A REPORT

ON FOREST REGENERATION THROUGH TREE PLANTING IN THE AKEH, AJUNG and BIHKOV COMMUNITY FORESTS OF KILUM-IJIM MOUNTAIN FOREST

2nd JUNE TO 7TH AUGUST 2015

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

Project title:

"Participatory Kilum-Ijim Forest Management through forest regeneration and apiculture for livelihood improvement".

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone (237) 675184310, 697037417

Address: P.O Box 17 Elak Oku, North West Region, Cameroon

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Report prepared by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy (CAMGEW Director), Ngum Jai Raymond (CAMGEW Project Officer) and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

CAMGEW: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
FMI: Forest Management Institution
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MINEPIA: Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINEPIA: Ministry of Livestock, fisheries and Animal Industry
MINFOF: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
OCR: Oku Community Radio
OHCS: Oku Honey Cooperative Society
PPI-FFEM: Programme Petit Initiatives du Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
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PRESENTATION OF CAMGEW

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

INTRODUCTION

Presentation of Project area

The Kilum Mountain Range and the Ijim Ridge are part of the Western Highlands of Cameroon commonly referred to as the Bamenda Highlands. The Bamenda Highland Montane forest lies between latitudes 5° 40' and 7° to the North of the Equator, and between longitudes 9°45 and 11°10' to the East of the Meridian. It is bordered to the south-west by the South-West Region, to the south by West Region, to the east by Adamawa Region, and to the north by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Kilum range (also known as Mount Oku) is situated in Bui Administrative Division in the North West Region. The Ijim Ridge stretches northwest from Mount Oku, starting from the west side of Lake Oku to Kom in Boyo Division. The contiguous Kilum and Ijim Mountain Forest are located between latitude 6°0TN and 6°1TN and Longitude lOo20'E and lOo35'E. Oku where the CAMGEW office is located is 2 hours drive from Bamenda the capital city of North West Region in Cameroon and 500 kilometres from Yaoundé, the Cameroon capital.

Localities around the Kilum-Ijim Mountain forest that hosts the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m.The population is English speaking. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannerman's Tauraco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified under the IUCN Red-list as endangered. The periphery of this forest is bare land where agriculture is practiced. These surroundings are hilly and sloping towards valleys. The forest peripheries are affected by erosion leading to unfertile soils with low crop productivity. There are very few trees on the slopes. This population depend on the forest for firewood. CAMGEW has decided to tackle this problem through training of peasant farmers on agroforestry techniques and providing them with agroforestry seeds that will conserve the soil, increase soil fertility, fight erosion, serve as wind breaks, provide fodder and fuel wood to peasant farmers. The major economic activities that are practiced in these localities are agriculture and animal rearing. Practicing agroforestry in forest peripheries will increase food production and reduce pressure on forest resources. CAMGEW trains farmers on the importance to plant agroforestry trees like Leucena and Acacia in peasant farmers' farms reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by peasant farmers in Communities and stop unsustainable farming methods in these communities through her agroforestry program with these communities.

Presentation of the Project

This project has as title "Participatory Kilum-Ijim Forest Management through forest regeneration and apiculture for livelihood improvement". The project is aimed at promoting participatory Kilum-Ijim community forest management by engaging local people in activities that promote benefit sharing between people and the environment. CAMGEW identified apiculture, tree planting and agroforestry with the population as activities that could increase population revenue and in the same time increase forest conservation in a short and a long term basis.

In this project, CAMGEW expects to train 180 persons on bee farming (apiculture) in six sites around Kilum-Ijim forest area. The training will be offered in partnership with Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS).

CAMGEW will also carry out 6 agroforestry trainings for 180 farmers around Kilum-Ijim forest to cover 30 villages and provide them with 20.000 agroforestry seedlings and seeds to plant on their farms. These trees will increase soil fertility, prevent soil erosion and ensure production of flowers to be harvested by bees in periods when there are no flowers in the forest.
CAMGEW will also plant 10.000 trees of Prunus africana in Bihkov, Akeh and Ajung Community forests and destroy 1.000 Eucalyptus trees present in these forests through debarking of their stems.
Environmental sensitisation will be carried out to help community members see the need to protect the forest from bushfires, prevent invasion by goats, prevent encroachment by farmers to forest land and prevent deforestation. The Oku Community Radio, Kumbo City Radio and Belo Community Radio will be used for forest sensitisation and information. A participatory approach will be used in the execution of this project. This will involve MINFOF, MINEPIA, the administrative and traditional authorities, media, various CBOs and the community.

TREE PLANTING

Introduction

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 with 23.500 native trees is a step in this line that support government's policy for forest regeneration and a United Nation's policy to fight against climate change. CAMGEW from 2nd June to 7th of August 2015 carried out forest regeneration activities in the Kilum - Ijim Forest in Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests. These activities included planning meetings with FMI members and communities, 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. CAMGEW during her 2015 tree planting campaign also maintained the 20.000 trees planted from 2012 to 2014.

Tree planting methodology

The tree planting exercise took place between June and August 2015. The activities started with planning meetings with beneficiary communities. Field visits were done by CAMGEW with Forest Management Institutions' (FMIs) members and some few community members to identify the area for regeneration. After the site identification in the forest, community members started slashing the paths where trees were to be planted. Seedlings were planted 5m apart. The plastics from tree pots were carried out from the forest to keep the forest natural. The tree planting ended with a crowning ceremony that brought forest stakeholders, men, women, youths and other community members together. CAMGEW organized this event to present work done in forest regeneration to the authorities. CAMGEW used this ceremony to carryout environmental education sessions with community members. There was weeding in the forest where trees were planted in 2012, 2013 and 2014 with funds from PPI-FFEM, Both Ends and the World Bank and Wildlife.

1: PLANNING MEETING AND SITE IDENTIFICATION

a)Planning meeting for Akeh and Ajung Community Forests Regeneration: The planning meeting was held on the 3rd of June 2015. This meeting had as objectives to present the PPI-FFEM (French IUCN) funded project on the regeneration in Kilum-Ijim forests at Akeh and Ajung Community forests respectively. 3000 trees of Prunus africana were to be planted in each of this community forest. The meeting started at 11:00 AM and ended at 3:30PM with 17 main forest stakeholders in attendance from Akeh and Ajung communities. CAMGEW staff were represented in the meeting by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy, Ngum Jai Raymond and Ngong Jude.
The community members proposed they will love that some trees be planted in their water catchment areas. To this request CAMGEW Director added that 3000 trees will be planted in each of their community forest and an extra 1000 trees divided amongst them to support the protection of their water catchment areas. Another meeting was schedule to hold on the 16th June 2015 to confirm regeneration sites. It was also agreed between CAMGEW and the executive members of FMIs of Akeh and Ajung that 3500 tree seedlings will be planted in Ajung and Akeh Forest respectively (3000 in each of their Community Forest and 500 trees in each in their water catchment areas). The Chairpersons of the Water Management Committees of Ajung and Akeh were invited for the second meeting. Community forest were to be regenerated with Prunus Africana trees and water catchments with watershed friendly trees like Pittosporium, Carapas, and Zyzygium staudtii.

Planning meeting for Ajung and Akeh

b)Planning meeting for Bikov Community Forests Regeneration: In Vekovi, two planning meetings were organised. The first meeting took place on the 2nd of June 2015. This meeting took placed in Vekovi - Jakiri Sub Division in the FMI Office. The meeting was attended by the executive members of the Bihkov Community Forest and CAMGEW staff. Project activities were discussed with the executive members of the Bikov FMI. The meeting was attended by 6 participants. The meeting started at 1:00Pm and ended at 4:00PM.

On the 17th of June 2015, another meeting was organised. The meeting was attended by forest users, members of the Bihkov forest and the FMI executive members. The meeting that started at 10:00 AM and ended at 2:30PM took place in the Bikov FMI building at Tanshem-Jakiri Sub Division. The FMI

executive presented to participants the site where forest regeneration will take place. Finally 4500 *Prunus africana* trees were planted in the forest instead of the 4000 trees that were programmed in the project. The meeting was attended by 31 participants.

Ownership of project: In the course of the planning meetings for Akeh, Ajung and Bikov communities, CAMGEW Director reiterated that CAMGEW is simply support the work of FMIs in their community forest. He said, FMI members will lead and control the tree planting while CAMGEW will do the supervision. This was because the community forest is owned by the community and should conserve it. The sites for tree planting were chosen by FMI members for each community forest and the follow-up of planted trees was to be done by them. CAMGEW is responsible for facilitating the process.

Table 1: Planning meetings in Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests.

ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS
Planning meetings	Ajung	PPI-FFEM	3rd and 16th June 2015	Akeh	4 and 7 participants respectively
	Akeh	PPI-FFEM	3rd and 16th June 2015	Akeh	13 and14 participants respectively
	Bihkov	PPI-FFEM	2nd and 17th June 2015	Vekovi/ Tanshem	6 and 31 participants respectively

Planning meeting for tree planting at Bikov Forest facilitated by Government(MINFOF) Forest Technician-Vekovi

2: SLASHING TO CREATE PATHS FOR PLANTING

Following the planning meetings from the different Community Forests, forest slashing was due to start in the different community forests simultaneously. Forest slashing delayed in other places. It was agreed in the planning meetings that forest slashing will begin on the 18th of June 2015.

In Bihkov Community Forest, forest slashing began on the 18th and ended on the 27th of June. The slashing of the forest was done for 9 days. 18 people took part in the activities. Work started everyday as from 8:00 AM and ended at 1:00PM.

In Ajung, the activity started on the 6th of July 2015 and ended on the 16th of July 2015. The slashing of the identified site in Ajung Community Forest was done by 8 participants. The slashing was done for 10 days. The community members started work every day as from 9:00AM and worked till 2:00PM. The late start of work was due to the fact that community members had long distances to trek to the identified site for regeneration in their forest.

In Akeh the slashing of the forest started on the 22nd of June and ended on the 26th of June 2015. Path

slashing in the forest started every as from 9:00 AM and ended at 2:00PM. The slashing was done for 4 days by 8 community members.

The slashing process delayed in all the Community Forest because the distance from settlement to the forest was long. In Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests for example, it took 2 hours to get to the forest trekking and 3 hours in to Akeh forest. The slashing process was done in all community forest by forest users and some community members under the control of the FMIs with the supervision of CAMGEW.

Table 2: slashing activities in Ajung, Akeh and Bihkov Community Forests

SN	ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS
2	Slashing	Ajung	PPI-FFEM	6th to 16th July 2015	Ajung C F	8 participants
		Akeh	PPI-FFEM	22nd -26th June	Akeh CF	8 participants
		Bihkov	PPI-FFEM	18th-27th June 2015	Bihkov CF	18 participants

Slashing at Ajung, Akeh and Bikov Community forests respectively

3: DIGGING AND PECKING AND PECKING OF HOLES FOR TREE PLANTING

Some community forest did digging and pecking of holes after slashing and others did this simultaneously. The trees needed to be planted in prepared holes and pecked to ensure easy identification during maintenance and follow-up.

In Ajung Community Forest, slashing, digging and pecking of the trees started on the 6th and ended on the 16th of July. The community members divided themselves into 2 groups. One group did the slashing and the other group dug and pecked the holes for tree planting. By the end of the 10 days of work, the community members had dug and pecked 6000 holes for tree planting. Work was done from 9:00AM to 1:00PM every day.

In Akeh Community Forest, digging and pecking of holes for tree planting was done for 4 days. 8 community members were involved in the activity. This activity started on the 26th and ended on the 30th of June 2015. During this period the community members dug and pecked 3000 holes in the forest. Work was done from 9:00AM to 1:00PM every day.

In Bihkov Community Forest the activity was done for 4 days. 15 community members participated in the activity. The activity started on the 3rd of July and ended on the 9th of July 2015. By the end of the activity, community members dug and pecked 4500 holes for tree planting in Bihkov Community Forest. Work was done from 8:00AM to 1:00PM every day.

Table 3: digging and pecking activities in Ajung, Akeh and Bihkov Community Forests(CF)

SN	ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS
3	Digging and pecking	Ajung	PPI-FFEM	6th to 16th July 2015	Ajung C F	6000 holes and pecks	8 participants
		Akeh	PPI-FFEM	26th June to 30th June 2015	Akeh CF	3000 holes and pecks	8 participants
		Bihkov	PPI-FFEM	3rd to 9th July 2015	Bihkov CF	4500 holes and pecks	15 participants

4. TRANSPORTATION OF SEEDLINGS TO THE FOREST AND PLANTING

Transportation of trees to the forest was done by CAMGEW and community members. CAMGEW has a tree nursery in Manchok-Oku where she got trees to plant in the forest. Some community members supplied CAMGEW with trees for planting. We had about 2200 trees from Future In Our Hands –Oku tree nursery and 4000 trees from tree nursery owners in Vekovi . Tree planting was taking place in Ajung, Akeh and Bihkov Community Forest. When digging and pecking was over in the different Communities, CAMGEW transported the trees from the Manchok nursery. CAMGEW used the car donated to her by MIVA Swiss.

Trees were transported in CAMGEW vehicle and planted in Ajung Community Forest twice. CAMGEW transported 5000 trees to Ajung on the 22nd of July 2015 and 1000 trees on the 6th of August 2015. The transported trees were in reality more than 7000 but in some cases two trees were planted per hole depending on the assessment of their viability. The first trees transported were planted on the 22nd to 24th of July 2015 by community members, FMI executive and CAMGEW staff. The second transported trees were planted on the 6th and 7th of August 2015. These second trees were meant for water catchment protection but because Ajung prepared more holes than expected in their forest and Akeh never prepared sa site to be planted in their water catchment all the trees were planted in Ajung Community forest. CAMGEW planted the following trees: 3500 *Prunus africana* seedlings and 3500 other tree species like *Carapas grandifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Schefflera abyssinica, Croton macrostachyst, Bridelia speciosa* and *Pittosporium mannii*. The second transportation of trees was done. CAMGEW transported 1100 trees of different species to Ajung. CAMGEW avoided creating a plantation forest by planting varieties of trees in the same area. The area regenerated in Ajung was almost empty of trees.


Trees carried from the nursery for planting

Tree planting in Akeh Community Forest: Transportation of trees to be planted in Akeh was done by CAMGEW by vehicle from CAMGEW nursery in Manchok to Akeh. From Akeh central, community members transported the trees from settlement area to the forest. This was done on the 8th of July 2015. On this day CAMGEW staff- Ngum Raymond, the Chief of Post for Forestry for Oku and Community members planted 1000 trees. On the 9th of July 2015, 750 trees were planted in the forest and on the 10th of July 2015, 850 trees were planted on the. Finally, on the 11th of July 2015, 400 trees were planted in the forest. A total of 3000 *Prunus africana* seedlings were planted in the Akeh Community Forest. Work was done for 4 days.


Trees carried for planting at Akeh Community Forest

Tree planting in Bikov Community Forest: In Bikov Community Forest, CAMGEW got trees from the Bikov FMI. The Bikov FMI has a tree nursery which has been managed since 1989. CAMGEW got 4500 Prunus africana seedlings from this nursery and together with the Forest users, these trees were transported to the forest. On the 3rd of July 2015, CAMGEW field staff, nursery attendants and some community members took 2000 *Prunus africana* seedlings from the nursery and transported to the forest. These trees were planted on that day. The planting was done by 15 community members under CAMGEW supervision. On the 4th of July 2015, 1500 trees were taken from the nursery and transported to the forest with 1300 of these trees planted that day. On the 6th of July 2015, 5

community members went to the forest and planted 200 trees. On the 9th of July 2015, 23 community members and CAMGEW team went to the forest for tree planting. 1000 Prunus seedlings were planted on this day.

Table 4: Transportation and planting of tree seedlings in Ajung, Akeh and Bihkov Community Forests

ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS
Transportation of seedlings to the forest and planting	Ajung	PPI-FFEM	22nd July to 7th August 2015	Ajung CF	6000 trees planted	13 participants
	Akeh	PPI-FFEM	8th to 11th July 2015	Akeh CF	3000 trees planted	8 participants
	Bihkov	PPI-FFEM	3rd to 9th July 2015	Bihkov CF	4500 trees planted	15 participants

Tree planting at Bikov Community forest by community members and their forest executives

Tree seedlings transported for planting at Ajung Community Forest

Vegetative Propagation in forest regeneration: CAMGEW decided to regenerate the forest in some portion at Emfve-mii Community forest with cuttings of trees like Scheflera, fig tree and Solanecio mannii. About 500 cuttings of these trees were planted especially in areas covered with fern plants. Fern plants do not permit the growth of other vegetation beside it except through vegetative propagation.

5. TREE PLANTING CROWNING CEREMONY

This forest regeneration exercise took place between the 2nd of June and the 7th of August 2015. A crowning ceremony was organized at the end of each tree planting campaign in the various community forests where CAMGEW had tree planting activities.

The purpose of the crowning ceremony was to make public the work done by CAMGEW on forest regeneration to community leaders. It was also aimed at sensitizing the community members on the importance of conserving the forest for the benefit of the community. CAMGEW saw it important to make the community members know that the trees planted were threatened by goats living in the forest and that the owners needed to remove them.

The crowning ceremony was done in Bikov Community Forest on the 9th of July 2015. Present in the forest for the crowning ceremony were 23 community members including women, youths and the old. The Forest Management Officer (FMO) for Bikov Community Forest emphasized on the importance of forest conservation and regeneration.

In Akeh, the crowning ceremony was done on the 11th July 2015 with 13 people participating.

In Ajung the crowning ceremony took place on the 7th of August 2015 with 13 participants.

CAMGEW Director Wirsiy Emmanuel made talks on Environmental issues, with much focus on the problems linked to the forest that needed to be solved especially stray animals (goats in Bikov and cows in Ajung and Akeh Community Forests) that pose a threat to planted trees and forest regeneration. The forest stakeholders were given the opportunity to talk to the community as regards forest regeneration and conservation.

Table 5: crowning ceremony for tree planting activities

ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS
Crowning ceremony	Ajung	PPI -FFEM	7th August 2015	Ajung C F	13 participants
	Akeh	PPI -FFEM	11th July 2015	Akeh CF	
	Bihkov	PPI -FFEM	9th July 2015	Bihkov CF	23 participants

Tree planting crowning ceremony at Ajung

Tree planting crowning ceremony at Emfve-mii and Bikov respectively

6. MAINTENANCE OF PLANTED TREES

Between 2012 and 2014, CAMGEW planted about 20.000 trees in the Nchiiy and Emfve-mii forest of Oku Community forest at Kilum.. In 2015 CAMGEW has planted 23.500 trees too. The trees were planted with funds from different institutions

Table 6: Statistics for CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012 – 2013 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	6 600	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	3 416	MINFOF- Cameroon	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2014	3000	Koning School through Both-ENDS-Netherlands	Variety of bee loving forest native trees	Nchiiy CF
2015	3000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Akeh CF – Ijim forest
2015	4500	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Bikov CF
2015	6000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana (3500) Native forest trees (2500)	Ajung CF – Ijim forest
2015	5000	Future In Our Hands UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Emfve-mii CF
2015	5000	Rufford Small Grants – UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Nchiiy CF

This activity involved the clearing of paths where trees had been planted. There was also weeding round the planted trees during clearing. This has been helping the trees to grow faster. CAMGEW in the process relaced dead trees in some areas. The maintenance of these trees was done by community members who use the forest on daily basis.

In Nchiiy Community Forest, the maintenance of the trees that were planted in 2014 was done by 9 participants who cleared the paths on which trees were planted and also did ring weeding around

the trees. This activity in Nchiiy Community Forest was done for 9 days from the 6th to the 14th of June 2015. In Emfve-Mii the planted tree were maintained twice. The first maintenance was done from the 7th to 18th of April 2015. This involved clearing tall grass from the paths where trees were planted without ring weeding to prevent goats from identifying planted trees to eat. The second maintenance of trees in Emfve-Mii Community Forest was done from the 2nd to 27th of July 2015. This involved the clearing and ring weeding of trees in the forest. Pecks placed beside trees that were bad were also replaced. The pecks facilitate tree maintenance as they indicate spots where tree are planted.

Table 7: maintenance of planted trees in Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community Forests

ACTIVITY	COMMUNITY FOREST	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE	PARTICIPANTS
Maintenance	Nchiiy	PPI -FFEM	6th to 14th June 2015-	Nchiiy	8
	Emfve-Mii	PPI -FFEM	-7th to 18th April 2015 -2nd to 27th July 2015	Emfve-Mii	6

Emfve-mii community child says he want to grow along with his planted tree

7. MONITORING OF PLANTED TREES

Monitoring of planted trees and the forest is done continuously on daily basis by community members who report to CAMGEW team. On weekly bases CAMGEW team that go to the forest to follow-up forest regeneration activities. Forest users enter the forest on daily basis either for firewood fetching, trap control, harvesting of bamboo for construction 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 continuing to see CAMGEW as their partner. CAMGEW report these cases to the local authorities and thus allows justice to take its way.

Bikov Forest Management Executive visit Emfve-mii forest. A team of 3 members of the Bikov Community Forest executive visited the Emfve-mii Community Forest where CAMGEW started tree planting in 2012 to learn about the maintenance of planted trees and the challenges faced by the forest and the planted trees. This was aimed at gathering skills and experience to better managed the trees planted in their community forest.

Bikov Forest Management Executive visit Emfve-mii forest

CHALLENGES

1. The sites which FMI's and community members identified for regeneration in the three community forests were very far from human settlement. It took more time to get to the forest. The roads were not motorable in most cases except the case for Ajung. This delayed work. The community members took more time to get to the forest. Work time was reduced. Many women could not also be involved to a greater extent because of the distance from the settlement of Akeh, Ajung and Vekovi.
2. The forest in the Ijim Ridge is not continuous like in the Kilum. This has encouraged Fulani grazers to settle around the savannah areas in the forest. Their cattle graze into the forest and destroy trees.
3. The greatest challenge in the regeneration of the Community forest is the presence of animals in the forest (goats in Bihkov Community Forest and Cows in Ajung Community Forest). These animals kept by community members in the forest area have been destroying planted trees and other seedlings that are regenerating naturally.
4. Farm lands are much closed to the forest. Community members still used the slash-and-burn method of farming, and Ankara methods of farming. This exposes the forest to bush fires. There will be need for continuous monitoring of the regenerated area and sensitisation on the need to be careful and take care of the forest. Defaulters will need to be punished.
5. A great portion of the Ajung Community Forest had been cleared for farmland. After the farmers had been pulled out of the forest, this area that was once covered by forest is now covered by fern plants. This area will need to be regenerated. CAMGEW planted 6000 trees in just a small portion.

SUCCESS

1. The project was aimed at regenerating the Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests with 3000, 3000 and 4000 trees each respectively. CAMGEW ended up planting a total of 13500 Prunus africana and other watershed trees in the Community Forests as follows: 3000 in Akeh, 6000 in Ajung and 4500 in Bihkov Community Forests.
2. CAMGEW used a participatory approach in tree planting and CAMGEW has seen increase 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) to do the regeneration. CAMGEW played a supervisory role in the process.
3. Through sensitization in the Community Radio, many people changed their mentalities. Some people have removed goats from some parts in 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 it without knowing that they are involved in monitoring. Some tell us those trees you planted are doing very well.

CONCLUSION

The regeneration of the Akeh, Ajung and Bihkov Community Forests of Kilum-Ijim Forest has been a reality in August 2015 with the planting of 13500 trees (10500 Prunus africana and 3000 trees of different tree species like Carapas grandifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Schefflera abyssinica, Croton macrostachyst, Bridelia speciosa and Pittosporium mannii) under the PPI-FFEM funding. This year CAMGEW has also planted 5000 trees in Nchiiy Community Forest with funds from Rufford Foundation and 5000 trees in Emfve-Mii Community Forest in partnership with Future In Our Hands (FIOH)-UK.

The participation rate of community members was impressive with many of them entering the forest for the first time. This activity gave CAMGEW the opportunity to carryout field-based environmental education on sustainable forest management and use. Forest users took part in the tree planting and were sensitize on how to use the forest sustainably. The Oku community Radio has been used to reach out to the population on the need to protect the forest. The objective of forest regeneration was realized. The forest stakeholders were brought close together and they are realizing a need for a forest stakeholder platform.

CAMGEW is thankful to PPI-FFEM of French IUCN for providing funds to realize this activity. CAMGEW hopes to make tree planting a yearly activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- CAMGEW recommends that all goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural seedlings of Prunus and other tree species. The goats prevent the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will permit young seedlings to grow and increase their rate of survival.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats living in the forest. General patrols carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats. There is a zone of pasture at the top of the forest where they could keep their animals.
- CAMGEW see the need for a project on pasture improvement. This will encourage animal confinement and reduces cases of cattle having to graze in the forest. There is need for pasture improvement for Mbororo communities found around Kilum-Ijim forest. The Mbororo is an ethnic group that is indigenous. They are one of the two indigenous groups(Pygmies and Mbororo) in Cameroon. The Mbororo keep few cattle and move from one area to another with their cattle. They are less literate and have few opportunities for development. Improving on pasture for their cattle is improving on their living standards. At the top of Kilum forest is a good grazing land that needs pasture improvement, water provision for animals and demarcation of grazing land from forest land. There is need to work on this.
- CAMGEW see the need for a demarcation between the forest and the savannah land at the top of the forest. This will prevent the movement of animals from the top savannah land to the forest. The absence of animals from the forest will promote the regeneration process of the forest.
- CAMGEW sees the importance for field based environmental education with forest users, women, farmers, youths and children of school age in Nchiiy Community. Environmental education with schools in and around Mbockenghas will also be good to protect the planted trees and instil the spirit of love for nature in school children.
- More trees need to be planted in the Kilum-Ijim forest. This forest is the largest remaining area of the Bamenda Highland Forest and is also perculiar for the production of Oku White Honey that is certified as Geographical Indication Product. This forest is the largest remaining habitat for many endangered species and known too for its endemism. There is great need for regeneration activities to be made a yearly event in this forest for its restoration.
- There is need for more patrols in the forest to check defaulters and forest regeneration activities.

A REPORT

ON TREE PLANTING IN THE NCHIIY COMMUNITY FORESTS OF THE KILUM FOREST FROM JUNE 2nd to August 3rd 2015

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH

(CAMGEW)

Project title:

"Nchiiy Community Forest regeneration for increased honey production and biodiversity"

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone (237) 75184310, 97037417

Address: P.O Box 17 Elak Oku, North West Region, Cameroon

Funder: Rufford Foundation

CAMGEW-RUFFORD PROJECT EXECUTION UPDATE JUNE 2015

Name of project: Nchiiy Community Forest regeneration for increased honey production and biodiversity

Organisation: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Application ID: 16800-1

Applicant Name: Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

Email Address: camgew@gmail.com

Address:

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

P.O Box 2600 Messa, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telephone: 237 675 18 43 10

Website URL: www.camgew.com

Organisation: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Nationality: Cameroon

Date of Birth: 1977-06-12

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

CAMGEW – Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MINFOF – Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
OCR: Oku Community Radio

Acknowledgment

Cameroon Gender and Environmental Watch (CAMGEW) is grateful to the Rufford Foundation for their financial to realize this project. CAMGEW is thankful to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for Oku for technical assistance in forest regeneration process. The participation of community members in forest clearing, transportation of seedlings to the forest and tree planting is also applauded. CAMGEW is also grateful to the following personalities of Oku for their support in the course of forest regeneration: Divisional Officer-Oku, traditional Authorities, and all other persons who assisted directly and indirectly for being very resourceful in the realization of the planting exercise.

INTRODUCTION

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

Presentation of Project area

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

Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km2 of which 300km2 are covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km2.

The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine (like Pittosporum veridiflorum (mannii), Agauria salicifolia, Prunus africana), rodents, wood for carving, alpine bamboo which is used locally for construction, additives (colourings, preservatives and flavourings), mushrooms and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in color.

Presentation of the Project

Nchiiy Community Forest is in Kilum Mountain Forest and is degraded by bushfires and farm encroachment. The community sent out encroached farmers from forest and stopped bushfires in2010. Since then, no bushfire has occurred. CAMGEW will collect tree seeds from other preserved parts of forest, nurse and plant the trees in degraded forest portions. CAMGEW will develop a nursery of 2000 trees of 10 different tree species. The nursery will serve as ground for forest Education for schools/Community on tree importance to honey production, bird and animal diversity, watershed and medicinal properties. Tree planting will be community activity.

TREE PLANTING

Introduction

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 Nchiiy Community forest with 5000 native trees is a step in this line that support government's policy for forest regeneration and a United Nation's policy to fight against climate change. CAMGEW from the 2nd June to 3rd August 2015 carried out forest regeneration activities in the Nchiiy Community Forest. These activities included planning meetings with FMI members and communities, the identification of the sites to be regenerated the clearing of paths for tree planting, digging of holes a, pecking carrying of trees to the forest and planting proper of the trees in the various Community Forests.

TREE PLANTING METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES

The tree planting exercise took place between June 2nd and August 3rd 2015. The activities started with planning meetings with beneficiary communities, slashing of identified areas for regeneration, digging and pecking of the holes, transportation and planting of tree seedlings. The tree planting proper ended with a crowning ceremony which doubled as environmental education sessions with community members.

Field visits were made by beneficiary Community members and FMI members to identify the area to be regenerated. After the area was identified, community members started slashing the paths where trees were to be planted. Seedlings were planted 5m apart. The plastics from pots carrying the seedlings were removed from the forest. The tree planting ended with a crowning ceremony that brought forest stakeholders, women, youths and other community members together. CAMGEW organized this event to present work done in forest regeneration to the authorities and to use the medium for sensitization on the need to protect the Oku forest.

This year CAMGEW also did maintenance of the 3500 trees she had planted 2014 with funds from Both Ends. The maintenance of these trees in Nchiiy Community Forest was done with funds from PPI-FFEM. CAMGEW is grateful to PPI-FFEM.

TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

1. Planning meeting and site identification

CAMGEW team organised a planning meeting envisaging tree planting in Nchiiy C.F. the meeting was aimed at identifying the compartment in which the trees will be planted, when the activities will start and end.

The meeting held on the 2nd June 2015. The meeting was attended by 8 participants. During the meeting it was agreed that the portion that was destroyed in February 2015 will be replanted. The meeting started at 9:00AM and ended at 11:30AM.

2. Slashing to create paths for planting

Slashing started on 6th of June and ended on 11th June 2015. 11 community members took part in the slashing. This activity was done every day from 8 to 2:00PM. At the end of the slashing community members dug holes 5 meters apart and pecked. These were holes on which trees will be planted. The digging of the holes and pecking was done in three phases. The first was on the 6th of June, the second phase was between the 7th and 10th of July and the last was on the 3rd of August for 800, 2200 and 2000 pecks and holes.

3. Transportation of seedlings to the forest and planting

Tree planting was done in three phases with assistance from CAMGEW field staff. The first phase involved the whole community. More than 80 community members took part in the tree planting. 8oo Schefflera plants were cut and transported to the forest together with the Community members they were planted. Between the 7th and 10th of July 2200 trees of different varies including: *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Pittosporum mannii, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and Psydrax dunlapii w*ere transported and planted in the Nchiiy Community Forest. The activity involved 11 Forest users and some community youths. The 3rd phase of the tree planting took place on the 3rd of August 2015. 28 community youths and some forest users took part in the activities. 2000 trees of different varieties were planted. All the phases of tree planting were coupled with Environmental education activities. The third phase of tree planting acted as a crowning ceremony during which talks were made on the importance of forest for watershed and livelihood improvement.

CHALLENGES

6. The forest presence of goats in the forest put the trees planted at risk. More sensitizations need to be made to encourage community members to remove their animals from the forest.
7. More trees need to be planted in Nchiiy Community Forest.
8. The nature of roads was also a challenge. Given that it was in the rainy season, the farm roads were bad. The seedlings could not be transported using a car to the peripheries of the forest. CAMGEW team had to use bikes for the transportation. Women could not also be involved to a greater extent because of the distance from the settlement of Mbockenghas-Oku.

SUCCESS

4. The project was aimed at regenerating the Nchiiy Community Forests with 2000. CAMGEW ended up planting a total of 5000 native tree species of 10 different varieties including *Prunus africana* and other watershed trees in the Community Forests like *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Pittosporum mannii, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and*

Psydrax dunlapii.

5. CAMGEW used a participatory approach in tree planting and CAMGEW has seen increase community solidarity. Youths and community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of Oku Community forest and the need to protect it. CAMGEW played a supervisory role in the process.
6. Through sensitization through the Community Radio, many people have changed their mentalities. People have removed goats from some parts in 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 supervision.

CONCLUSION

The forest stakeholders were brought close together and they are realizing a need for a forest stakeholder platform.

CAMGEW is thankful to the Rufford Foundation for providing funds to realize this activity. CAMGEW hopes to make this tree planting a yearly activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- CAMGEW recommends that all goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural seedlings of Prunus and other tree species. The goats prevent the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will permit young seedlings to grow and increase their rate of survival.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats living in the forest. General patrols carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats. There is a zone of pasture at the top of the forest where they could keep their animals.
- CAMGEW see the need for a project on pasture improvement. This will encourage animal confinement and reduces cases of cattle having to graze in the forest.

A REPORT

ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CAMGEW NURSERIES, FOREST AND TRAININGS AROUND COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY FOREST OF THE KILUM-IJIM MOUNTAIN FOREST

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH

(CAMGEW)

Project title:

"Participatory Kilum-Ijim Forest Management through forest regeneration and apiculture for livelihood improvement".

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone (237) 675184310, 697037417

Address: P.O Box 17 Elak Oku, North West Region, Cameroon

CAMGEW's authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/ BAPP

Funder: IUCN French Commission.

Report prepared by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy (CAMGEW Director) and Ngum Jai Raymond (CAMGEW Project Officer)

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

i. Presentation of CAMGEW

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

ii. Presentation of Project area

The Kilum Mountain Range and the Ijim Ridge are part of the Western Highlands of Cameroon commonly referred to as the Bamenda Highlands. It lies between latitudes 5° 40' and 7° to the North of the Equator, and between longitudes 9°45 and 11°10' to the East of the Meridian. It is bordered to the south-west by the South-West Region, to the south by West Region, to the east by Adamawa Region, and to the north by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Kilum range (also known as Mount Oku) is situated in Bui Administrative Division in the North West Region. The Ijim Ridge stretches northwest from Mount Oku, starting from the west side of Lake Oku to Kom in Boyo Division. The contiguous Kilum and Ijim Mountain Forest are located between latitude 6°0TN and 6°1TN and Longitude lO°20'E and lO°35'E. Oku where the CAMGEW office is located is 2 hours drive from Bamenda the capital city of North West Region in Cameroon and 500 kilometres from Yaoundé, the Cameroon capital.

Localities around the Kilum-Ijim Mountain forest hosts the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m.The population is English speaking. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannerman's Tauraco-a red feathered bird endemic to the Bamenda Highland Region. This bird is classified under the IUCN Red-list as endangered. The periphery of this forest is bare land where agriculture is practiced. These surroundings are hilly and sloping towards valleys. The forest peripheries are affected by erosion leading to unfertile soils with low crop productivity. There are very few trees on the slopes. This population depend on the forest for firewood.

The major economic activities that are practiced in these localities are agriculture and animal rearing.

iii. Project Summary

The project had as overall objective to promote participatory Kilum-Ijim Community forest management by engaging local people in activities promoting benefit sharing between people and the environment. To achieve this objective, CAMGEW identified apiculture, agroforestry and tree planting as activities that could increase population revenue and in the same time increase the level of protection of the forest both in a short and a long term vision. CAMGEW will plant 10.000 trees of *Prunus africana* in Bihkov, Akeh and Ajung Community forests and destroy 1.000 Eucalyptus trees present in these forests through debarking of their stems.

Through this project, CAMGEW expects to train about 180 persons on bee farming in six sites around Kilum-Ijim forest area in partnership with the Oku Honey Cooperative Society (OHCS).

CAMGEW will carry out 6 agroforestry trainings around Kilum-Ijim forest to cover 30 villages, train 180 farmers and provide them with 20.000 agroforestry seedlings and seeds that increase soil fertility, prevent soil erosion and ensures production of flowers to be harvested by bees in periods when there are no flowers in the forest to plant in their farms found at Kilum-Ijim forest periphery. This will help reduce the rate at which bees leave the forest for the absence of food.

Environmental sensitisation will be carried out to help community members see the need to protect the forest from bushfires, invasion by goats, and encroachment by farmers and deforestation. This will be done through field visits in CAMGEW tree nursery and in the forest. The Oku Community Radio, Kumbo City radio and the Boyo Community Radio will be used for forest sensitisation and information.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Global environmental collapse is not inevitable that is why the developed world must work with the developing world to ensure that the newly industrialised countries and economies do not add to the world's environmental problems. Politicians and communities should think of sustainable development rather than economic expansion and interests. Conservation strategies have to become more widely accepted, and people must learn that energy use can be dramatically diminished without sacrificing comfort. Around the Kilum Ijim Mountain Forest global problems like global warming or climate change are highly felt as these phenomenons have caused the change in seasons with rains either coming earlier or later than expected, water shortages especially during the rainy season and the unsustainable exploitation of fauna and flora has caused the reduction and almost extinction of some species. Crop production and bee farming have been greatly affected by these phenomena.

A major reason why is it taking so long to do something about it is the lack of awareness. But that is changing, as there is an increasing environmental education campaigns (though insufficient around the Kilum-Ijim forest).

Because of the problems associated to the Kilum-Ijim Forest like bushfire resulting from poor method of honey harvesting and cigarette smokers, the presence of domestic animals in the forest, illegal exploitation of Prunus africana, Unsustainable and unsupervised exploitation of Prunus africana, the cutting of wet trees and bamboos (alpine) from the forest for firewood and construction, the encroachment by farmers in the forest, over trapping of rats (rodents), destruction of young forest trees (for the carving of walking sticks, fencing, tools, folk sticks for mounting of hives, etc), the presence of exotic species in the forest like Eucalyptus, cypress, pears, etc. , Poor waste management in the forest (plastics, bottles, metals, canned food)etc. CAMGEW sees it as important to do environmental education with community members living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest.

i. Objectives of project activity

The objective of the environmental education was to inspire the forest users groups, women and youths around the Kilum-Ijim to become lovers of nature to ensure the conservation of the Kilum-Ijim Forest.

ii. Methodology used:

Environmental education is a regular feature of CAMGEW activities. CAMGEW organized environmental education sessions with community members, forest users groups and youths around the Kilum-Ijim Forest.

CAMGEW developed Radio programmes in the Community Radios in Oku, Kumbo, Belo and Fundong to promote proper forest management, forest ecosystem benefit sharing, bee farming for forest management, forest law, best practices, alternative livelihood sources to the forest, protection of endangered species in the forest etc. CAMGEW runs an environmental education programme in the Oku Community radio weekly. This was done with the assistance of journalists who follow-up CAMGEW activities for better broadcast.

CAMGEW also did environmental education with schools around the Kilum Ijim, students on holiday classes coming from different schools in Oku and around, community youths, Forest Users' Groups (FUGs), in CAMGEW tree nurseries in Mbockenghas and Manchok Oku, and in the Forest. This was done through field visits which CAMGEW used to educate the young people about forest conservation.

During trainings CAMGEW organised round the Kilum Ijim Forest in agroforestry and bee farming, CAMGEW used the opportunity for environmental sensitisation. The beneficiaries of the trainings were also sensitised to become lovers of nature through best practices in bee farming in the forest and the application of agroforestry techniques in farms around the Kilum-Ijim Forest.

During forest regeneration processes i.e. planning, slashing, transportation, planting, crowning ceremony and monitoring, CAMGEW sensitised the community members involved in the activity to become lovers of nature by instilling in them good forest practices- most of the community members involved in regeneration were forest users.

II. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

The activities carried out in the forest included;

- Education of community members, about forest trees and their germination processes. Forest ecology (interaction between plants, animals, soils, litter etc.), forest canopy, the importance of forest to man and nature and the presence of beehives, honey production processes, bee colonies and other social insects was also emphasised to community members

Children learn by doing forest regeneration in the Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community Forest

Pictures: Area covered by fern plants in the background are signs of past bush fires in the forest.

Theoretical lessons on tree planting and the importance of forest in Nchiiy Community Forest.

- Theoretical and practical lessons were also taught to community youths on nursery development and tree planting. These lessons involved lessons on fencing, filling of pots, manuring, watering and shading.

Practical lessons on nursery development: Mixing of ground with manure and filling of pots with soil

Practical lessons on nursery development: Fencing and shading a tree nursery


CAMGEW –VTC Students listening to theoretical and Practical lessons on nursery development: Bare root nurseries

- CAMGEW ran a weekly radio programme through the Oku Community Radio to sensitise community members in order to promote proper forest management, forest ecosystem benefit sharing, bee farming for forest management, forest law, best practices, alternative livelihood sources to the forest, protection of endangered species in the forest for posterity. This programme was done on Mondays at 10:00AM. CAMGEW also had radio programmes on stations around the Kilum-Ijim Forests like Kumbo City Community Radio, Belo Community Radio and Boyo Community Radio in Fundong to cover project site.
- CAMGEW wrote articles to local news papers agencies like ***"the Grass Lander"*** to share CAMGEW-PPI-FFEM project activities, challenges and successes. Journalists from the news paper agencies covered the events in the field with CAMGEW staff to better share the information.
- CAMGEW has also up dated its website for a wider community to benefit from CAMGEW activities in environmental protection, apiculture and forest regeneration.
- Practical and field base studies on the importance of the forest and fauna, forest for honey, for Prunus, etc were also made with community youths, members and students.


Students on Holiday Classes listening to practical lessons on nursery development for forest regeneration in CAMGEW tree nursery in Manchok.

Students on Holiday classes at Elak take part in forest regeneration: each student planted at least a tree.

III. SUCCESSES

- CAMGEW in the first phase of the project i.e. between April and December 2015 had to sensitise 400 community youths and members to become lover of nature around the Kilum-Ijim Forest CAMGEW sensitized over 1000 community youths, students and members.

Practical lessons on nursery development with primary school pupils from Government School Mbockenghas in CAMGEW tree nursery at Manchok.

Forest based environmental education with Community members of the Ajung Community Forest.

- During the trainings on agroforestry and bee farming that CAMGEW organised for farmers round the Kilum Ijim Forest CAMGEW also did environmental education lessons with the participants making them to become lovers of nature through the improvement of their activities. Farmers were encouraged to plant more trees in their farms to reduce pressure on forest resources and improve on bee keeping methods; bee farmers were taught how to do harvesting during the day and use bee smokers to avoid the occurrence of bush fires.
- CAMGEW has also been able to reach a wider number of people through radio environmental programmes. CAMGEW used the Oku Community Radio, the Kumbo City Radio, the Boyo and the Belo Community Radio to reach an estimated number of more than 30,000 community members living around the Kilum Ijim Forest and neighbouring villages in Noni sub division and the Donga and Mantung Division and neighbouring Nigeria where the waves of the Oku Community Radio and Kumbo City Radio are received.

Table 1: Summary results of Environmental education around the Kilum Ijim Forest April-December 2015

SN	DATE	PLACE	ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1	**2nd june-27th July 2015**	Akeh, Ajung, Bihkov, Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community Forests	Forest regeneration activities	**288**
2	**11th December 2015**	Mbockenghas	Nursery based environmental education	**164**
3	**17thAugust and**	Emfve-Mii Community Forest	Field based environmental education in nursery and forest	**20**
	11th November 2015			**22**
4	**14th August 2015**	Emfve-Mii Community Forest	Field based environmental education+ crowning ceremony	**172**
4	**June 5th To 27th November 2015**	Akeh, Mbockenghas, Tanshem(Vekovi), Akeh Mbororo, Tumuku and Fundong ***(ref: attendance agroforestry trainings)***	Environmental education through agroforestry practices in farms	**201**
5	**15th October to 15th December 2015**	Mbessa, Ajung, Tanshem(Vekovi), Tumuku, Muloin and Mutteff ***(ref: attendance bee farming trainings)***	Environmental education through best practices or sustainable bee farming practices.	**225**
	Total			**1094**

IV. PROBLEMS

- There are domestic goats in the forest that eat-up planted trees, forest vegetation and young trees growing up naturally in the forest. These goats also prevent the natural regeneration of the forest as they eat young growing trees. Most of the goats stray from the savannah grazing land found at the summit of the Kilum forest. This is a result of lack of demarcation of grazing grassland (found at forest top) from the forest land
- There is illegal, unsustainable and unsupervised exploitation of Prunus africana in the Kilum-Ijim Community Forests. This is as a result of few patrols being made in the forest to check all these activities.
- Power failures made it that CAMGEW could not have regular programmes through the Community Radio. The vast field of activities also made it that CAMGEW could not run the environmental education programme on radio stations around the Kilum-Ijim Forest because of limited staff.
- Forest Users' Groups are not organised. This encourages the unsustainable exploitation of resources in the forest. Fire wood fetchers for example in Community Forests like Emfve-Mii are cutting fresh wood for firewood or for fencing of farms and gardens. This disturbs the regeneration process and is a threat to the fate of trees planted by CAMGEW in 2012 and 2013.

CONCLUSION

The project activity went on smoothly. One good thing CAMGEW staff and administration was happy about is the participatory nature of community members especially youths in the activity. The community members now know the dangers of exotic trees like cypress and eucalyptus trees in forest and in their farms, the dangers of unsustainably exploiting forest resources, bush fires, the presence of goats etc. through CAMGEW environmental education and sensitization. The community is now willing to stop unsustainable practices like the cutting of fresh wood like Carapas for firewood, hunting of Bannermans' tauraco for its red feather etc. through this activity CAMGEW hopes to change the mentality of community members living around the Kilum Ijim Forest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The communities living around the Kilum-Ijim Forest needs mores sensitisation to reduce threats like bush fires, cutting of fresh trees for firewood or folk sticks for mounting of hives, rearing of animals in the forest etc. on forest resources. CAMGEW destroyed over 3000 eucalyptus trees in the Bihkov Community Forest with Community members and need to extend it to other communities with community participation.
- There is need for more patrols in the forest to ensure that defaulters are brought to other. There is still illegal exploitation of Prunus africana especially in the Kilum Compartments.

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH

(CAMGEW)

Activity

Feasibility visit by stakeholders to the Kilum forest and Kilum savannah site where animals are grazed

Project reference for Both ENDS: *P1401*

Project title: *Engaging local people in the management of Oku community forest.*

DATE: 28th April 2015

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone: (237) 75184310, 97037417

Address: P.O Box 17 Oku, North West, Cameroon

Funder: PPI-FFEM of IUCN French Committee

Report written by: WIRSIY Emmanuel Binyuy and NGUM Jai Raymond

PRESENTION OF CAMGEW

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

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT AREA

The Kilum-Ijim forest which is the largest remaining montane forest is located on Mount Kilum (3.011m) and adjoining Ijim Ridge (2.000-2.500m) which is recognised globally for its endemism.

The Kilum Mountain Range and the Ijim Ridge are part of the Western Highlands of Cameroon commonly referred to as the Bamenda Highlands. The Bamenda Highland Montane forest lies between latitudes 5° 40' and 7° to the North of the Equator, and between longitudes 9°45 and 11°10' to the East of the Meridian. It is bordered to the south-west by the South-West Region, to the south by West Region, to the east by Adamawa Region, and to the north by the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Kilum range (also known as Mount Oku) is situated in Bui Administrative Division in the North West Region. The Ijim Ridge stretches northwest from Mount Oku, starting from the west side of Lake Oku to Kom in Boyo Division. The contiguous Kilum and Ijim Mountain Forest are located between latitude 6°0TN and 6°1TN and Longitude lOo20'E and lOo35'E. Oku where the CAMGEW office is located is 2 hours drive from Bamenda the capital city of North West Region in Cameroon and 500 kilometres from Yaoundé, the Cameroon capital. CAMGEW has an office with 9 staff in Oku and there is also located the CAMGEW vocational training centre.

The Kilum-Ijim community forest is the first developed community forest in Cameroon by Birdlife International. CAMGEW proposes to follow up on the ground work laid by Birdlife, and develop and promote tree planting; replacement of non native tree species in the forest like Eucalyptus trees; bee farming involving forest community members and grazers; agroforestry; environmental education to stop bushfires, deforestation, overhunting, unsustainable harvesting of forest resources in Kilum-Ijim forest.

There are 44 communities in the Kilum-Ijim Community Forest. The Kilum-Ijim forest is rich in non timber products used like medicine, firewood, mushrooms, etc and provides environmental services too. The forest is also rich in fauna biodiversity like birds diversity, rodents, small monkeys, reptiles and insects.

Nevertheless, the forest ecosystem suffers from bushfire that result from poor harvesting of honey and cigarette smokers. The setting of traps to catch rats is common and many rats from the forest have been trapped. Firewood fetchers engage in the harvesting of fresh wood. Prunus africana has been poorly harvested in this forest in the past and this has resulted to many Prunus trees dying. There is also the presence of domestic goats and sheep in the forest that hinders forest regeneration.

CAMGEW through this activity sees the need to carryout feasibility studies on the demarcation of grazing land found at the top of the Kilum mountain and surrounded by a periphery of natural montane forest. Goats leave this

grazing land to the forest. Demarcating this grazing land from forest will promote forest regeneration. Carrying out studies in this line, CAMGEW will know how feasible this activity could be done. Protecting the forest enable it to generate water, fresh air, serve as carbon sink, source of beneficial insects, protect endangered species like *Bannerman's turaco* (an endemic and endangered bird specie only found in the Bamenda Highland Forest region with Kilum-Ijim having its largest remaining forest) etc all of which are indirect benefits to village dweller.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FEASIBILITY VISIT

The objective of this feasibility visit was

- To know the reality that exist between the forest and the grazing land in the Kilum forest
- Discuss with the various forest stakeholders in the grazing land and the forest on the possible solutions to the forest-grazer problem

METHODOLOGY

CAMGEW prepared invitation letters for various stakeholders inviting them for a visit to the forest and grazing land found in Mount Kilum. The radio was used also to explain to the stakeholders and the objective of the visit The visit was programme for 6 am on the 28th April 2015.
Present at the visit were:

- The Divisional Officer for Oku – Liewontue Patrick Pelopu
- Sub Divisional Delegation of Ministry of livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry- Oku – Ndukong Augustine
- Grazer's Union Secretary – Oku – Ngum Emmanuel Ngum
- Firewood fetcher – Oku – Lukong Hypolite Shang
- Oku Community Radio – Mambe Kevin Kongnso
- Delegate of Forest Management Institution for Emfve-mii Forest in Oku – Nkese Wilfred Bongajum
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) –Oku – Ekwele Ngong Ferdinand
- Director of CAMGEW – Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy
- Project Officer for CAMGEW – Ngum Jai Raymond

The visit ended at 4 pm

Identified problems in the forest

- Goats were seen in the forest
- Goats in the grazing land lack water in the savannah
- The Kilum forest is degraded with trees cut for firewood, many traps in the forest, goats eating young trees
- Goats move to the forest for water
- Fence not found in all forest areas to prevent goats from entry

RESOLUTIONS ARRIVED AT

- Owners of goats in the forest were to be identified and convocations given by to them to explain
- Areas where goat enter the forest were to be identified and solutions proposed
- Areas in the savannah with water opened up to create water ponds where goats could come for drinking water instead of going to the forest
- Multi-stakeholder meeting is to be held with all authorities to look for a long lasting solution

CONCLUSION:

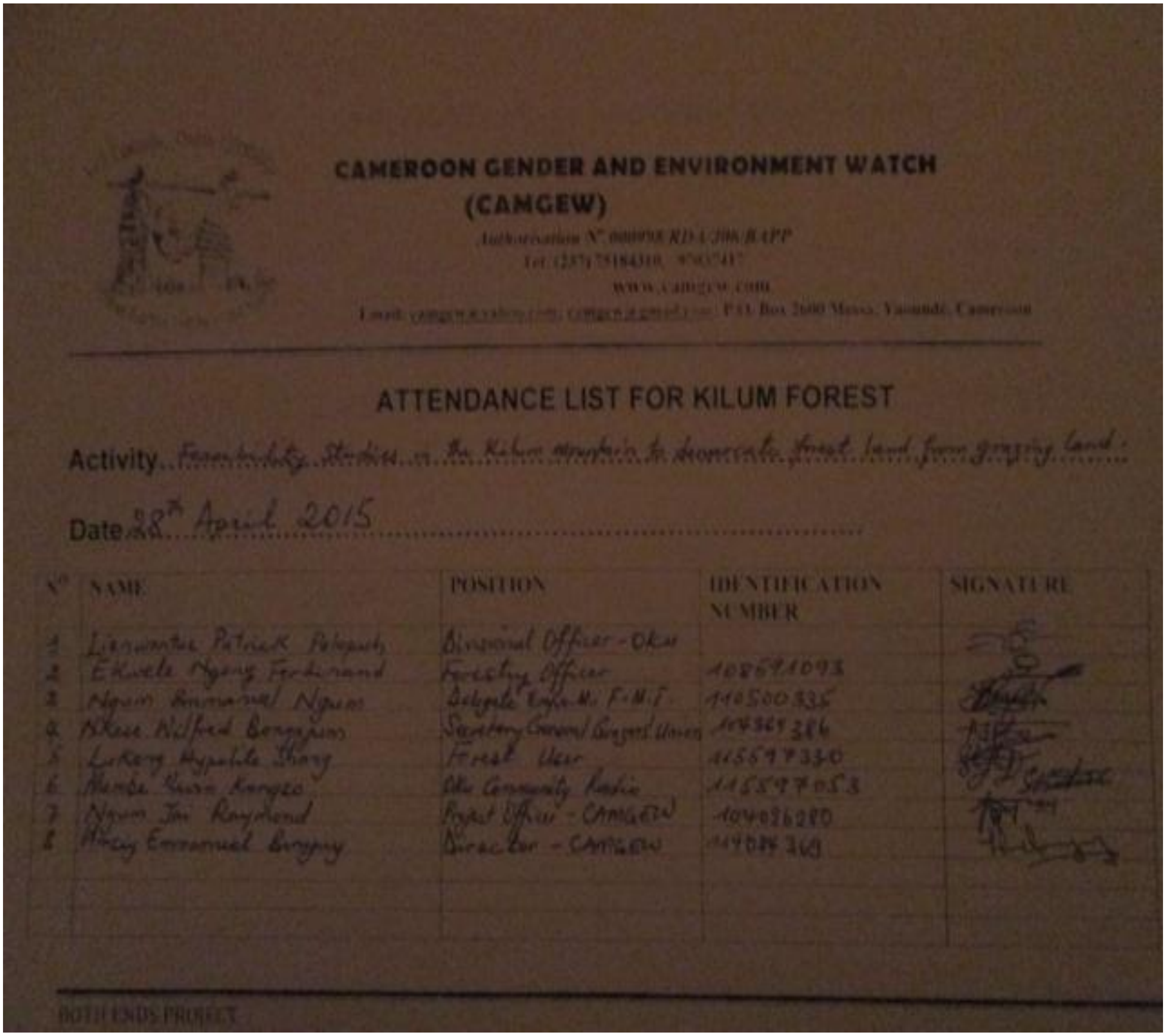
The visit was attended by 9 persons from various departments. It was a great day with spent with various stakeholders in the Kilum forest and grazing land.

Fence made by graazers to separate the forest from grazing land


Grazing Land




Grazing Land



CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

www.camgew.com

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR KILUM FOREST

Activity: Feasibility Studies in the Kilum mountain to demarcate forest land from grazing land.

Date: 28th April 2015

N°	NAME	POSITION	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	SIGNATURE
1	Lianwantu Patrick Polopah	Divisional Officer - Oku		[signature]
2	Ekwele Ngang Ferdinand	Forestry Officer	108591093	[signature]
3	Nguin Emmanuel Nguin	Delegate Env. N. F-M.F	110500335	[signature]
4	Nkese Wilfred Bongajum	Secretary General Grazers Union	104361386	[signature]
5	Lukong Hypolite Shang	Forest User	115597330	[signature]
6	Nembe Kuan Kongeo	Oku Community Radio	115597053	[signature]
7	Ngum Jai Raymond	Project Officer - CAMGEW	104086280	[signature]
8	Aneg Emmanuel Bongyey	Director - CAMGEW	114084363	[signature]

BOTH ENDS PROJECT

A REPORT OF THE PROJECT

TITLE *"ENGAGING LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OKU COMMUNITY FOREST"*

MAY 2014 – OCTOBER 2015

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH

(CAMGEW)

Project title:

"Engaging local people in the management of Oku community forest"

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone (237) 675184310, 697037417
Address: P.O Box 2600 Messa, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Funder: Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands
Funds administrator: Both ENDS- Netherlands

Report written by: Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy with assistance

from Ngum Jai Raymond and Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki: October 2015

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CAMGEW is grateful to Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands for the financial assistance and Both ENDS for administering the funds through Remi Kempers. CAMGEW is thankful to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Forest Management Institution members, forest users, Oku Community Radio, traditional authorities, Ministry of livestock, Fishery and Animal Husbandry (MINEPIA) for Oku for technical assistance in this project. CAMGEW appreciates the support given to her by MINFOF- Oku through Essoh Enone Mazarin

And Mbockeghas village head – Yumbi Fidelis. They helped in mobilising community members to take part in the tree planting exercise. The participation of community members in the process is also highly appreciated.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Presentation of CAMGEW

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

To execute this project with financial support from Stichting School van Z.M. Koning Willem III en H.M. Koningin Emma der Nederlanden-Netherlands through Both ENDS-Netherlands.

Presentation of Project Area

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

Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km2 of which 300km2 are covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km2. The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine (*like Pittosporum veridiflorum, Agauria salicifolia, Prunus africana*), rodents, wood for carving, alpine bamboo which is used locally for construction, additives (colourings, preservatives and flavourings), mushrooms and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in color. The Nchiiy forest where forest regeneration was carried out is found in the Oku Community forest between Mbai forest and Bihkov Community forest. The Nchiiy forest in compartment III had

suffered many times from bushfires and at sometimes was occupied by farmers who cultivated variety of crops. The community members sent out these farmers and this area remained degraded without trees. This pushed CAMGEW with community members to think of regenerating this forest area with native trees. The human settlement from Mbockenghas to the forest is about 4km.

Presentation of the Project

CAMGEW received a grant in July 2014 from Both ENDS to regenerate the Nchiiy forest of the Oku Community Forest with 2500 native forest trees. CAMGEW planted different native forest trees species like *Carapas, Schefflera, Prunus africana and* another 2 tree species whose names are still to be known. CAMGEW planted these trees because they are native tree species of the Oku Community Forest which are watershed friendly(Oku forest is a water source for many rivers), bee loving, medicinal and income generating like Prunus that is used in pharmaceuticals to produce treatment for prostate cancer.

CAMGEW also carried out feasibility studies in Kilum Forest area to know the reality that exist between the forest and the grazing land in the Kilum forest and to discuss with the various forest stakeholders in the grazing land and the forest on the possible solutions to the forest-grazer problem.

The project objectives were as follows:

- To promote the regeneration of the Oku Community Forest with bee loving trees.
- To organise forest users into groups (this was kept out due to reduction in funds requested)
- To carryout feasibility studies for the demarcation of the forest from grazing land at the summit of the Kilum mountain forest.

Given that the participation of forest community in forest management is part of forest governance, CAMGEW through this project engaged local people to participate in the regeneration activities. The participation of the community was intended to make them avoid the destruction of the forest through bush fires, ownership of animals in the forest and the cutting of fresh trees for firewood and folk sticks used for bee farming. A participatory approach was adopted to be used in this project execution. This was to involve Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF, the administrative and traditional authorities, media, various CBOs and the community.

SECTION ONE

TREE PLANTING

Introduction

Forest regeneration is an important activity with a global interest. The Oku Community 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 Oku Community forest with 2500 native trees is a step in this line. CAMGEW from 22nd July to 13th of August 2014 carried out forest regeneration in Nchiiy area of the Oku Community Forest. The activities involved tree planting planning meeting, identification of sites for tree planting, clearing of paths for trees to be planted, transportation of trees to the forest, tree planting and finally crowning ceremony. The area of the forest regenerated was at the Nchiiy compartment of the Oku Community Forest. This tree plant exercise was carried out for 11 days.

Tree Planting Methodology

The planting exercise took place in August 2014. The activity started with a tree planting planning meeting attended by the community members of Mbockenghas-Oku (Nchiiy forest Community) and forest stakeholders. A field visit was made in the Nchiiy forest compartment on the 22nd of July to identify the area to be regenerated. After the area was identified, community members started slashing the paths where trees had to be planted. The planting was done by men, some women and youths. Seedlings were planted 5m apart. During the slashing and regeneration of the forest, CAMGEW staff decided to destroy Eucalyptus trees present in the forest by removing the barks on their stems. These trees were planted by farmers to mark their farms. The trees planted in the forest were removed from the plastic pots in CAMGEW nursery in Manchok-Oku because of bad roads that did not permit trucks to climb to the forest. The seedlings were then transported to the forest. The tree planting activity was accompanied by sensitization on the importance of the forest. This sensitization ended during the tree planting crowning ceremony that brought all forest stakeholders, youths, mothers and men to end the tree planting season for CAMGEW. Work started every day at 8 am and ended at about 3 pm. About 40 persons took part in the planting exercise involving youths, women and men. CAMGEW received technical support from MINFOF-Oku through Essoh Enone Mazarin. The CAMGEW team that did the supervision and coordination was made up of Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy, Ngum Jaiy Raymond and Tagha Jed Ngwayu.

TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

PLANNING MEETING AND SITE IDENTIFICATION

On the 22nd of July, CAMGEW had a planning meeting with the forest stakeholders in Mbockenghas-Oku. On this date, CAMGEW staff and the Head of MINFOF-Oku went to the forest to together with Nchiiy Forest Management members , the Village head of Mbockenghas –Oku and some forest users to identify the area of the forest to be regenerated. The team selected an area which was seized from farmers by community members and MINFOF for regeneration. CAMGEW with community members had to regenerate this degraded forest land with native trees. Trees were planted in 5m intervals. The coordinates for the area to be regenerated taken as follows: N 06° 12.879' E 10° 33.766' with elevation 2319metres.

Tree planting planning team in the forest to identify the area to be regenerated

SLASHING TO CREATE PATHS FOR PLANTING

On the 29th of July, 20 community members with skills in forest slashing started work in the forest to create paths where trees were to be planted. This was done with the assistance of three facilitators from CAMGEW and MINFOF-Oku. The 20 men were divided into five groups with 4 men in each group. Pecking was done alongside with clearing and the number of pecks was counted to know the number of trees to be planted. The facilitators were: Kwanteng Yufenyuy, Ngum Jai Raymond and Essoh Enone Mazarin. These facilitators were chosen based on their experience in this exercise. The activity started every day at 8:00 am and ended at 3 pm. The slashing activity was carried out for a total of 10 days. The slashing process ended on the 11th of August at about 1 pm with a total of 24 persons taking part in the activity. The total number of pecks was 3012 representing the number of trees to be planted.

Eucalyptus trees destroyed in the forest by debarking during clearing

TRANSPORTATION OF SEEDLINGS TO THE FOREST AND PLANTING

In order to carry out this activity smoothly, CAMGEW team decided to engage two people from Elak-Oku who had already taken part in tree planting in EMFVE-MII Community Forest to share their experience. These two persons were Yorkwei Jakari and Sengla Gerald. They shared their knowledge on tree planting with the Nchiiy Community members for forest regeneration. It took two days to transport the seedlings to the forest and two days to plant. The trees transported per day were all planted. Tree seedlings to be planted were removed from pots very early in the morning and transported for planting the same day. On the 12th of August 2014, community member dug hole for tree planting. CAMGEW staffs brought the trees from the CAMGEW nursery to the forest for planting using motorcycle taxis because of bad roads. From Mbockenghas to the forest is about 4km. By the end of the first day about 2000 tree seedlings were transported and planted in the forest under the supervision of technician Essoh Enone of MINFOF and Ngum Raymond, Tagha Jed Ngwayu and Ngong Jude all of CAMGEW. Work ended that day at 3 pm.

On the 13th of August 2014, transportation of trees from the nursery to the forest continued. Trees that were planted this second day came from Vekovi-Jakiri Sub Division and from CAMGEW nursery at Manchok Oku. CAMGEW had to get trees from Vekovi to ensure a variety of trees to be planted and avoid creating a forest plantation in the forest regeneration site. CAMGEW got different tree species from the nurseries owned by the Bikov Community Forest Management Institution in Vekovi. 600 trees species of Schefflera, Carapas and 2 other forest native tree whose name we did not know were taken from Bihkov Community forest nursery and 500 *Prunus africana* seedlings from CAMGEW nursery

At the end of the project, a total of 3012 tree seedlings were planted by CAMGEW in the Nchiy Compartment of the Oku Community forest.

Tree seedlings for planting in the forest.

Community women take part in tree planting activities

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITISATION DURING TREE PLANTING EXERCISE

CAMGEW used the tree planting exercise for environmental sensitisation to promote the protection of the Nchiiy forest, fight bushfires and talk about the harm caused by domestic goats kept in the forest. CAMGEW called on all community members to be watch dogs to keep the forest healthy. CAMGEW also made the community to know that the forest belong to them and that if they protect it well they will get more Oku White Honey from flowers produced by planted trees and in a long run have Prunus will be harvested .


b) 

C*ommunity members listen to environmental talks presented by CAMGEW staff in the forest.*

The Village Head of Mbockenghas-Oku appreciates CAMGEWand asked his subjects to protect the forest

TREE PLANTING CROWNING CEREMONY

The tree planting exercise ended with a crowning ceremony that saw a symbolic tree planted by forest stakeholder and community members. This was the end of the tree planting exercise for 2014 by CAMGEW. CAMGEW supported the community financially for their hard work to conserve their forest. CAMGEW brought uniforms and shoes for school children produced in her Vocational Training Centre for community members to buy for their children after they received their motivation package.

Forest stakeholders and community members partiipating in symbolic tree plantng

CAMGEW brings Children school shoes and uniforms for community members to buy at moderate prices

SECTION TWO

FOREST REGENERATION THROUGH VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

CAMGEW carried out forest regeneration in the Nchiiy Community forest with Scheflera tree cuttings. Last year CAMGEW learned that this tree could grow by cuttings and did an experiment and it works well. Tree seedlings that CAMGEW planted in areas with fern plant never succeeded. Fern plants do not permit the survival of another plant around them. CAMGEW discovered that forest regeneration by vegetative propagation could succeed in areas with ferns and could finally destroy the fern plant. Scheflera plant is one of the trees that produces much Oku White Honey in the Kilum-Ijim forest. Vegetative propagation of Scheflera leads to faster growth than through germination. More than 400 cuttings were planted. Should they grow-up, they will form a canopy that will destroy fern plants and attract birds and animals that will come and defecate seeds of other trees they had eaten. This will lead to more trees of different varieties growing to maintain forest diversity. This was done on World Environment Day 2015. The community did this happily with CAMGEW. More than 40 community members (youths, women and men climbed up the forest with cuttings). CAMGEW did this too happily with community members. We hope this trees will increase honey production when they get mature.

Stems of Schefflera being cut to propagate in the area identified for regeneration.

SECTION THREE

FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THE DEMARCATION OF FOREST FROM GRAZING LAND AT THE SUMMIT OF KILUM MOUNTAIN FOREST

Introduction

CAMGEW through this activity carried out feasibility studies to demarcate grazing land found at the top of the Kilum mountain from natural montane forest at its surrounding. Community members of Kilum forest area rear goats at this mountain top. Goats leave this grazing land to the forest where they eat vegetation and disturb forest regeneration. The animals also pound the soil as they move. Demarcating this grazing land from forest will promote forest regeneration. Carrying out studies in this line, CAMGEW will know how feasible this activity could be done. Protecting the forest enable it to generate water, fresh air, serve as carbon sink, source of beneficial insects, protect endangered species like Bannerman's turaco (an endemic and endangered bird species only found in the Bamenda Highland Forest region with Kilum-Ijim having its largest remaining forest) etc all of which are indirect benefits to village dweller. We see that these animals have helped fight poverty in the community. Children go to school, hospital bills are paid, food is put on the table in families and houses are built because of this activity. CAMGEW is interested to promote mutual existence between forest and grazing land. In this line, CAMGEW organised a multi-stakeholder field visit to the forest and grazing land to assess the situation and seek solutions to existing problems.

Objectives of the feasibility visit

The objective of this feasibility visit was

- To know the reality that exist between the forest and the grazing land in the Kilum forest
- Discuss with the various forest stakeholders in the grazing land and the forest on the possible solutions to the forest-grazer problem

Methodology

CAMGEW prepared invitation letters for various stakeholders inviting them for a visit to the forest and grazing land found in Mount Kilum. The radio was used also to explain to the stakeholders and the objective of the visit The visit was programme for 6 am on the 28th April 2015.
Present at the visit were:

- The Divisional Officer for Oku – Liewontue Patrick Pelopu
- Sub Divisional Delegation of Ministry of livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry- Oku – Ndukong Augustine
- Grazer's Union Secretary – Oku – Ngum Emmanuel Ngum
- Firewood fetcher – Oku – Lukong Hypolite Shang
- Oku Community Radio – Mambe Kevin Kongnso
- Delegate of Forest Management Institution for Emfve-mii Forest in Oku – Nkese Wilfred Bongajum
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) –Oku – Ekwele Ngong Ferdinand
- Director of CAMGEW – Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy
- Project Officer for CAMGEW – Ngum Jai Raymond

The visit ended at 4 pm.

These problems were identified during the visit:

- Goats were seen in the forest
- Goats in the grazing land lack water in the savannah
- The Kilum forest is degraded with trees cut for firewood, many traps in the forest, goats eating young trees
- Goats move to the forest for water
- Fence not found in all forest areas to prevent goats from entry

Resolutions arrived at

- Owners of goats in the forest were to be identified and convocations given by to them to explain
- Areas where goat enter the forest were to be identified and solutions proposed
- Areas in the savannah with water opened up to create water ponds where goats could come for drinking water instead of going to the forest
- Multi-stakeholder meeting is to be held with all authorities to look for a long lasting solution

Fence made by grazers to separate the forest fromg grazing land

Grazing Land

Community stakeholders reflecting on solution to forest-grazer problems in Kilum forest area

CHALLENGES

- The greatest challenge in the regeneration of the Oku Community forest is the presence of goats in the forest. These goats kept by community members in the forest have been destroying planted trees and other seedlings that are regenerating naturally. Some of the goats leave grazing land at the top of the mountain into the forest where they cause harm.
- Farm lands are much closed to the forest. Community members still used the slash-and-burn methods, and Ankara methods for farming. This exposes the forest to bush fires. There will be need for continuous monitoring of the regenerated area.
- The nature of roads caused by rainy season was also a challenge. The seedlings could not be transported using a car to the peripheries of the forest. CAMGEW team had to use motorcycle taxis for the transportation of the tree seedlings to the forest.

SUCCESS

- CAMGEW through this project had to plant 2500 tree seedlings in the forest but she ended up planting 3012 trees. More trees in the forest more benefits to the community and the globe at large. CAMGEW

planted a variety of trees in Nchiiy to avoid creating a forest plantation. These tree species were; *Carapas, Prunus africana, Schefflera and 2 other native trees.*

- CAMGEW used a participatory approach in tree planting and this helped in increasing community solidarity. Community solidarity has been seen growing in Oku since she started forest regeneration with this approach in 2012. Community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of the Oku Community forest and the need to protect it.
- After sensitization in the field concerning the presence of domestic animals in the forest and action taken to catch the goats in the forest in the past, owners of goats in the Nchiiy Compartment have seen the harm caused by goats in the forest and CAMGEW waits to see them remove the goats from the forest.
- CAMGEW was able to bring all forest stakeholders to reflect on the problems that are caused by animals that leave the upper part of the forest (savannah) to the forest to disturbe forest regeneration.
- Over 200 eucalyptus trees were destroyed in the forest. The barks of these trees were peeled off to facilitate its drying up during the dry season. Eucalyptus trees are exotic or non native tree species of the Kilum mountain forest.

CONCLUSION

The regeneration of the Oku Community Forest has been a reality again in 2014, fulfilling CAMGEW's wish to make forest regeneration in Kilum forest a yearly event. By ending August 2014, CAMGEW planted 3000 trees making a total of 20000 trees planted in Oku Community forest since 2012. Community stakeholders came together and put the forest-grazer problem at the centre stage of discussion. Stakeholders discussed solutions to this conflict. The attendance rate of stakeholders in the visit to these sites and discussion gives us hope that a long lasting solution will be reached. The community participation was encouraging in forest regeneration with many members entering the forest for the first time. This activity gave CAMGEW the opportunity to carryout field-based environmental education on sustainable forest management and use. Forest users who took part in the tree planting exercise were sensitized on how to sustainably use the forest. The Oku community Radio was used to reach out to the population on the need to protect the forest and handle forest-grazer problems. The forest stakeholders were brought close to each other to see the role they can play to protect the forest and they are realizing a need for a forest stakeholder platform. CAMGEW hopes to continue strife to make the tree planting event yearly activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- More trees should be planted in the Kilum-Ijim forest especially Nchiiy Community forest. This forest represents the most degraded compartment of the Oku Community Forest in recent years. There is

great need for regeneration activities to be made a yearly event in this forest for its restoration. The forest had suffered heavily from bushfires and degradation through cutting down of its trees.

- CAMGEW sees the importance for field-based environmental education with forest users, women, farmers, youths and children of school age in Nchiiy Community. Environmental education with schools in and around Mbockenghas will also be good to protect the planted trees and instill the spirit of love for nature in school children.
- CAMGEW recommends that all goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural tree seedlings like Prunus Africana, Carapas, and Schefflera. This prevents the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will allow tree seedlings to grow.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats found in the forest. General patrols should be carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats and sanctions given to the owners of these goats. There is an area at the top of forest rich in pasture where goats could be kept.
- CAMGEW recommends that a strong forest stakeholder platform be created where forest issues will be regularly discussed.
- CAMGEW recommends that water ponds be created at the top of the mountain where goats are reared so as to make goats have access to drinking water. This will prevent goats from coming down to the forest in search of drinking water.
- Grazers should make fences on outlets where goats use to get into the forest. These outlets should be identified, fenced and monitored regularly. Where need be raise funds locally, nationally or internationally to work on this.

Done on 22nd October 2015

CAMGEW

Project title:

"Nchiiy Community Forest regeneration for increased honey production and biodiversity"

SECOND PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED

NOVEMBER 2015

Website: www.camgew.com

Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com

Telephone (237) 75184310, 97037417

Address: P.O Box 17 Elak Oku, North West Region, Cameroon

Funder: Rufford Foundation

CAMGEW-RUFFORD PROJECT EXECUTION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2015

Name of project: Nchiiy Community Forest regeneration for increased honey production and biodiversity

Organisation: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Application ID: 16800-1

Applicant Name: Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy

Email Address: camgew@gmail.com

Address:

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

P.O Box 2600 Messa, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Telephone: 237 675 18 43 10

Website URL: www.camgew.com

Organisation: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch

Nationality: Cameroon

Date of Birth: 1977-06-12

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

CAMGEW – Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
IUCN - International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MINFOF – Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
OCR: Oku Community Radio

Acknowledgment

Cameroon Gender and Environmental Watch (CAMGEW) is grateful to the Rufford Foundation through their small grants for their financial to realize this project. CAMGEW is thankful to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for technical assistance in forest regeneration process. The participation of youths and community members in nursery development, environmental education, forest clearing, transportation of seedlings to the forest and tree planting is also applauded. CAMGEW is also grateful to the following personalities of Oku for their support in the course of forest regeneration: Divisional Officer-Oku, traditional Authorities, and all other persons who assisted directly and indirectly for being very resourceful in the realization of the planting exercise.

INTRODUCTION

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a non profit created in October 2007 with authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to work locally and think globally, integrating gender issues in solving environmental and social problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW believes that the future of our mother planet-earth is in our hands (men and women, young and old) and also that the planet can be sustained by putting social and environmental justice at the centre of development using a participatory approach. CAMGEW seeks to achieve her objectives by liaising with other like-minded organisations worldwide. CAMGEW has as vision "Changing lives of women, children and communities while protecting the environment and as mission to fight poverty; promote sound environmental management, gender balance and economic sustainable development.

Presentation of Project area

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

Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km2 of which 300km2 are covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km2.

The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine (like Pittosporum veridiflorum (mannii), Agauria salicifolia, Prunus africana), rodents, wood for carving, alpine bamboo which is used locally for construction, additives (colourings, preservatives and flavourings), mushrooms and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in colour.

Presentation of the Project

Nchiiy Community Forest is in Kilum Mountain Forest and is degraded by bushfires and farm encroachment. The community sent out encroached farmers from forest and stopped bushfires in 2010. Since then, no bushfire has occurred except in February 2015 that a portion of the forest was burnt by a farmer accidentally and the fire was put off by other farmers and forest users like bee farmers and hunters. CAMGEW through this project had to collect tree seeds from other preserved parts of forest, nurse and plant the trees in degraded forest portions. CAMGEW also had to develop a nursery of 2000 trees of 10 different tree species. The nursery was to serve as a ground for forest Education for schools/Community on tree importance to honey production, bird and animal diversity, watershed and medicinal properties. The nursed trees had to be planted in the forest by the community.

SECTION I

TREE PLANTING

Introduction

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 Nchiiy Community forest with 5000 native trees instead of 2000 trees projected is a step in this line that support government's policy for forest regeneration and a United Nation's policy to fight against climate change. CAMGEW from the 2nd June to 3rd August 2015 carried out forest regeneration activities in the Nchiiy Community Forest. These activities included planning meetings with FMI members and communities, the identification of the sites to be regenerated the clearing of paths for tree planting, digging of holes, pecking, carrying of trees to the forest and planting proper of the trees in the various Community Forests.

TREE PLANTING METHODOLOGY AND ACTIVITIES

The tree planting exercise took place between June 2nd and August 3rd 2015. The activities started with planning meetings with Nchiiy community at Mbockeghas, identification of area to be planted, slashing for regeneration, digging and pecking of the holes and the transportation and planting of tree seedlings. The tree planting ended with a crowning ceremony and was combined with environmental education sessions for community members.

Field visits were made by CAMGEW staff with Nchiiy Community Forest members and some of their Forest Management Institution (FMI) members to identify the area for regeneration. Slashing of grass started after identification by community members in preparation for tree planting. During tree planting seedlings were planted 5m apart. The plastics from pots carrying the seedlings were removed from the forest after planting. The tree planting ended with a crowning ceremony that brought forest stakeholders, women, youths and other community members together. CAMGEW organized this event to present work done in forest regeneration to the authorities and to use the medium for sensitization on the need to protect the Nchiiy Community forest.

This year CAMGEW also did maintenance of the 3500 trees she had planted 2014 with funds from Both Ends. During the maintenance dead trees were replaced.

TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

4. Planning meeting and site identification

CAMGEW team organised a planning meeting for tree planting in Nchiiy Community Forest with the aim of identifying the compartment in which the trees will be planted and the duration of the activities. The meeting was held on the 2nd June 2015 and had 8 participants. It started at 9:00AM and ended at 11:30AM. During the meeting it was agreed that the portion of the forest that was destroyed in February 2015 by bushfire will be planted.

5. Slashing to create paths for planting

Slashing (clearing) started from 6th June 2015 and ended on 11th June 2015. 11 community members took part in the slashing. This activity was done every day from 8 to 2:00PM. At the end of the slashing, community members prepared the holes for tree planting 5 meters apart and pecked with

sticks. These were holes on which trees will be planted. The digging of the holes and pecking was done in three phases (6-10 June and 3rd August 2015 with 800, 2200 and 2000 pecks and holes prepared respectively).

Community members and youths doing the slashing

6. Transportation of seedlings to the forest and planting

Tree planting was done in three phases with assistance from CAMGEW field staff. The first phase involved the whole community and this was on 6 June 2015 where more than 80 community members took part in the tree planting. 8oo Schefflera plants were cut and transported to the forest for planting by Community members. Between the 7th and 10th of July 2015, 2200 trees of 12 different varies (*Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Pittosporum mannii, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and Psydrax dunlapii) w*ere transported and planted in the Nchiiy Community Forest. CAMGEW got these trees from her nursery in Manchok-Oku because the trees nursed in the nursery at Mbockeghas under Rufford Foundation grants were not yet ready. The activity involved 11 Forest users and some community youths. The 3rd phase of the tree planting took place on the 3rd of August 2015. 28 community youths and some forest users took part in the activities. 2000 trees of different varieties were planted. Environmental education was done in the course of the tree planting. The last phase of the tree planting involved a forest regeneration crowning ceremony during which talks were made on the importance of forest for watershed and livelihood improvement.

Table1: Nchiiy Community Forest Forest Regeneration Summary

SN	ACTIVITY	Number of persons involved	PERIOD/DATE	VENUE CF=Community Forest	OUTCOME
1	**Planning meetings**	7	2nd June 2015	Mbockenghas	**-**
2	**Slashing**	11	6th June to 11 June	Nchiiy CF	**-**
3	**Digging and pecking**	31	6th June-3rd August 2015	Nchiiy CF	5000 holes dug and pecked

4	**Transportation of seedlings and planting**	119	6th June-3rd August 2015	Nchiiy CF	5000 trees transported and planted
5	**Crowning ceremony**	31	3rd August 2015	Nchiiy C F	**-**
6	**Maintenance**	11	6th to 14th June 2015	Nchiiy CF	**-**
7	**Monitoring:** -It is done continuously by Forest users who report to CAMGEW team. -CAMGEW team does regular weekly monitoring in the field	Every forest user	Continuous	Nchiiy CF	**-**

Environmental education in practice during tree planting for young people

CAMGEW, community members and young people do tree planting. Young people are taught how to plant trees. This child says he is planting this tree and want that both of them grow together.

Community members, young people and CAMGEW after doing tree planting and teaching young people by doing tree planting in the forest

CHALLENGES

9. There many domestic animals like goats in the forest. The presence of these animals disturbs the growth of planted trees and those growing naturally. More sensitizations need to be made to encourage community members to remove their animals from the forest. There is need to work closely with community leaders to come out clearly with action to solve this problem.

10. The forest is highly degraded. Many parts were formerly farmlands that were taken away from farmers. Some parts have earlier suffered from bushfires. More trees need to be planted in Nchiiy Community Forest.

11. The nature of roads was also a challenge. Given that it was in the rainy season, the forest roads were bad. The seedlings could not be transported using a car to the peripheries of the forest. CAMGEW team had to use motorcycle taxi for the transportation of tree seedlings from where the car could end to the forest. Many women could not also be involved because of the distance from the settlement of Mbockenghas-Oku.

SUCCESS

7. The project was aimed at regenerating the Nchiiy Community Forests with 2000. CAMGEW ended up planting a total of 5.000 native tree species of 12 different varieties including *Prunus Africana, Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Pittosporum mannii, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and Psydrax dunlapii.* Nchiiy community children learned much about these trees, their names, local names, importance, uses and their growth rates. The young people learned how to plant trees and why the planting site was chosen.
8. CAMGEW used a participatory approach in tree planting. Through this CAMGEW has seen increase community solidarity. Youths and community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of Nchiiy Community forest and the need for team spirit of community members to protect this forest. CAMGEW played a supervisory role in the process.
9. Through sensitization in the Oku Community Radio and Kumbo City Community Radio, many

people are changing their mentalities. Some people are removing goats from some parts in 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 supervision.

TREE PLANTING CONCLUSION

The forest stakeholders were brought close together and they are realizing a need for a forest stakeholder platform. CAMGEW is thankful to the Rufford Foundation for providing funds to realize this activity. CAMGEW hopes to make this tree planting a yearly activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- CAMGEW recommends that all domestic goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural seedlings of Prunus and other tree species. The goats prevent the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will permit young seedlings to grow and increase their rate of survival.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats living in the forest. General patrols needs to be carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats. There is a zone with pasture at the top of the forest where they could keep their animals.
- CAMGEW see the need for a project on pasture improvement. This will encourage many community members rearing animals to confine their animals and reduces cases of domestic animals grazing in the forest and farms.

Table 2: Statistics for CAMGEW tree planting activities from 2012 – 2015 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	6 600	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2013	3 416	MINFOF- Cameroon	Prunus africana	Emfve-mii CF - Oku
2014	3000	Koning School through Both-ENDS-Netherlands	Variety of bee loving forest native trees	Nchiiy CF
2015	3000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Akeh CF – Ijim forest
2015	4500	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus africana	Bikov CF
2015	6000	PPI-FFEM (French-IUCN)-France	Prunus Africana (3500) Native forest trees (2500)	Ajung CF – Ijim forest
2015	5000	Future In Our Hands UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Emfve-mii CF
2015	5000	Rufford Small Grants – UK/CAMGEW	Bee loving trees (some replaced dead planted trees)	Nchiiy CF

SECTION II

NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

CAMGEW developed a nursery using two types of nurseries: the bare root nursery and another type where tree seedlings are planted in polythene pots. This nursery has 3000 trees of various types nursed in pots and more than 25000 trees nursed using bareroot nursery directly on prepared beds.

The trees that were nursed could not be ready for planting in June 2015 and CAMGEW got trees from her nursery in Manchok to plant with the Nchiiy community in their forest. These tree seedlings planted included *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia*, *Nuxia congesta*, *Pittosporum mannii*, *Agauria salicifolia*, *Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, *Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis and Psydrax dunlapii*. The children and community members while planting identified the trees as forest trees with their local names and scientific names.

CAMGEW nursed the following 14 types of trees in the nursery prepared with Rufford Foundation funds: *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Nuxia congesta, Pittosporum mannii, Agauria salicifolia, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Newtonia camerunensis, Albizia gummifera, Polysias fulva and Psydrax dunlapii*.

Community children and adults have been taking care of the nursed trees and learning as the seedlings are growing. They weed the nursery and follow-up the growth of seedlings. The seedlings will be ready for planting by June 2016 and CAMGEW will need support to plant the trees in the forest. The nursery is developed with plank and a live fence is being developed too. The nursery fence has a life span of more than 10 years and so CAMGEW, children and community could continue using it for environment education.

CAMGEW also label the trees with the local names, scientific names and their uses. Children and community members have been learning about the forest trees in our presence and visiting the nursery to learn also in our absence. The nursery is open to the public and you can stand out of the nursery and learn. We are proud this is happening.

Polythene pots prepared for tree nursing

Beds prepared to apply manure and nurse trees

Children weeding the trees nursed on polythene pots

Children weeding bareroot nursery

Bareroot nursery

Nursery with trees on Pot

CAMGEW and children working on the nursery

CAMGEW project team and Community Leaders following up tree seeds nursed in pots

Children learning-by-doing

Children learning-by-doing

Children learning-by-doing

Community members take action to develop and follow-up the wellbeing of nursed trees

Community members take action to develop and follow-up the wellbeing of nursed trees

LABELLING OF NURSED TREES IN THE NURSERY

The nursed trees have been labelled with scientific names, local names and the uses of the trees

Working on the nursery after labeling to maintain the wellbeing of the nursery

ENDANGERED TREE SPECIE OF NCHIIY COMMUNITY FOREST NURSED

This tree called *Newtonia camerunensis* is endangered as classified by IUCN Redlist with less than 50 trees of seed bearing age remaining and they are out of the reserves. It is difficult to nurse and grow very slowly. It is only known to be in Kilum-Ijim forest area and parts of Dom Community forest in the NJorth West Region of Cameroon. This nurse seedlings are 5 months old. We can work hard to rescue this plant. We have about 500 nursed seedlings in our two nurseries.

CAMGEW has nursed Newtonia camerunensis trees

SECTION III

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Children learned-by-doing in the nursery and in their forest. CAMGEW used the tree planting that was done together with children and community members to teach children how to plant trees and protect the forest. CAMGEW while in the forest made the children and community members know the problems that the forest was facing and the consequence of not protecting the forest. The children learned methods of preventing bushfires from the forest, methods of tackling bushfires, the harm caused by domestic animals in the forest and the way to tackle this problem, the danger of over hunting and cutting down of fresh wood from the forest for firewood and the reason for community members to own beehives in the forest. Ownership of beehives in the forest helps community prevent bushfire and should bushfire occur all of them will go up to the forest to put the fire off to protect their beehives. This was the first time many of them visited the forest.

In the nursery, children nursed tree seeds, planted seedlings in polythene pots, weeded the tree seedlings and learned about the types of trees, their scientific names, local names, their importance and uses. Government Primary School-Mbockeghas also visited the nursery with all pupils and teachers present. The pupils learned directly from the CAMGEW Environmental Education Officer the importance of the nursery, how set a nursery, collect seeds from the forest, nurse tree seeds and weed the nursery. The teachers who were part of this programme appreciated CAMGEW for developing the nursery in their community and said it will help them do demonstration on what they learn in class with children. **Government Primary School-Mbockeghas visited the nursery with 164 pupils and 6 teachers.**

Our environmental education has been in action as children nursed trees, planted in pots, weeded the nursery and watered the nursery. Our environmental education has been pragmatic. CAMGEW have had about 162 children and community been invited for nursery education this second session. More persons have visited the nursery in our absence.

Environmental education carried out in the CAMGEW nursery at Mbockeghas for Nchiiy Community

Environmental education carried out in the CAMGEW nursery at Mbockeghas for Nchiiy Community

Environmental education carried out in the CAMGEW nursery at Mbockeghas for Nchiiy Community

School teacher of GS Mbockeghas learning about nursery development with the pupils

Environmental education carried out in the CAMGEW nursery at Mbockeghas for Nchiiy Community

Children learning-by-doing in nursery development and weeding


Children learning-by-doing in nursery development and weeding


Children learning-by-doing in nursery development and weeding


Children learning-by-doing in nursery development and weeding

Environmental education in action

SECTION VI

WAYFORWARD

CAMGEW still have some activities remaining in this project. The following activities still needs to be carried out to complete the project:

- Production of 300 copies of environmental education booklets from articles prepared by students in schools around Nchiiy Community Forest.
- Follow-up of nursed seedlings in the CAMGEW -Nchiiy Community nursery
- Follow-up planted trees in the forest
- Completion of environmental education activities.

A REPORT

ON NURSERY DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TREE PLANTING IN THE EMFVE-MII COMMUNITY FOREST OF THE KILUM MOUNTAIN FOREST

29th May TO 14TH AUGUST 2015

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

Project title:

Nursery Development for Environmental Education and Forest Regeneration at the Emfve-Mii Community Forest

Website: www.camgew.com
Email: Camgew@yahoo.com; camgew@gmail.com
Telephone (237) 675184310, 697037417
Address: P.O Box 17 Elak Oku, North West Region, Cameroon
CAMGEW's authorisation number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/ BAPP
Funder: CAMGEW-Future In Our Hands (FIOH)

Report prepared by Wirsiy Emmanuel Binyuy (CAMGEW Director) and Ngum Jai Raymond (CAMGEW Project Officer)

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CAMGEW: Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
FMI: Forest Management Institution
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Acknowledgment

CAMGEW is grateful to Future In Our Hands (FIOH) for the financial assistance. This assistance was used to develop a tree nursery at Manchok-Oku. CAMGEW is thankful to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for Oku for technical assistance in forest regeneration process. The participation of community members, youths, and forest stakeholders in nursery development and tree planting was also highly appreciated.

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PRESENTATION OF PROJECT AREA

Emfve-mii Community forest is part of the Oku forest and Oku is found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The population is English speaking. Oku has the largest remaining portion of Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m. The Oku Community Forest is the first community forest in Cameroon. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannermans tauraco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified by IUCN Red list as endangered. Kilum Mountain with altitude 3011 meters is the second highest mountain in Cameroon, central and West Africa after Mount Cameroon. Honey from Oku Forest is white in colour and is commonly called Oku White Honey. It is cherished nationally. It is certified as a Geographical Indication Product. Oku has a rich culture. Carving is highly practiced in Oku. Oku is a tourist destination. Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km2 of which 300km2 are covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km2.

The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine, rodents, wood for carving, bamboo which is used locally for construction and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in color.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

CAMGEW received a grant from FIOH in 2014 of 611.753 FCFA for nursery development and environmental education. CAMGEW supported this project by planting the nursed trees in the Emfve-mii community forest with the community and young people. The nursery was developed at Manchok –Oku. CAMGEW developed a tree nursery with 2000 trees of different varieties. The nursery was used for Environmental Education with community members and youths. CAMGEW had to label the trees with local names, scientific names and the use of the tree for easy learning.

CAMGEW in this project had helped the community members know the importance of each tree in honey production; promoting bird and other animal diversity; watershed protection; and medicinal properties and use. The nursery was set with the participation of community members and seeds collected with them.
This project had to bring together traditional authority, administrative authority, groups of forest users (bee farmers, firewood fetchers, hunters, etc) and community members to work for the conservation of their forest. Tree planting was done with different tree species to promote a bio-diverse forest with a variety of trees.

FOREST REGENERATION ACTIVITIES EXECUTED

Forest regeneration is an important activity with a global interest.

Nursery development: CAMGEW started this project with nursery development. The nursery fence was constructed and trees nursed. The types of trees nursed were *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Pittosporum mannii, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Solanecio mannii, Polysias fulva* and *Psydrax dunlapii.* CAMGEW has more than 60.000 trees in this nursery and 2000 trees were nursed for FIOH-UK. These trees play vital role in watershed protection, promotion of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change. The trees were shaded, weeded from too much sun and watered during the dry season. Weeding was a continuous activity to reduce weed competition for nutrients with nursed trees. Two types of nurseries were developed- bare root nursery and nursing of seeds in polythene pots.

Environmental education: CAMGEW used the nursery for environmental education for children, youths and adults. The community learned about nursery development and importance of each tree to man and nature. CAMGEW had to label the trees with local names, scientific names and the use of the tree to man and nature for easy learning. CAMGEW carried out forest education with children inside the forest too.

Environmental education in the CAMGEW nursery and in the Kilum Mountain forest

Tree planting: CAMGEW from 29th of May to 27th July 2015 carried out tree planting in the forest, tree maintenance, and field base environment lessons where children learn-by-practicing in tree planting. On the 29th May 2015 CAMGEW had a forest regeneration planning meeting with forest stakeholders. During tree planting exercise children learned how to transport trees to the forest, dig holes and plant the trees. The children took part in site selection for forest regeneration. They considered areas with no trees for regeneration by planting trees of different types in one area. There were some community members with experience who joined CAMGEW to guide young people in the exercise. We were happy to have teachers of schools participate in the activity and this assured the transfer of this knowledge to classrooms by making practical learning feature in their lessons. In May 2015, community members cleared the area were trees were planted and in June 2015 they planted 1500 trees for FIOH project as CAMGEW's contribution in forest regeneration process. 500 trees were planted by children.

Selection of trees for planting in the forest

Forest education and tree planting: On the 14th and 16th of August 2015 CAMGEW organised field based environmental education with children and youths in the forest. This was done with children learning-by-doing in the forest.

On 14th August 2015, 210 students with 11 teachers that gave the children holiday lessons joined CAMGEW in the nursery to learn about forest regeneration. The students and their teachers carried 300 nursed trees from CAMGEW nursery to the forest for planting. These trees included *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Pittosporum mannii, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Solanecio mannii, Polysias fulva* and *Psydrax dunlapii.* They learned about the importance of these trees to man and nature. They had forest education, dug holes and planted the trees. It was great joy for many as they were planting their first tree in life. Some had not been to the forest before. They called on CAMGEW to make this a regular long vacation (holiday) event.

On the 16th of August 2015, 20 other children joined CAMGEW with their parents to planted 200 trees of different types. They carried trees to the forest and planted together with CAMGEW. All these young people learned about forest problems like bush fires, the presence of goats in the forest, unsustainable bee farming that cause bush fires, over trapping of rats and the cutting of fresh wood for firewood by community members The young people were ask to propose solutions to these problems and make resolutions on personal basis to keep the forest live. They also helped CAMGEW to collect seeds of trees from the forest to nurse in the CAMGEW nursery. These seeds went to replace the seedlings taken to plant in the forest.

Tree planting with young people in the forest

Funding for forest regeneration: The clearing of the forest was part of IUCN-France project to keep trees earlier planted clean but the replacement of death trees in World Bank Project site was done with trees from FIOH-UK. The planting of 1500 trees was done on voluntary basis by CAMGEW and community. Trees planted in 2013 with government funds were still maintained and dead ones replaced with government funds in 2014. 5000 trees were planted in the Emfve-mii forest in 2015 with funds from Cameroon government, FIOH-UK, CAMGEW, IUCN-France and forest users.

Seed collection from the Kilum forest for nursery development

The team involved: Wirsiy Emmanuel B. coordinated the activity. Ngum Raymond was field supervisor and community leader was Berinyuy Sebastian.

Monitoring of planted trees

CAMGEW has made monitoring of planted trees in the forest a regular activity. Monitoring of these trees is done on daily basis by forest users like bee farmers, hunters and firewood fetchers who updated us on the state of the forest and planted trees. CAMGEW makes regular patrols and monitoring too on weekly basis.

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

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT AREA

Emfve-mii Community forest is part of the Oku forest and Oku is found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The population is English speaking. Oku has the largest remaining portion of Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku at altitude around 2500m. The Oku Community Forest is the first community forest in Cameroon. The forest has a unique ecosystem and is the largest remaining habitat for Bannermans tauraco-a red feathered bird that is only found in the Bamenda Highland Region and is classified by IUCN Red list as endangered. Kilum Mountain with altitude 3011 meters is the second highest mountain in Cameroon, central and West Africa after Mount Cameroon. Honey from Oku Forest is white in colour and is commonly called Oku White Honey. It is cherished nationally. It is certified as a Geographical Indication Product. Oku has a rich culture. Carving is highly practiced in Oku. Oku is a tourist destination. Oku has a population estimated at about 130,000 inhabitants. With a total surface area of about 800km2 of which 300km2 are covered by the forest. This gives the locality a population density of about 162 persons per km2.

The Kilum Mountain Forest is rich in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as herbs for medicine, rodents, wood for carving, bamboo which is used locally for construction and the Oku honey with its peculiarity of being white in color.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

CAMGEW received a grant from FIOH in 2014 of 611.753 FCFA for nursery development and environmental education. CAMGEW supported this project by planting the nursed trees in the Emfve-mii community forest with the community and young people. The nursery was developed at Manchok –Oku. CAMGEW developed a tree nursery with 2000 trees of different varieties. The nursery was used for Environmental Education with community members and youths. CAMGEW had to label the trees with local names, scientific names and the use of the tree for easy learning.

CAMGEW in this project had helped the community members know the importance of each tree in honey production; promoting bird and other animal diversity; watershed protection; and medicinal properties and use. The nursery was set with the participation of community members and seeds collected with them.
This project had to bring together traditional authority, administrative authority, groups of forest users (bee farmers, firewood fetchers, hunters, etc) and community members to work for the conservation of their forest. Tree planting was done with different tree species to promote a bio-diverse forest with a variety of trees.

FOREST REGENERATION ACTIVITIES EXECUTED

Forest regeneration is an important activity with a global interest.

Nursery development: CAMGEW started this project with nursery development. The nursery fence was constructed and trees nursed. The types of trees nursed were *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Pittosporum mannii, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Solanecio mannii, Polysias fulva* and *Psydrax dunlapii.* CAMGEW has more than 60.000 trees in this nursery and 2000 trees were nursed for FIOH-UK. These trees play vital role in watershed protection, promotion of biodiversity, sustaining livelihoods, promotion of apiculture and fighting climate change. The trees were shaded, weeded from too much sun and watered during the dry season. Weeding was a continuous activity to reduce weed competition for nutrients with nursed trees. Two types of nurseries were developed- bare root nursery and nursing of seeds in polythene pots.

Environmental education: CAMGEW used the nursery for environmental education for children, youths and adults. The community learned about nursery development and importance of each tree to man and nature. CAMGEW had to label the trees with local names, scientific names and the use of the tree to man and nature for easy learning. CAMGEW carried out forest education with children inside the forest too.

Environmental education in the CAMGEW nursery and in the Kilum Mountain forest

Tree planting: CAMGEW from 29th of May to 27th July 2015 carried out tree planting in the forest, tree maintenance, and field base environment lessons where children learn-by-practicing in tree planting. On the 29th May 2015 CAMGEW had a forest regeneration planning meeting with forest stakeholders. During tree planting exercise children learned how to transport trees to the forest, dig holes and plant the trees. The children took part in site selection for forest regeneration. They considered areas with no trees for regeneration by planting trees of different types in one area. There were some community members with experience who joined CAMGEW to guide young people in the exercise. We were happy to have teachers of schools participate in the activity and this assured the transfer of this knowledge to classrooms by making practical learning feature in their lessons. In May 2015, community members cleared the area were trees were planted and in June 2015 they planted 1500 trees for FIOH project as CAMGEW's contribution in forest regeneration process. 500 trees were planted by children.

Selection of trees for planting in the forest

Forest education and tree planting: On the 14th and 16th of August 2015 CAMGEW organised field based environmental education with children and youths in the forest. This was done with children learning-by-doing in the forest.

On 14th August 2015, 210 students with 11 teachers that gave the children holiday lessons joined CAMGEW in the nursery to learn about forest regeneration. The students and their teachers carried 300 nursed trees from CAMGEW nursery to the forest for planting. These trees included *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Pittosporum mannii, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Solanecio mannii, Polysias fulva* and *Psydrax dunlapii.* They learned about the importance of these trees to man and nature. They had forest education, dug holes and planted the trees. It was great joy for many as they were planting their first tree in life. Some had not been to the forest before. They called on CAMGEW to make this a regular long vacation (holiday) event.

On the 16th of August 2015, 20 other children joined CAMGEW with their parents to planted 200 trees of different types. They carried trees to the forest and planted together with CAMGEW. All these young people learned about forest problems like bush fires, the presence of goats in the forest, unsustainable bee farming that cause bush fires, over trapping of rats and the cutting of fresh wood for firewood by community members The young people were ask to propose solutions to these problems and make resolutions on personal basis to keep the forest live. They also helped CAMGEW to collect seeds of trees from the forest to nurse in the CAMGEW nursery. These seeds went to replace the seedlings taken to plant in the forest.

Tree planting with young people in the forest

Funding for forest regeneration: The clearing of the forest was part of IUCN-France project to keep trees earlier planted clean but the replacement of death trees in World Bank Project site was done with trees from FIOH-UK. The planting of 1500 trees was done on voluntary basis by CAMGEW and community. Trees planted in 2013 with government funds were still maintained and dead ones replaced with government funds in 2014. 5000 trees were planted in the Emfve-mii forest in 2015 with funds from Cameroon government, FIOH-UK, CAMGEW, IUCN-France and forest users.

Seed collection from the Kilum forest for nursery development

The team involved: Wirsiy Emmanuel B. coordinated the activity. Ngum Raymond was field supervisor and community leader was Berinyuy Sebastian.

Monitoring of planted trees

CAMGEW has made monitoring of planted trees in the forest a regular activity. Monitoring of these trees is done on daily basis by forest users like bee farmers, hunters and firewood fetchers who updated us on the state of the forest and planted trees. CAMGEW makes regular patrols and monitoring too on weekly basis.

CHALLENGES

The greatest challenge in the regeneration of the Oku forest is the presence of animals in the forest (goats). These animals kept by community members in the forest have been destroying planted trees and other seedlings that are regenerating naturally.

Land close to the forest are used by community members for farming. They do slash-and-burn to prepare the farm for cultivation. This exposes the forest to bush fires. There will be need for continuous monitoring of the regenerated area and the whole forest.

There is the cutting of fresh wood for firewood or for fencing of farms and gardens by forest users. This has disturbed the regeneration process as it is a threat to the fate of planted trees by CAMGEW

SUCCESS

This project has ended with CAMGEW owning a solid fenced nursery that will be continuous used for forest regeneration. This nursery has a capacity of 100,000 trees. CAMGEW nursed has over 60.000 trees of different species like *Prunus africana, Carapas grandifolia, Pittosporum mannii, Zyzigium staudtii, Croton macrostachyst, Maesa lanceolata, Schefflera abyssinica, Bridelia speciosa, Psychotria penducularis, Solanecio mannii, Polysias fulva* and *Psydrax dunlapii.*

10. CAMGEW used a participatory approach in tree planting and CAMGEW has seen increase community solidarity. Community members after participating in tree planting have understood the importance of Oku forest and the need to protect it. Youths' participation in tree planting increased their understanding of the forest and need to protect it. CAMGEW by

involving youths in tree planting instils love for nature in youths.

11. Through sensitization in the Community Radio, many people have changed their negative attitude towards the forest. People have removed goats from some parts in the forest. Community members especially those who took part in the regeneration process are now patrollers (volunteers) monitoring the trees that they planted with CAMGEW's supervision.

CONCLUSION

Forest education has been a success in the Oku Community Forest in 2015. CAMGEW succeeded in planting 2000 trees in the forest under FIOH-UK funding. Children and youths learned-by-doing in planting trees. This activity gave CAMGEW the opportunity to carryout field-based environmental education on sustainable forest management and use. The Oku community Radio was used to reach out to the population on the need to protect the forest. CAMGEW hopes to make the tree planting event an annual activity.

The Oku forest is a large forest. The forest is over exploited and needs to be regenerated. This Forest is important not only for its endemism but also for water catchment, food, medicine and for the livelihoods of community members living around the forest. We must protect it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- CAMGEW sees the importance for field based environmental education with forest users, women, farmers, youths and children of school age to be regular activity. Environmental education with schools in and around Oku will help protect the planted trees and instil the spirit of love for nature in school children.
- CAMGEW recommends that tree planting should be a regular event.
- CAMGEW recommends that all goats found in the forest be removed to permit the growth of planted trees and the natural regeneration of the forest. Goats eat up planted and natural seedlings of Prunus and other tree species. The goats prevent the natural regeneration process of the forest. The absence of goats from the forest will permit young seedlings to grow and increase their rate of survival.
- CAMGEW recommends sanction to the owners of goats living in the forest. General patrols carried out and goats found in the forest caught. The tradition is encouraged to get involved in the catching of goats. There is a zone of pasture at the top of the forest where they could keep their animals.
- CAMGEW sees the need for a demarcation between the forest and the savannah land at the top of the forest. This will prevent the movement of animals from the top savannah land to the forest. The absence of animals in the forest will promote the regeneration process of the forest.

CAMGEW-FIOH activities in the Emfve-Mii Community Forest May 29th to August 14th 2015

SN	ACTIVITY	FUNDER	PERIOD/DATE
1	Planning meetings	CAMGEW	29th May 2015

2	Slashing	IUCN-France	2nd to 27th July 2015
3	Digging and pecking	FIOH/CAMGEW	20th to 27th July 2015
4	Transportation and planting of trees	FIOH/CAMGEW	20th to 27th July 2015
5	Crowning ceremony	FIOH/CAMGEW	14th August 2015
6	Monitoring:	CAMGEW	Continuous

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SC Bonn West
Ständerbau
Firings
0228 / 658572


BRIDELIA SPECIOSA
LN:EBLUM
- APICULTURE
- MEDICINE


PRUNUS AFRICANA
LN: EBLAA
- APICULTURE
- MEDICINAL
LN SEM

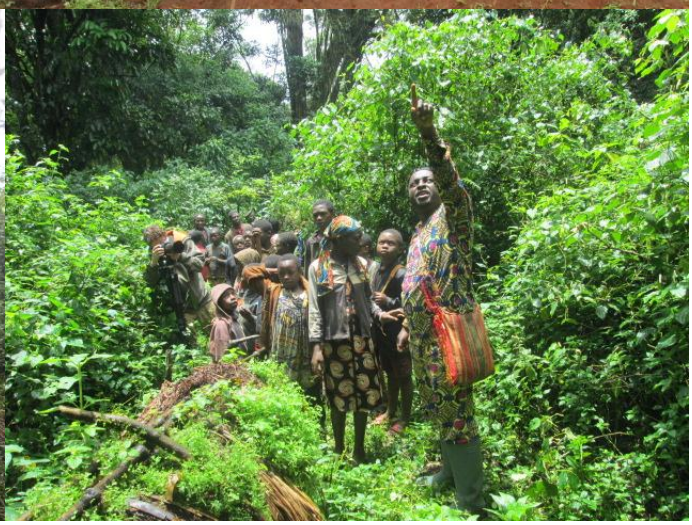

LN. EBSHIE
BRIDELIA SPECIOSA
LN:EBSHIE
LN. FEGHEYEH


ALBIZIA GUMMIFERA
EBWEM


LN: FISHE YESE
LN: EBWEN


SCHEFFLERA ABYSSINICA
LN: YIA
APICULTURE


GRIDELIA SPECIOSA
LN: KELAANE




NEWTONIA CAMERUNENSIS
LN: KELAANE
- Timber
- Apiculture


LN: SEM


PRUNUS