and hygiene is guaranteed. Women were encouraged to breastfeed their babies. They were trained on the value of locally available foodstuffs, one of which is soya beans. This beans is commonly cultivated by farmers in Oku and its environs. It is locally available and affordable. The nutritionist – Sominarig Victorine Liekiek who served as consultant told the teenage mothers that soya beans contain first class protein. These beans could be transformed into soya beans milk for the baby's breakfast and soya beans flour used as an ingredient for preparing soup, tubers and vegetables. They also received lectures on hygiene on mother and child care as this is very important for their babies. The second day was more practical on preparing a balanced nutritive meal with locally affordable foodstuffs. The food was prepared using a three stone fireside (commonly used) and sawdust pot.

In Oku sawdust pots are hardly used but the sawdust is available. Being an environmentally oriented organization we promoted sawdust use because it is left over's from wood work and available in large quantities. It was very important to train these teenagers on how to use a sawdust pot as cooking fuel. During the wet season firewood is scares, wet or expensive. Sawdust can be prepared and kept for use during such moments. CAMGEW needs trainings on improved stove for women to improve on health, reduce their drudgeries and engage them better protect the environment.

The first workshop was held in January 2016. Porridge plantain was chosen as the meal for demonstration. Porridge plantain has as main ingredients raw plantain banana, fish, groundnut and palm oil. The choice of this meal was because raw banana is locally available, affordable and rich in Iron but most people believe preparing raw banana for a family meal signifies poverty. Teenagers received knowledge on the nutritive value of porridge raw banana. It is rich in iron, protein, minerals carbohydrates and fat. This meal is very good both for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. It can be prepared for a family meal.



Practical lessons on nutrition during the first workshop

The second workshop took place in February 2016 with the Mbororo community at Akeh. During sensitisation, the women and girls proposed that rice should be the meal for demonstration during workshop. Boiled rice and enriched groundnut soup was chosen as the meal for demonstration. This meal has as main ingredients white rice, groundnut, fresh fish (optional), crayfish, vegetable oil, fresh tomatoes, onion, salt and magi to taste, ginger and garlic. This meal is rich in calories, protein, vitamin, calcium and potassium.



Mbororo women in a practical session on nutrition

The third workshop took place in March 2016. The meal chosen for demonstration was '**EKWANG**'. (Grated cocoyams porridge in palmoil and vegetable). The ingredients are locally available, affordable and rich in all classes of food that make a balanced diet. In Oku, cocoyam is cultivated in large quantities but most families lack knowledge on good recipes to prepare it. They mostly boil and that constitute starch. Cocoyam transformed into Ekwang is a rich and affordable meal having as main ingredients tubers of cocoyams, cocoyam leaves, fish, meat, crayfish, palm oil, salt and magi to taste, onion, ginger and garlic. This meal contains protein, calcium, sodium, vitamin, minerals, dietary fiber and iron. It enhances the flow of breast milk which is good for babies. Participants learned with so much excitement and curiosity.



Participants learned how to prepare EKWANG during the third workshop on nutrition

The workshops on nutrition was one of the most exciting and educative activity with participants mostly teenagers and their children ending the day with a common meal. Teenagers went home with copies of various recipes on common food stuff. Women and girls in our community wished these workshops will become a regular activity in the community. CAMGEW is searching for funds to continue with this activity.

A table of trainings on nutrition

Place of training	Date of training	Type of food prepared	Number of participants
MANCHOK-OKU	20 th and 21 st January 2016	Porridge Plantain	42
AKEH	6 th and 7 th February 2016	Rice and groundnut soup	36
MANCHOK-OKU	23 rd and 24 th March 2016	Ekwang	36

G. TRAINING ON HEALTH (EARLY PREGNANCY AND USE OF CONTRACEPTION WITH TEENAGERS):

3 workshops with teenagers to improve their knowledge of safe sex and reduce sexually transmitted disease were carried out with 110 participants attending. The first and third workshops took place in Manckok-oku during the months of January and March 2016. The second workshop took place with the Mbororo community located at Akeh in the Out-sketch of Oku. Opening the workshop, the project leader- Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki told the participants that health is a key factor to mental, social and economic development. She called on them to be flexible and open during trainings.



The project leader SEVIDZEM ERNESTINE welcome the participants during the workshop

GAMSHA GILBERT a senior nurse at OKU DISTRICT HOSPITAL was the health expert at the workshop in Manchok-Oku. He told the teenagers that sexual health is part and parcel of them and outlined most of the crude and ineffective traditional methods of contraception used by girls in Oku and its environs such as sponge and traditional herbs. He said such crude methods have several consequences including sterility, high chances of cervical cancer and attempted abortions when made pregnant and higher chances of acquiring wound during sexual intercourse. Some of the participants shared various experiences during sexual intercourse. He educated the girls on the negative effects of early and unprotected sex to their wellbeing. Presentations on best sexual practices were made and abstinence remained the best but will teenagers abstained from sex? Participants were trained on methods of contraception ranging from natural to artificial methods. Some of the teenagers that are in to early marriages shared their experiences using the *CIOTUS INTERRUPTUS* method of contraception. They complained that they feel deprived of the natural intimate feeling during sexual intercourse. Teenagers participated fully asking question about sexual behavior with so much curiosity.



Health expert GAMSHA GILBERT during the presentation on sexual health

The second workshop was held with the Mbororos in Akeh. During the project awareness rising visits in Akeh, CAMGEW meet the Head for Akeh CBC Health Unit- LOH ISAAC. He said that besides sexually transmitted infections Mbororos are victims of high maternal death in his health unit caused by infections, high blood pressure due to early and frequent deliveries, cervical cancer and hemorrhage. He said most Mbororos in his community do not follow-up antenatal clinic and prefers home delivery with crude and unhygienic methods. CAMGEW used him as consultant because he understood local realities and culture of Mbororos. During the workshop, LOH ISAAC sensitised these women on the use of contraceptives to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and frequent pregnancies. He encouraged women to go for antenatal clinics for diagnose, treatment or prevention of some situations of maternal death. He condemned any home deliveries because it has resulted to many deaths.



Health expert talks to the mbororo women during the workshop

Mobilising the Mbororo girls was a big challenge for CAMGEW. This community believed that their girls should not be allowed out of their homes. CAMGEW team allowed the elderly women attend the workshop. This encouraged them to come along with their teenage girls. CAMGEW break through to work with them and they now see CAMGEW project staff as a friend and member of their community

. A table of trainings on Health

Place of training	Date of training	Number of participants
Manchok oku	22 nd and 23 rd January 2016	42
Akeh Mbororo community	4 th and 5 th February 2016	36
Manchok- oku	18 th and 19 th march 2016	32

All participants in the 3 trainings appreciated the workshops especially on best sexual practices and use of contraception to prevent sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies. The workshops were very interactive with teenage mothers and girls speaking out and getting advice. CAMGEW felt proud for the initiative because it created an impact and the community asked for more sessions. We hope to raise funds to continue working on this issue.

H. TRAINING ON WOMENS RIGHT

CAMGEW did a mentality change training workshop to encourage community members to empower girls, fight child trafficking and see the importance of legalization of marriages. 2 workshops on violence against women, child trafficking and legalization of marriages were carried out. 66 women participated in this workshop. These workshops took place in the months of February and March 2016 respectively.

Remarkable was the workshop of 8th March 2016, a day Cameroon women join the international community to celebrate international women's day. This day was celebrated in Cameroon under the theme 'EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES'. CAMGEW took part in the march-pass and had an interactive workshop with women on child trafficking and legalization of marriages.



CAMGEW celebrates International Women's Day 2016

This day was characterized by Match pass and animation. After the match pass CAMGEW under the leadership of Sevidzem Ernestine and the women had a reflection session on issues of child trafficking, violence against women and legalization of marriages. Participants said that in Oku and its environs, several women suffer violence within the confines of a home and young girls often fall victims of child trafficking. Most of these women and girls suffer in silence as the problem is often under looked, excused or denied. Child trafficking is mostly driven by poverty and the search for greener pastures in the city. It has several consequences to the girl child ranging from low education, reduced opportunities, prostitution, death and frustration, rape and illnesses. Women were encouraged to assist their children get formal training or education for them to be independent in future.

During the workshop women were sensitised on the importance of legalisation of marriages and how to avoid '*concubinage*' commonly referred to as '**CAME WE STAY**'. This is common in Oku and communities around Kilum-Ijim forest. Sevidzem Ernestine told the women during the workshop that non legally married couples who live together hardly have as much rights when compared with legally married couples. They only discover this when the relationship is broken down. Women were encouraged to legalise their marriages and to avoid giving out their girls into

non legalised marriages. The procedure for legalisation of marriages was made known to them. The project leader ended the workshops with these words of reflection for the participants “PARENTS AND CHILDREN SEEK FOR AN INDISSOLUBLE MARRIAGE, REMEMBER THAT STRONGH FAMILIES ARE BUILT ON STRONG MARRIAGES AND STRONG SOCIETIES ARE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF STRONG FAMILIES”. The workshop was greatly appreciated by the women. After the workshop, many men who are husbands of some participants appreciated the knowledge their wives shared home after the workshop.

I. FEMALE STAKEHOLDER EVALUATION WORKSHOP

The project was evaluated by female leaders in Oku community. 4 project evaluation workshops were held with female leaders in Oku. The evaluation workshop took place in January, May, September and October 2016. This workshop had female leaders representing the police security, Oku Women Empowerment Centre, Youth Vocational Training Centres, women and culture, women’s health and the indigenous women and girls in Oku and its environs. These female leaders discussed the key areas of concern surrounding women, teenage girls and their children. These issues ranged from teenage early pregnancy, poor nutrition, child trafficking, domestic violence and non-legalization of marriages. These discussions ended with a ‘PROBLEM TREE’. These stakeholders started with a close examination of the root causes and consequences of the key areas of concern in the project.



Oku Female leaders discuss issues raised in project and make recommendations for the way forward

J) LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- During the implementation of this project, my organization learned that counseling and dialogue is an effective peace building mechanism in domestic conflict management. Most women that were victims of human right violations and/or who suffered the stigma of HIV/AIDs were frustrated because of lack of dialogue and support from their loved ones. After 3 counseling sessions with such couples, they were brought to the table for dialogue. This gave them the opportunity to air out their difference. This strategy united

many families. CAMGEW supported some of them with micro credit training and loan to start businesses and this has changed lives of women in distress after counseling.

- This was the first project SEVIDZEM Ernestine wrote and got funding. With excitement, she worked hard to ensure that the outcomes of the project were realized. By implementing this project Ernestine understood better the importance of having an open and ethical process in project implementation. In the organization, the experiences she gathered from implementing this project has helped her see the need for commitment to actively pursue the vision of the organisation and maintain a healthy work relationship.
- After the workshops on teenage health and nutrition, my organisation realized that teenage girls are not enlightened about safe sex and healthy nutrition. Communities around Kilum-Ijim need more education in this domain for both the girl and the boy child.
- Counseling services were offered to the community members especially women and girls. This activity changed mentality of most counselees towards issues affecting them. They learned to be proactive in taking decisions in consideration of all the stakes involved. CAMGEW wished to get support for this activity to be continuous
- 20 victims of human right violations were identified during the implementation of this project. These victims wished to acquire vocational life skill trainings that will enable them to be economically empowered and independent. CAMGEW lacks the fund to help these victims learn a trade. We are seeking for funding in this light.

SECTION 8

OTHER PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

A) CAMGEW PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE AND FACILITATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES

These courses were organized by Art Corps now called Creative Action Institute based in USA with financial support from New England Biolabs Foundation-USA. The trainings took place in Limbe. Creative Facilitation training took place from 5th to 7th September 2016. These trainings brought grassroot based organisations leaders in the North West and South West Regions to learn and share skills in these domains. In creative leadership CAMGEW learned about creative action planning. She also learned how to develop creative and leadership capacity, build collaboration skills and strengthen community education and outreach efforts. She learned also how to uncover creative methods for collective problem solving, analysis and social action. CAMGEW also learned how to be fluent, flexible, original and elaborate in her actions in the community. This training was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki. The training on Creative Facilitation was attended by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy and Ngum Jia Raymond. In the training our staff learned how to ask generative questions and make connections and application of their actions to real life. CAMGEW learned how to do deep analysis of situations and affirm contributions and different opinions. CAMGEW saw the need to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate in her actions. We distinguished traditional education (top-down approach and expert driven) from popular education (dialogue based, everyone teaches-everyone learns and collective liberation) and strengthened our skills in popular education for our actions in the field. We learned effective facilitation practices and workshop design. The training strengthened our facilitation skills, confidence as leaders and increased our tool box. We also learned about creative expression, constructive feedback and super hero appreciation. We left the training ground knowing the importance of listening, inspiring, engaging, thinking and demonstrating in facilitation.



Building Leaders in Creative facilitation workshop

B) CAMGEW WAS IN TEARS IN 2016:

CAMGEW lost one of her fathers - Lukong Walters. He was Forest Delegate of Bikov Community Forest Management Institution in Kilum Forest and a native of Wvem village in Bui Division of Cameroon. He was fatherly, caring and full of wisdom and leadership. He demonstrated strong qualities of a team leader and shared his knowledge with his community and all. He loved his forest and never stop teaching others forest regeneration and conservation. He knew all parts of his forest and promoted its conservation. His leadership skills made Bikov to have the best reputation among FMIs in Kilum-Ijim forest. We will miss him and his good heart.



Lukong Walters preparing the next generation of leaders

C) CAMGEW JOINED OTHER AFRICAN NGOs AND PARTNERS TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTALISM.

CAMGEW joined French Global Fund for Environment to celebrate 10 years of their Small Scale project scheme (PPI) in Seme Beach Hotel Limbe - Cameroon from 18 - 20 October 2016. Project beneficiaries came from many African countries to share experience, skills and chat the way forward. There was the presentation of forest products by the NGOs. Other partners like IUCN, Man & Nature - France, French Development Agency, ULB - Belgium and Well Grounded (facilitating) were present. It was quite interesting and CAMGEW learned much from the event while contributing. Participants discussed the way forward for PPI-FFEM.



Celebration of PPI-FFEM 10th Anniversary in Cameroon

D) CAMGEW and WELL GROUNDED PARTNERSHIP ON ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW continued working with Well Grounded on organizational development in 2016. This included work on CAMGEW's organisational strategy; development of its internal structure and governance; and reflection on CAMGEW's organisational culture. CAMGEW's values were defined and we looked at ways to keep these values.



CAMGEW and Well Grounded in Organisational Development Process

E) CAMGEW EXCHANGE VISIT WITH ACREST ON TREE PLANTING

CAMGEW visited African Centre for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Technologies (ACREST) at Bangang in West Region of Cameroon to share experience on the regeneration of Kilum-Ijim forest and learn from ACREST Mount Bamboutos regeneration programme. This visit brought together project stakeholders of Bamboutos area to learn and share experiences. There was experience sharing in the hall with participants and field-base sharing in the ACREST tree nursery. CAMGEW learned from ACREST how to nurse Alpine bamboo. CAMGEW and other participants visited the renewable energy systems and sustainable technologies in ACREST like improved stoves, improved charcoal, hydro turbines, biogas system, etc. CAMGEW also shared with ACREST forest regeneration skills on Kilum Mountain. ACREST is planting useful trees in Mount Bamboutos. The exchange visit was from 26th to 28th July 2016.



How to prepare seedlings of Indian (alpine) bamboo



Tree planting lesson sharing and tree nursery development field work

F) CAMGEW SHARING EXPERIENCE ON CONSERVATION AND APICULTURE IN GHANA

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) through WIRSIY Emmanuel Binyuy shared experience on Conservation and Livelihood Improvement in Accra, Ghana with Ghanaian civil society organisations. This workshop was organised By IUCN and Man and Nature - France on 31st May and 1st June 2016. The question we tried answering was "How can we develop Green Value Chains of products link to conservation to help local communities fight poverty, better protect nature and participate in nation building" Bee keeping was identified by both countries as a potential along with other forest products. CAMGEW is working to build this partnership on South-South Cooperation.



CAMGEW MAKES A presentation on Oku White Honey and bees wax value chain development in Ghana

G) CAMGEW and NATIONAL APICULTURE PLATFORM

CAMGEW took part in the Creation of **CAMEROON APICULTURE PLATFORM FOR HONEY PRODUCTION, BEE HEALTH AND POLLINATION SERVICES AT BAFOUSSAM - CAMEROON** from the 26th to 27th May 2016. It was attended by stakeholders in the honey sector coming from all regions of Cameroon. It was Important to have a national platform to complement work done by the African Platform. This workshop was organised by African Union under the BEE PROJECT in partnership with MINEPIA - Cameroon. CAMGEW

had the opportunity to meet like-minded institutions that could become her partners. Possibilities of partnerships were discussed with these institutions and we hope to concretize this soon.



Participants in national Apiculture Plateform

H) CAMGEW AND CHILDREN COMPUTER LITERACY

CAMGEW in the course of 2016 gave children living around her office in Manchok-Oku the opportunity to get practical lessons on computer and other ICTs. This was done after school during week days and on weekends like Saturdays when some staff were less busy or free. Many children come to play around our office premises. About 30 children benefited from this opportunity.



Children receiving lessons on computer in CAMGEW office

I) CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS LISTENING TO KILUM FOREST STORIES FROM AN ELDER AFTER TREE PLANTING

CAMGEW has recently searched for ways to do forest education in a way that can be interesting, full of humor and entertaining. She has used some community elders with knowledge on the Kilum-Ijim forest to tell stories about the forest especially on how the forest used to be in the past, how they used the forest, how defaulters were punished, how bushfire was handled when it occurred, the role of the fon and tradition in the forest and the work of Birdlife International in Kilum-Ijim forest conservation. CAMGEW found this interesting and it was also appreciated by children and youths. CAMGEW will start using story telling about Kilum-Ijim forest for forest sensitization and education.



Forest education through story telling

J) COMMUNICATION

CAMGEW used different methods to inform, sensitise and train Kilum-Ijim forest communities. The Oku Community radio, Kumbo City radio, Bui Community Radio and Boyo Community Radio were used by CAMGEW to inform community members about opportunities and carryout sensitisation and knowledge sharing programmes. CAMGEW website, her facebook page and her networks were used for communication. Telephone, Skype, written letters, post box, visits and email were also used to reach out to the outer world. Organized seminars, workshops and exhibitions were opportunities used to share, learn and listen to others. CAMGEW also produced posters, brochures, booklets to reach out to the communities.

K) CAMGEW-MIVA VEHICLE PROJECT

CAMGEW is grateful to MIVA Switzerland for the support she gave her to buy a vehicle (TOYOTA HILUX) in 2015. The vehicle has served CAMGEW in executing various projects from 2015 and 2016. CAMGEW is taking good care of the gift which was bought as a used vehicle. Our activities are increasing and we need more means of mobility like another Hilux to be used in the hilly terrain of Kilum-Ijim forest area. CAMGEW also need 2 motorcycles too to serve in her 2 peasant women micro-credit schemes in Oku and Kumbo. CAMGEW will be grateful to have support in this area.



CAMGEW-MIVA Vehicle bring hope to communities and protecting the Kilum-Ijim forest

L) CAMGEW CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY AND NATIONAL DAY

CAMGEW joined the youths to celebrate the Cameroon National Youth Day on 11th February 2016 and to celebrate the national day on 20th May 2016. CAMGEW through CAMGEW- Vocational Training Centre, Peasant women of the CAMGEW - Micro-credit Scheme, her staff and other CAMGEW beneficiaries join other institutions in a match pass in front of the authorities and population in Oku to celebrate these days. The match pass was done along with demonstrations of produced items in the following departments: dress making and decoration, hair dressing, shoe making, beehives from apiculture department and nursed trees from Forest departments.



CAMGEW Match pass during 11th February 2016 celebration in Oku

M) VISIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA TECH FROM 16 – 17 NOVEMBER 2016 TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF RESEARCH AROUND KILUM-IJIM FOREST FROM

CAMGEW received guests from the Virginia Tech University- USA, University of Yaoundé I - Cameroon, Forestry School-Mbalmayo - Cameroon and The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERUDEF) - Cameroon.

These partners joined CAMGEW to work on the landscape in and around Kilum-Ijim forest. The interest was to identify challenges and engage students and researchers from these institutions into research that will come up with solutions in the form of technologies to handle challenges and improve lives of local

people while protecting the environment. These partners have interest on Kilum-Ijim forest, organic coffee cultivation, Oku White Honey, carving, animal husbandry and to ascertain the role of tradition in nature conservation. This team visited institutions and persons involved in the above areas. The visit lead to the production of these videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHKY15LEuos>



Virginia Tech University and other partners visit CAMGEW

N) AFRICA 24 FROM KENYA VISIT CAMGEW TO COVER THE WORK OF WIRSIY EMMANUEL AS AN EMERGING LEADER

In September 2016 Africa 24 a media station based in Kenya came to Cameroon to cover up the work of Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy. This included his whole life and his works in Kilum-Ijim forest. It was a great opportunity to see the work of the leader of CAMGEW recognized internationally. The team spent 2 weeks with CAMGEW and Emmanuel covering his works in the forest and interviewing stakeholders around the forest to learn more about him. A short video has been produced. Parts of his works have future in other documentaries. A longer version is still to be released.

Short video <http://www.dw.com/en/money-for-forest-honey/a-37473719>

Story present in other documentaries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCVVzGDXQmw&t=129s>



Africa 24 covering the story of CAMGEW and Wirsiy Emmanuel

SECTION 9

2016 CHALLENGES, 2017 PLANNED ACTIVITIES & CONCLUSION

A) CHALLENGES

1) KILUM-IJIM FOREST

- **Forest management Institution (FMI) and Executive members:** FMIs are not still very active. Some of the executive members have not protected the interest of the community in the forest and in forest resource benefit-sharing mechanisms. There has been poor management of forest proceeds, embezzlement and over exploitation of the forest resources. There is need for new elections and organization.
- **Domestic animals in the forest:** There are goats, cattle and sheep in the forest that pound the forest soil, eat young trees and prevent natural forest regeneration. This prevents the sustainability of the forest.
- **Bush fires:** Bushfires destroy the forest biodiversity. Bushfires results from farms at forest borders that are burnt in preparation for crop planting, it also results from cigarettes smoking in the forest especially in the dry season, burning of dry vegetation in grassland around the forest and poor honey harvesting without bee smokers.
- **Forest platform:** There is no existing forest plateform. There is need to create a forest multi-stakeholder platform at each community forest to promote dialogue among all forest stakeholders for a better management of Kilum-Ijim Forest. CAMGEW has a challenge to create this platform for dialogue and participation in forest management.

2) FOREST PRODUCTS

a)Production:

- **Application of norms for the Oku White Honey and Prunus africana:** There are norms set for production and commercialization of these products which are not applied either because of ignorance or intentional. The quality of these goods are doubted when norms are not respected.
- **Production capacity:** The production of these goods (bee wax, Oku White Honey, Prunus) is still low and there is need to increase its quantity.
- **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.

b)Commercialization:

- **Marketing of honey and bees wax:** The marketing of these goods is still poor. Those who need them never easily have access to them. They are not available nationwide as expected.
- There is a lot of clandestine commercialization of honey and bees wax from this region. CAMGEW created a Honeyshop in Bamenda to help sell farmers' honey but the shop is not yet popular. She needs to learn more marketing skills.
- **Application of norms for honey, bees wax and Prunus africana:** The norms set for the commercialization of these products are not respected and this makes it difficult to sell these products at good prices.
- Beehive construction is similar around Kilum-Ijim forest but some communities like Mutteff construct beehives that are not strong to transport bees or that do not have a long lifespan. They need more trainings.

3) MICRO- CREDIT SCHEME

- In our peasant women micro-credit scheme agricultural loans need more time and are periodic. The loan period is 6 months and there are some crops that need more than this time. Some crops like potatoes, beans are periodic and many persons who carryout out these activities need money at this time and the scheme cannot satisfy them.
- Many peasant women lack identification papers and this makes it difficult to grant them loans. CAMGEW is happy that because of the scheme many women have produced these papers.

4) CAMGEW AS AN ORGANISATION

- **Funding and networking:** CAMGEW needs funding for her activities but these funds are not available. CAMGEW needs opportunities through networks to share experiences and opportunities with other institutions and persons while learning from them
- **Volunteers:** CAMGEW need volunteers with expertise in various domains to help her better serve the communities and transfer their knowledge to the staff. CAMGEW needs to develop her skill in fund raising, project development and organizational development to better manage information, staff, projects, partners and equipment. Volunteers are useful to us.
- **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.
- **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 of functioning well because of some office items that are not sufficient. CAMGEW needs: 2 camera, 2 computers (1 laptop and 1 desktop), 1 printer, 1 scanner and 1 photocopier.
- **Need new partners:** CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender department strong and active to promote gender equality and equity.

- CAMGEW needs mobility means to reach out to peasant women during training and follow-up of their activities. These peasant women that are already organised in groups needs goods in bulk to retail and consume like savon, rice, wheat flour, palm oil, salt, detergents, animal dung for fertilizer, etc. These women need a means to transport their farm products (maize, beans, potatoes, cocoayams, vegetables, honey, etc) to the market. CAMGEW need another TOYOTA HILUX for this purpose. The nature of roads is also a challenge. Given that during the rainy season the hilly terrain become bad and needs a stronger vehicle.

B) ACTIVITIES PER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

Specific Objective 1: To engage forest communities in the sustainable management of the 7 community Forests in the Kilum in 2017

- Develop radio program to sensitise, entertain, educate and inform communities on the importance of participating in forest management
- Organize forests users to get engage in forest tracing and patrols to protect the forest
- Set up an intervention mechanism to eliminate bush fires
- Organise communities to participate in nursery development
- Empower community members to advocate for forest defaulters to be sanctioned.
- Construct and equip a Forest Learning Centre (theatre, computer, projections, demonstration, training workshops, lodging, library, office, binoculars,)
- Organize community tree planting sessions in the 7 Kilum Community Forests
- Produce communication materials(poster, newspaper, leaflets, booklets, update website)
- Organize regular community forest visits for education and entertainment
- Organize a Kilum Forest Day (with activities like: Inter-community football and handball competitions, Handball competition, school quiz, Exposes, Film projections, Poems, Drama, Cultural manifestation, Poster presentation, Trade fair by Honey Cooperatives, other forest user groups and FMIs)

Specific Objective 2: To improve effective stakeholders' engagement in sustainable management of 7 community Forests of the Kilum Forest in 2017

- Organise elections for the 7 Forest Management Institutions in Kilum Forest
- Organize trainings for the elected officials of forests institutions(FMIs and Honey Cooperatives) on leadership and management
- Facilitate 2 stakeholder meetings on re-organisation of FMIs and the development of election guidelines
- Organize exchange visits between like-minded forest institutions and platforms
- Organize exchange visits between the two stakeholders platform in Nso and Oku
- Create a notice board and a suggestion box in each of the FMIs
- Organize radio programmes on FMIs decisions and work to inform communities
- Create and administer a Kilum-Ijim Forest Facebook page on forest issues to share information on the management of the forest

Specific Objective 3: To strengthen the capacity of CAMGEW to better function and effectively contribute to the sustainable management of the Kilum Forest in 2017

- Develop a 2 year organisational development plan
- Hold exchange visits between CAMGEW and like-minded organisations

- CAMGEW staff attends trainings on financial management, leadership and communication.
- Purchase adequate support materials to facilitate our work
- Actively raise funds for CAMGEW and identify new partners to work with
- Develop a communication strategy for CAMGEW
- Develop and submit projects /collaboration proposals with new partners.
- Develop a chart (guidelines) on what CAMGEW can and cannot do: values

Specific Objective 4: To empower eco-business operators from 7 Community Forests of Kilum to have adequate skills and increased revenue through the commercialization of their products.

- Organise trainings on bee farming
- Organise trainings on bee wax production
- Organise trainings on Prunus africana harvesting
- Organise trainings on agro forestry techniques
- Marketing of non-timber forest products
- Organise experience sharing /exchange visits between communities' eco-business operators.
- Provide seedlings and bee hives (on a buy one get one- free model) to new farmers
- Conduct a baseline study on farming and production capacity of non- timber forest products

Specific Objective 5: Women in the Kilum-Ijim area are empowered and participate in forest management and community development by 2017

- a) Counseling
- b) Computer literacy
- c) Workshop , sharing of experience on health and nutrition
- d) Organise workshop on women's right
- e) Leadership trainings for women
- f) Micro credit scheme
- g) Sensitise community on issues of women's right violation
- h) Sensitise women on forest management and eco-business

C) CONCLUSION

CAMGEW looks forward to a successful year in 2017. CAMGEW wishes all her partners, would be partners, collaborators, staff, board members, well-wishers and beneficiaries a successful 2017 year. She invites everyone to join her to work for a sustainable environment and improved livelihood for all people. Should you want to learn more about CAMGEW visit her website at www.camgew.org or www.camgew.com. You could also visit the following links

- Kilum-Ijim forest apiculture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBqEgnjsWSg>
- Organic coffee farming in Oku: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHKY15LEuos>
- Short video <http://www.dw.com/en/money-for-forest-honey/a-37473719>
- CAMGEW in other documentaries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCVVzGDXQmw&t=129s>
- CAMGEW FOREST VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TwdiXGj3zk>
- CAMGEW GENERAL ACTIVITIES VIDEO
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyM89iaLnHw&feature=youtu.be&hd=1>