



# BETTERWORLD CAMEROON

**BETTR NEWS No.07**

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**FORWARD BY Dr BAND BWC BOARD CHAIR**

*We have come a long way since 1996 when Joshua konkankoh first introduced the concept of reconnection with the land as a concept of serving the needs of millions of socially excluded young people at the base of the pyramid. Since then, significant momentum has been established around the Better World Cameroon (BWC) agenda, with literally scores of local development agencies, government departments, the Diaspora and international charities linking up. And with over ten years of experience on which to reflect, this report represents a very important step in the evolution of the better world Agenda and perspectives.*

*Indeed over the past decade, it had become apparent that BWC offers enormous opportunities and challenges for both government and international development agencies to make International Aid more efficient by working in close collaboration with grassroots organizations which are closely involved in the daily lives of the underprivileged. One of the most early misconceptions that needed to be overcome was the notion that Youth Development Living Sustainably into the future was limited to the poor. Unfortunately, both rich and poor alike now find themselves in the same boat as global warming and climate change are proving. Seldom do poor communities (rural villages, urban slums shanty towns) represent the only problem to environmental degradation and the food crisis. More typically, the absence of a functional international infrastructure, gives home grown innovative initiatives as Better World which is in constantly in touch with grassroots realities and helping in building capacities tremendous entrepreneurial energy in the Social Enterprise sector. This makes its socio-economic Youth Development Programs highly attractive in the North/South dialogue related to Linking and Partnerships.*

*The most important achievements of the year 2009 were; the active participation of BWC in the BUILD Conference, the Organizational Development process undertaken by VSO to reshape the organization for International Linking and Partnerships, the training of BWC's Permaculture Coordinator by International Permaculture Convergence IPC9 in Zimbabwe and Malawi and the integration of BWC in World Family in Brighton.*

*These events in themselves and the decision by the Ministry of Agriculture of Cameroon to give BWC's new focus in Permaculture training and fighting climate change its full backing give the Quality Assurance BWC needed for its international cooperation venture.*

*Once donor agencies recognize the unique characteristics associated with building a Better World from an African perspective, many will set new sights on achieving sustainable development through the Better World concept being spread Cameroon One World Linking Association (COWLA) put in place by BWC.*

*I join hands with the laudable efforts of the National Coordinator and the encouragement of Ndanifor Gardens UK Trust and VSO to pursue the new platform on Permaculture, BUILD and World Family pathways.*

**Accept my best wishes for the end of year festivities. Happy and Prosperous New year 2010. BWC and the Ndanifor family will continue to build on the strong relations we have established for A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL.**

# BETTER WORLD CAMEROON ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

## INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

### **Programming:**

(Prepared by Farm Coordinator **Benice Wirdim**)

AT BWC we work six days a week; on Mondays, Wednesday and Friday we do office work at the Head office and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays we do practical work at the Ndanifor Community Garden and some times we carry out landscape and maintenance jobs out in town. On Wednesdays we organize training workshops in the morning and we hold Nature Club meetings.

Activities in 2009 were mostly centered around organic gardening, Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Newsletter Publication, and working on the internet. BWC also attended seminars national and international seminars in the ecological agriculture and environmental protection sectors organized by other civil society organizations and visited other organizations to compare best practices.

### **Better World Student Nature Club (BSNC)**

*Prepared by BSNC Manager **Sussana Abgor***

BSNC created in 2006, initially recruited as its members households of board members who had no clear criteria for recruitment. This led to lack of competence and some

Rebellious against BWC norms caused the club to collapse. On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the New Breed volunteers and some former members together reformed BSNC.

Through out the year BSNC realized the following

- Organized the first useful holiday workshop on operation 2000 trees and ecological.
- Established a BSNC market gardening site at Bastos.
- Published four editions of the Better News.
- Established environmental clubs and started teaching environmental education in four schools in Yaoundé
- Provide chaperons for the Better World Children Environmental Club and supervised their children's environmental programmes.
- Obtained authorization from Education Officer at Mvogbetsi Zoo to use to use educative films on natural and man made hazards.

\* **NB** Ndanifor Dance and Theatre Troupe has always collaboration with BSNC in public outings and acting as chaperons

### **Ndanifor Dance and Theatre Troupe**

*(Prepared by Project Strand Director **Chenwi Pascal** and **Ernestine Ngumsifu**)*

This report is presented in two parts representing cultural activities and work carried out in the course of the year.

- 1) membership in Ndanifor Dance and theatre troupe increased from 20 to 30

- Ndanifor Dance was hired to animate in three death ceremonies and two fund raising organized by other Cultural and Development Associations in Yaoundé and Bafut.
  - Ndanifor Dance also welcomed four government officials and international visitors to Better World Head Office on different Occasions.
  - Ndanifor theatre participated in Youth Day Festivities, Women Day Environmental Day and Ndanifor Farm Days.
  - Ndanifor Dance stole the show at the high profile National Installation Ceremony of the new Prime Minister of Cameroon Mr. Philemon Yang.
- 2) With Support form Ndanifor UK Trust and US Embassy Ndanifor Technicians carried out all the technical work related to the building of the Appropriate Technology Workshop.
- Ndanifor custodians of tradition have started rebuilding the Ndanifor Shrine destroyed by floods.

Our most serious difficulty remains the inability of the organization to equip the workshop to enable us to continue training Ndanifor technicians and raising income for garden infrastructure.

The biggest disaster was the destruction of the Shrine, symbol and soul of our cultural identity which completely shattered the Soil and Soul Spirit reconnecting all members of Better World. Until the shrine is rebuild, the soul of Better World will remain unstable. That is why we call on the Coordination and all our well wishers to think about assisting us.

However, our Micro financial contributions and savings 'Njange' was now holds in the workshop is growing and effective and is the source of recomfort within ourselves.

Ndanifor Dance continues to carry out regular traditional dance practices with children and is practicing a new play 'The Hunter and the Wood Cutter' to be performed in 2010.

### **Visits, Training Seminars and BWC Workshops**

*Prepared by Communication Director **Laura Atabe***

In 2009, Better World Cameroon (BWC) received August guests in May from BUILD, UK (Dr Nick Maurice and Pepi O'Neil) and the Director of Voluntary Service Overseas Cameroon (Ibrahim Peghouma) after the BUILD Regional Conference in Yaounde. This visit was a field visit to discuss the role of BWC in the creation of a Central and West African Secretariat for BUILD. At the end of May, BWC received a visitor from the high profile ASHOKA foundation, Nigeria (Ms Lesley Agams) who came to assess and evaluate the Better World Vision of Mr Joshua Konkankoh, who in turn travelled to Nigeria in June for a second opinion interview for becoming an ASHOKA Fellow.

There were also exploratory and partnership visits from representatives of VSO, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture,, RELUFA (Micro Finance Organization), PLANOPAC (Community Forest Women of Kribi), Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW), Centre d'Appui ET de developement Rural (CeDLA) and Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC).

The training workshops and seminars BWC participated in were: Useful Holiday Workshops in June and July, the International Permaculture Design Course at the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe and the Ninth International Permaculture Conference and Convergence in Lilongwe, Malawi in October and November 2009 respectively. This was attended by BWC Permaculture Coordinator Atabe Laura with the mandate of creating a Permaculture Node in Cameroon and Central Africa sub-region.

Wiridin Bernice attended a two day Training Workshop in Yaoundé on The Cameroon Code of Ethics for Civil Societies in Cameroon organized by North West Association of Development Organizations (NWADO) in November. Other seminars and workshops were on Permaculture and the Food Crisis, Climate Change Sequestration, Management by Objectives, Organizational Development and Plant Propagation Techniques organized by Better World. Coordinator.

### **Cameroon National Youth Council (CNYC)**

*Prepared by Youth Development Director & OD Link Person **Blandine Eboude***

The Cameroon National Youth Council (CNYC) created on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 came into effect in October 2009 with Organization of national elections by the Ministry of Youth Affairs. BWC was represented by Eboude Ekwempe Blandine and made up one of the aspiring members of the Rainbow coalition bureau from the Yaoundé 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

### **Organizational Development**

Following a one year running partnership agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and BWC, VSO provided management support to Better World through a two year placement of a Canadian Volunteer in the person of Lyne Legault who arrived on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2009. Following her arrival, there was a meeting between her, VSO Director, BWC National Coordinator and National Volunteers on the implementation of the BWC Organizational Development (OD) process.

In late September, there was the first Evaluation and Training Workshop introducing the OD. This workshop was facilitated by Lyne Legault and another VSO volunteer, Julie Sorensen at the BWC head office.

In October, there was another OD workshop during which the Organizational Development (OD) committee was created. This committee was charged coordinating the process and interviewing partners of BWC.

The following partners of BWC were to be interviewed: Ndanifor Garden United Kingdom Trust (NGUKT), World Family, Wild Planet Eco project (WPE), Transition Towns, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Bamenda III Council and BWC partners in the Far North.

Partners who were not within reach (NGUKT, MINADER, Transition Towns, World family, were sent electronic Organizational Development forms through the internet and these had been filled and return to the committee.

As regards our regional partners who are to be interviewed on a face to face interview, a trip has been scheduled to the North West Region in January 2010. Our partner in the Far North Region has been invited to travel to Yaoundé to meet the OD Committee.

## **INDIVIDUAL PLANS OF ACTION FOR 2010**

### **Programming:**

- Organization of Seminars and Permaculture Training Workshops  
Field work with VSO on Participation and Governance P&G  
Project writing Training workshops organized by BWC for Volunteers  
Partners and other stake holders  
Non governmental organizations (NGO) management  
-Organizational development (OD)  
-Cameroon One World Link Association (COWLA)  
-Building Understanding for International Links for Development (BUILD)  
Most of the Training Workshops for 2010 will be organized in the Community Education Action Centres within the framework of the Partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture  
A workshop on Right to land and food will take place in Ebolowa in January,
- Two Training courses in Fish Farming and Farm management are planed for the New Breed Volunteer in 2010.
- Nature Club will carry out regeneration work at Ndanifor Community Garden, continue with Environmental Education in schools, Organize Useful Holiday Workshops and start a Permaculture Demonstration site.
- Nature Club will also continue to produce the BWC News letter.
- Field Visits have been planned to the following organizations in 2009 LAGA, FAO, IRAD, DED, Mvogbetsi Zoo, National Herbarium, WAC, PASOC, Agro forestry in Yaoundé and OD visits in Bamenda. International visits from UK Trust partners expected.
- The New Student researcher is expected to carry out Socio-economic enquiries and collect empirical evidence for the OD
- BWC Coordination is expected to focus on putting in place an IT Suit and Update website, Connect with donors and carry out fund raising
- Coordination is also to build relations with Permaculture Networks and organize the traditionally celebrated, World Environment Day, International Biodiversity Day, Youth Day and Women's Day.

***Benice***

### **2010 Action Plan for Better World Students Nature Club (BSNC):**

- BSNC is going to organize a major reflection seminar in Yaoundé for youth leaders to brainstorm on the issue of sky rocketing food prices and the phenomenon of Land grabs in Cameroon.
  - BSNC will launch clean up Campaigns twice a month in the neighbourhood to sensitize the population of Tam-Tam to participate fully in BWC Water Hygiene and Sanitation Programme.
  - BSNC will organize field trips in Environmental Education programme so as to raise children's practical awareness of what we teach in class.
  - BSNC will carry out a Permaculture Design in CAPEC School by creating school gardens and play grounds.
  - BSNC will Project films to students and Youths on past natural hazards to sensitize the children on the effects of human activities to the environment.
- Permaculture Workshops have been planned by the Permaculture coordinator to ensure implementation of the Better World Permaculture and Climate Change Initiative within the framework of Ndanifor Community Garden Project. Ndanifor garden will act as the Demonstration site Permaculture Design.

*Susan and Laura*

### **Plan of Action for BWC as regards the National Youth Council and other Ministries:**

- Programme a meeting with the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MINJEUN) for a proactive consultation to the National Youth Council.
- Meet with the Ministry of Women and family and the Ministry of social Affaires to advocate for the God is Great orphanage in Bamenda.
- Visit the God is Great orphanage, to survey and make an inventory of the situation of the orphanage so as to ask funds to rehabilitate it.

### **Plan of Action for Organisational Development:**

Programme a meeting with VSO to review the duration of the OD from two years to one year. *Blandine*

### **Domain of Research:**

Given the fact that nothing was done as regards research through out the past year, BWC has decided to get involved in this domain come 2010.

To this effect we plan to put in place a fish pond in the Ndanifor Garden. Besides this, BWC plans to into research in other sectors such as ecological agriculture, forestry, environmental protection, and sustainable management of natural resources to ensure a better world.

**ISAIAH**

*Better word Coordination 2009*



**VISION IN ACTION**