

## **Project Update: June 2015**

### **Executive Project Summary**

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. 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 2,000 trees of 10 different 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.

### **Activities carried out**

CAMGEW with the young people and forest users of Nchiiy Community forest collected various seeds from the forest and nursed. Where some seeds were difficult to find CAMGEW visited other community forests in the Kilum to get these seeds.

CAMGEW got a permanent nursery site from the Nchiiy Community at Mbockenghas-Oku. The nursery was terraced and fenced with wood plank. This was done by community members and CAMGEW. After terracing, beds were made and goat dung was applied on the beds to increase soil fertility. The seeds were then nursed on various beds after application of goat dung. The various seeds nursed were *Prunus africana*, *Carapas*, *Nuxia*, *Pittosporum veridiflorum*, *Agauria salicifolia*, *Zyzigium staundti*, *Croton macrotachist*, *Maesa lanceolata*, *Newtonia camerounensis*, *Bridelia speciosa* and *Psychotria penducularis*.

There are some seeds that we collected from the forest and have not known their local names. The scientific names will be gotten later. There are some tree species that CAMGEW has in her other nursery in Manchok that we could not get the seeds now. CAMGEW plan to take some germinated tree species in pots from this nursery and transfer them to Nchiiy community forest nursery for education purpose. Our nursery served as learning ground for young people and community members. They will learn too about these tree species.

CAMGEW also organised an environmental education for young people, women and men in the nursery to learn about nursery development, forest regeneration through native forest tree germination, etc. The reason of involving adults in the programme at this stage was to let them know the importance of the nursery to forest regeneration and education of their children. The community event was also aim at making parents see the reason to liberate their children during holidays to come for environmental education lessons.

CAMGEW after carrying out environmental sensitisation in the nursery decided to do practical work with the community in the Nchiiy Community forest. There was a portion of the forest that was regenerated with bee loving trees in the Nchiiy Community forest last year with funds from Konning School and administered by Both ENDS that was burnt by bushfire. CAMGEW and community members cut branches of *Schefflera* tree from Mbockenghas and carried to the forest for planting. More than 70 community members climbed to the Nchiiy forest with cut branches to plant. *Schefflera* tree grows by cuttings and is one of the high bees loving trees that produces Oku white honey that is certified as Geographical Indication Product from Kilum-Ijim forest. The burnt area was already covered with fern plant and fern plant do not encourage the growth of other trees by germination. More than 800 cuttings were planted in the forest and if they grow and form a cover the fern plant will die and permit natural regeneration. Many insects, birds and animals visit this tree and as they visit, they will defecate seeds of other trees that will now germinate to form a diverse forest. In the forest many community members plus youths saw the harm caused by man on the forest including bushfire. They saw the impacts of this on human livelihood activities like bee farming, mushroom collection and vegetable collection. The community members proposed solutions involving forest patrols, tree planting, more environmental education and CAMGEW said this was

possible if they collaborate with her and consider the forest as a source of livelihood to be protected. After the cuttings were planted, all community members went back home happily calling on CAMGEW to organise this event frequently.

The objective of setting this nursery was to give community young people and adults the opportunity to know the types of trees in their forest and to regenerate their forest by planting nursed trees.

**What is to be done soon:**

- CAMGEW is preparing boards from plank that will be used to write the tree scientific names, local names and the importance of the tree to the community and environment.
- Some of the germinated seeds will be transferred to pots
- There will be a detail holidays environmental education programme for holiday makers
- The holiday makers from the community coming from various schools for holidays will work in the nursery and have field lessons in the forest
- The holiday makers will produce poems, sketches, essays, rhymes, etc. concerning the Nchiy community forest (with regards to forest protection, forest importance, actions to be taken against forest defaulters, etc) for booklet production

**Results obtained:**

Number of persons participation in environmental education in nursery/forest and planting of <i>Schefflera</i> in the forest		Number of <i>Schefflera</i> cuttings planted
43 men and women		>800 cuttings
15 young people in the community		
14 students and school children		
Total number	72 community members	

- CAMGEW has developed a nursery that will contain more than 80,000 trees. After the Rufford project the nursery will be continuously used for environmental education and forest regeneration. CAMGEW will also use the tree nursery as co-financing to get other projects after Rufford grants.
- CAMGEW has 14 tree species in the nursery instead of the previewed 10 tree species.

**Some Project Activity Pictures:**



Left: Nursery terracing. Right: The about half a hectare nursery is fenced



Environmental education in the nursery



Environmental education in the nursery



Environmental education in the nursery





Environmental education in the nursery



Environmental education in the nursery



Left: Environmental education in the nursery Right: Overview of a portion of CAMGEW nursery in Mbongkeghas for Nchiiy community forest



Left: Goat dung that was applied in the nursery before nursing forest tree seeds (about 250 Kg) Right: Schefflera branches being cut for transportation to be planted in the forest some one and a half hour walk from Mbockeghas.



Schefflera branches being transported for planting in the forest



Left: CAMGEW's Rufford Project Leader Wirsiy Emmanuel participate in the transportation of Schefflera branches to the forest for planting. Right: Community members resting after arriving at the forest.



Left: Community members resting outside the forest after planting the cuttings. Right: Community members opening paths in the burnt forest area with fern to plant Schefflera



Schefflera cuttings being planted