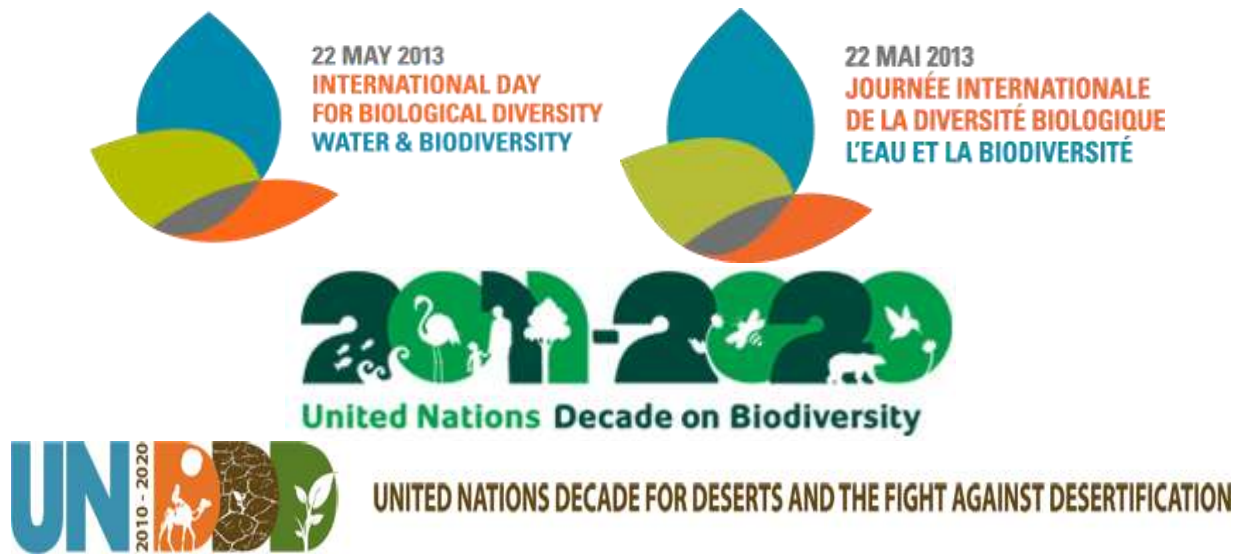




FEEDAR & HR, Cameroon.

22 MAY 2013

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Community heads representing Farmers, CSOs, NGOs, Women, Churches, Youth Groups.

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1 INTRODUCTORY SPEACHES.

a) Welcome speech and founding of FEEDAR & HR:

The day was opened 2:30 Pm 22May 2013 with a short prayer from the community leader Mr. Mukete Samuel Njaweli, asking God to guide every one before and after the ceremony and their entire families in their daily lives.

The assistant Director Mr. Ikor William Itie then opened the Ceremony by reminding the Kwakwa Bakundu people as the founding community of FEEDAR & HR in 1997 after the Liberalization of the Cocoa/Coffee Agricultural sector which impacted lives soo sadly then. He re-iterated and commended them all for their resilience in times when poverty continues to be an impediment in achieving the Development Goals.

He continued to remind them how FEEDAR & HR has grown to become a United Nations affiliated Organization with;

- UN ECOSOC Status, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>
- UN DPI; <http://www.un.org/en/hq/dpi/>
- UNEP Governing Council, <http://www.unep.org/>
- UNCCD, <http://www.unccd.int> - UN-WIPO, www.wipo.int
- UNODC , <https://www.unodc.org/>
- Focal Point to the GEF-NGO Network for Central African Region; <http://www.gefngo.org/>
<http://www.thegef.org/gef/>

And that, their involvement and commitment in the International Development Agenda will go a long way in shaping the way Development Agenda are implemented and realized in Local communities like Kwakwa which affects millions of lives in rural communities worldwide.

In attendance were Farmers, Heads of Cocoa and Coffee Estates, Fishermen, CSOs, NGOs, Churches, Cultural Groups, Tribal Leaders, Youth Groups and Women, Football Clubs.

Kwakwa Bakundu has a population of over 8.000 people, a Secondary School (Bakundu Comprehensive Secondary School), Kwakwa Market, One of the largest Markets of Agricultural Products ranging from Non Timber products and Fresh Water products serving as many surrounding village communities.

Kwakwa Bakundu has many Biodiversity hotspot, the Meme River Community Forest, The Meme River Forests Reserve, The Meme River, The River Bille, The River Bille Waterfall and the Confluence between River Meme and River Bille.

The Meme River Community Forests serves over 10 Villages with dominant Cocoa Cash Crop production. The Community Forest is also the source of sustainability among these villages as all farming practices and cultivation including a sound Sustainable Land Management Practices.

Crops/Animals produced include ;

Cash Crops: Cocoa, Coffee, Bush Pepper, Bush Onion, Seed Oils, Medicinal plants, Vegetables

Fruits:- Banana, plantains, Plums, Pear, Pineapples, Oranges, Lemon, Pawpaw, Tangerine, Grapes, Adams fruit, Apples, Mangoes,

Tubers: Cassava, Cocoyam, Yams, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Ginger,

Animals: Edible Land Snails, Honey, Edible Insects, Fish, Crayfish, Crabs, Snakes and Rat Mole.



A continuous celebration awareness raising and capacity building on Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land Management, River Basin Management within the Meme River Community Forests and the Meme River Reserve Forests area in Mbonge Sub Division, Kumba Central.

b) Introduction of Community Organizations and Members.

Celebration brought representatives from 25 Villages, 15 Women, 25 Men, 20 young people and Community based Organizations including;

- Mr. Ikoanuma Peter Sakwe: Chairman Kwakwa Traditional Council.
- Mr. Mukete Samuel Njaweli: Moere Mboka, Kwakwa
- Mrs. Tande Florence Ekue, President ; Animal Husbandry and Research Institute Alliance.
- Mr. Clement Andem: Board Member; South West Multi Purpose Farmers Common Initiative Group (SOWEMUFCIG) Kumba
- Bua Iteke Oponde: Chairlady: Njombore Women Association- Kwakwa.
- Mr. Walters Njayoh: Member, Redemption Health Foundation for Sustainable Rural Development and Conservation
- Mr. Etongwe of Human Rights Council Kwakwa
- Babawome Group
- Sontane Group
- Ituka Group
- FEEDAR & HR Co-operative and Micro Credit Unit
- Bonombe Multipurpose Farmers Common Initiative Group
- Elingano Youth Group.
- Oroko Youths Kwakwa



Members of Community Exchanging information



Assistant Director and Members.



The open forum, open space, open discussions a set of environmentally friendly conference.

c) World Biodiversity Day and 22 May International day Celebrations

A message on why Biodiversity matters and why May 22 is celebrated was communicated to the population. Given the importance of Biodiversity and the Decade of Biological Diversity 2011-2020.

Little Flyers from the Secretariat of Biological Diversity were given to every participant carrying the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.



The list Endangered Species on the red list were handed over to every participant and the links to the websites provided.

2. Messages from the United Nations and its Agencies on Biodiversity day 22 May, 2013

- The official messages from the **United Nation Secretary General** , Ban Ki Moon and the various agencies were read and copies made to every participant, and links on the Biodiversity website made available.

<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2013/messages/speech/>

- The AICHI Target flyer was also made available to every participant in many copies and links on websites provided. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf> and <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-jbf-2011-11-en.pdf>

3. COMMUNITY RESPONSES AND NEEDS:

It was most appreciated to once more to introduce the Development Agenda of the United Nations and the Aichi Targets of Biodiversity.

The Communities and various community based organizations raised many concerns that made the day very interactive in discussions. However , their concerns were centered to persuade the International community to support rural communities directly since many funding opportunities are never in the reach or accessible by poor rural communities, but on the contrary these communities are like the custodian of the lands, guardians of wildlife and Forests and the entire Ecosystem services.

- Rural Agricultural Services, Supplies of Agricultural inputs and Extension Agricultural Services were the most demanding in order to enhance living and working standards among communities. Most importantly meeting standards of quality production, market opportunities, organic production and fair-trade standards.
- Access to grants were reported not favourable to poor communities as funders hardly reach out directly to the communities and authorities concerned. Moreover, most of the conferences organized mainly concentrate in the bigger cities where poor communities are hardly invited to assist increase their capacities.
- Access to Market opportunities and Pricing are fundamental if Biodiversity and the Aichi targets be met.
- Drying up streams and rivers as a result of Climate Change Challenges has widely been reported as domestic water use has been concentrated on wells instead of nearby streams. Fortunately, the community of Kwakwa has a running pipe born water, thanks to the government effort.
- Climate Change challenges like prolonged droughts continues to adversely affect communities, production and lives of other animals like Pigs, Goats and Fowls.
- Insect Pets continues to threaten Agricultural productions especially with the Capsid Bugs affecting causing premature ripening of immature Cocoa Pods.
- Farm to Farm Roads and Farm to Market Roads is equally an Impediment to development among these communities on the Photo bellow, a Wood Bridge could be seen as the only way across the river. In rainy season it becomes difficult to go across since the river is over flooded and across the Bridge.



A Wood Bridge which assist communities transport agricultural produce from the Meme River Community Forests and Meme River Forest Reserve to the villages.

4. The World Development Agenda

- Rio+20 Agenda
- Millennium Development Goals
- Sustainable Development Goals
- The World We Want
- The Green Economy
- End Poverty by 2015

5. The Way Forward.

- Communities requested for urgent and robust action in advancing financial assistance, agricultural inputs supplies, and infrastructural development in the entire agricultural chain values.
- The further emphasized a change of focus by development partners in complicating information, terminology in understanding of common values of sustainable development and Biodiversity Conservation.

6. End of Celebration Activities.

- Event concluded by Tree Planting exercises, Polythene Bags distributions for further Tree Nurseries.
- A total of 1000 grown up Nurseries were distributed among participants and 1000 Polythene Bags each per participant.
- Announcement of GEF-NGO member Organizations from the Communities namely;
 1. FEEDAR & HR Cooperative and Micro Credit Unit
 2. Redemption Helath Foundation for Sustainable Rural Development and Conservation
 3. Association for Management of Natutal Resources, Agriculture Talents and Health Development
 4. Hard Working Farmers Common Initiative Group
 5. South West Multipurpose Farmers Common Initiative Group
 6. Bonombe Multipurpose Farmers Common Initiative Group
 7. Animal Husboundry and Research Institute Alliance
- Reception for participants, and Communities followed there after, the teams all said goodbye.



Distribution of Tree Nurseries for planting and Polythene Bags.



From left to right seating: Hilary Asangole Ndumbe, Agriculture Delegate FEEDAR & HR. Mulango Babore; Founders Football Club.

From left to right Standing: Assistant Director Mr Ikor William Itie and Youth Delegate, Ms Kale Celestine Ebabori with the Community and youths on Tree Nursery and Tree Planting, 22 May, World Biodiversity Day, Kwakwa Bakundu.



Departure to NURSERY and planting of economically rich trees and Endangered Species



Tree Planting exercises.



One of the farmers returning from his farm and had the opportunity to meet others and joined in the celebration.

FEEDAR & HR

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