

Project Updates: August 2015

Since June 2015, Nature-Care-Cameroon has been assisting some three village communities in the Kumbo watershed in a 12 months project to establish a community agroforestry seed bank for local seed production.

Within this reporting period (June-July 2015), we intensified activities at the various community tree nurseries as well as individual tree nurseries in an effort to boost tree seed production. From individual tree nurseries, we acquired 668 tree seedlings of varied species from eight different farmers who after receiving training on tree nursery establishment and management during the First Rufford Grant, embarked on tree seed production. These tree seeds together with some 775 belonging to nine different species selected from the various tree nurseries were planted out in the different community water catchments mainly to replace those that did not survive during the last dry season as well as on individual farms for soil improvement and erosion control.

As concern the establishment of the community seed bank in Kaiy village, a total of 32 interested women farmers were selected from the three project communities and guided to cultivate part of the area earmarked for the seed bank. They will grow annual crops like maize, beans and Irish potatoes in the cultivated area before the different agroforestry tree seeds are planted. The overall objective here is that while the women shall be taking care of their crops, they will equally cater for the trees and this will ensure a high survival rate of the trees in the seed bank.

Additionally, in order to prevent stray animals and any unwanted encroachment into the seed bank the site has been completely fenced using eucalyptus plank poles. Part of this eucalyptus poles were eradicated from the community water catchment. Farmers have equally started planting live fencing plant materials beside the fence in order to provide an additional and permanent reinforcement especially when the plank fence will eventually give way.

Finally, an Agroforestry Seed Bank and Management Committee has been put in place with representatives from all the three communities. Their functions have been well defined and in the course of the project, they shall be empowered with skills and techniques in the management of the seed bank as well as other forest resources in the community.



Left: Construction of the seed bank fence. Right: Integrating agroforestry tree seeds into crop farms



Left: Transportation of fencing poles to the site. Right: Tree planting at the cultivated portion of the seed bank



Villagers transporting fencing poles from a nearby forest to the seed bank site