

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NCHIIY COMMUNITY FOREST -Oku - KILUM MOUNTAIN FOREST CAMEROON



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMES

CAMGEW – Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MINFOF – Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
CS: Catholic Primary School
GS: Government Primary School
GHS: Government High School

Acknowledgment

Cameroon Gender and Environmental Watch (CAMGEW) is grateful to the Rufford Foundation for their financial to realize this project and to produce this environmental education booklet. CAMGEW is thankful to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) for Oku for technical assistance in forest regeneration process, to the Inspectorate of Basic Education-Oku and Ministry of Secondar Education through School Principals for facilitating the participation o children in this project to do environmental education in schools. The participation of

community members in helping children become lovers of nature through this activity needs to be applauded. These children involved in nursery development and forest regeneration.. CAMGEW is also grateful to the following personalities of Oku for their support in the course of forest regeneration: Divisional Officer-Oku, traditional Authorities, the Village Head of Mbockeghas, and all other persons who assisted directly and indirectly for being very resourceful in the realization of the planting exercise.

Presentation of Project area

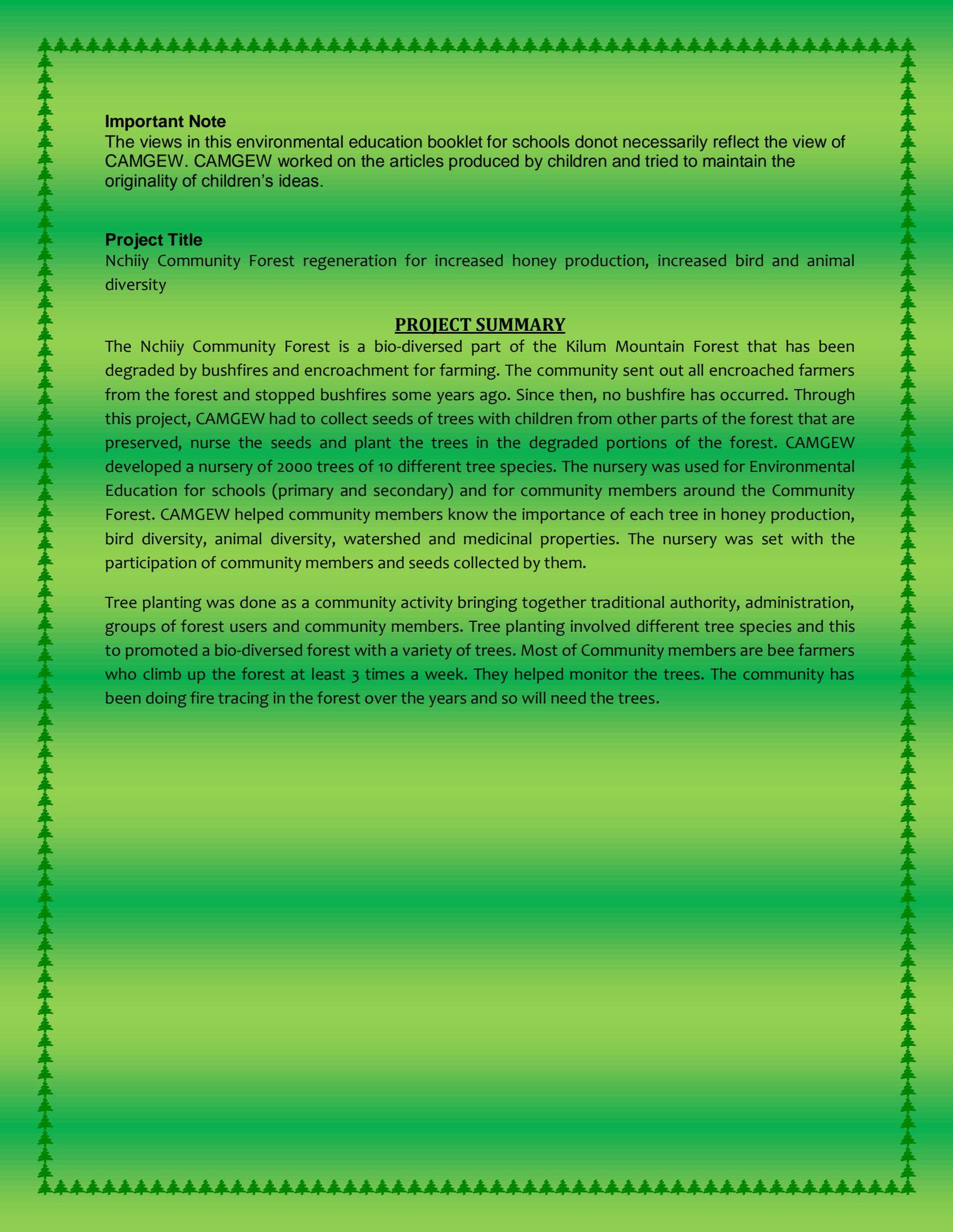
The Nchiy Community Forest is found in Oku Forest. Oku forest is a bio-diversified part of the Kilum Mountain Forest Oku is found in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. The population is English speaking. Oku has the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater 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 color.

CAMGEW 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.



Important Note

The views in this environmental education booklet for schools do not necessarily reflect the view of CAMGEW. CAMGEW worked on the articles produced by children and tried to maintain the originality of children's ideas.

Project Title

Nchiiy Community Forest regeneration for increased honey production, increased bird and animal diversity

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Nchiiy Community Forest is a bio-diversified part of the Kilum Mountain Forest that has been degraded by bushfires and encroachment for farming. The community sent out all encroached farmers from the forest and stopped bushfires some years ago. Since then, no bushfire has occurred. Through this project, CAMGEW had to collect seeds of trees with children from other parts of the forest that are preserved, nurse the seeds and plant the trees in the degraded portions of the forest. CAMGEW developed a nursery of 2000 trees of 10 different tree species. The nursery was used for Environmental Education for schools (primary and secondary) and for community members around the Community Forest. CAMGEW helped community members know the importance of each tree in honey production, bird diversity, animal diversity, watershed and medicinal properties. The nursery was set with the participation of community members and seeds collected by them.

Tree planting was done as a community activity bringing together traditional authority, administration, groups of forest users and community members. Tree planting involved different tree species and this to promoted a bio-diversified forest with a variety of trees. Most of Community members are bee farmers who climb up the forest at least 3 times a week. They helped monitor the trees. The community has been doing fire tracing in the forest over the years and so will need the trees.

ARTICLES OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

THE KILUM FOREST

The Oku forest is called the Kilum Mountain Forest.
It has wonderful physical features. Many tourists come to Kilum to see the trees, the lake and the birds that fly.

Tatah Mari Melian Benjika
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The Kilum forest

A big watershed, the river Dah, Emfve, Mii, Emtio
With many waterfalls,
Villages East and West surrounding you.
The second height in Cameroon
The Kilum Forest

Sivesen Amabel
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The Nchiiy forest

The forest is always busy
During the night and during the day
When animals are sleeping
The insects are busy
The bee farmers are busy
The wind is busy
Birds building nests
Rats building their holes
Some animals feeding their little ones
Every time busy busy busy
Up and down

Yufenyuy Nadine
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The forest:

Animals, flowers, trees so tall
God made everything big and small.

Chia Ernest
Class Six

CS Simonkoh

Forest, forest, the Kilum forest
All good water
All beautiful trees and flowers
All beautiful birds and animals
Useful insects
you are the home.

Ngala Marise
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The forest:

People bring a lot from our forest
Honey, leaves, plants, roots and animals, wood and mushrooms

Jesse Limnyuy
Class Five
CS Simonkoh

A rhyme: the forest

Beautiful forest
Like the kilum mountain
Full of trees and fresh water
Full of birds and full of wood

Ngalla Emeline Yafe
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The forest:

There are less animals found in our forest now
The trees are killed by people looking for money as they fetch firewood to sell
Water sources are drying up because of deforestation
Who is doing this?

Bonetor Bongkeyung
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The Kilum Forest:

Many trees found in one place are called a forest. The Oku community Forest reserve is one of the highest peaks in Cameroon. It is an important watershed. There has been much destruction in the Oku Forest but more conservation methods are being put in place to hold the forest for example, there is the Forestation project by CAMGEW and the council programme to stop deforestation and grazing and the community initiatives in creating forests boundaries.

Even though alot is done, there is still much stealing going on in the forest.

People harvest others honey as thieves etc. Year in year out, bush fires eat up the forest, people kill trees to fetch firewood while grazers add animals into the forest.

No one cares about tomorrow.

Stecy Verla
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

Rhyme: The Kilum Forest

The forest, the forest, the Kilum Forest
Some parts trees
Some parts grass
Some parts tall trees
Some parts tall grass
Some parts valleys
Some parts hills

Wirngo Cosmas
Class Six
CS Simonkoh

The forest:

There are many friends and enemies to the forest. The Oku forest is a large forest and owned by the community. The forest starts from Vekovi to Ijim. Lake Oku is found in the forest. Many visitors come to Oku to visit the lake and the forest. The forest has many important things and many rivers take their rise from this mountain. Lake Oku has an important history. The forest has many useful trees and leaves. There are also birds and animals. Many people in Oku depend in the forest for their family income but some do different activities.

Any body caught disobeying the forestry law is a prisoner. The forest environment is protected by CAMGEW in Oku.

Nyuyshe Larisa Modufe
Class Five
CS Simonkoh

The Nchiiy Community Forest-Oku

It is very important in Oku

Lake Oku is found inside the forest, people keep bee hives in the forest. They harvest honey and sell to have money

Some people also visit Oku to see the forest and the lake. It has made the Oku culture to grow because the Fon always visits the lake.

We have sources of water that comes from the Nchiiy forest. Oku is blessed because of the presence of the forest

Problems faced by the Nchiiy Community forest and some solutions are:

Too much hunting in the forest disturbs young animals from growing.

Burning of the forest is also another problem because fire destroy trees

Keeping of goats is not also good because the goats destroy the young trees that are growing in the forest.

Some solutions

The government of Cameroon should help Oku control the poor way people are using the forest so that young animals and young trees should grow without a problem.

Diom reriya

Konseh nelson

Njingka Justin niynyberi

Chaah Nancy maikem

Temse Teclear teh

Chongwan Ephesians Kongnyuy

Government Primary School, Tankiy

ARTICLES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Nchiiy community forest

Oh Nchiiy forest, forest, forest!!!

What a wonderful place you are, the source of our water, a peaceful place for our animals, a touristic potential to our economy.

Oh Nchiiy forest you have been for long and so shall you be. Most of our inhabitants are trying to destroy you like hunters, farmers, exploiters and bush fire. Hunters have been cutting you down to create their road paths, farmers have been cutting you down to cultivate, forest exploiters have been cutting you down to exploit and at times bush fires destroy you. No good road have linked you to villages, towns and cities making foresters reluctant to inspect your growth, most of your trees are old making it impossible for your young ones to be healthy.

Oh Nchiiy forest your continuous deforestation without replacement has caused us many problems like shortage of water supply, limited trees bearing fruits, limited nectar for our bees in order to produce quality honey. In favourable home for our wild animals and has discouraged our tourists thus reducing the income our government earn from tourism.

Oh Nchiiy forest your growth needs to be maintained. Forest exploiters should replace you with your healthy young ones after exploiting you. Farmers should only remain in their own specified land, hunters should stop cutting you down in order to create their road paths, bush fires should be avoided besides you especially during the dry season. Government should also give licences to forest exploiters and as such your growth will be promoted.

Oh Nchiiy forest, your memories shall forever remain in our minds for a great place you are.
Long live Nchiiy forest

Keng Faith Jailughe and Fongek Elvis Wamey.

Lower sixth.

GHS Simonkoh

Nchiiy forest Nchiiy forest, oh Nchiiy forest you are a source of fresh water to the inhabitants. You are an important source of revenue to Nchiiy people who use the forest to keep their bee hives.

Nchiiy forest Nchiiy forest, oh Nchiiy forest. You can be protected by setting a fire brigade to prevent the fire out breaks caused by nearby farmers from entering the forest.

Nchiiy forest can be protected by educating nearby farmers from farming right into the forest. You can be protected by issuing licence permits to those going up to the forest either tourists or adventuresrs

Nchiiy forest can be protected by planting trees and avoiding deforestation

Jaff Antoinette

Lower sixth

GHS Simonkoh

Our community forest has been named Nchiiy community forest. It is a natural resource. It helps in the provision of food and also helps animals which stay in the forest and plants which they also use. The forest is very important.

It provides food, it provides job opportunities to the natives, it serves as a good source of water to use the community.

As the advantages of our forest are listed above, the following should be applied in order to protect it.

Our parents, who hunt, keep bees and people who hunt for mushroom should stop smoking. Smoking can cause the burning of the forest which can kill many animals in the forest. The leaves of the trees that burn disturbs the trees from growing.

We should practice reforestation and do environmental education to make community members know the importance of protecting the forest.

Langai Yvonne

Form four

GHS Simonkoh

Once upon a time there was a villager who went to a forest moving from one part of the forest to another singing and praising the animals in the forest. The first animal that spoke was a lion. The lion said that why is it that when Cameroonians are playing a match they will use his name. The villager had nothing to say than that it is so because he was important. The villager was also a musician who admired birds singing. He said the bird had an ugly voice that they should exchange thus the bird agreed on the fact that God gave her a bad voice. From that day the villager was the best musician in our village. That is why all musicians have very beautiful voices,

Wadze Benete and B. Claudia

GHS Simonkoh

Oh, Oh forest what an important place. Without the forest we can't have water. It provides us with firewood. It is also beneficial in that many people live from different places just to come study you. The people are known as tourists or scientists. It also provides us things like mushroom, honey that are very important for human life.

Ngek Derrick

Form four

GHS Simonkoh

The forest is very important because of the things that are there such as animals, trees firewood, honey medicinal plants, water etc.

Despite these advantages that the forest has it is still threatened. There is the cutting down of fresh trees especially "ebven" for firewood, there are also cigarette smokers and those who do not do good honey harvesting who can cause bush fires. Many people clear the forest and this is destroying the habitat of the animals and birds. There is the reduction of water quantity.

We can and should take care of the forest by not smoking in our forest, by not clearing it, we should also take care of the grass in our farms if we have to burn them. We should do fire tracing around the forest to prevent fires from leaving our farms and entering the forest.

Mbom Theodosia

Form Four

GHS Simonkoh

The name of my community forest is Nchiiy Community forest. It is a natural resource. It is very important to the community and even to the tourists. It provides employment opportunities to the natives, it protects the wildlife which is used as food, it provides good sources of water used for drinking, cooking and bathing. It increases the community's revenue through bee farming and ecotourism. It regulates climatic conditions of the communities around the forest providing them with fresh air. Bee farmers keep beehives which at the end provides honey which is used as food and medicine. The trees found in it are very important in that the leaves and barks of the trees serve as medicine. Some leaves serve as food like "Kefom". There are also hunting activities taking place in the forest. Because of all these, the forest should be protected by not practicing any activities that will negatively affect it like deforestation. We should instead practice reforestation and conserve the forest for future generations.

Tata Siylent
Form Four
GHS Simonkoh

Oh little Nchiiy forest
What a place to be
We are very lucky that we were born here
Near the forest of Kilum-Mountain

There are many things in,
This forest that God has given to us
Leaves and barks of trees as medicines
Cold water and sweet honey

We need a lot of protection in our forest;
We need a lot of care for our forest so that the forest should be lively
We need people that can assist in this forest in order to make the forest a lively place

Kidze Modest and Babey Brendaline
Form Four
GHS Simonkoh

The forest
The forest of Nchiiy
Forest, forest, forest
What makes the environment beautiful?
Where we obtain
Water

Pure honey
Firewood
Food
Oh forest, a good place.

Chimtom Promise
Form Four
GHS Simonkoh

Nchiiy community forest

A forest is a place where animals and trees live.
We should avoid smoking in the forest
Avoid grazing in the forest
Avoid eating and throwing papers in the forest
Avoid hunting animals in the forest
Avoid throwing dangerous objects in the forest like keeping poison for animals to eat
Avoid encroachment into the forest

Lon Honoratus and Dinse Kester
Form Three
GHS Simonkoh

The name of my forest is called Nchiiy community forest. It is a natural resource and a free gift of nature. It is very important to my community as it provides a good source of drinking water to community members and plants; it provides fresh air, and good climatic conditions. It is a source of employment and increases the standards of living.
It is the home for wild animals and birds. It serves as a touristic site to both natives and foreigners.

Tata Abidatu, Ndifon Miranda and Kenchen Anabel
GHS Simonkoh

The Nchiiy community forest is a natural place. It provides water for us, it provides us with medicines which are extracted from some grasses and trees, and it provides us with food like mushrooms and vegetables.
It gives us good climatic conditions. The forest is very important to the population and also to tourists as it provides job opportunities and increase family revenues.
My lovely forest should be protected by preventing bushfires, deforestation, the harvesting of fresh wood and over hunting.
The forest should be protected from thieves, and any persons who are destroying the forest.

Bernadette Biy
Form Four
GHS Simonkoh

The Nchiiy community forest is a natural resource and home for animals and birds. It is important in that it offers us employment opportunities and we also have water that we drink in the community. The forest offers us firewood and good climate. I think the Nchiiy community forest should be protected by planting trees and also by taking good care of the trees and animals in the forest.

Ndansack Solange

Form Five

GHS Simonkoh

The forest

Forest, forest, forest!!!

What a beautiful place where we get our wood, harvest some food items like mushrooms, honey and vegetables; home to animals and birds. Herbalists and other community members use some trees as medicine.

We have to protect this beautiful place for future generations by avoiding smoking in the forest, avoiding cutting down trees that cause water shortages. We should avoid burning the forest because it causes the death of many useful insects like bees which provide honey and rats which serve as food.

Some people may think that it is just a place with no use but there are many uses and that is the reason why it should be protected.

Nkol Ezran

Form Three

GHS Simonkoh

The Nchiiy forest conservation

Forest, what a beautiful place you are. You are the place where we split our wood and harvest some food such as mushroom, rats "Oku Sardine", medicines etc. We keep our beehives and have honey called Oku White Honey. A forest is a place where animals like monkeys and rats live and feed on grass and leaves. It is a place where good, fresh and natural water comes from. It is a place where we harvest herbs and barks of trees and use as medicines. In the Nchiiy Community Forest there is a bird called the Bannermans tauraco

Things considered not good in the forest

The cutting down of trees which is known as deforestation is very bad because it reduces water from the ground to the surface, it also destroys the soil by making the soil less fertile as the soil is exposed to erosion.

We should rather plant trees instead of destroying them. Forest is important that they protect micro-organisms in the ground from too much heat. The forest brings fresh air to our farms and makes us grow healthy.

Hunting should also be avoided. Hunting should be sustainable. We should not also kill animals that are endangered like the Bannermans tauraco- the king of our forest. Bush fires should also be avoided. They kill trees and reduce soil moisture making the soil dry, exposed to erosion and less fertile in the long run.

**Mbiybe Yasmiratu Kaleh,
Nde Irene Shindoh and
Langi Moniratu Nkeinen.**

**Form Two
GHS Simonkoh**

Nchiiy Forest Conservation

Forest, forest, forest
What an important place you are
Forest, forest, forest
You are very important
Without you forest
We cannot have good drinking water
Oh forest, forest, forest
We should avoid deforestation, the cutting down of trees
We should avoid smoking in the forest
Oh, what a wonderful forest
Without you, we cannot be able to live
Oh forest, forest, forest
We should protect our forest
Oh, let us stop the issue of deforestation and protect our forest against any problem
Oh, let us say no to deforestation
We are all the owners of our forest
Oh, let us keep our forest in a good way
We say no to deforestation
The forest provides us some medicines
Oh, a wonderful place
Our Nchiiy Forest needs to be conserved
You are very important
Forest, forest, forest
We should avoid any action that will destroy you.

Jumbam Gustave

**Form Three
GHS Simonkoh**

What should be done to preserve the Nchiiy Community Forest

1. We should plant more trees in the forest especially in parts that had burnt
2. We should also protect the trees that are in the forest
3. We should avoid cutting down of fresh trees for firewood
4. We should not clear every where in the forest all in the name of hunting rats "Oku sardine"
5. We should advise our parents that are using the Nchiiy Community forest on how to sustainably manage the forest
6. We should avoid smoking in the forest
7. We should protect the animals that are in the forest especially endangered ones

**Kelese Noel Mngo
GHS Simonkoh**

The Nchiiy Community Forest

The Nchiiy community forest is an important place where we get water, mushrooms, medicine, honey and meat.

Our forest however faces a lot of problems nowadays;

Today there are some specific trees that are now rare in the forest like *Prunus africana*. It was wrongly harvested and most of them died in the forest

Our forest is also suffering from bush fires. Cigarette smokers need to take care and avoid smoking in the forest. People who also do farming around the forest should be careful that fires should not leave their farms and enter the forest.

There is also grazing that is destroying our forest. My people we should remove animals from the forest and reduce grazing.

Shey Abdu Salam

Form Five

GHS Simonkoh

The forest

The forest should be protected for future generations because it gives medicines, fresh water, mushrooms, honey and rats (“Oku Sardine”)

I think that the forest should be preserved for future generations because in the future more good things will be discovered in the forest. There are also threatened trees and birds like the Bannermans tauraco and we need to protect them.

Nkwambi Aloysius Wirgeh

Form three

GHS Simonkoh

Conservation

Oh Nchiiy Community Forest how important you are,

We drink water but from the forest,

You provide touristic site like your peak and the lake,

We eat mushrooms, honey and vegetables and “Oku Sardine” from the forest

You provide us with medicine as we use your grass, leaves and backs of your trees

Oku our homeland is known nationally for its traditional medicine because of you

You provide us with fresh air

We should stop killing you by avoiding to smoke in the forest,

Stop killing animals in the forest, stop deforestation and avoid cutting fresh trees for firewood.

Wirngo Sidonne Nyuykihan

GHS Simonkoh

How we can protect the Nchiiy community Forest

1. Avoid smoking in the forest
2. Avoid cutting down fresh trees

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3. Avoid clearing the forest for trapping and hive mounting
 4. Avoid over hunting
 5. Avoid bush fires
 6. Remove goats, sheep and cows from the forest.

Menuh Evangeline
Form One
GHS Simonkoh