



Analog forestry pathway for biodiversity conservation and agro-enterprise development

Monitoring Implementation of action plan of the “Akofungbah Water Management Dialogue Platform”

... It is not important to say how many workshops one has attended but to say what has changed in our lives because we attended a workshop...

Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy

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Our Contact:
cendep2001@yahoo.com .
Website: www.cendep.org



Dear Readers,

In the last issue of our newsletter we reported on the efforts we were taking to ensure that all the stakeholders with whom we are working in Bafut could live and work together. We did this by holding sensitization meetings and conducting two workshops aimed at resolving the conflicts between the stakeholders.

During the workshop, they reviewed the problems and difficulties faced in accessing, managing and conserving their watershed, and proposed solutions to these problems. These solutions were then developed into an action plan. One of the activities in the action plan was training on bee keeping. It was recommended that another category of cattle grazers that was ignored in the past (non Bororo grazers) be invited for the workshop on bee keeping. The bee keeping training was one of the major activities we carried out in the months of May and June 2012. We collaborated with a local partner, CAMGEW with experience in bee keeping. Through this organization we had access to farmers from Oku village around the Kilum Mountain Forest, a region well known for honey production in Cameroon. The session on hive construction was conducted by a farmer from Oku village. At the end of the training, it was not possible to construct the number of hives that were earmarked to be donated to the Akofungubah Water Management Dialogue Platform. So we made arrangements for additional days for the trainer to assist in the construction of the hives. This was not necessary as the trainees went ahead with the construction of the hives demonstrating that the training was well done. It was agreed that the extra fee for the trainer be used prepare more hives for the platform.



During the training workshop on bee keeping



After the training workshop

We continued to monitor the farmers whom we supported to create individual nurseries with the intention of establishing private analog forests based on their varied needs. The nurseries are located in their backyards and contain trees of their choice. Their needs included, conservation, fruit production, medicine, vegetables and beekeeping. During our technical support visit 2000 polythene bags were donated enabling them to transplant seedlings from seed beds into bags in view of eventual transplanting in the field. Surplus seedlings are bought with funds donated by one of our partner, SETAC.

Apart from the seeds we donate to the farmers, some of them collected wildings and transplanted directly in the polythene bags for hardening in their various nurseries. There was a high germination rate of about 80 percent for the seeds donated. Some of the seeds such as acacia spp. were destroyed by rats, others by insects but this was not a serious problem. Efforts were taken to protect damage by domestic animals. This was done by constructing small enclosures for the nurseries. Field planting has been scheduled for the months of July and August.



Small tree nurseries owned by farmers

News compiled by Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel (Project leader)

Contributors: Limshu Augustine & Wirsiy Eric F.