

## Project Update: July 2014

Since February 2014, Nature-Care-Cameroon has been assisting four communities in a 12 month project to support reforestation and best agroforestry practices in the Kumbo watershed.

In the last two months (May - June 2014), the participation of women and youths towards the implementation of project activities has been very encouraging as can be seen from the number of some major achievements recorded within this period.

Firstly, a total of 4,455 tree seedlings belonging to seven different species were planted out in three degraded community water catchments. Also, in two of the three community primary schools where lessons on conservation education are taught to school children and teachers through environmental awareness, a total of 534 tree seedlings (mainly ornamental) were equally planted out around the school campuses on the week culminating to the celebration of this year's world environment day. Tree planting activities shall continue in all the project communities in the days ahead especially as new tree seedlings in the various community nurseries are gradually getting mature and ready for planting out.



Secondly, members of the various Community Water Management Committees (CWMCs) were trained on bee farming and processing. After the training, a total of 90 locally made bee hives and other harvesting gear were distributed to the different water management committees. All the bee hives have been installed and after a follow-up 2 weeks after installation, 11 of the hives were already colonized. Apart from the environmental importance of bee farming in forest conservation, it is equally a major source of income and food for the local farmers in this region and the proceeds from honey and by-products shall be jointly used by the water management committees in the sustainable management of water/forest resources.



The major difficulty the project encountered during this period was the lack of enough agroforestry seeds to address farmer's needs. Apart from using agroforestry seeds on improving the soil fertility, many farmers were interested to use the seeds in establishing living fences around their farm lands in order to prevent stray animals from destroying their crops. Others used the seeds as fodder for livestock and fuel for domestic use. The project has been depending very much on agroforestry seeds donated by the New Forests Project based in the USA. In our next project proposal, we shall be addressing this particular problem by establishing a community agroforestry seed bank where agroforestry seeds shall be raised /collected locally and distributed to farmers. Efforts in securing a common land for the establishment of such an agroforestry seed bank has already been tabled to the local authorities of the area. In the meantime, two different land areas has been provided to the project to select one. In the days ahead, the project shall be making a technical assessment of the two different lands in order to select the best.