

# GREEN CARE ASSOCIATION

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# GREENCARE

*JOIN US IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT*

## Introduction

Green Care Association (GCA) whose main vision is to protect the environment and promote sustainable agricultural practices has throughout the year continued on her mission of making the world a better and sustainable place. This has been in the domain of promoting reforestation and afforestation of indigenous species of trees, planting of trees, encouraging apiculture through our bee farm and **Small Holder Bee Farmers Initiative (SHBFI)** in training,



honey processing and honey by-products, mushroom cultivation and trainings, moringa farming, environmental protection through recycling waste paper into beads, encouraging partnership with local and international organisations and groups, as well as sharing our technical knowledge with various communities on water catchment protection and management. Networking has also been a vital tool of GCA as we share knowledge encouraging National and International volunteers to also share and part-take in our vision of environmental protection by offering their time, resources and knowledge with the communities with which we have been working. Notwithstanding, we have not been able to exhaust all the projects earmarked for the year due to time factor and other issues that could not be handled immediately. That notwithstanding, however, we have been very active in the following areas:

## Seed Bank

Tree seed collection has been one of the very important activities of GCA, and this year a good variety was collected from in and around Kumbo vicinity. The species include, *Prunus africana* (Pygeum), *Podocarpus*, *Voacanga africana*, *Pitosporum*, *Maesopsis*, *Ilexmetics*, *Vitex*, Red Mahogany and some fruits like avocado, African plum and colanuts. Most of these trees were nursed in GCA nursery and some reserved for interested persons or institutions.

## Tree Nursery and Tree Planting

The GCA tree nursery has remained an all season project continues to attract attention and appreciation from GCA staff, volunteers and visitors alike. Most often, the filling of polythene pots, weeding and watering during the dry season has been the main works. In some cases we have been replacing young seedlings that are not doing well, so as to achieve higher success rate when they are



eventually transplanted. A main challenge at the GCA tree nursery is insect, pest and disease attacks. We remedy the situation through our own indigenous pest and disease control techniques. In 2017, GCA planted trees at St Francis Comprehensive College Shisong, the Tiymenkan-Lun-Tashwer water catchment, as well as in some individual natural forest regeneration projects. GCA also supplied trees to the Kumbo Council. All these efforts are in a bid to sequesterate carbon at the local level in the process of climate change mitigation.

Furthermore, GCA planted shrubs around the Shisong Catholic Mission old cemetery. The micro-project at the old cemetery will serve as a live fence as well as enhance the aesthetics of the site. This activity took place in July 2017. In all, a total of over 2,000 trees were planted.

The Kumbo Council also bought close to 560 trees. Again, the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUA) also bought some trees for their water catchment. It should be reiterated that



the Mbororos are traditionally, cattle rearers. In recent times, pasture and water scarcity has been posing a serious threat to their source of livelihood. Their consciousness to improve pasture and protect water sources is a welcome initiative, worth encouraging. GCA also had opportunity this year to acquire land envisaged for tree planting at Kov Ndzeen (the future eco-village). Interestingly, this parcel of land contains one of the oldest Mahogany trees surviving in the area.



### **Bee Farming**

Apiculture promotion continued in the domain of trainings, fire tracing at the apiary (demonstration site), honey harvesting, production of honey drink and honey wax extraction for making of Candles and other uses. This year alone GCA can boast of more than half a ton of wax which is awaiting potential buyers. Also, many volunteers were trained on honey wax extraction and possible uses. GCA harvested and collected from her farmers a total of over 7,000 litres, i.e., 210 tons of honey.



In 2017, GCA started an equipment production unit for bee farming so as to facilitate apiculture for most of the farmers who have difficulties to obtain honey harvesting equipment.

### **Mushroom Cultivation**

With the recent construction of GCA Mushroom house, mushroom cultivation has continued to increase. A good number of local volunteers have also learned the art of cultivating, harvesting and preserving mushroom. GCA has also had the opportunity to market at mushroom at the local and national levels. We are very optimistic to break more ground in mushroom cultivation in 2018 and beyond.

### **Fish Farming**



As has always been GCA's wish, this year was a success in the domain of fish farming. Even though in a very micro unit, GCA started with fish farming next to its Tree nursery. Tilapia and mud fish were species advised to begin with by some experts. Interestingly all the staff became interested in the project reasons why every staff member can by end of this year were feeding the fish.

### **Moringa Farm**

In efforts to promote the propagation of medicinal plants, GCA acquired a piece of land to propagate medicinal plants. Purposely, we have started the medicinal plants project with Moringa. Some seeds have already been planted at the site. A major challenge remains for the tender Moringa plants because it is so succulent to wild animals. As a result of these difficulties, GCA is establishing plans will intensify care for the Moringa farm during the coming years. Progress has also been made on the Moringa plant as the promoter has partnered with GCA. He is fondly called "Doctor Moringa". We will work with Doctor Moringa to educate communities on the medicinal and nutritive benefits of the plant.



### **Waste Paper Recycling for Paper Beads**

GCA continued with paper beads making for the common use. Over a hundred beads were made this year. Many volunteers of GCA were also drilled in paper beads making.

### **Yam Set Multiplication**

Like in the previous years, GCA continued to educate and train farmers on the multiplication of yam sets for seeds and eventual cultivation. This year, more than 500

yam seedlings were multiplied and cultivated. A total of about 900 yam tubers were harvested at the end of the year. Yam cultivation is gaining grounds in the community as one of the safety nets to food security.

### **Candle Making**

GCA intensified the training and candle making for the local market. We are grateful to our volunteers from overseas who brought new forms for candle making.

### **Partnership**

GCA sustained partnerships with Kumbo Council, MBOSCUDA, Tiymenka-Lun-Tashwer Water Committee( Shisong), Ndzenshwai Water Committee (Shisong), St Francis Comprehensive College Shisong, Dr Moringa, Green Ink (UK), GlobalGiving (USA and UK) and International Bund Volunteers (Germany) have been very serious partners of GCA this year.

### **Community WATER Schemes**

GCA has remained a veritable partner in local community water schemes in and around Shisong. This takes the dimensions of management, work planning and execution, fire breaks and above all tree planting in the water catchment. There are ongoing projects to transform these water catchments into income generating activities like analogue forestry and bee farming. Analog forestry provides ecosystem services of erosion control (cementing soil aggregates), carbon sequestration, enhancing infiltration and reducing evaporation from around watersheds, while communities also benefit from income generating activities where fruit trees have been planted at watershed.

### **Local and International Volunteers**

This year 2017 remained very significant in the domain of local volunteering for GCA. A total of 15 local volunteers worked with GCA. Volunteers from Overseas were also part of the great GCA team. Two came in 2016 and left in 2017 while two others replaced them this year 2017. Some volunteers that have shared the passion of GCA and left paid short visits to appreciate what was going on after their departure.



### **Social Engagement**

This year GCA continued to serve as host to two social groups under it. They include the “Biykichi” (*Plant a Tree*) group dominated by men with a membership of more than 34 persons and the “Bongatati” group dominated by women with a membership of more than 12 persons. Both groups meet weekly and monthly respectively.



## Reading and Research Culture

The Development and Environment Library (DEL) has continued to encourage the reading and research culture in the community. Environmentalists as well as researchers and educationist have been visiting the library to broaden their knowledge on particular aspect of life, be it in the field of Community Development, Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation, etc. Located at the Eco Village, this helps broaden horizons. It must me reiterated that the DEL is gaining grounds. One of the GCA's local volunteers, now a graduate student at the University of Bamenda has made DEL his point of reference.

## Environmental Field experienced

As part of awareness creation GCA has been working with a good number of groups on environment related issues and trainings. Many trips were organized for bird watching and plant identification (ecotourism). To this end, GCA staff have embarked on a silent revolutionary conservation by spreading some invasive, but environmentally friendly species in the wild, like bracharia and acacia.

## Green Care Excellence Award

In recognition of their hard work and commitment and in order to encourage the activities of our Small Holder's, GCA this year started with an Excellence Award. Since all the areas of intervention in GCA could not be covered, GCA decided to kick start in the field of Apiculture. This award was given to **Shite Julius** "In Recognition of His Hard Work in Producing Quality Organic Honey to GCA". Consequently, other areas of interest will be covered as time unfolds.



## Envisaged Projects

### Plastic Waste Management

In order to manage plastic waste (papers, bottles, etc.) GCA is working relentlessly in transforming these environmentally unfriendly material into construction material. This will go a long way to reduce and why not clean our environment of all plastic waste. Community trainings on waste management are also envisaged and ongoing.

### Green Pages

GCA has plans to introduce **GREEN PAGES**, which is a project aimed at improving and encouraging indigenous Natural Medicines within the locality. It is a truism that not all diseases found in the tropics can be treated by the use of conventional medicines. This

project is aimed at identifying various traditional healers and the illnesses they treat alongside the plants they use in treating these ailments.

### **Conclusion**

With the above activities, GCA envisages a better, clean and sustainable environment where each and every one has a role to play in its protection, promotion and involvement in sustainable agriculture.