



ICENECDEV Quarterly Newsletter August 2018

International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development



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1.UN Environment Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Meeting on Marine Litter and Micro Plastics



Fongoh Eric of ICENECDEV at the First Open Ended Expert Meeting on Marine Plastic Litter and Micro Plastic in Nairobi Kenya May 2018.

ICENECDEV participated in the UN Environment Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Meeting on Marine Litter and Micro Plastics between the 29th May to 31st May 2018 in Nairobi Kenya

ICENECDEV position paper draws contributions from on our project to Combat Marine Plastic Litter and Micro Plastic along the West Coast of Cameroon. Experts from all over the world met in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss barriers and options for combating marine plastic litter and micro plastics to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs14 &17) and target.14.1

In a resolution adopted at the third meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3), December 2017, Member States agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group to examine options to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics from all sources, including through global legally binding mechanisms

Outcomes of the Expert Meeting

-The expert group invited continued dialogues with international and regional organizations, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to submit a succinct summary of challenges in addressing marine litter under their respective instruments and activities. An overview of actions taken by the Regional Seas programmes to implement SDGs particularly target 14.1 may increase inter-regional synergies.

- Further analysis on response actions categorized into the short, medium, and long term could be beneficial. That would include up-stream and down-stream approaches.

-For the second meeting, the Co-Chairs noted that increased interactivity such as workshop-style facilitation will be useful to advance the discussion to identify potential options for continued work for consideration by the UN Environment Assembly and to give priority to short-term solutions taking into consideration of the nature of the problem.

-The Co-Chairs invited the participation of national focal points in addition to experts to deepen the discussion on governance on marine litter and microplastics for the second meeting.

-Stakeholders are invited to make financial contribution to support the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group.

-Litter and Micro plastics agreed to organize 2 Ad Hoc Expert Meetings on Marine Litter and Micro plastics to tackle plastic pollution which will ultimately culminate to the resolution on marine plastic litter and micro plastics in the upcoming fourth United Nations Environment Assembly(UNEA4) of the United Nations Environment programme in March 2019.



Fongoh Eric of ICENECDEV at the First Open Ended Expert Meeting on Marine Plastic Litter and Micro Plastic in Nairobi Kenya May 2018.

2.Social and Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Entrepreneurship the Case of Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Cameroon



Luca Castellanza conducting interview with women farmers



Luca Castellanza conducting interview with women farmers

ICENECDEV in collaboration with Luca Castellanza from the University of Mannheim in Germany is working on the socio-economic and political dimension in Agricultural Entrepreneurship within the context of our project empowering smallholders' women farmers in Cameroon.

The Argument is that Entrepreneurship research in low-income countries has been largely detached from its context, overlooking important aspects of doing business in rural communities with smallholder women farmers and not taking into account the daily challenges encountered by rural entrepreneurs.

The research involved interview 100 smallholder women farmers and taking into consideration entrepreneurial constraints and provides a starting point for understanding the daily context of entrepreneurship in rural communities with smallholder women farmers in Cameroon.

The Objectives research are :

- To assess how Agricultural Entrepreneurship (being part of a farming cooperative, taking part to training programs and improving one's commercial/agricultural techniques) results in social, political and economic empowerment among women farmers.

- To compare the empowerment process in farming cooperatives with the empowerment process in Industrial Entrepreneurship (small business owners, petty traders, tailors, etc.) to draw implications for economic development and policy-making.

Findings:

- Women farmers in ICENECDEV are, on average, more economically empowered than women farmers in other farming groups. This can be attributed to the many donations received (wheelbarrow, spray can, clash, etc.), the trainings and the hard work.
- Economic Empowerment of women farmers results in positive spillovers at the societal level. Empowered women may raise their status within the community, at times allowing them to cover positions within the council and take decisions with the men.
- Women farmers in ICENECDEV are also more socially empowered than women farmers in other farming groups. This can be attributed to the group features of ICENECDEV beneficiaries (self-organizing communities, composed mostly of women) and some interventions dedicated to women rights (e.g. instructions on how to avoid upsetting the husband).
- However, Social Empowerment is still rare among ICENECDEV beneficiaries. It is more common among women farmers who have positions of leadership within their ICENECDEV group, live closer to urban areas, happen to be widowed, are married to a non-farmer husband, or boast a high level of education.
- Unlike Economic Empowerment, Social Empowerment is to some extent at odds with traditional logics. While a woman who works hard, raises her status, and sponsors her closed ones is well-seen within the community, a woman who speaks out, challenges the husband's authority, or takes men's tasks is likely to face negative prejudices from her peers.
- On a policy level, Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Buea results in more Economic Empowerment than Industrial Entrepreneurship. Farmers who join a cooperative can see remarkable improvements in food security and daily working capital after only 3 months. However, business owners face more difficulties in achieving financial sustainability for themselves and

their families. This can be attributed to the fertile land in Buea, the little risk involved in agriculture and the overall non-competitive business environment in the agricultural sector.

- Nevertheless, Agricultural Entrepreneurship results in less Social Empowerment than Industrial Entrepreneurship. While farming requires hard work and limits the opportunities to connect with people or participate in quarter life, commercial activities involve more free time and social interactions. In addition, Industrial Entrepreneurship exposes women to less restrictive logics and more opportunities to speak out and take responsibilities on-the-job.



Luca Castellanza conducting Interview with Women Farmers



ICENECDEV Team conducting group interview with Women Farmers



Luca Castellanza sharing the research findings with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development(Cameroon Government)



Luca Castellanza sharing the research findings with Staff and Resource persons at University of Buea Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicines

3. Smallholders Women Farmers Network Meeting

ICENECDEV Team is working closely with women farmers groups and taking a comprehensive approach to strengthening agricultural system, fighting hunger and strengthening food security at scale. ICENECDEV does this by investing in cutting-edge research to develop stronger seed and greener fertilizers; helping farmer's access capital and accelerating access to mobile technology and content that learns and access to real-time market information.

The women farmers have contributed more than \$1,500 for the microfinance scheme to access finance and expand on their group farms (cooperative farming), increasing agricultural productivity among the Smallholder women farmers in Cameroon.

4. Commemoration of World Biodiversity Day May 2018



Entrance to the Limbe Botanical Garden Cameroon



Stream in the Limbe Botanical Garden Cameroon

ICENECDEV as an accredited organization to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) and within this framework, commemorated the International Biodiversity Day at the Limbe Botanical Garden, under the theme 'Celebrating 25 years of action for biodiversity' highlighting the importance of forest and Animal species as vital ecological assets for environmental

sustainability well articulated in the 2030 agenda for sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ICENECDEV on the 15th to 22nd, May 2018 in collaboration with the Regional Delegation of Environment, Production of Nature and Sustainable Development South West Region celebrated the International Biodiversity Day at the Limbe Botanical Garden, under the theme 'Celebrating 25 years of action for biodiversity'

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. The objective was to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity as well as actions carried out by the government in collaboration with civil society organizations in the implementation of the convention on biological diversity.

The Identification of various plant species and Importance of Biodiversity was highlighted in the Field visit in the Botanical Garden Limbe South West region, Cameroon as follows:

- Biodiversity allows us to live healthy and happy lives. It provides us with an array of foods and materials and it contributes to the economy.
- Most medical discoveries to cure diseases and lengthen life spans were made out of plants.
- Biodiversity allows for ecosystems to adjust to disturbances like extreme fires and flood.

In the Botanical Garden the following plant species were identified with their importance

- Bush mango, advisable to plant around your compound repelling snakes,
- bitter kola (*Garcinia kola*) good for eye cleaning, helps clean the voice and stomach disorder

- Njansan, Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*), Iron wood which is used for charcoal production, Robusta and Arabica coffee, Eru and the African
- Fan Palm (*Borassus Aethiopum*), the oldest tree in the garden with a lifespan of 210 years.

Expert from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (Government) presented the protected areas/National Parks/Forest Reserves in the South West region of Cameroon; the Korup National Park, Mount Cameroon National Park, Takamanda National Park, Bakossi National Park and the Tofala National Park. The Korup National Park was noted for its diversity from studies carried out by different researchers, which are;

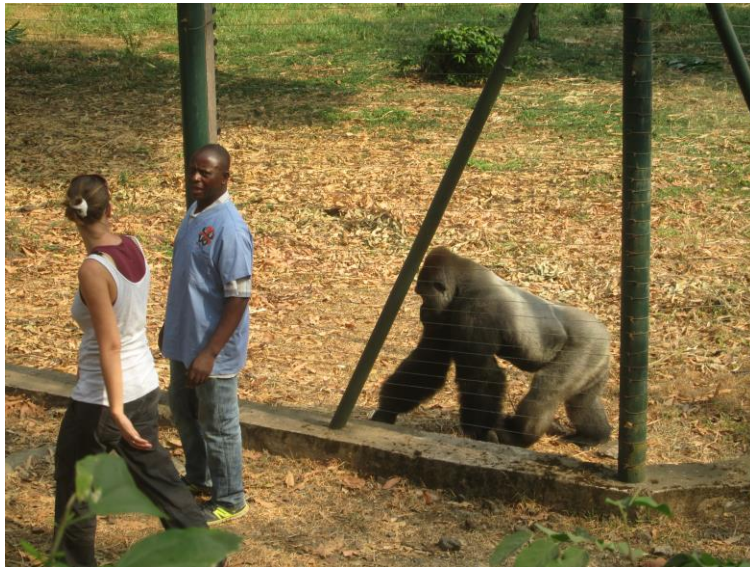
- 33 families/161 species mammals (elephants, buffalo, bush pig)
- 620 trees species and shrubs (azobe, dabema, moabi.....) 30% epidemic.
- Non timber forest product (bush mango, njansang.....)
- 480 species of medicinal plants and health (*ancisthrocladu korupensis*.....)
- More than 500 species of birds
- 55 species of bats
- 950 species of butterfly.



Limbe Wildlife Center Cameroon



Stream in the Botanical Garden



Limbe Wildlife Centre Staff

5. World Environment Day 2018



Beach Clean up at Tiko Wharf,Cameroon

ICENECDEV as an accredited organization to the United Nations ICENECDEV celebrated the World Environment Day 2018 in collaboration with the Cameroon government, Non-profit organizations and companies. June 5th is marked by the United Nations as World Environment Day, to promote “worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. This year’s theme is “beat plastic pollution. In a message, the UN secretary general urged all people to select single used plastic items and warned that growing levels of plastic waste were becoming unmanageable, saying “every year more than 8 million tons of plastic items end up in the ocean. In solidarity with the United Nations (various agencies), the Cameroon government and ICENECDEV took part in several activities to mark this year’s celebration.

The activities that marked the celebration are;

- ICENECDEV team educated and sensitized petite traders to reuse plastic bottles . More than 1000 plastic bottles were donated to Petite traders for reuse.
- Field visit to a recycling establishment (NAME’ recycling) in Limbe, South West region Cameroon.
- Clean up campaign at the Tiko wharf, South West region of Cameroon. The clean up at the Tiko wharf centered on the theme of this year’s celebration.

- ICENECDEV together with the Regional of Environment, Nature protection and Sustainable development took part in a sensitization walk, where participants picked up plastics and raise awareness to the general public on plastic pollution
- ICENECDEV Launched a Campaign Against Plastic Pollution-Plastic Reuse is Plastic Reduce
- ICENECDEV and Partners launched a Campaign Against Plastic Pollution ICENECDEV and Partners Campaign to Discourage the Single Use of Plastics to reduce land based and sea based plastics pollution. ICENECDEV calls on local and national partners to join campaign to sensitise educate and take practical action to inform plastics companies,businesses,consumers, researchers and civil society organisations on the reuse of plastics inline with the production lifespan and specificities.



Petit Trader Reusing donated Plastic containers by ICENECDEV Team



ICENECDEV Support staff involved in Waste Collection on World Environment
Day in Cameroon

6. World Day to Combat Desertification 2018 June 16 to June 18 2018



Group Photo on World Day to Combat Desertification in Cameroon



Awareness Raising Meeting on actions to combat desertification in Cameroon



Group Photo on World Day to Combat Desertification in Cameroon

ICENECDEV and Partners join forces to recognize the world Day to Combat Desertification 2018 with the theme **Land has a True Value, Invest in it**. ICENECDEV commemorates this event within the framework as an accredited organization to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Activities for the event included:

- Field work to highlight and share the innovative and successful approaches on Sustainable Land Management with ICENECDEV smallholder women farmers group/Cooperative project on the 16th June 2018
- Tree planting and donation of 100 Trees to the Smallholders women farmer groups in Mile 15(Lower Bokova) in Cameroon.
- Presentation and distribution of Hard copies of the outcomes to the 13th Sessions of the Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification(COP13-UNCCD) in inner Mongolia Ordors China September 2017.

Take Away Point

- Environmentally Friendly Tree planting is important to reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility, prevent drought and desertification.
- Desertification is considered a global disaster rather just an environmental issue. Climate change and anthropogenic factors are also considered cause of desertification with its impact very visible in the Northern Region of Cameroon. And the Sahel region of African in general. The Lake Chad basin has shrank to less than a 1/10 of its original size since the 1960s. Desertification is responsible for water crisis in the Northern region of Cameroon and indirectly affect food and nutritional security.



Tree planting in commemoration of the World to Combat Desertification



Group photo of Tree planting exercise at Lower Bokova Village community

7. Monitoring and Evaluation (Assessment) Impact Improved Cook Stoves to Reduce Indoor Air Quality among Rural Women in Cameroon



Rural Women using the Donated Improved Cook Stoves



ICENECDEV Support staff Demonstrating with the donated improved Cook Stove

ICENECDEV, World Connect USA and Partners is training and supporting rural women with improved cook stoves to reduce indoor air quality and reverse deforestation mitigate climate change in the Mount Cameroon Forest region.

Findings

- 10% of the Rural women Women are using local waste residues(Maize comb) as source of energy for the improved cook stoves.
- 15% of the Rural Women are facing difficulties to obtain Green Charcoal due to scarcity in the market
- More than 20% of the rural women used the improved cook stoves frequently in the raining seasons to mitigate and adapt to weather conditions(Low temperatures)
- Improvement in the health condition(Difficulties in Breathing and watering Eyes) of more than 80% of the Rural women



ICENECDEV support staff Monitoring the use of Donated Improved Cook Stoves
in Dibanda Village community,Cameroon



ICENECDEV support staff monitoring the use of Donated Improved Cook Stoves
in Lower Bokova Village Community,Cameroon



ICENECDEV support staff Monitoring the use of Donated Improved Cook Stoves
IN Tole Village community Cameroon

8. Combating Marine Plastic Litter and Micro plastic Along West Coast of Cameroon



ICENECDEV Team at ISobe Beach Clean Up Action

ICENECDEV, XminY Netherlands and partners are combating Marine Plastic Litter and Micro Plastic along the west Coast of Cameroon (Isobe-Idenau

Coastline) through beach clean up actions and awareness raising campaigns in the coastal village communities along the West Coast Cameroon.

Global plastic pollution by the Numbers:

- 500 billion plastic bags used each year.
- 13 million tons of plastic leak into the ocean each year.
- 17 million barrels of oil used on plastic production each year.
- 1 million plastic bottles bought every minute.
- 100,000 marine animals killed by plastics each year.
- 100 years for plastic to degrade in the environment
- 90% of bottled water found to contain plastic particles.
- 83% of tap water found to contain plastic particles
- 50% of consumer plastics are single use.
- 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic.

Findings/Suggestions

- Establish a platform/network of the Government, local governments(Councils), coastal village communities and civil society organizations to follow up the activities of Fishing companies and businesses along the West Coast
- Development of infrastructure for waste collection and treatment along the West Coast of Cameroon
- Construction of hygiene and sanitation structures(Toilets) by the Local communities and local government to prevent the dumping of waste into the Oceans/Seas protecting Fish farmers, Human health and the marine ecosystem and Wildlife.
- Integration and emphasis the impact of Marine Plastic Litter and Micro plastic on Fish farmers, Human health and Marine ecosystem in the educational curricular and school programme along the West Coast of Cameroon
- Integration of Environmental education programmes on the impact of Marine Plastic Litter and Micro plastic in school system, educational

programme and Council Development Plan along the West Coast of Cameroon.

- Regular Beach and Sea Clean Up by the Coastal village communities and local government to combat marine Plastic Litter and micro plastic along the West Coast of Cameroon
- Design and establish scientific research programme on Marine Plastic Litter and Micro plastic in Universities and higher institutions.

9.Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-year framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)

Starting from July 2018, ICENECDEV is proud to have become formally a partner of the “**10YFP**” **Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme**. This means that ICENECDEV has the opportunity to participate in SFS Programme activities, team up with other organizations for action on the ground and developing innovative projects at scale; contribute to the strategic work in the areas of the Programme;

(i) 10YFP Programme

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), adopted at Rio+20 by the world’s Heads of State, is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation and advance the implementation of SCP in all countries and regions. It has been designed to catalyze collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships, the development, scaling up and replication of SCP policies and initiatives at all levels.

(ii) 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme

The 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems, all along the food value chain, from farm to fork. Among its focus themes are the promotion of sustainable diets; the reduction of food losses and waste; and strengthening resilient and diverse food production systems. The SFS Programme promotes activities that fall under these topics, in the areas of awareness raising,

capacity development as well as facilitating access to knowledge, information and tools. The SFS Programme is one of six initiatives of the 10YFP.

10.ICENECDEV Contribution to the Anglophone Crisis-Press Release

The lack and inadequate provision of institutional services (education, health and access to finance) is one of the primary causes of extreme violence and conflicts in rural communities and certain regions. There is need to develop and accelerate a collective and inclusive dialogue and humanitarian response on the ground incorporating the request of the people and regions concerned within national and international legal framework.

There is the need of the government of Cameroon to invest in Marginalized and rural areas instead on focusing in programmes of cost –benefit analysis for investment in cities and urban areas in order to reduce violence extremism.

11.ICENECDEV Launched Campaigns for Awareness Raising

(i) Ban and Elimination of Lead Paint

ICENECDEV and Partners have launched number of campaigns to raise awareness and contribute to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Paint containing lead additives poses risks to health from poisoning and environmental contamination. Lead can have permanent health effects on children, but also causes harm in adults. Childhood lead poisoning, also during pregnancy, can have lifelong health impacts including: learning disabilities, anemia, and disorders in coordination, visual, spatial and language skills. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe for adults or children. Lead can be found in decorative paint for interiors and exteriors of homes, schools, public and commercial buildings, as well as on toys, furniture and playgrounds.

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is a voluntary partnership formed by UN Environment and the World Health Organization to prevent exposure to lead, while promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead. The Lead paint Alliance is guided by an advisory group chaired by the United States of America through the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and consisting of Government

representatives from Colombia, Republic of Moldova, Kenya, Thailand, IPEN International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), International Paint and Print Ink Council (IPPIC), AkzoNobel (a paint company), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

(ii) Awareness Raising on Minamata Convention on Mercury

Mercury is a chemical element that is harmful to human health and the environment.

Many types of human activities have the potential to create mercury pollution. UN Environment is working with governments and other stakeholders to reduce mercury pollution and its negative impacts. UN Environment's key activities on mercury are detailed on this page.

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. The Partnership works closely with stakeholders to assist in the timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Governments initiated partnership activities at Governing Council 23 and have subsequently strengthened the role of partnerships to effectively manage mercury activities. Governing Council 25/5 specified the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as one of the main mechanisms for the delivery of immediate actions on mercury during the negotiation of the global mercury convention.

The Partnership currently has eight identified priorities for action - or partnership areas - that are reflective of the major source of mercury releases categories. The Overarching Framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership establishes a Partnership Advisory Group to encourage the work of the partnership areas.

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch is leading UN Environment's activities on chemicals and waste. The Branch is the main catalytic force in the UN system for concerted global action on the environmentally sound management of

chemicals and waste. As such, its programme of work reflects global priorities identified by Governments and other stakeholders, including addressing Emerging Policy Issues.

ICENECDEV Supports the Zero Mercury Campaign contributing to the awareness raising of the #Minamata Convention on Mercury within the framework of our project combating Marine Litter and Micro Plastics Along the West Coast of Cameroon .The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

12.Youth Employment in Agriculture in Africa



ICENECDEV Team Hack Against Hunger in Kigali Rwanda

ICENECDEV Team was selected to participate in the #HackAgainstHunger/Africa between the 19th to 21st August 2018 as one of the side events for the conference on Youth Employment in Agriculture in Africa Co Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Africa Opinion and Rwandan Government

FAO partner with ICT Chamber in Rwanda to co-host the newest continental edition of **#HackAgainstHunger/Africa**. FAO and partners believe that youth-led innovative solutions have the power to solve global issues like hunger and

malnutrition, increase digital and financial inclusion, adapt and mitigate the risks of climate change, reduce poverty, and increase youth employment in Africa, particularly through the empowerment of smallholder farmers and inclusion of women and girls.

ICENECDEV Team presented the E commerce on Linking Smallholder Women Farmers to the Market. The Zambian Team, Rwandan Team and Benin Team emerged as winners of the HackAgainstHunger/Africa to participate in an exhibition symposium in FAO headquarters in Rome in November 2018.



Fongoh Eric of ICENECDEV Presentating the project concept



Africa Team of Hack Against Hunger Competitions in Africa

13.Upcoming International Events and Meetings

- 26-31 August, World Water Week, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Stockholm, Sweden
- 5 September, Impacts on a Circular Economy Transition in Europe, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels, Belgium
- 11-12 September, World Export Development Forum 2018, International Trade Centre (ITC), Lusaka, Zambia
- 12-14 September, Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco, USA
- 3-4 October, WTO Public Forum 2018 - Trade 2030, World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva, Switzerland
- Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2018 :Terra Madre – Salone del gusto, 20-24 September 2019, Torino, Italy.
- 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, 12-20 October 2018, Rome, Italy.
- Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 17-29 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- CityChangers at the URBAN FUTURE global conference, 22-24 May 2019, Oslo, Norway.

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