

CAMEROON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT WATCH (CAMGEW)

Authorisation No.000998/RDA/J06/BAPP

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP26)



CAMGEW IN CONSERVATION, LIVELIHOOD AND GENDER EQUALITY



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ABOUT CAMGEW

Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) is a not-for-profit organization created in October 2007 with authorization number N° 000998/RDA/JO6/BAPP to look for a solution to environmental and women's issues in Cameroon. CAMGEW works locally and thinks globally, integrating gender in solving environmental problems in Cameroon. CAMGEW's Vision is "A society free from poverty, gender inequality and unsustainable environmental practices". CAMGEW's Mission statement is "We do environmental protection by strengthening the capacity of community members especially women and young people in eco-businesses and forest regeneration for livelihood improvement in the Bamenda Western Highland Forest area of Cameroon". Taking in to consideration the numerous environmental and gender problems encountered in the world at large, and recognizing that solutions to these problems can only come through concerted action from all concerned persons and citizen organizations, CAMGEW is an initiative in this direction. Considering that environment and gender issues are problems that exists worldwide and requires global or local solutions, CAMGEW hereby adopts the principle of equal but differentiated responsibilities in looking for solutions to environmental and gender problems at the local level. CAMGEW also opt to put social and environmental justice at the centre of development. CAMGEW seeks to achieve its objectives based on its credo of Think Globally and Act Locally by liaising with other like-minded organizations worldwide.

CAMGEW's Global OBJECTIVE: An inclusive and sustainably management of the Bamenda Western Highland Forest through forest regeneration and agroforestry for eco-business.

CAMGEW'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Local government actors supported and citizens' engagement promoted to ensure effective management of the Bamenda Western Highland Forest.
- Eco-business operators in Bamenda Western Highland Forest area master the techniques of production to produce good quality and sufficient quantity for the market.
- Eco-business operators have adequate capacity and have increased revenue through the commercialization of their products.
- Women in Bamenda Western Highlands are empowered & participate in forest management & community development.
- CAMGEW will have developed projects and sought funds to handle challenges in the Bamenda Western Highland Forest area and develop a good system to manage funds.
- CAMGEW will work with like-minded organizations and people to share knowledge, experiences on forest local governance issues and learn from them.

CAMGEW AREA OF ACTION

Bamenda Western Highland Forest and environs. This also include Kilum-Ijim forest. The Bamenda Highlands lies in the western highlands of Cameroon which consist of a chain of volcanic mountains. These highlands contain the largest remaining patches of afro-montane forest in West Africa. There are about 8 protected areas in the region. These areas are mixed forest and savannah grasslands with some of the highest levels of endemism in the Western Highlands. This area is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened. The forests is very important for its people because it is source

for water, fuelwood, medicines, honey and other products and also has cultural and spiritual importance.

TARGET GROUPS: Forest users, less privileged children and Peasant women.

What we offer: Agroforestry training, Bee farming training, Tree nursery development, Child development, Forest regeneration, environmental education, Micro-credit schemes for women, Social regeneration, Advocacy and women empowerment.

CAMGEW ACTIVITIES

A. Tree Nursery Development

CAMGEW tree nurseries promote Kilum-Ijim forest regeneration and environmental education.

- As of 2021, CAMGEW has two tree nurseries with over 80.000 native bee-loving and agroforestry trees like *Prunus africana*, *Carapas grandifolia*, *Syzygium staundtii*, *Pittosporium manii*, *Croton macrotachyst*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Bridelia speciosa*, *Newtonia camerunensis*, *Acacia*, *Leucena*, *Schefflera abyssinica*, etc.
- There is inclusive nursery development from seed collection, nursing of seed and caring for the seedlings. This involves youths, women and men. Children education is tailored in a learning-by-doing approach.



B. CAMGEW Community Tree Planting in Kilum Forest

Planted native trees serve as carbon sink and provide various ecosystem services like water, medicinal plants, honey, ecotourism, etc.

- From 2012 to 2021, CAMGEW has planted 104,446 trees in the Kilum forest to regenerate degraded forest areas. *Newtonia camerunensis* a critically endangered tree specie is among planted trees. 4000 of these trees were nursed and planted
- Tree planting is done to maintain forest biodiversity and increase bee forage.
- Women and men work together during tree planting to clear the paths, transport seedlings, plant the seedlings and monitor the health and growth of planted trees. Forest users like bee farmers who visit the forest daily participates in forest and tree monitoring.
- Planted trees serve as bee forage, watershed protection, medicine, protect shrines, shelter wildlife, etc
- CAMGEW use the rate of beehive colonization to monitor the health of forest



C. CAMGEW Environmental/ Forest Education

Environmental Education (EE) is done to build positive behaviors towards the environment in adults and build nature lovers in children.

- CAMGEW EE as of 2021 has reached out to over 70.000 community members.

Some of the topics on forest and environment taught	
Types of forest trees and their uses	Types of non-timber forest products in the forest and sustainable consumption of these products,
Forest seeds dispersal,	Ways of preventing and managing bushfires,
Forest and pollination,	How farmers can take part in forest regeneration,
Forest insects and their role in pollination and honey production,	How women and girls can participate in forest regeneration etc.
Disadvantages of forest destruction,	Types of non-timber forest products in the forest and sustainable consumption of these products,
Forest for food, water and tourism	Forest for Oku White Honey and its certification as Geographic Indication Product
Forest for animals	Forest stratification

- Methodology or strategy used for Environmental Education(EE) sessions:
 - Community children are sensitized in CAMGEW Learning Centres through lectures, storytelling and creative acts (painting, drawing, sketches, songs, dancing, poems, rhymes, etc).
 - EE was done in the tree nurseries, forest, community events, community social groups.
 - CAMGEW produced and distribute posters, booklets, signpost, flyers etc to educate the community.
 - Mainstreaming EE talks during other workshops, trainings and activities
 - Using the social media for EE like whatsapp, facebook, videos in YouTube, histogram, twitter, websites, radio and television stations.



D. CAMGEW Advocacy and Sharing of Knowledge and Skills

CAMGEW Promotes Women's Ecological and Socio-Economic Rights.

- CAMGEW brings every forest stakeholder to the table for better debate to increase forest and biodiversity engagement for better decision making

- CAMGEW create partnership locally, nationally and internationally to share her best practices and learn from other forest actors and stakeholders.
- CAMGEW work with local and national stakeholders to promote women win-win approaches locally and nationally in improving livelihoods and protecting the environment.
- CAMGEW carry out media campaigns on promotion of women's socio economic and environmental rights
- CAMGEW mainstream gender in forest biodiversity conservation
- CAMGEW revitalize Communities' Indigenous Knowledge and Practices for forest conservation

E. CAMGEW Capacity Building of community members in honey value chain development

Bee farming is a vital tool in conservation of the forest. It improves the livelihood of forest people, fight poverty and create jobs. When forest community member are trained in apiculture and given beehives as start-up to place in the forest, they no longer burn the forest but serve as forest ambassadors. They prevent and fight bushfire to protect their beehives and automatically protect the forest. Sustainable apiculture=jobs=income=forest regeneration=gender equality.

As of 2021:

- Over 2000 persons (men and women) have been trained to produce honey and beeswax in Kilum-Ijim forest area,
- Over 1900 bee hives donated to trained farmers in Kilum-Ijim forest area
- Over 350 women and girls empowered to transform honey to beverages and beeswax to lotions, detergents and candles in the Bamenda Highland Forest Region



- 5 honey cooperatives created in the kilum-ijim forest area for trained bee farmers and supported with equipment's, leadership capacity building and honey quality control skills. Cooperative are found in rural area.
- A honeyshop (ClimateSmartShop) created in the urban center to help farmers convert their forest bee farmers honey to money. Through the honeyshop over 15tons of honey are marketed annually. Honeyshop serve as opportunity cost for bushfire forgone by bee farmers.
- Thanks to honey value chain development, the kilum-ijim forest recorded zero bushfire in 2018 and 2019 and few emerging bushfires are put off in time thanks to community engagement and solidarity built through education and bee farmers' organization.

F. Agroforestry Trainings for farmers in Forest Communities

Agroforestry is carried out for soil conservation, erosion control, diversification of organic crop production and fodder for animal farmers and also gathering of animal dung for crop cultivation. It brings forest to our farms. As of 2021:

- Over 800 farmers have been trained on agroforestry techniques and provided with agroforestry seeds/seedlings.

- Application of agroforestry techniques prevents slash-and-burn by farmers around forest peripheries. This slash-and-burn often leads to bushfire that destroys the forest. The farms remain green year round providing for the farmer and preventing burning.
- Planting of agroforestry trees provides alternatives fuel wood, medicinal plants, fodder, fruits and vegetables for most farmers



- Agroforestry encourages the development of various food value chains like medicinal plants and engage more women and youths in forest monitoring. Medicinal plants value chain development improves the health of the community and provides income to many women and youths.
- Agroforestry techniques build capacity of grazers to grow vegetation that provide fodder for animals and confine the animals to gather animal dung needed by farmers. This scenario creates partnership between crop farmers and grazers and leads to reduction in farmers-grazer conflict

G: CAMGEW Capacity Building in Urban Gardening

Capacity building on urban gardening tips is carried out in the urban center. This activity includes:

- Recycling of plastics to tree nursery pots and also to grow various vegetables and medicinal plants to meet urban market
- Techniques to grow organic crops in limited spaces
- Alternative source of income for farmers in urban centers
- Makes available various indigenous seeds and seedlings in urban center
- Provides a learning-by-doing space for women, students and children in the urban center
- Reduce plastic pollution by converting waste to wealth
- This activity has over 300 beneficiaries.



H: CAMGEW Forest community Social Regeneration

Social empowerment activities go to minimize gender-based violence and promote their participation in community development. CAMGEW social regeneration activities as of 2021 include

- Counseling of 2300 forest community members
- Empowered of 700 persons (400 women, 300 men) on the right to legalization of marriages
- 200 women and 180 female youths enlightened on mitigation measures to physical, psychological and economic violence
- 100 teenage mothers empowered on improved nutrition for mother and child from locally available and affordable foodstuff
- 150 girls enlightened on safe sex to reduce sexually transmitted disease and unwanted pregnancies



I: CAMGEW Rural Women Economic Regeneration

CAMGEW actions on Women's Regeneration build women entrepreneurs, solidarity and generate income for them

- 1600 women trained on business skills

- 1325 received financial assistance inform of credits (averagely US \$5000 monthly)
- 45 women groups created (\cong 30 women per group) to build solidarity
- 45 women groups receive business coaching
- 20 women empowered to transform medicinal plants to market and meet local food and health needs
- 300 women empowered to transform honey and beeswax to beverages, lotions, detergents and candles and market to meet

local needs and raise income



J: CAMGEW Personal Development of the Girl Child

Personal development enables teenage girls to develop self-esteem, confidence, sex education, menstrual care and hygiene, environmental education, domestic hygiene and sanitation, positive thinking and self-discovery. As of 2021:

- 300 teenage girls have received personal development
- 45 teenage girls trained on recycling plastics, waste papers and waste African Fabric for traditional embroidery to produce jewelries, hand bags, belts, etc
- 20 girls trained on hairdressing and dress making
- Girls raise their voices against gender-based violence

- Over 50 teenage mothers empowered on nutrition for mother and child using locally available food stuffs
- 100 girls in the informal sector (apprentice in dress making, hair dressing, pastries, and traditional embroidery) receive entrepreneurship training and business coaching.



K. CAMGEW Organizational development

- CAMGEW has also been working hard to be strong in order to serve communities and protect biodiversity. She has developed a clear organizational strategic plan, built staff capacity and improved on her communication strategy. CAMGEW is building a good financial and human resource management system. CAMGEW need financial, material and technical support to better serve communities and conserve the forest.

CAMGEW CHALLENGES

- Limited funding, partnerships and networking opportunities
- Lack of Volunteers with expertise in various domains like communication, information management, networking, computing, financial management, human resource management, record

keeping, other aspects of CAMGEW strategic plan development plus additional skills in our areas of intervention.

- CAMGEW team is young and need more skills, experience and knowledge to function better and make things work. They need specialized trainings.
- CAMGEW lack support for running cost and also need comfortable space for her Bamenda office
- Limited partners in environmental education, agroforestry, women and youth economic and social regeneration, urban gardening, plastic recycling and personal development for women and girls.
- Need partners: CAMGEW needs partners to make her gender sector strong and active.
- CAMGEW needs mobility means to carry out honey value chain development

PARTNER WITH US TO

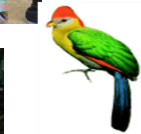
1. Plant more trees
2. Carry out environmental/forest education
3. Empower rural women and girls socially, economically and morally
4. Develop value chain of non-timber forest products especially honey and medicinal plants
5. Support the conversion of waste to wealth
6. Promote agroforestry practices
7. Promote urban gardens
8. Promote plastic and paper recycling
9. Promote socio economic and environmental rights of women
10. Support running cost and salary of workers
11. Support staff capacity building and organizational development

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AWARDS

<p>2020 MIDORI PRIZE AWARD FOR BIODIVERSITY BY WIRSIY EMMANUEL</p>	<p>National Energy Globe Award for 2018 AND 2019</p>
<p>RECYCLING HEROES 2020 FROM GLOBAL RECYCLING FOUNDATION</p>	<p>CAMGEW-HONEYSHOP or NOWEFAM Award by FOMBILLION August 2018.</p>
<p>Gender Just Climate Solutions Award 2019 Spain COP25</p>	<p>Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2012 AND 2013 by Teach A Man To Fish – UK.</p>
<p>UNDP EQUATOR PRIZE AWARD 2019 NEW YORK- USA</p>	<p>Cameroon National Award for Kikum-Ijim Forest Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Development in Oku, 20 MAY 2014</p>
<p>UNIDO Prize Award May 2019 Rome-Italy on Agrofood and Biodiversity</p>	<p>World Bank Recognition 2012 for Work done on Kikum-Ijim Forest Governance</p>
<p>Guardian Post National Award 2019 Ebolowa- Cameroon</p>	<p>Pan African Prize Award for Cameroon 2012 AND 2013 by Teach A Man To Fish – UK</p>





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

Act Locally, Think Globally



Mother Earth's Future in our Hands

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