Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF)

Annual Report - 2018

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Saving Rainforest, Saving Species, Impacting Lives

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Executive Summary

The year 2018 in ERuDeF came and went amidst the turbulence occurring in the Anglophone region where two thirds of our programmes are located. The emergence of the Cameroon Anglophone crisis in 2016 has seriously affected the expansion and intensification of our programmes in 2018. In the midst of the crisis in Anglophone Cameroon, ERuDeF's management resolved to launch the expansion of its programmes into French Cameroon as a measure to mitigate the long term impact of the crisis. It is against this backdrop that we launched the following programmes: i. The Mount Bamboutos Initiative for Ecosystem and Biodiversity Restoration in the Department of Forestry which is a 15-years initiative jointly coordinated by the UK based International Tree Foundation (ITF) and ERuDeF; ii. Cameroon Forest Gardens Program operated in the Mount Bamboutos, Western High Plateau and Nlonako-Muanenguba Mountain Landscapes is a programme managed by the Department of Agroforestry and Agricultural Development and supported by the US based Trees for the Future. Conservation in the Lebialem Highlands landscape continued to be supported by the Rainforest Trust, USA, to complete the Management Plan of the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary and creation of the proposed Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh-Attah Wildlife Sanctuary. Funding of the Tofala-Mone Corridor, from the Waterloo Foundation, came to an end.

Key achievement during the year 2018 were as follows; Over 23,087 hectares of forest protected in Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah Wildlife Sanctuary, and proposed Muanengouba Herpetological Sanctuary safeguarding over 45 Cross River gorillas, 320 Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, 100 elephants, 100 species of amphibians and a host of endemic birds and plants species; over 100 members of the local community have gained employment (permanent or temporary) through the community forest enterprise programs; The lives of over 200 farmers have been improved through the creation of Forest Gardens as they saw an increase in crop production, 21,620 economic and 50,000 N2-fixing species were potted in central and individual farmers' nurseries at Mt. Bamboutos; These trees will bring about increase in food security and income per household for 30 000 farmers at Mt. Bamboutos area; 17 girls, who received support of textbooks and school bags through the Centre for the Advancement of Women's Initiatives (CAWI), succeeded in their class and national exams.

The other departments operated with very minimal funding generated from our internal reserves. ERuDeF launched its new Humanitarian Division to support the mitigation of the ongoing Anglophone Crisis. ERuDeF also named its Centre for the Advancement of Women's Initiatives (CAWI) as its execution agency.

In 2019, we will formally be announcing the establishment of the ERuDeF University Institute of Applied Biodiversity Sciences. A significant restructuration of the organization was launched and followed by a systematic lay-off of staff across all the departments. This process is continuing till December 2019. Our approach to conservation and development was changed and ERuDeF will henceforth, be focused on the following approaches namely science-based, landscape and ecosystem approaches, while our development interventions will now use the Public-Private Partnership Initiative, supported by ERuDeF Community Conservation Social Enterprise Development Model (CoCoSED) developed in 2017 after several years of testing.

Funding for our programmes drastically reduced as many partners moved away due to the crisis. ERuDeF however, extends its appreciation to all its past and current partners that continue to remain steadfast behind us especially, the African Conservation Foundation, Rainforest Trust, International Tree Foundation, Man & Nature, Cross River Gorilla Project, Trees for the Future, UN Environment, UNDP, Mane Fils and IUCN. We continue to remain committed to our core programme teams and our partners from the local civil society in Cameroon through Central Africa to the Government of Cameroon and the international partners. 2019 will be exciting, as we will continue with programme extensions in French Cameroon, internal restructuration, internationalization of ERuDeF, and increasing the funding capacity of the organization

President/CEO, ERuDeF

Introduction of ERuDeF

History

Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) is a non-profit Cameroonian conservation organization established in 1999. ERuDeF has been working for over two decades and has significantly contributed towards restoring fragile eco-system, regeneration of forest through plantation and agroforestry, conservation of biodiversity through wildlife habitat protection and protected area management, promoting environmental education at schools and grass-root levels, as well as empowering rural communities through economic and livelihood development programmes. Of the several prestigious recognitions and awards received by ERuDeF over the period of time, Whitely Fund for Nature, U.K (2010) is one of the most promising ones that acknowledged the pioneering conservation efforts undertaken by ERuDeF to protect the endangered Cross River gorillas in Western Cameroon.

Mission

At ERuDeF, we conserve biodiversity and protect environments through research, training, education and community engagement.

Objectives

- To develop priorities and strategies for addressing relevant rural and environmental issues;
- To provide local communities with the means to efficiently manage their natural resources and to alleviate poverty;
- To develop successful and/or potentially successful strategies for mobilizing communities and people to conserve their natural resources;
- To promote women's role in conservation and development through training and support of women programs;
- To fight against deforestation, land degradation and desertification;
- To promote alternative sustainable development strategies in rural areas including development of alternative models of rural financing.
- To promote advocacy, education, training and information programmes that increase people's awareness of environmental problems as well as human issues affecting environmental management and their remedies.

What we do

Research and bio-monitoring ▪ Protected area management ▪ Education for sustainable development ▪ Community forestry ▪ Conservation of threatened trees ▪ Restoration of degraded landscapes ▪ Food security and economic resilience programme ▪ Rural landscapes productivity programme ▪ Agro biodiversity development ▪ Livelihood development programme ▪ Conservation finance ▪ Access Benefit Sharing initiative

Where we work

Over 18 years down the road, ERuDeF has been supporting the government of Cameroon's effort in biodiversity conservation through different programmes which covers Southwest, Northwest Littoral and East Regions of Cameroon. ERuDeF is also looking forth to extend to the Northern Regions of Cameroon with focus on the Lake Chad basin and Tchabal Mbabo Mountains in Adamawa.

Key departments

The Organization runs the following Departments, offices and semi-autonomous institution;
Conservation ▪ Forestry ▪ Agroforestry and Agricultural Development ▪ Economic Development ▪ Programs ▪ Communication ▪ Finance ▪ Development and Philanthropy ▪ Administration ▪ Communication

Semi-autonomous institutions as follows:

- ERuDeF University Institute of Applied Biodiversity Sciences
- Social Business Division
- Centre for the Advancement of Women Initiative

Conservation Department

Group photo of participants for Alou Sub-Divisional validation of THWS Management plan

Brief background

The Conservation department was initially created to address the threats faced by the Great Apes critically endangered Cross River gorillas and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees in the Lebialem Highlands landscape. Over the years, it has expanded its programmes to other landscapes addressing other endangered taxas including the African elephant, pangolins, Goliath frogs and a host of endangered birds and reptiles through, an integrated landscape management approach.

Goal

The Department seeks to safeguard globally threatened species through protected areas and corridor management.

Key programmes

- Protected area creation and management
- Conservation corridor management
- Biodiversity research and bio-monitoring
- Education for sustainable development

Key results

- Development of the Management and Business Plan of Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary: Management Plan of Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary was produced and validated at village to village, sub-Divisional and Divisional levels. A drafted business plan has been developed pending validation.
- Creation of the Proposed Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah Wildlife Sanctuary: The Divisional Classification Commission for Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah was organized and gazettement documents have been compiled and submitted to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife in Yaoundé, for onward submission to the Prime Minister for signature.
- Creation of the Proposed Mt Muanenguba Herpetological Sanctuary: The Technical Note for the creation of proposed Mt Muanenguba was produced and submitted to MINFOF.

Key impacts

- Over 45 Cross River gorillas and 120 Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee populations are conserved in Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS).
- Financial resources are mobilized for the management of the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Over 18587 hectares of forest has been protected in THWS, Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah WS, proposed Muanengouba Herpetological Sanctuary.
- About 200 Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees, 100 elephants and other wildlife endangered as well as over 4500 hectares of forest have been protected.
- Over 100 species of amphibians in the proposed Mt Muanengouba will be protected through the creation of the Sanctuary.

Way forward

- Complete the development of THWS management plan.
- Complete the creation of Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Initiate the creation of 3 community reserves between Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, Njoagwi-Fotabong III-Essoh Attah Wildlife Sanctuary and Santchou Game Reserve.
- Initiate the development of the management plan of the Santchou Game Reserve.
- Upgrade the status of Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary into a National Park.
- Initiate the creation of Mount Nlonako Goliath Frog Sanctuary
- Initiate the survey of the wildlife population in the Tchabal Mbabo Mountain.
- Revise the management plan of Deng-Deng National Park.

Background

The department of Forestry manages five programs which include; community forestry, forest governance, conservation of threatened trees, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forest (REDD+) and reforestation/restoration of degraded landscapes.

Goal

"Contribute towards biodiversity conservation through the sustainable management of forest resources".

Key programmes

- Community forest creation
- Community forest enterprise development
- Ecosystem restoration program
- Tree planting
- Conservation of threatened trees program Forestry governance
- Carbon forestry(REDD+)

Key results

- Two consultation meetings for the creation of Lujie and KEB community forest were organized. These meetings took place on the 22nd of March 2018 in Tinto for the case of KEB community forest and 28th of November 2018 in Buea for the case of Lujie community forest. During these meetings, the boundaries and the objectives of these community forests were validated by the participants. The application file for the creation of the KEB community forest has been validated at the DDFOF-Manyu and RDFOF-SW for transmission to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. The validation of this file indicates that the forest block in question, has not been attributed to any other title and does not overlap with any titled forest land.
- The Provisional Management Agreement for Bokwa, Etoko, Egbemo and Tafu (BEET) community forest has been signed by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. The signing of the Provisional Management Agreement marks the official creation of the community forest. This gives the forest land legal protection. The local communities are therefore given the opportunity to manage the community forests for two years while finalizing the elaboration of their simple management plans.
- Two (2) community forest enterprises were created (Njansang in Tinto and Garri in Bakingile). The Tinto Clan CF enterprise on Njansang has employed 9 community members in the community (a CFE manager, an accountant/secretary, store keeper, machine operators and sorters with salaries ranging from fifty thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand francs CFA.
- The garri enterprise in Bakingili has employed 5 permanent workers and over 100 temporal workers. The CFE has awarded 2 contracts for members within the community (production of enterprise machines and construction of the production house.)
- Three (3) diachronic maps of Mt Bamboutos showing the evolution of land use/ land cover in the area was produced. According to the maps, the project zone is undergoing severe degradation with each passing year. Forest land is being converted to farm lands, settlements, and road infrastructure.
- In the year 2000, the land use/land cover pattern of the project area had undergone significant changes. We observed an increase in the areas of tea plantations, eucalyptus, built up, secondary forests, and cultivated land, contrary to dense forest, rock and bare soil. Buildup increased mostly from the other land use/types of land cover. It increased from 99.14 ha (in 1980) to 3484.62 ha (in 2018), indicating a magnitude change of 3385.48ha (i.e 89.10 ha gain per year). This change in the buildup area was important in Ashong and Njen, Babadjou, Bafou-north, Bangang, Fongo-tongo and Santa. Dense forest

decreased from 20100.93 ha (in 1980) to 5285.39 ha (in 2018), indicating a magnitude change of -14815.54 ha (i.e – 389.88 ha lost per year). This is mostly perceived in 3 villages Bafou-North, Bangang and Santa). Rock and bare soil decreased in all the villages, except Santa, from 11133.06 ha (in 1980) to 8940.42 ha (in 2018). This indicates a magnitude change of -2192.64 ha (i.e -57.70 ha lost per year).

- 300 stakeholders were identified as having a strong impact on land use in the project zone. Most of the stakeholders deal with economic trees and cash crops such as potatoes, cabbages, carrots and leaks. Those with large hectares of land are influential people in society and prominent business men in the country. Most of these people live outside of the project zones.
- Land use maps through participatory mapping, were produced. This was to show the different land use classes in Bafou and Bangang. The different types of land use classes consisted animal rearing, settlement, subsistence farming areas, rocky zones, quarry, grazing areas, sacred forests, forest reserves, plantations of tea and eucalyptus, shrines, and streams.
- The Mt Bamboutus Fons Association was created. The articles of association for the Mt. Bamboutos Fons' Association were adopted by all (12) members during a meeting held in Dschang on the 15th of November 2018. The Executive bureau members of the Mount Bamboutos Fons Association were elected. Members of the association gained knowledge in land use governance during a one day workshop held in Dschang on 15th of November 2018.
- One (1) village forest management committee was created in M'muock Fossimondi. The committee is made up of eight (8) members. The composition is made up of; a president, a vice president, a secretary, a vice secretary and advisers (vigilante groups).
- Six village forest management committees were created in 6 villages (Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou, Menka, Buchi and Pinyin) and the 8 members of each VFMC were installed by the respective divisional delegates for forestry and wildlife (Menoua, Bamboutos and Mezam Divisions).
- One hundred and three (103) stakeholders gained awareness on the need to restore the Mount Bamboutos ecosystem during an inception workshop in Dschang on 2nd August 2018 and 1000 others across the national territory through different media outlets (radio, TV and Newspapers).

Furthermore, 350 people (40% women) in 3 villages (Bamumbu, Fossimondi and M'muockmbie) and their sub-villages, were sensitized in 4 different sensitization meetings as well as from door to door interactions, on the restoration and sustainable management of the mount Bamboutos ecosystem.

Key impacts

- Over 15000 hectares of forest have been protected through the creation of Community Forests. These will act as a wildlife conservation corridor and serve as a genetic pool linking the endangered Cameroon-Nigerian chimpanzees and critically endangered Cross River gorillas of the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS), to those of the Takamanda National Park through the Mone Forest Reserve.
- Retracing of the Tinto community forest boundaries with assistance for the Divisional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife in Tinto, has helped to reduce encroachment in to the community forest for personal gains.
- Community forest enterprise introduced in the area, will enable the valorization of resources within the Tinto Clan community for the eventual development of the community. It has also revamped hopes to a dying community forest which has suffered encroachment due to its inactivity for many years.
- The Tinto Clan Community Forestry enterprise on Njansang has employed 9 community members in the community (a CFE Manager, an Accountant/Secretary, a Store keeper, Machine operators and sorters with salaries ranging from fifty thousand to a hundred and fifty thousand francs CFA. The CFE of Tinto was able to make 200,000 FRS from the sales of Njansang before the socio-political crisis hit the village.

Key challenges

There has been some reluctance of pastoralists to engage in the MBI project. Poor and late reporting from some project staff and partner CSOs has also been a challenge which has caused delays in meeting partners' deadlines. A major factor which has contributed to the latter is poor and late reporting from member CSOs .Therefore capacity building sessions on report writing should be organized.

Way forward-2019

- Getting pastoralists involved in the MBI project: As a solution, the team will pass through MBUSKUDA to facilitate meetings with the Mbororo community.
- Attaining 50 – 70% women participants in the MBI project is a big challenge. Identifying women using women group and women leaders and continuous sensitization will help remedy this.
- Extension of the Dryad project to the East.

Community forestry sensitization at Upper Bayang

Mount Bamboutos

3 D Model of Tofala Mone Corridor for conservation of Cross River gorillas and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees

Background

The Department of Agroforestry was created in 2016 to oversee the activities, results and impacts of the Agroforestry Program that started in 2007. From 2007 to 2014, the focus of the agroforestry program in Cameroon was on traditional agroforestry which had to do with planting nitrogen fixing trees for soil fertility improvement.

This increased the yields of farmers by 200% while income rose from 20 to 50%. Additional advantages included an increase in fuel wood for households. However, this was not enough because the farmers remained poor as many of them failed to continue the program. Cognizant of this gap, the Forest Garden approach was introduced in 2015, which focused on soil health, food security, income and nutrition.

The farms were diversified with the introduction of fruit trees, NTFPs/medicinal, and timber species. Since 2015 farmers' interests have doubled with many more farmers participating and income increasing at a rate of 5% annually. By 2017, approximately 10 million nitrogen fixing trees, fruit trees, medicinal trees, NTFPs and timber species, had been planted and farmers' production and income had increased. From the household survey conducted in April 2018, it demonstrates that farmers' yields have increased and production is on the rise, however, they lack markets to sell these farm products. It will become even more difficult when these economic trees reach maturity and will be met with a limited market to sell. In order to further boost production and value chain development, there will be a need to introduce micro financing and value chain development as well as cooperative development.

Goal

"To improve on the food security and income of resource-poor farmers through the restoration of degraded agricultural lands in Cameroon".

Members of United Sisters farming group sowing seeds during nursery-establishment in Ndungated. Alou sud division. Lebialem division. South West Cameroon

Key programmes

- Food Security and Economic Resilience Program
- Rural Landscape Productivity Program
- Mountain Ecosystem Management Program
- Protected Area Management through Agro-Biodiversity Development Program

Key results

- A total of 1, 15 6200 agro forestry and medicinal seeds species of *Acacia, Leucaena, Prunus,* and *Moringa* and vegetable seeds such as okra, tomatoes and huckleberry hybrid species, were supplied to farmers in the Southwest, Northwest, Littoral and West Regions by ERuDeF through field technicians and coordinators.
- Increase in farmers' livelihoods as well as the strengtheninf of their economically resilience; 33 farmers (7 women and 28 men) were trained on grafting of avocado. The training took place in Mezet, Ndoh, Mekoup and Balekeug villages around the Mt Bamboutus. Farmers in these villages also took part in the training on bare root seedlings transplanting were by 1500 of Acacia and Leucaena were transplanted.
- In total 248740 seedlings of Acacia, Leucaena, Prunus and Neem were nursed across 4 Divisions (Menoua, Haut Nkam, Bamboutos, and Moungo). Amongst the species of seedlings nursed, Neem and Prunus did not germinate while Acacia and Leucaena sprouted.
- The seeds that were distributed and nursed in farmers' farms in 4 divisions of the Littoral and West regions were monitored. 41.5% and 38.8% germination rates were recorded in Littoral and West regions respectively, for moringa and vegetable seeds.

- In addition, 220 farmers (50% women) in 3 villages (Bamumbu, Fossimondi and M'mouckmbie) gained knowledge and skills in agroforestry, contour farming, terrace farming and growing of fruits, NTFPs, nursery establishment, grafting techniques, marcotting and composting.
- Seven forest garden farms were identified in the four divisions of the West and Littoral Regions. Farms selected for this activity were virtually without any trees thus, the trees found were less than 20% in all the sites. Out of the 7 forest gardens identified, two in Ntio village in the Bamboutos Division had two of the four layers, with the garden made up of beans, maize, Irish potatoes in the first stage, plantains, banana, white pepper (Pepper Negron) and avocado, in the second stage.
- 150 farmers of which 40% of women in Bamumbu (Fonenge, Aghong, Atsualah and Magha), Djuititsa–Bafou (Mezet and Ndoh) and Bangang (Mekoup and Balekeu) villages, were sensitized on agroforestry practices. At the end of the sensitization, 108 of them registered to apply to improve agroforetry techniques such as bare root nursery establishment and seeds pre-treatment. In this regard, eight (8) demonstrations of bare-root-nurseries were established in (Mezet and Ndoh in Djuititsa, Balekeu and Mekoup in Bangang and Magha, Atsualah, Aghong and Fonengein Bamumbu**).** These nurseries consist of 960,000 seeds of Acacia, Leucaena, Prunus Africana and Mahogany.
- 250,000 of the seedlings were transplanted to farmlands in Mezet, Ndoh, Mekoup and Balekeu. A data base of farmland with transplanted agroforestry seedlings was developed.

Key impacts

- The lives of over 200 farmers were improved through the creation of Forest Gardens as they saw an increase in crop production.
- Over 20 hectares of degraded lands restored through the planting of 715,887 trees on degraded agricultural lands and water catchments
- 21,620 economic and 50,000 N2-fixing species were potted in central and individual farmers' nurseries at Mt. Bamboutos. These trees will bring about increase in food security (from 100 to 200 tons annually) and income (1USD to 4USD) per household for 30 000 farmers at Mt. Bamboutos.
- Consequently, threatened biodiversity species will be restored at Mt. Bambotous as pressure from farmers will have reduced.

Key challenges

Insufficient funds to support other activities/projects such as improved agricultural techniques around protected areas, to make the networks functional, to extend the project to the Adamaoua Region and support cooperatives.

Way forward-2019

Monitoring and evaluation targets and variables will be developed on parameters such as; carbon sequestered, food security, nutrition, income. A proper sample survey should be carried out on these variables aided by questionnaires. This will ease reporting by achieving quantifiable results and impacts at the end of the year. The fundraising board is to source additional partners and funding to fund other activities and expand projects to other landscapes.

MBI SW Agroforestry officer (Elong) training farmers in Formenji-Bamumbu on grafting

Economic Development Department

Background

Created in 2010, the Economic Development department of ERuDeF is involved in the development of alternative livelihoods activities in/around protected areas in the Lebialem division. Key program implementation includes; Community Forestry (Waterloo), Palm Oil Project, Echinop Project and Mondia Project (Mane Foundation) Tofala Management Plan Development Project and Mak-Betchou Creation Project (Rainforest trust). From these projects, the department has been able to support and train vulnerable community members with beehives, piglets, palm oil and NTFP value chain development and also to a establish cottage industry for job creation and women's empowerment.

Goal

"To improve on the sustainable management of biodiversity through human welfare development and reduction of human pressure on key biodiversity targets".

Key programmes

- Livelihood Development Programme
- Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Initiative
- Conservation Finance Programme
- Women and Gender Program

Key results

- 192 litres of honey was produced from 250 beehives in Mmock-Leteh, Fossungu, Bangang, Essoh-Attah, Upper Lewoh and Magha.
- One cottage industry for soap production has been installed in Dschang on the 7th December 2018 with aim to support the local population in the Tofala-Mone area. The industry that has the capacity to produce about 100 cubes of soap per day is an initiative to reduce the local population dependence on forest resources, hunting Cross River gorilla and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee. This industry which is temporary located in Dschang due to the socio-political crisis will be transferred permanently to the Tofala-Mone area when the socio-political crisis has been subsided.
- Two other potential for cottage industry development was identified in the Mt Bamboutus area these are avocado and raphia.
- 145kg of dried mondia roots were transported from Lewoh to Buea to be transported to V. Mane Fils.
- A Regional platform constituting all stakeholders involved in the Access and Benefit Sharing of genetic resources in the South West Region was set up and made functional.
- ABS bottom-up approach project in Magha and Lewoh were concluded, communities involved in the collection, processing and commercialization of genetic resources are organized into acceptable legal structures and playing their effective role in the ABS process. Validation of ABS training manual.
- During the year 2018 the Lewoh Women Cooperative Society was legalized. One Cooperative was transformed from Kendem Palm Oil cooperative to Tofala-Mone Palm oil cooperative Society. The Tofala Mone Palm oil Cooperative have 200 registered members out of which 54 members have paid their shares and the amount paid at bank is 1,000,000 FCFA.
- Other two cooperatives were created namely Essoh-Attah Conservation Cooperative, 35 members were registered with 150,000 FCFA for share paid and Njoagwi Conservation Cooperative, 17 members registered with 20,000 FCFA of share paid.

Way forward-2019

Our target this year is not up to 50% due to challenges beyond our control. Some activities that were not implemented in 2018 will be forwarded this 2019 year for implementation. Also, to make our department more active, 300,000,000 FCFA will be raised this year through project proposal development.

Training on honey bee collection, processing, and packaging

ERuDeF University Institute of Applied Biodiversity Sciences

Background

ERuDeF has one of its main objectives to promote biodiversity conservation through education and professional training. To foster this objective, The ERuDeF University Institute of Applied Biodiversity Sciences was created in 2012 bridging the gap between professionalism and academics in biodiversity conservation and management.

The main study areas includes; Agroforestry and Agroforestry Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Management, Environmental Education, Geographical Information System (GIS), Mountain Studies, Environmental Journalism, NGO Management and Fundraising. Other areas of interest and active operations for the Institute are; International Volunteering Program (International Biodiversity Expeditions) and Internships and Research Mentorships.

Goal

To engage students in diverse learning environment that train to think critically and to expand their intellectual horizons while attaining the knowledge and skills.

Key programmes

- To train talented students in biodiversity and its conservation and management and NGO creation, development, fundraising and overall NGO business management.
- To contribute to the advancement of research in biodiversity conservation, protected area creation and management and NGO development and management.
- To conduct outreach activities which are consistent with the institute's core values of biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, knowledge sharing, and sustainable building partnerships.

Key results

- Work plan and budget for 2018 academic year was produced and validated.
- Timeframe for the online course development for the e-learning platform, was also agreed upon during a meeting with the lecturers.
- Curriculum for junior professionals was developed.
- Staff gained knowledge in file management, article writing and use of social media for publicity, which has been put into practice.
- Building plan for the institute has been developed and validated.
- File of accreditation for the Institute was executed.
- First semester exams were successfully organized.
- Theses' belonging to two undergraduate students, were reviewed.
- There's a need for assessment for training and sensitization on Ecosystem Management and Land Use Laws as well as Regulations for IESMP Practitioners geared towards the enhancement of policy, institutional and technical environment for the Bakassi Mangrove Ecosystem.
- Stakeholder consultations and meetings, conducted to agree on institutional roles and responsibilities for integrated management of Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystem at the Sub Divisional level , was organized.
- Local people in Kombo Abedimo Council Area were trained on mangrove protection, sustainable fishing methods, sustainable farming methods and waste management.
- IESMP document, its operational plan for the Bakassi ecosystem, was developed and validated through a participatory approach which included local communities, government authorities and other stakeholders.
- Two environmental education clubs were revived. They are GBHS Muea and CCA mile 16.
- Environmental Education club students of GBHS Muea and CCA mile 16 were trained on article writing. Students contributed articles to the Institute Newsletter after the workshop.
- A total of 10 rural schools were identified with the need of a school library. This was made possible through phone call interviews with some school administrators, present and past students. The concerned schools are GBHS EkondoTiti, GBHS Mundemba, GHS Ekombe, GHS Diongo, GHS konye, GHS Nguti, GHS Mamfe, GTHS Mamfe, GHS Ossing, GHS Kembong.

Training on environmental journalism

Students harvesting vegetables in kitchen garden

Training on agroforestry

Environmental sensitization programme in School

World Environment Day celebrated in school

Training of youth on leadership skills

Background

Conservation efforts by the Environment and Rural Development Foundation, has led to the conservation of critically endangered Cross River gorillas and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees amongst other great apes. With the creation of Silver Back Company (SBC) Ltd in 2013, as a Social Business Division (SBD) where the proceeds are directed to the effective conservation and protection of the habitats of these great apes.

With the creation of the SBD headed by SBC Ltd charged with the processing and marketing of the forest related products – None-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). Proceeds generated through the SBC will be used towards the capitalization of the FoProF (a community-based conservation trust fund and the ERuDeF Endowment Fund) designed to support the charitable activities of ERuDeF as well as reinvest back into the company.

Soap production training for women group

To overcome the managerial lapses of the local community beneficiaries, the division of social business development was created at ERuDeF with specific mission to sustainability manage the conservation fall-outs projects for the betterment of the local population. One of the products of SBC Ltd "the Lebialem palm oil development project" that was introduced in 2011 to process palm oil from local and archaic methods to improve the traditional way of milling.

Four giant mills were installed in the communities of Essoh-Attah, Nkong, Besali and Bechati. The social and economic environment prior to the installation of the company is characterized by hardship and underdevelopment of the general masses, with over 40% lacking basic social-economic necessities to make life more comfortable.

The population of these four communities is estimated to contain 2,500 inhabitants. Over 90% of the total population is directly involved in unsustainable subsistence farming. The high poverty rate in these communities also goes hand in hand with other trends such as high levels of under-scholarization characterized by a large quantity of school dropouts, as well as the exclusion of the female children from higher education. The company is promising to engage in a course to reverse these trends by contributing to social and economic welfare of the masses, thanks to its social business policy set out by Silver Back Company Ltd.

Goal

The overall goal of SBC Ltd is to provide long term financing to ERuDeF's charity programmes through ploughing back profits generated from the company's businesses. In this manner, the institution is looking

forward to; producing and commercializing standard and industrial driven forest products, by way of setting up small scale cottage industries for the production and marketing of basic commodities including forest products around conservation habitats.

Key results

- 100 liters of honey and 100 liters of palm oil were exhibited and marketed at the International Trade Fair (FIAC) exhibition and marketing at Douala, Cameroon.
- Silver Back Company products were sold at the Douala International Trade Fair where 99 liters of honey and beeswax were sold at 308,500 FCFA and 25 liters of palm oil at 10500 FCFA.
- A total of 150 new customers were identified and a contact database was created for the establishment of a Market Information System.
- A partnership was established with 3 organizations each dealing with value chain development (Mushroom Association and Miel d'Or) and with the provision of packaging materials (Plasticam).
- 250 liters of honey was brought from the north to fulfil demands of our customers.
- 145 kg of dried mondia root was transported from Lewoh to Buea for exporting to V. Mane Fils, France for commercialization.

Way forward-2019

- Securing new funding from 2019 to 2022 will help us upscale our impact in the concerned area. The target population will increase from 1000 to 5000 inhabitants to benefit the current Lebialem conservation highland complex directly and indirectly, while including the Mount Bamboutos, Bamenda Highlands, Adamawa Plateau, Mount Nlonako, Kupe Muanenguba and the Western Highlands.
- The existing livelihoods activities will be up scaled and the None-Timber Forest products value chain development will be incorporated. Livelihood activities will be a more business like project, from production, value addition, and commercialization of final products.
- The model to be adopted is that of the Community Conservation Social Enterprise Development (CoCoSED) Initiative. This model was developed by the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) to cover the gap of the livelihoods program and to enable the program to become sustainable with or without foreign aid.

Production of soap in the processing unit, Dschang

SBC products exhibited at International Trade Fair (FIAC) exhibition and marketing in Douala, Cameroon

Centre for Advancement of Women's Initiatives

Background

The Center for the Advancement of Women's Initiative (CAWI) is a semi-autonomous non-profit organization created in 2010 by the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) to support its Women and Gender programmes in Cameroon. CAWI is one of the leading women organizations in Cameroon engaged in sustainable development with particular focus on women and gender issues.

Goal

CAWI's goal is to reach out to the under privileged, uplift and bring out value and potential in women and girls towards the achievement of sustainable development. The latter is goal # 05 which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Key programmes

- Girl child education
- Women and Green Economy
- Women in self-Employment
- Sustainable management of human population in and around protected areas and biodiversity hotspot
- Reproductive Health
- Women Rights Advocacy
- Youth and Children.

Key results

- In the CAWI meeting of 08/07/17, it was resolved that needy girls be identified and given educational assistance in G.H.S Buea Town.
- The donation that took place on 24/01/18 witnessed 19 beneficiaries (needy girls): 4 in form 1, 6 in form 2, 4 in form 3, 3 in form 4, 1 in form 5 and 1 in upper sixth. The items donated were 22 textbooks, 5 school bags and a partial GCE registration fee of 20,000 FCFA.
- Data was collected for 1568 Internally Displaced Persons in SW, West and Littoral Regions.

Key impact

- Increased performances through success in class exams and end of course exams.
- Note that of the 19 girls who received support, 17 passed to the next classes, one passed the GCE 'O' Level and one passed the GCE 'A' Level in 3 subjects (Eseme Celestine).
- The girls now have self-esteem and can talk boldly without an inferiority complex. They are equally highly motivated to study at higher scholastic degrees.

Way forward

CAWI aims to intensify its humanitarian program as well as engage in self-employment and economic empowerment for women. Focus shall also be placed on women in green economies and managing sustainable human population in and around the protected areas.

CAWI donated school equipment to needy girls of GHS Buea Town

CAWI in collaboration with SALOME Company UK launches Women Empowerment Rain Forest Arts Competition in South West.

Our Partners

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